

# Chapter 22

## Overwhelmed by Affection for Jogi

While Swamishri's accommodations were in the Akshar Purushottam mandir, to please the devotees, his meals had been arranged at the homes of various devotees in rotation. The devotees were giddy with excitement in their efforts to serve and please Swamishri. While the Shrimad Bhagvat's accounts of the *gopis'* ardent devotion for Krishna Bhagwan are well known, here one could witness such devotional fervor for Swamishri in all the devotees—young and old, male and female.

Mohanlal Adhiya, a teacher, told Swamishri, "Tomorrow morning, I will bring breakfast from my home." As Swamishri was fasting that day, Mohanlal wished to prepare the food with which Swamishri would break his fast.

In anticipation of preparing the next morning's breakfast and delivering it to Swamishri as fast as possible, Mohanbhai could

not sleep the whole night. He rose early the next morning and woke everyone up. He and his family quickly took their baths and got ready. Overcome with affection, Mohanbhai began saying, as if speaking to Swamishri, “Bapa! Wait for me. I’m coming.” He could see only Swamishri. He began to worry, “What if someone brings Swamishri breakfast from their house before I reach? What if Swamishri accepts the breakfast and spiced milk that they bring?” In such a state of anxiousness, he rushed the women of the household to prepare the food as fast as possible, and as soon as it was ready, he took it and hurried out the door.

As he was leaving, he met his son Chandrakantbhai. Chandrakantbhai gave him one glance and began giggling. He exclaimed, “Father! What are you wearing?”

Mohanbhai looked down to see that in place of his *dhotiyu*, he had used the cloth of his wife’s sari! Mohanbhai ran back into his room, put on his *dhotiyu*, and rushed to Swamishri in the mandir. Swamishri was still performing his

morning puja. Mohanbhai hurriedly did some *dandvats* and affectionately exclaimed, “Bapa! I’m sorry I’m a little late. Please forgive me.”

He offered the hot milk and breakfast to Harikrishna Maharaj and then placed it before Swamishri. Then he pleaded, “Please accept this small offering of mine. If someone else also brings breakfast for you, my offering will be overlooked.”

Laughing, Swamishri affectionately calmed Mohanbhai with the words, “Even if someone else brings us breakfast, we will first eat what you have brought. So, there is no cause for you to worry.”

After completing his puja, Swamishri, together with all the sadhus and devotees, ate the breakfast that Mohanbhai had brought. This is just one example of the fervor with which the devotees yearned to serve Swamishri. They believed that through Swamishri, God was accepting their service.