

Tridandisvami Sri Srimad Bhaktivedanta Narayana Gosvami Maharaja

## **Appearance Day Of**

# **Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Gosvami Thakura**

[Dear respected Readers,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Sri Sri Guru and Gauranga. February 26, 2008 is the divine appearance day of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura. In honor of this sacred day, please accept the following lecture given by Srila Narayana Gosvami Maharaja (in Singapore, 2001):]

Today is the birthday of jagad-guru Om Visnupada Sri Srimad Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Gosvami Thakura. Prior to him, no Vaisnava went to distant western countries. None of them ever crossed the ocean, nor did they want to.

However, Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura ordered Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura: "Not only in Bengal; not only in India. My desire is that we preach Krsna consciousness like Narada – crossing all the oceans and making the entire world as one." He predicted that so many western devotees and Indian devotees will very soon meet and dance together. Together they will perform kirtana here and there, and they will preach the mission of Caitanya Mahaprabhu throughout the world: harinama sankirtana – Hare Krsna Hare Krsna, Krsna Krsna Hare Hare, Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare. He said that very soon many hundreds of western devotees will come, and along with them, we Indians will dance and sing and preach everywhere. Now this is going on.

But who did it? Srila Prabhupada. He wished for it, and he ordered Parama-pujyapada Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Maharaja to do it. Before this, he ordered his three disciples – Sripad Bhaktihridaya Van Maharaja, Bhaktisaranga Gosvami Maharaja, and Bhaktipradipa Tirtha Maharaja – to go to England. They went there and met with Lord Zetland, who was perhaps at that time the minister of Indian affairs, and they told him about this mission of Caitanya Mahaprabhu. They also met with so many other highly cultured and highly ranked dignitaries. By doing only this, however, bhakti was not preached widely.

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura wished that bhakti, Krsna consciousness, would be preached everywhere. He told Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Maharaja, "Be ready to preach." My Guru Maharaja then gave him sannyasa and told him, "Now you can go and preach everywhere." After that, Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Maharaja came to the western countries to fulfill the order of his Gurudeva, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Gosvami Thakura. In a 'new style', the style of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura, he performed nagara-sankirtana – chanting Hare Krsna, and also Sri Krsna Caitanya, Prabhu Nityananda, Sri Advaita, Gadadhara, Srivasadi Gaura-bhakta-vrnda. He met with hippies and made them happy.

He began by preaching to the lower classes, and thus, very soon, in a couple of years, he made so many disciples – mostly teenage girls and boys. If necessary, he was prepared to

tell them, "If you like meat, I will arrange a boarding house and I will supply everything. But you should once chant Hare Krsna Hare Krsna, Krsna Krsna Hare Hare, Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare." He also called those who had come from India to make money, those who were studying advanced engineering, medicine, and so on, and thus he preached everywhere very quickly.

I think that his Gurudeva Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Gosvami Thakura must be very happy and pleased. By his efforts, the mission of Srila Prabhupada Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Gosvami was fulfilled and preached everywhere.

Unfortunately however, after his disappearance, the western devotees became very weak because there was no strong personality to save them, to protect them, and to associate with them. Many became weak and gave up bhakti. Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura never wanted this.

We should be very strong and preach everywhere. Don't fall down. Try to first become Krsna conscious householders, and then become renounced like Srila Raghunatha dasa Gosvami. It is not that we should go from the renounced order to household life. We should always remember this.

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura took birth in Jagannatha Puri, and it was foretold about him, "Utkale purusottama. An elevated devotee will appear in a very exalted devotee family in Orissa, in Puri." And it so happened. When Prabhupada was born, there were some signs on his body of a sacred thread, tilaka, and so on. Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura also said about him, "A mahapurusa (great saintly personality) has come, and he will preach throughout the world."

He was very bold. He never compromised with sahajiyas (like the sakhibekhis, males who dress up as women and think they are gopis), mayavadis, or any other proponents of unauthorized philosophies. Even if he would be alone – with the whole world on one side and he on the other, he would never compromise with anyone. Our Guru Maharaja was also like this, and I also never want to compromise with anyone who is not in the line of pure bhakti. Our disciplic line is like that. Srila Baladeva Vidyabhusana prabhu, Srila Jiva Gosvami, Srila Rupa Gosvami, and all others in our line never compromised. Anyone who can follow them will obtain bhakti.

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura has said that chanting Krsna's name – the mahamantra – is non-different from taking darsana of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. You need not worry about when darsana will come. Try to take darsana of Radha and Krsna, Mahaprabhu, and Nityananda prabhu in Their names. The holy name is more powerful and merciful than Krsna himself. So why worry? We worry because we have no faith. Otherwise, endowed with faith, we would be able to see everything clearly and not worry.

When he was a boy of 16 years, Srila Sarasvati Thakura was a master of astrology. He was the best astrologer in all of Bengal and all of India. At that time the governor of

Bengal, all Bengal astrologers, and all highly cultured, learned persons gave him the title 'Siddhanta Sarasvati.' This title was only for astrology, however, not for bhakti, because those persons did not know anything about bhakti.

Some time later, he became Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati, and he became one of the greatest philosophers in the world – in the four classes of Vaisnava thought, and in that of the Mayavadis as well. The Mayavadis never came to discuss anything with him, because they used to greatly fear him. He published all the Vedic literature on pure devotional service, and also the literature of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura. If he had not been present at that time, all the one hundred books of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura would have been lost.

Ashutosa Mukerjee, governor of Bengal during the British period, kept a chair – only for him – in Calcutta University, which was the only university in all of Bengal, Orissa, and Bihar. However, Srila Sarasvati Thakura did not accept that chair. He told them, "I have not come to this world to count the stars in the sky and the sand on the beach. I have come to help worldly persons who have forgotten Krsna, and I will help them." He also told them, "If a person helps anyone to become a devotee, he is superior to all those who make many colleges, schools, charitable hospitals, and so on. If you are preaching and helping even one person to be a pure devotee, this is the highest class of mercy to the living entities."

Gaura premanande Hari Haribol.

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