

PUNE ANNUAL KATHA DAY 2: Lifetime in preparation (amended)

All glories to the assembled devotees.

**nama om vishnu-padaya krishna-preshthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin iti namine**

namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracarine
nirvisesha-sunyavadi-pascatya-desa-tarine

Hare Krsna, Hare Krsna, Krsna Krsna, Hare Hare, Hare Rama,
Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare.

narayanam namaskritya naram chaiva narottamam devam saraswatim
vyasam dato jayam udirayet

Om namo bhagavate vasudevaya

Narottam Das Thakura, a Mahabhagavat Acarya, was an acarya during **Caitanya Mahaprabhu's** time. In the following Bengali song he sings the glories of an acarya. **Prabhupada** is our acarya. Just by reading we may not understand the meaning since these songs are filled with bhava from the spiritual world.

**ei-baro karuna koro vaishnava gosai patita-pavana toma bine
keho nai**

Vaisnava Goswami, please be merciful to me now. There is no one except you who can purify the fallen souls.

**jahara nikate gele papa dure jay emona doyala prabhu keba
kotha pai**

When we go near the acaryas, the sins run away and if we go away from the acarya sins (papa) comes towards us.

**gangara parasa hoile pascate pavan darsane pavitra koro-ei
tomara gun**

After bathing in the waters of the sacred Ganga many times, one becomes purified, but just by the sight of you, the fallen souls are purified. This is your great power.

**hari-sthane aparadhe tare hari-nam toma sthane aparadhe nahi
paritran**

The holy name delivers one who has committed an offense to Lord Hari, but if one commits an offense to you, there is no means of deliverance.

**tomara hridaye sada govinda-visram govinda kohena-mora
vaishnava paran**

Your heart is always the resting place of Lord Govinda, and Lord Govinda says, "The Vaisnavas are in My heart."

**prati-janme kori asa caranera dhuli narottame koro doya
apanara boli**

I desire the dust of your holy feet in every birth I may take. Please consider Narottama yours, and be kind upon him.

Oh! Acarya be merciful on me and give me divya jnana. **Jai
Prabhupada Jai Srila Prabhupada**

**mukam karoti vachalam pangum langhayate girim ,yat-kripa tam
aham vande shri-gurum dina-taranam**

By the mercy of guru, the dumb turn into eloquent speakers and enables the lame to cross mountains.

I offer my respectful obeisance unto my spiritual master, the deliverer of the fallen souls Lord says respect the acarya like me. Don't think him as an ordinary person. Acaryas are not God, but they are Godly.

sakshad-dharitvena samasta-shastrair

Vishwanath Thakur says an acarya is sakshad Hari. All sastra explain acarya as sakshad Hari. They are empowered by the Lord so only they can make the impossible possible.

krsna-sakti vina nahe tara pravartana- Unless one has the mercy of Lord, there can't be a revolution in consciousness.

**yatra yogesvarah krsno yatra partho dhanur-dharah
tatra srir vijayo bhutir dhruva nitir matir mama**

Wherever there is Krsna, the master of all mystics, and wherever there is Arjuna, the supreme archer, there will also certainly be opulence, victory, extraordinary power, and morality.

vijayastu pandu-putranam yesham pakshe janardana

We see that how Prabhupada was glorified all over the world.

bhaktanam mana vardhanam Image maker of the devotee is not any PR team, but Lord Himself. He glorifies His devotees and spreads their glories in the three worlds.

Prabhupada Lilamrita has two parts. The first part of the biography covers Prabhupada's life time preparation. With all the preparation, he established ISKCON in New York. The second part contains the execution. 80% of the time was utilized in planning and 20% in execution.

Every 11 years there is some important event taking place in **Prabhupada's** life. **Prabhupada** met his Guru Maharaja in 1922. Then in 1933 he received initiation. In 1944 he wrote the Back to Godhead magazine. He took sannyasa in 1955 and in 1966 he established **ISKCON**. In 1977 he went back to **Vrndavana**, back to Godhead.

Prabhupada was born in Kolkata, hence for us Kolkata is a holy place. He was born on 1 Sept 1986 on the day of Nandotsava.

This reinforces the strong relationship between Prabhupada and Krsna. His kundali stated that at the age of 70, he will go to the West and establish 108 temples. The Lord wanted him to do all this.

nimitta-matram bhava savya-sacin

The Lord made him an instrument to preach all over the world. Abhayakaran would get up early in the morning to the sound of Guarmohan Dey blowing the conch shell and ringing the bell. He was sent to learn to play the mrdanga. He was also given small Radha Krsna Deities to worship. When there was a **Ratha-yatra** **Abhayakaran** also wanted to have a separate Ratha-yatra. His father got a small ratha and organized a Ratha-yatra. He also wanted the instruments for kirtana. So his father gave him two rupees to get all the instruments for kirtana. He could hardly lift a mrdanga, but he wanted to play it.

At that time India was under British rule and Mahatma Gandhi was active in the independence movement. **Prabhupada** was greatly influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's movement. He had started wearing khadi clothes. He had graduated from the Scottish Church College, but refused to accept the degree as it was from a British college. It was with these thoughts that in 1922, at the age of just 22, that his friend Malik babu wanted to take him to a sadhu. **Prabhupada** had seen many sadhus and did not want to go. Malik Babu assured Abhayakaran that this sadhu was different. So **Prabhupada** went. When they arrived **Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Thakur** was having his istagosti. Malik and Abhayakaran offered obeisances. They did not even sit down, but **Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Thakur** said, "You look intelligent. Why don't you preach in English in the West." According to the Lilamrita, Prabhupada's response was, "Who will listen to your Caitanya teachings? Our country is under British Rule so that's not possible. First we should fight for freedom for our country." Many others like Mahatma Gandhi had such thoughts. But **Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Thakur** said, "We can't wait. One party may rule over us or

others, but that's all temporary. Our first priority is that we are eternal servants of the Lord. You should first get liberated." As Prabhupada was returning, he had this thought, "I have found my Guru Maharaja". He also received the instruction to preach in the West.

So he started the preparation. In 1932 **Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Thakur** was doing **Vraja-mandal Parikrama**. At that time **Prabhupada** was married and settled in Allahabad,. He also had De pharmacy. His pharmacy was very famous. Even Jawaharlal Pandit would to come to his pharmacy to buy medicine. Prabhupada had also reached Vrndavana. He would go to one Gaudiya matha to play mrdanga, do kirtana and support the matha financially. At this time the Parikrama was at Kosi going to Shesasayi. An announcement was made that Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Thakur would give a class for those not going for Parikrama. Prabhupada loved to hear his Guru Maharaja. His name was on the initiation list and Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Thakur saw his name and said, "Abhayababu? I know him. He likes to hear me." That was how his Guru knew him – he likes to hear. So in 1933 he received initiation and at the bank of **Radha Kunda Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Thakur** said. "If you get money, print books." Prabhupada's first instruction was to preach in the West and later on he had to print books. In 1944 he published Back to Godhead magazines. He wanted help to publish and distribute books.

Prabhupada wrote many books. He also wrote 8000 letters. There are certainly many amongst us who have not even written 8 letters. He wrote a letter to Dr. Rajendra Prasad. which said, "I have a clue how to go back to Godhead. I will go back home after this life but I don't want to go alone. I want to take to all my contemporary men and women. I have published Back to head magazines. We are in streets called galis and the politicians say chalo delhi – from gali to Delhi. But Prabhupada said chalo golok. This place is not for gentlemen.

He further wrote, "Don't think of me as a mad man and don't be surprised when I write about going back to godhead. It's quite possible to go back home. Every jiva can go back home."

Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Thakur changed Prabhupada's mood. In July 1947 Prabhupada wrote a letter to his friend mahatmaji, Mahatma Gandhi. The address on the letter was Bhangi Colony, New Delhi. He wrote: "I am your unknown friend, but you did not care to reply till date. I tell you as a sincere friend that you should immediately retire from your service if you don't desire to die an inglorious death." He did not listen to Prabhupada's letter and died an inglorious death. "If you want to do some welfare for the general public, we will include your policy of independence, but you should leave this rotten politics. At least retire for one month. We will discuss that which will give you enlightenment."

Prabhupada liked to go to Jhansi and lecture there. Once when Prabhupada came to Allahabad his wife who really liked tea a lot had sold some papers to a gabadi man to buy biscuits. Prabhupada was very angry when he heard that. He said: "You want tea or me? His wife took it humorously and said, "I would prefer tea". Thereafter when Prabhupada went to Jhansi he never returned home in Allahabad.

One day Prabhupada received a telegram from Prabhakar Mishra which stated that money from the pharmacy had been stolen. His disciple thought Prabhupada would be sad, but Prabhupada smiled and said:

yasyaham anugrhnami harisye tad-dhanam sanaih (SB 10.88.8)

The Personality of Godhead said: If I especially favor someone, I gradually deprive him of his wealth. Then the relatives and friends of such a poverty-stricken man abandon him. In this way he suffers one distress after another.

In Jhansi he established the League of Devotees. There were some problems and some mahila mandal group took over.

Prabhupada was already publishing Back to Godhead magazines and then he started writing books and on Viswarupa mahotsava.

Prabhupada took sanyasa from Keshava Bharati Goswami. On that day Prabhupada became **Bhaktivedanta Swami**. He would stay at Bansidhara temple at Kesi-ghata and then he shifted to Radha Damodar temple. It was here that the six goswamis would come and discuss sastra. nana-sastra-vicaranaika-nipunau The Goswamis are expert in scrutinizingly studying all the revealed scriptures with the aim of establishing eternal religious principles for the benefit of all human beings. Prabhupada was staying at such a temple. Here he had also written some small books.

So here Prabhupada started translating Srimad-Bhagavatam . He would travel in a third class compartment train and go to Delhi for the printing of Bhagavatam. He was now prepared to go to the West, but how would he go? There was a lack of money. All his money was utilized in printing books. Once when Prabhupada was in Kurukshetra, he met Mrs. Sumati Morarjee. She was the owner of Scandia shipping. He put forth his request and she said, "Do you want to die." But Prabhupada was determined. Somehow she agreed and gave him permission to travel in a cargo ship named the Jaladuta. From his day we see that he went via Nagpur – a Devadutta going to the West in the Jaladuta. He faced so many health issues. He even had heart attacks on the Jaladuta. Prabhupada called to Krsna for help and Krsna became the boatman and took charge of the boat. The sea became silent. Mr. Pandya, the Captain told Prabhupada, "I have traveled this route so many years, but I have never had such a smooth journey, Swami." Then the boat reached Boston and it had to wait. Mr. Pandya suggested that he show Prabhupada America. Prabhupada saw that everyone was busy in the rat race.

Prabhupada wrote his thoughts in form of a poem called Markine Bhagavat dharma. nacao nacao prabhu nacao se-mate kasthera puttali jatha nacao se mate

O Lord, I am just like a puppet in Your hands. So if You have brought me here to dance, then make me dance, make me dance, O Lord, make me dance as You like. (text 14)

bhakti nai beda nai name khub daro “bhaktivedanta” nam ebe sarthak kor

I have no devotion, nor do I have any knowledge, but I have strong faith in the holy name of Krishna. I have been designated as Bhaktivedanta, and now, if You like, You can fulfill the real purport of Bhaktivedanta. You have brought me here so give me power O Lord. I don't have much knowledge but you help make my name Bhaktivedanta as successful.

So Prabhupada reached America and he did not know whether to turn left or right. He just had 40 rupees in his pocket. It seems that he was moneyless and friendless, but he had his friend Krsna with him. As far as money was concerned he had Laxmipati (Krsna) with him. He also had golokere prema dhana harinam sankirtana. How could he be moneyless? He had Bhagavatam with him. He had taken the culture of India, the Bhagavatam, with him. He was acaryavan and dhanavan.

He arrived in 1965 and in 1966 he would establish **ISKCON**. 11 years thereafter he will go back to Godhead. What he did in these 11 years is mind boggling. He then returned to India and made new history. We will hear that history tomorrow – how the Lord helped him. How he had gone to America with 40 rupees and at end of 11 years, he had 40 000 crores.

Srila Prabhupada kiJai!!

PUNE ANNUAL KATHA DAY 1: Introduction to Srila Prabhupada (amended)

All glories to the assembled devotees.

**nama om vishnu-padaya krishna-preshthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin iti namine**

namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracarine
nirvisesha-sunyavadi-pascatya-desat-tarine

**Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare / Hare
Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare.**

ISKCON Pune organises a katha every year. Many devotees come every year, but this year many foreign devotees have come. This is the proof that our society is international. And this year's katha will be different and sweeter, pyaari and nyaari.

Nityam bhagvat sevaya. Prabhupada says there are two Bhagavats- grantha bhagvat and vyakti bhagvat.

This year we are celebrating the anniversary of **ISKCON's** Golden Jubilee. In 1966, Prabhupada established **ISKCON** in **New York**. And it has been a year of celebrations. This katha is purnahuti or "complete offering of oneself" to that celebration.

When we were discussing what the topic of this katha should be, we thought about **ISKCON's** Golden Jubilee and thought, "Why don't we hear about **Srila Prabhupada's** caritra. The Lord's katha is not possible without the katha of **Srila Prabhupada**. The Lord's katha is always empty without the katha of his devotees. When we say the pranam mantra:

namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracarine nirvisesha-

sunyavadi-pascatya-desa-tarine

We offer our respectful obeisances unto you. You are sisya (student) of Sarasvati Thakur and you are preaching Guaravani all over the world.

Prabhupada's father would take him to Radha Govind Dev temple where he spent a lot of time. He was named Abhaya, who then became Abhayababu in Bengal and ultimately **AC Bhaktivedanata Swami Srila Prabhupada**. AC is not air conditioner, but Abhay Caranaravinda. We addressed him as Prabhupada, one who has taken shelter of Lotus Feet of the Lord.

His father Guarmohan De would invite sadhus to his home. After serving them, he would seek their blessings for Abhaya to become a great devotee of Radharani. Prabhupada was Lord's krpa patra. This year we will glorify Prabhupada. This katha will fill you with happiness and inspire you so that you consider and accept Prabhupada as your spiritual hero which will lead to all auspiciousness. The Vedas say, acaryavan purusho veda: The one who has a real Master comes to know the truth. It is said that when we become acaryavan, we accept an acarya. So when we accept an acharya in our life then we will understand the Lord.

vedais ca sarvair aham eva vedyo vedanta-krd veda-vid eva caham.

By all the Vedas am I to be known; indeed I am the compiler of Vedanta, and I am the knower of the Vedas.

Knowing the Lord is the goal of life. We will know the secret of the grantha. This is the Lord's arrangement and not the arrangement of any demigod or politician.

This deity of Prabhupada is new. We will do abhishek, acharya upasana. Lord says you should do upasana (worship) of my devotees. There will be pushpanjali and at the end of the katha we will offer Guru puja. Together with the flowers, we

will also offer ourselves at the lotus feet of Prabhupada. We will offer Prabhupada's favourite kachori. He was also called kachorimukhi. There will be for you as well. And every day we will sing and dance.

bhaja gauranga kaha gauranga laha bhaja gaurangera nama re

jei jan bhaja gauranga bhaje, sei hoy amara prana re.

Worship Lord Gauranga! Chant Gauranga! Speak only about Lord Gauranga! Those who worship and serve Lord Gauranga are indeed my life and soul.

Caitanya Mahaprabhu said, "Preaching of my name will be all over the earth." What is His name? You will say He is Krsna. My name is Krsna, mora nama radha. I have two names Radha Krsna. sri krsna caitanya radha rrsna nahi anya . That is why we say Hare Krsna. So this is mora naam, **Caitanya Mahaprabhu's** name. The 16 names in the Hare Krsna mahamantra, 8 Krsna's names and 8 Radha's names – iti sodasakam namnam kali-kalmasa-nasanam. **Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Hare Hare, Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Hare Hare** destroy all inauspiciousness of the age of Kali.

When you chant the Lord's name and you become dear to the Lord. On the screen you can see the lyrics.

Let's sing,

gaurango boliya du baht tuliya,nachiya nachiya berao re

Means raising two hands in Bengali.

gaurango bhajile gaurango jopile hoy, dukhyero aboshaan re

All miseries will be over once you say Gauranga.

(Abhang of Tukaram Maharaj in marathi glorifying Lord Vitthala)

om namo bhagvate vasudevaya

Before every katha **Prabhupada** would always sing jaya radha madhava. As his disciples we also sing the same song before a katha. But today, here, before this katha I will not sing. **Prabhupada** will sing. We want to give you all **Prabhupada's** sound vibration, how he would sing with complete love and affection.

On screen **Prabhupada** will be singing jaya radha madhava. This was followed by daily nityam bhagavata sevaya. Prabhupada would give morning class on the Bhagvatam and evening Bhagavata-Gita class. He was never tired.

**vayam tu na vitrpyama uttama-sloka-vikrame, yac-chnvatam
rasa-jnanam svadu svadu pade pade**

We never tire of hearing the transcendental pastimes of the Personality of Godhead, who is glorified by hymns and prayers. Those who have developed a taste for transcendental relationships with Him relish hearing of His pastimes at every moment.

Prabhupada met his Guru Maharaja in 1922. and was ordered to preach in west. It was a life long preparation and then one day he went to west. Wherever he went, he gave katha on Bhagavatam and Gita. There are two types of sevas, vyakti and svayam bhagavat seva. We hear about 12 Bhagavats in Bhagvatam.

**svayambhur naradah sambhuh kumarah kapilo manuh
prahlado janako bhishmo balir vaiyasakir vayam (SB. 6.3.20)**

Svayambhu, Narada, Sambhu, Kapila, Kumara, Manu, Prahlada, Janaka, Bhisma, Bali, Vaiyasaki, and Vayam. Yamraj spoke about 11 Mahabhagavats and then he said."I am one of them. So all the Mahabhagavats make our dharma. dharma stapan hetu sadhur vyavarah and the Lord also comes.

**paritranaya sadhunam vinasaya ca duskrtam
dharma-samsthapanarthaya sambhavami yuge yuge**

It is the joint work of the devotees and the Lord. **Prabhupada** is one of the santa siromani's of that garland of the Mahabhagavats. Many granthas and **Prabhupada Lilamrita** is published. I have also written a book on **Prabhupada**, **My Prabhupada**. So today we will introduce **Prabhupada** and his good qualities. We have amongst us Mukunda Dutta Prabhu who was initiated when he was 15 years old. People go crazy after western clothes, but he is in vaishnava poshakh, like the cowherd boy.

DAY 2 – Lifetime in preparation.

DAY 3 – Prabhupada around the world. How he brought about the revolution, how he preached all over the world and after preaching all over, he came to India.

DAY 4 – My Prabhupada, my realizations about Prabhupada. How and what I learned from him. Prabhupada had 5000 disciples; I am just one of them. Anyone of them could say my Prabhupada, Mukunda Dutta would say My Prabhupada, Radhanatha Maharaja could say my Prabhupada. So like that, I could say My Prabhupada.

DAY 5 – Challenges and struggles. Preaching is a war. We have to fight to preach. It was not all a bed of roses. He faced many problems and his life was full of struggles for Krsna.

DAY 6 – How Prabhupada established sankirtana in the world. sankirtana eka pitaro, the father of sankirtana Himself, Lord Caitanya and Nityananda Prabhu are the two Fathers of Sankirtana. yadi guaranga na hoite, like that we can sing yati Prabhupada nahi hoite.

Day 7 – Teachings of Srila Prabhupada, the original teacher is Krsna. krsnam vande jagadgurum. **Prabhupada** published the teachings of Krsna as it is and there was a revolution in consciousness. People would ask, "Why have you come to the West?" He had gone to revolutionize their consciousness. All those teachings he spread all over and that is what we will

hear on the last day.

In **1965 Prabhupada** went to the West. He was powerful and defeated all the mayavadis. A devotee since childhood, he organized Ratha-yatra. When he was in Vrndavana he wrote books. Mrs Sumati Murarjee made all arrangement for Prabhupada's journey to the West. **Prabhupada** had 12 years. He organised Ratha-yatra in San Francisco. In London Prabhupada is offering arati to **Radha Gokulanada**. In the night Prabhupada would write books. He wrote 70 volumes. Prabhupada wrote many letters to his disciples. He established many Gurukuls. See his **Gurubhakti** and Krishna conscious life.

yasyasti bhaktir bhagavaty akiñcana, sarvair gunais tatra samasate surah (SB 5.18.12)

One who has unflinching devotion for the Personality of Godhead has all the good qualities of the demigods.

Atma is part of the Lord. Some degree of the Lord's qualities are in the soul and these qualities manifest in the devotee. Vaisnavas have 26 qualities. All of those 26 qualities were there in **Prabhupada**. We have made a presentation displaying those qualities. You can all meditate on the pictures shown on the screen. When we hear and see that quality, then that quality will manifest in us. And that is the goal. There is a phrase in Marathi – thora mahatme hovun gele. We should read caritra of such a **Mahajana** and then we can also meditate on and develop that quality.

So Prabhupada had all the 26 qualities of Vaisnava which will be displayed on the screen.

(1) He is merciful to everyone. He gave us Krsna and that is the mercy of Prabhupada (2) He does not make anyone his enemy. (3) He is truthful (4) He is equal to everyone. (5) No one can find any fault in him. (6) He is magnanimous. (7) He is mild. (8) He is always clean. Cleanliness in next to Godliness. (9) He is without possessions. (10) He works for everyone's

benefit. (11) He is very peaceful. If you are in association of a peaceful person then you will also become peaceful. santakaram bhujaga-shayanam. Yoga means getting connected to the Lord. Bhakti yogis means you come in the association of the Lord and become shanta. Learn bhakti yoga and become peaceful (12) He is always surrendered to Krsna- krsneka saranam, Prabhupada was always in the shelter of the Lord. prapadyante nya devatah. Some people take shelter of demigods. ekale isvara krsna, ara saba bhrtya Prabhupada always stressed this whenever he wrote Krsna, he wrote Supreme Personality of Godhead because antigod preaching is going everywhere.(13) He has no material desires. (14) He is very meek. (15) He is steady. (16) He has cleanliness of heart and mind and thoughts. People says svachabaharat but what's the use? Our heart is dirty. So we should start with the heart. Acharyas teach us the definition of cleanliness. cetodarpaṇ marjana (17) He does not eat more than required. (18) He is not influenced by the Lord's illusory energy. (19) He offers respect to everyone. (20) He does not desire any respect for himself. (21) He is very grave. (22) He is kind to everyone. (23) He is friendly. (24) He is poetic. (25) He is expert. (26) He is silent.