



Sri Krishna Kathamrita Bindu

तव कथामृतं तप्तजीवनम्
tava kathāmṛtaṁ tapta-jīvanam

Fortnightly email mini-magazine from Gopal Jiu Publications

Issue No. 430

Śrī Kāmikā Ekādaśī

8 August 2018

Circulation 9,292

Highlights

• LIVING ALONE

His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

• NAMA-TATVA: EIGHT PRAYERS TO KRISHNA'S NAMES – PART 2

Srila Rupa Goswami's Nāmāṣṭakam with commentary

• RADHA-KRISHNA HEAR THE KIRTANA OF NAROTTAM DAS

Srila Narahari Chakravarti Thakur

• THE CRITIC IS OUR FRIEND

By the medieval ascetic Charan Das

• IS IT GOOD TO CRITICIZE OTHERS?

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur Prabhupada



LIVING ALONE

His Divine Grace

A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Because we are infinitesimal, we should concentrate our mind on the infinite Supreme Self. In order to do this we should live alone, and “living alone” means

that we should not live with those who are not Krishna conscious. Ideally, this means that one should live in a secluded place, like a forest or a jungle, but in this age such a secluded place is very difficult to find. Therefore “secluded place” refers to that place where God consciousness is taught. (*Path of Perfection* chapter 3)

Regarding your question about living alone, living alone is a general tendency for a person who wants to get disassociated from the materialistic persons. That is also recommended by the Goswamis in their instructions. It is better to remain alone than to mix with materialistic persons. But this is not applicable when we have the opportunity to get the association of pure devotees. Our program is negative and positive simultaneously. We want to negate the materialistic side and make positive the spiritual side. It is not one sided. If you have no positive standing, negating only will not make you successful. Therefore, it is better to remain positively within the society of pure devotees. That is also recommended by the Goswamis. One should be occupied in activities in the modes of goodness and associate with spiritualistic persons. That will make one's advancement very quick. (Letter to Sivananda dated 11 November 1968) Prabhupada: In Delhi, when I was *vānaprastha*, I was alone. But my paper was going on, “Back to Godhead”. I was alone. I was doing everything — editing, selling, collecting, cooking.

Hari-sauri: There were no godbrothers helping you?
Prabhupada: I did not take their help. They wanted to, but I did not like it.

Hari-sauri: Did you ever think at that time that you would be able to expand or...

Prabhupada: It was a struggle at that time. I lived with some of my godbrothers, but I did not like it, and I left their temple and I was living alone.

... When I was living alone and doing everything, it was not unpleasant. It was very nice. Even my son

came to live with me. I said, “No, you don’t.” My family sent him to go and live with me. He came twice, thrice. I asked him, “If you want to live with me, then you have to live with me as *sannyāsī*, *brahmacārī*.” (Conversation in Vrindavan on 3 October 1976)

So far as you are concerned, I do not think living alone in Honolulu will be very good. If there is possibility of your living in the temple along with the other devotees, then live there. Otherwise you may also return, either to Los Angeles or San Francisco. You can work anywhere



Nāma-tattva

**EIGHT PRAYERS TO KRISHNA’S NAMES
— PART 2**

Srila Rupa Goswami’s Nāmāṣṭakam

***With the Stava-mālā-bhūṣaṇa commentary
of Srila Baladev Vidyabhushan***

Nāmāṣṭakam continues with the commentator giving a brief introduction to the next verse.

Nāmābhāsa, the semblance of Sri Harinam, does not cease to act after having merely burnt multitudes of sins to ashes. It also causes the appearance of *bhakti* for the form of the Lord that is denoted by that name. This fact is expressed in the following verse:

Verse 3:

[**Meter:** *Śikhariṇī* — a feminine name denoting a beautiful hill.]

*yad-abhāso ’py udyan kavalita-bhava-dhvānta-vibhavo
dṛśaṁ tattvāndhānām api dīśati bhakti-praṇayinīm
janas tasyodātaṁ jagati bhagavan-nāma-taraṇe
kṛtī te nirvakturṁ ka iha mahimānaṁ prabhavati*

O Harinam! While you are arising, a mere semblance of you bestows deep insight into the principles of *bhakti* upon even those individuals who are blind to the absolute truth due to being under the grip of multifarious thick layers of the darkness of material existence. O brilliant sun of the Lord’s names! Is there any learned individual in this world that is capable of completely describing your glories?

Commentary: “O brilliant sun of Harinam! Which intelligent person in this world is capable of describing your great glories?” This [is a rhetorical question that] means that there is no one capable of doing so.

If Harinam asks, “How come no one is able to do it?” then the verse replies, “Your mere semblance — such as an indirect utterance through jest, or inattention, etc. — bestows deep insight into the principles of *bhakti* even upon those individuals who are blind to the absolute truth due to being under the grip of the dense darkness of material existence.”

Such are your glories that even an intelligent person may become doubtful about them. Without understanding these glories from a personality who knows about them in truth, a doubtful person cannot possibly describe such glories to others.

This fact is clearly mentioned in the *Rg-veda* (1.156.3) as follows:

*om āsya jānanto nāma cid viviktana
mahas te viṣṇo sumatīm bhajāmahe*

O Vishnu! Your name is spiritual in nature and self-effulgent. Thus, even though we understand but a fraction of its glories, by merely repeating its syllables we attain a refined intelligence capable of understanding the Lord.

This statement from the *Rg-veda* explains how the intelligence required to understand Lord Vishnu is acquired by even those who merely utter the holy name even out of jest, inattention, etc.

Translated by Hari Parshad Das from the following sources:

— *Stava-mālā* of Sri Rupa Goswami. Edited by Pandit Bhavadatta Shastri and Kasinath Pandurang Parab. Published and printed by Tukaram Jawaji at the Nirnaya Sagar Press. Bombay (Mumbai). 1903 A.D.

— *Stava-mālā*. Published by Ramnarayan Vidyaratna. Murshidabad. 1886 A.D.

— *Saṭika u sānuvāda Śrī-stava-puṣpāñjalih*. Edited by Sri Batu Das. Published by Nityaswarup Brahmachari. Vrindavan.





Drawing by Anna Zaitseva

The *kīrtana* of Narottam Das and his associates

because you have got abilities, and from anywhere you can start for Tokyo. So for going to Tokyo it is not very much necessary that you have to remain in Honolulu alone. I do not advise any of my disciples to live alone; that is not good. (Letter to Sudama dated 20 May 1969)

G said to live alone, but our policy is to live with devotees. Immediately return and live with devotees and take care of the deities and tulasi. That is our main business. My Guru Maharaja condemned living alone in a lonely place. He wrote as follows:

*duṣṭa mana! tumi kisera vaiṣṇava?
pratiṣṭhāra tare, nirjanera ghare,
tava 'harināma' kevala 'kaitava'*

“O rascal mind, what kind of *vaiṣṇava* are you? In a lonely place your chanting of Hare Krishna is simply cheating.” [*Vaiṣṇava Ke?* text 1]

And Narottam Das Thakur says:

*tāndera caraṇa-sevi-bhakta-sane vāsa
janame janame hoy ei abhilāṣ*

“To serve the feet of the *ācāryas* in association of the devotees is my desire birth after birth.” [*Nāma-saṅkīrtana* text 7]

Why have I opened this society? I was living with four children, and now I have 4,000. There is no good in living alone. (Letter to Govinda Dasi dated 11 November 1973) ॐ

RADHA-KRISHNA HEAR THE KIRTANA OF NAROTTAM DAS

Śrī Bhakti-ratnākara chapter 11, texts 18-26

Once on a full moon day, Srila Narottam Das Thakur performed *kīrtana* with his favorite associates Ramachandra, Gokul and others. They began by playing various musical instruments and then broke into song glorifying the *rāsa-līlā* of Radha and Krishna. It is said that even the demigods were enchanted by this beautiful *kīrtana*. Suddenly the entire environment became effulgent like a cloud struck by lightning.

*tile tile vyāpaye saugandha camatkāra
nūpura kiṅkiṇī-dhvani haya anibāra*

An amazing fragrance gradually filled the air and the sweet sound of anklebells could be heard. (23)

*saṅkīrtana-sthale aiche haila alakṣita
antardhāna haite sabe ha-ila mūrchita*

As this divine sound at the *saṅkīrtana sthali* gradually faded, all the devotees fainted. (24)

*rāmacandra, narottama bhāse netra-jale
devidāsa, gokulādi loṭāya bhūtale*

Ramachandra and Narottam floated in their own tears while Devidas, Gokul and the others rolled on the ground. (25)

*priyā saha kṛṣṇera e alaukika-lilā
jāni sabe kṛṣṇera icchāya sthira hailā*

This was the transcendental pastime of Krishna along with his dear one, Radha. Understanding it all to be enacted by Krishna's desire, they gradually became calm. (26) 🌀

Bibliography

— Srila Narahari Chakravarti. Śrī Bhakti-ratnākara. English translation by Sripad Kusakratha Das. Published by Krishna Library, Alachua, Florida.

— Srila Narahari Chakravarti. Śrī Bhakti-ratnākara. Gaudiya Mission, Calcutta. 501 Gaurabda. Bengali.

THE CRITIC IS OUR FRIEND

By the medieval ascetic Charan Das

Raga Bihāgarā

Charan Das was born in 1706 in Derha village in Rajasthan in a merchant family. He left home early in life to meditate in the forests nearby. The following Hindi song by him is a general instruction to all varieties of saintly souls.

*sādho! nindaka mitra hamārā
nindaka kūrṇ nikaṭai hī rākhau, hona na deuṇ niyārā* (refrain)



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, Orissa, India, 751015



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.

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.

O saintly soul! A critic is our dear friend. Keep the critic close to you always. Never let him go far away. (1)

*pāche nindā kari agha dhovai, suni mana miṭai bikārā
jaise sonā tāpi agina meṇ, niramala karai sonārā*

Criticizing us behind our backs, he washes our sins. By hearing such criticism, our mind is cleansed of that fault. Just like a goldsmith purifies gold by putting it in a blazing fire. (2)

*ghana aharana kasi hīrā nibaṭai, kīmata laccha hajārā
aise jāñcata duṣṭa santa kūrṇ karana jagata ujyārā*

A jeweler applies harsh friction to a diamond to polish it, by which its value increases tremendously. In a similar way, the harsh words of a critic inadvertently help to glorify a saint throughout the world. (3)

*joga jajña japa pāpa kaṭana hitu, karai sakala saṁsārā
bina karanī mama karma kaṭhina saba, meṭai nindaka pyārā*

The entire world engages in yoga, sacrifices, the chanting of mantras, etc., in order to destroy their sins. How dear is my critic to me, for he destroys my hardened sins without me doing anything! (4)

*sukhī raho nindaka jaga māhiṇ, roga na ho tana sārā
hamarī nindā karane vālā, utarai bhava-nidhi pārā*

May my critic be peaceful and happy in this world! May my critic's body never be afflicted by any diseases. May the person criticizing me cross over the ocean of material existence! (5)

*nindaka ke caraṇo kī astuti, bhā-khaum bāraṇ-bārā
caraṇa dāsa kahaim suniyo sādho, nindaka sādha bhārā*

The glories of the holy feet of the critic should be narrated again and again repeatedly. Charan Das says, "Listen, O sadhu! The critic is extremely important for the saintly souls." (6) 🌀

— Translated by Hari Parshad Das from *Carana-dāsa jī kī vāṇī*, part 2. Published and printed by Sheel Mohan at The Belvedere Printing Works, Allahabad. 1976 A.D.

IS IT GOOD TO CRITICIZE OTHERS?

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur Prabhupada

No one should criticize or glorify others' natures or activities. Śrīmad Bhāgavatam confirms this instruction. The *Caitanya-bhāgavata* states, *para carcakera gati nāhi kona kale*: a critic never attains benefit. Critics go to hell. Instead of criticizing others, one should rectify himself. 🌀

— From *Amṛta Vani*, collected teachings of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur. Compiled in Bengali by Sri Bhakti Bhagavat Mayukha Maharaja. Adapted and translated into English by Bhumiapati Das and Isvara Das. Touchstone Media. Mumbai. 2004. Page 251.