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Vishnu Sahasranama Part 15: Sakshi - The One Who Witnesses Everything by Shri Chandan Goswami Maharaj

According to Shri Baldev Vidyabhushan, the 15th Name in the Shri Vishnu Sahasranama Stotram, Sakshi, means: "The one who sees everything as if he is physically there."

In the *Bhagwat Gita*, 9.18, Krishn also says:

गतिर्भर्ता प्रभुः साक्षी

gatir bhartā prabhuḥ sākṣī



"I am the highest goal of all living beings, and I am also their sustainer, master, witness and friend."

The *Shwetashvatar Upanishad*, 6.11, also describes the qualities of the Lord:

एको देवः सर्वभूतेषु गूढः सर्वव्यापी
सर्वभूतान्तरात्मा ।
कर्माध्यक्षः सर्वभूताधिवासः साक्षी चेता केवलो
निर्गुणश्च ॥

*eko devah sarvabhūtesu gūḍhah
sarvavyāpī sarvabhūtāntarātmā ।
karmādhyaṅkṣah sarvabhūtādhivāsaḥ
sākṣī cetā kevalo nirguṇaśca ॥*

"There is only one God who is hidden within every creature and because he is all pervading, he resides in the soul of every living being. He presides over all actions and he is the home of all living things. He is the powerful witness, the bestower of intelligence and he is the Absolute. In him there is no existence of mood nor any attribute."

There is yet another meaning, साक्षात् द्रष्टरीति साक्षी, *sākṣāt dṛaṣṭarīti sākṣī*: "Shri Krishn sees everything directly himself. He does not appoint others to do it for him."

The above definitions are sweetly highlighted in the following story. Once, a poor Brahmin devotee of Banke Bihari borrowed some money from a money lender. Every month, he paid a small instalment towards the loan repayment. Before his last payment, The money lender sent him a court notice that the loan was due and to return the entire amount along with the interest incurred. The Brahmin

became very anxious. He visited the money lender and explained that he had made all the repayments but the money lender refused to acknowledge the transactions. The matter reached the court.

The Brahmin approached the presiding judge and said, "I have paid all the money I owe."

The judge asked, "Are there any witnesses who saw you make these payments?"

After some thought, he gave the address of the Banke Bihari Temple. The court noted it down and issued a summons, which was delivered to the temple. The serving Goswamiji didn't ask about its content nor did he pay much attention to it. He just placed it at the lotus feet Bihariji. On the day of the testimony, an old man appeared as a witness before the judge. He said, "I was with the Brahmin each time the money was repaid." The witness provided details of the actual dates too.

When the judge saw the money lender's account books, the testimony turned out to be correct. The amounts were recorded against a false name, therefore, the judge declared the Brahmin innocent. But he was left wondering who this witness was. He asked the Brahmin.

The Brahmin replied, "Other than Bihariji, who else can be the witness of my every action?"

This incident captivated the judge so much that he resigned, left his family and became a *sadhu*.



Marry Mahaprabhu's Teachings

by Shri Chandan Goswami Maharaj



We are taking a short break from our series on Shri Roop Goswami's Stavamala. We hope to resume the translation of the prayers soon. Instead, we will share Maharajji's blogs, which have been widely appreciated since he started writing them over a decade ago.

"If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or things."

- Albert Einstein

It is so satisfying to read this quote because I often see people running around like headless chickens in search of happiness. Many years ago, I met one of my recently initiated disciples. She seemed chirpy, so I asked her, "Why are you so happy?" She was excited to answer my question and replied, "Wait one moment!"

She hurried out of the room and returned holding a set of photographs, which she started showing to me. They were from her recent sky-diving holiday in Europe. I could see she was brimming with happiness just from fulfilling one thing on her bucket list!

When I met her again the following year, I saw a little sadness in her eyes. I asked her, "Why are you so unhappy?"

She replied, "I am at that stage where it seems life no longer has any purpose. I feel like I am just waiting to die."

Many of us equate happiness with going on a holiday, getting a partner, buying a new house or a new car, fulfilling our bucket list, getting a dream job, and so forth. But if you really look at those experiences, most are just short-term activities or wants; they have no deeper purpose. While it is good to have such experiences, they do not give meaning to our lives.

After attaining one of your material goals, you often find yourself lying in bed thinking, *what will be the next source of my happiness?* I can tell you what comes next: under the influence of your mind, the places you visit, the company you keep, and so forth, you set another temporary goal and start chasing after it with the belief that it can make you happy.

But according to Albert Einstein, this way of life will not give you happiness. The same sentiment was expressed by Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Approximately 300 years before Einstein, Mahaprabhu defined the real purpose of life in verse three of his *Shikshashtakam*:

तृणादपि सुनीचेन तरोरपि सहिष्णुना ।
अमानिना मानदेन कीर्तनीयः सदा हरिः ॥

*trṇādapi sunīcena tarorapi sahiṣṇunā ।
amāninanā mānadena kīrtanīyah sadā hariḥ ॥*

"Be useful to others, have a lot of patience, remove ego and chant the Holy Name to attain eternal bliss."

One day, I sat down to reflect upon Mahaprabhu's teachings, because I realised that he instructed us to do more than just chant. First and foremost, he asked us to be of use to others and to have a lot of patience in that process so that it can remove our ego. This realisation led me to redefine my aim for this life. Besides giving discourses on the purest form of love, that of the Braj *gopis*, I started to serve nature, animals, and disadvantaged people as well.



Maharajji participates in a Braj Animal Care feeding

From my personal experience, I can tell you that if you marry Mahaprabhu's teachings and have a romance with the process, you will enjoy your journey in this life and beyond.



Braj Animal Care



"In order to resume our medical services again, we have made some infrastructure changes. Our feedings have temporarily dropped from twice a day to once a day and we have started taking calls for the treatment of injured, neglected or abused animals in Vrindavan.

We have been extremely busy with cases and they are horrific. We will share some of the stories with you in the coming editions and they will highlight the need for animal medical services in Vrindavan. We cannot prevent the cases of abuse and neglect, as much as we wish we could, but we can care for these animals and provide the treatment and love that they need.

Bhora's Story

We had a dog, Bhora, who was beaten badly with an iron rod for "intruding" on the perpetrator's land. To our knowledge, Bhora did not attack the landowner nor did he cause any damage, yet both his front left leg and lower jaw were fractured by the incident. Bhora's face had cuts and bruises to it and there is substantial damage to his right eye. The person who found him contacted Braj Animal Care and we arrived to give much-needed treatment. We administered pain-relief spray on Bhora and gave him pain killers and antibiotics. We injected him to prevent maggot infestation, which is prevalent during this season.

The informer of this case is looking after Bhora until he recovers. We did a follow-up check and he is doing much better. The damage on his body is still visible, some of it irreversible, mainly the right eye. We have given Bhora all the treatment that we can and will check on him once more.



Bhora during his 2nd visit from Braj Animal Care

For more information about Braj Animal Care's programs and services, please follow us on social media at:

- @braj.animal.care
- brajanimalcare.com
- (+91)8923737924
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Maharajji's Latest Updates



The ODev family is pleased to invite you to Maharajji's *katha* on Venu Geet which will take place in Vrindavan, from the 18th of December to the 24th of December 2022.

Venu Geet

The *gopis* of Vrindavan, who had only seen Shri Krishn from a distance, were deeply attracted to him just by hearing about him. Before officially meeting Krishn, the *gopis* sing about the extreme separation they experience from him in Venu Geet.

Venu Geet by Shri Chandan Goswami Maharaj
Timings: 2 pm to 5 pm

Location: Bhakti Dham, behind ISKCON Temple, Raman Reti Marg, Vrindavan

Spiritual Questions and Answers with Maharajji

Q: Does Guru find you or do you find a Guru?

A: Both are possibilities. If a Guru comes to you and says, "I found you, take *diksha*," you will be very sceptical about the proposal. So *diksha* happens when both of you are in agreement.

For more information about Maharajji's upcoming programs, 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.

