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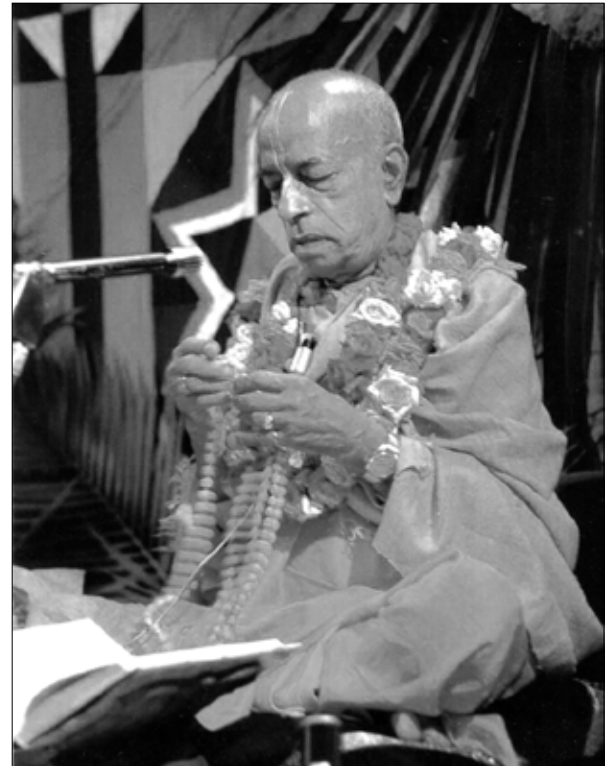
LEARNED FOOLS

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

Sanatan Goswami was holding a big post — government minister. Not only was he a minister, but Nawab Hussain Shah entrusted the whole kingdom in his hands. The king said, “You manage as you like.” This is because he knew that Sanatan is a trustworthy man. He’ll govern very nicely. And Hussain Shah was a Mohammedan Nawab, so he was engaged in hunting and dancing with girls. But he was confident that Sanatan is there to take care. Sanatan’s name was changed to Sakar Mallik, and his brother Rupa Goswami’s name was Dabira Khas. They almost became Muslims. They were very responsible officers.

When they wanted to resign, Nawab Hussain Shah’s mind became topsy-turvy. He said, “Oh, what do you say? I am depending on you. The whole thing is depending on you. And you want to resign? Oh, have you gone crazy? I cannot allow you.” But ever since he met Lord Chaitanya, Sanatan was thinking that, “I am diseased. What is the value of my education and post? I am diseased.”

This is intelligence. People are enamored by so-called education, so-called high posts, nationality,



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

family, beauty or opulence. These things will not save us. We are under the grip of material nature. *karmaṇā daiva-netreṇa* [Bhāg. 3.31.1] — you are working under the influence of a certain material quality,

and you are preparing your next life. You cannot say, “All right, I am very happy. I’m born in America. My nation is a very great nation, and we are very rich. So in my next life also I shall come to America. I shall take my birth here and enjoy like this.” That is not in your hands. That you cannot say. That is *daiva-netreṇa* — decided by *daiva*. *Daiva* means that it is in the hands of supernatural powers. You are currently preparing your next life. The higher authorities will give you a chance if you prepare yourself nicely. You will get a good chance; you will get birth in higher planets. Or if you prepare yourself nicely then you might even go to Krishna. Now it is your choice. But we must know what is our condition. If I am in darkness, I do not understand what is the goal of life or in what condition I am living, then it is conditioned life. Sanatan Goswami understood that. And we should follow in the footprints of Sanatan Goswami.

So he understood, “Although I am a minister and although I am very educated, I am actually a fool.” What do you mean by educated? He said, *grāmya-vyavahāre kahe paṇḍita* — “Some of my neighbors call me a very learned man.” Because he was a minister and a Sanskrit scholar, Urdu scholar, from a scholastic point of view he was very educated. He was born in a brahmin family. So people used to address him as pandit. So he was called “Panditji”. But he was thinking, “People call me a very learned man, but what sort of a learned man am I?” So he submitted his defects to Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. He said, “Although these people, my neighbors, they address me as ‘Panditji’, I am such a fool that I accept that I am learned.”

Someone may protest, “Why do you say that you are not learned? You are learned.” To this, he says, *āpanāra hitāhita kichui nā jāni* — “I’m a fool because I do not know what is my destination and what is good for me.”

This is the position of conditioned life. Everyone is thinking that “I am very learned, I am very rich, I am very opulent.” But if you ask them, “Why are you suffering? Wherefrom have you come? Where are you going in your next life? What is God? What is your relationship with God?” they are silent. You ask anybody, any learned professor in the university, and let him answer. They’ll say, “perhaps”, “maybe”, “like this”, “like that”. No definite answers,

because they do not know. This is our conditioned life. We do not know our position. (Lecture on *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam* 1.5.13, 16 June 1969.) ❀

OTHER COMMENTARIES

Sri Srimad Gour Govinda *Swami Maharaja*

Devotee: You were saying that if one has read up to the tenth canto of the *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam* but has not read the eleventh canto then one must fall down.

Gour Govinda Swami: Yes, because in the tenth canto the five chapters dealing with the *rāsa-līlā* are described. These are transcendental sweet *līlās*, which are all erotic. A neophyte cannot understand Krishna’s dealings with the *gopīs*. One must hear about them from the proper source. Don’t hear from a non-*vaiṣṇava*, from one who is very expert at speaking in very nice flowery language that gives pleasure to the ears, *kaṛṇa-rasāyana*. Don’t hear



Nāma-tattva

FRIENDSHIP WITH THOSE WHO CHANT

In the *Ādi Purāṇa* [Quoted in *Hari-bhakti-vilāsa* 11.470-471] it is stated:

*nāma-yuktān janān dṛṣṭvā snigdho bhavati yo naraḥ
sa yāti paramam sthānam viṣṇunā saha modate*

[Krishna explained to Arjuna:] A person who feels happy when he sees others chant my holy name goes to the supreme abode and enjoys with Lord Vishnu.

*tasmān nāmāni kaunteya bhajasva dṛḍha-mānasah
nāma-yuktaḥ priyo smākaṇi nāma-yukto bhavārjuna*

For this reason, O Arjuna, you should worship my holy names with full concentration. You should both chant my holy names as well as become friends with those who chant my names. ❀

— From Sanatan Goswami’s *Śrī Hari-bhakti-vilāsa*. English translation by Sri Kusakratha Das. Krishna Library. Culver City, California. 1992.



from them because you cannot understand this topic and you will develop lust. Therefore, after reading the tenth canto of *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam* if you don't then read the eleventh canto you will fall down, because in the eleventh canto *tattva* is described. In Krishna's instructions to Uddhava, known as *uddhava-samivāda*, all *tattvas* are described.

Devotee: Prabhupada left the planet after he completed only a portion of the tenth canto, and for so many years the eleventh canto had not been completed. Could this have contributed to some devotees having problems?

Gour Govinda Swami: Prabhupada did not translate it, but the eleventh canto is there. *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam* is there. So many commentators are there: Sridhar Swami wrote a commentary, Vishwanath Chakravarti Thakur wrote a commentary. *Bhāgavatam* is there and the living *bhāgavatam* is also there. If someone is very inquisitive he can have it. Don't feel disappointed, it is an eternal thing. It is always there. ॐ

— *Worship of Sri Guru*, Chapter 2, Questions and Answers.

SNAKEY BRAIDS

Sri Srimad Gour Govinda Swami Maharaja

One fine day, Sanatan Goswami came to visit Rupa Goswami and Raghunath Das Goswami at Radhakund. Both of them stood up, paid obeisances to Sanatan Goswami, and gave him an *āsana*, a seat to sit on. Then the three of them did *iṣṭagoṣṭhī*, talks related to Krishna. Rupa Goswami had written some prayers to Srimati Radharani known as *cāṭu-puṣpāñjalī*, which is part of *Stava-mālā*. He gave it to Sanatan Goswami to read. Sanatan Goswami read it. The first verse was the following:

*nava-gorocanā-gaurī pravarendīvarāmbaram
maṇi-stavaka-vidyoti veṇī-vyālāṅgaṇā-phaṇām*

O queen as fair as freshly extracted *gorocana* (auspicious cow-bile)! O queen whose garments are a splendid blue lotus and whose glistening jewel-and-flower-decorated braids resemble the hood of a female serpent!

Rupa Goswami had written this about Radharani. The braid of Radharani was like the hood of a black serpent. That was there in this verse.



Sanatan Goswami read it and thought to himself, “Is the braid of Radharani like a black serpent? Is it correct?”

At mid-day, Sanatan Goswami went to Radhakund to take his bath. He offered prayers to Radhakund, paid obeisances, and took his bath. A little distance from Radhakund, Sanatan Goswami saw some cowherd girls, *gopī kumārīs*, playing there. He looked at the braids of those cowherd girls and thought that he was seeing some black serpents climbing up their backs. Sanatan Goswami said, “O girls, be cautious! Serpents are climbing up your backs!”

They didn't listen. They didn't pay attention to what he was saying.

Sanatan Goswami then went there. Radharani was there in that company of cowherd girls. When they saw Sanatan Goswami coming, all laughed and disappeared.

Sanatan Goswami stood there amazed and could understand that yes, what Rupa Goswami had written was true. The braid was indeed like a black serpent. ॐ

— From a lecture on *Caitanya caritāmṛta ādi* 10.85. 18 December 1992. Bhubaneswar, India.

THE GLORIES OF SANATAN GOSWAMI

Manohar Das

*jaya-pahu śrīla sanātana nāma
bharala bhuvana mähā yachu guṇa-gāma*

All glories to the lotus feet of the personality named Sri Sanatana Goswami. His glories pervade the entire universe.

*tejala sakala sukha-sampada-pāra
śrī-caitanya-caraṇa karu sāra*

Giving up all varieties of prosperity and material happiness, he accepted the lotus feet of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu as his life and soul.

*śrī-vṛndāvana-bhume kari vāsa
lupata-tīrtha saba kayala prakāśa*

Residing in the holy land of Vrindavan, he discovered various holy places that had been lost.

*śrī-govinda-sevā paracāri
kayala bhāgavata artha-vicāri*

Propagating the worship of Lord Govinda, he elaborated upon the deep purports of *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam*.



*yugala-bhajana līlā guṇa-nāma
kayala vicāra grantha anupāma*

He composed various unparalleled literatures related to the name, qualities, pastimes and worship of the divine couple — Sri Sri Radha-Krishna.

*satata gaura-prema gara-gara deha
bhrama-i vṛndāvane nā pāya-i theha*

His body shivering ecstatically with love of Lord Gaura, he unceasingly roamed about in Vrindavan.

*vipula pulaka-bhara nayana-hi nīra
rāi-kānu bali paḍa-i athīra*

His body full of ecstatic goose-bumps, his eyes welling with tears of love, he would stumble while ardently chanting the names of Rai (Radha) and Kanu (Krishna).

*bhāra-vibhūṣaṇa sakala śarīra
anukṣaṇa vihara-i yamunāka tīra*

His entire body laden with ornaments of ecstatic love, he roamed constantly about the banks of the Yamuna.

*yachu karunāye vṛndāvana pāi
bhava-i manohara so-i gosāñi*

By his mercy, one attains eternal residence in Sri Vrindavan. That great devotee, Srila Sanatan Goswami, is very dear to Manohar Das. ❀

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Srila Sanatan Goswamiṇpad