

Chapter 12

Satisfying the Spiritual Hunger of Rural Youth

Yogi Maharaj attended to all the physical and spiritual needs of the devotees who had come for the Sharad Punam festival.

Mohanbhai, a young devotee from Ramod, had come to Gondal for the festival. His grandfather, Haribhai, was a disciple of Krishnacharandas Swami of Junagadh. Haribhai had told his grandson, “A sadhu from Krishnacharandas Swami’s *mandal* by the name of Gnajivandasji, but popularly known as Jogi, has joined with Shastriji Maharaj in Bochasan. He has a strong inclination for austerities, and he possesses all the saintly virtues. You should go for darshan of that sadhu.”

Remembering these words, Mohanbhai had come to Gondal. As he was walking up the steps to the assembly hall, he saw a sadhu standing

across from him. Mohanbhai asked, “Is there a sadhu here by the name of Gnanjivan Swami, or Jogi, who used to be part of Krishnacharandas Swami’s *mandal* in Junagadh?”

The sadhu smiled and said, “That is me!”

Laughing heartily, Yogi Maharaj asked for Mohanbhai’s introduction and offered him a warm welcome. He insisted that Mohanbhai have lunch. Mohanbhai replied, “Well, Swami, to be honest, I am actually quite hungry, but since it is so late, I thought that I should not trouble you...”

Yogi Maharaj went into the kitchen and saw that no food was left. However, the *thal* offered to Thakorji was sitting untouched. Yogi Maharaj served the sanctified food from the *thal* to Mohanbhai. Witnessing Yogi Maharaj’s affection and saintliness, Mohanbhai experienced great joy. From then, he would regularly attend the festivals celebrated in Gondal. Through his association with Yogi

Maharaj, he understood the true knowledge of Akshar Purushottam.