

# Chapter 21

## On the Banks of the Godavari

The train left that night from Prayag. The journey was 24 hours, and all of Sunday was spent in the train. On 14 December 1953, the train reached Nasik. An assembly was arranged on the railway platform. Swamishri recited Vachanamrut Gadhada I 15 from memory and said, “Only when one resolves that, ‘I want to act only according to God’s and his Sant’s commands’, can one become one’s own guru.” Swamishri recited some Swamini Vato and said, “Each of these railway platforms has become sanctified. Now, whoever arrives here will attain great spiritual merit.” With that, Swamishri set out to have a bath in the Godavari River.

After bathing, everyone went for darshan at the Kalaram and Goraram mandirs. Then at the insistence of Brahmachari Balakrishnanand, everyone went to Tapovan Brahmacharya

Ashram. Brahmachari Balakrishnanand gave Swamishri a tour of the entire ashram. He had Swamishri sanctify the kitchen, the printing press, and the offices.

Then Swamishri came to the assembly. Brahmachari Balakrishnanand had prepared a decorated seat for Swamishri. Following the speeches of Harmanbhai and Maganbhai, the Brahmachari explained the glory of this place, “This place belongs to everyone. Here, you may hail the jay of Nar Narayan, Lakshmi Narayan, or Akshar Purushottam, as you wish.” Swamishri performed Thakorji’s *arti*, and then distributed prasad to everyone. Then, Swamishri recited some Swamini Vato.

The next day, the train reached Mumbai, where Sheth Bhagwandas, Pratapsinh Inamdar, Nanubhai, Mahipatbhai, and other devotees welcomed Swamishri with great affection.