

# Chapter 21

## **The Mahant of Chhapaiya, Yagnapurushdasji Praises Gunatit Jnan**

An extraordinary assembly was organized on 8 December 1953 at 8:30 a.m. Swamishri and Lalji Maharaj (Tejendraprasadjji) presided in the center of the stage, and other sadhus sat next to them. Next to Swamishri was Nandaji. On behalf of the entire *mandal*, the pilgrimage organizers offered `5,001 to Acharya Maharaj and `6,001 to Thakorji for his full daily meal. Nandaji explained how arrangements for the train station's construction had miraculously been completed in a single day with the help of the respected Lalbahadur Shastri. Then he spoke about everyone's great fortune that they had the opportunity for the darshan of this most sacred place together with Swamishri. Finally, he exhorted everyone to maintain

purity in their actions and work together to spread Satsang.

Swamishri, from his *brahmic* state, delivered discourses that penetrated deep within everyone's hearts, saying, "There are countless Prahlads and countless Ambrishes in this Satsang. There are even those like Parvatbhai. But one can only recognize them when one closely associates with them. Today, Maharaj himself is manifest before our eyes in Satsang. He grants spiritual bliss through the great Sadhu. If you attach yourself to him, he will make you *brahmarup*. How can the great be pleased upon seeing those whose hearts are smoldering with lust, anger, and ego? If you want to please Maharaj and eradicate your flaws, then you must develop an unshakable conviction in the supreme form of God that we have met and completely attach yourselves to him. By keeping the company of the true Sant, Maharaj and the great remain pleased with us. Thereby, the *jiva* becomes *brahmarup* and eligible for Akshardham."

Then the mahant of Chhapaiya, Swami Yagnapurushdasji, shared his inner feelings in a heartfelt speech about the supremacy of Gunatit *jnan*, about Shastriji Maharaj as the supreme Satpurush and, at present, Yogiji Maharaj as an unparalleled Sant. He said:

“Today, Yogiji Maharaj and all the *satsangis* of the Bochasan Sanstha have graced this holy place of Chhapaiya for darshan. This place is extremely sacred. Shriji Maharaj incarnated on Earth in this place on Chaitra *sud* 9, V.S. 1837. Since then, 173 years have passed. Thus, it is no exaggeration to say that this abode is equivalent to Akshardham. All of you *satsangis* have come to this place at Shastriji Maharaj’s behest. Shastriji Maharaj had one extraordinary virtue I have never seen in anyone else. He made people like Nanda Saheb *satsangis*. He propagated faith in Swaminarayan around the world. This Gunatit *jnan* is supreme. Only Shastriji Maharaj could do this. Shastriji Maharaj made hundreds of thousands of *satsangis* from the sadhus and

*satsangis* within our Sampradaya who were afraid of saying ‘Shriji Maharaj is supreme’ as well as from atheists, Jains, and those of other *sampradayas*. Moreover, Shastriji Maharaj fulfilled the prophecy that hundreds of thousands of people would follow behind each Sadhu.

“Moreover, all of you have come to this sacred place. For the last thirty-five years, we have made great efforts to get a train station in this place, spending `50,000 for this cause. Moreover, we have made countless requests to the respective officers over this period. Yet, we could not accomplish anything, whereas today, this was achieved so effortlessly. For this, I offer my thanks to Yogiji Maharaj and Nanda Saheb. This village is tiny. Moreover, there is no large city nearby. Thus, if we have not been able to properly provide all your requirements due to difficulties in obtaining certain items, we ask for your forgiveness. Please remain happy with us.”

Harmanbhai read out a letter describing the enthusiasm of the *satsang mandal* in Africa. Then he commended the sadhus of the Chhapaiya mandir as well as Acharya Maharaj, Lalji Maharaj, and others. He thanked everyone for their effusive affection and the welcome that they had arranged.

Acharya Maharaj's administrative assistant, Ravjibhai, shared a message from Acharya Maharaj: "Acharya Maharaj has requested Lalji Maharaj to convey that I have not been able to come due to my ill health, but I have sent Lalji in my place. You should believe that since he is there, I am there. Please tell Yogiji Maharaj and Nandaji that the entire Satsang community thanks you for the train station."

Then Ravjibhai said, "Shastriji Maharaj's glory is extraordinary. It is Acharya Maharaj's inner desire that the sadhus of both dioceses realize that we are all one. I pray to Yogiji Maharaj that this inner wish of Acharya Maharaj is realized."

Then, Lalji Maharaj was offered a flower garland, puja, and *arti*.

For three days, the learned and dedicated sadhus of Chhapaiya offered their sincere hospitality to Swamishri and the entire group. In preparing meals, enthusiastically serving food to everyone, providing tea and water, and in every other arrangement, the sadhus of Chhapaiya had personally offered their service with great sincerity.

Casting aside the weakness due to his ill health and the hardships of the pilgrimage, Swamishri remained extremely joyful in this holy place. The innocent gaze of his ever-smiling eyes, the smile lines carved into his cheeks, and the smile playing upon his lips had fully blossomed in this divine place of pilgrimage. Of course, there was never any deficiency in him, but when the devotional sentiments of devotees reach their greatest extent, they are able to see Swamishri's completeness in its fullest form. Swamishri

continued to spread the energy of his divinity far and wide.

On one occasion, due to an unexpected increase in the number of people, and some unwarranted hastiness by the food preparers, the *shiro* remained slightly undercooked. Some refused to take the *shiro*, concerned by its potential effect on their digestion. When Swamishri was informed of this, he exclaimed, “It is our great fortune to receive *shiro* of Chhapaiya! One cannot say that it is undercooked.” So saying, Swamishri insisted on serving everyone *shiro*. Swamishri’s reverence for and affiliation to this sacred place was evident through such small incidents.

Throughout this historic three-day festival celebrated in the Chhapaiya mandir, everyone experienced the love and affection shown by Acharya Maharaj, the mandir’s mahant and sadhus, and the volunteers. Only through such affection can the Sampradaya become stronger and more united.

Finally, all the mandir's sadhus and volunteers came to Chhapaiya station to see Swamishri and his *mandal* off. Departing from Chhapaiya in the evening, the train arrived in Benares on 9 December 1953.