



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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MARKANDAY MUNI NAMES GHANSHYAM

The people of Chhappaiya named the divine child Ghanshyam because he looked like the colours of the cloud but Dharmadev wasn't satisfied with this name. He wanted a great astrologer to name the divine child.

One day, Rishi Markanday came to Chhappaiya. Dharmadev welcomed him with a garland of flowers and said politely "by your arrival here my house has become holy", and he asked "I request you to find a good name for my child in accordance with his rasi (a sign of zodiac)."

Markanday Muni opened his astrology book, and studied the planets and constellations, at the birth time of Ghanshyam. After thinking for a while, the Muni said, "Your child is born in Kark Rasi, so his name will be Hari. He looks the colours of the cloud and was born in the month of Chaitra, so he will also be known as Krishna. By joining these two names, we can also call him Hari-Krishna".

After reading Bal Ghanshyam's palms, Markanday Muni said "O Dharmadev, you are very lucky. Supreme Lord himself has descended in your family. His name will spread throughout the universe".

After describing Ghanshyam's virtues, Markanday Muni saw a vision. In his vision, Supreme Lord blessed him. Markanday Muni was contented and set out for pilgrimage.

Questions:

1. What was the name of the Muni who named Ghanshyam Maharaj? *Markanday Muni*
2. How did Dharmadev welcome Markanday Muni? *With a garland of flowers*
3. What were the names given to Ghanshyam Maharaj? *Hari, Krishna, Hari Krishna*

Questions for group leaders to ask groups (refresher):

1. Which village was Ghanshyam Maharaj born in?
Chappaiya (Utter Pradesh)
2. What year was Ghanshyam Maharaj born and what time?
He was born on Monday 9th day of the bright half of the moon Chaitra VS 1837 (2 April 1781 AD) at 10.10pm
3. Which other god's birthday is the same?
Lord Ram
4. What was Maharaj's pet name?
Ghanshyam



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GHANSHYAM GETS HIS EARS PIERCED

When Ghanshyam was seven months old, Bhaktimata wanted to pierce his ears and get nice earrings for Him.

On Sharad Purnima, she arranged for the ear-piercer to come to Chappaiya. Bhaktimata took Ghanshyam on her lap. The ear piercer touched the needle gently to Ghanshyam's ear. A flow of light came out and the needle fell down. Everybody was surprised.

After the light disappeared, Ghanshyam was no longer in Bhaktimata's lap. Everyone started to look for him. Finally, Bhaktimata saw him sitting on the tree branch. She told Rampratapji to bring him down.

Rampratapji climbed up the tree but did not see Ghanshyam. When he looked down he saw Ghanshyam sitting on Bhaktimata's lap. When he was on the ground he was surprised to see two Ghanshyam's, one on the tree and the other on Bhaktimata's lap.

Finally Ghanshyam said to Bhaktimata "I will let you pierce my ears if you give me "Ghor" (Jaggery).

Bhaktimata bought "Ghor" from the house and gave it to Ghanshyam Maharaj. The playful Lord then agreed to get his ears pierced.

Questions:

1. How old was Ghanshyam when Bhaktimata wanted to get his ear pierced? *Seven months old*
2. Where did Ghanshyam disappear to when the piercer touched the needle to his ear, and who saw him first?
On a tree and Bhaktimata saw him sitting on the tree branch.
3. What did Ghanshyam Maharaj ask for before allowing them to pierce his ears?
"Ghor" (Jaggery).

Questions for group leaders to ask groups (discussion):

1. How many Brothers did Ghanshyam Maharaj have and what were their names?
Two brothers, Rampratapji and Iccharamji
2. How many children did Rampratapji have? *Three sons, and one daughter*
3. How many children did Iccharamji have? *Five sons and two daughters*