

FAITH IN SCRIPTURES:

Scriptures:

- Scriptures are religious texts which are sacred to a **Sampraday**. They have significance importance and guide us towards a righteous path, showing us how to live life.
- Scriptures not only enlighten the history of God but they also illuminate the path to progress. They give the identity of religion or a **Sampraday** and provide a guide for devotees.
- **Lord Swaminarayan** aimed to write scriptures to further the **Sampraday**, to reveal the greatness of the Lord and in a way that could be easily understood by all **Satsangis**.
- They are usually written, spoken and recited by pious and very great souls. On some occasions GOD Himself will have written a scripture (**Shikshapatri**) and other times He may have recited the scripture (**Bhagwat Gita**).
- The **Swaminarayan Sampraday** is based on Hindu Scriptures, but because there are great in numbers and volumes, and complex to read and understand, **Lord Swaminarayan** took it upon Himself to read, digest and then compile new scriptures that brought out the essence of these Hindu scripture.
- The content of all the scriptures by **Lord Swaminarayan** is based on the subject of religion, humanity, honesty, non-violence and mercy to mankind.

- The following are a few of the most prominent and are read daily or on a regular basis:

Scriptures of the **Swaminarayan Sampradaya**:

- Shikshapatri
- Vachnamrut
- Bhaktachintamani
- Haridigvijay
- Gita Bhashya
- Satsangi Bhushan
- Satsangi Jeevan
- Hari Krishna Lilamrut
- Shri Hari Charitra
- HariLila Kalpataru
- Harilila Mrut and many others.

For example: how to have faith in shikshapatri:

Shikshapatri

"All my followers shall daily read this Shikshapatri. Those who cannot read shall listen to it with respect. When a reader of Shikshapatri is not readily available they shall worship it daily. All followers shall honour my word as my image with deep reverence"

(Shikshapatri Sloka 208-209)

- Just like we use a instruction manual to operate a piece of machinery in the same way the **Shikshapatri** is a manual for the soul. Anytime we hit a low we must have gone against the manual hence the downfall. Whereas following the manual from start to finish without any flaws means you will never hit any flaws.

- **Swaminarayan Bhagwan** wanted to create something that has never been created before. He created something taking into account all the different scriptures and He knew everyone did not have the time to read each and every scripture.
- So to make things easy for us He compiled this very small scripture that shows us all we need to do to attain the 4 **purusharths**. This is greatness of **Lord Swaminarayan**, He is making things as easy as possible for us and putting everything on a plate.
- There is no scripture in the world where a guarantee of **Dharma, Arth, Kaam** and **Moksha** has been given. Many scriptures say you will attain 'X' if you follow 'Y' but this is the only scripture where such a guarantee of **Dharma, Arth, Kaam** and **Moksha** has been in black and white.

Conclusion:

Just like we carried out the exercise at the start of today's session, if we followed the instructions carefully then your paper plane must have gone the furthest. Likewise, if we have faith in what is written in the scriptures and follow it, then we will even progress further to acquire the ultimate goal – **Shree Hari!**

!!Jay Shree Swaminarayan!!