

Chapter 23

The Embodiment of Suhradbhav

In Gondal, the newly ordained Dharmajivan Swami was serving as pujari. One day, around 4 p.m. he was frying puris for Thakorji's *thal*. In the middle of this, he got up to do something, and due to his inattention, he knocked over and spilled the entire pot of oil. Dharmajivan Swami stood aghast at his mistake. He was terrified that, "When Kothari Vasudevopriya Swami finds out about this, he is going to yell at me."

Just then, Vasudevopriya Swami saw the scene and immediately lost his temper. As the person in charge, and from the perspective of his attachment to the mandir, he had a right to rebuke Dharmajivan Swami. Thus, Vasudevopriya Swami had just started loudly berating Dharmajivan Swami when Swamishri walked in. He instantly realized what had happened, and, folding his hands, he told

Vasudevapriya Swami, “Kothari Maharaj! This was my mistake. I accidentally spilled the oil. Please forgive me this once. From now on, I will make sure never to do this again. This young sadhu hasn’t done anything wrong.”

What could Vasudevapriya Swami say? After delivering a few words of restrained rebuke admonishing Yogiji Maharaj for his carelessness, he left.

Swamishri then turned to Dharmajivan Swami and brightly said, “Come on, Guru! Let’s quickly clean this up.”

Although Dharmajivan Swami did not let Swamishri help in the cleanup, Swamishri’s actions in covering up his mistake and taking the blame upon himself became one of Dharmajivan Swami’s cherished memories. Swamishri was truly an embodiment of *suhradbhav*.