



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

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

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## SHIKSHAPATRI BHASHYA – SHLOK 21, 22 & 23

### Shlok 21

|| ***One shall never slander Deities, place of pilgrimage, place of worship, Brahmins, Devout wives, Saints and Vedas (Holy Scriptures), nor listen to such slander.*** ||

This is a very important shlok with a lot of information within it. Primarily it refutes slander in all forms. Here Sahajanand Swami specifies six types of people or things.

Much of this slander is often through a superiority complex that their God is greater than any other. There seems to be too much talk of one God being greater or better than another. Instead, we need to change this ideology to the fact that a specific God is better for me and say – ‘Rama is best for me,’ or ‘Swaminarayan is best for me.’

There is only one God. The various incarnations are mere instruments of that one supreme Lord. To slander any one of these God’s is to slander the supreme Lord, their own ‘*Ishwara*’. Those who cannot accept the greatness of the various God’s – Rama, Krishna, Swaminarayan, Shiva, Ganapati, Surya, Parvati etc. have not yet understood the Sanatan Dharma.

A person should believe his own personal God – Ishwara, to be the greatest and in this way strengthen his devotion to his personal God. However he has absolutely no right to slander any other deity and their devotees.

### Shlok 22

|| ***One shall never accept the remnant part of an offering made to any deity to whom wine and flesh are offered and before whom goats and such other animals are scarified.*** ||

One must never partake in foods from those who are intent on ‘*Himsa*’ and who themselves partake in meat and other intoxicants. Vaishnavas are forbidden especially as such foods destroy one’s *Satva Guna* (righteous qualities). **Shrimad Bhagwat** further explains, ‘Impure (Aetho) foods, non-vegetarian foods, food prepared by somebody in an angry mood, food from a low born etc. should never be consumed,’ as such food is considered impure and destructive physically and mentally.

Therefore foods such as alcohol and meat are considered extremely foul and should never be accepted even if it is a part of an offering to a deity.

**Can we have bhang during Shivratri?**



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### **Shlok 23**

**|| *When passing by temples of Lord Shiva and other deities, one shall bow to them and pay due reverence to the deities therein.* ||**

### **What do we do when we pass a Hindu temple?**

This shlok talks about paying respect to other deities. If the temple of Ganesh, Suryanarayan (Sun God), Shiva etc come on our way to particular destination, one is supposed to offer obeisance by bowing down. We must never walk the path of disregarding any accepted deity.

### **What if we don't have time to do darshan of the idol inside the Mandir?**

### **Do we have to bow to Swaminarayan Mandir's of the other sects?**