



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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JEEVUBA

In the royal home of Gadhada, Ebhal Khachar had two daughter's Jeevuba (Jaya) was the eldest and Laduba (Lalita) the younger. They were the devout elder sisters of Dada Khachar. They were more interested in devotion than even the royal riches and normal activities associated with youth. Ebhel Khachar's earlier children had all died and hence she was named Jeevuba (one who had survived). She was also known by the names Jaya and Motiba. From a very early age she became firmly and lovingly devoted to God. She took a dislike to luxuries and tasty dishes and she slept on the floor. Jeevuba would spend her time in-front of the idol of Bal Krishna and perform pooja with chandan, pushpa etc. and would chant mantra whilst rotating the mala. She would daily perform aarti.

Krishna Drinks Milk

Once Ebhal Khachar was passing by Jeevuba's room and noticed her deep in devotion. He questioned her, "O daughter! Why is it that in your young age you choose to perform such devotion? These are the activities which, you should do when you are elderly. This is the time for luxury and enjoyment!" Hearing her father speak in such a way she said, "O father! You are educated in the scriptures, why then do you comment in this way? There is no guarantee of the body, who knows what will happen tomorrow? The human form is very rare and indeed Deva's even yearn for such form. We should use it to devote ourselves to God. In this murti you see before you, resides the Almighty himself. There is no question of this!"

Ebhal then saw the divine miracles whereby the Lord himself emerged from the murti to drink the milk that Jeevuba had offered! Seeing this Ebhal remarked, "Blessed and great is your devotion my daughter! Continue and serve the Lord as you wish. I will never again question your devotion." From that day forward Jeevuba took the vow of life-long celibacy. She even stopped looking at other men and would not enter places where men frequented.

Seeing her service and devotion, Bhakti Mata on one occasion gave her darshan and gave her a boon. When Maharaj was away at other towns and villages and did not return on time, Jeevuba would not be able to take any food until such time that Maharaj returned. She stopped taking food and water and would sit in deep meditation; such was she longing for Maharaj. Maharaj, seeing such penance would hurry back no matter how far away he was.

She died on the Sixth day of the bright half of Jeth Samvat 1961(1860 A.D) whilst chanting Maharaj's name.

Seeing the love of such a devout woman for God, Maharaj resided in Gadhpur. She was endowed with the highest qualities. As a result she would have darshan of Maharaj at his will. She lovingly served Maharaj's saints and haribhakta's. She often arranged great festivals in Gadhpur and personally saw to the getting together the necessary items, arranging the meals and preparing the Lord's thaal. In this way she extensively pleased Maharaj with her devotion.



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LADUBA

Sister of Jeevuba and Dada Khachar whose family were strong followers of Maharaj. Maharaj regularly visited and stayed at Dada Khachar's darbar and looked upon it as his own home. Laduba was a strong devotee of God, she always worshipped him and stayed beside Him or his idol serving Him. She got married to Khoda Dhadhal of Botad, however her mind remained with Maharaj only. Therefore Khoda willingly sent her back to her parents. On seeing her back home her father Ebhal Khachar got angry, but when he saw the letter of permission from her in-laws he became quiet and didn't say a word.

Laduba had very similar pure qualities as her elder sister. Both had firm uncompromising love and devotion for Maharaj. Indeed sometimes this used to get in the way as they often used to compete for service to Maharaj. Both enjoyed celebrating and organising festivals in Gadhada and it was because of this rivalry that Maharaj decided to split their service by announcing that Jeevuba should look after the festivals of the brighter half of the month and Laduba looks after the festivals of the darker half of the month.

Ankoot

Laduba celebrated the Ankoot festival, as according to the scriptures it is part of Diwali, which falls in the darker half. A fantastic celebration of Ankoot took place in the hands of Laduba and the feast prepared for the Ankoot was sumptuous. Maharaj remained manifested in the idols to accept all the dishes, which were offered with love.

Service to Saints

Although a Princess of a Royal Heritage, Laduba enjoyed serving the saints of the order. Once, Laduba along with Dada's wife were riding in a carriage on their way back to Gadhada. On their way they saw the saint Akhandanand. He had fallen severely ill. His body was dry of blood and his stomach had swelled. He lay in this state under a tree whilst other saints served him. Laduba could not bear to see this sight with Swami in such pain and halted the carriage. She instructed the driver to take Swami in the carriage back to Gadhada whilst she walked back. Maharaj was immensely pleased with Laduba's devotion to the saints.

Manakiye Chadiya

Once Maharaj decided to go to Vadtal for satsang, which both Laduba and Jeevuba did not like as they could not bear to be apart from Maharaj. He mounted his mare and set out with the other Kathis. But the mare brought Maharaj back to the Darbar from the outskirts of town. Maharaj tried repeatedly to leave Gadhada but it was useless. Eventually he realised that the sisters were influencing the mare. After pacifying the sisters that he would return shortly, they gave Maharaj permission to leave. The mare then co-operated with Maharaj and they reached Vadtal. Premanand Swami, observing this incident wrote the kirtan, "Manakiye Chadiya Mohan Vanamari...."

Last Days

In this way, Shreeji Maharaj lavishly bestowed divine bliss upon Dada Khachar, Jeevuba and Laduba. On Maharaj's departure, the brother and sisters were inconsolable. Maharaj appeared



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before them and said, “We never disappear from satsang. We are ever manifesting in the image of Gopinathji and shall always give you our darshan there.” Thus they spent their last days in service to Gopinathji Maharaj at Gadhada.