

Chapter 25

A Visit to the Royal Technical College

On 23 September 1955, Swamishri concluded the *parayan* and visited Nairobi's Royal Technical College. Constructed at the cost of `40 million, this college was distinctive in that it had been established as a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi in a country outside of India. The Gandhi Memorial Academic Society had donated about `6.5 million to the construction of this college. Prof. Yagnik had played an instrumental role in collecting this large fund. He wished to have Swamishri visit the college and sanctify it with his holy presence. Swamishri traveled all around the college, sprinkling sanctified flower petals and applying kumkum *chandlos*. The Dean of the College, G. W. Pollard, Esq., welcomed Swamishri and the sadhus on behalf of the Royal Technical College and asked for his blessings that it may

successfully grow. Swamishri happily gave his blessings and applied a kumkum *chandlo* to his forehead. Swamishri also placed a sanctified flower garland around his neck. The governments of Britain, America, Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, and Germany had all contributed to the cost of the college's construction.

A.B. Patel, Chunibhai Nathabhai Patel, Sheth Kanji Naranji, Dhiru Nanji Kalidas, other leading Hindu dignitaries, two European officials, and professors were also present to welcome Swamishri. After having a group photo taken, Swamishri accepted some prasad and returned to the mandir. On this occasion, Swamishri blessed Yagnik Saheb for his efforts in the educational realm and expressed a wish that under his leadership, a boardinghouse may be constructed in London for Hindu students studying there in which the supreme principles of Bhagwan Swaminarayan might be propagated.