

Kirtan - 3

Ladudan Barot was a prominent poet and performed in many royal theatres.

It was in the court of King Vajesinh of Bhavnagar that he excelled and where the poet's oratory was at its best. Pleased immensely by his brilliance, the King decided to adorn the poet with Gold and summoned his Goldsmith. On seeing the goldsmith (Nagadanji), Ladudanji was taken aback by the Urdvapundra mark, which was on the goldsmith's forehead. Just as the Poet enquired about this, the King himself interrupted and said, "There is confusion in my mind, which you have to remove. In the village of Gadhada in my state, there is one by the name of Swaminarayan, whom the Kaathis believe to be God-incarnate. I believe all this to be false. Please go there yourself and determine the truth."

Proud of his youth, learning and fame he made a dash straight for Gadhada. However, he hesitated on the way and doubts arose in his mind, "May be they are right, and He is God". He thought to himself "If that is so let Him fulfill my wishes". Thinking thus, he made up his mind and decided that the following four desires should be fulfilled:

1. There should be a reading of the Bhagwat wrapped in a black woolen cloth, facing east.
2. Let him call me by name and narrate some of my life history
3. Let him place the rose garland worn by him round my neck
4. Let him show the sixteen divine signs on both his feet

In this way he devised this test to ultimately reveal the truth.

On entering Gadhada he was overcome with absolute peace and calm. Sahajanand Swami was sitting under the nimb (limbdo) tree in the court of Dada Khachar, holding an assembly of saints and devotees. A garland of roses adorned his neck. In front of him lay the Bhagwat wrapped in a black woolen cloth. He fondly called Ladudanji by name as if He had known him for years and welcomed him by placing the rose garland around his neck. Whilst talking. He showed Ladudanji the sixteen signs on His bare lotus feet. Seeing all this Ladudanji (who later became Brahmanand Swami) was overjoyed with happiness.

His test was passed by the Lord with flying colours. His heart swelled with emotion and a verse flowed from his mouth:

Aajanee Ghadee Re Dhanya Aajanee Ghadee

Aajanee ghadee re dhanya aajanee ghadee
This(today's) moment, O blessed is this(today's) moment
Me neerakhyaa sahajaananda, dhanya aajanee ghadee
Blessed is this(today's) moment, for I have seen the lord sahanand,

Kaama krodha ne lobha vishay na shake nadee
Lust, anger, greed and other sensual desires are not able to hinder me
Maavajeenee moorti maaraa hradayamaa khadee re...
The image of God is stood within my heart

Jeevane buddhi jaanee na shake, e motee adee
The soul's intellect is not able understand it, which is a big obstacle
Sadgurune drashtee thaataa vastu e jadee re...
Then took place the vision of a divine saint(Nagadanji), and now I have found that item

Choryaashee chaukhaanamaa, hu thaakyo aathadee
I am tired from rotating in the 4 pits (4 species - Jaraayuj[born from womb],
Andaj[born from egg], Swedaj[born from perspiration], and Udbhij[born
from earth]) amassing 8,400,000 births
Antara harishu ekataa re doogdhaa doora padee re...
When the heart became one with God, my doubts have fallen afar

Gnyaana kuche guru gamase, gayaa taalaa ughadee
With the knowledge like keys from the knowledgeable teacher, the locks
have been opened
Laadu sahaajaananda nirakhataa, tharee aankhadee re...
When I Ladudan (Brahmanand Swami) saw Sahajanand Swami, my eyes
welled up with joy