

Chapter 25

The Villages Surrounding Jinja

In the morning, Swamishri traveled to Bujuta, where he sanctified Manibhai Cyclevala's oil mill, flour mill, and utensil factory. On this occasion, Manibhai offered a large donation at Swamishri's feet. He also offered a brand-new car for Swamishri to use during his travels in Uganda. Moreover, he seized the opportunity to serve by driving Swamishri himself. Manibhai was a humble and self-effacing devotee who did not have the slightest arrogance regarding the service he had offered.

These visits to the devotees' homes marked the beginning of Swamishri's travels in the villages surrounding Jinja. Even in small villages, everyone began to flock to Swamishri. New spiritual aspirants began to accept *vartman* initiation into Satsang and, forsaking their addictions, began to lead a Satsang-

aligned lifestyle. The seeds of Satsang that Maganbhai and the devotees had planted in this region began to sprout and take the shape of large trees.

From here, Swamishri traveled to Buikwe. Swamishri stayed at the home of Nanjibhai Ratanshi of Gondal and organized a spiritual assembly in the local school. Due to Nanjibhai's enthusiasm, many of the residents of Buikwe made the most of Swamishri's visit and invited him to sanctify their homes. Swamishri offered *vartman* initiation to several Africans as well.

Swamishri returned to Jinja at night. In Jinja, the Satsang assemblies and visits to devotees' homes happened with regularity. The devotees were very enthusiastic to offer their service to Swamishri and please him. Manibhai, Ravjibhai C. Patel, Chaturbhai, Daliya, Ranchhodbhai, Manjibhai, and other devotees enthusiastically offered their service in making all of Swamishri's arrangements.

From here, Swamishri traveled to Naigobia to visit devotees' homes before arriving in Bulopa.

In Bulopa, the devotees greeted Swamishri at the outskirts of the village with a bhajan *mandal*. Although the village was small, the devotees in the welcoming procession were extremely enthusiastic. Together with the devotees, local Africans chanted, “Mungu, Mungu,” and danced in their traditional style. Purushottambhai and the other devotees had made many preparations, including a large canopied sitting area, festive decorations, and a decorated seat for Swamishri. After the spiritual assembly, many new spiritual aspirants accepted *vartman* initiation and gave up their addictions to cigarettes and alcohol. Such is the glory of the Satpurush, whose mere presence inspired countless souls to lead pure, virtuous, and Satsang-centric lives.

From Bulopa, Swamishri traveled to Karsanbhai Kurji's house in Namwendwa. His entire family had immense affection for

Swamishri. Thus, they enthusiastically grasped the opportunity to offer their service. Swamishri also visited many homes in the village.

From here, Swamishri sanctified the Bukamba Ginnery, visited the homes of Ranchhodbhai and Chhaganbhai, and then traveled to Kamuli.

Swamishri joined in the festive procession, sanctified many devotees' homes, and presided in a spiritual assembly. After the assembly, Swamishri left Kamuli and reached Namasagali by 9:15 p.m. Namasagali is on the banks of the Nile River, and it is also a riverport that goes to Lake Albert. Bhaktaraj Maganbhai had nurtured the growth of Satsang in this town. After sanctifying devotees' homes in the town, Swamishri returned to Bulopa, where he met the devotees before arriving back in Jinja at 1 a.m.

In Jinja, a two-day *Vachanamrut parayan* was organized, and many devotees attended the discourses.

Swamishri visited the home of Muljibhai Madhvani in Jinja. From here, Swamishri went to Kakira, where the devotees were very affectionate and enthusiastic about serving the sadhus. With the sentiment that “If Swamishri accepts our offering, we would attain liberation,” all the devotees insisted that Swamishri partake of the items they had prepared or brought. However, this spiritual giant, forever unattached and transcending the dualities of *maya* would not partake of any of the special delicacies offered, thus leaving the devotees helpless.

Muljibhai Madhvani enthusiastically took Swamishri to sanctify all the factories throughout the Madhvani township that had been created in Kakira. Swamishri went to each spot and pleased everyone.