

Chapter 17

Thinking Only of the Good of Others

After sanctifying the home of Mathurbhai in Kandari, Swamishri celebrated Swaminarayan Jayanti at Manibhai's house in Thikariya. On the evening of 4 April 1952 (Chaitra *sud* 10, V.S. 2008), Swamishri traveled to Matroj, where he spent the night and met Bhikhabhai, Vitthalbhai, Jeshankarbhai, Tribhuvanbhai, Chandubhai, and the other devotees. On the following morning of Ekadashi, Swamishri sanctified the devotees' homes in the village.

It was the auspicious day of Ekadashi, and the holy River Narmada was only two miles away in the village of Nand. So, Swamishri traveled to Nand and bathed in the Narmada River. Swamishri always took the opportunity to visit such holy rivers and places of pilgrimage and bathe there, sanctifying them by his presence and granting the accompanying

devotees a blessed memory. Here, while bathing in the Narmada, Swamishri poured sanctified water on the heads of each accompanying sadhu and devotee. Swamishri also remembered his beloved sadhus and devotees who could not be present. Afterward, he held an assembly under a banyan tree.

“May the Gadhada mandir construction be quickly finished... Chant the *dhun*. Swaminarayan... Swaminarayan...”, “May Champakbhai Sheth’s son Kiritbhai’s condition improve... Chant the *dhun*...”, “May Manibhai be able to spread Satsang far and wide... Chant the *dhun*...” In his typical style, Swamishri would announce his wishes and ask the devotees to chant the *dhun*. On the banks of holy rivers and in pilgrimage places, Swamishri would invariably make such wishes and pray. Actually, Swamishri thought of the good of others twenty-four hours a day, but on such special occasions, he would publicly reveal his good wishes and have everyone pray together for them. It was as if he wished to inspire

everyone that they should “Always wish and pray for the good of others.” Through Swamishri’s prayers, his wishes would come true, and everyone would always benefit.