



OCEAN OF NECTAR ISSUE 262

EMAGAZINE FOR EVERY EKADASI (SHAYANI EKADASI)

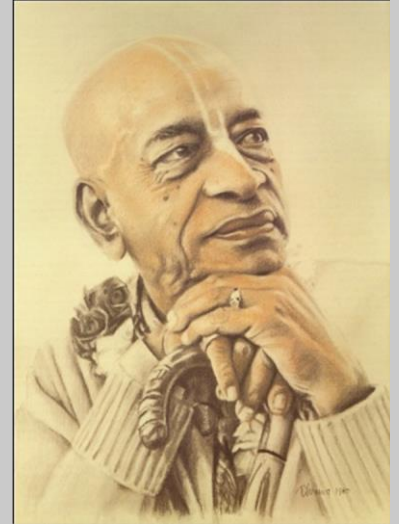
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(SHAYANI EKADASI)

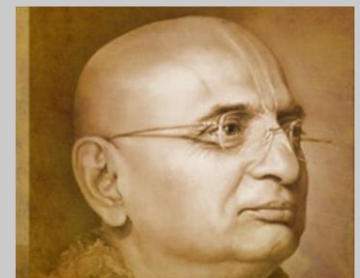
1. SRI CAITANYA MAHAPRABHU RETURNED TO JAGANATHA PURI

After travelling through South India Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu returned to Jaganatha Puri and He took part in the Ratha Yatra festival and devotees from Bengal came to meet Him. They had a wonderful Ratha Yatra celebration and then after that Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu wanted to leave for Vrindavan but when King Patraparudra came to know that Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu wanted to leave for Vrindavan he was very heart broken. He told Sarva Bhauma Bhattacharya, "Please don't let Him go, let Him stay here." Sarva Bhauma Bhattacharya told Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, "Soon it will be winter time so winter will be very cold so this is not a proper time to travel." In this way he persuaded Caitanya Mahaprabhu to stay on and Mahaprabhu accepted. Ratha Yatra takes place during monsoon time and the devotees of Caitanya Mahaprabhu from Bengal decided to come to Jaganatha Puri and this time their wives also wanted to join them. They were also feeling separation from Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Advaita Acharya Prabhu's wife Sitadevi joined, Srivas Thakur's wife Malinidevi joined and in this way different ladies also joined and they prepared various kinds of foodstuffs for Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Sivananada Sen was the organizer of this travelling yatra, he made all the arrangements, their accommodation, their prasadam, tax, they had to pay tax across the country and across the rivers. They arrived in Puri and Caitanya Mahaprabhu sent one devotee with two garlands to receive them and these garlands were given to Advaita Acharya Prabhu and Nityananda Prabhu. When they came to the boundary of Puri then Mahaprabhu sent garlands to garland all of the devotees. Then when they came to the main gate of Jaganatha temple Mahaprabhu Himself met with them. They were all so ecstatic to see Caitanya Mahaprabhu and then they had the darshan of Lord Jaganatha and He Himself distributed the prasadam to them, this is how wonderful the loving exchange took place between the Lord and His devotees. The previous year Caitanya Mahaprabhu told Nityananda Prabhu just go back to Bengal and preach there but this time when Caitanya Mahaprabhu saw Nityananda Prabhu He told Him, "You don't come again with Me You stay in Bengal." Nityananda Prabhu said, "Ok since I have come here let Me stay here." Ratha Yatra time came and the day before Ratha Yatra they all cleaned the Gundica temple, Ratha yatra festival is actually the journey by chariot of Lord Jaganatha along with Lord Baladeva and



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Subadra to the Gundica temple and Lord Jaganatha stays there for eight days. Going to Gundica temple is actually Lord's journey to Vrindavan.

↓ [Krishna left Vrindavan and went to Mathura](#)

Krishna left Vrindavan and went to Mathura and the residents of Vrindavan were so attached to Krishna that they could not tolerate a moment's separation from Him especially the Gopis. When their eyes would blink, for a fraction of a second their eyes would close they could not see Krishna during that time they considered that was a big defect in Brahma's making this human body. They criticized Brahma for this what kind of body he made that the eyes blink and as a result of that we can't see Krishna so in this way they could not tolerate separation from Krishna for even a fraction of a second! Now Krishna has left. While Krishna was leaving Vrindavan the Gopis did not want to let Him go they tried to stop Krishna. Their attitude was literally, "Over our dead bodies." They were holding onto the wheels of the chariot, holding onto the horses and some of them even laid down in front of the chariot with a very simple attitude, "Krishna now we won't let you go." Krishna assured them, "Don't worry I will come back soon, there is something to be done in Mathura. As soon as I finish my job I will come back." But when Krishna went to Mathura and killed Kamsa and released Ugrasena, Vasudeva and Devaki and reinstated Ugrasena on the throne. At that time Ugrasena requested Krishna, "Krishna in your absence all the kings are going to attack us so how we are going to deal with them, if You go away, please stay on." Krishna stayed on and during that time seventeen times Jarasanda, Kamsa's father-in-law attacked Mathura and Krishna and Balarama defeated him seventeen times. The army that Jarasanda came with was twenty three akshohini and Krishna and Balarama went out destroyed the entire army and only spared Jarasanda and let him go and Jarasanda came again with another twenty three akshohini soldiers, mind you the battle of Kuruksetra was fought with eleven akshohini from Kaurava side and eleven akshohini from Pandava side, total number of soldiers in the battlefield of Kuruksetra was eighteen akshohini but Jarasanda attacked with twenty three akshohini and Krishna and Balarama won seventeen times. The question arises why did Krishna spare Jarasanda? He wiped out the entire army but He left only Jarasanda standing and let him go. The answer to that is Krishna came to kill the demons and in His mission Jarasanda was actually Krishna's recruiting agent, he collected all the demons and brought them to Krishna. Krishna did not have to go to all these places Jarasanda had brought them to Krishna. When Jarasanda was to attack on the eighteenth time at that time another enemy Kalyavana also arranged and attack. Seeing this precarious condition of the attack from two sides Krishna decided to transport all the residents of Mathura to Dwarka. Overnight Krishna arranged for a city to be built in the middle of the ocean and while the residents of Mathura were sleeping in their sleep they all were transported to Dwarka. Can Krishna do that? Yes. The city was built by Visvakarma.

Krishna just ordered: Visvakarma just build this.

Visvakarma: How many houses?

Krishna: Every family will have a house

Visvakarma: How much time?

Krishna: Overnight

Visvakarma: Your wish is my command my Lord

First Krishna dealt with Kalyavana, He didn't kill Kalyavana, He got Muchukunda to kill Kalyavana and then He dealt with Jarasanda. He played a trick with Jarasanda He ran away from the battlefield, Ranchar, one who ran away from the battlefield. Krishna climbed onto a mountain and Jarasanda set the whole mountain on fire. Krishna jumped off from the top of the mountain with Balarama into the ocean and arrived in Dwarka. Anyway a long time went by and in the meantime Krishna got married to 16 108 princesses. Quite a long time went by and Krishna also had quite a few children.

↓ [See for how long Krishna could not go to Vrindavan](#)

See for how long Krishna could not go to Vrindavan. Finally, on the occasion of the solar eclipse Krishna went to Kuruksetra. It is the custom in India that during the solar eclipse people go to Kuruksetra to take bath in a lake. On this occasion Krishna went there with Balarama and Subadra. The residents of Vrindavan also went there. The solar eclipse was over everyone was ready to leave to their respective places and the residents of Vrindavan were about to leave and at that time they got the news that Krishna was there. Upon getting the news that Krishna was there they all ran to meet

Krishna. In the meantime, Krishna was also preparing to leave Kuruksetra and was already on His Chariot, Balarama was on His chariot and Subadra was on Her chariot. The residents of Vrindavan especially Gopis headed by Srimati Radharani arrived. When Radharani saw Krishna She felt this is not the Krishna that we knew.

↓ **Understanding Srimati Radharani's heart what did the residents of Vrindavan do?**

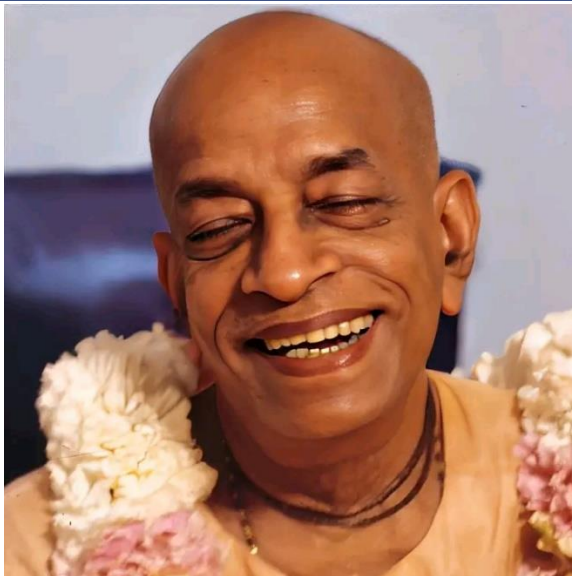
Radharani: Krishna that I knew He was a cowherd boy and this person is a prince. My Krishna wears a peacock feather on His head and He is wearing a crown on His head. My Krishna wears a flower garland and He is wearing all these valuable necklaces and auspicious gems. My Krishna wears a yellow silk dhoti and He is wearing a royal robe. My Krishna carries a flute and He is carrying weapons. Where I used to meet Krishna it was such a serene atmosphere on the bank of the river Yamuna. Here there is so many soldiers, so much noise, elephants are trumpeting, horses are whining and clashing of weapons. This is not the one I wanted to meet and this is not the place where I wanted to meet Him. Understanding Srimati Radharani's heart what did the residents of Vrindavan do? What did the followers of Srimati Radharani do? They grabbed the horses and started to pull the chariot towards Vrindavan in order for Radharani to meet Krishna in a proper way. So that is the Ratha Yatra festival. Krishna came from Dwarika to Kuruksetra and the residents of Vrindavan were taking Krishna from Kuruksetra to Vrindavan. Here Jaganatha temple is the Kuruksetra and Gundica temple is Vrindavan. Krishna stayed in Vrindavan for eight days and He had His loving exchange with His most intimate devotees the residents of Vrindavan.

↓ **Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu used to clean the Gundica temple**

Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu used to clean the Gundica temple and cleaning the temple is synonymous to cleaning our hearts. When you clean the temple then our hearts become clean then Lord who is present in our heart becomes manifest. This is ceto darpanam marjanam heart needs to be cleansed because when the heart is dirty, like a mirror that has dust on it can we see our faces in it? Similarly, when our hearts are dirty then because of the dirt in the heart we cannot recognize our actual self. It is due to the dirt in the hearts that we cannot recognize our spiritual identity, because of the dirt in the hearts we become absorbed in our body consciousness and that is actually an impurity. But when the heart becomes purified and cleansed then we can see our real self in the mirror of our heart. In the heart we can also get to see the Supreme Personality of Godhead. This is the process and that is why Caitanya Mahaprabhu at the very beginning of His Sri Siksha Astakam says ceto darpanam marjanam, cleanse the mirror of the heart.

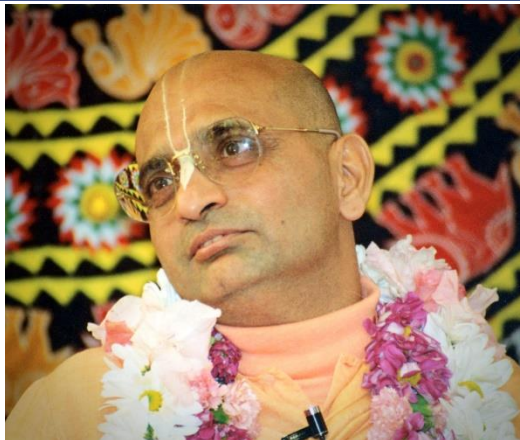


2. SRILA PRABHUPADA APPRECIATION



I was very fortunate when I met Srila Prabhupada, he allowed me to stay with him. He gave me a service which actually enabled me to be close to him. At our first meeting Srila Prabhupada gave me the service of translating his books in Bengali and at that time Srila Prabhupada had about 10 000 followers. To even get close to Srila Prabhupada was difficult what to speak of being with him. Although I came to his lotus feet quite late but I had the good fortune of being with him all the time. (Excerpt from lecture dated 7 March 2015)

3. GURU MAHARAJA'S INSTRUCTIONS



It is due to the dirt in the hearts that we cannot recognize our spiritual identity, because of the dirt in the hearts we become absorbed in our body consciousness and that is actually an impurity. But when the heart becomes purified and cleansed then we can see our real self in the mirror of our heart. In the heart we can also get to see the Supreme Personality of Godhead. This is the process and that is why Caitanya Mahaprabhu at the very beginning of His Sri Siksha Astakam says ceto darpanam marjanam, cleanse the mirror of the heart.

The content of this E-Magazine was based on a Lecture given by HH Bhakti Charu Swami Maharaja on given at Drakensburg Retreat, South Africa on 22 January 2017.

(Compilation & editing by Hemavati Radhika dasi)