

## Chapter 18

### “Right Now, I Wouldn’t Prefer It There.”

At the time, Pujabhai of Dharmaj, who was staying at Jnan Mandir in Vadodara, had been admitted to the hospital. Nathalal Yogina informed Swamishri, “After stepping on a nail, Pujabhai’s leg has become gangrenous due to his diabetes, and he is currently in Sayajirao Hospital.”

Swamishri said, “We must go visit such a staunch devotee in his time of need.”

Swamishri went to the hospital, and Pujabhai was overjoyed to see him. He tried to get up to offer *dandvat pranams* to Swamishri, but Swamishri stopped him, saying, “Pujabhai! We have accepted your *dandvats*.”

Then, Swamishri sat next to him and caressed his leg. Pujabhai declared, “Swami, by

your darshan, I was half cured, and now due to your holy touch, I am fully cured!”

Swamishri smiled and said, “Pujabhai, your leg is terribly swollen. How would you like us to take you to Akshardham?”

Pujabhai laughed and said, “No, Swami! Right now, I wouldn’t prefer it there. I will come back from there to serve a Sant like you, in whom Shriji Maharaj is manifest, and to serve your devotees.”

Pujabhai had a strong inclination to serve.

All the devotees were astonished by his understanding. They witnessed in him the characteristics of a true devotee as described by the great devotional poet Narsinh Mehta:

“Harinā jan to mukti na māge, māge  
janamojanam avatar re...”

(The devotees of God ask not for liberation, but they ask for birth after birth to serve.)

Swamishri was delighted. He softly asked, “Pujabhai, how many years do you want to stay in this world?”

Pujabhai said, “Bapa, if you want, you can extend my lifespan anywhere from five to twenty-five years.”

Swamishri declared, “Go, Maharaj will keep you in this body for five more years.”

With that, Swamishri chanted the Swaminarayan *dhun* for two minutes, blessed Pujabhai, and returned to Atladara. In just a few days, Pujabhai recovered completely, and according to Swamishri’s words, he lived another five years, offering his service and devotion to Satsang before passing away to Akshardham.