



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 Fax: 020 8909 9897 Email: bym@sksst.org

Faith in Saints

How to consider someone a Saint

- A saint is someone who follows personal duty
- A bhakta of Lord Vishnu (full Vaishnav)
- who controls his sense objects and who is absorbed within his soul
(*Atmanishta*)(refer to *Bhaktachintamni prakran 2* so for further detail.)

Saints in our Sampraday are the next closest people to God. It is through scriptures and saints that we gain most of our knowledge. This is one of the main reasons why we have such faith in saints.

Other religions also place faith in there saints. For example Christians visit their priests in their confession box to reveal to them their sins and thoughts. They know that what they speak of will remain confidential. This is the same faith we place in our saints. Christians may also believe like we do that Santos will help us to reach Akshardham.

Points to Discuss:

- Why do we take saints to be so senior?
- Why do we use them as our gurus?
- Relating the trust we place in teachers to the trust we place in Saints. The same way we trust teachers to know what they are teaching us to be correct we should trust saints in the same way. Teachers gain their knowledge through books and we trust them through their qualifications, Saints gain their knowledge through scriptures that are written by Lord himself, therefore we should have the utmost faith in what they are teaching us (relating back to last weeks sabha on faith in scriptures)



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

What can saints do for us?

The scripture are like the instruction manual to everything in existence. The concept of Vedic authority is that they do not tell us what to do and what not to do. It is like an Atlas, it shows different places and how to get to them (if u takes this road you will get to this place). The saints are like the people that know the atlas inside out. If someone has been to a destination many times and fully studied the route would you trust them or would you guess your way there.

There are specific people to help guide you in every aspect of life e.g. teachers, coaches, business leaders and many others. But for the ultimate achievement there have to be qualified professionals, which are the saint's.

A quote from the **Shrimad Bhagwat**:

“O Lord! Whenever there is destruction of morality and faith in mankind, people seek the company of a realised soul for the upliftment of the self... Those who listen with their hearts and ears to the spiritual discourses from the mouth of a Sant, open themselves to a path of salvation through their faith and devotion to God.”

The company of such a saint instils Bhakti in mankind, restoring purity and morality in the hearts of many. Therefore he is uplifted and freed from the bondages of *Sansaar* (worldly life).



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

Santo ni Mahima

Santo ni mahima is the greatness of swamis. As we all know many scriptures explain the greatness of saints and what they achieved. One particular story is the famous one of Achutdaas Swami.

Achutdaas Swami was poor and one day went to a town to a haribhaktos house to ask for alms (bhiksha). A young boy who lives in the house gave swami rotlo, which made swami really happy. In return swami asked him to request a boon, the boy replies 'Swami, you're a poor saint, what will you be able to offer me?' However swami insisted that he asked for something, so the young boy replied, 'give me something which is most pleasing to you'. Swami became overwhelmed and bestowed him a boon that he has '**divine sight**' and the boon of reaching Akshardham.

Later the boy's parents went to Gadhada to do darshan of Lord Swaminarayan but he could not go as he was too young, however he could see everything already as he had divine sight. Once his parents returned they were sharing their stories of what they saw (maharajis vagha), but the boy found himself correcting his parents as he could see everything already through the boon that swami gave him.

This shows how much power saints actually have and how much they can help us in life to reach our ultimate goal.

Conclusion:

Dharma is the only means to wealth after death. Similarly, the only means of refuge is a Sant. The same way sunlight gives vision to the eyes, a Sant gives the vision of supreme knowledge.' For this reason alone we should have the greatest faith in Santos. A Sant is a God, a friend and a great soul/being.