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2001 Dec 20 eve – San Diego - Uddhava Failed the Entrance Exam

Tridandi Gosvami Sri Srimad Bhaktivedanta Narayana Maharaja

UDDHAVA FAILED THE ENTRANCE EXAM

San Diego: Dec. 20, 2001 (eve)

Uddhava had so much love and affection for Krsna, but vraja-prema was a totally new thing for him. When he arrived in Vraja, he realized this. He saw Krsna playing everywhere. All the sakhas were playing with Him. Millions of millions of cows, their udders bulging with milk, were hankering after Him. Milk was automatically flowing from their udders because of their spontaneous love. The very beautiful calves, black and white, were jumping here and there. Nanda Baba's big bulls were fighting with each other. And the gopis were churning butter.

As Uddhava saw that scene of morning, beautiful ghee lamps flickered in the gopis rooms. These lamps were not like this dead light of electric bulbs. They were snigda, soft and smooth. Everywhere fragrances were emanating from the varieties of flowers. Bumblebees were humming, blowing the conch-shell song of Cupid. Everywhere birds like the cuckoo were singing, and peacocks calling ke kaw ke kaw were dancing about. And all the gopis were churning and singing, Govinda Damodara Madhaveti. The gopis were all very beautiful, and mother Yasoda was beautiful to the extreme. If Krsna's mother was not beautiful, how could He have become so beautiful? He would have been only black; but because of her, His beauty was like the luster of pearls.

Uddhava saw all this, but in a moment that scene was dropped. Now he observed that all the residents of Vrndavana were weeping for Krsna, "O Krsna, where are you? Where are you?" Cows were not going to graze. They were all simply weeping, keeping their heads and eyes towards Mathura. The calves were not drinking the milk from the udders of their mothers. Peacocks were not dancing and all were like blind. Every being was mad in separation for Krsna. Now Uddhava saw this scene. Now it had become evening, and somehow he entered Krsna's home, where He saw the love and affection of Mother Yasoda and Nanda Baba and became dumbstruck. Previously he could not have imagined how such high-class love and affection could exist, but now he realized something of its height.

Early the next morning Uddhava went to Kadamba-kyari, where all the gopis were maddened and just about to die. Somehow, by the mercy of Krsna, he saw the gopis there. It was for this that Krsna had sent him to Vrndavana - to try to be admitted in the school of the gopis. Krsna had told him, "Be admitted in the school in which I was admitted. Then, when you return, we can speak something about love and affection. So go and become qualified."

Uddhava, however, was not qualified for admittance in the school of the gopis. His examination score was about 25%, and the gopis needed to see more than 85%. Although they rejected him, still he entered the school and saw the very high-class of students there. He saw professors like Visakha and Lalita, and he saw the principal, Radhika Herself. Now he knew something of the glories of the gopis. He realized something of their love for Krsna. He had never seen anything like this, and now he felt, "If I want to love Krsna, I must be admitted in this school. But I am not qualified." He thus requested the gopis, "If you don't admit me in your school, can you at least take me as a servant? To give water like a servant? To clean the school?"

The gopis rejected even that, and told him, "You should go. Return to Mathura. Become qualified and then you can broom our kunjā. Right now you cannot broom here." Uddhava now prayed:

vande nanda-vraja strinam
pada-renum abhiksnasah
yasam hari-kathodgitam
punati bhavana- trayam

"I repeatedly offer my respects to the dust from the feet of the women of Nanda Maharaja's cowherd village. When these gopis loudly chant the glories of Sri Krsna, the vibration purifies the three worlds." (SB10.47.63) Vande nanda-vraja-strinam means the beloved gopis of Krsna. Uddhava prayed, "I want to offer myself. I want to keep even one particle of your foot dust. If I only get one particle, then it must be Srimati Radhika's." Brahma cannot attain this, nor can Sankara. Even Satyabhama and all others cannot do so. Krsna sent Uddhava to see the glories of the gopis. He now saw the highest peak of the Himalayas, Mt. Everest, the gopis' love, and he could not become like that. He had to return to Krsna, empty-handed. He told Krsna, "I went there and what I saw was very mysterious and inexplicable, and very wonderful. I cannot explain what happened. You told me about them, and I found the actual fact truer than what you told me. But I could not realize anything, and I had to return."

Vande nanda-vraja-strinam. Their words, like Brahmara-gita and Gopi-gita, will purify the whole universe. If one can recite their words, or even remember their words, he will actually be purified. So try to recite all these gitas and know them. The meanings are very deep. Your Gurudeva, Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Maharaja, wanted to teach these very wonderful things. He wanted to teach this objective. But how could he plant this in barren lands or deserts? He had to first make the lands fertile by cultivation. He wanted this, but in the meantime his prabhu, Radhika, called him, "Come at once. We need your service."

So this is our goal; the dust of the lotus feet of Srimati Radhika.

Asam aho carana-renu-jusam ahaa syam
Vrndavane kim api gulma-latausadhinam
Ya dustyajam sva-janam arya-patham ca hitva

Bhejur mukunda-padavim srutibhir vimrgyam

"The gopis of Vrndavana have given up the association of their husbands, sons and other family members who are very difficult to give up, and they have forsaken the path of chastity to take shelter of the lotus feet of Mukunda, Krsna, which one should search for by Vedic knowledge. Oh, let me be fortunate enough to be one of the bushes, creepers or herbs in Vrndavana, because the gopis trample them and bless them with the dust of their lotus feet." (SB10.47.61)

Uddhava prayed, "If not of Radhika's lotus feet, then I will be satisfied with the dust particle of the feet of any of Her sakhis. I don't want the dust of Krsna's lotus feet. If I want to please Krsna, then I will have to take a particle of the gopis' moods. So I want your causeless mercy.

We must engage in the process given by Srila Rupa Gosvami and Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura, Sri Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakura and Sri Narottama dasa Thakura. It's the same thing in new bottles. The wine is the same. If you take that wine, you will certainly become mad. No harm. The colors of the bottles are different, but the wine is the same.

We will explain the process from the beginning:

Adau sraddha tatah sadhu-
Sango 'tha bhajana-kriya
Tato 'nartha-nivrttih syat
Tato nistha rucis tatah

"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." (Caitanya-caritamrta. Madhya 23.14-150)

After bhava, there is no more sadhana - no sadhana at all. Only mercy of the gopis is there.

Gaura Premanande.

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