

Chapter 23

Inauguration of a New Printing of the Vachanamrut

Swamishri traveled to Ahmedabad on Kartik *sud* Ekadashi. After having darshan at the Nar-Narayan Dev mandir, Swamishri presided in a spiritual assembly at the Mistry loft. The Sanstha had worked with Sastu Sahitya Press to publish for the first time a beautiful new printing of the Vachanamrut, which Swamishri inaugurated on this occasion by signing the inaugural copy. Swamishri had told the devotees on innumerable occasions, “The Vachanamrut and Swamini Vato scriptures should be in each person’s home.”

Inspired by Swamishri’s command, Harmanbhai had arranged for this high-quality printing of the Vachanamrut to ensure that a copy would be available for every devotee. Until now, available printed editions of the Vachanamrut were in the Balbodh script, which

elderly and ordinary folks found difficult to read. Harmanbhai contacted Sastu Sahitya Press and convinced them to print the Vachanamrut using a large Gujarati typeface. For the first time in the entire Sampradaya, this edition of the Vachanamrut was printed with the titles of each Vachanamrut as envisioned by the *sadgurus* and important sentences in each Vachanamrut in boldface type. Additionally, a beautiful image was included of Shriji Maharaj seated in Dada's *darbar* delivering discourses to the assembled *sadgurus*. Pleased with Harmanbhai's efforts in producing this beautiful edition of the Vachanamrut, Swamishri commanded all the devotees to purchase a copy. Before long, the Vachanamruts were flying off the shelves.

The Kartik Punam festival was celebrated successfully in Bochasan. Since Kothari Shrijiswarupdas was ill, Kothari Bhaktijivandas had taken care of all the festival arrangements. Pramukh Swami had arrived two days prior to the festival and guided everyone in making the

proper arrangements. Due to Swamishri's affection and constant efforts, *yuvak mandals* had sprouted up in many villages. Consequently, the *yuvak mandals* were becoming one of the largest groups of participants in these festivals. Moreover, to please Swamishri, many of the youths would volunteer to organize and serve in the various festival arrangements.

Bochasan's Bahadursinh and Shanabhai helped with the accommodations and sleeping arrangements, while Ravjibhai and other youths looked after serving tea, water, and food at meals. Govind Swami oversaw the kitchen and food stores. Ishwar Bhagat and Keshav Bhagat distributed prasad to everyone. In this way, all the arrangements were very well organized.

The night before the festival, the bhajan *mandals* of Vaso, Bhadran, and Zarola led the devotees in singing bhajans. During the Punam festival assembly, an announcement was made

about the Vachanamrut that had been newly printed through Harmanbhai's efforts.

One of the most distinctive aspects of the festivals were the immense affection, friendship, oneness, and sentiment of service between the devotees, which engendered an atmosphere of divinity.

When Shastriji Maharaj had decided to re-ordain Shrijiswarupdas after he had left the monastic order, most of the sadhus and devotees were opposed to his decision. However, Shastriji Maharaj showered his immeasurable grace upon him and offered him complete absolution.

Thereafter, Shrijiswarupdas had felt that the local sadhus and devotees were not taking particularly good care of his needs. However, whenever Swamishri came to Bochasan, he would provide him with new *dhotiyas*, and make arrangements for anything else that he wanted.

Once, Shrijiswarupdas told Mohanbhai Mistry, “There is no *sant* as great as Jogi Maharaj. He gets me whatever I ask for and takes such good care of me. Such a *sant* who bears absolutely no malice towards anyone does not exist anywhere else. No matter how much Durvasa Rushi had wronged him, King Ambrish maintained the same beneficent sentiment for the Rushi. Today, Yogi Maharaj is a *sant* with such *nirdosh buddhi*.” While speaking of Yogiji Maharaj’s indescribable glory, Shrijiswarupdas’s eyes welled up with tears.

From Bochasan, Swamishri traveled to Karamsad and Davol, where he visited Ambalalbhai and other devotees. Then, he traveled to Vasana via Borsad and sanctified the homes of all the devotees.

As he visited the home of a high school principal, the principal gave only eight cents as an offering. The devotees who were with Swamishri felt that after having called Swamishri this far to sanctify his house, it

wasn't right for him to give such a small offering. While Swamishri was initially unaware of the situation, hearing the devotees grumbling, he immediately caught on and flashed a loving smile. He understood the financial difficulty of one devotee, while also understanding the sentiments of the other devotees, but he did not give the slightest negative response! Although he had visited many homes that day, he did not allow the slightest sign of fatigue to be seen on his face. Swamishri blessed the principal with great affection and enthusiasm and took his leave.

Swamishri and the sadhus delighted everyone with their spiritual discourses. Kashibhai, Shankarbhai, Ishwarbhai, Bhailalbhai, and many other devotees were thrilled with Swamishri's visit to their village.