

# **Gurudeva Siksamrta**

## **- ananda sambada -**

A newsletter for disciples and followers of  
His Divine Grace Srila Gour Govinda Swami Maharaja  
volume 4 issue 2; May 2002

Guru Maharaja's Transcendental Pastimes  
Excerpts from Darshans and the Letters  
The Latest News from Orissa, & Around the World

**“I always remember the instruction of my Guru Maharaja - ‘tolerate and co-operate’. I tolerate, and try to co-operate.”**

**(HDG 1989)**

Dear Maharajas, Prabhus and Matajis, welcome to issue 4;2 of Gurudeva siksamrta—ananda sambada, your newsletter. This newsletter is offered as a service at the lotus feet of our Divine Master Sri Srimad Gour Govinda Swami Maharaja our revered Srila Gurudeva, and for the information and pleasure of you, his disciples and followers.

In this issue we begin with instruction and guidance given by His Divine Grace at an evening darshan in 1991. As always there are many wonderful and relevant instructions here.

There will be other darshans and lectures where Guru Maharaja may have spoken on these same topics in more detail, giving us further insight on how to carry out these instructions. He would always encourage us to dive deep !

And of course, Guru Maharaja never simply gives us the order - he would also show us by his own example how to carry out that order. So we should also look at the example of his own life, because as an ideal teacher, practical teacher, he is the embodiment of Sriman Caitanya Mahaprabhu's teaching (*apane na kaile dharma sikhana na yaya* unless one practices devotional service himself, he cannot teach it to others).

His Divine Grace gives us the instruction, he elaborates on it and he practices it in his own life.

Also in this issue we have continued with our presentations of some of the wonderful pastimes of Srila Gurudeva as related by Sadhu Prabhu, Atmarama Prabhu and Guru Ma, both for our pleasure, and for our instruction. And we have more valuable guidance from Guru Maharaja's letters and excerpts from other darshans. Finally we have some of the latest news from the temples in Orissa, godbrothers/sisters around the world and on Guru Maharaja's books etc.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue. Jd

Please note that articles of news gathered from various sources have been included simply for the information of our readership, and the content of any such news items does not necessarily represent the views or personal understanding of the editor.

## **Darshan**

**Excerpts from a Darshan with His Divine Grace at the Bhubaneswar temple on the 11 February 1991.**

### **What's good, see that and magnify it**

We should not hear blasphemy, those things, I tell you... Those who criticise or blaspheme vaisnavas, we should not hear. We should be away from them. Because hearing is offence. Better not to hear. If we stay close to him then we will hear. Better to be away - don't hear.

Q—we shouldn't hear, but if others we associate with are talking about them ?

Not hear .... Why !? Why shall we hear all these nasty things. Our ear is open to hear only Krishna katha, bhagavat katha. Not nasty things... why shall we hear !

Q—even though they blaspheme vaisnavas should we still try to see the good in those persons ?

If there is something good - we'll see. What is that ! Some good, and some bad... everybody has. We can not say everything bad with you, and everything good with him. No ! Something bad is there, something good is there in everybody. And you should see only good things. Sages say this is good for us.

Once you see, one devotee came to Srimad Bhaktissidanta Saraswati Thakur Prabhupada Maharaja and he complained against one other devotee who was also a disciple of Bhaktissidanta Saraswati. He said, 'This Mr X is doing that and that and that, so much nonsense !' All bad he said.

Bhaktissidanta Maharaja heard and heard and heard, then he said, 'You said all bad things, is there no good in him ?'

'Oh, he does very good kirtan.'

'Why didn't you say that thing ? Only you said bad. Why don't you say that thing - he does nice thing, and just magnify that good thing ?! You speak only bad. No, that's not good. What's good, just see that and magnify it. Don't tell anything bad.' Do you understand ?

Q—That's also controlling the mind and anger, isn't it ?

Yes. Therefore we say 'we should not bow down before injustice, but we should tolerate it.' It should be tolerated. Because *trnad api sunicena taror iva sahisnuna*, as tolerant as a tree. Of course if somebody slaps you on this cheek, 'please give another slap on this cheek,' Jesus Christ says like that. Somebody blasphemes you, criticizes you or speaks something ill, you tolerate it.

### **Why you will act in such a way...**

Q—but if another vaisnava is criticized...

That I say, sadhu never tolerates. Better to be away. We shouldn't hear it.

Out of three, this is a nice thing You have no *sastra-yukti*, you can not defeat him, or make him mum, as Mahaprabhu did with the mayavadi sannyasis. You can not do like that. And you can not kill yourself also. Better to be away.

If you don't hear all these things, why such disrespect will come ? (We pay respect to supersoul, not body.) Don't hear these things better to be away. If we'll hear, then naturally we'll be intolerant. Anger will come, then we'll create so much disturbance - so many nasty things. Why you will allow such nasty things... better to be away. We should not hear all these things. Why you will allow such things to take place ?! And why you will act in such a way that such situation arises ?! We should not do like that. And we should be intelligent enough how to act according to time place and circumstances. 'This is not favourable time. Some unfavourable time is there. In these circumstances, this place... we should act in this way.' That intelligent man does.

And because in our vaisnava way, etiquette - this is our vaisnava etiquette. We never do such thing.

## Calculate how much time you have

All Mahajanas have given us this instruction. And Mahaprabhu's instruction is also like that - tolerance. Mahajanas have said, this material existence, material plane is temporary period. Every arrangement here is temporary, *ady-antavantah*, nothing is eternal here. How long can you stay here ? Only for a few days. Your life span is so short and you can stay here for only a few days. Very short time. And you are wasting so much time, as we give calculation - how much time you waste in sleeping, mating, defending, eating and so on, like this. And how much time you spend in maintaining your family, earning money, like this... So how much time is left for your spiritual cultivation ?! You are not calculating at all !

And your short time, short life here. So Mahajanas say, don't engage in all these activities ! Our mission of human life is how to go back home, back to godhead. Make the human life successful, achieve perfection, *paramartha lava* that's our mission of life. *Tat tat karma pravartanat* accordingly you'll act.

So in this world, we have nothing, nobody is our friend or enemy, like this. Krishna is our friend. And the spiritual master, His representative, is our friend, *parama bandhava*. And so we should not pay our attention to all these things. *Karsna*, attraction and distractions are here in this material world.

## Co-operate and tolerate

Anyhow, very short time, whatever it is we have got here, co-operatively associating among the sadhus, staying, just do your bhajan. Krishna seva, kirtan, bhajan and kirtan do. And spend your time in this way and make your life successful. Don't pay attention to all these things. This is the mahajanas' instructions. And they all say, 'tolerate, co-operate'. Tolerate and co-operate. Otherwise we can not push forward this movement, Mahaprabhu's movement, sankirtan movement. All Mahajanas have said this thing, co-operate and tolerate.

Yes. *Mahajana yena gatah sa pranthah, mahajana yei kahe se satya mani*, we must follow the footprints of Mahajana, and what Mahajanas say that is truth, pure truth. And we must follow it. That will help us. They are all our well-wishers. Our friends.

Such a dangerous place this material place material existence... material world, very very dangerous. 'Not at all a fit place for any gentleman to live'. Srimad Bhaktissidanta Saraswati Goswami Maharaja says, 'not fit place for any gentleman to live.' Such nasty place.

## **Keep in view what is the mission of your life**

Anyhow we have come here, we are in this nasty situation - for very short time you are here, very short time, and there are many attractions and distractions here in this material world, and we should not pay attention to all these things. And just keep in view what is the mission of your life, what you have to achieve in this very short time. Don't be distracted from that goal of life. Keeping in view that goal, you push forward, you go ahead.

Remaining in association of sadhus, and doing sadhana, bhajan, sravana - kirtan, work together co-operatively, brotherly, brotherhood, brotherly way, attitude, and just let this time go away.

## **When this opportunity is there, take advantage**

Any moment this life will finish, so if we don't do it then the opportunity will be missed—we will miss the opportunity. It has come to our hand, now you lost it. At that time you'll cry and say, 'alas, what I did !' It may never come back. Once you miss the opportunity, there is no guarantee when again it will come back. When opportunity is there take advantage of it. Avail it. Avail that opportunity. That's our mission, goal of life. We should not pay attention to all these things. That is Mahajanas' instruction.

## **If Spiritual Master Departs...**

Q—if one has taken shelter of spiritual master and then spiritual master physically departs....

If such persons are there... your spiritual master departed, but those who are like your spiritual master, you should do bhajan under their guidance. Such persons they are also available. It is not a fact that such persons (or person) are not available. No. Always there. It is eternal process. We can not see him, or them due to our defective vision, but they are there. This is a fact.

Q—so it is our duty one has to do that ?

Yes, has to do that.

Q—otherwise he can not progress...

How can you make progress ?

Q—even if you are big sannyasi, big preacher...

If you are *paramahansa siromani*, you are fixed... anyone comes in contact with you will be changed. If you are like that, then you'll do this good to others. Because you are the topmost person, and you have come here to give mercy to all these

unconscious persons, those who have not developed Krishna consciousness... and you can deliver the whole world, *brahmānda tarite shakti*... even if you are such a person still you also need, yes. I say, '*uttama hana adhama*, I am lowest of the low. I also need association. You are so merciful that you give me association. I am so much benefited with your association.'

## Thakur Haridas

As Mahāprabhu said, when Haridas Thakur departed... Mahāprabhu is the Supreme Personality of Godhead and Haridas Thakur, Mahāprabhu made him Nam Acharya. Mahāprabhu every day used to come to him, give him darshan, so dear. And what he desired Mahāprabhu immediately fulfilled. He desired to depart... he could understand that Mahāprabhu would very soon leave this planet, 'before His departure, I should go. Otherwise I can not live when Mahāprabhu will depart.' He thought like that and asked Mahāprabhu 'grant me this thing.' 'I will catch hold of Your lotus feet in my heart, sit down at Your lotus feet just looking at Your lotus-like face, chant 'Sri Krishna Caitanya' and I'll go.' Immediately it was granted - next day it was granted.

Then Mahāprabhu, taking his transcendental body Himself chanted danced. He Himself buried him in this sea shore and declared that 'from this day it has become *tirtha*'. And He said, 'Krishna had given Me association, *sanga*, but now He did *sanga-bhanga*, *parama svatantra iccha krsnera*, He had given Me sanga, He had given Me association of Haridas Thakur, now He did *sanga-bhanga*.' Do you understand *sanga bhanga* ? That means, 'Now I couldn't get any association of Haridas Thakur. And Krishna He is *svatantra iccha* Krishna has His supreme will, so He did it.' He said that thing, that 'I was getting his association...'

## If You are Serious...

Q—also one is supposed to pay respect to everyone, but is one forced to associate with every vaisnava ?

There is no question of forcing. One thing is there. It is not a question of forcing or compulsion. This is reciprocal thing. Mutual reciprocation. It is out of love only. A question of love. Who forces you ? Who compels you ? No compulsion. If you are serious to fulfil the mission of your life you should be very eager, how to do it. There is no question of forcing. 'If I am so serious I know what to do to achieve the goal of my life. So I have to do it of my own accord.' There is no question of forcing. And that instruction is there, *sadhu-sastra-guru-vakya* is there, guidance is there - and I said 'do like that !' Hari Hari.

## News From Orissa

### Bhubaneswar

#### Book Distribution

Book Distribution - the temple book distribution parties are now number 1 in the world for distributing full sets of Srila Prabhupada's books !!

## **Smrti Mandir**

Smrti Mandir - this large memorial temple dedicated to Guru Maharaja has been built as a separate building found to the left hand side of the main temple. A large Murti of Srila Gurudeva is at the centre of the temple, and the rest of the building will house many of the personal items and furniture used by His Divine Grace. Obviously everyone who visits the Sri Sri Krishna Balaram Temple will also enter Srila Gurudeva's Smrti Mandir, and so it must be a fitting tribute to His Divine Grace.

However, Guru Maharaja's Smrti Mandir still needs financing. It is hoped that the temple will be completed now for Vyasa Puja (it was originally planned to be inaugurated on Nityananda Trayodasi), but money is desperately needed. If you feel you can help please contact Upendra Misra Prabhu at the Bhubaneswar temple, or use his e-mail address given on the back page.

## **Temple Property**

Temple Property - the problems with the land at the back of the temple property will hopefully soon be over. So far 21 lakhs rupees have been paid to the government for the land, and now 4/5 lakhs are required for the registration fee. This still needs to be raised.

## **Gundica land**

Gundica land - a temporary two roomed building has been erected on site for devotees to stay overnight on the property. There was some trouble with illegal occupants, so now 4 to 5 devotees are staying there every night to protect the place from such people.

## **Hare Krishna Utsav**

Hare Krishna Utsav - this program was started on the occasion of the silver jubilee of Srila Gurudeva's taking sannyasi, and replaces the annual padayatra program. This festival program operates under the leadership and inspiration of Madana Mohan Prabhu.

The Utsav this year started the day after Srila Gurudeva's Tirobhava tithi festival, and around 80 devotees (in 3 sankirtan buses and 2 jeeps) took part. For 3 weeks or so the devotees visit towns throughout the State holding large programs every day. The festival begins with 2 or 3 hour nagar sankirtan, reaching the pandal by 6pm, where bhajans and pravachan are held. Next a slide show was held and a drama performed by the devotees. Finally at around 11pm kitchuri prasada is distributed to all present at the festival. These festivals are very well received by the local people and are very popular with our devotees !

## **Gadei giri**

Gadei giri - at the Temple of Sri Sri Radha-Gopaljiu, despite a lack of steady income (the financial situation is always uncertain there, and things can only go on due to

donations given by our devotees) still work is going on to improve the temple property. Recently the goshala was completed, along with a devotee kitchen and dining hall. They are also in the process of acquiring vacant land at the back of the property (northern side) by building a boundary wall there. This will also need financing. When this work is completed the next project is to excavate a large pond in which to celebrate the Chandan Yatra and boat festival of Sri Gopaljiu.

Caitanya candra Prabhu writes, ‘this Chandan Yatra will be a great festival since there is no Chandan Yatra festival in this locality. But when and how these programs will take place is known only to Srila Gurudeva and Gopaljiu. We hope that They will shower Their mercy so that from next year Gopaljiu will go for Chandan Yatra for 21 days in His own pond. I need the blessings of you all to engage myself in this real Guru seva.’

## **Jagannathpur**

**Jagannathpur** - Caitanya candra Prabhu has been placed as the chairman of the ‘Gour Govinda Swami Mahasaya Purvasrama Trust’, which has been formed recently to take up responsibility for rendering seva to Srila Gurudeva’s sacred appearance place in this town.

Mr G.S.Senan Prabhu has made an initial donation to the project which will be used towards purchasing land for Guru Maharaja’s purvasrama family. The idea is that the family will build a house for themselves and hand over the property where they presently live (the house where His Divine Grace kindly made his appearance in this world) to the trust.

Next issue we hope to have more details on the trust and it’s objectives.

## **The Choti Project**

**The Choti Project** - in a speech written in 1993 Guru Maharaja describes how the house of the forefathers of Srila Bhaktivinode Thakur is found in the village of Choti in the Kendrapara district of Orissa.

“Choti is the *sripat*, the native place of Srila Bhaktivinode, and he resided here. Having been decorated with the dust of Bhaktivinode Thakur’s lotus feet, this is a very sacred place.”

He continues “However most people have not known about it. Now the research scholar Dr Fakir Mohan Das, *sva nama dhanya*, with great difficulty has been working to reveal this place to the world. The fact that this place is now coming to everyone’s notice is the result of the blessings of Thakur Mahasaya. Getting the strength of that blessing I think that Dr Fakir Mohan Das Mahasaya has become more powerful now; otherwise no-one can do this work.” (quoted from Choti Food for Life newsletter 1 & also found in Back to Godhead magazine)

Guru Maharaja appeared to take great interest in Choti and encouraged devotees to attend the programs there. I recall when His Divine Grace sent 2 bus loads of devotees from the temple back in 1993 to Choti for a program, and he also mentioned the project in several classes at the time.

For a few years now a board has been in existence called the International Thakur Bhaktivinode & Thakur Bhaktissidanta Memorial Trust that is in charge of the project. The trust board consists of HH BS Damodar Maharaja (chairman), Professor

Dr Fakir Mohan das Prabhu (vice-chairman), Bhaktarupa Prabhu (acting secretary), Adwaita Acharya Prabhu (executive trustee), & Caitanya Candra Prabhu (coordinator/ secretary).

## **Food For Life**

Food For Life - this program has been running very successfully in Choti area with huge programs held every couple of weeks. Because the thousands of local villagers who attend are not only fed Krishna prasada at these programs but are also receiving medical attention from at least 5 doctors attending each program, the project has achieved huge newspaper coverage. Achutananda Prabhu and Prahlada Prabhu are the joint directors of Choti Food for Life.

A second issue of the Choti Food For Life newsletter will be printed shortly.

## **Kendarapara**

Kendarapara - as we mentioned in our previous issue of the newsletter (4.1) the Radha-Nikunjabihari Ashram, in the Iswarpur area of this town was accepted by Srila Gurudeva at the request of Sripada Bhakta caran dasa babaji Maharaja. It is the headquarters for Food for Life in the area, and the district office for the Nama Hatta Program.

## **Danda banga Project**

Danda banga Project - talking about this project Sacinandana Prabhu explains, 'this is really the good fortune of Iskcon, Mahaprabhu's special recognition of the purity of Guru Maharaja and Srila Prabhupada, that for the first time a *lila bhumi* a place of the Lord's pastimes has come to us, to Iskcon.'

'Our Gurudeva told it. Many devotees were there... when the university project could not be accomplished, he told me "Sacinandana, don't get disappointed. Mahaprabhu's inconceivable *lila-bhumi* will come and you are going to render services to it." - in the presence of all the devotees he told me this.'

It has been revealed that this is the site where Sri Nityananda Prabhu performed the most wonderful lila of breaking Mahaprabhu's danda into three pieces and throwing it in the river. It is also said that Bhṛigu Muni's ashram and yajna-kunda were here and the Muni received and properly worshipped Mahaprabhu when He came to this place en route to Puri.

This most special site is situated on the banks of the river Bhargavi just before entering Sri Jagannath Puri town. Already a small temple has been established there, and devotee accommodation and other small buildings have also been erected. The plan is that eventually a large devotee community will be established in this sacred place. (More on this project in our next issue.)

## **Berhampur**

Berhampur - there has been a change of leadership at the Sri Rama-Govinda Mandir here in this southern Orissan city. Caitanya candra Prabhu has resigned as temple president, though he will remain as a member of the temple council. Krishnagati Prabhu, has taken up responsibility for this project as the new Temple President. This

temple which was the last temple project founded by our Srila Gurudeva, is still in its beginning stages, with some few buildings on site—kitchens, prasadam hall, a few rooms for devotees to stay in.

## ***Letters from Srila Gurudeva***

More quotes of instruction and guidance given by His Divine Grace excerpted from his letters.

### **Sadhu sanga**

‘The most important factor in the life of an aspiring devotee is sadhu sanga.’  
(to disciple 22.9.92)

### **Krishna will Protect**

‘Whatever we are doing, it is all to please Srila Prabhupada and Sri Krishna. If there is no ill intention, Krishna will definitely protect us in every respect.’  
(to disciple 11.9.90)

‘We are not apprehending for the war. A devotee should not be disturbed even if there is apprehension of complete annihilation (pralaya) “pralaya-byathenti ca”. We should take complete shelter of Lord Krishna and depend on Him. So you should depend on Him completely. Krishna will give you pure intelligence. You need not be frightened. Srila Bhaktivinoda sings, “abhaya, asoka, amrtera sthala, tomar charan dwaya, tahate ekhan bisrama labhiya, chhadilu bhaver bhaya”. It means O Lord there is no fear and lamentation at Your lotus feet. Rather that is the place of nectar. Now by taking shelter at Your lotus feet I gave up all sorts of fears of material existence.’  
(to disciple 4.1.91)

### **Fault finding**

‘Why are you thinking about others when you yourself are not perfect ? First you should correct yourself.’ (to disciple 4.1.91)

### **Become a Proper Recipient of Mercy**

‘The spiritual master sheds gallons and gallons of spiritual blood to nourish the spiritual life of only one conditioned soul so as to free that living entity from the clutches of maya. One should become the proper recipient of this mercy and make advancement on the path of Krishna consciousness. Otherwise one will lose this very valuable gift of the human form of life, which is to develop Krishna Prema.’  
(to disciple 3.9.92)

### **To Please the Spiritual Master**

‘To please the spiritual master one must take to heart the instructions of the spiritual master. One’s life will be successful if one simply follows the instructions of

the bona fide spiritual master. Then he can be assured of receiving the mercy of the spiritual master.’  
(to disciple 29.11.92)

‘The mercy of the spiritual master (kripa) is with the disciple who whole heartedly follows the instruction of the spiritual master. The banchana is when we dictate to the spiritual master what we want to do.’  
(to disciple 26.3.92)

### **Already rejected...**

Secretary - ‘...this very poor letter from \*\*\*\*\* dasa or whatever he calls himself now...’

HDG - ‘Yes, yes... one (letter) came... so he has already left. Gone to babaji. Not in Iskcon now. That means he is already rejected.’

(from taped reply to ex-disciple’s letter - this person had written to Guru Maharaja explaining that he had left HDG to go to supposedly take shelter from a vaisnava babaji guru)

### **Dreams**

(a disciple had written to Guru Maharaja regarding an unpleasant dream relating to the Deity). HDG responds,

‘Dreams come... some impressions are there in the mind, not only of this life - some others lives also. Because subtle body never dies; as long as jiva is here in this material world evolving, so his subtle body consisting of *mana buddhi ahankara*, mind intelligence and ego - so in the mind, many impressions from many lives. So it comes in dream... it may not be in this life... some previous life, so it comes. So don’t pay so much attention to it.

‘Because you are worshipping deity that impression is there, and from previous lives some nasty things are there. So a strange coincidence has come. Don’t pay so much attention to it. Give it up. Now - act in the living present, what you are doing now...’

(from taped reply to disciple’s letter, Nov 94)

### **I am a Preacher**

‘I am a preacher - I want to go out and preach, not to manage things. I hate it ! I don’t want... very difficult.’

### **Vedic marriage**

‘When Vedic marriage has taken place, one must accept it as the desire of Sri Krishna and should not try to break it... So it would be better if she can encourage her husband in that regard so that the boy will be benefited and strong enough to quickly make some advancement on the spiritual path. This will make their family life happy and peaceful, and thereby Krishna will be pleased.’

(letter to Tamal Krishna Swami 15.5.90)

## **A Wife's Duty**

‘You have already married a devotee who is, according to your statement, a nice one. So in my opinion you should serve him and please him. When he is doing hard labour to please his Guru, it is your duty to see that he gets happiness and is encouraged by you. One will not get enough strength to do Hari Bhajan alone.’

(to disciple 3.7.91)

## **Apply this medicine...**

‘It is my advice to you that you should chant the holy name of the Lord, i.e. Hare Krishna mahamantra, nicely 16 rounds daily without fail. This will help you to make your health alright for the service of Krishna. The holy name of the Lord is an unfailing medicine for all sorts of material diseases. With strong faith apply this medicine for your suffering and disease.’ (to disciple 25.6.91)

‘The Holy Name of Krishna will give you strength to overcome all physical as well as mental troubles.’ (to disciple 3.7.91)

## **Preaching**

‘In the absence of pure Sankirtan the preaching will also not be effective.’ (to devotee 18.4.89)

## **Ekadasi...**

‘Generally on Ekadasi day I advise my disciples to chant a few more rounds than 16 rounds. There is no such hard and fast rule for the number of rounds chanted on that day. One may chant according to his/her capacity. So you may chant a few more rounds, preferably 20 rounds if not 25 rounds.’ (to disciple 31.5.90)

## **Bhoga offering**

‘You should chant full gayatri during every bhoga offering. This has got no relation with the regular gayatri.’

## ***News - Publications***

### **Gopaljiu Publications**

Rasikananda Prabhu has recently joined the devotees at Gopaljiu Publications and is working as the marketing director. This means that he is also taking care of fund raising.

### **Mathura Meets Vrndavana**

Looks like it's almost ready—and by all accounts will be well worth the wait ! Of course the content is the most important thing—Guru Maharaja's wonderful lectures,

but they will be presented in a most attractive form. Four local artists have been employed to provide more than 30 new and original paintings in the Oriya patta-chitra style each depicting a specific lila Guru Maharaja is describing in the book.

It is hoped that the book will be printed before Janmastami, and will be offered to His Divine Grace on Vyasa Puja day.

Rasikananda Prabhu writes - 'Madhavananda Prabhu has done his work, now it's time for all of us who have been waiting for new publications and complaining about the lack thereof to do our part by sending large amounts of money. This will be a classic hardbound book, so we want to print more than 5,000 copies. The total cost will be \$32,000. We already have \$3,500.'

Please contact Rasikananda Prabhu for more details -  
rmfine108@hotmail.com

## **Embankment of Separation**

It is planned that a new 'super deluxe' version of the Embankment will be printed, hopefully within a year. Once again specialist Oriya style paintings have been ordered depicting the exact lilas Guru Maharaja describes in the text. There will also be corrections to many mistakes found in the original text (grammar, Sanskrit, Bengali, and spelling).

## **Krishna kathamrta magazine**

It is planned that this magazine, which is highly regarded throughout the gaudiya vaisnava community, will now be published twice a year. Most welcome news. The next issue (no 6) will be focusing on vaisnava aparadha, and is due at the end of July.

## **Bindu**

The e-mail mini magazine is continuing with great regularity. Every Ekadasi the next edition is sent out to many hundreds of devotees world-wide. (Also 'Bindu' is regularly being translated into Polish !)

We recently received a copy of the Book form of Krishna-kathamrta Bindu - comprising the first 17 issues originally available as a fortnightly e-mail publication. In this form, as a book it is very well presented - it's in A4 size and hard bound with a most attractive cover. The content is, well, the first 17 issues of the e-mail magazine - plus a verse index and a general index. Essential reading, and great for reference.

## **Booklets**

The first in a series of booklets of single Guru Maharaja lectures, has been published by Mahashakti mataji through Gopaljiu Publications in co-operation with the temple. This is the first of hopefully many such booklets and is a 32 page simple yet effective presentation of a lecture delivered by His Divine Grace at Bhubaneswar in 1995 called 'The Formidable Foe'. To begin with 1000 copies have been printed.

(It would also be a nice idea to publish similar booklets in the Oriya language for mass distribution throughout the State.)

## **Tattva-vicara Publications**

The devotees at Tattva-vicara Publications are continuing with their efforts to publish Guru Maharaja's books. They hope that before Vyasa Puja this year they will be able to print a book entitled 'Sri Guru Pada Padma', which they've been working on for the past three years (they were at the same time working on the biography, cds etc—as well as on their family commitments).

Work on the next volume of Guru Maharaja's biography is steadily progressing. So far they have around 1000 pages of material that could be used for this volume, and are still searching for more information. If you can help at all with anything about Srila Gurudeva from 1978 - 1988, do please contact Nimai Pandit Prabhu.

All books and cds released or published by TVP can be purchased directly from them using the contact details on the back page of this publication.

## **Oriya Language Books**

Halayudha Prabhu has compiled a book of Srila Gurudeva's lectures called Jagannath Lila Rahasya, which we hope will also soon appear in English. Atmarama Prabhu and Halayudha Prabhu are also translating Srila Prabhupada's books into Oriya, continuing the work started by Srila Gurudeva.

## **Books in Other Languages**

Guru Maharaja's words as we know have been published and widely distributed in the English language, and also in the Oriya language locally, but due to the efforts of our godbrothers and sisters, and also by other inspired devotees in non-English speaking countries Guru Maharaja's books and lectures are also being printed in other languages.

Sri Guru Vandana, Bhakti Naipunya, Amrtera tarangini and the Embankment of Separation have all been published in the Gujarati language. Meanwhile in Bhubaneswar Adi Purusa Prabhu is translating Gurudeva's books into Bengali.

In the Russian language both The Embankment of Separation and Pariprasna are available. Also some years back a booklet was printed of a lecture 'When Krishna shaved His head and took sannyasa'. In French several of Guru Maharaja's lectures have been printed in booklet form.

In German the book 'Gopaljiu' has been printed, and by now possibly the Embankment has also. The Embankment has been translated into Spanish, and 'The Worship of Sri Guru' into Italian. And in Burmese two lectures have been translated by Srivas Pandit Prabhu. The lectures entitled 'three logs of wood' and 'the ferryman' have been printed and 200 copies of each distributed.

## **Guru Maharaja in Other Publications**

The May/June 2001 issue of Back to Godhead magazine carried a feature on Srila Bhaktivinode Thakur. The main article was taken from a speech written by Srila Gurudeva in 1993 to be read out on his behalf (by Atmarama Prabhu) at the college founded by the Thakur in Kendarapara, where he was the first teacher in 1858. The article was entitled 'Praise for the Highest Mercy—an appreciation of the gifts of

Srila Bhaktivinode Thakura'. In it Guru Maharaja explains quoting from Sajjanatoshani that the greatest kindness or welfare work is called atma-sambandhini-daya, showing kindness to the soul. And it was to this end that Bhaktivinode Thakur dedicated his life by preaching Gaudiya Vaisnavism and strongly refuting nihilism and atheism. Guru Maharaja asks all -

'If you sincerely desire the welfare of human society then you should accept the teachings of Thakur Mahasaya. Please practice these teachings in your life and teach them to the world. This will surely bring auspiciousness and the unlimited blessing of Thakura Bhaktivinode'.

(Following Guru Maharaja's speech was a four page article written by Bhaktarupa Prabhu 'The Reappearance of Sri Sri Radha-Madhava—the discovery of the ancestral deities of Srila Bhaktivinode Thakura' relating the story of Sri Sri Radha-Madhava, Their apparent disappearance and how in January 2000 they were again found and Their worship in Bhaktivinode Thakur's line re-established by Professor Fakir Mohan Das Prabhu.

The next article in the magazine was a lecture delivered by Madhavananda Prabhu at Utkal University in Bhubaneswar on 'Ethics and Devotion'. This six page article is largely based on the teachings of Bhaktivinode Thakur as found in Caitanya Siksamrta.)

## ***Guru Maharaja's Transcendental Pastimes***

(recollections by Bhubaneswar devotees part 3)

### **Atmarama Prabhu**

**Atmarama Prabhu** recalls his early days with Srila Gurudeva,

'Regarding Srila Gurudeva's divine pastimes I can remember that I met Srila Gurudeva, our most revered spiritual master His Divine Grace Srila Gour Govinda Goswami Guru Maharaja in the year 1982, during the first week in January... I was fortunate to have previously received literature, Srila Gurudeva's first book to be printed (printed in Bhubaneswar in Oriya language) entitled Bhagavat Darshan. I had gone through it during my preparations for different bank and other technical exams. I found it very interesting and was very much enthused and encouraged. So I immediately sought out who is the editor of this book so I could contact him and get more information about this spiritual science. Fortunately in the book it was written 'Gour Govinda Swami, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar 12' and 'Iskcon'.

So when I first came it was around ten or eleven in the morning, and Srila Gurudeva was just sitting in his cottage in a mood to just start his translation work of Srimad Bhagavatam. At that time I was with pants, shirt with beard, moustache and looking something odd... so he just raised his head and asked, 'what is your name, where have you come from and what is your purpose...' I immediately and frankly asked him, 'I want to meet Gour Govinda Swami ! Where he is ?' Then Srila Gurudeva told, 'I am Gour Govinda Swami. So have you any questions ?' I told him, 'yes, I have something to ask'.

Although he was busy still he spared me some time and allowed me to sit in front of him for maybe one hour. He asked me, 'what are your feelings of this spiritual science, and what are your doubts or questions - you should ask me.' So I

referred to his book which I had already gone through and asked him particular questions and certain points - as far as I remember some were on *asta-sattvika vikara* the eight symptoms of ecstasy. He asked me what were my impressions on his, because in Orissa at an early age, I think during primary education, we are acquainted with our Oriya poem form of Srimad Bhagavatam by Jagannath das, and also with Gita... so I appreciated his book and asked him what are the symptoms of ecstasy. So he told that normally it is the case that only in the most exalted devotees it is manifested, but if some symptoms out of these eight are coming to you then you are very fortunate and they will be very helpful to you. At that time he narrated details of the ecstatic symptoms, how they are manifested with Krishna, so also His pure devotees, and also on the pastimes of Krishna in the tenth canto he narrated only a little because he felt it was not the proper time to explain to me all the details. Then he asked me have you got any of our books ? And he said that I should become a subscriber to our Oriya Back to Godhead, and at that time the yearly subscription was eighteen rupees. I told him that I had no money with me, and I would come back and pay him another time, but he told me that whatever money I had on me now I should purchase at least one book of Srila Prabhupada's. So I purchased The Topmost Yoga System (from the future Adwaita acharya Prabhu). Before I left Srila Gurudeva again called me and told me that, 'we have Srimad Bhagavatam class here in the morning,,', at that time class was at 6.15 till 6.45 or 6.15 7 o'clock. Before darshan aerate class was finished. He advised me that, 'you should be in the class so most of your doubts will be cleared, otherwise you may ask me after class.' I paid obeisance's and left.

Next day I was by his cottage sharply at 6 o'clock to attend the class. Class was held just in front of his cottage, Srila Gurudeva sat just in front of the door, where sad-bhajan Garage is, in between Srila Prabhupada's bhajan cuter and Srila Gurudeva's Samadhi-cum-bhajan cuter; that is the place where Srila Gurudeva was sitting exactly. A small veranda was there, maybe no wider than 3 feet, a straw mat was spread and a small thin cushion was there, all his notes and books were spread in front of him, and his wrist watch was placed just in front of his books, so that he will give class and finish it on time. At that time he was not reciting Jay Radar-Mohave kanji binary, he was singing 'Udilo aruna puraba bhage dvija-mani gora amani jage' - he was singing so nicely, it would take ten to fifteen minutes. Thereafter he would glorify Srila Prabhupada and the other members of the parampara, then various deities and dhamas, then he would start the class. At that time class was shorter because the number of devotees present was maybe at best seven to ten. Of temple inmates Sadhu was there.

At that time the land was completely isolated. Even the ground floor cement of the temple was not done. When I came, only some few pillars were there, and a big banana garden was here (to the left of the entrance as you enter the property, where the cycle stand is and vehicles are now parking.) The atmosphere here was very soothing, like a hermitage atmosphere. Although the national highway was here, at that time only a few lorries were coming - not so much rushing like nowadays. The whole area was green, jungles. Very few buildings were here, and also very few villagers were coming to the temple.

(we'll continue with Atmarama Prabhu's recollections in the next issue)

## **Sadhu Prabhu**

**Sadhu Prabhu** remembers from the early days in Bhubaneswar -

Recalling the earliest days in Bhubaneswar Sadhu Prabhu explained how Guru Maharaja would daily speak Bhagavat to an audience of devotees who would come from 'outside', but sometimes if the weather was bad and it was raining heavily, then the devotees wouldn't come. So Guru Maharaja wouldn't speak. Such occasions he would become extremely disappointed. Guru Maharaja would say that 'today my life has left me ! I haven't spoken, so I will not take Prasad.' He would actually fast on those days. If he wouldn't speak Bhagavat, then he would not eat.

Even in these early days, every morning he would speak Bhagavat and in the evening he would speak from Bhagavad gita. In these evening classes usually only a few devotees would come, including Kalakantha Prabhu - and during the kirtan Sadhu Prabhu would play khola, even though he knew only one beat !

When Sadhu Prabhu first came to Guru Maharaja only a few devotees were at the temple; Vaisnava dasa, Braja kisore dasa, Yadavendra and Guru Maharaja's son Abhaya. (One time Abhaya, Guru Maharaja's youngest son from his purvasrama became very sick. Bhagavat Prabhu heard about this and brought, actually carried him to the temple, where he stayed for a year. Years later he also took initiation from His Divine Grace. Srila Gurudeva gave him the name Aniruddha dasa.)

At that time Bhagavat class was spoken straight after mangala arati. First mangala arati, then hear Bhagavat, then do seva. First hear Bhagavat then do seva.

Every morning Guru Maharaja would wake up at around three, he would lead kirtan and perform arati. Later he would chant japa, do some translation work and then go out for *bhiksha*, collecting funds for the temple. Others would also go out for collection. Lagudi Prabhu would go into the city and sit outside the legislative buildings, spreading a cloth before himself and with closed eyes do kirtan. People would throw all sorts of items onto his cloth, paise, bidis etc ! He wouldn't look, just sing with his eyes closed. Then he would gather up his cloth and it's contents and take it all back to the temple.

Even at this time Nityananda trayodasi was a big festival. Sadhu remembers how like a bull, with such force Guru Maharaja would sing, do kirtan. He would sing the same bhajans as he did during later festivals, and he remembers specifically Guru Maharaja singing *nagare nagare nitai nece nece bhai re* .

When Guru Maharaja would go to Mayapur they would put him in the brahmacari ashram, he would be sharing with the brahmacaris. Sadhu Prabhu would organize Prasad for Guru Maharaja. Even here regularly His Divine Grace would receive visits from various Iskcon leaders who would come to ask him questions - Tamal Krishna, Gopal Krishna, Bhakti caru swamis and others would come with their notebooks, right down his answers and then leave. But Guru Maharaja was not allowed to give Bhagavatam class at the temple.

Later on - in the mid 1980s at the Bhubaneswar temple some nasty politics was sometimes going on. Though it was Srila Prabhupada's wish for Guru Maharaja to run the temple there, another person was placed in charge by the GBC member for Bhubaneswar. And politics was going on. Sadhu Prabhu was cooking, the deities were eating. Guru Maharaja had asked Sadhu how much money was required by him to cook for the month, '1000 rs'. So Guru Maharaja would give the money, and Sadhu Prabhu would cook. One day the pujari at the time, one Nayananda became unhappy with the prasadam he was getting, so one day he decided not to offer the bhoga, rather he would just offer some water and tulasi. When Guru Maharaja found out what had happened, that the deities had not been fed, he cried. From then on they stopped Sadhu Prabhu from cooking (!). So Sadhu would go out do some *bhiksha*, and

he would cook it, offer it and give it to Guru Maharaja. From that time he became Guru Maharaja's cook. Guru Maharaja told Sadhu not to take trouble with his cooking - that he should just put the vegetables in with the dahl and make dalma, rather than cooking so many different preparations. For him, dalma was enough, he would say. But if Sadhu Prabhu would make different preparations to offer, the devotees would eat it, and Guru Maharaja would just taste a little. But so long as dalma and rice were there, he was satisfied. And maybe a little chenna.

When Guru Maharaja developed his 'illness' and apparently became quite sick, Sadhu Prabhu would make pomegranate juice for Guru Maharaja as the doctor said it was good for his health. Even though Srila Gurudeva didn't like it, still Sadhu made sure His Divine Grace would drink it !

One time Guru Maharaja told Sadhu he should never get married. Sadhu replied that he had come to Guru Maharaja only after already deciding that thing - that he would not get married and would just live in the ashram.

Before Sadhu Prabhu came to Guru Maharaja, Guru Maharaja would sometimes go to Sadhu's village to hold programs there and he would carry the mrdanga with him, but after Sadhu joined His Divine Grace, Guru Maharaja stopped carrying it, 'now that you are here... it is very heavy, I won't carry it any more.' But Sadhu never really understood why.

Also in the beginning a couple of times Guru Ma came to the temple, at the same time her youngest son Abhaya was there. Guru Maharaja saw her out of the corner of his eye and asked Sadhu, 'Why has she come here ? Send her away and tell her she should never come back here ! I am a sannyasi, what will people say ! Tell Abhaya he should keep her away from this place.'

Sadhu Prabhu explained that there was no question of Guru Ma ever speaking with Guru Maharaja - she could not even come anywhere close to him. So it is not true that she once asked him for initiation.

With the assistance of Sadhu Prabhu, and with Isha bhakta Prabhu translating we interviewed **Guru Ma** in February last year. Here are some excerpts from that interview;

## **Guru Ma**

Guru Ma told us that Guru Maharaja was very strict with his children. He actually had a stick... they had to get up in the morning to attend the morning prayers !

During Dusshera every year Guru Maharaja would go to Gadei giri, and would always take his youngest son with him. He was very mischievous boy, no one else could control him, so he would take him wherever he went.

When the children would fall sick and she would ask Guru Maharaja to go and get medicine. He would say, 'why should I go, it will come...' Then she would find about the house some little packets. She wondered what they were. He explained this was the medicine, and that she should give the contents to the children and they would get better. Which they did ! The medicine appeared to just manifest itself in their house !

On one occasion one of the sons had a severe fever of 105 degrees, he was very sick. But Guru Maharaja would not take him to the doctor. A friend came to take the child to the doctor, but Guru Maharaja refused, 'No need, he will be well again'.

Still the friend took the child, but didn't even make it as far as the doctor before the boy got well again.

At this time she saw how whatever Guru Maharaja wanted would just manifest. He would just be sitting and whatever he wanted would appear in front of him.

She also mentioned that on several occasions she saw Guru Maharaja floating off the ground, levitating (!), deeply absorbed in his meditation, *dhyana*, in front of their picture of Radha-Krishna. Guru Maharaja would try to do his *dhyana* in private, secretly, as such things would often happen and he didn't want people to know.

Guru Maharaja was regularly saying he would leave home. She became quite scared, but he explained that she shouldn't worry, she would get everything she desired. They wouldn't starve, he would make sure of that, even if it meant he had to 'move this earth'. He also told his daughters that he had kept money aside for them, assuring them they needn't be worried.

The reason for Guru Maharaja leaving his home is here explained from her point of view. She felt that Guru Maharaja left her because of some misunderstanding. She gave an example of how sometimes when she would cook a meal just how Guru Maharaja liked it, when he came to eat it, everything had changed ! It was different from when she had cooked it. He would say to her that she had done like that on purpose.

She still believes that this is the reason why Guru Maharaja left home. It appears that again this was some wonderful lila !

There will be more from our Guru Ma in the next issue as well as from Atmarama Prabhu, Sadhu Prabhu and also from Sacinandana Prabhu (who has had the longest association with Srila Gurudeva of any disciple)

## ***News From Around the World***

### **Gour Govinda Trust Fund**

Although the fund is not yet fully established already the devotees contributing have raised several thousand pounds to be used for printing Guru Maharaja's books. It is planned that the trust be registered with full charity status in the UK. (If anyone knows how to go about this please contact Navadvipa candra Prabhu, see back page for contact details).

### **Australia**

Gokuldas Prabhu is presently setting up a website with MP3 audio files of Guru Maharaja's lectures.

Meanwhile down on the farm Jagatatma Prabhu, Mother Anuradha and family are continuing with their successful preaching programs, as well as the farming. They now have a calf called Harini, who is by her mere presence converting visitors to the farm to a more sane way of life.

## Myanmar

In **Myanmar**, (previously Burma), our godbrother Srivas Pandit Prabhu is engaged in translation work. Guru Maharaja gave him the instruction that he should preach in his own country (and Guru Maharaja himself was planning to visit Myanmar in 1996) He has translated Srila Prabhupada's Bhagavad gita as it is into the local language, and is also translating Guru Maharaja's lectures into the same language - and hopes to soon complete translating the entire Embankment of Separation.

## England

In **England** Nru Hari Prabhu and Mother Priti laksana continue with their preaching programs at their home near Bhaktivedanta Manor.

### *Gurudeva Siksamrta - ananda sambada*

## The Newsletter in Oriya

In a letter to the newsletter editor one time Guru Maharaja said that he was "happy with this newsletter because it would partially bridge the gap between the devotees." And with the newsletter we have tried to do what little we could to try and present the idea that as godbothers we should co-operatively work together tolerating our differences to serve the mission of Srila Gurudeva.

There are many hundreds of our godbrothers and sisters throughout Orissa who don't get the English language newsletter, and we feel it would be beneficial for them all to be kept in touch with the international family of their godbrothers and sisters. With this in mind, we are hoping to soon bring out an Oriya language version of the newsletter.

## Back issues

**There are also some back issues** of the newsletter available; we still have copies of issues 2.1 to 2.4, 3.1 & 4.1 — if you are interested please contact us... or just send us your address with a donation to cover postage costs !

Please also keep us informed if you **change your postal address**, so we don't keep on sending issues to you at the wrong address (a waste of laxmi and they may end up in the garbage.)

## Thanks for your help

Many thanks to the following devotees for continuing to offer their support to this newsletter project by encouraging us in our seva and by supplying us with information - Mahashakti Mataji, Caitanya candra Prabhu, Madhavananda Prabhu, Lohitaksa Prabhu, Achutananda Prabhu, Upendra Misra Prabhu, Anuradha Mataji, Nru hari Prabhu & Priti laksana Mataji

We would also like to express our appreciation to Navadvipa candra Prabhu who kindly sponsored issue 3.4 of the newsletter , but due to timing we were unable to credit him with sponsorship in that issue.

## Comments from some of Our Readers

Thanks so much for the last Newsletter. Until now I was just happy to get nectar but I realise the Newsletter is a very important link to keep Gurudeva's disciples connected as a family. I really feel it's one of Gurudeva's ways of watching over us.

(Mother Anuradha, Australia)

I do appreciate it a lot when a new issue of the newsletter comes out. It is invaluable... please keep it up.

(Nru Hari Prabhu, England)

If you would like to contact us about the newsletter—with your views and comments, ideas for improving the newsletter or any news, articles etc—please write to the editor, your servant Janeswar dasa at \*\*\*\*\* Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, England (or use our e-mail address overleaf). We'd be very happy to hear from you.

## Some Contact Details

Sri Krishna-Balaram Temple, Bhubaneswar -

Bhubaneswar@pamho.net

sankirtan office - sankirtanbbsr@yahoo.com

Smrti Mandir - hdgsggsg@rediff.com, hdgsggsg@yahoo.com

Gopaljiu Publications - Madhavananda.ggs@pamho.net (editor),

rmfine108@hotmail.com (marketing/funding)

website www.gopaljiu.org

Tattva-vicara Publications - tattva\_vichar1008@hotmail.com

tel; 61 7 5445 0543 / fax 0628

Gour Govinda Trust Fund - navadvipa@tianet.com

Tape Archives, Bhubaneswar - rmfine108@hotmail.com

Tape Ministry, Bhubaneswar - c/o Dhruva Maharaja Prabhu

hdgsggsg@rediff.com tel; 91 674 553517/555517

Tape Ministry, Europe - srigaura@aol.com tel; 44 208 395 2056

Tape Ministry, USA - srigurudeva@aol.com tel; 1 678 560 5051

website - www.srilagourgovindaswami.org

Tape Ministry, Singapore - srilagurudevjiu@yahoo.com

Gurudeva Siksamrta a. s. - janeshwar@easynet.co.uk

## **Srila Gour Govinda Swamyastakam - verse 2**

*parityaktam svadhanam yauban-jibanam sukham bibhabam  
indriyalalasam tatha gramya-barta ca barjita  
nidraharadi bijitam sada hari-kirtan priyam  
vande srila gour govinda swamine namo namaste*

I offer my respectful obeisances to the lotus feet of Srila Gour Govinda Swami Maharaja, who likes to glorify Sri Hari by describing Vedic literature (sastra), by noting the essence of sastra and by chanting hari nama always. For this he has given up wealth, family members, youth, material happiness, sense gratification, topics other than Krishna, and has also given up eating and sleeping.

