

Chapter 14

Jogi Will Complete the Gadhpur Mandir

Shastriji Maharaj decided to travel to Sarangpur for the Fuldol festival despite his serious illness. By the time Shastriji Maharaj arrived in Sarangpur on 13 March 1948, news of his extremely delicate health had reached the entire Satsang community. Thus, everyone rushed to Sarangpur with bated breath. Kuberbhai and the *satsangis* of Bhavnagar came to Sarangpur for Shastriji Maharaj's darshan and to inquire about his health. Seeing Shastriji Maharaj's illness, Kuberbhai began to weep.

Soon, Yogi Maharaj and the sadhus who had been traveling in the villages also arrived in Sarangpur and, after doing *dandvats*, sat down before Shastriji Maharaj. Shastriji Maharaj said, "Look, Jogi has arrived! Now, we will feel better. Now, when prominent devotees such as

yourself arrive, I will no longer need to worry about who will take care them!” In this way, Shastriji Maharaj showed his favor for Yogi Maharaj.

Then, Kuberbhai asked, “On one hand, you are assuming this illness yourself, while on the other hand, you talk about procuring land for a *shikharbaddha mandir* in Gadhada! I cannot make sense of your *lila*. So, if you are serious about acquiring land in Gadhada, then please improve your health.”

Shastriji Maharaj said, “It is not as if I am about to go to Akshardham! It is just a little episode of arthritis and shortness of breath, but after listening to your prayer, even that is over. Now, let’s talk about the Gadhpur land acquisition.”

Then he shared with everyone the discussions that had taken place with Collector Chudasma Saheb about building the mandir on the Dattatreya Dhar land. Kuberbhai said, “If you want to build a mandir in Gadhpur, you will have to appoint a shrewd and capable

mahant who can shoulder the responsibility of completing the mandir construction.”

Immediately, Shastriji Maharaj took his upper garment off his shoulders, draped it around Yogi Maharaj, and said, “The Gadhada mandir will be completed by Jogi Maharaj. He is the Mahant of Gadhpur! Just as we have begged for alms to complete all these mandirs, Jogi Maharaj will do the same to complete this Gadhada mandir.”

Then, Shastriji Maharaj stood up, embraced Yogi Maharaj, and said, “Kuberbhai! Are you happy now?”

Kuberbhai replied, “We are all extremely pleased you have made a sadhu like Jogi Maharaj the mahant, but what can Jogi Maharaj alone do without you? You will have to cast away your illness and, staying with him, work together to complete the mandir.”

Hearing this, Shastriji Maharaj stuck out his chest and, as if there was not the slightest illness in his body, said, “I am forever within

him, and he is also not separate from me. We will do whatever pleases you.”

Then, he asked for the architectural drawings that he had made of the Gadhada mandir to be brought to him. He showed the plans to Kuberbhai and said, “Due to the hillock, the land for the mandir is on a height. So, we want to keep the plinth of the mandir low, like the Ahmedabad mandir.”

Kuberbhai said, “Swami Bapa! This will be our last mandir, so it should be such that visiting *satsangis* should see the mandir flags from 20 miles away and say amongst themselves, ‘Over there you can see the flags of the majestic mandir of Akshar Purushottam Maharaj.’ So, don’t make the mandir’s plinth low.”

Shastriji Maharaj replied, “Now I am old, and I can’t climb too many steps. Thus, I wanted to keep the plinth low. But since it is your wish, we will make the plinth high. From the Ghela River to the mandir we will build a staircase of 125 steps.”

In this way, Shastriji Maharaj pleased Kuberbhai and all the devotees. Then, Shastriji Maharaj reclined on his cot and instructed Shastri Narayanswarupdasji to read aloud from the Bhaktachintamani.