



SANDARSHAN

Monthly Newsletter

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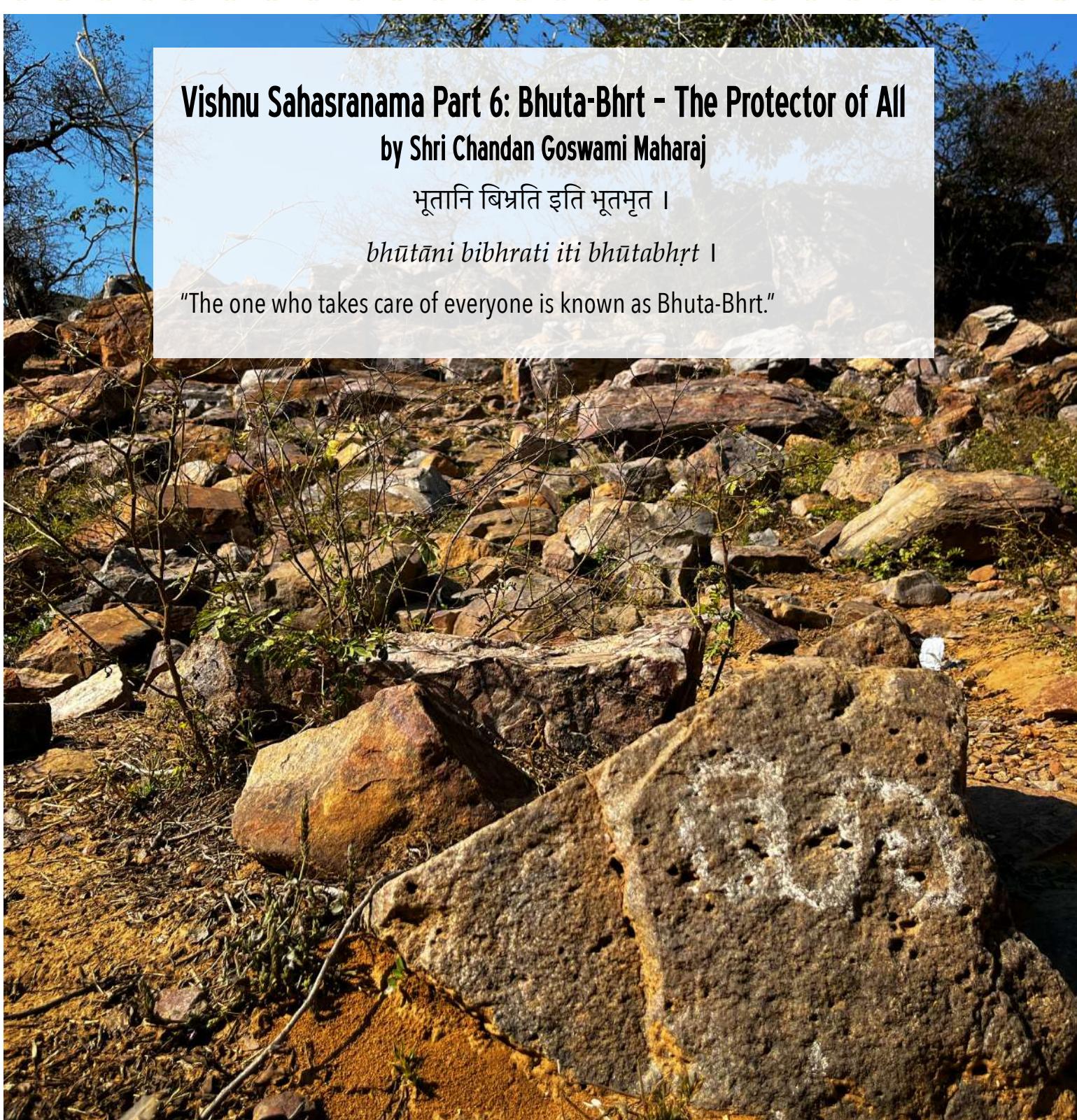
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Vishnu Sahasranama Part 6: Bhuta-Bhrt - The Protector of All by Shri Chandan Goswami Maharaj

भूतानि बिभ्रति इति भूतभृत ।

bhūtāni bibhrati iti bhūtabhṛt ।

"The one who takes care of everyone is known as Bhuta-Bhrt."



In his commentary on the *Vishnu Sahasranama*, Shri Baldev Vidyabhushan also defines the meaning of this Name as, "The one who has taken a vow (*sankalp*) to protect all living beings (*bhuta*)."

Protection is very important to us all and we desire it in everything we do, whether it's driving, doing business, or performing any other action. Even whilst eating, we examine each bite of our meal before placing it in our mouths, to ensure it doesn't contain hair or other contaminants. Our tongues also try to sense whether the food is fresh and tasteful, and not rotten.

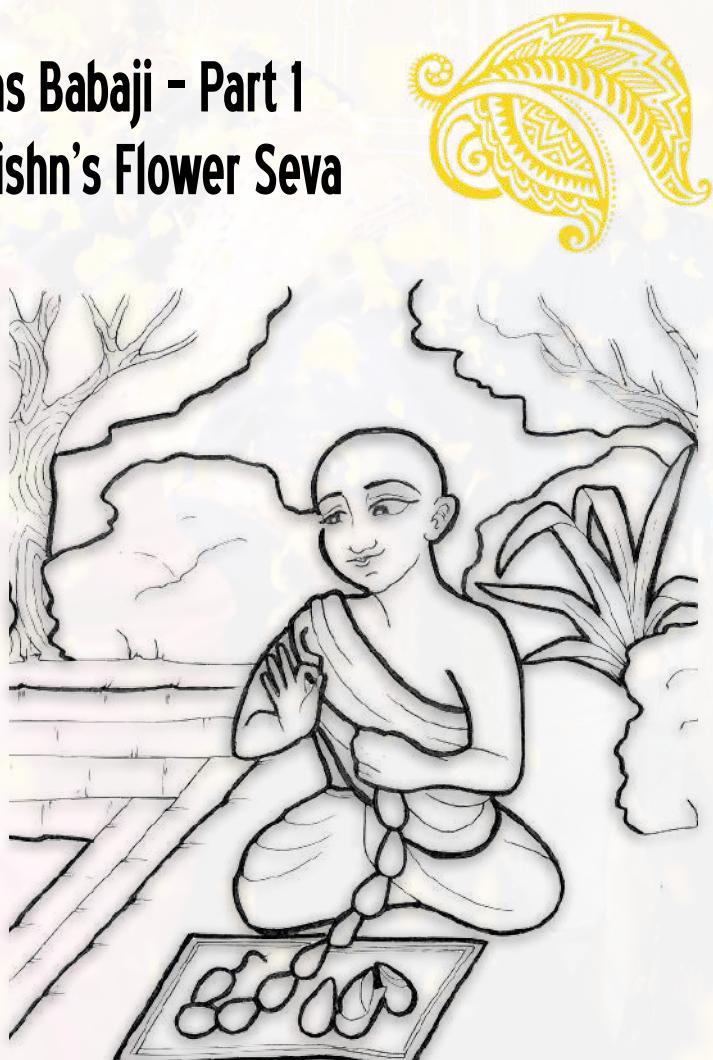
In the very same way, we seek security in every relationship we have. Even with our closest ones, we want to be absolutely sure they will not hurt our heart or use us. We cannot enjoy the relationship until or unless we feel fully comfortable and secure with the other person.

When the Earth goddess, Bhu Devi, was kidnapped by the demon Hiranyaksh, Shri Krishn took the form of Varah Dev to save her. Because Krishn protects us all, he is known as Bhuta-Bhrt. This Name conveys Krishn's message to us: "I vow to protect you and take care of you, always."

Shri Gaur Das Babaji - Part 1 The Tale of Krishn's Flower Seva

Around the turn of the twentieth century, there was a great saint named Shri Gaur Das Babaji who lived at Shri Sanatan Goswami's *bhajan kutir* on the banks of Pavan Sarovar in Nandgaon. Pavan Sarovar is not far from Nandishwar Parvat, the hill where Shri Krishn resides with his parents in *nitya lila*. This is the very site where his temple stands today.

Each day without fail, Gaur Das Babaji would walk several miles to Gazipur near Prem Sarovar to pick flowers. After bringing the flowers home, he would use them to string beautiful garlands for Shri Krishn and Balram. By 1893 C.E., Gaur Das Babaji had



Shri Gaur Das Babaji stringing garlands



Pavan Sarovar

already been performing this flower seva for about six years. One day, a hint of pride arose in his pure heart, and he thought to himself, "I have been serving Krishn every day for all these years, but sometimes he accepts my seva while at other times he doesn't. Radharani is so merciful that if I had served her instead, she would have accepted me and my seva for her completely. Perhaps I should move to Barsana."

That day, Krishn and Balram did not wear Baba's garlands. Baba was saddened by this, but to make matters worse, he later saw two young boys in a nearby field playing with the garlands and tearing them to pieces. Seeing this, Baba began to cry and thought, "Krishn is crooked and his Brajwasis are also crooked. That's it! I am moving to Barsana right away."

The very next day, Baba wrapped his few possessions inside his ragged old blanket and left for Barsana. It was just before sunset when Baba set out across the pasturelands on foot. As his feet glided quickly along the sandy footpath about one mile south of Nandgaon, he noticed the cowherds were already

bringing their cows home. Suddenly, Baba saw the same boys who had been playing with his garlands the day before. Baba tried to avoid them, but the boys noticed. "O Baba! Where are you going?" one of them asked.

"I'm going to Barsana!" he replied, as tears began to form in his eyes. Baba was surprised to see the young boy was also getting emotional. "Baba! Don't go!" the boy shouted.

"No! I've lived here for six years with nothing to show for it. I'm leaving . . ." Upon hearing these words, the boy blocked Baba's path with his outstretched arms and said, "Now listen to me carefully, Baba. Turn around and go back."

"I am not staying, *Lala*! So just get out of my way!" replied Baba.

The sun was setting as the boy replied with tears in his eyes, "But who will do my flower seva?"

Baba was taken aback. "*Lala*, who are you?" he asked.

But it was too late – the boy, his companions and all the cows had disappeared.

Gaur Das Babaji rolled on the dust of Braj weeping and praying, "O Krishn! You are so kind and yet so cruel! I didn't recognise you ... I didn't understand what you were trying to tell me. Please never stop showing mercy to this poor servant of yours!"

Baba returned to his hut in Nandgaon and wept all night long. That very same night, Krishn appeared in the dream of one of the temple priests and said, "Make sure Gaur Das

never leaves my flower seva."

To be continued...

References

*A Lecture by Shri Chandan Goswami Maharaj
Amar Brajovaser ek Adhyay by Sudhanya Mitra as quoted in Shri Gaudiya Vaishnav Jivan by Haridas Das Babaji*

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

Braj Animal Care

Braj Animal Care welcomes volunteers who wish to come and serve our animal friends with us out on the streets of Vrindavan. Here, Chandan Atreya (Shrikishor Anuragi), a dear devotee of Radharamanji and a passionate photographer, shares his experience of volunteering with the team:

During my recent stay in Vrindavan, I had the wonderful opportunity to volunteer with Braj Animal Care on two separate occasions. The first was to join the early morning animal feeding program.

As I followed the team taking pictures, their zeal and drive to serve despite the bitter cold left me feeling humbled. It was so heartening to see the animals come running as soon as

they heard the team's voices calling out for them, whether it was the dogs and puppies that came to lap up the milk they served, or the cattle that came to eat their share of fodder with lumps of jaggery. Even the monkeys gathered to take the chickpeas straight from the team's palms. I was more than happy to help capture these moments with my camera.

I noticed that the Braj Animal Care team in their distinctive red jackets were well-received by the local people as we moved about Parikrama Marg, with some even offering us hot cups of *chai* in the cold, wintery morning!

Some even told us of new litters of puppies or injured animals that needed help, which



A BAC team member treats a cow to some *gur* during morning feeding

made me realise the impact Braj Animal Care has on the community. I was even shown some puppies that had been rescued and nursed back to health some months ago, and their happiness on seeing the team is a sight I will never forget.

Beyond the feeding, I also had the privilege to observe the team's treatment of a parvovirus-infected puppy. I was inspired by the care the doctor and the team provided to ensure its survival and wellbeing.

Their seriousness and love for this work on a daily basis was reflected by the tender manner in which the procedure was carried out. My heart will always cherish their extraordinary drive to serve, regardless of the

conditions, for the sake of patients who cannot verbalise their gratitude, but still express their love in their own way. I am truly grateful for this opportunity and hope that I can join the team and have the fortune to serve again in the near future.

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Maharajji's Latest Updates



Maharajji delivers Vasantotsav Katha

Here, we share some of our take-away points from Maharajji's *katha* on the auspicious day of Vasant Panchami. The *rasik acharyas* of Braj have witnessed the eternal pastimes of Radha and Krishn in Vrindavan. Maharajji instructed that we should follow their practices if we also want to attain this stage.

We should place Vrindavan's divine dust, which is decorated by the *gopis'* tears of separation, on our forehead or our hearts daily. Or we should place the divine dust of Radha Kund on our foreheads, hearts and tongues.

Maharajji ended the *katha* with detailed descriptions of blissful Vasant pastimes between Radha and Krishn. The live video recording of the *katha* is available on Maharajji's Facebook page. Follow Maharajji on social media for updates:

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Vaishnav Calendar

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

