



SANDARSHAN

Monthly Newsletter

odev108@gmail.com

www.shriradharaman.com

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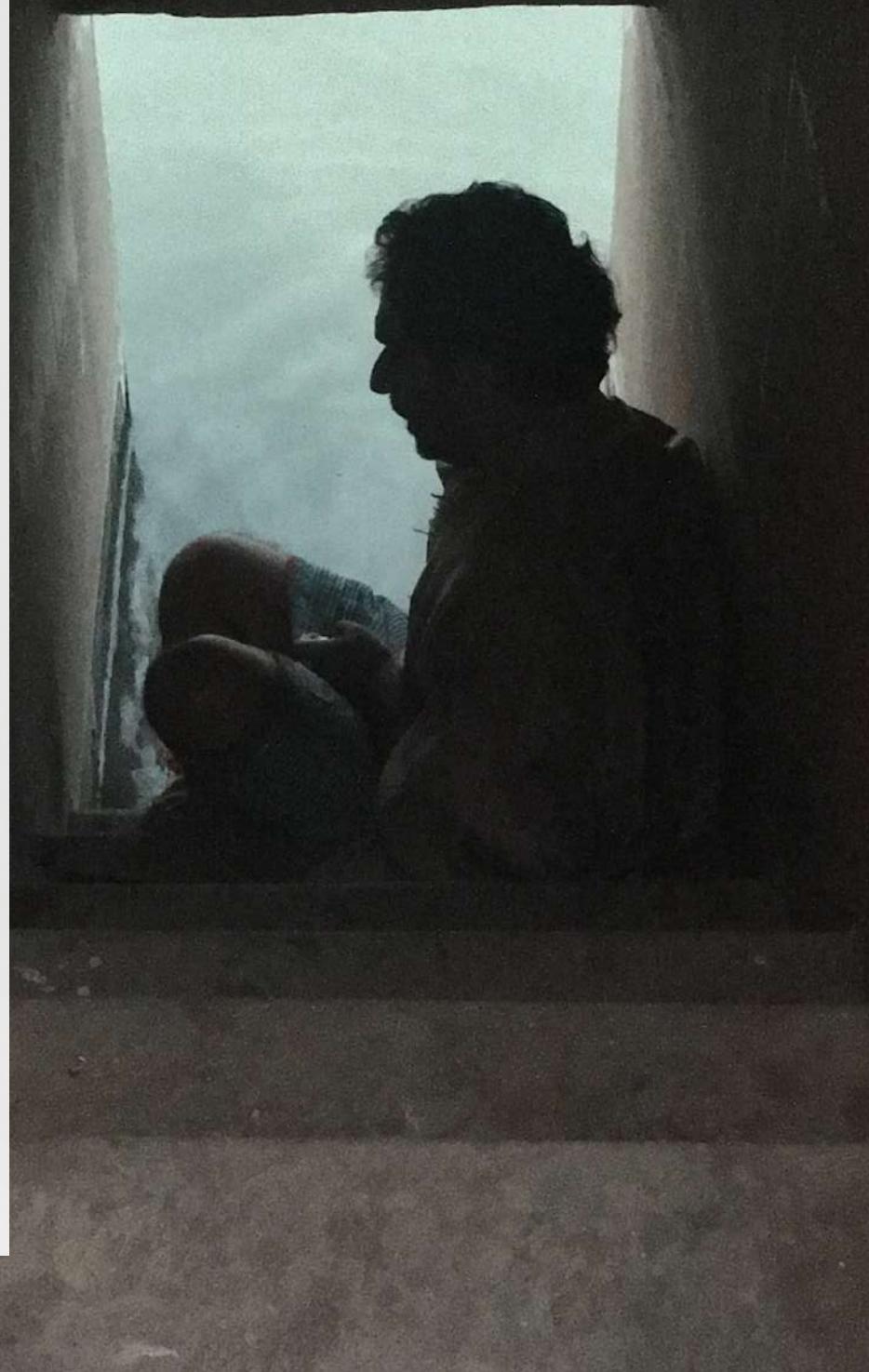
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The Right Mood of Worship

by Chandan Goswami

If you want to make someone happy, the first rule is to serve that person according to how they want to be served. When we want to make Krishn happy, the same rule applies to us too. We need to do what he likes and this is known as *tat-sukh-sukhitva*: "I will be happy if you are happy."

We often see people serving Shri Krishn according to their own feelings, but this is not the right mood of worship, because we need to establish our relationship with him first. For example, in recent years, many devotees have started carrying Laddu Gopal or Shri Radha Krishn deities in baskets without observing any standards of cleanliness.



They may wipe the sweat from their face and then touch Krishn, or even feed him with dirty hands while they themselves are eating. Ask yourselves this: have I seen any authentic saints, sages or gurus carry their Thakurjis in a basket?

We have to remember that Krishn does not belong to us yet. You may call him "Rādharaman" or "Rādhavallabh", but do you know the meaning of these Names? It means he is Radha's Beloved. Thus in the romantic mood, Krishn's worship should be done the way Radha wants.

Similarly, if you are caring for Laddu Gopal, you must always remember that he is Yashoda's son. Your own personal preferences and standards have no place here. Instead, Krishn should be served the way Yashoda wants. When Yashoda Maiya is satisfied that you can really take care of Krishn, then by her grace, you will attain an authentic divine mood and begin to experience a direct relationship with him.

Once your relationship is truly established, Krishn may tell you himself how he wants to be served. He may even come to receive your offerings in person, the way Jagannath Dev accepted Karmabai's *khichdi*, or how Shrinathji went all the way to Agra to enjoy Krishn Das's *jalebis*.

If we want to please Krishn and attain a relationship with him, we must approach a guru from a Vaishnav Sampradaya who has the divine mood we wish to attain, and who can teach us the proper method and mood of worship. Thus the *Shrimad Bhagwatam* says:

लब्ध्वानुग्रह आचार्यात् तेन सन्दर्शितागमः ।
महा पुरुषमभ्यर्चेन् मूर्त्याभिमत्यात्मनः ॥

*labdhvānugraha ācāryāt tena sandarśitāgamah ।
mahā puruṣam-abhyarcen mūrtyābhimat�ātmanah ॥*

"After receiving the guru's mercy and learning the rules of worship from him, you should worship your beloved Krishn in the form of the deity." (11.3.48)

Shrinivas Acharya, Part 9 of 12: Shrinivas Meets Ramchandra Kaviraj

In the previous edition, Shrinivas recovered the stolen books and transformed the robber king, Birhambir, into a Vaishnav. In this issue, Shrinivas gets married and meets Ramchandra Kaviraj.

Now Shrinivas began his task of spreading the teachings of the six Goswamis in Bengal. After Shrinivas's mother left this world, his *shiksha guru*, Narahari Sarkar, instructed him to get married. Two young ladies named Draupadi and Padmavati became his wives, and Shrinivas also gave them initiation. Thereafter, Draupadi became known as Ishwari, and Padmavati became known as Shrimati or Gaurang Priya. It was during this time that Shrinivas met his foremost disciple, Ramchandra Kaviraj.

Although Ramchandra came from a Vaishnav lineage, his immediate family was not practicing and he himself had no interest in devotion. He was on his way to his own wedding when he saw Shrinivas for the first time. The instant their eyes met, a complete change came over Ramchandra and he offered himself at Shrinivas's lotus feet forever. Shrinivas later gave initiation to Ramchandra, as well as to his new wife, Ratnavati, and his brother, Govind.

Ramchandra was an ideal disciple and Shrinivas fully absorbed him into his heart. One beautiful full moon night, Ramchandra was sitting in a garden with Shrinivas and his two wives. Suddenly, Ramchandra began to giggle uncontrollably. Ishwari asked Shrinivas why Ramchandra was laughing so much.

Shrinivas replied that in *nitya lila*, Shri Radha and Krishn had just been picking flowers. Radha was collecting beautiful white *kund* flowers (a type of jasmine), and Krishn wanted to help her. But he was so intoxicated by her love that he tried to pluck the moonbeams instead. Seeing Krishn's adorable behaviour, Radha's *sakhis* and *manjaris* started to laugh, so Ramchandra laughed too. Ishwari was amazed by her husband's answer.

Ramchandra's Teachings to King Birhambir

Shrinivas had already introduced King Birhambir to Mahaprabhu's philosophy, but the king was eager to learn more, so Shrinivas arranged for Ramchandra to teach him. Ramchandra began by giving the king some spiritual tips, including the following:



Ramchandra teaches King Birhambir



"Radha was collecting beautiful white *kund* flowers, and Krishn wanted to help her. But he was so intoxicated by her love that he tried to pluck the moonbeams instead."

- *By serving the Vaishnavs and *tulsi*, one can attain Shri Krishn quickly and easily.
- *Always drink Vaishnav *charanamrit*,¹ eat their *adharamrit*² and adorn your head with the dust of of their lotus feet.
- *Give up bad association and keep the company of Vaishnavs all the time.
- *Keep a simple heart and never commit Vaishnav *aparadh*.³
- *Even a small offence can create a huge obstacle, no matter how accomplished you may be on the path of devotion.

He also told the king that the path Mahaprabhu gave is called Raganuga Bhakti. On this path, the devotee yearns to love Krishn with the same special mood that his *nitya parikars*⁴ in eternal Vrindavan have for him:

विराजन्तिमभिव्यक्तं व्रजवासीजनादिषु ।
रागात्मिकाम् अनुसृता या सा रागानुगोच्यते ॥

*virājantimabhivyaktam vrajavāsījanādiṣu ।
rāgātmikām anusṛtā yā sā rāgānugocyate ॥*

"If someone practices *bhakti* by taking shelter of and following the eternal Brajwasis who love Krishn perfectly, this is called Raganuga Bhakti." (*Bhakti Rasamrit Sindhu*, 1.2.270)

In the Gaudiya Sampradaya, devotees follow in the footsteps of Shri Roop Manjari and the other maidservants of Shri Radha. These are some of the main points of Ramchandra's teachings to King Birhambir, which comprise the entire fourth chapter of the book *Karnanand*.

To be continued ...

References

- Bhakti Ratnakar* by Narahari Chakravarti
- Karnanand* by Yadunandan Das
- Prem Vilas* by Nityananda Das

1. *Charanamrit* is water that has washed the lotus feet of Krishn or his devotee.
2. *Adharamrit* is the leftover food of Krishn or his devotee.
3. *Vaishnav aparadh* is an offence against a Vaishnav, such as harming or criticising him or her.
4. A *nitya parikar* is one of Krishn's companions who is always with him in the eternal *lila*, such as his parents, his friends or the *gopis*.



Bhajahu Re Mana

by Govind Kaviraj



The famous song "Bhajahu Re Mana" was written by Ramchandra's brother Govind Kaviraj, who was a disciple of Shrinivas Acharya and a great poet:

भजहू रे मन श्रीनन्दनन्दन, अभय चरणारविन्द रे ।
दुर्लभ मानव जनम सत्संगे, तरह ए भवसिन्धु रे ॥

*bhajahū re mana śrī-nanda-nandana, abhaya caraṇāravinda re ।
durlabha mānava janama satsaṅge, taraha e bhavasindhу re ॥*

O my dear mind, please worship Shri Nand Nandan, whose lotus feet take away all fear. This human birth is so rare, so please spend it in good association and cross over the ocean of illusion.

शीत आतप बात बरिषण, ए दिन जामिनी जागि रे ।
बिफले सेविनु कृपण दुरजन, चपल सुखलव लागि रे ॥

*sīta ātapa bāta bariṣaṇa, e dina jāminī jāgi re ।
biphale sevinu kṛpaṇa durajana, capala sukhalava lāgi re ॥*

Tortured by severe heat, cold, wind and rain, I find no rest day or night. I have wasted my life serving cruel people for the sake of temporary happiness.

ए धन जौवन पुत्र परिजन, इथे कि आछे परतीति रे ।
नलिनि दल जल जीवन टलमल, भजहू हरिपद नीति रे ॥

*e dhana jauvana putra parijana, ithe ki āche paratīti re ।
nalini dala jala jīvana ṭalamala, bhajahū haripada nīti re ॥*

Neither wealth, nor youth, nor children or other family members can give lasting happiness. This life trembles, about to fall, like a droplet on a lotus leaf. Worship Krishn while you have the chance.

श्रवण कीर्तन स्मरण वन्दन पादसेवन दास्य रे ।
पूजन सखीजन आत्म निवेदन गोविन्ददास अभिलाष रे ॥

*śravaṇa kīrtana smarana vandana, pāda-sevana dāsyā re ।
pūjana sakhijanā ātma nivedana, govindadās abhilāṣā re ॥*

Listen to the stories of Krishn's life, sing his Names and glories, bow to him, worship his lotus feet in the form of the deity and serve him. Become a maid servant and offer your soul to him. The poet, Govind Das, longs to do this and nothing else.



Braj Animal Care



Recently, we attended a case where ropes had become embedded about 1.5 inches inside the heads of two bulls. Their flesh had begun to decay and was filled with maggots, both on the surface and deep inside. One bull was too weak to resist being caught, but the other was extremely fast and powerful. Using their motorcycles, our team had to chase him for six or seven kilometres over the

course of several hours. After he was safely restrained, the doctor removed the rope from his head and treated his wound. Both bulls were later taken to a local cow shelter (*gaushala*).

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 month, Shri Chandan Goswami Maharaj is continuing his 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:

August 3rd, 2020: Saluno/Rakhi
August 12th, 2020: Janmashtami
August 15th, 2020: Ajaa Ekadashi
August 26th, 2020: Radhashtami
August 29th, 2020: Padmaa Ekadashi

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).



Shri Chandan Goswami (Maharajji)

Vaishnav Calendar

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

