

Chapter 14

Visit to Virpur

After the Annakut festival, Yogi Maharaj's travels eventually led him to Virpur in October 1947. After having darshan at the shrine of Jalaram Bhakta, Yogi Maharaj, accompanied by Jayantibhai Kothari, went to meet Girdharlalji Maharaj, the current head of the Jalaram Trust. During their conversation, Girdharlalji said, "The great Sant, Gunatitanand Swami of Junagadh had met Jalaram Bapa and blessed him. His blessings have sustained our charitable food kitchen until today." Then, addressing Yogi Maharaj, he said, "You are also a highly elevated spiritual soul. You travel day and night to lead people onto the path of God, which is a great thing."

Such was the fragrance of Yogi Maharaj's saintliness that its virtuous influence captivated the consciousness of great and small. Yogi

Maharaj offered Girdharlalji Annakut prasad from Akshar Mandir and took his leave.

Then, from Mevasa, everyone was traveling by bullock cart when they got lost on their way to Padavala. The driver of the cart had taken a wrong turn onto a heavily rutted road causing painful, jarring shocks to the passengers in the bullock cart.

Soon, Yogi Maharaj alighted from the cart and walked the remaining three miles to Padavala. Jayantibhai asked him, “Why have you left the cart and taken to walking?”

Yogi Maharaj said, “So that my umbilical knot does not become herniated. It is a chronic issue that I suffer from, so it’s better if I walk.” In saying this, Yogi Maharaj broke out into peals of laughter. It was Yogi Maharaj’s natural tendency to break into laughter at the slightest, or even no, provocation as if the joy in the depths of his being would spill over to the outside without warning and drench everyone in his divine bliss. Consequently, a lighthearted

atmosphere always surrounded Yogi Maharaj wherever he was.

Around this time, Yogi Maharaj visited the village of Sanava at the loving insistence of Harilal Morarji Kotak. Fulfilling his wishes, Yogi Maharaj visited Ratibhai Soni's house in Kunkavav. A Darbar devotee from Sanava was also accompanying him. In the evening, Ratibhai's mother, Lakhuba, inquired about what provisions the sadhus would need for their dinner. Yogi Maharaj indicated that he did not want any dinner. So, Lakhuba sent a liter of milk for Yogi Maharaj. Yogi Maharaj didn't drink the milk but told the accompanying Darbar, "See here, Bapu! Some milk has come. Will you have some?" So saying, Yogi Maharaj, bit by bit, offered all the milk to the Darbar. Yogi Maharaj accommodated everyone's preferences and made sure to please them.

Many devotees were present in the evening assembly. Desaibhai Soni, Bhagwanbhai Soni,

and many other Soni devotees had come to the assembly.

After delivering captivating discourses, the following day, Yogi Maharaj took everyone's leave to travel to Amreli. The devotees strongly requested that Yogi Maharaj remain there, but because he had to reach Bochasan by Kartik Punam, Yogi Maharaj was in a hurry to reach Gondal via Amreli.