

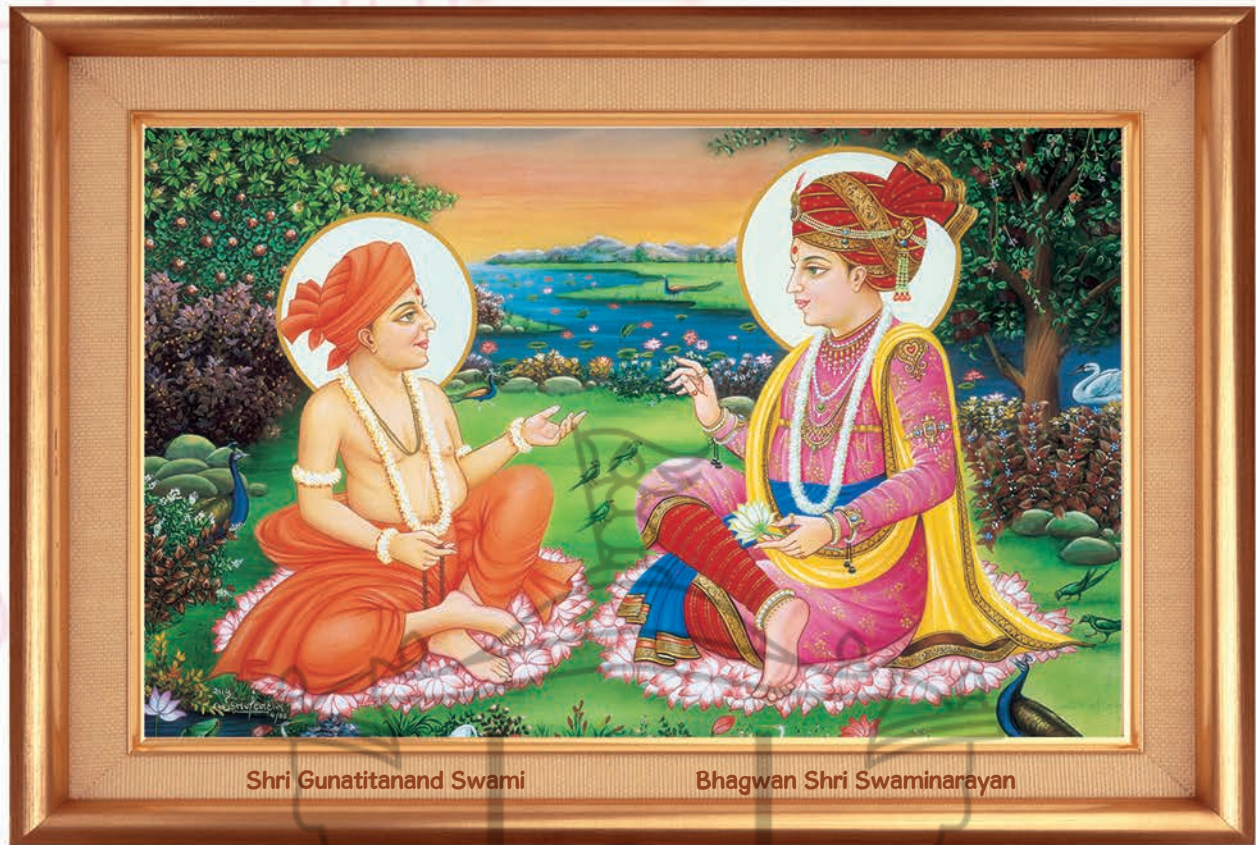
Shishu Satsang Vihar



2

Ages 8-10

Deepest Respects to



Shri Akshar-Purushottam Maharaj



Brahmaswarup
Shri Bhagatji Maharaj



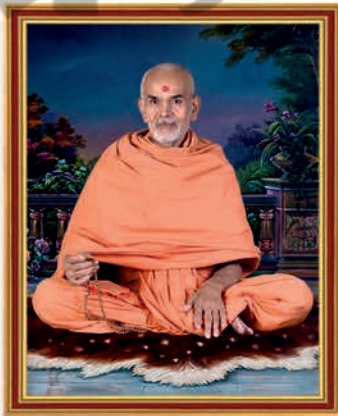
Brahmaswarup
Shri Shastriji Maharaj



Brahmaswarup
Shri Yogiji Maharaj



Brahmaswarup
Shri Pramukh Swami Maharaj



Pragat Brahmaswarup
Shri Mahant Swami Maharaj

॥ Shri Swaminarayano Vijayate ॥

Shishu Satsang Vihar



Shishu Name: _____

Mandal Name: _____



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Shishu Satsang Vihar – 2 (English Edition)

(A Book on How to Strengthen Āgnā and Upāsānā from Childhood)

Blessings : His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj

Inspirer : His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj

Presented by : Children's Activities Central Office
BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha
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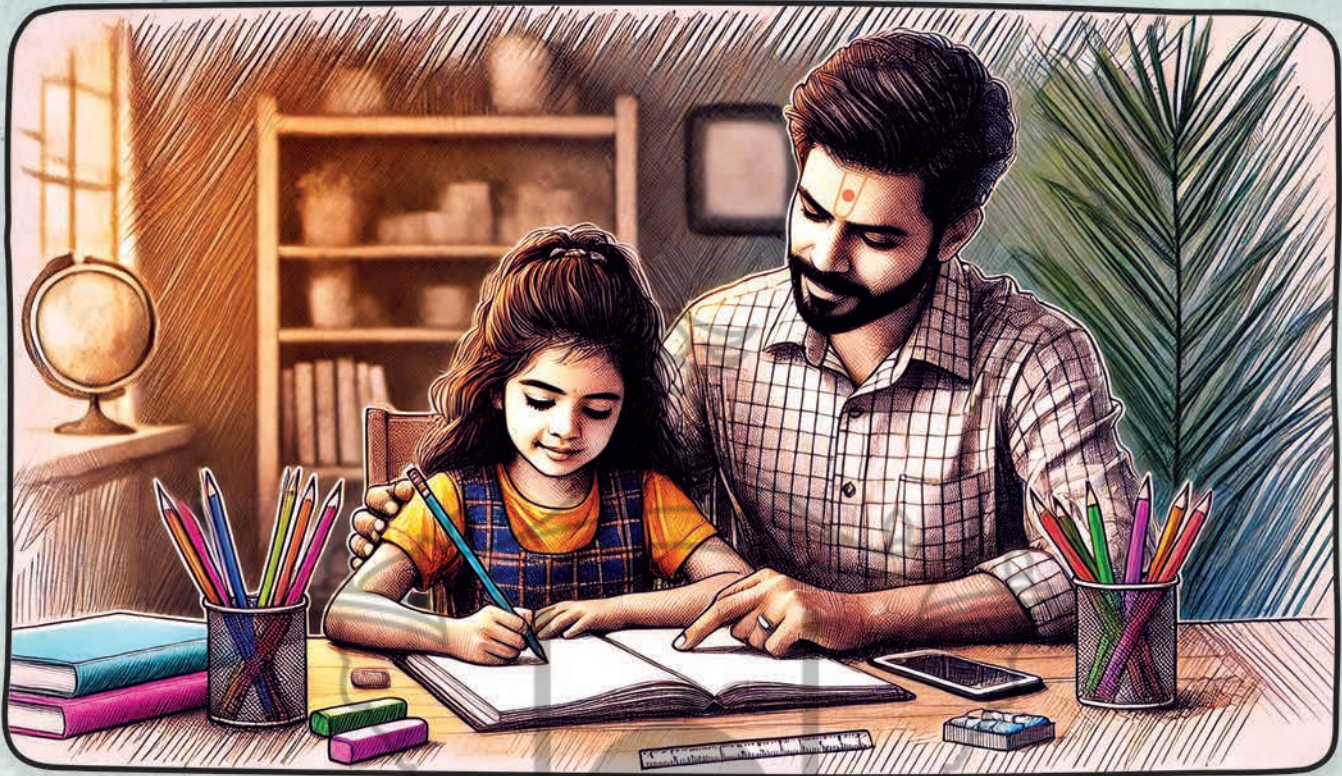
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Contents

1. Jivuba	01
2. Aharshuddhi (Eating Pure Food)	10
3. Sarvakarta (The All-Powerful One)	14
4. Being Stubborn	18
5. Trees Are Our Friends	22
6. Kusang (Bad Company)	29
7. Aashro (Finding Shelter)	30
8. Samp (Unity)	34
9. Sahajanand Namavali	38
10. Niyams (Our Rules)	42
11. Working Hard	45
12. Aadarsh Shishu (The Perfect Child)	50
13. Cultural Signs	54
14. Dhruv	58
15. Our Scriptures, Mandirs & the Sant	62
16. Ekadashi	69
17. Mukhpath (Memorizing our Knowledge)	70
18. Neelkanth Varni	74
19. Swamini Vato (Talks from Swami)	76
20. Mahant Swami Maharaj	82



For Parents



Papa, who made these big mountains?

I want to be a doctor. But how do you become one?

Mummy, why do you light a diyo for God every day and wave it around?

When children ask such heartfelt questions, they reveal a precious gift, an open, wandering mind and a heart full of love.

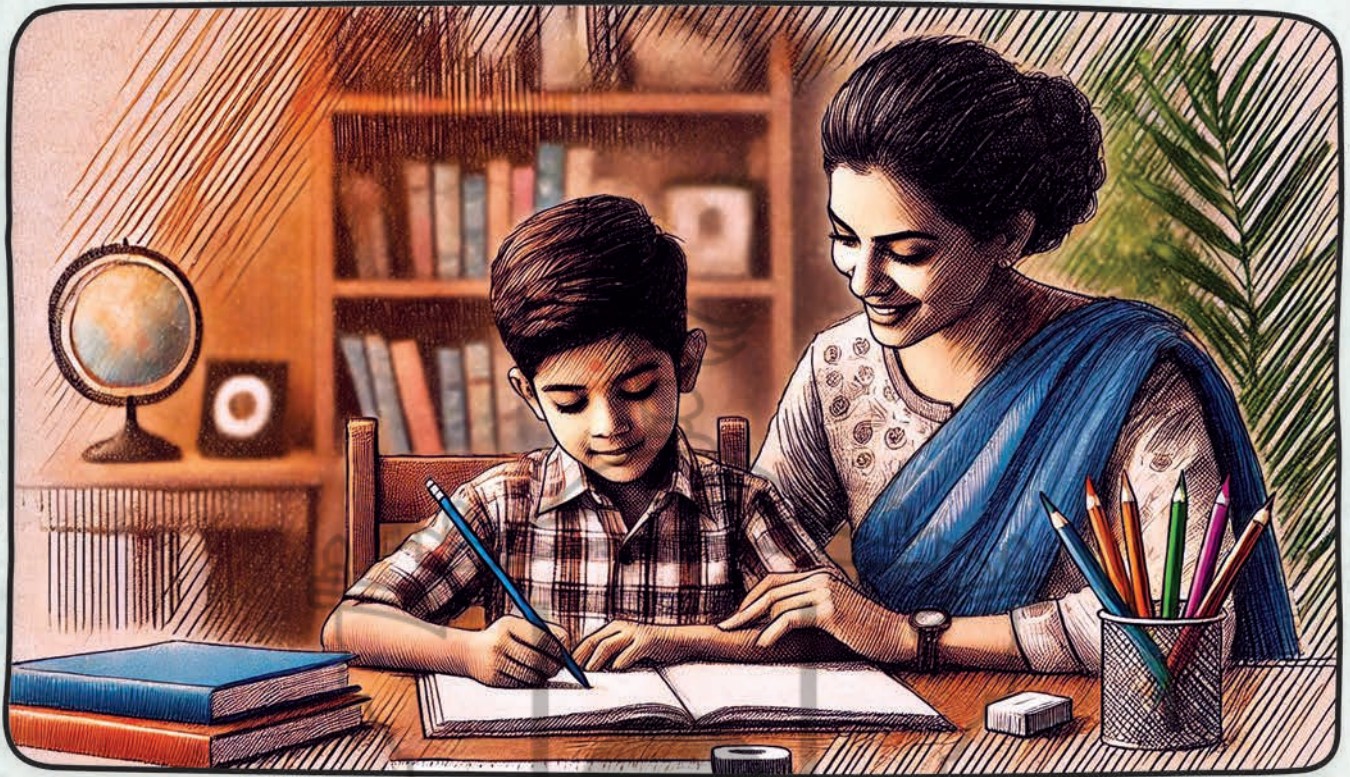
Between the ages of 9 and 10, children begin to look at the world with curiosity and imagination. They search for answers, crave stories, and quietly form the values that shape who they will become.

This is where Shishu Satsang Vihar finds its purpose. Designed for children in grades 2 to 4, this series helps them understand values, connect with the teachings of Satsang, and grow into thoughtful, kind individuals.

Each book includes inspiring stories, playful activities, and songs called Shishu Gunjans that children enjoy singing. These elements make learning feel natural, joyful, and lasting.

This second book in the series has been prepared with the blessings of Shri Akshar Purushottam Maharaj and Pragat Guruhari Mahant Swami Maharaj. When read together with a parent or guardian, it creates a shared experience, one that helps children absorb and remember the lessons more deeply.

May every child who reads this book grow with noble values, bringing light to their families, their communities, and the world around them.



A Note on Names and Words

Throughout this book, the words Bhagwan, Maharaj, Shriji Maharaj, and Shrihari all refer to Bhagwan Swaminarayan. The name Swamibapa refers to Guruhari Mahant Swami Maharaj.

Some pages include underlined words. Their meanings are explained at the bottom of each page in simple terms to support your child's understanding.

And finally, do take a moment to sing the Shishu Gunjan songs with your child. They are meant to bring joy and strengthen the bond between knowledge and devotion.

1.

Jivuba

Hello Friends!

Do you know what the most special part of our body is? It's our heart! Our heart is filled with love. We love our parents, friends, and teachers, all from the heart. And guess what? Even Bhagwan says,

"My devotees are my heart!"

Yes, my little friends! Do you know any devotees who kept Bhagwan in their hearts? Look closely... here they are!



Among the many true devotees of Bhagwan Shri Ram, this is **Shabari**.



Among the countless who loved Bhagwan Shri Krishna, this is **Meerabai**.

Hello Friends!

Today, let's learn about a very special person who lived during the time of Bhagwan Swaminarayan.

Her name was Jivuba, and she lived in the village of Gadhada.

Bhagwan Swaminarayan meant everything to Jivuba. Even as a little girl, she loved doing bhakti.

Every morning, she would lovingly pray and offer food to a small murti of Thakorji.

She would play with Bhagwan, talk to Him, as if Bhagwan Himself was right there with her.

That's how she offered her bhakti, with a heart full of love and joy.

Jivuba always did things that made Bhagwan happy.

She would sleep on the floor, eat very little, and even fast to please Him.



She loved chanting Bhagwan's name and always kept Maharaj's murti in her thoughts.

But not everyone understood her devotion. Her father, Abhel Khachar, would say:

"Jivu, you're still young. This isn't the time to do bhakti."

But Jivuba knew something very important: We should start worshiping Bhagwan from a young age!

Once, Jivuba lovingly offered a bowl of milk to Thakorji.

But her father, Abhel Khachar, didn't believe in her devotion. He came in and said:

"Jivu! This is just a murti. There's no Bhagwan inside it."

And with that, he angrily threw the bowl of milk aside. Then, in a loud voice, he challenged her:





"If Bhagwan is really in the murti, let's see if He drinks the milk!"

Jivuba didn't flinch. She was a true devotee.

Calm and fearless, she picked up the bowl again and offered it to Thakorji.

And then something amazing happened...
Gulp... Gulp... Gulp...
Bhagwan appeared from the murti and began drinking the milk, until He finished the entire bowl!

Abhel Khachar was shocked. His eyes widened, and his heart melted.

He immediately fell at Bhagwan's feet.

He finally understood that Bhagwan truly lives in the murti.

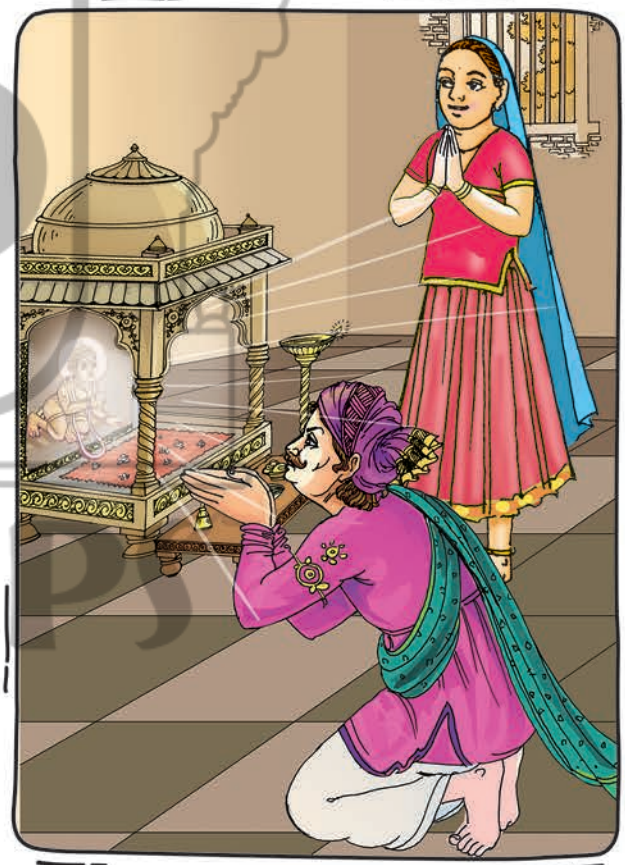
Jivuba gently explained:

"Bhagwan always lives in the murti. Even though I am young, a true devotee knows He is always there.

Sometimes He shows Himself, sometimes He doesn't, but He is always present."

Her father now understood.

But did you?



Do you want to be a true devotee like Jivuba?
Do you want to be loved by Bhagwan and Mahant Swami Maharaj?

“Okay friends! Look at the sentences below. Put a  next to the ones we should believe, and an  next to the ones we shouldn't.”



This is Soham. He just started first grade.
But his friends tease him and say,
“You’re still a little kid. You’re not supposed to do puja yet!”

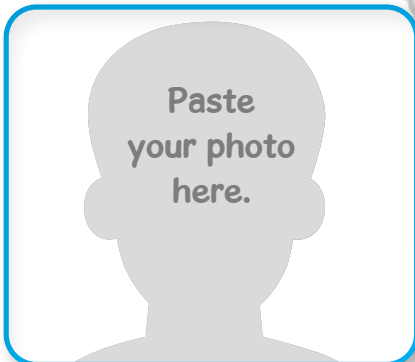
But Soham wants to become a true devotee.
So, should he listen to his friends or not?

☐

This is Disha. She always offers any yummy food she gets first to Bhagwan. One day, her uncle brought sweets (Kajukatri), and Disha was just about to offer them to Bhagwan. Just then, her uncle asked:

“What’s the use of offering it? Will the murti really eat it?”

But Disha wants to become a bhakta whom Bhagwan loves. So, should she believe her uncle or not?

☐

This is you. You are an ideal Shishu.
Mahant Swami Maharaj says,
“Never eat or drink anything without doing puja first.”

So, will you listen to what Mahant Swami Maharaj says or not?

☐

Wowee! Friends, Soham and Disha want to be tip-top devotees, just like Jivuba, and make Mahant Swami Maharaj Raaji. Their friends and family tried to trick them into doing the wrong thing, but nope! They didn’t fall for it, not even once! Why? Because they’re true bhaktas of Bhagwan. And guess what? So are you! That means you’ll totally follow what Mahant Swami Maharaj says, right? Thought so! Now come on, let’s sing it together!

Shishu Gunjan

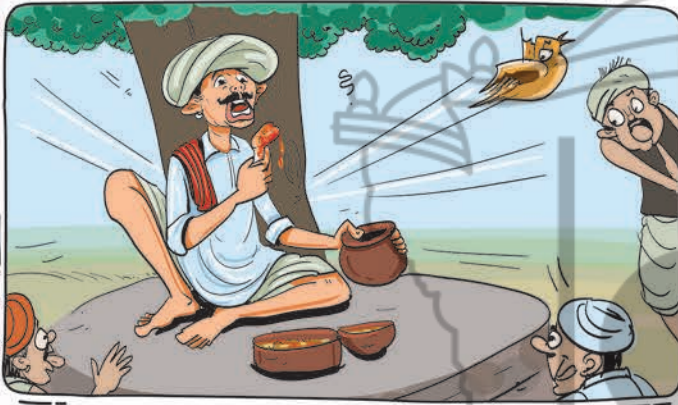
*Bhakti karu jivubā jevi, rāji thāye Shriji evi,
I’ll do bhakti like Jivuba dear, Shriji Maharaj will smile from ear to ear!
bhajanabhakti sadā karu, Mahant Swāmine rāji karu.
I’ll sing His name the whole day through,
And make Mahant Swami Maharaj happy too!*

2. Purity of Food

Near the town of **Junagadh**, there is a village called **Madiya Hatina**. In this village lived a man named **Rama Hati**.

He didn't really do any work during the day.

He would just sit under a tree in the middle of the village.



Rama had a bad habit. He used to eat meat and drink alcohol. Because of this, everyone in the village would stay far away from him.

One day, **Gunatitanand Swami** came to the village.

He saw Rama Hati sitting under the tree and went up to him and asked a question.

"Rama, if we give a lion dal, rice, vegetables, and rotli, will it eat that?"

Rama said,

"No, a lion won't eat that. That's not food for a lion."

Then Swami gently asked,

"Rama, if animals don't eat human food, should humans eat food meant for animals?"



Rama began to think. He realized that Swami was right. Animals eat whatever they find, even food lying on the ground.

But we are humans. We should not eat meat or drink alcohol.

From that day, **Rama gave up meat and alcohol**. He started eating clean and pure food made fresh at home.





The next day, Rama went to meet **Gunatitanand Swami** again.

He folded his hands and said,
"Swami, I don't eat meat or drink anymore.
I've stopped those things."

Swamishri was very happy.

He gently placed his hand on Rama's head
and gave him blessings with love and joy.

Dear friends, look! Someone wants to talk to you!

Hi there! I'm a **chicken**.
Even a little blood from a small cut hurts
you, right?
Then imagine how much it hurts when
someone tries to catch us and eat us.
It's really painful!



Hi! I'm a **egg**, Bhagwan Swaminarayan has said that you
should never eat me.
If we don't follow God's agna will he be happy with us?
Think about it.



Hi! I'm a **fish**, one of God's
beautiful creations.
Just like you need air, I need water to survive.
When someone takes me out of
the water and eats me...
Do you know how scary and painful that is?



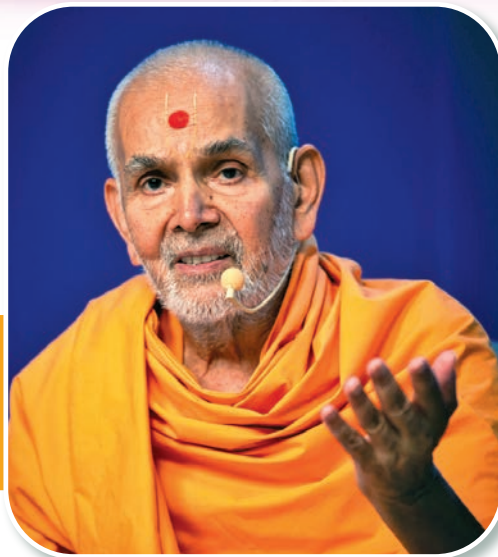
Hi! We are **Onion** and **Garlic**!

If you eat us, **Bhagwan Swaminarayan** and
Mahant Swami Maharaj will not be pleased.



So you see, dear friends, if we really want to make **Mahant Swami Maharaj** happy, then we **shouldn't eat any of those things** we just saw, not even a little bit! **Mahant Swami Maharaj** clearly tells us in the Satsang Diksha that:

“Satsangis should never eat meat, fish, eggs, onions, garlic, or hing.”
(satsang diksha shlok 29)



Dera little friends! A lot of times, chocolates, cookies, chips, and many other things have things we shouldn't be eatting. So make sure you use your detective eyes to check everything before you buy it.



If you see next to any of the packageing for something your going to eat. Eattng is will not please Swamibapa.

If you see this vegetarian symbol  next to something your going to eat its vegetarian



The same goes for this sign, you might be able to eat it but be sure to check the ingredients!

Look for the ingredients on each of the packets. Even if they have the  vegetarian or  vegan symbols next to them.



If you see onions, garlic, eggs, geletin or anything else we cannot eat that.

Dear Shishu Friends,

Below, you'll see some **yummy-looking food items**. But here's a **challenge just for you!**

Look closely at the pictures, read the ingredients (if listed), and think carefully:

Will eating this make Maharaj and Swami happy?

If you think the item is okay to eat and will make Maharaj and Swami raaji, put a  mark next to it.

If you think eating the item will not make them raaji, then put an  mark next to it.

Ready? Let's play smart and make the right choices!



INGREDIENTS (POUCH): Sweet
INGREDIENTS (Masala): Salt, S
Cumin Powder, Red Chilly Powder
Onion Powder, Block Pepp
Sugar, Permitted Flavours, Natur
and Nature Identical Flavour
hancer (E624 & E631)



INGREDIENTS (POUCH): Sweet
INGREDIENTS (Masala): Salt, S
Red Chilly Powder), Cumin Powd
Pepper Po **Garlic Powder,**
Onion Powder, tomato Poder, Br
Sugar, Permitted Flavours, Natur
and Nature Identical Flavour
hancer (E624 & E631)



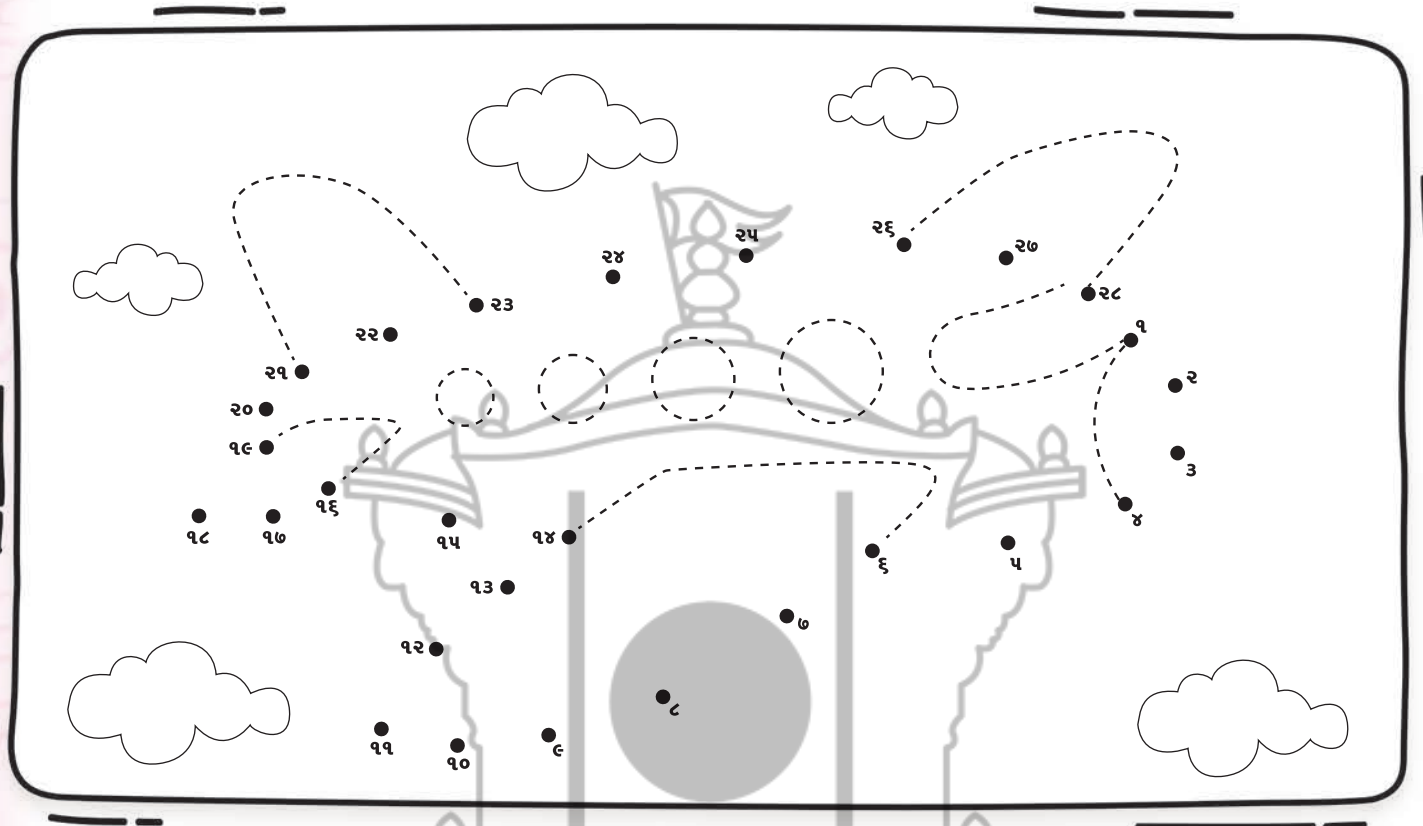
INGREDIENTS:
Egg Whies, Less that 2% soiamw
aluminate
Coetins : **Eggs**
Produced at a factory that at a
milk , wheat soy, peanuts and tre
fesh, shellfish.
Magic flavors



3. Sarvakarta (The All-Powerful One)

Get ready for some fun!
Connect the dots from 1 to 28 and
watch the picture come to life.

Once you're done, grab your favorite colors and color it in.
It is going to look fantastic. Are you ready? Let's go!



Wow! Well done! You did it.
You have made a wonderful picture!

What do you think we need?
Yes, you got it! We need a **pilot**!

To fly our plane, we need a pilot!

Discussion: Bhel

If we look through the kitchen at home, we'll probably find **potatoes, tomatoes, lemons, chilis, mamra, sev,** and a bunch of other tasty things we can use to make yummy bhel!

But wait! Not so fast!

It won't really become bhel without **a person** will it?

We need someone to mix it all together and turn it into something delicious, don't we?





The Bicycle

Imagine having the best **bicycle** in the whole world, shiny, fast, and super cool!

But will it ride all by itself? Of course not!

To ride a bicycle, you need someone to **pedal it**, right?

That's why, my dear little friends, let's think for a moment...

If even a bicycle needs someone to ride it, then what about this big, amazing world?

Someone must be out there **taking care of it** and **running everything!**



Every morning the sun pops into view At night the stars and moon shine too. But who, oh who, brings them all out?

Who makes the sky dance and twirl about?

Look at the flowers, all pretty and bright Some smell sweet, some are yellow or white Juicy fruits hang from branches and trees And everywhere around us, there's greenery and leaves!

Who paints these gardens? Who makes them grow?

Someone must, wouldn't you know?

My dear little friends, have you seen a butterfly? With colors so bold it seems to fly by!

And the peacock's feather... so vivid, so grand With shades and swirls only magic could've planned

Who fills these wings with so much delight?

Who gives them sparkle, who gives them light?

Up in the sky and down below, Mountains stand tall and rivers flow Caves go deep and oceans wave wide There's wonder and magic on every side!

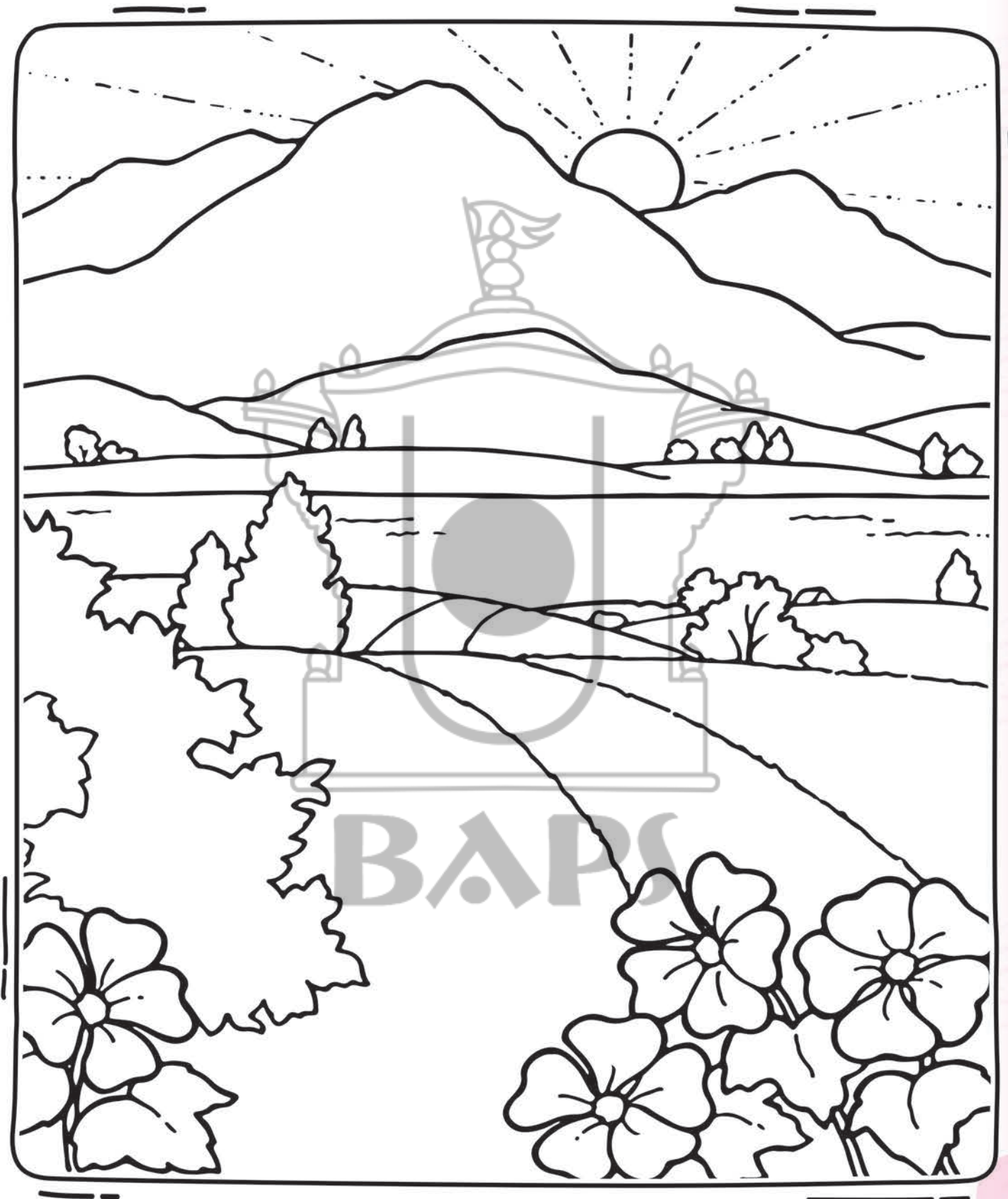
Mountains, cliffs, waterfalls, oceans, rivers, winds, and sweet fruits, birds that flutter, animals and little bugs that play!

So many things in this big wide world... Who takes care of it all?

Would you like to know who makes it so? Just wait a moment... we'll soon let you know!



My little friends, the creator of this whole world is Bhagwan!
Let's add a little color to the world Bhagwan has gifted us!



4. Being Stubborn

Once upon a time, there was a big, deep well.

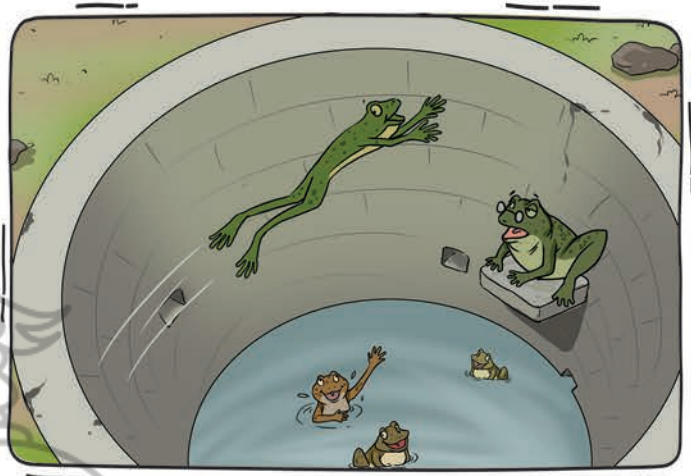
Inside that well lived a bunch of frogs.

But these weren't just any frogs.

They were wild.

They were rowdy.

And worst of all... **they never listened to anyone.**



Just beside this well lived a clever fisherman.

Every evening, he'd stroll up to the well, toss his net inside, and snatch up as many frogs as he could.



Grandfather Frog knew about this.

When the monsoon came, he gathered all the frogs and said:

"From now on, no one is allowed to swim in the afternoon. Stay hidden."

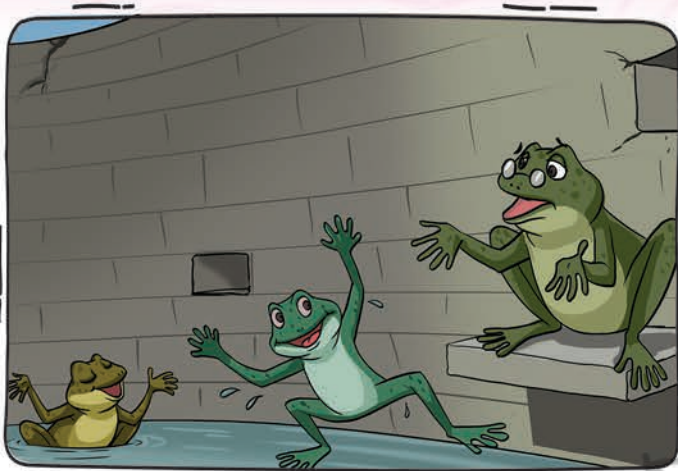
But the frogs were stubborn.



They croaked in protest:

"No way! We want to play with our friends! We want to splash around and jump off the walls!"





Grandfather Frog pleaded with them.
He warned them again and again.
But the frogs wouldn't listen.
They leapt from stone to stone, ribbiting
and making a noisy ruckus.
Grandfather Frog was very worried about
all the frogs.
The next day, the fisherman came as
usual.

He tossed his net into the water...
Swoosh!
He caught almost every single frog in one
go!
"Help! Help!" the stubborn frogs cried.
"Grandfather Frog! We were wrong!
Please save us!"



Without wasting a second, Grandfather
Frog leapt out of his home and sprang to the
top of the well.

CHOMP!

He bit the fisherman's foot as hard as he
could. "Ouch!" the man screamed, dropping
the net in pain.

The frogs were free! They all hopped back
to Grandfather Frog and bowed their heads
in shame. "We're sorry," they said. "We
promise we'll never be so stubborn again."



Dear friends, being **stubborn never ends well**.

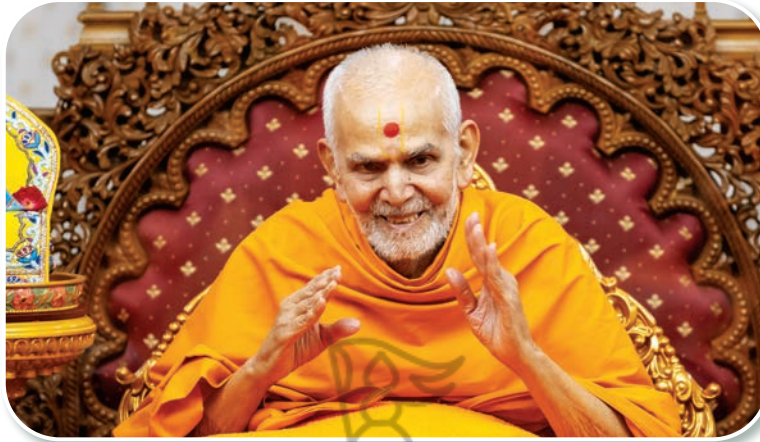
Sometimes, when we want something badly, or want others to see things our way, we
become stubborn just like those frogs.

Yikes!

We even forget to respect our parents. But guess what? Our parents give us rules and
advice not to stop our fun...

but to keep us safe. Just like Grandfather Frog. Let's remember this little story the next
time we feel like being stubborn. Let's listen, learn, and leap in the **right direction**.

What Mahant Swami Maharaj Teaches Us



This is why our guru, Mahant Swami Maharaj, teaches us:

“

જુદજું પરિ (નામ કયારેય સારું નથી આવતું.
મોટે આદર્શ શિશુએ જુદ કયારેય ન કરવી.

“Being stubborn never leads to a good result.
That’s why an ideal child should never be stubborn.”

”

And he also says:

“

જે જુદ છૂટી મોટાની વાત માને છે,
તે શિશુ મને ખૂબ ગમે છે.

“When someone gives up their stubbornness and listens to
their elders, that’s a shishu / really like.”

”

That’s right, dear friends!

If we act stubborn, even Swamibapa isn’t pleased with us.

Sometimes when we are stubborn, our parents might even give us what we want.

But deep inside, they feel sad.

That is why, dear friends, we should try not to be stubborn.

Have you ever been stubborn like this with your parents, or elders? So let’s write a letter to them asking for forgiveness for being stubborn with them.

Check the ones that apply to you: ✓

**Dear Mom, Dad, Grandparents, and my lovely brothers and sisters.
Jai Swaminarayan.**

1. I was stubborn about getting something new. ☐
2. I was stubborn about making my favorite food. ☐
3. I was stubborn about not going to school. ☐
4. I was stubborn about not going to Bal Sabha. ☐
5. I was stubborn about playing instead of studying. ☐
6. I was stubborn about watching T.V. or using the phone. ☐
7. If you were stubborn about something else,

write it here:

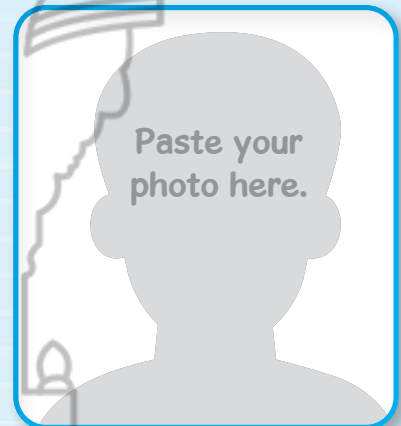
Now write a big promise below:

**"Please forgive me. From today,
I will not be stubborn anymore."**

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~



(Show this letter to your family and tell them you're sorry.)

**Wow, little friends! If you stop being stubborn and let go of your fussiness, then our guru Mahant Swami Maharaj will be so happy. So come on, little friends!**

Let's make a fresh start today...

**Shishu Gunjan**

*Motā kahe te sēcchi vāta, mārā mātē sārī vāta,  
What elders say is always right, What parents say brings truth to light,  
Jid mukine vāta mānu, guruharine gamato banu...  
Being stubborn isn't polite, Let's make our Guru's heart feel bright!*

## 5. Trees Are Our Friends

Hey kids!

Can we live without food?

Can we live without drinking water?

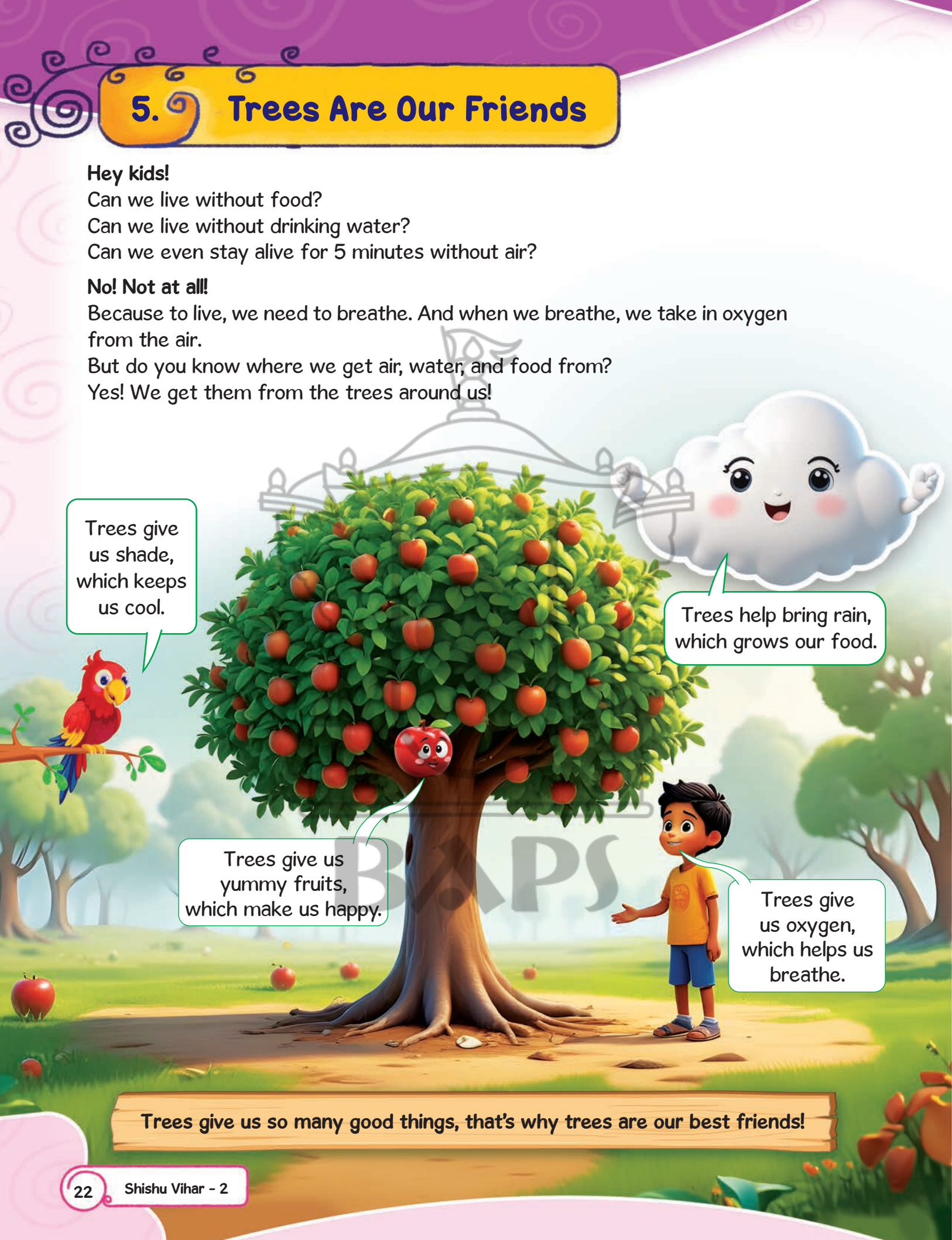
Can we even stay alive for 5 minutes without air?

**No! Not at all!**

Because to live, we need to breathe. And when we breathe, we take in oxygen from the air.

But do you know where we get air, water, and food from?

Yes! We get them from the trees around us!



Trees give us shade, which keeps us cool.

Trees help bring rain, which grows our food.

Trees give us yummy fruits, which make us happy.

Trees give us oxygen, which helps us breathe.

**Trees give us so many good things, that's why trees are our best friends!**

If there were no trees, how would we get clean air and water?  
Trees give us oxygen to breathe and help keep the air fresh.  
They also play an important part in the water cycle by bringing rain.  
We need oxygen to live even for one minute, we can't stay alive without it!  
That's why our great guru, Mahant Swami Maharaj, teaches us to grow and care for trees.

1 "I will not break trees or leaves off of trees."

1



2 "I won't damage the grass for no reason."

2



3 "I will water the flowers in my garden every day."

3



4 "I will plant at least one tree and will take care of it until it grows big!"

4



Let's go! Now we're going to make a tree, just like the one shown below. To do that, we can use either real Q-tips or make our own by wrapping cotton on small sticks. Once you have your Q-tips ready, dip them in colors and dab them gently to fill in the leaves.

Ready?

You can also take help from your older brother or sister if needed! Let's go, little friends, let's make a tree together!

Step: 01



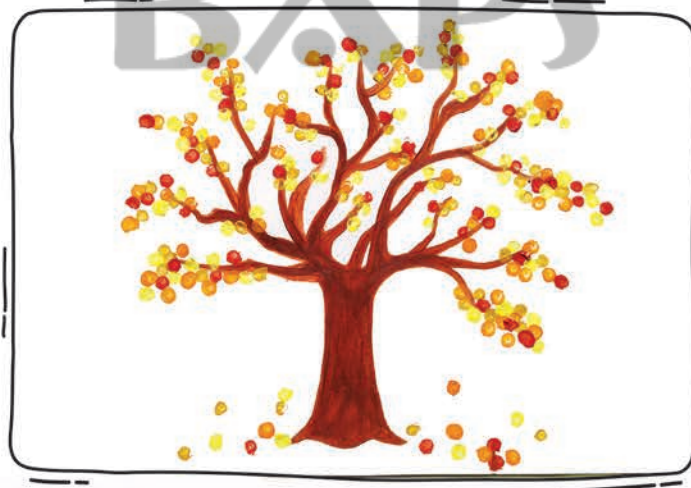
Step: 02



Step: 03



Step: 04



Alright friends, let's make a tree together!  
Look at the example on the side and create your own beautiful tree below.

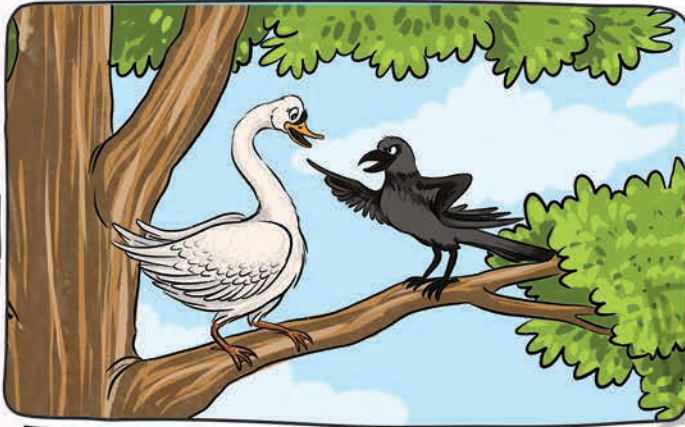


Let's Make a Promise

Children! Let's promise from today itself to take care of our tree-friends.  
Come on, everyone say it with me...

**Shishu Gunjan**

*Vrukso to che mitro amārā, tevothi che jivana amārā;  
Trees are our true best friends, On them our life depends!  
Vruksoni raksā kariye, Mahanta Swāmine rāji kariye.  
Let's protect each branch and leaf, With Mahant Swami, share this belief.*



One day, Kallu and Bholu were sitting on a big tree.

A **hunter** came and lay down to rest under the tree.

Bholu noticed that the hot sun was shining on the hunter's face.

So kind Bholu gently spread his wings to give the hunter some shade.



The hunter looked up and saw Bholu sitting calmly with his wings still spread.

He thought,

"This swan is the one who did it!"

The hunter grabbed his **bow and arrow**.

Pointing it at Bholu...

He aimed...

And **fired** straight at Bholu!

**Caw... caw... caw!**  
There once was a noisy crow named Kallu. But Kallu wasn't a kind crow he was a **kusangi** crow! (Kusangi means someone who never does anything good for others.)

One day, a sweet and gentle swan named **Bholu** became friends with Kallu.

Everyone warned Bholu,

"Don't be friends with that Kallu! He's a kusangi!"

But Bholu didn't listen.

He stayed quiet and kept being friends.



But Kallu... oh Kallu! He was a kusangi after all. He always wished bad for others.

Do you know what he did?

He flew right above the hunter's face...

And **pooped on him!**

Then he quickly flew away!

"YUCK! YUCK! YUCK!" shouted the hunter, jumping up angrily!





But thanks to **Bhagwan's grace**, the arrow missed Bholu completely.

Bholu quickly flew away, **safe and sound**.

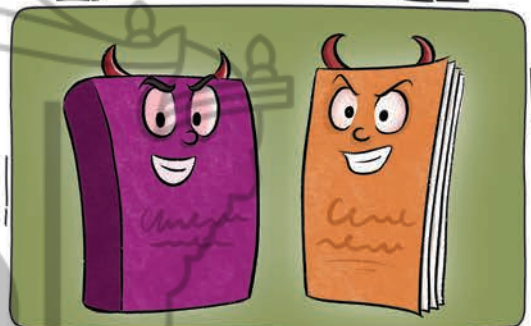
From that day on, Bholu thought to himself:  
"I will never live with a bad friend like Kallu again!"

And just like that,  
**he ended his friendship with Kallu.**

Dear Little Friends... Just like Bholu learned **Never keep the company of bad friends.**  
Because of their actions, **even good people can get into trouble.**  
So always choose **good, kind friends** who make you better!



Kusang is a bad, bad friend,  
Bad friends take you to a bad end!  
They spoil your life, make you stray,  
Stay away from them every day!



Kusang hides in bad books too,  
They mess up the mind and thoughts in you!  
Reading the wrong stuff leads you wrong,  
It weakens your heart, it won't keep you strong.



Kusang hides in phones and TV,  
It changes the way you think and see.  
Too much screen and bad shows too  
Can harm your brain and choices too!



So choose good friends, kind and true,  
Let goodness grow inside of you!  
Say goodbye to kusang don't even peek!  
And follow the path Mahant Swami speaks!

One day, Grandpa was explaining something very important to **Sahaj** and **Khushi** through a fun little activity.

"Would you like to do this activity too?"

"Then get ready!"

Grandpa pointed to a big basket of mangoes and said,

"Look at the big **basket of mangoes** drawn below. Some of the mangoes at the bottom are rotten. Some are very sweet and fresh.

Your job is to separate the good and bad mangoes from the basket."

Sahaj asked,

"But Grandpa! How can we tell which mango is good and which one is bad just by looking at them?"

Grandpa smiled and said,

"The mangoes with **worms drawn on them** are rotten, and the rest are good.

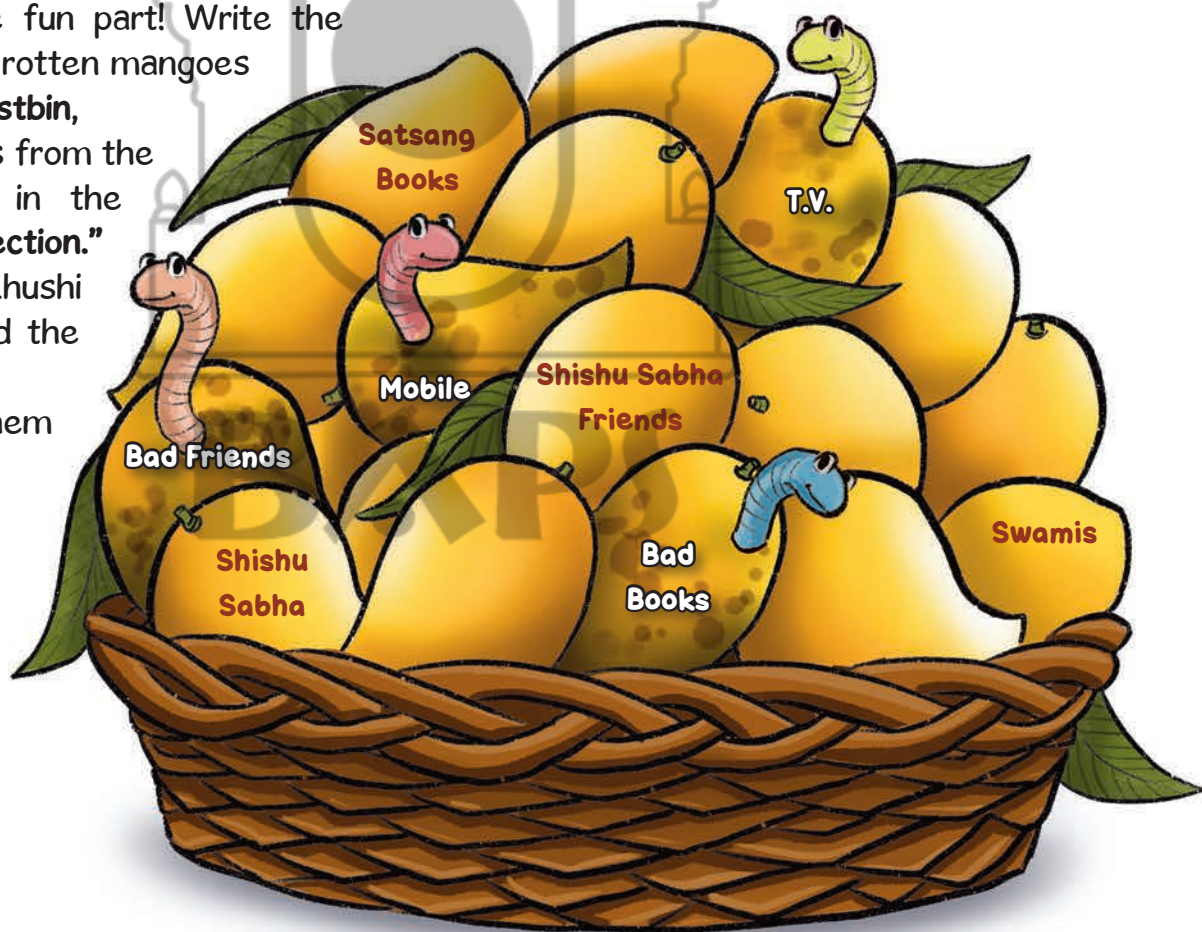
Just like that, in real life, you can always tell if something or someone is good just by looking into their lives carefully."

"Now for the fun part! Write the words from the rotten mangoes in the **kusang dustbin**,

and the words from the good mangoes in the **good company section**."

Sahaj and Khushi excitedly started the activity.

Let's join them and try it too!





Dear children,  
Always remember the difference between **bad company (kusang)** and **good company (satsang)**. If you stay away from bad company and stay close to good company, you will become **strong, happy, and loved by Mahant Swami Maharaj!**

So let's all say it together...

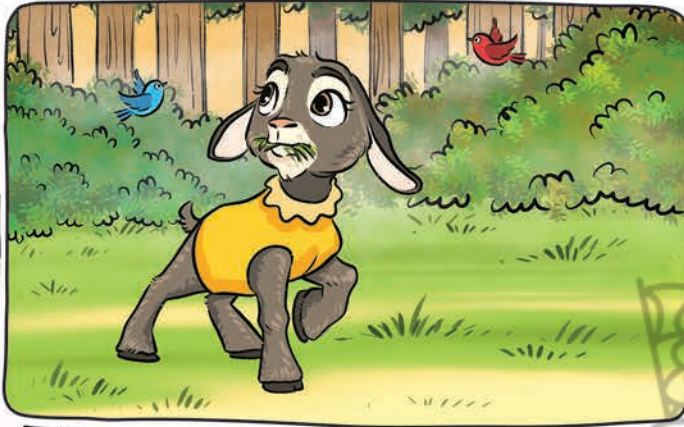
**Shishu Gunjan**

*Sārā mitro sārī vāta, kharāba mitrono nahi sangātha*  
*Good friends are wise, Bad friends deceive.*

*Kusangane to dura j rākhū, Swāmibāpāne rāji karu.*  
*Stay far from wicked kusang, Swamibapa you'll please.*

7.

## Aashro



There was once a happy little **sheep** who loved munching on green, green grass.

One day, while wandering through the fields in search of more grass, she accidentally wandered too far and got **lost deep inside the jungle**.

Slowly, the bright day turned into a quiet evening.

She got scared.

"What will happen to me?

Will someone eat me in this jungle?"

As the sheep looked down at the ground, she noticed all kinds of **pawprints** big ones, small ones, round ones, and pointy ones!

She was **searching for the king of the jungle** the lion's pawprint!

But with so many different footprints all around, the poor sheep got confused.

"Hmm... which one could belong to the lion?" she wondered, scratching her head.



My little friends! Let's help the sheep find the right pawprint.

Write the names of the correct animals above each pawprint to guide her!

|                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                      |                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Sparrow                                                                             | _____                                                                               | _____                                                                               | _____                                                                                | _____                                                                                 |

Well done, my little friends!

You got it right. Now the sheep decided to **sit on the lion's pawprint**.

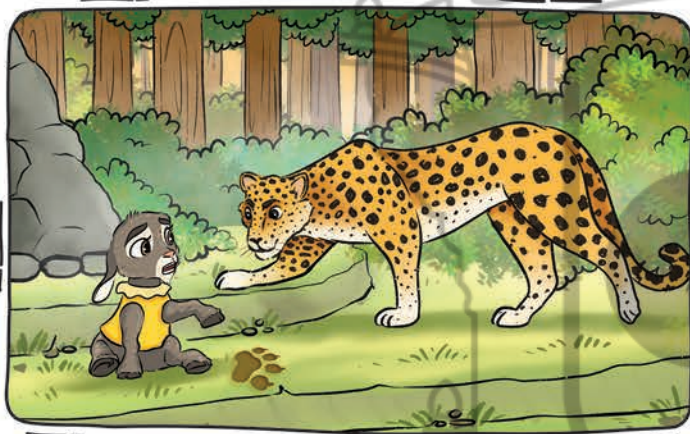
After some time, a **fox** came.  
The fox charged at the poor sheep, ready to eat her!

At first, the sheep got scared.  
But then she gathered some courage and said:

"I am sitting on a paw. Do you know whose paw it is?"

The fox looked down and said:  
"This is the King of the Jungle, the lion's paw!"

The sheep smiled and replied: "Yes, it is. And I am under his **aashro**."  
Hearing this, the fox got frightened and **sprinted away**.  
The sheep became fearless. Her fears disappeared!



Then came many ferocious and dangerous animals:

The **cheetah**, the **leopard**, and even a **panther**.

They all tried to attack the sheep, but every time, she calmly showed them the lion's paw the mark of the King of the Jungle. She told every animal:

"I am under the **aashro** of the King!"

Everyone instantly **ran away in fear** as soon as they learned whose footprint it was.

Finally, a **tiger** arrived.  
With a long jump, he came face to face with the sheep.  
The tiger told the sheep that he would eat her!  
Just then the sheep said:  
"Look! I am under the protection of the King of the Jungle the lion!"

The tiger asked:  
"What do you mean by aashro?"  
The sheep bravely answered:  
"By aashro, I mean I have surrendered to him. I am his servant. Only he can decide my fate.

I belong to him. So if you try to harm me, you will have to face him. He will punish you."

Hearing these words, even the tiger became scared and ran away!





When the lion found out about this, he thought:

"The sheep has taken my aashro. From this day forward, I will take care of her."

The lion, the great King of the Jungle, placed his **paw gently on the sheep's head**.

He said:

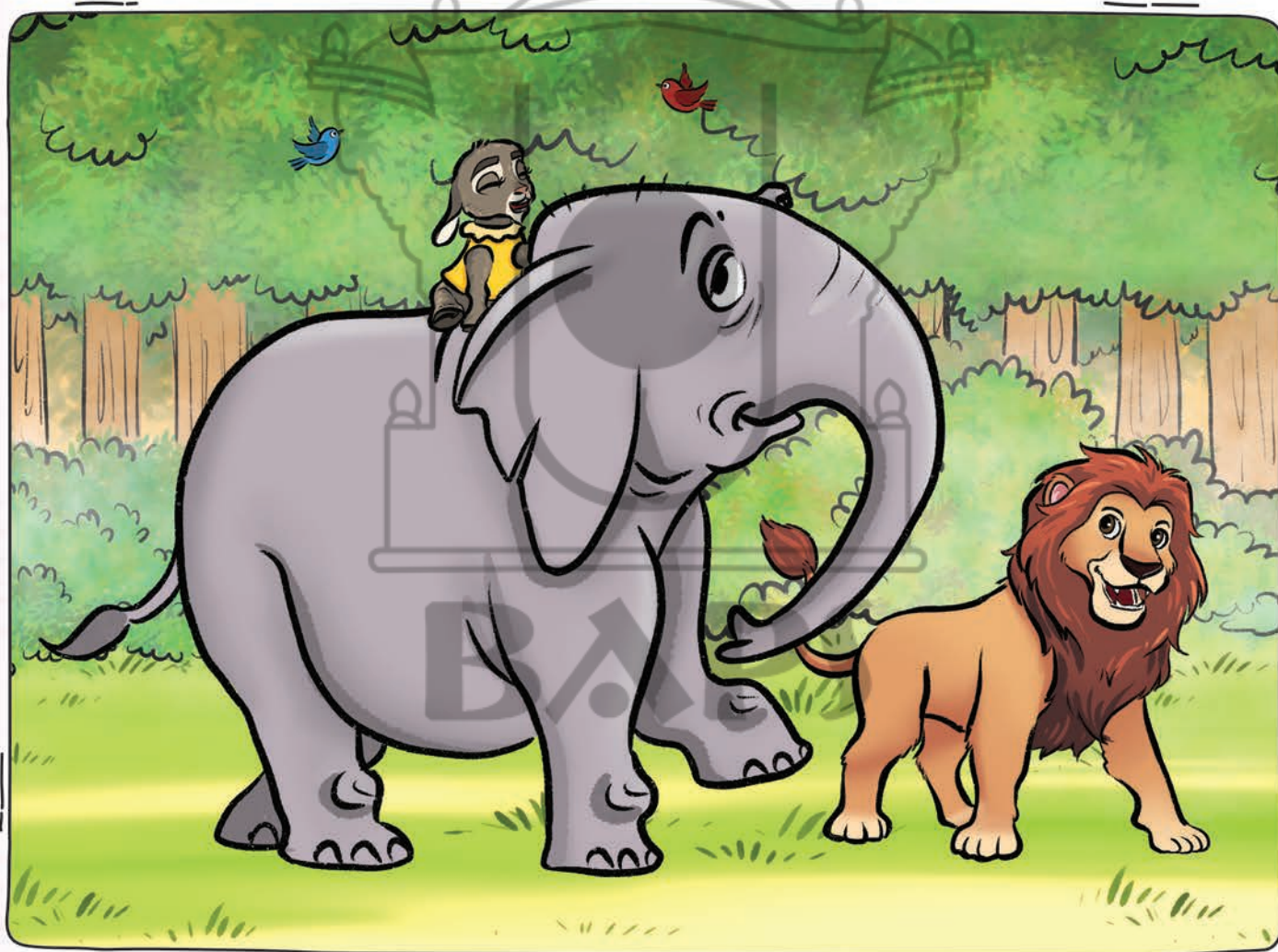
"I am pleased with you for taking my aashro.

There is no need to be scared anymore.

I am pleased with you."

Then the lion said:

"I will personally escort you safely back to your home."



The sheep was extremely happy and full of joy.

The lion called for an elephant to give the sheep a ride **all the way home**.

The lion himself walked alongside the elephant to protect the sheep along the way.

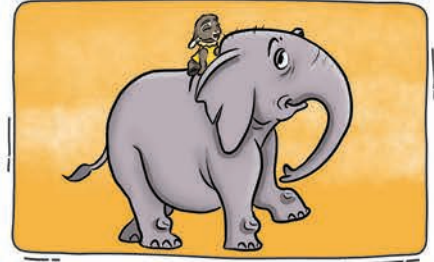
See, dear friends!



The sheep was very small.



But she took the aashro  
of the lion...



And she received the  
highest place.



You may also be small, but...



If you take the aashro of  
Maharaj and Swami,



You will receive the highest  
place Akshardham.

Yes, my little friends! All of us have taken the aashro of **Bhagwan Swaminarayan**, the King of the entire world, and **Mahant Swami Maharaj**.

**Bhagwan Swaminarayan and Mahant Swami Maharaj are always with us.**

They are always taking care of us. Therefore, we should keep their firm aashro:

1. We should do what they say.

2. We should always remember them.

3. Whenever we face any difficulty, we should pray to them.

Let's say it together...

### Shishu Gunjan

*Aashro che bhāi! Aashro che, Swāmi-Shrijino aashro che.  
I've got shelter, yes I do. Swamibapa will see me through.  
Bhagawān māri sāthe che, Swāmi-Shrijino aashro che.  
Bhagwan walks right by my side. Swamibapa will always guide.*

*Māri raksā kare che, Swāmi-Shrijino aashro che.  
He protects me every day. Keeps all troubles far away.*

*Aksharadhām pāku che, Swāmi-Shrijino aashro che.  
One day I will reach my home Akshardham where I will roam.*

There was a big tree.

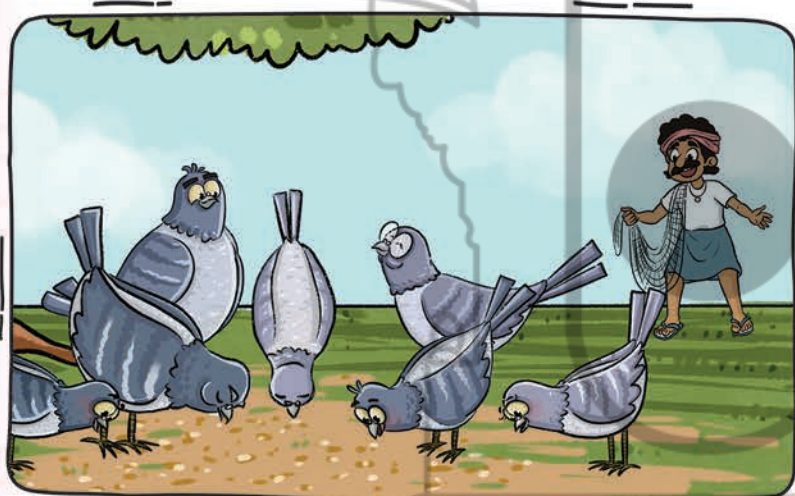
On this tree lived a happy pigeon family.

That family was Kuku Pigeon's family.

Kuku was the youngest in the family.

He lived with his grandparents, parents, and many brothers and sisters.

They would eat together, play together, and pray together.



One day, the family was pecking at seeds together.

A hunter came not just any hunter, but the kind that hunts living creatures.

Seeing so many pigeons, the hunter was happy.

He tossed a big net over the pigeons.

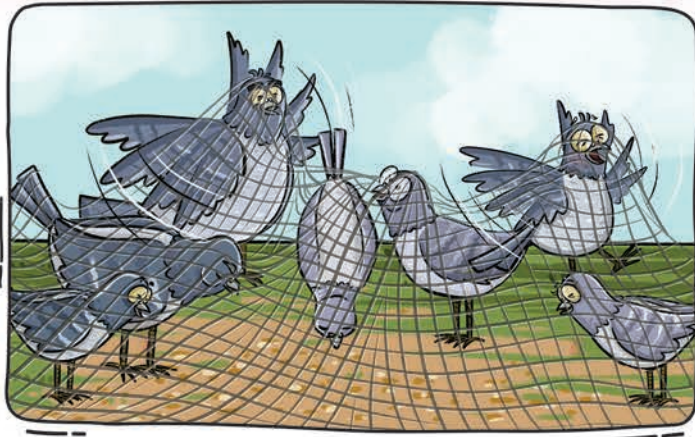
Instantly, the pigeons were trapped inside the net.

What would they do?

Kuku was a very understanding and intelligent pigeon.

He told everyone to flap their wings together.





Everyone agreed that with samp, this was possible if they all flew together.

Every pigeon remembered Bhagwan and made an effort.

They all flapped their wings with all their might.

With them, the net rose into the air too.

**The whole family was saved!**



See, my little friends Kuku's family worked together with **samp** and were able to free themselves from the net.

Yes, my dear friends, there is **great strength** in samp.

Even if we are small,  
if we live with **samp**,  
we can achieve **great tasks**.

Like a single strand of string is thin.  
But if many strands are combined together,  
they become a **strong piece of cloth**.

But he didn't give up.

He began to **flutter his wings**.

Seeing him, **Kuku's grandfather** joined him.

When both worked together, the net lifted up a little.

Seeing this, everyone became happy.

They understood that Kuku's suggestion was working!



That day, all the pigeons understood that with **samp**, even if they are small, they can accomplish **any task** they are given.

Everyone was very happy with Kuku.

They lifted him up in the air and cheered for him!



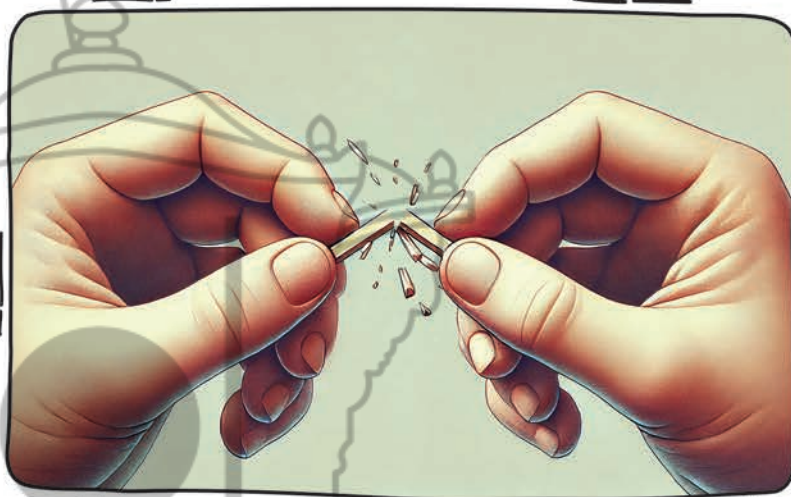


What happens when small stones come together?

Those small stones **join together** to make a **huge mountain**.

Let's understand this with a little activity (with adult supervision):

1. Take a box of matchsticks.
2. From the box, take **one** matchstick and try to break it.



3. Now, take the entire bunch of matchsticks together.

4. Try to break the whole bundle at once.

**Were you able to break it?**

No! The matchsticks were small. But when they were together, you couldn't break them, right?

In the same way, whether you are big or small, when you stay with your friends, your brothers and sisters, and live with **samp**, you also become strong and can do many **big things together**.

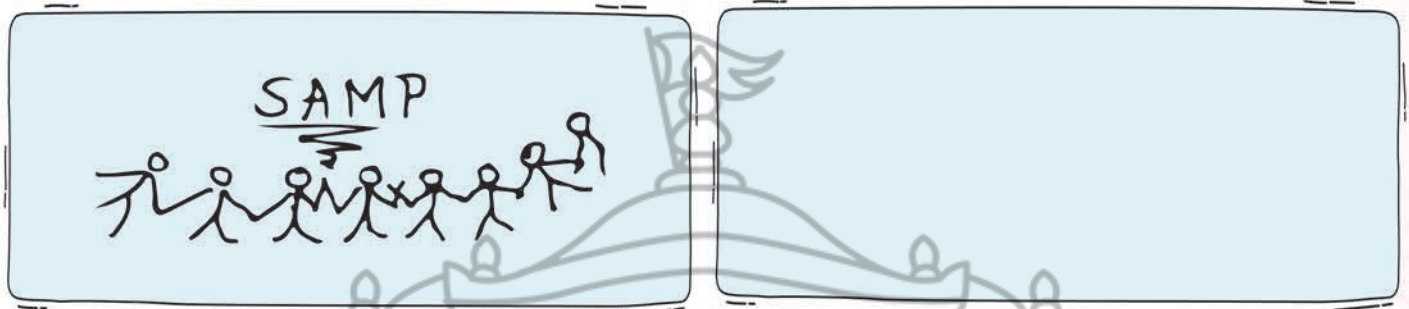
My little friends, do you know what **Guruhari Mahant Swami Maharaj** likes the most?  
In **2017**, when Mahant Swami Maharaj reached the children's session  
at the **Lenasia (South Africa) Shibir**, he was asked by kids just like us: "Swami Bapa! What  
do you like the most?"

**Mahant Swami Maharaj said:**

"What I like the most is **SAMP**. I love unity and oneness."

My little friends, this beautiful **samp** is **very dear** to Mahant Swami Maharaj.

That is why Mahant Swami Maharaj **made this drawing** to always remind us about samp.  
Here is what he drew...



In your activity book, draw **Mahant Swami Maharaj's beautiful picture** with colorful designs.  
**Are you ready?**

My little friends, what should you do to increase samp in your family?  
**Ask this question to your mother...**  
How can you increase samp with your friends?  
**Ask this question to your father.**  
Write what they say right here.

Will you do this?

### Shishu Gunjan

*Chālo āje nakki kariye, hadi-maline sāthe rahiye,  
Let's firmly resolve and do our part,  
Let's work together with one strong heart.  
Sauni sāthe samp rākhine, Guruharinā vhālā thaiye.  
Keep samp with everyone,  
that's the way And be beloved by Guruhari every day!*

## 9. Sahajanand Namavali

My little friends, this is Jayaraj.  
At home, everyone lovingly calls him "Jay."  
His grandmother calls him Jayesh.  
Friends call him Jayu, and sometimes Jayram.  
My little friends, there must also be a short form or  
nickname that people call you or your friends.  
Think of the names your family and friends call you or  
your friends, and write them below.

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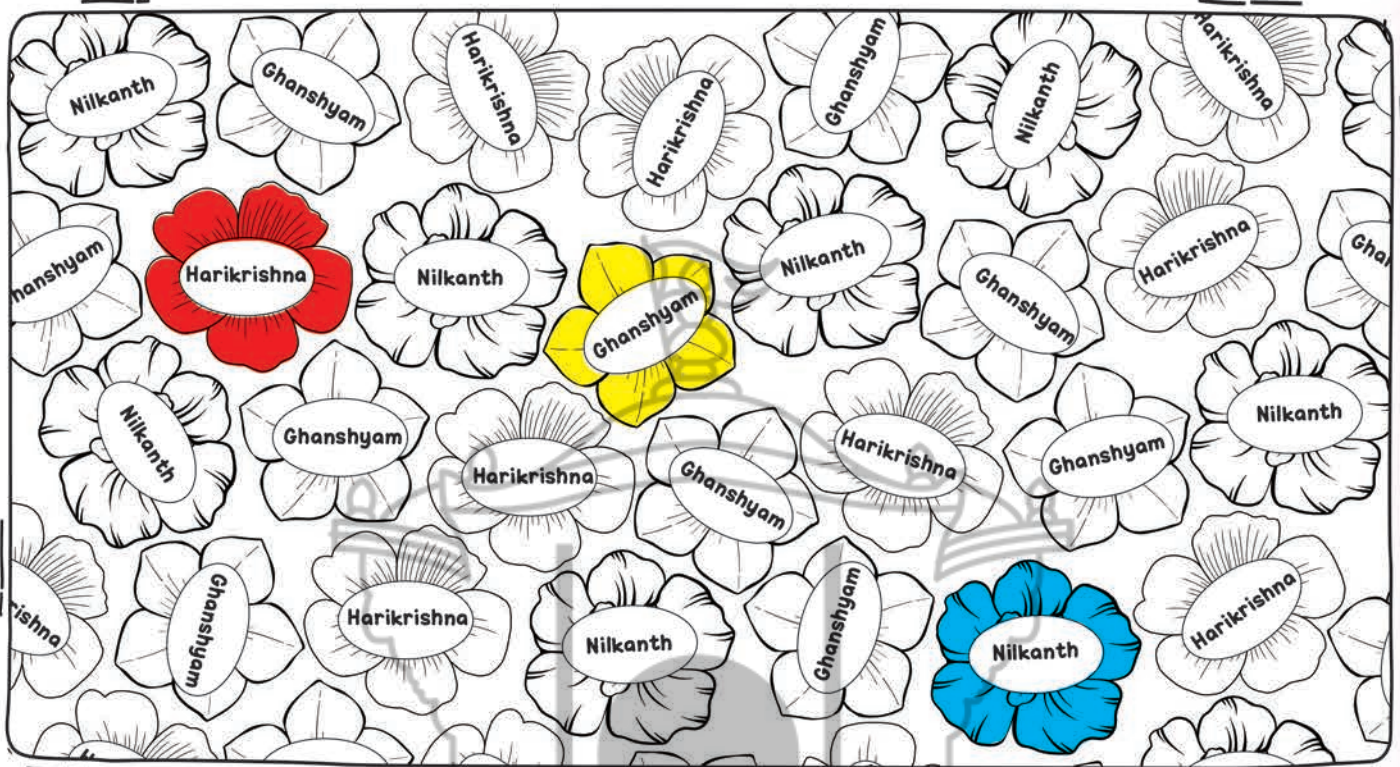


My little friends, there's also a story just like this about Ghanashyam Maharaj's name.



When Ghanshyam Maharaj was young, his name was given by Markandey Muni.  
He gave Ghanshyam Maharaj three names: Harikrishna, Ghanshyam, and Nilkanth.

My little friends, all three names are written inside these flowers. Where it says “Harikrishna,” color those **flowers red**. Where it says “Ghanshyam,” color those **flowers yellow**. And where it says “Nilkanth,” color those **flowers blue**. Get ready!



My little friends, God's names also describe His virtues.

In God, there are infinite virtues, and that's why He has infinite names.

His names help us to understand those virtues.

That's why Bhagwan Swaminarayan has infinite virtues, but from those virtues, 108 have been selected into a special collection of 108 names of Bhagwan's virtues, called Sahajanand Namavali. Do you know what Sahajanand Namavali is? Let's find out more about it!

Today, Sahaj and Khushi were deeply sad.

Usually, both brother and sister were having fun, but not today.

Seeing them like this, Grandpa was confused.

He came closer and asked them what was wrong.

Sahaj said, “Oh Grandpa, today the worst thing ever happened!”

Grandpa asked, “But what happened?”



“Grandpa, every day we go to the park across from where we live to play. There we found a little kitten that we used to play with every day.”  
Saying this, Khushi started to cry. Sahaj said, “But we couldn’t find that kitten today!”  
Grandpa said, “Oh, the kitten might have gone elsewhere.”

Khushi said, “No Grandpa, all the other kittens were there, but little White, the one we play with, was gone.” Sahaj added, “Vivek told us someone might have stolen the kitten. Now the kitten will never come back.” Saying this, even Sahaj had tears in his eyes.

Khushi said, “What if something bad has happened to it? The kitten was so small.”

After hearing all this, Grandpa said, “Look beta, it’s okay that you’re worried. We all get worried sometimes.

But when you’re worried, you shouldn’t start crying like this.

Crying won’t solve our worries.”

Both asked, “Then what should we do?”

Grandpa replied, “For this, Guruhari Mahant Swami Maharaj has given us a great gift.

That is the Sahajanand Namavali. If we are ever hurt or worried, then we should chant the Sahajanand Namavali. When we do, we will find a



way to overcome our worries.

So let’s chant the Sahajanand Namavali so your sorrows go away.”

Sahaj and Khushi looked into Grandpa’s eyes. They knew he was genuine.

They both agreed.

“My little friends, when Guruhari Mahant Swami Maharaj gave us Sahajanand Namavali, he also wrote a special note telling us its mahima.”

The Sahajanand Namavali teaches us the greatness of Maharaj. Everything is incorporated in it. Chanting it will remove all of our sorrows and gift us with happiness.

સહજાનંદ નામવાલીમાં મહારાજનો મહિમા છે,  
તેમાં બધું આવી ગયું.  
આનો પાઠ કરવાથી દુઃખમય  
હૃદય શાંત થઈ શકે છે અને સુખની પ્રાપ્તિ થશે.

The Sahajanand Namavali has  
the Mahima of Maharaj in it.  
Chanting it will take away all  
miseries and give us happiness.

My little friends, Sahajanand Namavali removes all of our sorrows.

If we ever experience sorrow in our family, or are worried about anything, or scared about something...

at that time, chanting the Sahajanand Namavali will bring peace to us.

You're probably wondering when you can chant the Sahajanand Namavali. Then listen...

You can chant it while doing your personal puja.

You can chant it at the start of good works or auspicious occasions.

You can chant it in times of difficulty or sorrow.

My little friends, let's chant the Sahajanand Namavali right now!  
For that, let's get everything ready like in the picture below.



1. We will place the murti of Thakorji on a stand.

2. In a clean metal bowl, we will place dried rice.

3. Now after we chant each name of the Sahajanand Namavali, say "Namaha," and while saying that, place a few pieces of rice by Thakorji's feet.

(Note: You can get the full Sahajanand Namavali from your parents or Karyakar.)

So let's start the Sahajanand Namavali and make Swamibapa raaji.

Om Shri Swaminarayanaya Namaha:

### Shishu Gunjan

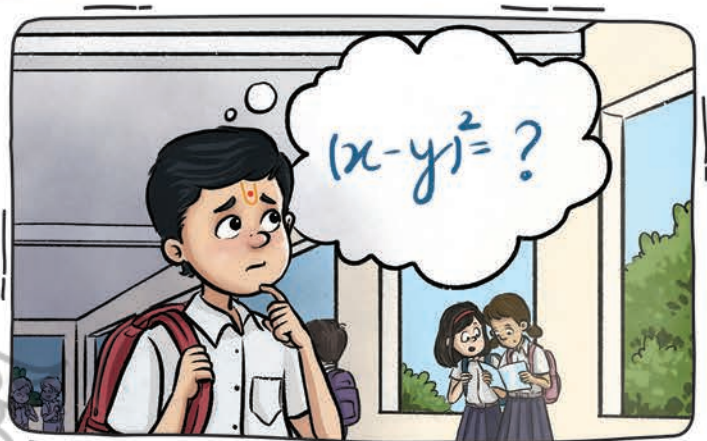
*Sukh hoy ke duhkhani vāat, karo Sahajānand Nāmāvali pāth  
Whether you're happy or feeling sad,  
Chant Namavali and you'll be glad.*

*Sukhi rahe tan ne man, Prabhumaya vite jivana  
Your body healthy, your mind at peace,  
A godly life that will never cease.*

There was a boy named Nirav. He found mathematics very difficult.

Today there happened to be a mathematics exam at school!

Nirav was nervous and worried all morning.



Tan Tan Taaan... the bell rang! The exams had started.

Everyone got their exam papers.

The exam was difficult for even the best students.

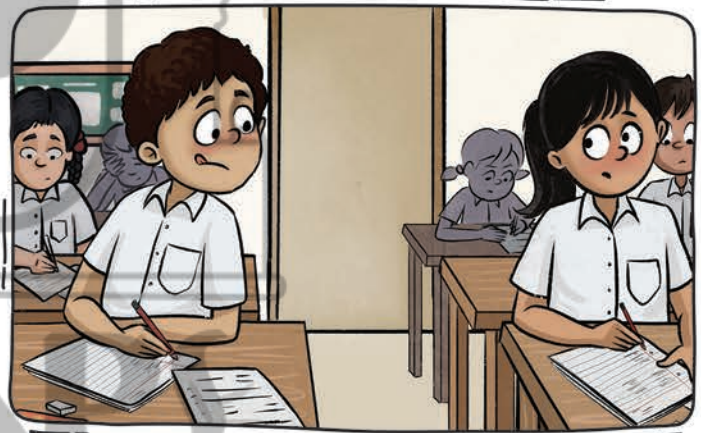
Just then, the teacher left the classroom to attend to something.



This was the best thing ever, thought all the students!

Everyone started copying each other.

Nirav too was tempted at first, since everyone was doing it, why not?



That's just when he remembered that there is a niyam that we should not cheat.

If I cheat, then I will break my niyam.

If my niyam breaks, Swamibapa will not be raaji.

Thinking this, he wrote whatever he understood.



Just then the teacher walked back into class abruptly.

The teacher saw that everyone was cheating,

but Nirav... was focused on his own exam.

The teacher punished the cheaters, and Nirav was congratulated for not cheating.



See, my little friends!

Since Nirav followed his niyams, he was protected and even got congratulated.

But if he broke his niyam and had decided to cheat?

Then he would have been punished too. This is why Mahant Swami Maharaj tells us:



જે નિયમ પાળે તે  
અક્ષરપુરુષોત્તમના સિંહ સંતાન છે.  
whoever follows niyams are the lions of  
Akshar Purushottam Maharaj!

Yes, dear friends! We are the true lions of Akshar Purushottam Maharaj and Mahant Swami Maharaj. Does a lion fear anyone?

Does he ever retreat? No!

Just like that, we should never fall back on following our niyams.

And if we do this, then Shriji Maharaj and Mahant Swami Maharaj are raaji.

My little friends!

Just like you, there are many adarsh kids who, to please Mahant Swami Maharaj, always follow niyams.

Let's hear about a balika Sukti Parmar who lives in Surat.





A four-year-old girl named Sukti was going with her family to Nagpur.

They planned to reach the next day at 12 in the afternoon.

But the trip got delayed by 3 hours!

Now they would reach there at 3 in the afternoon.

Everyone around Sukti started telling her to eat something.

Sukti was very hungry indeed, but she had not yet taken a shower or done her puja.



She said,

"I have a niyam of not eating or drinking anything without doing my puja."

Then her mother had an idea.

When the bus stopped, she helped Sukti take a shower.

Afterwards, Sukti did her puja right there on the bus.



It was hard to do pradakshina in a moving bus, so Sukti's mother told her to make them up later.

But Sukti said, "If we take shortcuts, then the puja is incomplete."

Sukti managed to do her pradakshinas too.

Everyone on the bus was amazed to see young Sukti's determination and firm conviction in following her niyams.



You saw, right, my little friends? Everyone likes those who keep their niyams.

But do you know which niyams we should follow?

Let's find out! Come, let's play a wonderful game to learn and remember these niyams.

Below, there are colorful boxes given. You have to fill in the blanks by using the hints provided at the bottom. Then write those words into the crossword puzzle. The first answer is already given for you in the crossword puzzle as an example. Yes! Don't worry if you find it difficult. We have also provided answers to help you. So, let's get ready...

I will always wear the Kanthi given by Swamibapa around my neck. ....

I will wake up early in the morning, take a bath, and perform .....

After puja, I will do ..... to my parents.

Every week I will regularly go to .....

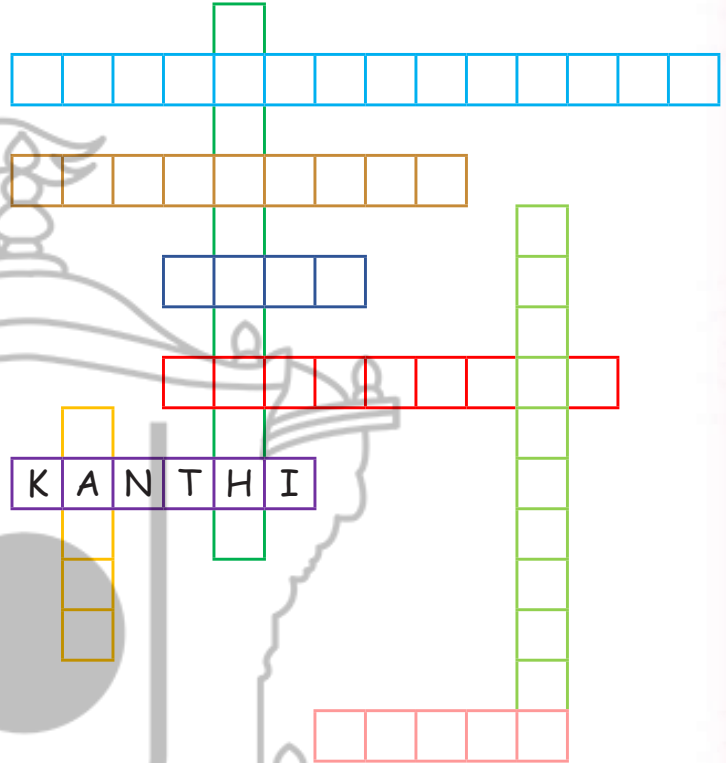
Every day at night, I will do ..... with my family.

I will regularly do ..... in the morning and evening at home.

I will not keep .....

Every day, I will study for ..... hours.

I will limit the use of .....



Answer words at the bottom:

(Panchang Pranam, Puja, Bad Company, Kanthi, aarti, Three, Ghar Sabha, Shishu Sabha, TV and Mobile)

My dear little friends, you will follow the niyams above, won't you, to make Swamibapa raaji? - So let's say it together.

### Shishu Gunjan

*Hu chu sinh-santān, niyam pālu sāradhār,  
I am a lion's child, firm in niyams each day,  
Swāmibāpāno chu bāl, niyam pālu sāradhār,  
Beloved of Swamibapa, firm in niyams I stay.  
Rāji karavā che bhagawān, niyam pālu sāradhār,  
To please Bhagwan always, firm in niyams each day,  
Niyam pālu sāradhār, Hu chu sinh-santān.  
I am a lion's child, firm in niyams I'll stay.*

## 11. Hard work



My little friends!  
This is a wonderful and fun bicycle.

But if you don't know how to ride it,

can you enjoy it?

No!

To ride a bicycle, you have to put in hard work.

You might have all the sports equipment, and even a field to play on, but if you don't go to play, can you have fun playing sports?

No!

To experience joy in playing sports, you have to put in hard work to learn.



Looking at this last picture, can you immediately become the number one student in class?

No! To be number one, you must regularly study and put in hard work.



Have you seen a doctor in the hospital? Or a brave pilot flying an airplane in the sky? Or maybe you've seen an engineer who built a big building?  
All those who became successful, worked very hard to reach their goals.



Come, let's listen to a story about a hardworking boy...



There was once a young boy who had a big problem. He just couldn't remember anything he studied.

No matter how hard he tried, nothing would stay in his mind.

One day, he went to his guru and asked for help.



His Guruji smiled and gave him a bowl full of sesame seeds.

He said,

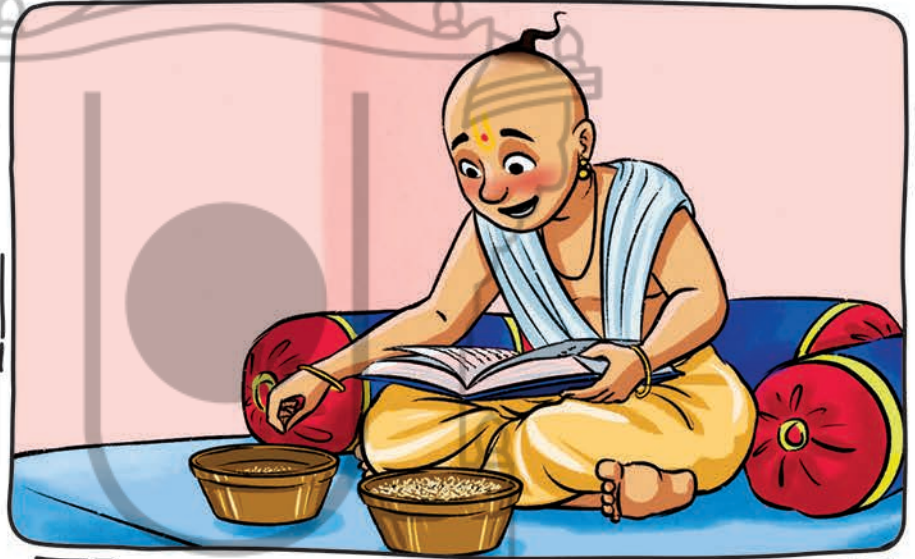
“Take one sesame seed and recite a single shlok. Then take another seed and say the same shlok again. Keep doing this, one seed at a time, until the whole bowl is empty.”

The young boy really wanted to succeed. So he followed his guru's advice.

He would take a sesame seed in his hand, say the shlok, and move it to another bowl.

Then again and again and again.

Slowly, one seed at a time, one shlok at a time, he began to remember them.



Day and night he worked hard.

And because of his effort and determination, he became a great scholar.

People lovingly called him **Taltumbadiya Shastri**, the sesame seed and bowl scholar.

He became very wise and deeply learned in Sanskrit.





Dear little friends, if we work very hard and put in sincere effort, we will surely see results.  
So what does Guruhari Mahant Swami Maharaj tell us?

सफलता मेहनतवानो उपायः

सफल मेहनत

The secret to success is  
sincere effort.

Yes, my little friends!

Swamibapa has given us the most powerful key to success, sincere effort.

Now, even we can begin putting in sincere effort.

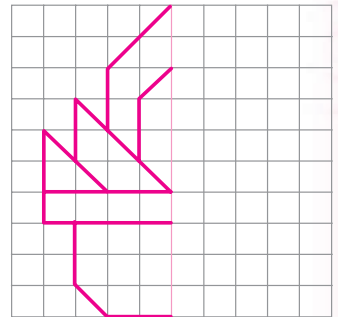
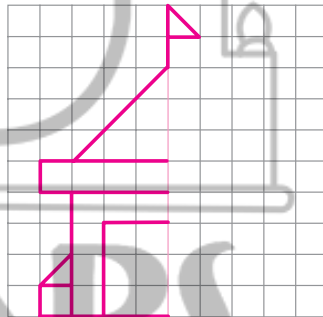
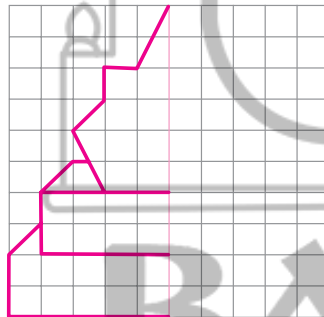
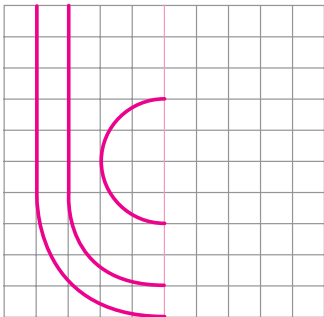
Below, you will see a simple picture that is half drawn.

If you observe the boxes carefully and draw the rest of the picture the same way,  
you will see a beautiful image appear.

Then add some lovely colors to it.

Make sure to use the little square boxes.

Are you ready to give your best effort and work hard?



**Shishu Gunjan**

*Safalatā melavavā mâte, mahenat karo bhāi! Mahenat karo,*

*To reach success, give it your best.*

*Work hard, work hard — don't take a rest.*

*Sauthi āgad vadhavā mâte, mahenat karo bhāi! Mahenat karo.*

*To reach the top and aim up high,*

*Work hard, work hard — give it a try.*

12.

**Adarsh Shishu**

(Ideal Shishu)

Dear little friends, Below is a list of different items.

If it's something you like and enjoy, give it a big check mark ✓. If it's something you don't like or know you shouldn't do, give it a cross ✗. Are you ready? Let's go!



And guess what?

You'll probably end up choosing all the good things. Right?

That's because just like everyone in the world prefers good things, we too should always choose to be good.

Let's go, answer the questions below.

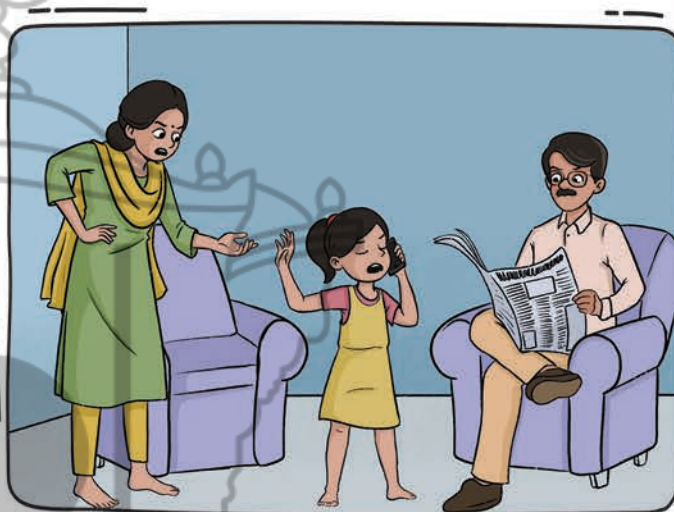


This is Milan. He always fights.  
So will anyone be friends with Milan?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Ruchi never listens to her parents.  
So will anyone like her?

Yes ☐ No ☐



If Chintan says bad words, is his  
behavior correct?

Yes ☐ No ☐



Everyone's answer would be no! Right?  
Just as everyone in the world likes good things, everyone  
likes good kids.

If we want to be liked, we have to be ideal.  
That is why Guruhari Mahant Swami Maharaj has said,

**BECOME ADARSH (Ideal)!**



But what does it mean to be adarsh (ideal)?

**To be adarsh means to be an ideal student.**

- Study 3 hours every day.
- Attend school regularly.
- Respect teachers.
- Complete lessons given by the teacher on time.



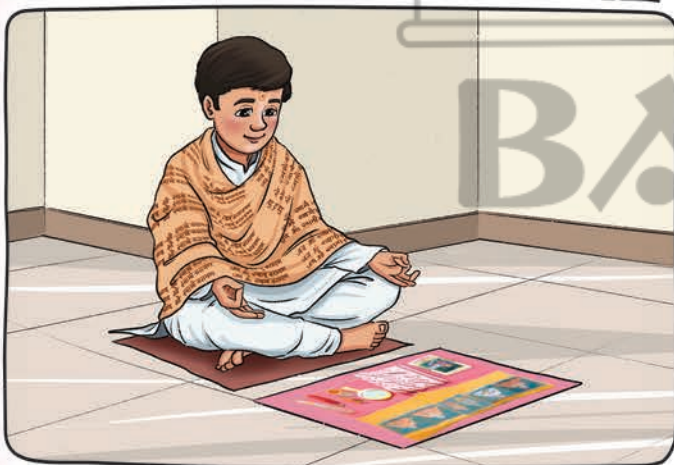
**To be adarsh means to be an ideal child.**

- Offer Panchang Pranam to parents every day.
- Obey them.
- Serve parents and elders.
- Don't be stubborn about anything.



**To be adarsh is to be an ideal friend.**

- Never quarrel with anyone.
- Always speak the truth.
- Keep the company of good friends.
- Maintain harmony and unity with everyone.



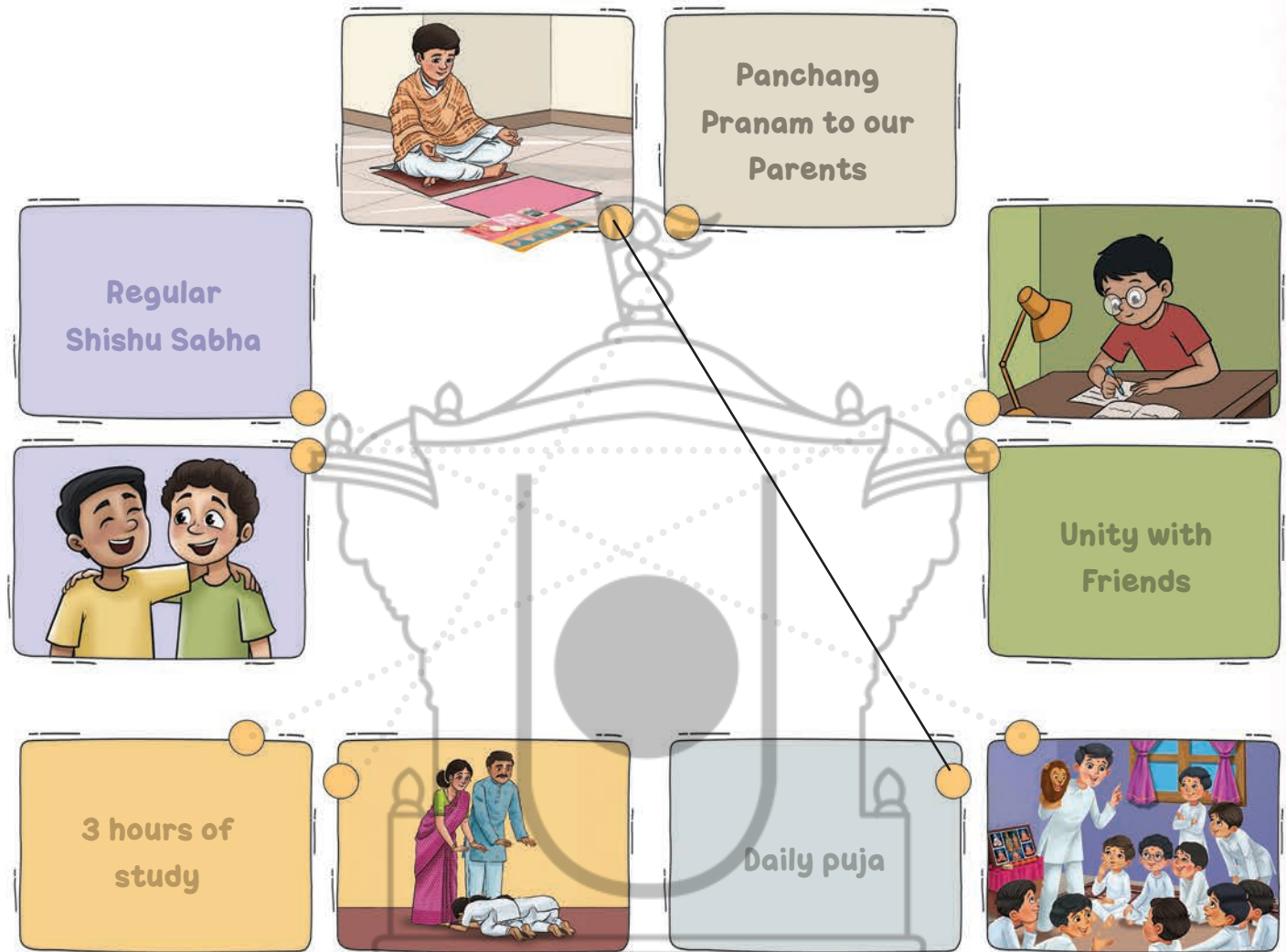
**To be adarsh means to be an ideal devotee.**

- Perform daily puja every morning.
- Perform aarti and thal in the ghar mandir.
- Attend Shishu Sabha regularly.
- Observe Ekadashi regularly.

Dear little children,  
If we become ideal students, ideal children, ideal friends, and ideal devotees in this way,  
our Guruhari, Mahant Swami Maharaj, would be very pleased.

My dear friends! Below are some pictures of an ideal child and the virtues that describe him. But they are in random order. You have to match those pictures and the pairs of virtues that describe them.

If you draw a straight line from the big dot on the picture as shown, you will create a nice shape that you can color in!



Dear little friends! To please Mahant Swami Maharaj, we must remember this.  
So, everyone, repeat with me...

### Shishu Gunjan

*Bhanie ganie, vinayi banie, sevānā ame pātho shikhie,*

*Let us study, serve, and stay polite,  
Be ideal kids in Bapa's sight.*

*Ādarsh shishu banine ame, Guruharine rāji karie.*

*With humble hearts and learning bright,  
Let's make Swamibapa smile with delight!*

### 13. Sanskruti Chinho

Friends! Today is the festival of Diwali. Sahaj has reached his home after lighting fireworks. Look this is his home! Look carefully and quickly answer the following questions...

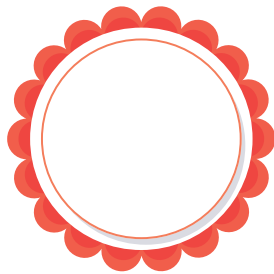


- What is Sahaj's mother putting outside the house? .....
- What has Sahaj's sister drawn in the middle of the rangoli? .....
- What is written on the festive toran hanging on the house? .....
- What is Grandpa doing? .....
- What is Gor Maharaj, who is performing Chopda Pujan, tying? .....
- What is the coconut placed on in the mandir? .....
- What is placed next to the divo on the aarti plate? .....

Dear little friends, do you know the names of each of these pictures?  
You may have recognized some of the paintings and some not. Right?  
All the paintings you have seen hold great importance in our Hindu religion.  
Let's learn something new about them today...



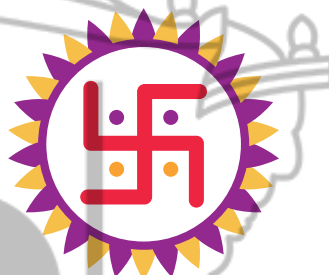
ॐ



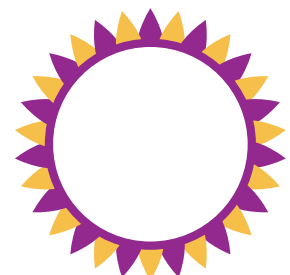
Draw ॐ here

- ॐ (Om) is the most sacred symbol of Hinduism.
- Three letters 'A', 'U', and 'M' are used in its pronunciation.
- Chanting Om calms the mind.

- This symbol is called a swastik or sathiyo.
- 'Su' means good, and 'Asti' means existence.
- Thus, the swastik means the presence of the good power of Bhagwan.
- During auspicious occasions, a swastik is made with kumkum or rice.



Swastik



Draw  
the Swastik here



janoi



Draw a Janoi  
here

- This is a janoi.
- In earlier times, students would wear a janoi before going to study at the Gurukul.
- The three threads represent the three Vedas: Rig Ved, Yajur Ved, and Sam Ved.

- This is a Kalash.
- A Kalash is used during every auspicious occasion.
- The leaves and coconut in the Kalash are considered symbols of the environment.
- Kalash is also called 'Amrut Kumbh' (Pot of Immortality).



Kalash



Color the Kalash



Divo



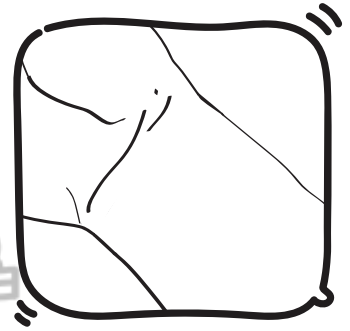
Color the Divo

- In Hinduism, the **divo** is a sacred symbol of Bhagwan's power.
- The light of the lamp gives us the power and knowledge of Bhagwan.
- The divo destroys bad thoughts.

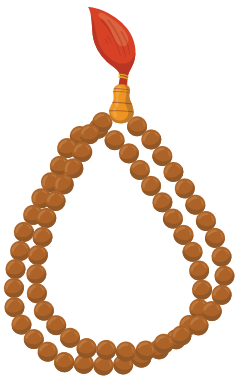
- The thread that is tied on our right wrist during religious ceremonies like Mahapuja is called **Nadachhadi**.
- Bhagwan protects us through the Nadachhadi. It is prayed that the person who receives it may have good health, and that Bhagwan may bless them with good fruits.



Nadachhadi



Draw a nadachadi on the hand

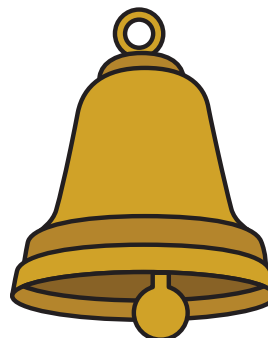


Mala

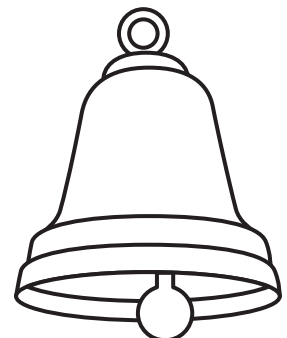
Draw and color a mala here

- This is a **Mala**.
- Devotees turn the Mala while chanting mantras and fixing their minds on Bhagwan.
- The Mala has a total of 108 beads and one **meru** (central bead).
- In Hinduism, chanting malas is a unique way of remembering Bhagwan.

- The **bell** found in the mandir makes a sacred sound.
- The sound of the bell calms the mind and eliminates bad thoughts.
- During aarti, a bell is rung in the mandir, and a small bell is rung in the ghar mandir.



bell



Color the bell

In the Swaminarayan faith the tilak-chandlo is a very important symbol.

It teaches us that the devotees head belongs at the feet of God.

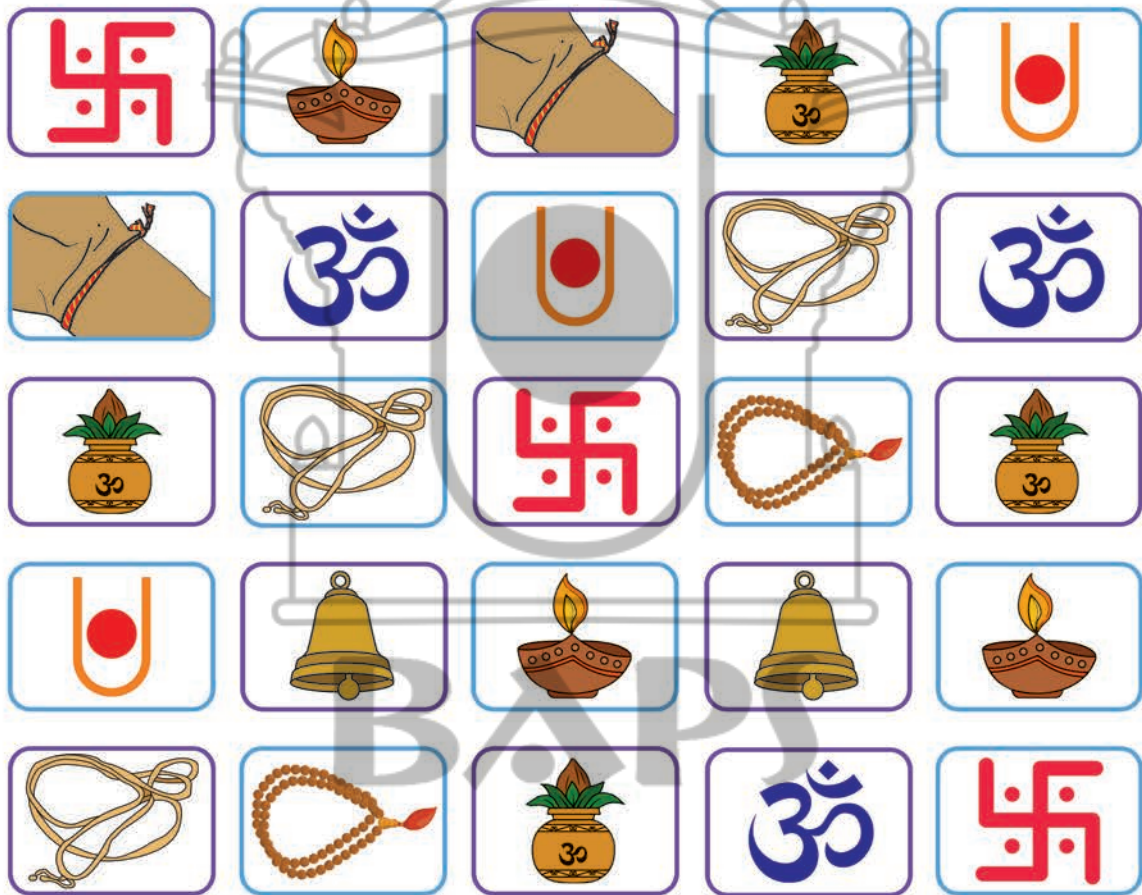
- Shriji Maharaj has given all boys the agna to to tilak chandlo and all girls to just do chandlo.



Tilak-Chandlo

Draw  
a tilak-chandlo here

Dear Little friends! Below we have provided different symbols.  
Count the number of times you see each symbol and write it down next to the appropriate symbol.



Aum: \_\_\_\_\_

Kalash: \_\_\_\_\_

Mala: \_\_\_\_\_

Swastik: \_\_\_\_\_

Divo: \_\_\_\_\_

Bell: \_\_\_\_\_

Janoi: \_\_\_\_\_

Nadachadi: \_\_\_\_\_

Tilak-chandlo: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear little friends,  
Sahaj and Khushi are looking for a star in the sky.  
Let's find 8 differences between the two pictures that look similar.

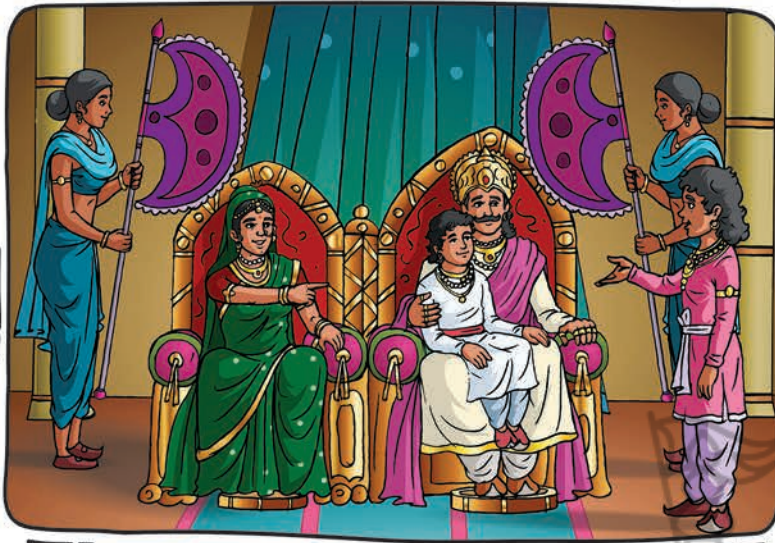


Did you know which star Sahaj and Khushi are looking for?  
They are looking for the **Dhruv Star** (North Star).

Do you think stars have names too?

Yes, my dear friends! There is a star named **Dhruv**, but why is it named Dhruv?

Let us find out.



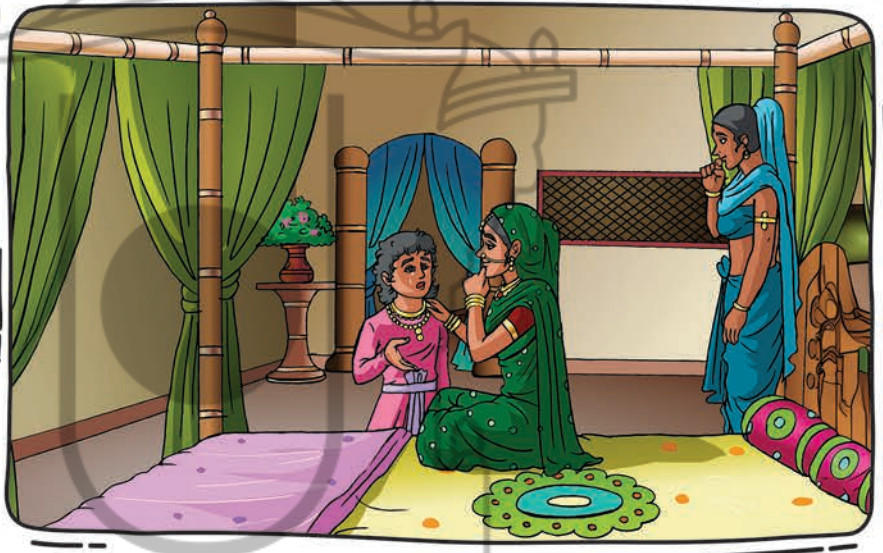
There was a king named Uttanapad. He had two queens: Suruchi and Suniti. The son of Queen Suruchi was named Uttam, and the son of Queen Suniti was named Dhruv.

Once, Uttam was playing in the lap of King Uttanapad. Dhruv also wanted to sit on his father's lap, but Queen Suruchi did not let him. Because of this, Dhruv became sad. He went to his mother, Suniti, crying.

Then his mother said, "What's the use of crying? Crying won't make your pain go away."

Dhruv asked, "Then how can my pain go away?"

Mother replied, "Worship Bhagwan. If Bhagwan is pleased, He will remove all your sorrows."



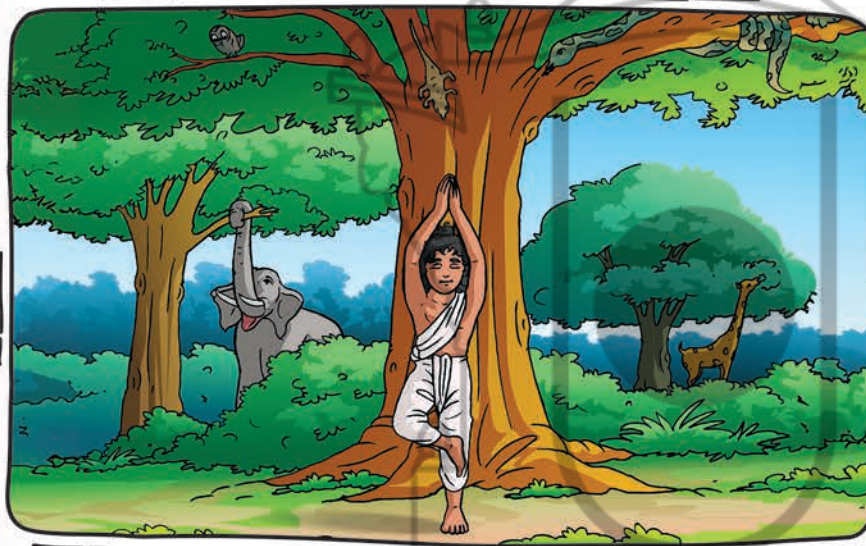
Dhruv decided to please Bhagwan. After taking his mother's blessings, he went into the forest.

In the forest, Dhruv met Naradji. Naradji asked, "You are such a small child. What are you doing in the forest?"

Then Dhruv said, "I want to please Bhagwan. I will please Him by performing devotion and penance here in the forest."

Seeing the determination of such a young child to worship, Naradji was very pleased.

He taught Dhruv the mantra to please Bhagwan.



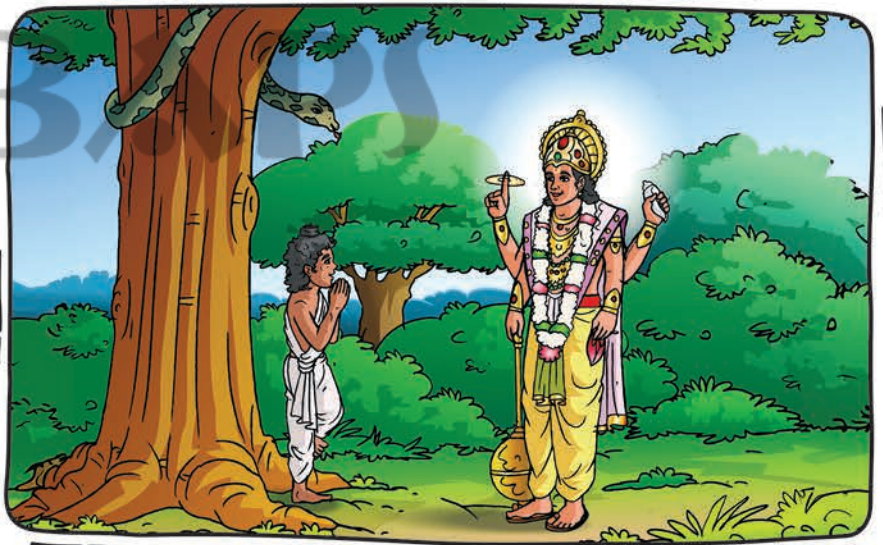
Dhruv then began to perform penance, standing on one leg in the forest, praising Bhagwan day and night. Through all three seasons, winter, summer, and monsoon, Dhruv continued his penance to please Bhagwan.

Oh... he even gave up eating and drinking! Seeing such deep devotion from Dhruv, Bhagwan was very pleased with him.

He appeared in the forest to give darshan to Dhruv, and Dhruv became very happy. All his sorrows were gone.

As a blessing, Bhagwan gave Dhruv a place in the sky as a star that would never change.

That's it, that's the North Star! It teaches us the true way of worshipping Bhagwan.



Dear little friends!

How pleased Bhagwan was with Dhruv's devotion! He now shines like a star high in the sky!

So, you also want to please Bhagwan and Mahant Swami Maharaj, right?!

Then you too must do devotion like Dhruv.

Friends! You have to write in the stars below how we should worship Bhagwan.

You can take help from your parents or sanchalaks.

So get ready! And yes, don't forget to color these stars.



Friends! Now say with me...

### Shishu Gunjan

*Bhakit karu hu bhakti karu, Dhruvaji jevi bhakti karu,  
I do bhakti like Dhruv each day,  
Follow niyams, in every way.*

*Niyamo pālu sevā karu, Guruharine hu rāji karu.  
I serve with love, so cheerfully,  
To please Guruhari joyfully!*

## 15. Shastra, Mandir, Sant

Dear little friends!

After looking at the pictures given here, you have to write what they are used for. Along with that, you have to answer the short question asked below each one.



Use of legs: .....

Question: Children! What if we don't have legs?

Answer: .....



Use of table: .....

Question: Friends! What if the table doesn't have legs?

Answer: .....

Children! We cannot stand without legs.

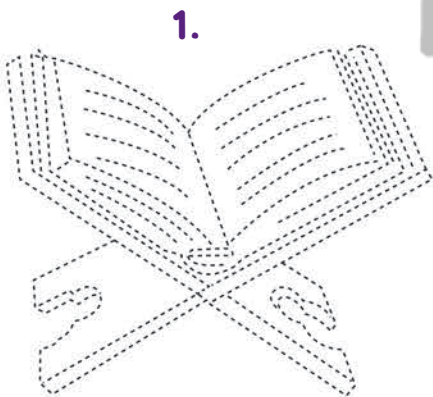
Similarly, if even one of the four legs of a table is missing, the table will not be able to stand properly.

In the same way, our Hindu culture also has **three main legs**.

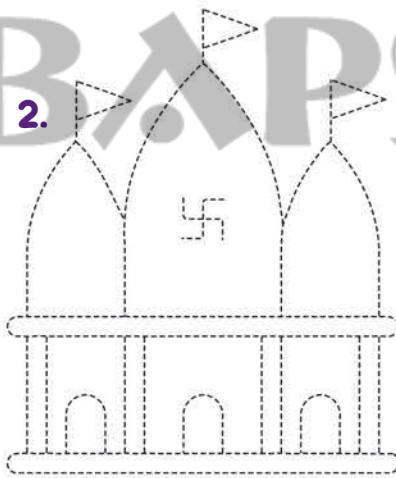
Our culture stands firm on these three foundations.

But what are the three foundations that keep our culture stable?

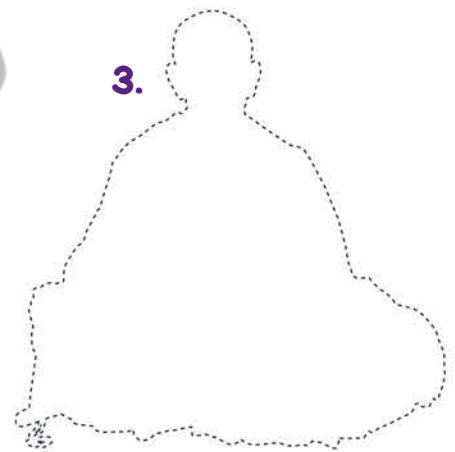
Come on, quickly connect the dots given below... you will find those three foundations!



SHASTRA



MANDIR



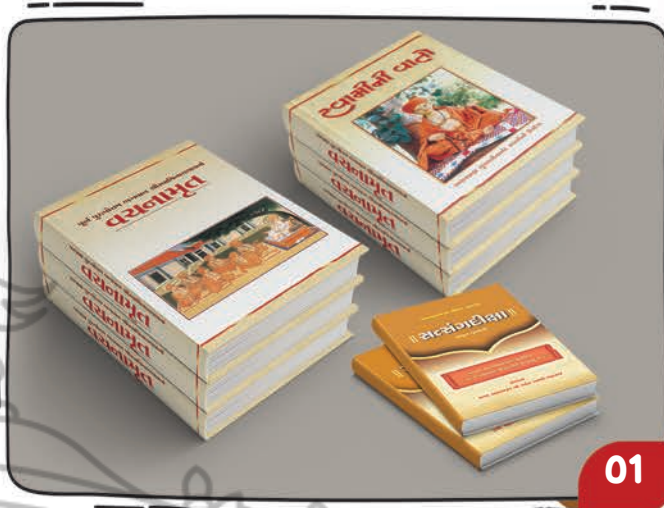
SANT

Yes, little friends! Shastra, Mandir, and Sant, these three are the main foundations of our Hindu culture. So, let's learn a little about each of them.

### Shastra (Scriptures):

The first foundation of Hindu culture is the scriptures (shastras).

- The shastras are the sacred texts of our culture.
- From the shastras, we learn the rules of religion.
- The shastras provide an understanding of dharma.
- They also teach us how to live an ideal life.



### Mandir:

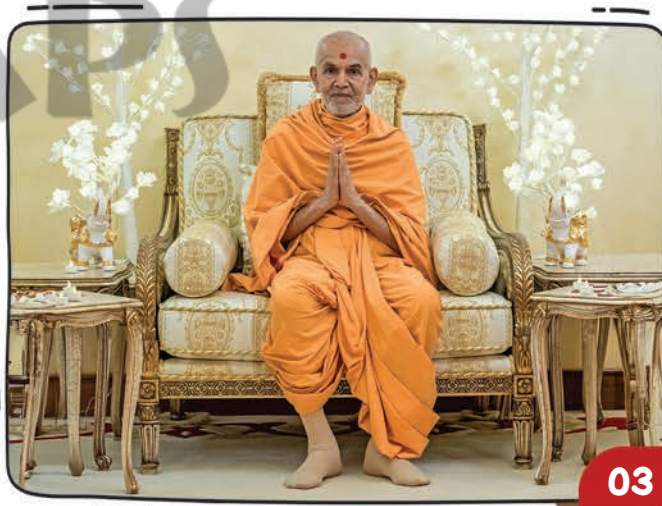
Mandir is another foundation of our culture. A mandir is the house where Bhagwan resides.

- Bhagwan always lives in the mandir.
- We worship Bhagwan in the mandir.
- Various festivals are celebrated here.
- The mind finds peace in the mandir.

### Sant (The Satpurush):

The third and most important foundation of Hindu culture is the Sant.

- A Sant gives us the knowledge of Bhagwan and inspires us to live a good life.
- A Sant shows us the right path during difficult times in our lives.
- To connect with Bhagwan, the guidance of a Brahmaswarup Sant is essential.



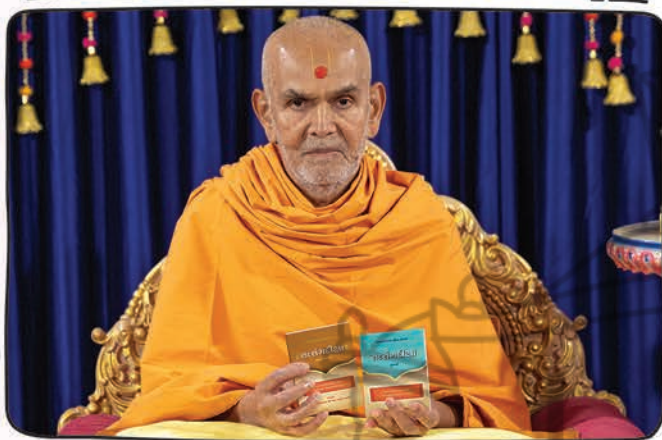
So tell me, my dear friends! What are the three foundations of Hinduism? Shastra, Mandirs, and Sant. But who is the main one among these three? Do you know?

The true Sant of Bhagwan that is, the Brahmaswarup Sant who strengthens all three foundations, is the most important among them!

Guruhari Mahant Swami Maharaj is such a Brahmaswarup Sant.

He has given us all the gifts of scriptures, temples, and Sants.

Let's learn more about the Shastras, Mandirs, and Sants of our Sanstha:



### Shastras:

- learn more about the Shastras, Mandirs, and Sants of our Sanstha:
- Vachanamrut, Swamini Vato, and Satsang Diksha are our foundational scriptures.
- Many of these texts have been prepared in various languages such as Sanskrit, Gujarati, Hindi, Tamil, Marathi, Bengali, Telugu, English, and more.
- These scriptures inspire us all to live a good life and stay engaged in Satsang.

### Mandirs

- Grand mandirs like Akshardham in Robbinsville, New Delhi, and Gandhinagar have been built by the BAPS Sanstha.
- Apart from India, more than 1,300 mandirs have been built in countries such as England, America, Africa, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, and many more.



### Sant

- More than 1,100 well-educated Swamis serve in the BAPS Sanstha.
- These Swamis live and practice devotion according to the niyams given by Bhagwan Swaminarayan.
- They help manage the Sanstha's 162 service activities.

Dear little friends! We have to connect with the three foundations of Hindu culture Shastras, Mandir, and Sant. If we stay connected with them, we will be truly happy. Let's do an activity! Below are some sentences, but the words are arranged randomly. Rearrange them in the correct order to form meaningful sentences. If we follow them, **Mahant Swami Maharaj** will be very pleased with us!

1.

will I go for darshan visit the mandir to regularly.



I will strive for these three things in my life.

santos I will respect the.

I regularly will shastras read the.

2.

Friends! So, everyone, speak with me...

3.

**Shishu Gunjan**

*Sanskrutinā pāyā tran, Shāstra, Mandir ane Sant,  
Shastra, Mandir, and Sant so true, Guide my heart in all I do.  
Jivan māru ādarsh bane, jo rākhu temano sang.  
If I stay with them each day, Guruhari will smile my way!*

## 16. Ekadashi

Listen, listen, friends!...

It's about Dungar Bhakta, it's about Ekadashi...

Friends! Do you know Dungar Bhakta? **Dungar Bhakta** is **Guruhari Shastriji Maharaj**. When he was young, his name was **Dungar**. Let's learn a nice incident from his life.

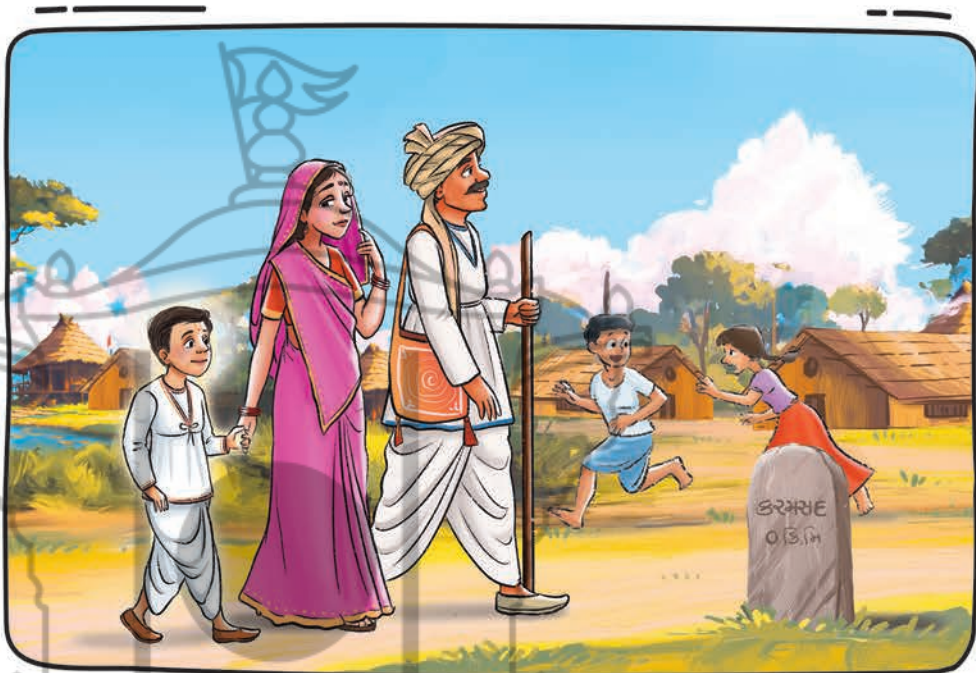
Once, there was a wedding in Dungar Bhakta's family.

He went with his family to a village called Karamsad.

All the little children who came to the wedding played, roamed, and had fun.

But Dungar Bhakta was different from everyone else.

He went straight to the mandir in the village.



When it was time to eat at the wedding, everyone started looking for Dungar Bhakta.

After searching for a long time, they finally found him, in the mandir!

Everyone said to Dungar Bhakta,

"Let's eat! Today we have delicious dishes like laddus, jalebis, bhajiyas, and more. Today will be fun!"



Everyone's mouth started to water. But Dungar Bhakta said, "Today is **Ekadashi**."

Everyone asked, "So what?"

Dungar Bhakta replied, "I have read in the shastras that eating food made from grains on **Ekadashi** is like eating meat. That's why I won't eat any grains today."

Everyone tried to convince Dungar Bhakta, but he didn't listen.

Seeing his strong determination to keep the **Ekadashi** fast, everyone bowed down to him.

They happily ordered sweets from the village of Anand, like **penda**, **barfi**, and more, and lovingly offered them to Dungar Bhakta, since he was fasting.



Dear little friends! Do you know how old Dungar Bhakta was when this happened? You'll be surprised to know:

**He was only 6 years old!**

So young, but still, he did not break his **Ekadashi** fast, even when surrounded by delicious food.

Friends! Dungar Bhakta taught us something very important:

**"We should never eat food made from grains on the day of Ekadashi."**

But you may be wondering, what should we eat on **Ekadashi**?

Let's decide with your parents or guardian. **Tick** the items below that can be eaten on Ekadashi, and **cross out** ☒ the ones that cannot be eaten ☐ :



Sandwich



Pizza



Puff



Potato chips



Rotli



Dry fruit



Banana chips



Sabudana Khichdi



Moriyo



Farari chevdo



Dosa



Shikhand



Chocolate



Fruits



Dal bhaat



Burger

Dear children! Do you know why we observe a fast on **Ekadashi**?

Because **Bhagwan Swaminarayan** has commanded us to do so.

Bhagwan Swaminarayan has said in the **Vachanamrut**:

**"The Ekadashi fast should be observed diligently, which occurs once every fifteen days, and Bhagwan is pleased with all who observe it."**

Dear children! **Bhagwan Swaminarayan** has also given agna to worship Bhagwan on the day of **Ekadashi**. Let's see what different types of **bhakti** we can offer on this special day. Below, some pictures have been given.

Look at each picture carefully and write the type of devotion shown in the blank space. (Hints have also been provided below to help you!)



To do ~~~~~



To read ~~~~~



To go to the mandir to do ~~~~~



To do ~~~~~ of Shri  
Neelkanth Varni Maharaj



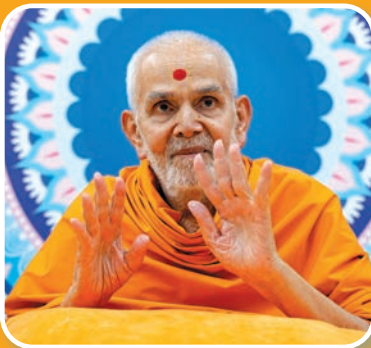
To ~~~~~ the  
Sahajanand Namavali



To do ~~~~~ in the  
ghar mandir at home

Hints: darshan, abhishek, chant, satsang  
books, aarti, mala

Guruhari Mahant Swami  
Maharaj says:



એકાદશીનું સાત સદા  
પરમ સાદર થકી કરવું.  
Do the Ekadashi fast  
with reverence.

Children's friends! So, everyone, speak with me...

**Shishu Gunjan**

*Ekādashinu vrat mahān, e tapathi rāji bhagawān  
The fast of Ekadashi is great,  
Bhagwan is pleased with that penance state.  
Nirjala-sajala ke phalāhār,  
anājano to muko vichār.  
Eat some fruit or drink water clear,  
But skip the grains stay strong, my dear!*

## 17. Mukhpath

Dear little friends! Today, we will talk about **Mukhpath**, which **Guruhari Mahant Swami Maharaj** likes very much.

**What does Mukhpath mean?**

**“Remembering the divine words of Satsang.”**

When we do Mukhpath, do you know what happens afterward?

Let's learn through a story told by **Mahant Swami Maharaj** himself.

There was a big forest.  
A **rabbit** and a **turtle** lived there together.

They often competed with each other.

One day, the **king of the jungle**, the **lion**, said to them,

“I want to build a beautiful garden in front of my palace.

Whoever creates the best garden will receive a great reward.”



The rabbit and turtle quickly got to work.

Each took a plot of land in front of the king's palace.

They even ordered seeds from abroad to grow colorful flowers in their gardens.

While all these preparations were going on, **Giraffe Dada** came by.

He said,

“You will have to pour 20 buckets of water every day for good flowers to bloom in this garden.”



The **rabbit** started calculating.

"If I need 20 buckets of water each day, then I'll need 300 buckets for 15 days!"

So, the rabbit poured all **300 buckets** in just one day.

Meanwhile, the **turtle** quietly fetched **20 buckets of water every day** from the river and gently poured them into his garden.

After **two months**, the **lion king** came to see the gardens.

When the lion king looked at the rabbit's garden, there were only a few flowers growing here and there.

But when he looked at the **turtle's garden**, it was full of beautiful, colorful flowers blooming everywhere!

Seeing the turtle's amazing garden, the king gave him a **big reward**



**Friends! Why did the turtle get the reward?** Because he watered the garden **every single day**. But the rabbit poured **15 days' worth of water in one day**, so the garden dried up during the other 14 days.

In the same way, sometimes we try to do **all our Mukhpath** at once, like the rabbit. But then we don't **revise** or **remember it** every day, and we end up forgetting it.

That's why **Mahant Swami Maharaj** says,

"Revise the Mukhpath you have done every day. Then it will become absolutely clear."

**My little friends!**

If we **recite and revise** our Mukhpath every day, just like the turtle watered the garden, **Mahant Swami Maharaj will be very pleased with us!**

But, do you know what we should keep in mind while doing **Mukhpath**?

Let's find out by doing an activity. Here are some options given below. From these, you have to decide what to do and what not to do while doing Mukhpath. And we will write those options as per the example.

- Begin the Mukhpath by praying to God..
- Don't talk.
- Don't watch TV or use mobile..
- Do regular revision.
- Don't get bored or give up on memorizing.
- Sit in a quiet place.

What not to do?

1. Don't talk.

2.

3.

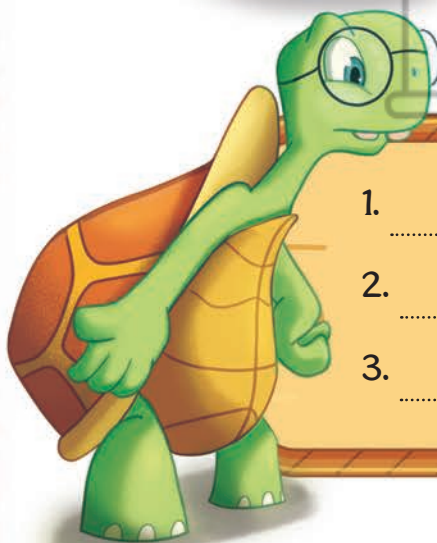


What to do

1.

2.

3.



So, friends, let us all begin the Mukhpath, paying attention to what was said above, and seek **Swamibapa's raajipo**.

Dear friends! we have to do mukhpath of all the shloks below. When you are done, make sure you put a ✓ mark next to the ones you have memorized.



### Bhagwan Shri Swaminarayan

Antaryami paratparam hita-karam, sarvopari Shri-Hari,  
Sakaram Parabhrama sarva-sharanam, karta daya-sagaram |  
Aradhyam mama ishtadev prakatam, sarvavatari Prabhu,  
Vande dukkha-haram sada sukha-karam, Shri Swaminarayanam ||



### Gunatitanand Swami Maharaj

Sakshad Akshardhama divya paramam, sevaratam murtiman,  
Sarvadhara sada sva-roma vivare, bhramanda-koti-dharam |  
Bhakti dhyana katha sadaiva karanam, bhrama-sthiti-dayakam,  
Vande Aksharbhrama pada-kalam, Gunatitanandanam ||



### Bhagatji Maharaj

Shriman-nirguna-murti sundara tanu, adhyatma-varta-ratam,  
Dehatita dasa akhanda bhajanam, shantam kshama-sagaram |  
Agni-palana-tatparam guna-grahi, nirdosha-murti swayam,  
Vande Pragji-Bhakta-pada-kalam, bhramaswarupam gurum ||



### Shastriji Maharaj

Shuddhopasana mandiram surachanam, siddhanta-rakshaparam,  
Sanstha-sthapana divya-karya-karanam, seva-mayam jivanam |  
Nishtha nirbhayata sukashta-sahanam, dhairyam kshama-dharanam,  
Shastri Yagnapurushadasa-charanam, vande pratapi gurum ||



### Yogiji Maharaj

Vani amruta-purna harsha-karani, sanjivani madhuri,  
Divyam drushthi-pradana divya hasanam, divyam shubham kirtanam |  
Bhramananda prasanna sneha-rasitam, divyam krupa-varshanam,  
Yogiji guru Jnanajivana pade, bhava sada vandanam ||



### Pramukh Swami Maharaj

Vishve vaidika dharma marma mahima, satsanga vistarakam,  
Vatsalyam karuna aho jana-jane, aksharanam adbhutam |  
Dasatvam guru-bhakti nitya bhajanam, samvadita sadhuta,  
Narayanashwarupa Swami Pramukham, vande gurum muktidam ||



### Mahant Swami Maharaj

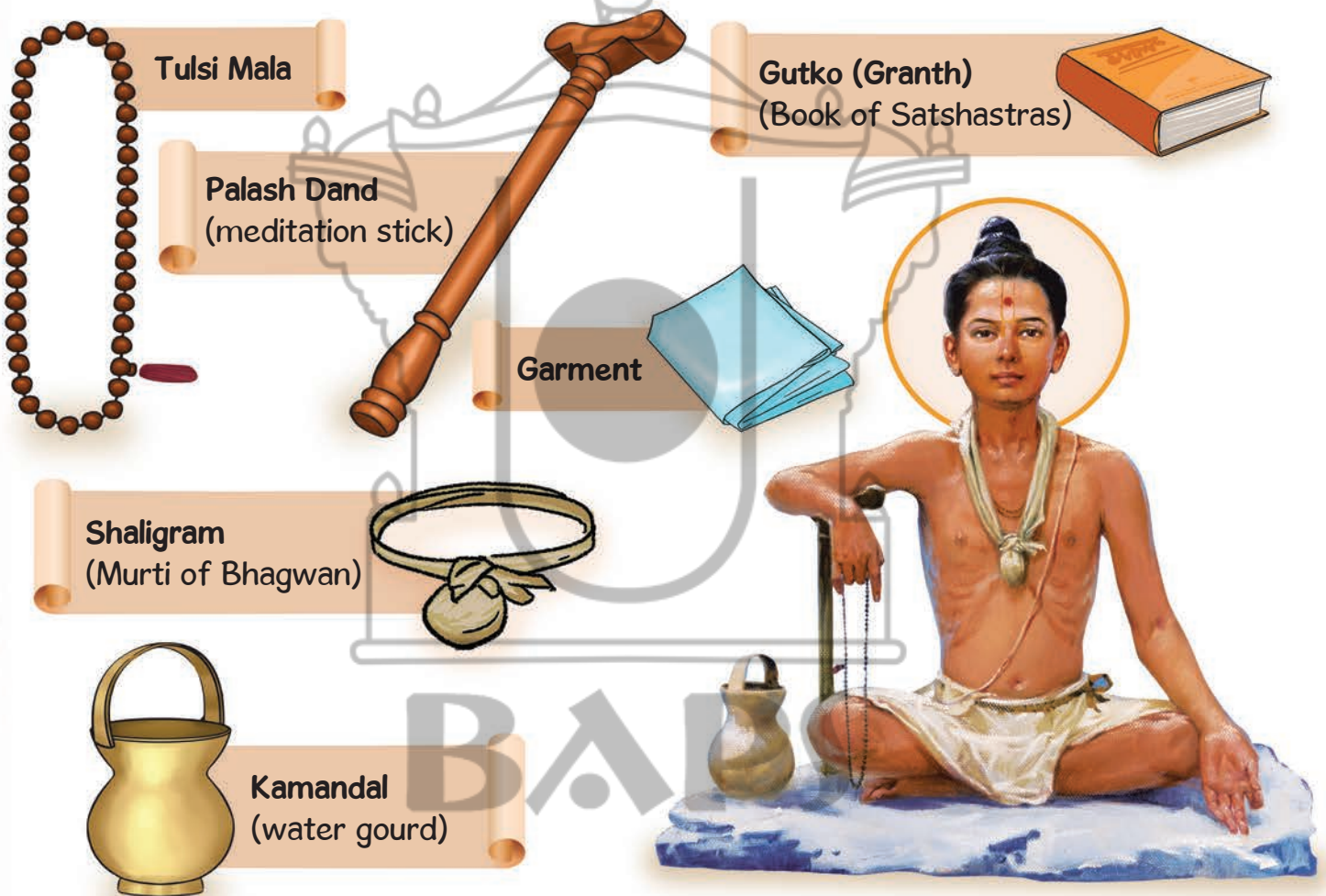
Divyam saumya-mukharavinda saralam, netre ami-varshanam,  
Nirdosham mahima-mayam suhrudayam, shantam samam nischalam |  
Nirmanam mrudu divyabhava satatam, vani shubha nirmala,  
Vande Keshavajivanam mama gurum, Swami Mahantam sada ||

## 18. Neelkanth Varni

Friends! This story is from more than 230 years ago. The date was 29 June 1792. It was a dark night. It was raining. Everyone in the city of Ayodhya was asleep. At that time, little Ghanshyam woke up. He bowed down to his brother and sister-in-law, who were sleeping in the house. He took some things with him and left the house.

Friends! Ghanshyam was not angry. He did not create any trouble. Ghanshyam had a thought in his mind: "I want to make millions of people happy. I want to give happiness to everyone." With this thought, he left home and set out to travel all over India.

That night, Ghanshyam took some things with him...  
Look...



With just these few things, Ghanshyam set out (started walking) with his bare body and bare feet. From now on, Ghanshyam came to be known as **Neelkanth Varni**.

Neelkanth Varni set out from Ayodhya, practiced penance in the high mountains of the Himalayas, wandered alone in dense forests, and crossed big rivers and plains. He did all this for the **welfare (Kalyan)** of everyone like us.

Friends! Neelkanth Varni has taught us a lot during his travels across India.  
Let's learn some of them...

**Neelkanth Varni taught us to speak fearlessly, to put aside all fear...**

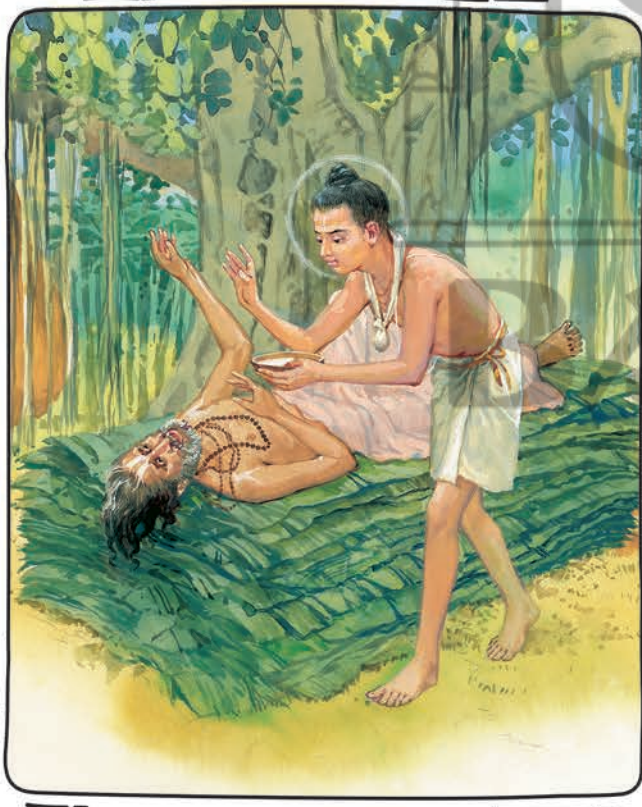
Once, Neelkanth Varni reached a village called Shripur. He stayed outside a monastery there for the night. At night, a lion came roaring loudly. If it were any other person, they would have been scared.

But Neelkanth Varni remained silent. The lion came near. It bowed down to Neelkanth Varni and sat at his feet. When morning came, the lion went back to the forest. Everyone understood that this fearless Neelkanth Varni must be God. Everyone fell at his feet.

**Such was the fearless Neelkanth Varni!**



**Neelkanth Varni taught us to serve everyone with love...**



While on a pilgrimage, Neelkanth Varni met a sadhu named Sevakram. Sevakram had diarrhea. He was very weak. He could not even perform basic actions on his own. Neelkanth Varni felt very sorry for him.

Neelkanth Varni began serving Sevakram. He made a bed of banana leaves for him to sleep on. He served him by cleaning his dirty clothes. He served him by preparing food that he liked. Thus, after serving Sevakram for two consecutive months, Neelkanth Varni cured him.

**This was the dedication to seva Neelkanth Varni had!**

**Nilkanth Varni taught us to never forget our devotion to God...**

While wandering, Neelkanth Varni reached a large forest. Neelkanth Varni started moving forward into the dense forest where even sunlight could not reach.

One day, another day, a third day... Four days passed like that. But there was no food or water anywhere! Finally, on the fifth day, a well appeared. Neelkanth Varni was very thirsty. He had not eaten or drunk anything for four days.

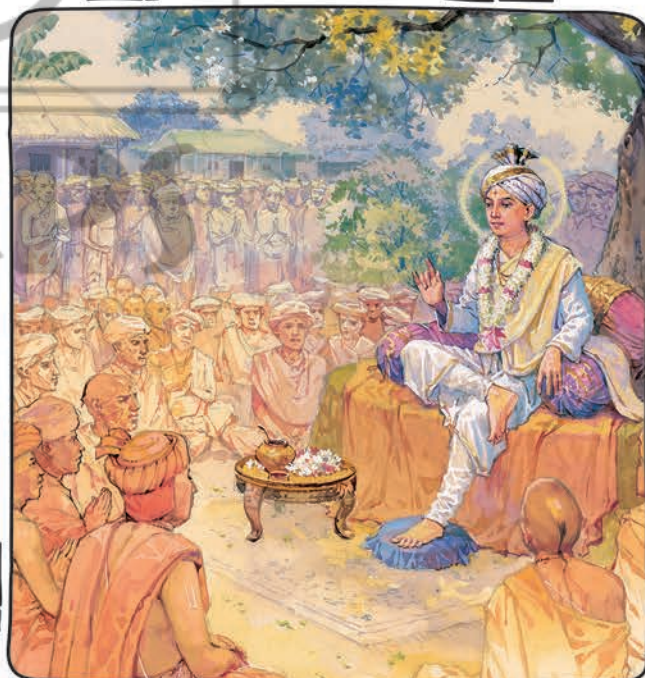
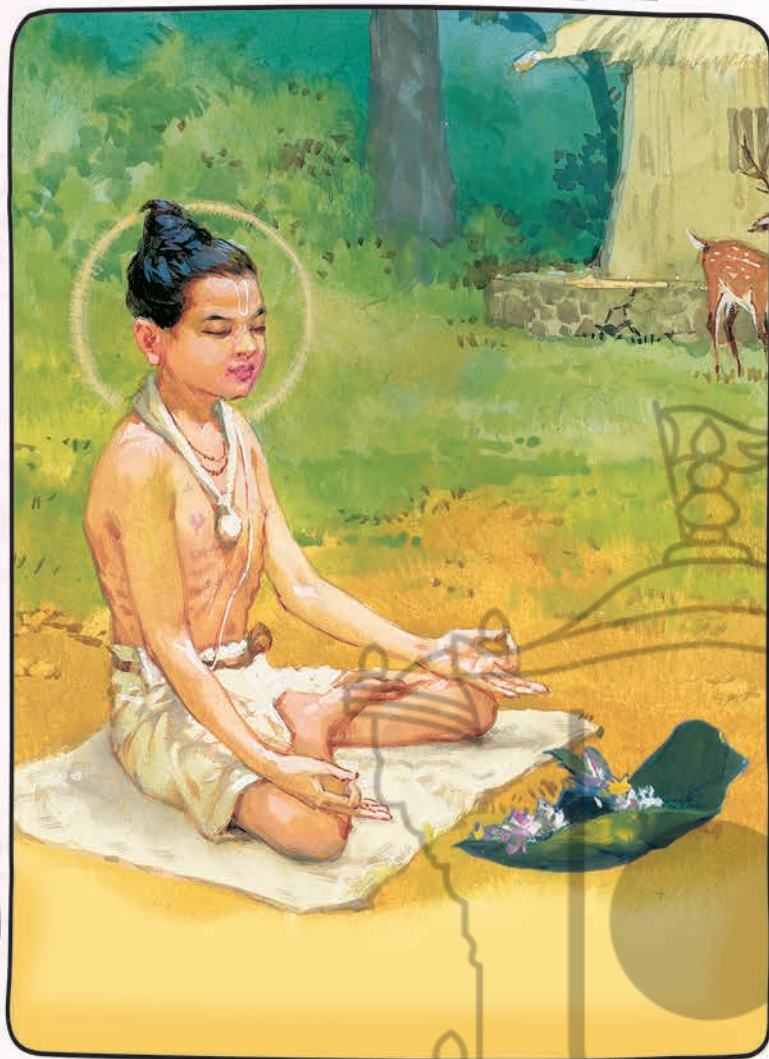
If it had been anyone else, they would have started drinking water immediately. But Neelkanth Varni drew water from the well and offered it to God first. Through this occasion, he taught everyone to never forget their devotion to God.

**Such was the devotional Neelkanth Varni!**

Friends! Neelkanth Varni traveled all over India for 7 years. He brought blessings to many devotees, animals, and birds. Finally, he reached the ashram of Sadguru Ramanand Swami in the village of Loj in the state of Gujarat. He was very pleased to see the rules, religion, and virtues of the swamis and devotees living there.

Neelkanth Varni completed his pilgrimage (vicharan) here. After a few years, he established the "Swaminarayan" faith and paved the way for the welfare of all.

**Our infinite obeisance to the feet of Neelkanth Varni.**

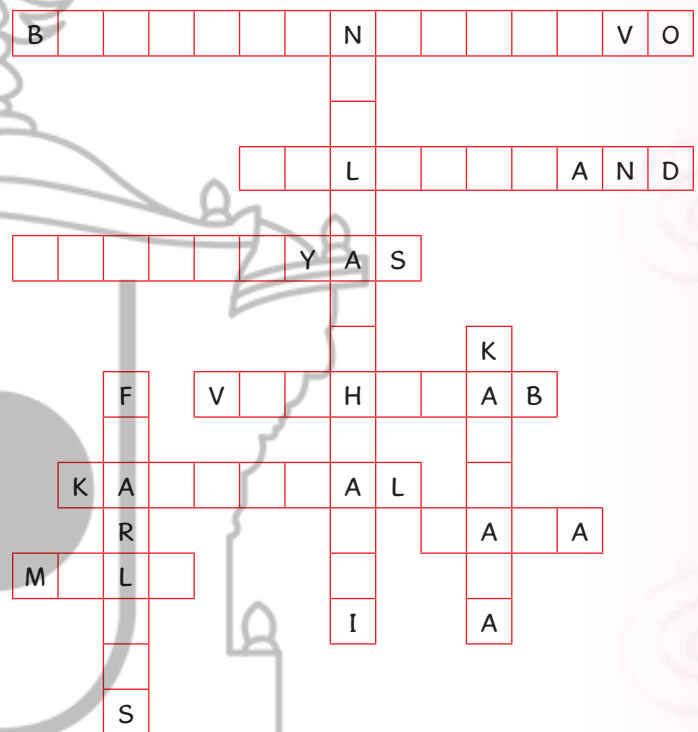


Friends! After learning about the glory of Neelkanth Varni, let's do a fun activity. The summary of this lesson is given below, but there are some blanks in it. Let's complete the summary by writing the correct words in the blanks.

When Ghanshyam Maharaj went  
into the forest \_\_\_\_\_  
he was named \_\_\_\_\_.  
He took with him \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ and mala. He went  
to the snow-capped mountains of  
\_\_\_\_\_ without wearing  
anything but a loincloth. He traveled  
for the \_\_\_\_\_ of animals,  
humans, and everyone. He showed  
us through his life how to be  
\_\_\_\_\_, full of seva and  
engrossed in bhakti.

(Kamandal, Neelkanth Varni, Tapa,  
Kalyana, Vicharan, Balmukund's  
batvo, Fearless, Mala, Himalayas,  
Palash dand)

Fill in the empty spaces with the appropriate words, from the chart above.



### Shishu Gunjan

*Neelkanth Varni'e vāāt sikhavi, nidar rahevu bik badhi mukavi,  
Neelkanth Varni taught us to be fearless,  
To cast aside all fear,  
Premathi sauni sevā karavi, prabhuni bhakti kaddi na bhulvi.  
To serve everyone with love,  
And to never forget our devotion to the Lord.*

## 19.

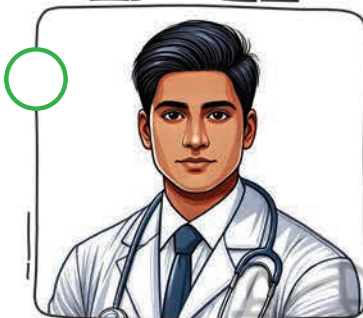
## Swamini Vato

Friends! Here are some riddles and there are some pictures next to them.

You have to read the questions and ☒ tick the correct answer.

I don't know math. I want to learn but I don't understand. Please explain where to go.  
Introduce me to someone who teaches math...

Let's say, who can teach mathematics?



Doctor



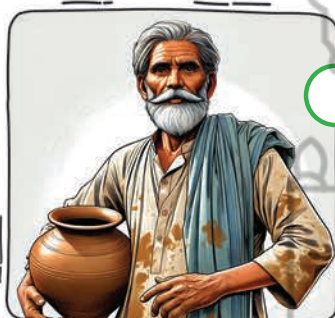
Teacher



Police

I want to fly in the sky, I want to fly a plane high.  
I don't know how to fly a plane. Who can teach me?...

Let's say, who can teach you how to fly a plane?



Potter



A vegetable seller



Pilot

This colorful world has a thousand colors in it.  
I want to fill pictures with color.  
Someone teach me this time...

Let's say, who can teach you how to color a picture?



Painter



Mechanic

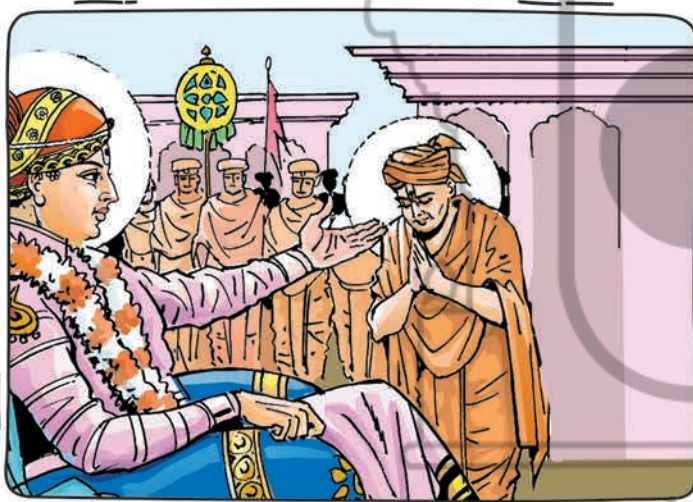


Manager

You see, my dear friends! If we want to learn mathematics, we have to go to a teacher...  
If we want to learn to fly an airplane, we have to go to a pilot...  
If we want to learn painting, we have to go to a painter.

Similarly, if we want to learn the knowledge of God, to go to the abode of God, we have to go to the sant who is with God. Gunatitanand Swami was such a true sadhu. Let us see an incident from his life.

Once upon a time, Gunatitanand Swami was in the village of Gadhada. He asked Bhagwan Swaminarayan a question, "Hey Maharaj! Should we meditate (dhyan)? Serve the sick? Live as the atma, meaning keep our mind constantly on God? Or conduct talks and preach?" Name one of these four.



If you want to reach God, you can reach Him through all four ways. But Bhagwan Swaminarayan told Gunatitanand Swami, "You should talk and share with everyone. Your stories will benefit everyone."

Gunatitanand Swami accepted this order of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. Morning, afternoon, evening, night... Oh! Even while walking on the road, he would talk about God to the devotees.

Gunatitanand Swami explained things so well that everyone could understand them easily.



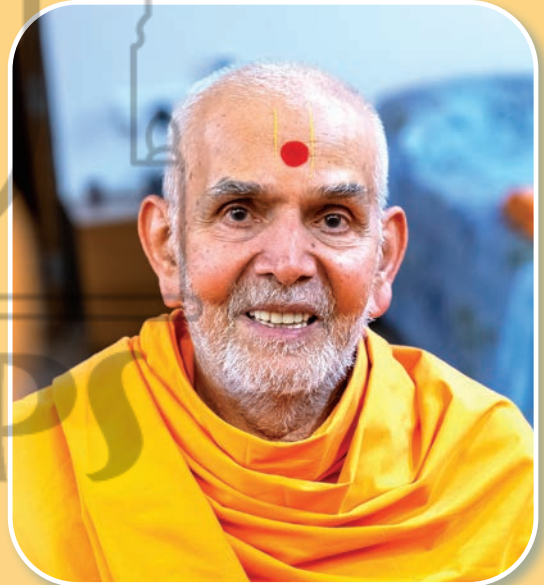
Bhagwan Swaminarayan commanded all the sadhus and devotees to go to Junagadh for one month every year to listen to the talks of Gunatitanand Swami.

Friends! Some sadhus and devotees used to write down the things that Gunatitanand Swami said to everyone. In this way, a book was prepared by collecting the “words” spoken by “Swami.” The name of this book is *Swamini Vato* (The Talks of Gunatitanand Swami).



Friends! Mahant Swami Maharaj loves the children who recite *Swamini Vato* by heart. The collection of Gunatitanand Swami's sayings is very large. But will you recite the sayings that Swamibapa has specially selected? Let us learn those *Swamini Vato* today and remember them.

- ઘરમાં રહેવું તે .....  
• *Gharama rahevu te ....*
- આપણે તો અક્ષરધામમાં જાવું .....  
• *Apane to aksharadhamama javu ....*
- જેના અક્ષર ગુરુ હોય .....  
• *Jena akshar guru hoy ....*
- આપણે ભગવાનનાં .....  
• *Aapne bhagwanana ....*
- કોટી કલ્પે ભગવાનનું ધામ .....  
• *Koti kalpe bhagwanaru dham ....*



You have to find the words written by Mahant Swami Maharaj in the boxes given on next page and fill them with your favorite color. So, are you ready? Let's do a fun activity...

1. Gharamã rahevu te mahemãnani pethe rahevu.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | h | a | r | a | m | ã | r | m | j | r | a | h | e | v | u | c | p | t | e |
| w | e | t | y | m | a | h | e | m | ã | n | a | n | i | k | a | r | m | a | k |
| a | r | p | e | t | h | e | d | h | a | n | r | a | h | e | v | u | n | i | o |

2. Āpane to aksharadhāmamã javu chhe evo ek sankalpa rākhavo.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ā | p | a | n | e | j | o | t | o | v | a | m | a | k | s | h | a | n | e | d |
| r | a | d | h | a | m | a | m | a | l | v | y | a | j | a | v | u | c | h | h |
| e | k | e | c | h | e | h | e | l | e | v | o | m | n | r | e | k | a | h | j |
| k | s | n | k | a | l | p | a | m | i | r | a | k | h | a | v | o | a | b | v |

3. Jenã akshar guru hoy te aksharadhamama lai jaay ne purushottamane melave.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | e | n | a | k | m | a | k | s | h | a | r | a | m | h | g | u | r | u | o |
| h | o | y | b | t | e | u | a | k | s | h | a | r | d | h | a | m | a | m | a |
| v | l | a | i | o | m | j | a | a | y | o | k | n | e | m | u | p | u | r | u |
| s | h | o | t | t | a | m | a | n | e | g | h | j | m | e | l | a | v | e | m |

4. Āpane bhagawānanã chie pan mãyānã nathi em mānavu.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | p | a | n | e | m | n | b | h | a | g | w | a | n | a | n | a | m | i | o |
| u | c | h | i | e | o | n | p | a | n | t | y | m | a | y | a | n | a | n | i |
| w | b | n | a | t | h | i | u | e | m | k | m | a | n | a | v | u | k | w | m |

5. Koti kalpe bhagawannu dham na male, te ava sadhune hath jode etalama male chhe.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| a | K | o | t | i | l | o | k | a | l | p | e | m | n | b | h | a | g | a | w  |
| a | n | n | u | i | h | d | h | a | m | v | u | n | a | g | y | m | a | l | e, |
| j | o | t | e | a | v | a | j | b | u | s | a | d | h | u | n | e | h | u | t  |
| k | h | a | t | h | m | b | j | o | d | e | i | l | e | t | a | l | a | n | y  |
| m | a | n | r | n | i | m | a | l | e | c | h | i | m | n | c | h | h | e | k  |

## 20. Mahant Swami Maharaj!

Friends! Today is going to be fun.

Do you know why? Because today we are going to meet our special friend, that is, our best friend, Mahant Swami Maharaj!

Yes, we are going to have sweet talks with Mahant Swami Maharaj...

So are you ready?

Now we will ask questions to Mahant Swami Maharaj and he will answer us. But yes, friends! You also have to write some answers along with them. So be ready, okay?

(Note: This is Mahant Swami Maharaj's handwriting)

Question: Can you name your childhood friends?

Swamishri: **Herald અને Harry**

Herald and Harry

• FRIEND •

Tell me your friends names.



Question: Did you have fun with your friends?

Swamishri: **હા. પણ ધમાક નહીં. Silent મચી.**

Yes. But not noisy fun. Silent fun.

Question: Did you ever have a fight or argument with anyone in your childhood?

Swamishri: **ક્યારેય નહીં.**

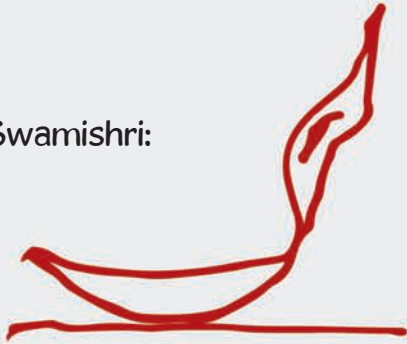
Not at all.



Yes, dear friends! Mahant Swami Maharaj was just like us.  
He never created fuss or quarreled.

Question: Swamibapa, could you draw a beautiful picture for us?

Swamishri:



Please draw the same picture that Swamibapa draws here.



Question: When did you have the first darshan of Yogi Bapa?

Swamishri:

સારંગપુર

- ૧૯૫૧

Sarangpur, 1951



When did you have the first darshan of Mahant Swami Maharaj?



Question: Did you learn harmonium?

Swamishri:

હા

Yes



Question: Which other instrument can you play?

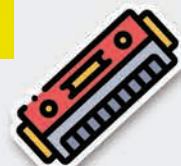
Swamishri:

વિંટલ,

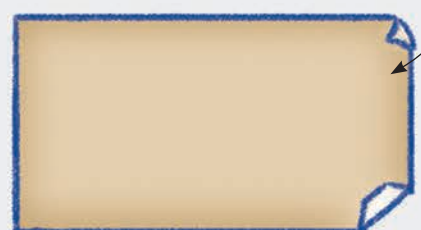


mouth organ

Flute and Mouth Organ



Which instrument can you play?



Question: Which was the first Swamini Vat that Yogiji Maharaj let you memorize?

Let's do a Mukhpath, Friends!

Swamishri:

૨૦૧૧ કહે તે મોહ છે  
૨-૫૭



2nd Chapter, 57:  
"Sant kahe te shreshth chhe..."



Swaminarayan Hare Swami e  
vat kari chhe je

Sant kahe te shreshth chhe  
ne mandharyu karvu te  
KANISTHA chhe.

Question: Which Mandir's murtis do you imagine during Mansi Puja?

Swamishri:

ભાદરા, ગોંડલ, તપોમૂર્તિ નિલકંઠ વર્ણી

Bhadra, Gondal, Tapomurti Nilkanth Varni



Question: Swami! You are our best friend, but who is your best friend?

Swamishri:



Children are  
My Best Best Best Friends



Children are my best, best, best friends!



Yes, Friends! We all are Swamibapa's best friends. Today, let's become a best friend of Swamibapa. Whatever Swamibapa likes to do, we will do. We will be *adarsh* (ideal) *shishus* (children).

Let's sing a kirtan while praying to Mahant Swami Maharaj:

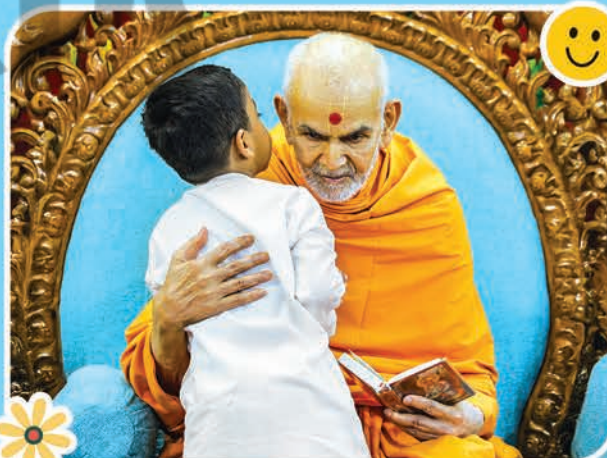
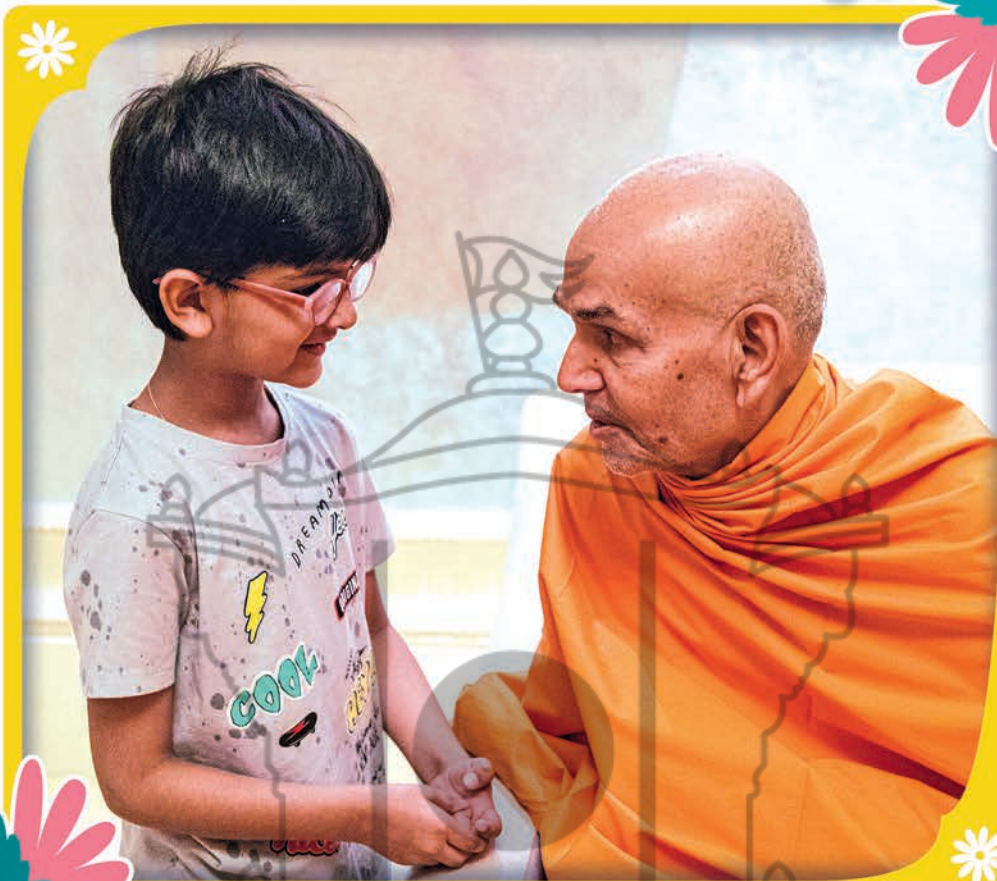
### Shishu Gunjan

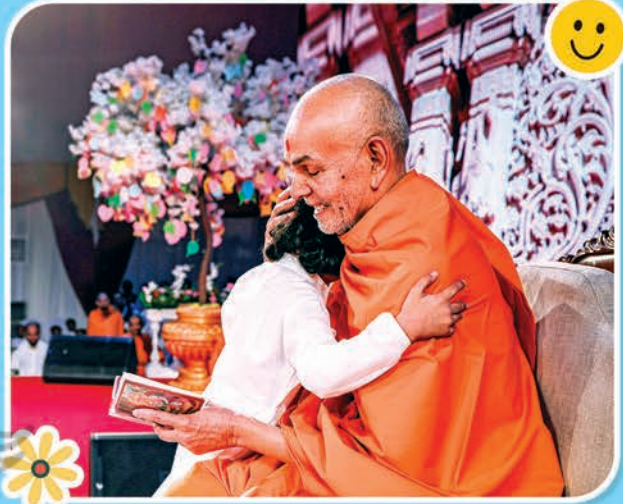
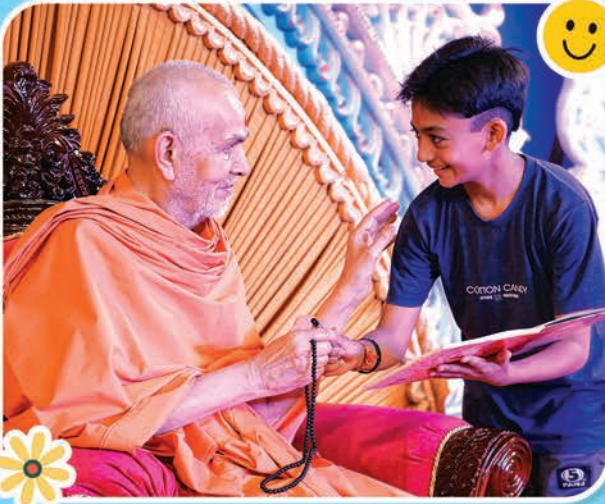
Mahant Swāmi Mahārāj,  
mane bahu game  
Mahantswami Maharaj,  
I like him very much  
Ene roj karu yād, mane bahu  
game...

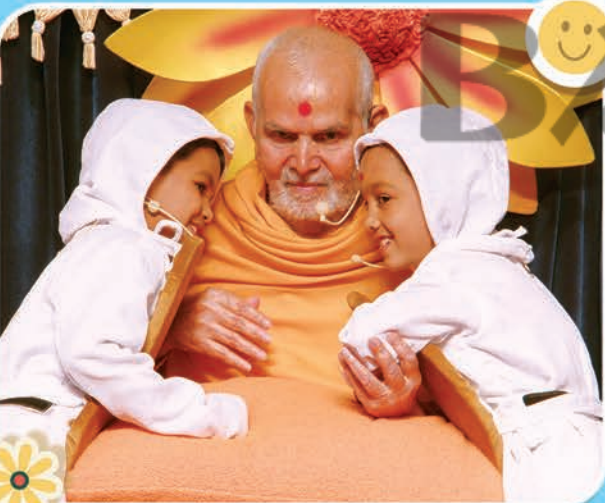
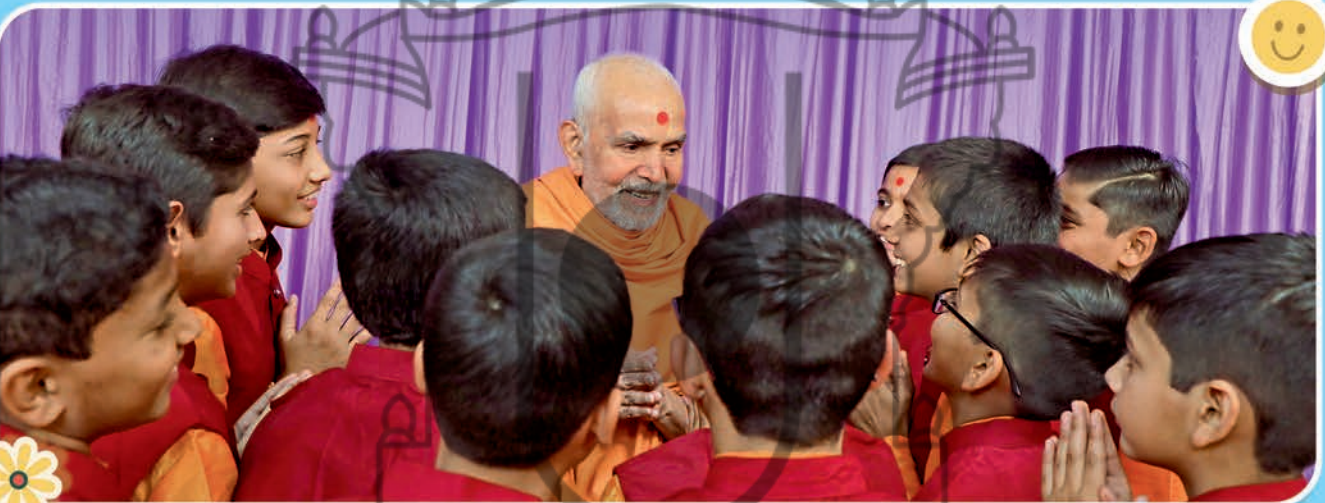
I remember him every day,  
I like him very much...  
Bālmitra che mārā,  
mane lāge che pyārā,  
He is my childhood friend,  
I feel dear,  
Mane rammāt ramāde,  
bahu game...  
He makes me happy,

I like it very much...  
Mārā sapanāmā āve,  
mane hetathi bolāve,  
He comes in my dreams,  
calls me with affection,  
Mane āpe parasādi, bahu game...  
He gives me blessings,  
I like it very much...  
Māri pujāmā padhāre,  
māri prārthanā svikāre,  
He comes to my worship,  
accepts my prayers,  
Mane bhavathi ugāre, bahu game...  
He saves me from the world,  
I like him very much...

## Joyful Moments with Guruhari Mahant Swami Maharaj









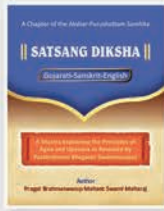
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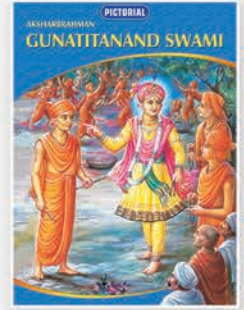
**To Become An Ideal Child**  
Gujarati | English | Hindi



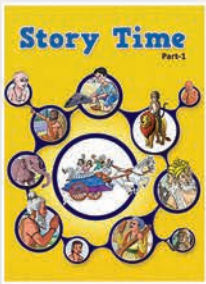
**Bal Sabha**  
Gujarati | English | Hindi



**Bhagwan Swaminarayan**  
Gujarati | English | Hindi



**Aksharbrahman Gunatitanand Swami**  
Gujarati | English | Hindi



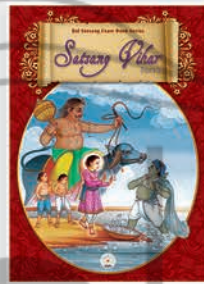
**Story Time - Part: 1 & 2**  
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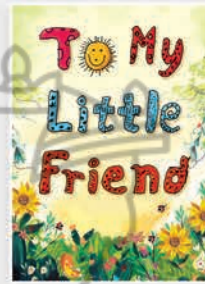
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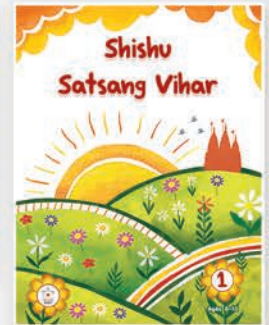
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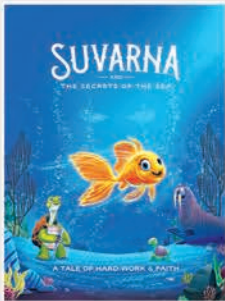
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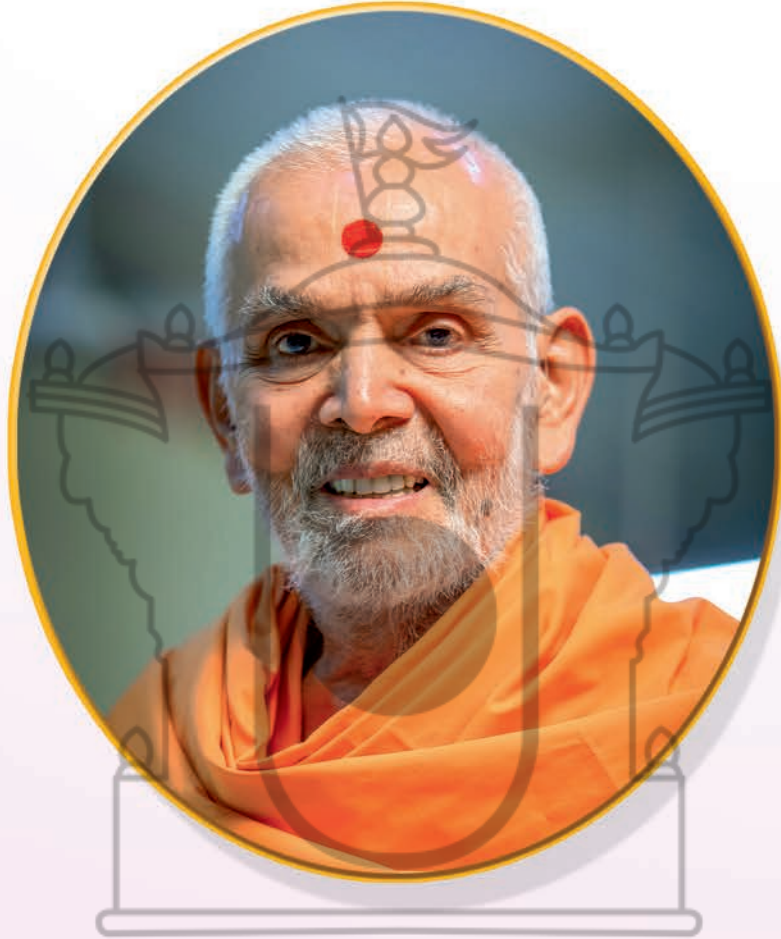
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uparana in your lives.*

*-S.G.*