



तव कथामृतं तप्तजीवनम्
tava kathāmṛtaṁ tapta-jīvanam

Sri Krishna Kathamrita Bindu

Fortnightly email mini-magazine from Gopal Jiu Publications

Issue No. 300

Śrī Varūthinī Ekādaśī

05 May 2013

Circulation 6,340

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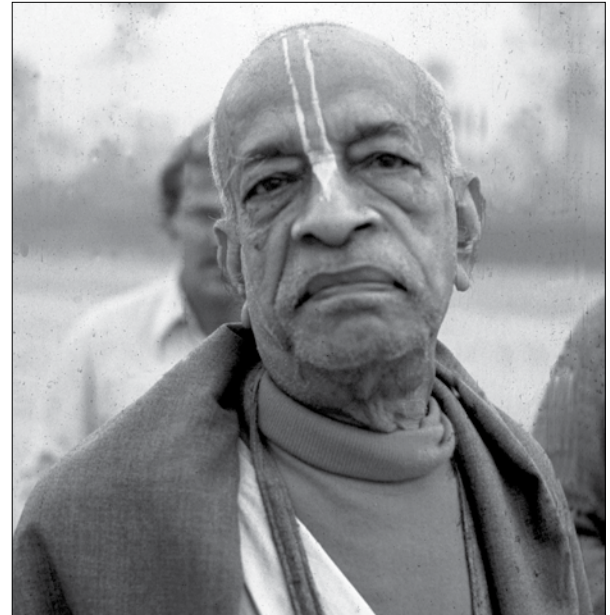
MAINTAINING CLEANLINESS

***His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta
Swami Prabhupada***

Everything in the temple should be kept nice and clean. Everyone should wash their hands before touching anything of Krishna's. We should always remember that Krishna is the purest, and similarly only the pure can associate with him. Cleanliness is next to Godliness. (Letter to Nandarani, Krsna Devi, Subala, and Uddhava. 3 October 1967.)

You must live up to the rules and regulations of *brahminical* life. First and foremost is cleanliness. In your country they have so many filthy habits. For example, they don't wash after eating. A brahmin does not do like that. If he did so in India, he would be highly criticized. So even if you eat a little, still you must wash immediately. And the place that you eat at must be washed off immediately too.

A brahmin's name is *śuci*, or one who is clean. In the toilet room wash with water and wash your hands with soap. Then wash feet, face and mouth. Your cloth must be washed daily, especially any cloth used to sleep in. In the kitchen also, things should be kept spotless and cooking should only be done by brahmins; others may assist. That is the same procedure followed with deity worship. So these are some of the points to note in *brahminical* life. Keep yourself clean outside by bathing, etc., and clean inside by chanting Hare Krishna mantra. Go on in this way and your rapid



*His Divine Grace
A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada*

advancement in Krishna Consciousness will be certain. (Letter to Laksmi Narayana. 8 July 1971.) ❀

THE GREAT TREE NAMED SRIMAD BHAGAVATAM

Srila Sridhar Swami

*śrīmad-bhāgavatābhidhaḥ sura-tarus
tārāṅkurah sajjaniḥ
skandhair dvādaśabhis tataḥ pravilasad
bhaktyālavālodayaḥ
dvātriṁśat tri-śataṁ ca yasya vilasac
chākhāḥ sahasrāṇy alam*

*parṇāny aṣṭa-daśeṣṭado 'tisulabho
varvarti sarvopari*

This literature named Śrīmad *Bhāgavatam* is a desire tree. Its liberating seed is rooted in the spiritual world. It has twelve main roots [twelve cantos] forming its trunk that have arisen from the soil of *bhakti*. It has a total of three hundred and thirty five stems [335 chapters in all the cantos], upon which are eminently situated eighteen thousand leaves [verses], which are capable of bestowing the reader's desired object.

Translator's Note: *dvā triṁśat tri-śatām ca* should ordinarily have been interpreted as 332, but here it has been interpreted as 335. The total number of chapters in the Śrīmad-bhāgavatam are 335. *dvā triṁśat tri-śatām ca* has thus been interpreted as a *samāhāra dvandva samāsa*: 'dvātriṁśat ca trayāḥ ca [tri] śatāni ca', which means 32 + 3 + 300 = 335.

— Translated by Hari Parshad Das, from Srila Sridhar Swami's commentary on *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam* 1.1.1. Sanskrit transcribed from *aneka vyākhyā samalanākṛtām* Śrīmad-bhāgavatam. Edited and compiled by Shri Krishna Shankar Shastri. Ahmedabad. 1965.

SRI BHAGAVATASHTAKAM

Srila Rasikananda Prabhu

*śrī-govinda-padāravinda-madhupān
anyābhilāṣojjitān
pūrṇa-prema-rasotsavojjvala-mano-
vṛtti-prasannānanān
śāśvat-kṛṣṇa-kathā-mahāmṛta-payo
rāśau mudā khelato
vande bhāgavatān imān anulavaṁ
mūrdhnā nīpatya kṣitau*

To those who are like bumblebees residing at the lotus feet of Sri Govinda; to those who have completely given up all material desires [including the desire for liberation]; to those whose consciousness is enlightened and faces are effulgent due to a complete festival of *prema-rasa*; to those who eternally sport joyously in the vast nectarean milk ocean of *kṛṣṇa-kathā*; to those devotees of the Lord (*bhāgavatas*) I offer prostrated obeisances with my head on the ground.

*pādābje kṛta-sat-kṛtāv api catur-
varge ghrṇām kurvato
drk-pāte 'pi gata-uyathān vraja-pati-
premāmṛta-svādakān
mannānān atidustarān bhava-mahā-
pāthonidhiṁ goṣpadam*

*vande bhāgavatān imān anulavaṁ
mūrdhnā nīpatya kṣitau*

To those who exhibit hatred towards the four aims of life [*dharma, artha, kāma* and *mokṣa*], even though those four goals offer obeisances at their feet; to those who by their very sight relieve one of all miseries; to those who consider the insurmountable ocean of material existence as water in a calf's hoofprint; to those devotees of the Lord (*bhāgavatas*) I offer prostrated obeisances with my head on the ground.

*mṛgyaṁ brahma-bhavādibhir vraja-vadhū
nāthānghri-kañja-dvayīm
svātantryāt praṇayoru-rajjubhir aho
baddhā balān nirbharam
svacchandaṁ pibatas tad-āsava-rasaṁ
prasyandamānaṁ mudā
vande bhāgavatān imān anulavaṁ
mūrdhnā nīpatya kṣitau*

To those who have independently and completely bound up with the rope of love the two lotus feet of the Lord of the *gopīs*, which are sought



Srila Rasikananda Prabhu

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after by Brahma, Shiva, etc.; to those who freely delight in drinking the intoxicating nectar emanating from those lotus feet; to those devotees of the Lord (*bhāgavatas*) I offer prostrated obeisances with my head on the ground.

*viśveṣāṁ hṛdayotsavān sva-sukhadān
māyā-manuṣyākṛtīn
kṛṣṇenādhyavatāritān jana-samud-
dhārāya pṛthvī-tale
saṁsārābdhi-vahitra-pāda-kamalāṁs
trailokya-bhāgyodayān
vande bhāgavatān imān anulavaṁ
mūrdhnā nipatya kṣitau*

To those who experience a delightful festival within their hearts and who cause a delightful festival in the hearts of the residents of this world; to those who, after the disappearance of Lord Krishna, have accepted a material human body for the complete deliverance of the general population on earth; to those whose lotus feet are a suitable boat to cross the ocean of material existence; to those devotees of the Lord (*bhāgavatas*) I offer prostrated obeisances with my head on the ground.

*ālokāmṛta-dānato bhava-mahā-
bandhaṁ nṛṇāṁ chindataḥ
sparśāt pāda-saroja-sauca-payasāṁ
tāpa-trayaṁ bhindataḥ*

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*ālāpād vraja-nāgarasya padayoḥ
premānam ātanvato
vande bhāgavatān imān anulavaṁ
mūrdhnā nipatya kṣitau*

To those whose mere sight bestows transcendental nectar and thus shatters the chains that trap souls in material existence; to those who by the touch of the waters that have bathed their lotus feet the three types of miseries are destroyed; to those whose speech bestows love for the two lotus feet of Lord Krishna, the *nāgara*, romantic hero, of Vraja; to those devotees of the Lord (*bhāgavatas*) I offer prostrated obeisances with my head on the ground.

*bhāvāveśa-samuḥjvalān pulakino
harṣāśru-dhārāvali-
nirdhautānana-paṅkajān nava-navā-
nandād bhṛṣāṁ nṛtyataḥ
premoccaiś cayitaṁ sa-gadgada-padam
gopī-pater gāyato
vande bhāgavatān imān anulavaṁ
mūrdhnā nipatya kṣitau*

To those who are seen to radiate effulgence as they display ecstatic symptoms of *bhāva*; to those whose bodies display goose bumps and whose



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lotus faces are drenched with streams of flowing tears of ecstasy; to those who in fits of newer and newer ecstasies dance profusely in various ways; to those who in a loud voice sing the choicest verses glorifying the Lord of the *gopīs* in a choked voice; to those devotees of the Lord (*bhāgavatas*) I offer prostrated obeisances with my head on the ground.

*premāsvāda-parāyaṇān hari-pada-
sphūrti-sphuran-mānasān
ānandaika-payonidhīn rasa-samul-
lāsi-smīta-śrī-mukhān
dhanyān sac-caritaugha-nandita-janān
kāruṇya-pūrāśrayān
vande bhāgavatān imān anulavaṁ
mūrdhnā nīpatya kṣitau*

To those who are fully dedicated to tasting love of God; to those whose minds always find inspiration in the lotus feet of Lord Hari; to those unique oceans of bliss; to those whose faces exhibit a smile resulting from the bliss of *bhakti-rasa*; to those most fortunate souls who by their excessive good qualities please everyone; to those overflowing reservoirs of mercy; to those devotees of the Lord (*bhāgavatas*) I offer prostrated obeisances with my head on the ground.

*kṛṣṇād anyam ajānataḥ kṣaṇam api
svapne 'pi viśveśvare
tasmīn bhaktīm ahaitukīm vidadhato
hṛt-kāya-vāgbhiḥ sadā*

ॐ

SRI KRISHNA KATHAMRITA BINDU

A free bi-monthly service provided by:
Gopal Jiu Publications

c/o Sri Krishna Balarama Mandir
National Highway No. 5, IRC Village
Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India, 751015

Phone: (0674) 2553250, 2557026

Email: katha@gopaljiu.org

Website: www.gopaljiu.org

Subscriptions: minimag@gopaljiu.org

Gopal Jiu Publications is a branch of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, Founder-Acharya: His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

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*śrīlān sad-guṇa-puñja-keli-nīlayān
premāvatārān aham
vande bhāgavatān imān anulavaṁ
mūrdhnā nīpatya kṣitau*

To those who even in their dreams for a moment do not know of any master besides Krishna; to those who exhibit causeless devotion to the Lord of the universe through their hearts, bodies and speech; to those bearers of good fortune; to those who are shelters of innumerable good qualities; to those incarnations of *prema*; to those devotees of the Lord (*bhāgavatas*) I offer prostrated obeisances with my head on the ground.

*etad bhāgavatāṣṭakam paṭhati yaḥ
śraddhānvitaḥ kṣemadam
bhakty-udreka-vivardhanam pratīpadam
prema-pramoda-pradam
premānam paramam dhruvam sa labhate
vrndāvaneśātmasu
kṣīpram bhāgavateṣu yena vaśago
gopāṅganā-vallabhah*

Those who faithfully read this *bhāgavatāṣṭakam*— which provides all protection, creates an abundance of *bhakti* at each step, and bestows the great joy of *prema*— shall quickly attain the ultimate stage of love of the *bhāgavata* devotees, the near and dear ones of the Lord of Vrindavan. Indeed, those *bhāgavatas* are the ones who control the Lord of the *gopīs*. ॐ

— Translated from the Sanskrit available at Gaudiya Grantha Mandira (<http://www.granthamandira.com>)

