

Chapter 16

The Devotees' True Companion

Whenever Swamishri was in Ahmedabad, he would walk to the Nar-Narayan mandir for darshan. On his way back, when he reached the old trunk of the tamarind tree, he would stop and send a devotee to check if Arjunbhai Chavada was home while he waited outside. If he was home, Swamishri would climb the steps up to his house, and recite five Swamini Vato there.

Because Swamishri had concealed his limitless powers, many people at the time perceived Swamishri to just be a good sadhu. If the homes of devotees with whom Swamishri was barely acquainted were on the way to where he was going, Swamishri would take time to sanctify their homes. Only if Swamishri had genuine affection for all devotees, great and small, would such actions be possible. Who else could do this but the Gunatit Sant, who

was so down-to-earth despite his towering spirituality?

At 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, 21 July 1951, Swamishri arrived in Rajkot. Even so late at night, a large crowd of devotees had gathered at the station to welcome Swamishri.

The following day, an observed Guru Punam satsang assembly was held at Krishnaji Ada's memorial site. Aksharprakash Swami and Daji Bapu had come from Gondal. Naranbhai Sheth, Mohanlal Ajagiya, Badrinathbhai, Dr. Tank, Ganatra, and other devotees performed Swamishri's puja on the occasion of the observed Guru Punam. After the assembly, Swamishri visited many of the devotees' homes.

Then, Swamishri traveled in Ganatra Saheb's car to Gondal. On the way, he stopped in the village of Ribada to sanctify the homes of Vajubha's sons and other devotees.