



S.K.S. SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE (LONDON) – BAL YUVAK MANDAL

Westfield Lane, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 9EA Est.1966 Charity Reg. No 271034

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NAR NARAYAN JAYANTI

Also known as *Pushpadolotsav* - festival of flowers

Fuldol - Flowers

Utsav - Festival

Falgun Vad 1

This festival marks the birth of Lord Nar and Lord Narayan, to Dharmadev and Murtidevi at Narayan Ghat along the banks of the Sabarmati River. Nar Narayan Dev took birth to defeat the evil demon Kunchi, who wanted immortality. By performing penance to please Lord Brahma, Kunchi requested Lord Brahma to grant him such a boon. Brahma who himself was mortal could not do this so Kunchi asked for a thousand protective shields. Each shield would only be lost if one performed penance for a thousand years and then fought Kunchi for another thousand years. Kunchi felt invincible and began to harass the world and demigods. Hence Bhagwan incarnated as Nar and Narayan.

Nar and Narayan immediately fought Kunchi, one performing penance for a thousand years, whilst the other battled for a thousand years and so on. They continued this rotation of penance and fighting, until Kunchi realising that he only had one shield left; he retreated to Suryanarayan and begged for his protection. Lord Nar therefore could not defeat him so they both returned to Badrikashram.

Many years later, as illustrated in the Mahabharat, Kunchi reincarnated as the evil Karna. However he still had the protection of one last shield, which would have to be destroyed if Karna was to be defeated. Accordingly, Lord Narayan incarnated as Lord Krishna and Lord Nar incarnated as Arjun. It was Arjun who eventually killed Karna, because it was his turn to battle.

This festival also marks the arrival of spring as well as the birth of Nar Narayan Dev. The story continues from that of Vasant Panchmi. Lord Krishna and his companions were joyfully playing on the Revataachad Mountain (Mount Girnar). The Yadavas made a swing from the trees and flowers and sat Lord Krishna and Arjun on the swing. They performed pooja of Lord Krishna and joyfully pushed the swing in turns. Arjun sat alongside Lord Krishna; this depicts the murti of Nar Narayan Dev. On this day, Devas arrived at Dharmadev's ashram and performed pooja of Nar Narayan Dev and pushed the swing to please him.

In our temples we celebrate this festival in a similar way to Vasant Panchmi, where coloured water is sprayed on devotees. A swing is made and decorated with flowers on which Nar Narayan Dev's murti is placed and devotees gently sway the swing. Poojan of Nar Narayan Dev is performed followed by an Aarti. Songs associated with the festival are sung accompanied by musical instruments.

Similar to Vasant Panchmi prashad of popcorn is served. Nar Narayan Dev Jayanti is the only birth of the Lord where fasting is not required.

In India Satsangi's go to the temple wearing white clothes so that they can return



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home completely covered by the coloured water sprayed in the temple, thus accepting the showering of blessings from Bhagwan.