

# Chapter 25

## Spellbound by Spiritual Discussions

On the afternoon of 22 July 1955, the Mayor of Kampala, Mr. Byrd, came to meet Swamishri and was very pleased to receive his blessings.

In the evening *sabha*, Swamishri said, “When we sing the *arti*, we should sing loudly. The devas should be able to hear it. It is in a fight that we should clam up...

“The son of Limbdi’s Darbar had passed away. For a year, the Darbar remained in an unresponsive stupor. Then, we all went to visit him. Shastriji Maharaj imparted words of wisdom to the Darbar. Only then did his eyes begin to open. The Darbar said, ‘Swami! Because you came, I will remain alive. I’m finally at peace.’ When we experience loss, we are drowned in sorrow, but the Satpurush grants us peace. If we are ill, the doctor puts a stethoscope to our chest. Similarly, the

Satpurush gives the soul an injection. The diseased soul is cured. While, indeed, there is some momentary pain, the end result is inner peace and happiness. He frees us from fear. Even mosquitoes flying around will cause our eyes to shut because we are possessed by fear! But by association with the Satpurush, we are freed from fear. We would not fear death, and calamity would not be able to even look in our direction.”

At 10:30 p.m., Swamishri was engaged in a spiritual discussion in his accommodations when he said, “No matter what the guru says, there should be no doubt. If we have built houses, we should offer them in his service. We should connect our family with God’s *murti*. If we sacrifice our all, Maharaj will protect us. Dada Khachar, Jhinabhai, and others stayed as Maharaj’s servants. God is our master. Yet, one hesitates to offer even the 5% or 10% tithe. He would say, ‘Here is your *kanthi* back.’ A meeting was called in Ahmedabad. Swami said, ‘I am unable to complete the marble mandir in

Gadhada. You take this responsibility.’ Then, everyone resolved to do so. Swami wanted to accept the service of the Africa Satsang Mandal. That is why everything has happened like this. It is our great fortune that we have been granted this service opportunity as well as your darshan. Otherwise, we would not have come here in ten million *kalpas*. Satsang has grown and will continue to grow.”

Then Swamishri did *dhun* that land may be acquired for the mandir and that the rains may come.

On 23 July, upon waking, Swamishri, as per his routine, spoke to the youths to give them a spiritual boost, saying, “Foster the conviction that ‘I am the *atma*; I am Gunatit.’ Do not allow your Self to be overcome by body consciousness. Become a chair, and sit to deliver talks, and then Maharaj, who is inside us, will sit and speak from within. Attain the knowledge of *atma* and Paramatma. If you truly attain that knowledge, then you cannot be overcome by *maya*.”

In the spiritual assembly at night, Swamishri narrated the incident of Rajabhai in detail. Then he said, “If we have this level of *atmabuddhi*, could adverse circumstances derail us? No matter how adverse the circumstances, still he would not accept the selfish wishes of his wife. First come the devotees, and then everything else. Ramji exiled Jankiji to the forests. Then, Sitaji lamented. Lakshmanji became extremely dejected. Without a flaw she had been cast out. But in no way did she find fault with Ramchandraj. Although she had cause to find fault with him, she did not do so. In no way should one find fault with God and God’s devotees.

“Bhagatji Maharaj was in Junagadh. Everyone got together in Vartal and excommunicated him. Others told him, ‘Why don’t you send a plea to Swami! Even Sitaji had sent a message, that tell Ramchandraj.’ But Bhagatji Maharaj responded, ‘I have not lapsed in observing the *panchvartman*, nor have I

perceived flaws in anyone. And yet I will not say a word. I will do darshan from outside.’ This understanding can be said to be even greater than Sitaji’s.

“Even if we have to suffer such pain, still we should not send a message. We should find fault with ourselves, but in others, we should see only virtues.”

On the morning and afternoon of Sunday, 24 July 1955, Swamishri visited devotees’ homes in the city. At 4:30 p.m., in the *yuvak mandal* assembly, Swamishri explained Vachanamrut Gadhada I 8. Swamishri’s captivating style of speech left everyone spellbound.

In the assembly at night, Swamishri said, “One should give up one’s flaws. But without reprimand, one’s flaws would not depart. That is the job of God and the Satpurush. To destroy the *jiva’s vasana* and set it onto the right path. According to Vachanamrut Gadhada I 38, when the great are pleased with one, one should not ask for chaff. The pleasures of this world are like chaff.”

Then, lost in the bliss of God, Swamishri sang the kirtans, “*Hari bhajatã sau motap pãme...*” (Everyone attains greatness by worshiping God) and “*Shãnti pamãde tene sant kahie...*” (He who grants peace can be called a Sant),.