

# Chapter 25

## Guru Punam in Kampala

On 23 June 1955, Swamishri departed from Tororo to go to Kampala. Around fifty devotees from Tororo traveled 140 miles with Swamishri to Kampala to see him off. Everyone had become so attached to Swamishri's captivating *murti* that upon his departure from Tororo many devotees shed tears due to the pain of separation.

At 5 p.m., Swamishri, the sadhus, and devotees reached Kampala Railway Station. The devotees in Kampala welcomed Swamishri with flower garlands. Then they took Thakorji and the sadhus in a festive procession to the site of the spiritual assembly, where they had made arrangements for everyone to sit.

Due to the constant nurturing of Satsang in Kampala by Tribhovandas, Prabhudas Lalla, and other devotees, the devotees' enthusiasm was overwhelming.

Swamishri was staying at the home of R.U. Patel. The spiritual assembly had been arranged in the open ground of his ginnery. The pious citizens of Kampala made the most of this opportunity.

At 8 a.m. on 25 June 1955, while delivering spiritual discourses, Swamishri said, “Open up the Vachanamrut to any page at random.” The Vachanamrut fell open on Loya 6. Swamishri expounded on that Vachanamrut. Then he went to the Sanatan Mandir for darshan.

30 June 1955 was Devpodhi or Niyam Ekadashi. After puja, Swamishri gave everyone special *niyams* to observe for Chaturmas. Swamishri was suffering from a cold. Thus, he didn’t come to the evening assembly, but stayed at his accommodations where he could stay warm.

On Saturday, 2 July 1955, in the assembly at night, Swamishri said, “You should remember all the talks that you have heard. You should go over them in your mind. Within this body, there is the *atma*. When the *atma* becomes

sullied, you should bathe it in the Ganga of spiritual knowledge. God's remembrance should be used like soap. What is the club with which to beat the washing? Dhyan is the club. When these three things come together, the *atma* is purified."

On 3 July 1955, Swamishri had his abdomen massaged before taking a bath. Swamishri often suffered from a misalignment of his large intestine, and when that happened, he would apply the traditional remedy of having his abdomen massaged. If Mota Swami was with him, then he would lovingly treat Swamishri by massaging his abdomen and pulling his legs until the joints popped.

This morning and evening, Swamishri visited devotees' homes in the city and then delivered discourses in the assembly. Because he was not feeling well, Swamishri retired for the night at 10 p.m.

On 4 July 1955, after puja, Swamishri did *dhun* that Satsang may expand and that the Guru Punam festival may be successfully

celebrated. Then Swamishri instructed everyone to rent an entire steamer and come together on the occasion of the Gadhada Kalash Pratishtha festival. Swamishri advised them to arrange a pilgrimage of the *panchtirthi* at the same time. He explained, “You should not rush. You should make arrangements to spend the night at each pilgrimage place.”

In the satsang assemblies, Swamishri would deliver discourses and also have the sadhus read the Bhaktachintamani and the Harililamrut. He also had C.T. Patel of Mombasa speak in the assembly.

Today, all morning and afternoon, Swamishri sanctified devotees’ homes. At 9:30 p.m., Swamishri addressed the assembly, saying, “In Swami’s time, he would often tell me to speak in the assembly. At that time, I did not know how to speak. However, remembering the *murti*, I would speak. Although I did not know how to speak, I would speak at his command. Swami would say, ‘Speak.’ And I would instantly begin speaking. Even if what I

said had no rhyme or reason, Swamishri would be pleased. Following his commands with alacrity. ‘*Vachane pravrutti, vachane nivrutti...*’ (At his commands engage in activity, and at his commands cease activity...)

“One should serve by thought, word, and deed. One should eradicate all vestiges of atheism from one’s mind. As doubt arises, faith is lost. It is rare to attain such a Satpurush. By his association, one attains Akshardham. If we can do as he says, no unhappiness would remain.”

On Tuesday, 5 July 1955, many devotees from far and wide had come to be in the presence of Guruhari Yogiji Maharaj on the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima. After Swamishri’s morning puja, he had the Bhaktachintamani and Vachanamrut read aloud. On the occasion of the festival, everyone had been invited to partake of prasad. Thus, at 10:30 a.m., Swamishri visited the kitchen and sanctified the food prepared for the devotees.

Upon returning to his accommodations, Swamishri performed the *dhun*, praying that in Kampala, a mandir may be constructed, Satsang may grow, and all the devotees may be happy. Then, Swamishri himself sat down to offer Thakorji *thal*. Swamishri lovingly fed Thakorji, then did five *dandvats* and declared, “Shriji Maharaj himself ate the food we offered!”

Following his afternoon rest, Swamishri spoke on many satsang topics to the devotees gathered there.

At 5 p.m., the Guru Punam festival commenced as Swamishri and the sadhus arrived in the assembly. Following kirtans, Tribhovandas, Harmanbhai, and C.T. Patel addressed the assembly.

In his blessings, Swamishri recited and expounded upon Swamini Vato 1/1: “One should continuously engage in delivering and listening to talks on the glory of God and his Sadhu.” Then he exhorted everyone to apply the lessons of Vachanamrut Gadhada III 8–

“Remaining eternally happy” and Vachanamrut Gadhada III 11—“Understanding like that of Sitaji.” Then he said, “Only then will we be able to remain united. We won’t see flaws in anyone. Attempt to eradicate one’s own flaws—that is our Guru Purnima. Maharaj, Swami, and Santo are manifest before our eyes. While we do not see them, they are looking at us. Remain joyous and in high spirits.”

Everyone participated in a joint *arti* and joint puja. The festival concluded at 8:30 p.m. On this occasion, the chief minister, or Katikkiro, of the Kingdom of Buganda, Paulo Kavuma, as well as his treasurer and other officers and various British officials had come for Swamishri’s darshan.