



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

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### Avgoon of others – Based on Vachanamrut

When God or a Saint tries to point out your bad qualities/virtues, there is such a devotee who takes this to heart and thinks bad/ill of that person. Such a person never grows in the holy fellowship. There is another devotee, who takes on board all criticism and therefore is improving themselves to be a better satsangi.

We tend to look at peoples bad qualities/virtues than good but this is what we should NOT be doing. It does not matter what they are doing wrong always try to look at the good qualities/virtues in a person. It is said in the Vachanamrut if you think ill of a saint or devotee there is no prayaschit (**“Explain what is Prayaschit?”**) for carrying out such a sin. Almighty God Purshottum Narayan is the creator and destroyer of everything but he is not able to forgive anyone for taking avgoon of someone.

**After reading the above what is “avgoon” and give examples of taking “avgoon” of someone?**

Avgoon is when you talk, think or look at the bad qualities/virtues in a person. A classic example is the way some people making fun of the way others do darshan or the clothes they wear. We should not be looking at the bad things in people; instead, we should be praising their efforts to come to mandir in the first place.

**Discuss who Dattarey Bhagwan was and what he did when he incarnated on this earth? (E.g. He never ever took avgoon of anybody, he even had something good to say about a prostitute (vaisha).**

Maharaj in the Shikshapatri has also said in shlok 21 not to take avgoon:  
***‘One shall never slander deities, places of pilgrimage, places of worship, Brahmins, devout wives, Saints and Vedas, nor listen to such slander’***

In this day and age, we see gossiping and “ninda” wherever we go, Maharaj has strictly said in the Shikshapatri, Vachanamrut and many other scriptures that taking avgoon of others is a big sin. It is also a sin to listen to someone taking avgoon of others. This takes our mind off doing bhakti of Maharaj and makes our mind impure and weakens our spirit. We cannot do true devotion of Maharaj with an impure mind.

**If Maharaj cannot forgive you for taking “avgoon” who has the ability to forgive you?**

**NOTE: Refer to Gadhada Pratham Prakaran Vachanamrut 1 and 6**