



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

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Shikshapatri Bhashya Shlok 81 & 82

Shri Vithalnathji, son of Shri Vallabhacharya who is King among the vaishnavas, has prescribed the days of Vratas, which shall be followed by my followers. All shall observe fasts and festivals accordingly and shall adopt the mode of worship of Lord Krishna as enjoined by him.

The judgement about the day of vrat and utsav (fasts and festivals) shall be accepted from the judgements passed by Shri Vaishnavacharya. The decision in regard to the days of Vrata (fasts), Utsava (festivals), ekadashi's and Annkoot shall be accepted from the judgements passed by Shri Vithalesh, who is the son of the King of all the Vaishnavas - Shri Vallabhacharya. Therefore, whatsoever has been directed by him to his devotees, shall be accepted and acted upon.

All the festivals are to be performed according to the decision of Shri Vithalesh. It clearly indicates that no decisions from others are to be accepted or to be acted upon. It applies equally to all vrats and Utsava. For those who are interested please see Shikshapatri bhashya shlok 81 and 82 to find out what days to fast on during vrats/utsavs and how this is calculated.

The procedure of serving Lord Shri Krishna should be taken from Shri Vithalesh. Service should be offered every day. We should know about different services in relation to time, clothing, ornaments, food etc. to be offered to Lord Shri Krishna. All such services are to be performed according to the teaching of Shri Vithalesh. These have been given in detail in the annual calender of vrata utsava vidhi and Satsangi Jivan.

Discussion points:

1. Why did Maharaj ask us to follow Vithalnathji's vrats and utsavs? (What one great quality did he have that made Maharaj mention him in this shlok)
2. Why should we celebrate festivals/utsavs? (refer to Vachanamrut)
3. How do we celebrate Ekadashi? (including what to do day before and day after)
4. By observing vrats and utsavs will this burn our sins or will it get us moksha? (Discuss)
5. Are we allowed to adapt and change the rules prescribed in the Shikshapatri to suit the time and age we live in? (e.g. we work physically hard for over 9 hours on the day of ekadashi, can we change the rule and decide to eat non-ekadashi foods, bear in mind Maharaj has said not to harm oneself. If we don't eat properly that can be classed as harming oneself)



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6. How should we adorn Maharaj when serving him, is it acceptable to put jeans and a T-shirt on Maharaj during mansi pooja or as vagha darshan in Mandir?
7. What can we do if we can no longer perform physical seva of Maharaj at home or in Mandir?
8. Is the reward we get from physical and mental (mansi pooja) seva the same or different?
9. Can we feed Maharaj foods like pizza, pasta, wraps etc.?
10. Name the different ways one can serve or do seva for Maharaj?