

Chapter 10

The Life-Giving Mantra

Yogi Maharaj and his accompanying sadhus arrived in the village of Kanthariya where the son of Ratnabhai Luhar, Kuberbhai, had just passed away after a six-week illness. His relations had begun the funeral rites by laying Kuberbhai's dead body on the ground and lighting the funerary wicks. Some of the villagers who had enmity for Shastriji Maharaj taunted Ratnabhai, saying, "You should go to Kesarisinh Darbar's house. Apparently, God has arrived there, so he will surely bring your son back to life."

Ratnabhai had a guileless disposition. Moreover, as his youthful son had just passed away, like a drowning man would grasp at straws, Ratnabhai came crying to the house of Kesarisinh Bapu and began pleading with the sadhus. Yogi Maharaj was extremely compassionate, and he was unable to bear the

misery of the weeping Ratnabhai. Ratnabhai told Kesarisinh Bapu, “My son has just died. Please bring him back. Several of the villagers have told me that God has come to your house.”

Kesarisinh Bapu said, “Not God, but a sadhu who is beloved of God has come. I will bring him to your house.”

The sadhus were in the middle of preparing lunch for Thakorji. But hearing Ratnabhai’s tale of woe, Yogi Maharaj immediately stopped preparations for the meal and set out for Ratnabhai Luhar’s house, singing *dhun* with the accompanying sadhus and devotees. Upon reaching Ratnabhai’s house, Yogi Maharaj laid his hands all over Kuberbhai’s dead body. He sprinkled some water from his gourd onto the body and began to chant the Swaminarayan *mahamantra*. Before long, Kuberbhai stretched and slowly sat up.

Ratnabhai and his family were delirious with joy. Their gloom was instantaneously transformed into glee. The entire village thronged to see the miracle, and the

atmosphere resembled that of a festival. Everyone began to hail Swaminarayan Bhagwan and Yogi Maharaj. The villagers with enmity for Shastriji Maharaj stood confounded.

Ratnabhai and his entire family accepted the Swaminarayan *kanthi* from Yogi Maharaj's hands. He had liberated Kuberbhai from the noose of death. Yogi Maharaj gave Kuberbhai a vow that once a day, he should suspend his worldly work, go for darshan at the mandir, and listen to spiritual discourses from Kesarisinh.

Kuberbhai upheld this vow for the rest of his life.

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Once, Shastriji Maharaj visited the village of Adval. Bapubha Saheb sponsored a feast of *vedmi*, which Shastriji prepared himself. Yogi Maharaj reached Adval from a neighboring village at 4 p.m. Shastriji Maharaj had decided to feed Yogi Maharaj *vedmi* today, but Yogi Maharaj was fasting. Shastriji Maharaj said,

“Your fast is complete. I want to feed you today, so eat.”

Yogi Maharaj immediately took out his bowl and sat down to eat. His companion sadhu decided not to break his fast. Yogi Maharaj understood the importance of following the guru’s wishes. Shastriji Maharaj began to serve him *vedmi*. Yogi Maharaj would continue to refuse more *vedmi*, and Shastriji Maharaj insistently continued to serve him. Those who understood the significance of pure love between the guru and disciple felt fulfilled to witness this divine sight! On that day, in feeding Yogi Maharaj *vedmi*, Shastriji Maharaj was wholly satiated.