

Chapter 12

After Shastriji Maharaj, Will It All Be a Jumbled Mess?

On Friday, 10 May 1940 (Vaishakh sud 3, V.S. 1996), the groundbreaking ceremony of the Atladara mandir was performed with great festivity. Then, Shastriji Maharaj visited Goriyad, Sejakuva, and Dabhsa, before arriving in Ahmedabad.

Tribhuvan Mistry resided in the Bakri Pol neighborhood of Ahmedabad. He had staunch faith in Akshar Purushottam *upasana*, and he often delivered spiritual discourses. Once, a devotee came to Tribhuvanbhai and said, “Shastriji Maharaj constructed three mandirs, and he has decided to create a fourth mandir in Atladara, where construction will start soon. He wants to construct a fifth mandir in Gadhada and a sixth mandir here in Ahmedabad, where the search for land has started. Instead of separating himself and

doing this on his own, why doesn't he just rejoin the Vartal and Ahmedabad dioceses? Why don't devotees like you advocate for this?"

Tribhuvan Mistry said, "The leaders of Vartal and Ahmedabad all talk about reconciliation, but when the topic of Akshar comes up, they balk. Gunatitanand Swami is Mul Akshar, but no one in Vartal or Ahmedabad is ready to accept this. Thus, it doesn't appear any reconciliation will be possible. Moreover, as long as Shastriji Maharaj is here, everything will surely run smoothly, but Yogi Maharaj will struggle to manage the organization because he is a meek-natured sadhu. He is an embodiment of compassion, unable to scold or rebuke anyone. Thus, it seems that he will not be able to sustain the Satsang community. It will end up a jumbled mess, or it may be subsumed into the princely states. Instead of that, I think it would be better to join with the Vartal or Ahmedabad dioceses. But it doesn't look like Shastriji Maharaj will do that himself before departing

from this Earth. Whatever Maharaj has willed will happen. We should just listen to and deliver discourses and remain content.”

When Shastriji Maharaj was informed of Tribhuvanbhai’s statement, he laughed and said, “The same person who has given this knowledge and taught the true *upasana* has also built these mandirs. He is concerned both for the mandirs and for everyone’s liberation. But, Maharaj-Swami are looking after all of us. While people make such statements indiscriminately, the reality is that no one knows how to manage the institution and its affairs better than Yogi Maharaj. He will greatly expand the Satsang community. Just as Gopalanand Swami had told Shivlal Sheth, ‘If you want to master worldly affairs, go to Sundariyana’s Puja Sheth. But if you want to master both worldly affairs and ensure your liberation, then go to the Jogi of Junagadh, Gunatitanand Swami.’ Similarly, Jogi Maharaj will properly manage both mundane affairs and liberation.”

From Ahmedabad, Shastriji Maharaj and his sadhus traveled to Rajkot, Gondal, and Jasdan, granting the devotees the benefit of their company, before arriving in Sarangpur. At the insistence of the local devotees, Shastriji Maharaj and Yogi Maharaj also visited the villages surrounding Sarangpur and pleased everyone.