

# Chapter 4

## **In the Company of the Torchbearers of Gunatit Jnan**

Krishnacharandas Swami knew that Jhina Bhagat was drawn to sadhus and devotees who had stayed with Gunatitanand Swami. Thus, once in Kunkavav mandir, he told Jhina Bhagat, “In Rajkot, there resides a devotee by the name of Krishnaji Ada who has spent much time with Gunatitanand Swami.” Krishnacharandas Swami also mentioned this to Bhagwatswarupdas Swami.

This sparked a desire in Jhina Bhagat’s heart to have darshan of Krishnaji Ada. The power of Jhina Bhagat’s will was immeasurably strong, and all of his wishes would immediately come true. So, it would not be long before he had the opportunity to fulfill his intense desire to have darshan of Krishnaji Ada.

Later in 1909 (V.S. 1966), Krishnacharandas Swami’s *mandal* was assigned to travel to

Rajkot. Since these sadhus held the firm conviction of the supreme Akshar Purushottam *upasana*, their arrival in Rajkot prompted Krishnaji Ada to visit the mandir twice a day. When he came to do darshan in the mandir at six in the evening, according to his normal routine, Bhagwatswarupdas Swami called Jhina Bhagat and said, “Remember how Swami had told us about Krishnaji Ada who had stayed with Aksharbrahma Gunatitanand Swami? Well, there he is.”

Jhina Bhagat did *dandvats* to Krishnaji Ada with great reverence. Together with Krishnaji Ada were Pujaji Bapu, Hargovindbhai, Chhaganlalbhai, Morarjibhai Sheth, Ramji Mistry, and several others. Jhina Bhagat was overjoyed to have everyone’s darshan.

Krishnaji Ada would come every morning to the mandir and sit in the spiritual assembly for one hour. Krishnacharandas Swami would ask him to share his memories of Gunatitanand Swami. Everyone loved to hear these talks. Krishnaji Ada would return to the mandir at six

in the evening and deliver spiritual discourses. Since everyone shared a singular conviction in Akshar Purushottam *upasana*, Krishnaji Ada would talk about the glory of Shriji Maharaj, Gunatitanand Swami, Bhagatji Maharaj, Jaga Swami, and sometimes, Shastriji Maharaj.

Grasping this invaluable opportunity, Jhina Bhagat began to spend time in Krishnaji Ada's company. At four in the afternoon, Krishnacharandas Swami would call his disciples and distribute chiku, mangos, bananas, and other fruit that had been offered to Thakorji in the afternoon. Instead of eating the prasad he received, Jhina Bhagat would safeguard it until Krishnaji Ada arrived in the evening. Then, Jhina Bhagat would offer the sanctified fruits at his feet, fold his hands, and lovingly insist that he eat some. Appreciating the polite words and affection of this young devotee, Krishnaji Ada would eat the sanctified fruits.

Krishnaji Ada would often talk about *nirdosh buddhi* and understanding the

transcendent glory of sadhus and devotees. His meek disposition was exemplified by one of his favorite verses, “*Nāne se ho nāne rahie, jaisi nāni dub...*”<sup>3</sup> Having embodied this principle of humility in his life, Jhina Bhagat pleased Krishnaji Ada through his service and devotion.

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<sup>3</sup> The full saying is, “Nāne se ho nāne rahie, jaisi nāni dub, Ghās phis sab ud gayā, dub khubki dub,” which means, “During floods, big trees which stand straight and tall are often washed away; however, the grass remains despite the deluge, because of its flexibility.”