

# ŚRĪ MAHĀNET

Since the beginning of the Millennium

December 2018



Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta  
Swami Prabhupada

“In the beginning [of chanting Hare Krishna] there may not be the presence of all transcendental ecstasies, which are eight in number. These are: (1) being stopped as though dumb, (2) perspiration, (3) standing up of hairs on the body, (4) dislocation of voice, (5) trembling, (6) fading of the body, (7) crying in ecstasy, and (8) trance. But there is no doubt that chanting for a while takes one immediately to the spiritual platform, and one shows the first symptom of this in the urge to dance along with the chanting of the mantra. We have seen this practically.

Even a child can take part in the chanting and dancing. Of course, for one who is too entangled in material life, it takes a little more time to come to the standard point, but even such a materially engrossed man is raised to the spiritual platform very quickly. When the mantra is chanted by a pure devotee of the Lord in love, it has the greatest efficacy on hearers, and as such this chanting should be heard from the lips of a pure devotee of the Lord, so that immediate effects can be achieved. As far as possible, chanting from the lips of nondevotees should be avoided. Milk touched by the lips of a serpent has poisonous effects. “

Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

## ŚRĪ ŚRĪ PRAPANNA-JIVANAMRTAM

by Śrīla Bhakti Rakṣhaka Śrīdhara

Deva Goswāmī Mahārāja

Verse 2.12-13

*duhkha-haratvam mano-haratvan ca –*

*sthitah priya-hite nityam, ya eva purusarsabhah  
rajams tava yadu-srestho, vaikunthah purusottamah  
ya enam samsrayantiha, bhaktya narayanam harim  
te tarantiha durgani, na me 'trasti vicarana*

*Mahabharata, Santi-parva*

Surrender unto the Supreme Lord Hari vanquishes misery and charms the heart with the Lord's divine sweetness –

" O King, what more can I say? The foremost of the Yadu dynasty, the unassailable great personality who is full of goodwill for you and always your dear friend - He is none other than the Supreme Lord Narayana, Sri Hari. Those who devotedly take full refuge in Him cross over this insurmountable ocean of material existence."



Supreme Lord Sri Hari

# WORDS OF OUR GUARDIANS

Śrīla Bhakti Rakṣaka Śrīdhara Deva Goswāmī Mahārāja  
from *The Search For Sri Krishna – Reality The Beautiful*



The real meaning of the *Vedas* is difficult to understand. Some people will say, “Chanting Hare Krishna is not recommended in the *Vedas*. Rather, sometimes ‘Krishna’ is mentioned as the name of a demon. Why should we chant the name of Krishna?”

In the *Vedas* (*Chandogya Upanisad* 8.13.1), we find this verse:

*syamac chavalam prapadye  
savalaḥ chyamam prapadye*

“By the help of black (*Syama*), we shall be introduced to the service of white (*Syavala*); by the help of white (*Savala*), we shall be introduced to the service of black

(*Syama*).” What is the meaning of this verse? Our *Acharyas* have explained that the absolute can be understood by the help of the energy and the energetic. *Syama* means Krishna, who is blackish, and *Syavala*, white, means Radharani. So, by the help of Radha, we can have the service of Krishna, and by the help of Krishna, we can have the service of Radharani.

## GOD THROUGH SOUND

So, Rupa Goswami says that only a superficial study of the *Vedas* will frustrate us. But if we search with a positive mind, by the grace of the *sadhus*, the *Acharyas*, and the *mahajanas* we will find that the

principle *Srutis* are leading us towards the conception that the whole object of all the Vedic sounds is that central sound; the holy name of Krishna. There are so many sections of the *Vedas* that have come to distribute the tidings of the absolute realm, but there must be a center. So, the principle sounds are all emitting light like a torch, to show us that they have a central sound which represents the supreme whole, and that is Krishna. So many liberated souls are all around, offering their respects to the name of Krishna, that central sound from which all Vedic *mantras* have come to give us some idea of the sound aspect of the absolute center. This is Rupa Goswami’s argument.

The branches of the *Vedas* are all sounds, and so many sounds must come from a central position. They cannot but direct one who has a proper eye towards that fountainhead

of sound, saying, “Go! Run towards that direction! In our source you will find everything. We are all partially representing so many things but we have a center, we have a fountainhead. Go in that direction and you will find the sound that can sufficiently satisfy you, and you may also be introduced to other aspects of that sound.”

The holy name of Krishna is most important; it is no less than Krishna Himself. It fully represents the whole. Rupa Goswami says, “O Holy Name, I take refuge under Your lotus feet. You are the grand, central sound who has given cohesion to all the sounds in the revealed scriptures.” And Sanatan Goswami, who is the spiritual master of Rupa Goswami, says:

*jayati jayati nāmānanda-rūpaṁ  
murārer  
viramīta-nija-dharma-dhyāna-  
pūjādi-yatnam*

**Srila Bhakti Rakshak  
Sridhar Deva Goswami  
Maharaj (Srila Param  
Guru Maharaj)**

“So, nothing about Krishna - His name, form, qualities, or pastimes - can be touched by our physical or mental senses. But when we have a serving attitude, He comes down to us of His own accord.”

*kathamapi sakṛd-āttam muktidaṁ  
prāṇīnām yat  
paramam amṛtam ekam jīvanam  
bhūṣaṇam me*

“Let ecstasy in the service of the divine name be victorious. If somehow we can come in contact with that sound, *nama rupam murārer*, then all our other activities will be paralyzed; we will have no necessity of performing any other activity. Our many variegated duties will have no importance to us at all if we can achieve the service of the divine name of Krishna.”  
*Dharma* means the business engagement of the *karmis* or fruitive workers. *Dhyana* means retiring from this physical world and performing meditation from within, trying to exploit the internal world. Both of these are stopped, paralyzed by the ecstasy of service to the divine name.

The Ramanuja sect worships

Lakshmi-Narayana in the mood of opulence and veneration in Vaikuntha. By the ecstasy of the holy name, that will also be stopped. One who gets the real grace of the divine name of Krishna will retire from all phases of these different kinds of worship, namely *varnasrama dharma*, or social duty; *dhyana*, the internal meditation of the *jñanis* (mental speculators) and *yogis*; and *puja*, the opulent worship of Vaikuntha, after liberation, which attracts the followers of the Ramanuja *sampradaya*. The holy name will take us to the perception of Goloka, Krishna’s own abode, where we will have to completely retire from all these other phases of our divine life. We will have to retire from any work, even if it may be done for Krishna. We will have to give up internal meditation and calculation, and even *puja*, worship in awe and reverence.  
The holy name will stop all these

tendencies, and we will find so much sweetness in chanting the name that we won’t be able to give attention to anything else. When we really come in contact with the sound aspect of the absolute, then all our other enthusiastic endeavors and functions will be paralyzed. We will be unable to attempt them. We will take to the name only. Then, when the name allows us to perform other services again, we will be able to do them. The name has such power, such a high degree of potency that it will stop all other branches of service, and charm you.



## DIVINE INSTRUCTION

Srila Bhakti Sundara Govinda Deva Goswami Maharaja  
from "Revealed Truth"

The Vedas prescribe for each age a Mahamantra, a supreme *mantram*, of the Lord’s Holy Names, that is best for that time and environment.

*narayana-para veda  
narayana-paraksarah  
narayana-para muktir  
narayana-para gatih  
(Satya-yuga  
Mahamantra)*

*rama narayananta  
mukunda madhusudana  
krsna kesava kamsare  
hare vaikuntha vamana  
(Treta-yuga Mahamantra)*

*hare murare madhu-*

*kaitabhare  
gopala govinda  
mukunda saure  
yajñesa narayana krsna  
visno  
virasrayam mam  
jagadisa raksa  
(Dvapara-yuga  
Mahamantra)*

*hare krsna hare krsna  
krsna krsna hare hare  
hare rama hare rama  
rama rama hare hare  
(Kali-yuga  
Mahamantra)*

During each age everyone chants and meditates on these Mahamantras and

through them they are liberated and enter into the transcendental service world. Whenever fortunate souls properly chant a Mahamantra they can proceed happily to their spiritual destination.

### THE HARE KRSNA MAHAMANTRA

In the age of Kali the transcendental vibration form of the Lord, the Lord’s *Taraka-Brahma-Nama*, appears specially as the Hare Krsna Mahamantra. The other Mahamantras are prescribed for the other



Srila Bhakti Sundara  
Govinda Deva Goswami  
Maharaja

ages but the Hare Krsna Mahamantra is actually the supreme *mantram* for all ages. Of all *mantrams* the Hare Krsna Mahamantra is the best, as it is both the highest and most powerful. Only in the Hare Krsna Mahamantra do we find Lord Sri Krsna with Srimati Radharani, the Powerful with His ecstatic Power. So only through the Hare Krsna Mahamantra are we directly connected with full-fledged theism, the sonhood of Godhead and paramour love for the Lord. In this way we can understand the supreme position of the Hare Krsna Mahamantra.

The Hare Krsna Mahamantra is also most powerful because only in the Hare Krsna Mahamantra is there the full expression of self-surrender and the mood of calling to Radha-Krsna to attract Them to appear within our hearts and divinely fulfill our heart's necessity for Their service. One of Radharani's Names is Hara, and when Hara is called in a vocative expression it is expressed as 'Hare'. 'Krsna' within the Mahamantra is also a vocative expression of His Name. So chanting 'Hare Krsna' actually means calling Radha-Krsna and praying for Their

(*Padma Purana*)

*harer nama harer nama harer namaiva kevalam  
kalau nasty eva nasty eva nasty eva gatir  
anyatha*

(*Brhan-naradiya Purana*)

Mahaprabhu taught everyone, "In *kali-yuga* all auspiciousness can be found only in the chanting of the Holy Name of the Lord. *Hari-Nama-sankirtan* is the only way to attain the highest auspiciousness for all people. So in this age of *kali-yuga* it is not necessary to read a Ganges full of Scriptures, it is only necessary to chant the divine Name of the Lord.

Chanting the Holy Name is most appropriate for the conditioned souls of *Kali-yuga*. The mundane world is always full of sorrow, and happiness will only come to the conditioned souls through chanting the Lord's Holy Name. The Lord descends from Goloka Vrndavan, where His divine play is always flowing with all varieties of charming qualities and qualifications,

mercy. In this way we can understand that through the Hare Krsna Mahamantra we can best fulfil our life's goal of connecting with the transcendental wave of *prema*. So we are so hopeful that our lives and all of our activity will be successful by chanting the Hare Krsna Mahamantra.

## THE GIFT OF SRI CHAITANYA MAHAPRABHU

The supreme gift of the Hare Krsna Mahamantra has come to us by the grace of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, the divine form of Radha-Krsna combined, who appeared in Nabadwip Dham to distribute this process of chanting His own Holy Name, the Hare Krsna Mahamantra. Because He is the giver of this supreme gift He is *Parama-karuna*, the most merciful Lord, and the worshippable Deity of the age of *Kali*.

*satyam kali-yuga vipra sri harer nama  
mangalam  
param svastyayanam nram nasty eva gatir  
anyatha*

in the form of the Hare Krsna Mahamantra in the age of *Kali-yuga* to connect everyone with His own beauty and ecstasy. So there is no other alternative but to try to chant the Hare Krsna Mahamantra without offence; to chant with love, faith and affection, and be happy. And *Harer Namaiva kevalam*, it is necessary to always chant the Holy Name and not do anything without chanting. Chanting the Lord's Holy Name is the goal of your life and you will be supremely benefited by that.

It is only necessary for everyone to connect with the wave of devotion descending from the transcendental world through the Lord's Holy Name and offer ourselves for its purpose. By chanting the Holy Name of the Lord His transcendental form will be revealed in our hearts. The Lord's Name will firmly connect us with the Lord's *sach-chid-ananda-vigraha*, His eternal, fully conscious, ecstatic form which has been seen and served by great personalities like Brahma, Narad and Vedavyas.

# SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

Srila Bhakti Nirmal Acharya Maharaja  
from "Guidance" {Volume 1 }

## Householders: Appearance Is Deceptive

From a lecture on 17 June 2010

Puṇḍarīk Vidyānidhi was a rich man, looking like a landlord, and he would always chew *pān* (a mixture of tobacco, pulses, nuts, etc.) and spit it out at the wall. Everyone was appalled, "What is this man doing? It is a dirty habit!" People did not like him, and even Gadādhara Paṇḍit was surprised to see Puṇḍarīk Vidyānidhi's behaviour, but when he asked Mahāprabhu to give him initiation, Mahāprabhu said, "Your Guru is coming, wait for him," and later He told Gadādhara Paṇḍit to take initiation from Puṇḍarīk Vidyānidhi.

Also, how can you understand that Bhakti Vinod Thākura is a great personality? He was actually *saptam* Goswāmī, the seventh Goswāmī, but he would mix with *āul*, *bāul*, *kartābhajā*, with all these bad people of *apa-sampradāya*. He knew why he mixed with that kind of

misconception. When he was in Kṛṣṇa Nagar, he saw that Mahāprabhu's conception had been lost and there was much misconception going on instead, and because he wanted to purify, conquer the people with this kind of mentality he had to mix with them.

Gurudev also sometimes mixed with such people. There was a very big man who donated some money to build a house for the *gośālā* in Nabadwīp, but he smoked a pipe. Once he asked Gurudev, "Do you know what my pipe is saying?" Gurudev joked, "Yes, it is saying, 'Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa.'" Gurudev also mixed with such kind of people, but anyhow later that man became a great devotee.

So, how can you understand such personalities? Sometimes their behaviour seems bad, but they are actually great. You cannot understand who they are by their appearance.

When Dās Goswāmī Prabhu went to meet Mahāprabhu, at first Mahāprabhu told him to go back to his house, and he did that: he got



Srila Bhakti Nirmal Acharya Maharaja

married and led a household life. The *grhastha* people say, "Oh, but after that he left his wife and again went to Mahāprabhu"—they think bad, but it was necessary to rescue us, the *jīva* souls, to rescue all universe.

Until you have reached a particular stage, level of realisation, you cannot understand who is a devotee and who is not just by their external behaviour. You must reach that stage, then you can understand it.



# VAISNAVA CALENDAR for Sri Dham Navadwip, India

## December 2018

### KESHAVA

3. (Mon) Krishna Ekadashi. **Utpanna Ekadashi. Fast.**

4. (Tue) Krishna Dvadashi. Paran between 6:07 and 9:40 a.m. Disappearance of Srila Narahari Sarkar Thakur and Srila Kaliya Krishnadas. Disappearance of Sriyukta Dhananjay Das Prabhu.

5. (Wed) Krishna Trayodashi. Disappearance of Srila Saranga Thakur.

7. (Fri) Amavasya. Disappearance of Srila Jagabandhu Bhakti Ranjan.

13. (Thu) Gaura Shashthi. Oran Shashthi. Grand festival for honouring the appearance of Sri Sri Nitai-Chaitanya Jiu at Sri Puri Dham, Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math.

15. (Sat) Gaura Ashtami. Disappearance of Srila Madhusudan Das Babaji Maharaj.

16. (Sun) Gaura Navami. Appearance of Tridandi Swami Srimad Bhakti Kamal Madhusudan Maharaj.

17. (Mon) Gaura Dashami. Disappearance of Tridandi Swami Srimad Bhakti Kusum Shraman Maharaj.

18. (Tue) Gaura Ekadashi. **Moksada Ekadashi. Fast.**

19. (Wed) Gaura Dvadashi. Paran between 10:05 a.m. and 4:52 p.m.

### NARAYAN

24. (Mon) Krishna Dvitiya. The grand 90th appearance day celebration of Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math's Sevaite-President-Acharya, Om Vishnupad Paramahansa Parivrajakacharya Sri Srimad Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaj.

25. (Tue) Krishna Tritiya. Festivals at the appearance place of Srila B.S. Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaj and his youth Pastimes place: Bamunpara and Nadan Ghat. Christmas Day.

26. (Wed) Krishna Chaturthi. Disappearance festival of the founder of the Sri Chaitanya Math and worldwide Sri Gaudiya Maths, Bhagavan Sri Srila Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Goswami Prabhupad.

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