



## From Our Spiritual Head Vaishnavacharya Shree Dwarkeshlalji Mahodayshri (Kadi, Ahmedabad) ~ 26th April

"We need organisations and communities such as VSUK and the Haveli so people have faith, belief, *atmavishwas* (self-confidence), *sanskriti* (culture), which are needed to build a proper society and spread positivity. Additionally, *Samaj Seva* (community service) and what we are doing here are not different. This is community service because during such difficult times we come together to help one another, and that the Haveli and other such places *jivan jivvani utsah aape che* (give people the enthusiasm to lead their lives)."

## Haveli Darshan Times

In Pushtimarg, our places of worships are called Havelis and not Mandirs (other than the main Mandir in Nathdwara where the main Shreenatji swaroop resides). Mahaprabhuji established Havelis to create the mood of Nandalay (the Palace of Nandbawa, Thakorji's father) so bhakts can serve Thakorji with the same Bhaav (sentiment). The same is true for the eight times Mahaprabhuji set aside for when the doors of the haveli would be left open for the people to catch a glimpse (Jaakhi) of Thakorji. The rest of the time, Thakorji was allowed to go out and play with His friends—gopas and gopis of Vraj. In this newsletter, we will outline the first 4 and in the next one, we will outline the next 4:



**Mangala** (usually at dawn): 1st darshan of the day. Thakorji, having woken up, has just had His breakfast and greets his devotees with the most "auspicious" darshan of the day.

**Shringar** : Having bathed and dressed her little darling, Mother Yashoda allows everyone to adore her baby. After this darshan, Thakorji goes out to play with His friends.

**Gval** : Having had his mid-morning snack, Thakorji is about to go out to herd the cows of Nandaji. Thakorji is worshipped by reciting His thousand names and the sacred tulsi (basil) leaves are offered with each Name.

**Rajbhog** : After His mid-day meal, Thakorji is resting in the comfort of Nandalay. Thakorji is often most regal and resplendent for this darshan. Fresh garlands and lotuses are offered to Thakorji. During the aarti, Thakorji plays chopat, an ancient board game to play in the hot afternoon.

## May - Pushtimarg Calendar, Significant Dates

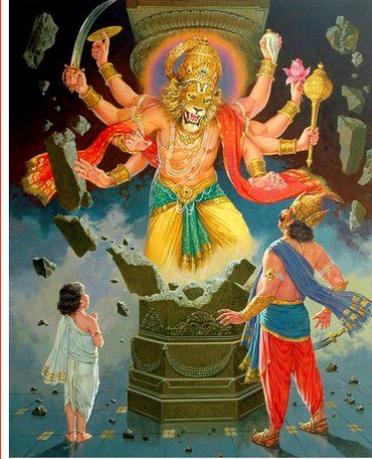
The Hindu month is split into 2, *Sud* (first half) and *Vad* (second half), each half being 14 days.

Ekadashi (11th day of each half)/Jayanti (Appearance Day):

Wed 6th: Shri Nrusinh Jayanti

Mon 18th: Aparajita Ekashi

## Nrusinh Avatar - The Story Of A True Devotee



*In Pushtimarg, Shri Thakorji, or Krishna is worshipped as Paramatma (Supreme Lord). The universe is maintained by Bramha (the creator), Vishnu (the maintainer) & Mahesh (the destroyer). Vishnu is the form of Shri Thakorji that maintains the universe. There are 10 avatars, or incarnations, of Vishnu, the 8th one being Shri Thakorji, who is the Purna Purshottam (complete form of The Supreme). The 4th of these avatars is Nrusinh Bhagwan (or Narsimha).*

The demon, Hiranyakashipu wanted revenge from Vishnu for the death of his younger brother. After many years of austere penance, Brahma offered him the boon of immortality on conditions that he cannot be killed by man or beast, devil or god, at day or night, by steel, stone or wood, indoors or outdoors, or on earth or sky. After securing his death wishes, Hiranyakashipu became a tyrant with his intent to conquer everything.

Hiranyakashipu and his wife Kayadhu gave birth to Prahlad, who grew up to become an ardent devotee of Vishnu, constantly chanting "*Aum Namo Bhagavate Vasudevaay*". Hiranyakashipu was furious at the devotion of his son. He tried to kill his son in various ways, but young Prahlad remained unharmed, and his faith in Thakorji unmoved.

Once, Prahlad was explaining the omnipresence of Bhagwan to his father. Hiranyakashipu asked him if God was present in the pillar that stood in the room. Prahlad reaffirmed that God was present everywhere, even in the pillar. Hearing this, Hiranyakashipu asked Prahlad to embrace it to confirm Vishnu's presence. Prahlad rushed towards the pillar, taking Thakorji's name with each step. Auspicious omens appeared, and as he hugged the pillar, a thundering sound was heard and Nrusinh Bhagwan appeared.

Nrusinh Bhagwan was half lion and half man (neither man nor beast). He lifted Hiranyakashipu, carried him to the threshold of the courtroom (neither indoors nor outdoors) and placed him on His lap (neither on earth nor on the sky). He pierced His nails (not steel, stone or wood) into the body of Hiranyakashipu and at twilight (neither day nor night) killed the demon.

Prahlad bowed down to Nrusinh Bhagwan's feet and received his blessings. Vaishnavs observe a fast on this day to celebrate Bhagwan's love and protection for His bhakts. The story of Prahlad teaches us to be strong in devotion, and like Prahlad, how we must never be worried or afraid, since Thakorji is ever-present in our lives.

## Summary Of Youth Satsang - 26th April - Purpose

- We had a conversation on how to identify our individual purpose, which will help us fulfil our purpose to love and serve Thakorji and our communities, and how this will make us happy.

- We appreciated how this comes from understanding our nature (what we are good at, what we enjoy, etc.) and learning how to use this to serve Thakorji.