

Chapter 19

Welcome at the Nar-Narayan Mandir

At 10:30 a.m. on 8 April 1953, Swamishri arrived at the Kalupur Nar-Narayan mandir. Together with him were Nandaji, Sheth Bhogibhai Choksi, Champakbhai Sheth, and other devotees. Keshavlal Karbhari welcomed Swamishri and the group. After having darshan of Nar-Narayan Dev and Ghanshyam Maharaj, they went for darshan of Acharya Devendraprasadji Maharaj. Various prominent swamis of the Nar-Narayan Dev Gadi, including Shastriji Narayanprasaddas, Baldevprasaddas, Mahant Shastri Yagnapurushdas, the current Mahant Bhaktijivandas, the singer Shrivallabhdas, and other sadhus and *parshads* were present. Nandaji offered his respects to Acharya Devendraprasadji Maharaj by garlanding him. He entreated Acharya Devendraprasadji

Maharaj and the senior sadhus to work for the progress of the Satsang fellowship.

On 9 April 1953, Swamishri and the sadhus boarded the 5:30 a.m. local train to Adas to visit the home of Chunibhai Lallubhai of Africa. Jashbhai, Manibhai, and other devotees invited Swamishri to sanctify their homes as well. In the evening, Swamishri went to Adas Station and offered his tribute and blessings to the martyrs killed there in 1942.¹ Swamishri prayed for the liberation of their souls. The *arti*, *dhun*, and prayers generated an aura of divinity throughout the train station.

¹ During the struggle for Indian independence, Gandhiji had launched the Quit India movement of civil disobedience on 8 August 1942. Supporting this movement, a group of students had led a peaceful procession through Adas on 18 August 1942 by handing out leaflets about Indian independence. The British police forces encountered the group at the Adas railway station and charged toward them. When the students sat down on the ground in a group as part of their nonviolent resistance, the British officers fired their rifles indiscriminately at the students, killing five and wounding many others.