

# Chapter 21

## Naimisharanya Is with Us

The following day everyone was headed to Rishikesh. By 7:15 a.m., Swamishri had completed his morning rituals and was sitting near a small brazier in his train compartment. He sang the *prabhatiya*, “*Dhira dhurandharā shur sāchā kharā, maranano bhay te manamā na āne...*” (The undaunted heroes who are truly courageous never allow the fear of death to enter their minds). Then Swamishri said, “The fear of death is associated with this body, but the *jiva* is immortal. If you identify with the body, you will remain unhappy. So, don’t believe your true self to be the body. Naimisharanya is with us, but because people have so much regard for the unmanifest, they remain drawn to that.”

Since Swamishri was not going to Lakshman Jhula, he and Mota Swami sat on a bench on the railway platform and warmed themselves in

the morning sun. Most of the devotees had already left for the Lakshman Jhula bridge by bus, so even though today was Ekadashi, there was no morning assembly. The few devotees who had remained behind sat on the ground in a small circle around Swamishri and enjoyed good darshan. Swamishri spoke, “In our devotion to God, the body remains the primary obstacle. Thus, one should not accede to the demands of the body. Maharaj has traveled extensively throughout the Himalayan foothills, so all of this land is sanctified.”

Thereafter, Mota Swami spoke about Maharaj’s travels.

On 3 December 1953, the train reached Naimisharanya. Swamishri was not feeling well, so he did not leave his compartment. But, he spoke to those around him, saying, “Everyone accepts the glory of Naimisharanya since it was proclaimed thousands of years ago. People even flock to it. But, there is a severe scarcity of those with sincere spiritual yearning. But, by the darshan of the devotees of manifest

God and the touch of the water sanctified by their bathing, people will attain great spiritual merit. Consequently, they will be born into Satsang in the future. In this way, Swami's wish—that 100 million people worship Swaminarayan—will become a reality.”