

Chapter 7

Ada Goes to Akshardham

After performing many great works in Satsang, in 1913 (V.S. 1969), Krishnaji Ada discerned that the time was fast approaching when he would leave his mortal body and go to Akshardham. For this occasion, he decided to sponsor a *parayan* and invite the devotees who had affection for him and conviction in Akshar Purushottam *upasana*. Hargovindbhai sent letters around Gujarat conveying this message.

Shastriji Maharaj was in the village of Versad in Gujarat when he received a telegram from Ada asking him to hurry to Rajkot. Realizing that the brilliant flame which had spread the light of Akshar Purushottam *upasana* amongst so many souls would soon be extinguished, Shastriji Maharaj traveled to Rajkot with Nirgundas Swami and many devotees from central Gujarat.

Vignandas Swami and Yogiji Maharaj received this letter in Mojidad. Thus, with Chhagan Amba Khatri, Chhaganbhai Gagabhai, Merubha Bapu of Chachana, Guru Ganesh Bhakta, Madha Patel, Harjibhai, and others, they traveled by bullock cart at night to Chuda Station, and then boarded the train to arrive in Rajkot the following morning.

Chhaganbhai and Hargovindbhai came to the station to receive them. They took the *mandal* to the mandir on Kadiya Street, where they would be staying. Bapubha Saheb of Adval, Agarsang Bapu, and other devotees had also arrived.

From 8 October 1913 (Aso sud 9, V.S. 1969), Manishankarbhai began a *parayan* in the mandir on the Swamini Vato.

On Saturday, 11 October 1913 (Aso sud 11, V.S. 1969), as Krishnaji Ada's departure from this Earth appeared imminent, sadhus and devotees gathered around him. Krishnaji Ada said "Jay Swaminarayan" to Shastriji Maharaj and the other sadhus and then closed his eyes

as if he were very tired and wanted to rest. Soon, he opened his eyes again and softly said, “Where is Gnanji Swami? Please call him.”

Yogi Maharaj had been sitting in a corner behind everyone. As soon as he heard Ada ask for him, Yogi Maharaj jumped up, came forward, did *dandvats*, and stood before Ada with folded hands, barely able to contain his emotion.

Ada gazed into his eyes. He had been deeply touched by the loving and gentle nature of this young sadhu. Feeling as if he owed this sadhu a great debt, Ada also became emotional. Tears dripped from the corners of his eyes as if he could not bear the thought of separation from this young sadhu. He raised his hands and put them on Yogi Maharaj’s head in an expression of his complete blessing. Then, he softly said, “Gnanji! Make sure you serve Swami Shastri Maharaj.”

Nirgundas Swami explained, “Jogi! This is not Krishnaji Ada putting his hand on your head, but realize that Bhagwan Swaminarayan

and Gunatitanand Swami are placing their hands on your head in blessing.”

Remembering this incident, Yogiji Maharaj would often say, “As he blessed me, Krishnaji Ada’s eyes filled with tears.”

Later that day, after *sandhya arti*, Shastriji Maharaj, Yogi Maharaj, Nirgundas Swami, Vignandas Swami, and the other sadhus visited Krishnaji Ada at his house. Ada had made sure that a proper seat had been arranged for Shastriji Maharaj. Everyone sat. Then Shastriji Maharaj said, “Jogi, recite some *vato*!” Yogi Maharaj recited some Swamini Vato. Then, Shastriji Maharaj spoke until 10 p.m. Finally, all the sadhus returned to the mandir. That night, at 1:30 a.m., Krishnaji Ada left this world for Akshardham.

After Ada’s body was cremated, the *parayan* on the Swamini Vato continued. On the thirteenth day after Krishnaji Ada’s passing, they concluded the *parayan*, and the devotees dispersed.²

2 The following year, in 1914 (V.S. 1970), the construction of a sacred memorial shrine at the cremation site of Krishnaji Ada was begun. Vignandas Swami and his mandal of sadhus had served in the construction of the shrine. Yogi Maharaj and the other sadhus would fetch pots of water from the Aji River to mix with the lime for mortar. While this was an arduous task, Yogi Maharaj remained engaged in this service with a constant smile on his face. When Krishnaji Ada's memorial shrine was completed and the holy footprints of Shriji Maharaj installed, all the sadhus were extremely pleased. Yogi Maharaj had great faith in the divinity of this sacred place. He had contributed to the construction of Krishnaji Ada's permanent memorial and thus felt content that he had been able to repay his debt to Ada. Pujaji Bapu, Merubha Bapu, Vignandas Swami, Ranchhod Bhakta, and everyone present was extremely pleased with Yogi Maharaj's sincere service.