

Swaminarayan Sampraday | Swaminarayan Dharma

Five Vows (Niyams)

Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan established five (5) Vows *Panch Vartaman* for people in *Ghruhas* *hram* i.e. house-holders and five (5) Vows for people in *Tyagashram* (Swamis/Saints).

The basic five Vows of house-holders

The followers were increased in a large number. Only devotion and worship is not enough for salvation. The virtuous moral and devotional human life is absolutely necessary. So He (Lord Swaminarayan) preached the five basic Vows compulsory for all.

1. **NOT to drink wine, liquor** or any intoxicating drug of any sort in any form in any case.
2. **NOT to eat meat in any** form in any case. NOT even as the offerings of evil deities.
3. **To abstain from adultery**. NOT to look at a lady passionately. NOT to keep close company with a lady.
4. **NOT to steal even a small**allest thing. Even the worthless flowers should NOT be taken.
5. **NOT to take food and drinks** from improper persons and by improper sources.

Whosoever wants to become the follower of Lord Swaminarayan has to take an oath in presence of a great Saint keeping water in his right hand to abstain from these five. If anybody transgresses any of these five is not called a follower of Swaminarayan. He is excommunicated. These are the five basic Vows for house-holders. These are known as Panch Vartman.

The five Vows of Saints (Sadhus)

Saints of Swaminarayan have to observe strictly their special five vows listed below as well as the five basic vows listed above. They are given them at the time of their initiation as Saints. They are initiated by either Vadatal or Ahmedabad gadi's Acharya.

1. **Lustless: Desireless:-** He has to observe Naishtik Brahmacharya i.e. eight-fold celibacy.
2. **Greedless:-** He should not be attached at all to the worldly objects. He should keep detachment.
3. **Tasteless:-** He should not be allured or tempted at all to any taste. Not to eat anything.
4. **Prideless:-** He should not have any sort of pride of renouncement, penance, knowledge.
5. **Affectionless:-** He should not have any affection at all towards his body, his relatives.

There are 11 Niyams that each Satsangi

of Shree Swaminarayan Sampraday has to follow

1.

<i>Hinsa na karvi</i>	(Be non-violent by any means)
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2.

<i>Parstri no sang na karvo</i>	(Do not have any kind
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 of relationship with other woman other

3.

<i>Mansh na khavu</i>	(Do not eat meat, i.e. including
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 seafood, poultry products, etc.

4.

<i>Daru na pivo</i>	(Do not drink products that contain
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 alcohol, i.e. wine, beer, etc.

5.

<i>Vidhva stri no sparsh na karvo</i>	(Never touch widow
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 woman whom you do not know)

6.

<i>Atmaghat na karvo</i>	(Never commit a suicide in any
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 circumstances)

7.

<i>Chori na karvi</i>	(Do not steal things that belong
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 to others)

8.

<i>Koi ne kalank na devu</i>	(Never blame others for something
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 that you may not know)

9.

<i>Devo ni ninda na karvi</i>	(Never bad mouth about God,
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 Goddesses, or any religion)

10.

<i>Jenu na khaptu hoy teru</i>	(Never eat someone's
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 food who does not follow these elements)

11.

<i>Bhagwan thi vimukh hoy</i>	(Never talk to anyone who does not believe
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 in the Shikshapatri slokas)

Questions and Answers based on "Shikshapatri" Sloks

What should a devotee ask to Bhagwan

1. Hey Maharaj! Hey Swami! Hey Krupasindhu! Hey Sharnagat Pratipalak!
Ohh Lord! please save me from *Kusangi* (bad people). There are 4 types of bad people:

- (I) *Kundapanthi* - People who won't let you follow the Niyams of Satsangi,
Shakti Panthi (II)
- People who would force you to eat meat and to drink beer, wine, etc., (III)
Shushka Panthi
- People who would not let you perform Bhakti, etc., (IV)
Nastik
- People who do not believe in existence of God

2. Hey Maharaj! *Kaam, Krodh, Lobh, Moh, Ahankar, Irshya, Dehabhiman aa*
je antahsatsu thanki maari raksha karjo.

3. Hey Maharaj! Nitya tamara bhakt no samagam dejyo. (Please give me an
opportunity to meet your satsangi everyday)

Reference: "Vachanamrut", Gadhada Pratham - 48

Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan also told his devotee to do one extra *Dandvat Pranam*
everyday after the Puja and prey Him "Hey Bhagwan! mara thi jan ta
ajanta mun, vachan ane dehe kari ne aapna bhakt no dhroh thayo hoy to mane
maaf karjo." This way Bhagwan will forgive you in case if you hurt a Bhagwan's
Bhakt with or without any purpose. ("Vachanamrut", Gadhada Madhya - 40)

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