

Chapter 16

Captain! Of Satsang or Seva?

One day at 3 p.m., Swamishri was washing the dishes in the tiny kitchen of the *hari mandir* in Ahmedabad. He had washed half the dishes when Babubhai Kothari stepped out of his office and heard the sounds of someone washing dishes in the adjacent room. He thought to himself, “Who would be washing dishes at this time in the afternoon?” Out of curiosity, he went to check, but the doors had been locked from the inside. He peered through the crack between the doors and saw it was Swamishri!

Babubhai was astonished. The highest enlightened being, the dust of whose feet was craved by thousands of devotees was doing this type of service!

Babubhai knocked on the door and pleaded, “Swami! Please stop. You should not do such work.”

Swamishri opened the door and laughingly said, “Because those who are engaged in the service are exhausted and resting, I received this wonderful opportunity to serve. So please don’t forbid me.”

However, at Babubhai’s vehement insistence, Swamishri had to give in to his requests.