

Chapter 22

Discourses at Bhadra and Hadmatiya Stations

After celebrating the *patotsavs* of Gadhada and Gondal mandirs, Swamishri traveled with about 150 sadhus and devotees to Dangara and Bhadra. Collector Govindsinh Chudasama was also with Swamishri. Upon reaching the village of Bhadra, Swamishri said, “Shastriji Maharaj had said that there was a Rajput devotee in the village of Kandaniya who had indomitable faith. Once, when Swami had asked him, ‘Bhagat, will you come to Sarangpur?’ He had replied, ‘Yes, Maharaj! I will come.’ However, he had such bad knees that he couldn’t even walk. Yet, he had promised to come to Sarangpur, explaining, ‘Maharaj! On these legs I have walked eighteen times to Jagannathpuri, so what problem would it be for me to walk to Sarangpur?’ He had such indomitable faith in God’s manifest form. That devotee walked forty

miles a day on foot. Whereas we are hale and hearty, and yet are dismayed upon walking just two or three miles! Then what glory of God and guru have we understood? And where is the strength of our faith? We should think over this.

“Tulsidasji has penned a *sakhi* that when someone goes for darshan of the Sant, if they go by foot, then for each step they take, they gain the fruit of ten million *yagnas*. So, whoever has come here on foot will receive the fruit of the *yagna*; and whoever has darshan of this place associated with the manifest God will gain the fruit of a pilgrimage. However, those who simply jumped on the bandwagon and climbed aboard won't gain any special merit. We have similarly missed out on this special merit. But since we stopped the car on the outskirts of the village and walked fifty steps here, we will only get that much merit. But those of you who have come here on foot are immeasurably fortunate as you have received the fruit of millions and millions of *yagnas*. So, you should all stay

strong. Taking care to provide seats to the elderly, young children, and others who require it, the rest of us should come on foot.”

On the way back, at the tiny train station in Bhadra, Swamishri explained the glory of this pilgrimage place saying, “To come to this place and have this darshan is exceedingly rare. The crown jewels of great avatars and *ishwars* have been worn away in their efforts to attain this darshan here. And yet, they can only do darshan from the heavens. They cannot enter into this place the way we can. They pray to receive the grace of liberated *akshar-muktas* like yourselves. This darshan is so difficult to attain that only if your grace should happen to fall upon them, then by your help, would they be able to attain this manifest darshan. The darshan that is unattainable for viceroys and governors is the darshan that you have attained. Just as the mandir was constructed in Torda, a *shikharbaddha* mandir will be built here and a larger train station will be built closer to the village. I am overjoyed that I have

been able to have darshan of this divine place and bathe in the supremely sanctified Und River.”

Swamishri delivered extraordinary discourses at Hadmatiya station. He said, “To constantly perceive divinity within Satsang is bhakti. One should realize the devotees of God to be divine. The Satpurush is Satsang. Only when the manifest Satpurush occupies the principal position in the *jiva*’s heart can the *jiva*’s bondage be eradicated. Only then can one be said to have fully attain satsang.

“The Swamini Vato says, ‘These talks are magical.’ Whichever talks are associated with the manifest form of God are magical. What is this magic? To realize the falseness of this world.”

After doing darshan of all the sanctified spots in both of these pilgrimage places, Swamishri traveled to Gondal.