



SANDARSHAN

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Vishnu Sahasranama Part 22: Shrimaan - The Beautiful One by Shri Chandan Goswami Maharaj

The 22nd Name in the Shri Vishnu Sahasranama Stotram is Shrimaan. Connecting the Name "Shrimaan" with the previous name "Naarsingh Vapu", Shri Baldev Vidyabhushan says:

मिथो दुर्घटा पुर्व्व भयङ्कर रूपवत्वेऽपि
श्रीमानतिमनोज्ञकान्तिकः। श्रिर्वेश
रचनाशोभेति विश्वः।

*mitho durghatā purvva
bhayaṅkara rūpavatve'pi
śrīmānatimanojñākāntikaḥ।
śrīrveśa racanāśobheti viśva:।*

"Shrimaan means that the Lord is supremely beautiful, even when he takes a fearsome form; because, according to the *Vishwakosh*, the word 'Shri' means beautiful."



What is the form of Narsingh Dev, the killer of Hiranyakashyapu, like?

अतिरौद्रं महाकायं दानवानां भयंकरम् ।
महानेत्र महावक्त्रं महादंष्ट्रं महाभुजम् ॥
महानखं महापादं कालाग्निसदृशाननम् ।
कर्णान्तकृतविस्तारवदनं चातिभीषणम् ॥

*atiraudraṃ mahākāyaṃ dānavānāṃ
bhayaṃkaram ।
mahānetra mahāvaktraṃ
mahādaṃṣṭraṃ mahābhujam ॥
mahānakhaṃ mahāpādaṃ
kālāgnisadrśānanam ।
karṇāntakṛtavistāravadanaṃ
cātibhīṣaṇam ॥*

"Bhagwan Narsingh has huge eyes, a wide mouth, a thick mane, long arms and an awe-inspiring, large body that frightens even the *daanavs*.¹ His face shines like the fire that burns at the end of the world, and his terrifying jaws stretch up to his ears." (Narsingh Puran, 44.14-15)

Anyone who saw this angry form of the Lord was afraid. Even the *lokpaals*² hid within the clouds to watch Narsingh Dev take Hiranyakashyapu down. At that moment, the sight of the Lord's angry eyes was unbearable. His lolling tongue licked his ears, and the fur on his neck and around his mouth was red with blood spatter. As he adorned

Hiranyakashyapu's intestines around his neck, he truly looked like a lion who had hunted an elephant and was revelling in its kill. Having torn open Hiranyakashyapu's abdomen with his sharp nails, he threw the lifeless body on the ground.

Seeing the Lord after he'd killed the demon, in his powerful, angry form, no one dared to go near him. Everyone joined together in offering him prayers, but still *bhagwan's* anger did not subside. All the gods, and in fact all creatures in the Universe, were terrified; but for Prahlad, even that fearsome form appeared extremely beautiful.

अस्तौषीद्धरिमेकाग्रमनसा सुसमाहितः ।
प्रेमगद्गदया वाचा तन्यस्तहृदयेक्षणः ॥

*astauṣīddharimekāgramanasā
susamāhitaः ।
premagadgadayā vācā
tannyastahrdayekṣaṇaः ॥*

"An ecstatic Prahlad looked upon his Lord with unblinking eyes. Then, with his entranced heart he praised the Lord's wonderful qualities With his voice trembling with love, he offered the most beautiful prayers." (Shrimad Bhagwatam, 7.9.7)

After his dearest devotee's offering, Narsingh Dev's anger was pacified.

1. A type of demon.

2. Gods who preside over the ten directions: North, South, East, West, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest, up and down.



Roop Goswami



Roop Goswami, born in 1483 CE, was a great scholar and leader of the Vaishnavs. He had in-depth knowledge of the *bhakti-shastras*¹ and intense love for Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. He spent his life in service of Mahaprabhu's *bhakti* movement and demonstrated humility through his every action. Quite often, he would be challenged by *pandits* to debate *shastrarth*,² however, to not disturb his *bhajan* and *seva*, he would accept defeat without entering the debates.

Roop Goswami spent 22 years of his life as a householder. He was the younger brother of Sanatan Goswami and before meeting Mahaprabhu, the brothers were called Amar Dev (Sanatan Goswami) and Santosh Dev (Roop Goswami). The pair worked in King Husain Shah of Bengal's court, where Amar held the position of prime minister and Santosh served as the finance minister. Though the brothers held these material positions of power, they remained pious and single-minded in their devotion to Shri Krishn. They would write many letters to Mahaprabhu for guidance in the hope that they would be freed from bondage to the material world.

After years of longing, the brothers finally met Mahaprabhu when he came to their village of Ramakeli in Gauda. They embraced Mahaprabhu with the desperate desire to serve him. Mahaprabhu reassured them that their time for service and freedom from their material obligations was certain and soon.

Mahaprabhu's Teachings and Instructions to Roop

Mahaprabhu stayed with Roop in Dasaswamedh, Varanasi, for ten days and taught about the essential principles of *prem-bhakti*.³ After imparting this knowledge, Mahaprabhu instructed Roop to travel to Vrindavan. He told him that he'd meet him again soon in Nilachal, in time for the Rath Yatra festival. After his time with Mahaprabhu in Nilachal, Roop headed back to Vrindavan. His journey coincided with that of his brother, Sanatan.

Mahaprabhu instructed the brothers to preach Krishn *bhakti*, compile *bhakti-shastra*, install deities, practice *sadhana* and set a clear example of *vairagya*⁴ and discipline in spiritual practices.

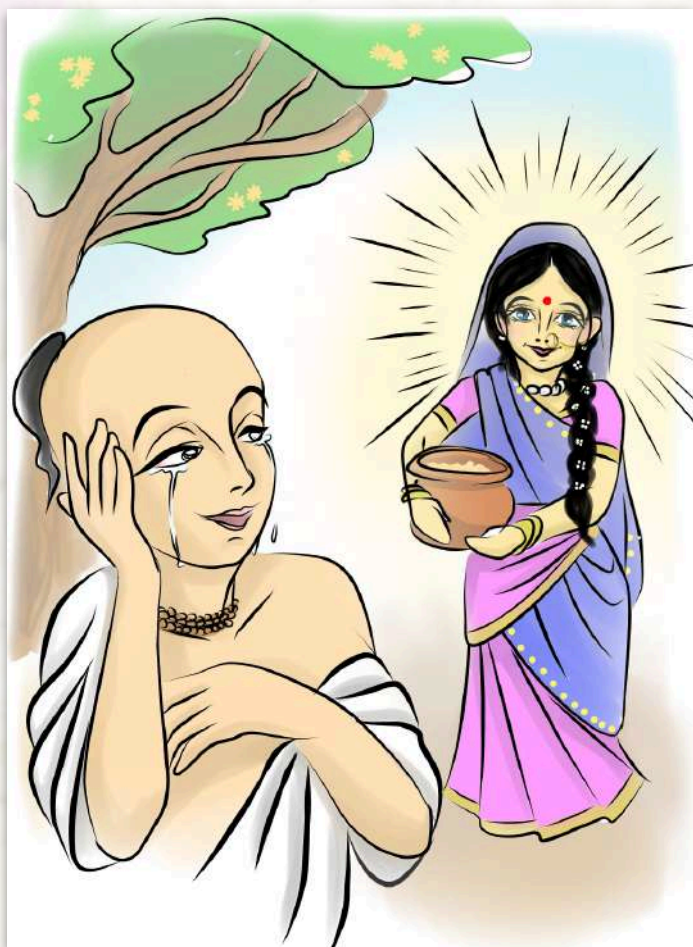
1. The Vedic scriptures enlightening one of *bhakti*.
2. To enter into a literary and philosophical debate.
3. Loving devotion to the Lord.
4. Detachment.

Shri Govind Dev and Roop Goswami

Mahaprabhu had instructed Roop to discover the holy places in Vrindavan, as detailed in the scriptures. The location of the deity of Govind Dev, installed by Maharaj Vajranabh, the great-grandson of Krishn, was detailed in scriptures, however, Roop was unable to find it anywhere. In distress, Roop began to cry on the banks of the Yamuna, "Ha Govind! Ha Govind!" when suddenly a beautiful, young Brajwasi boy came and asked him what was wrong. He pacified Roop by revealing to him that every day, a heavenly cow would pour milk with deep affection on a particular spot, known as Gomatila. It was under the ground there that Govind Dev was concealed. Roop immediately understood that this young Brajwasi boy was none other than Govind Dev himself and fell unconscious to the ground. As soon as he came back to his senses, he informed Mahaprabhu and arranged a festival.

Radharani's Mercy on Roop

Roop Goswami had resided in Braj for many years but started to feel great pain and anguish because Radharani had still not appeared before him in person. His anguish became so deep that he was unable to eat, drink or go for *madhukari*.⁵ Soon, he came to know that his brother, who was also like his guru, was coming to see him at Ter Kadamb,⁶ a place where Roop Goswami did his *bhajan* and wrote literature on the Divine Couple based on the instructions of Mahaprabhu. Roop Goswami desired to cook *kheer*⁷ for Sanatan but did not have the ingredients. Just then a young Brajwasi girl came to his cottage and enquired, "Baba, we have not seen you in so long. Please accept this milk, rice and sugar. You must be so hungry." Roop Goswami understood immediately that such



Radharani visits Roop in the form of a Brajwasi girl

5. Asking for alms.

6. It is 1.5km from Nandgaon. By playing his flute, Krishn calls his 900000 cows here.

7. A sweet rice pudding.

arrangements could only have been made by Radharani, but still felt disheartened that she had not come to him directly. The young girl pacified Roop by instructing him to make the *kheer* and eat, else it would make Radharani sad.

When Sanatan ate the *kheer prasad*, he praised the intoxicating fragrance and taste and asked Roop where he had gotten the ingredients from. As Roop recited the story of what had happened, Sanatan's eyes widened, tears rolled down his cheeks and a shiver went down his spine. He informed Roop that the young girl was none other than Radharani who had taken the opportunity to serve her two loving devotees, herself! Roop cried with ecstasy as he failed to comprehend her mercy.

Roop Goswami in Krishn Lila

In the *Gaur-Ganodesh-Dipika*, 180, Shri Roop Goswami is described to be Roop Manjari. As Lalita *sakhi's* primary assistant, she has the responsibility of leading the *manjaris* who serve Radharani.

श्री रूपमंजरी ख्याता यासीद् वृन्दावने पुरा ।
साद्य रूपाख्य – गोस्वामी भुत्वा प्रकटतामियात् ॥

*śrī rūpamanjarī khyātā yāsīd
vṛndāvane purā ।
sādyā rūpākhyā – gosvāmī bhutvā
prakaṭatāmiyāt ॥*

"She, who was known as Shri Roop Manjari in Vrindavan, has now appeared as Roop Goswami."

Literature

Roop Goswami was a born poet. He was able to interweave the wonderful pastimes of Shri Radha-Krishn in the most beautiful way, whilst sharing deep insights and revelations into the intricacies of *bhakti-rasa*.⁸ He wanted to write a play of Shri Krishn's Dwarka Lila and Braj Lila, however, Satyabhama, one of Shri Krishn's principle queens in Dwarka, asked him to separate the *lilas*. Mahaprabhu further emphasised this when he instructed Roop not to place Vrindavan-Krishn in Dwarka in his writing. As a result, his collection of literature named *Vidagdha-Madhav* presented the sweet *lilas* of Braj and another collection, *Lalita-Madhav*, spoke about Krishn's Dwarka Lila. Among, many of the literature written by Roop Goswami, these are well known for their ability to help devotees immerse in Krishn *bhakti*. Other literatures by Roop Goswami include, *Ujjwal Nilamani*, *Bhakti Rasamrit Sindhu* and *Padyavali*.

Roop Goswami spent 51 years in Vrindavan and disappeared at the age of 73 in 1564 CE. His *samadhi* is in the Shri Radha Damodar temple, in Vrindavan.

8. The sweetness of devotion.



Braj Animal Care



Acid Attack Case

Location: Tera Gaon

Cause/Injury: Burns around the tail from an acid attack

Treatment: Anti-inflammatory medicines, antihistamines and antiseptic spray

The Braj Animal Care team were in the Tera Gaon area to treat a puppy when we came across this bull with severe burns from an acid attack. Keen to keep him as calm as possible, we restrained the bull and administered treatment. We cannot imagine the pain he suffered in this senseless attack. We don't have any information on the perpetrators but we cannot fathom it. This is truly devastating.

To contribute to our daily feeding programs and mobile medical service for the stray animals of Vrindavan, please use the following QR code or contact us using the details given here:

f @braj.animal.care
brajanimalcare.com
(+91)8923737924
brajanimalcare@gmail.com



The bull that was attacked





Maharajji's Latest Updates



Tour 2023

11 Jul - 15 Jul London, UK

16 Jul - 30 July BSAS, Argentina

31 Jul - 04 Aug Cordoba, Argentina

05 Aug - 09 Aug Lima, Peru

10 Aug - 14 Aug Cusco, Peru

15 Aug - 19 Aug Bogota, Colombia

20 Aug - 24 Aug Cali, Colombia

25 Aug - 01 Sept Mexico city, Mex

02 Sept - 08 Sept Gainesville, USA

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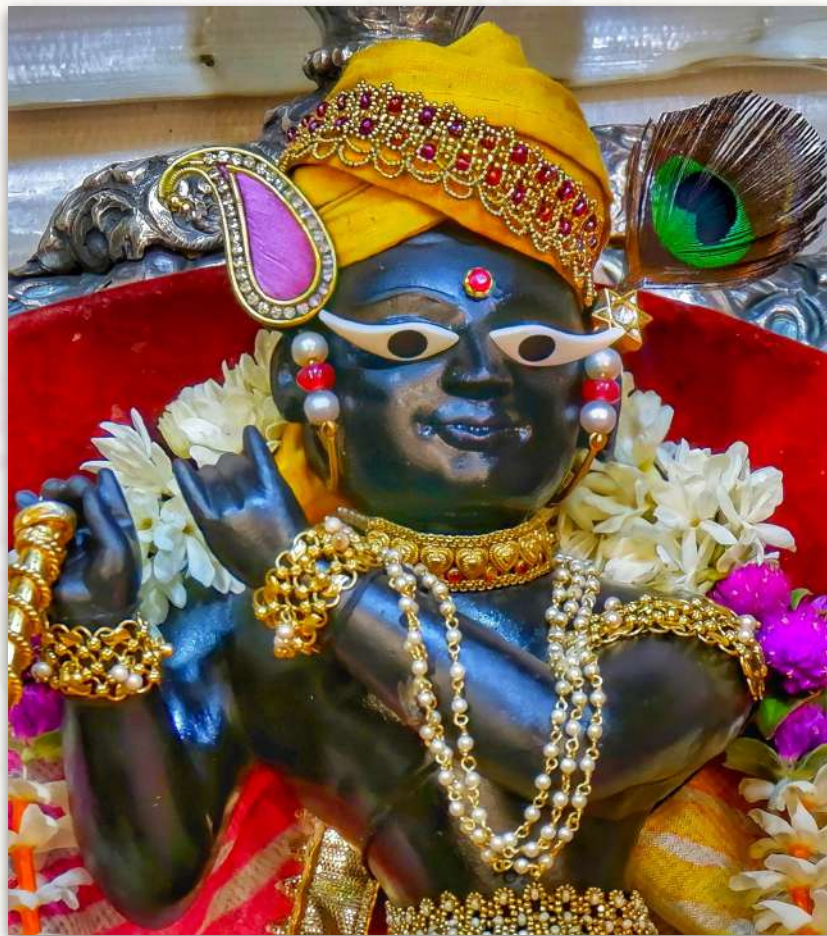


Maharajji has embarked on his annual tour, spending some days in London and moving on to Argentina for almost 20 days. He will also visit Peru, Colombia and Mexico this year. He will share the path of devotional with those who are new. Maharajji will also reinforce the instructions set out in Gaudiya Vaishnavism for the devotees who want to progress on their devotional journey. He will also be making a trip to the US.

Spiritual Questions and Answers with Maharajji

Q: Should we keep a count of the Naam we chant in our mind?

A: No, we don't keep a count when we chant in our mind because the mind cannot focus on chanting and keeping a count at the same time. Keep the mind focused on the lotus feet of Shriji and on his lotus face whilst you chant with your mind.



For more information about Maharajji's upcoming programs, please contact us via the following channels:

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