

# Chapter 14

## “Maharaj Is Beholden to Jogi”

Yogi Maharaj was traveling from village to village to raise funds to celebrate Shastriji Maharaj’s birth anniversary on a grand scale. He visited Sarangpur and Chuda before beginning his travels in the villages of the Jhalavad region. On this occasion, Yogi Maharaj asked Daji Bapu to accompany him to Dhrangadhra because Daji Bapu’s eldest son, Bhagwatsinh, was working as an aide-de-camp to the Maharaja of Dhrangadhra state.

Bhagwatsinh was delighted to have darshan of Yogi Maharaj together with Daji Bapu. He welcomed them with honor and asked the purpose of their visit. Yogi Maharaj informed him of the grand celebration of Shastriji Maharaj’s birthday and asked them to contribute `5,000. Bhagwatsinh replied, “I am due to receive `5,500 from the government for my promotion to the rank of major. However,

the payment has kept getting delayed. Please bless me that I receive the payment, and as soon as I do, I will immediately offer it to you.”

Yogi Maharaj said, “Tomorrow morning, when I am sitting in puja, bring me a written request to this effect. I will pray to Maharaj so that your work is immediately accomplished.”

The next morning, Bhagwatsinhji brought Yogi Maharaj his written request. Yogi Maharaj took the request, sanctified it by offering it to Thakorji, signed it himself, and said, “Go, your request is approved!”

Just then, the Maharaja’s gardener brought a garland of flowers. Bhagwatsinh placed that garland around Yogi Maharaj’s neck. Yogi Maharaj garlanded Bhagwatsinh with the now sanctified garland and said, “Go. The government will be waiting for you to bring your request to them so that they can immediately give you the cash they owe you.”

With Yogi Maharaj’s blessings, Bhagwatsinhji sent his request to the

government, and they immediately sent an order approving payment of the funds owed to him!

When Shastriji Maharaj heard of this, he was very pleased and said, “Maharaj does as Jogi Maharaj says! By his wish, you received `5,500. Of that, `5,000 are ours, and `500 are yours.”

Bhagwatsinhji happily donated the amount Shastriji Maharaj had requested.

On 17 October 1948, Shastriji Maharaj celebrated Sharad Punam in Gondal. He remained in Gondal to celebrate Diwali and Annakut. Shastriji’s divine presence and Yogi Maharaj’s service and warm hospitality, coupled with his saintliness, reinvigorated every festival.

After Annakut, Yogi Maharaj left Gondal to distribute Annakut prasad through the villages. Shastriji Maharaj went to Ahmedabad.

During his travels, Yogi Maharaj arrived in Junagadh. He wanted to visit Manavadar and

the surrounding villages. After staying one day in Manavadar, he arranged for a bullock cart to take them to Balagam. Yogi Maharaj was accompanied by Purushottamvallabh Swami, Khima Bhagat, and Bapubha of Adval.

On the way to Balagam, they passed by the village of Ambaliya. It was already dark when they met several men on the outskirts of the village. The villagers advised, “Swamiji, you should spend the night here because the river has flooded, and the mud and standing water have made the road impassable.”

Yogi Maharaj said, “Okay, take us to the mandir.”

They did *arti* and sang the *ashtaks* in the mandir. An elderly *parshad* was serving in the mandir. Seeing that sadhus had arrived in the mandir, all the devotees in the village came to touch their feet. Yogi Maharaj organized an assembly and spoke extensively on the glory of Balmukunddas Swami, Narayandas Swami, and the other great sadhus of Junagadh. Because the village was part of the Junagadh

region, the devotees were very pleased to hear Yogi Maharaj’s praise of their own Junagadh sadhus.

Consequently, Hardasbhai, the mandir’s *kothari* offered the sadhus provisions for their meal. The sadhus cooked the food and offered it to Thakorji. Seeing the sadhus’ simplicity and Yogi Maharaj’s timely and appropriate talks, Maldevbhai, Jerambhai, Manjibhai, and the other local devotees developed a deep respect for the sadhus. Only later did they realize that these sadhus were from Bochasan. However, Yogi Maharaj’s speech, behavior, and graciousness left a strong impression on all the devotees.

After providing much-needed momentum to a number of projects and activities in Gondal, Yogi Maharaj rejoined Shastriji Maharaj in Ahmedabad, and from there, they planned to take the train to Bochasan to celebrate Kartik Punam. Shastriji Maharaj and Yogi Maharaj traveled by train with Nirgundas Swami, Narayanswarupdas Swami, Harijivandas

Swami, Gopinathdas Swami, Nilkanthdas Swami, Aksharpriyadas Swami, and several other sadhus. However, the train was so overcrowded that every sadhu had to fast due to being accidentally touched by female passengers. Even at this advanced age, Shastriji Maharaj also fasted.

During the Punam festival, Shastriji Maharaj instructed the *kothari* of Bochasan mandir, Dharmavallabh Swami, to serve as Yogi Maharaj’s companion sadhu, and appointed Harijivandas Swami as the new *kothari* of Bochasan mandir in his stead.

From here, Yogi Maharaj went to Anand and stayed at Satyanarayanbhai’s house. At night, Yogi Maharaj sang kirtans in his courtyard to everyone’s delight. The following day, on 25 November 1948, everyone traveled to Sankarda to meet with Shastriji Maharaj. In the past, Yogi Maharaj had spent a lot of time here. He had showered so much affection on the children and youth of this village that at the time, the Sankarda *bal mandal* had 100

children. All the children would come to Shastriji Maharaj with great enthusiasm. Shastriji Maharaj spent two days in the village before returning to Ahmedabad.

Shastriji Maharaj had recently purchased a bungalow in the Shahibaug area of Ahmedabad. On 6 December 1948 (Magshar *sud* 6, V.S. 2005), Shastriji Maharaj installed in the bungalow the *murtis* of Akshar Purushottam Maharaj and a large *panchdhatu murti* of Lalji and fed everyone *kansar* to mark the special occasion. Then, Shastriji Maharaj said, “Once we procure the adjacent land, lay the foundations of a *shikharbaddha* mandir here. Yogi Maharaj will accomplish this great task, accept everyone’s service, and bring joy to the devotees.”

Shastriji Maharaj’s revelation of Yogi Maharaj’s glory caused all the sadhus and devotees to feel that Yogi Maharaj was a truly great sadhu.

Shastriji Maharaj and Yogi Maharaj stayed in Ahmedabad from 6 December 1948 to 7

January 1949. One day, they were at Khengarjibhai’s house in Rangila Pol when Yogi Maharaj’s former brother, Kamalshibhai came for Shastriji Maharaj’s darshan. Upon seeing him, Yogi Maharaj left the room at lightning speed and engaged himself in service in the kitchen.

Meanwhile, the spiritual discourses concluded, and the devotees dispersed. Only Shastriji Maharaj and Kamalshibhai remained engrossed in conversation. Kamalshibhai wanted to have Yogi Maharaj’s darshan. Shastriji Maharaj tried to call Yogi Maharaj, but Yogi Maharaj didn’t even glance in that direction!

Finally, Shastriji Maharaj told Kamalshibhai, “He is a Gunatit Purush, so there is no way that he will meet you. So, moving forward, you should not try to meet him.”

Kamalshibhai was also a staunch *satsangi*, so he did not insist further but mentally bowed to Yogi Maharaj and left.