

Tridandisvami Sri Srimad Bhaktivedanta Narayana Maharaja

APPEARANCE DAY OF SRI GANGAMATA THAKURANI

Los Angeles, California: June 4, 1998

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There was Gangamata Thakurani. In Bengal, around the time of Srila Rupa Gosvami, a king and his family were living in Putiya. The name of the place was Putiya. He was a king, and he had a very beautiful daughter named Saci-devi. She was so beautiful and from a very young age she used to worship Sri Sri Radha and Krsna conjugal. When she became somewhat older, she married Krsna, Syamasundara. She said, "I will not marry any person in this world. My husband is Krsna Himself, Syamasundara." She was always worshipping Krsna. When she became more mature, her father, the king, and her mother, all, were forcing her to marry, but she told very heavily ???, "I cannot marry any human body. I am married, I have been married. I want to go now to Vrndavana to serve my husband, Krsna." They could not satisfy her. At last the king was ready and he helped her and sent anyone with her to take her to Vrndavana.

She came to Vrndavana. At that time Srila Rupa Gosvami had left this world. Srila Sanatana Gosvami and Srila Jiva Gosvami were also not in this world. Even Srila Raghunatha dasa Gosvami was not present at that time. She went in the Govinda temple. Govinda was there at that time, not in Jaipur. There was a priest of Govinda-deva named Hari-dasa. He was a very learned person, in the line of Srila Rupa Gosvami. He was always chanting and remembering with asta-sattvika bhavas, always with a melted heart

and with tears. She asked there, "Who is a qualified Vaisnava here? I want to meet him." She reached Hari-dasa prabhu in the Govinda temple and heard the classes of Hari-dasa prabhu. Hearing and hearing, she had so much sraddha, honor, for him. She accepted him as her guru and she requested him, "I want to be initiated by you only, I don't want to accept any other guru." For about one year he examined her in so many ways and he saw that she was quite qualified for this. Then he gave her diska-initiation.

But at that time she was sixteen years old, very young. Hari-dasa had so many disciples.

[NOTE TO SD: in the only other class in our Holydays folder on Gangamata Thakurani (Australia 2000), Gurudeva said: "*Though he never wanted to initiate anyone, he initiated that beautiful princess.*" Jd.] Among them there was a lady devotee, her age was about fifty. Hari-dasa gave Saci-devi's hands in the hands of that lady devotee. He told her, "You are like her older sister or mother. You should take care of her and you should be in Vrndavana. But I want her to go on madhukari. Although she is the daughter of a king and her father has sent so many things and money and everything, I want her to go and beg one chapatti from one house." So she did, only one chapatti. She used to take only for maintaining her life and refused anything more. And in a very little hut she used to be in Vrndavana with that elderly lady. Very simple, very simple. But she was so beautiful, so her Gurudeva was somewhat worried for her too. But he knew that if anyone is a chaste devotee, Krsna will save her.

Gradually she became 25 and 30 years old. And hearing all these things and keeping it in this record here **[Madhava Mj: "in her heart"]**. She became so learned in speaking

Srimad-Bhagavatam, as her Gurudeva was – like now in Vrndavana, Savita, Kavita and all others. She could recite Srimad-Bhagavatam so well, especially Rasa-pancadyaya [**the five chapters in Srimad Bhagavatam 10th Canto regarding rasa-lila**] and all others, Brahmara-gita and all others. And all used to weep. She used to weep bitterly and so many asta-sattvika bhavas used to come. Anyone could be charmed by her.

Then he sent her to Radha-kunda to be there. She was there up to the age of fifty. Then that elderly lady left her body and she was left alone. Again she came to her Gurudeva and said, "What should I do, now this elder guardian lady has left?" He said, "I am also very old now. I may go. I can leave this world any day, so I am giving you one service. You should go to Jagannatha Puri. The place of Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya is now neglected and ruined and no-one knows. I want you to go there and make it prominent. Illuminate that place. You should do bhajana in Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya's place, which is very near to Gambhira where Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu used to live. And this will add your more bhakti and everything.

She came to Jagannatha Puri. She used to deliver such sweet classes on Srimad-Bhagavatam. In a few days all became charmed. So many good, learned persons, devotees, began to come to hear her Harikatha. One day a brahmana from Jaipur came with his deity, Syama-rama. [**NOTE TO SD: in Folio Prabhupada says the name of the deity was Rasika-rama (purport to Adi 8.60) and in the other Australia class, Gurudeva calls the deity Rama Kisora – I know its probably just the same name and all that, but I thought it might be interesting for you to know.**] When he was in

Jaipur, this brahmana had a dream that, "Take me to Gangamata Thakurani in Puri, Saci-devi or Gangamata Thakurani. So you should take me. You are neglecting me. You are not properly serving me, so at once, without delay you should take me to Puri. And if you will not do so, your whole dynasty will be ruined." So he took his saligrama and that deity, that is saligrama, Syama-rama. Saci-devi had married Syama. You know? So Syama-rama wanted to meet her and to reside by her. [hindi question in background] Vigraha, and Syama-rama vigraha, very beautiful blackish, but very, very small, like Govinda, Gopinatha, Madana-mohana. He took Him on his head in any basket and coming, coming, coming – there was no railway or anything, so he came walking, for several months. When he reached Jagannatha Puri, he came to Saci-devi and said, "I have seen a dream like so. I want that you should take it." But she refused, saying, "I am niskincana Vaisnavi, I cannot serve any deity. I do bhava-seva always. I have nothing, not one ?? or paisa to bring any paraphernalia or anything, throne, puspa and all other things. I only beg one chapatti, anywhere, I go to the Jagannatha temple and accept some madhukari, like maha-prasadam. Maha-prasadam cannot be, so how should I do? I have not a ??? with me." She refused totally.

In Kali-yuga it is very hard to serve Radha and Krsna or Mahaprabhu. After some time the day will come when arcane will not be maintained. Like Mohammedans broke the temples of India, occupied them and did so many things. Now so much struggle is going on for this, even today. So a day may come that we cannot do arcane freely.

Dupassandi?? will be so much powerful. So she said, "I cannot maintain this worship, this Syama-rama." But the brahmana was fearing what was said in his dream, that his

dynasty would be destroyed, so he left that deity there, in the forest of Tulasi which she was maintaining. A very big place of Tulasi, everywhere Tulasi, it was like a jungle. So he left the deity in there and ran away from there. Syama-rama, that deity, gave a dream to Saci-devi, saying, "He has left Me here! I have not taken anything, My bath, even, any ...

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... and take Me. I am waiting for you. Otherwise I will be, to have to starve or like this." She at once went there and saw that very beautiful deity, like this, Syama-rama was there. She picked Him up and took Him, but where to keep Him?

One day, in the meantime, she kept Him in her ??(hut)?.

One day, she was there, and this today, the day of Ganga coming was there. All the prominent devotees were going to take bath in Ganga, very far away, in Bengal, in Calcutta or in Navadvipa. All were going. Gangamata wanted to take bath in the Ganges, so she started going there, but she thought, "Who will serve this Syama-rama, my husband. So how to do?" She could not go. She was so worried for this, that "Oh, I could not go to take bath." She slept in the night and in a dream she saw that Ganga was coming from there. There was a sound, like kal-kal-kal-kal, and she saw there was a very big lake or pond. All were taking bath there, chanting "Haribol! Haribol!" She also went to take bath. She took bath but the current was so strong, that it carried her to the

Jagannatha temple, where Jagannatha, Subhadra, Baladeva and Sudarsana are present.

The door was closed, but even the current was going there and she went there.

In the meantime the time of mangala-arati came and they heard some sound in the temple. They reported this to the king and the head priest. They both came and opened the door and saw that this devotee was there. They said, "Oh, she is a thief also! She was preaching so much Krsna-katha, giving classes. Now she is thief. And how did she enter here? She should be put in jail." And she was put in jail.

Then, at night, Lord Jagannatha said, in the same day perhaps, in a dream to the prataparudra, the king, or his father was there, **[NOTE TO SD: in the other lecture it says the head priest had the same dream]** that, "At once go there and apologize. She is my power-like, my potency. You should go and you should take initiation from her. And your whole learned council should go to her and take initiation from her. If you do not obey me, I will destroy your whole kingdom and dynasty. At once you should go." So the king appeared to that Saci-devi. Lord Jagannatha also said, "From today her name is Gangamata Thakurani because I have brought My Ganga here only for her. So she is Gangamata Thakurani and just today you should all go, take initiation from her and give some donation. And what she wants, you should make a very beautiful temple and Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya, everything. You should go and do all these things."

At once, the king went there with his whole council. All Brahmins, his lord and councils, pandas, they went to Gangamata Thakurani, to that Saci-devi, and they apologized that

they had made her guilty, and offended. Then they said, "You should give us initiation." She answered, "How I can do? I don't want to initiate anyone." But again and again the king requested, keeping his head on her lotus feet. At last she agreed and gave initiation to the king and all his associates.

Then the king said, "I want to give some donation, what do you want?" She said, "If you want to do anything, my gurudeva has ordered that you should go and illuminate the place of Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya, so you should do like this."

In a very short time the king build a very good temple, and also the places of Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya, where Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya used to sit and discuss Vedanta Sutra. Her deity, Syama-rama, was also there. And then she became so prominent in whole Puri. All the Puri devotees used to come and hear her Bhagavatam. Today still, close to the Jagannatha temple, is Sveta-Ganga. Even today. And all used to go there and they take bath, and they think that we are taking bath in the Ganges. So this is Gangamata Thakurani, being a lady devotee, but a very powerful acarya.

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