

Chapter 17

The Sant's Compassion and the Jiva's Perversity

During that period, a sadhu in Bochasan named Uttamcharan Swami took care of the mandir's cattle. One morning, while Swamishri was having breakfast, he called Uttamcharan Swami, gave him two handfuls of prasad, and said, "Guru! Come travel with us in the villages. You have served a lot; now, spend some time in our company."

Uttamcharan Swami said, "But the cows and buffaloes will not let anyone but me milk them."

Swamishri countered, "It won't be a problem. They will allow another to milk them." Swamishri's words bore the tone of a humble plea, but Uttamcharan Swami remained unconvinced.

While having a light meal in the evening, Swamishri again requested Uttamcharan Swami, “Come with us. Please, Guru! I will really enjoy your company... Make us happy...” But Uttamcharan Swami refused.

The day that Swamishri was set to leave Bochasan for his travels through the villages, he again called Uttamcharan Swami and insisted, “Please, Guru! Come with us for just four days. Or, else, just for two days. Come with us now, and then you can return...”

But Uttamcharan Swami obstinately said, “Without me, the cattle will not give milk!”

Swamishri looked at him with compassion and said, “As you wish.” Then, he departed for Rajkot.

Although Swamishri was in poor health, he had come to Bochasan for the Guru Punam festival. After staying in Rajkot for two days, he traveled to Ahmedabad, where he received news that Uttamcharan Swami had quit the monastic order and left the mandir. A month

later, someone informed him, “He is now working as a dishwasher in a hotel.” Hearing this, Swamishri sadly said, “If he had come with us, he would have escaped the adverse circumstances that befell him and become a golden sadhu...”

But what can anyone do before the perversity of the *jiva*!