

Chapter 12

Giving Up the Futures Business

Devshibhai Haribhai of Zamrala had come to Gondal for darshan. When he had gone to Sarangpur, Yogi Maharaj had inquired about his welfare. At the time, he had entered into a cottonseed futures contract in Botad that had not gone as expected. Explaining his financial difficulties, he told Yogi Maharaj, “I have signed a futures contract to buy 400 units of cottonseed at `20 a unit. However, the current market price is `16 a unit. So, I stand to lose `4 per unit, which will put me in dire financial straits!”

After understanding the situation, Yogi Maharaj pressed his hand and told him to come to Gondal for the Sharad Punam festival.

According to Yogi Maharaj’s command, Devshibhai came to Gondal and served in the festival. After the festival ended, and he went to take his leave, Yogi Maharaj told him, “Since

you have come, stay here for another week and offer your service in the mandir. Maharaj and Swami have assumed responsibility for your concerns.”

As Devshibhai was in a rush to go, he was conflicted about what to do. Ultimately, Yogi Maharaj’s love strengthened his resolve, and he stayed. After a week, Yogi Maharaj sent him home of his own accord.

From Gondal, Devshibhai went straight to Botad and checked on the price of cottonseed. To his delight, it had risen to `24 per unit. Instead of a `4 loss per unit, he stood to make a `4 profit per unit.

A few days later, he collected the profit from his futures trade and took it to Gondal. He met Yogi Maharaj and explained, “By your grace, I was able to secure a `4 profit per unit.”

Yogi Maharaj laughed and said, “Shastriji Maharaj saved you.”

Then, Yogi Maharaj asked for a glass of water. He poured a little water into

Devshibhai's palm and said, "Repeat after me. From today, I will never engage in financial speculation or futures contracts."

Devshibhai was stunned. But, due to Yogi Maharaj's affection, he could not disregard Yogi Maharaj's words. He took a vow from that day to give up the futures business.

Yogi Maharaj felt devotees' pain as his own, so he became a guardian of both their spirituality and their prosperity. To ensure their lasting well-being, he had them follow *niyams* as lines they should not cross.