

Sri Krishna Kathamrita

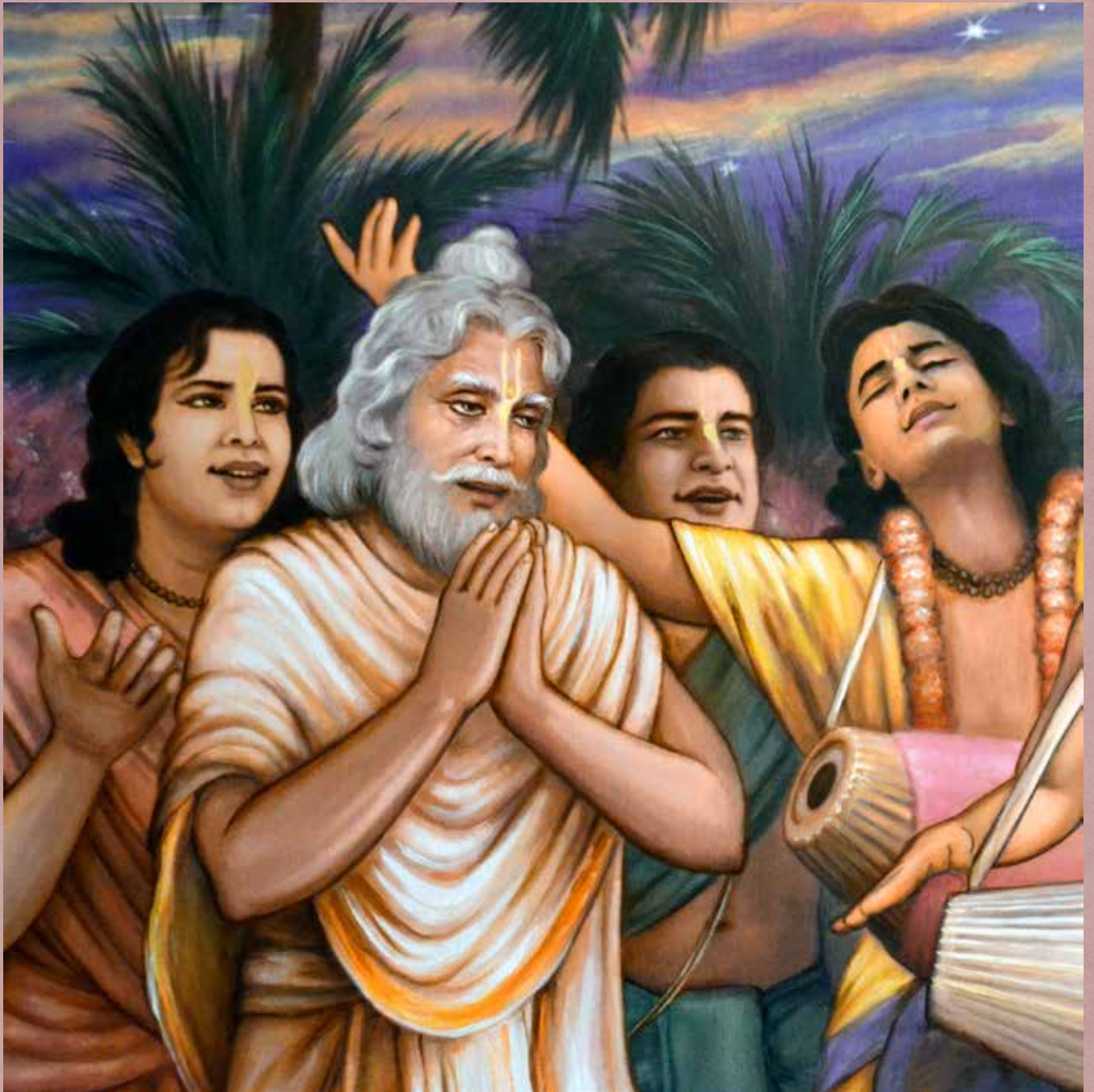


Bindu

Issue 566

Śrī Advaita-viṣayaka

The Blessed Topics of Srila Advaita Acharya





तवकथामृतं तप्तजीवनम्
tava kathāmṛtaṁ tapta-jīvanam

Sri Krishna Kathamrita Bindu

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THE IDENTITY OF ADWAITA ACHARYA

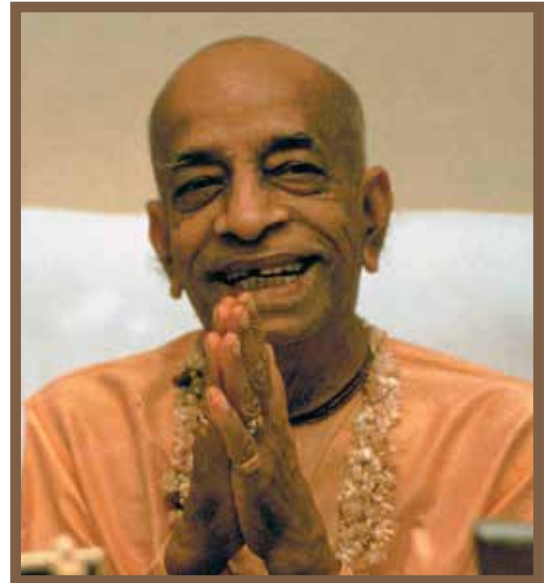


His Divine Grace

A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

The basic understanding is that Sada-Siva is an expansion of Maha-Visnu and that same Sada-Siva incarnates as Advaitacarya. Therefore, since Advaitacarya is an incarnation of Sada-Siva who is non-different from Maha-Visnu, we can say that Advaitacarya is an incarnation of Maha-Visnu. It can be said both ways, that He is an incarnation of Sada-Siva or Maha-Visnu. 🍌

— Letter to Mr. Karl, 6 April 1975.



Cover: Adwaita Acharya Prays in Kirtana. Painting by Taralakshi Dasi.

Photo by Amitabha Gupta



Adwaita Pat at Shantipur in Nadia District, where Adwaita Acharya used to stay

THE LOUD CRIES OF ADWAITA ACHARYA



**Srila Vrindavan Das Thakur's Śrī Caitanya-
bhāgavata, ādi-līlā, chapter 2**

**Purports by Srila Bhaktisiddhanta
Saraswati Thakur Prabhupada**

*tulasī-mañjarī-sahita gaṅgā-jale
niravadhi seve kṛṣṇe mahā-kutūhale*

Sri Adwaita Acharya would enthusiastically worship Krishna with *tulasī-mañjarīs* and water from the Ganga. (81)

*hunkāra karaye kṛṣṇa-āveśera teje
ye dhvani brahmāṇḍa bhedi' vaikuṅthete bāje*

He loudly called for Krishna in great spiritual ecstasy. That sound vibration pierced the covering of the universe and was heard in the Vaikuntha planets. (82)

PURPORT: Sri Adwaita Acharya Prabhu was a plenary incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Therefore,

by his great endeavor and influence, his chanting of Krishna's names crossed beyond the enjoying realm and sensual perception of the material world and echoed in the supreme abode of Vishnu, the transcendental Vaikunthalokas, which are composed of pure goodness. Within this universe there are fourteen planetary systems, among which Maharloka, Janaloka, Tapaloka, and Satyaloka are situated at the top of the three worlds. Sri Adwaita Acharya Prabhu engaged in Lord Hari's service by chanting the names of Krishna, which crossed beyond these planets born of the material modes of nature and entered into the transcendental realm of Vaikuntha, which is free from all anxiety.

*ye-premera hunkāra śuniñā kṛṣṇa nātha
bhakti-vaśe āpane ye ha-ilā sāksāt*

On hearing Adwaita Prabhu's cries of love, Lord Krishna personally appeared, for he is controlled by the love of his devotees. (83)



Deity of Adwaita Acharya at his Sripat at Shantipur in Nadia District. Before going to the West, Srila A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada used to come and pray here for the mercy of Adwaita Acharya

PURPORT: The Lord of Sri Adwaita Prabhu, Sri Krishna, heard Adwaita's loud cries of love, and to fulfil his prayer and accept his pure service the Lord appeared for the benefit of Adwaita Prabhu's followers.

*ataeva adwaita — vaiṣṇava-agraṅanya
nikhila-brahmāṅḍe yānra bhakti-yoga dhanya*

Therefore, Adwaita Acharya is the best of all vaiṣṇavas. There is no comparison to his devotional service in the entire universe. (84)

PURPORT: For all these reasons, Sri Adwaita Prabhu is the first and foremost of the vaiṣṇavas. He is famous as the topmost devotee in the entire universe. In this world there is no devotee engaged in the service of Hari like him. He is personally viṣṇu-tattva, and as an ācārya he is an incarnation of a devotee and as good as Hari. 🍌

— Srila Vrindavan Das Thakur's Śrī Caitanya-bhāṅavata, with commentary of Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur. English translation by Bhumipati Das. Edited and published by Pundarik Vidyanidhi Das. Vrajaraj Press. Vrindavan. 2001.

ADWAITA ACHARYA AND THE VAISHNAVA APARADHI



*From Srila Narahari Chakravarti Thakur's
Śrī Bhakti-ratnākara, fifth wave*

Once there was a worthless Brahmin in Mathura who had the habit of always criticizing vaiṣṇavas. He was a proud scholar and a wicked man, so the inhabitants of Mathura feared him. On one occasion he spoke abusive words about the vaiṣṇavas in front of Adwaita Acharya Prabhu.

Adwaita became so furious that his lips began to tremble and his eyes grew red. He shouted at the Brahmin, "O wicked man, today you will not be freed from me. I shall sever your head from your body with this cakra." Adwaita then assumed a four-armed form and the Brahmin began to tremble in fear. He folded his hands and tried to pacify Adwaita, saying:



Painting by Tarakshi Dasi

Kirtana with Adwaita Acharya

karayoḍa kariyā kahaye bārabāra
 ye ucita daṇḍa prabhu karaha āmāra
 duḥsaṅga-prayukta mora buddhināśa haila
 nā jāni' vaiṣṇava-tattva aparādha kaila

“O Lord, punish me as you like. I deserve your punishment. Due to bad association I lost my good intelligence, and not understanding vaiṣṇava-tattva I have committed offenses. (texts 182-183)

kainu aparādha yata saṅkhyā nāi tāra
 mo hena pāṣaṇḍe prabhu karaha uddhāra

“There is no limit to the number of offenses I have committed. O my lord! Please deliver this pāṣaṇḍi, atheistic offender.” (184)

The Brahmin began to cry helplessly, and Adwaita concealed his four-handed figure. Seeing the wretched condition of the Brahmin, Adwaita felt pity for him and decided to bless him.

kailā aparādha mahānaraka bhuñjite
 ebe ye kahiye tāhā kara sābahite



Unknown artist. Vintage painting from West Bengal.

Left to right: Nityananda Prabhu, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, and Adwaita Acharya Prabhu. Pictures like these made into badges were commonly used by Gaudiya Vaishnavas in the 1800s and early 1900s as deities kept while they were traveling



Unknown artist. Vintage painting from West Bengal.

Pancha-tattva: Adwaita Acharya, Nityananda Prabhu, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Gadadhar Pandit, and Srivas Thakur

*āpanāke sāparādha haiyā sarvaṅṣaṇa
sarvatyāga kari' kara nāma-saṅkīrtana*

“You should understand that the sins you have committed will send you to hell,” said Adwaita. “But I will tell you some means to rectify yourself. You should admit your guilt, give up everything and engage yourself in *nāma-saṅkīrtana*. (187-188)

*prāṇapaṇa kari' santoṣibā vaiṣṇavere
sadā sābadhāna ha'bā vaiṣṇavera dvāre*

Serve the *vaiṣṇavas* with all your heart and soul and always be very cautious in your dealings with them. (189)

*bhakti-aṅga yājanete niyukta ha-ibe
dekhile ye mūrti tāhā gopane rākhibe'*

Engage yourself in worship according to the standards of pure devotion and don't tell anyone what you have seen today.” (190)

After advising the Brahmin, Adwaita Acharya Prabhu then left on pilgrimage. Following the instructions of Adwaita Prabhu, the Brahmin absorbed himself in *nāma-saṅkīrtana* and humbled himself by

ADWAITA ACHARYA WAS CLEAN SHAVEN

**Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati
Thakur Prabhupada**

In accordance with scriptural injunctions, Sri Adwaita Prabhu shaved his moustache, beard, and hair. Hair of any length on the chin is in ordinary language called *dādī*, or beard. Due to ignorance some people attribute on him the symptoms like dress, beard, and hair of a foolish *bāula*. But actually he was clean-shaven.

— Purport to Srila Vrindavan Das Thakur's *Śrī Caitanya-bhāgavata madhya* 16.99, with commentary of Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur. English translation by Bhumipati Das. Edited and published by Pundarik Vidyanidhi Das. Vrjaraj Press. Vrindavan. 2001.



Photo By Gaura Govinda Das.



Left to right: Nityananda Prabhu, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Adwaita Acharya, and Sita Thakurani, the wife of Adwaita, at the Ahaulya Matha in Jagannath Puri, the place where Adwaita Acharya stayed.

visiting every house in Mathura with tears in his eyes. Observing his sincere efforts, the *vaiṣṇavas* became satisfied and wished him well. The *vaiṣṇavas* wondered what had caused the change in the Brahmin's behavior. One man knew the reason. He said, "A Brahmin once came to Mathura whose effulgence was as bright as the sun. Most likely he was the Lord in a human form. He has changed the Brahmin." 🍌

— Adapted from Srila Narahari Chakravati's *Śrī Bhakti-ratnākara* Fifth Wave texts 5.173-196. From the Gaudiya Mission edition. Calcutta. 1987.

**ALL GLORIES
TO SITANATH**



The medieval poet Hare Krishna Das

*jaya sītā-nātha, ācārya advaita
śāntipura grāme vāsa
snāna kari niti, tīre bhāgirathī
mane kari abhilāṣa*

All glories to Sitanath Adwaita Acharya, the resident of Shantipur! Taking a regular bath on

the banks of the Bhagirathi (Ganga) he keeps a desire in his mind.

*dei gaṅgā-jala, parama nirmala
jhāri bhari bāre bāra
kare ākarṣaṇa, śrī-nanda-nandana
habe gorā avatāra*

He repeatedly offers the supremely pure waters of the Ganga to the Lord by making use of a ritual oblation vessel named Jhari. In this way, he attracts the son of Nanda Maharaja so that Gaura can appear on this planet. [Translator's Note: A *jhāri* is an ancient type of vessel used to offer waters of oblation to various deities.]

*tulasī mañjarī, karāṅgula dhari
tāñhe kare samarpaṇa
pulake pūrīta, locana mudita
haiyā ānandita mana*

Holding *mañjarīs* of *tulasī* between the fingers of his joined palms, he offers it to the Lord. His body then becomes replete with goosebumps, his eyes close in ecstasy, and his mind becomes overjoyed.



Unknown photographer

Original Shaligram Shila in Shantipur that Advaita Acharya worshiped to invoke the advent of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu

*hare-kṛṣṇa bhāṇe, advaita kārāṇe
caitanya prakāṣa līlā
dekha sarva-jana, saṅge bhakta-gaṇa
gaurāṅga cāndera melā*

Hare Krishna Das says that it is due to Advaita Acharya that Mahaprabhu Sri Chaitanya's pastimes are manifest in the world. All of you please see the wonderful festival of Gaurachandra and his associates. 🍌

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ŚRĪ ADVAITA-VIṢAYAKA
**THE BLESSED TOPICS OF
SRILA ADVAITA ACHARYA**



The medieval poet Balaram Das

For information about the poet Balaram Das, see Bindu issue 562.

*vandiba advaita śire, ye ānilā dhīre dhīre
mahāprabhu avanī mājhāre
nandera nandana ye, śacīra nandana se
nityānanda rāya sakhā yāre*

With full concentration I bow my head to Advaita Acharya. I worship he who brought Mahaprabhu to

this earth. He who is the son of Nanda is the son of Sachi. His friend is Nityananda Ray.

*prabhu mora advaita gosāiṅ
uttama adhama jane, tarāilā bhakti-dāne
emana dayāla dātā nāi*

There is no one more merciful than my Lord Advaita Gosai. He has delivered both the *uttama*, the elevated, and the *adhama*, the degraded; by giving them the wealth of devotion.

uttame adhame meli, karāilā kolā-kuli



Photo by Gaura Das ACBSP

The deity of Advaita Acharya chants japa at Haridas Thakur's Samadhi in Jagannath Puri



Unknown artist

Adwaita Acharya and his wife Sita Thakurani wash the feet of Mahāprabhu during the Mahā-prakāśa Līlā at the home of Srivāsa Thakur



Unknown artist

According to the descendents of Srila Adwaita Acharya Prabhu, this painting of him was made at the time of his manifest presence

andha badhira yata āche
paṅguyā calila dhāiyā, hari hari bolāiyā
dui bāhu tulyā sabe nāce

Uniting *uttama* and *adhama*, embracing the blind, the deaf, and the lame. Everyone runs ecstatically, chanting the name of Lord Hari, and dancing with upraised arms.

prema-vanya nitāi haite, advaita taraṅga tāte
caitanya-vātāse uthalila
ākāse lāgila dheu, svarge nāhi vāñche keu
sapta pātāle bhedi gela

Adwaita is like the waves in the flood of Nitai's *prema*, which is spread everywhere by Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's strong breeze. The waves touch the sky, and no one escapes. These waves have inundated even the heavenly planets and the entire seven regions.

dubila ye nāgaloka, naraloka suraloka
goloka bharila prema-vanya
keha nāche keha gāya, keha hāse keha dhāya
viśeṣe dharanī haila dhanyā

In that inundation, the planets Nagalok, Naralok and Suralok are flooded, and the entire Golok is filled with *prema*. Some dance, some sing, some laugh, some cry, and some run about. This earth planet has become most fortunate.

hena līlā kare yei, advaita ācārya sei
ananta apāra rasa-dhāma
emana premera-vanyā, stāvara jaṅgama dhanyā
vañcita ha-ila balarāma

Performing such pastimes, Advaita Acharya is a boundless abode of ecstatic devotional mellows. In that flood of *prema*, all the moving and nonmoving living entities became blessed, but, sadly, the poet Balarām Das was cheated. 🍌

— Balarām Dāsera Padāvali. Song 51. Edited by Manu Jana. M.A. PhD. Published by University of Calcutta. 1988. Translated by Prabhupada Priya Sevak Das and Jagannath Mishra Das.

ŚRĪ ADVAITA-PRABHURA-DHYĀNA
MEDITATING ON
SRILA ADVAITA ACHARYA



śuddha-svarṇa-ruciṁ divyopavitāṁ vana-mālināṁ
tila-taṇḍula-keśābhaṁ sūkṣma-śvetāmbaraṁ vibhum
premānanda-mayaṁ śāntaṁ candanākta-kalevaraṁ
advaitaṁ gaura-candrasyācāryam īśaṁ smarāmy aham

I remember the Supreme Lord and controller Sri Adwaita, the preceptor of Gaurachandra Mahaprabhu, whose body, with a beautiful sacred thread on it, is shining with pure gold and smeared with sandalwood paste as he wears a garland of forest flowers. Lord Adwaita's hair is of the color of sesame

Unknown artist



Nityananda Prabhu, Gauranga Mahaprabhu and Adwaita Acharya. Another vintage Bengali picture/deity from the 1800's

seed. Dressed in fine white garments, he is peaceful and saturated with bliss of pure love of God.

*sad-bhaktāli-niṣevitāṅghri-kamalaṁ kundendu-śuklāmbaram
śuddha-svarṇa-ruciṁ su-bāhu-yugalaṁ smerānanaṁ sundaram
śrī-caitanya-dṛṣaṁ varābhaya-karaṁ premāṅga-bhūṣāñcitam
advaitaṁ satataṁ smarāmi paramānandaika-kandaṁ prabhum*

I continuously meditate on Lord Adwaita, the only root of the supreme bliss, who puts on the ingredients of divine love as his ornaments, granting the boon of fearlessness with his palm. Dressed in garments as white as the moon and jasmine combined, he emanates the effulgence of pure gold, while beelike devotees serve the two lotuses of his feet. The arms of Lord Adwaita are handsome and there is a smile on his beautiful face as he glances at Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

*bhaje 'dvaitaṁ maheśaṁ kanaka-giri-nibhaṁ
śveta-vastraṁ praśastaṁ
ratnākalpojvalāṅgaṁ jagad-agma-harane
sarvadoṭkaṅṭhitaṁ tam
bhaktādhinaṁ samantāt stutam amara-gaṇair
viśvambhara-prekṣaṇaṁ*

*viśvādyam viśva-bījaṁ nikhila-bhaya-haraṁ
śuddha-bhakti-pradaṁ tam*

I worship Adwaita, who, destroying all fears and bestowing pure devotional service, is glorious Lord Mahesh himself. He wears white garments, and his limbs, decorated with jeweled ornaments, shine, thus making him look like a golden mountain. Submissive to the devotees, he is ever eager to relieve the universe of its sins. Hosts of demigods praise Lord Adwaita, who is the original being of the universe and the seed of creation, his glance fixed on Lord Vishvambhar. 🍌

— Translated by Nityananda Das from Śrī Manohara Bhajana Dīpikā. Published by Sri Gauranga Mahaprabhu Mandir, Chakleshwar, Govardhan. Gaurabda 517.



Vintage ācamana spoon for pūjā. From the book, The Sundhya or the Daily Prayers of the Brahmins, 1851

Painting by Sophie Charlotte Belnos



Unknown photographer.

Deities at the Sitanath Adwaita Mandir in Nabadwip

Unknown artist



Vintage Bengali painting of the Pancha-tattva

THE AMAZING BIRTH OF SRILA ADWAITA ACHARYA



Adapted from Srila Narahari Chakravarti Thakur's

Śrī Bhakti-ratnākara 5.2038-2062

When Lord Adwaita became manifested in this world, Madhavendra Puri, Isvara Puri, Sachi Devi, and Jagannath Mishra were also manifest. To the living entities, Lord Adwaita was merciful without end. On the pretext of taking birth there, he made the land of Bengal fortunate.

In Bengal, near Sri Hatta, is the village of Nabagram. There, Kubera Pandit, the son of Nrisimha Pandit, resided. Very fortunate Kubera Pandita walked on the path of devotional service. He thought only of Lord Krishna's lotus feet and nothing else. His saintly wife, Nabha Devi, was devoted to her husband. She was worshipped by the whole world. She became Adwaita's mother. The couple came to live at Shantipur on the bank of the Ganga. They were always absorbed in talking about Krishna.

One day, after hearing a *vaiṣṇava* blasphemed, Sri Kubera and Nabha decided to give up their lives. Seeing them on the verge of dying, by the Lord's wish a fortunate soul pacified them. Feeling sad, they lay

down and fell asleep. In a dream they saw a great wonder. They saw an effulgent, handsome man, his form defeating the splendor of molten gold. Grasping another man's hands, the handsome man said sweetly:

*kalihata jīvera e duḥkha nivārite
śighra avatīrṇa tumi hao pṛthivite*

"To relieve the conditioned souls of their sorrows, please quickly descend to the earth. (Text 2050)

*tumi ākarṣiḷe āmi rahite nāriḷa
agrajera saha śighra prakāṣa ha-iba*

"You will attract me there; I will have no power to stay here. Accompanied by my elder brother, quickly I will be manifest there." (Text 2051)

Hearing these words, the second person became joyful at heart. Then, at an auspicious moment,



Vintage painting of Nitai, Gaura, and Adwaita

Unknown artist. Photo by Indradyumna Swami



Unknown artist. Photo courtesy of Nitaipad Maharaja the late mahant at Haridas Thakur's samadhi

In this old painting from Haridas Thakur's Samadhi in Jagannath Puri, a young Nimai Pandit goes to collect his older brother Vishwarup who is listening to a middle-aged Adwaita Acharya reading from Śrīmad Bhāgavatam



Pancha-tattva deities established by Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur Prabhupada at Srivas Angam in Mayapur

he entered Nabha Devi's womb. Watching all this, the Brahmin Kubera was filled with bliss. His dream broke and his heart became wild. That learned Brahmin thought, "Manifesting the form of a guru, the Supreme Personality of Godhead will become manifest in this world." Contemplating this dream, the Brahmin and his wife were overwhelmed. They had no power to check the tears that flowed from their eyes. From that day, Nabha was pregnant. She returned to Nabagram, where she stayed.

When Adwaita Acharya was manifest, the whole world became blissful at heart. Suddenly a voice declared, "Now Sri Krishna Chaitanya will be manifest on this earth. He will bring Nityananda Rama and will enjoy pastimes with his associates. He will break to pieces the sorrow of the living entities. From house to house he will preach *bhakti* and *prema*. He will make the ocean of the bliss of *sāṅkīrtana* overflow its shores. This *Kali-yuga* is so fortunate! No one will be cheated of that bliss of *sāṅkīrtana*."

Hearing this, everyone became joyful. Kubera Pandit's home became an abode of great auspiciousness. 🍀

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THE APPEARANCE OF SRILA ADWAITA ACHARYA



The Poet Vaishnava Das

For other songs by Vaishnava Das and information about his life, see Bindus 28, 67, and 130.

*e tina bhūvana mājhe avanī-maṅḍala sāje
tāhe pūrṇa ati anupāma
śoka duḥkha tāpa-traya yāra nāme śānta haya
hena sei śāntipura grāma*

This earthly planet is considered to be the ornament of the three planetary systems [higher, middle and lower].



Photo by Indradyumna Swami

Pancha-tattva deities in Cuttack, Odisha, established by Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's associate Maharaja Prataprurudra

OBEISANCES TO ADWAITA PRABHU

Srila Dhyanchandra Goswami

nistāritāśeṣa-janam dayāluṁ
 premāmṛtābdhau parimagna-cittam
 caitanya-candrāḍṛtam arcitaṁ tam
 advaita-candraṁ śirasā namāmi

With my head at his feet, I offer my humble obeisances unto the merciful Sri Adwaitachandra, whose heart is drowned in the ocean of *prema*. He delivers unlimited numbers of devotees and is honored and worshipped by Sri Chaitanya-chandra.

— Śrī Gaura-govindārcana-smaraṇa-paddhati, text 22. Translated by Haridham Das. Sanskrit Religious Institute. 1993.



In this earthly planet there exists the village of Shantipur. By pronouncing the name of this wonderful place one can be freed from lamentation, sorrow, and the three-fold material miseries.

kuvera paṇḍita tāya śuddha-sattva dvija-rāya
 nābhā devi tāhāra gr̥hiṇī
 śāntipure kare sthiti kṛṣṇa-pūjā kare niti
 bhakti-hīna dekhīyā avaṇī

In that village, the completely purified crest-jewel of the Brahmins named Kubera Pandit lived along with his wife Nabha. Seeing the people bereft of devotion, Kubera Pandit and his wife constantly worshiped Krishna.

kalihata jīva dekhi mano-duḥkha pāya ati
 bhakte āṛadhīyā bhagavān
 sei āṛadhana kāje nābhā devi garbha-mājhe
 mahā-viṣṇu kailā adhiṣṭhāna

Seeing the fallen condition of the living entities influenced by *Kali-yuga*, the couple felt extreme

Photo by Madhavananda Das



Pancha-tattva deities in Baripada, Odisha, established by Srila Rasikananda Prabhu

sorrow in their hearts, and they worshipped the Lord with great devotion. As a result of this worship, Lord Mahavishnu entered the womb of Nabha Devi.

*māgha-māsa śubhakṣaṇe śuklā saptamī dine
avatīrṇa hailā mahāśaya
dekhīyā paṇḍita ati hailā haraṣita mati
nayane ānanda-dhārā vaya*

On the auspicious moment of seventh day of the bright fortnight of the month of *māgha*, he manifested himself on this earthly planet. Upon seeing the face of the newborn child, Kubera Pandit became extremely jubilant, and tears poured from his eyes.

*ācambite jagajane ānanda pāilā mane
ki lāgiyā keha nāhi jāne
e vaiṣṇava-dāsa bale uddhāra ha-iyā hele
patita pāṣaṇḍi dīna-hīne*

At that moment, everyone in the world become blissful, although no one could understand why this was happening. Thus Vaishnava Das, the humble servant of the Vaishnavas, describes how the most degraded, the atheists, the unfortunates, and the sinful all became delivered. 🌸

— Translated by Hari Parshad Das. From *Gaura-pada-taraṅgiṇī*. Edited by Jagadbandhu Bhadra. Sri Gauranga Press. Calcutta. 1931. Bengali.



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