

Chapter 14

The Entire Satsang Community Yearns for Jogi

After celebrating the Chaitra Punam festival in Bochasan, Shastriji Maharaj traveled to Bhadran and the surrounding villages before going to Gondal for the *patotsav* ceremony. Many devotees had arrived, and the festival was celebrated with great enthusiasm.

The following day, in the middle of Shastriji Maharaj's discourses, a railway officer, Sidibhai Saheb, prayed, "Swami! Please command Yogi Maharaj to spend more time here in Saurashtra so that we can benefit from his company."¹

Shastriji Maharaj said, "Aho, ho! Where else can you find a sadhu like Jogi Maharaj? The entire Satsang community yearns for him. But we will make arrangements so that he stays here more."

Everyone listened in amazement to this spontaneous utterance of awe from the guru's mouth that revealed his profound love for his disciple.

¹ Sidibhai Saheb, a railway officer in the Gondal State, had developed an affinity for Satsang through his association with Muljibhai Mistry. From the beginning of Akshar Mandir, he used to come regularly for darshan. Sometimes, he would also have the darshan of Shastriji Maharaj. In those days, Yogi Maharaj was usually present in Gondal. Thus, Sidibhai Saheb had developed a deep love for Yogi Maharaj and saw him as a miraculous sadhu.

He was deeply impressed with stri-purush maryada as well as the sadhus' eightfold brahmacharya practiced within the Swaminarayan tradition. Inspired by such purity, he became a satsangi.

Whenever the sadhus had some work with the State of Gondal or the railways, Sidibhai Saheb would accomplish it on their behalf. He had made arrangements for the transport of stone by train during the construction of the Sarangpur and Gondal mandirs. Moreover, adjacent to where the Akshar Dwar stands today, Sidibhai Saheb had built the Gnanyagna building for the mandir.

His greatest service had been to sponsor and prepare a silver sinhasan for Ghanshyam Maharaj at Yogi Maharaj's behest. Yogi Maharaj carefully looked after this great devotee and showered his affection on him.