

Chapter 25

A Historic Sendoff from Mumbai

As Yogiji Maharaj and Yagnapriyadas Swami (Mota Swami) were leaving for Africa, a grand sendoff program was organized on 12 April 1955 (Chaitra *vad* 5, V.S. 2011). Mumbai's former Acting Police Commissioner Pravinsinhji, Vartal Temple Committee Member Harikrishnabhai Amin, Bachubhai Dressvala, Manekchand Gandhi, Sheth Govindji Kalyanji, Mohanlal Shrijina, Harshadbhai, and many others addressed the assembly.

Mohanlal Shivlal Shrijina said, “The tremendous work that Shastriji Maharaj has done in Africa has not been done by any other *sadgurus*. Now, these sadhus are going in support of that work, so they will surely achieve unparalleled success in their efforts. Yogiji Maharaj has propagated unwavering faith and nourished Satsang tremendously. While other

sadhus may have gone to Africa previously, these sadhus will achieve heretofore unparalleled success in spreading Satsang and bringing peace to everyone's hearts.”

Choksi Saheb said, “Many may have gone to Africa, and many will go, but these sadhus are matchless and unparalleled. They will attain a great victory. Shastriji Maharaj had spread Satsang immensely in Africa. But now, it will grow even more. And Swami has said, ‘The name of Swaminarayan will resound from every leaf.’ This will now become a reality. This is a historic occasion that will be written about in golden letters. Today they are going to Africa, and tomorrow they will be in many foreign lands, and the victory bells of Swaminarayan will reverberate through the heavens. Our voice gets caught in our throats when we try to say ‘Go’ to the sadhus, so how can we give them a sendoff?”

Swamishri said, “We have given many blessings, but now you will have to become a vessel for those blessings. Maharaj has come

from so far away that if a 100,000 *maun* iron ball were dropped from there, by the time it reached here, friction from the air would have reduced it to a speck of dust. Now, we have to make his efforts worthwhile.

“If our consciousness is one, then we are together. Like Maharaj says in Vachanamrut Sarangpur 10, when one perceives from the perspective of the *atma*, then we are together, aren’t we! Thus, see from the perspective of the *atma*. And Satsang will grow infinite times more than this. Thus, even if hundreds of thousands of miles separate us, we still remain together. No matter if we go to Africa or other foreign lands. We are going to Africa because we must, for the sake of propagating Satsang. Follow God’s commands, and we will remain forever together, and without that, even if we are together, we will be distant.

“According to Vachanamrut Loya 7, the ultimate goal is to become *brahmarup* and commune with Parabrahma. In that context, Swami said, one may be an Acharya, a large or

small god, or whoever, but there is no alternative but to do according to Loya 7.

“*Gurumukhi sukhadā māne.*’ (Those aligned with the guru’s commands experience bliss.) So, if we remain according to his commands, and travel far away, still we remain happy just as if we are with him. We will be together with him in our consciousness. Resolve not to find fault or develop an aversion for anyone, but have love for all. Everyone should turn five *malas.*”

Then, everyone took the opportunity to offer puja to the sadhus.