



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

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Vamana Jayanti

Vaman Jayanti is the day when Lord Vishnu appeared as Vamana. Lord Vamana is the fifth incarnation out of the ten of Lord Vishnu and is the first avatar of Treta Yuga. **(Name all yugs and avatars?)** It is celebrated on the 12th day of the Shukla Paksha (waxing phase of moon) in Bhadrapad month. The arrival of Vamana was a divine intervention to help the Devas (Demi-gods) **(Examples of who/what demi-gods are?)** who had lost their power to King Bali.

Vamana is the first ever avatar of Lord Vishnu who appears in a complete human form. He is in the form of dwarf Brahmin. King Bali (Pralhad's son) **(Who was Prahalad?)** had become powerful with the force of his austerities; Bali was beginning to be corrupted by his power. Devas even had to vacate heaven for him, as they could not stand up against his power. The Devas complained to their mother Aditi, the wife of Rishi Kashyap, Aditi prayed to Lord Vishnu to help them, And Lord Vishnu agreed to be born as their son in a dwarf form to disguise the potential threat he was.

One day King Bali decided to hold a yagna called the ashwamedh yagna, and he announced that he would satisfy the desires of all who turned up. Lord Vishnu appeared in his batuk brahmchari form, and asked King Bali to fulfil his desires. King Bali asked him what he wanted, and Vaman replied that I want as much land as I can cover in THREE steps. Just then Shukacharya, the guru of the demons knew that there was something odd about this brahmchari and told King Bali not to grant his request, but King Bali would never go back on his word and thought how much land can a little boy cover anyway, and so granted Vaman three steps of land.

At that instant, the little Vaman brahmchari as tall as all the worlds put together. In one stride he covered the whole of earth. With his second he covered the sky and heavens, including all the lokhs! And then he asked King Bali "Where should I now place the third stride?". With humility, Bali replied, "O Lord, set your foot (third stride) on my head." Vamanji then placed his foot on Bali's head and drove him down into Patal. Pleased with the King's selfless devotion, the Lord granted him a boon to remain at his doorstep. Satsangi's observe a "faraari" fast for half a day, taking normal food from the afternoon.

Sat yug -17,28,000 year. Avatars include Matsya, Kurma, Varah, Nrusinh

Treta yug – 12,96,000 years. Avatars include Vaman, Parshuram, Ram

Dwarpar yug – 8,64,000 years. Avatars include Krishna

Kali yug – 43,20,000 years. Avatars include Buddha, Kalki

Q. Where does Swaminarayan Bhagwan come in? A. Kali yug.

***NOTE – Swaminarayan Bhagwan is NOT an avtar – he is the Supreme Lord – Avtar na Avtari**