

Chapter 25

The Darshan of a Walking-Talking God

Rasikbhai, a Vaishnav devotee of Gulu, had become depressed after his father's passing. He quit his job and spent his time chanting the Vishnu Sahasranaam while keeping an image of Sai Baba across from him.

One day, his friend Vajubhai went to meet him. Vajubhai was bemused by the strangeness of the situation in which his friend was sitting before the *murti* of Sai Baba and chanting the unrelated mantras of the Vishnu Sahasranaam. When he inquired about this, Rasikbhai informed him of the devastation he was feeling at his father's demise and blurted out, “I want to demand an answer from God as to why he took my father away so early?”

Vajubhai asked, “Has he replied?”

Rasikbhai said, “Well, I have to meet God first, don’t I!”

Vajubhai said, “I know where he is! A walking-talking God!”

Rasikbhai initially glared at him, thinking that he was being mocked. But he quickly saw that his friend’s words were suffused with an unflinching conviction, so he decided, “Alright then, let me go see that God!”

Vajubhai clarified, “I swear on the sanctity of my *tilak-chandlo* that I am not lying! God is manifest on this Earth today through the Sant who can talk to us, grant us peace, and alleviate mountains of miseries. What are you thinking? That you want to accept his refuge...”

“Not like that. First, I have to see him before I believe in him.”

“Come on then to the satsang assembly.”

That is how both friends had ended up in the satsang assembly at the home of C.T. Patel in 1952. Upon seeing the loving expression on Swamishri’s printed *murti*, Rasikbhai

experienced peace in his heart. He became more interested in the satsang assemblies, which he began attending regularly. In 1955, when Swamishri arrived in Mombasa, he had darshan of Swamishri for the first time. Listening to the spiritual discourses being held in the days following the *murti-pratishththa*, he realized the truth of the Akshar Purushottam *upasana*. He relished the experience of Swamishri's loving clap on his back, and he accepted the *vartman* initiating him into Satsang from Swamishri.

Rasikbhai would often tell Vajubhai, “I am indebted to you for lifetimes since you granted me darshan of a walking-talking God.”