



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

Westfield Lane, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 9EA Est. 1966 Charity Reg. No. 271034

Tel: 020 8909 9899 Fax: 020 8909 9897 Email: bym@sksst.org

Shikshapatri Bhashya

Slokh 61

My disciples who by old age or by hard circumstances have become unable shall give their idols of Shree Krishna, which they have worshipped, to other able disciple. The disabled disciple shall thereafter serve God to the best of their ability.

Swaminarayan Bhagwan in this slokh has given guidance to those who are unable to perform pooja. The previous slokhs from 49 onwards has talked about the way to do pooja. If due to certain reasons you are able to perform the Pooja Bhagwan has said to give to another devotee who you trust.

The Pooja has been given a lot of importance as stated in slokh 55 even those who have reached the high state like King Ambrisha still have to do pooja.

Discussion Points:

- *Can you think of any examples of adversity or disabilities that would require a devotee to give up their physical pooja?*

Mental worship/Maansi Pooja is stated in the Bhashya as a suitable alternative.

If someone is not able to do physical or mental pooja, they should try and look at an image of Bhagwan.

- *Who should you pass your pooja on to? If you do not have anyone, what should you do with your pooja?*

If you do not have anyone to pass your pooja on-to, you should give your pooja back to the Mandir or a Santo/Sankayogibai to dispose of in a correct manner.

- *Why is it necessary to give the pooja to Mandir, Sant or Sankhyogibai as a last resort?*



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Use an example:

Think of a family heirloom, that has been passed down for generations or something that is quite precious to you. If one day, you were no longer able to look after these items, you would expect someone to take care of them for you, rather than simply throwing it away.

The murtis in your pooja are just as important, if not more. That person would have served Bhagwan for a large number of years. Simply throwing them away is like throwing away all of that hard work.

By giving it to someone else, or even the Mandir, Sant or Sankhyogibai, they will be able to give the murtis the respect they deserve and dispose of them in the correct manner

Shlok 62

They shall worship only those idols of Shree Krishna, which have been given to them by the Acharya (of Dharma Kul) or installed by Him. Other idols shall be respectfully bowed before, but not served.

Swaminarayan Bhagwan authorised only the Acharyas to install the Murtis of Bhagwan in His Mandirs. Nobody else is authorised to install Murtis or initiate satsangis and sadhus.

Within the Shastras written by Swaminarayan Bhagwan, He has promised to reside specifically in the Murtis installed by Himself ([Ahmedabad](#), [Bhuj](#), [Muli](#), [Vadtal](#), [Junagadh](#), [Dholera](#), [Dholka](#), [Gadhpur](#) & [Jetalpur](#)) and the Dharmakul Acharyas only. No other members of the Dharmakul, except the Acharyas of Ahmedabad and Vadtal Gadis, are authorised to install the Murtis of Bhagwan (The rules are outlined in the Desh Vibhag Lekh).

Discussion Points:

- *What is an Acharya?*

An Acharya is the Head of a Sampraday. He protects Dharma, is a spiritual leader and guru, and initiates a satsangi into the sampraday. There are two Acharyas in the Swaminarayan Sampraday; one for northern India, and one for southern India.



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The following table lists all the Acharyas of the Ahmedabad Gadi till date.

Acharya Number	Name of Acharya	Born on	Became Acharya on	Death	Term
1	<u>Acharya Shree Ayodyaprasadji Maharaj</u>	25 May 1809	10th Nov 1826	18th Feb 1868	42 Years
2	Acharya Shree Keshavprasadji Maharaj	16th Apr 1835	18th Feb 1868	09th Apr 1890	22 Years
3	Acharya Shree Purshottamprasadji Maharaj	07th Feb 1870	09th Apr 1890	25th Nov 1901	12 Years
4	Acharya Shree Vasudevprasadji Maharaj	17th Jul 1899	25th Nov 1901	29th Nov 1937	35 Years
5	Acharya Shree Devendraprasadji Maharaj	05th Oct 1922	30th Nov 1937	12th Oct 1969	32 Years
6	<u>Acharya Shree Tejendraprasadji Maharaj</u>	11th Apr 1944	13th Oct 1969	Present	35 Years
7	<u>Acharya Shree Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj</u>	18th Oct 1972	15th Oct 2004	Present	Present

- *Can you give examples of temples that have been built -under the Nar Narayan Gadi?*

Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane, Adelaide, Toronto, Fiji, Delhi, Ahmadabad, Bhuj, Muli, Jetalpur, Ghandinagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan, Badrinath, Haridwar, Mathura, Kanpur, Ayodhya, Allahabad, Varanasi, Mombasa, Nairobi, Kisumu, Eldoret, Nakuru, Mauritius, Auckland, Muscat, Karachi, Seychelles, Sweden, Tanzania, Thailand, Kampala, East London, Willesden, Kenton, Stanmore, Plumstead, Oldham, Bolton, Cardiff, LA, California, Washington, Atlanta, Georgia, Chicago, Kansas, Boston, Detroit, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Zambia, and not forgetting all the Harimandirs in our villages of Kutch – to name a few!

- *Why should you not worship idols installed by Acharyas of a Gadi other than the two Gadis of the Original Swaminarayan Sampraday? Can you think of any examples?*

Murtis given or installed by other Acharyas of other Sampradays are worthy of respect and should be humbly bowed before with great reverence but should not be daily worshipped.



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Worshipping Murti's installed by anyone other than the two Acharyas results in a deterioration of one's faith and devotion to their Vaishnav Sampraday.

- *The NarNarayan Gadi is a community, to which each one of us belong. Why is it important to belong to a community? What are the advantages? Are there any disadvantages?*

A Sampraday will bring community, focus, identity, direction and a sense of belonging, which will help to improve one's faith and service. It will avoid confusion and firmly set the path to realisation.

- *What about murtis residing in your home sinhaasan? Should we be worshipping them?*

Conclusion.

Devotees of Lord Swaminarayan must perform Poojan and serve only those Murtis given to them or installed by an Acharya. Only by accepting the guidance of either of the Acharyas, Nar-Narayan Gadi or Laxmi-Narayan Gadi, are we fulfilling the wishes of Lord Swaminarayan. Only then will our devotion and service to the Murtis be fruitful.