



SANDARSHAN

Monthly Newsletter

2021 July

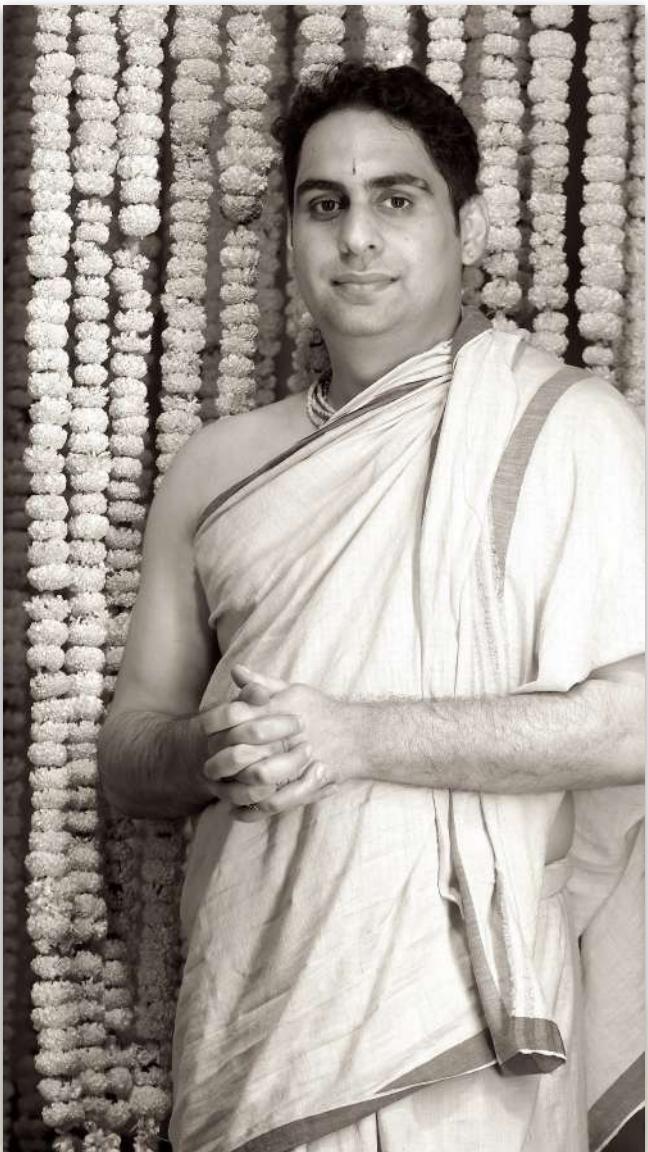
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Premotsav 2021

Maharajji's family were in service of Shri Radharaman Lal from the 7th to the 23rd of June, 2021. Known as "Premotsav - The Festival of Love," this celebration takes months of preparation. The daily offerings of dresses are hand-stitched, new jewellery pieces are designed and made, the temple decor is finalised and the food and fruit offerings to Shriji are all decided in advance. This time around, Premotsav took place in the month of June, and during this period in the eternal *lila* of Shri Priyaju and Shriji, the *gopis* create beautiful, cooling groves made of flowers where the Divine Couple rest and take shelter from the scorching heat. The *gopis* use their imagination to think of new ways of decorating the *kunjs*, and their only goal is to please Radharaman.





Maharajji



Sandhya Aarti

Devotees who tuned into the [Shri Radharaman Facebook page](#) each day, or those who were fortunate enough to come to the temple, were able to take *darshans* of Shriji in his various *kunjs* with their exquisite flower canopies, which infused the temple with a divine fragrance.

From the 16th to the 23rd of June, 2021, Maharajji gave a *katha* on the *Shri Brihad Bhagwatamritam*. This scripture, written by Sanatan Goswami, is a concise summary of the *Shrimad Bhagwatam*, which Parikshit narrated to his mother, Uttara, before leaving this earth. Maharajji gave the *katha* in two parts: in the first part, he speaks about Shri Krishn's greatest devotees and the receivers of his special mercy, which was not given to anyone else. Even when Krishn's physical presence was in Dwarka with the Yadavs and his wives, his soul was always with the *gopis* in Vrindavan.

In the second part, Maharajji discusses the fruit of the devotion that the *gopis* received – the eternal service of Radha in Vrindavan, which is the ultimate goal of devotion for Gaudiya Vaishnavs. This can only be attained by doing our devotional practice with the Gopal Mantra, received during initiation into the Gaudiya Sampradaya. To enjoy the nectar of the *katha*, please visit [Maharajji's Facebook page](#).



Jamai Thakur, Shri Radhavinod - Part 1



The Appearance of Radhavinod

The story of Radhavinod begins with a man named Vancharam who became one of Radhavinod's dearest devotees. One morning when Vancharam was taking a bath in the Padma River in modern-day Bangladesh where he was the manager of the Tarash estate, he heard a voice saying "Bring me out of the water and take me home!" Confused, Vancharam looked around to see if perhaps a child had fallen into the water. Then suddenly, he felt a hand tugging at his leg. Quickly, he reached down and grabbed it. Vancharam pulled and the deity that is now known as Radhavinod emerged from the water. Vancharam stood frozen in awe, not knowing what to do, but soon his emotions broke through and he embraced Radhavinod, bathing him in his tears. Fulfilling Radhavinod's desire, Vancharam took him home and served him with great love and care, attending to Radhavinod's every need.

Radhavinod's Charming Desires

With mischievous charm, Radhavinod would place many demands on Vancharam. He requested many things but Radhavinod knew his dearest Vancharam's limits and always provided him with the means to carry out his seva.

Always knowing with whom to place his request, Radhavinod would sometimes appear in the dreams of Vancharam or other devotees to express his desires. Once, he told Vancharam, "I want *subji* made from mustard flowers. You must cook it for me!" Vancharam awoke wondering what to do, for there weren't any mustard flowers growing in the area. But when he went to wake Radhavinod up he found sprigs of mustard flowers decorating both his ears, and a bunch of them tied in the corner of his *pitambar*. Understanding the mood of his Master, Vancharam realised that Radhavinod had collected the flowers himself so that Vancharam would not have to make the journey. Such was the relationship between Radhavinod and his beloved devotee.

Radhavinod's naughtiness knew no bounds and he did not hesitate in asking for luxuries from his devotees. On another occasion, Radhavinod appeared in a wealthy devotee's dream and asked him for a hookah and, obeying Radhavinod's command, the devotee brought a very expensive silver hookah for Vancharam to offer. And so, Vancharam added the offering of hookah to Radhavinod's daily *seva*, making sure that Radhavinod was given the opportunity to smoke it every morning and evening after his meals. It is said that some devotees have had the good fortune of



hearing the sweet bubbling of Radhavinod's hookah, getting a small glimpse of the mischievous Lord's *lila*.

Unexpected Guests

Just as Vancharam made every effort to meet Radhavinod's needs, Radhavinod in turn performed *lilas* to take care of his devoted servant.

One evening, some guests came to Vancharam's house while he and his wife were sleeping. Not wanting to disturb his sleep, Radhavinod took the form of a little boy and began to entertain the guests himself.

He told the guests, "My father is sleeping right now . . . but I can wake him up if you want."

"No, no!" replied the guests, "Please don't disturb him. We will cook for ourselves."

Radhavinod went to the market to buy groceries for his guests. But he didn't have any money. The shopkeeper was very reluctant to give this little boy groceries on credit, so Radhavinod gave him his golden bangles. "Hold on to these until my father pays you tomorrow," he said.

The next day Vancharam asked his guests with surprise, "When did you arrive? Who let you in?"

They replied, "We came late last night but your son let us in. What a good boy he is! He made all the arrangements for our meal."

Vancharam was speechless. His suspicions were confirmed when the shopkeeper came to his house the next day with Radhavinod's bangles, asking for the payment.

Radhavinod's Next Chapter

After some time, Radhavinod started working on a plan to fulfil a larger wish. Vancharam's employer, the head of the Tarash estate, Raja Banwari Lal, heard about the many fascinating *lilas* of Radhavinod and started going for *darshan* of Vancharam's now famous deity. In fact, Radhavinod himself had arranged for one of his devotees to share tales of his glories with Banwari Lal because he had a very specific reason for wanting the Raja and his family to visit.

When Banwari Lal went to receive the *darshan* of Radhavinod, he took his wife and young daughter, Radha with him. Radha instantly fell in love with Radhavinod and Radhavinod already loved Radha. Radhavinod would smile and interact with her in a way that no one else could see and Radha found that she could not stay away from her Beloved. She insisted that her father take her again and again to visit Radhavinod and soon Banwari Lal became attached to Radhavinod too. Eventually, Banwari Lal, on Radha's request, approached Vancharam with the request to take Radhavinod and serve him in his own home.

Radhavinod appeared in Vancharam's dream and lovingly said "Let me go and live with the Raja. I am pleased with your *seva* but now I



Shri Radhavinod

want to accept his seva. Don't be sad for you'll soon join me in eternal Vrindavan to serve me there." Vancharam's only goal in life was to fulfil Radhavinod's wishes.

And so, Radhavinod went to live with the Raja, and Radha served him with all her heart. She knew all about Radhavinod's preferences, choosing his clothes, arranging his food and making flowers ornaments to decorate his

beautiful body. In response, Radhavinod expressed his love for her by teasing her in a way that her love for him only increased.

To be continued ...

References

- The Saints of Braj* by Dr. O.B.L. Kapoor
- Gaudiya Vaishnav Jeevan* by Shri Haridas Das Babaji
- An interview with Udayan Sharma of the Tarash Estate



Braj Animal Care



Last month, a member of the public contacted us to report a family who were starving a calf, allowing him to drink only the bare minimum of his mother's milk so that the rest could be used or sold for profit. The calf had become extremely frail and thin and so the Braj Animal Care team rushed to give him treatment. Unfortunately, the neglect had gone on too long and the calf lost his life. We've been told that this is the third calf to die in this way and we are monitoring the situation to ensure that others are not mistreated in this manner. This heartbreakin case shows us how sadly, many people place very little value on the lives and wellbeing of our local animals and consider them only to be means to make money.

An Antelope Takes a Ride in Our New E-Rickshaw

A friend of Braj Animal Care recently discovered an injured nilgai which is a type of wild antelope found in India. The nilgai had been attacked by dogs and was bleeding badly. The team rushed to his aid and once the nilgai's condition was stable, used our new e-rickshaw for the first time to transport the animal to safety. The e-riskshaw was purchased with funds raised from a sponsored walk through London, organised by our longtime supporter, Asmini Mehta. We express our gratitude to the whole group that took part in the walk in London. We'd also like to thank the Jain Animal Sanctuary, UK for donating a scooter for Braj Animal Care's use.



BRAJ
ANIMAL CARE

Our team with the emaciated calf



Braj Animal Care coordinator, Vishakha, with the nilgai

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Maharajji's Latest Updates

We invite you to follow Maharajji's [Facebook Page](#) for more updates. Our usual *sankirtans* have been temporarily postponed due to COVID-19, however regular virtual *sankirtans* are being held. To receive the meeting links and for updates on further programs, please join our WhatsApp group [Chandan Goswami Uvacha](#). You can also receive Maharajji's association through his recorded *kathas* on YouTube at [ChandanjiOfficial](#) and [ODevOfficial](#). For more information about Shri Radharaman Lal and Maharajji, please contact us via the details given here.

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Vaishnav Calendar

For upcoming festivals and Ekadashi dates, please click [here](#) to view our Vaishnav calendar.