

# Chapter 17

## “I Serve the Servant; That Is My Principle”

Swamishri went for the Guru Punam festival to Bochasan, where thousands of devotees were already arriving. On the night of 6 July 1952 (Ashadh *sud* 14, V.S. 2008), Swamishri led everyone in an extended *dhun* for rains. By the next morning, it had begun to rain.

The Guru Punam assembly started at 8 a.m. Motibhai Bhagwandas was managing the assembly program. He started by singing a kirtan he had composed about the Anand mandir *murti-pratishtha*. Akshar Swami delivered a discourse on the Vachanamrut, emphasizing the importance of pure conduct in a sadhu’s life. He appealed to the householder devotees not to spoil the sadhus in the hopes of receiving food, drink, and special hospitality in the mandirs. Swamishri recited five Swamini Vatos and spoke about the glory of satsang.

Moreover, Mota Swami, Maganbhai, Hakabhai, and Pramukh Swami also spoke, encouraging everyone to contribute to the Gadhada mandir project. Then, all the devotees offered Swamishri puja until 1:30 p.m.

When Swamishri went to bed at night, Vinubhai and other youths were massaging Swamishri’s feet. They had developed an aversion for a wayward sadhu serving as Swamishri’s attendant because they felt he was harassing Swamishri. They were right, he was harassing Swamishri, but Swamishri had not uttered a single word of complaint. However, discerning that these youth had developed an aversion for him, Swamishri could not keep silent, and he omnisciently said, “Vinubhai! This sadhu has offered a lot of service to Shastriji Maharaj. I have received a sanctified attendant. I should serve him! I should not allow him to serve. I don’t need an attendant. I serve the servant; that is my principle. So, you should see his virtues.”

Swamishri’s words caused the youths to introspect and resolve, “Now we will renounce faultfinding not only for that sadhu but for anyone!”