

Chapter 25

Jal-Jhilani in Mombasa

On 25 September 1955, Swamishri, Mota Swami, and devotees traveled by train to Mombasa. A large group of well-wishers had gathered at the Mombasa train station to welcome Swamishri. The police were also helping with the arrangements. From the station, the devotees took Swamishri to the mandir in a procession. The procession reached the mandir to resounding cries of the *jay naad* in an auspicious atmosphere. The *yuvaks* expressed their joy at Swamishri's arrival by welcoming him with fireworks. In honor of Swamishri's arrival, the entire mandir had been decorated with colorful candles and streamers, and 1,501 ghee *divas* had been lit. The countless rows of *divas* made the mandir appear resplendent. The children showered flowers upon Swamishri. After performing an

arti of 125 *divas*, Das Bhagat sang a kirtan he had composed to welcome Swamishri.

Swamishri addressed the assembled *satsangis* and then, together with the accompanying sadhus, went to have a bath and do puja.

In the evening, Swamishri visited the home of Hirji Karamshi. Just a short while ago, Shriji Maharaj had given darshan here in a divine form and left footprints and handprints around the home. Swamishri had darshan of these divine marks.

On 29 September 1955, the festival of Jal-Jhilani Ekadashi was celebrated with great enthusiasm. At 4:30 p.m. Thakorji and Ganpati were seated in a decorated palanquin covered with strings of flowers. At the head of the grand procession of thousands of devotees was a marching band. Along the route, everyone had darshan of the Hindu Union Mandir before arriving at Old Port. Then, Swamishri, the sadhus, and all the devotees boarded a steamboat and performed five

circumambulations in the ocean while performing the *arti* of Thakorji and Ganpati five times. On the final round, Swamishri immersed the *murti* of Ganpati in the ocean. Then everyone returned to the mandir. Between 3,000 and 4,000 devotees had come to the seashore for Swamishri's darshan.

The festival continued at night in the mandir. Since today was Ekadashi, many devotees had joined the sadhus in observing a waterless fast.

On 30 September 1955, Swamishri broke his fast. He also had lunch in the mandir. Since Mombasa was a transport hub to go to India, many spiritual aspirants arriving from India or going out of the country came every day for Swamishri's darshan. Everyone felt fulfilled to have the darshan of such a matchless sadhu amidst the devotees' enthusiastic celebration of such unprecedented grand festivals.

Speaking in a spiritual assembly, Swamishri said:

“What does it mean to attain Akshardham in this very life? One is able to endure hardships from everyone and offer service while believing that one has done nothing. One’s understanding of God’s glory continues to grow.

“Satsang will grow immensely. There will be continual *parayans* and spiritual discourses. There will be constant drilling of spiritual knowledge. What must we do? If one inspires a single soul to walk this path, he gains the merit of rescuing an entire universe. Believe one’s self to be *brahmarup*.

“One understands Swami’s wishes and does not maintain a single thought outside his will. Faith in his words is itself devotion. The conviction that whatever he says is final is itself devotion. If he says day, it’s day; if he says night, it’s night. One gains immense spiritual progress by maintaining *nirdoshbhav*. While the Satpurush may not make a huge display regarding his grace, from the inside he is immensely pleased with such a devotee. Note

Vachanamrut Gadhada I 76. See, we oblige him to do our will. To bear his harsh words is itself bhakti. Even if he scolds us in a public assembly, we would not feel the slightest bit hurt. As it is, God doesn't reprimand us. But even if he scolded us for no fault of our own, we would not become discouraged. Once one passes that test, one attains devotion, solidarity, and the guru's grace.