

# Chapter 13

## Impatience for God’s Darshan

A few days later, there was going to be a lunar eclipse. Seeing that Yogi Maharaj wished to observe the eclipse in Gadhada, Shastriji Maharaj happily said, “Jogi’s wish is my wish.”

Everyone happily prepared to travel to Gadhada, but for some reason, Yogi Maharaj had to delay his departure from Sarangpur. Shastriji Maharaj arrived in Gadhada early, and after doing darshan at the Gopinathji mandir and Lakshmi Vadi, he went to his accommodations in the Aiyar square.

By the time Yogi Maharaj had arrived, Thakorji had gone to sleep, and the mandir doors were closed. Yogi Maharaj went to the accommodations, but without darshan, he began to experience agitation. According to the monastic vows, whenever a sadhu enters a village with a mandir, he can’t take any food or water before having darshan in the mandir.

Thus, Yogi Maharaj did not eat or drink anything. Soon, the prohibitory period of the eclipse would set in, during which one could not consume food. Thus, Yogi Maharaj would have had to perform a full day fast.

Shastriji Maharaj realized that “The inability to have darshan has left Jogi unsettled.” Thus, Shastriji Maharaj led Yogi Maharaj to the house’s top floor and had Yogi Maharaj do darshan of the flags atop the spires of the Gopinathji mandir. Then he said, “The scriptures say that if one is unable to have darshan of the mandir’s *murtis*, the same spiritual merit is derived from darshan of the mandir’s flags.”

At Shastriji Maharaj’s word, Yogi Maharaj did darshan of the flags, offered *dandvats*, and only then drank some water.

From Gadhada, they went to Bhavnagar and Ahmedabad and arrived in Atladara in mid-July 1945. On 12 July 1945 (Ashadh sud 3, V.S. 2001), the *murtis* of Akshar Purushottam Maharaj were installed in Atladara mandir with

a grand ceremony. The entire region of Kanam was suffused with excitement. Yogi Maharaj spent the following month traveling through the villages before returning to Atladara. On 23 August 1945 (Shravan Punam), they had planned to go to Bochasan. However, as Shastriji Maharaj was unwell, Yogi Maharaj requested, “Swami, please remain in Atladara. Nirgun Swami and I will go to Bochasan for the festival.”

Shastriji Maharaj happily assented, but at 3:00 a.m., he suddenly sat up in his bed and said, “Come on, I want to go to Bochasan.” Everyone got ready and left together for Bochasan, where the Punam festival was celebrated in a splendid fashion.

At the end of August 1945, Shastriji Maharaj did a *parayan* on the *Satsangijivan* in Ahmedabad’s Sarjudas Hall. Following the *parayan*, Shastriji Maharaj traveled to Atladara while Yogi Maharaj and Nirgundas Swami remained in Ahmedabad. Then, Yogi Maharaj celebrated Sharad Punam, Diwali, and Annakut

in Gondal and traveled to Bochasan for the Kartik Punam festival.

Meanwhile, Nirgundas Swami's health had deteriorated. Yet, since he had an intense desire to have Shastriji Maharaj's darshan, he was brought to Bochasan in a stretcher. When he had Shastriji Maharaj's darshan, he began to cry. Shastriji Maharaj consoled him.