

Chapter 9

Divine Bliss in the Seclusion of Dundas

Once Shastriji Maharaj took Yogi Maharaj and Mohan Bhagat from Sarangpur to Amrutvel. Since the stationmaster of Amrutvel, Chunilal Bhatt, was a disciple of Shastriji Maharaj, he was delighted to see Shastriji Maharaj and listened to his spiritual discourses until late at night.

Exposure to the elements that winter had caused Yogi Maharaj's skin to dry and crack. Yet, Yogi Maharaj woke early the next morning, drew water from the well, and began bathing outside, unprotected from the frigid winter winds. The villagers were astonished to observe Yogi Maharaj taking a cold water bath in such freezing temperatures. They felt, "My God! How can this sadhu bathe outside in this cold when just dipping a finger into the freezing water makes it numb!" Witnessing this incident

convinced many villagers that Yogi Maharaj was an enlightened being possessing *atma*-realization.

From Amrutvel, they traveled to the neighboring village of Dundas and made their accommodations in the guest house of the Shiv mandir. Shankar Bhagat, who had built the guest house, was a local farmer who had met Bhagatji Maharaj and understood his glory. When sadhus, sannyasis, or spiritual aspirants would stay at his guest house, he would invariably talk to them about ‘Praga Prabhu.’ Whenever Shastriji Maharaj visited Dundas, Shankar Bhagat would remain in his service.

On this occasion, Shankar Bhagat lovingly insisted that before leaving Shastriji Maharaj accept his sponsorship of a *dudhpak*-puri feast. Accordingly, Shastriji Maharaj himself made *dudhpak*, and Yogi Maharaj prepared the other items. After offering *thal*, Shastriji Maharaj lovingly served everyone the *dudhpak*. Yogi Maharaj, a light eater inclined towards austerities, would usually never take milk

items. Yet, since Shastriji Maharaj was serving, he took *dudhpak*. Yogi Maharaj finished his entire pattar of *dudhpak*, and Shastriji Maharaj came to fill it up again. Yogi Maharaj began to object, but his objections fell on deaf ears. Shastriji Maharaj must have been thinking, “Today, I have caught Jogi at an opportune moment! Has Maharaj sent him here to waste away? He has sent him to make countless souls *brahmarup* and take them to Akshardham.” Although Yogi Maharaj’s mere glance had liberated thousands from the clutch of sensual desire, he maintained such renunciation to inspire others.

So, Shastriji Maharaj filled Yogi Maharaj’s bowl to the brim again. As soon as Yogi Maharaj lifted his bowl to his lips and started drinking his second helping of *dudhpak*, Shastriji Maharaj began to pour an unbroken stream of *dudhpak* directly into his bowl. As Yogi Maharaj was now in no position to object, Shastriji Maharaj continued serving *dudhpak* to his beloved ideal sadhu until he emptied the

entire serving vessel into his bowl. Watching Yogi Maharaj drink the *dudhpak*, Shastriji Maharaj felt the joy of satiety himself!

After spending the night in Dundas, the sadhus went to Mahuva. They did darshan of all the sanctified spots around the town and then went to the mandir. Here, they met Nirlobhanandji Brahmachari, who had great love for Bhagatji Maharaj, and they listened to him talk at length on Bhagatji's glory.

From Mahuva, they traveled to Junagadh and went for darshan in the mandir. Krishnaswarupanandji Brahmachari, who had conviction in Akshar Purushottam *upasana* and immense affection for Shastriji Maharaj, was staying in the mandir at the time. As soon as he heard that "Yagnapurush" had come, he rose from his bed and embraced Shastriji Maharaj. When he realized that "Gnanji Swami" had come as well, tears of joy began flowing down his cheeks. Yogi Maharaj did *dandvats* to him and sat down before him. Krishnaswarupanand Brahmachari put both

hands on Yogi Maharaj's head and said, "This Jogi is destined for greatness. He will take care of your seat after you and spread Gunatit *jnan* around the globe."

After speaking for some time with Krishnaswarupanand Brahmachari, Shastriji Maharaj went to Karsan Bhana's house, where he ate Thakorji's prasad of puri, *magaj*, and pickle that Krishnaswarupanand Brahmachari had given him. Then, Karsan Bhana bought tickets for the sadhus and sat them on the train to Botad.

In the train, Shastriji Maharaj spoke about many important events in Satsang history and then commanded Yogi Maharaj and Mohan Bhagat, "Memorize Muktanand Swami's four kirtans on the qualities of a Sant.³ Only after you have completely memorized them should you drink water in Sarangpur."

Yogi Maharaj memorized all four kirtans before the train reached Botad. From Botad, everyone walked to Sarangpur.

3 1) Sukhdāyak re, sāchā santno sang, sant samāgam kijie... 2) Badbhāgi re, pāme santno sang, santthi mahāsukh pāmie... 3) Sāchā sādhu re, sundar gunadhām, samajine satsang kijie... 4) Sadā karavo re, harijanno sang, durlabh darshan santnā...