



# SANDARSHAN

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## Vishnu Sahasranama Part 8: Bhutaatmaa - All Beings are Part of Him by Shri Chandan Goswami Maharaj

The eighth Name in the Shri Vishnu Sahasranama Stotram is Bhutaatmaa. According to Shri Baldev Vidyabhushan, this means that all beings are an *ansh* or part of Shri Krishn.

In the *Bhagwad Gita* (15.7), Krishn states, ममैवांशो जीवलोके *mamaivāṁśo jīvaloke*, "The jeev is my own *ansh*." In other words, the soul within all beings is a part of Krishn. *Maya* is material energy that works for the Lord and part of *maya*'s role is to create ignorance in us and keep us entangled in the world. An example of such ignorance is to believe that the Lord is also under the influence of this material energy. But the contrary is true – where there is Krishn, there is no *maya*. As we make progress in our spiritual practice, we reach the stage where we remove all of our *anarths* and reach the level of *bhaav bhakti*. At this point, we are no longer influenced by *maya*,



and we directly experience that our soul is a part of the Lord. This is what we call self-realisation.

There is a story about Tulsidas which illustrates this point. One day, Tulsidas was sitting in the forest writing his famous scripture, *Ram Charit Manas*. He wrote a verse which says:

सिय राम मय सब जग जानी ।

करहु प्रणाम जोरी जुग पानी ॥

*siyaraam-may sab jag jaani ।*

*karahu pranaam jori jug paani ॥*

"The Lord pervades this entire world and resides within everyone. Thus, with folded hands, we must pay our obeisances to him within all."

After writing this verse, Tulsidas felt quite satisfied and decided to take a break. On the way home, he met a young boy who said forcefully, "Sir, you must not take this path! Just ahead, there is an angry bull who keeps attacking people!"

Tulsidas thought, "This child thinks he can instruct me, but I know that my Ram resides in all beings! If I just offer my *pranaam* to the bull, I am sure he will become peaceful instantly." But when Tulsidas continued ahead, the angry bull came and hit him hard with his horns, causing him to suffer a terrible fall.

After this incident, Tulsidas went straight to the place where he had been writing *Ram Charit Manas*. He opened the manuscript and was about to scratch out the verse he had written, when suddenly Hanumanji appeared and asked him what he was doing. After explaining the situation to Hanumanji, Tulsidas sadly concluded, "The verse I wrote today is wrong. The incident with the bull simply proves it."

Hanumanji smiled and instructed Tulsidas with great kindness, "On the contrary, Tulsidas; what you have written is absolutely true. But while you were ready to see Shri Ram in the bull, you neglected to recognise that the Lord also exists in the little boy. In reality, Shri Ram came in the form of the boy in order to save you."

This realisation overwhelmed Tulsidas, and he embraced Hanumanji with profound gratitude.

In the very same way, even if we have previously experienced the truth that the Lord resides in all beings, we must be sure to remember that every single being is an *ansh* of Shri Krishn.



## Shri Ramkrishn Das Pandit Baba - Part 1

### Govind Dev and the Marbles



Shri Ramkrishn Das Pandit Baba was born Ram Pratap Mishra in 1857 C.E. to a Brahmin family in Jaipur. His family lived very close to Shri Govind Dev's temple where his father performed seva daily. When he was about four years old, Ram Pratap started coming to the temple every day, spending hours playing with the Goswami *baalaks* (children) in Govind Dev's *praangan*.

Regarding Govind Dev himself, little Ram Pratap used to think, "This Goswami *baalak* must be everyone's favourite. That's why they dress him up, do his *aarti* and give him such nice toys!"



Shri Radha-Govind Dev Ju (Jaipur)

One morning Ram Pratap's friends didn't come to the temple, so he started playing with his marbles alone. But then he started thinking, "Maybe Govind would like to play with me today!" Ram Pratap stood in front of Govind Dev and lifted each of his marbles to the light for him to see. Yellow, green, orange, pink... he showed him each colourful marble one by one.

Ram Pratap's innocence attracted Govind Dev like a magnet. Understanding Thakurji's heart, the goddess Yogmaya, who assists him in all his *lilas*, arranged for the temple guard to be sent out on an errand. Seeing that the temple was empty except for Ram Pratap, Govind Dev took the opportunity to come down from his altar. The Goswamis had previously offered Govind Dev a set of gold and silver marbles, so he brought these with him.

Govind Dev and Ram Pratap had a wonderful time playing marbles together in the temple *praangan*, but suddenly, they heard the guard's steps approaching. Govind Dev rushed away so quickly that he accidentally took some of Ram Pratap's colourful marbles with him.

Ram Pratap started crying "My marbles! My marbles!" and ran straight towards Govind Dev's inner sanctum. The guard had to break into a sprint just to catch him. The Goswami in seva, who had just been preparing for *shringaar aarti*, looked at Ram Pratap and asked the guard, "What happened? Why is he crying?"

"Govind took my marbles!" shouted Ram Pratap anxiously.

Goswamiji laughed and said, "Is that so? Well, let me see if I can get them back for you." He went inside the inner sanctum and found one of Ram Pratap's colourful marbles amongst Govind Dev's silver and gold ones.

## His Love for Bhakti

After this incident, Ram Pratap began to show a deep interest in the path of *bhakti*. When he was around eight years of age, he went to fetch water from a spring for use in *puja*. On the way, he came across a tiger eating a human corpse. Surprisingly, Ram Pratap felt no fear whatsoever, and thought casually that the tiger would not attack him if he had just eaten.

In 1865, Ram Pratap's father passed away, and it was around this time that another divine incident occurred. Ram Pratap was flying a kite when suddenly the string broke. As the kite tumbled from the sky, Govind Dev appeared and gifted Ram Pratap so many kites that he could not even carry them all.

When his mother asked where the kites came from, Ram Pratap told her the truth: that Govind Dev had given them to him.

Ram Pratap's mother did not believe him. She thought perhaps her son had stolen money from the temple offering box in order to purchase them. Overwhelmed with worry for Ram Pratap's future, she scolded him severely and forbade him from playing in the temple anymore.

Now that he was confined in the house most of the time, Ram Pratap started studying intensely, and in this effort also Govind Dev was with him every step of the way. During this period, he also met a number of Vaishnav saints. At the time of his sacred thread ceremony, he had become proficient in Sanskrit, Bengali and Urdu. He was only 11 years old.

By the blessings of Govind Dev and his devotees, Ram Pratap developed a great yearning to live in Vrindavan. He tried to run away on three different occasions, but each time his mother contacted the royal authorities, who managed to bring him back. But at the age of 13, he finally succeeded.

## Shelter of Vrindavan

In Vrindavan, Ram Pratap stayed near the ancient Shri Govind Dev temple and studied with some of the greatest scholars of his day. He learned *Hari Bhakti Vilas* and the six *Sandarbhs* from the Shri Radharaman

Temple's Shri Gopilal Goswami and Shri Neelmani Goswami, respectively. He also studied *nyay* with Shri Sudarshan Shashtri of Rangji Mandir, and *Shrimad Bhagwatam* from Shri Narsingh Dasji.

After finishing his initial period of study around the age of 20, Ram Pratap received *bhek* (Babaji vesh) from Siddh Nityanand Das Babaji, who gave him the name Ramkrishn Das Babaji. Because of his great learning, he became known as "Pandit Baba."

Pandit Baba learned the ways of *lila smaran* from his guru and memorised the entire *Govind Lilamrit* under his guidance. After further instruction from Shri Krishndas Babaji, Pandit Baba moved to Barsana for some time. There, Pandit Baba learned *kirtan* from Shri Gaurcharan Das Babaji and became a master of *sangeet*. However, his Gurudev eventually asked him to concentrate less on *kirtan* and more on *lila smaran* as this was his life's calling.

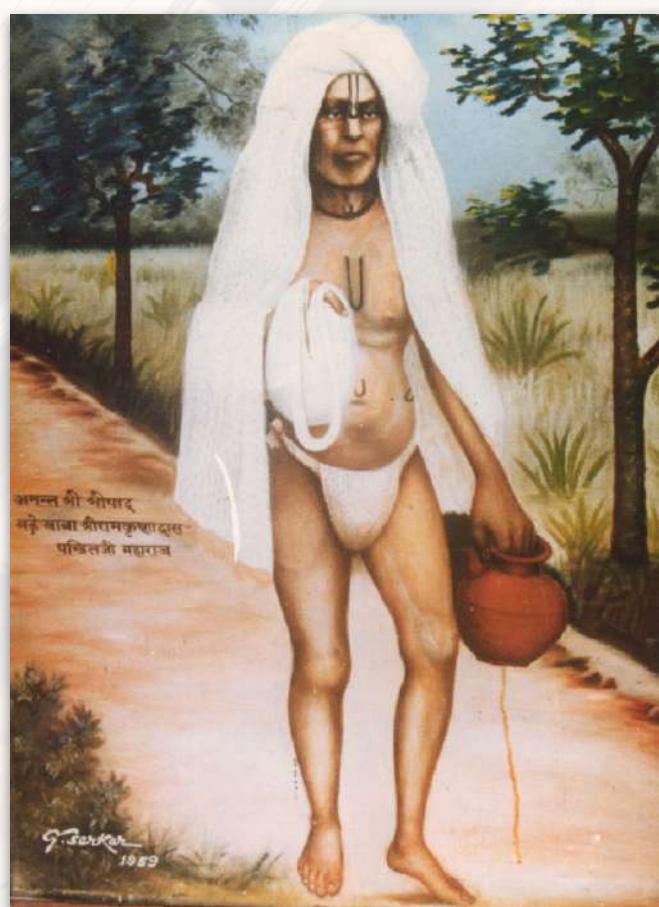
Finding it difficult to concentrate on the *lila* according to his guru's orders, Pandit Baba went to Uddhav Kyari, an isolated place in the fields not far from Nandgaon. For 17 days, Pandit Baba performed an *anushthaan* (*purascharan*) of Gopal Mantra. At the end of the *purascharan*, Shri Radha and Krishn appeared to him standing under a *kadamb* tree.

When the Divine Couple offered him a blessing, Pandit Baba replied, "I don't know

what to ask for. I am simply performing spiritual practice by the orders of my Gurudev. What could I possibly desire but your happiness?"

Pleased with Pandit Baba's pure heart, Krishn asked him to reside in Raghav Pandit's *gupha* (cave) in Punchari, near Govind Kund on the far end of the Shri Govardhan Hill. Pandit Baba followed Krishn's orders, performing constant *lila smaran* without any care for his physical body.

To be continued ...



Pandit Baba

#### References

*Braj ke Bhakt* by Dr. O.B.L. Kapoor

*Sant Shri Ramkrishn Das Ji (Pandit Baba) Maharaj Charitavali* by Swami Devdasji Maharaj



# Braj Animal Care



We are happy to report that our Braj Animal Care feeding program is doing very well. Twice a day, we go around Vrindavan in our e-rickshaw feeding the animals along the *parikrama marg* and nearby areas. In addition to the staples like milk and *chaara*, we often add special treats to the animals' meals according to the season. For example, while *gur* is a favourite of cows in the winter due to its sweetness and heating properties, watermelon is a big hit in summer. It is so satisfying to treat them to their favourite foods.

Our feeding program also helps us connect more intimately with our community and learn more about the local animals and their needs. In the Raman Reti area of Vrindavan, there is an unusual colony where 50 to 60 dogs live together peacefully. Usually, our local dogs are very territorial and distribute themselves over a wide area in small packs of five to seven. Whenever we go to this special "dog colony" to distribute food, we are also pleasantly surprised to see how the neighbours also contribute towards the dogs' care. They often feed them food scraps from their houses, and they always let us know when any one of them is sick or injured. There is even a paralysed puppy that receives lots of love and care from the colony residents. When performing animal care *seva*, you will see

many cases of animal cruelty, which can lead you to question humanity itself. But situations like these give us hope and remind us that many people do care.



Dog colony feeding

Although our medical services are temporarily closed, we hope to continue as soon as possible. For more updates, please follow us on social media.

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# Maharajji's Latest Updates



Maharajji will be in the service of Shri Radharaman Lal from the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, 2022 to the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, 2022. Within this period, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May marks the auspicious festival of Akshay Tritiya. Any good action performed on this day becomes limitless (*akshay*). This makes Akshay Tritiya one of the best days for starting new projects or performing concentrated *sadhna*.

This day is also known as Chandan Yatra. The hottest part of the year has begun,

so on this day, after eating his midday meal (*rajbhog*), Shri Radharaman Lal will wear a dress made completely out of *chandan* – cooling sandalwood paste mixed with a special secret blend of camphor and herbs.

During summer in Vrindavan, the heat is so intense at midday that even the flames of the *aarti* lamp feel uncomfortable. Thus, Radharamanji's Rajbhog Aarti will be offered with flowers instead of lamps from this day until Choti Sharad Purnima (the first day of Kartik). And in the evenings, Radharamanji will come out of his inner sanctum, enchanting devotees with his close-up *sandarshan*. Throughout this period, Shriji will enjoy cooling floral cottages (*phool bangla*), hand-crafted from jasmine and other fragrant flowers. And during *aulai* (late evening *sandarshan*), he will wear minimal clothing embellished with flowers, as well as delicate flower ornaments such as necklaces, armlets and anklets.

The special food offering on Akshay Tritiya is sweets made of *sattu* – a mixture of barley and other grains ground into a fine powder. Cooling foods (*shital bhog*) like cucumber, melon and sprouts will also be offered to Shriji on this day and throughout the summer.

## Shri Radharaman Lal's Appearance Day

On Monday, 16th May 2022, we are celebrating Shri Radharaman Lal's 480th Appearance Day from 8.30am - 11.30am. Please do join us if you can.

To make offerings to Radharaman Dev Ju on his special day, please click [here](#) and choose your gift.

All offerings will be personally organised by Shri Chandan Goswami Maharaj.

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Shri Radharaman Lal

## Vaishnav Calendar

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

