

Chapter 12

Other Than Jogi, Who Else Will Come Through for Me?

Late one night in Sarangpur, everyone was fast asleep. The night's tranquil atmosphere furthered the natural divinity of this holy place. Suddenly, Shastriji Maharaj, who was sleeping on a cot in the courtyard, opened his eyes to see a group of seventy-five devotees milling around.

“Welcome,” said Shastriji Maharaj as he sat up in his cot. “What brings you here at this time of night?”

“Bapa, our bus broke down on the way to Kariyani, so we came here to spend the night.”

“Very good, you are most welcome here. This is your mandir. Did you have dinner?”

“No, Bapa. But we don't want to trouble you this late at night. It is already 1:30 a.m.”

Shastriji Maharaj laughed and said, “What trouble is there for us sadhus? This is a golden opportunity for us to serve!”

Shastriji Maharaj thought that with everyone tired and sleeping after a long day’s work, they would be reluctant to prepare a meal for seventy-five devotees right now. Then he thought of ‘Jogi,’ and a broad smile spread across his face. He asked the devotees to sit for a bit, and he went to wake Yogi Maharaj. Bhagwatswarupdas Swami slept next to Yogi Maharaj, and when he heard some rustling in the dark, he asked, “Who is it?”

Shastriji Maharaj said, “I need Jogi’s help. A group of devotees has come, and we need to feed them.”

Bhagwatswarupdas Swami told Shastriji Maharaj, “O compassionate one! He has just gone to sleep at 1 a.m. after turning the *mala*. Moreover, he will wake up by 3 a.m. He never sleeps in the afternoon. It would be good if he gets some rest right now.”

“But Bhagwatswarupda’! Other than Jogi, who else will come through for me?” Shastriji Maharaj poignantly added, “Right now, only Jogi will maintain my honor. So, let me wake him up.”

Bhagwatswarupdas Swami countered, “But what if we just feed the devotees in the morning?”

But for someone who was always a light sleeper, how would it be possible for Yogi Maharaj to remain asleep when this dialogue was occurring next to him? He immediately got up, folded his hands, and stood before Shastriji Maharaj. Seeing him, Shastriji Maharaj was overcome with joy and said, “Aho, Jogi! Let’s go. We have to prepare a meal....”

With an enthusiastic “Of course, Swami!”, ‘Jogi’ girded up his loins in preparation for this midnight service. Day or night, Yogi Maharaj’s enthusiasm to subject his body to the hardships and vagaries of service to God and his devotees remained just as fresh after all the devotees finished their meal at 3 a.m.!