



# SANDARSHAN

Monthly Newsletter

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## Vishnu Sahasranama Part 9: Bhuta-Bhaavan – The Creator and Maintainer of All by Shri Chandan Goswami Maharaj

According to Baldev Vidyabhushan, Shri Krishn is known as Bhuta-Bhaavan because he both creates and nourishes everything through his divine power and infinite wealth. In a simple way, when we plant a seed, we need to water and fertilise it, and protect the tender sapling as it grows. In the same way, Shri Krishn protects and nourishes us.

The following incident illustrates this point. A wealthy merchant named Malookchand lived next door to a temple. Once the temple priest decided to perform *kirtan* all night, keeping Malookchand awake in the process. At daybreak, Malookchand went straight to the priest and shouted, "Why were you making so much noise last night?!"



The priest responded, "I was doing *kirtan* to celebrate Ekadashi."

"Well, your *kirtan* ruined my sleep. Don't you understand that people need to rest in order to work and earn money to eat?!"

The priest replied with a smile, "It is the Lord alone who feeds us and provides for all our needs. Our labour is but a medium for his grace. He alone is Bhuta-Bhaavan, the one who takes care of us all."

This statement only infuriated Malookchand further. "So you're saying the Lord himself is going to come and feed me? And what if I refuse to eat?"

"If you won't eat, he will beat you and feed you by force!"

"Well, I challenge your God to try and feed me within the next twenty-four hours. If he cannot, then you will have to stop your *kirtan* forever!"

"You may be a powerful man, Malookji, but my Lord is the most powerful of all. Let us see who wins this challenge!"

Malookchand stormed off into the dense forest, climbed the tallest tree he could find, and sat on one of its highest branches. He thought, "Good luck feeding me up here, God!" After two or three hours had passed, a lone traveller came and laid down to rest nearby. But upon leaving, he forgot one of his bags under the tree.

Just a short time later, a band of thieves appeared. Noticing the unattended bag, they

decided to open it. Inside was a container of fresh, delicious-looking food. The leader of the thieves said, "Our enemies must have poisoned this food and left it here, thinking we would eat it." Suddenly looking up, he saw Malookchand and said, "Hey! What are you doing in that tree?" Malookchand kept silent out of fear.

"Did you put this food here? Trying to poison us, hey? Come down here and talk to us!"

"No, no! I didn't do anything! A man just forgot his bag here."

"Come down right now! You were trying to kill us, and now you're making excuses to save your life! You're going to have to eat this yourself!" The thieves climbed up the tree, brought Malookchand down and told him again to eat the food. When he refused, the head of the thieves smashed the food into his mouth and made him eat by force. At that moment, the smiling face of the priest appeared in his mind, as he remembered his words, "If you won't eat, he will beat you and feed you by force!"

Giving up all his resistance, Malookchand began to cry as he prayed, "O Lord, you have won. Please forgive me. I now know that you can take any form to accomplish your will, and you alone take care of us all. Merciful Lord, I dedicate my life to you."

From that day forward, Malookchand renounced his great wealth and began living in the forest, depending on the Lord alone for all his needs and spending his time in his worship. He later became known as the great saint, Malook Das.

The first verse he wrote for the Lord is as follows:

अजगर करे न चाकरी, पंछी करे न काम।  
दास मलूका कह गए, सबके दाता राम॥

*ajgar kare na chaakri, panchi kare na kaam |  
daas malooka keh gaye, sabke daataa raam ||*

Neither the bird nor the snake have to work for their meal. Malook Das says, the Lord alone is the nourisher of all.

## Shri Ramkrishn Das Pandit Baba - Part 2 The Magic of Vaishnav Seva

*In the previous edition, Shri Ramkrishn Das Pandit Baba had a vision of Shri Radha and Krishn, in which they instructed him to live in a cave of Govardhan Hill. In this edition, he dives into the ocean of constant meditation on their lilas.*

Whilst living in Raghav Pandit's cave in Govardhan, Pandit Baba would awaken at two o'clock in the morning and sit on his *asan*. He would then meditate on Shri Radha and Krishn's *lilas* continuously until two o'clock in the afternoon. Each day, many Vaishnavs would wait for him to emerge from the cave so they could ask him their spiritual questions. After performing *kirtan* and hearing scriptural readings with these Vaishnavs for some time, Pandit Baba would go into the village for *madhukari*.\* Only after returning to the cave would he consume a small amount of food.



Kusum Sarovar, Govardhan, 1865

\**Madhukari* is the act of going from house to house, gathering alms from the local Brajwasis like a *madhukar* (bee) gathers small amounts of nectar from different flowers.

Within a short span of time, Pandit Baba became so absorbed in the *lila* that he was no longer able to maintain a routine. At times, he would remain lost in meditation for up to three days continuously, during which time he neither ate, nor did he have any awareness that he wasn't eating.

## Pandit Baba's Mother Visits Govardhan

One day, Pandit Baba's mother came from Jaipur hoping to see him for the first time in many years. For three days she remained at the entrance of his cave, waiting tirelessly for her son to come out. When he finally appeared, he ignored her and walked right past her. With tears streaming down her face, she walked behind him for some time, calling his name repeatedly, but he did not even turn around to face her. She returned to Jaipur heartbroken.

After this incident, Pandit Baba suddenly lost the ability to see Shri Radha and Krishn's *lilas* in his meditation. This frightened him deeply, because these *lilas* had become the most precious treasure of his life. When he asked one of his gurus about the matter, he received the answer that despite his renounced status, his actions toward his mother constituted *Vaishnav aparadh* (an offence towards a Vaishnav). Pandit Baba immediately wrote a letter to his mother asking her to return to Braj.

Pandit Baba arranged a room for his mother near his cave, and he began spending all his time taking care of her, leaving little time for his spiritual practices. However, a short time later, a Brahmin boy named Krishn Chaitanya

Das came from Orissa to take shelter at Pandit Baba's lotus feet. Pandit Baba instructed the boy to serve his mother. After three years of serving Pandit Baba's mother with all his heart, Krishn Chaitanya Das attained an advanced state of *bhakti* similar to Pandit Baba's own.

## Special Blessings

Over the years, Pandit Baba lived at several other locations in Braj Mandal such as Mor Kuti, Shyama Kuti, Keyari Van and Madanmohan Bagicha. Finally, in 1925 C.E., he took up residence in Dauji Bagicha in Vrindavan, where the Vrindavan Research Institute presently stands.

Pandit Baba had the unique ability to understand both the philosophy and secret practices of every *sampradaya*. It is believed that this special power was granted to him by his Gurudev. As a result, devotees of the Gaudiya Sampradaya, Shri Sampradaya, Pushti Sampradaya and all the other spiritual traditions would come to Pandit Baba for spiritual guidance. He, in turn, guided them according to the philosophy of their own lineage.

To be continued ...

### References

*Braj ke Bhakt* by Dr. O.B.L. Kapoor

*Sant Shri Ramkrishn Das Ji (Pandit Baba) Maharaj Charitavali* by Swami Devdasji Maharaj



# Braj Animal Care



In April 2022, the Braj Animal Care administrative team met with Vrindavan's Municipal Commissioner, Shri Anunay Jha, at a tree-plantation drive on the occasion of Yamuna Shashthi. We also networked with other key players working on Vrindavan's environmental issues, and discussed the impact of the increasing traffic on the animals of Braj.



Team member, Vishakha, with Shri Anunay Jha

During our discussions, we highlighted the devastating effects of deforestation and urbanisation in Vrindavan, and suggested ways to mitigate these challenges. All of Vrindavan's stray and wild animals suffer from

a lack of natural food sources and space to roam. They are also often injured in traffic accidents and, in the case of monkeys who like to play on the power lines, electrocution. Other domestic animals, whether they be livestock or pets, are often abandoned, mistreated or neglected. Both the reforestation of Vrindavan and daily street feedings are crucial to these animals' wellbeing.

Recently, we told you about a bright young man named Adi who interviewed Braj Animal Care's team for his vlog. This month, Adi created a powerpoint presentation about Braj Animal Care to share with his class. Both his teachers and schoolmates were extremely inspired to help the animals too. We are very thankful to Adi for caring so much about the animals and for spreading awareness about our cause.

To learn more about Braj Animal Care's activities, please follow us on social media.

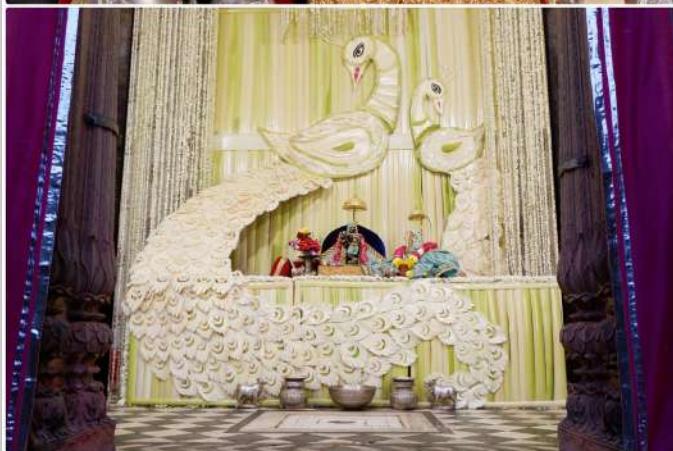
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## Maharajji's Latest Updates



From April 25<sup>th</sup> to May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Maharajji was in the seva of Shri Radharaman Lal. During this period, Maharajji spent every morning and evening in the temple greeting devotees who were eager to meet him. Some met him for the first time, while others took this golden opportunity to get more of his association and seva. Many also approached Maharajji expressing how deeply moved they were by his recent *katha* on Gopi Geet.



Shri Radharaman Lal and Girirajji during Maharajji's seva

May 16<sup>th</sup> marked the 480<sup>th</sup> Appearance Day (Janam Puno) of Shri Radharaman Lal. A grand *abhishek* ceremony was held in the temple, just like the one that was celebrated when Radharamanji first appeared in this world. In honour of this most special day, Maharajji's followers decorated Radharamanji's *prakatya sthali* (appearance place), helped distribute the *prasadi panchamrit* from the *abhishek* and held a special *sankirtan* at the Raas Mandal in front of the temple gate on the eve of Janam Puno.



Shri Radharaman Lal on Janam Puno

For many devotees, 2022 marks the first time in several years they have been able to attend Radharamanji's Appearance Day festivities due to the repeated COVID-19 lockdowns, thus bringing even more joy to the occasion.

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## Vaishnav Calendar

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

