



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

Westfield Lane, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 9EA Est. 1966 Charity Reg. No. 271034

Tel: [020 8909 9899](tel:02089099899) Fax: [020 8909 9897](tel:02089099897) Email: bym@sksst.org

VANDU PAD (Part 1)

Think of a person in the Swaminarayan sect whose heart is filled with the fragrance of love, and whose inner self is filled with musical notes overflowing with devotion. The name that immediately comes to mind is that of the devoted Premanand Swami, who has amicably played the role filled with pure love and devotion which Radhaji played while with Shree Krishna Bhagwan.

Premanand Swami was one of the foremost disciples of Shreeji Maharaj. He was a great poet with reknowned skills. He was always yearning to be with Maharaj. Every breath that he inhaled had the fragrance of Maharaj's name on it and every breath that he exhaled had the sweetness and experience of Maharaj that spread to all devotees. Whenever they were not together, Swami would always remember and visualise the moments they shared and composed songs full of devotion and love. He was the hallmark of love personified, and for that reason Maharaj eventually changed his name of Nijbodhanand Swami, given at the time of being ordained into sainthood, to Premanand Swami, meaning, filled with the joy of love. Swami admired when Shreeji Maharaj was swinging on the hindola (swing tied to a tree branch), serving saints while they were eating, explaining the inner philosophy of the true religion to His devotees in a congregation and also, whilst having a bath with the devotees in the River Ghela, wearing plain white garments or colourful clothes adorning rich jewellery and garments on His body, or whether He was performing His divine or human plays. How would Premanand Swami, a person who was fond of Maharaj, be able to stay without making a kirtan based on what he saw? His pen would inscribe the plays and describe all characters involved in actual perspective.

On the fourteenth day of the dark half (vad Chaudas) of the month of Maha in Samvat 1880, Sahajanand Swami was seated facing eastwards in front of a congregation in Dada Khachar's courtyard. He had worn rich white woven garments on His body. A new tulsi mala (rosary) decorated His neck. Tassels of yellow flowers hung off His turban. A colourful garland from different flowers hung from His neck and added more beauty to His attire. Shree Hari was explaining the details of His divine abode Akshardham to the devotees present, while making gestures intricately with both His hands. Premanand Swami was staring at Shree Hari in an unmoved admiration of His beauty. He concentrated so much upon every detail of Shreeji Maharaj seated in front of him that the Lord's image was carved into Swami's heart.

At that moment, a congregation of Hindus not of the Swaminarayan sect came to Gadhada considering it as a holy pilgrimage centre just like any other pilgrimage center in India, since Gadhada was on the banks of River Ghela. Amongst these were a brahmin named Sevakram and his wife Sunanda, the actual parents of Premanand Swami. (Recall the birth and childhood of Premanand Swami; he was disowned by his father under a suspicion that the baby was not his son, and left him at the doorstep of a mosque, where he was found by a muslim faithful, who adopted him. Later, this person died, and the



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little boy, then named Haathi, was raised by his adopted uncle Dosa Tai. Dosa Tai, though a muslim by birth, was a faithful devotee of Shreeji Maharaj and he eventually brought Haathi to Maharaj in Gadhada, whence Maharaj asked Dosa Tai to leave Hathi in Gadhada, where he eventually became a saint).

Maharaj welcomed the congregation and let them sit at the front just behind the saints. Maharaj knows all about everyone. He knew about the parents of Swami but feigned ignorance. As the divinity of Akshardham was so great but beyond the knowledge and understanding of these pilgrims, Maharaj changed the subject of discussion. Maharaj engaged into casual talk and asked the congregation's leader about their wellbeing and the progress of their pilgrimage, and found out that these pilgrims were devotees of the goddess Durga. He later asked if they knew any songs of praise, and Sevakram said that they had all the way been singing songs in the praise of their Devi.

Impressed by this, Shreeji Maharaj looked towards the saints and the saints understood Maharaj's intent. Maharaj wanted the saints to preach about the greatness of the present Lord to these pilgrims so they understand the importance of this incarnation of all previous incarnations and demi-gods. Premanand Swami's affability and devotion started overflowing and he wanted the pilgrims to realise that the Supreme Lord himself was present on this earth; this was the same almighty worshipped by all the demi-gods that all people worshipped. Swami stood up and walked towards Shree Hari. He cleared his throat, opened his hands and started dancing, and at the same time composing and singing the following kirtan.

This setting is shortly mentioned in Vachnamrut 48 of the second chapter of Gadhada, which is about this congregation, and where Maharaj has praised the devotion of Premanand Swami after hearing this kirtan and stood up to embrace him. He blessed and thanked his parents; though Sevakram and his wife Sunanda had no idea that they were the ones being thanked as Premanand Swami was their long separated son, and Maharaj preferred this status to stay that way for the sake of Swami's devotion. Maharaj promised that anyone who sings this song everyday shall be free from the mortal body and shall be able to live an unattached life on this earth.



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Pad - 1

Vandu Sahajanand Rasroop, Anupam Saarne Re Lol;
Jene Bhajtaa Chhoote Fand, Kare Bhav Paarne Re Lol ...1

I bow to Shree Sahajanand Swami, who is by His very nature the source of all easily attainable happiness and is full of elixir. His greatness cannot be accurately described, as all that we know about Him is just but a small sample of His greatness. Anyone who worships this great Lord will be freed from all bonds of this universe and will be delivered across from this world to attain the ever-sought salvation in the next world.

Samru Pragat Roop Sukhdhaam, Anupam Naam Ne Re Lol;
Jene Bhav Brahmaadik Dev, Bhaje Taji Kaamne Re Lol ... 2

I meditate on this present form of the Lord who is the abode of all happiness. His name has many meanings. Even demi-gods like Brahma who are worshipped by many people and regarded as powerful in this world, themselves cast aside all their chores and meditate upon this Lord.

Je Hari Aksharbrahm Aadhar, Paar Koi Nav Lahe Re Lol;
Jene Shesh Sahastra Mukh Gaye, Nigam Neti Kahe Re Lol ... 3

That Lord is the support of the two forms of Akshar; the one heavenly abode where Maharaj resides, as well as the second form of pious souls that exist serve Him. His greatness has no defined boundaries. The serpent god sings His praise with all his 1000 heads, and the Vedas sing praise of the ever renewed leelas (deeds) of this Lord.

Varnavu Sundar Roop Anupam, Jugal Charne Nami Re Lol;
Nakhshikh Premsakhinaa Nath, Raho Oorma Rami Re Lol ...4

O Lord, the account that I make of You from Your toe to the tuft of hair on Your head is of what You exactly are and what I see right now. I urge for that glorious appearance to remain within me forever, blessing my eyesight and glorifying my soul. I will attempt to illustrate this form that can never be fully described even by the most knowledgeable.

Pad - 2

Aawo Mara Mohan Mithdaa Lal Ke, Jou Taari Murti Re Lol;
Jatan Kari Raakhu Rasiya Raj, Visaaru Nahi Oorthi Re Lol ...1

I welcome my Lord, my dear friend in whom my mind has lost itself in admiring His beauty. I will try all I can to ensure He remains in my heart and will never let go of this feeling of fondness for Him.

Maan Maru Mohyu Mohanlal, Paghaldini Bhaatmaa Re Lol;
Aawo Ora Chhogalaa Khosu Chhel, Khantilaa Jowu Khantma Re Lol ... 2

My mind has been charmed by the intricate and elaborate designs in his turban. I ask the Lord to come closer so I can insert some fans in the turban and observe each and every part of this form to etch the image into my heart.

Vahala Taaru Zalke Sundar Bhaal, Tilak Ruda Karyaa Re Lol;
Vahala Taara Vaam Karanmaa Til, Tene Mandaa Haryaa Re Lol ...3

Dear Lord, your forehead shines with divine radiance with the tilak done at the center. The eye-catching birth mark on your left ear has captivated many minds.



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**Vahala Taari Bhvakuti Ne Baane Shyam, Kaaraj Maara Koriya Re Lol;
Nene Taare Premsakhina Nath Ke, Chit Maara Choriya Re Lol ... 4**

Premamand Swami tells the Lord that your eye brow is like a bow whose arrows have pierced my heart. Your captivating eyes have stolen my heart.

Pad - 3

**Vahala Mane Vash Kidhi Vraj Raaj, Vaalap Taara Vaalma Re Lol;
Maan Maaru Talpe Jovaa Kaaj, Tibakdi Che Gaalma Re Lol ... 1**

Your loving affection has made me very helpless and I am at your mercy. My mind suffers impatiently wanting to see you at the earliest, and yearning to have sight of the auspicious marks on your chubby cheeks.

**Vahala Taari Naasika Namni Naath, Adharbimb Lal Chhe Re Lol;
Chhela Maara Pran Karu Kurbaan, Joyaa Jevi Chaal Chhe Re Lol... 2**

Your nose is the most perfect that I have ever seen and it has a red spot on it. I would give my life away at having a chance to see your gracious walk.

**Vahala Taara Dant Daadam Na Bij, Chaturai Chavtaa Re Lol;
Vahala Maara Pran Haro Cho Naath, Mithu Mithu Gaavta Re Lol ... 3**

Your teeth are immaculately arranged in Your mouth just like the kernels of a pomegranate fruit. These teeth chew the words of wisdom. Your sweet and soft singing has mesmerised my heart and soul into Your following.

**Vahala Taare Haswe Haranu Chit, Biju Hawe Nav Gamme Re Lol;
Man Maaru Premsakhina Nath Ke, Tam Kede Bhame Re Lol ... 4**

Your laughter has taken over my spirit and I yearn for nothing else anymore. My mind now wanders behind You and my thoughts are always about You.

Pad - 4

**Rasiya Joi Rupari Kot, Rudi Rekhaavari Re Lol;
Vahala Maaru Mandu Malwa Chahay, Ke Jaay Chitdu Chadi Re Lol ... 1**

Your collar has beautiful lines in it and seeing these is a joy for my eyes. My mind wishes to meet You and my heartbeat rises when I finally see You.

**Vahala Taari Jamani Bhujaane Paas, Ruda Til Char Chhe Re Lol;
Vahala Taara Kanth Vache Til Ek, Anupam Saar Chhe Re Lol ... 2**

I have seen four beautiful spots near Your right shoulder. There is also the most beautiful spot at the centre of Your throat. This particular spot is the most desirable and is a reflection of the radiance of all the other spots on Your body.

**Vahala Taara Oorma Vingun Haar, Joi Nena Thare Re Lol;
Vahala Te To Jaane Premijan, Joi Nitya Dhyaan Dhare Re Lol ... 3**

Seeing a chain of spots near Your heart cools my yearning eyes. All those devotees who love You know about this ring of spots and after seeing it once they always meditate upon it.



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**Rasiya Joi Tamaaru Roop, Rasik Jan Ghelda Re Lol;
Aawo Vahala Premsakhina Nath, Sundar Var Chhelda Re Lol ... 4**

When devotees see your divine form oozing of nectar they become insane in your devotion and admiration. O Lord, you are my friend and ultimate husband and I invite you to come to me and stay with me forever.