

# Chapter 14

## Our Life's Desire

Jayantibhai, the nephew of Bhavnagar's Prabhudas Sheth, was ill, so he had come to Sarangpur for a change of scenery. He was staying in the small room atop the mandir's gate. When Yogi Maharaj learned of his illness, he came to Jayantibhai's room and asked, "How are you keeping?"

Jayantibhai replied, "Due to your blessings, I am well."

Yogi Maharaj recited some Swamini Vato and then said, "Shastriji Maharaj will cure you. We should derive strength from our faith in Maharaj and Swami."

Then, Jayantibhai asked Yogi Maharaj about his life. Yogi Maharaj replied, "Having met Maharaj, Swami, and Shastriji Maharaj is the ultimate fulfillment of our life. Everything is encompassed in that. Otherwise, we would

have squandered our life weighing out small measures of vegetable oil (as a neighborhood grocer).

“So, Jayantibhai! Since we have met Shastriji Maharaj, we should keep our focus on him. There is nothing of value in anything else. Our destiny has been woven by Swami.”

Finally, Yogi Maharaj added, “Don’t hesitate to ask for whatever you may need. There is no shortage of provisions here.”

In this way, Yogi Maharaj expressed his deep affection for Jayantibhai.

Fifty-five devotees from East Africa had come to Sarangpur for the Ful Dol festival. After the festival, they wanted to go for darshan to Sorath’s five places of pilgrimage sanctified by Bhagwan Swaminarayan. Shastriji Maharaj instructed them, “First, go to Gondal. Yogi Maharaj will keep you there for a week, feed you, and grant you joy. Then, go on your pilgrimage.”

Shastriji Maharaj told Yogi Maharaj, “Take the Africa Mandal to Gondal. Keep them there for a week, feed them heartily, deliver discourses, and grant them bliss.”

Accordingly, everyone went to Gondal. For one week, Yogi Maharaj would cook different delicacies each day and serve them to the devotees until they had eaten their fill. Those days in Gondal with Yogi Maharaj became memories of a lifetime for those devotees. Finally, Yogi Maharaj bid the devotees an emotional farewell as they embarked on their pilgrimage around Sorath’s five pilgrimage places. Yogi Maharaj had sent letters to the local devotees at each of the pilgrimage spots, informing them of the arrival of the African devotees. Thus, when they arrived at each place of pilgrimage, the African devotees were delighted to discover that every arrangement had been made for them in advance.

In Gunatitanand Swami’s time, the devotees of Sorath had been ready to give their all for him. Today, the devotees of Africa experienced

the eagerness of Sorath's devotees to offer their mind, body, and wealth for Yogi Maharaj. Throughout their pilgrimage, the African devotees experienced great joy.

Later, when they shared this observation with Shastriji Maharaj, he was very pleased and said, "Whatever we ask of Yogi Maharaj, he does to our complete satisfaction. Once we ask him to do anything, we never have to worry about it again. Furthermore, in pleasing the devotees, Yogi Maharaj is matchless!"

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Day by day, Shastriji Maharaj's health was deteriorating. Yet, he spared no thought for his bodily needs, as he had sacrificed his all for the devotees. Every day of his life, he had given everything of himself, and yet he wanted to give more. But now, the need for rest had become critical. Thus, in the Swaminarayan Prakash and during festivals and *parayans*, announcements were made that the devotees should no longer insist upon Shastriji Maharaj visiting their villages or their homes, but

instead, they should invite Yogi Maharaj or Nirgundas Swami.