

Chapter 22

Daily Routine in Sarangpur

On Fagun *sud* Punam, V.S. 2010, Swamishri traveled to Sarangpur in Dared Darbar Ranvirsinhji's car with Pramukh Swami, Mota Swami, Kothari Harijivan Swami, and others. The elderly and sage sadhu of Sarangpur, Harikrishna Swami, had beautifully described the scene that morning:

“What did the dawn witness on that occasion? She saw crowds of people in the mandir. She saw the love of Pragat Brahmaswarup Yogiji Maharaj. She did darshan. She saw a joyful atmosphere. She saw Swamishri's divinity. She saw devotees humbling themselves as they prostrated to Swamishri's feet. Believing herself fulfilled at this divine darshan, she showered *gula* (pink powder) over everyone before departing.”

Swamishri presided in the assembly and granted everyone darshan. Soon, Chuni Bhagat

called Swamishri to have his breakfast of hot, spiced milk. Before following Chuni Bhagat, Swamishri smiled and began to call everyone, “Come, Pramukh Swami! Come, Mota Swami! Come, Dared Bapu! Come, Hakabhai...” He sat everyone down with him for breakfast. What intimacy he shared with his disciples! With his own hands, he distributed *mamra* and *chevdo* to everyone. Just as Maharaj used to share his meals with devotees and grant them joy, Swamishri distributed this prasad to everyone. For himself, he took only a tiny amount of *mamra* and hot milk. Then, Swamishri returned to the assembly where he explained several Swamini Vato and cast the beneficent gaze of blessings upon all the devotees.

At noon, when lunch was ready, Swamishri had all the Darbars of Jhalavad sit in a line and served them himself with loving insistence. Mohanlal, the cook, had prepared bland food for Swamishri. Swamishri ate only a little before saying, “Bring fresh *chhas*.” Then, Swamishri filled his bowl with *chhas*, added

some water from his gourd, added a pinch of salt, and began to drink it. Swamishri often used to instruct the youths traveling with him to satisfy half their hunger with food, a quarter with water, and leave a quarter of their stomach empty, but never eat until they were stuffed.

After lunch, Swamishri had Vachanamruts read aloud for the afternoon discourses. Then, Swamishri went for his afternoon nap. However, many devotees were waiting to meet him outside his room, and they made a great deal of noise. So, Swamishri opened his door, and the devotees rushed inside. Swamishri talked to each of them one by one.

Then Swamishri went to the assembly hall and met with the remaining devotees. Then Swamishri had a bath before going to the mandir for the darshan of Thakorji at 4 p.m. Following that, Swamishri went with the devotees to Shastriji Maharaj's memorial shrine, where he did fifty-one *pradakshinas* and sang *dhun* and kirtans. Then he recalled humorous incidents with the sadhus and

devotees, making everyone laugh. Swamishri was an embodiment of joy who constantly spread the bliss of Brahman to everyone who came within the soothing shade of his saintliness.

After *sandhya arti*, Swamishri spoke briefly while seated in the *roopchoki* where Shastriji Maharaj used to hold such spiritual gatherings. For dinner, Swamishri would lovingly feed all the devotees until they were full. Then, Swamishri gathered everyone for the evening assembly. One teenager from Adval was so eager to sing a kirtan in the assembly that he began to pester his father to arrange for him to do so. His father replied, “Why don’t you first accept *vartman* from Swamishri.”

Swamishri offered him *vartman*, and to fulfill his wish, Swamishri omnisciently asked, “Do you know any kirtans?” When the teenager enthusiastically replied in the affirmative, Swamishri said, “Then why don’t you sing one.”

The teenager began the sweet tune of, “*Tame mārā thayā, hu tamāro thayo, bahunāmi, āvo*

āvo Sahajānand Swāmi...” (You have become mine, and I have become yours. Please come, Sahajanand Swami...). As he was singing, the teenager’s eyes filled with tears, and his emotion spread through the assembly.

Then Purushottam Bhagat recited two chapters of the Harililamrut from memory. Mota Swami delivered discourses on these two chapters.