

Chapter 16

“We Will Consider It to Be Your Sponsored Meal”

Mahuva’s Popatlal Harilal Dani and Shantilal Harilal Dani both came for the darshan of the new Gadhada mandir for the first time. At the behest of their mother, Kuvarba, both Popatbhai and Shantibhai had sponsored a *Satsangijivan parayan* at the Gopinathji mandir and invited their entire family to attend. They had been given accommodations in the building next to the neem tree.

One day, Kuvarba decided that she wanted to sponsor a meal, offer donation, and sponsor the sadhus’ *dhotiyas* at the new mandir. So, she came with her sons to the new mandir.

The two brothers bowed at Swamishri’s feet and sat before him. Swamishri asked them to introduce themselves. Learning that they were

both businessmen of Mahuva, Swamishri said, “They are from Bhagatji Maharaj’s birthplace.”

When Swamishri inquired about their accommodations and food arrangements, they explained everything, adding, “The day after tomorrow is the conclusion of the *parayan* we have sponsored in the Gopinathji mandir. So please prepare a feast on that day for all the sadhus and devotees here. Also, let us know what type of cloth you prefer, and we will come with a bolt of it to offer to all the sadhus.”

Just then, Kothari Harijivandasji arrived looking worried. Swamishri said to the brothers, “Sheth! The mandir construction work is ongoing here. We have fallen behind on the payments to the masons and laborers. So, if you give us cash, we will be able to pay their back wages. We will consider it to be the sponsorship of a great feast.”

In those days, paying the workers wages required such adjustments.

The brothers replied, “Bapa! Please do as you wish. We will give you the cash.”

Swamishri was very pleased with both brothers and clapped them twice on the back with both hands. Both of them experienced a feeling of great peace. Swamishri insisted on giving them a large bag of *magaj* as prasad. Then he said, “You have removed the worry of our *kothari*.”

From just this small interaction, both brothers were won over by Swamishri and developed resolute faith in Akshar Purushottam *upasana*.

On 19 September 1951, Swamishri traveled from Gadhada to Ningala, and then via train to Bhavnagar. Swamishri was welcomed at the station with a flower garland and *jay naads* by many devotees, including Kuberbhai and his family, Dared Darbar, Jayantibhai, Chimanbhai, and Kanjibhai.

In Bhavnagar, Swamishri, Mota Swami, and other sadhus would deliver discourses until

midnight. In the spiritual discussions, Kuberbhai would also share his experiences. Everyone experienced great joy from these sessions. In the morning, after the regular spiritual discourses, Swamishri would sanctify homes throughout the city. In addition to visiting the homes of many local devotees, Swamishri also sanctified the homes of the Khoja Sheth Hirjibhai and his family, Dared Darbar Ranvirsinhji, Panditbhai Badheka, Dalpatbhai, and Kanaiyalal Raval. This program continued for four days.

At 5:30 a.m. on 22 September 1951, everyone climbed onto the back of a small open truck and traveled to Mahuva for darshan of Bhagatji Maharaj’s birthplace.