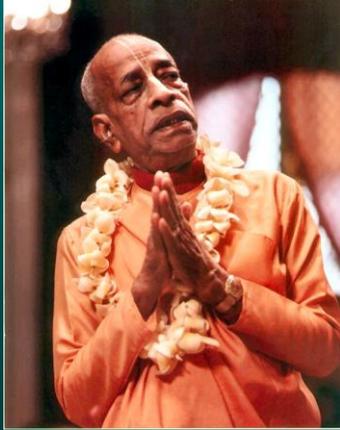


ŚRĪ MAHĀNET

Since the beginning of the Millennium

December 2019



Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta
Swami Prabhupada

Brahman bliss is enjoyed by living entities after liberation from material bondage. But *Parabrahman*, the Personality of Godhead, enjoys eternally a bliss of His own potency, which is called the *hlādinī* potency. The empiric philosopher who studies Brahman by negation of the external features has not yet learned the quality of the *hlādinī* potency of Brahman. Out of many potencies of the Omnipotent, there are three features of His internal potency — namely *samvit*, *sandhinī* and *hlādinī*. And in spite of their strict adherence to the principles of *yama*, *niyama*, *āsana*, *dhyāna*, *dhāraṇā* and *prāṇāyāma*, the great *yogīs* and *jñānīs* are unable to enter into the internal potency of the Lord. This internal potency is, however, easily realized by the devotees of the Lord by dint of devotional service. Yuyudhāna achieved this stage of life, just as he achieved expert knowledge in military science from Arjuna.

(Srila Prabhupada;s Purport
S.Bhag, 3:1:31)

ŚRĪ ŚRĪ PRAPANNA-JIVANAMRTAM

by Śrīla Bhakti Rakṣhaka Śrīdhara

Deva Goswāmī Mahārāja

Verse 2.25

kṛsna-carana-saranagateh parama-sadhyatvam –

*na naka-prstham na ca sarva-bhaumam
na paramesthyam na rasadhipatyam
na yoga-siddhir apunar-bhavam va
vanchanti yat pada-rajah prapannah*

Bhagavatam, 10.16.37

Full refuge in the lotus feet of Sri Kṛsna is the supreme objective –

"Those souls who have taken refuge in the dust of Your lotus feet have no desire to attain heaven, universal dominion, the post of Lord Brahma, sovereignty over the earth, yogic perfections, or liberation."



Devotees dancing in the Lord's love during Ratha Yatra

WORDS OF OUR GUARDIANS

Śrīla Bhakti Rakṣaka Śrīdhara Deva Goswāmī Mahārāja
from *The Loving Search For The Lost Servant*

Deep Vision Reality

And so, we are encouraged by *Srimad-Bhagavatam* to look deeper. We must try to look deeper and then we will find our friend; if we are liberal in our attitude towards the environment, we cannot but come in connection with the plane which is really liberal. That is Kṛṣṇa consciousness in its ultimate reach. If we look deeply into reality with this sort of vision, we will find our real home. Prahlada boldly met all adverse circumstances and ultimately he was victorious. The calculation of Prahlada's demonic father about the environment was falsified, but Prahlada's deeper vision saw reality correctly.



**Srila Bhakti Rakshak
Sridhar Deva Goswami
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.”

and scripture. Our vision should be that it is all nectar, but we have drawn a screen between the nectar and ourselves and are tasting poison, thinking that it is very useful. On the whole, we must think that no blame is to be put on others, and it is actually the truth. We are responsible for our disgrace, our fallen condition. And the path to self improvement is also similar: we must learn to critique ourselves and appreciate the environment. Our appreciation should especially be for Kṛṣṇa and His devotees, and then gradually everyone else. He has not given anyone the authority to harm us. If it appears that way, it is only superficial and misleading. That anyone can do harm to anyone else is misleading. It is only true on the superficial plane. Of course, this does not condone harming others or ignoring oppression, but from the absolute standpoint there is no harm. When we reach the highest stage

He saw that Kṛṣṇa is everywhere. And Kṛṣṇa consciousness is commanding the whole. So we must not allow ourselves to be discouraged under any circumstances, however acute they may apparently seem to us. Kṛṣṇa is there. As much as the circumstances appear to oppose us, it is really not so. If only we can develop the right vision, the smiling face of the Lord will appear from behind the screen. That is Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Kṛṣṇa is beautiful, and He is eagerly awaiting to accept our services.

God And His Men

Our inner wealth can be discovered only by the help of sadhu, guru,

of devotion, we shall see that everything is friendly and that our apprehension was wrong. It was a misconception.

Misconception: *maya* means "what is not" (*mriyate anaya*). When everything is measured from the standpoint of selfishness and not the universal interest - that is the cause of all our troubles. We must gradually realize, "My angle of vision was guided by selfish, not absolute, consideration. So I am suffering. But now I have come to understand that my interest is included in the absolute interest." To parody an old saying, "A bad workman quarrels with his stools." According to our karma we produce the environment. What I am blaming was produced by my own karma. When I take food, stool comes as a natural reaction. It would be foolish to blame the stool for appearing. It is the effect of my having eaten. In the

same way, I have acted in different ways, and the karmic result is my present environment. So to quarrel with the reaction to our own misdeeds is a useless waste of energy. The advice of *Srimad-Bhagavatam* should be our guiding principle under all circumstances. Whatever is coming to us is under His sanction, under His eye, so it cannot but be good. Everything is perfect. The only imperfection is within us, and therefore we should try with all our energy to do our duty. In no time, we shall find ourselves released from all troubles. That is the key advice of the *Srimad-Bhagavatam*.

Our Guardian's Eye

The environment is not dead - an overseer is there. Just as the sun is over our heads, every action is under our guardian's eye. This comparison is given in the *Rg Veda*:
Om tad visno paramam padam sada

pasyanti suraya diviva caksur atatam. We should approach any duty thinking, "My guardian's eye is always vigilantly watching over me, seeing everything I am doing, and whatever is happening to me. I need not worry about this environment or circumstance." So *Bhagavatam* says, "Don't worry about the environment. Do your duty. Concentrate fully on what you are doing, and in no time, you'll be relieved of the black box of the ego and will join in the universal flow of dancing and chanting, singing and rejoicing. You will gain entrance into the lila or pastimes of the Lord."

We are all suffering from separate interest, clash and reaction, good and bad, pleasure and pain, happiness and distress, but there in the spiritual domain, everything is conscious and filled with happiness. So not only total self-forgetfulness is required, but the

whole good will of the Lord should be invited. We shall merge in the flow of the good will of the Lord. That is *Vrndavana*.

Our guardians say: "Do this," and according to our capacity we shall try to execute their order. And accepting that what they say is really coming from *Krsna*, the more we are able to follow their instructions, the more benefit we shall accrue.



DIVINE INSTRUCTION

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

THE POWER OF BRAHMA

In this way Mahaprabhu expressed Himself in the assembly of *sannyasis* to Prakasananda Saraswati. Then Prakasananda argued, "Yes. This is good. But you must hear *Vedanta-darsan*."

Mahaprabhu humbly replied, "Yes sir. You are master, you can read it and I will hear from you."

Then Prakasananda began to speak about the *Vedanta-darsan* and

while he spoke Mahaprabhu did not say anything. Finally Prakasananda asked, "Can You understand anything I am saying?"

Then Mahaprabhu said, "By the mercy of My Gurudev I can understand the meanings of the sutras from the *Vedanta-darsan* that you are reading. But I cannot understand the commentary you are giving."

Prakasananda said, "What? You cannot

understand my commentary?"

Mahaprabhu said, "Yes, I cannot understand; that is, I am thinking what you are telling is wrong."

Then Prakasananda began to debate, "Why? Why do You think it is wrong?"

Mahaprabhu said, "You are saying that the final attainment given in the *Vedanta-darsan* is *nirakara, nirvisesa Brahma* - impersonal, non-differentiated *Brahma*. But this is not true. I am feeling in My heart that



Srila Bhakti Sundara
Govinda Deva Goswami
Maharaja

Brahma has power, form, and beauty. And not only am I feeling this in My heart, everyone who mixes with Me also feels it. So I must conclude that Brahma has divine form and qualities. And I feel that if Krsna will be merciful to you then you will feel it also.”

In this way Mahaprabhu expressed His heart and through that explained to Prakasananda Saraswati how Sankaracharya’s interpretation of the *Vedanta-darsan* is wrong. After this Prakasananda was defeated. He held his tongue and the debate was finished. But even though he was defeated by Mahaprabhu, after the debate was finished, Prakasananda thought, “Oh Mahaprabhu, how humble He is.”

“WHY AM I SITTING ON THIS THRONE?”

The meeting of Mahaprabhu and Prakasananda Saraswati passed in this way. Then on another day Prakasananda saw Sri Chaitanyadev going to take His bath in the Ganges. Mahaprabhu was dancing on His way, chanting Hare Krsna with a mob of people dancing along behind Him.

Then when he again saw Mahaprabhu coming down the road chanting in a dancing mood, Prakasananda fell at Mahaprabhu’s lotus feet and took Mahaprabhu’s foot dust on his head. He said, “Oh! I am very foolish. You have everything and I have nothing. All ecstasy, joyfulness, and happiness live in Your body and Your eyes show that. I have been practising *jñana-yoga* for so long. But what have I got? Nothing. I have got nothing. So I need Your mercy. You are the real form of *Hari-Nama-sankirtan*. You must be that otherwise my mind could not be attracted to You. And You must be Krsna. You are distributing Krsna consciousness to everyone and it is not possible for anyone to do this except Krsna Himself. Only Krsna has the power to do that. So You must be a non-different form of Krsna otherwise this would not be possible.” In this way Prakasananda took shelter at the lotus feet of Mahaprabhu.

Then Mahaprabhu said, “What are you doing? You are a *sampradaya guru*.”

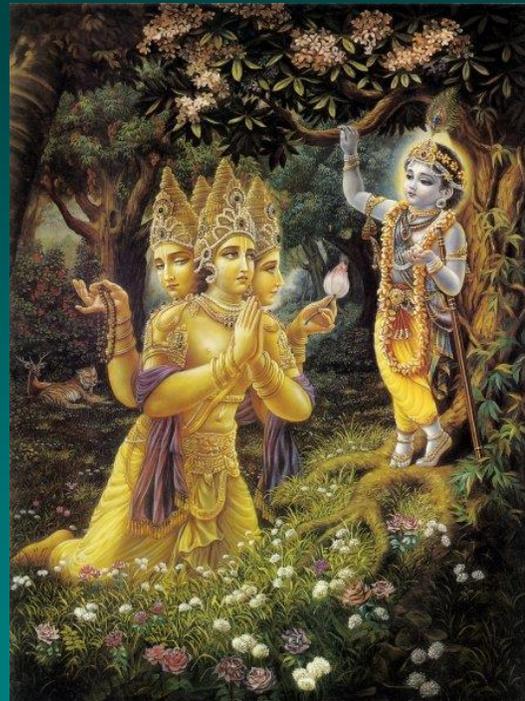
But Prakasananda prayed, “Prabhu, please do not

Prakasananda was stunned to see Mahaprabhu’s *sankirtan*. From far away Prakasananda saw Mahaprabhu dancing in *Krsna-prema* with so many pious people in *sankirtan* in the middle of the road and he was very much attracted. He thought, “Oh! I need this actually! What have I been doing my whole life? I have been a *sampradaya guru* for so long but I see now that I need what this young man has. He is following His Guru’s order and has become intoxicated with a mood of divine ecstasy. He dances and chants the Hare Krsna Mahamantra as tears pour from His eyes, His whole body trembles and He perspires. All ecstatic symptoms appear in His body and He is so happy and joyful. What am I doing sitting in the chair of an Acharya?”

THE SUPREME WEALTH OF ALL JIVA-SOULS

After seeing Mahaprabhu’s divine form and mood in *sankirtan* Prakasananda was heavily convinced that he could not remain in his position. Prakasananda thought that he would talk to Chaitanyadev when he saw Him again.

cheat me now. I feel it is necessary to surrender to You and I feel You are distributing the supreme wealth of all *jiva*-souls. Please do not deceive me now.”



Lord Brahma praying to Sri Krishna

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

Srila Bhakti Nirmal Acharya Maharaja
from "Guidance" – Volume 1

Loving Search for the Lost Servant

10 October 2010

You took initiation in 1996, and Kṛṣṇa has brought you here again... It is loving search for the lost servant: *"Kabe Āmā' Mādhava āsibe, kabe Āmā' karibe sevān? When will Mādhav come to Me? When will he come to serve Me?"* Kṛṣṇa is waiting for our service.

Kṛṣṇa's *prapautra*, great-grandson called Vajranābha, installed and served the Deity of Gopāl in Vṛndāvan Dhām. When the Muslim people were breaking all the temples, the *pūjārī* wrapped the Deity and hid Him in the jungle. The Deity stayed there, waiting for Mādhavendra Purī to come. He had not waited for just a year or two—He had waited for Mādhavendra Purī for maybe 100-300 years, or more than that.

Then Mādhavendra Purī came to Vṛndāvan. He was once sitting on the bank of Govinda Kuṇḍa under a banyan tree, thinking, "When will Kṛṣṇa come? I wish I could see the Lord..." He was alone, sitting and chanting on his beads, when suddenly a beautiful looking boy came by with some milk for him, "O *sādhu!* You have been fasting all day, please take this milk." Mādhavendra Purī was very surprised, "How do You know I have not eaten or drunk anything? How do You know I am fasting?"

"Oh, some ladies came to take water in the morning and in the evening, and they said a *sādhu* had come and he was only chanting, chanting, and had nothing to eat. So I have brought some milk for you."

"But where are You staying?"

"I am a cowherd boy and look after the cows in this area." Then the boy said quickly, "All right, I will come later. Drink the milk, and I will come for the empty pot later," and left. Mādhavendra Purī drank the milk and was surprised, "I have never tasted such milk before!



Srila Bhakti Nirmal Acharya Maharaja

"You were asking Me who I was, where I was from, where My house was. My Name is Gopāl, and Kṛṣṇa's great-grandson Vajranābha established My Deity, but now I am suffering so much—there is so much rain, the sun is scorching Me... Please, take Me out of this place."

It is nectar! I have drunk milk many times, but I have never tried such milk before!" He was sitting and waiting for that boy to come, but He did not come back, and Mādhavendra Purī decided to take rest. The boy came to him in a dream and said, "You were asking Me who I was, where I was from, where My house was. My Name is Gopāl, and Kṛṣṇa's great-grandson Vajranābha established My Deity, but now I am suffering so much—there is so much rain, the sun is scorching Me... Please, take Me out of this place."

Mādhavendra Purī was surprised. He thought, "Kṛṣṇa came to me, gave me milk, but I could not recognise Him!" He was very sad...

When the morning came, he told everybody, "Villagers! Your village Deity is hiding here." Everybody began clearing the jungle and searching, searching, but nobody could find the Deity, only Mādhavendra Purī knew where the exact place was.

To be continued in Jam 2020 issue...

VAISNAVA CALENDAR for New York, New Jersey

December 2019

2. (Mon) Gaura Shashthi. Oran Shashthi. Grand festival for honouring the appearance of Sri Sri Nitai-Chaitanya Jiu at Sri Puri Dham, Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math.
4. (Wed) Gaura Ashtami. Disappearance of Srila Madhusudan Das Babaji Maharaj.
5. (Thu) Gaura Navami. Appearance of Tridandi Swami Srimad Bhakti Kamal Madhusudan Maharaj.
6. (Fri) Gaura Dashami. Disappearance of Tridandi Swami Srimad Bhakti Kusum Shraman Maharaj.
8. (Sun) Gaura Ekadashi. **Moksada Ekadashi. Fast.**
9. (Mon) Gaura Dvadashi. Paran between 7:13 a.m. and 10:16 p.m.

NARAYAN

14. (Sat) Krishna Dvitiya. The grand 91st appearance day celebration of Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math's Sevaite-President-Acharya, Om Vishnupad Paramahansa Parivrajakacharya Sri Srimad Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaj.
15. (Sun) Krishna Tritiya. Festivals at the appearance place of Srila B.S. Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaj and his youth Pastimes place: Bamunpara and Nadan Ghat.
16. (Mon) 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.
22. (Sun) Krishna Ekadashi. **Saphala Ekadashi. Fast.** Disappearance of Srila Devananda Pandit and Srimad Bhakti Prakash Aranya Maharaj.
23. (Mon) Krishna Dvadashi. Paran between 7:25 and 10:25 a.m. Disappearance of Sripad Bhakti Bhudev Shrauti Maharaj.
24. (Tue) Krishna Trayodashi. Disappearance of Srila Mahesh Pandit and Srila Uddharan Das Thakur.
25. (Wed) Krishna Chaturdashi. Christmas Day.
27. (Fri) Gaura Pratipad. Appearance of Srila Lochan Das Thakur.
29. (Sun) Gaura Tritiya. Disappearance of Srila Jiva Goswami Prabhu and Srila Jagadish Pandit.

MBC TV

Mahaprabhu Broadcasting Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-8udyHuxpkFyoqyV9CsraA>

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