

Chapter 22

Something Was Stopping Me from Inside

One day, at 4 p.m., Dr. Shankarbhai came for Swamishri's darshan and sat in the assembly. Shankarbhai was obsessed with watching movies in the cinema. At the time, a theater near Mirzapur was playing the film "Samson and Delilah," which he wanted to see. So, he got up from the assembly.

While Swamishri never asked such questions, today, he asked, "Where are you going?"

"Bapa, I'm going to see the cinema," said Shankarbhai.

"What is the cinema like? Do you find it to be more enjoyable there than being here?"

Swamishri's questions made him pause for a bit. But then he said, "Bapa, you sadhus wouldn't understand. It's about each person's

individual passion. I personally love watching the cinema.” Being a new *satsangi*, Shankarbhai spoke his mind without much consideration for maintaining proper respect.

Swamishri laughed and said, “Certainly, you should go.”

As Shankarbhai looked at Swamishri, he saw an indescribable love flowing from his eyes. Even his eyes seemed joyous! And their soothing glance made a deep impression on Shankarbhai.

As he exited the mandir, he reached Hathibhai’s Vadi when he felt a mysterious force pulling him back. Although he tried to go forward, it was as if his legs just wouldn’t move in that direction. Like someone was stopping him from inside.

He immediately returned to the mandir. Swamishri laughed and said, “Why didn’t you go?”

Shankarbhai reluctantly said, “Bapa, I’m not in the mood today. I don’t want to go see the cinema. It won’t be fun today.”

“Shankarbhai, there is no fun in it. Here, let me bless you. Hold this water in your hand and vow to never watch the cinema again.”

Shankarbhai gathered whatever courage he had and said, “Bapa! I don’t trust myself. It is a habit for me!”

Swamishri said, “But if you resolve to do accordingly and take my blessings, God will take care of the rest.”

Today, his heart was completely Swamishri’s. He felt as if Swamishri had grasped his mind and established his control there.

Shankarbhai held out his hand. Swamishri placed a few drops of water in his palm and had him take the vow. Swamishri was so pleased with his resolution that he clapped him on the back in blessing three to four times.

From that moment onwards, not only did Shankarbhai never go to the cinema again, even the thought of watching never crossed his mind!

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