

Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore

Navneet

Gujarati Community Newsletter

A Non-Profit Tax-Exempt Organization MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 687, OWINGS MILLS, MD 21117

Federal ID 52-1038340 Web Address: www.gsbaltimore.org E-mail: contact@GSBaltimore.org

Manu Shah, Editor V11-01 January, 2011

Board of Trustees Year 2010-11

Wishing you all a great, blissful, healthy and a very happy and a prosperous New Year.

President Payesh Jhaveri

443-568-1300

Vice-President Hament Patel 410-239-1586

Secretary Manu Shah 410-551-8324

> Treasurer Kanu Patel

Auditors

410-465-7418

Atul Patel 410-833-2251 Shailesh (Sly) Patel 443-865-2525

Members

Dilip Daya 410-485-3600 Dipak Desai 410-356-5660 **Gaurang Patel** 410-526-4574

Thank you all for your overwhelming support for the Diwali program. We had over 840 participants and we received excellent feedback for the dinner catered by Chowpatti Restaurant. We thank all our volunteers who helped with the dinner logistics and I would like to specially recognize Raj (Bunty) Patel for spending numerous hours on this program.

Happy New Year & Welcome 2011

I would also like to thank all members who participated in our General Body Meeting held on December 11, 2010 at Greater Baltimore Temple. We presented the financial statements, auditor's report, and secretary's report. We sincerely appreciate the feedback we received and suggestions/recommendations made at the meeting for future programs.

Included in this flier is the 2010 Report of the Treasurer which provides comparative analysis for the past two years. This report was presented at the General Body Meeting. For the eleven month period ending November 30, 2010, the event related receipts exceeded the disbursements by \$11,738 compared to the year ending December 31, 2009, where the Samaj disbursements for the events exceeded the receipts by \$23,319. I sincerely thank all committee members for such a remarkable fiscal improvement while at the same time maintaining and significantly improving the quality of the program(s) that we have delivered for our community. I also thank Sly Patel for completing the internal audits for last 3 years. For details on the Treasurer's Report, see elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Based on the feedback we have received we are planning excellent program(s) for 2011 and to start off the year, we have planned a ski/snow tubing trip to Ski Roundtop in Pennsylvania on February 26, 2011. I am also very pleased to announce that this year we will be presenting two dramas. On March 12, 2011 we will be presenting "Dikri No. 1". This drama is directed by Rasik Dave and is a play which represents the struggle of a young girl, played by Riddhi Dave. On April 9, 2011 we will be presenting "Lo Gujjubhai Ghode Chadiya". This drama is directed by none other than Siddharth Randeria who had a tremendous success with "Lage Raho Gujjubhai". We will serve light dinner for both drama events. For details, see elsewhere in the Newsletter.

For our volunteers, we are planning for a Management and Team Building exercise in early March and we invite anyone who would like to volunteer to get in touch with us. For our members who are into Gujarati cooking, we have found an excellent link listing several good recipes in Gujarati. Our thanks to whoever has taken the time to consolidate the collection of over 720 mouthwatering authentic Gujju recipes. Please visit our website and click on Gujarati Recipes. Do check it out and I guarantee you will earn some kudos points with your spouse. You may have to download Excel Viewer (free download) from Microsoft website.

We appreciate the support of our advertisers and we encourage you to please patronize them. I sincerely thank all participants, volunteers and committee members and their spouses for their unconditional support and help.

Payesh Jhaveri

Volunteers

Manisha Bhatt 410-661-8737 Rushi Bhatt 410-581-9693 Mitu Dalwadi 410-517-2812 Suresh Dalwadi 443-629-3324 Nilesh Desai 410-489-6592 Nishith Gandhi 410-997-3917 Raghuvir Patel 443-710-9456 Raj Patel 410-998-9838 B. G. Thakkar 410-465-0955

Youth Committee Coordinator TBA Members TBA

Ski, Snowboarding, Snow Tubing Event – February 26, 2011 Drama: Dikri No. 1 (Rasik Dave & Riddhi Dave) - March 12, 2011 Drama: Lo Gujjubhai Ghode Chadiya (Siddharth Randeria) – April 09, 2011

Diwali Dinner 2010 Pictures











Past Programs

Diwali Dinner Program

We held our Diwali Dinner Program at Rendevous Banquet Hall in Beltsville, MD on November 13. We had great attendance with over 840 attendees between GSB and GSMW. While almost everyone enjoyed the dinner we did run in to a few hiccups. Parking was at a premium and the hall did not have good acoustics to make our entertainment program come out as well as we had expected/planned.

While our arrangements with Banquet facility called for 84 tables, we were short by six tables as we were trying to get ready for the event so that we could start on time. It took the management sometime to scramble around and get 6 additional tables for us. Needless to say, it made it a little more challenging as some table numbers got out of sequence as we tried to set up the six additional tables without also rearranging table number assignments.

We thank all our volunteers who stepped forward to help us with the Diwali Dinner logistics, including those who stepped forward at the last minute. We would like to specially acknowledge the countless hours that were spent by Raj (Bunty) Patel to keep tract of all our attendees, including all last minute changes, table assignments and keeping track of all monies collected. All table assignments were made on first come first serve basis. In future, we suggest you book your tickets early to avoid disappointments. We also appreciate the class our members showed throughout the evening. Needless to say, we will have to think twice before we do another program such as this one on such a large scale.

For pictures of the event, please click on the following link:

http://picasaweb.google.com/GujaratiSofBaltimore/DiwaliDinner2010

When booking tickets for non-members, please keep in mind that we subsidize these programs. Please encourage all you know to become our members or have them book tickets as non-members.

General Body Meeting

The Annual General Body Meeting was held at the Greater Baltimore Temple on December 11. 2010. Payesh Jhaveri presented the Treasurer's Financial Report. Details are provided elsewhere in the Newsletter. Sly Patel reported on the audit performed for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010. While his audit did uncover some questionable disbursements in years 2008 and 2009, it did not have any material impact on the financial statements prepared by the Treasurer, including the presentation of the cash balance on hand. Manu Shah presented a report on the activities for the year 2010.

Revision of Bylaws

Revision of our Bylaws has been initiated by the Executive Committee with the goal of looking at all the articles and revising them as appropriate, including deleting of articles that are no longer appropriate, adding articles that more fully reflect the current conditions, better definition of the duties of the officers, qualifications and term lengths of the officers, and improving the election process as well as expanding the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees. We are reviewing Bylaws of our sister organizations to see what we need to add to our Bylaws. Once a working copy of the revised Bylaws becomes available, we will invite comments from the membership at large before presenting the proposed Bylaws at the General Body Meeting. In the meantime, we will be consulting with Past Presidents to get their feedback on what are the issues that we need to address with this round of revision. In the meantime, if you have any suggestions or comments, please get in touch with any member of the Executive Committee.

Upcoming Events

Ski, Snowboarding, or Snow Tubing

We are planning a trip to Ski Roundtop for February 26, 2011. Participation for this trip is limited to members only. Our capacity is limited to 47 participants on first come first serve basis. No refunds will be provided to anyone who registers and cancels the trip. Samaj will provide the bus transportation and lunch at a nominal cost of \$15 per person. In addition, members will get the group discounted rate from Ski Roundtop Resort for Ski or Snow tubing. Please refer to the registration page for more details. We highly encourage you to submit your registration with the payment so that it reaches us no later than February 11, 2011.

Light Dinner & Drama

We are planning for two dramas for Spring 2011. The first drama will be held on March 12, 2011 at New Town High School. The Baltimore County Public School system has initiated new procedures that we have to follow. We will be working with the school officials to comply with the new procedures which include crowd control measures.

The second drama – Lo Gujjubahi Ghode Chadiya - will be held on April 9, 2011 at High Point High School in Beltsville, MD. We have selected a central location for this drama to make it more cost effective and encourage greater participation from our community.

We are encouraging sponsorship for both dramas. If you would like to be a sponsor, please contact Atul Patel @ 410-833-2251 or Dipak Desai @ 410-356-5660 or Raj Patel @ 410-998-9838. Each sponsor will get 4, first row tickets. Details are provided elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Management & Team Building Training

We are planning a Team Building exercise for our volunteers to be held in early March. We invite those who are interested in serving our community in any volunteer capacity to please contact us. We would like to invite you to the next training session.

Event Sponsorship

Without the support of our members, volunteers, and the sponsors we would not have seen the success that we have enjoyed during the past few years. Sponsors have enabled us to plan and organize out of town trips such as trips to Vraj or Golden Temple. We would like to continue to organize such events to benefit our members and, in particular, seniors who have been able to participate in these events. Please contact any one of the Board members for event sponsorship or send us an email at contact@GSBaltimore.org.

Help Wanted

Caring family searching for a babysitter for their baby son. If you are interested, please call Ami at 443-845-0988.



Community News

It is with great sadness that we inform you that our member, co-founder and Past President of the Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore, Gopal N. Shah of Ellicott City, MD (formerly of Finksburg, MD) passed away peacefully on November 12, 2010.

He is survived by his wife, Suvarna G. Shah, his children Shreya and Shane, Nirav and Parul, his granddaughters Mira and Raima, his brother Kanubhai, and sisters Geeta and Vinodini and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and loved ones.

<u>For Members Only - Limited Capacity - One Bus Only - No Refunds</u> SKI, SNOWBOARDING, OR SNOW TUBING EVENT REGISTRATION FORM:

PLACE: Ski Roundtop, 925 Roundtop Road, Lewisberry, PA 17339 Date: February 26, 2011 Pickup at 8:00 AM and Drop-off at 8:00 PM at Owings Mills Metro Station



Please complete the form below and mail it along with your payment to Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore, P.O. Box 687, Baltimore, MD 21117. Use the worksheet below to calculate the total payment. Please ensure that the payment reaches us within a week if registered online or by February 11, 2011 whichever comes first. Please note: Each participant is required to sign Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore's and Ski Roundtop's liability release forms. Both liability release forms will be provided on the day of the trip.

Name of Member attending the event	Relationship to Member	Age_
_	-	

Ski, Snowboard, Snow Tubing Package - Age 4 and Older	# of Persons Attending	Group Rate	Amount
All Day Ski or Snowboard Package: Includes rental equipment and free class lesson at any ability level.)	\$75	=
Snow Tubing: <u>Two consecutive hour</u> s of snow tubing	,	\$25	=
Total number of persons attending the event - transportation and meal cost per person	,	\$15	=
Total Cost: Please make check payable to Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore		Total Cost	

Note: Payment must reach us within a week after the registration (if registered online) or latest by February 11, 2011 whichever comes first.

No refunds or substitutions. Mail the payment to: Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore, P.O.Box 687, Owings Mills, MD 21117







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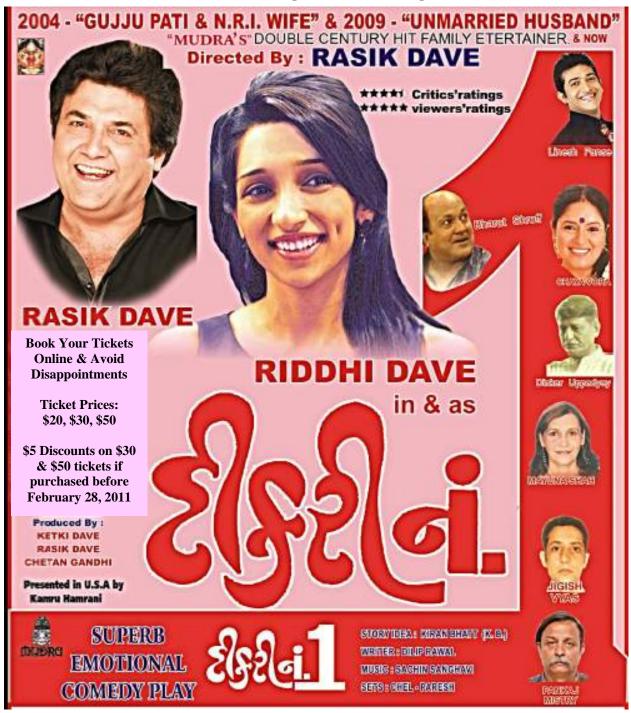
MONDAY CLOSED

FEBRUARY 22 - NOVEMBER 14 TUE-SAT: 11:00 AM TO 8:00 PM SUNDAY: 11:00 AM TO 5.00 PM

Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore Proudly Presents on March 12, 2011

Drama with Light Dinner

Light Dinner (Pre-paid tickets only): 6:30 to 8:00 PM; Drama: 8:30 PM Place: New Town High School, Owings Mills, MD



Tickets: \$20, \$30, & \$50. Book your tickets online at WWW.GSBaltimore.org Get \$5 early discount on \$30 and \$50 tickets if purchased before February 28, 2011. Mail Payment to: Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore, P.O. Box 687, Owings Mills, MD 21117

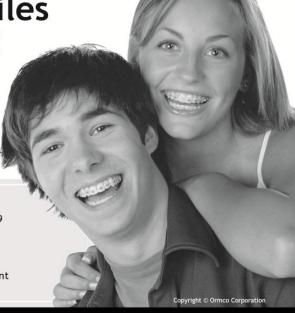
To register, please call any committee member or visit our website. Sponsor this event for as low as \$500. Each sponsor will get 4, first row tickets. Contact Atul Patel @ 410-833-2251 or Dipak Desai @ 410-356-5660 or Raj Patel @ 410-998-9838



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ABOUT DR. KAMLESH PATEL

Dr. Patel received his Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) degree in 1986 from the University of Pennsylvania, School of Dental Medicine, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He completed one year Comprehensive General Practice Residency at the V.A. Medical Center (1987-1988) Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Patel, then practiced General & Cosmetic Dentistry for 4 years treating all phases of General Dentistry. Dr. Patel, formerly, served as a Clinical Instructor, Department of Oral Medicine, Temple University, School of Dentistry, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dr. Patel, completed his Specialty training in Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics in 1994 at the Howard University, College of Dentistry, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Patel has been published in the "American Journal of Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics" and the "Journal of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery".

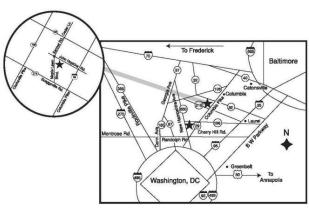
Dr. Patel is a member of the American Association of Orthodontists, the Maryland State Society of Orthodontists, the American Dental Association and the Maryland State Dental Association.

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Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore Proudly Presents on April 09, 2011

Drama with Light Dinner

Light Dinner (Pre-paid tickets only): 6:30 to 8:00 PM; Drama: 8:30 PM Place: High Point High School, Beltsville, MD



Tickets: \$25, \$35, & \$50. <u>Book your tickets online at WWW.GSBaltimore.org</u>
Get \$5 early discount on \$35 and \$50 tickets if purchased before March 27, 2011.

Mail Payment to: Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore, P.O. Box 687, Owings Mills, MD 21117

To register, please call any committee member or visit our website. Sponsor this event for as low as \$500. Each sponsor will get 4, first row tickets. Contact Atul Patel @ 410-833-2251 or Dipak Desai @ 410-356-5660 or Raj Patel @ 410-998-9838

Treasurer's Report - Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009 And January 1, 2010 - November 30, 2010

	Calendar Year 2009	Calendar Year 2010
alance on Hand January 01, 2009 and January 01, 2010	\$162,704	\$153,059
	Total	Total
eceipts - Events and Program Specific		
Navratri	\$23,967	\$29,192
Diwali	10,841	10,259
Drama	17,754	9,865
G50 Proceeds from Evening Program	, -	6,988
Events & Program Specific Donations/Contributions Received	1,751	5,558
G50 Souvenir Advertisement Proceeds	1,731	5,517
	-	· ·
Other Receipts (Vendors, etc.)	-	2,927
Youth and Other Events (Bowling, Ski trips)	3,825	1,795
Temple & Other Field Trips	13,885	1,474
Picnic	1,121	1,139
	\$73,144	\$74,714
sbursements - Events and Program Specific		
Professional Fees and Other Payments to Independent Contractors	446.000	A
(Includes Payment For Drama, Caterers, Artist for Navratri/Diwali)	\$49,020	\$20,937
Event Fees & Supplies (Fees, Misc Food & Supplies)	10,430	14,770
	-	·
Occupancy, Rent (School Facilities), Utilities, and Maintenance	13,959	11,976
Transportation & Related (Contractors)	14,528	6,000
Event Specific Printing, Publications, Postage, and Shipping	-	2,712
Music System Rental & Audio Technicians	3,663	2,300
Custodial Service Fees (Janitorial)	2,900	2,282
Donations Paid	1,963	2,000
	\$96,463	\$62,976
	430,403	402,370
eceipts Less total Disbursements - Events and Program Specific	(\$23,319)	\$11,73
Investment Income Management Training and Team Building Donations - General	3,137 - 6,086 \$9,223	678 360 \$2,313
sbursements - General	<i>\$3,223</i>	72,313
Printing, Publications, Postage, and Shipping	\$3,947	\$6,493
Professional Fees	1,500	950
Office Supplies	295	596
Liability Insurance	324	479
Meetings and Administrative Costs	250	436
Management Training and Team Building	-	363
Bank Fees	33	46
Donations Paid - General	-	_
	\$6,349	\$9,363
cceipts Less total Disbursements - General	\$2,874	(\$7,04
celpts Less total Disbursements - General	\$2,074	(77,04
eceipts - Membership Dues		
Members' Dues - Life Membership (51 - Year 2009; 14 - Year 2010)	\$10,200	\$2,800
Members' Dues - Annual Membership (12 - Year 2009; 4 - Year 2010)	600	200
tal Membership Dues Received	\$10,800	\$3,00
et Increase or Decrease in Cash Balance	(\$9,645)	\$7,68
	\$153,059	\$160,74
alance on Hand December 31, 2009 & December 31. 2010	+===,===	7=30):
alance on Hand December 31, 2009 & December 31, 2010		
repared: Nov-10		

- (1): Clarification of expense categories subject to change based on either Auditor's Report or any additional information made available after the report date.
- (2): 2010 Events and Program specific surplus of \$11,738 reflects \$35,057 improvement over prior year.
- (3): 2010 Increase in cash position of \$7,689 reflects \$17,334 improvement over prior year.

omparative Program Summary Report - Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore. 2009 vs 2010

	;			;		Swarnim	;	
Row Labels	Diwali	Drama	Field Trips	Navratri	Picnic	Gujarat	Youth Events	Grand Total
2010								
Receipts	\$10,259	\$10,365	\$6,127	\$29,597	\$1,139	\$15,432	\$1,795	\$74,714
Receipts-Advertisement Income						5,517		5,517
Receipts-Diwali	10,259							10,259
Receipts-Donation		200	4,653	405				5,558
Receipts-Drama		9,865						9,865
Receipts-Field Trips (Temple, Others)			1,474					1,474
Receipts-Music Program						6,988		6,988
Receipts-Navratri				29,192				29,192
Receipts-Other						2,927		2,927
Receipts-Picnic					1,139			1,139
Receipts-Youth & Other Program (Snow Tubing, Bowling,)							1,795	1,795
Disbursements	\$12,080	\$10,910	\$6,063	\$15,043	\$4,111	\$11,297	\$3,473	\$62,976
Disbursements-Custodial Service Fees (Janitorial)	275	460		1,350	20	147		2,282
Disbursements-Donations Paid		200	1,200	009				2,000
Disbursements-Event fees & supplies (fees, misc food & supplies)	1,378	3,616	613	2,778	2,731	3,128	527	14,770
Disbursements-Music System Rental		200		1,800				2,300
Disbursements-Occupancy, rent (school facilities), utilities, and maintenance	2,500	1,134		4,265	1,330	1,565	1,183	11,976
Disbursements-Printing, publications, postage, and shipping				250		2,448	13	2,712
Disbursements-Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors	7,927	2,000		4,000		4,010		20,937
Disbursements-Transportation & Related (Contractors)			4,250				1,750	000'9
Event Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$1,821)	(\$545)	\$64	\$14,554	(\$2,972)	\$4,135	(\$1,678)	\$11,738
2009								
Receipts	\$10,841	\$17,754	\$15,636	\$23,967	\$1,121		\$3,825	\$73,144
Receipts-Diwali	10,841							10,841
Receipts-Donation			1,751					1,751
Receipts-Drama		17,754						17,754
Receipts-Field Trips (Temple, Others)			13,885					13,885
Receipts-Navratri				23,967				23,967
Receipts-Picnic					1,121			1,121
Receipts-Youth & Other Program (Snow Tubing, Bowling,)							3,825	3,825
Disbursements	\$26,664	\$25,363	\$24,278	\$8,392	\$4,934		\$6,830	\$96,462
Disbursements-Custodial Service Fees (Janitorial)	360	925	350	1,165	40		09	2,900
Disbursements-Donations Paid			1,963					1,963
Disbursements-Event fees & supplies (fees, misc food & supplies)	464	4,683	2,398	2	699		2,210	10,430
Disbursements-Music System Rental	951	1,710		1,002				3,663
Disbursements-Occupancy, rent (school facilities), utilities, and maintenance		3,610	7,849	2,350	150			13,959
Disbursements-Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors	24,889	14,386		3,870	4,075		1,800	49,020
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14,528

1,800 2,760

7,849 11,718

20

Disbursements-Transportation & Related (Contractors)

Event Surplus / (Deficit)



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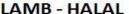


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ઈશ્વર : 'શું તું મારી સાથે ચેટિંગ કરવા માંગે છે ?'

હું : 'ના, મેં તમને બોલાવ્યા નથી. તમે કોણ છો ?'

ઈશ્વર : 'વત્સ ! ફૂં આ સમસ્ત બ્રહ્માંડનો અને આ મૃષ્ટિનો સર્જક છું....ઈશ્વર છું.'

હું : 'હું કેવી રીતે માનું કે તમે ઈશ્વર છો ? તમારા જેવા તો ઘણા પોતાની જાતને અહીં 'ભગવાન' કહેવડાવે છે.'

ઈશ્વર : 'માનવું કે ન માનવું એ તારી મરજીની વાત છે. મને તેનાથી કોઈ ફરક નથી પડતો. તને જો તારી જાતમાં વિશ્વાસ ન ફોય તો પછી મારામાં ક્યાંથી ફોય ?'

હું : 'ઓ.કે. પરંતુ હું અત્યારે નવરો નથી. તમારી સાથે વાત કરવાનો મને સમય નથી. તમે જાણો છો કે હું કેટલો વ્યસ્ત છું ?

ઈશ્વર : 'વ્યસ્ત તો કીડી મંકોડા પણ આખો દિવસ હ્રોય છે !'

હું : 'તમને ખબર નથી કે અમારે કેટલું કામ હ્રોય છે. જિંદગી કેટલી ઝડપી થઈ ગઈ છે. અત્યારે 'પીક અવર્સ' યાલે છે.

ઈશ્વર : 'ભાઈ, સવારના પહેરમાં તું છાપાઓમાં ભરેલો દુનિયાભરનો કયરો મગજમાં ઠાલવે છે. એટલું ઓછું

હ્રોય તેમ, અત્યારે તારા 'પીક અવર્સ'માં ઈન્ટરનેટથી બીજા વધારે કચરાનો ઉમેરો કરે છે. આને તું

વ્યસ્તતા કહે છે ? તને તારા માટે કુરસદ ન હોય તો મારા માટે તો ક્યાંથી હોય ? પણ

મને થયું યાલ, ઈન્ટરનેટ પર તો તું યોક્કસ મળી જ જઈશ અને તને એ વધુ અનુકૂળ પડશે; જેમ

તું તારા પુત્રોને મોબાઈલ પર જ મળી લે છે ને તેમ !'

હું : 'જો તમે ખરેખર ઈશ્વર હોવ તો મને જવાબ આપો કે જિંદગી આટલી બધી ગુંચવણભરી કેમ બની ગઈ છે ?'

ઈશ્વર : 'જિંદગીનું બહુ પિષ્ટપેષણ કરવું

સારું નિહ. અતિશય ઉપભોક્તાવાદ અને આડેધડની તૃષ્ણાઓ ઓછી કરીને સહજ રીતે જીવ, બેટા !'

હું : 'તમને ખબર છે કે અમારું જીવનધોરણ કેટલું ઊંચું થઈ ગયું છે ?'

ઈશ્વર : 'હા, ફક્ત તારું જીવનધોરણ જ ઊંચું ગયું છે, જીવન ઊંચું નથી ગયું… એ જ તો તકલીફ છે ને !'

હું :'તો શું અમારે પાછા જવું ? પાછા ફરવું તો અમારે માટે શક્ય જ નથી.'

ઈશ્વર : 'મેં તને પાછા ફરવાનું કહ્યું નથી, પરંતુ ધારે તો તું નવેસરથી શરૂઆત તો કરી શકે ને ? ટેકનોલૉજીએ ઊભા કરેલા તારા પ્રશ્નોને દૂર કરવા માટે તારે જ કોઈ નવી ટેકનોલોજી વિકસાવવી પડશે !'

ઠ્ઠું : 'અમે કાયમ ઉદાસ, નિસ્તેજ અને દુ:ખી કેમ હોઈએ છીએ **?**'

ઈશ્વર : 'હરીફાઈમાં સતત આગળ નીકળવા તેં તારી જાતને 'ઉંદરદોડ'માં મૂકી દીધી છે. પહેલાં તું સફળતા

માટે દોડતો હતો, હવે તું સફળતા ટકાવી રાખવા દોડે છે! આમ, તારા માટે દોડાદોડ કરવા સિવાય

કશું જ બચ્યું નથી. તું હવે તો ખડખડાટ હસવાનું પણ ભૂલી ગયો છે. સતત ચિંતા

કરવી અને અસલામતીનો ભય રાખવો એ જ હવે તારો સ્વભાવ થઈ ગયો છે. તો પછી ઉદાસ ને દુ:ખી જ રહેવાય ને ?'

હું : 'પણ તમને ખબર છે કે અમે સતત લટકતી

તલવાર નીચે કામ કરતાં હોઈએ છીએ. અમારે અમારા ટારગેટ સમયસર પૂરા કરવાના હોય છે અને બીજી બાજુ મકાનના હપ્તાં, બાળકો ની ફી ભરવાની હોય છે. કોઈક વાર તો ગાડીના હપ્તાં ભરવાના પણ બાકી રહી જાય છે. તો પછી

ચિંતા કેમ ન થાય ? ભાવિ બધું જ અનિશ્ચિત દેખાય છે.'

ઈશ્વર : 'એ તો ભાઈ જો, જગતમાં મૃત્યુ સિવાય બધું જ અનિશ્ચિત છે. કેટલી બાબતોની

ચિંતા કર્યા કરીશ ? ચિંતા કરવી કે નહીં એ તારા હાથની વાત છે.'

હું : 'પણ એ દરેક અનિશ્ચિતતા સાથે દર્દ, પીડા અને પરેશાની જોડાયેલી હોય છે,એનું શું ?'

ઈશ્વર : 'વ્હાલા દીકરા ! મેં તારું સર્જન તને પીડા કે દુ:ખી કરવા નથી કર્યું. જો એવું હોત તો મેં તારા જન્મ પહેલાં તારા દૂધની

વ્યવસ્થા ન કરી હ્રોત. જિંદગી દુ:ખી થવા માટે નથી. આ બધી પીડા તો તેં તારી જાતે જ ઊભી કરેલી છે. દુનિયાની દોડમાં તું બરાબર ફસાયો છે. કાદવમાં ફસાયેલો

માણસ કાદવમાં વધારે ઊંડો ઊતરતો જાય એવું છે ! તેં વાઘ પર સવારી માંડી છે અને હવે તું ગભરાય છે કે વાઘ મને ફાડી ખાશે ! હું : 'પ્રભુ ! ખરૂં પૂછો તો આટલી બધી પીડાઓ, મુશ્કેલીઓ વચ્ચે અમે કઈ રીતે જીવીએ છીએ એ જ ખબર નથી પડતી.'

ઈશ્વર : 'તું સતત બહાર ભટકીને ખરેખર થાકી ગયો છે. જરાક તારી અંદર ખોજ કર. થોડું આત્મદર્શન કર. એમ કરીશ તો તને ખબર પડશે કે તું ક્યાં જઈ રહ્યો છે.'

હું : 'તમે તો ઈશ્વર છો, તો મને કપરા સંજોગો અને મુશ્કેલીના સમયમાં ટકવાની યાવી બતાવો ને !'

ઈશ્વર : 'તારામાં પણ અપાર શક્તિ છે.એને

ઓળખવાની કોશિશ કર. મુશ્કેલીઓનો સામનો કરવાનો એ જ ઉપાય છે. થોડી ધીરજ, હિંમત, વિશ્વાસ અને ઉત્સાફ રાખ. કપરાં સંજોગો પણ કાયમ કપરાં રહેતાં નથી, એ પણ વફી જવાના છે.'

ઠ્ઠું : 'ચલો, એ તો બરાબર. પણ મને એ પ્રશ્ન થાય છે કે દુનિયામાં લોકો આટલા બધા સ્વાર્થી કેમ થઈ ગયા છે **?**'

ઈશ્વર : 'લોકો જેવા છે તેવા સ્વીકારી લે. બીજાને બદલવાનો મિથ્યા પ્રયાસ ન કરીશ. તારી જાતને ઓળખીને તેને બદલવા કોશિશ કર.'

ું : 'એ તો ઠું સમજ્યો પણ મને એ નથી સમજાતું કે દુનિયામાં સારા માણસોને જ કેમ સહન કરવું પડે છે **?**'

ઈશ્વર : 'બેટા, સારા માણસોની જ કસોટી થાય છે. સોનું કસોટીમાંથી શુદ્ધ થઈને બહાર આવે છે. એ રીતે પ્રશ્નો, મુશ્કેલીઓ હકીકતે આંતરિક શક્તિ અને સહનશીલતા વધારે છે.'

હું : 'તમે હાલની માનવજાત માટે શું માનો છો ?'

ઈશ્વર : 'એ જ કે, પૈસા મેળવવા માટે સ્વાસ્થ્ય ગુમાવે છે અને પછી સ્વાસ્થ મેળવવા પૈસા ગુમાવે છે ! અર્થાત પૈસાનું પાણી કરે છે ! બાળપણમાં કંટાળો અનુભવે છે અને ઘડપણમાં બાળપણ ખોળે

છે. યુવાનીમાં તો એ રીતે જીવે છે જાણે કે કદી મૃત્યુ આવવાનું જ નથી ! જ્યારે કોઈ મુશ્કેલી આવે છે ત્યારે કહે છે 'મને એકલાને જ આવું કે મ ?' બાકી ક્યારેય સુખમાં 'હું એકલો કેમ ?' એવો પ્રશ્ન એને નથી થતો.

હું : 'પ્રભુ, તમે જિંદગીને ઉત્તમતાથી માણવાનું રહ્સ્ય મને કહો.'

ઈશ્વર : 'તનેહંમેશા સામે કિનારે જ સુખ દેખાય છે. તારી પાસે જે કંઈ છે, જેટલું

છે એને ભોગવ. જે નથી એની ચિંતા ના કરીશ. સતત ફરિયાદ અને સરખામણી ન કરીશ. સતત સરખામણી કરીને તેં તારા ઘરમાં પણ આગ લગાડી છે. ભૂતકાળને ભૂલીને વર્તમાનને વિશ્વાસથી વધાવતાં ભવિષ્ય માટે તૈયાર રહે. નફરત અને નકારાત્મક વિયારો છોડી દે નહીં તો એ વધુ જોરથી તારી પાસે આવશે. બીજાને પ્રેમ કર તો આપોઆપ લોકો તને પ્રેમ કરશે. થોડુંક્ષમા આપવાનું પણ રાખ.'

હું : 'મારો એક છેલ્લો સવાલ એ છે કે મારી પ્રાર્થનાઓ કોઈ દિવસ તમને સંભળાય છે ખરી ?'

ઈશ્વર : 'બધી જ સંભળાય છે પરંતુ જવાબ આપવાની મારી રીત

જુદી હ્રેય છે. મારા જવાબો ભવ્ય પર્વતો, ઝરણાં, નદીઓ, સમુદ્રો અને વૃક્ષોની વનરાજીમાં છે. ભવ્ય સૂર્યોદય અને સૂર્યાસ્તમાં છે. દરરોજ એક સુંદર પ્રભાત થાય છે – આ બધા મારા જવાબો છે. પરંતુ તને તે જોવાની ફુરસદ જ ક્યાં છે ? યાંદની રાતે કોઈકવાર ખુલ્લા આકાશ સામે શાંતચિત્તે થોડો સમય બેસીને મંદ મંદ વહેતા પવનની લહેરો કે તમરાનું મધુર સંગીત માણ્યું છે ? એ માણતાં શીખીશ તો તને મારા જવાબો મળી જશે.

હું : 'આપને મળીને ખૂબ સારું લાગ્યું. આ વાર્તાલાપ માટે આપનો ખૂબ ખૂબ આભાર. મારા માટે કોઈ સંદેશ છે ?' ઈશ્વર : 'વત્સ ! મારામાં શ્રદ્ધા રાખ. હું તને આ સંસારના બધા ભચોમાંથી મુક્ત કરી દઈશ. જિંદગી એક રહ્સ્ય છે પણ કોયડો નથી. મને યાદ કરજે, મારામાં નિષ્ઠા રાખજે. કદીયે હતાશ થઈશ નહીં. તું હાંક મારજે, હું અયૂક હાજર થઈ જઈશ કારણ કે તું મારું સર્વશ્રેષ્ઠ સર્જન છે. તું મને વ્હાલો છે.

> રતિભાઈ પટેલ રીતાં મહેતાં-પટેલ

Group Activities for: २, श, य, स, अ

Find words that match with the pictures and write them. $\uparrow \downarrow \rightarrow \leftarrow \lor \uparrow \land \lor \downarrow$



laugh

juice



cry



fear





challenge



create



touch

Rearrange letters to form words that match meanings. Speak them out loud.

તશર _____ = challenge રશબત _____

= juice

 + 2 원

 = shyness
 생 2 원

= effect

ડ સ ક _____ = road

Fill in the blanks with Gujarati words and speak loudly 3 times.

RaSa

SaRaSa RaSa



SHaRaDa.

SaRaSa

Sample syllabus from Children's Level 1 Gujarati Class TAUGHT AT BAPS SWAMINARAYAN MANDIR (BELTSVILLE, MD). FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT NITINBHAI MODHA AT (301).351.6287



2011 UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Ski/Snow Tubing Trip to Ski Roundtop	February 26, 2011
Light Dinner & Drama – Dikri No. 1 (Rasik Dave, Ketki Dave, & Riddhi Dave)	March 12, 2011
Light Dinner & Drama – Lo Gujjubhai Ghode Chadiya (Siddharth Randeria)	April 9, 2011
Management & Team Building Training	March 2011
Temple Trip	TBD
Picnic @ Centennial Park East Pavilion H	August 20, 2011
Navratri @ TBD	October TBD
Navratri @ TBD	October TBD
Navratri @ TBD	October TBD
Diwali Dinner	TBD
General Body Meeting	TBD

FORWARDING POSTAGE GUARANTEED ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore