

Chapter 16

Dwarka Is Here

Around this time, Shamal Bhagat of Chhapari, having heard of the greatness of Shastriji Maharaj, walked 80 miles to Sarangpur for his darshan. When he arrived, he discovered that “Shastriji Maharaj has passed away, but in his place, he has appointed Yogiji Maharaj, who is currently in Ahmedabad.”

Shamal Bhagat yearned to meet such a spiritually elevated soul. So, intending to perform a special austerity to earn the favor of a God-realized Sant, Shamal Bhagat walked barefoot in the blazing summer heat all the way to Ahmedabad, which he reached on the fourth day after setting out from Sarangpur. Swamishri was performing his puja at the time. Upon his first darshan of Swamishri, Shamal Bhagat experienced a peaceful calm settling over his heart.

After Swamishri completed his puja, he told an attendant, “This Bhagat has come from very far, enduring great hardship for Shastriji Maharaj’s darshan. So, please serve him some breakfast and warm milk.”

Shamal Bhagat was startled and thought, “Who told Yogiji Maharaj that I have come for Shastriji Maharaj’s darshan? Definitely, this great soul appears to be able to read people’s minds!”

Swamishri overwhelmed Shamal Bhagat with his warm hospitality.

The following day, when Swamishri was doing his puja, Shamal Bhagat sang kirtans he had written and composed. Then he expressed a desire to receive initiation. So, Swamishri initiated him and showered him with great favor. Shamal Bhagat’s desire for Shastriji Maharaj’s darshan was fulfilled by Swamishri, and he accepted firm refuge at Swamishri’s feet.

One night, Swamishri received a telegram informing him that the great devotee Kuberbhai was gravely ill. Immediately, at 10 p.m., Swamishri left by car from Khambhat and reached Dholka at 4 a.m. From here, he took the train and reached Bhavnagar by evening. Swamishri stayed for about a week and encouraged Kuberbhai and the *mandal's* devotees through his spiritual discourses. As Kuberbhai's health improved, Swamishri blessed him and, via Gadhada, went to Limbdi to check on the sincere devotee Chhaganbhai, who was also in poor health. After blessing him, Swamishri traveled to Kharva and Surendranagar before reaching Gondal.

In this way, Swamishri never failed to check up on staunch, senior devotees. When Swamishri understood the greatness of even the smallest devotee, how could he ever forget the senior devotees? Meeting Swamishri face-to-face lifted the devotees' spirits, bringing them great joy. All the devotees, great and small, experienced in Swamishri a father's

support and a mother's loving warmth. They would instantly forget their problems and feel that in meeting Swamishri, they had attained everything. They would not feel the slightest bit unfulfilled. In Swamishri's presence, they felt, "I'm sitting next to Maharaj in Akshardham." Everyone would experience such divinity.