

**REPORT ON THE
DISAPPEARANCE DAY CELEBRATION
OF:
SRILA BHAKTIPRAJNANA KESAVA GOSVAMI MAHARAJA**

By Premavati dasi

Dandavata Pranamas. All glories to Sri Guru and Guaranga.

Srila Gurupadpadma Bhaktivedanta Narayana Goswami Maharaja gave the following lecture in Mathura after the devotees had had a very successful second day of the kartika parikrama. At this time there are approximately 300 western devotees here in Mathura who have come from every corner of the world to relish non-stop hari-katha over this most auspicious Kartika month. In that evening's class Srila Gurudeva said that the parikrama was satisfactory only by the mercy of his Gurudeva, Om Visnupada Nitya-lila Sri Srimad Bhaktiprajnana Kesava Goswami Maharaja, by the mercy of Radha and Krsna conjugal, and by the mercy of Vrnda devi and Yogamaya. In his usual affectionate manner, he told the devotees, "I know that you are trying not to be sick, but now the weather is changing, so you should be very careful. I know that we are trying our best for no problems, but still they will come."

The 13th was the Divine Disappearance day of Nitya-lila Om Visnupada Sri Srimada Bhaktiprajnana Kesava Goswami Maharaja. Srila Maharaja gave a class in the morning before the devotees went out to do their sankalpa at Visvama Ghat. Srila Maharaja said that no suffering can compare to that of his Gurudeva's disappearance. At 10 am there was puspanjali, followed by a grand feast. Everyone then gathered again at four in the afternoon, and more glorification of Srila Bhaktiprajnana Kesava Goswami Maharaja took place. Relating how extremely soft-hearted and affectionate Srila Bhaktiprajnana Kesava Maharaja was towards the devotees, Srila Maharaja told of a special devotee who used to wash and cook and do all services for his Gurudeva. When that devotee left his body, his Gurudeva wept very bitterly. He did pranama to his disciple and also parikrama of his body. Srila Maharaja said "We have never before seen a guru who has done this to his disciple". In honor of Srila Bhaktiprajnana Kesava Goswami Maharaja, Pujyapada Bhakti baibava Puri Maharaja graced Kesavaji Gaudiya Matha with his presence. After puspanjali speech of glorification, Pujyapada Tirhta Maharaja, Pujyapada Aranya Maharaja, Sripada Rasananda Brahmacari, and Sripada Jnana dasa Vanacari also glorified their Param Gurudeva.

The evening class was also a glorification of Srila Bhaktiprajnana Kesava Goswami Maharaja and the following is a summary of that class. I beg forgiveness for any mistakes I may have made in this presentation which is based on the notes I took during class. Srila Gurudeva spoke part of the class in English himself, and part of the class was a translation by Sripada Ramacandra prabhu.

Srila Gurudeva had such a service mood. We can't believe what inconveniences the devotees had back then. They were very poor because it was just the start of the Gaudiya Vedanta Samiti in Mayapura. They didn't even have sufficient rice. Srila Gurudeva and four others were the only ones there. Gurudeva was 18 at the time that he joined the Matha, and he was made the commander and the maintainer. There was a tree nearby where they could go and pick the leaves, and they used to cook those leaves in with their rice—as their greens. Om Visnupada Sri Srimad Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Prabhupada did not appear to be aware of how the brahmacarists were living so austere. One day he happened to be at that Matha, and he saw those devotees eating those leaves with their rice, and he was so soft hearted that he began to cry. Kunjibihari, Srila Prabhupada's secretary from Calcutta, had a good collection so Srila Prabhupada him to help the Mayapura devotees.

Srila Bhaktiprajnana Kesava Maharaja was from a wealthy, royal family of landowners. When he first came to the matha, he was wearing very fine cloth, but he gave that up and all other comforts. He was very surrendered. If a disciple is sacrificing as he did, and he keeps all his difficulties to himself,

never complaining but continuing to serve his Gurudeva, then his Gurudeva will be so pleased and the disciple will get his mercy. External blessings are no blessings. When blessings come in the core of the Guru's heart for the disciple, then the real blessings are showered on that disciple.

Srila Prabhupada Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura had made a system for collecting money. It was not to amass wealth that he took collections from the people, it was to engage them. He would tell his disciples to go to places where people were en mass, not where the money was en mass—like rail stations and bus stations. He would say, “Go and tell them, ‘You are not this body’. Collect one paisa, and if they want to give more, don't accept it.’ One day Srila Prabhupada was in a car in Calcutta. The heat in June was very hot, and the air is so damp that it makes one perspire. It is the sort of heat that makes one very tired. Sri Vinodabihari Bihari had gotten up very, very early that morning, and having only a meager breakfast of rice with salt, had gone into the city to preach. At some point during the day, Gurudeva lay down underneath a big Banyan tree to rest. Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Prabhupada happened to go by that tree in a car at that time. He saw Vinodabihari Bihari and thought, “Oh, this tender young boy is from a royal family and he has given everything up to perform tapasya for his Guru.” Blessings came from the very core of his heart for his dear disciple.

Unless you sacrifice in this manner, like Vinodabihari Bihari, you will only get small results. These days, if the guru tells the disciple to do something that he does not like to do, the disciple will leave the guru. The guru should be bona fide and the sisya should follow as Srila Rupa Gosvami and others have followed.

“Sri Vinodabihari Bihari established the Gaudiya Vedanta Samiti with about twenty five or thirty god-brothers, but many of them were not very helpful. There was one special servitor however, named Sajjana Sevaka (Srila Vamana Maharaja). Once the devotees held a very big festival, and many guests came. Srila Vamana Maharaja was ill in bed with a very high fever. Gurudeva went to see where Srila Vamana Maharaja was. He asked, “Oh, why are you in bed?” Srila Maharaja told him that he had a fever. Gurudeva replied, “You should postpone that fever until later.” Srila Vamana Maharaja then rose from the bed and cooked the entire feast for all of the guests; and after that he went back to bed. He had such an attitude of service.

One Ekadasi there was no money in the matha for bhoga, so Srila Bhaktiprajnana Kesava Gosvami Maharaja told the devotees that they should observe nirjala, and that they would receive great benefit by fasting on this day. One god-brother who was very fond of eating came to the matha that day. Gurudeva was worried how they were going to satisfy him. Just then a sparrow came and dropped a bundle of cloth which contained six annas. Our Gurudeva had wanted to serve the Vaisnavas, and now he was able to. After the guest left, a postman came with a money order for one hundred rupies, which was a sizable amount of money at that time. Srila Bhaktiprajnana Kesava Gosvami Maharaja used that money to start his revolutionary preaching in Bengal.

If one is desiring to serve from the core of his heart, it becomes Krsna's duty to look after him.

Gaura Premanande.