

**Bochasanwasi Shri Aksharpurushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha  
Satsang Shikshan Pariksha**

**SATSANG PRAVESH-PAPER-1**

Time : 9.00 to 11.15 a.m.

Total Marks : 75

Sunday, 6 March, 2016

**Note : 1. Answer of the prescribed edition 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 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.

**👉 Important Note 👈**

While checking the answers, when you come across lengthy answers i.e. shortnotes, reasons, brief answer in five sentence etc. Justify to the left side of the paper for any marks deducted. If the candidate has forgotten to mention any mentioned points then the examiner can deduct mark likewise and explain to the leftside of the paper that which point is not mentioned by candidate. For example there is question in March-2013, Pravesh paper-1, "Transformation of JobanPagi" JobanPagi said to Maharaj, 'Oh Lord, I am crooked worthless and foolish. I was unable to recognize you for who are you. Oh compassionate one! please have pity on me. Please free me from my sins.' If any point is not written then write "My sins" at left side.

**SECTION-1: NILKANTH CHARITRA, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, December - 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. "Brother, who are you? And what do you have in your bag?" (38/75)
  - ❏ Nilkanth Varni - Lakho Koli
  - ❏ When Nilkanth Varni set off for the Shikotar river, on the way he met a man with ugly clothes and bag. Then...
2. "When you sit for puja tomorrow, I shall sit by your side." (52/106)
  - ❏ Nilkanth Varni - Muktanand Swami
  - ❏ Nilkanth Varni was very eager for guru Ramanand Swami's darshan but Muktanand Swami told him to be patient. Muktanand Swami was seeing Ramanand Swami in his meditation so Varni linked his mind through his yogic powers with Muktanand Swami's mind for Ramanand Swami's darshan. Then..
3. "We have an abundance of cucumbers in our farm." (49/100)
  - ❏ Two devotees - Muktanand Swami
  - ❏ Two devotees of Sheel village had an abundant crop of cucumbers on their farms.

They decided to give the cucumbers to Muktanand Swami to make pickles for Guru Ramanand Swami.

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

1. 9,00,000 yogis felt happy. (21/38)
  - A. One morning, when all the siddhas were seated in meditation, they heard a divine voice, "Purushottam Narayan, for whose darshan you have been performing penance for years, will himself come and redeem you all and give you his darshan. He is manifest now on earth." On hearing the heavenly voice, they all felt happy.
2. The priest of Badrinath mandir offered his services to Nilkanth Varni. (7/13)
  - A. The priest of the mandir was deeply drawn towards this child celibate. He saw in Nilkanth, Bhagwan Badrinarayan himself, and out of deep respect for him he offered his services to him.
3. Four bawas ate fruits and soon died. (15/27)
  - A. Nilkanth Varni ate violet mango-like fruits had fallen on the ground. Soon four bawas came. On seeing Nilkanth eating the fruits, they plucked some. Varni told Mohandas to tell them not to eat the fruits. The bawas questioned: Why is the Brahmachari eating the fruits? Mohandas told because he is a great person. We are too great, boasted the bawas. And so out of arrogance they ate the fruits and died.

**Q.3 Write short notes on any ONE of the following. (In 15 lines.) (Total Marks: 5)**

**1. Significance of Nilkanth's travels (44/91-93)**

From Ashadh sud 10, Samvat 1849 to Shravan vad 6, Samvat 1856 Nilkanth continuously travelled for seven years, one month and eleven days. During the journey he endured all sorts of hardships. He undertook such severe austerities that the blood in his body dried up. He lived in the midst of poisonous reptiles, insects and wild beasts. He passed through forests and thickets, over mountains and deep valleys, across lakes and gushing rivers. Barebodied and barefooted Nilkanth toured all the way without any conveyance. What was the object of this ordeal? He endured all this to redeem innumerable jivas. He gave darshan to many aspirants to thousand of devotees yearning for his darshan for countless births and fulfilled their quest and blessed them with deliverance. He exposed the hypocrisy of the pseudo-sadhus, vairagis and bawas and taught them a lesson. By the sheer force of his divine glance and firm resolve he destroyed evil people, thus opening the way to worship, free from danger, for the devotees of God. He redeemed thousands of sages and sadhus, who had been performing penance for many years in forests and mountains. He gave refuge to thousands of souls. Nilkanth sanctified the whole land of Bharat through this spiritual odyssey. He purified mandirs through his divine presence. Wherever he went, Nilkanth probed whether there were any sadhus and sampradayas favouring abjuration of women and wealth. He tried to see whether they believed that God is always sakar, whether they had a firm conviction in the upasana of God together with his ideal bhakta and whether there was real knowledge of the distinction between the five entities - jiva, ishwar, maya, Brahman and Parabrahman. Nilkanth Varni finally chose to reside in the ashram of Ramanand Swami at Loj. It was a pure bhakti sampraday. Hence Nilkanth decided to settle down in Kathiawad. Thus, this great pilgrimage by Nilkanth was highly significant.

**2. Shiv-Parvati come for darshan of Nilkanth (32/64-65)**

There are many hills and forests on the way to Bhutpuri. Nilkanth continued to walk for four days continuously without food and water on the way. On the fifth day he fainted because of exhaustion. On regaining consciousness he saw a well nearby. He approached the well and drew the water by attaching a long vine to his gourd and releasing it into the well. Nilkanth took a bath and performed his daily rituals. Then he placed his Shaligram in a vessel and began to bathe it with the water from the gourd. Four times he poured the water and Shaligram drank it all. Nilkanth Varni thought, "Since the Shaligram

is so thirsty, he must be hungry, too. But where can I get food from?" Even though he is God himself, Nilkanth was worshipping the Shaligram with profound devotion to teach devotion to all devotees. As he was thinking about how to get food for the Shaligram, a couple, dressed like renunciants came there on a bull. As it was a dense jungle where no one could tread, Nilkanth asked who they were. They were Shivji and Sati. Thinking him to be very hungry for so many days, they had brought sathvo. They were very happy to be able to serve Nilkanth. They saluted him, obtained his blessings and disappeared into the sky. From here, Nilkanth went to Bhutpuri and after saying for a few days he went to Totadri.

**3. Discourse to Maharaja Ranjit Singh (8/14-15)**


The valiant ruler of Punjab, Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who was on a visit to Badrinath met Nilkanth Varni. He was greatly impressed by the magnetic personality of the youthful Brahmachari. He caught hold of the young celibate's feet and declared, "I am not going to leave you. So, please do not leave me. I shall do whatever you want me to do." Nilkanth told him that he could not stay with him and said, "I shall meet you later wherever you are. But for now you must go." The Maharaja was sorely disappointed but he derived comfort from the fact that the young Brahmachari had agreed to meet him again. Nilkanth once again scaled the peaks and reached Gangotri. There is a Gangaji mandir. Varni paid his respects and started going up the Himalaya in Uttarakhand and came to Haridwar at the foot. At Harki Pedi Ranjit Singh once again met him. The Sikh ruler sat at Nilkanth's feet and expressed his inclination to surrender his empire to him. But the young ascetic was not interested in it at all. He said after blessing him, "Remember me and govern your kingdom. When you realize my knowledge then your kingdom will not be a bondage." Nilkanth placed his hand on the ruler's head and gave him a glimpse of his divine personality. Ranjit Singh experienced supreme bliss.

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

 **Note : No mark for incomplete answer.**


1. What did the shepherd reply to the villagers of Gorad? (37/74)
  - A. The shepherd replied the villagers, "Yes, I saw an ascetic travelling two hand-lengths above the ground at great speed. You will not be able to reach him."
2. What did Bhagwandas's mother believe? (31/59)
  - A. Bhagwandas' mother believed that they would find God if they searched for him, and, when found, should invite him to their house.
3. Which murti is along with which murti in Trivendram? (34/67)
  - A. In Trivendram, in Padmanabh mandir, there is a huge murti of Bhagwan Padmanabh reclining on Shesh-shayya along with Brahma seated in a lotus coming out of his navel.
4. When did Nilkanth Varni write a letter to Ramanand Swami? (Samvat, Month, Tithi) (50/103)
  - A. On Fagun vad 5, Samvat 1856, Nilkanth Varni wrote a letter to Ramanand Swami.
5. How many questions did a Nagar Brahmin ask Nilkanth Varni at Hatkeshwar Mahadev? (42/85)
  - A. A Nagar Brahmin asked Nilkanth Varni ten questions all at one time at Hatkeshwar Mahadev.

**Q.5 From the given options, place a tick (✓) in the box next to the correct ones. (Total Marks: 4)**

 **Note: One or more 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, 2 (6/11)                      2. 4 (14/24-26)


**Q.6 Fill in the blanks. (Total Marks: 4)**

 **Note : Marks will be given only if both answers are correct.**

- |                             |                                     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Lakshmanji, Ganga (5/10) | 2. Kanchipuram, Sevakram (30/56)    |
| 3. five, Mahadatt (16/29)   | 4. Kali, ghosts and Bhairav (20/35) |

**(SECTION-2: SATSANG READER PART-I, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition April - 2011)**

**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. **“His boon will bear fruit, without a doubt.” (7/63)**
  - ⇒ Shastriji Maharaj - A devotee
  - ⇒ Nirgun Swami gave a boon to a devotee of Khandesh that a child would be born to him. The devotee later came to Swamishri, asking him for the same boon again. Then...
2. **“Such service inspite of the calamity! No one else could have done this!” (8/76)**
  - ⇒ Swamishri(Shastriji Maharaj) - Ashabhai
  - ⇒ Ashabhai's property had been burnt to ashes in Purushottampura. Though when Swamishri asked for money to buy murtis for Sarangpur mandir, he gave the amount from a nearby money lender and offered it to Swamishri. Then...
3. **“How can such a person ever be dear to me?” (5/46)**
  - ⇒ Shriji Maharaj - Joban Pagi
  - ⇒ Joban said, “How can I offer you money now that I am out of business?”

**Q.8 Give reasons for the following (two to three lines each). (Total Marks: 4)**

1. **Ladudanji spontaneously composed and sang a kirtan: “Dhanya ajni ghadi re....” (1/3)**
  - A. As Ladudanji entered the darbar, Maharaj called him by his name and welcomed him by placing the rose garland he was wearing around his neck. He then related the poet's life story and then showed him the sixteen signs on his feet. Thus Maharaj had fulfilled each and every one of Ladudanji's wishes. The poet's happiness knew no bounds, and as his heart swelled with joy, he spontaneously composed and sang a kirtan: “Dhanya ajni ghadi re....”
2. **Maharaj stayed secretly in Abhel Khachar's darbar. (6/53)**
  - A. The all-knowing Maharaj sent a message to Jivuba in the darbar saying he had arrived. Jivuba and Lalita, or Laduba, secretly ran off to the banks of the Ghela for Maharaj's darshan. They felt peace just on having his darshan. They requested Maharaj to come to the darbar. She had dressed Maharaj as a shepherdess and amongst a group of similarly dressed women, Maharaj entered the darbar unnoticed and stayed secretly for one month.

**Q.9 Write short notes on 'Shukanand from Jagannath (3/23-24) (in 15 lines). (Total Marks: 5)**

As Jagannath came to the outskirts of village Gadhada, Maharaj was seated in an assembly underneath the neem tree in Dada Khachar's darbar. Maharaj suddenly said to the assembled devotees, “Let's go, a mukta is coming from Dabhan.” The devotees got up and followed him as he took the road to Radha Vav. Beaming due to the lustre of brahmacharya and eager to embrace God, Jagannath strode quickly towards Maharaj. As soon as he saw Maharaj, he prostrated before him. Maharaj also ran towards him and welcomed him with an embrace. Jagannath stayed with Maharaj in Gadhada. He deeply wished to become a sadhu, but he was hesitant to ask Maharaj himself. So, he requested Somla Khachar to ask Maharaj to make him a sadhu. So, Somla Khachar told Maharaj, “The Brahmin from Dabhan wants to become a sadhu.” Maharaj replied, “Take him to Muktanand Swami. He will make him a sadhu.” So, February 1816 (Maha, Samvat 1872), Muktanand

Swami performed the Vedic rites, initiating Jagannath as a sadhu and named him Shukanand Swami. After the ceremony, Shukanand Swami went straight to Akshar Ordi and prostrated before Maharaj. Pleased at seeing the new sadhu, Maharaj got up and hugged him. Maharaj asked, "What have you been named?" "Shukanand!" he replied. It seems as if Muktanand Swami knows the name you had in your previous life," Maharaj commented and instructed Shukanand Swami to stay in his service.

**Q.10 Answer ALL of the following, using one sentence (not just one word) for each answer. (Total Marks:4)**

 **Note: No mark for incomplete answer.**

1. For how many years did Shuk Muni suffer from fever? (3/27)  
A. Shuk Muni suffered from fever for twelve years.
2. What did Brahmanand Swami think when Shriji Maharaj refused to take Sanjivani, an elixir? (1/12)  
A. When Shriji Maharaj refused to take sanjivani, an elixir, Brahmanand Swami thought, "Maharaj may not stay on earth much longer".
3. What would Maharaj say about bhakti? (4/33)  
A. Maharaj would say, "It is not wise to offer bhakti with stubbornness, for neither such bhakti nor such love last long."
4. Which two devotees established satsang in Africa? (7/66)  
A. Two devotees, Harmanbhai and Maganbhai had established satsang in Africa.

**Q.11 Select the SIX correct sentences from below and write them in the correct story sequence in the boxes. (Total Marks: 6)**


**Topic: Devanand Swami in Muli mandir (2/19-20)**

- |  |    |   |    |   |    |    |
|--|----|---|----|---|----|----|
| (1) Write the correct sentence numbers | 3  | 5 | 7  | 8 | 10 | 12 |
| (2) Correct sequence of sentences      | 10 | 5 | 12 | 8 | 7  | 3  |

**Note: (1) 3 marks will be awarded in the correct sentence number only if all the six sentence numbers are correct and (2) 3 marks will be awarded only if all the sequence of sentence numbers are correct. Otherwise no marks will be given.**

**Note: (1) Correct sentence numbers:** Give 3 marks only if six sentence numbers are correct in any sequence, otherwise no marks will be given. **(2) Correct sequence of sentences:** Give 3 marks if all sequence of sentence numbers are correct as per answersheet otherwise no marks will be given.


**Q.12 Rewrite the incorrect sentences below in relation to the sentence heading. (Total Marks: 4)**

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

1. **Swami Nirgundasji:** Around this time, Yagnapurushdasji was studying in Rajkot. Swami Jaga Bhagat, one of Gunatitanand Swami's foremost disciples resided in nearby Junagadh. (7/60)
2. **Bhaktaraj Jivuba:** Abhel Khachar knew of Jivuba's intense bhakti right from when she was a child, yet Jivuba soon married Hathiya Patgar, son of Amara patgar of Kundal. (6/51)
3. **Bhaktaraj Joban Pagi:** Soon thereafter, as Holi approached, Maharaj came back to Vartal in order to fulfil Joban's wish. Maharaj had invited devotees from all around to the grand festival. (5/44)
4. **Sadguru Shukanand Swami:** Also known as Shukmuni, Shukanand Swami lived in a room opposite Shriji Maharaj's residence, Akshar Ordi. There he spent his time writing and editing scriptures. (3/24)

(SECTION-3: ESSAY)

**Q.13 Write an essay on any ONE of the following. (in approximately 30 lines.)(Total Marks: 10)**

 **Note :** Essay is an independent original subject. In addition to following points many other point might be included. Examiner has to examin essay on the basis of originality, knowledge of sampraday, special analysis and point from any other scriptures.

**1. Immovable foundation in Satsang: Grasping virtues:**

1. Grasping virtues means to pick one virtue from each and not to see the vices but think only about the positive side. 2. Benefits: If one accepts the virtue from a person he definately gains but if he tries to pick a virtue from an animal or bird and tries to implement, one becomes broad minded. Jiva becomes Brahmarup and his foundation becomes strong in Satsang. (Quote few incidents, statements of Guru parampara, kirtan, sakhi etc.) 3. Alongwith virtues man has vices too, but it depends upon how we interpret it. To see vices is like sucking poison, which leads to death. Simlarly, if one sees vices, one is sure to fall from Satsang. By seeing others' vices we also accept the wrong things and leads to distruction. The person sitting on the peak is sure to fall. (Quote incidents) Not to vices or think about it. 4. If an ordinary person accepts an ordinary virtue he gains but if one is in satsang and accepts the virtues of a great saint then he will be on top and nobody can stop him and reach the highest level in satsang and thus his foundation too becomes strong. If one develops such quality, will remain firm inspite of the obstacles or worldly issues or troubles. 5. Conclusion:- In this way there is only profit by grasping virtues and no loss. Then why not be positive and accept the virtues of others and make our foundation immovable in satsang?

**2. Pramukh Swami Maharaj: Ideal of World Peace:**

(A transcription of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's speech to BAPS Youth and Sadhus)  
20 June, 2015, Sarangpur

Friends, greetings to all of you. A few minutes back I was with Maha Pramukh Swamiji. I have written a book with Prof. Arun Tiwari. When I gave the book, Pramukh Swamiji smiled. What does his smile mean? Everybody smiles, but when Pramukh Swamiji smiles it means something. I was in the company of Pramukh Swamiji for 15 minutes. At the end of 15 minutes I got a great message. You will repeat the message:

Where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character. Where there is beauty in the character, there is harmony in the home. When there is harmony in the home, there is order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world. By meeting Pramukh Swamiji I found righteousness in his heart; I saw peace in the world. Where there is a righteous heart there is peace in the world. And that's what I saw today. It is a situation of bliss.

Respected Swamijis, sadhus, devotees and students who are seated here. My greetings. What do we need? The world needs prosperity without poverty, peace without fear of God and a happy place to live for all the citizens of the nation. This is what we need. And that is the message being transmitted from Pramukh Swamiji and this esteemed great place.

Friends, I have come to Sarangpur to meet Param Pujya Pramukh Swami Maharaj and present to him personally the book I have written with my friend Prof. Arun Tiwari, 'Transcendence: My Spiritual Experiences with Pramukh Swamiji'. This was my very dear project of many years. I made a promise to Pramukh Swami on the inauguration day of Akshardham, New Delhi, that I will write a book on his great spiritual life. Today, I have fulfilled that promise.

Friends, yesterday, I was in the company of different people: one was a Jain Muni, a Haji who had returned from Mecca, and the third was a Swamiji. They saw the copy of 'Transcendence' and all three asked me one question, what made me write this book? What incident inspired me? I said, Pramukh Swami inspired me from the day I met him on

30 June 2001. But one incident deeply touched me. On the next day of the terrorist attack at Akshardham, Gandhinagar, on 25 September 2002, there were many bodies of devotees and terrorists who were killed in the attack. Pramukh Swamiji came with Gangajal (holy water of River Ganga) in his kamandal and showered it on each body without any discrimination, be it a devotee, a security personnel or the attackers. He silently displayed to the world that every human life is sacred. Life comes from one God and returns to the only God. His magnanimity gave me the urge and strength to explore the spiritual life of Pramukh Swamiji and bring out this book with my friend Arun.

Friends, today I've thought of sharing about my spiritual journey. I have one question for all of you, "How to become a unique you?" So after my talk when you go out of this beautiful auditorium you'll go with the confidence that I can become unique.

### **UNIQUE YOU**

Dear friends, look up. What do you see? The light, the electric bulbs. Immediately our thoughts go to the inventor, Thomas Alva Edison, for his unique contribution towards the invention of the electric bulb and his electrical lighting system. When he was a nine-year-old boy in New York he lived with his parents, and they used oil lamps or candle for light. He said he would electrify New York based on Faraday's Law. And he electrified the whole world. So he was a unique personality.

When you hear the sound of an airplane going over your house, whom do you think of? The Wright brothers proved that man could fly, though at a risk and cost. In 1885 Prof. Calvin said anything heavier than air cannot be flown. But the Wright brothers proved that it could be flown. So don't go near people who say that it's impossible. Everything is possible in science and technology.

Of whom does the telephone remind you? Of course, Alexander Graham Bell.

When everybody considered sea travel as a voyage, a unique person during his sea travel from United Kingdom to India was pondering on why the horizon where the sky and sea meet, looks blue? His nine-year research resulted in the phenomena of scattering of light and he was awarded the Nobel Prize. He was Sir C.V. Raman.

Friends, there was a great scientific lady, who is known for discovering radium. She won not one, but two Nobel Prizes: one for physics and another for chemistry. Who was she? She was Madam Curie. Madam Curie discovered radium and the effect of radiation on the human system. The same radiation, which she had discovered, affected her and she sacrificed her life for removing the [physical] pain in human life.

All these great personalities are unique. They dedicated their lives to science. What made them do that? What made them unique?

Friends, I have, so far, met more than 21 million youths in India and abroad in the last two decades. I learnt, "Every youth wants to be unique. But the world all around you is doing its best, day and night, to make you just like everybody else." The challenge, my young friends, is that you have to fight the hardest battle, which any human being can ever imagine to fight, and never stop fighting until you arrive at your destined place – that is a Unique You!

### **HOW TO BECOME UNIQUE YOU?**

Life is a journey that must be travelled, no matter how bad the roads are. There are four proven steps I have studied about unique people:

The first step is to decide which road you want to take by having a great aim in life. Having a small aim is a crime. You must have a great aim. The second step is to continuously acquire knowledge through great books, great human beings and great teachers. The third is hard work. When everybody is sleeping there are lights burning in some people's places. The fourth step is that when you do any work, whether spiritual, technical, scientific or political work, there will always be some problems. The problems should not become your captain; you should become the captain of the problems. Defeat the problems and succeed. This is called perseverance. So, if you want to become unique, you have to have four qualities: great aim, continuously acquire knowledge, hard work and perseverance.

### **WINGS TO FLY**

Now I want to tell you how to fly. Do you want to fly? Now repeat with me:

I am born with potential.

I am born with goodness and trust.  
I am born with ideas and dreams.  
I am born with greatness.  
I am born with confidence.  
I am born with courage.  
So, I am not meant for crawling.  
I have wings.  
I will fly, I will fly and fly.

### **WORKING TOGETHER**

Friends, while I was talking to the senior sadhus I told them a story. When I was a 10-year-old boy in Rameshwaram I was studying in an elementary school in 1941. At that time, it was British India. When I finished school everyday I used to come home at 8.00 p.m. The reason being I used to deliver newspapers from 6.00 to 8.00 p.m. I was a newspaper boy. Once, on coming home I saw three people: Lakshmana Shastrigal, the head priest of Rameshwaram Shiv temple, Rev. Father Bodal who built the first church in Rameshwaram and my father who was an Imam of the mosque. I saw them every Friday at my house. I was astonished because they had different attires. These three people would sit and discuss. There was a war going on in 1941. There was a famine on our island. So, they discussed about how to generate work, how to help when there were troubles, and how to help the healthcare and education systems. From them I learnt the beautiful lesson about how to work together.

### **GREAT LEADERSHIP**

As a young engineer I worked with Dr Brahma Prakash. He taught me how tolerance of others' views and opinions is essential in building teams and accomplishing tasks that are beyond an individual's capacity. Certain works an individual can do, whereas for other works a team is required. He taught me that life is a precious gift, but it comes with responsibility. With this gift, we are expected to use our talents to make the world a better place. In 1978, I became a project director. I worked with Professor Satish Dhawan, who taught me that a good leader takes the responsibility for the failures of his team. When I failed in the first SLV 3 programme, Satish Dhawan, the chairman, took the failure upon himself. When I succeeded next year, Satish Dhawan told me to address the press conference to celebrate the success. This is great leadership, be it in spiritual, technical, media or political matters or in science. The leader should give the credit of success to his team. If there is failure the leader should absorb the failure. This is the great message I learned when I was working in ISRO.

Later, I met Jain muni Acharya Mahapragya, who made me realize the affirmation of a divine life upon earth and an immortal sense in mortal existence. I wrote with him a book called Family and the Nation.

### **GREAT MEETING WITH PRAMUKH SWAMIJI**

It was an important spiritual day of my life when I first met Pramukh Swamiji. More than a decade ago, as the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, I visited Bhuj to review the rehabilitation work in the aftermath of the earthquake. There I met Sadhu Brahmaviharidas. He asked me: "After the detonation of the first atomic bomb, Robert Oppenheimer remembered the Gita: 'Time I am the shatterer of the world.' What came to your mind after you detonated India's first atomic bomb?" I was puzzled by his question, and I said, "The energy of God does not shatter, but unifies minds," to which he replied, "Our spiritual leader, Pramukh Swamiji is a great unifier. He has unified all our energies to regenerate and restore life from the rubble of damage." I was moved and expressed my desire to meet such a Swamiji.

So friends, my best wishes to all the members assembled here and the BAPS in its mission of spreading compassion, love and understanding.

Now I would like to hear some questions from you.

### **QUESTION-ANSWER SESSION:**

Question: What was the first thing that came to your mind when you met Pramukh Swami today?



Answer: When I met him I remembered his life as a young boy. He's a farmer's son. And from a farmer's son to the growth of BAPS for millions of people [is a great story]. Now this book, 'Transcendence', is about my experiences with Maha-Pramukh Swamiji – experiences of nearly two decades, from the birth of Akshardham till today. I have seen how he brings peace, happiness and prosperity.

Question: What is the reason for your tremendous energy and enthusiasm?

Answer: One thought I have is what can I give.

The opposite of it is what can I take – that is a very harmful 'fellow'. What you all are learning in this campus is what can I give. If you give, you get all the happiness, if you give you get all the enthusiasm, and if you give you get all the prosperity. If you follow the opposite (of that), you become Satan.

OK friends, repeat with me: "An ignited mind of youths is the most powerful resource on the earth, above the earth and under the earth."

May God bless you all.

### 3. **Pathway of Yogiji Maharaj: Positive thinking:**

1. Positive thinking means to think in a good side or whenever a person ignores others' mistake or fault and think it on the positive way and accept it. Three things are included in positive thinking:

(1) To change unfavourable situation into a favourable one: Once 'prasad' fell down from the devotee's hand. Yogiji Maharaj laughed and said, "There is a shower of prasad !" The atmosphere became very witty and devotee was relaxed too. (Quote few more incidents.)

(2) If anyone's attitude is unfavourable or negative, then to change it into positive. The path of Yogiji Maharaj is the best of all. In spite of being beaten by guru and lots of burden and obstacles made him smile. On the contrary he said, "Whenever Guru does it is all for our good." Though not at fault he not only use to bear the punishment but use to pardon them or forgive them very easily by awarding them which nobody else can do. (Quote few more incidents.)

(3) The job or the work of a saint is not only to think about the liberation of the human beings and to pardon but to think even about the smallest insect and its liberation. This can be done only by a person in whom God resides in every nerve or vein. This was the unique path of Yogiji Maharaj. (eg. insects like ants, rats sparkles which harms the tree etc.) To think about the salvation of such things is not the work of an ordinary person or saint. (Quote few incidents.)

2. One can visualise the divinity of Yogiji Maharaj in every person, every situation and in every insect. We can have the darshan of divine qualities like saintliness, without enemies, endurance etc. 3. Extraordinary quality or speciality: Yogiji Maharaj is definitely more unique and incredible than those who are running the classes and giving special lectures or arranging seminars on positive thinking - because the entire credit goes to his lovable nature and the positive thinking is running in each and every nerve. Yogiji Maharaj used to say, "We never keep stock of negative thinking in our shop." 4. Advantages of positive thinking : By this peace prevails at home, family, society and satsang and all the fields. One can maintain love and progress, their graph will raise higher and higher. (Quote kirtans, few incidents of other saints.) 5. Conclusion: This way the path of Yogiji Maharaj is positive thinking. We should learn to walk in the same path - attain peace in life and remain blessed by God and saints.

 **THE END** 