

Chapter 16

Increasing the Lifespan of Devotees

From Atladara, Swamishri had set out for Bochasan to attend the Guru Punam festival when he received news that Mohanlal Panchal of Vaghodiya had been admitted to the hospital as he was vomiting blood. The doctors said there was no hope for survival.

Swamishri went with his accompanying sadhus straight from the train station to the hospital. Mohanbhai was unconscious. Swamishri immediately began chanting the *dhun*. Then, dipping some sanctified flowers in water, Swamishri held them to Mohanbhai's lips so that he would imbibe the holy water. Soon, Mohanbhai opened his eyes and said, "Jay Swaminarayan."

Swamishri caressed his body and said, "Have him drink this holy water. He will quickly get better and be free of all diseases. Death had come for him, but he has fled."

Mohanbhai's family was comforted by Swamishri's presence and words. Who can forget the one who has stood by your side and offered comfort in such trying times?

Because Swamishri had gone to the hospital, he returned late to the station, and the train left without him. Consequently, Swamishri had to rent a car to reach Bochasan. One of his accompanying sadhus remarked, "We missed our train." Swamishri emphatically said, "So what if we missed our train? By going to the hospital, we extended the life of one devotee and granted him peace. So, it was well worth it to miss the train."

Mohanbhai experienced a rapid recovery, and before long, he had completely regained his health. The physicians treating him were astonished by the power of Swamishri's blessings. How could they know that just as parents protect their child and the hand protects one's neck, God forever protects his devotees.