

Śaranagati

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CELEBRATE – OH CELEBRATE!

People of the world celebrate – oh celebrate! The son of Mahārāja Nanda has taken birth in Māyāpur, taking on the golden complexion and mood of Śrī Rādhā. Inside he is Kṛṣṇa, outside Rādhā. He wishes to flood the whole universe with love for Kṛṣṇa.

When he suddenly realized that his brother Balarāma was hiding in the house of Nandanācārya, he ran there and when the two brothers reunited, they started the *saṅkīrtana* movement of calling out to Hari: “Where are you?”

Oh, what sweetness is there in the Holy Name? Like the monsoon rains which do not distinguish between the qualified or the not, Gaura-Nitāi were intoxicated by the nectar of the Name and distributed it freely even to sinners, dull people and children. Everyone forgot about their misery and grief.

For 24 years Lord Caitanya made Māyāpur happy by living there and spreading the essence of all *dharma*. Then he suddenly left in search of the Lord of his heart. And just like the residents of Vraja



who cried when Kṛṣṇa left them, now the people of Māyāpur were beating their chest in pain. Tears were flowing incessantly from their eyes till the Lord came to them in the night. In their dreams he said to them: “I am always with you! Take the Name of Kṛṣṇa, that is the best worship. I shall never be separated from those who chant.”

When Lord Caitanya arrived in Puri, he remembered how Kṛṣṇa had hidden in Vraja from Śrī Rādhā. Now he was wandering along the shores of the dark blue ocean, in the mood of his most beloved, searching everywhere for himself and cried: “Where are you Kṛṣṇa, treasure of my life?” Such are the mysteries of love.

Rādhārāṇī is the supreme beloved of Kṛṣṇa and Kṛṣṇa is bound by her love. To give that love to people of this age, Kṛṣṇa mercifully manifested the pastimes of Lord Gaurāṅga.

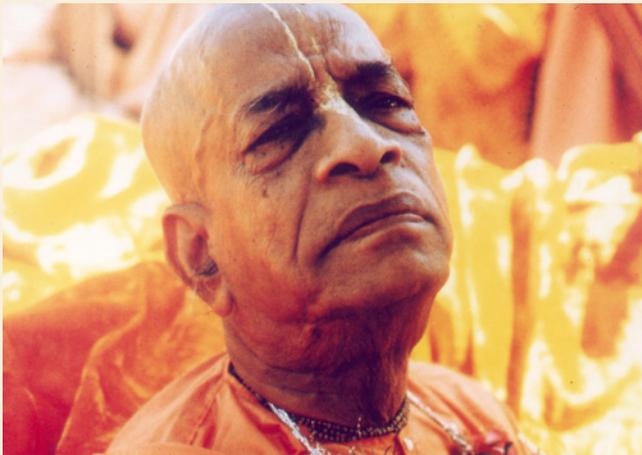
Do not worry! He does not discriminate between the high nor the low, those with great merit or practically no *sādhana*. To one and all his call reaches them sweetly:

“Take the Holy Name, serve the devotees and be kind to all. I will rescue you from the great danger of *māyā*, and remove all material desires and offenses from your heart.”

Therefore with arms raised up to the sky I sing: “People of the world, celebrate, oh celebrate because you have been born in the age of Kali, which is the best, for you can collect the treasure of love from my Gaura!”

Śacīnandana Swami, March 16, 2014.

SEEING WITH CLOSED EYES



This morning I had a magical moment. When I listened to a lecture by my spiritual master, my heart seemed to connect with his words at a deep level. I felt the meaning behind his words and instantly became inspired. Then I took my pen and wrote the following poem:

Seeing with closed Eyes

A mother,
will always
recognise her child
even with eyes closed.
Just by
touching her offspring
she knows: „Here is my child“
and embraces it.
Love opens different eyes.
A faithful disciple
would similarly realise that too.
When a faithful heart
touches the pure sound of the guru
it will know: “This is my way“
and move forward - even with both eyes closed.
Such are
the mysterious ways of true love.

ॐ Śācīnandana Swami, March 11, 2013.

ĀMĀRA JĪVANA

This song written by Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura expresses the mood of genuine humility – a necessary qualification for *bhakti*. Reading or singing it helps one imbibe this attitude.

āmāra jīvana, sadā pāpe rata, nāhiko punyera leṣa
parere udvega, diyāchi je koto, diyāchi jīvere kleśa

*My life is ever given to sin; in it there is not a trace of good.
I have caused others so much anxiety and trouble.*

nija sukha lāgi, pāpe nāhi ḍori, doyā-hīna swārtha-para
para-sukhe duḥkhī, sadā mithya-bhāṣī, para-duḥkha sukha-karo

I am never afraid to engage in sinful activities for the sake of my own happiness. I am merciless and selfish. I am distressed by the happiness of others, I am a perpetual liar and the distress of others pleases me.

aśeṣa kāmanā, hṛdi mājhe mora, krodhī, dambha-parāyana
mada-matta sadā, viṣaye mohita, himsā-garva vibhūṣana

There are limitless material desires within the core of my heart. I am angry and arrogant, always maddened with vanity, infatuated with mundanity, and ornamented with malice and pride.

nidrālasya hata, sukārye virata, akārye udyogī āmi
pratiṣṭha lāgiyā, śāthya-ācaraṇa, lobha-hata sadā kāmī

I am subdued by laziness and sleep, averse to performing good deeds and eager to perform sinful deeds. I engage in deceitful behavior in pursuit of prestige. I am ruined by greed and constantly covetous.

e heno durjana, saj-jana-varjita, aparādhi niranantara
śubha-kārya-śūnya, sadānārtha-manāḥ, nānā duḥkhe jara jara

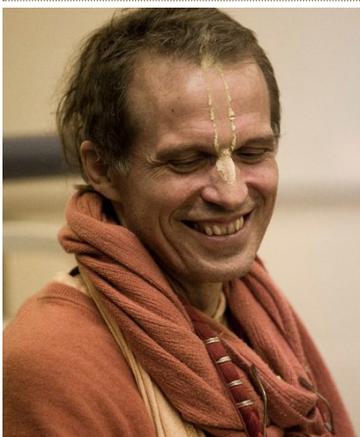
Such a sinner as I is shunned by devotees and is a constant offender. I am devoid of virtuous motives, always intent upon evil, and racked by various miseries.

bārdhakey ekhona, upāya-vihīna, tā'te dīna akiñcana
bhaktivinoda, prabhura caraṇe, kore duḥkha nivedana

Now aged, I am devoid of any means of deliverance and thus destitute and distressed. Bhaktivinoda submits this remorseful confession at the feet of the Lord.

ॐ Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, Śaraṇāgati, song 5.

Photo by Mickey Shah



MEET ŚĀCĪNANDANA SWAMI

upcoming seminars & events:

Apr. 8	Rāma-navamī Festival, Kraenzlin, Germany
May 10-11	24 hour Kīrtana, Birmingham, UK
May 12-14	Nṛsimha-caturdaśī Festival, Simhachalam, Germany
May 23-26	Sādhu-Saṅga Retreat, North Carolina, USA

Read more: www.sacinandanaswami.com