

Chapter 12

What Pain Can There Be for One Who Realizes His Self as the Atma?

Shastriji Maharaj celebrated Ashadhi Punam in Bochasan, while Yogi Maharaj celebrated this festival in Gondal. For some time, Yogi Maharaj was suffering from poor health. He had a festering ulcer on his lower lip that left it so painfully swollen that he could not eat. He could take only liquids and bland moong dal. Upon hearing about this, Dr. Devshibhai came to the mandir for Yogi Maharaj's darshan and plaintively asked, "Why didn't you inform me of this before? Your lower lip is infected, so I will have to drain out the pus before it can get better. Please come to my clinic today."

Yogi Maharaj took a companion sadhu and went to Dr. Devshibhai's clinic that evening. Yogi Maharaj told the doctor, "Go ahead and squeeze the pus out of my lip. I can endure the pain."

Dr. Devshibhai manually squeezed the pus out of Yogi Maharaj's lower lip. Because the wound was festering inside, Dr. Devshibhai had to use forceps to squeeze out the remaining pus and remove the decaying tissue. Throughout the entire twenty-minute procedure, Yogi Maharaj had not uttered even the slightest murmur of pain. After the surgical debridement was complete, Dr. Devshibhai applied some medicine and dressed the wound. Yogi Maharaj was seated as calmly at the end of the procedure as when he had walked into the clinic. His face betrayed not even a single wrinkle of pain. Dr. Devshibhai was amazed and thought, "Here is a *sant* with exceptional tolerance! Otherwise, this procedure is not possible without putting the patient to sleep with a general anesthetic such as chloroform."

As he was leaving, Yogi Maharaj gave Devshisbhai some prasad from Akshar Mandir. At that point, Devshibhai asked, "Swami, you did not utter a single whimper of pain. So, what, did you not feel the pain?"

Yogi Maharaj laughed and said, “Guru! What pain can there be for one who realizes his Self as the *atma*?”

Dr. Devshibhai had often seen the embodiment of *atma*-realization in this Jadbharat-esque sadhu who transcended the six sentiments of thirst and hunger, heat and cold, pain and pleasure.

During that period, Dattaram Barot of Nadiad had come to Gondal along with his son Ghanshyambhai and his nephew Amrutlal. During the Fuldol festival in Sarangpur, Yogi Maharaj had offered him a loving invitation: “You should return to Nadiad only after doing darshan in Gondal. We wish to hear from you the old divine incidents of Bhagatji Maharaj.”

Unable to disregard this invitation, Dattaram Barot had come to Gondal. After arriving, his health suddenly deteriorated. Yogi Maharaj laid out a cot for him under the rayan tree and assigned Nilkanth Swami to remain in his service. Kothari Aksharswarupdasji also supplied him with milk and other necessities

from the storehouse. Yogi Maharaj arranged for his treatment and had him nursed back to health. During this time, all the sadhus would sit with Dattaram Barot and listen to him talk about the divine greatness of Bhagatji Maharaj and recount many incidents of his life. After he fully recovered, Yogi Maharaj gave him *magaj* as prasad and packed *sev-ganthiya* and other snacks made with milk that he could eat on the road back to Nadiad.

Yogi Maharaj had great reverence for the senior devotees who had sincerely served the Aksharbrahma gurus.