

Chapter 11

Fasting Brings out the Flavor of Immortalizing Nectar

While Shastriji Maharaj was in Gondal, a devotee came to him with a wish to sponsor a feast. Shastriji Maharaj called Yogi Maharaj and asked him to prepare the meal. Whether it was the responsibility of preparing a sponsored feast, taking care of devotees, or offering *thal*, *arti*, *puja*, or *mahapuja*, Shastriji Maharaj would always seek out Yogi Maharaj. The devotee who had sponsored the feast was very happy with the food that Yogi Maharaj had prepared for Thakorji's *thal*. Yogi Maharaj also fed that devotee with great love. After the devotees finished lunch, they sat in the afternoon discourse.

Suddenly, mid-discourse, Shastriji Maharaj asked, "Where is Yogi Maharaj?"

When nobody responded, he instructed several devotees, “Find out whether he has eaten lunch.”

The devotees found Yogi Maharaj washing utensils outside the kitchen. They told him, “Shastriji Maharaj is inquiring whether you have eaten?”

Yogiji Maharaj laughed and said, “Today, I am fasting!”

The devotees were astonished and bowed before Yogi Maharaj’s inclination for austerities because today was the twelfth day of the lunar month, and just yesterday, Yogi Maharaj had performed a waterless fast for Ekadashi. In this way, Yogi Maharaj must have performed consecutive waterless fasts on countless occasions without letting anyone find out. Today, Shastriji Maharaj had asked the question so that everyone would realize that this sadhu, who everyone called “Jogi,” was not a yogi in name only.

The devotees informed Shastriji Maharaj about their discovery and pleaded with him to get Yogi Maharaj to break his fast. However, Shastriji Maharaj replied, “You are perceiving hardship in this, but just look at the joyous enthusiasm radiating from Jogi’s face! He is truly the Jogi of Junagadh. On the day of a fast, he experiences burps of immortalizing nectar.”

Shastriji Maharaj’s response inspired even greater reverence for this great Jogi. Yogi Maharaj’s singular wish was to please God and guru by practicing the zeal for austerities that Shriji Maharaj has spoken of in the Vachanamrut. Thus, he would repeatedly endure thirst and hunger in his stringent practice of austerities.