

Divine Impressions  
of H.D.H. Bapji

1



**Supreme  
Lord Swaminarayan**



**Jeevanpran  
Abjibapashri**

### **Swaminarayan Mandir Vasna Sanstha (SMVS)**

The sole aim of this socio-spiritual Swaminarayan organization is to create 'Shreeji Maharaj's beloved society.' It is where spiritual and social values like truthfulness, non-violence, honesty and family unity are instilled, pure supreme worship (Upasana) of Bhagwan Swaminarayan is consolidated and the bliss of the state of an Anadimukta is experienced.

Jeevanpran Abjibapashri had taken on the challenging task of propagating Bhagwan Swaminarayan's eternal principles and pure worship, by unleashing the secrets of Bhagwan Swaminarayan's supreme worship and the state of an Anadimukta. In 1974, HDH Bapji led a revolutionary task, to carry forward Abjibapashri's vision onto a global scale. With this aim in perspective, the Swaminarayan Mandir Vasna Sanstha (SMVS) was established by HDH Bapji in 1987.

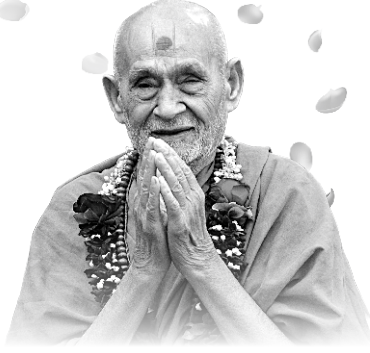
The SMVS continuously strives to kindle spirituality and to bring about change in the lives of each and every individual in the society. Approximately 80 saints, 73 women ascetics, and greater than 5000 devoted volunteers from this organization are instilling divine inspiration in children groups, youth groups, and elderly groups and are providing them with a more fulfilling life experience. Through various spiritual campaigns, they are reaching out to thousands of people to eradicate misery and instill enlightenment and happiness in their lives.

The SMVS is expanding its horizons all over the world. It has currently expanded its spiritual services in countries like, India, UK, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Dubai. Along with its spiritual services, SMVS also actively provides social services for everyone's benefit. It has established spiritual hostels (Gurukuls), whose foundation is based on the confluence of education, morals and spirituality which serves to shape the lives of the young generation.

The SMVS also provides services like educational aid, health services, clothes donation, health diagnosis camps, blood donation camps, De-Addiction camps, tribal upliftment, and women development. It always stays ready providing succor to needy in natural calamities like earthquakes, disastrous rainstorms, floods, etc.

The SMVS has enlightened many individuals by his spiritual and social services. It has and continues to spread the fragrance of its essential services and spiritual morals to infinite souls around the globe





1

# *Divine Impressions of H.D.H. Bapji*

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## HH SWAMISHRI'S DIVINE MESSAGE

॥ Shriji Bapa ॥

Dear Muktos and Readers,

To grant salvation to infinite souls, and to acknowledge His true and Supreme identity, Shriji Maharaj has given His divine blessings in the 19th Vachanamant of the Vadtal chapters that,

"Whenever a soul takes birth on land in the form of a human, an incarnation of God or God's saint will surely be residing on Earth. By acknowledging His true identity one can become a devotee (mukta)."

According to these blessings, Shriji Maharaj has continued the path to ultimate salvation through His divine Satpurnushes.

For this purpose, Teerampaan Bupashri had bestowed the blessings of "Half is yours, half is ours". "Half is ours" is none other than our beloved HHH Bapji, who is a priceless gift to the entire Swaminarayan sect and more specifically to our Kaurav Satsang family.

It seems as though Shriji Maharaj has granted the manifestation of this divine Satpurnush solely to the propagation of His unparalleled, pure Supreme upasana! This is why HHH Bapji clearly decipheres and decodes the hidden meanings behind each word in the Vachanamant in a manner that is easily understood by everyone. If anyone were to sit with Him merely for half an hour, with absolute faith and without any prejudice, all his spiritual misconceptions would be clarified and he would become Shriji Maharaj's pure devotee.

Shriji Maharaj, Himself, has said in the 18th Vachanamant of the Loya chapters that, "understanding

My true form is the most difficult of all. Consolidation of my true form is quite tricky" Moreover, "It is difficult for one's understanding to remain steady upon listening to the words from the other scriptures. However, for everyone who has gotten in contact with this divine Satguru, this extremely difficult acknowledgment of Maharaj's true form has been made very easy for them. Numerous saints and thousands of devotees from the SMS group, whether they are children, youth or the elderly, have all been able to consolidate such firm and unaltering wisdom, like that of Sadguru Nityanand Swami, due to the grace of this revolutionary Satguru. Thousands of aspirants have become the Subejamandhi Lions with regards to pure Supreme Upasana.

With his iconic statement of "Muje kon mila hai aur Kesa Kiya hai" implying "whom have I attained and what have they made me," HHH Bapji is helping thousands of aspirants overcome the clutches of delusion with immense grace. He is helping them to consolidate an unwavering understanding that 'Shriji Maharaj has kept me in the bliss of Murti by granting me the status of an Anandimukta. I am not an ordinary human being anymore but rather an Anandimukta whose form is like that of Murti'.

According to the sermons of Sadguru Gururatanand Swami, "How should one understand the glory of a Satguru?" Swami has stated, "Can you count how many stars are in the sky? Or how many grains of sand are on this earth? Or how many water drops are in the oceans? Perhaps, the answer to these questions might be possible but measuring the glory of a Satguru is truly impossible. This is because even though a Satguru is not Maharaj himself, they have most certainly attained an eternal oneness with Maharaj. They continuously reside in the bliss of Murti and the door of all their actions is Shriji Maharaj.



himself. Hence, the glory of a satgurnish is truly endless. This is similar to the statement that, "A queen is entitled to just as much power and importance as the king is entitled to".

Moreover, Shriji Maharaj, himself, has stated in the 58th Vachanamrut of the Gadkhada first chapters that,

"As one progressively indulges in the virtues of a Satgurnish, one's devotion towards God enhances. A person may be as lustful as a dog, but if one recognizes a great saint (A satgurnish) to be extremely non-lustful then he would be rid of any lust. Conversely, if the regard a great saint to have lust then even if he is non-lustful, he would become extremely lustful. Moreover, if he believes him to have anger or greed then he too would become angry and greedy.

Shriji Maharaj has given a similar statement in the 73rd Vachanamrut of Gadkhada first chapters, "The method of acquiring divine virtues, like that of only Brahminchari, is by acknowledging Motagurnish to be completely innocent and flawless. By doing so, he too becomes freed from all his vices. However, if one portrays vices in a Motagurnish then his mind shall become corrupted."

Hence, dear Muktes, with association of this extraordinary Satgurnish thousands of aspirants have received and continue to receive first-hand experiences of his divinity and have obtain the assurance of His Parabhar. Here we have presented a minute reflection of these divine experiences in the form of a book. Through its daily reading and reflection let us all become eager to attain such divinity. Dargula Ragi Rahejo.

With that hope,  
Sevak Sadhu Satyasaunkhyas!  
Jag Swaminarayan.

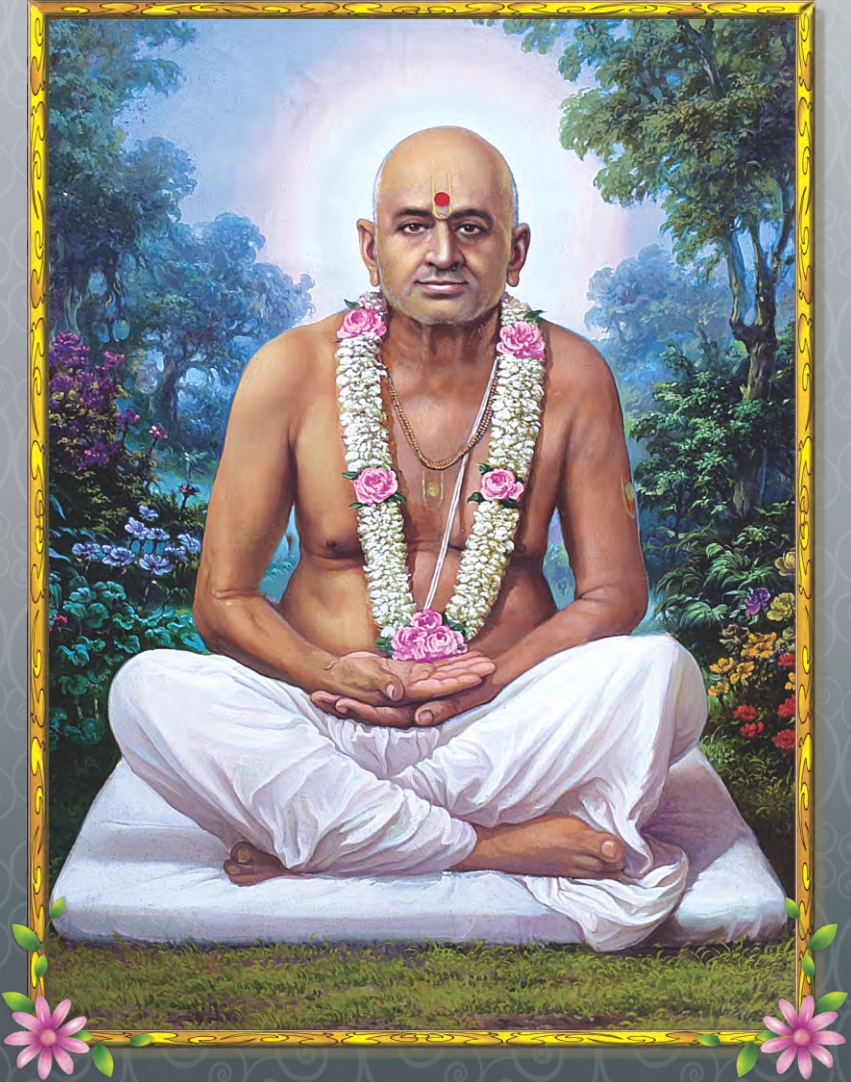
Supreme  
Lord Swaminarayan



Shri sarvopari rup sadguru gurum, sarvā vatā ri sadā |  
Sākārākrutikam ghanasvarup kā, nandam ch shuddham sadā ||  
Sarva kā ran kā ranam var mahā , rājā dhirā jam prabhum |  
Janmājanma niyāman sakalagnan, vande sadā swāminam ||



## Jeevanpran Abjibapashri



He bāpā, sukhamurtidātā shriharitanā, tejomaya pyārā tame,  
Aganit gun apār āp mahimā, kaho kem jāni shakie ame:  
Ati uttam navin divya sukhadā, saheje krupā lu apā vajo,  
Rasabas otaprot shrijirup kari, muj dehabhā v talāvajo.



## Divine Succession of Karan Satsang



Divya svarup shri sadguru, chho kā ran satsangamā ya;  
Sankalp svarup shri jitanā, āshishe sthiti thā ya.  
Svāmi Gopālānanda Nirgunaji, shriji sam sāmārtha kahu,  
Ishvar Vrundāvan Muni saha, sahune charane shish namu.

Acharya of Vachanamrut  
His Divine Holiness Bapji (HDH Bapji)



Dritiya naman gurudevane, je chhe sankalpa shrijinā ja;  
Sarve kriyāo jemani, karanārā mahārāja.  
Jemā shrijinā j chhe, divya kalyānakāri guna;  
Jivamāthi shiv karavā, anya paropakāri kona.



## PREFACE

It is easy for one to attain ultimate salvation, but to attain a Satpurush who can grant such salvation is very difficult. Shriji Maharaj has showered us with immense grace by gifting us with such a Satpurush, who is also our Guru.

Now, the more of His glory we acknowledge, the more blissful we become. The more we understand His divinity, the more of His actions we will be able to perceive as divine. Hence, acknowledging His actions and *prasangs* to be divine will help us feel closer to Maharaj. So, let us learn to continuously remain indulged in the glory of the divine Satpurush we have gotten.


We are all indebted to HDH Bapji due to the endless grace He has showered on us. There's only one way to become free from this debt – by acknowledging His greatness and by consolidating divinity in Him. The simplest way of knowing about His greatness is to stay in His vicinity directly or indirectly and to learn from His life by observing it, writing about it, speaking about it and finally applying it in our life. Pondering over HDH Bapji's divine *prasangs* is a powerful way for us to betterment His true glory and to become filled with divinity.

We present this book with a desire to submerge the entire community in divinity and glory. It is a compilation of *prasangs* from HDH Bapji's life, where sants and devotees have first-hand experienced His divine virtues and divinity. Through this simple and elegantly written book, thousands of aspirants will get a perfect direction on the path of salvation through HDH Bapji's divine life.

The events are written in chronological order from HDH Bapji's past to current day as best as possible.

Until today, HDH Bapji has only sung the glory of Shriji Maharaj but never about Himself. He also urges everyone to do the same. Hence with regards to the composition of this book, He always





expressed a disliking for it. However, He is the heart of millions and the source of inspiration for everyone to attain divine virtues. So, only after much prayers and humble requests made by all the saints and devotees did He allow for this book to be published.

This book was published with the intention of giving millions of aspirants inspiration to live a divine life and to become captivated in the glory of the Satpurush we have been gifted.

We can say with certainty that readers will surely be inspired to develop a divine life and be left in awe by realizing how much HDH Bapji has done for us and how much indebted we are to Him.

We pray to Shriji Maharaj, Bapashri, and all our ancestral Sadgurus to shower us with grace so that we can all please HDH Bapji and HH Swamishri and inherit their divine virtues.

- Sāhitya Lekhan Vibhāg

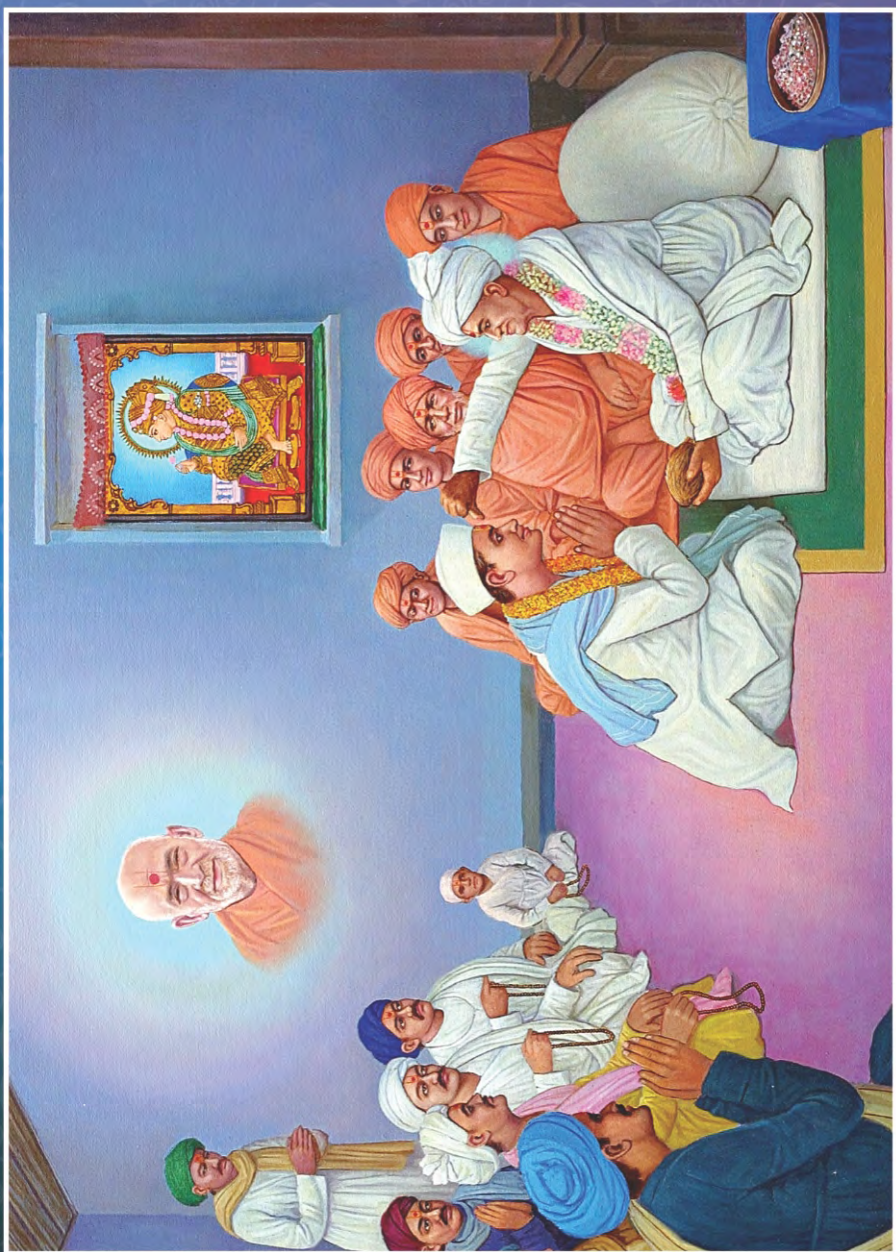
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**“Whenever a soul takes on human form and takes birth on Indian land,  
an incarnation of God or God's sant will surely be residing on Earth.”**

**(19<sup>th</sup> Vachanāmṛut of the Vadtāl Chapters)**



# 1

## HALF IS YOURS... HALF IS OURS...

The ever-present, Bhagwan Swaminarayan, showered grace upon countless souls and manifested in India to grant them ultimate salvation.

Jeevanprān Abjibapashri also manifested through Bhagwan Swaminarayan's *sankalp*.

To ensure the strength and development of Karān Satsang's devotees, Bapashri travelled throughout Gujarat in the regions of Kāthiyāvād, Zālāvād, Sorath, etc. and made these places holy. Moreover, He fulfilled the wishes of devout and immaculate devotees and pleased everyone.

On the day of *samvat* 1979, Mahā sud 10, after celebrating the 7<sup>th</sup> *Pātotsav* of the Muli temple, Bapashri arrived at Manipurā to inaugurate the temple's *Murtis*.

From there, Bapashri travelled through the villages of Joshipurā, Kalyānpurā, Dharampur, Vishatpurā, Kadi and finally arrived

at Ahmedabad.

Upon seeing the insistence, love, and devotion of one of His blessed devotee, Baldevbhai, Bapashri decided to stay at his mill.

From there, Bapashri visited the Saraspur temple every day in Baldevbhai's car.

Whenever Bapashri arrived at the temple, the saints and devotees would overflow with glee. They enjoyed the company of Bapashri and would urge Him to deliver sermons. Seeing their eagerness, Bapashri would please everyone through His preaching.

Wherever Bapashri went, it would become a celebration and swarms of devotees eager for darshan would form. After receiving news that Bapashri had arrived in Ahmedabad, devotees from surrounding regions would also come rushing for His darshan.

One day Shamjeebhai and Devshibhai, along with some other devotees, had come from the Vāsan village in the Nalkanthā region for Bapashri's darshan and preaching. After doing darshan and listening to Bapashri's preaching, they humbly prayed, "Oh Bapashri! Please bless us by coming to our village. Countless souls are waiting to get the opportunity of your darshan and discourse. Hence, please bless us all and sanctify our Nalkanthā region."

After seeing the innocence of these admirable devotees, Bapashri happily said, "I am extremely pleased with all of you and thus, I will accept your prayer and surely come to your villages."

From Saraspur, Bapashri travelled to Kujād, Bākarol, Surat, and Vadodara and finally arrived at Nalkanthā to fulfill the desires of the devotees.

Bapashri and many other great saints sat in Baldevbhai's car and travelled to Dholerā, Nānodarā, Kesardi, Zānp, Vanāliyā, Metāl, Uparadal, Rethal and many other villages in the Nalkanthā region and eventually reached the village of Vāsavā. The devotees welcomed

Bapashri with a procession<sup>1</sup>.

All the devotees started jumping in celebration of Bapashri's arrival which created a very joyous environment.

Jeevanprān Bapashri was very pleased and with His own divine hands, He ceremoniously placed Ghanshyam Maharaj's Murti in the women's temple of Vāsavā. This event is referenced in Abjibapashri's Sermons (Part 1, Sermon 213).

After the inauguration ceremony in the village of Vāsavā, Bapashri listened to Jethabhai Thakkar's prayer and travelled to the village of Vāsan with the saints and devotees. Upon receiving news of Bapashri's arrival, the villagers of Vāsan were overjoyed. The devotees enthusiastically played many musical instruments and sang devotional songs to welcome Bapashri into their village.

Bapashri arrived at Jethabhai's home. Jethabhai showed his reverence by doing *pujan* of Bapashri with sandalwood and a flower garland. He prayed to Bapashri by saying, "Bapa, be forever pleased on all of us and reside here with Maharaj forever. Moreover, since you have come here today, please preach to us and delight us all."

Seeing Jethabhai's innocence, Bapashri became very happy and delivered a preaching.

Laljibhai from the Vāsavā village prayed to Bapashri that, "Oh Bapa! Jethabhai is a very kind and innocent devotee. Due to Maharaj's and your grace, he is well, however, he doesn't have any sons. So please bless him with a *mukta*-like son."

After listening to this prayer, Bapashri said, "What are you saying? Doesn't Jethabhai have any sons? Jethabhai, you will not only be granted with one but, two sons. However, I have one condition."

Jethabhai immediately asked, "What is it Bapa?"

Then Bapashri said, "You will have two sons but **ādhā tumhārā**,

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1 In the year of samvat 1979, Mahā sud 13, this procession is referenced in the Vāsavā sermons: 108-109 as 'History of Bapashri coming to Pātadi'



**ādhā hamāhrā.**” (“**Half is yours and half is ours**”)

Bapashri had made tireless efforts to spread the principles of Shriji Maharaj, and in particular, Swaminarayan Bhagwan’s unparalleled *upāsnā* and the concepts of becoming an *Anādimukta*. But now, it was time to propagate these philosophies worldwide and make them eternal. Hence, for its preparation, Bapashri showered blessings on the holy land of Vāsan. This was a golden moment in history since the blessings for the manifestation of a divine *mukta* were given.

Seeing Jethabhai’s religious life and his desire-less devotion, Bapashri showered him with immense internal bliss. Bapashri showered His blessings to ensure that Shriji Maharaj’s true principles become eternal.

Bapashri applied a *chāndlo* on Jethabhai’s forehead with His divine thumb and gave him a sanctified coconut. That coconut remained completely fresh for 45 entire years!!

Through Bapashri’s blessings of ‘**Half is Yours**’, the elder brother, Ratibhai, was born. Thereafter, during another religious travel, Bapashri visited the village of Vāsan again.

At that time, Bapashri talked about His blessings again and said, “A God-like *mukta* will arrive at Jethabhai’s home. For that reason, keep His name as “Devu”. He will roar the name of Swaminarayan Bhagwan throughout the horizons.”<sup>2</sup>

Mother Dholiba and Father Jethabhai pondered over Bapashri’s blessings of, ‘**Half is Ours**’, with unimaginable happiness. They did not know what to do in order to prepare for this divine moment. By then the divine moment had finally arrived.

In accordance with Bapashri’s blessings of ‘**Half is Ours**’, Devubhai, manifested on March 13, 1933, which was also the day of the Dhuleti festival.

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2 Written proof of this matter has been received from Nabuben, who was HDH Bapji’s elder sister before He became a sant.

This manifestation was not only a divine occasion for just Jethabhai's family or just the village of Vāsan but rather, for the entire universe. The amount of grace that Shriji Maharaj and Abjibapashri must have for a family in which a *divyapurush* (divine being) is born is completely indescribable.

This *mukta* who was completely absorbed in Swaminarayan Bhagwan's Murti had manifested through Shriji Maharaj's wish and has made the whole Thakkar Family holy. Devubhai's mother, Dholiba, was blessed with this manifestation and the entire earth was also showered with grace. The manifestation of this divine infant was a sign for the future propagation of the unmatched, eternal principles of Bhagwan Swaminarayan on Earth.

It felt as though the purpose of this divine child's manifestation on Earth was to reside in the heart of infinite aspirants. This was becoming evident from doing His darshan. He always had a divine laughter which brought peaceful vibes like the flow of a waterfall. This infant, playing in Shree Hari's Murti, had become everyone's centre of attraction.

Everyone was able to acknowledge the fact that this infant has indeed manifested on Earth through the wish of Bhagwan Swaminarayan and Jeevanprān Abjibapashri. Hence, all the family members' joy knew no bounds.

Devubhai was a visionary for a revolution in the Swaminarayan sect, a rare manifestation of divinity and a *sankalp swaroop* of Shriji Maharaj. His manifestation brought divinity and lustre into the house from all directions. The blessed land of Vāsan had become overjoyed.

Everyone felt happiness in the air. In fact, joy had been spread everywhere on Earth due to the manifestation of a divine *mukta*. Just as the purpose of Shriji Maharaj's manifestation was to eradicate maya and ignorance from this world, this child's manifestation was also for the same purpose. Everyone's hearts were overflowing with joy.

During the manifestation, Dholiba and Jethabhai were immersed in the continuous rain of blessings they had received from Bapashri. They were continuously praying to Bapashri with pure divinity. At that time, they also named this child as “Devubhai”, just as Bapashri had stipulated earlier.

This *mukta*’s manifestation alone brought this much joy, so can you imagine how divine His childhood and adulthood would be. Then it is indeed unquestionable that His entire life story would be just as pleasing.

**At first, infinite salutations at the divine feet of Shriji Maharaj and Abjibapashri for granting us this divine gift of their *sankalp*, Devubhai, who will continue to spread the true principles of Shriji Maharaj, inherit Kāran Satsang’s legacy and propagate it throughout infinite cosmoses.**



# 2

## EXCEPTIONAL CHILDHOOD

Devubhāi showed His extraordinary personality right from childhood.

During childhood, children tend to be mischievous and impatient. However, Devubhāi was totally different from the rest of the ordinary kids. He was very calm and collected. He always remained silent. When a pitcher is filled with water, it is calm and steady; likewise, Devubhāi appeared to be filled with Mahārāj.

The extraordinary life of Devubhāi, since childhood, was an indication of His greatness and divinity in the future.

In *samvat* 1994 (1938), in the village of Vāsan, Devubhāi was enrolled into a village school. In the outskirts of the village, a Brahmin teacher used to teach Devubhāi and many other students under a tree.

Devubhāi started His education from preschool. On the first day of preschool, the teacher taught Devubhāi the numbers; and on the second day, he taught Devubhāi the Gujarati alphabet (*kakko*);

on the third day, He was taught the multiplication tables; and on the fourth day, He was taught the first line of the Gujarati vowels (*bārākshari*). The teacher was mesmerized by Devubhāi's grasping and understanding ability. Devubhāi kept up with the teacher's pace and easily learned all the concepts.

On the way from school to home, Devubhāi would repeat all the concepts learned from the teacher with eagerness and enthusiasm. Even when Devubhāi went to play with His friends, His excitement to learn was easily seen.

"I have learned my multiplication tables, and you have learned the first line of the *bārākshari* (Gujarati vowels), so can you please teach me! In return, I'll teach you the multiplication tables." Saying this, Devubhāi taught His friend the multiplication table all the way to twenty. Then, Devubhāi promptly said, "Now, can you please teach me the Gujarati vowels (*bārākshari*)!"

Teaching the first line of the *bārākshari* the friend said, "KA... KĀ... KI... KEE... KU... KOO... KE... KAI... KO... KAU... KUN... KAHA..."

the *bārākshari* and said, "Hey, what's so new in the *bārākshari*? The same thing repeats in each line ... Oh! Hahaha, what's there to learn in this?"

Like that, Devubhāi learned the entire *bārākshari* on just His first trial.

On the fifth day, Devubhāi went to school, and His teacher said, "Okay, today we will learn the second line of the *bārākshari*. Hearing this, Devubhāi wrote the entire *bārākshari* and showed it to the teacher. Thereafter, Devubhāi took permission of the teacher and fluently recited the whole *bārākshari*.

All of Devubhāi's friends were still struggling with the Gujarati alphabet, so how can they even get close to memorizing the *bārākshari*? Seeing this superior skill compared to the other students,

the teacher was left stunned by Devubhāi. The teacher proclaimed with astonishment that, “When Devji (Devubhāi) grows up He will surely become great. He seems to be no ordinary child; He is indeed extraordinary.”

Up until grade 2, Devubhāi took the knowledge needed from school. After that, He stopped going to school. Someone asked, “Why did you stop going to school?” Then Devubhāi replied, “I have already learned how to read and write fluently, so for me, that’s the end of education. That’s why I have stopped going to school.”

Thereafter, Devubhāi, by Himself, started to read all types of great religious scriptures. Whenever the elders saw Him reading, they would ask, “Devubhāi, do you know how to read?”

“These books simply have the words made from the gujarati alphabet and *bārākshari*, so what is there not to know?” He would reply.

Devubhāi was already proficient in ultimate theology (*brahmvidhyā*), which is the root of all knowledge. From this adolescent age, Devubhāi was easily able to decipher the hidden meanings from these spiritual scriptures. Devubhāi was also able to make others understand these meanings in His own words with ease. Whether it was the *Vachanāmrut* or other handwritten texts written by great Sants, He was easily able to interpret them. His extraordinary personality took the whole village by surprise. Everyone had a great attraction towards Devubhāi.

Knowledgeable individuals were able to easily acknowledge Devubhāi’s *parbhāv* through His extraordinary individuality.

“Devubhāi, what do you understand in these scriptures?”

“I understand everything perfectly.”

“We have read many scriptures, but we cannot understand a thing.”

“Oh, what is so difficult? Show me what you do not understand.”

Then, Devubhāi would interpret the scriptures and explain their



true meanings to the villagers.

After coming to know about the hidden meanings of these scriptures, the villagers would become emotional and say, “Seems like all of our years went down the drain. Devubhāi! You look quite modest but you understand so much more than us. We don’t even have a hint of this knowledge...”

“Who can guess you have only studied until the second grade? You have manifested having studied all of this from before! You explain even the most complicated concepts with the snap of your finger.”

As such, the villagers were astonished by Devubhāi’s extraordinary personality.

• • •

Devubhāi’s nature was virtuous and delightful. However, He did not like social and worldly events one bit. After Devubhāi’s younger sister’s wedding, He was forced to go to his sister’s in-law’s house in the village of Daran to receive her. Along with this occasion, another wedding marriage ceremony was held at the in-law’s place. The combination of these two ceremonies troubled Devubhāi very much. He was completely detached from it, so although He went there unwillingly He isolated in Him in a lonely room at another relative’s house nearby.

There, He would continuously chant the Swaminarayan mahāmantra as He found true happiness only doing this. Devubhāi was completely detached from the materialistic pleasures of this world. He was so engrossed in His devotion for Mahārāj that He even forgot about the wedding ceremony simultaneously going on outside.

Such divinity! He had eradicated all childishness and centralized His prime focus on Bhagwan Swaminarayan.

A terrible incident occurred during the on-going wedding ceremony. There was a ten-year-old child from the in-law’s side, Rasik, who was suffering from a fever for a few days. He suddenly

got the hiccups and his heart stopped beating. He immediately passed away. In just a few moments, the joyful atmosphere of this auspicious event became very mournful. Everyone was in shock and started crying. The joyous wedding songs that were being sung were replaced by songs expressing mourning. Everyone had only one question in mind, “What will we do now?”

Devubhāi was still completely engrossed in Bhagwan Swaminarayan. On the other side, someone suggested, “Oh listen, Devubhāi has also come to this event. We should call Him. He is a very great *mukta*.” Everyone that was present at the wedding started looking for Him. Devubhāi was eventually found. They briefed Devubhāi about the terrible incident that had taken place.

The main person of the wedding pleaded, “You are Bhagwan Swaminarayan’s divine *mukta*! Please, do whatever you have to, but please bring my son back to life.”

Then Devubhāi replied, “Don’t worry and start chanting the glorious mahāmantra of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. Bhagwan Swaminarayan and Bāpāshri will surely help.” Then, Devubhāi went near the boy.

While some started suggesting home remedies as a cure for Rasik, others had lost all hope and criticized, “Can the dead ever come back?” Devubhāi interrupted their conversations and said, “What good will the home remedies do? The sole doer of all actions is Bhagwan Swaminarayan.”

Seeing Devubhāi’s *nishthā* for Bhagwan Swaminarayan, everyone saw a ray of hope. So, they all started chanting the Swaminarayan mahāmantra.

Devubhāi offered a glass of water to Bhagwan Swaminarayan for His blessings and added a pinch of Bāpāshri’s *charanraj*<sup>1</sup>. He then poured a spoonful of this holy water into Rasik’s mouth.

**1** It is the sand on which Bapashri had walked on. Devubhai had immense glory of Bapashri so He always kept a handful of Bapashri’s charanraj with him.

Devubhāi also prayed to Bhagwan Swaminarayan and Bāpāshri, “Oh! Mahārāj! Making your beloved followers depressed at a time like this is not right. Please come to their aid and make everyone happy... Oh Bāpā, please shower mercy.”

The chanting was still going on and suddenly Rasik twitched a little and sat up. With Mahārāj’s blessings, Rasik was alive again. While just a few houses away, Bhagwan Swaminarayan took an elderly lady to His Murti instead.

An old lady in exchange for Rasik! This form of soul exchange is only possible by a *mukta* who has arrived directly from Mahārāj’s Murti!

No one knew about this exchange. But Devubhāi told everyone, “This little boy’s lifeline had come to an end but Mahārāj brought him back to life. While on the other side an elderly lady, living 2-3 houses away was still destined to live some more but Mahārāj took her in exchange for Rasik. As such, Bhagwan Swaminarayan and Bāpāshri have done a ton of mercy on this child.”

All the people present in the wedding were astonished to hear Devubhāi’s explanation. Everyone started thinking, “Devubhāi is indeed a true *mukta*. Bhagwan Swaminarayan showed His supremacy through Devubhāi today.” Upon acknowledging Devubhāi’s greatness everyone gazed at Him with nothing but respect and honour.

• • •

Devubhāi eventually reached the teenage years. His life was very calm and considerate. He always remained engrossed in His devotion for Bhagwan Swaminarayan. He did not waste His time doing any other things.

Cracking up jokes and gossiping about others was never part of His life. Even at that age, He performed penance on just one leg for long periods of time. Devubhāi’s asceticism further shone when He fasted. He always remained detached from all the worldly matters. He played

a leading role in the village's prayer and sermon group. Devubhāi, Himself, would become fully engrossed in His devotion and would inspire others to do the same. Everyone had a unique attraction for His melodious singing. They would forget self-consciousness and experience ultimate bliss.

On top of all this, coming in to contact with *Sadguru* Muni swami made His life even more spiritualized and *dharma*-oriented.

From an adolescent age, Devubhāi's life was a reflection of Shriji Mahārāj's words from the 15th Vachanāmṛut of Gadhadā Middle Chapters. "One who has such a personality that is not influenced by anyone; No one would dare to crack jokes or act mischievously in His vicinity, nor could speak ill-mannerly in His presence."

Like such, Devubhāi's presence in any part of the village brought instant changes to the villager's behaviour and way of talking. No one could act mischievously at that time. It would seem as though the atmosphere had become calm. This unveiled His identity as a *mukta*.

Even today, His friends reflect back upon those incidences and say, "Devubhāi's influence on others was not due to fear, but it was due to the abundance of devotion in His life. We, ourselves, have also experienced divinity from His influence."

One day, Devubhāi was passing along the village doing rosary with His head down. On the way, a dispute within a group of people suddenly came to a halt and in just a few minutes, the atmosphere became calm and quiet.

From the group, an old man with folded hands politely requested Devubhāi, "Please come sit here and talk to us about God." Looking at the old man's earnest desire, Devubhāi went and sat in the middle of the group.

While explaining to the group of elders, about the true purpose of human life Devubhāi said, "This soul wanders aimlessly between 8.4 million types of species and then it is granted the life as a human



only once. So what is this human life for? It is not for gossiping about others, making fun of others, or for experiencing worldly pleasures. Its sole purpose is for worshipping God and attaining ultimate salvation of the soul. So start worshipping God else your cycles of birth and death will never end, and you will be tormented in hell by Yama.”

Devubhāi’s words were immediately taken in by the group of elderly people. So, Devubhāi felt more encouraged and continued His talks about God to the group.

He then started talking about renunciation (*sāṅkhya*), “The whole world is filled with selfishness. Your relatives, your money, and status are all perishable. In the long run, everything will turn to dust. Even our own body will become ashes one day. So, why should one have the fondness for something that will eventually turn to ashes? Nothing except for your devotion to God will come along with you after death. Therefore, at this age, worship God and attain ultimate salvation.”

Some eminently respectable people were also present in the group but Devubhāi continued His preaching without shame or fear, which touched the hearts of all the elders. Everyone felt peaceful from the preaching.

After Devubhāi’s heart-touching preaching, many of the elders decided to dedicate the rest of their lives to worshipping God and said “Devubhāi, you have showed us the ideal path in the last phase of our life. Till now, we have done nothing but joke around and waste time at this spot. We have basically wasted our entire life at this spot. But, from now on, no more wasting of time! All we require to do now is worship God since it is the only thing that will come with us.”

Devubhāi’s extraordinary personality has transformed the life of many people.

If Devubhāi visited the nearby villages, everyone would be attracted by His unique personality and request Him to talk about

God. Devubhāi would give less priority to social matters compared to talking about God's glory. Devubhāi's speech was a treasure box of spiritual knowledge.

Everyone would get enticed by His divine speech and say, "Devubhāi, we just want to get ultimate salvation..."

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of an attention-grabbing *Satpurush*, HDH Bāpji.**

### —Did You Know?—

In the Swaminarayan sect today, HDH Bapji is known as the "Āchārya of the Vachnāmrut". He has earned this title because he has decoded and explained every word of the Vachnāmrut and to this day, continues to do so. You would not be able to find a sermon in which HDH Bapji has not taken a Vachnāmrut. We see a glimpse of this from His childhood.











“Our efforts will be put to an end only when the infinite  
cosmoses come and reside in *Murti*.”

# 3

## MY ONLY BUSINESS IS MURTI

Devubhai was extremely prosperous in *parbhāv*, however His father's financial condition in *avarbhāv* was weak. Thus, He unwillingly had to be involved in worldly tasks right from His teens even though, He did not have a speck of interest in it. Despite being in *parbhāv*, He would conceal His divinity and perform all the day-to-day tasks just as a normal person would.

Devubhai's father owned grocery shops in Vāsan and Vāsavā. Since their financial position was weak, he would request Devubhai to help manage the grocery shop in Vāsavā. Devubhai would do as His father requested, but His mind would always remain diverted in the thoughts of Shriji Maharaj.

When at home, He would mostly stay upstairs in a small room and to meditate.

His goal was very clear from childhood. He was here to initiate an extraordinary revolution in the Swaminarayan sect. Hence, He

always remained engrossed in such thoughts and often chose to stay at the temple. He would wake up early in the morning, go to the Vāsavā temple to perform the divine *sevā* of waking up *Thākorji* and then He would perform *manglā ārti*. After performing other *sevās* in the temple, He would preach to all the devotees there. After this morning routine, He would go to take care of the grocery shop.

Even while at the shop, He would remain engrossed in reading the Vachnāmrut and other scriptures, performing worship and reciting *kirtans*. He was not at all interested in the family business, thus He would often close the shop and go to the temple.

Coming to know of Devubhai's behaviour, Jethabhai and other family members would often scold Him. In return, Devubhai would firmly reply, "I haven't come here to sell your oil, jaggery and ghee but, I have come here to grant the bliss of Murti to infinite souls. That is my only business." Like so, Devubhai would often allude to His future in front of His family members.

These words would reveal Devubhai's disliking for this mundane world and would often worried Dholiba. She would become very depressed by it.

A train of thoughts would run in her mind, "My Devu is very wise. He has never eaten to a full stomach. He would never ask anyone for anything. If He leaves from here, what will happen to Him? He never takes care of Himself and does penance all the time. He does not stay at home much but rather spends most of His time at the temple. He has never complained to me about anything before. He makes do with whatever He has. Whether the food is cold or hot, salty or sour, He would never utter a single word about it. Despite living at home, His life is like an ascetic. He has affection towards me, so He sometimes talks to me. The best meals I have ever cooked for Him are *dhokalā* and *pudlā*. Upon my insistence, He accepts these meals just to keep me happy. However, He personally never has any desire for savoury foods. He only considers God to be the most desirous and

has made devotional worship His life.” Such thoughts would make Dholiba concerned about Devubhai. She would always feel uneasy and would often cry out loud when alone.

She knew Devubhai’s goal was crystal clear. “Devu is an extraordinary child. He is a great *mukta* who has come here by the blessings of Maharaj. Thus, no matter how much we try, He won’t stay. He has come to grant the bliss of Swaminarayan Bhagwan’s Murti to everyone. His life is for that purpose only.” Despite understanding all of this, her motherly affection urged her to often tell Devubhai that, “If you want to leave this home and become renounced then please do so after I have passed away but not before that.” To this, Devubhai would open-heartedly say, “Mother, if I wait until you pass away, too much time will have passed by. So, please let me go now. Please grant me permission. For how long will I delay fulfilling the *sankalps* for which Bapashri has sent Me here?” After hearing such words Dholiba’s heart would be overwhelmed and she would start to cry. Devubhai was very firm in His goal so no one could hold Him back.

Like many great *muktas*, this divine being started living a very reserved life. Despite living with His family He stayed detached from their familial bonds. Now Devubhai was very eager to fulfil Bapashri’s *sankalp* and was looking for an opportunity to leave His home.

In the year of 1952, Devubhai met Jivanprān Abjibapa’s cherished inheritor, the great *Anādimukta*, Sadguru Muni Swami (Keshavpriyadasji swami) for the very first time. Despite it being the first meeting, it was as though the fondness for one another was already eternal from before. Devubhai was mesmerized by Sadguru Muni Swami and immediately felt a divine attraction towards Him.

Seeing Sadguru Muni Swami’s fully introverted, serene and saintly life, Devubhai was bound to Him in an everlasting bond. In *avarbhāv*, Sadguru Muni Swami was more than 53 years older than



Devubhai but this age difference was never an obstruction in this divine bond. Whenever Sadguru Muni Swami visited Nalkanthā, Devubhai would leave everything aside and go to Sadguru Muni Swami for His preaching. In order to stay in Sadguru Muni Swami's company, He would do immense *sevā* of the group of saints who were with Sadguru Muni Swami. Devubhai's *sevā* and devotion pleased Sadguru Muni Swami very much. This filled Devubhai's heart with a strong detachment from this mundane world.

“When should I leave my home and when should I start my journey to fulfil the *sankalp* of Maharaj and Bapashri?” These thoughts made Devubhai very anxious and impatient. He felt as if Maharaj and Bapashri were telling Him, “Devubhai, it's time now!”

Devubhai had become very eager to walk on the rigorous path of asceticism. He was very tired from the mundane family bonds and worldly tasks. The time for His renouncement had finally arrived. Well before the rays of the sun enlightened the land, at 2 o'clock in the morning, Devubhai left His home without informing anyone. He had taken the first step to fulfil the purpose with which He had manifested and to grant the bliss of Swaminarayan Bhagwan's Murti to infinite souls.

In the year of 1956, at the age of 23, Devubhai received sant dikshā through Sadguru Gopalanand Swami's inheritor Sadguru Muktaajivandasji Swami and thereafter through Sadguru Shree Harikrishnadasji Swami and received the name Sadhu Devnandandasji. Later, He accepted Sadguru Muni Swami as his Gyan-Guru (A Guru who grants spiritual knowledge).

Bhagwan Swaminarayan has gifted us with such a great Guru who grants only one thing – Murti... Murti... Murti... In fact, even today, we can see the eagerness this *Satpurush* has to make each and every soul consolidate the true identity of Bhagwan Swaminarayan, make them *purshottamroop* and grant them the bliss of Murti.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of such an extraordinary *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji.**

# 4

## FILLED WITH GURU'S GLORY

After becoming a sant, HDH Bapji resided in the Kadi temple. HDH Bapji used to deliver lots of discourses to the devotees from Khākhariyā. HDH Bapji's yearning to do darshan of Sadguru Muni Swami was immense but He was unable to go because of a great load of responsibilities in the *shikharbadh* temple of Kadi.

One day the devotees from Khākhariyā were going to go do darshan and to listen to the discourses of Sadguru Muni Swami in Pātadi. HDH Bapji was overjoyed to hear this and so told the devotees to prostrate, do darshan and to convey His humble "Jay Swaminarayan" to Sadguru Muni Swami on His behalf. The devotees dutifully carried out HDH Bapji's request.

Sadguru Muni Swami accepted His beloved disciple's "Jay Swaminarayan" and wrote a letter in return, which indicated that,

"We have kept you in Maharaj's *Murti*. We will grant you immense bliss but remember to also give your devotees immense bliss."

Upon returning to Kadi, the devotees gave Sadguru Muni Swami's divine letter to HDH Bapji.

When HDH Bapji read the letter, HDH Bapji experienced indescribable bliss. HDH Bapji became incredibly captivated by Sadguru Muni Swami's divinity and an inexplicable eagerness for His darshan was ignited.

"Oh, Sadguru Muni Swami, Himself, sent me a letter!" said HDH Bapji while doing its darshan and immediately prostrating before it. He then hugged the letter and indulged in its glory. HDH Bapji kept this letter of blessings in His puja for 35 years.

• • •

In *samvat* 2018, Sadguru Muni Swami's immense greatness and divinity attracted HDH Bapji to Him. HDH Bapji expressed a wish to accept Sadguru Muni Swami as His Guru and to serve by His side.

Sadguru Muni Swami responded saying, "Swami, everything I owned including all the scriptures and even this room, I have distributed amongst these sants. Now I don't have anything left to give you."

HDH Bapji was so indulged in the glory of His Guru that He did not have any desires for worldly objects.

HDH Bapji humbly requested, "Bapa, I don't want anything of that sort. I just want the inheritance of your knowledge and principles. I want to become the heir of your divine altruistic traits. That is my only request."

Hearing this Sadguru Muni Swami became extremely pleased since He was already in search for a suitable disciple to continue His spiritual succession. And coincidentally, HDH Bapji was looking to become the successor of his knowledge and principles. It seemed as though Maharaj had arranged this meeting from the beginning.

Sadguru Muni Swami placed both His hands on HDH Bapji's head and said, "Swami, your manifestation is for fulfilling and

spreading Maharaj and Bapa's philosophy. I do not need to make you my spiritual successor, you are already meant to be. So when I am not here, give bliss to all of Bapashri's devotees. This is Maharaj and Bapa's true wish."

The true spiritual successor of Kāran Satsang, HDH Bapji, has carried out true discipleship by living a saintly divine life in accordance to His Guru's principles and to this day continues to do so.

• • •

"As long as a divine presence like Sadguru Muni Swami exists on this Earth, I want to take complete advantage of His presence and I want to guide all aspirants to do the same." Like so, HDH Bapji was always indulged in Sadguru Muni Swami's glory.

He would always put Muni Swami first in all matters. He would explain Sadguru Muni Swami's glory to everyone.

"Dev Swami, please grant me *vartmān*."

"Only a great sant can grant you *vartmān*. Our Guru, Sadguru Muni Swami, is residing in Pātadi right now. Go there and have Him grant you *vartmān*. He is very divine and very powerful (In Gujarati: HDH Bapji says that he is a "*samarth* party"). He is a *sankalp swaroop* without a doubt. I swear upon the entire universe that this is true. He will purify your sins and release you from the never-ending cycles of birth and death. So, don't delay any further, go right away."

Despite residing in the Kālupur Temple, HDH Bapji would send all new aspirants to Sadguru Muni Swami in Pātadi for receiving their *vartmān*. HDH Bapji is just as divine and powerful but always acted humbly in the presence of Sadguru Muni Swami.

"Dev Swami, I'm addicted to cigarettes and tea. I cannot overcome my bad habits... My vices continuously torment me." When devotees come to HDH Bapji with such miseries He would send them to Sadguru Muni Swami, despite being just as powerful. "Go to swami ... upon receiving His darshan and blessings, all your miseries will



be solved. So, go to Pātadi right away. Swami is very benevolent; He will surely shower mercy upon you.”

• • •

“This is all Muni Swami’s green grass. All this happiness and prosperity is due to Muni Swami. It is all due to the grandeur of Maharaj, Bapashri and Muni Swami.” (In Gujarati: HDH Bapji says, “*Ā to badhi Muni Swamini lili vādi chhe*”.)

“Munibapa is Munibapa. My affection for Him, is like the affection a son has for his mother. I have never praised anyone above Munibapa. I don’t know how to falsely praise anyone. Even if someone were to behead me, I would never stop praising Munibapa.”

“Bapashri, Himself, has validated Muni Swami’s greatness. Swami is beyond this world. He is an idol of saintliness and is an abundance of divine altruistic traits. Muni Swami stands apart in a crowd of thousand sants. All other sants seem dull in comparison with Muni Swami. All thoughts come to a halt in His assembly. Even great sants like Hari Prasad Swami (limbdāvālā) placed their heads in Muni Swami’s lap and asked for His blessings.” As such, HDH Bapji always speaks of Sadguru Munibapa’s greatness and divinity, whether it be in an assembly, a trivial event or a notable event.

“Muni Swami... Muni Swami... Muni Swami...” Simply upon uttering Muni Swami’s name, HDH Bapji would become overjoyed with euphoria. His eyes would get teary and He would extend His hands in the air to express immense joy.

HDH Bapji, Himself drowns in the immense glory of His Guru and sets an example of true discipleship.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of an extraordinary Satpurush, HDH Bapji, an inspiration for millions.**



# 5

## DIVINITY FOR SAD. MUNI SWAMI

The divine presence of Sadguru Muni Swami always overjoyed HDH Bapji. Whenever He would hear about Sadguru Muni Swami's arrival, He would become mesmerized.

HDH Bapji often describes His own experiences by saying, "Thoughts of *manushyabhāv* have never crossed my mind about Sadguru Muni Swami due to Maharaj's grace. I have always admired Swami with immense divinity. His every act would drown me in bliss; His way of talking, His way of walking, His way of listening to and delivering discourses. On top of that, Swami's white beard... Oh! What a beard! One's eyes can never be satiated by the darshan of His beard. I can say this because I have experienced the divinity in His beard, first hand.

Moreover, it gave me great joy to hear Swami pronounce the word 'rotli' (roti) as 'roitli' while eating.

Even when Swami is sleeping, I would not wish to leave His side.

I would just sit there and adore His divinity.”

• • •

HDH Bapji would often describe Muni Swami’s divine darshan by saying, “Even if infinite universes stand before Sadguru Muni Swami and pray that, ‘Swami! Please grant us salvation.’ This divine *Satpurush* would instantly listen to their prayers and grant them the bliss of *Murti*.”

Once a devotee asked HDH Bapji, “What greatness do you see in Sadguru Muni Swami?”

At that time, HDH Bapji replied saying, “At my *āsan* and in my *puja*, I keep single *Murtis* of all the Sadgurus. However, I keep two *Murtis* of Sadguru Muni Swami. This is the greatness of Sadguru Muni Swami that I acknowledge.” This is in accordance with what Bapashri had stated, “Acknowledge everyone to be great, however, acknowledge the one who gives you bliss to be the greatest of all.”

As such, HDH Bapji is always overflowing in the glory of His Guru.

• • •

When Sadguru Muni Swami resided in Pātadi, HDH Bapji would often go to Baladiyā and Pātadi for three months every year to listen to His religious discourses. HDH Bapji often says that “Sadguru Muni Swami is Shriji Maharaj’s *sankalp swaroop*. I firmly cling to this belief because Maharaj, Himself, has presented me with experiences of His divinity and *parbhāv*. This is why I always had and still have boundless love and divinity for Him.”

Thus, HDH Bapji has always understood Sadguru Muni Swami’s incredible *parbhāv* even in His *avarbhāv*’s existence. He would also describe it to all aspirants who would come into His contact.

• • •

In Sanskrit, there is a saying,

**‘Shreyānsi bahu vighnāni’**

This translates to, “There are a hundred hurdles in performing any good deed.” Like such, many difficulties are often encountered when performing a good deed like propagating and listening to the glory of Maharaj and *Satpurush*. HDH Bapji has also encountered many such hurdles in spreading the glory of Sadguru Muni Swami.

Once someone complained to Sadguru Muni Swami by saying, “Swami, this Dev Swami is going around spreading yours and Bapashri’s glory. Please prohibit Him from doing so.”

In that moment, Sadguru Muni Swami replied with short and sharp words, “Let Him continue... What is wrong in that? Whoever has glory in his heart will never keep from verbalizing it.”

Then, Sadguru Muni Swami turned towards HDH Bapji and said, “Always speak about the glory of Maharaj and *Satpurush*. This is what our manifestation is for. Never step back from doing so.”

Everyone who had come to complain was left speechless and thought, “Oh! What is this? Swami praised Dev Swami instead of prohibiting Him!”

Because of Sadguru Muni Swami’s divine persona, no one could argue. They did not like this one bit but what could they do?

On the other hand, Sadguru Muni Swami’s words further encouraged HDH Bapji. He was overjoyed to have gotten permission to convey the glory of His Guru.

From that day onwards, HDH Bapji has never rested from spreading the incredible glory of Maharaj and *Satpurush*.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of an extraordinary *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, who teaches us the wonderful method of acknowledging a Guru as not merely a Guru, but as a divine *Satpurush*. By pertaining such divinity in a *Satpurush*, one can acquire all His divine traits and become divine just like Him.**





HDH Bapji consolidating the supreme upāsana of Lord Swaminarayan and the glory of Sadguru Muni Swami.

(Left: HDH Bapji, Center: Sadguru Muni Swami)



# 6

## MAHARAJ'S ĀGNĀ IS AN ORDER

In the Swaminarayan sect, many highly honourable sants say that “Bapji is an idol of obedience. You cannot find anyone in this entire sect who possesses equal obedience as HDH Bapji.”

Our beloved HDH Bapji’s life truly resembles the words from the 38<sup>th</sup> Vachanāmrut of the Gadhadā Last Chapters, “When a minor command of God is breached, he feels as though he has breached a major command.” Likewise, HDH Bapji is a synonym of obedience.

When HDH Bapji was residing in the Kālupur temple, He went on many *satsang* related travels. During that time, whenever the devotees gave donations, He would have another devotee collect all the donations, bring them back to the temple and submit them to the *kothar*. HDH Bapji would stand right beside the devotee to make sure all the money would be handed over accurately.

In addition, whenever a devotee would bring any monetary or any other type of donation to His *āsan*, He would take the devotee straight to the donation office (*kothar*) to keep his account clear. He

has never breached even a sole command of Shriji Maharaj.

The accountant present at that time and the Acharya Maharaj would tell the sants that, “We have many sants in this temple, but out of all of them, this Dev Swami (HDH Bapji) is the only one who never keeps any items or donations at His *āsan*. He always submits everything to the *kothar* according to Shriji Maharaj’s command. He follows all of Shriji Maharaj’s commands, especially the vow of non-greed, with complete awareness.”

Additionally, HDH Bapji follows Shriji Maharaj’s every command mentioned in scriptures such as the Shikshāpatrī<sup>1</sup>, Dharmāmṛut, Nishkāṁshuddhi and Vedras<sup>2</sup> under any circumstances.

• • •

HDH Bapji was giving bliss to everyone at the Kālupur temple through His discourses. At that time, many sants and devotees would tell Him to worry about His future and urge Him to keep some money for Himself.

Not just this, but once an elder sant, expressed his worry for HDH Bapji’s future by saying, “Dev Swami, this is *kalyug*<sup>3</sup>. What if, in the future, you do not have any disciples to serve you when you get ill? What will you do when you need medication? Someone will only serve you if you have money, or else no one will even look at you. Therefore, stop worrying about following all the rules and start keeping some money for yourself. Even we keep money for ourselves.”

HDH Bapji replied to the sant, “I have become a sant for Supreme Bhagwan Swaminarayan, and I am His true disciple. Why would I worry about what will happen to me? I should have faith in money but not in the supreme Bhagwan, Himself? I am a son of Maharaj

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1 The Shikshapatri is a religious text consisting of two hundred and twelve verses, written in Sanskrit by Lord Swaminarayan.

2 These are the Scripture from Nishkulanand Kavya describing the rules of saints of Swaminarayan Sect, the manners of repentance for an ascetic.

3 Age of darkness, the fourth and present of the four ages; lasts 432,000 Human years, people live to be 100 years old.

and Bapashri. A lion does not eat grass no matter how hungry it gets. Likewise, I will never breach even a minor command of Shriji Maharaj no matter what the circumstances. For me, a command is a command. Therefore, what you are suggesting will never happen. Shriji Maharaj is my protector, and I have complete faith that He will take care of me through all the thick and thin times. He will always worry about me. Being dependent on money... What sort of understanding is that?"

HDH Bapji didn't have even any turmeric powder to put in His khichri (Hotch-potch), nor did He have a sant in His pair. Yet in such tough times, He has firmly followed even the smallest command of Shriji Maharaj, considering them just as significant as the major ones.

• • •

During the time when HDH Bapji resided at Kālupur temple, He was diagnosed with typhoid. At that time, He only had around 3-4 devotees who would come to His *āsan*. Even in such illness, there was no other sant who would aid Him in His daily routine.

Sometimes He would experience dizziness, whereas at other times, He would have an extreme fever. There was no one to cook Him meals, consequently, He hadn't eaten anything for three days straight. Yet, He hadn't let anyone find out about His condition. When a devotee finally found out, he called a doctor for a proper diagnosis.

After the check-up, the doctor said, "Swami, you have typhoid, therefore you cannot eat any prepared meals. You can only take liquid, milk or fruit."

After grasping the situation at HDH Bapji's *āsan* the doctor said, "But swami, who will get you milk and fruits?"

HDH Bapji stayed silent. He didn't utter a single word. The doctor understood HDH Bapji's situation and realized that HDH Bapji didn't have any money to buy anything. He said, "Here, keep these ten rupees. Whenever you need anything, you can ask someone to buy it for you."

As soon as the doctor reached out to give Him the money, HDH



Bapji instantly stopped him and said, “Doctor, sants are not allowed to touch money, so keeping the money for themselves is obviously also prohibited. This would break the vow of non-greed which Maharaj has given to us.”

The doctor said, “Swami, isn’t this an exceptional case? You should keep money in this kind of situation.”

HDH Bapji promptly responded, “Doctor, what kind of exception? I will live as Maharaj wants me to live and endure whatever He shows me. Everything happens by the will of Shriji Maharaj. So, there will be no exceptions in any rules and regulations that Maharaj has set up for me as a sant. If you wish to help me then kindly don’t do it in this way. If you want, you can bring some milk or fruits for me. You will also obtain an opportunity to do Maharaj’s darshan and listen to the discourses of sants.”

The doctor was astonished to see HDH Bapji’s resolve for following the rules and regulations even under such critical circumstances. The doctor agreed to come to HDH Bapji every day with some milk and fruits and to listen to His discourses.

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It was *ekādashi*, and HDH Bapji was feeling sick. He had a high fever and His body was aching. According to the doctor, He required lots of rest.

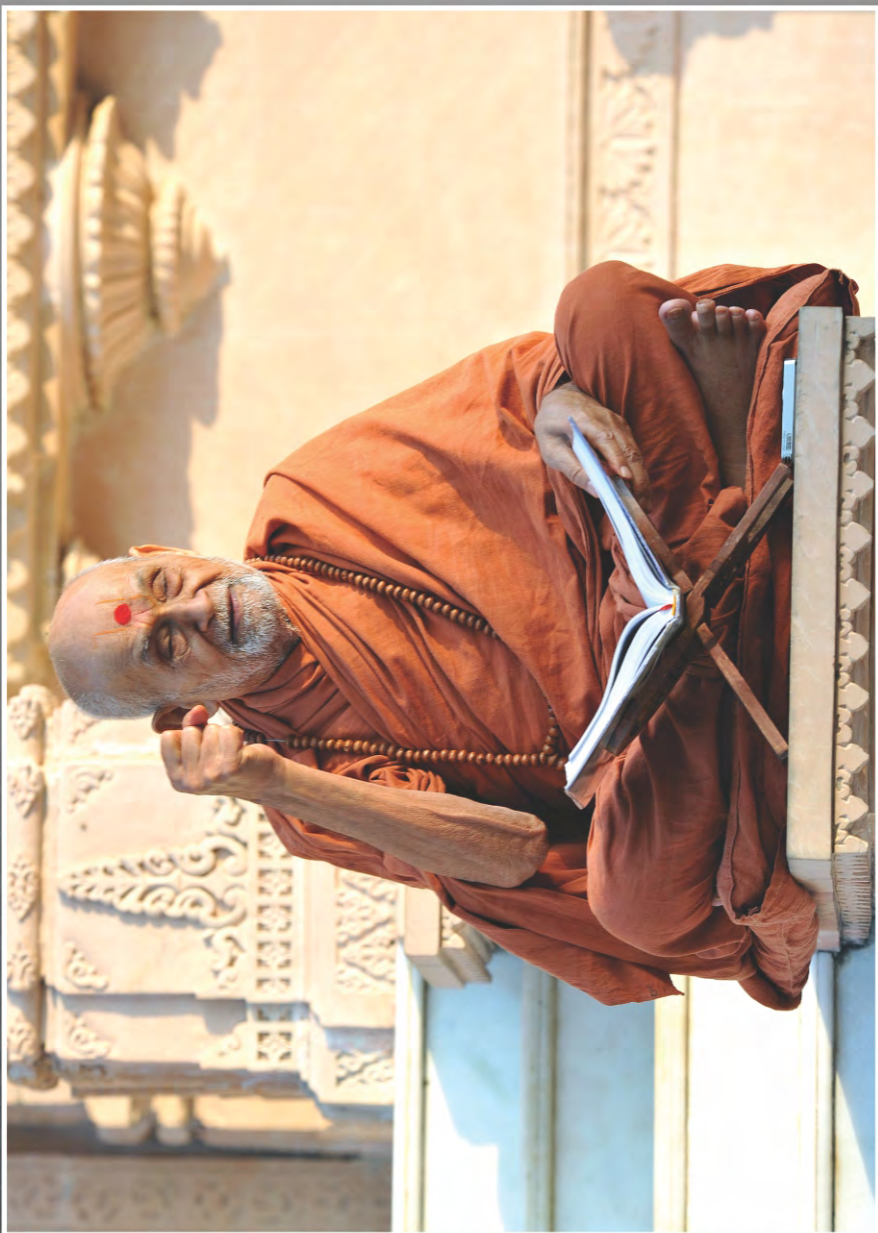
In addition, the sants requested that “Bapji! You really need some rest, so please rest for a while.”

“I cannot sleep right now.”

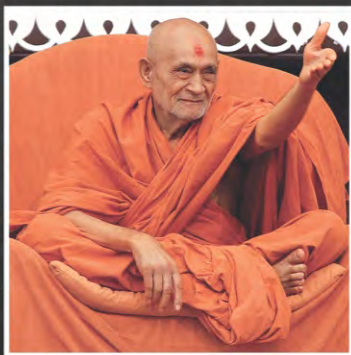
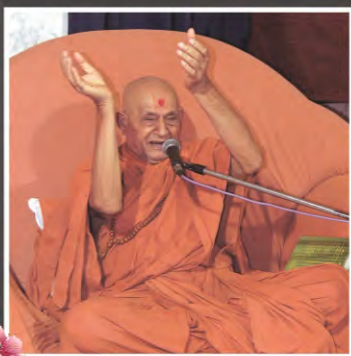
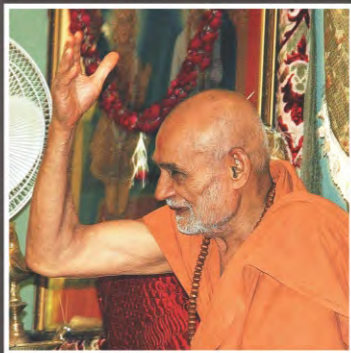
The sants requested so much but HDH Bapji did not rest at all.

Likewise, an infinite chain of examples can be written about HDH Bapji and His resolve of following all the commands of Shriji Maharaj. From each instance, only one conclusion could be made; HDH Bapji is indeed an idol of obedience, an idol of determination and a unique idol of compliance to Shriji Maharaj’s commands.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of HDH Bapji and His resolve of following Shriji Maharaj’s commands.**







“There is no greater personality in the entire sect who can match up to HDH Bapji's incomparable saintliness and zeal for the principle.”

- HH Swamishri

# 7

## PRAISE FROM OPPOSITION

“Who is this swami? Look at how God-oriented He is! I have been observing Him for the past hour and a half, and He has continuously been circumambulating (doing *pradakshinā*) around the idol of Ghanshyam Maharaj with full concentration.”

“Oh, He is Dev Swami...”

“This swami seems to be very great. Every time I come to the temple for *ār̥ti*, I have noticed Him be completely engrossed in Maharaj.”

“Oh yes, that is true...He is undeniably a true sant...He is very idealistic ...Not only have I experienced this, but I have also heard about this from the other devotees.”

“Seeing this sant makes me want to bow down at His feet...”

“Yes, this place has more than four hundred sants, but this sant is the most unique and special amongst all of them. If you keep the



four hundred sants on one side, and this sant on the other, His pure saintliness would still be greater than all of them. It is His pious devotion that makes Him stand out.”

Such conversations occurred amongst awestruck aspirants who were captivated by HDH Bapji's saintliness. HDH Bapji's personality was so extraordinary that even those who would never bow down in front of anyone would easily bow their heads down at His divine feet.

HDH Bapji's true saintliness impressed many sants and aspirants. However, because of the sect's obligations, oppositions arose when HDH Bapji spoke of Bhagwan Swaminarayan's supremacy and the glory of Jivanprān Bapashri. However, internally they still understood HDH Bapji's glory.

When HDH Bapji resided at the Kālupur temple, He guided Ramanbhai Kachhiya on the path of spirituality while doing circumambulation (*pradakshinā*). As Ramanbhai advanced on the path of spirituality, he frequently would come to HDH Bapji's *āsan* for His darshan and discourses.

According to HDH Bapji's norm, He would sit with Ramanbhai to consolidate Bhagwan Swaminarayan's supremacy and instill firmness of religious conducts in his life. Ramanbhai also had an attachment to an elderly pāṛshad<sup>1</sup> who also resided at the Kālupur temple. So, from time to time he would go for his darshan as well.

One time, Ramanbhai had gone listening to HDH Bapji's discourses for five-seven consecutive days. One day, a couple of sants spotted him coming from HDH Bapji's *āsan*. They were aware of the fact that Ramanbhai also had an attachment with the pāṛshad.

They called the pāṛshad over and started to scold Ramanbhai in front of him, “Ramanbhai, that Dev Swami is a follower of Bapashri. We do not believe in Bapashri. So, don't go to His *āsan* or listen to His discourses, otherwise, He will trap you.”

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<sup>1</sup> A pre-stage of sant dixa. In which an individual as offered a white clothes with similar vows, rituals and spiritual practices as a sant.

Ramanbhai had understood HDH Bapji's true glory by experiencing His saintliness and His firmness for religious commands first-hand. As a result, he was not convinced by the sants' words.

After a while when the group of sants left, he asked the pāṛshad bhagat, "What should I do? Should I go to Dev Swami's āsan to listen to His discourses?"

This pāṛshad was closely aware of HDH Bapji's pious life that was full of principle and saintliness. So, he said with glory, "This temple has four hundred sants amongst which Dev Swami is the only true diamond-like sant. There is not a single flaw in His saintliness. I am unable to go to Him due to my reputation and obligations, however, I personally advise you to go and listen to His discourses. Let everyone speak as they wish. You mustn't listen to anyone. Grasp as much as you can from Him."

"A true warrior is one who is praised even by his enemies." As such, the pāṛshad bhagat who did not understand Bapashri's glory still praised HDH Bapji's saintliness and also advised those attached to him to listen to HDH Bapji's discourses.

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HDH Bapji lived in a temple full of four hundred sants yet, He was all on His own. It was very difficult for Him to be a follower of Bapashri in a temple where even uttering Bapashri's name was totally prohibited.

Despite such, this divine *Satpurush* continued to openly and fearlessly propagate the principles from the Rahasyārth Vachanāmṛut<sup>2</sup> and Bapashrini vāto<sup>3</sup>.

Many people used to say that, "In this temple, there are some who have understood 50% of Bapashri's glory, some who have understood 75% and some who have understood 90% but this Dev Swami has

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2 Vachanāmṛut with annotation by Jeevanprān Abjibapashri.

3 Sermons of Bāpāshri.

understood 110% of Bapashri's glory. He does not shake from His firm understanding no matter how much anyone tries. He is not afraid of anyone. Despite living in this temple, He continues to propagate Bapashri's glory very openly. I salute His courage!!”

Even those saints and devotees who opposed HDH Bapji or expressed a disliking towards Him, still internally understood the glory of His saintliness. So, despite taunting Him from the outside they had nothing but sheer respect for Him from the inside.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of a courageous *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, whose extraordinary persona outshone even amongst hundreds of saints. And so, opposers could not keep from praising His saintliness.**

### —Did You Know?—

The third successor of Kāran Satsang's legacy, Sadguru Ishwarcharandasji Swami has deeply researched the Vachnāmrut and has added annotations of Jeevanprān Abajibapashri in the Vachnāmrut. This compilation is known today as the “Raharshyarth Vachnāmrut”. He has also collected and compiled the sermons of Bapashri to create a scripture known as “Abajibapashri ni Vato”.



# 8

## AN INCREDIBLE PERSONALITY

In 1968, when HDH Bapji resided at the Kālupur temple, Sagardanbhai first came into His contact. He was a true aspirant and was in search of a true sant.

He felt a great attraction towards HDH Bapji due to His true saintliness and His eagerness for devotees to lead a divine life.

Once a thought crossed Sagardanbhai's mind, "He seems to be a true sant. But I want to test Him with a few questions and if He answers them correctly, I will devote my whole life to Him."

So, he met HDH Bapji at the temple in front of Sahajanand Swami's *Murti* in Rangmahol. He did darshan of HDH Bapji and prostrated before Him. He then placed a piece of paper with a hundred and twenty-five questions in HDH Bapji's hands and said, "Swami, I have written a hundred and twenty-five questions on this list. Can you answer them for me?"

HDH Bapji glanced at all the questions within a few moments and



returned the list back to him.

Then, He said with a small chuckle, “Daily come to our *āsan* to listen to the discourses. We will meet to answer your questions after ten days.”

The next day, after work, Sagardanbhai went to HDH Bapji’s *āsan* to listen to His discourse. After listening to the preaching, he went home and saw he had gotten the answers to many of the questions from his list. So, he crossed out the questions which were answered.

For the remaining days, it became his routine to go to HDH Bapji’s *āsan*, listen to His discourses, return home and cross out more of the answered questions from his list. Eventually, by the tenth day, he had received satisfying answers to all his questions.

Sagardanbhai was very astonished by the fact that even though HDH Bapji had glanced at his list of a hundred and twenty-five questions for only a moment, He omnisciently answered all of them.

Upon receiving his answers within ten days, he was able to do darshan of HDH Bapji’s incredible personality, like that of Sadguru Brahmanand Swami. (A talented multi-tasker, multi-thinker and an omniscient sant).

After this incident, Sagardanbhai totally devoted his body, wealth and mind to HDH Bapji. He always stood by HDH Bapji’s side through all the tough situations.

HDH Bapji beholds an incredible personality in *avarbhāv* and in *parbhāv*. He continuously resides in the bliss of *Murti*. He omnisciently acknowledges the questions arising in aspirants’ minds and gives them satisfying answers. He inspires strong spirituality in infinite aspirants.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of an incredible *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji...**



# 9

## ENDLESSLY EGOLESS

Why should the disciples of an extremely humble God have any type of ego?

In accordance with the tradition set by Shriji Maharaj, during the year, at every six-month intervals, two grand celebrations were held in Muli; on *Vasant Panchami* and *Janmāshtami*.

Many sants and devotees would come hearing the sermons during these celebrations. Particularly, a vast portion of the audience would be comprised of Bapashri's followers.

Several Sadguru sants such as Sadguru Gopivallabhdasji Swami, Sadguru Dharmakishordasji Swami, Sadguru Shvetvaikunthdasji Swami, Sadguru Gunatitdasji Swami, Sadguru Hariprasaddasji Swami, and many others who were in close association with Bapashri would deliver continuous sermons during these events. It was for this reason that HDH Bapji never missed attending these events under any circumstances.

At that time, HDH Bapji was not in association with any wealthy devotees and neither did He have any sants to form a pair. Therefore, to go to Muli, HDH Bapji would always have to borrow a sant from another sant's group.

During those days, it would cost 10 Rs to go from Ahmedabad to Muli. HDH Bapji was a staunch renouncer of women and wealth. Thus, He did not have any money and neither did He get others to keep any money on His behalf.

Hence, HDH Bapji humbly asked a well-known and wealthy devotee, "We want to go to attend the event in Muli. So can you please buy a ticket for us?"

The devotee angrily replied with a succession of abusive words, "If You want to go to Muli, then go to the assembly hall and You will find a couple of devotees sitting there. Ask each of them for a little bit of money and You will have enough to go to Muli. If You do not want to do that, then after *ārti*, sit by the staircase with a cloth spread out in front of You. People will walk by and throw small amounts of money, then You will have enough money to go to Muli."

HDH Bapji swallowed the abuse and insults without any retaliation. He was internally very prosperous and yet, even after being advised to beg for some money, there was not a single sign of anger on His face.

In order to follow Maharaj's commands, HDH Bapji endured insults to the highest possible degree, and yet, acted as if nothing had happened and always remained in a very calm state. This shows the humbleness of this *Satpurush*.

There are countless examples like this, where HDH Bapji would have to endure showers of endless hatred and insults.

Devotees who were captivated by HDH Bapji's saintliness would say, "Swami, at least say something back to them. What right do they have to say that to you! Swami, look at where you are, and look at

where they are! At least, say something!”

HDH Bapji would respond, “Our father, Swaminarayan Bhagwan, has suffered and endured so much! Despite being the Supreme God, Himself, He has always acted very humbly. We are His mere servants, so we must also be just as humble.

**“Jenā Nirmāni hoy bhagwān, tenā Janne joie kem mām.”**

**“Why should the disciples of an extremely humble God have any type of ego?”**

For that reason, if we remain humble, then Maharaj will be pleased. And besides, the poor opposers lack the proper insight between right and wrong, thus, they say these things. So, rather than conveying anything back to them we should only pray that Maharaj helps them.”

Wow! Look at the humbleness of this *Satpurush*! Look at how focused He is on Maharaj’s commands! Look at how calm and resolute He is in the moment of insults! There is not a single drop of ego in Him! He is the Guru of the entire organization and yet if someone blatantly insults Him publicly or says something rude without careful thought, He does not express the slightest of negative thoughts or grief. Such extreme humbleness!

**Even in the profuse shower of insults, HDH Bapji remains and behaves with utmost humbleness. Infinite salutations at the divine feet of an idol of humbleness, HDH Bapji!**





# 10

## RENUNCIATION OF TASTE

“Swami, should we bring the required groceries to prepare a complete meal for you and *Thākorji*?” asked a devotee.

“A complete meal?” asked HDH Bapji in return.

“Yes swami, a complete delicious meal!” replied the devotee.

HDH Bapji, who continuously experiences the taste of *Murti*, replied, “True taste lies in the bliss of *Murti*. So, besides the bliss of *Murti*, I have never savored any other worldly taste. I have never eaten anything which would seem pleasing to the taste buds.”

HDH Bapji’s intense detachment from all taste inspires aspirants to do likewise.

HDH Bapji’s travels mainly encompassed villages from the regions of Dandhāvya and Khākhariyā. At that time, HDH Bapji had no sants with him, so He requested another sant to accompany him in His travels to the Dandhāvya region. During these travels, HDH Bapji’s

main focus was delivering discourses as He had a strong interest in preaching.

All aspirants who came in contact with HDH Bapji came to realize that He indeed was a true sant. So, they would bring the required groceries and insist HDH Bapji make a complete meal.

However, He, who continuously experiences the taste of *Murti*, would also insist the same for his devotees. So, He would kindly refuse their requests. Instead, HDH Bapji would hold an assembly from 7 o'clock in the morning till 11 o'clock. He would then prepare simple khichri, offer it to Maharaj and then take His meal.

If the devotees strongly insisted HDH Bapji to cook and accept a complete meal, He would, at most, add some vegetables to the khichri and claim that "Now everything is here." He would further add that, "The life of a sant should be simple. It is not appropriate for a sant to eat food that is too spicy, sweet, or otherwise tasty."

In this manner, HDH Bapji never prepared any delicious meals but instead always ate simple khichri by mixing it with water in a *patar* (calabash bowl) as per the rules laid out for sants.

Though at times, stubborn devotees would strongly insist that, "Swami, you must prepare a complete delicious meal and give us some prasad as well." Just to keep them happy, HDH Bapji would make a variety of sweets and other items, offer it to *Thākorji*, and then would hand it all out to the devotees as prasad. Yet, HDH Bapji would never taste any of it. He would simply make do with khichri or rice and dal.

One time a devotee had brought fresh milk and insisted, "Swami, you must make *dudhpāk* (a dish of sweet boiled milk and rice) with this fresh milk I have brought!" However, HDH Bapji had other plans and tried to explain, "Instead of using all that time in making *dudhpāk*, sit down and let's talk about the glory of Maharaj. We will offer your fresh milk and khichri to *Thākorji*, so your *sevā* is accounted for."

The sant who was accompanying HDH Bapji didn't like this one bit, so he angrily roared, "Listen, if you don't make *dudhpāk* then I will leave right away."

HDH Bapji tried a lot to explain to the sant. "Shriji Maharaj has written in the Dharmāmṛut that a sant shall abandon all desire for taste. Hence, as sants, we shouldn't eat sweets or fancy dishes like *dudhpāk*." Yet, the sant just wouldn't agree and insisted on eating *dudhpāk*.

If the sant were to leave then HDH Bapji would be left alone and sants are prohibited from traveling alone. This would breach one of Shriji Maharaj's commandments, and a fast would have to be observed. With a firm intent to uphold Maharaj's command at all costs, HDH Bapji made *dudhpāk* and other dishes. After offering the meal to *Thākorji*, HDH Bapji offered it to the devotees and the accompanying sant. HDH Bapji did not eat anything Himself and instead started preaching to the other devotees with His forever intent to give God to as many souls as possible.

This is just one of many such instances where total devotion to the non-taste commandment is seen in our beloved HDH Bapji. The only taste this divine *Satpurush* takes is the limitless bliss found in Maharaj's *Murti*.

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Another similar incident occurred when HDH Bapji went to Swaminarayan Dhām to hold a sermon during a sant camp. On this occasion, the residing sant had prepared a meal and they kindly asked, "Bapji, Will you have some eggplant curry?"

After looking at it, HDH Bapji saw that chickpea flour was added to the curry, so He showed a disliking for it and said, "There is chickpea flour in the curry so it looks too savory."

The sants pleaded, "Only simple ingredients have been used in the curry. Please try some!"

HDH Bapji replied, “This food looks too savory, hence, I will not eat it!”

In reality, all the ingredients used to make the curry were very simple and permissible for sants to eat. However, because it appeared savory; HDH Bapji rejected it.

There is no limit to this *Satpurush*’s divinity because He not only expresses a disliking towards all luxurious objects but in this incident He also rejected a curry that only appeared to be very savory.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of an extraordinary *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, whose life directly reflects the words from Sadguru Muktanand Swami’s stanza,**

**“Tyāge tikhā tamtamā rasnā bhog vilās...”**

### **—Did You Know?—**

Shiji Maharaj has created 5 separate commandments for sants (*Panchvartmān* for sants). From these 5, one is “*Niswad*” (Vow of Renunciation of Taste). In this commandment, Maharaj has described how sants should eat food to remain separate from taste. To this day Bapji follows this commandment by mixing all the food in one bowl and adding water to it.



# 11

## EVERFLOWING DISCOURSES

When HDH Bapji resided at the *Motā* mandir (Kalpur Mandir), a continuous flow of discourses would start right after *manglā ārti*.

This was not the schedule for only a day or two, but rather it had become a routine for HDH Bapji to continuously preach for 10-12 hours every day. Even during His religious travels in different villages, this custom was never broken.

In 1965 (*samvat* 2021) HDH Bapji wished to arrange a religious assembly for the first time in the Devusanā village, in the Kadi area.

HDH Bapji managed to borrow a sant to go as His pair, however, He was unable to gather any devotees. So, He wrote a letter to Ambalal Motidas Patel stating that “We are leaving from Ahmedabad by train on this date and at this time. Please accompany us from Kadi.”

Like so, HDH Bapji took the accompanying sant and left for Devusanā by train at 3 p.m. During the journey, Ambalalbhai joined them from Kadi.



They reached Devusanā at around 7 p.m. They performed *ārti* of Bhagwan Swaminarayan and devotees from throughout the village began to gather at the temple.

Since it was the first time HDH Bapji had visited that village, He did not recognize anyone there. However, at the sight of so many *mumukshus* (aspirants), He could not stop Himself from preaching.

The discourse initially started with only 5-7 devotees, however, as time passed by, more and more devotees started to come and soon the whole temple was filled with devotees.

The discourse was arranged to go on for only an hour or two. However, seeing the eager *mumukshus* (aspirants), HDH Bapji maintained the flow of the assembly without a second thought.

He had yet to eat. However, HDH Bapji was not interested in eating but rather in feeding the knowledge of *parbhāv* to these aspirants.

The discourse carried on as HDH Bapji explained Bhagwan Swaminarayan's supremacy and glory, along with concepts taken from the Vachanāmṛut. It seemed as if Bhagwan Swaminarayan, Himself, was giving this discourse. The discourse directly touched the hearts of all the devotees.

During the assembly, even the listeners lost track of time as they savored the continuous stream of words flowing from HDH Bapji.

The religious assembly finished at around 3:30 a.m. in the night. It had continued for eight and a half hours straight. However, it was so pious and heart touching that not a single devotee even thought of looking at the time.

When the assembly ended, the devotees started talking amongst themselves.

“Till this day, I have never heard this type of knowledge about Bhagwan Swaminarayan in my life.”

“I don't feel like getting up and leaving this assembly at all.”

“This is first-hand experience of inner peace...”

“This discourse has silenced all my bad thoughts.”

“I have no idea how the time passed by so quickly. Before I even realized it, eight and a half hours had gone by...”

Then suddenly a devotee realized, “Oh no! We even forgot to request swami to go and eat.”

The devotees felt much remorse and guilt. “Swami, it is already 3:30 a.m., so You can’t even eat now. You came to our village for the first time and unfortunately, we forgot to offer you food. It is our request that before leaving, tomorrow morning, please offers a full *thāl* to Bhagwan Swaminarayan, and then please accept that food.”

HDH Bapji said, “I had not come here to eat anyway. The real purpose of My visit was to feed all of you...”

Then the devotees said, “Swami, You have indeed filled us with much spiritual knowledge, but please bestow us the honor of feeding You as well.”

HDH Bapji replied, “I had only come to this village for the religious assembly. Bhagwan Swaminarayan, Himself, has performed this preaching. Right now, I will go bath, do puja and carry out my morning routine. At five O’clock in the morning, I shall leave for Ahmedabad.”

This is just one of many incidents where HDH Bapji’s endless flow of discourses has left aspirants fascinated.

To this day, those who have tasted this divine flow even once would fall into deep awe upon recalling it.

Every year, whenever HDH Bapji visited the Lānghanaj village, of the Dandhāvya region, He would start delivering discourses at 7 p.m. and without taking a single break, He would end at four O’clock in the morning. As the night would grow colder, His talks would become warmer.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of a phenomenal *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, for submerging infinite aspirants in the continuous flow of His divine discourses. To this date, even at the age of 86, His stream of discourses still continues to flow.**







*“Van vichāre vātu re, āve enā antar thi;  
Bole aham mamtānu ghasātu re, utaryu man tansukh parthi.”*

**Without a thought, an endless stream of discourses flows from His heart; Always speaks harshly about ego and bondage to worldly objects and is detached from all bodily delights.**

# 12

## CALM IN THE FACE OF CRUELTY

Around 1970, HDH Bapji decided to go on religious travels to the villages of the Khākhariyā region. It is Shriji Maharaj's command that sants should not travel anywhere without a pair. HDH Bapji did not have a sant as a pair. So, how He would carry out His travels remained a question. However, as a solution, He borrowed a sant from an elder sant's group from the temple.

At that time, HDH Bapji did not even have a vehicle to travel by. His only option was making use of public transportation. Since females would also be present in the buses, He would observe a fast in compliance with the *nishkāmi vartmān* (Vow of Celibacy) for sants. In addition, He would also make sure that He or His belongings would not come into direct contact with any women.

HDH Bapji, alone, would have to carry the entire luggage during the journey.

In the Khākhariyā region, He once went to deliver a sermon in the



village of Joshipurā at night.

Upon arrival at Joshipurā, HDH Bapji placed *Thākorji* in a chair and asked the sant in His pair, “Swami, please sing some *kirtans* while I make the arrangements.”

HDH Bapji went and made all the arrangements for the assembly and their lodging. Thereafter, He arrived in the assembly hall, prostrated to *Thākorji* and took His seat on an *āsan* while a *kirtan* was being sung.

HDH Bapji thought that He would begin delivering His sermon after the *kirtan* was completed. However, the sant continued to sing *kirtans* one after another. At last, after 3-4 *kirtans* were sung, HDH Bapji interrupted him and said, “Swami, let’s stop singing *kirtans* so that we can start the preaching.”

HDH Bapji requested a few times but the sant continued to sing *kirtans* endlessly. Finally, the devotees also said to the sant, “Swami, please stop singing so that this swami can start His preaching.”

The sant finally stopped singing, however, he was furious and started shouting with rage, “You are jealous of my singing. All the devotees admire my singing and that is something You can’t bear to see, so You are provoking them against me. You are trying to look good in front of them.”

HDH Bapji remained silent. So, the sant was even more enraged. He continued, “You dislike my singing talent. What’s your problem if I sing *kirtans*? Your problem is I appear better than You in front of these devotees. Now it’s enough...”

Like so, the sant insulted HDH Bapji with a series of scornful words.

HDH Bapji’s heart broke hearing these words. It did not worry Him that He was insulted but He was more worried by the fact that the devotees would develop a negative perspective of the sant and on top of that this impulsive behavior would bring dishonor to Shriji Maharaj’s saffron cloth.

HDH Bapji humbly said, “Swami, your singing is indeed exceptional. Please sing more *kirtans*. We will sing with you.” And they continued singing *kirtans*.

The sant continued to sing until 11 O’clock at night but didn’t let HDH Bapji say a word. They had gone to the village specifically for that assembly but, unfortunately, it never took place.

HDH Bapji was extremely sad because He wasn’t able to give the devotees spiritual strength through His discourse. The devotees also felt the same way. However, nothing could be said or done. He stomached the whole situation in silence.

Next morning, they were leaving for the station and all the devotees’ eyes were teary.

Since they were running a bit late, HDH Bapji requested the sant, “Swami, please walk a bit faster otherwise we will miss our bus. And the next bus will come next morning.”

The sant reacted to the request irrationally. He halted in his tracks and offensively said, “You can go if You want, but now I am not going to walk a single step further. I will see how You go on without me.”

The accompanying devotee, Pravinbhai Sagardanbhai Swaminarayan, reasoned a lot with the sant and finally got him to agree with walking forward.

It may be easy to endure illness during religious travels but to calmly endure the disrespect and sometimes even cruelty from the accompanying sant and still have the eagerness to go on religious travels is a thorny path to walk on. These types of situations occurred not just once but regularly on every religious travel.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of a calm and collected *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji who even at the height of disrespect strictly abided by the religious commands with the sole vision of propagating the principles of Kāran Satsang to aspirants.**

# 13

## THE SAFFRON FLAG

Around 1969-1970, when HDH Bapji used to reside at the *Motā* mandir (Kalupur Mandir), it was very daunting to even utter the name of Jeevanprān Abjibapashri. So, in such conditions, how would it be possible to sing the glory of Abjibapashri and propagate His principles?

HDH Bapji's heart was overflowing with the glory of Bapashri. Hence, it was impossible to keep Him from submerging the aspirants who came into His contact in the glory of Bapashri.

HDH Bapji initially started conducting assemblies outside the wall of the Maleksābān stadium, in the Bāpunagar area, in order to propagate the supreme *upāsanā* of Shriji Maharaj and the principles of Bapashri. He usually walked to the stadium from the *Motā* mandir for these assemblies.

The assemblies took place beneath the shade of trees, every Sunday morning at 7 a.m. The sky was the roof and the earth was the carpet.

So how can there be a sofa or even a chair to sit on? Thus, HDH Bapji would make a *āsan* out of an old ragged sack to sit on.

If sittings arrangements for Himself were so dire then obviously no grand arrangements could be made for *Thākorji's Murti*. Thus, He would bring a *Kirtan Saritā* (a book of devotional songs) instead and open it to the page with Ghanshyam Maharaj's *Murti*. He would then place the open book in a standing position on a clean saffron cloth and lean it on to a tree.

HDH Bapji would mark the location of the assembly by tying a saffron cloth on top of a tree. New aspirants would spot the saffron flag and would come to sit in the assembly.

Even if only a couple of closely attached devotees were present in front of HDH Bapji, He would still start the assembly.

On one side, the glorious talks of supreme *upāsanā* and Maharaj's commands would be flowing from HDH Bapji's mouth and on the other side, the saffron flag would be fluttering in the air like a victory flag symbolizing the unleashing of Shree Hari's principles.

Regardless of winter, summer or monsoon, HDH Bapji only had one thought in mind, "How can I get more and more aspirants to firmly understand this knowledge, consolidate the supremacy of Shriji Maharaj, comprehend Maharaj's principles and at last experience the bliss of *Murti*."

At the end of the assembly, HDH Bapji would offer 500 grams of guava to Maharaj and then would please the aspirants by distributing the prasad amongst them.

Progressively, more and more aspirants continued to join the assembly carried out near the Maleksābān stadium and soon a small community of devotees was formed.

Even today, the devotees who had attended these assemblies would recall them and say, "At that time, HDH Bapji's spirit, enthusiasm, and energy while singing the glory of Shriji Maharaj was very remarkable.

We didn't understanding anything at that time, but His gestures and His way of talking attracted us towards Him. His determination and eagerness to help us comprehend Maharaj's true form, was what had an enormous impact on our lives. It felt like we had an eternal bond with this sant from before and it was this feeling which bond us to His eternal motherly love. Those days... That time... Those moments... are still just as fresh as if it were yesterday."

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of an extravagant *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, for placing the victory flag of Shriji Maharaj's supreme *upāsanā* all over the world starting from nothing.**







# 14

## 1500 SQUARE YARDS

“Swami, how long are we going to keep meeting here at the stadium for our assemblies? Unfortunately, we get to hear Your preaching only once a week. If we had a temple, we would be able to benefit more from Your discourses.”

“Yes swami, he’s right. The resolute *nishthā* of Maharaj that You have taught us is something many aspirants are longing for and would get if we had our own temple.”

“If we had a temple, many aspirants would also have a place to come meditate, pray and worship. A temple is the best place to worship, pray and understand the philosophy of Maharaj for devotees. Also swami, the temple would also reward your tireless efforts to propagate our principles and philosophies. So, please accept our prayer for making a new temple.”

Hearing their prayers, HDH Bapji responded, “I remember the time when Sadguru Ishwarbapa, from our Divine *Amirpedhi* (ancestry),

was propagating Kāran Satsang's principles in this area. He had actually declared a wish to build a Kāran Satsang temple in this area. So, with the intention of fulfilling His wish, I regularly come here to do *satsang*. I was unable to clearly specify this intention but Maharaj made it clear today by speaking through all of you. So, if I have your support and cooperation let's begin to fulfill Maharaj, Bapashri and Sadguru's wish."

Like so, HDH Bapji accepted their prayers and began to look for land near the Bāpunagar area. His search near the Bāpunagar, Hardāsnagar and Navlakhā Bungalows area was unfruitful.

HDH Bapji's search eventually reached the Odhav area. It felt as if this was the area where Maharaj wanted to build the temple and establish a strong foundation for propagating His principles.

Coincidentally, one of HDH Bapji's cherished devotees, Purshottambhai Ramani, owned a piece of land in the Odhav area to make a society named 'Ghanshyamnagar.'

For one who is entirely devoted to his Guru, a simple hand gesture is all it takes. HDH Bapji explained to Purshottambhai that, "It is Maharaj's wish to build a temple in this area. Would you be able to give one of your plots of land for it?"

"If it is Maharaj's wish and your request, I will gladly allocate a plot from the Ghanshyamnagar scheme for the temple. Swami, how much land do You need?"

"1500 square yards would be perfect."

Purshottambhai promptly allocated 1500 square yards for the temple.

At that time, the financial situation was very weak so there was not even 5625 Rupees to pay for the land. There were neither sants with HDH Bapji nor any devotees whom He could reach out for help. At that time, the area surrounding the plot was in complete wilderness.

Acknowledging the situation, Narayanbhai, Shankarbhai, and

many others began telling HDH Bapji, “You do not have any sants with You, nor do You have many devotees, so what will You do with such a large piece of land? It will just lay abandoned here! And besides, how will You obtain the money to buy it?”

HDH Bapji simply replied, “It is Maharaj’s *sankalp*. So we are not going to buy land that is less than 1500 square yards.”

The devotees could not grasp HDH Bapji’s foresight. They believed 1500 square yards to be excessive and unnecessary.

HDH Bapji knew it was not possible to propagate Maharaj and Bapashri’s philosophy by being bound to the sect’s old customs. There would be many hardships ahead and at times He, alone, would have to thrive in propagating the principles against many opposers. With this in mind, HDH Bapji had decided to buy the large piece of land.

He knew that there weren’t many devotees, and that there wasn’t enough money to pay for the land but He had complete faith and trust in Maharaj and Bapashri’s *sankalp*.

Thus, HDH Bapji would often tell the devotees, “Just wait and watch! Even these 1500 square yards will not be enough...” This one sentence was enough to show that the devotees’ short-sightedness was no match for HDH Bapji’s vast long-term vision. It would cease all their arguments.

At that time, how could the devotees understand that in the future this same piece land would become a huge center for propagating Maharaj and Bapashri’s principles!

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of a Visionary *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, who transformed Shriji Maharaj’s resolution into reality.**



# 15

## ESTABLISHING THE GOLDEN UPĀSANĀ

Once, a few devotees were receiving a religious discourse from HDH Bapji, at His *āsan* in the *Motā* mandir.

One devotee asked HDH Bapji, “Swami, You do a lot of hard work. There are many other sants in this temple, but it’s only You who suffers countless obstacles day and night! Swami, why do You do this much hard work?”

At that time, HDH Bapji replied, “This time, Shriji Maharaj’s unmatched golden supreme *upāsanā* shall surely be established. I have taken a vow to fulfill this wish of Shriji Maharaj, and I’ll relentlessly stick to this vow. This is why I explain Shriji Maharaj’s supremacy to whoever I encounter...”

A devotee retorted. “Swami, You don’t have anyone’s support.”

“Whatever Maharaj wishes, will happen! And I am not alone. The ultimate king and controller of countless cosmos is with Me. It is the *sankalp* of Maharaj and it shall surely be fulfilled...”

Seeing HDH Bapji's faith in Maharaj's supremacy, the devotee was left stunned.

He started to realize the number of struggles HDH Bapji must have gone through to get as far as He is now in His mission.

• • •

HDH Bapji started His mission of establishing the unmatched golden supreme *upāsanā* from Ghanshyamnagar. In 1970, the first brick (the foundation brick) was ceremoniously placed on the land for the construction of the Ghanshyamnagar temple.

The foundation was laid however; there was a shortage of money, men, stone, and food during that time. 'How to move forward with the construction of the temple?' was the big question. At that time, a cement bag was worth ten rupees, a cart of bricks would cost 70 rupees. and a cubic foot of wood would cost 35 rupees. Even though these items were cheap in the market, there weren't enough funds to buy these materials to carry out the construction of the temple. Not a single rupee had come in as a donation and the desire was to give rise to a three-story temple. Thus, HDH Bapji would personally go the devotees to solicit donations for the temple's construction. People would donate money within a range of one to twenty-five rupees.

The highest donation received was from Shantilal Bhagvanbhai Patel of 500 rupees. Very wealthy devotees would give 250 rupees or sometimes 100 rupees. But, the majority of donations were of only 25, 10, 5 and 2 rupees.

To solicit donations for the temple, HDH Bapji went to Hyderabad and Secunderabad in a truck. There, He travelled for around 10-12 days and collected 1,368 rupees for the temple's construction. Despite the shortage of money, the construction work continued to move forward solely because of Shriji Maharaj's *sankalp* and HDH Bapji's eagerness.

At that time, HDH Bapji made sure that not a single rupee was



misused. HDH Bapji's involvement in the construction work was incredible. He was there from the beginning until the end. This temple's each and every stone became the witness of HDH Bapji's exceptional spirit of *sevā*.

During that time, HDH Bapji mostly resided at the *Motā* mandir, however, He sometimes visited Ghanshyamnagar to take care of the temple and to keep the devotees strong in *satsang*.

HDH Bapji would walk 7.5 kilometres from the *Motā* mandir to the Ghanshyamnagar temple. Once a devotee asked Him, "Swami, you walk here all the way from the *Motā* mandir? Why don't you come by the auto rickshaw instead? The rickshaw fare is only 2 rupees, so why do you strain your feet?" HDH Bapji replied, "The devotees have donated money for the construction of the temple, not for the rickshaw fare. This is *Thākorji's* money. We cannot use it for ourselves. If we do so, Maharaj won't be pleased."

"Swami, you walk so far to come here and without resting for even a second, You immediately join the temple's construction *sevā* without considering Your health. In the evening, You return to the *Motā* mandir again by foot. Despite all these hardships, You only eat khichri at night, and that too, without any turmeric... So, please accept our request of using the rickshaw for Your travels..."

"Maharaj has told us that, the person who endures adversities is a true sant. Therefore, I cannot break His command!"

The devotees had seen all the struggles this divine *Satpurush* was going through thus, they prayed to Him for His well-being.

For the construction of the temple, He sprayed water, sifted soil, collected small gravel and even laid down bricks, so as to save money from hiring a labor worker.

HDH Bapji also confronted countless obstacles and endured immense disrespect while collecting donations. Countless ignorant people would insult Him and say, "Go away... There is no shortage of

money in Swaminarayan's home... So don't You have any shame in coming to ask for donations? Useless..." Even though He was faced with many insults and hatred, HDH Bapji didn't let it touch His heart.

HDH Bapji has given rise to this temple to establish the unmatched supreme *upāsanā*. He has strengthened its pillars with the cement of His hurdles and the water of His sweat.

With Shriji Maharaj's *sankalp* and Sadguru Muni Swami's blessings, the temple was constructed within four years and for the first time in history; the *Murtis* of only Ghanshyam Maharaj and His *muktas* were placed in the temple. This gave rise to a pure supreme Swaminarayan temple.

This day marked the establishment of the unmatched golden supreme *upāsanā* for the very first time in the entire Swaminarayan sect. It was a revolutionary step in the propagation of the pure supreme *upāsanā* of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. This victory was acknowledged in all four directions.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of a Revolutionary *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, the establisher of the unmatched golden supreme *upāsanā*.**



# 16

## SHINING SAINTLINESS

The entire sect's great sants are mesmerized by HDH Bapji's perseverance for the dharma given by Shriji Maharaj. They would gloriously say, "The *nand* sants' true lineage is undoubtedly still running in Vāsnā today. Moreover, at present, we can receive darshan of the great *nand* sants in HDH Bapji. His pure saintliness and firmness in following the conducts of Shriji Maharaj is unrivalled and unmatched."

It is believed that statements given by those living closest to you are always genuinely true. Accordingly, many sants and devotees who had the opportunity of closely observing HDH Bapji's sant life since the beginning would most certainly validate His firmness in following the commandments. One of His oldest and closest devotees was Sagardanbhai Swaminarayan . Whenever the topic of dharma arose, Sagardanbhai would be plunged into the past and would share many incidents of HDH Bapji.

During a religious travel, HDH Bapji and Sagardanbhai went to the village of Dhorāji. They stayed at the temple in the village.

It was the time of winter. Sagardanbhai, who had accompanied HDH Bapji on this religious travel, was freezing even though he had wrapped a blanket on top of his woolly coat. At night, *Thākorji* was covered with thermal blankets and rugs as well.

As the night rolled in, the atmosphere became even more chilled.

Extremely cold winds were blowing at 4:30 a.m. when HDH Bapji woke up. No one wished to even touch the freezing water, then how was it possible to bath in this cold weather?

When HDH Bapji headed to take a bath, the Pujari of the temple requested, “Swami, please do not take a bath with cold water in this freezing weather. I will fetch You some hot water.” HDH Bapji immediately replied, “Sants should not bath with hot water unless they are ill. My body is completely healthy. So, I can’t take a bath with hot water. It is not in accordance with the commands of Maharaj.”

After saying this, He started taking a bath underneath the tap of the temple in the open courtyard. When the almost frozen water fell on HDH Bapji, the blood capillaries near His skin started freezing. As a result, the blood in His whole body became cold. Sagardanbhai couldn’t bear seeing this. He requested HDH Bapji many times, “Swami, this water will freeze your body. So swami, please don’t bathe in it.”

Regardless, HDH Bapji continued to bath in the cold water. He did not give in to anyone’s requests nor did He give any consideration to His body.

Observing HDH Bapji’s firmness in living the life of a true sant astonished the devotees from the village and the Pujari. They all had only one phrase to say, “Until today, we have only heard and read about the *nand* sant’s firmness in following the conducts, but we have never seen them in real life. Today we have gotten the darshan of

those *nand* sants in this swami. We highly admire His steady firmness towards the conducts and commands of Shriji Maharaj.”

Even years later, when Sagardanbhai would reiterate this event to any devotee, his eyes would get filled with tears and he would start to feel shivers down his spine due to the overwhelming experience of the memories with HDH Bapji. He would always say, “That time was the very first time I saw a true sant. I was awestruck...” After saying this much he would become lost in awe of HDH Bapji’s true saintliness.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of an extraordinary *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, who led a lifestyle in accordance with Maharaj’s commandments just like the *nand* sants.**

### —Did You Know?—

In Shriji Maharaj’s era, Maharaj’s sants had suffered a lot to start the propagation of Shriji Maharaj’s upāsana. We can see that HDH Bapji has suffered in the same way for the same purpose. In all of these *prasangs* we can see the similarity of the great *nand* sants and our Guru, HDH Bapji.









*“Zando ame farkāvishu, Bāpāshri nā siddhāntno;  
Jarur pade balidān deshū, balidān ni parvā nathi.”*

We will raise the victory flag of Bapashri's principles; In doing so if we have to sacrifice ourselves, then we will not hesitate one bit.

**- HDH Bapji**



# 17

## BAPASHRI IS MY LIFE

Once, many opposers provoked a devotee against HDH Bapji due to His firm faith in following Maharaj and Bapashri's principles.

Thus, the devotee approached HDH Bapji and started talking coarsely about Bapashri. HDH Bapji could tolerate it if someone were to insult Him, but He could not tolerate it if any harsh words were spoken against Bapashri.

He immediately interrupted the devotee with pride-filled words, "Oy! Shut your mouth. Don't utter another word against Bapa. You are not even a speck of dust in comparison of Him, so who gave you the right to speak about Him? You, being a mere blind lizard is trying to measure up to the gem embedded serpent (My dear Bapa)? If you speak any more harsh words against My Bapa then no good will come of it." The devotee was silenced.

Like this, there were countless opposers who could not utter a single word against Bapashri in front of HDH Bapji and hence often

resorted to staying away from Him.

Upon the establishment of the ‘Satsang Mahāsabha’ in 1919 (*samvat* 1975), a tremendous uproar of rebellious oppositions against the absolute knowledge and principles of Bhagwan Swaminarayan explained by Bapashri arose from every direction.

The environment within the sect was getting more and more rebellious for the community of devotees who were attached with Bapashri.

It was impossible to propagate the principles of Bapashri at that time. However, HDH Bapji, ever drenched in the pride of Bapashri, continued to spread His glory and principles from His *āsan* at the *Motā* mandir.

The opposers at the *Motā* mandir often said, “There is still a speck of Bapashri’s knowledge lingering in this temple which we must assassinate.”

At last, they tried enforcing very adverse terms and conditions on HDH Bapji in order to get Him to give up Bapashri’s principles. However, they very well knew that, HDH Bapji was a faithful follower of Bapashri’s principles so, He would never agree to these terms and conditions.

A lion would rather starve to death but would never resort to eating grass even after 100 days of hunger. Similarly, this divine *Satpurush* neither gave up or made any compromises in Bapashri’s principles and clearly told the opposers, “You can behead me if you want but you cannot make me give up Bapashri’s principles nor stop me from propagating them.”

From that moment, everyone in the sect realized the pure honor and pride HDH Bapji had for Bapashri and His principles.

The construction of the Ghanshyamnagar temple was finally completed. HDH Bapji went through much hardships and aversion from the opposers in order to give rise to this revolutionary landmark.

Regardless of which, He felt pleasure in creating the very first purely Swaminarayan temple which fulfilled Shriji Maharaj's *sankalp* by elucidating true supreme faith.

At first, agreement from the *Motā* mandir was received that they would come for the inauguration ceremony. However, they were pressurized by the opposers that, "This sant believes in Bapashri, so this temple will be for Bapashri's followers and scriptures such as the Rahasyārth Vachanāmrut and the Sermons of Bapashri will be read, so you must not allow for the inauguration of this temple to take place."

Acknowledging this, the *Motā* mandir placed some conditions. "We will only allow for the inauguration to take place if You do not place a *Murti* of Bapashri in the temple and if you do not read the scriptures such as the Rahasyārth Vachanāmrut and Sermons of Bapashri."

The ever courageous HDH Bapji immediately replied with pure honour, "Bapashri's glory is flowing in every part of Me so I will sing it no matter what; Bapa has brought me solely for the propagation of His principles. Bapa is in my every drop of blood. Bapa is in my every heartbeat. Bapa is in my every breath. I have renounced the world just for Bapa. So, without a doubt, Bapa's *Murti* will be placed in the temple and the Rahasyārth Vachanāmrut and Sermons of Bapashri will also be read. Moreover, Bapa's glory will be propagated from this temple and will be spread beyond the horizon. No *Murtis* other than Shriji Maharaj, Jeevanprān Bapashri, and their *muktas* will be placed in this temple."

Whatever happens, happens according to Maharaj's wish. Despite the furious oppositions, the divine inauguration ceremony of the Ghanshyamnagar temple took place on the auspicious day of April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1974. The opposers just kept watching as the event took place right before their eyes.



Shriji Maharaj and His *muktas* were inaugurated in the sect's very first pure supreme Swaminarayan temple. With this, the pillars of pure supreme *upāsanā* were installed forever.

While in Ahmedabad, Shriji Maharaj had presented a *sankalp* of placing His own *Murti* in His own temples which, after 152 years, was fulfilled on this auspicious day. This grand event was engraved in the history of the Swaminarayan sect in golden letters.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of an extraordinary *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, who has shown incomparable pride for Bapashri and has fulfilled Shriji Maharaj's *sankalp* of placing His own *Murti* in His own temples.**

### —Did You Know?—

The Swaminarayan sect was established by Shriji Maharaj, however it was Abajibapashri who has explained the true knowledge of Maharaj. All the devotees and sants of the sect are greatly indebted to Bapashri for this priceless gift.



# 18

## RESOLUTE FAITH IN MAHARAJ

When trying to solve one problem, another arises. Even in the midst of such adversity HDH Bapji carried out the inauguration ceremony of the Ghanshyamnagar temple on a grand scale.

After the inauguration of the Ghanshyamnagar temple, HDH Bapji only sometimes resided there. He chose to mostly reside at His *āsan* at the *Motā* mandir. This was because many devotees from the city admired His preachings and so they often visited His *āsan*.

HDH Bapji would come to the Ghanshyamnagar temple only on occasions such as *padhrāmnis*, *māhāpujas*, or assemblies. Due to the lack of a vehicle, He would often commute by foot.

He did not touch money, keep it, or have others keep it for Him. Thus, it made it difficult to travel by Rickshaw as well. If a devotee was with HDH Bapji, then he would take HDH Bapji with him in the Rickshaw. This is how HDH Bapji managed to travel to and from the Ghanshyamnagar temple.

Eventually, the number of devotees began to increase greatly. Their spirituality was also simultaneously increasing. The opposers could not bear to watch as these events unfolded. As a result, they tried their best to stop the growth. They even started spreading rumours.

In the end, some devotees came to know that the opposers will try to force HDH Bapji to leave His status as a sant by making Him wear white clothes. So, they approached HDH Bapji and requested, “Swami, it is no longer wise for You to stay at the *Motā* mandir. Especially, now that we have our own temple, why should we stay here? Please accept this prayer swami...”

“Dear Devotees, Maharaj, Himself, has given Me this saffron cloth thus, no one in the entire universe can take it away from Me. That is why we shouldn’t be frightened. Don’t you worry! Only what Maharaj wishes, will happen. None of them can do anything! Everything happens only by My Maharaj.” This is how HDH Bapji calmed the devotees down with His pride brimming words.

HDH Bapji did not fear anyone, but in order to avoid from problems arising in attaining His goal of spreading the principles of Maharaj and Bapashri, He gave up His stay at the *Motā* mandir. Afterward, He started residing at the Ghanshyamnagar temple, and soon, spiritual awareness began to spread in that area due to His efforts.

However, the devotees from the city felt that the Ghanshyamnagar temple was quite far for them. So, how to preserve the *satsang* in those devotees remained a question. During that time, there were also many people who opposed HDH Bapji and His beliefs so saving these devotees from their influence was difficult. Every day spent without listening to a discourse weakens one’s spiritual strength.

HDH Bapji worried for these devotees so, He decided to find a suitable place in the city for conducting regular assemblies. At that time, HDH Bapji came to know of a two-storied ghost-infested house

which was put on sale in the Lāmbeshvar area<sup>1</sup>.

HDH Bapji said, “If a good price is quoted, then, we should buy the house.” They bought the house that nobody wanted to buy, rent, or live in. HDH Bapji decided to make it the office for the Ghanshyam Magazine<sup>2</sup>.

HDH Bapji visited the haunted house. He entered the room in which the ghost resided, and removed the bewitched coconut and *chunri*<sup>3</sup> that was lying there. Afterward, He placed Maharaj’s Murti and performed *dhun*. Finally, He offered *vartmān* to the coconut and gave salvation to the ghost.

After buying the house, an assembly was conducted every day for the devotees living in the city. HDH Bapji visited the house on every *ekādashī* and *poonam* to deliver a sermon. That was how *satsang* grew stronger in the devotees of the city.

HDH Bapji’s unmatched saintliness and firmness in following the commandments drew many aspirants into *satsang*. As a result, *satsang* expanded and the community of Bapashri’s followers also grew.

The growth of this *satsang* made some opposers very unhappy, so they decided to do something against it. Despite which, HDH Bapji remained unstirred since Maharaj was the sole doer of His actions.

As a result, some opposers went to the Bāpunagar area and asked a dangerous gangster to take over the Ghanshyamnagar temple in one week at any cost.

The gangster went to the temple with his gang and started talking to

1 The ghost of an old lady resided in a room on the second floor of the home. A bewitched coconut and a chunri were placed as her symbol. One must daily light up a diya in front of the bewitched items. She disturbed all those who decided to live there.

2 It is the organization’s monthly magazine.

3 A charmed cloth that had been ceremoniously placed.

HDH Bapji in a very rude manner. In a frenzy to take over the temple, the gangster insulted HDH Bapji with some highly disrespectful words. At last, the gangster threatened HDH Bapji, “I am giving You eight days to clear out this temple, if You don’t give us the temple in this time period then only one of us will remain; either You (HDH Bapji) or me.”

The gangster considered HDH Bapji to be like any other sant thus He tried to frighten Him with the power of his ego. Hearing this, the devotees became quite worried. They thought, “These gangsters will cause a commotion in the temple, and they will also disgrace and insult HDH Bapji. What if they throw HDH Bapji out?”

HDH Bapji’s face did not show the slightest fear or worry from these threats, rather His face showed resolve and determination. He replied peacefully to the gangster, “Just like you have said. Either you will remain or I will remain. May Maharaj make your wish come true.”

These threats shook up many devotees. However, HDH Bapji freely continued commuting to the nearby neighbourhood, doing *padhrāmni* and going on religious travels without any fear. He only kept three youths in the temple with Him.

Out of worry, some close devotees told HDH Bapji not to go on any *padhrāmni* or on any religious travels. They would say, “Please stay in the temple, if You go out, they might do something to You.”

HDH Bapji told them with confidence, “Infinite universes are controlled by Shriji Maharaj Himself, so what can this poor gangster possibly do? As long as I have Maharaj, no one in this world can do anything to Me.”

The words uttered by a *Satpurush* always come true! A few days later, the gangster who threatened HDH Bapji was caught for a crime and had to serve time. Furthermore, while driving his car going out of town, he lost control of the steering wheel and the car crashed into a



tree. He passed away immediately. By the will of Maharaj, his threat that ‘either he or HDH Bapji would remain’ came true. Only HDH Bapji remained.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of an extraordinary *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji for showing unparalleled faith in the doer-ship of Maharaj even at the pinnacle of adversities.**

### **—Did You Know?—**

Observing HDH Bapji’s entire life, there is one virtue that is seen in all of His acts and is displayed in every word; His complete faith in the doership of Maharaj. Whenever someone would even hint at another’s doership or would even praise HDH Bapji, He would reply with, “It is all Maharaj’s doing. What can I do?”



# 19

## ENDURING GRIEF FOR OTHERS' HAPPINESS

In 1976, HDH Bapji arrived at the Kālupur temple to hold a sermon on *ekādashi*. Since morning, plenty of devotees had started to come for HDH Bapji's darshan.

Amongst them was Kantibhai, a Brahmin devotee from Halvad . He appeared to be depressed and weakened. He wasn't able to speak or express his grief.

HDH Bapji, our 'true mother-like figure', was omnisciently well aware of his grief. So, He consoled him by talking around the matter and then asked him, "Kanti, do you want to become a sant? There is no happiness in this world. Real happiness resides in Maharaj's *Murti*."

Upon hearing this, Kantibhai placed his head in HDH Bapji's lap and started sobbing loudly. Like a mother, HDH Bapji, placed His hand on Kantibhai's head offering him sympathy.

While offering condolences, HDH Bapji asked Kantibhai the

reason for his tears. With a heavy heart, Kantibhai told HDH Bapji, “*Dayālu*, what will I do by becoming a sant? I have been diagnosed with the last stage of TB (Tuberculosis). I don’t have a hope of living any longer. Instead of serving you, I will be more of a burden upon you.”

**“Ati Dayālu re, swabhāv che swami no; Par dukh hāri re...”**  
**Swami is very merciful in nature...He eradicates other’s miseries**

Our beloved HDH Bapji’s nature is also incredibly kind and gracious just like Shriji Maharaj, Himself.

Thus, to ebb Kantibhai’s pain, HDH Bapji said, “Kanti, if someone takes your TB, your illness goes away and if your health is restored then, will you become a sant?”

Kantibhai replied, “Yes *Dayālu* if my health is restored then I will most certainly become a sant with you.” Ever gracious, HDH Bapji took Kantibhai’s illness upon Himself and restored Kantibhai’s health. After recovering from the illness, Kantibhai became a sant and did plenty of *sevā* in *satsang* as Sadhu Harisevadasji.

HDH Bapji, autonomously (*swatantra pane*), eradicated Kantibhai’s pain and suffered it Himself. HDH Bapji endured illness health from TB for two months.

• • •

HDH Bapji exhibits utmost kindness and compassion towards others by annihilating their sorrows and enduring them Himself. Seeing a devotee in grief would also make Him very sad. He would often wake up early in the morning at 3 a.m., to do rosary and to pray to Maharaj for such devotees.

One such early morning, HDH Bapji was praying to Maharaj at 3 a.m., “Oh Maharaj! Oh, Bapa! Oh, Sadgurus! Kindly shower your blessings upon this entire Kāran Satsang family. Always protect them and don’t let them become a stray away till their last breath... Oh Maharaj, please shower your mercy ....”

An accompanying sant asked, “Bapji, why are you praying for everyone?” HDH Bapji responded, “Our Kāran Satsang family is Maharaj’s *sankalp*. Maharaj has entrusted their responsibility to Me. Thereby, I worry for them and pray for them every day.” The accompanying sant was amazed by observing HDH Bapji’s benevolent tendency to wish well for others.

**Infinite salutations to a motherly *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, who like an ocean of motherly love always showers His blessings upon His devotees and endures grief on their behalf.**

### **—Did You Know?—**

One of the common attributes of a true *satpurush* is the altruistic trait of enduring other’s sorrows to give them happiness. Consequently, one of the main reasons why *satpurushes* display illness is that they are actually absorbing the pains of their devotees by suffering that pain on their behalf. That is a true *satpurush*!





# 20

## A NEW JOURNEY STARTS

Until now, HDH Bapji had endured a lot on His own for the propagation of Kāran Satsang but after being gifted with a phenomenal disciple, HH Swamishri, His mission picked up double the speed.

In the year 1984, HDH Bapji declared a wish to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ghanshyamnagar temple with a grand program.

On the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, HDH Bapji called HH Swamishri and said, “Swami, we need to converge on the areas of Panchmahāl where Sadguru Gopalanand Swami used to travel and Nalkanthā where Bapashri used to travel. On this auspicious occasion, You should go to at least ten villages in both of these areas and propagate our *satsang*.”

With respect to HDH Bapji’s command, HH Swamishri started His religious travels in the villages of Panchmahāl and Nalkanthā and other small villages.



Within a brief period of eight days, HH Swamishri went to 27 villages, held 30 assemblies and preached to thousands of new aspirants. As such, HH Swamishri victoriously propagated Maharaj and Bapashri's principles within the areas of Panchmahāl.

Moreover, HH Swamishri also travelled to many villages and communities in other regions of Gujarat and held an array of assemblies.

While HH Swamishri's continuous travels were going on, HDH Bapji also continued preaching to aspirants living in the vicinity of the temple. His preaching mainly focused on the consolidation of Bhagwan Swaminarayan's supremacy and obeying the commandments.

In no time, people started being attracted to the heavily influential pair of personalities; the Guru (HDH Bapji) and the disciple (HH Swamishri), who lit the flame for Bapashri's principles in thousands of hearts.

So, within a short period of time, Kāran Satsang expanded to the hearts of many. This marked the formation of a society that was ready to make the needed sacrifices to abide by the words of Maharaj and the principles of Bapashri. The critics and the opposers did not like this at all. This is because they knew that if the propagation of their *satsang* continues at this rate, the unbreakable pair of Guru and disciple will soon spread the principles and morals of Bapashri in every village and city of the country and eventually across the globe.

Therefore, they were trying to stop the spread of Kāran Satsang in any possible way. The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Ghanshyamnagar temple marked a revolutionary step for the propagation of these principles. The opposers started their attempts to bring a halt to this.

However, in the end, all their attempts were unsuccessful. So, they

warned HDH Bapji, “If You wish to stay a part of this sect, You must stop spreading Bapashri’s glory; you will have to stop reading the Vachanāmrut Rahasyārth and the Sermons of Bapashri. Furthermore, you must live according to our sant’s customs.”

HDH Bapji had to make a choice, whether to abide by the methods, practices, and traditions of the sect or to continue propagating the principles of Bhagwan Swaminarayan and Bapashri.

Without having any second thoughts HDH Bapji made His decision. He immediately responded, “I have not become a sant for you. I have become a sant so that I can spread the principles explained by Bhagwan Swaminarayan and Bapashri to the hearts of many. Therefore, only Bhagwan Swaminarayan and Bapashri’s glory will be sung from this mouth, and as far as living according to the other sant’s customs is concerned, that will also never happen. I inevitably have and always will continue to follow even the smallest commands set by Bhagwan Swaminarayan. I would rather sacrifice my life for the principles of Maharaj and Bapashri and suffer hate, disrespect, and humiliation than to live a life that is against Bhagwan Swaminarayan’s morals.”

By uttering such courageous words, HDH Bapji was completely prepared to endure any harsh situations which come His way by detaching Himself from the obligations of the sect.

Eventually, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 1984, marked a milestone in the history of the Swaminarayan sect, when HDH Bapji freed Himself from all of the sect’s obligations for the sake of Kāran Satsang and for the propagation of Bhagwan Swaminarayan and Bapashri’s principles.

Since then, the problems and protests against HDH Bapji had started to increase. Even during such harsh times, HDH Bapji and HH Swamishri fearlessly continued their religious travels.

HDH Bapji had only one motto for the opposers He encountered on His travels, “As per the principles established by Bhagwan Swaminarayan, we are neither segregated (*vimukh*) nor infronted (*sanmukh*), we are amalgamate (*mukhonmukh*) with divine form of Maharaj.”

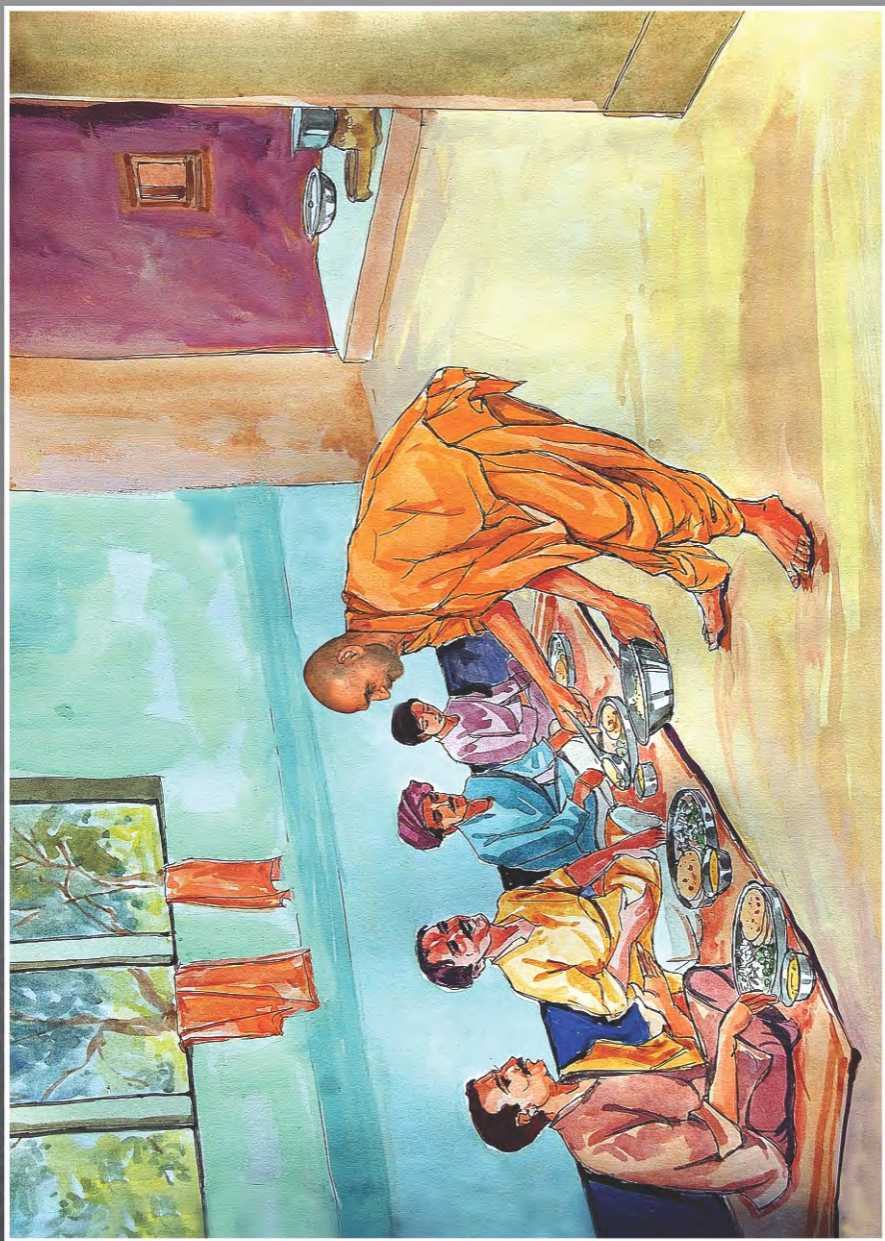
**Infinite salutations to a revolutionary *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, who has suffered a lot for the sake of Bhagwan Swaminarayan’s principles and has brought Kāran Satsang to its heights today.**

### **Did You Know?—**

Bapashri has explained the meaning of kāran and kārya in the “Abajibapashri ni Vato” (Abajibapashri’s Sermons).

“Maharaj and Muktas are kāran and mandirs, āchāryas, sadhus, bhamcharis and devotees are all kārya.” Our focus should be on kāran.









*“Je je harie karyu het, evu kare kon āpne re;  
Māt tāt saga samet, mānyā sanehi bholāpane re.”*

Who could possibly love us the way Maharaj loves us;  
We have been misled to believe that our parents and relatives love us the most.

- Sadguru Nishkulānand swāmi



# 21

## NURTURING THE YOUTH

Youth often tends to be like horses. They are very ambitious and potent, but have a fickle mind, and desire worldly pleasures. HDH Bapji is a true guide for the youth because He has molded their lives by giving them strong roots of *upāsnā* and devotion. His company was personal teaching for them. He pursued the particular interest in molding their lives.

They always felt inclined to bow their heads down to HDH Bapji for His generous love and care. They were drawn to His honest and simple speech which flowed directly from His strong bond with Maharaj.

Once at the *Motā* mandir, a sant stopped a youth in his tracks and asked, “What is it about Dev Swami that inspires you and draws you here daily for His darshan and His sermons?”

The youth smiled and replied. “Dev Swami’s pure love has transformed me completely and that is why I come here every day.”

Numerous youth used to come to HDH Bapji to acquire a sense of direction in life. This was because He easily understood their mentality and gave them guidance accordingly. As children are given parental love, HDH Bapji showered immense parental love to these youth considering them to be His own. He became the cause for their personal development.

At the *Motā* mandir, the year 1967 marks the awakening of the purpose and principles for which HDH Bapji had manifested. His first focus became the eager youth of that era.

Many young aspirants and devotees used to come to the temple on a regular basis. HDH Bapji would grab this opportunity to bond with them and to instill spiritual principles in them.

These young devotees were mesmerized by the eagerness HDH Bapji had to fill them with *satsang*, utmost devotion and ultimate bliss. HDH Bapji initially guided and molded the lives of twenty-five selected young devotees and established a strong foundation for the youth group. This eventually became the base for the propagation of Maharaj and Bapashri's principles.

His first attempt to consolidate Maharaj and Bapashri's principles in these youth was the establishment of a Sunday youth assembly in the year of 1968. It was held at the *Motā* mandir from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Upon sustaining success in these Sunday assemblies, HDH Bapji also started holding assemblies on *ekādashī*. This too yielded tremendous success.

Whether He would be at the *Motā* mandir or on religious travels, He would greatly urge the youth to attend the Sunday and *ekādashī* assemblies.

HDH Bapji, Himself, would write invitation letters or notes to new aspirants and devotees and would send Narendrabhai Trivedi to personally invite them.

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Yours, Swami Devnandandasji

HDH Bapji's divine speech, which flowed from His bond with Maharaj, clearly showed the ambition He had, to consolidate the knowledge of Bhagwan Swaminarayan's true form and the supreme principles of Bapashri in each and every youth. He had a peculiar zeal to make them experience the bliss of Maharaj's *Murti* in this lifetime.

1 The sant living quarters at the Motā mandir was named Rangmahol.

His every word and action portrayed a significant role in the overall development of any new aspirant's life that came into His contact. There was no sign of tiredness, hunger, sleep deprivation, laziness or inconvenience in His life. He kept moving forward with just one aim; to make everyone understand the true form of Maharaj and Bapashri.

HDH Bapji did not only focus on instilling spiritual values in the youth but also aided them through their personal problems. Many times the youth would share their problems with HDH Bapji and at other times He would become aware of them omnisciently, regardless of which He would always be there to help.

HDH Bapji always had a unique perspective with regards to youth. His ability to win their hearts is truly exemplary for all parents. He always showered unbiased and unconditional love for all the youth and stayed intimately aware of their needs.

One day at the *Motā* mandir a young man had come to HDH Bapji's *āsan*. He had accepted the religion, but still had a small addiction that bothered him. He was fed up with this addiction but was unable to overcome it.

When HDH Bapji arrived, the young man did not say anything about his addiction.

HDH Bapji omnisciently became aware of the problem and said lovingly, "Oh! Are you suffering from an addiction? Overcome it."

"Swami, I can't overcome it." He said dejectedly.

"Why can't you overcome it? Everything is possible. You have Maharaj and Bapa with you so what should you be afraid of? Be persevering. I will pray to Maharaj, Bapa, and the Sadgurus on your behalf. You are not going to die by stopping the addiction. I'll promise you that much," said HDH Bapji.

"Swami with the strength of Maharaj and Bapa and the Sadgurus on my side, I resolve to stop my addiction for the rest of my life," the young man responded.

HDH Bapji gave him some holy water and said, “Oh Maharaj, Bapa, Sadgurus give him the strength to overcome his addiction.”

In this way, HDH Bapji protected the youth from the addictions and impurities of the world and assisted them to become pure-hearted.

HDH Bapji’s closeness with the youth allowed them to easily open up in front of Him, similar to the way they open up with their mothers. Also, HDH Bapji always remained alert about developing their hidden talents.

HDH Bapji would get the young devotees to deliver speeches during the spiritual assemblies. He would also ask them complex questions to consolidate their knowledge. Moreover, if the youth were to ask a question during His discourse, He would become very pleased.

HDH Bapji would give a lot of encouragement to all the youth who were eager to learn, however, fake encouragement was never given.

If someone were to get an answer correct, He would gladly exclaim according to His traditional custom, “*Vagādo tāli*”. This means “let’s give him a round of applause”. Through such encouragements, HDH Bapji opened the doors for an all rounded development in these youth.

Often times, HDH Bapji would instill essential morals in their life through fun methods. Like this, all of these interactions ensured the youth to develop a strong bond with HDH Bapji.

When Panubhai Soni was a young adult, he was a part of HDH Bapji’s youth group. After discovering about how he became a member of this group, one can truly determine the level of dedication HDH Bapji had towards developing *satsang* in the youth.

Every time Panubhai went to the temple for darshan, HDH Bapji would always say, “Panu, come to the *āsan* for a preaching. Okay?”

HDH Bapji had invited him to His *āsan* for about a hundred times, but he would never show up.



Thus, HDH Bapji tried an unconventional method. He started preaching to Panubhai while doing circumambulation in the temple. Towards the end of this preaching, He would invite Panubhai to His *āsan* again but it was of no use. Panubhai would never go.

Eventually, Panubhai asked his father one day, “Dev Swami always invites me to his *āsan* for a preaching, and so what should I do?”

His father was also a devotee at the temple. So, he replied, “Panu, Dev Swami is the only true sant in this entire temple. Therefore, you should really go.”

So, the next time HDH Bapji invited Panubhai he was bound to attend the preaching. Just this one preaching was enough. Panubhai was instantly mesmerized by HDH Bapji’s saintliness. Currently, he has dedicated his entire life for SMVS and serves as a truly committed volunteer.

The twenty-five lion-like individuals from HDH Bapji’s youth group had developed a unique bond with Him. HDH Bapji had showered them with special love by addressing them using nicknames.

Dharmakumar Pandya would immediately go to HDH Bapji’s *āsan* for His preaching right after work. The preaching was secondary. The prime reason which drew him to HDH Bapji was the name that HDH Bapji addressed him as; “Pandyo”. His centre of attraction towards HDH Bapji had become this one word; “Pandyo”. This made him come running to HDH Bapji every day.

HDH Bapji used to address Jyotinderkumar Adesra, who thoroughly knew all the Vachnāmrits, as “*Vichhi*”<sup>2</sup>. Many times HDH Bapji would also call him “*Chashmeri*”<sup>3</sup>. He would say, “Where is *Chashmeri* today?” He used to call Narendrabhai Basher as “*Basher*” and Narendrabhai Trivedi as “*Adhiseri*”.

These loving nicknames created an unbreakable bond between

2 Scorpion.

3 A nickname for someone with spectacles.

HDH Bapji and the youths.

In the scorching of the summer months, loving devotees would bring mangoes to the temple for *Thākorji* and the sants. Lots of mangoes would be available every day but HDH Bapji, an idol of saintliness would never eat them. In the evening, sants and devotees would make mango juice and discard the pits. HDH Bapji would collect these pits and draw out the seeds (*gotli*) from inside. He would then boil the *gotlis* and chop them into thin slices.

He would offer this *gotli* to Maharaj and would pray to bring everyone who ate this prasād into Kāran Satsang. He would give out this *gotli* as prasād to all the devotees and youth who came for His darshan. HDH Bapji's prasād of *gotli* was so admired by everyone that they would call Him, “*Gotli vālā swami*”<sup>4</sup>. This *prasād* of *gotli* played a significant role in the creation of the youth group, which propagated the principles of Bapāshri.

Once the construction of the Ghanshyamnagar temple was completed in 1974, *Brahmsatra* programs were held there twice in a year; one during the month of Māgshar and the other during Chaitra (on the occasion of the temple's *pātotsav*). *Brahmsatras* were five day long programs where readings of the Swaminarayan sect's scriptures were held. HDH Bapji, Himself, was the sole organizer and the preacher of these programs. He continuously gave discourses from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., then from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and then again from 9 p.m. to 12 p.m. He also simultaneously managed all the committees on His own. He carried out all the responsibilities from the pre-planning to the final wrap up.

HDH Bapji's beloved youth group would also be present at these *Brahmsatras*. He would recognize them as the ‘*Rajwādi Mandal*’ (The Royal Troop). During the *Brahmsatras*, the discourses would go on till late at night so this *Rajwādi Mandal* would end up waking

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4 HDH Bapji was usually known for sharing the prasād of *gotli*, Hence he was nicknamed as *Gotli vālā swami*.

up late in the morning. HDH Bapji treasured them very much and minutely took care of them. After getting ready early in the morning, HDH Bapji would visit the *Aksharordi*. He would wake these individuals with the divine touch of His right toe or by clapping. Even His style of awakening these youth had a fragrance of love in it. Upon waking up, the youth would touch HDH Bapji's feet. HDH Bapji would shower them with affection right from the morning. They would greet HDH Bapji by saying "Jay Swaminarayan" and as soon as HDH Bapji would walk out of the *Aksharordi*<sup>5</sup>, some of them would go right back to sleep.

HDH Bapji knew these individuals very well, so He would come back into the *Aksharordi* and would wait until they were completely awake. As such, HDH Bapji had bond these youth with such horizonless motherly love that no one felt like leaving His side.

After the young individuals got ready in the morning, HDH Bapji would come to serve them breakfast (a variety of snacks and sweets) with His own hands and make them happy.

On the last day of the *Brahmsatra*, all the youths would be leaving in the afternoon, so HDH Bapji would take particular care of them. After the afternoon religious assembly would end, everyone would go for lunch. On the other hand, HDH Bapji would go to the pantry and specially prepare small packets of sweets and snacks for these youths to take home. He would quickly complete this task and return to His *āsan*.

After lunch, the youths would go to HDH Bapji's *āsan* for His last darshan. "Swami, we will take your leave. We experienced utmost pleasure," they would say.

"Did you have any trouble?" HDH Bapji would lovingly ask.

"No swami, not at all. We do not get the facilities offered here even at home." As soon as the youths get up to leave, HDH Bapji

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<sup>5</sup> The room in which the Rajwādi Mandal stayed in during the Brahmsatras was known as 'Aksharordi'.

would grab their hand and place the prepared packets in their hand, “Here, take this home.”

“Swami, we have everything at home,” they would say.

“No, you have to take it home and share it with your family...” HDH Bapji would say.

This form of love and care emotionally touched these young individuals.

They would say, “Oh swami, we should actually be responsible for taking care of you, not the other way around. Our parents don’t even give us this much care. Swami, here we have already eaten, while you, according to your yearly custom, probably went to prepare these packages right after the assembly. You haven’t even eaten yet.”

Overall, these young individuals’ annual *Brahmasatra* experience would leave them engrossed in HDH Bapji’s motherly affection.

In order to make the youths live a virtuous life according to the commandments, HDH Bapji would give them particular rules to follow such as, to not eat outside food from restaurants, to not drink unfiltered water, to do 5 *nakodā ekādashis* during the months of *Chaturmās*, to daily do meditation of Maharaj’s Murti, to do rosaries, *mānsipuja* and *chestā*, etc. He would often inquire about their consistency in observing the given rules and would give them the courage they required to act accordingly. He completely detested individuals with two-faced personalities; those whose actions never matched their words. Hence, He would repetitively draw the youths’ attention to this to ensure their thoughts, actions, and words were in equanimity. These youths had given HDH Bapji the right to be strict or lenient with them depending on the circumstances.

As the number of youths increased, HDH Bapji started arranging youth assemblies held at the homes of these youths. He ensured that these assemblies were independently carried out by the youths themselves to flourish their inner abilities. He, Himself, would inquire

about the flow of these assemblies from the youth. If He would come to know that a youth was absent in one of the assembly, HDH Bapji, Himself, would personally invite him to the next assembly.

The *satsang* had begun to flourish as a result of HDH Bapji's endless efforts. Many new youths had also begun joining into *satsang*.

HDH Bapji has held hands of many young individuals who had strayed away from the path of living a noble life. He helped all those who had acquired bad qualities like stubbornness, impulsiveness, carelessness, impudence, and addiction. He has guided them on the path to a brighter life.

The erratic waves of feelings emerging in the hearts of the youths would come to a halt in front of HDH Bapji's pure and divine life. HDH Bapji's firm faith and unfaltering love for Shriji Maharaj would restore peace in their life.

HDH Bapji would make Maharaj become the centre of these youth's minds so that their lives could easily flow towards divinity. No one was left unaware of HDH Bapji's horizon-less motherly love. Like this, recalling the special moments they shared with HDH Bapji would bring tears of joy.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of the ocean of compassion,  
HDH Bapji...**





# 22

## ONENESS WITH BHAGWAN

In the winter of 1984, HDH Bapji and HH Swamishri had gone to the Nalkanthā district for religious travels. During their travels, they arrived at the village of Kanotarā.

Circumambulation had been scheduled for the whole day in this village. Upon HDH Bapji and HH Swamishri's arrival, the circumambulations commenced immediately. Many circumambulations were organized during that travel.

In the winter, the days tend to be shorter, so the villagers eat early and also go to bed early. Despite which, an assembly was scheduled in the evening from eight O'clock to 11 O'clock at the temple. After the assembly HDH Bapji, HH Swamishri and the accompanying sants did *cheshtā* and went to sleep.

It had just been 15-20 minutes and HDH Bapji suddenly started shivering. The accompanying sant asked Him, "Bapji what is happening?"

“I am feeling really cold today,” HDH Bapji replied.

HH Swamishri immediately took a couple of blankets and placed them over HDH Bapji. But it was of no use. HDH Bapji was still shivering. In fact, HDH Bapji’s shivering seemed to be increasing.

Hence, HH Swamishri sat next to HDH Bapji and with folded hands asked, “Bapji, You never feel this cold. Even in the winter time You sleep with the fan on. Then why are You feeling so cold all of a sudden? Even after covering you with three blankets You are still shivering, we are unable to understand Your *leelā*, please explain the reason for this *leelā*.”

Then HDH Bapji said, “Go and check whether Maharaj has been covered with a blanket or not.”

HH Swamishri sent a sant to check if Maharaj had a blanket. The sant saw that Maharaj had not been given a blanket, so he came back and said, “Sorry *Dayālu*! Because of our carelessness, we forgot to cover Maharaj with a blanket today.”

HH Swamishri said, “Bapji did this *leelā* because Maharaj wasn’t given a blanket. This truly exemplifies the oneness between Maharaj and His *mukta*. We should always be more careful while doing their *sevā*.” HH Swamishri promptly sent the sant to cover Maharaj with a blanket.

As soon as Maharaj was covered with a blanket, HDH Bapji’s shivering stopped and He was not cold anymore. He took off the three blankets.

This is the oneness between Maharaj and His *mukta*.

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This story takes place in February of 1989. The Vāsna temple’s second *pātotsav* was in a few days. One evening, at six O’clock, HDH Bapji was preaching to some devotees in an assembly on the first floor of the Vāsna temple.

HH Swamishri was sitting in His *āsan*, on the third floor,

writing some invitations for the upcoming *pātotsav*. He was also simultaneously listening to HDH Bapji's preaching through a speaker placed on the third floor.

At that time, HH Swamishri recalled an incident which took place at the Dev Dholerā village. Sadguru Ishwarcharandasji swami had shown a miracle to one of His sants to give assurance that I, his Guru, am a *sankalp swaroop*. He gave His sant darshan at two different places at the same time.

While pondering upon this incident HH Swamishri thought, "My Guru, HDH Bapji, is also a *sankalp swaroop* of Shriji Maharaj, so can't I also have darshan of Him in two forms?"

Right at that moment, the door to HH Swamishri's *āsan* opened and HDH Bapji walked in. "What are You pondering on about? Am I not like Sadguru Ishwarcharandasji Swami?" asked HDH Bapji while standing in the doorway in His divine form. HDH Bapji immediately disappeared after just saying this much.

While HDH Bapji was giving darshan to HH Swamishri, His divine discourse was still being heard through the speaker on the third floor.

Upon the fulfillment of HH Swamishri's wish, He was left mesmerized in HDH Bapji's divinity and thought, "HDH Bapji was preaching in the assembly downstairs and He gave darshan to me here as well! Darshan of two forms at the same time!"

Shriji Maharaj's divine *sankalp swaroop*, HDH Bapji, is indeed remarkable.

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This is an incident before HH Swamishri had become a sant. His name was Ghanshyambhai. Ghanshyambhai was completing His undergraduate at the time of this occurrence.

In 1978, Ghanshyambhai was still in college and was studying to become a Chartered Accountant. He had always been a bright student and always ranked first in His studies. But this year, the examinations

were around the corner and He was still not as prepared. It was already the 18<sup>th</sup> of April and His exams were starting on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April. Hence, He only had ten days to revise all the chapters from seven different subjects.

He worriedly started to think, “How am I going to study for seven subjects in just ten days? I have never ranked second in my life but this year, will I be able to come first?” This thought made Ghanshyambhai very upset.

That night He gathered up some courage, closed the door to His room and began studying for His economics exam. Ghanshyambhai always kept a *Murti* of Maharaj and Bapashri on His study table.

Since there was less time and a lot to read, He worriedly started to pray to Maharaj and Bapashri, “Oh Maharaj! Oh, Bapa! The time is so limited, and I still have a lot of revision left to do. How will I be able to review all this material in time for the examination? What will I write?” Tears rolled down His face with this thought in mind.

While Ghanshyambhai was praying deeply to Maharaj and Bapashri, all of a sudden, the whole room was illuminated with divine light. The lustre spread in all four directions. Maharaj and Bapashri gave darshan in their divine form. Maharaj stood on one side of Ghanshyambhai and Bapashri stood on the other. Maharaj placed a hand on Ghanshyambhai’s right shoulder, and Bapashri placed a hand on His left shoulder. When Ghanshyambhai suddenly felt touched, He quickly opened His eyes and saw Maharaj and Bapashri in front of Him. Ghanshyambhai was delighted to have darshan of Maharaj and Bapashri at His side. He was about to get up from His chair but Maharaj made Him sit back down. Maharaj and Bapashri gazed at Ghanshyambhai and started to smile. When Ghanshyambhai turned to do darshan of Bapashri, He would see Maharaj at that spot and when He turned to do darshan of Maharaj, He would see Bapashri at that spot. He was left mesmerized by this divine darshan *leelā*.

When He was doing darshan from side-to-side, Maharaj said, “Do You not trust us? Are You writing your exams or are We? Why are You so worried? We are inevitably with You.”

Maharaj repeated these four sentences three times, continuously gave divine darshan for seven minutes and then disappeared.

This divine experience had left Ghanshyambhai totally delighted. His stress had completely vanished. Ghanshyambhai could not wait to tell HDH Bapji about this incident in the morning. The whole night passed by in tremendous joy.

The next morning Ghanshyambhai went to the temple at the time of *manglā ārti* to meet HDH Bapji. Right after the *ārti*, Ghanshyambhai approached HDH Bapji but before He could disclose anything, HDH Bapji placed a pile of invitation letters in His hand and said, “A scripture reading is organized at the Ghanshyamnagar temple from the 24<sup>th</sup> of April to the 28<sup>th</sup> of April. You will have to come there from the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. There is a lot of *sevā* to be done, so be on time.”

Ghanshyambhai was a little concerned so He said, “But Bapji, My examinations are starting from the 28<sup>th</sup> and I still have to review all the chapters. So, how will I be able to come?”

HDH Bapji held Ghanshyambhai’s wrist and omnisciently said, “What did Maharaj tell You last night? Don’t You trust Maharaj? Are You writing your exams or Maharaj? Why are You so worried? Maharaj is inevitable with You.” HDH Bapji said the exact same four sentences that Maharaj had said the night before.

This incident proved the oneness between Maharaj and His *Satpurush* and left Ghanshyambhai astonished by their divinity.

Ghanshyambhai attended the scripture reading from the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April to the 28<sup>th</sup> of April. On last day, He directly went to the H.L. Commerce College at 3 p.m. to give His exam.

He took His seat and placed Maharaj and Bapashri’s Murti on the desk and prayed, “Maharaj, I have not studied anything for the last



ten days, but I trust You completely. I have come to give my exam with this faith, so please come and write My paper.”

At that moment, Maharaj appeared in His divine form to write the exam. Maharaj held the pen in His divine hand and started writing the exam. Maharaj answered all the questions, even those which were optional. Maharaj came to write the exams for the next seven days as well. When Maharaj is the writer of all your exams, is there anything left to worry about? Not only did Maharaj and Bapashri bestow their blessing to Ghanshyambhai but they also practically came to write each exam.

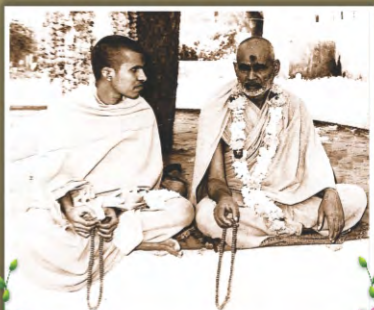
Maharaj and *Satpurush* may appear to be separate in *avarbhāv*, but in *parbhāv*, a *Satpurush* is always immersed in Maharaj’s *Murti*. So, whatever Maharaj knows, *Satpurush* is also aware of it. Through this incident, we see that *Satpurush* perform all their actions with oneness with Maharaj through their omniscience.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of an omniscient *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, who maintains an eternal bond with Maharaj in *parbhāv*.**









“Even if you search in the infinite universes, you will never be able to find a sant like this Swami.”

“This Swami has a *sthiti* of *parbhāv*. He has come from *parbhāv* and has brought *parbhāv* and divinity along with Him. This is why He has immersed all the sants and devotees in pure divinity.”

- HDH Bapji

# 23

## GIFT OF A PHENOMENAL SANT

One day HDH Bapji was standing in front of Ghanshyam Maharaj's *Murti* in Rangmahol at the *Motā* mandir. A very solemn conversation was taking place.

“Oh, Maharaj! Up until now, I have only propagated your *upāsanā*. I have only preached at everyone about Your glory, never my own. I do not have any intention to spread my own principles. I only intend to spread Your principles all over the world. Yet, I do not have a single sant to accompany me on this mission.

Oh, Maharaj! Please give me one sant who will assist me in propagating your supreme principles everywhere.

Oh, Maharaj! I do not ask for more, but please grant me at least one sant, one phenomenal sant, who can take Your principles beyond the horizon and makes Kāran Satsang worldwide.

Oh, Maharaj! In these adverse times, there is no limit to the hatred

and oppositions coming from everywhere. I don't have a single sant to accompany me on my religious travels. Oh, Maharaj! What kind of difficult time is this! Am I to disregard Your commands in order to propagate Your principles? No Maharaj, No! Oh, what hardships Maharaj!"

As the conversation with Ghanshyam Maharaj deepened, HDH Bapji's words also became heavier. He was overwhelmed with emotions and began singing a prayer from the bottom of His heart:

**“Mere to ek tum hi adhārā...”**

**“You are my only support”**

With a stream of tears flowing from His eyes, HDH Bapji continued praying deeply. By the time HDH Bapji reached the last words of the prayer:

**“Muktanand kahe antarjāmi, kahā samjāvu mere pritam pyārā.”**

**“Oh dear, You are omniscience so, there is no need for Me to explain.”**

He couldn't continue any further and began sobbing.

Suddenly, Sadguru Muni Swami came and stood behind HDH Bapji. He lovingly placed His hand on HDH Bapji's shoulder. Having heard HDH Bapji's prayer, He showered His blessings and said, “Swami, Your prayer has reached Maharaj. Maharaj will surely fulfill your wish. Maharaj will make everything alright. You will definitely be gifted with a phenomenal sant.”

Upon receiving Sadguru Muni Swami's darshan and blessings HDH Bapji felt relieved and all His sorrow fled away. His joy knew no bounds.

• • •

The devotees often warned HDH Bapji with such words,

“Swami, You are very persistent for propriety so You never breach any of Shriji Maharaj's commands and nor do You let anyone else



breach them. It is because of Your persistence for these commands and because of Your strict personality that no sant will ever stand by Your side.”

No matter what everyone said, to fulfill the purpose of His manifestation, He knew He would eventually have a necessity for a disciple who would be just like Him. Hence, He had pre-planted a seed for the fulfillment of this necessity.

Long before commencing His revolutionary mission, HDH Bapji had prayed to Sadguru Muni Swami to bless Keshavlal Thakkar, from Dadukā, with a divine *mukta*.

Sadguru Muni Swami had said to Keshavlal Thakkar that, “You will be blessed with two sons but *ādhā tumārā*, *ādhā hamārā* (Half is yours and half is ours).” According to this blessing *ādhā hamārā* (Half is Ours) is none other than our beloved HH Swamishri.

The auspicious day for the manifestation of Bhagwan Swaminarayan’s *Anādimukta* had finally arrived. This divine *mukta* manifested on *samvat* 2015 Āso sud 9 after 1 a.m. in the village of Dadukā at the home of Keshavlal Thakkar and Narmadaba.

On this wintery night, everyone experienced a soothing divinity from the manifestation of Shriji Maharaj’s *Anādimukta*. Mother Narmadaba and father Keshavlabhai were also overjoyed.

Sadguru Muni Swami, Himself, offered *vartmān* to this divine *mukta* and named Him as Ghanshyam. Since childhood, this divine *mukta* astonished everyone with His unique bond with Maharaj.

He earned immense *rājipo* and became very dear to Sadguru Muni Swami, Sadguru Muktajivan Swamibapa and HDH Bapji by living a consistently divine and saintly life from childhood till His youth.

Then the time had finally come for fulfilling the purpose of His manifestation. Ghanshyambhai became ready to accept HDH Bapji’s discipleship.

This auspicious day was *samvat* 2034 Chaitra sud 9 (i.e. Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1978). It marked the first meeting of the extraordinary guru and the extraordinary disciple at the *Motā* mandir. This awakened the revolutionary mission of making Kāran Satsang worldwide. This union was engraved in the history of Kāran Satsang in golden words.

**“Pratham ni prit hati, pratham melāp thayo;**

**Dipak je prem tano, achānak pragtāi gayo.”**

**“It only seemed like the first meeting, but the bond was eternal  
So the candle of divine affection was immediately enlightened.”**

In just the first meeting, Ghanshyambhai was mesmerized and bond by HDH Bapji’s extraordinary persona. Then, to achieve true discipleship, Ghanshyambhai started going to HDH Bapji’s *āsan* for His discourses. He started connecting with HDH Bapji in a bond of *ātmabuddhi*. HDH Bapji’s divinity and deep affection pulled Ghanshyambhai towards Him.

Ghanshyambhai had become bound to an eternal bond with HDH Bapji, hence, other than the time for His studies, He would spend the rest of His time with HDH Bapji. After finishing His readings at 10 p.m., at the Gujarat University library, Ghanshyambhai would go for HDH Bapji’s preaching every day. It was as though He had made HDH Bapji His own so, He could not afford to stay away from Him.

The moment that Shriji Maharaj had pre-planned had finally arrived in Ghanshyambhai’s life.

On September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1980, at 11:30 p.m. HDH Bapji was seated at the entrance of the Ghanshyamnagar temple with a few youngsters. He was giving them courage and inspiration to become a sant. But, unfortunately, Ghanshyambhai was not present at that time. HDH Bapji remembered Him and said, “I wish to make Ghanshyambhai a sant.”

Just as HDH Bapji declared this wish, Ghanshyambhai’s elder brother, Jagdishbhai came to the temple for darshan. HDH Bapji told

Jagdishbhai to grant Ghanshyambhai permission to become a sant.

Jagdishbhai humbly replied, “Can You make me a sant instead of Ghanshyambhai? He is the only well-educated individual in our home. So, everyone has high expectations from Him. Our home’s financial situation is also not that well, so if He obtains some good employment, our situation would improve. Hence, swami, make me a sant instead.”

“No, Maharaj’s wish is to make Ghanshyam a sant, not you. Muni Swami had already chosen Ghanshyam for the *sevā* of Maharaj’s *sankalp* right from the start. So don’t wait for any longer. The time has ripened. Help Him get permission from your home to become a sant.”

Learning about HDH Bapji’s wish, Jagdishbhai went home and told Ghanshyambhai about it. Ghanshyambhai exclaimed, “Maharaj has also been expressing this same wish for the past three days by repetitively giving me darshan and saying, ‘Now the time has ripened to fulfill the purpose of your manifestation. So, leave your home behind and become a sant. Don’t delay any further.’”

Like so, the purpose for which Maharaj had brought Ghanshyambhai was soon approaching. Shriji Maharaj and HDH Bapji gave signs of this to Ghanshyambhai.

On the auspicious night of October 7<sup>th</sup>, 1980 HDH Bapji phoned His beloved disciple and immediately called Him to the Ghanshyamnagar temple. Upon His arrival, they sat down on the benches on the right side of the temple. At the stroke of midnight, HDH Bapji told His most beloved disciple, Ghanshyambhai, “What are You here for and what are You doing? The time has ripened to join Maharaj’s *sankalp*, so come on, we cannot afford to delay any further.”

At that time Ghanshyambhai was studying to become a chartered accountant. The final exams were soon approaching, so He asked

HDH Bapji about what to do next, “Swami, only 15 days left until my chartered accountant final exams begin. I have been working very hard for the past four years in this chartered accounting course. So, if it’s alright with You, I will come right after giving my exams. However, this is only a request. I will do whatever makes You happy.”

In an instant, HDH Bapji commanded His future successor, “You haven’t come here for doing these worldly audits. Your manifestation is solely for doing the audits of infinite souls and signaling them off to the bliss of *Murti*. Hence, get ready! The time has ripened to fulfill the purpose that Maharaj has brought us here for. Maharaj and Bapa are calling You. So, come on.”

Just as a spear pierces through the air, HDH Bapji’s words pierced through Ghanshyambhai instantly. Right at that moment, Ghanshyambhai joined the mission for which He had been brought. Within a few days, HDH Bapji granted Him *pārshad dikshā* and He embarked upon a revolutionary journey, with His guru, for the propagation of Maharaj’s principles.

It wouldn’t be long before this pair of guru and disciple would establish a strong foundation for Kāran Satsang. Moreover, Ghanshyam Bhagat’s colleague, Mansukhbhai also left his studies of becoming a company secretary, surrendered himself to HDH Bapji and also became a part of this revolutionary mission.

HDH Bapji wanted to give His disciple the *sevā* of bringing an innovation in His revolutionary mission and to enlighten all the devotees about Maharaj and Bapashri’s principles. However, this required Ghanshyam bhagat to be given sant *dikshā*, so He placed this proposal at the *Motā* mandir but much opposition arose.

The opposers who detested Bapashri knew that if this pair of guru and disciple was to become one, they would initiate drastic changes within the sect and take Bapashri’s principles beyond the horizon. So, they did not want to grant HDH Bapji’s disciple sant *dikshā*, at

any cost.

They repetitively denied the proposals and made sure that no conclusions were reached despite the numerous meetings.

After endless tries for about two and a half months, this remarkable *Satpurush* fearlessly confronted the opposers and set a new milestone in His revolutionary mission.

With reference to Bhagwan Swaminarayan's own principle stated in the 18<sup>th</sup> Vachanāmṛut of the Vadtāl chapters, the two *pārshads* were to be granted sant *dikshā* in front of Shriji Maharaj's *Murti*, who is the true God, guru, preacher, and acharya of all.

With accordance to the principle that Bhagwan Swaminarayan is always omnipresent through His *Murti*, the auspicious sant *dikshā* ceremony began at 4 p.m. on *samvat* 2036 Māgshar sud 11 (December 18<sup>th</sup>, 1980) at the Ghanshyamnagar temple.

To validate the principle of His omnipresence and to personally give the sant *dikshā* Bhagwan Swaminarayan, Himself, elucidated His presence in His divine form.

Bhagwan Swaminarayan, Himself, came and gave *pārshad* Ghanshyam Bhagat the pious saffron cloth (*bhagwā vastra*) of a sant. He then took the flower garland from His neck and adorned it on Ghanshyam Bhagat's neck. Finally, Bhagwan Swaminarayan took the *chāndlo* from His forehead with His thumb and placed it on Ghanshyam Bhagat's forehead.

Bhagwan Swaminarayan then showered His blessings by saying, "I am granting You this *dikshā* with my own hands. I will fulfill all Your salvation related *sankalps* even if they are for malicious and sinful souls. I will make them worthy of the bliss of My *Murti*. I will always be by Your side."

Solely according to Shriji Maharaj's *sankalp*, Ghanshyam Bhagat was given the name "Sadhu Satyasankalpdas" by HDH Bapji. This



is none other than our beloved HH Swamishri. The other sant was named “Sadhu Bhaktvatsaldas”. From this moment HDH Bapji’s revolutionary mission accelerated.

HDH Bapji always prayed to Shriji Maharaj that, “Please gift me with one extraordinary sant...” This wish was fulfilled that day.

This inexplicable moment was engraved in the sect’s history forever in golden words. All the opposers’ attempts eventually fell short and this extraordinary pair of guru and disciple finally came to be.

There was no need for anyone nor were there any more worries. Only one aim remained; to globally propagate Bhagwan Swaminarayan and Bapashri’s principles. With this aim in mind, this extraordinary pair of guru and disciple initiated a revolutionary era in the sect’s history.

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Despite HDH Bapji being the guru of millions, He showers immense happiness and extols the tremendous glory of HH Swamishri.

He would tell all His sants and devotees that, “Always keep your vision fixed on Swamishri. If He scolds you or points out your mistakes, consider it for your well-being. I won’t have to point out your mistakes as much, but Swami (HH Swamishri) will, so perceive profound divinity in Him.”

“Even if you search infinite universes, you will never be able to find a sant like this swami.”

“If you place the sants of the entire sect on a side and this swami on the other, Swami’s side would still be stronger.”

“No one is as gracious as Swami... Whoever pleases Him will become spiritually prosperous.”

“Maharaj, Himself, has specially sent Swami here.”

“This swami has a *sthiti of parbhāv*. He has come from *parbhāv* and has brought *parbhāv* and divinity along with Him. This is why He is determined to make everyone consolidate *parbhāv*. He has immersed all the sants and devotees in pure divinity.”

Even though the Guru, HDH Bapji, has praised the disciple with His own mouth, this has not subsided HDH Bapji’s greatness at all; in fact, it has amplified it.

• • •

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012, HDH Bapji declared HH Swamishri as the future successor *Satpurush* of SMVS amongst a congregation of thousands. He told everyone about HH Swamishri’s glory and expressed His internal fondness for Him.

“Everyone should understand this swami’s glory. Ever since Swami has arrived, He has not let me face the slightest of adversities. I don’t have any idea of how these grand festivals and large temples are constructed. Swami always takes care of everything. Ever since I have given Swami these responsibilities, He has never taken a single step against my will. Whenever Swami comes to me with extensive planning and if I deny it, He would immediately draw a permanent red line across it without an argument. He would never propose the same plan ever again. This swami always lives according to My wish so you should all obey His commands. Always keep your vision fixed on pleasing Him. I have passed on all the spiritual and social power of attorney of this organization to this swami. I have declared Him as my future successor, as the *Satpurush* of Kāran Satsang and as the leader of the SMVS organization. All the important decisions of this organization will be taken by Him in the future. So, always live in accordance with His likings and commands. Follow all the rules He gives you and always please Him immensely. I always urge My sants and devotees to acquire virtues just like Him. For this, always keep your vision fixed on Him.”

Infinite salutations at the divine feet of an extravagant *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, for gifting the entire Kāran Satsang family with a continuous lineage of *Satpurushes* by making HH Swamishri His future successor *Satpurush* and by giving Him the heritage of His divine altruistic traits.

### —Did You Know?—

HDH Bapji sings the glory of HH Swamishri and HH Swamishri sings the glory of HDH Bapji. This unique pair of guru and disciple teaches us the status of an ideal guru and the life of an ideal disciple. Today, the interaction between this pair submerges many devotees and aspirants in divinity.



# 24

## THE TRUTH OF TRUE HAPPINESS

A divine sant like HDH Bapji is a well-wisher for all those who strive for salvation.

Whoever comes in contact with Him, no matter how bitter the truth sounds, but for their betterment, He would always be insistent on being veracious.

In the year of 1975, Sagardanbhai's uncle, Jabardanji had come to visit his home. Jabardanji was an impromptu poet, and he was also the son of a prominent religious poet named Esardanji.

Esardanji's religious zeal and enormous devotion towards God had earned him the title, "Eshra Parmeshwara." Jabardanji had also become an impromptu poet due to the culture-oriented upbringing he received from his father and also from his 55 years of experience in this field.

Sagardanbhai told Jabardanji about HDH Bapji's glory as a true sant. He took Jabardanji to the new Ghanshyamnagar temple for

HDH Bapji's darshan.

When they reached the temple, HDH Bapji was preaching to a few devotees so they decided to sit in the assembly. Through the course of the preaching, Jabardanji had become completely mesmerized.

Whenever Jabardanji attended sermons from other saints, he would improvise a poem about the saints virtues and present it in front of the saints to please them.

As such, doing darshan of HDH Bapji preach, while being immersed in Maharaj's Murti, Jabardanji immediately made and recited the following verse:

**“Shree Devnandandasjinā dilmā divya Murti disti;  
Avirat bhajan-smaranmā valgi rahi jeni vrutti.”**

**“You can visualize Maharaj's Murti  
within Shree Devnandandasji's heart;  
Whose thoughts are continuously  
engaged in prayer and devotion.”**

Upon reciting his poem, he thought to himself, “Swami is very great. He has such a strong bond with Maharaj. After hearing my poem, surely He will praise me in front of everyone.” Just the thought of being praised got him excited. Nevertheless, HDH Bapji's response was not as he had expected.

The true motherly figure, HDH Bapji, did not praise him as it would become fuel for his enormous ego.

According to age, Jabardanji was older than HDH Bapji and he was also a prominent poet by profession. Despite such, HDH Bapji administered him a dose of bitter medicine to cure his disease of arrogance, “Jabardanji, Your poem is not enough to please me. However, if you leave your addiction of chewing tobacco, I will be pleased on you.”

Jabardanji had a very clever and perceptive mind.



So, this incident ignited immense respect for HDH Bapji in his mind. He thought, “Until now I have gone to so many different sants, and they have all showered me with praises. However, no one has pointed out my addiction. They would all be suppressed by my poetic abilities and would not say anything to me, whereas, this honest sant directly attacked my bad habit. Indeed, only an honest sant can convey the message of true happiness.”

The way HDH Bapji pointed out, Jabardanji’s flaw felt as sweet as honey to him. He immediately resolved to never chew tobacco again.

By listening to HDH Bapji’s preaching on where true happiness lies, he was engrossed in HDH Bapji’s glory. He overcame his addiction and made four stanzas which recited HDH Bapji’s greatness.

• • •

“*Muktos*, we should never fail to follow any of the commands indicated to us by Shreeji Maharaj. We should always persist in observing the five commandments: *Dāru, māti, chori, averi, vatlavu nahi and vatlāvavu nahi* (i.e. vow of non-consumption of liquor, vow of not eating Non-veg food, vow of not committing theft, vow of the observance of celibacy, not to proselytize or not to get proselytized). These commandments should be faithfully followed under any circumstances. Thus as devotees, we should never consume alcohol or have any other type of addiction. An addiction even as small as drinking tea is prohibited, then the prohibition of any other addiction is obviously implied. We should never consume outside food that has not been sifted or filtered. We should also never consume non-vegetarian food.

Whatever we do, we must do it with complete integrity and honesty. Always acknowledge Maharaj’s omnipresence.”

HDH Bapji does not only deliver discourses about the commandments but whenever He is on His religious travels He also preaches with such persistence. His preaching for one’s well-being

would inspire many sants and devotees. They would realize their mistakes and turn towards a divine life.

Once there was a *bāl sanchālak* (conductor of children assembly) training and HDH Bapji had come to shower His blessings. The *sanchālaks* delivered speeches and welcomed HDH Bapji into the program. HDH Bapji showed a wish to say a few words. Then HDH Bapji said, “You are all *sanchālaks* for children. Therefore, Your life needs to be very ideal. The children will learn from you. Whatever virtues you teach the children should not only stay in your preaching but these virtues should be consolidated in your life as well. We detest individuals whose actions don’t match their words. Accordingly, always live a virtuous life.”

Just like this, HDH Bapji, persistently emphasizes courtesy in the life of all His devotees by philanthropically preaching to them for their well-being.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of a remarkable *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, who like a mother, always convey the truth for everyone’s well-being.**



# 25

## BEYOND HUMILIATION AND PRAISE

Between the years of 1984 and 1985, HDH Bapji and HH Swamishri were on their religious travels in the Panchmahāl region. On the way, HDH Bapji sitting in the passenger seat, of the jeep, saw a board which read, ‘Shree Swaminarayan Mandir.’ With the mere wish to do *Thākorji’s* darshan, HDH Bapji asked the driver to pull into the temple.

It was 4 O’clock in the evening, at which time the curtains open for *Thākorji’s* darshan so HDH Bapji said to the sants and devotees, “Let’s go do *Thākorji’s* darshan.”

The jeep quickly entered the temple’s premises. A couple of sants who were sitting outside the temple saw the jeep pull into their premises and immediately read ‘Swaminarayan Mandir, Ghanshyamnagar’ written on it. Even before the jeep came to a stop they recognized HDH Bapji sitting in the passenger seat. One of the sant immediately screamed, “Shut all the doors, the segregates (*vimukh*) are here. They

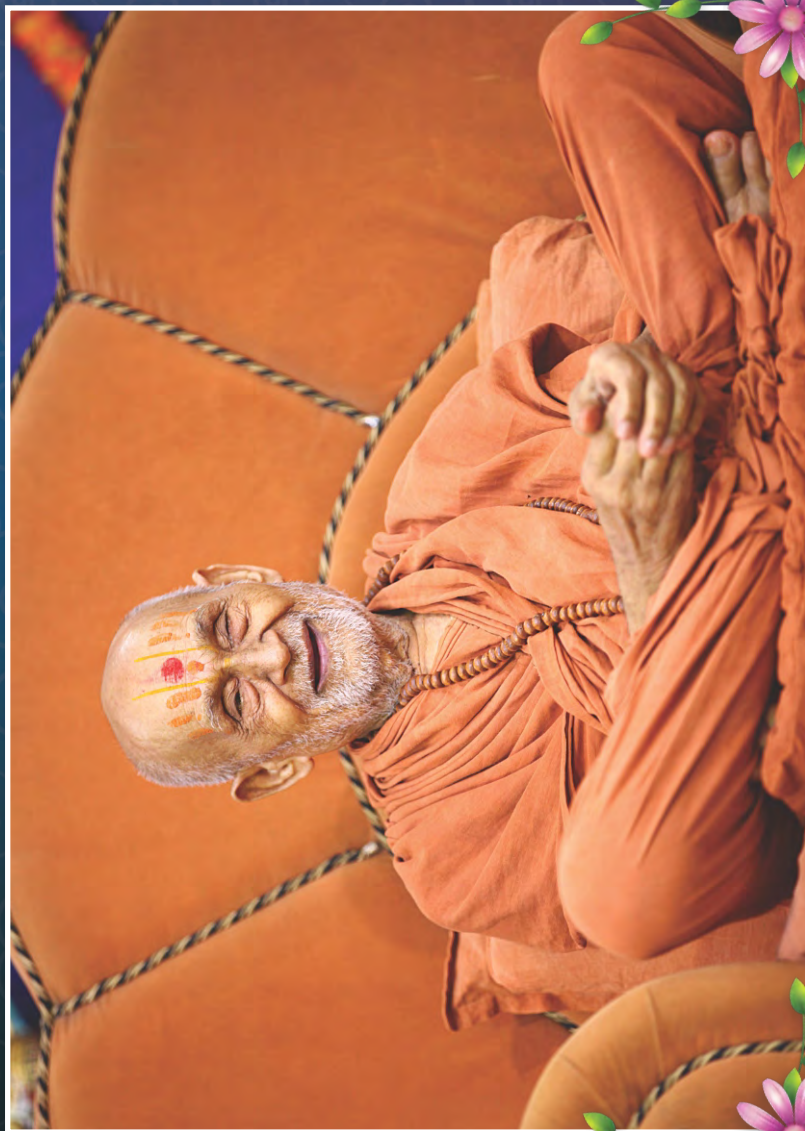
will make our temple impure.” The sants rushed to shut the main doors.

HDH Bapji, who always considered equanimity in respect or hatred, approached the group of sants and said “*Dayālu*, Jay Swaminarayan. Rāji rahejo...” (This is a salutation mostly used by the sants and devotees of SMVS) He continued to approach the temple despite receiving silence as an answer. An accompanying devotee said, “*Dayālu*, the doors are shut. Where will we go? They do not like our presence, so let’s leave from here.”

Then, HDH Bapji replied, “The doors may be shut but *Thākorji* is still present. So let us do darshan from the outside.” Without further ado, HDH Bapji did five prostrations from outside the main doors of the temple. He then proceeded toward the jeep after saying, “Jay Swaminarayan” to the sants again.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of a kindhearted *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, who always looks beyond all insults.**









“He who endures the disrespect of mere humans, despite being full of virtues, is a great virtue in itself. Because no one can keep one's own qualities hidden. One who can do so is known to be a great personality.”

(27<sup>th</sup> Vachanāmrut of the Gadhadā First Chapters)

- Bhagwan Swaminarayan

# 26

## EQUANIMITY IN ALL SITUATIONS

Equanimity in respect and insult, equanimity in happiness and sadness

Few years after being freed from the sect's obligations, HDH Bapji faced great opposition and hatred everywhere He went.

The villagers wouldn't allow Him to enter temples, reside in their villages or even hold discourses anywhere. He would be forced to leave with an enormous number of insults and hatred. Despite these challenging times, HDH Bapji never lost hope and continued to travel to distant villages.

In the year of 1989, our HDH Bapji and HH Swamishri went to the divine district of Kutch. It is the land which Jivānpran Bapashri has blessed with His manifestation and divine presence.

HDH Bapji and HH Swamishri had gone to visit a sacred place in Kutch with the purpose of doing *satsang*. When HDH Bapji, along with the other sants and devotees were about to leave after doing

darshan, they saw that a religious assembly was going on for 10-15 devotees.

The elder sant, who was preaching in the assembly, respectfully received HDH Bapji. “Jay Swaminarayan Swami... Welcome to the assembly.”

The elder sant was delighted to see HDH Bapji as he was aware of HDH Bapji’s saintliness.

HDH Bapji touched the feet of the elder sant and took a seat in the assembly.

The sant requested, “Swami, please give us a chance to listen to your sermon.”

HDH Bapji turned to HH Swamishri and said, “Swami, go and preach at the devotees in this assembly.” HH Swamishri felt a little uneasy because it is not appropriate if the Guru is present and the disciple gives a discourse.

However, acknowledging the wish of HDH Bapji, HH Swamishri started preaching. According to HDH Bapji’s command, HH Swamishri started preaching about Jeevanprān Bapashri’s glory. A younger sant saw this and disliked the fact that another group’s sants had come into their temple. It had only been 5 minutes since HH Swamishri had started giving the discourse when a strong opposer went to the back of the assembly and signalled HDH Bapji to come outside. There was pure resentment and anger in the opposer’s eyes and face.

When HDH Bapji neared the opposer, the opposer started showering words full of bitterness and insults on HDH Bapji by saying things like, “Is this Your temple? How dare you enter this temple? With whose permission did you come here? You made this temple impure by coming here! Why did you even sit in this assembly? Leave this place immediately! Don’t waste another minute.” As such, he spoke to HDH Bapji in an inappropriate manner with an array of extremely

bitter words.

Although the sant was younger in age, HDH Bapji did not utter a single word against him and quietly stood there with His hands folded.

HH Swamishri was giving the discourse in the assembly but His attention was continuously at the back, where this incident was taking place. He had an instinct that the opposer was saying something displeasing to HDH Bapji, so He immediately ended the assembly and hurriedly went to the back. By then, the opposer had stopped quarreling. HH Swamishri had a profound reverence for HDH Bapji, so how could He bear it if someone said a single offensive word to HDH Bapji? Thus, HH Swamishri became furious but before He could go and confront the opposer, HDH Bapji abruptly stopped Him and pulled Him to the side.

HH Swamishri asked HDH Bapji, “*Dayālu*, please tell me what was he saying to you?”

HDH Bapji ignored the question and said, “Nothing. Swami, don’t say anything against them! Come on, we are getting late. Let’s go sit in the car.”

HH Swamishri and the devotees again requested Him to tell them what had happened, but HDH Bapji who always considered equanimity in respect or hatred; happiness or sorrow felt the same equanimity in the opposer’s disrespectful words.

HDH Bapji simply responded by saying, “He was just asking how I was. He requested us not to leave without having lunch but, I declined because we are getting late.”

An accompanying devotee who had actually witnessed the whole incident pulled HH Swamishri to the side and told Him the entire truth.

So, HH Swamishri went near HDH Bapji and said with sheer respect and teary eyes, “But Bapji, how can I bear if anybody insults

you?”

“No Swami do not utter a single word against the opposer. We have to quietly tolerate anything that comes in our way. Maharaj has commanded us in the Shikshāpatri that, “A sant must endure all the insults and hatred that come his way. In return for the insults, he must only wish for the opposer’s well-being but he shall never think ill of anyone.””

It doesn’t matter what the opposer may have said, but he is still a sant of Shriji Maharaj after all. So there is no need to say anything against him,” said HDH Bapji.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of a non-egoistic *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, who showers blessings over even those who insult or show hatred towards Him and who still prays for Maharaj to be pleased on them.**





# 27

## EFFORTLESSLY GRANTING SALVATION

Many souls are granted salvation through the contact of a divine *Satpurush* like HDH Bapji. The contact could be direct or indirect; through His darshan, His discourses, His touch, and His *sankalp*, by the smallest *sevā* done for Him or even by coming in contact with the wind which has touched Him. Countless incidences give evidence of such divinity in HDH Bapji.

In 1984-85 HDH Bapji and HH Swamishri were on their religious travels in the Nalkanthā region. One evening, they arrived at the Sānkodrā temple.

HDH Bapji started giving His discourse to the devotees there, “Bhagwan Swaminarayan is the one and only ruler of all the universes. His greatness is mentioned in the 72<sup>nd</sup> Vachanāmṛut of the Gadhadā first chapters.” Within a short period of time, the whole temple was packed with countless aspirants.

Soon, night rolled in and a cold breeze occupied the atmosphere.

HDH Bapji's warmth filled sermon made everyone experience the ultimate bliss. His persistence to preach doubled upon observing the aspirants enthusiastically participate during His sermon.

It was already 2:30 a.m. and His endless flow of preaching was still going on. His inexplicable eagerness to explain the true form of Bhagwan Swaminarayan affected everyone in the assembly. They were enticed by seeing such a true sant.

A devotee raised his hand from the assembly and respectfully said, "Swami, Your talks have truly captivated us. We do not feel like getting up, we want to keep on listening but You must be tired so please take some rest." Meanwhile, another devotee interrupted and said, "Swami, we have heard the discourses of many sants but this is the first time we have seen a true sant like you; whose words match their actions. We want to do your *sevā* but it's very late. So, please hold an assembly tomorrow morning and leave only after doing *Thākorji's thāl* and having a meal."

The assembly eventually came to an end. All the devotees went home, completed their morning routine, did their puja and came right back to the temple in time for *manglā ārti*. Here at the temple, HDH Bapji and HH Swamishri also did the same. Right after *manglā ārti*, the assembly commenced again. After the morning assembly ended, the devotees brought groceries to prepare a meal. On one side, HDH Bapji was personally sitting with some devotees and on the other HH Swamishri had started the preparations for cooking. At that time, a poor elderly barber came and stood by the kitchen door.

He requested, "Swami, I am very poor. I am not capable of providing you with all the groceries to make a full meal, but I have brought a hand full of rice here. Will you accept it? I wish that You cook this rice, offer it to *Thākorji* and then to HDH Bapji. It would give me great pleasure if You accept my *sevā*."

HH Swamishri was pleased by the pure desire-less devotion of

this devotee. HH Swamishri took the rice, mixed it with lentil and prepared khichri out of it.

After offering the thāl to *Thākorji*, HDH Bapji sat down to have a meal. While serving, HH Swamishri told Him about the elderly man, “Bapji, a poor old man of the village brought a hand full of rice for *Thākorji’s thāl* and he prayed to also offer it to You. He said it would make him happy if his wish was fulfilled.” HDH Bapji also became pleased with the desire-less devotion of this devotee.

HH Swamishri prayed to HDH Bapji on behalf of the devotee, “Bapji, this devotee has done Your *sevā* with a pure heart so please grant him ultimate salvation. Please put him in the same bliss which You reside in.”

HDH Bapji immediately showered His blessings, “Oh Maharaj! In exchange for a hand full of rice please take him to Your abode, Akshardhām, and give him the ultimate bliss of Your *Murti*.” After the meal, HDH Bapji and HH Swamishri moved forward on their religious travel.

Four to six months later, the poor old man fell ill. The illness stayed for a few days and soon his last breaths were being taken. Suddenly, he started having darshan of Bhagwan Swaminarayan, HDH Bapji and HH Swamishri in their luminous forms. He was overjoyed and said to his relatives, “Look! Look! Bhagwan Swaminarayan has come to take me to Akshardhām. With Him is the great sant who had come to our village and the other sants as well. They are showing me a hand full of rice and are saying we have come to take you to Akshardhām in exchange for this. I am going now... Jay Swaminarayan.” These were his last words.

Like so, Shriji Maharaj and HDH Bapji graciously pulled the man’s soul out of his body and placed him in the bliss of *Murti*. This is their unique way of easily giving salvation to the soul without any cost.

On the occasion of the inauguration ceremony of the Dabholi temple located in Surat, Gujarat, HDH Bapji had bestowed blessings that, “Oh Maharaj! On this auspicious occasion whoever does your darshan, listens to the discourses, eats the prasada, or even places a foot in this temple’s premises; Oh Maharaj! Make this their last birth and bless them with the bliss of your *Murti*.”

Jitubhai Madhubhai Patel’s mother, Rukhiben Madhubhai Patel, was also accounted for in these blessings.

She was a 70-year-old lady who lived in the Manipurā village of the Khākhariyā district. She was irreligious, had no knowledge of Bhagwan Swaminarayan and so she did not have any faith in Him. In fact, she was highly addicted to tea and tobacco. However, due to her relatives’ endless requests, she had attended the inauguration ceremony and fortunately became a part of HDH Bapji’s divine blessings.

On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 Rukhiben returned to Manipurā from Surat. She started to have difficulty in breathing so she was admitted to the hospital for two days. Upon feeling better she was taken back home.

Early dawn at 3 a.m. on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December, Rukhiben called her nephew with a scream and said, “Look! Swaminarayan Bhagwan and Jitu’s Guru has come to take me. I am going... Jay Swaminarayan.” Saying this much, she closed her eyes forever.

Meanwhile, Rukhiben’s other nephew Prakashbhai Patel’s wife, Hansāben, was at Swaminarayan Dhām attending an AYP Camp. Upon receiving the news on the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup>, she went to Kadi right away. She had planned to go to Manipurā the next morning and went to sleep at 12:30 in the night. Shortly after she had shut her eyes, she began having darshan of Swaminarayan Bhagwan in His luminous form and besides Him was Rukhiben.

Hansaben asked her, “Grandmother, why are you looking so

happy?” Rukhiben replied, “Maharaj and Jitu’s Guru had come to take me. I am experiencing the ultimate bliss of *Murti* now, thus I am extremely happy.”

Hansaben always doubted whether Rukhiben would attain salvation, but this incident washed away all her doubts. Just as Alaiya Khachar’s servant, Jehlo had given proof of being placed in the bliss of *Murti*, Rukhiben gave a similar confirmation to Hansaben.

By merely coming in the blessing of a divine *Satpurush* like HDH Bapji, Rukhiben received ultimate salvation despite being non-religious. This is the effortless path to salvation which Shriji Maharaj has opened through His *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji.

• • •

Even today, HDH Bapji continues to submerge infinite aspirants in His blessings of ultimate salvation.

When HDH Bapji is on His religious travels, He would specially be on a lookout for devotees and sants traveling by foot. Merciful blessings would easily flow for these aspirants, “Oh Maharaj! These travellers may have faith in other deities, but they are faithful aspirants. It doesn’t matter if their devotion is full of desires or is desire-less. They have also not consolidated an understanding of Your supremacy but shower Your mercy upon them so that they can come to understand Your true form. Bring them into Kāran Satsang and make this their last life.”

Many travellers on whom these blessings were showered are at present becoming a part of Kāran Satsang. They are consolidating the supremacy of Bhagwan Swaminarayan and attaining the status of an *Anādimukta*.

**Infinite salutations to an ocean of compassion, HDH Bapji, who showers the grace of granting ultimate salvation to infinite souls.**



# 28

## MAHARAJ'S DHARMADO FOR MAHARAJ

In January 1987, the construction of the grand *shikharbaddh* Vāsna temple was near completion. HDH Bapji and HH Swamishri, along with three devotees went to Jaipur to get Ghanshyam Maharaj's *Murti* for the inauguration of the new temple.

Before leaving for Jaipur, HDH Bapji informed the sants residing at the temple that, "We will return in the evening after three days."

In Jaipur, it took longer than expected to complete the molding of Shriji Maharaj's *Murti*. So, HDH Bapji and others couldn't return back by the anticipated day. Also, during those times, there were no phones available to inform the sants back at the temple of this delay.

So, on the third day, having not received the message about their delay, the sants at the Vāsna temple had prepared dinner for them that evening.

Since they didn't arrive that evening, their portion of the dinner was leftover. HDH Bapji, HH Swamishri, and the devotees returned from Jaipur the next morning.

The sants had prepared a hot meal in the morning for *Thākorji's thāl*. After offering the meal to *Thākorji*, HDH Bapji sat down to have a meal.

While the sants were serving the fresh food to HDH Bapji, He said, “Sants, give me the leftover meal from yesterday evening, not this hot meal. I will have the cold meal right now, and I shall consume this fresh meal in the evening.”

The sants answered, “Bapji, we had prepared *rotlo* yesterday and since only a few have been leftover we have thrown them away.”

At that time, HDH Bapji taught an important lesson to the sants and the three devotees standing outside the sant's kitchen; Natha kaka, Shankar dada and Kantibhai. He said, “Sants and devotees, if someone gives us *dharmādo* or donates merely 25 to 50 paisā in the donation box or even donates grain, vegetables or fruits, it is all considered to be *Thākorji's dharmādo*, like this there shouldn't be any wastage or misuse of it. Devotees do extremely hard work to make an earning. And so, if they give us *dharmādo* from it then it is our responsibility to ensure that their donations reach Shriji Maharaj. If we embezzle the donation money or if any don't convey it to Shriji Maharaj we would become Maharaj's offenders. We would have to pay that debt to Shriji Maharaj.

If we waste the food that devotees donate then we would have to take birth as an ox in their farms therefore be careful. We should never waste even a single paisa, then how can you throw away a cold *rotlo*? If the *rotlo* had hardened then we could rip them into small pieces and then fry them in buttermilk. Nevertheless, we should never think about throwing away any food. Consequently, take strong note of this in your life and apologize to Shriji Maharaj for today's mistake.”

HDH Bapji taught the sants an important lesson, “When our organization's condition is economically weak, we should obviously ensure that there is no misuse or wastage of the *dharmādo*. But when our conditions are prosperous, where milk is offered when we ask for water, when devotees are ready to sacrifice everything they own

for us, when every devotee is capable of funding the construction of entire temples, during such time, caring for each and every paisa of the *dharmādo* is equal to caring for the devotees' sentiments and feelings.”

Up until 80 years of age, whenever HDH Bapji visited any SMVS temple, by all means, He would visit and inspect the sants' and devotees' kitchen and fridge to ensure the usage of the food items.

If He spots any spoiling food, He would be profoundly disappointed and He would get it taken care of immediately. He would make the sants and devotees recognize its significance. “Sants, many devotees are not privileged enough to eat fruits at home however, they still bring fruits and other such items for Shriji Maharaj and us. Thus, it is our responsibility to make sure it is not wasted. It disheartens us if a single rupee or a single grain that has been donated to us gets wasted.”

HDH Bapji would also ensure that there is no spoilage of any fruits that have been received as donations from *Zolisevā*<sup>1</sup>. He would first separate the raw and ripe fruits, then He would consider the fruits which have slightly started spoiling and distribute them amongst the staff members, kids and devotees and please them. As such, He would assure that there is not even the slightest wastage of food which has come as a donation.

Moreover, when emptying bags of grain if some grains are spilled on the ground, HDH Bapji would ensure that each grain is picked up, collected and clean by the devotees, and sometimes even does it Himself. That's not all, HDH Bapji also ensures that grains found while sweeping the floors are also collected and cleaned.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of an extraordinary *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, who ensures that every single penny and every piece of grain that has been donated reaches Shriji Maharaj.**

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1 For achieving ultimate salvation individuals donate money, grains, pulses, fruits, etc. to god and sants according to their will.

# 29

## INCOMPARABLE LOVE

HDH Bapji is the spiritual mother of the entire SMVS family. His motherly love is truly worth seeing and experiencing.

One early morning at 5:45 am HDH Bapji was reading the Vachanāmṛut at His *āsan* at the Vāsna temple. Suddenly, He called His accompanying sant (sevak sant) and told Him to go and call a particular sant to His *āsan*.

That particular sant was heartily praying to Maharaj and HDH Bapji in his *pujā*.

The sevak sant went near the particular sant and said, “Bapji is calling you.”

After completing his *pujā*, the sant quickly went to HDH Bapji’s *āsan*. He prostrated before HDH Bapji, stood near Him with folded hands and looked into His eyes.

With a slight smile, HDH Bapji asked, “Are you happy my son?”

Just upon hearing these words, the sant was so touched that tears filled his eyes. He thought to himself, “Bapji called me over even before I finished praying to Him in my *pujā*.” At this thought, tears fell from his eyes.

Seeing the sant’s tears, HDH Bapji asked, “My son, why are you so sad?” He pulled the sant towards Him and hugged him.

The sant remained silent, so HDH Bapji again asked, “My son, do you have any problems or any worries?”

He then wiped the sant’s tears with His *gātadiyu*. With this loving gesture of HDH Bapji, the sant started crying even more, with the thought that, “Oh Bapji! How you care so much for us.”

With this thought, the sant remembered some of Sadguru Nishkulanand Swami’s verses of the Chosathpadi;

**“Je je harie karyu het, evu kare kon āpne re.”**

**Who would love us as Maharaj loves us.**

**“Vali same same sambhāl, jāno kare harijan ne re;**

**Biju evu kon dayāl, kā re manāy nahi man ne re.”**

**“He cares for His devotees from time to time.**

**This mind does not believe anyone**

**else to be more merciful than Him.”**

Again, HDH Bapji asked, “My son, do you have any sorrow in your life?”

The sant finally replied, “Bapji, there are no sorrows, but I am sad because I am unable to please You and HH Swamishri.”

HDH Bapji placed a hand on the sant’s head and said, “If your flaws and vices are troubling you then you do not need to worry. Maharaj is inevitable with you. Make Swamishri happy and these flaws and vices will lose their control over you. Always keep your vision fixed on Swamishri and your life will become filled with virtues.” HDH Bapji embraced the sant again.



Just like how a mother worries about her children's well-being, HDH Bapji, the devoted mother of our souls, constantly worries about our wellbeing in *avarbhāv* and in *parbhāv*.

• • •

In the past, HDH Bapji had come to Swaminarayan Dhām to preach to the STK *muktas*.

After the assembly, all the *muktas* were in line for close up darshan of HDH Bapji. HDH Bapji was showering His blessings on these *muktas* by putting His hand on their heads. Suddenly, HDH Bapji held one of the *mukta's* hands and asked, "Are you sick? It seems like you have a fever."

The *mukta* was very surprised because he hadn't told anyone about his fever and HDH Bapji became aware of it just by touching him. While the STK *mukta* was still pondering about this, HDH Bapji called a sant and instructed him, "This *mukta* has a fever so take good care of him."

HDH Bapji turned back to the *mukta* and caringly said, "Ask the sants to make you whatever you want to eat and take your medicine on time."

When HDH Bapji was about to leave, He also called another STK *mukta* and told him, "That *mukta* has a fever, thus take good care of him and make sure he does not have any trouble."

The ill *mukta* was mesmerized by the immense motherly love and care he received from HDH Bapji.

• • •

One day, HDH Bapji had to go to Morbi for a religious event scheduled for 3:30 pm.

After the morning assembly, HDH Bapji told Rajeshbhai Abasana, "Today you will have to come with me to Morbi. Will you come after having lunch?"

Rajeshbhai replied, “Bapji, with Maharaj’s blessing I have recently bought a new house. HH Swamishri and sants have already visited my home and cooked the first meal there. But I wish to offer You a meal also. I know it is difficult for you to come to my house so instead may I sponsor today’s lunch at the Vāsnā temple, for You and the sants? And then may I have lunch at the temple as prasad? It will give me immense pleasure to have offered you a meal.”

HDH Bapji replied, “What is there to ask? This is your home. Of course, you can eat at the temple!”

HDH Bapji also called Rajubhai Thakkar and Ghanshyambhai Mirani to have lunch at the temple. After lunch, HDH Bapji and Rajeshbhai left for Morbi.

On the way, HDH Bapji asked, “Did you all eat properly? Did you like the food? How was the curry and roti?”

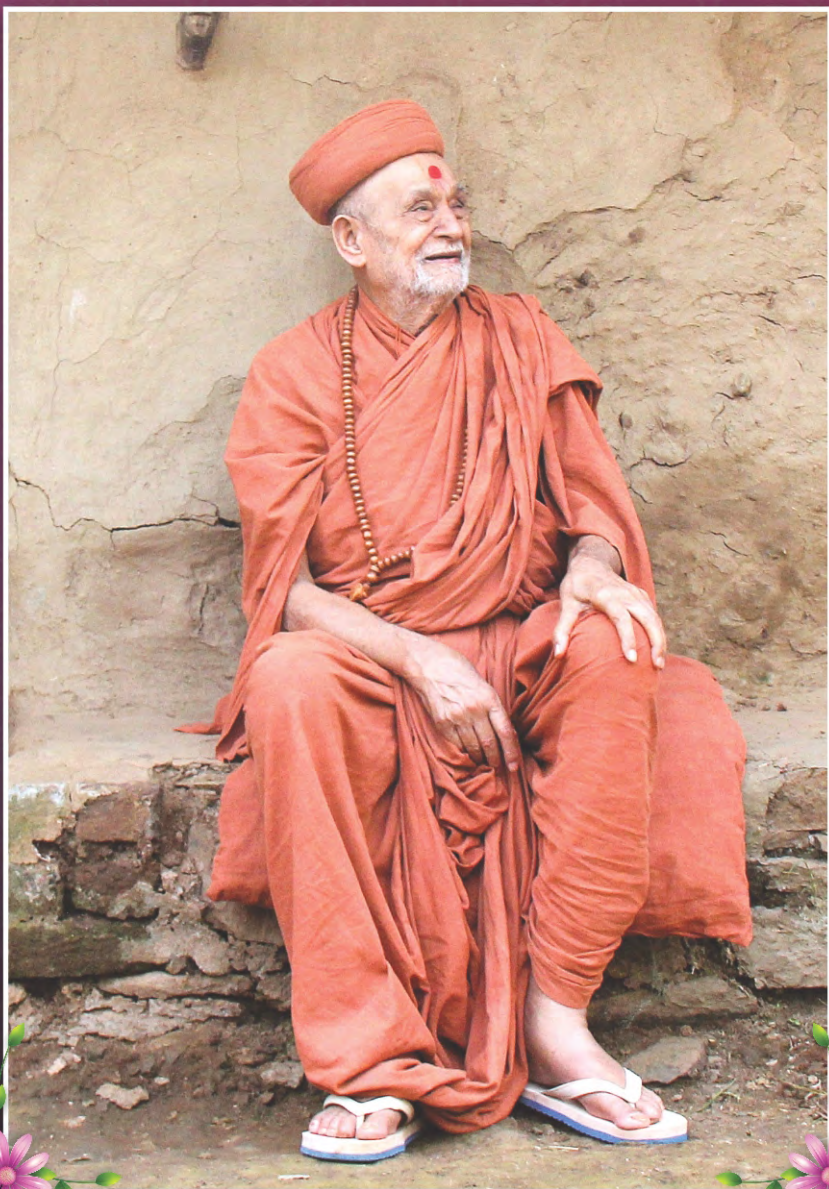
Rajeshbhai replied, “Bapji, the sants made the food, so obviously it would be delicious.” Ghanshyambhai Mirani was not with them, so HDH Bapji specially phoned him and asked, “Did you like the food? How many laddus did you eat? How many rotis did you eat?”

After the call, Rajeshbhai asked, “Bapji, I am overjoyed to have obtained this opportunity to have lunch here. But Bapji did You eat properly?”

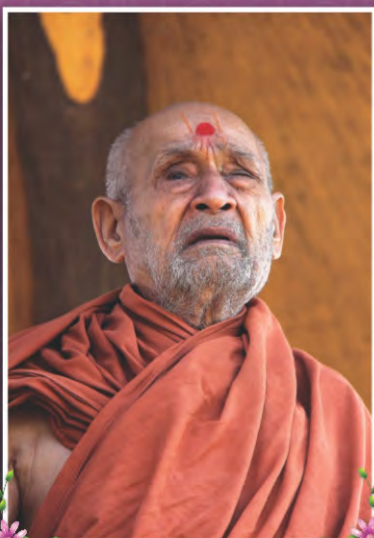
To this, HDH Bapji replied, “I am satiated because all of you ate well. I had told Siddhant Swami to first serve all of you and to make sure you don’t remain hungry. My true satisfaction is that you all ate properly!”

HDH Bapji’s love is greater than the love of millions of mothers combined. Millions of devotees experience this love every day.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of a loving and caring *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, who always loves His children unconditionally.**







“It is only befitting for a sant to do rosaries,  
read scriptures and do seva.”

- Bhagwan Swaminarayan



# 30

## SEVA IS THE BEAUTY OF A SANT

Around 1990-91, the construction of the ‘Murtidhām’ Hall (name of an assembly hall) at the Vāsna temple was in full progress. One day, HDH Bapji had a really severe fever of 103°F. He tolerated an intolerable headache and a severe stomach ache. He was unable to eat anything due to the fever. So, His body had also weakened significantly.

Despite all of this, HDH Bapji arrived at the construction site, made an *āsan* on a pile of bricks and started doing the *sevā* of removing cement from a pile of old bricks. He then lifted up a hammer and started smashing the waste chunks of bricks. His condition was so critical that even lifting the hammer made Him dizzy, yet He still continued doing *sevā*.

HH Swamishri and the devotees requested, “Bapji, please stop doing *sevā*. You have a severe headache, and you are not even able to lift your hands because your body has weakened so much. Thus,



please take some rest...”

Then, HDH Bapji replied, “When a farmer gets sick, he still goes to cultivate his fields and the fever is forced to go away.” No one was able to say anything after that. “Similarly, if I continue doing *sevā* then the fever will eventually have to go away. Nothing has happened to me. So, go and do your *sevā*. This is my command!”

He did *sevā* while sitting at the same spot from 10 O’clock in the morning until 7 O’clock in the evening. By the time He got up, He didn’t have a single ounce of strength. HH Swamishri stood still and was disheartened by HDH Bapji’s condition, but what can He say to HDH Bapji?

His eagerness for *sevā* brought tears to the eyes’ of the sants and devotees.

HH Swamishri finally gathered up the courage and requested, “Bapji, we are your disciples, so today, you will have to agree to one of our wishes. You will not do *sevā* until your illness is gone. We will take care of all the *sevā* on your behalf. We will do *sevā* for 18 hours a day if we have to, but you will not do any *sevā*.”

“Swami, a sant should never rest. It is only befitting for a sant to do *sevā*. I have always lived according to Bhagwan Swaminarayan’s likings, so please, let me do *sevā*,” replied HDH Bapji. Wow! What an extraordinary idol of *sevā*!!! An astonishing level of humbleness is seen despite being the Guru of an entire organization.

• • •

When the construction of the Murtidhām hall was in progress, some sants from another organization came to visit the Vāsṇā temple. They asked the devotees doing *sevā*, “Where is your Guru?”

The devotees said while pointing to HDH Bapji, “That is our Guru, HDH Bapji. He, Himself, tries to ensure that none of *Thākorji*’s (Lord Swaminarayan’s) things get wasted. So, He collects gravel that is lying around, gathers up sand into neat piles, picks up loose pieces of metal

wire fallen from the centering process and collects any nails that are spilled on the ground. He gets disappointed when the workers waste water, sand or cement because it is essentially wastage of *Thākorji's* resources. So, He would kindly tell the devotees or workers to stop the wastage, and if they don't listen, He would start doing the task Himself. Not only that, but He would even remove the stitches from empty cement bags, wash them and make sitting mats out of them. He would do all these *sevās* with enthusiasm and would also involve the saints and devotees. Our Guru is the idol of *sevā*."

Seeing the Guru of the entire organization doing such small *sevā's*, one of the saint asked HDH Bapji, "Why are you so keen on doing such small *sevās* even though you are the Guru of the organization?"

HDH Bapji replied, "Swami, it is only befitting for a saint to do rosaries, read scriptures and do *sevā*. It is a saint's duty to do *sevā*. Bhagwan Swaminarayan, Himself, and great saints have also performed such physical *sevās*. So, why shouldn't I? Even a *Sadguru* shines by the *sevā*."

After listening to HDH Bapji words, the saints felt great respect for Him. They bowed down to HDH Bapji with immense respect and said, "Dev Swami, your *sevā* reminds us of the *nand* saints. You seem to be an exact replica of them. Swami, with this kind of *sevā* your saintliness glimmers brightly."

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of an idol of *sevā*, HDH Bapji, who considers *sevā* as His duty and humbly performs, even the smallest *sevā* with utmost zeal.**



# 31

## IMMENSE ZEAL FOR THE PRINCIPLE

In 1986, construction of the Vāsna temple was in full spirits. It was HDH Bapji's *sankalp* to place Ghanshyam Maharaj's *Murti* in the centre portion of this *shikharbaddh* temple. The weak financial circumstances and the daily demand of the labourer's wages rose on the array of worries. How to pay the bills every day had become the burning question. During that time, even if a devotee donated merely 100 rupees, it was a delight because it would solve many problems.

Despite the financial problems, HDH Bapji was strongly determined to place only Ghanshyam Maharaj's *Murti* in the centre part of this temple and to give rise to a temple of pure supreme *upāsana* .

During such hard times, a wealthy man came to HDH Bapji one day. While giving a tempting bribe he said, "Look swami, if You place the *Murti* of another deity in the centre part of this temple, then I would immediately donate 51,000 rupees for the inauguration of this new temple." Amidst such a financial crisis where getting even

one rupee worth of donation was a question, this 51,000 rupees bribe would lure anyone.

However, HDH Bapji was not tempted at all. He stayed assertive in His principle.

He instantly replied, “Whether you donate 51 thousand, 51 lakh or even 51 crore rupees, no *Murti* of any other deity will be placed in the centre of this temple nor anywhere else on this temple’s premises. Only Swaminarayan Bhagwan and His *muktas* will be enthroned in this temple. This is Swaminarayan Bhagwan’s temple, so He will worry about its financial arrangements, but I will not compromise my principles of supremacy for the sake of money. So now, if you still wish to offer your donations it’s great and if you don’t then it’s also fine. But not today nor ever in the future will any other *Murti* be placed in this temple.”

The devotee was stunned by HDH Bapji’s persistent endeavours for the propagation of the supreme *upāsana* . He fell at HDH Bapji’s feet, folded his hands with admiration and said, “I have seen many sants in this sect, but I haven’t seen anyone who holds such strong principles or has such immense zeal for the propagation of pure *upāsana*. It’s impossible to find a sant like You in this sect. I am very proud that this Swaminarayan sect still has principled individuals like You. I consider myself very fortunate having gotten Your darshan today. Today, I have come to realize that this Swaminarayan sect is not *Satpurush*-less.”

Upon saying this much, the devotee’s eyes were filled with respect and he said to HDH Bapji, “This Swaminarayan sect is truly lustrous due to divine principled *Satpurushes* like Yourself. Bravo to your revolutionary propagation of pure *upāsana*.”

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of a remarkable *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, who continuously radiates zeal for the principle of Shriji Maharaj’s supreme *upāsana* .**

# 32

## NO ENMITY IN LIFE

In 1990, many devotees from various organizations came to attend the Vāsna temple's *pātotsav* celebration.

Amongst them, a well-dignified devotee stood up and requested, “Bapji, I want to speak to everyone for about five to ten minutes.”

HDH Bapji granted him permission. In the beginning, the devotee talked about Shriji Maharaj's glory, and then he talked about HDH Bapji's glory for a few minutes.

After that, he started to talk offensively about the *Motā* mandir with the thought that, ‘HDH Bapji has faced many adversities at the *Motā* mandir hence, if I speak ill about it then He would be pleased on me.’

Unfortunately, he had no idea that HDH Bapji was not an ordinary sant. He was an idol of benevolence as denoted in Sadguru Nishkulanand Swami's verse;



**“Sācha sant sagā sau jan nā re, udār che apār man nā re;  
Jene shatru mitra samtale re, sukhe dukhe dil mā nā dole re.”**

**A true sant is everyone’s relative and  
is very generous towards all;  
He considers a friend and a foe as equal and  
never wavers in happiness or sorrow.**

HDH Bapji has never kept enmity with anyone, so how can He tolerate someone else speaking ill-about another? HDH Bapji became angry at the devotee and interrupted, “Stop right here. If you wish to speak then, only talk about the glory and greatness of Shriji Maharaj. In our organization, we do not have any abhorrence for anyone. So, please do not talk offensively about any other organization. The microphone was not handed to you for that reason. If that is all you want to talk about, then please put the microphone down.”

Like so, HDH Bapji instantly stopped the devotee from talking ill about another organization.

Even though the devotee was well dignified, HDH Bapji did not favour him but instead, He stayed firm with His ideals.

The devotee was astonished to see the benevolence of HDH Bapji and asked for forgiveness. Then he said, “How can you still sustain this much respect for those who have given you nothing but hatred and insults. It’s truly impossible to find such a benevolent individual like Yourself in the entire universe.”

Then the devotee returned to his seat and said to the person sitting beside him, “In the entirety of His sant life, HDH Bapji has never kept prejudice for anyone no matter how rudely they may have behaved with Him. He has never ever wished malevolently for anyone. Thus, acting offensively towards anyone is obviously out of the question for Him. Bravo to such a great sadguru sant!”

As an ideal, HDH Bapji never speaks nor allows anyone to speak

ill about anyone whether they are in public or in private.

• • •

Around the year of 2012, an aspirant came to the Vāsna temple for HDH Bapji's darshan. He was formerly a sant at another organization but due to some circumstances, he had to leave his position as a sant and become a devotee again. Since he was an aspirant, he still remained in *satsang*.

After doing darshan of HDH Bapji, he started talking offensively about the organization he was previously attached to. He also started talking negatively about the Guru of that organization.

At that time, HDH Bapji interrupted him and said, "I wish to communicate to you about how to please Shriji Maharaj and also about your well-being. You will only become happy if you act according to what I say. So, now listen! How could you even think of speaking ill about the organization that you were attached to for these many years or about the Guru from whom you obtained so much knowledge? So, please do not utter another word against them in front of me or anyone else. They took care of you for these many years so you are in debt to that organization and that Guru. We must never forget even the smallest favor anyone has done for us. So, fold your hands and plead to Shriji Maharaj for forgiveness. Only then you will become happy."

The devotee was captivated by HDH Bapji's words and thought, "Wow! What remarkable wisdom! Even if other organizations speak offensively about Him, He doesn't seem to keep any enmity towards them, instead, He only wishes benevolently for them! He even tries nullifying anyone else's pessimistic vision about other organizations. Wow! He is definitely not an ordinary person nor an ordinary sant. He is truly extraordinary." He then articulated his feelings to HDH Bapji and said, "Bapji, today You have taught me the essential virtue of not having enmity with anyone. You have aided me to realize how

inappropriate my way of thinking was. From today onwards, I wish to turn back from my ill methods.”

While saying this much, the devotee became emotional with tears and bowed his head down to HDH Bapji.

HDH Bapji has never retaliated offensive behaviour with revenge but rather solely with benevolence.

HDH Bapji has always endured insults and hatred but has never even thought of taking revenge. The hatred He had endured was sometimes to such an extent that the saints and devotees who were with HDH Bapji would get enraged.

If they try to go to take revenge, HDH Bapji would calm them down and would advise them, “We should never keep hatred or enmity towards anyone. Neither should we ever wish ill of anyone. We should never leave our saintliness and always wish well for everyone. Only then Shriji Maharaj will be pleased on us.”

HDH Bapji would often preach to His saints and devotees during assemblies that, “Our Shriji Maharaj is very great! Our *Sadgurus* are also very great! Then why should we not wish greatly for others? Whether someone speaks ill of us or swears at us, we should still pray to Maharaj on their behalf by saying, ‘O Maharaj! Please change their vision, make them consolidate your supreme *upāsana* and grant them ultimate salvation in this lifetime.’ Like so, we should never think ill nor should we ever speak a single offensive word for any saints or devotees.”

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of an extraordinary *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, who has no enmity for anyone.**



# 33

## ALWAYS OMNISCIENT

A *Satpurush* omnisciently knows everyone's internal thoughts and actions. However, sometimes He lets it be known and at other times, He keeps it veiled. Just because He does not let it be known does not mean He is unaware of it. Great saints have described this virtue of a *Satpurush*, in the following lyrics;

**“Satpurush chhe antaryāmi, jeevonā antarnu jane re;  
Antar udbhavtā sankalpo, kahi dekhāde koi tāne re.”**

**A Satpurush is omniscient; He knows everything about one's inner self. At times, He reveals one's emerging internal thoughts.**

In the year of 1972, when HDH Bapji resided at the Ghanshyāmnagar temple, the financial condition of the organization was very poor. Thus, HDH Bapji used to cultivate various vegetables like field beans, luffa, ridge guard, bottle gourd and okras in the space behind the temple. One afternoon, at around 2 p.m., HDH Bapji was harvesting some field beans while standing on a table. A Sant saw this scene, shut his

eyes and thought to himself, ‘Bapji is a great *Satpurush*, so why is He doing such small *sevā*? This *sevā* should be given to a devotee instead.’ HDHBapji omnisciently heard this Sant’s thoughts, so He came inside and sat in front of the Sant. When the Sant opened his eyes, he saw HDH Bapji sitting in front him. So, he asked, “*Dayālu*, why did You come inside?” HDH Bapji replied, “What should I do? When I am picking, field beans people think, ‘Why should He be doing this *sevā*?’ But when would they ever understand I am not just picking field beans, I am also filling them with blessings. Blessings that whoever devours these beans will come into Kāran Satsang.”

This is an incident which took place when HDH Bapji resided at the Motā mandir. It was the month of Māgshar when pāṛāyans are usually held. Two brothers, Kantibhai Bhavsar and Jasubhai Bhavsar, were close disciples of HDH Bapji. They asked HDH Bapji’s opinion about starting a seasonal business. HDH Bapji granted them permission to start the business. They started selling jaggery that year and made a massive profit. One day, the two brothers were going to the temple. On the way, they had a conversation:

“Big brother, after receiving HDH Bapji’s permission for this business we have made a lot of revenue this year. Usually, we only sell four blocks of jaggery during this seasonal business period but with the blessings of HDH Bapji this year, we sold 200. The additional 196 blocks of jaggery that were sold was solely by the grace of HDH Bapji. So, brother, I think we should give *sevā* in the temple.”

“Yes brother, you are right. How much *sevā* should we do?”

“Big brother, we should donate one block of jaggery.”

“Okay.”

While having this conversation, both the brothers arrived at the temple. As soon as they stepped into the temple, HDH Bapji omnisciently said to them, “Because of Maharaj’s grace you were able to sell 200 blocks of jaggery this season and you are only going



to donate one to Maharaj?” Upon hearing this, the two brothers were shocked and thought, “The conversation we had on the route was just between us, no one else knew about it. Additionally how did Bapji come to find out? Surely, He has come to know about it through His omniscience.” They were mesmerized by HDH Bapji’s greatness and bowed down to Him. They subsequently said, “Bapji, tell us how much we should give instead.” HDH Bapji replied, “To please Maharaj, donate two blocks of jaggery instead of just one.” Accordingly, the two brothers donated two blocks of jaggery.

• • •

This is a story of Anand Swami, an elder sant of the SMVS organization who passed away and was put into the bliss of *Murti* in 2013. He was formerly known as Becharbhai before he had become a sant.

Becharbhai considered abstinence from the social world right from the beginning so when the Vāsna temple was established in 1987, he became a lifetime devotee upon HDH Bapji’s command. Whether big or small, he performed all kinda *sevā* and took really good care of the temple.

Another devotee named Somabhai Patel also did *sevā* with him at the donations office. Becharbhai’s integrity in his *sevā* had earned him HDH Bapji’s trust and blessings. As such, HDH Bapji would always consider him for any emergency *sevā* for the temple.

One day, during the month of Shrāvan a *hindolo* was set up in the temple. During the same time, a *shibir* was also arranged for all the devotees and sants of the organization. There was a unique enthusiasm amongst the sants and devotees for this *shibir*.

Since the *hindolo* was set up, there was a necessity for a devotee to be present in the temple at all times.

So, without hesitation, HDH Bapji commanded Becharbhai and Somabhai to stay behind to take care of the temple. HDH Bapji

said, “You two must stay here. Somabhai, you will take care of the donation office and Becharbhai, you will take care of the temple.” They obeyed the command, however since all the devotees and sants were going to go to the *shibir*, Becharbhai internally had a wish to go as well, but he didn’t say anything about it.

In the evening, Becharbhai was swinging Maharaj on the *hindolo*. He was thinking, “Tomorrow all the sants and devotee will go to the *shibir*. There will be a big assembly. It would be nice if HDH Bapji takes me with Him, so that way, I don’t miss this big opportunity.”

When Becharbhai was thinking about this, the omniscient, HDH Bapji, was in the basement with a few devotees. He came upstairs with an excuse to go to the bathroom, but instead went and stood in front of Becharbhai. He said, “What do you keep on pondering about? Stop thinking about coming to the *shibir*. You and Somabhai are more like family members of this organization so you have to stay back to take care of the temple. We will still give you the blessings of attending the *shibir*, so don’t think about it any further.”

The omniscience of HDH Bapji astonished him. With the blessings, he received from HDH Bapji, his thoughts of going to the *shibir* were eradicated. He became immensely happy that ‘I will get rajipo doing *sevā* and receive blessings of the *shibir* too! How graceful of Him!!!’

The next day, according to HDH Bapji’s blessings, Becharbhai experienced the same bliss of the *shibir*, while doing *sevā*, as everyone who had attended the *shibir*. He also felt as if HDH Bapji had gave him inner strength.

Just like this, HDH Bapji has omnisciently fulfilled the desires of many devotees and made them happy. HDH Bapji has also omnisciently pinpointed the flaws of many and purified them. He has easily eradicated the infinite sins from their souls.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of an omniscient *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji.**

# 34

## HEALING HOLES OF MISERIES

In the year of 1993, a faithful devotee of HDH Bapji, Haribhai Dayarambhai Thakkar's twenty-year-old son, Rakeshbhai suddenly had chest pain.

They consulted a doctor and took the prescribed medication but there was no recovery. At last, he was rushed to the Vādīlāl Hospital after experiencing severe pain and fever for 20 days.

Several tests including sonography and blood tests were conducted. The test results showed that Rakeshbhai had a hole, as large as 23mm, in his heart. Rakeshbhai's condition was at its last stage.

“Your son has very little chance of survival so immediately admit him into the hospital,” advised the doctor.

After being admitted, the doctor saw Haribhai helping Rakeshbhai walk to the bathroom and said, “Rakeshbhai should avoid walking as there are very little chances of his survival. He should have

complete bed rest.” Acknowledging Rakeshbhai’s critical situation, it was decided that he would be rushed to Mumbai for a surgery.

This situation had scared Haribhai. Thus, he called HH Swamishri and explained the circumstances. He began to cry and prayed, “Swami, pray to Maharaj to take me instead but please save Rakesh.” HH Swamishri comforted Haribhai and said, “Do not worry and have faith in Maharaj. I will inform Bapji about your situation right now.”

The ocean of kindness, HDH Bapji kindly told HH Swamishri, “Swami, pray to Maharaj that Rakesh returns to complete health. Call Haribhai right now and let him know we still need both of them for *satsang’s sevā*. So, there is no need to rush Rakesh to Mumbai. Give him some holy water, do *dhun* and Maharaj will take care of everything.”

HH Swamishri called Haribhai and conveyed HDH Bapji’s blessing. Haribhai finally felt at ease now. All his sorrow had been subdued. He hurried to the doctor and said, “My Guru has blessed Rakesh with a healthy and divine life. I am sure he will be fine now.”

It is said that no one can change destiny but here, destiny had to change according to HDH Bapji’s blessings. The next day, the doctors were shocked observing improvement in Rakeshbhai’s health.

Within a week, the reports showed no sign of a hole in Rakesh’s heart. In fact, it was diagnosed to be normal... The doctor shockingly told Haribhai, “Never in my life have I witnessed such a miracle! Rakesh’s heart is completely healthy as if there was never any illness.” Rakeshbhai was discharged the next day.

Rakeshbhai, who once had very little chances of survival, is now 43 years old and is completely healthy. He has not experienced chest pain ever since. He, being financially stable, has made contributions worth millions of rupees for the construction of many SMVS temples.

HDH Bapji has not only removed Rakeshbhai’s physical illness

but has also removed all his mistakes and sins from the past and has granted him the status of an *Anādimukta*.

Like such, there are countless cases where HDH Bapji has eliminated one's sorrow and blessed them with ultimate bliss.

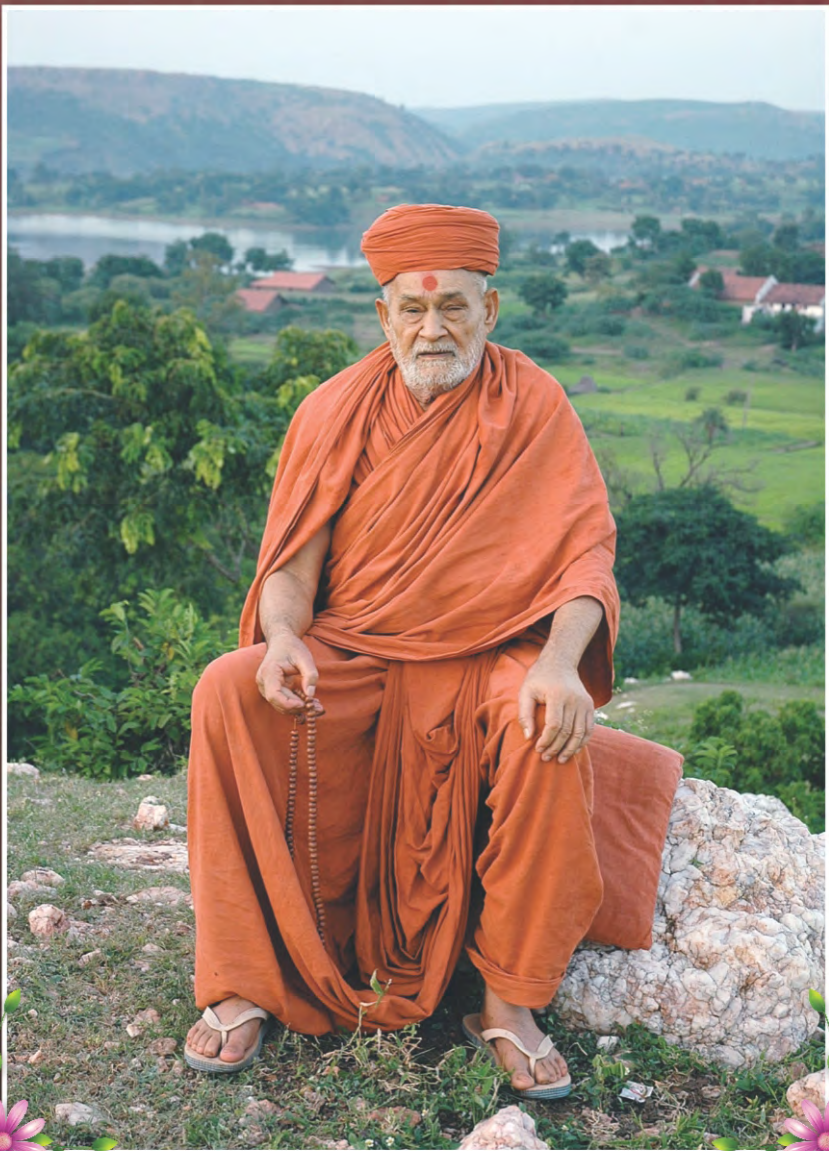
**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of an extraordinary *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, for bestowing immense happiness to everyone.**

### —Did You Know?—

There are many incidences in which HDH Bapji has healed the miseries of many, however the greatest act of kindness he does is clearing the *dehbhāv* of infinite souls and granting them the status of an *Anādimukta* to make them capable of experiencing the final bliss of Maharaj's *Murti*.









“HDH Bapji is an Idol of simplicity.”

- HH Swamishri



# 35

## AN IDOL OF SIMPLICITY

In the year 1987, the Vāsnā temple was inaugurated, and Bhagwan Swaminarayan's *Murti* was placed in the middle portion of the temple. This marked a significant step for the commencement of Bhagawān Swaminarayan's *sankalp* to make Kāran Satsang worldwide.

In the year 1992, the Vāsnā temple was completing its five years. HDH Bapji had a desire of celebrating the fifth anniversary with a three-day grand celebration.

On this same occasion, the inauguration of the 'Murtidhām hall' was also organized. All the sants and devotees followed HDH Bapji's command and joined the *sevā* to make this three-day celebration successful.

For this occasion, the sants thought of making a creative boat-like *āsan* for HDH Bapji on the stage. They were also thinking of putting two small elephants made of polystyrene (thermocool) on each side.

As soon as HDH Bapji heard of this idea, He said to the sants,

“Sants, keep the *āsan* simple on the stage. Do not make it fancy like you planned.”

The sants thought, “It is a huge event. People will be coming from everywhere. So, a simple *āsan* is unsuitable for this event. We will convince Bapji later.”

It was February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1992, the day before the program. HDH Bapji was on a visit to check the progress of each committee.

The sants and devotees had actually designed the stage as initially planned. Everyone was really happy with how it turned out. But HDH Bapji, on the other hand, became very upset upon seeing the stage.

To teach the sants and devotees, who were in charge of the stage *sevā* a lesson, He called them and said, “The *āsan* of a sant should always be simple. There should be nothing too fancy on or around it. And, as far as these elephants are concerned, it is only appropriate for them to be placed beside Maharaj. We are merely His servants. And it’s only fitting that a servant’s *āsan* is kept simple.”

With that being said, He took the two elephants and placed them beside Maharaj’s *Murti* and said, “Let’s go! Hurry up! Take down this fancy structure. The *āsan* has to be very simple.” HDH Bapji was content only after the sants made the *āsan* simple.

• • •

Ever since HDH Bapji’s bypass surgery, He is unable to preach while sitting on the floor and therefore, He now sits on a sofa during the assemblies.

He prefers to keep the sofa very simple. He often sits on it and preaches continuously for 7-8 hours. He also routinely conducts extensive religious travels so, it becomes exhausting at times. Thus, a physician suggested having Him sit on a vibrating chair.

Once a devotee came to know about the physician’s suggestion, so he went and bought the most expensive and the most effective vibrating chair available in the market. The sants requested HDH

Bapji to sit on the new chair.

“This chair is very expensive and looks too luxurious, so it is not appropriate for us as sants. I do not like such extravagance,” said HDH Bapji.

“Bapji, you are not well. At least try sitting on the chair once,” requested the sants.

HDH Bapji respected the requests of the sants and sat on the chair, but immediately got up from the chair.

He said, “Sants, this devotee’s *sevā* has now been accounted for so please return the chair back to him.”

Thereafter, an ordinary vibrating chair that would provide simple exercise was bought and only then did He start making use of the chair.

• • •

Regardless of whether HDH Bapji is in India or abroad, He consistently maintains an extremely simple lifestyle.

It had become a custom of HDH Bapji that whenever He returned from His religious travels within India, He would go to His *āsan*, and put on a really old and worn out dhoti.

The sants and devotees would often tell HDH Bapji not to wear it, but He would say, “At least it’s not torn! A sant’s true appeal lies in such simplicity. Maharaj is only pleased by such simplicity. Simplicity is what truly enhances our glory, not luxuries.”

In the year of 2010, HDH Bapji’s religious travel was arranged to visit Canada, for its first temple inauguration ceremony and then to The United States of America for about a month during the months of July-August.

For this trip, the sants did not pack HDH Bapji’s old dhoti.

On the trip abroad, HDH Bapji returned to His *āsan* after preaching in an assembly and according to His custom, asked the sants for His



old dhoti.

The sants replied, “Bapji, we have not brought that dhoti here. Why would we need it here? And besides, how would that old dhoti look here?”

At that time, HDH Bapji taught the sants an important lesson and said, “Sants, regardless of whether we are in India or abroad, our lifestyle should always be consistent and simple. We should never be influenced by luxuries and we should never compromise our simplicity.”

Thereafter, every afternoon and every night, HDH Bapji would express His persistence for a simple lifestyle by telling the sants, “This new cloth doesn’t feel as appropriate as wearing that old dhoti.” Like so, He would continuously show His persistence for a simple lifestyle.

A group of sants was going to come from India for the temple’s inauguration ceremony so, HDH Bapji asked them to bring the old dhoti along with them. Once the sants brought the dhoti HDH Bapji was very pleased.

“Bapji are You pleased now?” asked the sants with folded hands.

“Yes, I am only fond of simplicity. And sants, you should also remember that whether you are in India or abroad, you should never keep separate pairs of cloths. You should never leave your simplicity behind.”

The sants admired HDH Bapji’s simplicity and learned to live a simple life from His life.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of a marvelous *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, an idol of simplicity.**



# 36

## SANCTIFYING THE WORLD

**“Karvo prachār duniyā pār, sankalp kidho chhe nirdhār  
Sukh-dukh āve aprampār, lāge vighno ni langār.”**

**We are strongly determined, to propagate Kāran Satsang all over the world, whether there are endless miseries or a line of oppositions.**

HDH Bapji declared a wish to establish a divine culture all over the world by going to other countries. On August 30<sup>th</sup>, 1995 HDH Bapji, along with Harikrishna Maharaj and sants went on their first overseas trip to London, England, and made its land pious.

On the way, during a halt in Kuwait, HDH Bapji planted the seeds of the many *sankalps*.

Upon His arrival in London, HDH Bapji showered immense grace on the residents of Britain and even on the local white pigeons. He blessed them by saying, “Oh Maharaj! You had already planted the seeds of your *sankalps* on this land in the form of the Shikshāpatrī.

Please bring anyone who comes into your sight into Kāran Satsang and grant them salvation, whether they are the residents of England or the local birds and animals.”

An accompanying sant was extremely moved by HDH Bapji’s shower of graciousness. So, He asked, “HDH Bapji, what is the reason behind Your unconditional grace for these souls?”

Then HDH Bapji lovingly replied, “How would these souls ever be blessed? Think of Maharaj’s greatness compared to these poor souls. Who would have granted them salvation? This is why Maharaj has showered grace on them.”

The sant was left mesmerized for a long time by HDH Bapji, an idol of immense grace.

As such, HDH Bapji had showered immense blessings on the many people and innocent birds of England during this trip.

• • •

HDH Bapji’s first religious travel to USA was arranged for June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1996. However, where they would be staying in America, still remained a question. They did not know anyone in America, nor did they have any clue as to where they would go after landing at the New York airport.

Everyone was in a big puzzle. Under such unfortunate circumstances, Jeevanprān Bapashri showered His grace. He gave divine darshan to the wife of Pareshbhai Pasavala who lived in America and said, “My sants are coming to the USA for a religious trip so please make arrangements for them to stay at your home.”

Like so, Jeevanprān Bapashri, Himself, made the required living arrangements with immense grace.

During the trip to America, HDH Bapji showered immense grace on the local residents and planted the seeds of many *sankalps*. Over time, these seeds sprouted and with His blessings, five new temples were created in North America:

- 1) Jersey City, New Jersey, USA on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2003

2) Toronto, Ontario, Canada on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

3) Atlanta, Georgia, USA on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010

4) Chicago, Illinois, USA on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016

5) Swaminarayan Dhām at Cherry Hill, New Jersey, USA on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016

HDH Bapji had granted salvation to many souls during the inauguration ceremonies of these five new temples. During these occasions, He had also showered immense blessings for a temple to be built in London, UK, and for *satsang* centres to be established in Australia, Africa and Dubai.

During the parade on the day of the inauguration ceremony, HDH Bapji had showered blessings, “Oh Maharaj! During this parade, whoever, regardless of their ethnicity, does your darshan, praises You, eats the prasād or even bows their head down with respect, please grant them salvation in this lifetime. Make them realize Your supremacy and pull them into Kāran *Satsang*.” In addition, He also said, “Just wait and watch! There will eventually be Kāran Satsang temples in every state of America. I pray to Maharaj to grant the bliss of His *Murti* to whoever praises the sants, listens to the sermons or does *sevā*.” As such, all the aspirants who came to these inauguration ceremonies were blessed graciously.

• • •

Thousands of aspirants on all over the world have been attracted to HDH Bapji’s saintliness and His pride for supreme *upāsana*.

They have started to live divine lives, after being showered with HDH Bapji’s grace.

This is a true story of one such aspirant, Rameshbhai Suhagiya, who was a resident of Atlanta, USA. He had inherited *satsang* from childhood. So, he would always offer his house to all the sants of the Swaminarayan sect as a place to stay during their religious travels.

He had transformed the basement of his house into a temple and provided the sants with all the required arrangements.

For a long time, he had a question in his heart that, “If all the incarnations of God are the same, then why did Shriji Maharaj establish a separate sect? Why did He write and get others to write new scriptures? Why did He establish a new set of commandments?” He had asked this question to many sants who had come to his home but had not received a satisfactory answer from any of them.

In 2002, HH Swamishri went to Rameshbhai’s house for the very first time. HH Swamishri preached to Rameshbhai from 11:00 p.m. at night to 4:00 a.m. in the morning. That day, Rameshbhai received solid answers to all his questions.

That night HH Swamishri also talked about the glory of Shriji Maharaj and HDH Bapji. Ever since then, Rameshbhai had become very eager to meet HDH Bapji.

He got the opportunity to meet HDH Bapji for the first time in the year of 2006. Upon His darshan, Rameshbhai experienced an incomparable divinity and felt a great attraction towards Him.

Recalling the experience of his first darshan of HDH Bapji, Rameshbhai often says, “When I did darshan of HDH Bapji for the very first time all my thoughts came to an end. All my thoughts of doubt or suspicion were tranquilized. The only thing I felt was complete calmness. It was the first time in my entire life that I had such an experience.”

Rameshbhai was given a personal preaching by HDH Bapji on their first meeting. HDH Bapji had explained to him the true form of Shriji Maharaj with references from the Vachanāmṛut.

After meeting HDH Bapji, Rameshbhai consolidated the true supreme *upāsana* of Shriji Maharaj and untied himself from the bonds of the sect. He was left engrossed in the glory of HDH Bapji and often told everyone about it.

He would say, “Many qualities about HDH Bapji have touched me. One main touching quality is His belief in the omni-doership of Maharaj at each and every moment of His life. In addition, I really like



doing darshan of His flawless sainthood. What attracts me towards Him the most is His persistence to make everyone understand the true form of Maharaj and one's self. His pride for Maharaj's supreme *upāsana* can be felt at all times in His presence. Even at this age, HDH Bapji travels continuously, without looking at day or night, in order to make aspirants attain Maharaj. Such grace! He is completely pure and divine which is why He is so persistent in making me divine just like Him.

He has consolidated pure supreme *upāsana* in me and has purified my home. Oh, He has also steered me on the path of divinity by teaching me the practice of living in *Murti*, something which no one has ever taught me."

Despite being in *satsang* for many years, Rameshbhai learned about its fundamental purpose only through HDH Bapji; which is to understand the true form of Bhagwan Swaminarayan and then to attain the bliss of His *Murti*.

Soon enough, Rameshbhai had formed a unique bond of *ātmabuddhi* with HDH Bapji. Considering Rameshbhai as His own and in order to advance him on the path towards the bliss of *Murti*, HDH Bapji made him relinquish all his desires.

Rameshbhai was the president of the Patel society in USA. HDH Bapji commanded him to give up that position and gear his life from a social to a more spiritual stance.

Due to the divine strength Rameshbhai received from HDH Bapji, he is now disinterested in worldly affairs and *satsang* has become a major part of his life. He, himself, has bought the land for and has helped establish an *upāsana* based SMVS temple in Atlanta. Currently, he is also helping manage this temple. Along with his other responsibilities, He is also very aware about his spiritual progress. He recognizes and eliminates his flaws through introspection and daily spends three hours in devotional worship to connect with Maharaj. He is especially insistent on listening to the religious discourses.

He mainly listens to the discourses through DVDs and CDs, but whenever he comes to India, he would complete all his social work within two days and would spend the rest of the time with HDH Bapji and HH Swamishri by joining them on their religious travels.

He comes to India on Diwali, especially to attend the Gyānsatra program. After the Gyānsatra, he would spend five days with HDH Bapji and listen to His preaching based on the Vachanāmrut. Like so, he is insistently moving forward on the path of attaining the bliss of *Murti*. Despite living on the luxurious land of America, many other aspirants are also living such divine lives after being showered with the grace of HDH Bapji.

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HDH Bapji has also showered immense grace on the Arabian lands. He had visited Kuwait on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1996, and Dubai on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016. He showered grace on the residents and aspirants of Kuwait and Dubai and bestowed blessings that they will be pulled into Kāran Satsang.

Due to HDH Bapji's immense grace, *satsang* is also flourishing in countries like Australia, New Zealand, Kuwait, Kenya, Zambia, Uganda, etc. Through HDH Bapji's mercy, aspirants joining Kāran Satsang in these countries are receiving the ultimate status of an *Anādimukta*.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of a salvation granting *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, who showers blessings on the aspirants living all over the world to be pulled into Kāran Satsang. He blesses them with the ultimate status of an *Anādimukta*.**



# 37

## THE GUARDIAN OF PANCHMAHAL

On the occasion of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Swaminarayan Mahāmantra, a gathering was held for the aboriginal people in Zālod on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2000. The prime minister of Gujarat at that time, Keshubhai Patel, had also come to attend the gathering. He showed great appreciation towards HDH Bapji for His tremendous contributions in the upliftment of the aboriginal community. He said, “HDH Bapji has successfully carried out the challenging task of developing aboriginal communities, a task which even the Gujarat government wasn’t able to do. It was His unconditional love and *satsang* which has impacted the lives of countless people and has transformed them into devout devotees. Only He could make it possible. It was out of the government’s scope. He is truly the guardian of Panchmahāl, their true saviour.”

The base for the upliftment activities within the aboriginal community was laid out during the tenth anniversary of the

Ghanshyamnagar temple. HDH Bapji declared a wish to propagate *satsang* in ten new villages of Panchmahāl. This endeavour became a ray of hope for the development of Panchmahāl and was embedded in its history.

Since then, HDH Bapji and HH Swamishri have travelled to the remote villages and homes of Panchmahāl and have put in tremendous efforts for the social and spiritual growth of the Patel and aboriginal communities. These efforts have been on-going to date.

Every individual who was influenced by HDH Bapji would often say:

“It is typical that bananas grow on banana trees but He who can grow bananas on cacti is none other than our HDH Bapji. Meaning, granting salvation to aspirants is like growing bananas on a banana tree, which anyone can do. But instilling *satsang* in those whose lives are filled with vices and helping them attain the ultimate status of an *Anādimukta* is like growing bananas on cacti. This is what HDH Bapji has done for us.”

“With His diligence, we, who were entwined in addiction, worldly pleasures and superstitions, are now living such pious lives which make even the high-class families feel shameful in comparison.”

It is said that iron turns to gold by the touch of a *pārasmani*. Accordingly, the aboriginal people, whose lives were worse before, are now imbibed with pure supreme *upāsanā* of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. They strictly follow all the conducts as a result of HDH Bapji’s divine influence. Hence, the *parasmani*-like HDH Bapji’s influence has transformed the aboriginal people’s iron-like life into pure gold.

Jethabhai from the village of Zānzri says, “I used to bathe once a week. Now, I don’t even put a drop of water in my mouth without bathing and performing nitya puja every morning.”

Lalabhai Pagi from the village of Junā Kālibel describes his

transformation story as “I have probably consumed enough alcohol in my life to fill an entire lake. Today, I don’t even have the smallest of addictions like tea. I don’t drink it nor do I offer it to anyone who visits my home.”

“I had been ailing by the possession of 35 ghosts for many years. It was HDH Bapji who has freed me from their clutches and made my life divine.” Such words were of Laljibhai Charel from the village of Nānirel.

Sahajbhai Damor from the village of Sarasavā describes HDH Bapji’s immense mercy on him, “We have overcome all of our false beliefs and superstitions and are now living a life as a *mukta* thanks to HDH Bapji.”

Parvatbhai and other devotees from the village of Dābhda say that “Today a rosary has replaced the swords that were always in our hands.”

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Above all, the tale of the Gādiyā village is the most exceptional. Let’s take a look.

Himmatsinh Tapali and Navalsinh were the most dangerous gangsters of the Gādiyā village. They were filled with an endless amount of vices.

They were famous in the regions between Santrāmpur and Zālod for their criminal activities like robbing and fighting. Simply uttering their names would bring a tremor to anyone.

Himmatsinh was the ring-leader of their gang. It seemed as if he was the Joban Pagi<sup>1</sup> of this era.

Himmatsinh was a postman by profession. He would carry out his spy work while delivering letters in the neighbouring six villages. He would gather information like the location of the entry and exits in

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<sup>1</sup> A dacoit converted into a devotee by Swaminarayan Bhagwan. King of Vadodra state have announced prize to catch him in any condition.



the homes, who stays in the home at what time, etc.

At night, he would give the location and clear instructions to his gang to carry out the robbery. After the robbery, he would take all the robbed items and distribute them amongst his gang members.

Being the leader of the entire gang, he would never leave a trace of any evidence for the police to suspect him.

If he liked something while on duty, he would grab hold of it right then and there and no one would be able to say a single word out of fear.

He had been involved in such criminal activities for the past twenty years. During this time, no one was able to even say his name in front of anyone. People would easily give up everything he demanded. Even the police, who would come to catch him, would be beaten up and returned empty handed.

The government had planted teak trees in the surrounding areas of Gādiyā. Himmatsinh would unlawfully chop them down to use as firewood. When this situation continued for too long, one day the forest officer went to Himmatsinh's home, stood beside a pile of teak wood and demanded, "Why have you cut down these trees without permission?"

Himmatsinh boldly responded, "We have cut them down for firewood. The forest belongs to us, so we don't need anyone's permission."

Before the officer could retort to his statement, Himmatsinh and his gang beat him to a point where he couldn't even stand up.

The officer's driver carried him into the car and drove off. Since that day, the police and the forest officers forgot the road to Gādiyā.

HDH Bapji, the guardian of Panchmahāl, organized the first phase of the Bapashri Mahotsav in Lunāwādā in 1993. Himmatsinh's gang ended up coming to this event to carry out their business but never did they imagine that this event would be the turning point of their

lives.

By Shriji Maharaj's wish, Himmatsinh came into contact with Pujya Nirgundasji Swami, an elder sant of SMVS. He spoke of HDH Bapji's glory, "HDH Bapji is a great *Satpurush*. The lives of many individuals have been completely transformed through His darshan, divine touch, and blessings. Everyone who has come into His association has all become happy. So, when you go for His darshan, grab hold of Him and never let Him go." Pujya Nirgundasji Swami took Himmatsinh for HDH Bapji's darshan.

HDH Bapji offered him *vartmān* and placed a *kanthi* around his neck. At that same moment, he purified Himmatsinh's inner life. His bad habits were also eradicated. HDH Bapji asked him, "Do you have any addiction?" The captivated Himmatsinh said, "Swami, my life is full of vices and bad qualities. I eat non-vegetarian food, consume alcohol, and doing violence has become my business."

HDH Bapji said, "From today, you have attained Shriji Maharaj, so you must remove all your bad qualities from your life. You must not commit any more crimes. I will pray to Maharaj on your behalf. He will surely come to help you. He will forgive all your sins."

That was the turning point of his life.

Himmatsinh describes the changes which occurred in his life with the blessings of HDH Bapji, "Today, not only have I stopped drinking alcohol but I don't even drink water at anyone else's home. Now, I never even have a thought of picking up anyone else's belongings which have fallen on the ground. I follow the Panchvartmān. I have even made the companions from my gang become devotees as well."

The gang who used to rob and conduct violence together is now living a divine life together.

With the blessings of HDH Bapji, the group now goes to the homes of people possessed by ghosts and performs the Swaminarayan Mahāmantra *dhun* for their relief. Their lives have become so divine

that whoever's home they visit their lives become rid of all miseries.

Merely by the blessings of HDH Bapji, this violent group of individuals has been converted into a group of *muktas*. They lead all the committees during the religious assemblies and thoroughly carry out all the *sevā*.

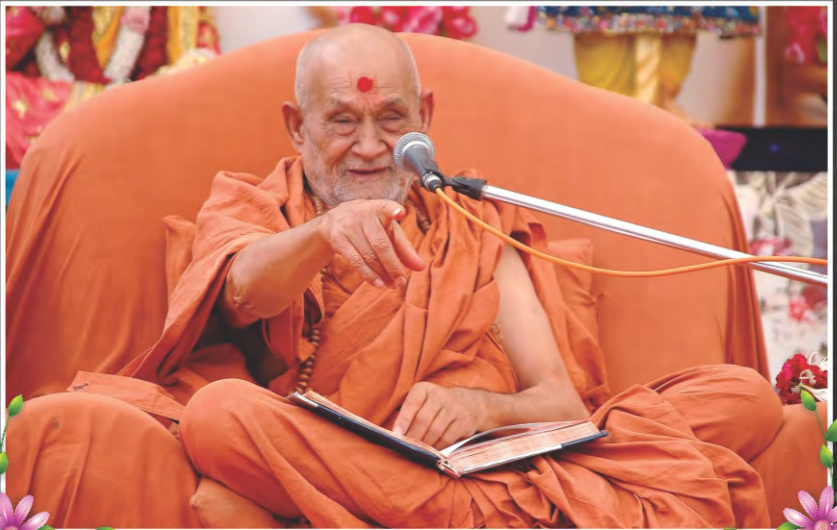
Like this, a whole volume of cases can be written about criminals and robbers who had been once sent to jail and are now living divine lives such as Dipsinh of Lakdipordā, Rāmsing or Dantiyā, etc. They are also helping transform many lives of their fellow Panchmahāl residents. These remarkable life-transforming tales have become engraved in the history of Panchmahāl.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of the guardian of Panchmahāl, HDH Bapji, who has bestowed divinity in many people's lives by considering them as His own.**









“A Sankalp of Shriji Maharaj is one who makes one attain the omnipresent Bhagwan.”

- HH Swamishri



# 38

## HELPING ATTAIN BHAGWAN

A *sankalp* of Shriji Maharaj is one who makes one attain the omnipresent Bhagwan.

Savdasbhai Sindhav, a resident of the Tuvā village in the Surendranagar district, had always been a member of Kārya Satsang. He had a yearning to attain the omnipresent Bhagwan and get ultimate salvation. For the fulfilment of this desire, he would go to many Kārya Satsang temples and even listen to the discourses of many great scholar saints.

Yet, he still wasn't sure whether he would attain the omnipresent Bhagwan or not.

In June of 1997, Savdasbhai came to the Surendranagar city from Tuvā for a social reason. The scorching heat of the summer month had made him very thirsty. At that moment, he saw a board beside a bus stop which read, 'SMVS Swaminarayan Mandir-Surendranagar.' He went inside to quench his thirst.

But little did he know this was the place where his soul's thirst for salvation would be quenched. As he stepped on the campus, he saw the temple was not yet constructed but there was a shed in its place instead. Inside, he met Natha kaka who was doing some *sevā*.

Natha kaka gave him a glass of water and started to tell him about HDH Bapji's glory until late night. "Only a true mother can help identify the true father, likewise, only an *Anādimukta Satpurush* who has attained oneness with the omnipresent Bhagwan can help an aspirant identify the true omnipresent Bhagwan. HDH Bapji is one such *Satpurush* who has manifested into this universe by the *sankalp* of Shriji Maharaj. All aspirants who come into His contact even for a short time are easily able to understand the true form of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. He helps aspirants consolidate pure supreme *upāsānā* by which they can attain the omnipresent Bhagwan and ultimate salvation."

Having been bathed in the glory of HDH Bapji, Savdasbhai's aspiration for salvation arose greatly. He felt an eagerness for HDH Bapji's darshan and discourses.

Only after a few days on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 1997 HDH Bapji came to Surendranagar to give sermons in the brahmsatra program. Savdasbhai came to the temple well before HDH Bapji had arrived. Upon HDH Bapji's first darshan, Savdasbhai felt peace inside him.

Natha kaka took Savdasbhai for HDH Bapji's close-up darshan and gave his introduction. In HDH Bapji's proximity, he felt as if an invisible force was purifying his inner self.

In a short while, the assembly began and Savdasbhai sat right in front of HDH Bapji. HDH Bapji continuously extolled the true glory of Shriji Maharaj from morning till evening, but unfortunately, Savdasbhai didn't understand a single word from it.

Regardless of which, he was still amazed by the continuous flow of Shriji Maharaj's glory coming from HDH Bapji. He thought

to himself, “This is the *Satpurush* who will help me attain the omnipresent Bhagwan. He will grant me salvation indeed. He does not speak about anyone other than Bhagwan Swaminarayan so I want to attain Bhagwan from Him.”

He prayed to HDH Bapji, “Bapji, please explain me the true form of Maharaj. I want to understand His form exactly as it is.”

HDH Bapji was very pleased with his aspiration and eagerness to learn about the true form of Maharaj so HDH Bapji said, “Everything I mentioned during the earlier assembly was all basic preaching, but if you want to learn, about the truest form of Maharaj then we will sit at night for that.”

Everyone went to sleep after doing daily *cheshtā* at 9 p.m.

HDH Bapji then called Savdasbhai and sat with him under a neem tree in the campus.

The very first characteristic of a true *Satpurush* is that their first question to any new aspirant is always, “How have you perceived Bhagwan?” Accordingly, HDH Bapji’s first question to Savdasbhai was, “How have you understood Swaminarayan Bhagwan?”

He replied, “Swaminarayan Bhagwan and the other Gods are all the same.”

Acknowledging Savdasbhai’s misconception, HDH Bapji began to talk about the true form of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. His words were equivalent to an electric current for Savdasbhai. HDH Bapji explained the true supremacy of Bhagwan Swaminarayan with regard to all aspects like His *sanātan* form, His *anvay vyatirek* from, His supremeness, etc. with reference to the *Vachanāmrut*. He would explain each concept then make Savdasbhai repeat them back to Him to see how much he had grasped. He would repeat this cycle at least 15 times and solidify the concept in Savdasbhai.

In their deep discussion, no one realized that it was already five O’clock in the morning.

With HDH Bapji's divine blessings, Savdasbhai consolidated the supreme upāsanā of Bhagwan Swaminarayan as 'Bhagwan Swaminarayan is the only eternal God in the entire universe and I have attained Him Omnipresently. In addition, I have been graciously kept in His *Murti*.'

Savdasbhai felt an inexplicable level of inner peace after understanding the true form of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. Thus, he devoted himself to HDH Bapji.

Today, he feels the utmost happiness that, "I have attained the omnipresent Bhagwan from this divine *Satpurush* who has manifested by the *sankalp* of Shriji Maharaj. If I hadn't met HDH Bapji, I wouldn't have known where I would still be wandering."

Today, Savdasbhai is very content upon attaining the omnipresent Bhagwan and tells any aspirant who comes into his contact. He takes them to HDH Bapji and makes them attain the omnipresent Bhagwan as well.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of HDH Bapji, a *Satpurush* whose manifestation is solely by the *sankalp* of Shriji Maharaj and who easily helps one attain the omnipresent Bhagwan.**



# 39

## INSPIRATION OF A DIVINE LIFE

Kishor Bhagat, a native of Bhāvnagar, was a spiritual aspirant from the start. Due to his family being in *satsang* for three generations, he had inherited *satsang* right from his childhood.

It can be said he learned to walk with the support of sants and grew up in their laps. From the beginning, he had always been in a *satsang*-filled environment and had often visited pilgrimage places like Gadhpur where he would listen to the preaching of several sants.

As a result of this devout company and pious environment received right from his childhood, he developed the virtue of *vairāgya*. He started feeling detachment from all the social aspects of life.

Upon the consolidation of his *vairāgya* at the age of 21, he renounced the worldly life and started his journey towards attaining salvation by living in the company of sants for many years. However, his desire to acknowledge the true form of the supreme Bhagwan remained unfulfilled.



So, he felt great sorrow in his heart and often wondered, “Will my journey of acknowledging the true form of Maharaj stay incomplete despite having renounced the world at the age of 21?”

Such thoughts continued bothering him despite being in *sevā* for many years. Despite having received discourses from many sants, his inner-self was still searching for a true *Satpurush*, who could bestow him a divine life.

He would often advise those accompanying him that, “By the mercy of Maharaj, I have studied the Vachanāmṛut quite in depth. But I wonder whether Maharaj will gift me with such a *Satpurush* like the one whose greatness is described in the Vachanāmṛut. It is without a doubt that one cannot progress a particular step on the path of spirituality without the company of a *Satpurush*.”

He would always mentally pray for the divine company of Maharaj and His *Satpurush*.

Some time passed, but his desire of obtaining the company of Maharaj and *Satpurush* remained unfulfilled. This made him very depressed. One thought continuously scared him. “What if I never get the company of a divine *Satpurush*?”

Therefore, he deeply prayed to Maharaj for six months continuously, “Oh Maharaj! Indicate me the ideal path. Grant me a divine *Satpurush* who can enlighten me Your true form and help me recognize the bliss of Your *Murti*.”

Finally, upon seeing his desireless prayers, Maharaj became very pleased with him. That is why Maharaj unexpectedly brought him in contact with Chabilbhai Adeshra and Rajubhai Abasana; two individuals who closely serve HDH Bapji.

When he heard of HDH Bapji’s glory from them, he became very eager to meet HDH Bapji in person. His eagerness was like that of a river eager to meet the ocean. In 2006, at the age of 45, he met HDH Bapji for the first time at the Vāsna temple.

Upon having darshan of HDH Bapji for the very first time, he

experienced absolute divinity. These were his words: “When I did darshan of HDH Bapji for the first time, His divinity fulfilled all of my desires. The qualities of a true *Satpurush*, which are portrayed in the Vachanāmṛut, were prominently noticeable in HDH Bapji. I experienced inner peace from His darshan. I felt as if Maharaj would complete my journey for the bliss of *Murti* through Him. I could not suppress my happiness. In my life, a darkness of last six months was enlightened. A fountain of euphoria had sprouted inside me with the thought that Maharaj has heard my prayers. During a time when no one was by my side, He took a hold of my hand. I soon realized that I had finally found my eternal mother. I wasn’t an orphan anymore. I experienced a glimpse of the inexplicable divine bliss like never before.”

Kishor Bhagat had a vast knowledge of the sect’s scriptures. At that time, He recalled the words of Gunatitanand Swami that, “An aspirant should always check three qualities before making someone a Guru: The life of the Guru, the life of the Guru’s Guru and also the life of the Guru’s disciples. If the lives of all three generations are extraordinary, then consider making Him your true Guru.” To this, Kishor Bhagat exclaimed that, “I had seen flawless saintliness in HDH Bapji. His Guru, *Sadguru* Muni Swami was also a completely divine being from *pārbhāv*. And I have also seen that no one in the entire sect could match up to His phenomenal disciple, HH Swamishri. Acknowledging these three completely extraordinary personalities, I devoted myself to HDH Bapji. I had never observed such a rich pedigree (ancestry) in this sect before. From the first day I met HDH Bapji, I surrendered my life to Him.” From that day, onwards, Kishor Bhagat untied himself from everywhere else and joined with HDH Bapji.

He often talks about the unique qualities of HDH Bapji which make Him stand apart from the entire sect, “I have never heard anyone talk about the true form of Bhagwan Swaminarayan like the way HDH

Bapji does. His preaching help one develop complete faith in having met the omnipresent Bhagwan. For all these years, I wasn't certain whether I would actually achieve the omnipresent Bhagwan and always felt incomplete but by HDH Bapji's preaching and blessings, I now feel complete. He has flawless saintliness, straightforward speech, and is never intrigued by anyone. It is these virtues which attract me towards Him. Today, it is outrageous for me to stay away from Him."

After acknowledging the true form of Bhagwan Swaminarayan from HDH Bapji, Kishor Bhagat was also encouraged to walk on the path of attaining the bliss of *Murti*. He attained the practice of being *pratilom* from HDH Bapji.

Hearing HDH Bapji and HH Swamishri talk about the bliss of *Murti* in the AVP camp always stirred Him up. His internal world changed drastically and a craving to realize the bliss of *Murti* in this lifetime was awakened.

Currently, he has reverted from *avarbhāv* and is advancing on the path of the bliss of *Murti* in *parbhāv* with the divine support of HDH Bapji and HH Swamishri.

He refrains from any sort of worldly talks and invests his time being continuously engaged in Maharaj. He meditates for three hours daily.

He is putting continuous efforts to tear down the wall of *dehbbhāv* and to rid his vices through introspection. He is currently progressing on the path towards *sthiti* by worshiping and praying to Maharaj while practicing the *pratilom* method.

Having significantly advanced on the path towards *sthiti*, he feels endless joy in his heart for having met a divine *Satpurush* like HDH Bapji.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of a divine life inspiring *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, who has motivated infinite aspirants like Kishor Bhagat to live a divine life.**

# 40

## A HUNGER FOR SERMONS

Whenever Sadguru Muni Swami would come to Saraspur, HDH Bapji always sat at the front and listened to His divine sermons with intense dedication.

On one such occasion, HDH Bapji was seated right in front of Sadguru Muni Swami and the sermon had been on-going for two to three hours. At that time, HDH Bapji had the urge to go to the washroom.

“Oh no! If I go to the washroom now, I’ll miss a part of the sermon, and that is something I absolutely cannot afford to miss. So, it’s better if I don’t go!”— With such a thought in mind, HDH Bapji decided not to get up from the assembly.

The sermon went on for another hour. By then, the situation had become intolerable for HDH Bapji.

Hence, HDH Bapji mentally prayed to Sadguru Muni Swami, “Oh *dayalu!* Please shower some mercy! If I leave to use the washroom

now, I'll miss the sermon. Hence, please shower some mercy!"

The omniscient and ever benevolent, Sadguru Muni Swami instantly heard HDH Bapji's mental prayer and stopped His preaching. He closed His eyes for a few minutes and as soon as HDH Bapji returned from the washroom, He started delivering the sermons again.

This is just among the many instances when Sadguru Muni Swami would omnisciently pause His sermons for a few minutes as an answer to HDH Bapji's mental prayers. Upon HDH Bapji's return, Sadguru Muni Swami would immediately start His sermons again. Observing HDH Bapji's intense love and eagerness for His divine sermons, Sadguru Muni Swami would give in to His innocent demands.

This way, HDH Bapji set an ideal example for aspirants on how to listen to sermons with eagerness.

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Many sants were jealous of HDH Bapji's keen interest in Sadguru Muni Swami's divine sermons. Thus, they would pull Him away from listening to the sermons. This is one such incident.

"Swami, come here. There's a *sevā*!"—A sant would gesture HDH Bapji to come into the dining hall.

HDH Bapji, filled with immense glory for the sants, would make a quick prayer to Sadguru Muni Swami, "*Dayālu, rāji rahejo!* The sants are calling me for *sevā*, so I'm going." Like so, HDH Bapji would leave the assembly.

"What do you think you're doing sitting down in the assembly like that? Who's going to clean all these utensils?"—The sants would intentionally fill up the entire sink with utensils and have HDH Bapji clean them all by Himself. Many times the sants would purposefully ruin clean dishes, simply out of jealousy, and get Him to rewash them.

True sants are humble by nature, and our divine Guru HDH Bapji is no exception. So, HDH Bapji disregarded the foul play of the sants



and followed their every command.

Despite being caught up in *sevā*, HDH Bapji would still keep His attention fixed on the sermons; He made sure not to miss a single word from it. He was so interested in the divine sermons that were going on, that not only did He listen to them, but He also simultaneously consolidated the teaching in His life.

• • •

“Swami, where are you headed?” asked a sant.

“I’m going to the assembly to listen to Sadguru Muni Swami’s divine sermon”, replied HDH Bapji.

“Swami there was a *sevā*, will you do it?” asked the sant.

“What’s the *sevā*?” asked HDH Bapji.

The sant replied, “Here, crush this hardened flour dough to prepare laddus.”

Saying this much, the sant gave HDH Bapji 20 Kgs of hardened flour dough to crush all by Himself. Without a word, HDH Bapji did as the sant commanded. However, He kept His ears engaged in the divine sermon going on simultaneously. Regardless of the situation HDH Bapji’s eagerness to listen to the sermons never faltered.

To this day, HDH Bapji still recalls all the discourses He had heard through Sadguru Muni Swami 50 years ago. He would say, “I still perfectly remember the day, the place and the topic of the sermons that Sadguru Muni Swami used to deliver years ago. Even today I quote His words word for word in My preaching.”

What an amazing way of listening to the discourses! Something entirely unique!

• • •

Around 1982-83, when HDH Bapji was staying at the Ghanshyamnagar temple, an elderly sant from a different organization had come to the temple for darshan.

HDH Bapji was holding a divine sermon at that time and out of curiosity, the sant sat down to listen to Him. The sant had only come there for darshan, but HDH Bapji's words captivated him. Without notice, three hours had passed by!

The moment HDH Bapji finished the sermon, the sant praised Him with pure awe, "To this day I've only read the sermons of *Satpurushe*s like Sadguru Gunatitanand Swami and other *nand* sants, but today I experienced listening to them live."

• • •

Early morning on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2003, HDH Bapji left for Surendranagar to deliver a divine sermon in the Brahmsatra program. Four to five devotees had accompanied Him in the car.

On the highway, a little past Sarkhej, their car got into a terrible accident with a truck. The impact shattered the front glass of the car and heavily damaged the bonnet. The shattering blew tiny shards of glass into HDH Bapji's forehead, and the immediate slamming of the brakes left Him in a dizzy state.

After a while, HDH Bapji got out of the car with heavy amounts of blood dripping down His forehead. The car was heavily damaged to a point where it was no longer capable of moving.

HDH Bapji told the devotees, "Call the Vāsnā temple and ask them to send another car; we will continue to make our way to Surendranagar in another car. Don't mention the accident at all. Just tell them that the car broke down. Otherwise, they won't let us go to Surendranagar."

When the call was made, the sants at the temple suspected that something must have gone wrong, only then they would call for another car. So, two sants sat in the car and arrived at the accident spot.

Upon arrival, the sants noticed HDH Bapji's forehead had been bandaged with a piece of *gātadiyu* and blood was dripping from it.

Regardless of this situation, HDH Bapji was firm in going to Surendranagar. After much convincing and some heart filled prayers the sants were finally able to bring HDH Bapji back to the Vāsna temple.

Seeing HDH Bapji's serious injury, HH Swamishri and the sants all prayed to go to the doctor. HDH Bapji replied, "The doctor will take up too much time, therefore put a bandage around My head and we'll be off to Surendranagar."

HH Swamishri made a heart filled prayer to HDH Bapji and was able to convince Him to go to the hospital. The doctor took out the shards of glass, cleaned off HDH Bapji's forehead, and told HH Swamishri, "It's a head injury, so we'll have to do a CT scan or an MRI scan and we will also have to get some other tests done."

However, HDH Bapji was intent on going to Surendranagar to give His sermon, so every minute that passed by made Him more and more impatient. To make matters worse, the doctor was talking about getting more tests done!

HDH Bapji became displeased and said, "If you dress the wound on My forehead quickly, then nothing will happen. However, if we stay to get some more tests done then something will turn up for sure."

HDH Bapji returned to the Vāsna temple from the hospital at 12:30 p.m. After offering *thāl* to *Thākorji* and having lunch, HDH Bapji was ready to leave for Surendranagar at 1 O'clock.

HDH Bapji's forehead had swollen quite a bit due to the injury. Thus, the doctor had advised Him to take some rest. So, HH Swamishri, the sants and the devotees all prayed to HDH Bapji, "*Dayālu*, there is a lot of swelling on your forehead, so please don't go. Some other sant will go and deliver the sermons for the next two days on Your behalf."

However, our beloved HDH Bapji has an intense dedication to

divine sermons, so how could He possibly keep from going? He instantly replied, “The devotees there are waiting since the morning. I have already missed one session. How can I miss another? What is more important; Maharaj’s divine sermons or good health? Therefore, don’t argue, I’m going! Swami (HH Swamishri), these divine sermons are My medicine, if You let Me deliver the sermons then nothing will happen to Me. Otherwise, if You stop Me, more problems will arise.”

Due to His intense dedication to the divine sermons, HDH Bapji even overlooked the prayers made by His most beloved disciple, HH Swamishri, and left for Surendranagar.

HDH Bapji reached Surendranagar in time for the four O’clock session. He set His divine flow of words free in the sermon.

As HDH Bapji continued His sermon, the swelling on His forehead grew significantly and so did the pain. However, He didn’t let it be known to anyone and continued His sermons. As the swelling worsened, the accompanying sant made a prayer, “Bapa, please finish the night session early so You can get some rest.”

But, HDH Bapji didn’t cut the night session short by even a minute. It ended exactly at 11:30 at night, and HDH Bapji went to sleep at 12:30 after completing *chestā*.

The next day, HDH Bapji delivered the sermons for 11 hours broken down into four sessions: 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. He didn’t compromise even a minute from it.

The swelling on His forehead had continued to expand. Within the two days, it had enlarged to such an extent that His eyes and entire face had become swollen and had turned red. Despite the situation, He bandaged His head with a saffron cloth and continued delivering the sermons.

In addition to that, HDH Bapji returned to the Vāsna temple on the 26<sup>th</sup> and started delivering a sermon at nine in the morning!

The dedication with which HDH Bapji hosts His divine sermons, with the hopes of making each and every soul consolidate the true form of Shriji Māhāraj, is truly unimaginable!

HDH Bapji has never considered day or night or even His health for the sake of delivering sermons.

• • •

In the year of 2010, HDH Bapji had His teeth removed and replaced with new dentures.

During that time, four to five devotees from Bhāvnagar and Surat had come to the Vāsnā temple for His darshan.

Being always eager to find an aspirant to keenly listen to His divine discourses, HDH Bapji immediately took the opportunity and started delivering a sermon.

Four to five hours had passed by when all of a sudden; HDH Bapji's dentures fell right out His mouth. HDH Bapji tried to put them back into place but unfortunately, they didn't go back and blood started coming out. Regardless of which HDH Bapji continued to deliver the sermon to a point where He could not even speak clearly.

• • •

HDH Bapji's present dedication for delivering discourses was evident right from the time when He had become a sant.

Devotees from the towns of Khākhariyā and Kadi recall HDH Bapji's devotion to delivering sermons and say, "When we used to go to college in the town of Kadi, we would listen to HDH Bapji's divine sermons all throughout the night. HDH Bapji would make *thāl*, take care of the temple's administration and do *Thākorji's sevā* all on His own. Yet, He never compromised on delivering His divine sermons for even a minute."

Today, there are many senior devotees who say, "We have tasted the sweetness of HDH Bapji's divine sermons in the towns of Khākhāriya, Zālāvādia and also at the Muli temple. Those moments



still linger in our minds as unforgettable experiences!”

• • •

At present, even at the age of 86 in *avarbhāv*, HDH Bapji’s intense dedication to preaching hasn’t declined even the slightest bit. He always tells HH Swamishri or the sants, “Organize assemblies for Me to deliver sermons for 24 hours in a day. Do you think I’ve only come here to sit around?”

HDH Bapji has diabetes in *avarbhāv*, thus His body has depleted very much. Hence, the sants and devotees always pray to Him to cut down His preaching time. “The divine sermons are My nourishment. It is because of them that I can stay healthy in *avarbhāv*, without them I would cease to exist,” HDH Bapji would always reply.

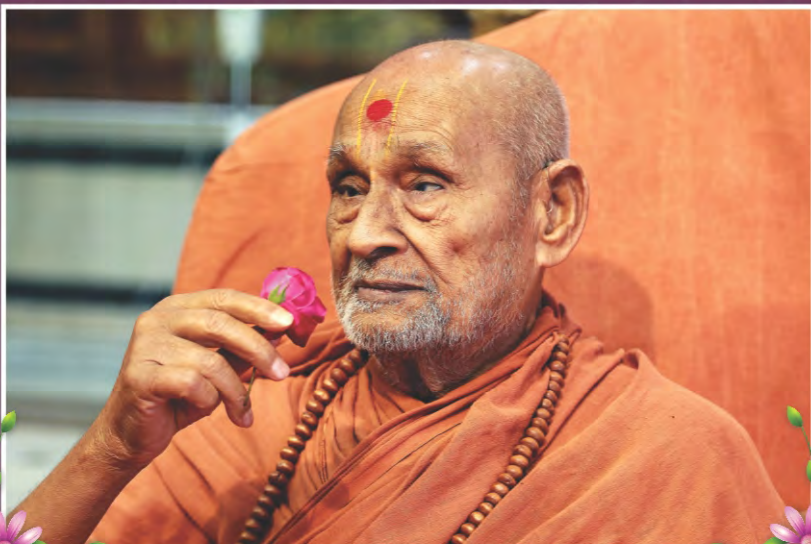
**“The divine sermons are our nourishment.”**

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of HDH Bapji, a true beholder of this statement and for setting free a continuous stream of divine sermons to uplift *satsang* in many lives.**









*“Ek divya purush ni vāt karu, prān pyārā Guru Bāpji ni karu;  
Ek divya purush ni vāt karu, divyabhāv mahimā sāthe karu.”*

Let me tell you about a divine being, Let me tell you about my dearest Guru,  
HDH Bapji; Let me tell you about a divine being, with complete divinity and glory.

# 41

## A GURU OF DIVINE VIRTUES

Once a devotee, G.D. Barot, took his business colleague, Bipinbhai Goda, from Mumbai, for HDH Bapji's darshan.

On the way, G.D. Barot told him about HDH Bapji's glory, "Our Guru HDH Bapji is an extremely divine *Satpurush*. Just His darshan alone burns away all of one's sins. Aspirants naturally feel God's presence in His Company." Bipinbhai was awed and felt great reverence towards HDH Bapji after hearing about His glory. So, his eagerness for HDH Bapji's darshan had escalated.

When they arrived at HDH Bapji's *āsan*, Bipinbhai did HDH Bapji's darshan with the utmost respect and admired Him for a while.

G.D. Barot introduced Bipinbhai to HDH Bapji and said, "Bapji, this is Bipinbhai Goda. He is a friend of mine. He is a strict follower of the Jain dharma and is very aspirant."

Benevolent by nature, HDH Bapji became pleased on Bipinbhai, gave him *vartmān* and said, "Bipinbhai, from this day forth, you're

free from the karma of your countless lives. Accept this to be your last life-form because today you have been granted salvation. Since you've come to me, I have prayed to Bhagwan Swaminarayan on your behalf, to free you from the endless cycles of birth and death. However, you must keep faith in these blessings now."

Upon hearing this, Bipinbhai's eyes became watery and tears rolled down his cheeks.

With great admiration, Bipinbhai said, "Wow... I have been free from all karma... Everything has been forgiven..."

Bipinbhai was overjoyed and said, "Bapji, the holy scriptures from my sect and my Guru Maharaj sahibs all say that one must face the consequences for all their deeds for as long as the cycles of life and death continue. It is said that no one has been freed from the bounds of karma, and no one ever will be. However, your relationship with God and your blessings today have burned away all my karma! So in the name of God! Wow! What can I say about your benevolence? This divine feeling I am experiencing right now is assuring me that You have indeed forgiven all my karma. Bapji, today I am most certainly convinced that only You can grant such divine blessings, no one else. You have showered me with immense grace today. Burning away one's karma is something that is impossible to do even in an infinite lifetime. Yet, today, You have done this task so easily and elegantly. That which was impossible for me, today You have made it possible!"

Lost in the awe of HDH Bapji's generosity, Bipinbhai happily began to dance in front of HDH Bapji. There was no limit to the bliss that Bipinbhai was feeling.

"G.D. Barot you were indeed saying the truth the whole time. Your Guru, HDH Bapji is unimaginably powerful and capable. On just my first meeting with Him, He burnt away all my karma, which has granted me the feeling of immense peace inside." Saying this much,



Bipinbhai bowed down at HDH Bapji's divine feet.

• • •

Chhabilbhai Adeshra is regarded as an old devotee. He is someone who has been in association with many great sants from the sect. He lives a very kind and modest life.

His eagerness towards worship and towards obtaining new knowledge about God is very prominent in His life.

He has a very humble and egoless personality. To serve, worship and happily join in Shriji Maharaj's *Murti* has become Chhabilbhai's life's goal.

He has a very simple social life and has no mishaps concerning worldly matters. This personality of his has allowed him to please many devotees and sants.

From the start of *satsang*, he has been in association with many great sants. He has pleased them greatly by unselfishly doing their *sevā* with mind, body and wealth. In return, the sants have played a significant role in giving shape to his life.

He once came into association with HDH Bapji.

Chhabilbhai had an inner realization that he was in the presence of a great *Satpurush* upon observing HDH Bapji's transparent personality, truthful words, and divine saintliness.

Chhabilbhai grew such a strong affection for HDH Bapji that he froze right in his place out of pure admiration. HDH Bapji explained Bhagwan Swaminarayan's true form, helped him consolidate supreme *nishthā* and gave him knowledge about the attainment of the status of an *Anādimukta*. Finally, HDH Bapji helped Chhabilbhai realize the fact that he has been granted salvation in this lifetime.

At that moment, it felt as if Shriji Maharaj was giving the fruits for all of Chhabilbhai's earlier worships through HDH Bapji.

Currently, he feels extremely content with life. He experiences

complete fulfilment. He considers all other sants as equal and does not have hatred towards anyone.

“I’ve been given a significant amount of knowledge from the sants of the Swaminarayan sect and they have given shape to many aspects of my life but no one was able to grant me salvation. From the moment I met HDH Bapji, He relieved me of this deficiency and granted me eternal salvation. I have received a lot of new divine knowledge from HDH Bapji which makes me feel forever satisfied. HDH Bapji’s grand principles and divine sainthood have completely lured me into a fascination for Him; one that I just can’t leave. Due to this fascination, from the day, I first met HDH Bapji, I’ve constantly been at His side. Countless times, I’ve accompanied Him on His religious travels. I feel extremely grateful to have obtained such a divine *Satpurush*. How rare it is to obtain such a Guru!”

Some time ago, Chhabilbhai’s brother had passed away, so he had gone to the city Vadodarā. There, he met some of his old friends from Kārya Satsang.

After all the formal greetings and talks were over, his friends asked him, “Why did you abandon this supreme obtainment (Kārya Satsang), sants, and devotees full of Guru-*nisthā* for SMVS? Don’t you think you have made a fatal mistake?!”

Chhabilbhai instantly replied, “I have obtained the divine Kāran Satsang. I have obtained a supreme and unparalleled Guru, HDH Bapji; a pair of which can’t be found anywhere in the endless cosmos. Thanks to my Guru, I have received salvation in this lifetime. From the moment I entered Kāran Satsang, HDH Bapji granted me *vartmān*, freed me from the endless cycles of births and deaths, took my soul and placed it into the bliss of *Murti* and granted me the status of an *Anādimukta*! HDH Bapji has put in immense efforts, tirelessly without consideration for His *avarbhāv*’s body, and has given me the complete knowledge of Shriji Maharaj’s true form. He has helped me realize my new form as an *Anādimukta*, a status second to Shriji

Maharaj. Not only this, but HDH Bapji has also removed everyone else's influence and greatness from my life except for Shriji Maharaj. HDH Bapji eternally is in the bliss of *Murti*. He is always trying to have me obtain that same bliss. He constantly delivers divine sermons with the hope that I receive this bliss.

By becoming honest in front of HDH Bapji and by telling Him about my internal vices, He has freed me from them. He has made me pure and has helped me walk in the path towards the bliss of *Murti*. HDH Bapji has showered me with infinite blessings. Thanks to His benevolence, I feel forever fulfilled."

It's easy to develop an admiration for such an amazing *Satpurush* right from His first darshan.

**“Guru malyā chhe gunavālā,  
malyā ji mune guru malyā chhe gunavālā”  
Obtained a Guru with divine qualities,  
I’ve obtained a Guru with divine qualities**

**What divinity and talent our beloved HDH Bapji possesses!  
Let there be infinite salutations at the divine feet of our dearest  
Guru, HDH Bapji!**



# GLOSSARY

Acharya	A leader responsible for the Ahmedabad and Vartal divisions in the Swaminarayan sect.
Anādimukta	The top category of mukts. They have achieved oneness with God and have the same form as Bhagwan Swaminarayan.
Anulom	The method of meditation in which one connects with Bhagwan by visualizing Bhagwan in front of oneself.
Ārti	A Hindu religious ritual of worship in which light from wicks is offered to God.
Āsan	The location where a sant sits.
Ātmabuddhi	A unique bond between a disciple and a Satpurush.
Avarbhāv	Everything of this world that is experienced through the body but is false.
Bhagwan	God
Brahmin	A member of the highest Hindu caste, originally that of the priesthood.
Brahmvidhyā	Brahmavidya is that branch of scriptural knowledge derived primarily through a study of the divine.

Chaturmās	Four months of monsoon season, Asādh Sud 11 <sup>th</sup> to Kārtik Sud 11 <sup>th</sup> Vikram Samvat.
Chāndlo	Chandlo is a mark applied on the forehead by red kumkum in the middle.
Dāl	Split pulses, in particular lentils. A dish made with lentils or other split pulses.
Darshan	An opportunity to see or an occasion of seeing God with the firm belief that this God (Murti) is not a human, photo or stone but rather is the Supreme Lord who is always present in his divine abode and that he is entirely divine.
Dharma	The term means: divine law, path of righteousness, rites and duties, conduct and command, religion and truth, social and moral practices. It determines how a devotee should behave. In other words, the commandments/ Panchvartmān.
Dharmādo	Contribution from net income for Bhagwan.
Dhuleti	2nd day of Holi Festival. Also known as Festival of colours.
Dhoklā	Dhoklā is a vegetarian food item that originates from the Indian state of Gujarat. It is made with a fermented batter derived from rice and split chickpeas. Dhokla can be eaten for breakfast, as a main course, as a side dish, or as a snack.
Dhun	Continuous chanting of the name of God.



Ekādashi	11 <sup>th</sup> day of the bright and dark halves of the lunar month when special observances including fast are observed.
Gyānsatra	A five days shibir held by SMVS after Diwali.
Hindolo	A decorated swing for Maharaj.
Kanthi	Double-threaded sacred necklace made with small wooden or tulsi (holy basil) beads.
Khichri	An Indian dish consisting chiefly of rice and split pulses.
Kirtan	A devotional song
Leelā	Divine <i>prasangs</i> of Mahārāj or Satpurush that are for the bliss of the devotees.
Manglā ārti	Arti done in the early morning. (6:00 AM )
Manushyabhāv	To portray human attributes in God and His Satpurush.
Mānsipuja	Mental worship of God done 5 times a day.
Maya	Everything seen through the physical eye. In other words, all that is temporary and destructible/perishable.
Muktas	Short form for Anādimukta.
Nakordā	A day of complete fasting.
Nishthā	Refers to the firm faith in Maharaj's supremacy.

Padhrāmnis	Visits of Maharaj with sants to sanctify homes or other places.
Parbhāv	Out of this material world, which cannot be experienced by the physical body. It can only be experienced one who has attained the sthiti of an Anādimukta.
Pātotsav	Mandir inauguration anniversary event
Pradakshina	The devotional act of walking clockwise around a Murti of God; Circumambulation.
Prasad	A devotional offering made to God, typically consisting of food that is later shared among devotees.
Pratilom	The method of meditation in which one connects with Bhagwan by believing oneself as purshottamroop and then by visualizing Bhagwan in one's place, as one is seated.
Pudlā	Crêpe made of fine grinded flour of Chickpea.
Puja	The act of worship.
Pujan	A ritual for honoring someone through various rituals.
Pujari	A Hindu priest that performs the personal sevā of God or of His Murti.
Poonam	The day of a full moon in which religious events are held.

Purshottamroop	The soul attains the appearance and form like that of Bhagwan Swaminarayan through the prailom meditation of Him. This appearance and form is called purshottamroop.
Rājipo	The inner happiness of God, Satpurush or sants.
Sadguru	The topmost post offered to a Sadhu.
Samvat	The historical Hindu calendar of Nepal and India. It uses lunar months and solar sidereal year.
Sankalp	A firm divine desire of God or his Satpurush.
Sanatan	“One and Eternal” used to describe God.
Sant	(in Hinduism and Sikhism) A saint
Satpurush	Divine being whose complete doer is God himself.
Satsang	Holy association of God, sants, scriptures and one’s soul; An assembly where speaker gives the discourses.
Sevā	“Selfless service” or work performed without any thought of reward or repayment.
Shibir	A spiritual camp
Shikharbadh	A type of Hindu temple with a dome-like spire.

Sthiti	A stable state reached where there is no more change/transformation. The ultimate final sthiti/state is the state of an Anādimukta.
Swami	<i>See Sant.</i>
Thākorji	Another name used for Maharaj.
Thāl	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Food offered to God with affection as devotion</li> <li>2. A type of devotional song generally sung while offering food to God.</li> </ol>
Upāsanā	The philosophical understanding of the Nature of God.
Vairāgya	Internal and external detachment from all worldly pleasures.
Vartmān	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The 5 vows prescribed in the Shikshāpatra.</li> <li>2. The physical initiation ritual performed through which individuals attain salvation.</li> </ol>
Vasant Panchami	Vasant Panchami is the Hindu festival that highlights the coming of spring and is celebrated in Magh. (Between the months of January and February)
Yama	The guardian, judge, and ruler of the dead.

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	Silenced the devotee speaking ill of Bāpāshri with pride-filled words.	65
17	Held on to Bapashri and His principles even when adverse terms and conditions were enforced to give them up.	66
	Fulfilled Shriji Maharaj's incomplete sankalp after 152 years through the inauguration of the Ghanshyāmnagar temple.	67

	Left His āsan at the Motā mandir upon getting the hint that He would be forced to leave His status as a sant.	69
18	Bought a haunted house to hold assemblies in order to enrich the spirituality in the devotees living in the city.	70
	HDH Bapji fearlessly confronts a gangster.	71
	Took over Kantibhai's illness of TB and made him a sant.	74
19	Daily wakes up at three in the morning and prays for the wellbeing of the entire kāran satsang family.	75
	The opposers did not like the propagation of kāran satsang on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the	77
20	Ghanshyāmnagar temple.	
	He released Himself from the sect's obligations for the sake of Bhagwan Swaminarayan's principles.	79
	Tied the youth in an eternal bond by showering them with immense motherly love.	81
	Established Youth assemblies on Sundays and Ekādashies to consolidate Maharaj and Bapashri's principles in them.	82
	Protected the youth from the addictions and impurities of the world.	84
	He made Panubhai a staunch devotee after inviting him for a 100 times.	85
21	Showered the youth with special love by addressing them with nicknames.	86
	Established the youth group by distributing the prasad of Gotli.	87
	Expressed horizon-less motherly love to the Rajwādi mandal during Brahmsatras.	87
	Emotionally touched the hearts of the Rajwādi Mandal by giving them packets of sweets and snacks.	89
	HDH Bapji made the youths observe the commandments in its entirety.	89



	Showed His unity with Maharaj by appearing to be cold when Maharaj was not covered with a blanket.	91
22	HH Swamishri's sankalp of having darshan of HDH Bapji in two forms at the same time was fulfilled.	92
	Unveiled His omniscience and unity with Maharaj to Ghanshyambhai (HH Swamishri).	93
	Received Sadguru Muni Swami's blessings as an answer to His prayer for a phenomenal sant as His pair.	97
	HDH Bapji prayed to Sadguru Muni Swami to grant Keshavlalbbhai with a mukta-like son.	98
	Ghanshyambhai (HH Swamishri) manifested by the sankalp of Sadguru Muni Swami.	99
	Ghanshyambhai's first meeting with HDH Bapji.	99
23	HDH Bapji declares His wish to make Ghanshyambhai a sant to Jagdishbhai.	100
	HDH Bapji commands Ghanshyambhai (HH Swamishri) to become a sant.	101
	Shriji Maharaj, Himself, gives sant dikshā to HH Swamishri.	103
	HDH Bapji tremendously extols the glory of HH Swamishri.	104
	HDH Bapji declares HH Swamishri as the future successor Satpurush of SMVS.	105
24	Made Jabardanji, an expeditious poet, give up his addiction of tobacco by honestly telling him about it.	107
	Taught the sanchālaks to live a propriety filled life at the bāl sanchālak training.	109
26	Wished for the wellbeing of an opposer even after being showered with insults during the religious travels in the Kutchh district.	111

	Granted salvation to a poor elderly man from the village of Sānkodṛā in exchange for a handful of rice.	117
27	On the occasion of the Dabholi temple's inauguration, HDH Bapji and Shriji Maharaj gave darshan to a non-religious woman and granted her the bliss of Murti.	120
	HDH Bapji teaches the sants an important lesson on frugality for Maharaj's dharmādo.	122
28	HDH Bapji teaches the sants and devotees about the proper usage of the items received from Maharaj's dharmādo.	123
	Omnisciently heard the prayers of a sant and showered him with motherly love.	125
29	Cared for a STK mukta with a fever and told him to take medicine.	127
	Was satiated by feeding the devotees.	127
	Performed sevā during the construction of the Murtidham hall even when burning with a 103° fever.	129
30	Sants from another sect are amazed to see HDH Bapji performing such small sevās.	130
31	HDH Bapji refuted a tempting offer of 51,000 rupees in exchange of placing an idol of another deity in the Vāsnā temple.	132
	Silenced a devotee from speaking ill about the Motā mandir.	134
32	Taught a devotee who had previously been a sant in another organization about not talking offensively about the previous Guru or the previous organization.	136
33	Portrayed His divinity by omnisciently hearing the thoughts of a sant.	138

	Omnisciently revealed Jasubhai's wish to donate one block of jaggery when 200 blocks of jaggery were sold during the seasonal business.	139
33	After omnisciently learning of his wish, HDH Bapji gave the entire fruit of the shibir to Becharbhai while staying in sevā at the temple.	140
34	Treated Rakeshbhai Haribhai Thakkars' hole in the heart through His sankalp.	142
	Took the thermocol elephants from beside His āsan, placed them beside Maharaj's Murti and taught everyone an important lesson on simplicity.	145
35	Refused to accept an expensive vibrating chair.	146
	Eager to use an old and worn out dhotli even on foreign land.	147
	Showered immense blessings on the people and animals during foreign travels.	149
36	Made Rameshbhai Suhagiya consolidate the true form of Bhagwan Swaminarayan and bestowed him with a divine life.	151
	Former Prime minister, Keshubhai Patel appreciates HDH Bapji for the upliftment of the aboriginal community in Panchmahāl.	155
37	Transformation tales of Jethabhai from the village of Zānzri, Lālābhai Pagi from the village of Junā Kālibel, Lāljbhai Chārel from the village of Nānirel and Sahajbhai Dāmor from the village of Sarasavā.	156
	HDH Bapji transformed the life of Himmatsinh of the Gādiyā village with pure grace.	157
38	Made Savdasbhai Sindhav of the Tuvā village attain the omnipresent Bhagwan.	161
39	Gave inspiration to Kishor Bhagat of Bhāvnagar to live a divine lifestyle.	165

	Had intense dedication for the sermons of Sadguru Muni Swami at Saraspur. He didn't even get up to use the washroom for hours.	169
	Even when forced to clean tons of utensils, he never missed a single word of the sermons.	170
	Kept His ears focused on the sermons while crushing hardened dough to prepare lādoos.	171
40	Gave an experience of a sermon like that given by the nand sants by continuously delivering a sermon for three hours.	171
	Delivered sermons for two days at Surendranagar even after being terribly hurt in an accident.	172
	Continued to deliver a sermon until blood started to drip from His mouth and until he was unable to speak clearly.	175
	Devotees from the villages of Khākhariyā and Zālāwād still remember the sweetness of HDH Bapji's sermons even years later.	175
	Eager to deliver a sermon for 24 hours in a day even at the avarbhāv's age of 86.	176
	Offered vartmān to Bipinbhai Godā, a strict follower of the Jain dharma, freed him from the cycles of birth and death and made this his last birth.	177
41	With HDH Bapji's blessings, Chhabilbhai Ādeshrā realized that he has been granted salvation in this lifetime.	179
	Chhabilbhai Ādeshrā sung the glory of HDH Bapji in front of devotees from kārya satsang.	180

# DISTRICTS - TALUKAS - VILLAGES

Districts	Taluka	Villages
Ahmedabad	Viramgam	Vasan
		Vasva
		Manipura
	Sanand	Daran
		Zamp
		Vanaliya
		Upardal
		Rethal
	Bavla	Kanotar
		Sakodara
		Kesaradi
		Devdholera
		Metal
	Daskroi	Kujad
Kutch	Bhuj	Baladiya
Mehsana	Mehsana	Langhanaj
		Joshiपुरa
	Kadi	Vamaj
		Kalyanपुरa
		Deusana
Rajkot	Dhoraji	Dhoraji (M)
Panchmahal	Ghoghamba	Sarasava
		Zanzari
Anand	Anand	Bakrol
<p>Note :-</p> <p>1)The Districts described here are shown in the map of Gujarat.</p> <p>2)The villages described here are only those which are in book.</p>		



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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# Gujarat in the 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> Century

**Legend**

1 Swaminarayan Dham  
2 Patdi  
3 Kadi  
4 Zalod  
5 Muli

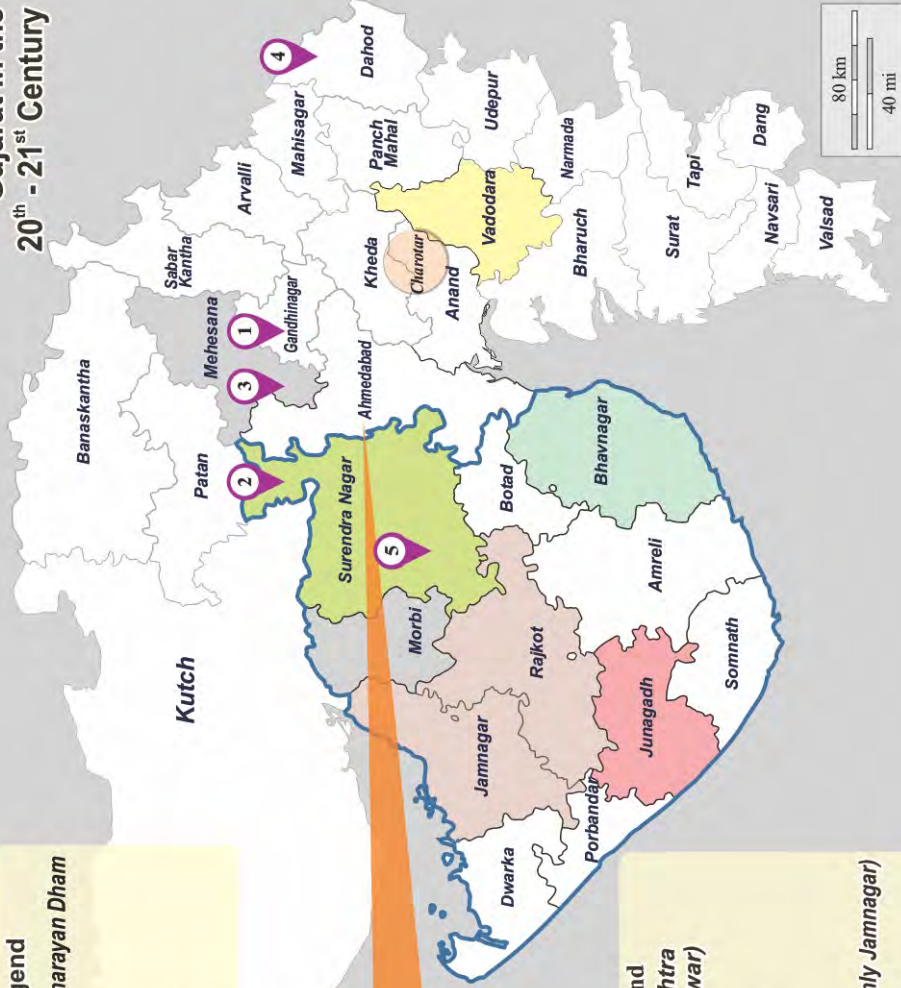
**Legend**

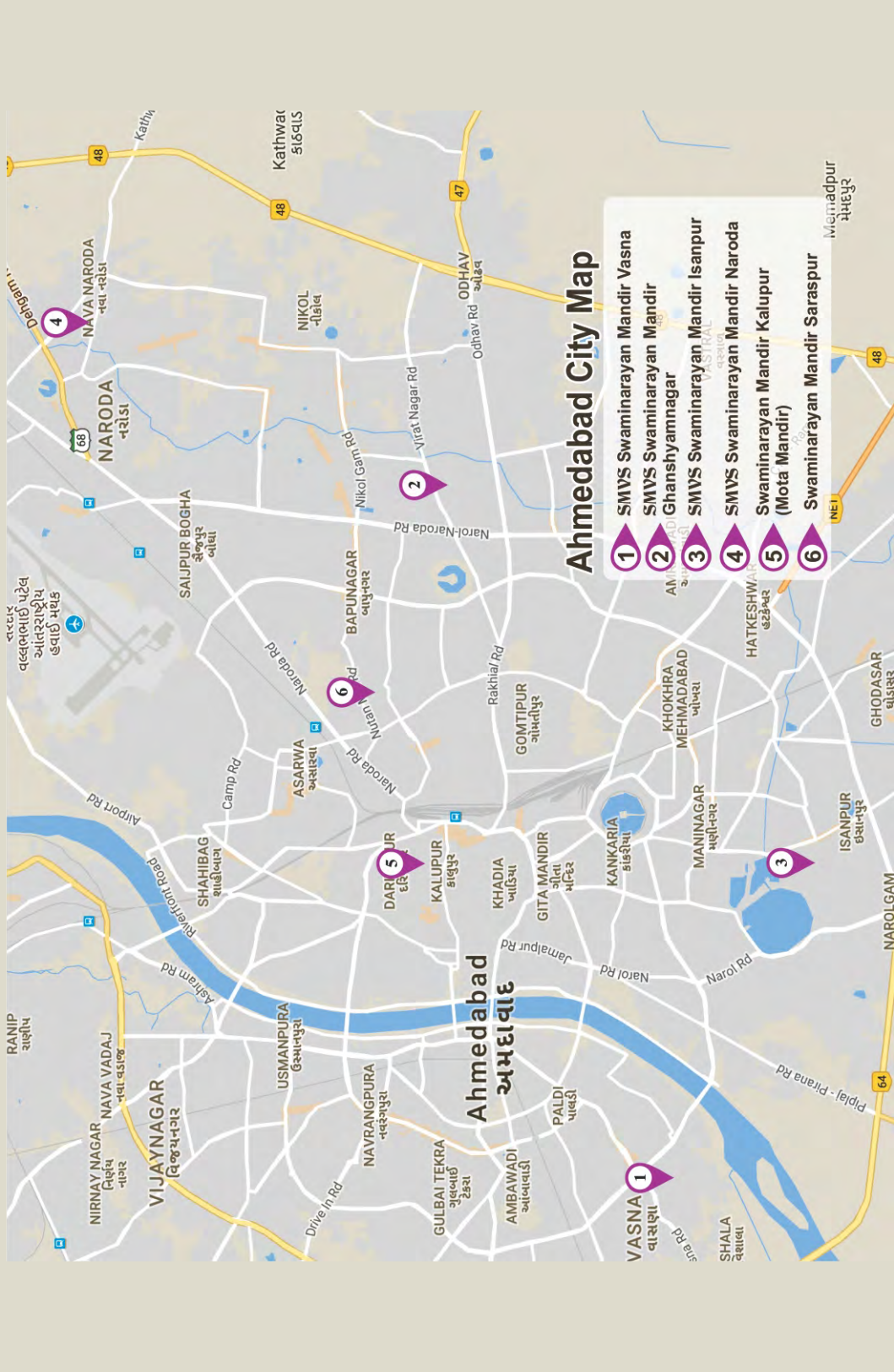
Saurashtra  
(Kathiawar)

Sorath  
Gohelwād  
Zālāvād  
Hālār  
Kālāvād (Only Jamnagar)  
Vāgad



Nalkantha Region





## Ahmedabad City Map

- 1 SMVS Swaminarayan Mandir Vasna
- 2 SMVS Swaminarayan Mandir Ghanshyamnagar
- 3 SMVS Swaminarayan Mandir Isanpur
- 4 SMVS Swaminarayan Mandir Naroda (Mota Mandir)
- 5 Swaminarayan Mandir Kalupur
- 6 Swaminarayan Mandir Saraspur



**HDH Bapji**



**HH Swamishri**

### **His Divine Holiness Bapji (Founder of SMVS)**

*“There should be no compromise in the principles and no breach of religion or conduct.”- HDH Bapji*

Making this the motto of His life, and propagating the glory and the supreme knowledge of Bhagwan Swaminarayan to countless souls, HDH Bapji is recognized as a *Satpurush* of principles.

HDH Bapji is full of astonishing qualities such as; principled life, exemplary ascetism, firm execution of the religion's conducts, humbleness, innocence, transparency, egoless nature and strong faith that Shriji Mahārāj is the sole doer of everything. All these qualities have become an inspiration for thousands of aspirants. Walking along His footsteps gave rise to a multitude of sants and devotees who firmly follow the conducts of religion.

Coming in association with the divine persona of HDH Bapji, they gain the true superior knowledge of Bhagwan Swaminarayan, attain ultimate salvation, experiences peace of mind, become pious, become devoid of malicious thoughts and experiences oneness with Bhagwan Swaminarayan. His preaching gives one the complete satisfaction of knowing Bhagwan Swaminarayan's true identity and of receiving ultimate salvation during this lifetime.

HDH Bapji has become a savior for the poor people residing in the villages of *Panchmahāl*, who have become entrapped in the grasp of black magic. He has brought drastic changes in their lives by casting a ray of hope in their misery filled lives. Currently, at the age of 86 Guruvarya HDH Bapji still travels to hundreds of villages and personally visits to devotees' homes and guides them on the path of divinity.

Receiving continuous inspiration from HDH Bapji can stimulates all the sants and volunteers of the SMVS organization to tirelessly perform travels around the world, to bring individual change and to deliver this organization's divine message to all persons. Moreover, with HDH Bapji's inspiration, educational services, medical services and natural disaster relief services are also active through this organization.

HDH Bapji is credited for all the events and services organized by SMVS. It is through His divine inspiration and blessings that this organization's honor and prestige has spread throughout the world. This sect's, as well as other sect's countless aspirants, sants, and leaders bow down to this incredible Satpurush's spiritual persona. HDH Bapji emphasizes that such astounding divinity exists because Bhagwan Swaminarayan is the sole performer of all the activities! Under the command of HDH Bapji, **HH Satyasankalpdasji Swamishri** is handling all the satsang activities. He is giving this revolutionary task incredible momentum, to ensure that this organization's fundamental message is delivered to all persons





It's not easy to measure the glory of Shriji Maharaj and His mukta. Even if we were to make ink from all the seven seas, make a paper as large as the Earth and make pens out of all the trees on earth and then write for eternity, it's still impossible to measure or write about their glory.

Oh, Bapji! Stay ever pleased on us... Please forgive us for making the mistake of writing about your glory in this book.

We have tried to decipher your divine acts, your divine moments and divine experiences with our small minds.

You are always in Parbhav... So, how can we understand your true identity with our tiny minds ?

Thus, please shower grace on us so that we can understand Your true identity.

Please indulge us in the divinity of your glory.

You have enlightened an incomparable nishtha for Bhagwan Swaminarayan in us.

You have explained to us that meditation, devotion, and upasana can only be done of Shriji Maharaj.

Our swami, our controller and our bestower of bliss is only and only Shriji Maharaj.

Infinite Anadimuktas are just like the Murti but they are still all servants, tasters of the bliss – You have explained this pure knowledge.

We beseech thee O HDH Bapji! Please shower us with grace so that we can learn to idealize and implement in our lives, your character, your tenacity, and your ideals.



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**SWAMINARAYAN DHAM**

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