

Chapter 13

Only with Such Strong Insistence Does the Jiva Develop Satsang

In addition to such spiritual discourses, Yogi Maharaj visited the homes of many devotees of Ahmedabad before traveling to Anand. Then he traveled with Shastriji Maharaj to Bochasan for the Punam festival. The many devotees from Gujarat and Kathiawad who had come to Bochasan celebrated the festival with great enthusiasm.

After the festival, Shastriji Maharaj and Yogi Maharaj traveled from Bochasan to Bhadran and then by car to Kosindra, where they reached Ratilal Master's house at 11 p.m. No one at their home was expecting this visit, so everyone was fast asleep. After much banging on the doors and shouting, Ratilal opened the door to find an irritated Nirgundas Swami scolding him, "Despite so much shouting, you

remain as comatose as Kumbhakaran! What kind of sleep is this!”

The women of the house gathered in a downstairs room, and Ratilalbhair invited the sadhus into his home. When he asked whether they would have dinner, Shastriji Maharaj replied, “We have already eaten in Bhadran.” Then, he said, “We have some work with Vallabhbhai Suthar, so please call him here.”

Vallabhbhai soon arrived and had a meeting with Shastriji Maharaj. Meanwhile, Yogi Maharaj told Ratibhai, “Three months from now, on Aso *sud* 13, we have planned a *hariyaag* at the Akshar Deri in Gondal. Thakor Sahib of Bilara has sponsored it. So your entire household should write 125,000 Swaminarayan mantras and come to participate in the *yagna*.”

Ratibhai told Yogi Maharaj some of his hardships and explained that it would be difficult for him to come. Yogi Maharaj replied, “That won’t do. You must come.”

In the middle of this back-and-forth, Nirgundas Swami became upset with Yogi Maharaj and said, “If he doesn’t want to come, why do you continue to insist? You continue to be overly sentimental.”

However, Yogi Maharaj didn’t give up until Ratilal promised to come to Gondal for the *yagna*.

During this exchange, Shastriji Maharaj periodically glanced over and followed the conversation. After Vallabhbhai left, Shastriji Maharaj told Nirgundas Swami, “See, he got his yes and confirmation that he will come! Only with such strong insistence does the *jiva* develop satsang. One needs such zeal to foster satsang. Jogi’s style of inspiring others to develop satsang is unique.”

Once, Shastriji Maharaj called Ratilal and said, “Listen, send sponsorship for twenty-five *mahapujas* to Sarangpur mandir.”

Ratilal replied, “Of course, Bapa. I will send it.”

At that time, Yogi Maharaj happened to be in the kitchen helping the sadhus prepare the meal. Shortly thereafter, he called Ratibhai into the kitchen and quietly said, “Can I ask you something?”

“Sure.”

“Will you sponsor twenty-five *mahapujas* in Akshar Deri?”

For a few seconds, Ratibhai thought over the request. Then he said, “Shastriji Maharaj has just commanded me to send the sponsorship of twenty-five *mahapujas* to Sarangpur mandir. What should I do about that?”

Yogi Maharaj said, “We must follow Shastriji Maharaj’s command. You should send the sponsorship of the *mahapujas* to Sarangpur. But, it would be good if you could donate to Akshar Deri as well. If you can manage, then you should do it.”

Ratilal was touched by Yogi Maharaj’s gentleness and humility coupled with his devotion to the guru, and he felt, how can I

refuse such a sadhu! He immediately said, “I want to please you. So, I will sponsor *mahapujas* in both places.” Yogi Maharaj was pleased with his decision.

After Shastriji Maharaj finished meeting with Vallabhbhai, they had planned to return to Borsad in the same car. As they were leaving, Ratibhai made to offer a small donation to Thakorji. However, Shastriji Maharaj said, “That you helped complete Vallabhbhai Suthar’s work is itself a great gift.”

From Kosindra, they went to Bhetashi and Borsad. Then, since the car of Thakor Natvarsinh of Bhadarva State had come to pick them up, they went to Bhadarva. After making the Darbar happy, Shastriji Maharaj and Yogi Maharaj went to Mokshi. Then, since Narayanswarupdas Swami and other young sadhus were slated to begin their Sanskrit studies on Friday, 11 December 1942 (Magshar *sud* 4, V.S. 1999), Shastriji Maharaj traveled to Ahmedabad and performed the inaugural ritual

for their Sanskrit studies. Then, he returned to Yogi Maharaj in Mokshi.

From here, they traveled to Sankarda, Sokhada, and Vasana before arriving in Atladara. They had planned to go to Bochasan to celebrate the Punam festival, but Shastriji Maharaj was unwell. Due to his constant traveling and old age, his body was unable to tolerate too much hardship. Thus, he told Yogi Maharaj, “Jogi! Will you go to Bochasan? You should go. Your talks will bring peace to thousands.”

Yogi Maharaj went to Bochasan, celebrated the Punam festival, and then traveled to Atladara, Salad, and other villages at the request of the devotees.