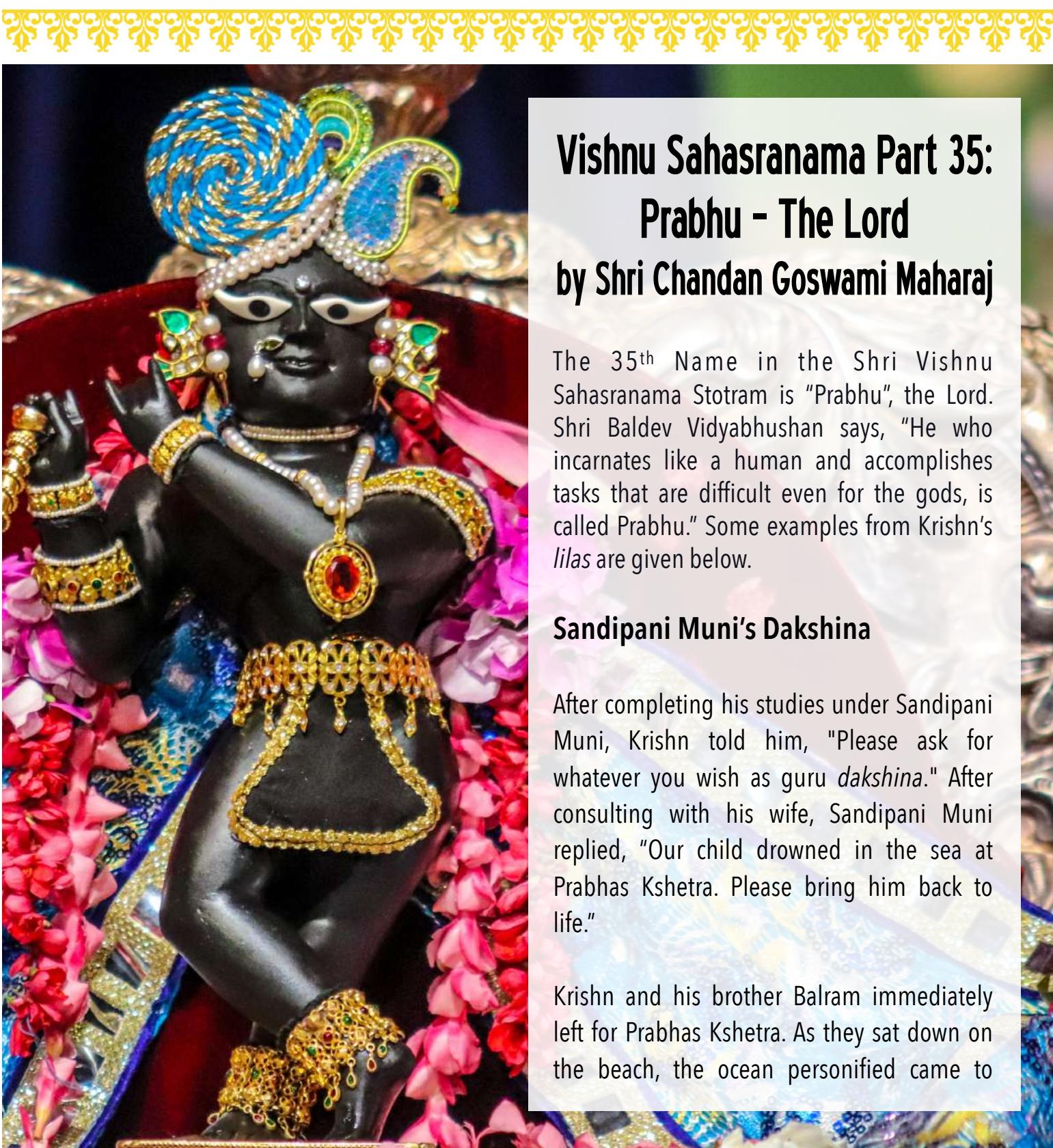




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Vishnu Sahasranama Part 35: Prabhu - The Lord by Shri Chandan Goswami Maharaj

The 35th Name in the Shri Vishnu Sahasranama Stotram is "Prabhu", the Lord. Shri Baldev Vidyabhushan says, "He who incarnates like a human and accomplishes tasks that are difficult even for the gods, is called Prabhu." Some examples from Krishn's *lilas* are given below.

Sandipani Muni's Dakshina

After completing his studies under Sandipani Muni, Krishn told him, "Please ask for whatever you wish as guru *dakshina*." After consulting with his wife, Sandipani Muni replied, "Our child drowned in the sea at Prabhas Kshetra. Please bring him back to life."

Krishn and his brother Balram immediately left for Prabhas Kshetra. As they sat down on the beach, the ocean personified came to

worship them. Krishn then instructed the sea to return his guru's son.

The ocean replied, "Prabhu! I did not take the child. A great demon named Panchjan resides in my waters as a sea snail (conch). He is the real culprit."

Krishn dived into the water and killed the demon, but not finding the lost child in its stomach, he took its shell and returned to his chariot. Krishn and Balram then went to the underworld and blew the conch shell.

Upon hearing the sound, Yamraj, the underworld king, came and asked, "Prabhu! How may I serve you?" Krishn told Yamraj to return his guru's son, ignoring all the son's previous *karm*. Straightaway, Yamraj brought his guru's son back.

When Krishn returned the child to his guru, he said, "Please ask for whatever you desire." The Guru replied, "This is the most beautiful *guru dakshina* I could ask for. I don't need anything else."

Protecting Uttara's Unborn Child

When Draupadi learned of her five sons' death at the hands of Ashwatthama, she vowed to fast until he was punished, and would only break her fast after his punishment.

In the battle between Ashwatthama and Arjun, both used a supernatural weapon called a

brahmastra, similar to a nuclear weapon. But when the sages asked Arjun to withdraw his weapon, Ashwatthama redirected his weapon to Uttara, who was carrying the last remaining child of the Pandav dynasty. Ashwatthama hoped that his *brahmastra* would end their dynasty altogether.

When the child in Uttara's womb began to burn from the *brahmastra*'s heat, Krishn took a tiny form the size of a thumb. Mystically entering the womb, he guarded the unborn child with a burning mace that counteracted Ashwatthama's *brahmastra*. Ten months later, the child was born unharmed.

The Story of Ghantakaran

The following story is mentioned in the *Harivansh Puran*. Once, while Shri Krishn was meditating in Badrinath, he met a demon named Ghantakaran. Ghantakaran told Krishn his name and said:

"I am a demon, fearsome as death itself. I eat flesh and my form is terrifying. I am a companion of Lord Shiv and a servant of Kuber. I constantly criticised Lord Narayan and hated the sound of his Name. I was so obsessed with avoiding his Name, that I even wore bells in my ears to cover the sound.

"One day, I went to Kailash and worshipped Lord Shiv. Pleased with my worship, he offered me a boon. But when I asked for liberation, Lord Shiv said,

मुक्तिप्रदाता सर्वेषां विष्णुरेव न संशयः ।

*muktipradātā sarveṣām viṣṇureva na
samśayah ।*

'Only Lord Narayan can give liberation; there is no doubt about it.' (Harivansh Puran)

"Lord Shiv then instructed me, 'Go to Badrinath and worship Narayan there. He will fulfil your desire.' By the grace of Lord Shiv, I began to understand Lord Narayan's greatness and came here to seek liberation from him."

Following Lord Shiv's instructions, Ghantakaran began to chant Krishn's Holy Name intensely whilst visualising him within his heart.

Krishn thought, "Even though he is a demon, Ghantakaran has chanted my Name so many times by the grace of his gurus! Even when he was eating raw meat or drinking blood, he chanted my Name." Pleased with Ghantakaran's devotion, Krishn appeared before him in a vision.

Now seeing that Krishn was the same as the form he was meditating upon, Ghantakaran said, "It is he! It is he!" and began to dance in ecstasy. However, Ghantakaran didn't know how to serve the Lord. He thought, what should I say to him? What can I give him as a gift?

Laughing and dancing wildly, Ghantakaran

found a Brahmin's corpse. Cutting it into pieces, he washed it carefully, placed it on a beautiful plate and offered it to Krishn with humility.

Ghantakaran said, "O Prabhu! I am your devotee, and I am offering this dead Brahmin's body with my whole heart. I know there are no rules in love, and you always accept whatever is offered with love, so please agree to receive this corpse as my gift to you."

Shri Krishn smiled sweetly and replied, "O demon! I know you love eating flesh. For you, this corpse is a beautiful thing! But for me, it is not even fit to be touched, let alone eaten!"

"However, I am very pleased with your intentions. By chanting my Name, your heart has become pure."

Krishn then gently caressed Ghantakaran's body with his lotus hand. At that moment, Ghantakaran was freed from all sins.

He told Ghantakaran, "You will reside in *swarg* for one life of Indra; after that, you will attain liberation."

The Liberation of Jara the Hunter

The following story is described in the *Vishnu Puran*. Once, some princes from the Yadav dynasty dressed Krishn's son Samba as a woman and approached a group of sages. After offering obeisances, they amusingly said, "This woman desires a son! Tell us, who

will she give birth to?"

This angered the sages, who responded, "This person will give birth to a huge mace that will destroy your entire dynasty." The fearful princes reported the incident to King Ugrasen. Soon after, a terrible iron mace emerged from Samba's body. King Ugrasen ordered the mace to be destroyed, and the pieces were thrown into the sea.

However, one tiny piece of the mace, which was shaped like an arrowhead, was swallowed by a fish and caught by a fisherman. When the fish was butchered, the arrowhead was given to a hunter named Jara.

When Krishn was ready to conclude his earthly *lila*, he sat meditating under a tree. The hunter Jara saw him from a distance and shot his foot with an arrow, which was tipped by the fragment of the mace.

As Jara drew nearer, he realised his mistake and fell at Krishn's feet in unbearable sadness. He begged, "O Prabhu! Please forgive me! I thought you were a deer. Please save me from my sins, which are burning me!"

Krishn lovingly told him, "O Jara! Don't be afraid. By my grace, you shall immediately go to *swarg*." With these words, a celestial chariot arrived and took the hunter to *swarg*.

Soldiers who Attained Liberation

The *Bhishm Stuti* of the *Shrimad Bhagwatam* mentions some soldiers who attained liberation by Krishn's grace.

सपदि सखिवचो निशम्य मध्ये निजपरयोर्बलयो रथं निवेश्य ।
स्थितवति परसैनिकायुरक्षणा हृतवति पार्थसखे रतिर्मास्तु ॥

*sapadi sakhibaco niśamya madhye nijaparayorbalayo ratham niveśya ।
sthitavati parasainikāyurakṣṇā hṛtavati pārthasakhe ratir mamāstu ॥*

"May I have unconditional love for Krishn, who drove his friend Arjun's chariot; who on Arjun's request, placed the chariot between the Pandav and Kaurav armies; and who, by his mere glance, took away their lives and gave them liberation." (*Shrimad Bhagwatam*, 1.9.35)

Some other meanings of the Name "Prabhu" have been provided by various acharyas.

Shri Adi Shankaracharya says:

सर्वासु क्रियासु सामर्थ्यातिशयात् प्रभुः ।

*sarvāsu kriyāsu sāmarthyātiśayāt
prabhuh ।*

"He who is supremely capable in all actions is called 'Prabhu'."

Shri Parashar Bhatt says:

ब्रह्मादीनां च सर्वेषां भोगमोक्षसमर्पणे ।
समर्थः प्रभुरित्युक्तः सर्वेषफलदो हरिः ॥

*brahmādīnām ca sarveṣām
bhogamokṣasamarpaṇe ।
samarthaḥ prabhurityuktaḥ
sarveṣṭaphalado hariḥ ॥*

"He who is capable of giving enjoyment and liberation to Brahma, all other deities, and everyone else, is called 'Prabhu'."

भूः आश्रयः प्रगतः अन्याश्रयः स्वयमेव स्वस्य
प्रकृष्टः आश्रयः इति प्रभुः ।

*bhūḥ āśrayaḥ pragataḥ anyāśrayaḥ
svayameva svasya prakṛṣṭaḥ āśrayaḥ iti
prabhuh ।*

"'Bhu' means support. He who has no support himself, and who himself is the supreme

support, is called 'Prabhu.'"

अनया नितान्त कान्धतया सर्वहृदय-हरणे प्रभवति
इति प्रभुः ।

*anayā nitānta kānthatayaḥ sarvahṛdaya-
haraṇe prabhavati iti prabhuh ।*

"He who is uniquely beautiful and has the extraordinary power to captivate all hearts is called 'Prabhu'."

प्रभवते अस्मात् सर्वम् इति प्रभु ।

prabhavate asmāt sarvam iti prabhu ।

"He who is the source of all creation is called 'Prabhu'."

प्रभवते स्वयं नाना रूपेण इति प्रभु ।

*prabhavate svayam nānā rūpeṇa iti
prabhu ।*

"He who manifests in various forms is called 'Prabhu'."

समर्थो भवति इति प्रभु ।

samarthaḥ bhavati iti prabhu ।

"He who is capable of doing everything is called 'Prabhu'."



Braj Animal Care



Our dear friend Divyangi cares for this momma dog and her six puppies. We appreciate her dedication to animal welfare and as a result, they are very healthy! This month, Braj Animal Care provided them with rabies shots to protect them against the deadly disease. Divyangi is inspirational!

If you would like to contribute to this cause, please scan the QR code below:



Rabies protection for stray dogs

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

@braj.animal.care
 brajanimalcare.com

(+91)8923737924
 brajanimalcare@gmail.com



Maharajji's Latest Updates



On the 21st of July, Maharajji celebrated Guru Purnima in Vrindavan. Many devotees travelled from different states in India to receive initiation from him. The new disciples joined the extended family and offered Guru Puja while singing *kirtan*. The next initiation date is scheduled for 29th December 2024 in Vrindavan.

Maharajji joined his family in the Shri Radharaman Temple on Tuesday 27th August for Radharaman Lal Ju's Janmashtami *maha-abhishek*. The day was filled with *sankirtan*, *prasad* distribution and devotee association. This month, he will begin his travels to America and South America. We will share his itinerary on social media.



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Spiritual Questions and Answers with Maharajji

Q: How do we know we are eligible to take initiation (*diksha*)?

A: When you can devote your life to Shri Krishn and the Guru's instructions, you are ready to take *diksha*.

Vaishnav Calendar

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