

Chapter 20

Swamishri Reveals His Wish to Initiate 51 Sadhus

One day, Vinubhai and Ramanbhai of Anand were performing *pradakshinas* in Akshar Deri early in the morning after *mangala arti*. Just then, Swamishri came to Akshar Deri to do his puja. Vinubhai and Ramanbhai adjusted their *pradakshinas* so that they were now circumambulating both Akshar Deri and Swamishri's puja. Swamishri called both of them close and said, "In 1961, we will install the *kalashes* atop the *shikhars* of the Gadhada mandir. On that occasion, I want to initiate 51 sadhus. You both should become sadhus at that time."

At the time, Ramanbhai knew nothing about the life of a sadhu, nor had he even dreamed of becoming one. However, Swamishri had won him over through his pure love in a way unmatched in the world of love.

At night, Swamishri used to lay out the youths' bedrolls himself. The morning after a fast, Swamishri would serve the youths lemonade, moong, and yogurt and sit across from them while they ate.

The establishment of youth centers had begun around this time, and Swamishri continued to inspire everyone and consolidate their satsang.