



## 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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### The Reason to Incarnate

During 18<sup>th</sup> century India, the state was in deep misery. Kings and rulers were extremely cruel to their subjects. The soldiers looted common people and troubled them by taking excess tax. And on the other side land was being divided into several small kingdoms and each neighbouring kingdom fought one another which caused mass suffering to the innocent and poor people. During this time the British were also in India.

British soldiers noticed that there was lack of unity among the kingdoms. They saw that people were illiterate and superstitious. They had blind faith in practices like Sati, Child Marriages, there was killing of innocent animals in the name of 'Yagnas.' People were of the belief that if the girl child was born they had committed a severe sin and they were very cruel and so unkind that they did not even think while killing innocent female child by drowning them into milk.

Evil practices of giving 'Bali' of Animals in front of god and goddess and religious leaders instead of giving good preaching's to their followers. They took disadvantage of the faith of people by committing adultery with the women of their disciples and also started eating meat and drink liquor for satisfying their needs. They also used to frighten poor illiterate people by saying that "if you will not do what we say we will throw you in the Hale."

This was the situation, which caused four varnas Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra to leave their religion started behaving in the manner of animals. Brahmin started to eat meat and drink liquor, Brahmin who were known as the head of the Society lost their command, which started all other irreligious practices. The above factors were the brief causes of the Incarnation of ALMIGHTY LORD SHREE SWAMINARAYAN on this Earth.

Therefore in times of hardship The Bhagwat Gita states:

*Yada Yada hi Dharmasya Glanirbhavati Bharat*

*Abhythanamadharmasya tadatmanam srujamyaham*



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Meaning: Whenever righteousness is overpowered by evil, I will manifest myself on this earth to uphold righteousness.

Leading to Swaminarayan Bhagwan himself deciding to incarnate on this earth, never had he come before or never would he come again. The God of all Gods only this time to show millions of souls the right path in life and ultimately the path that leads to his divine abode of Akshardham came down himself.

Furthermore in Vachnamrut Kariyani 5 Maharaj states

“Therefore the only reason Bhagwan assumes an avatar is to fulfil the desires of his beloved devotees. Along with this he gives salvation to countless souls and establishes Religion.”

### GROUP ACTIVITY

As well as the above reasons to incarnate, Maharaj accomplished many amazing things during his time. In groups go around individually and state 1 accomplishment Swaminarayan Bhagwan achieved while on this Earth. Below is a small list of various accomplishments however the list can go on forever.

- Established ekantik dharma, and destroyed adharm
- Initiated over 2000 sadhus, of which 500 were initiated as paramhans - He remains on earth through these sadhus
- Built mandirs, and installed murtis for bhaktas to always have the darshan of Bhagvan's murti
- Established two seats of leadership (gadi), and two acharyas to protect and promote the sampraday
- Revealed the philosophy of the Veds in simple words



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- Wrote shastras, and authenticated ancient shastras, and shastras written by His sadhus
  - Summarised the essence of all the shastras in the Shikshapatri written by himself.
  - Stopped the practice of sati (where wife is cremated alive when the husband passes away), as it was suicide/murder (some were forced) – human life is only given and taken by Bhagvan
  - Stopped female infanticide (killing of baby girls)
  - Encouraged the bhaktas to educate females, which meant they were able to give talks about Bhagvan
  - Stopped the sacrifice of animals in yagnas
  - Installed his own swarup Hari Krishna Maharaj at Vadtal Mandir
  - Dispelled the myth that moksh was not attainable by everyone. He taught mumukshu bhaktas that the jeev is neither male nor female and that everyone is equal in the eyes of Bhagvan
  - Had good relationships with the British Imperial Government, so they gifted Him with land to build a mandir in Amdavad
  - Maintained good relationships with people of other religions; had followers from other religions; even though some of His attendants were Muslims, they wore a kanthi and followed the panch-vartman
  - Gave the Governor of Bombay, Sir John Malcolm, a copy of the Shikshapatri (is kept in Bodleian Library in Oxford UK)
  - Gave Samadhi to hundreds regardless which religion they were and there they would see the God they believed in.

### **Ghanshyam Bal Leela's- Back to basics (FILL IN THE GAPS)**

- 1) Ghanshyam and \_\_\_\_\_.



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- 2) Punishment of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ Names Ghanshyam
- 4) Ghanshyam gets his \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Testing and choice: \_\_\_\_\_ tested Ghanshyam by placing the following items; \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Glimpse of the \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ Mouth.
- 7) Ghanshyam on the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8) Gomati gives \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9) Death of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10) Ghanshyam makes the \_\_\_\_\_ come alive.
- 11) \_\_\_\_\_ for small pox.
- 12) Victory over \_\_\_\_\_.
- 13) Dharmadev and \_\_\_\_\_ relieved from the \_\_\_\_\_.

Sheshnag	Book	Kritiyas	Markanday Muni	Sword
Head	Kalidatta	Fish	Curse	Remedy
Kotara	Ear Pierced	Coin	Universe	milk
Dharmadev	Ghanshyams	Wrestlers	Bhaktimata	