

Chapter 13

The Gift of Divine Darshan

From Devchadi, Yogi Maharaj would travel by bullock cart to Khokhari, Mevasa, and Jetpur. Accordingly, this year, Yogi Maharaj arrived in Jetpur. Just as Yogi Maharaj was going to go for darshan in the Jetpur mandir, the pujari closed the mandir doors to bar Yogi Maharaj's entry. Although darshan should have remained open according to the mandir timings, the pujari and others locked the doors and didn't allow Yogi Maharaj to satisfy his wish to have darshan. Disappointment pervaded Yogi Maharaj's devotion-filled heart. The sadhus who had come with Yogi Maharaj were also disappointed. No one wanted to leave without doing darshan.

Meanwhile, one of the Jetpur mandir's sadhus opened the doors and welcomed the sadhus inside with a smile. The Jetpur mandir sadhu led Yogi Maharaj and all his sadhus to

the doors of the inner sanctum and allowed them to experience the bliss of the divine darshan of God. After they completed darshan and went outside the mandir doors, they looked around to express their gratitude and offer their “Jay Swaminarayan” to the Jetpur mandir sadhu who had let them in, but he was nowhere to be found. The sadhus felt, “Definitely it was Shriji Maharaj who donned saffron robes and let us in, granting us the bliss of darshan.”

Yogi Maharaj was lost in the recollection of the divine darshan of God. The bliss of the darshan he had experienced was etched indelibly on his face. When he was informed of this miracle, tears of joy rolled down his cheeks. What intense ardor must he have had for the darshan of Shri Hari!

Yogi Maharaj and his group of sadhus wanted to go from Jetpur to Junagadh for darshan, but they didn’t have time as they were meant to reach Ahmedabad by Prabodhini Ekadashi. So, they sent Vallabhbbhai to distribute prasad in Junagadh. In Jetpur, they

gave prasad to Kalyanjibhai Sheth and instructed him to return to Gondal with them by train.

Yogi Maharaj left Jetpur by train and, to safeguard his monastic vows, sat in a tiny compartment along with Purushottamvallabh Swami on his return to Gondal. From the station, the sadhus carried their cloth bags over their shoulders and walked to the mandir. Here, Yogi Maharaj met Harijivandas Swami and gave him some instructions. Then he went to meet Bhagwatswarupdas Swami, one of the sadhus who had left with Yogi Maharaj from the Junagadh mandir to join Shastriji Maharaj. Bhagwatswarupdas Swami had been suffering from poor health for a long time, and he prayed to Yogi Maharaj, “Swami, please take me to Akshardham. I’m unable to endure this suffering.”

Yogi Maharaj’s heart overflowed with compassion. He said, “I am going to see Shastriji Maharaj in Ahmedabad during the Prabodhini Ekadashi festival. I will pray to

Swami on your behalf. Thus, Maharaj and Swami will definitely take you to Akshardham.”

Then Yogi Maharaj caressed Bhagwatswarupdas Swami and gazed at him as if he were taking his final leave from a dearly beloved relative. Yogi Maharaj gave the attendant sadhu several instructions regarding Bhagwatswarupdas Swami’s care and then left for Ahmedabad.

Yogi Maharaj went to the train station in Bavabhai’s horse cart. The train reached Ahmedabad in the morning, and Yogi Maharaj went straight to Ambli Vali Pol.

Yogi Maharaj did *dandvats* to Shastriji Maharaj and inquired about his health. With great delight, he met all the other sadhus as well. Then Yogi Maharaj sat down with Shastriji Maharaj and informed him about Bhagwatswarupdas Swami. Just before that, Shastriji Maharaj had received a message from Harijivandas Swami in Gondal that “Bhagwatswarupdas Swami has gone to Akshardham. Maharaj, Swami, and Shastriji

Maharaj had come to fetch him in his final moments.”

Shastriji Maharaj did *dhun* for five minutes and praised Bhagwatswarupdas Swami’s faith and devotion to Maharaj and Swami.

During the Prabodhini Ekadashi festival assembly, Yogi Maharaj beautifully explained Vachanamrut Sarangpur 18, in which he said:

“If even a resolute person associates with bad company, he would become ensnared in sense pleasures such as worldly talks such that the seeds of lust, anger, and other evil instincts in his heart would be nurtured into large trees. Thus, the devotees of God should never associate with bad company, and they should strive to eradicate their base natures by associating with the Sant.

“One should realize the Satpurush as flawless and understand that any base natures the Satpurush exhibits is only for the *jiva*’s liberation. Thinking thus, he should imbibe the virtues of the Satpurush and ask forgiveness for

his mistakes, whereby all of one's deficiencies will be eradicated.”