

Chapter 10

Fulfilling the Villagers' Wishes

Yogi Maharaj, Muni Swami, and Hariswarupdas Swami traveled for a short time in the Gir area of the Sorath region. Although there were not many *satsangis* in this area, Yogi Maharaj's personality led even strangers to feel affection for him.

Gir was an area in which domesticated water buffaloes were common. The sadhus used to travel wherever the devotees resided. According to the local village customs, if someone's water buffalo had fallen ill, people would call sadhus to bless the water buffalo with a speedy recovery. In such situations, Yogi Maharaj would sprinkle some sanctified water onto the water buffalo and recite the *vartman* mantra, “*Kāl, māyā, pāp, karma, Yamdut, bhayādaham, Swaminarayan...*” Then, he would do the Swaminarayan *dhun* for two minutes, praying for the water buffalo's speedy

recovery. And, it often happened that the water buffalo would quickly regain its health. This sadhu's heart overflowed with compassion for all souls and creatures. Consequently, his wishes would bear fruit. Those who lived with him were witnesses to this.

Yogi Maharaj was happy in fulfilling even the villagers' trivial wishes. Not only would he bless the devotees, but he would not forget even their cattle. Moreover, he would sanctify with his footsteps their mud huts, place his hands on their storage chests, and touch their grain stores with the blessing that they would remain ever full. The devotees would take Yogi Maharaj to their hay stores and ask for his blessings that they would not run out of hay. Because Yogi Maharaj considered them to be his own, he never felt it unbefitting for him to fulfill such trivial wishes of the devotees. He had immense reverence for the devotees due to their association with Shriji Maharaj.