

Chapter 14

Forsaking Greed and Worshiping God

On 28 July 1948, the Guru Punam festival was celebrated in Bochasan. Ratilal Master of Kosindra had come to this festival, and his paternal aunt had sent papad with him for Yogi Maharaj. Ratilalbhai went to Yogi Maharaj, touched his feet, and began to give him the package of papad. However, Yogi Maharaj immediately said, “Our guru, Shastriji Maharaj, is present here. Please give this to him. I can’t take it.”

Although Ratilalbhai insisted that it was meant for him, Yogi Maharaj refused to accept the papad. Instead, he led Ratilalbhai to Shastriji Maharaj and had Ratilalbhai offer the package of papad to him.

Yogi Maharaj’s unparalleled *nishkam dharma* and *vairagya* manifested in his absolute nonattachment to worldly objects.

Moreover, his devotion to the guru was so intense that whenever he was with Shastriji Maharaj, he would not accept any gift offered to him. Instead, he would direct the devotees to offer all gifts to Shastriji Maharaj.

From Bochasan, Shastriji Maharaj and Yogi Maharaj traveled by bullock cart to Randel, Gana, Madhva, and Anand before taking the motorway to Atladara.

Sometime between 27 July 1948 and 12 August 1948, Rameshbhai Dalal of Ahmedabad was traveling to Indore to meet his father. In those days, the train to Indore departed from Vadodara at 5 a.m. Thus, the night before his early morning train, Rameshbhai arrived in Atladara mandir, did *dandvats* to Shastriji Maharaj, and sat down before him. Shastriji Maharaj inquired about his visit and blessed him.

Meanwhile, Yogi Maharaj arrived, and Rameshbhai informed him that he would be leaving early the next morning for Indore. Yogi

Maharaj asked, “Have you taken any food for the road?”

Rameshbhai said, “Swami, I won’t need any.”

Hearing this, Yogi Maharaj gave a small smile.

The following day, Yogi Maharaj awoke at 3 a.m., completed his morning rituals, and prepared puri, *suki bhaji* (stir-fried potatoes), and other items. When Rameshbhai came to take Shastriji Maharaj’s leave, Yogi Maharaj handed the food basket to Rameshbhai and said, “Rameshbhai, eat this prasad during your trip.”

Despite Rameshbhai’s polite refusals, Yogi Maharaj lovingly insisted that he take the food. Whenever Rameshbhai went for Shastriji Maharaj’s darshan, Yogi Maharaj would always inquire about his welfare, feed him, talk to him, and even share some lighthearted laughter. In this way, Yogi Maharaj showered his immense love upon Rameshbhai. Witnessing Yogi

Maharaj’s motherly love so early this morning caused Rameshbhai’s eyes to well with tears.

Nishkulanand Swami has expressed this love beautifully in the *Chosath Padi*:

“Vali same same sambhāl, jāne kare harijanani re;

Evu biju kon dayāl, kã re manāy nahi manane re.”

(Moreover, on every occasion, he looks after the devotees; Who else could be so compassionate, the mind finds hard to fathom.)