

bhagavams tad abhipretya

krishno yogesvaresvarah

vayasyair avritas tatra

gatas tat-karma-siddhaye

TRANSLATION

Lord Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead and master of all masters of mystic yoga, was aware of what the gopis were doing, and thus He went there surrounded by His young companions to award the gopis the perfection of their endeavor.

Here the lila of the Kumarikas is being described. All of you must have heard of this lila that Krsna had stolen the garments of the girls on the banks of Yamuna. This lila is being narrated by the most elevated of all , Srila Sukadev Goswami, to the great King Parikshit, on the banks of Ganga. And all the topmost elevated Munis, Rushis, Atri, Vashishth, Vyasadev, Brahma, Siva, Narada, Parashuram...etc... all have assembled here to hear the narration. There is no one above all these souls. Just by analyzing the speaker and the listeners of this sloka, we can understand that this lila is not an ordinary mundane activity. These great souls who are so elevated would never come to sit and hear any mundane narrations.

In this sloka, Srila Sukadev Goswami has started with the word 'Bhagavan'. Till now he was elaborating the worship of Goddess Kartyayani by the little girls. There were some discrepancy in their worship, they were without clothes. We have seen in our daily life, little girls and kids have their bath without any clothes, but we do not look at it as bad, no one talks ill of it. Here , these girls were also kumarikas, meaning, below 7 years of age. However, they were having their bath and worship with the motive to attain Krsna as their husband. They were so deeply absorbed in Krsna that they wanted him as their husband. Many people worship him in different bhavs, some as Nirakar form, some as Supreme, some as son, some as friend....etc. So here these gop-kumaris have loved him and wants him as their husband. Krsna understanding their pure bhav, was very pleased with them. Now, here we have to keep in mind that all these lilas are Bhagavan's lila. This Srila Sukadev Goswami is emphasizing in this sloka. Bhagavan means – bhag -one who is Shad aishvarya purn. The definition in the Vishnu Puran for Bhagavan is :

Aishvaryasya samagrasya, viryasya yashasah sriyah

Jnana vairagyayos caiva , san nama bhagan itingana

The one who is full in all 6 opulences – full in wealth, full in beauty, full in strength, full in fame, full in knowledge and full in renunciation – is called Bhagavan.

So, when we talk about any lila, we have to understand- who is this Sri Krsna?. He is not any ordinary person. He is Bhagavan. Just like there are separate rules which a vehicle on land has to follow, however the vehicles that fly on air does not come under those rules. Similarly human beings, demigods ...all have their own respective rules and the one who lays these rules is “Bhagavan”. He does not come under any of these rules, like the aeroplanes do not come under the rules of the vehicles on land. So it is such a Bhagavan who is doing this lila.

Inorder to fulfill the desires of these girls, Krsna went, Bhagavan went, who is Yogeshvaresvar. Yoga is Bhakti Yoga. Yogeshvar is the one who is the ishvar of all Yogis, like Lord Siva, Narada, Sanakadi 4 kumaras. But Krsna is Yogeshvaresvar – The Isvar of ALL the Yogeshvars. Such a Bhagavan has gone to the banks of River Yamuna, inorder to give the girls the fruits of their worship. Just see, how carefully Sukadev Goswami is describing the lila.

But ordinary people think Krsna as one like themselves, going to steal the clothes of the girls and wanting to see them without clothes. These foolish never try to understand what this Yogeshvaresvar means. He is that person who is there in the water, outside the water, inside these girls and outside these girls , inside everyone and everywhere. Why will HE do such a deed ? There should be some aim. Sri Sukadev Goswami emphasizes whom he is talking about at all the lilas – The Govardhan Lila he says – Bhagavan, In the Raas lila he mentions – Bhagavan api ta ratri, here again he is warning us –Bhagavan. Bhagavan’s lila is never for His own welfare, it is always for OTHER’S welfare. Here he is doing this lila for the Kumarikas’ welfare.

One writer has written – “ If one wants to understand any scripture, then it is necessary for the person to have the knowledge of the language in which the scripture is written. Just like for eg: If one wants to understand Quran, it is necessary for him to have the knowledge of the ‘arabic’ language. Just by understanding the translations will not help much.” In this way , to understand the lilas of Lord Krsna, it is very important that one has to have the knowledge of Sanskrit . Here Bhagavan – means – bhag – 6 aishvaryas, ashesh aishvarya, aishvarya means opulence, but again ashesh is very important. Ashesh means – so much aishvarya that there is nothing beyond that. So Krsna is ashesh dhani – the wealth is unlimited, there is no limit to the wealth that he possesses. Similarly ashesh viryasya – he has unlimited strength. There is no strength beyond the strength that he possesses. Yashasah – He is the possessor of unlimited fame. Everything that he has done , is fit for the greatest of fame. People don’t understand why Krsna married 16000 wives. But Krsna was in such a postion, he had to exhibit the extent of his

opulences . A demon called Narakasura had kidnapped the 16100 daughters of a King and he decided to marry them. But these girls expressed their desire for protection to Lord Krsna. So, Krsna went to save them. When these girls saw Krsna , his beauty , his attractions, they all desired to have him as their husbands. In those days, if a girl would have spent even one night outside her home, she would never get married. So these girls were hidden in the cave by Narakasura for many nights. So, Krsna decided to satisfy their desires and he accepted to marry them. Not that one Krsna married 16100 wives, but Krsna expanded Himself 16000 times. So 16100 Krsnas got married to the 16100 girls. Not only Krsna, even his mother, Balaram, the pujari, the paraphernalias all expanded 16100 times and each one of the gopis were married to Krsna. And he is personally present with each of the wife, every day, at all times. So he is not like an ordinary person, one man marrying many.

Such a Bhagavan's lila is being described. The girls never expressed their desire or their love to Krsna. But Krsna knew everything ? How ? Because, he is Bhagavan, the one who lives in the heart of everyone as Paramatma. Hence, Sukadev Goswami is mentioning in this sloka – Yogeshvaresvar. A Yogeshvar knows everything. So this Isvar of Yogeshvar – i.e, Yogeshvaresvar , who knows everything and everyone, knew the desires in the hearts of the girls, and in order to give them the fruits of their endeavours, he approached them on the banks of Yamuna. Not that he went there to see them naked or feel their bodies or any such things.

What were their endeavours ? One of their endeavour was to have bath early dawn, before sunrise. This is also a sadhana to get Krsna, have bath early morning and attend Mangala. Here, many of us make it a rule that we will get up only after it is morning. These, girls got up on their own, before sunrise. They would sing and glorify Krsna, and worship Goddess Kartyayani with the desire to have the son of Nanda as their husband. Three things are mentioned here – early morning bath, pooja and singing glories of Krsna. So Krsna went to fulfill their desire. Meaning – he went there to these girls, to give Himself to them, as their husband. This is his purpose of going to the banks of Yamuna. Everyone in the society knew that these girls are going early morning for Yamuna bath and worshipping Goddess to get Krsna as their husband. Everyone was very pleased with their endeavours, such little girls doing such austerities, was very pleasing to all the elders. Krsna too was at that time only 7 years old. Can anyone ever think that a 7 year old child can have lusty kaam-vasanas ? Even in today's society, lusty materialistic society of these days, children of this age do not have lusty desires, what to say of those days 5000 years back when the society was pious and not lusty!! But foolish people talk ill of this lila. They draw pictures of this lila with young GROWN up girls, not with child like girls. Krsna did not do chirharan of the gopis, but he did chirharan of the gop-kumaris, the little girls , not gopis who are young mature girls.

The girls worshipped Goddess, but KRSNA went to give them the results. This is because their Devi puja was Krsna Puja. Their Goddess worship was Krsna-worship, because mind was engrossed in KRSNA, and

their desire was to achieve KRsna. Sripad Sanatan Goswami says that the gopis were singing glories of Krsna, thus Krsna knew that they are singing my glories, they are worshipping me. So he went there.

Krsna went there with his companions – Dama, Sudama, Vasudam and kinkidi- as explained by Sanatan Goswamipad. These were those companions who could never stay without Krsna. You can see that of these 4, none are famous or well-known companions. Sri Balaram has not gone there with them. Harisuriji comments on this that – ye yatha mam prapadyante tams tathaiva bhajamyaham – So to shower Krpa on these abalas(girls), Krsna also went as abala – means without Balaram.,It also means he went with the little boys, they are also abal, no strength. These boys were only 2 or 3 years old who, could not even differentiate between man and woman. They would go wherever Krsna would go. No one would stop them.

He took them so that to pick up the clothes, they would help him, and they would quick quick pick up all the clothes, before the girls would ever know. They could pick up all the clothes, all at ONCE, and the girls would not see.

Srila Vishwanath Chakravarthy pad says that here the word Yogeshwreshwar is used to indicate that – To give up shame is worse than giving up one's life, and Krsna had THIS ability to get this out of the girls. The boys who had gone with Krsna were small 2 year old and they would not wear any clothes, they would just go around as such. They were small and stout. They had the waist bells ringing on their waist, they wore earrings, they could speak only broken words, could not talk full complete words – with such boys Krsna went to the banks of Yamuna to fulfill the desire of the girls. So, there is no question of even thinking that Krsna went there to see the girls naked.

tasam vasamsy upadaya

nipam aruhya satvarah

hasadbhiih prahasana balaihi

parihasam uvaca ha

TRANSLATION

Taking the girls' garments, He quickly climbed to the top of a kadamba tree. Then, as He laughed loudly and His companions also laughed, He addressed the girls jokingly.

Krsna had trained the little boys to pick up the garments quickly, without any delay. Satvara – means quickly. He told the boys – “Look, our good luck today !!, we have found such beautiful clothes today, come on pick them up, quick quick, pick them up”. He did not tell them that the girls are bathing, he was just saying – “oh what a lucky day, quick pick up these beautiful clothes...” Then he climbed on the top of the Kadamba tree. The kids started laughing because they understood that this time he is stealing clothes !! and Krsna Himself too started laughing . He laughed in order to divert the attention of the little girls towards Him. And he started joking with them.

Srila Vishwanath Ch. Pad says - The kids are small and they did not have any particular reason to laugh. These small kids do not need any reason, they are always laughing. Srila Sanatan Goswami is saying that Krsna joked with them as follows : Hey Kumarikas, look there are some clothes hanging on the branches of this Kadamb tree, who has done this ?!! Do you know who has done this ? I saw these clothes from far , blue, yellow, red so many colors hanging! and I was surprised that Wow, Vrndavan’s trees have started giving us fruits in the form of clothes !! I was surprised how come this kadamb tree has started giving us clothes , so seeing these clothes, I climbed up on this tree. The kumarikas said – These are not fruits of the tree, these are our clothes. KRsna says – If they are your clothes, then what are they doing here so high on these branches. The Kumarikas said – This is your activity. KRsna says – don’t you know that I’m the son of a king, do you think I will touch the clothes worn by others !! The gopis got angry. Krsna says – don’t get angry. Kumarikas say – Don’t you know that these clothes are girls’ clothes ? Krsna says – You are not the ‘only’ females in this world. Kumarikas said – Who other than Vraj Kumaris would come to this forest?. Krsna said – Why, no other girls come here to play other than you all ? Kumarikas said – we have not come here to play, we have come here to worship Durga Devi. Krsna said – why? other ladies don’t worship Durga Devi? only you people worship?!! Even apsaras come to worship Durga Devi!! . So I thought these apsaras would have left their clothes so high up on the branches and have gone.

Krsna said – Hey abala (girls, who are weak, he is addressing them as weak, because they have become weak after their austerities), you people can take your respective clothes. Come and identify your clothes and take them. And promise me that these are your clothes only. I have protected this wealth of yours, so each one of you give me a garland as gift, and take your respective clothes. Kumarikas – we don’t believe your words. Krsna – “I’m not joking, I’m saying the truth. Because you have performed austerities, I cannot joke with you, you have become weak by your austerities, I feel pity for you, I’m afraid of dharma if I joke with you.!!” In this way Krsna was joking with them. Krsna is telling them that each one should come and take their respective clothes, not that one or two can come and take everyone’s clothes.

atragatyabalah kamam

svam svam vasah pragrihyatam

satyam bravani no narma

yad yuyam vrata-karsitah

TRANSLATION

[Lord Krishna said:] My dear girls, you may each come here as you wish and take back your garments. I'm telling you the truth and am not joking with you, since I see you're fatigued from executing austere vows.

One should not make fun of a person who is doing Vrat or tapasya. Here Krsna is making fun of these little girls. He is calling them abalah, and saying that they had become fatigued from the vows. But, they had not become weak and tired of their Vrat. As you can see they were playing in the cold waters, if they were weak and tired, they would not have played like this. So, addressing them abalah was in a way teasing them. So, here Krsna is saying – if really these clothes are yours, then you may come and take your respective clothes. What do I have to do with these clothes, one is they are used clothes, moreover they are ladies clothes, what do I have to do with ladies clothes ? And if you don't come, then I will not give you the clothes. So, the girls are saying – You cheat, we don't believe your words. So Krsna says – I promise, I 'm telling you the truth. And in the next sloka he continues to say that he has never spoken a lie.

na mayodita-purvam va

anritam tad ime viduh

ekaikasah praticchadhvam

sahaiveti su-madhyamah

TRANSLATION

I have never before spoken a lie, and these boys know it. Therefore, O slender-waisted girls, please come forward, either one by one or all together, and pick out your clothes.

Even after KRsna promised, the girls told him – we don't believe your promises, You are cunning . So, Krsna says – I have never before ever spoken a lie.

It is a fact that in reality Krsna never tells a lie. Everytime he speaks , everything is always the truth. So, here he is telling that you can ask these boys, they know that I don't lie, day and night they are always with me all the time. They are so small ,they don't know lies, so they are the proof. Kumarikas are saying – but your friends are like you only, how can we believe them. Krsna said – ok, one of you come first, and see if I'm giving the clothes, and then you can believe me. So in this way each one of you can come one by one and take your clothes. Or else, all of you come together and pick up your clothes. These boys are too small to say lies, they do not know what is lie, what ever they see they say it as it is, no one can teach them to say lies, they are too small. Anyway, I have nothing to do with your clothes, you will get them.

One of the Kumarikas said – You just throw the clothes down or you can send them thru the boys. Krsna said – No, I cannot throw them, they will fall into the river and get wet.

1.38.50

tasya tat kshvelitam drishtva

gopyah prema-pariplutah

vriditah prekshya canyonyam

jata-hasa na nirayayuh

TRANSLATION

Seeing how Krishna was joking with them, the gopis became fully immersed in love for Him, and as they glanced at each other they began to laugh and joke among themselves, even in their embarrassment. But still they did not come out of the water.

The girls did not feel offended by Krsna's such joking, rather they got fully drenched in love for Him and they were filled with laughter. But that day they realized that they were naked, so they felt shy and did not come out of the water. Till that day, for the entire month, they were not conscious of being naked. But on this day they realized that they were naked and so they felt shy. So they went further deep into the waters to cover their upper parts with the water, and only their faces were seen above the water.

One devotee has written that at this time, Yamunaji was looking so beautiful, with the beautiful faces of the girls standing out of the waters.

When their hearts were thus drenched in love for Krsna, they started thinking within their minds – Can we not give up this ego of ours, if this is giving pleasure to Krsna, can we not do this for him ? But then they looked at each other and started joking with each other – hey lotus faced one, you go, he is calling you, go and please him. In this way they would push each other.

1.45.15

evam bruvati govinde

narmanakshipta-cetasah

a-kantha-magnah sitode

vepamanas tam abruvan

TRANSLATION

As Sri Govinda spoke to the gopis in this way, His joking words completely captivated their minds. Submerged up to their necks in the cold water, they began to shiver. Thus they addressed Him as follows.

manayam bhoh krithas tvam tu

nanda-gopa-sutam priyam

janimo 'nga vraja-slaghyam

dehi vasamsi vepitah

TRANSLATION

[The gopis said:] Dear Krishna, don't be unfair! We know that You are the respectable son of Nanda and that You are honored by everyone in Vraja. You are also very dear to us. Please give us back our clothes. We are shivering in the cold water.

The shivering is not due to the cold water, but it is the sattvika bhav which is making them shiver. Imagine, on the day of completion of their austerity, Krsna comes to them and behaves with them like

this, so they developed this feeling of ecstasy which is making them shiver. Because, If you see in the earlier slokas, Sukadev Goswami has never said that they were feeling cold in the water, rather he was saying that they were playing with lots of happiness, in the waters. Now suddenly they are shivering, not because of the cold, but out of ecstasy. Then Krsna gave them their clothes. He kept each of their clothes on his shoulders and gave them as Prasad clothes. If you see, they have not washed their clothes, they don't have many clothes, they are village girls, they wear the same clothes for many days, and Krsna is keeping those very clothes on his shoulders and then giving them back !!

We will talk about this in depth in our next session.

Hare Krishna