

Chapter 13

Overcoming Desire

During this period, Yogi Maharaj traveled to Sankarda, Mirsapura, Anjesar, Bharuch, Zadeshwar, Atladara, Bochasan, and many other villages before arriving in Bhadran on 25 May 1944.

Jugabhai Hathibhai Patel of Bhadran was a staunch devotee who had immense love for Yogi Maharaj. After his wife passed away, he received several requests for marriage; however, he had no interest in remarriage. But over time, he began to experience unsettling conjugal desires. With Yogi Maharaj's arrival in Bhadran, he became engaged in Yogi Maharaj's service. He wanted to bare his heart before Yogi Maharaj in private, but he was waiting for the right opportunity.

One day, Yogi Maharaj got up from the assembly and walked to the bathroom holding Jugabhai's hand. At that time, Yogi Maharaj

omnisciently said, “Guru! Now, don’t harbor any more desire to remarry. If you maintain a strong resolution that you no longer want to remarry, you will attain great happiness.”

Jugabhai replied, “Swami, initially, I did not have the desire, but now I am greatly troubled by lustful thoughts.”

Seeing his honesty, Yogi Maharaj gazed into his eyes, and Jugabhai felt a sense of absolute tranquility permeate his being. All his lustful thoughts dissipated. According to Yogi Maharaj’s command, he did not remarry, and his heart remained untroubled. He experienced the miraculous transformation that occurs by submitting to the will of and earning the grace of the Satpurush who is the manifest form of God. From this experience, he realized the immense greatness of Yogi Maharaj.

From here, Yogi Maharaj traveled to Petlad, Rangipura, Sunav, and other villages. Then, he traveled to Ahmedabad and Sarangpur before spending a month in Bhavnagar. Through a hectic program of *parayans* and home visits of

Shastriji Maharaj, Yogi Maharaj, Narayanswarupdas Swami, and others, the devotees of Bhavnagar received the invaluable benefit of satsang and spiritual discourses. Then, the sadhus traveled to Gondal for the festival of Guru Punam.

The devotees of Rajkot also came to Gondal on this occasion to offer their puja to the guru. Then, the sadhus traveled to Mumbai, where they spent eighteen days before going to Surat. Due to heavy rains, the rail lines were flooded, and instead of going to Sarangpur, they celebrated the festival of Jal-Jhilani on the banks of the Tapi River in Surat. Everyone was staying at the house of Maganbhai Secretary in the Sayedpura neighborhood. Although the group of devotees in Surat was small in number, they had immense enthusiasm. Thus, they celebrated Jal-Jhilani with great festivity. The District Collector and other government officials also came for Shastriji Maharaj's darshan.

From here, they traveled to Atladara and visited the surrounding villages before going to Gondal to celebrate the Diwali-Annakut festival.