



तव कथामृतं तसजीवनम्
tava kathāmṛtaṁ tapta-jīvanam

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THE TEST OF OUR DEDICATION

*His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta
Swami Prabhupada*



Now we have by Krishna's grace built up something significant in the shape of this ISKCON, and we are all one family. Sometimes there may be disagreement and quarrel, but we should not go away. These inebrieties can be ad-

justed by cooperative spirit, tolerance, and maturity. So I request you to kindly remain in the association of our devotees and work together. The test of our actual dedication and sincerity to serve the spiritual master will be in this mutual cooperative spirit to push on this movement and not make factions and deviate. ❀

— Letter to Babhru. 9 December 1973.

THE BLESSINGS OF NITAI

From the life of Srila Gour Kishore Das Babaji

One day, in the place known as Kulia in Nabadwip Dham, one Goswami, along with several persons dressed as *vaiṣṇavas*, came to see Srila Gour Kishore Das Babaji. The Goswami said, "Oh, Baba. For many days I have not been able to have your association. In that time I went to a foreign country."

Babaji Maharaja then said, "Why have you gone to a foreign country? If you stay here, there

will be no impediments. Why have gone to a foreign country to take that type of association?"

One associate of the Goswami replied, "He has gone to a foreign country in order to deliver the people there. If he doesn't go to other places then how will the residents there be able to understand the supreme goal of life?"

Hearing this, Babaji Maharaja became very disturbed and said, "If you actually want to uplift the people in other countries, then why do you accept money from foreigners? I understand your intention. You simply wanted a nice brick house to live in. If you are at all interested in performing genuine service to the Supreme Lord, then you should give up the understanding that you are the master. Then, Nityananda Prabhu will certainly bless you. I will tell Him myself that you want fifty brick houses, but if you simply want a nice brick house as a place in which to enjoy your wife and son, then Nityananda Prabhu, fulfilling all those different materialistic desires, will cancel the possibility of your obtaining love of Godhead. If you externally put on a show as if you want to deliver other persons, but internally you are afflicted with prestige and self-aggrandizement, you will become fallen."

Srila Gour Kishore Das Babaji Maharaja then began to loudly perform *kīrtana* and continued all day until dusk. Srila Babaji Maharaja made it evident that if one becomes offensive unto the

name of Krishna or becomes offensive in one's service, then the fruits of one's *bhajana* will simply be religious activities, accumulation of wealth, and fulfillment of lusty desires. This is the most degraded misfortune. Sri Nityananda Prabhu in the form of guru fulfills the desires of those who are deceitful. ❀

— Translated by Vyenkata Das Brahmachari, from *Āmāra Prabhura-kathā*, a collection of articles written by Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Prabhupada.

NITAI BROKE THE DAM

Srila Locana Das Thakura

Explanation by

Sri Srimad Gour Govinda Swami Maharaja

*nitāi guṇa-maṇi āmār, nitāi guṇa-maṇi
āniyā premera banyā bhāsāla avanī*

*premera banyā loiyā nitāi āilā gauda-deśe
ḍubila bhakata-gaṇa dīna-hīna bhāse*

*dīna-hīna-patīta-pāmara nāhi bāche
brahmāra durlabha prema sabākare jāche*

*ābaddha karuṇā sindhu (nitāi) kāṭiyā muhān
ghare ghare bule prema-amīyār bān*

*lochan bole mora nitāi yebā nā bhajila
jāniyā śuniyā sei ātma-ghātī hoilo*

Lochan Das Thakur says that Nitai came to Gaudadesh with a flood of *prema*, a flood of love of Godhead. With that flood, He inundated the whole land. Nityananda Prabhu freely gives this pure love of Krishna. He never discriminates whether one is *patīta* or *pāmara*, degraded or qualified. *brahmā durlabha prema* — Nitai gives indiscriminately something that is very difficult even on the part of Lord Brahma to get. There is an unlimited ocean of love and there is a strong dam containing it. Nityananda Prabhu cut that down and broke open that strong embankment. So there was a heavy rush, a flood. That flood came to every home.

Lochan Das says that one who does not take shelter of Nityananda Prabhu is most unfortunate and is willingly committing suicide, *ātma-ghātī*. ❀

— From a lecture in Bhubaneswar on 2 April 1994.

NITAI'S MARRIAGE

Adapted from Śrī Bhakti-ratnākara, chapter 12, texts 3870 to 4015

Adwaita, Srivas, and others began to discuss the possibility of Nityananda Prabhu's marriage. Krishna Das, the fortunate son of

Harihoda from Badagachi-gram, had great respect for Nityananda and wanted to arrange for Nityananda's marriage.

A *brāhmaṇa* named Surya Das, who had earned the title of Sarkhel by serving in the court of the Yavana king, lived at Saligrama near Nabadwip. He had four extremely virtuous brothers, and two daughters named Vasudha and Jahnavi, who were known for their beauty and good disposition. Surya Das had requested the wise *brāhmaṇas* to search for good bridegrooms for his daughters, but they were unable to find suitable candidates. However, they suggested that he go to the village of Ekachakra in Radhadesh and meet Hadai Pandita. He was a very good man and the father of Sri Nityananda Prabhu, a high spirited young boy. Traveling as an *avadhūta*, Nityananda had visited many holy places and was renowned as a great scholar. After visiting various places of pilgrimage, Nityananda had reached Nadia where He had met Sri Gaurachandra and decided to give up His stick of an *avadhūta*. The *brāhmaṇa* explained that Nityananda was the favorite associate of Sri Krishna Chaitanya, and thus would be the most suitable husband for his daughters. He also told Surya Das that if he was able to have such a son-in-law as Nityananda Prabhu, then he should certainly thank Providence for his good fortune. Surya Das listened attentively then returned home without uttering a word.

With his mind filled with anticipation, Surya Das lay down and fell asleep. In his dream he saw himself giving his two daughters to Nityananda in marriage. While the wise *brāhmaṇas* recited the marriage hymns, Surya Das dedicated his daughters to Nityananda, as the demigods in heaven showered flowers on their heads. While looking at his son-in-law, he suddenly saw the extremely enchanting Lord Balaram in place of Nityananda. His complexion was like a silver mountain, His face was effulgent like the moon, and His body was adorned with brilliant ornaments. He then looked at his daughters Vasu and Jahnavi and saw there instead Varuni and Revati, the two wives of Lord Balaram, with complexions as bright as gold. They wore beautiful dresses and ornaments and sat on either side of Balaram. Surya Das was overwhelmed by this vision and began to weep. Suddenly his dream faded away.

In the morning he went to the house of the *brāhmaṇa* and bowed to his feet saying, “I agree to your proposal. Please don’t delay.” The happy *brāhmaṇa* took four persons with him and started for Nadia chanting the auspicious names of Durga and Ganesh. When they arrived at the house of Srivas, they found Nityananda, looking like Cupid himself, sitting amongst Srivas and other associates. Feeling extremely fortunate, the *brāhmaṇa*’s eyes filled with tears. With great respect, Srivas inquired about the *brāhmaṇa*’s well being, and the *brāhmaṇa* replied, “I have come from my house to speak privately with you. Srivas took him to a secluded place and the *brāhmaṇa* gladly revealed his mind saying, “I’ve heard that you are searching for a bride for Nityananda, so I brought with me the information of two girls who are the daughters of Surya Das Pandita. I have searched everywhere, but have found none to compare to them. They are as beautiful as goddess Lakshmi, and are of good disposition. I think they will be suitable brides for Nityananda. Please come to my place and see the girls. Surya Das Sarkhel, who belongs to a good family, has agreed to this marriage and doesn’t want to delay any longer. Now tell me what is your opinion?”

Srivas Pandita replied, “Well, I shall see to it. Today I must send Krishna Das to Badagachi, but tomorrow they will go to your place and you can take Krishna Das to the house of Surya Das.” Hearing this, the *brāhmaṇa* happily hurried back to Surya Das’s house in Saligrama.

Meanwhile, Srivas Pandita informed Adwaita about the marriage proposal. Nityananda overheard their discussion and smiled softly and meaningfully. Krishna Das, who was a very intelligent son of Raja Harihoda, hastily went to Badagachi and immediately began preparing for the marriage. News of the wedding spread quickly and everyone said, “It will be a good one.”

Nityananda and His associates happily left Nabadwip and started for Badagachi. As they approached the village, the residents of Badagachi rushed forward to welcome them. The *brāhmaṇas* and wise people of the village were filled with happiness to see the graceful features of Nityananda Prabhu.

Meanwhile, in Saligrama, which was not far from Badagachi, Surya Das told his younger

brother Krishna Das, “I shall go to Badagachi first. You and the *brāhmaṇas* come behind me with these gifts.” Surya Das hastily came to Badagachi and went to meet Nityananda. Overwhelmed with emotion, Surya Das burst into tears and fell on the ground at Nityananda Prabhu’s feet. He held the feet of Nityananda in his two hands but could not speak a word. Smiling brightly, Nityananda embraced the fortunate Surya Das.

After meeting with all the *vaiṣṇavas* there, Surya Das fixed the date for Nityananda’s *adhivāsa* [In his purport to *Śrī Caitanya Bhāgavata ādi* 10.79, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur writes: The rituals in which sandalwood pulp and flower garlands are offered the day before an auspicious ceremony is called *adhivāsa*.] Krishna Das Pandit came from his house along with the *brāhmaṇas* and many items for the ceremony. In the evening, all the residents of Badagachi came, and at the auspicious time, Nityananda sat in the middle of the respected *brāhmaṇas* and wise persons. The people watched happily as the *adhivāsa* took place, and auspicious music filled the air. Surya Das, with the help of wise *brāhmaṇas*, joyfully performed the *adhivāsa* ceremony of his daughters. Surya Das had previously seen the real identities of his daughters, yet as a father he became very emotional about his daughters’ marriage. Carrying many items for the *adhivāsa*, the *brāhmaṇas* came from Badagachi to the house of Surya Das. At the time of *adhivāsa*, Vasudha and Jahnavi looked very sweet and elegant in beautiful dresses and ornaments. The *brāhmaṇas* began to cite hymns from the Vedas and blessed the brides with auspicious items such as *dhanya* and *durva*, and the girls made the sound of *ulu-dhvani* [a propitious sound made by vibrating the tongue]. After the completion of *adhivāsa*, the guests returned to their homes. That evening Nityananda Prabhu left Badagachi and started for Saligrama. Surya Das also happily returned to his house. Everyone who saw the extraordinary bridegroom Nityananda became enchanted by His beauty.

Nityananda Prabhu happily entered the village of Saligrama and came to the house of Surya Das. The people who rushed forward to touch the Lord’s feet were suddenly filled with devotion. From a hidden place, Sri Vasu and Jahnavi observed the beauty of their husband-to-be with extreme pleasure. A great crowd began to

congregate in the house of Surya Das, and the young girls decorated Vasu and Jahnava in beautiful dresses and ornaments. According to the customary procedures, Surya Das then offered his daughters to Nityananda. All the *brāhmaṇas*, and even the demigods, were enchanted by the beauty of the brides and the bridegroom.

The next day the house was filled with joyous festivities as Surya Das humbly performed the various social customs, and Nityananda satisfied the desires of all the devotees. Afterward, Nityananda Prabhu and His two wives returned to Badagachi. Srivas' wife and all the ladies there admired the beauty of the newlyweds. In *Śrī Gaura-gaṇoddeśa-dīpikā* it is stated that Surya Das was the incarnation of Kakudmi, the father of the wives of Lord Balaram. His daughters were previously Sri Varuni and Sri Revati. According to some, Sri Vasudha Devi was formerly Kalavani, and Sri Jahnava Devi was Ananga Manjari, the younger sister of Srimati Radharani. The wise saints also support this opinion.

Thereafter, Nityananda happily stayed in the village of Badagachi. The extraordinary qualities of the deliverer of mankind, Nityananda Prabhu, who was mad after Sri Gauranga, have been sung by many poets.

After a few days, Nityananda Prabhu and His followers returned to Nadia. Sachimata and all

the great devotees of Gaurahari together with their wives, were very happy to see Vasudha and Jahnavi. Following the order of Sachimata, Nityananda visited Santipura and then Saptagrama. According to the desire of the devotees, Nityananda Prabhu then went to Khardaha, where He stayed with his wives in a beautiful house. He spent some wonderful days there, causing great joy to His followers by the performance of *saṅkīrtana*. Then again, he returned to Nadia to see Sachimata.

— Unknown translator.

NITAI'S APPEARANCE

By a medieval *vaiṣṇava* named
Dina Krishna Das

(*Śrī-rāga*)

rāḍha deśe nāma, ekacakrā grāma
hāḍāi-pāṇḍita-ghara
śubha māgha māsi śukla-trayodaśī
janamila haladhara

In the county named Radhadesh, in the village of Ekachakra, on the *śukla-trayodaśī* of the auspicious month of *Māgha*, Lord Balaram took birth in the house of Hadai Pandit.

hāḍāi paṇḍita ati haraṣita
putra-mahotsava kare
dharāṇī-maṇḍala kare ṭalamala
ānanda nāhika dhare

Joyful Hadai Pandit celebrated the festival of his son's birth. The earth trembled in ecstatic agitation. No one could contain their bliss.

śāntipura-nātha mane haraṣita
kari kichu anumāna
antare jānilā bujhi janamila
kṛṣṇera agraja rāma

Adwaita Acharya, the Lord of Shantipur, became joyful. In His heart He knew that Krishna's elder brother Balaram had taken birth.

vaiṣṇavera mana ha-ila prasanna
ānanda-sāgare bhāse
e dīna pāmara ha-ibe uddhāra
kahe dīna kṛṣṇa-dāse

The hearts of all the *vaiṣṇavas* became full of delight. Everyone floated in an ocean of bliss. Lord Balaram would soon deliver all the *dīna* and *pāmara*, distressed and sinful persons. Thus speaks poor Krishna Das. ❀

— Unknown translator.

— Jagadbandhu Bhadra. *Gaura-pada-taraṅginī*. Sri Gauranga Press. Calcutta. 1931. Bengali.

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Website: www.gopaljiu.org

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