

Chapter 25

Convinced upon Witnessing a Miracle

On 2 October 1955, Swamishri, the sadhus, C.T. Patel, and other devotees were scheduled to travel by air from Nairobi to Dar es Salaam with a short stopover in Tanga. Over 150 devotees had gathered in Tanga to welcome Swamishri with flower garlands and have his darshan. The devotees garlanded Swamishri and delighted in his darshan. Then, at 6:30 p.m., Swamishri boarded the same plane to Dar es Salaam.

Here, a large crowd of devotees had also gathered to welcome Swamishri. Singing bhajans and *dhun*, the devotees took Swamishri and the sadhus in a procession of about twenty-five cars around the city before arriving at his accommodations.

Swamishri's accommodations had been arranged at the Lakshmi Narayan Mandir.

During his three days here, countless new spiritual aspirants came into Swamishri's contact. Meeting the sadhus and witnessing the integrity in their speech and actions, everyone developed a profound reverence for them; it seemed to people that they had been transported to a dream world as after countless eons this had land been sanctified by the holy touch of the feet of such sadhus who maintained complete, eightfold renunciation of women and wealth. How could they even imagine having darshan of such spiritual giants? Everyone pleaded for them to extend their stay. They also prayed for them to visit the city of Morogoro, but now the countdown to return to India had already started. Swamishri's program was fixed, and it was not possible to make any changes.

From here, Swamishri, the sadhus, C.T. Patel, and other devotees had planned to go by plane to Zanzibar. D.K. Patel had been attempting to secure tickets for the flight, but because they were missing the necessary health

certificates, it was impossible to get tickets at short notice. D.K. Patel was one of the leading citizens of Dar es Salaam. He had many influential contacts, but he was unable to get this done.

In the morning, during his explanation of the Vachanamrut, Swamishri told C.T. Patel, “Why are you sitting here? Go. Complete the work regarding the tickets.”

C.T. Patel took Swamishri’s blessings and immediately went to meet D.K. Patel, who he told, “Come on. Let’s go to the airways office for the tickets.”

D.K. Patel informed him, “There is no way under any circumstances that we will be able to procure the tickets.”

C.T. Patel told him, “Now we are going at Bapa’s behest.”

They both went to the airways office. After briefly explaining the situation, the officials gave them the tickets. D.K. Patel was astonished. “How did this happen?” C.T. Patel

replied, “This is Bapa’s influence and divine power. This is a minuscule occurrence, but should he wish, he can halt the progress of the sun and moon through the skies. He can change the direction of the entire universe.”

Thus, C.T. Patel explained Swamishri’s unimaginable greatness to D.K. Patel.

After this, D.K. Patel invited Swamishri to sanctify his home. When Swamishri arrived, D.K. Patel garlanded each of the four sadhus with flowers. However, he was embarrassed that he did not have a flower garland to offer Ishwarbhai Daji, who had come with Swamishri from India. Just then, Swamishri said, “Here, take this garland.” With his divine powers, Swamishri had instantly created a fifth flower garland! D.K. Patel was stunned. He became convinced that, “This is no ordinary Sant!”

At the time, D.K. Patel was a member of the Legislative Council of Tanganyika. Moreover, he was so brilliant and learned that he had achieved success upon success in public service over the last twenty-five years. In a public

assembly, he expressed his awe of Swamishri, saying, “Never in the history of this country has such a great soul ever graced this land. These sadhus’ lives are extremely spiritually elevated.” In the three days that Swamishri stayed there, he constantly remained in Swamishri’s company. Witnessing him from up close, D.K. Patel was completely won over by Swamishri.

There was also another wealthy businessman, Sheth Maganlal Morjaria, known by the nickname of Devani, who had been deeply impressed with Swamishri. He had taken Swamishri to his home in a grand procession and offered him flower garlands and puja with reverence.