

Chapter 25

Inspiration to Introspect

On the morning of 20 July 1955, Swamishri left for Kapeka. Swamishri had lunch when he reached the village at 2 p.m. In the evening, Swamishri visited the devotees' homes in the village. The local devotees had erected a temporary assembly hall where Swamishri delivered discourses. After doing darshan in the local mandir, Swamishri traveled to Nakaseke, where he convinced everyone to give up their addictions and adopt a lifestyle aligned with satsang values. At 10 p.m., Swamishri reached Kampala.

In Kampala, Swamishri visited the home of Ratibhai Shivabhai Patel. He was an alcoholic with a severe addiction to whiskey and hard liquor. He had amassed so many empty bottles of whiskey at his home, selling them would have brought him thousands of rupees!

Hearing of this, Swamishri explained that he should forsake his addiction, and tying a *kanthi* around his neck, urged him to accept the vows of Satsang. Ratibhai merely laughed. As soon as Swamishri stepped out of his house, he immediately tore off his *kanthi* and began to drink whiskey. Although Swamishri had given him the vows of Satsang, Ratibhai had no intention of following them. But one thing did happen. Now, every time he held a bottle of whiskey in his hands, he saw the innocent visage of Swamishri in his mind's eye. This holy image deterred him from drinking. A powerful struggle arose in his mind. This mental struggle cultivated his willpower to such an extent that he was able to overcome his terrible addiction and quit alcohol forever.

At 10:30 a.m. on 21 July, Swamishri was addressing a spiritual assembly when he said, “When can we be said to have submitted our mind to the Satpurush? When we follow his commands implicitly. When the Satpurush is afraid to tell us something, know there to be a

deficiency in submitting our mind to him. Jaga Swami stayed at the Sankhadavadar farm for eighteen days at Gunatitanand Swami's behest and enjoyed the divine darshan of the festival in Junagadh. But if one has not submitted one's mind, we would have to say, 'Will you do this much?' Thus, we have obliged the Satpurush. And if we have submitted our mind, then he would not hesitate to tell us bluntly and repeatedly. As long as we perceive human characteristics in the Satpurush, we remain unable to follow his commands implicitly."

In the spiritual assembly at 10:30 p.m., Swamishri said, "If we understand the glory of the devotees of God, then we would forever perceive them as divine. But, as it is, we perceive them to be no different than us. The merit accrued from the service we offer and the hardships we endure ultimately comes with us after our death. Jhinabhai served Kamalshibhai. If we understand the devotees' glory, we would naturally develop affection for them. Our intellect would expand. All of this

would happen if we can understand their glory. Everyone would serve the great, but he who serves the lowliest devotee with reverence would accomplish everything spiritually. Believe them to be *ekantik*; believe them to be *brahmarup*. Cultivating this understanding, these principles are gradually inscribed within us. As we understand the devotees' glory, we are inspired to serve them. Through the grace of God and the Sant, we can understand the devotees' glory.”

During his stay in Kampala, Swamishri would often wake up at 5 a.m. and have spiritual discussions with the sadhus and youths traveling with him about the glory of Satsang, imbuing them with spiritual strength. Today, Swamishri said, “You should propagate Satsang. Even when you are traveling by car, you should recite Swamini Vato and similar things whereby the dust raised by your car would purify all the lands it touches.”