



तव कथामृतं तसजीवनम्
tava kathāmṛtaṁ taptā-jīvanam

Sri Krishna Kathamrita Bindu

Fortnightly email mini-magazine from Gopal Jiu Publications

Issue No. 209

Śrī Pārśva Ekādaśī

31 August 2009

Circulation 2,620

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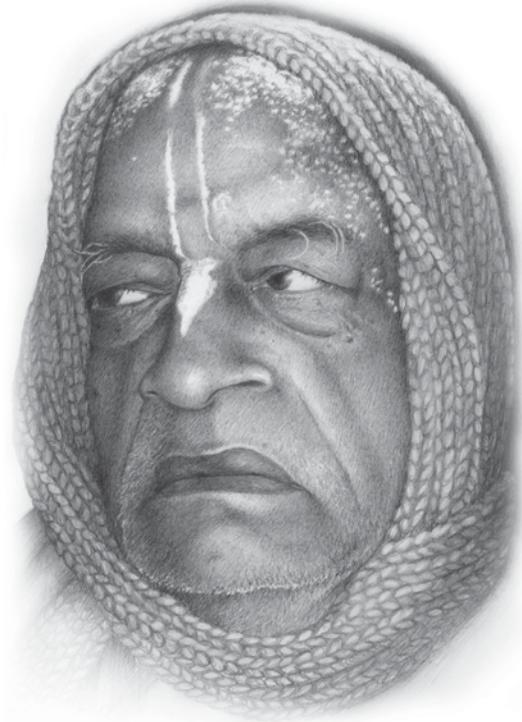


FOLLOWING THE GURU'S INSTRUCTIONS

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

If you want to do some real service to Krishna and to the society, you should fix your mind to follow my instructions and do some tangible work. Unless you fix your mind to serve your spiritual master, who is a direct representative of Krishna, it is not possible to approach Krishna. Krishna is approached through the transparent via media of the spiritual master.

... In your letter under reply, I find that you are now anxious to return to the USA. I do not think that you will be able to do more service in the USA than in India. I think that if you fix your mind and try to remain in India, you can do greater service to Krishna. Many of my disciples are always ready to go to India, but I do not encourage them to go there at the present moment because practically we have no organized branch there. ... You should simply carry out my instructions in that respect. But at the present moment you are not prepared to follow my instructions. You are simply visiting different places for sightseeing recreation. This sort of service is not accepted by Krishna. You are thinking of coming back to the USA because your sightseeing business



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

Drawing by Anuradha Dasi

is now finished. But now you should consider what service you have rendered to Krishna by going to India.

... Now if you decide to work rigidly on my instructions in India, then I can give you necessary instructions. Otherwise, you can do whatever you like. ❀

— Letter, 25 July 1968

WHY DOES ONE FALL DOWN? Sri Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur Prabhupada

As soon as we become proud, we find ourselves unable to follow the spiritual master's orders. As a result, we are bound to fall down. Before a living entity falls down, however, he develops a feeling called faithlessness. If we keep intact our faith at the lotus feet of the spiritual master and the *vaiṣṇavas*, then our perfection is guaranteed; otherwise, we will be doomed and our desire for matter will simply increase. ❀

— Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur. *Amṛta Vani*. A collection of statements from Sri Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur. Originally compiled in Bengali by Sri Bhakti Bhagavat Mayukha Maharaja. Translated into English by Bhumipati Das. Touchstone Media. Mumbai. 2004. p. 214.

NIMAI SPOILS MURARI'S LUNCH Adapted from Sri Lochan Das Thakur's Śrī Caitanya-maṅgala Ādi-khaṇḍa, Bālyā-līlā, texts 373-403

One day, the learned scholar and physician Murari Gupta visited Nabadwip, accompanied by his followers. While walking down the road, they were discussing *yoga-sāstras*. The young boy Nimai, walking directly behind Murari Gupta, began mimicking Murari's way of speaking. Murari noticed this from the corner of his eyes but continued speaking to his followers.

Nimai and his friends then increased their mocking of Murari by exactly imitating both his walking style and hand-gestures. Finally, Murari became furious and rebuked Nimai, "Who says that this boy is well-behaved? I recognize him. He is the son of Jagannath Mishra. Everywhere I have heard his glories. His name is Nimai."

Hearing his words, out of kindness to his devotee Murari Gupta, Lord Gaurahari became angry. Knitting his eyebrows, the eloquent young boy said, "When you take your meal I will teach you something."

Bewildered by this oblique statement, Murari returned to his residence. He became absorbed in his domestic activities and forgot about the incident. At noon he sat down to peacefully take his meal.

Meanwhile, Viswambhar Hari clad himself in opulent garments, wrapped a sash around his waist, tied his hair in a triple topknot, and placed a string of *tulasī* beads and a strand of large pearls around his neck. He anointed his eyes with black *kajjala*, and decorated his body with glistening golden ornaments. Then, carrying *lāḍḍhus* made of condensed milk in his hand, Viswambhar entered the

house of the king of doctors and, with a thunderous voice, called out, "Murari!" Hearing that sound, Murari remembered what Nimai had said earlier. Feeling a bit surprised, Murari said, "What are you doing here?"



Nāma-tattva

ALL GLORIES TO KALI YUGA! Viṣṇu Purāṇa Canto six, chapter two

*yat kṛte daśabhir varṣais tretāyāṁ hāyanena yat
dvāpare yac ca māsenā hy aho rātreṇa tat-kalau*

*tapaso brahmacaryasya japādeś ca phalaṁ dvijāḥ
prāpnoti puruṣas tena kaliḥ sādhu iti bhāṣitam*

*dhyaṅyan kṛte yajan-yajñais tretāyāṁ dvāpare 'rcayan
yadāpnoti tadāpnoti kalau saṅkīrtya keśavam*

"The fruit which is obtained in *Satya-yuga* by practicing penances, muttering prayers, and observing a vow of celibacy for ten years, obtained in *Tretā-yuga* in a year, and in *Dvāpara-yuga* in a month, can be obtained in *Kali-Yuga* in a mere twenty-four hours. The processes of *Satya-yuga*, *Tretā-yuga* and *Dvāpara-yuga* are meditation, ritualistic sacrifice, and deity worship respectively. The results of all these processes can be obtained in *Kali-yuga* simply by chanting the holy names of Lord Keshava! Oh great sages, a small effort in *Kali-yuga* is the cause of the greatest good fortune for mankind. No doubt, I am most satisfied by this particular *yuga*." (6.2.15-17)

*atyanta duṣṭasya kaler ayam eko mahān guṇaḥ
kīrtanād eva kṣiṇasya mukta-bandhaḥ param vrajet*

In this wicked age of Kali, the only good quality is that simply by chanting the glories of Krishna one can become free from material bondage and be promoted to the transcendental kingdom. (6.2.40) ❀

— Translated by Bhakta Harshad Marathe.

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Unknown artist

Mahāprabhu shows his opinion of his devotees taking shelter of yoga instead of bhakti

Nimai replied, “Oh, don’t get up. It’s only I. Carry on with your meal.” As Murari Gupta became absorbed in eating, Nimai slowly moved closer. Then, suddenly, he began passing urine on Murari’s plate. “Ah! Ah! What are you doing? Shame, shame on you,” Murari cried as he jumped up. Gaura Ray began clapping his hands and dancing. He gleefully said to Murari:

*kara śira nāḍiyā, bhakti-patha chāḍiyā,
yoga bale ei abhipārā
jñāna-karma upekhiyā, kṛṣṇa bhaja mana diyā,
rasika vidagdha cidānanda
bhautike tāhāra dṛṣṭī, e nahe bhajana-puṣṭī,
nāhi bujha buddhi ati manda*

“Giving up the path of *bhakti*, you have adopted the path of yoga and move about making funny gestures. Give up *karma* and *jñāna*, and just worship Krishna with all your heart! Become a *rasika-bhakta*, expert in tasting transcendental bliss. One who is attached to material things can’t do *kṛṣṇa-bhajana*, and his consciousness remains low and impure. (Texts 385-386)

*parama dayālu hari, teṅho sarva-śakti-dhārī,
jīvete sambhave-i ki kathā
teṅho brahma sanātana, goṇīra jīvana-dhana,
nā bhajiyā kene deha vyathā*

“Lord Hari is supremely merciful. Not only does he possess all powers but he is the father of all souls and

from him the eternal Brahman is manifested. He is the treasure and very life of the *gopīs* of Vrindavan. Why do you not dedicate your life to worshipping him?” (387)

After saying this, the golden jewel, Gaurahari, suddenly vanished. Murari Gupta couldn’t find him anywhere. Again and again in his heart, Murari thought, “Sachi’s son is the Supreme Lord himself!” Thinking in this way, Murari Gupta hurriedly left his house. Due to being overwhelmed with joy, he couldn’t walk properly. Somehow he arrived at the house of Jagannath Mishra.

There he found Jagannath Mishra and Sachidevi caressing, kissing, and speaking affectionately to their son Nimai. They told him, “You are the nectarean treasure of our lives. Whatever sufferings we experience, we forget all of them as soon as we gaze at the moon of your face.”

Murari Gupta was overcome with bliss. Although Jagannath and Sachidevi welcomed him, Murari didn’t say a word. He only gazed at the beautiful face of Gaurachandra.

From his head to his feet, the hairs of his body stood erect. Streams of tears flowed from his eyes, drenching his body. His voice faltered, and his eyes reddened like the rising sun. He fell like a stick before Gauranga’s feet, again and again bowing before him.

Acting as if he didn’t understand what Murari was doing, Viswambhar climbed up on his mother’s lap. Sachimata then spoke to the elder and respected Murari Gupta, “Murari, please bless our son. Did he do something to offend you? Everyone knows that you are one of the best doctors. Please tell me what offense our son has committed. Let any suffering come to us, but give us the blessing that our son may live forever.”

Speaking these words, Sachidevi and Jagannath humbly held Murari’s hand and bowed before him.

Smiling, Murari Gupta said, “Your son Viswambhar is the master of the master of all the demigods. In the future, the boy that you are raising will reveal his true identity to you. You are the most fortunate parents in the world. Take care of him and protect him. Remember my words, your Viswambhar is actually the Supreme Lord.” After saying this, Murari quickly left the house of Jagannath Mishra.

His heart bursting with bliss, Murari went to visit Adwaita Acharya, the universal teacher and reservoir of

all good qualities. Falling at his feet, Murari said, “You are the greatest devotee. You are a wish-fulfilling tree that can fulfill all desires. I just saw a most wonderful boy in the home of Jagannath Mishra. His name is Nimai Pandit Viswambhar. He is totally transcendental to this material world. Yet, he plays happily with his friends just like an ordinary boy.”

Upon hearing this, Adwaita Acharya, the jewel among the brahmins, made a great roaring sound, while on every limb of his body his hairs stood erect. Adwaita said, “Murari, listen! This is a great secret. Nimai Pandit is the Supreme Lord, the reservoir of all *rasas* and the embodiment of transcendental beauty.” Then Adwaita Acharya and Murari Gupta joyfully embraced and forgot everything.

• • •
Note: One may question what is the meaning of this pastime? It’s cute and humorous, but why would Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu act in such a way?

Gauranga Mahaprabhu is *dharma-bhāvana* the creator and relisher of religious principles. Text 378 of the above story describes, *anugata kṛpāra kāraṇe* — Mahaprabhu’s anger was enacted, “out of kindness to his devotee Murari Gupta.” Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is Krishna himself, come to teach



SRI KRISHNA KATHAMRITA BINDU

A free bi-monthly service provided by:

Gopal Jiu Publications

c/o Sri Krishna Balarama Mandir

National Highway No. 5, IRC Village

Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India, 751015

Phone: (0674) 2553250, 2557026

Email: katha@gopaljiu.org

Website: www.gopaljiu.org

Subscriptions: minimag@gopaljiu.org

Gopal Jiu Publications is a branch of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, Founder-Acharya His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

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us the supreme religious principle of how to love him. He cannot tolerate seeing his devotees take shelter of processes other than pure devotion.

By “spoiling” Murari’s lunch, the Supreme Personality of Godhead Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu expressed his displeasure with his devotee taking shelter of mundane religious principles as opposed to pure *bhakti*. He is thus known as *śuddha-bhakta-pālana* — the protector of his pure devotees. Gaura came to teach us by his personal example how to please Krishna. In the *Bhāgavatam* (11.14.20), Krishna tells Uddhava:

*na sādhayati mām yogo na sāṅkhyam dharma uddhava
na svādhyāyas tapas tyāgo yathā bhaktir mamorjitā*

“My dear Uddhava, the unalloyed devotional service rendered to me by my devotees brings me under their control. I cannot be thus controlled by those engaged in mystic yoga, *Sāṅkhya* philosophy, pious work, Vedic study, austerity or renunciation.”

Through this pastime, Sri Sachinandan Gaura Hari has thus protected his devotees and shown us what he thinks about them minimizing *bhakti* and taking shelter of yoga. — MD ❧

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OFFENDERS OF LORD SHIVA

Brahma-vaivarta Purāna *Brahma-khanda 6.31-32*

*tvat paro nāsti me preyāṁs tvam madīyātmanah paraḥ
ye tvām nīdanti pāpiṣṭhā jñāna-hīnā vicetanāḥ
pacyante kāla-sūtreṇa yāvaca candra-divākarau*

[Lord Krishna said:] Oh dear Shiva! There is no one more dear to me than you. You are more valuable to me than my own self. Those who are sinful, foolish, and devoid of any good consciousness criticize you, and as a result fall into the hell known as Kalasutra, where they are cooked for as long as the sun and moon exist. ❧

— Translated by Bhakta Harshad Marathe

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