

## Drink Nectar and not Poison - Part 1

Date: 2012-11-26

Author: Parameshwaran

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.

## Drink Nectar and not Poison - Part 2

**Date:** 2012-11-27

**Author:** Parameshwaran

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,  
Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

This is in continuation of the offering titled, "Drink Nectar and not Poison" sung by Narottama das Thakur. In the previous offering we saw that:

1. Human birth should be used for serving Sri Sri Radha-Krishna.

Now let us look at the second verse of the song,

*golokera prema-dhana, hari-nāma-saṅkīrtana,  
rati nā janmilo kene tāy  
samśāra-biṣānale, dibā-niśi hiyā jwale,  
jurāite nā koinu upāy*

**The treasure of divine love in Goloka Vrindavana has descended as the congregational chanting of Lord Hari's holy names. Why did my attraction for that chanting never come about? Day and night my heart burns from the fire of the poison of worldliness, and I have not taken the means to relieve it.**

2. **Harinaam is the remedy for the poison of worldliness:** Narottama das says that hari nama sankirtana is not ordinary. It is the treasure of love of Godhead and it is directly imported from the transcendental world, Goloka Vrindavana. Srila Prabhupada explains that a very strong and special machine is required to import this harinam sound since it is transcendental and beyond the material world. Now since we have got it we should simply take advantage of this treasure trove.

But we have no rati or attraction for this and hence the blazing fire of the poison of material existence is constantly burning us day and night. Caitanya Mahaprabhu tells in Sikshashtakam that we have to be humbler than a grass and more tolerant than tree so that we can chant the names of the hari constantly and develop the taste. The material enjoyment is blazing fire of poison and day and night we get burnt in it without trying to seek a remedy for the poison. If anyone wants to get out of this blazing fire of poison of material enjoyment, then he has to take to this Harinaam sankirtan, which is the only method.

HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj says that, "*We are moaning and crying because we are not chanting. Please take shelter of Harinaam and you will be completely safe.*"

Recently I came across a short story. There was once a fisherman who got the precious touchstone (cintamani) from the stomach of a fish but he was ignorant of its value. A businessman made a deal with the fisherman and took the touchstone for 50 Rs. The businessman then sold it to the king for 5 million Rs. But the king kept the touchstone with him and used it for the benefit of his kingdom and his citizens for the rest of his life. The king knew the value of touchstone and so he benefited the maximum. Similarly sometimes people even after hearing the Harinaam cintaamani either they use it for material benefits like money, promotion, good health and later stop once they get the benefits or do not chant at all. Jnanis and yogis are like the business-man who knew the value of touchstone to some extent, but do not relish the same. Bhakti yogis are like the king who knew the value of touchstone and practise devotional service and also preach the same for the benefit and well-being of other souls. So understanding the value of Harinam cintaamani we should engage ourselves as much as possible in the congregational chanting of Holy Names, so that both ourselves and all other living entities attain the perfection of life, by hearing the same.

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Parameshwaran  
Abu Dhabi.

### Drink Nectar and not Poison - Part 3

Date: 2012-11-28

Author: Parameshwaran

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the offering titled, "Drink Nectar and not Poison" sung by Narottama das Thakur. In the previous offering we saw that:

1. Human birth should be used for serving Sri Sri Radha-Krishna.
2. Harinaam is the remedy for the poison of worldliness.

Now let us look at the third verse of the song.

*brajendra-nandana jei, śacī-suta hoilo sei,  
balarāma hoilo nitāi  
dīna-hīna jata chilo, hari-nāme uddhārilo,  
tāra śāksī jagāi mādhai*

**Lord Krishna, who is the son of the King of Vraja, became the son of Saci (Lord Caitanya), and Balarama became Nitai. The holy name delivered all those souls who were lowly and wretched. The two sinners Jagai and Madhai are evidence of this.**

3. **Harinaam can deliver even the most sinful persons:** In previous verse Narottama das Thakur had sung that the treasure trove - harinama sankirtana is imported directly from Goloka Vrindavan. In this verse he gives information about who imported this Harinaam from Goloka. He says, Brajendra-nandana, Krishna who is the son of the King of Vraja has now appeared as the son of Saci mata and Lord Balarama has appeared as Nityananda and both of them are delivering all kinds of fallen souls. The fallen souls maybe the topmost debauchee or drunkards or woman-hunters. But still they were given the holy name and delivered by Lord Caitanya and Nityanand. Narottama das Thakura cites the example of Jagai and Madhai who were born in a Brahmana family but were meat eaters, drunkards, women-hunters, rogues and thieves. Jagai and Madhai chanted the name of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu by way of blasphemy, but because they simply chanted His name, they immediately became free from the reactions of sinful activities. Lord Caitanya and Nityananda reclaimed all conditioned and sinful souls simply by distributing the transcendental chanting process. In this way by citing an example Narottama das Thakura explains that in this age although people are as sinful as Jagai and Madhai, but if they take to this Krishna consciousness movement and chant Hare Krishna, they'll be delivered, undoubtedly. Prabhupada tells that this is the blessing of Lord Caitanya. Also in Bhagavad-gita 9.32 the Lord declares,

*mām hi pārtha vyapāśritya ye 'pi syuḥ pāpa-yonayaḥ  
striyo vaiśyās tathā śūdrās te 'pi yānti parām gatim*

**O son of Partha, those who take shelter in Me, though they be of lower birth women, Vaishyas [merchants] and shudras [workers] can attain the supreme destination.**

Harinaam can destroy all our sins even if committed in this lifetime or in any of previous lifetimes. Harinaam can be compared to lighting a lamp in a cave which is either dark since one year or dark since thousands of year. Both the caves will get rid of the darkness irrespective of the age of darkness of the cave. But one cannot take advantage of this point and commit sins. It will be just like elephant taking bath and then showering itself with mud immediately. Also it is an offense to the holy name to commit sinful activities on the strength of the holy name of the Lord.

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.

## Drink Nectar and not Poison - Part 4

Date: 2012-11-29

Author: Parameshwaran

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,  
Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

This is in conclusion of the offering titled, "Drink Nectar and not Poison" sung by Narottama das Thakur. In the previous offering we saw that:

1. Human birth should be used for serving Radha-Krishna.
2. Harinaam is the remedy for the poison of worldliness.
3. Harinaam can deliver even the most sinful persons.

Now let us look at the last verse of the song,

*hā hā prabhu nanda-suta, vṛṣabhānu-sutā-juta,  
koruṇā karoho ei-bāro  
narottama-dāsa koy, nā ṭheliho rāṅgā pāy,  
tomā bine ke āche āmāra*

**O Lord Krishna, son of Nanda, accompanied by the daughter of Vrsabanu, please be merciful to me now. Narottama dasa says, O Lord, please do not push me away from Your reddish lotus feet, for who is my beloved except for You?**

4. **Krishna is the only shelter:** Srila Prabhupada tells that Narottama das Thakur prays to Krishna - "My dear Lord Krishna, You are son of King Nanda, and Your consort Radharani is the daughter of King Vrshabhanu. So You are together here standing. Now I am surrendering unto You, please do not kick me away or push me away with Your lotus feet because I have no other shelter. I am just taking shelter unto Your lotus feet without having any other means. So who else is there beyond Yourself? So don't kick me out by Your lotus feet. Please accept me because I have no other shelter than Yourself." Narottama das Thakur takes the name of Radharani and requests Krishna to be merciful because Radharani is full of mercy. She is described by Srila Rupa Goswami as '*karuṇā-bharite*', 'one who is filled with compassion'. In Jaladuta ship, Srila Prabhupada wrote a beautiful song in which the first verse is as follows,

*kṛṣṇa taba puṇya habe bhāi  
e-puṇya koribe jabe rādhārāṅī sukhī habe  
dhruva ati boli tomā tāi*

**I emphatically say to you, O brothers, you will obtain your good fortune from the Supreme Lord Krishna only when Srimati Radharani becomes pleased with you.**

So without the mercy of Radharani we cannot please Krishna. Krishna is the only dependable Lord in our life. We cannot be dependent on any other person or object since everyone else are temporary and will be destroyed by force of time. H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj says that, "*The way to become conscious of Krishna is to become dependent on Krishna.*" In Bhagavad Gita verse 18.66 Krishna says, '*mām ekaṁ śaraṇaṁ vraja*' - "Surrender only to Me", then '*mokṣayiṣyāmi mā śucaḥ*', "I shall deliver you from all sinful reactions."

I request all the devotees to bless me to engage this human birth in the service of the Vaishnavas and Sri Sri Radha-Krishna.

Thank you very much.  
Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,  
Parameshwaran  
Abu Dhabi.