



## 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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### RAMNAVMI

This is one of the most auspicious days in the Hindu calendar. Two incarnations of Lord Narayan were incarnated on earth on this very day in the form of Lord Shree Ram and Lord Swaminarayan. On the ninth day of the first fortnight of chaitra, in the early rising of the punarvasu constellation in the sky at noon Lord Ram was born to Kaushalya and King Dashrath of Ayodhya.

Lord Vishnu incarnated himself as Ram Bhagwan who is the central character in the epic of Ramayan. Ram Bhagwan is expected to show the world the characteristics of an ideal person, including ideal son, husband, and a king. Ram Bhagwan took birth on this planet to get rid of demons in particular the demon Ravan (the King of Lanka) with ten heads. Ravan had been granted a boon by Brahma of immunity from gods and other divine beings. Ravan was too proud to be thinking of being beaten by a normal man. Hence Ram Bhagwan was born and Lakshmi (wife of Lord Vishnu) was born as Sitaji. Sitaji was to be Ram Bhagwan's wife in this life.

On this very day one should fast and worship Lord Ram. Celebrations should be carried out by decorating Ram with a crown, orange dhoti and beautiful clothes. He should be given a bow and arrow in his arms. Milk, curds, rice, muthiya laadus etc. should be offered to Lord Ram. In our temple the idol of Lord Shree Krishna (Lord Swaminarayan) should be worshipped as Lord Ram as they are one in the same. On this day kirtans in praise of Lord Ram and related to the birth should also be sung with various musical instruments. Also on this day the devotees should feed the Brahmins and Saints and observe Ekadashi (fast).

He was in exile for 14 years. During the exile Ravan kidnapped Sitaji in the form of Brahm. The main reason for this is so that Ram could reach Lanka and defeat Ravan. Ram Bhagwan gained victory 10 days before Diwali (on Dasher). Their return back to Ayodhya from exile marks the festival of Diwali.

The epic of Ramayan demonstrates the ideal behaviour of man, with special focus on man-wife relationship, son-father relationship and the rules for ideal governance by a king.



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### SWAMINARAYAN JAYANTI

It was a dark beautiful night on Samvat 1837 Chaitra Sud Navmi. It was 10:10p.m., on this auspicious moment of time no other normal child was born, but Almighty God Supreme had taken birth. He was born in the house of Bhaktimata and Dharmadev in Chappaiya, a village in Northern India.

In Bhagwat Gita Lord Krishna says to Arjun "When dharma (righteousness) is suppressed and Adharma (non righteousness) prevails, I will take birth upon this earth to save mankind and obtain Moksha (salvation) and destroy all evil and also to establish Dharma (Practice of Religion in accordance with Veds and Purans), upon this earth and will incarnate in all four Yugas (epics of time) i.e. Satya, Treta, Dwarpa and Kali."

At the time of Lord Swaminarayan's birth, Bhaktimata was sound a sleep and suddenly woke up and saw a child with divine light sleeping next to her. Bhaktimata's eyes were dazzled, she saw the Lord in midst of the rays of light. He had worn fine golden clothes, had a silver flute in his hands, and his head was dressed with a crown of feathers from a peacock. Bhaktimata was very surprised on having seen such a divine vision of the beloved God. With heartily emotions, Bhaktimata said, "Lord Shri Krishna himself has taken birth as my son".

Hearing her praises, Ghanshyam Maharaj happily said, "Mother, now you need not to worry. When the Demons and Evil people were terrorising you and the Saints on Earth you remembered me, and you had also done Taap (Meditation) in Vrindavan, which is when I gave you my darshan and had promised to be born as your son."

On seeing the bright lights, Dharmadev arrived and saw Purshottam Narayan as his son. He also remembered the promise given by Purshottam Narayan in Vrindavan and how he adhered to it. He thought to himself that, "Now the end of miseries is very near and soon happiness will spread everywhere."

Devas and Devis including Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva came from Devlok to have darshan of Ghanshyam Maharaj. All the Devas and Devis were showering the home of Dharmadev and Bhaktimata with fresh fragrant and colourful petals. In Chhapaiya there was a sense of peace and purity in the air, broken only by the sweet singing of the birds, whilst the petals gently continued to carpet the ground. The people from Chhapaiya village and all surrounding villages came to celebrate the birth of Lord Purshottam Narayan. They all brought presents for Bhaktimata and Dharmadev and sang joyfully to celebrate the birth:

*"Dharma ghera Anand bhayo, Jay bolo Ghanshyam ki..... Chapaiya me Lal bhayo, Jay bolo Ghanshyam ki..... Bhakta ke Bhagwan bhayo, Jay bolo Ghanshyam ki..... Hathi Ghoda Palkhi, Jay bolo Ghanshyam ki....."*