



Sri Krishna Kathamrita Bindu

Fortnightly email mini-magazine from Gopal Jiu Publications

Issue No. 203

Śrī Pāṇḍavā Nirjala Ekādaśī

3 June 2009

Circulation 2,475

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“COME TO INDIA”

His Divine Grace A. C.

Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

I mentioned to His Divine Grace that air fares will be increased next year due to the petrol shortage, and this might affect the number of devotees who attend the Gour Purnima festival. Prabhupada asked me, “How much foodstuffs have you eaten in your whole life?” Quite a lot I had to admit, not understanding why he asked this question. “And what is the cost of all these foodstuffs?” That I could not say. “So, do you stop eating because there is so much cost? No. You go on eating, and whatever is the cost, you spend. The principle is that if you have got money, then you can spend, but if you do not have money, then you cannot spend.” So as many as possible should surely come if the money is there. ❧

— Letter to Rameswar, 25 October 1974. From Brahmananda Swami, Personal Secretary. Seen: ACBS (initialed by hand)

SRI GURU RECIPROCATES IN ALL RASAS

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur

There are different ways in which different persons whose faculty of spiritual consciousness has been aroused judge about their own requirements. Every enlightened person is privileged to have a sight of Sri Gurudev in accordance with his particular mode of judgment. Sri Gurudev is that real entity who thus reveals himself to the view of enlightened souls in a variety of ways. Sri Gurudev is realized as the daughter of Vrishabhānu (Sri Radha) in the *mādhurya-rasa* (the spiritual

humor of the sweetness of divine amour). Realized by the method of the *rasa* of parental affection, Sri Gurudev reveals himself as Nanda-Yashoda. In the *rasa* of friendly affection he is Sridama-Sudama. In the *rasa* of the devotion of servants to the master, the lotus feet of Sri Guru act as Chitrak-Patruk. The consideration of all these *āśrayas*, devotees, about the *viṣaya*, Krishna, rises naturally in the heart as one progresses in the service of Sri Guru. These subjects do not manifest themselves in the course of any artificial process. They are aroused spontaneously in the consciousness of fortunate souls on the appearance of the disposition for spiritual service of the divinity. We have no other function than the service of Sri Guru. By means of the adulterated consciousness of the material world it is not possible to discuss the eternal pastimes of Godhead that are inaccessible even to Shesha, Shiva, Brahma, and similar great personalities.

I have been asked sometimes by different people why we do not give away the realized method of service to all. As for myself, I cannot understand how the condition of self-realized souls and that of novices may be supposed to be identical. It is beyond our ability to understand how the service and realization of souls free from all defects can be practiced during the period of novitiate, which is full of many defects. If any person happens to belong to the order of self-realized souls he may kindly intimate to me the fact. I can then know about the specific nature of his realized self. ❧

— *Sri Chaitanya's Teachings*. Edited by Bhakti Vilas Tirtha Goswami. Sree Gaudiya Math, Madras, 1989. p 266.

HOW KRISHNA'S MERCY MANIFESTS Sri La Thakur Bhaktivinode Jaiva Dharma, Chapter 22

A conversation between the Sri Raghunath Das Babaji and his student, Vijay Kumar.

Babaji: Krishna's mercy is manifested in three ways: 1. *vācika* (by his words), 2. *āloka-dāna* (by a glance), and 3. *hārda* (by the mercy in his heart). Krishna may give his mercy to someone by saying, "O king of the brahmins, may devotion to me, devotion that brings all transcendental bliss and is the crest jewel of all auspicious things, appear within you." Simply by the Lord's speaking these words, *bhāva* suddenly appears in that brahmin. The aborigines residing in the jungle had never seen Krishna before. However, simply by seeing him they at once attained *bhāva* because of the compassion in Krishna's heart. This is called *āloka-dānaja-bhāva* (*bhāva* created from a glance). When feelings of compassion arise in Lord Krishna's heart, they produce the *bhāva* called *hārda*. This *bhāva* is seen in Sukadev Goswami and other devotees. When he descended to this world, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu granted these three kinds of *bhāva* from mercy on many occasions. Simply by seeing the Lord, many people attained *bhāva*. Jagai, Madhai, and many others attained *bhāva* because of the Lord's words. Sri La Jiva Goswami attained *bhāva* because of the mercy in Lord Krishna's heart.

Vijaya Kumar: What is the nature of *bhāva* created by the mercy of a devotee of Krishna?

Babaji: Because of the mercy of Sri Narada Muni, auspicious desires appeared in the hearts of Dhruva and Prahlad. By the mercy of Sri La Rupa Goswami, Sri La Sanatan Goswami, and their associates, the desire to perform devotional service appeared in the hearts of numberless persons. ❀

— *Jaiva Dharma*. Translated by Sri Sarvabhavana Das. Published by Brhat Mrdanga Press. Vrindavan. 2003.

THE STORY OF MANDAVYA MUNI Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapters 107-108

In his purport to Śrīmad Bhāgavatam 3.5.20, His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada mentions the sage Mandavya Muni:

Mandavya Muni was a great sage (cf. SB 1.13.1), and Vidura was formerly the controller, Yamaraj,

who takes charge of the living entities after death. Birth, maintenance and death are three conditional states of the living entities who are within the material world. As the appointed controller after death, Yamaraj once tried Mandavya Muni for his childhood profligacy and ordered him to be pierced with a lance. Mandavya, being angry at Yamaraj for awarding him undue punishment, cursed him to become a śūdra (a member of the less-intelligent laborer class). Thus Yamaraj took birth in the womb of the kept wife of Vicitravirya from the semen of Vicitravirya's brother, Vyasadeva.

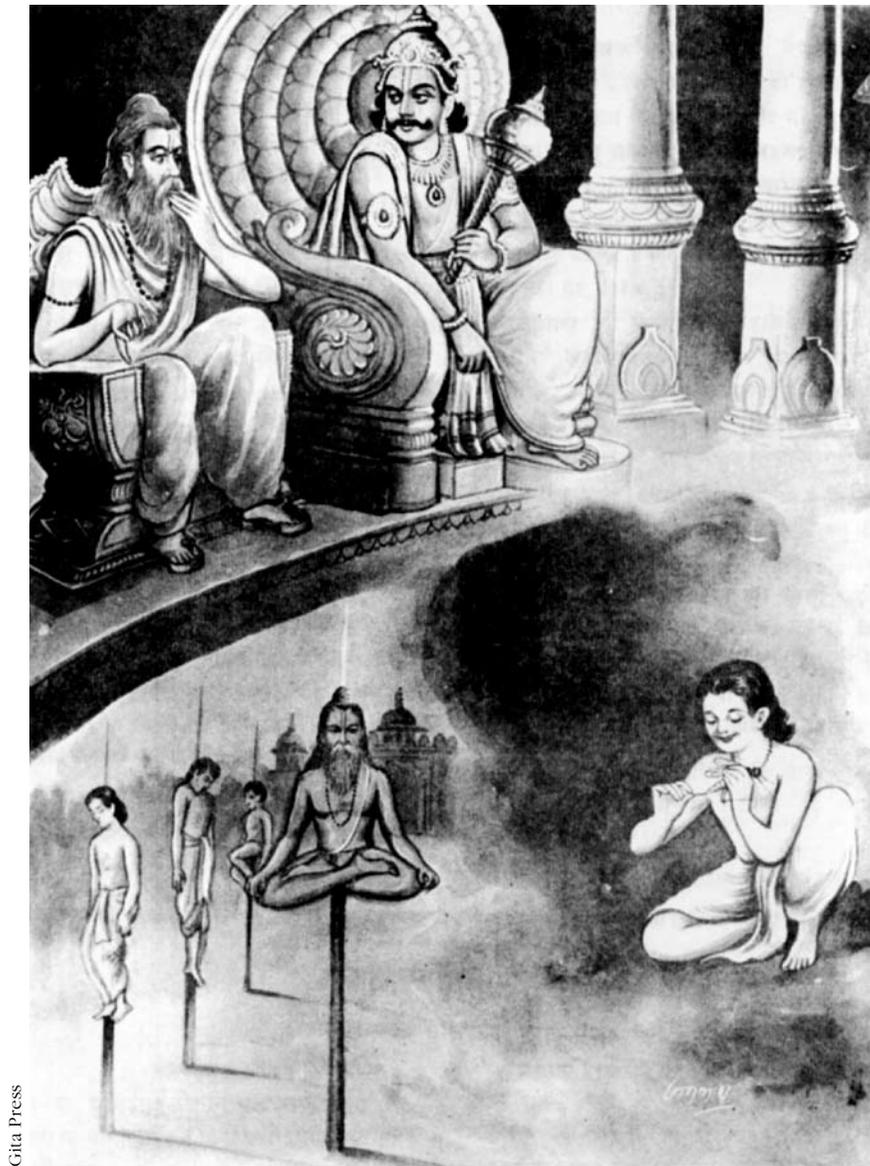
This story is elaborately told in the following section of Mahābhārata:

There was a celebrated brahmin named Mandavya who was determined on the spiritual path. Steady in truthfulness and austerity, he knew all the religious law. Mandavya was a mighty yogi capable of great asceticism. Beneath a tree at the entrance to his *āśrama*, he stood unmoving with upraised arms and observed a religious vow of silence. Much time passed, until one day, as the sage dutifully performed his penances, a band of thieves rushed into his *āśrama* carrying stolen valuables. Being followed closely by a large group of police, the frightened thieves quickly concealed their booty in the sage's cottage and then hid themselves in the same spot, just as the heavily-armed policemen arrived there.

Seeing the sage, who stood silently with upraised arms, the police captain anxiously questioned him, "Brahmin, which road did the thieves take? Whichever way they went, we have to follow them immediately!"

Even when thus questioned, the sage maintained his religious vow of silence and spoke not a word, true or false, to the police. At that point the king's men searched the sage's *āśrama* and quickly discovered the thieves, together with the stolen property. The police then suspected the sage of complicity in the crime. They arrested him and delivered him with the thieves to the king.

The king then sentenced the sage and the actual thieves: "Let them be put to death!" The government executioners, not realizing that Mandavya was a



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Yamaraj had Mandavya Muni impaled on the śūla for a childhood offense against an insect

holy ascetic, impaled him on a lance and left him in that condition. The guards then returned to the king and took their valuable reward.

Although that most religious man remained impaled on the stake for a considerable time without food or drink, he still did not die. Mandavya was such a powerful yogi that not only did he keep himself alive, but through his mystic power he was able to summon his fellow yogis to that place. That night, many saintly sages, assuming the form of birds, came there from all directions and by their own mystic strength revealed themselves to Mandavya. Seeing him struggle to carry on

his religious austerities even though suffering on a stake, the assembled sages were mortified and could hardly bear the sight. Grief-stricken, they said, “O brahmin, we want to hear it directly from you. What sin have you committed to be punished in this terrible way?”

That tiger of a sage replied, “It would be wrong to blame others for my suffering.” the sage replied to his fellow ascetics. “I do not know what I have done, but surely I and no one else am the cause of my suffering.”

Shortly thereafter, the police happened upon the sage Mandavya and were astonished to see that after so many days he was still alive. They told the king exactly what they had seen, and the monarch instantly understood that Mandavya was a true and powerful ascetic. The king and his ministers rushed to the spot, fell at Mandavya’s feet, and begged the sage, who was still fixed

on the lance, for mercy and forgiveness.

“O best of sages,” the king wept, “out of ignorance and illusion I have greatly offended you. Please forgive me. I beg that you not be angry with me.”

Thus addressed by the king, Mandavya blessed him with his mercy, and the grateful ruler at once tried to remove the loathsome stake. Unable to pull it out [the 142nd chapter of the first canto of the *Garuḍa Purāṇa* describes that the stake had gone all the way to the top of the sage's skull], the king broke it off and a portion remained in the sage’s body.

Mandavya Muni then resumed his travels, with a portion of the stake still in his body. So determined was he to carry on his religious duties, however, that he began to think of the stake in his body as a flower garland, and by such extraordinary penance he gained promotion to higher planets, which are extremely difficult to reach. After this incident, the sage became known throughout the universe as Ani-mandavya, or “Mandavya-of-the-lance”.

Eventually that most learned sage went to see Yamaraja, the lord of death, who is also known as Dharma because he punishes the sinful according to the laws of God. Seeing Dharma sitting in his abode, the powerful Ani-mandavya began to rebuke him. The sage had acquired great power through his extraordinary austerities, and he spoke to Dharma in a threatening voice.

“What evil deed have I committed? Why was I made to suffer such a sinful reaction? Why was I falsely accused and impaled on a lance? I can’t understand it. Answer me at once!”

Dharma said, “Previously you pierced insects in their tail with a sharp blade of grass. For this act, O ascetic brahmin, you received that reaction.”



Mandavya Muni curses Yamaraj

Animandavya replied, “For a small offense, Yamaraja, you have exacted a very heavy punishment indeed. Therefore, Dharma, for your own sin you will fall among the human beings of earth and take birth from the womb of a *śūdra* woman!”

Animandavya then declared:

*maryādām sthāpayāmy adya loke dharmaphalodayām
ā caturdaśamād varṣān na bhaviṣyati pātakam
pareṇa kurvatām evaṁ doṣa eva bhaviṣyati*

I hereby establish as a principle of justice that henceforth there will be no heavy sin considered for children up to fourteen years of age. After that they will be held responsible for their offenses. (108. 13)

Because of his offense, Dharma took birth as the noble Vidura from the womb of a *śūdra* woman. Completely free of greed and anger and vastly learned in both spiritual and material affairs, he was far-seeing, peaceful, and always devoted to the welfare of the noble Kuru dynasty. ❀

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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

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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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