

Bochasanwasi Shri Aksharpurushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha  
Satsang Sikshan Parixa

**SATSANG PARICHAY-2**

Time : 2.00 to 4.15 p.m.

Total Marks : 75

Sunday, 4 March, 2012

**Note :** 1. Answer of the prescribed addition only will be accepted. Any other answer from different addition will not be accepted. 2. Numbers of the right side indicate marks of question number. 3. Numbers in the blanks on the right side of the answer indicate lesson number & page number.

**Important Note**

In the question paper the marks of the each sub-question should be written in the box ( mark : 1 ) given on the right side and the marks obtained by the candidate should be written in the adjacent box. If the answer is wrong then write '0' (zero) in the given box. The sign or indication of true (✓) or false (x) of each sub-question should be marked only on the left-side before the question starts.

**(SECTION-1: KISHOR SATSANG PARICHAY, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, January - 2010)**

**Q.1** In the sentences below, state who is speaking to whom and when. (Total Marks: 9)

**Note :** Who is speaking 1 mark, to whom 1 mark and when 1 mark.

1. "If not, we will meet you in Dham." (22/82)      ⇨ Both Brothers - to Aai  
⇨ They had avenged the insult to their mama's sadhus so both brother bid 'Jai Swaminarayan' for the last time to Aai. so both brothers said the above sentence.
2. "We have renounced and suffered for the sake of Akshar-Purushottam!" (10/34)  
⇨ Shastriji Maharaj - to Thakor Saheb (Limdbi)  
⇨ The Thakor Saheb of Limdi asked Shastriji Maharaj to install the murtis of Radha-Krishna in the central shrine in Sarangpur. so Shastriji Maharaj said firmly the above sentence.
3. "Just as one does not leave his mansion because of the nuisance of mosquitoes." (16/56)  
⇨ Vanasha - to Dhandhuka's Seths (The Vania)  
⇨ If you continue to remain in the Satsang you will be excommunicated. You will spoil the last rites ceremony of your father. Therefore break the kanthi of Swaminarayan and throw it away said the Sheth.

**Q.2** Give reasons for the following (two to three lines each). (Total Marks: 6)

1. The Garasiyas told Galuji's mother to arrange for them to receive the blessings of God. (3/8)  
A. The Garasiyas decided to plunder Galuji's house and kill him but Shriji Maharaj called him to Vadthal with his belongings into a cart. When the Garasiyas came to his house, they does not found Galuji and his belongings. The Garasiyas know the real matter from Galuji's mother and they accepted Maharaj as God so They told Galuji's mother to arrange for them to receive the blessings of God.
2. Lakshmichand Sheth was born into Satsang in his next birth. (12/44)  
A. Shriji Maharaj took the bottle of scent sent by Lakshmichand Sheth and applied a little perfume on the tip of the nose of all sadhus and devotees and told the saints 'Sheth does not have enough spiritual merits but because of this service in his next life, he will take birth in Satsang and at that time he will have my darshan. so Sheth was born into Satsang in his next birth.

3. Parvatbhai told Swarupanand Swami to concentrate on the roof-tiles of Dada Khachar. (26/98)
- A. Swarupanand Swami remained in continuous communion with the murti of Maharaj. He was above the three bodies and three states but when he fell ill he was feeling restless. so Maharaj sent him to Parvatbhai. Parvatbhai told him to concentrate on the roof tiles of Dada Khachar. He realized his mistake that although he was in perpetual communion with the murti he did not have the intense craving for the darshan and contact of the manifest form of Shriji Maharaj. Even if one sees the murti of God incessantly, to worship him in all the nine ways and to sing the praises of all his divine exploits is the fruit of one's spiritual wisdom and the state of being in constant communion with the murti.

**Q.3 Write short notes on 'Rajbai' (18/62) (in 15 lines). (Total Marks: 5)**

A woman called Rajbai of the village Vankia was an ekantik devotee of Shriji Maharaj. Rajbai was attracted towards Shriji Maharaj when she first had darshan at Gadhada. She realized that Shriji Maharaj was supreme God. She was not interested in marriage. She had resolved to serve Shriji Maharaj by observing absolute celibacy in all the eight forms and to deny the body all the pleasures of the senses. The would be in-laws had sent the customary sari and coconut. Her mother kept those things on ledge and showed the sari to Rajbai saying, Raju, look at this sari. Rajbai was displeased and said, set it ablaze. And soon the sari was ablaze. On the day of her marriage, when the marriage party arrived at Rajbai's house and the bridegroom entered the special place where the marriage was to be solemnized, Rajbai remembered Shriji Maharaj, attained samadhi and lay there like a corpse. At the marriage altar, Rajbai's place was taken by one of her maids. Rajbai was placed in a cart and was sent to the house of the bridegroom. On her way she continued to sing bhajans. At night when her husband entered the bedroom, Rajbai was meditating on Shriji Maharaj. The husband, instead of Rajbai, saw a fierce lion sitting on the cot. He gave out a wild scream and ran out of the room. He went to his mother and said, "I don't want this woman." He gave a note to her and sent her away to Gadhada. Once Shriji Maharaj was addressing a holy assembly under a neem tree. Rajbai's relatives came there and prayed to Maharaj, please order to Rajbai to return home. Maharaj said to her, please return to your husband's house. As soon as she heard these words she fainted and blood oozed from all the pores of her skin. People thought that Rajbai would die so they requested Maharaj, Rajbai is a great ascetic. Therefore, please bless her that she recovers. Immediately Shriji Maharaj approached her unconscious body and said, Rajbai you may observe absolute celibacy and stay here to serve me. Soon, life returned to the unconscious Rajbai. She got up and fell at the feet of Shriji Maharaj. Maharaj asked her, Why did you feel bad about my suggestion? Rajbai replied, O Maharaj! Haven't I experienced worldly pleasures in all my previous births? In all my births I must have consumed enough mother's milk which could easily fill the oceans. I have taken birth so many times and have indulged in sense gratification. In this birth I am determined to observe absolute celibacy and serve you wholeheartedly. When you asked me to observe celibacy and serve you, I became very happy. Once Rajbai had served Maharaj with ras and rotli and had performed puja through Dada Khachar and offered clothes and ornaments. By the grace and will of Shriji Maharaj, Rajbai attained samadhi. In the samadhi she saw the luminous divine figure of Shriji Maharaj seated on a divine throne in Akshardham. Brahma and other deities showered flowers and sandalwood powder on Shriji Maharaj and Rajbai. Rajbai's detachment was intense. She used to keep herself at least ten yards away from men; she wore thick, coarse clothes; ate very little and slept on the ground. Her celibacy was so absolute that after her death when Dada Khachar poured ghee on her funeral pyre for cremation, the fire did not light. Then Gopalanand Swami came forward and said, "Tell the fire deity that the sati was left and this is just her body, therefore there is nothing wrong in touching her body." No sooner did Gopalanand Swami complete these words, the fire was ablaze. She firmly adhered to the principles of celibacy, which was like walking on a razor's edge. Because of her deep devotion towards Shriji Maharaj, she has earned her place among the immortal names of the great devotees in the Satsang.

**Q.4 Answer ALL of the following, using one sentence (not just one word) for each answer. (Total Marks: 5)**

 **Note : mark of right half answer not to be given.**

1. Who is regarded as a moving place of pilgrimage? (1/4)  
A. God-realized sadhu is regarded as a moving place of pilgrimage.
2. According to Shriji Maharaj, what is the real spirit of friendship? (7/18)  
A. If a friend tells you something in your interest, even by hurting your feelings, you should not feel bad. That is the real spirit of friendship.
3. Why did Putlibai go to hell? (29/106)  
A. Putlibai went to hell because Ramanand Swami had trusted her with some gold. She deceived him and kept it.
4. What did Damodarbai say even after the sadhu slapped him? (13/45)  
A. Damodarbai said, "A sadhu after all is like a father and sometimes the father beats the son, so there is nothing wrong."
5. How did Eklavya learn the art of archery? (5/13)  
A. Eklavya learnt the art of archery by keeping a murti of his Guru Dronacharya and saw in it the presence of the real teacher and practised archery before it.

**Q.5 Explain: Vachanamrut Gadhada Section I 16 (17/61-62) (Total Marks: 5)**

In Vachanamrut Gadhada I-6, Shriji Maharaj has said that one who is aware of one's own moral flaws has discrimination and one who only points at shortcomings in others lacks discrimination. One who wants to progress in satsang must become aware of one's own flaws and should discard them thoughtfully. Some people do become aware of their flaws, but they never try to overcome them. To make sincere efforts to overcome one's shortcomings is also an act of discrimination, because by conscious referring to one's own virtues, one's ego gets inflated. There are no flaws or shortcomings in God or his holy Sadhu but it is the faultfinding attitude of people which invents such flaws. A devotee with discretion never sees flaws in God and his holy Sadhu. Besides this, he accepts the precepts taught by God and his Sadhu as the absolute truth. To cast even a little doubt in the precepts preached by God or the Sadhu is an act of indiscretion. In our daily life we put faith in the words of elders and the experienced and we meet with success. God and his holy Sadhu who guide us on our path of spiritual progress have no selfish motives. They advise us and point out our shortcomings for our own benefit. With the firm faith that they will never lead us astray, one should practice satsang and one's indiscriminate tendencies will be overcome. This body is not your real form because the body and organs are perishable. Your atma is your true form. A devotee with discrimination puts faith in this words of the Satpurush and resists the temptations of the mind. He follows the dictates of the atma. In other words, he acts according to the injunctions and rules laid down by God and his Sadhu. He is never tempted by the binding material objects of the world. He recognizes discord and disunity and keeps himself away from it. He rejects those evil thoughts which divert him from his spiritual progress. He imbibes those good ideas which help him ascend on the path of spiritual progress. This is said to be true discrimination.

**Q.6 Complete the following. (Total Marks: 8)**

 **Note : Only 1 marks for incomplete kirtans/verses.**

1. Ashtakon ne urdhvarekha, swastik jambu jav vhalā;  
Vajra, ankush, ketu ne padma, jamne page nav vhalā.  
Trikon, kalash ne gopad sundar, dhanush ne meen vhalā;  
Ardhachandra ne vyom sat chhe, dabe page chinha vhalā. (20/75)

2. Paj dharmani aj shu bandhi, lidhi arini laj;  
Dhan triya tyagi sadhu kidha, sarvopari Maharaj.  
Vishvavihari aj avikari, avatari albel;  
Kalpataru chho sukh devama chhogala rangchhel. (2/7)
3. Vidhi-shambhu-mukhairnigraham, Bhav-pathodhi-paribhramakulam;  
Apidhrya mano naraprabham, Sahajanand-gurum bhaje sada. (11/39)
4. Translation: Those who are free from vanity and ignorance, who have conquered the fault of being attached; who are continually engrossed in contemplation of the atma; who are desireless and liberated from the pairs of opposites like misery and happiness, etc. reach the eternal abode - Akshardham.

**(SECTION-2: PRAGJI BHAKTA, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, SEPTEMBER - 2009)**

**Q.7 In the sentences below, state who is speaking to whom and when. (Total Marks: 9)**

 **Note : Who is speaking 1 mark, to whom 1 mark and when 1 mark.**

1. "I want to please Swami." (6/12)
  - ☞ Pragji Bhakta - to anyone (Somebody)
  - ☞ Pragji Bhakta mixed water and lime in a pit and pounded it into mortar with his bare feet. If anyone warned him, "Pragji, you will become blind on account of the heat from the lime. Then how would simply reply, "I have dedicated my life in the service of Swami.
2. "Am I purged of all flaws?" (9/20)
  - ☞ Pragji Bhakta - to Gunatitanand Swami
  - ☞ Gunatitanand Swami gave Pragji unpopped popcorn kernels as prasad. Telling about the importance of prasad, Pragji questions Swami.
3. "Take me to Vartal." (28/65)
  - ☞ Bhagatji - to Prabhudas and other devotees
  - ☞ During his last breath he said the above words.

**Q.8 Give reasons for the following (two to three lines each). (Total Marks: 6)**

1. Late at night in Khambhda, Swami asked one of his attendants to bring a rotlo. (4/7)

A. Once Pragji Bhakta he was unable to reach Vartal for a festival. so he came to Sarangpur in search of Gunatitanand Swami and then he reached Khambhda late at night. At that very moment Swami thinking of Pragji. Under the pretext that he felt hungry. Swami asked one of his attendants to bring a rotlo. He took a piece and then gave the rest to Pragji Bhakta.
2. Pragji Bhakta immediately jumped into the pit of dirty water. (7/15)

A. Swami came near Pragji where he was washing the vessels. He put his foot on the edge of the pit. The dirty water touched his toes. Instantly Swami asked, "Pragji where can one find all the sixty-eight places of pilgrimage?" Pragji Bhakta understand the deeper meaning of the Swami's words and jumped into the pit of dirty water.
3. Vagha Khachar experienced divine peace and his drawbacks were overcome. (12/26)

A. Swami said to Vagha Khachar "What Pragji is telling you is the truth." He asked again directly "Swami, are you yourself Akshar?" Swami smiled and said "Yes" so Vagha Khachar experienced divine peace and his drawbacks were overcome.

**Q.9 Write short notes on "Grand Reception at Junagadh" (27/58) (in 15 lines). (Total Marks: 5)**

Since his excommunication from the Satsang Bhagatji Maharaj had not visited Junagadh. He could not go to Junagadh due to opposition and the absence of Acharya Maharaj's orders. But Yagnapurushdasji decided to accord a grand reception to Bhagatji at the very place where he had been insulted. On the occasion of the Janmashtami festival at Junagadh he persuaded Acharya Maharaj to invite Bhagatji to Junagadh. Bhagatji Maharaj arrived at Junagadh. He was received along with Acharya Maharaj at

Junagadh railway station with all the traditional pomp. Like Acharya Maharaj, Bhagatji Maharaj and his followers were driven in a decorated cart. Special arrangements were made at the mandir to make their stay comfortable. Yagnapurushdasji was assisted by Kothari Jibhai in making these arrangements for Bhagatji. All the old sadhus and devotees knew very well that Bhagatji was Gunatitanand Swami's favourite disciple and won Swami's favour so they paid their respect by prostrating to Bhagatji. A Nagar devotee named Dr. Umiyashankar once asked his guru Balmukunddasji, "How is it that Pragji Bhakta, a tailor, sits on a cot and the sadhus prostrate to him?" Balmukunddas Swami smiled and said, "He has pleased Gunatitanand Swami so much that even if we offer him a throne made of gold and perform arti with lamps made from gold, it would fall short of his status and eminence." On this occasion, the beloved Nagar devotees of Gunatitanand Swami and others said, "Pragbhha, you swallowed all the nectar offered by Swami and didn't leave a drop of it for others. One should always remain vigilant and find out which virtues one possesses. Vishayanandi jakta hai, a habit of seeing the great qualities of the great Sadhu, to overcome our granthis, to observe purity in matters of food, The jiva has become addicted to the pleasure of the five senses, one who removes darkness from the heart is a guru, one should recognize the Satpurush who has attained the brahmic state, we can cast all our cares to the Satpurush, etc. Bhagatji narrated to devotees. Thus by participating in the festival at Junagadh, Bhagatji fulfilled all the desires of Yagnapurushdasji. He had given all the sadhus and devotess the bliss of his company.

**Q.10 Answer ALL of the following, using one sentence (not just one word) for each answer. (Total Marks: 5)**

 **Note : mark of right half answer not to be given.**

1. What would Pragji Bhakta tell his friends while sitting in the dry bed of the River Malan? (1/1)  
A. Pragji said his friends "I have studied everything. I have come to worship God and make others worship God."
2. What did Pragji Bhakta say when Pavitranand Swami declared to excommunicate him from Satsang? (13/28)  
A. Bhagatji Maharaj replied with a smile, "Swami, now even if Shriji Maharaj wishes He cannot excommunicate me. Iron transformed by a paras into Gold cannot be converted back into iron even by a paras."
3. Where did Pragji Bhakta go after he received the letter of excommunication from Junagadh? (15/32)  
A. As soon as the letter of excommunicating Pragji Bhakta from the Satsang came to Junagadh, He set off for Mahuva.
4. How many malas did Bhagatji Maharaj do for the welfare of the devotees? (25/54)  
A. Bhagatji Maharaj turned eighteen thousand malas for the welfare of the devotees.
5. What promise did Bhagatji make to the Diwan of Vansda? (23/49)  
A. Bhagatji Maharaj promised to the Diwan of Vansda, "At the time of your death I will come with Maharaj to receive you."

**Q.11 From the given options, place a tick (✓) in the box next to the correct ones. (Total Marks: 6)**

 **Note: One or more of the options may be correct. Full marks will be awarded only if all the correct options are chosen, otherwise no marks will be awarded.**

1. 1, 3 (11/24-25)      2. 2, 3 (12/26-27)      3. 3, 4 (28/65)

**Q.12 Rewrite the incorrect sentences below in relation to the sentence heading. (Total Marks: 6)**

 **Note: Marks will be awarded only if a sentence is written completely correctly. Otherwise no marks will be awarded.**

1. **Art of Saintliness:** To look upon insults and honours with equanimity, to bear no ill-will towards anyone, to overcome the pleasures of the five senses, to realize the atma and remain constantly in communication with the murti of Shriji Maharaj is the craft of saint-hood. (8/18)
2. **Guru of Shastri Yagnapurushdasji:** Certain sadhus could not bear Bhagtji's increasing popularity. Once, they complained to Bhagatji regarding this. Bhagatji sided with them and made the sadhus attached to him apologize. (18/39)
3. **Jal-Jhilani Celebration at Gadhada:** God's bliss is visible to one who adores God. All his ten senses become quiet and his four antahkarans experience eternal peace. (26/56)
4. **I am Possessed by Swaminarayan:** You are all fakirs of Khuda and here is Khuda himself. Therefore even if he beats you with a stick or with shoes, you should follow him wherever he leads you. (19/40)
5. **Discord in Fellowship:** On his way back from the mandir, a gardener garlanded Swami with a garland of roses. With that garland Swami honoured Sadhu Hariswarupdasji who was the attendant of Shukmuni and had insulted Swami in the assembly. (14/31)
6. **Meeting Sadguru Gopalanand Swami:** Once Pragji Bhakta went to Mumbai to learn the craft of tailoring. Then he prepared a beautiful coat and a pair of stockings for Acharya Maharaj and went to Vartal to offer them to Acharya Maharaj. (2/5)

