

# Chapter 14

## “If One Gets Spoiled, the Other Will Come in Handy”

After spending two days in Gondal, Shastriji Maharaj and Yogi Maharaj traveled to Ganod for a *parayan*.

At the time, Labhshankar Nagardas Rajyaguru of Bhavnagar was on vacation, so he had come to Gondal. Yogi Maharaj brought him along to Ganod for the *parayan*. Usually, Shastriji Maharaj kept Yogi Maharaj with him whenever he traveled in the villages populated by Darbars. This was because Yogi Maharaj’s *paramhansa*-style pure life and his affectionate and hospitable nature naturally won the Darbars over. Moreover, Yogi Maharaj would also look after the youths and devotees accompanying them so that Shastriji Maharaj would not need to worry about their arrangements.

The *parayan* in Ganod was spectacular. After its conclusion, Labhshankarbhai had to reach Bantva. Shastriji Maharaj had already given him leave to go. Labhshankarbhai was going to his room to collect his belongings when he met Yogi Maharaj. Yogi Maharaj called him and affectionately asked, “When are you leaving?” Labhshankarbhai shared his program, and Yogi Maharaj said, “Come meet me before you leave.”

When Labhshankarbhai went to take his leave, he found Yogi Maharaj preparing a package of *ganthiya*, *sukhadi*, and other snacks. He wrapped a saffron cloth around the items to create a large package, handed it to Labhshankarbhai, and said, “Don’t eat anything from the food stalls on the way home. If you are delayed and you feel hungry, then eat this prasad. If we follow the rules of dharma, Maharaj will be pleased with us.” While saying this, Yogi Maharaj prepared a second package of food for him!

Labhshankarbhai reasoned, “One package of food is enough for me. Keep the other package here.”

Yogi Maharaj lovingly insisted, “Take them both. If one gets spoiled, the other will come in handy.”

Before Yogi Maharaj’s affection, he did not argue further. By the time he reached Shahpur Junction, he was quite hungry. His connecting train was not arriving for some time, so he sat on the railway platform and opened up one of the food packages. Exactly at that time, the engine on the opposite track let out a rush of steam with such intensity that Labhshankarbhai and the open package of food were completely drenched. Labhshankarbhai became agitated by this unexpected hardship, but he soon calmed down and changed out of his wet clothes. In his agitation, he had forgotten about the second package of food, but as he calmed down, he remembered it. Moreover, he recalled Yogi Maharaj’s loving

expression and his insistent words that, “If one gets spoiled, the other will come in handy.”

How could youths forget such pure love and amazing enchantment that they experienced in Yogi Maharaj’s presence? When they attained more affection, comfort, and loving guidance from Yogi Maharaj than from even their mothers, it was no surprise that their youthful hearts would develop the conviction of divinity in this great Yogiraj.

After the conclusion of the *parayan* in Ganod, Shastriji Maharaj and Yogi Maharaj traveled to Varjang Jaliya, Upleta, Manavadar, Panchala, Loj, Mangrol, Keshod, Agatrai, Akha, Piplana, Junagadh, Jetalsar, Dhasa, and Botad before arriving in Sarangpur. About twenty-five sadhus and fifty devotees accompanied Shastriji Maharaj on this pilgrimage. Everyone had good darshan at each of these pilgrimage places. They were able to further understand Maharaj’s limitless glory, and they also availed of Shastriji Maharaj’s and Yogi Maharaj’s penetrating talks. Thus, everyone felt they had

attained great spiritual benefit by going on this holy pilgrimage.

Then, after celebrating Guru Punam in Bochasan, Yogi Maharaj visited the home of Ramchandra Thakar in Nadiad. His entire family was overjoyed. Yogi Maharaj summoned Dattram Barot’s son, Ghanshyambhai, and expressed a wish to have darshan of their sanctified house.

Ghanshyambhai made all the arrangements, and soon Yogi Maharaj arrived with a group of sadhus and devotees. Bhagatji Maharaj had visited this home many times. He had sat on and sanctified a swing and a chair that Ghanshyambhai kept preserved in the house. Yogi Maharaj was very pleased to see the sanctified swing and chair. Yogi Maharaj told Dattram Barot to name the room where Bhagatji Maharaj had eaten *dudhpak*, Akshar Ordi. Yogi Maharaj also had darshan of that sanctified room. Then, Yogi Maharaj had Ghanshyambhai describe in detail the incident in which Bhagatji Maharaj had vanished from

the loft and instantly appeared in the mandir, and how Dattram Barot had gone to the mandir to bring Bhagatji Maharaj back so that he could offer his puja. Ecstatic to hear such incidents and have such darshan, Yogi Maharaj swayed from side to side and said, “That same Bhagatji Maharaj is today manifest in Shastriji Maharaj.” Yogi Maharaj spoke with great conviction and enthusiasm, and his words brought everyone joy. Each time Yogi Maharaj visited Nadiad, he would invariably come to Dattram Barot’s house for darshan.

From here, Yogi Maharaj visited Kheda on 28 June 1947 (Ashadh *sud* 10, V.S. 2003) before arriving at Ranchhodbhai’s farm in Anand.