

Chapter 12

Dispelling Drought

The drought of 1940 (V.S. 1996) marked a year of hardship and scarcity for the general population as water shortages suppressed crop yields. Lavji Bhagat of Khokhari had fifteen mouths to feed in his house, but his entire farm yielded only 180 kg of grain.

Around this time, Yogi Maharaj and sadhus visited Khokhari. Yogi Maharaj told Lavji Bhagat, “We have come to collect your tithe of grains.”

Lavji Bhagat thought that in these times of hardship only God would come to beg for alms. No one else would have the courage to do so. So, Lavji Bhagat replied, “I will donate however much grain you ask.”

Yogi Maharaj asked, “How much grain did your farm yield this year?”

Lavji Bhagat diverted the question saying, “Just ask for the amount of grains you need. By your grace, we will manage.”

But when Yogi Maharaj insisted on knowing how much his farm had yielded, Lavji Bhagat showed him his entire crop yield of 180 kg of grains and said, “Here is the pearl millet that you can take as my tithe.”

“But then, what will you do?” asked Yogi Maharaj as if he were testing Lavji Bhagat’s faith.

“By your grace, we will be fine. Don’t worry about us.” Lavji Bhagat’s words resounded with his trust in God and the Satpurush. This devotee was ready to give his all to please God.

Yogi Maharaj was pleased with his devotion and said, “Show me the earthen vessels in which you will store your grain.”

Yogi Maharaj placed the *murti* of Thakorji on each clay vessel and said, “Now fill these vessels with your pearl millet and seal them from the top. Maharaj and Swami will ensure

that you don't run out. Out of the 180 kg of pearl millet, tithe 40 kg to Akshar Deri.”

Then, Yogi Maharaj laughed and said, “If you do run out, the mandir has a large store of pearl millet. We will give it to you. But, take as much pearl millet as you need every day from the small opening near the bottom of these clay vessels, but do not unseal the top of the vessels.”

The entire year passed, and the whole family ate from the pearl millet in the large clay vessels, but it did not run out! The next year brought good rains leading to a solid crop. When the new pearl millet was ready for storage, Lavji Bhagat emptied the previous year's grain from the lower opening and ended up with two large burlap bags full of pearl millet. The entire household stared in astonishment. Everyone realized that Yogi Maharaj had protected them. When Lavji Bhagat went to Gondal, Yogiji Maharaj had told him, “In the Swamini Vato, it is said that dirt will transform into grains.” Lavji Bhagat

experienced the reality of these words of Gunatitanand Swami, and he was overcome with emotion.

By Yogi Maharaj's grace, his family had eaten for the entire year from the 140 kg of pearl millet that had been left to them after tithing 40 kg to Akshar Deri. But after eating the pearl millet from those vessels for the entire year, when they emptied the remaining grains from the vessels, they ended up with 200 kg of pearl millet!

Yogi Maharaj had shown this miracle out of an overwhelming sense of compassion, but he never exhibited an iota of pride regarding his powers. Moreover, he would interact with the devotees with such intimacy that the opposite person would not even realize how much they were indebted to Yogi Maharaj.

“Ko Sāhib sevak ki nevāji āpu samāj sāj
sabasāji,

Nij karatuti na samujia sapane, sevak
sakucha sochu upa apne!”

(Who is that Swami? He who provides everything to his disciple but doesn't feel a sense of doership about it even in his dreams, so that his disciple doesn't experience any insecurity in his heart!)