

– All glories to Śrī Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga –



THE ADVENT OF ŚRĪ ŚRĪ GAURASUNDAR

from the *Śrī Chaitanya-Charitāmṛta* of Śrīla Kṛṣṇadās Kavirāj Goswāmī
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The Full Moon Śrī Gaura Hari graciously rose on the Eastern Horizon that is the blessed place of Nadia. With the rising of that Full Moon, all the gloom of the sins of the world was dispelled, and with the tumultuous vibration of 'Hari', the Holy Name of the Lord, the three worlds became ecstatic.

Just when Śrī Advaita Rāya in his home suddenly arose and danced with joy. He took Śrī Haridās with him, and they sang from their hearts the Holy Name. Why they danced, no one understood.

With great delight they saw the Lunar eclipse and came quickly to the bank and happily bathed in the Ganges. Taking this chance, on the pretext of the Lunar eclipse they gave many gifts to the *Brāhmaṇas* simply by their strength of mind.

Śrī Haridās was astounded to see the ecstatic state of the universe, and he made many hints to Advaita Prabhu, "There is some inner hidden meaning to this 'play' of yours, and the indescribable joy that awakens in my heart."

The hearts of Śrī Achāryyaratna and Śrī Śrīnivās were filled with ecstasy as they went to bathe in the holy waters of the Ganges. Overwhelmed with joy, they too mentally offered many gifts through the outpouring of their hearts.

In the same way, at this very time in various places and countries throughout the world, all the surrendered devotees felt the great power of Divine Love in their hearts, and overwhelmed in ecstasy they chanted the Lord's Name, danced, and gave benedictine gifts through the joy of their pure hearts.

The *Brāhmaṇas*, the true devotees, the good wives – all filled new pots and plates with varieties of auspicious offerings and brought these presentations. They were so happy to see the beautiful child with His luster of raw gold, and all gave their best blessings.

Sāvitrī, Gaurī, Saraswati, Śachī, Rambhā, Arundhati – all the wives and ladies of the heavenly plane came down in the guise of *Brāhmaṇa* ladies. Bringing all varieties of auspicious offerings they too came to have the *darśana* of (to behold) the Divine Child.

In the sky the Devas, Siddhas, Gandharvas and Chāraṇas sang the Glories of the Lord and danced in a grand festival of music and song; and all the dancers, musicians and minstrels of Śrī Nabadwip came and danced in the ecstasy of Love.

Who was coming, who was going, what where they singing and how they danced! Who could understand the great Glory of that rapturous festival? All the grief and sorrow of the world was destroyed as the hearts of all bloomed in ecstasy. And Śrī Jagannāth Miśra's joy knew no bounds.

Śrī Achāryyaratna and Śrī Śrīnivās met Śrī Jagannāth Miśra and reminded him of the proper Scriptural duties and functions to be performed for the birth of the child; and Śrī Miśra they made many, many offerings of gifts and presentations as appropriate.

All the presentations he had received as well as articles already in the house – he gifted his wealth to the *Brāhmaṇas*. In fact he gave his respect to all, distributing his wealth to the dancers, singers, minstrels and the poor.

With great joy Śrīmatī Mālinī, the good wife of Śrī Śrīvās, along with the good wife of Śrī Āchāryyaratna, offered worship to the baby with vermillion, turmeric, oil, parched rice, plantain and many varieties of fruit.

And taking the order of Śrī Advaita Āchāryya, Śrīmatī Sitā Ṭhākuraṇī, who is revered by the entire universe as his venerable consort, went to see that crest-jewel of babies, bringing with her many offerings.

She brought gold earrings, toe-rings made of silver coins, and gold armlets and bracelets; gleaming conchshell ornaments for each arm, twisted silver anklets, and many necklaces of gold coins;

tiger-nails studded with gold, silken cord to adorn the waist and loins, and every type of ornament imaginable for the hands and feet; beautiful coloured silken cloth (*sāḍīs*), shirts and *chādars* of beautiful bordered silken cloth; and a great treasure of gold and silver coins;

the auspicious grass Dūrvvā, paddy, Gorochanā (scent), turmeric, Kumkum, sandal – the most venerable consort of Śrī Advaita Prabhu filled new plates and containers with all such pure and auspicious substances. She mounted her veiled palanquin and was brought to the home of Śrīmatī Śachī Devī, along with her maids and attendants. She brought all the clothes and ornaments in a great basket.

She also brought a bounty of foods and delightful gifts. Thus the venerable Ṭhākuraṇī arrived at the house of Śrīmatī Ṭhākuraṇī arrived at the house of Śrīmatī Śachī Devī. And she beheld the Perfect Beauty of the child – He was directly Kṛṣṇa Himself of Gokula, the only difference being in His colour.

His every limb was perfectly formed like an image of Gold, and all auspicious signs appeared in every part of His body. She was utterly charmed by the Divine Effulgence of the baby boy and her heart melted with parental affection for Him.

She offered Dūrvvā and paddy to His head, giving her blessings, “May both brothers (the Lord and Viśvarūpa) live long.” And to arrest any fear of witches and evil spirits she dubbed him ‘Nimāī’.

And also on the day of the mother and son’s bathing Śrīmatī Sitā Ṭhākuraṇī came and offered

clothing and ornaments in honour of Śrī Jagannāth Miśra and his son. After happily accepting the veneration of Śrīmatī Śacī Devī and Śrī Jagannāth Miśra, Śrīmatī Sitā Ṭhākuraṇī returned to her home.

Such it was that Śrīmatī Śachī and Śrī Jagannāth Miśra had the fulfillment of their every aspiration by getting the Lord of Lakṣmī as their son. Their house was filled with wealth and rice-paddy, and the respect of the people was always theirs for the taking. Day by day their joy grew and grew.

Śrī Miśra was a humble Vaiṣṇava – peaceful, chaste, pure and self-controlled. No trace of any wish for a life of wealth or indulgence touched his heart. Still, so much wealth came spontaneously by the Divine power of his son; and he gave that all to the *Brāhmaṇas* for the Transcendental Pleasure of the Supreme Lord Viṣṇu.

Joyfully Śrī Nīlāmbara Chakravartī drew up the baby’s horoscope. Then he secretly said to Śrī Jagannāth Miśra, “I see that in His body and according to the moment of His birth there are the signs of a *Mahāpuruṣa*, a Supreme Personality; your child, it is clear, will deliver the whole universe.”

In this way the Lord so graciously made His Advent in the home of Mother Śachī. And the fortunate souls who faithfully hear of this Divine Advent – we must know that the Merciful Śrī Gaura Prabhu will surely bestow His Grace upon them, and they will obtain the Service of His Lotus Feet.

And whoever got this birth of a human, yet does not hear of the Transcendental Glories of Śrī Gaura – such persons’ lives are passed in vain. Rejecting the ocean of nectar they drink filth from the pits of mundanity. Alas! Why didn’t they die as soon as they were born?

And so, I, Kṛṣṇadās, take on my head the Lotus Feet of Śrī Chaitanyadev, Śrī Nityānanda Prabhu, Āchāryya Advaitachandra, Śrī Swarūpa and Śrī Raghunāth Dās; knowing the Service of their feet as the treasure of my life, I have sung this song of the Advent Pastimes of our Lord Śrī Śrī Gaurasundar.

Śrī Chaitanya-Charitāmṛta

Ādī līlā, Ch. 13 verses 98 to 124.

