

# Chapter 19

## **Atonement for the Mistakes of Others**

Sadhu Narnarayandas, Nathalal Yogina, and others were accompanying Swamishri on his travels. From Sinor, they arrived in Kanthariya very late at night. Arrangements had been made for their bath the next morning in the house opposite to where they were staying. Narnarayan Swami completed his morning rituals and bath and returned next door to do his puja. When Swamishri finished his bath, he asked, “Where is Narnarayan Swami?”

Nathalal said, “He has gone next door to do his puja.”

“Oh!” Swamishri was stunned. An expression of remorse spread over his innocent face as if he had committed a grave mistake. He returned to their accommodations and did his puja. At noon when the devotees came to call

Swamishri to eat, he replied, “I’m fasting today.”

“What for?” asked the devotees.

“A sadhu who cannot stay alone at the home of householder for even a minute. This morning, I made a mistake in following this vow!” Swamishri accepted Narnarayan Swami’s mistake as his own.

“But Nathalal was with you!” said the devotees.

“That won’t do. It needs to be a sadhu or *parshad*. Nathalal is a householder!” said Swamishri.

Despite everyone’s insistence, Swamishri did not yield even an inch. Swamishri’s sentiment was such that if he had transgressed a minor injunction of God, he would feel that he had transgressed a major injunction of God. Moreover, when his determination to follow all the vows was unwavering even in the most difficult circumstances, what could these poor devotees do to convince Swamishri otherwise?

From here, Swamishri traveled to Atladara and Vadodara before arriving in Ahmedabad.