

Kirtan - 1

Swaminarayan bhagwan enjoyed and placed much importance on Katha/Sabha (listening of scriptures and religious discourse).

As is known to all there is a tendency to fall asleep during Katha and Swaminarayan Bhagwan did not like this. So a system was devised, within which Bhagwan would throw a Bedkho (Rosemary Bead) at the person caught sleeping. Not only that but if you can imagine there is a sabha of 500 Saints, then how would one be able to tell who the Bedkho was thrown at if one were on the opposite side? For this Bhagwan instructed the person who was hit to pick the Bedkho up and go to the front and give it back.

On one such occasion Bhagwan saw Brahmanand Swami sleeping. So as was the rule Bhagwan threw the Bedkho and Swami picked it up and went to give it back. Swami then said in front of the whole Sabha, why did you hit me?

Bhagwan said because you were sleeping?

Swami said I was not.

Bhagwan said how are we to believe you?

Swami said I was meditating upon your image and creating a Kirtan.

Bhagwan said if that is true then sing that Kirtan right now.

Swami said I will but on one condition, that everyone must repeat what I sing.

Bhagwan agreed to this and even though Swami was sleeping he had the ability (as he was a renowned poet) to make up the next line whilst the first line was being repeated everyone.

In this way swami created 1 Kirtan which included 4 Pada's (Sections) and within each Pada there was 1 Chorus and 5 twin-lined Verses.

The first Pada is explained below line by line. The emphasis of the Kirtan is the beauty of Bhagwan's Paagha (Turban) and the ornaments adorned within.

Taaro Chataka Rangeelo

Taaro chataka rangeelo chhedalo, alabelaa re,
The red coloured end on your turban, O Joyful one
Kaaee navala kasumbee paagha, ranganaa relaa re...
What a new silky turban you have, O Colourful one

Shira ajaba kalangee shobhatee, alabelaa re...
There is a wonderful befitting arrangement placed on your head, O Joyful one
Haidamaa raakhyaa laag, ranganaa relaa re...
I've kept you (this view) in my heart, O Colourful one

Moleedu chhayu motide, alabelaa re...
Your turban is spread with pearls, O Joyful one
Phooladaanee sundara phora, ranganaa relaa re...
There is a beautiful fragrance from the flowers, O Colourful one

Ghere range guchchha gulaabanaa, alabelaa re...
There are bunches of dark coloured roses, O Joyful one
Joe bhramara bhame te thora, ranganaa relaa re...
Seeing this, the bees are buzzing loudly, O Colourful one

Taaree paaghaladeenaa pechamaa, alabelaa re...
In the folds of your turban, O Joyful one
Maaru chittadu thayu chakachooraa, ranganaa relaa re...
My mind has become totally engrossed, O Colourful one

Brahmaananda kahe taaree moorti, alabelaa re...
Brahmanand Swami says that your image, O Joyful one
Vanadeethe ghelee toora, ranganaa relaa re...
When I do not see it, I lose control, O Colourful one