

# Chapter 13

## The Love That Makes One Forget Worldly Miseries

Jaggivanbhai Jivraj Kotak of Morbi regularly visited Gondal on business. Because of his long affiliation with Satsang, he would always come for darshan at Akshar Mandir, where Yogi Maharaj would invariably inquire about his welfare. Once, when he came to Gondal, Yogi Maharaj said, “Come have some lunch.”

Jaggivanbhai replied, “I ate before I came.”

“Where did you eat?”

“At my aunt’s house.”

“Is that so! You have relatives in Gondal?”

“No, Swami. But my aunt’s house is code for the local restaurant!”

“Oh! I wasn’t even aware of that.” Yogi Maharaj lovingly said, “You should always eat here. The mandir has been built for *satsangis*!”

“Bapa, it’s not right for me to eat food made from others’ donations.”

Yogi Maharaj said, “You shouldn’t think like that. You should believe this to be your home. So from now on, don’t go to the restaurant. Every time you come here, don’t leave without having a meal. If you make your accommodations in the mandir, we will be very pleased.”

Jagjivanbhai replied, “Due to my business responsibilities, my timings aren’t fixed. So it’s not right for me to trouble the sadhus here at odd times. That’s why I don’t take my meals here.”

Yogi Maharaj laughed and said, “It is no trouble for us sadhus. When devotees like you eat, Maharaj and Swami eat with you, and they are pleased with us.”

After this, Jagjivanbhai developed a profound love for Yogi Maharaj, and his faith in Akshar Mandir increased. Yogi Maharaj used to guide him on his worldly affairs as well.

Once Yogi Maharaj asked, “What commodities are you trading now?”

Jagjivanbhai said, “Vegetable oil, sugar, grains, and other things simultaneously.”

Yogi Maharaj said, “You should focus on vegetable oil. We want to make you the king of vegetable oil.”

Jagjivanbhai took Yogi Maharaj’s words to heart. He realized that Yogi Maharaj was an omniscient, foresighted sadhu. So, he focused all his energies on his vegetable oil business. He often used to say that due to Yogi Maharaj’s blessings, he became the biggest vegetable oil trader in all of Morbi. Jagjivanbhai would regularly invite Yogi Maharaj to Morbi via letter and whenever they met face-to-face.

That same year, Shastriji Maharaj, Yogi Maharaj, and a *parshad* left Gondal to travel to Morbi. Yogi Maharaj had written a letter informing Jagjivanbhai to pick them up at the railway station at 1:30 a.m. Jagjivanbhai had made arrangements to house Shastriji Maharaj

and Yogi Maharaj in the Ahmedabad Gadi mandir in Morbi. Jagjivanbhai cherished this unparalleled opportunity to serve Shastriji Maharaj and Yogi Maharaj and stay in their company. After that, his love for Yogi Maharaj continued to increase.

In those days, Yogi Maharaj usually traveled by train. Whenever he traveled by train from Gondal to Ahmedabad, he would invariably send a letter to Jagjivanbhai in Morbi instructing him, “Please meet us at Wakaner station and bring `2 to `3 worth of postcards with you.” Sometimes Yogi Maharaj would ask him to bring envelopes as well. Jagjivanbhai would sometimes wonder why Yogi Maharaj wrote to him with such trivial requests. When he asked this question to his mother, she explained, “By making such small requests from us, the Satpurush gifts us with lifelong memories of the service we have offered him, which gives our soul tremendous inner strength. Additionally, by accepting our service, he eradicates our sins of infinite births.”

When Yogi Maharaj's train would arrive at Wakaner station, he would be gazing out the window, searching for Jagjivanbhai. As soon as Yogi Maharaj spotted him, he would happily repeat, "Sheth-Bapa has come. Sheth-Bapa has come."

Yogi Maharaj's selfless and unconditional love was impossible to find anywhere else. Truly, his love made one forget all worldly miseries!

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The construction work at Akshar Mandir was ongoing. Where the "Yagna Bhuvan" currently stands, there were several small East-facing rooms in those days. Yogi Maharaj was suffering from severe dysentery, and he didn't have anyone in his service. So, he wrote a note to Nanjibhai of Devchadi asking for his help. Nanjibhai stayed in the mandir and served Yogi Maharaj for two days until Hirjibhai arrived from Rajkot. He had come to meet Yogi Maharaj when he learned that Yogi Maharaj's

dysentery was so severe that he had to use the toilet forty times a day.

Hirjibhai had profound love for Yogi Maharaj, so he became distraught and told Kothari Bhaktipriyadas Swami, “Why have you not informed anyone that Yogi Maharaj is suffering from such severe dysentery? What is the purpose behind such neglect?”

Then Hirjibhai called Dr. Devshibhai. Devshibhai prescribed Yogi Maharaj an eight-day course of medicine. Dr. Devshibhai would come to the mandir every day to check on Yogi Maharaj. Yogi Maharaj would call him affectionately and give him prasad. Due to Yogiraj’s affectionate nature, Devshibhai loved to come for Yogi Maharaj’s darshan. After about a week, Yogi Maharaj’s health had improved considerably.

Hirjibhai asked Dr. Devshibhai for the bill for the medicine and doctor’s visits. Devshibhai replied, “I don’t want to give you my bill. Instead, I want blessings from Yogi Maharaj. I

have never seen a sadhu like him anywhere in this world.”

With Yogi Maharaj’s blessings, Dr. Devshibhai eventually became renowned as an expert physician. He also progressed in the political sphere and was able to offer important service to the community.

Thereafter, Yogi Maharaj went to Sarangpur for the Fuldol festival. Then, at the end of March and beginning of April 1943, Yogi Maharaj traveled to Mahemdavad, Atladara, Chansad, Sokhada, Sankarda, and other villages before returning to Ahmedabad on 13 April 1943 (Chaitra *sud* 8, V.S. 1999) where he celebrated Swaminarayan Jayanti in Shastriji Maharaj’s presence.