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## LAKSMI : THE PROPERTY OF NARAYANA

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*Srila Sukadeva Goswami*

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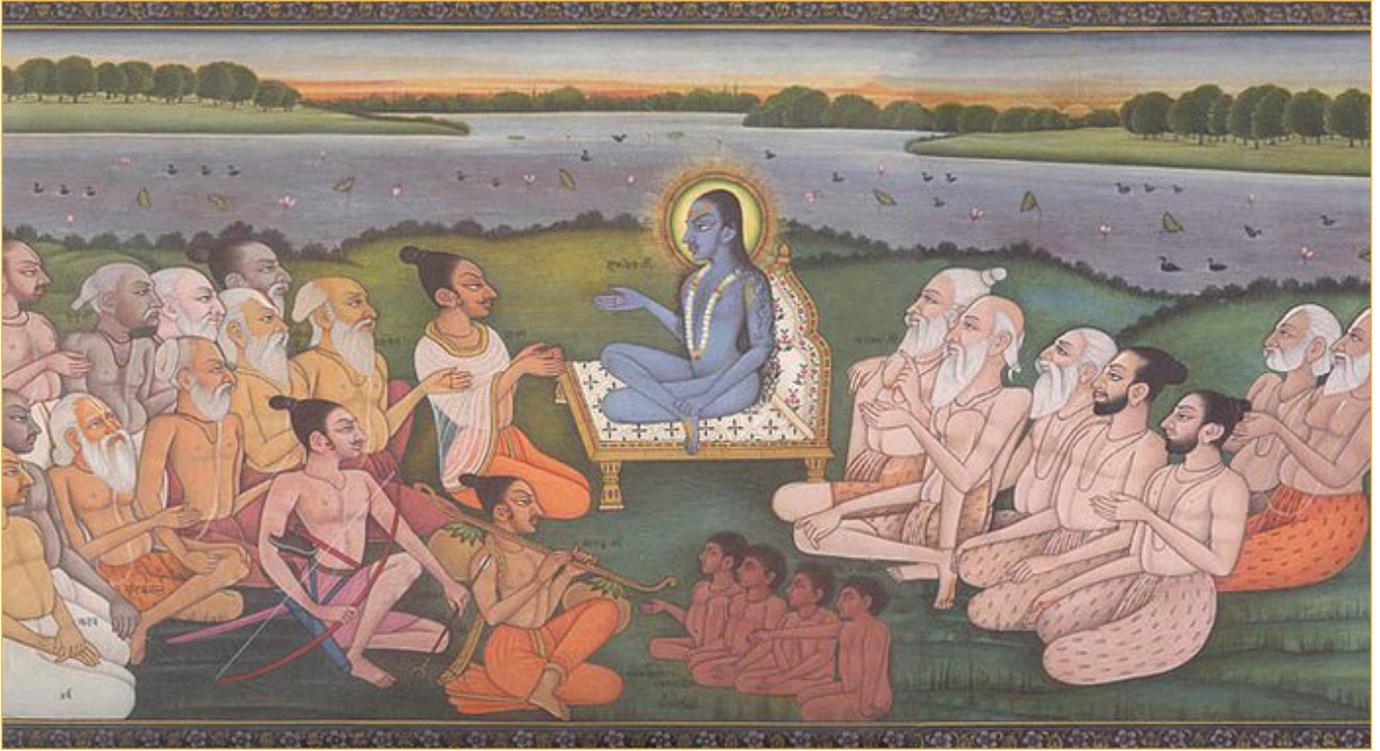
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### THE *PUMSAVANA* RITUALISTIC CEREMONY

*Srila Sukadeva Goswami*

Maharaja Pariksit said: My dear lord, you have already spoken about the *pumsavana* vow. Now I want to hear about it in detail, for I understand that by observing this vow one can please the Supreme Lord, Visnu.

Sukadeva Goswami said: On the first day of the bright fortnight of the month of *Agrahāyana* [November-December], following the instructions of her husband, a woman should begin this regulative devotional service with a vow of penance, for it can fulfill all one's desires. Before beginning the worship of Lord Visnu, the woman should hear the story of how the Maruts were born. Under the instructions of qualified *brāhmaṇas*, in the morning she should wash her teeth, bathe, and dress herself with white cloth and ornaments, and before taking breakfast she should worship Lord Visnu and Laksmi. [She should then pray to the Lord as follows.] My dear Lord, You are full in all opulences, but I do not beg You for opulence. I simply offer my respectful obeisances unto You. You are the husband and master of Laksmidevi, the goddess of fortune, who has all opulences. Therefore You are the master of all mystic yoga. I simply offer my obeisances unto You. O my Lord,

because You are endowed with causeless mercy, all opulences, all prowess and all glories, strength and transcendental qualities, You are the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the master of everyone. [After profusely offering obeisances unto Lord Visnu, the devotee should offer respectful obeisances unto mother Laksmi, the goddess of fortune, and pray as follows.] O wife of Lord Visnu, O internal energy of Lord Visnu, you are as good as Lord Visnu Himself, for you have all of His qualities and opulences. O goddess of fortune, please be kind to me. O mother of the entire world, I offer my respectful obeisances unto you.

“My Lord Visnu, full in six opulences, You are the best of all enjoyers and the most powerful. O husband of mother Laksmi, I offer my respectful obeisances unto You, who are accompanied by many associates, such as Visvakṣena. I offer all the paraphernalia for worshipping You.” One should chant this *mantra* every day with great attention while worshipping Lord Visnu with all paraphernalia, such as water for washing His feet, hands and mouth and water for His bath. One must offer Him various presentations for His worship, such as garments, a sacred thread, ornaments, scents, flowers, incense and lamps. Sukadeva Goswami continued: After worshipping the Lord with all the paraphernalia mentioned above,

one should chant the following mantra while offering twelve oblations of ghee on the sacred fire: *om namo bhagavate mahā-purusāya mahāvibhūti-patāye svāhā*. If one desires all opulences, his duty is to daily worship Lord Visnu with His wife, Laksmī. With great devotion one should worship Him according to the above mentioned process. Lord Visnu and the goddess of fortune are an immensely powerful combination. They are the bestowers of all benedictions and the sources of all good fortune. Therefore the duty of everyone is to worship Laksmī-Narayana. One should offer obeisances unto the Lord with a mind humbled through devotion. While offering *dandavats* by falling on the ground like a rod, one should chant the above mantra ten times. Then one should chant the following prayer.

My Lord Visnu and mother Laksmī, goddess of fortune, you are the proprietors of the entire creation. Indeed, you are the cause of the creation. Mother Laksmī is extremely difficult to understand because she is so powerful that the jurisdiction of her power is difficult to overcome. Mother Laksmī is represented in the material world as the external energy, but actually she is always the internal energy of the Lord. My Lord, You are the master of energy, and therefore You are the Supreme Person. You are sacrifice [yajñ] personified. Laksmī, the embodiment of spiritual activities, is the original form of worship offered unto You, whereas You are the enjoyer of all sacrifices. Mother Laksmī, who is here, is the reservoir of all spiritual qualities, whereas You manifest and enjoy all these qualities. Indeed, You are actually the enjoyer of everything. You live as the Supersoul of all living entities, and the goddess of fortune is the form of their bodies, senses and minds. She also has a holy name and form, whereas You are the support of all such names and forms and the cause for their manifestation. You are both the supreme rulers and benedictors of the three worlds. Therefore, my Lord, Uttamasloka, may my ambitions be fulfilled by Your grace.

Sri Sukadeva Goswami continued: Thus one should worship Lord Visnu, who is known as Srinivasa, along with mother Laksmī, the goddess of fortune, by offering prayers according to the process mentioned above. After removing all the paraphernalia of worship, one should

offer them water to wash their hands and mouths, and then one should worship them again. Thereafter, with devotion and humility, one should offer prayers to the Lord and mother Laksmī. Then one should smell the remnants of the food offered and then again worship the Lord and Laksmī. Accepting her husband as the representative of the Supreme Person, a wife should worship him with unalloyed devotion by offering him *prasāda*. The husband, being very pleased with his wife, should engage himself in the affairs of his family. Between the husband and wife, one person is sufficient to execute this devotional service. Because of their good relationship, both of them will enjoy the result. Therefore if the wife is unable to execute this process, the husband should carefully do so, and the faithful wife will share the result. One should accept this *viṣṇu-vrata*, which is a vow in devotional service, and should not deviate from its execution to engage in anything else. By offering the remnants of *prasāda*, flower garlands, sandalwood pulp and ornaments, one should daily worship the *brāhmaṇas* and worship women who peacefully live with their husbands and children. Every day the wife must continue following the regulative principles to worship Lord Visnu with great devotion. Thereafter, Lord Visnu should be laid in His bed, and then one should take *prasāda*. In this way, husband and wife will be purified and will have all their desires fulfilled. The chaste wife must perform such devotional service continuously for one year. After one year passes, she should fast on the full-moon day in the month of *Kārttika* [October-November]. On the morning of the next day, one should wash oneself, and after worshiping Lord Krishna as before, one should cook as one cooks for festivals as stated in the *Grhya-sūtras*. Sweetrice should be cooked with ghee, and with this preparation the husband should offer oblations to the fire twelve times. Thereafter, he should satisfy the *brāhmaṇas*. When the satisfied *brāhmaṇas* bestow their blessings, he should devotedly offer them respectful obeisances with his head, and with their permission he should take *prasāda*. Before taking his meal, the husband must first seat the *ācārya* comfortably, and, along with his relatives and friends, should control his speech and offer *prasāda* to the *guru*. Then

the wife should eat the remnants of the oblation of sweetrice cooked with ghee. Eating the remnants insures a learned, devoted son and all good fortune. If this vow or ritualistic ceremony is observed according to the description of *śāstra*, even in this life a man will be able to achieve all the benedictions he desires from the Lord. A wife who performs this ritualistic ceremony will surely receive good fortune, opulence, sons, a long-living husband, a good reputation and a good home. If an unmarried girl observes this *vrata*, she will be able to get a very good husband. If a woman who is *avīrā* who has no husband or son executes this ritualistic ceremony, she can be promoted to the spiritual world. A woman whose children have died after birth can get a child with a long duration of life and also become very fortunate in possessing wealth. If a woman is unfortunate she will become fortunate, and if ugly she will become beautiful. By observing this *vrata*, a diseased man can gain relief from his disease and have an able body with which to work. If one recites this narration while offering oblations to the *pitās* and demigods, especially during the *śrāddha* ceremony, the demigods and inhabitants of Pitrloka will be extremely pleased with him and bestow upon him the fulfillment of all desires. After one performs this ritualistic ceremony, Lord Visnu and His wife, mother Laksmi, the goddess of fortune, are very pleased with him. O King Pariksit, now I have completely described how Diti performed this ceremony and had good children the Maruts and a happy life. I have tried to explain this to you as elaborately as possible.

—Srimad-Bhāgavatam » Canto 6: Prescribed Duties for Mankind » Chapter 19. Performing the Pūnsavana Ritualistic Ceremony » Verses 1-28.

### LAKSMI IS THE PROPERTY OF NARAYANA

*His Divine Grace*

*A.C.Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada*

Riches come from Laksmi, the goddess of fortune, and the goddess of fortune is the property of Narayana, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. The goddess of fortune cannot stay anywhere but by the side of Narayana; therefore another of her names is *Cañcalā*, restless. She cannot be peaceful unless she is in the

Bhāgavata Mahāvidyālaya



company of her husband, Narayana. For example, Laksmi was carried away by the materialistic Ravana. Ravana kidnapped Sita, the goddess of fortune belonging to Lord Rama. As a result, Ravana's entire family, opulence and kingdom were smashed, and Sita, the goddess of fortune, was recovered from his clutches and reunited with Lord Rama. Thus all property, riches and wealth belong to Krishna. As stated in Bhagavad-gītā (5.29):

*bhoktāraṁ yajña-tapasāṁ  
sarva-loka-maheśvaram*

"The Supreme Personality of Godhead is the true beneficiary of all sacrifices and austerities, and He is the supreme proprietor of all the planetary systems."

Foolish materialistic people collect money and steal from other thieves, but they cannot keep it. In any case, it must be spent. One person cheats another, and another person cheats someone else; therefore the best way to possess Laksmi is to keep her by the side of Narayana. This is the point of the Krishna consciousness movement. We worship Laksmi (Radharani) along with Narayana (Krishna). We collect money from various sources, but that money does not belong to anyone but Radha and Krishna (Laksmi-Narayana). If money is utilized in the service of Laksmi-Narayana, the devotee

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automatically lives in an opulent way. However, if one wants to enjoy Laksmi the way Ravana did, he will be vanquished by the laws of nature, and whatever few possessions he has will be taken away. Finally death will take everything away, and death is the representative of Krishna.

—Srimad-Bhāgavatam » Canto 5: The Creative Impetus »  
CHAPTER FOURTEEN » Verse 25.

### WHO IS THE SUPERSOUL OF LAXMIDEVI?

*His Divine Grace*

*A.C.Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada*

Madhvacarya, the *ācārya* of the *Tattvavādīs*, has described this verse in the following way: "Visnu is described as *yajña* personified, and Mother Laksmi is described as spiritual activities and the original form of worship. In fact, they represent spiritual activities and the Supersoul of all *yajña*. Lord Visnu is the Supersoul even of Laksmidevi, but no one can be the Supersoul of Lord Visnu, for Lord Visnu Himself is the spiritual Supersoul of everyone."

According to Madhvacarya, there are two *tattvas*, or factors. One is independent, and the other is dependent. The first *tattva* is the Supreme Lord, Visnu, and the second is the *jiva-tattva*. Laksmidevi, being dependent on Lord Visnu, is sometimes counted among the *jivas*. The *Gauḍiya Vaiṣṇavas*, however, describe Laksmidevi in accordance with the following two verses from the *Prameya-ratnāvalī* of Baladeva Vidyābhūṣana. The first verse is a quotation from the *Viṣṇu Purāṇa*.

*nityaiva sā jagan-mātā  
viṣṇoḥ śrīr anapāyinī  
yathā sarva-gato viṣṇus  
tathāiveyam dvijottama  
viṣṇoḥ syuḥ śaktayas tistras  
tāsu yā kīrtitā parā  
saiva Śris tad-abhinneti  
prāha śiṣyān prabhur mahān*

"O best of the *brāhmaṇas*, Laksmiji is the constant companion of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Visnu, and therefore she is called *anapāyinī*. She is the mother of all creation. As Lord Visnu is all-pervading, His spiritual potency, Mother Laksmi, is also all-pervading. Lord Visnu has three principal potencies—internal,



external and marginal. Sri Chaitanya Mahāprabhu has accepted *parā-śakti*, the spiritual energy of the Lord, as being identical with the Lord. Thus she is also included in the independent *viṣṇu-tattva*."

In the *Kānti-mālā* commentary on the *Prameya-ratnāvalī* there is this statement: *nanu kvacit nitya-mukta jīvatvaṁ lakṣmyāḥ svikṛtaṁ, tatrāha-prāheti. nityaiveti padye sarva-vyāpti-kathanena kalākāsthety ādi-padya-dvaye, śuddho 'pīty uktā ca Mahāprabhuṇā svaśiṣyān prāti lakṣmyā bhagavad-advāitam upadiṣtam. kvacid yat tasyās tu dvāitam uktā, tattutad-āviṣṭa-nitya-mukta-jīvam ādāya saṅgatamaś tu.* "Although some authoritative Vaiṣṇava disciplic successions count the goddess of fortune among the ever-liberated living entities (*jivas*) in Vaikuṅṭha, Sri Chaitanya Mahāprabhu, in accordance with the statement in the *Viṣṇu Purāṇa*, has described Laksmi as being identical with the *viṣṇu-tattva*. The correct conclusion is that the descriptions of Laksmi as being different from Visnu are stated when an eternally liberated living entity is imbued with the quality of Laksmi; they do not pertain to Mother Laksmi, the eternal consort of Lord Visnu."

—Srimad-Bhāgavatam » Canto 6: Prescribed Duties for Mankind » Chapter 19. Performing the Puṁsavana Ritualistic Ceremony » Verses 1-28. » Verses 13, Purport.



### WHEN LAXMI DESIRED TO TAKE THE FORM OF A GOPI

*Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakura*

In the *Padma Purāṇa* it is stated: “After seeing the beauty of Sri Krishna, Sri Laksmidevi was attracted to Him and began to perform austerities. Then Lord Krishna asked her, ‘For what reason are you performing austerities?’ Laksmi replied, ‘I desire to take the form of a gopi and enjoy Your company in Vrindavan.’ Lord Krishna said, ‘That is most rarely attained.’ Laksmi again said, ‘O my Lord, I wish to remain on Your chest in the form of golden lines.’ Lord Krishna then said, ‘So be it.’” Since then Laksmi remained on the chest of Lord Krishna in the form of golden lines.

— 8.067 & 68, *Madhya-khaṇḍa*, *Sri Caitanya-bhāgavata* by *Srila Vrindavan dāsa Thākura*

### Energies of Sri Gaura

*Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura*

### In what manner does Sri Laksmipriya love Sri Gaurasundara?

Laksmi is the eternal consort of the Supreme Lord, and the Supreme Lord is the

eternal husband of Laksmi. Therefore the eternal love that exists between Them is natural.

—*Amṛta-pravāha-bhāṣya*, *Caitanya-caritāmṛta Ādi 14/64*.

### Who is Sri Visnupriya?

Sri Visnupriya is the Lord’s combined energies of *hlādinī* and *sarvit*. In other words, she is the personification of devotional service. She appeared during the advent of Sri Gaura to assist Him in preaching the holy names of the Lord. Just as Sri Navadvīpa, which consists of nine islands, is the personification of the nine types of devotional service, similarly, Srimati Visnupriya is also the personification of the nine types of devotional service.

—*Jaiva Dharma Chapter 14*

### What is the harm if one does not worship Sri Visnupriya?

If one gives up the worship of Visnupriya, one cannot claim to be a devotee of the Lord.

—*Sajjana-toṣaṇī 4/4*

### What are the symptoms of persons who disrespect Sri Visnupriya-devi?



Those who separate themselves from Sri Visnupriya certainly separate themselves from devotional service. As ignorant bhattacharyas make a partition between themselves and the goddess of learning, similarly so-called Vaisnavas, who are devoid of devotional service, also make a partition between themselves and Sri Visnupriya.

—Sajjana-toṣaṇī 4/4



### Does Sri Bhaktivinoda view Sri Gaura-Gadadhara as Sri Radha-Madhava?

O my dear fresh youth Gauranga! O enchanter of my mind! When will You mercifully appear before me in the forest of Godruṁa? When will You appear inside *Ananga-sukhadā-kuñja* with Gadadhara on Your left? Your bodily hue will be golden, Your hair will be curly, and You will be dressed as an expert dancer. Thereafter You and Gadadhara will transform into the beautiful forms of Radha-Madhava. Wearing an attractive flower garland around Your neck, You will dance with the gopīs. Then Ananga manjari will catch hold of the hands of this maidservant and offer her at Your lotus feet. I will see the sweet beauty of the divine couple to the satisfaction of my eyes.

—Kalyāṇa-kalpataru

!! Sri Sri Nitai Gaurchandra Jayati !!

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