

Chapter 11

Akshar Deri's Writ Runs Around the World

The stonemasons engaged in constructing the Gondal mandir were paid their monthly wages every new moon day. Once, several days before the new moon, the Darbar Hakabhai Khachar was seated in the mud hut, reconciling the mandir accounts. Across from him, Yogi Maharaj was sitting on a thin mattress, busy writing letters. Due to Hakabhai's impatient nature and the impending prospect of the stonemasons demanding their payment in three days, Hakabhai was experiencing a growing agitation which led to him accidentally spilling ink all over the accounting ledger. Yogi Maharaj saw that Hakabhai was distraught, so he immediately said, "Ahoho! Hakabhai! This is a good omen! This is great!" Joy was emanating from Yogi Maharaj's innocent face. Seeing his divine laugh, Hakabhai also began to laugh.

After some time, Hakabhai came to Yogi Maharaj with the up-to-date accounting ledger and asked him how they would pay the stonemasons' wages on the new moon day. In those days, the mandir did not have sufficient funds to cover even those basic costs. So, Yogi Maharaj took the ledger in his hand and, with a red pen, wrote on it, "O Swami! O Maharaj! O compassionate ones! Please quickly send money for the stonemasons' wages. This is your work." With this, Yogi Maharaj handed the ledger back to Hakabhai. Hakabhai read Yogi Maharaj's writing and wryly thought, "How will this help bring the required funds?" But Yogi Maharaj suddenly said, "Come, Bapu! To the Deri. If we chant the *dhun*, Swami will send a check."

So, Hakabhai accompanied Yogi Maharaj to Akshar Deri. Yogi Maharaj put the ledger on the *charanarvind* of Bhagwan Swaminarayan in front of Akshar Deri, and placed some sanctified flowers atop the ledger. Then, Yogi Maharaj sat down and, with singular

concentration, began to chant the Swaminarayan *dhun*. An hour elapsed, and Yogi Maharaj continued chanting the *dhun* with his eyes closed in concentration. Hakabhai had run out of patience long ago, but Yogi Maharaj showed no signs of stopping.

As the clock struck noon, Morarjibhai Sheth arrived from Rajkot to the Gondal mandir. Asking the sadhus, “Where is Gnanji Swami?” he made his way to Akshar Deri. Yogi Maharaj was still engaged in *dhun*, but when Morarjibhai Sheth entered, he opened his eyes. Morarjibhai bowed at Yogi Maharaj’s feet and said, “Swami, I would like to sponsor Thakorji’s *thal* every year on this special day. Here is `1,300 for that.”

Yogi Maharaj turned to Hakabhai and said, “Look, Hakabhai! Please write a receipt for the Sheth. This check was sent by Swami.”

Hakabhai walked to the office and wrote a receipt, thinking that this Jogi Swami is definitely a miracle-maker. Just then, an envelope came via registered mail. When

Hakabhai opened it, he saw that Shastriji Maharaj had sent `2,000. Hakabhai ran to Yogi Maharaj and informed him of the good news. Yogi Maharaj rubbed his hand on his head, broke into peals of laughter, and said, “Look, now you can pay the stonemasons’ wages from these funds. Gunatit Bapa is seated here, and his writ runs around the world.”

Hakabhai marveled at the power of Yogi Maharaj’s wish! In the morning *mahapuja*, when Yogi Maharaj and Hakabhai were the only two attendees and the balance in the mandir accounts showed zero, Hakabhai would sometimes become discouraged. However, on these occasions, he realized Yogi Maharaj’s divine power.