

## Chapter 23

### **“We Are the Servant of Shriji!”**

Witnessing the irrepressible enthusiasm of the devotees during Swamishri’s vicharan in Jhalavad, the youths who were traveling with him further understood Swamishri’s greatness.

Once on Ekadashi, the youths had just lay down for their afternoon siesta. Just then, Swamishri arrived and said, “If you sleep during the day today, you won’t receive the fruits of the fast.”

The youths sat up and said, “Bapa, we won’t go to sleep. But you have visited devotees’ homes without pause from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. So, we pray that you take a nap.” So saying, the youths arranged Swamishri’s bedding. Swamishri sat on the mattress. The youths encircled Swamishri and began to massage his body.

Swamishri said, “Ask some questions.”

So, Vittalbhai asked, “Bapa, in all the time that I have been traveling with you, it is evident to me that the description of Shriji Maharaj’s personality matches exactly with your own. It seems there are abundant similarities between you and Shriji Maharaj. But can you highlight where the differences exist?”

Swamishri said, “*Ek rati bin ek rati ko* (There is nothing of substance in that)! We can be said to be Shriji Maharaj’s servant. One can say that ‘Maharaj resides forever in the Satpurush,’ but you should not say anything beyond this.”

Then Swamishri spoke about Shriji Maharaj’s divine glory and granted everyone the bliss of his divine presence on Ekadashi.

From here, Swamishri traveled to Samadhiyala and Barvala before arriving in Navda. Shivabhai, Kanbhai, and the other devotees relished the opportunity of Swamishri service. Then, Swamishri went to Dholera.

Here, Swamishri did darshan of the holy places around the village. Doing darshan at Sadguru Nishkulanand Swami’s cremation site, Swamishri emphatically expressed to Kothari Hariprasad Swami of Dholera mandir, “There should be a marble memorial shrine on this spot. We will erect a marble memorial shrine here if you give permission.”

Hariprasad Swami replied, “I cannot grant you permission for that since I do not have the authority to do so.” However, he was deeply touched by Swamishri’s generosity of spirit.

Then, Swamishri went to the mandir. Kothari Hariprasad Swami insisted that Swamishri extend his stay, but because his program had already been set, Swamishri had to leave. So, before departing for Rohishala, Swamishri encouraged the devotees to donate generously to the mandir, thus pleasing the *kothari*.