



Message From Our Spiritual Head Vaishnavacharya Shri Dwarkeshlalji Mahodayshri

This month of Purshottam serves as a reminder that for those that feel like they have no one, Thakorji is still theirs. Just as Maal Maas was not accepted by anyone and went to Shri Thakorji and was accepted - we should realise that instead of trying to gain acceptance and help from the world, we simply need to take shelter at the feet of Shriji and He will accept us and make us His, taking away all our sorrows in the process and filling us with nothing but *anand*.

It has been really encouraging to see the Vaishnav Youth Group celebrate Purshottam Mahino with such *utsah* (enthusiasm), from watching the Bhagwat Saptah together, to joining together for the Manorath on the last day of the month. Keep taking up these opportunities of Seva and Thakorji's *bhaav* will keep growing within you.

Heenal's Experience In Writing For The Newsletter

"I've really enjoyed my time working with the newsletter team - it's been such a great experience. The best part for me was being able to learn about Pushti Marg as I did something I love. Kanhaiya is so mischievous, and his leelas are so much fun to research and write! I'll still be involved with things going on in the youth group, and I wish the newsletter team all the best with the future editions."



A BIG THANK YOU TO HEENAL SHAH!

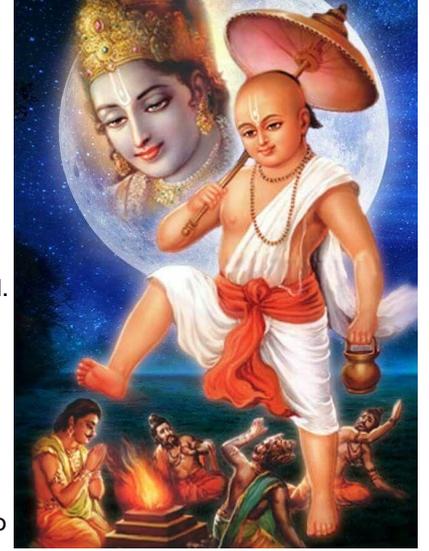
For the last 10 editions, Heenal Shah has been writing the 'Thakorji's Lila' section of the newsletter. We just wanted to pass a huge thank you to Heenal for the wonderful Seva that she has done by teaching us and reminding us about Shri Thakorji's beautiful eternal *Lilas*.

Heenal is now handing over to a new group of writers, so if you are interested in taking up this Seva please get in touch!



Leela : Vamanadev Avatar and MahaBali

Once, MahaBali and his army of *asuras* (demons) and *daitya's* (class of *asuras*) were defeated by Indra the demigod, who became all-powerful soon after. Daityaraj Bali went to meet Rishi Shukracharya and asked for a way to win back his power and kingdom from the demigod. "You must perform the Mahabishek Vishwajeet Yagya to regain them," Acharya replied wisely. Upon completing the Yagya, Bali received a golden chariot with horses as fast as the wind. He also received a quiver of arrows, a conch shell with a thunderous battle cry, amongst other gifts.



Bali faced Indra in battle, and this time emerged victorious. He asked Shukracharya to help him keep this victorious streak, in response to which the Acharya told him to continue doing Yagya and give alms to the poor and Brahmins. Bali was happy to do this. Indra, in the meantime, was searching for a way to get his powers back too. Acharya Brihaspati advised him to do penance and seek Lord Vishnu's help. Indra's mother, Aditi, could not bear the sight of her son in trouble and went to Vishnu for help. He told her, "I will be born as your son, and will then kill Bali, Devmata."

Aditi soon gave birth to a boy, whom she named Vamanadev. Vamanadev (*Vamana*, meaning Dwarf, because He had a small body) was Lord Vishnu's 4th Avatar. When He grew up, He posed as a Brahmin and went to Bali as he was performing the Yagya. "How can I help you, young Brahmin?" asked Bali. Vamanadev said, "I have heard of the alms you offer to the Brahmins. I want not wealth or luxury; only the land that my three steps will cover." Though all present were surprised at the small and absurd request, and the gathered Asuras laughed, Bali agreed to grant him this. Vamanadev began to grow larger, His body and even His feet, larger than the earth itself.

He took a step and put one foot on earth, claiming it. He put another foot on Amravati (in *Indralok*, the heaven of Lord Indra), which at the time was under Bali's dominion. Shukracharya was alarmed and warned Bali, "Don't let him take another step. This is Lord Vishnu, and if He takes his final step you will surely lose everything to Him." Bali did not flinch, and instead addressed Vamanadev. "As there is nothing else left, please use your last step on my head." On Bali's proclamation, Vamanadev placed His foot on Bali. Lord Vishnu appeared in his true form and took mercy on him. He blessed Bali and allowed him to rule Pataal Lok forever.

Thus, Bali went away to Pataal Lok while Indra and the other demigods kept control of Amravati.

Basics Of Pushtimarg : Shrinathji's Charan Chinha

'Charan' means 'feet' and 'Chinha' means symbol. 16 symbols are embedded in the soles of Shrinathji's feet. Shri Brahma, Rudra and all devtas bow to Shrinathji, and Shrinathji's charankamal (lotus feet) fulfils all of the bhakta's manorath's (wishes). A close look at these symbols can bless us with several divine insights.

The Nine Chinha on Shrinathji's right Charan :

Starting from the heel, if we move in the anticlockwise direction, we can see a fully bloomed lotus, two goads, a swastika facing west, a food grain, a flower with 8 petals, a bolt of lightning, a six-pointed star with a small pot in it, a flag and a line between Shrinathji's right toe and heel. We can see a similar line on his left sole too.

The Seven Chinha on Shrinathji's left Charan :

Starting from the heel, if we move in the clockwise direction, we find a fish with its snout facing upwards, a big fruit, a coil spiralling in the anticlockwise direction, a crescent, a hoof mark, a triangle facing upwards and an arrow strung in a bow.



Dakshin (Right) Charan

The right side represents the male, the mind and the spiritual nature of man.

- 1) **Kamal Padma** (lotus): The Padma, a fully bloomed lotus, represents Lakshmi, Vishnu's consort. With its darshan, the anxieties of the bhakta's mind are reduced.
- 2) **Ankush**: ankushas are small tools to goad elephants forward. With darshan of this symbol, one has the ability to conquer their mind. The mind, like an elephant, is wavering and never stays stable.
- 3) **Swastik**: It symbolises contentment and happiness.
- 4) **Jav**: Jav (barley), is a food grain that grows quickly. Like Jav, we can now make quick spiritual progress because we are conscious of the prejudices that lurk in our hearts and minds and because we have the grace of Shri Thakorji.
- 5) **Ashtkon**: The flower with eight petals and a big yellow circle at the centre represents the Rasa Mandal. The petals of this flower are the gopis and the centre is Krishna.
- 6) **Vajra** : The Vajra, the thunderbolt is a weapon wielded by Indra, the god of devtas. Darshan of this symbol purifies the heart and has the power to demolish the ill feelings in one's mind / heart. It represents firmness of spirit and spiritual power.
- 7) **Kalash**: The kalash symbolises *Mangal*, auspiciousness. The darshan Of kalash makes one's life auspicious.
- 8) **Dhwaja** (flag) : With darshan of this sign, one becomes soft hearted. The flag represents Thakorji's victory over our mind and heart.
- 9) **Urdhva Rekha**: The *urdhva rekha* is a long straight line found in the 'Charan Chinha' of all avatars of Vishnu. It represents wealth, auspiciousness and courage. One keeps moving forward in life with its darshan.

Vam (Left) Charan

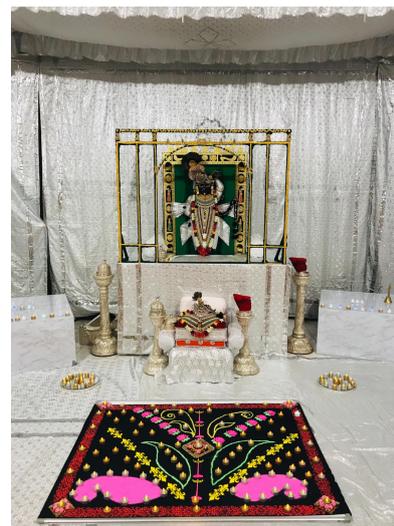
The left side represents the female, the heart and the material nature of women.

- 1) **Matsya** (fish): The fish looking upwards represents our restless heart and mind. The human mind is freed from wavering by doing darshan of *Matsya*. One gets stability, becomes soft or tender hearted and keen eyed.
- 2) **Jambufal** (fruit of the *Jambu* tree): The *Jambu* tree stands on *Jambudvipa* on mount Mahameru (a sacred mountain described in the Bhagvat as the centre of the universe) and bears large juicy fruits. One gets good, *aloukik* (spiritual) fruits by doing darshan of this sign.
- 3) **Akash** (sky): The spiral which spins to infinity in the anticlockwise direction is *akash* (ether, space). Doing darshan of this symbol one is born in a higher caste and becomes fully devoted to Thakorji.
- 4) **Ardh Chandra** (half moon): The crescent moon symbolises the ever-changing nature of life. Shiva adorns himself with a crescent above his head because he remains unaffected by the rigours of time. All types of auspicious wishes are fulfilled by the darshan of this sign.
- 5) **Gosh pad** (Cows *Khur* (hoof)): By its darshan one gets fruits of darshan of all sacred *tirths* (places). Akrura, one of Krishna's maternal uncles, was an enlightened soul and devotee. When he saw the *Gosh pad* and the *Charan Chinha* of Krishna on the sand in Vrindavan, he started rolling over them because he knew he would ascend to Goloka, the realm of Krishna by doing so.
- 6) **Trikon** (Triangle) : This symbol is seen on Thakorji's *Charnavind* (feet) signifying upliftment of all three types of bhaktas; *Satvik*, *Rajas* and *Tamas*.
- 7) **Dhanush** (Bow) : By its darshan one's ego is broken, one conquers their enemies. The enemies are *kam* (lust), *krodh* (anger) and *moh* (greed). These are destroyed by doing darshan of the dhanush.

Excerpts taken from:

- http://www.nathdwara.in/charan_shreenathji.php
- <https://inbrindavan.com/shrinathjis-charan-chinha/>

Purshottam Mahino Antim Diwas Manorath



On the last day of Purshottam Mahino, 16th October 2020, the Vaishnav Youth Group joined the Haveli for Deep Daan manorath. Vaishnav Youth Group members collected £110 and were able to join in Ardho Rajbhog and as Manorathis. A big thank you to each and every one of you for taking up this wonderful opportunity and making this possible. We look forward to taking part in future Manoraths (hopefully in person soon!).

Adhik Maas :

From the 23rd to 29th September, the Vaishnav Youth Group watched the Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah live as a group and discussed and shared the lessons that resonated for them through the 7 days.

Each day, someone nominated themselves to also take notes for a summary discussion during our next Satsang on 10th October. A big thank you to Nakul, Nyrali, Urvi, Sonal, Bhavik, Janaki and Sahil for volunteering for this wonderful Seva.

Here are a few of the lessons shared by the group:

“Thakorji ni pase mangvu hoi to aa mangjo:
Mari Vani nu Smaran re
Hath thi Seva thai
Netro ma Darshan re
Pag thi Tamari mate Shram karu
Manma Tamaru Chintan Karu
Budhi Tamarama Sharanagat rakhi shaku”

“When a young person, exhausted from life and not getting what he desires from others, when he comes and stands in front of Thakorji at the Haveli, realising He is the only one who can help when no one else can, the purpose of a Haveli is fulfilled - to give people a place they can feel safe and connected to Shri Thakorji.”

“The same love we have for Shrinathji we should have for Shrimad Bhagvat”

“A Vaishnav should have the *Vivek* (consciousness, intelligence) to know where to say yes and where to say no”

“Rather than solving our problems thinking like people, we should think like Vaishnavs: “What would a Vaishnav do?”

“A Vaishnav has no desire for Moksh but desires for the eternal seva of Thakorji. Just as Bhakts want to see Thakorji, Thakorji similarly also wants to see His Bhakts.”

“The journey from cursed to surrendered is Bhagwat.”

“*Vividhta* - variety - is part of Thakorjis creation. We shouldn't aim to make everyone the same.”

“We shouldn't leave Thakorji alone if we are going away somewhere for a few days - we take him with us. When we go to work, we should tell Thakorji I will be back soon and we should take permission. When we come back, we should go and see him first. He is a family member and we should have a relationship like that.”

“Shri Mahaprabhuji has given the honour of Yashoda to Vaishnavs all over the world as they can bathe, dress and feed Thakorji. In fact Yasoda got that seva for Krishna for 11 years until Krishna left Vraj but Vaishnavs have this seva all their life.”

“You only get to Thakorji through blessings of other Bhagwatis and Vaishnavs.”

“Say Jai Shree Krishna, do not abbreviate to JSK.”

“No one can solve our problems truly other than Hari.”

“Donate to places where money is used in the right way - where it is used for *satkarma* and not *vevaaric* reasons”.

We will be continuing this format of live discussions on Je Je Shri's katha for the upcoming Shikshapatra Raspaan Mahotsav (26th to 28th October, 4pm). If you would like to join in, please let us know.



Jai Shree Krishna

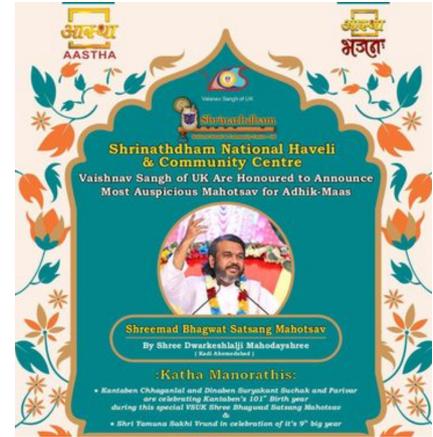


Past Events (pictures below)

- Bhagwat Saptah
- Cooking Workshop #4 - Methi Na Gota
- Garba Workshop

Upcoming Events

- Shikshapatra : **26th to 28th Oct**
- Ramayan satsang : **1st Nov**
- Rangoli workshop : **8th Nov**
- Sanskrit classes : **22nd Nov**
- Kirtan classes : **6th Dec**



Charanamrit :

Charanamrit is a mixture of two words, namely *Charan* and *Amrit*. *Charan* signifies Shrinathji's feet and *Amrit* is the divine nectar of Shrinathji. Thus it is the divine nectar of Shrinathji's holy feet. *Charnamrit* is Shri Yamunaji's *charan* and *Vraj-raj* (dust). Thakorji has done *vihar* (roamed) in Vraj with his feet. Shrinathji still in today's era does *vihar*. For this reason we take *charnamrit* to attain bhagvad *bhakti*. We take *charnamrit* and place it in to our mouth without touching it. By doing this we get the right to perform *seva* and *smaran* (remembrance of Shrinathji). Thereafter we place the *charnamrit* onto our eyes and by doing this we are granted the permission of doing *darshan*. *Charanamrit* ought to be taken daily after bathing so any *dosha* (evil) will be eradicated.