

Chapter 21

Holy Footsteps of the Gunatit Sant in the Land of Vraj

On 26 November 1953, Naranbhai left Agra with two cars and reached Mathura Station by 8 a.m. to be in Swamishri's service. Traveling in his cars, Swamishri and the sadhus had the darshan of Gokul, Vrundavan, Govardhan Parvat, Radha Kund, Jatipura, and other nearby places of pilgrimage. On the way to Vrundavan, Swamishri and the sadhus stopped for darshan at the Birla Mandir. In Vrundavan, they also went to the mandir with a golden pillar built by Lakshmichand Sheth, the Golden mandir built by the Maharaja of Jaipur, the Glass mandir, and many other mandirs. In the mandir of Rangnath Bhagwan, the pujari allowed Swamishri to do the *arti*. At 4 p.m., everyone reached Mathura.

The following morning, before departing, Swamishri held an assembly. He spoke

extensively on unity, mutual affection, and mutual service, explaining, “If someone is sitting and worshiping God, then I would provide him with food and get his clothes washed for him. Thus, if one has indomitable faith and patience, then Maharaj is always ready to help.”

To reinforce this point, Swamishri sang Muktanand Swami’s kirtans, “*Tan dhan jātā, harijan hoy te Hari bhaktithi nav chade*” (Despite losing one’s wealth or even one’s life, a devotee of God would never waver from God’s devotion) and “*Harijan thaine hān-varad, sukh-dukh manmā nav ānie*” (Having become a devotee of God, one disregards worldly losses and gains and worldly pleasures and pains.)

Swamishri explained, “This kirtan instructs us to disregard worldly pleasures and pains. However, because we don’t do that, we experience unhappiness. Because devotees of the past maintained patience, Muktanand Swami celebrated their stories in his kirtan. We have to walk on that same path.”

After going for darshan in the evening, Swamishri laughed as he distributed the Annakut prasad and said, “Everyone has complete faith in the past avatars. However, the true benefit is in this darshan and *samagam*. You believe the distant to be sweet and the near to be bitter. But in the next 200 years, Shriji Maharaj’s glory will become so prominent that everyone will forget everything else from the last 5,000 years.”