

# Chapter 23

## Pilgrimage to Motera

On Thursday, 2 December 1954, Swamishri, together with sadhus and devotees, traveled from Ahmedabad to Kaligam (Akshar Puri). Everyone's accommodations had been arranged in the Ramji Mandir. Ambalalbhai spoke about the glory of satsang and the Satpurush in his colloquial style and pleased the assembly. Mota Swami and Swamishri also gave their blessings.

The next day, everyone sat in the back of a large carrier truck and reached Motera by noon. After doing darshan in the mandir, Swamishri sat on the veranda and delivered discourses for an hour. Then, everyone went to the Mahadev shrine sanctified by Shriji Maharaj. Everyone bathed in the nearby river, and Swamishri spoke to Magan Pagi, who had accompanied them from Motera. Convincing him to forsake all his bad habits, Swamishri

offered him *vartman*. Swamishri had him bathe in the river and commanded him to do *dandvats* to the river as well. Then Swamishri said, “After many years, today our wish to have darshan of Motera has been fulfilled.”

Then, Swamishri returned to Kaligam, where the spiritual discourses continued until midnight. Ranchhodbhai Mukhi, Shankarbhai, Shamalkaka, Nathabhai, and other devotees served Swamishri sincerely.

On Saturday, Swamishri left for Adalaj. On the way there, Swamishri visited the mandir in the village of Chandkheda. He delivered discourses to the devotees there, and Harmanbhai spoke to everyone about the glory of satsang. After arriving in Adalaj, Swamishri went to the toilet and then read the inscription describing the history of the sanctified stepwell. Swamishri said, “The water in the stepwell is from the time of Shriji Maharaj, so everyone should have a bath here.” With those words, Swamishri went into the stepwell for a bath together with all the sadhus and devotees.

From there, Motibhai led everyone in a festive procession to the mandir. Since it was afternoon, Thakorji's darshan was closed. Swamishri blessed the devotees saying, "We came to your village, and all of you truly seized the opportunity. It was like threading a pearl in a flash of lightning." Swamishri also advised the devotees' sons to maintain their satsang and serve the sadhus.

From here, Swamishri returned to Kaligam. Once again, the spiritual discourses lasted until midnight. The next day, Dr. Mathurbhai and other devotees took the opportunity to bathe with Swamishri in the Sabarmati River. Since today was Sunday, Swamishri traveled to the Shahibaug mandir in the evening and delivered discourses to the assembled devotees.

From 10 December 1954 (Magshar *vad* 1, V.S. 2011), Pramukh Swami commenced a *parayan* in Swamishri's presence in the *rang mandap* of the Gadhada mandir on the banks of the Ghela River. Mota Swami also periodically delivered discourses as well. At

night, Swamishri would deliver discourses on the Vachanamrut. In the middle of the *parayan*, Swamishri went for a day to Dared to give his blessings on the occasion of Dared Bapu's son's first day of school. After that, Swamishri returned to Gadhada. Many devotees from the surrounding villages came for the *parayan*. One day, students from the school in Gadhali came for darshan. Swamishri established a *yuvak mandal* here and appointed Dhirajlal Anandji Vaidya as the president. The *parayan* concluded on the morning of Thursday, 16 December. Kothari Harijivandas, Devprasad Swami, other sadhus, Haribhai Mistry, Nanubhai Mehta, and the other devotees of the *mandal* offered their sincere service in making the necessary arrangements.

From here, Swamishri traveled to Ambardi, Ghela Somnath, Gadhada, and Sarangpur before arriving in Zamrala. Here, while delivering discourses, Swamishri said, "Whoever you take refuge in, he will look out

for you.’ If one sits in a stone ship, it will take one straight to the ocean floor, but if one sits in a wooden ship, it will take one to the other shore. This is an illustration, but what is the principle? One must find the true Satpurush, recognize him as such and then attach one’s soul to him. If one wishes to traverse the ocean of life, one must hold tight to the wooden vessel that is the true Satpurush.”