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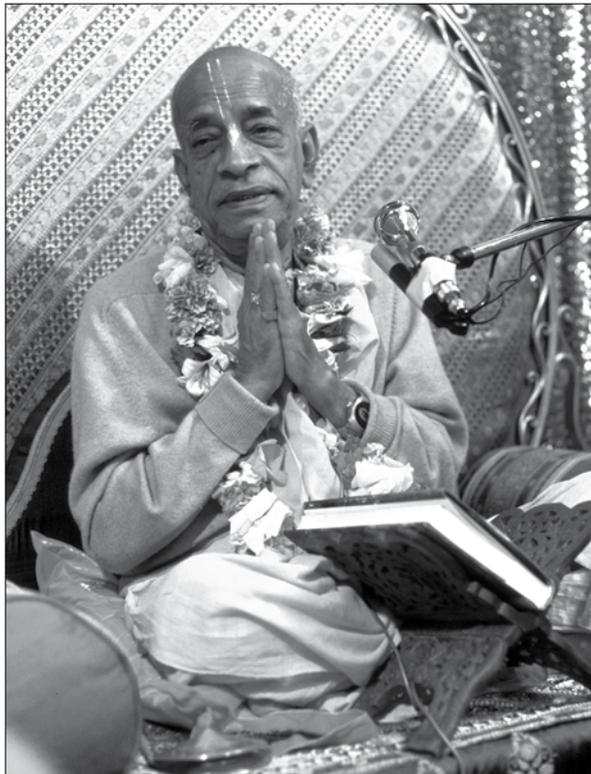
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MAHAPRABHU'S HEROES

His Divine Grace

A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

I am in due receipt of your letter from Bombay dated May 24, 1972, along with the very nice article, "Prabhupada: India's National Hero". I am very grateful to you for your kind words about me, but I do not think

that I have done anything. I am only delivering the best message as it is. Actually, anyone who is a sincere devotee of Krishna and who is rendering service by preaching his message is to be considered a hero. So you are all heroes of your country and your humanity. Hero means someone who others want to follow as an example of the best type of person. So you all become like that, perfect examples of Krishna Consciousness heroes and heroines, and preach the message exactly as I have taught it to you very seriously, being fully convinced, and others will automatically come forward and join us. We shall all be like one great army of heroes for Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. 🙏

— Letter to Visakha. 6 June 1972.

ALL GLORIES TO SRILA GOPAL BHATTA GOSWAMI

Attributed to Srila Kavi Karnapur

*dvija-vara-kula-candro bhaṭṭa-vaṁśa-pradīpaḥ
subhaga-sunasa-dīrgho divya-candrāsya-hāsaḥ
avirata-gala-dhāraṁ netra-yugmaṁ vahan yaḥ
parama-patitam īśaḥ pātu gopāla-bhaṭṭaḥ*

The moon who has risen in the dynasty of the best of Brahmins, the lamp illuminating the Bhatt family, having auspicious [bodily features such as a] well-shaped nose and a transcendental moon-like smile, and carrying a constant stream of tears in his two eyes, may my Lord Sri Gopal Bhatta Goswami protect a most fallen soul as me.

jita-kari-gati-bhaṅgī nātya-saṅgīta-raṅgī
tanu-bhrta-jana-cittānanda-vardhī sudhīraḥ
hari-carita-vilāsaś citta-cāturya-bhāṣaḥ
parama-patitam īśaḥ pātu gopāla-bhaṭṭaḥ

Moving about in a way that defeats the gait of an elephant, taking delight in devotional dramas and music, increasing the joy of all embodied beings, being extremely calm by nature, always taking pleasure in the pastimes of Hari, with speech reflecting his dexterity of mind, may my Lord Sri Gopal Bhatta Goswami protect a most fallen soul as me.

vraja-bhuvī yuvarāja-prema-pīyūṣa-vāsī
tanuruha-vraṇa-saṅgīḥ kaṅṭakākāra-dehaḥ
gi-gi-gi-gi-giridhārin gadgadair vāg-virodhaḥ
parama-patitam īśaḥ pātu gopāla-bhaṭṭaḥ

In the land of Vraja, being ever immersed in the nectar of the love of the Lord of that land (Krishna), appearing pinpricked due to the standing on end of his bodily hair, his voice choking as he chants, “Gi-gi-gi-gi-giridhari!”, may my Lord Sri Gopal Bhatta Goswami protect a most fallen soul as me.

vara-tanu-guṇa-śālī śyāma-dhāmā su-veśaḥ
pracalita-cala-cillī-cāru-netrāravindaḥ
bhujā-yuga-phaṇī-rājāḥ kakṣa-vakṣaḥ prabhor yaḥ
parama-patitam īśaḥ pātu gopāla-bhaṭṭaḥ

Holding close to his chest the Lord who has an excellent dark-complexioned body, possessing wonderful good qualities, wearing excellent cloth, with eyes appearing beautiful due to the restless movements of his eyebrows, and arms appearing as long, as slender, and as beautiful as two snakes, may my Lord Sri Gopal Bhatta Goswami protect a most fallen soul as me.

gaṇayati guṇa-nāmano rādhikā-mādhavasya
smarati madhura-veśam gaura-gopālakasya
bhajati madhura-līlā-vīthi-pūrvāparam yaḥ
parama-patitam īśaḥ pātu gopāla-bhaṭṭaḥ

Always recollecting the qualities and names of Sri Radha Madhava, always remembering the beautiful clothing of Gaurāṅga, and always worshiping the progressive path of mādhurya-rasa, may my Lord Sri Gopal Bhatta Goswami protect a most fallen soul as me.

sakala-guṇa-gabhīraḥ sarva-śāstrārtha-dhīraḥ
draviḍa-pura-nivāsī paṇḍīto vāvadūkaḥ
vipula-pulaka-bhāvair veṣṭīto divya-dehaḥ
parama-patitam īśaḥ pātu gopāla-bhaṭṭaḥ

Being endowed with all inconceivable good qualities, deep and composed in all types of scriptural discussions, a resident of Southern India, an eloquent pundit and with his transcendental body covered with ecstatic goose bumps, may my Lord Sri Gopal Bhatta Goswami protect a most fallen soul as me.

sumadhura-dhura-veśaḥ prema-dātraika-śeṣaḥ
sujana-jana-samūhe sva-svabhāva-prakāśaḥ
garima-mahima-saṅghād agragaṇyo mahān yaḥ
parama-patitam īśaḥ pātu gopāla-bhaṭṭaḥ

Wearing an elegantly beautiful upper cloth, giving exclusively kṛṣṇa-prema, exhibiting a true saintly nature in the association of similar saintly souls, having multitudes of uplifting good qualities, the greatest of great souls, may my Lord Sri Gopal Bhatta Goswami protect a most fallen soul as me.

yuga-raghuvara-rūpaḥ sāgraja-śrīla-rūpo
yad upari sama-bhāvaḥ saḥ śrī-gopāla-bhaṭṭaḥ
sara-yuga-taṭa-prānte śrīla-rādhāika-bandhoḥ
parama-patitam īśaḥ pātu gopāla-bhaṭṭaḥ

Being treated as their equal by the closest associates of Sri Radha residing at Radha and Shyam Kundas, Srila Raghunath Bhatta Goswami, Srila Raghunath Das Goswami, Srila Rupa Goswami and Srila Sanatan Goswami, may my Lord Sri Gopal Bhatta Goswami protect a most fallen soul as me.

yaḥ paṭhed śrāvayed vāpi bhaṭṭāṣṭakam aharnīśam
sa labhet paramām prītim rādhā-mādhavayoḥ pade

He who repeatedly recites or causes others to hear these eight prayers attains the highest variety of love at the lotus feet of Sri Radha Madhava. 🌸

— Translated by Hari Parshad Das from Śrī Gopāla Bhaṭṭa Gosvāmī. Compiled by Dr. Gaurkrishna Das Goswami Shastri. Published by Anil Kumar Goswami. Printed by Ratan Press. Vrindavan, India. 1985 A.D.



Nāma-tattva

THE BEST ATONEMENT

From the Bhagavan-nāma-māhātmya-saṅgrahaḥ

kṛte pāpe 'nutāpo vai yasya puṁsaḥ prajāyate
prāyaścittam tu tasyaikam hari-saṁsmaṇam param

Whenever immense guilt and repentance arises in a person after committing a sinful act, the only atonement he need perform is the remembrance of the names of Lord Hari.

— Translated by Hari Parshad Das from Bhagavan-nāma-māhātmya-saṅgraha. Princess of Wales Saraswati Bhavana Text No. 56. Edited by Mahamahopadhyaya Gopi Natha Kaviraja. Printed at Vidya Vilasa Press, Benares City. 1934.





Painting by Arjana Das

Srila Gopal Bhatta Goswami



GOPIS GO GREEN WITH JEALOUSY

Comments on Sri Harisuri's Bhakti-rasāyanam

Jealousy is an important emotion in the lives of all individuals. It originates in the spiritual world, and the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*madhya*, 14.141-142) informs us that there are unlimited variations of this emotion there.

No one except *bhagavān* is gifted in all possible ways. As ordinary living entities we all have shortcomings. We may be very good looking, but lack intelligence; or we may be gifted with a sharp wit and memory but be lacking in beauty. Someone may have both good looks and intelligence, but may not be gifted with satisfying relationships. There is always someone who excels us in some way. This is what leads to jealousy.

A mature devotee knows that there are some things which cannot be achieved in this life, and thus throws away all feelings of lamentation and the resulting self-pity and starts praising good qualities that he finds in others.

An example of transcendental jealousy is given in *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam* (10.21.9) where the *gopīs* become covetous of the good fortune achieved by Krishna's flute. Out of jealousy, the *gopīs* say, *gopyaḥ kim ācarad ayaṁ kuśalaṁ sma veṅuḥ* — “What austerities must the flute have performed to be able to taste the nectar of the lips of Krishna?”

The devotee poet Harisuri has expressed this jealousy in two verses as follows:



*na bhavej jaḍa-janma puṇya-bhājah
sulabho 'puṇyavato raso na caiṣaḥ
tad idaṁ param adbhutaṁ jaḍo 'pi
yad ayaṁ mukhya-rasaṁ prabhur bhunakti*

[The *gopīs* were thinking that], “It may be possible that the flute is an extremely pious individual, but pious individuals do not take birth in a non-moving species such as bamboo. On the other hand, it is also possible that the flute lacks all piety, but then such individuals lacking piety do not get to taste the ultimate nectar of life the sweetness of Krishna's lips. The most amazing fact for all of us is that even though this flute is born in the dull, non-moving bamboo lineage, it is able to drink the nectar of the lips of the Lord of our lives.”

*kasyāpi kiñcid api kenacid āhrtaṁ cet
taṁ svīkaroti na paras tad aghāvaliptam
īśādharastham amṛtaṁ harate 'smadyaṁ
yo 'smai kathaṁ prabhur adāt sva-karāvalambam*

[The *gopīs* further thought], “If an object belonging to someone in this world is stolen away by a thief, then the Lord never accepts or supports the activities of one who is thus implicated in the sin of stealing. However, this thief in the form of the flute is stealing away right in front of our eyes, the nectar of the lips of our Lord! This nectar actually belongs to us! And the worst thing about all this is that our Lord has graciously given all support to the thief by holding it in his very hands. How unfortunate!”

— Translated by Hari Parshad Das from the *Bhakti-rasāyanam* (on *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam* 10.21.9) from the edition published by Satsahitya Prakashan Trust, Mumbai (Bombay). 26 January 1969.

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