

Bhagwan Swaminarayan Life And Work

On the life and works of Swami Sahaj?nanda, 1781-1830, founder of the Swaminarayan sect.

'Kaam Dravya ne Maan Chhe Jeh, Teh Saru Dharyo Nathi Deh; Eva Gune Mota Je Munish, Eva Sant ne Naamu Hu Shish'. Sadguru Shri Nishkulanand Swami narrates the many characteristics of an ideal Saint in the second Prakaran of the Bhaktachintamani (2-20). Have you ever wondered what the life of a holy soul can be like? How did he live in this modern world? How did he shape the lives of so many individuals? What kind of a person is an epitome of Dharma, Bhakti, Gyan, and Vairagya like? How does his work live on forever? What kind of vision did he have for mankind? The noble and holy care less for themselves and more for the people in the social fabric. They suffer not for themselves but for all and yet remain forgiving forever. So broad and farsighted is their vision that generations after them keep thanking them forever. This book is an attempt to shed some light onto the life of Sadguru Shastriji Maharaj Shri Dharmajivandasji Swami answering the above questions. Each chapter explores a new facet of Pujya Swami's life. This riveting book will help you understand Swami's simple yet influential, bold yet gentle, strict yet accommodating, and courageous yet caring personality. The author has not merely translated the book "Sadhutana Shangar" from Gujarati to English but was inspired to serve in this capacity after reading the Gujarati edition written by Shastri Shri Haripriydasji Swami. May Bhagwan Swaminarayan, Pujya Shastriji Maharaj, and Pujya Guruvarya Shri Devkrushnadasji Swami be pleased upon Kamleshbhai Shah from Canada for picking up the publishing costs, his son and daughter for authoring the book, and all who served in the publishing of this book in any capacity, inspire them to serve the Swaminarayan Sampraday, and bless their hearts for their efforts. Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul also prays to Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan that the readers of this book will be able to establish a bond with Pujya Shastriji Maharaj by using this book as a medium. So please turn the page and begin now!

Jewels of Gujarat – Leading Global Gujarati Personalities: Vol II is an anthology of biographies of the 100 most influential Gujaratis around the world. Among these personalities are the celebrated entrepreneurs like Mukesh Ambani, doctors like Kiran C Patel, astronauts like Sunita Williams, philanthropists like Manu Shah, social activists like Ela Gandhi and many more from 30 countries from 35–40 fields. The book takes its readers on a rollercoaster voyage of happiness and sadness, victory and defeat, with these world-renowned figures from different walks of life to see what made them stand in a different race of success.

India will just be a mere geography without its religious and spiritual ethos combined with moral values and civilization. If Bharat is known for its spiritual accomplishments and philosophical roots, one has to gratefully acknowledge the role played by its hallowed places of worship, holy rivers and magnificent mountain ranges which have inspired people for thousands of years. In particular, temples contributed in no small measure to Bharat's spiritual enlightenment, serving as a beacon to the rest of humanity. Every temple in this holy land has a story to tell, a legend to elevate our spirits and is a sacred space for all of us to experience inner joy. One can find the contribution of so many saints and rishis who devoted their entire life to many places of worship. In olden days, temples served as a great center for enriching all facets of human life—be it spiritual training or yoga; be it education; be it poetry and literature; be it fine arts and sculpture. There are thousands of fascinating temples, with great historical and spiritual backgrounds, spread all over the country. These temples can be divided into many groups, finding mention in innumerable scriptures. Which are they? Where are they located? This book is an attempt to collect and curate and tabulate information in brief which will certainly answer some of the queries a prospective yatri may have. All the information in the book was

collated after personal visits to these places by author.

It is a great pleasure for us to publish the spiritual scripture Vachanamrutam translated in English, by the grace of Purna Purushottam Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan. There is an acute demand for English Vachanamrutam, not only from the devotees from India and abroad but also from other learned persons interested in philosophical literature, specially in the philosophy professed by Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan Mahaprabhu. Shri Swaminarayan Gurukul, Rajkot has published a number of religious and philosophical books. Further Shikshapatri has been published duly translated in English and this book will be an appreciable addition not only to the literature of Shree Swaminarayan Mission, but also to the Philosophical Literature of the World. It was the desire of Reverend Pujya Sadguru Shastriji Maharaj, Shri Dharmajivandasji Swami, the founder of Shri Swaminarayan Gurukul, Rajkot and its branches, to get the Vachanamrutam translated in English. Rev. Purani Swami Shri Premprakashdasji was also giving inspiration for this important translation. By their blessings and resultant God's grace, the Vachanamrutam, translated in English is now published by shri Swaminarayan Gurukul, Rajkot. Pujya Shastriji Maharaj always emphasised the need of reading Vachanamrutam daily and for understanding the same. His method of explaining the underlying principles of Vachanamrutam was extraordinary and unique. At this juncture, I am pleased to note here that the translation of Vachanamrutam done by Late Dr. Jagmohandas J. Mody was handed over by him to this Gurukul for publication, thro' Shri Mahendrabhai Shelat, the Late editor of Sadvidya. The most valuable services rendered by Dr. Shri Jagmohandas Mody for this will ever be remembered. He has done this translation in his retired life with deep interest. Further his eldest son Dr. Shri Raghuvirbhai Mody has also taken the opportunity of rendering some monetary services for this publication. May Bhagwan Shri Swaminarayan bestow eternal peace to Late Dr. J. J. Mody in His divine abode Akshardham and give happiness and affinity to our holy fellowship to all his sons Dr. Shri Raghuvirbhai Mody, Shri Kunjviharibhai Mody, Dr. Vibhakarabhai Mody and Shri Sudhakarabhai Mody and his family. Shri Mahendrabhai Nandlal Shelat has minutely gone thro' the translation and has rendered good services for editing and carrying out necessary additions and alterations in the translation of Vachanamrutam and also in the Introductory Chapter to put the translation in proper and final form for publication. He had also compiled the informative Index and translated the Vachanamrutam, known as 'Khagol-Bhugol' Vachanamrutam. May Bhagwan Shri Swaminarayan bestow eternal peace to Late M.N. Shelat in His Akshardham and give happiness to his son Ambarish and bestow more strength for rendering services for Shri Swaminarayan Mission. I am glad to note here that the introductory chapter has been translated by Hon. Justice Shri S. D. Dave the High Court Judge, of Gujarat High Court, sparing valuable time from his active busy life. May the choicest blessings of Bhagwan shri Swaminarayan be showered on him and his family for all kinds of happiness and for still higher achievements in life. Here I take the special note of our institute Hyderabad Gurukul where computerised type setting has been done accurately and carefully for this third crown size edition. Moreover Swami Laxminarayandasji the editor of 'Sadvidya' has taken the special care for proof checking and page setting work. He also tried his best to revise as well as to review this translation and has corrected some references wherever required. May Lord shree Swaminarayan give him more strength for rendering services for Religious literature. Our elderly Saint Pujyapad Shri Jogi Swami Shri Hariprakashdasji who has the references of all the Vachanamrutams on the tip of his tongue and who is always engrossed in meditation and devotion conveys his blessings to all who have given services for this publication directly or indirectly and to all other devotees and readers of this Vachanamrutam. At this juncture I hope this english translation of the Vachanamrutam would be instructive and inspiring to all for achieving the final goal of life.

Rabbi on the Ganges: A Jewish-Hindu Encounter is the first work to engage the new terrain of Hindu-Jewish religious encounter. The book offers understanding into points of contact between the two religions of Hinduism and Judaism. Providing an important comparative account, the work illuminates key ideas and practices within the traditions, surfacing commonalities between the jnana and Torah study, karmakanda and Jewish ritual, and between the different Hindu philosophic schools and Jewish thought and mysticism, along with meditation and the life of prayer and Kabbalah and creating dialogue around ritual, mediation, worship, and dietary restrictions. The goal of the book is not only to unfold the content of these faith traditions but also to create a religious encounter marked by mutual and reciprocal understanding and openness.

Pramukh Swamiji, one of the most inspiring spiritual leaders of modern times and the fifth spiritual successor of Bhagwan Swaminarayan, is the inheritor of a legacy of enlightened gurus that goes back to the early nineteenth century. Pramukh Swamiji became, through a chance meeting, friend to one of India's most eminent citizens, the eleventh president of India, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, and together they created an unparalleled fellowship of science and spirituality. In Transcendence, Dr Kalam, with his co-author and pupil Arun Tiwari, maps a journey of self-realization reflected in the compassionate eyes of Pramukh Swamiji, painting a delightfully open-hearted portrait of the fusion of spirituality, science and leadership. His candid vignettes from life on the centre stage of Indian technology and societal missions, Indian politics and world affairs are interwoven with revelations of a profound connection with Swamiji. He describes how his path has been illuminated by Swamiji's words and his inspirational, loving presence. Through the life of Pramukh Swamiji and the transnational work of the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, Dr Kalam traces the contemporary concerns of the Indian diaspora across the world and the emerging Indian identity of a capable, right-thinking and hardworking people. Drawing from the lives of great scientists and creative leaders, Transcendence captures the essence of all religions and is as much a fountain of inspiration and a treasury of wisdom as it is a tribute to the multi-faith, pluralistic Indian society.

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This book examines the role of Hindu-inspired faith movements (HIFMs) in contemporary India as actors in social transformation. It further situates these movements in the context of the global political economy where such movements cross national boundaries to locate believers among the Hindu diaspora and others. In contemporary neoliberal India, HIFMs have become important actors, and they realize themselves by making public assertions through service. The four pillars of the contemporary presence of such movements are: gurus, sociality, hegemony and social transformation. Gurus, who spearhead these movements, create a matrix of possible meanings in their public discourses which their followers pick up to create messages of personal and social change. Sociality is a core strategy of proliferation across such movements and implies social service, which is qualified by memories of the guru and what they are believed to embody. Hegemony is reflected in the fact that social service in such movements often ominously imbibes right-wing or far-right Hinduism. They propose a model of Hindu-inspired social transformation, involving faith building into and transforming the civil society. The book discusses in a nuanced way several Hindu-inspired faith movements of various hues which have made national and international impact. This topical book is of interest to students and researchers in the fields of sociology, anthropology, social work, and social psychology, with a special interest in the study of religious movements. People have described nature since the beginning of human history. They do it for various purposes, including to communicate about economic, social, governmental, meteorological, sustainability-related, strategic, military, and survival issues as well as artistic expression. As a part of the whole world of living beings, we use various types of senses, known and unknown, labeled and not identified, to both communicate and create. *Describing Nature Through Visual Data* is a collection of impactful research that discusses issues related to the visualization of scientific concepts, picturing processes, and products, as well as the role of computing in advancing visual literacy skills. Organized into four sections, the book contains descriptions, theories, and examples of visual and music-based solutions concerning the selected natural or technological events that are shaping present-day reality. The chapters pertain to selected scientific fields, digital art, computer graphics, and new media and confer the possible ways that visuals, visualization, simulation, and interactive knowledge presentation can help us to understand and share the content of scientific thought, research, artistic works, and practice. Featuring coverage on topics that include mathematical thinking, music theory, and visual communication, this reference is ideal for instructors, professionals, researchers, and students keen on comprehending and enhancing the role of knowledge visualization in computing, sciences, design, media communication, film, advertising, and marketing.

Incorporating HCP 1250-i-ii, session 2003-04. Another volume of written evidence was published as HCP 165-II, session 2004-05 (ISBN 0215021207)

Everyone seeks happiness. Everyone seeks peace. It is easier said than done right? What does it truly take to be happy? How do we even know when we are happy? Across the millennia, the great and weak alike, have thought long and hard

about happiness and peace. From the East to the West, philosophers and folk have sacrificed their lives in the search for happiness. In *The Keshav Way*, Vinay Sutaria draws on a vast body of work, discussing the evolving concepts of happiness. From the ancient sages of the world, up until today, where the self-help industry is booming in its attempt to assert happiness as its own. He takes us on an insightful journey, revealing how we can handle the modern day-to-day struggles that we all face. Whether you are trying to find your purpose, improve relationships, eliminate anxiety, overcome negativity, discover inner calm, or give back to the world; this thought-provoking book will encourage you to change your perspective and align yourself with the life you want to live. In *The Keshav Way*, you will learn to:

- Find your purpose
- Improve relationships
- Eliminate anxiety
- Overcome negativity
- Discover inner calm
- The truth about happiness

Bhagwan Swaminarayan incarnated on the Earth in the latter half of the eighteenth century, a time that is aptly considered one of the darkest periods in history. Bhagwan Swaminarayan's achievements in religion, society and education were absolutely herculean in nature, considering his short lifespan of 49 years and the acute anarchy that afflicted India at the time. Many intellectuals, after recognizing Bhagwan Swaminarayan's achievements in the fields of society and religion, have established Him as a grand reformer. Some go one step further and identify Him as a divine personage. Moreover, a large number of people consider Him an incarnation equal to Bhagwan Ram and Bhagwan Krishna. In actuality, however, He is the Supreme God. At the tender age of 11, Bhagwan Swaminarayan left His home and began His journey of spiritual revival throughout India. From the Himalayas to Kanyakumari, from Jagganath Puri to Loj and through harsh winters, monsoons and summers, His journey spanned more than 12,000 Kilometers and lasted for more than seven years. He endured these conditions barefoot and wearing nothing but a loin cloth. He finally settled in Gujarat and became the head of the holy fellowship at the very young age of twenty-one. In less than three decades, He founded the fastest-growing holy fellowship ever, comprising more than 1800 saints, 800 female ascetics and over 500,000 disciples. Six magnificent temples were constructed by the holy fellowship and more than 100 scriptures and 30,000 kirtans were composed. Most importantly, Bhagwan Swaminarayan was worshipped as Supreme God by hundreds of thousands devotees during His lifetime. If, without any prejudice or preconceived notion, one attempts to evaluate the life and work of Bhagwan Swaminarayan in context of that era, one will invariably be convinced about His Supreme divinity. We sincerely hope this book will help anyone in do so. This book is a humble attempt to delve into the glory of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. It depicts Bhagwan Swaminarayan's biography and His unparalleled work as a reformer in social, religious, educational and economic fields. The five pillars of the holy fellowship (i.e. Disciples, Saints, Acharya, Temples and Scriptures) are explained, along with a brief note on philosophy. Twenty-nine unique personality

other new experiences, almost like he was a child again in a 20 year olds body. No one knew if Dipal would ever regain his memory. This is Dipal's journey, in his own words, as he rediscovers himself through family and friends, his lost passion for dance, with unfortunate lessons on how society can treat those they do not understand... all with a little help from the God within and the lessons of learning how to truly let go

Since its inception over two hundred years ago, Swaminarayan Hinduism has flourished into a transnational movement described as one of the fastest growing Hindu groups in the world. Despite being one of the largest and most visible Hindu traditions both in India and the West, surprisingly little is known about what the Swaminarayan fellowship believes. An Introduction to Swaminarayan Hindu Theology provides a comprehensive doctrinal account of the Swaminarayan tradition's belief system, drawing on its rich corpus of theological literature, including the teachings of Swaminarayan himself and classical commentaries on canonical Ved?ntic texts. Part I delineates the sources and tools of Swaminarayan Hindu theology, while Part II systematically expounds upon its distinctive five eternal entities - Parabrahman, Ak?arabrahman, m?y?, ??vara and j?va - and mukti (spiritual liberation). In presenting these key themes theologically and lucidly, Swami Paramtattvadas makes the Swaminarayan Hindu belief system intelligible to scholars, students and serious readers.

Contributed articles.

Bhagwan SwaminarayanLife and Work

The Language of Haridham lays emphasis on essential elements from the beautiful spiritual language that dictates the harmonious culture established by Guruhari Hariprasad Swamiji. By Swamiji's grace and blessings, and through the guidance of our saints and leaders, we have attempted to shed light on the ten spiritual concepts that Swamiji values the most. These concepts include: Sant, Vaani, Swadhyay-Bhajan, Seva, Swadharma, Atmiyata, Nishtha, Saralta, Dasatva and Samp-Suhradbhav-Ekta. The explanations provided to describe each concept are a reflection of Swamiji's teachings. We are grateful for and humbled by the opportunity to compile the crux of this beautiful language into The Language of Haridham—a book series that we hope goes a long way in providing everything you need to be inspired, so that you can find this language to be helpful on your spiritual journey.

Shreeji Maharaj has said in the 19th Vachanamritam of Vadtal, "Whenever the soul is fortunate to be born as a human being in Bharat Khand, incarnations of God or His saints are sure to be found moving on the earth." We are extremely fortunate to have been brought up under the auspices of such a saint. Reverend Shastriji Maharaj Shri Dharmajivandasji Swami came in our life as a true saint and authorised representative of Almighty Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan on this sacred soil of Saurashtra. He did not come to enjoy normal human life. He never chose to appease his physical self. No

bonding howsoever strong could limit him for sensual pleasure. He cultivated various virtues in his life, living with the great saints, broke the bondings and departed on his own terms. This person revolutionized the educational system and kicked off a tradition which we will cherish for years! This book, which is translation of Gujarati edition, describes his life journey which is full of rises and tides. An unswerving personality emerges in 41 chapters in a unique way. His single mindedness, simple living style and saintly sacrifices mesmerize anyone and everyone! The book in my view has two parts. In the first part the child Arjan rises from the dust of Taravada village to righteousness and enlightenment in company of brahmnistha saints. His detachment from worldly desires, right from birth was something very astonishing. He was never found to nurture ambition of normal human dreams. When a pious soul of Arjan finds company of saints like Rev. Balmukunddasji Swami, his real self emerges out and gradually leads to sanyas. The book nicely depicts the heart rending sufferings he underwent on choosing the path of renunciation. The ruthless suppression from his family members couldn't deride the mumukshu Arjan and it couldn't budge the great soul even an inch from his life mission. Second part of the book from chapter 10 onwards, reveals Arjan Bhagat's (parshad) total dedication and commitment to the path he chose willfully. His early years as a saint after attaining Bhagavati Dixi (formal embracement of sanyas) demonstrates how intense his detachment was. Intense desire to study as a young saint brings forth his attributes as a scholar. Firm faith in Sampradaya rules and traditions, strict obedience of prevailing norms and complete abstinence in personal life earned him blessings from stalwart saints like sadhu Narayandasji Swami and many many others. He embarked upon extensive tourage on foot in rural areas and thereby strengthened the roots of Swaminarayan sect in Gir region, which was his notable contribution during those difficult days. Fearlessness was his one of the deeply appreciated virtues among fellow as well as senior saints. His vision in renovating the old temples in rural and semi urban areas was considered a visionary step. Acceptability among the rural illiterate devotees and attaining their support for temple renovations was a praiseworthy task. Other equally challenging tasks during headship of Shri Swaminarayan Temple - Junagadh, speak volumes of his administrative capability and unwavering commitment. However, the best was yet to come! His quick decision taking strength and adventurism on sound faith and pragmatism generated heat, as usual, among envious colleagues. But how long can a glittering diamond be covered just to prevent it from radiating? Rev. Swamiji was a different stuff altogether! He had vision, he had strength, he had commitment and finally he had the ultimate will to incur wrath and risk from anyone, as long as he was convinced with the righteousness of the task on hand. So, he had to depart for a cause! He did it to make a way, which has now become a guiding lighthouse for generations to come!! Birth of Gurukul tradition in modern India was his, perhaps one of the greatest contributions not only to the Swaminarayan sect but to the entire world. Blending religion and virtuous teaching with the formal education

and thereby amalgamating the values of Vidya, Sadvidya and Brahavidya in Gurukul system is a sagacity entirely to his credit. Preferring Chaitanya Rosary (young boys) to Tulsi rosary (wooden rosary)-a decision that changed millions of lives for all-round betterment was quite a step, not many can contemplate ! Numerous occasions and plethora of activities in Gurukul with now complete freedom to execute own ideas showed how great he was! He never missed the aim and mission of his life and still broke many barriers of hostility to everybody's surprise! He triumphed as a saint, as a dedicated soldier of the Sampradaya, as a social reformer, as an innovator and finally as a uncommon human being. Never compromising on values and principles was his very nature. No allurements howsoever big could budge him from his chosen path. Not a single blot on his 87 year long, most eventful life was not a mean achievement. Finally he left for Akshardham with expression full contentment of life. Centuries to come will follow his footsteps! My salute to our sculptor, the bravo saint !! Jay Swaminarayan.

In India, one woman is murdered every hour by her husband's family for a dowry. The Burning Bride follows the story of Uma, a newlywed woman. She starts her new life with many dreams. However, her dreams turn into nightmares when her parents are unable to fulfil the dowry demands made by Madhu, her mother-in-law. The heaven she had imagined transforms into a hell, and the worst part is; there appears to be no escape. Violence against women is high in India but the irony is that Indian people worship women in the forms of many goddesses. The most commonly worshipped goddess is Durga who has nine forms. Therefore The Burning Bride is told through nine women's perspectives. The multiple perspectives highlights social, psychological and cultural factors which allow the dowry system to claim so many lives every year. At least 10% of the profits made from the sales of The Burning Bride will support the Asian Circle to fund Oxfam projects to end domestic violence in India.

ONE STEP AHEAD, ALWAYS He was taught family values by his mother and life experiences by his father, and the blend of both made him achieve success. When it comes to spreading knowledge, culture and following scriptures, he is always at the forefront and enhancing togetherness among communities. One step ahead of what he wants, Mr. B.N. Patel believes education is the most powerful weapon to extract the best out of a person.

Vols. for 1969- include a section of abstracts.

Development and Religion explores how the world's five major religions Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam understand and practice development through an examination of their sacred texts, social teaching and basic beliefs. Religious belief is a common human characteristic with eighty percent of the world's population professing religious faith. Observable in all societies, religious belief is pervasive, profound, persuasive and persistent. The premise of this book is that despite this, religion has long been ignored within mainstream development paradigms and by

development practitioners (both locally and at the international level) resulting in sub-optimal development outcomes. Matthew Clarke argues that each religion offers useful insights into various issues concerning development that should be considered by donors, NGOs, and others seeking to improve the lives of the poor. Undergraduate and postgraduate students of development studies, religious studies and theology will gratefully welcome this highly regarded book.

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