

A journey in Uttarakhand with one rupee in hand

Anecdote on Swami Purushottamananda Maharaj

Narrated by Swami Shantananda Puri Maharaj



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One of the devotees of my Guru Maharaj was given Sanyas by my Gurudev and was asked by the latter to go on a travel in Uttarakhand with only one rupee in his hand. He was also told that during the travel, if anybody asked a question which involved an answer in the negative, i.e. 'no', he should not reply. In other words, a negative word should not come out of his mouth.

On the way to Kedarnath, several people asked that Swamiji as to whether he had taken his food but he kept quiet as no negative answer could be given. Thus, the most of the way he starved and was feeling hungry as well as weak. On the way, he found a Dharmshala in the verandah of which people were sleeping in the morning.

As Swamiji was hungry, he also began to sleep in a vacant space in the verandah.

By about noon, he woke up as somebody was pulling at his bedsheet. He saw a well dressed Brahmin wearing ashes all over the body who asked the Swamiji whether he would like to

come and have food. As the question did not involve any negative answer, he answered hurriedly, "Yes, yes."

He alone was taken inside and was asked to be seated over in a seat with a plate in front of him. He was served with hot rice, chapattis, vegetables and dal. When the Swamiji finished, the Brahmin asked the Swamiji not to wash the plate which will be washed by himself. As directed by him, he went out and washed his hands in a tap. A doubt arose in the mind of the Swamiji as to how he could take the plate and go inside the kitchen as it was prohibited in all orthodox houses. When he went inside the kitchen, he found it all empty and there were no vessels and no vestige of having been cooked. He did not know wherefrom the food had come and who was that Brahmin who disappeared so mysteriously. He understood that it was all the play of his Gurudev only.

**** Hari Om ****

Website: <http://www.swamishantanandapurimaharaj.org/>