

Founder Acharaya His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Promode Puri Goswami Thakura

BHAGAVATA

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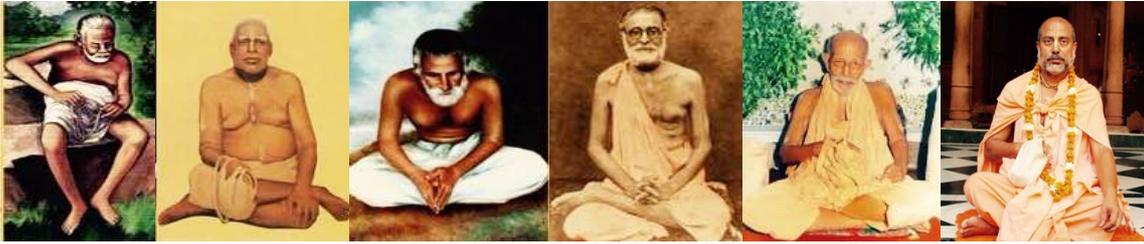
DHARMA

President & Acharaya His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Bibudha Bodhayan Goswami Maharaja

In this issue:

Srila Gurudeva's Love for The Mother
Vyasa Puja Offerings
Vaishnava festivals

2
2-22
23



Sri Sri Guru Gauranga Jayatah
Invitation

**121st Appearance Day of
HDG Srila Bhakti Pramod Puri Goswami Thakur**

Dear Devotees, Friends and Well-Wishers,

"On the 1st and 2nd October 2019 we will honor our beloved Srila Gurudeva, HDG Srila Bhakti Pramode Puri Goswami Thakur's 121st Appearance Festival at our Vrindavan Temple. It is my humble request that you attend our program along with all your family members and friends so that we get the chance to serve our friends, and the Vaishnavas."

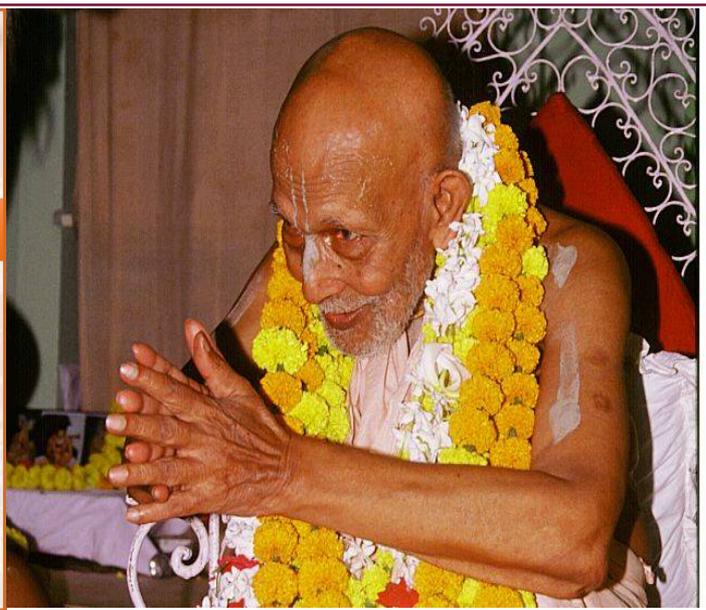
HDG Srila Bhakti Bibudha Bodhayan Goswami Maharaj
Present Acharya Sri Gopinath Gaudiya Math, Vrindavan

Schedule & Program

1st Oct 2019 4 PM Onwards
- Sri Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Hon'ble Minister of State, coming to inaugurate Sankirtan Hall.
- Nagar Sankirtan from 6 PM onwards
- Mahaprasadam

2nd Oct 2019 7 AM Onwards
- 7:15 AM - Vyasa Puja
- 9:00 AM - Remembrances about the glories of His Divine Grace by eminent Vaisnavas.
- 11:00 AM - Bhoga offering
- 12:30 PM - Mahaprasadam distribution

Sri Gopinath Gaudiya Math, Vrindavan 9818616520; 7060846714



SRILA GURUDEVA'S LOVE FOR THE MOTHER

by
HDG Srila Bhakti Bibudha Bodhayan
Goswami Maharaj

108 Sri Srimad Bhakti Pramode Puri Goswami Thakura who has entered back into the eternal pastimes of Sri Sri Radha Krishna, was the founder of Sri Gopinath Gaudiya Math, located in Sridham Mayapur. When looking at his life starting from birth, initiation (*dīkṣā*), and various other incidents of his life on this planet, we can notice the love that Srila Gurudeva had for the mother.

The wise address Mother Earth as their mother. Every single living entity, from the time of birth, depends on Mother Earth up until the time of death.

Sri Golokavihari Krishna is the Supreme Lord of the unlimited number of universes. We see from the Śrī Caitanya-Caritāmṛta:

*eka kṛṣṇa – sarva-sevya jagat-īśvara|
āra yata saba, -- tāñra sevakānucaral|
sei kṛṣṇa avatīrṇa – caitanya-īśvara|
ataeva āra saba, -- tāñhāra kiñkāral|
keha māne, keha nā māne, saba tāñra dāsa|
ye nā māne, tāra haya sei pāpe nāśal|*
(CC Ādi 6.81-83)

Krishna alone is the object of worship for the entire world. He is the controller of the entire world. Everyone else is His servant and follower. That Supreme Lord Krishna descended as Chaitanya Deva. Therefore, everybody is His servant. Some accept this and some do not accept this fact; regardless, everyone is His servant. He who does not accept Lord Chaitanya as the Supreme Lord is destroyed through his own sins.

Bhumi Devi (Goddess Earth) personally gives shelter to all living entities for the Lord's performance of His pastimes. All of the living

entities are servants of Sri Krishna. That same Sri Krishna descends on Earth once in a day of Brahma during the *Dvāpara-yuga* of the 28th *catura-yuga* of the seventh *Manvantara*. After completing His pastimes in the *Dvāpara-yuga*, Krishna appears in the *Kali-yuga* in the form of Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Sri Gurudeva and the pure devotees (*vaishnavas*) are the personified condensed form of mercy of Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Having churned the ocean of scriptural knowledge, we know that Sri Gurudeva is the representative of Sri Krishna. Although we know that Sri Gurudeva is the representative of Sri Krishna, in actuality, we find that Sri Gurudeva is the representative of Srimati Radharani, the pleasure-giving potency of Sri Krishna. In accordance with the above discussions, we can undisputedly announce that *guru, vaishnavas* and all gods and goddesses are servants of the Supreme Lord, Sri Krishna, through being the representatives of Srimati Radharani.

Sri Durga Devi is a representative form of Srimati Radharani. In Sri Brahma-Samhita, Sri Durga Devi is described as the shadow of Srimati Radharani. Worship of Sri Durga Devi happens with great pomp during the nine-day festival (*nava-rātri*) celebrated by Hindus. Srila Bhakti Pramode Puri Goswami Thakur appeared on Mother Earth as the son of Tarini Carana Chakravati (father) and Sri Ramarangini Devi (mother) in Ganganandapur situated in present day Jessore, Bangladesh during the early morning hours of the fourth day of the nine-day festival (*caturthī*). The parents lovingly named their son, Pramode Bhushan Chakravarti.

Brahma has written in regards to Durga Devi:

*sṛṣṭi-sthiti-pralaya-sādhana-śaktir ekā
chāyaiva yasya bhuvanāni bibharti durgā|
icchānurūpam api yasya ca ceṣṭate sā*



govindam ādipuruṣam tam ahaṁ bhajāmi
(Brahma-Saṁhitā 5.44)

Through the desire of Srimati Radharani, the internal potency of the Supreme Lord, Sri Krishna (who is also known as Govinda), Sri Durga Devi (who is Srimati Radharani's shadow) conducts the creation, maintenance and destruction of the material world. Brahma serves this Supreme Lord, Govinda, at every moment.

In regards to this point, the Padma-Purana tells us:

*harir eva sadārdhyaḥ sarva-deveśvareśvaraḥ |
itare brahma-rudrādya nāvajñeyāḥ kadācan ||*

Sri Krishna (Sri Hari) is the one and only object of worship of everyone, including the other higher living entities (devas and devis). However, even then, it is improper to disrespect the other higher living entities like Brahma, Rudra and so on.

The Supreme Lord, Sri Krishna, is the objects of worship of everyone. In accordance with the conclusions of the scriptures, in the Kali-yuga, Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, taking upon the mood and complexion of Srimati Radharani, descended into the material world along with His personal associates. Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Gosvami Thakura Prabhupada is the personified condensed form of Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu who possesses the mood and complexion of Srimati Radharani. In the spiritual world, Srila Prabhupada Bhaktisiddhanta is Nayanamani Manjari who possesses a golden complexion, wears blue garments which are ornamented with stars, and serves Sri Sri Radha Krishna by singing for Them. The eternal maidservant of Sri Nayanamani Manjari is Sri Palasa Manjari. In the spiritual world, Sri Palasa Manjari is eternally 12 years old, has a golden complexion, wears yellowish red clothes and

serves Sri Sri Radha Krishna by plucking flowers for various services. In order to assist Sri Nayanamani Manjari in Her service of singing, Sri Palasa Manjari appeared on earth on 19th October 1898 (2nd Kartik 1305 according to the Bengali calendar) during the midst of the nine day *nava-rātri* festival.

Siva, Ganesa, and Kartikeya are part of Mother Durga's family. We know that Mother Durga's vehicle is lion who is the king of all animals. Lord Siva's vehicle is the bull and on his neck resides the snake, Anantanaga Sesa Sankarsana who is the spiritual master (*gurudeva*). Ganesa's vehicle is the mouse and Kartikeya's vehicle is the peacock. Intelligent persons analyze and understand that although the vehicles of all of the members of this family normally would be food for one another, they seem to be cooperating in a unified manner. For example, the bull is the lion's food. The mouse is the snake's food. The snake is the peacock's food. In reality, Mother Durga and Lord Siva are pure devotees of the Lord; Mother Durga is a vaishnavi and Lord Siva is the supreme devotee, parama-vaishnava. Since all of the members of this family chant the Holy Names of Krishna in utmost bliss, there is no unrest in their family.

Pramode Bhushan who is the form of personified peace took birth as the mercy of Siva and Durga in the midst of the nine-day *nava-rātri* festival. Sri Pramode Bhushan's neighbor was Srila Bhaktiratna Thakura who was a god-brother of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura. Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura would come to visit Srila Bhaktiratna Thakura, from time to time, with very important services. Thus, by his good fortune, Pramode Bhushan had the opportunity to meet Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura. Gradually, through the mercy of Bhaktiratna Thakura, Pramode Bhushan received the fortune to begin studying the books of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura. Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura



disappeared in 1914. Thereafter, through the inspiration of Bhaktiratna Thakura, Pramode Bhushan went to meet Bimala Prasada Prabhu in Mayapur in 1915. It happened to be the day of Gaura Kisora Dasa Babaji Maharaja's disappearance pastime. It was as if Srimati Radharani personally inspired Palasa Manjari in order to go and help Nayanamani Manjari in Her service of singing. Upon seeing Bimala Prasada Prabhu, Pramode Bhushan accepted him as his guru within his mind. However, service to Krishna is done through the desire of Srimati Radharani. Thus, through the desire of Srimati Radharani, Bimala Prasada was present at the Yogapitha (the courtyard of Mother Saci), engaged in extremely austere penance in the year 1917. During that time, Pramode Bhushan came one day to meet Sri Bimala Prasada, again. In Bengali culture, it is a norm that when a guest arrives in the afternoon, he is to be fed. However, there was nothing left of that afternoon's prasada. Srimati Bhagavati Devi, the mother of Sri Bimala Prasada, was living at the Yogapitha temple at that time. Thinking it is improper for Pramode Bhushan to remain unfed having arrived in the afternoon, Srimati Bhagavati Devi personally cooked, offered the food to the Lord according to the spiritual practice and served the prasada to Pramode Bhushan. We know that another name of Mother Durga is Bhagavati Devi. Here, if we analyze with internal vision, it seems that Mother Durga, taking the form of Bimala Prasada's mother, Bhagavati Devi, personally cooked and fed Pramode Bhushan.

Thereafter, from the year 1921 onwards, Pramode Bhushan began living the life of a renounced person. Just a few days earlier, Bimala Prasada had been awarded the title, "Sri Prabhupada" and became the object of respect for the entire world. On Janmashtami day in the year 1923, Sri Prabhupada initiated Pramode Bhushan and named him Pranavananda Dasa Brahmachari. The affection that Pranavananda Prabhu's mother,

Ramarangini Devi, had for him was astonishing. From time to time, Mother Ramarangini Devi would send letters to Pranavananda from home. Sri Prabhupada would first read the letters and then would say in front of everyone, "Reading the way in which Pranavananda's mother has written letters, I myself feel like crying. If Pranavananda reads the letters, I cannot fathom what will happen."

Pranavananda Dasa Brahmachari attracted the love and affection of Sri Prabhupada (Nayanamani Manjari), of Mother Durga, of Srimati Bhagavati Devi (the mother of Bimala Prasada) and of his own mother, Ramarangini Devi. This shows us that in Pranavananda Prabhu's, or in Sri Gurudeva's real identity, there was a lot of love for the mother.

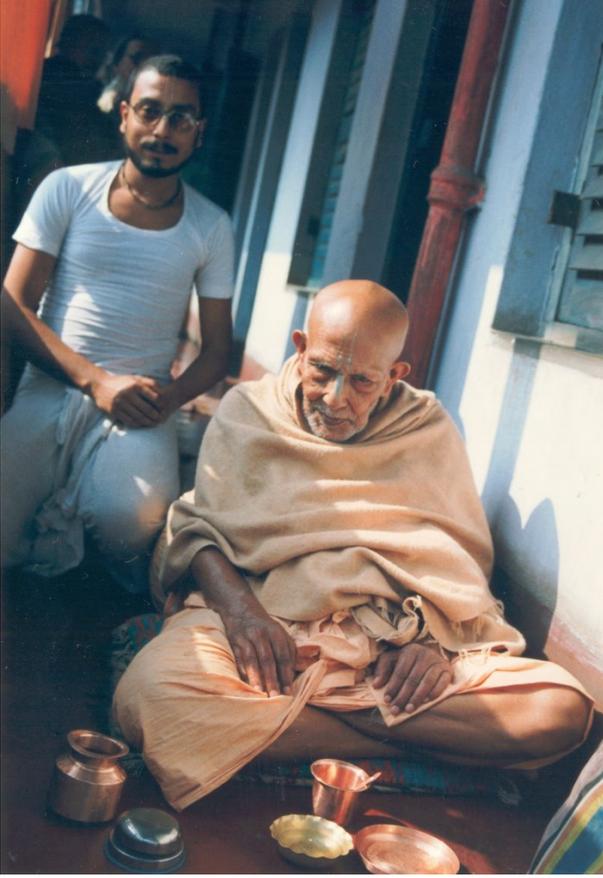
I have seen with my own eyes and have heard with my own ears that whenever a small girl or a woman would come to Sri Gurudeva, he would call all of them as Mother (Ma). If we in the vaishnava world could follow even a tiny fraction of the example practiced by Sri Gurudeva, especially in how he viewed women, then we would most definitely be able resist our material desires and become established in attachment for serving Sri Krishna as instructed by Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. If we can let go of the idea of being the doer (*ahamkāra*) and establish attachment to serving Sri Krishna in our hearts, minds and intelligences (*citta*), then our spiritual lives will become perfect. In other words, we will be able to deliver ourselves from the material world and become the servants of Srimati Radharani's sakhis in the form of manjaris in the spiritual world - just like our spiritual masters.

*dhāmera svarūpa, sphuribe nayane, haibe
rādhāra dāsī*



The good fortune of being the servant of Srimati Radharani in Goloka Dhama is the supreme wealth and goal (*paramārtha*).

Swami Bodhayan



VYASA PUJA OFFERINGS

Dearest Gurudeva Srila Bhakti Promode Puri Goswami Maharaja,

Koti dandavats!

Your kindness to me knows no bounds. I feel pained that I could not serve you as you deserved and teach a proper *sannyasi* way of life. So I fall at your lotus feet to save me from my mistakes and make me a humble servant of our *sampradāya* and all devotees who wish my service.

I had more close association with you than with any of my other gurus. When absorbed in managing we tend to neglect the profound call of highest loving service. Only renewed material attachments could wake me up to remember my full duties in our divine call. I fall at your feet again and again.

Please protect our Vrinda family members on the way to Krishna's abode.

Your insignificant servant in hope to become a real *sevaka*.

Swami Paramadvaiti

~~~~~

Dear Gurudeva,

My prostrated obeisance to you again and again. Although I am the worst amongst all your followers and the least qualified to say anything to glorify your holy pastimes, instructions, and mission, yet I am bound to attempt to somehow praise your divine appearance in this world even though I feel like a small tiny light in a circuit board facing the infinite rays of the sun. How can the finite know anything about the nature of the infinite? You have taught is Guru deva only by Divine Will can we know even a little about the nature of the Supreme. You have taught us that the root requirement to receive such knowledge is humility, and that real humility is not an external show but comes from a real sense of helplessness. This type of sincere feeling of helplessness only comes when one's material ego and pride are dissolved. *trnad ape sunicena*, means to feel more humble than a blade of grass. You have taught us that you cannot cry out for someone until we have accepted our insignificance in relation to that person. I pray for the intelligence Gurudeva to roll on the ground in a begging mood, with sincerity and cry for your mercy.



To illustrate this Srila Bharati Maharaja has written about your exemplary humility as follows:

Once, the Mayapura branch of Sri Gopinath Gaudiya Math organized a festival to commemorate the appearance day of Srila Bhakti Pramode Puri Gosvami Maharaja. My godbrother *pūjyapāda* Bhakti Vallabha Tirtha Maharaja and I were appointed as the assembly's *sabhāpaitis* (chairpersons) for the first and the second days, respectively.

During the assembly, Srila Puri Gosvami Maharaja humbly said, “Although my *bāndhavas* (sincere friends), the servants of Sri Gopinath Gaudiya Math, have organized a grand festival for today, my birthday, I am completely unqualified to accept this worship.

“My most worshipful *gurupāda-padma*, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura Prabhupada, is present here in the form of his portrait. He is the embodiment of all our previous *ācāryas*, and I am the most insignificant servant of his servants. In the book *Śaraṅgati* (3.3.1), Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura has taught us:

*sarvasva tomāra, caraṇe sāpiyā,  
pōḍechi tomāra ghare  
tumi tō' thākura, tomāra kukura,  
bōliyā jānahō more*

Having surrendered everything at Your lotus feet, I remain prostrated at Your house. You are my Lord. Kindly accept me as Your dog.

“Inspired by Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura's example of the ideal mood of a servant, I hereby proclaim myself to be the pet dog of the servants of the servants of Srila Prabhupada.

“In my opinion, the root cause of your honoring and worshiping me is my

relationship with my spiritual master. Therefore, your worship is actually directed to him, and not me. Because I am his servant, I am naturally seated at his lotus feet. It is only due to my proximity to him that the elements of this grand worship have happened to touch my body. This worship belongs not to this pet dog, but to my beloved master. This is my firm belief. I am extremely joyful when I see my master being worshiped. Therefore, it would greatly please me if you could understand that this is the subtle essence of the divine worship you are performing today.”

Such is the mood of a real *ācārya*. Always feeling themselves a student and never the master. That is the true spirit of disciplic succession; the current of humility that extends from guru to disciple. I pray Gurudeva that I may receive even a fraction of this humility and thereby be able to chant the Holy Name and serve the vaishnavas with sincerity. Without this most important quality all my endeavors are useless.

Another time when you first came to the Dauji temple in Vrindavan that was offered to you by the devotees and the festival was held Bharati Maharaja recalls your lecture:

“I am now in the very last phase of my life. My only wish is to spend the last few days of my life chanting *harināma* at the lotus feet of Srimati Radharani, the queen of Vrindavan. Without the blessings of the devotees, it is impossible to receive Radharani's blessings, for it is said, ‘*vaiṣṇavera kṛpā jāhe sarvasiddhi*—all perfections come through the mercy of the vaishnavas.’

“Srila Kaviraja Gosvami has expressed:

*jagāi mādhai hōite muṇi se pāpiṣṭha  
purīsera kīṭa hōite muṇi se laghiṣṭha*



I am more sinful than Jagai and Madhai and even lower than a worm in stool.

“Although in following the *mahājanas*, the great authorities, I may repeat similar expressions of humility, my statements will amount to nothing but mere deception if genuine humility has not appeared in my heart. Now, at the end of my life, I have no desire to make any pretense of humility. I am no longer capable of giving lectures. Still, you have all spent a great amount of money to bring me here and to construct a opulent new room for me. In addition to your collective wellbeing, I pray that I may not be affected by even a particle of egotism due to accepting this service of yours, for Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura has said:

*āmi tō' vaiṣṇava'—e buddhi hōile,  
amānī nā ha'bô āmi  
pratiṣṭhāsā āsi', hṛdaya dūṣibe,  
hōibô niraya-gāmī  
Kalyāṇa-kalpataru (Ucchvāsa 2.8.2)*

If I develop the idea that “I am a vaishnava,” then I will never become humble. My heart will become contaminated with the desire to receive honor from others, and I shall go to hell.

How can we fathom this type of humility? Time and time again you have redefined our understanding and definition of humility and given us a glimpse of this rare and deep quality—the ornament of the vaishnava.

Dear Gurudeva, I pray again and again that I may somehow please you by following your instructions and taking them to heart. To spread the teachings of *Jaiva Dharma* all over the world and make the mercy of Mahaprabhu available to all people in all places.

Your fallen servant,  
**Ramdas das**

Respectful Obeisances From Mihir Das – A Soul Blessed By Srila 108 Srimad Puri Goswami Maharaj!

Before I begin I must say that I am unworthy of the love that had been showered by Srila Puri Goswami Maharaj and Srimad B. B. Bodhayan Goswami Maharaj, but I think it is my duty to share with all devotees how one enlightened soul embraces the most fallen. And he automatically gets elevated to taste the different shades of the bhakti rasas. Before I speak further I am tempted to recount the story of Sanatana Goswami Prabhu.

Once Sanatana Goswami came to Vrindavan to stay. When Sanatana learned that Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was coming, he organized a secluded place where the Lord could stay. He began to think about it day and night how to serve Lord Chaitanya. Upon understanding Sanatana Goswami's anxiety, Gaurahari appeared to him in a dream before his true arrival. Lord Chaitanya was sitting in a wonderful asana. When he saw the Lord, Sanatana Goswami fell at his feet. Then the Lord embraced Sanatana and after comforting him in every way, he disappeared. Such are the glories of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. But do we appreciate that Lord's real devotees are also like him? Following is my story.

I was involved in hard-core port management in Calcutta but when I used to come and sit under his lotus feet at a small room at Kalighat, Kolkata Math, I would be transformed into a lover of Krishna. All these feelings cannot be expressed but his invisible, but strong force of transformation was not time bound. It is reverberating till date and it has worked wonder in my life and that is why I can recollect the smallest of his divine gestures. He ordered me to sow the seeds of the Bhagavata Dharma by starting a four page copy under Xerox offset process. He wanted me to carry those to Sri Mayapur during Vaishnava festivals. He lovingly dictated the



innermost structures of the Dharma itself and thus I could put those in many of the initial editions. I remember that when I used to reach Mayapur late in the evening, he would ask me to sit below his feet and start correcting proofs or even my English translation at his advanced age of 99, with some magnifying glass till night and that too delaying prasadam for night. He behaved like a child and he would do all this as if in a playground. These are the aspects of the *Martya Lilas* of the enlightened souls. We read about these in books but I am blessed in my life to see this and taste this.

I had the opportunity to connect with people from different continents and also people of all classes and ranks from India. But I can vouchsafe that ‘men’ rather souls like Srila Puri Goswami Maharaj is extremely rare as he could live on japas only and avoid taking normal water; rather take water from Ganges in drops. It was unbelievable to me at that moment and some of his contemporaries say that he became bent because he was intense in servicing the lord through offerings and japas. We hear that in Kali-yuga, japa is the only way. He walked the talk. I again offer my obeisance to him now.

On a bright winter afternoon, he seemed to be a jovial mood – it was in one of his *abirbhāv* celebration day. He told me like a child, “Mihirbabu (he never called anybody by name and would add a respectful greeting) – some great astrologer came from Nabadwip and he says that I shall live upto 103 years. How foolish!!” But he stayed in this world till the 103<sup>rd</sup> year. Why he laughed is now understood by me – it was like a small boy who plays and finds that someone has found his hiding place!!

**Mihir Das**

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Sri Guru-Gaurangau jayatah!

Jaya Om Vishnu-pada Paramahansa
Parivrajakacarya Ashtottara-shata Sri Srimad
Bhakti Promod Puri Goswami Maharaj ki
jaya!

I have no qualification to write anything about His Divine Grace as I feel I am not even worthy of being a spec of dust on His Divine Grace’s servant of the servant of servant’s lotus feet. I am amongst the most fallen. I wouldn’t call myself a follower of His Divine Grace as I fail to follow whole heartedly any of his teachings and instructions in my day to day life. Still, His Divine Grace has shown such mercy upon this fallen soul by allowing me to glorify him on this auspicious occasion.

I didn’t have the fortune of meeting His Divine Grace as one require millions of births of *sukriti* to meet such a great Vaishnava. In our scriptures, we have heard about great sages like Narada Muni, Vashishtha, Agastya, Kashyapa, however His Divine Grace has been a living example of such great sage. His Divine Grace was a personification of the third verse of Mahaprabhu’s *śikṣāṣṭaka* – humbler than a blade of grass and more tolerant than a tree.

His Divine Grace taught us the path to pure devotional service by his example of most humble and tolerant personality, by teaching us with his own example how we must have unalloyed faith in words of Sri Guru, Vaishnavas and Shastras, how one can serve and live every moment according to instructions of Sri Guru, how we must offer due respect to all Vaishnavas, how we must be merciful on all living entities, how we should be content with less and focus our energy on pure devotional service, how we should not have society consciousness, how we can practice bhakti in a very simple way, how we must first practice then preach, how we must give up fanaticism and act practically



and how we must remain humble and tolerant in all circumstances.

I pray to His Divine Grace on this auspicious day of his holy appearance for his mercy so one day I may become a spec of dust of his servant of the servant of the servant of servant's lotus feet.

In your service,

Thaldeep Sharma

~~~~~

I offer my most humble unlimited prostrated koti dandavat obeisance to my most revered spiritual master His Divine Grace Bhakti Promode Puri Goswami Maharaj. Guru Maharaj, it is only by your mercy this lowly miscreant has the opportunity to exist. Without your unlimited divine benedictions it would simply not be possible to find our way in this dark and dangerous material cosmos. Your Divine Grace, without which all is lost, is the personification of humility and compassion beyond our limited consciousness. Please grant this fallen soul the chance to worship your lotus feet and through your mercy one day the opportunity to serve you with full consciousness and realization of your eternal *nitya siddha*. My only hope is to cultivate the discipline to engage incessantly in chanting the Holy Name of our supreme lord Sri Krishna and invest the days and nights in continuous Harinam. With each rising sun I beg for a glimpse of your sweet nectarean instruction to be revealed to my heart. I am unworthy of your grace but hanker for it nonetheless as there is no greater aspiration in this life. My dream to follow your instructions with pure heart and devoted mind will forever be life's ultimate goal. Without the knowledge that your mercy is unconditional all hope would be forever lost. Gurudev, I am miserly and unqualified to have your association. Please let me have just

one blink of an eye of your sweet mercy so that my material attachments are rendered insignificant in the knowledge of your eternal mercifulness. Grant this fallen soul your mercy and your association. Allow this lowly materialist to serve you with pure heart and mind. My entire being is yours to engage as you see fit in the service of Guru and Gauranga.

Your devoted disciple,

*Govardhana das*

~~~~~

Jay Srila Gurudeva,

Dwelling on the upcoming special day of your divine appearance on 2 October, I have to admit something that you already know, the fact that I am actually not in the position to give proper glorification in relation to your divine grace and presence.

Just like there are many glass pieces out there, that with proper tools can be shaped and appear just like gemstones, whereby these man-made pieces of glass reflect the light almost the same manner as real gemstones and the difference can only be noticed by experts.

So, there are plenty of pretending pseudo vaishnavas like myself, who can have sometimes the outer symptoms of vaishnavas like proper clothes, wearing tilak, even giving lecture, lead kirtan or engage in diplomatic soft-tone speaking in public, but at their respected homes and through our occupations are deeply engrossed in mental/sensual gratifications or family-life, connected with time-sharing activities that do not bring us closer to the divine grace.

When I reflect on my present day situation, I see that my conditioning has nothing to do



with the exalted behavior of the true Vaishnava jewels. The pure vaishnavas like your divine grace are the only touchstones and hope of (human) society at large in this age of quarrel and hypocrisy. I am just a fortunate human, who came in contact with the rays emanating from Your Divine Grace, indicating the right path to follow for rest of my life (I thought and still believe).

At present, to see the struggle and competitions amongst different Gaudiya Vaishnava groups to preach the gospel of Sriman Mahaprabhu and Vaishnavism at large, claiming fanatically the new aspirants as their property causes me pain and sometimes even despair, thereby testing my faith. To remember and see, how an exalted Vaishnava like yourself or some of your God-brothers and their true followers, who are also worthy of worship, without any effort, attract all types of people and from all kinds of backgrounds in a spontaneous and natural way, was/is simply amazing. When purity is there, the flow of spontaneous devotion and the desire to serve will automatically come.

Dear Srila Gurudeva, the fact that I have very few god-brothers in the Netherlands to share remembrance/realizations of the time shared in your divine presence with, and considering my fallen status as a disciple, not seeing myself qualified to enter into the renounced order, I recently went to Pakistan to get married to a Hindu lady at the age of 50. Learning little of the hardship I had to undergo as a householder who lost his previous house and family, I connected myself again in family affairs with the aim of ultimately learning the proper path towards Krishna consciousness and divine love.

Dear Srila Gurudeva, I know deep in my heart that you are a representative and intimate associate of Sri Baladev, Sri Krishna and Srimati Radharani. As your insignificant and beginning aspirant/disciple on the devotional

path, I need to become more aware of the unlimited flow of nectar emanating from Your Divine Grace. Because as the manifestation of Sri Guru, you are truly the guiding principle and my true well-wisher and protector who can bring me closer to my eternal welfare and home. So, for this reason I need your divine blessings to make my (spiritual) journey ultimately successful.

Dear Srila Gurudev, in my present situation, I experience that due to association with mundane people, or those who have no devotional inclination, ignorance and illusion rule my mind and restrict the use of proper intelligence. The weakness of heart, the tendency to cheat and programmed subconsciousness patterns that push forward the search for sensual enjoyments distract my focus for spiritual awareness many times. These shortcomings have put my devotional practice under a kind of testing-operation with struggles, self-reflection and questions regarding my present-day situation. I understand that most occurrences have nothing to do with the true path of *bhakti* and are just a conditioned experience and limited perception of my sense of reality. So, at this point in my life I have to admit my deplorable condition in life once more. Engrossed in the mundane affairs of life, entering a new cycle I need to re-value the definition of spiritual awareness and self-contemplation in relation to Your Divine Grace and Krishna-bhakti. Dear Srila Gurudev, so far not able to serve you in a manner to please you, please give me the strength to overcome my defects so that one day I really may be under the shelter of your lotus feet.

Your unqualified aspirant disciple,

Madhava das

~~~~~



Sri Sri Guru-Gaurangau jayatah!

In a few days, we will be celebrating the auspicious day of appearance of our beloved Sripad Srila Bhakti Pramode Puri Goswami Thakur.

I certainly have no qualifications to write about his unlimited glories which is like a glowing sun in vaishnava world, a sun needs no explanation as its qualities speak for themselves but hoping that contemplating on Srila Param Gurudev's divine glories might help me imbibe a few for my own advancement.

A crest Jewel among vaishnavas, personification of *trṇādapi sunīcena* (*śikṣāṭakm-3*), his whole life 'a century of devotion' is epitome of Vaishnava principles. He is the embodiment of Srila Roopa Goswami's Upadeshmrta first verse, hence a real Goswami.

I have heard from my revered Gurudev about Param Gurudev's dedication to carry out instructions of his Guru, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Goswami Thakur, for whole of his life. For the benefit of aspirants, Param Gurudev demonstrated unwavering determination towards his daily *sādhana* from 3am till afternoon every day, even in his advanced age. In this regard, Srila Gurudev once mentioned that one day Srila Param Gurudev was busy writing till late in the night. Srila Gurudev requested him to take rest but he said he'll do so in few minutes after finishing that write-up. When the morning bell rang (before Mangal Aarti), Srila Gurudev found Param Gurudev still writing, upon request that please take rest at least now, Srila Param Gurudev replied now is not the time to rest, now is the time to chant. One of his greatest virtues, which is becoming rare now, is 'practice and preach.'

I have also heard that Srila Param Gurudev

put lots of emphasis on qualitative attentive chanting, which will lead to higher realm of Divine service. Speaking about Glories of such *uttama bhāgvata* is like an attempt to fathom the Ocean!

He has given us the light to see!

He has shown us the path to walk!

He has demonstrated by his own example, the secret to selfless devotion!

He has opened the door of divine service, by the key of his causeless mercy!

**He is true Guardian of Bhakti Siddhanta Ganga Dhara!**

Jay Sripad Srila Bhakti Pramode Puri Goswami Thakur!

I pray at the lotus feet of Srila Param Gurudev that please be kind on this fallen soul. This life will be of value, if only I could imbibe a little of your divine instructions.

Dasanudas,

*Ajay Krishna das*

~~~~~

All glories to Sri Guru and Gauranga!

His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Pramode Puri Goswami Thakur Maharaj is a very rare tridandi sannyasi in the modern age under our Gaudiya lineage following and at the same time teaching Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's mission as his sole life and soul. He was helping and guiding all sincere souls seeking higher association without any partiality. I understood this from our Guru Maharaj on many lectures and also his simplicity, depth of devotion in practicing daily life and dedication to his Gurudev to serve



especially the transcription and writing seva till last breath. It was really touching my heart when Param Gurudev was unable to perform that particular writing seva properly and cried to His Guru Maharaj His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Thakur Maharaj during his last stage prior to leaving this mortal world. I understood that he lead a very simple life and at the same time very high in His devotion towards Divine couple Sri Sri Radha Krishna. We are really very lucky to get his connection through our Guru Maharaj and such an invaluable gem currently in the spiritual abode can only be glorified by top class vaishnavas without any doubt (not me). If this fallen soul can satisfy little bit in any way by serving our Guru Maharaj and following his path, I have full faith that I will be reaching ultimate destination in order to serve life after life. Let all the temporary material enjoyment and attachment that I have be demolished by his merciful glance on me. Let me pray from my bottom of my heart without any duplicity that this fallen soul be always at the feet of his Gurudev.

Dasanudas,

Mahadeva das

~~~~~

*om ajñāna-timirāndhasya jñānāñjana-  
śalākayā  
cakṣur unmīlitam yena tasmai śrī-gurave  
namah*

*śrī-caitanya-mano-bhiṣtam sthāpitam yena  
bhū-tale  
svayaṁ rūpaḥ kadā mahyaṁ dadāti sva-  
padāntikam*

*vāñchā-kalpatarubhyaś ca kṛpā-sindhubhya  
eva ca  
patitānām pāvanebhyo vaiṣṇavebhyo namo  
namah*

*namo mahā-vadānyāya kṛṣṇa-prema-pradāya  
te  
kṛṣṇāya kṛṣṇa-caitanya-nāmne gaura-tviṣe  
namah*

*śrī-kṛṣṇa-caitanya prabhu nityānanda  
śrī-advaita gadādhara śrīvāsādi-gaura-bhakta-  
vrnda*

*hare kṛṣṇa hare kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa hare hare  
hare rāma hare rāma rāma rāma hare hare*

By the kind grace of Srila Bodhayan Maharaja, on this occasion of the blessed appearance anniversary of Sri Srimad Bhakti Pramode Puri Goswami Thakur, a very dear disciple of Srila Prabhupada Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Goswami Thakur and dear god brother of Srila Bhaktivedanata Swami Prabhupada, we would like to offer a humble homage at the lotus feet of His Divine Grace.

The glories of a Vaishnava *ācārya* gives life to the community of devotees, and the life and precepts of Srila Bhakti Pramode Puri Goswami Thakur are testimony of this. His Divine Grace is the rare embodiment of gentleness and humility despite possessing the depth and profundity of the wisdom of the Vedic scriptures. Hearing and reading about His Divine Grace's activities and teachings as well as listening and watching the recorded lectures available can only inspire and enthuse us to take up the practice of spiritual life seriously and be more introspective of our own practice and intentions on this path of *bhakti-yoga*. Personally, I was most moved by the most loving exchange that took place between His Divine Grace and his dear god brother His Divine Grace Bhaktivedanata Swami Srila Prabhupada in Sri Vrindavan Dham in 1977 when they went on a spiritual *parikrāma* together by singing Sril Vraja Dhāma Mahimāmṛta, *jaya radhe jaya kṛṣṇa jaya vrndāvana*. This loving exchange between two glorious *mahā-bhāgavatas* will



forever remain etched in the recesses of my heart.

All glories to His Divine Grace Vaiashnava  
Ṭhākura Pramode Puri GoswamiṬhakur!  
All glories to Śrī Guru and Śrī Gaurāṅga!

*dāsānudāsa,*

*Sakshi-gopal das*

~~~~~

Acharya of Great Affection

Jaya Om Vishnupada, Sri Bhakti Pramode Puri Goswami Thakura is beyond the purview of the senses. No words can describe him, nor can our eyes see him, only hearing about such a transcendental personality and hearing from him, we can develop an appreciation of such a great soul. It has been my greatest misfortune that I never had been blessed to catch a glimpse of the lotus feet of such a *mahātmā*. In 2004, when I first visited Mayapura, a wonderful devotee by the name of Krsna das, opened up the doors to the introduction of my Param Gurudeva. Krsna das took me to visit Param Gurudeva's samadhi at Gopinath Gaudiya Math. Upon seeing the picture of Param Gurudeva, my heart softened, and I immediately desired for his shelter as his disciple. At that moment, I felt a special connection but was saddened to the fact that he had already left this world.

Param Gurudeva is an acharya of great affection. We all know that an acharya is one who leads by great examples. Srila Bhakti Pramode Puri Goswami led by great examples from his very childhood. Although he was born in a smarta brahmana family who were accustomed to eating fish, he was able to convert all of his family members into vegetarians. Due to his purity of heart and for the purpose of establishing the mission of the Lord, he displayed great affection towards all

living entities. He exhibited such quality when he was only a mere boy, when his mother one day, was holding a fish with the intention to kill it for a meal. He addressed his mother in such a way, displaying an extraordinary level of compassion, that his mother never attempted to cook fish in the house ever again. He touched his mother so deeply and being a soft-hearted lady, she took this lesson to heart and as a result tears began to roll down her face.

Everyone knew that Tinu, his nick name at the time, was a special personality. He was a leader from a very young age. The lesson with the fish, was not the only lesson that he imparted onto his mother. The family had a few cows and one day he noticed that his mother was not properly feeding one of the cows, which was not yielding any milk. Upon seeing this, once again, he had such a way with his words and his reasoning was impeccable, that his mother could not counteract his pure intentions and succumbed to the valuable lesson that her son was trying to teach her.

These pastimes of Param Gurudeva are in Gurudeva's book 'Divya-Jñāna'. I have not attempted to describe these pastimes in full, fearing that my offering would be too long. My intentions behind giving a synopsis of these pastimes and not focusing on the details, is to first of all glorify the affection that Param Gurudeva had for all living entities great and small. My other purpose is to invoke a desire in the hearts of devotees to hear and read about the pastimes of Param Gurudeva and to search out the details for themselves. There are many pastimes of Srila Bhakti Pramode Puri Goswami Thakura, revealing his affection and compassion towards other living entities, other than humans. He has a spectrum of qualities and pastimes, all glorious and full of inspiration, making it impossible for someone like me, who is so crooked at heart to even be able to describe



one of his qualities. I am only making this attempt on the request of His Holiness, Jaya Om Visnupada Srila Bhakti Bibudha Bodhayan Goswami, my illustrious spiritual master. On this special occasion of your Vyasa Puja, please bless us so that the transcendental qualities that you carry in your heart can be revealed in ours. Thank you for the kind acts that you have manifested in this world for our benefit. Your presence in this world has been nothing but a great fortune to all of us.

your servant,

Eklesvara Gauranga das

~~~~~

The Divine Personified

Jaya Jaya Sri Chaitanya Jaya Nityananda  
 Jaya Sree Advaita Chandra Gaura Bhakta  
 Vrinda  
 Jaya Srila Prabhupada Bhaktisiddhanta  
 Saraswati Thakura  
 Jaya Srila Bhakti Promode Puri Goswami  
 Thakura

On this auspicious day I feel fortunate that I can remember the Lord and his devotees. Even though I falter and stumble they are ever bestowing their mercy in all directions, and somehow or other I have been captured in their net of supreme auspiciousness.

The Lord and His devotees are all of the same Absolute Substance. They are One. But that oneness is divided into many. In this material world where the period of time called Kali has established an enclave of disaster we see many examples of the antithesis of the divine. Trapped in an almost impenetrable fortress doomed to self-conceit, wrath and ultimate death we are want for representatives of that absolute divine substance. As oil is to water these two substances never meet. That said

that divine substance, full and autonomous, independent and the very prototype of goodness forever intercedes and interjects. Hearing the pleas of it's dependent counterparts, it descends upon this doomed world articulating it's message of divine perfection. It walks upon this earth but yet it's feet never touch the ground.

The divine personages of our Gaudiya *sampradāya* are such entities. Since the appearance of Sri Chaitanya this earth has become blessed, for many a great soul has graced it, spreading the dust of their lotus feet far and wide.

Sri Chaitanya is the absolute manifestation of compassion, a flood of divine mercy. Just as the great ocean swells and contracts at the will of the moon, similarly that great ocean of the Lord's divine mercy swells and contracts by His sweet will alone. In modern times Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura represented the initial swelling of the waves of that ocean, lapping at the shores of the material world many felt relief. With the advent of Srila Prabhupada Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakura that mercy expanded exponentially. Srila Prabhupada amplified and agitated the waves of that divine ocean and created many great divine personages, all with their own special characteristics and beauty. Amongst them was a very simple-hearted and pure saint by the name Srila Bhakti Promode Puri Goswami Thakura.

Srila Puri Maharaja was a most beautiful devotee. Without directly having seen him I am personally unfit to comment at length on his divine qualities. Thankfully the spiritual realm exists within sound and to hear of him one can get some idea of his glories. On the day of his divine appearance we have such chance to hear those glories.

How as a child he was saintly in character, and that as a youth he was attracted to the



message of the vaishnavas. By the will of the Lord he was associated with a disciple of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura and although accomplished in material learning he abandoned such to become one of the first disciples of Srila Prabhupada. Recognising his learning and ability and identifying his resolute dedication Srila Prabhupada engaged him in the important work of editing his various publications. In this way he continued unfazed for many many years. With the disappearance of Srila Prabhupada distraught but unwavering he continued his service steadfast in the knowledge that the master is ever present in his service. This is the absolute knowledge. Absence is a construct of this material world, all being a product of illusion. Whereas in the absolute realm where real knowledge resides, service in absence represents a higher reality. But I get ahead of myself. So Srila Puri Maharaj continued his service, ever humble he never tried to establish his superiority. Instead he continued his editing service under the auspices of his God-brother Srila Bhakti Dayita Madhava Goswami Maharaj. Residing in Sri Caitanya Gaudiya Matha for many years he continued to serve Sri Hari, Guru and vaishnavas. He was expert in *arcana* (the ritual practice of deity worship) and became the go-to priest for the *prāna-pratiṣṭhā* ceremony (consecration of the deity) in many of his god-brother's temples.

For many years he was like a smouldering coal. Inside burning golden hot but outside concealed. Inside the knowledge and practice of devotion reigned supreme, yet outside concealed by his own humility. One notes in his video lectures the complete absence of *pratiṣṭhā* (desire for name, fame and honour). Instead one sees only the beauty of his humility. His smile like a beam of pure sunshine while his words the very saving grace. In his later years he could not conceal his brilliance in devotion. As his glories became the prized topic of many an aspiring

Bhakta many flocked to see his simple and perfect devotion. His fame spread. Not seeking it, it was seeking him instead. In this period he established the eternal Sri Gopinath Gaudiya Math becoming it's Founder Acharya.

As stated earlier, the ocean of divine mercy swells resulting of it's own autonomy. Finding a fit receptacle, the vehicle of absolute mercy moves to it's own beat. Many dance and sway stirred by the sheer beauty of that divine manifestation, the one known as Srila Bhakti Promode Puri Goswami Maharaj! All glories unto him!

I am low and fallen. I have no ability to describe him. Having not met him in person I thus feel inadequate to praise even his little toe. But I feel his mercy. How? Why? Because that mercy, that humility, and many more divine qualities have taken refuge in his most dear disciple, His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Bibuddha Bodhayan Goswami Maharaja. I am fallen and destitute, crying and begging for their mercy. I pray to that Absolute Substance please make me a fit servant, remove all my faults and bring me close to you, that I may count myself of your number.

A most unworthy servant,

*Lakshman das*

~~~~~

Dearest paramaradhya Gurudeva,

*āmāra jīvana sadā pāpe rata,
nāhiko puṇyera leśa*

In this song, Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakur is expressing his utmost humility, describing his own life as devoid of any piety. Reading these words from such an exalted personality, makes me reflect on my own life, and my lack of sincerity in trying to follow at least a little



bit in your footsteps and divine example. Yet our saving grace remains the incredible good-heartedness and compassion of the vaishnavas, knowing all well how easily Maya Devi is casting our souls into her illusory spell. My heart goes out to those days when you were still present to uplift fallen souls like myself with your soothing and compassionate glance. My prayer to you is to excuse all my shortcomings, and bless me to develop adhikar to become the servant of your servant.

Arjuna das

~~~~~

All Glories to Sri Brahma Madhva Gaudiya Saraswata Sampradaya (lineage). All Glories to my beloved Grand Spiritual Master His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Goswami Thakur Prabhupada and my beloved Spiritual Master His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Pramode Puri Goswami Thakur.

Dear Puri Maharaja,

I do not know how to express my heartfelt thoughts in words so please excuse me for any faults I may write in this offering.

Maharaj, I got initiated in 1999 and that is when I started my new journey in my life. I was born a hindu but coming from a busy city I did not have any experience of having a conditioned spiritual life till I joined Ramdas prabhu's company in 1985. I got to know more about Krishna concousiness and it took a while to learn about it and on my journey met a lot of devotees and a lot of gurus. I have to say that when I met you in 1999 when I was visiting India with Ramdas prabhu, I noticed the way you were - so kind and so very humble in meeting and treating all your devotees. I felt an immediate connection with you and that is how I came to be initiated by you as my Spiritual Master. I pray that you

forgive all my offences that I have committed in this path I have chosen. I hope to be sincere in all I do and be a good servant and devotee to you, Srila Bhakti Bodhayan Maharaj and all my brother and sisters. Happy Birthday Gurudev!

My most humble offerings,

*Sridhar Prabhu*

~~~~~

My Dear Beloved Srila Param Gurudeva,

My dearest Srila Param Gurudeva, please accept our koti koti dandavat pranams unto your Lotus feet. Oh ocean of mercy! Just by thinking of you my heart becomes full of love.

As per your causeless mercy we are now part of this big Gaudiya Vaishnava famliy, and feel myself very secure under the cool shade of your Lotus feet. Ohe Vaishnava Thakur! Srila Param Gurudeva! You are the embodiment of humility.

*trṇād api su-nīcena
taror api sahiṣṇunā
amāninā māna-dena
kīrtanīyaḥ sadā hariḥ*

This starts with you Srila Param Gurudeva.

Oh my most merciful Srila Param Gurudeva! I beg you from the bottom of my heart, please bestow your causeless mercy upon this unworthy fallen soul to become a worthy servant of you, Srila Gurudeva and all vaishnavas and serve with love, affection and dedication without doing any vaishnava *aparādha*.

Wanting to serve under your shelter,

Radha devi dasi, Krishna das and Pradyumna das



Sri Sri Guru-Gaurangau jayatah!

A Vyasa puja offering, in glorification of my spiritual master, *nitya-lila-pravista jay om visnu-padya, paramahansa parivrajakacarya, astottara-sata, Sri Srimad Bhakti Pramode Puri Goswami Maharaj ji!*

Please accept my most humble obeisance at your lotus feet on this auspicious day of your vyasa puja. All glories to my Gurudev and to all the vaishnavas!

I offer my humble homage to His Divine Grace Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Prabhupad and to my Gurumaharaj Srila Bhakti Pramode Puri Goswami Gurumaharaj. I also offer my humble obeisance to our Acharyadeva, Srila Bhakti Bibudha Bodhayan Goswami Maharaj Ji.

I am a very fallen soul and I don't have words to glorify my Gurudev but Maharaj Ji has expressed his desire to all to write something in order to glorify our dearest Gurudev.

In 1998, when I was six years old, I was blessed to have had a darshan of Srila Gurudev in Puri Math. When we visited him for the second time in Puri, along with my parents, I got initiation from him. Any memory of my childhood can get faded but those precious moments are stored in my memory bank so clearly that I remember every single word that Gurumaharaj Ji told me while giving me shelter under his lotus feet. Gurudev kept the Japa mala over my head and said: “*Lali bhajan karegi, Hari he Krishna hai, Hari hi Shyam hai, Hari ke Naam ko kabhi mat bhulna*” (Do bhajan, as Hari is Krishna, Hari is Shyam, and never ever forget Hari's name). This was my first interaction with him. At the time of my initiation I was too young to understand his words, but now by Gurudev's grace, I am able to understand the importance of those powerful words. I have understood that wherever we are and

whatever we do, we should never forget Lord Hari and His name (i.e chanting Hari name). I was fortunate to have had Gurudev's association until 1999. It was for a very short duration but we visited Gurudev quite often during that period. Every time before leaving for Delhi, when we used to offer our dandavat pranams to Srila Gurudev, he used to always bless us and say “*Lord Narsimha will remove all hurdles and obstacles and with His blessings, you will have a safe journey*”. This taught me that one should never leave one's home without offering prayers to Lord Narsimha.

Whenever I got a chance to have Srila Gurudev's darshan, I always saw him engaged in either reading books or doing japa. I somehow managed to develop a connection with Gurudev. I was fortunate enough to offer pushpanjali to Gurudev on his 101st appearance day, and with that memory in mind, I would like to offer pushpanjali to him on his 121st vyasa Puja day. I was fortunate to have received his blessings, even though I feel I was not worthy of receiving his blessings. After his physical departure, we got to know him in a much more deeper manner, through Maharaj Ji. My association with Maharaj Ji made me realize that he is the *pratibimb* (mirror image) of Srila Gurudev, and I feel very fortunate to have Srila Gurudev's blessings through Maharaj Ji.

I pray to our entire lineage that one day I am able to serve Hari, Guru and Vaishnavas with wholehearted *sharnagati*.

Yours most fallen servant,

Pauranmasi devi dasi

~~~~~



To my most revered Param Gurudeva,

Please accept my repeated humble dandavats at the dust of Your lotus feet. Trying to glorify a personality such as yourself requires a certain amount of love in the heart, devotion towards guru and the vaishnavas, and intelligence, of which I possess none. Since I am incapable of writing a worthy glorification, please accept this short, simple and unsophisticated attempt.

I remember vividly the first time I saw your most lovable smiling face in the *samādhi* temple in Mayapur back in 2008. I wondered about the personality, unknown to me then, behind that fatherly smile, and then paying my dandavats I left. Little did I know that some years later, fate would connect me to Your successor, Your most devoted and beloved disciple.

I was not fortunate enough to have Your direct association, nonetheless, I feel that whenever I hear of your glories through the mouths of the vaishnavas, you are there in spirit. I have heard uncountable times of Your unparalleled Vaishnava qualities. Your humility has made your name synonymous with the verse *trṇād api sunīcena*. You are an embodiment of this verse and showed the world the true meaning of being humbler than a blade of grass. Though an erudite scholar, you would have people believe that going to You was futile since you had nothing to give them, when in fact you possessed the greatest knowledge, the greatest gift and power to deliver those who came before You. Such a personality as yourself is rare in this world. When once I was asked who my spiritual master was by a devotee, his response to my answer was ‘Oh the Puri line! How fortunate you are to belong to such an illustrious line’. Yes, I felt a tremendous amount of pride from that response. How fortunate indeed! As light cannot be enclosed, it will filter through the cracks, similarly,

your magnanimous nature has spread throughout the world and we rejoice in hearing and remembering your pastimes and qualities.

Oh vaishnava *cūḍāmaṇi* - jewel in the crown - words cannot ever suffice, but please accept my heartfelt gratitude for bringing me to the dust of Your lotus feet where You have given me an opportunity to serve Sri Guru and the vaishnavas. I humbly submit my prayer at Your lotus feet, please grant me a morsel of Your mercy that I may develop greed to render service to Sri Guru and the vaishnavas, thereby pleasing You and make this life worthwhile.

Your most unworthy aspiring servant,

*Vaishnava-dasanudasi*

~~~~~

Oh my most beloved Param Gurudeva,

Please accept my most revered and loving wholehearted obeisance. All glories to Your most beloved and foremost devoted disciple who has accepted me as his child, my most beloved Gurudeva Srila Bhakti Bibbudha Bodhayan Goswami Maharaja. All glories to Your most divine and beloved self, all glories to Your most divine and beloved Spiritual Master Srila Prabhupada, all glories to our most merciful and divine parampara.

I am actually very impressed to be here in front of this paper praying that although having no qualification to do so, I might be able to glorify you.

The very first time I consciously heard your name being pronounced was by very sweet devotees who had met you for the first time and had been overwhelmed by the qualities of humility and affection You were keeping in front of all and for all. I clearly remember the



devotee reproducing your gesture of bringing his hands to his forehead just as I later on saw you do in the pictures and videos. This devotee had clearly been illuminated by you and totally under your spell, deeply touched by you. He and his wife had taken initiation from you.

The second time I clearly had the blessing of hearing from you was by this friend of mine who wanted me to accompany her to Jagannath Puri and I did. Very fortunately she knew of you and that you were in Jagannth Puri. So on an Ekadasi day we came to Gopinath Gaudiya Math hoping to have Your darshan. And fortunately, most fortunately we did. I will never forget this impression in my heart upon seeing you. You were sitting chanting on your beads. You were glowing, totally radiant. Being in front of you was no different than being in front of a deity. As it was Ekadasi, although Your advanced age, more than a 100 years old, you were totally fasting, not even taking your medicine, and quietly chanting on your beads. Instant peace flowed in my heart and when we came out of the room it was as if we had been in another world. We felt that we had received an incomparable dose of love. And this although not one word was spoken.

Then, some years later I was accepted in your family by my most beloved Srila Gurudeva and have been hearing about you by Him. And the love and appreciation for you could only increase. Through his glorification of you I was able to comprehend to some extent the immensity of your greatness, of your holiness, of your humility. How, you are the embodiment of the third verse of *Sikshastakam* and how extraordinary this is, even more so in this age of Kali Yuga. How, immensely dear you are to the whole Vaishnava's community who would come and sit at the shelter that are for all your lotus feet. How, your knowledge of the Supreme Lord and how to worship Him, has no end. How all

felt loved, considered and accepted by you. How, by honoring the words and instructions of your Gurudeva you are the perfect disciple as well as the perfect guide.

Today I was looking at some pictures of you and yes felt that your smile and the love emanating from it had most probably literally melted stones. None can remain untouched by you.

And again although feeling most unqualified I am deeply honored to have been accepted as part of your family, to be linked to You through my most adored Srila Gurudeva. I humbly pray that I may one day be able to acquire even just a drop of those qualities you personify. Please keep me in Your family always. Please glance at me. I would feel so proud if I could just make you happy by one of my actions.

Praying to be in your service, praying to meet you again, please accept my love although unworthy.

Your aspiring servant of your servant always,
Offering you again and again my most revered wholehearted obeisance

Lalita Sakhi dasi

~~~~~

All Glories to Sri Sri Guru and Gauranga!

Maharaj, please accept my humble obeisance.

I am an insignificant fallen devotee. My dearest Param Gurudev, I am always praying to you to bless my Gurudev. Shower all your mercy on my Gurudev. Only your mercy can promote him to reach your advanced stage. My Gurudev always speaks of your glories, your faith in the Supreme Lord and devotion in spirituality.



Maharaj, please bless me to follow my Gurudev's instructions. My own strength cannot make me progress. Only your mercy is all I require.

*hare kṛṣṇa hare kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa hare hare  
hare rāma hare rāma rāma rāma hare hare*

Your insignificant grand disciple,

**Ramadevi dasi**

~~~~~

Namanjali

Sri Sri Guru-Gaurangau jayatah!

At first we are offering humble obeisance at the divine lotus feet of Srila Gurudev His Divine Grace Sri Srimad Asttottara-shata Bhakti Bibudha Bodhayan Goswami Maharaj. We are offering repeated obeisance unto the divine lotus feet of Param Gurudev His Divine Grace Sri Srimad Asttottara-shat Nitya-lila-pravishta Bhakti Pramode Puri Goswami Maharaj and entire Guru Parampara.

The most auspicious day has finally come. Well before all Great occasions like Shri Janmastami, Shri Radhastami, appearance days of Srila Gurudev and Param Gurudev, we used to think a lot as to what special we would offer on that day to our Most Beloved Lord. Despite pondering a lot over this issue foolish mind would never got a satisfactory answer. But, Srila Gurudev mercifully solved this problem once and for all. His Divine Grace told us that divya Mahamantra samkirtan and japa are the only and only best offerings. While doing so we have to be fully attentive to Mahamantra and remain focused on Lord. Glorification of Mahamantra is the best *sadhana anga*. In order to explain this Srila Gurudev Ji Maharaj (HDG Bhakti Bibudha Bodhayan Goswami Maharaj) related one of His experiences to us in a very lucid

manner. When for the first time He was invited to deliver discourses abroad He refused to go. At that time our Param Gurudev Ji Maharaj (Sri Shrimad Asttottara-shata Nitya-lila- pravishta Sri Bhakti Pramode Puri Goswami Maharaj) intervened and asked the reason as to why He was refusing. Srila Gurudev Ji humbly replied that for delivering discourses on Supreme Lord one should have in-depth knowledge and out of humility mentioned that what He would speak while addressing gatherings of learned people, if He goes abroad.

Param Gurudev Ji Maharaj smiled and replied wherever you are, in which part of the World does not matter, you will always glorify only Mahamantra.

Srila Gurudev Ji Maharaj told us that since then He is sincerely trying His Best to follow the said instruction of His Beloved Gurudev.

Srila Gurudev narrated further that in order to get the Mercy of Supreme Divine Couple, a devotee has to take shelter of Harinam. After receiving Harinam from Shri Guru through authorised and bona-fide spiritual Parampara, a devotee must chant regularly and devotedly. There is no other alternative. He told with emphasis, since it is Kali Yuga, the Yuga Dharma is Harinam samkirtan as established by Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Due to influence of Kali, people will get attracted to do homa, puja, arcana, etc. These spiritual activities are less helpful in Kali-yuga. The most beneficial is Harinam, but people will feel distracted while chanting. He said many devotees come to Him almost on every day basis and seek solution to the problem that they are feeling sleepy or their mind wanders in mundane aspects while chanting. He said, "*sab śṛgāler ek dāk*", meaning thereby, due to influence of Kali we all are facing the same problem. With all compassion Srila Gurudev elaborated we have to humbly seek Mercy of our *guru-varga* and Pancha-tattva before



chanting so that we will not be distracted. We have to offer prayers to our *japa-mālā* in the following manner:

*avighnam kuru māle tvam
harinama-japeṣu ca
śrī rādhā-kṛṣṇoyor dāsyam
dehi māle tu prārthaye*

Srila Gurudev Ji Maharaj also shared another valuable experience with us. He mentioned that once on the occasion of Shri Nrisimha Dev Vighraha Pratishta, Shri Param Gurudev Ji Maharaj was busy making all arrangements as He was unparalleled in the same. At that time Srila Paramartha Maharaj was doing Harinam Samkirtan. Such was His Bhava at that time that the entire atmosphere became surcharged with Divine Bliss. When Paramartha Maharaj stopped, Srila Param Gurudev exclaimed and in a highly elated voice said, "wah! wah! wah! Before deity installation begins You have already installed Lord Nrisimha Dev through Sri Harinam Samkirtan." We all who were sitting as audience could feel that when Srila Gurudev Ji was remembering all these moments He was getting immersed in it.

Many of us who are associating now with Shri Gopinath Gaudiya Math, do not have the good fortune to be there with Srila Param Gurudev Ji Maharaj. But, after listening to all these from Srila Gurudev Ji, our heart gets soaked and we become extremely anxious to listen more from Him about Srila Param Gurudev Ji Maharaj. We are praying humbly again and again that may we get His Mercy always and remain tied up firmly with His Divine Lotus Feet.

Sri Shukadeva Goswami, the eye of the universe and master of the words, who is also known as Sri Badarayana, in the beginning of Chapter twenty-nine of Srimad Bhagavat, Tenth Canto, described about Lord and gopis' meeting for the Rasa. There in the first verse

Shukadeva Goswami says the bright fortnight of the Aswina month indeed was full in all opulence and Supreme Lord with His internal potency, Yogmaya, fulfilled the ultimate wish of gopis on Sharada Purnima.

*bhagavān api tā rātriḥ
śārodophulla-mallikāḥ
vīkṣya rantum manas chakre
yoga-māyām upāśritāḥ*
(Śrīmad-bhāgavatam 10.29.1)

So, from the above verse it's clear that during the bright fortnight of Aswina, Yogmaya Devi remains busy in arranging everything to satisfy Lord optimally. Since Supreme Lord's pastimes are eternal it happens always. Our beloved Param Gurudev appeared on Dharadham during that auspicious time to render eternal service of Shri Shri Radha Krishna.

Srila Gurudev Ji Maharaj is following the instructions of our Param Gurudev Ji Maharaj in letter and spirit. So, on His Divine Appearance Day it will be our Best offering to our Most Beloved Param Gurudev Ji Maharaj if we will sincerely engage ourselves in Mahamantra japa and samkirtana.

We all are humbly praying at the Divine Lotus Feet of Srila Param Gurudev Ji Maharaj to bestow His Causeless Mercy on us, so that we will be able to relish the Nectar of Harinam and follow the footsteps of our Gurudev.

Subhashree devi dasi

~~~~~



Dearest Guru Maharaja,

All glories to you on this auspicious day of your vyasa puja.

Everyday as I sit to open my heart and take in the new day by chanting the Maha mantra you so lovingly gave me, I look at the photo of you on my alter and ask you to guide me and protect me from my restless mind. You are so merciful to me. Thank you for never giving up on me. You have given me the link to my eternal life. Your love of all souls, even ones so lost like me, into your life and loving me unconditionally is more than I could ever ask for in millions of births. Your love is the root of my faith and courage to stay true to my path. I am at your feet begging to please continue to guide me and let me to continue to have the association of the devotees. Thank you for appearing in my life

and giving me pure love. I honor you and all that you continue to do in the material world.

Your servant,

*Jayashri dasi*



**VAISHNAVA FESTIVALS: OCTOBER 2019**

| Date       | Festival                                                                                                                 |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 October  | Appearance day of Srila Bhakti Promode Puri Goswami Maharaj<br>Disappearance day of Srila Bhakti Dayita Damodar Maharaj. |
| 8 October  | Appearance day of Sri Madhva Acharya                                                                                     |
| 9 October  | Papankusha Ekadasi                                                                                                       |
| 10 October | Disappearance day of Srila Raghunath Das Goswami and Srila Krishna Das Kaviraj Goswami                                   |
| 13 October | Disappearance day of Sri Murari Gupta<br>Beginning of Karthik / Damodar vrata (Purnima)                                  |
| 18 October | Disappearance day of Srila Narottam Das Thakur                                                                           |
| 22 October | Appearance day of Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Dev Goswami Maharaj                                                      |
| 24 October | Rama Ekadasi                                                                                                             |
| 28 October | Diwali (Dipavali)                                                                                                        |
| 29 October | Sri Govardhan puja                                                                                                       |
| 30 October | Disappearance day of Sri Vasudev Gosh Thakur                                                                             |

**Braja Mandal Parikrama**

Under the guidance of  
**HDG Srila B.B. Bodhayan Goswami Maharaj**  
Present Acharya of  
Sri Gopinath Gaudiya Math

Contact - 70608 46714/ 9800243268 , [www.GopinathGaudiyaMath.com](http://www.GopinathGaudiyaMath.com)

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On behalf of:

His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Bibudha Bodhayan Goswami Maharaja, President & Acharya of Sri Gopinath Gaudiya Math;  
Dedicated to:

His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Pramode Puri Goswami Thakur, Founder Acharya of Sri Gopinath Gaudiya Math, and  
His Divine Grace Srila Bhaktisiddhanata Saraswati Goswami Thakur PRABHUPADA.

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