



# Divya Sandesh

## Holi Edition

March 2012



### Daro Daro Ree Rang



डारो डारो री रङ्ग बनवारी पै ।

*Daaro daaro ree rang banavari pei.*

O sakhi! Throw, throw more color on Shyam Sundar.

लालहिं लाल गुलाल गाल मलु, मलु अबीर लटकारी पै ।

*Laalahin laal gulaal gaal malu, malu abeer latakari pei.*

Cover His cheeks with red gulal powder and His curly locks with abeer.

रंग बिरंग रंग पिचकारिन, डारो री गिरधारी पै ।

*Rang birang rang pichkaarin, daaro ree girdhari pei.*

Fill your watergun ('pichkari') with coloured water and drench him thoroughly.

छोरि लेहु याकी लकुटि कमरिया, लै चलु भानदुलारी पै ।

*Chhori lehu yaaki lakuti kamariya, lei chalu bhanudulari pei.*

Take away His most favorite herding stick and his black blanket and let us take Him to Shri Radha Rani.

सेहरा बाँधि बनाय दुल्हनिया, मिलि नचाउ अलि! तारी पै ।

*Sehrra bandhi banaaya dulhaniyan, mili nachau ali! taree pei.*

Put a wedding crown ("Sehra") on Him and dress Him like a newly wedded bride. Then let us get together and make Him dance on the rhythm of our claps.

बलिहारी "कृपालु" ब्रज नारिन, बलिहारी येहि यारी पै ॥

*Balihari "Kripalu" braj naarin, balihari yehi yari pei.*

Seeing this unique pastime of Shri Krishna, Shri Kripalu Ji Maharaj says, "I sacrifice myself on the unique love that the maidens of Braj have for Shyam Sundar."

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## Humility - The key to devotion

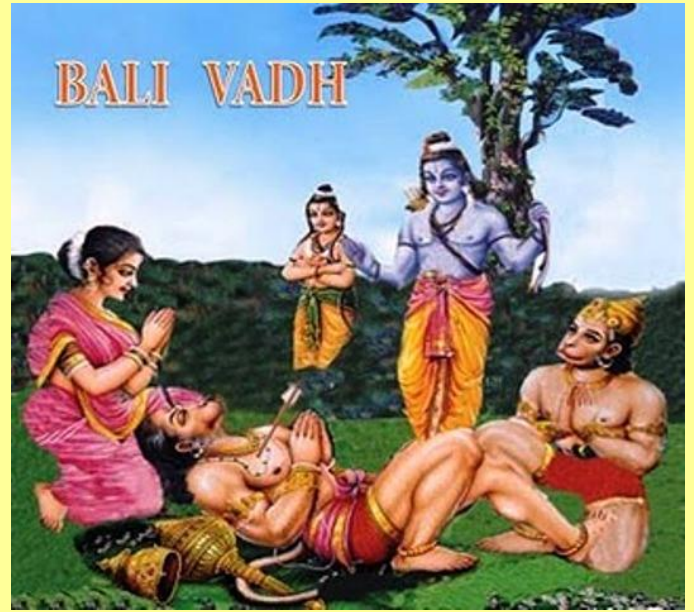
This is a story from the great Epic Ramayan. Bali was the monkey king of Kishkindha, a son of Indra and the revered elder brother of Sugreev. The kingdom had a sworn enemy named Mayavee. Tired of his attacks on their kingdom, Bali decided to settle the score with him. When Bali and Mayavee entered a cave during their fight, Sugreev was ordered to keep a watch outside for 15 days, after which time, he was instructed to go back assuming that Bali was killed in the fight.

Time passed and sounds of the roaring fight wafted to Sugreev's ears. Sugreev waited for the whole month but neither Bali nor the demon Mayavee came out. After a month, Sugreev saw a heavy stream of blood coming out of the cave. Seeing the blood, Sugreev thought that his brother Bali had been killed by the demon and he decided to flee from there to protect himself. Before leaving the cave, he blocked the entrance of the cave with a huge rock to stop the demon from emerging from the cave. Saddened and heart broken by his brother's death, Sugreev went back to Kishkindha. The ministers in the kingdom forced him to become the king and look after the kingdom.

However Bali was not dead. He had in fact killed the demon and it was the demon's blood that was flowing out from the cave. When Bali returned to his kingdom and saw Sugreev as the king, he was infuriated. He thought Sugreev had betrayed him. Though Sugreev tried to explain the misunderstanding, Bali was unrelenting. He attacked Sugreev and forced him and his confidante ministers to flee Kishkindha. Sugreev and his ministers took shelter on the Rishya-mook Mountain.

When Lord Shri Ram and his brother Laxman passed through that mountain in search of mother Sita, Sugreev got acquainted with Him and developed friendship with Him. Learning about Sugreev's story and how he was humiliated and banished from his kingdom for no fault of his and how his wife was also taken away from him, Shri Ram, the protector of the righteousness, promised to help him kill Bali and free him from all fears.

Shri Ram asked Sugreev to challenge Bali for a fight. On the second day of Bali-Sugreev fight, Ram shot a fatal arrow at Bali and Bali fell to the ground fatally wounded. As he lay wounded and motionless on the ground, Shri Ram went and sat beside Bali.



धरम हेतु अवतरेउ गोसाई । मारेहु मोहिं व्याध की नाई ॥  
मैं बैरी सुग्रीव पियारा । करन कवन नाथ मोहिं मारा ॥

Bali said to Lord Ram "You killed me and saved Sugreev, which indicates that Sugreev is dear to you while I am your enemy! You are renowned for being just and impartial. Why did you do this to me?"

अनुजबधू भगिनी सुत नारी । सुनु सठ कन्या सम ए चारी ॥  
इनहिं कुदृष्टि बिलोकई जेई । ताहि बधे कछु पाप न होई ॥

Shri Ram replied, "I am not your enemy, but I am the enemy of unrighteous deeds. Don't you know that a sister, daughter-in-law and younger brother's wife are like one's own daughter? Thinking of them or looking at them with lustful intentions is a great sin. To kill such a sinner is not considered a sin. Also, you have a big ego. Your wife warned you that Sugreev has taken refuge under me, yet you chose to ignore that warning and came to fight with Sugreev."

Hearing Shri Ram's words of wisdom, a transformation came over Bali. He realized his mistake and fell on Shri Ram's lotus feet to beg for forgiveness and seek His shelter.

Shri Ram is the protector of fallen souls. Seeing true repentance in Bali's words, Shri Ram asked him with great affection, "Do you want to live?" Bali replied,



जनम जनम मुनि यतन कराहीं । अंत राम कहि आवत नाहीं  
॥  
मम लोचन गोचर सोइ आवा । बहुरि कि प्रभु अस बनहि बना  
वा ॥

“Lord! All great rishis, munis and ascetics, try hard to get a glimpse of your divine form, at the moment of their death, but are not successful. It is my great fortune that I am holding your divine vision at the time of my death. What else could be a better way to die! I don't think I will have this opportunity ever again in future. So please let me die now. I wish to be your servant in all my future lives”. Saying so, Bali left this mortal body without any pain. Shri Ram sent him to His divine abode.

Upon hearing the news of Bali's death, Tara-Bali's wife, came lamenting and blaming Shri Ram for his death. Lord Ram asked her,  
क्षिति जल पावक गगन समीरा । पंच रचित यह अधम शरीरा  
॥  
प्रगट सो तन तव आगे सोवा । जीव नित्य केहि लगि तुम रो  
वा ॥  
उपजा ज्ञान चरन तव लागी । लीन्हेसि परम भगति वर माँगी ।

“Why are you crying? Did you love Bali or his mortal body? If you loved the body, it is right here, lying in front of you. But if you loved Bali, he is the soul. The soul is immortal. It never dies. It simply changes forms, from one body to the other.” Tara assimilated the knowledge given by Shri Ram. She bowed down to His lotus feet to seek forgiveness for her ignorance and impudence. She prayed to Lord Ram to grant her a boon of selfless and unceasing devotion to his lotus feet, which the ever kind and graceful Shri Ram granted.

## Sunahu Sadhak Pyare - Part 9

*Sadhana hai bas ek hi, bhakti hari ki pyare*

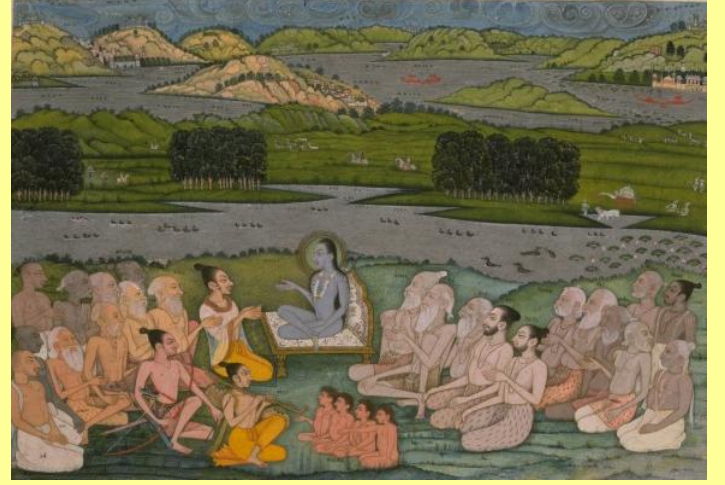
What is Sadhana? Sadhana means performing devotion to God.

There are several ways of performing devotion, but primarily there are 9 ways.

श्रवणं कीर्तनं विष्णोः स्मरणं पादसेवनम् ।  
अर्चनं वन्दनं दास्यं सख्यमात्मनिवेदनम् ॥ भाग.७.५.२३

This is called the 9-fold path. Within this, there are 3 main forms. Pareekshit asked Shukdev Paramhans-

यच्छ्रोतव्यमथो जप्यं यत्कर्तव्यं नृभिः प्रभो ।  
स्मर्तव्यं भजनीयं वा, ब्रूहि यद्वा विपर्ययम् ॥ भाग.१.१९.३८



What should a human being listen to, whose name should he chant and what should he do? Who should he remember? Who should he worship?

Shukdev Paramhans told Pareekshit to follow 3 forms of devotion - remembrance, chanting and listening:

तस्मात् भारत सर्वात्मा भगवानीश्वरो हरिः ।  
श्रोतव्यः कीर्तितव्यश्च, स्मर्तव्यश्चेच्छ्रुता भयम् ॥ भा.२,१.५

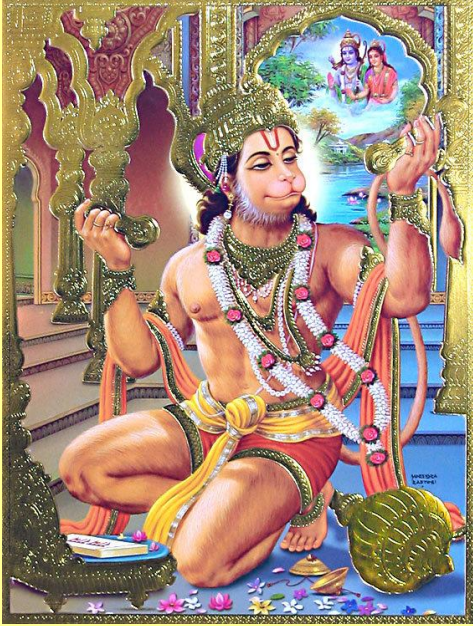
You are listening right now. That is important. One must not be negligent in acquiring the knowledge for self improvement. Otherwise you may fall off the path of devotion. You need to know who is God, who is jeev, who is maya, what are mind and intellect. The knowledge of philosophy helps in progressing smoothly and steadily on the path of devotion.



It is commonly observed that material beings are victims of anger, passion greed etc. If someone uses ill words, it is understood that he must be angry. The birth of a child appears to be the result of passion only. This however is

not the case in the divine world. The highest class devotees, the maidens of Braj, who were adored by Lord Brahma and Shankar were married women. They had children and they used to be engaged in their household chores all day.

Arjun killed so many Kauravas in the battle of Mahabharat, yet he is counted as a foremost devotee of Lord Krishna, since his mind was completely attached to Shri Krishna all the time. Lord Hanuman, who beholds the divine vision of Sita-Ram at all places at all times, killed so many Brahmins and burned the entire city of Lanka!



The actions of all great saints are incomprehensible, seeing which one can very easily get confused and fall down from the path of devotion. Through the knowledge of philosophy, one must understand that the actions of divine personalities are not a result of their attachment to someone or something. Saints are endowed with a miraculous power of Yogmaya, through which they are capable of performing actions, not performing actions and performing strange actions. That is why they remain unaffected in both favorable and unfavorable situations. This awakening is possible only with the help of philosophy.

So Shukdev Paramhansa propagated the 3-fold devotion  
 श्रवणं कीर्तनं ध्यानं हरेरद्भुतकर्मणः । भाग.११.३.२७

Within these 3 also, the one that is most essential is remembrance, meditation, thinking, roopdhyana. This is the essence of devotion.

### Find the words

Adults (over 16 years): Test your knowledge by finding 17 words.

The day before Holi is the day Shri Radha Avatar, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu descended on earth. Please find the 17 words related to various leelas and associates of Mahaprabhu. Please email your answers and name [skkasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:skkasecretary@gmail.com) by May 10, 2012. Correct answers and name of the winners will be published in the next newsletter.

I	S	H	W	A	R	P	U	R	I
A	N	I	M	A	I	A	G	A	J
H	S	A	C	H	I	M	A	D	A
D	A	R	V	M	L	A	P	O	G
A	N	A	I	D	A	N	T	M	A
M	A	P	J	V	W	U	I	A	N
J	T	W	O	R	A	E	P	D	N
E	A	E	R	O	A	S	E	S	A
E	N	G	A	U	R	I	D	P	T
V	R	I	N	D	A	B	A	N	H



# Kidz Corner



## Bhondu (simpleton)

This is the story of a 10 year old boy who lived 200 years ago in the land of Braj. His master, Nandkisor Das Goswamipad, used to run a Gurukul-Ashram in Barsana. He used to live in the ashram and tend to his master's cows. He was a very simple and innocent boy, very pure in heart and free from any vice or deceit. People called him Bhondu, literally meaning simpleton.

Like a little child, he was so credulous that he would easily believe anything that anyone told him. Every morning he used to go to Bhandiravana, the forest on the other side of Yamuna to graze the cows. Someone told him that Nandalala (Sri Krishna, the son of Nand) also went to Bhandiravana with the other cowherd boys to graze his cows. He began to rejoice in the thought that someday he would meet Nandalala and make friends with Him. He would then dance, sing, and play with Him and the other cowherd boys.

His anxiety to meet Nandalala went on increasing. He began to sob and cry for Him. How could Nandalala who is by nature so kind and loving, ignore the cry of a simple hearted boy so intensely devoted to Him? He became equally anxious to meet him.

So, He appeared before him one day with His elder brother Balram (Dau). Bhondu immediately became friendly with Nandalala and started bringing nice treats for Him every day. Krishna shared it with His playmates and enjoyed it very much.



One day as Bhondu was going out of the Ashram to graze the cows, Nandkisor Das Goswami saw him carrying a big load on his head.

“What are you carrying Bhondu?” he asked.

“I am carrying provisions for a feast for Nandalala and His friends,” Bhondu replied smilingly.

“Feast for Nanadalala?”

“Yes for Nanadalala.”

“Which Nanadalala?”

“Nandalala the flute player, who comes to Bhandiravana for grazing cows.”

“Nandalala the flute player! Tell me what he looks like, what is the color of His body, and what he wears?”

“Oh, He is extremely handsome! The color of His body is lustrous blue. He wears a yellow garment round His chest and a garland of flowers round His neck. A crown studded with peacock feathers adorns His head. He always has a



charming smile on His face. Oh Master, I can't describe how handsome he looks."

His master could not believe what Bhondu said, but he also could not disbelieve, because he knew that Bhondu was not capable of telling a lie.

He asked Bhondu to invite Nandalala and His party for feast at the ashram the next day. Not sure if Shri Krishna would accept, he asked Bhondu, if his friend would accept the invitation.

"Yes why not? I shall bring him tomorrow," said Bhondu with confidence.

While going to Bhandiravana, Bhondu was constantly musing on Nandalala's reaction to the invitation. "Oh, how happy he will be!" But when he conveyed the invitation to Nandalala, promptly came the reply, "No Bhondu, I will not go to your ashram."

"No, Nandalala, You will have to go. I have promised my master," said Bhondu, his face blushing with affront and anxiety; for it was an affront not only to him but also to his master.

"No, I will not. What have I to do with your master and ashram?" Nandalala curtly replied again.

Poor Bhondu never imagined that Nandalala could be so defiant and discourteous. After all he had made a simple request to Him and he had every right to believe that He would readily accede. But He did not. Bhondu's heart was broken. Tears trickled down his cheeks. He had no words to express his feelings. He decided, he no longer wanted to play with Nandalala. He separated his cows and started to march back to the ashram in anger.

Nandalala was shocked. "What are you doing Bhondu?" He asked.

"I am going away. If you do not have anything to do with my Master, then I have nothing to do with You!"

This was too much for Nandalala. How could he bear Bhondu parting company with Him? He ran and caught Bhondu's arm and very sweetly said, "Listen Bhondu! Dau comes with me. And your master lives in Barsana. That is Radha Rani's place. Dau does not want to go there. And I

can't leave Dau alone and go. Why don't you invite your master to the forest tomorrow? We will all sit and have a meal together." This pacified Bhondu. When he went back to the ashram, his master was waiting impatiently. He asked Bhondu if Nandalala had accepted his invitation. Bhondu explained that Barsana is Shri Radha Rani's place and Dau didn't want to come here, so Nandalala has invited you to lunch tomorrow.

The master could not sleep all night. Next morning both of them got ready early and left for the forest with loads of food. Bhondu waited patiently as he knew Nandalala came whenever he liked. But his master was desolate and full of yearning. As midday approached, Shri Krishn appeared with Dau and all His cows. The master could not bear the joy of seeing the Lord in all his glory and fell unconscious. Bhondu was used to Nandalala appearing and disappearing in this manner every day. He could not understand what happened to his master suddenly. He ran to serve the master and asked Nandalala to help. Nandalala knew that if He did not help, Bhondu would again be upset like yesterday. So he too started fanning the master with his yellow cloth. When the master came back to consciousness, he bowed down at the lotus feet of Nandalala and offered his respects. Then the master offered all food to Him. He was so ecstatic seeing Nandalala laugh and have fun with Bhondu, that he kept going in and out of consciousness.

Thus, due to his simple heartedness and steadfast faith, Bhondu realized God. The master was also graced through his servant.



L-O-V-E-O-F-G-O-D

12+15+22+5+15+ 6+7+15+4 = 101%

Therefore, one can conclude with mathematical certainty that:

While Hard Work and Knowledge will get you close, and Attitude will get you there, it's the Love of God that will put you over the top!

Have a nice day & God bless you

## New Year Edition Quiz

Children were asked to find names of scriptures from various religions and write a short description of those.

<b>Answers</b>		<b>Winners</b>
Avesta	The primary collection of sacred texts of Zoroastrians / Parsi	Winner: Arijeet (15 yrs) – 10 correct ,  1st Runners up: Jairaj (15 yrs) – 9 correct;  2nd Runners up: Isha (8 Yrs) – 6 correct
Bhagvat	It has leelas of Shri Krishn	
Bible	The holy book for Christians	
Geeta	The lecture given by Shri Krishn to Arjun	
Mahabhart	The story of fight between Kaurav and Pandav	
Manusmriti	Book written by Manu, the first man created by Lord Brahma	
Nyaya	Everything is proven by decisive logic	
Puran	Meaning of Ved and leelas of various descensions of God	
Quran	Holy book of Muslims	
Ramayan	Story of Shri Ram Chandra	
Shivpuran	Glories and details of Lord Shiva	
Torah	The name given by Jews to the "five books of Moses"	
Upanishat	The latter part of Ved	
Ved	The most authentic scripture	
Vedant	Ocean of knowledge in aphorisms	

## Whats Happening at SKKA

### Christmas Retreat 2011

The retreat was organized in the serene surroundings of Radha Madhav Dham Austin. It is impossible to describe the divine atmosphere created by blissfully charged keertan, enlightening lectures, heart warning pastimes of Shri Radha Krishna and much more. Some devotees have expressed their feelings on the 3-day retreat, as under:

#### **Austin Devotee - Monica**

This last weekend was very special for me. Thank you for putting all that work and effort into it. I look so much forward to seeing Didi Ji again this weekend and bathe in her chanting and presence.

#### **Dallas Devotee - Parimal**

It's unbelievable how a 3 day retreat felt like a day. I loved it!!! Everything from the lectures, kirtans, picnics to yoga and games. The weather prevented us from conducting outdoor activities & to paraphrase Didiji, this was a blessing in disguise as it gave us more opportunities for Satsang (kirtans/lectures/Q&A). I will be looking forward to other soul enriching retreats.

Radhe Radhe

#### **Toronto Devotee - Isha**

I really enjoyed taking part in the Maniharini leela because I got to know about another sweet leela of Shri Krishna and Shri Radha Rani. I also enjoyed participating in the talent night by singing the Kripalu Trayodashi and listening to the fun filled musical "Chana jor garam". The vibrations in Radha Madhav Dham were awesome!!! It helped the atmosphere become more devotional. I can't wait for next year's retreat.





## Festivals this quarter

Apr 01, 2012	Sunday	Ram Navami
Apr 06, 2012	Friday	Hanuman Jayanti
May 24, 2012	Thursday	Akshya Tritya
Jun 01, 2012	Friday	Kurmavtar Jayanti Nirjala Ekadashi



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2710 Ashford Trail Drive

Houston TX 77082 USA

Or Call us At: (713) 344-1321

Or Email Us At: [divyasandesh97@gmail.com](mailto:divyasandesh97@gmail.com)

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Happy Happy Happy

Holi

To

*All Devotees*