

## ANCIENT SECRET OF ENLIGHTENMENT SAT-CHIT-ANAND WATER SHOW

We wonder what happens when fire flows like water and water flames like fire...  
When sound paint pictures and colors sing songs...  
When clouds come down and rains go up...  
When laser begin to crawl and rocks begin to melt...  
When the light from the past illuminates the stars of our future...  
When science and spirituality hold hands...  
Time stops the mind opens and heart prays...  
Amidst a mist of mysticism, the great Upanishads come alive...

### And the ancient secret is revealed!

#### INTRODUCTION:

The Sat-Chit-Anand Water Show is a new, enchanting addition to the Swaminarayan Akshardham complex in Gandhinagar, the capital city of Gujarat. 'Sat' means Truth, 'Chit' means Consciousness and 'Anand' means Bliss: Consciousness of the Ultimate Truth leads to the experience of Eternal Bliss. The show reveals this ancient secret of India through the gripping Upanishadic story of Nachiketa, a nine-year-old boy who bravely confronts Yamaraj, the god of death, and receives from him the knowledge of immortality and eternal happiness. It is the world's first water show created to convey a spiritual message through a delightful fusion of lasers, lights, water, fire, sound, animation, video projection and live characters.

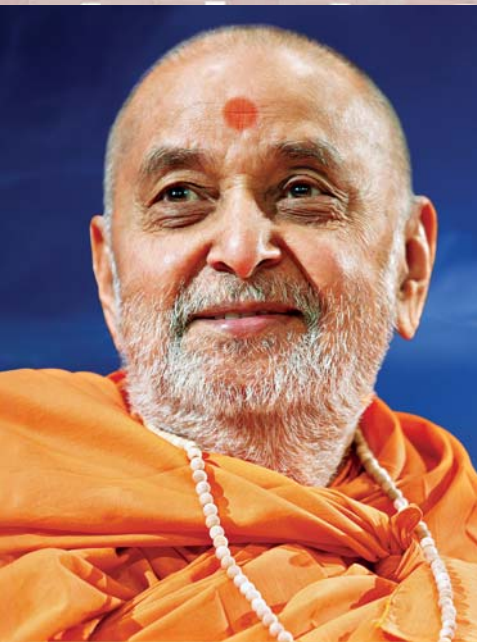
#### THE STORY:

The show begins with a mystical introduction to India's cultural and spiritual glory using colourful combinations of water, lasers and lights. The narrator then introduces the story of Nachiketa - a fearless and determined 9-year-old boy who has been an inspiration to the countless generations of children of India since ancient times. Live actors play the roles of Nachiketa and his father, Uddalak Rishi, and take the audience back 10,000 years to the time of Vedic India. Nachiketa travels to the land of death when Uddalak, angered by his son's persistent questioning, sends him to Yamaraj. Nachiketa arrives in the land of death and has to wait for three days before he meets the god of death.

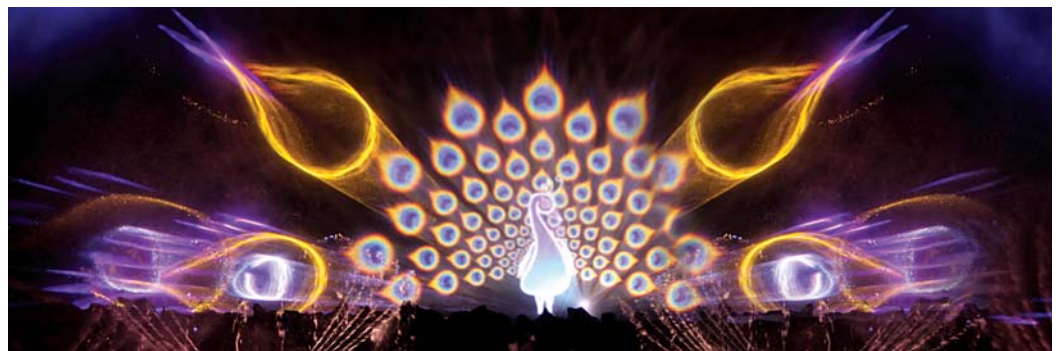
Projected on a 60-feet high water screen, Yamaraj creates thunderstorms, volcanoes, fire and tornadoes to scare the little boy by his powers of destruction. However, Nachiketa remains unmoved. Impressed by Nachiketa's fearlessness, Yamaraj offers him three boons. Nachiketa first requests that his father's peace of mind is restored. Then he asks for details of the 'yagna' ceremony by which all people can attain divine wisdom. Finally, Nachiketa asks Yamaraj to reveal the truth about what happens after death and how to attain eternal happiness. Not sure of Nachiketa's spiritual determination and eligibility to receive such elevated spiritual wisdom, Yamaraj tries to tempt him by offering him worldly pleasures - colourfully depicted by lasers, video projections, lights and water fountains - but Nachiketa remains unaffected by all the enticements. Yamaraj is thus convinced of Nachiketa's genuine spiritual quest and enlightens him with the knowledge of atman and Paramatman - the source of eternal happiness. The show concludes with a grand finale celebrating the joys of life, presented by an impressive combination of fountains, laser, lights, sound and fire.



SWAMINARAYAN  
**Akshardham**  
GANDHINAGAR



Inspirer : HDH Pramukh Swami Maharaj



## THE HISTORY:

The Sat-Chit-Anand Water Show has been produced by BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha in a technical and creative collaboration with ECA2, a creative agency from France. In early 2009, BAPS created concepts and generated a storyline for the show. World renowned creative director and founder of ECA2, Yves Pépin, visited India for creative discussions on this storyline. While the storyboard was taking shape, a team of engineers - from both BAPS and ECA2 - started working on the engineering tasks of the site construction. By mid 2009, the storyboard was ready and actual production of the show began at the BAPS headquarters in Ahmedabad, India. The water show set construction and technical installations began at Swaminarayan Akshardham in Gandhinagar in September 2009. Electrical panels, pumps, nozzles, lights, control systems, laser systems and fibre networks were installed and commissioned in only four months by the efforts of BAPS volunteers and the guidance of ECA2 staff. Extensive construction was necessary to prepare the new landscape and backdrop for the show and was completed by BAPS volunteers. In just two weeks, a 45-minute preview show was prepared for preliminary trials. Finally, on 3 April 2010, the show was opened to the public by the spiritual head of BAPS, His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj, in the presence of the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Narendra Modi and renowned nuclear scientist Shri Dr R. Chidambaram. The show is now open to the public.

The show plays every evening after sunset from Tuesdays to Sundays. Entry to the arena closes 15 minutes prior to the show time.

## SHOW FEATURES:

- 130 ft wide and 60 ft tall water screen
- 44,000 lumens of video projection
- Multicolor laser projection
- 10.2 surround sound system
- 4000 water nozzles, 118 pumps and 2000 lights
- 10 multidimensional water nozzles
- 12 fire balls and 500 sq ft of fire on water

## SHOW FACTS:

- Location:** Swaminarayan Akshardham, Gandhinagar  
**Viewing Style:** Open-air Amphitheater  
**Duration:** 45 minutes  
**Show times:** Right after sunset.  
**Admission:** Rs. 75 for adults, Rs. 55 for children below 11 years.

## BAPS SWAMINARAYAN SANSTHA:

BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) is a social, cultural and spiritual organization headquartered in India with a worldwide network of over 3,300 centres. BAPS is a not-for-profit charitable NGO affiliated with United Nation's Economic and Social Council. Along with humanitarian activities, BAPS also nourishes universal values through cultural centers like Swaminarayan Akshardham in New Delhi and in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Website: [www.baps.org](http://www.baps.org)

## Yves Pépin, ECA2:

ECA2's Creative Director, Yves Pépin, has conceived and staged one-off productions for a host of landmark events, including: the Euro Disney Opening Ceremony, the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the 1998 Football World Cup in Paris, and the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens. He was also the Artistic Adviser, along with Steven Spielberg and Ric Birch, for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies. ECA2 has also created permanent multimedia shows for theme parks such as Sea World (USA), Futuroscope (France), Tokyo Disney Sea (Japan) and Sentosa (Singapore).

Website: [www.eca2.fr](http://www.eca2.fr)

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