

# Chapter 25

## Travels in Tanganyika

On 10 September 1955, Swamishri left Nairobi and set out for the town of Arusha in the Territory of Tanganyika. Swamishri reached the outskirts of Arusha by 1 p.m. Devotees from around the area had come by car to welcome Swamishri. Everyone met Swamishri at a spot about five miles from the town and welcomed him with garlands of flowers. Then, in a procession of cars, they brought Swamishri into town. Arusha's Sheth Narsinhdas, one of East Africa's leading industrialists, had also come to welcome Swamishri. Being a member of Tanganyika's Legislative Council, Narsinhdas had a meeting scheduled in Dar es Salaam which he had canceled to be present to welcome Swamishri. Not only that, Swamishri and the sadhus' accommodations were at his house. In Narsinhdas's palatial bungalow, he had arranged for large beds for each of the

sadhus, but Swamishri went to sleep on a thin blanket on the ground.

In the public spiritual assembly organized in the evening, many new spiritual aspirants had Swamishri's darshan and heard his divine speech. Swamishri stayed here for two days, during which he visited countless devotees' homes. During this time, Swamishri also spoke in three different public assemblies.

One day, Swamishri visited the Ramayan *parayan*, which had been ongoing in the town. Mota Swami gave an insightful talk on the Ramayan. Swamishri brought peace to everyone's heart through his talks. In his speech, Swamishri spoke about *samp*, *suhhradbhav*, and *ekta*, guiding everyone to live a life that embodied these virtues. He urged everyone not to malign anyone. Swamishri also observed that if one bore prejudice for those of different faiths, before long, they would be social breakdown. As Swamishri made his point with various examples, his words touched the assembly.

On the morning of 12 September, Swamishri sanctified the bicycle factory of Narsinhdas Sheth and then traveled to Moshi. All the devotees of Moshi were standing on the outskirts of the town to welcome Swamishri. In Moshi, Swamishri stayed at the house of Vasudevbhai Ravjibhai Amin.

Devotees who had lived in Moshi for the past thirty years had seen that whenever sadhus had come to their town, no more than fifteen people would gather to hear their discourses. Expecting the same sort of response on this occasion, they were amazed to see that the public assembly held for Swamishri's arrival had filled the Hindu Union Hall to the brim. The volunteers making arrangements could not fathom where all these people had come from. Swamishri's divine, unparalleled talks penetrated everyone's hearts and left everyone captivated.

The next day, even more townspeople flocked to hear Swamishri's discourses and have his darshan. Experiencing for the first

time such a captivating Sant whose life was his message and whose mind, word, and deed emanated a singular, supreme spirituality, the townspeople begged Swamishri to extend his stay. However, since his upcoming program had already been fixed, Swamishri was unable to stay longer. Thus, he traveled by car back to Nairobi.

In Nairobi, Bhatesa sponsored a series of spiritual discourses on the *Satsangijivan* from 18 September. The mandir's large hall was completely packed. On 19 September, Swamishri's divine speech was broadcast on the radio as a small sermon to the general public.