

Chapter 19

Gather Together on Sunday; Only then Will You Experience Happiness

In Anand, on 17 July 1953, Swamishri wrote a beautiful letter that was published in the Swaminarayan Prakash as it was useful to the entire Satsang community. In the letter, he encouraged everyone to become subscribers to the Swaminarayan Prakash and to read it regularly. He blessed everyone that through reading the Prakash, people would certainly attain spiritual wisdom. At the end of the letter, Swamishri stated:

“See, a Satsang center has been established in Mumbai. A center has been established in Ahmedabad. Similarly, centers have been established in every village. Every Sunday, our Gunatit community should gather together and deliver discourses on Brahman; only then will you experience happiness. Our Satsang

community will grow. So, according to Vachanamrut Gadhada II 63, the *jiva* gains strength by doing three things. O *satsangis*, be strong. Developing profound love in Maharaj, Swami, and in a Sant like Param Pujya Shastriji Maharaj, be strong. (Ashadh sud 6, Friday, 8:30 a.m., 17 July 1953. Anand)"

Thus, Swamishri publicly instructed everyone to establish Satsang centers in every village and participate in the Sunday assembly. For many years, wherever Swamishri went, he had established Satsang centers and instructed everyone to attend the weekly Sunday assembly. He had also been writing such letters of instruction to devotees who had affection for him. But with this letter, Swamishri expressed his inner wish and emphatically commanded the entire Satsang community to participate in this important spiritual endeavor. This step, to gather the devotees with faith in Akshar Purushottam *upasana* and systematically establish a Gunatit community, was taken with great foresight. Another reason for Swamishri's

insistence on this point was that congregational devotion helped *satsangis* gain strength from one another.