

IRHSMSLRHREA EVJ
 SAYIAPAHHCAHEAU
 AHATYMTNJANDMBN
 MAITANDGHDAUAHA
 RSSNWAAAMSRRKUG
 AIAILWVNRBIAMJA
 HNSADHUEOTLRUAD
 DEPSTHNSMILKGDH
 MOHANA EHTPTRUHE
 GOPIRIA OIYASNOL
 GHIAMROHLWAODLP
 NKYXTKSODROSHM
 AAANNRHAJMPATRE
 NLA AORIUNHSIVAT
 IMAWSDNANA JAHAS

ANKOOT	GANESH
ARJUN	GOPAL
BHUJ	GOPI
CHHAPAIYA	HOLY
DHARMA	JUNAGADH
DHOLERA	KRISHNA
DWARKA	KUMKUM
	LAXMI
	MANTRA
	MAYA
	MILK
	MOHAN
	MOON
	MUKUND
	NARAYAN
	RADHA
	RAMANAND
	SADHU
	SAHAJANAND
	SAINT
	SHRI
	SITA
	SWAMI
	TEMPLE
	TILAK
	VADTAL
	VEDAS
	VISHNU
	WORSHIP

Diary

March

- 8 Shree Hari Jayanti
- 10 Aamalki Ekadashi Fast
- 14 Holi Utsav
- 15 Fuldol Utsav, NarNarayan Dev Jayanti
- 25 **BST begins**
Clocks go FORWARD 1 hour
- 26 Papmochni Ekadashi Fast
- 29 Eclipse

April

- 7 Ramnavmi Shree Swaminarayan Jayanti
- 9 Kamda Ekadashi Fast
- 12 Shree Swaminarayan Bhagwan's Chhatti
- 24 Varuthini Ekadashi Fast
- 30 Parshuram Jayanti

May

- 9 Mohini Ekadashi Fast
- 23 Aapara Ekadashi Fast

June

- 7 Nirjla Ekadashi Fast
- 21 Yogini Ekadashi Fast
- 27 Rath Yatra Utsav

YUVAK ACTIVITIES

Vadodarani Sabha- Oldham

The Vadodarani Sabha was a pivotal moment in the Swaminarayan Sampraday. It was when Muktanand Swami defeated the great scholars of Vadodara to prove that Lord Swaminarayan was God. This katha is contained in the Shastra Satsangi Jeevan, compiled by Shatanand Swami.

The Vadodarani Sabha was re-enacted by the Shree Swaminarayan Yuvak Mandal Oldham on Saturday the 30th of October; yuvaks from each Mandir had gathered to watch this highly anticipated Rupak, as well as the Yuvak Mandal Santos. It was night to remember which was filled with laughter and joy and all those who attended learned a great deal about our Sampraday.

Other News

Since the last publication of this newsletter, there was two Patotsav's

celebrated here in the UK of our sister temples. The first being Shree Swaminarayan Temple Edgware's 3rd Patotsav being celebrated during 14 November 20 November. Along with this Shree Kutch Satang Swaminarayan Temple Harrow celebrated its 10th Patotsav was celebrated during the 26th December to the 1st of January.

Shree Swaminarayan Yuvak & Mahila Mandal Willesden went on their annual 12 Dham Yatra taking place from Sun 25th Dec - Wed 28th Dec 2005. Events such as Yatras gives us the ideal opportunity for satsangis from different Mandirs to interact and gain stronger links.

Shree Swaminarayan Cardiff Yuvak & Mahila Mandal held a Satsang Sabha on Friday 20th and 21st January in the presence of respected Santo's from Bhuj Mandir Sadguru Swami Bal Krishnadasji and Shastri Swami Akshar Priyadasji.

Shree Swaminarayan Yuvak & Mahila Mandal UK held a sabha on

Sat 21st Jan 2005. The sabha was held so the yuvaks could show their appreciation of the work carried out by the three Yuvak Mandal Santos. Shastri Swami Muktavallabh Dasji, Shastri Swami Dev Charan Dasji and Shastri Swami Krushna Swarup Dasji had been in the UK for almost 9 months and they have worked relentlessly to lay the foundation for the future of the Sampraday. The sabha had started with a Yuvak from each Mandir giving a short speech, followed by a quiz. The sabha was concluded by speeches by the Santos with Krushna Swarup Swami rounding things off with a very powerful speech about unity and the only way forward is to stand united in Satsang. Alongside the speeches a very special and emotional speech was made by David Millington, introduced to Satsang by Swami DevCharan Das. His speech echoed what the other yuvaks had said showing his deepest gratitude to all three Santos for introducing him to Satsang and more importantly to Lord Swaminarayan.



Publication of Shree Swaminarayan Yuvak & Mahila Mandal Oldham

Issue 14. March 2006

HISTORY OF OUR TEMPLE

This article gives a brief background of Shree Swaminarayan Temple Oldham.

Originally, the sabhas were held at the music hall in Werneth Park, as the satsangis grew in numbers, to nearly 500. Acharya H.H Tejendraprasadji Maharaj visited Oldham in 1976 and suggested that we should build a temple in Oldham and properly establish the Swaminarayan satsang in Oldham. The Late Mahant Swami of Bhuj, Shastri Swami Dharmajeevandasji often sent prasad to satsangis in Oldham from India, which was then distributed within the community. A Baptist church on Lee Street was an ideal property and was bought in June 1977. All satsangis even children worked day and night to have the temple completed for an official opening before Diwali of that year. With all the effort and time donated by the satsangis the temple was completed well before time. The total cost of purchase and renovation came to £11,000. The official opening was on 22nd October 1977.

In 1978, the temple sports club was formed. There were originally 40 members some of whom are members even to this day! In October 1980, a new Sinhasan was shipped from India and installed in the temple. The altar weighed a staggering 2 tonnes! Costing £4,000 and standing 16ft high! It is hand carved out of teak



and took 40 volunteers one week to put together, it was the first of its kind in Britain.

The murti of Sahajanand Swami in our altar was brought from India by H. H Nivrut Acharya Tejendraprasadji Maharaj. Painter Swami Purani Purushottamprakahdasji came to

England from Bhuj in 1988 and dramatically improved the appearance of the Murti. Oldham temple was the third Swaminarayan temple in the UK. It was the first Swaminarayan temple to hold prayer services 7 days a week both mornings and evenings. The temple has been open for darshan every single day since the opening.

The temple has had two extensions, the later one being the largest. This involved the men's toilets being moved, the office being made larger, and attic space being created. The development improved facilities for the sadhus who visit annually.

The building next to the Mandir has been bought and there are activities such as homework club for the children and IT classes for the IT beginners and for those who want to upgrade their skills. Every Thursday Bal Mandal classes take place so the young members can learn about the satsang. Anybody wishing to join any of these classes please contact a member of the Yuvak Mandal.

IMPORTANCE OF MANDIR

In all religions across the world, there is always a focal point to ensure that the faith continues and grows. In our Sampraday, Temples perform a vital role in acting as a focal point. It was for this reason that Lord Swaminarayan had 6 grand temples constructed in His

divine presence. These temples were constructed at Ahmedabad, Bhuj, Vadtal, Dholera, Junagadh and Gadhada. Additionally he had left Prasadina Murti's which were later installed by the Acharya's in Muli, Jetalpur and Dholka.

Many people raise the question, what is the difference between

praying at home and praying in temple. A man however great or intelligent cannot meditate calmly in the home. The reason is simple; there are too much material objects and thoughts around in the home that will distract one's devotion. There is a traditional saying that be performing one Mala in Temple

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THE ELEVEN COMMANDMENTS..

..are to be observed by any devotee who wants to reach Akshardham. The eleven commandments include the Panch Vratman, which a satsangi must follow in order to be part of the sampraday. If however, he/she wants to attain salvation that person must not only follow the Panch Vratman, but also the additional commandments. The reason for having these commandments is to focus one mind onto god and stop any distractions and bad vices.

1. **Not to kill any living-being.**
2. **Not to commit adultery.**
3. **Not to eat meat in any form. Not even in a moment of inexecutable necessity or as to save one's own life.**
4. **Not to be influenced by any bad vices or take any form of intoxicants.**
5. **Not to touch a widow.**
6. **Not to commit suicide.**
7. **Not to steal.**
8. **Not to accuse anyone under false pretences.**
9. **Not to slander deities or other faiths.**

10. **Not to take food and drink from improper sources.**
11. **Not to listen to scriptures which deny the existence of God and refrain from listening to sermons from persons who deny the existence of God.**

There are 11 Niyams that are recited in Nirvikalp Uttam Ati. These are as follows:

1. હિંસા ન કરની જંતુકી
Hinsa na karanee jantukee
(Do not harm any being)
2. પરત્રિયા સંગકો ત્યાગ
Parastriya sangako tyag
(Do not touch other women. This does not include relatives)
3. માંસ ન ખાવત મદ્યકું
Mans na khavat madhyakun
(Do not eat meat)
4. પીવત નહિ બડભાગ
Peevat nahi badabhag
(Do not drink alcohol)
5. વિધવાકું સ્પર્શત નહિ
Vidhavakun sparshat nahi
(Do not touch widow women)

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will give the same fruits as doing one hundred Malas at home. This illustrates how important temples are in our Sampraday. Additionally in Mandir we have contact with other satsangis. Maharaj has said on many occasions that we should have 'Het' (love) between satsangis and attending Mandir regularly we have the perfect opportunity to fulfill Maharaj's wish. Also from time to time we have darshan of Santo's and we have the chance of doing Sant Samagam, to try and better ourselves as satsangis.

To prevent His devotees from straying away from religion and to keep everyone devoted to Him,

Lord Swaminarayan thought of a number of things. One of these being to build temples and install idols of Lord Shree Krishna and



Himself as Lord Shree Hari Krishna Maharaj.

Lord Himself installed the murtis at the temples that He constructed.

6. કરત ન આત્મધાત
Karat na atmaghat
(Do not commit suicide in any circumstances)

7. ચોરી ન કરની કાહુકી
Choree na karanee kahukee
(Do not steal)

8. કલંક ન કોઈકું લગાત
Kalank na koikun lagat
(Do not make false accusations)

9. નિંદત નહિ કોઈ દેવકું
Nindat nahi koy devakun
(Do not insult deities)

10. બિનખપતો નહિ ખાત
Bin khapto nahi khat
(Don't eat food from improper sources)

11. વિમુખ જીવકે વદનસે, કથા સૂની નહિ જાત
Vimukh jivake vadanase katha sunee nahi jat
(Do not listen to speeches or Katha by those who have turned their backs on God)

After His departure to Akshardham, as Lord had stated that Acharyas should install murtis of God with Vedic mantras and ceremonies.

To gain utmost pleasure and to focus on Maharaj one should leave all problems at the door and realise that our only purpose of coming to Mandir is to serve Maharaj and to make Maharaj happy.

People achieve great inspiration and pleasure whilst worshipping God with great saints and other devotees in the temple. For these reasons temples are a necessity in the life of a satsangi.

ECLIPSE

There are two types of eclipses that can occur. They are the Solar Eclipse or a Lunar Eclipse. Solar eclipse is an eclipse occurring when the Sun, Moon and Earth are on a single line, the Moon being in the middle. Seen from the Earth, the Moon is in front of the Sun and thus part or all of the light of the Sun is hidden by the Moon. Solar eclipse in Gujarati is called **Surya Grahana**. Lunar eclipse occurs when Sun, Earth and Moon are in a single line with Earth in the middle. If this occurs, the Moon (or part of it) does not receive light from the Sun because it is in the shadow of the Earth, and thus the Moon becomes invisible. This is called **Chandra Grahana** in Gujarati.

The religious explanation of the Eclipse is that when the gods and the demons churned the Milky Ocean to obtain Amrut (nectar) which makes them immortal. Lord Vishnu took the form of Mohini, a charming lady to get back the Amrut that was taken by the Asuras. Fooling the Asuras, she returned with the Amrut and began to offer it all to the devs. But an Asura named Rahu had disguised himself as a Dev realising that he had been fooled when Mohini was distributing the nectar amongst the Devs.

As Mohini was about to approach Rahu, the Sun and Moon pointed out to Mohini and she got her sword and chopped Rahu's head off. Since the nectar had already reached up to the neck, he did not die. Thus the head came to be known as Rahu and Ketu as the body. To avenge this betrayal, Rahu and Ketu fought with the sun and the moon. They are enemies of the Sun and the Moon, who at certain times of the year (during conjunction or opposition) swallow the Sun or the Moon causing either a solar or a lunar eclipse.

Before an eclipse, we should wash our clothes used for pooja and our house and temple should also be cleaned. **Gautama in Parashar Madhava** explains the fasts to be observed, 'All except the young, the



old and the ill should stop eating four Prahars (12 hours) before a solar eclipse commences and three Prahars (9 hours) before a lunar eclipse commences. The young, the old and the ill should stop eating one Prahara (3 hours) before an eclipse. Foods cooked with water should be thrown away and one should not take food during the eclipse.

When the eclipse begins the food would have been digested. One should take food only after seeing the sun or the moon free from the eclipse. When the clear sun or the moon is not seen before sunset or sunrise, in the case of the solar and lunar eclipse respectively, food can be taken only after the sun or the moon is seen the next day.



During the eclipse, Lord has said in the Shikshapatri:

Whenever an eclipse of the Sun or the Moon takes place, all my disciples shall immediately suspend all work and after purifying themselves shall chant the Mantra of Shree Krishna. Shloka 86

One should prepare an asan to sit on and light a divo then sit peacefully in the middle the room and sing kirtans, chant mantras and read scriptures.

When the eclipse is over, they shall take a bath with clothes worn at that time. Householders shall give alms to the poor according to their means and ascetics shall worship God. Shloka 87

Take bath/shower with all clothes and then only touch/wear clean clothes. As mentioned earlier, you have prepared this clothes.

Clothes which are unclean or have been worn or touched are impure and to be washed after the eclipse.

After taking bath/shower only, one should touch God or do the normal activities such as cooking.

The next Surya Grahana is on **29 March, 2006**. It will traverse equatorial West Africa, the Sahara, the western Mediterranean, Turkey and Russia.

There is an eclipse on the 14th but we do not observe this one because it is not one that is visible by the naked eye in the UK.