

South India Tour 2012 : Day 5 – Sri Rangam, Evening Class

Day 5 – May 27

Location – Sri Rangam (Tamilnadu, India)

(Reading from C.C. ML 9.82 –108)

A Vaishnava known as Venkata Bhatta then invited Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu to his home with great respect. Sri Venkata Bhatta took Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu to his home. After he washed the Lord's feet, all the members of his family drank the water. After offering lunch to the Lord, Venkata Bhatta submitted that the period of Chaturmasya had already arrived. Venkata Bhatta said, "Please be merciful to me and stay at my house during Chaturmasya. Speak about Lord Krishna's pastimes and kindly deliver me by Your mercy." Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu remained at the house of Venkata Bhatta for four continuous months. The Lord passed His days in great happiness, enjoying the transcendental mellow of discussing Lord Krishna's pastimes. While there, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu took His bath in the river Kaveri and visited the temple of Sri Raiga. Every day the Lord also danced in ecstasy. (Cc.ml.9.82-87)

The lord would take bath in the same place where we took bath today at Kolidam. And across the bridge is the area where Ramanujacharya would take bath. Under the bridge is the area where Yamunacharya, the spiritual master of Ramanujacharya would take bath. So Ramanujacharya chose a spot so that he would get the mahaprasad water from Yamunacharya's bathing. We should also have taken bath much further.

Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu would see Lord Ranganath every day. We are also doing so as long as we are her for three days. We were doing twice a day, morning and evening. Today the Lord came out in a beautiful procession accompanied by Sridevi and

Bhudevi.

Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu would chant and dance and He would not even realise that He is dancing; he would just dance so spontaneously out of *prema avesha*. Prema or Love would make Him dance.

The beauty of Lord Chaitanya's body and His ecstatic love of God were witnessed by everyone. Many people used to come and see Him, and as soon as they saw Him, all their unhappiness and distress vanished. (cc.ml.9.88)

During those times in this dham two lords were residing simultaneously. One is lord Ranganatha and the other is Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. So people would take darshan of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and Ranganath. Those who would see their beauty, their sorrow would go away.

Many hundreds of thousands of people from various countries came to see the Lord, and after seeing Him they all chanted the Hare Krishna maha-mantra. When they would see Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu do kirtana they would also do kirtana. Indeed, they did not chant anything but the Hare Krishna maha-mantra, and all of them became Lord Krishna's devotees. Thus the general populace was astonished. (cc.ml.9.90)

Whenever they would open their mouth it was only for glorifying Krishna. *Sevonmukhe hi jivhadau*.

All the Vaishnava brahmanas residing in Sri Ranga-ksetra invited the Lord to their homes. Indeed, He had an invitation every day. Each day the Lord was invited by a different brahmana, but some of the brahmanas did not get the opportunity to offer Him lunch because the period of Chaturmasya came to an end. In the holy place of SriRanga-ksetra, a brahmana Vaishnava used to visit the temple daily and recite the entire text of the Bhagavad-gita. (cc.ml.9.94)

Vaishnava is superior to a brahmana.

The brahmana regularly read the eighteen chapters of the Bhagavad-gita in great transcendental ecstasy, but because he could not pronounce the words correctly, people used to joke about him. Due to his incorrect pronunciation, people sometimes criticized him and laughed at him, but he did not care. He was full of ecstasy due to reading the Bhagavad-gita and was personally very happy. (cc.ml.9.95)

He never cared for this. He used to be happy in his study.

While reading the book, the brahmana experienced transcendental bodily transformations. The hairs on his body stood on end, tears welled up in his eyes, and his body trembled and perspired as he read. Seeing this, SriCaitanyaMahaprabhu became very happy. (cc.ml.9.96)

He would sweat not out of heat but due to his ecstasy. Tear pearls from eyes and sweat pearls from the body.

Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu asked the brahmana, "My dear sir, why are you in such ecstatic love? Which portion of the Bhagavad-Gita gives you such transcendental pleasure?" (cc.ml.9.97)

What do you understand that makes you so ecstatic, the Lord asked.

The brahmana replied, "I am illiterate and therefore do not know the meaning of the words. Sometimes I read the Bhagavad-gita correctly and sometimes incorrectly, but in any case I am doing this in compliance with the orders of my spiritual master." The brahmana continued, "Actually I only see Lord Krishna sitting on a chariot as Arjuna's charioteer. Taking the reins in His hands, He appears very beautiful and blackish. (cc.ml.9.98)

The brahmana said, when I read Gita I get transferred to Kurukshetra and Kurukshetra appears in Sri Rangam and I see in front of my eyes the Lord with ropes and whip. I keep seeing Him as long as I read.

“While seeing Lord Krishna sitting in a chariot and instructing Arjuna, I am filled with ecstatic happiness. As long as I read the Bhagavad-gita, I simply see the Lord’s beautiful features. It is for this reason that I am reading the Bhagavad-gita, and my mind cannot be distracted from this.”

(cc.ml.9.101)

Therefore I do not feel like stopping the reading of Bhagvad Gita because I can see the Lord.

Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu told the brahmana, “Indeed, you are an authority in the reading of the Bhagavad-gita. Whatever you know constitutes the real purport of the Bhagavad-gita.”

(cc.ml.9.102)

You are the actual adhikari to understand Gita and this darshan that you get of the Lord is the essence of Bhagvad Gita. Bhagvad Gita study is for bhagvad darshan.

After saying this, Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu embraced the brahmana, and the brahmana, catching the lotus feet of the Lord, began to cry. (cc.ml.9.103)

He was very humble and was thinking that I am not qualified to be in His embrace. He just fell at His lotus feet and started crying. He was crying out of love.

The brahmana said, “Upon seeing You, my happiness is doubled. I take it that You are the same Lord Krishna.” (cc.ml.9.104)

Every day I used to experience immense bliss during Gita study, but today my bliss has multiplied. You are that same *Rajjo dhar* (One who holds the reins of horses) and You have come in front of me today.

The mind of the brahmana was purified by the revelation of Lord Krishna, and therefore he could understand the truth of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu in all details. (cc.ml.9.105)

His mind had become purified by the recitation of Bhagvad Gita and thus he could understand Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is Krishna Himself.

Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu then taught the brahmana very thoroughly and requested him not to disclose the fact that He was Lord Krishna Himself. (cc.ml.9.106)

Do not disclose that you have realised me. Do not preach this in Srirangam. Please do not go to Venkat Bhatt's house and tell them who I am. The Lord is trying to hide his greatness, His supremacy. But those who are not supreme are trying to show that they are supreme. Now days there are many Kalka incarnations. But they do not even know when to appear. They are supposed to take birth at the end of Kali yoga but they are appearing now.

That Brahman became a great devotee of Sri CaitanyaMahaprabhu, and for four continuous months he did not give up the Lord's company. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu remained at the house of Venkata Bhatta and constantly talked with him about Lord Krishna. In this way He was very happy. (cc.ml.9.108)

He not only stayed and ate Prasad, but took pleasure in Krishna katha. And at that time Gopal Bhatt, the son of Venkat Bhatt, was 5- 6years old. Venkat Bhatt's brother was Tirumal Bhatta.

Then in future he went to Vrndavan from Sri Rangam and became a great Acharya in Gaudiya Vaishnava Sampradaya. Tirumal Bhatta became Prabodhananda Sarasvati

Today we are very fortunate to have with us the 22nd generation of Venkat Bhatt, Sriman Murli Bhatta. The name of his sons is Sri Rama Bhatt and Harish Bhatt and his wife is Ramaa Bhatt. It is a great glory that he has come amidst us and today he will be giving his association to us.