



SANDARSHAN

odev108@gmail.com
www.shriradharaman.com

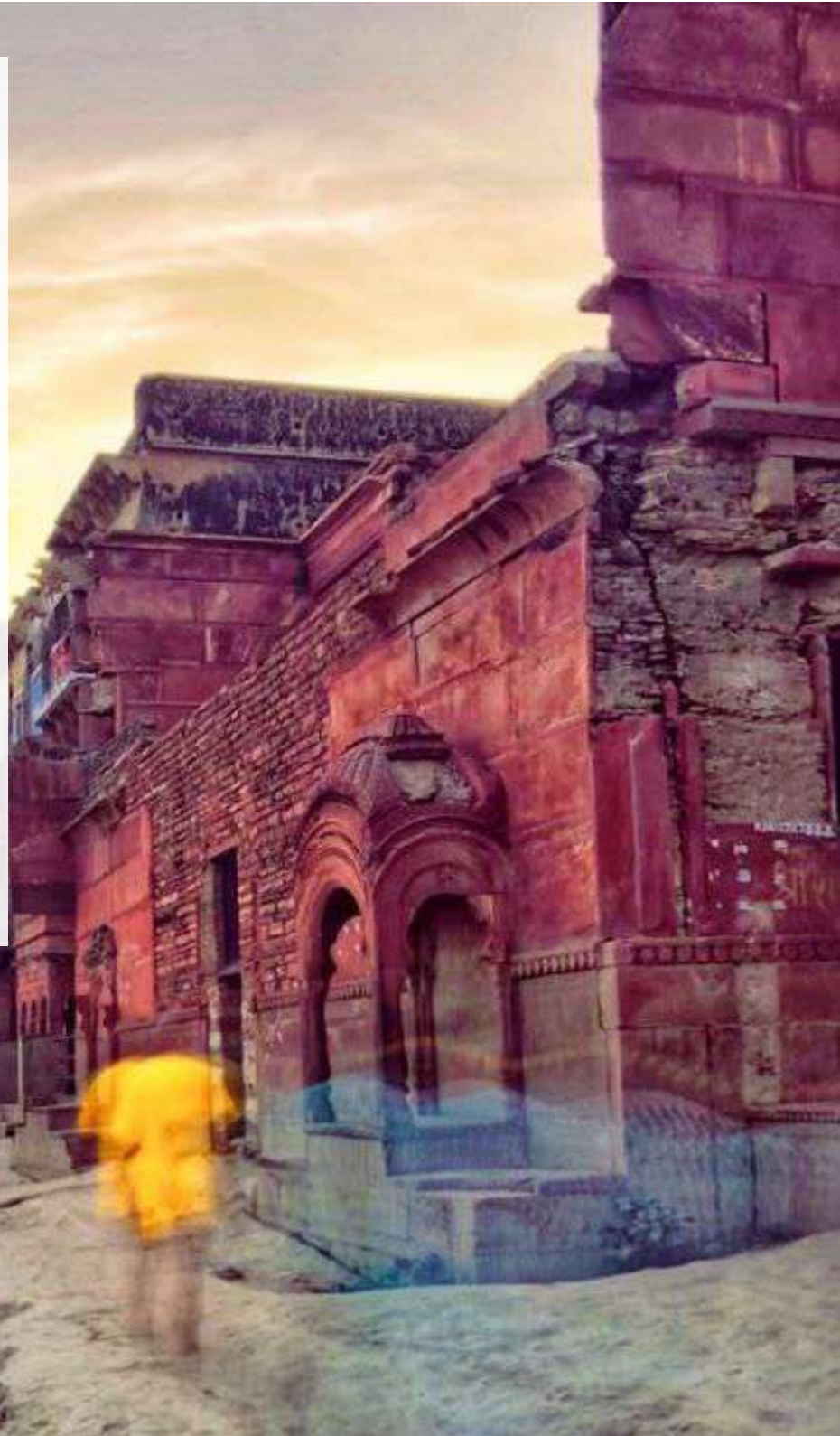
Monthly Newsletter
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Love Your Enemies

by Chandan Goswami

"Love your enemies, bless those who curse you and do good to those who hate you." (*The Holy Bible, Matthew, 5.44*)

If we are serious on this path of devotion, we must focus on loving those who hate us and detach ourselves from our pride, which feels injured by the actions of others. This detachment will bring a positive change in our lives. There is a sweet story that illustrates why this practice is necessary.



Once, a school teacher had a very important lesson to teach her class. She said to her children, "We are going to play a game! Everyone, please bring a bag tomorrow with some potatoes in it. The number of potatoes should be the same as the number of people you do not like, and each one will be named after a person you dislike." The teacher noted the excitement in the children's faces. This was a game they were happy to play. The next day, all the children came to class with their sacks of potatoes. Some had only one potato, while some had five or ten.

The teacher then told them to carry their sacks wherever they went. Soon, the children with more potatoes began to feel tired from the weight. But after several days, when the potatoes started to rot, even those who only had one potato were disgusted by the smell. At the end of the week, the teacher asked, "How do you like the game?"

"We are tired of this game," replied the children. "These bags smell! We don't want to carry them anymore!" The teacher smiled and said, "Let me explain why we played this game. This is what happens to your heart when you carry bad feelings inside. If you couldn't stand carrying those rotten potatoes for a week, just think what would happen if you carried these unpleasant feelings in your heart your whole life? Now do you understand why this game was important?" The children nodded their heads, "Yes we do."

There are references in the scriptures that show how the great souls have practiced detachment from pride:

हरौ रतिं वहन् एष नरेन्द्राणां शिखामणिः ।
भिक्षाम् अटन् अरिपुरे श्वपाकम् अपि वन्दते ॥

harau ratim vahann eṣa narendrāṇāṃ śikhā-maṇiḥ ।
bhikṣām aṭann ari-pure śvapākam api vandate ॥


"Although King Bhagirath was the greatest of kings, due to his love for the Lord, he was so humble that he would even beg at the homes of his enemies or bow to the lowest of outcastes." (*Bhakti Rasamrit Sindhu*, 1.3.33)



Shrinivas Acharya, Part 8 of 12: Birhambir, the Robber King



In the previous edition, Shrinivas was asked to take the books of the six Goswamis to Bengal. Placing the books in two carts, Shrinivas set out, along with Narottam, Shyamanand and ten Brajwasi guards. But when they had almost reached their destination, the books were stolen.



Because ten armed guards had been appointed to protect Shrinivas's carts, rumour spread that they were filled with valuable treasure. The rumour reached King Birhambir of Vishnupur, whose astrologer told him the carts were filled with priceless jewels. The greedy king instructed his staff of robbers to steal them. And so one night, as Shrinivas and his companions were sleeping, they did so. The king was so excited to receive the stolen goods that he leapt upon the crates, prying them open with his own hands. But he was shocked to find only books inside.

Shrinivas Searches for the Books

When Shrinivas and his companions awoke to find the books gone, they were totally distraught. Shrinivas walked to the nearby village, asking everyone he met if they knew who had taken the carts. But although everyone knew, they were too afraid of the king to reveal his identity. Shrinivas then asked Narottam and Shyamanand to keep travelling and begin the work of preaching in Bengal, while Shrinivas would stay behind alone to continue the search.

Shrinivas wandered like a madman for ten days, barely eating or drinking anything out of worry. Then a Brahmin boy found Shrinivas sitting under a tree. The boy's name was Krishn Vallabh, and he was a servant of King Birhambir. An innocent soul, Krishn Vallabh openly told Shrinivas that the king was a greedy man who was fond of murdering and stealing. "In fact, just recently, the king stole two carts full of treasure!" said Krishn Vallabh.

Shrinivas's heart started pounding when he heard this. He asked to meet the king the next day, and Krishn Vallabh agreed.

Shrinivas in Birhambir's Court

The next day, Shrinivas and Krishn Vallabh went to King Birhambir's court. Each day out of mere habit, the faithless king would listen to the *Shrimad Bhagwatam*, spoken by the court *pandit*. That day, the discourse was on the Raas Panchadhyayi, the five chapters about Shri Radha and Krishn's Raas Lila. The court *pandit* pained Shrinivas, as his explanations did not reflect the true teachings of the *Shrimad Bhagwatam*.

Shrinivas humbly asked the court *pandit* to read from Shridhar Swami's commentary, but the proud *pandit* replied, "Nobody but I can explain the *Bhagwatam* properly! But if you think you can do better than me, why don't *you* speak?"

The king smiled and said, "Yes, *you* speak!"

"As you like," replied Shrinivas.

Shrinivas proceeded to explain one verse in a variety of beautiful ways that left everyone in the audience spellbound. Even the king was deeply touched by his words. The court *pandit* was extremely embarrassed.

Shrinivas's *katha* continued until night, after which the king offered Shrinivas and his ten Brajwasi guards a place to sleep in his palace.

In the palace, Shrinivas spent the whole night singing the names of Shri Roop and Sanatan,

Gopal Bhatt Goswami, Jeev Goswami and other beloved *mahatmas*. He also chanted many Sanskrit prayers for the pleasure of Shri Krishn.



Shrinivas's words leave everyone spellbound.

The king also stayed up all night, listening intensely to Shrinivas's chanting. The next morning, the king asked Shrinivas to continue the *katha*. This time, Shrinivas spoke on Bhramar Geet, melting the hearts of all with his words. Overwhelmed with joy, the king asked Shrinivas, "Why did you really come here?"

Shrinivas replied, "I came from Vrindavan with two carts full of very precious books, but someone stole them from me. By doing so they have stolen away my life. Since then, I have just been wandering in search of them."

The king started crying and replied, "I am the sinful man who stole your books. But I know you have come here just to save me. Who else but you could help someone like me? Don't worry; your books are safe."

The king then took Shrinivas to where the books had been kept, and Shrinivas was overjoyed to see them. He then performed *puja* of the books using sandalwood paste, *tulsi* and flower garlands.

Shrinivas gave initiation to the king, and named him Haricharan Das. He also initiated Krishn Vallabh and the court *pandit*. The people of Vishnupur cried with happiness to see how their king's life was completely transformed by Shrinivas's mercy.

References

Bhakti Ratnakar by Narahari Chakravarti

Prem Vilas by Nityanand Das



A Song for Shrinivas Acharya by King Birhambir



After receiving initiation from Shrinivas Acharya, King Birhambir wrote the following beautiful song about him:

प्रभु मोर श्रीनिवास पुराइला मनेर आश
तूवा पदे कि बोलिबो आर ।
आछिलूँ विषय कीट बोड़ोई लागितो मीठ
घुचाइला राज अहंकार ॥

*prabhu mor shrinivas puraailaa maner aash
tuwaa pade ki bolibo aar ।
aachilu vishay keet, bodoi laagito meeth
ghuchailaa raaj ahankaar ॥*

Oh my beloved master, Shrinivas, you fulfilled every desire of my heart. How can I ever truly praise your glories? I was just like a worm enjoying the dirt and filth of material life, but you uplifted me and took away my pride of being a king.

कोरितु गरल पान रहिलो डहिन बाम
देखाइला अमियार धार ।
पिबो पिबो कोरे मन सब लागे उचाटन
एमति तोमार व्यवहार ॥

*koritu garal paan rahilo dahin baam
dekhaailaa amiyaar dhaar ।
pibo pibo kore man, sab laage uchaatan
emati tomaar vyavahaar ॥*

I used to get drunk with a bottle in each hand, but you showed me the river of immortal nectar. Now my heart only cries for that nectar, and everything else is painful to me. This change is only due to your mercy.

राधा पद सुधा राशि शे पदे कोरिला दासी
गोरा पदे बांधि दिला चित ।

श्री राधारमण सह देखाइला कुंज गेह
जानाइला दुहूँ प्रेम रीत ।।

*raadhaa pada sudhaa raashi she pade
korilaa daasi*

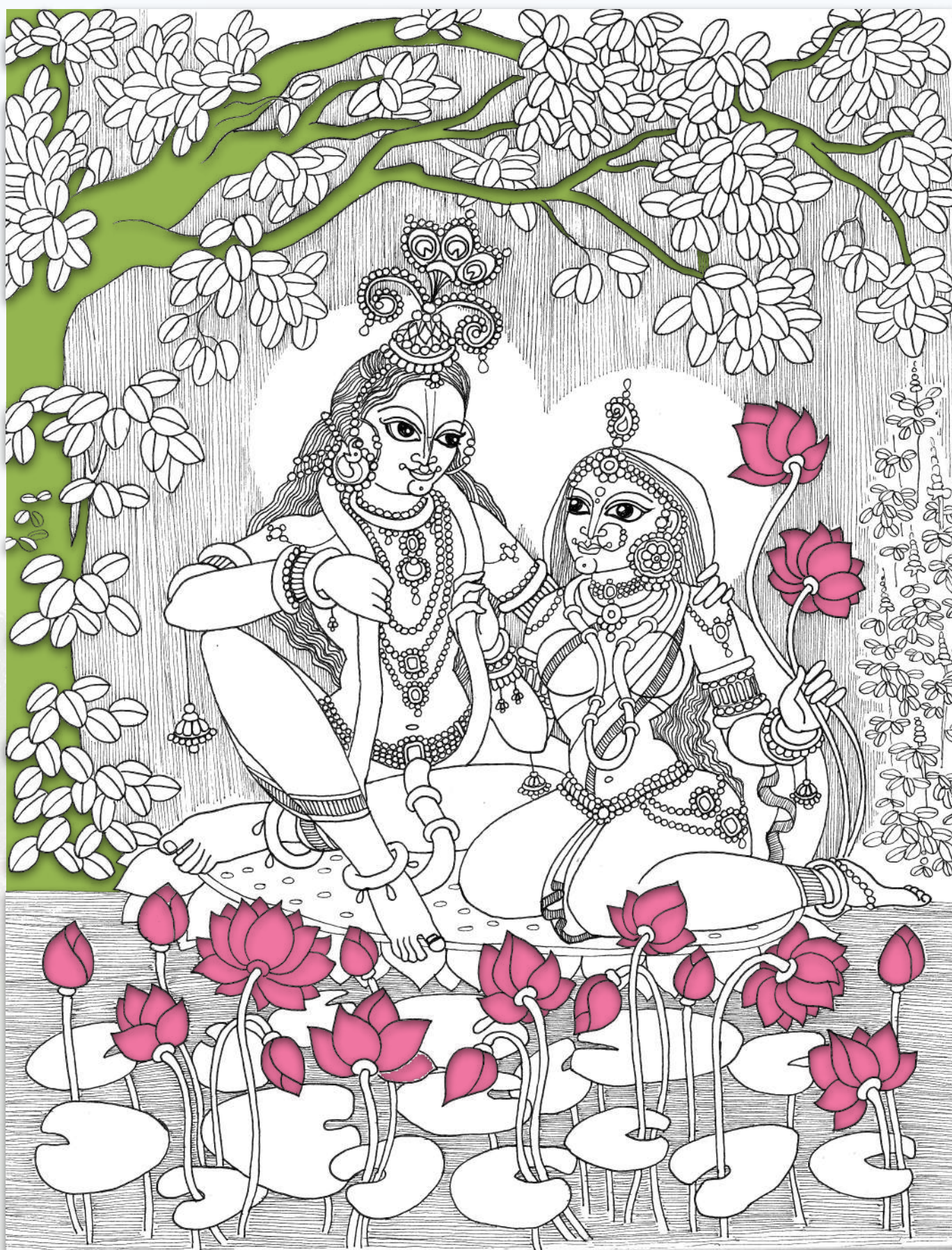
*goraa pade baandhi dilaa chit ।
shri radharaman saha dekhailaa kunj geha
jaanaailaa duhu prem rit ॥*

The nectar you gave is that which flows from the lotus feet of Radharani. You transformed me into her maidservant, and bound my heart to Mahaprabhu's lotus feet forever. You blessed me with *darshan* of Shri Radha-Raman in a divine *kunj* of Braj, and taught me about their pastimes of love.

कालिन्दीर कूले जाइ सखिगणे धाओवाधाइ
राइ कानु विहरोइ सुखे ।
ए बीर हमबीर हिया ब्रजभूमि सदा धिया
जाहाँ अलि उड़े लाखे लाखे ।।

*kaalindir kule jaai sakhigane dhaaowadhaai
raai kaanu viharo-i sukhe ।
e bir hambir hiyaa brajabhumi sadaa dhiyaa
jaahaan ali ude laakhe laakhe ॥*

Following in the footsteps of the *sakhis*, I run to the banks of the Shri Yamuna River, where Radha and Krishn play in eternal bliss. The heart of Birhambir is always absorbed in Shri Braj Bhumi, where millions of blissful bees (*sakhis*) always fly.



"You blessed me with *darshan* of Shri Radha-Raman in a divine *kunj* of Braj, and taught me about their pastimes of love." - King Birhambir



Braj Animal Care



Pranav Awasthiji with the new van

This month, Braj Animal Care received the very generous donation of a vehicle from Pranav Awasthiji of New Delhi. Despite the lockdown, he was able to arrange delivery of the vehicle in Vrindavan. This vehicle will function as an ambulance for small animals, as well as a transport vehicle for animal food and supplies. Our need for a vehicle was very urgent, and we are extremely grateful for his help! With this gift, Pranav Awasthiji is touching the life of every animal that Braj Animal Care serves.

Every day, Braj Animal Care feeds over 100 stray dogs, 70 street cows and 200 monkeys, and provides free medical care to those who need it. Learn more about how you can help at www.brajanimalcare.com/contribute or contact us at brajanimalcare@gmail.com.



Maharajji's Latest Updates



This June, the spiritual TV channel Disha broadcasted Shri Radha Ras Katha by Shri Chandan Goswami (Maharajji), giving devotees an opportunity to enjoy his association from home whilst under lockdown. Maharajji has been busy researching and translating ancient scriptures during this time. He has also begun a question and answer series on the subject of devotion. Please follow [Maharajji's official Facebook page](#) to tune in. If you have any spiritual questions you would like Maharajji to answer in his series, please send an email to odev108@gmail.com.

Our usual *sankirtans* have been temporarily postponed due to social distancing measures implemented in response to COVID-19, however regular virtual *sankirtans* are being held. We welcome you to join our online *sankirtan* programs on the following dates:



Shri Chandan Goswami (Maharajji)

July 1st, 2020: Ekadashi

July 5th, 2020: Guru Purnima

July 10th, 2020: Gopal Bhatt Goswami's Mahotsav

July 15th, 2020: Ekadashi

July 23rd, 2020: Hariyali Teej

To receive the meeting link, 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 at odev108@gmail.com or WhatsApp us on [+91 83687 83201](tel:+918368783201).

Vaishnav Calendar

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

