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Sharad Poornima

2014 Edition



Sharad Poornima – a gloomy day or a day of devotional upliftment?

It was the most beautiful full moon night of the fall season. The beauty of this night was unique and never seen before in Vrindaban. The beautiful fragrant flowers of all the seasons were blooming in their full magnificence, the moon appeared with all its arts, the breeze was extremely pleasant and the whole ambience of Vrindaban reflected the complete grandeur of nature. Shri Radha, the embodiment of the highest level of Divine love “*Maadan*” showered the nectar of love, along with the Supreme God Shri Krishna for the deserving souls of Braj. Lord Krishna, by the grace and permission of Shri Radha Rani, revealed millions of His divine forms to drench all the deserving maidens of Braj in the highest form of love and danced with all of them personally. It started at midnight on the night of the full moon and went on continuously for a Kalp (4.29 billion earth years).

Our beloved master Jagadguru **Shri Kripalu Ji Maharaj** descended on this earth on the same pleasant night at midnight in Mangarh, a village in Uttar Pradesh, India. It was a clear indication of His mission. Hence He taught his devotees to follow the love ideology of the maidens of Braj, i.e.

1. Love Shri Radha –Krishna exclusively.
2. Adore Shri Krishna as your beloved and Shri Radha as your supreme governess. It is called “*Madhurya-Bhav*”.
3. Love them in a completely selfless manner. This means serving the divine couple without any desire of self-happiness and doing everything only for their pleasure.

Our Gurudev, Shri Kripalu Ji Maharaj was the ocean of mercy like Shri Radha and sweetly mischievous and playful like Lord Krishna. Hence He is also considered as the second *avatar* of Gaurang Mahaprabhu, who was the mixed *avatar* of Shri Radha Krishna.

He was extremely active and jovial. Besides He was so caring and loving that He was adored by his devotees like their life. His followers were kept so busy with the schedule of His sweet pastimes that they had no inkling of commencement of day or night. It used to happen every day round the year.

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But the most favored day of His devotees was “Sharad-Poornima” the day when He blessed the earth with His appearance. Devotees residing all over the world would start planning far ahead of time to reach Mangarh, the birth place of Shri Maharaj Ji. Nobody wanted to miss the most blissful occasion of His appearance day. The entire village of Mangarh would be decorated like a bride with lights, flowers, birthday signs, balloons and other beautiful birthday decorations. The celebration would start from 3.00 AM with *guru-pujan*. The lines to do *pujan* of His lotus feet used to be so long that it was hard to delineate beginning or the end of the lines. Thereafter, there would be so many enjoyable activities that devotees could barely find free time to rest.

That same blissful day of Sharad Poornima is arriving very soon. Although lots of devotees in India and abroad are planning to reach *Guru-Dham* Mangarh ahead of time, yet everyone is feeling gloomy and missing the joy of *Gurudev's* birthday celebrations of the past when He blessed us with His physical presence. The devotees are sad to think that they would be deprived of seeing His cheerful face and miss laughing at His witty jokes. How can we be blessed by touching His lotus feet early in the morning! How can we have beautiful glimpses of Him in various outfits the entire day!! The Ashram girls and boys would in the past be putting up stunning cultural programs showing their amazing singing and dancing talents. During these performances, His expressions, hilarious remarks and gestures would be more pleasurable than the programs themselves. The devotees would be more interested in watching Him rather than the cultural programs. Alas, how we would



be denied this pleasure now. Most of the time during *Keertan*, He would be absorbed in divine ecstasy. His personality at that time was so blissful and divine that many devotees would also faint in ecstasy. How would we ever have the same vibrations of divine ecstasy? Although we feel devastated, a large number of devotees are still planning to visit Mangarh to get engrossed in His sweet memories and reminisce about the places in Mangarh, where he used to walk, talk, sit and play various pastimes. They are going to do Sadhana (devotional practice) and shed tears thinking of sweet memories of the past. They are going to increase their feelings of love and separation for Him.

So, this Sharad Poornima looks like it's going to be an incredible mixture of devotion tinged with sadness.

Again Sharad Poornima is here!

(Prem Ras Madira – Virah Madhuri – Pad Num 121)

पुनि शरदपूर्णिमा आ गई ।
 कौन प्रीत की रीत मीत की, बीत अरी बरषा गई ।
 नहिं आये नहिं हमहिं बुलाये, अस कुबरी मन भा गई ।
 जो किय पिय! अपमान सदा तव, सो फल हम भल पा गई ।
 दे दो क्षमा दान अब हम कहँ, बानि क्षमा की का गई ।
 कह "कृपालु" यह शरद-रास सधि, औरहुँ आग लगा गई ॥

Here is the description of agonizing pain of separation of a *gopi* (maiden of Braj) that has become more unbearable on the auspicious day of Sharad Poornima, the day when Lord Krishna showered unlimited nectar of divine love bliss for one *kalpa* to these maidens of Braj.

The Vedas say

अतप्त तनुर्तदा मोश्नुते दिवम्।

As gold exhibits its maximum brightness after being burnished in the fire, love becomes exceedingly pure and intense in times of separation. Hence Shri Krishna, after giving unlimited bliss of divine love, leaves His devotees to undergo unbearable pangs of separation. Lord Krishna explained the reason of bestowing maximum pain after drenching a devotee in the ocean of love-bliss in following verse of Shrimad Bhagavat - Mahapurān:

नाहं तु सख्यो भजतोऽपि जन्तून्, भजाम्यमीषामनुवृत्तिवृत्तये ।

यथाधनो लब्धधने विनष्टे, तच्चिन्तयान्यन्निभृतो न वेद ॥

भाग.१०.३२.२०



I always remain in the hearts of my devotees and notice the augmentation of the fire of love when I confer pains of separation on them. If a beggar gets a large amount of money through a lottery etc. he lavishes himself to greatest extent of comfort and luxury. Thereafter, all of a sudden, if he were to lose all of it, it will be almost impossible for him now to survive in the same situation of poverty. Precisely, a soul who had always been deprived from love-bliss since eternity, after tasting the nectar of My love-bliss, cannot survive without attaining the bliss of My association. And divine love never decreases even after an extensive length of time of separation. Instead, it keeps on increasing. And I wait until it reaches its extremity.

Lord Krishna showered the bliss of highest level of divine love torrentially. Now, when a *gopi* is already burning in the fire of separation, sweet memories of His loving gestures, touch, talks etc. make her more miserable. She thinks, there are many who love Him more than us, otherwise he would have called us or He would have sent a message for us. It seems like He has forgotten us. The *gopi* also realizes, due to extreme proximity of relationship, we misbehaved with Him using many insulting words and are probably facing punishment for our laxity.

But Shri Krishna is the unfathomable ocean of love and mercy. Still he gives pangs of separation for the reason mentioned above in Bhagavat verse.

Sunahu Sadhak Pyare - 18

When you call out to Him wholeheartedly, He will appear in front of you and will tell you to ask for a boon. Be cautious and do not get stuck in mediocre levels of bliss! Ask for the highest thing, which is selfless divine love. Love controls even God. All other powers are controlled by God, yet love controls God. God controls liberation, liberation controls knowledge, knowledge controls deeds and deeds control all living beings. Lord Krishna declares in Bhagawat:

अहं भक्तपराधीनो ह्यस्वतंत्र इव द्विज । साधुभिर्ग्रस्त हृदयो भक्तैर्भक्तजनप्रियः ॥

भाग. १.४.६३

Although I am fully independent yet I am also under the full control of my devotees.

शेष महेश गनेश दिनेश सुरेशहूँ जाहि निरन्तर ध्यावें ।
जाहि अनादि अनंत अखंड, अछेद अभेद सुवेद बतावें ।
नारद से शुक व्यास रटें पचिहारे तऊ पुनि पार न पावें ।
ताहि अहीर की छोहरियाँ छछिया भर छाँछ पे नाच नचावें ॥

Thakur Ji begs for some buttermilk spreading his tiny hands. Yet the *gopis* refuse and they say, "You will get buttermilk only if you show your dance. He dances again and again on the rhythm of the *gopis* clapping their hands only to get a little buttermilk. Why? His father Nand Baba owns nine hundred thousand cows! Does He not get it in His home? He does. But the *gopis* have the power of overbrimming selfless love, which makes Him a slave to them.

So, we must not cultivate any other desire except selfless divine love for Him alone. We have to cry from the innermost depth of our heart for His love just like an infant cries out to his mother for



milk. The little child cannot speak; we can speak to ask for His love. When a beggar asks for food, we can fathom the pain in His voice and eyes as he is really starving and the voice comes from within his heart. Similarly, when we call out to Lord Krishna for love from the bottom of our heart, He comes running to us, His devotees.

Selfless love dictates that we should ask for love to serve Him for His pleasure and not for our own happiness. Desire of self-pleasure is the cause of us roaming around in the 8.4 million life-forms on earth.

खुब तरसाया है इन स्वाहिशों ने तुझे, तू भी अब इन स्वाहिशों को कुछ तरसती छोड़ दे ॥

These desires have tortured you immensely, now you must forsake these selfish desires

Then these desires will think that he has accepted this great personality as the Guru and he does not desire me anymore even though he has been my slave since eternity and used to make new desires every day. So consider yourself happy in the happiness of Shri Krishna and don't desire for your own happiness. And ask for love for His happiness.

स्मरणयुक्त रो के माँगो, प्रेम हरि का प्यारे,
उनके सुख को मानु निज सुख, लक्ष्य यह रखु प्यारे ॥

There are three things- Hari, Guru and the power of devotion that unite you to Hari/Guru. Have single-minded devotion to ONLY these three. Choose one *Avatar* (form) to facilitate meditation upon His divine form. If your deity changes time and again (Ram, Krishna, Durga, Shankar and Hanuman Ji etc.), you will fail to focus on any

divine form. But, if you always focus on one form, one name and the pastimes of the same form, at least one divine form of God will be firmed up in your mind and you will be able to remember Him anywhere any time. The form and pastimes of God are sweetest during the *Avatar* of Shri Radha Krishna. Moreover, They bestow the highest blessings of love on us. Hence we should wisely worship Shri Radha Krishna with a firm comprehension that all other



avatars are not different from our deity. Since God is one, He descends in many forms.

One day you meditate upon kachapavatar, next day narsingh avatar, next day matysavatar, next day shukravatar then you won't be able to meditate properly on any form. Even though these are all descensions of the same God, still for your own benefit focus only on Radha Krishna. They alone should remain your deity. It is also important to know that one should choose only one spiritual master and be completely surrendered to him. Otherwise you will be confused and lose reverence and faith for both of them. Listen to your Guru's philosophy and instructions only. Do not read too many scriptures.

There have been 5 main Gurus of *bhakti*, Ramanujacharya, Nimbarkacharya, Madhavacharya, Vallabhacharya and Gaurang Mahaprabhu. Their philosophies too vary a little. If you read all their literature then you will spend all your time contemplating whether this is right or that is right. And in case you read the philosophy of Shankaracharya then you will definitely get totally muddled up and your practice of devotion will weaken. You should think that you will just hear what he said but you know what you have to do and would not allow different philosophies to confuse you. But what we hear or read will impact our minds. We will cultivate numerous doubts after which we may end up going back to our Guru to ask for clarifications. If we keep cultivating doubts and ask our Guru to keep clarifying them, when will we be able to perform *sadhana*?

Hence, Hari means Radha-Krishn, Guru means the saint who is guiding you and *sadhana* means the way He is telling you to perform devotion. Stay inside this periphery. Simple questions and comments from others like, "You worship Shri Krishna? You don't fast on Ekadashi? That is a sin" will sow seeds of doubt. Now you feel bad for not fasting on that day. But if you were to firmly believe in the path professed by your Guru, and somebody comes and says, "You don't worship an idol of Shri Krishna?", you will be able to ward off doubt by thinking that your Guru had told you to make an image of Shri Krishna in the mind and worship Him mentally, since idol worship is full of impediments. Impediments like you want to adorn your Beloved with the necklace of finest diamonds. But you barely earn enough to provide food for your family. Now you are upset over how you could adorn Him with a diamond necklace. But mentally, you get the largest, shiniest diamonds, even better than the Kohinoor diamond and put it around Shri Krishn. You did not have spent a dime on doing that. In our world often when the house-holders worship God, they run into several obstacles like children disorganized the things in the altar, wife moved things according to her own convenience. Then they get upset and have arguments with wife, scold the children. Is this practice of devotion? In idol worship you need a lot of stuff and you want good quality stuff.

During the monsoon season in Vrindaban, several temples are decorated and swings are hung. People visit those temples to see the beautiful decorations. So it seems like the decorations are more important than even Shri Krishna. There was once a rich man Seth Hargu Lal. He had made a swing for Shri Krishna studded with several precious stones. It was a few hundred thousand rupees at that ancient time, now it is worth millions. Once a year Shri Krishna sits in that swing. On that day hundreds of thousands of people flock to the temple. Now-a-days police manages the crowd. Earlier in that massive crowd several people used to get crushed. So why is there so much crowd on that particular day? Oh, the swing, in which Thakur ji is sitting, is worth millions! In other words they are saying on this



day it is Thakur Ji is worth 2 million more because of the swing. Every other day it is only Thakur ji. But this is the extent of our knowledge. We don't know and believe that all material opulence is subordinate to God. Hence they can't increase his value.

So be steadfast as far as Hari Guru and *sadhana* are concerned. Steadfast means not thinking of anything apart from these 3 entities. If our goal is fixated then we will keep moving forward.

Cont...

Shri Krishna protects His devotees.

About 5,000 years ago Lord Shri Krishna descended on this earth. At the same time there were 100 sons of Dhritrashtra called Kaurava Brothers. They were cousins of 5 Pandava brothers who sons of Kunti. Due to some peculiar circumstances both Yudhisthir (oldest Pandav) and Duryodhan (oldest Kaurav) were crown princes. Yudhisthir was the rightful crown prince and was worthy of it too but the oldest Kaurava Duryodhan wanted to be the king. Hence the kingdom of Hastinapur was partitioned into Hastinapur and Kandavprastha. Duryodhan was made the crown prince of Hastinapur and Yudhisthir was asked to establish his kingdom in the forest area called Kandavprastha. Despite getting the better deal, the greed of Duryodhan was still uncontained. He wanted to annex the Pandavas' portion as well. In pursuit of Kandavprastha, Kaurvas challenged Pandavas to a game of dice. Both parties put their entire kingdom and belongings at stake. Also, as per the wager the loser would be exiled to the forest for 13 years of which the last 1 year they had to live incognito.

Kaurvas cheated in that game and Pandavas lost everything. Thus they lost the kingdom and were exiled along with their wife Draupadi. This is a story of when Pandavas were living in exile in Dvaita Forest.

The Sun God came to the rescue and gave a "special vessel" to Draupadi. Everyday this vessel would provide desired food to any number of people, till Draupadi had her meal. Once she had eaten, it would be full only the next day. So Draupadi would feed Pandavas first and then have the food. In this way they started managing while living in the jungle.

One day, when the Pandavas were relaxing with Draupadi reposing after their meal, the sage Durvasa, surrounded by ten thousand disciples visited the forest. The illustrious king Yudhishtira, seeing that guests had arrived rushed forth to receive him. Joining the palms of his hands in greeting and ushering them to a suitable seat, he accorded the *Rishis* a fit and respectful welcome. And the king requested the sages, 'Oh respectable Sir, after performing your mid-day ablutions and observances, please return for a meal.' And that sinless *Muni*, not knowing how the king would be able to provide a feast for him and his disciples, proceeded with the latter to perform his ablutions to a stream nearby.

In the wilderness, food for thousands of people is not readily available. Also, the vessel was empty as Draupadi had already eaten. Now it would yield food only the next day. She was at her wits end as to how she would offer food to these thousands of pious guests. Draupadi the virtuous queen could not feed a few thousand Brahmins! That would be a major disgrace to their family and serious disrespect of renowned sage and his disciples. Moreover, Pandavas might fall a victim of his wrath.

Perturbed and helpless, Draupadi mentally turned towards Sri Krishna. With tears rolling down her cheeks she lovingly focused her mind on Sri Krishna. Sri Krishna, in his palace in Dwaraka, heard the cry of despair of His devotee. Sri Krishna has a weakness. He cannot help but rush to help a fully surrendered devotee in need. So He reached her forest dwelling. Beholding Vasudeva, Draupadi bowed down to him in great joy and informed him of the arrival of the *Munis* and about feeding them. And having heard everything Krishna said to her, 'I am very much afflicted with hunger, give me some food without delay, and then you may go about preparing a meal for them.' At these words of Sri Krishna, Draupadi became confused, and replied to him, saying, 'The sun-given vessel remains full only until I finish my meal. But as I have already taken my meal today, there is no food in it now'. Then that lotus-eyed and adorable Krishna said to Draupadi, 'This is no time for jest, Oh Draupadi. I am much distressed with hunger, go quickly go fetch the vessel and show it to me.' When Keshava had the vessel brought to him on persistence, He looked into it and saw a particle of rice and vegetable sticking at its rim. And swallowing it he said to her, 'May it please the god Hari, the soul of the Universe, and may that god who partakes of sacrifices, be satiated with this.' Then Krishna said to Bhima, 'Go speedily and invite the *Munis* to dinner'. Hearing so Bhimasena quickly went to invite all those *Munis*, Durvasa and others, who had gone to the nearest stream of transparent and cool water to perform their ablutions.

Meanwhile, these ascetics, having taken a dip into the river, observed that they all felt their stomachs to be full. And coming out of the stream, they began to stare at one another. And turning towards Durvasa, all those ascetics observed, "Having told the king to make our meals ready, we have come here for a bath but Oh *Rishi*, we cannot eat anything now, for our stomachs seem to be full to the throat. The repast has been uselessly prepared for us. What is the best thing to be done now?' Durvasa replied, 'By spoiling the repast, we have done a great wrong to king Yudhishtira. Would not the Pandavas destroy us by looking down upon us with angry eyes? I know the royal sage Yudhishtira to possess great ascetic power. O Brahmanas! I am afraid of men that are devoted to Hari. The high-souled Pandavas are all religious men, learned, war-like, diligent in ascetic austerities and religious observances, devoted to Vasudeva, and



always observant of rules of good conduct. If provoked, they can consume us with their wrath as fire consumes a bale of cotton. Therefore, Oh disciples, let us all run away quickly without seeing them (again)!"

Thus all the sages left without visiting Pandavas again. Then Bhimasena not beholding those excellent *Munis* in the celestial river, searched for them and found their hiding places. After he learned the story from those Brahmins, he came back and informed Yudhishtira of what had happened. Then all the Pandavas, expecting them to come, remained awaiting their arrival for some time. And Yudhishtira said, "Night is falling and may be the sages will not come. Oh, how can we escape from this difficulty?" Seeing them absorbed in such reflections and breathing long deep sighs at frequent intervals, the illustrious Krishna suddenly appeared to them and addressed them with these words: "Knowing, your danger from that wrathful *Rishi*, I was implored by Draupadi to come, therefore I have come here speedily. But now you don't need to fear from the *Rishi* Durvasa. Afraid of your ascetic powers, he scared himself. Virtuous men never suffer. I now ask your permission to let me return home. May you always be prosperous!"

Hearing Kesava's words, the sons of Pritha and Draupadi, became free of worries. And cured of their fever of anxiety, they said to Him, "Lord Govinda! As persons drowning in the wide ocean safely reach the shore by means of a boat, so have we, with Your aid, escaped from this inextricable difficulty. Please depart in peace, and may prosperity be Yours." Thus dismissed, Shri Krishna returned to His capital Dwarika and the Pandavas too wandering from forest to forest passed their days merrily with Draupadi.

And it was thus that the machinations of the wicked sons of Dhritarashtra against the Pandavas in the forest were frustrated.

Moral:

1. The Supreme Lord of all universes, Shri Krishna rushes to help his devotees in need. He does not appoint any servants to help the devotee out.
2. Shri Krishna accepts anything and everything that a devotee offers lovingly to him (even leftovers as in this story).
3. God is like the root and all others are like the other parts of the tree. If the root is satisfied all others are automatically satisfied.
4. Those who are 100% surrendered to God are very humble. Though they possess all of God's powers yet they don't exercise them to hurt others or for their own material welfare.

Upcoming events

IMPORTANT DATES FOR OCTOBER & NOVEMBER



Programs in Mangarh:

3rd October to 4th November:

Sharat Poonima Sadhana Shivar

7th October:

Jagadguruttam Jayanti Mahotsav (Sharat Poonima)

23rd October:

Jagadamba Jayanti Mahotsav (Deepawali)

4th November:

Jagadguruttam Mahaprayan Diwas

6th November to 8th November:

Gaya Sadhana Shivar & Shraddh Pooja

Programs in Vrindavan:

11th November:

Braj ki Vishishta Vibhutiyan ka Abhinandan

12th November:

Sadhu Bhoj

14th November:

Vidhva Bhoj

Programs in Barsana:

15th November:

Sadhu Bhoj

16th November:

Vidhva Bhoj



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