

Chapter 13

An Outpouring of Spiritual Bliss

On 16 April 1943 (Chaitra *sud* 11, V.S. 1999), Yogi Maharaj traveled via Navli and Napad to Bochasan to celebrate the Chaitra Punam festival, while Shastriji Maharaj went to Atladara.

In May 1943, Yogi Maharaj met Shastriji Maharaj in Ahmedabad. Shastriji Maharaj was delighted to meet Yogi Maharaj. He was forever pleased with Yogi Maharaj's Herculean efforts to travel through the towns and villages, disregarding his body to nourish satsang.

Yogi Maharaj then traveled with Shastriji Maharaj to Gondal to celebrate the mandir's *patotsav* on 14 May 1943 (Vaishakh *sud* 10, V.S. 1999). Everyone was very excited to have Shastriji Maharaj's darshan. Following the *patotsav* rituals, the devotees offered puja, new *dhotiyas*, and flower garlands to Shastriji Maharaj and Yogi Maharaj. The devotees

distributed *sakar* as a mark of their joy on this holy occasion. After the devotees offered garlands to Shastriji Maharaj, Yogi Maharaj requested Shastriji Maharaj, “Swami! Please say a few words.” Shastriji Maharaj was very happy and spoke about many historical incidents and events.

From here, Shastriji Maharaj, Yogi Maharaj, Narayanswarupdas Swami, and other sadhus traveled to Sarangpur and Ahmedabad before arriving in Mumbai. Then, Sheth Ramji Keshavji took Shastriji Maharaj, Yogi Maharaj, Narayanswarupdas Swami, Harivallabhdas Purani, Narayanji Maharaj, and others by car to Nasik, where he had organized a *parayan*.

The *parayan* was well received, and after its completion, everyone returned to Mumbai. Their accommodations were arranged in Mumbai’s Suryanarayan Vadi, where the sadhus and devotees engaged so enthusiastically in spiritual discourses and kirtans that everyone experienced the bliss of Brahman late into the night. The speech of Yogi

Maharaj, who remained immersed in God, possessed such unique magic that Nirgundas Swami wrote about it, saying, “From Yogi, we experience an outpouring of spiritual bliss.”

At the beginning of June 1943, Yogi Maharaj and the sadhus with him traveled to Atladara, the villages surrounding Bochasan, Nayka, and Purushottampura. Ashabhai and Ishwarbhai had constructed new homes, and Yogi Maharaj performed the *vastu* rituals. Then, he went to Sarangpur.

Champakbhai Sheth from Ahmedabad had also come to Sarangpur with his son, Kiritbhai. Yogi Maharaj had great affection for Kiritbhai. Children and youth were his heart. One day, Yogi Maharaj sat Kirit down and gently asked, “Do you know any Swamini Vato?” Kirit didn’t reply but just kept staring at Yogi Maharaj’s innocent face. Yogi Maharaj said, “Here, let me recite some to you.” Then Yogi Maharaj recited five Swamini Vato and said, “You should also memorize such Vato. You will learn so much.

Swami will be pleased. I will say them, and you repeat after me.”

In minutes, Kirit had developed affection for this great Sant who was so friendly with him. Yogi Maharaj began, “*Karod kām bagādine...*” He had the child repeat this three times, and that was enough for him to memorize it.

This was one of the many ways Yogi Maharaj drew *jivas* towards God and opened the gateway for their liberation.

On 3 July 1943 (Ashadh sud 1, V.S. 1999), Yogi Maharaj traveled to the nearby village of Tajpur for the ground-sanctifying ceremony of the *hari mandir*. Then, Yogi Maharaj traveled to Gondal, where he celebrated Devpodhi Ekadashi.

On Saturday, 11 December 1943, Yogi Maharaj celebrated the Magshar Punam festival with Shastriji Maharaj in Bochasan. Then he traveled with Shastriji Maharaj by bullock cart to Ranoli and Sankarda before arriving in Atladara on 5 January 1944 (Posh

sud 10, V.S. 2000). Shastriji Maharaj had severe arthritis in his legs, and so he very briefly had some treatment in Atladara before continuing by bullock cart to Jesingpura-Vaghodia, Salad, and Bhayali before returning to Atladara on Poshi Punam.

At the location of the current kitchen in the Atladara mandir, there used to be a kitchen with a thatched roof. In the afternoon, Shastriji Maharaj, Yogi Maharaj, Narayanswarupdas Swami, and other sadhus were sitting inside and having lunch. Shastriji Maharaj began asking all the sadhus about their upcoming programs. When he asked Narayanswarupdas Swami, who was studying Sanskrit in Ahmedabad, Narayanswarupdas Swami folded his hands and humbly said, “Swami, I will be going to Ahmedabad.”

Then Shastriji Maharaj asked Yogi Maharaj, “What is your upcoming program?”

“Swami!” Yogi Maharaj folded his hands and said, “My program is whatever you say!”

Shastriji Maharaj's face shone with pleasure. He turned towards the young Narayanswarupdas Swami and affectionately said, "Naranda! You have to learn this from Yogi Maharaj."

The defining trait of servanthood is absolute submission, and servanthood was a synonym for Yogi Maharaj's personality. To follow every command with absolute enthusiasm is the ideal. Narayanswarupdas Swami had casually conveyed his program according to the command of Shastriji Maharaj. How can the *jīva* understand the actions of these three Gunatit beings?