

Chapter 13

Forever Beyond the Body

After Vaishakh Punam, Shastriji Maharaj and Yogi Maharaj traveled to Gana, Ranoli, Anjesar, and other villages until they reached Mirsapura. They stayed at the mandir together with the large group of sadhus and devotees traveling with them.

During their travels, Yogi Maharaj generally assumed the responsibility of preparing meals for everyone. So, even after *cheshta*, he would remain busy in the kitchen cleaning up and preparing for the following day. Thus, he usually went to bed after everyone else.

This also happened in Mirsapura, where Yogi Maharaj went to retire for the night around 11:30 p.m. By then, every square inch of the mandir was occupied by sleeping sadhus and devotees. There was not even a blanket left for Yogi Maharaj. So, Yogi Maharaj quietly went outside, laid out his upper garment atop a

small pile of discarded rice straw under a tree, and went to sleep. But before long, he felt something rustling underneath him. Several times, Yogi Maharaj got up and looked around, but in the dark, he could not discover the cause of the movement. Thus, Yogi Maharaj went back to sleep.

In the morning, when Yogi Maharaj got up and lifted his upper cloth off the pile of rice straw, a large black cobra emerged and quickly slithered away. Many sadhus and devotees saw this and informed Shastriji Maharaj.

Shastriji Maharaj called all the sadhus and rebuked them, “You should lay out a bedroll for a senior *sant* like Jogi Maharaj. How could you go to sleep without leaving a spot for him?”

The sadhus apologized to Yogi Maharaj, who forever disregarded all bodily comforts.