



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 74

One shall not adopt any of the indecent deeds of the people of the past, but shall follow their worthy deeds only

Many great people in the past have conducted great deeds; but many have also done acts/deeds which are considered unethical. All actions of such great people are done for a purpose – even if we do not understand them.

To want to copy them reminds one of the saying 'If someone jumped of the cliff, would you follow them?'. Would you be able to imitate Lord Shiva when he drank the poison?!

Our motto should be 'Learn, don't imitate' – Discuss

Example of acts not to be imitated

- Adultery of Lord Indra and Rishi Gautam's wife, Ahalya
 - From this we learn the misery caused by such acts
- Ram, Krishna and other avatars killed thousands
 - From what angle can you justify such Ahimsa? Simple answer - You Cannot
- Krishna Bhagwan had over 16000 wives. We mere humans have difficulty managing and pleasing 1 partner!

Discuss how some of the indecent acts have a purpose, for example – Krishna Bhagwan and Gopi's raas-leela was a result of Krishna Bhagwan fulfilling the desires of rishis who did penance for thousands of years and took avatar of gopis to be close to him. What purpose does the raas which men and women play together now have? None; other than breaching God's law of Maryada.

Shows like wrestling, or dance shows on the Indian channels always say 'Don't try this at home'. No one with any sense does as they realise and understand that to do so would cause injury. So why do insist of copying these great personalities when we are fully aware of the consequences?

This shlok is very closely linked to doing ninda – Discuss how

We tend to take avgun of those who have things in the past which are considered unethical. Discuss the consequence of such avgun.



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Points of discussion:

- The paap of avgun
- How avgun clouds over shuddh thinking
- How avgun causes us to take on the merits of others de-moral deeds

In the Bhagwat, Krishna Bhagwan explains to Arjun, you do your Karma, let Me worry about the fruits. Once in the chatra chhaya of the Supreme Personality, we don't even need to worry about our own acts let alone those of others. Surrender you mind, body and soul unto Him and let Him worry about the rest.