



NAROTTAMA VILASA

By Narahari dasa

Translated by Dravida Das


THE FIRST VILASA

Oh! Supreme Lord Visvambhara, You are the husband of the goddess of fortune, and my eternal friend. Only You are capable of distributing the wealth of love of Godhead. You are known as kindhearted to those who depend upon You, therefore, oh Lord, please shower Your kindness upon me.

I worship Sri Lokanatha Prabhu, who is fully surrendered to the lotus feet of Sri Sri Radha Vinode. He is the life of the devotees, and a confidential associate of Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

I worship Narottama dasa Thakura, who is especially dear to Lord Gauranga. Like a honey bee anxious for the nectar, he hovers at the lotus feet of Srila Lokanatha, absorbed in love for Radha Krsna.

I worship the disciples of Srila Narottama Prabhu who are rich in good qualities and are able to destroy all misfortune and misery.



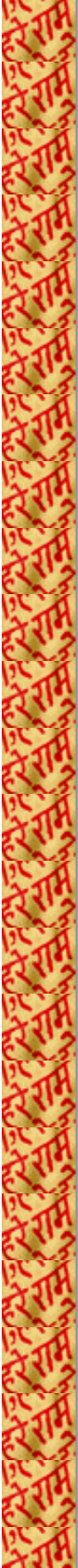
For the pleasure of the Vaisnavas and to fulfill my own ardent desires, I am writing this book Narottama Vilasa which briefly describes the glories of Srila Narottama dasa Thakura.

All glories to the son of Saci and Jagannatha Misra, Sri Gaura Govinda, the embodiment of divine love. He is the life of Nityananda and Advaita, and the only love of Svarupa, Sanatana, Rupa, and Gopala. Lord Visvambhara, who is expert at pleasing everyone, has bound the hearts of Haridasa, Vakresvara, and Narahari with the ropes of His love, and won the friendship of Gauridasa and Gadadhara.

All glories to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and all His associates.

Oh listeners! please be kind upon me. I am an illiterate fool who knows nothing of right or wrong, yet I have been ordered by saintly persons to narrate this beautiful book Narottama Vilasa which will certainly be relished by the readers. I have offered my obeisances to the Lord in the above verses, now listen patiently and attentively as I briefly describe the glories of Sri Lokanatha Prabhu, a favorite devotee of the Lord and the light of his famous brahmana family.

He was born to Sita and Padmanabha Cakravarti in the village of Talagari in the district of Jassora. It is difficult to describe the wonderful attributes




of
Lokanatha's father and mother. Padmanabha was a famous Rarhi
brahmana Vaisnava
and a favorite of Sri Advaita Prabhu. He was constantly absorbed in
sankirtana,
singing madly and crying incessantly. Those who simply observed
his kirtana
were also unable to check their tears.

He frequently came to Nadia for darsana of Lord Gauranga.
However, after such
visits upon returning to his own village he inevitably fell into the
depths of
despair due to intense feelings of separation from Gauranga.

He and his wife always sang the glories of Gauracandra. Sita was
like her
husband. She was a devoted Vaisnavi and wife. She felt extremely
fortunate to
have a wonderful son like Lokanatha and her happiness knew no
bounds as she
watched his devotion to Gauracandra blossoming day by day. Who
can describe the
loving care she showered upon her exalted son?


Lokanatha was always enthusiastically engaged in the Lord's
devotional service.
People were spontaneously drawn by his extraordinary beauty and
deep devotion.
He conscientiously served his parents, and was well-versed in all of
the
scriptures at a very young age.

When his parents died, Lokanatha decided, after discussing with his
friends,
that he would give up the shackles of material existence, go to Nadia
and
surrender at the lotus feet of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.



The mercy of the Lord was abundantly showered upon Lokanatha during his stay in Nadia. However, after sometime Lord Caitanya requested that he go to Vraja. Lokanatha could understand the mind of the Lord, he knew that Mahaprabhu was thinking of taking sannyasa shortly. Thus Lokanatha's departure was an indescribably pathetic scene; leaving the Lord's association was unbearable for him. Completely despondent, Lokanatha began his journey. Crying incessantly, the path before him became practically invisible, thus in five days he walked a distance which would normally be covered in a single day. After traveling for sometime he received the heart breaking news that Mahaprabhu had taken sannyasa and, after consoling his associates, had gone to Nilacala. Lokanatha lamented, knowing the Lord had given up His beautiful curling hair.

Heavy-hearted and forlorn, Lokanatha continued his journey only because it was the order of the Lord. He arrived in Vrndavana practically lifeless, but the charming atmosphere of Vraja soothed his mind and eased his aching heart. However, after a few days Lokanatha heard that Mahaprabhu had gone to South India, and his mind became disturbed. Eager to see the Lord again, Lokanatha left for the south at once. In anxious anticipation he traveled quickly. However, after traveling a considerable distance he received news that the Lord had already left the South and returned to Nilacala [unclear] Afterwards he heard that the Lord had arrived in Vrndavana. With




great anxiety

Lokanatha immediately started for Vraja. However, upon reaching Vrndavana, he found that Mahaprabhu had departed for Prayaga just a few days before.


The forlorn Lokanatha sank into the depths of despair. The next morning he decided to follow Mahaprabhu to Prayaga. He could no longer tolerate the intense misery of separation from his beloved Lord. Rolling on the ground he cried pitifully until at last he felt asleep. In his dream he finally received the long awaited darsana of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu; His effulgent body was covered with yellow sandalwood paste, shining with a brilliance unknown to gold. Perfectly arranged hair, decorated with fresh flowers, surrounded His exquisite face, and His forehead was neatly marked with tilak. Who would not be captivated by His gorgeous lotus eyes, majestic eyebrows, and enticing smile which easily defeated the beauty of the moon? A sacred thread was draped across His broad chest and His long arms touched His knees. His dhoti was folded in three places and His transcendental body was bedecked with ornaments.

He spoke affectionately to Lokanatha: "I shall always be with you, relishing loving pastimes, here in My eternal abode, Navadvipa. Even great personalities like Lord Brahma are unable to understand this Dhama of Mine." Saying this, He embraced Lokanatha and disappeared.



Lokanatha awoke, the emptiness in the Lord's absence was intolerable and he was overwhelmed with despair. However, by Mahaprabhu's kindness, sleep once again overtook him and the Lord, dressed in the garb of a sannyasi, once again appeared before him. "You are thinking of going to Prayaga," the Lord said sweetly, "But what is the use of going there when you can see me here in your dream. Oh Lokanatha I also desire to be with all of you in Vrndavana. After I sent you to Vraja I took sannyasa from Kesava Bharati. At that time I was very eager to see Vrnda Vipina, but My devotees were so broken-hearted and desolate, due to my acceptance of the renounced order, that I was obliged to spend a few days in the house of Advaita Prabhu to console them. Afterwards I went to Nilacala, then later to the South. Unfortunately our paths did not cross either in the South or in Vrndavana. I know you are feeling despondent because of this and have decided to leave for Prayaga tomorrow morning, but don't leave Vrndavana, remember that I am always with you. I shall keep you informed of my whereabouts. From Prayaga I'll leave for Nilacala, there I will tell my dear devotees Rupa and Sanatana about you and they will meet you in Vrndavana soon. In their association you will float on the waves of happiness amidst the ocean of ecstatic love for Krsna."


"Within a short period of time a prince named Narottama will



become your
disciple. He will be a gifted devotee, full of love and devotion, and
empowered
to save the fallen conditioned souls from hellish life. His enchanting
beautiful
kirtana will melt even wood or stone." Thus speaking He embraced
Lokanatha, who
fell at the Lord's feet.

Awaking and finding himself alone, Lokanatha cried pitifully,
remembering the
beautiful Gaurangacandra. Eventually he pacified himself, but tears
continued
to flow like rivers from his eyes. As dawn approached he performed
his daily
duties and sat down in a quiet place to chant the holy name of the
Lord until
a local brahmana offered him some fruits to eat. He sat under the tree
for
a long time until restlessness overtook him and he began wandering
aimlessly
throughout Vrndavana. Eventually he happened upon a beautiful
secluded area
where he stayed alone for a long time.

Later he happened to find out that Sri Subuddhi Misra had visited
Vrndavana,
followed by Sri Rupa Gosvami a bit later, but now they were both on
there way
to meet Sri Gaurasundara. Sanatana had also come to Vrndavana but
had recently
left for Nilacala. Hearing this Lokanatha could not suppress his
disappointment.
Sighing heavily and crying pitifully, he lamented, "Oh Rupa,
Sanatana, when will
I be able to live with you?" Suddenly a voice replied: "We shall
definitely come
to Vrndavana soon."



Eventually Gopala Bhatta and others did come to Vrndavana. I am lost for words to describe that joyous meeting and the immense pleasure they derived from each other's association. Sri Rupa Gosvami greeted Lokanatha with great warmth and affection, dissipating the anguish of long separation from the Lord and His devotees.

In Sanatana Gosvami's Vaisnava Tosani he mentions his attachment for Lokanatha:

"I worship Srila Kasisvara, Lokanatha, and Sri Krsnadasa who have taken shelter at the lotus feet of the dear-most Deity in Vrndavana, Srila Govinda Deva."

Raghunatha Bhatta, Gopala Bhatta, Bhugarbha Gosvami, as well as many others, dearly loved Lokanatha. Together they spent many wonderful days in Sri Vrndavana

Dhama relishing the highest pinnacles of devotional happiness.

Lokanatha was

fully engaged in the service of his worshipful Deities, Sri Sri Radha Vinode.

How he obtained these deities I have explained in Bhakti-ratnakara (page 23).

Once while serving his Deities, Lokanatha suddenly saw the madhurya rupa** of

Sri Gaura amalgamated with that of Sri Radha Vinode. Later, in a dream, the Lord

** revealed everything regarding His own transcendental nature.

Such deep

spiritual realizations gave rise to intense emotions, thus whenever Lokanatha

tried to describe the divine attributes of the Lord, he would lose his composure

and simply roll on the ground, cursing himself for not having



personally
witnessed the Lord's pastimes.

Krsnadasa Kaviraja requested Lokanatha's permission for writing
Caitanya
Caritamrta, which he received with Lokanatha's wholehearted
enthusiasm, yet
both he and Gopala Bhatta, forbade Krsnadasa from mentioning their
names within
the book.

I have heard all of these stories from some aged persons?? Whoever
hears them
is extremely fortunate. The merciful Lokanatha Gosvami remained
in Vrndavana
and later showered his blessings upon his dear disciple, Narottama
dasa. By the
mercy of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Lokanatha obtained the precious
gem of love
of Godhead:

"I worship the lotus feet of Lokanatha Prabhu whose is opulent with
the wealth
of Sri Krsna Caitanya's blessings, and whose mind is bedecked with
the ornaments
of love."

"I take shelter at the lotus feet of Lokanatha Prabhu who eternally
resides in
Vrndavana. He is always absorbed in loving devotional service,
enchanted by the
transcendental pastimes of Sri Krsna. "

"I take refuge at the lotus feet of Lokanatha Prabhu who is
completely
indifferent to the pains and pleasures of this material world. His
mercy was
fully realized only by the great scholar Narottama dasa."



All glories to Narottama dasa Thakura, the beloved disciple of
Lokanatha
Gosvami.


How the illustrious Narottama took his birth in the house of
Krsnananda Datta,
the elder brother of Sri Purusottama, I dare not discuss elaborately
here.

However, for your pleasure, I shall give a brief description.

Rupa and Sanatana lived in Ramakeli, a beautiful village in a
pleasant area of
Gaudadesh. Although acting as high ranking ministers in the court of
the king,
they were always absorbed in discussing scriptures with scholars and
professors.
Their genius and wisdom won them fame throughout the world. In
the courts of
Maharastra, Karnataka, Dravida, Tailanga, Utkala, Mithila, Gaura,
Gujarata,
Vanga, Kasi and Kashmir they were considered the greatest scholars.
(I have
explained this further in Bhakti-ratnakara). Being favorites of the
king, the
brothers had no shortage of wealth.

Meanwhile, Sri Gauracandra was performing His all-attractive
pastimes in
Navadvipa. Rupa and Sanatana happened to hear reports of the
Lord's activities
and were spontaneously attracted. Immediately they began writing
numerous
letters to Mahaprabhu, while earnestly waiting for the opportunity to
meet Him
personally.

The Supreme Lord, who is bound only by the love of His devotees,
soon also




became anxious to meet Rupa and Sanatana. After accepting sannyasa, the Lord consoled his devotees, went to Nilacala and later to Vrndavana. When Mahaprabhu started for Gaudadesh millions of people ran behind him, thus He arrived at Ramakeli surrounded by hoards of devotees.

On hearing of Lord Caitanya's arrival, Sanatana and Rupa, as well as Kesava Chatri and other friends, were overwhelmed with joy. The royal ministers, Rupa and Sanatana, could not contain their happiness and secretly rushed to meet the associates of Lord Caitanya. By the grace of Nityananda Prabhu they were introduced to Sri Krsna Caitanya. Who can describe the intense emotions of Rupa and Sanatana at that meeting? Sri Gauracandra happily welcomed them with sweet words, as Nityananda Prabhu, Haridasa, Vakresvara, Mukunda and others stood by watching with pleasure.

Mahaprabhu stayed there for a few days constantly surrounded by an ocean of ecstatic devotees who were eager to bath in the purifying waters of the Lord's transcendental association. Not only the general mass of people were affected by the Lord, even the Yavana king was moved by Mahaprabhu's presence.

One day while Caitanya Mahaprabhu was dancing with his associates during sankirtana, He suddenly looked in the direction of Sri Kheturi village. A peculiar look appeared on His face, tears welled up in His eyes,



and He
cried out the name "Narottama! Narottama!" again and again. The
ocean of mercy,
Nityananda Raya shouted in joy, and Haridasa, Vakresvara, and
others were
inexplicable filled with happiness.

Witnessing the unusual behavior of the Lord, the devotees began
talking amongst
themselves: "Prabhu is repeatedly calling out the name of someone
called

Narottama."

"It seems that this Narottama is extremely dear to the Lord, perhaps
he is
about to take birth soon."

"Oh who is that fortunate man who will have such a son?"

"The woman who bears him within her womb is the most fortunate
lady in the
world."

"Obviously, the Lord has plans for this Narottama to fulfill His
mission."

In this way the rumors of the appearance of Narottama spread far
and wide.

A similar event took place again when Mahaprabhu was traveling to
Nilacala,


suddenly he cried out the name of Srinivasa. [unclear]

These topics became known to all and everyone waited eagerly
anticipating the
appearance of Narottama.

Oh listeners please hear attentively as Narahari dasa narrates
Narottama Vilasa.

THE SECOND VILASA

All glories to Sri Gauracandra, Nityananda Prabhu, and all the



devotees of
Mahaprabhu. Please bestow your mercy upon this poor fallen
conditioned soul.
All glories to those who hear the nectar of this Narottama Vilasa,
kindly
listen patiently to my narration.

The wheel of time turned, until finally, on the sixth hour of the full
moon day
in the month of Magha, when all auspicious signs were visible,
Narottama dasa
took birth to fulfill the mission of the Lord.

His mother, radiant with beauty, wept joyfully as she lovingly gazed
at the
charming face of her son. An unearthly effulgence suddenly
illuminated the
entire delivery room and happiness swelled in the hearts of everyone
present.
From that moment the village of Sri Kheturi became an auspicious
place. The
residents suddenly felt purified; as if cleansed of all misgivings.
They
trembled with ecstatic emotions, tears filled their eyes, and they
spontaneously
chanted the holy name with devotion. They rushed to the house of
Krsnananda
carrying all kinds of gifts for the newborn child.

The delighted Datta Mahasaya warmly welcomed them all without
taking his eyes
off the face of his son for a second, while Krsnananda's exalted
father
distributed charity profusely to the singers, musicians and others
present, for
the protection of his grandson.

There was no woman in the world as fortunate as Narottama's



mother, Narayani.

By the Lord's grace she was granted the eyes to see Gauranga,
Nityananda, and
Advaita dancing ecstatically within her own home.


Narayani watched jubilantly as her son began to grow like the moon.
Similarly,
Krsnananda's pleasure knew no bounds as he constantly stared at the
jewel-like
face of his son. Grateful for his good fortune, he fed the brahmanas
daily.

At the appropriate time on an auspicious day, Krsnananda arranged
for the
ceremony of offering rice to his son. The astrologer present on that
joyful
occasion noted all the auspicious signs upon the child's body and
predicted
that the boy would be an illustrious person: "This baby will be the
greatest of
men, therefore he should be called Narottama."

The festivities went on happily until Krsnananda tried to feed his son
the rice.
To everyone's dismay the child refused to eat. Although they coaxed
him again
and again, the boy repeatedly turned his head away, refusing to eat.
The festive
atmosphere was replaced with anxiety and everyone looked at each
other
nervously, not knowing what to do.

The thoughtful astrologer, however, reassured everyone, "Don't
worry, this baby
will not accept food unless it has first been offered to Lord Visnu."

Thus the rice was offered to Lord Visnu, then again offered to the
child. To




everyone's relief, the child happily devoured it. From that day on, realizing the value of prasada, the king ordered: "Only food which has been offered to Krsna should be given to my son." Although the worship of Krsna was customary in their family, from the time of Narottama's birth everyone became much more attentive to the service of the Lord.

After a few years Narottama began his studies and soon proved to be a genius. Within a short time he became a scholar in all subjects. The teachers use to comment: "How is it possible that this boy can learn so quickly? Do you think he is an incarnation of God?"

He was an adorable boy and endeared himself to everyone, soon he was the talk of the town: "Just one glance at Narottama is sufficient to cool my mind and chase away all miseries." "From every angle of vision the prince is beautiful." "I have never seen such a gorgeous boy." In this way Krsnananda's son was glorified throughout the town.

Krsnananda was happy simply to gaze upon his son, but as time passed he began to think, "My son is capable in all respects, he must be married soon. I am getting old and should follow the path of my father, it is time to be relieved of my kingly duties." Thus he consulted with the wise Kayasthas to find a suitable bride for his son.


Meanwhile Narottama was lost in the ecstasy of love for Krsna.



With eyes full
of tears he joyfully worshipped his Lord privately, oblivious to
everything
else. In this way he lost all taste for mundane pleasures and could not
bear to
even hear topics related to royal pleasures and properties. Aware of
their
son's growing apathy for material life, Krsnananda and Narayani
were filled
with anxiety and could think of nothing else. Finally they decided to
appoint
someone to constantly watch over their son, but still they were
unable to find
peace of mind.

Narottama's home became a prison for him and he longed to be free.
Although he
said nothing, he was constantly waiting for the opportunity to leave
home.
Everyday he secretly pleaded desperately for the Lord's help. His
body became
covered with dust as he rolled on the ground crying. Raising his
arms in the
air he begged pitifully, "Oh Gauranga! Nitai! Advaita! My Lords,
please save me
from this hell."

At that time the news of Lord Gauranga's glories was spreading
throughout the
world. Narottama's only solace was when he received some word of
the Lord's
pastimes. There was one aged brahmana in Sri Kheturi named
Krsnadasa. He was
a genuine servant of Lord Krsna and loved Narottama deeply. He
could not let
a single day pass without seeing Narottama. That brahmana,
Krsnadasa, was so
powerful by dint of his devotion, that no one dare disobey him.




Everyday after completing his worship of Krsna, Krsnadasa would visit Narottama.

Narottama welcomed him with wholehearted enthusiasm, humbly falling prostrate at his feet. Offering him a seat, he would then eagerly enquire about Lord

Caitanya and His associates. Krsnadasa happily narrated the pastimes of the Lord in three parts (Adi, Madhya and Antya). He went on to glorify the transcendental activities of Nityananda and Advaita with such emotion that even wood or stone would melt upon hearing his devotional narration. He explained the life

histories of Pandita Gadadhara, Pandita Srivasa, Vakresvara, Svarupa, Murari, Haridasa, Narahari Dasa, Gauridasa, Gadadhara, Vasu Ghosh, Mukunda, Sanjaya, Damodara, Kasisvara, Sri Paramananda Bhattacharya, Krsnadasa brahmachari, Lokanatha Varya, Sanatana, Rupa, Sri Gopala, Raghunatha, Raghunatha Bhatta, Sri Jiva, Subuddhi Misra, Raghava, Krsna Pandita and others.

He then narrated the story of Srinivasa Acarya's birth. Krsnadasa took hold of Narottama's hands and tearfully said, "Oh Narottama, how can I describe the wonderful qualities of Srinivasa? In his youth he was renowned as a great scholar and the embodiment of love and devotion. When he left for Nilacala to meet Sri Caitanya, along the way he received the stunning news that the Lord had disappeared from this world. He was devastated and immediately fell unconscious. Only due to the wish of the Lord did life remain within




his body."

The glories of the Lord's devotees are described by Kavi Karnapura in
Gunalesasucakam: "Glory to Srila Srinivasa Prabhu, the embodiment of mercy, who was born in a Rarhi brahmin family in Ghantesvari. In his childhood he conquered the world by his scholastic genius. Upon hearing about Lord Caitanya, Srinivasa rushed to Nilacala to see the Lord."

"Glory to Srinivasa Prabhu who fell unconscious on the road to Nilacala upon hearing of Sri Mahaprabhu's disappearance. After regaining consciousness he frantically cut his own beautiful hair and so doing hurt his forehead, then he continued on to Purusottama remembering the lotus feet of Mahaprabhu."

In a dream Lord Caitanya appeared before Srinivasa, encouraging him to go on to Nilacala. Upon seeing Srinivasa, everyone there shed tears. Gadadhara, Vakresvara Pandita and others welcomed him into their association. Showering their mercy upon him they ordered him to go to Vrndavana. Srinivasa first took darsana of Sri Jagannatha and then started for Gauda via Srikhanda. After reaching Gauda he again returned to Nilacala via Srikhanda, but along the way he heard that Gadadhara Pandita Gosvami had disappeared from the world. Devastated, Srinivasa turned around and headed back towards Gauda, looking like a man on the verge of death. After traveling sometime he lay down




and fell
asleep. In his dream Sri Pandita Gosvami appeared before Srinivasa
and lovingly
consoled him.

When he awoke in the morning his mind was still extremely
perturbed, yet he
continued on towards Gauda. Along the road he met one of the
residents of Gauda
who informed Srinivasa about the disappearances of Prabhu
Nityananda and
Advaita. Again, Srinivasa fell unconscious in despair. When he came
back to
consciousness he immediately decided to commit suicide and began
building

a fire to throw himself into. However, Nityananda and Advaita
Prabhu suddenly
appeared before Srinivasa. They quickly pacified him and ordered
him to go to
Vrindavana.


In the morning Srinivasa continued on to Gauda. In Srikhanda he
met Narahari
and Sri Raghunandana and bowed to their feet. This is described by
Kavi
Karnapura in Gunalesasucakam: "All glory to Srila Srinivasa Prabhu
who went to
Srikhanda and bowed before Narahari Sarkara Thakura, the dear-
most associate of
Sri Caitanya Candra. Being ordered by Narahari, Srinivasa also
sought the favor
of Yadunandana."

When Srinivasa arrived in Navadvipa he was overwhelmed with
astonishment to see
the Supreme Lord Gauranga and His associates sporting happily
there. Srinivasa




had been granted the eyes to see this wonderful scene. Actually everyone in Navadvipa was floating in an ocean of sorrow. Srinivasa eagerly went to the house of Prabhu where Visnupriya Devi bestowed her mercy upon him. Dasa Gadadhara, Srivasa and others also welcomed Srinivasa with tears of love in their eyes. From there, Srinivasa went to Santipura to see Sita Devi. Who can describe the loving reception he received from her? In ecstatic trance he traveled on to Khardaha, there Sri Jahnava and Vasudha greeted him with great affection. He then went to Khanakula to receive the blessings of Sri Abhirama and his wife Malini devi. He then returned to Srikhandia and met Sri Narahari Thakura who bestowed his mercy upon him and again advised him to go to Vraja. With great affection Sri Raghunandana gave Srinivasa complete instructions for his journey to Vrindavana. Srinivasa went back to Yajigrama to visit his mother and after consoling her, started off alone for Vrajapura."

After hearing this story, spontaneous love for Srinivasa arose within the heart of Narottama. Floating in a river of tears Narottama thought, "When shall I get the company of Srinivasa?" Who can understand Narottama's state of mind? Daily he listened attentively to the stories of Prabhu and his devotees, and cursed himself for not having attained their association. His mind was always disturbed, he could not eat, nor could he sleep at night.



One day, due to the desire of the Lord, Narottama fell asleep and in his dream he saw Gauraraya. His splendid beauty could not be compared to gold, lightning, or anything else of this world. The beautiful curling hair hanging down His back could turn the mind of even the most virtuous woman. His earrings shone brightly and His lotus eyes were the trap of Cupid. His smiling face could easily defeat the effulgence of the moon, and the beautiful tilak on His forehead could capture one's breath. His graceful hands swept down to His knees, and how broad His chest was. Beautiful jewelled garlands hung around His conch-like neck, and His deep navel was finely shaped. His thin waist defeated even the lion. His knees looked like toppled banana trees, and His feet were more attractive than lotuses. How gorgeous was His three fold loin cloth. Observing the beauty of Prabhu, Narottama shed tears of love and fell on the feet of the Lord. Placing His feet on Narottama's head, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu said sweetly, "Oh, Narottama, look at me. I cannot bear your tears. Don't worry, go straight to Vrndavana. There you will be initiated by my dear devotee Lokanatha. He will happily pour the nectar of the Mahamantra into your ears. I have many plans which are to be served by you." Narottama's sleep was then broken.

Narottama could not bear Prabhu's disappearance and he rolled on



the ground in
disappointment. Thus again, due to the Lord's wish, Narottama fell
asleep. In
his dream he saw Lord Caitanya on the bank of the Ganges in
Navadvipa. He was
enjoying His pastimes along with Nityananda, Advaita, Gadadhara,
Srivasa,
Svarupa, Narahari, Haridasa, Vakresvara, Mukunda, Murari,
Govinda, Madhava,
Vasu Ghosh, Suklambara, Gauridasa, Sri Sanjaya, Damodara,
Mahesa, Sankara, and
Yadu Acarya. All of them surrounded Gauranga as they engaged in
sankirtana,
while the people of Navadvipa witnessed their divine pastimes.
Eager to inspect
this beautiful scene, even Brahma, Siva and other demigods and
goddesses
mingled with the crowd in disguise. Even the animals and birds were
charmed.
Those who were born blind, were suddenly able to see and rushed to
observe the
extraordinary sankirtana performance. Seeing this wonderful fun,
Narottama wept
with joy. On seeing Narottama, Prabhu Gauracandra emotionally
took him to His
bosom and soaked Narottama with His tears. Narottama fell on
Prabhu's feet, and
the Lord affectionately lifted him from the ground and put him in the
care of
Nityananda and Advaita. He also helped Narottama to obtain the
mercy of His
associates, and they all advised Narottama to go to Vrndavana.
Narottama was
unable to control his emotions. Observing the beauty of Nityananda,
Narottama
fell on His feet, and Nityananda put His feet on Narottama's head,
blessing him



with unconditional love for Sri Gauranga, then advised him to go to Vrndavana.

Upon seeing the beauty of Advaita, Narottama fell at his feet, who at once

lifted Narottama and placed him at the lotus feet of Gauranga. He bowed to the

feet of Gadadhara, Srivasa and others who also embraced Narottama one by one.

Narottama bathed in the tears of everyone. All of them encouraged Narottama to

go to Vrndavana. Narottama then woke up and it was morning. He consoled himself

and finished his daily morning duties. He wept with joy as he began to see many

auspicious signs, indicating good fortune. In anticipation he waited, hoping

that the fortunate moment would soon arise.

Shortly thereafter, Narottama's father and his men went to Gauda for business.

Narottama seized the opportunity. He somehow managed to trick his mother, then

he deceived the guard watching over him and quickly left his home secretly. In

fear of being caught, Narottama did not visit Navadvipa, but started towards

Vrndavana through the woods. He disguised himself in such a way that no one

could identify him. For fifteen days he ran at random, then heaved a sigh of relief.

The miserable condition of Narottama's parents was beyond description. Narottama

became the talk of Gauda, "Prince Narottama must have gone to Vrajapura."

"He must be the Narottama whom Prabhu had called for in Ramakeli



village."

"The strength of mind he has manifested is not known to an ordinary man."

In this way Narottama became very popular in that town. Nityananda, Advaita and other favorite associates of Sri Caitanya always thought of Narottama's well being. It is said that he who was fortunate enough to have seen Narottama could forget his fear of material life.

Narottama undauntedly passed through the main roads now. Who can describe Narottama's sincere efforts in the service of the Lord? Traveling along the road he sang the glories of Gauranga with continuous streams of tears rolling down his face. Those who just once looked upon the face of Narottama, attained peace of mind. The villages which Narottama selected to halt at each night became blessed by his presence. Whether male or female, anyone who kept company with Narottama during his journey would comment softly amongst themselves about the wonderful characteristics of Narottama: "Even the golden campaka flower would become ashamed to see the beautiful color of this young man's complexion."

"Look at his beautiful face and big eyes. How superb his nose, cheeks, eyebrows, forehead and ears are."

Some one else said, "Look how long his hands are and how broad his chest is."

"Who are the fortunate parents of this extraordinary man with such beautiful



knees and feet?"


Some one said, "He cannot be an ordinary human being. He must be a demigod or a son of a king."

Another person remarked, "Alas, how sad it is that such a young man has become apathetic toward family life."

Others said, "We wonder how his parents are living without him." "Fie to providence, who has no mercy for this boy and has dragged him out of his family at such a young age."


Being extremely moved by Narottama's presence, no one wanted to return to their houses. They brought many things for Narottama to eat and offered him a comfortable bed to sleep on. But Narottama could not eat or sleep, he spent the night in sankirtana. Everyone felt sad to see the body of Narottama smeared with dust. In the morning the villagers did not want to let him go, but Narottama begged their leave. This was the normal scene which occurred daily along his journey to Vraja. Narottama stole the hearts of everyone he met.

Within a short time Narottama visited all the holy places and at last, with an enchanted mind, entered Vrndavana. First of all he went to visit Visrama Ghat in Sri Mathura, where he bathed in the Yamuna and took some rest. In the solitude of the night he began kirtana there. At that time a great vaisnava resident of Mathura came there carrying many varieties of Krsna prasada and affectionately fed Narottama. Narottama asked him about the well being of



Vraja. With a pierced heart the brahmana informed him of the demise of Raghunatha, Kasisvara, Rupa and Sanatana. On hearing of the disappearance of Rupa and Sanatana, Narottama fell on the ground crying. Striking his head on the ground he called out, "Kasisvara Pandita, Sri Bhatta Raghunatha." Tears streamed from his eyes like a river and he was about to faint. Seeing the death-like state of Narottama, the brahmana took him in his lap and consoled him. They spent most of the night together discussing many topics. Late at night, due to the will of the Lord, both of them fell asleep. In Narottama's dream, Rupa, Sanatana, Kasisvara and Raghunatha appeared before Narottama. Narottama at once fell on their feet. All of them embraced Narottama and soaked him with their tears. They spoke sweetly to Narottama, some of which the brahmana could hear. With great satisfaction they showered their blessings upon Narottama and then disappeared.


Narottama was unable to tolerate their disappearance, he began to lament gazing desperately in all directions. The brahmana was astonished to see Narottama's condition. He hastily took Narottama in his lap and tearfully spoke sweetly to him, thanking him for his purifying association. After considerable time the brahmana's emotions cooled and he begged Narottama to come to his house in the morning. Narottama bowed before the brahmana and requested him



to let him go,
"Please be kind to me and let me go, for I am dying to see the feet of
the
Gosvamis. Please be merciful and help me to fulfill my desires."
With tears in
his eyes the brahmana affectionately took him in his lap and blessed
him. He
accompanied Narottama for some distance but due to his old age
could not walk
further. Thus he gave Narottama directions to reach Vrndavana and
ordered one
man to assist Narottama in his journey. After Narottama's departure,
the
brahmana, with a broken heart, stood staring at the path.

While walking Narottama began to think, "Caitanya Mahaprabhu has
brought such
a low and unqualified man as me here to the sacred land of
Vrndavana. He has
sent me to the abode of mercy, Sri Lokanatha Gosvami Prabhu. Will
he accept me
as his servant? Will I be able to hold the lotus feet of Sri Gopala
Bhatta, Sri
Bhugarbha Gosvami, Sri Jiva Gosvami and others on my head? Will
they show their
mercy to a worthless man like me? Srinivasa Acarya who is the
embodiment of
love, will he love a poor soul like me?" Thinking in this way his eyes
filled
with tears, his body trembled uncontrollably and he was unable to
walk a single
step further.


Meanwhile, on the same night that Narottama entered Vrndavana,
Srinivasa
suddenly became overwhelmed with joy for no apparent reason. He
took this as
a good sign and tears of love began to fall from his eyes as he



thought, "I'm
probably going to meet a very dear friend." In eager anticipation he
began
kirtana and continued on throughout the night. However, late into the
night he
fell asleep. In his dream Sri Rupa Gosvami appeared before him
saying, "Oh
Srinivasa, in the morning you will meet Narottama." Thus speaking,
he
disappeared.


In the morning when Srinivasa awoke he rushed to meet Sri Jiva
Gosvami and
revealed his dream. Sri Jiva Gosvami was very happy to hear the
news, as he had
been in great anxiety waiting for Narottama's arrival. He told
Srinivasa,
"Previously Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu told me about Narottama, and
I have already
told you about him. This is that Narottama for whom we have been
waiting for so
long." Saying this, Sri Jiva hurried off to the temple of Sri Govinda,
and
Srinivasa happily returned to his house.

Suddenly a person approached Srinivasa and informed him, "A
prince has come
from Gauda. He is a young man with beautiful features and his body
is soaked
with tears. I cannot describe the wonderful emotions of that man
after observing
the face of Sri Govinda. Crying incessantly, Sri Jiva Gosvami took
him in his
lap and welcomed him with sweet words. He sent me to bring you to
that place."
Hearing this, Srinivasa could not control his emotions and began
running to the
temple of Govinda.



Srinivasa was overwhelmed to at last see Narottama. Like a poor man who has gained a priceless gem, Srinivasa rushed to embrace Narottama. What Srinivasa expressed to Narottama through his embrace, I am unable to describe. Nor can I explain with one mouth how Narottama felt upon meeting Srinivasa. Everyone began to whisper about the uncommon friendship between Srinivasa and Narottama. They became such close friends that one could hardly differentiate one from the other. Sri Govinda had at last fulfilled the desires of Narottama. Sri Krsna Pandita, the head priest of Sri Govinda, brought the garlands worn by the Deity for both of them. It should be noted that Sri Krsna Pandita was a great scholar and intimate associate of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. After the demise of Kasisvara Pandita, Sri Krsna Pandita became the head priest of Sri Govinda. Everyone knew that Sri Krsna Pandita had great love for Narottama. Narottama humbly bowed to the feet of Sri Krsna Pandita.


Sri Jiva Gosvami quickly took Narottama to the solitary hermitage of Sri Lokanatha Gosvami. They found him alone in a secluded place where he had been suffering the misery of separation from Rupa and Sanatana. Sri Jiva Gosvami bowed to his feet and slowly told him about Narottama. Lokanatha had been restlessly waiting for Narottama to come, now seeing Narottama before him, Lokanatha began to float in an ocean of tears. Narottama fell at the



feet of
his spiritual master, and Lokanatha placed his feet on Narottama's
head. With
sweet words he assured Narottama that after a few days he would
initiate him.
Again and again Lokanatha asked Sri Jiva, "Please help him to
establish his
grasp of devotional books." To Srinivasa he affectionately said,
"Always make
sure he is properly situated on the path of devotion". Thus speaking,
Lokanatha
uttered the names of Rupa and Sanatana and extracted a heavy sigh.
Observing
Gosvami, Sri Jiva was unable to check his tears. Sri Jiva took his
leave and
left to take darsana of the lotus feet of Sri Radhavinoda.

Thereafter Sri Jiva Gosvami took Narottama to meet Gopala Bhatta
Gosvami. He
was also sitting alone in a secluded place, cultivating the memories
of Rupa
and Sanatana. I have no words to accurately depict the sweet
relationship
between Sri Gopala Bhatta and Sri Sanatana Gosvami. This has been
described in
one sloka: "I worship Sri Gopala Bhatta Gosvami whose heart is
filled with love
for Sanatana and the friendship of Sri Rupa. He who worships them,
is able to
obtain mercy of Sri Gopala Bhatta. I worship Sri Gopala Bhatta
whose life and
soul is Sri Radharamana."

Sri Jiva Gosvami bowed to the feet of Gopala Bhatta Gosvami, who
was very happy
to meet Narottama. Narottama fell at his feet and Gosvami at once
showed him
great affection, warmly embracing Narottama and soaking his body



with tears.

Sri Jiva and Narottama offered their obeisances and went for darsana of the

lotus feet of Sri Radharamana. They also went to the temples of Sri Govinda,

Gopinatha and Madanamohana.

While conversing together they entered the temple of Sri Gopinatha, and Sri

Jiva introduced Narottama to Sri Madhu Pandita. Narottama immediately touched

the lotus feet of Sri Pandita. Sri Pandita affectionately held Narottama to his

bosom and brought him to see Sri Radha Gopinatha. He gave the garland which had decorated the Deity to Narottama.

Sri Jiva Gosvami then took Srinivasa and Narottama to the house of Sri

Bhugarbha Gosvami, a great scholar and inseparable associate of Sri Lokanatha

Gosvami. He always spent his days in remembrance of Mahaprabhu. Sri Jiva

Gosvami introduced him to Narottama, who at once touched the feet of Gosvami.

Bhugarbha Gosvami embraced him very lovingly. After bowing to his feet, Sri

Jiva returned to his house with Srinivasa and Narottama and brought them before

Sri Sri Radha Damodara. Narottama was overwhelmed with love at the sight of the

Deity. How can I describe Narottama's state of mind upon seeing the tomb of Sri

Rupa Gosvami? Tears streamed down his face as he rolled on the ground.

Gradually, his body became still and there was no sign of heaving. Srinivasa

quickly took him in his lap. Sri Jiva pacified him and took him to his



cottage.

Sri Jiva then received a message to go quickly to Govindaji Temple.

Thus he,

Srinivasa and Narottama went to the temple and observed the rajabhoga arati of

Sri Govinda. After respecting mahaprasada they returned to Sri Jiva's cottage.

There they spent time discussing topics related to Kṛṣṇa. Later they went to

the temple of Sri Madanamohana and observed the uthvapana arati of the Deity.

Sri Jiva then introduced Narottama to everyone there. Seeing Sri Madanamohana,

Narottama became overwhelmed with love, forgetting himself he wept incessantly.

The Gosvami priest lovingly gave him the garland which had decorated the Deity.

Sri Jiva then took him to the tomb of Sanatana Gosvami. One mouth is incapable

of describing the emotions of Narottama upon observing Sanatana's tomb. With

great affection Sri Jiva pacified Narottama and brought him to his cottage.

There he put Narottama into the hands of his dear Srinivasa. With great

happiness Srinivasa bowed to the feet of Sri Jiva and started for his cottage


with Narottama, where they spent the entire night discussing topics related to

Kṛṣṇa. In the morning, they bathed in the Yamuna and worshipped the Lord. With

joyful minds they went to see Sri Jiva Gosvami, who immediately sent them to


the Radha Kunda.

After observing the beauty of the two kunda's, they went to the place of Sri



dasa Gosvami and Srinivasa cautiously introduced Narottama to him. Though Dasa Gosvami had been in a miserable state of mind due to separation from the Lord and His devotees, he suddenly became very happy. "Where is Narottama"? Saying this he opened his eyes. Narottama bowed to his lotus feet. Being affectionately moved, Dasa Gosvami showered his mercy upon Narottama. Narottama was then introduced to all the great scholars there. Sri Raghava Pandita, who had been living at Govardhana, was extremely happy to see Narottama. Srinivasa and Narottama finished their travels to all the sacred spots and then reported back to Sri Jiva.

Without delay Sri Jiva happily began educating Narottama. During his studies Narottama won the hearts of all with his sensitive and scholastic explanations. Who can understand the heart of Narottama? His service attitude towards Lokanatha Gosvami was beyond compare, and Lokanatha Gosvami was extremely pleased with his beloved disciple. One day, observing Narottama's eagerness, Lokanatha fulfilled Narottama's long cherished desire and initiated him into the chanting of the Mahamantra. Everyone in Vrndavana was greatly impressed by the depth of Narottama's understanding of devotional scriptures. Thus, to everyone's pleasure, Sri Jiva Gosvami conferred upon Narottama the title of 'Sri Thakura Mahasaya.' All the mahantas were filled with joy and




Narottama's
fame rapidly spread throughout Vrajapura. The practice of manasa
seva in
Vrindavana was first started by Narottama (this episode has been
described in
Bhakti-ratnakara.)

Please listen attentively as I describe how Narottama again returned
to Gauda.
I, Narahari dasa continue the narration of Sri Narottama Vilasa.

THE THIRD VILASA

All glories to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Nityananda, Advaita Acarya
and all the
devotees. Please bestow your mercy upon me. All glories to the
listeners, who
are an ocean of mercy. Now listen attentively as I continue my
narration.


After consulting with all the mahantas of Vraja, Sri Jiva Gosvami
determined
an auspicious date for sending all of the Gosvami's manuscripts to
Gauda. It
had previously been predicted by the Lord Himself that these books
would be
distributed far and wide. Thus Sri Jiva handed over all the precious
manuscripts
to Srinivasa Acarya, who was responsible for carrying them to
Gauda. In this
regard Sri Thakura Mahasaya composed one famous sloka: "When
shall I see the
abode of mercy, Sri Caitanya Deva who has distributed his power in
two ways; He
invested Sri Rupa, and others, with the power to write devotional
books wherein



priceless treasures of spiritual knowledge shine like brilliant jewels.
And He
has empowered Srinivasa to circulate them. Thus I worship the lotus
feet of Sri
Caitanya Deva who has manifested these two powerful mediums to
shower His mercy
upon this world."

Sri Jiva Gosvami's knowledge and devotion was deeper than
millions oceans.
Although his outward expression was most stable, inwardly he was
extremely
emotional and greatly perturbed at the thought of separation from
Narottama and
Srinivasa. Nevertheless, he calmly helped Srinivasa to say good-bye
to everyone
and gave him his blessings to start for Gauda at an auspicious
moment.


With great affection Lokanatha Gosvami handed over his dear
disciple, Narottama,
to the hands of Srinivasa. Again and again he instructed Narottama,
"Always
remember to serve the Deities and dedicate your life to spreading the
sankirtana
movement." Narottama happily accepted these instructions as his life
and soul,
and Srinivasa accepted the charge of Narottama jubilantly. Putting
Syamananda
and Narottama under the care of Srinivasa, Sri Jiva said, "From now
on, these
boys are yours." He ordered Syamananda , "First go to Gauda, then
travel to
Utkala via Sri Amvika Puri." (This is elaborately described in
Bhakti-
ratnakara). Thus taking the blessings of all the mahantas, they started
their
long journey to Gauda. The carts filled with the priceless treasure of



books
moved ahead and eleven armed guards from Vraja followed behind.
With a disturbed
mind, Sri Jiva Gosvami accompanied the party to Mathura. The
residents of
Mathura greeted them ecstatically and they rested there for the night.
Their
departure the following morning, however, was a pathetic scene, no
one could
bear to see them go.

After a long journey Srinivasa, Narottama and Syamananda finally
reached
Gaudamandala and headed through the woods in the direction of
Vanavisnupura. In
the midst of the forest they came upon a village where they decided to
halt for
the night. Generally they were extremely cautious about protecting
the books at
night. However, on this night, due to the desire of the Lord, they all fell
sound
asleep.

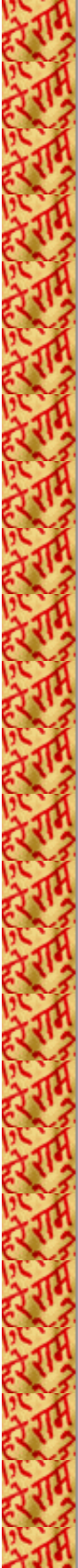
Meanwhile, the local king, Vira Hamvira, had received a report that
many carts
filled with jewels, carried by a number of wealthy persons, had
arrived in their
village. Hearing this, the enthusiastic king at once sent a team of
dacoits to
rob them. The dacoits easily robbed the caskets and carried them to
the king.
Without even opening the caskets the king suddenly became
overwhelmed with awe
and bowed to the ground again and again. Bewildered, the king
exclaimed, "Oh,
what has happened to me. What kind of jewels are in these caskets?"
Saying this
the king began to weep inexplicably. In this way the goddess of



devotion
transcendentally tricked the king. Feeling uncertain about the robbery, the king secretly opened the caskets and found the books. Repentant, he cried out, "Alas, what have I done? I don't know who the gentlemen are whom I have hurt. If I am fortunate enough to meet them, I shall certainly seek their refuge and return their books." Sitting alone in a secluded place the king lamented in this way.


In the morning when Srinivasa and his party awoke they were horrified to find that the precious life-long works of the Gosvami's had been stolen by dacoits. The miserable scene which then ensued is too heart-breaking to describe. Throwing themselves on the ground they cried out loudly in utter despair. They were unable to pacify one another. A long time passed in heated lamentation, until Srinivasa calmed himself down and tried to pacify the others. "On our long journey we passed safely through many dangerous places. But here we accidentally fell asleep and everything has been easily stolen. There must be some hidden purpose behind this incident." Sri Thakura Mahasaya also took heart and privately said, "This must be a divine arrangement in order that this country receive some special mercy." At that time they suddenly heard an oracle in the sky, "Do not worry, the books will soon be recovered."

Shortly thereafter, someone whispered to Srinivasa, "The king is the real



culprit, go to Vanavisnupura." Hearing this, Srinivasa first consoled his companions and sent a letter to Vrndavana. He requested Sri Thakura Mahasaya to go to Kheturi without hesitation, and told Syamananda, "Go immediately to Utkala via Sri Kheturi. I shall go to Vanavisnupura and fetch the books, then I will send you a letter to reassure you that the books have been recovered. Now don't worry and don't think about anything else." Saying this he bade farewell to them. It was impossible for them to disobey the order of Sri Acarya, yet they could not conceal their grief when they were about to leave. Together Narottama and Syamananda traveled to Kheturi, but Narottama did not let Syamananda go to Utkala.

In Vanavisnupura Srinivasa bestowed his mercy upon King Vira Hamvira, who happily returned the books without hesitation. Later the king, along with his followers and family, took shelter under the lotus feet of Srinivasa and became great devotees. This incident is elaborately described in Bhakti-ratnakara. Relieved and happy, Sri Acarya Thakura sent word to Vrndavana assuring the devotees that the books had been recovered. He also sent a letter to relieve the minds of Thakura Mahasaya and Syamananda in Kheturi. Upon receiving the news they joyfully raised their hands, singing and dancing ecstatically. Sri Santosa Datta, the son of Sri Purusottama Datta, was also jubilant.




Santosa was
the son of Narottama's uncle and was full of all good qualities.
Krsnananda
Datta had appointed him as the heir to the throne. He was a good and
kind
hearted king and gave profuse charity to the brahmanas, scholars and
poor. Sri
Thakura Mahasaya happily sent a reply to Srinivasa in
Vanavisnupura.

Thereafter Syamananda took his leave. The parting of Narottama and
Syamananda
was a pathetic scene. Even the animals and birds cried upon hearing
the loving
exchange between the two dear friends. Sri Thakura Mahasaya
selected an escort
to accompany Syamananda to Utkala, and Syamananda began his
journey with a heavy
heart.

Syamananda traveled to Amvika via Navadvipa. There he was
overwhelmed with
ecstatic emotion upon observing the temple of Sri Gaura-Nitai.
Seeing Syamananda
crying helplessly, someone rushed to inform Sri Hrdaya Caitanya of
Syamananda's
arrival, "Your Dukhi Krsnadasa is here. I saw him lying on the
ground in front
of the temple praying to the Lord with extreme humility. I was
completely amazed
by the boy's expressions of love and devotion. I cannot describe how
his eyes
incessantly shed tears. Since he did not come to see you, I ran here
immediately
to inform you of his arrival."


Hearing this, Thakura was jubilant and excitedly requested that the
man



immediately bring Syamananda to see him, "I am eagerly waiting for him", he said. "I am very proud of his devotional service. After taking initiation from me, he lived here for a long time and captured Sri Nitai Caitanya with the bonds of his love. I affectionately sent him to Vrndavana, where he completed his devotional studies. During that time he wrote me regularly to inform me of his progress. Understanding his thirst for knowledge, I permitted him to carry on. In Vrndavana he was so happily engaged in the service of the Nikunja, that eventually his named was changed from Dukhi to Syamananda. Everyone in Vrndavana loves him dearly. He had already written to me that he would be coming here soon. By the desire of Gaura Nitai he will perform exalted service which will be acknowledged throughout the world. Mind you, he is my favorite disciple and I am anxious to see him after such a long time."

At that moment Syamananda appeared on the spot and fell at the feet of his spiritual master. Sri Hrdaya Caitanya Thakura affectionately placed his feet on Syamananda's head. When he tried to embrace his disciple, Syamananda shrank away and stood in a distant place. Nevertheless Thakura grabbed him and embraced him lovingly and then took him to the temple of Mahaprabhu.


There he dedicated Syamananda to the feet of Gaura-Nitai. Thakura then brought Syamananda to his house and gave him the remnants of his food to eat, which



Syamananda relished happily. Thakura eagerly inquired about recent events, and
Syamananda pleased his guru with an elaborate description of everything.
Syamananda stayed with his spiritual master for a long time serving him
wholeheartedly. However, one day Hrdaya Caitanya said, "Do not delay any longer,
you must leave for Utkala at once. The Lord has many plans for you to execute
there." Saying this, he brought Syamananda before Gaura-Nitai and gave him the
garland offered to the Deities. After bestowing his blessings upon Syamananda,
Hrdaya Caitanya bade him farewell. Crying pathetically, Syamananda said goodbye
to his spiritual master, who was also unable to hold back his tears.

I will not describe Syamananda's journey to Utkala, but I shall mention that
along the way Syamananda freely distributed his mercy and saved many fallen
souls from the repetition of birth and death. In Utkala he accepted many
disciples, of which Sri Rasikananda was one. Due to the powerful preaching of
Syamananda and his disciples the whole country became purified. I have
elaborately described these incidents in Bhakti-ratnakara.


When Syamananda finally arrived in Utkala he immediately sent a letter to Sri
Thakura Mahasaya to inform him of his safe arrival. Thakura Mahasaya, who had
been waiting anxiously to hear from Syamananda, was happy and relieved to
receive his letter. He immediately sent the letter on to the devotees in Vanavisnupura, and wrote a reply to Syamananda.



Sri Thakura Mahasaya then left Kheturi and started for Navadvipa.
Narottama
remained in an ecstatic loving trance as he traveled, like a maddened
elephant.
A continuous shower of tears streamed down his face, wetting his
chest.
Everyone who saw him observed his expressions of divine love with
astonishment.
As he passed through various villages the residents became
enchanted by his
presence and followed along behind him. Once he set foot in a
village, the
inhabitants ran to greet him, swarming around him like bumblebees.
And when he
left the village, the inhabitants sank into the depths of sorrow.

Traveling in this way he eventually reached the boarder of
Navadvipa. Observing
the beautiful countryside he began to lament, "Oh, most merciful Sri
Caitanya
Mahaprabhu, why have you sent me into this world now? Being
unable to witness
your divine pastimes in Nadia I am lost in intense suffering."
Thinking in this
way, he walked on very slowly, crying pitifully. But to his
astonishment, when
he entered Navadvipa proper, he found that each and every house
was full of joy
and happiness. In every corner the loud chanting of "Hari, Hari"
resounded.
From all directions men and women eagerly rushed to the house of
Sri Caitanya.
There the Lord and His associates danced ecstatically in sankirtana,
thus
Navadvipa was floating in the ocean of happiness.


For some time Narottama enjoyed the vision of this joyous scene,



when suddenly,
everything changed. Again the city of Nadia was sunk into the
depths of despair.
Narottama burst out crying, "Oh Lord, what have I seen?" Narottama
sat
thoughtfully for some time, then eventually asked a passerby where
he could
find the house of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. With his head hung
down, tears
streaming from his eyes, the man replied, "Look over there, that is
the house
of Prabhu, go in this way." Seeing the Lord's house Narottama began
to cry also.

At that time Suklambara brahmacari happened to be passing by and
his curiosity
was aroused upon seeing Narottama. Narottama bowed to his feet,
and Suklambara
asked, "Who are you"? When Narottama stated his name,
Suklambara immediately
broke out in tears and warmly embraced Narottama with deep
affection. With
a choked voice he explained to Narottama, "When Gauracandra was
absorbed in
ecstatic trance in the village of Ramakeli, He called out your name
lovingly.
Who can understand the mystery of the Lord's pastimes? At that time
he predicted
your arrival here. Oh my son, all the mahantas, including myself,
have been
eagerly waiting for you. Actually Prabhu's disappearance is
unbearable for us.
Some of us have already disappeared from this world."

He then introduced himself to Narottama and brought him to meet
all the other
remaining devotees of Gauranga. Narottama worshipped everyone's
feet, and they




embraced him. Though they were merged in intense suffering due to separation from the Lord, they felt immediate relief and happiness upon seeing Narottama.

They eagerly questioned Narottama about many things, and Narottama happily answered them all. Damodara Pandita and others did not want Narottama to leave them, thus Narottama stayed in Nadia a few more days in the houses of the favorite associates of Mahaprabhu. Narottama was so fortunate that in his dreams he was able to meet those devotees who he had not met there due to their demise.

After a few days passed the devotees reluctantly, and with heavy hearts, allowed Narottama to leave. They told him sweetly, "Prabhu has kept us alive only to see you. But, alas, we will not be able to see Srinivasa." Saying this, their voices choked with emotion. With a perturbed mind, Narottama touched everyone's feet and went to Gauracandra's house for a final visit. There he found even the servants and maidservants of Prabhu on the verge of death, due to separation. Seeing Narottama, their misery doubled. Blessing Narottama they said, "Due to the wish of Prabhu, you will execute His plans and perform wonderful service." Then they bade him farewell. Narottama cried loudly and fell on the ground in the courtyard of Gauranga. After a long time, he controlled himself and started for Santipura.


Narottama was charmed by the beauty of Santipura. He went to the



house of
Advaita Acarya and worshipped the feet of Sri Acyutananda, son of
Advaita
Prabhu. He was merciful to Narottama and introduced him to all the
devotes.
Later he ordered Narottama, "Go to Nilacala first and then come
back to your
place and begin to popularize kirtana." Saying this he began to weep
and his
thin body trembled. Narottama again worshipped the feet of all the
devotees and
took his leave.


Arriving at Harinadi village he crossed the Ganges and entered
Amvika. There he
asked someone where he could find the house of Hridaya Caitanya
Pandita, and
found out that he was not far away. Someone who had seen
Narottama pass by,
rushed ahead to Hridaya Caitanya and informed him excitedly, "A
beautiful young
man who is filled with love for Gaura-Nitai is coming to see you."
Sri Hridaya
Caitanya immediately understood that it was non-other than his
beloved
Narottama. Filled with emotion, he ran to the door step to welcome
his disciple.
Narottama fell at the feet of his guru, who tearfully welcomed him,
taking him
in his lap. He then took Narottama to the temple of Gaura-Nitai for
darsana.
Seeing his beloved Lord's before him, Narottama fell on the ground
crying.
Hridaya Caitanya pacified him and gave him the Deities garland.

With great affection, Sri Hridaya Caitanya kept Narottama with him
for 2 to 4
days and then, after dedicating him to the feet of Gaura-Nitai,



ordered him to
go to Nilacala. All the great Bhagavatas, including Sri Hrdaya
Caitanya, were
deeply aggrieved to see him go.

Narottama traveled quickly, eager to reach Khardaha. He became so
excited upon
entering Khardaha proper, that he lost his usual reserve. Mahesa
Pandita and
others rushed to greet Narottama when they saw him approaching.
"We were dying
with separation from the Lord," they said, "but now you have come
to soothe our
aching hearts, like a cooling oasis in the desert of misery. We have
known about
you for a long time and have already heard about your travels to
Vrndavana, the
stealing of the manuscripts, as well as your visit to Navadvipa. We
are so happy
to finally see you." Saying this they each introduced themselves, and
Narottama
tearfully worshipped their feet. Thereafter they took Narottama to
the house of
Prabhu. When Sri Vasu and Jahnava were told of Narottama's
arrival, they eagerly
requested that he be brought to the interior of the house immediately.
Entering
the room, Narottama felt himself extremely fortunate and
worshipped the feet of
the two Iswari's, then bowed to the lotus feet of Sri Virabhadra.
Upon seeing
Narottama, Sri Vasu and Jahnava could not conceal their
overwhelming love for
him. "The title Mahasaya is rightly attributed to him," they said. Out
of
affection, they kept Narottama with them for four days and all of the
devotees




of Khardaha came to meet him. Sri Vasu, Jahnava and Viracandra could not bear to leave him for a moment. The all-knowing Sri Jahnava Thakurani privately spoke to Narottama and ordered him to go to Nilacala soon. At the time of Narottama's departure, Mahesa Pandita and others embraced Narottama again and again and also advised him to go to Nilacala. Narottama bowed to their feet and took his leave crying. The devotees accompanied him for some distance, then after pacifying themselves, as well as Narottama, they returned home.

He who attentively hears this narration of Narottama's journey in Gauda will have his desires fulfilled. So listen attentively as I, Sri Narahari Dasa, narrate Narottama Vilasa.

THE FOURTH VILASA


All glories to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Nityananda Prabhu, Advaita Acarya, and all the devotees of the Lord. Please shower your mercy upon this poor soul. All glories to the all-merciful listeners. Now listen attentively as I narrate this episode of Narottama Vilasa.

As Sri Thakura Mahasaya began his journey to Nilacala his mind was filled with loving thoughts of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. With due reverence Narottama choose to take the same road which had formerly been traversed by Sri Caitanya Candra




Himself. At night Narottama halted at the same villages which the Lord had chosen as His resting place, and also discussed topics of Krsna with the local people, just as Mahaprabhu had done previously. When Narottama happened to meet someone who had personally met Mahaprabhu, he could not check his emotions and cried uncontrollably. Everyone who met Narottama was extremely pleased and immediately began glorifying him, "Sri Krsna Caitanya is the most merciful and loving incarnation. Only one who is His great devotee is capable of displaying such divine attributes as we see in this handsome young man. Just see how gracefully walks, and how comforting it is to one's eyes to simply glance upon his face." Speaking in this way the people became enchanted by the presence of Narottama. In the morning when it was time for Narottama to resume his journey crowds of local people swarmed around him, following along behind him as he walked. Narottama was unable to disperse the crowd, but eventually, with sweet words, he bid them farewell and continued his journey, halting only in those places where Mahaprabhu had performed His divine pastimes.

Narottama became ecstatic upon reaching the place where Nityananda Prabhu had broken the sannyasa stick of Sri Caitanya. He listened intently as the local people described this incidence, then, after expressing his gratitude to those persons, he continued along his way.



An aged brahmana, who was a great Vaisnava scholar, happened to pass Narottama on the road. Observing Narottama's devotional mood, suddenly something came to his mind. He slowly approached Narottama and asked mildly, "What is your name, my son? From where are you coming?"

Upon hearing Narottama's reply the brahmana's suspicion was confirmed. With tears of ecstasy rolling down his face the brahmana warmly embraced Narottama saying, "For so long I have heard about you and I was cherishing the hope of one day meeting you. Today providence has shown its mercy upon me. I have just come from Ksetra, where I received the mercy of those associates of Prabhu who are still alive in Nilacala, and now I have luckily found you here. With great pleasure I heard them describe your glories while I resided there. I heard that you were bringing books from Vrndavana to Gauda, but unfortunately they were stolen along the way. I also heard that you would soon be coming to Ksetra and everyone was eagerly waiting for you. Gopinatha Acarya and Kasi Misra explained that Mahaprabhu had called for you when He visited the village of Ramakeli. At that time Nityananda and other devotees were very happy and since then they have all been eagerly waiting for you. Today, I have received the good fortune to meet you personally, but now you must not delay. Go as quickly as possible to Ksetra and I shall meet you there later."




At that time the brahmana's son arrived there. He introduced his son to Narottama and ordered him to accompany Narottama to Ksetra. The brahmana then happily bade them farewell. Narottama took the dust of the feet of the brahmana to his head and started his journey with the son of the brahmana.

Upon reaching Ksetra, Narottama and his companion observed the beauty of Lake Narendra. Remembering the Lord's pastimes sporting within the water there, Narottama was unable to hold back his tears. He quickly took his bath and hurried off towards the Lion Gate.

At that time Sri Gopinatha Acarya and other devotees were also walking towards the Simhadvara. While walking Sri Sikhi Mahiti said to Mangaraja, "I can't understand why my mind is leaping with joy." And Kanai Khuntia said, "I don't understand what is about to happen but it is evident from the auspicious omens that something wonderful is awaiting us." Gopinatha Acarya told Vaninatha, "I think we are going to meet Narottama here soon."

As they were speaking in this way the brahmana's son approached them and informed them of Narottama's arrival. Who can describe the devotees jubilation upon receiving this news? The brahmana boy then rushed back to Narottama and helped him to identify the devotees who were approaching from a distance. Seeing all the devotees Narottama was overwhelmed with emotion. He immediately




fell on the ground bowing to their feet. With tears streaming from his eyes,
Gopinatha Acarya ran to greet Narottama and embraced him affectionately.

Later, when Narottama had calmed down, they took him to the temple to see Sri Jagannatha Deva. After entering through the Lion Gate, Narottama first bowed before Sri Nrsimha Deva. Upon seeing Sri Jagannatha along with Sri Balarama and Sri Subhadra sitting on Their thrones, Narottama was filled with ecstatic emotions. Sri Padmalocana, Sri Jagannatha Deva, benevolently bestowed His mercy upon Narottama. The priest of Sri Jagannatha Deva, understanding the mind of his Lord, brought Sri Jagannatha Deva's garland and offered it to Narottama.

Narottama was unable to control his emotions and wept incessantly. After pacifying Narottama, Gopinatha Acarya took him to his house. There he instructed one experienced person to accompany Narottama to the samadhis of the departed associates of the Lord. Thereafter he informed everyone of Narottama's arrival in Nilacala and brought varieties of mahaprasada from the temple for him.


Meanwhile, Narottama came across some persons who were talking to one another in this way: "Alas, Nilacala has now become the abode of misery. All the associates of Sri Gauracandra are gradually departing from this world. Sri Gopinatha Acarya and other great Vaisnavas have become lean and



weak." Someone
else said: "I recently visited Gopinatha and I cannot describe what I
saw there.
Unable to bear the misery of separation from Sri Caitanya
Mahaprabhu, Sri Mamu
Gosvami is practically lifeless. He is lying emaciated in a lonely
corner. I am
afraid that he will die soon." Overhearing this conversation,
Narottama's heart
ached with misery.

Narottama then traveled on to have darsana of Tota Gopinatha. The
vision of the
beautiful Lord with His shining black complexion seated upon His
throne could
easily defeat the pride of Cupid. Narottama, deeply moved, laid
prostrate before
the Deity crying. Seeing him the priest offered him the Lord's
garland.
Narottama and his escort then went to see the seat of Sri Pandita
Gosvami. He
fell on the ground before the seat, and, again the priest gave him a
garland.
Crying uncontrollably Narottama lamented, "Oh Gadadhara Pandita
Gosvami Prabhu,
how unfortunate I am for not having the opportunity to see you."
Narottama's
pathetic crying could melt even wood or stone.


Sri Mamu Gosvami, who had been lying in a half-unconscious state
crying,
suddenly got up and heaving a heavy sigh asked, "Who is crying?"
They replied,
"Narottama has arrived from Gauda." Upon hearing the name of
Narottama, he broke
out in floods of tears and embraced Narottama emotionally. Unable
to control
himself, Mamu Gosvami fell on the ground, and outcry of anguish



arose from
the devotees in the temple of Gopinatha. By the grace of the Lord,
Mamu Gosvami
gradually calmed down and everyone was pacified. Though
Gosvami's life was in
a precarious state, he was exceedingly happy to see Narottama and
asked about
his well being. Hearing Narottama's sweet words, Mamu Gosvami
became extremely
moved by Narottama's sweet words and thus dedicated Narottama to
the feet of
Gopinatha and ordered him, "Go to see the tomb of Haridasa
Thakura, Gopinatha
Acarya is waiting for you there."

Without delay, Narottama and his escort went to the tomb of
Haridasa Thakura on
the seashore. He was so shaken to see the tomb that no one could
pacify him.
Eventually, the Vaisnava in charge of the samadhi, managed to
slightly console
Narottama and sent him to Gopinatha Acarya's house. Gopinatha
Acarya, a very
warm hearted person, with tender words encouraged Narottama to sit
peacefully
by his side and told him, "Everyone here is greatly eager to see you.
Take some
rest now and afterwards you can meet all the devotees."


How can I describe the state of mind of the residents of Nilacala?
Due to the
Lord's disappearance, they had given up eating, drinking and
sleeping. They
lived only in hopes of seeing Narottama. Thus when they saw
Narottama
approaching their houses, they eagerly rushed out to greet him. As
Narottama's
escort introduced each devotee, they affectionately embraced him



and Narottama
and touched their feet. Thereafter they went to the house of
Gopinatha who
lovingly offered them seats. Everyone had questions to ask
Narottama and he
answered them all, reporting everything in detail. Thereafter
Gopinatha Acarya
requested the devotees to relish mahaprasada along with Narottama.
After washing
their mouths, they returned to their houses and requested Narottama
to take some
rest.


When it was time to go to the temple, Narottama got up and took his
bath and
Kanai Khuntia took him to the temple of Jagannatha. Narottama
remained there
throughout the afternoon, observing all three arati ceremonies
{sandhya
(evening) and sayana (at bed time)} one after another. He and Kanai
Khuntia
then returned to the house of Gopinatha Acarya. No one wanted to
give up
Narottama's association, but on the order of Acarya, they took their
leave.
Gopinatha, whose affection for Narottama was beyond compare,
then requested him
to take rest. After Narottama went to bed, Gopinatha also entered
into his room.

However, Narottama's mind was too agitated and he was unable to
sleep. Yet
after some time, by the wish of the Lord, he finally fell asleep and in
his
dream he saw his worshipful Lord and all the devotees dancing in
front of the
chariot of Sri Jagannatha. He saw Sri Krsna Caitanya, Nitai, Sri
Advaita,



Gadadhara Pandita Gosvami, Srivasa Pandita, Murari Gupta,
Govinda, Haridasa,
Kasi Misra, Ramananda Raya, Vasudeva Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya,
Kasisvara,
Jagadisa Pandita, Vasu Ghosh, Mukunda, Madhava, Vakresvara,
Govinda dasa, Mahesa
Pandita, Damodara, Svarupa Gosvami, Suklambara brahmacari,
Dasa Gadadhara, Yadu,
Sri Kansari, Sridhara, Suryadasa, Ramai Sundara, Dhananjaya,
Ramananda Vasu
Ghosh, Sankara, Sanjaya, Lokanatha, Bhugarbha, Sri Rupa,
Sanatana, Sri Jiva,
Gopala Bhatta, Krsnadasa brahmacari, Pandita Raghava,
Paramananda Bhattacharya,
Acarya Madhava, Raghunatha, Raghunatha Bhatta, Sri Tapan
Misra, King Sri
Prataparudra, Acarya Gopinatha, Sri Sikhi Mahiti etc.

He saw all Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's devotees from Gauda, Vraja,
Utkala and
South India performing pastimes with the Lord. Who could describe
the
extraordinary captivating beauty of this scene? Sri Gauracandra
danced in the
middle surrounded by all the devotees. Inspired by the Lord's
presence, the
devotees performed ecstatic sankirtana, joyfully dancing, singing
and playing
musical instruments. The atmosphere was so divine that even the
demigods came
down from their heavenly abodes to enjoy the Lord's pastimes. As
the sound of
sankirtana penetrated the air, the entire three worlds began to float
on waves
of happiness. Huge crowds of people eagerly pushed forward to get a
glimpse of
the Lord's beautiful dancing, as the demigods showered flowers on



Mahaprabhu's
head. Even the lame, the blind and the deaf suddenly forgot their
handicaps and
dashed forward to join in the sankirtana. Even stone hearted persons
wept in
joy upon hearing the melodious chanting. Even the animals and birds
became
restless.


Standing in the corner Narottama joyfully watched this wonderful
scene with
tears rolling down his cheeks. Seeing Narottama, Sri Caitanya
Mahaprabhu, in
trance, grabbed hold of Narottama's hands and said mildly, "You
must manifest
a new type of kirtana which will have the potency to mesmerize the
people.
Through your songs and music you should explain My pastimes and
mission. Don't
worry about anything, all your desires will be fulfilled. Now go to
Gauda as
soon as possible and preach the glories of devotional service. Those
who are
fortunate enough to take shelter in you, will receive the most
precious wealth
of love of God. Soon you will link up with Ramacandra, son of
Ciranjiva Sena.
What else can I say? I shall always take care of you." All the
devotees of the
Lord were extremely happy to see Lord Caitanya shower His mercy
so profusely
upon Narottama. Nityananda, Advaita, Gadadhara, Haridasa,
Sarvabhauma, Ramananda
Raya, Srivasa, Vakresvara and others embraced Narottama tightly.
Narottama fell
on the ground in a pool of tears. Mahaprabhu's devotees consoled
Narottama and



advised him to go to Gauda.

Suddenly Narottama awoke with a heavy heart. Somehow he managed to calm himself and hastily finished his morning duties. Afterwards, Gopinatha Acarya sent him with Sikhi Mahiti to Sri Jagannatha Deva's arati. As soon as Narottama began to think about going to Gauda, Lord Jagannatha's garland fell from His neck and the priest gave Narottama that garland. Narottama considered this the Lord's indication to him to leave at once for Gauda. After bowing to the feet of Jagannatha, he went to the house of Gopinatha Acarya and before Narottama could say anything, Gopinatha said, "The Lord has ordered you to go to Gauda." Thus after consulting with the other mahantas of Sriksetra a date was fixed for Narottama's departure.


When Narottama was about to leave the devotees held his hands and said happily, "We eagerly waited to meet you for so long, now are dreams have finally been fulfilled. We are also hoping to have so good fortune to meet Srinivasa Acarya, and perhaps someday we will have the darsana of the exalted Dukhi Krsnadasa, who is now called Syamananda." Saying this they began to weep. Hearing their loving words Narottama was also moved to tears. After assigning an escort to accompany Narottama, they reluctantly bade farewell. Narottama began his journey along with his escort who carefully carried a basket of mahaprasada.



With a heavy heart and tear filled eyes, Narottama traveled until reaching
Narendra lake. There he met the brahmana and his son whom he had met upon
arriving at Ksetra. Narottama took the dust of his feet to his head and the
brahmana embraced him saying, "Oh my dear Narottama, you are more dear to me
than my life. I knew that you would be passing by today on your way to Gauda so
I finished my duties as quickly as possible. Now, by the mercy of Jagannatha
Deva, you have come. If I would have missed you I would have burned in the fire
of my own sorrow." He did not want to let Narottama go but he had to. He blessed
Narottama and walking along with him begging again and again to come with him,
but Narottama would not consent.


Narottama then started walking swiftly. He took rest for two days at Yajapura
and then went on to Nrsimhapura. Someone who spotted him rushed ahead and
informed Syamananda that Sri Thakura Mahasaya was coming from Ksetra. Syamananda
was overwhelmed with ecstasy. Hurriedly, he and his men rushed to greet Sri
Thakura Mahasaya. Seeing each other, they were both overcome with emotion and
wept and bowed to each other continuously. Narottama held Syamananda tightly to his
bosom and did not want to be separated.

Those who observed their meeting were amazed. Someone said, "Oh, how incredible,
I have never seen anything so wonderful in my life." Another person commented,



"Oh, how lucky I am to see Sri Thakura Mahasaya for whom I was waiting for such a long time." Someone else said, "Will we be so fortunate as to see Acarya Thakura once in our life?" Another person answered, "Certainly Srinivasa Acarya will bestow his mercy upon us." Even the villagers came running to see Sri Thakura Mahasaya. Although Syamananda arranged a solitary house for Sri Thakura Mahasaya, still the people came to see Narottama in his house. Those persons who had the extraordinary good fortune to receive Thakura Mahasaya and Syamananda's association and mercy were fortunate beyond compare. The entire country became blessed by contact with Sri Syamananda (Narottama?).

Sri Thakura Mahasaya happily bathed and performed his other duties. Afterwards he sat down with Syamananda, who slowly informed Narottama, "A few days ago Acarya Thakura left Vanavisnupura for Yajigrama. Yesterday afternoon I received this letter. Please look at it." Narottama cried joyfully and happily read the letter with the utmost care. Syamananda then explained, "He sent another letter along with mahaprasada from Sri Amvika." Again Narottama's heart surged with happiness and he praised Syamananda for his good fortune. Touching the mahaprasada to his head, he ate some of it and became mad with joy. Sri Thakura Mahasaya ordered his men, "Bring the mahaprasada of Sri Jagannatha and gave some of it to Syamananda." Narottama then carefully explained to



Syamananda,
"The associates of Lord Caitanya who are still alive in Nilacala are now suffering greatly due to the miserable fire of separation. I cannot describe their condition. Only due to the Lord's desire they are still alive. They are simply waiting to see you. So, please do not make delay, start for Nilacala at once. After touching the feet of the devotees there, go to Utkala and benedict the people there by distributing the sublime treasure of pure devotional service. After some time I will send you a letter, requesting you and your men to go to Kheturi."

Syamananda and Narottama stayed together a few more days, meanwhile the entire village came to know of Syamananda and Narottama's eminent departure. Who could describe the sadness at the time of their separation? All of Syamananda's disciples cried miserably, especially Rasika Murari could not stop crying. Sri Thakura Mahasaya affectionately embraced him and was extremely loving and merciful to all those who had taken shelter at the feet of Syamananda. Thakura Mahasaya blessed all of them and then started for Gauda. At this point Syamananda helplessly broke out in tears and no one could pacify him. Thereafter, with a heavy heart, Syamananda began his journey to Nilacala. I have described Syamananda's journey to Nilacala in Bhakti-ratnakara.




Please listen attentively as I, Narahari, narrate Narottama Vilasa.

THE FIFTH VILASA


All glories to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Nityananda, Advaita and all the devotees. Please bestow your mercy upon this poor soul. All glories to the merciful listeners. Now listen attentively as I continue my narration.

When Narottama arrived at the famous village of Srikhanda in Gauda, someone spotted him approaching the house of Sarkara Thakura and rushed ahead to announce his arrival: "A very attractive man with a magnificent gait is coming this way, along with four other persons. Most likely he is coming from Nilacala." Thakura immediately understood that it was none other than Narottama. Seeing Narottama in the distance, Sri Raghunandana rushed to greet him. When the local people informed Narottama about Raghunandana, he happily fell on the ground offering obeisances as Raghunandana approached him running. Raghunandana immediately embraced Narottama. Speechless with emotion he cried uncontrollably. Gradually he managed to calm himself and quickly took Narottama to his house. There Narottama saw Sri Sarkara Thakura and fell at his feet. Though Sarkara Thakura was sunk in the ocean of sorrow due to separation from the Lord, when he saw Narottama he was overwhelmed with joy. He took Narottama in his lap and tearfully told him, "I am so happy to see you. In



Mahaprabhu's
absence, He will distribute love of God through you. Many fallen
souls will
take shelter in you, and you will spread the Lord's ecstatic message
by
manifesting a new type of kirtana. In this way all your desires will be
fulfilled by the mercy of Lord Caitanya. Do not worry about
anything. You
should go to Kheturi via Yajigrama, as Srinivasa Acarya recently
returned from
Vanavisnupura and is eagerly waiting for you there. He is constantly
thinking
about you. Yesterday he came here but returned to his house on the
same day."
After that he asked Narottama about Sri Ksetra and Narottama
vividly reported
everything, which filled Sarkara Thakura with ecstatic emotions.
Checking his
sentiments, Thakura ordered Sri Raghunandana to take Narottama to
the courtyard
of Gauranga.

Upon seeing the Deity of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Narottama
could not control
himself and fell on the ground in a pool of tears. The priest tried to
console
him by offering him the garland from the Deity. Having heard of
Narottama's
arrival, the inhabitants of Srikhanda eagerly gathered in the
courtyard of
Gauranga to greet and praise Narottama. Narottama then took some
mahaprasada to
the house of Sri Sarkara and asked Raghunandana to offer it to
Sarkara Thakura,
who became ecstatic upon eating the prasada of Sri Jagannatha. He
then ordered
Sri Raghunandana to distribute the mahaprasada to all the devotees.




Thus
everyone relished the prasada, while absorbed in memories of Sri
Gauranga and
His pastimes in Nilacala. Thereafter they sat together and enjoyed
discussions
about Sri Krsna. In this way the devotees happily treasured
Narottama's
association and could not even think of being separated from him.

In the morning, Narottama finished his daily duties, took darsana of
Sri
Gauranga, and went to meet Sarkara Thakura. With deep feeling and
gravity
Thakura looked at Narottama and said, "How peaceful it is to look
upon your
face. I shall not have this opportunity a second time." Narottama
could not
bear this sad thought and fell at Thakura's feet crying. Sri Thakura
embraced
Narottama and bade him farewell. Narottama bowed to the feet of all
the
inhabitants of Srikhanda and began his journey. Sri Raghunandana,
not wanting
to leave Narottama's company, walked along with him for some
distance. He then
appointed one man to accompany Narottama to Yajigrama and
tearfully said
goodbye.

Upon reaching Yajigrama, the escort pointed to one house and said,
"That is
the house of Srinivasa Acarya where he teaches his students."

In the meantime someone reported to Acarya that Sri Thakura
Mahasaya had come
from Sri Ksetra. Srinivasa Acarya at once got up and hurried towards
the door,
when Narottama suddenly entered the house. Seeing each other, their



hearts
leapt with joy and both of them burst into tears. Narottama fell at
Acarya's
feet and Acarya lovingly embraced him. Who can understand the
nature of such
exalted personalities? Although physically two different persons,
they were of
suchlike minds that they felt as if one. When they had calmed down
they sat and
conversed together intently.

In the meantime, a learned brahmana, who had come from Ksetra in
hopes of
studying the books of the Gosvamis, arrived there. He politely
submitted himself
before Srinivasa, who inquired from him about events in Sri
Nilacala.
Heaving a heavy sigh, the brahmana said tearfully, "Nilacala has lost
her
jewels. Since the day that Thakura Mahasaya left a chain of
miserable events
has come to reign there. Practically all the associates of Sri Caitanya
Mahaprabhu began to disappear from this world. Syamananda faced
terrible
miseries when he arrived there. Only due to the will of the Lord, was
he able
to maintain his life. Those who are still alive, consoled Syamananda
and bade
him farewell. Then he returned to his own place. I witnessed all of
this with
my own eyes and was unable to stay there any longer, so I started
walking and
didn't not stop until I reached Gauda." Saying this the brahmana
began to cry,
calling out the names of the departed devotees of Ksetra. Acarya
Thakura,
Narottama, Vyasa Cakravarti and Krsnavallabha all cried along with




him.

Considerable time passed before Acarya Thakura was able to console himself and the brahmana. He then arranged accommodations for the brahmana and from that day began teaching him. Who knows what Acarya Thakura and Narottama discussed privately amongst themselves?

The next day morning, Thakura Mahasaya took his leave of Acarya Thakura. Acarya Thakura stood stone-like staring at the path which Narottama traversed, bathing himself with his own tears. Vyasa Cakravarti and a few other devotees accompanied Narottama for some distance, until Narottama very lovingly forbade them go any further.

Narottama eventually arrived at Kantakanagara, the place of Sri Kesava Bharati. Who can describe Narottama's condition upon seeing Dasa Gadadhara's Deity of Sri Gauranga there? Sri Yadunandana Cakravarti, the disciple of Sri Gadadhara and a scholar of all scriptures, became excited when he saw Narottama and hurried out of the temple to greet him. He offered the Lord's garland to Narottama and embraced him warmly with tears in his eyes. In a choked voice he told Narottama, "It is so wonderful that you have finally come here. Prabhu Gadadhara has been impatiently waiting for you for a long time. Again and again he has asked me, 'Go see whether Narottama has come yet.' Oh my dear brother, what can I say? The ocean of misery is extremely turbulent here.




After the
demise of Sri Visnupriya Iswari, my Prabhu returned from
Navadvipa and has been
spending his days alone here. Lost in an ocean of misery, he is
unable to eat
and has become completely emaciated."

Saying this he took Narottama to Dasa Gadadhara who was sitting
alone with dust
all over his body. His closed eyes continuously shed tears. Merged in
thoughts
of Sri Gaurahari, he sighed heavily and repeatedly uttered, "Hari,
Hari." At an
opportune moment, Yadunandana said quietly, "Narottama has come
from Ksetra."


As soon as the name of Narottama entered his ears, Sri Gadadhara
opened his eyes
crying loudly. With outstretched hands, he embraced Narottama
soaking him with
his tears. Narottama touched the feet of Gadadhara and reported
everything to
him about his recent travels. Blessing Narottama, Sri Gadadhara
said, "All your
desires will be fulfilled. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu will definitely
dance along
with your kirtana. Now you should go to Kheturi and distribute love
of God to
the people there."

Sri Yadunandana then took Narottama to another dwelling place and
said, "See,
this is the place where Sri Kesava Bharati lived. And here is the
place where
Prabhu cut His hair and took sannyasa from Bharati." At this point
they broke
into tears and Narottama fell unconscious on the ground. A long time
passed




before they were able to enter into the temple and observe the beautiful Deity of Gauracandra. Narottama stayed there for the day and the following morning, thinking of the lotus feet of Sri Nityananda Balarama, he started for Ekacakra village in Radha.

At the entrance of the village Nityananda, in the guise of an old brahmana, asked Narottama, "What is your name and from where are you coming? Where will you go and for what purpose?" Narottama replied, "I am Narottama, coming from Ksetra. I have come to the birth place of Nityananda, whose parents were Padmavati and Hadai Pandita, because I want to see the sacred places where Sri Nityananda Prabhu performed his pastimes. I live on the other side of the Padmavati in Sri Kheturi and from here I shall return there." Hearing Narottama's sweet words, the old brahmana smiled and without disclosing anything said, "I know everything. Come along with me, I shall show you all." The brahmana guided Narottama to a particular spot and said, "See, this is the place where Nityananda and His friends enjoyed grazing cattle like the Gopas. Nityananda roamed about in this area holding His club and plow. And this is the place where He performed Ramalila. As Balarama performed His pastimes in Svetadvipa, similarly Nityananda performed His pastimes here. Now let me show you the house of Hadai Pandita where Nityananda Raya took birth. Here is the



spot where He held a snake. See, over here, this is where His Gurukarana ceremony was performed. Now look at this temple of Visnu where He used to worship the Lord. This is where that sannyasi came and ate and afterwards begged Nityananda from his father. This is the road by which the sannyasi and Nityananda left, followed by all the inhabitants of this village. In this spot Nityananda's mother loudly lamented for her son, and over here Hadai Pandita rolled on the ground in anguish at losing his son. Here Padmavati devi laid unconscious and Hadai Pandita consoled her. Oh Narottama, mind these places which I am showing you are beyond the grasp of even the demigods. In this Ekacakra village, Nityananda Raya still performs His pastimes and only the fortunate can see them." Saying this much, the brahmana vanished. The sudden disappearance of the old brahmana bewildered Narottama. "What is this," he thought, "one moment he was here and then he vanished like a bolt from the blue." Narottama became extremely restless and thought, "If I cannot see him anymore, I shall commit suicide by entering into fire." Saying this Narottama began to lament pitifully. Nityananda Haladhara who is an ocean of mercy again appeared before Narottama in the guise of the old brahmana. This time, the brahmana suddenly turned into Balarama, carrying his club and plow, wearing a topknot on his head and dressed in beautiful garments. Then suddenly Balarama turned into



Nityananda. Smilingly
he said to Narottama, "You are my favorite, I have no intention to
deceive you.
Very soon all your desires will be fulfilled. But don't disclose to
anyone that
you have seen Me here." Saying this He disappeared. Narottama
stood transfixed
like a statue, unable to move or speak. He stayed that day at
Ekacakra and the
following morning, while glorifying Nityananda Prabhu, King of
Ekacakra, the
son of Rohini and the life of the most fallen souls, Narottama began
his
journey. Crossing over the Padmavati river he headed towards
Kheturi.

Listen attentively as I, Narahari, narrated this Narottama Vilasa.

THE SIXTH VILASA

All glories to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Nityananda Prabhu, Advaita
Acarya and
all the devotees. Please bestow your benedictions upon this fallen
soul. All
glories to the merciful listeners. Now hear attentively as I continue
this
narration.


At an auspicious time, Narottama crossed the Padmavati and entered
Sri Kheturi.
People from every corner of the village happily flocked to see him.
Sri Santosa
Datta and others greeted Sri Thakura Mahasaya and arranged
accommodations for
him in a solitary house. Nevertheless, the house was packed until the
evening



with enthusiastic villagers eager for his darsana.

In the evening when Narottama was finally alone, he began to think deeply about his devotional service to Sri Krsna. Eventually, by the Lord's arrangement, he finally fell asleep late in the evening. In a dream the son of Saci told him, "Oh Narottama, in the hope of your coming here, I hid Myself in the form of a metal Deity in the house of an influential landlord. Everyone knows him because he is a rich man with many rice-go-downs, but no one will approach these go-downs because they are full of poisonous snakes. In one of the bigger go-downs I have concealed Myself. Quickly go and open the door of that go-down and bring Me to your house." He then advised Narottama to have more Deities made and then vanished after embracing him.


Narottama excitedly woke to find that it was still dark. He spent the rest of the night performing sankirtana and in the morning quickly completed his daily duties. He then asked various persons if they knew of a rich man who had many rice go-downs which were infested with snakes. Everyone knew the man, and Narottama requested them to take him there. Thus Narottama, along with a few others, went to the rich man's house, who was greatly surprised and happy to receive them. Sri Thakura Mahasaya immediately proceeded straight towards the rice go-down. The rich man was horrified, falling at Narottama's feet he begged



with folded hands, "Everyone knows that these go-downs are infested with snakes. Many snake tamers have tried to clear them out but their attempts were in vain. Long ago I gave up hope of getting rid of the snakes and, although I lost considerable money, I was forced to close the buildings down. I could not possibly allow you to go inside. Please tell me, what I can do for you?"


Thakura Mahasaya simply laughed and said, "Don't be nervous, I shall clear it out now. I have very important business to attend to within your go-down. Afterwards you will be relieved and happy to see what I will bring out from inside." Saying this, Thakura Mahasaya undauntedly walked towards the go-down, as the spectators trembled in fear. But when the snakes saw Thakura Mahasaya, they immediately left the go-down and went away. In a trance of love, Narottama opened the door and found Navadvipa Candra with His consort. Their bodies were fully decorated with ornaments and Their brilliant beauty was beyond compare. When Narottama picked Them up and lovingly clasped Them to his heart, he was suddenly jolted as if struck by a bolt of lightning.

Everyone was spellbound to see the Deities and began shouting with joy. Someone remarked, "It is not possible for an ordinary human being to do such a thing." Someone else said, "Who can understand him? Because of his presence our village has become blessed." Another person commented, "If we are



fortunate enough,
perhaps we can receive his blessings." All of them danced happily,
calling out
the name of Narottama.


As Narottama carried the Deities, a huge crowd followed along
behind him. Upon
reaching his house, he placed Sri Gauranga and His consort on a
beautiful
celestial seat. With unblinking eyes he stared at the Lord crying
incessantly.
Suddenly a thought came to his mind and began spontaneously
singing a beautiful
kirtana about the glories of Gauracandra which he had written but
had not yet
been heard by others. Narottama sang and danced gracefully, putting
the
Gandharvas to shame. Even the Yavanas and the wicked souls
became mad and sang
the glories of Gauranga's pastimes. The sound of kirtana covered the
entire
world and the demigods showered flowers from the heavens.
Gandharvas and
Kinnaras remarked with amazement, "Who is that extraordinary
person who has
suddenly manifested this most sublime and beautiful kirtana? Even
we are not
familiar with this type of singing. It appears that the dance, music
and
instruments have all become personified by his singing. Some of the
devotees of
Caitanya have this type of extraordinary power. All the devotees of
Sri Caitanya
Mahaprabhu are worshipable by even the demigods and goddesses."
Saying this,
they accepting the guise of human beings, came before Narottama
and fell at his



feet. Thus from that very special day the super-excellent kirtana of Sri Narottama dasa Thakura was inaugurated. On that same day Balarama Vipra and others happily took initiation from Sri Thakura.

With a satisfied heart, Sri Thakura Mahasaya began to serve Gauracandra and Laksmi Visnupriya. He appointed Balarama Vipra and others to take charge of the Deities' service. As ordered in a dream, he also installed five more Deities.

After this he began to feel anxious about not having heard from Srinivasa Acarya for so long. He wanted to find out some news, but thought, "Without his permission, how can I send anyone to see him? Yet no one has come from Yajigrama in such a long time. Now, I am at a loss as to what to do." Just as he was thinking in this way a man suddenly arrived from Yajigrama. With great relief Thakura Mahasaya eagerly inquired about events there. The devotee replied, "Everything is fine there, but Acarya Thakura is always thinking of you and missing your association. He regularly visits Sri Khanda and Kantakanagara, and has also gone to Navadvipa. One day when he was in Khanda, Sri Sarkara Thakura spoke with him and again requested that he marry. This time he could not disobey Thakura. Thus he married and settled at Yajigrama, where many scholars and learned persons regularly visit. Now Ramacandra, a learned son of Sri Ciranjiva Sena of Khanda, has become the disciple of Acarya, and



many others have also accepted initiation from him.

He has also successfully distributed all of the books of the Gosvamis. He sent a message to Sri Vrndavana, and one man brought a reply along with more books written by Sri Jiva Gosvami. Acarya has already distributed these new books everywhere.


Recently Srinivasa received a letter from Navadvipa, carrying devastating news.

Many of the Lord's associates from Santipura and the surrounding areas, who were suffering intensely in the fire of separation, have now left this world.

Hearing about the demise of Sri Sarkara Thakura and Sri Dasa Gadadhara, Srinivasa Acarya sank deep in the ocean of despair. I cannot describe his state of mind. Sometimes we were afraid of his life. One day being unable to bear the pain of separation, he left for Vrndavana without telling anyone.

The Gosvamis were overjoyed to have Srinivasa's company. They happily sat him down and inquired about his well-being and listened intently to the full account of carrying the manuscripts to Gauda. In this way they happily spent four or five days together.

Around that time, Sri Ramacandra Sena came there to meet Srinivasa Acarya. When the Gosvamis were informed of Ramacandra's scholarly capabilities, they conferred upon him the title of "Kaviraja." The Gosvamis eagerly listened as



Ramacandra gave a full account of Srinivasa Acarya's marriage.

Thereafter Sri Jiva Gosvami and the others gladly handed over more books to

Srinivasa Acarya, appointed four Vrajavasis to accompany him, and bade him

farewell. Sri Gopala Bhatta, Lokanatha, and everyone there was extremely sad to

see him leave. Srinivasa quickly returned to Gauda and then went to Visnupura

to relieve the king. I heard that he would be coming soon to Yajigrama, so

I immediately came here to inform you."

During the course of this conversation, two messengers suddenly arrived with

another letter for Narottama from Sri Acarya and Narottama happily read aloud,

"I left my house, along with my followers, and went to Kancanagaria where

I initiated two devotees, who are the bearers of this letter. These two brothers, Sridasa and Gokulananda, are the sons of Dvija Haridasa, a prominent

follower of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Being ordered by their father, they

accepted initiation from Me. Yesterday I left Kancanagaria and started for

Vudhuri."


Reading this, Narottama exclaimed, "Oh what a wonderful morning for me," and

happily escorted the two messengers to the temple of Sri Gaura.

There he

introduced them to Balarama Pujari, who gladly brought them mahaprasada.


Thakura Mahasaya then went to inspect whether all the preparations for the



forthcoming festival were ready or not. He was happy to find that all the go-downs were full of commodities. He then engaged various persons to specific assignments for further preparations. The next morning he left, along with Devidasa, Gokula and Gauranga and started for Vudhuri.

When Narottama reached Vudhuri someone rushed ahead and announced his arrival to Sri Acarya, who happily hurried out of the house and found Narottama standing there. Narottama fell at his feet, and Sri Acarya Thakura embraced him warmly. He then introduced Narottama to Ramacandra and the other devotees.

Sitting in a quiet place they discussed many topics; Srinivasa explained how he had met Ramacandra and initiated him, how his marriage had occurred, how Ramacandra received the title "Kaviraja," his journey from Yajigrama to Vudhuri and how he conferred the title of "Kaviraja" upon Govinda. He then inquired about Narottama's well being, and Narottama gradually explained how Sri Santosa Raya and others had become his disciples, how he rescued the Deity of Sri Gaurahari and arranged to have five more Deities carved and how he was making preparations for the forthcoming great festival. Narottama said, "As soon as I received your letter, I decided to hold the festival on the full-moon day of Phalgun." Thereafter they sat together and compiled a list of devotees to invite to the festival and immediately sent out the invitation letter to




all
the devotees of Sri Gaurangamandala. Narottama also wrote a letter
inviting
Syamananda from Utkala. Sri Acarya and Narottama then sat
together discussing
privately. Later, Sri Acarya put Ramacandra under the care of
Narottama.

Within a few days, news of Sri Acarya, Narottama and Ramacandra
spread like
wildfire. In every corner people were speaking about them: "They
have mercifully
appeared in this world to save the fallen souls from this hellish
material
existence." Another person said, "Although three separate persons,
they are so
deeply united that they appear to be one."


After four days had passed Sri Acarya permitted Narottama to return
to Kheturi
and instructed Ramacandra and others to accompany him. Upon
arriving in Kheturi
they immediately went for darsana of Sri Gauranga. There they
happily met the
disciples of Thakura Mahasaya, who were all abodes of
transcendental qualities.
Thereafter they inquired about the preparations for the festival and
were
pleased to find an enormous collection of the necessary
commodities. Sri Thakura
Mahasaya arranged separate private houses for Ramacandra and the
others, where
they all waited anxiously for the arrival of Sri Acarya.

Shortly thereafter, when Sri Acarya Thakura, along with Govinda
and other
devotees, arrived in Kheturi, a wonderful scene ensued as all the
Vaisnavas ran



out to greet them. They happily escorted Sri Acarya to a beautiful house and then took him for darsana of Sri Gauranga. Upon seeing the Deity along with His consort, Laksmi-Visnupriya, Acarya was filled with ecstatic love. He then saw the other five Deities and was equally overjoyed to see each one. Sri Acarya then inspected the go-downs, but his mind was constantly distracted by thoughts of Sri Syamananda Prabhu. As he was thinking in this way, someone suddenly announced that Syamananda had just arrived from Utkala.

Hearing this, Acarya and his men dashed to welcome him. When Syamananda and his companions entered the house of Sri Acarya, Syamananda could not check his emotions. They embraced, soaking each other with their tears. Acarya then asked about Syamananda's well being. The same emotional scene occurred when Narottama arrived there. Sri Thakura Mahasaya then introduced Syamananda to all the Vaisnavas, and Sri Syamananda in turn introduced Rasikananda and his other devotees. Sridasa, Gokulananda, Vyasa Cakravarti, Ramacandra and Govinda Kaviraja were extremely happy to meet Cattaraja, Ramakrsna, Kumuda and the others. Narottama then took Ramacandra and Syamananda to a beautiful house and said to Rasikananda affectionately, "My dear Rasikananda, try to manage everything smoothly and peacefully. Be very careful to look after the guests so they do not experience any inconvenience." Rasikananda listened



humbly with
folded hands and remained quiet. His humility charmed the heart of
Narottama.

Thakura Mahasaya and Ramacandra returned to Sri Acarya's place
and sent Sri

Govinda Kaviraja to take Syamananda to the temple of Sri
Gaurasundara.

Syamananda was ecstatic to see the beautiful form of the Lord and
requested to

see the other five Deities. Govinda also showed Syamananda the
store rooms. Sri

Rasikananda, Purusottama, Sri Kisora and other devotees had
brought many items

from home to contribute for the festival. Thus their gifts were added
to the

huge stock. In this way the commodities increased and the store
rooms bulged

with goods. Syamananda then went to Sri Acarya's place and
together they

relished discussions about Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. In this way that
wonderful

day came to a close.

In the morning everyone completed their daily duties and began to
wonder why

Sri Jahnava Devi had not arrived in Kheturi yet. As they were
thinking in this


way, a brahmana arrived and reported that Sri Jahnava Iswari had
just crossed

the River Padmavati. Everyone happily scrambled towards the bank
of the river

to greet Sri Iswari. The news rapidly spread and people came
running from all

directions.

After bowing to her feet, Acarya asked about her well-being. She
replied, "Upon



receiving your letter we were all extremely anxious to come to Kheturi at once."

At that time when Jahnava had received the invitation to Kheturi, Krsnadasa

Atyudara, the elder brother of Suryadasa Sarkhela, was also present there.

Hearing about the forthcoming festival, Srila Raghupati Upadhyaya, Murari,

Caitanya, Jnanadasa, Manohara, Kamalakara Pippalai, Sri Jiva Pandita, Madhava

Acarya, Nrsimha Caitanya Dasa, Kanai, Sankara, Sri Gaurangadasa, Vrndavana, Sri

Minaketana, Ramadasa, Nakari, Sri Balarama and others, bowed to the feet of

the two Iswaris and humbly said, "We would also like to go to Kheturi." Hearing

this Sri Jahnava happily requested Sri Paramesvara dasa to begin preparations

for their journey immediately.

On the day of Sri Iswari's departure, many Vaisnavas from distant places came to

see Sri Iswari and when they came to know about the festival, they also were

eager to go along with her. They enthusiastically rushed back to their houses

and began preparing for the journey. For this reason the entire party was held

up for some time.

At the time of their departure they suddenly heard a deep voice speaking to them

from the sky saying, "Srinivasa and Narottama are extremely dear to Me and are

empowered by Me to distribute divine love. I am completely bound by their love.

In Kheturi you will all see Me dance in the sankirtana along with My companions.

The power of My love will drive the three worlds mad and no one



will escape.

Your journey will certainly be a great success. Everyone is eagerly waiting for you. From Kheturi, you should go to Vrndavana, and when you return from Vrndavana you should distribute pure devotional love to everyone."

Upon hearing this voice, Sri Iswari wept with joy, and all the great personalities assembled there were overcome with happiness. Sri Jahnava consoled

Sri Vasu devi, Ganga and Viracandra and, chanting the holy names of Gaura

Nityananda, she and her party began their journey by boat to Kheturi. Meanwhile, news of Sri Iswari's future trip to Vraja via Kheturi spread everywhere.

After some distance, they stopped the boat and Sri Iswari visited the house of

a fortunate merchant who was always absorbed in the glories of Nityananda

Prabhu. His love overflowed to have Iswari in his house. Favoring them, Sri

Iswari decided to take rest for the day in his house. Raghunatha Khaja, son of

Bhagavan and favorite disciple of Jagadisa Pandita, came to meet Iswari at that time.


Early the next morning they started for Amvika, where Sri Hrdaya Caitanya

greeted Sri Iswari. Seeing the Deities there of Nitai Caitanyacandra, she was

filled with ecstatic emotions, and thereafter she and her companions took


prasada. Sri Jahnava reported everything to Hrdaya Caitanya who also decided to

go to Kheturi. In the meantime, Sri Caitanyadasa, son of Sri



Vansivadana, came
to meet Sri Iswari and also decided to go to Kheturi. At that time one
man came
from Santipura and reported that Sri Acyutananda, son of Advaita
Prabhu, was
practically dead due to the unbearable misery of separation from the
Lord. His
mother, Sri Sita, ordered him to go to Kheturi and thus they planned
to start
in the morning. Hearing this, Sri Iswari became so happy that she
immediately
instructed him to tell Acyutananda that he should travel along with
her party.
Sri Iswari and her companions happily spent that night in the house
of Hrdaya
Caitanya Pandita. In the morning she observed Sri Mangala Arati
and dedicated
herself to the feet of Nitai Caitanya. She then started for Navadvipa.

Reaching the outskirts of Navadvipa, she began to weep thinking of
the wonderful
pastimes of the Lord. When the favorite associates of Caitanya
Mahaprabhu who
were still alive in Navadvipa heard that Sri Jahnava had come to
their place,
they all rushed happily to meet her. As she got down from the
palanquin all the
Vaisnavas of Navadvipa bowed to her feet, and she introduced her
companions to
the Navadvipa devotees. How can that glorious meeting be
described? Many of the
devotees were bowing at each other's feet, while others embraced
one another,
and still others began to loudly sing the glories to Sri Caitanya
Mahaprabhu.
A long time passed before they were capable of checking their
ecstatic loving



feelings.

Eventually Pandita Sripati, brother of Srivasa Pandita, suggested to Sri Madhava

Acarya and others, "I think we should take bath here in the Ganges."

Everyone

was delighted by the proposal and rushed to take their bath.

Meanwhile, Sripati

quickly went to Navadvipa and returned with many items. Sri

Jahnava Iswari

cheerfully fed them and afterwards took something herself.

The party then entered into Navadvipa and went to the house of Srivasa. Advaita

Prabhu's son, Sri Gopala, brother of Acyuta, Sri Kanu Pandita,

Visnudasa

Mahasaya, Vanamali dasa and other great Vaisnavas came to greet them. Everyone

was jubilant to meet one another. Srimati Iswari privately spoke to Acyutananda,

explaining about the festival. Delighted, he immediately announced to his

followers about the upcoming Kheturi festival. Quickly the news spread

throughout Navadvipa and everyone was eager to attend the festival.

Afterwards

they all met in the house of Srivasa and took their meals. Meanwhile people


from all over Navadvipa came running to see the meeting of the Vaisnavas.

A long time passed joyfully in this way until eventually the devotees went to

bed.

Early in the morning they resumed their journey. Upon arriving in Akaihata, they

went to the house of Krsnadasa, the great singer, who quickly arranged food for




them. He also prepared himself for going to Kheturi.

The next morning they again traveled on until they reached Kantakanagara.

Krsnadasa Thakura was the first to be informed of their arrival and immediately came forward to greet them and brought them to his house. Very shortly thereafter, Sri Raghunandana and his companions arrived there, then Vaninath and Sivananda came along with others. Vallabha, Caitanya dasa, Bhagavatacarya, Nartaka (dancer) Gopala, Jita Misra, Raghu Misra, Kasinath Pandita, Uddhava, Sri Nayananda Misra and other favorite followers of Caitanya Mahaprabhu also came there. Everyone was overjoyed to meet one another and overwhelmed upon seeing the beauty of Sri Gauranga and Dasa Gadadhara. Afterwards they tearfully went to see the place where the Lord accepted sannyasa. A long time passed before they were able to calm themselves, eventually they went to take bath in the Ganges.


Meanwhile Sri Yadunandana collected many varieties of sweet for them and after offering them to Sri Gaurangacandra, placed separate plates of sweets in separate rooms. After coming back from the Ganges they very gladly took mahaprasada. On that day, Sri Jahnava Iswari in a happy mood went to cook for the devotees. She cooked various items and then offered them to Sri Gaurangacandra, who very happily accepted them. After some time, she affectionately distributed prasada to all the devotees. Everyone



delightedly
relished the prasada which tasted like nectar. Afterwards Sri Iswari
took some
prasada. After her, Sri Yadunandana and others ate.

Yadunandana, being extremely moved by remembrance of his
spiritual master, Dasa
Gadadhara, began preparing for the trip to Kheturi. He carefully
instructed the
priest of the temple to be attentive to the service of Sri Gauranga. By
the
evening all the preparations were complete.

In the meantime, all the mahantas gathered in the courtyard of Sri
Gauranga.
After observing Sri Gauranga's arati ceremony, they started
sankirtana. In this
way most of the night passed in glorification of Krsna. Late at night
they took
a short nap. In the morning, after offering their obeisances at the feet
of
Gauracandra, they started out for Kheturi and very soon they crossed
the River
Padmavati. Sri Iswari sent a messenger to inform Acarya Thakura of
their
arrival. Excited and happy, Sri Acarya, Sri Thakura Mahasaya and
Syamananda all
stood together, shining as brilliantly as the sun, expectantly staring at
the
path waiting for her arrival. Seeing these three exalted souls waiting
on the
path, Sri Iswari could not contain her emotions and got down from
her palanquin,
while Srinivasa and others ran to her and fell at her feet. Srinivasa
and the
other devotees then bowed to the feet of Sri Acyutananda and the
rest of the
devotees. Everyone was overwhelmed with intense loving



sentiments - someone held
on to Srinivasa crying, and someone else embraced Narottama,
another devotee
could not let Ramacandra out of his embrace, while another person
soaked Sri
Gokulananda with his tears. One devotee stretched out his arms to
greet Sridasa,
and another affectionately embraced Syamananda and Govinda
Kaviraja.

When the party entered into Kheturi proper, the entire village was
submerged in
an ocean of happiness. With great care Acarya Thakura escorted the
devotees to
separate houses and appointed Ramacandra Kaviraja to the service
of Raghunatha
Acarya and his associates. He appointed Syamananda to the service
of Sri Hridaya
Caitanya. Sri Nrsimha Kaviraja was appointed to serve Sri
Caitanyadasa and some
others, and Sri Vyasa Acarya took care of Sripati, Srinidhi Pandita
and their
associates. He asked Sri Vallabhi Kanta to serve Krsnadasa and other
devotees
from Akaihata, and Sri Govinda Kaviraja took charge of serving Sri
Raghunandana
and his companions. Ramakrsna, Kumuda and their associates were
requested to
look after Vaninatha, Jita Misra and others. Kaviraja Bhagavan was
put in the
service of Sri Yadunandana Cakravarti, and Sri Gopiramana and
others were
appointed to the service of the other Vaisnavas. Srinivasa arranged
separate
stocks of food for separate houses, and Sri Acarya Thakura and
Thakura Mahasaya
oversaw everything to assure that all was executed properly.

Simply hearing about the arrival of all these great mahantas in
Kheturi can
fulfill all the desires of the listeners.

So hear attentively as I, Narahari, narrate this Narottama Vilasa.

[Continued](#)

