

# Chapter 14

## **An Exceptional Gift of Decorum**

Shastriji Maharaj and Yogi Maharaj spent two days in Gondal. On 13 May 1949, Shastriji Maharaj woke at 2 a.m. and said, “I want to go to Mekhadi. Get ready.”

Everyone got ready and reach the train station. They took the 4 a.m. train to Keshod. Shastriji Maharaj wished to travel to the five pilgrimage places of Sorath.

Accompanying Shastriji Maharaj were Nirgundas Swami, Yogi Maharaj, Aksharpriyadas Swami, Gondal mandir’s Kothari Bhaktipriyadas Swami (of Limbasi), and other sadhus as well as Vinayakrav Saheb, Mohanlal Odhavji (Mombasa), Mohanlal Purushottam Popat (Jinja), and others. From Keshod, they traveled to Mangrol and Loj before arriving in Mekhadi.

As Mekhadi was the native village of Mohanbhai Odhavjibhai, who was currently residing in Mombasa, they all stayed at his house. Everyone gathered for the evening assembly. Dinner was still being made. Because of his delicate health, Shastriji Maharaj could not deliver the discourses. Moreover, Nirgundas Swami was also exhausted, and he was lying down in the adjacent room. The devotees expected Yogi Maharaj to deliver discourses in the evening assembly, but he was concerned about who would cook dinner for everyone. If someone else delivered discourses, he would be able to cook everyone's dinner. Otherwise, everyone would have to sleep hungry. Yet, remembering God, he began delivering discourses. He started narrating an incident and then said, "Nirgundas Swami would be able to narrate this incident much better than me."

Hearing this from the adjacent room, Nirgundas Swami came to the assembly and said, "Which incident are you narrating?" Then,

Nirgundas Swami sat on the seat and narrated the incident in detail. Yogi Maharaj quietly slipped away into the kitchen! Yogi Maharaj had an exceptional gift of motivating others while not deviating from proper decorum.

The next day, everyone was sitting in the spiritual discourses after lunch. Since a physical copy of the Vachanamrut was unavailable, Yogi Maharaj looked toward Shastriji Maharaj. Understanding Shastriji Maharaj's wishes from the slightest gesture of his eyes, Yogi Maharaj proceeded to recite four Vachanamruts from memory.

From Mekhadi, they reached Panchala at 6 p.m. Ba Saheb, the village matriarch, had deep devotion for Yogi Maharaj. So, through her administrator and Madhavjibhai, she requested that the sadhus spend two days in Panchala.

Shastriji Maharaj stayed here for two days and granted the sadhus and devotees the divine bliss of his discourses. Yogi Maharaj narrated the divine incidents of Bhagwan Swaminarayan that had taken place in Panchala. Moreover, he

inspired the visiting Police Patel of Balagam to accept initiation into Satsang.

Yogi Maharaj sent a letter to Vallabhbbhai, Bhagwanjibhai, Kanjibhai Solanki, and the other devotees of Manavadar *mandal*, stating, “Shastriji Maharaj, Nirgundas Swami, and other sadhus, as well as Vinayakrav Saheb of Ahmedabad, are traveling with us. So, please come to Balagam with a car, which Shastriji Maharaj and the others will ride to Manavadar.”

Accordingly, Shastriji Maharaj and the sadhus traveled by car to Balagam, where they visited and sanctified the devotees’ homes.

All the devotees of this region had immense love for Yogi Maharaj. Thus, the Kumbhar devotees also had the sadhus visit their homes the next day.

In the afternoon, Shastriji Maharaj, Nirgundas Swami, Yogi Maharaj, and Vinayakrav Saheb traveled by car to Manavadar, while the rest of the sadhus and

devotees traveled to Manavadar in two bullock carts. In Manavadar, they stayed at the home of Kanjibhai Mistry.