

## Shikshapatri - Slokh 3 to 6

શ્રી ધર્મદેવ થકી છે જન્મ જેમનો એવા જે અમારા ભાઈ રામપ્રતાપજી તથા ઇચ્છારામજી, તેમના પુત્ર જે અયોદ્યાપ્રસાદ નામે અને રઘુવીર નામે, (જેને અમે અમારા દત્તાપુત્ર કરીને સર્વ સત્સંગીના આચાર્યપણાને વિષે સ્થાપના કર્યા છે.) (શ્લોક ૩)

*Slokh 3 - Ayodhyaprasad and Raghuvir who have been installed by Me as Acharyas at Ahmedabad and Vadatal respectively, sons of my brothers, Rampratapji and Ichharamji, born of Shri Dharmadev*

તથા અમારા આશ્રિત એવા જે મુકુન્દાનંદ આદિક નૈષ્ઠિક બ્રહ્મચારી તથા અમારા આશ્રિત જે મયારામ ભટ્ટ આદિક ગૃહસ્થ સત્સંગી. ( શ્લોક ૪. )

*Slokh 4 - All Naishtic Brahmacharis, Mukundanand and other saints and all householders, Mayaram Bhatt and others, all who have become My followers*

તથા અમારે આશ્રિત જે સુવાસિની અને વિધવા એવી સર્વ જાણ્યો તથા મુક્તાનંદ આદિક જે સર્વ સાધુ, (શ્લોક ૫)

*Slokh 5 - All female, married (including virgins also) and widows and all Sadhus, Muktanand Swami and others, all who have become My followers*

એ સર્વ-તેમણે,પોતાની ધર્મની સ્થાના કરનારા અને શાસ્ત્રને વિષે પ્રમાણરૂપ અને શ્રીમન્નારાયણની સ્મૃતિએ સહિત એવા જે અમારા રૂડા આશીર્વાદ તે વાંચવા (શ્લોક ૬.)

*Slokh 6 - All mentioned above, shall accept My Blessings Divine, Blessings which protect their Dharmas, which carry with them the Divine memory of SrimanNarayan and which are endorsed by the Shastras*

### Gujarati Terms

#### Slokh 3

Shree – Revered title given to a person of an elevated status

Dharmadev – Lord Swaminarayan’s father

Thaki – Through

Janam – Birth

Amaara – Ours (My)

Bhai - Brother

Rampratapji – The elder brother of Lord Swaminarayan

Icharamji – The younger brother of Lord Swaminarayan

Putra - Son

Ayodhyaprasad – The son of Rampratapji

Raghuvir – The son of Icharamji

Naame – By the name of

Datt-putra – Adopted son(s)

Sarve – All

Satsangina – One who keeps true company

Acharya – Spiritual teacher/leader(gurus)

Achaaryapanaane – Spiritual teacher/leader status

Vishe – Within

Sthaapan – Established

#### **Slokh 4**

Tatha – And  
Amara – Ours  
Ashreet – Followers/Devotees (those who have surrendered)  
Je – Like  
Mukundanand – A Saint  
Naishtik – Faithful until the end  
Brahmcharis – Celibate  
Mayaram Bhatt – A Devotee  
Adhik – And other  
Ghrasth – Householders  
Satsangi – One who keeps true company

#### **Slokh 5**

Suvasini - Married Women  
Vidva - Widow  
Baio - Females  
Muktanand Swami – A Saint (regarded as mother like figure amongst saints)  
Sadhu - Saint

#### **Slokh 6**

Sarva Temneh - They all  
Potana - Yours  
Dharma - Religion  
Rukshana - Protect  
Karnara - Doing  
Shastra - Books  
Vishe - Within  
Roodah Ashirvad - Divine Blessings  
Shreeman Narayan – Lord Supreme  
Smruti - Memory  
Ashirvad - Blessings  
Saheet - Right  
Amara - Ours  
Vanchva - Read

## **Meaning**

Slokh 3 - Lord Swaminarayan is stating that he has adopted his nephews as his own sons and has himself established them as the Acharyas (Spiritual Teachers/Leaders of all followers).

Slokh 4-6 - Bhagwan is blessing (which have incorporated in them assistance of following righteousness, acceptance in the scriptures and with the memory of Lord Supreme) all his followers: the celibate followers [applicable to those not married] like Mukundanand Brahmchari, the householders like Mayaram Bhatt and all females, including married and widows.

## **Why were the Slokhs written?**

1. Lord Swaminarayan is showing us he himself has established his nephews as the Acharyas of all followers.
2. To clarify any misconceptions in reference to leadership of the sect
3. To show the Acharyas by are an integral part of the satsang, as they are mentioned before the other tiers, which are mentioned in the forthcoming slokhs. Bhagwan then goes on to mention the other tiers further outlining who this shikshapatri is for and the hierarchical structure of the sect.
4. 2 Acharyas were established as they were to manage the north and the south division, being based from Amdavad and Vadtal respectively.
5. Naishtik brahmcharis such as Mukundanand and Householders such as Mayaram Bhatt are mentioned so that the relevant satsangis know whom they should aspire to be like.
6. Females are mentioned separate to householders as they a dependent on someone. ie husband if married and Father and brothers if widowed. If a male were to become widowed then would either re-marry and follow householder rules or follow Naishtik Brahmchari rules if he did not re-marry. A female would follow Suvasni rules if re-married or Vidhva rules if she did not re-marry.
7. Saints (Muktananand – Role model) are mentioned last in the list of followers because they are steady in their religion without doubts and detached from worldly desires. All tiers mentioned above must go to them for assistance. Females would go to Sankhyogi baio the female equivalent of a saint.
8. To inform that the Shikshapatri is written for all followers. Also by following it we maintain/protect of level of righteousness and follow correct path in life under the guidance of the Lord Supreme as authorised in scriptures.

## **How do we follow this Slokh?**

1. By acknowledging Lord Swaminarayan has established Acharyas as the Leaders of the sect and pledging full allegiance to them.
2. Following the relevant examples of devotees prescribed.
3. Remember Lord Supreme as he will give strength to follow the rules
4. Read the other scriptures authorised to gain knowledge in order to follow the rules steadfastly.
5. All the groups of devotees mentioned should read and follow the rules that have been written for them in the Shikshapatri.
6. Remember the Lord whilst following our Dharma.