

Chapter 25

I Definitely Come to Fetch My Devotees in Their Final Moments

On the morning of 18 August, Swamishri left from Nakuru and traveled to Sabatia via Rongai. Here, Chaturbhai had made great efforts and arranged for a festival of wedding-like proportions.

The following morning, Swamishri departed from Sabatia and, traveling through Eldama Ravine and Maji Mazuri, arrived in Eldoret. The leading townspeople welcomed Swamishri with flower garlands. Swamishri stayed at Somabhai's house and delivered spiritual discourses in the local school on the topic of "Ethics and the qualities of the Satpurush."

On 21 August, Swamishri went to Kitale. Here, the sadhus' accommodations were in Gandhi Memorial Hall.

On 23 August, Swamishri traveled to Kakamega before arriving in Kisumu. Here, a public spiritual assembly was held at the Lakshmi Narayan Mandir. The assembly hall was packed. Swamishri established the *satsang mandal* of Kisumu. Swamishri visited many homes here until late into the night.

On 25 August, Swamishri left Kisumu and traveled to Kericho. Two public assemblies were organized here—one in the morning and one at night. Countless spiritual aspirants in the village were purified by listening to Swamishri's nectarine speech. This region sees 300 inches of rain a year. However, before Swamishri began his travels in the region, he had prayed, "May the devotees enjoy the most satsang possible and may many people be inspired to walk the path of dharma..." Thus, the rains had not hindered him in any place since he had left Nakuru. Even though it was the rainy season in this region of Africa, Swamishri had used his spiritual powers to stop the rains everywhere so that he could connect

the people with Shriji Maharaj and grant them the bliss of his darshan and *samagam*. Prior to Swamishri's visit to Kericho, there had been torrential rain for days, but the day before Swamishri's arrival, the rain and cold had vanished.

On the morning of 27 August, Swamishri departed from Kericho and traveled to Lumbwa, from where he was to go to Molo. On the way to Molo, Swamishri passed through the village of Londiani. Swamishri told Girdharbhai, "Take our car into this village."

Girdharbhai objected, "Bapa! No *satsangis* stay here. This village is not in our program."

Swamishri laughed and said, "Because there is a program, I want to go."

Although Girdharbhai was flummoxed, because Swamishri had instructed it, he took the car towards Londiani.

On the way into the village, they came to the small shop of a Luhana businessman. Swamishri said, "Go inside the shop and

inquire.” As soon as the businessman realized that Yogiji Maharaj was sitting in the car outside, he immediately came to the car and said, “Bapa! My father is ill, and he has been thinking of you constantly since yesterday. Since he read in the newspaper that you had come to Kericho, he has been insisting on going to have your darshan. Please come to my house.”

Swamishri went through the shop and into the house. The businessman’s elderly father was overjoyed. He said, “I had hoped for this. That you would come to fulfill my final wish. When I had your darshan in the picture printed in the newspaper, I was convinced that ‘Here is a great Sant, and he will certainly come to grant me darshan’. You are omniscient God.”

Girdharbhai realized that Swamishri had specially come to this village to fulfill the intense desire of a single spiritual aspirant and to liberate his soul by granting him darshan. This elderly devotee’s son-in-law, Dhirubhai, had come there to check on his health. He knew

Girdharbhai. Thus, he was also pleased to meet Girdharbhai and have Swamishri's darshan.

In Molo, Swamishri's accommodations were in Jamnadas Naranbhai Patel's new bungalow. It was very cold in Molo, and moreover, the house was new. Consequently, Swamishri felt as if the cold had settled into his bones and chest. Here, he developed a constant need to clear his throat that left his voice hoarse—a condition that would plague him for the rest of his life. Years later, Swamishri often recounted how the cold had settled into his chest in Molo when he had gone to Africa in 1955, and it still hadn't left.

When Swamishri was delivering discourses, invariably at least once, his voice would get hoarse, and he would need to clear his throat, causing some inconvenience. Such was his delicate health. Moreover, his constitution was such that he caught colds very easily. But during his travels, Swamishri never considered his health and thus accepted many chronic conditions and pains.

Swamishri stayed in Molo for a day, and on the morning of 28 August, Swamishri traveled via Elburgon to Ol Kalou. In the evening, he went to Gilgil before reaching Nairobi at night.

Swamishri stayed in Nairobi until 2 September 1955. During this time, Swamishri would deliver discourses in the spiritual assemblies held every morning and night. During the day, Swamishri would visit devotees' homes in the different areas of the city.

From here, one day, Swamishri went with his group of sadhus to Kikuyu.

On the morning of 3 September, Swamishri left Nairobi and traveled to Machakos. When Swamishri reached the outskirts of the town, he was welcomed by all the town's devotees who were waiting there with a band to take Swamishri and the sadhus in a festive procession through the town. Following that, Swamishri and the sadhus made their accommodations at Motibhai's house. Motibhai celebrated Swamishri's arrival on a grand scale

and fed the entire town. In the evening, Swamishri addressed the public assembly and delighted everyone with his words of wisdom. Countless people were inspired to follow the path of dharma after hearing Swamishri. Many people accepted *vartman* initiation from Swamishri and gave up their addictions.

On the morning of 6 September, Swamishri traveled to Nanyuki. The devotees received Swamishri with flower garlands. Sanctifying the homes of many devotees and spiritual aspirants, Swamishri freed them of their addictions and granted them the bliss of his divine discourses.

After that, for three days, Swamishri fulfilled the wishes of the devotees of Nairobi.