

Chapter 12

Koine Dukhiyo Re, Dekhi Na Khamāy (Unable to Bear the Misery of Others)

After celebrating Diwali and Annakut in Gondal, Yogi Maharaj traveled to Bochasan for the Kartik Punam festival. He was suffering from a constant low-grade fever, yet he still traveled to Bochasan to please everyone. On Monday, 3 November 1941, the Kartik Punam festival of V.S. 1998 was celebrated with great devotion and joy.

From here, the plan was to travel with Shastriji Maharaj to Dharmaj, Bhadran, and the surrounding villages. Vallabhdas Purushottam Popat of Rajkot had come to stay in Yogi Maharaj's service, but he was suffering from a fever.

Yogi Maharaj sat next to his bed, caressed his forehead, and said, "I have to go with Swami to the surrounding villages, but I will be

back in a couple of days. Don't be distressed. I have asked Bhaktivallabhdas Kothari to look after you. Whatever you need, don't hesitate to tell him.”

Then Yogi Maharaj called Vishnu Swami and said, “Please make *khichdi* for him, as well as millet *dhebra*, or whatever else he desires. Offer him spiced, warm milk made by your own hand. Please keep an eye on him, and his fever will abate.”

In this way, Yogi Maharaj offered detailed instructions to Vishnu Swami. Moreover, as he was leaving, he again asked Kothari Bhaktivallabhdas Swami to look after Vallabhdas.

Then, Yogi Maharaj ordered fruits for Vallabhdas from Borsad. Vishnu Swami would make him hot porridge. In the span of two days, Yogi Maharaj wrote two notes consoling Vallabhdas. He would ask devotees going in the direction of Bochasan to deliver the notes to Vallabhdas. This was Yogi Maharaj's distinctive way of expressing his affection. The

discouraged, despondent, and distressed would gain strength and peace upon receiving such notes. He would feel a sense of assurance in his heart that “Jogi cares for me.”

On the third day, Yogi Maharaj returned to Bochasan and went immediately to meet Vallabhdas. Upon seeing Yogi Maharaj, Vallabhdas’s eyes filled with tears thinking, “Who else would shower such compassion upon me?”

Yogi Maharaj placed his hand on Vallabhdas’s forehead and said, “Your fever is not so high.” Then he ordered some milk from Vishnu Swami, put the milk to boil, and said, “Drink this hot, spiced milk.”

Since Vallabhdas’s head was aching, he kept some balm with him. Yogi Maharaj applied the balm to his forehead and massaged it. Then he affectionately said, “Now, don’t you worry about anything. I will prepare *khichdi*, *rotlo*, or whatever you feel you want to eat.”

Yogi Maharaj could not bear to see anyone in pain. In two days, Vallabhdas's fever receded, and he was out and about.

From 8 November 1941 (Kartik *vad* 4, V.S. 1998) a *parayan* on the *Satsangijivan* commenced in Nadiad. Thereafter, Shastriji Maharaj and Nirgundas Swami went to Badalpur, while Yogi Maharaj went to Sankarda.

On 17 November 1941 (Kartik *vad* 13, V.S. 1998), Shastriji Maharaj arrived in Sankarda. On the same day, he received a telegram requesting him to come to Sarangpur along with Nirgundas Swami and Yogi Maharaj. Reading that telegram from some devotees of Porbandar, Shastriji Maharaj discerned their devotional sentiments, and everyone left for Atladara on their way to Sarangpur.