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### Hindu Satsang Updates

*By Priya Viswanathan*

Pranaam to all Satsangis! Sometimes no matter how bad the situation is, we always look for a silver lining. These microscopic bundles of RNA wrapped in spiky proteins, better known as COVID-19, has created havoc in our lives. To adapt to the situation, Hindu Satsang had to switch to Zoom video calls for our monthly congregations, but the silver lining is that we can now have people join us from anywhere in the world where the internet is available. This month we have our guest singer Sh. Kamlesh Mehta and guest speaker Smt. Trupti Maniar joining us all the way from a city called Rajkot in Gujarat, India. Please find more details about our guests and congregation meeting details and agenda on the last page of this newsletter. If you know someone who can be our guest singer or guest speaker for our future congregations, please contact Smt. Rashmi Gandhi ji or Smt. Shubh Malhan ji and let them know.

Last month, instead of our regular congregation we had our annual Janamashtami / India's Independence Day cultural program. I had mentioned the details in the last month's newsletter, but here is the link to the video recording of the program on YouTube in case you missed it: <https://youtu.be/cDyRurvSBZE>

**Hindu Satsang Sunday School Ramlila** performance will be on **Sunday, 25th October**. Hindu Satsang organizes this in collaboration with HTGC every year, this year it will be done online. An online Ramayana Quiz will also be conducted and prizes will be given to the winners. **Wish you all a very Happy Navratri (starting from October 17th) and Dussehra (October 25th)**. Till we meet (virtually) again, Om Shanti!



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Hindu Satsang's

Website address:

[HinduSatsang.org](http://HinduSatsang.org)

Hindu Satsang's

Facebook page:

[facebook.com/HinduSatsangUSA/](https://facebook.com/HinduSatsangUSA/)

Please *Like & Follow* for latest updates. Let us know if you have any feedback at:

[kpriya10@yahoo.com](mailto:kpriya10@yahoo.com)

*Many Happy Returns of The Day to our September born Satsangis*

Smriti Shah	Amit Punwani	Ramesh Malhan	Raj Agnihotri	Naval Arora
Alka Gupta	Avanti Gupta	Aditya Kapoor	Anish Kapoor	Kiran Madhav
Kishor Shah	Ajay Sharma	Vimal Sharma	Abhinav Singh	Satendra Singh
Jyotsna Vyas	Nitin Vyas	Surendra Mittal	Madhu Uppal	Joy Dhar
Deepika Bhagwat	Akash Garg	Kern Wasan	Laxman Singh	Reema Jain
Jagdish Madhav	Deepali Punwani	Ajay Sharma	Vivek Raheja	Kanan Dhingra

**Karva Chauth vrat is approaching on November 4th this year. Those husbands who would like to keep their wives entertained can tell the following joke to bring a smile on their face (beware, do it at your own risk):**

बीवी अपने पति से: बताओ वह कौन सा व्रत है जो पत्नी अपने पति की लंबी आयु के लिए रख सकती है?

पति: मौन व्रत



किंतु ,परंतु ,लेकिन, यदि, अगर, मगर, काश नहीं करते..

कुछ कर गुज़रने वाले बहानों की तलाश नहीं करते।।

गुज़री तमाम उम्र उसी शहर में जहाँ..

वाक़िफ़ सभी थे, कोई पहचानता न था!

जिसमें हमें अपना अक्स मिलता है,

बड़े नसीब से वो शख्स मिलता है।

~ Mansha Kishen





## A brief story of Vishnu's 6th Avatar "Parashuram" followed by a quiz

By: Shivam Viswanathan

In Treta Yuga, many Kshatriya kings were cruel, tyrannic, and had given up principles of dharma. Due to this, people were suffering and so was 'dharma'. There were a lot of bloodsheds and Bhumadevi (Mother Earth) went to Vishnu for help. It was Lord Vishnu who safeguards the world whenever adharmas reigns.

Lord Vishnu came to Earth as the youngest son of rishi Jamadagni and Renuka. He was named as Ram (not to be confused with Ram from the Ramayana).

Sage Jamadagni meditated and prayed to Brahma as he was finding it difficult to feed his family. Brahma bestowed upon him with a cow called Kamadhenu. Kamadhenu was no ordinary cow, it had the ability to provide delicious food for many people.

Ram performed meditation and austerities (Tapasya) and received "parashu" (परशु = axe) from Lord Shiva. Since then his name "Ram" got prefixed with "parashu" and he came to be known as Parashuram. Parashu (axe) was the weapon that brought victory to him in all the battles.

Karthaveeriya Arjuna was a powerful Kshatriya but a very cruel and mean king. Once he was traveling with his army close to the Reva river. He went to Maharishi Jamadagni's ashram with thousands of his soldiers.



Sage Jamadagni was able to provide food for the whole army with the help of his Kamadhenu cow. King Karthaveeriya was thoroughly impressed with Kamadhenu. He had not tasted such delicious food ever in his life.

He wanted to acquire Kamadhenu for himself. Sage Jamadagni refused to part with the cow as it was given to him by Brahma. The King Karthaveeriya took Kamadhenu forcefully from Jamadagni.

When Parashuram heard about the king's atrocity, he went and fought with Karthaveeriya and his army. He single-handedly destroyed Karthaveeriya and his army with the help of his axe. He got his Kamadhenu safely back to the ashram.

Meanwhile, Karthaveeriya's sons were plotting to take their revenge. They came with their army to Jamadagni's ashram when Parashuram was out on pilgrimage. Karthaveeriya's sons and their army killed Sage Jamadagni. When Parashuram came to know about it, he got very angry with Kshatriyas for their abuse of power and arrogance. He cremated his father's body and vowed to clean up the Kshatriyas' misrule. He went on to kill Karthaveeriya's sons and many adharmic Kshatriya kings to install dharma and righteousness on earth.

Parashuram believed that people and society should fight against injustice. Parashuram was a brahmin and his fight was not against a particular cast or a clan but against ruling Kshatriyas who were misusing their power. The existence of Lord Parashuram can be found in Ramayana (Parashuram meeting Ram) and in Mahabharata also (as a guru of Bhishma and Karna). Lord Parashuram is a Chiranjeevi (immortal living beings in Hinduism who are to remain alive on Earth until the end of Kali Yuga). Now it's time to answer some interesting questions - **QUIZ about Parashuram Avatar is on the next page . . .**

## Quiz on Vishnu's 6th Avatar, "Parashuram"

**Question 1:** Parashuram heard the sound of Lord Shiva's bow getting broken. He said "Another Kshatriya's misdeed? Which Kshatriya has the audacity to break the bow of Lord Shiva? He will be punished for this". Who had broken Lord Shiva's bow and why?

**Question 2:** Parashuram will never train a Kshatriya as he was not in favor of empowering them with his training. Why did he agree to teach Karna?

**Question 3:** Who stopped Parashuram when he wanted to meet Lord Shiva after defeating King Karthaveeriyar Arjuna?

**Question 4:** Why Bhishma had to fight with his guru Parashuram?

**Question 5:** Who won the fight between Bhishma and Parashuram?

**Question 6:** Why did Parashuram accept Bhishma as his student when he was against teaching Kshatriyas?

### Answers to the Quiz

**Answer 1:** It was Dashrath's son Ram who had broken Lord Shiva's bow at the swayamvar of Sita. But when Parashuram saw Ram, he knew that he was Vishnu's avatar. He asked Ram to pardon him.

**Answer 2:** Karna had to lie that he was a Brahmin and got trained by Parashuram. One day Parashuram was resting on Karna's lap. An insect bit Karna but he did not make any noise and remained still so that he does not disturb his guru Parashuram's sleep.

When Parashuram saw the pain tolerance & bravery of Karna, he came to know that Karna was a Kshatriya, not a brahmin. Karna apologized for his lie which was a grave sin. Parashuram pardoned and did not kill him but cursed him that Karna will not be able to use his skills when he needs it the most. In the war of Mahabharata, Karna was killed by Arjun while he was trying to free the wheel of his chariot which had gotten stuck. Karna was unable to use his skills taught by Parashuram to protect himself.

**Answer 3:** Baby Ganesha stopped Parashuram because his father, Lord Shiva, was meditating. By his nature, Parashuram was enraged that he was being prevented from seeing Lord Shiva, and so he started fighting Lord Ganesha. During the fight, Parashuram threw his axe at Shri Ganesha due to which one of his tusk got chopped off. Ganesha didn't defend himself because the axe was a gift from Lord Shiva.

**Answer 4:** Amba demanded Bhishma to marry her, but Bhishma declined due to his vow of celibacy. Enraged at her humiliation, Amba got Parashuram (Bhishma's guru), to champion her cause. Bhishma made his guru Parashuram furious by declining to marry Amba due to his celibacy vow.

**Answer 5:** Parashuram was on the verge of a defeat when Ganga stepped in to put the matter to rest.

**Answer 6:** Bhishma (or Devavrata) was the son of Goddess Ganga. So Parashuram had no reason not to accept him as his student. Ganga is also the wife of Lord Shiva and Parashuram was an ardent devotee of Lord Shiva, so Parashuram could not say no to Ganga when she asked Parashuram to be the guru of Bhishma. Another important reason is that Parashuram hated Kshatriya rulers but Bhishma though was a Kshatriya but vowed to his father that he will never become a king.

By Shivam Viswanathan

# Congregation Details & Announcement

## Congregation:

**Date:** September 27

**Time:** 10 am CST.

**Location:** Zoom online meeting

This congregation will be held online and you can attend the congregation from the safety and comfort of your home. Please mark your calendar.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	TH
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27 Congregation 10 AM	28	29	30	

**To join Zoom Meeting from your computer, tablet or phone - use the following link:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81940515247?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81940515247?pwd=bXljYkZtTmpscG81OGRpZ0tWNFZZUT09)

[pwd=bXljYkZtTmpscG81OGRpZ0tWNFZZUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81940515247?pwd=bXljYkZtTmpscG81OGRpZ0tWNFZZUT09)

**Meeting ID:** 819 4051 5247

**Password:** satsang

You can also join by phone:

+1(312) 626 - 6799 : Password: 118151

## Agenda:

**Convener:** Sh. Hersh Sabharwal

10:00 am: Vedic Pooja

10:10 am: Bhajans by Satsangis

10:30 am: Guest singer: **Sh. Kamlesh Mehta**

11:10 am: Guest speaker: **Smt. Trupti Maniar**

**Topic:** मन एवम् मनुष्याणाम कारणं बंध मोक्षयो (Human mind is the only reason of karmabandh & Moksha / Salvation.

11:50 am Announcements followed by 'Aarti' at noon.

## Heartiest Congratulations!!

**Congratulations to Dr. Subhash Pandey on his selection for the appointment of Joseph A. Flaherty, MD Endowed Chair in Psychiatry at University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Medicine, Chicago IL. The endowed professorship is very prestigious title in University system.**

## Guest Singer: Sh. Kamlesh Mehta

This month we'll have our guest singer and speaker joining us all the way from Rajkot, Gujarat, India.

Our guest singer Sh. Kamlesh Mehta, has Visharad degree in music. Sh. Mehta is a versatile singer, he sings Gazals, Sugam sangeet, Bollywood, Gujrati poetry, garba, bhakti sangeet and many more. He arranges many programs, he invites well known artist in Rajkot and neighboring towns.

Sh. Kamlesh Mehta is Smt. Rashmi Gandhi's nephew. If he is not singing, you'll find Sh. Kamlesh Mehta busy in his optical store.

## Guest Speaker: Smt. Trupti Maniar

Our guest speaker Smt. Trupti Maniar's husband, Sh. Mihir Maniar (Smt. Rashmi Gandhi's nephew) came to do civil engineering in Dallas some 20 years back. During that time, Trupti used to teach Jain philosophy in a Jain pathshala. She is a devoted housewife in a joint family. She did her Bachelors in Science and also has Visharad degree in music. The topic she has selected for our congregation is - " मन एवम् मनुष्याणाम कारणं बंध मोक्षयो ".

Few years back when Trupti was visiting USA, she was invited to be our guest singer and speaker. Many of our Satsang members would remember that she received a standing ovation for her performance.

We are so glad and thankful to Sh. Kamlesh Mehta and Smt. Trupti Maniar for agreeing to join us at the late hours from India.

