



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

Westfield Lane, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 9EA Est. 1966 Charity Reg. No. 271034

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Shikshapatri Bhashya Shlok 67

|| “All my devotees who employ workers should take proper human care in respect of their feeding clothing and finances according to their work capabilities.... Slokh 67” ||

Shatanand Swami explains in the Shikshapatri bhashya that any living being who depends on one, that one person should always look after their food, shelter and medical needs.

There are nine types of dependable outlined as per the Kashi Khand in the Skand Puran, Mother, father, guru, wife, children, guest, those who are under refuge, employees and fire.

Employees and servants are considered dependents and they should be maintained.

Only one who lives by protecting and looking after his/her dependable is considered to be living a real life. One who does not look after the dependents, although alive is considered dead by the scriptures.

If one eats the best of foods or wears the best of clothes all by himself, or enjoys the best things just by himself, without sharing it with his/her dependable is living a selfish life. Such foods, clothes or any other items don't bring about true happiness, but rather by consuming such items he/she is only planting the seeds of misery. The scriptures consider such men/women who lives such life to be heartless and a liability on earth.

In is stated in the Sri Isopanishad that:

*īśāvāsyam idam sarvaṁ
yat kiñca jagatyāṁ jagat
tena tyaktena bhujjīthā
mā grdhah kasya svid dhanam*

Everything animate or inanimate that is within the universe is controlled and owned by the Lord. One should therefore accept only those things necessary for himself, which are set aside as his quota, and one should not accept other things, knowing well to whom they belong.

Everyone has an assigned quota when they come into this world. And even that quota is not any humans; it is only God lent to us, as He is the sole owner of everything. Things like exploitation of labour, or breaking promises given to employees is stealing from someone else's quota.

Maharaj's principle is such that whatever income we may get has to clean. The employees cannot be exploited at the expense of income to us. Keeping employees happy, by looking after their wellbeing is in fact a key success factor for any company.



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Discussion topics:

Discuss the below topics and how it related to this shlok.

- Child labour
- Paying a really low wage to make 'big profits', knowing that in times of employment shortfall people will have to work regardless.
- Not paying wages in time
- Consequences of dissatisfied employees
- Would money earned by toiling workers bring happiness?
- The constructions of the Egyptians tombs
- What if workers don't do as per the contract?