

Chapter 17

From the Springboard of Miracles

Sheth Somabhai Kashibhai (known as Somabhai Chavala) had migrated to Ahmedabad for business. He had first been a devotee of Ranchhodji, then Shivji, and finally Mataji. Ishwarbhai Masalavala of Anand was related to him. At his insistence, Somabhai came for Swamishri's darshan. Somabhai was captivated by Swamishri's extraordinary personality at first sight, and he invited Swamishri to sanctify his home. He had decided to donate a certain amount, but when Ishwarbhai had informed him, "Swamishri is omniscient," Somabhai decided to test Swamishri.

Swamishri's visit cast a divine spell throughout his home. Swamishri inquired about his shops and business. Blessing him, Swamishri said, "The number of your shops

will increase greatly, and your business will boom. Continue to donate tea to Akshar Deri.”

After Somabhai offered Swamishri puja, he requested Swamishri to tell him what he should offer as a donation. Laughing, Swamishri said the exact figure that Somabhai had in mind. Somabhai was convinced that “Swamishri is truly omniscient!” Swamishri’s captivating form penetrated his heart. After this, he became a very staunch and faithful devotee and offered tremendous service in Satsang.

From here, Swamishri traveled to Nadiad and Anand before arriving in Bharuch. Pramukh Swami and other sadhus had joined Swamishri from Vadodara. Many devotees from the Kanam region had come for Swamishri’s darshan at Palej Station. After giving all the devotees here the benefit of his darshan and company, on 17 July 1952, Swamishri arrived in Surat.

For two days, Swamishri delivered discourses to the devotees. Maganbhai, Ashabhai, Dahyabhai Jariwala, Jekishandas

Jariwala, and other devotees offered great service on this occasion.

During this visit to Surat, Ambalalbhai Bhailalbhai Patel came into contact with Swamishri due to Maganbhai Secretary's talks. Moreover, listening to his business partner Ashabhai's discourses, he developed love for Swamishri and conviction in Akshar Purushottam *upasana*. Ambalalbhai had been married for sixteen years, and he had only one daughter. Shanabhai of Gana informed Swamishri of this. Swamishri smiled and said, "Why didn't you say anything until now! Go, Maharaj will give you a liberated soul."

A year after Swamishri's blessings, a son was born in Ambalalbhai's house, and after that, a second son was born. Ambalalbhai's faith continued to grow.

• • •