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Vishnu Sahasranama Part 25: Sarva – The One Who is Everything by Shri Chandan Goswami Maharaj

The 25th Name in the Shri Vishnu Sahasranama Stotram is Sarva, which means "Everything".

सर्वव्यापकत्वात् सर्वः ।

sarvavyāpakatvāt sarvaḥ ।

"Shri Krishn is known as 'Sarva' (everything) because he is present everywhere."

In his commentary on this Name, Adi Shankaracharya mentions the following verse from the *Mahabharat*:

असतश्च सतश्चैव सर्वस्य प्रभवाप्ययात् ।
सर्वस्य सर्वदा ज्ञानात् सर्वमेवं प्रचक्षते ॥

*asataśc sataścaiva sarvasya prabhavāpyayāt ।
sarvasya sarvadā jñānāt sarvamevaṁ pracakṣate ॥*

"Krishn is known as 'Sarva' because he is the origin of every permanent and impermanent thing, the protector and destroyer of all that exists, and the one who knows everything."

Shri Baldev Vidyabhushan says,

सरति गच्छति व्याप्नोतीति सर्वः सरतेर्वन् । सर्वं समाप्नोषि ततोऽसि सर्वः इत्यर्जुनोक्तेः ।

*sarati gacchati vyāpnotīti sarvvaḥ saratervan । sarvaṁ samāpnoṣi tato'si sarvaḥ
ityarjunokteḥ ।*

"He is within all things; in other words, he is omnipresent. Arjun says, 'You reside within all that exists, therefore your Name is Sarva.'"

Shri Baldev Vidyabhushan also quotes Arjun's words in the *Bhagwad Gita*, 11.40:

नमः पुरस्तादथ पृष्ठतस्ते
नमोऽस्तु ते सर्वत एव सर्व ।
अनन्तवीर्यामितविक्रमस्त्वं
सर्वं समाप्नोषि ततोऽसि सर्वः ॥

*namah purastādatha pṛṣṭhataste
namo'stute sarvata eva sarva ।
ananta-vīryāmita-vikramas tvam
sarvaṁ samāpnoṣi tato'si sarvaḥ ॥*

"O you who are infinitely capable! I bow to you in front of me and behind me! I bow to you all around me! Your power is endless and you are within everything and everyone. You are everything."

Shri Vishwanath Chakravarti says in his commentary on this verse, "Just as earrings and other jewellery made from gold are essentially gold, in the same way, you are all-pervasive in this world. Therefore, you are known as Sarva."



Narottam Das Thakur



Narottam Das Thakur is widely known for his beautiful poetry and devotional songs. He would write poetry and *kirtans*¹ glorifying his guru, Shri Loknath Goswami, Shriman Mahaprabhu, Nityanand Prabhu, the six Goswamis of Vrindavan, other great Vaishnavs and Shri Radha Krishn. He would write in simple Bengali language with easy melodies to attract all types of people. This simplicity invoked great devotion and philosophical understanding within all.

Mahaprabhu's Mercy

Mahaprabhu felt intense separation from Narottam before he was born. During a *kirtan* with his close associates, he began to cry, "Narottam, o Narottam, my dear Narottam, where are you?"

Mahaprabhu expressed his desire to go to the banks of the Padma River. When he reached, he bathed and left his divine love in her. Mahaprabhu requested her to give it to Narottam in the future. River Padma asked how she would recognise Narottam. Mahaprabhu explained that when she would feel the presence of Narottam, her waters will overflow, her heart will swell, and she will feel pure ecstasy.

1. Devotional songs.

2. Society is broken down into 4 groups: Brahmins (teachers), *kshatriyas* (warriors), *vaishyas* (land owners), *shudras* (cleaners).

Early Life

Born into a royal family of *kayasth-shudras*,² Narottam had attractive features and dark skin. Hearing the glories of Mahaprabhu from his teachers, he immediately became a great devotee and follower.

One day, he went to the Padma River to bathe. But his family became concerned when he was late returning home. They searched for him all over the city. At the bank of the river, they found a young boy with a golden complexion, dancing ecstatically and weeping continuously. It was Narottam, completely absorbed in Mahaprabhu's love.

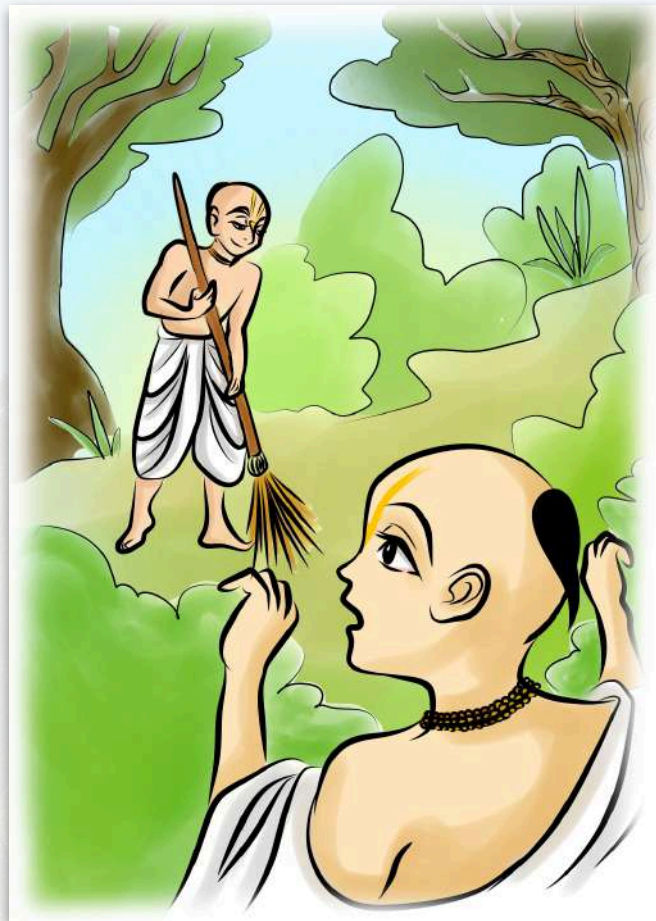
Narottam's parents became increasingly worried as they could not understand this behaviour and thought that their son had gone mad. He was the successor of his royal lineage and the heir to the familial wealth. However, Narottam could only think about Vrindavan. His sole desire was to be in Vrindavan, to keep the company of the Goswamis, and to relish Shri Krishn's pastimes. When he found the opportunity, he ran barefoot to Vrindavan from Kheturi, East Bengal.

Desire for Initiation from Shri Loknath Goswami

Shri Loknath Goswami was a close associate of Mahaprabhu. He was given the mission of reviving the holy *tirths*³ of Braj. Loknath was so humble that he took a vow to never give initiation. Loknath refused Shri Jeev Goswami's plea to make Narottam his disciple and give him the service of preaching Mahaprabhu's love outside Vrindavan. However, Narottam was determined to become his disciple and serve his guru.

Narottam began to live a short distance from Loknath's cottage. He thought about how he could serve him unnoticed. He would stay by Loknath's cottage as a bodyguard and circumambulate it every morning without causing any disturbance. Loknath would go to take nature's call at a particular location every morning. Narottam thought he could serve him as a sweeper. He swept the path from Loknath's cottage to the spot in the forest where Loknath performed ablutions. Narottam removed the waste and cleaned the area.

Almost a year later, Loknath Goswami wanted to find out who was serving him every day. He was finding it hard to accept this service from someone else. One morning, Loknath arrived at the forest location early and hid. Shortly



Loknath discovers Narottam's secret seva

afterwards, he saw Narottam sweeping the path.

Narottam could only see Loknath as his guru, but Loknath was in a predicament. How could he break his vow? Loknath prayed to Shri Krishn. He understood the mercy of Mahaprabhu on Narottam, and Loknath had a change of heart. Narottam fell at Loknath's feet and bathed them with his tears.

Due to Loknath being a *siddh-mahapurush*,⁴ Narottam also became *siddh*. Jeev Goswami bestowed Narottam with the title of Thakur after seeing this transformation in him.

3. Holy places of Shri Krishn.

4. Spiritually advanced saint.

Spreading Shri Krishn's Love

Jeev Goswami wanted to send Narottam along with Shrinivas Acharya and Shyamanand Pandit to Bengal with the books written by the Goswami's of Vrindavan. With a heavy heart, Narottam Das Thakur asked for his guru's blessing to leave Vrindavan and continue Mahaprabhu's work – to spread the love of Krishn in Bengal.

Narottam Das Thakur is famous for writing *Prarthana* and *Prem-Bhakti Chandrika*. Many of the *kirtans* and songs sang across the Vaishnav community are written by him, such as Je Anilo Prema-dhana from *Prarthana*:

যে আনিল প্রেম-ধন করুণা প্রচুর
হেন প্রভু কথা গেলা আচার্য-ঠাকুর

কাহা মোর স্বরূপ রূপ কাহা সনাতন
কাহা দাস রঘুনাথ পতিত-পাবন

কাহা মোর ভট্ট-যুগ কাহা কবিরাজ
এক-কালে কথা গেলা গৌরা নট-রাজ

পাষাণে কুটিব মাথা অনলে পশিব
গৌরাঙ্গ গুণের নিধি কথা গেলে পাব

সে-সব সঙ্গীর সঙ্গে যে কৈল বিলাস
সে-সঙ্গ না পাইয়া কান্দে নরোত্তম দাস

*je ānilo prema-dhana koruṇā pracur
heno prabhu kothā gelā ācārya-ṭhākur*

*kāhā mora swarūp rūpa kāhā sanātan
kāhā dāsa raghunātha patita-pāvan*

*kāhā mora bhaṭṭa-juga kāhā kavirāj
eka-kāle kothā gelā gorā naṭa-rāj*

*pāṣāṇe kuṭibo māthā anale paśibo
gaurāṅga guṇera nidhi kothā gele pābo*

*se-saba saṅgīra saṅge je koilo bilās
se-saṅga nā pāiyā kānde narottama dās*

"The compassionate and merciful one who brought the treasure of divine love – where has that personality, Adwait Acharya, gone?

"Where are my dear Svaroop Damodar, Roop Goswami, Sanatan, and Raghunath Das, the saviour of the fallen?

"Where are my Raghunath Bhatt and Gopal Bhatt, and where is Krishndas Kaviraj? Where did Lord Gaurang, the great dancer, suddenly go?

"Without them, I will hit my head against a rock and enter the fire. Where will I find Lord

Gaurang, the treasure trove of every beautiful quality?

"In the absence of Lord Gaurang, accompanied by all of these dear devotees in whose association he performed his pastimes, Narottam Das can only weep."

In Krishn Lila, Narottam Das Thakur is Champak Manjari and assists Roop Manjari in her *seva* of the divine couple, Shri Radha Krishn. Narottam's *samadhi* can be found in the courtyard of Shri Radha Gokulanand Temple, Vrindavan, placed next to his guru's *samadhi*.



Braj Animal Care



Chabili's Story

Location: Hari Nagar Colony, Rajpur

Cause/Issue: Ascites

Treatment: Antibiotics, antihistamines, anti-inflammatory medicine and diuretics; drained the excess fluid via a puncture and sprayed the puncture wound with antiseptic

Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis is an infection of abdominal fluid, called ascites. The fluid build-up in the abdomen causes a distended stomach. Other clinical signs rising from the underlying cause for ascites (or the ascites itself) include:

- Breathlessness
- Fatigue
- Lack of movement and appetite
- Coughing
- Diarrhoea
- Nausea and vomiting



Chabili receives treatment

Chabili showed the signs of ascites and she was in a lot of discomfort. We treated her five times over a period of several days.

We drained the excess fluids as part of her ongoing treatment, spraying the puncture with antiseptic spray, and she was given diuretics to prevent the excess build-up. We also treated the infection that was causing the ascites.

Chabili's caregiver, a teenager called Shivam Kumar, shared the following message:

"My brother called you when Chabili became ill, and you came to treat her. Her stomach was filled with water, and all the veins had tightened. Her legs had bumps and the flesh inside her body had started to decay. The doctor came and treated her five times in total.



Shivam and Chabili

The water was removed by a syringe inserted in her stomach. Chabili is fine now. If there is an issue in the future, I will call you."

Shivam's message for all of us is to serve and have compassion for those who cannot speak, to adopt small puppies, and to drive carefully and save the lives of these voiceless animals.

It is our mission to create our own Braj Animal Care sanctuary here in Vrindavan where these stray Brajwasis, especially those with lifelong disabilities, can live permanently. If you would like to contribute to this cause, please scan the QR code below:



For more information about Braj Animal Care's programmes and services, please keep in touch with us via the following channels:

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Maharajji's Latest Updates



Shri Radharaman
PREMOTSAV

9th - 24th
December 2023

Shri Shri Vaisnavacharya
Padmanabh Goswami

Chandan Goswami Anurag Goswami

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Shri Radharaman Premotsav: The Festival of Love!

Save the Dates

9th-24th December 2023

By the grace of Shriman Mahaprabhu and the blessings of Shri Gopal Bhatt Goswami, we personally invite you and your family to come join us in serving Shriji during his Festival of Love! We will share more details soon.

Buenos Aires Katha

In Buenos Aires, Argentina, Maharajji gave two lectures on the first verse of Roop Goswami's *Updeshamrit*. Here is a summary of the second lecture:

वाचो वेगं मनसः क्रोधवेगं जिह्वावेगमुदरोपस्थवेगम् ।
एतान्वेगान्यो विषहेत धीरः सर्वमपीमां पृथिवीं स शि
ष्यात् ॥

*vāco vegam manasaḥ krodha-vegam
jihvā-vegam udaropastha-vegam ।
etān vegān yo viṣaheta dhīraḥ
sarvām apīmāṁ prthivīm sa śiṣyāt ॥*

A devotee should control their speech, mind and anger, वाचो वेगं मनसः क्रोधवेगं, *vāco vegam manasaḥ krodha-vegam*.

Then they should control the urges of their tongue, stomach, and their genitals, जिह्वावे गमुदरोपस्थवेगम्, *jihvā-vegam*

udaropastha-vegam etān vegān yo.

If we cannot control our bodily urges, not much separates us from the animal kingdom, which keeps itself busy eating and reproducing.

Roop Goswami's guidance is not a spiritual practice because it's not asking you to do any spiritual austerity. It's only asking you to control your senses. This discipline prepares you for *bhakti*.

Even as a devotee, when you have all the knowledge, you are forced by your senses to commit sinful activities such as speaking bad of devotees, getting into arguments with them, eating too much and wasting a lot of your time thinking about someone that you are affectionate about.

In the *Shrimad Bhagwatam*, 6.1.9-10, Parikshit Maharaj asks Shukdev Maharaj what happens to a person who commits wrong actions but tries to atone themselves afterwards by chanting and being sweet? What is the value of this effort?

दृष्टश्रुताभ्यां यत्पापं जानन्नप्यात्मनोऽहितम् ।
करोति भूयो विवशः प्रायश्चित्तमथो कथम् ॥

*drṣṭa-śrutābhyāṁ yatpāpaṁ
jānannapyātmano'hitam ।
karoti bhūyo vivaśaḥ
prāyaścittamatho katham ॥*

Shukdev Maharaj replies that if a practicing devotee engages in a cycle of wrongful actions and atonement repeatedly due to his lack of alertness, he is no different from an elephant that takes a bath for hours only to cover itself with the sand at the riverbank after it leaves the water:

क्वचिन्निवर्ततेऽभद्रात्क्वचिच्चरति तत्पुनः ।
प्रायश्चित्तमथोऽपार्थं मन्ये कुञ्जरशौचवत् ॥

*kvacinnivartate'bhadraṭ
kvaciccarati tatpunaḥ ।
prāyaścittamatho'pārtham
manye kuñjara-śaucavat ॥*

Our *acharyas* say what is the use of bathing only to cover yourself with sand and dirt? Moreover, it is an offence to do wrong and think you will be cleansed by chanting the Holy Name.

Roop Goswami explains that these six things are poison for serious devotees. If you control them, you can control the world:

एतान्वेगान्यो विषहेत धीरः सर्वामपीमां पृथिवीं स शिष्यात्, *etānvegānyo viṣaheta dhīraḥ sarvām apīmāṁ pr̥thivīm sa śiṣyāt.*

Those who are serious about the spiritual path should:

- Engage in Hari Katha only
- Focus the mind on the lotus feet and on the form of Krishn
- Anger cannot be stopped completely. Just as an angry Hanuman, who is known as the greatest devotee of Lord Ram, set Lanka on fire, apply your anger in the service of the Lord and his devotees
- Eat *prasad* moderately
- Engage in *bhajan* to control intimate urges



Spiritual Questions and Answers with Maharajji

Q: How do we stop those who do wrong, thinking they are right and everyone else is wrong?

A: You should not teach someone who is not willing to take knowledge from you. For example, Yudhishtir did not want to listen to the *Bhagwat Gita* before the Mahabharat War, but once the war started, Yudhishtir asked the same questions as Arjun did. You do not have any right to educate someone until he/she considers you as their guru or *shiksha* teacher. Giving advice to someone who does not want to listen isn't the right thing to do and it will cause a fight. My advice is to avoid causing an offence to Vaishnavs by considering yourself to be someone who does not know anything, and spending more time doing your devotional practices.

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

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The Magnificence of Kartik

We wrote a special article on this auspicious month which falls on the 28th of October and ends on 27th November, 2023.

To understand its importance and to read about practices during Kartik, please click [here](#).

Vaishnav Calendar

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

