

# Chapter 11

## **The Grace to Take the Blame for the Mistakes of Others**

Shastriji Maharaj and Nirgundas Swami had come to Gondal for the Sharad Purnima festival. Many devotees also began to arrive from far and wide. Preparing meals for everyone was always a struggle due to the shortage of sadhus and the large amount of work required. Amidst such difficulties, one day, Baldevcharandas Swami accidentally knocked over a large pot of ghee. He was aghast at his mistake. It was hard enough to make ends meet in the mandir, so he knew it would be difficult to replace so much ghee spilled just before the festival. Just then, Nirgundas Swami walked into the kitchen.

Nirgundas Swami had a strong sense of stewardship for all of Satsang. Moreover, he was strict by nature and would not tolerate careless waste of Satsang resources. Thus, he

began to rebuke Baldevcharandas Swami for his carelessness. Baldevcharandas Swami stood silent with his head bowed. Hearing Nirgundas Swami's voice, Yogi Maharaj came out of the adjacent storeroom and instantly realized what had happened. Seeing Yogi Maharaj, Nirgundas Swami complained, "Just look at this! He spilled all this ghee. With the festival soon to begin, how do you expect to get more ghee?"

Yogi Maharaj replied, "Swami, this sadhu is not at fault. I accidentally knocked this pot over and spilled all the ghee." Yogi Maharaj very naturally shouldered the blame for the other sadhu's mistake.

Nirgundas Swami instantly became milder in his reproach and said, "Well, then you should look where you're going." Yogi Maharaj stood before him with folded hands. Nirgundas Swami uttered a few more words of rebuke and then left.

Hakabhai Khachar witnessed the entire incident from a distance. After Nirgundas Swami left, Hakabhai approached Yogi

Maharaj. He had developed a deep love for the ever-accommodating Jogi Swami. Thus, he asked Yogi Maharaj, “Swami, you didn’t spill this ghee; so, why did you take the blame for it?”

“Bapu, we will be able to get more ghee. But if this sadhu feels bad and leaves, then what will we do?” The respect that Yogi Maharaj had for sadhus was evident in his answer.

Hakabhai replied, “But, when Nirgundas Swami repeatedly rebukes you, why do you tolerate everything with a smile?”

Yogi Maharaj grinned and said, “Guru! We must believe ourselves to be *aksharrup*. Then, we would not see anyone as inferior or superior to us. So, Hakabhai, if you believe yourself to be Aksharrup, then all of this will be insignificant to you.” Realizing that the wisdom of Aksharbrahma Gunatitanand Swami was woven into Yogi Maharaj’s life, Hakabhai mentally bowed before him.