

Glories of Holy Name

Venue : London Date : 19/06/10 The Material world is hot and cold, young and old, birth and death, ladies and gents, etc. The list gets longer and longer. But the Maha-mantra is not from **THIS** world.

Whilst we were just chanting together, I had a thought that each one of us is chanting and we were all with Krsna, in the form of the holy name. For most of the year, we are not physically together, but wherever we are, we chant and we are with Krsna. Therefore in this way we stay together. It is the easiest way to remain together.

When Sri Krsna Caitanya Mahaprabhu was getting ready to take sannyasa, everyone was naturally thinking that **“we shall be deprived of His association!”** Mahaprabhu spent 24 years together with His associates and then suddenly in the middle of the night He left and decided to take sannyasa. Prior to His departure He gave a speech to pacify and console. **“No No! I will live with you in two forms! The first one, I will stay in the form of the holy name (chanting).** Even when I am gone, keep chanting”. **Caitanya Mahaprabhu** is non-different from the holy name. So, one avatar of Mahaprabhu is the Holy Name.

***kali kale nama rupe krsna avatara
nama haite haya sarva jagat nistara***

“In this Age of Kali, the holy name of the Lord, the Hare Krsna maha-mantra, is the incarnation of Lord Krsna. Simply by chanting the holy name, one associates with the Lord directly. Anyone who does this is certainly delivered. (CC Adi 17.22)

The Lord appears in every age. But in the Holy Name, He appears to all of us, unlimited, everywhere, everyday for each and every one of us! Even in **THIS** tent. The Lord appears at midday (Rama), in the middle of the night (Krsna) and during dusk (**Caitanya Mahaprabhu/Nrsimhadeva**) and so on. But **Krsna's**

holy name is ready to appear every day! Everywhere! And to Everyone! It is the beauty, the Lord making Himself accessible to everyone, and we all, each one of us, have our very own Lord. In this form He can become our cherished property.

This is homework for us – to chant Hare Krsna and be happy! This is the only transaction on initiation. We have the four regulative principles, which are the **“DONT’S”**, but what will you **“DO”**? This is the most important bit. We all have received Krsna in the form of the Holy Name. ‘Here is Krsna, in the form of the name’. **Narottama Dasa Thakura** said:

***krsna se tomara, krsna dite paro
tomara sakati ache
ami to’ kangala, krsna krsna boli
dhai tava pache pache***

We are paupers, penniless (kangala), poor – Oh Gurudeva, Oh Vaishnava Thakur, I am running after you for Krsna that you can give to me. This way, Krsna is given by Guru.

The second form in which Caitanya Mahaprabhu said he will stay is **“Ananda” – Bliss!** This Bliss, comes from chanting Hare Krsna. Therefore **Chant Hare Krsna (first form) and be Happy (second form).**

When you chant, **‘Ananda’** will also make an appearance. From Krsna comes bliss and this bliss is Krsna. Any genuine bliss in this world comes from Krsna.

‘Nanda ke Ananda bhayo’. When Krsna appeared at Nanda Baba’s home, all the Vrajavasis were singing this in joy. Some did not know what had happened and all they could hear was ‘Nanda ke Ananda bhayo’ from the other Vrajavasis running by them. They would try and stop one of the running Vrajavasis to inquire what has happened. But the person would not stop and keep on running in happiness and joy. They say **“Ananda has appeared”**, not Krsna, not Nanda Nandana, not Kesava, etc. Ananda, actual bliss, has incarnated. ‘Sat Cit Ananda

Vigraha'.

The lilas, pastimes of the Lord in Vraja, are **Ananda-Kunda**. They fill up the lakes and reservoirs with **Ananda**. The residents of Vraja drown and swim in this Ananda. As it is written in the Damodarastakam prayers

**itidrk sva lilabhir ananda kunde
sva-ghosam nimajjantam akhyapayantam
tadiyesita-jnesu bhaktair jitatvam
punah prematas tam satavrnti vande**

Thus bathing Gokula in a great lake of bliss, He shows that love defeats Him. Devoid of reverence conquered only by those in complete confidence. I offer Him unlimited loving praises. (Verse 3)

This is **Caitanya Mahaprabhu's** strategy, His plan. He appeared to expand the ocean of love of Godhead. He started in Mayapur and now He has reached London! The River comes to you! This is His kindness.

Our acaryas cut a canal from this river and they brought the same '**Rasa**', Ananda, to us. **Srila Prabhupada** brought the flood of the holy name to us all. One press reporter asked Srila Prabhupada "**Why have you come to our country?**" I think it was here in London. **Srila Prabhupada** replied "**You also came to ours**" and they had come to loot, plunder and steal all the riches and precious gems, like the Kohinoor, which is on display in London. But Srila Prabhupada carries on "**But what brings me here is to come and give what your viceroys left behind. The precious gem which is the culture of our country, the most ancient and valuable gift. The Holy Name is the wealth of our nation! All the scriptures are our wealth!**"

**nama cintamanih krsnas
caitanya-rasa-vigraha
purnah suddho nitya-mukto
'bhinnatvan nama-naminoh**

Our homework, which can take a whole lifetime and more, is to realise this name is Krsna. This name, holy name, is non-different from the Lord. **"Abhinnavatvan nama-naminoh"**. This is the glory, the introduction of the Holy name. **"Nama Cintamani"** – It is a gem, **"Caitanya"** – it is full of spirit. The word **"Jada"** means Matter, dead matter. But the Holy Name of Krsna is lively and is **"Rasa-Vigraha"** – Source and Embodiment of all the Rasa's.

The soul within this body is aspiring for that rasa, that joy and to drown in that bliss. But the living entity is finding it hard to find this and is just going round and round in search. But finally, by blessings of Krsna, we come in contact with devotees and vaisnavas and acaryas and we get the mercy to know the holy name!

I have been thinking recently, **'You know the body, but does the body know you are there?'** Do your hairs and nails know you exist? Is the tooth aware of the teeth next door? **"I think, therefore I exist"**. Of course the body exists, but it cannot think. The soul exists and possesses and uses the body. It exploits it and unfortunately, the soul then thinks **"I am the body"**. But this soul, thinking this way, is not realized. The Holy name is to be realized by the soul. We use the body to chant the holy name, we use our lips and tongue to chant, but you can chant and exist without the body, naked, like without clothes, but I don't think many of us would do that.

One time, when we become thoroughly purified, not aspiring or hankering to experience anything from this world, we are connected to the spiritual world and Krsna. The soul will exist regardless and dance, chant, eat and touch. The soul is also a person! The holy name is to be realized by the soul, not the body, even though we use it to chant, clap in kirtan etc. It is the soul that will be liberated, not the lips. So Chant:

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare

Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

and be with Krsna. Also be together with each other (fellow devotees) and be happy. Hence when **Caitanya Mahaprabhu** said “I shall stay behind in the form of Name and Bliss”, He meant be happy and chant. Therefore keep chanting constantly and follow the regulative principles and associate with devotees.

One devotee was talking to me and mentioned that we should do our ABCDD.

A – **Association** – Sadhu Sangha

B – **Books** – Read Srimad Bhagavatam/Bhagavad Gita daily

C – **Chanting of the Holy Name** – Kirtan

D – **Dhama Vasa** – Stay in the Holy places, Go to temple, Make your home the Dhama

D – **Deity Worship** – Arcana, worship the Deity with faith.

By doing these ‘**ABCDD**’ with faith, we can achieve perfection in this life.

sadhu-sanga, nama-kirtana, bhagavata-sravana

mathura-vasa, sri-murtira sraddhaya sevana

sakala-sadhana-srestha ei panca anga

krsna-prema janmaya ei pancera alpa sanga

“One should associate with devotees, chant the holy name of the Lord, hear Srimad-Bhagavatam, reside at Mathura, and worship the Deity with faith and veneration. These five limbs of devotional service are the best of all. Even a slight performance of these five awakens love for Krsna.” (CC Madhya 22.128-129) spent 24 years together with His associates and then suddenly in the middle of the night He left and decided to take sannyasa. Prior to His departure He gave a speech to pacify and console.

H.H Lokanath Swami's 62nd Vyasa Puja lecture

HH Lokanath Swami speaks on the occasion of his 62nd *Vyasa Puja* at Shri Dham, Pandharpur on 11th July, 2011.

How many *Hindi* speaking disciples are there? Oh! Quite a lot. How many do not know *Marathi*? So what should we do? (Chorus for *Hindi*.) *Marathi* disciples keep quiet?

I was thinking that today I have to only hear and not speak; and then, Ishtadev prabhu reminded me that I needed to speak as well.

What should I speak on my own birthday? There is a specific topic for you to speak...no, the topic is not *Hindi*. (Responding to a prabhu's call for *Hindi* from the audience.)

Today's *puja* is for Vyasa dev, *Vyasapuja*. Vyasa. When you were giving your glorifications, '**Guru is one tattva**'. This is one of the arrangements of the Lord – **Vishnu Tattva, Shakti Tattva, Panca Tattva** in Mayapur – similarly *Guru Tattva* – I won't go into the details of all. In this world, man forgets the Lord, one wants to enjoy the external energies of the Lord, and this has been happening since time immemorial. So the lost souls are wandering in this world, trapped in various bodies. However, the Lord does not want this. Still some souls adopt this path of enjoyment. The Lord is fully independent, and we, being His minute particles, have some independence. But we misuse this independence by thinking that, "**I am the Lord.**" Then some small **indragopa germ, Srila Prabhupada** informed us about the existence of this very small germ, till *Indra*, everybody is trapped in this mentality to different degrees to try and enjoy. So the facility to enjoy is what this world is for – it is for both enjoyment and deliverance.

The Lord does not want us to remain entrapped. He wants us to

get liberated. sarvasya c?ham? hr?di sannivis?t?o... Lord is present in every heart and knows what we desire. The *Gopis* were so fortunate that with each Gopi there was one Krsna. When we hear or read this, we forget that this is the arrangement, one living entity can be considered as one Krsna. **As many living entities are there, there are as many Krsnas.** Lord Krsna is present in everyone's heart waiting for us to discard sense enjoyment and turn towards Him. *brahmäëòa bhramite kona bhägyavän jéva, guru-kãñëa-prasäde päya bhakti-latä-béja*, this is the arrangement of the Lord. This is the choice of the Lord. He keeps observing who is who and then some living entities have reached the end of their time, they desire to go back to Him or are tired of the material world. **Guru Krsna kripa paye...** then the *Guru Tattva* made by the Lord comes into the picture and he is also a person and on behalf of the Lord, those who are *bhagyavan* – **bahut sukrit jiva – manuna Vitthal avadi**. If he becomes *warkari*, knowingly or unknowingly, if he comes into the association of devotees, and then he assimilates those qualities, then they desire to achieve Godhead, and such a person, **Guru Krsna kripa paye – adau shraddha...** by the mercy of Guru, who teaches the path of devotion.

Guru is not independent but acts on behalf of the Lord, as **Srila Prabhupada** said, “Krsna says, ‘mam ekam sharanam,’ so the Guru says, surrender to Krsna. So the message remains the same.” However, nowadays *swamis* become *Narayan* themselves, and then the *tattva* is different. Their disciples are sometimes asked, “This *swami* used to come so regularly to the temple, but we do not see him at all now-a-days. Why so?” And they reply, “Since he has realized that he himself is God, he has stopped coming to the temple. He has realized that he is God – **Narayan – aham brahmasmi**. Then the bewilderment starts, then he stops being the representative of God and therefore he does not remain in *Guru Tattva*, and thus there is no *Vyasa Puja* also. This is the arrangement of the Lord...there is *satsang*, *dharma*.

Dharma is the arrangement of the Lord. It is not the result of household activity. If some people get together and decide what *dharma* is and pass a resolution that from now on we shall drive on the right, but as they start doing so, they get caught by the police, who states that their personal laws are to be kept at home, but in the world outside, law of the state has to be followed. The main *dharma* is ***dharman tu saksad bhagavad pranitam***...this is what the guru teaches, by means of personal example. They become devotees themselves and show how devotional service is to be performed, and in this manner make more devotees. He has to take all his disciples back to Godhead! This is some kind of contract. (Chorus of *Hari bol!*)

Now don't become a parent, friend, guru, etc, unless you can save the person from death, or from the repeated cycle of birth and death. So you can't become a friend, a Guru if you cannot deliver them from birth and death. *Hare Krsna*.

So the Lord becomes Guru himself. He teaches Brahma himself...***adi kavaye***. We come in this *parampara*, Srila Prabhupada's *parampara* – ***Brahma Madhva Gaudiya sampradaya***, in which **Caitanya Mahaprabhu** himself appeared 500 years ago, God appeared and acted in the manner of a guru. All acts of a guru were carried out by **Caitanya Mahaprabhu** himself. He introduced the chanting of the holy names, and delivered the *yuga dharma*.

Krsna lived in a few places only like Vrndavan. He also came here in Pandharpur, Krsna became Vitthal or Panduranga here. The same Krsna from Vrndavan, the cowherd Gopal, they all walk and the dust creates a cloud. This dust then settles down on earth again, and some of it settles on Krsna's peacock feathers, his features, etc and thus He looks whitish – yellowish. That is the color of the Vrndavan's dust, and this increases the beauty of Krsna and He is known in this form as Panduranga. Krsna went only to places like Kaundinyapur, Hastinapur, Prag Jyotishpur in Assam. There may be hardly 50 places where Krsna went, but **Caitanya Mahaprabhu** traveled all over, right down to the small towns and streets and all He

requested was for everyone to take Krsna's name. When He ordered **Haridas Thakur** and **Nityanand Mahaprabhu** to travel all over to preach, He himself also went. **Nityanand Mahaprabhu** preferred to be with **Caitanya Mahaprabhu**, but Caitanya Mahaprabhu made him the founder *acarya* of West Bengal *parampara*.

Caitanya Mahaprabhu also went to Kerala, Orrisa, Maharashtra, and Karnataka. He also came to Pandharpur. He taught the *dharma* for *Kali Yuga* – congregational chanting – very musical rendering of the holy names.

Sundara Lala...kirtan.

So Vitthal Bhagavan, Panduranga appeared 5000 years ago, and the same Krsna reappeared 500 years ago. So the latest God is **Gauranga Mahaprabhu**. So in this way, Krsna remains the same, there is no difference, one is Gaura Sundar and the other is Shyam Sundar. He inaugurated this *yuga dharma*. So the Gurus have only this work in *parampara*, the preaching that is there, should be of **Caitanya Mahaprabhu's** teachings in this *Kali Yuga*. **Caitanya Mahaprabhu** is Krsna himself, so in that *parampara*, it is for every living entity in this world. There will be a time when there will be only one *parampara* in the world...in some years, maybe 10, 100, and 1000s of years – what will happen? *Sarvatra* – everywhere there shall be only this preaching of *sankirtan*. This is not a matter of winning or losing, but ***param vijayate Sri Krsna Sankirtan.***

So now when I see this arrangement (points to the *samadhis* on stage), one is **Rupa Goswami's** *samadhi* and the other is *Bhajan Kutir*, this sight is of **Vrndavan's Radha Damodar mandir**. When I was Bhakta Raghunath – you have seen my family – my parents are no longer there. On 5th July, 1949, I was born; it was a Tuesday (his eldest brother agrees). Ram was also born on Tuesday, and therefore my name was kept as Raghunath. Raghunath Das, so when I was Bhakta Raghunath, I went to Vrndavan, and saw Radha Damodar *mandir* for the 1st time, I

saw **Srila Prabhupada** in the courtyard, (and Laxmi N pr explained what was my 1st lesson). I used to shake my legs while listening and this caught the attention of *Srila Prabhupada*. I was wondering why he was looking at me, his camera would stop every time he saw me, and the he ordered, **"Stop It!"** So I stopped, and it has stopped ever since except when I recount this as a demonstration. So **Srila Prabhupada** accepted this das, and it was during *Kartik*. So I was with **Srila Prabhupada** for a full month. He would give *pravacans* every morning and evening. He would sit between the two *kutirs*, and mornings would be Nectar of Devotion and **Srimad Bhagavatam** in the evening. There I got the chance of serving. My life got a new direction, I was on the lookout for something, and the Lord brought me to the lotus feet of **Srila Prabhupada**. Otherwise, my education was going on in Sangli's Shivaji University. But I thought that if I became a Bombay university graduate, that would be good. That's how I went to Bombay. There I saw the banners and posters of **Srila Prabhupada's** *pravacans*, and I went. As I heard more and more, I became *Srila Prabhupada's*, and my chemistry books underwent *visarjan* in the sea, gutters and God knows where else.

So I went from Sangli to Bombay to study, but the Lord had some other plans, if I had remained in Sangli I would not have met **Srila Prabhupada**, who was in Bombay then. So the Lord brought me to the lotus feet of **Srila Prabhupada**. So during *kartik*, I went to Vrndavan and my initiation took place between the two *kutirs*, and from Bhakta Raghunath, I became **Lokanath Das**. Chant 16 rounds was the order, and I have been following ever since. So this sight on stage has taken me back to those days. So I met **Srila Prabhupada** in 1971, so this is the 40th anniversary, and in this way, and in that year itself, we met in April and in June he was to go to Moscow...those were different days, of communists, superpowers. So it was big news that an Indian *swami* was going there, so when everyone heard that **Srila Prabhupada** is going to Moscow, there was loud applause. **Srila Prabhupada ki jaya!**

When **Srila Prabhupada** was in our midst, he was traveling all over the world; all of you know his story. He went all alone in 1965 to preach *Bhagavad dharma*, and those *kirtans* that only took place in India – he wished these *kirtans* to resonate in New York. Now we have so many mikes etc, but **Srila Prabhupada** sat on the footpath and he did not even have a hand mike. He would play *kartala* and preach there himself.

Then he took a small place on rent, and those whom he met on the streets would come there twice a week. They did not know the basics of spirituality and would come with their girlfriends and bottles of wine in their hands. **Srila Prabhupada** would cook *prasadam* for them, preach them, and teach them the **swami step**. Then he would seat them down and personally serve them *halava puri*, which they had never eaten before. They would eat and leave and **Srila Prabhupada** would wash the dishes. I was hearing yesterday, that devotees of the Lord can go anywhere to preach. Srila Prabhupada also said that, “**Bowery was worse than hell.**” So he was alone in 1965 and after 10-12 yrs, when he reentered the eternal *lilas* of the Lord, he had already preached all over the world. The astrological prediction when he was born was that he would establish more than 100 temples, and he established more than 108 temples. He was instructed by his guru to preach in English, and this he did to the full satisfaction of his guru. Temples, *goshalas*, etc were established. The **gobhakhaks** became **gorakshaks** and they became human beings. Those who were ridiculed by society were nurtured by Srila Prabhupada.

This was the prediction of **Caitanya Mahaprabhu** – **sarvatra pracar** – and this was done by Srila Prabhupada, and is being continued by **ISKCON** – **dharma samstharpa...** The saints carry forward the message of the Lord. As I was explaining to the Chief Minister, the *raja* must protect *dharma*, and in turn protect the citizens. That is what the **ISKCON** movement is doing throughout the world. Today's target is distribution of 16000 **Bhagwat Gitas** out of which 7k have already been distributed. The *dindis* from Dehu and Alandi started *kirtans*

from their respective places and continued till Pandharpur. Also from Kaundinyapur. *Prasad* is also being distributed today. So **Srila Prabhupada** will be immensely happy by seeing all this.

There are many vacant places in Vaikuntha, your place can only be occupied by you. That is the desire of the Lord that we regain our original identities. Like **Tukaram Maharaj's** Vaikunth *agaman*. **ISKCON** has manifested here in Pandharpur dham, and as we were planning significant expansion, there was an initiative by the authorities to provide facilities for the devotees. One should not come here as a tourist. So there are many proposals in the offing. So from Vishnupath, nearly 1.5 kms away, right till the bridge here; there shall be a *ghat* on both the banks of river Chandrabhaga. So the authorities approached **ISKCON** and now Braj Hari prabhu informs us that a committee has been formed under which this project will be undertaken.

So we are eternally indebted to **Srila Prabhupada**, “**without him I don't know where we would all be.**” Today we have assembled here in Pandharpur, and are discussing about returning to Godhead. So in his memory, we have proposed the name as **Srila Prabhupada ghat**. Is the name ok? (*Haribol*) So this is a big project, and we are offering this as a service to Srila Prabhupada. So today, during *brahma muhurt*, the *bhoomi puja*n took place. Some of you may have been sleeping or on the way, but do you think this is a good plan? So we all have to contribute towards the success of this plan. emstrongacarya