

Chapter 24

Jogi Won!

Swamishri arrived in Prantij, which was considered a bastion of the Nar-Narayan Dev Gadi. However, a courageous devotee by the name of Hariprasad Mulchand Shah lived there at the time, and before him, the *brahmacharis* of the Nar-Narayan Dev Gadi could do little more than mutter discontentedly.

The local devotees welcomed Swamishri at the village outskirts and led him into the village in a festive procession. Babubhai had sponsored a meal for Swamishri and his entourage. Because a large quantity of food needed to be prepared, the sadhus required the use of the mandir facilities for cooking. However, the *brahmacharis* of the Nar-Narayan Dev Gadi would not cooperate.

The organizing devotees pleaded with them until, finally, the *brahmacharis* allowed them to set up a small stove and other cooking

facilities in a tiny part of the kitchen. The sadhus accompanying Swamishri were preparing the meal when the leader, Brahmachari Nilkanthanandji, stormed into the kitchen and bellowed, “You have defiled this kitchen. You all are a congregation of charlatans. You show no respect to the spiritual protocols of the deity and behave according to your own whims. I won’t stay here another minute...”

Hearing the clamor, everyone rushed to the kitchen. Swamishri also came to know of the incident. He immediately came down from the loft where the assembly was going on, and before Nilkanthanand Brahmachari could say anything further, Swamishri began to do *dandvats* to him. Nilkanthanand Brahmachari was stunned. Swamishri said, “Please forgive me. These sadhus are all young. Any error they have made in their ignorance is my fault! We will now make arrangements to cook our food outside. So, please don’t be upset.” While saying this, Swamishri did three more

dandvats. The devotees, the other younger *brahmacharis*, and Nilkanthanandji were all stunned. They were all deeply touched by Swamishri's humility.

Swamishri instructed his sadhus to cook the food outside and defused the situation. While the incident passed, the smoldering embers of its aftereffects and his own mistake continued to burn Nilkanthanandji's heart. He thought to himself that, "Jogi won!"

At 3 p.m., Bapu's car arrived in Prantij to pick up Swamishri. Swamishri had a bath and then went to Himmatnagar with three other sadhus.

Himmatnagar's erstwhile princely ruler, Daljit Singhji Maharaja of Idar, had also come there for the occasion. After Swamishri blessed Madansinhji, he went to Maharaja Saheb's palace at his invitation. At Maharaja Saheb's special request, Swamishri met with him in private. Daljit Singhji explained to Swamishri that he had begun to learn *tantric* practices, and he asked for Swamishri's blessings that he

would be able to attain *tantric* powers under the guidance of an adept *tantric* guru in Mt. Abu.

Swamishri smiled slightly as the Maharaja explained everything, and according to his wishes, Swamishri blessed him.

Then the Maharaja folded his hands and humbly prayed, “Bapa, when you visit again, please make your accommodations in my palace.”

Swamishri replied, “Accommodations in the mandir would behoove us sadhus, but accommodations in a palace would not befit us.”

The Maharaja was extremely impressed with the level of *vairagya* in Swamishri’s life. Later, the Maharaja Saheb would donated a portion of his own land to the mandir.

After returning to Prantij that night, Swamishri sanctified Chunikaka’s home in Talod the next day and traveled to Ahmedabad

to perform the groundbreaking ceremony of Nanda Saheb's new house.

Then, Swamishri arrived in the mandir, where a devotee asked Swamishri to deliver discourses. Swamishri replied, “The darshan we are getting of all these devotees are themselves discourses!”