



SANDARSHAN

Monthly Newsletter

2021 June

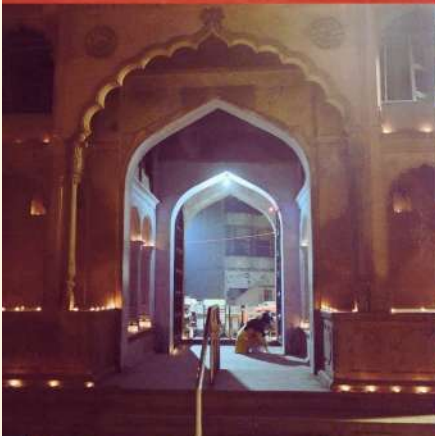
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Premotsav

From June 7th to 23rd, 2021, Shri Radharaman Premotsav will be held in the Shri Radharaman Temple. During this period, Shri Chandan Goswami Maharaj and his family will be in *seva* and live *darshans* will be available on our [Facebook page](#).



The last Premotsav took place in 2018 and devotees travelled to the Shri Radharaman Temple from all around the world to make offerings at Shriji's lotus feet. A grand celebration was held with various large scale *sevas* and events taking place on a daily basis. These were some of the highlights from the previous Premotsav:

1. Shrimad Bhagwatam Katha by Maharajji and Shri Radha Ras Sudhanidhi Katha by Shri Vaishnavpad Das Baba Ji
2. Recital of Shrimad Bhagwatam *mantras* by 111 priests for seven days
3. Special Gita recitation on Gita Jayanti by 111 priests
4. Free medical camp and feast for *sadhus* and Brajwasis
5. Various Indian classical dance performances by national and international artists
6. 10000 ghee lamp offering in the temple campus
7. Raag *seva* by various artists
8. Daily offerings of lavish *bhogs* to Shri Radharaman Lal
9. Daily discourses on Bhakti Yog by Bhagwat Katha speakers and saints who were specially invited for Katha
10. Intricate and handcrafted decoration of the temple

In light of the pandemic, the decision has been made to keep the temple closed to devotees throughout Premotsav, however *seva* will continue wholeheartedly and we will offer your love and prayers to Shriji on your behalf. To learn more about the services for Shri Radharaman that you can have carried out remotely, please visit [our website](#).

COVID-19 Services

Due to the devastating effects of the second wave of COVID-19 in India, everyone we know has lost one or more relatives just in the last few weeks. Hospitals are completely inundated and are unable to admit further patients, and Vrindavan remains in full lockdown. In this dire situation, Maharajji and the ODev team are redirecting all the efforts that would have gone into organising devotee participation in Premotsav into COVID-19 services. We are trying to open a free COVID-19 centre for those who cannot afford treatment. The details are as follows:

- Bhakti Dhama, Vrindavan, to be used as a COVID-19 isolation centre
- Regular checkups to be provided by doctors and nurses, medicines, oxygen, groceries and other essential supplies



Until Sacred Love is Attained by Shri Chandan Goswami Maharaj



न तत्सिद्धौ लोकव्यवहारो हेयः किन्तु
फलत्यागस्तत्साधनं च कार्यमेव ॥

*na tatsiddhau loka-vyavahāro heyah
kintu phala-tyāgas-tatsāadhanam ca
kāryameva ॥*

"Until one has attained perfection in devotion, one should not discard the good worldly activities. Rather one should renounce all the fruits of such actions and continue practicing devotion." (*Narad Bhakti Sutra*, 62)

In this *sutra*, Sage Narad advises us not to deliberately abandon the good worldly activities. Many people assume that to be a devotee, you have to develop a cold heart and become a recluse, but this is not correct. Rather, when sacred love is attained, everything worldly automatically fades away. Until we attain that level of devotion, we can practice renouncing the fruit of our actions by carrying out our worldly duties in a neutral way; and soon, by the power of devotion, we will automatically become free from the worries of gain and loss.

As devotees, an important part of renouncing the fruit of our actions is to give up our attachment to praise from society, and this is shown by the following story. A spiritual master named Samarth Swami Shri Ram Das was travelling across a forest with his disciples. In the heat of the afternoon, they took shelter of a tree, which was near a big well. One of the tree's branches was hanging

over the well. Shri Ram Das asked his disciple Amba Das if he could climb the tree and cut the branch, to keep the dry leaves from falling into the well and making the water dirty. All the other disciples, who were listening to their conversation, began to feel anxious because there was no other branch to hold on to or stand on in order to cut the big branch, and there was a great danger of falling into the well. They tried to stop Amba Das from trying to cut the branch but it was no use, because for Amba Das, his spiritual master's order was of the greatest importance.

Just as he was about to proceed, his spiritual master said, "O fool! You will fall into the well if you cut the branch!"

Amba Das replied, "When your blessings can save me from the ocean of illusion, then what to speak of this small well?"

"If your faith is such, then continue," replied the master.

Amba Das started cutting the branch and soon he fell into the well. All the disciples watched in fear, but the master, Shri Ram Das, was just sitting very peacefully and chanting. They ran to the edge of the well to see what had happened, and to their astonishment, they saw the Lord rescuing Amba Das with his own hands. Amba Das came out of the well with no injuries.

Thus, we should not worry about the lack or loss of appreciation from others while

practicing the path of devotion. Faith in the Lord is key. Often, people who lack faith in themselves and their path give up their goals. But a devotee is not affected by the opinions of society, for he declares to the Lord, "I am yours!" The devotee becomes a servant of the Lord and does not leave him for the sake of material interests. In the *Adwait Siddhi*,

Madhusudhan Saraswati writes, "You may praise or criticise the author of this book. I have no feeling of being the author, so how does your praise or criticism concern me?" Everything a devotee does is for Krishn's pleasure, and he offers all his work, not to make others happy or to impress them, but to make his Lord happy.



Shri Vijaykrishn Goswami - Part 3



In the previous edition, Vijaykrishn Goswami left the Brahma Samaj and returned to the path of devotion. He quickly attained the higher states on that path under the shelter of his shiksha guru, Swami Brahmanand.

Although Vijaykrishn Goswami was completely renounced, his wife and children lived with him. This unusual arrangement was due to Swami Brahmanand's instructions. In fact, his wife, Yogmaya Devi, was also a special soul, and his children were not ordinary either.

Surrender to the Lord

Vijaykrishn and his family observed a vow called *akash vritti*, depending totally on God's mercy, and Shri Krishn always provided for them. *Akash vritti* means that they made no effort to earn, beg for or even borrow anything. Whatever money or food items came to them of their own accord had to be used the same day or given away.

Devotees of Shri Krishn never wish to harm

anyone, including the plants and animals. For Vijaykrishn and his family, rats, snakes and insects were no exception. One day, Vijaykrishn's youngest daughter Prem Sakhi complained to her father that the mosquitoes were constantly biting her. Vijaykrishn told her, "Why don't you just ask them to stop biting you?"

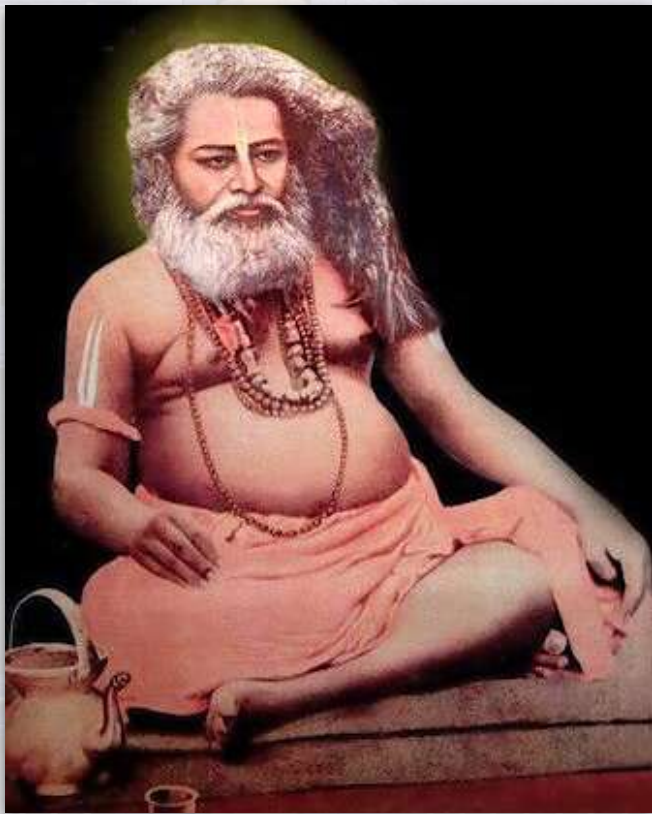
Prem Sakhi laughed and said, "Oh how silly of me, father! Why didn't I think of that myself?"

Vijaykrishn smiled and said, "Let me do it for you, 'Dear mosquitoes! Please do not bite my daughter! She is just a little girl, so kindly spare her.'" Prem Sakhi felt happy.

A few days later, one of Vijaykrishn's foremost disciples, Kuladanand Brahmachari, asked Prem Sakhi if the mosquitoes were still bothering her. She replied with full confidence, "Not at all! How could they bite me after father's request?"

On another occasion, Vijaykrishn was reading

a scripture when he suddenly asked a disciple to find a young tree who was being eaten by a goat and build a fence around the tree to protect her from any further harm. The disciple was able to locate the tree and chase the goat away but later, he asked, "Gurudev, why are you so concerned about this specific tree?" Vijaykrishn replied, "Because she asked me for shelter."



Shri Vijaykrishn Goswami

Vijaykrishn's wife, Yogmaya Thakurani,* left this world on January 22nd, 1891 C.E, and three years later, Prem Sakhi also became very ill. Vijaykrishn brought her to one of the best doctors in Kolkata for treatment, but her condition quickly deteriorated. It seemed as though she would die. But even in the hospital lobby, Vijaykrishn was still meeting devotees and answering their spiritual

questions.

Suddenly, Prem Sakhi's grandmother came out of her room and started scolding Vijaykrishn, saying, "Don't you have a heart? Your daughter is about to take her last breath and you are just sitting there as if nothing is happening!"

Vijaykrishn calmly replied, "Ma, I know what Prem Sakhi is experiencing at every moment. I am just waiting for the right time to go to her side. She is under my full shelter, and until I give permission, no power in the entire universe can take her away. Prem Sakhi's mother has come in her *gopi* form along with other divine *gopis* to take her to eternal Vrindavan. We are all waiting for a signal from my Gurudev. If I enter the room too soon, this will divert her from the divine vision she is experiencing now. Prem Sakhi will soon become a *gopi* too."

Several minutes later, Vijaykrishn entered Prem Sakhi's room and placed his right foot on her forehead. As soon as he did this, she left her body behind and entered *nitya lila*. As Vijaykrishn returned to his seat in the lobby and closed his eyes, the hospital was flooded with divine light.

Vijaykrishn Goswami spent his final days in Puri. His fame as a great saint had spread far and wide, and as a result, many people were jealous of him. In 1899 C.E., one of them placed poison in a *mahaprasad laddu* of

*To read about Yogmaya Thakurani's life, please read [Sandarshan 39](#).

Jagannath Dev and sent it to Vijaykrishn, hoping to kill him. Although Vijaykrishn could make out that the *laddu* had poison in it, the sheer bliss he felt receiving Jagannath's *mahaprasad* made him eat it anyway. Vijaykrishn felt this was Jagannath's way of calling him home to *nitya lila*.

Vijaykrishn's disciples were very upset and wanted to punish the culprit, but Vijaykrishn told them not to do so, because nothing can happen without Shri Krishn's will. Suddenly, it appeared that Vijaykrishn was looking blissfully at someone only he could see. As he offered obeisances to his divine Beloved, he took his last breath.

Vijaykrishn entered *nitya lila*, becoming a *gopi* maidservant of Shri Radha like his wife and daughter before him. His full *samadhi* is located on the bank of Narendra Sarovar in Puri. One can also have *darshan* of a smaller *samadhi* at his former residence at the ancient Dauji Mandir in Dheer Samir, Vrindavan.

Teachings of Vijaykrishn Goswami

Many teachings of Vijaykrishn Goswami survive today, including the following:

- The Holy Name given to us by Gurudev is not a mere word. It contains God's unlimited power. During initiation (*diksha*), Gurudev infuses this unlimited power into the disciple.
- The scriptures are not paper, ink or letters. They are living and self-revealing.
- One should keep repeating Naam with

every breath.

- When we discard ego and take refuge in the Holy Name, the fruit of the Name is automatically achieved.
- To attain humility, we need to take good association, read scriptures, obey Gurudev's instructions and serve Vaishnavs. We should also take care of our parents and other elders.
- Eating a feast is not proper for a spiritual aspirant. Health problems are avoided when the proper amounts and times of meals are maintained on a daily basis.
- There is no particular time for chanting the Holy Name. This chanting should continue ceaselessly. However, many *mahatmas* roam about between 1:30 AM and 4 AM. They come near and help one who is chanting the Holy Name during this time. If we are sleeping or doing something negative at that time, they go away.
- These unseen *mahatmas* make their presence felt sometimes through the fragrance of: flowers, fire rituals or even marijuana. When we perceive such fragrances during our *sadhna*, we should understand that a *mahatma* has arrived.
- Do not be lazy towards the Holy Name. On receiving the grace of the Name, such a state will come when you will not be able to live without the Name. You will receive the Name's grace when you continue repeating it with faith.
- One should feel the eagerness to meet the

needs of others, the same way one strives to fulfil one's own needs. A mother becomes restless on seeing the needs of her child; this is known as *seva*.

- When a devotee chants, the Holy Name becomes imprinted in the devotee's blood, flesh, bones, bone marrow and everything. Even the clothes worn by devotees get imprinted with the Lord's Name. If he chants sitting under a tree, the trunk, branches and leaves will become imprinted, and if he sits inside a room, every brick in the wall and roof becomes engraved with the Name. Once on the bank of the Shri Yamuna River in Vrindavan, I found a bone of a Vaishnav on which the *mahamantra* had manifested itself.

- One should serve everybody - human beings, birds and animals, insects, trees and

creepers - as far as possible with body, mind and soul. Real service cannot be done without kindness and sympathy.

- There is no easier way to achieve God than to be humble. Serving, offering obeisances and having a subservient mood towards others are the easiest and best ways of spiritual practice. I have asked many saints, but no one has suggested an easier path to attain God. I too believe the same. This practice brings great feelings for God.

References

A Brief Life Sketch of Sadguru Bijoykrishna Goswami
from sadgurubijoykrishna.com

Disciples of Shri Shri Bijoykrishna translated by
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The Saints of Braj by Dr. O.B.L. Kapoor



Braj Animal Care



Recently, the Braj Animal Care team were involved in an unexpected case involving a cow who was stuck on top of the roof of a Brajwasi's home. She had managed to climb a narrow staircase leading to the roof, where efforts were made to lead her back down the stairs, but the cow was fearful and resisted. Then, our team created a harness made from ropes and with the help of almost 20 other locals, lowered the cow over the side of the building. We're pleased to report that she was unharmed and is doing fine.



Our team and other locals with the rescued cow

Fundraising Walk in London

On 22nd May, Braj Animal Care supporters from the UK took part in a 10-mile walk through central London to raise funds for Braj Animal Care. The money raised will be used to purchase an e-rickshaw to transport small animals and to carry out daily feedings. The remaining funds will go towards the Braj Animal Care medical programme. This would not have been possible without Asmini Mehta, the organiser of the event. We are deeply indebted to her for all her efforts. We would also like to convey our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated and contributed to this fundraising event.



Participants of the fundraising walk in London



Team member, Abhijeet, with the new scooter

New Donated Scooter

The Braj Animal Care team would like to express gratitude and thanks to the wonderful Jain Animal Sanctuary in London, UK, who have donated a scooter for the team's use. The scooter will be primarily used by our team members to quickly reach animals in need.

Our Future Shelter

Last month, we shared the exciting news that Braj Animal Care has come into the possession of land. The land needs construction of medical facilities,

storage space, an office and so forth. By providing shelter and a safe space in which to heal, we can take better care of the animals in Braj. For more details on this project, please contact us.

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Maharajji's Latest Updates



Spiritual Updates

Shri Radharaman Lal's 479th Appearance Day Festival was held on May 26th, 2021. Although the temple is currently closed due to COVID-19, devotees around the world celebrated this most joyful occasion through a live-stream video. You can watch a video of the festival [here](#).

We invite you to follow Maharajji's [Facebook Page](#) for more updates. Our usual *sankirtans* have been temporarily postponed due to COVID-19, however regular virtual *sankirtans* are being held. To receive the meeting links and for updates on further programs, please join our WhatsApp group [Chandan Goswami Uvacha](#). You can also receive Maharajji's association through his recorded *kathas* on YouTube at [ChandanjiOfficial](#) and [ODevOfficial](#). For more information about Shri Radharaman Lal and Maharajji, please contact us via the details given below.



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Vaishnav Calendar

For upcoming festivals and Ekadashi dates, please click [here](#) to view our Vaishnav calendar.

