

Chapter 12

I Don't Like Being Separated from Jogi

On 15 November 1940, after the Kartik Punam festival, Shastriji Maharaj sent Yogi Maharaj to Bhadran at the insistence of the local devotees. Although Yogi Maharaj was feeling unwell, he stayed in Bhadran for eight days at his guru's behest.

Concealing the effects of his illness, Yogi Maharaj delighted everyone with his discourses, thus fulfilling the devotees' wishes. The devotees also offered their sincere service to him.

From Bochasan, Shastriji Maharaj went to Sarangpur and then to Ahmedabad. At the time, Nirgundas Swami also reached Ahmedabad via Nadiad. Shastriji Maharaj told him, "I want to go to Bhadran to meet Jogi."

Nirgundas Swami said, “You just met him during the Punam festival. What is it with your insistence on seeing him again and again?”

Shastriji Maharaj explained, “I feel like I never want to be separated from Jogi.”

So, from Ahmedabad, Shastriji Maharaj went to Bhadran, where he was saddened to see Yogi Maharaj suffering from an illness. But Yogi Maharaj told him, “Swami, O compassionate one! By your grace, I will soon recover.”

Shastriji Maharaj took Yogi Maharaj to Ahmedabad for treatment. Pandurang Vaidya carefully and reverently treated Yogi Maharaj, and soon his fever abated, and his health began to improve.

On 13 December 1940 (Magshar sud 14, V.S. 1997), Shastriji Maharaj sent a letter from Anand stating, “Please send Yogi Maharaj to Anand.” Yogi Maharaj immediately left Ahmedabad and reached Anand. Although Yogi Maharaj had just recovered from his illness and

his health was still delicate, when had this conscientious follower of his guru's commands ever considered his body to be his own? He had dedicated it wholly to his guru. And thus, even in ill health, he was ready to follow his guru's every command.

Shastriji Maharaj had fallen ill in Anand, and he was unable to deliver discourses to the devotees. So, thinking that Jogi Swami's presence and talks would give the same spiritual inspiration as his own presence and talks, he had called Yogi Maharaj to Anand. Yogi Maharaj completely satisfied the devotees' expectations.

On Vasant Panchami, everyone celebrated Shastriji Maharaj's birthday in his presence in Bochasan. Yogi Maharaj was unable to attend, but he celebrated that festival in Gondal with the same enthusiasm, offering his devotion to his guru by speaking of Shastriji Maharaj's unparalleled glory.

On 15 March 1941 (Fagun *vad* 2, V.S. 1997), all the sadhus traveling in the villages had

gathered in Gadhada on the occasion of the *murti-pratishtha* of a *hari mandir* by Shastriji Maharaj. The *pratishtha* was completed with great festivity.

After spending the night in Gadhada, everyone traveled to Sarangpur.