



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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Dadakhachar

Out of all the Grhastas who surrendered their minds bodies and souls to the Lord, Dada Kachar is the most praised and revered.

Dada Kachar was the only son of Ebhal Kachar and Somprabhani of Gadhada. He was born on Vikram Samvat 1857 Posh Vad Chat (6th) with the name Uttam. Dada was his nickname.

In Vikram Samvat 1861 Maharaj went to Gadhada after the Vasant Utsav in Kariyani. There he was greeted by Ebhal Kachar, who gave Maharaj his whole darbar and accepted a life of service to Maharaj. Because of this gesture, Maharaj always thought of Gadhada as His home.

Dada Kachar spent his childhood growing up in front of Shri Hari. Dada Kachar was approximately 5 years old when Shri Hari arrived in Gadhada but he was worthy of praise beyond that given to Bhakta Prahlad. His devotion was known not just within the Sampradaya but even amongst the governors of the British Empire.

Dada Kachar passed one agni pariksha after another; he had the utmost faith in Maharaj and was very trustworthy. He tried to fit a watermelon into a matlu just because Maharaj said it was possible, and Maharaj only had to call once for Dada to jump to His service, even if it was the middle of the night.

Dada Kachar's first wife was called Kumudbai. Unfortunately they did not have any children so at Shreeji Maharaj's insistence Dada Kachar married Jasuba, daughter of Bhatvadar Nagalpal Varu. Maharaj Himself was the charioteer of Dada's horse and carriage. Dada Kachar had 2 sons; Lava Kachar and Amla Kachar.

Dada Kachar was not only a devout Satsangi but also a praiseworthy king. At an age of only 28, he was able to establish a reign of peace for the first time in the Kathiavad region. He changed the whole role of the royal family which was accepted by the government of Mumbai. Despite the fame and glory of a successful kingdom Dada Kachar remained humble and always lived the life of a Das No Das (the servant of a servant)!

After the murti pratishtha of Gopinathji Maharaj in Gadhada (V.S 1885 Aso Sud 12th) Dada Kachar donated his 200 acre plot of land which is now known as 'Radha Vari'. In grief of Maharaj's disappearance, Dada Kachar was inconsolable even by Swami Gopalanand. It was only when Shri Hari Himself gave Dada Kachar darshan and presented to him a rose garland was he pacified. Dada Kachar left for Akshardham peacefully in V.S. 1909.



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Jinabhai

Jinabhai Thakor was the divan of Junagadh and the village owner of Panchala. His father was Manubha Thakor and his mother was Gangaba. His whole family were disciples of Guru Ramanand Swami. In V.S. 1858 Ramanand Swami came to Panchala with Nilkanth Varni, it was from there that Maharaj's murti mesmerized him and forever stayed in his heart. Jinabhai would constantly invite Maharaj, saints and haribhaktos and immerse himself in the nectar of satsang. Despite numerous unsuccessful efforts by the Navab of Junagadh to break his faith, Jinabhai had the gnan of the Vachanamrut behind him and the faith of Maharaj incrustated upon his heart.

Jinabhai took pleasure in the fruits of a relationship between his soul and Maharaj only; hence Shree Hari loved to visit Junagadh. In V.S. 1879 after the Fuldol utsav, Maharaj partook in the raas leela at Panchala at the request of Jinabhai. Maharaj duplicated Himself for each saint that was there, and played raas for hours; even to this day everyone remembers the raas utsav with great ore.

Despite being a learned ruler, Jinabhai gave more importance to fellow Satsangis than his own family. Once bhakta Kamalshi fell ill and Jinabhai's sister Adiben was in his service. There were not enough pills for a headache so she gave him none. However, when Jinabhai got ill she went and got some more. Jinabhai was angered by this and said that as she had been unjust and unfair to a bhakta of his Ishtadev (Lord Swaminarayan), he could no longer keep any family ties with her. It is worth thinking about the tremendous love Jinabhai must've had for his fellow haribhaktas.

At one time when Kamalshi Vanja, a Patel of Mangrol was ill, Jinabhai along with 3 servants carried Kamalshi in a bed from Mangrol to Panchala. Because of this great act Maharaj was so proud of Jinabhai that He gave him more praise than that which He gave to His own brother Iccharambhai. In V.S. 1883 Maha Vad 10th, when Jinabhai went to Akshardham, Maharaj carried the casket of Jinabhai, this was the first and last time Maharaj did this for any haribhakta.