

## Srila Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj Memorial Service at Sydney - Part 2

**Date:** 2011-03-11

**Author:** Vaijayanti mala devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the previous offering, transcribing the wonderful offering by H.G. Devakinandan prabhujis on the occasion of the memorial service for our beloved Guru Maharaj held in Sydney, Australia on 24th April 2010.

**6. Unparalleled austerity and unmotivated devotion:** When we came to Dwaraka, there was nothing there. Maharaj did not go to any of the ashramas to stay. He said we will just stay in the outskirts. It was just open grassland. Maharaj said, "You just set up a tent, put some sheet over and we will sleep there." We were completely flabbergasted. Because when you travel with sannyasis, the idea in our rascal mind is, at least there must be some benefit somewhere in terms of material comfort, but Maharaj did not think of that. I said, "Maharaj, there is no toilet, nothing." Maharaj said, "You go to the ashram, take bath and come back here." That was it. There was nothing else to do. Dina prabhu and Taral prabhu were cooking outside in the open air. Maharaj, every morning, after taking bath, he would sit there and we would read Srimad Bhagavatam. We told, "Maharaj, may be we should move around?". Maharaj said, "**No moving around. We sit here and do Bhagavatam first. Bhagavatam will attract everything to come. Krishna is Dwarakadish. Why won't He like to hear Bhagavatam? Let us just glorify Bhagavatam and become satisfied.**" So we tried to be satisfied. It was very difficult with thorny bushes and grass and the heat of the sun. But Maharaj never stopped. There is a famous picture of Maharaj lying down and a umbrella being held by one of the brahmacaris and that was his afternoon nap. He will just sleep on the ground and his sannyas top cloth was his pillow. For two or three weeks, he did that non-stop, unmotivated and on the fourth week, one man came to see us and he said, "You know Maharaj, my mother had a trust. In that trust, we have a ten room guest house and now that my mother has left, she wanted me to give it to some charity. I heard the news that there is a sadhu in Dwaraka who is just sitting down and reading Bhagavatam and does not want anything. So I thought you should be the right person; **because you do not want anything, you should get everything.**" When we heard that, we thought it is amazing because this is exactly what Maharaj told us two weeks back to do. He had so much faith in Bhagavatam and Krishna who will build the temple. It is not anything else; least of all it is Lakshmi. **Money will never build temples. It is devotion that will build temple.**

**7. Unique service:** When Maharaj was in London in the earlier days, Maharaj told me that he was useless in the temple. Maharaj said, "I was more than fifty years old. My legs could hardly balance because I had a very bad back and I could not do washing because after a while, I would slip and fall. I could not go up and down and do book distribution because I could not balance myself. My walking was not good. I could not do Deity worship because of balancing problem also. After a while, the Pujari said, "You better not do the aarati because the aarati plate may fall also." So the temple president was asking, "What are you going to do? You can't do anything." Maharaj said, "**I can do one thing, if you want. I can sit and study Bhagavatam**" and the Temple President said, "No one had ever told me this! I never thought that there is a service like that which you can do here." So he said, "You sit in one corner and you study Bhagavatam." Maharaj sat under a pillar in Soho street temple and it became famous as Mahavishnu Goswami pillar and today if you ask any of Srila Prabhupada's disciple there who knew Maharaj, then they would point that this is Mahavishnu Goswami pillar. This way he sat for 8 years, not speaking but studying and studying and studying.

Maharaj said, "I used to be surprised why when people would walk by and see me, they would bow to me." Maharaj asked, "Why you are bowing to me?" They said, "**We are bowing because we can't do what you are doing. We can do all the seva but we can't sit and read Bhagavatam. So we bow to Bhagavatam and to you.**"

**8. Touching the hearts by pure preaching:** So the day came, when just by the providential arrangement of the Lord, there was no one to give the class and at that time the temple president looked around and said, "Yes. Mahavishnu das vanachari. He is there. He is reading. Let us just put him on vyaasaasana and fill up the gap." But on that day, everything changed. Because, the moment the devotees heard Maharaj, they thought that he should become

the permanent speaker in Soho Street temple and after a while, the news spread to Bhaktivedanta Manor and from Bhaktivedanta Manor, two devotees from Belgium came and asked whether Maharaj can come to Belgium to speak and Maharaj started speaking in Belgium and then Holland and then he had preaching tours in Europe and after a while, after he took sannyas, he was giving classes in Mayapur. One day, one devotee from Singapore, HG Dinanukampan prabhu, he met Maharaj when Maharaj was giving sanskrit classes and Maharaj started the class by saying that "***I am here to share with you devotional service. Do not think you are learning Sanskrit.***" Then Dina prabhu called us in Singapore and said that there is a very unique sannyasi and it is a good thing to find out whether we can arrange to bring him to Singapore and we all thought it is very exciting. In Singapore, the devotees bought him the first world ticket and thus Maharaj started in Singapore.

Krishna willing, the other transcendental qualities of Maharaj which just captivate all our hearts, so lovingly remembered and described by Devakinandan prabhu, shall be posted in the ensuing mail.

Thank you very much.

Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,  
Vaijayanti mala devi dasi,  
Abu Dhabi.

## Srila Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj Memorial Service at Sydney - Part 3

**Date:** 2011-03-13

**Author:** Vaijayanti mala devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the previous offerings transcribing the wonderful offering by H.G. Devakinandan prabhujis on the occasion of the memorial service for our beloved Guru Maharaj held in Sydney, Australia on 24th April 2010.

**9. Personal attention to everyone:** The first time I met Maharaj was when Maharaj came to Singapore and I introduced myself and he asked me what is my name, who am I, who is my family, how many brothers and sisters I had and what my parents were doing. Nobody had asked me these questions before when I was in the temple for nine years. I was in the temple from 1983 and all I did in the temple was either wash the toilets or wash the pots and whenever I wanted to sit down and read Bhagavad gita, all the temple president would say was that I was not ready for it. He would say, "Go back and wash the pots." The temple president never knew where I came from, who I was. Sometimes he would forget my name also. And for the first time Maharaj asked me what is my name and at the end of it, he told me to open the caturstoki Bhagavad Gita 10.8. He explained the four verses to me in just five minutes and I found that no one had explained to me Bhagavad gita this way. At that moment I thought this is the person to whom I must surrender my life. It was a spark and Maharaj encouraged me and today somehow by his mercy, I am very fortunate to have the association of Maharaj and all the wonderful devotees.

**10. Always seeing the good everywhere:** I remember one time, in a very famous lecture, one devotee stood up and said, "Maharaj, I have been in ISKCON for 20 years and I see so much of trouble in ISKCON. How can you continue to stay in ISKCON? You are very old and you have been in ISKCON for thirty years." Maharaj said, "I have been in ISKCON for thirty years but not even one day I have seen a single complaint in ISKCON and I have not seen a single problem in ISKCON. The problem is with our eyes." When he said that, I realized that we all wear different hats but ultimately what is important is whether we are following the instructions of Srila Prabhupada and Maharaj showed us that.

**11. Renowned for his sadhana:** Maharaj was renowned for his sadhana. In Dwaraka, he would wake up at 1.30 or 2 o' clock in the morning daily. When he was shaving, he would finish reciting half of Bhagavad gita and by the time he finished his bath, the other half was on the way. He was so fast with chanting. Sometimes I would be just putting my ear to the bathroom door, trying to catch up with the verses Maharaj was chanting. By the time he was ready to start chanting, by 2.30 or 2.45 he would have finished all the important verses. ***By Mangala arati, he made sure, he finished his rounds. He always told me to try to finish 16 rounds before Mangala arati so that when you stand up for Mangala arati you won't fall asleep. Otherwise when you wake up for Mangla arati, you are half asleep. By the time you start chanting your rounds, you are fully asleep. So it is better to wake up in the morning.*** I asked Maharaj how to wake up in the morning. He said, ***"the problem is we are thinking we are waking ourselves but the Supersoul wakes us up. If the Supersoul knows that we want to wake up and we sincerely pray to Supersoul, why will He not wake us up for the morning Mangala arati?"***

When Maharaj had the stroke in the year 2000, he was actually in London and it was the exact stroke that H.H. Jayapataka Swami Maharaj had recently. The doctors gave 24 -72 hours maximum and said that this is the most important time. If he does not come out of it, then he would be a vegetable or he will leave and within 48 hours when I flew in, I was not sure whether Maharaj will be there or he would not be there. But the moment I rushed up to the hospital, *I found that Maharaj had put both the hands up and he was saying "Haribol!" and that was the hand that was supposed to be paralyzed* and he couldn't wait to come out of the hospital. He fought with all the doctors. I remember one night, he was told by one Indian lady doctor, who was very young that, "You must take this tablet. If you do not take it, the chances of a stroke coming or clot coming are going to be there!" I think that tablet was for thinning the blood. But Maharaj told her, ***"It is not the medicines that save us. It is Srila Prabhupada and Krishna.*** Now if you want, you take the medicine. You may need it for your brains!" She said, "You have to take it because, if you do

not take it, then you will not be alive in the morning." Maharaj said, "If I am not alive in the morning, it is because you said this to me. You doctors are supposed to encourage us to live but you are telling us we are going to die. What is the point of being in a hospital!" This lady doctor came to me very shaken and said, "Is he your grandfather?". I said, "Yes. He is my grandfather." She said, "Would you do me a favor? Would you sign an indemnity form absolving the hospital because we are very sure that in the next 10 to 12 hours, something is going to happen." I said, "Okay. I will sign it." I told Maharaj about this. Maharaj just asked me to keep quiet and go to take rest.

I was literally under the bed because there was no other place and at around 3.30 or 4.00 in the morning, Maharaj started banging the bed. I woke up and asked Maharaj what is it? He said, "Devaki, what time is it?" I said it is 4 o' clock. Maharaj said, "Let us do Mangala arati now." I said, "Maharaj, you are supposed to have a stroke. May be you can take a break." Maharaj said, "***If you want, you take a break. Don't tell me that I want to take a break. If you are tired, say that you are tired. Don't tell me that I am tired!***" So myself and Amogha prabhu were there and we started doing Mangala arati. After Mangala arati, Maharaj chanted. Maharaj could not use his hand very well. So he was using other hand to chant and at the end of the chanting, the lady doctor came again and Maharaj said, "***Daughter, I am waiting for you to come. I am alive. You see, I am alive. You may be whatever, but always remember not to forget your culture. Don't forget that your culture is Krishna consciousness. Those who are not afraid to die, they don't die. But those who are afraid to die, they are the ones to die first. I am very strong. See, my hands and legs are very good***" (laughter). The lady doctor was bewildered and said that it was time for her to leave. While leaving she told me, "You have one hell of a grandfather. I never had a grandfather or patient like that!"(laughter). Maharaj's dedication to devotional service never stopped in any condition of life. Any condition of life, it never stopped.

Krishna willing, the transcription of this offering shall be continued in the ensuing mail.

Thank you very much.

Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada and Gurudev,

Vaijayanti mala devi dasi,

Abudhabi.

## Srila Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj Memorial Service at Sydney - Part 4

**Date:** 2011-03-14

**Author:** Vaijayanti mala devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the previous offerings transcribing the wonderful offering by H.G. Devakinandan Prabhujis on the occasion of the memorial service for our beloved Guru Maharaj held in Sydney, Australia on 24th April 2010.

13. **A Loving father:** Once I fell down two floors in Singapore and broke my hand badly. I fractured my ribs and I was in the hospital. My wife called Maharaj and told him that I am in the hospital and Maharaj said that he will pray for me. The next day I called Maharaj. It was impossible for me to chant with my right hand as it was broken. I told Maharaj about this and I was feeling very bad about it. Maharaj said, "You just chant what you can. You chant two or three rounds and it is okay, my son. Don't worry about it." Five minutes later I called HG Vaishnava seva prabhu about some temple matter and asked him where is Maharaj. He said, "Maharaj has gone downstairs to the temple room because he told me that he is going to chant your rounds for you." Maharaj has said, "**Because Devaki cannot chant his rounds, so I am going to chant his rounds so that he can keep his vows.**" When I heard this that day, I just chanted and I did not care about the pain because it was too much for me to think that this is the love Maharaj had. This was not only for me but I think for everyone of you, whoever have experienced this moment of loving exchange, when you felt really he was just like your father or sometimes more than what you would imagine your father to ask and these are the same things that Maharaj would ask.

To children, Maharaj was always loving. That is why he started Prahlad School. He was always dedicated to building up a future for children in Krishna consciousness. If you ask Maharaj's son Shyam prabhu, how Maharaj brought up his children, he said, "*My biggest regret is till today, I do not understand why my father took sannyas, because he was the most loving father we ever had. He was there in every stage of our lives. We were never in want of anything and he left his house when his thali (plate) was full. At the height of everything being perfect, when his wife was serving him nicely, when the children were doing very nicely, when he was going for all the programs, when everything was very smooth, he left. This is what we could not understand.*" Years later, when Maharaj had stroke and when his son came to see him, after that day, Shyam prabhu told me, "**Now I understand why he took sannyas. Because he had so much to give. It was not enough for us to hold his love within just the confines of the family. He had so much to give. So much love and so much care and so much dedication to Srila Prabhupada.**" Maharaj told once, "I left and took sannyas because I knew that everything was alright in the house. ~~If I were to move at a time when everything was good, then I have to depend more on Krishna and more on Srila Prabhupada.~~" So this was the mood that Maharaj had.

14. **Krishna elixir - the only medicine and cure:** Towards the end, in the last three or four months of his time in the world, Maharaj gave us many many ideas that the time was coming. On 17th November, 2009, Maharaj gave me a call and told me, "*Devaki, now the time is coming.*" I said, "Why Maharaj?" He said, "I have lost appetite. The day I lose appetite in having prasadam, that day the fire is going. Once our appetite is going, then it is time to wind up the body." Then Maharaj also told me that "This time I am not picking up." I said, "Maharaj you always pick up. You tell us time is over but you pick up." He said, "But this time it is not happening. Let us do more devotional service." In November his health deteriorated in Rajkot. By 17th December, one month later, we finally brought him to Bombay and in Bombay he was in the Juhu temple where the doctor said that he must take a blood test. Maharaj said, "No. **I don't want blood test. I just want to be with Krishna.**"

Then we suggested and requested Maharaj to come to Bhaktivedanta hospital where devotees are there. So he went there. When he was there, he found the atmosphere so congenial to devotional service. All the devotees were serving with so much love and so much care. Doctors were devotees first and doctors next. Maharaj said, "this is nice place for me and I would just continue to be here." So he stayed on long time in Bhaktivedanta hospital but he refused medication. After a while, the doctors kept telling me, "I know this is all nice. But you know, Maharaj has to take

something. Otherwise he is in a hospital and there must be some treatment." So the CEO of the hospital HG Madhavananda prabhu came to see Maharaj and said, "Maharaj, you have to take some medicine." Maharaj said, "You don't understand. ***I am already taking medicine. I am taking your association and that is medicine. How long can the medicines make me last? May be a month more or two months more but this association is best. I have not come here to be medicated by western medicines; I have come here for your consciousness.***"

In that way all the devotees became so enlivened because daily in typical Maharaj fashion, wherever he was, Bhagavatam was there and kirtan was there. He would take daily walks. He went to meet all the patients and the patients became very much enlivened. When we told them that Maharaj was wardened there, they could not believe and said, "You mean, he is a patient also?" Maharaj told one particular doctor, "Any one who treats me, he ends up in the hospital. Just be careful of this point." (laughter) True enough, two days into the treatment, this doctor sprained his neck so badly. He banged into a cabinet in his own house and his neck was fractured. (laughter) Maharaj was in Room 6. The doctor was in Room 5 and that morning I told Maharaj that the doctor is next door. Maharaj said, "Let's go and visit him." Maharaj told the doctor, "Doctor, who is visiting who?" (laughter). All this time his health was deteriorating. It was just going down...down...down... Like we are all laughing now, we were all laughing then also. But we never realized that he knew that time was coming. Then Maharaj had a desire to go to Nasik because that was where he grew up.

Krishna willing, the transcription of this offering shall be continued in the ensuing mail.

Thank you very much.

Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,  
Vaijayanti mala devi dasi,  
Abu Dhabi.

## Srila Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj Memorial Service at Sydney - Part 5

**Date:** 2011-03-15

**Author:** Vaijayanti mala devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the previous offerings transcribing the wonderful offering by H.G.Devakinandan prabhujis on the occasion of the memorial service for our beloved Guru Maharaj held in Sydney, Australia on 24th April 2010.

15. **A hard worker:** Godavari River was very dear to Maharaj. He told us, when he was 16, he would swim everyday across the river. Maharaj was a very strong swimmer. He said that he would swim across, tie up his clothes, put them on his head and do freestyle. He would go across to study and swim back and give tuitions in the night. After swimming back and giving tuitions in the night, next morning he had to go to work. Maharaj worked very hard. If you spoke to those who knew him in Nasik, they said that he was the oldest in the family. There were 15 brothers and sisters. Maharaj was eldest. He was the eldest boy. He has a sister older to him. Maharaj was 91 when he left and his sister is 96. She still walks without a stick and she had come for Maharaj's samadhi. Maharaj had to take care of all their marriages. All sisters' marriages he had to take care of and by the time his eldest daughter was getting married, he was finding at the same time, a groom for his youngest sister. He had to work very hard day and night for the money. Maharaj said, "*Every business I started, somehow or the other, there were losses. And every time I started, I had to stop, but I never gave up because Krishna was always supporting me.*" So Maharaj worked hard all his life. And that is why even when he became old, he could not stop working, could not stop moving. In the last three months also, he was actively preaching.

16. **Keeping the fire of Brahmacharya:** I asked Maharaj, "How did you find time to study Bhagavad Gita and Bhagavatam all the time" and Maharaj said, "*Whenever there was no customer, I was with Bhagavad Gita and whenever there was customer, I spoke about Bhagavad Gita and when I finished my work, and went back, I took care of the children. When they went to sleep, I had my own corner in my house and I would read Bhagavad Gita*" and that was always his advice to all of us grhasthas. He said, "***Wherever you may live, you must have that one corner where you are alone with scriptures.***" When I got married, he told me, "*Devaki, always in your heart keep the fire of brahmacharya always fired up. Some corner of your heart, you must remain brahmachari and how do you remain brahmachari? On the strength of Bhagavatam. The fire must be there. Do not, after becoming grhastha, give 101 excuses that "because of family and friends and all I cannot attend temple programs and I cannot do seva." Then your fire goes.*"

17. **Completely free from all fears:** In Nasik, because there was no proper medication, when a lot of devotees were there, he began to get terrible asthmatic attacks and the asthma attack became so bad that he could not breathe. We had to bring him to the hospital and we thought that the end may be near. The hospital was terrible. It looked like a factory. It was on the third floor, and there was no lift. We had to carry Maharaj to the third floor and when we brought him into the room, Maharaj took one look at the room and he said that his asthma is finished. He said, "*The room is so dirty that I am feeling better.*" Immediately Maharaj told me to take out a verse from the fifth chapter of Bhagavad Gita and he took out the purport in that verse and immediately without anyone recognizing what was happening, he spoke for half an hour on Bhagavad Gita, doctors seated, nurses included, patients coming in and sitting down. Once he had an audience, he started speaking and once he finished he said that we should just discharge ourselves from the hospital. He said, "*Let us go. I am feeling good now. If this is the hospital, I am just better off leaving.*"

Even then when we went for the X-rays, all the doctors told us that his lung infection was very bad. It could either be TB and there was also extra swelling of nodules and they said it could be cancer. They were not sure of the diagnosis. They wanted more results coming and on that day, Maharaj told me, Vaishnava seva prabhu and Sundar prabhu that "***Now the time is coming. I do not want any medication. Let me just read Bhagavatam. Let me just be with Krishna.***"

We brought him back to Bhaktivedanta hospital and there the doctor's diagnosis was that his oxygen saturation was

becoming very low, meaning to say in layman's terms, he would not be able to hold oxygen and Dr. Shyamlal prabhu told me that the day will come, it could be two years, could be three months, or one day, where he would just gasp for breath and he would not be able to retain it any more. Then he would leave. We came up to Maharaj and we thought, it is our duty to explain this to Maharaj. Before I could open my mouth, Maharaj told, "**Devaki, I have purchased the ticket for the train. I am now getting on the platform and I am just waiting for the train. When the train comes son, I will leave. I am just waiting because I have got my ticket.**" Then Maharaj told me, "I know exactly what is happening to me. You don't have to tell me anything."

Krishna willing, the transcription of this offering shall be continued in the ensuing mail.

Thank you very much.

Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Vaijayanti mala devi dasi,

Abu Dhabi.

## Srila Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj Memorial Service at Sydney - Part 6

**Date:** 2011-03-21

**Author:** Vaijayanti mala devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the previous offerings transcribing the wonderful offering by H.G.Devakinandan prabhujis on the occasion of the memorial service for our beloved Guru Maharaj held in Sydney, Australia on 24th April 2010.

**18. Merciful to all, Merciless to himself:** When Maharaj came back to Bhaktivedanta hospital in Mumbai, he said, "I want to see everyone." That is when we had the exodus of devotees coming and Maharaj at that time was so much merciful. He saw everyone and after seeing each one of them, he needed 15-20 minutes to recover his breathing. But everyone who came to see him, kept telling me, "Are you sure this is an emergency Prabhu? You told us that it is an emergency and everyone should come." Maharaj was speaking and laughing with everyone but they never saw what happened after they left. How much struggle he had just to get back his breath, prop himself up and see the next batch of devotees. This is how he kept going. It came to a point where pain killers were needed because the doctors said, "If we do not give the pain killers, the pain is unbearable. Maharaj is enduring it."

**19. Krishna is ready; so I am ready:** Every night he could not sleep. One night when I came back again to the hospital, Maharaj was lying down, his chaadar was all the way up, and he looked extremely extremely peaceful; his eyes were closed. He did not see me. I said, "Maharaj, I am Devakinandan das here. How are you?" Maharaj said, "Devaki, I am ready." He said this in a very sharp and shrill voice. I said, "Alright Maharaj. What are you ready for?" He said, "I am ready to leave." I said, "Maharaj, you have said this before. That is why you are not going to leave." He said, "**He** is ready." So then I stopped and asked Maharaj, "Who is ready?" Maharaj said, "**Krishna** is ready." I said, "Maharaj, is Krishna ready for you to be ready?" Maharaj said, "**He is ready. Therefore I am ready.**" Then he never talked for the whole night. He just kept chanting. In the last few days, Maharaj indicated to Vaishnava Seva Prabhujis to get devotees to sing his favourite bhajans, like "bhajahu re mana". He started asking us to sing all the kirtans and bhajans that he loved in the early years, when he went to Fiji, when he went to Australia and all the time he had the strength and the breath to sing all these kirtans. He got everyone to sing. For the whole night he made us sing. He just kept telling us to sing.

Some devotees came and saw Maharaj and told Maharaj we will come and see in two weeks time and Maharaj said, "Now you will never see me again." My wife, Radhika, was supposed to go to Australia to study in January for a course in her teaching and that morning in Nasik she came to see Maharaj and said, "Maharaj, I feel I should not go" and Maharaj said, "*The Supersoul is always right.* Don't go now in January." I did not realize but today I know that if she had gone in January, then I could not travel up and down and I would not have been able to serve Maharaj in the last few days and that he gave me a chance to do so.

**20. Investing his thinking, feeling and willing in Krishna:** On the 24th January 2010, in the night, Vaishnava seva prabhu called me and told me, "Things don't look very good now and Maharaj is calling for you many times." I tried to arrange for my flight as soon as I could. I spoke to Maharaj in the phone and said that I am coming and just give me a few hours now. He kept saying "hm..hm..hm..." In the last three or four days, Maharaj stopped speaking. We thought he could not speak because he was sick. But later, H.H Bhakti Caru Maharaj instructed us that "**Your Guru Maharaj is not speaking because he has withdrawn his senses. Now he is withdrawing them from external consciousness and he is fully fixed now in Krishna.**" So at that point of time, whenever we chanted verses, we would be chanting Srimad Bhagavatam for hours and hours and suddenly when a verse came that he liked, at that point, where we thought he was completely asleep, he would just get up immediately and we will be shocked. We would chant verse half way and at the point where we are starting, he would end it for us and after ending the verse, he would say 2 or 3 lines with his eyes still closed that this is nice verse, it means this, the synonym for this word is nice, and this point in the purport is very significant. It would rattle off like automatic and then he would finish and become silent and we would think what was all that about! Then we realized that Maharaj was not sleeping but he had

withdrawn his consciousness. He was fully aware of his surroundings.

21. **Always conscious of protecting his spiritual children:** On January 25th, in the morning, I took the plane and I reached there. When I reached Mumbai, I found that I had missed calls on my phone. Vaishnava seva prabhu had called Radhika and asked where I was. I called Vaishnava seva prabhu from the Mumbai airport and he said that Maharaj is asking for me. I said that I have just landed and in a few minutes I will be there. Normally the traffic to Mira road temple is very bad but on that day, Krishna cleared everything. I reached there to the third floor and I saw devotees chanting. When I went inside and I saw Maharaj, I thought I have never seen him this way because this time it was different. This time, the deities pictures were all placed, Tulasi Maharani was near him, he had a garland on him. He had the remnants of the IV still there but he was shoving it away. We asked Maharaj whether he wanted it to be taken out and Maharaj nodded 'yes'. I said "Maharaj, I am Devaki here." He held my hand. It was not like I was holding the hand. But he was holding my hand. It was the comfort of someone holding your hand. You know there is a difference. Even at that time, when I sensed that the difficulty and the pain was too much, still he was conscious of protecting us. Dr. Shyamlal prabhu said, "Maharaj, I know the pain is unbearable now. Can I give you some medication?" Maharaj just shook his head with 'no'. We wanted to put the nebulizer for him. Once we put it, he pushed it aside. Twice we put it, he pushed it aside and he was gasping for air. So I asked "Maharaj, can I sing?" He nodded with an 'yes'. So we chanted from 2 o'clock and from 3 o'clock there was great struggle in the movement. He kept moving and moving. But his eyes were very conscious. He kept looking at all of us with his loving glances on each side and he kept looking at the deities.

Krishna willing, the transcription of this offering shall be continued in the ensuing mail.

Thank you very much.

Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,  
Vaijayanti mala devi dasi,  
Abu Dhabi.

## Srila Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj Memorial Service at Sydney - Part 7

**Date:** 2011-03-22

**Author:** Vaijayanti mala devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the previous offerings transcribing the wonderful offering by H.G. Devakinandan prabhujis on the occasion of the memorial service for our beloved Guru Maharaj held in Sydney, Australia on 24th April 2010.

22. **A lesson we can never forget:** At about 3.10 or 3.15 p.m something changed. The breathing which was very erratic, became extremely regular and I had no idea and I thought something is going to happen now. Suddenly the movement of his air became very regular and myself, Vaishnava seva prabhu, Shyam prabhu, Sundar prabhu and the doctor, we all thought that things are changing now. At that point of time, we heard very strong rumbling in his stomach and we could realize at that point, it was the life air, the sound that Bhagavatam describes of life air. We could hear this in his stomach and we could hear literally the life air moving up to his throat and at that point when it moved up to the throat, Maharaj immediately closed his mouth very very tightly. I do not know how to describe it but he just pulled it in and at that point he held our hands very very tightly and he became very strong, very vigorous and he kept looking at the deities and he kept becoming very focused and his eyes became very big. We remember asking, "Maharaj, Maharaj" like that and we kept chanting. We realized at that point of time when Maharaj was hearing and remembering Their Lordships that Maharaj was totally in control of the situation. And when he closed his mouth, the sound of the life air ended and then he opened the mouth and we saw that his tongue is chanting vigorously. We could make out "*Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare.*" It was just going on.

At that point, his expression completely changed. He looked as if he was looking at someone. We brought the pictures of the deities. He looked at us on the left side and right side and it is the look that all of us have seen - that loving look of Maharaj- that look he gives us when he is very kind and fatherly. He gave that look to all of us and then he had the look of satisfaction of someone who had ended his race; A man who had arrived at the end of the shore. Very often Maharaj described to me as ***how nice death must be that at the end of it, you can cross the ocean if Krishna wants and see Him on the other side of the shore. How wonderful that feeling must be when we have ended the journey.*** Always he said that. When I saw the expression on his face, that description of death as he said came to my heart and then I realized that this is the expression he is giving because this is what he has reached. With his tongue he was chanting; with his eyes, he saw Krishna. And at that point of time, his hands were still with us. He took one very slow breath, another very slow breath, a third extremely slow one, he became fully fully relaxed and then he became very still and in that stillness, that moment, we realized that Maharaj has left us. It was like a man who had just peacefully ended his journey here, a life time of being with Krishna; working hard for Krishna.

Maharaj did not just teach us how to live but he also taught us how to leave. It was an amazing way for someone to leave us and everything we have ever read in Srimad Bhagavatam, Maharaj just symbolized it even at the point of leaving and at that point when he left us, I remember in my heart not feeling pain, but at the moment when he was going to leave, I actually remember saying, "Prabhujis, he is with us. He is still with us but he is concentrating on Krishna. Let us chant" and I remember feeling very happy that my spiritual father was actually showing that this is how we have to connect to Krishna at the last point of our life. And it is a lesson we all cannot forget because Maharaj left in total consciousness, totally conscious with nothing on him except kanti mala, Tulasi maharani, the chanting of the Holy names and hearing of Bhagavatam. This was the perfect way to leave.

23. **Bhakti is unconditional:** He left of all places in a hospital. He never loved hospitals. But he decided to leave there because he showed us one point. He told me "***I am going to leave from this place because I want to show the world that bhakti is unconditional. Time, place and circumstances do not matter and in this hospital particularly, the consciousness is that of devotional service.***"

24. **Sure Sign of great devotee:** After he left, H.H. Kavichandra Swami Maharaj came and later H.H. Bhakti caru

Swami Maharaj came. As we were getting Maharaj ready, and propping him up, I realized that there was just the skin at the top of the head that had peeled off and it looked like a wound and I was just touching Maharaj's forehead up to the point when he left and I do not recall and I thought may be accidentally I had brushed Maharaj's head or something and I was worried. When some elevated sannyasis who came to give us great encouragement and take darshan of Maharaj when they saw the peeled off skin at the top of Maharaj's head, they remarked, "*Devaki, there are two types of devotees. There are devotees who are pure and they go back to Krishna. **Then there is another class of pure devotees who Krishna gives the benediction to decide when they want to go and when they want to go, because of their pure devotional service, the force of their life air does not come out of the mouth.***"

Srila Prabhupada writes in his purport to Srimad Bhagavatam 2.2.21, "*The life air passes through seven openings, namely two eyes, two nostrils, two ears and one mouth. Generally it passes through the mouth at the time of an ordinary man's death. **But the yogi, as above mentioned, who controls the life air in his own way, generally releases the life air by puncturing the cerebral hole in the head.** The yogi therefore blocks up all the above-mentioned seven openings, so that the life air will naturally burst forth through the cerebral hole. This is the sure sign of a great devotee's leaving the material connection.*"

They told me then that this is the evidence that your Guru Maharaj's life air was pushed out on his conviction of pure devotional service. They all saw that Maharaj was placed in Samadhi and H.H.Bhakti caru Swami Maharaj, H.H.Radhanath Swami Maharaj, H.H.Gopala Krishna Maharaj, all of them gave us so much solace to remember that actually **the real test of our loving our spiritual master is not in just feeling great separation from him but acting on that separation to become real instruments in his and in Krishna's devotional service.**

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,  
Vaijayanti Mala devi dasi,  
Abu Dhabi

## Srila Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj Memorial Service at Sydney - Part 8

Date: 2011-03-23

Author: Vaijayanti mala devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is the concluding part of the previous offerings transcribing the wonderful offering by H.G. Devakinandan prabhujis on the occasion of the memorial service for our beloved Guru Maharaj held in Sydney, Australia on 24th April 2010.

25. **Our sincerity and gratefulness to our spiritual master:** If we really want to be sincere and grateful to our spiritual master for all that he has done for us, and for all that he continues to do for us, then really we must become useful instruments in spreading Krishna consciousness and in serving devotees. That is what Maharaj would like best from us. I asked Maharaj one question when he had the stroke. "What happens when you leave us? How will I be able to contact you? As it is I am calling you daily, I am taking instructions from you. How to hear your voice again?" Maharaj said, "***If you seriously study Bhagavatam, if you chant, if you obey every instruction that I have given you and if you try your best, then after I leave, I guarantee you that I will be closer to you than when I am right now. I will be with you the moment you want something to do with devotional service.***" When we took out Maharaj's diaries, in one diary Maharaj has written a sentence at 5.30 a.m. in Singapore in 1993. "***A disciple's love for his spiritual master is actually to be seen, in the level of his indebtedness to his spiritual master. And the spiritual master never leaves his disciple.***" So I live with the conviction, as Srila Prabhupada always told us that finally vani is infinitely more important than vapu. But having said that, how can we forget the loving way in which Maharaj took care of all of us. That will always carry us through our devotional service.

26. **No formalities in relationship:** We have to follow the instructions of the spiritual master and continue to perform our devotional service and this cannot be done alone. We can only do it in the loving association of devotees. ***I use the word devotees and not disciples because Maharaj would not like it if I use the word disciples. Maharaj always told everyone that our relationship has no formalities.*** "It is just like father and son or grandfather and grandson. Anytime you want to talk to me, you please pick up the phone." No one was exempt from calling Maharaj on the phone. Sometimes devotees say, "You mean your Guru Maharaj does not have a personal secretary - someone who will pass on the message?" Maharaj was his own personal secretary and would get angry if you do not call. For devotees who would not call for a week, Maharaj would say, "*Why you did not call me for so long? I was waiting for your call.*" And for those who were in difficulty, he would call them and ask them how they were. ***He did not ask them just spiritual questions. But he would ask them how is your family doing, how is your job, health etc.***

It didn't matter whose disciples the devotees were. Infact our normal complaint was Maharaj spent more time with disciples of other Maharaj than his own. Whenever we asked Maharaj he said, "*That is because, they are much much more qualified than what you are (laughter). That's why after one hour of sitting with you, I have to take some association of other disciples and it makes me feel very happy.*" One of the sannyasis was giving initiation to a devotee and that time HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj was with him and they were joking and talking with each other. After initiation ceremony that Maharaj said to his disciple, "*Now if you have any problems, turn to Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj.*" Guru Maharaj replied to him jokingly- "*Maharaj, you have given him initiation, you have taken the deeksha and the Lakshmi and now I have to take his problems! (laughter)*" and that Maharaj replied, "*You might take his problems. But end of the day, I am responsible for him. So please help me lighten the load. (laughter)*". This was the loving exchange, Guru Maharaj had with many Vaishnavas.

If there was a problem in marriage, the temple president would send them to Maharaj first. In London, Maharaj would take his three wheel vehicle, drive up to their place and spend the whole day with them and come back. Within two weeks the devotees would come back to temple all fine. When Maharaj had the stroke, so many devotees came to see him and everyone who came to see him told me, "*You may not know me but you know why we are here? We are here as husband and wife because of him. He saved our marriage.*" Maharaj had only two things to tell them and this saved

them always. He said, "If you want to fight with each other, you do thing. You go into separate rooms and scream at each other (laughter). Just scream and shout all you want but not in the presence of each other. If you are very angry, please go into the room, see Krishna and please chant. After ten minutes you come out and you will forget why you were fighting in the first place (laughter)." Another point he always said is, "Always remember that getting married and thinking that marriage is happiness is a contradiction in terms. It does not work. If you accept it, your marriage is happy. If you do not accept it, you are in trouble" and of course the famous point Maharaj said, "Before wedding there is engagement ring, after that there is nice wedding ring but after two or three weeks there is suffering."(laughter) When he said all these things to these devotee couples, and counseled them, after a few moments they would say, "Alright! This is very nice" and they accepted Maharaj as their father.

Finally H.G. Devakinandan prabhuji heartily thanked H.G. Viraja Krishna prabhuji and H.G.Taral vilochana prabhuji for having organized such a wonderful program to remember a wonderful devotee. The final word which Devaki prabhuji spoke and we should always remember is that "**the real test when the spiritual master leaves is not only at the point when he has left but to imbibe the instructions in our heart as if it is the first day we met him, as if it was the day we took initiation from him and keep that fire of devotional service and enthusiasm alive in our hearts and this can be done only in the loving association and cooperative spirit amongst the devotees.**"

Thank you very much for the opportunity to share this nectarean offering of Devaki prabhuji.

H.D.G. Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj Gurudev ki Jai! H D G Srila Prabhupada ki Jai!

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Vaijayanti Mala devi dasi,

Abu Dhabi