

Chapter 10

The Serenity of Saintliness Quells the Flames of Envy

Amongst Yogi Maharaj's innumerable saintly virtues, his forbearance was witnessed by all on countless occasions. Yogi Maharaj was naturally inclined to always conceal his virtues. This great saint, who respected everyone and maintained an unshakable *brahmic* state of divine joy despite all hardships, was often harassed by a particular sadhu in thrall to his base nature. Unable to tolerate the serenity of Yogi Maharaj's saintliness, this sadhu would constantly insult and mock him. However, Yogi Maharaj remained forever absorbed in the bliss of Brahman. He did not bear an iota of animus for that sadhu. Magnanimous, spiritually fulfilled, and embodying a fathomless love, the fragrance of Yogi Maharaj's unparalleled saintliness spread far and wide over time.

The sadhu who used to harass Yogi Maharaj once fell ill in the biting winter cold. At night, his body was racked with a high fever, and he lapsed into semiconsciousness. Late at night, he began to gasp sharply from the cold. But everyone was fast asleep. He shouted out for someone to bring him some water. But who would get out of bed on this frigid winter night?

Yogi Maharaj had a vow to turn the beads of his *mala* every night before he went to sleep. While turning the *mala*, he heard this sadhu groaning and felt sorry for him. So he brought him some water and held it to his lips to drink. Then he tenderly caressed his head and began to apply brine-soaked towels on his forehead. Soon, that sadhu's fever went down. When he opened his eyes, he was stunned to see Yogi Maharaj! In Yogi Maharaj's eyes, he saw a love greater than a mother's love. The sadhu grasped Yogi Maharaj's hands and pressed them to his forehead and eyes as tears rolled down his cheeks.

After some time, Yogi Maharaj lovingly said, “Now that your condition has improved, cover yourself with a blanket and get some sleep. By morning, your fever will have subsided.”

The sadhu pulled his blanket over his head and went to sleep.

Yogi Maharaj personally served him for the next two days until that sadhu recovered fully. That sadhu developed an unparalleled attachment for Yogi Maharaj as he began to see him as his greatest benefactor.

Once, a devotee from central Gujarat came to Akshar Mandir in Gondal. He wanted to go on a pilgrimage to Junagadh. Thus he asked Yogi Maharaj to prepare five pounds of *magaj* laddus. Yogi Maharaj personally made the laddus for him. Early the following morning, the devotee took the freshly prepared laddus and left without offering a donation to defray the cost of the laddus he had ordered for his pilgrimage. Thus, a devotee told Yogi Maharaj, “Why did you let such a person stay here

overnight? He didn't even offer a donation for the laddus he had asked you to make."

Yogi Maharaj laughed and said, "Those laddus will speak out from his stomach and inspire him to offer his service at Akshar Mandir. Since we fulfilled his wishes, at the very least, he will speak positively about the mandir!"

Witnessing Yogi Maharaj's saintly response, this devotee developed a powerful reverence for Yogi Maharaj.

Upon the installation of the *murtis* of Akshar Purushottam Maharaj in Gondal, Shastriji Maharaj had installed a wooden *sinhasan*. Three brothers from Bhavnagar, Kuberbhai, Pitambarbhai, and Thakarsinhbhai, wanted to sponsor the silver-plating of that wooden *sinhasan*. However, as they had supplied a local businessman, Popatlal Shukla, with a large order of goods on credit, a substantial portion of their money was tied up.

Kuberbhai informed Shastriji Maharaj of their desire to sponsor a silver-plated *sinhasan* in Gondal. Shastriji Maharaj called Popatlal Shukla and told him, “If you pay their money then we will be able to install a silver-plated *sinhasan* in Gondal.”

Popatlal replied, “The Maharaja of Gondal owes me `100,000. Please bless me that he pays me in full, and I will certainly pay what I owe to Kuberbhai.”

Shastriji Maharaj told Yogi Maharaj, “Jogi! Sit before the *murtis* of Akshar Mandir and turn eleven *malas* so that Shukla’s wishes are fulfilled.”

Yogi Maharaj began to turn the *malas*. Although there was little chance of recovering the money, Yogi Maharaj’s *mala* inspired a change of heart in the King of Gondal. He called Popatlal Shukla of his own accord and paid him the `100,000 that he was owed.

Popatlal immediately paid off his debts to Kuberbhai, and ultimately, a beautiful silver-

plated *sinhasan* was installed in the Gondal mandir. All this was made possible by the blessings of Shastriji Maharaj, but he had made Yogi Maharaj's *mala* the instrument of his will. Such was the divine relationship between guru and disciple.