**Delivering the Drunken Brothers**

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*(Srila Prabhupada From Introduction to Srémad Bhägavatam)*

When Lord Caitanya was preaching in the town of Navadvépa, two of His closest associates, Nityänanda Prabhu and Haridäsa Öhäkura, approached a noisy crowd on the main road. They learned from passers-by that two brothers, Jagäi and Mädhäi, were once again causing a disturbance in a drunken condition. These two brothers had been born in a respectable *brähmaëa* family, but due to bad association they had become debauchees of the worst type. Not only were they drunkards, but they were also meat-eaters, woman hunters and thieves.

Nityänanda Prabhu decided that these two fallen souls must be the first to be delivered by Lord Caitanya's *saìkértana* movement. If they were delivered from their sinful ways, the good name of Lord Caitanya would be still more glorified. Thinking in this way, Nityänanda Prabhu and Haridäsa Öhäkura pushed through the crowd and asked the two brothers to chant the holy name of Lord Hari.

This enraged Jagäi and Mädhäi. The two drunks attacked Nityänanda and Haridäsa with filthy language, and chased them for a considerable distance. Later, when Lord Caitanya heard of the incident, He was glad that Nityänanda and Haridäsa had tried to deliver such fallen souls.

The next day, Nityänanda Prabhu went to see the brothers again. As He approached them, Mädhäi threw a piece of earthen pot at Him. It struck Nityänanda on the forehead, and blood began to flow. But Nityänanda Prabhu was so kind that instead of protesting against the heinous act, He said, "It does not matter that you have thrown this pot at Me. I still request you to chant the holy name of Lord Hari." Astonished to see the mercy of Nityänanda Prabhu, Jagäi at once fell down at His feet and asked Him to pardon his sinful brother. When Mädhäi again attempted to hurt Nityänanda Prabhu, Jagäi stopped him and implored him to beg for Nityänanda's mercy.

Meanwhile, news of the attack on Nityänanda reached Lord Caitanya, who hurried to the spot in a fiery mood. The Lord immediately invoked His Sudarsana *cakra* (His ultimate weapon, shaped like a wheel) to kill the sinners. But Nityänanda Prabhu reminded Him of His mission to deliver the hopelessly fallen souls of the age, of whom Jagäi and Mädhäi were typical examples. Ninety-nine percent of the population of the age resemble these brothers, despite high birth and apparent respectability.

As the Lord raised His Sudarçana *cakra* and Nityänanda Prabhu implored Him to forgive the two brothers, both Jagäi and Mädhäi fell at the lotus feet of Caitanya Mahäprabhu, begging Him to forgive them for their gross behavior. After Nityänanda reiterated their plea, the Lord agreed to accept them on one condition: that henceforward they would completely give up all their sinful activities. Both brothers agreed, and the Lord kindly accepted them. He never again referred to their past misdeeds.

This incident illustrates the special kindness of Lord Caitanya. In this age no one can claim to be sinless. Yet Lord Caitanya accepts anyone, no matter how sinful, on the condition that he promise not to indulge in sinful activities after being accepted as a disciple of a bona fide spiritual master.

**Delivering the Drunken Brothers Activities**

1. Mark all examples of www.asia in the text. (*Underline the word then copy the word in the margin on the left. If it is the beginning of a sentence circle it.*)
2. Where is Navadvipa? Find it on a map of India, then describe it in words.
3. What is a debauchee?
4. How did Jagai and Madhai become debauchees?
5. In your own words explain why Lord Nityananda wanted to preach to Jagai and Madhai.
6. How did Lord Nityananda show tolerance in this pastime?
7. What caused Jagai's change of heart?
8. What is Lord Caitanya's mission?
9. Can you think of any other pastime where a sinful person had a change of heart and became a devotee?
10. How is this pastime like a butterfly?
11. *Do one or more of the following activities:*
12. In a group of five or six prepare a drama of this pastime.
13. Rewrite this pastime as a rap/song.
14. Illustrate your favourite part of this pastime.