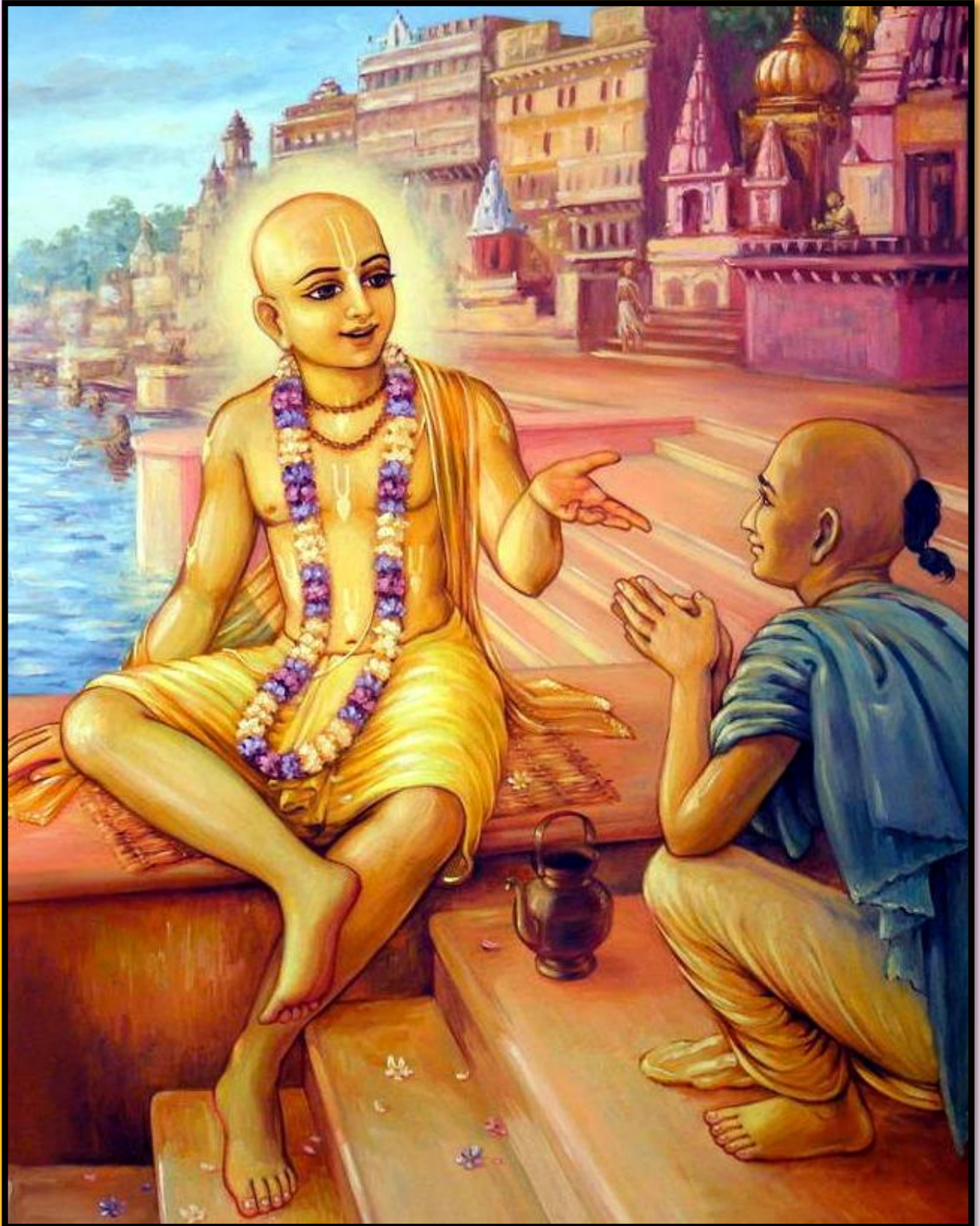


---

# *Śrī Śikṣāṣṭaka*

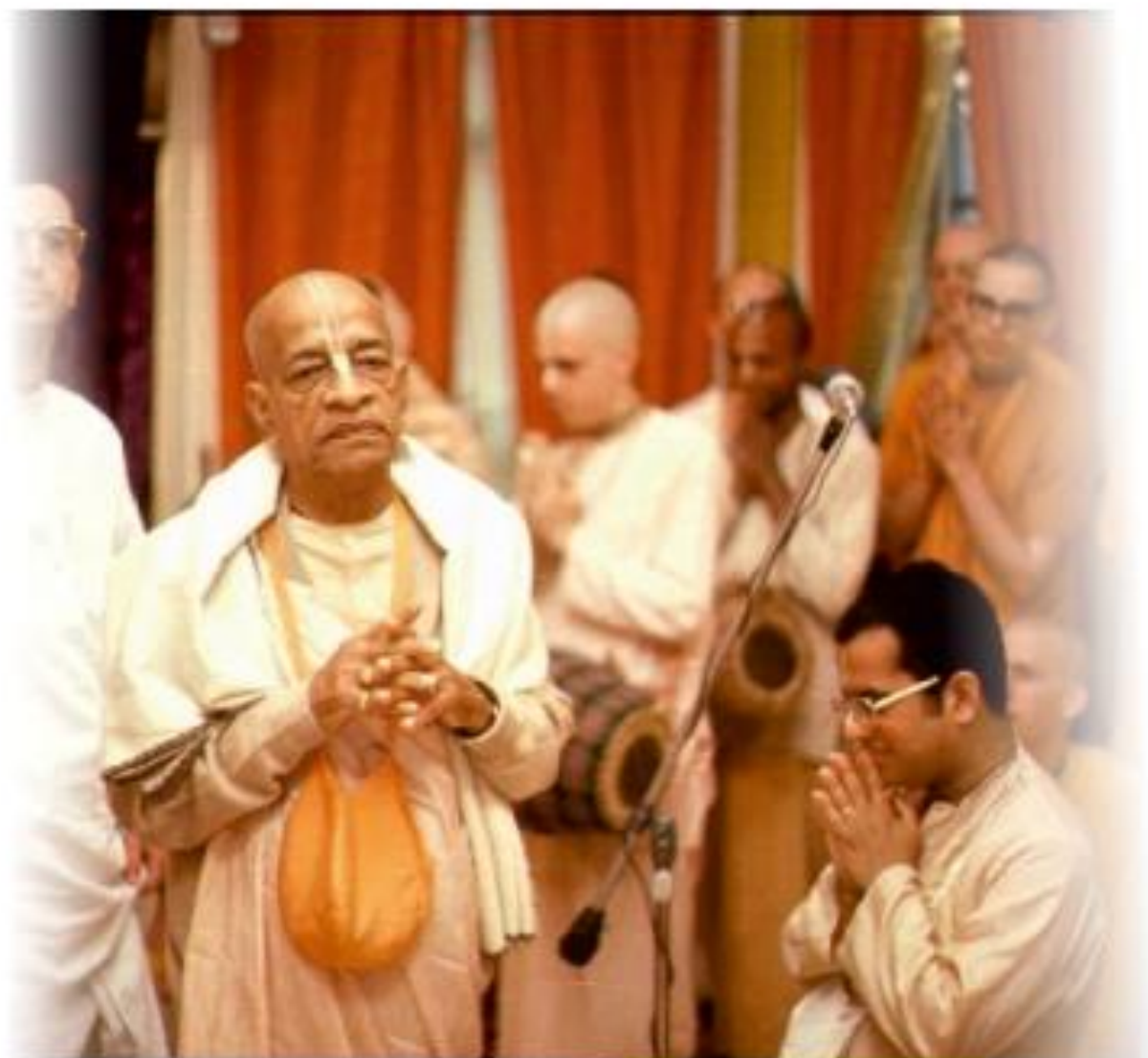
---

The eight verses of instruction by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu



---

*Dedicated to  
His Divine Grace  
A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada  
(Founder Acharya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness)*





# TEXT ONE

## Chaitanya Charitamrta Antya Lila 20.12



*ceto-darpaṇa-mārjanam*

*bhava-mahā-dāvāgni-nirvāpaṇam*

*śreyaḥ-kairava-candrikā-vitarāṇam vidyā-vadhū-jīvanam*

*ānandāmbudhi-varধানam prati-padam pūrṇāmṛtāsvādanam*

*sarvātma-snapanam param vijayate śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtanam*

Glory to the Shri Krishna sankirtana (congregational chanting of the Lord's holy names), which cleanses the heart of all the dust accumulated for years and extinguishes the fire of conditional life, of repeated birth and death. That sankirtana movement is the prime benediction for humanity at large because it spreads the rays of the benediction moon. It is the life of all transcendental knowledge. It increases the ocean of transcendental bliss, and it enables us to fully taste the nectar for which we are always anxious.

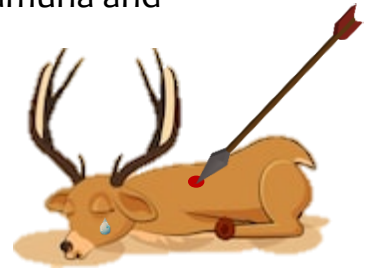
### ★ Benefits of chanting

1st benefit : “*mārjanam*” – (cleansing) - Bad Habits into good habits

Story Time :

### Mrigari, the hunter

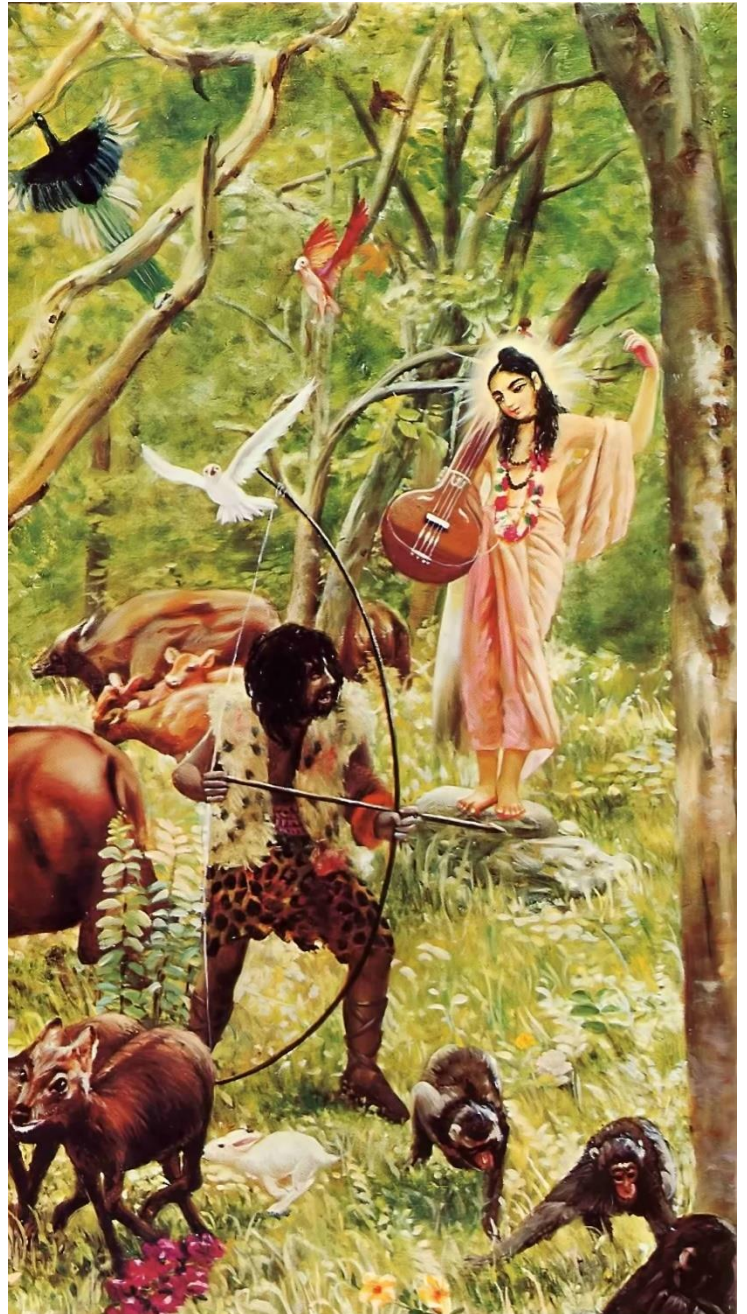
Once upon a time, the great saint Narada Muni was on his way through a forest to bathe at the confluence of the three sacred rivers, the Ganga, Yamuna and Sarasvati. As he was walking, he came across a deer lying on the path. He saw that the animal was pierced by an arrow, had broken legs, and was writhing in agony. A few steps ahead, Narada saw a boar, which also had broken limbs and was apparently in considerable pain. When he went further, he saw a rabbit suffering a similar fate. The saint was aggrieved to see these animals in distress. As Narada Muni advanced further, he caught sight of a hunter behind a tree, equipped with a bow and arrows, and poised to kill. The hunter appeared fierce, with reddish eyes. As Narada left the forest path, making his way towards the hunter, all the birds and animals immediately saw him and fled. Seeing the animals flee, the hunter was upset and felt like rebuking Narada.



The hunter asked, “Oh great saintly person! Why have you left the path and come towards me? Simply by seeing you, all the animals I was hunting have fled”. Narada Muni replied,

“I have come to you with a doubt in my mind. I was wondering whether the boar and other half killed animals belong to you”. The hunter replied, “Yes, I have left them in that condition”. Narada Muni asked him why he wasn't completely killing the animals? The hunter replied, “My name is Mrigari, enemy of the animals. My father taught me to kill them in that way. When I see half-killed animals suffer, I feel great pleasure”.

Narada Muni then told the hunter that he had one thing to beg from him. The hunter, thinking that the saint wanted one of the animals, said, “I have many skins if you would like them. I shall give you the pelt of deer or tiger.” Narada replied, “I do not want any skins from you. I just want you to promise me one thing. Please from this day, do not leave the animals half dead but instead kill them completely”. The hunter looked perplexed, and inquired, “But what is wrong with the animals lying there half dead?” Narada replied, “If you leave the animals half dead, you are purposefully giving them pain. Therefore, you will also suffer that same agony in the future. Being a hunter, your business is to kill



animals. That is already a slight offence, but to give them more pain purposefully is a great sin”. Narada continued, “In your forthcoming lives, all the animals that you have killed will kill you, one after another.” The hunter became pensive. As Narada continued, he became somewhat aware of the sinful nature of his activities, and afraid for his offences. He said, “I have been taught this business from my very childhood. What can I now do to become free from the sins I have committed? Please help me, O great saint”. Narada Muni assured the hunter, and asked him to follow his simple instructions that would assure the hunter's salvation.

“First of all break your bow and then I shall tell you what to do”, instructed Narada. “If I break my bow, how I will I maintain myself?”, Mrigari asked.

Narada consoled him, “Don't worry, I shall supply your food everyday”.

Convinced by Narada' arguments, Mrigari immediately snapped his bow in two, and cast it aside. He fell down at the saint's feet, as a sign of surrender. Narada then advised the hunter to return home and distribute whatever riches he had to pure brahmins and other holy people. He told him to subsequently leave home with his wife, taking only some cloth to wear.

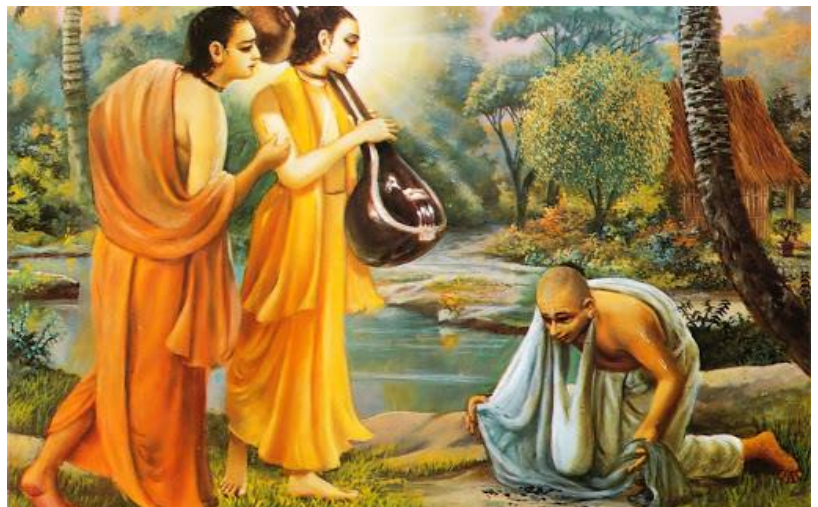
“Leave home and go to the river. There you should construct a small cottage. In front of the cottage you should grow a Tulasi plant on a raised platform. After planting the Tulasi tree before your house, you should daily circumambulate the plant, and serve her by offering her water and other auspicious items such as incense and flowers. You should continuously chant the Hare Krishna mantra. Everyday, I shall send you sufficient food for both you and your good wife. You can take as much food as you want”.

After instructing Mrigari, Narada brought the three half-killed animals back to life. Mrigari was struck with wonder. Narada then left to complete his pilgrimage. Mrigari returned home and began to sincerely and conscientiously follow the sage's instructions.

The news of a hunter becoming a great saint soon spread all over the village, and even beyond. People began to visit to take darshan of the hunter-turned-saint. As customary, they would bear with them a gift, often of food. As a result, Mrigari and his wife received enough food to feed ten or twenty people. Nonetheless, they were careful not to overeat, and to only accept as much as they needed.

One day, while speaking to his friend, Paravata Muni, Narada requested him to come with him to see the hunter. Parvata Muni happily accepted the invitation. When they arrived, Mrigari spotted the two sages from a distance. With great eagerness, he began to run toward them, but hesitated to fall down and offer obeisances because ants were running around his guru's feet. He removed his shawl and carefully whisked them away with a cloth. Only after ensuring that the ground was clear, did he fall down flat to offer his respects.

Narada Muni said, “My dear hunter, such behaviour is not astonishing. A person in God's service is automatically non-violent. He is the best of gentlemen”. The hunter then received the two saints in the courtyard of his house. He spread out a straw mat for them to sit upon, and with great devotion, Mrigari fetched water and washed the sages' feet. Seeing his great devotion, they blessed him saying, “You are truly fortunate”



Dear children, did you read the story nicely? ... Good ! Now think twice and answer the following questions, and learn some good habit from that answer:-

1) What mistake was the hunter actually committing that Narada Muni didn't like?

Ans : \_\_\_\_\_

2) To become a good person, whose association is needed?

Ans : \_\_\_\_\_

3) When was Mrigari experiencing real happiness? While half-killing the animals or after he turned into a saint following Narada Muni's instructions?

Ans : \_\_\_\_\_

## 2nd benefit : “*nirvāpaṇam*” – (*extinguishes*) - Saves from danger

### Story Time :

## Ajamila



There once lived a young brahmin called Ajamila in a city called Kanyakubja. Ajamila was compassionate and kind to all. He lived with his parents and young wife and always chanted his prayers and mantras, and offered respects to his parents and spiritual master. One day, when Ajamila went to the forest to collect fruit and flowers for deity worship, he came across a drunkard man who was shamelessly kissing a prostitute. Ajamila became attracted to this woman, but knew that it was not appropriate. Despite his attempts to control his restless mind, he could not get rid of thoughts of her. Eventually, impelled by desire, he moved in with her and fell from his pure lifestyle into degraded habits. He became a cheat, thief and gambler and his heart turned cruel.

This prostitute bore Ajamila ten sons. The youngest of them was called Narayan. Ajamila was so attached to his son Narayan that he thought of nothing else.. He would not even eat or drink before he had fed Narayan. Years rolled on. Ajamila was getting old and at the advanced age of eighty-eight, was still unmindful that death was inevitably drawing near. One night, half-asleep, he saw approaching him three dreadful and ferocious beings holding ropes in their hands. They had twisted faces, long unruly hair on their heads, and their bodily hair was like bristles. Ajamila recognised them as the legendary Yamadutas, the servant of Yama, the lord of death. They had come to take him to the planet of Yamaraja. Overwhelmed by terror, he cried out to his son, “Narayan, come here. Narayan!”

Because Ajamila chanted the holy name of Narayan, and even though he was really calling his son, the beautiful Vishnu dutas (servants of Vishnu) immediately arrived. They each looked just like Lord Vishnu. Their complexion was dark blue, they had four arms and on their heads they wore golden crowns. They were exquisitely beautiful and moved gracefully. They immediately approached the Yamadutas who were dragging the brahmin's soul from his body, and ordered “We forbid you! You can't take him to Yamaraja!”



The fierce-looking Yamadutas angrily retorted, “Who are you to prevent us from taking this sinful man to our master, Lord Yama? Our master Yamaraja punishes those who lead sinful life. Ajamila left his parents and young wife, lived with the prostitute and deserves to be punished.”

The Vishnudutas replied to the Yamadutas, “No doubt he was a sinner but since he chanted the Lord's powerful name – even though indicating his son – he comes under Narayan's protection. All his sins have been eradicated and therefore he is exempt from the punishment by Yama.”

After some further discussion, the Yamadutas reluctantly released Ajamila and returned to their master, Yamaraja. After they explained the embarrassing incident, Yama ordered them, “You should never go near the devotees for they remember and chant the Lord's name. Bring to me that only those people who have never chanted the Lord's name, and whose ears have never once heard the stories of the Lord.

After hearing the conversation between the Vishnudutas and the Yamadutas, Ajamila realised that he had been given a second chance. Fully aware of his previous folly, he became a great devotee of Lord Narayana, and strictly performed his spiritual duties to free himself of any traces of material desire. A few years later, the Vishnudutas returned on a swan aeroplane and escorted Ajamila back to the spiritual realm.

### **3rd benefit : “*vidyā*” - Education - Gives knowledge**

**Story Time :**

#### **Dacoit becomes a poet**

Thousands of years ago there lived a hunter who made money by robbing other people. He lived in a jungle with his wife and children. No traveller who passed through the jungle was safe. The hunter didn't hesitate to kill them and to steal their wealth.

One day Sage Narada passed through the forest. As soon as the hunter saw the holy man happily singing and playing on his vina, the villain thought, “Here is an easy chance to get rich!”. He jumped down from the tree where he was hiding and landed with a thud, right in front of the sage. Flashing his sword, he threatened, “Give me all that you possess. Otherwise I will kill you.”

Narada was the son of Brahma (the Creator) and he was never afraid of anyone. He saw God in all living beings and loved everyone. He looked kindly into the eyes of the hunter and asked, “Why do you want to kill me? I have never harmed you.” The robber replied, “It is not because of anything you did that I want to kill you. I want your wealth so that I can look after my wife and children. Do as I say, or I will kill you.”

Narada was not disturbed by these threats. He replied, “Very well, my boy, you may do as you please. But kindly tell me one thing. You say that you are committing all this sin for your wife and children. They are taking the money earned by you. Will they also take the

sins that you are earning? The robber could not answer. He never thought of it that way. He replied, “Of course, they will have to! Why else should I commit sins for their sake?”

Narada shook his head in disagreement and said, “No, they will not. If you have any doubt, go and ask your wife and children.” The robber was suspicious. Maybe Narada was playing a trick, trying to escape. He sternly said, “No, I won't leave go and just leave you here. You are trying to trick me and escape.” Narada laughed and assured the thief, “No, my son, I promise you that I won't escape. I will surely wait for you to return. If you don't believe me, tie me up to one of these trees and go to your house.”

The robber tightly bound Narada to a nearby tree and hurried home. He went home and called out for his wife and children. He said, “My dears, you know how I had been earning money for you by robbing and killing. I have been sharing with you the money that I earned. Will you take the sins earned by me as well?” The wife and children were horrified at the suggestion. They said, “We are your dependents and it is your duty to maintain us. We never asked you to commit sins for getting money. If you choose to commit sins, it is your own look out. How are we concerned with it? You alone will suffer the results of your crimes and your sins.”

Suddenly the eyes of the robber were opened. He realised that he was accumulating terrible sins from which there was no escape. He ran back to Narada and, quickly untying the bonds, fell at his feet. Deep in grief, he begged, “O Great Soul, in ignorance I have committed many sins. Please tell me how I can save myself. I have no more desire to lead this life of sin. Please, save me.” Narada rejoiced at the change in the hunter. He lifted the robber to his feet and told him, “Fear not, my son. There is one name, which saves even the greatest of sinners. Repeat this name with all your mind and soul.. All your sins will be washed away.” He then whispered in his ears the sacred name, “Rama” and asked the robber to repeat it. For his whole life, the thief had only said harsh and unkind words. So, try as he might, he could not utter the word “Rama”. But Narada was too kind to leave him. So he tried another method. He slowly said the word “Mara”, which means 'death'. This time the robber was very happy to say the word! He really liked it! He began saying it, over and over again. “Mara, Mara, Mara, Mara. And he started repeating the syllables in quick succession. . . “Mara, Mara, Ma-Ra, Ma-Ra, Ma, Ra, Ma, Ra, Ma, Ra-Ma, Ra-Ma, Rama, Rama.

Without realising it, the robber was repeating the holy name of Lord Rama. He was captivated by the charm of the sacred name and he went on repeating the name, forgetful of where he was. He sat like that for ages, without moving and without opening his eyes. Years passed away. Seeing him sitting like an immovable stone, ants, worms and insects crawled fearlessly near him. They built their homes and nests on his body. The anthills grew and grew until they covered him completely.

This long penance washed away all the robber's sins. At last, within his heart, he saw, the beautiful form of Lord Rama. Overflowing with joy, he rose from his seat, knocking down all the anthills around him. Because he rose from anthills which are called “Valmika” in Sanskrit – he came to be called as 'Valmiki'.



After that, Valmiki lived on the banks of the Ganges. One day, while he was returning from the river after his morning bath, he saw a couple of Krouncha birds flying joyously in the sky. Valmiki was charmed by the innocent joy of the birds and he stopped to watch them playing. Just then an arrow struck the male bird in the heart, and he fell down bleeding and crying. Seeing her mate gone, the female bird flew round and round his body, moaning and wailing. The bird's grief was so pitiable, that it touched the sage's heart. Tears flowed from his eyes and in his own heart he felt all the misery of the small bird as if it were his own. He looked around and saw a hunter crouching nearby. With unlimited compassion and sorrow, Valmiki cried out, "O hunter, for killing the Krouncha birds, who were in love, your future will be very dark"

Then he suddenly stopped, surprised at his own words. For it was not his usual way of speaking. These words contained a rhythm and a melody. He realised that it was a poem that came out of his heart's sadness. It was the first poem that he had ever composed. In fact, it was the first shloka (sacred verse) in the history of the world, for no one had written down any poetry before that day.

Valmiki later wrote the Ramayana, the story of Lord Rama, in beautiful melodious metre. It is still sung by some Hindus every day, even though it was first written thousands of years ago. Valmiki is called the 'Adi Kavi', the first poet. All Hindu poets remember him before they begin writing a new poem.

Thus the cruel dacoit turned into a great, learned poet, how? – By chanting the holy names of the Lord



ACTIVITY :. Please find 6 times the names of Lord Rama above and be blessed :-

**4th benefit : “*ātma-snapanam*” – bathing of the self - Purifies anyone and everyone**

**Story Time :**

### **The forest animals begin to chant...**

When Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu passed through the solitary forest chanting the holy name of Krishna, the tigers and elephants, seeing Him, gave way. When the Lord passed through the jungle in great ecstasy, packs of tigers, elephants, rhinoceros and boars came, and the Lord passed right through them. His associate - Balabhadra Bhattacharya was very much afraid to see the animals, but by Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu’s influence, all the animals stood to one side.

One day a tiger was lying on the path, and Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, walking along the path in ecstatic love, touched the tiger with His feet. The Lord said, “Chant the holy name of Krishna”. The tiger immediately got up and began to dance and chant, “Krishna! Krishna!” Another day, while Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu was bathing in a river, a herd of maddened elephant came there to drink water. The Lord immediately splashed some water on the elephants and asked them to chant the name of Krishna. The elephants whose bodies were touched by the water splashed by the Lord began to chant, “Krishna! Krishna!” and dance and sing in ecstasy. Seeing this, Balabhadra Bhattacharya was completely astonished. Sometimes Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu chanted very loudly while passing through the jungle. Hearing His sweet voice, all the does came near Him. Hearing the Lord’s great vibration, all the does followed Him left and right. While Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was passing through the jungle, five or seven tigers came. Joining the deer the tigers began to follow the Lord. When Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu said, “Chant Krishna! Krishna!” the tigers and deer began to dance and chant “Krishna!” When all the tigers and does danced and jumped, Balabhadra Bhattacharya saw them and was struck with wonder. Indeed, the tigers and deer began to embrace one another !!. When Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu saw all this fun, He began to smile. Finally He left the animals and continued on His way.

Thus all living entities some moving and some standing still in the forest of Jharikhand became maddened by hearing the holy name of Lord Krishna vibrated by Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

#### **ACTIVITY TIME :**

Do you see some transformation in the forest animals near Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu? How did that happen? Please fill the callouts with the holy names that they are chanting :





## TEXT TWO

Chaitanya Charitamṛta Antya Lila 20.16



*nāmnām akāri bahudhā nija-sarva-śaktis  
tatrārpitā niyamitaḥ smaraṇe na kālaḥ  
etādṛśī tava kṛpā bhagavan mamāpi  
durdaivam īdṛśam ihājani nānurāgaḥ*

O my Lord, Your holy name alone can render all benediction to living beings, and thus You have hundreds and millions of names, like Krishna and Govinda. In these transcendental names, you have invested all Your transcendental energies. There are not even hard and fast rules for chanting these names. O my Lord, out of kindness You enable us to easily approach you by Your holy names, but I am so unfortunate that I have no attraction for them.

★ **Power of holy name :** (Protects from struggles)

### Story Time : Gajendra, the devotee elephant

In the midst of the ocean of milk, there is a very high and beautiful mountain known as Trikūṭa. Once the chief of the elephants, along with female elephants, went to enjoy bathing in that lake, and they disturbed the inhabitants of the water. Because of this, the chief crocodile in that water, who was very powerful, immediately attacked the elephant's leg. Thus, a great fight started between the elephant and the crocodile. This fight continued for one thousand years. Neither the elephant nor the crocodile died, but since they were in the water, the elephant gradually became weak whereas the power of the crocodile increased more and more.

Then the elephant, being helpless and seeing that no one could help him, prayed to the Supreme Personality of Godhead. The King of the elephants remembered a



prayer that he had learned in his previous life and began to chant it to himself. First he offered his respectful obeisances to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and because of his awkward position in having been attacked by the crocodile, he wasn't able to recite prayers nicely. However, he tried his best to chant the mantra as nicely as he could. The Supreme Personality of Godhead, Narayana, seated on Garuḍa, personally appeared before him. Gajendra, by lifting his trunk, he immediately took a lotus flower in his trunk, and with great difficulty due to his painful condition, he said the following words: "O my Lord, Narayana, master of the universe, O Supreme Personality of Godhead, I offer my respectful obeisances unto You." and the Lord immediately pulled him from the water along with the crocodile who had captured his leg. Then the Lord killed the crocodile with his disc and thus rescued Gajendra.

Who was Gajendra? ..... Gajendra, in his previous birth, had been a great devotee of Lord Viṣṇu. His name was Indradyumna, and he was the King of the Tāmila country. He went to the hills to meditate upon the Supreme Personality of Godhead in silence. Agastya Rṣi, along with many disciples, once approached King Indradyumna's āśrama, but because the King was meditating on the Supreme Personality of Godhead, he could not receive Agastya Rṣi properly. Thus the rṣi became very angry and cursed the King to become a dull elephant. In accordance with this curse, the King was born as an elephant, and he forgot all about his previous activities in devotional service. Nonetheless, in his birth as an elephant, when he was dangerously attacked by the crocodile, he remembered his past life in devotional service and remembered a prayer he had learned in that life. Because of this prayer, he again received the mercy of the Lord. Thus he was immediately delivered, and he got the same bodily features as the Lord, being dressed in yellow garments and possessing four hands.

Who was the Crocodile? ..... There was a king on the Gandharva planet whose name was Hūhū. Once this King Hūhū was playing with his wife in the water, and while playing around he pulled the leg of Devala Rṣi, who was also taking a bath in the water. Upon this, the sage became very angry and immediately cursed him to become a crocodile. King Hūhū was very sorry when cursed in that way and he begged pardon from the sage, who in compassion gave him the benediction that he would be freed when Gajendra was delivered by the Personality of Godhead. Thus the crocodile was delivered when killed by Nārāyaṇa



## ★ Power of holy name

### Story Time :

#### Stones with the name of Lord Rama

Lord Rama wanted to cross over from South India to Lanka in order to defeat Ravana, and He had to transport the monkey army also. Thus, the Lord thought that we must have a bridge so that everyone can cross. So who can do it? So Lord Rama called Hanuman and told him, "We want a bridge tomorrow ready." Hanuman said "Alright Lord." Hanuman knew that the Lord does not only order the living entities. But when He orders, He gives the strength also so that we can fulfill His desire. So he was sure.

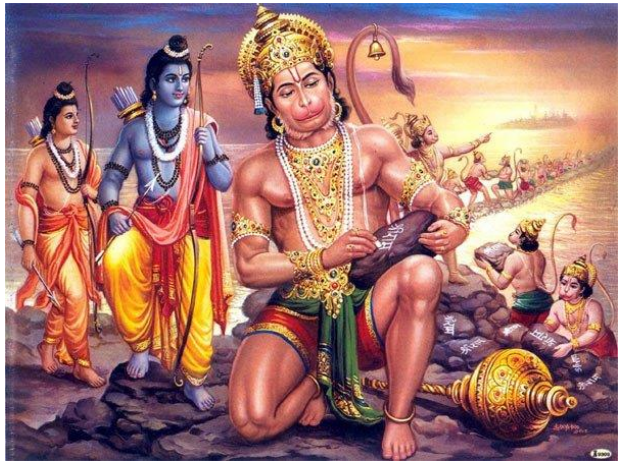
Hanuman started to bring big mountains and stones from all over India and try to deposit them near the coast of the ocean. On each stone he was writing 'Ram' and he was throwing them in the ocean. And the stones were floating.

Lord Ramachandra was standing by the side. He was surprised that the stones were floating when they were thrown in the ocean.

Then Lord Ram wanted to try it Himself. He thought, "If these stones are floating just by writing My name on it, then when I throw also they must float." So He picked up a big stone and threw it in to the ocean. But !! It sank in the ocean.

He thought that something must be wrong. Again He picked up another stone and threw and again it went down. Hanuman was watching Lord Ram. He asked, "What are you doing Lord?" Lord Ram didn't want to tell anything because He was not successful.

Hanuman said, "I know Lord what you are doing. You must know these things better than me. I am bringing the stones and I am writing Your name on it. So Your association is there with the stone. Even the stone if it has the association of the Supreme Lord, it will definitely float. But when You throw the stone, You are rejecting the stone. So once You reject, how can they float?"



#### ACTIVITY TIME

Please help the monkeys to fill the stones with the Holy names of Lord Rama :-









## ★ Power of holy name







### PICTURE STORY - Read the below pastime of a great saint on the banks of a great pond

(Hint : For understanding the story, you have to imagine the words instead of the picture while reading)

|   |                      |   |            |   |            |
|---|----------------------|---|------------|---|------------|
|  | Raghnath Das Goswami |  | Radha Kund |  | Radha Rani |
|  | Lord Krishna         |  | Tigers     |   |            |

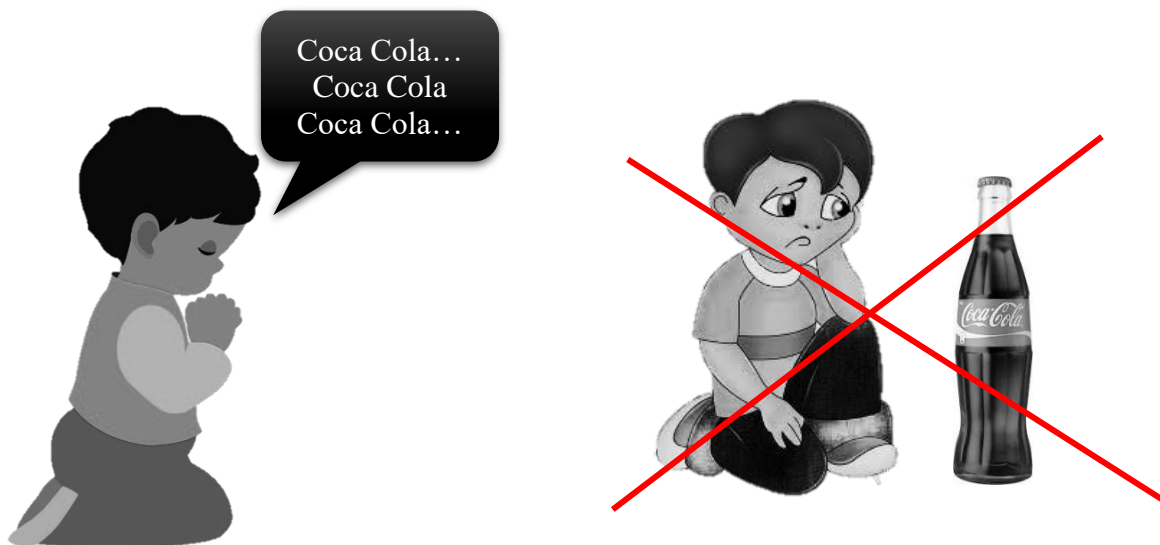
One day, the great saint named “Raghnath Das Goswami” was absorbed in chanting.

He was sitting with his eyes closed on the banks of  without getting disturbed. At that time, two  came there to drink water from . Still  remained undisturbed. But the Supreme Lord  could not bear to see His devotee in danger, so He Himself came there to protect His devotee from the .

Another day,  was sitting absorbed in chanting in the same way inspite of scorching heat of the sunlight over his head. It was very hot but still  remained undisturbed and continued chanting “Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare” To everyone’s surprise, Srimati  herself appeared there. She was standing below the hot sun and was holding the end of Her saree over the head of . Saving Her dear devotee from the heat, Srimati was perspiring herself but was  very pleased to see  chanting peacefully.

In this verse, we see that how powerful is the Holy Name of the Lord. If you chant, the Lord protects you from every kind of danger. One cannot measure the potency that the Supreme Lord has invested in His Holy Name. The Holy name of the Lord is non-different from the Supreme Personality of Godhead himself.

For example : If you keep on simple chanting .... “Coco Cola... Coco Cola ... Coco Cola”



You are not going to really get a coca cola



But if you chant the Mahamantra....

You will surely get Lord Krishna one day...



# TEXT THREE

## Chaitanya Charitamrta Antya Lila 20.21



*tṛṇād api sunīcena  
taror api sahiṣṇunā  
amāninā mānadena  
kīrtanīyaḥ sadā hariḥ*

One should chant the holy name of the Lord in a humble state of mind, thinking oneself lower than the straw in the street; one should be more tolerant than a tree, devoid of all sense of false prestige, and should be ready to offer all respect to others. In such a state of mind one can chant the holy name of the Lord constantly.

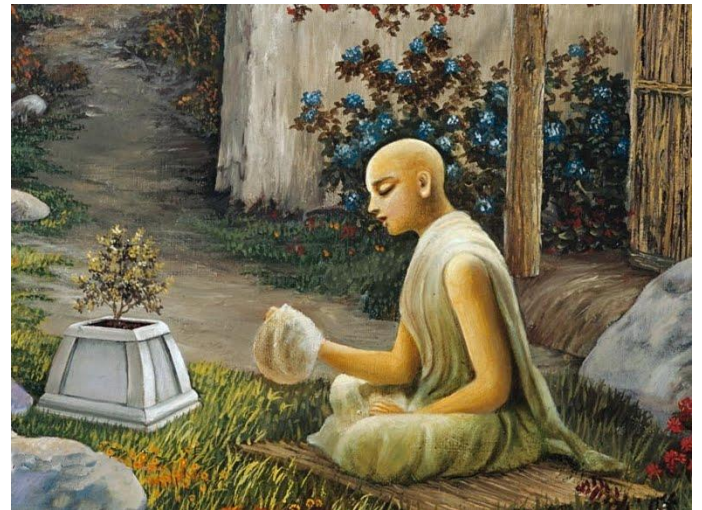
### ★ Qualities Developed by chanting the Holy Name

❖ 1<sup>st</sup> Quality - “*su-nīcena*” – *being lower* - Humility

#### STORY TIME :

#### The Change in the Prostitute

After leaving his home, Haridas Thakur stayed for some time in the forest of Benapola. He constructed a cottage in the forest. Outside the cottage he planted a tulasi plant and he would chant the holy name of Krishna 300,000 times daily in front of tulasi. He chanted throughout the entire day and night. For his bodily maintenance he would go to a Brahmin’s house and beg some food. He was so spiritually pure that all the neighboring people worshipped him.



The ruler of that district was Ramachandra Khan; he was envious of devotees of Krishna and therefore a great atheist. Unable to tolerate the respect being offered to Haridas Thakur he made plans to dishonor him. He could not, however, find any fault in the character of Haridas Thakur.

Finally he called all the local prostitutes together and said to them, “There is a devotee named Haridas Thakur in the forest. All of you devise a way to deviate him from his religious vows.”

Out of all the prostitutes there was one very attractive young girl and she promised, “I shall attract the mind of Haridas Thakur within three days.” That night the prostitute, after dressing herself most attractively, went to the cottage of Haridas Thakur with great



pleasure. When she arrived she bowed down and offered prayers to the tulasi plant, then she went to the door of the cottage and offered obeisances Haridas Thakur. Then the prostitute, with her evil intentions, sat down before Haridas Thakur and spoke weat words to bewilder him.

Haridas Thakur replied, "I shall accept you without fail but you will have to wait until I finish chanting Hare Krishna on my beads. Until I do please sit down here and listen to the chanting of the holy name. As soon as I am finished I shall fulfill your desire."

Hearing this, the prostitute remained sitting there while Haridas Thakur chanted on his beads until the light of morning appeared. When she saw it was morning she stood up and left. She went to Ramachandra Khan and said, "Today Haridas Thakur has promised to enjoy with me- tomorrow certainly I shall have union with him."

The next evening the prostitute returned to Haridas Thakur's cottage and he gave her many assurances. He said, "Last night you were disappointed. Please excuse my offence. I shall certainly accept you. Please sit down here and hear the chanting of the Hare Krishna maha-mantra until my regular chanting is finished. Then your desire will surely be fulfilled." After offering obeisances to the tulasi plant and Haridas Thakur she sat down at the door- hearing Haridas Thakur chanting the Hare Krishna mantra she also chanted, "O my Lord Hari, O my Lord Hari".

When the night came to an end the prostitute was restless. When Haridas Thakur saw this he said, "I have made a vow to chant ten million names of Krishna this month. I have taken this vow but now the month is nearing its end. I thought today I would be able to finish. I tried my best to chant Hare Krishna all night but still I have not finished. Tomorrow I will surely finish and my vow will be fulfilled. Then it will be possible for me to enjoy with you in full freedom."

Haridas Thakur didn't want to enjoy with the prostitute, he simply tricked her to give her the chance to hear the holy name while he chanted. Pure devotees chant Hare Krishna and simply by hearing this chanting from a purified transcendental person one becomes free of all sinful activities, no matter how sinful one may be.

The prostitute then returned to Ramachandra Khan and informed him of what had happened. The next night she went earlier, at the beginning of the evening, and stayed with Haridas Thakur. After offering obeisances to the tulasi plant



and Haridas Thakur she sat on the doorstep. As she heard Haridas Thakur's chanting she also personally chanted "Hari, Hari."

"Today it will be possible for me to finish my vow of chanting ten million names of Krishna this month," Haridas Thakur informed her. "Then I will satisfy all your desires."

The morning came and Haridas Thakur was still chanting but because of his association the prostitute's mind had changed. She fell at his lotus feet and confessed Ramachandra Khan had sent her to him to pollute him. "Because I have taken the profession of a prostitute," she said, "I have performed unlimited sinful acts. My lord, be merciful to me. Deliver my fallen soul." Haridas Thakur replied, "I know everything about the conspiracy of Ramachandra Khan. He is nothing but an ignorant fool. Therefore his activities do not make me feel unhappy. I would have left this place immediately when I understood he was planning this intrigue against me but because you came here I stayed here to deliver you."

The prostitute replied, "Kindly act as my spiritual master. Instruct me in my duty so I can become free from material existence." Haridas Thakur said, "Immediately go home and distribute whatever property you have to the Brahmins. Then come back to this cottage and stay here forever in Krishna consciousness. Chant the Hare Krishna mantra continuously and serve the tulasi plant by watering her and offering prayers to her. In this way you will very soon achieve the shelter of the lotus feet of Krishna." After giving the prostitute these instructions Haridas Thakur stood up and left that place continuously chanting "Hare Krishna Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna Hare Hare/ Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare."

Soon after this the prostitute, exactly followed whatever her spiritual master, Haridas Thakur had instructed and she began chanting the Hare Krishna maha-mantra 300,000 times daily. She chanted for the whole day and night and worshipped the tulasi plant. In this way the prostitute became a famous devotee. She became very advanced in spiritual life and many great devotees would visit her. When people saw her sublime character they were astonished. Everyone praised the influence of Haridas Thakur and offered him obeisances.

## ❖ 2<sup>nd</sup> Quality - "*māna-dena*" - Giving respect to all without expecting any honour

### STORY TIME : Glories of Gaur-Nitai

Five hundred years ago, Sri Krishna descended as Caitanya Mahaprabhu, in His most merciful incarnation, to deliver the fallen souls of Kali yuga. Principal amongst His associates was Lord Nityananda, Who was none other than Lord Balarama, the incarnation of Anata-sesa. Even though Caitanya Mahaprabhu distributed the love of Godhead freely to any one willing to partake, Lord Nityananda was more merciful and gave His mercy even to unwilling, sinful and atheistic people



One day Lord Chaitanya instructed Nityananda Prabhu and Haridasa Thakur to go to every one's house in Nadiya and request them to chant Krishna's name. The two great devotees eagerly set forth and began to knock on each and every door with the request, "Please chant Krishna's name, worship Lord Krishna..." They were happily received by the pious people, while the envious would blaspheme them. Completely unconcerned by favorable or unfavorable reactions they proceeded around the town.

In Nadiya there lived two very sinful brothers called Jagai and Madhai. Though they born in pious Brahman families, by bad association they had become meat eaters, drunkards, thieves and arsonists. There was no crime that they had not committed, including the most abominable sin of killing cows and Brahmans. The entire town was terrified of these two persons who seemed to be the very personification of all sinful activities.

On the day Nityananda Prabhu and Haridasa Thakur were moving in the town, these two brothers, completely intoxicated were alternatively fighting and embracing each other. After observing them for some time Nityananda Prabhu compassionately decided to deliver them and thus approached them.

Despite the warnings of the town people Lord Nityananda and Haridasa Thakur, approached the two drunkards instructing them to chant the holy name of the Lord. Hearing these words the two sinners looked up and seeing the two saintly figures roared in anger. They leapt up and ran to catch the two sannyasis. Playing their pastimes, the two devotees fled at the sight of the attacking brothers. Apparently terrified they shouted, "Krishna! Save us!! Govinda!," and ran. They finally disappeared into the home Srivasa Acarya, leaving the bewildered brothers searching for them in vain.

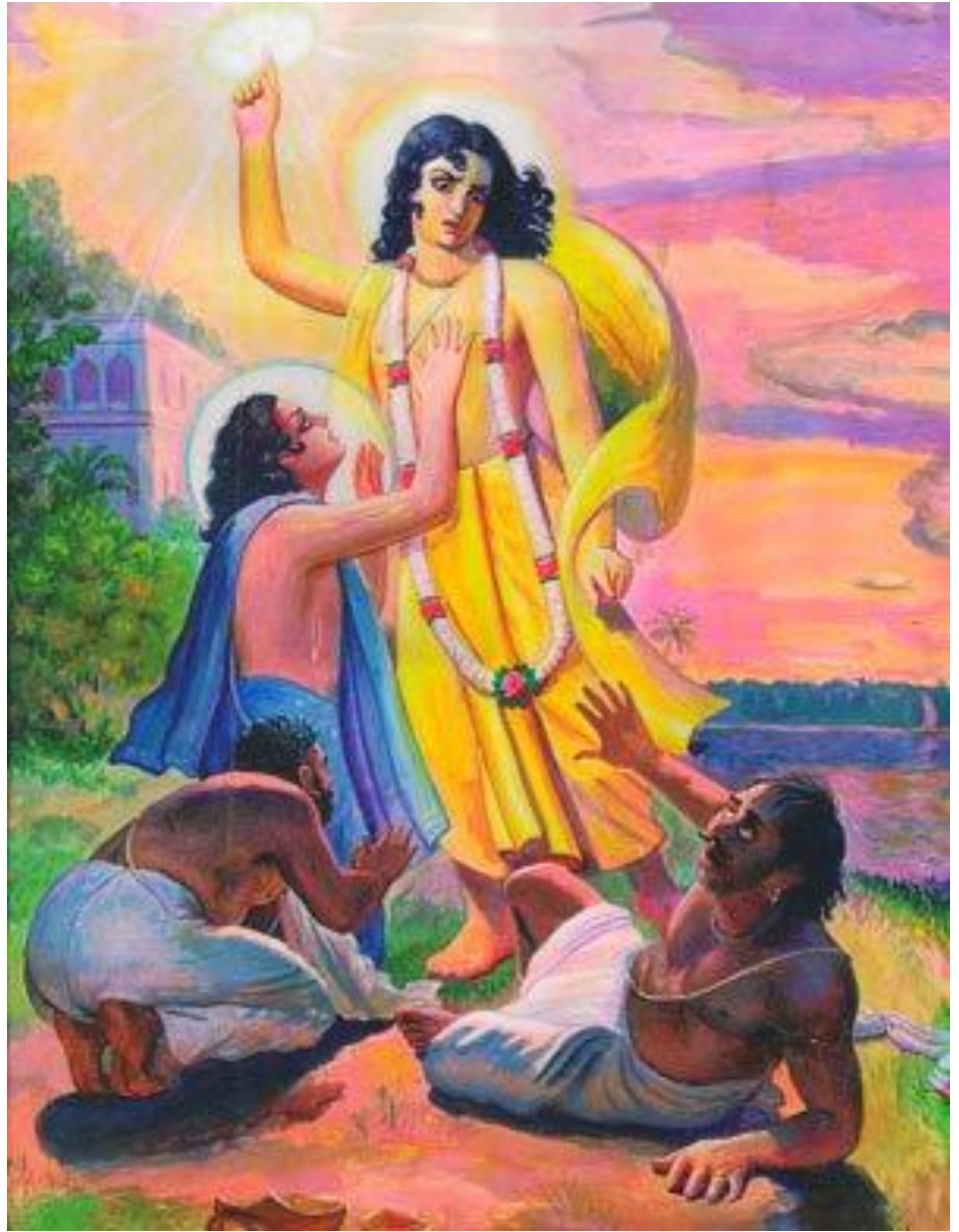
Another day while Nityananda Prabhu was returning in the dark He was accosted by the two brothers. On learning His identity, Madhai became furious and struck Him with a broken earthen pot. When Jagai saw the blood flow from the wound, he became compassionate and restrained his brother. While Nityananda Prabhu patiently stood, looking at the brothers with compassion, tolerating the pain and humiliation, people ran to tell Caitanya Mahaprabhu about the incident.

Hearing that Nityananda Prabhu had been hurt by the brothers, Caitanya Mahaprabhu ran towards them with the intention to kill them. He summoned His SUDARSHAN CHAKRA! which looked like death personified to the two terrified brothers. However Nityananda Prabhu quickly intervened and begged Caitanya Mahaprabhu to stop. He reminded Him of His mission to kill the sinners by saturating them with love of Godhead. Thus appeased the Lord took back His chakra.

Nityananda Prabhu told Caitanya Mahaprabhu that it was Jagai who had saved Him from further harm at Madhai's hand. Hearing this Caitanya Mahaprabhu said to Jagai, "Lord Krishna be merciful to you. By protecting Nityananda you have purchased Me. You may ask any desire you have in your heart. From today on you will have pure love and devotion for Krishna" Hearing this Jagai fell at the feet of the two Lords and grasping the feet of Caitanya Mahaprabhu wept.

Seeing the wonderful transformation in his brother, a remorseful Madhai begged for the mercy of the Lord. However, since he had committed the worst of all offenses, that of attacking a Vaishnava, the Lord did not even consider all his pitiful pleas for mercy. Only after Madhai grasped the feet of Nityananda Prabhu and received His mercy that Caitanya Mahaprabhu agree to deliver Madhai also.

Having received the mercy of Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Lord Nityananda, both the brothers became completely transformed. They would chant 200,000 names of the Lord every day, offer every one humble obeisances and constantly berate themselves for their past sinful activities. Madhai in particular was very remorseful at the fact that he had caused physical harm to Nityananda Prabhu and would shed many tears for this. Finally he approached the Lord and begged for some act of atonement. The compassionate Lord assured him that he was completely forgiven, but if he wanted to atone for his other past sins then he could build a bathing place on the banks of the river



Ganges to help people take a bath. Madhai enthusiastically built this place which still exists with the name of Madhai ghata.

It is said that when Yamaraja asked Chitragupta, the demigod responsible for recording the sinful activities of people, “How many sins had been committed by Jagai-Madhai?”, he was told that it would take one hundred thousand scribes one month to complete the record. On seeing Lord Caitanya take all these sinful activities into Himself and deliver Jagai-Madhai, Yamaraja fainted with ecstasy. When he was revived, he began to dance, glorifying the Lord for delivering the most fallen. Attracted by his dancing, Lord Shiva, Lord Brahma, Narada Muni, Sukhadeva Goswami, Indra and other demigods also began to dance in ecstasy at the mercy of the Lord. In this way the heavenly planets, all the way to Brahmaloaka became completely immersed in the love of Godhead.

Although Jagai- Madhai did not respect Haridas thakur & Nityanand still they liberated them.

### ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> Quality - “*sahiṣṇunā*” – Tolerance

#### STORY TIME : Haridas Thakur’s Tolerance

Srila Haridasa Thakura was born in a Muslim family in a village called Buron. Later when he shifted to the village of Phulia even the ritualistic brahmins were sincerely impressed Hari Dasa Thakura's spiritual activities. He bathed daily in the Ganga and roamed freely, chanting the Lord's holy name.

The local Muslim authority known as the Qazi became envious of Haridasa Thakura's popularity and reported to the Nawab, "This man being a muslim, is acting like a Hindu; arrest him and punish him appropriately." The envious words of the sinful Qazi sparked an immediate response from the equally sinful Nawab, and Haridasa Thakura was arrested and brought forth. Having received the mercy of Lord Krishna, Haridasa had no fear of the Muslim authorities nor even of death itself. With the name of the Lord on his lips, Haridas appeared before the Nawab. The Nawab said, "My friend, just speak from your own scripture and accept the path. Then you will have nothing to fear. Otherwise, the Qazis present will force me to punish you; they will revile and insult you. Why should you let that happen?". "Whatever the Supreme Lord desires is destined to happen; there is no one who can change it," replied Haridasa. "You should know without a doubt that you are merely an instrument of the Lord's desire. Even if my body is cut into pieces and I lose my life, I will never give up chanting the Lord's holy name." The Nawab heard the fearless reply of Srila Haridasa Thakura and turned to the Qazi, "Now what is your decision about him?". "Lash him in twenty two market places until he dies," replied the envious Qazi. "There is no other judgement I find appropriate. If he lives despite the punishment, then I will conclude that our big scholar has spoken the truth." The sentries were called in and the orders boomed out, "Lash him until he breathes his last! "

The Qazi's envious designs had fructified in the heart of the Nawab and Srila Haridasa was dragged away by the sentries. From one market place to another they beat him mercilessly, their black hearts consumed by hate for the pure devotee of the Lord. But Haridasa was a pure soul, completely surrendered to the Supreme Lord, so he faithfully chanted Lord Krishna's holy name. So absorbed was he in the fervent chanting that he did not feel any pain.

Good-hearted and pious people could not bear to see the torture inflicted on such an innocent person. Many local people pleaded to stop this merciless act but it was in vain. Throughout his ordeal, Haridasa's one emotion was pity for the sentries. "O Lord Krishna, please be merciful upon these poor souls so they may not be punished because of me." Yet for all their beating, Haridasa showed no signs of distress as he was absorbed in remembering the holy name of Lord Krishna. At last the guards had to stop in amazement. "How can a human being survive such a brutal beating? Any ordinary man would have died after the beating we gave in the first two or three market places. We have lashed him continuously through twenty-two market places and he still shows no sign of either pain or death. Occasionally he looks up to smile at us." They concluded that he must be a saintly person.

"Oh Haridasa," they pleaded. "Because of you we shall certainly be punished. When the Qazi sees that despite our beating you are still alive, he shall certainly kill us instead." "If



my survival brings such terrible misfortune to you," replied Haridasa, "then I shall definitely give up my body. Just see how I die." Srila Dasa Thakura immediately fell into trance. A pure devotee of the Supreme Lord possesses all mystic power so without any hesitation, Srila Hari dasa fell lifeless, without a trace of breath. The Muslim sentries were astonished but gladly brought the body of Srila Haridasa to the Nawab. When the Nawab ordered the sentries to bury him, the Qazi protested, "No, if he is

buried he will be saved and ultimately gain entrance into heaven. Although he got the high birth of a Muslim, he behaved like a low Hindu, therefore it is proper for him to be thrown in the Ganga to suffer eternally like the other lost Hindus. By being buried he will become elevated and freed from his sin."

On the Qazi's order the sentries picked up the body of Haridasa Thakur and carried him to the Ganga. Hari dasa remained in his deathly trance, meditating on the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Srila Haridasa Thakura could have escaped the punishment of the Muslims, but by allowing them to torture him, he taught the world a lesson: Despite the extreme miseries of life, one must never stop chanting the name of Krishna. Haridasa floated downstream on the currents of the Ganga, and after some time he became conscious, by the Lord's desire. Fully awakened and overwhelmed with ecstasy, he climbed the bank of the Ganga and proceeded toward Phulia, loudly chanting the name of Krishna as he walked. When the Muslims saw Srila Haridasa they were convinced that he possessed extraordinary mystic powers. Pure, happy feelings replaced the envy and hate in their hearts. They offered him obeisances, worshipping him as a very saintly person. By this worship the Muslims became free from material entanglement. In a humble and meek voice the Nawab said, "I can now understand that you are truly a saintly person. You have realized the absolute truth, and you have seen the Supreme Lord everywhere and in everyone."

Dear Children !! Did You See... By Chanting The Holy Names of the Lord constantly with full faith and devotion... Haridas Thakur had developed the wonderful qualities of Humility and Tolerance



## TEXT FOUR

Chaitanya Charitamrta Antya Lila 20.29



*na dhanám na janám na sundarīm  
kavitām vā jagad-īśa kāmaye  
mama janmani janmaniśvare  
bhavatād bhaktir ahaitukī tvayi*

O almighty Lord, I have no desire to accumulate wealth, nor do I desire beautiful women, nor do I want any number of followers. I only want your causeless devotional service, birth after birth.

❖ "*na janam*" – **No desire of having followers**

### STORY TIME :

#### The great sage and his only determined disciple

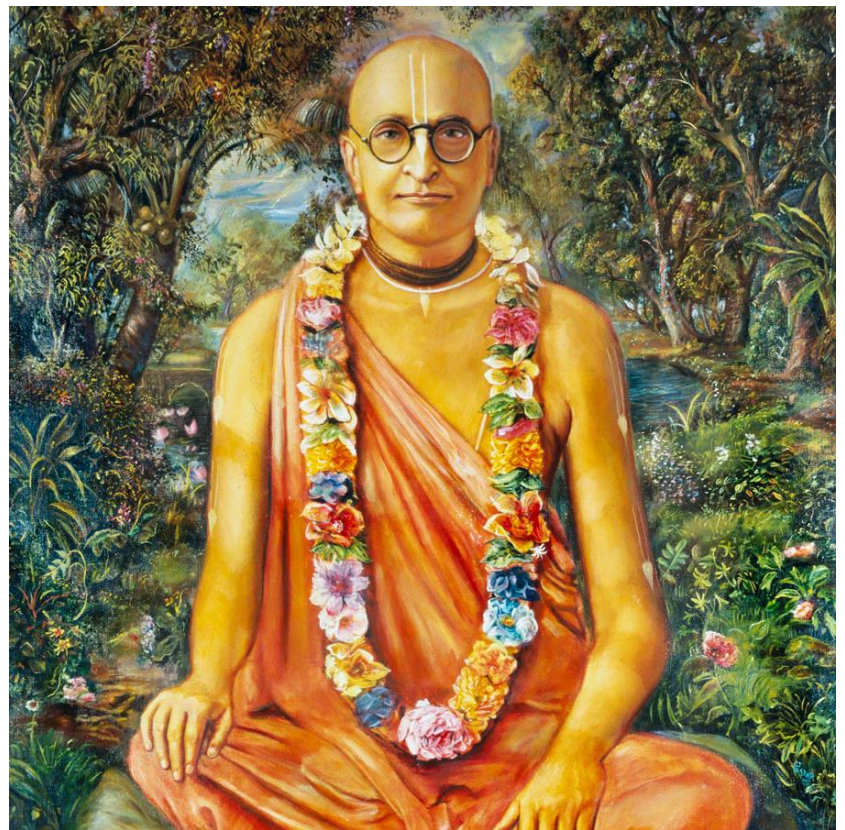
Gaura Kishor Das Babaji was born in a vaishya family in East Bengal. As a grihastha he bought and sold grains. He was a very simple person with no education and could not even read or write. After few years he wandered throughout the forests of Vrindavan. This way, Gaura Kishor lived in Vrindavan for thirty Years.

One day Radha and Krishna appeared to him in a dream and instructed him to go to Navadwip. There he went and lived on the bank of the Ganges in a small hut of grass and banana leaves. Later on he renounced even that and simply lived on the bank of the river, chanting the holy names on knotted cloth. If it was raining he would take shelter under the upturned boats.

Gaura Kishor Das Babaji was incredibly renounced. For clothing, he used to take garments from corpses at the crematorium. He wore nothing but a simple cloth. For food he begged a little rice and soaked it in Ganges water. He did not even boil it. Gaura Kishor had no interest in this material world but was absorbed in the ecstasy of love of God, enthusiastic to always chant the Lord's Holy Names.



Bhaktivinod thakur, another great saint in the Brahma-Madhwa-Gaudiya Sampradaya told his son – ‘Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur’ to take formal initiation from Srila Gaura Kishore das Babaji, because without proper initiation you cannot make proper spiritual progress because that connection of the mercy of the Lord is imparted to us through diksha (initiation). Therefore, Bhakti Siddanta Saraswati Thakur approached Gaura Kishore das Babaji with great devotion asked if he could initiate him but Gaura Kishore Babaji had never initiated anyone in his whole life & had no intention in having any followers. Besides that Gaura Kishore Babaji was illiterate & could not even write his own name & he could hardly read but Saraswati Thakur was the most learned scholar of the world. So he replied “How can I be your spiritual master you are so highly educated & I am so simple” but Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati explained in reply, “All education & knowledge, all learning of scriptures is useless unless it is used in service of a great soul like you. So please kindly accept me” Gaura Kishore Babaji refused out of humility. Bhaktivinod thakur insisted Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Thakur that he must take initiation from Gaura Kishore Babaji so he came back & with so much genuine humility he asked Gaura Kishore Babaji for initiation who replied, “I have not initiated anyone in all my life , I have no intentions but if you ask me so sincerely I will ask Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu when I next talk to him so some time later Srila Bhakti Siddhanta came to Gaura Kishore Babaji & asked ,”Did you meet Lord Caitanya”, so Bhakti Siddanta Saraswati thakur asked “what did



He say”, Gaura Kishore Babaji said “I forgot to ask about u” Next time please ask him . The next time he came Gaura Kishore Babaji said.” He told me that I don’t have to initiate you.”Then Bhakti Siddanta Saraswati Thakur began to cry began to weep & said “I am so fallen not deserving the mercy of the Lord. I do not deserve your mercy . Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu & his representatives like you have come to give mercy to the most fallen but I am so fallen so lonely that I have no right to your mercy . Therefore without the mercy of the Lord what is the use of Life .I have no reason to go on living without the spiritual master mercy so in front of Gaura Kishore Babaji he had a puddle of tears & decided to end his life . When Gaura Kishore Babaji saw the genuine sincerity of Bhakti Siddanta Saraswati Thakur to surrender to the Lord & serve & to receive his mercy he told him,”I will give you initiation on this day. You go to the river Saraswati take bath & come back so he took bath in the river & on this holy day Gaura Kishore Babaji gave him initiation. Throughout his life he never gave another person initiation



## STORY TIME :

### The son of a rich man

Sri Raghunatha dasa was born in village of Sri Krsnapura . His father's name was Sri Govardhana Majumdar, whose elder brother was Hiranya Majumdar. Both of them were respectable wealthy land-holders belonging to the Kayastha caste. Their yearly income was nearly twenty lakhs. He studied at the home of the priest, Acarya Sri Balarama dasa. Haridas Thakura was very merciful to Balarama dasa and occasionally visited his house. At these times, Raghunatha dasa had the good fortune of relishing Thakura Haridasa's association and listened to philosophical discourses from him.

Upon hearing the glories of Lord Gauranga and Nityananda, he became extremely eager to have darsana of Their lotus feet. When he heard that Sri Gaurasundara had taken sannyasa and was leaving Nadia forever, he rushed madly to the home of Advaita Acarya in Santipura to meet the Lord. Seeing Raghunatha fall at His feet, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu could understand that this was His dearest eternal associate, and He embraced Raghunatha firmly. Crying, Sri Raghunatha appealed to the Lord, "I will also go with You." but the Lord replied that He would not take him along at that time, yet upon His return from Vrndavana, Raghunatha should, under any pretext, come to Nilacala to see Him.

Raghunath made many vain attempts to run away from his house to Puri. At one time his father caught him and kept him as a prisoner under the custody of eleven persons. Raghunath spent his days with sorrow, till he met Lord Gauranga again at Santipur with the permission from his father. He stayed there for a week in the company of Lord Caitanya. The omniscient Lord said, "Raghunath be patient and go home. Accept the sense objects in a spirit of renunciation. Cherish steadfast attachment to Lord Krishna in your heart, while outwardly discharging your worldly affairs. You will soon be delivered by Krishna's grace. After my return from Vrindaban, meet me at Puri." Implicitly obeying Him, Raghunath returned home. Following the Lord's advice, without any kinds of worldly attachment, he paid his attention to the temporal duties to please his parents. The guards relaxed their control over him. Thus Raghunath spent some years following Yuktha-Vairagya and rejecting Phalgu or false vairagya. Once the Muslim revenue Collector, with the help of Nawab's vizir charged, Hiranya and Govardhana for defalcation of the Government revenue. Both brothers fled at his approach. But Raghunath was bound and brought before the Vizir for the embezzlement of government money. Raghunath who was well behaved and amiable in his conduct, at last succeeded in bringing about an amicable compromise between the Muslim Collector and his uncle and father. Unable to bear the pangs of separation from the Lord, Raghunath ran away from his house to meet the Lord at Puri. But he was brought back by the guards from halfway. His mother advised his father to bind him with ropes. The father said, "How can you tie him with a rope, where a splendid opulence and matchless beautiful wife failed to captivate him?"

Thus we see how Srila Raghunath Das Goswami, even at his young age, was not attracted by beautiful wife nor by wealth but just wanted to completely surrender to Lord Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

This is because Holy Name is the best among everything. As you leave bitter items when you get the taste of the sweet item... similarly when you get the Higher Taste – Lord Krishna’s Holy Names, you are not attracted to other silly things anymore.

### ACTIVITY TIME

Dear children, a devotee is reading Bhagavad Gita here. Please join the dots and help him:





## TEXT FIVE

### Chaitanya Charitamrta Antya Lila 20.32



*ayi nanda-tanuja kiñkaram  
patitam mām viṣame bhavāmbudhau  
kṛpayā tava pāda-pañkaja-  
sthita-dhūlī-sadṛśam vicintaya*

O son of Maharaja Nanda [Krishna], I am Your eternal servitor, yet somehow or other I have fallen into the ocean of birth and death. Please pick me up from this ocean of death and place me as one of the atoms at Your lotus feet.

❖ “*sthitha-dhuli-sadrisham vichintaya*” – Please place me as one of the atoms at your Lotus Feet

STORY TIME :

#### Supreme Lord fullfills the creator’s wish

Lord Brahma is the father of all living beings in the universe. He lives for three hundred and eleven trillion (311,000,000,000,000) years and even the demigods turn to him in times of difficulty. But Lord Brahma, according to Varaha Purana and Padma Purana performed *tapasya*, and prayed to Krishna to allow him to serve the Lord in such a way that the dust of the feet of not only the Lord but of all His devotees would always be upon his head. Understanding His devotee’s heart, Lord Krishna benedicted Brahmaji to become a mountain



in Barsana Dham. This mountain is comprised of two hills. The white colored hill is the longer one and is called Brahma Hill while the black colored one is called Vishnu Hill. The four peaks of this mountain in Barsana are actually the four heads of Brahmaji. He finds greater pleasure with the devotees walking on the top of his head, sitting on his head, dancing on his head.

## Lord Krishna's cousin

Uddhava is Lord Krishna's dear cousin. He is praying to Lord Krishna for the love and devotion that the Gopis in Vrindavan had for Lord Krishna. Once, Uddhava came to Vrindavan to deliver the message of Lord Krishna. But he was so overwhelmed by seeing the devotion and love of the gopis for Krishna that he wanted to remain in the forest of Vrindavan as a creeper (gulma-lata) and smear the dust of the gopis' feet on his head. When Lord Krishna sent Uddhava to Vrindavan to deliver His message to the Gopis, Uddhava stayed there for ten months. After reaching there, He realized that he had no love for Krishna as compared to the Gopis. Uddhava was famous as being a great devotee, but when he saw the Vrajasi's love he felt he had no love. Uddhava could see that the love of Vrajasis was supreme and he wanted to follow in their footsteps. He was the best devotee in Mathura and still he was willing to give up his royal post and position as a great prince and as an associate of Krishna—to become grass in Vrindavan.

### Activity Time :

Name the eight prominent gopis of Vrindavan :



Uddhava

Srimati RadhaRani



## TEXT SIX

### Chaitanya Charitamrta Antya Lila 20.36



*nayanam galad-aśru-dhārayā  
vadanam gadgada-ruddhayāgirā  
pulkair nicitam vapuḥ kadā  
tava nāma-grahaṇe bhaviṣyati*

O my Lord, when will my eyes be decorated with tears of love flowing constantly when I chant Your holy name? When will my voice choke up, and when will the hairs of my body stand on end at the recitation of Your name?

**... Similar Prayer is done by a great devotee – Srila Narottam Das Thakur**

**STORY TIME : Who is Narottam Das Thakur?**

Narottama Dasa Thakura was born in the town of Gopalpura, Rajsahi district of Bangladesh in the year 1466. His father was king Krishnananda Datta and his mother Sri Narayani devi. The brahmanas prophesied that the boy was a highly perfected soul. As Narottama's schooling went on, everyone was astonished at his amazing intelligence. In a short while he was an expert in many different scriptures. But gradually he saw as useless any knowledge which did not promote hari-bhajan.

Thinking only of how to get the mercy of Shri Gaura-Nityananda, he began to pray very earnestly for guidance from them. Once when his father was away, Narottama secretly left his mother and began his journey to Vrindavana and started serving Lokanatha Maharaj who soon initiated him as his disciple. He used to eat by practicing madhukari, and would study the scriptures under the guidance of Shri Jiva Goswami. Srinivas Acharya was his dear friend. At that time Shyamananda Prabhu arrived from Gauda-Desh. Jiva Goswami asked them to preach the message of Sriman Mahaprabhu far and wide.

Narottama went to Navadvipa to the house of Jagannatha Mishra and had darshan of the lotus feet of Shuklambhara Brahmachari. Later on he went to the place where the Ganges, Yamuna, and Saraswati meet at a village called Saptagram. Shri Parameshvara das Thakura took Narottama to the house of Nityananda Prabhu at Khardaha Gram and brought him to the lotus feet of Shri Jahnvi Mata and Shri Vasudha (the two eternal consorts of Lord Nityananda). Having been introduced to Narottama, who they could understand had received the mercy of Lokanatha and Jiva Goswami; they bestowed their mercy upon him. He then set out for Jagannatha Puri.

Fifty years after the disappearance of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Narottama organized annual festivals in Bengal, which served to keep the Gaudiya philosophy

unified. Narottama Dasa is best known for his devotional poetry wherein he describes emotionally intense feelings towards Radha and Krishna. His prayers – Sri Rupa Manjari Pada and Sri Guru Charana Padma are still sung in Gaudiya Math and ISKCON temples on a regular basis.

**In one of his bhajans “Gauranga Bolite Habe...” – he prays -- when will I have hair stand on end on chanting the lord’s names & when will tears gush out of my eyes while chanting the names of Lord Hari.**

**ACTIVITY TIME : Learn to sing this beautiful bhajan today and be blessed**

(1)

'gaurāṅga' bolite habe pulaka-śarīra  
'hari hari' bolite nayane ba' be nīra

(2)

āra kabe nitāi-cānder koruṇā hoibe  
saṁsāra-bāsanā mora kabe tuccha ha'be

(3)

viṣaya chāriyā kabe śuddha ha 'be mana  
kabe hāma herabo śrī-bṛndābana

(4)

rūpa-raghunātha-pade hoibe ākuti  
kabe hāma bujhabo se jugala-pīriti

(5)

rūpa-raghunātha-pade rahu mora āśa  
prārthanā koroye sadā narottama-dāsa



### **Translation:**

(1) When will that opportune moment come to me when there will be shivering of the body as soon as I chant Lord Gauranga's name? And after the shivering, while chanting Hare Krishna, when will there be tears pouring down from my eyes?

(2) When will that day come when Lord Nityananda's causeless mercy is bestowed upon me so that my desire for material enjoyment becomes very insignificant?

(3) When my mind is completely purified, being freed from material anxieties and desires, then I shall be able to understand Vrindavana and the conjugal love of Radha and Krishna, and then my spiritual life will be successful.

(4) When shall I be very much eager to study the books left by the six Gosvamis? One has to learn of the conjugal loving affairs of Radha-Krishna through the teachings of these six Gosvamis.

(5) Narottama dasa always wishes to understand this conjugal love under the direction of the six Gosvamis.



# TEXT SEVEN

## Chaitanya Charitamrta Antya Lila 20.39



*yugāyitaṁ nimeṣeṇa  
cakṣuṣā prāvṛṣāyitam  
śūnyāyitaṁ jagat sarvaṁ  
govinda-virahaṇa me*

O Govinda! Feeling Your separation, I am considering a moment to be like twelve years or more. Tears are flowing from my eyes like torrents of rain, and I am feeling all vacant in the world in Your absence.

### STORY TIME :

#### Gopi's love for Lord Krishna

One time Krishna pretended that He had a headache. Many physicians came to cure Him, but still His "headache" persisted. Finally He said, "No physician has been able to cure me. But if my devotee can give me the dust of his feet on my head, then It can be cured." So Narada Muni began approaching all of the devotees asking that them to give their foot dust to cure Krishna's headache. But nobody wanted to give. They were thinking, "If I give the dust of my feet for Krishna's head, I will go to hell."

Then Krishna asked Narada Muni "Go to Vrindavana and ask the gopis if they can give their foot dust. They are My best friends. See if they are prepared to give some foot dust. I am very much suffering from headache." Even though nobody else was prepared to give, as soon as the gopis were approached they thought, "Oh no, my beloved Krishna is sick! Food dust is needed to cure His headache?" They immediately told, "Please take. Please take." In amazement the messenger asked them, "Aren't you afraid that by giving your foot dust to Krishna that you will go to hell?" The gopis replied, "We do not care if we go to hell by offering our dust of feet on the head of Krishna. Never mind if we shall go to hell. Let Krishna be happy. That's all. Krishna will be happy." This is the mood of the gopis. It doesn't matter to the gopis if they have to go to hell or even the whole world has to go to hell. For them Krishna's satisfaction is all that matters.



Once, the Gopis of Vrindavan expressed to Lord Krishna “When You go off to the forest during the day, a tiny fraction ( about 1/1700 ) of a second becomes like a millennium for us because we cannot see You. And even when we can eagerly look upon Your beautiful face, so lovely with its adornment of curly locks, our pleasure is hindered by our eyelids, which were fashioned by the foolish creator.” (SB 10.31.15)]

The gopis criticized Brahma thus: "You don't know how to create. You have made us with only two eyes, and you have also given us eyelids that continue to blink. If any new Brahma will come and follow our instructions, he will make thousands and thousands of eyes throughout our limbs – without lids. At that time we will vividly see Krsna when He comes home from grazing cows in the evening and when He leaves again in the morning. At present, however, we eagerly wait for Krsna to return throughout the day. Then, when He comes home and we try to see Him, two things obstruct our vision. One obstruction is the tears that fall from our eyes, and second, we have eyelids. When Krsna is in front of us, if for a second we cannot see Him because of our tears or our eyelids, that second seems as long as thousands and millions of yugas (milleniums)."

Activity Time : Colour the picture of Gopis serving Lord Krishna and decorate the gopis







# TEXT EIGHT

## Chaitanya Charitamrta Antya Lila 20.47

*āśliṣya vā pāda-ratām pinaṣṭu mām  
adarśanān marma-hatām karotu vā  
yathā tathā vā vidadhātu lampaṭo  
mat-prāṇa-nāthas tu sa eva nāparaḥ*

I know no one but Krishna as my Lord, and He shall remain so even if He handles me roughly by His embrace or makes me brokenhearted by not being present before me. He is completely free to do anything and everything, for He is always my worshipful Lord, unconditionally.

### STORY TIME :

#### Srimati Radharani

One early morning, when Vrishabhanu Maharaj went to river Yamuna to have his bath, he saw a beautiful lotus flower in the centre of the river and on that lotus flower was laying a small and an extremely beautiful girl child. The brilliance of her golden complexion was overshadowing the brightness of millions of sun. Vrishabhanu Maharaj was completely mesmerized by the beauty of that child and desired to reach her. Vrishabhanu Maharaj brought that girl child to his home and handed her to his wife Kirtida, who was overjoyed to see this little angel. The couple soon, arranged for the religious rituals for making donations to Brahmans and other prayers in the honour of the birth of their beautiful child. Soon, everyone noticed that the girl child could not open her eyes and made any sound or perhaps she was blind, deaf and dumb.

Suddenly, Narada Muni came to Raval to have the pious sight of Srimati Radharani, the perfect manifestation of love and devotion. On having the sight of Radharani Narada Muni paid his obeisance to her and performed circumambulation round his gem studded cradle. He bowed his head in front of that divine child and with loving emotions in his heart and tears in his eyes, enchanted the glory of Sri Radharani. Knowing of the concern of Vrishabhanu Maharaj regarding the child, Narada Muni advised him to organize a huge ceremony, celebrating the birth of girl child. He also instructed him to invite everyone from Gokul and Raval in the celebrations. Vrishabhanu Maharaj invited everyone including his dear friend Nand along with his family. On the day of celebrations, Nand Maharaj came to Raval along with his consort Yashoda and his child Krishna to congratulate the fortunate parents on



the birth of such a lovely child. When both the parents were discussing their matters, soon the little Krishna crawled to the cradle of Sri Radharani and put his lotus face before Sri Radharani. Noticing the face of her beloved Krishna in front of her, Sri Radharani opened her eyes, because she didn't want to see anyone else in this materialistic world other than her beloved Krishna. Filled with an ecstatic feeling of love she started crying and when everyone over there saw this wonderful pastime of Lord Krishna and Radha they were all overjoyed with happiness and celebrated the birth ceremony of Sri Radharani.

One day, Durvasa Muni came to *Braj*. Now, other gopis were very fearful of him. Sri Radharani, She served him so very nicely and pleased his heart with Her simple, innocent and pure devotion, that He gave Her benediction that whatever She cooks will taste like nectar, and whoever tastes what She cooks will never fall ill and will be empowered with great health. When Yashoda Mayi and the *Braj*-basis heard that Sri Radharani received such a benediction, it was their desire that She cook for Krsna each and every day. She is so expert in cooking that she never repeat any recipe. Whatever she cooks is a new recipe! So variegated recipes that every recipes tastes excellent and yet very different than any recipe made before.

ACTIVITY TIME : Complete the Lotuslike face of Srimati Radharani :



*prabhura 'śikṣāṣṭaka'-śloka yei paḍe, śune  
kṛṣṇe prema-bhakti tāra bāḍe dine-dine*

**If anyone recites or hears these eight verses of instruction by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, his ecstatic love and devotion for Kṛṣṇa increase day by day.**

References:

- [www.iskcondesiretree.com](http://www.iskcondesiretree.com)
- From the Lectures given by H.H.Gopal Krishna Goswami Maharaj, H.H.Romapada Swami Maharaj, H.H. Bhakti Charu Swami Maharaj, H.H.Radhanath Swami Maharaj, H.H.Gaur Krishna Swami Maharaj, H.G.Narayani Mataji

For more guidance:

Join

**Narasimha Institute for Children Education**

- An education wing of ISKCON Mira Road

**Contact : 9930729279**



**NICE**

**Books**

**Narasimha Institute for Children Education**

*- An education wing of ISKCON Mira Road*