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Highlights

• [SRIVAS PANDIT](#)

His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

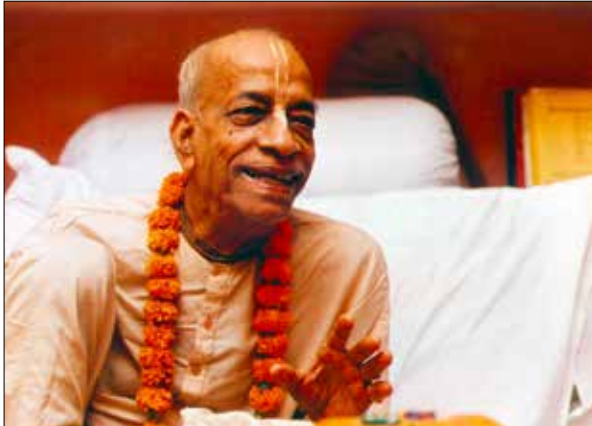
• [KIRTANA AT THE HOME OF SRIVAS THAKUR](#)

Srila Vrindavan Das Thakur

• [SRIVAS' LEVEL OF SURRENDER](#)

Sri Srimad Gour Govinda Swami Maharaja

• [PRAYERS TO SRIVAS PANDIT](#)



SRIVAS PANDIT

Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta ādi 10.8

Translation and purport by His Divine Grace

A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

śrīvāsa paṇḍita, āra śrī-rāma paṇḍita
dui bhāi—dui śākhā, jagate vidita

The two brothers Srivas Pandit and Sri Rama Pandit started two branches that are well known in the world.

PURPORT: In the *Gaura-gaṇoddeśa-dīpikā* (90), Srivas Pandit (Srivas Thakur) is described as an incarnation of Narada Muni, and Sri Rama Pandit, his younger brother, is said to be an incarnation of Parvata Muni, a great friend of Narada's. Srivas Pandit's wife, Malini, is celebrated as an incarnation of the nurse Ambika, who fed Krishna with her breast milk. And, as already noted, Srivas Pandit's niece Narayani, who was the mother

of Thakur Vrindavan Das, the author of Śrī Caitanya-bhāgavata, was the sister of Ambika in kṛṣṇa-līlā. We also understand from the description of Śrī Caitanya-bhāgavata that after Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's acceptance of the *sannyāsa* order, Srivas Pandit left Nabadwip, possibly because of feelings of separation, and domiciled at Kumarahatta. 🍌

Kirtana at the Home of Srivas Thakur

Srila Vrindavan Das Thakur

(Maṅgala-rāga)

śrīvāsa-aṅgane vinoda bandhane
nācata gaurāṅga rāya
manuja daivata puruṣa yoṣita
sabāi dekhibāra dhāya

1. (Refrain) In Srivas' courtyard, Gauranga Ray enjoys pastimes of dancing. Humans, demigods, men, and women all run to see him.

bhakata-maṅḍala gāyata maṅgala
bājata khola karatāla
mājhe unamata nitāi nācata
bhāiyāra bhābe mātoyāla

2. The assembled devotees sing auspicious songs. The *kholas* and *karatālas* sound. In the midst of it all, Nitai dances. He is wild in divine ecstasy.

garaje puna puna lampha ghana ghana
malla-beśa dhari nāca-i



Deities of the Panca-tattva at Srivas Anga in Mayapur 1970

aruṇa-locane prema barikhaye
abanī-maṇḍala siñca-i

3. Again and again he roars. Again, and again he leaps. He dances like a wrestler or an athlete. From his reddened eyes a monsoon shower of tears of ecstatic love falls on the circle of the earth.

dharaṇī-maṇḍala preme bādala
karala avadhuta cānda
nā jāne daśa cāri sabāi nara nāri
bhuvana rūpa heri kānda

4. In this way, the moon of *avadhūtas* covered the earth's circle with a flood of ecstatic spiritual love. No one could see the ten directions. Seeing what had come of the earth, every man and woman wept.

śāntipura-nātha garaje abirata
dekhiyā premera vikāra
dhariyā śrī-caraṇa karaye rodana
paṇḍita śrīvāsa udāra

5. Seeing how the world had become wild in the ecstasy of spiritual love, Adwaita, the Lord of Shantipur, happily roared. Grasping Nitai's feet, noble Srivas wept.

mukunda kutūhali kāndaye phuli phuli
dhariyā gadādhara kora
nayane bahe prema ṭhākura abhirāma
saghane bhāiyā bhāiyā bola

6. Mukunda joyfully shouted. Then he wept. Then he hugged Gadadhar. From Abhiram Thakur's eyes flowed streams of tears of divine love. Again and again he called out, "My brothers! My brothers!"

nā jāne dibā-niśi prema-rase bhāsi
sakala sahacara-vṛnda
vṛndāvana dāsa prema parakāśa
nitāi caraṇāravinda

7. No one knew whether it was day or night. All of the Lord's companions floated in a nectar-ocean of spiritual love. Vrindavan Das says, "In this way the ecstasy of spiritual love was manifest from Nitai's lotus feet." 🌸

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SRIVAS' LEVEL OF SURRENDER

Sri Srimad Gour Govinda Swami Maharaja

We should be completely dependent on the will of Krishna. Krishna says in the *Bhagavad-gītā* that he will take up the responsibility to maintain a surrendered devotee. Whatever the devotee lacks, Krishna says, *vahāmy aham* — I personally carry it.

Srivas Pandit was not doing any business or going out to earn money. Day and night, twenty-four hours, he was engaged in *śravaṇa-kīrtana* and *bhajana* with all his family members. Once, to test Srivas, Mahaprabhu asked him, "Srivas, you are a householder. You have a big family to maintain. Why don't you go earn some money? Otherwise, how will you maintain your big family?"

Srivas did not say anything. He only clapped three times. Mahaprabhu asked, "What does that mean?"

Srivas said, "I have complete faith in your words — *yoga kṣemaṁ vahāmy aham*. [Bg. 9.22] You have taken up the responsibility to maintain a surrendered soul, and whatever such a person lacks you personally carry. I and all my family members are engaged day and night in your service. We have no other business. *Hari-sevā* is our only business."

Srivas had firm faith that Krishna would maintain, that supplies would definitely come. If you become fully dependent on Krishna, engaged day and night, twenty-four hours, in Krishna's service, then the supplies will definitely come.



Unknown artist

Bengali painting of the Panca-tattva

Then he explained the meaning of his clapping three times. “If supplies will not come on one day, we will fast. We will think that it is Krishna’s will and we will fast for the day. If supplies do not come on the second and third day, still we will fast. And if on the fourth day no supplies come, then all of our family will go and drown ourselves in the Ganges and be finished. If Krishna becomes a liar, then how is he Bhagavan? And why will people do his *bhajana*?”

Hearing this, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu became very happy. Mahaprabhu said, “Srivasa! The supplies will definitely come! Why should you think of anything else?”

Such a devotee is Srivas Pandit. He is *niṣkāma*, completely desireless. 🍀

— Lecture in Bali, Indonesia, 6 October 1995.

PRAYERS TO SRIVAS PANDIT

Śrīvāsa Paṇḍita Dhyānam

*āśrayāmi śrī-śrīvāsaṁ tam-ādyam paṇḍitam sadā
śuklāmbara-dharaṁ gauram gaura-bhakti pradāyakam*

*śrī-gaurāṅga-kṛpāvāsaṁ gaura-mūrṭiḥ rasa-pradam
śuklāmbara-dharaṁ devaṁ sarva bhakta-jana priyaḥ*

*saṅkīrtana rasāveśaṁ sarva-saubhāgya bhūṣitam
smarāmi bhakta-rājaḥ hi śrīvāsaṁ śrī-hari-priyam*

*śrī-gaurāṅga kṛpā-pātram paṇḍitākhyam sadā śucim
śuklāmbara-dharaṁ gauram gaura-bhakti pradāyakam
śrī-kīrtane sadonmattaḥ dhyāyet śrīvāsa sattamam*

I always take shelter of Sri Srivas, leader of all the Pandits. Wearing a brilliant white cloth, he has a golden complexion and bestows devotion unto Lord Chaitanya. He is the shelter of Lord Gauranga’s mercy; he has a golden form; he bestows mellows of devotional service; he wears a brilliant white cloth; he is divine and is dear to the devotees of the Lord. Intoxicated by mellows of *saṅkīrtana*, he is decorated with all good fortune. I meditate on that king of devotees, Srivas Pandit, who is dear to Sri Hari.

Let there be meditation on the most excellent Sri Srivas — the container of Lord Gauranga’s mercy; the eternally pure personality renowned as a Pandit. He wears a brilliant white cloth, has a golden complexion, bestows devotion unto Lord Chaitanya, and is always intoxicated in *kīrtana*.

Śrīvāsa Paṇḍita Praṇāma-mantraḥ

praṇamāmi śrī-śrīvāsaṁ tam-ādyam paṇḍitam mudā
 śrī-gaurāṅga kṛpā-pātraṁ kīrtanānanda mānasam
 śrīvāsa paṇḍitam naumi gaurāṅga-priya pārśadam
 yasya kṛpālavenāpi gaurāṅge jāyate ratiḥ
 śrīvāsa kīrtanānanda bhakta goṣṭhyeka-vallabha
 tvām namāmi mahāyogin bhakta-rūpo 'si nāradaḥ

I joyously offer my obeisances to you, O Sri Srivas, leader of all the Pandits. You are the container of Lord Gauranga's mercy, and your mind takes great pleasure in *kīrtana*.

I offer my obeisances to Srivas Pandit, the dear associate of Lord Gauranga. By an infinitesimal fraction of his mercy, one develops attachment in everything related to Lord Gauranga.

O Srivas! O you who get ecstatic joy from *kīrtana*! O exclusive leader of the assembly of devotees! I offer my obeisances unto you, the greatest of the *bhakti-yogīs*! In the form of an associate of Lord Gauranga, you are none other than Narada Muni.

Śrī Śrīvāsādi Bhakta-vṛndānām Dhyānam

ye caitanya-padāravinda-madhupāḥ satprema-bhūṣojvalāḥ
 śuddha-svarṇarūco ḍṅambu-pulaka svedaiḥ sadaṅga śriyāḥ
 sevopāyana-pāṇayah smitamukhāḥ śuklāmarāḥ sadvarāḥ
 śrīvāsādi-mahāśayān sukhamayān dhyāyema tām pārśadam



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[The devotees headed by Srivas Thakur] are bumblebees at the lotus feet of Lord Chaitanya. They are decorated with the brilliant ornaments of true love. They are endowed with pristine golden complexions. Their divine bodily limbs are decorated with ecstatic bodily symptoms such as crying, goose bumps, ecstatic perspiration, etc. Carrying a wide variety of paraphernalia for the service of the Lord in their hands and beaming with joyous smiles, these most auspicious personalities are dressed in brilliant white clothes. Let us meditate on Srivas Pandit and other great associates of the Lord, who are full of transcendental joy.

Śrī Śrīvāsādi Bhakta-vṛndānām Praṇāma

ye tīrtha-bhramitāḥ punanti jagataṁ sadvaidyakaalpāḥ prati-
 kurvantīndūnibhāḥ kṛpāmṛta-ruco 'pyāpāyayanti svayam
 susnigdā haricandanāni kalayantyābhūṣayanty-adbhutā
 ratnānīva hi tām namāmi satatam śrīvāsa-mukhyān muhuḥ

Since they verily are personifications of holy places of pilgrimage, the devotees headed by Srivas Thakur purify everyone by roaming around the earth. Moreover, they diffuse the moonlike rays of the Lord's nectarean mercy even unto the most expert and capable personalities, while simultaneously experiencing it themselves. They decorate themselves with the finest and topmost ornaments of Lord Hari's *gopī-candana*, thereby appearing like wonderful jewels. At every moment, I constantly offer my obeisances to all those great devotees headed by Srivas Pandit.

Śrī Śrīvāsādi Bhakta-vṛndānām Caraṇe Vijñapti

he śrīvāsādaya iha kṛpā-mūrtayo gauracandra-
 premāmbudheḥ sura-viṭapinaḥ śānta-saumya-svabhāvāḥ
 dīnoddhāre prabala-niyamāḥ premadā yūyam eva
 tasmād ajñam prapada-rajāsā pāpinam mām punīta

O Srivas Prabhu and associates! O personifications of Lord Gaurachandra's mercy in this world! O distributors of the ocean of love of Godhead to the devotees! O gentle and affectionate ones! You are fixed in the great vow of delivering the fallen souls. Certainly you are the exclusive bestowers of *kṛṣṇa-prema*. Therefore, please give me, a foolish sinner, the dust of your lotus feet, and purify me. 🙏

— Translated by Hari Parshad Das from Dina Narottam Das (chota)'s *Śrī Manohara Bhajana Dīpikā*. Published by Sri Sudhasindhu Das. Govardhan. Gaurabda 519. Bengali.