

Tridandiswami Sri Srimad Bhaktivedanta Narayana Maharaja

SRI BALADEVA PRABHU'S APPEARANCE DAY

[Sri Baladeva Purnima takes place on August 30, 2004, just after the two other auspicious holy days, Jhulana-yatra and Srila Rupa Gosvami's disappearance day. So that you will have a lecture to read on that very day, you are receiving the lecture Srila Narayana Maharaja gave last year at this time. The following lecture has never been published. This is the first time.

By the way, those of you who, a few days ago, received Srila Maharaja's last year's class on Jhulana-yatra, will be happy to know that Srila Maharaja gave practically the same class this year. So you were almost there.]

August 12, 2003: Vrndavana, India

Sri Baladeva Prabhu is none other than Lord Krsna. Krsna has appeared in this form of Baladeva Prabhu, to teach how to render devotional service. By ones hands one can massage his own feet. Similarly Baladeva is non-different from Krsna, but He is playing the role of servant of Krsna – to give teaching. Baladeva is therefore called akanda-guru-tattva, the undivided principle of Guru.

Baladeva Prabhu teaches through the performance of his divine pastimes. As the killer of Dhenukasura, he is actually removing the ignorance of the living beings. In His pastime of killing Pralambasura, He is showing that Sri Guru is the only person who has the power to remove pralamba, the hypocrisy or duplicity from the heart of the living entity.

When Sri Baladeva was traveling to many places of pilgrimage during the battle of Kuruksetra, he finally arrived at Kuruksetra when a fight was going on – a dual between Duryodhana and Bhimasena. Bhimasena had defeated Duryodhana by using a cheating tactic of breaking his thigh. This tactic was taken up by Bhimasena on the indication of Krsna; and therefore Baladeva did not do anything about it, even though His tendency was to favor Duryodhana. He remained silent and continued on His pilgrimage.

He gradually came to the place called Naimasaranya. There, eighty eight thousand rsis and sages were assembled. They were hearing the Puranas, ancient Vedic scriptures, from a very prominent disciple of Srila Vyasadeva named Romaharsana Suta, who had been entrusted with the service of propagating the Puranas. Seeing Baladeva Prabhu arrive there, all the sages showed respect to him. Romaharsana, however, disrespected him, thinking, "Baladeva is an ordinary person, I am the speaker of the Puranas. I am seated on the Vyasasana and all are honoring me. Why should I give honor to this personality?" Baladeva Prabhu then took a blade of kusa grass and, by the touch of this, He killed Romaharsana Suta. He performed this pastime because He is the personality who establishes dharma, religious principles.

All the sages began to exclaim, "Alas! Alas! What will we do now? We were hearing the Puranas from him, but now he has died – so how will we be able to hear?" Baladeva Prabhu said, "If you like I can bring him back to life", but the sages replied, "No, whatever you have done is correct, but somehow or other we should be able to hear the Puranas. Please arrange this".

Baladeva Prabhu then called the son of Romaharsana and blessed him. The son of Romaharsana, Srila Suta Gosvami is known as Ugrasrava, which means a person who has a very tenacious hearing tendency. Because Sri Baladeva Prabhu empowered and blessed Suta Gosvami, he had a very incredible hearing capacity. After hearing Srimad Bhagavatam from his Guru, Srila Sukadeva Goswami, he retained everything, and in turn became the speaker of Srimad Bhagavatam, teaching sages headed by Saunaka Rsi. Srimad Bhagavatam comes to us by the blessing of Baladeva Prabhu.

By this pastime, Baladeva Prabhu has shown to the world that guru-nistha, faith in Sri Guru, is the backbone of bhakti. It is the main support of all devotional service. Without this, everything becomes completely worthless.

If someone tells you hari-katha, the glorification of Sri Krsna, and gives you some inspiration on the path of devotional service, and then they take you to the lotus feet of self-realized Guru from whom you receive initiation – is it possible to repay that person? No, it is completely impossible. You are not able to repay him. Even if that person is kanistha-adhikari (a neophyte devotee) you cannot repay him. And, if you commit some offense, or even if you only neglect that person, or criticize that person in any way, your devotional life will be destroyed. This is true even if that person is only kanistha-adhikari, and what to speak if he is a madhyama-adhikari (a middle-class devotee), a madhyama-adhikari entering into uttama-adhikari (first-class, pure devotee), or if he is already an uttama adhikari. There is no hope for a person who will neglect or commit any offense to him. Be very, very careful.

If anyone is guru-drohi, ungrateful towards their guru or towards that devotee who has helped them on the path of bhakti, nourishing them by giving hari-katha – we should completely disassociate ourselves from them. We should not maintain any relationship with them. Our eyes should we see the shadow of the person who is ungrateful to his spiritual superiors, otherwise our bhakti will be destroyed and unlimited lifetimes will be completely wasted.

There is an example of this in the form of Dvidiva gorilla, a servant of Lord Ramacandra. During Rama-lila he served Lord Rama in so many ways, and he fought against Ravana and his soldiers on behalf of Rama when Rama attacked Lanka. But Dvidiva's behavior had a defect; in his heart he had some neglect for Sri Laksmna Prabhu. He was still in this world at the time of Lord Krsna's appearance. Krsna came, and along with Him, Laksmna Prabhu came in the form of Baladeva Prabhu. Dvidiva's tendency to neglect Laksmna Prabhu had grown, and he became extremely offensive towards Baladeva Prabhu. Sri Baladeva Prabhu took His plow and dragged him, and then killed him with His club.

Again, in this lila also, Baladeva Prabhu is giving us a teaching – if someone is offensive to Sri Guru, you should try to save your life by not having any relationship with that offender. Do not have any friendship with such a person, and do not even think, "I will try to change him or correct him." Rather, be completely disassociated from that person, because by his association your faith in Guru may be harmed or damaged in some way, and in this way your life will be completely destroyed.

Krsna has given teaching in Srimad Bhagavatam (11.28.1):

para-svabhava-karmani
na prasamsen na garhayet
visvam ekamakam pasyan
prakrtya purusena ca

[“The Supreme Personality of Godhead said: One should neither praise nor criticize the conditioned nature and activities of other persons. Rather, one should see this world as simply the combination of material nature and the enjoying souls, all based on the one Absolute Truth.”]

If any persons in this world have some defects in their character or behavior, we should not praise them and we should not criticize them, but rather they should be out of our mind. Why? Because either by praising or criticizing such persons, we will very quickly fall down from the path of spiritual life because of being absorbed in temporary things.

If you throw water on an electric wire, that electricity will come to you and you will be electrocuted. In the same way, the offensive qualities of those who have maintained relationship with an offender, with those who neglect Hari, Guru and Vaisnavas – will very quickly come to you and your life will be spoiled.

Sri Baladeva Prabhu, who is akanda-guru-tattva, the embodiment of the principle of undivided, wholesale, guru-tattva has given these very beautiful teachings through his pastimes.

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