

Chapter 12

A Different Type of Fever

On 7 March 1942 (Fagun *vad* 5, V.S. 1998), Yogi Maharaj accompanied Shastriji Maharaj in his travels from Anand to the surrounding villages. Yogi Maharaj's days and nights were filled with spiritual discourses, kirtans, and the service of devotees. Everyone who witnessed this "Yogiraj," living wholly at the beat of his guru's word, and the seventy-seven-year-old Shastriji Maharaj, traveling through the villages animated by a divine power that belied his elderly feeble frame, could not help but be overcome by emotion. Their commitment to fulfilling the devotees' wishes made their travels extremely hectic. Traveling everywhere by bullock cart, with not even a moment's respite, their most basic bodily needs often remained unmet. In that span of fifteen days, Shastriji Maharaj and Yogi Maharaj, accompanied by Motibhai of Anand, traveled

through thirty-eight villages in the region of Kanam.

When, from Khambhat, they arrived in Bochasan, Yogi Maharaj had come down with a fever. One devotee asked, “Should I call a doctor or an Ayurvedic practitioner?”

Shastriji Maharaj said, “They won’t be able to help. This is a different type of fever.”

“A different type?” asked the devotee.

Shastriji Maharaj chuckled and said, “What is this different type of fever, Jogi? Tell him.” Then Shastriji Maharaj himself continued, “Today, Yogi Maharaj saw a sadhu of another denomination counting money. Thus, he felt his entire body burning, and he came down with a fever. Tell me, what can a doctor or Ayurvedic practitioner do here?”

At first, the devotee could not believe that someone else’s lapse in following religious vows could so impact Yogi Maharaj’s health. But when he realized that it was true, he silently

bowed to the elevated spiritual state of “Jogi” Maharaj.

Shastriji Maharaj, Yogi Maharaj, and several other sadhus traveled to Anand and Palej before arriving in Thikariya on 23 March 1942. Shastriji Maharaj visited this village due to the boundless enthusiasm of Manilal Nanalal Bhatt. Manibhai welcomed the sadhus with great pomp and led them in a festive procession through the village.

At that time, Yogi Maharaj asked Shastriji Maharaj, “Although Manibhai is very new to Satsang, what is inspiring him to honor you with such reverence and devotion?”

Shastriji Maharaj replied, “Because Manibhai is a Brahmin, he may have made these arrangements for his son’s sacred thread ceremony.”

Then, as Yogi Maharaj was going for a bath, he saw Manibhai approaching. Yogi Maharaj asked him, “Manibhai, you have decorated the whole village and organized a grand festival! Is

this for your son's sacred thread ceremony or something?"

Manibhai replied, "Currently, I don't have any such occasion coming up in my household. But when two great sadhus like Shastriji Maharaj and yourself have come to sanctify my home and inspire the people of the village, I feel that whatever honor I can offer you is the very least that I can do."

Seeing his unparalleled and heartfelt devotion, Yogi Maharaj was very pleased with him and his family.

The bold devotee, Manibhai, had spared no expense on this occasion. He celebrated this occasion on the grandest scale he could. Shastriji Maharaj and the sadhus were very pleased with him.

From here, they went to Ahmedabad to celebrate Swaminarayan Jayanti and then traveled to Bochasan to celebrate the Chaitra Punam festival. Then, they went by bullock cart to Chansad, Goriyad, Sejakuva, and Atladara.

Yogi Maharaj then traveled to Ahmedabad for a *parayan* organized by Prof. Jethalal Swaminarayan. Wherever Yogi Maharaj went, he served up a generous helping of humor with his spiritual talks and became beloved by all.