

Chapter 23

The Service of Stringing a Cot

Swamishri had written a letter to Kantibhai Bhailalbhai Patel of Bhadran requesting him to attend the Punam festival with G.K. Swami in Gondal. Swamishri had called him to get his help in stringing a cot. Swamishri would sit on one side of the cot to pull the rope taut, while he sat Kantibhai on the other side to do the same.

Swamishri told Kantibhai, “Make sure you pull the rope with all your might, because I won’t be able to pull it very hard.”

Kantibhai said, “Bapa, don’t you worry, I will pull with the strength that has been granted to me by you.”

Then Swamishri and Kantibhai sat opposite each other and began to string the cot. As he pulled the rope, Swamishri said, “Because Mota Swami will be attending the festival, I am

preparing this cot for him. Moreover, many devotees will come to the festival. We will have to ensure that we have made proper arrangements for their *datan*, tea, breakfast, spiced milk, and anything else they will need. So you should also help out in that *seva*. You will not get the opportunity for this type of service in the future. This type of service is extremely difficult to attain even for great devas.”

Kantibhai was stunned to see Swamishri's devotional sentiments and divine perspective regarding the service of devotees.