

Chapter 25

Decision to Go to Africa

The first Akshar Purushottam mandir outside of India was constructed in Mombasa in 1955 at a cost of 500,000 shillings. Swamishri provided the auspicious date for the *murti-pratishtha* and decided to travel to Africa for the first time.

Swamishri arrived in Mumbai on 6 April 1955 (*Chaitra sud 14*, V. S. 2011) and stayed in Kapolvadi. Swamishri had planned to accompany Harmanbhai from Mumbai on a steamer to Africa that was leaving from Karanja Port on 8 April 1955. Thus, he had celebrated the Chaitra Punam festival in Bochasan on *Chaitra sud 12*. But when the airlines agreed to fully accommodate the sadhus' *niyams*, Swamishri's passage by steamer was canceled and his flight was booked from Mumbai to Africa leaving on Wednesday, 13 April 1955.