

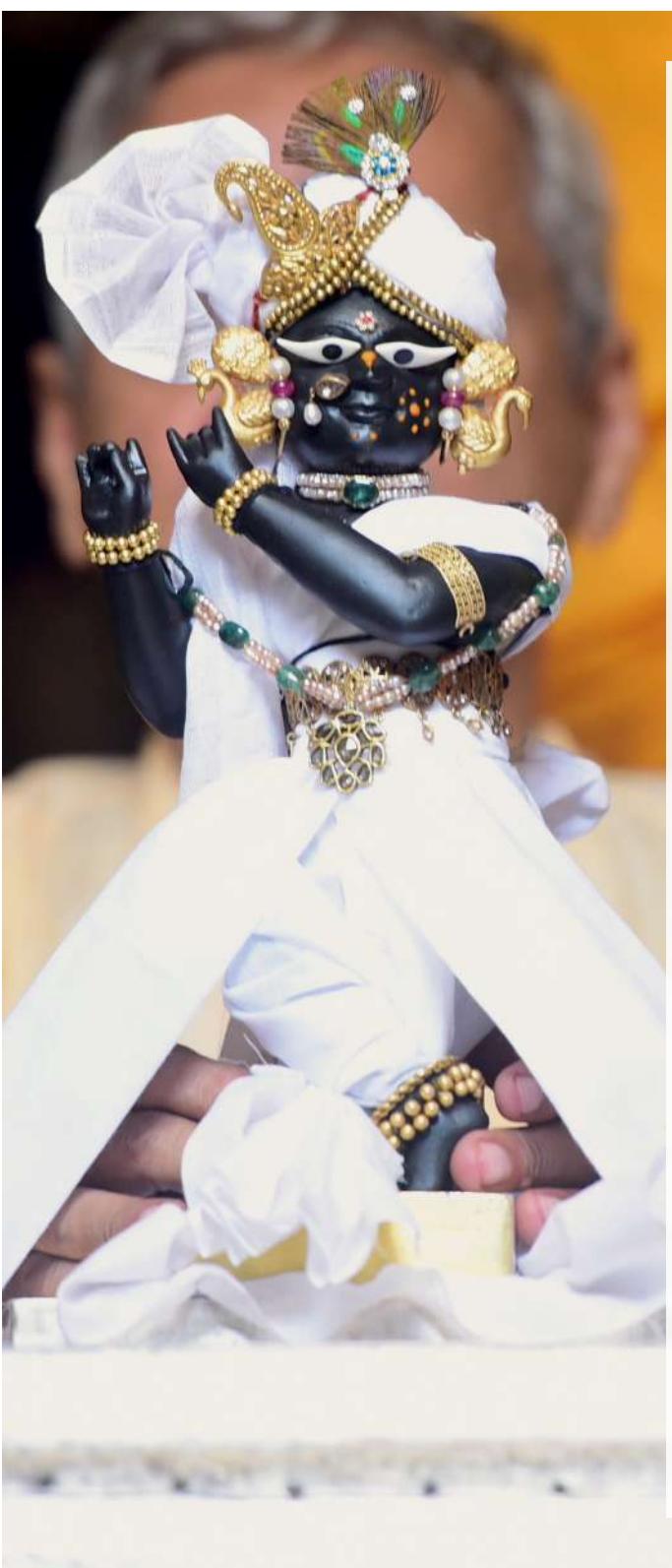


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Love is the Beloved's Reflection

by Shri Chandan Goswami Maharaj

In the *Narad Bhakti Sutra*, Sage Narad describes how the nature of a devotee blossoms when he is in a loving relationship with the Lord. As a lover, he sees his Beloved everywhere and in everything.

Even with worldly distractions, his mind constantly meditates on his Lord and remembers him all the time. The devotee fails to enjoy, or even see, anything that is not connected to his Beloved.

A gopi once said:

"Everything I see is full of Shyam. The bower is *shyam*, the cloudy sky is *shyam*, the Yamuna River is *shyam*. All the colours are filled with *shyam*. People are telling me this is something strange! Have I gone insane, or have the pupils in everyone's eyes also become *shyam*? The sun and moon are *shyam*, all the musk is filled with *shyam*. Lord Shiv's throat is *shyam* [from swallowing the poison after the churning of the milk ocean]. The vine of love growing in my heart is *shyam*. The letters of the scriptures are definitely *shyam* and the wick of the candle is also *shyam*. What to speak of men and gods, even the formless Absolute looks like *shyam* to me!" (Brajwasi Poetry)

The poet Thakur captures the very essence of a devotee in this state:

कानन दूसरो नाम सुनै नहि एकहि रङ्ग रङ्गो यह डोरो ।
धोखेहु दूसरो नाम कढै रसना मुख बांधि हलाहल बोरो ॥
ठाकुर चित्तकी वृत्ति यहै हम कैसेहु टेक तजैं नहि भोरो ।
बावरी वे अँखियां जरि जांय जो सावरो छांडि निहारति गोरो ॥

*kanan dusaro nam sunai nahi ekahi rang rango yaha doro ।
dhokhehu dusaro nam kadhai rasana mukh bandhi halahal boro ॥
thakur chitt ki vritti yahai ham kaisehu tek tajain nahi bhoro ।
bavari ve ankhiyan jari jay jo savaro chadi niharati goro ॥*

"Our ears refuse to hear any name but his, for the thread of our fate is dyed in Shyam's colour alone. If we were to say any other name, it would be like pouring poison on our tongues and binding our mouths shut. The poet Thakur says, 'Our hearts and our entire minds, even the subconscious mind, are so overtaken by him, we can never, even unconsciously, act otherwise. If our crazy eyes try to give up Shyam to look at any other colour, burn them and let us go blind.'"

In this state of being, every sound that enters the lover's ear is nothing but the sweetest melody of his Beloved's lovesong. Speaking of Shri Radha, who is the very form of sacred love, the *Chaitanya Charitamrit* (1.4.85) says:

କୃଷ୍ଣମୟୀ କୃଷ୍ଣ ଯାର ଭିତରେ ବାହିରେ ।
ଯାହା ଯାହା ନେତ୍ର ପଡେ ତାହା କୃଷ୍ଣ ସ୍ଫୁରେ ॥

*krishnmayi krishn jaar bhitaré bahire ।
jaha jaha netra pode taha krishn sphure ॥*

"She is known as Krishnmayi because Krishn is within her and all around her. Krishn appears wherever she casts her glance."

"She is known as Krishnmayi because Krishn is within her and all around her. Krishn appears wherever she casts her glance."

The lover never tires of praising the Beloved, because in every word that he speaks, he enjoys the incomparable flavour of the nectar of sacred love. All the limbs of his body feel only the presence of his Beloved. The lover's heart is unable and unwilling to expand for anyone else. His love transforms into the reflection of his Beloved.

Drowning in the ocean of love is an indescribable feeling, and it is the highest state of infinite bliss. Hence, the *Chandogya Upanishad* (7.24.1) says: "The state of the infinite is the state in which nothing else is seen, nor heard, nor thought of. That which is infinite is immortal and that which is finite is mortal."

This is sacred love. It is whole and it becomes more intense with each passing moment. The flow is unbroken, subtler than the subtlest, and therefore, it cannot be truly defined.



Shri Vijaykrishn Goswami - Part 2



In the previous edition, Vijaykrishn Goswami left the devotional path to join the Brahmo Samaj, which denied the personal form of God. His ancestral deity of Shyamsundar intervened to bring him back to devotion.

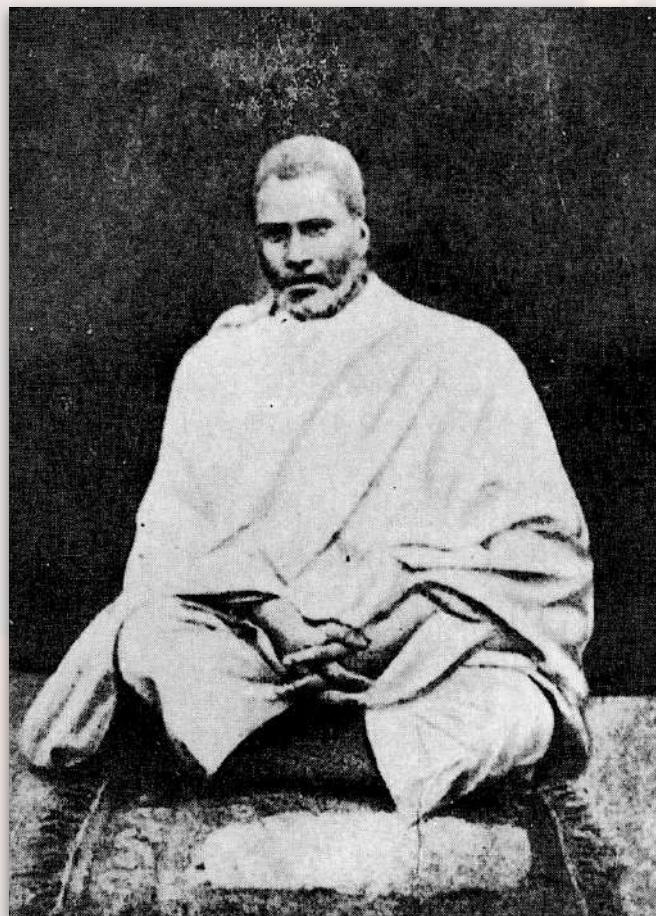
During his time in the Brahmo Samaj, Vijaykrishn Goswami had many spiritual experiences that he could not understand, and there was no one to answer his spiritual questions. Thus, he began searching for an enlightened master to guide him on his spiritual journey. The search brought him to faraway places, and he met many saints, whether they be Vaishnavs, Shaivas, Tantriks, Buddhists, Bauls, Aghoris or from any other tradition. Although he received their blessings, he was unable to find the connection he was looking for.

By 1883 C.E., a hopeless Vijaykrishn began to feel that he would never find his spiritual guide, and collapsed on the ground weeping in sorrow. Suddenly a divine sage named Swami Brahmanand appeared and embraced him.

Swami Brahmanand was a master of *yog* who could appear and disappear at will. He had also attained the higher stages of devotion by the special blessings of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Because Vijaykrishn still had some curiosity about other paths, especially for the path of *yog*, Swami Brahmanand

taught him *yog* for some time.

Vijaykrishn practiced *yog* in a cave in the Akash Ganga mountain of Gaya, and eventually attained all the yogic *siddhis* and *asampragyat samadhi* (a very high state of yogic trance). However, none of this satisfied his heart. By his guru's grace, he realised that despite all the supernatural powers, feelings of oneness with the universe, the profound sense of peace and other deep experiences he had with other practices, nothing could compare with Shyamsundar's love.



Shri Vijaykrishn Goswami in the Brahmo Samaj

Leaving the Brahmo Samaj

Now that Vijaykrishn had lost all taste for anything but pure *bhakti*, he wanted to leave the Brahmo Samaj, but his high status and popularity in that organisation made this extremely difficult. Under great pressure from his peers, he once tried to offer prayers to the formless Absolute in front of a large crowd. But when he did so, Mahaprabhu and his companions, along with various other gods, goddesses and saints all appeared before him. When this happened, he went into a trance, leaving him unable to recite the prayers.

Finally, Vijaykrishn resigned from the Brahmo Samaj in 1887 C.E., and many others left with him to become his disciples. Vijaykrishn was now 46 years old.

In 1889 C.E., Swami Brahmanand instructed Vijaykrishn, "Go to Vrindavan and worship Krishn with pure *bhakti*. Soon you will fully realise him and his *lila*." He asked Vijaykrishn to stay in Vrindavan for one year without leaving.

Sadhna in Vrindavan

Upon arriving in Vrindavan, Vijaykrishn was excited to have *darshan* of Govind Dev. Unfortunately, the Goswami in *seva* thought Vijaykrishn was still a member of the Brahmo Samaj and refused to let him enter the temple. Vijaykrishn was heartbroken.

That night, Narsingh Dev appeared in the

Goswami's dream and warned him not to disrespect Vijaykrishn. He even scratched the Goswami's chest lightly with his claw. When the Goswami awoke from the dream, he saw that his chest really did have a long scratch on it. After hearing about this incident, the Gaudiya Vaishnav saint Gaur Shiromani Mahashay told him to welcome Vijaykrishn to the temple with full honour.

In Vrindavan, Vijaykrishn attained the highest state on the devotional path. He slept only half an hour each night, and passed most of his time meditating on Shri Radha and Krishn's *nitya lila*. Vijaykrishn used to say that he did not require much sleep because his body received sufficient rest and rejuvenation during meditation, even more so than during sleep. Despite the depth of his practice, he still made time for his disciples and other devotees, answering their spiritual questions and resolving their doubts. But even during these interactions, he always remained in a state of internal communion with the Divine Couple.

One day, Vijaykrishn was chanting the Holy Name in *jap* with his daughter, Prem Sakhi, and one of his disciples. Vijaykrishn suddenly started to laugh, repeating the words, "It won't sink!" When they returned to their residence, Prem Sakhi asked Vijaykrishn, "Father, why did you keep saying 'It won't sink'?"

Vijaykrishn replied, "As we sat on the bank of the Yamuna, Radha and Krishn and some *sakhis* came in a boat. Krishn said to me, 'Get in! We are having a boat race!' I boarded the



Shri Vijaykrishn Goswami

boat, and Krishn rowed it to the centre of the Yamuna. Suddenly he started to place his full weight into the corner of the boat, so it looked like the boat was about to sink. Radharani and the *sakhis* started screaming. But then I realised that Krishn was doing this on purpose, and that if he sank the boat, he too would be thrown overboard. That's why I laughed and reassured them, 'It won't sink!'"

Prem Sakhi then asked, "Father, why didn't you take us on the boat with you?"

Vijaykrishn replied, "Lali, that was a very small boat! How could it hold so many people?"

To be continued ...

References

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from sadgurubijoykrishna.com

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Braj Animal Care



Every day, Braj Animal Care treats many animals who need urgent care. Most street dogs in India live only a year or two, but if they are adopted, they can live much longer. One of our furry friends is 17 years old and his humans named him John Cena, after the professional wrestler.

Last year, John Cena had a wound near his eye

filled with maggots, and we helped him overcome it. Recently, we were called upon to visit John Cena again. Unfortunately, he had suffered a ruptured cyst on his testicles. There was a massive amount of blood and we had to rush over to ensure he didn't die. Thankfully his condition is now stable.



John Cena

Important News Regarding our Shelter

We have some really exciting developments to share with all of you: Braj Animal Care has recently come in possession of five acres of land on which to build a shelter. As you all know, we desperately need shelter for the animals and facilities where we can treat them safely. The land needs a simple but secure boundary wall, and we will construct medical facilities, storage space, an office and so forth. To make all of this possible, we are starting a crowdfund in order to raise the required funds. We want to thank you so much for being a part of our journey. We couldn't have made it this far without you.

If you feel inspired to help the animals of Braj, why not become a monthly patron of our medical program? This would help strengthen our base as we provide vital medical care to hundreds of homeless animals each month. We are looking for friends to commit £18 (\$25/€21/₹1800) per month, although any amount is helpful.

We also invite you to view Braj Animal Care's new mini-documentary. [Click here](#) to watch the film.

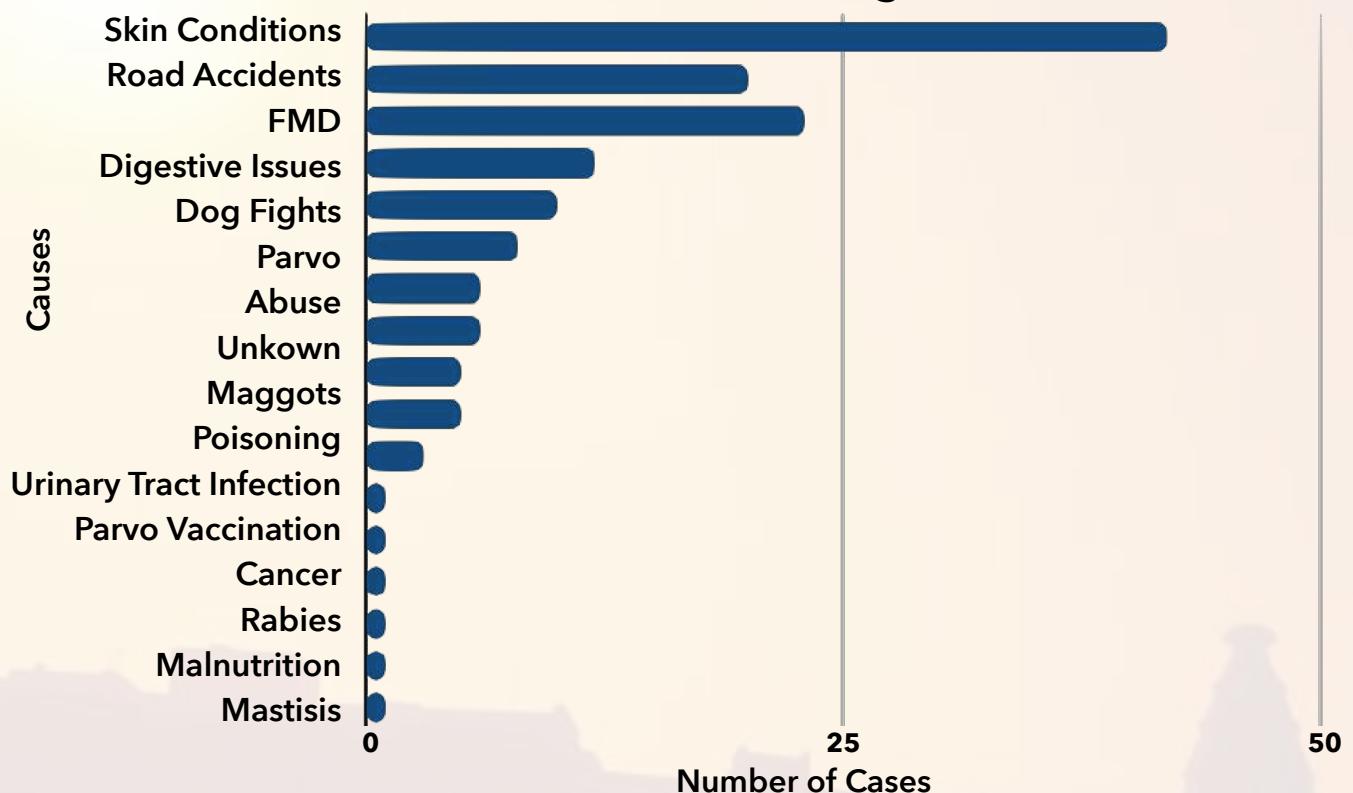
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March Medical Cases

In March of 2021, Braj Animal Care completed 195 treatments.

- 146 of these treatments were new patients, and 49 were follow-ups.
- The most common primary causes of suffering in all new cases were: flea allergies (42 cases), road accidents (20 cases), foot and mouth disease or FMD (23 cases) and dog fights (10 cases).
- Of all new traffic accident cases we took, the majority were in Mahavidya Colony, Mathura.

Causes of Suffering



Braj Animal Care feeds street animals daily



Maharajji's Latest Updates



With COVID-19 spreading throughout India, nights and weekends in Vrindavan are on lockdown. The situation is very difficult for those who depend on charity from tourists and pilgrims. Thus, the ODev team has been busy providing groceries to those who need it most. We have also received many requests from devotees to perform yagyas for personal wellbeing. You can find more information about the various sevas that you can have done in Vrindavan by [clicking here](#). If you wish to offer something that you don't find online, please [email us](#).

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 below.

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Vaishnav Calendar

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