



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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Birth of Ghanshyam Maharaj

After the curse of Durvasha Muni, Lord Nar-Narayan decided that Dharmadev and Murtidevi were to be his parents on earth. His father Dharmadev was born to Bal Sharma and Bhagyawati in town of Ittar in the state of Uttar Pradesh. His mother Bhaktimata (Murtidevi) was born to Krishna Sharma and Bhawani Devi in the town of Chhapaiya. These families were very religious and had an essence of single minded devotion to Lord Krishna. Parbrahm Purshottum Narayan had told Dharmadev many millions of years ago that he would be born into his family. The Scriptures proclaim that wherever Dharma and Bhakti are together, Bhagwan himself will also be present.

Dharmadev and Bhaktimata lived in Chhapaiya where Rampratapbhai was born. They suffered at the hands of demons and evil people. They went to Vrindavan to pray to the Lord and He revealed himself to Dharmadev and Bhaktimata and told them their wait was over and he would take birth as their son. The Lord said not to tell anyone about this. They were so overjoyed and carried on home, on the way they met a demon called Ashwasthama, who had asked where they had been? Dharmadev and Bhaktimata revealed to this demon that god will take birth in our home. The demon cursed them and said that when god takes birth on earth he will not be able to use weapons to fight evil. They were upset by this and carried on home. The demons kept on harassing Dharmadev and Bhaktimata.

Thus Swaminarayan Bhagwan was born on earth, on Chaitra Sud Nom (the ninth day of the bright half of the month) VS 1837. (Monday 2nd April 1781 AD).

Questions:-

- 1) **When was Ghanshyam Maharaj born?**
- 2) **What were the names of the Lord's Grandparents?**
- 3) **Who was the demon and what curse did he give? Would this curse have had an effect?**
- 4) **Who named the Lord and what names did he give them?**

The atmosphere leading to the birth:-

The birth was celebrated with great joy with koyals, parrots and peacocks singing with their sweet voices. People were bringing gifts from villages far and wide. Many ladies were singing songs in praise of the Lord while moving towards the house of Dharmadev with *Kumkum*, *Gulab*, *Phoolmala* and silky material in their thali's with joy. There was a big crowd outside the house. Outside in the *yagnashala*, Brahmins were chanting mantras with great pleasure. Whereas Dharmadev was distributing ornaments, clothes and cows to Brahmins, beggars and Saints. Glowing lamps and tuneful drumbeats and trumpets surround the house.



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A light was coming from the room where Maharaj was sleeping, but looking closer the light was coming from the body of the Ghanshyam himself and everyone realised that this was no ordinary child but Sarvopari Parbrahm Purshottum Narayan. All 330 million devtas came for darshan of the Lord and were showering the Lord with flowers.

"Dharma ghera anand bhayo, Jay bolo Ghanshyam ki..... Chappaiya me Lal bhayo, Jay bolo Ghanshyam ki..... Bhakta ke Bhagwan bhayo, Jay bolo Ghanshyam ki..... Hathi Ghoda Palkhi, Jay bolo Ghanshyam ki....."