

## News—From Salt Spring Island, B.C., Canada Srila Narayana Maharaja's Visit

### A Transformation Festival

From April 21-25, there were almost four-hundred participants, from both Canada and around the world, at a grand festival on beautiful Salt Spring Island. Old devotees and old gurukula graduates came, some of whom had not been chanting on their japa malas and sacred threads for years. They were all hungry for new inspiration from the transcendental realm. New devotees, seeking expert guidance and a secure shelter, also came, as did new-age impersonalists, spiritualists, and those who had only casually heard the name of Krsna a few times in their lives.

Those who attended found their lives transformed, experiencing fresh vigor and purpose for engaging their hearts, minds and senses in Krsna's service. This was possible because of the love-filled hari-katha of His Divine Grace Srila Bhaktivedanta Narayana Gosvami Maharaja. During those five days, Srila Maharaja initiated over sixty devotees into the harinama and diksa-mantras. By his siksa, he also empowered, with new strength and hope, the chanting of those who had already been initiated by Srila Maharaja's own siksa-guru, nitya-lila pravista om Sri Srimad Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

The following is a transcription of a lecture given there by Srila Maharaja, on the evening of April 23<sup>rd</sup>:

### The Goal And How To Get There

Up 'till now we have answered many questions about guru-tattva. You should know all these answers and act accordingly. Guru-nistha, guru-bhakti, is the backbone of bhakti. If you have no guru-bhakti or very strong guru-nistha, then at any time you can become weak and be taken by maya. You should therefore always be very strong in this understanding. Have strong faith in guru. Don't entertain the idea that he is an ordinary person like us, who has taken birth and will die. That will be an offense. We should know that he is a transcendental associate of Krsna.

yadyapi amara guru--caitanya dasa  
tathapi janiye ami tanhara prakasa

["Although I know that my spiritual master is a servitor of Sri Caitanya, I know Him also as a plenary manifestation of the Lord." (Cc. Adi 1.44)]

Tathapi. Yet, he is a servant of Krsna. Saksad dharitvena samasta sastrair. He has all the good qualities of Krsna in him. He is like Krsna, but not Krsna. Yet, in a certain sense he is Krsna. Which Krsna? There are two Krsnas. One is visaya Krsna and one is asraya Krsna. Guru is asraya, and therefore he should be honored in that way. Don't think that he does not know our hearts. He knows, but he keeps it secret, as if he does not know. We have discussed many points in this regard.

Now I want to come to the subject — why Krsna appeared in this world. What was the main reason? Why did Krsna appear in the form of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu? Hear this very patiently.

We should begin from the beginning. Each and every person, and even each and every animal, has some objective, and to achieve that objective he chooses a way. That is called sadhya and sadhana. The objective is called sadhya, and the path to achieve that objective, the way, is called sadhana. As fathers and mothers, we think that our children

should be happy — they should not suffer. We therefore put them in school, to learn to read and become qualified to know how they can be happy.

From the beginning, everyone wants to be wealthy, by hook or by crook. Money is the objective. To achieve this, someone chooses the path of becoming an advocate, lawyer, some become doctors, some engineers, and some engage in business. What is the main purpose? What is the goal of their life? The goal is to have money. How to make the money — the way or process — is called sadhana. If you have not fixed your sadhya, goal, then how you can fix your means to attain it? Therefore, first we must know our objective. I am explaining this in a very simple way.

What is our goal? We cannot decide, and therefore we should try to depend on Srimad Bhagavatam, Sri Caitanya Caritamrta, the books of our Gosvamis, and the versions of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Nityananda Prabhu. What is the goal? What we think may be wrong, but what Srimad Bhagavatam suggests is the established truth — and is for our good.

In sastra it has been told that we want happiness. For lakhs and lakhs births we have forgotten Krsna, and now maya is controlling us. We are under the control of maya. Sometimes we are very beautiful apsaras, heavenly angels. Sometimes we are in the bodies of donkeys, sometimes hogs, pigs, fish, monkeys, and so on. From the beginning of this creation, or rather, for lakhs and lakhs creations, we have tried for happiness — but we are not happy. It is a very wonderful phenomenon that we have tasted lust-filled activities in all species of life, but we are still not satisfied. Again and again we try to make merry under the control of maya, but instead she is giving so much suffering.

Our real objective is to somehow serve Krsna, to remember Krsna, and to take shelter of Krsna. How can we do this? What services can we render? In the fourth chapter of Sri Caitanya Caritamrta, this object or sadhya has been explained. Service to Krsna should be our object. But how can we serve Him? This is the subject to find out.

anarpita-carim cirat karunayavatirnah kalau  
samarpayitum unnatojjvala-rasam sva-bhakti-sriyam  
harih purata-sundara-dyuti-kadamba-sandipitah  
sada hrdaya-kandare sphuratu vah saci-nandanah

["May the Supreme Lord who is known as the son of Srimati Saci-devi be transcendently situated in the innermost chambers of your heart. Resplendent with the radiance of molten gold, He has appeared in the Age of Kali by His causeless mercy to bestow what no incarnation has ever offered before: the most sublime and radiant mellow of devotional service, the mellow of conjugal love." (Adi 1.5)]

Prior to Mahaprabhu's appearance, Krsna came to establish yuga-dharma, and Caitanya Mahaprabhu also came to establish yuga-dharma. What was the yuga-dharma at the time of Krsna? All persons were very lusty, and they could not control their heart, mind, and senses. All were enjoying sense gratification — Jarasandha, Kamsa, Sisupala, Dantavakra, Kalayavana, Karna, Sakuni, Dusasana, Duryodhana and all his brothers, and others. All were engaged in doing nonsense. They were always fighting, taking the wives of others, and creating problems. They were thinking, "This body is mine. I am this body." It was very necessary to kill them. The yuga-dharma, therefore, was to kill them and establish atma-dharma. How did He do it?

He created the Mahabharata War, and in this war the Pandavas and Kauravas were fighting. The Pandavas were on one side, the side of dharma, and Duryodhana,

Karna, Dusasana, and others like them were on the side of adharmā. The Pandavas fought for dharma — to fulfill the wish of Kṛṣṇa, and the Kauravas fought to take revenge and kill the Pandavas so that they could become the kings of entire world. Even previous to the war, the cunning and deceptive Kauravas had already made repeated attempts to kill the Pandavas. Kṛṣṇa took the side of Arjuna, the Pandavas and dharma. All the soldiers, both on the side of Kṛṣṇa and the Pandavas, and also on the other side, were killed. On one side only the five brothers, the Pandavas, and Kṛṣṇa were saved, and on the other side only three were saved — Kṛtavarma, Aswathama, and Kṛpacārya.

After the war, all the ladies became widows. Pure devotees and very chaste ladies like Draupadī, Gandhārī, and Kuntī were saved, and they were qualified to hear Srimad Bhāgavatam. Kṛṣṇa inspired Sukadeva Gosvāmī, and after that the first session of the speaking of the Bhāgavatam took place. Parīkṣit Maharāja sat on the bank of the Ganges, and he was going to die within seven days. As he was thinking what to do, Sukadeva Gosvāmī appeared there, naked. Sukadeva Gosvāmī's father, Vyāsadeva, was there, Narada Gosvāmī was there, Vaiśiṣṭha, Parasara, and so many qualified brahmajñātas and elevated devotees were there, and they all honored Sukadeva Gosvāmī. They all requested him, and especially Parīkṣit Maharāja requested him, to speak on Srimad Bhāgavatam.

Then they heard Srimad Bhāgavatam. They heard that the love of the gopīs is the highest aim. Kṛṣṇa is not our goal. Our goal is not to achieve Kṛṣṇa, but rather to achieve kṛṣṇa-prema. If you don't have kṛṣṇa-prema, then you may become like Kamsa. He met with Kṛṣṇa, but because there was no affection in his heart, he became an enemy, a demon. He wanted to kill Kṛṣṇa. Putana, Aghasura, Bakasura, and all other demons met with Kṛṣṇa, but they could not appreciate His beauty and sweetness. If one has no prema when he meets Kṛṣṇa, he cannot honor Him. Srimad Bhāgavatam and all other scriptures have established that our objective, our sadhya, is not Kṛṣṇa, but rather kṛṣṇa-prema.

Kṛṣṇa-prema is divided into five types: santa-prema, dāsya-prema, sakhya-prema, vatsalya-prema, and madhurya-prema. We all have a relationship with Kṛṣṇa, within these five categories, in our transcendental, constitutional form. Without this relationship, no one can even exist. We must be among these five relationships, but now we are covered by maya. We have all the qualities required for this relationship, in a latent or dormant position, and therefore when we will begin sadhana under the guidance of a very qualified guru, it will manifest. Whatever relationship you have will certainly manifest.

Caitanya Mahāprabhu only came to help us, especially to develop gopī-prema. Gopī-prema is the highest love and affection — higher than any of the other four. Mahāprabhu did not come to establish varnasrama-dharma or yuga-dharma. When I went to the Saranagati Farm, I heard that it was meant for varnasrama-dharma. We should follow varnasrama-dharma, but it is only a platform. Even without varnasrama-dharma, Pingalā, Jagai and Madhai, and so many others attained love of Kṛṣṇa. Caitanya Mahāprabhu never comes to establish yuga-dharma, but it is established automatically. He has not come to establish yuga-dharma, but He gave it automatically through nama-sankīrtana. The yuga-dharma of Kali-kalā, kali-yuga, is nama-sankīrtana.

The establishment of yuga-dharma is the duty of incarnations like Maha-Visnu, Advaita Acārya. Although they can do it easily, Caitanya Mahāprabhu was present at the time it was meant to be established. He therefore quickly adopted this method, nama-sankīrtana, yuga-dharma, and He 'mixed something from His own side' — namely love

and affection. Nama-sankirtana pravarta 'hun. "I will perform nama-sankirtana, but not in an ordinary way as it was performed in other kali-yugas. It will be with prema, love and affection." What He did is understood by the verse: anarpita-carim-carat karunayavatirna kalau.

With very deep meaning, this verse explains the sadhya, the objective for which Caitanya Mahaprabhu came, an objective that had not been given prior to His appearance. Even Krsna came, Ramacandra came, Jayadeva Gosvami came, and Madhvacarya, Ramanuja, Visnuswami, and Nimbaditya came. Even Hanuman came with Ramacandra. Even Sita came and Bharata came — but no one was able to give this prema.

Caitanya Mahaprabhu came, full of mercy, and He could not tolerate the sufferings of the jivas. He mercifully came, and He wanted to give the topmost object. Samarpayitum unnatojjvala rasam sva-bhakti-sriyam. What is unnata-ujjvala rasa? You cannot imagine it, but I will explain it in brief:

Once, on a full moon night, Krsna played on His flute. Placing a flower behind His ear and sometimes changing it from one ear to the other, Krsna was very beautiful.

barhapidam nata- vara- vapuh karnayoh karnikaram  
bibhrad vasah kanaka-kapisam vaijayantim ca malam  
randhran venor adhara-sudhayapurayan gopa- vrndair  
vrndaranyam sva-pada-ramanam pravisad gita-kirtih

["Wearing a peacock-feather ornament upon His head, blue karnikara flowers on His ears, a yellow garment as brilliant as gold, and the Vaijayanti garland, Lord Krsna exhibited His transcendental form as the greatest of dancers as He entered the forest of Vrndavana, beautifying it with the marks of His footprints. He filled the holes of His flute with the nectar of His lips, and the cowherd boys sang His glories." (Venu-gita, text 5)]

Krsna, the Cupid of cupids, entered Vrndavana near the bank of the Yamuna, which was full with fragrant flowers. Standing under the shade of a Vamsivata tree, He played on His flute, and all were attracted. Some of the gopis had been sleeping, some had been making capatis, and some were decorating themselves, and at that time this messenger came — the very sweet and very attractive flute-sound. It came and entered in the houses of the gopis. Then, it went through the door of their hearts. It forcibly took their hearts, and they began running towards Krsna.

The gopis thought, "Krsna is a very big thief. He is like a dacoit. He has taken everything and not left us anything. He has taken our hearts. How can we live? How can we maintain our lives?" As they ran to follow that flute-sound, they called to Krsna, "You should return our hearts, otherwise we will continue to follow You." They had no time to tell others that they were going. They all simply ran to follow Krsna's flute-sound. They wondered from where this flute-sound was coming, and they said, "O very beautiful, marvelous Cupid of cupids! You should return our hearts, otherwise how can we return home? We cannot return now. Without our hearts we can never return.

After that rasa began, and Krsna danced with each gopi. There were lakhs and lakhs gopis, and Krsna also became lakhs and lakhs. Why? All the gopis had left their husbands and their chastity. They had given up their houses, wealth, reputation, shyness, and everything else. In India, a lady cannot give up these things. She will prefer to die rather than give up her chastity. This is a special quality in Indian ladies. They can give

up anything, but they would prefer to die than give up their shame. The gopis, however, left even this, and therefore Krsna wanted to satisfy them all. He manifested Himself with each gopi simultaneously, attracting them all by dancing with them in various dance postures. If He did not do so, He would have been reni, indebted to them. He was obligated to try to satisfy them — and the scene was very wonderful.

Krsna always tells all the gopis, especially Srimati Radhika, "O, you are My most beloved." During the rasa dance Radhika saw that, "He is a very cunning cheater, liar, and debauchee. He just told Me, 'You are most beloved. There is no one like You.' but now He is dancing with all the gopis — right in front of Me." She could not tolerate this, and She thus disappeared from the dance arena.

Krsna thought, "If there is no Radhika, there can be no dance. For whom is this dance, and for whom is this rasa? Krsna therefore pursued Her, lamenting, "Where has Srimati Radhika gone?" He played on His flute, "O Radhika, where are You, where are You? I cannot tolerate Your separation." Somehow He found Her. He decorated Her and begged Her pardon, "I promise I will not offend You anymore. Be pleased with me. Be merciful to Me." He then placed His flute and peacock-feathers in Her hands and said, "You are My master, You can use Me in any way."

na paraye 'ham niravadya-samyujam  
sva-sadhu-krtyam vibudhayusapi vah  
ya mabhajan durjara-geha-srnkhalah  
samvrscya tad vah pratiyatu sadhuna

["I am not able to repay My debt for your spotless service, even within a lifetime of Brahma. Your connection with Me is beyond reproach. You have worshiped Me, cutting off all domestic ties, which are difficult to break. Therefore please let your own glorious deeds be your compensation." (SB 10.32.22)]

Radhika became pacified and satisfied.

Later, after Radhika and the other gopis sang Gopi-gita, Krsna returned in their midst. At that time the gopis, who were also clever — even more so than Krsna — began to ask Him something. They inquired, "We have heard about a certain kind of person who loves others only as much as others love him. He thinks, 'If you love me, I will love you.' Another kind of love and affection is this: 'Whether or not you love me, I will love you.' There is also a third type of person. Whether anyone loves him or not, still he does not love anyone. In this way there are three kinds of persons. O Krsna, in what category are You? Please explain this to us."

The gopis were cleverly creating such an atmosphere that Krsna would admit whether He was doing prema or not. Having heard their inquiry, Krsna smiled very slyly and cunningly. He is the guru of the cunning. He said, "Those who 'love for love' are not real lovers or beloveds. They are businessmen. Those who give some coins to a shopkeeper and take something in return, like rice, dahl, and so on, are business persons. Theirs is not pure love." Do you understand? Krsna is saying, "If someone loves a person, and he wants that the person he loves should also love him in return, he is like a business person. I am not in this category. Next, regarding the person who, whether or not someone loves him he loves that other person, this is very good. O gopis, you are like this. Whether I love you or not, you are giving your love to me.

"This is fatherly or motherly love and affection. A father and mother never demand any love from their children, and they always support them. Even if the children

are doing any nonsense, as soon as they say, "O mother, O father!" the parents will forget everything for their sake. This is very pure, and you are like this. Whether I am loving you or not, you are loving Me. I am not like that. I am not in that category. Regarding the third type, I am also not among those who do not love others, whether others love them or not."

Who are they? There are four kinds of persons in this category, and two of them are those who are atmarama and those who are aptakama. Sri Sukadeva Gosvami is an example of one in this category. Whether anyone loves him or not, what does he do? He has no such love because he is always thinking about the Lord and he is very satisfied in that. He has no time, no other vision, to notice whether one is loving or not loving. "Our love is worldly love. He is in transcendental love, serving Krsna, and therefore he is happy. He is called atmarama. Those in the category of aptakama are those whose desires have all been satisfied. How? By remembering, chanting, and serving Krsna. Krsna informed the gopis, "I am neither atmarama nor aptakama."

The third and fourth kind in this category are guru-drohi and akrtagya (ungrateful). If your father and mother and guru-jana (superiors) are supporting and nourishing you from childhood, but you are not serving them, you are akrtagya. Never be ungrateful to them. Only in the case where they are against Krsna and krsna-bhakti can you avoid their service. Otherwise, you should always serve them. Don't be ungrateful.

The guru-drohi is he who, with or without reason, gives sufferings to their superiors. Don't give any sufferings or problems to your father or mother or gurudeva — especially gurudeva. Time is very short, so I am telling this in brief.

Krsna told the gopis, "There are many guru-drohis, but I am not among this category. I am also not atmarama." "Why not? You are the Supreme Lord. You are more than Sukadeva Gosvami." "Oh, I am not atmarama because I played on the flute and called you all. I am not happy without you, and therefore I am not atmarama. You are My atma, you are My soul. I want to please you and you want to please Me; so I am not atmarama.

"I am also not aptakama, because my desires have not been fulfilled. That is why I am praying to you, 'Don't be angry with Me.' I am praying to you so that I can be satisfied. One who is atmarama or aptakama cannot pray like this. How can you tell Me that I am atmarama or aptakama? In My boyhood I used to steal butter from here and there, and if My mother was engaged in her household duties and did not give me all her attention, I used to be very angry. You know? I once made a hole in the pot of yogurt, and at that time My mother became very angry with Me and followed Me with a bamboo stick. So how am I atmarama? I am not.

"I like you, I am attached to you, and that is why I am pacifying you. I am praying to you, and this shows that I am not atmarama.

"You may think that I am a guru-drohi or akrtagya, but I am not. I was grateful to My mother, and I was grateful to my friends. So I am not among any of these categories."

The gopis then asked, "Then who are You? In what category are You?" Krsna replied, "Oh, I like you. I want to glorify you throughout the world. You gopis are my best friends. I will not be able to repay you in lakhs and lakhs births. I cannot repay you." Then the gopis said, smiling, "You have repaid us because You have taken shelter at our lotus feet, and You are saying, 'I am defeated by you.' This is what we wanted."

What is this? It is unnatojjvala rasa. The way in which the gopis satisfied Krsna with their love is called unnatojjvala rasa. This is the highest love, and it is only in Radhika — in Her mahabhava. It is not in anyone else. The fraction of Srimati Radhika's mood to please Krsna should be our objective, otherwise Krsna cannot be fully controlled. Caitanya Mahaprabhu came especially to give this. The mood of Radhika should not be our object. Our only goal is to serve those who have this mood — the gopis. This is the mood of the manjaris. How shall we serve Radhika? We shall attain Her service by serving Her sakhis like Lalita, Visakha, Rupa Manjari, and others. We want the mood of Rupa Gosvami internally and externally, as he has explained in his Vidagda Madhava and Lalita Madhava. You should know that the beauty of unnatojjvala rasa is the mood of the kinkiris, the manjaris, the maidservants of Srimati Radhika. This is the highest objective for us. It is our sadhya.

Both Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Srila Rupa Goswami have revealed that this is the object of attainment, but how do we achieve it? The process to achieve it is called bhakti. From where should it begin?

adau sraddha tatah sadhu-  
sango 'tha bhajana-kriya  
tato 'narta-nivrttih syat  
tato nistha rucis tatah  
athasaktis tato bhavas  
tatah premabhyudancati  
sadhakanam ayam premnah  
pradurbhave bhavet kramah

["In the beginning there must be faith. Then one becomes interested in associating with pure devotees. Thereafter one is initiated by the spiritual master and executes the regulative principles under his orders. Thus one is freed from all unwanted habits and becomes firmly fixed in devotional service. Thereafter, one develops taste and attachment. This is the way of sadhana-bhakti, the execution of devotional service according to the regulative principles. Gradually emotions intensify, and finally there is an awakening of love. This is the gradual development of love of Godhead for the devotee interested in Krsna consciousness." (Madhya 23.16)]

You should discuss this topic in your morning classes. Adu sraddha tatah sadhu-sanga. We should begin from there. What is sraddha, or faith? Sraddha is of two kinds. At the present time our sraddha is worldly, and this will not do. It should be pure sraddha, the fraction of transcendental love. I think that from tomorrow you should discuss in your classes how to achieve this prema, by progressing gradually from anartha-nivritti to nistha and so on. You should know what is ruci, what is asakti, and what is the rati, both by definitions and by many examples. This is our highest object of attainment — to be the maidservants of Srimati Radhika.

Try to realize something of what I have explained. I know that you are not qualified to realize