

# Chapter 9

## Manifest Devotion

Despite being a repository of infinite virtues, due to the devotional sentiments overflowing in Yogi Maharaj's heart, he delighted only in serving at the holy feet of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. He possessed a singular goal in his life—to offer *ekantik bhakti* to Bhagwan Swaminarayan. Immersed in such devotion, Yogi Maharaj saw nothing beyond Bhagwan Swaminarayan and Swami. Absorbed in singular devotion to Shri Hari, Yogi Maharaj would worship the divine *murti* by smearing it with sandalwood paste, offering incense and lighted wicks, and singing *thals* while serving a variety of food items that he had prepared. Yogi Maharaj experienced immense joy from engaging in these devotional activities. Just as he was singularly devoted to Shriji Maharaj, he bore the same devotion to his guru Shastriji Maharaj. He had attained the spiritual essence

of “*Yasya deve parābhakti...*” (One should offer devotion to the God-realized guru just as one offers devotion to God) as described in the Upanishads and commanded by Shriji Maharaj.

Once, Shastriji Maharaj, Yogi Maharaj, Nirgundas Swami, Kuberbhai, and others were visiting Nanjibhai Mistry’s house in Bhavnagar. It was high summer, which is the prime season for mangos. Nanjibhai Mistry had ordered the highest quality of mangos from Dholka to offer to Shastriji Maharaj. Yogi Maharaj washed the mangos and offered them to Thakorji. Then, he gave a mango to Shastriji Maharaj and requested, “Swami, Kuberbhai and Nanjibhai are insisting that these mangos are delicious, so please partake of them.”

Shastriji Maharaj took a mango in one hand and began sucking on its crushed pulp through a small opening on top. With his other hand, he held Thakorji while Nanjibhai Mistry offered puja and performed *arti* of the *murti*. Kuberbhai remarked, “Do darshan of this

beautiful *murti*. You won't get such a chance again."

Recalling this incident, Yogi Maharaj wrote in his diary, "Shastriji Maharaj continued sucking on the mango until the *arti* finished, and we continued doing his darshan. I can remember it like it happened today."