

All glories to Sri Guru and Sri Gauranga

Srila Narottama Das Thakur

*Page prepared for the devotee children by Parama Bhakti Dasi on
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One day when Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was dancing and chanting together with the devotees He suddenly looked to the distance at the village called Sri Kheturi. He began to cry out: "Narottama! Narottama!" over and over again. Nityananda Prabhu also called out in great happiness.

On the banks of the Padmavati River in the town of Gopalpura lived a King named Krishnananda Datta with his queen, Sri Naravani Devi. He was very rich. King Krishnananda's son was Sri Santosa Datta who later became Sri Narottama Dasa Thakura. Everyone could immediately see that this was no ordinary child and his father Raja Krishnananda was very please and gave many things to the brahmanas to please them. The brahmanas told him the boy was a very special soul and a great personality and that he would deliver many people.

He was very beautiful. His eyes were shaped like lotus petals and his body was shining like molten gold. His arms were very long and he had a deep navel. These are all signs of a great devotee. Everyone in the town came to see the child. Queen Naravani Devi would take very good care of him, feeding him and always holding him close at her side. He was a very quiet child, he never cried.



When he got a little older he went to school, which he enjoyed very much at first. He was very good at school. He would study Sanskrit, grammar, and poetry and he became an expert in Scripture. But after some time he found that this wasn't really giving him satisfaction. He wanted to hear about the Lord.

An old brahmana, Krishnadasa, who lived in Sri Kheturi came to visit Narottama nearly every day. As soon as he came in, Narottama would bow down in front of the brahmana. The brahmana would tell him all about Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and Sri Nityananda Prabhu. The way he told him all these things could make stone melt.

He also told him all about Srinivas Prabhu, Mahaprabhu's dear friend and follower. By hearing many wonderful things about Srinivas, Narottama would faint.

The brahmana told him how upset Srinivas had been when he found out that Gadadhar Pandit Goswami, Sri Nityananda Prabhu and Adwaita Prabhu all had left this world. Srinivas Prabhu was so upset that he wanted to jump into the river. He just didn't know what to do with himself. When Narottama heard this story he was so sad and angry with himself that he never had the chance to meet these very great devotees.

Then one day Narottama had a dream. In that dream he saw Mahaprabhu. He looked like gold. His hair was all beautiful and curly and He was wearing very nice earrings, and His lotus eyes were absolutely beautiful. Mahaprabhu's smiling face looked like the moon and He wore the most beautiful tilak you can imagine. Narottama could only cry when He saw the beauty of His Lord. Mahaprabhu sweetly told him: "O Narottama, look at Me, please don't cry. Don't worry, go straight to Vrindavan. There you will find your guru: My dear devotee Lokanath. He will pass the sweet nectar of the Mahamantra into your ears. I have many plans with you, things you have to do."

In the meantime his father and mother saw what was happening with their son, and they were very scared that he would take off and leave. They even hired a guard so that he couldn't escape the palace.

Narottama Das prayed to the Lord to help him escape. So one day his parents had to go somewhere and somehow one or the other he managed to escape the palace. It was full moon as he left home and went on his way



to Vrindavan. He just ran for fifteen days without stopping. He would sometimes drink some milk or eat some roots and fruits. He was thinking of Vrindavan all the time and sometimes he would just forget that he was hungry or thirsty.

Everywhere on his way he would meet devotees of Sri Gauranga and Sri Nityananda and they would tell him wonderful things about Them. In this way Narottama was thinking of the Lord constantly. Everyone was totally astonished when they saw him, and they all wondered if he was a demigod or a prince. His parents were heartbroken when they found out that he had left. Everyone talked about him, they said: "This must be the Narottama that Mahaprabhu talked about in Ramakeli (a village). It is our prince He was talking about and now he has probably left to go to Vrindavan."

Finally, after visiting many holy places he arrived in Mathura and when he saw the River Yamuna he offered many prayers. When he heard that Rupa and Sanatan (Mahaprabhu's close friends and followers) already left this world, tears came from his eyes like a river.

In Vrindavan, Srinivas had had a dream in which Sri Jiva Goswami spoke, saying: "Tomorrow you will meet Narottama."

In the morning Srinivas woke up and quickly went to see Jiva Goswami and told him what he had dreamt. Sri Jiva Goswami was very happy when he heard this and said: "Sri Chaitanya had told me before about someone called Narottama and I have told you about him. He is a young man and he looks absolutely beautiful and his eyes are always full with tears of love. This is the Narottama for whom we have been waiting for so long."

Then Srinivas ran to the temple of Sri Govinda where he found Narottama. He tightly embraced Narottama. The head priest came with garlands worn by the Deities and gave them to them.

Srila Jiva Goswami took Narottama to a small house where Sri Lokanath Goswami was staying. He was going to be the guru of Narottama as Mahaprabhu had said. Narottama bowed down before him and he placed his feet on Narottama's head. Some time later Sri Lokanath Goswami initiated Narottama Das Thakur.

Later Narottama also met Gopala Bhatta Goswami, who was also very



happy to meet Narottama. The friend that they all had been waiting for had finally arrived. In this way Narottama met all the great devotees and scholars in Vrindavan.

Jiva Goswami would teach Srinivas Pandit and Narottama Das Thakur the Scriptures and he told them to take the holy books with them to Bengal.

So together with Syamananda they left for Bengal. But on their way something really terrible happened. Thieves stole the Scriptures and later they found out that it was a Muslim king who had told them to do so. Narottama and Srinivas were so sad that they felt sick and as if they were struck by lightning.

The next day they decided that Srinivas would stay behind and Narottama Das Thakur and Syamananda would continue their journey. The king was so impressed by the devotion of Srinivas that he gave him back the Scriptures which he then brought to Nabadwip.

In Nabadwip, Narottama Das Thakur met several very important people. He went to the house of Jagannath Misra, the father of Mahaprabhu, where he went to bow down.

He also met Ishan Thakura who was the old servant of Sachimata, Mahaprabhu's mother.

In another village called Karadaha Gram was the house of Nityananda Prabhu, there Narottama Das Thakur met with Nityananda Prabhu's wife, Jahnava Devi, and she gave him her blessings.

Some days later Narottama Das Thakur went to another holy place, Jagannath Puri — the city of Lord Jagannath, and the place where Mahaprabhu stayed the last period of His manifest Pastimes here on earth.

The great festival of Kheturi Gram

Together with Jahnava Devi, Srinivas, Syamananda and many other great devotees from all over the country, Narottama Das Thakur organised a great festival. The first Gaura-Purnima festival ever!



The king there organised boats for the devotees to cross the river, he arranged places for them to stay and he organised Prasadam. There would be six Deities installed and therefore the Temple was beautifully decorated with different kinds of flowers, mango leaves, water pots, swastika signs and banana leaves.

There was a mountain of clay pots filled with ghee, yoghurt, vegetables and fruits.

The evening before the feast Narottama Das Thakur offered chandan (sandalwood pulp) to Jahnava Devi and he gave her a flower garland and worshipped her.

The next day the Deities were installed by Srinivas Acharya. Then Jahnava Devi and Achyutananda told Narottama Das Thakur to start the Kirtan (the chanting of the Holy Names). The singing of Narottama Das Thakur was so beautiful and lovingly performed that Mahaprabhu together with His followers decided to come down and join them. Everyone was in tears and completely filled with love.

Some time later the separation of his Lord and all the dear devotees who had left this world became simply too much for Narottama Das Thakur.

So one day he asked the devotees to have Sankirtan. After that he went into the holy River Ganges where he bowed down again and again. He asked two devotees: "Pour water of the Ganges over my body." Just when the devotees wanted to do that Narottama Das Thakur, who was chanting constantly, disappeared from this world.

Srila Narottama Das Thakur Ki Jaya!

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