

Chapter 22

Of What Use Is Regret

Ramchandra Ranchhodbhai Suthar had come from Nadiad to Ahmedabad for Swamishri's darshan. One day, Swamishri asked him, "Will you become a sadhu?"

"Yes, Bapa!"

"Here, hold this water in your hand and take a vow, 'I will become a sadhu.'"

"I will become a sadhu."

Swamishri repeated this ritual three times to further strengthen his resolve. But for some reason or the other, he was not able to become a sadhu.

Two years later, when he met Swamishri in Bavala, Swamishri explained, "If you become a sadhu, I will make you the *kothari* of the mandir, and seventy-one generations of your family will be liberated."

But using his job as an excuse, he refused.

Finally, sometime later, he came to Bochasan seeking blessings from Swamishri for his wedding. As if Swamishri were looking into his future, he said, “Don’t fall into this worldly life. You will be very miserable. So, worship God instead.”

However, Ramchandrabhai did not listen and insisted on getting Swamishri’s blessings for his wedding. Finally, Swamishri gave his permission. But just fifteen days after his wedding, his wife ran off. He married again, but he had to get a divorce two years later. He was miserable and would often regretfully say, “If I had only followed Swamishri’s command, he would have become pleased with me. But today, like an ox yoked to an oil press, I continue walking in circles and ending up in the same place!”

But of what use is regret for the sparrows who have already flown past the farm!