

Chapter 16

Sentiments of Senior Satsangis

While Nandaji found his grief at Shastriji Maharaj's passing almost unbearable, his affection for Swamishri led him to come regularly for Swamishri's darshan despite his busy schedule. His visits with Swamishri would bring him peace.

On this occasion, Swamishri had come to Ahmedabad for his sake. Nandaji paid tribute to Shastriji Maharaj in the assembly, saying, "The Swamini Vato declare that the great never leave us. They forever travel within Satsang. Maharaj has continued his work on Earth through the lineage of gurus. This tradition will not cease, but it will continue through Yogiji Maharaj."

While followers of Shastriji Maharaj would naturally feel this way, even the trustee of the Vartal diocese, the senior *satsangi* and government lawyer, Hariprasadbhai Choksi,

had paid tribute to Shastriji Maharaj by informing Yogiji Maharaj in a letter dated 12 July 1951:

“Possessor of all auspicious virtues, beloved of Shriji, *Param Ekantik*, the greatest celibate, crown jewel amongst the sadhus, Most Revered Yogiji Maharaj, please accept my service...

“...this loss has left me wracked by the extreme anguish of grief. Yet, Shriji Maharaj resides eternally within you. Akshar and the *akshar-muktas* reside together with him. Thus, your will possesses the power to create and destroy universes. Swamishri resides eternally in your heart along with Shriji... My heart yearns to meet you. May Shriji fulfill this wish of mine.”

Civic leaders and senior *satsangis* across the Sampradaya who had remained in the company of countless sadhus over the years had realized Shastriji Maharaj’s unique glory. Today, they experienced absolute solace in Swamishri’s company. Moreover, they accepted that Maharaj has remained present on Earth

through the *ekantik Sant*. These incidents indicate how profoundly Swamishri's saintliness had touched society.

After blessing Nandaji, Swamishri traveled to Surendranagar, where he stayed for two days at the home of Trikambhai Ramjibhai. From Limbdi, Chhaganbhai, Govardhanbhai, and other devotees of Jhalavad came for Swamishri's darshan.

After meeting everyone, Swamishri returned to Gondal on 2 August 1951 (Ashadh *vad* 15, V.S. 2007). From 3 to 7 August 1951 (Shravan *sud* 1–5, V.S. 2007), the Limbdi Satsang Mandal organized a *parayan* in Gondal in which Swamishri delivered spiritual discourses. Sidibhai Saheb of Gondal, Natubha Darbar of Ganod, Railway Deputy Manager Kumar Madhavsinhji, and devotees from Rajkot, Jamnagar, Limbdi, Ramod, Devchadi, Manavadar, Rajula, and other villages were present at the *parayan*. As a result, many new spiritual aspirants realized Swamishri's greatness and accepted initiation into Satsang.

Kothari Vasudev Swami, Daji Bapu, and Viramji Bapu had made suitable arrangements for everyone.

On Tuesday, 7 August 1951, Swamishri concluded the *parayan* and traveled to Rajkot. Krishnaji Ada's birth anniversary was celebrated in a satsang assembly held at his memorial site. The assembly commenced with Swamishri being honored by a marching band. Then, Swamishri blessed the assembly, "Shastriji Maharaj remains with us in a divine form. One just needs to develop the proper understanding to see this. One should understand the glory of our association with manifest God. One should identify one's flaws and endeavor to eradicate them. Maintain affection and friendship for all sadhus and devotees."

Popatbhai Anada, Jhaverkaka, Chunilal, and other devotees delivered speeches on this occasion while Harilal, Becharbhai, and Chandravadanbhai sang kirtans.

From here, Swamishri traveled by train to Viramgam.