

The Acharya of Srimad Bhagavatam

The glorious service of Śrī Raghunāth Paṇḍit in Varāha Nagar.

Today is the day Śrīman Mahāprabhu visited Śrī Varāha Nagar. This Pastime is described in *Śrī Chaitanya-bhāgavat* (Antya-khaṇḍa, 5.110–124):

**tabe prabhu āilena varāha-nagare
mahābhāgyavanta eka brāhmaṇera ghare**

The Lord then came to the home of an extremely fortune brāhmaṇ in Varāha Nagar.

**sei vipra baḍa suśikṣita bhāgavate
prabhu dekhi' bhāgavata lāgilā paḍite**

The brāhmaṇ was highly learned in *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam*, and upon seeing the Lord, he began to recite the text.

**śuniyā tāhāna bhakti-yogera paṭhana
āviṣṭa hailā gaurachandra nārāyaṇa**

Hearing his devout recitation, Lord Gaurachandra became ecstatic.

**'bala bala' bale prabhu śrī-gaurāṅga-rāya
huṅkāra garjana prabhu karaye sadāya**

The Lord loudly and repeatedly roared, “Read on! Read on!”

**sei vipra paḍe parānande magna haiyā
prabhu o karena ṅṛtya bāhya pāsariyā**

As the brāhmaṇ read, immersed in divine ecstasy, the Lord danced and lost external awareness.

**bhaktira mahimā-śloka śunite śunite
punaḥ punaḥ āchhāḍa paḍena pṛthivīte**

As the Lord heard verses glorifying devotion, He tumbled to the earth again and again.

**hena se karena prabhu premera prakāśa
āchhāḍa dekhite sarva-loke pāya trāsa**

The Lord manifest such divine love. The sight of His tumbling frightened everyone.

**ei mata rātri tina-prahara-avadhi
bhāgavata śuniyā nāchilā guṇa-nidhi**

The Lord, the ocean of qualities, listened to the *Bhāgavatam* and danced in this way for nine hours of the night.

**bāhya pāi' vasilena śrī-śachī-nandana
santoṣe dvijere karilena āliṅgana**

Eventually, He regained external awareness and embraced that brāhmaṇ with satisfaction.

**prabhu bale, “bhāgavata e-mata paḍite
kabhu nāhi śuni āra kāharo mukhete**

The Lord said, “I have never heard such recitation of the *Bhāgavat* from anyone!

**eteke tomāra nāma ‘bhāgavatāchārya’
ihā vinā āra kona nā kariha kārya”**

“Your name is therefore Bhāgavat Āchārya. Do not perform any duty other than this.

**vipra-prati prabhura padavī yogya śuni’
sabe karilena mahā-hari-hari-dhvani**

Hearing the Lord’s befitting title for the brāhmaṇ, everyone cheered, “Hari! Hari!”

**ei mata prati-grāme grāme gaṅgā-tīre
rahiyā rahiya prabhu bhaktera mandire**

The Lord visited the houses of devotees in all the villages along the bank of the Ganges in this way.

**sabāra kariyā manoratha pūrṇa kāma
punaḥ āilena prabhu nīlāchala-dhāma**

The Lord fulfilled all the devotees’ desires and then returned to Nīlāchal.

**gauḍa-deśe punar-bāra prabhura vihāra
ihā ye śunaye tāra duḥkha nahe āra**

Anyone who hears about the Lord’s Pastimes during His return to Bengal will never suffer again.

In his commentary on *Śrī Chaitanya-charitāmṛta* (Ādi-līlā, 10.113), Śrīla Bhakti Siddhānta Saraswatī Ṭhākur cites from the above verses and adds:

**nirmitā pustikā yena kṛṣṇa-prema-taraṅgiṇī
śrīmad bhāgavatāchāryo gaurāṅgātyanta vallabha**
(*Gaura-gaṇoddeśa-dīpikā*: 203)

“Bhāgavat Āchārya wrote a book entitled *Kṛṣṇa-prema-taraṅgiṇī*, and was extremely dear to Śrī Gaurāṅga.’

Bhāgavat Āchārya’s name was Śrī Raghunāth Paṇḍit. His ashram was in the Māli neighbourhood of Varāha Nagar, about three miles north of Kolkata on the bank of Ganges.”

Kṛṣṇa-prema-taraṅgiṇī was the first full translation of *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam* into Bengali verse. Śrī Raghunāth Bhāgavat Āchārya composed this after receiving the blessings of Śrīman Mahāprabhu during His visit to Varāha Nagar. Śrīla Bhakti Vinod Ṭhākur desired to publish this text but was unable to find a legible authentic copy of it after publicly requesting one in *Śrī Sajjana-toṣaṇī*. It has since been published in numerous editions by the followers of Śrīla Bhakti Siddhānta Saraswatī Ṭhākur.

The following is an excerpt from an article about Śrī Bhāgavat Āchārya by Śrīla Bhakti Vinod Ṭhākur published in 1898 in Volume 9, Issue 12, of *Śrī Sajjana-toṣaṇī*:

“When the associates of Kṛṣṇa and Gaura are examined, it is understood that Śrī Rādhikā’s sakhī Śyāma Mañjarī appeared in the Pastimes of Śrī Gaura as Śrī Bhāgavat Āchārya. In the Pastimes of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, Śrī Śyāma Mañjarī sings songs about Kṛṣṇa (songs about the Pastimes of Śyām) for Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. As Śrī Bhāgavat Āchārya in the Pastimes of Śrī Gaura, he performed his service by reciting *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam* for Śrī Gaurāṅga; Śrī Rādhā gave him this service in Śrī Kṛṣṇa’s Pastimes. In the Pastimes of Śrī Gaura, Śrī Gadādhara Paṇḍit Goswāmī took him into his line

[accepted him as a disciple] and gave him suitable service to Śrī Gaurāṅga. The special characteristic of Śrī Bhāgavat Āchārya's service is that when Śrī Gaurāṅga came with His associates to his kuñja in Varāha Nagar, he began to perform his eternal service of reciting *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam* instead of washing the Lord's feet, offering the Lord water to drink, and performing the other customary services of a host. The sakhīs' only duty is the service given by Śrī Rādhā; this principle is shown by this Pastime."

Tags

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