

Chapter 22

Atonement for Manushyabhav

Swamishri often instructed devotees to offer *mahapuja* in Akshar Deri to resolve their problems or attain their wishes. Thus, at Swamishri's word, there was a constant flow of devotees' donations to Akshar Mandir in Gondal.

However, the construction work for the Gadhada mandir and various construction projects in other mandirs were still ongoing. As the *kothari* of every mandir suffered the pinch of financial scarcity, many sadhus felt it unfair that Yogiji Maharaj was collecting all these donations in Gondal without considering the financial welfare of other mandirs. In reality, anyone who was offering a donation throughout Satsang was doing so with the sole purpose of pleasing Swamishri. Thus, the mandirs were running solely due to him. However, everyone would conveniently forget

this important reality. Due to the meek nature that Swamishri had adopted, on occasion, many sadhus and devotees would complain to Swamishri that he was unfairly favoring Gondal. Swamishri would mutely listen to these grievances.

Once, at the instigation of several sadhus, the experienced and elderly Nana Akshar Swami chided Swamishri on this point. This was more than just a breach of propriety on Nana Akshar Swami's part, but a grave spiritual mistake. He had perceived a flaw in and rebuked the Gunatit Sant through whom Shriji Maharaj is manifest on Earth. Swamishri said nothing, but mutely listened to his rebuke.

But that night, Shastriji Maharaj appeared in Nana Akshar Swami's dream and reproached him, saying, "Why did you hurt a Sadhu like Jogi?"

Akshar Swami apologized profusely, saying, "Swami, I made a mistake."

Shastriji Maharaj told him to perform fifty-one days of fasts to atone for his mistake. At that point, Akshar Swami's eyes opened. His heart burned with remorse. He begged Swamishri for forgiveness. He placed a coconut and a packet of *sakar* at Swamishri's feet and offered his puja. Swamishri just smiled at him as if nothing untoward had occurred.

On this occasion, in Mumbai, he completed his 51st fast. Thereafter, he spoke to the devotees about Yogiji Maharaj's unparalleled glory.