

Tridandisvami Sri Srimad Bhaktivedanta Narayana Maharaja

GITA-GOVINDA PICTURES

De Glind, Holland: June 8, 2003

[Two months prior to the above date, Srila Narayana Maharaja had asked Syamarani dasi to make some drawings for his soon-to-be-published Hindi translation of Sri Jayadeva Gosvami's Gita-Govinda, a book about the separation pastimes of Sri Sri Radha and Krsna. Then, While Srila Maharaja was in Holland for the week-long hari-katha festival there, she showed him some of the drawings in progress and he commented on them:]

[Syamarani dasi:] They're not finished yet.

[Srila Narayana Maharaja:] Not finished? After your life they will be finished?

[Syamarani dasi:] This one only has a couple of details to finish.

[Srila Narayana Maharaja:] Here Krsna is taking the feet dust of Radhika. What is He doing?

[Syamarani dasi:] He is trying to break Her mana (transcendental loving jealous anger)?

[Srila Narayana Maharaja:] She is crying, but why did you show Him crying?

[Syamarani dasi:] What should He be doing? What should His expression be?

[Srila Narayana Maharaja:] In this world, it is the general fact that the jealous (heroine) beloved girl will weep but the beloved man who is begging pardon will laugh?

[Syamarani dasi:] No. If she is so upset that she won't speak to him, he would be worried.

[Srila Narayana Maharaja:] Yes, Krsna will weep, begging, "Please excuse me." He weeps so that Radhika will have some pity on Him. If He will laugh, then she will totally reject Him. Here She is in a mood of externally sending Him away, and Her hand is showing this by its gesture.

Any more pictures?

[Syamarani dasi:] In this picture the sakhi is telling Radharani that Krsna is feeling separation from Her.

[Srila Narayana Maharaja:] Yes, and saying, "He may die."

[Syamarani dasi:] Srimati Radharani looks sad there. Is this ok?

[Srila Narayana Maharaja:] Its okay that She looks sad. All the scenes are in separation.

[Syamarani dasi:] (Showing the next picture) I tried to make it similar to the Hindi picture you gave me.

[Srila Narayana Maharaja:] The face should always be the same in all the pictures. That is, if She is Radhika, and if she is a sakhi then make it look different.

[Syamarani dasi:] What is happening here?

[Srila Narayana Maharaja:] This sakhi is telling Krsna, "O Hari, how many more days... how much more time should Srimati Radhika weep? She is looking here and there. She is searching Your path and weeping. Her lips are always drinking the rasa (juice or mellow) coming from Her two eyes.

[Syamarani dasi:] She's drinking Her own tears?

[Srila Narayana Maharaja:] Not literally drinking the tears, but the sakhi is telling Krsna that Srimati Radhika's lips are drinking only the rasa of tears. She is saying, "How can they continue to remain alive, if they are not taking food and only taking water? Oh Hari, sometimes You are very near, and sometimes very far away. We cannot decide where You are and what You are doing, and thus Srimati Radhika is feeling grievous suffering. Sometimes she falls down and again tries to stand up, and again sometimes becomes unconscious. Oh Hari, how much longer will You give Her suffering like this? Sometimes She is laughing and sometimes dancing as She thinks, 'Oh, Madhava is here.' When She sees any tamal tree, She thinks Herself very fortunate and exclaims, 'I am so fortunate.' But then, when She goes to embrace that tree, She again faints, thinking, 'Oh, where is Hari? This is a tree!'"

So this sakhi is Ok.

[Syamarani dasi:] This is a sakhi or Radha?

[Srila Narayana Maharaja:] A sakhi.

[Syamarani dasi:] It wouldn't be Radha who the sakhi is talking about?

[Srila Narayana Maharaja:] Radha is in this position weeping. Or, that figure is a sakhi. That sakhi is telling about Radha.

[Syamarani dasi:] In this next picture the sakhi is trying to encourage Radha to come with her to Krsna, and in this next one this sakhi is speaking to Krsna.

[Srila Narayana Maharaja:] Krsna should have a turban, as in your previous picture of Him.

[Syamarani dasi:] Here in this next picture Krsna is telling a sakhi that He is lamenting because He offended Radha. Am I correct that this is what is happening here?

[Srila Narayana Maharaja:] That sakhi should be Radha. Krsna wanted to stop Her, and She pretended to ignore Him. He was asking Her, "May I help You? You have two waterpots. I can help You with one of them."

You should complete all the pictures before we reach India. When I reach India I want to publish the book at once.

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