

Sri Sri Guru Gaurangau Jayatah
Bhakti Vedanta Institute
Princeton University Harinama
Princeton, NJ
April 25, 2015

Led by Rasaraja das Prabhu on kartals (hand cymbal) and Syamasundara das Prabhu on guitar, we began Harinama Sankirtana with the Panca Tattva mantra followed by the Maha Mantra. While Srngara Mataji recorded our very energized Harinam, I distributed our brochure at Princeton's Palmer Square Park. About an hour later we went back to the Bhakti Vedanta Institute (BVI) office to begin our regular Saturday *sanga* program.



LR - Guest: Dorothy, Prabhus: Rasaraja das and Syamasundara das, Srngara Mataji

Why is energy feminine? Sripad Bhakti Madhava Puri Maharaj, Ph.D (Sripad Puri Maharaj) asked as he opened *sanga* then said, "The energy is always dependent. Without the source of energy, there would be no energy. It is not that the energy produces the source but rather the source produces the energy."

Is there a difference between energy and potency? Syamasundara das Prabhu asked. "Potency is unmanifested and energy is manifested," Sripad Puri Maharaj responded. "There are three energies - internal, external and marginal but there are also three potencies: *Sandini* (manifesting potency) is personified by Lord Balaram. *Samvit* is the cognitive potency and Sri Krishna is the personification of this, and *Hladini*, which is the pleasure potency and is personified by Srimati Radharani. Similarly, the qualities of being, knowing and bliss, are callrd *sat-cit-ananda*. *Sat* is the existential potency, *Cit* is the knowing potency and *Ananda* is the blissful potency. Every living entity has the spiritual nature of these three: *sat-cit-ananda*. Those are the qualities that constitute the spirit soul."

Sripad Puri Maharaj further went on, "The chief personalities of these potencies are Radha, Krishna and Baladev. But in the Braja pastimes of *Rasa Lila* of Radha-Krishna and the Gopis, the manifestation of the bodies of the Gopies are not the manifestations of Baladev, who is the *sandini* potency, but rather are coming from the female energy," Sripad Puri Maharaj continued. "It's an interesting difference because there's only one male in the *Rasa Lila* pastime and that is Krishna and no other male/predominating energy is allowed to enter. *Sandini*, *Samvit* and *Hladini* are three aspects of the potency of the Lord and their manifestation is in the spiritual world.

Without the energy, just like in Christianity, they speak of God but they never speak of the Shakti (energy, female counter-part) of God," Sripad Puri Maharaj explained. "We have the female representation in Mary, Jesus's mother," Dorothy, a guest said. "Yes, but Mary represent the mother, the parental aspect of God, not the amorous potency of God," Sripad Puri Maharaj responded. "In Krishna's pastimes, He also has a mother (Yasodha) but she is different from the female counter-part of Krishna, which is Srimati Radharani. In various other religions, they also do not speak of the female counter-part of God."

"Sabbath, Friday night come Saturday afternoon, according to the Hebrew calendar week, that potency is female energy," Syamadundara das Prabhu said. "Shiba is a she." "Oh Shiva," Sripad Puri Maharaj said jokingly. "I am not so familiar with what the other religions say about that but generally it is not very clear," Sripad Puri Maharaj responded. Even in our Vaishnava (worshippers of Lord Vishna) tradition Srimati Radharani is not extensively mentioned out of highest respect or intimacy. It is a very intimate type of knowledge to speak of Radha. In fact, the Vaisnavas would rarely speak of Her because of the particular mood that would associate with the name Radha and Krishna and Their separation especially. Those who have enough knowledge to understand the distinction between the Lord and His potencies, they could also understand the exclusive pain of separation that is part and parcel of that relationship, so to mention that name would evoke those feelings within the higher realized devotees. Because they could not bear to think of that pain of separation, they rarely mentioned Her," Sripad Puri Maharaj explained. "In India you can see many temples where they have only Krishna on the altar - they don't know about or show Radharani. In some of the Vaishnav temples in India we may find only a small representation, maybe just a veil, signifying Srimati Radharani, next to Krishna."

Is there a reason for not having a *murti* of Srimati Radharani? Rasaraja das Prabhu asked. "Yes, the intimacy that is implied in Radha and Krishna, is considered dangerous to reveal to the public because they may misunderstand

and take it in some mundane way, as worshipping the mixing of male and female, so this was not shown,” Sripad Puri Maharaj responded. “As Kali-yuga progressed, deities are now appearing of Radharani and Krishna together by the mercy of Srila Prabhupada^[2] and by Srila Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Thakura, but people in general, when they see that relationship they say ‘oh, these people are worshipping the erotic relation of male and female.’ That has always been a concern as to how to teach the divine love of Radharani and Krishna to the general public, while at the same time, we are trying to teach them sense control and focusing their mind on God.”

“That’s why in the Muslim countries, male and female mixing isn’t freely allowed. That is a very serious offense. They are not even allowed to sit together in a bus. In that kind of mood, to show Radharani and Krishna together is like blasphemy, degradation,” Sripad Puri Maharaj explained. “It’s a purer realization to be free from the ideas of empirical exploitive feelings in order to understand spiritual conceptions of service and devotion. Most religious people believe that in order to understand God you have to be very renounced, giving-up everything. For the yogis, the advaitans, the impersonalists the idea of God never involves any type of relation, especially male and female relationship. That isn’t part of their spiritual conception.”

“You don’t need to distinguish between male and female relations, right? - because on the spiritual platform they are one?” Revant Prabhu asked. “They are one and different,” Sripad Puri Maharaja replied, “because the energy and energetic source are inseparable, yet different, like the Sun and sunshine. We can’t separate one from the other, but they are not the same things - they have distinctly different natures. Some think of God only in terms of His energy, while others only think of Him in terms of being the source. To understand them together in their relationship is what the Gaudiya vaisnavas teach through the instructions left to us by Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and His followers.”

“We have to understand the mentality of those whom they were preaching to, and what religion is meant to address, because religion has it’s specific function of proper adjustment, not to engage people in more materialistic exploitive activities but rather to relieve them from that mentality and lead them to the higher conceptions of devotion and dedication,” Sripad Puri Maharaj responded. “This is a very radical thing, in that sense. And actually, it’s a very beautiful thing to understand that within the spiritual world there are relationships between God and His energy (male and female). To understand that there are such spiritual relationships helps to raise the mentality to the higher platform, to give up the lower conception of selfish interest. Without knowing that there are relations in the spiritual plane they can meditate on, what could capture their attention in this Kali-yuga where people in general are always thinking about

sex, drugs, gambling, and so on. If their minds can be attracted to the devotional serving atmosphere of spiritual truth and inner fulfillment, it will draw them from worldly sensual pleasure to the higher plane. In this way the pastimes of Radha and Krishna can help us to raise our hearts and minds to the highest platform. The scientific process has to be followed under the direction of Guru to get the desired result, who teaches us submission, surrender and service in a mood of affection and love, and never by artificial force or hypocrisy."



Revant Prabu duing *sanga*



Harinama group returning to BVI for *sanga*

Srimati Radharani is the representative of the Supreme Personality of Servitor Godhead. One who meditates upon Her pastimes and how She is so much dedicated to serving Krishna, will purify their mind and heart of all lower conceptions and that is the ideal of love of God, that by Mahaprabhu's^[3] incredible mercy, He distributed throughout the world," Sripad Puri Maharaj said. "Really you cannot find love in this material world that is apart from Krishna. What we call as love that is not love. It's all finite, selfish. Real, substantial, concrete love has to be for Krishna. All other love is futile because Krishna says in the *Srimad Bhagvatam*, 'What seems to be real but has no relation to Me, know that to be a reflection of reality in darkness, in ignorance.' So finite things appear to be real but without connection to the infinite they have no reality, no truth - because they are like unsubstantial shadows that appear to move on their own but have an actual reality that lies far beyond them."

The appearance of things is not substantial in itself, it's only an appearance. Phenomenal appearance means it doesn't have any substance of its own. Whatever is the source of that appearance, we have to look there for the substantial," Sripad Puri Maharaj said then asked, "If you look at the Sun during the day, you are seeing a disc in the sky, but is that the Sun?" "Not directly, the light has to be bent a little bit before coming," Revant Prabhu responded. " Yes, but how long does it take for the sunlight to reach the earth?" Sripad Puri Maharaj followed-up with. "About eight minutes," Revant Prabhu responded. "It's an eight minute old Sun we are looking at in the sky, so technically we are

not looking at the original Sun. We are looking at an eight minute old Sun. The Sun might have already been destroyed eight minutes ago but we are still seeing that disc in the sky. Light is traveling at 186,000 miles per second, so by the time the sunlight reaches the Earth, it takes eight minutes, yet we are thinking 'we are looking at the Sun,' but no! That's called appearance. What seems to be real to us, from a higher point-of-view it is not. Knowledge of the senses may, from the point-of view of knowledge, not be true. Only that which is in relationship with Krishna is real." This is confirmed in Srila Bhakti Raksaka Sridhara Maharaja's ^[4] *Bhagavad Gita - The Hidden Treasure of the Sweet Absolute*: chapter 10 Verse 8: *Vibhuti-yoga- The Divine Glories of the Lord*:

*aham sarvasya prabhavo
mattaḥ sarvaṁ pravartate
iti matvā bhajante mām
budhā bhāva-samanvitāḥ*

"I am Krishna, the Sweet Absolute, the origin of all. The entire universe of material and transcendental play, activity, purpose, and the Vedas and allied scriptures which give guidance – all evolve from Me alone. Realizing this hidden treasure, persons of fine theistic intelligence surpass the mundane and embrace the path of love divine, *rāgamarga*, and adore Me forever."

"'One who is perfectly wise, who has perfect knowledge, knows this and worships Me with all their heart.' He doesn't look to anything else for whatever satisfaction he needs. Who knows this perfectly well that 'Krishna is the source of everything' then he would not turn his attention anywhere else," Sripad Puri Maharaj continued. "That person who has no other worshipping object in this world, no other object of attention, of interest, of love, of expectation, that is a person of perfect knowledge."

"Why is Krishna not female instead of male?" Revant Prabhu asked. "If you think about God, not only in His abstract nature, He is both energy and the source of energy. Just like light, it is energy but where does that energy come from? There has to be a generating source somewhere from whence that energy is coming, otherwise energy doesn't float in the air like that. We can't just have energy out of nowhere. It has to have some source, so Krishna when understood fully, is both energy and the source of energy," Sripad Puri Maharaj responded. "Shakti and Shaktiman. Krishna is always male and female together, therefore we have to always think of Radha-Krishna together as God. But the energy is dependent on the source, not the other way around. So the male is considered the source, and the female depends on that. Still one cannot exist without the other."

Sripad Puri Maharaj closed *sanga* with a beautiful indoor *Harinam*.



Syamasundara Prabhu, Sripad Puri Maharaj, Dorothy, Srngara Mataji, Rasaraja Prabhu

Prasadam was served and honored by all.

All Glories to Sri Guru and Sri Sri Gauranga
Srila Bhakti Nirmal Acharya Maharaja ki jai
Sripad Bhakti Madhava Puri Maharaj ki jai

Your humble servant
Kushum devi dasi
(New York)

[1] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kali_Yuga

[2] His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada (Srila Prabhupada) is the founder Acharya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)

[3] Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu appeared in in Mayapur, West Bengal, India in 1486. Although He is the Supreme Lord Himself, Sri Krishna, He posed as a devotee, and revealed the most sublime sentiments and the natural disposition of a devotee. He taught us by His own example how to establish a connection with the Lord through the practice of pure devotion. Srila Rupa Goswami has glorified Lord Chaitanya as being the most munificent Lord because He freely distributed pure love of Godhead.

[4] Srila Bhakti Raksak Sridhar Dev-Goswami Maharaj - Founder-President-Acharyya: Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math

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