

Chapter 9

What Is Good Is Mine

From here, the sadhus continued their travels until they reached Sarangpur. The *kothari* of Sarangpur mandir, Shankar Bhagat of Matar, was a disciple of Bhagatji Maharaj. He had a vow that if he missed singing the verses of *cheshta* at night, the following day, he would fast. He had such intense devotion for Bhagwan Swaminarayan. Once, he had arrived at the mandir very late at night, exhausted after a long and hectic tour of the surrounding villages. Without meaning to, he had drifted off to sleep without singing *cheshta*. When he woke the next day, according to his vow, he observed a waterless fast.

When the call of “Vasudev Hare” rang out at noon, summoning everyone to lunch, Yogi Maharaj noticed that Shankar Bhagat was missing. After searching for him, Yogi Maharaj

found Shankar Bhagat at his seat and politely asked, “Why haven’t you come to eat today?”

Shankar Bhagat replied, “I am fasting today. Last night it had gotten late, and I dozed off without singing *cheshta*. I have a vow to fast for a day if I fail to sing *cheshta*, so I will not be able to join you today.”

Yogi Maharaj was astonished to hear this. He knelt in his heart before such a staunch observer of the holy vows. Moreover, on this occasion, he instantly took this vow himself!