



SANDARSHAN

Monthly Newsletter

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Vishnu Sahasranama Part 32: Bhaavan - The One Who Thinks by Shri Chandan Goswami Maharaj

The 32nd Name in the Shri Vishnu Sahasranama Stotram is Bhaavan, the one who thinks. In his commentary on this Holy Name, Shri Baldev Vidyabhushan says:

भावयति चिन्तयति साधूनेवमेतान् रक्षिष्यामीति भावनः ।

*bhāvayati cintayati sādhūnevametān raksisyāmīti
bhāvanah ।*



"That Bhagwan Shri Krishn who thinks, 'I will protect the *sadhus* in this way,' is known as Bhaavan.

Bhagwan always thought about how to protect the Pandavs, and Kunti Mata sings of this fact in her *stuti*:

विषान्महाग्नेः पुरुषाददर्शनाद् ।
असत्सभाया वनवासकृच्छ्रतः ॥
मृद्धे मृद्धेऽनेकमहारथास्त्रतो ।
द्रौण्यस्त्रतश्चास्म हरेऽभिरक्षिताः ॥

*viṣānmahāgnehē puruṣādadarśanād ।
asatsabha�ā vanavāsakṛcchrataḥ ॥
mr̥dhe mr̥dhe' nekamahārathāstrato ।
drauṇyastrataścāsma
hare'bhirkṣitāḥ ॥*

"Shri Krishn! How can I count the ways you have saved us? You protected us from poison, from the terrible fire in the Laksha Grah, from the eyes of the demons like Hidimb, from the gambling-house of our enemies, from the terrible difficulties of living in the forest, from the weapons of powerful fighters in this war, and just now, from the Bramhastra of Ashwatthama." (*Shrimad Bhagwatam*, 1.8.24)

The following story is told in the *Mahabharat*. Once, Arjun was engaged in battle with Bhagdutt. When Bhagdutt was about to lose, he resorted to his Vaishnavastra in a bid to

turn the battle in his favour. The weapon which Bhagdutt had unleashed was about to destroy everyone. Shri Krishn covered Arjun with his own body and took the full force of the weapon upon his own chest. Upon touching Krishn's chest, the weapon transformed into a Vaijayanti *mala* (a special type of flower garland).

Arjun felt terrible, and said to Shri Krishn, "Hey Krishn! You gave an oath that you would not fight in this war, and that you would only take care of the horses in the role of a charioteer. But, o lotus-eyed one! Despite having said this, you are not fulfilling your promise. If I had fallen into a desperate situation where I was unable to fight against this weapon myself, then your actions would have been appropriate. But since I am standing here ready and able to fight, you should not have done this. You have also said that whenever I stand ready with a bow and arrow in my hands, I will be able to conquer all the worlds along with the gods, demons and humans residing in them."

Shri Krishn responded, "Neither Indra, nor Rudra, nor anyone in the three worlds has the power to fight against this weapon. For this reason, and in order to protect you, I created a situation where Bhagdutt lost possession of it. O Arjun! Now that this powerful demon has been deprived of his greatest weapon, you can kill him."



Shri Nityanand Prabhu Part 4: Mahaprabhu Takes Sannyas



In the previous issue, Nityanand Prabhu and Haridas Thakur helped uplift the sinful brothers Jagai and Madhai. In this issue, Nityanand comforts Mahaprabhu's associates after he takes sannyas.

One day, Mahaprabhu called Nityanand aside and told him that on the auspicious day of Makar Sankranti, he would take *sannyas* from Keshav Bharti in Katwa village. Nityanand was to tell only Mahaprabhu's mother, Gadadhar, and three other people. (*Chaitanya Bhagwat*, 2.28.7-12) According to the *Chaitanya Charitamrit*, (2.3.3), Mahaprabhu was only 24 years old then, about to turn 25.

The Farewell

The day before leaving home, Mahaprabhu went for *darshan* of the Shri Ganga River in the evening. After offering prayers, he sat on the bank for a while, then returned home. That night, more people came to see Mahaprabhu than usual. Although they didn't know he was leaving home the next day, it was as if they had come to bid him farewell. Each devotee brought a garland and sandalwood paste, and after wearing each

garland, Mahaprabhu would give it to the next devotee as his *prasad*. One by one, he asked them all to chant and remember Krishn, saying, "If you truly love me, then please talk and think about Krishn, nothing else."

Shridhar, a vegetable seller whom Mahaprabhu would lovingly tease in his childhood, was a special visitor that day. Shridhar's offering that day was a simple *lauki* (bottle gourd). Mahaprabhu thought, "I'm leaving in the morning, so I might not get another chance to eat Shridhar's *lauki*. I must make sure to eat it tonight." He immediately asked his mother, Sachi Mata, to cook *lauki ka halwah*. After eating the *halwah*, Mahaprabhu went to bed.

In the pre-dawn hours (*brahma muhurat*) of Makar Sankranti, Mahaprabhu left home. He swam across the Shri Ganga River to Katwa village, to the ashram of Keshav Bharti. Nityanand, Gadadhar, and a few others joined him one by one. Keshav Bharti gave Mahaprabhu the new name Shri Krishn Chaitanya and had him wear the saffron cloth of a renunciate. When the barber shaved off Mahaprabhu's beautiful curls, everyone wept.



Mahaprabhu in his *sannyasi* form

Mahaprabhu Roams the Forest

After spending one night in Katwa, he left for Vrindavan. However, Mahaprabhu was so intoxicated by sacred love that he couldn't understand where he was or where he was going. He wandered in the forests and pasturelands for many days, often changing course unexpectedly. Nityanand and the others blissfully followed him. Finally, Mahaprabhu informed Nityanand that he would visit Haridas Thakur in the village of Phuliya. He asked Nityanand to bring the Navadwip devotees to meet him at Adwait

Acharya's house in the nearby Shantipur village. The blissful Nityanand jumped into the Shri Ganga River and floated on his back to Navadwip.

When Nityanand reached Navadwip, he found the devotees drowning in an ocean of separation. Mahaprabhu's mother had not eaten in 12 days, so Nityanand made sure that Sachi Mata and the other devotees took *prasad*. When they heard Mahaprabhu planned to meet them soon, the Navadwip-vasis became hopeful. Ecstatic, they started running with full force towards Phuliya.

When the Navadwip-*vasis*' chanting reached Mahaprabhu's ears like gentle thunder, he came out to greet them. He gazed upon them with eyes full of mercy as they rolled on the ground in the joy of reuniting with him. Mahaprabhu, Nityanand, and the Navadwip-*vasis* walked the two-hour path to Shantipur. Upon arriving there, Mahaprabhu embraced Adwait Acharya, and the *kirtan* began. The devotees danced so madly in elation that many fell, and when they did, they embraced each other and grabbed hold of each others' feet. Mahaprabhu tried his best to embrace them all. Afterward, Nityanand and Mahaprabhu sat down for a grand feast cooked by Adwait Acharya's wife, Sita Thakurani.

After Mahaprabhu's mother arrived, she took over the service of cooking. She was overjoyed to see her beloved son again, and he was equally joyful to see her. One day, Nityanand approached Sachi Mata and conveyed a message from Mahaprabhu, "Mahaprabhu is saying that if you want him to, he will leave his *sannyas* and come home."

Sachi Mata sighed and replied, "We would be so happy if he came home, but he knows I would never ask him to leave his *dharm*. His happiness makes me happy, but please ask him to live in Puri instead of Vrindavan. Puri is closer, and since people often travel between Navadwip and Puri, I will surely get news of him often." Mahaprabhu fulfilled her request.

After staying at Adwait Acharya's house for ten days, Mahaprabhu told everyone he was leaving for Puri. As he left, he did *parikrama* of his mother and left. The intensity of separation was too much for her, and she lost consciousness. Many other devotees followed Mahaprabhu for quite some time but he asked them to turn back, saying, "Only Nityanand and the renounced devotees can come with me. The rest of you must return home. The medicine for all your pain is Harinaam. If you perform *bhajan* day and night, I promise you will find me in your embrace."

To be continued...

References

Shri Chaitanya Bhagwat

The Companions of Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu by Dr. O.B.L. Kapoor



Braj Animal Care



Maybe it's too soon to write about you, Biscuit, but people should know your story. Despite the difficulties you faced in early life, you brought joy to those around you. We imagined a world where you would walk again and live a life full of nurture and play. Your temporary shelter was available again, and we were going to take you for an X-ray to see if your broken bone was healing. We also planned hydrotherapy for your rehabilitation. We mentioned your name in the follow-up cases daily, and we never gave up on you, even with all the odds stacked against us.



Biscuit

Goodbye, Biscuit. Please know that you were deeply loved by us and all those who took care of you, including the animal lovers who followed your updates.

Unfortunately, Biscuit was attacked by bigger dogs in the neighbourhood, which is a common occurrence. Tragically, he did not survive. We searched for his body and gave him a proper burial in the Yamuna River.

It is our mission to create our own Braj Animal Care sanctuary here in Vrindavan where these stray Brajwasis, especially those with long-term disabilities, can live permanently. If you would like to contribute to this cause, please scan the QR code below:



For more information about Braj Animal Care's programmes and services, please keep in touch with us via the following channels:

- [@braj.animal.care](https://www.instagram.com/braj.animal.care)
- brajanimalcare.com
- [\(+91\)8923737924](tel:+918923737924)
- brajanimalcare@gmail.com



Maharajji's Latest Updates



Kanpur Katha

Maharajji gave Hari Katha in Kanpur for a few days on topic of the *Gopis* before returning to Vrindavan for Holi. We are sharing a summary of the valuable guidance he provided over the three-day programme.

Maharajji spoke on the significance of devotion (*bhakti*) in connecting with Thakurji (Lord Krishn). He emphasised that genuine devotion leads to a profound understanding and experience of Thakurji, rather than merely going through the motions of practice. Maharajji pointed out that the depth of our longing for Thakurji determines the depth of our engagement in devotion, and this longing can be nurtured through spiritual teachings and the community support of fellow devotees.

He outlined a step-by-step approach to devotion, starting with chanting Thakurji's Name, progressing to visualising his form and qualities, and finally deepening meditation on his divine activities. Maharajji stressed the importance of gradual progress in devotion, cautioning against rushing ahead. The ultimate goal is to cultivate a deep love for Thakurji, which is fostered through connection with wise mentors and sincere practice.

In the *katha*, Maharajji also explored the profound emotions of the *gopis*, and highlighted their intense love and yearning for Thakurji. Their devotion, he explained, stands in contrast to worldly desires, as they seek only Thakurji's happiness. The various forms of longing experienced by the *gopis* serve to illustrate the depth of their devotion.

Finally, Maharajji delved into the pastimes of Radha Krishn, portraying the *gopis'* unwavering dedication to serving Thakurji and Radharani. Their selfless devotion, serves as a model for spiritual seekers, inspiring them to cultivate a similar depth of love and commitment in their own spiritual journey.

Holi

Every year, Maharajji organises a two-day Holi programme which takes place inside the Radharaman Temple campus. Hundreds of kilos of powder is purchased, and for four hours, disciples, followers, and devotees play Holi with each other. The beautiful rainbow of chaos consists of vibrant assortments of yellow, pink, and green powders. Children armed with their *pichkaris*, fire at devotees, who happily place themselves in the line of fire. Holi songs called *rasiyas* also play to the beat of a drum known as a *dhap*.

On Gaur Purnima, Maharajji performed *the abhishek* of Mahaprabhu at the Amiya Nimai Temple in Gopinath Bazar. This year, the last day of Holi finished with a flower Holi celebration at the Raas Mandal with traditional Holi songs.



Devotees play Holi in the Radharaman Temple campus



Maharajji serves Shri Amiya Nimai Mahaprabhu

Premotsav 2024 began with Maharajji serving Shri Radharaman Lal in his Nikunj. Shriji was beautifully dressed in light hand-made attire to ensure he was comfortable in the heat. The evening Aulai sandarshans pierced everyone's hearts with love.

Maharajji will be performing Radharaman Lal's *abhishek* on his Appearance Day, which falls on the 23rd of May 2024, this year. You can make an offering to him at shriradharaman.com.

Spiritual Questions and Answers with Maharajji

Q: Is there an appropriate age to take initiation (*diksha*)? Or can it be taken at any age?

A: Prahlad Maharaj received *diksha* in the womb. Dhruv Maharaj received *diksha* at the age of five. Any age at which you want to take the shelter of Shri Krishn is perfect for *diksha*.

For more information about Maharajji's upcoming programmes, please contact us via the following channels:

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Vaishnav Calendar

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

