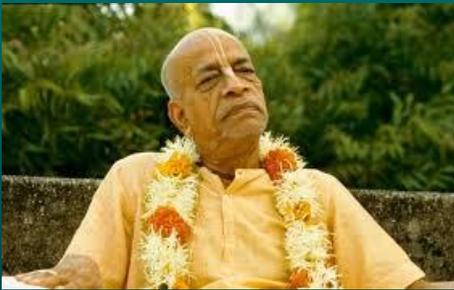


ŚRĪ MAHĀNET

Since the beginning of the Millennium

July, 2021



Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta
Swami Prabhupada

The purpose of pilgrimages is to remember the Lord constantly, and therefore the Lord is known as *ūrtha-kīrti*. The purpose of going to a place of pilgrimage is to get the chance to glorify the Lord.

The beauty of such a pilgrimage place is that automatically one remembers the holy glories of the Lord. His name, fame, quality, form, pastimes and entourage are all identical to the Lord, and therefore chanting the glories of the Lord invokes the personal presence of the Lord. Any time or anywhere pure devotees meet and chant the glories of the Lord, the Lord is present without any doubt. It is said by the Lord Himself that He always stays where His pure devotees chant His glories.

(Prabhupada Purport SB 3:1:45)

ŚRĪ ŚRĪ PRAPANNA-JIVANAMRTAM

by Śrīla Bhakti Rakṣhaka Śrīdhara

Deva Goswāmī Mahārāja

Verse 3.11

guru-padasraya eva mukhyah –

*tasmad gurum prapadyeta, jijnasuh sreyaḥ uttamam
sabde pare ca nisnatam, brahmany upasamasrayam*

Sri Prabuddhasya

Of all *sadhu-sanga*, the foremost is the service of the lotus feet of the bona fide Spiritual Master or *Sad-guru* –

"Thus, a person in search of the ultimate good should surrender to the Guru who knows well the Vedic scriptures (*Sabda-brahman*) and the Supreme Absolute Lord (*Para-brahman*), and for whom the mundane world holds no charm whatsoever."

Sri Prabuddha



Sadhu-sanga with the bona fide Spiritual Master (*Sad-guru*) –
His Divine Grace Stila Bhakti Nirmal Acharya Maharaja

WORDS OF OUR GUARDIANS

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

Dive Deep Into Reality

In His form as the Deity, I can touch Him, I can see Him, and I can serve Him. In a concrete form He has come to help our understanding. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu looked at the Deity and His eyes were flooded with tears. It is not that His eyes were fixed upon the superficial characteristics of wood when He saw the Deity form of Lord Jagannatha, but He was connected on a vastly higher level with Kṛṣṇa consciousness. His thoughts were deep with Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu thought, "Lord Jagannatha has come here and is making arrangements to deliver

millions of fallen souls, especially by extending His own *prasadam* to one and all in great magnitude. His magnanimous presence has manifest here for the relief of this world." And Kṛṣṇa consciousness is the highest relief work. Our guru maharaja used to say that there is a famine of kṛṣṇa *katha*. There is a famine at present. But is the world suffering from a lack of food? No. The world is suffering from the famine of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, Kṛṣṇa talk, kṛṣṇa *kirtan*. So we must try to open offices of food distribution so that we may distribute the food of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to all souls.

Mahaprabhu said "Whoever you come across, talk of Kṛṣṇa (*yare*

dekha, tare kaha 'kṛṣṇa'-upadesa)."
Give them the food of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, Kṛṣṇa *katha*. The world is filled with famine-stricken people. We must distribute food, give the life and breath of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to whomever we meet by speaking about Kṛṣṇa. That was the feeling of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati, and Bhaktivedanta Swami Maharaja carried that out in the West. Śrīla Bhaktisiddhanta used to say, "I do not admit any other conception of famine. The only famine is that of Kṛṣṇa *katha*, Kṛṣṇa *smṛti*, Kṛṣṇa consciousness."

With such seriousness he conceived of our necessity for Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Kṛṣṇa is of vital importance to our existence. Only Kṛṣṇa can give us vitality. And as Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Kṛṣṇa Himself distributes Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Vasudeva Ghosh says, therefore, "Sri Gauranga is my

life and soul, my only vitality. If Gauranga had not come, how could I live? (*yadi gaura na ha'ta tabe ki haita kemane dharitam de*) By His grace I have tasted such valuable food that without this, my life would be completely impossible." Kṛṣṇa consciousness is the vitality of vitality. Śrīla Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Prabhupada did his best to give Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the people of India, and Bhaktivedanta Swami Maharaja distributed that vitality all over the world. It is by their grace and by the grace of Caitanya Mahaprabhu Himself that so many have come to Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Haridasa Thakura once told Caitanya Mahaprabhu, "By Your chanting of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa, both the animate and inanimate world has been supplied with the food of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Whatever position they may occupy, their life is



**Srila Bhakti Rakshak
Sridhar Deva Goswami
Maharaj**

"Haridasa Thakura once told Caitanya Mahaprabhu, "By Your chanting of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa, both the animate and inanimate world has been supplied with the food of Kṛṣṇa consciousness."

fulfilled. I heard of how, when You traveled through the jungle and chanted and danced, the elephants and tigers also danced and chanted the holy name of Krsna. What wonder, then, should there be if I say that the stones and trees have also attained their highest end - Krsna consciousness - when You are chanting. What an intense degree of Krsna consciousness has been produced here by Your chanting!" But in order to chant the holy name of Krsna, something is required from our side also.

We should resort to kirtana always, but our attitude should be as Mahaprabhu recommends:

*trnad api sunicena
taror api sahisnuna
amanina manadena
kirtaniyah sada harih.*

Our attitude should be one of humility, and if we think that we are

being done wrong, still we should be patient, and under no circumstances should we work for our own position and prestige; that should not be our aim. When the lower stands against the higher, offense arises. That tendency should be shunned. Primary education is also education, but that should not compete with higher education; we must be careful about that. At the same time, the differentiation between higher education and lower education must be genuine. Still, primary education must not be thought of as the highest education. That will be dangerous. There is a saying in Bengali - *alpavidya bhayamkori* - "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing."

We must be careful about that, otherwise our attitude will be suicidal. The question of offense arises whenever primary education stands against higher education.

That sort of assertion is offensive. Slow and steady wins the race. Our march towards the infinite is a long journey, not a journey to be finished within a few hours, a few days, or a few years. And we have to adjust accordingly. It is not that we shall run quickly to make progress and then stop and sleep. It is a long way we shall have to go. We will only be successful if we develop humility - *trnad api sunicena*.

We should not create any circumstance that invites resistance. Still, if any resistance unexpectedly approaches us, we should try our best to forbear. And we must always be conscious that our guardian's eye is always over us, eager to help us in our campaign. We are not alone.

DIVINE INSTRUCTION

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

OVERPOWERING THE ALL-POWERFUL WITH AN ENCHANTING BREEZE

We can understand how much love and attachment Krsna has for Radharani, how supremely She satisfies Him and how extremely valuable the service of Radharani is, through a super expression of Prabodhananda Saraswati Thakur.

*yasyah kadapi
vasanaichala
khelanottha-*

*dhanyatidhanya-
pavenena krtarthamani*

*yogindra-durgama-gatir
madhusudano 'pi tasyah
namo 'stu
vrsabhanubhuvo dise'
pi*

*(Radha-rasa-sudha-
nidhi: 2)*

This is Prabodhananda Saraswati's *pranam mantram* of Radharani. In this *sloka* it is expressed, "When Krsna feels the breeze of Radharani's sari as Radharani distributes

food to Krsna and His friends, Krsna feels, 'I am fully satisfied.'

"*Dhanyatidhanya-pavenena krtarthamani*, just by feeling the breeze of Radharani's sari Krsna feels, 'I am so fortunate and I am fully satisfied.' *Yogindra-durgama-gatir Madhusudano 'pi*, all the research scholars, *munis, rsis, yogis*, everyone, are trying to get the dust of the lotus feet of Krsna but that Krsna thinks, 'The breeze from the cloth of Radharani gives Me full



Srila Bhakti Sundara
Govinda Deva Goswami
Maharaja

nourishment.””

Krsna is Svayam Bhagavan, the Supreme Personality of Godhead Himself:

*isvarah paramah krsnah sach-chid-ananda-
vigraha
anadir adir govindah sarva-karana-karanam*

(Sri Brahma-samhita: 5.1)

Krsna is not only an *isvara*, He is the *Paramesvara* who is the origin of everything, the Creator of all creation and the universally worshippable eternal Lord. But that Krsna thinks, “Oh ho! I am very fortunate that I have felt the breeze from the cloth of Radharani.”

When we understand the identity of Krsna and then we hear that Krsna is becoming maddened by feeling the breeze of Radharani’s sari then we can understand something about Radharani. We can understand that Krsna gets full satisfaction from Her and that no one can satisfy Krsna the way She can. And we can understand that even

But he did not want to give that knowledge to the *rsis* in the public meeting. Atreya Rsi and many big, big, stalwart *rsis* were there.

*atrir vasisthas chyavanah saradvan
aristanemir bhrigur angiras cha
parasaro gadhi-suto 'tha rama
dvaipayano bhagavan naradas cha*
(Srimad-Bhagavatam: 1.19.9–10)

All the dignitaries of the spiritual world were seated there: Sukadev Goswami’s grandfather Parasar, his father Vedavyas, Narad Rsi, and so many others. Everyone was present for the meeting during Pariksit Maharaj’s final seven days. There Sukadev Goswami expressed everything but He did not take the Name of Radharani because He did not want to expose the harem of Krsna in the middle of that meeting. Not everyone there could properly understand Krsna’s exclusive private life. So to protect them from making any offences he did not take the Name of Radharani.

Krsna Himself wants to serve Radharani. So Radharani’s position is supreme.

But Prabodhananda Saraswati has also given us a very helpful caution in his *sloka*, “We are not so expert and we are not qualified to take the Name of Radharani. Actually we are all unqualified to think about Her divine Pastimes with Krsna. But at least what we can do is pay our *dandavat pranam* to the direction of Varsana where Radharani appeared and played in Her childhood.”

THE QUEEN OF KRSNA’S HOMELAND

We can also understand how high and exalted the position and Name of Radharani are through Srimad-Bhagavatam. Sukadev Goswami did not want to take the Name of Radharani in the public meeting described in Srimad-Bhagavatam because he understood that the *rsis* there were not qualified to hear Her Name. Sukadev Goswami heard Radharani’s glories from his Gurudev Vedavyas, and through that he understood everything.

Radharani’s position is supreme, but She is only known to those who have consciousness about Krsna’s private life. Krsna is famous everywhere; everyone all over the world has heard of Krsna. But only in Vrndavan will you hear the Name of Radharani everywhere. If you go to Vrndavan even today you will find that you will not hear the Name of Krsna so much. There everyone only calls, “Radhe Radhe! Radhe Radhe!” Everywhere you go in Vrndavan you will hear, “Radhe Radhe!”

Vrndavan is Radharani’s zone and there everyone always sings Her glories. Krsna’s position is secondary there. Krsna is like a big administrator, He is known so far and wide. But Radharani is the Mistress of His exclusive private life and She is supreme within Krsna’s homeland of Vrndavan.

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

*Srīla Bhakti Nirmal Acharya Maharaja
from "Guidance" - Volume 1*



The Power of Surrender

14 December 2010

Continued from our June 2021 issue...

Full faith is necessary. Even Draupadī could not understand it. She asked Kṛṣṇa, “Why did You not protect me when they were beating me?”

Duḥśāsan came to Draupadī’s house and said, “The kingdom now belongs to us, and so do you. You have to go with us.” Kuntī, her mother-in-law, was also there, and she tried to stop him, “She is just a housewife, why does she have to go?” but they forcefully took her by hair and threw her on the floor at the *rāj-sabhā* (royal assembly). Duryodhan was sitting in the place of the king, and the Pāṇḍavas were

Srila Bhakti Nirmal Acharya Maharaja

“At the time of initiation, when a devotee fully surrenders unto the service of the Lord, Kṛṣṇa accepts them as His very own.”

sitting with their heads down because they had been defeated in the *pāśā khelā* (dice game)—their uncle Śakuni made the arrangement for them to lose the game.

When Duḥśāsan came to take Draupadī, she thought of her husbands, “I am alone, and they are beating and taking me away! Where are you, Yudhiṣṭhir, where are you, Bhīm and Arjun?” When Duḥśāsan brought her into the hall, she saw all of them sitting there and cried out, “Yudhiṣṭhir! Bhīm! Arjun! Why are you not protecting me? I am your wife, and they are abusing me!” but they had no power. Everyone knew how chaste Draupadī was to her husbands, so Duḥśāsan came to take her sari off.

So, when she later asked Kṛṣṇa why He had not protected her, Kṛṣṇa explained, “Did you remember Me? No, you remembered your husbands. Even when they were taking your clothes off, you thought you could protect yourself. They were pulling your clothes, and you were holding it, trying to cover your body

and save yourself. Then you were clasp onto your sari with one hand, and calling out with the other. That is not full surrender. When they had taken almost all your sari off, then with both hands up, heart and soul, you called out to Me, ‘Please protect me!’ Did I not protect you at that time?” Draupadī admitted it.

*dīkṣā-kāle bhakta kare ātma-samarpaṇa sei-
kāle kṛṣṇa tāre kare ātma-sama*

“At the time of initiation, when a devotee fully surrenders unto the service of the Lord, Kṛṣṇa accepts them as His very own.”
(Śrī Chaitanya-charitāmṛta, Antya-līlā, 4.192)

When you take initiation, you do not only receive a mantra, you also receive *divyā-jñāna* (divine knowledge). If a devotee surrenders to Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa thinks, “This devotee is My soul.” Surrender is necessary for that. Without surrender you cannot do anything.

To be continued in our Aug 2021 issue...

VAISNAVA CALENDAR for New York, New Jersey Area

July 2021

- 2 (Fri) Krishna Ashtami. Disappearance of Sripad Pusta Krishna Prabhu.
- 5 (Mon) Krishna Ekadashi. Yogini Ekadashi (in New York). **Fast.** Disappearance of Sriyukta Rama Devi.
- 6 (Tue) Krishna Dvadashi. Paran between 05:31 and 10:30.
- 9 (Fri) Amavasya. Disappearance of Srila Gadadhar Pandit Goswami. Disappearance of Srila Sachchidananda Bhakti Vinod Thakur.
- 11 (Sun) Gaura Pratipad. **Gundicha Marjan:** cleaning at the Gundicha Temple at Sri Puri Dham, and cleaning of all Temples of the Lord.
- 12 (Mon) Gaura Dvitiya. **Ratha Yatra of Sri Jagannathdev.** Disappearance of Srila Svarup Damodar Goswami Prabhu.
- 15 (Thu) Gaura Panchami. Hera Panchami. Sri Sri Laksmi Vijay (observed the following day in Sri Puri Dham).
- 17 (Sat) Gaura Ashtami. Disappearance of Sripad Ajita Krishna Brahmachari.
- 19 (Mon) Gaura Dashami. Disappearance of Tridandi Swami Bhakti Kamal Madhusudan Maharaj. Disappearance of Sriyukta Krishnamayi Devi.
- 20 (Tue) Gaura Ekadashi. Trisprisha Mahadvadashi (in New York). **Fast.** Punar Yatra of Sri Jagannathdev (Return car festival).
- 21 (Wed) Gaura Trayodashi. Paran between 05:42 and 10:35.
- 24 (Sat) Purnima. Sri Guru Purnima. Appearance of Srila Vyasadev. Beginning of Chaturmasya (when started on Purnima as followed in Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math). Appearance of Srila Bhakti Bimal Avadhut Maharaj. Disappearance of Srila Sanatan Goswami Prabhu.

Sridhar

- 26 (Mon) Krishna Dvitiya. Disappearance of Tridandi Swami Srimad Bhakti Hriday Bon Maharaj.
- 28 (Wed) Krishna Panchami. Disappearance of Srila Gopal Bhatta Goswami Prabhu.

MBC TV

Mahaprabhu Broadcasting Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-8udyHuxpkFyogvV9CsraA>

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