

Chapter 18

Talks in Private

One morning at 10:30 a.m., Swamishri grasped Vinubhai's hand and said, "Come on, let's go to the lemon grove." Then, Swamishri spread out his upper garment underneath a tree and said, "Vinubhai! Shake this lemon tree." As Vinubhai shook the tree, the ripened lemons fell to the ground. Swamishri and Vinubhai began to pick them up and place them onto Swamishri's spread-out upper garment.

After placing all the lemons onto his upper garment, Swamishri tied the ends of the cloth together to make a cloth bag which he slung onto his shoulder and began walking. Vinubhai said, "Here, Swami! Let me take it!" But Swamishri refused and carried the lemons himself, while holding Vinubhai's hand with his left hand. As they walked, Swamishri said, "You should tell the youths to observe *brahmacharya* as Shriji Maharaj would be

pleased. Bhagatji Maharaj and Jaga Swami would be pleased. Shastriji Maharaj would be pleased; the Satpurush would be pleased. The great sadhus would all be very pleased.”

In these private moments, such talks close to Swamishri’s heart flowed naturally.

After the Annakut festival, Swamishri traveled to Gujarat. On 8 November 1952, Swamishri visited Bhadra and the surrounding villages before sanctifying the village of Palaj. In Palaj, Jhaverbhai Talshibhai Patel was one of Shastriji Maharaj’s beloved and faithful devotees. After the Kartik Punam festival, Swamishri would travel by bullock cart to this village to collect the devotees’ tithes.

On this occasion, Jhaverbhai Patel was sitting in the village’s central square, thinking, “Shastriji Maharaj is Shastriji Maharaj! Although others may be called great, none can compare to him.”

As Swamishri’s bullock cart approached, Jhaverbhai saw Shastriji Maharaj sitting in the

bullock cart! He immediately stood up and began to do *dandvats*. Then, he saw Yogiji Maharaj before him, and he realized that Yogiji Maharaj and Shastriji Maharaj were one. There was no difference between the two. He remembered Shastriji Maharaj's final words. The doubts in his mind dissolved, and he began to serve Swamishri as before.