



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](tel:02089099899) Fax: [020 8909 9897](tel:02089099897) Email: bym@sksst.org

Shikshapatri Bhashya 44

|| My Sat-Sudra disciples, who are devotees of Shree Krishna and observing their Dharma, shall wear a Tulsi Kanthi and shall mark the Tilak similar to those of Brahmins, Kshatriyas and Vaishyas ||

2 types of Sudras:

1. Sachudra (sat-Sudra)

- a. Krishna Bhakta and one who is true to his duty.
- b. Born in a righteous family refrain from meat and alcohol, devoted to Brahmins and serve Vaishyas.

2. Asachudra

- a. Do not live according to the code of ethics

Sudras are any 'low born' hence not necessarily those from the 4th caste. For example, a child born out of an affair is considered a Sudra. Two types of such children:

- Anulomaja – born from a true marriage (Sat-Sudras) who desire salvation
- Pratiloma – (Asachudras)

Sudras who desire salvation, serve the other castes and perform their duties have the right to diksha, Tulsi mala and Urdvapundra ('U' Shaped tilak).



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](tel:02089099899) Fax: [020 8909 9897](tel:02089099897) Email: bym@sksst.org

Shikshapatri Bhashya Shlok 45

|| My disciples who belong to the substrata of society shall wear a sanctified double rosary of sandalwood around their neck and shall place only a round mark on their forehead but not a Tilak ||

This shloka is for Asachudras (Sudras) and others. As they too have a right to serve the Lord, Swaminarayan Bhagwan has not ignored them.

Such people should wear the chandlo only and not the 'U' shaped tilak. Due to their past karmas, Sudras do not have the right of doing seva to the murtis, thus they do not need to wear the tilak.

They can however, do darshan and kirtan bhakti etc.

Is it right that Sudras should be treated differently from the other 3 castes? **Discuss**

Discussion points:

- What are the 4 castes? Is there really discrimination between them?
- What is the purpose of the caste system? Is there any relevance to this system in this day and age?
- Can it be right that we differentiate between humans? **Discuss the issues of karma.**
 - People pay now for their actions in this life and previous lives.
 - We're born in the caste, family and status according to our sins and deeds.
 - We are fortunate enough to have found Lord Swaminarayan – A human form is the only form in which we can do bhajan bhakti to the fullest yet so many humans waste this opportunity.

Please emphasise: The discrimination is manmade, the Lord intended the caste system to provide an administrative structure so that everyone was aware of their role and thus society could function smoothly. For example, Brahmins should provide the religious knowledge which nourishes societies spiritually and Kshatriyas are the warriors and administrators of the kingdom/ country. In this day and age this interprets as Brahmins working hard to ensure our rites and rituals are performed according to the Vedic teachings and MPs, the army and police force are now our administrators and protectors.

A Sudra can never be called 'an untouchable'. Those, regardless of caste who act wilfully, breaking the Panch Vratmans are arguably the true untouchables.