



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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Maharaj saves Padamshi bhakta from robbers

Padamshi Seth was from a village called Kanthkot. He was a great and pious devotee with great love for Maharaj and devotion. Maharaj was greatly pleased with him because of his devotion. Whenever Maharaj used to tour Gujarat, Kathiwad etc. and celebrate festivals in such places, Padamshi Bhakta would also attend without question or excuse.

Once, Maharaj was going to celebrate the occasion of adorning a head-dress (*Mugat Dharan*) in Vadtal. Padamshi got ready to leave for Vadtal along with many other devotees from Kanthkot. He arranged the hire of the services of a cart for the transportation of their belongings. On the way there, Padamshi Bhakta talked vividly about the greatness of Maharaj and thus initiated the owner of the cart; Mamaiya, into the sect by placing a rosary round his neck. On the way, one of the bullocks suddenly died. Mamaiya thought that maybe it was because he had been initiated into the Swaminarayan faith and so took the Kanthi off at once and threw it back to Padamshi. He then bought another bullock and they continued their journey to Vadtal. They got to Vadtal and stayed for approximately ten days and celebrated the *Utsav* with great festivity.

After celebrating with such happiness and enjoying the bliss of Maharaj's darshan for many days, Padamshi along with all the others in his party from Kanthkot decided to return. It had got quite late in the night when returning and at that moment they noticed about seven or eight fellows approaching in order to loot them. They confronted Padamshi and the others and said, "Give us all your belongings, otherwise we will kill you!" They all began to off load their belongings and give it to the robbers.

At that moment, Mamaiya said to Padamshi, "You speak of the greatness of your Swaminarayan but why doesn't he come to your aid now and help you?" Padamshi replied, "My dear Swaminarayan will come any moment now to save us!" Maharaj came immediately and gave everyone His divine *darshan* with Him upon a horse and armed with a sword, axe and shield to fight off these looters! Along with Him, was an army of fifty Kathi warriors. They bellowed with a fearful voice, "Who do you think you are, trying to loot these devotees!" Saying this they grabbed hold of the looters and inflicted great pain. The looters began to shake in fear. They fell at Maharaj's feet and sought refuge, "Oh Swaminarayan! We have made a great mistake. We will never rob anyone again. Please forgive our sins and us. Therefore please show us your kindness by letting us go alive." Maharaj instructed the Kaathis to let them go and the looters fled.

Padamshi and the others continued their journey and arrived at Kanthkot peacefully. Many years passed and the time for Mamaiya to leave this world came. Yamdoots came to take him and began to beat him viciously. Padamshi learnt that Mamaiya was in his dying days and so he came to visit him. He came to Mamaiya's residence chanting the Swaminarayan



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Mahamantra. The Yamdoot immediately fled on the arrival of the Bhakta. Mamaiya then told Padamshi, “I had faced such pains at the hands of the Yamdoots but have now found solace in your arrival as they have gone away.

However they are still waiting for me once you leave.” Padamshi said, “Why don’t you remember your Guru and meditate upon your Ishtadev?” Mamaiya replied, “Oh Padamshi! I have been doing that for so long but they have not come to my aid! Therefore please save me from them. I will do whatever you ask of me.”

Padamshi then instructed him to seek refuge at the feet of Lord Swaminarayan and to receive *Panch Vratman* and wear a *Kanathi*. Mamaiya agreed and so Padamshi placed a *Kanathi* round his neck. Padamshi then instructed him to remember the time when they went to Vadtal for *Mughat Dharan Utsav* and to remember the Lord decorated in His beautiful attire seated in a swing. He told him to also remember the glorious *murti* of Maharaj, when He came to their rescue and saved them from the robbers. He told him to chant Swaminarayan and as he did so, he had divine *darshan* of Maharaj.

He told Padamshi, “Oh Padamshi! Maharaj has come to give me *darshan*!” Padamshi said, “Ask Maharaj when He will come to take you.” He asked Maharaj when He would take him and Maharaj replied, “If you wish to come to Akshardhaam then come now with me!”

Mamaiya said to Padamshi, “Maharaj is asking me to go with Him now!” Padamshi then said, “Then don’t hesitate and leave now and go with Him!” Mamaiya left his body immediately and followed Maharaj to Akshardhaam. Thus through association with a *haribhakta*, even in his last few moments before death, he was able to attain salvation. This is the greatness of a *haribhakta* and also the mercifulness of Maharaj.