



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 17

|| *One shall never commit theft, even for the sake of performing an act of dharma. No article, even firewood, flowers etc, owned by others shall ever be taken without the owner's permission* ||

- **What is theft?** - taking something that does not belong to ones self without the owner's permission
- **What if we take something to give to God?** i.e. flowers or donations, it's still theft and Maharaj will not accept such offerings. When you steal, you lose all your punya to the person you have stolen from. (**Skanda puran**)
- **What do you do when you find money that is not ours? Discuss possible actions and decide who would get punya or paap for their actions**
- One should not think to take, speak of taking nor physically take something that does not belong to them.
- Stealing is a Malinkarma, as is killing and partaking of intoxicants (**Vishnu Smruti**).
- **Discuss forms of stealing.**
Garib ni lidhe - poverty
Lobh ni lidhe - greed
Bogh vruti – enjoyment

Note: Stealing has many forms, which may not be obvious, in any case always ask the permission of the owner before taking something:

1. Falsifying information, plagiarism and lying for personal gain etc...
2. Declaring incorrect tax information is a very common form of theft, by doing this; people are breaking the law and also stealing what rightfully belongs to the people of that country.
3. Watching TV on Dodgy Boxes (cable) is theft!



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- It is said that if you bring something in the house by stealing, it will make you lose 11 times more from your home.
- **Exceptions to the rule of stealing. *Ask group what they would think of as exceptions:***
 1. Brahmins may take flowers and grain for offerings in a yagna. Taking grass for cows is also not stealing.
 2. Maharaj says if you have been without food for three days, you can take a **handful** of food on the fourth day, this is not considered as stealing. Also, to take a **handful** of grain which seemingly does not belong to anyone is not seen as theft, **BUT** if you take more than a handful, it is seen as theft.

Always remember that Maharaj represents purity and truth, He is not interested in any wealth offered to him which is earned dishonestly; it is a major paap (all our paap is recorded by someone called Chitragupt).

- Stealers have their skin peeled off in Yampuri with a red hot iron!