

Kakaji

Kakaji

Dadubhai N. Patel

(affectionately known as Kakaji),
the Founder of the Gunatit Samaj
and Yogi Divine Society

Kakaji

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(on the occasion of Kakaji's 60th Saakshaatkaar Day and
Mukundjivan Swamiji's 75th birthday celebration)

"I am a man of destiny, and Divinity is shaping the destiny of everyone. If we do not act accordingly, that part will remain undone. But we must take the responsibility so that God may assign work to us to fulfill His plan and execution through us - allowing us to develop full individuality and personality for a full life - joy, bliss, and real happiness, etc. Everyday is supreme, do your utmost superbly, within your limits, without fear, and with faith. Results will come automatically..."

- Kakaji

CONTENTS

Divine Family	1
Qualities From Birth	4
Heaven On Earth	6
Stand For The Truth	8
I Have Come To Die	9
Anything For Shastriji Maharaj.....	11
Gondal Temple Enshrinement	12
Babubhai And Dadubhai Go Abroad	12
Stay In Mumbai.....	16
Two Families Become One	19
Shastriji Maharaj's Divine Play	21
Shastriji Maharaj's Spiritual Heir	22
Agri-Orient Industries And Shastriji Maharaj's Blessings	22
Divine Brotherhood.....	25
Akshar-Purushottam Enshrinement	25
Shastriji Maharaj Embraces Dadubhai With Sandalwood	29
Master Of Divinity.....	33
For The Future Of The Divine Fellowship	34
Last Meeting With Shastriji Maharaj	35
Experiences Abroad	37
Friendliness In London	38
Letter To Babubhai (Pappaji)	41
Shastriji Maharaj Passes Away.....	41
Man Of Election	42
The Saakshaatkaar Experience	48
The Saakshaatkaar Experience In His Own Words	52
Spreading Yogiji Maharaj's Glory.....	54
Together In Chhapaiya	56
Yogiji Maharaj's Glory On Foreign Land	56
The Center Of Akshardham	62
Women Saints By Yogi Bapa's Blessings	64
Everything Belongs To Yogiji Maharaj.....	67
Bhagatji Maharaj's Life Story.....	71
Installing Hanumanji's Moorti	71
Second Spiritual Trip To Africa	71
Fifty-One Saints	72
Taking Care Of Saints And Devotees.....	75
Divine Oneness	81
New Horizons In Vidyanagar	82
Image Of Bhagatji Maharaj	87
The Divine Play	88

Temple In Sankarda.....	90
Gunatit Jyot And Anoopam Mission	94
Yogiji Maharaj Passes Away In Mumbai	98
Yogi Divine Society	98
Delhi And Powai Centers.....	101
Akshar Purushottam Abound	107
Universal Vision.....	108
Divine Brothers At Tardeo	111
Kakaji Travels To America	112
Other Centers	115
Kakaji's Foreign Travels	117
Humble Beginnings	119

DIVINE FAMILY

In the Swaminarayan family of Babarbhair Patel and Surajben in the village of Karamsad, a pious son was born and given the name Nathabhai. For his kind and straightforward nature, he was also known as Saaraabhai. Yogi Bapa revealed that Nathabhai was the incarnation of Svaroopanand Swami, a senior paramhansa in Lord Swaminarayan's retinue of powerful saints. In 1911, Nathabhai received initiation¹ from Krishnaji Ada². Krishnaji Ada blessed him, "Keep satsang in your life. You have my special grace." At the age of 17, while meditating, he had a divine vision of Lord Swaminarayan.

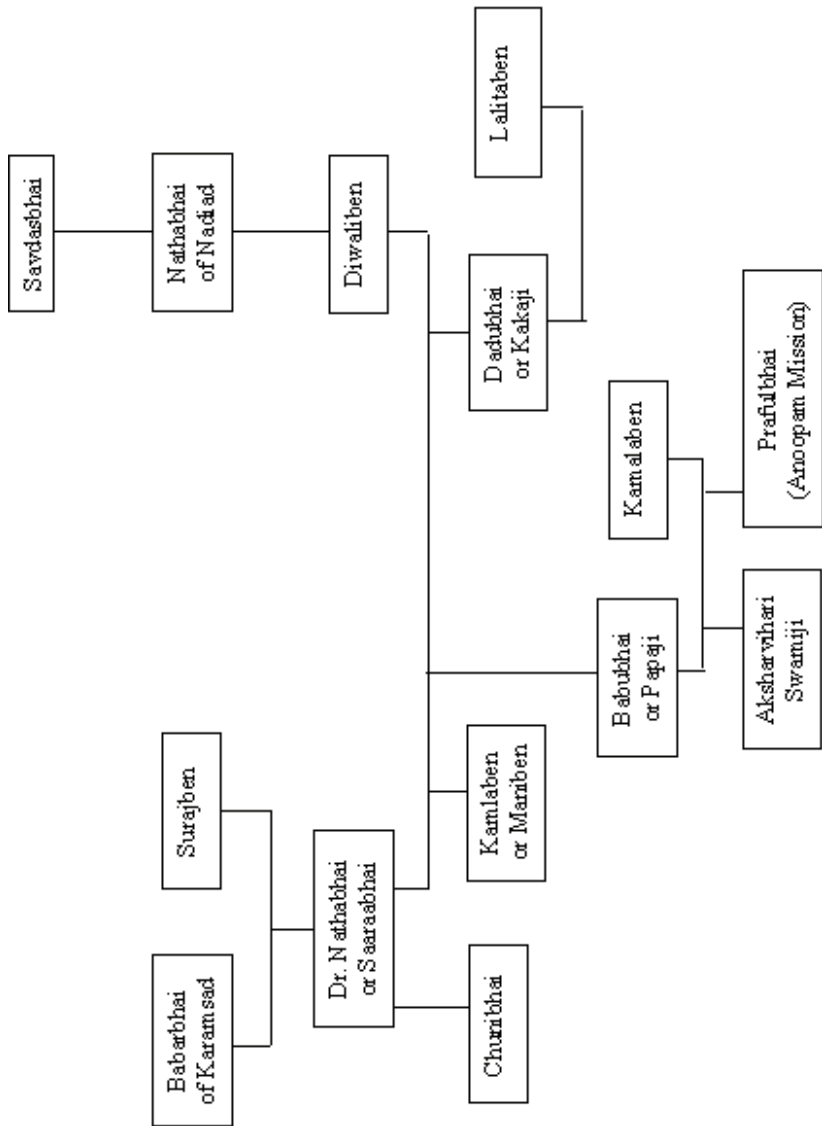
After excelling in his studies, Dr. Nathabhai authored three books. When he was 35 years old, his first wife passed away, leaving behind a son named Chunibhai. Dr. Nathabhai thus remarried Diwaliben of Nadiad. They soon became the proud parents of Kamlaben (also called Maniben). The family stayed in Karamsad and Dr. Nathabhai ran a private dispensary³ in Borsad.

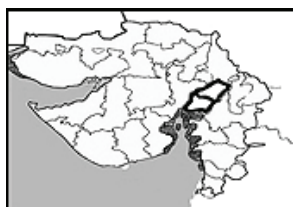
On the full-moon day of every month, Dr. Nathabhai religiously visited the Vadtal temple and prayed before the image of Harikrishna Maharaj. During the enshrining ceremony of this image which was designed to Lord Swaminarayan's actual measurements, Lord Swaminarayan gave the blessings that through the special image, He would answer devotees' prayers. When Nathabhai prayed, an inner voice told him, "Go to Bochasan." The following fortnight, with a rosary in his hand and standing on one leg, he intensely prayed once more. Again, the image commanded him to go to Bochasan. Now he was convinced of the vibrations he received and he headed for Bochasan, where Shastriji Maharaj was constructing the

1. *Signifying initiation, devotees are given a kanthi as they take a vow to follow the panch-vartamaan (abstinence from eating meat, drinking alcohol, committing adultery, stealing, and forceful conversion).*

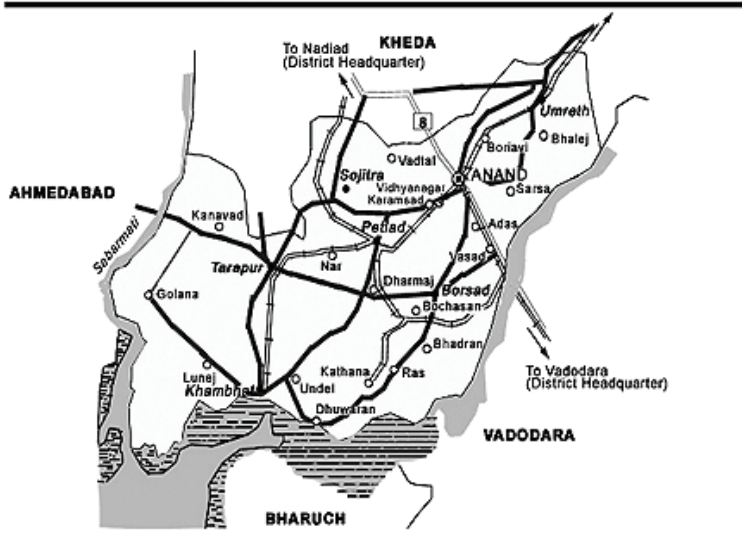
2. *After reading "Siddhant Sagar, Dr. Nathabhai developed a firm conviction in Swaminarayan Bhagwan and Gunatitanand Swami.*

3. *A clinic that also supplies medicine to its patients.*





Districts of Kheda and Anand in Gujarat State



first Akshar-Purushottam temple⁴. At the time, as if he was specifically waiting for Dr. Nathabhai, Shastriji Maharaj sat on the porch entrance of the temple. Dr. Nathabhai realized his spiritual quest had hit a milestone when Shastriji Maharaj omnisciently called him by his name. He began regularly visiting the Bochasan temple and donated a great deal for Shastriji Maharaj's cause of establishing Akshar-Purushottam temples. For the Sarangpur temple, Dr. Nathabhai financed the central moortis of Akshar-Purushottam Maharaj. The Sarangpur temple was the second Akshar-Purushottam temple built by Shastriji Maharaj and inaugurated in May 1916.

QUALITIES FROM BIRTH

On the auspicious day of September 1, 1916 (Bhadarvo vad 6, 1972 VS) at 5:00 PM, Babubhai was born in Borsad. When Babubhai was five months old, Dr. Nathabhai visited Sarangpur for the enshrining of the image of Ghanshyam Maharaj; Diwaliben however stayed back to look after Babubhai.

On the auspicious day of June 12, 1918 (Jeth sud 3, 1974 VS) at 5 AM in the morning, Dadubhai was born in Nadiad. From birth, he was very joyful and dynamic. Nathabhai Savdas Patel (Diwaliben's father, also known as Dada) celebrated the occasion by offering sweets to everyone in the town. Eager to hear about Dadubhai's birth chart, Dada looked for Naaranji Maharaj, a village Brahmin and astrologer, for five days. On the auspicious sixth day Dr. Nathabhai came to Nadiad to see his newborn son - amazingly meeting Naaranji Maharaj on the way home. Dadubhai was born in the Kark raashi⁵ so Naaranji Maharaj also suggested the name "Harikrishna" for

4. From 1907, Shastriji Maharaj initiated the installation of Lord Swaminarayan and Gunatitanand Swami in the center of all temples.

5. Related to the Gemini/Cancer sign of the zodiac used in astrology and horoscopes.

the bright boy who was destined for a magnificently divine life.

At 3 months, Diwaliben returned to Karamsad from Nadiad with Dadubhai, per Babarbai's request. Babarbai loved Dadubhai, and missed Babubhai who stayed in Nadiad with Dada. Dadubhai's extraordinary development foreshadowed the grand mission he was to undertake. At just 9 months, he began walking, and at 10 months, he started talking.

When Dadubhai was ready to enter school, the family moved to Anand. Dadubhai's free spirit was evident in school. Often, in order to avoid going to school, he would hide from his parents or tickle anyone who tried forcing him to go. At the time, Dada insisted that Dadubhai secure a bright education at Nadiad along with Babubhai. Thus both brothers were enrolled for primary-education⁶ in a school in Nadiad and they visited their parents in Anand during summer vacations.

Babubhai was very disciplined and humble. He stayed at home with Dada to study and even helped with the business accounting ledger, especially after Dada's son passed away. Dadubhai, on the other hand, would explain to Dada, "At this age, kids should not be doing this type of work - they should be outside playing." Dadubhai was a risk-taker as well. Dadubhai, Babubhai, and a friend, Ravji, often accompanied a relative to the nearby lake where clothes were washed. Seeing other boys in the pond, Dadubhai abandoned helping to squeeze the clothes dry, and jumped into the lake to learn how to swim! A villager saved the brave young boy.

Similarly, once on the way home from a family function, Dadubhai jumped off a moving train traveling between Anand and Nadiad. Reaching home safely on his own, Dadubhai explained to the family that he wondered if he could get off from a moving train similar to the hawkers. In India, it is common to find many hawkers or peddlers trying to sell items such as food to passengers on trains. Knowing his

6. *The British education system considered primary-school up to the age of 11 or about seventh-grade.*

adventurous style, Dada prohibited Dadubhai to get on the roof of the house to fly kites during Uttarayan⁷. But, when Dada was not aware, Dadubhai would quickly climb onto the roof, coming down quietly only after sighting Dada. Their grandmother however favored her loving Dadubhai. Indeed, seeing Dadubhai's antics and his grandmother's inclination, Dada called Dadubhai, "The Emperor of Delhi!"

Dadubhai was also a vast-thinker and had an exceptionally friendly personality. Because the townspeople at the time had no experience of airplanes, Dada skeptically told Dadubhai that humans could never fly in planes. Dadubhai however imagined new horizons, and enthusiastically proclaimed to his Dada that he too would fly in a plane one day.

In order for his friends to get snacks from a food stall owner, at night Dadubhai blew out the lamp from a street-vendor's stall so that his friends could fill their pockets with snacks. The villagers were reminded of young Lord Krishna. In school too, sometimes, Dadubhai would ring the bell earlier than the scheduled time to make sure that the children got time to play outside.

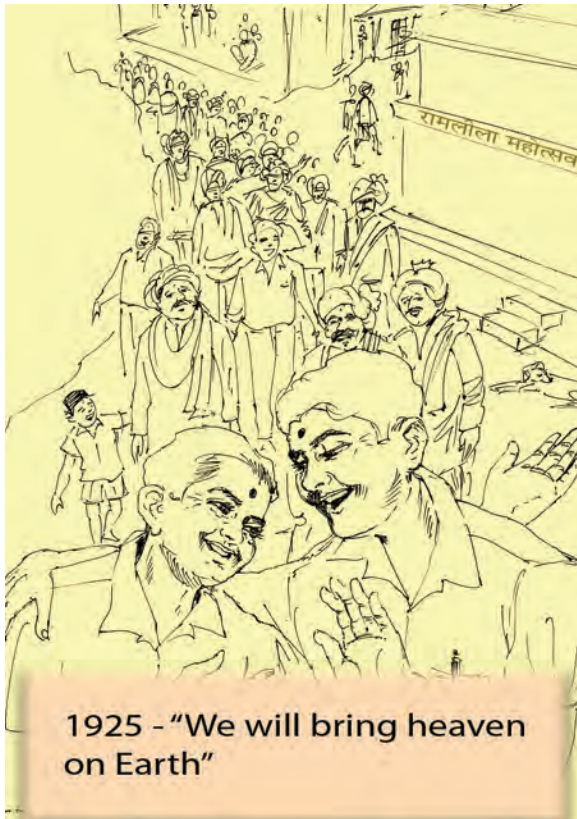
HEAVEN ON EARTH

The two brothers shared a unique friendship. During the Navratri⁸ festivals, the local community organized a drama depicting the life of Lord Rama. When Dadubhai was 7, and Babubhai 9, they enthusiastically watched the play together. Dadubhai would make way in the busy crowd to reserve a front seat for Babubhai and himself. At home as well, they would dress up and mimic the kings in battle. The scene in which King Dashrath⁹ dies remained in Dadubhai's memory so

7. *Uttarayan or Makar Sankranti - around January 14 when the sun's movement changes northward, the day is celebrated in India with the flying of kites.*

8. *Navratri - Hindu festival that lasts for 9 days beginning with the Indian month of Aso in which traditional dances are done in honor of Lord Shiva's consort, known as Shakti or Durga.*

9. *King Dashrath was the father of Lord Rama, and he died after*



later, he asked Babubhai, "What will happen to King Dashrath after he died?" Babubhai replied, "He will go to heaven." When Dadubhai asked, "What is heaven?" Babubhai replied, "It is a place where there are neither troubles nor misery, nor sense of yours and mine - there is only happiness." Hearing this, Dadubhai exclaimed, "Then we will bring that heaven to earth!" Babubhai also promised to realize this dream.

Dadubhai and Babubhai also took part in a school play based on the story of King Prithvi and Samyukta¹⁰. Babubhai

his beloved son, Rama was exiled to the jungles along with Sitaji and Lakshman.

10. King Prithvi or Prithviraj Chauhan was a famous warrior and Hindu king of Delhi during the 12th century, the time of Mughal invasions. He met and fell in love with Samyukta, the princess of Kanauj. But Samyukta's father, King Jaichandra, considered King Prithvi as his enemy. He thus did not invite him during Samyukta's

helped all the actors play out their parts, while Dadubhai played the role of King Prithvi. The day prior to the show however, the classmate who was to play the role of Samyukta fell ill. Knowing all the lines, Babubhai said he would take the role of King Prithvi, if Dadubhai played the role of Samyukta. Without considering what others would think, Dadubhai made sure that the play was a success. He disguised himself in the princess's role and even mimicked the voice of a woman. When the characters were announced at the end of the play, the audience applauded Dadubhai's marvelous acting!

Large carnivals also came to the town of Nadiad. During the time of Maha Shivaratri¹¹, one such fair was set up next to the Santrama temple. Rides and games were put up along with food stalls and merchant booths. Dadubhai and Babubhai decided to open a stall called "Paan House" to sell paan, the famous Indian after-mint. First, Dadubhai dug up the ground and plotted a tall flag that attracted passerby's attention to the young entrepreneurs. Dressed in traditional Indian attire and an angled hat on his head, Dadubhai voiced the unique quality of paan being sold. Onlookers irresistibly recognized Dr. Nathabhai's bright sons.

As was the custom at the time, at the young age of 10, on May 25, 1927, Babubhai was engaged to Kamlaben Patel, daughter of Ambalalbai of the village Parbhani. Five years later, she moved in with the family while Babubhai completed his studies.

STAND FOR THE TRUTH

Dadubhai's righteous spirit was also displayed in his youth. At the age of 10, while playing with his friends outside, Dadubhai often noticed a peddler selling bangles and bracelets

svayamvara (assembly in which a princess chooses her husband to be). Samyukta ignored all the princes, and garlanded a statue of King Prithvi. King Prithvi came out from the crowd and rode off with the princess.

11. Shivaratri - Hindu festival in honor of Lord Shiva on the 14th day of the dark-half of the Indian month of Maha.

to the village women. Dadubhai, who loved and respected his mother and sister dearly, noticed that the seller treated the women negatively. He thus set out to teach him a lesson. Sneaking up behind the seller, he jumped up, and knocked the basket of bangles to the ground. He then threw rocks at the seller and told him to treat women with respect!

Dadubhai and his friends once set out to play cricket in Kharedi Village, close to Nadiad. The opposing team demanded that they get to choose who gets to bat first. To settle the disagreement, it was decided to do a coin toss. When the opposing team lost the coin toss, they still refused to give in. At the time, Dadubhai, who was the captain of the team, asked his friends to quit the game instead of playing with unfair terms. The school teacher scolded them. Dadubhai openly said, "To support the truth, one should be ready to give up playing, one's position, and if necessary, even one's own life." When the opposing team's captain began running toward Dadubhai with a bat, young Dadubhai courageously took stance with a stump in his hand, and reasoned with everyone to come to a peaceful agreement.

I HAVE COME TO DIE

When Dadubhai was 11 years old, Shastriji Maharaj visited Nadiad. There, Dadubhai heard Shastriji Maharaj's conversation with a devotee by the name of Ramchandrabhai. After getting remarried, Ramchandrabhai stopped coming as frequently to the spiritual gatherings. He revealed to Shastriji Maharaj that he had so much love for his wife that he felt he was losing his attachment to Shastriji Maharaj. Shastriji Maharaj rebuked Ramchandrabhai and said, "Do you want me to take that 'pillar' to Akshardham¹²?" Shastriji Maharaj referred to Ramchandrabhai's wife as a 'pillar' because she had become a support for him, while for a true devotee, the only support is God. Ramchandrabhai pleaded that he would not be able to live without his wife, and yet he also wanted

12. *It is said that 'the person went to Akshardham' to indicate that s/he has passed away.*



1928 - "I have come to die"

to experience the bliss of Akshardham. Shastriji Maharaj replied, "In order to experience the bliss of Akshardham, one must come after dying." Shastriji Maharaj was actually telling Ramchandrabhai to be free of all desires and ego. This statement made a big impact on Dadubhai.

The following day, Dadubhai woke up early in the morning and arrived with prasaad (sanctified food) to witness Shastriji Maharaj's pooja (early-morning prayer). When Shastriji Maharaj saw Dadubhai, he asked, "Why have you come so early?" Waiting for the question, Dadubhai replied, "Swami, I have come to die." Shastriji Maharaj responded that these did not seem like the words of a young boy and Dadubhai disclosed that he had overheard Shastriji Maharaj say this. Looking at his sincerity and enthusiasm, Shastriji Maharaj fixed his gaze on Dadubhai and embraced him wholeheartedly.

ANYTHING FOR SHASTRIJI MAHARAJ

Diwaliben had much faith in Shastriji Maharaj, and encouraged Dadubhai and Babubhai to help Shastriji Maharaj's mission. Dadubhai was greatly moved witnessing the hardship that Shastriji Maharaj underwent. He was determined to help raise money in support of the construction work for the Akshar-Purushottam temples. Dada (Dadubhai's maternal grandfather) dealt in finances and had many contacts with moneylenders. Since, on many occasions, he had sent Dadubhai to collect money from them, Dadubhai's face had become familiar. Using this, Dadubhai went to the moneylenders and informed them that his grandfather required a certain amount of money. After collecting as much money as he could, Dadubhai went straight to Shastriji Maharaj and offered the money saying, "My grandfather gives this as donation for the temple." Smilingly, Shastriji Maharaj replied, "I know that your grandfather would never donate this much money. Where did you really get it from?" Dadubhai then revealed that he borrowed the money from his grandfather's moneylenders. This was just the beginning of Dadubhai's resolve to fulfill any wish of his spiritual master!

Back in Anand, Dr. Nathabhai had started building a 3-story hospital on a leased property against the collateral of their home in Karamsad. He was misled by the property owner and hence the business suffered. Also he could not tend to the business properly since he had begun to lose his eyesight due to glaucoma. Unfortunately, when Dadubhai was 12, Dr. Nathabhai lost his eyesight completely. Nathabhai could not work and family debts started accumulating. Thus, along with witnessing Shastriji Maharaj's hardships, Dadubhai saw a change in the family's prosperity. He was determined to obtain a top education and earn money so that financial problems were relieved.

GONDAL TEMPLE ENSHRINEMENT

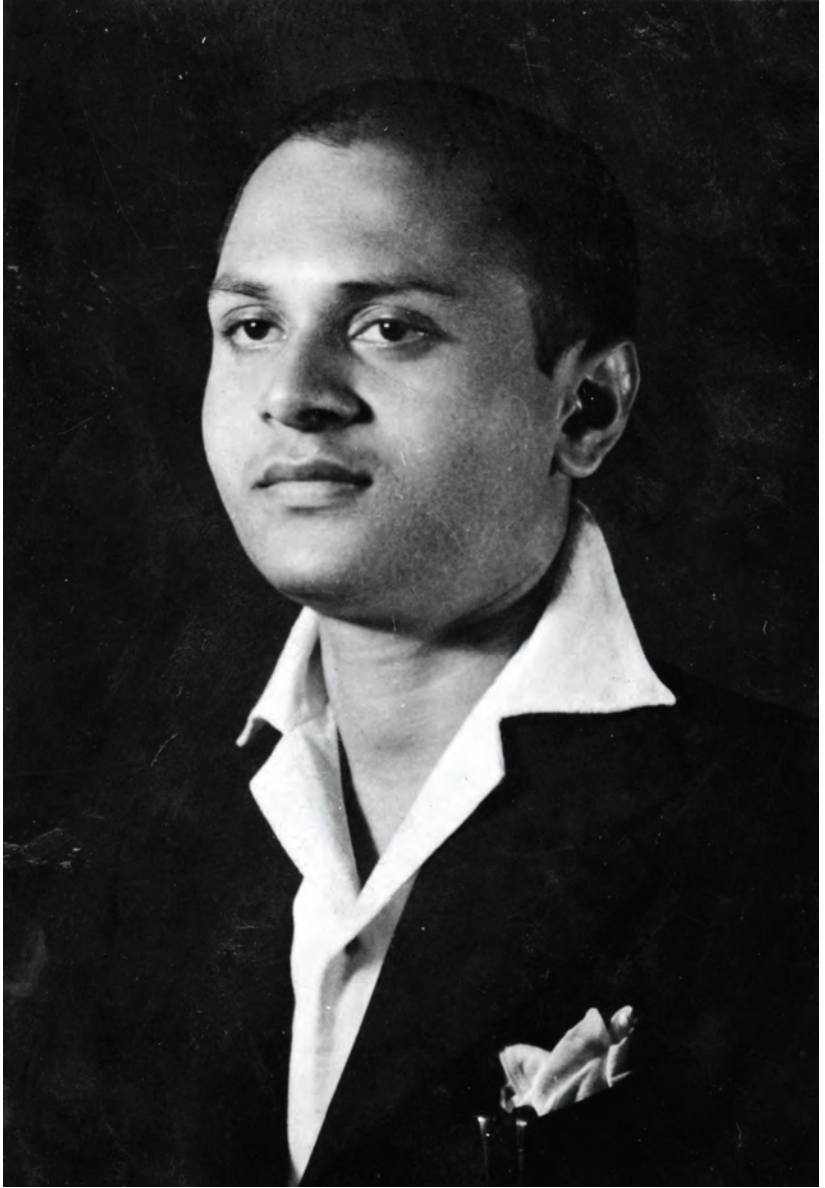
In May 1934, Shastriji Maharaj built the third Akshar-Purushottam temple in Gondal around the Akshar Deri¹³ and appointed Yogi Bapa as the mahant (head). In 1933, during the construction work, when Yogi Bapa was bit by a poisonous cobra, Shastriji Maharaj used the power of the SwamiNarayan mahaamantra to cure him (as given in Swami Ni Vato 1/154). This was the first great display of divinity in Gondal. Later, Yogi Bapa would display similar divinity with Dadubhai.

BABUBHAI AND DADUBHAI GO ABROAD

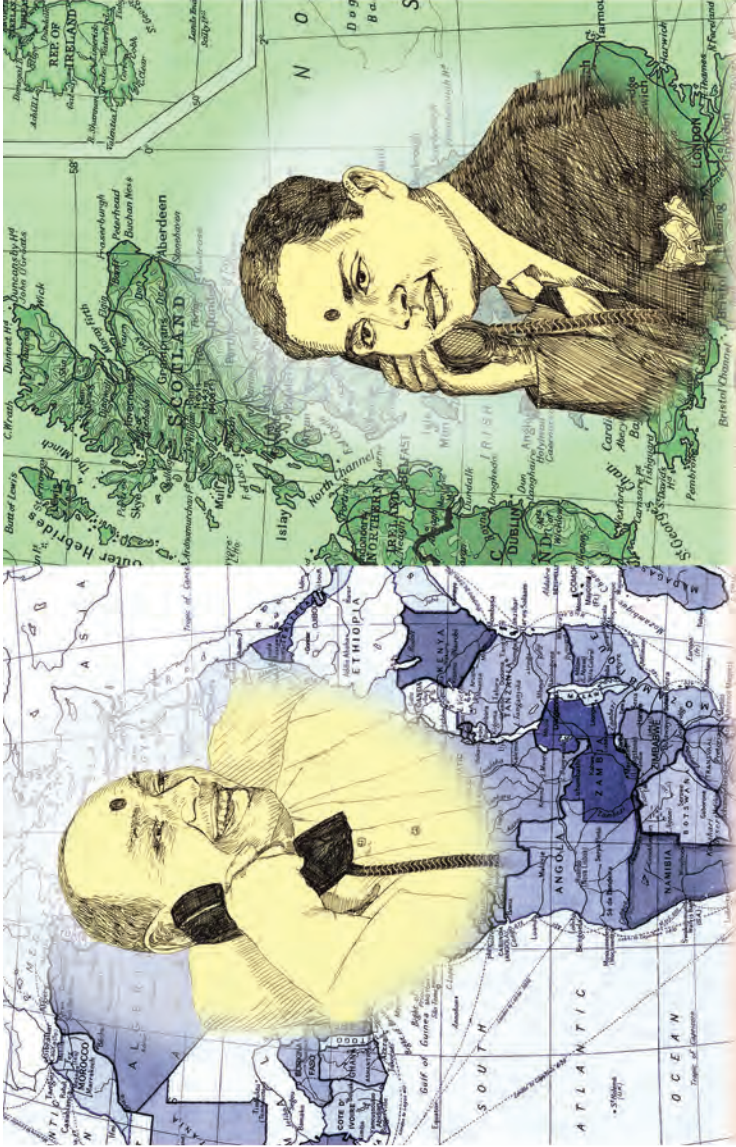
On May 7, 1935, at the age of 16, Dadubhai was married to Lalitaben of Nadiad. The family decided upon the marriage because the dowry would help offset some of their debt. Lalitaben had very delicate health and mainly remained in Nadiad until Dadubhai settled in Mumbai. Soon after, Shastriji Maharaj visited Nadiad with senior saints. When Dadubhai came to receive them, Shastriji Maharaj asked Dadubhai to remove his shoes and walk with Thakorji (the personal moorti of Lord Swaminarayan and Gunatitanand Swami that saints carry) in his hands while loudly chanting SwamiNarayan. In this condition, in the midst of all of the saints, Shastriji Maharaj made Dadubhai walk along the street that his father-in-law and wife lived, and then across the town market. All the while, Shastriji Maharaj repeated, "Loudly chant SwamiNarayan." In the divine play of the master and disciple, Dadubhai showed that he belonged to Shastriji Maharaj and not any other mundane relationships.

Chunibhai, who lived in Mombasa (located in the country of Kenya, a city in the east coast of Africa), visited India that same year. As Dadubhai was exceptional in his studies, Babubhai insisted that he join their half-brother in Mombasa, and complete high school there.

13. *Memorial shrine of Gunatitanand Swami*







1939 – Babubhai reduces his expenses to support Dadubhai's education

In 1937, Babubhai also set out to Mombasa to begin a teaching career in the same school that Chunibhai was employed.

In Mombasa, Dadubhai met Becharkaka who was the president of the trust that offered scholarships. Becharkaka was hesitant to give a scholarship to Dadubhai. At that time, Dadubhai replied, "Today you are denying my scholarship. But in future, you will give much more than this." In his later life, Becharkaka served Yogiji Maharaj and also Dadubhai and Babubhai.

For many years, Dr. Nathabhai's health was steadily deteriorating. In 1939, when Dadubhai was 21, and Babubhai 23, their father passed away, leaving the family's responsibilities to the brothers.

In Poona, from Ferguson College, Dadubhai obtained a B.A. with honors.

In 1941, Babubhai visited India and then returned to Africa, while Kamlaben stayed back in Nadiad. In this way Babubhai reduced his own expenses to support Dadubhai. Babubhai earned a modest living in Mombasa, concurrently sending money to repay the family's debt in India and also to Dadubhai to complete his foreign education. In 1945, Kamlaben rejoined Babubhai in Mombasa.

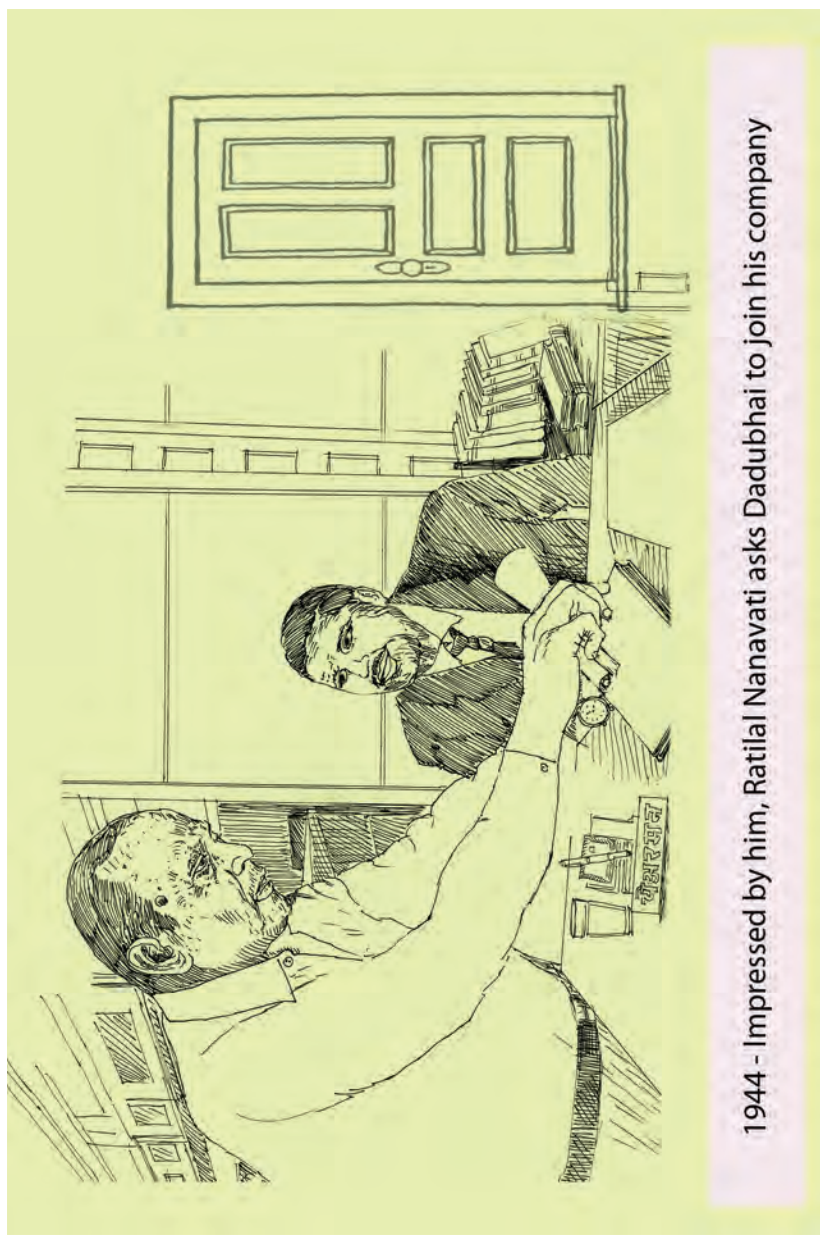
In London, Dadubhai obtained a B.Sc. in Economics from the reputed London School of Economics. During the end of his education, the British were in the midst of World War II. As a result, Dadubhai was enlisted in the war, and later transferred to Ceylon (the British name for Sri Lanka) where he finished his final exam, finally returning to India in 1944.

STAY IN MUMBAI

When Dadubhai sought the blessings of Shastriji Maharaj in Sarangpur, Shastriji Maharaj asked Dadubhai what he planned to do now that his studies were completed. Dadubhai answered that he could start a lucrative career if he returned to London - at the time, in London he could earn manyfold



1944 - Upon Shastriji Maharaj's command, instead of going abroad, Dadubhai goes to Mumbai to look for a job



1944 - Impressed by him, Ratilal Nanavati asks Dadubhai to join his company

compared to what he could earn in India. However, Shastriji Maharaj told Dadubhai to live in Mumbai, work for three years, and then start his own business. Further, Shastriji Maharaj asked Dadubhai how much money he would like to make in the business. When Dadubhai responded 2 laakh (200,000 rupees), Shastriji Maharaj blessed Dadubhai that his profit would equal at least 5 laakh in the very first year!

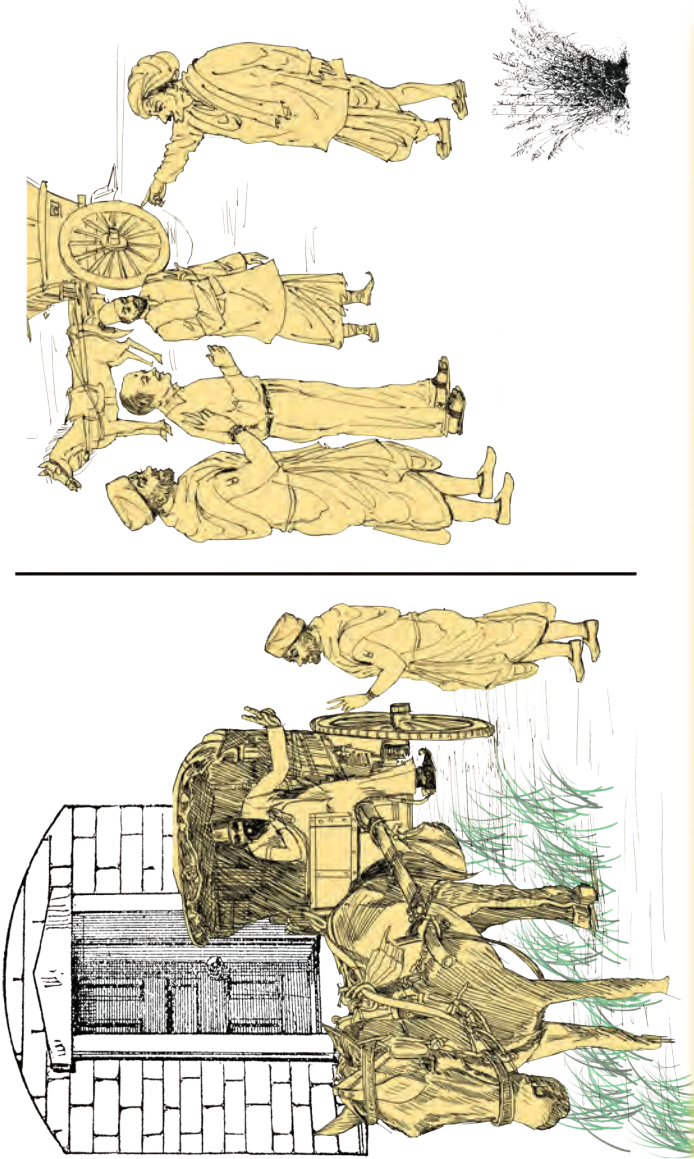
Shastriji Maharaj told Dadubhai that he would immediately get a job. In just a week's time, Dadubhai met an old friend who told him about a manager opening at a fertilizer company owned by Mr. Nanavati. The interviewers were impressed by Dadubhai, but were not willing to give him a higher salary. Thus, Dadubhai mentioned his education abroad, but the chairman responded by saying, "I have gone to London as well." Dadubhai boldly retorted, "A person who works on a boat may visit London many, many times; but it is the quality of one's experience that counts, not the quantity of times visited!" The chairman smiled at his valor and agreed to Dadubhai's requirements. Dadubhai thus settled in Dadar, Mumbai.

In July 1945, Shastriji Maharaj inaugurated the fourth Akshar-Purushottam temple in Atladra.

TWO FAMILIES BECOME ONE

In 1946, Dadubhai received a letter from Nirgundas Swamiji¹⁴, informing him to meet Sonaba, a devoted family from Virsad that lived in the Sonawala Buildings in Tardeo. At the time, Dadubhai's sister, Maniben, also lived in the Sonawala Buildings. Maniben lived in 6D, while Sonaba lived in an adjacent building in 8C.

14. *Jetha Bhagat was blessed by Bhagatji Maharaj and Jaga Swami. Amongst others, he had also left Vadtal with Shastriji Maharaj and was initiated as a saint by Acharya Kunjvihariprasadji Maharaj in Vadhvan and named Nirgundas Swami. His letters to devotees across India as well as East Africa greatly supported the satsang there.*



1946 - Shastriji Maharaj comes with Dadubhai to Nadiad and blesses Rasul

Sonaba was a devout follower of Shastriji Maharaj - her entire life followed his every command. When Shastriji Maharaj arranged her marriage with Tulshibhai Amin, he revealed that the marriage would only be for 15 years. When their son, Kantibhai, was 11 years old, Sonaba's husband passed away, also leaving behind two daughters, Taraben and Jyotiben. When Shastriji Maharaj visited Mumbai, he used to stay at Sonaba's home. She in turn served Shastriji Maharaj with great devotional fervor. The family had financed the elaborate doors to the Sarangpur temple.

Dadubhai admired and respected Sonaba for this firm devotion. When Maniben's husband, Ravjibhai, went to Africa for business, he insisted that Dadubhai and Lalitaben stay with her in Tardeo. With a common spiritual goal, Dadubhai's and Kantibhai's families united to form one divine family.

SHASTRIJI MAHARAJ'S DIVINE PLAY

Dadubhai went to Nadiad and invited all of his friends and relatives to meet Shastriji Maharaj. Shastriji Maharaj arrived in Nadiad on a horse cart driven by a person named Rasul. There, Shastriji Maharaj argued with Rasul for asking for one aana (one-sixteenth of a rupee) more than agreed upon. When Rasul would not budge, Shastriji Maharaj created a commotion in front of all of Dadubhai's friends and relatives. When Dadubhai stepped in and said "Rasul, I will pay," Shastriji Maharaj stopped him and said, "Your money is my money - he does not deserve a penny more!" Finally, when a person to whom Rasul owed money, saw all of this, he ordered Rasul, "Do not take any money from Shastriji Maharaj." Seeing the ordeal, the townspeople questioned Dadubhai, "What kind of guru have you chosen?" Dadubhai, on the contrary, loved Shastriji Maharaj's style. He saw divinity and grace in all of Shastriji Maharaj's actions, and explained this essence to all that came into his contact. When Rasul finally became quiet, Shastriji Maharaj blessed him, "The next time I come to Nadiad, you will own two carts." And of course in a short time, Shastriji Maharaj's blessings came true!

SHASTRIJI MAHARAJ'S SPIRITUAL HEIR

Shastriji Maharaj and Yogi Bapa had a historical meeting with Acharya Devendraprasadji Maharaj at the Nara-Narayan temple in Kalupur, Ahmedabad on February 11, 1948. Shastriji Maharaj expressed that he was not concerned with building temples nor was he interested in administration and management of the religion. His only aim was to display the true glory of Lord Swaminarayan and Mool Akshar Gunatitanand Swami. And so the reunion of the two groups that had formed under the Swaminarayan sect was discussed. Shastriji Maharaj expressed willingness to place all the new temples and assets in the charge of the other group as long as the central Akshar-Purushottam moortis were kept intact. Devotees present at the time were concerned how the Akshar-Purushottam doctrine would flourish if such a proposal were entertained? Shastriji Maharaj looked at Dadubhai and said, "Do not worry about that. The person who will spread the glory of Lord Swaminarayan and Gunatitanand Swami has already manifested!" A divine light emerged from Shastriji Maharaj's eyes and fell upon his spiritual heir, Dadubhai.

AGRI-ORIENT INDUSTRIES AND SHASTRIJI MAHARAJ'S BLESSINGS

Dadubhai learned all about the fertilizer industry after working in Mr. Nanavati's company for three years. Shastriji Maharaj then told Dadubhai to start his own business, keeping Kantibhai as a partner. Earlier, Kantibhai had incurred a debt in an unsuccessful paint factory venture and Sonaba prayed to Shastriji Maharaj that he get an elder brother to guide him through the difficult times - in this way, Shastriji Maharaj also satisfied Sonaba's prayer for a brother to look after her son. Along with a friend, Mr. Ranade, who worked with him at Mr. Nanavati's company, Dadubhai established Agri-Orient Industries in early 1949 and kept Kantibhai as a partner.

When Dadubhai was little, along with his father, he traveled with Shastriji Maharaj on a bullock cart from Sarangpur to Botad. The journey was so rough, Shastriji Maharaj held

Agri-Orient Industries
warehouse
(Right)



Agri-Orient Industries
office
(Below)





Dadubhai and Kantibhai with
Shastriji Maharaj and Yogiji Maharaj



onto Dadubhai to keep from falling. Dadubhai was brought to tears seeing the hardship his guru had to undergo. At that time he had promised himself that he would one day buy a car for his guru to travel in comfortably. True to his promise, one of the first things Dadubhai did was buy a car for Shastriji Maharaj. In this way, Dadubhai earned in millions, but donated everything for Shastriji Maharaj's cause. He became known as "the wealthy businessman from Mumbai who gave everything to his guru." For example, in 1949, Shastriji Maharaj's birthday was celebrated in Atladra with a Suvarna Tula (weighing with gold). Dadubhai and Kantibhai donated Rs. 8585 each on this occasion and insisted that Shastriji Maharaj be viewed as a divine saint.

DIVINE BROTHERHOOD

In August 1949, a devotee asked Shastriji Maharaj to visit Mumbai and hold a 7-day scriptural reading of Swami ni Vato at the Suryanarayan Hall in Bhuleshwar. After Shastriji Maharaj arrived in Mumbai, the devotee talked about postponing the program. Sonaba thus asked Dadubhai and Kantibhai to pick up the expenses so that the plans would remain intact. The pair met Shastriji Maharaj on August 22, 1949 and asked him to continue the program. Shastriji Maharaj was very pleased and put his hands on both of their heads. Suddenly, assuming a transcendental manner, he held their hair, brought their heads together, and said, "From today on, you both live like brothers. No matter what the circumstances, do not leave each other's side ... Go, the world is yours." He then called Yogi Bapa and asked him to bless the pair as well. The reading of Swami ni Vato chapter 3 then lasted from August 22-28 and about 500 devotees attended.

AKSHAR-PURUSHOTTAM ENSHRINEMENT

During Sharad Poornima¹⁵ in 1949, Dadubhai went to Gondal. A large event was kept in remembrance of

15. *Sharad Poornima - The full-moon day of the Indian month of*

Gunatitanand Swami's birthday. At the time, Shastriji Maharaj gifted Dadubhai with a relief painting of Akshar-Purushottam Maharaj. The same Akshar-Purushottam Maharaj image still remains at the Tardeo temple. Shastriji Maharaj also gifted a similar image to Gulzarilal Nanda to take to Delhi. When Dadubhai bowed down to touch Shastriji Maharaj's feet, the end of the picture frame touched Shastriji Maharaj's toe. Shastriji Maharaj remarked, "You have put the weight of the entire world on me, so now I can put all of my weight on you. We have much work to do for Akshar-Purushottam Maharaj."

On January 22, 1950, Dadubhai traveled to Atladara to meet Shastriji Maharaj. Dadubhai made a Rs. 5000 donation on the occasion of Vasant Panchami and did poojan of Shastriji Maharaj.

A couple weeks later, Shastriji Maharaj came to Mumbai on February 11 and stayed at Nandaji's bungalow. Dadubhai and Kantibhai donated Rs. 4000 for service to the Gadhada mandir. Shastriji Maharaj also instructed them to find a good doctor for Nirgun Swami who had been diagnosed with throat cancer. He said that Nigrun Swamiji should be taken to Pena (some miles south of Mumbai) for ayurvedic treatment. Shastriji Maharaj asked Kantibhai to take care of Nirgun Swamiji.

Two days later, when Dadubhai and Kantibhai came again to visit Shastriji Maharaj, he was refusing to eat and began a divine play. He sorrowfully expressed, "At this old age, why did I think about constructing these temples? See this letter has come - we have to pay 27 thousand rupees for the Gadhada temple¹⁶. Where can I get such money?" Dadubhai and Kantibhai immediately interjected that they would get however much money was necessary, even if it meant

Aso (around September-October) which is Gunatitanand Swami's birthday.

16. In 1947, India gained independence, and Govindsinh Chudasama was appointed as the Collector of the Bhavnagar region. He helped get the land to Shastriji Maharaj where Lord Swaminarayan originally envisioned the temple (on top of the hill).



Relief painting of Akshar-Purshottam Maharaj
given by Shastriji Maharaj to Dadubhai



Tardeo temple as of today with
original Akshar-Purshottam Moorti



Original photo of Shastriji Maharaj's handprints of chandan on Dadubhai's back (Dadubhai on the right)



April 1950 - Shastriji Maharaj embraces Dadubhai with sandalwood

incurring a debt. With Dadubhai and Kantibhai's devotion, Shastriji Maharaj showed happiness and said, "Both of you give 27 thousand rupees." Dadubhai and Kantibhai did so that very same evening.

Shastriji Maharaj then explained to Dadubhai, "Your father, Dr. Nathabhai, asked me once, 'Do great saints have all the powers of God?' When I said, 'Yes,' Dr. Nathabhai replied, 'How can we know this?' So I said, 'If only one person gives money for the Gadhada temple, then believe it's God's power.'" Grabbing Dadubhai's hair, Shastriji Maharaj exclaimed, "That person is you!" To this, Dadubhai replied, "I am not doing anything, I am just giving you what is already yours." Shastriji Maharaj smilingly then said, "I will stay one more day - give 16 thousand more now, and 4 thousand later for the golden thrones of the Akshar-Purushottam moortis."

SHASTRIJI MAHARAJ EMBRACES DADUBHAI WITH SANDALWOOD

Early 1950, Dadubhai had contended to gain a government contract to import fertilizer bags through Mumbai. Many companies fought for the contract which required an established line of credit with a deposit of 50 thousand rupees. Dadubhai borrowed money from friends and relatives hoping to win what would be a very lucrative agreement. During this time, the Gadhada temple project was going on.

In April 1950 Shastriji Maharaj was visting Mumbai and was staying at Gulzarilal Nandaji's bungalow. After explaining Vachanamrut Loya 3 for over six hours, Shastriji Maharaj asked Dadubhai how much he could donate. Dadubhai answered 15 thousand rupees. Shastriji Maharaj however replied, "You are the only one I can bank on. Reverse the numbers and give me 51 thousand rupees." Dadubhai agreed and gave the money he had borrowed for the line of credit! Shastriji Maharaj was so pleased with Dadubhai, he said, "Just as Lord Vishnu was won over by King Bali, I am won over by you. Ask for whatever you wish. I am very pleased with you." Shastriji Maharaj, who had divinely acted as the recipient, showed

that he was capable of giving anything a devotee desired. Dadubhai expressed he did not desire anything of this world, but Shastriji Maharaj insisted he ask for something. Thus Dadubhai said, "Just as you anointed sandalwood paste on your master Bhagatji Maharaj in Bhadrod, and he embraced you and blessed you, please allow me to anoint you with sandalwood paste¹⁷." Shastriji Maharaj happily agreed, and the next day on April 6, 1950, Dadubhai and Kantibhai's families came to Gulzarilal Nanda's¹⁸ bungalow with three pots of sandalwood paste. First, Dadubhai anointed the paste on Shastriji Maharaj's body. Shastriji Maharaj then embraced Dadubhai, Kantibhai, and Chhaganbhai. Shastriji Maharaj blessed Dadubhai, "God will forever reside in you. The business will earn in millions. You will be the savior for all in need." Shastriji Maharaj then commanded, "Know that I am Yogi [Bapa], and Yogi is me." Yogi Bapa exclaimed, "Dadubhai, you are brahmaroopa (totally purified and liberated)!"

17. *Images of God are typically anointed with sandalwood paste in the summertime - devotees do this with the prayer to have coolness or peace within.*

18. *Gulzarilal Nandaji was a simple freedom fighter that sided with Mahatma Gandhiji in the pre-1947 era, during which India rallied to gain independence from Britain. Despite being the acting Prime Minister of India, Nandaji, along with Lal Bahadur Shastri, was renowned as "modern-day King Harishchandra." (Harishchandra was the king of Ayodhya and a man of great principles. He was legendary for always telling the truth and for keeping his promises, as attested by sage Vishwamitra.) Gandhiji had advised his colleagues to spend their time reading religious scriptures like the Mahabharat and the Gita whenever they were imprisoned for involvement in the famous non-violent, non-cooperation movements. Nandaji also read Swaminarayan texts such as the Vachanamrut and the Shikshapatri, from which he had compiled 40 spiritual questions. He once went to meet Shastriji Maharaj in Mahemdavad, near Ahmedabad, to satisfy his queries. Shastriji Maharaj began a discourse in which he omnipotently answered all 40 of Nandaji's questions. From experiences with Shastriji Maharaj, Nandaji became a staunch devotee and by involvement with the political movement, he held several posts.*

દીધો હતો. પણ આપણા ભાગ્યમાં એ સેવા લખાઈ હશે, તેથી તે વખતે એ ન થયું. આજે મહારાજ સાથે સ્વામી, સુવર્ણના સિંહાસનમાં બેસી, સુવર્ણના થાળમાં થાળ જામે, એવો અહો-ભાગ્યનો અવસર આવ્યો છે, અને તે સેવા આપણને મળી છે. આપણે ભગવાન અને સંતને વિષે હેત છે તેનું લક્ષણ શું? તે ભગવાન અને સંતને અર્થે શું ન થાય? એને અર્થે કુટુંબનો ત્યાગ કરે, લોકલાજનો ત્યાગ કરે, રાજ્યનો ત્યાગ કરે, સુખનો ત્યાગ કરે, ધનનો ત્યાગ કરે અને સ્ત્રી હોય તે પુરુષનો ત્યાગ કરે.*” એટલી વાત કરીને પછી સ્વામીશ્રીએ હડુસરવાળા રજપૂત ગણુજી, ધર્મપુરના કુશળકુંવરબાઈ, પર્વતબાઈ, રાજબાઈ લાડુબાઈ, જીવુબાઈ, મોટા રામબાઈ, દાદાખાચર, માંચા ભક્ત, મૂળજી બ્રહ્મચારી, ભુજવાળા લાધીબાઈ, માતાજી, સુકતાનંદસ્વામી, સામત પટેલ, માનકૂવાના મૂળજી અને કૃષ્ણજી, શુંદાળી ગામના બે કાઠી હરિભક્તો, તે સર્વેનાં આખ્યાનવિસ્તારથી કહ્યા. હૃદયની આર પાર ભિતરી બધ એવી હૃદયંગમ શૈલિમાં, પ્રેરણાના અમૃત પાતા, આ મહામુક્તોના ચરિત્રોથી, આ હરિભક્તોનાં હૃદય રંગાઈ ગયા. તેમણે સ્વામીશ્રીને હાથ બેડી કહ્યું, ‘દયાળુ! આપની જે આજ્ઞા હોય તે કહો.’ સ્વામીશ્રીએ તેમનો ભાવ બેઈ હસીને કહ્યું, ‘તમે ત્રણે મળીને રૂપિયા એકાવન હબ્બરની સેવા કરો.’ સ્વામીશ્રીનું વચન અધધર બિલીને, આ ત્રણે હરિભક્તો રાત્રે એક વાગે ઘેર ગયા.

બીજે દિવસે સવારના રૂ. ૫૧,૦૦૦]નો થાળ ભરી, સ્વામીશ્રી પાસે આ ત્રણે હરિભક્તોએ ભેટ મૂક્યો. સ્વામીશ્રીની પૂજા આરતી કરી. સ્વામીશ્રી તેમનો અત્યંત ભક્તિભાવ બેઈ મસન્ન થયા. આહીર સામત પટેલે પોતાના વાડી, ખેતર, ઘર તથા તમામ સરસામાન વેચી મહારાજને રૂ. ૪૦૦૦] લાવી ભેટ આપ્યા હતા અને જેવા મહારાજ રાજ થયા હતા, તેવા જ સ્વામીશ્રી આજે, આ હરિભક્તોના પોતા પ્રત્યેના અત્યંત ભક્તિ-

* લોયા ૩ જી વચનામૃત

Text from Shastriji Maharaj's biography published in 1960 by Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha Bochasan, written by Harshadrai Dave, narrating that Dadubhai, Kantibhai and Chhaganbhai donated Rs. 51,000 to Shastriji Maharaj for the Gadhada Temple

ભાવથી, રાજી થયા. સ્વામીશ્રીએ તેમને અંતરની આશિષ આપતા કહ્યું, “આજે તમે લોયાતું ત્રીજું વચનામૃત સિદ્ધ કર્યું છે. મહારાજ અને સ્વામીની સેવા અમારા વચને કરી, માટે આજે તો તમે જે માગો તે આપું.”

સ્વામીશ્રી તો ચહાય તે આપવા સમર્થ હતા. અક્ષરધામ તો તેમના સંબંધે જ પ્રાપ્ત થઈ ગયું પ્રેમલક્ષણા ભક્તિવું હતું. એવી અડગ નિષ્ઠાવાળા આ ભક્તોને અદ્ભુત દશ્ય ! આજે એ મુકિત કરતાં પણ, આ યોગેશ્વરની અતિ પ્રસન્નતાની, વધુ અપેક્ષા હતી. છગનભાઈએ હાથ બેડી સ્વામીશ્રીને પ્રાર્થના કરી, ‘દયાળુ ! આપ ખરેખર જ જે રાજી થયા હો તો જે પ્રમાણે ભગતજી આપને મળ્યા હતા તેમ અમને મળો !’ સ્વામીશ્રીએ હસતા હસતા કહ્યું, ‘મારી કયાં ના છે ? હું તૈયાર જ છું.’ તુરત જ કેસર, અત્તરથી મિશ્રિત ચંદન મંગાવ્યું. પ્રથમ દાદુભાઈએ ચંદનની અર્ચા સ્વામીશ્રીના આખા શરીરે કરી અને પછી સ્વામીશ્રીને મળ્યા. ત્યારબાદ છગનભાઈએ એ પ્રમાણે ચંદનની અર્ચા કરી અને સ્વામીશ્રીને મળ્યા. છેલ્લે કાંતિભાઈએ પણ એ અમૂલ્ય દહવો લીધો. છગનભાઈએ પછી પ્રાર્થના કરી, ‘સ્વામીજી ! રાજી થયા હો તો ચરણારવિંદ આપો.’ ત્યારે સ્વામીશ્રીએ રહેજ રોષ કરતાં કહ્યું, ‘ચરણારવિંદ તો એક મહારાજના જ હોય. તે સિવાય જે ચરણારવિંદ આપે તે વચન દ્રોહી અને ગુરુ દ્રોહી કહેવાય. માટે એ માગણી ન કરશો.’ પછી બહુ જ પ્રાર્થના કરી ત્યારે હાથે કંકુ લગાવી કંકુના થાપા પાડી આપ્યા. ગદપુરની અપૂર્વ સેવાના અનન્ય રાજીપાતું ફળ, આ મહામુકતોને સ્વામીશ્રીએ આપ્યું. સત્સંગના ઇતિહાસમાં અનન્ય નિષ્ઠાવાળા આવા ભક્તોને, પોતાના ઈષ્ટદેવ પ્રત્યેની ભકિકને આ અપૂર્વ પ્રસંગ, પ્રેમ લક્ષણા ભકિતના પ્રકરણમાં સદા પ્રેરણાના દિવ્ય પાન પાતો, ચિર : સ્મરણીય બની રહેશે !

Text from Shastriji Maharaj's biography published in 1960 by Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha Bochasan, written by Harshadrai Dave, narrating that Shastriji Maharaj embraced Dadubhai with sandalwood

Despite not having placed the required deposit, with Shastriji Maharaj's blessings, Dadubhai went to gain the government contract. On the elevator to the office where he was to present Agri-Orient Industries, he met Mr. Nanavati, who laughed at Dadubhai's attempt to compete with him. Dadubhai confidently replied that everything was under the control of his guru. In the meeting, Dadubhai convinced the contract officer to give him the contract without the line of credit. Profits from the first year of business alone equaled 7 lakh or 0.7 million rupees! The business successfully expanded gaining 27 warehouses and a staff of 350.

On April 19, 1950, Dadubhai came to see Shastriji Maharaj early morning. At that time, Yogi Bapa entered the room and placed a flower at Shastriji Maharaj's feet. Shastriji Maharaj asked Bapa to give the flower to Dadubhai and said, "Yogi, in the future, we want to do a lot of work through Dadubhai." Shastriji Maharaj then told Dadubhai, "Yogi and I are one. Never let him down. There is no saint in the world like Yogi. Remember this and work to please him." That evening, Kantibhai came with news of Nirgun Swami's improving health. Dadubhai donated Rs. 16000 to Shastriji Maharaj and that night Shastriji Maharaj returned to Atladara after giving a hint that this would be his final trip to Mumbai.

MASTER OF DIVINITY

Shastriji Maharaj asked Dadubhai to employ in the Agri-Orient business many devotees who did not have jobs. Even if employees were not necessary, Dadubhai would hire anyone Shastriji Maharaj commanded. Dadubhai also had to do much traveling and once, when he returned from a short trip to Delhi, he found that 7 lakh rupees had been misappropriated to a false account. Dadubhai immediately knew who might be responsible for this¹⁹, but did not say

19. *In regards to this devotee, Shastriji Maharaj had told Dadubhai, "Do not trust him in company matters, and never ever make him a partner." After Shastriji Maharaj passed away in 1951, Yogi Bapa told Dadubhai to accept that same devotee as a partner!*

anything. When Dadubhai went to see Shastriji Maharaj at Nandaji's bungalow, Shastriji Maharaj was resting in an inside room but Yogi Bapa met Dadubhai and took him to a window overlooking the (Arabian) sea. Yogi Bapa asked Dadubhai, "What do you see?" Dadubhai replied, "I see the ocean." Yogi Bapa said, "Do you not see Shastriji Maharaj? In the land, air, and sea, there is only one governing power - our master Shastriji Maharaj. Then in devotees, don't you believe that Shastriji Maharaj is the governing power? I understand [what happened] Dadubhai. But don't see his fault. Do not charge him. Keep a vision of divinity." Dadubhai agreed and followed Yogi Bapa's command. Wholly pleased, Yogi Bapa said, "With your faith in Shastriji Maharaj, when you go to London you will gain a big order and this loss will be recovered." From that day forward, Dadubhai made up his mind that he would never see faults in any devotee.

FOR THE FUTURE OF THE DIVINE FELLOWSHIP

Shastriji Maharaj came to Ahmedabad in May 1950. On May 6th, Shastriji Maharaj wrote a letter to his close devotees, including Dadubhai, to come to Ahmedabad. Dadubhai had

Without saying a word, Dadubhai agreed.

After attaining saakshaatkaar samaadhi of Lord Swaminarayan in Gondal by Yogi Bapa's grace on February 3, 1952, Dadubhai left the business in the hands of the partners. This same devotee began selling imported fertilizer after mixing it with dirt. As the company's principal owner, the Indian government thus filed a criminal case against him. For the case, Yogi Bapa told him to keep a cheap lawyer and go to the case without any preparations or worries. The case lasted from 1954 to 1961, when the judge in whom Mr. Ranade witnessed Yogi Bapa's image, finally acquitted Dadubhai.

The same devotee played a large part in excommunicating him from the divine fellowship in 1966. But during the devotee's last days, Dadubhai went to the hospital to pray for his well-being. With tears in his eyes, he expressed, "The biggest mistake I made in my life was going against you. Please forgive me!" Dadubhai replied, "Do not think that way. You were only an instrument in Yogi Bapa's divine plan."

brought sweets and Shastriji Maharaj remarked, "It is a good thing you brought sweets. We will distribute them after making Narayanswaroopdas Swami the President." And on May 21 in Amlī Valī Pol²⁰, Shastriji Maharaj appointed 28-year old Narayanswaroopdasji²¹ as the president of the group. Shastriji Maharaj expressed that though Narayanswaroopdasji was young, he was very bright and capable, and should remain under Yogi Bapa's command.

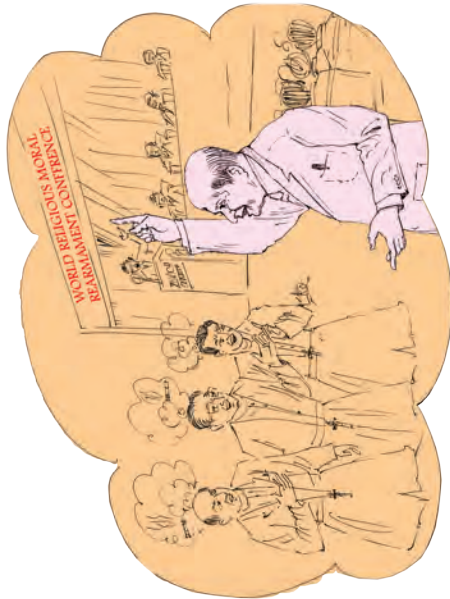
Nirgun Swamiji had been brought to Anand because the treatment in Pena was not successful. On May 30, after offering his services to the Akshar-Purushottam cause, Nirgun Swamiji passed away.

LAST MEETING WITH SHASTRIJI MAHARAJ

Dadubhai went to visit Shastriji Maharaj for his blessings prior to leaving on his trip outside India to procure foreign fertilizer contracts. Shastriji Maharaj's feet had become a bit swollen but were pink and beautiful. Dadubhai kept staring at his Guru's feet. Soon all the other devotees had left and Dadubhai was alone. Shastriji Maharaj suddenly said, "Dadu, why are you looking down there? Everything below the stomach will look like it is part of the material world. Look up at my face, there you will see the image of the ultimate God!" Many years later, Dadubhai would say that he still could remember that darshan as if it had just happened. When Dadubhai was leaving, Shastriji Maharaj walked him all the way to the gate.

20. *Amlī Valī Pol* was the old temple location in Ahmedabad, which served as a headquarters. In May 1962, Yogiji Maharaj inaugurated the sixth Akshar-Purushottam temple in Shahibaug, Ahmedabad.

21. *Narayanswaroopdasji (Pramukh Swamiji)* - Shantibhai was born on December 7, 1921 in the town of Chansad, and initiated by Shastriji Maharaj as Narayanswaroopdasji at the young age of 18.



1951 - Dadubhai attends the World Religions Moral Rearmament Conference in Zurich, Switzerland and shows that India can guide the world towards spirituality

EXPERIENCES ABROAD

In late 1950, Dadubhai went on a steamer boat, the SS Kampala, from Mumbai to Mombasa to meet Babubhai (his elder brother) and tell him about Shastriji Maharaj's greatness. After a week's stay, Dadubhai went with his brother-in-law Ravjibhai to Rhodesia, Zimbabwe in Africa, and then continued with his European business travels. During this time, while physically separate from Shastriji Maharaj, Dadubhai maintained a constant communion with his master. On April 15, 1951, on his way to Germany, Dadubhai was on a connecting flight leaving from Brussels to Paris. Just as the plane was about to take off, he had a vision of Shastriji Maharaj urging him to leave the plane. Despite already being on the runway, Dadubhai urged the pilot that everyone should leave the plane at once. He explained that his guru was giving him a premonition that the plane was in danger. As soon as everyone got off, the plane caught on fire because of a gas leak in the fuel pipe leading to the engine. When the passengers rejoiced, "Dadubhai is our savior," he took out a photo of Shastriji Maharaj and explained to them, "My guru inspired me to get off the plane."

Similarly, Dadubhai attended the World Religions Moral Re-armament Conference in Zurich, Switzerland and talked about Shastriji Maharaj and the glory of the Hindu faith. Nandaji was the president of the Bharat Sadhu Samaj (Society of Indian Saints), and was invited to attend as a representative of the Hindu faith. He thus asked his good friend, Dadubhai to attend on his behalf. Many representatives talked about sending missionaries to India to free the people of its "backward religion." Hearing this Dadubhai interjected, "Wait a minute, my friends - India has not filed bankruptcy in the court of religion. Quite the opposite, God has forever graced the land of India with His presence. If you want to progress in spirituality, do not send missionaries, but rather students to India!" One representative remarked, "If God is manifest in India, prove it!" Dadubhai remembered Shastriji Maharaj and said, "My guru sends me the intuition that there two of you are focused on when you can take a break and smoke,

and three of you are thinking about plans to attend a party afterwards." The representatives that had such thoughts were moved by Dadubhai's words, and came forward and applauded Dadubhai's faith.

FRIENDLINESS IN LONDON

For the business, Dadubhai traveled throughout Europe many times. While staying at the Savoy Hotel in London in 1951, Dadubhai met Mr. Anton Philips, 75 year-old business magnate who had made considerable money in light bulbs, electronics and various other industries (of today's large, international corporation). By chance, they met in a park where Mr. Anton Philips was playing fetch with his dog. This went on for half hour and Dadubhai laughed upon seeing this. Mr. Philips asked Dadubhai, "Why are you laughing?" Dadubhai said, "I am laughing at your foolishness. You are wasting your invaluable time. This is not the way to enjoy." Mr. Philips replied, "Do you know who I am? I am an owner of 39 companies." Dadubhai again laughed and Mr. Philips said, "Why do you keep laughing?" Dadubhai replied, "Your wealth is not yours. It did not come with you when you were born and will not come with you when you pass away. Our true wealth are our friends, who stand by us in times of difficulty. If you don't have such friends, then I am wealthier than you." In this way, during their conversation, Dadubhai explained to him the importance of friendship. Mr. Philips remembered a moment from his own history in which he gained the help of a friend. He was so deeply touched by Dadubhai's words that he invited Dadubhai to his home. There, Dadubhai talked about the purpose of his visit to London: to acquire licenses to import fertilizers to India. Mr. Philips contacted some people and handed over India distribution rights of farming chemicals to Dadubhai at no cost. Mr. Philips's business colleagues were astonished at the decision but Mr. Philips explained that Dadubhai was a great man, and had imparted the essential truth that, "Friends are our greatest asset."



Dadubhai abroad





Yogi Bapa standing in front of Shastriji Maharaj's deri in Sarangpur



Inscription of plaque has name of Shastriji Maharaj's loving mandal: Dadubhai (Kakaji), Chhaganbhai, Kantibhai

LETTER TO BABUBHAI (PAPPAJI)

In a letter dated April 6, 1951 from London, Dadubhai wrote to Babubhai in Africa, displaying his love and faith for Shastriji Maharaj. Dadubhai wrote:

"The ephemeral life of Europe does not affect me at all. I want eternal bliss and peace. For that, I have one guide - Yagnapurushdasji (Shastriji Maharaj). And with his shelter, I will fight against the strength of this world and beyond. And one day I will amaze everyone. But do not worry - I will not put you in loss. I am a worker that works day and night. I like to work because of the good impressions that our father gave us. Without fearing anyone, I do not need the strength of anyone in this world, except my guru. I want the eternal divine. In the world beyond, I am not even scared of demigods - then what of this world? Thus, keeping patience, do not worry about me.

This world is false. Because our senses cannot see Akshardham, we only assume how it is. [With Einstein's theory] Cambridge professors have proved that Newton's theories are wrong when it comes to the universe... Similarly, after some time, today's theories will also be wrong. Then what is right? How can we base our lives on these theories? I do not want limited light. I want to see the total light of Akshardham, and be capable of it. Then whatever happens is true. In that experience is real happiness and bliss. Thus, patiently keep blessing me." On April 10, Dadubhai felt a darkness and sadness and wrote a play and bhajan related to these feelings. Due to his devotional connection with Shastriji Maharaj, he realized beforehand that Shastriji Maharaj would soon pass away.

SHASTRIJI MAHARAJ PASSES AWAY

Back in India, on May 8, 1951, Shastriji Maharaj bathed and worshiped the moortis for the Gadhadra temple. He said Yogi Bapa would enshrine the moortis, and returned to Sarangpur, where he passed away on May 10. Yogi Bapa was in Mumbai

at the time, and rushed to Sarangpur upon hearing the news. Shastriji Maharaj wrote a letter to Dadubhai just a few days prior to this to attend the installation ceremony at Gadhada on May 16. A great sadness had overwhelmed Dadubhai on his last days abroad; but he learned about Shastriji Maharaj's passing away only after returning to India. Hearing the news, Dadubhai went straight to Gadhada and met with Yogi Bapa.

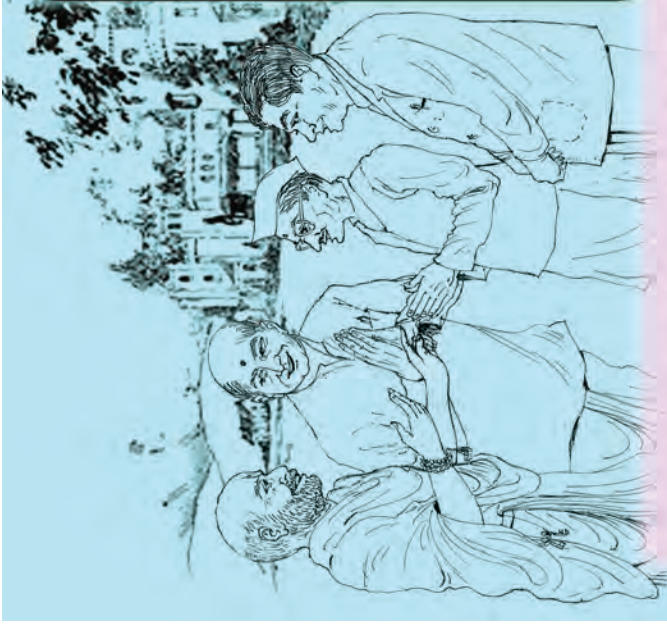
Yogi Bapa then asked Dadubhai, "Will you help me?" Dadubhai replied, "Please, dear master, you only have to command me." As originally planned by Shastriji Maharaj, on May 16, Yogi Bapa continued with the installation ceremony of the fifth Akshar-Purushottam temple. In Sarangpur, Yogi Bapa and Dadubhai constructed a beautiful marble memorial shrine for their beloved guru Shastriji Maharaj (consecrated on March 12, 1952).

MAN OF ELECTION

In early 1951, Shastriji Maharaj had asked Gulzarilal Nandaji if there was a higher government position than his current post. Nandaji replied, the Home Minister post. Shastriji Maharaj again asked if there was a higher post than Home Minister, and Nandaji expressed that the highest position was that of a Prime Minister. Shastriji Maharaj thereafter blessed Nandaji to become India's Prime Minister. Knowing Nandaji's meek nature however, many of the devotees present began laughing. Shastriji Maharaj remarked that their laughing indicated they doubted him; he then exclaimed that Nandaji would become India's Prime Minister twice!

In January 1952, the newly shaping Indian government was to hold its first general election. Nandaji was given a ticket to run for elections in the rural Sabarkantha constituency of northeastern Gujarat under the Bombay State²² by Morarji Desai of the Congress party. His opposition was a popular independent candidate, the King of Idar, Maharaj

22. *Until 1960, the states of Gujarat and Maharashtra made up the one Bombay State.*



November 1951 to January 1952 - Yogiji Maharaj asks Dadubhai to support Gulzarilal Nandaji's election campaign. As a result of Dadubhai's tireless efforts Nandaji wins the election



Dadubhai with Gulzarilal Nanda



Dadubhai supports Gulzarilal Nandaji's election campaign

Himmatsinhji, who had been ruling from 1931. Yogi Bapa looked to Dadubhai to fulfill Shastriji Maharaj's blessings and help Nandaji win the ministry position. Election campaigning began on October 25, 1951.

At first, Dadubhai responded that he would employ as much of his personnel and resources as were required to defeat the wealthy King of Idar. However, Yogi Bapa insisted that a victory would only be possible if Dadubhai himself committed to the election and remained in Sabarnkantha. Reminiscing Shastriji Maharaj's final words that "Yogi and I are one," Dadubhai left the growing business in the hands of Kantibhai and others, and agreed to personally back Nandaji until the election was won.

On December 5, 1951, Dadubhai and Rasikbhai (son of Dhanjibhai Khushalbai Patel) left by car from Ahmedabad to go towards Himatnagar which is about 40 miles away. 20 miles down the road, the car struck a pothole, and the rear tire came off the car. They waited until midnight, but not a single car passed by. Thus Dadubhai and Rasikbhai started walking to the nearest village which was four to five miles away. Two miles down the road, two well-known armed robbers, Manvoji and Khunoji, approached Dadubhai. But as Dadubhai remembered Shastriji Maharaj and Yogi Bapa, the robbers amazingly offered to help instead. The robbers suggested that there was no way to fix the wheel - they would have to go to Ahmedabad and bring the necessary equipment. When Dadubhai resumed praying, at about 2 AM a truck stopped by the car, and took Dadubhai and Rasikbhai to Himatnagar by the morning.

Nandaji, who had arrived at Himatnagar earlier, was happy to see that Dadubhai arrived safely. He had been traveling for the election the past 4 days, and had gone to the birthplace of Gopalanand Swami in Todla.

Despite facing great hardships, Dadubhai faithfully endured to actualize Shastriji Maharaj's blessings and Yogi Bapa's command. The King of Idar engaged 35 cars to canvass the region - Dadubhai however, saw that the solicitation had a

minimal effect on the farmers who worked during the daytime in their farms. Dadubhai thus set up devotional song programs in the evenings in Himatnagar with the help of Shankar Kaviraj. In the presence of Nandaji, Dadubhai had Shankar sing devotional songs such as “Nandanaa Laalaa re, taaro bharasho mane bhaare...” (O son of Nanda, Lord Krishna, I have strong faith in you). Dadubhai then explained to the prospective voters that while they had never seen the King of Idar, here was Nandaji in front of them, and was someone they personally knew and could trust to communicate their needs to the government in Delhi.

The next day, when Dadubhai, Rasikbhai, Shankar, and Ranchhodbhai were on their way to Titoi (where a devotional songs program was to be held in the evening) from Himatnagar, the car got stuck in the sand. Dadubhai found two bullocks from a farmer, had the car pulled out, and then switched to a jeep. As they went further along, they became lost in the jungles. And suddenly, they were confronted by a lion emerging out of the jungle. The driver panicked and drove for 2 miles, until the tire became punctured. Now they had to change the tire in the middle of the dense jungle. Dadubhai fearlessly left the car, laid some wood around it, and lit the wood on fire so that no animals would bother them. After changing the tire, they realized how far they had driven. By now, it was 3.30 in the morning, and everyone was cold, tired and hungry. With Dadubhai’s prayer, a village was finally spotted ahead. A person from the village accompanied the group to Titoi, where they learned that after waiting till midnight, the 2000 people that had gathered, ended up leaving.

Instead of resting, the following day, Dadubhai along with Rasikbhai and Shankar, went to visit the Shyaamlaji²³ temple, which was 10 miles from Titoi. They finally reached Todla, which was another 10 miles into the forest, during the evening aarti. There, Dadubhai was gifted with Gopalanand

23. *Shyaamlaji is the miraculous temple of Gopalanand Swami's childhood.*

Swami's sanctified rosary. On the way back to Titoi, a tiger sprung in front of the car. When Rasikbhai turned the rosary, the tiger went back into the forest. That late evening at Titoi, there was another devotional songs program. The program ended at 2 in the morning, after which the group went to Nandubhai's place and had dinner.

The next morning, Dadubhai and the group returned to Himatnagar. That very night, they went to Talod to meet up with Nandaji. Once, feeling uneasy, Nandaji even left the election meeting - but Dadubhai continued to gather support. In many areas, due to the opposition, the group was not given a place to sit, or even not allowed to conduct election meetings. Neither did the group get a proper place to spend the nights. They mostly stayed at dilapidated dharmashalas²⁴. But Dadubhai faithfully toiled for Nandaji's cause.

In an attempt to impede the rising popularity of Nandaji, the sister of the King of Idar conspired a plan to kill Dadubhai. She joined the Congress party and invited Dadubhai to her home. She brought out two cups of tea, one of which she had poisoned. Of the two cups, the one filled to the brim was poisoned, but out of respect, Dadubhai picked up the cup that was not filled. The king's sister went back into the kitchen and fervently left the tea with thoughts of an alternate plan. In just a few minutes, a servant ran out from the kitchen exclaiming that the family cat had died because it had sipped some of the tea. Her plan to kill Dadubhai was unveiled and Dadubhai explained to her that victory was surely Nandaji's because all of the merits of the king were transferred to Nandaji's party!

Finally, on the night of January 15, a preliminary count showed that the King of Idar was ahead by 15,000 votes. Hearing this, Nandaji left unhappily for Ahmedabad and the King of Idar ordered pendas (sweets) in preparation for the next day's celebration. As Dadubhai and his election group stayed awake all night praying, the morning news came that Nandaji had in fact won by 22,374 votes! Of the 201,468

24. *Dharmashalas - resting place for pilgrims*

voters, Nandaji acquired 52.64% of the votes, Himmatsinhji 41.53%, and Suresh Desai (of the Socialist Party) 5.83%. Overall, of the 489 seats in the Lok Sabha, the Indian National Congress won 364 seats²⁵.

After the elections, the King of Idar personally met Dadubhai and called him a "godly person of great faith." Dadubhai however replied that "I have done nothing, but it was all due to the grace of my master." Dadubhai then showed a letter from Yogi Bapa (that constantly kept with him and often showed to Nandaji and villagers) stating that "victory is on the side of the one who has the side of the saint."

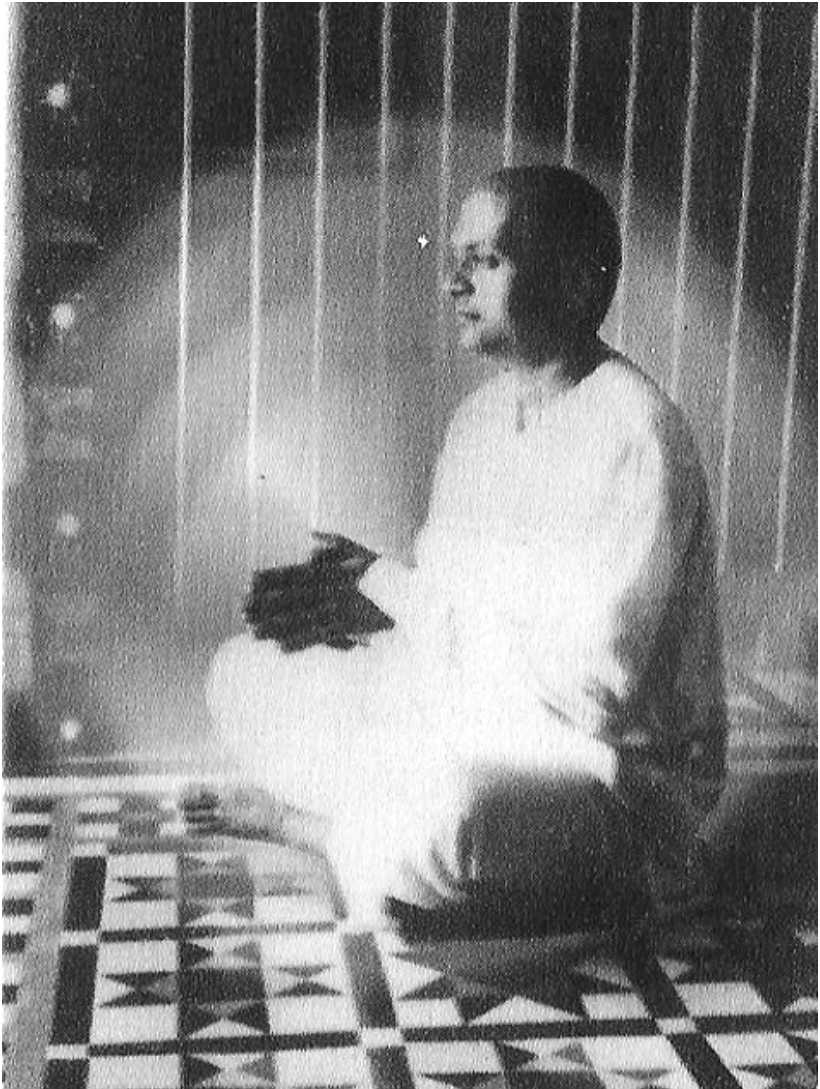
NOTE: Many of the above facts were taken from the January 1952 Swaminarayan Prakash magazine.

THE SAAKSHAATKAAR EXPERIENCE

After the election, Dadubhai went to the old temple in Ahmedabad, to meet Yogi Bapa and Nandaji. He parked his jeep station wagon and walked towards the temple. At that time, a saint said to him, "This car befits Acharya Maharaj." Upon listening to this, Yogi Bapa immediately said to Dadubhai, "Dadubhai, give this car to Acharyaji Maharaj." Without any questioning or hesitation, Dadubhai immediately handed the car keys to the saint.

From there, they all went to Atladra to celebrate Vasant Panchami, Shikshapatridin and Shastriji Maharaj's birthday. There, Yogi Bapa rejoiced that Dadubhai had greatly pleased Shastriji Maharaj and in front of the moorti of Harikrishna Maharaj said, "Dadubhai, I want to show you Lord Swaminarayan of Akshardham." Yogi Bapa gave him some almonds saying that they were specially charged to induce a samaadhi (divine trance). Dadubhai however,

25. *This victory of Nandaji led him to take on further posts in the government of India, and eventually becoming the acting Prime Minister of India twice - from May 27, 1964 to June 9, 1964 and from January 11, 1966 to January 24, 1966, thus fulfilling Shastriji Maharaj's blessings.*



Kakaji in Saakshaatkaar



Replica of the shrine of Ghanashyam Maharaj in Gondal Temple in 1952 depicting Dadubhai's saakshaatkaar given by Yogiji Maharaj. The moortis of (left to right) Krishnaji Ada, Jaga Swami, Gunatitanand Swami, Bhagatji Maharaj and Vajinathbhai are also seen at the top.

shared the almonds with fellow devotees. Sonaba, Kantibhai, Taraben, Jyotiben, Diwaliba, Maniben and others that had helped with the campaign work had come to Atladra as well. The next morning, Yogi Bapa smilingly said that this time Dadubhai should eat the almonds all by himself. Dadubhai again insisted on sharing. The following morning, Yogi Bapa again asked Dadubhai to eat the almonds all by himself. He ensured Dadubhai, "The others will also experience the bliss of Akshardham."

From Atladra, Yogi Bapa and Dadubhai went to the Gondal temple. The next couple days, Dadubhai was to wake up early and take a bath at the Gondali River, fast taking milk only in the morning and evening time, constantly read the Vachanamrut, and do over 500 pradikshanas of Akshar Deri. In the morning mahaapooja, Yogi Bapa would talk about the various types of samaadhis and continue to give almonds to Dadubhai. On February 3, 1952, by Yogi Bapa's grace, after the aarti, an immense flood of light originating in the image of Ghanshyam Maharaj consumed Dadubhai. Chuni Bhagat, Chhaganbhai, Haka Khachar, Naranbhai Sheth, Nirannamukta Swami, and others were present. Dadubhai fell unconscious in front of the temple, and remained in samaadhi for the next three days. Yogi Bapa asked devotees to rest Dadubhai's body comfortably, and then take the body to the hall area. Dadubhai's soul traveled along with Yogi Bapa across the various heavens, culminating in the vision of Lord Swaminarayan in Akshardham.

Dadubhai's saakshaatkaar samaadhi changed the direction of the movement. Yogi Bapa noted this event in his personal diary. When Dadubhai awoke from the saakshaatkaar samaadhi, he remained in an ecstatic nature. He left all worldly activities, talked for hours at a time, and displayed immense powers. He began revealing to fellow devotees that Yogi Bapa was a brahmasvaroop or gunaateeta saint in whom God resided.

THE SAAKSHAATKAAR EXPERIENCE IN HIS OWN WORDS²⁶

The third day of February 1952 was a momentous day in my life. By total obedience, trust, love, and sincerity towards the master, I left my huge and lucrative business. The selfless service rendered in the interest of Shri Nandaji's election campaign for a period of two months, brought me his special blessings and grace.

First, he initiated me by giving me special almonds, which were offered to Harikrishna Maharaj in the morning mahapooja (morning ritual prayer to God and His devotees). For three days, with single-pointed devotion, I was to continuously chant SwamiNarayan while remembering Shastriji Maharaj - incidents from his life, his teachings, and his blessings. Total internal purification ended on the second day by the observance of silence, introspection, and pradakshina (circling God's image or the memorial shrine clockwise) of Akshar Deri the entire day. Five injunctions were to be carried out three times a day. Deep prayers were to be offered for one hour straight.

The last day was the day of fasting. Before 5 o'clock, Yogiji Maharaj told me to circle around the Akshar Deri 200 times (called parikrama), and conduct mahapooja. The shaktipat (transmission of divine energy from guru to disciple) had already begun. At 5:30, after bowing down to Yogiji Maharaj's lotus feet, he embraced me and an overflowing love illuminated the center of my heart. I felt a rise in my blood pressure, and heaviness on my brain. My subconscious was fully awakened, and at 7:00, Yogiji Maharaj placed his hands on my head and requested Maharaj to give me the ultimate experience of the divine nature of Guru Shastriji Maharaj, and the Highest Being Sahajanand Swami with His Eternal Abode, Gunatitanand Swami. In front of the image of Ghanshyam Maharaj, enlightenment naturally came.

26. *Given in The Real Essence of Tantra, a book written by Kakaji himself and published by Yogi Divine Society in 1978.*

Immense rays, as if coming from innumerable suns, engulfed me, and suddenly, my spirit was separated from my physical body. A huge roar or sound was observed - observers told me later that I cried loudly with the roaring sound of a lion for three minutes, and then everything became quiet. I was lifted higher and higher, at a speed beyond all mathematical figures. The first experience was a separation from my physical and mental coverings. The only cognizance my pure self had was of the images of Guru Yogiji Maharaj and Guru Shastriji Maharaj.

Any idea or thought was instantaneously fulfilled. There was a vision of the entire universe with all of its objects and subtle elements. This phenomena or illumination was felt but cannot be explained. There were numerous other planes and categories of evolutionary stages which were also shown by Guru Yogiji Maharaj.

The second experience was transcendence of my spirit from the bonds of mahasunya (deep void or emptiness). It is described in the Shrimad Bhagavat²⁷ that jivan-muktas (liberated souls that have renounced the world) or illuminated souls travel in a cosmic body on this lighted path through the complete darkness of mahasunya. Scriptures describe only a divine entity or avatar (incarnation) that has fully conquered passions and purified the inner self and has equivalence with Eternal Brahma (Aksharbrahma or Gunatitanand Swami) can pass the mahasunya. Thus, it can only be transcended by the pure grace of a divine master of the eternal abode of Akshardham. The highest emancipated jivan-muktas reside in this eternal abode.

On my entry into the atmosphere, which was beyond all planes, my spirit assumed a new divine form. This divine consciousness can only be experienced. It was most enjoyable, delightful, peaceful - far more than any other mystical experience. The third step was realization of eternal

27. *The Shreemad Bhagavatam - Last of the 18 Purans, authored by Vyasji, contains 12 cantos detailing the incarnations of Lord Vishnu.*

bliss and the all-pervading presence of the divine master. God was seen in him, and Shastriji Maharaj was also seen in him - all were seen in Yogiji Maharaj.

After this period of 72 hours of samaadhi, I remained as brahmaroopa, totally different and separate from all psychophysical aspects, yet living in this world. The distinguishing quality that became so natural was spiritual equality in good and bad, right and wrong, love and hatred. All thoughts, all actions, all movements now originate from him and I enjoy suhradabhaava (heartfelt oneness with fellow devotees). Supernatural powers always remain in our service but they can be used according to God's will for creating confidence and faith in truth seekers.

The final evolution and spiritual status of the soul was completed here. It was not just nirvana or moksha or liberation, but the beginning of gnyaan-samaadhi - imbibing of divine qualities. Though working in an ordinary manner, I could always remain in permanent communion with the master, the Divine Supreme Being. His presence is always felt inwardly and also outwardly as human beings with whom I share their joys and sorrows, with love and friendliness, without any sort of expectations. My humanly desires, egoistic tendencies, all sorts of ambitions and expectations have completely disappeared. The sense of male and female has dropped out. The entire vision changed into divinity - I could see Lord Swaminarayan in my heart, in this life, and in this world. All objects and forms were seen as brahmasvaroopa (totally pure and liberated or associated with divinity).

SPREADING YOGIJI MAHARAJ'S GLORY

News quickly spread throughout the divine fellowship about Dadubhai's samaadhi. Yogi Bapa's elder brother, Kamalshibhai, made Dadubhai eat half a sweet, and ate the rest considering it to have been sanctified. Dadubhai's business partners such as Mr. Ranade believed Dadubhai had a mental breakdown. Sonaba, Maniben, and others witnessed Shastriji Maharaj in Dadubhai. And Chhaganbhai

and devotees, began calling Dadubhai, “Chhota Jogi” or “Junior Yogi Bapa.” Dadubhai contained vast powers, including being able to omnisciently see the past, present, and future. Chhaganbhai accounted several such occasions. Once when Nandaji was coming by train to Gondal to see Yogi Bapa, Chhaganbhai and Harshadbhai went to the Rajkot station to receive him. Dadubhai told them, “The train will come 3 hours late.” Dadubhai’s words were revealed when they arrived at the Rajkot station. Some time later, Chhaganbhai received a call saying his daughter was hurt after having fallen down. At the time, it was hard to immediately get a hold of people by phone. Seeing Chhaganbhai’s distressed face, Dadubhai said, “Do not worry. Your daughter is all right. She has no fractures. Right now she is standing on the terrace and is wearing a yellow dress.” When a call finally reached Chhaganbhai, everything that Dadubhai had said was revealed as true.

The message crossed the seas, and soon Babubhai heard about his brother’s ecstatic state. He came to Mumbai in April 1952. And soon, Babubhai also experienced a realization of Lord Swaminarayan’s glory and Yogi Bapa’s divinity. Babubhai decided not to return to Africa when Yogi Bapa told him to become a partner in Agri-Orient Industries and take over the family responsibilities. In December, Babubhai asked his son, Rameshbhai²⁸, who was back in Mombasa with Chunibhai, to also come to Mumbai. Devotees poured into Tardeo, and along with Rameshbhai, everyone began calling Dadubhai, “Kakaji” (respectful name for “uncle”) and Babubhai, “Pappaji” (respectful name for “father”).

Kakaji arranged seminars at various places, reverberating Yogi Bapa’s glory. For example, at the time, a verse on Yogi Bapa was not recited during prayers - so Kakaji instructed Bhagvatrai Dave to write one. When Kakaji recited it in front of everyone, Yogi Bapa said, “These qualities describe

28. *Rameshbhai (b. 1936) - Initiated by Yogi Bapa as Aksharvihari Swamiji in 1961 when 51 educated youths were initiated.*

Shastriji Maharaj.” But Kakaji encouraged everyone to also sing the glory of Yogi Bapa.

TOGETHER IN CHHAPAIYA

To fulfill Shastriji Maharaj’s promise to Pramukh Swamiji, in 1953, Yogiji Maharaj organized a pilgrimage to Chhapaiya by a special train. Yogi Bapa, Pramukh Swamiji and saints stopped in Delhi in late November, staying at Nandaji’s bungalow. The administrative office for this trip was at the headquarters of Kakaji’s company, Agri-Orient Industries. Kakaji and Nandaji had gone earlier to help with the arrangements, and met Yogi Bapa in Chhapaiya (staying with Yogi Bapa until reaching Banaras). At Chhapaiya, young Tejendraprasadji Maharaj²⁹ welcomed Yogi Bapa and everyone rejoiced together at the birthplace of Lord Swaminarayan. Acharya Devendraprasadji Maharaj was pleased upon hearing the news of the special train to Chhapaiya, and provided a comfortable stay for the saints. From December 7, 1956 to January 22, 1957, Yogi Bapa, saints and devotees took another pilgrimage tour by special train across India, and again visited Chhapaiya.

YOGIJI MAHARAJ’S GLORY ON FOREIGN LAND

On January 21, 1954, per Yogi Bapa’s command, Kakaji went on the first spiritual tour to Africa. During the same time, Kakaji was to appear in court for a case against Agri-Orient. His close relatives, friends and other devotees advised him to stay back; putting all that aside, Kakaji followed Yogi Bapa’s command.

Accompanied by Chhaganbhai, Kakaji visited devotees throughout today’s Kenya and Uganda. In just one month, Kakaji travelled to 14 different centers including Andola, Lusaka, Blentayar, Livingston etc. Many had faith in Shastriji Maharaj, but had not yet developed a similar faith in Yogi

29. *Tejendraprasadji Maharaj - Acharya in the Nar Narayan gadi established by Lord Swaminarayan*



Yogi Bapa and Kakaji

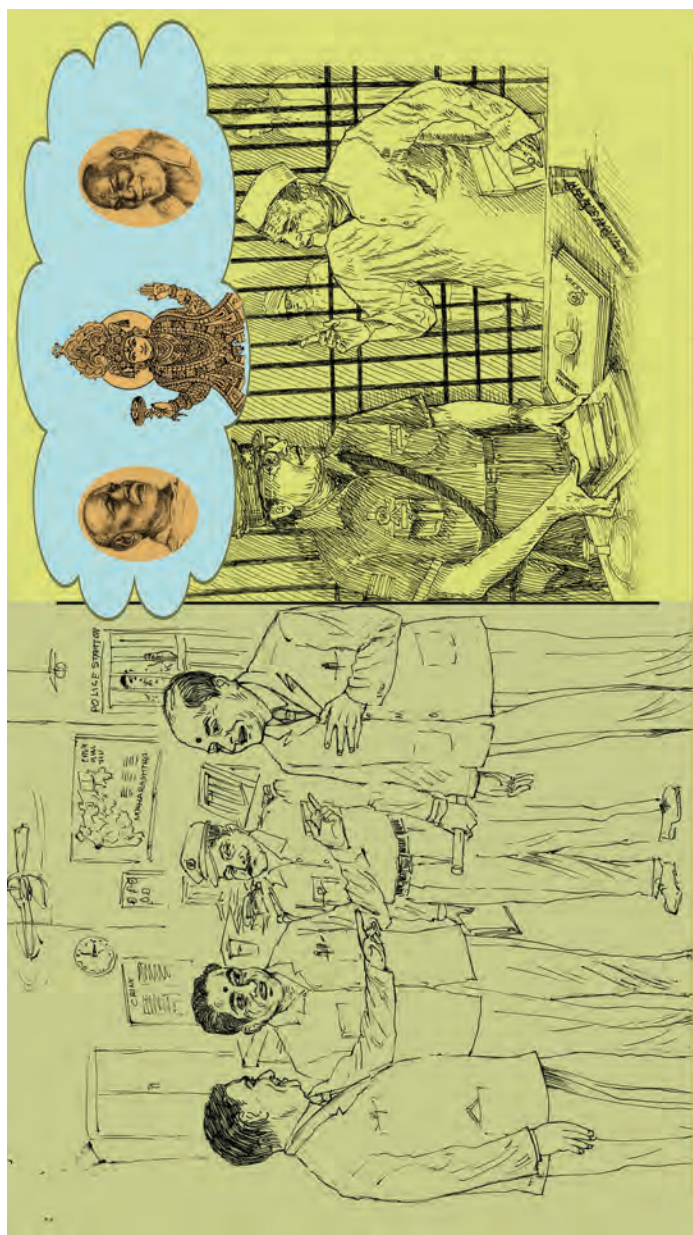




1954 - Kakaji goes to Africa



1954 - Upon Yogi Bapa's command, Kakaji goes to Africa.
Amidst difficulties, Kakaji continues to pray and spreads satsang



1954 - Pappaji offers to stay in jail. Kakaji arranges bail for all partners.
Kakaji sees Yogi Bapa in every incident

Bapa³⁰. Yogi Bapa was still considered an ordinary saint - for example, Kakaji saw that most of the families did not even have a photo of Yogi Bapa in their homes³¹. Thus wherever Kakaji went, he talked about the glory of Yogi Bapa.

Once, Kakaji had only £4 in his pocket and he was traveling from Andola to Blantyre. The actual cost of the plane trip was £3 but due to overbooking, the trip tickets were hiked to £20. Kakaji's name was on the waiting list. Without any worries, Kakaji started praying to Yogi Bapa and chanted the Swaminarayan mantra. Within few minutes, there was a cancellation of 20 tickets and Kakaji was able to get the ticket at the actual cost of £3. Kakaji returned back to India after a period of about three months.

Bapa had arrived in Mumbai on July 24, 1954. At that time, the government had placed false allegations against Agri-Orient and a large tax evasion case was lodged against the four directors. They were asked to pay Rs 800,000 immediately. Kakaji firmly believed that all that was happening was by the will of Bapa. Bapa called Kakaji to Kopol Wadi and putting his legs on Kakaji's lap and his hands on Kakaji's head, he asked about all the details of the case. Kakaji mentioned that they needed to retain a lawyer and Bapa said to work with a low cost one. Pappaji asked Bapa why the case was lodged. Bapa replied, "To purify many others." Even during such difficult circumstances, Bapa asked Kakaji to speak in the sabha. Kakaji gave a powerful speech describing the limitless glory of the Gunatit saint and said, "In the scriptures, we read of Janak and Mithila. Well, my Mithila is burning today but it is all by the will and grace of my master Yogiji Maharaj! And due to him, I feel supremely happy!"

30. *Shastriji Maharaj had blessed Harmanbhai, a railway official in East Africa, in 1928 and again in 1932 to return to Africa to spread satsang. In 1945, moortis sanctified by Shastriji Maharaj were enshrined in a small hari mandir in Nairobi, Kenya.*

31. *This was witnessed by Shantaben Popat, now known as Ben in Gunatit Jyot. She later came to India to live a dedicated life for Yogi Bapa.*

With the faith that Kakaji stirred amid devotees, Yogi Bapa was now enthusiastically called to grace Africa³². From April 13 to October 22, 1955, Yogi Bapa made his first trip outside India spreading loving devotion amongst devotees. He enshrined the image of Akshar-Purushottam Maharaj at a temple in Mombasa, Kenya on April 25 and established a memorial shrine in remembrance of Maganbhai. A friend and railway official superior of Harmanbhai, Maganbhai became a staunch devotee of Shastriji Maharaj as well. He played an active role in spreading the faith in East Africa. In 1952, Kakaji and Pappaji had kept a special scriptural reading in his remembrance.

After Yogi Bapa returned to India on October 23, a grand welcome-back ceremony was held in Mumbai and then in Vadodara on the 25th. Yogi Bapa asked Kakaji to come to Vadodara where a big procession was organized. There were two decorated elephants, one for Yogi Bapa and another for Mota Swami and saints to sit on. At that time, Manibhai (of village Salad) insisted that Kakaji also sit on top. Kakaji however maintained, "I have not gone with Yogi Bapa to Africa so why should I sit on top?" Manibhai replied, "You went last year and glorified Yogi Bapa's name and prepared all the devotees. Since then, it was my wish that you are welcomed in a procession. I see you as Yogi Bapa's shadow." When Kakaji accepted Manibhai's devotion, many showed disfavor that Kakaji was allowed to sit along with saints. History was repeating itself - similar to Gopalanand Swami, Bhagatji Maharaj, Jaga Swami, Shastriji Maharaj, and other divine saints of the past, Kakaji began facing opposition.

THE CENTER OF AKSHARDHAM

In a letter to Kakaji, Yogi Bapa addressed, "Tardeo saakshaat Sonawala Building Akshardham-roopi takhat Sonawala" or

32. *Kakaji, Khengarjibhai, and Manibhai (of Salaad village) ensured that Yogi Bapa, along with Mota Swami, Nirannamukta Swami, and Vakil Swami went comfortably by plane instead of the long journey by steamer boat.*

“the center of Akshardham.” The Tardeo temple was a busy hub for spiritual activities in Mumbai. Tardeo was like home to the entire Akshar Purushottam Sanstha, for devotees that lived in India and abroad. Everyone came and stayed there. Whether they were devotees from Africa visiting India or devotees from villages coming to the city for a wedding or for business, they would only stay at Tardeo. Yogi Bapa also sent youths to Mumbai to spend time with Kakaji. Everyone was welcomed with hospitality and love. As if it were a medical clinic, many ill devotees and saints of the Sanstha came there and were served with overwhelming devotion. From the steps of Tardeo flowed supreme devotion. And thus Yogi Bapa said, “Just like God is bound at King Bali’s doorstep, Dadubhai has bound Shastriji Maharaj.”

Once, Sidibhai of Gondal had come to Mumbai to get rid of his illness. Yogi Bapa had instructed to arrange his stay in Tardeo and provide him with a car for his transportation needs. The whole family of Kantikaka who lived in block 8C emptied their home and moved to Kakaji’s residence in 6D. Kakaji arranged for his own car to be used by Sidibhai. Once, Sidibhai needed a car to go out and the car was unavailable as it was being used for some important work for the Agri Orient Industries. Sidibhai waited for some time and got really angry and complained to Yogi Bapa, “Dadubhai is using the car that was arranged for my needs. I am not able to use it.” Kakaji said, “Since the car was available, we had sent it for some urgent work at the office.” Yogi Bapa said, “Whose car is it? You have given the car to us and without asking us, why did you send the car to office?” Kakaji humbly replied, “Bapa, it is my mistake. Next time, I will not repeat this.” Kakaji then asked for forgiveness from Sidibhai. Kakaji had surrendered his body, mind and wealth in Yogi Bapa’s service.

While accommodating devotees and youth (that were studying in college and aimed to become saints), Kakaji incessantly talked about Lord Swaminarayan and Yogi Bapa’s glory. At the same time, Kakaji tirelessly took up the work of the group’s many festivals and celebrations, and helped with the group’s newsletter. Before going to Africa, Yogi Bapa asked

Kakaji to begin writing a weekly letter to the various Satsang centers and after the Africa trip, he had instructed to keep the letter going. Hence, Kakaji continued to publish and send the “Swaminarayan Satsang Patrika” from Tardeo all the way until the saints at Dadar Temple took over the activity. From March 1952 to November 1965, to the delight of devotees, Khengarjibhai Chauhan, the editor of the ‘Swaminarayan Prakash’ magazine monthly highlighted Kakaji’s inspiring articles.

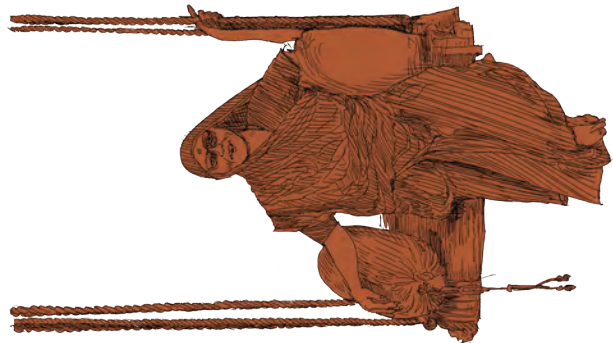
Kakaji would go to all corners of Mumbai to hold Satsang meetings every evening and awaken souls to a deeper understanding of spirituality. That is why, in 1959, Yogi Bapa wrote in a letter, “Satsang in Mumbai is special. People are inspired seeing the enthusiasm of the devotees of Mumbai. This is all because Dadubhai, you have really captured Shastriji Maharaj.” In another letter, he wrote, “Mumbai had difficult times. But you all raised the spire of unity, harmony and oneness – that has gladdened my heart. You were able to face many difficulties, and that is Swami’s grace.” Along with Kakaji, Pappaji, and Kantikaka, Popatbhai Tanna, Gordhanbhai Merchant, Gordhanbhai Kapadia, Gordhanbhai Patel (of Nar), Rasikbhai Merchant, Purushottambhai Soni, Chandrakantbhai Desai, Dhanprasadbhai Mehta, Nalinikantbhai Dave, Bhagvatrai Dave, Dhirubhai Bhatt, Ramanikbhai Modi (of Borivali), Raisibhai Shah, Chandrakantbhai Thakkar, Mahendrabhai Gandhi, Dinubhai Amin, Jethabhai Trivedi, Babubhai Darbar, Amubhai Darbar, Purushottamdasbhai Vinchhi, Nagardasbhai Kothari, Chhaganbhai Patel, Kakubhai Thakkar, Rasikbhai Patel, Jayantibhai Soni, and others created the atmosphere of a divine family based on Yogi Bapa’s principle of harmony, heartfelt oneness, and unity.

WOMEN SAINTS BY YOGI BAPA’S BLESSINGS

From the time of Lord Swaminarayan, many women lived unmarried, dedicated lives. For example, Dada Khachar’s sisters, Jivuba and Laduba broke all social ties, and remained dedicated only to Lord Swaminarayan. Such was



1955 - Upon Yogi Bapa's command the dedicated sisters of Tardeo work on hand written newsletters



Yogi Bapa accepts the prayers of sisters and blesses them to live as saints

the devotion of Jamkuba of Machhiav, Laadhibai of Bhuj, Rambai of Jetpur, Raajbai of Vaankia, Adiba of Panchala, amongst many others. In the AksharPurushottam branch, by great devotion to Yogi Bapa, many female devotees also expressed to live such dedicated lives. When Pappaji asked Yogi Bapa about Kantibhai's sisters, Taraben and Jyotiben's marriage, knowing the sisters' devotional state, Yogi Bapa replied, "What is wrong with them dedicating their lives in the service of God? Maharaj will arrange a suitable support. These two daughters of Badrinath³³ are already dedicated to the service of God." Many more daughters of faithful families of the satsang continued to show an eagerness to live a life dedicated to God. Jyotiben, Taraben, Hansadidi and Deviben started living in Tardeo and under Kakaji's and Pappaji's guidance they continued their spiritual progress. They were also supported by Sonaba and later Shantaben Popat. The divine sisters engaged themselves in the service of satsang to please Swaminarayan Bhagawan and Yogiji Maharaj.

EVERYTHING BELONGS TO YOGIJI MAHARAJ

While working in Agri Orient, Kakaji would sit in his cabin. At that time, managers and directors from other companies would come to see him. At the same time, if a devotee were to come and meet Kakaji, however new the devotee was, Kakaji would make sure to sit with him, talk to him, offer snacks and tea, and then meet other people. In this way, he always gave priority to devotees.

In 1952 when Maganbapa of Africa passed away (September 8, 1952), devotees from Africa had come to see Yogi Bapa. Yogi Bapa asked everyone in the sabha to hold a scriptural reading. Maganbapa had propagated most of the satsang in Africa with his talks and it was the responsibility of the devotees from Africa to bear the cost of the reading. No one

33. *Krishnaji Ada and Ladkiba had three sons, Vajjnathbhai, Madhavjibhai, Mohanbhai and a daughter Jhaveriben. Vajjnathbhai's son Badrinathbhai's two daughters, Induben and Binduben, remained unmarried and lived dedicated lives to God.*

stepped up to take this responsibility and Yogi Bapa asked Kakaji and Pappaji to bear the cost and pay six thousand rupees. Without any hesitation and with full devotion, they sponsored the reading.

Once in Gondal, in 1957, Kakaji was sitting on the staircase of the Gondal guesthouse with other elderly devotees and some youths. At that time, a youth asked for Kakaji's pen for writing something. Kakaji gave the pen to the young boy and said, "From now onwards, you use this pen." Another youth, Prabhudasbhai (Hariprasad Swamiji) sitting nearby knew that the pen was very expensive and said to Kakaji, "Your pen is very expensive. You will not be able to find this pen in India. Please keep the pen and I will get another pen for him." Kakaji smiled and naturally said, "This pen belongs to Yogi Bapa and Yogi Bapa will use it."

Once, at the Dadar temple, Seth Govindjibhai (a devotee) got very upset at another devotee due to a money matter involving Rs. 5000 and started using foul language. At that time, Kakaji came there and heard the conversation. Without any delay, Kakaji said, "Starting today, I owe you the 5000 rupees. Now, you should not say anything to this devotee." Govindjibhai became very quiet and the other devotee felt better. In this way, Kakaji sided with devotees and also made sure that Govindjibhai did not see negative in others.

Similarly, once a doctor from Mumbai took a loan of Rs 10,000 at 4% interest from a devotee. The doctor was unhappy at the 4% interest that he was being charged every month. He started speaking negatively about the devotee and the talks reached Kakaji. Kakaji went to the doctor and said, "Money is not a big deal. You will be able to get it elsewhere too. But if you see negative in this devotee, you will be committing a sin. If you want, I can arrange for another loan for you with 1.5% interest. But do not see negative in devotees. Yogi Bapa will really bless you." Kakaji arranged for a cheaper loan for the doctor and taught him an important spiritual lesson.



Kakaji works tirelessly to spread satsang and support Yogi Bapa's mission



1959 - In a steamer while traveling to Africa



1959 - At Ballard Pier before trip to Africa

BHAGATJI MAHARAJ'S LIFE STORY

Bapa's birthday celebration was celebrated on Vaishakh vad 12 in Sarangpur. During the samaiyo, Bhagatji Maharaj's life story written by H.T. Dave was officially released. Bapa was very pleased with Harshadbhai and blessed him. Harshadbhai said, "This work was done by your grace. Dadubhai helped a lot as well. The work to deliver to the printing press was done by a member of Tardeo sabha, Sanmukhbhai Vora." After the samaiyo, Ravibhai Pandya of Mombasa praised Kakaji as the root behind the success of the celebration. Kakaji humbly replied, "The root of all this is Yogi Bapa. We only feel fortunate that we have met Bapa and he has selected us to be involved."

INSTALLING HANUMANJI'S MOORTI

Buvakaka was a Maharashtrian devotee from Santacruz, Mumbai. He was deeply involved in the satsang in his area and with the help of local devotees built a small Hanumanji temple. He wanted to make sure that the moorti installation ceremony be performed by a divine saint who lives a pure life and follows strict celibacy. Hence, he requested Yogi Bapa to perform the ceremony. Yogi Bapa replied, "Our Dadubhai is also a divine saint and follows the vow of celibacy. Instead of me, he will come and perform the ceremony and aarti." Buvakaka accepted what Yogi Bapa said. Yogi Bapa asked Kakaji to go to Santacruz. On the day of the ceremony, Kakaji took a bath, wore special new clothes, and following all the rituals, performed the moorti installation ceremony. Everyone present there felt that Yogi Bapa himself had come to the function. Buvakaka also experienced that Kakaji was a divine saint.

SECOND SPIRITUAL TRIP TO AFRICA

Per Yogi Bapa's wish, on September 26, 1959, Kakaji along with G.K. Swamiji and Arunbhai Dave (Ishvarcharan Swamiji) headed to Africa from Mumbai on a steamer boat. During his stay abroad, Kakaji spread the glory of Lord Swaminarayan

and Yogi Bapa. Kakaji bravely ventured to Southern Africa as well. Yogi Bapa also asked Rameshbhai (Aksharvihari Swamiji) to later join Kakaji.

On October 24, Yogi Bapa, Pramukh Swamiji, Balmukund Swamiji, Sant Swamiji, and Vinu Bhagat (Mahant Swamiji) came to Africa. By staying there for many months, satsang was instilled in the hearts of devotees and temples were established in Uganda, East Africa (Kampala, Tororo, and Jinja). On June 17, 1960, Yogi Bapa returned to India.

FIFTY-ONE SAINTS

After Kakaji's saakshaatkaar samaadhi, Yogi Bapa had expressed a desire to create 51 young educated saints. Kakaji completely devoted himself to fulfill this mission. Yogi Bapa asked Kakaji to visit places throughout Gujarat, and many youth centers were formed. In Manavadar, a youth center began as early as 1954, with the help of Devshibhai Patel and his devoted sons, Haribhai (who was thus called "Chhota Kaka" or "Junior Kakaji") and Kurjibhai³⁴. Of the 51 young saints that took initiation in 1961, many were from the Saurashtra region of Gujarat, India. Youths from all walks of life were attracted by Yogi Bapa's divine love. But the new wave was not void of resistance. When parents and devotees alike questioned Yogi Bapa's insistence to form the group of young saints, Kakaji was there to swallow the negativity and opposition.

Once, Bapa was traveling with saints and devotees from Gondal to Gadhada in a group of two or three cars. Near Jasadan, some people stopped Bapa's car and asked Bapa, "Why are you making kids into sadhus?" Bapa replied, "I am not doing anything - it is all Dadubhai and he is coming in a different car behind us. Talk to him." After Bapa left, Kakaji's car pulled up. The group stopped the car and started asking who was Dadubhai. When Kakaji stepped out of the car, they started speaking roughly and accusing him. Kakaji explained

34. *Kurjibhai - Kothari Swamiji of Haridham*



May 1961 - Yogi Bapa initiates 51 young educated saints.



May 1961 - Kakaji gives a discourse in Gadhada during the initiation ceremony of 51 saints

Bapa's glory and mission to them and the group finally became quiet and understood Kakaji's message. At other times, Kakaji would explain to all that under Yogi Bapa's shelter, their children would gain the highest position in the universe, that of sainthood. He would solve the families' difficulties and gain their consent. At the same time, Kakaji gave inspiring discourses and love to the youth that decided to tread the saintly path. In this way, Bapa made Kakaji his shield.

On May 10, 1961 (during Yogi Bapa's 70th birthday celebration and the Gadhada temple kalash-vidhi or ceremony of fitting the temple spires with golden pinnacles) 51 young educated youths took initiation. Among these were Keshavjivandas Swamiji³⁵, Svayamprakash Swamiji³⁶, Aksharvihari Swamiji, Mukundjivan Swamiji³⁷, Purushottamcharan Swamiji³⁸ and other divine saints. At the time, Prabhudasbhai, a leading youth from Asoj village and Yogi Bapa's personal secretary, also expressed a desire to take initiation. Yogi Bapa applauded his admiration for Kakaji, and planned for him to become a saint later.

TAKING CARE OF SAINTS AND DEVOTEES

After initiating the saints, there were many places such as Sarangpur, etc. where the saints could stay, but Yogi Bapa chose Mumbai. Yogi Bapa wanted to make sure that if the

35. *Keshavjivandas Swamiji - Vinubhai Patel (b. 1933), took initiation (paarshadi diksha or in white robes) in 1957. After initiation in 1961, Yogi Bapa made him the mahant (head) of Aksharbhuvan, Dadar, thus he is popularly known as Mahant Swamiji. When Yogi Bapa sent saints to Mumbai, Kakaji would instill in them Yogi Bapa's glory and tell them to take Mahant Swamiji's guidance.*

36. *Svayamprakash Swamiji - Ramanbhai Patel, today known as Dr. Swamiji, studied for medicine and used to come to Tardeo regularly to listen to Kakaji's discourses.*

37. *Mukundjivan Swamiji - Dilipbhai Mehta (b. 1937), today known as Guruji, continues Kakaji's mission while staying in Delhi where there is a grand AksharPurushottam temple.*

38. *Purushottamcharan Swamiji (b. 1939) - Kothari Swamiji, the motherly saint at Haridham.*

saints had any confusion, or if they were not happy, they would be fully supported by Kakaji and Pappaji. Kakaji and Pappaji attended to the needs of the saints and made sure they were happy. They also gave inspiring talks and instilled the glory of Yogiji Maharaj. Yogi Bapa would often say to the saints, "Associate with Mahant Swami and Dadubhai and be open with them."

Before the existing temple in Dadar (Mumbai) was constructed, saints lived on the third floor of building referred to as 'Aksharbhuvan.' A man named Mr. Solder rented the second floor. Yogi Bapa asked Kakaji to show Mr. Solder other places so that our group could have all three floors. (There was a police office on the first floor that Nandaji was going to help get vacated.) Kakaji worked very hard to follow Yogi Bapa's command - he showed Mr. Solder about sixty places, but every time Mr. Solder refused. Finally, when Mr. Solder agreed, another issue came up: the devotee accompanying Kakaji said, "When you move, leave the water heater and ceiling-fan here." Because of this, Mr. Solder again questioned if he should move – yet the devotee remained adamant. Throughout the ordeal, Kakaji did not lose patience with Mr. Solder or the other devotee. At the time, Kantikaka ran a transportation company - he thus suggested that we would move everything free of charge if Mr. Solder left the water heater and ceiling-fan at the apartment. Kakaji thus kept oneness with everyone while fulfilling Yogi Bapa's orders.

Some time later Nandaji visited Aksharbhuvan to meet Yogi Bapa and Kakaji. Kantikaka, Chhaganbhai, and devotees were also present. In his speech, Yogi Bapa expressed, "Chhaganbhai worked very hard to vacate Mr. Solder's apartment! Thanks to him, the saints will benefit." In this way, Yogi Bapa gave all the credit to Chhaganbhai three to four times. All the while, Kakaji remained in equanimity. He truly believed that Yogi Bapa in fact did everything. When Yogi Bapa suddenly asked Nandaji to garland Kakaji, Nandaji asked, "Then why did you praise Chhaganbhai so much?" Yogi Bapa replied, "The credit always goes to the president,



"The credit always goes to the president, but Dadubhai has done the actual work. Nandaji, please garland him." - Yogi Bapa

but Dadubhai's service is egoless and only to please me." (Chhaganbhai was the president of the Mumbai branch.)

Once when Kakaji was in Gondal and going back to his guest house from Akshar Deri, he met a dedicated aspirant who was walking from Yogiji Maharaj's room to the main door of the temple. Upon seeing Kakaji, he openly said, "I am powerless against the attraction of the worldly objects. I am not in the state to do satsang. I do not want to stay here. I have bowed down to Yogi Bapa from outside his room and I am going back home." Kakaji understood the challenges the aspirant was going through and explained to him, "Both you and I might be incomplete, but we have met Yogi Bapa, who is beyond Prakruti-Purush. He knows everything. He knows what is going on inside of you, even then his love for you has never diminished. Furthermore, great saints ignore the faults of devotee and it is in fact his grace that you are able to see this. This state is temporary, even though it stays for a long time. One has to go through it for complete transformation. Believe me when I say that, Yogi Bapa is very pleased with you and he will replace the darkness with light. Do not worry!" Upon listening to this, the aspirant decided to stay back.

Once a newly initiated saint approached Kakaji at midnight. He was confused and wanted to give up being a saint. Despondently he said to Kakaji, "I do not want to walk this path. I am leaving." Kakaji replied, "How can you think of leaving Yogiji Maharaj and going back home? Who do you think will help you progress more, your family members or Yogiji Maharaj? Yogiji Maharaj will grant eternal bliss. And who would leave Bapa? The one who considers his own wish greater than Yogiji Maharaj's wish." The youth was intelligent and just by hearing these words, he decided to stay back. Today, he continues his path of being a saint.

On another occasion, in Atladara, a devotee opened up to Kakaji, "I feel very uneasy and see no way out. I will commit suicide." Kakaji replied, "Where will you go once you commit suicide? There is no place from here to Prakruti-Purush where Yogi Bapa's hands cannot reach. There is no benefit in





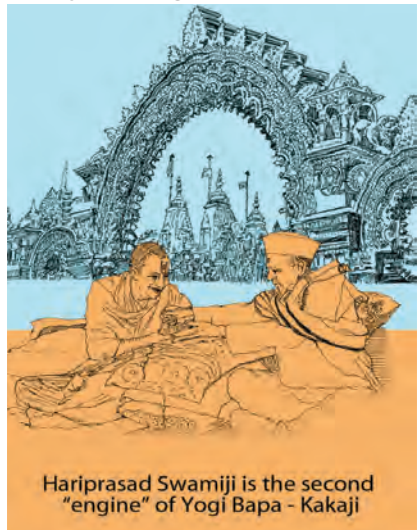
Yogiji Maharaj gives initiation to 5 saints including Prabhudasbhai



dying. You will face the same challenges in the next life. After coming in association with such a great saint, thoughts such as "I am a sinner, I am weak, I cannot progress, Swami does not accept, Swami likes others more than me, committing suicide," - these are all part of our ego. Unless Yogiji Maharaj decides, you cannot die. Yogi Bapa is very compassionate. In reality, Bapa is cleaning you from inside. So do not worry and let go of your fears. He will give you peace. When a doctor operates, he makes sure to stitch the incision, Yogi Bapa is such that he remains a humble servant but connects all to God. Trust Yogiji Maharaj and start performing seva." Upon listening to this the devotee engaged himself in humble services and experienced bliss.

DIVINE ONENESS

From his first meeting with Yogi Bapa in Anand in the 1950s, Prabhudasbhai Patel (b. 1934) became attached to Yogi Bapa. After serving as a divine secretary to Yogi Bapa, in 1965, on the day of Dashera, he was given paarshadi diksha in Gondal. During his initiation (changing over to saffron robes) on Sharad Poornima in 1965 as Hariprasad Swamiji, Yogi Bapa exclaimed, "This yagna (ritual ceremony) is similar to the one Lord Swaminarayan held for Gunatitanand Swami's dikshaa (initiation)." (On the occasion of Gunatitanand Swami's



Hariprasad Swamiji is the second "engine" of Yogi Bapa - Kakaji

dikshaa, Lord Swaminarayan arranged an 18-day yagna in Dabhan, near Nadiad.) Yogi Bapa then gave the blessings, "[For the 'train' or strength that helps devotees tread the path to Akshardham] Mahant Swamiji is one engine, and now I am adding a second engine. Like Pramukh Swamiji,

under his (Hariprasad Swamiji) leadership, many others will be inspired to become saints.” Though normally done by the saint’s closest relatives, Kakaji financed this yagna.

In this way, Kakaji and Hariprasad Swamiji shared a unique friendship. The shloka or verse “Dikshaa arpi aho gunaateeta samee...” explains the advait relationship or divine oneness that Kakaji and Hariprasad Swamiji shared.

NEW HORIZONS IN VIDYANAGAR

As part of the youth movement, early on, Yogi Bapa asked Kakaji to visit Vidyanagar. Bhaikaka³⁹, the founder of the Sardar Patel University, had the vision to build a great educational center in Gujarat and thus along with fellow devoted colleagues, made great efforts to bring professors and leading faculty members to the area. Yogi Bapa regularly visited Vallabh Vidyanagar, and later asked Kakaji to spread the satsang as wished by Shastriji Maharaj. After that, Kakaji visited Vidyanagar from Mumbai two or three times a month to stay with the youth. Sometimes he would stay for a week at a time. There were no proper arrangements for his stay or food, but Kakaji did not pay attention to that and incessantly talked about the divinity of Bapa and instilled the glory of Lord Swaminarayan and Yogi Bapa. Kakaji took his place in the hearts of everyone, but a million times more than that, he instilled Bapa in everyone’s hearts! He took interest in their personal lives, answered their questions and solved their problems. The youth cleared one of their hostel rooms to create a temple and a place for Kakaji to stay. Soon, even the Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr. R.D. Patel, was swept away by the divine spirit of the group! Under the guidance of Jashbhai Patel, many youth, including Ashwinbhai, Shantibhai, Ratibhai, Sanandbhai, Harshadbhai, Poonambhai, Rameshbhai, and Viththaldas expressed an eagerness to become saints.

39. *Yogi Bapa had made a promise to Bhaikaka, the “Architect of Vidyanagar,” that he wanted to do something special there.*



**Kakaji takes the responsibility of
Jashbhai Saheb and youths per
Yogi Bapa's command**

From his first meeting with Yogi Bapa at the age of 10, Jashbhai Patel (b. 1940) naturally became attached to Yogi Bapa. As early as the December of 1957, Yogi Bapa asked him to lead weekly sabhaas in Vidyanagar from which many youth joined in devotional activities. He is lovingly known as "Saheb" by all devotees.

In 1963-64, one night Jashbhai Saheb went to see Yogi Bapa at the temple in Anand to discuss some personal matters. At that time, Yogi Bapa called Kakaji, and putting Jashbhai Saheb's hands in Kakaji's hand, Yogi Bapa said to Kakaji, 'From today, we are assigning you the responsibility of this Jashubhai Saheb and his whole group – you take care of them. Saheb placed such value on this gesture of Yogi Bapa that he said, "With Yogiji Maharaj's grace, I developed the same love and divine feeling for Kakaji that I had for Yogiji

Maharaj!” In this way Yogi Bapa charted a new spiritual horizon for the group. Per Yogi Bapa’s instructions, Kakaji took up a one-year project to build a hostel named AksharPurushottam Chhatralay for the college-bound children of devotees. During its construction, Kakaji often told Saheb and devotees, “We are only doing this to please Yogi Bapa - so if we had to leave it, we should not become upset.” After much effort, Yogi Bapa inaugurated the hostel on June 20, 1965.

After 51 young educated saints were initiated in 1961, Yogi Bapa told Kakaji and Pappaji his desire to see 51 dedicated women. Just as devoted families offered their sons for the satsang, the parents of daughters had faith in Yogi Bapa, and happily allowed them to live dedicated lives. Amongst these were Kashiba (Nadiad), Gangaba, Dahiba, Kusumben (Anand), Bhanuben (Bhadran), Hemaben, Shobhanaben, Kamuben, Ramaben, Mandaben, Jayaben, Madhuben, and Savitaben who joined Jyotiben, Taraben, Hansadidi and Deviben.

In 1963, during Sharad Pournima in Gondal, Bapa was doing mahapooja in Akshar Deri. Kakaji was present and sitting across from Bapa. Bapa then took Kakaji and Pappaji into Shastriji Maharaj’s room. He looked at the brothers and then slowly said, “Now create a separate establishment for dedicated ladies.” When Kakaji and Pappaji asked where to keep it, he said, “In your plot in Vidyanagar.” Pappaji asked, “Why not keep it in Gondal? They can have the opportunity of your service and darshan.” Bapa replied, “The satpurush never becomes invisible. Keep it on your plot in Vidyanagar.” The brothers agreed. At that time, Kakaji urged Pappaji to be the president of the trust for the plots. Under Kakaji’s instructions, Jashbhai Saheb, Virendrabhai Patel, Ratibhai Patel, Kanjibhai Patel, and other dedicated brothers from Vidyanagar and Manavadar looked after its construction. On June 21, 1965, Yogi Bapa, Pramukh Swami, Kakaji, Pappaji, Jashbhai Saheb, and other elders and youths conducted the



November 1963
- Picture taken
by Nalinikantbhai
in Gondal when
Yogi Bapa exited
the room after
asking Kakaji
and Pappaji to
build a separate
establishment
for dedicated
sisters in
Vidyanagar

June 21, 1965
- Yogi Bapa,
Pramukh Swami,
Jashbhai Saheb
and devotees at
the foundation
ceremony of
Gunatit Jyot in
Vidyanagar





June 21, 1965 - Kakaji and devotees at the foundation ceremony of Gunatit Jyot in Vidyanagar



January 25, 1966 - Yogi Bapa visits Gunatit Jyot during construction

foundation ceremony of Gunatit Jyot at Vidyanagar. At that time Yogi Bapa gave the blessing, "The message of Gunatit knowledge will spread from here throughout the world." On January 25, 1966 when Yogi Bapa visited again, while sprinkling flowers in all the rooms, seeing the size of the kitchen, Yogi Bapa asked, "Won't this kitchen be too small?"⁴⁰

IMAGE OF BHAGATJI MAHARAJ

Kakaji's life strikingly parallels the life of Bhagatji Maharaj (1829-1897), a choice disciple of Gunatitanand Swami. Bhagatji Maharaj began life as a householder, and experienced a saakshaatkaar samaadhi (divine realization) of Lord Swaminarayan by Gunatitanand Swami's grace. For a time, he was excommunicated from the satsang fellowship. Though he was allowed to reenter the satsang, his disciple Shastriji Maharaj was later excommunicated.⁴¹

In the face of hardships, Kakaji worked to fulfill Yogi Bapa's every mission - the first of which was to support the creation of 51 young saints. He then took on Yogi Bapa's command of creating a separate and independent establishment for dedicated women. For this, again due to crude human nature, in 1966, Kakaji was excommunicated along with Pappaji.

40. *Yogi Bapa was indicating that there will be many dedicated sisters joining this establishment.*

41. *When Viharilalji Maharaj suddenly passed away, no one was left to assume the Vadtal Gadi. The satsang committee went to Chhapaiya and brought a young Acharya named Lakshmiprasadji Maharaj. Shastriji Maharaj, who was very close to Viharilalji Maharaj and the satsang, advised the young Acharya to remain within the commands of the Shikshapatri so that the satsang would continue to flourish properly. Lakshmiprasadji Maharaj, however, rebuked Shastriji Maharaj. By way of letters, the Acharyas were responsible for assigning saints the place to go for satsang. But Lakshmiprasadji Maharaj did not assign a place for Shastriji Maharaj, and told him that he can go anywhere. The satsang committee later expelled Lakshmiprasadji Maharaj.*

THE DIVINE PLAY

On May 17, 1966 Yogi Bapa's 75th birthday was celebrated on a grand scale in Vidyanagar. Kakaji, Pappaji, Pramukh Swamiji, Mahant Swamiji, Hariprasad Swamiji, Jashbhai Saheb, Haribhai Saheb, saints and devotees celebrated the occasion. Yogi Bapa again and again repeated to imbibe the qualities of "samp, suhradbhaav, ekta" or harmony, oneness, and unity, and reiterated "ekataa eja ekaantikapanu" or unity is the highest liberated state. Kakaji's devotion was such that he was willing to accept any hardship in order that the group could stay together.

The efforts of Kakaji and Pappaji resulted in increasing respect and recognition. When this began to overshadow the influence of some of the older leading members, they were unable to tolerate it. Yogi Bapa finally envisioned that the group had to be allowed to separate into two. In March 1965, in Kapol Vadi in Mumbai, Yogi Bapa gave this hidden signal to the two brothers - "Now you both work in unity – and in whatever you do, I will be present. Do not come to ask me. Go – toll the bell!"

Yogi Bapa trusted Kakaji's and Pappaji's unparalleled devotion. While physically separate, they would carry on the divine mission with even greater spirit! Shastriji Maharaj explained Yogi Bapa's devotion by likening him to a child that a mother sacrifices: in order for a mother to escape with the rest of her children from a fire, she places the sacrificial child on the ground and steps over him so that the family can be saved. Similarly, they were Yogi Bapa's sacrificial sons.

On May 28, 1966, it was announced from Bochasan that Kakaji and Pappaji were excommunicated from the group. Jashbhai Saheb and Haribhai Saheb went from Vidyanagar to Prabhu Krupa⁴² (a building at the women's establishment) to tell Pappaji the news. Jashbhai Saheb and the aspirant devotees whom Yogi Bapa had asked to become saints were told to vacate AksharPurushottam Chhatralay as well. Kakaji

42. *Prabhu Krupa - Pappaji's residence in Gunatit Jyot.*

and Pappaji asked Jashbhai Saheb and the aspirant devotees to stay with Yogi Bapa. Yogi Bapa however said, "I am where Kakaji and Pappaji are so do not hesitate to support the brothers."

As the sad news spread to all of the centers, many saints decided to support Yogi Bapa's devotees. At the Dadar temple, there were a total of 39 saints (1/3 of the saints Yogi Bapa had made) who expressed support for the brothers. These saints took permission from Mahant Swamiji and, under the guidance of Hariprasad Swamiji and Aksharvihari Swamiji, traveled to Sokhada to meet Yogi Bapa. The reason to go there was that Yogi Bapa was expected there at that time, though that program was later cancelled. Proclaiming, "These saints have left the temple in order to refute the decision of the Sanstha," the trustees excommunicated the saints as well. Things became heated at Dadar, so Yogi Bapa told the saints to remain at an old temple in Sokhada (near Vadodara, Gujarat) for the time being. Despite the efforts of Kakaji, Pramukh Swamiji, Mahant Swamiji, Hariprasad Swamiji, and elder saints, a resolution could not be met. Kakaji sent a letter to the saints, in which he boldly wrote, "Whatever is taking place now and what will follow, all of it is completely within the knowledge and calculations of Guruji Yogiji Maharaj... We will hear, see and experience a completely new series of miracles. A new history of spiritual technicians is taking shape that our Guru plans to have written in golden letters on the pages of the future."

Per Yogi Bapa's wish Nandaji came to Sokhada to visit the saints and met at Dahyakaka's⁴³ house. He said, "Whatever association I have with these saints, it is because of Yogiji Maharaj. I would not even think of displeasing Yogiji Maharaj by going to some place or doing something without his wish. Swami (Bapa) himself has told me that he wants me to make arrangements for these saints. Thus for this work, I do not need any other authorization from anyone." After discussions

43. *A devotee with firm faith in Yogi Bapa and the head of Sokhada village*

at the home of Dahyakaka with Nandaji and devotees like Dahyakaka, Chandubhai (Daji), Chimanbhai, Shankarbhai, Maganbhai, etc., Kakaji arranged for the saints to stay in the old Sokhada temple. Until the saints were independent, Kakaji continued to send money from Mumbai for expenses and often visited Sokhada. Kakaji explained to the saints the reason why Yogi Bapa had knowingly allowed them to be separated and gave them the strength to fulfill that mission, completely break all attachments to supernatural powers and develop a constant spiritual connection with Yogi Bapa. Kakaji constantly inspired the saints to leave all other activities behind and engage in prayer. Kakaji encouraged devotees to help as well.

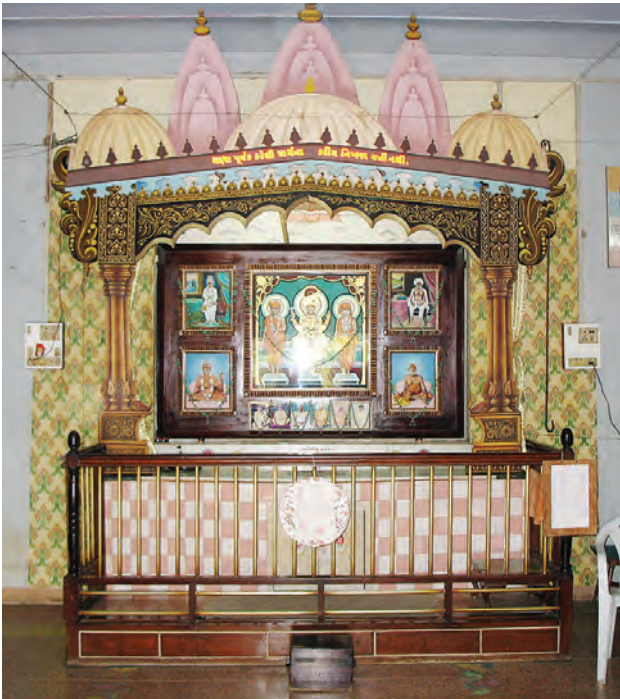
For the next several years, Kakaji gave much strength and prayers to all the saints that had once renounced the world due to Yogi Bapa's divine love. By his discourses, the saints' glory for Lord Swaminarayan and Yogi Bapa intensified and they learned to experience God's omnipotent spirit. Under the guidance of Hariprasad Swamiji and Aksharvihari Swamiji, despite the hardships, a divine happiness remained with the saints. Slowly, the people of Sokhada village developed positive feelings and affection towards the saints, and with Hariprasad Swamiji's inspiration, Vitthalbhai and other villagers gave the land for temple at the outskirts of Sokhada. Hariprasad Swamiji used to often say, "From the beginning, in all of satsang, Kakaji has been my source of inspiration." Due to this special respect, Swamiji conducted the ground breaking ceremony of the temple in Haridham on February 1, 1974 only after receiving a ceremonial gift from Kantikaka as a blessing from Kakaji. With the support of all the saints of the Gunatit Samaj, the foundation was laid for the temple which now stands tall at Haridham.

TEMPLE IN SANKARDA

Of the saints that lived in Sokhada, more than 20 used to study Sanskrit from a teacher that came from Vadodara. At that time, the road between Chhani village and Sokhada was



1968 - Opening of the Sankarda Temple



Sankarda Temple



Hariprasad Swamiji, Kakaji and Aksharvihari Swamiji

unpaved, so buses did not run during the monsoon season and the teacher was not able to come.

A solution to this problem presented itself in Sankarda, a village on the old highway that was sanctified by Swaminarayan Bhagwan. He had spent a night there along with both the Acharyas and 500 Paramhansas. In addition, this village was like Shastriji Maharaj's "Khyber Pass" and was one of the seven villages he had assigned to Yogiji Maharaj to regularly visit. Yogi Bapa would stay there six months at a time! The villagers of this pure and divine town had disregarded all worldly attachments and societal pressures and openly sided with Shastriji Maharaj and Yogiji Maharaj. And in the same way, listening to Kakaji's powerful talks filled with the glory of his spiritual masters, these courageous devotees arranged for the excommunicated saints to stay in the old temple and offered their full support. Thus the tradition of Shastriji Maharaj's devotees seeing divinity in all was upheld.

Within a short time, after witnessing their pure actions, saintliness and firm faith for Yogiji Maharaj, the villagers developed great respect and affection towards the saints and lovingly donated a large piece of land at the outskirts of the village.

When Kakaji brought Nandaji to see the land and meet the saints and devotees at Sankarda, Nandaji said, "I personally asked Swami (Yogiji Maharaj) two or three times, 'What is your wish regarding the arrangement for the saints?' Swami replied that he wishes that arrangements are made for them and happily gave me blessings. Thus, if it was not Swami's wish, then even if I had a strong desire, I would have not been able to come. You all are taking care of these saints and making arrangements for them. I believe that this is a great service that you are offering to Yogiji Maharaj."

Even in the political sphere, Nandaji had never lied. Thus, when everyone heard these words from him, all remaining doubts were dispelled. Kakaji expertly and efficiently resolved all matters regarding the land ownership and devotees united together to promptly prepare the land for the ground breaking



1968

The first temple of Gunatit Samaj and
a Sanskrit school for saints is
established in Sankarda

ceremony. Nandaji was present during the ceremony and with everyone's support and under Aksharvihari Swamiji's guidance, the saints and youths worked day and night to complete the construction project. "The Goddess of Wealth is a servant of the Saint" – thus, Kakaji visited many times providing finances for the expenses. If devotees offered even the smallest donation, Kakaji developed a permanent relationship of harmony with them. And in very short time, on May 22, 1968, on the occasion of Yogiji Maharaj's 77th Birthday (As per Indian calendar), the moortis were installed in the temple in a grand celebration attended by Nandaji and the Governor of Gujarat!

GUNATIT JYOT AND ANOOPAM MISSION

Prior to the excommunication, 10 elder dedicated women administered the women's temple. By June 1, 1966 many more dedicated women moved into the Vidyanagar establishment. With the split, Pappaji remained in Vidyanagar to support the women who had left the world in dedication to God. The administration created for the group was titled the Gunatit Jyot Mahilaa Trust (with Kakaji, Pappaji, and Gordhankaka



Divine Sisters



Pappaji, Kakaji and Kantikaka



Kakaji and Jashbhai Saheb



Brothers of Anoopam Mission

as the trustees for administrative purposes). From 51, the number of dedicated women rapidly grew to over 450 today.

Though separated, Jashbhai Saheb and the eight dedicated aspirant brothers, desired to uphold the life of sainthood (without accepting saffron robes) as willed by Yogi Bapa. Kakaji and Pappaji did not give them saadhu dikshaa, and they also needed to earn a living. So they remained as saadhakas or leading dedicated lives while working in society. Thus, on Poshhi Poornima⁴⁴ in 1967, Kakaji, Pappaji, and Sonaba blessed Jashbhai Saheb and the eight brothers as “karma-yogi or vratadhaari saadhaks.” (The blessings were granted in Shreeji Colony, where the brothers stayed at the time. As more brothers joined the movement, Rameshbhai Patel of Mumbai donated his newly built bungalow as their residence, and Pappaji named the abode Anoopam.) With the help of Jashubhai Bhatt of Umreth, Kakaji, Pappaji, and Saheb soon planned an Adhesives Company. For two years the business did not show profit. But Kakaji placed more funds into the business and blessed, “I prayed to Lord Swaminarayan and Gunatitanand Swami at the business’s inception. So it has to run well!” With his business contacts, Kakaji also worked hard to procure raw materials for the business. Thus Yogiji Maharaj’s vision of a new horizon took root with the name “Anoopam Mission.” The non-profit trust was granted in 1976. On Poshhi Poornima in 1978, Kakaji and Pappaji selected a uniform for the dedicated brothers: a blue shirt and beige pants, signifying the sky and the earth. As the group’s humanitarian works expanded, the people of the town of Mogri donated land for the renowned AksharPurushottam Technical Institute. Adjacent to this, the brothers moved into the Brahmjyoti complex in 1985, where today there are over 125 dedicated brothers.

44. *Poshi Poornima - The full-moon day of the Indian month of Posh, which falls on around January. On this day in 1810, Gunatitanand Swami was given dikshaa (initiated into sainthood) by Lord Swaminarayan in the town of Dabhan.*

YOGIJI MAHARAJ PASSES AWAY IN MUMBAI

From February 5 to July 7, 1970, Yogi Bapa went on his third foreign trip. He enshrined the image of Akshar-Purushottam Maharaj in the new Nairobi (Kenya) temple, as well as in a small temple in London.

From Gondal, he went to Mumbai where he left his physical body on January 23, 1971 at the Bhatia Hospital near the Tardeo temple. The divine body was kept against a pillar at the Dadar temple for a day, and then flown to Gondal where a memorial shrine was constructed. The Gondal temple houses the Akshar Deri or the memorial shrine of Gunatitanand Swami as well. Two days after Yogi Bapa passed away, Kakaji, Pappaji, Swamiji, Saheb, Aksharvihari Swami and Haribhai met in the Anoopam building. Here they met together to pray to Bapa to see God and Bapa in all and serve devotees with divine oneness.

YOGI DIVINE SOCIETY

Kakaji emphasized to the saints to imbibe the qualities of saintliness, to keep focus on chanting and prayers, and experience Lord Swaminarayan and Yogi Bapa's presence in every moment of life. When Yogi Bapa passed away, Kakaji asked devotees to continue their spiritual progress by seeing the spirit of Yogi Bapa in Hariprasad Swamiji, Pappaji, Saheb, Aksharvihari Swamiji, Sonaba, Pramukh Swamiji, Mahant Swamiji, saints and devotees.

Under the emblem of the Yogi Divine Society, Kakaji helped the progress of the Sokhada center, and also established centers in Delhi, Mumbai, and Chicago. For the administration of the growing satsang, the non-profit group's registration was approved in 1977. In support of an Ayurvedic Research Center, Kakaji inspired Lilavati Munshi, wife of Kanaiyalal Munshi (founder of Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan and eminent politician) to donate land in the adjacent town of Vasana.

After 1971, Hariprasad Swamiji and Kantikaka also organized the celebration of Kakaji's birthday and divine



1978 - Kakaji's 60th birthday celebration in Sanmukhanand Hall, Mumbai



Hariprasad Swamiji and Kakaji



Das Swami, Shastri Swami, Kothari Swami,
Mukundjivan Swami, Premswaroop Swami

realization day in public. On June 3-4, 1978, Kakaji's 60th birthday was celebrated as his Hirak Mahotsav (Diamond Jubilee) on a grand scale in the Sanmukhanand Hall in Mumbai.

By the inspiration of Hariprasad Swamiji and saints, many more wanted to renounce the world and devote to Lord Swaminarayan. Thus after 1971, many more saints were initiated. Kakaji and Hariprasad Swamiji also toiled greatly to establish a grand temple in Sokhada, which was inaugurated in 1980 as Haridham. On Ramanavmi⁴⁵ 1981, Kakaji, Pappaji, and Hariprasad Swamiji enshrined the magnificent and blessed moortis of Akshar-Purushottam. Today in Haridham, over 150 saints lead a divine life, dedicated to Lord Swaminarayan, as dictated by Yogi Bapa, and under the guidance of Hariprasad Swamiji. Kakaji blessed the saints "Like the five fingers of a single hand – that is what I want to solidify in you five saints (Kothari Swami, Mukundjivan Swami, Shastri Swami, Premswaroop Swami and Das Swami). All of you contribute to this important task. We want to constantly remain in Akshardham. Whoever maintains differences will ultimately be confused."

On May 3rd 1984, in the presence of Kakaji, Pappaji, Sonaba and Ben, the dedicated sisters of Haridham were initiated in to saffron dikshaa in the Panchamrut Hall of Gunatit Jyot. Jyotiben placed the kanthis around their necks. This branch of women saints also flourishes today under the guidance of Premben, Sarveshwarben and others.

DELHI AND POWAI CENTERS

Shastriji Maharaj and Yogi Bapa wished for satsang to spread to the north, where Lord Swaminarayan had taken birth. (Lord Swaminarayan was born in Chhapaiya near Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, which is 340 miles or 547 kilometers south east from India's capital, New Delhi.) Just as Shastriji

45. *Ramanavmi - Lord Swaminarayan and Lord Rama's birthday, the 9th day of the bright half of the Indian month of Chaitra.*



Maharaj had given an image of Akshar-Purushottam to Kakaji in 1949, he had also given one to Nandaji with the blessings, "Enshrine this image in Delhi and spread the message of Lord Swaminarayan in northern India." Yogi Bapa first visited Delhi in July 1950 per Shastriji Maharaj's command. In 1953, Yogi Bapa, Pramukh Swamiji, saints and devotees visited Delhi on route to Chhapaiya by special train. Kakaji and Nandaji had gone earlier to help with arrangements, meeting Yogi Bapa (and young Tejendraprasadji Maharaj) in Chhapaiya. Again in 1956, Yogi Bapa graced Delhi on route to Chhapaiya along with saints and devotees. Per Yogi Bapa's instructions, Kakaji visited Delhi several times starting 1952 to support the satsang there. From 1967, in letters to devotees, Yogi Bapa revealed a desire to see a temple in Delhi. Kakaji sent Mukundjivan Swami (Guruji) and saints to Delhi on December 5, 1967 for the first time. Kakaji would meet Guruji at Bhikakaka's house in Vadodara and during those meetings, he said "I am not sending you to Delhi on my own, it was Bapa's wish that satsang grows - the message of satsang spreads. So as a devotional service to Bapa, I am sending you to Delhi." Since that time, Kakaji continued to grace devotees in Delhi, while asking Guruji to lead the Delhi satsang.



Kakaji and Mukundjivan Swami (Guruji)



Kakaji in Delhi



Delhi Temple



Powai Temple

Shastriji Maharaj had asked Kakaji to live as brothers with Nandaji. Thus throughout his life, Kakaji supported Nandaji in all of his endeavors. After his government roles in the late 1970s, Nandaji also formed the Manav Dharma Mission Trust. Part of the trust was an ayurvedic pharmacy in Kurukshetra. When it did not run well, Kalyandevji Maharaj (an eminent saint of Northern India) asked Nandaji whom he trusted to help run the pharmacy. Nandaji replied that without expecting anything in return, Kakaji had helped him in fighting for the election in 1952 and was someone that Nandaji could always turn to for help. Nandaji's friends, Chandrabhan Sharma and Kalyandevji Maharaj, called upon Kakaji, who along with devotees spent three years (1980-1982) bringing it up and then handed it over to the Trust. Kakaji asked Mahendra Babu, Rajubhai Bhatt, Premjibhai Patel and Mahendrabhai Patel⁴⁶ and others to help with the operations of the pharmacy.

The Manav Dharma Mission Trust had a vacant center in Chattarpur, Delhi as well. In 1979, Kakaji set up Uttamcharan Swamiji to stay there for a couple years, along with Bhai Swamiji (who was initiated in 1961, and helped flourish the center with Guruji early on in Delhi). Kakaji then found a place for Uttamcharan Swamiji to reside in Ludhiana, Punjab. Uttamcharan Swamiji, who had been initiated by Yogi Baba in 1961, passed away in early 2000 after creating a Swaminarayan temple in Ludhiana.

By Kakaji's inspiration, Lord Swaminarayan's bicentennial was celebrated in Delhi in 1981 on a large scale, attended by over five thousand devotees. In 1983, Kakaji acquired land from the Delhi Development Authority with the help of HKL Bhagat (Senior Minister in the Central Government), who witnessed Kakaji's divinity. This would be the future home of a grand Akshar-Purushottam temple. Around 1983, Kakaji and Guruji once traveled to Haridwar. During the spiritual visit, they bathed in the Ganges River and visited many temples including a beautiful 7-story construction dedicated

46. *Mahendrabhai Patel is a doctor in ayurvedic practice and currently heads the ayurvedic pharmacy in Haridham.*

to Mother India. Guruji openly asked Kakaji, "This temple is not even dedicated to the manifestation of supreme God and yet they get an abundance of donations." The temple had a statue of the donor along with a plaque, indicating he had donated Rs. 11,11,111. Guruji remarked, "On the other hand, we can hardly collect 11 rupees in aarti!" At that time, Kakaji blessed, "Here, we will get a donor who gives even more - and not to inflate his ego or not to record his task, but to purely please God!" In 1985, on April 13 (on the day of Vaishaki), as soon as the news were received that the land for the temple was released by the Delhi Development Authority, Kakaji swiftly performed the ground breaking ceremony at the hands of the respected Sardar Harcharansingh Nag in the nearby Janta Flats Park. Then on May 28, when access to the property was granted, Kakaji visited there with local devotees and saints. That evening, Kakaji led everyone in prayer and spreading flowers everywhere, gave the blessings, "Now, per the wish of Guruvarya Shastriji Maharaj and Yogiji Maharaj, a beautiful, vast and majestic temple will be built here in no time. Demigods will come and complete this work of their own volition. But your duty is to remain engrossed in God during all activities." On the same day, Kakaji placed a saffron mark on the Jambul tree in the temple garden and gave Guruji the following blessings, "The group here will support you a lot ... The message of Gunatit Knowledge will also spread from Delhi to the entire world. These are my blessings. The only prerequisites are to keep positive feelings and heartfelt oneness, and to work together."

In 1994, with the support of Malkani Saheb (who met Kakaji only once) and devotees, a large temple was established with the moortis (divine images) of Akshar-Purushottam Maharaj, Shastriji Maharaj, Yogi Bapa, Kakaji, and gunaateeta saints. In this way, the blessing given in 1983 was fulfilled. Akshar Jyoti is the Delhi women's wing, headed by Anandididi. Under Guruji's guidance, the Delhi center today continues to flourish and help many to devote to Lord Swaminarayan.

Kakaji knew Chandrabhan Sharma since working with Nandaji for the ministry elections. Experiencing divinity in

the presence of Kakaji and Yogi Bapa, he donated a large property in Powai to the Akshar-Purushottam cause. Yogi Bapa conducted a yagna (ceremony signifying the land's inauguration) on the land, and prophesized that, "There will be a grand temple here and the price of the land will increase like gold!" In 1978, Sharmaji donated the sanctified part of the land to Kakaji. Kakaji held many functions at the area, and from a jungle, the area soon became a magnificent part of Hiranandani Gardens where today stands the International Spiritual Research Center. Guided by the dedicated brothers of Tardeo, the ISRC was inaugurated on February 3, 2003.

In 1980, an apartment (Prashant Apartments) in Powai, the same land in which Yogi Bapa conducted a scriptural reading in 1962, was purchased as the residence for a dedicated women branch titled Gunatit Mahilaa Kendra. Today, Yoginiben, Madhuriben, Shardaben, Jayuben, Liluben, Meeraben, Siddhiben, Minaben, Artiben, Krupaben and such sisters serve a devoted life while residing there.

AKSHAR PURUSHOTTAM ABOUND

In this way, while principally staying in Tardeo, Kakaji supported the Gunatit Samaj, a four-winged (saints, dedicated brothers, dedicated sisters, and householders) divine establishment to help all devotees achieve progress. Just as Bhagatji Maharaj, Jaga Swami, and Krishnaji Ada were all three gunaateeta saints, Kakaji taught devotees to see divinity in all present gunaateeta or God-realized saints. Further, Kakaji emphasized that all branches work in harmony based on the ultimate principle of Lord Swaminarayan's supremacy. Kakaji repeated this message in his last recorded speech on January 26, 1986 at the Gunatit Jyot during the celebration of his 25th divine realization day after Gunatitanand Swami's Bicentennial Celebrations in Haridham, Sokhada. He revealed this as the inner desire of Lord Swaminarayan and Gunatitanand Swami.

UNIVERSAL VISION

Despite being a dedicated saint in the Swaminarayan fold, Kakaji invested much energy to help other groups - thus revealing his universal vision of seeing the working of God in all branches. Kakaji was only concerned about helping each soul progress spiritually despite their background or religion. Kakaji was often invited by devotees who believed in other branches of the Hindu religion. If devotees who believed in Jalaram Bapa or Lord Krishna called him to attend a weekly scriptural reading Kakaji would gladly attend them.

For the Bharat Sadhu Samaj, Nandaji and Anand Swami (secretary and leading saint of the Bharat Sadhu Samaj, who helped obtain a place for Guruji and saints in Delhi to stay), asked Kakaji to help with the 1973 celebrations of Swami Ramatirth's Centennial⁴⁷. Kakaji acted as the treasurer in the committee established for the arrangement of the celebration. With an open heart, Kakaji studied Swami Ramtrith's life and became close with the committee members. From this, many leaders such as Shri V.S. Page (Chairman of Maharashtra State Legislative Council) and Shri G.S. Pohekar (Indo-Japanese Association's Honorary Executive Director) came in touch with the Swaminarayan satsang.

Kanaiyalal Munshi had come in contact with the Swaminarayan religion from Shastriji Maharaj's time. He was impressed with Shastriji Maharaj's personality and power. His family continued to be in satsang and after he passed away, his wife Lilavati Munshi remained in satsang and in close contact with Kakaji. She respected Kakaji's divine ways of considering devotees as his own family members. She used to say that "Kakaji's group has purity and authenticity." Upon Kakaji's saying, she donated a lot for the development of Ayurvedic Research Center in Vasna (near Sokhada, Gujarat).

47. *Swami Ramatirth (1873-1906) - A renowned professor of mathematics, Gossain Tirth Rama of Punjab, India, deeply studied the Gita and with the vision of God, dedicated himself in devotion to Lord Krishna. He also brought the knowledge of Vedanta to Japan and San Francisco, USA.*





Kakaji and Bharatbhai

Kakaji and Vashibhai



Kakaji, Dedicated Brothers of Tardeo and Devotees



She took special interest in this activity by coming to the Vasna Village. Kakaji had blessed her that her last days of life would be very peaceful and due to her service, Maharaj and saints will come to take her to Akshardham. During her last days, she had the divine vision of saints and she called upon all her family members to come and see her before she passed away. This was all due to Kakaji's universal vision of seeing God in all, all in God and all as God.

Kakaji also took part in the Vedant Committee with Harkishandas Agrawalji (industrialist and founder of Devidayal Cables Co. and many others). He had a bungalow in Lonvala and he had welcomed Kakaji many times to hear Kakaji's discourses. He was very impressed by the devotion of the dedicated brothers and sisters in Tardeo and always offered his bungalow for conducting a seminar. He called Kakaji as "Adhyaatma Yogi" and his family members joined in satsang too.

Shri Bhisudevji was the inspirer of Rutambhara Mahilaa Kendra in Saputara in South Gujarat. In the later years of his life, he came in touch with Kakaji. He was very impressed by Kakaji's special knowledge of the Vachanamrut and Swami ni Vato and the special vision to allow for spiritual progress for women devotees. He would say openly, "Do not mistake Kakaji for an ordinary householder. His lifestyle might seem like others but he is a Paramyogi. Lord Swaminarayan works through him and he is a spiritual heir of Yogi Bapa." In this way, he considered Kakaji as his own guru and even though he was advanced in age, would climb 4 stories in Tardeo backwards to meet Kakaji and listen to his discourses.

DIVINE BROTHERS AT TARDEO

On Poshi Poonam in 1969, Kakaji, Pappaji, and Sonaba blessed five brothers to live dedicated lives while staying in Tardeo with Kakaji: Rameshbhai Soni⁴⁸, Mahendrabhai Shah

48. After serving Kakaji and the divine society, Rameshbhai Soni passed away in 1989.

(Bapu), Rajubhai Thakkar, Rajubhai Bhatt, and Ashwinbhai Patel. By the early 1970s, Bharatbhai Mehta, Hemantbhai Vashi, Harakchandbhai Shah, and Arunbhai Shah also began staying at Tardeo. With them, Kakaji served the Gunatit Samaj and authored several books: Lord Swaminarayan and Applied Brahm-Gnan (1973), Divine Grace (1977), The Real Essence of Tantra (1978), Panchyagna (1981), GunatitoAksharambrahma (1983), Essence of Purna-Yoga (1984), and Gnan Samadhi (1985).

Kakaji made many divine trips to Europe and the United States. Living with Kakaji's ideals, together the nine brothers earned Lord Swaminarayan's grace and continue to give the peace and bliss of Akshardham to all.

KAKAJI TRAVELS TO AMERICA

In 1973, Kakaji made his first spiritual trip to the United States with Jashbhai Saheb and Harshadbhai Bhatt⁴⁹. On the Fourth of July long-weekend, Kakaji had traveled to Hasmukhbhai Patel's home in Des Plaines⁵⁰, IL. Dinkar Uncle came from Elkhart, Indiana to this place, where he met Kakaji for the first time. For the next 13 years, Dinkar Uncle served Kakaji, creating a divine bond that reached the heart of Lord Swaminarayan. Dinkar Uncle shone divinity in all God-realized saints and created oneness with all devotees. Kakaji would say, "If five become like Dinkarbhai, then I will consider that all of America has become satsangee." While physically being present in India, Kakaji used to tell devotees, "Dinkarbhai is 8000 miles away, but he is close to me and some of you are right next to me, yet far away."

In his later foreign trips, Kakaji brought Mahendra Bapu along with him as his personal secretary. During the trips to America, Bapu created a deep friendship with Dinkarbhai. In 1985, when Hariprasad Swamiji visited America for the first

49. *Harshadbhai Bhatt - A devotee who was a member of the Mumbai Municipal Corporation.*

50. *Des Plaines - Suburb of Chicagoland Area*

1973 -
Kakaji's
first trip to
America with
Jashbhai
Saheb and
Harshadbhai
Bhatt



Kakaji and
Dinkarbhai

Kakaji and
Mahendra
Bapu





Anoopam Mission, United Kingdom



Kakaji in Paris



Kakaji and
Nirmal Swamiji

time, Kakaji sent Bapu to help organize the trip. Pleased by Bapu's service, Kakaji immensely blessed him and asked him to work with Dinkarbhai and continue spreading satsang in America.

On the 200th anniversary of Lord Swaminarayan's manifestation, an image of Lord Swaminarayan was displayed at the Bicentennial Celebrations in Sokhada, and presented to Kakaji by saints. When Kakaji opened the image, he remarked, "Lord Swaminarayan is telling me, 'Take Me beyond the oceans [to America].'" This image is a colorized copy of an original black-and-white Lord Swaminarayan picture. A celebration was held at the Francisco Hall in Chicago on June 20, 1981. The next day, Kakaji enshrined the image of Lord Swaminarayan at Dinkar Uncle's home in Waukegan. Kakaji then gave the blessings, "Any prayer done here together for fifteen minutes, will be answered." Kakaji also gave Dinkar Uncle the same blessings as Jaga Swami had given to Shastriji Maharaj: "Sankalp naa karo e tamaari khot, ane puraa naa kariye, e hamaari khot" or "We will fulfill all your prayers." In 1983, Yogi Divine Society, USA-Chicago was established by Kakaji with Dinkar Uncle as its President. Finally, on October 20, 1985, at the 200th anniversary of Gunatitanand Swami's manifestation, Kakaji enshrined the image of Gunatitanand Swami at the Waukegan temple.

OTHER CENTERS

On his trips abroad, Kakaji also visited Europe to bless the devotees there. When he visited London, he would make sure to see the young dedicated brothers of Anoopam Mission such as Himmat Swami and others. The brothers were looking for a permanent place to continue temple activities. In 1981, Himmat Swami showed a land with an existing house to Kakaji as a potential place for future development. Kakaji immediately said, "Pappaji, Saheb and Sonaba are all

speaking through me. Without any further delay, buy this land. Swaminarayan Bhagwan also wishes the same. This is the best fit for the activities of Anoopam Mission and Saheb will use this place to spread satsang." Adhering to Kakaji's wish, the brothers secured the place and it continues to be the central place for dedicated brothers of Anoopam Mission in the United Kingdom.

Kakaji also travelled to Paris in his last three foreign trips from 1983 to 1985. Inspired by Kakaji's talks and divine style, Pravinbhai Lad, Thakorbhai, and devotees of Paris continue the satsang there today.

In 1985, Kakaji helped acquire land in Samadhiala for Nirmal Swamiji⁵¹, Madhavcharan Swamiji, and Gnyaansvaroop Swamiji who had to leave the old group in 1983. In this way, Kakaji worked to help all of the saints that Yogi Bapa had initiated. A temple was established at the location in 1997.

51. *Nirmal Swamiji - Born in 1940, he was initiated by Yogi Bapa in 1956 on Sharad Poornima in Gondal. He was later appointed as the kothari of the Sarangpur temple, which is close to Samadhiala.*

KAKAJI'S FOREIGN TRAVELS

TIME	PLACE	TRIP HIGHLIGHTS
June 1973	UK, United States	<p>With Jashbhai Saheb and Harshadbhai Bhatt</p> <p>Stop in London before arriving in Chicago</p> <p>Graces New Jersey, New York (Buffalo), Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg), Washington DC, Rhode Island (Pawtucket), Massachusetts (Boston), Maryland (Baltimore), Indiana (Elkhart, South Bend, Munster, and Indianapolis), Michigan (Detroit), Iowa, Missouri (St. Louis), Ohio, California (LA and San Francisco), Florida (Orlando and Miami), Georgia (Atlanta), North Carolina (Charlotte and Raleigh), Alabama (Huntsville), New Orleans, Texas (Houston)</p> <p>First divine meeting of Kakaji and Dinkar Uncle</p>
April 1977	UK, Europe, United States/ Canada, Middle East	<p>With Mahendra Bapu and Rajubhai Thakkar</p> <p>Stop in London before arriving in Chicago</p> <p>Visits old business friends in Germany</p> <p>Sends Mahendra Bapu and Rajubhai Thakkar in the company of Dilipbhai Popat to France, Luxembourg, and Switzerland</p> <p>Stop in Kuwait (Dr. Hansaben Raithatha) on the way back to India</p> <p>Visits Canada (Niagara Falls and Toronto) on this and subsequent trips</p>

TIME	PLACE	TRIP HIGHLIGHTS
June 1978	Sri Lanka	With Rameshbhai Soni, Mahendra Bapu, and Harshadbhai Bhatt Meets Buddhist dignitaries and saints in Colombo
July 1979	United States/ Canada, UK	With Rameshbhai Soni to Dinkar Uncle's Waukegan home Stop in London while going back to India in September
May 1981	United States/ Canada, UK	With Mahendra Bapu and Rajubhai Bhatt Enshrines Lord Swaminarayan's image at the Waukegan temple Tells Anoopam Mission to buy building in Denham, Middlesex (move from Wimbley location which was obtained in 1978) while going back to India in September
June 1983	UK, Europe, United States/ Canada, Middle East	With Mahendra Bapu to Chicago With Vinubhai and Ashwinbhai who were in UK, visited Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, and Italy where spiritual meetings were held with a large group of foreigners in August Inspires devotees in Paris on this and subsequent trips Stop in Kuwait (Dr. Hansaben Raithatha) while going back to India
June 1984	UK, Europe, United States/ Canada	With Bharatbhai visits London, France, Switzerland and Italy Joins Mahendra Bapu and Rajubhai Bhatt in Chicago

TIME	PLACE	TRIP HIGHLIGHTS
July 1985	UK, Europe, United States/ Canada	<p>In April, Kakaji sends Mahendra Bapu to join Dinkar Uncle in Chicago to organize Hariprasad Swamiji's first visit to the United States</p> <p>Hariprasad Swamiji makes his first trip to America this summer starting from Waukegan Mandir, Illinois</p> <p>Kakaji comes in August after stopping by in London, Paris and Geneva with Rajubhai Bhatt</p> <p>Enshrines Gunatitanand Swami's image at the Waukegan temple in October</p>
July 1986	UK, Europe, United States	<p>After stopping by in London and Paris, Mahendra Bapu and Dinkar Uncle organize the first Gunatit Gnyaan Shibir in St. Louis. Kakaji planned the shibir prior to passing away; it was graced by Jashbhai Saheb, Ben, and devotees</p>

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

After celebrating Gunatitanand Swami's Bicentennial in 1985, Kakaji gave many hints of his divine plans of leaving this world. Kakaji often expressed, "How can I spread the message of Lord Swaminarayan alone?" Thus he supported saints and devotees as "the second line of leadership" to carry Lord Swaminarayan and Yogi Bapa's work. Kakaji had written a letter to call all the saints that had been initiated by Yogiji Maharaj to Mumbai on the pretext of a shibir in Matheran. As a result, all the saints arrived in Tardeo by March 6, 1986. Then suddenly, on March 7, 1986, Kakaji passed away in Mumbai at the Bhatia Hospital. This room was directly one floor below where Yogiji Maharaj had passed away in January 23, 1971.

Kakaji's body was placed on the simple sofa on which he had many times talked about the glory of Lord Swaminarayan, Gunatitanand Swami, and the gunaateeta lineage. Devotees came to Tardeo to join with Pappaji, Hariprasad Swamiji, Kantikaka, Nirmal Swamiji, Kothari Swamiji, Prem Swamiji, Das Swamiji, Mahendra Bapu, Bharatbhai, Vashibhai, saints, other sadhak brothers and devotees. After aarti was offered, Kakaji's body was carried down the 84 steps of the Tardeo temple. The ambulance van went to Sokhada, Sankarda, Gunatit Jyot, and finally to Brahmjyoti. There, Jashbhai Saheb, Mukundjivan Swamiji, Haribhai Saheb, Ashwinbhai, Shantibhai, Sonaba, Jyotiben, Taraben, and devotees prepared the memorial shrine. Garlands were offered, the carriage was lifted, and the pyre was lit as devotees shouted, "He Kakaji Amar Raho - Kakaji, live forever!" In the hearts of devotees, Kakaji in fact became eternal and his presence became even stronger. In supporting Shastriji Maharaj, Kakaji glorified Akshar-Purushottam Maharaj; in revealing Yogi Bapa, he glorified the present gunaateeta saint; and in the creation of the Gunatit Samaj, he showed the highest state of oneness.

For more information about Kakaji's life, please refer to the following publications:

- *Personal experiences of saints and devotees with Kakaji are given in the books Divine Touch 1 and 2*
- *A photo book with incidences from Kakaji's life are given in Glimpses of Divinity*
- *DVDs that show Kakaji's life biography and discourses*
 - * *Chaitanya Shilpi*
 - * *Moorti Sukh Mana Bhayo*
 - * *Jai Kaka Dadurai Re*
- *Audio CD that narrates Kakaji's life in a poetic form*
 - * *Hey Kakaji Amar Raho*
- *See www.kakaji.org*



Kakaji in Murtizapur - Few days before he left his body



Kakaji - Memorial Shrine in
Brahmajyoti, Mogri (March 1986)



