

Founder Acharaya His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Promode Puri Goswami Thakur

# BHAGAVATA

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# DHARMA

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

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The flowers that we offer to the Supreme Lord, Spiritual Master, or other pure devotees (Vaishnavas) may dry up in a matter of hours, but if we offer our flower-like heart at Their lotus feet, then it will remain eternally fresh. In this regard, we should think about how we want to offer our hearts to the Supreme Lord. We know that in this age of deception (Kali Yuga), the Supreme Lord appeared here in the form of the Hare Krishna Mahamantra. When we chant the Hare Krishna Mahamantra under the shelter of Lord's pure devotee (spiritual master), then that will be considered same as offering our flower-like heart to the Lord.

In the service of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahaprabhu's Mission,  
His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Bibudha Bodhayan Goswami Maharaj  
President, Sri Gopinath Gaudiya Math



## DEVOTION: THE ONE AND ONLY PATH TOWARDS ATTAINING THE SUPREME SPIRITUAL TREASURE

by

*HDG Srila Bhakti Bibudha Bodhayan  
Goswami Maharaja*

Srila Gurupadapadma Nitya-lila-pravishta Om Visnupada 108 Sri Srimad Bhakti Pramode Puri Goswami Thakur would often quote the following words from Srimad Bhagavatam, spoken by Supreme Lord Sri Krishna:

*karmaṇā jāyate jantuḥ  
karmaṇaiva pralīyate  
sukhaṁ duḥkhaṁ bhayaṁ kṣemaṁ  
karmaṇaivābhipadyate (10.24.13)*

Krishna told Nanda Maharaja, “It is by the force of karma that a living entity takes birth, and it is by karma alone that he meets his destruction. His happiness, distress, fear and sense of security all arise as the effects of karma.”

*asti ced īśvaraḥ kaścit  
phala-rūpya anya-karmaṇām  
kartāraṁ bhajate so 'pi  
na hy akartuḥ prabhur hi saḥ (10.24.14)*

Even if there is a supreme controller who awards all the result of their activities, He must also depend upon a performer's engaging in activity. After all, there is no question of being the bestower of fruitive results unless fruitive activities have actually been performed.

The previous acharayas (spiritual teachers) have explained:

*jnāna-kāṇḍa, karma kāṇḍa, kevali viṣera  
bhāṇḍa  
amṛta boliyā yebā khāy  
nānā yoni sadā phire, kadarya bhakṣaṇa kore,*

*tāra janma adhaḥ pāte yāy*

The action or karma that is not performed to satisfy the Supreme Lord and any knowledge that takes us away from the Lord has been termed as being poison. Bhautika Karma (action performed for material gain) increases our tendency towards material gain, name and fame. All these are obstacles in the path of devotion. Keeping hypocritical monks like me in their vision, my most revered Parama Gurudeva's (Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Goswami Thakura Prabhupada) spiritual master, most revered Gurudeva Nityalila Pravista Om Vishnupad Paramhansa Kulacudamani Srila Gaura Kisora Dasa Babaji Maharaja had mentioned as follows:

“Hari-bhakti cannot be measured by the opinion of ordinary people. If there is hypocrisy in hari-bhajana (worship of Supreme Lord Hari), i.e. artificial renunciation, then it cannot be called as real attainment of devotion. Such artificial renunciation is exposed when there is a real test of devotion. On the other hand, if Hari-bhajan is free of hypocrisy, then renunciation will appear spontaneously. Devotion should not be revealed to others and should be practiced very covertly to develop spontaneous love in the heart. If there is no real attachment towards the Lord and there is only a display of artificial renunciation, then there is no chance of attaining the mercy of Krishna; rather, it takes the person away from the Lord. Krishna comes rushing towards that devotee who has real attachment without hypocrisy. One who has accepted the robe of false renunciation, has not a tinge of real devotion towards Lord Hari, but instead remains engrossed in material sense enjoyment is deceived by Krishna to that extent. One who has spontaneous attachment for the transcendental form of the Supreme Lord Sri Hari, despite externally suffering from leprosy, still captivates Krishna by the



fragrance of his own limbs due to his service attitude.”

From the above mentioned words of Srila Babaji Maharaja, it is clear that Lord Sri Hari cannot be satisfied through hypocrisy. This human birth is only meant for serving the Supreme Lord. Being covered by the web of illusion, we give no importance to the path of devotion, which is the only way to please the Lord, and take shelter of the path of knowledge and action. We take various bodies in this illusory world and wander through material existence. The Supreme Lord has given us this human body and sent us to this world of suffering. We need to completely free ourselves from the clutches of illusion and develop attachment to serving the most worshipful Lord Sri Hari. In this life, we can return for eternity to the eternally blissful spiritual world of the Supreme Lord.

People who are overcome by the illusory energy of this material world and use their intelligence to satisfy their senses rather than satisfying the senses of the Supreme Lord, become deviated from the ultimate goal of human life, which is to relish divine knowledge. They have drowned themselves in eternal distress.

We know from the conversation between Dharmaraja in the form of a crane and Dharmaraja Yudhisthira, that “*mahajano yena gatah sa panthah*” – great personalities have shown through their example that becoming engaged in the service of the Supreme Lord in Goloka is the highest goal of life, which is achieved solely through devotion.

The spiritual masters of the Vaishnava world have given us the teaching of this path of devotion through their own example. My Gurupadapadma established Sri Gopinath Gaudiya Math to teach us how to traverse the path of devotion in our daily lives. We know from the scriptures that devotion takes living

entities to the Supreme Lord. Devotion gives vision of the Supreme Lord to the living entity. That Supreme Personality is only subordinate to devotion—therefore devotion is supreme.

The main acharya of our sampradaya, Prabhupada Srila Rupa Goswami Thakur, told us the following in relation to pure devotion, “*anyabhilasita sunyam jnana-karmadanavrtam anukulyena krsnanusilana bhaktir uttama*” there shall be no desire apart from serving Krsna and His devotees; there shall be no desire to serve one’s own senses. Therefore, there shall be no attachment to knowledge about the impersonal brahma, no attachment to action performed with or without desire, no attachment to varnasrama and no attachment to yoga. Only if one can completely give one’s self for the pleasure of Krishna, it can be called pure devotion.

The childhood devotional life of my Gurupadapadma serves as a prime example for today’s society. My Gurupadapadma was the ornament of the community of pure Vaishnavas, and gave the teachings of how to become humble to the human community. However, what are we doing today? If we analyze this, we will understand that there is a lack of pure devotion. The root of Vaishnava-dharma is humility. Saccidananda Bhaktivinode Thakur explained through his kirtana, “*dainya daya anye mana pratistha varjana // cari gune guni haye karaha kirtana*” – practicing pure devotion is the Vaishnava Dharma. In reality, Vaishnavas are sadhus. They practice pure devotion and work for the ultimate spiritual benefit of all living entities in the society. These Vaishnavas have unlimited qualities but in their practice four main qualities are seen – humility, well wisher of all living entities, having the compassion upon them to reveal their true constitutional position and offering respect to all while completely rejecting all forms of position. Such individuals take shelter of the



Hare Krishna Mahamantra wholeheartedly and without causing any offense. Their hands will be holding the holy chanting beads and the holy names will be dancing on their tongues. However, we misuse our independence and deceptively utilize the teachings of the previous acharyas to justify gratifying our own senses in the name of satisfying the senses of Krishna. As a result, the majority of Vaishnavas are constantly busy preaching their own greatness to the world rather than practicing natural humility. Therefore, it would not be a lie to say that the supreme result of Vaishnava dharma, namely having loving relations between one another, is absent in the Vaishnava society today. The author of Sri Caitanya Caritamrta, Srila Krishnadas Kaviraj Goswami, who is Kasturi Manjari in the spiritual world, in humility has written, “*purisera kita haite mui se lagistha jagai madhai haite mui ta papistha*” – Srila Kaviraja Goswami said that he is lower than a worm present in stool and that he is more sinful than Jagai and Madhai, who had performed all sinful activities in Lord Caitanya’s pastimes. Once, when a Vaishnava said that my Gurupadapadma is a *kanistha-adhikari*, it made me angry, but my Srila Gurudeva responded by saying, “O, I am lower than a *kanistha-adhikari*. I am not qualified to be called a *kanistha-adhikari*. However, this Vaishnava has mercy and given me the right to be situated on this level. This is a matter of joy for me. Rather than becoming angry, you should be blissful regarding this matter.”

Due to a lack of Vaishnava qualities amongst the Vaishnavas in the present Vaishnava society, we see deceit, pride and quarrel present instead of love. Those who have taken up the path of devotion to become Vaishnavas have a duty to look deep within their hearts on how to develop these Vaishnava qualities. Otherwise, the supposed practice of devotion in search of the ultimate spiritual goal will be a mere joke. The actual meaning of devotion

is to serve the Supreme Lord and His devotees with love from the core of one’s heart. There is no room for deceit, pride or quarreling for establishing one’s own territory. This servant, who is filled with desires and who is an offender of Vaishnavas, prays to Srila Gurupadapadma Nitya-lila-pravista Om Visnupada Srimad Bhakti Pramode Puri Goswami Thakur to please bestow upon me the right to follow the four Vaishnava qualities as described above for serving your divine lotus feet. Please bless me to chant the Hare Krishna Mahamantra, being free from offenses till my last breath. Give me intense strength in my heart to follow the Bhakti Dharma, which is the only path through which the supreme spiritual treasure is attained.

An unqualified servant desiring to become a speck of dust at your lotus feet,

B. B. Bodhayan Swami

## OFFERING TO SRILA GURUDEV ON THE OCCASION OF HIS HOLY DISAPPEARANCE DAY

*by HH Srila Bhakti Saran Damodar Maharaj*

All Glories! All Glories to His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Promode Puri Goswami Thakur! If this lowly servant is able to describe your glories, it is simply by your mercy. You are the veritable form of Srila Nityananda even though seeing this fallen soul bereft of all good qualities yet mercifully by your compassionate glance by giving hope to this struggling soul having attained a rare human birth after suffering for aeons of time wandering in this dismal material universe.

I have understood your implicit faith in your spiritual master in the way you had followed his instructions up to the final message which was to unite together under one flag to preach



the message of Rupa Raghunath. That final instruction you had demonstrated by showering mercy and enthusing all aspirants irrespective of who came to you within this Saraswath Gaudiya disciplic succession for preaching the message of Sriman Mahaprabhu. I had wondered at your extraordinary scholarship whereby by quoting the words of the Sruti as Upanishads and Vedanta Sutra you have established their conclusions as non different from the unblemished commentary of the Vedas or the Srimad Bhagavatam.

I have observed with great astonishment after having lived almost a century in time your somewhat impeccable memory is perfectly intact and able to quote scriptural verses with the greatest erudition even then I had failed to understand your intrinsic divinity. I can testify to your close rapport and devotion to your established deity forms of the Supreme Lord and many incredible incidents have happened regarding the holy deities which had demonstrated that inconceivable one and different principle of the Supreme Lord yet I remained ignorant of your divinity.

Although you had profuse knowledge of Agama rites and deity worship, yet to us, you had stressed spiritual brahminhood had its basis in chanting of the holy name and solely to attain pure devotion to the Supreme Lord, unlike the ritualistic aristocrats of high bearing.

Many had come eagerly to you to hear of the highest esoteric pastimes of the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna but you had given them the perfect answer which was to endeavor to free oneself from the effects of offences to the Holy Name for otherwise it would tantamount to unauthorized discussions.

We are now completely convinced of the actions of sat guru who teaches by his actions and pristine conduct. He also possesses the spiritual knowledge to shatter all the doubts

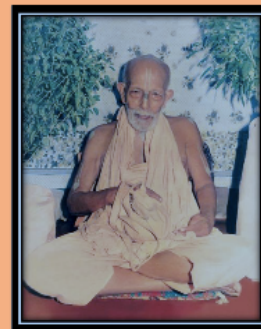
of his students. Astonishingly in spite of being solidly established in that high stature you would always desisted from being worshipped in any way which is another aspect of your divine nature.

O Divine Master! My prayer that I will be able to keep my mind fixed so that your compassionate glance is always on me.

HIS DIVINE GRACE SRILA BHAKTI PROMODE PURI GOSWAMI THAKUR KI JAYA!

Your Servant,

Bhakti Saran Damodar Swami



**His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Pramode Puri Goswami Thakur**  
Founding Acharya of Sri Gopinath Gaudiya Math

His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Pramode Puri Goswami Thakur (Srila Gurudeva) was born on Wednesday, October 19th, 1898 (Bengali calendar: 2 Kartik 1305). Srila Gurudeva first met with His spiritual master, the Founder Acharya of all Gaudiya Maths, His Divine Grace Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur Prabhupada (Srila Prabhupada) on the day of Srila Gaura Kishore Das Babaji Maharaja's disappearance in 1915 at Sridham Mayapur. Srila Gurudeva joined Srila Prabhupada's mission in 1921 and officially, took first and second initiation as well as saffron robes from Srila Prabhupada on the day of Sri Krishna Janmashtami in the year 1923 at No. 1 Ultadanga Junction Road which was the first preaching centre of the Gaudiya Math located in Kolkata. Since the time of initiation, Srila Gurudeva became engaged in taking dictation from Srila Prabhupada for publishing devotional literatures as well as editing various publications until Srila Prabhupada's final departure. After Srila Prabhupada's physical departure, Srila Gurudeva use to help all His godbrothers without any discrimination in various services such as publications, deity installations, temple inaugurations, and so on. Eventually, in 1987, according to the desire of Sriman Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Srila Gurudeva received a piece of land at Mayapur and gradually, established Sri Gopinath Gaudiya Math on that land in 1989. From 1989 to 1999, Srila Gurudeva established several branches of Sri Gopinath Gaudiya Math throughout India. On Monday, November 22nd, 1999 at 2:10 AM (the day before Rasa Purnima), Srila Gurudeva physically passed away while residing at Sri Gopinath Gaudiya Matha, Jagannath Puri.

#### Invitation

We, the servants of Sri Gopinath Gaudiya Math, cordially invite you along with your associates, friends, and relatives to attend the 23<sup>rd</sup> disappearance day festival of our Gurudeva, His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Pramode Puri Goswami Thakur, on Thursday, November 18th, 2021 at Sri Gopinath Gaudiya Math, Ishodyan, Mayapur.

#### Schedule of events:

4:15 AM Mangal Arati  
7:00 AM Special puja and arati of Srila Gurudeva  
9:00 AM Kirtan and sharing the glories of Srila Gurudeva  
12:30 PM Prasadam feast  
5:30 PM Sandhya Arati followed by sharing the glories of Srila Gurudeva by eminent vaishnavas

On behalf of Sri Gopinath Gaudiya Math,

B. B. Bodhayan (President)





**KEY VAISHNAVA FESTIVALS: NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2021**

Date	Festival
18 November	Disappearance Day of Srila Bhakti Promode Puri Goswami Thakur
19 November	Disappearance of Srila Sundarananda Thakur Appearance of Srila Nimbarka Acharya Rasa Yatra of Sri Krishna (Kartik Purnima) End of Chaturmasya vrat
30 November	Utpanna Ekadasi
1 December	Disappearance Day of Srila Narahari Sarkar Thakur and Srila Kaliya Krishna Das
2 December	Disappearance Day of Srila Saranga Thakur
11 December	Disappearance Day of Srila Madhusudan Das Babaji Maharaj
13 December	Disappearance Day of Srila Bhakti Kusum Shraman Maharaj
14 December	Mokshada Ekadasi
21 December	Appearance Day of Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev Goswami Maharaj
23 December	Disappearance day of HDG Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Goswami Prabhupad
30 December	Saphala Ekadasi

**Bhagavata Dharma**

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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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