



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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Muktanand Swami “Satsang ni Ma”

Purvashram profile:

Birth Date: Posh Sud 7 1814 V.K

Childhood name: Mukundas

Mother's name: Radha

Fathers name Anandraj

From a young age, Mukundas liked meditating and singing hymns. He was proficient in music and poetry. Although being very handsome and talented he was indifferent towards this world and craved for renunciation. In order to create some appeal towards world desires his parent got him married. He realised the importance of celibacy for reaching the almighty and as his desires for renunciation became strong he decided to leave his intolerable married life. He therefore decided to act like Jada Bharat and finally left and set out in search of a Guru to live as a Naishtika Vratdhari.

Who was Jada Bharat? What is being Naishtika Vratdhari?

He met many gurus on his journey. However, the young Mukunddas was not satisfied as they did not believe in firm celibacy as a means to God realisation. His search seemed unfruitful and at his last tether, he broke down and cried, “O Lord! Please find me a true Guru.” A voice was heard, “Go to Sardar. There you will find a saint”

He stayed at the ashram of Tulsidas in Sardhar, seeing his capabilities, Tulsidasji gave him the responsibilities of the entire ashram.

How did Mukundas meet Ramanand Swami?

Mukunddas was initiated on Vasant Panchmi day of S.Y. 1842 and was named Muktanand Swami. Swami studied Sanskrit in Bhuj. With his keenness for spreading the word of God, he was able to show the way of devotion to even the chief administrators of Kutch, such as Sunderjibhai, Hirjibhai and Gangaram Mul. After studying, he returned to Loj and settled at the ashram of Ramanand Swami.

Swami met Nilkanth Varni who after having got the answers to his 5 Questions entered the ashram. Nilkanth Varni was later initiated into the sect by Ramanand Swami and named Sahajanand Swami. Although senior to Sahajanand Swami by about 23 years, he fully supported Ramanand Swami's announcement that Sahajanand was the real heir and that he was merely the conch blower. He showed large-heartedness in the knowledge that Sahajanand Swami should be inaugurated as the Guru, he did not for one moment wish to be considered instead. (*Quality of nirman, non-ego*)

Swami doubted Maharaj, when he was carrying out samadhi prakran. Muktanand Swami was all set to return from Kutch to reprimand Maharaj. But Ramanand Swami gave him darshan and explained the infinite greatness of Sahajanand. Realising his mistake he did dandvat of Maharaj and sang the famous Aarti ‘Jay Sadguru Swami...’



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He was firm in obeying Maharaj's every command even though they may be harsh at times. However, Swami was also full of motherly love towards the younger saints and satsangi's alike, even if it meant taking full responsibility and breaking a command of the Lord that was too harsh for younger saints to follow. He was thus famed the mother of the Sampradaya.

In the sabha at Vadodra, where swami defeated learned pandit's and proved that Swaminarayan Sampradaya was in accordance with Vedas.

He was born an artist, gifted with art, music and literature. He often used to dance with gungaroots on his feet, whilst reciting verses. Many people were attracted to his versatile personality, his sweet voice and handsome figure. As a result, he used to cover his body and leave only his face to view. He was a gifted orator, which could by the grace of God immediately turn to worship even those who were hard hearted and ill motivated.

During his time, swami composed 7 volumes of Sanskrit texts and 23 volumes of Prakrit. His Sanskrit works include Brahmansutra Bhashya, Bhagwat Dashambhashya Tika, Nirnay Panchak and Satsangijivan Mahatmya etc. His Prakrit work is some of the finest of the Sampradaya. He composed many of the verses as Doha, Chopai, Dhol, Prabhatiya etc. in Gujarati and Hindi. He wrote for the women fold books such as Rukshmini Vivah, Sati Gita and wedding songs and verses for Holi etc. Uddhav Gita and Mukund Bhavani are famed. Each and every verse flowed from his devoted heart, radiating spiritual fragrance.

At age 72, on the eleventh day of Asadh Vad S.Y. 1886, he left his mortal form to the constant chanting of devotional songs (one and a half months after Maharaj departed to dham).

What were the Qualities of Muktanand Swami?