

Chapter 12

A Rare Understanding of Devotion to God

After the festival of Sharad Punam, on 25 October 1942 (Aso *vad* 1, V.S. 1998), at the behest of Panchala's Darbar, Kumar Deepsinhji, and due to the devotional sentiments of his grandmother, Shastriji Maharaj, Nirgundas Swami, Yogi Maharaj, and other sadhus went to Panchala. After visiting Kumar Deepsinhji's home, delivering discourses, and singing kirtans, they spent the night there.

Then they went to Balagam, where Purushottambhai's sons, Karsanbhai, Mohanbhai, Vallabhbhai, and Mathurbhai, offered their loving service and pleased Shastriji Maharaj and the sadhus.

In the afternoon, Yogi Maharaj and the sadhus prepared a meal. Shastriji Maharaj remarked, "I am very hungry."

Yogi Maharaj took food out and placed it before Thakorji and simultaneously served Shastriji Maharaj food according to his wish. It is rare to have such clarity of devotion to God and guru where God is not disregarded, and one's devotion to the manifest form of God in the guru remains unimpeded.

Then, Yogi Maharaj lovingly fed the sadhus and devotees and only ate after everyone had finished eating.

Then they had planned to visit Vallabhbhai's home; however, Shastriji Maharaj said that he was burning up with fever, and covering himself with eight blankets, he went to sleep. When Vallabhbhai came to request Shastriji Maharaj to visit his home, Shastriji Maharaj said, "Take Jogi Maharaj. If Jogi visits your home, then Shriji Maharaj, Akshardham, and I have all come." With those words, Shastriji Maharaj turned around and went back to sleep.

According to Shastriji Maharaj's command, Vallabhbhai took Yogi Maharaj, the sadhus, and devotees to sanctify his home. Everyone

felt as joyous as if Shastriji Maharaj himself had visited.

When they returned, they found Shastriji Maharaj seated on the cot delivering discourses with a small smile on his face. It was as if Shastriji Maharaj had come down with the fever to give him an opportunity to show his oneness with Yogi Maharaj.

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