

Chapter 18

Conqueror of Sleep

At Swamishri's insistence, Arjunbhai remained in Gondal for several days after the Annakut festival, before taking leave of Swamishri to return home. By the time the evening discourses and *cheshta* finished, it was midnight.

Arjunbhai asked Swamishri, "I have to catch the 4 a.m. train tomorrow. Who will wake me up?"

Swamishri said, "I will wake you up at exactly 3 a.m., so don't worry."

At exactly 3 a.m. the next morning, Swamishri woke up Arjunbhai and gave him a *datan*. By the time he came back from using the toilet, Swamishri had placed a bucket of hot water in the bathroom. While Arjunbhai finished his bath and puja, Swamishri had hot tea ready for him. After Arjunbhai had tea,

Swamishri took him for darshan in Akshar Deri and gave him some snacks and prasad that he had packed for the journey. Then, Swamishri sent someone from the mandir staff to the train station with Arjunbhai.

Seeing Swamishri's loving hospitality, Arjunbhai became emotional. Tears of gratitude and indebtedness towards Swamishri fell from his eyes.

He thought, "When Swamishri woke me up at 3 a.m., he had already finished his own puja. Has this great soul conquered sleep, or did he stay awake to serve someone like me?" He was overawed to witness how Swamishri had transcended the state of deep sleep.

Once during spiritual discourses, Swamishri requested Sanatan Swami to recite the third chapter of the Swamini Vato from memory. When Sanatan Swami made a mistake in one of the Vatos, Swamishri said, "When Shastriji Maharaj, Nirgun Swami, or Akshar Swami would speak, I would turn the *mala* and meditate on Shriji Maharaj. While others might

assume that Yogi is asleep, if they tell me, ‘Recite the Swamini Vato.’ Like popping popcorn, I would immediately begin reciting without the slightest hesitation.” In this way, Swamishri spoke about his own inclination.