

## **Witchcraft and Wizardry:**

Witchcraft and wizardry has been around for many years within the world. In **satsang** there is not much wizardry, but we have heard of and know of a lot of witchcraft being carried out.

There are many places where **Maharaj** has come across **bhaktos** who have actually obtained powers (**shakti**) from **Bhagwan** or His demi-gods. These powers have been granted to them on the condition that they use it for the right reasons.

- ✓ There is one example of **Meghji Vanik** in **Satsangi Jeevan**.

- He was known to put his hand into boiling oil where food is fried and he could put his hand and pull out the food being cooked from the saucepan while it was a light and still being cooked, without a burn or even a sense of pain on his hands.
- The word spread around India, and he became an idol which he attained followers who would accompany him and he would hold gatherings where he would show off his powers. He also challenged **Swaminarayan Bhagwan** that **Maharaj** could not do what he does. The ignorance of this man was such that he did not know that the powers he had attained had ultimately come from **Maharaj** himself.
- So, he was unknowingly challenging **Maharaj** who carries the ultimate power. In the end **Satsangi Jeevan** narrates that ‘**Meghji Vanik** had challenged in the whole **sabha** that in three days time he would give up his body into **Samadhi**. **Maharaj** himself said that if this is to happen then we will all become your devotees.’ Three days later he sat down and tried to go into a trance, but he could not. He tried many different ways but was still unsuccessful and the result was that he went flying into the sky and was held upside down and dropped and he couldn’t move from that area.
- All the local villagers came and said to him that you have insulted **Swaminarayan Bhagwan** and His saints. Go to them and ask for their forgiveness and you will be free from this pain, but the ego that **Meghji** had was unbelievable and eventually in the end he did go to **Maharaj**, and **Maharaj** casted His divine eyes on him and he was cured instantly and became and devotee of **Lord Shree Swaminarayan**.

Source: *Satsangi Jivan 2<sup>nd</sup> Prakran 4<sup>th</sup> Adhyaya*

The above story narrates that even though one is given power through the right people, he or she misuses them to prove ***Maharaj*** Himself wrong, and this is ultimately known as witchcraft and wizardry. One tries to prove the ultimate who gave him/her the powers, by using His given powers against Him!

**Think:**

If ***Maharaj*** has given him/her these powers, then imagine how much powers He must have accumulated alone as one?

One should never misuse the powers you have been granted to gain a name in society through egoism, this is what brings ones ***Satsang*** down to a very low level, and when ***Maharaj*** and His saints cast their divine vision upon us, then only can we be free from such sins.

There are many other examples like this, and it just goes to show that people who gain these powers were once great devotees and then due to **inner enemies** attacking them, they oppose against the person/s that granted them these powers and use them as witchcraft.

In **Shikshapatri Shlok 85** it states that:

***'In the event of afflictions caused by any evil spirit, my followers shall chant the Stotra of NARAYANA KAVACHAM or HANUMAN STOTRAM but shall never chant Mantra of others deities. (85)'***

This **shlok** highlights the fact that if we are ever in any trouble whatsoever then we should chant the mantra of ***Hanumanji*** or chant the ***Narayan Kavach***, and not relate to any other **dev** or mantras in such times.

This is what some people over rule, they say that they have tried to do this but it hasn't made a difference, so this **shlok** is slandered and ***Maharaj*** Himself saying that this **shlok** doesn't do what it states as I have tried this. However we are ignorant in the fact that we look always at the fault of others no matter what the situation is when something doesn't work.

### **Think:**

Has anyone ever thought that we may not be correctly chanting the mantras? Or if we may have harmed another person then **Maharaj** will one day get you back for your wrong doings: So, we have to think as if we may have disobeyed what **Maharaj** has asked us to do. Hence, we are going through this phase or stage in life where bad things occur in life. If this is the case then, we shouldn't give up on **Maharaj**, as we are the ones who have done wrong but it is always our ignorance that we find others to blame for our wrong doings and not ourselves.

In **Shikshapatri Bhashya**, **Shatanand Swami** has written in the commentary of this **shlok** that:

*'Generally, the true **bhaktos** of Swaminarayan bhagwan do not attain any ghosts as even ghosts become pure if they try to enter into Maharaj's satsangi. However if we are not true and do not follow our religion as we should, then it is possible for this to occur. If this does occur, then we should only chant the mantras as mentioned in this shlok. If we chant any other **dev** or **devi**'s mantra then it will be changing your **upaasna** and this is incorrect.'*

**Shatanand Swami** goes on to say that any kind of bad things that occur in life such as '**bhut prēt adik**' (ghosts etc) then **Hanumanji** has been installed for this very reason.

In the **Ramayan**; **Ram Bhagwan** has given a vow, '*...anyone who does **aaradhna** of Hanumanji then it will be considered mine through him and it is not considered as doing **aaradhna** of another **dev**, also this is not considered as breaking the **upaasna** barrier.*'

- There are many ways of witchcraft and wizardry out there in this world. There can be many forms of people, and to some it is money making scheme, whereby they look at your hand and try to read your destiny? They will say things that please every human such as, you will be wealthy, and you will live for a long time etc. This is all just to make the mind believe that you will and we being the idiots we are actually believe these things?

### **Think:**

- What happens to **Maharaj** and His statements that he has said that, every human is born with his destiny and life span; these don't change and can't be changed? Unless of course there is an extraordinary circumstance, in which case Maharaj himself maybe the one who can stop this or change it!
- Within our culture, if we look back at the history and what our ancestors may tell us that, people can cast spells upon you if you are not careful, and they mix things in your food etc. Or even they can make you ill by just looking at you? These are in fact true, as they practise certain mantras, and if they practise certain mantras, they are given certain powers by the evil guru's.

However, if one is a very strong devotee of **Maharaj** and has faith in Him, then **Maharaj** always rescues His true **Haribhaktos**. So even if there is a time of evil that is going to be prevailing on a *Satsangi* due to these witchcraft and wizardry (**Kaara Doraa**), then they wouldn't affect a true *Satsangi* of **Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan**.

In addition, **Shree Krushna Bhagwan** mentions to **Arjun** in the **Bhagwad**, that

*'There are two types of people and evils in this world and they are Devi and Asuri. Don't you worry Arjun you have been born rid of these Asur. The signs of evil ghosts are as follows; Asurs have the signs of ego, anger, pride and also fear.'*

*(Satsangi Jivan Prakran 4 Adhyay 37)*

**Asurs** who carry the evil powers and carry out witchcraft and wizardry can be noticed easily. They dress up as saints to show others they are in a **saadhu** dress, but when they start to talk, you will notice a sense of ego, pride and anger within their speech. There will be the sense fear within them as well. The fear being that what they are stating and doing has no reference anywhere in any scriptures and what they say is never true.

- They may provide you with something like a string to wear to protect you, but what good is a piece of string unless it has essence behind it.

- ✓ We as *Swaminarayan satsangi*'s wear a twofold *kanthi*, which is our protection! What essence does a black piece of string have behind it other than the fact that the *asur* who practices witchcraft and wizardry has given it to you!
- ✓ We also wear a *Janoi* which is a string that is authenticated through a *yagna* which is a part of the 16 *sanskaars* of a person, which is again authenticated and has essence. These are the type of things we are to believe in and not these fake *saadhus* who claim to be the true ones, where in fact if they are not even considered *saadhus*.
- ✓ True saints' *lakshaans* are ones which can be seen by any normal person. They will never praise themselves nor slander nor predict anything; they will always tell you things which are referenced back to scriptures like the Veda are which are authenticated within Hinduism.