

Chapter 18

Mandir Food Quells Hunger of Body and Spirit

Purushottambhai of Koyali had come to Ahmedabad to complete a course qualifying him to be a sanitation inspector. As the *parayans* of the month of Shravan were ongoing, Purushottambhai was staying in the mandir and studying. When he went for Swamishri's darshan, Swamishri asked his name and other details. When he learned that he was the son of Ishwarbhai of Jesangpura, Swamishri was pleased and said, "I had often visited in Shastriji Maharaj's time."

Then Swamishri asked about his studies and his food arrangements. Purushottambhai said, "Bapa, I'm eating in the Sarvoday Lodge."

Swamishri said, "As long as I am here, you should eat here."

However, Purushottambhai was scared of Babubhai Kothari. Babubhai was very strict, and at the time, food was being rationed by the government. Thus, if he saw any local devotees eating in the mandir, he would scold them and say, “If you need it, take two rupees from me and use it to eat in the lodge, but don’t eat here.”

So, Swamishri gave Babubhai some prasad and requested him to allow Purushottambhai to eat there. Babubhai willingly agreed, and Purushottambhai no longer had to eat in the lodge.

Purushottambhai felt that Swamishri’s divine love was beyond description. The love of this world was conditional and based on self-interest. Only the Satpurush was able to give selfless, unconditional love.

On the morning of 23 August 1952 (Bhadharva *sud* 3, V.S. 2008), Swamishri walked with about 200 devotees to the sacred Narayan Ghat while singing bhajans. Everyone

bathed in the Sabarmati River and had darshan in the mandir.

Later that morning, Swamishri, Pramukh Swami, Mota Swami, Bhogilalbhai Sheth, Vasantray Pandya, Maganbhai, Hakabhai, and other devotees went to the bungalow of Acharya Devendraprasadji Maharaj. Devendraprasadji Maharaj was seated in a chair in the courtyard. Everyone did *dandvat pranams* to him and garlanded him. Swamishri recited some Swamini Vato. Mota Swami narrated the incident in which Acharya Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj had honored Gunatitanand Swami in Ahmedabad. Devendraprasadji Maharaj had just come back from a pilgrimage, and he shared his experiences with everyone. Hakabhai Khachar expressed his gratitude on behalf of everyone. Devendraprasadji Maharaj offered his best wishes for the growth of Satsang. Then everyone returned to the mandir.

From here, Swamishri visited Dabhoi, Bochasan, and Nenpur before returning to

Ahmedabad. On the night of Friday, 29 August 1952, Swamishri took the Somnath Mail train to Sarangpur. There, he celebrated the Jal-Jhilani festival with great enthusiasm. He held an assembly at Shastriji Maharaj's cremation site in the evening, in which the Mojidad *bal mandal* performed a *raas* dance. Swamishri was pleased with the children's innocent devotion, and he congratulated their teachers.