**Mercy for Jagäi and Mädhäi**

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*(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, SB 1.3.6, Los Angeles ,October 1, 1972)*

Kåñëa simply wants us to give up our sinful activities and surrender to Him. This is shown by the story of Lord Caitanya's deliverance of Jagäi and Mädhäi. These brothers were very sinful. They were engaging in illicit sex, intoxication, meat-eating, and gambling. They had been born in a nice *brähmaëa* family, but by bad association they became drunkards, gamblers, meat-eaters, and prostitute hunters. They were simply, creating disturbances.

Such people will always create disturbances. The whole world is now disturbed. Why? Because it is full of these sinful men: drunkards, gamblers, meat-eaters, and woman hunters. And people expect peace. Nonsense. Where is peace? First of all educate people to become sinless. Then talk of peace. Otherwise, there cannot be peace.

So these two brothers were creating a disturbance in the street, and a crowd had gathered. Lord Nityänanda and Haridäsa Öhäkura, close associates of Caitanya Mahäprabhu, were out for preaching. Lord Nityänanda saw the crowd and inquired, "What is this crowd?"

Someone replied, "There are two most sinful brothers, and they are creating a disturbance. So there is a crowd."

Nityänanda Prabhu said to Haridäsa Öhäkura, "Why not deliver these two brothers? Then it will be a great credit for Caitanya Mahäprabhu."

That is the mood of a preacher. He wants the credit to go to his master, not himself, even if he risks his life.

When Lord Nityänanda approached Jagäi and Mädhäi to ask them to chant Hare Kåñëa, one of the brothers hit him in the head with a stone, and blood came out.

Lord Nityänanda said, "All right. You have hurt Me. Blood is oozing out. That doesn't matter. Chant Hare Kåñëa."

Lord Nityänanda is showing us how we must preach. It is not that we only stay safely somewhere and chant Hare Kåñëa. No. We have to go out and meet the Jagäis and Mädhäis. That is Caitanya Mahäprabhu’s mission, because the world is full of Jagäis and Mädhäis.

When Lord Caitanya Mahäprabhu heard that one of the brothers had injured Nityänanda Prabhu, He became angry—like fire. If a devotee sees Viñëu or a Vaiñëava insulted, he should be firelike. Lord Caitanya taught, *tåëäd api sunécena:* a devotee should be as humble as straw in the street. But when a devotee sees the Lord or the Lord's devotee insulted, the devotee should not be like a straw—he should be like fire. Caitanya Mahäprabhu showed this by example. He became very very angry—"I shall kill these two brothers immediately!"

But Nityänanda Prabhu entreated, "Oh, My dear sir, in this incarnation You have promised not to accept any weapon. In Your incarnation as Lord Rämacandra You took up weapons. As Kåñëa also You took up weapons. But this time You wanted to deliver these poor souls. So don't kill them. Excuse them. Accept them."

Nityänanda Prabhu is the original guru, and He was showing that the guru's business is to be very merciful.

Jagäi and Mädhäi fell at Lord Caitanya's feet and said, "We are so sinful. We have done wrong. Kindly excuse us."

Lord Caitanya Mahäprabhu made one condition: "Your life is full of sinful activities. So if you simply promise, “I shall not sin anymore,' then I can accept you."

Jagäi and Mädhäi said. "Sir, we'll not do these sinful things anymore."

That vow is required. When you are initiated, you promise: "No illicit sex, no intoxication, no meat-eating, no gambling." But if you privately do these things, then what kind of person are you? Don't be a cheater. When you promise not to do these things, don't do them again. Then you will remain in goodness. Nobody can disturb you. And if you pollute yourself silently, then goodness will go away.

This is the warning. Once you are initiated on the promise that you shall not do these nonsense things, then you remain perfectly in goodness. *Mäm eva ye prapadyante mäyäm etäà taranti.* Mäyä cannot do anything. But if you cheat yourself, cheat your spiritual master, cheat God, then you will be cheated by mäyä.

**Delivering the Drunken Brothers Activities**

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