

Chapter 14

Your Presence Gave Me Strength

From Anand, Shastriji Maharaj, Yogi Maharaj, Dharmavallabhdas Swami, Aksharpurushottamdas Swami, Aksharpriyadas Swami, and others traveled by train to Palej Station. From there, they went to Saring, where a *parayan* had been organized with great devotion by Manubhai Jagneshwar. Many devotees from the surrounding villages had gathered in Saring for the *parayan*.

One day, Manubhai requested Shastriji Maharaj to go with everyone to the village of Nand to bathe in the holy Narmada River. Due to his loving insistence, everyone traveled by bullock cart to Nand.

Shastriji Maharaj had a bath sitting on the riverbank while Nirgundas Swami and Chaturbhujdas Swami swam some distance into the river. Since Yogi Maharaj didn't know how to swim, he brought a gourd to fill with

water on the riverbank. Shastriji Maharaj told him, “Have a bath.”

Suddenly, Yogi Maharaj slipped down the bank into a deep part of the river. As the water closed in over his head, Yogi Maharaj began to drown. Chaturbhuj Swami shouted for help, and Nirgundas Swami swam to Yogi Maharaj and dragged him by his clothes to the riverbank.

One by one, the sadhus finished bathing and came out of the river. After Yogi Maharaj caught his breath, Shastriji Maharaj praised Nirgundas Swami’s quick reflexes and told Yogi Maharaj, “If Nirgun Swami hadn’t been there, you would have drowned today.”

Yogi Maharaj immediately said, “Your presence here gave me strength.”

For Yogi Maharaj, no matter how difficult the situation, his sole support was the guru.

The *parayan* in Saring concluded successfully. Everyone realized Shastriji

Maharaj's greatness and the purity of his sadhus left a deep impression.