

The shikshapatri is the sacred book of ethics and the 'code of discipline' It was originally written on the 11th February 1826 CE (maha sud 5, 1882 VS) by Lord Swaminarayan himself. It is read daily by devotees of Swaminarayan Bhagwan.

Lord Swaminarayan wrote the shikshapatri himself to guide and benefit not only his followers but every soul to the right path for the final goal of achieving moksha (salvation). To understand Lord Swaminarayan's majesty is imperative, because this will show if we have understood him the way we should, in his fully fledged status of Sarvopari, Sarva-avtaari, Purshotam Shree Swaminarayan Bhagwan. It is also important that we please Lord Swaminarayan by following his 'aagna' (spiritual orders/ instructions).

The Shikshapatri has been described by GOD as the main essence of main stream scriptures in Hinduism e.g. Bhagwat, Mahabharat, Upanishads, Vedas, and Puranas if one was to go and search through these scripture's and decide how to live, it would take a minimum of 18 life times. We are all very lucky to have found the Shikshapatri because as stated by Nand santos only a person that has done 7 full lives of Panchratra (panch-rat-tra) tap gets to hold the Shikshapatri. Panchratra tap is to do a head stand on a Sopari and chant. To do that from the age of 5 till you die for 7 life time's will get you to the status of just touching the Shikshapatri.

To add up all the power in every scripture and put it in one small Shastra can only be done by the person that made the world. e.g manufacturers make the instruction manual to their own invention, so GOD has also done the same.

The shikshapatri's appeal is universal and its message is global, leaving a deep and penetrating impact on its devotees. The shikshapatri represents the heart of Hinduism in its pristine purity.

The shikshapatri Bhashya is a more in-depth scripture of the shikshapatri. It allows us to better understand what Lord Swaminarayan expects of his devotees and why.

Scenario

You are in the comfort of your own home and all of a sudden a rat runs out near your feet. You are home alone and this rat is freaking you out. According to the Shikshapatri how should you go about handling this situation? And what should you not do in this situation?

After you have discussed the scenario, on a general basis what would you do if situations relating to un-wanted creature's e.g. Head-lice, ant's, mosquitoes, plant pests and other creatures we normally tend to act on to remove.

You are also required to write down a reference list of shikshapatri shloks that you use to tackle these situations.

{for group leader's only, Please do NOT print}

Possible shlokhs to use. 8, 11, 12, 13, 19, 92, 119, 201 (group leader to read them all)

The group leader must be able to maintain the groups thinking to be ahimsa based and as GOD said in the Vachanamrut; if you mess with any soul I will never forgive you (including ants and humans)

Scenario

You are an employee at the Bank of Baroda and work in the office sector. You are fortunate enough to get access to all the stationary and many other office use materials. You find that sometimes at home and at Mandir, folders and stationary are regularly needed. To save costs on yourself and the Mandir you bring home items from the stationary cupboard at Bank of Baroda. What view do you think the shikshapatri takes on this sort of situation?

Please provide a reference list of the shlokh's used to bring about your verdict.

{For group leaders only, Please do NOT print}

Possible shlokh to use. 8, 17, 37, 59, 67, 92, 142, 144. 147... (group leader to read them all)

Group leader must keep the group under the laws of shlokh 17 fully

Scenario

All of a sudden your father becomes seriously ill and the doctor says his time is limited. It's a Wednesday therefore this week BYM sabha will be held. However the week before everyone was notified that if they attend next weeks sabha then they receive ashvadaad from Mahant Swami. You have a difficult situation as visiting hours at the hospital are between eight and ten, falling in the exact time of BYM. What decision do you make?

Use the shikshapatri to help you decide what your final decision should be and why.

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Possible shloks for scenario: 139 and 36, however emphasise more on 139 please

Scenario

It was a sunny day and you and a couple of friends decided to go out for a walk. Whilst walking you notice a £50 note on the side of the road. You are ahead of your group of friends. You think to yourself should I pick up this note and put it in the Mandir or do you leave it on the road knowing that one of your friends will pick it up and spend it on something else that Lord Swaminarayan would not approve of i.e. non vegetarian food.

It is your job as a group to identify what the shikshapatri says to do in this situation.

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Possible shloks this scenario relates to: 17 and 37. Please emphasise more on 17 though

Scenario – (Older Ladies)

You are in the fruit and veg shop and you overhear another conversation about someone's daughter running away with a Muslim guy. You interrupt the conversation and ask details on what happened, who it was, and when it happened. You later go home and spread this gossip you have just heard to other members of your family. You do not however know that this information is true.

What shikshapatri shlokh does this situation relate to? Please discuss in your groups.

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Possible shloks to scenario: 26 and 75. Please emphasise more on 75 though