



## S.K.S. SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE (LONDON) – BAL YUVAK MANDAL

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### Shikshapatri Bhashya Shlok 47

**|| No distinction shall be made between Narayan and Shiva, as they are both proclaimed as Brahmaswarupa by the Vedas ||**

#### **Discussion points:**

- What appearance do Narayan and Shiva have?
- What do you think of when you here both names?
- What are the similarities and differences between the two?

Using your knowledge of the Sampradaya, does this shloka coincide with other teaching?

Discuss

- Lord Narayan is Supreme, and Shiva comes much later down the cosmic evolution so how can this be correct? (see Vachnamrut G. P. 7 and 12 for further discussions) But, the cosmic evolution emanates from the Supreme anyway, Shiva's shakti is given by the Lord.
- Shiva is known for his anger, destructive personality and rugged appearance. Narayan is the total opposite. God has many forms and many traits.
- Shiva is considered a devotee of Narayan. But, many Shastras mention that God and devotee are one.

Bhagwan has said, 'Those who find difference in the two of us fall to the Hells.'

'Those who find indifference in Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva and recognise the oneness in them obtain eternal peace' – Shrimad Bhagwat, 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

'Shiva Brahma and Vishnu are thy manifested forms, which create, maintain and destroy the universe at thy will. But it is Ishwara who delivers Moksha (Salvation). Who is Parabrahman (the Supreme Lord).' – Shrimad Bhagwat, 8<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

Lord Swaminarayan went out of His way to glorify both Vaishnav and Shaiva Sampradays in order to get back to the Vedic teachings. Remember just because we do not understand something, does not mean that we should not observe the guidance laid down by the Lord.