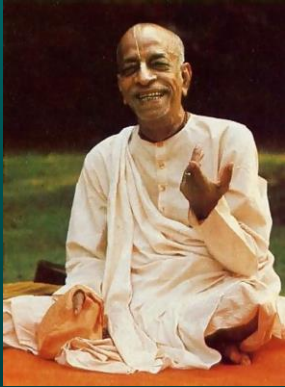


ŚRĪ MAHĀNET

Since the beginning of the Millennium

September, 2021



Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta
Swami Prabhupada

In a good family of devotees, the child gets the opportunity to serve the Lord in many ways. A soul who is already advanced in devotional service has the opportunity to take birth in such an enlightened family. This is confirmed in the Bhagavad-gītā (6.41). *Śucīnām śrīmatām gehe yoga-bhraṣṭo 'bhijāyate*: even the fallen devotee gets the opportunity to take his birth in the family of a well-situated *brāhmaṇa* or in a rich, well-to-do mercantile family. In both these families there is a good opportunity to revive one's sense of God consciousness automatically because particularly in these families the worship of Lord *Kṛṣṇa* is regularly performed and the child gets the opportunity to imitate the process of worship called *arcānā*.

(Prabhupada Purport SB 3:2:2)

ŚRĪ ŚRĪ PRAPANNA-JIVANAMRTAM

by Śrīla Bhakti Rakṣhaka Śrīdhara

Deva Goswāmī Mahārāja

Verse 3.13

tadiyaradhanam parama-phaladam –

*maj-janmanah phalam idam madhu-kaitabhare
mat prarthaniya mad anugraha esa eva
tvad bhrtya-bhrtya-paricaraka-bhrtya-bhrtya
bhrtyasya bhrtyam iti mam smara lokanatha*

Sri Kulasekharasya

Devotional service rendered to the devotee bestows the highest fruit –

"O Supreme Lord of all beings, O slayer of the demons Madhu and Kaitabha, this is the purpose of my life, this is my prayer, and this is Your grace - that You will remember me as Your servant, a servant of a servant of a Vaisnava, a servant of a servant of such a servant of a servant of a Vaisnava, and a servant of a servant of the servant of a servant of a Vaisnava's servant's servant."

- Sri Kulasekhara



Feb 2021

Preparing prasadam for the devotees

WORDS OF OUR GUARDIANS

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

Indra Insulted

And so the *gopas*, the milkmen of Vṛndavana, followed Kṛṣṇa's advice - some reluctantly and some willingly - and they began the sacrifice for Govardhana Hill. This news reached Indra, who thought to himself: "A boy of special capacity lives there. Now He has taken the leadership of Vṛndavana and stopped this ancient sacrifice to me. For a long time it was the tradition of the *gopas* to perform sacrifice to satisfy me, and now one boy is the cause of stopping my sacrifice!" He was very much enraged. Indra ordered the clouds and the wind and the lightning to attack the residents of Vṛndavana.



*Srila Bhakti Rakshak
Sridhar Deva Goswami
Maharaj*

“According to authorities in our line, *Radha-kunda* is the extended self of Srimati Radharani and Govardhana is the extended self of Kṛṣṇa..”

consciousness means person.

Everything that we may be conscious of is a person. We may think of the wind as an inanimate object, but it was thought of in the Vedic line as a person. Lightning, wind, clouds, and rain are all persons. Whatever we consider to be elementary matter, gross and subtle, were all considered by the ancient seers of the truth to be persons.

Indra commanded the wind, the clouds, and the rain to go and devastate the whole area of Gokula Vṛndavana. "The residents of Vṛndavana have insulted me!" He said. "They have rejected me, have stopped worshiping me, and are instead worshiping that mountain, that hill of Govardhana. I can't tolerate this insult! Go and devastate them." By the order and wrath of Indra, the master of all the higher subtle elements, heavy rain began to

According to Vedic understanding, all the elements are personified. In ancient days, the *Aryans* and *Rajarsis*, elevated human beings and great sages, used to see everything as persons. They saw everything in a personal way. They thought of the creepers, the trees and everything else in the environment as persons. They understood that they were all persons who, according to karma, are wandering through the different species of life. Once I was asked by a professor of biology about alternatives to Darwinian evolution. I advised him that evolution from consciousness to matter may be understood on the basis of Berkeley's theory. Whatever we think of is really part of our consciousness. And

fall. And so thunder, hail, and rain simultaneously attacked the whole of Vraja Mandala. Consequently, all the residents of Vṛndavana were thrown into a great disaster. Misery, pain, and sorrow afflicted the animals and the protectors of the animals, the *gopas*. So the helpless - the women, children, and animals of Vṛndavana - had no alternative but to take refuge of Kṛṣṇa. They all came to Kṛṣṇa for relief. They cried, "O Kṛṣṇa! Now what are we to do? You influenced us to stop the sacrifice meant for Indra, and now Indra, being vindictive, has begun to afflict us in this very heavy way. How can we live? Please save us!"

They all came to Kṛṣṇa for protection. Seeing this, Kṛṣṇa had much pity for them. Being merciful upon them, He smiled a little, thinking, "They have all come to Me for relief." At that time, with only one hand Kṛṣṇa lifted up the

Govardhana mountain. For Him, it was a very easy thing; with only one hand, He uprooted the hill and lifted it up as a child lifts a toy ball. And holding up that great mountain, Krsna gave protection to all those who were living in Gokula. The men, women, and children of Vrndavana brought the cows and all their worldly goods and took shelter beneath Govardhana Hill.

The whole cowherd society was given shelter under that hill. In this way, by lifting Govardhana Hill, Krsna gave protection to the residents of Vrndavana, and crushed the pride of the lord of heaven, Indra himself. And so Nanda Maharaja prays in this verse, "May that lord of the cows be satisfied by us. Who is Indra when compared to Krsna? Krsna is the master of Indra. And yet He has appeared as the master of cows; the Supreme Absolute Truth has accepted a simple position as the keeper of

cows. Superficially, He is a mere cowherd boy. But let that cowherd boy, who holds within Him the power of controlling the whole universe, be satisfied with us. We want to worship that Lord who has taken the humble position of the king of the cows." From this verse of Srimad-Bhagavatam, we can understand the position of the Lord's pastime at Govardhana. It is also described here that when the *Vrajavasis* worshipped Him and engaged in sacrifice for His satisfaction, they saw Govardhana Hill as the Supreme Person, extending His hands, accepting the things offered to Him, and feeding Himself. At that time, Krsna pointed out, "You see! You thought that Govardhana Hill was only a heap of stone. No - it is living, it is the Supreme Personality of Godhead."

At that time, Krsna revealed Himself as Govardhana Hill and

showed how it is also His extended self. According to authorities in our line, *Radha-kunda* is the extended self of Srimati Radharani and Govardhana is the extended self of Krsna. And so we worship a stone from Govardhana Hill, a part of Giridhari, as Krsna Himself. We may understand from this that a part of the infinite is infinite. And yet so feeble is our ordinary vision that although *Govardhana-sila* is a part of the infinite, and therefore also infinite, to our material vision it is only a piece of stone.

This pastime shows that a thing may appear to be ordinary stone, but its possibility is infinite.

DIVINE INSTRUCTION

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

PASTIMES OF LOVE AND MAGNANIMITY

After the appearance of Krsna the time came on the Earth planet for the *Kali-yuga Avatar*, the incarnation to distribute the dharma of the age of Kali: *Hari-Nama-sankirttan*, congregational chanting of the Holy Name of the Lord. At that time the Lord appeared as Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

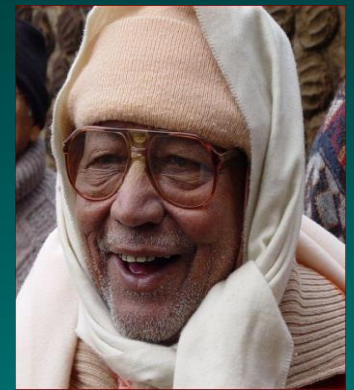
*sri krsna chaitanya
prabhu jive daya kari*

*sva-parsada sviya
dhama saha avatari*
(Saranagati: 1.1)

Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu descended from the transcendental world with His associates and His own divine abode. He revealed His *audarya-lila* and bestowed His mercy upon all the fortunate souls of this world. But like Krsna, inside Mahaprabhu there are two forms. One form is the Yuga-Avatar who came to distribute *Hari-Nama-sankirttan* and the other

form is *Radha-Krsna-milita-tanu*, *Radha-Krsna* combined *Avatari* Krsna manifest with the heart and halo of His eternal consort Radharani.

The Lord's *audarya-lila*, Pastimes of magnanimity, give the *jiva*-souls entrance into His *madhurya-lila*, Pastimes of sweetness. As Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, the Lord could show His *Radha - Krsna-lila* like a jewel; He could reveal all of its facets and glory in full. During His appearance as Krsna the Lord enjoyed His *madhurya-lila*



Srila Bhakti Sundara
Govinda Deva Goswami
Maharaja

personally, He did not distribute entrance into His *madhurya-lila* to the *jiva*-souls. But in His *audarya-lila* as Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu the Lord actively distributes His *madhurya-lila* everywhere. Because of this Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's *audarya-lila* is honoured by the devotees as more than Krsna's *lila*.

Srimad-Bhagavatam describes how Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu distributes Himself and His gift of Krsna-*prema* as well as how He gives the *jiva*-souls entrance into His *madhurya-lila*.

*kṛṣṇa-varṇam tviṣākṛṣṇam
sāṅgopāṅgāstra-pārṣadam
yajñaih saṅkīrtana-prāyair
yajanti hi su-medhasaḥ*
(Srimad-Bhagavatam: 11.5.32)

“Krsna Himself will take form as Lord Gauranga to distribute His own divine love and divine form through His divine Name. He will distribute the Lord's transcendental Name, fame and everything through *sankirttan-maha-yajña*, the

Samvad, which you can find in Sri Chaitanya-charitamṛta, Madhya-lila Chapter 8, the full conception and gift that Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu came to give to the world is presented. Everything is explained there and if you read it then you will understand how people will first enter into Krsna consciousness, how they will proceed in their practicing life, how devotees will offer themselves to Krsna, how Krsna will accept their service—everything. And in the final portion of their meeting Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu revealed His internal identity and hidden Pastimes to Ramananda Ray.

Mahaprabhu began their conversation by asking Ramananda Ray, “*Pada sloka sadhyera nirnaya* (Cc: Madhya, 8.57): please recite a sloka that reveals the ultimate goal of our lives.” Ramananda Ray replied with a sloka but Mahaprabhu said, “*Eho bahya, age kaha ara*, this is external. Go deeper.”

Mahaprabhu rejected one, two, three, four answers of Ramananda Ray in this way, “*Eho bahya, age kaha ara*. This is not appropriate.

great sacrifice of chanting the Lord's Holy Names in congregation. He Himself will be Krsna-*varṇam tviṣākṛṣṇam*, He will always chant the Holy Name ‘Krsna’ and His form will have a great golden effulgence. *Sangopangastra parsadaih, yajñaih sankirttana*: with His associates—Nityananda Prabhu, Advaita Acharya, Gadadhar Pandit, Srivas Thakur, etc.—He will chant, dance and engage everyone in the sacrifice of *Hari-Nama-sankirttan*. *Yajanti hi su-medhasaḥ*: and all the fortunate souls will practice the procedure He distributes and feel Krsna-*prema* in their hearts.”

SRI CHAITANYA MAHAPRABHU'S MEETING WITH RAMANANDA RAY

During His Pastimes, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu first revealed His true identity as Radha-Krsna combined to His dear devotee Ramananda Ray on the bank of the Godavari River.

Mahaprabhu chose to bestow His divine mercy upon all conditioned souls through Ramananda Ray. Within their conversation, the Ramananda

You know more, so tell Me more.”

By rejecting his *slokas* Mahaprabhu was teaching Ramananda Ray. But Ramananda Ray was also testing Mahaprabhu; he was suspicious about whether a *sannyasi* would accept Radha-Krsna-*lila* as supreme. So he did not want to mention it right away. He first glorified *varnasram-dharma*, etc.

In this way Mahaprabhu examined Ramananda Ray and Ramananda Ray examined Mahaprabhu. But finally, when they found very good relations between each other, they discussed the very essence of Krsna consciousness. Ramananda Ray described and supported the *raga-marga-seva* of Radha-Krsna as supreme and Mahaprabhu was very, very happy. Ramananda Ray said, “*I'hara madhye Radhara prema—'sadhya-siromani'*: real service to Krsna is given by Radharani and Radharani's *prema*, which is the greatest amongst all the *gopis*’, is incomparably and exclusively the topmost perfection.”

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

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



Srila Bhakti Nirmal Acharya Maharaja

A Sādhu's Character

18 December 2010

A *sādhu* should be humble, tolerant, and give honour to others:

*tr̥ṇād api sunīchena taror iva sahiṣṇunā
amāninā mānadena kīrtanīyah sadā hariḥ*

“One who is humbler than a blade of grass, more tolerant than a tree, who gives honor to others without desiring it for himself, is qualified to always chant the Holy Name of Kṛṣṇa.”
(Śrī Chaitanya-charitāmṛta, Ādi-līlā, 17.31)

Once a *sādhu* was sitting on the bank of the Ganges, when he saw a scorpion going towards the Ganges, where it was sure to die. He caught the scorpion and kept it away in a safe place. While he was doing it, the

scorpion stung him. Soon it again started moving towards the Ganges, so the *sādhu* picked it up and kept it in a safe place again. It repeated many times, maybe ten or twelve times, and every time the *sādhu* did it the scorpion stung him.

A man was passing by and, seeing this, thought, “What is going on there? Is this *sādhu* crazy? What is he doing?!” He came to the *sādhu* and asked him, “O *sādhu*! What are you doing? Have you lost your mind? You save this insect from death, it stings you, but still, again and again, you keep saving it. What is this?!” The *sādhu* replied to the man, “My character is to protect those who are going in the wrong way. Why should I change my character if this scorpion cannot change its character?”

It is necessary to have such quality: somebody may do something wrong, but still we must correct them.

There is also another story. There was a *sādhu* who would go every day to bathe in the Ganges

after the *maṅgal āraṭi* (morning worship). Once, after the *sādhu* had finished his bathing, some naughty boy of that area threw cow dung at him. The *sādhu* had to bathe again. When he finished bathing for the second time, the boy threw some mud at him, and the *sādhu* had to bathe again. Time after time, the boy kept disturbing the *sādhu*: he threw some dogs' stool, monkeys' stool, or even some men's stool at him, and every time the *sādhu* went to bathe again. The boy could see that the *sādhu* did not say anything, he only silently went to bathe again, so finally he cried to him, “But why?! Why are you not becoming angry? Why are you not saying anything to me?! I have disturbed you so many times, but you only go and bathe again!”

“You did not disturb me. Actually, you did me good.”

“What?!”

“Every day I bathe only once, but today I had to bathe ten times. So, today, in one day, I have got ten times more *sukṛti*. This is my benefit.” Can you see now? This is an example of tolerance.

VAISNAVA CALENDAR for NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY area

September 2021

- 2 (Thu) Krishna Ekadashi. Annada Ekadashi (in New York). **Fast.**
- 3 (Fri) Krishna Dvadashi. Paran between 06:25 and 10:45.
- 11 (Sat) Gaura Panchami. Appearance of Sri Sita Devi, the consort of Sri Advaita Prabhu.
- 13 (Mon) Gaura Saptami. **Sri Lalita Saptami** . Appearance of Sri Lalita Devi.
- 14 (Tue) Gaura Ashtami. **Sri Radhashtami** . Srimati Radharani's appearance at noon. **Fast until noon.**
- 16 (Thu) Gaura Ekadashi. Parshva Ekadashi (in New York). **Fast.**
- 17 (Fri) Gaura Dvadashi. Paran between 06:38 and 10:46 after the worship of Sri Vamanadev.
- 18 (Sat) Gaura Dvadashi. Appearance of Sri Vamanadev. Appearance of **Srila Jiva Goswami Prabhu.**
- 19 (Sun) Gaura Trayodashi. Appearance of **Srila Sachchidananda Bhakti Vinod Thakur.**
- 20 (Mon) Purnima. Vishvarup Mahotsav . End of month-long festival at Nabadwip, Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math. . Disappearance of **Srila Haridas Thakur.**

Padmanabha

- 22 (Wed) Krishna Dvitiya. Disappearance of Tridandi Swami Srimad Bhakti Vilas Tirtha Maharaj.

MBC TV

Mahaprabhu Broadcasting Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-8udyHuxpkFyogyV9CsraA>

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