



तवकथामृतं तप्तजीवनम्  
tava kathāmṛtaṁ tapta-jīvanam

# Sri Krishna Kathamrita Bindu

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## TOLERANCE AND TRAINING

His Divine Grace

A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

It is very encouraging to hear that so many new devotees are coming. That is an indication of your sincerity. The more sincere you are in pushing this movement forward, Krishna will reciprocate and send you many new devotees. Thank you very much. Give them protection and instruct them so that they may not go away. We recruit devotees with great difficulty so they must be treated well. New men may not always behave so nicely, but we must be tolerant. To train a new man is like training a wild animal to be a pet. Just like the tiger is trained in the circus and later on they are dancing to the tune of the master. The point being stressed is training. A preacher should always be tolerant. 🙏

— Letter to Gaura Hari Das. 9 July 1971.

## DON'T WALK ON KRISHNA'S NAME

A Remembrance of His Divine Grace

A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

When Srila Prabhupada came to the San Diego temple he pulled up and all the big guns were with him, Brahmananda, Tamal Krishna Maharaja, and Jayatirtha. We were on the roof of the house. All the ladies had flower petals. It felt like we were the queens of Dwarka. Prabhupada was coming and the flower petals were going to come down on him from the heavenly planets. When Srila Prabhupada arrived everyone was excited and chanting. As in many places where Srila Prabhupada went, we had just found out recently that he was coming so everyone was painting and cleaning to get everything ready. The devotees had this “great” idea — what we thought was a great idea — we painted the sidewalk with a beautiful lotus flower and then we painted the Hare Krishna mantra on the steps leading up to the house. We were practically spiritual infants at that time. We thought, “Wow! Prabhupada will really like this. It will really show how Krishna conscious we are.” It certainly did show how Krishna conscious we weren't. So, when Prabhupada got out, there was a big *kīrtana*, and he started to walk up the steps. Then he saw the Hare Krishna mantra there. I was on top with a good view. I saw that Prabhupada was immediately disturbed. He turned and spoke to one of the senior devotees, who spoke to the next one, and then the next one. Finally, it stopped at Gunagrahi Maharaja, because he was the

President and he had to take responsibility. Then Prabhupada refused to walk up on the steps because the Hare Krishna mantra was there. He had taught us that Krishna and his name were non-different. To walk on Krishna's name was such an offense! So Prabhupada walked around, went up the grass, up the embankment and around to the other side of the temple just to show us what an offense this was. Needless to say, very soon after, the devotees were out there painting that over. It was a good lesson for all of us. 🙏

— From Sandamani Devi Dasi. *Prabhupada Memories* DVD 59. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w19wSobMjzo> [From minutes 24.26 to 26.45].

## THE STORY OF CHANDA RAY, PART 2

Adapted from chapter 18 of *Prema-vilāsa*  
By Nityananda Das

### Village Reception

That day they stopped to rest in a village while the two Brahmins went ahead to the house of Chanda Ray to inform them of Narottam's arrival. Chanda Ray began to weep with joy upon receiving the good news. The elders of the village immediately set out to meet Thakur Mahasay, accompanied by many wise Brahmins and a band of musicians.

When they came upon Narottam's party they were overwhelmed by the beauty of Thakur Mahasay. They escorted him to their village, which was fully decorated in honor of his arrival. Pots filled with water lined the roads, banana trees were placed in various spots, and every house was decorated with flower garlands. The people had gathered in crowds on the streets and the ladies made auspicious sounds with their tongues. Upon hearing of his arrival, people from other villages also hurried to see Narottam. Raghavendra Ray, Chanda's father, came forward, and upon seeing the beauty of Narottam, fell at his feet, crying. Narottam addressed everyone with warm words of affection.

Thakur Mahasay then entered the house of Chanda Ray. There, Raghavendra Ray carefully washed the feet of Narottam with water and offered him a beautiful seat. With great humility, Ray stated that he was the most fortunate man to have Thakur Mahasay bless his house.

### Blessing the Ghost

Narottam said, "It is very kind of you to have me. Now let me see your son." When Narottam was informed that Chanda Ray was lying on a bed in his room, Thakur Mahasay and his men entered the room and stood before Chanda Ray.

As soon as Chanda Ray looked at Narottam, the evil spirit within him began to shout, "Due to my past grievous sinful acts I have become a *brahma-rākṣasa*. I have been living within this body for a long time. Now be kind to me and release me to go elsewhere." Everyone present there was shocked to hear this shouting. Again, the spirit yelled, "O my lord! Save this cursed life of mine! For me, Kheturi is not merely an ordinary village, but it is Vrindavan in disguise. I desire to be born in that village and become your humble servant. O master, be kind upon me."

Addressing the ghost, Thakur Mahasay said, "Listen to me! Leave this body at once and go elsewhere." With those words, the evil spirit immediately left. Everyone present shouted in joy and began to praise Thakur Mahasay. Chanda Ray returned to his normal state and with folded hands fell at the feet of Narottam, crying aloud, "There is no one as cursed as I! Simply by seeing me, all auspiciousness goes away. I have committed sins that are not even mentioned in *śāstra*. How can I be relieved from the reactions to my misdeeds?"

### Shelter and Initiation

Crying profusely, Santosh also fell on the ground and touched the feet of Thakur Mahasay. Filled with



#### Nāma-tattva

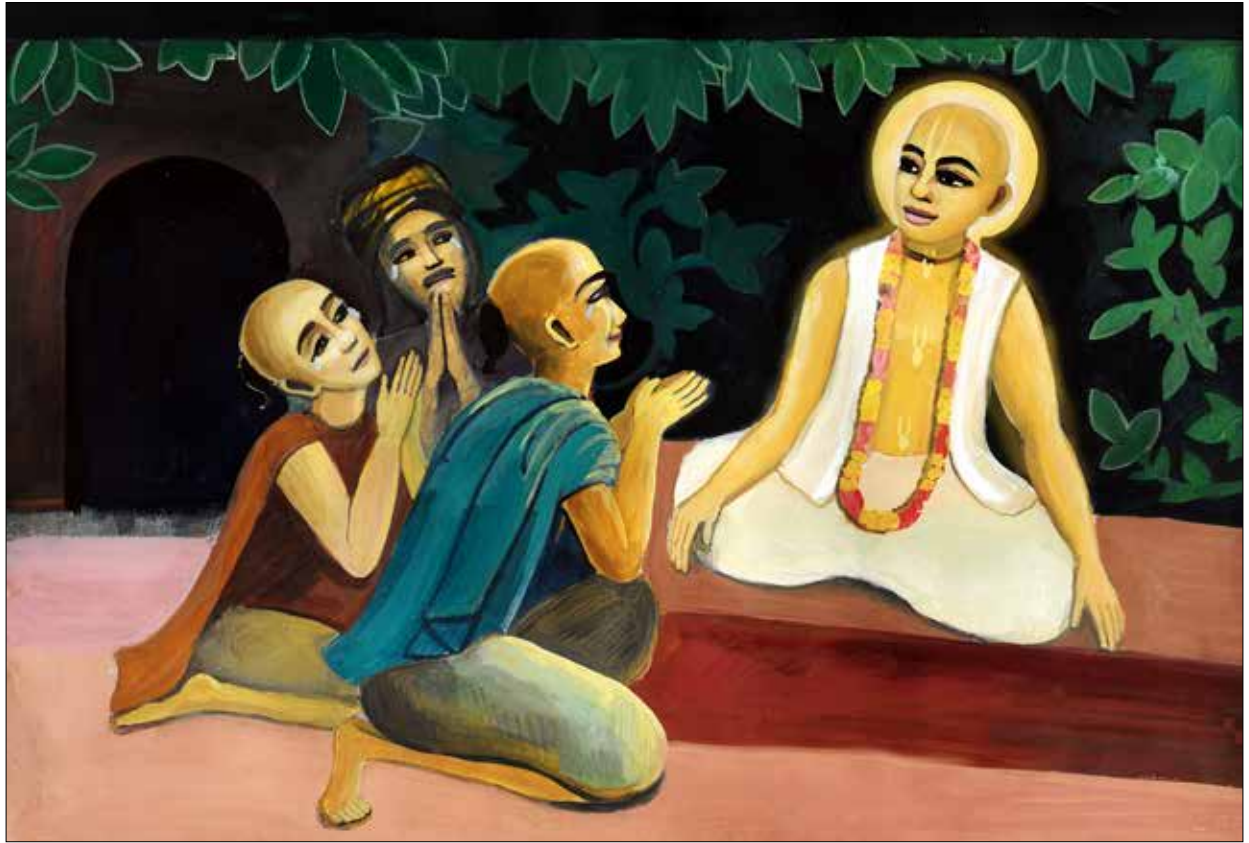
### OTHER NAMES BECOME EMBARRASSED Mahābhārata quoted in Hari-bhakti-vilāsa 11.502

*kṛṣṇaḥ kṛṣṇaḥ kṛṣṇa ity anta-kāle  
jalpan jantur jīvitam yo jahāti  
ādyah śabdah kalpate tasya muktyai  
vrīḍā-namrau tiṣṭhato 'nyāvṛṇasthau*

One who at the time of death chants the holy name "Krishna! Krishna! Krishna!" will not have to chant any other holy name to be delivered. Among all the names of the Lord, the name Krishna is sufficient for liberation. In fact [in front of the name of Krishna], the other holy names of the Lord feel embarrassed, like an unemployed person who has no work.

— Sanatan Goswami. *Śrī Hari-bhakti-vilāsa*. English translation by Bhumipati Das. Rasbihari Lal & Sons. Vrindavan. 2005.





Painting by Anapayini Radha Devi Dasi

Sri Narottam Das Thakur accepts Chanda Ray and Santosh as disciples

lamentation he said, “Although born a Brahmin, I have committed innumerable sins. And for so long I have been strongly under the grip of worldly attraction. We two brothers were born of the same womb and for many years performed sinful activities together. Now we have nothing to pray for other than your merciful glance upon us. O master, please accept these two poor wicked souls and be our lord for life.”

Raghavendra also fell at the feet of Thakur Mahasay, and said, “I and my family members are now indebted to you, life after life.”

Thakur Mahasay assured them that Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu would certainly bestow his mercy upon them. He then ordered all of them to take their bath. Raghavendra and his sons bathed, dressed in new cloth and came before Narottam. Thakur Mahasay told them to sit on his left side and then he poured the nectar of the holy name into their ears. Observing the endless kindness of Narottam, Ramachandra Kaviraj could not contain himself, and he began to roll on the ground in ecstasy. All the *vaiṣṇavas* present there began to weep. Even the ordinary folks who had assembled there were moved to tears. Ray and his sons lay prostrate before Thakur Mahasay, who placed his foot on their heads.

A few days later, Narottam chanted the Radha Krishna mantra into the ears of Ragavendra Ray and his two sons. At that time, Yamaraj and Chitrugupta began to sing the glories of Narottam. Yamaraj said, “He is the savior of the fallen souls in this world! O Chitrugupta! Bring the record book and tear out the pages where the sinful accounts of these two brothers is kept! I have lost my right to punish them.”

After receiving initiation, they offered many gifts to Thakur Mahasay. He was given villages, clothes, wealth, horses, cows and calves. In the morning, cooking began. All types of sweets, curries, scented rice, etc., were prepared. After Thakur Mahasay had eaten, Ray and his two sons took the remnants of Narottam. They received the title of *vaiṣṇavas* and became famous throughout the world. They took lessons on *vaiṣṇava* practices and engaged in devotional service to Krishna.

### Visiting Kheturi

After fully instructing his disciples, Thakur Mahasay expressed his desire to return to the lotus feet of the deity of Gaura Rai in Kheturi. Hearing this, everyone began to cry at the thought of separation from Narottam. Although everyone was deeply aggrieved, they knew it was the desire of Narottam, so what

could they do? Ray decorated ten boats with gold and jewels. One boat was made ready for Thakur and his associates, one was prepared for the father and his two sons, and the others were filled with a variety of items like rice, dal, clothes, etc. Many men accompanied the boat, and other men were engaged in steering the boats. The family members, servants and maidservants of the departing devotees cried piteously as the boats shoved off from the bank.

All the devotees remained immersed in talks of Krishna as the boats swept along the river. About half way to their destination, they halted for a rest. The next day at noon they reached Kheturi and visited the temple of Lord Gaurahari. Observing the beauty of the deity, everyone was filled with ecstatic emotions. Thakur then lovingly invited them to take *prasāda*.

They anxiously took their seats as the fragrant aroma of the *prasāda* entered their nostrils. They relished *prasāda* while discussing *kṛṣṇa-kathā*. Narottam, surrounded by his associates, was a beautiful sight to behold. He appeared like the moon surrounded by stars. After washing their mouths, everyone sat comfortably. At this time the Ray family began to contemplate their extraordinary good fortune. Chanda Ray explained to all of them how unfortunate he had been for such a long time.



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Meanwhile the boats were emptied and everything was stocked in the store room. At night, Devidas and other *kīrtanīyas* began *saṅkīrtana* before the deity of Gauranga. Thakur Mahasay listened to the *kīrtana* with Kaviraj by his left side. While listening to the beautiful recital everyone there became ecstatic with loving emotions. Thakur Mahasay's entire body trembled and tears rolled down his face like torrents of rain. Suddenly he fell on the ground unconscious. Ramachandra Kaviraj became mad with ecstasy. He wept profusely and the hairs on his body stood on end. His body lay stiff on the ground and only the beating of his heart could be heard. Chanda Ray and his father and brother observing this wonderful scene with amazement. Chanda Ray became excited and he too rolled on the ground crying and lamenting in various ways. He held the feet of his father and brother and repeatedly bowed at the feet of Thakur Mahasay. Finally, the *kīrtana* came to an end and everyone took their seats. However, Thakur Mahasay remained in an ecstatic condition throughout the entire night. In the morning he came to his senses. In this way ten days sped by filled with the joy of hearing and chanting.

After ten days, Chanda Ray requested Thakur to grant his leave. Narottam gave his consent and Chanda humbly touched the feet of his guru, sadly bidding him farewell. Narottam said, "My dear son, always remember that the lotus feet of Sri Krishna are the only truth. Everything else is illusion." In this way Narottam gave his blessings to Chanda Ray and bade him farewell.

Crying helplessly, Chanda Ray went to the side of Kaviraj, who embraced him warmly. Chanda Ray said, "Now that I have met such a wonderful devotee as you, my life at last has some meaning." Chanda Ray offered Kaviraj one hundred coins and two garments. He also begged Kaviraj to always bestow his kindness upon him by regarding Chanda Ray as his servant. All the *vaiṣṇavas* present there also said goodbye to the Ray family. After offering their respects to the deity of Gauranga, Chanda Ray and his father and brother got on their boat and started for home. During their journey home they continuously talked about the pastimes of the Lord, as instructed by Thakur Mahasay. [To be continued.] 🌟

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