



Sri Krishna Kathamrita Bindu

तवकथामृतं तप्तजीवनम्
tava kathāmṛtaṁ tapta-jīvanam

Fortnightly email mini-magazine from Gopal Jiu Publications

Issue No. 482

Śrī Indirā Ekādaśī

14 September 2020

Circulation 9,802

Highlights

• OUR MAIN BUSINESS

His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

• THE LORD'S MERCIFUL TESTS

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur Prabhupada

• THE UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR OF GOVINDA

From the Life of Srila Ramanujacharya

• NAMA-TATTVA: HARD AS A THUNDERBOLT

Hari-bhakti-vilāsa

• MAHAPRABHU TEACHES THROUGH HIS DEVOTEES

Srila Narahari Chakravarti Thakur

• THE NECTAR GIVEN BY NITAI

The Medieval Gaudiya Poet Rama Das



OUR MAIN BUSINESS

His Divine Grace

A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Certainly we are opposed to abortion, and we can advise that it is not good, but do not take an active part in this political agitation against abortion.

We are not much concerned in that way, so do not waste time approaching politicians or affiliating with others on the basis of the anti-abortion issue. We are Krishna Conscious and we are for Krishna consciousness. That is our issue. Abortion is only a side issue. Whatever you have done, that is all right, but concentrate now on our main business to make everyone Krishna Conscious. 🙏

— Letter to Tusta Krishna Maharaja. 4 February 1977.

THE LORD'S MERCIFUL TESTS

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur Prabhupada

Teachers mercifully arrange for examinations in order to take students to a higher class. For attentive, intelligent students, examinations are a source of happiness. Only the inattentive students are afraid of or dislike examinations.

Those who glorify material enjoyment and who speak according to their audience's taste do not face danger, inconvenience, or obstacles in their preaching, but those who preach about devotional service and the soul's eternal propensity face many difficulties. These inconveniences come and try to cause discouragement. But those who have taken shelter of devotional service

should definitely know that these obstacles have come to test our love of and determination for the Lord's service. They are actually assisting us in our progressive advancement on the devotional path.

We should remain firmly fixed in devotional service while accepting the ideal examples of *nāmācārya* Haridas Thakur and the topmost devotee, Prahlad Maharaja. Both of them exhibited a wonderful service attitude and a high degree of tolerance. Simply to achieve something temporary, human beings are baffled for hundreds of lifetimes. If such people — in spite of seeing thousands of examples of failure — will dare to even risk their lives to attain some insignificant enjoyment, then can't intelligent and fortunate devotees dedicate their temporary lives to understanding the Supreme Lord, who is the Absolute Truth for all time? ❀

— Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur. *Amṛta Vani*. A collection of statements from Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur. Originally compiled in Bengali by Sri Bhakti Bhagavat Mayukha Maharaja. Translated into English by Bhumipati Das. Pp. 349-350. Touchstone Media. Mumbai. 2004.

THE UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR OF GOVINDA *From the Life of Srila Ramanujacharya*

Govinda was the cousin of Ramanujacharya, and a disciple of the great vaiṣṇava Sailapurna.

While he was staying at Sailapurna's ashram, Ramanuja was astonished on a number of occasions by the behavior of his cousin. One day he saw Govinda preparing his guru's bed, but he was shocked to see his cousin lie down himself upon the same bed. Ramanuja was disturbed to see such apparently disrespectful behavior and went at once to inform Sailapurna, who immediately summoned his disciple to his presence.

"Do you know what happens," he asked Govinda, "to one who sees fit to lie down on his guru's bed?"

"One who lies down on the bed of his guru is certainly destined for hell," replied Govinda calmly.


"If you are aware of the consequences, then why do you act in such a way?" Sailapurna then inquired.

To this Govinda replied, "Every day I lie down on your bed just to make sure that it is comfortable and that your rest will be undisturbed. If it ensures your comfort, then I am certainly willing to remain eternally in hell." When Yatiraja heard his cousin's humble submission, he felt ashamed of his ignorance in misjudging Govinda and begged his forgiveness.

On another occasion Ramanuja saw his cousin behaving in a manner that was totally bewildering. He saw Govinda holding a snake in his left hand and repeatedly thrusting the finger of his right hand into the creature's mouth, causing it almost to die from pain. After taking his bath, Govinda came to Ramanuja, who inquired from him, "Why were you acting in such a strange way with that snake? It was sheer madness, and only due to good fortune were you not bitten. By acting like a cruel child you not only placed yourself in great danger, but also caused needless suffering to the poor creature, which is now lying there almost dead."

"But my dear brother," replied Govinda, "while eating something that snake had got a thorn stuck in its throat and was writhing in pain when I found it. I was putting my finger into its mouth only to remove that thorn. Now it appears lifeless only because of exhaustion and will soon be fully recovered." Yatiraja was both surprised and gratified to see Govinda's compassion on his fellow living beings, and after this incident his love for his cousin became even more profound. ❀

— From chapter 5 of, *The Life of Ramanujacharya*. By Naimisaranya Das. Rasbihari Lal & Sons. Vrindavan. 2005.




Nāma-tattva

HARD AS A THUNDERBOLT
Itihāsa-uttama quoted in
Hari-bhakti-vilāsa 11.506

*nāmnī saṅkīrtite viṣṇor yasya puṁso na jāyate
saroma-pulakaṁ gātraṁ sa bhavet kulīśopamaḥ*

One whose hair does not stand on end while chanting the holy names of Krishna possesses a heart that is as hard as a thunderbolt.

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





Painting by Kartick Biswas

Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu in the Gambhira with Swarup Damodar and Ray Ramananda, with Govinda in the background

MAHAPRABHU TEACHES THROUGH HIS DEVOTEES

**Srila Narahari Chakravarti Thakur's
Śrī Bhakti-ratnākara 1.630-634)**

*rāmānanda-dvāre kandarpera darpanāśe
dāmodara-dvāre nirapekṣa parakāśe*

Through Srila Ramayana Ray the Lord taught us how to conquer lust, through Srila Swarup Damodar Goswami he taught us how to remain free from all desires. (Text 630)

*hari-dāsa-dvāre sahiṣṇutā jānāila
sanātana-rūpa-dvāre dainya prakāśila*

Through Srila Haridas Thakur he taught tolerance and patience, and through Srila Sanatan and Srila Rupa Goswamis he taught humility. (631)

*jitendriya, nirapekṣa, sahiṣṇutā, dainyā
e cari avadhi vyakta kailā śrī caitanya*

Sri Chaitanya, through his devotees, exhibited the limits of sense-control, freedom from desire, tolerance, and humility. (632)

*sanātana-rūpa-dainyā nā pāri bujhite
mūrkhā-gaṇa ithe tarka kare nānā mate*

Unable to grasp the level of Srila Sanatan's and Srila Rupa's humility, ignorant people argued about it amongst themselves. (633)

*mahāghora naraka yāite yā'ra sādha
se karuka aiche kutarkādi aparādha*

Those who have the foolish desire to enter the ghostly hellish planets engage in malicious wrangling and thus commit offenses against vaiṣṇavas. (634) 🙏

Bibliography

- Narahari Chakravarti. Śrī Bhakti-ratnākara. Gaudiya Mission. Bagbazar, Calcutta. 1987. Bengali.
- Narahari Chakravarti. Śrī Bhakti-ratnākara. English translation by Sri Kusakratha Das. The Krishna Institute. Culver City California.

THE NECTAR GIVEN BY NITAI

The Medieval Gaudiya Poet Rama Das

(Kāmoda-rāga)

*kīrtana-rasa-maya āgama-agocara
kevala ānanda-kanda
akhila loka-gati bhakata prāṇa-pati
jaya jaya nityānanda canda*

All glories, all glories to moonlike Nityananda! He tastes the sweet nectar of kīrtana and is beyond the Āgama scriptures. He is the root of transcendental bliss, the shelter of all the worlds, and the master of the devotees' lives.

*heri patita gaṇa karuṇābalokana
jaga-bhari karala apāra
bhava-bhaya-bhañjana durita-nibāraṇa
dhanya dhanya avatāra*

Seeing the fallen sinners, he casts on them a glance of mercy. He fills all the worlds with the shoreless ocean of his mercy. He chases away all sins and breaks into pieces the fear of repeated birth and death. Glorious is his descent to this world!



Painting by Kartick Biswas

Nityananda Prabhu delivers Jagai and Madhai

hari-saṅkīrtane *sajila jaga-jane*
sura nara nāga paśu pākhi
sakala veda-sāra *prema sukhā-rasa*
deyala kāhu nā upekhi

७

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, Odisha, India 751015



Email: katha@gopaljiu.org
 Website: www.gopaljiu.org
 Subscriptions: minimag@gopaljiu.org

Gopal Jiu Publications is a section of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, Founder-Acharya: His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

Quotations from the books, letters, and lectures of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada ©Bhaktivedanta Book Trust. All other materials, unless specified, © ISKCON Gopal Jiu Publications. All rights reserved. Blanket permission is given to redistribute Bindu in electronic or print form provided no changes are made to the contents.

He immerses the people of this world in the chanting of *hari-saṅkīrtana*. He engages the demigods and the humans and even the birds, beasts and snakes. To everyone he gives the sweet nectar flow of ecstatic love that is the essence of all the Vedas. To whom did he not give that nectar?

tri-bhuvana-maṅgala- *nāma-prema-bale*
dūre gela kali āndhiyāra
śamana-bhavana-patha *sabe eka rodhala*
vañcita rāmā durācāra

By the power of ecstatic love for the holy name, love that is the most auspicious thing in all the worlds, he chased far away the blinding darkness of *Kali-yuga*. He saved everyone from the path that leads to Yamaraja's world, but one was left behind. Only wicked Rama Das was cheated. 🙏

Bibliography

- Jagadbandhu Bhadra (editor). *Gaura-pada-taraṅgiṇī*. Sri Gauranga Press. Calcutta. 1931. Bengali.
- Kusakratha Das (editor and translator). *The Acaryas Songs and Poems Glorifying Lord Gauranga and Lord Govinda*. Unpublished manuscript.

