

Chapter 18

The Silence of the Guru Speaks Volumes!

Vaso's Darbar, Gopaldas passed away in 1951. His wife, Bhaktiba, has immense respect for Swamishri. However, her son Mahendrabhai had no faith in dharma, bhakti, God, or religion. He felt, "If there is a God, let him be; he is not bothering me. And if there isn't a God, then what of it? We are not so desperate as to have to eat food raw."

However, his parents had given him a religious upbringing from childhood and instilled in him that he should eat only after turning ten *malas* in the morning. He had followed this vow, but only to the extent of inserting his hand in the *gaumukhi* and moving his finger! This atheistically inclined youth had done darshan of Swamishri at his own home in Rajkot in 1950. Even then, instead of showing respect or welcome, he had felt it better to

escape after telling his mother, Bhaktiba, “Ba, there are 2.2 million *bawas* like this all around India. How many of them will you venerate?”

However, after his father passed away, the responsibility for running the household fell onto his head. Bhaktiba once told him, “This January, Bapa is coming to visit our house in Vaso. Make sure you remain present in his service.”

Mahendrabhai remained silent. There were only two males in the house: himself and his nephew, who was still in school. Finally, the day of Swamishri’s visit arrived. Bhaktiba was worried about how to welcome Swamishri properly. Finally, Mahendrabhai said, “Ba, don’t worry. I will welcome him.” Then he clarified, “Just to keep you happy!” He said that to clarify that he had only contempt for sadhus!

Swamishri and his sadhus arrived in Vaso. Mahendrabhai welcomed Swamishri. There was not much conversation, only a little meeting of the eyes. But Mahendrabhai felt that his inner pollution was being washed away by

this embodiment of holiness! He was so struck by this encounter that only later did he realize how deeply it had touched him. He understood, “*Gurostu maunam vyākhyānam*—the silence of the guru speaks volumes!”

Accepting Swamishri’s refuge, Mahendrabhai offered great service to Satsang. He used to say, “It would not be appropriate to say that Swamishri has abducted me, but I think the word captivated is accurate and could definitely be used. It was only much later that I understood how I had been ‘enthralled’!”

The fragrance of God and spirituality emanated so powerfully from Swamishri’s personality that the stink of atheism was driven miles away.

After visiting around thirty villages in Charotar and inspiring devotees to contribute to the Gadhada mandir, Swamishri arrived back in Gondal via Ahmedabad.