

Chapter 15

“Come, Jogi! Let Us Embrace!”

The devotees of Mumbai had pleased Shastriji Maharaj through their sincere service. Thus, Shastriji Maharaj assented to their prayer to allow them to apply sandalwood paste to his body and then embrace him.

Enthralled by this divine darshan, Yogi Maharaj stood off in one corner, drinking in the scene.

All the devotees were so engrossed in Shastriji Maharaj’s indomitable enchantment that they forgot to include Yogi Maharaj, who was Shastriji Maharaj’s very heart and his everything.

After Shastriji Maharaj embraced all the sadhus and devotees, he looked towards Yogi Maharaj and, with a large, vibrant smile, said, “Come, Jogi! Let us embrace!”

Hearing this, everyone felt a remorseful embarrassment, thinking to themselves, “Oh dear, we forgot Yogi Maharaj? In our emotional exuberance, how could we forget that he was right here with us! We sought to embrace Swami, whereas Swami sought to embrace him. Truly, it appears that he possesses Swami’s true favor!”

Yogi Maharaj got up, came close, and Swamishri embraced him tightly. This was an extraordinary, divine sight. The highest occasion of a guru and disciple meeting.

“Chho to ek ne diso chho doy, teno marma jāne jan koy.”

(They are one, though they appear two. Only a few can discern this truth.)

When even the very Earth, realizing the rarity of such occasions, considered itself fulfilled at its occurrence, how supremely fortunate were those who witnessed this divine event!

On 5 March 1950, the day of the Fulldol festival, Shastriji Maharaj, Yogi Maharaj, and the sadhus visited the home of Harilal Maganlal Dresswala. After the rituals of puja and *arti*, Harilalbhai said, “My mother is related to Yogi Maharaj. My mother’s mother was from Dhari.”

Yogi Maharaj was shaken, as if these words had delivered an electric shock to him. He immediately began singing a kirtan. A slight smile was playing on Shastriji Maharaj’s lips.

Yogi Maharaj understood his true Self to be separate from the body and its relations, and so he was completely detached. Yet, what extraordinary zeal Yogi Maharaj had to live exactly according to Shriji Maharaj’s commands! In Vachanamrut Gadhada I 44, Shriji Maharaj states, “Thus, after discarding the feelings of I-ness and my-ness for the body and its relations, believing one’s *ātmā* to be *brahmarup*, and after forsaking all worldly desires, if a person worships God while observing *swadharma*, he should be known as a *sādhu*.”

On 14 March 1950 (Fagun vad 11, V.S. 2006), Nirgundas Swami was transferred to the Pen City Hospital near Mumbai under the care of Dr. Londhe. Shastriji Maharaj had assigned Chaturbhuj Swami to stay in his service. Then, Shastriji Maharaj celebrated Swaminarayan Jayanti in Mumbai.

During Shastriji Maharaj’s stay in Mumbai, numerous dignitaries, including Hariprasad Choksi, Morarji Desai’s brother Chhotubhai Desai, Manu Subedar, Sardar Vallabhbhai’s son Dahyabhai, Seth Ramswarup Birla, the entire family of Sheth Prabodhandas Jamnadas Bajaj, and many others experienced fulfillment at the darshan and association of Shastriji Maharaj and Yogi Maharaj.

Their two-month stay also lent great momentum to the Mumbai Satsang Mandal.

On 30 March 1950, Shastriji Maharaj left Mumbai for Atladara. Here, Motibhai Nathabhai Prajapati met Yogi Maharaj for the first time.

Motibhai had initially gone to Dhyani Swami in Muli mandir. However, since Dhyani Swami spent most of his time meditating, he did not often deliver discourses on the Vachanamrut. Motibhai had requested him, “Swami, you spend most of your time meditating. I have heard that the Vachanamrut holds a great store of esoteric wisdom. Please explain the Vachanamrut to me. I want to understand the Vachanamrut and attain the spiritual wisdom revealed by Shriji Maharaj.”

Dhyani Swami looked around to ascertain that no one else was there and then softly said, “If you want to attain the wisdom in the Vachanamrut, go to Shastri Yagnapurushdas of Bochasan. He will help you attain the wisdom of the Vachanamrut. And there is another sadhu in his *mandal*, Jogi Swami, who can teach you this wisdom.”

Thus, Motibhai had come to Yogi Maharaj. Gradually, he developed a profound affection for him. By Yogi Maharaj’s grace, he began to understand the divine knowledge of Akshar

Purushottam *upasana* that Bhagwan Swaminarayan had revealed in the Vachanamrut. Ultimately, he became a staunch follower of Akshar Purushottam Maharaj.