



Divya Sandesh

Sharad Purnima Edition

October 2013



Follow a Saint's Teachings Not His Actions

Essence of Shri Maharaj Ji's lecture on Sharad Poornima

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छठीं भूमिका में रास, गोविन्द राधे ।
मायाबद्ध जीव कैसे जाने बता दे ।

We are going to celebrate Sharad Poornima next month. On this auspicious day, over 5200 years ago, at the stroke of midnight, the divine couple Shri Radha Krishna started "Maharaas", the highest pastime of divine love.

Now-a-days, the word "Raas" has become very popular. Dancers dressed up as Shri Radha, Krishna and the gopis, perform the dance of Maharaas in front of the common public who enjoys their performance. In addition to the dance performances, there are several story tellers (Katha Vachak), who narrate the story of the Maharaas from the Bhagwat Mahapuran and we householders, listen to it, nodding our heads as if confirming our understanding of the most obscure pastime of Maharaas.

To be able to take over a responsibility and handle it competently, one must be ordained for the position. Take for example that of a lawyer. A lawyer may be more qualified than the judge and may even have taught law to the judge at the law school, but that does not make the lawyer eligible to take the seat of the judge. The lawyer has to still address the judge as 'My Lord'. So qualification or ability is not enough. One has to be ordained to become eligible to take up that position. There are several government positions which person with lower security clearance cannot hold the position. Only a person with an equivalent or higher security clearance can be a substitute.

Similarly secrets of Maharas could only be comprehended at the 6th stage of devotion, even though in the 5th stage a devotee becomes so ecstatic that he becomes oblivious of his physical presence. There are many intricate conditions to be eligible to participate in the Maharaas. Only completely selfless devotees, practicing the highest form of devotion can attain Maharaas. The Bhagavat Mahapuran says;

यद्वाञ्छया श्रीर्ललना चरत्तपो विहाय कामान् सुचिरं धृतव्रताः ॥ भा.१०.१६.३६

God's divine consort Mahalaxmi performed significant penances to attain Mahaaraas and still could not attain it. There are a lot of conditions that need to be fulfilled to become eligible to know and understand Mahaaraas. Do not attempt to imitate the behavior of the highest level Rasik saints. Study the lessons imparted by your Guru as per your devotional standing and master those topics. When you reach that stage, you will automatically understand everything. Just like Arjun killed millions of Kaurav soldiers, while exclusively focusing his mind on Shri Krishna. It is not possible for an ordinary person to comprehend this fact. Only when one reaches that state of devotion, can one understand that. How can one comprehend

the fact that Hanuman Ji, who sees Sita Ram everywhere burn down the whole Lanka killing hundreds of Brahmins? Well we can't understand that. Just like a little 4 year old asks his mother, "tell me mother, how can I be both your and daddy's child?" Even if one possesses the intellect of Brihaspati, it is impossible to make the 4 year old comprehend how? The mother says, "when you grow up you will know. For now just remember that you are both mine and your father's son". When the child grows up and gets those emotions, he will naturally comprehend the answer to his question.

Just like that when you go beyond the 3 modes of Maya, then you will understand how God and Saints remain unattached while seemingly performing material actions. Till then you have to stay and study in your devotional class and practice the concepts.

यान्यस्मात्सुचरितानि तान्येवत्वयोपास्यानि नो इतराणि ।
तैत्त.

ईश्वराणां वचः सत्यं तथैवाचरितं क्वचित् । तेषां यत्स्वव
चोयुक्तं बुद्धिमांस्तत् समाचरेत् ॥ भा. १०.३३.३२

Follow the advice of Saints. Do not follow their actions. Follow their teachings and the path that they took to reach their current state. Just like a student has to graduate elementary first, then middle, then high school, then bachelors and then masters. In this manner he can become a scholar. If you decide NOT to follow this rule, you will never attain mastery.

Significance of Prasad



Lord Shri Krishna had to say, Uddhav is not even slightly inferior to Me. He is embodied with all knowledge, love and renunciation etc. that I possess. The same Uddhav says all the big scholars (*gyani*), *dhyani* (those who perform meditation) and saints embodied with all the means prescribed by the Vedas, cannot overcome Maya in millions of years. Tulsidas Ji says, the great personalities like Narad, Brahma, Vishnu and Shankar also could not win over Maya. God has challenged in the Gita saying, "Arjun, the one who surrenders to Me, I will free him from Maya". No-one can be free of Maya based on their own efforts.

That Uddhav Ji is challenging Shri Krishna, saying, I will use all the fine items that You have personally used. Personal used items such as a necklace, scent, perfume, clothes like the yellow garment *peetambar*, ornaments etc. that You give as Prasad to your devotees and the greatest thing of all is the food eaten by You. By consuming anything personally used by You, I have won over Maya. Those who have been observing serious penances, suffered a downfall, however, I can challenge Maya, merely by consuming your Prasad.



Who else can explain the relevance of Prasad, who can understand the relevance of Prasad better than this?

Can destiny be altered?

Q: Can destiny be nullified?

A: God and God-realized saints are omnipotent.

कर्तुमकर्तुमन्यथा कर्तुं समर्थः ।

They are free to do whatever they like, not do whatever they don't like or even perform seemingly contradictory actions. However, they too follow the laws established by God.

God and Saints do not change their own destiny, nor do they change the destiny of others. Saints however, because of their causeless merciful nature, do *minimize the negative impact of destiny for their disciples depending on the extent of their surrender.*

In our scriptures there are references of a few saints who had to leave for their divine abode earlier than their prescribed time. One such saint had 50 more years to live, so He assumed 50 physical forms to bear his fate in 50 bodies at the same time for one year. Thus he went through all the fruits of his action that were meant to be distributed over a period of 50 years in one year before leaving for his divine abode. God realized saints are ever blissful. The negative impact of their destiny

does not impact them. They do not experience physical pain or mental distress for e.g. if their son were to die, they would be as un-attached to the happening as they would be when the son was born. They would not grieve over the departed soul and would suggest the regular course of action that is to prepare the body for cremation. Saints do not grieve over anything; loss of loved ones, fame, wealth etc. And so they happily endure their destiny.

God and His saints never violate the laws set out by God. For if they would, people would ask questions such as: Lord Ram saved his own father, but not mine; Lord Krishna saved His own nephew - *Abhimanyu*, but not my son. God does not give anybody an opportunity to blame Him of partiality towards anyone. The *Pandavas* were great devotees of Lord Krishna. Yet, they had to roam the forests for 12 years. Lord Ram himself had to live in exile for 14 years, roaming in dense forests with the most delicate Mother Sita. During His descension period, God does not alter His destiny, even though He can, if so desires.



राम भगत का करि न सकाहीं ।
भाविहूँ मेटि सकहिं त्रिपुरारी ॥

Thus the saints also undergo their fate. The only difference being that the saints accept it gladly while the ignorant beings undergo their destiny with pain.

ज्ञानी भुगते ज्ञान सों,
मूरख भुगते रोय ॥

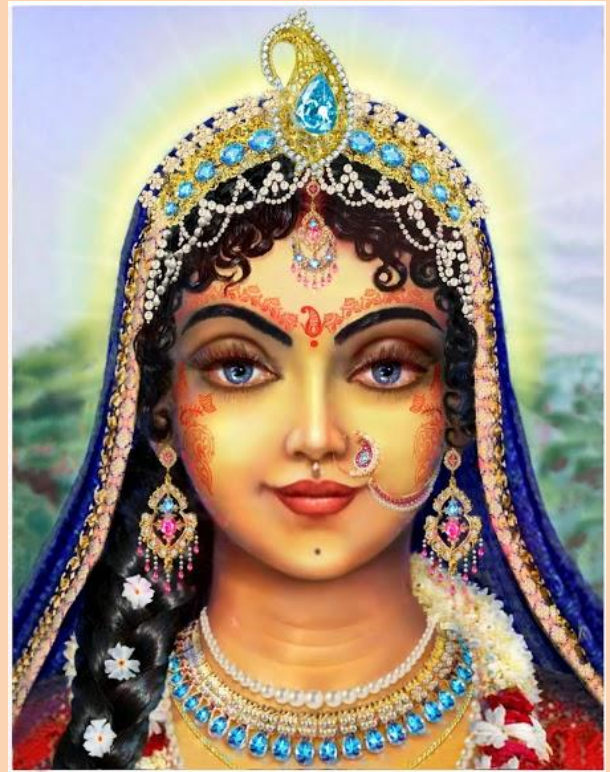
Prior to committing a murder, the murderer knows that if caught, he will receive a capital punishment. Yet he arrogantly says, I don't mind dying, but I have to kill that person. Similarly, in our numerous past lives we have been committing uncountable sins, completely disregarding the advice of God-realized saints and our scriptures. Now, when the fruits of those sinful actions come in front of us in the form of destiny, we question and blame God for putting us through so much misery and pain. This is sheer ignorance. We must always remember "*As we sow, so shall we reap*".

While going through our destiny, where we have to suffer the results of our past sinful or negative actions, we must take heart-first by accepting the fact that we are being punished for our own actions; so there is no-one else to blame but for us for our state. Second, we must look at those who are not as privileged or fortunate as us. If we grieve over the death of our father, we must look at those who have no father or mother and must take solace in the fact that at least my mother is still alive. If we look at those above us, we will never be happy.

Even the king of celestial abodes, Indra, desires the luxuries of *Brahmlok*.

Be thankful to God for all that you have; health, wealth, family etc. Be positive and realize the immense grace of God and Guru. Realizing God's grace everywhere, all the time, will reduce the impact of misery and pain and will bring you peace of mind. On the contrary if you look at others and curse your misfortune, you will always be sad and will waste this precious human life in envy, greed and jealousy.

Radhey Naam Ras Aisa



जग भोग विष जान, गोविंद राधे
हरी नाम मोहनभोग बता दे

*Jag bhog vish jaan, Govind Radhey
Hari naam mohanbhog bataa de*

Please know that enjoying the material pleasures of this world, is like consuming poison Chanting and enjoying the sweet name

of the lord is like partaking the most delicious Indian sweet called Mohanbhog.

हरोहाँ नाम में है हरी, गोविंद राधे
यह वेद मत निज उर में बिठा दे

Harihin naam mein hain hari, Govind Radhey

Yeh ved mat nij ur mein bitha de

Please know that God resides in His own name. So say the Vedas, the ultimate scriptural authority. Please make this fact take a firm root in your mind.

हरी सब उर में है, गोविंद राधे
यह मत वेद सम्मत है बता दे

Hari sab ur mein hai, Govind Radhey

Yeh mat ved sammat hai bata de

Please know that the Supreme lord dwells in your heart. This is not a mere myth but an established fact endorsed by the Vedas, the ultimate scriptural authority

राधे नाम रस ऐसा, गोविंद राधे
ब्रह्म को भी निज भगवत्ता भुला दे

Radhey naam ras aisa, Govind Radhey

Brahm ko bhi nij bhagvatta bhula de

Please know that the sweetness of the nectar of Shri Radha Rani's name is such that it makes the Supreme lord forget His Godliness.

राधे नाम रस ऐसा, गोविंद राधे
जितना पियो प्यास उतनी बढ़ा दे

Radhey naam ras aisa, Govind Radhey

Jitna piyo pyaas utni badha de

Please know that the sweetness of the nectar of Shri Radha Rani's name is such that the more you partake in the drink, the more it enhances your thirst for more.

राधे नाम रस ऐसा, गोविंद राधे
भगवान शिव को भी शिवानी बना दे

Radhey naam ras aisa, Govind Radhey

Bhagvaan shiv ko shivani banaa de

Please know that the sweetness of the nectar of Shri Radha Rani's name is such that it forces Lord Shiva to assume a female form to taste the nectar of Maharaas

राधे नाम रस ऐसा, गोविंद राधे
ब्रह्म को भी प्रेम भिखारी बना दे

Radhey naam ras aisa, Govind Radhey

Brahm ko bhi prem bhikhari banaa de

Please know that the sweetness of the nectar of Shri Radha Rani's name is such that it makes the Supreme lord beg Shri Radha Rani for Her Supreme Love bliss.

राधे नाम रस ऐसा, गोविंद राधे
सर्वज्ञ ब्रह्म को भी अज्ञ बना दे

Radhey naam ras aisa, Govind Radhey

Sarvagya brahm ko bhi agya banaa de

Please know that the sweetness of the nectar of Shri Radha Rani's name is such that it makes the all-knowing Supreme Lord forget all his knowledge and become like an ignorant being.

राधे नाम रस ऐसा, गोविंद राधे
आनन्द ब्रह्म को भी रोना सिखा दे

Radhey naam ras aisa, Govind Radhey

Anand brahm ko bhi ronaa sikha de

Please know that the sweetness of the nectar of Shri Radha Rani's name is such that it teaches the ever blissful Supreme lord to cry fo Her love

राधे नाम रस ऐसा, गोविंद राधे
वानी भवानी को भी नौकरानी बना दे

Radhey naam ras aisa, Govind Radhey

Vaani bhawaani ko naukrani banaa de

Please know that the sweetness of the nectar of Shri Radha Rani's name is such that it makes Parvati and Saraswati Her maids to achieve Her love.



Sunahu Sadhak Pyare - 15

So, being detached from the material world is a pre-requisite to develop faith in God. Developing faith in God and Guru is not possible without detachment from the world. Since eternity,

due to lack of faith in God, Guru and the teachings of the Vedas, we have arrogantly maintained our belief that

"भस्मीभूतस्य देहस्य पुनरागमनं कुतः ? (चार्वाक) –
(There is no God, no hell or heaven. Once the body is cremated, who is going to come back again?)"

So, there are two pre-requisites to attain knowledge – detachment from the world & guidance of an authentic saint.

गुरु ते समझिय श्याम सों संबंध अपनो प्यारे ।
गुरु ही ते समझिय मिलन की साधना भी प्यारे ॥
(The Guru will educate you on your relationship with God. The Guru will also teach you the means to attain and visualize Shri Krishna).

The Geeta proclaims: Once you develop faith,

तद्विद्धि प्रणिपातेन परिप्रश्नेन सेवया ।
उपदेक्ष्यन्ति ते ज्ञानं ज्ञानिनस्तत्त्वदर्शिनः ॥ गी.४.३४
(Go to a saint, who is endowed with perfect knowledge and has experienced God. Surrender your mind and intellect to the lotus feet of the Guru, ask questions to the Guru to remove all your scriptural doubts and serve the Guru. Once the Guru is pleased with your service, he will bestow knowledge upon you).

Gaurang Mahaprabhu says -
वेद शास्त्र कहे संबंध अभिधेय प्रयोजन ।
कृष्ण, कृष्ण-भक्ति, प्रेम तिन महाधन ॥
(There are only three things to be known 1, Relation (संबंध) - we are eternally related with Shri Krishna only; 2, what do we desire to achieve – Divine Love; 3, and how will we achieve it – By performing devotion to Shri Krishna).

दिव्यो देव एको नारायणो माता पिता भ्राता निवासः
शरणं सुहृत् गतिर्नारायण इति ॥ सुबाल श्रुति

Lakshmana Ji said to Shri Ram -

मोरे सबई एक तुम स्वामी ।
दीन बन्धु उर अन्तर्यामी ।

All these verses are indicative of exclusive relationship with God. You have a handful of people in your family, each with a different set of demands from you. The one whose demand you do not satisfy gets upset with you. What can you do in that case? God on the other hand is very kind and generous. He says, establish all kinds of relationship with Me alone. This is not possible in the world. Imagine, what would happen if someone were to refer to their wife as "Mom" or refer to their husband as "Son".

However, in the spiritual realm,

त्वमेव माता च पिता.....त्वमेव सर्वं मम देव देव ।
(You are my mother, my father, my relatives, my friend...you are my everything)

So, when you have just one Almighty relative, you will never be troubled. You are free to establish any relationship with him at any time.

So, the first thing to be understood is our relationship with Shyam Sundar, who is the object of our devotion. And then what do we have to do? To learn anything, one needs a teacher. If a student starts questioning a teacher as to why is the letter "A" pronounced as "A", the teacher will never be able to teach the student. To be able to learn from a teacher we must also have faith on the teacher and must follow his instructions.

Similarly we need to surrender ourselves to a Guru (a spiritual teacher) to acquire knowledge of the spiritual realm as well. But we have to be very careful in choosing a saint as our Guru. If a saint gives a mantra in the ear or says think constantly 'I am God'. Be careful. Think before repeating the Mahavakya of the Vedas तत्त्वमसि, अहं ब्रह्मास्मि etc. Can you be Almighty, Omnipresent, All pervading? Can you annihilate the entire universe in a blink?

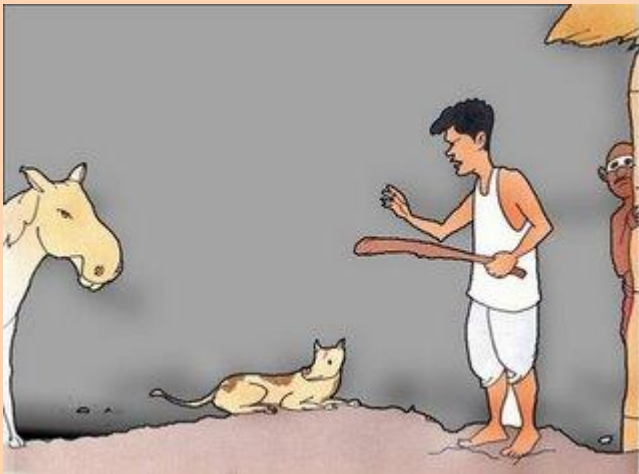
So, the first step towards God realization is to recognize Him as your real relative with the help of a spiritual master. There are 2 more important things to be learnt by the grace and association of a Guru.

Continued...

Kidz Section



Be Yourself



Once upon a time, there lived a potter in a small village. He earned an honest living by making clay pots. He had two pets at home - a dog and a donkey. Every morning, the dog used to bark to wake up his master. The barking of the dog was like an alarm for the potter who would then wake up, and get ready to go to the field with his two assistants-the dog and the donkey to make clay pots. During the day, the potter would work hard on his wheel to make pots and keep them in the Sun for drying. While the pots were drying, the dog used to keep the animals away. Once the pots had dried, the potter used to bake them in the kiln. In the evening, the potter would load all the pots on the donkey's back and bring them home. The potter would unload the pots and put them inside. Then he would tie the donkey to a post and give him some green grass or hay. The potter would then wash his hands and his wife would serve him food. The dog used to sit right next to his master and occasionally used to get some food from the potter's plate. Later at night the potter's wife used to give the dog some food. Occasionally when the potter went out anywhere the dog used to go with him while the donkey stayed home tied to the post. If the dog did not go with the potter then upon his return, the dog would lick his master, lie in his lap and show affection. The dog used to run around the house all night and occasionally used to bark.

This way the potter and his two pets spent their life. For six days of the week, the above sequence would go on. On the seventh day, the potter would load all the pots on the donkey and carry them to the market for selling them. While the donkey was carrying the heavy load, the dog would keep circling around the potter and the donkey. He would bark at every passerby. In the market the potter would sell those pots and that is how he earned his livelihood. With the money he earned he would buy some groceries and other utility items from the market, load them on the donkey and return back home in the evening.

The donkey used to keep watching the dog and it appeared to him that the dog was his master's favorite pet. He thought that was so because the dog was very friendly and full of energy. The donkey decided that if he changes his ways and attitude to be like that of the dog, the potter would also love him, pet him and take care of him.



So the next day, the donkey woke up early and started braying to wake up his master. The potter was annoyed upon hearing the donkey bray early in the morning but since it was time to get up he got up and got ready. When he untied the donkey, the donkey started running here and there and braying. This further annoyed the potter. All day the donkey kept trying to break the rope with which he was tied. On the way back, he started running and broke some of the pots. The potter got really upset and took a stick and beat him up. Somehow with half the pots broken they reached home. At dinner time the donkey kept braying. In the evening when the potter sat down for dinner, the donkey broke his rope and started licking the

potter and tried to lie down in the potter's lap. The potter took him away and tied him with a stronger rope this time. At night the donkey started braying just like the dog used to bark at night. Now the potter decided that he needed to teach the donkey a lesson. So he picked up a stick and beat him up hard. Finally the donkey realized that behaving like the dog is not working out for him.

Moral: Do what your Guru instructs you to do. Don't look at what others are doing or are being told to do. Also, don't look at the behavior of God and Guru towards you and compare that with His behavior towards others. God and Guru will ask you to do what is right for you and will punish you when you don't do your job.

Website has moved

Please note that our website has moved from

www.shrikripalukunj.org

to

<http://www.shri-kripalu-kunj-ashram.org>

Upcoming Programs

Bhakti Retreat in Somerset NJ

During Thanks Giving Weekend, Didi Ji will be leading a devotional retreat in Somerset NJ. Please click on this link to see the details.

<http://www.shri-kripalu-kunj-ashram.org/ny-nj-thanks-giving-retreat.html>

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Happy Happy Happy Sharad Purnima

To

All Devotees

Millions of obeisance
to our dear Guru dev on his 91st birthday