

Drink Nectar and not Poison - Part 1

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Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

Most of us have heard the melodious bhajan, "Hari Hari Bifale" composed by Narottama dasa Thakura, very stalwart acarya in the line of Caitanya Mahaprabhu's sampradaya. He has sung many important songs and Srila Prabhupada writes that his songs are accepted as Vedic conclusion. This is an humble attempt to write whatever I have read about the purport of this song from Srila Prabhupada's lecture and writings about this song. In this offering let us look at the first verse,

*hari hari! biphale janama goñāinu
manuṣya-janama pāiyā, rādhā-kṛṣṇa nā bhajiyā,
jāniyā śuniyā biṣa khāinu*

O Lord Hari I have spent my life uselessly. Having obtained a human birth and having not worshiped Radha and Krishna, I have knowingly drunk poison.

1. **Human birth should be used for serving Radha-Krishna:** Narottama das Thakur out of his humility sings to Hari that, "I have simply spoiled this human form of life by not caring to worship Radha-Krishna. There are two kinds of knowledge. *jāniyā* - Knowledge concluded by experimentation and *śuniyā* - knowledge obtained by hearing from authoritative source. Narottama das Thakur sings that, "By both ways, I know that this human form of life is meant for engaging in the loving service of Radha and Krishna, but I did not do that." He compares this with consuming poison knowingly and hence committing a suicide. Srimad Bhagavatam verse 10.1.4 also very clearly says that this life should be utilizing for glorifying the Lord else it is like killing one's own self,

*nivṛtta-tarṣair upagīyamānād
bhavauśadhāc chrotra-mano-'bhirāmāt
ka uttamaśloka-guṇānuvādāt
pumān virajyeta vinā paśughnāt*

Glorification of the Supreme Personality of Godhead is performed in the parampara system; that is, it is conveyed from spiritual master to disciple. Such glorification is relished by those no longer interested in the false, temporary glorification of this cosmic manifestation. Descriptions of the Lord are the right medicine for the conditioned soul undergoing repeated birth and death. Therefore, who will cease hearing such glorification of the Lord except a butcher or one who is killing his own self?

In the '*bhajahū re mana*' song also we saw that Govindadas Kaviraj tells that '*durlabha mānava*'- the human birth is very rare. Here Narottama das Thakur also explains us the purpose of this rare human birth. All of our acharyas have fervently requested us to take advantage of this rare human birth and engage in the service of Lord and His devotees. H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj says, "Atleast one time we have gone through 84 lakhs species and therefore this human form should not be frittered away uselessly." There is a train station named Dadar in Mumbai. From this place we can either choose the route going to Virar, or to Churchgate or to Kalyan or to CST. Similarly this human birth can be compared to a train junction from where we can choose either to degrade to lower form of life or go to higher planets or go to the supreme planet. But once we degrade then again we have to go through the cycle of birth and death for millions of species.

We shall continue with the subsequent verses from this beautiful song in the subsequent offerings Krishna willing.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,
Parameshwaran
Abu Dhabi.