

Chapter 10

The Inexhaustible Honor of Akshar Mandir

In 1930–31 (V.S. 1879), sadhus and prominent devotees from many towns and villages had gathered together in Rajkot for a meeting about acquiring the land on which Akshar Deri sits.

Shastriji Maharaj, Vignandas Swami, Yogi Maharaj, Kuberbhai, Pujaji Bapu, Ranchhod Bhagat, Vaijnathbhai, Chhaganlal Dhaneshwar, and other devotees had all gathered together on the upper floor of the *hari mandir* on Kadiya Street. There were extensive deliberations about building a mandir and installing the *murtis* of Akshar Purushottam Maharaj if the land around Akshar Deri could be acquired. All the devotees finally said, “Yogi Maharaj should do *dhun* that we may quickly acquire this land.”

Shastriji Maharaj agreed and said, “Then there is no doubt that we will quickly acquire this land.”

Yogi Maharaj began singing *dhun* accompanied by Shastriji Maharaj and all the devotees. Exactly one year later, Shastriji Maharaj would acquire the land surrounding Akshar Deri and begin construction work on a new mandir.

Due to the strength of Shastriji Maharaj’s distinguished personality and his staunch conviction in Akshar Purushottam Maharaj, two mandirs had already been built in Gujarat. The sadhus’ extensive efforts and devotion towards Akshar Purushottam Maharaj had instilled in countless spiritual aspirants and well-wishers the conviction that liberation was attainable only through this Gunatit *jnan*. Consequently, everyone was eager to build a grand mandir dedicated to Akshar Purushottam Maharaj on the sacred, Gunatit land surrounding Akshar Deri.

Soon, Shastriji Maharaj was able to acquire the land on which Akshar Deri stood and a large plot of land surrounding it. In November 1931 (Kartik, V.S. 1988), Narayanji Maharaj and Haribhai Amin went to Gondal and secured the official deed for the land.

As soon as the land was acquired, Shastriji Maharaj performed the groundbreaking ceremony and began the process of mandir construction.