



Sri Krishna Kathamrita

तव कथामृतं तसजीवनम्
tava kathāmṛtaṁ taptā-jīvanam

Bindu

Fortnightly email mini-magazine from Gopal Jiu Publications

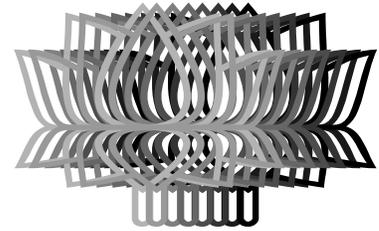
Issue No. 18

11 December 2001

Śrī Utpannā Ekādaśī, 11 Keśava, 515 Gaurābda

Highlights

- **TRANSCENDENTAL LAUGHTER**
SRILA A. C. BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI PRABHUPADA
- **THE BAD DESIRE TO BE GURU**
SRILA BHAKTISIDDHANTA SARASWATI THAKUR PRABHUPADA
- **REAL INTELLIGENCE**
SRI SRIMAD GOUR GOVINDA SWAMI MAHARAJA
- **DISPLAYS OF ECSTASY**



TRANSCENDENTAL LAUGHTER

HIS DIVINE GRACE A.C.

BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI PRABHUPADA

When a smiling person claps his hands and leaps in the air, the smiling expression changes into *atīhasita*, or overwhelming laughter. An example of *atīhasita* was manifested in the following incident. Krishna once addressed Jarati thus: "My dear good woman, the skin of your face is now slackened, and so your face exactly resembles a monkey's. As such, the king of the monkeys, Balimukha, has selected you as his worthy wife." While Krishna was teasing Jarati in this way, she replied that she was certainly aware of the fact that the king of the monkeys was trying to marry her, but she had already taken shelter of Krishna, the killer of many powerful demons, and therefore she had already decided to marry Krishna instead of the king of the monkeys. On hearing this sarcastic reply by the talkative Jarati, all the cowherd girls present there began to laugh very loudly and clap their hands. This laughter, accompanied by the clapping of hands, is called *atīhasita*.

Sometimes there are indirect sarcastic remarks, which also create *atīhasita* circumstances. An example of one such remark is a statement that was made by one of the cowherd girls to Kutila, the daughter of Jatila and the sister of Abhimanyu, the so-called husband of

Radharani. Indirectly Kutila was insulted by the following statement: "My dear Kutila, daughter of Jatila, your breasts are as long as string beans — simply dry and long. Your nose is so gorgeous that it defies the beauty of the noses of frogs. And your eyes are more beautiful than the eyes of dogs. Your lips defy the flaming cinders of fire, and your abdomen is as beautiful as a big drum. Therefore, my dear beautiful Kutila, you are the most beautiful of all the cowherd girls of Vrindavan, and because of your extraordinary beauty, I think you must be beyond the attraction of the sweet blowing of Krishna's flute!"

— Nectar of Devotion, chapter 45

From Srila Prabhupada's Life

When Prabhupada's edition of *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *madhya-līla* volume 1, was first published, devotees were surprised and pleased to read about the humorous joking between Lord Nityananda and Advaita Acharya during the taking of *prasādam* at Advaita Acharya's house. One morning, during a car ride with Srila Prabhupada, one of the devotees expressed his appreciation for the new volume.

"There is such nice humor in the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, Srila Prabhupada."

"Yes," said Srila Prabhupada, "spiritual life is humor also." Then he began to tell a story: "Krishna said to one old lady, 'You are so ugly, you should marry a monkey.'

"No," said the old lady, 'I have given up all material desires. I will marry you, Krishna!'

“Yes! Yes! Yes!” All the *gopīs* and boys clapped and laughed.”

While Prabhupada said this, his eyes lit up and he became very animated, laughing at the humorous pastimes of Krishna. “So Krishna was defeated,” said Srila Prabhupada, “by that laughing of the *gopīs*.” ❀

— Prabhupada Nectar volume 1 by Sri Srimad Satsvarupa Das Goswami

THE BAD DESIRE TO BE GURU

SRILA BHAKTISIDDHANTA SARASWATI
THAKUR PRABHUPADA

It is my Gurudeva who is graciously present in all different forms. If he were not graciously present in all of these different forms then who would preserve me? Those whom my Gurudeva made his own are my saviors. But may I never have occasion to see the face of that wicked person, who is a source of evil, who maligns the lotus feet of my Sri Gurudeva or who countenances in any way such a slanderer.

The moment I fall away from the lotus feet of Sri Guru or forget them, I certainly fall away from the truth. As soon as I fall away from the lotus feet of Sri Guru I find myself encompassed by innumerable wants. I run in a hurry for my bath. I become busy for preventing a cold. I run after other occupations different from the service of Sri Gurudeva. It is the lotus feet of Sri Gurudeva that alone protect me constantly from all this attachment for objects other than the truth. If I do not remember the lotus feet of Sri Guru at the beginning of every new year, every new month, every new day, and every new moment, then I am sure to fall into far greater inconveniences. If I do not remember his lotus feet then the desire will come to dress myself in the garb of the guru. I will become liable to the bad desire of seeking to be worshipped by other people as guru. It is this which constitutes addiction to things other than the truth. ❀

— Sri Chaitanya's Teachings page 262-263

THE ACTIVITIES OF SRILA LOKANATH GOSWAMI ŚRĪ BHAKTI-RATNĀKARA

While taking Srinivas Acharya, Narottam Das Thakur, and Syamananda Prabhu on *parikramā* in Vrindavan, Raghava Pandit described the following:

Beautiful Kisorī-kunda is very dear to Kishorī (Srimati Radharani), the daughter of Maharaja

Vrīshabhanu. Seeing this wonderful place, Lokanath Goswami felt great pleasure within himself and resided here. There is no end to speaking of his renunciation. Sri Radha-vinode bestowed Their mercy on him here. Whenever he got fruits, roots, sak, or rice, Lokanath Goswami would offer them to Sri Radha-vinode with great devotion. During the rainy and winter seasons, Lokanath stayed under this tree with only an old quilt and very old outer cloth. During the rains, Lokanath would keep his Lord within the hollow of a tree while he would remain outside getting wet. At other times, he would happily keep Radha-vinode in an old bag hanging on his chest. Remembering the pastimes of Sri Gaurachandra, he would become overwhelmed and cry at this place. ❀

— Srila Narahari Chakravarti. Translated in *Mathurā-maṇḍala Parikramā*, published by Srimad Pundarik Vidyānidhī Das, Vrīndavan, 1992.

REAL INTELLIGENCE

SRI SRIMAD GOUR GOVINDA SWAMI MAHARAJA
CONVERSATION, 24 NOVEMBER 1989

Those who are intelligent never ask Krishna for anything. They only want Krishna. Although they may apparently seem to be very poor, wretched and distressed, actually they are very, very wealthy persons. Therefore they are known as *mahārājas*, kings of the kings. Great kings come and bow down to them.

There was once a very opulent king who was also very charitable. One day he told all of his ministers, commanders, and other officers working under him, beginning from the lowest to the most important officers, “You may ask whatever you want from me, I’ll give you.” The ministers, commanders, and other important officers requested many opulent things. One asked for a good wife. Someone else asked for much wealth. Another wanted a nice building. So many things! The king also had a very low-class person who would clean the garbage. He was a very poor sweeper. The king asked him, “What do you want?”

The sweeper said, “O king, I don’t want anything. I only want that your lotus feet will touch my poor, humble cottage. This is all I want. I don’t want anything else from you.” He was the most intelligent person because he didn’t ask for wealth, a promotion, or any of the other things that the others had asked for. He only wanted that the king would come to his humble cottage.

The king granted his wish: “All right. On a certain day we’ll go.” When a king goes somewhere, he never goes alone. He goes with all of his paraphernalia, ministers, and commanders, with great pomp and ceremony, and in a grand procession. And wherever the king stays, royal palaces should be built, otherwise how would the king stay there? Thus in order to receive the king, the sweeper’s humble cottage was transformed into a royal king’s palace. Consider what this sweeper got and what the others got. The sweeper was intelligent.

Therefore in His *Śikṣāṣṭaka*, verse three, Mahaprabhu has said:

*na dhanam na janam na sundarim
kavitam va jagad-isa kamaye
mama janmani janmani svare
bhavatad bhaktir ahaituki toyai*

O almighty Lord, I have no desire to accumulate wealth, nor to enjoy beautiful women, nor do I want any number of followers. I only want the causeless mercy of Your devotional service in my life, birth after birth.

This is an intelligent *prarthana*, prayer. “I don’t want anything. I only want to serve Your lotus feet.” Like the sweeper who only wanted the king to place his feet in his home, we should only want that Krishna’s lotus feet be here. It may seem that this is an ugly or a wretched place, but no, it is Krishna’s place. *Brahma-samhita* 5.29 states, *lakṣmī-sahasra-śata-sambhrama-sevyamānam* — innumerable goddesses of fortune will come to serve Krishna. Such a person who prays for Krishna is the most intelligent person. Krishna is *pūrṇa-brahma* — He is completely full. If one has Krishna, how will there be any shortage? One who understands this has real intelligence. ❀

DISPLAYS OF ECSTASY

FROM THE LIFE OF SRILA GOUR KISHOR DAS BABAJI

One day, a resident of East Bengal who was a very wealthy landlord, scholar, *brāhmaṇa*, and famous great devotee of the Lord, came along with his friend to see Srila Gour Kishor. The landowner was so deeply absorbed in devotional ecstasies that his friend had to assist him by holding his hand when he walked. His friend would hold the shoulder of the wealthy landowner because his body was trembling so much. When they arrived before Srila Gour Kishor, two other persons present immediately recognized the wealthy landowner and received him as an advanced devotee

of the Lord. They very carefully offered their obeisances to him and arranged a sitting place, praying to him to please be seated. At that time Srila Gour Kishor, enacting his pastime of a blind person, said, “Who has come?” The friend of the landowner introduced his companion by glorifying the landowner’s erudition, devotion, and detachment from material sense gratification, although he possessed unlimited wealth. He described how, just one fortnight before, a thief had come and stolen forty-five thousand Rupees from the landowner’s house. Although suffering such a setback, the landowner, knowing devotion to be the main attachment, had come to obtain Srila Gour Kishor’s transcendental *darśan*. The friend added, “I am his friend. He has left all material sense gratification and keeps only my association. You will be able to realize his greatness by conversing with him. He once asked me a question about a confidential exchange between Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and Sri Ramananda Raya from the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*. I told him that only Gour Kishor Das Babaji could properly answer his question and certainly no one else. We have already been to see many learned persons in this area and still we cannot come to an agreement about the meaning of this conversation. We think that only you are able to explain it properly.”

After the friend of the great devotee completed his introduction, Srila Gour Kishor replied, “I will tell you a process by which you can understand the conclusion of this conversation. But before trying to understand these confidential topics between Lord Chaitanya and Ramananda Raya, you should renounce the association of this rascal impostor and take shelter of a pure devotee of the Lord. You should hear the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* one hundred times in the association of real devotees of the Lord. In this way, being absorbed in devotional ecstasy, you will be able to realize the purport of these conversations. At the present moment all the devotees here want to perform congregational chanting of the Holy Name of the Lord. We don’t have time to discuss any other topics.” Then Srila Gour Kishor very loudly requested everyone to perform *hari-nāma saṅkīrtana*. Everyone then began to congregationally chant the Lord’s holy name. Hearing the words of Srila Gour Kishor, the proud landowner and his friend immediately got up and left that place. Later in the evening, when

almost everyone had gone, some persons said to Srila Gour Kishor, "That very learned landowner was absorbed in devotional ecstasy. We could not see any manifestation of material consciousness in him. He was devoid of any worldly consciousness." Another person sitting nearby, who had always heard that Srila Gour Kishor was very open with everyone, said, "That person was so immersed in various loving devotional ecstasies that he could not even walk by his own efforts. How is it that you can say he was not on the highest level of *bhāva-bhakti*?"

Gour Kishor Das Babaji then replied, "After speaking with him for a few moments I could understand that he had no good intentions in his performance of devotional service. One cannot measure the amount of devotion a person possesses by the approval of the general people. If a person is not serious in his devotional practice, then even if he has the symptoms of renunciation, detachment, and many ecstasies, still he should not be considered to have real renunciation or detachment. As soon as a difficult test comes, then that false renunciation will cease. Detachment searches out the shelter of those who are actually fixed in their intentions for devotional service. In our practical devotional service we should never show anyone our devotional ecstasies. One should perform devotional ser-

vice in such a way that his deep attachment to the Lord will increase within his heart. Even if one displays hundreds and hundreds of exhibitions of external attachment, the Lord will not bless him if he does not develop internal loving attachment. If there is actually a deep loving attitude then Krishna Himself will approach and overtake the advanced devotee. Krishna is proportionately aloof or available to the degree of one's surrender. If one is deeply engrossed in devotional attachment to Lord Hari, then even while suffering distressing diseases or other material miseries he will still remain absorbed in transcendental loving service to the Lord. When you can fast and chant Hare Krishna both day and night, and when you can always cry out in desire for the service of Vrishabhanu-nandini Radharani without displaying this to others, then Sri Krishna, who is very dear to Srimati Radharani, will call out for you to take His shelter."

Like a Chaste Wife

On another occasion Srila Gour Kishor Das Babaji was sitting in his *bhajana-kuṭīr* in Sri Nabadwip Dham, chanting Hare Krishna very loudly. Other persons who had assembled there were also chanting. At this time, one person came and began to display different emotional symptoms, such as crying. Some devotees began to think that that person had attained the highest stage of devotional ecstasy. Srila Gour Kishor however immediately requested him to leave. Some of the persons assembled there became disturbed at seeing this and also left. Srila Gour Kishor then said, "One who has actually attained love of Godhead will never display the symptoms but will always keep them hidden from the general people, just as a chaste wife will become very embarrassed if she has to show any part of her body, and thus she keeps her body very thoroughly covered. In the same way, when one has real devotion unto the Supreme Lord and becomes elevated to love of Godhead, he always feels embarrassed to exhibit the symptoms of ecstasy, and thus keeps such symptoms unmanifest." ❀

—From Amara Prabhura-kathā, a collection of articles written by Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Prabhupada. Translated by Vyenkata Das Brahmachari.

SRI KRISHNA KATHAMRITA BINDU
a free bi-monthly service provided by:

Gopal Jiu Publications
c/o ISKCON Sri Krishna Balarama Mandir
National Highway No. 5, IRC Village
Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India, 751015
Phone: (0674) 557026
Email: katha@gopaljiu.org

For more information about Gopal Jiu Publications check out our website: www.gopaljiu.org

To unsubscribe, send an email to minimag@gopaljiu.org with "unsubscribe" in the subject line. (To subscribe put "subscribe" in the subject line.)

Gopal Jiu Publications is a branch of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, Founder-Acarya His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. Quotations from the books, letters, and lectures of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada ©Bhaktivedanta Book Trust International. All other materials, unless specified, © ISKCON Bhubaneswar/Gopal Jiu Publications. All rights reserved. Blanket permission is given to redistribute *Bindu* in electronic or print form provided no changes are made to the contents.