

# *Sri Krishna Kathamrita*



## *Bindu*

Issue 539

### *The Search for Sri Guru*





# Sri Krishna Kathamrita Bindu

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## KRISHNA WILL GIVE YOU GURU



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

**Prabhupada:** The best friend is the spiritual master because he saves one from the blazing fire of confusion.

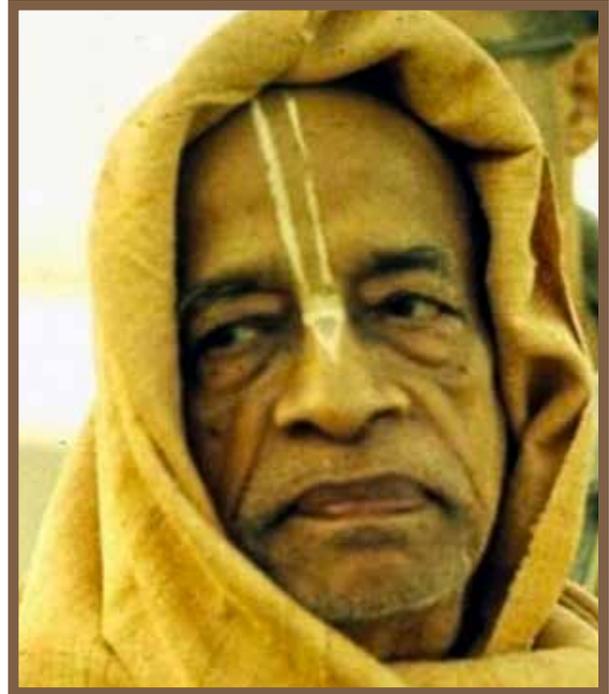
**O'Grady:** The problem is to find this spiritual master.

**Prabhupada:** No, there is no problem. The problem is if you are sincere. ... You have got problems, but God is within your heart. *īśvaraḥ sarva-bhūtānām ḥṛd-deśe 'rjuna tiṣṭhati* [Bg. 18.61]. God is not far away. God is within your heart. So if you are sincere, then God will give you a spiritual master.

**O'Grady:** Thank you. That I know.

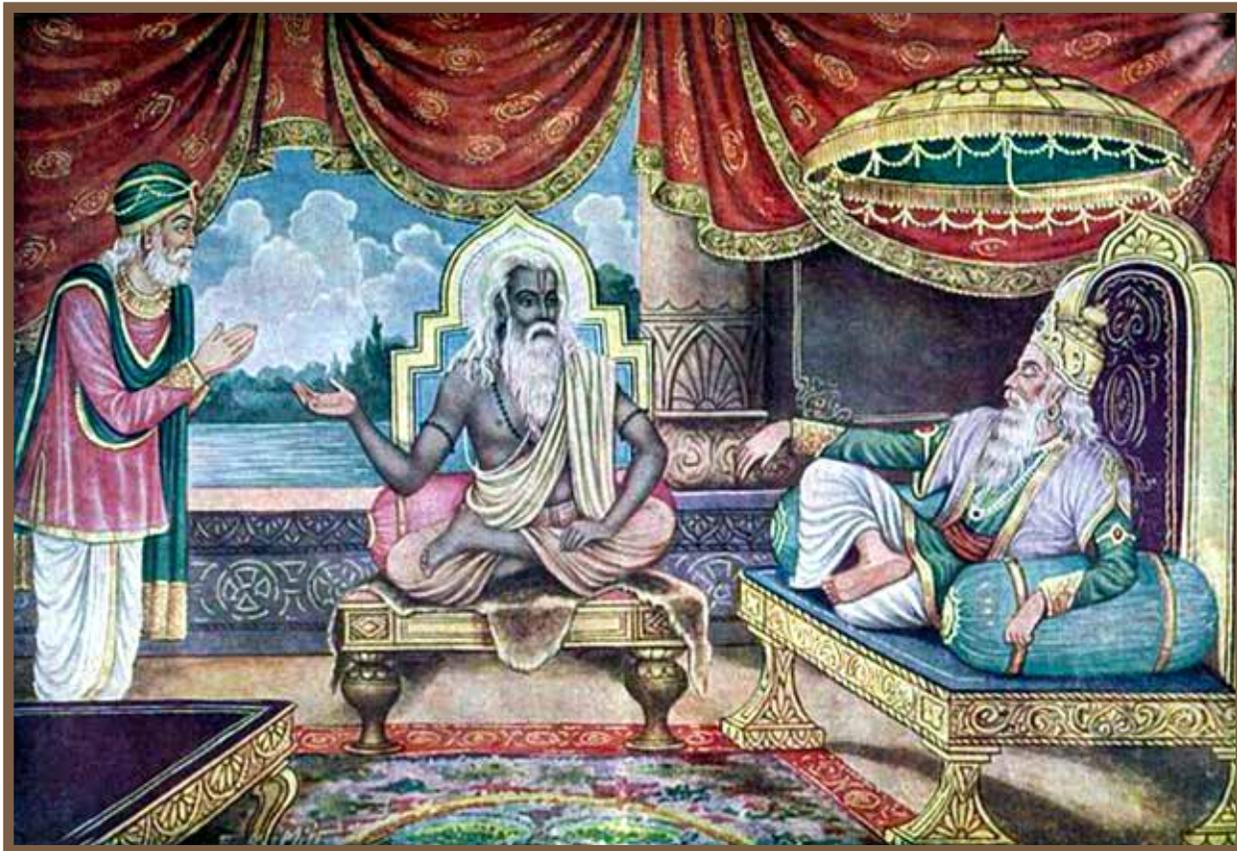
**Prabhupada:** Therefore God is called *caitya-guru*, the spiritual master within the heart. And the physical spiritual master is God's mercy. If God sees that you are sincere, he will give you a guru who can give you protection. He will help you from within and without, without in the physical form of spiritual master, and within as the spiritual master within the heart. That is stated,

*īśvaraḥ sarva-bhūtānām ḥṛd-deśe 'rjuna tiṣṭhati  
bhrāmayan sarva-bhūtāni yantrārūḍhāni māyayā*



The Supreme Lord is situated in everyone's heart, O Arjuna, and is directly the wanderings of all living entities, who are seated as on a machine, made of the material energy. [Bg. 18.61]

The body is just like a machine, the spirit soul is sitting on this machine, and God is there within the heart. He is giving the direction, "You wanted to do this. Now you go and do this." So if you are sincere, "Now, God, I want you," then he will give you directions,



Unknown artist

Left to right: Sanjaya, Srila Vyasa Dev, and Dhrtrarastra

“You go and get it.” This is the process. But if we want something else than God, then God will give you direction, “You go and take it.” He’s very kind. *īśvaraḥ sarva...* I want to have something and he is within my heart, and he is giving me direction, “Yes, you come here. You take this.” So if that God can give you indication, “You go and take this,” then why not the spiritual master? First of all we must be eager to again revive our God consciousness. Then God will give us the spiritual master. 🌱

— Room Conversation with Irish poet Desmond O’Grady, Rome, 23 May 1974. *The Science of Self Realization*, chapter 7. Bhaktivedanta Book Trust. Los Angeles.

## WHERE DO WE FIND GURU? 🦢

### **Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur Prabhupada**

The following is excerpted from Śrīla Prabhupādera *Upadeśāmṛta*, a compilation of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur Prabhupada’s instructions in question-and-answer form.

Whoever Sri Krishna, the embodiment of compassion, chooses to send to you as your guru,

that person alone will manifest before you externally as the *mahānta-guru*, the guru in the form of the foremost living *sādhu*. By the mercy of *bhagavān* we will obtain a guru, and by the mercy of the guru we can attain *bhagavān*.

A person will get a guru according to his particular destiny. People of different types vary in their disposition, and therefore *bhagavān*, who is omniscient, sends them each a particular type of guru.

There are those who want *niṣkaṭa-kṛpā*, the real mercy of *bhagavān*, and who depend entirely on *bhagavān* for their eternal welfare. Being pleased with such simple-hearted, sincere persons, *bhagavān* himself manifests before them as the guru, to bestow mercy upon them.

But for those who want *kaṭa-kṛpā*, the deceptive mercy of *bhagavān*, *bhagavān*’s *māyā*, external potency, will send them a “guru” according to the particular disposition of their heart.

There is no impediment for one who is sincere. He will very quickly meet a bona fide guru. 🌱

— <https://www.purebhakti.com/resources/harmonist-monthly/37-the-rays-of-the-harmonist/953-what-is-the-most-severe-nama-aparadha>

Rajput painting. Circa 1750. Unknown artist.



Sukadev Goswami and Maharaja Parikshit

## How to Find a Sadhu



### Questions and Answers with Sri Srimad Gour Govinda Swami Maharaja

**Devotee:** How does one recognize a *sādhu*?

**Gour Govinda Swami:** Cry before Krishna. Only he can help you to find a *sādhu*. You can't recognize a *sādhu*. You have no vision to see the *sādhu*. If you try by yourself to recognize *sādhu* then you will be cheated. If you are serious, then cry before him. "O Krishna! I am your servant!"

*ayi nanda-tanuja kīnkaraṁ  
patitaṁ māṁ viṣame bhavāmbudhau  
kṛpayā tava pāda-pāṅkaja-  
sthita-dhūli-saḍṛṣaṁ vicintaya*

Mahaprabhu has taught us this. This is crying before Krishna. "O *nanda-tanuja*, son of Nanda Maharaja, I am your *kīnkara*, your servant. Somehow or other I am fallen here in this dreadful ocean of material existence and I have been drowning from time immemorial. But I want to serve you. How can I serve you? How can I become a speck of dust at your lotus feet? Please help me." Just cry. Without the help of *sādhu*, you cannot approach Krishna. You can't utter Krishna's name. When you cry like that, Krishna is there in your heart

as *paramātmā*. He will say, "Oh, now he is crying for me." Then he makes an arrangement.

This is the proper way. If by your own effort you try to recognize a *sādhu*, you will be cheated. You can't see a *sādhu*. You have no vision at all. You see only all outward, external things. You can't see the real thing. There are many persons who are only outwardly *sādhus*. You will be enchanted by their external activities: "Oh, he is a great *sādhu*! Yes, he is producing gold!" You will be cheated.

### SADHUS ARE ALWAYS PRESENT

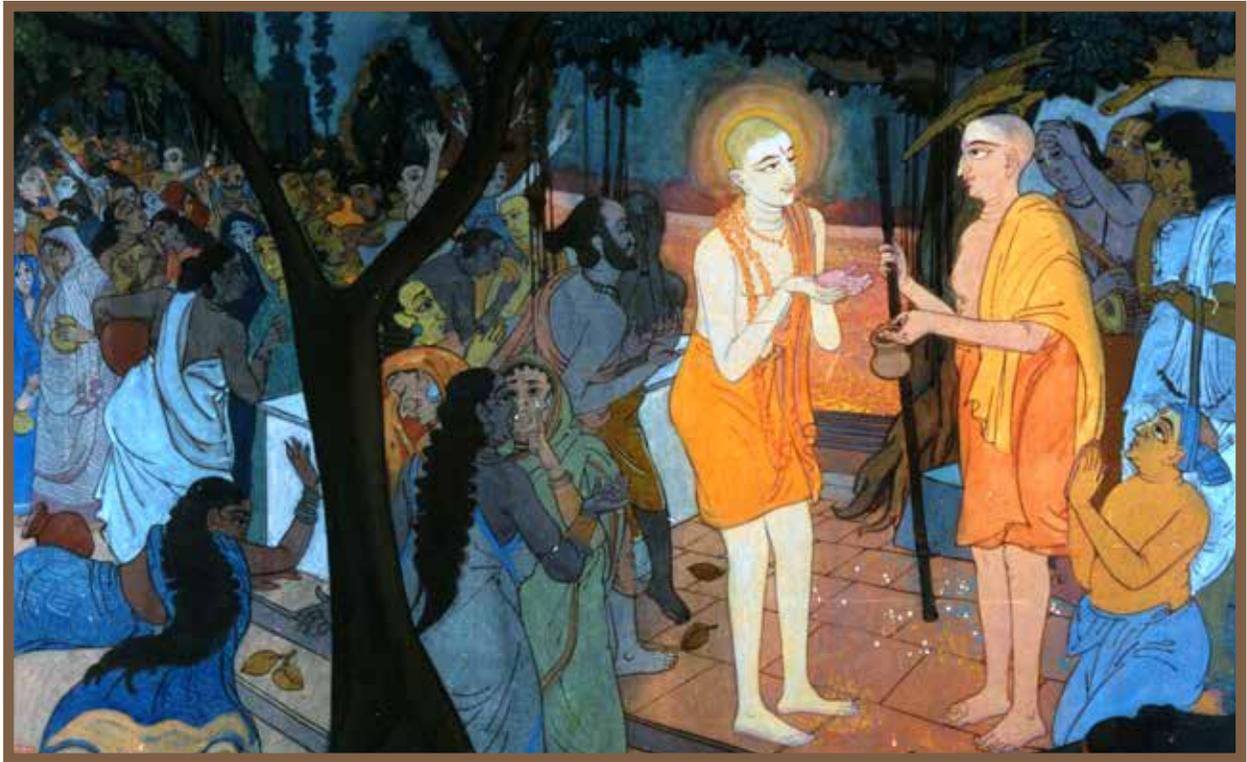


#### Padma Purāṇa 7.2.81

*samśāro vaiṣṇavādhīno devā vaiṣṇava-pālītāḥ  
aḥaṁ ca vaiṣṇavādhīnas tasmāc chresthāś ca vaiṣṇavāḥ*

[Krishna says:] The whole world is existing under the care of the *vaiṣṇavas*. The *devas* are nourished by the *vaiṣṇavas*. Indeed, I myself, the Supreme Lord, am under the care of the *vaiṣṇavas*. Therefore, the *vaiṣṇavas* are the best of all.

— *Padma Purāṇa*. Nag Publishers. 2003. Delhi. Sanskrit.



By Kartick Biswas. Early 20th century.

Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu takes sannyāsa from Keshava Bharati

You can't get a real *sādhu* [in this way]. A real *sādhu* is one who is completely absorbed in Krishna, day and night, twenty-four hours. He has gotten Krishna. He is with Krishna. He can give you Krishna. You can't see him. You have no vision. Only you can cry for Krishna from the core of your heart. This is not an external cry. It is internal. Then Krishna, who is in your heart, will see that you are crying and he will help you. He will make arrangement for you to meet such a *sādhu*. That is the arrangement of Krishna. When you meet such a person you will feel some spontaneous attraction from the core of your heart. That attraction is the proof.

**Devotee:** To meet a *sādhu* is so rare. How can one get the opportunity?

**Gour Govinda Swami:** It's a fact that it is rare, but if you are really crying for it then Krishna can make an arrangement. It is impossible for you, but nothing is impossible for Krishna. 🌸

— From a Home program. Vancouver, Canada. May 1993.

## HOW RASIKANANDA ATTAINED HIS GURU



### Srila Narahari Chakravarti Thakur's Bhakti-ratnākara chapter 15, texts 27-62

Achyuta's son was well known in Rayini-grama. That son was known by two names, Sri Rasikananda and Sri Murari. The people called him Rasik and Murari. After only a few days he became learned in all the scriptures. He very expertly served his father and mother. His mother, who was very devoted to her husband, was named Bhavani. Murari's wife was named Iccha. She was very virtuous. For some days they made their home in Ghantasila village. Ghantasila was near the Suvarnarekha. During their forest-exile, the Pandavas rested at that place.

*ekadina murāri nirjane basi tathā  
cintaye antare — śiṣya ha-ibena koṭhā*



## THE CAUSE OF ENVOIOUS ACTS

### Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakura

Unless one develops faith, one can see neither a pure devotee nor the Supreme Lord and will simply indulge in envious, violent or blasphemous activities.

— Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur. *Amṛta Vani*. A collection of statements from Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur. Originally compiled in Bengali by Sri Bhakti Bhagavat Mayukha Maharaja. Translated into English by Bhumipati Das. Touchstone Media. Mumbai. 2004. p. 214

Unknown artist



Shyamananda Prabhu and Rasik Murari

One day, as he sat in a secluded place, Murari began contemplating in his heart, “Whose disciple shall I become?” (32)

*ha-ila ākāśavāṇī - “cintā nā karibe  
ethāya śrī-śyāmananda-sthane śiṣya ha'be”*

At that moment, a voice from the sky declared, “Don't be anxious. You will become a disciple of Sri Shyamananda.” (33)

*ihā śuni' rasika murāri harśa hailā  
śyāmananda nāma-mantra japite lāgilā*

Hearing these words, Rasik Murari became joyful [thinking to himself] from Shyamananda he would attain the chanting of the holy names. (34)

*tile tile utkañṭhā bāṭaye atīśaya  
prabhu śyāmananda-nāme netre dhārā baya*

Moment after moment his desire [to find his guru] grew. Whenever he heard the words “Shyamananda Prabhu”, a flood of tears flowed from Rasik Murari's eyes. (35)

Murari was anxious. In this way the night passed. As night was beginning to end, he was drawn into sleep. In a dream Murari saw Shyamananda.

Sweetness rested on each one of Shyamananda's sublime wonderful limbs.

*hāsiyā śrī śyāmananda kahe murārire  
“rajanī prabhāte ethā pāibā āmāre”*



## HOW TO FIND GURU

**Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakura**

At the dawn of our spiritual life we sincerely and with complete submission and self-surrender pray to God for receiving the protection of *sad-guru*. The Supreme Lord, perceiving our earnestness and devotion with a view to guide us on the true path, will send a real guru to us. Otherwise it is impossible for us to find *sad-guru* by our own fallible energy. If we guide ourselves by our own energy we shall come across the pseudo-gurus and being caught hold of by them by their temporary pleasing manners, run down to hell.

— From Harmonist p. 139 Vol. XXVII, No. 5, Oct 1929.

Unknown artist



*Shyamananda Prabhu*

Smiling, Sri Shyamananda said to Murari, “In the morning you will attain me.” (38)

*eta kahi adarśana hailā śyāmānanda  
rasikānandera mane haila mahānanda*

After speaking these words, Shyamananda suddenly disappeared. Now Rasikananda’s heart was filled with bliss. (39)

When dawn came, wise Sri Rasika, without saying a word to anyone, carefully watched the path. A short distance away, he saw Shyamananda approaching. His disciples, headed by Sri Kishore Das, surrounded him on four sides. Shyamananda was effulgent like the sun. His body was glorious. His face was glorious with a smile. His broad chest was charming. Chanting the names of Sri Krishna Chaitanya and Sri Nityananda, he was overcome with the ecstasy of spiritual love. Swaying and swaying to and fro in that ecstasy, he walked.

Seeing Prabhu Shyamananda, Rasik Murari joyfully fell to the ground and touched his feet. With joy in his heart, Shyamananda hugged Rasik and sprinkled him with tears from his eyes. In his heart Rasik knew he had become fortunate. His master’s glory now stood before his eyes.

Shyamananda was merciful to Murari. Very happily he gave Murari initiation into chanting the Radha-Krishna mantra. With a joyful heart he accepted Rasikananda as a disciple. He presented Rasikananda before the feet of Sri Chaitanya and Sri Nityananda. Rasik Murari was overcome with the ecstatic love. Without stop, tears streamed from his eyes. Accompanying his spiritual master, he went to Rayani-grama. He was now plunged in the ocean of the bliss of *sankīrtana*. With only one mouth how can I have the power to describe Sri Rasik Murari’s devotion to his spiritual master?

*murārike parīkṣā karilā śyāmānanda  
dekhi’ murārira ceṣṭā haila mahānanda*

Shyamananda carefully watched Murari. Observing Murari’s activities, Shyamananda became filled with bliss. (52)

Shyamananda stayed at that place for some days. He preached the glories of devotional service and accepted many disciples. Then, surrounded on four sides by his dear associates, he departed from Rayani-grama.

By Shyamananda’s mercy a person named Damodar, who previously practiced yoga, was now plunged in the nectar of devotional service. Becoming a disciple of Shyamananda, Damodar always chanted, “Nitai-Chaitanya!” and wept. Seeing how Damodar was overcome by divine ecstasy, who could remain peaceful? Declaring, “*Bhakti* is the best of all spiritual paths!,”



Photo by Chandanyatra Das

*Deity of Rasikananda Prabhu  
at his samādhi mandir in Remuna Odisha*



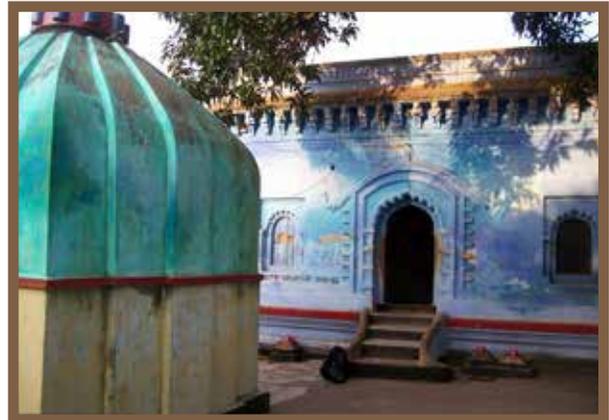
Photo by Madhavananda Das

*Pancha-tattva deities worshiped by Rasikananda Prabhu in Baripada Odisha*



Unknown photographer

*Original clay cup used by Rasikananda Prabhu at the Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu Museum, Kolkata*



Unknown photographer

*Rasikananda Prabhu's samādhi in Remuna Odisha*



Unknown photographer

*Original shoes of Rasikananda Prabhu in Remuna Odisha*



Unknown photographer

Full body samādhi of Shyamananda Prabhu in Narasinghapur Odisha

Damodar would dance. Shyamananda rescued Damodar. Wherever he went, Shyamananda gave people the precious jewel of devotional service.

I cannot describe how mercifully Shyamananda preached pure devotional in the town of Balarampur.

Accompanied by Kishore, Murari, Damodar, and his other disciples, Shyamananda celebrated a great festival in the village of Dharendra-grama. Seeing Shyamananda, the villagers were overcome with bliss. They forgot all their sorrows and troubles.

*śyāmānanda śiṣya karilena sthāne sthāne  
kebā nā pabitra haya tā' sabāra nāme*

Who will not become purified by hearing the names of the disciples Syamananda initiated in place after place? (62) 🍌

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#### NO FAITH

#### Srila Thakura Bhaktininode



... for various reasons, common people do not easily develop faith in exalted personalities who are still living, whereas they tend to develop great faith in the activities of *mahājanas* who have passed away.

— From *Jaiva Dharma* chapter 12. Published by Gaudiya Vedanta Publications. New Delhi. 2013.