

Chapter 3

Saving a Goldsmith Devotee from a Crime Against God

Once, Devchandbhai went to Gadhada for darshan. The mandir's *kothari* asked if he knew of a good goldsmith in Dhari who could prepare a set of gold ornaments for Thakorji. Devchandbhai replied, "There is a *satsangi* goldsmith in Dhari. If you wish, I can send him here."

As the *kothari* expressed interest, Devchandbhai returned to Dhari and requested the goldsmith to visit Gadhada. When the goldsmith arrived in Gadhaha, the *kothari* tasked him with creating new ornaments for Thakorji. As was customary at the time, Thakorji's gold ornaments were always crafted on the mandir premises to prevent theft. However, while making the ornaments, the *satsangi* goldsmith pilfered some of the gold and took it back to Dhari. Soon after he

returned home, he encountered a family crisis and unforeseen hardships in his business. These unexpected difficulties opened his eyes to his error, and he experienced intense remorse for stealing from Thakorji. Not knowing what else to do, he confessed his crime to Devchandbhai.

The young Jhinabhai, who was standing next to Devchandbhai when the goldsmith confessed, immediately exclaimed, “Oh Mahajan! You can’t take what is Thakorji’s. Now, you must return what you took with interest! Maharaj is very compassionate. He doesn’t look at the faults of his devotees who have repented. So, go straight to Gadhada and return what you have taken!”

Jhinabhai’s sincerity touched the goldsmith, and he felt that Bhagwan Swaminarayan must be speaking through this child. So, he immediately traveled to Gadhada, begged forgiveness from the *kothari*, and returned what he had taken with interest. The *kothari* was pleased with his change of heart.

This child devotee's timely advice saved the goldsmith from sinning against God. The goldsmith experienced a sense of peace, and soon, his business and family difficulties were resolved.