

Chapter 15

“Jogi Will Perform the Arti in Gadhada”

Witnessing Shastriji Maharaj’s behavior, the devotees began to be assailed by distressing doubts. Everyone was afraid that the central support of Satsang would soon be no more.

Once, buffeted by such thoughts, Manibhai Bhatt of Salad asked Shastriji Maharaj, “Swami, swear that we will simultaneously crown the Sarangpur mandir with *kalashes* and install the *murtis* in Gadhada, and that you will perform the *arti* yourself.”

Shastriji Maharaj laughed and said, “Of course I will be there, won’t I! My wish is to perform the *arti* in Sarangpur mandir after it has been crowned with *kalashes*, so I will do it. And if I am unable to do it, then Jogi will do it. For Jogi to perform the *arti* is the same as for me to perform it. There is no difference between me performing the *arti* and him

performing the *arti*. He will also perform the *arti* in Gadhada. That is why I have entrusted the responsibility of initiating sadhus and performing *pratishtas* to Jogi Maharaj.⁴ Moreover, he has also initiated several sadhus. So, if I am unable to do it, Jogi will.”

Shastriji Maharaj’s words presaged the future of the Satsang fellowship. He seemed determined to reveal the true nature of this Yogi who had hitherto been like a jewel wrapped in rags. Thus, Shastriji Maharaj did not miss a single opportunity to proclaim the glory of this great sadhu, who was like a mother to all of Satsang.

Possessing unparalleled virtues of austerities, renunciation, devotional service, and love for all that could melt even the hardest heart, that embodiment of love and compassion, Jogi, had an abiding place in the people’s hearts. With a succession of words like, “Have some *chhas*... have some sweets... have some *kadhi*...,” his love would fill the devotees’ plates and hearts. Any misery that

found itself in his presence would instantly be mitigated. Seeing another’s misery would cause compassion to spring forth from his heart in the form of a prayer, “Maharaj, please heal him! Swami, please solve his problems!” With these words, he would become engrossed in chanting the *dhun* and turning the *mala*. This spiritually elevated sadhu, engrossed in the *brahmic* state, had never, in any way, had any contempt for anyone. It was not in his nature to look at anyone’s flaws or foibles. No one could surpass him in understanding the greatness of every individual—such was the summit of his spirituality. After his long association with Yogi Maharaj, one intelligent and learned sadhu had said about him, “The shastras have described thirty-nine virtues of a Sant, but within Yogi Maharaj, we can see even more than that.”

The greatness of this virtuous sadhu rested in the fact that despite possessing such rare virtues, he never displayed them or was even conscious that he possessed them. The attraction of such saintliness is unparalleled!

Every soul who came in contact with him was bound by the divine bonds of his love, warmth, hospitality, *mahima*, and saintliness to accept the refuge of God and thus experience ultimate fulfillment. As he inspired in everyone a profound love for and conviction in God with the selfless aim to effect their ultimate liberation, the entire Satsang community saw this sadhu as the mother of Satsang. There is not the slightest exaggeration in this. Seeing such virtues in this sadhu, who was a manifest form of God, countless realized the truth in Shastriji Maharaj’s declarations of Yogi Maharaj’s glory.

⁴ Yogi Maharaj had performed the murti-pratishtha in the hari mandirs of Devchadi, Nenpur, and other villages.