

Chapter 18

The Bliss of Brahmanand in Equanimity

At the invitation of Dared Darbar Mahipatsinhji, Swamishri visited Dared on 4 September 1952 (Bhadarva *sud* Punam, V.S. 2008). Both of Mahipatsinhji's sons served Swamishri and the sadhus. Swamishri sanctified their farm and then visited Keshavlal Sheth in Navagam and Dadabhai Darbar in Gadhada before doing darshan in the Gadhada mandir and resting during the afternoon.

The *kothari* of Gadhada, Harijivandas Swami, continued to be slightly dissatisfied with Swamishri's actions. He felt that “Jogi” just doesn't know how to manage things properly. Consequently, he would often speak harshly to Swamishri, saying things that he should not.

He did the same today, angrily telling Swamishri, “Jogi! You are messing everything

up by not putting your foot down and rebuking anyone. Everyone is doing as they please. If you don't know how to manage things, then..."

Swamishri folded his hands and innocently said, "What you say is true. I am not able to tell anyone anything. I can't tell you anything. I can't tell others anything. Everything is running by Shastriji Maharaj's grace. Please pray and bless me. I will also pray..."

Hearing such innocent words, Kothari Harijivandas Swami burst into laughter. Swamishri also began laughing, and the entire incident was forgotten. Swamishri's face bore an expression of joy and happiness as if someone had just offered him great praise.

Vinubhai, who witnessed this incident, gaped at Swamishri's response. He wondered whether Swamishri's spontaneous laughter after enduring this rebuke was a hallucination or an actual spiritual state? Was it just an unreachable ideal or a living reality? Often, he had seen incidents in Swamishri's life where even the most spiritually adept would lose

patience and display their base natures; however, at those times, Swamishri remained equipoised and absorbed in the bliss of Brahman. He had no fear of displaying his base natures because one would have to have base natures to be fearful of displaying them!