



Sri Krishna Kathamrita Bindu

तव कथामृतं तप्तजीवनम्
tava kathāmṛtaṁ tapta-jīvanam

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ADVERSITY AS MERCY

His Divine Grace
A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

TEXT: The mountains, although being struck by torrents of rain during the rainy season, are not shaken, just as those whose hearts are dedicated to the transcendental Personality of Godhead are never disturbed, even when harassed by great misfortune.

PURPORT: Because a person who is spiritually advanced accepts any adverse condition of life as the mercy of the Lord, he is completely eligible to enter into the spiritual kingdom. Even though a person takes to the devotional service of the Supreme Lord, he may sometimes become diseased, impoverished, or disappointed by life's events. A true devotee of the Lord always considers these sufferings to be due to past sinful activities, and thus without becoming disturbed he patiently awaits the mercy of the Supreme Lord. Such devotees are compared to high mountains, which are never agitated in any way, even when struck by powerful torrents of rain in the rainy season. Rather, such devotees remain humble in spiritual enlightenment. Free from pride and envy, they easily gain the mercy of the Lord and go back home, back to Godhead. ॐ

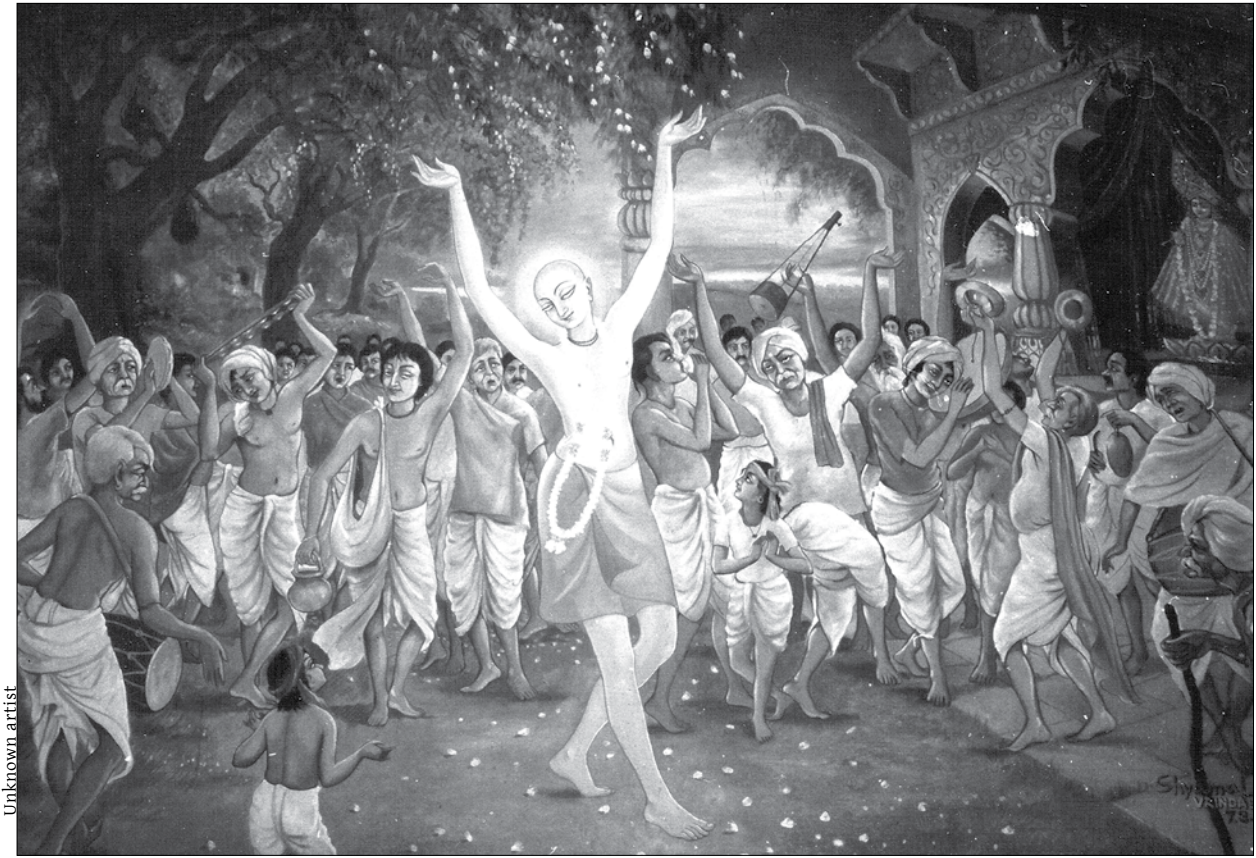
— *Light of the Bhāgavata*, text 12. Bhaktivedanta Book Trust.

SRI CHAITANYA-KAVACHA

from the Uttara-bhāgavatam

*śiro me pātu caitanyo bhālam viśvambharaḥ prabhuḥ
nayane śrī-gaura-candraḥ śravaṇe dvija-nandanah*

May Chaitanya protect my head! May Lord Vishwambhar protect my forehead! May Sri Gaurachandra protect my two eyes! May he who is the bestower of pleasure on the twice-born protect my two ears!



Sri Chaitanya Mahāprabhu enters Mathura

*gaṇḍau śacī-suto nāsām jagannāthātmajo 'vatu
rasanām kṛṣṇa-caitanyas tālu kṛṣṇo 'dharām muhuḥ*

May the son of Sachi protect my cheeks! May the son of Jagannath Mishra protect my nose! May Krishna-chaitanya protect my tongue! May he who is the all attractive one always protect my lower palate!

*oṣṭham viṣṇu-priyā-nātho danta-paṅktiṁ dvijottamaḥ
vācam saṅkīrtanānandaḥ svarūpānanda-vigrahaḥ*

May the master of Vishnupriya protect my lips! May he who is the topmost among the twice-born protect my teeth! May he who is the joy of saṅkīrtana and bliss personified protect my speech!

*cibukam dharaṇī-devo viśvarūpānujo mukham
lakṣmīnāthaḥ kaṅṭha-deśam grīvām bhakta-jana-priyaḥ*

May the Lord of the earth protect my chin! May the younger brother of Vishwarupa protect my face! May the husband of Lakshmi-priya protect my throat! May he who is dear to his devotees protect my neck!

*skandha-yugmaṁ dvija-prāṇo manaḥ pātu śacī-sutaḥ
nāma-sūtra-dharaḥ kuṅṭhīm hṛdayam nāma-tat-paraḥ*

May he who is the life of the twice-born protect my shoulders! May the son of Sachi protect my mind!

May he who is the holder of the threads of the holy name protect my belly! May he who is dedicated to chanting the holy names protect my heart!

*kumati-dhvaṁsano nābhīm kaṭi-deśam karaṅga-dhṛk
dhvajam daṇḍa-dharaḥ pātu ūru nyāsi-śiromaṇiḥ*

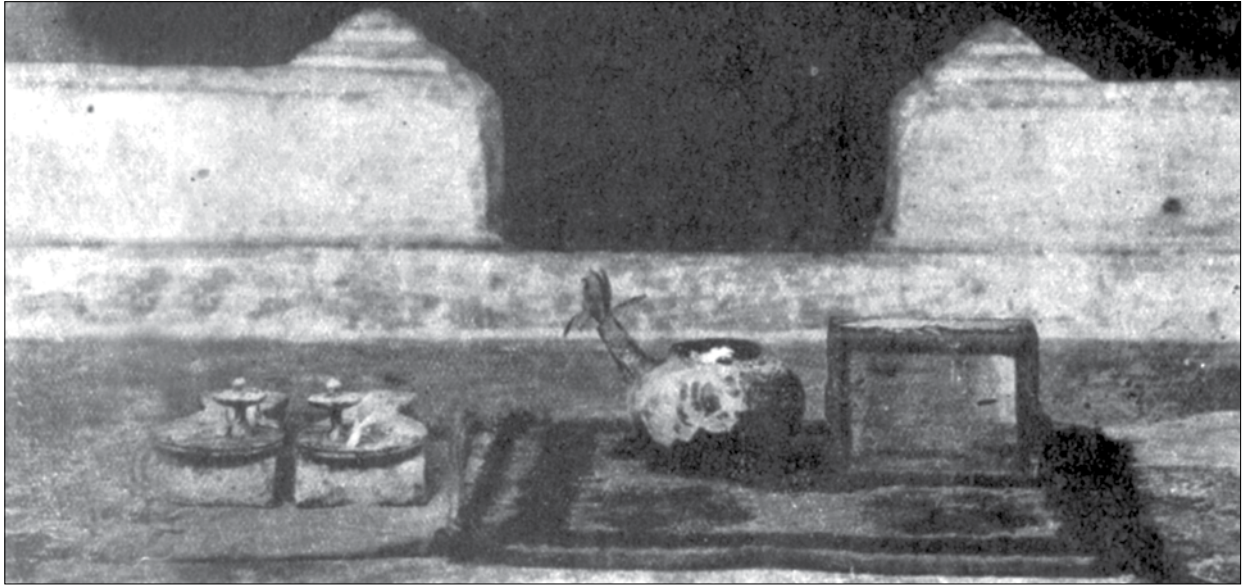
May he who is the destroyer of bad intelligence protect my navel! May the holder of a sannyāsī waterpot protect my hips! May the holder of a sannyāsī rod protect my private parts! May he who is the crest jewel among sannyāsīs protect my thighs!

*jānū kāśāya-vasano jaṅghe pātu dvijottamaḥ
gulpha-yugmaṁ dvijaḥ pātu pādaḥ bhakta-jana-priyaḥ*

May he who is the wearer of saffron cloth protect my knees! May he who is the best among the twice-born protect my lower legs! May the Lord who appeared as a brāhmaṇa protect my ankles! May he who is dear to his devotees protect my feet!

*gadādhara-priya-prāṇo deham pātu ca sarvadā
śayane mām sadā pātu nityānandaika-bāndhavaḥ*

May he who is the dear life of Gadadhara Pandit always protect my entire body! May the exclusive dear friend of Nityananda protect me during sleep!



Unknown photographer

The original shoes, waterpot and dhoti of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu in the Gambhira in Jagannath Puri

*bhojane pātu mān nityam advaitaika-kr̥tātmabhuk
pātu mān gamane sa śrīc-chāyā-gamana-tatparaḥ*

May he who exclusively made Advaita Acharya self-satisfied protect me always while I accept food! May he who is eager to attain the shelter of Sri Radha protect me while I am going anywhere!

*śrīmad vīrāsanaśino māmāsinaṁ sadāvatu
śrīmad bhāgavatādhyāyī kathane pātu mān sadā*

May the Lord who is seated in the *vīrāsana* pose protect me while seated! May the student of the *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam* protect me always when I am speaking!

*bhagavat-pāda-sevāyān pātu mān bhakta-rūpa-dhṛk
guru-pādārcane śikṣā-gurur mān pātu nityaśaḥ*

May the Lord who assumed the form of his devotee protect me in my service of the lotus feet of the Lord! May he who is the instructing guru of the world protect me always in the service of my guru!

*sarveśvaro gaura-hariḥ sarvataḥ pātu mān sadā
jale sthale cāntarikṣe parvatārohaṇe tathā
durga-vartmani vṛkṣe ca pātu mān bhakta-vatsalaḥ*

May Gaura-hari, the Lord of all, protect me always in all ways — in water, on earth, in space, while climbing mountains! May he who is extremely affectionate to his devotees protect me on difficult roads and trees! 🙏

— Translated by Hari Parshad Das from *Śrī-caitanya-kavacam* published in the *Gaurāṅga-virudāvalī*. Edited and Published by Sri Haridas Shastri. Kalidah. Vrindavan. Gaurabda 498.

THE GREAT FIGHT AT HOLI

the medieval Bengali vaiṣṇava poet Kabir

*baraja-kīśorī phāgu khelata raṅge
cūyā candana ābīra gulāba
deyata śyāmera aṅge [refrain]*

The damsels of Vraja play [during Holi] with great joy. They throw and apply *candana* paste, perfumed red natural *kumkuma* powder and rose petals on Shyam's body.

*phāgu hāte kari phirata śrī-hari
phiri bulata rāi
ghumaṭa uṭhāye bayāna chāpāye
yaiche cānda lukāi*

Taking color in his hands, Sri Hari roams about calling, “Rai! Rai!” [Sneaking up behind her and] lifting the veil on her head, he imprints her face with color, and thus the moon (her moon-like face) gets covered [in red].

*lalitā sakhi phāgu hāte kari
deyata kānu nayana
bhānu kīśorī duhu bāhu dhari
mārata śyāma bayāna*

[Seeing this,] Lalita takes some color in her hand and throws it in Kanu's eyes. Vrishabhanu's daughter then grabs both his arms and slaps his face [with color].

*āura eka-sakhi jū jū kari
kāmhā lāgāu ābīra
phāgu lei kāna nayana deyata
hām hām karata kabīra*

Another *sakhi* [jeeringly] says, “Live long, live long, O defeated and humiliated one!” and asks, “Where on your body should I apply color?” While saying this, she takes some color and applies it to his ears and eyes. Seeing this, Kabir says, “Yes! Yes!”

— Translated by Hari Parshad Das from *Vaiṣṇava-padāvalī*, fourth edition, April 2010. Compiled and edited by Hare Krishna Mukhopadhyay. Published by Shishu Sahitya Sansad Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata.

THE SPOTLESS MOON OF NADIA

The Medieval Bengali Vaiṣṇava poet
Dina Bandhu Das

śacīra mandire āsi akalaṅka pūrṇa-śaśī
udaya karīla mahi-mājhe
grahaṇa kariyā chalā sa-kalaṅka ṣola-kalā
cānda lukāila baḍa lāje

Seeing that the spotless full moon has risen on the earth in the home of Sachi, the spotted full-moon hid itself in great shame on the pretext of a lunar eclipse.

ānande nadiyā bhela bhora
puṇyera samaya pāiyā nānā dhana bilāiyā
sabhāi bala-e haribola

The town of Nadia swooned in joy. At this auspicious time, everyone gave various types of riches in charity. They all loudly chanted, “Haribol! Haribol!”

nadiyā nāgarī yata ānande āndhala cita
śacīra mandire upanīta

gorā-cānda mukha dekhi preme chala chala āṅkhi
upajila nigūḍha pīrita

The young damsels of Nadia felt blinded with joy. Somehow they all approached Sachi’s home. Seeing Gorachand’s face, their eyes were filled with overflowing tears, and the sprout of deep-seated love sprung up in their hearts.

duṭi bāhu pasāriyā nija nija kole laiṅyā
cumba dila vadana-kamale
dīna-bandhu dāsa bale śacīra nandana mile
aneka dinera puṇya-phale

Spreading out their two arms, they all took him into their laps one by one and kissed his lotus-face. Dina Bandhu Das says, “The [sight of the] son of Sachi is obtained only after accumulating piety for a long time.”

— Translated by Hari Parshad Das from *Vaiṣṇava-padāvalī*, fourth edition, April 2010. Compiled and edited by Hare Krishna Mukhopadhyay. Published by Shishu Sahitya Sansad Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata.

DEVOTION TO GAURA LEADS TO ATTACHMENT TO RADHA

Caitanya-candrāmṛtam (88)
of Śrīla Prabodhananda Saraswati

yathā yathā gaura-padāravinde
vindeta bhaktim kṛta-puṇya-rāśiḥ
tathā tathotsarpati hṛdy akasmāt
rādhā-padāmbhoja-sudhāmbu-rāśiḥ

To the degree that a fortunate pious person attains devotion unto the lotus feet of Gaura, to that degree he spontaneously finds the nectar-ocean of attachment to Sri Radha’s lotus feet rising in his heart.

[**Translator’s Note:** The commentator named Anandi says that this verse depicts a beautiful visual imagery. Just as a progression in the phase of the moon spontaneously causes the ocean to progressively swell, similarly, an increase in one’s devotion to the moon-like Gaura spontaneously causes the ocean of attachment to Sri Radha to rise higher and higher.]

— Translated by Hari Parshad Das from the Sanskrit available at Gaudiya Grantha Mandira (www.granthamandira.net)



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Email: katha@gopaljiu.org
Website: www.gopaljiu.org
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