

# Chapter 7

## **The Miracle of “Akshardhipati Swayam Purushottam ni Jay”**

Thereafter, Shastriji Maharaj decided to celebrate this year’s Annakut festival in Mahuva at the birthplace of Bhagatji Maharaj. He informed Vignandas Swami, Nirgundas Swami, Ranchhod Bhakta, Yogi Maharaj, and others of his decision. Everyone was delighted. The following day, they traveled from Rajkot to Jetpur, where they made their accommodations in the timber storehouse of a blacksmith devotee. They then did darshan of the places in the village sanctified by Bhagwan Swaminarayan. When they went to the Swaminarayan mandir for darshan, they met Sadguru Balmukund Swami there. He was happy to meet Shastriji Maharaj. Moreover, he had recognized the brilliance of young Gnanji Swami’s saintliness from the beginning. So, when he saw Yogi Maharaj, he was overcome

with emotion. He placed his hand on Yogi Maharaj’s head in blessing and said, “You have attained the unimaginably great opportunity to serve in propagating the Akshar Purushottam faith, so you should make sure you do it well.”

When they returned to their accommodations, Deva Bhagat of Mevasa insisted they visit his village. Thus, everyone traveled to Mevasa by bullock cart. As soon as Yogi Maharaj would sit on a bullock cart, he would immediately start reciting Swamini Vatos, kirtans, and chapters of the Bhaktachintamani. He would sit straight-backed and recite or sing in his sweet, melodious voice. Shastriji Maharaj was always pleased upon seeing Yogi Maharaj’s absolute immersion in devotion.

After arriving in Mevasa, the sadhus delivered spiritual discourses, spent the night, and then went to Shihor. Then, they took a train to Palitana and went to the Swaminarayan mandir there. Shastriji Maharaj had warned

everyone in advance not to disclose that they were from Bochasan unless they were asked.

As the sadhus did darshan in the mandir, they were received with great respect. When the devotees insisted that the sadhus take their meals there, Shastriji Maharaj diplomatically declined and told Yogi Maharaj, “Recite two Vachanamruts.”

After Yogi Maharaj recited the *mangalacharan* shloka, he said, “*Aksharadhipati Swayam Purushottam ni Jay!*” (Hail Purushottam Himself, Lord of Akshar!). Then, just as he was about to start reciting the Vachanamruts, a senior devotee interrupted, “Are you from Bochasan?”

Realizing that they had no choice, Nirgundas Swami pointed to Shastriji Maharaj and said, “This is Shastriji Maharaj of Bochasan.”

Everyone was afraid that they would be met with opposition, but they encountered something very unexpected. The devotees were delighted and firmly insisted that the sadhus

stay for two days and accept their meals. However, since plans had already been made for their visit to Bagdana, the sadhus were unable to stay. So, the devotees arranged for bullock carts to take the sadhus to Bagdana the following morning. They arrived at Rajubhai’s house in Bagdana in time for *sandhya arti*. Then, the sadhus delivered spiritual discourses until midnight.

The next day everyone took the bullock carts to Mahuva. Bhagwanjibhai, Amarsi Sheth, Bhaichandbhai Vakil, and the other devotees of Mahuva came to the town outskirts to receive them. They arranged for the sadhus’ accommodations at the Gopnath mandir. Many devotees came to meet the sadhus. Shastriji Maharaj spoke so eloquently on Bhagatji Maharaj’s glory that before anyone knew it, it was 11:30 p.m.

Over the next several days, the sadhus did darshan of all the spots around the town sanctified by Bhagatji Maharaj. Then, after celebrating the Annakut Festival, they left

Mahuva to go to Bhadrod. From here, they returned to Bagdana, and passed through Katiya and Dared before arriving at Bhimjibhai’s house in Keriya, where many devotees had come for darshan. Due to the loving insistence of Haribhai Mistry, Nagjibhai, and other devotees, Shastriji Maharaj spent the night there before going to Sarangpur.

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