

Sri Sri Guru Gaurangau Jayatah
Bhakti Vedanta Institute
Princeton University Harinama
Princeton, NJ
June 6, 2015

Due to some heavy traffic the New York devotees reached Princeton University's Bhakti Vedanta Institute (BVI) office a bit late but that did not stop us from being fully charged for Harinam Sankirtan. Led by Sripad Bhakti Madhava Puri Maharaj, Ph.D. (Sripad Puri Maharaj) with the Panca Tattva mantra followed by the Maha Mantra and backed by Prabhus: Rasaraja das on kartals, Syamasundara das on guitar. Srngara Mataji recorded our short but energized Harinam, while I distributed our brochure at Princeton's Palmer Square Park to some very enthusiastic passers-by.



Rasaraja Prabhu with Spd. Puri Maharaj on kartals, Syamasundara das on guitar

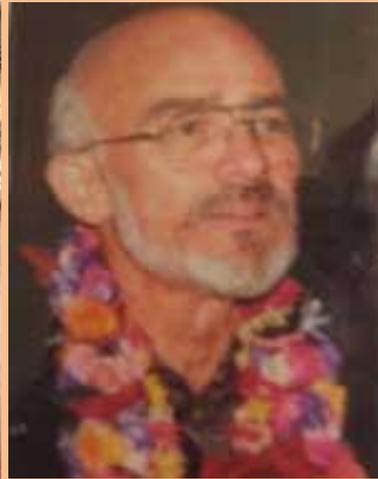
Back at BVI's office, Sripad Puri Maharaj said "tomorrow is the appearance day of Vakresvara Pandit ^[1], one of Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's^[2] close associates. He is considered a manifestation of Aniruddha, and a sakhi from former pastimes with Krishna. He loved to sing and dance for Mahaprabhu."

After a brief pause, Sripad Puri Maharaj asked if we had found "any gems whilst 'diving deep' into reality" this past week or just struggling to swim across the ocean of material existence and remaining on top while 'the gems are all lying underneath.' The whole allure of material existence is to keep everyone engaged in superficial interests on the surface so they don't even think of seeking deeper truths." In response, Syamasundara das Prabhu said, "Everyone is trying to get

you to buy into their version of reality because it makes them feel better to have others agree with themselves.”



Srila Vakresvara Pandit



Spd. Rsabhdev Das Prabhu

Sripad Puri Maharaj then asked if anyone of us has listened to the recording by Spd. Rsabhdev Das Adhikari^[3] made a few weeks before leaving his body in 2000, and which is available on the SCSMath website. “He was talking about ‘diving deep into reality.’ He asked the question, ‘If the Holy Names are spiritual or transcendental how can we produce a spiritual sound in the mundane world?’ He then explained that the Name descends by its’ own accord and chants itself, causes the tongue to vibrate. The spiritual Name uses His material energy (*mayādhyakṣeṇa prakṛtiḥ*, B.g. 9.10) to manifest Himself. The Absolute Truth descends to this material world whenever He wants so that we can experience Him with our conditioned senses and teaches us the Holy Names,’ Sripad Puri Maharaj said. “So the real Name comes from Itself, from the spiritual, transcendental world. It’s not something we produce. We are, of course, thinking that we are the doers, *Ahankar* (“I am the doer”) but only if we do not understand properly how unsubstantial is this so-called “I”.

“What is the ‘I’ referred to, this body? Sripad Puri Maharaj asked. “We don’t say ‘I body’ instead we say ‘my body’ then what is that ‘I’? To the degree that we have no idea what that ‘I’ is, we have no idea what or who God, Krishna, is,” Sripad Puri Maharaj explained. “With all our attention on ‘I’ as the central basis of everything, this undefined entity, is a totally empty concept. Its whole substance is outside of itself, as Nature. But this is a wrong conception. To that same degree we don’t know Who or what Krishna is. When we come to understand what is the truth then we would come to properly and concretely understand what God, Krishna is. So, we are caught between two unknowns: Self and God. Knowing one depends on knowing the other properly..”

“When we understand the Name properly, we will know that it is not ‘I’ that is chanting the Name, so instead of engaging in so many superficial activities based on ignorance of our real self, of not knowing God, he said that we should ‘dive deep into reality’ and by doing so, we should discover that consciousness is developing as the subjective evolution of consciousness,” Sripad Puri Maharaj explained. “The real thing that is substantial is the evolution of consciousness. That is the real activity of our lives, of this unknown self. Consciousness is evolving to know what is the real and false meaning of self, what is God, what is consciousness.”

“Srla Gurudeva^[5] mentioned that Spd. Rsabhadev’s passing was like that of Haridas Thakur.^[4] When Rsabhdev Prabhu knew he was dying, Srla Govinda Maharaj^[6] asked him what he wanted, so Rsabhdev said that he wanted Srla Govinda Maharaj to be looking into his eyes and pouring Ganga jal (water) on his tongue. Just like Haridas Thakur has asked a similar thing of Sriman Mahaprabhu,” Sripad Puri Maharaj continued. “When Haridas Thakur was dying he wanted to look into the eyes of Mahaprabhu. It is very auspicious. These are some of the things to meditate on if you get a chance to read some of recent posts on the Math’s website.”

“If the Name chants itself, does it arrive by Itself or by mercy and to what extent are we involved with its’ arrival?” Syamasundara das Prabhu asked. “We only think we are involved with Its’ arrival. You know the saying ‘not a blade of grass moves without the will of the Lord.’ We only think that we are independent, but Krishna says ‘*aham sarvasya prabhavo* –“everything is coming from Me. I am the source.’ So the illusion is that we are doing everything when it’s all being run by His energy.” This is confirmed in the *Bhagavad Gita - The Hidden Treasure of the Sweet Absolute*, 10.8”

*aham sarvasya prabhavo
mattah sarvam pravartate
iti matva bhajante mam
budha bhava-samanvitah*

“I am Krsna, 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, *rāga-marga*, and adore Me forever.”



Rasaraja Prabhu with Spd Puri Maharaj, Syamasundara das, Srngara Mataji, Nitai das

“A devotee is one who understands that he is the eternal servitor of the Lord. As the Christians pray, ‘Thy will be done,’ one who surrenders to the will of Guru and Krishna, one is acting in consort with the will of the Lord that is devotee.” ‘The will of Krishna is the only will that I follow. My own rule is not to be followed. The will of Guru and Krishna is what I want.’ That is a perfect disciple. To train oneself that way is the proper engagement of a disciple,’ Sripad Puri Maharaj said. “Srila Guru Maharaj asked Srila Govinda Maharaj, ‘are you willing to put your mind aside and follow what I want?’ To act under the rule of our own particular will is of no consideration, it is only provincial judgment. To act under the direction of the universal good, understanding that nothing is mine, even I myself, I belong to that universal will and there is nothing besides that. That kind of discipline leads one to higher perfection, harmonious life. Srila Bhakti Siddhanta Prabhupada said, ‘complete surrender to Guru, that is what is meant by ‘going back to Godhead’,” Sripad Puri Maharaj continued. “It is easier said than done but we have to try. We have to have the order of Guru and we have to be able to follow that in some way. Mahaprabhu wanted us to go out on Harinam Sankirtan and spread the Name to people. We have to depend on Krishna to help us, and to make ourselves humble for His Will to manifest.”

“Both, spiritually and materially we should do our duty without consideration of the end result?” Syamasundara das Prabhu asked. “Out of duty? Not only our duty but out of love and affection for Gurudev and Krishna. One important thing Rsabhdev Prabhu said, ‘I don’t know anything about Krishna but I know Guru,’” Sripad Puri Maharaj responded. “This is the sincere and honest way of devotion.”

“I was reading that Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur was visiting some parts of India and he saw that there are some prominent devotees in the area. He asked them ‘who is your guru’ and they said ‘no, we directly pray to Krishna.’ Srila Bhakti Saraswati Thakur said that ‘this is not real devotion. Those who don’t have connection with guru, Krishna doesn’t accept them,” Rasaraja das

Prabhu said. "Some people do not accept Guru, they want to directly connect with Krishna but Srila Bhakti Saraswati Thakur said that 'is impossible. It's imagination only. The Guru gives you the real connection.'"



Sripad Puri Maharaj serving Jalebi and beasan laddu to the devotees

At this point *prasadam* was then 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] VakresvaraPandit - <http://scsmath.com/docs/articles/VakresvaraPandit-Cc.html>

[2] Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu -
http://scsmath.com/docs/chaitanya_mahaprabhu.html

[3] Rsabhdev Das Adhikari -
http://www.scsmath.com/events/calendar_events/06_RsabhdevPrabhu.html

[4] Haridas Thakur - http://www.stephen-knapp.com/haridasa_thakura.htm

[5] Srila Guru Maharaj: http://www.scsmath.com/docs/sridhar_maharaj.html

[6] Srila Govinda Maharaj: http://scsmath.com/docs/govinda_maharaj.html

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