

Chapter 19

Adornments of Service and Simplicity

The following day, in the afternoon, Swamishri got up to fetch a glass of water for Motibhai Bhagwandas. Vinubhai asked, “Bapa, while these devotees understand your greatness, why do they have you serve them?”

Swamishri folded his hands and said in a tone of supplication, “Vinubhai, I am extremely indebted to all these devotees. I am telling you the truth. I am fortunate that they are allowing me to serve them! Otherwise, how else could we get the opportunity to serve Shastriji Maharaj’s devotees? We should offer them milk, but we are giving them water. We are not able to give even a fraction of what they deserve!”

Swamishri’s unexpected answer left Vinubhai speechless.

The youths had washed the cloth that Swamishri used for his *pagh*. As they were retying the *pagh*, two youths held either end of the long cloth, and everyone could see around fifteen to seventeen holes in it. Ramanbhai asked, “Bapa, why don’t you change this cloth? There are so many holes in it.”

Swamishri said, “The *pagh* is not refusing, is it?” With that, Swamishri rubbed his hand on his head and started laughing. This was one of Swamishri’s typical gestures.

On 4 April 1953, Nandaji visited Vidyanagar and then came to Anand for Swamishri’s darshan. Several members of the Vartal Temple Committee, including Ravbahadur Dahyabhai, Satyanarayanbhai, and other prominent devotees, were also present. Swamishri delivered spiritual discourses about following God’s command and *upasana*. At night, Swamishri visited the home of Bhaikaka in Vidyanagar and recounted many old incidents in Satsang history. Bhaikaka narrated his experiences with Shastriji Maharaj. Pandit

Mayadatta Pande explained the importance of the Swaminarayan *panch-vartman*. Manibhai of Salad, Harshadbhai, and others were also present.