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Vishnu Sahasranama Part 1: Vishwa, the Omnipresent by Shri Chandan Goswami Maharaj

The "Shri Vishnu Sahasranama Stotram" is a Sanskrit prayer found in the *Mahabharat*. It reveals 1,000 names of Krishn, each of which illustrates one of his divine qualities, and the first name mentioned is Vishwa: the Omnipresent, meaning he is present everywhere at the same time.



In his *Naamaarth Sudhaa tika*, Shri Baldev Vidyabhushan says, "Shri Krishn is known as Vishwa because he is within everything that exists."

Viśati iti viśvam. Vishwa has two meanings: "He who resides within all things," or, "He who both creates and destroys the Universe, and who is omnipresent." The *Mundakopanishad* further says: *puruṣa evedaṃ viśvaṃ* "The Lord is fully omnipresent."

विष्णो रराटमसि विष्णोः श्नप्त्रे स्थो विष्णोः स्यूरसि
विष्णोर्धुवोऽसि । वैष्णवमसि विष्णवे त्वा ।

viṣṇo rarāṭamasi viṣṇoḥ śnaptre stho
viṣṇoḥ syūrasī viṣṇordhuvo'si ।
vaiṣṇavamasi viṣṇave tvā ।

"Shri Vishnu (Krishn) is always present throughout the entire Universe, and the Universe is established in Vishnu. It has emanated from him, and he exists within every atom. O Lord who brought the world into existence! We worship you!" (*Vishnu Sukta*, 7)

The *Mundakopanishad* states:

यथोर्णनाभिः सृजते गृह्णते च यथा पृथिव्यामोषधयः
संभवन्ति ।

yathorṇanābhiḥ sṛjate grhṇate ca yathā
prthivyāmoṣadhayaḥ sambhavanti ।

"Just as a spider's web is produced, maintained, and eventually destroyed by the spider, so too this Universe begins and ends

in Shri Krishn alone."

The Lord is within all of us, and at the same time all of us wish to attain him. In a simple way, we can say that the Lord is our home. As a Guru, I have travelled the world and have seen many foreign lands. People always ask me, "Maharajji, of all the places you've been, which do you like the most?" And I always answer, "Vrindavan."

Even from a material standpoint, no place in this world can give the same peace and satisfaction that one's own home can provide. Yet still, there are many who wander the world in a fruitless search for the happiness of home. The spiritual path is the same: Shri Krishn's shelter gives us everything we need.

The poet Daadu says:

दादू घट में सुख आनन्द है, तब सब ठाहर होइ ।
घट में सुख आनन्द बिन, सुखी न देख्या कोइ ॥

daadu ghat mein sukh aanand hai, tab sab
thaahar hoi ।

ghat mein sukh aanand bin, sukhi na
dekyaa koi ॥

This means that a person who has found satisfaction at home can be happy wherever they go, because they have permanent access to all the material comforts they desire. In the same way, one who has directly realised the Lord within, finds only bliss everywhere.



Ma Mani - Part 2



In the previous edition, Ma Mani took shelter of Shri Vijaykrishn Goswami's lineage and began her spiritual journey. In this edition, she dedicates her life fully to Krishn's worship in a time of chaos.

Near the end of World War II, riots broke out amongst Hindus and Muslims in Kolkata. As the only Hindu living in a Muslim neighbourhood, Ma Mani was unable to leave her house at all. Once, some neighbours planned to attack her house, but they were unable to because heavy rains flooded the surrounding streets. On another occasion, rioters came to pour petrol on her house and set it on fire, but just as they were about to do so, an army patrol passed by and stopped them. The atmosphere of constant danger helped Ma Mani turn inward and lose herself completely in Shri Krishn's *bhajan*.

Entering Nitya Lila

Beginning in 1945 C.E., Ma Mani made several visits to Vrindavan and Puri. Then in 1949, at the age of 67, Ma Mani stayed in Vrindavan for an extended period. During this visit, she lived at Dheer Sameer Kunj, spending eight to eleven hours daily in concentrated *jap* and meditation.

Soon, Ma Mani's spiritual eyes opened and she began having *darshan* of the eternal *lila*.

Each day as she sat on her *asan*, she would have *darshan* of her Param Gurudev and Guruma, Shri Vijaykrishn Goswami and Shrimati Yogmaya Devi. After that, the *lila* of Shri Radha and Krishn would unfold before her.

As Ma Mani reached the end of her time on Earth, she became bedridden. However, this was not an obstacle in her spiritual life, for she remained internally immersed in the *lila*. In his *Prem Bhakti Chandrika*, Shri Narottam Das Thakur says:

आपन भजन कथा ना कोहिबो यथा तथा ।

*aapan bhajan kathaa naa kohibo yathaa
tathaa ।*

"One must not reveal one's spiritual experiences publicly."

However, Shri Vijaykrishn Goswami made an exception for Ma Mani, instructing her to publish hers for the benefit of humanity. Vijaykrishn Goswami would often visit her in visions to guide her writing process.

Ma Mani published many books about her spiritual experiences, including *Shri Vrindavan Lila*, *Purushottam Lila*, *Saar Sangrah Madhurima*, *Rishi Vaani* and *Shri Shri Sadguru Upadeshamrit*. The last book she printed was her autobiography, entitled *Jivan Gatha*. In a

her autobiography, entitled *Jivan Gatha*. In a vision, Mahaprabhu himself instructed Ma Mani how the cover should be designed. He said, "Tell them to put a large white lotus on the cover, because your first name in this life was Sarojini (lotus)."

On December 22nd, 1966, at the age of 84, Ma Mani announced that she would soon leave this world. Surrounded by devotees chanting the Holy Name, she entered *nitya lila* with the Holy Name of Jagannath upon her lips.

Teachings Received Through Visions

During her *bhajan*, Ma Mani interacted with Shri Radha and Krishn, their *nitya parikars*, and members of her *guru parampara* who had already entered *nitya lila*. The following are some teachings received by Ma Mani through visions:

- Shri Krishn, in the form of Ma Mani's *chitrapat* (picture) of Gopal, once told her, "Controlling the mind is not easy. The mind can only be controlled by love, so we must love the Holy Name. When the devotee considers the Holy Name as their very own, and chants it constantly, their body and mind become one with the Name. Then the Name reveals itself as one with the Naami [Krishn himself], and the *lila* manifests in the heart."

- Once Shrimati Yogmaya Ma advised Ma Mani, "When we act according to our own desires, this brings bondage, but when we act according to the Lord's desires, this is *seva*."

Ma Mani's Param Gurudev, Shri Vijaykrishn Goswami, gave her many instructions through visions, including the following:



Ma Mani's Gopal

• "For as long as the soul remains immersed in 'I' and 'mine', she remains the slave of praise and blame. But when she forgets herself and surrenders completely to the lotus feet of Shri Guru, all the praise and blame is accepted by Guru alone. The thought of 'I' creates a feeling of separateness in us, but after Guru accepts us completely, there is nothing more to fear. Shame, anxiety, feelings of being respected or disrespected; all of this must be given up. In this age of disbelief, nobody has faith in true *dharm*; only spiritually dedicated and faithful souls will take up this practice."

• "You must understand that it is possible to see Shri Vrindavan *lila* even today. Disregarding this truth means losing a priceless jewel. Know for certain that we can attain everything by following the instructions of Shri Guru. This material body can be destroyed in a moment, so we must make this life meaningful by worshipping the Lord. If one receives *sadhan* from Guru, but does not follow it properly, there will be no attainment. We are all distracted by the feeling of 'mine'. But with self-analysis, we can understand that this 'mine' has no value; it is only the play of *maya*."

• "We cannot nullify our sins just by performing good deeds. When we have received this *sadhan*, the responsibility of keeping track of our *karm* belongs to Gurudev. He takes note and analyses every action we perform. If we accumulate offences by neglecting his instructions, then he forcibly corrects us through his divine power. Within

three births, he ensures our *karm* is finished and he accepts us eternally."

• "Just as *chandan* becomes used up in the process of offering it to the Lord, similarly our body and all we have should be spent in his *seva*. True *seva* is to chant that priceless Name which Shri Guru has given us, and to follow his instructions. Wealth only has worth when it is spent for the Lord's sake, and whatever he has given us should be offered back up to him. When this body and all we have was given by him, there is nothing left to call ours; thus we should always act thoughtfully in accordance with Guru's instructions. In doing this, the 'me' and 'mine' which plague us shall be destroyed."

• "The Holy Name given by Guru must be repeated with every breath; by doing this, one can attain *darshan* of the Lord."

• "If we are chanting the Name, but our bonds have not been broken, then there are only two possibilities: either the Name lacks power, or we have not chanted it properly. Dhruv, Prahlad, Narad, Shabari and so many other great souls all chanted the Name, and the Name revealed the Lord to them. We have received that same Holy Name from Gurudev. The Name is all-powerful. When that Holy Name is chanted in the proper manner, the Lord himself comes to bless the devotee with his *darshan*."

References

Ma Mani: Jivan Darshan aur Divya Lila Anubhutiyan
published by Shri Vijaykrishn Bhakt Sangh
The Saints of Bengal by Dr. O.B.L. Kapoor



Braj Animal Care



In September, Braj Animal Care treated many cases of dogs suffering from paralysis and related complications. Road accidents are the most common cause, and we believe the rise in paralysis cases is due to an increase of traffic in Vrindavan with the onset of this year's festival season.

When a street dog is only able to use their front legs, the friction of their back legs on the pavement creates deep wounds that often go down to the bone. Serious infections and maggot infestations follow. Without intervention, these animals experience a slow, painful death.



Our patient, Hope, paralysed after falling from a roof

One such dog was so weakened that he collapsed by the side of the road under some thorn trees. We had to pull him out, administer fluids via IV and feed him, just so he could have a chance at survival. We have had great success in treating these cases, but without a recovery space or a shelter, the

wounds will eventually come back. We sincerely hope to have a recovery and shelter space within the next year.

Luckily, there are also many cases for which treatment on the street is sufficient. For example, we recently got a call about a cow who was lying helpless in a field, unable to stand, eat or even drink water. Upon examination, the veterinarian determined the expected cause to be food poisoning. We administered fluids and medications, and by the next day she was able to walk and eat as normal. It's so inspiring and motivating to see the positive impact on Vrindavan's animals!



A moment from our daily feedings

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Maharajji's Latest Updates



From September 26th through October 1st, 2021, we were blessed to celebrate Premotsav once more, as Shri Chandan Goswami Maharaj and his family served Shri Radharaman Lal on his altar.

In a humble attempt to please Shriji, his dresses, the decor, and all the other details of the festival were painstakingly planned and offered with love.

Raag Seva was offered through the pure, sweet voice of Ganesh Sharma, accompanied by Krishn Gopal Sharma's masterful playing on the *pakhawaj*.

We invite you to follow Maharajji on social media for more updates:

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Vaishnav Calendar

This year, Kartik Niyam Seva begins on October 16th, 2021. To learn more about Kartik and its practices, please read our special edition of *Sandarshan* [here](#). For upcoming more festivals and Ekadashi dates, please click [here](#) to view our Vaishnav calendar.

