

Chapter 23

Illuminating the Intellect Through the Whetstone of Experience

Around this time, the father of Dr. Maganbhai of Bharuch fell ill in his native village of Avidha. One night, a villager from Avidha suddenly showed up at Maganbhai's house in Bharuch and informed him, "Your father, Desaibhai, has fallen unconscious, and we are afraid that these may be his final moments."

They were in the middle of a torrential downpour, and Bharuch is twenty-two miles from Avidha. As Maganbhai prepared to go to Avidha, he was assailed by many thoughts. If anything happened to his father, then the responsibility of taking care of the entire family would fall on his shoulders. If this happened, then his ambitions to progress further in his profession would go up in smoke. So, he began to silently and fervently pray to Swamishri.

Although Maganbhai was a firm believer in seeing everything only through the lens of logic and intellect, today, he had suddenly become a man of faith! Suddenly, he saw an unexplained multicolored radiance, within which he had Swamishri's darshan. He was stunned speechless. Although his brain wasn't willing to process this vision, it was impossible for him to deny what he was witnessing before his very own eyes. Then, Swamishri spoke, "Maganbhai! Don't worry. Go to your village and administer some medicine to your father. He will be fine."

Maganbhai stood up and folded his hands. Again he heard Swamishri say, "Shriji Maharaj had come to take him to Akshardham, but we prayed, 'Let him stay for another ten years. Maganbhai has great need of him.' Thus, Shriji Maharaj mercifully granted him another decade of life."

At the same instant in Avidha, Desaibhai regained consciousness, sat up and began to say, "He has come to take me. I want to go."

His mother was very wise. She said, “Hold his hand and take him. Where do you want to go?”

His relatives helped him stand up, and with their help, he went out to the balcony. Holding on to a pillar for support, Desaibhai said, “Shriji Maharaj is refusing. Now he is telling me that he doesn’t want to take me.” With those words, he returned to his bed and lay down.

Meanwhile, after having Swamishri’s darshan, Maganbhai immediately set out for Avidha. When he reached his house, he learned of the divine vision his father had seen. These two simultaneous occurrences changed Maganbhai’s entire perspective. He immediately checked his father’s vital signs and gave him an injection of the appropriate medication. In a few days, he was well on his way to recovery.

Being both a physician and a student of the Dharmashastras, Maganbhai was averse to any type of personal dishonesty. From his

extraordinary experience, he began to tell everyone, “Yogiji Maharaj has won over Swaminarayan Bhagwan. Moreover, by his wish, today, despite this Kali Yuga, Swaminarayan Bhagwan comes to fetch his followers to his divine abode and grants others this darshan so they will realize this fact. This is the absolute truth.”

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After celebrating the Jal-Jhilani festival in Sarangpur, on 18 September 1954 (Bhadarva *vad* 6, V.S. 2010), Swamishri arrived in Gadhada. After having darshan of all the sanctified spots, Swamishri came to the mandir atop the hill. Swamishri was very pleased to see the newly completed steps from the mandir all the way down to the banks of the Ghela River. His delight was because Shastriji Maharaj had made plans to construct steps from the mandir to the riverbank. Seeing his guru’s wish fulfilled, of course Swamishri would be delighted! The steps from the Ghela River to the mandir were well made and pleasing to look

at. Swamishri enthusiastically blessed Kothari Harijivan Swami for the completion of this work. Swamishri remained in Gadhada for four days, pleasing the devotees of the surrounding villages.