



SANDARSHAN

Monthly Newsletter

2020 February

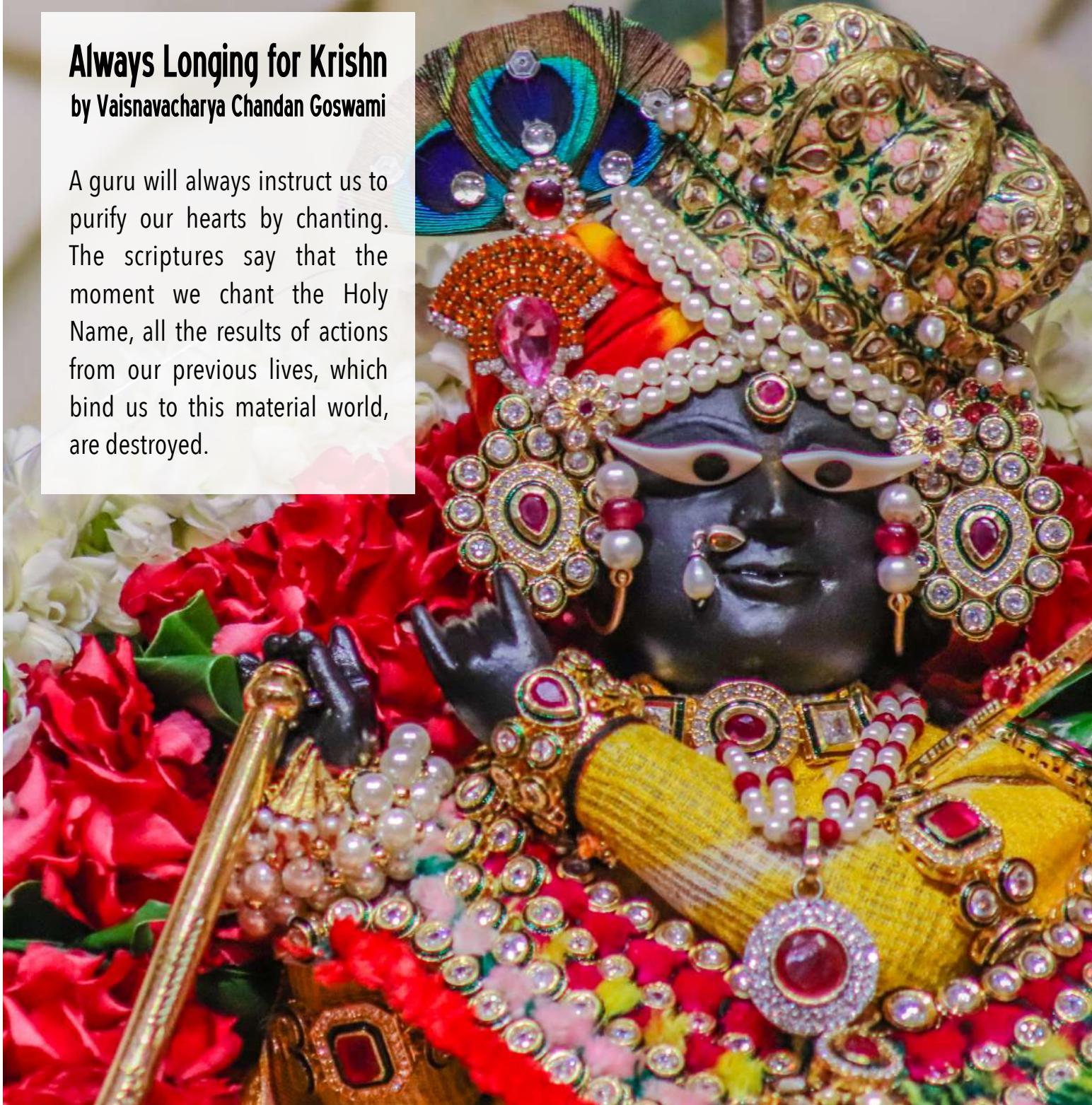
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Always Longing for Krishn

by Vaisnavacharya Chandan Goswami

A guru will always instruct us to purify our hearts by chanting. The scriptures say that the moment we chant the Holy Name, all the results of actions from our previous lives, which bind us to this material world, are destroyed.



य एतद् देवदेवस्य विष्णोः कर्माणि जन्म च ।
कीर्तयेच्छ्रद्धया मर्त्यः सर्वपापैः प्रमुच्यते ॥

*ya etad deva-devasya viṣṇoḥ karmāṇi janma ca ।
kīrtayec chraddhayā martyah sarva-pāpaiḥ pramucyate ॥*

"One who chants the glories of Shri Krishn and his *lilas* is freed from all sins." (*Shrimad Bhagwatam*, 11.31.27)

If we are already purified by chanting once, what further purification are we carrying out by chanting again and again?

The purity that the scriptures are referring to is in fact separation. Even if we are saying his Name with love, unless we feel separation from him in our hearts, our chanting will not be fruitful. When we have a diamond, we do not always appreciate its value, but if it gets lost, we instantly realise the precious nature of what we had. Similarly, we may feel satisfied that Krishn is here with us in the form of our deities or *shilas*. We may even live in Krishn's homeland, Vrindavan. But it is only when we feel this separation that our emotions will be strong enough to attract his grace.





Shrinivas Acharya, Part 3 of 12: The Journey to Puri



In the previous issue, we discussed the childhood pastimes of Shrinivas Acharya, the combined incarnation of Mahaprabhu's love and Radharani's maid-servant, Mani Manjari. In this issue, we continue with his journey to Puri.

Shrinivas Acharya had heard about Mahaprabhu all his life, and he wished desperately to meet him. When he was about fifteen years old, his parents gave him permission to meet Mahaprabhu in Puri. And so, Shrinivas started the long journey on Magh Shukla Panchami of the year 1533 C.E.

उडिया जाइते पाखा प्रभुरे प्रार्थय ।
दिबा निशि चले पथे श्रम ना जानय ॥

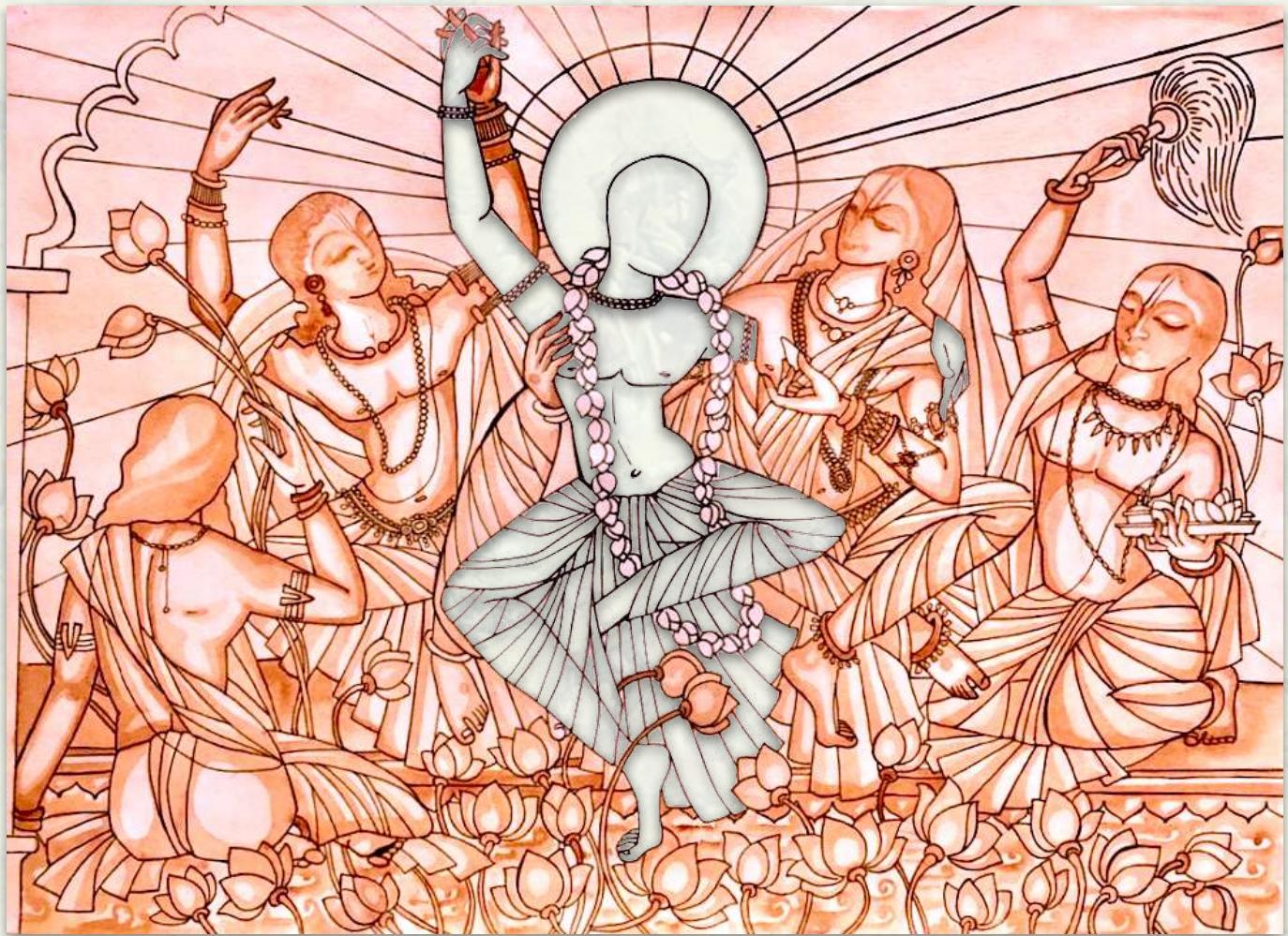
*udiyaa jaaite paakhaa prabhure praarthay ।
dibaa nishi chole pothe shram naa jaanay ॥*

"He prayed for wings to fly as he moved on, day and night, not acknowledging any tiredness at all." (*Bhakti Ratnakar*, 3.62)

Shrinivas was overjoyed that his dream was finally coming true. He felt excited when he crossed paths with a group of travellers coming from Puri; but that excitement turned to despair when they told him that Mahaprabhu had just left this world and returned to his eternal *lila*.

Shrinivas felt like his head had suddenly been struck by a bolt of lightning. Tears of pain poured from his eyes as he beat his head with his trembling hands. He tried to walk but he kept falling down unconscious. Calling out Mahaprabhu's name, Shrinivas scratched his chest with his nails and tried to tear out his beautiful hair, but nothing could stop the pain of knowing he would never see Mahaprabhu in this life. That night, he decided to end his life.

Just before sunrise, Mahaprabhu made Shrinivas fall asleep. On the excuse of a dream, Mahaprabhu himself came and gave Shrinivas the life-giving nectar of his smile; and as Shrinivas bowed, Mahaprabhu soothed his sorrows by placing his lotus feet upon his head. Mahaprabhu instructed Shrinivas to go to Puri, where Mahaprabhu's companions were waiting for him.



Mahaprabhu returns to *nitya lila*

He then wiped Shrinivas's tears with his own lotus hands, embraced him, and suddenly disappeared. As dawn broke, the dream faded, but the image of Mahaprabhu and the light of his mercy continued to fill Shrinivas's heart and mind.

Shrinivas Arrives in Puri

The moment Shrinivas entered the city of Puri, he started seeing the places where Mahaprabhu performed his *lilas*. The experience awakened the *prem sindhu* (ocean of love) within him and it overflowed his heart. As he rolled in the dust again and again, his body was taken over by the eight ecstasies (*asht-sattvik-bhavs*).

It was already late night, so Shrinivas took shelter near the main gate of the Jagannath Temple, called Singha Dwaar. He was completely submerged in Harinaam *kirtan*, his eyes flowing tears, like rivers of love.

When he slept, Mahaprabhu blessed Shrinivas with his *darshan* in a dream once more. This time he smiled and told Shrinivas, "Do not be sad, for your heart is my eternal home." (*Bhakti Ratnakar*, 3.117)

Shrinivas Meets Gadadhar Pandit

The next morning, Shrinivas went to the Tota Gopinath temple to meet Gadadhar Pandit. Gadadhar is the incarnation of Radharani, and in this incarnation, his main service was to read the *Shrimad Bhagwatam* to Mahaprabhu. Shrinivas deeply desired to learn *Shrimad Bhagwatam* from him.

In Mahaprabhu's separation, Gadadhar had become wilted and pale, like a lotus without water. But when he saw Shrinivas, he seemed to blossom once more. He remembered how, many years ago, Shrinivas's father had come to Puri to pray for a son. At that time, Mahaprabhu had said Shrinivas would be the incarnation of his love, and truly, Gadadhar felt Mahaprabhu's presence in him. When the two embraced, Shrinivas could feel that Gadadhar's clothes were completely soaked with tears.

Gadadhar sent Shrinivas to meet all Mahaprabhu's companions. Upon seeing Shrinivas, the suffering in their hearts subsided and their hearts were filled with joy as they gave him their blessings. Many of them were only staying alive to meet Shrinivas before leaving for eternal Vrindavan.

Shrinivas then returned to see Gadadhar once more. After feeding Shrinivas *maha-prasad* with his own hands, he asked Shrinivas to sit with him in his hut.

Gadadhar told Shrinivas, "I know you deeply long to learn *Shrimad Bhagwatam* from me, and I would also love to teach you. But I am very sorry to say that my *Bhagwatam* is ruined." With these words, he placed the *Bhagwatam* in Shrinivas's hands and asked him to look inside.

श्रीनिवास श्रीग्रन्थे कोरिया नमस्कार ।
अक्षर देखिते नेत्रे बहे अश्रुधार ॥
श्रीचैतन्यप्रभु गदाधर नेत्रजले ।
मध्ये मध्ये वर्णलोप पाठ नाहि चले ॥

*shrinivaas shrigranthe koriyaa namaskaar ।
akshar dekhite netre bahe ashrudhaar ॥
shri chaitanya prabhu gadaadhar netrajale ।
madhye madhye varnalop paath naahi chale ॥*

"Shrinivas offered his *pranam* to the book, but when he looked inside, he started crying. The text had become unreadable in many places, for Mahaprabhu and Gadadhar's combined tears had washed the words away." (*Bhakti Ratnakar*, 3.651-652)

Gadadhar instructed Shrinivas to return to Bengal quickly to meet Mahaprabhu's companions and then to proceed to Vrindavan. Though Shrinivas did not want to leave Gadadhar, he could not question Gadadhar's orders. But he was unable to understand the true significance of Gadadhar's instruction and Mahaprabhu's plan for him.

Shrinivas left for Bengal, but after spending only one night there, he felt that he had made a mistake in coming there. How could he miss the opportunity to learn from Gadadhar Pandit himself? Maybe he should have disobeyed, he thought. Maybe he should have insisted and stayed.

In desperation, Shrinivas started walking back to Puri. But soon, he heard the news that Gadadhar had also left this world for eternal Vrindavan. Turning back, he headed towards Bengal, only to be informed that Nityanand and Advait, two of Mahaprabhu's closest companions, had also left for eternal Vrindavan. Touched by Shrinivas's weeping, even the animals cried and stones melted in sorrow.

When Shrinivas began to think of dying,

Mahaprabhu blessed his dreams once more, this time with Gadadhar. Consoling him, they urged him to continue his journey. When Nityanand and Advait went back to *nitya lila*, they too came in his dream and made him happy with their smiles. They both embraced him and told him not to think of ending his life, for Mahaprabhu had many *sevas* that would be accomplished through him alone. They ordered him to quickly go to Bengal and Vrindavan, and Shrinivas obeyed their command.

To Be Continued ...

References

Bhakti Ratnakar by Narahari Chakravarti
Shri Shrinivasacharya Thakurer Suchak Kirtan by Ramdas Babaji



Braj Animal Care



Many dogs, cows and other animals live on Vrindavan's streets, suffering greatly due to a lack of food and clean water. Often, they are hit by cars and injured, and they carry painful diseases that are often easily treatable.

Braj Animal Care was founded two months ago to help address the problems these animals face every day. We have already begun a feeding program, and we provide the link between injured animals and the veterinary care they need.

So far, we have treated twenty dogs, with the goal of providing full care to 100-150 stray dogs in the next year, including food, basic grooming, deworming, vaccinations, and emergency care. Our dream is to have our own facility where injured animals can recuperate; where food, medical treatment and shelter will all be provided under one roof.



Meet Tinsel

"Hi! I'm Tinsel! I was born on the side of a road in Vrindavan. As I was the largest of all my brothers and sisters, Mom thought I had a good chance of surviving on the street. But one day, one of those big things with wheels ran over my leg.

"The person who was driving didn't stop, and I cried for two days until someone finally found me. Suddenly, many people were around me, saying that I might die. They tried to help, but finally Braj Animal Care found a warm place for me where I could recover safely.

"My friends Achyut Priya and Vishakha took me to get an x-ray in Mathura, and I got a big cast on my leg. It's been five weeks and, even though my leg is healing well, the doctor says I have to wear the cast for at least one more week.

"I don't like wearing the cast, but I know it's good for me, so I don't try too hard to tear it off with my teeth! I am so thankful that Braj Animal Care is going to take care of me for my whole life."

To sponsor food and medical care for animals like Tinsel, please call or WhatsApp us on +91 89237 37924 or visit www.brajanimalcare.com. You can also follow us on Instagram at www.instagram.com/braj.animal.care, and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/brajanimalcare.



Maharajji's Latest Updates



Shri Radha Ras Katha

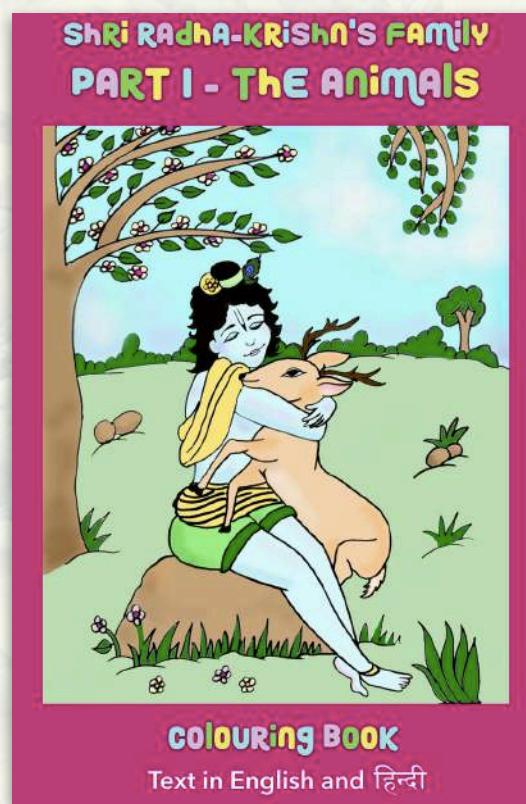
This month, Chandan Goswami Maharaj gave a seven-day *katha* on Shri Radha Ras. He spoke on the *tattva* and *lila* of Radharani, her beloved Krishn, and their eternal home, Shri Vrindavan Dham at Bhagwat Niwas. Bhagwat Niwas is a beautiful Gaudiya ashram in the Raman Reti area of

Vrindavan, where the ancient natural ambience is preserved. It is full of trees, birds, flowers, Braj dust and many *sadhus* who have dedicated their entire lives to worshipping Radha and Krishn through Harinaam and meditation. Here lived the great saints Shri Ramkrishna Das Pandit Baba, Shri Kripasindhu Das Baba and many others.

The occasion of the *katha* was Shri Kripasindhu Das Babaji's disappearance festival. Many prominent saints of Vrindavan attended, including Shri Padmanabh Goswamiji Maharaj and Shri Padmalochan Goswamiji Maharaj of the Shri Radharaman Temple, Shri Phooldol Bihari Dasji Maharaj, Radhakund Mahant Kunjbihari Dasji, Pandit Vaishnavpad Das Babaji, Mahant Jagannath Das Babaji, Mahant Shukdev Das Babaji, Shri Vanmali Das Babaji, Mahant Sacchidanand Dasji, Shri Bhaktmal Dasji and so forth.

Speaking on the nature of love for Krishn, Maharajji said, "It's not enough to just say 'I love you'. When you truly love, you know everything about the object of your affection. But when you do not love someone, you know nothing about them.

"Even in material life, when a young man loves a young woman, he tries to find out everything about her. He knows what time she leaves the house and what time she gets home. He knows what she likes, what she wears, what she eats, and he certainly knows the names of all her relatives and friends. True love is depicted in the way Shri Krishn knows every tiny detail about his Beloved, Shri Radha.



"It is easy to say 'I love Radha and Krishn' but take a moment to reflect, how much do you really know about them? What is their daily schedule? Do you know what food items they like or dislike? Do you know their favourite *shringaar*? Can you give the names of all their relatives? Do you know what pets they have? If you really love them, you should learn everything about them."

Colouring as Meditation

To help devotees learn about Radha and Krishn's friends, relatives, and other details of their life and *lilas*, Maharajji is publishing a series of colouring books based on Shri Roop Goswami's *Shri Radha-Krishn Ganoddesh Dipika*. The series is suitable for children and adults alike, as the act of



Maharajji presents our free Radharaman calendar for 2020

colouring the divine subject is a form of interactive meditation. The first book in the series, *Shri Radha-Krishn's Family: Part I – The Animals*, is already available. You can buy a copy in English and Hindi [here](#), and the Spanish version is available [here](#).

Maharajji's Vyas Puja

On January 19th, Maharajji's disciples performed Maharajji's *vyas puja*. First, Guru Puja was performed, followed by ecstatic Shri Radharaman Sankirtan. The evening ended with the nectar of Hari Katha, submerging all the devotees in the vast ocean of Braj bliss.

During the program, Maharajji also announced the release of our Radharaman calendar for the year 2020. The calendar is free for pickup in Vrindavan, or it can be ordered online [here](#) for a small fee to cover shipping costs.

Maharajji and his disciples most cordially invite you and your loved ones to attend ODev's regular Sankirtans in India (New Delhi and Kanpur), UK (London and Birmingham), Argentina (Buenos Aires) and Uruguay (Montevideo).

For more information on upcoming programs, please contact us by email at odev108@gmail.com or on WhatsApp at +91 83687 83201.

बसंत

Spring

by Gunmanjari Das Goswami

Translation by Vaisnavacharya Chandan Goswami from the book

Shri Radharaman Gita

श्री राधारमण जी नव बसंत खेलत वृन्दावन नित लसंत ।
प्यारीजी शोभित सखिन संग लखि नागर मन बाढ़ी उमंग ॥
अलबेली प्रथमही लै गुलाल मूठी भरि छोड़ी है मुखहि लाल ।
नागर मानत हैं धन्य धन्य सब रसिकन में हैं अग्रगन्य ॥
श्यामा मुख अतर लगाय गाय निरखत हैं शोभा समय पाय ।
सखियन पर दिये कुमकुमा दोर छवि को नहीं तहाँ ओर छोर ॥
बाजत बीणा मिरदंग ताल ढप मुरली सारंगी रसाल ।
गावत तहाँ हैं हिंडोल राग गुणमंजरी हर्षित मन की लाग ॥

*shri raadhaaraman ji nava basant khelat vrindavan nit lasant ।
pyaariji shobhit sakhin sang lakhi naagar man baarhi umang ॥
alabeli pratham-hi lai gulaal muthi bhari chodi hai mukh-hi laal ।
naagar maanat hai dhanya dhanya sab rasikan mein hai agraganya ॥
shyaamaa mukh atar lagaay gaay nirakhat hain shobhaa samay paay ।
sakhiyan par diye kumkumaa dor chavi ko nahin tahaan or chor ॥
baajat binaa mridang taal dhap murali saarangi rasaal ।
gaavat tahaan hain hindol raag gunmanjari harshit man ki laag ॥*

On the arrival of spring, Shri Radharaman is ready to play Holi in this beautiful Shri Vrindavan Dham. Seeing the ever so graceful Priyaju with her *sakhis* overwhelms Shriji's heart with desire. First, Vrishbhanu Kishori takes a handful of coloured powder (*gulal*) and throws it upon her Beloved's face; the crown jewel of *rasiks*, Shri Lalju feels very blessed and proudly admires his fate. Then, he rubs fragrant oil on Shyamaju's delicate lotus face, enhancing her beauty. Thereafter, Shri Priya-Lalju come together and sprinkle their *sakhis* with *kumkum*. Intoxicated with the colours of love, the *sakhis* play the veena, *mridang*, *dhap*, flute (*murali*) and *sarangi*, and sing to the melody of Raag Hindol. Watching this *lila*, Gunmanjari's heart overflows with happiness.

(Click to purchase *Shri Radharaman Gita* in [English](#) or in [Hindi](#).)



Upcoming Events

February 2020



Advait Acharya's Appearance Day

Saturday, February 1st

Advait Acharya is the one who brought Mahaprabhu to this world. He is known as the combined incarnation of Maha Vishnu and Lord Shiv. In Vrindavan, most people celebrate his appearance day at the Shri Sitanath Mandir in Seva Kunj.

Nityanand Prabhu's Appearance Day

Friday, February 7th

Nityanand Prabhu is primarily known as an incarnation of Krishn's brother, Balram, and he helped Mahaprabhu to spread the Holy Name throughout the eastern part of India. In Vrindavan, his appearance day is primarily celebrated at Shringar Vat, which is also Nityanand Prabhu's *bhajan sthali*.

Mahashivratri and Shiv Chaturdashi

Friday, February 21st - 22nd

Shiv Chaturdashi is the marriage anniversary of Shiv and Devi, the divine goddess. Devi is also Krishn's sister, and as this festival takes place during the forty-day period of Braj Holi, the Brajwasis celebrate this day with a lot of feeling. In the temple of Gopeshwar Mahadev, an all-night *kirtan* is held the night before on Mahashivratri, and special Holi folksongs called *rasiyas* are sung.

