



*Nilkanth  
Abhishek Mandap*

**BAPS** Shri Swaminarayan Mandir  
LONDON

# SHRI NILKANTH VARNI



After renouncing his home at the tender age of 11, Bhagwan Swaminarayan embarked upon a spiritual journey of epic proportions that took him around India, into Nepal and Tibet, and through Myanmar (Burma) and Bangladesh. During this time, he came to be known as Nilkanth Varni. Barefooted and alone, Nilkanth walked almost 8,000 miles over 7 years, blessing the land and liberating numerous spiritual aspirants along the way. Carrying no maps, no food and no money, he crossed raging rivers, faced ferocious animals and survived the freezing winter of the Himalayas. His journey is a story of courage, kindness and enlightenment.

To commemorate and pay tribute to Bhagwan Swaminarayan's arduous journey, His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj ceremoniously dedicated the murti of Shri Nilkanth Varni at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir on 6 September 2004, allowing for a daily routine of abhishek and worship.

## ABHISHEK CEREMONY

Abhishek is the ancient Hindu practice of pouring water over the sacred image of God to honour him and to attain his blessings. It is also an opportunity for devotees to pray to God, asking him to cleanse one's soul.

Abhishek of the sacred image of Nilkanth Varni is performed daily to the chanting of Vedic verses, including the ancient peace-prayer called the Shanti-Paath, and the recital of the 108 auspicious and liberating names of Bhagwan Swaminarayan, called the Sahajanand Namavali. In all, the complete ceremony takes around 15 minutes.



Devotees often offer an abhishek – or arrange for one to be performed on their behalf – on days of special significance to them, such as a birthday, wedding anniversary or in remembrance of a loved one, or sometimes to seek blessings for personal reasons.



## ABHISHEK MANDAP

The Abhishek Mandap is a marble chamber on the lower floor of BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir. It houses the sacred image of Shri Nilkanth Varni, the teenage form of Bhagwan Swaminarayan.

The chamber is clad with Brazilian and Italian marble and embellished with intricate traditional designs.

At the chamber's heart lies the murti (sacred image) of Shri Nilkanth Varni in gilded brass. He is depicted mid-step (in classical contrapposto pose); emaciated, yet with a calm and resolute look. With hair matted above and a small gutko (handwritten manuscript of excerpts from sacred texts) wrapped in a kerchief around his neck, he is wearing nothing but his loincloth tied at the waist by a jute cord. In his left hand, he is carrying a dand (wooden staff) and kamandalu (drinking pot made from dry gourd), both common marks of Hindu asceticism.

---

*They who perform the abhishek ritual...  
receive the merit of visiting all the holy places of pilgrimage  
and performing all the sacrificial rites.*

19.122-124 Aniruddha Samhita

---

# BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir

LONDON



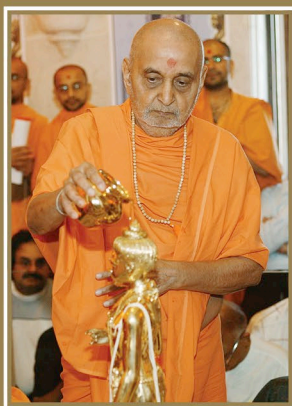
## ABHISHEK TIMINGS

- 9.30am to 12 noon daily
- 4.00pm to 6.00pm Sunday to Friday
- 4.00pm to 5.30pm Saturday

## ABHISHEK SEVA

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| • Abhishek on one day  | £5     |
| • Abhishek on every Punam for one year   | £51    |
| • Abhishek on every Ekadashi for one year  | £101   |
| • Daily abhishek to be offered on your behalf by swamis every morning for one year | £365   |
| • Daily abhishek for one year  | £1,001 |
| • Abhishek on every Punam for a lifetime   | £1,001 |
| • Abhishek on every Ekadashi for a lifetime  | £1,501 |

If you would like an abhishek to be performed on a day of significance to you, please visit [londonmandir.baps.org/abhishek](http://londonmandir.baps.org/abhishek) or the Donation Counter at the Mandir. For further information, please email [info@londonmandir.baps.org](mailto:info@londonmandir.baps.org).



BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir

105-119 Brentfield Road, Neasden, London NW10 8LD, UK

+44 (0)20 8965 2651 | [info@londonmandir.baps.org](mailto:info@londonmandir.baps.org)

[londonmandir.baps.org](http://londonmandir.baps.org) | [@NeasdenTemple](https://twitter.com/NeasdenTemple) | [neasdentemple](https://www.instagram.com/neasdentemple)

© BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, UK Charity No. 1143083 CLG No. 7313272