

Chapter 10

The Maharaja of Gondal’s Faith in Jogi

The courts of the British Raj were adjudicating a case to determine the railway boundaries between the princely states, but the court dates kept getting pushed back, and no judgment seemed forthcoming. One day, the diwan of Gondal, Joshi Saheb, came to Akshar Mandir and met privately with Yogi Maharaj. He bowed at Yogi Maharaj’s feet and explained the situation with the court case. Then he said, “Maharaja Saheb has asked me to inform you that it doesn’t look like this railway case will be resolved anytime soon. So please bless us that the case may be quickly resolved in our favor.”

Yogi Maharaj said, “Don’t worry. Since Gondal Bapu has given land for this Akshar Mandir, Akshar Deri will surely fulfill his wish.”

After that, Yogi Maharaj began turning the *mala* before Akshar Deri so that Maharaja

Bhagwatsinhji would win his case. Soon, the judgment was passed in favor of Bhagwatsinhji.

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Before Shastriji Maharaj had acquired Akshar Deri and its surrounding lands, the land had belonged to the Vartal Gadi. They had constructed a stone slab around Akshar Deri and a cowshed, which Shastriji Maharaj had continued to use. So, the Mahant of the Vartal Gadi’s Swaminarayan mandir in Gondal, Krishnajivan Swami, had petitioned for Shastriji Maharaj to reimburse him for the cost of these two improvements they had made to the property.

Vignandas had brusquely replied, “We won’t give you a single penny.”

But Shastriji Maharaj explained to Vignandas Swami, “The Vartal Gadi’s mandir is also our mandir. We will be spending hundreds of thousands of rupees to construct Akshar Mandir, so just consider this amount a little extra.”

Then, Shastriji Maharaj had the improvements appraised, and the reimbursement value was set at `400. Shastriji Maharaj asked Krishnajivan Swami, “Are you happy with this sum?” Krishnajivan Swami approved, and Shastriji Maharaj immediately had `400 transferred to him. Even the senior *satsangis* of the Vartal Gadi were pleased to see Shastriji Maharaj’s fair-minded approach.