

Chapter 9

Devoted to the Devotees

Arjanbhai Meghabhai Patel of Garia had just finished constructing his new house when he got into an argument with his father, Meghabhai, regarding the *vastu* ceremony. Meghabhai insisted, “The *vastu* ceremony should be performed tomorrow.” Whereas Arjanbhai declared, “We should call the sadhus from Rajkot and perform the *vastu* ceremony only after Vignandas Swami and Yogi Maharaj arrive.” Arjanbhai had great affection for Yogi Maharaj, but his father overruled his plans and scheduled the *vastu* ceremony for the next day.

When he went to bed that night, Arjanbhai was so agitated he couldn’t sleep. The sadhus were his everything. Whenever Yogi Maharaj visited Garia, Arjanbhai would constantly remain in his company. He would have discussions with Yogi Maharaj, and in the evening, when Yogi Maharaj went for his bath

in the Darbar's farm, he would accompany him there. He would sing *arti*, *ashtak*, and *cheshta* with Yogi Maharaj. After *cheshta*, he would stay up late with Yogi Maharaj, engrossed in deep spiritual discussions. Thus, he had developed a profound affinity for Yogi Maharaj.

Arjanbhai spent the entire night thinking about Yogi Maharaj.

Without informing anyone, Vignandas Swami and Yogi Maharaj arrived in Gariya the next morning. Arjanbhai was ecstatic, and tears of joy flowed from his eyes. He led them through the village in a festive procession. Meghabhai internally bowed before his son's devotion. Even the villagers were astonished by this turn of events. Arjanbhai's heartfelt sentiments were so pure that God fulfilled his wishes.

“Jehi ke jehi par satya sanehã, so tehi milai na kachhu sandehã.”

- Shri Ramcharit-Manas 1.259

(One who has true love for another; there is no doubt that they will meet.)

Vignandas Swami and Yogi Maharaj sanctified their entire house, sprinkled sanctified flowers everywhere, ate the meal they had prepared, and fulfilled all their wishes.

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Vignandas Swami preferred to spend most of his time in the Kadiya Street mandir in Rajkot. Even when traveling in the villages, he would return to Rajkot every few days. While traveling through the villages, if Yogi Maharaj had made some minor mistake or the devotees had shown any special affection for Jogi, Vignandas Swami would mentally note such instances and retaliate against him upon returning to Rajkot.

Once, after serving Vignandas Swami and the other sadhus, Yogi Maharaj sat down to eat in the mandir kitchen. Yogi Maharaj would sit to eat with his head bowed between his knees. He would mix his food with water and eat

quickly, as if he were putting grains into a storage container. Suddenly, Vignandas Swami came into the room, and the sight of Yogi Maharaj caused him to fly into a jealous rage. Overflowing with malevolence, he grabbed a set of pincers and pinched Yogi Maharaj's right calf muscle with all his might. Yogi Maharaj's legs were thin, and his calves were soft and mostly devoid of muscle mass. The pincers broke through Yogi Maharaj's soft skin and tore away a hunk of muscle from his calf. Blood began to spurt from the wound. Without uttering a sound of pain or protest, as if nothing had happened, Yogi Maharaj attempted to stand up to beg for Vignandas Swami's forgiveness. However, having a hunk of muscle torn out of his calf caused pain so intense that Yogi Maharaj's legs buckled, and he fell to the ground. Leaving his disciple on the ground in anguish, the hard-hearted guru sauntered away. Afterwards, the other devotees helped bandage the wound, but the scar on Yogi Maharaj's calf remained for the rest of his life

as a testament to the inhumane hardships he had silently endured.

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