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Nimai of Nadia

ENDEARING CHILDHOOD PASTIMES OF LORD CHAITANYA



Children's Story Book

Hari Hari Bol !

Hari Hari Bol !

Hari Hari Bol !

Hari

Hari

Hari

Hari Hari

Hari

Hari Hari

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BIRTH OF NIMAI

It was a lunar eclipse. All the villagers were taking a dip in the Holy Ganges and chanting aloud, “Hari, Hari!” There were good signs everywhere.

In the State of West Bengal which lies to the East of India, in a little town of Nadia in West Bengal lived the family of Jagannath Mishra and Sachi devi. They had many daughters but they died when they were babies. They now had only one son, Vishvarupa. Sachi devi was now having another baby. Everyone was worried for the health of the baby and the mother.

Soon....

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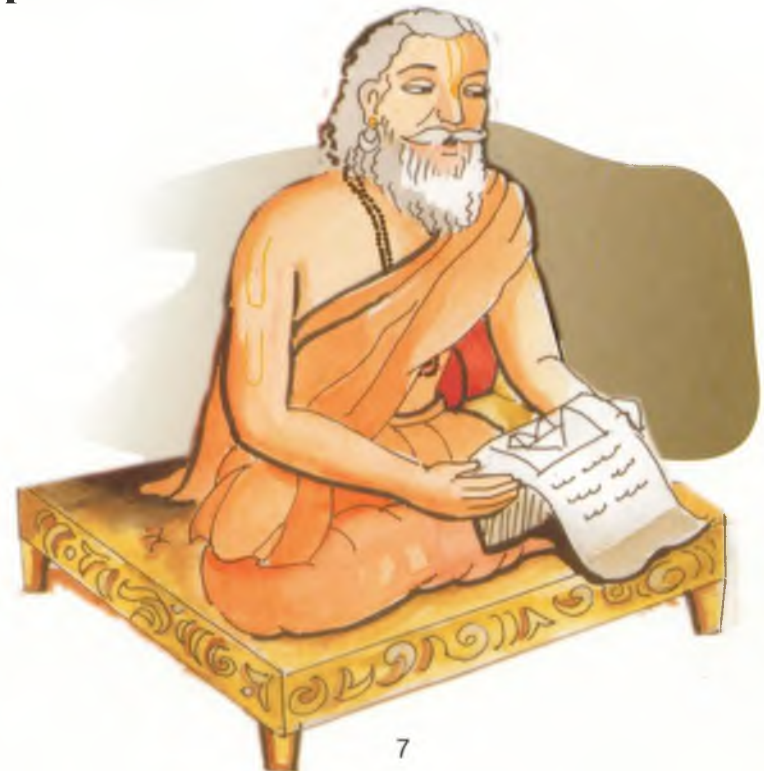


“Blow the conches, Praise Lord Hari”, cried the women of the house. “Sachi devi has given birth to another beautiful baby boy.” There was happiness and relief everywhere. The baby's grandfather, Nilambar Chakravarty was also a well known astrologer. He was very happy because the baby was born on a very special day. He knew then that this child was very special.

Nilambar Chakravarty quickly made a horoscope for his grandson. He then told the others the good news.

But what did the horoscope say?.....

Nilambar Chakravarty, “Today is a full moon of the month of *Phalgun* and a lunar eclipse as well. I knew there was something about this omen. After making the baby's horoscope now I am sure. This child is a special incarnation. He has all the signs of Lord Vishnu. **He will be a great scholar and a preacher.**”



“Praise Lord Hari,
Hari bol.. Hari bol”.

The baby was named Vishvambhara. His
mother, Saci devi named him

Nimai

because he was born under a *Neem* tree.



NIMAI AND THE PUPPY



One day while Nimai played with his friends, he saw a little puppy playing nearby. “What a sweet little puppy,” he said, “I’m going to keep him with me as my pet.”

He played for a long time with his new pet, laughing, chasing each other and rolling on the ground. When it was time to go home, he tied a leash onto his neck and took his puppy home.

Mother Sachi saw them coming and cried in horror, “Oh no, where did you find that dirty dog? What are you doing with it? Come in at once and clean yourself”.

Nimai said, “He is my new pet, ma. Isn't he cute? I simply adore him.”

“But dogs are very filthy! They eat dirt from the roadside, even dead animals! You must not touch him leave alone keep him in the house. He has to go”, said Sachi mata in disgust.

But Nimai begged of his mother to let him keep the puppy.

“Alright, but you must tie him outside the house”, instructed Sachi mata to Nimai.

The next day when Nimai went out to play with his friends, Sachi mata untied the puppy to go with his mother and brothers and sisters. The little puppy



was very happy to see his family and went happily with them, scampering on his little four feet.

When Nimai returned, he saw that his pet was missing. He asked his mother, “Ma, have you seen my little puppy? It's not outside on his leash where I tied him.”

Sachi mata lovingly held her son and said, “Your puppy saw his mother come by and went with her and his other brothers and sisters.”

“No, no, I want my puppy, I want my pet.” Cried Nimai.

Mother Sachi took him on his lap and tried to calm him down. But little Nimai was very sad. She held him lovingly and gave him some nice sweets to eat.

Soon, Nimai was happy again but he still missed his puppy. Meanwhile, the puppy traveled far and wide with his family.

Everywhere he went he chanted aloud,

“Gauranga!
Gauranga”.

And sang most sweetly,

“Jai Radhe Krishna!
Jai Radhe Krishna”.



Everyone who heard this was amazed and shocked as to how a dog could sing and chant like this. They had never seen such a sight.

He chanted,

“Hare Krishna,
Hare Krishna
Krishna
Krishna
Hare Hare
Hare Rama
Hare Rama
Rama Rama
Hare Hare”.

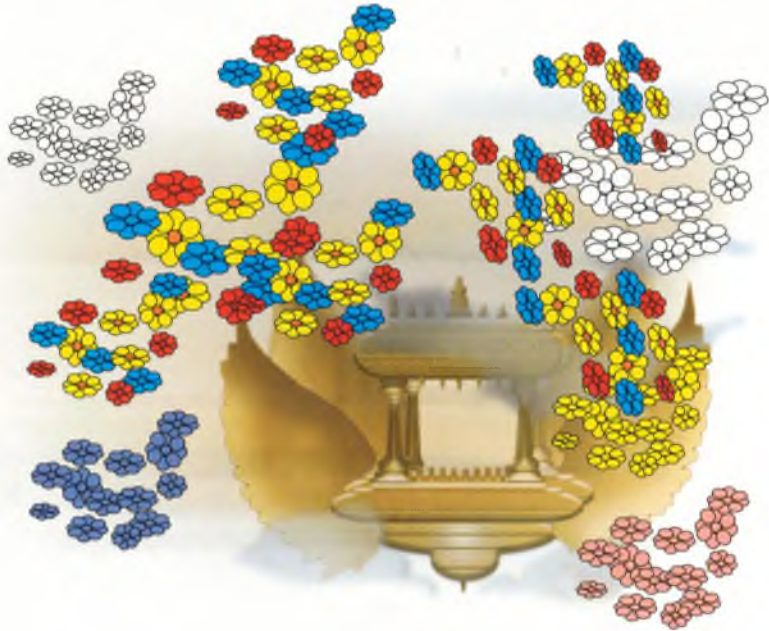


What do you think had happened to Him?

Nimai had touched and embraced the puppy because of which he was full of transcendental ecstasy. It meant that his love for Lord Krishna was now fully awakened.



One day, all of a sudden one day, the puppy fell down dead as he was chanting. A dazzling light appeared in the sky and there was a shower of flowers as a beautifully decorated airplane descended.



A bright light left the puppy's body and took the form of a beautiful person who climbed into the jeweled airplane.

This was none other than the soul of the puppy which was now pure because he was touched by Lord Chaitanya (Nimai) and completely purified. He now went to the spiritual world to be with Lord Krishna forever.

In this way, Nimai gave the puppy his mercy and sent him home back to Godhead.



THE BRAHMIN'S OFFERING



Jagannath Mishra, Nimai's father always welcomed traveling *sadhus* in his house. One day a young traveling Brahmin came at their doorstep. He was a great devotee of Lord Krishna and always traveled with his deity of Gopal. He lovingly cared for his Gopal by bathing Him, singing sweet *bhajans* for His pleasure, cooked nice *bhoga* and offered it to Him.

He never ate without first offering to Lord Gopal.

He requested Sachi Mata, "Please allow me to cook for my Gopal so I can offer some nice *bhoga* to Him."

“Sure”, said Sachi Mata, mother of Nimai. “I will make sure Nimai does not disturb you.

The Brahmin sang sweetly while he cooked nice bhoga. After he finished cooking, he put the bhoga in the plate especially kept for Gopal. Then he began to chant, “Namo maha vadanyaya, Krishna prema pradayate Krishnaya.....”.

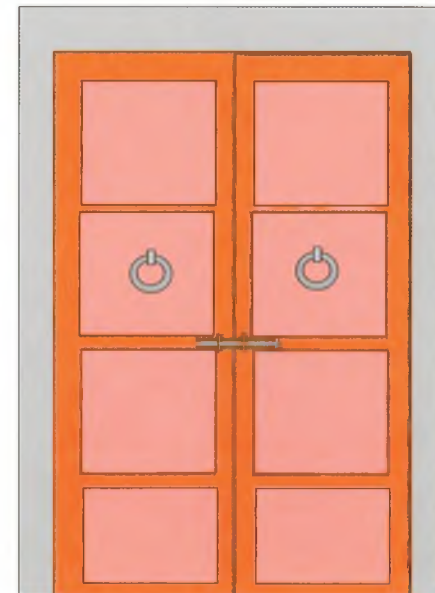
Suddenly Little Nimai appeared and began to eat the offering even before the Brahmin had finished his offering prayers!

The Brahmin opened his eyes and was shocked to see Nimai eating. “Oh little child! What have you done? You have eaten the offering that was meant for Krishna!”

Mother Sachi came running in, “What happened? Is everything alright?”, she asked.

“Your naughty son has eaten the offering of my Gopal!” Now I have to cook it all over again”, said the Brahmin

“Let me help you. But first I must lock Nimai in another room so he doesn't disturb you.”





And so the brahmin cooked all over again for his Gopal.

But once again Nimai came and ate the offering.

It was already late and the brahmin was tired. But he would not eat anything offered by Sachi mata. He ate only the remnants of his Gopala's Prasad.



He pleaded with Nimai, “Oh little child, why are you troubling me like this?” He then turned to Gopala and said, “Oh my Lord! Have I offended you in anyway? Are you unhappy with my service? If I have made any mistake please forgive me. But please accept the bhoga I have cooked for you.”

Just then, in a blinding flash, Nimai changed into the form of Gopala and said , “My dear Brahmin, don't you recognize me? I am the one you call again and again to accept your service but when I come to taste the wonderful bhoga you turn me away!”

The brahmin was completely taken aback! He then realized his mistake. He then realized that Nimai and His worshippable Lord were one and the same.



When Nimai was a little baby his mother often left him in the courtyard of their house to play by himself while she did her household chores. Many times his mother decorated him with many jewels – necklaces made of gold, anklets made of silver, amulets studded with gem stones!

Two Thieves passing by saw Him with all the jewelry and decided to kidnap him. They made a plan and fed baby Nimai some sweets. They then hoisted Him on their shoulders and sped!



Nimai, who was Lord Krishna Himself knew what their plans were, so He also decided to play around with them! Sometimes He became too heavy for them to carry.

He made them forget the way and they went round and round in circles till they came back to His house. He enjoyed teaching them a lesson!

Mother Sachi and Jagannath Mishra, Nimai's parents were looking all over for Him. He had been missing for sometime. So when they saw the thieves return with Nimai perched high on their shoulders they thought they were bringing Him back home.

And that's how little Nimai tricked the thieves.

THE EKADASHI PRASADAM

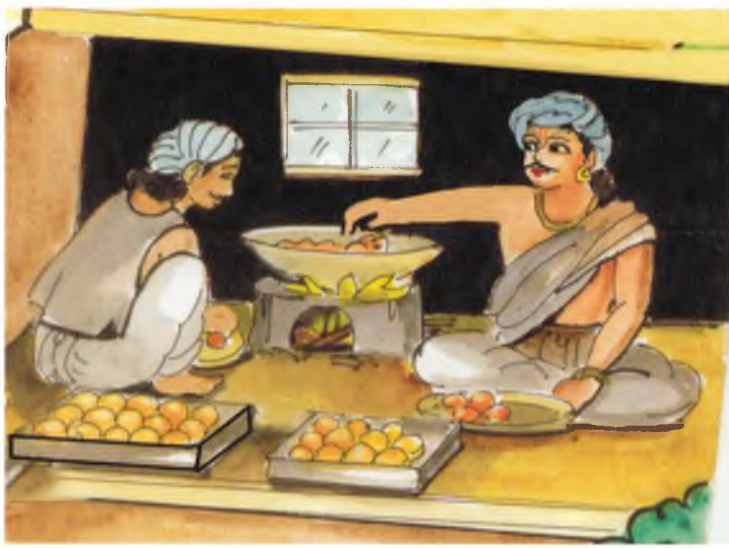
It was the day of Ekadasi, the day when all devotees of Lord Krishna fast from grains, beans and pulses. Nimai was suddenly feeling ill. He refused to eat anything and this made his mother Saci devi very sad.

About two miles away from Nimai's house lived Jagadish and Hiranya Pandit. They were cooking some very nice special prasadam to be offered to Lord Vishnu on the auspicious day of Ekadashi.



At first Jagannath Mishra was puzzled as to why Nimai wanted to eat prasadam cooked only from the house of the two brothers.

When he went there he saw that Hiranya and Jagadish were actually cooking for the offering of the Lord. They too were amazed at how Nimai knew they were cooking since he lived so far away.



They believed that he might have some special powers by which he knew. So they sent some nice prasadam for him with his father. Nimai gladly ate the offerings cooked so lovingly by the two brothers for Lord Vishnu.

What they did not know though was that Nimai is the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Himself and the offering they were cooking was for His pleasure alone. So how would He not know? In this way Nimai accepted the loving devotional service of Hiranya and Jagadish.

chant

Hare Krishna
Hare Krishna
Krishna Krishna
Hare Hare
Hare Rama
Hare Rama
Rama Rama
Hare Hare



and be happy...