

A Revolutionary Satpurush
Gurudev Bapji



**Supreme
Lord Swaminarayan**



**Jeevanpran
Abjibapashri**

Swaminarayan Mandir Vasna Sanstha (SMVS)

The sole aim of this socio-spiritual Swaminarayan organization is to create 'Shreeji Maharaj's beloved society.' It is where spiritual and social values like truthfulness, non-violence, honesty, and family unity are instilled, pure supreme worship (Upasana) of Bhagwan Swaminarayan is consolidated and the bliss of the state of an Anadimukta is experienced.

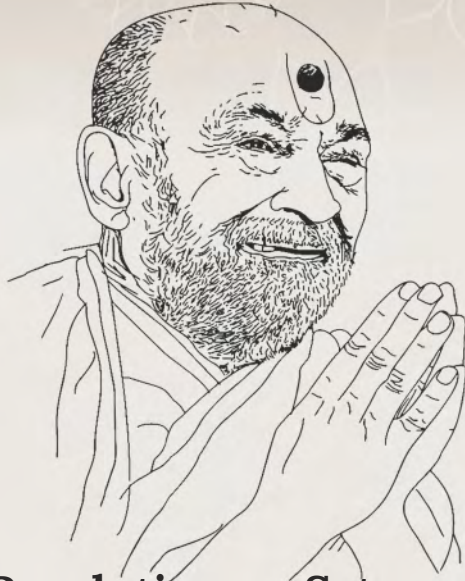
Jivanpran Abjibapashri had taken on the challenging task of propagating Bhagwan Swaminarayan's eternal principles and pure worship, by unleashing the secrets of Bhagwan Swaminarayan's supreme worship and the state of an Anadimukta. In 1974, Gurudev Bapji led a revolutionary task, to carry forward Abjibapashri's vision onto a global scale. With this aim in perspective, the Swaminarayan Mandir Vasna Sanstha (SMVS) was established by Gurudev Bapji in 1987.

SMVS continuously strives to kindle spirituality and to bring about change in the lives of each individual in society. Approximately 100 saints, 83 women ascetics, and greater than 10000 devoted volunteers from this organization are instilling divine inspiration in children groups, youth groups, and elderly groups and are providing them with more fulfilling life experience. Through various spiritual campaigns, they are reaching out to thousands of people to eradicate misery and instill enlightenment and happiness in their lives.

SMVS is expanding its horizons all over the world. It has currently expanded its spiritual services in countries like India, UK, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Dubai. Along with its spiritual services, SMVS also actively provides social services for everyone's benefit. It has established spiritual hostels (Gurukuls), whose foundation is based on the confluence of education, morals, and spirituality which serves to shape the lives of the young generation.

SMVS also provides services like educational aid, health services, clothes donation, health diagnosis camps, blood donation camps, De-Addiction camps, tribal upliftment, and women development. It always stays ready providing succor to the needy in natural calamities like earthquakes, disastrous rainstorms, floods, etc.

SMVS has enlightened many individuals through spiritual and social services. It has and continues to spread the fragrance of its essential services and spiritual morals to infinite souls around the globe.



A Revolutionary Satpurush Gurudev Bapji

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Index

01 Hagiography	05
02 Historic Journey.	52
03 Divine Virtues	69
04 Life Works	87
05 Inheriting Karan Satsang.	113
06 Glossary	121

Preface

It is easy for one to attain ultimate salvation, but to attain a Satpurush who can grant such salvation is very difficult. Shriji Maharaj has showered us with immense grace by gifting us with such a Satpurush, who also happens to be our Gurudev.

Even if we were to take ink from all the seven seas, make a paper as massive as the Earth and make pens out of all the trees on Earth and then write for eternity, it would still be impossible to measure or write the glory of Satpurush.

You, Gurudev Bajji, are always in *Parbhāv*. So, how can we understand your true identity with our tiny minds? One needs a divine vision to understand your divine persona. We have tried to decipher your divine acts, divine moments, and divine experiences with our small minds. Our efforts are presented in this book, which we publish with a desire to submerge the entire community in divinity and glory. It is a compilation of Gurudev Bajji eternal Hagiography, Historic Journey, Divine Virtues, lifeworks. Moreover, we have added the tremendous glory of HDH Swamishri's extols by Gurudev Bajji.

HDH Swamishri blessed that readers who read and ponder this life storybook of Gurudev Bajji intending to become ideal will undoubtedly obtain the bliss of Bhagwan Swaminarayan.

It is on the special occasion of Gurudev Bajji's first *Smruti-Din* (Memorial Day) that we publish this book. With the clear intention of pleasing Gurudev Bajji for he is ever-present and forever with us in our protection.

- Sahitya Lekhan Vibhag



Hagiography



“Whenever a soul attains a human body in this Bharat-khand, the incarnation of God or the sadhu of God will certainly be present on Earth. If a soul is recognises him, then that individual becomes a devotee of God.”

-Vachanamrut Vadtal 19th

In accordance to Shriji Maharaj's blessings, such a divine satpurush will always be present on Earth. Luckily for us, we have obtained the treasure that is Gurudev Bapji. Let us acknowledge his divinity by diving into his holy life.





Manifestation

Bhagwan Swaminarayan manifested in this world to propagate the eternal principles of his supremacy and the state of Anādimukta. To this end, He gave the blessings for the manifestation of one of his great Anādimukta in the village of Kutch. It was none other than our beloved Abjibapashri, who appeared in the Kutch village. Bapashri unveiled the philosophy of Shriji Maharaj's supremacy and the state of Anādimukta in such a way that it attracted everyone. For propagating these principles, Bapashri once made his way to the villages of Nalkanthā with a group of sants and devotees. There he inaugurated a temple for females in the town of Vasva.

Devotees from the surrounding villages of Rethāl, Dadukā, Upardal, and Thuletā all flooded to have the *Darshan* of Bapashri. After sensing the pleasant mood of Abjibapa, the devotees of Vasva urged him to visit their village. When

Abjibapashri agreed, the villagers' eager group displayed grand affection, and a lively program was held.

Abjibapashri, with His associates, were warmly welcomed and invited to grace the houses of the devotees. When Abjibapa arrived at the house of Jethabhai, the village leader, Laljibhai Thakkar, humbly prayed, "Bapa, Jethabhai is a very kind and innocent devotee. But, he doesn't have any sons. So please bless him with a son possessing *Mukta*-like attributes." Immediately, Bapashri showered his rich blessings with immense joy, "Jethabhai, you will have not just one, but two sons. However, one will be yours... One will be ours..." As proof of his promise, Bapashri gave him a sanctified coconut. It's said that the coconut remained completely fresh for 45 entire years!!

Following Bapashri's blessings of 'One is yours' the elder brother, Ratibhai, was born. Later, the second son manifested on the 13th of March 1933, Monday, the *Dhuleti* Festival, and was given the name Devubhai as per the wish of Bapashri. **This Devubhai is none other than our own beloved Gurudev Bajji, founder of the SMVS Swaminarayan Sanstha.**





Exceptional Childhood



Restless and impatient, the kind of words usually associated with most children. However, Devubhai abstained from such a childish life. He was very calm and collected with deep maturity for one so young. Like a pitcher filled with water, Devubhai was calm and steady, for he was always filled with the divine nectar of Bhagwan Swaminarayan.

V.S. 1994(1938) in the village of Vasan, Devubhai was enrolled in a school located on the village's outskirts and studied until grade two. When He learned how to read and write the numbers, alphabets, and vowels of the Gujarati language, He ended his education. After all, He had mastered the knowledge of ultimate theology and salvation, which is the root of all knowledge. Devubhai was very ambitious to accomplish the goals for which He had manifested.

From childhood, He was strict in following the rules and commandments of the sect, particularly celibacy. Once, in the

morning, He went to the lake for a bath. Upon seeing the females washing their clothes on the bank of the lake, He immediately turned back. From that day onwards, He decided to bathe early in the morning, before the arrival of females.

Devubhai's father owned grocery shops in the Vasan and Vasava villages. Since their financial position was weak, he would request Devubhai to manage the shop at Vasava. Devubhai agreed, but his mind would always be absorbed in thoughts of Shriji Maharaj.

When at home, He would mostly stay upstairs in a small room and meditate. Even while at the shop, He would remain engrossed in reading the Vachanamrut and other scriptures. He would often close shop early and reach the temple. Because of such behavior, Jethabhai often scolded him. “I haven't come here to sell oil, jaggery, and ghee but, I have come here to grant the bliss of *Murti* to infinite souls. That is my only business.” Like so, Devubhai would often allude to his future in front of his family members.





Teenage Years



Devubhai soon reached his teenage years and His life was calm, considerate and matured. He would spend his time engrossed in the *Murti* of Bhagwan Swaminarayan, but He never wasted his time on other things.

Cracking up jokes and gossiping about others was never part of His life. Even at that age, He performed penance on just one leg for long periods. Devubhai's asceticism further shone when He fasted and remained detached from worldly matters. He played a leading role in the village's prayer and sermon group. Devubhai was fully engrossed in His devotion and inspired others to do the same. His melodious singing was a unique attraction, and all that heard it would forget self-consciousness and experience ultimate bliss.

On top of all this, coming in contact with Sadguru Muni Swami made His life even more spiritualized and dharma-oriented.



Miraculous Power



Devubhai's nature was virtuous and delightful. However, He did not like social or worldly events one bit. After Devubhai's younger sister's wedding, He was forced to go to his sister's in-law's house in Daran village to receive her. Along with this occasion, another wedding marriage ceremony was held at the in-law's place. The combination of these two ceremonies troubled Devubhai very much as He was utterly detached from them. So, He unwillingly isolated himself in a lonely room at a relative's house nearby.

There, He would continuously chant the Swaminarayan mahamantra as He found true happiness doing only this. Devubhai was wholly detached from the pleasures of this world. He became so engrossed in His devotion to Maharaj that He forgot about the wedding ceremony simultaneously going on outside.

A terrible incident occurred during the ongoing wedding

ceremony. A ten-year-old child from the in-law's side, Rasik, was suffering from fever from the past few days. He suddenly got the hiccups, and his heart stopped beating. Immediately, the poor child passed away. In just a few moments, the joyful atmosphere of this event became very mournful. Everyone was in shock and started crying. The joyous wedding songs that were being sung were now replaced by songs expressing mourning. Only one question rang in everyone's mind, "What will we do now?"

Devubhai, however, was still completely engrossed in Bhagwan Swaminarayan. Someone suggested, "Oh listen, Devubhai has also come to this event. We should ask him for help as He is a very great *Mukta*." And so, everyone present at the wedding began searching for Devubhai. Eventually, they found Devubhai and briefed him about the terrible incident that had taken place.

The main person of the wedding pleaded, "You are Bhagwan Swaminarayan's divine *Mukta*! Please, do whatever you have to, but bring my son back to life."

Then Devubhai replied, "Don't worry! Start chanting the glorious name of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. Bhagwan Swaminarayan and Bapashri will surely help." Devubhai then went near the boy.

Devubhai offered a glass of water to Bhagwan Swaminarayan for His blessings and added a pinch of Bapashri's *charanraj*. He then poured a spoonful of this holy water into Rasik's mouth.

Devubhai also prayed to Bhagwan Swaminarayan and Bapashri, "Oh! Maharaj! Making your beloved followers depressed at a time like this is not right. Please, come to their aid

and make everyone happy... Oh, Bapa, please shower mercy.”

The chanting was still going on, and suddenly Rasik twitched a little and sat up. With Maharaj's blessings, Rasik was alive again. While just a few houses away, Bhagwan Swaminarayan took an elderly lady into His *Murti* instead.

An old lady in exchange for Rasik! This form of soul exchange is only possible by a *Mukta* who has arrived directly from Maharaj's *Murti*!

No one knew about this exchange, but Devubhai told everyone, “This little boy's lifeline had come to an end, but Maharaj brought him back to life. While on the other side, an elderly lady living 2-3 houses away was still destined to live some more, but Maharaj took her in exchange for Rasik. As such, Bhagwan Swaminarayan and Bapashri have showered great mercy on this child.”

All the people present at the wedding were astonished to hear Devubhai's explanation. Everyone started thinking, “Devubhai is indeed a true *Mukta*. Bhagwan Swaminarayan showed His supremacy through Devubhai today.” Upon acknowledging Devubhai's greatness, everyone gazed at Him with pure respect and honor.





Unparalleled Faith



Devubhai always used to say, “After attaining Bhagwan Swaminarayan and understanding His supremacy, how can I bow down to anyone else? How can I praise anyone else? I only know one thing, to believe in and worship the Supreme Bhagwan Swaminarayan.” Everyone in the Vasan village was aware of Devubhai's utmost devotion.

This firm devotion of Devubhai to Bhagwan Swaminarayan was hard for the village's *Bāvāji* to digest. Once, the *Bāvāji* got into an argument with Devubhai about the supremacy of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. It was hard for the *Bāvāji* to face Devubhai, but to maintain his long-lived reputation in the village, he started to make baseless claims to prove Devubhai wrong. The argument deepened, and soon enough, the elders from the village gathered.

“*Bāvāji*, we will jump off from the tallest neem tree beside the

village temple tomorrow morning. Whoever's God is Supreme will come and save their devotee.” The *Bāvāji* and the villagers were left speechless once they heard Devubhai's proclamation, which was overflowing with the power of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. For his reputation, the *Bāvāji* also accepted the challenge and announced, “We shall see tomorrow.” The *Bāvāji* was terrified internally, “What will happen to me if I jump off from the tree? All my bones will break... Devubhai is a true devotee, but I, on the other hand...” Well, the *Bāvāji* was shaken from the situation, as he very well knew what type of devotee he was (Not the good kind). The villagers were all on the *Bāvāji's* side, so they all laughed at Devubhai. However, Devubhai did not doubt Shriji Maharaj's supremacy one bit, so He remained firm and fearless.

The next day in the morning, the entire village had gathered to witness the face-off. Devubhai was ready since the morning, but the *Bāvāji* was nowhere to be seen. The villagers gathered at the temple (the *Bāvāji's* residence), but the *Bāvāji* was nowhere to be found. Everyone began to search for him in the temple. Just then, someone from the crowd said, “Last night, as a result of fear, the *Bāvāji* abandoned his ashram, his disciples, the temple and the village.” The *Bāvāji* was unable to confront Devubhai and Supreme Bhagwan Swaminarayan, so he fled without even notifying anyone.

After searching the whole town, all the villagers finally comprehended the sincerity of Devubhai's devotion. They praised Him, “You and Your God are both true. The *Bāvāji* was the one who was false-hearted. Wow! Devubhai, wow!”

Like such, the villagers were able to do *Darshan* of Devubhai's astounding devotion for Supreme Bhagwan Swaminarayan. They all commended Devubhai.





New Beginnings



In 1952, Devubhai met Jivanpran Abjibapa's cherished inheritor, the great Anādimukta, Sadguru Muni Swami (Keshavpriyadasji Swami) for the very first time. Despite it being the first meeting, it was as though the fondness for one another was eternal. Devubhai was mesmerized by Sadguru Muni Swami and immediately felt a divine attraction towards Him.

Seeing Sadguru Muni Swami's entirely introverted, serene, and saintly life, Devubhai was bound to Him in an everlasting bond. Whenever Sadguru Muni Swami visited Nalkanthā, Devubhai would leave everything aside and go to Sadguru Muni Swami for His preaching. Like many great *Mukta*, this divine personality, Devubhai, started living a very reserved life. Now Devubhai was very eager to fulfill Bapashri's *Sankalp* and was looking for an opportunity to leave His home.

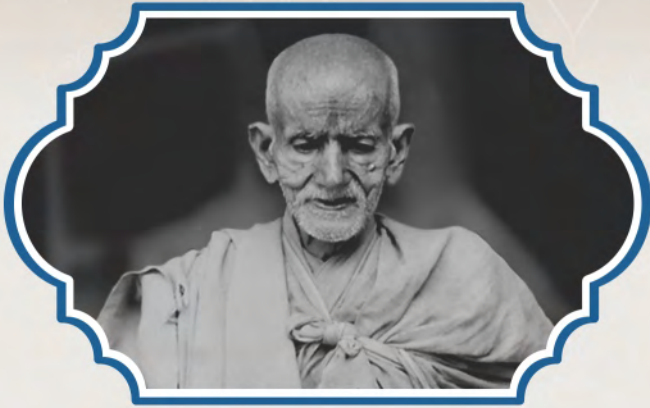
“When should I leave my home, and when should I start my

journey for fulfilling the *Sankalp* of Maharaj and Bapashri?" These thoughts created great yearning in Devubhai to set off. He felt as if Maharaj and Bapashri were telling Him, "Devubhai, it's time now!"

Devubhai had become very eager to walk on the rigorous path of asceticism. He was exhausted from the mundane family bonds and worldly tasks. **The time for His renouncement had finally arrived. Before the rays of the sun lightened the land, at two o'clock in the night, Devubhai left His home.** To grant Swaminarayan Bhagwan's *Murti* bliss to infinite souls and fulfill the purpose for which He had manifested.

In 1956, at the age of 23, Devubhai received *Sant Dikshā* and received the name Sadhu Devnandandasji. He accepted Sadguru Muni Swami as his *Gyān-Guru* (A Guru, who grants spiritual philosophy).





Inheriting Karan Satsang



After initiating as a sant, Gurudev Bajji used to live in close association with Sadguru Muni Swami. He never missed even a single word of Muni Swami's discourses.

Though He may have been involved in other works, His ears were always directed in the direction of Sad. Muni Swami's words. Due to the insistence, Gurudev Bajji had for learning the mysteries and complexities of the Vachanamrut; He became the light of Sad. Muni Swami's eyes. So Sad. Muni Swami used to take Gurudev Bajji to accompany Him in spiritual tours to Kutch, Zalawad, Khakharia, Nalkanthā, etc. Thus, He made Gurudev Bajji a master in the Vachanamrut. Gurudev Bajji affixed a goal to please this divine being, Sad. Muni Swami, and take His maximum benefit.

In *Samvat* 2018(1962 C.E.), Gurudev Bajji expressed a wish to serve by His side. Sadguru Muni Swami responded, saying,

“Swami, everything I owned including all the scriptures and even this room, I have distributed amongst these Sants. Now I don't have anything left to give you.”

Gurudev Bapji humbly requested, “Bapa, I don't want anything of that sort. I just want the inheritance of your knowledge and principles. I want to become the heir of your saintliness and divine traits. That is my only request.”

Hearing this, Sadguru Muni Swami became extraordinarily pleased and placed both His hands on Gurudev Bapji's head. He said, “Swami, your manifestation is for fulfilling and spreading Maharaj and Bapa's philosophy. I do not need to make you my spiritual successor, as you are chosen by Shriji Maharaj for this Sankalp. . So when I am not here, give bliss to all of Bapashri's devotees. This is Maharaj and Bapa's true wish.”

Once, Sad. Muni Swami wrote a letter stating, “Nurture the followers of Abajibapashri and bless them with ultimate bliss. I am always there with you.” Gurudev Bapji saved this letter for 35 years.





Born for Bapashri



Saraspur was the epicenter of Karan Satsang. Mainly Sad. Ishwar Swami, Sad. Vrundavan Swami and their associated community used to stay there, expanding the roots of Karan Satsang. Thus, Gurudev Bapji would often visit Saraspur. He slowly started propagating Bapashri's glory and the supremacy of Bhagawan Swaminarayan by conducting everflowing discourses. It resulted in a small troop of dedicated devotees. They all came together to buy an *āsan* for Gurudev Bapji at the Ahmedabad temple. A small, dusty, rustic room of 8*10 ft. A residence to rats and squirrels was selected. Ironically, it became the landmark for the promotion of true principles as Gurudev Bapji resided there.

Even in these tough times, he would wake up early and get ready before 5 in the morning, and cook simple hotchpotch. At 6, He would reach for *ārti*. Soon after that, the personal classes of

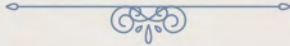
religious discourses began and ended late into the night. However, the devotees came as per their time, but Gurudev Bapji was the only tutor for all. So his eagerness and enthusiasm for explaining the truth of spirituality left him hungry, starved even. His chance to eat would come late at night, with a dinner of hotchpotch made early in the morning. Despite such starvation, he was always eager in the propagation of the Supreme theology of Bhagawan Swaminarayan.

It was because of this fame that Bhagawan Swaminarayan's supremacy glorified one who entered into the area. It was impossible to propagate the principle of Bapashri by living in "Ahmedabad temple." However, Gurudev Bapji, ever-drenched in the pride of Bapashri, continued to spread His glory and principles.





Strenuous Sant Life



In 1969, it was a time of difficulty in the life of Gurudev Bapji while he was residing in the Ahmedabad temple. At the time, he didn't even have footwear for himself and so He had to visit different places barefoot. His feet would be bruised by stones, pebbles, and thorns while traveling. Stopping his travels was never an option. He even bared the heat, cold, and rain to deliver discourses to the devotees and make them happy.

One day looking at Gurudev Bapji roaming barefoot, the heart of one of the devotees filled with sorrow. He became saddened and said, "Oh... so many hardships! Constant traveling day and night. For Bhagwan Swaminarayan, you travel year-round, and that too barefoot...! True sants have to face so many difficulties! How can this be tolerated! For how long will this sant be barefoot! From now on, he shall never be barefoot!"

He served Gurudev Bapji at the time of need by providing

footwear of original leather, which, at the time, cost four rupees. This footwear was prepared by an old cobbler in the village, which made it very strong. However, as it was made of leather, it used to become very stiff during winter. As a result, they used to hurt, and Gurudev Bajji faced difficulty in wearing them. So Gurudev Bajji used to apply lubricant to them once in the year to make them smooth. Gurudev Bajji had traveled to various villages of Khākhariā, Zālāwād, and Nalkanthā districts continuously day and night in this footwear and even went to collect the *Dharmādo* in this way. (As per orders of Bhagwan Swaminarayan every devotee shall donate 10% of his income to Bhagwan Swaminarayan as a part of the purification of wealth, which we call *Dharmādo*)

In 1974, when Ghanshyamnagar temple was constructed, Gurudev Bajji wore this footwear. Up until 1983, this footwear, which cost four rupees, was used conservatively by Gurudev Bajji for fourteen consecutive years! Wow!





Righteous Life



In the Swaminarayan sect, many highly honorable sants say that “Bapji is an idol of obedience. You cannot find anyone in this entire sect who possesses obedience equal to Gurudev Bapji.”

Once, Gurudev Bapji was giving bliss to everyone at the Ahmedabad temple through His discourses. At that time, many sants and devotees would tell Him to worry about His future and urge Him to keep money for Himself.

Not just this, but once an elder Sant, expressed his worry about Gurudev Bapji's future by saying, “Dev Swami, this is *kaliyug* '. What if, in the future, you do not have any disciples to serve you when you get ill? What will you do when you need medication? Someone will only serve you if you have money; otherwise, no one will even look at you. Therefore, stop worrying about following all the rules and start keeping some money for yourself. Even if we keep money for ourselves.”

Gurudev Bapji replied to the sant, “I have become a sant for

Supreme Bhagwan Swaminarayan, and I am His true disciple. Why would I worry about what will happen to me? I should have faith in money but not in the Supreme Bhagwan Himself? I am a son of Maharaj and Bapashri. A lion does not eat grass, no matter how hungry it gets. Likewise, I will never breach even a minor command of Shriji Maharaj no matter what the circumstance. For me, a command is a command. Therefore, what you are suggesting will never happen. Shriji Maharaj is my protector, and I have complete faith that He will take care of me through all thick and thin. He will always worry about me. Being dependent on money... What sort of understanding is that?"





Revolutionary Step



Gurudev Bajji propagated the original principles of Bhagwan Swaminarayan, as explained by Bapashri, despite being faced with many torrential hurdles. To propagate these principles to a broader audience of devotees and aspirants, Gurudev Bajji started conducting religious assemblies at the ground of the Maleksaban stadium in the Bapunagar area of Ahmedabad.

To accommodate an increase in devotees, a small land of roughly 1500 square yards was acquired in the Ghanshyamnagar society near the Odhav area of Ahmedabad, despite a lack of funds.

The temple's construction in Ghanshyamnagar was completed on the 12th of April 1974, with donations ranging from 1, 5, 10, and 15 Rupees to a maximum of 500 Rupees. Gurudev Bajji took a revolutionary step and was the first in the entire Swaminarayan sect to have inaugurated idols of only

Shriji Maharaj and his *Mukta* at the Ghanshyamnagar temple.

This was the beginning of pure Supreme *Upāsana*, which fulfilled Bhagwan Swaminarayan's unfulfilled desire and commenced the creation of temples with pure Supreme *Upāsana* in the entire Swaminarayan Sect.

By 1984, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Ghanshyamnagar temple, Satsang had expanded in many ways through Gurudev Bajji's divine wish. Gurudev Bajji desired that "We want to create a temple on the other side of the River, so start searching for land".

During construction, Gurudev Bajji used to walk from Ahmedabad to Ghanshyamnagar for supervision. Once the devotee accompanying Gurudev Bajji was tired and pleaded, "Let's board an auto rickshaw". To that, Gurudev Bajji humbly replied, "Devotees have donated an amount for the construction of a temple, not for our luxury, i.e., to travel in a rickshaw."





Nurturing the Youth



Gurudev Bapji always had a unique perspective for the youth. His ability to win their hearts is genuinely exemplary for all parents. He showered unbiased love for all the youth and stayed intimately aware of their needs.

Gurudev Bapji's youth group had developed a unique bond with Him. Gurudev Bapji had showered them with special love by addressing them using nicknames.

Dharmakumar Pandya was addressed as "Pandyo."

Gurudev Bapji used to address Jyotindra Kumar Adesra, who thoroughly knew all the Vachanamruts, as "Vichhi." Many times Gurudev Bapji would also call him "Chashmeri"

He used to call Narendrabhai Basher as "Basher" and Narendrabhai Trivedi as "Adhiseri." These loving nicknames created an unbreakable bond between Gurudev Bapji and the youths.

Brahmsatra programs were held there twice a year, and

Gurudev Bapji's beloved youth group would also be present at these *Brahmsatras*.

He would wake these individuals with the divine touch of His right toe or by clapping. Even His style of awakening these youth had a fragrance of love in it. Upon waking up, the youth would touch Gurudev Bapji's feet. Gurudev Bapji would shower them with respect right from the morning.

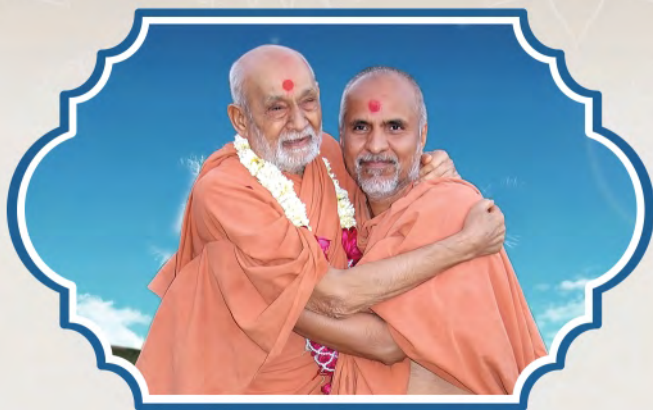
After the young individuals got ready in the morning, Gurudev Bapji would come to serve them breakfast (a variety of snacks and sweets) with His own hands and make them happy.

On the last day of the *Brahmsatra*, all the youths would be leaving in the afternoon so that Gurudev Bapji would take particular care of them. Gurudev Bapji would go to the pantry and specially prepare small packets of sweets and snacks for these youths to take home. He would quickly complete this task and return to His *āsan*.

As soon as the youths got up to leave, Gurudev Bapji would grab their hand and place the prepared packets in their hand, "Here, take this home." This form of love and care emotionally touched these young individuals.

They would say, "Oh Swami, we should be responsible for nurturing you, not the other way around." Overall, these young individuals' annual *Brahmasatra* experience left them engrossed in Gurudev Bapji's motherly affection.





Mesmerizing Union



Gurudev Bapji used to stay at Ghanshyamnagar and visit Ahmedabad temple from there. In his company, He had a mere sant, but this sant was very troublesome and caused Gurudev Bapji lots of trouble. Gurudev Bapji had to do all of this sant service when it should have been the other way around. Gurudev Bapji could take no more, and so he relied on the last hope he had.

Standing in front of Ghanshyam Maharaj's *murti* in Rangmahol at the Ahmedabad temple. A very solemn conversation was taking place between Maharaj and *Mukta* (Gurudev Bapji).

As the conversation with Ghanshyam Maharaj deepened, Gurudev Bapji's words also became heavier. He was overwhelmed with emotions and began singing a prayer from the bottom of His heart:

“Mere to ek tum hi ādhārā...”

“You are my only support”

With a stream of tears flowing from His eyes, Gurudev Bajji continued praying intensely.

“Oh, Maharaj! Please, give me one sant who will assist me in propagating your Supreme principles everywhere. Please, grant me at least one phenomenal sant, who can take Your principles beyond the horizon and make Karan Satsang worldwide.”

This was the auspicious day of *Samvat* 2034 Chaitra sud 9 (i.e., Sunday, the 16th of April, 1978). It marked the first meeting of the extraordinary Guru and the extraordinary disciple at the Ahmedabad temple. It marked the beginning of a revolutionary mission of making Karan Satsang worldwide. This union was engraved in the history of Karan Satsang in golden words.

“Pratham ni prit hati,

pratham melap thayo;

Dipak je prem tano,

achānak pragati gayo.”

“An eternal bond from before,

In their very first encounter,

Lit ablaze unexpectedly,

shining bright with warmth.”





Divine Initiation



In just the first meeting, Ghanshyambhai was mesmerized and bonded to Gurudev Bapji's extraordinary persona. He started connecting with Gurudev Bapji in a bond of *ātmabuddhi*. After finishing His readings at 10 p.m., at the Gujarat University Library, Ghanshyambhai would go to Gurudev Bapji for his preachings every day. At that time, Ghanshyambhai was studying to become a chartered accountant.

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On the auspicious night of the 7th of October, 1980 Gurudev

Bapji phoned His beloved disciple and immediately called Him to the Ghanshyamnagar temple. Upon His arrival, they sat down on the benches on the right side of the temple. At the stroke of midnight, Gurudev Bapji told His most beloved disciple, Ghanshyambhai, “What are We here for? The time has ripened to join Maharaj's *Sankalp* (Wish), so come on, we cannot afford to delay any further.”

The final exams were soon approaching, so Ghanshyambhai asked about what to do next, “Bapji, only 15 days left until my Chartered Accountant final exams begin. I have been working very hard for the past four years in this chartered accounting course. So, if it's alright with You, I will come right after giving my exams. However, this is only a request. I will do whatever makes You happy.”

In an instant, Gurudev Bapji commanded His future successor, “You haven't come here for making these worldly audits. Your manifestation is solely for making the audits of infinite souls and signing them off to Maharaj's bliss. Hence, get ready! The time has ripened to fulfill the purpose that Maharaj has brought us here for. Maharaj and Bapa are calling You. So, Come On! Let's Go!” Just as a spear pierces through the air, Gurudev Bapji's words pierced through Ghanshyambhai instantly.

Following the principle that Bhagwan Swaminarayan is always omnipresent through His *Murti*, the auspicious *sant Diksha* ceremony began at 4 p.m. on Samvat 2036 Magshar sud 11 (the 18th of December, 1980) at the Ghanshyamnagar temple.

Bhagwan Swaminarayan, Himself, came and gave Parshad *Dikshā* to Ghanshyam Bhagat, the pious saffron cloth (*bhagwā vastra*) of a sant. Bhagwan Swaminarayan then took the flower garland from His neck and adorned it on Ghanshyam Bhagat's neck. Finally, Bhagwan Swaminarayan took the *Chāndlo* from His forehead with His thumb and placed it on Ghanshyam Bhagat's forehead.

Bhagwan Swaminarayan then showered His blessings by saying, “I am granting You this *Dikshā* with my own hands. I will fulfill all Your salvation related *Sankalp* even if they are for malicious and sinful souls. I will make them worthy of the bliss of My *Murti*. I will always be by Your side.”

Solely according to Shriji Maharaj's Blessings, Ghanshyam Bhagat was given the name “Sadhu Satyasankalpdasji” (Meaning, one whose *Sankalp*(wish) is always fulfilled) by Gurudev Bapji.

With this aim in mind, this extraordinary Guru and disciple pair initiated a revolutionary era in the sect's history.





A New Journey Begins



Until now, Gurudev Bapji had endured a lot on His own for the propagation of Karan Satsang. But after being gifted with a phenomenal disciple, HDH Swamishri, His mission picked up double speed. So, within a short time, Karan Satsang expanded to the hearts of many. This marked the formation of a society that was ready to make the needed sacrifices to abide by Maharaj's words and the principles of Bapashri. The critics and the opposers did not like this at all. Therefore, they were trying to stop the spread of Karan Satsang in any possible way.

However, in the end, all of their attempts were unsuccessful. They warned Gurudev Bapji, "If You wish to stay a part of this sect, You must stop spreading Bapashri's glory; you will have to stop reading the Vachanamrut Rahasyarth and the Sermons of Bapashri. Furthermore, you must live according to our sant's customs."

Without having any second thoughts, Gurudev Bapji made

His decision. He immediately responded, "I have become a sant so that I can spread the principles explained by Bhagwan Swaminarayan and Bapashri to the hearts of many. I would rather sacrifice my life for the principles of Maharaj and Bapashri and suffer hate, disrespect, and humiliation than to live a life that is against Bhagwan Swaminarayan's morals."

Eventually, the 11th of February, 1984, marked a milestone in the history of the Swaminarayan sect. Gurudev Bapji freed Himself from all of the sect's obligations for the sake of Karan Satsang and the propagation of Bhagwan Swaminarayan and Bapashri's principles.

Gurudev Bapji had only one motto for the opposers He encountered on His travels, "As per the principles established by Bhagwan Swaminarayan, we are neither segregated (*vimukh*) nor confronted (*sanmukh*), we are amalgamate (*mukhonmukh*) with the divine form of Maharaj."





Establishment of SMVS



The unparalleled saintliness and principled life of Gurudev Bajji and HDH Swamishri have attracted many aspirants, which resulted in an increasing quotient of manpower.

By 1984, on the 10th anniversary of the Ghanshyamnagar temple, Satsang had started to expand in many ways. So, Gurudev Bajji desired to create a temple on the West Zone of Sabarmati River. Thus, HDH Swamishri started searching for a piece of land. As per Maharaj's wishes, the desired property was approved by Gurudev Bajji in the Vasna area, and the transfer deed was finally signed.

In between the lack of manpower, money, and raw material, the construction work was upheld on the trust of the Main power (Maharaj). Miraculously, Shriji Maharaj always solves the upcoming hindrances and situations of his worshippers. This time was no different as He helped by providing the required amount of manpower, payments, and raw material. Thus, in

eleven months, the temple was nearly ready.

The auspicious day of the 22nd of February, 1987, Sunday, was engraved with golden words in history. On this particular day, a royal procession was held to bring the idols of Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj into the sanctuary of the temple.

Ever since Gurudev Bapji and HDH Swamishri dedicated the divine idol of Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj into the Vasna temple, the organization has been recognized as the Swaminarayan temple Vasna Sanstha (SMVS). Subsequently, the revolutionary efforts to propagate the pure Supreme *Upāsana* of Bhagwan Swaminarayan and the status of an Anādimukta had begun. This establishment had also paved the way for the global spread of Karan Satsang through the SMVS organization.

Since the birth of SMVS, various spiritual, cultural, moral, and social activities have been carried out. They are currently expanding extensively from the smallest villages of India to several developed countries around the world. The SMVS organization has occupied an essential place in people's hearts.





Continuous Expedition



Bhagwan Swaminarayan always traveled to different places in such a manner that in the evening, if He were in one place, then the next morning, he would be at some other place. This way, He gave promises of salvation to millions of souls. Similarly, Gurudev Bapji also traveled regularly to make devotees understand the greatness of Bhagwan Swaminarayan and gave promises of salvation to millions of souls. Gurudev Bapji is an embodied form of constant traveling and hard work.

One day in October 2015, a program was kept in the Danta village near Mansa. Gurudev Bapji left Vasna temple at seven early in the morning. After completing various visits at the houses of devotees in Vijapur, Visnagar, and Mansa Gurudev Bapji reached the program in Danta village. After completing the program in Danta village Gurudev Bapji returned to Vasna temple at one o'clock in the afternoon, having traveled nearly

300k.m.in half a day.

After returning to Vasna temple, he took lunch and decided to travel to Surat city. Saints and devotees prayed to Gurudev Bajji to take some rest. As the water of the ocean cannot be stopped similarly, the desires of Gurudev Bajji to give souls salvation cannot be stopped. Gurudev Bajji got in the car as soon as he finished his lunch. On the way, after finishing 12-13 visits to the houses of devotees, they all reached Surat temple at 8 in the evening. In this way, in a single day, Gurudev Bajji traveled more than 600k.m.

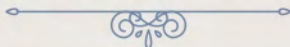
On the next day, instead of taking rest, he conducted assemblies. He delivered discourses related to the greatness of Bhagwan Swaminarayan for eight long hours. On the same day, after finishing dinner, he left for Vadodara.

The next day after delivering religious discourses in the morning assembly to Vadodara's devotees, He attended the assembly at Naroda temple in Ahmedabad. In the evening, He came to Swaminarayan Dham at Gandhinagar for the monthly program to deliver religious discourses to the devotees. This way, he never cared for his comforts; instead, he traveled constantly to different places to offer religious discourses to the devotees.





Foundational Values



Gurudev Bapji manifested for the enforcement of pure, Supreme *Upāsana* of Bhagwan Swaminarayan and brought about a new worldwide revolution to implement the basic principles of Shri Hari. “Karan Satsang will spread worldwide” Keeping this motto in mind; He continued to tolerate all the insults and hatred that came along the way. Because of all His efforts, today SMVS's spiritual activities, social activities, tribal community upliftment, and women empowerment is impressively expanding across the globe.

What is the reason behind the significant progress of this organization, which has emerged just recently?

What are the secrets which are bringing it in the spotlight?

Gurudev Bapji and HDH Swamishri have revealed six values in the foundation of this organization's development:

Shriji Maharaj's Sankalp

In Karyani, Shriji Maharaj mentioned the six reasons for His manifestation to Sadguru Gopalanand Swami. The third and main reason was that “I want to explain My supremacy to infinite souls and unite them with My *Mukta*.” To fulfill this wish of Shri Hari, amidst all the opposers, Gurudev Bapji has built temples of pure Supreme *Upāsana*, pure scriptures, and such pure sants and devotees in this organization. Shri Hari's grace is continuously showering upon SMVS as His *Sankalp* (wish) is being accomplished, which is the first and foremost value in the development of SMVS.

Shriji Maharaj's Doership

This organization belongs to Shriji Maharaj. Maharaj is the sole founder, motivator, and sponsor of this organization. “O dear sants and devotees! Never become the owner of anything. Shriji Maharaj is the only owner of infinite universes. If we try to become the owner, then Shriji Maharaj will melt our pride and that won't be pleasant. Always remember that for us Shriji Maharaj is the sole owner and sole doer of everything.” Gurudev Bapji has always taught this lesson to the entire SMVS family. He has instilled it in everyone as firmly as an iron nail hammered into an iron base. Therefore, the SMVS organization is progressing incredibly.

Gift of a phenomenal Satpurush

An organization without a Satpurush is like a patient with heart failure or a car without a driver. Gurudev Bapji and His equivalent match HDH Swamishri are two Satpurushes of principles that have led the revolutionary development of this

organization. Because of their visionary efforts, this organization is flying victory flags for the propagation of its principles.

A Rājipo driven community inspired by Satpurush

One thought continually runs within Gurudev Bajji and HDH Swamishri, “To make Maharaj Rāji, that's it.” Because of their intact vision of pleasing Maharaj, members of the entire SMVS organization are eager to attain Maharaj's Rājipo. The whole SMVS family can stay vibrant because of their companionship. As a result, one motto has been engraved in every sant and devotee: “My life is solely to please Maharaj”.

Quality over Quantity

Gurudev Bajji and HDH Swamishri prefer quality, which Bhagwan Swaminarayan Himself has insisted on. They have never accepted anything less in the spiritual or behavioral attributes of its members. That is why SMVS is well known in the community for its good qualities. This quality has become an integral part of the development of SMVS.

Sacrifice and commitment of sants and devotees

The sacrifice and dedication of thousands of sants and devotees is a major contributing factor in the development of SMVS from scratch worldwide. The devotees' contribution from the small physical services to the significant donations to build temples is commendable. Today, SMVS is reaching the pinnacle of worldwide success because of the sacrifices and dedication laid as the foundations for developing this organization.





Gift of a Phenomenal Successor



Gurudev Bapji gave the gift of an ideal satpurush, HDH Swamishri, as his successor to the community of SMVS.

His great deed of establishing HDH Swamishri as a satpurush from the first day was a tremendous example, even in his presence. However, as a view of formal custom, on the 27th of December, 2012, during the celebration of SMVS Silver Jubilee.

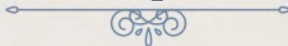
He declared HDH Swamishri as the second-in-command and spiritual satpurush of SMVS. Everyone accepted that declaration with appreciation.

Infinite salutations at the divine feet of an extravagant Satpurush, Gurudev Bapji, for gifting the entire Karan Satsang family with a continuous lineage of Satpurushes by making HDH Swamishri His future successor Satpurush and by giving Him the heritage of His divine altruistic traits.





Divine Impressions



One day one of the devotees of SMVS organization went to the Saurashtra region for the *Darshan* of various temples of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. At one of the places, he met the leader sant of that particular place. The sant asked the devotee, “Where do you come from?”

“I have come from Ahmedabad” replied the devotee.

“Which temple in Ahmedabad do you belong to?” inquired the sant.

“I’m from the Vasna Temple.”

“The one that belongs to Devswami, right?”

“Yes... yes... that’s the only one.”

“So you are a disciple of Gurudev Bajji.”

“Yes.”

“But, you seem to be a weak disciple of him.”

“Why do you say that?”

“You have come to do *Darshan* of different holy places, but all

holy places reside at the feet of your Guru. In his *Darshan*, the *Darshan* of countless holy places is obtained!”

This is the impression of Gurudev Bapji in the Swaminarayan sect.

Gurudev Bapji has faced infinite difficulties in bringing about a revolution regarding the Supreme worship of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. Because of this great work, such words are spoken: “If you want to know the real form of Bhagwan Swaminarayan, go to Devswami at Vasna temple.” Such respect from leaders and great sants of the Swaminarayan sect display the supernatural heights of Gurudev Bapji.

“If you want to learn how to deliver religious discourses based on the Vachanamrut, then listen to the cassettes delivered by Gurudev Bapji. By listening to his cassettes, you will understand the hidden philosophy of the Vachanamrut.” This was the advice given by a sant sitting at the Guru position, of one of the sansthas in the Swaminarayan sect, to his newly initiated sants. Amazing, the amount of detailed knowledge Gurudev Bapji possesses of the Vachanamrut. That is why Gurudev Bapji is recognized as 'Sage of the Vachanamrut' in the Swaminarayan sect.

“If you want to see the idol of Nand sants, go to SMVS and observe their sants and devotees. They don't have the slightest of addictions, like tea or coffee.” This everlasting and irreversible impression has been created among the Swaminarayan sect by Gurudev Bapji's constant and endless efforts.

It is from the infinite auspicious qualities of Gurudev Bapji

such as harmony, kindness, inadvertence, transparency, doctrinalism, etc. that the sants and devotees of Swaminarayan sect get inspiration.





His Final Words



Gurudev Bapji spent His entire life to make Maharaj's Sankalp, ideals, and principles resonate through eternity. At the time of Gurudev Bapji's last illness, HDH Swamishri quickly made his way back from his foreign trip. Upon returning, Gurudev Bapji clearly expressed His wish to become antardhyan (bring an end to His visible form). "Swami, please give me permission." was Gurudev Bapji's last request to HDH Swamishri. HDH Swamishri immensely prayed to Gurudev Bapji with tears pouring down His eyes, pleading for him to stay, but alas, Gurudev Bapji's resolve was firm. At last, HDH Swamishri prayed to Gurudev Bapji, "Bapji, if You have any last inspirational guidance for us, then please, let us know." To this, Gurudev Bapji gave us three commands as His last inspirational guidance considering us to be His children.

Keep firm faith in Bhagwan Swaminarayan.

Keep firm faith in Bhagwan Swaminarayan only and understand His true glory. Never be impressed or influenced by anyone else.

Never breach any commandments.

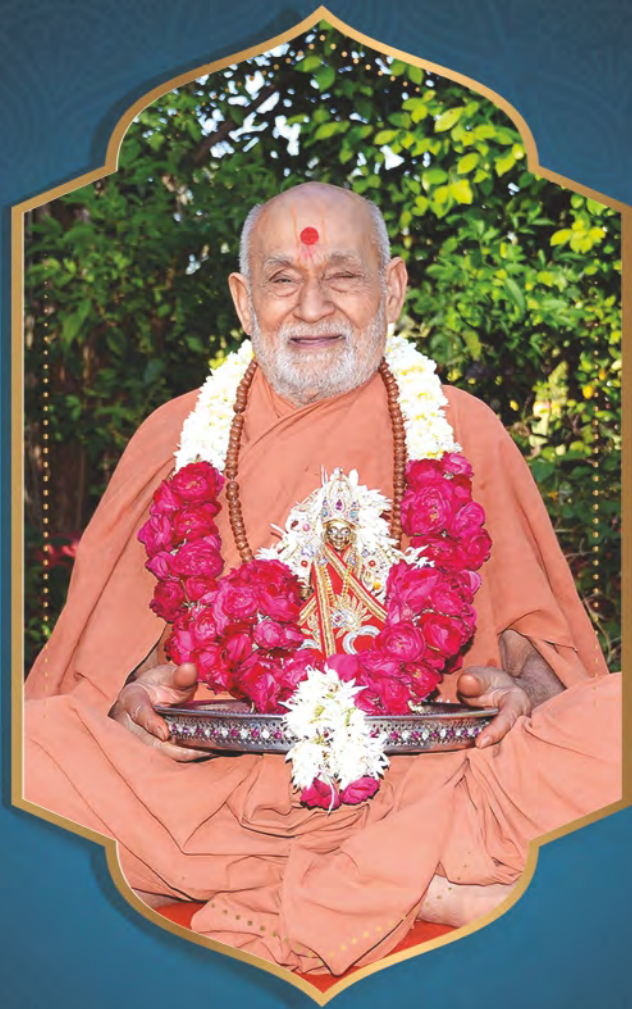
Firmly abide by the commandments for saints and devotees given by Bhagwan Swaminarayan. Regardless of the situation, no command should ever be breached.

All saints and devotees shall live in harmony.

This is a Karan Satsang community, meaning a community of Anādimuktas. We should cultivate such divinity for everyone and live harmoniously with one another. If we all live harmoniously by doing the *Darshan* of Maharaj in everyone, Gurudev Bajji's blessings of making Karan Satsang worldwide will surely come true.

Gurudev Bajji is the divine person who has brought the revolution of pure Supreme *Upāsana* for Bhagwan Swaminarayan. Gurudev Bajji willingly brought an end to His visible form on the 22nd of August, 2019 (*Samvat* 2075, *Shrāvan Vad* 6th), after giving *Darshan* for 87 years. This is a significant loss for us as well as the entire sect. Regardless, Gurudev Bajji is not gone. He is forever present. He is always with us. Let us consolidate the understanding of His omnipresence and forever feel blessed and graced by Him.





Historic Journey



Our Gurudev, His Divine Holiness Bapji, manifested into this world by the wish of Bhagwan Swaminarayan and Our Beloved Bapashri. Throughout his life, Gurudev Bapji has accomplished great social and spiritual deeds that have impacted the world in a meaningful manner. Let's take a glimpse into the presence of such a divine persona.



1923

Our beloved Bapashri gave Jethabhai (Gurudev Bapji's Father) blessings for two sons, with the condition that "One is yours, One is Ours." The 'One is Ours' is none other than our very own Gurudev, Gurudev Bapji.



1933



For the propagation of the principles of 'Karan Satsang', Our Gurudev Bapji manifested in the village of Vasan, located in the Viramgam taluka of Gujarat, India. As per Bapashri's wish, the name 'Devubhai' was given to him.

It marked the first union of Sadguru Muni Swami and Devubhai.

1952



1953



To obtain a spiritual and social successor, Gurudev Bapji prayed to his Guru, Sadguru Muni Bapa. Having been pleased by the prayer, Sadguru Muni Bapa gave the blessings for HDH Swamishri to manifest into this world.

Gurudev Bapji held the Sant Initiation Ceremony and obtained the name 'Sadhu Devnandandasji.'

1956



1959



By the blessing of Sadguru Muni Swami, Our beloved Ghanshyam (HDH Swamishri) manifested into this world in the village of Daduka, located in Sanand taluka of Gujarat, India.

From Sadguru Muni Swami, our Gurudev Bapji obtained the principles and ideologies of 'Karan Satsang'. In doing so, Our Guru became the spiritual successor of Sadguru Muni Swami and the divine lineage of Sadgurus originating from Sadguru Goplanand Swami, known as the 'Amir Pedhi.'

1968



To initiate the worldwide propagation of the Supreme principles of Bhagwan Swaminarayan and Bapashri, our Guru started an assembly beside the Maleksaban stadium in the region of Bapunagar. This is located in Ahmedabad and is the foundation of the Ghanshyamnagar temple.

1970



To fulfill the wish of Bhagwan Swaminarayan, our Guru created the first temple in the entire Sect with only the murti (idol) of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. The temple is located in Ghanshyamnagar and is the foundation of pure *Upāsana* (Faith)

1974



1976



Our organization published the first issue of 'Ghanshyam' Magazine.

Our Guru met with the beloved child Ghanshyam (HDH Swamishri) for the first time in the Ahmedabad temple.

1978



1980



Gurudev Bapji's favorite disciple and spiritual successor, HDH Swamishri, was initiated as a sant with the name 'Sadhu Satyasankalpdasji.' The name means that all wishes (Sankalp), Swamishri makes will come true (Satya).

1981



In celebration of 200 years since the manifestation of Bhagwan Swaminarayan, the 'Swaminarayan Dwishatabdi Mahotsav' was held at the Ghanshyamnagar temple.

On behalf of the celebration of 10th Anniversary of Ghanshyamnagar temple, HDH Swamishri, on His first spiritual tour, He visited 28 villages of Panchmahal district.

1984



1984



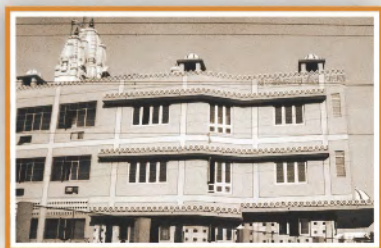
For the propagation of the principles of Bhagwan Swaminarayan and beloved Bapashri, Our Gurudev Bapji freed himself from the obligations and bonds of the entire Sect.

1986

On 8th, June 1986 the inauguration of SMVS Isanpur temple was held.



1987



The first 'shikharbadh' temple with pure 'upāsanā' (faith) was inaugurated at the sanctified place of Vasna, which also marks the establishment of SMVS.

To empower the spiritual growth of children, youth and elders; Digvijay Mandals (Groups) was established.

1987



1993



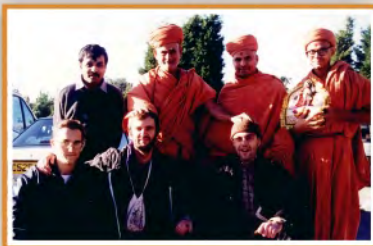
As a pre-phase for the 150-year celebration of our beloved Bapashri, 'Bapashri Mahotsav' was held at Lunawada.

To celebrate 150 years of Our beloved Bapashri, the famous 'Jivanpran Abjibapashri Shardh Shatabdi Mahotsav' was dedicated. This massive undertaking was accomplished with just 14 of our sants.

1995



1995-96



For the first time, Our Gurudev Bapji traveled abroad to London, England, Kuwait, USA and planted the seeds of 'Karan Satsang' in foreign lands.

2001

For the spiritual and social growth of women worldwide and by the inspiration of our Gurudev Bajji, female sants were initiated into the Sect under the name 'Bhaktiniwas.'



2001-02



To celebrate 200 years of the Swaminarayan Mahamantra, the 'Swaminarayan Mahamantra Dwishatabdi Mahotsav' was celebrated at Swaminarayan Dham, Gandhinagar. This place was established as the headquarters of SMVS.

2002

To develop spirituality, morality, and education in children, SMVS Swaminarayan Dham Gurukul was established in Gandhinagar.



2003



The first pure '*upāsānā*' (faith) temple on foreign lands was inaugurated in Jersey City, New Jersey, marking the first step in making Karan Satsang worldwide.

To celebrate 100 years of the Annotated Vachnamrut (Rahashyarth Vachnamrut), the 'Vachnamrut Rahashyarth Bapashri Vaani Shatabdi Mahotsav' was celebrated.

2006



2007



For the proper management of the entire SMVS organization, departments were established.

2008

In celebration of 75 years of the manifestation of Gurudev Bapji, an 'Amrut ParvaShibir' was held.



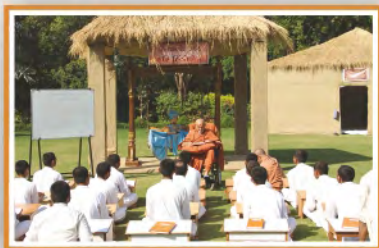
2009-10



In celebration of the Silver Jubilee of SMVS, 29 temples and lands were inaugurated.

2011

For the proper spiritual and overall development of aspirants aspiring to become a sant, a training center named 'Samarpit Talim Kendra' (STK) was established.



2011



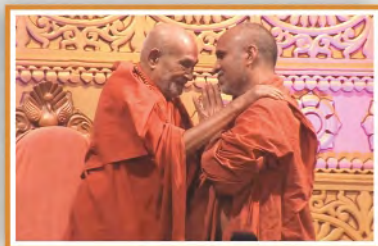
For the nurturing of young female students, 'SMVS Swaminarayan Dham Girls Gurukul' was established at Gandhinagar.

In completion of 25 years since the establishment of SMVS, a grand celebration, 'SMVS Silver Jubilee Mahotsav,' was held.

2012



2012



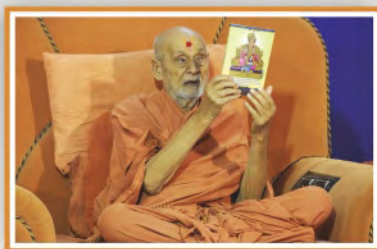
Gurudev Bapji announced beloved HDH Satyasankalpdasji Swamishri, a satpurush, as his spiritual and overall successor.

2013

For the proper spiritual and overall development of females aspiring to become a female sant, a training center named 'Samarpit Talim Kendra' (STK) was established.



2014



As explained by Our Guru, the compressed scripture 'Swaroopnishtha' was released to help clarify the principles of Karan Satsang. Both Gurudev Bajji and HDH Swamishri took a personal interest in creating the book to ensure accuracy.

2015

For the upholding of the commands of Bhagwan Swaminarayan for sants, and to make sure that sants can follow these commands today and for centuries to come, that 'Sant constitution' was composed.



2015



The SMVS Charities Trust was established to benefit and manage social and creative activities for people worldwide.

The 'Constitution of SMVS' was composed to preserve its ideals, morals, and principles for hundreds and thousands of years to come and to make sure they never deviate from these foundations.

2015



2016



The headquarters of North America was established at Cherry Hill, New Jersey. This H.Q. aims to streamline activities, events, and materials in all the temples found in North America.

At the location where Our beloved Bapashri initially manifested, a shrine was built in honor and recognition of his great deeds.

2016



2019



The monumental achievement of creating an affordable hospital with the latest technology and certified doctors was completed to serve the people. It is known as 'SMVS Swaminarayan Hospital.'

A book with the talks of our beloved Gurudev Bajji was created, containing the essential fragments found in his discourses. This book titled 'Gurudev Bajji ni Amrut Vato - Part 1' was released in the presence of OurGuru.

2019



2019



Our beloved Gurudev Bapji disappeared His human form from this world on 22nd August, 2019.

2019

Inauguration of memorial place named 'Anādimukta Pithika' of Gurudev Bapji was held on 31st October, 2019 at Swaminarayan Dham, Gandhinagar.



2020



In His memory, HDH Swamishri declares free education and accommodation in SMVS Swaminarayan Dham Girl's Gurukul and for the boys of tribal communities in the Panchmahal district of Gujarat, naming it as SMVS Swaminarayan Gurukul, Godhar.



Divine Virtues



Gurudev Bapji is an inspiration for many aspirants walking the path of spirituality. Although He is an Anādimukta Satpurush, He has lived an inspiring, idealistic life as a model for all. Even a small glimpse of it gives the experience of inner peace.





Doership of Maharaj



Kartum, Akartum, and Anythāikartum mean that in the infinite universes, only Shriji Maharaj is the doer of all. No one else can do anything without the consent of Shriji Maharaj. Such doership of Shriji Maharaj was continually seen in Gurudev Bapji's life. Despite being a potent, enlightened individual himself, He has always pointed us towards Shriji Maharaj. Through his words of blessings, hundreds of thousands of people have seen their wishes fulfilled, and their pains healed, yet He has always attributed everything to Shriji Maharaj. Even when people attribute their success to his blessings, He would disregard those words and instill the understanding of the doership of Maharaj in their hearts. Never has He ever taken the glory onto himself.





Unwavering



Gurudev Bapji faced many hurdles in the initial days. He did not have turmeric to put in *khichdi*, no sant to form a pair, nor slippers for his feet, yet for the propagation of Maharaj's principles, He has never compromised in the rules and regulations set by Shriji Maharaj. Even in the harsh days of sickness, He has never disobeyed the commands of Shriji Maharaj. Everyone changes in the flow of time, but he has never changed the boundaries built by Shriji Maharaj. Also, He has never let any of his sants or devotees keep any flaws in this matter. Under the influence or pressure of anyone, Gurudev Bapji has never compromised. This is why from the entire sect Gurudev Bapji and his followers stand out for their perfect obedience to Shriji Maharaj's commandments.





Non-Greed

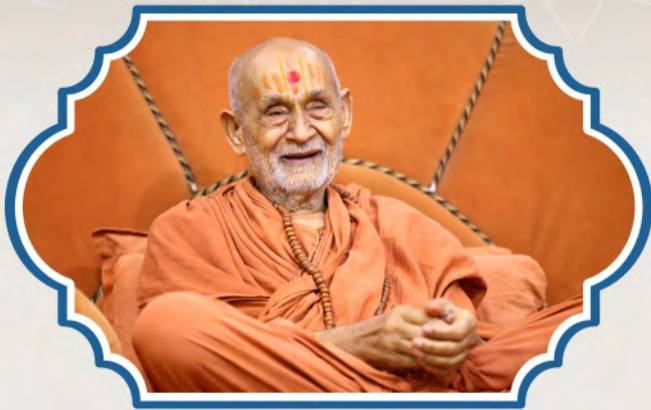


Once in March 2017, a doorbell rang from inside Gurudev Bapji's room for some work. Both the sants present in the service of Gurudev Bapji entered the room at the same time. "Dayalu, Maharaj... what is the work?" asked the first sant. Gurudev Bapji did not say anything. Again, the second sant also requested the work. Gurudev Bapji did not say anything but started silent laughter.

"Bapji, do you require anything?" breaking the silence Gurudev Bapji said, "I don't want anything else, I continuously enjoy only Bhagwan Swaminarayan." Gurudev Bapji always showed the need for Bhagwan Swaminarayan only.

In the name of Greed, Gurudev Bapji has kept only the idol of Bhagwan Swaminarayan.





Non-Lust



The entire world runs on some fundamental laws, one of them being the sensual attraction between genders. However Gurudev Bapji, not being of this mundane world, possess entirely different divine virtues. His affection lies only in the Murti of Bhagwan Swaminarayan.

Being above physical attractions, Bapji possesses an inherent quality of equality. In his eyes all men, women and any gender, for that matter, are the same. Many times in spiritual discourses Gurudev Bapji would make the statement “From the day I appeared in this world to now, I have never had an inappropriate thought relating to women.”

In the name of equality, Gurudev Bapji has developed a women’s wing of spirituality in SMVS. He has created special temples, places of worship, female ascetics and other facilities for empowering women. All the while staying in accordance with the rules of celibacy as prescribed by Bhagwan Swaminarayan.



Non-Gluttony



Until one hasn't tasted the ultimate bliss of God, one roams after the mundane pleasures of this world. When one achieves this eternal bliss than all physical experiences become bland. Gurudev Bapji is one such enlightened being who plays in this bliss of God. He has never tasted the pleasures of this world and is indifferent to them. One of the foundations of saintliness is Non-gluttony, or the abandonment of taste. Throughout his life, Gurudev Bapji has abstained from tasty or otherwise savoury foods. Sweets are a tradition in Hindu culture but for Bapji they were never on the menu.

Interestingly, Gurudev Bapji would sometimes select one food item and would only eat that item for months on end. Three times a day, every day for at least sixty days. Imagine that, any other person would go insane eating the same thing over and over, but for Gurudev Bapji who has no such taste is unaffected.

A mind-blowing instance of this occurred in the last few years that He gave *Darshan*. Gurudev Bapji chose the item '*Khichu*' as his preferred dish and ate it consistently for two whole years. Two Years! Such unimaginable feats are only possible because He tastes only God's bliss, but nothing of this world.



Non-Attachment



On 28-01-2012, a monthly festival was organized at Swaminarayan Dham. Two devotees from Vasan village had come. After the assembly's completion, they came to meet Gurudev Bajji and prayed to him, asking him to come for the celebration of *shākotsav*. They said, “Bajji, you do not visit Vasan village without reason, but on the occasion of *shākotsav*, please come to deliver religious discourses to the devotees there.” Very kind-hearted Gurudev Bajji, who never denies home visit requests even at midnight, couldn't possibly deny a request for delivering religious discourses in the assembly. But for Gurudev Bajji, the orders of Bhagwan Swaminarayan are more valuable than religious assemblies. He politely declined the prayers of the devotees.

The devotees prayed further, “Oh gracious, as a termite cannot touch the fire similarly, you are divine personality. How

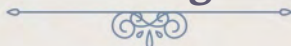
can the worldly affairs of your *purvāshrām* touch you? So please come and make everyone happy.”

Gurudev Bapji, instead of accepting their prayer, became strict. Showing displeasure, Gurudev Bapji said, “I have told you once that I cannot come to my birth village. Even though I am enlightened, I should follow the rules and regulations of a sant given by Bhagwan Swaminarayan. If a sant violates the vow of non-attachment, then it's a big sin. If I follow, then other sants will follow, so I will not come to Vasan.” Finally, the devotees leaving their stubbornness praised the persistence of Gurudev Bapji for the vow of non-attachment.





Non-Arrogance



Humble and down-to-earth, these two qualities are so intertwined in his personality that in every act of his life, these two qualities make their way into the spotlight.

Once Gurudev Bapji had arrived at the Ghatlodiya temple to deliver religious discourses in the morning assembly. Gurudev Bapji went to the bathroom for urination, when it took some time in the bathroom, and the sound of a besom started coming from inside, the sants knocked on the door. On opening the door, it was seen that Gurudev Bapji was cleaning the bathroom with a besom. Sitting at the seat of Guru of the organization and then cleaning the bathroom, he did not feel any shame. Looking at such insistence of Gurudev Bapji towards service with humbleness, our head bows down in respect. The words which quickly come out of everybody's mouth on doing his *Darshan*, "Gurudev Bapji means the live personified form of humbleness."





Simplicity



Gurudev Bapji is the personification of simplicity. His simplicity catches the eye of both those who view his life from close and all other sants and devotees of the sect. “*Jenu jivan sādhu tej sādhu.*” “He whose life is simple is a sant.” Gurudev Bapji's eating, wearing, sitting, and talking is free from luxuries and extravagances.

His simplicity is also seen in his clothing. His Rampur Village's saffron-colored clothes are proof of that. Everyone had experienced that rather than the simplicity being a part of his life, Gurudev Bapji was the idol of simplicity. Although he was the Guru of millions and devotees piled luxuries at his feet, he kept the virtue of simplicity in focus and stepped over those luxuries. Simplicity can be seen in his seating, glasses, note, pen, white rubber slippers, and even his simple seat in contrast with its location on the grand stages of huge celebrations. Like such, Gurudev Bapji's life of simplicity gives inspiration to all.



Everflowing Discourses



With a mission to fill many hearts with Bhagwan Swaminarayan, for Gurudev Bapji, even 24 hours of preaching was not enough. Day and night, he had only one wish, and that was 'how can I explain Maharaj's form, supremacy, and glory to everyone' Gurudev Bapji would say, “*Kathāvārtā* (discourses) is my rest so schedule my 24 hours with *Kathā*. I like preaching about Maharaj's supremacy and glory 24 hours a day.” Great sants have said in a *kirtan*/stanza:

“Sadhu em odkhāi, Hari ras pive sau ne pāi.”

Gurudev Bapji has never taken rest from preaching in this entire life. Up till the age of 75, his 5 hours of constant *Kathā* flowed every day. Whether there were hundreds of thousands listening or just a handful, Gurudev Bapji's eagerness was always consistent. Furthermore, the listeners would experience that no normal sant was speaking, but rather Maharaj himself was speaking through Gurudev Bapji.



Love in the Face of Hate



No matter the harsh words spoken by any small or big person, Gurudev Bajji would not develop hatred towards them. Storms of opposition struck him, yet he never had any hostility for anyone in his heart. The word 'enemy' has never been a part of his dictionary. 'Eye for an eye' has never been his philosophy, but instead, he would even help those who would hurt him. He endures all the hate of opposers but has never wished ill for them.

He has taught his sants and devotees never to keep this type of attitude but instead, see the world with eyes of grace and mercy. His unconditional compassion is described perfectly by great sants:

*“Kene dukh devono dilmā re bhule bhundo bhāv nahi, Par
upkāre palpalmā re upje ichā antar thi.”*





Equanimity

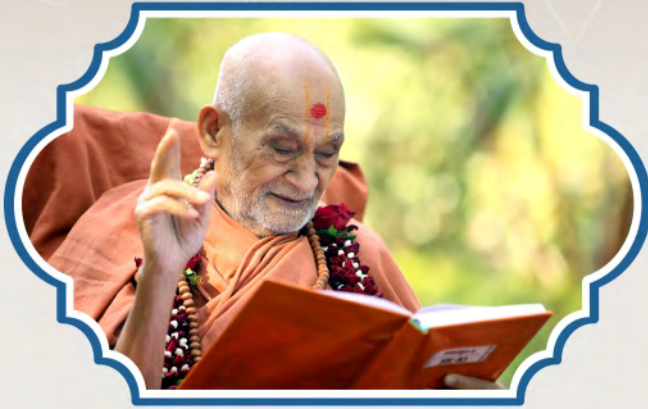


*“Sāgar jevā diladā jenā kedi nav chhalkāi ji,
Zer nā ghutadā ne Ziravi jane pachhi amrut sau ne pāi...”*

*“An ocean-like heart that never spills,
Absorbing poison-like words and serving nectar to all...”*

One can see these words personified in Gurudev Bapji's life. Although He is a divine being, free from mundane attributes, He has endured the insults of even feeble, mere people. Even in insults, He has never felt insulted, but He has always borne it with a smiling face. Never has He had a longing for praise or loathing for insults. To him, both are equal. Furthermore, never has He kept any difference between praiser or insulter. He has always kept equality and has always wished well for all.





Sage of the Vachanamrut



Vachanamrut is the Holy Scripture composed of the spoken words of Bhagwan Swaminarayan himself. Vachanamrut is also the Holy Scriptures that Gurudev Bapji loves so very much. He would always say that from all scriptures, Vachanamrut is best, and all scriptures are contained in the Vachanamrut. The cures to all sicknesses, social and spiritual, are in the Vachanamrut. That is why he wanted all to learn and teach the Vachanamrut.

He has simplified and explained the deep and complex meanings behind every word of the Vachanamrut. He has taught the same Vachanamrut many times, yet each time, it feels new. That's why whenever he would explain the Vachanamrut, everyone would feel as if Shriji Maharaj himself was describing his own words. This is why Gurudev Bapji is famously known as the Acharya of the Vachanamrut (Sage of the Vachanamrut).





Speaker of Truth



A divine sant like Gurudev Bapji is a well-wisher for all those who strive for salvation. Whoever comes in contact with Him, no matter how bitter the truth sounds, but for their betterment, He would always be insistent on being honest.

In the year of 1975, Sagardanbhai's uncle, Jabardanji, had come to visit his home. Jabardanji was an impromptu poet, and he was also the son of a prominent religious poet named Isardanji.

Isardanji's religious zeal and enormous devotion towards God had earned him the title, "Ishra Parmeshwara." Jabardanji had become an impromptu poet due to the culture-oriented upbringing he received from his father and his 55 years of experience in the field.

Sagardanbhai told Jabardanji about Gurudev Bapji's glory as a true sant. He took Jabardanji to the new Ghanshyamnagar temple for Gurudev Bapji's *Darshan*.

When they reached the temple, Gurudev Bapji was preaching to a few devotees, so they decided to sit in the assembly. Through the course of the preaching, Jabardanji had become completely mesmerized.

Whenever Jabardanji attended sermons from other sants, he would improvise a poem about the sants virtues and present it in front of the sants to please them.

As such, doing *Darshan* of Gurudev Bapji preach, while being immersed in Maharaj's *Murti*, Jabardanji immediately made and recited the following verse:

*“Shri Devnandandās̄jini dilmā divya Murti disti;
Avirat bhajan-smaranm valgi rahi jeni vrutti.”*

“You can visualize Maharaj's *Murti*

Within Shree Devnandandās̄ji's heart, whose thoughts are continuously engaged in prayer and devotion.”

Upon reciting his poem, he thought to himself, “Swami is very great. He has such a strong bond with Maharaj. After hearing my poem, surely He will praise me in front of everyone.” Just the thought of being praised got him excited. Nevertheless, Gurudev Bapji's response was not as he had expected.

The true motherly figure, Gurudev Bapji, did not praise him as it would become fuel for his enormous ego.

According to age, Jabardanji was older than Gurudev Bapji, and he was also a prominent poet by profession. Despite such, Gurudev Bapji administered him a dose of bitter medicine to cure his disease of arrogance, “Jabardanji, Your poem is not enough to please me. However, if you leave your addiction to chewing tobacco, I will be pleased with you.”

Jabardanji had a very bright and perceptive mind.

So, this incident ignited immense respect for Gurudev Bapji in his mind. He thought, "Until now, I have gone to so many different sants, and they have all showered me with praises. However, no one has pointed out my addiction. They would all be suppressed by my poetic abilities and would not say anything to me, whereas this honest sant directly attacked my bad habit. Indeed, only an honest sant can convey the message of true happiness."

The way Gurudev Bapji pointed out, Jabardanji's flaw felt as sweet as honey to him. He immediately resolved never to chew tobacco again.

By listening to Gurudev Bapji's preaching on where true happiness lies, he was engrossed in Gurudev Bapji's glory. He overcame his addiction and made four stanzas which recited Gurudev Bapji's greatness.





Life Works



Gurudev Bapji has performed many spiritual and social works throughout his life. The fountain of compassion flowing from his heart has been flowing endlessly for humanity. He has devoted his life to the community's service without discrimination of caste or creed. The world and society will never forget the debt of Gurudev Bapji, the unique spiritual and social service coordinator.





Temples



A temple shows the spiritual and social path, which is an essential aspect of the Swaminarayan sect. Temples provide many benefits to society. Thus, by speeding up temple construction projects, Gurudev Bajji is helping the betterment of society and playing an essential role in spreading the principles and values of the Swaminarayan sect. The unique feature of SMVS temples is that they exhibit pure Supreme eternal *Upāsana*. As per the divine wish of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. The Idols of only Bhagwan Swaminarayan, and his *Mukta* are instilled in these temples, which is a revolutionary step in the entire Swaminarayan sect for the purification of *Upāsana*.

With the divine inspiration of Gurudev Bajji, the organization has built more than 100 temples in India's different states. Shortly, hundreds of pieces of land will be acquired to construct temples in every state of India and every district of Gujarat and taluka thereof.



Sadhus



Sants are the only part of society that spends their entire lives, leaving their aspirations, hopes, and desires, for the sole purpose of their spiritual advancement and upliftment of society. Gurudev Bapji has inspired many youths to set sail on the path of asceticism. Gurudev Bapji has given a gift of 100 sants and *pārshads* to the nation. Though sants are inseparable from society, they are separate from worldly desires.

But like the incense stick which burns itself and spreads a delightful aroma, saints sacrifice themselves and spread the aroma of the Bhagwan Swaminarayan in society. To teach the ideals, values, saintliness and depths of Bhagwan Swaminarayan's principles Gurudev Bapji created the 'Samarpit Training Center' (STK) at Swaminarayan Dham (SMVSHQ).





Bhaktiniwas



Bhagwan Swaminarayan initiated a new tradition in which women could also lead an ascetic life and worship God, just like men. For this purpose, Bhagwan Swaminarayan started a new custom of "*Sankhya Yogi Behno*" (women ascetics). Following the footsteps of Bhagwan Swaminarayan and taking into account gender equality, the SMVS organization established a separate women wing in which women can become ascetics just like men. This unique unit is called 'Bhaktiniwas'. Around 83 women ascetics are serving in Bhaktiniwas, who have accepted Bhagwan Swaminarayan's favorite white colored clothes.

They lead a strictly pious life refraining from any worldly pleasures, and propagate the principles of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. Moreover, there is an active 'Samarpit Training Center' (STK) for those young women aspiring to become women ascetics.



Mighty Speakers



“Whatever is in the well, will come to the buckets.” According to this quote, promoters of philosophy and principles by word should be persistent in deed. With such vast vision, Gurudev Bajji prepared verbally powerful personalities in the sants who were filled with pure worship towards Bhagwan Swaminarayan. Gurudev Bajji used to say with pride, “In history, till today, disciples with one kind of understanding for their principle have never been formed. Whereas I have full confidence in my sants whether they are old or new, highly educated or not, degree holders or not, good speakers or not, their understanding the principles of Bhagwan Swaminarayan is one. Only in the SMVS sanstha is such uniformity observed.”

These sants have never contradicted themselves in delivering religious discourses, singing devotional songs, or reading sacred scriptures. This way, the sants of Gurudev Bajji symbolize the alert saffron army of *Sahjānandi* lions.



Pure Holy Scriptures



For the persistence of the philosophy and principles of Supreme Bhagwan Swaminarayan along with pure preachers, there is also a need for pure scriptures. Gurudev Bajji has cleared away common misconceptions in the scriptures and brought the truth to light. The philosophy and real principles of Karan Satsang, that can be understood without the help of a Guru, can all be found in the scripture 'Swaroopnista'. Gurudev Bajji himself has read and approved every single word of this scripture. This is a significant gift to the Swaminarayan sect, given by Gurudev Bajji. The religious discourses delivered by Sadguru Gopalanand Swami were written and published in his presence. Similarly, from the massive collection of religious discourses delivered by Gurudev Bajji, a small book by the name of 'Gurudev HDH Bajji Ni Amrut Vato-1' was published in his presence. This way, by the inspiration of Gurudev Bajji for the confirmation of philosophy and principles of Bhagwan Swaminarayan, many publications have taken place and are getting published.



Spiritual Camps



For the promotion of Supreme worship and status of Anādimukta, Gurudev Bajji has consistently delivered religious discourses in religious assemblies. For the sake of philosophy and principle among the devotees, Gurudev Bajji had constantly started a continuous series of spiritual camps. Gurudev Bajji had held spiritual camps in different centers of different zones for one day or three days. In the spiritual camps, he delivered religious discourses for ten to twelve hours a day. This shows his insistence towards delivering religious discourses to the devotees.

As a result of such camps, thousands of devotees have become loyal towards Bhagwan Swaminarayan and joined in the service of spreading the Supreme worship.





Educational Services



Gurudev Bajji is an extraordinary and visionary Satpurush. He built a divine gurukul to take care of education and culture. In June 2002, this gurukul was inaugurated. With the divine atmosphere of this gurukul and the proximity of HDH Swamishri, thousands of students bring prestige to SMVS and this gurukul with their divine lives. Similarly, in 2011, He inaugurated 'Swaminarayan Dham Girls Gurukul'. Moreover,

He established three educational institutes in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar. Due to the rapid rise in fees of educational institutions, the SMVS organization has lent them a helping hand and provided funding for education to such students in desperate need. For the past five years, the educational aid service program has made immense contributions to students' education in urgent need. The SMVS organization is donating more than twenty-five lakhs towards the educational sector.





Relief Services



In today's era, science has progressed a lot drastically and has provided many facilities for humankind. However, when nature shows its devastating form, most of the scientific inventions become useless. These natural calamities, such as earthquakes, droughts, excessive rainfall, tsunamis, and thunderstorms, create disasters that render many helpless. Gurudev Bajji provides great human services to bring society out of this helplessness. The sants and volunteers of the organization are always keen and available to help villages, cities, and human society affected by these natural calamities.





Tribal Development



The land of Panchmahal has been overshadowed with poverty for many decades. Due to the lack of literacy, innocent tribal people communities are entrapped in evil deeds like addiction, delusion, superstition, burglary, and robbery. Uplifting this community was and remains to be an arduous task. Indulging in unethical traditions, superstitions, black magic, spreading the terror of ghosts and witches, alcohol consumption, ritualistic sacrifices of goats and dogs, etc. had become a part of their routine lives.

Furthermore, stealing, robbery, beating, and harassing people had become their life's passion. Gurudev Bapji served to rescue these communities from their inhumane ways and inspired them to live moralistic lives with virtues such as honesty and sacredness. Gurudev Bapji also relentlessly performed travels throughout the land of Panchmahal in 1985 and cleansed the area by his lotus feet. In 2005, a large temple

was constructed under His guidance in Godhra and deep-rooted the base of pure Supreme *Upāsanā* in this region.

Currently, SMVS conducts many social and spiritual activities in more than 200 villages of the Panchmahal district for tribal uplifting.





De-Addiction Campaigns



Gurudev Bapji has inspired de-addiction awareness by actively conducting de-addiction campaigns for the last three decades. As a part of this campaign, selected children and youth from the SMVS organization conduct various activities from time to time, under the guidance of sants and volunteers to make the society addiction-free. More than 500,000 individuals have become addiction-free due to this significant effort undertaken by the organization.





Satsang Assemblies



To fill the society with continuous spiritualism, Gurudev Bapji's foremost contribution is Satsang Sabha. As a result of Gurudev Bapji's tireless efforts, today, more than 20,000 spiritual assemblies are conducted every year by sants of SMVS in which thousands of followers acquire religious knowledge. Apart from this, sants arrange personal preachings with more than 50,000 in-home visits (*Padhārāmnī*) and *Mahāpujā* ceremonies.





Medical Services



To provide High-class medical services to every individual of the society, Gurudev Bajji launched the 'SMVS Swaminarayan Hospital' on the 87th year since his manifestation, in the presence of thousands of followers.

The hospital has been prepared at the cost of more than eight hundred million rupees. Due to his inspiration, the hospital's infrastructure, management, doctors, machinery, etc. are all designed at par with corporate hospitals. Nevertheless, the services are provided at a lower cost than the prevailing hospitals.

The organization operates a competent hospital system on the loss of millions of rupees for public service. In the first six months of the hospital, more than one hundred thousand patients have taken advantage of its service. On the other hand, by the command of Gurudev Bajji, SMVS had opened the 'Shriji-Bapa Medical Centre,' which was opened for social service at

Vasna, Ahmedabad in 1996.

More Than five such medical centers have been opened in different places of Ahmedabad city, Gujarat, with its laudable service.

So far, more than 150,000 patients have taken advantage of it to achieve wellness. Millions of rupees have been allocated under 'Medical-Aid' to provide timely medical care to financially backward, unstable families by his mercy.





Women Empowerment



According to the Swaminarayan religion, proper boundaries between men and women should be maintained. Keeping this point in mind, Gurudev Bajji has also taken special care for the female society. With the help of women ascetics, SMVS conducts the spiritual activities of all-female dhun mandals, VCD Satsang centers, etc. To impart spiritual qualities in women's society, there are 354 (girl) Balika assemblies, 26 (female youth) Kishori Assemblies, and 58 (women) Mahila assemblies running in centers across the country and abroad.





Environmental Care



With the spiritual inspiration of Gurudev Bajji, the tasks of uplifting spirituality and social services for the benefit of society are being carried out relentlessly. Gurudev Bajji is always worried about the security of the environment. Having done the best for the environment by promoting various campaigns organized by the government and by the organization itself.

In the famine of 2001, Gurudev Bajji inspired the organization to care for more than 120 taluka centers of Panchmahal and Sabarkantha district of Gujarat. SMVS cared for more than 6,971 livestock animals by distributing 232,175-kilogram of fodder and over 194,000-kilograms of cattle food and saved them from famine.

After that, by Gurudev Bajji's inspiration, SMVS joined the 'Clean India' campaign organized by the Central Indian Government. Sants and more than 5,916 volunteers helped to clean more than 114 public places.

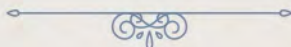
On the other hand, by the inspiration of Gurudev Bajji, the organization has been working on environmental protection through launching plantation campaigns and maintenance of more than 175,000 trees.

Similarly, to reduce the ecological footprint of SMVS, many temples have converted to using solar power energy.





Volunteers



Gurudev Bapji's volunteer force is built upon the altar of service and dedication. This Volunteer force has been altruistically serving as a troop in mass relief work and at major festivals. By the inspiration of Gurudev Bapji, volunteers of SMVS have been doing laudable service under the leadership of sants. The force of 10,000 volunteers is always ready and equipped for the command of Gurudev Bapji for relief programs and uplifting society. This force desires to help the community in every way possible.





Mega Celebrations



Bhagwan Swaminarayan has given rise to celebrations of many occasions for the ultimate salvation of millions of souls so that countless aspirants can become his followers and understand his Supreme form. One such medium through which Bhagwan Swaminarayan has opened the doors of the ultimate salvation to thousands of people in the celebration of grand festivals. Following the footsteps of Bhagwan Swaminarayan, Gurudev Bajji has held Grand Festivals and Celebrations:

1981 - Bhagwan Swaminarayan Dwi Shatabdi Mahotsav ~ 4,500 Attendees.

1984 - Ghanshyam Nagar Dashabdi Utsav ~ 9,000 Attendees.

1993-Jeevanpran Abjibapa Shri Sardh Shatabdi Mahotsav ~ 390,000 Attendees.

1995 - Bapashri Mahotsav ~ 1,800,000 Attendees.

2001 -Swaminarayan Mahamantra Dwi Shatabdi Mahotsav
~ 550,000 Attendees.

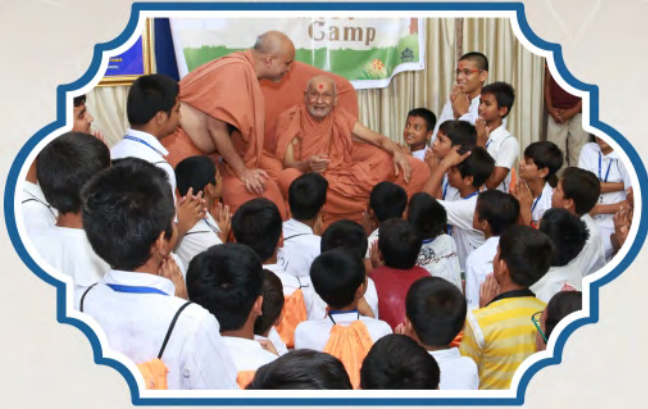
2006-Vachanamrut Rahasyarth Bapashri Vani Shatabdi
Mahotsav ~ 300,000 Attendees.

2010 to 2012 - SMVS Rajat Gaurav Utsav ~ 600,000
Attendees.

2012-SMVSRajat Jayanti Mahotsav ~ 358,950 Attendees.

2019 - Vachanamrut Dwi Shatabdi Mahotsav ~ 105,000
Attendees.





Nurturing Children



With the inspiration of HDH Gurudev Bapji, SMVS's Swaminarayan Digvijay group has initiated children's activities since 1987, in which the all-round development of children is taken care of. These activities help to instill religious culture, traditional culture, and fundamental values. It also helps develop life skills, education, creative skills, and many other aspects of children's all-around development. Under the guidance of Satsang Pravrutti Karyalaya (The Children's Activity Board of SMVS), there are currently 633 active Bal (Boys) assemblies worldwide for children between the ages of 7-14 years. More than 17,000 children from these groups attend children assembly every week.





Youth Development



Gurudev Bapji has initiated Kishor-Yuvak Mandal (youth groups) from 1987 under the Swaminarayan Digvijay Mandal, engaged in instilling all-around development, giving guidance, and transforming the youth. These youth groups cultivate spiritual values such as simple living, observing primary conduct of religion, worshipping Supreme Bhagwan Swaminarayan, learning to lead an austere life, etc. Social values like character, honesty, ethics, and politeness are also being taught. Overall, more than 363 youth and elder groups are active in the different states, regions, and cities across India. Globally, there are more than 55 youth groups maintained across the world. Overall, more than 16,000 youths attend youth assembly (Yuvak Sabha) every week.





Faithful Following



Gurudev Bajji has spent many hours on every single devotee. He has sat with them and given them the form of Bhagwan Swaminarayan through his religious discourses.

He has spent many sleepless nights delivering religious discourses, but He has never cared about his body, never looked towards sleep, stress, or hunger. As a result of such sufferings and hardships, a sect of devotees filled with pure and supreme worship towards Bhagwan Swaminarayan has been prepared.

Gurudev Bajji cleansed the temples of SMVS and cleansed the houses of devotees in the matter of Supreme devotion towards Bhagwan Swaminarayan and made them equivalent to Akshardham.

Similarly, He made the devotees committed in orders, rules, regulations, and religion. 'No compromise in the Principles and No exemption in rules of religion' is the life statement of Gurudev Bajji. He has made every devotee follow this life

statement. Today thousands of devotees follow the five vows given by Bhagwan Swaminarayan to the devotees of the Swaminarayan sect.

Moreover, more than 280 married couples live like brother-sisters forgoing their marital relationship, and the following celibacy.

Gurudev Bapji has made significant progress in the organization but not at the cost of quality. This way, Gurudev Bapji is the best sculptor of a pure society.





Inheriting Karan Satsang



Gurudev Bapji sings the glory of HDH Swamishri and HDH Swamishri sings the glory of Gurudev Bapji. This unique pair of guru and disciple teaches us the status of an ideal guru and the life of an ideal disciple. Today, the interaction between this pair submerges many devotees and aspirants in divinity.





HDH Swamishri



The creation of Karan Satsang means the pre-planning of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. Hence, to fulfill his purpose for manifestation Gurudev Bapji knew that He would require one excellent successor who is the same as Him. And that's why before starting his revolutionary work, as a part of pre-planning, He prayed to the powerful successor of Bhagwan Swaminarayan, Sadguru Muni Swami in 1953. Asking Sad. Muni Swami to bless devotee Shree Keshavlalabhai Thakkar with a son like Bhagwan Swaminarayan. At that time, Sadguru Muni Swami gave blessings and said, "Go, you will have two sons, not just one. But one will be yours..., and one will be ours..." As per the blessings of Sadguru Muni Swami, 'one will be ours' means our beloved HDH Swamishri.

This Great Anādimukta of Bhagwan Swaminarayan manifested as a child on 08-10-1959 at the stroke of 1 o'clock at midnight on the holy land of Daduka village in the house of

Keshavlal Thakkar through Narmadaba. This night in the month of autumn (*Sharad*) season made everyone experience the peace of the manifestation of the *Mukta* of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. Mother Narmadaba and father Keshavlabhai were delighted by the birth of a child. Sadguru Muni Swami himself blessed this child and gave him the name 'Ghanshyam'.

From childhood till his adolescence, he lived a divine life filled with harmony. He earned the happiness of Sadguru Muni Swami, Sadguru Muktajivan Swamibapa, and Gurudev Bajji. When the right time arrived, he accepted the discipleship of Gurudev Bajji for fulfilling the work for which he manifested. He became part of the revolutionary act started by Gurudev Bajji. HDH Swamishri stayed with humbleness and understood divinity in Gurudev Bajji displaying ideal discipleship, changing the Swaminarayan sect's history.

The history till now shows that many Anadimuktā have manifested and done revolutionary work. But the enormous flow of their principles, desires, and works have stopped in the next generations. But in this SMVS family, history has changed. *Gurudev Bajji has gifted the SMVS family and whole Karan Satsang with a supernatural Satpurush alike Him in his very own presence.*

The vast, immense compassion of Gurudev Bajji is that He has not let us feel his absence. He has gifted us with a divine Satpurush. HDH Swamishri. after him, who is like Gurudev Bajji. Gurudev Bajji has repeatedly praised the glory of HDH Swamishri with his approval and pleasure, *"This Swami has arrived right from the Murti of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. All of*

you should make him *Rāji* because my *Rājīpa* lies in his *Rājīpa*.”

Whereas HDH Swamishri has said several times, “Bapji and I are not different. We are one. If you understand us as different, you are committing a huge sin.”

“This Gurudev Bapji is HDH Swamishri, and HDH Swamishri is Gurudev Bapji.” This is the supernatural divine unity between them which was further enforced by the blessings given by Gurudev Bapji regarding HDH Swamishri on account of the Gurupurnima celebration at Rajkot on 14-07-2019:

“I am always there with Swami. Whatever Swami does is done by me. Because Swami is me and I am Swami, all of you should understand this.”





Gurudev's Rajipo



“When I had no other sants with Me, I prayed to Maharaj, 'Dear Bhagwan Swaminarayan! Up until now, I have only propagated your *Upāsna*. I only intend to spread your principles worldwide. Yet, I do not have a single sant to accompany Me on this mission. Oh, Maharaj! I do not ask for more, but please grant Me at least one sant, one phenomenal sant who can take Your principles beyond the horizon and make Karan Satsang worldwide.' Maharaj and Bapa heard My prayers, and they gave me the gift of this Swami (HDH Swamishri). I regret having asked for just one sant. If I would have asked for dozens, then Karan Satsang would have been propagated in the whole universe.”

“This Swami is from *parbhāv*. He has come from *parbhāv* and has brought *parbhāv* with Him. Therefore, He is working day and night to reinforce *parbhāv* in all. He has turned the whole

Satsang into *parbhāv*.”

“If all the sants of the Swaminarayan sect are kept on one side of a balance scale and Swami on the other, Swami's side will be greater.”

“Everyone should keep their vision on Swami. They should admire and accept His rare scolding and criticism. I do not have to do much counseling, but Swami has to do a lot. Thus always understand divinity in Him and aspire to be like Him.”

“To date, I have never seen a sant as eager as Swami. I have been around in Satsang for long...I have heard elder sants talk about sants of the *nand pankti*, and I have also seen younger sants, but I have not seen a sant who is as eager as Swami is to connect devotees to Maharaj's *Swaroop*.”

“Swami is constantly making efforts to groom devotees into becoming Bhagwan Swaminarayan's beloved devotees. “There hasn't been a sadguru who might have put in as much effort as Swami has and is currently doing. When we look at His eagerness and perseverance, we realize how much He does to make everyone *Purushottam-Rup*! He is always planning and doing something new. If I were to be in His place, I would get exhausted.”

“If you please Swami, you will inherit all of His divine qualities and attributes. Swami is an ocean of divine attributes... Look up to Him as it will inspire you to do more... It will help you remain humble... You will never become arrogant, and it will encourage your progress in Satsang. Strengthen this thought to make Swami *Rāji*... Do just this.”

“Swami often brings a huge list of events and its respective

planning to Me. He goes through the list one after the other and only keeps the events which have received my acceptance, while immediately canceling the ones I have not agreed to. Regardless of the time and effort put into planning and preparing the event, when Swami sees that I am not *Rāji*, He puts a period to that thought, and there is no further discussion from His end. Furthermore, if I have shown disinterest in something once, He has never presented it again, knowing that I will not like it. One who has this kind of *Mahimā* and divinity for a Satpurush will inherit all of His divine attributes. This is something everyone should learn from Swami.”

“Swami never does anything outside my *Ruchi* (not even a bit). He has never given anyone a fifty-cent postcard or even a Vachanamrut without my consent.”

“Swami's *Sankalp* is never apart from Mine; His wish is never apart from Mine, His *Ruchi* is never apart from Mine. My *Sankalp*, Wish, and *Ruchi* have become those of Swami. Nothing is the slightest bit different. One who can do this becomes a replica of a Satpurush.”

Gurudev Bapji has given us this divine Satpurush, HDH Swamishri, who is His replica. Let us bow down at the feet of these divine Satpurush.



Glossary

Amir Pedhi	Ancestry of Satpurushes in Karan Satsang.
Anādimukta	The top category of muktas. They have achieved oneness with God and have the same form as God.
Anyathākartum	Exclusive Doership: In the infinite universes Swaminarayan Bhagwan is the exclusive doer. No one else has the power to perform any action.
Ārti	A Hindu religious ritual of worship in which light from wicks soaked in ghee (purified butter) or camphor is offered to God ritually.
Āsan	The location where a saint sits.
Ātmabuddhi	The unique bond fostered exclusively with a Divine Satpurush.
Bāvāji	A type of Hindu ascetic usually found in ashrams and small temples of villages.
Besān	Is a pulse flour made from ground grams.

Chāndlo	Is a mark applied on the forehead made of red vermilion or sandalwood paste.
Charanraj	It is sanctified sand on which a divine being has walked on.
Chhatralaya	A hostel for boys.
Darshan	An opportunity or occasion of seeing God with the firm belief that God (idol) is not a human, photo or stone but rather is the Supreme Lord who is always present in his divine abode and is entirely divine.
Dharma	The term means: divine law, path of righteousness, rites and duties, conduct and commands, religion and truth, social and moral practices. It determines how a devotee should behave. In other words the commandments.
Dhuleti	Second day of Holi festival. Also known as Festival of Colors.
Gurukul	Is a type of educational schooling system with a spiritual, social and moral base.
Kaliyug	Age of darkness, the fourth and current of the four ages; lasts

432,000 years, people live to be 100 years old.

- Karan Satsang The philosophy that Murti(God) is the goal (Karan) and all means (Karya) should be conducted for the realization of Murti. Here Karya represents temples, acharaya, sadhu, spiritual endeavours, rituals, celebrations, etc.
- Kartum Direct Doership - In the infinite universes, Bhagwan Swaminarayan is the one and only doer.
- Kathāvartā Spiritual discourses.
- Khichdi An Indian dish consisting chiefly of rice and daal.
- Kirtan Devotional poem.
- Mahamantra Of all the Mantras (Spiritual Chants), the Swaminarayan Mahamantra is the most powerful. With it, the bondages of kal, karma, and maya no longer affect a devotee. God eternally resides with the devotee who chants his mantra.
- Mahapujā A religious ritual consisting of multiple forms of worship

conducted on special occasions.

- Mahimā The greatness of Bhagwan Swaminarayan, his Satpurush, Sants and Devotees.
- Mahotsav The grand celebration, mahā-utsav.
- Mukta Liberated souls; short form for Anādimukta.
- murti An image or idol of God.
- Murti The divine form of Mahārāj in parbhāv.
- Nand pankti Those who had been initiated as sants by Bhagwan Swaminarayan.
- Padharāmani The visits made by Mahārāj and sants for the purposes of sanctifying homes or other places.
- Parbhāv A reality which is beyond the five sense and beyond the material world. It can only be experienced by one who has attained the status of an Anādimukta. Essentially, Parbhav is Maharaj's Murti.
- Pārshad A renunciant in white clothes, the pre-stage to becoming a sant.
- Purushottam Rup The form achieved by the soul after meditating upon the form of God via the pratilom method.

This form is an exact replica of Bhagwan Swaminarayan who is Purushottam.

Purvārshram The past life of ascetic before their initiation in asceticism as a sant.

Rahashyarth Vachanamrut with annotations
Vachanamrut made by Jivanpran Abjibapashri.

Rājas It leads to indulgence in the sensual pleasures and takes one away from the path of God; the trait of passion and action.

Rājipo Inner happiness of God, Satpurush or sants.

Ruchi The preferences of Maharaj and Satpurush, that when followed, leads to the internal happiness of God.

Sadguru A sant that has reached the pinnacle of saintliness and spirituality.

Sankalp A divine wish of God or his Satpurush.

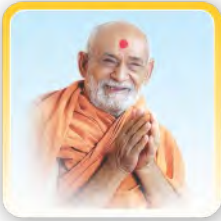
Sant A Hindu saint.

Sant dikshā A ceremony to initiate an aspirant into an ascetic.

Satpurush A Divine being who resides in the Murti of God and whose complete doer is

God himself. Such a being is the passageway into the bliss of God. Also known as one who is Purushottam-Rup or an enlightened Anādimukta.

- Satsang "Holy association between God, sants, scriptures and one's soul; Usually, it refers to assemblies where sants gives spiritual discourses."
- Shākotsav A winter festival of the Swaminarayan sect in which eggplant curry and rotlā are offered to God and served as prasād.
- Shibir Spiritual camp.
- Shikharbaddh A type of Hindu temple with pinnacles atop its sacred shrine. (The highest class of temples)
- Swaroop Form of an entity.
- Upāsanā To understand the nature of God as it truly is; Its greater meaning refers to the closest position to God.
- Vikram samvat A historical Hindu calendar of India. The calendar uses lunar months and solar sidereal years.



Gurudev Bajji



HDH Swamishri

Gurudev Bajji (Founder of SMVS)

“There should be no compromise in the principles and no breach of religion or conduct.”- Gurudev Bajji

Making this the motto of His life, and propagating the glory and the supreme knowledge of Bhagwan Swaminarayan to countless souls, Gurudev Bajji is recognized as a Satpurush of principles.

Gurudev Bajji is full of astonishing qualities such as; principled life, exemplary asceticism, firm execution of religious conduct, humbleness, innocence, transparency, egoless nature, and strong faith that Shriji Mahārāj is the sole doer of everything. All these qualities have become an inspiration for thousands of aspirants. Walking along His footsteps gave rise to a multitude of sants and devotees who firmly follow the conduct of religion.

Coming in association with the divine persona of Gurudev Bajji, they gain the true superior knowledge of Bhagwan Swaminarayan, attain ultimate salvation, experience peace of mind, become pious, become devoid of malicious thoughts and experience oneness with Bhagwan Swaminarayan. His preaching gives one the complete satisfaction of knowing Bhagwan Swaminarayan's true identity and of receiving ultimate salvation during this lifetime.

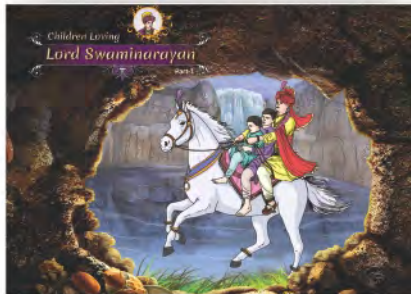
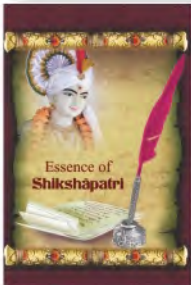
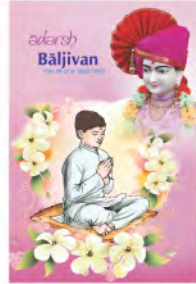
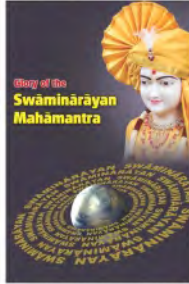
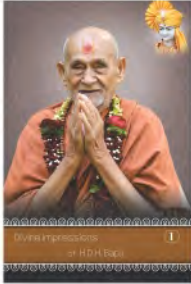
Gurudev Bajji became a savior for the poor people residing in the villages of Panchmahāl, who had become entrapped in the grasp of black magic. He has brought drastic changes in their lives by casting a ray of hope in their misery filled lives. Until the age of 86, Gurudev Bajji traveled to hundreds of villages and personal visits to devotees' homes and guided them on the path of divinity.

Receiving continuous inspiration from Gurudev Bajji can stimulate all the sants and volunteers of the SMVS organization to tirelessly perform travels around the world, to bring individual change, and to deliver this organization's divine message to all persons. Moreover, with Gurudev Bajji's inspiration, educational services, medical services, and natural disaster relief services are also active through this organization.

Gurudev Bajji is credited for all the events and services organized by SMVS. It is through His divine inspiration and blessings that this organization's honor and prestige have spread throughout the world. This sect's, as well as other sect's countless aspirants, sants, and leaders bow down to this incredible Satpurush's spiritual persona. Gurudev Bajji emphasizes that such astounding divinity exists because Bhagwan Swaminarayan is the sole performer of all his activities!

Gurudev Bajji relinquished his human form on Aug 22, 2019. In his place as the Guru and leader of the organization is Guruvarya Satyasankalpdasji Swamishri. He is giving this revolutionary task incredible momentum, to ensure that this organization's fundamental message is delivered to all persons.

SMVS English Publications



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