

Chapter 9

Loving Care for Young Devotees

Govindsinh of Adval was studying at Alfred High School in Rajkot and living at the Garasiya Boarding House in Rajputpara. Around that time, Vignandas Swami, Yogi Maharaj, Bhagwatswarupdas Swami, Nirmaldas Swami, and some *parshads* were staying in the Kadiya Street mandir in Rajkot.

Every day after his classes finished, Govindsinh would stop by the mandir for darshan on his way to his dormitory. Unfortunately, an influenza epidemic struck the region, and Govindsinh soon contracted the illness. He was confined to his bed with a high fever and didn't go to school or the mandir for three days straight. As Yogi Maharaj was very affectionate by nature, he became concerned by Govindsinh's absence. After securing permission from Vignandas Swami, Yogi Maharaj took Nirmaldas Swami and walked to

the Garasiya Boarding House, where he found Govindsinh bedridden with influenza. Govindsinh was so surprised by Yogi Maharaj's unexpected presence, he sprung out of bed and fell at Yogi Maharaj's feet. Yogi Maharaj sat next to him, blessed him, and did *dhun* for a speedy recovery. With Yogi Maharaj's blessings, Govindsinh's fever broke after just two days, whereas many other students in the boarding house recovered only after ten to twelve days of intensive treatment.

Those few moments of loving warmth in Yogi Maharaj's presence left a lifelong impression on Govindsinh.