

Chapter 3

Swami, Please Make Me a Sadhu

Just as Jhinabhai felt a special attraction for Junagadh, Krishnacharandas Swami and the other senior sadhus of Junagadh felt a special attraction for Jhinabhai. They made sure to visit Dhari regularly.

Once, Krishnacharandas Swami arrived in Dhari with his group of sadhus and stayed at the mandir, where Jhinabhai lovingly served them. Krishnacharandas Swami, who had earned the grace of Aksharbrahma Gunatitanand Swami, had early on recognized a unique spiritual aptitude in Jhinabhai. He was pleased with the service, devotion, and unwavering faith that Jhinabhai demonstrated at such a young age. Moreover, he was delighted to see Jhinabhai bring together a group of teenagers in the mandir to read the scriptures. Krishnacharandas Swami called them over and blessed them. The boys

explained, “Jhina, here, is constantly engrossed in worshiping God. Waking up early in the morning, he sits in meditation and then calls us together to chant the Swaminarayan *dhun*.”

Krishnacharandas Swami smiled and asked, “Jhina, do you want to become a sadhu?”

Delighted, Jhinabhai innocently responded, “Swami, please make me a sadhu. I have wanted to tell you this for the longest time, but today you have read my mind. I want to become a sadhu and remain in your service. So, if you accept me, I will come with you.”

Krishnacharandas Swami was extremely pleased with Jhinabhai’s response. Krishnacharandas Swami was fond of Jhinabhai’s elder brother, Kamalshibhai, and trusted him. So, he asked Kamalshibhai to secure their parents’ permission for Jhinabhai to become a sadhu. Kamalshibhai never disregarded Krishnacharandas Swami’s commands, and he also remained uninterested in worldly affairs. Moreover, Kamalshibhai was

aware of Jhinabhai's spiritual inclinations and felt that he was born to be a sadhu.

Thus, Kamalshibhai folded his hands and said, "Swami, since it is your wish, I will convince my mother and send Jhinabhai to Junagadh to stay with you."

Krishnacharandas Swami was pleased. He blessed Kamalshibhai and left for Junagadh.

As Krishnacharandas Swami went to Junagadh, he took Jhinabhai's heart with him. Although Jhinabhai experienced peace in the worship and service of Thakorji in Dhari's mandir, he craved for the inner enlightenment attainable through the company of a true *sadguru*. If a lotus remained constrained by bonds of affection to its place of birth, it would ultimately wilt and rot there. A lotus is meant to spread its fragrance over the whole world!

Jhinabhai had come onto this Earth to spread his fragrance to all four corners of the globe. Thus, he could not afford to stay cooped up in his home any longer. To fulfill the intense

desire of his heart to renounce the world, he began to talk about *vairagya* to Jeram, the son of his paternal great-aunt Sakarba. Listening to the unbroken torrent of wisdom from Jhinabhai's mouth felt liberating to Jeram. Renunciation, *vairagya*, and devotion to God formed the core of Jhinabhai's being. Hence, his talks on these topics penetrated Jeram's heart, and they both decided to one day renounce their homes and go to Junagadh to become sadhus.