

Chapter 19

A Mango Tree Is a Mango Tree

Ambalal Someshwar of Ajmavat Kot was very eager to have Swamishri's darshan after hearing of his greatness. So, when Swamishri arrived in Surat, he borrowed money to pay for transport and came for Swamishri's darshan and blessings.

When he returned to Ajmavat Kot from Surat, he began to go deaf. People in the village began to whisper that he brought this upon himself by accepting this new Swaminarayan faith and thus enraging Mataji. Before long, his vision blurred, and he lost the ability to speak. Now, people began to criticize him openly. Yet, his faith remained steadfast. He has fostered an unwavering conviction, like "a mango tree is a mango tree and a neem tree is a neem tree,"⁴ and developed a profound love for Swamishri as the Satpurush. Despite Shriji Maharaj putting him through such a difficult test,

Ambalalbhai remained in good spirits and engaged in his memories of Swamishri and worship of Shriji Maharaj.

His wife and relatives began considering calling a *tantric*, or practitioner of black magic, to work a spell on him, but Ambalalbhai vehemently refused and informed them, “No matter what happens to me, I don’t have the slightest faith or conviction in anyone but Bhagwan Swaminarayan. So don’t even think about anything else.”

Due to his unwavering faith, one night, Swamishri gave him darshan in a dream and said, “Bhagat! Don’t worry. Everything is going to be okay. You will be freed of all your troubles.”

Swamishri’s darshan gave him even more strength, and he felt an ultimate peace permeate his being. Gradually, Ambalalbhai’s health returned to normal, and soon after that, his wife gave birth to a son.

4 This is a reference to the resolute conviction that a devotee has in God as explained in Vachanamrut Vartal 1: For example, once one has firmly realized that this is a mango tree, then even if one is overcome by lust, anger or avarice, one will not entertain any doubts such as, ‘Is this a mango tree or not?’ In the same manner, regardless of whether a person has controlled his prāns or not, if he has a firm conviction of the manifest form of Shri Krishna Bhagwān—without any form of doubts whatsoever—then he has attained nirvikalp samādhī.