



S.K.S. SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE (LONDON) – BAL YUVAK MANDAL

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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 wanted to pierce his ears and get nice earrings for Him.