

Chapter 16

Shastriji Maharaj Is Ever-present!

Shastriji Maharaj's sudden departure plunged the Satsang community into a profound grief. They had suffered an unimaginable tragedy. Everyone had been eagerly anticipating the moment when the *murtis* of supreme God Shriji Maharaj and the supreme devotee Aksharbrahma Gunatitanand Swami would be consecrated by Shastriji Maharaj's holy hands in the supreme marble mandir built atop the hillock in Gadhada according to Maharaj's wish. And then, this tragedy broke everyone's hearts. In this atmosphere of intense anguish, everyone's minds had gone blank.

The leaders could not decide whether to do the *pratishtha* as planned or to postpone the event. Then, amid everyone's heavy gloom emerged a life-giving stream of enlightened words: "Shastriji Maharaj has not gone! You

can't believe that he has left our midst! Shastriji Maharaj is ever-present!"

Everyone stared at Yogiji Maharaj's face, as it was divinely suffused with the light of Brahman. His words, speech, and facial expression became everyone's solace and conviction. Everyone felt a divine infusion of faith. They all experienced a feeling that Swami has not left! Swami is present! Just a few days ago from when Shastriji Maharaj had gone to Gadhada to offer puja to the *murtis*, his prophetic words, "Yogi will perform the arti," began to echo in everyone's hearts. The *pratishtha* would occur as planned, and the preparations continued at full speed.