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THE PASTIMES OF SRI AVADHUTA NITYANANDA

THE TWO DIVINE BROTHERS

Srila Krishnadas Kaviraj Goswami

A SUMMARY OF THE PASTIMES OF SRI AVADHUTA NITYANANDA

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakura

HOW CAN WE REMOVE THE FIVE KINDS OF IGNORANCE OF THE CONDITIONED SOULS?

His Divine Grace

A.C.Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

THE LORD'S ORDER TO PROCESS AROUND TOWN AND CHANT

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*sūrya-candra hare yaiche saba andhakāra
vastu prakāśiyā kare dharmera pracāra
ei mata dui bhāi jīvera ajñāna-
tamo-nāśa kari' kaila tattva-vastu-dāna*

The appearance of Sri Krishna Chaitanya and Prabhu Nityananda has surcharged the world with happiness. As the sun and moon drive away darkness by their appearance and reveal the nature of everything, these two brothers dissipate the darkness of ignorance covering the living beings and enlighten them with knowledge of the Absolute Truth.

The darkness of ignorance is called *kaitava*, the pathway of cheating, which begins with religiosity, economic development, sense gratification and liberation.

*dharmah projjhita-kaitavo 'tra paramo
nirmatsarānām satām
vedyañ vāstavam atra vastu śiva-dañ
tāpa-trayonmūlanam*

Bhāgavata Mahāvidyālaya

nityaṁ bhāgavata-sevayā
śrīmad-bhāgavate mahā-muni-kṛte
kim vā parair īśvaraḥ
sadyo hṛdy avarudhyate 'tra kṛtibhiḥ
śuśrūṣubhis tat-kṣaṇāt

"The great scripture *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, compiled by Maha-muni Vyasadeva from four original verses, describes the most elevated and kind-hearted devotees and completely rejects the cheating ways of materially motivated religiosity. It propounds the highest principle of eternal religion, which can factually mitigate the threefold miseries of a living being and award the highest benediction of complete prosperity and knowledge. Those willing to hear the message of this scripture in a submissive attitude of service can at once capture the Supreme Lord in their hearts. Therefore there is no need for any scripture other than *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*."

*tāra madhye mokṣa-vāñchā kaitava-pradhāna
yāhā haite kṛṣṇa-bhakti haya antardhāna*

The foremost aspect of cheating is the desire to achieve liberation by merging into the Supreme, for this causes the permanent disappearance of loving service to Krishna.

*pra-śabdena mokṣābhisandhir
api nirastah' iti*

"The prefix '*pra*' [in the verse from *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*] indicates that the desire for liberation is completely rejected."

All kinds of activities - both auspicious and inauspicious - that are detrimental to the discharge of transcendental loving service to Lord Sri Krishna, are actions born of the darkness of ignorance. By the grace of Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityananda, this darkness of ignorance is removed and the truth is brought to light.

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*tattva-vastu—kṛṣṇa, kṛṣṇa-bhakti, prema-rūpa
nāma-saṅkīrtana—saba ānanda-svarūpa*

"mitaṁ ca sārāṁ ca vaco hi vāgmitā" iti

The Absolute Truth is Sri Krishna, and loving devotion to Sri Krishna exhibited in pure love is achieved through congregational chanting of the holy name, which is the essence of all bliss.

"Essential truth spoken concisely is true eloquence."

Simply by hearing these topics submissively one's heart will gradually become free from all the faults of ignorance, and thus one will achieve deep love for Krishna. This is the path of peace. If one patiently hears about the glories of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Sri Nityananda Prabhu and Sri Advaita Prabhu and Their devotees, devotional activities, names and fame- along with the mellows of Their transcendental loving exchanges- one will learn the essence of the Absolute Truth.

*sūrya candra bāhirera tamaḥ se vināśe
bahir-vastu ghaṭa-paṭa-ādi se prakāśe*

— Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta » Ādi-līlā » Chapter 1: The Spiritual Masters » 87-103, 106 - 9.

The sun and moon dissipate the darkness of the external world and thus reveal external material objects like pots and plates. But these two brothers [Lord Chaitanya and Lord Nityananda] dissipate the darkness of the inner core of the heart, and thus They help one meet the two kinds of *bhāgavatas* [persons or things in relationship with the Personality of Godhead].

HOW CAN WE REMOVE THE FIVE KINDS OF IGNORANCE OF THE CONDITIONED SOULS?

His Divine Grace

A.C.Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

*eka bhāgavata baḍa—bhāgavata-śāstra
āra bhāgavata—bhakta bhakti-rasa-pātra*

One of the *bhāgavatas* is the great scripture *Śrīmad- Bhāgavatam*, and the other is the pure devotee absorbed in the mellows of loving devotion. Through the actions of these two *bhāgavatas* the Lord instills the mellows of transcendental loving service into the heart of a living being, and thus the Lord, in the heart of His devotee, comes under the control of the devotee's love.

The celebrated capital of the ancient Sena dynasty, was known as Gaudadesha or Gauda, and was situated in what is now the modern district of Maldah. Later this capital - then called Gaudapura - was transferred to the ninth or central island on the western side of the Ganges in the area of Navadvīpa. This new location is now known as Mayapur. Lord Caitanya appeared there, and Lord Nityananda joined Him there from His place in the district of Birbhum. They appeared in the realm of Gaudadesha to disseminate the science of Krishna consciousness. It is predicted that as the sun and moon gradually move west, the movement They began five hundred years ago will spread to the Western civilizations by Their mercy.

The first wonderful thing of these two brothers is that They both appear simultaneously. and The second wonder is that They illuminate the innermost depths of the heart. These two- the sun and moon- are very kind to the people of the world. Thus for the good fortune of all, They have appeared on the horizon of Bengal. Let us therefore worship the holy feet of these two Lords. Thus one can be rid of all difficulties on the path of self-realization.

Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and Nityananda Prabhu drive away the five kinds of ignorance of the conditioned souls. In the *Mahābhārata, Udyoga-parva*, Forty-third Chapter, these five kinds of ignorance are described. They are (1) accepting the body to be the self, (2) making material

sense gratification one's standard of enjoyment, (3) being anxious due to material identification, (4) lamenting and (5) thinking that there is anything beyond the Absolute Truth. The teachings of Lord Chaitanya eradicate these five kinds of ignorance. Whatever one sees or otherwise experiences one should know to be simply an exhibition of the energy of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Everything is a manifestation of Krishna.

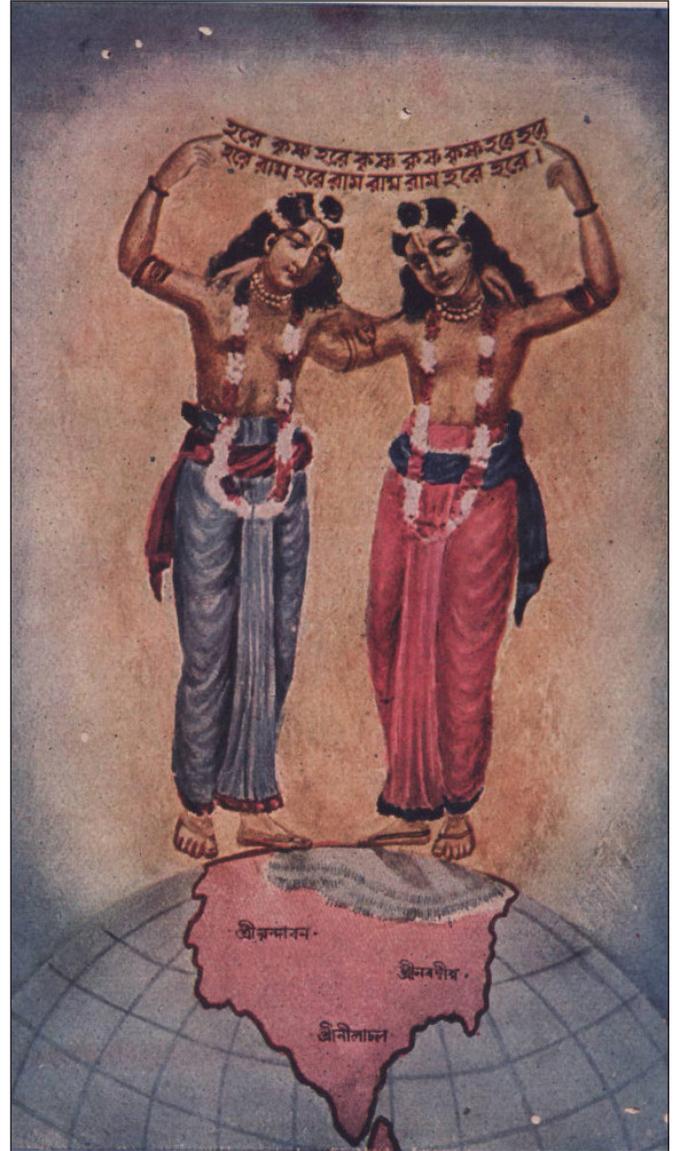
— Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta » Ādi-līlā » Chapter 1: The Spiritual Masters » 102, Purport.

A SUMMARY OF THE PASTIMES OF SRI AVADHUTA NITYANANDA

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakura

When Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was enjoying various pastimes in Navadvipa, Nityananda Prabhu lived at the house of Srivasa Thakura. Due to constantly remaining in the mood of a child, Nityananda did not eat with His own hand, and so Srivasa's wife Malini affectionately fed Him like her own son. In order to test Srivasa, Mahaprabhu one day asked him why he allowed the ultra-unconventional "Avadhūta" Nityananda, whose caste and character were unknown, to live in his house. Mahaprabhu suggested that in order to protect the prestige of his family and caste, he should not allow Nityananda Prabhu to stay in his house. In answer to this, Srivasa informed Mahaprabhu that one who has worshiped Mahaprabhu for even a day is certainly dear to him. Moreover, Nityananda Prabhu is non-different from Mahaprabhu. Even if Nityananda held a pot of wine and associated with prostitutes, or even if He destroyed Srivasa's caste, life, and wealth, still Srivasa's faith in Him would not be disturbed for even a moment. On seeing Srivasa's firm faith in Nityananda, Mahaprabhu became greatly pleased and gave him the benediction that even if Laksmidevi felt the need to beg at any time, Srivasa would not face any poverty. Mahaprabhu continued

Bhāgavata Mahāvidyālaya



His blessings saying that even the cats and dogs in the house of Srivasa would have unflinching devotion in Him.. Thereafter Mahaprabhu entrusted Srivasa with the full responsibility of caring for Nityananda and then returned home.

Nityananda Prabhu continued to wander throughout Nadia; sometimes He swam in the waters of the Ganges and sometimes He enjoyed unlimited bliss by simply floating in her currents. Sometimes He would visit the houses of Murari or Gangadasa, and sometimes He would go to the house of Mahaprabhu. Whenever Mother Saci saw Nityananda, she showed Him great affection. Once, when in the mood of a child Nityananda tried to touch the lotus feet of Mother Saci, she immediately ran away.

On another day Mother Saci had a wonderful dream. While narrating the subject matter of the dream to Mahaprabhu, she said that both Mahaprabhu and Nityananda entered the temple of Visnu as five-year-old boys. Then Nityananda held Krishna and Mahaprabhu held Balarama, and They began to quarrel with each other. In anger, Balarama and Krishna asked Gaura and Nityananda to leave the temple room because They were unauthorised. Nityananda replied that in the previous age of *Dvāpara-yuga*, Krishna and Balarama had full authority to perform all pastimes, but in the present *Kali-yuga*, They had no right whatsoever. Therefore Gaura and Nitai alone were qualified to accept all the offerings. Both Balarama and Krishna then said that They would bind Gaura and Nitai, confine Them to the temple room, and leave. In this way They went on quarreling and began to eat the foodstuffs that They snatched from each other. When Nityananda Prabhu addressed Sacimata as “mother” and begged her for rice to mitigate His hunger, Mother Saci's dream came to an end.

After Mahaprabhu heard the description of the dream from Mother Saci, He forbade her to disclose it to anyone. The Lord said that the Deities of her house were directly the Personality of Godhead and They eat half the foods offered to Them. He previously had some doubt whether Laksmipriya was eating that portion of the offering, but now that doubt was removed from His mind. “Therefore”, Mahaprabhu continued, “Nityananda should be invited and fed.”

Thereafter Mahaprabhu went to Nityananda, and whilst inviting Him for lunch, the Lord forbade Him from manifesting any kind of ‘restlessness’. In answer to this, Nityananda said that only a madman plays mischief and Mahaprabhu must think that everyone is like Himself. While speaking in this way, They both arrived at Mahaprabhu's house and sat down together with Their intimate associates headed by Gadadhara Pandita.

After Mahaprabhu and Nityananda Prabhu washed Their feet with the water offered by the elderly man servant Ishana, They both sat down together to eat Their meal. Mahaprabhu and Nityananda Prabhu appeared just like Sri Ramacandra and Laksmana. When Mother Saci served Them food on three plates, They began to laugh.

On seeing the characteristics of Krishna and Balarama in the bodies of Gaura and Nitai, Mother Saci fell unconsciousness to the ground, where upon Mahaprabhu helped her regain consciousness.

In order to perform various pastimes in Nadia, Mahaprabhu visited the houses of the devotees and manifested His different forms to the different devotees. One day, as a singer played his small drum and sang the glories of Lord Shiva, Mahaprabhu manifested the mood of Lord Shankara and climbed on the singer's shoulders. Later, after regaining His external consciousness, the Lord got down from his shoulders and gave him ample alms. The singer was very pleased and returned home.

Thereafter Mahaprabhu called His associates and expressed His desire to perform *harināma saṅkīrtana* every night. According to the Lord's desire, the pastimes of *saṅkīrtana* began. On hearing that blissful chanting, the atheists began to criticise and spread various malicious rumors. When Mahaprabhu fell forcefully to the ground during the *kīrtana*, Mother Saci became worried and prayed to Krishna, “Although Mahaprabhu does not feel any pain while falling forcefully to the ground, an affectionate mother cannot tolerate it. Therefore, may He not feel any pain.” Mahaprabhu realised the internal mood of His mother, so from that time on He caused Mother Saci to remain fully absorbed during the Lord's *saṅkīrtana* pastimes so that she would not know anything.

As a tumultuous *kīrtana* was begun in the courtyard of Srivasa on the *Ekadāśī* day (*Śrī Hari-vāsara*), Mahaprabhu began to manifest various transformations



of ecstatic love. Since by the order of Mahaprabhu the door of Srivasa's house was locked from the inside during the performance of *saṅkīrtana*, the atheists outside were unable to enter the house and began criticizing Mahaprabhu and His associates with various harsh statements. The devotees of Mahaprabhu ignored such statements and remained intoxicated in the pastimes of *saṅkīrtana*. Just as the long night of the *rāsa-līlā* pastimes appeared as a fraction of a second to the gopīs, the devotees who were intoxicated by Mahaprabhu's *saṅkīrtana* pastimes passed their nights absorbed in the same way.

One day after *kīrtana* Mahaprabhu took all the *sālāgrāma-sīlās* on His lap and sat on the throne of Lord Visnu. He then manifested His glories to the devotees and began to eat the various foodstuffs offered by them. In this way, after the Lord ate sufficient foodstuffs to feed two hundred people, He again demanded more food. The devotees were unable to offer any more foodstuffs, so they simply offered Him some betel nuts. Thereafter Mahaprabhu requested Advaita Prabhu to ask for a benediction. In this way, after some time, the Lord fell to the ground unconscious. Later on He regained external consciousness and began to perform *kīrtana*. In this way, Mahaprabhu continued His ecstatic pastimes in Navadvīpa.

— Śrī Caitanya Bhagavata of Śrīla Vṛndāvana dāsa
Thākura Madhya Khanda, Chapter 8 Chapter Summary of
Parivrājākācārya Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī
Mahārāja Translated by Bhūmipati Dāsa

THE LORD'S ORDER TO PROCESS AROUND TOWN AND CHANT

Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura

*nadīyā-godrume nityānanda mahājana
patiyāche nām-haṭṭa jīvera kāraṇa*

In the land of Nadiya, on the island of Godruma, the magnanimous Lord Nityananda has opened up the Market

nityaṁ bhāgavata-sevayā

place of the Holy Name, meant for the deliverance of all fallen souls.

*(śraddhāvān jan he, śraddhāvān jan he)
prabhura ājñāy, bhāi, māgi ei bhikṣā
bolo 'kṛṣṇa,' bhajo kṛṣṇa, koro kṛṣṇa-śikṣā*

O men of faith! O men of faith! By the order of Lord Gaurāṅga, O brothers, I beg this one request: Chant "Krishna!", worship Krishna, and follow Krishna's instructions.

*aparādha-śūnya ho'ye loho kṛṣṇa-nām
kṛṣṇa mātā, kṛṣṇa pitā, kṛṣṇa dhana-prān*

Being careful to remain free of offenses, just take the holy name of Krishna. Krishna is your mother, Krishna is your father, and Krishna is the treasure of your life.

*kṛṣṇera saṁsāra koro chāḍi' anācār
jīve doyā, kṛṣṇa-nām—sarva-dharma-sār*

Giving up all improper behavior, carry on your worldly duties only in relation to Krishna. The showing of compassion to all fallen souls by loudly chanting the holy name of Krishna is the essence of all forms of religion.

PURPORT

"Sri Mahaprabhu displayed His mercy towards the living entities who are tortured by Kali-yuga by ordering Sri Nityananda Prabhu to preach the holy name door to door. Therefore Sri Nityananda Prabhu is certainly the chief proprietor of the Nama Hatta located at Godruma. Even though all the employees of the Nāma Haṭṭa are qualified for performing the 'Patrol According to the Lord's Order', still the great personalities, who are like patrolling watchmen, are especially empowered to render these duties in an entirely selfless manner. Above all of them, Prabhu Nityananda and patrolman Haridas Thakura have each exhibited the glories of this post in their own unique ways. If one

goes out on patrol with hopes of simply collecting money and rice, then that is not the pure form of 'patrolling'.

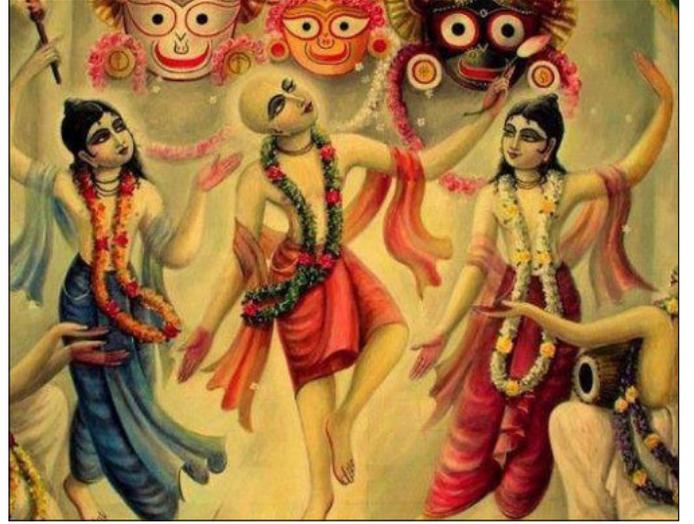
The chief inspector on patrol plays his *karatāls* and calls out, "O faithful persons ! I do not wish to beg from you any worldly thing or mundane favor. The only alms I beg is that all of you honor the order of the Lord by chanting the name of Krishna, worshiping Krishna, and teaching others about Krishna. Just invoke the true name of Krishna. Please transcend the partial stage and chant the purely spiritual holy name of the Lord."

O faithful persons, to give up the partial stage of chanting (*nāmābhāsa*) and sing the pure holy names is certainly the true welfare of the living entities. Please worship Lord Krishna by chanting His holy names. Perform worship of Krishna by engaging in the nine processes of *bhakti-śravaṇa*, *kīrtana*, *smaraṇa*, *sevana*, *archana*, *vandana*, *dāsyā*, *sakhya*, and *ātma-nivedana*. Execute your worship either on the path of regulated devotion (*vidhi-mārga*) or spontaneous devotion (*rāga-mārga*), according to your specific qualification.

O faithful persons, keep yourself free from the ten offenses and simply worship Lord Krishna. Krishna is the living entities' true mother, father, offspring, wealth, husband, and life-treasure. The living entities are the spiritual ray, Krishna is the spiritual sun, and the material world is the living entities prison. Truly the pastimes of Krishna, which lie beyond the material realm, are your factual riches to be sought.

O faithful persons hear me! You have turned away from Krishna and thus suffered the experience of so-called happiness and distress in the realm of material world. This situation is not befitting you.

All the following things come under the heading of unfavorable actions, performed either by oneself or by society: theft, speaking lies, cheating, and hostility, lust, inflicting bodily harm, duplicitous politics, and so forth. Abandoning all these, just



resort to scripturally sanctioned activities and consider yourself as a member of Krishna's household. The ultimate statement is this: showing mercy to all living beings, living a pure lifestyle, just chant the holy name of Krishna. There is no difference whatsoever between Krishna's names and Lord Krishna Himself. By the mercy of the holy name, Krishna in the form of His names, forms, attributes and pastimes will personally reveal Himself to the vision of the spiritually awakened. Truly in a few days your spiritual consciousness will be aroused and you will remain floating in the ocean of eternally sweet Kṛṣṇa-prema.

— *Gītāvalī*, *Śrī Nagar-Kīrtan*, song 1, Purport. Published by Ishvara Das.

!! Sri Sri Nitai Gaurchandra Jayati !!

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