



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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BLOSSOMING OF MANGO TREES:

Once, Ghanshyam and his friends decided that they should go early next morning to collect the half-ripe mangoes. Veniram said, "Let us divide mango-trees among ourselves. Whoever gets a mango-tree in his share must take half-ripe fruits only of that tree."

Everybody liked this suggestion. They mutually distributed the mango-trees. They named the mango-trees. They decided that Veniram should go to 'Dahiye' mango-tree, Manchharam to 'Bhairav' mango-tree, Sukhnandan to 'Katve' mango-tree, Gauridatta to 'Bhaduhe' mango-tree. Thus everything was settled.

The next early morning when it was still dark, they all got up and arrived to their respective mango-trees. Ichharam was the youngest of all. He could not find his 'Kesario' mango-tree. He sat under a Jambu tree. Taking for granted his Jambu tree, as his mango-tree, he thought that as soon as the half-ripe mangoes would fall, he should collect them. But the Jambu tree offers only rose-apples. Can we get mangoes on it instead? Ichharam waited and waited in the hope of mangoes to fall. It was morning. All the boys returned home with half-ripe mango fruits.

They saw Ichharam. He said, "I have not got a single mango." Ghanshyam said, "Manchharam has collected the half-ripe mangoes of 'Kesariya' mango-tree, which was in your share. So Manchharam had to give half of the portion of mangoes to Ichharam.

"The half-ripe mangoes collected by me belong to me. I will not share it with anyone," said Manchharam. On hearing this, Ichharam was on the point of weeping. Ghanshyam consoled him, "Don't weep. I will collect half-ripe mangoes for you."

Saying this, Ghanshyam went to the Jaambu-tree, collected the ripe rose-apples scattered under the tree and poured them into the flap of the shirt of Ichharam.

All of them came to the river-bank. Everyone took out his own half-ripe mangoes. But, on opening the flap of his shirt, Manchharam found rose-apples instead of half-ripe mangoes. Ichharam found in his shirt-flap half ripe mangoes. Ichharam began to dance with joy and Manchharam cried with a bashed face. Ghanshyam said, "No one has to cry or laugh. We are all from one family. We should live like one family. Soon the little Ichharam spoke, "I give half of my half-ripe mangoes to Manchharam." "We all share our half-ripe mangoes. None of us shall be selfish in eating. Is it correct, Manchharam?" said Ghanshyam. "Quite right," said Manchharam.

The compromise was reached. Everyone shared the half-ripped mangoes and rose-apples, and they enjoyed themselves eating them while dancing.

A man gets anything and everything only by the will of God. This truth is expressed only by the will of God. This truth is expressed in the above episode. We should learn to share, as happiness resides in sharing and giving out.



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Maharaj Adorns the Clothes of a Gopi

Once Maharaj left for Dhamadkaa from Manukuva on His own. On His way he gave away all his clothing's except for a *Dhoti* which adorned the lower part of His body. He came to Karnibaa where she enquired, "Oh Maharaj! Why have you come in such guise on your own? Have you been looted on the way?" Maharaj smiled and said, "Oh Karnibaa! Leave such talk and please bring me some food as I am hungry."

However nothing was prepared in the house and could not wait for Karnibaa to prepare some foods as He was so hungry. Karnibaa suggested Yoghurt, which Maharaj agreed to. Seven or eight containers of Yoghurt were brought out and eaten by Maharaj! Karnibaa then brought some *ghee* out for Maharaj as He was still hungry. Four measures of *ghee* were consumed by Maharaj and then Maharaj said, "I can now wait for you to prepare some food and so please hurry and prepare me something." Karnibaa lovingly prepared some food and gave it to Maharaj. After satiating His hunger He drank some water and then took *mukhvaas*. He then sat on His throne and began to stroke His feet and noticed splinters and requested Karnibaa to remove them. She took Maharaj's feet in her hands and removed eighteen splinters.

Maharaj was immensely pleased with her and blessed her, "Oh Karnibaa! Today you have removed the splinters from my feet and therefore accept that all the splinters of worldly life have been removed from you!" Maharaj saw some new clothing that Karnibaa had recently acquired. Karnibaa requested Maharaj to purify them by adorning them and giving *darshan* as a *Gopi*. Maharaj decided that he had manifested for the purpose of granting all the wishes of his choicest devotees and so decided to adorn the clothing. Karnibaa said to Maharaj, "Oh Maharaj! You will not know how to wear our clothing and so let me help you put them on!" In this was Karnibaa helped Maharaj wear the clothes and bedeck him with jewellery and other ornaments. All the women came for *darshan* of Maharaj as a *Gopi* and they sang songs.

Raaidhanji hearing the songs also came and received divine darshan of Maharaj as a *Gopi*. He asked, "Oh Maharaj! Why is it that you have dressed as a *Gopi*?" Maharaj replied, "What can I do. I was just the one and the women were many and so they all got together and dressed me as they are dressed! It's not my fault, what can I do on my own?" All the *haribhaktas* burst into laughter! They were immensely pleased with His *manushya-leela*. Brahmanand Swami and other saints also came in search of Maharaj and they too had *darshan* of Maharaj in the guise of a *Gopi* and were immensely pleased by it. Swami composed a *kirtan* of these events, "Gopi baniya Giradhari..."

Once after Maharaj departed to Dhaam, he gave *darshan* to Karnibaa and instructed her to donate the clothes and ornaments that he wore to the temple at Bhuj. These have been preserved within the Aksharbuvaan at Bhuj temple.