

Chapter 10

Even Jogi's Innocence Worked Miracles

Shamal Bhagat's farm in Gana had produced a good crop of mangos this year. So, he decided to prepare a feast of mango pulp and puris for the local devotees and invite Shastriji Maharaj, Yogi Maharaj, and Nirgundas Swami for the occasion. Shamal Bhagat selected the finest mangos and put them aside for the feast. However, his son was not a *satsangi*, and he was reluctant to forgo a portion of their seasonal income for a religious celebration. So, he kept only ten to twelve pounds of mangos and sold the rest of the crop.

As was his custom, Yogi Maharaj had already extended an invitation to forty or fifty devotees to partake in this feast. The devotees arrived at the appointed time to find that Shamal Bhagat had prepared only a small pot of mango pulp. Nirgundas Swami was furious.

Joining in Nirgundas Swami's tirade, Shastriji Maharaj exhibited *manushya charitra* as he fumed, "You had talked of a feast for all the devotees, but look at the quantity of the mango pulp!"

Yogi Maharaj was as innocent as a child. He replied, "I won't eat any mango pulp. From my portion, we can feed all the devotees!" How many devotees could be fed from one person's portion of the mango pulp? But seeing Yogi Maharaj's innocence on such occasions, Nirgundas Swami's anger would inevitably melt away, and he couldn't help but laugh.

Around sixty devotees sat down in lines for lunch. Yogi Maharaj lovingly served the devotees from that single pot of mango pulp, insisting they take extra servings. Although everyone ate their fill, there was still some mango pulp left over. Yogi Maharaj sent the leftovers to the Shamal Bhagat's family as prasad.

Nirgundas Swami and Hariswarupdas Swami were astonished. On that occasion,

Shastriji Maharaj said, “Shriji Maharaj forever resides in Yogi Maharaj. By his powers, there was not a shortage of food, but a surplus.”

As the sadhus looked upon Yogi Maharaj with awe, Yogi Maharaj pointed to Shastriji Maharaj and said, “All this is Shastriji Maharaj’s power. He saved us from embarrassment. Whatever Shastriji Maharaj wills happens.” Thus, Yogi Maharaj began to extol the immeasurable glory of Shastriji Maharaj.

After this, Shastriji Maharaj, Yogi Maharaj, and Hariswarupdas Swami traveled to Nagasar by bullock cart. The driver of the bullock cart was forcing the bullocks onwards at a very brisk pace. After some time, when the bullocks slowed, Yogi Maharaj asked the driver, “How many offspring have these bullocks birthed?”

Everyone broke out into laughter at Yogi Maharaj’s question. The driver was astounded by this sadhu’s innocence. While laughing, Shastriji Maharaj said, “Sadhuram! One should

say that a bull has sired offspring, whereas offspring would have been birthed by a cow!"

Yogi Maharaj, the embodiment of innocence, laughed at his own ignorance.

*

In June 1935 (Jeth, V.S. 1991), Yogi Maharaj and other sadhus traveled to Rajkot. At the time, Pujaji Bapu was gravely ill in Dangara. He expressed a wish to see Yogi Maharaj, so the devotees came to Rajkot to call the sadhus to Dangara. In Dangara, Vignandas Swami would sit next to Pujaji Bapu and continually deliver spiritual discourses. Pujaji Bapu would say, "Please have Jogi sing kirtans and recite the Swamini Vato..." Thus, he would show his intense affection for Yogi Maharaj. When Yogi Maharaj sang kirtans or recited the Swamini Vato, Pujaji Bapu felt an indescribable peace. After a few days, Pujaji Bapu left his mortal body, and his funeral rites were performed in Yogi Maharaj's presence.

The following day, Shastriji Maharaj arrived in Dangara. He said, “If you had just kept him for one more day, at least we would have gotten his darshan!”

Then, to assuage everyone’s grief, a *parayan* was organized in Shastriji Maharaj’s presence at Bhavan Patel’s house. At Shastriji Maharaj’s instruction, Shrijiswarup Swami delivered discourses on the *Satsangijivan*, while Yogi Maharaj recited the Vachanamrut and Swamini Vato in the morning, and Nishkulanand Kavya in the evening. In both the morning and evening sessions, Shastriji Maharaj would give his blessings, and at night, Nirgundas Swami delivered spiritual discourses. In this way, Dangara enjoyed a deluge of *brahmic* nectar. Overall, the *parayan* was well received, and many devotees came to its conclusion.

On this occasion, Jashvantsinh Bapu sponsored a feast at Akshar Mandir in Gondal. Moreover, before the *pratishtha* of Ghanshyam Maharaj in Gondal, Yogi Maharaj had told him, “Bapu! You must sponsor rings for all ten of

Ghanshyam Maharaj's fingers." Jashvantsinh Bapu presented this offering on this occasion and pleased Yogi Maharaj.

Before Ghanshyam Maharaj's *murti* was installed in Gondal in 1936 (V.S. 1992), the sadhus would require a bullock cart to take them from the train station whenever they arrived in Bhadra. Once, Mandan Bhagat's cousin brother, Nanjibhai, went to the station with his bullock cart to pick up Shastriji Maharaj and Yogi Maharaj. After they sat in his bullock cart, one bullock became agitated, broke free of his yoke, and ran away. Nanjibhai was lost in thought for a second. But when he saw the sadhus about to dismount, he suddenly said, "Bapa, please remain seated. I can take you to the mandir with one bullock."

Before Shastriji Maharaj could say anything, Nanjibhai dismounted from the bullock cart and attached himself to the yoke! Today, Nanjibhai's stout and robust frame served the cause of his liberation. He brought both Shastriji Maharaj and Yogi Maharaj to the old

mandir in the village. Nanjibhai was overjoyed by the opportunity for this unique service, and he became emotional.

Devotees who appear illiterate and rustic from a worldly perspective are shown on such occasions to possess the highest intelligence from a spiritual perspective. Only a true devotee, spiritually matured through his association with the Satpurush, would have the requisite awareness in that moment to offer such service. Shastriji Maharaj was extremely pleased with this devotee.