

ॐ श्रीस्वामिनारायणाय नमः

# ONE GOD, ONE LEADER ONE VISION

A Factual Study from  
Desh Vibhaag Lekh  
and Shikshapatri

One God, One Leader, One Vision

# Introduction

- Introduction to Desh Vibhaag Lekh
- Analysis of key points
  - Role of Acharya
  - Responsibility of Devotees towards the Acharya
- Supporting Evidence from Shikshapatri

# Before We Begin

- What is a Legal Document?
  - Has to be sealed by an authority
  - Signed with witnesses
  - Can enforce rights against
  - Able to take action upon in court

# Background to DVL

- Dictated by Bhagwan Swaminarayan
- Written by Shuk Muni on Magsar sud 15, VS 1883 in the Darbar of Shri Dada Khachar
- Signed by witnesses
- Translated into English by Geo. P. Taylor on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1903
- Used in defence of the sampraday and its doctrines thereafter

# General Questions

- Who did Bhagwan Swaminarayan adopt?
- How were the territories apportioned?
- Whose commands does Lord Swaminarayan ask His devotees to obey?

# More Advanced Questions

- Who do you follow if you are a devotee from NarNarayan Dev Desh and move to live in LaxmiNarayan Dev territory?
- What would happen if you found another preceptor, who was more knowledgeable than your Acharya, and decided to follow him/her instead?

# Further Question

- Who should be chosen to sit on the Gadee?

# Closing Statement of DVL

29. Our command to all sadhus and all Brahmacharis and all Palas and all our followers is, that no one at any time deviate from, or cause others to deviate from, what we have here written: **they shall always remain obedient to their spiritual preceptor.**



## Shikshapatri (3)

- Ayodhyaprasad and Raghuvir, the sons of my brothers Rampratap and Iccharam, who I have adopted and established them as the Acharyas of My Sampraday
  - Key word: Adopted - now they are sons of God
  - Established by God Himself

# Shikshapatri (62)

- All shall worship only those forms of Lord Shree Krishna that are installed by the Acharyas. All other forms of Lord Shree Krishna shall be respectfully bowed to, but not worshipped
  - Implications on Pooja, Temples, Sinhasan in homes

# Shikshapatri (71)

- My disciples shall never enter into arguments with the Acharyas. All shall treat them with respect by offering food grains, money, clothes, etc., according to their ability
  - The Acharyas command should be the first to be obeyed because obeying Him is equal to obeying the Lord
  - Acharya is the combination of all deities
  - One who insults their Acharya loses everything in this universe

# Shikshapatri (72)

- On the arrival of the Acharya, My followers shall immediately go to receive Him. On the departure of the Acharya they shall also go to the outskirts of their village to give him a worthy send-off
  - Equal to going on pilgrimage
  - Washes away one's sins

# Shikshapatri (128)

- My disciples shall understand that I have established the Acharyas in order to preserve and protect our religion and initiate people into the sect
  - Mantra Diksha can only be performed by the Acharyas
  - Without proper initiation, one cannot be termed as a follower of the Swaminarayan sampraday

# Shikshapatri (129)

- The Acharyas shall lead the Satsangis along the path of Dharma and shall look after the Sadhus. They shall treat the Sadhus with respect and study the Satshastras with reverence.
  - The Acharya suffers from the sins of His disciples
  - Shastras should be studied to gather knowledge
  - Guide to studying – not late at night, or if you do, then do not sleep

# Shikshapatri (139)

- My disciples shall serve their parents, Guru and those who are in pain throughout their lifetime to the best of their ability
  - Lord Swaminarayan preaches humanity
    - Parents – gratitude for their sacrifice
    - Guru – gratitude for spiritual knowledge
    - Those in pain – one day you might need help when in a similar position

# Conclusions

- Role of Acharya
  - Sole authority in the sampraday
  - Walking form of Lord Swaminarayan on the Earth
  - Management of the sampraday
- Responsibility of Devotees towards the Acharya
  - Honour and serve with loyalty
  - Follow commands without question