

Chapter 16

Mathurkaka’s Final Sacrifice

Mathurkaka, who had donated the land for the Atladara mandir, was seriously ill. He sent a message requesting Swamishri to visit his home after breaking his fast on Shravan *vad* 9. Swamishri went to inquire about his health.

Mathurkaka folded his hands and, with tears in his eyes, said, “Shastriji Maharaj had asked me to donate the farm near Atladara mandir, but I was unable to do so. Consequently, I am now consumed by so much remorse that my body burns with it. In Maharaj’s time, Rooda Patel had served Maharaj in many ways, but at the moment of truth, he could not offer his oxen at Maharaj’s request. I have made a similar mistake. So, please pray to Shastriji Maharaj that he releases me from the remorse that wracks my soul. I am giving you the deed to the farm that Shastriji Maharaj had requested.”

Swamishri immediately began to chant the Swaminarayan *dhun*, and he gently caressed Mathurkaka's chest. In that instant, an indescribable peace permeated his entire being. Overwhelmed with gratitude, Mathurkaka saw Shastriji Maharaj present within Swamishri.

Then, Swamishri recited some Swamini Vato, comforted Mathurkaka, and returned to the mandir.

Shastriji Maharaj's final command to Mathurkaka as he left Atladara for the last time had now been entirely fulfilled by Mathurkaka's donation of the farm to Swamishri. Just as he had recognized Shastriji Maharaj, this valiant devotee had recognized Swamishri and pleased him.