

Chapter 5

In the Lineage of the ‘Jogi’ of Junagadh

In accordance with his beautiful new name of Gnanjivandas, this pure-hearted young sadhu saw everyone through the divine vision of Brahman as per the aphorism, “*Drushtim jnānmayim krutvā pashyed Brahmamayam jagat.*” (Having made your vision full of wisdom, see the world as full of Brahman.)

In that era, the renunciation and *vairagya* of the sadhus of Junagadh was unmatched and praised in both Vartal and Ahmedabad dioceses. In order to please God, Gnanjivan Swami began a strict regimen of austerities by observing a waterless fast every third day. During the holy four months of Chaturmas he enthusiastically began the difficult observances of *taptakruchchha*, *chandrayan*, *dharana-parana*, etc. Moreover, as soon as he discovered that someone was sponsoring a

feast, he would observe a waterless fast that day. He would never drink milk or add even a drop of ghee to his food. He didn’t like sweets. He preferred *rotla*, dal, *chhas*, and other foods, which he would eat while remembering God. He slept on a strip of sackcloth using only his arm as a pillow. Truly, Bhagwan Swaminarayan’s grace is showered upon such a true renunciant who is free from worldly desires.

As mentioned in Vachanamrut Gadhada III 11, Gnajivan Swami had conquered his senses from his childhood through the observance of *niyams* and austerities. He was radiant with the brilliance of *brahmacharya*. Due to his limitless austerities, the sadhus of Junagadh began to affectionately call him by the name of ‘Jogi’. It was clear that the light of Junagadh’s Jogi, Gunatitanand Swami, continued to shine today through Gnajivan Swami! Gnajivan Swami would, in his later years, often say, “We have not mastered hatha yoga. We have not performed *yama*, *niyam*, *asana*, *pranayama*,

etc. But in Junagadh, we used to perform strict austerities, which led everyone to call me, Jogi.”

This ‘Jogi’, who remained immersed in the practice of *vairagya*, had made service his life’s motto. As soon as he reached Junagadh following his initiation as a sadhu, he again enthusiastically joined in various *sevas* around the mandir. Seeing him perform *seva* with single-minded focus and absolute disregard for his body while living the highest ideals of *atmanishtha*, the *sadgurus* of Junagadh were convinced that this small Gnanji Swami was surely some great soul.

Gnanjivan Swami was in Krishnacharandas Swami’s *mandal* together with the *bhandari*, Sadhu Hariprasaddas. Gnanjivan Swami had resolved to learn how to be a *bhandari*. So, he requested Hariprasad Swami, “Swami, please teach me how to cook.” Hariprasad Swami was very pleased to see this sadhu show interest in learning to cook. In a very short time,

Gnanjivan Swami learned to cook many items from Hariprasad Swami.¹

¹ Many years later, when Yogiji Maharaj would go to Junagadh for darshan, he would go to the individual seats of each sadhu and meet them. He would especially meet with Hariprasad Swami. Hariprasad Swami would often say, “Swami, you remember don’t you! I taught you how to cook!”

Yogiji Maharaj would laugh, clap his hands and replied “Yes, Swami! Of course, I remember. How can I forget!” Yogiji Maharaj would then please Hariprasad Swami by instructing his devotees to offer a suitable donation to him.