

Chapter 8

Everyone's Friend, 'Jogi'

Yogi Maharaj expended unparalleled effort serving in the mandir construction. Shastriji Maharaj had enjoined many other sadhus, young and old, in this service, including Santdasji, Narayancharandasji, and the venerable, meek-natured Sadguru Purushottamdas Swami, who was reverently known by the title of Brahmarshi. Nirgundas Swami also assisted in overseeing the mandir construction.

Every morning, Yogi Maharaj would rise at 3 a.m. and, after bathing and doing puja, would prepare *rotla* for those serving in the mandir's farming and construction work. He would serve everyone *rotla*, *chhas*, and chilis before they left to perform their respective tasks. Then, Yogi Maharaj would collect alms from the surrounding villages. Upon his return to the mandir, he would attend to the needs of visiting

devotees. Purushottam Swami would talk about Shastriji Maharaj's glory in his soft voice, while Santdas Swami looked after miscellaneous tasks in the mandir.

Once Santdas Swami made some mistake in his assigned work. Due to his old age, he was generally slow in his work as it was. Consequently, Nirgundas Swami got angry with him. Just then, Yogi Maharaj arrived, and unaware of what had precipitated Nirgundas Swami's anger, immediately said, "O, compassionate Nirgun Swami! That mistake was my fault."

Hearing Yogi Maharaj's sweet, affectionate words, Nirgundas Swami's anger subsided.

"Santdas Swami is very good, Purushottam Swami is very great, Vignan Swami is very learned, Nirgun Swami is very capable"—thus singing the praises of everyone's greatness, knowledge, and capabilities, Yogi Maharaj left to perform his routine responsibilities.

Later in life, Yogiji Maharaj would often say, “We should learn to do others’ service ourselves. We should help each other in our service with *samp*. We should take the blame of others’ mistakes on ourselves. These are all virtues of *suhrudbhav*. If we have such *suhrudbhav*, then we will be blessed with great virtues—that is what Mul Aksharmurti Gunatitanand Swami used to say.”

Everyone witnessed such *suhrudbhav* in Yogi Maharaj throughout his life.