

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.

17.55

First of all, the gopakumarikas are talking of saam-niti meaning rules of praise. In the scriptures, there are 4 nitis or 4 rules which is very famous, they are – saam niti, daam niti, bheda niti and danda niti. The Gop-Kumarikas are addressing Syamsundar as – bhoh – meaning Hey , meaning Hey Krsna. Next addressing is 'ang' – our dearest. Hey our dearest Sri Krsna, You don't be unfair to us. Anayam – meaning against rules, unjust or injustice. Suppose you attend someone's wedding, you give him 10\$ gift, so when he would come for your wedding , he would give you 10\$, that is just or nyaya, if he does not give anything , that is anyaya or unjust. Here the kumarikas are telling Krsna - You are not qualified to do injustice. Krsna says – “Why ? Do you know who I am ?” Kumarikas – “ Yes, we know. Firstly, you are the son of Nanda Baba”. Gopis had no idea that his birth was also there at Mathura also as Devaki's son. This is because he was born at both places, both as Devaki's son as well as Yasoda's son. The gopis are telling Krsna – “So, keeping the honor of your father, you should not be doing such deeds as stealing the clothes of women, that too those girls who are bathing naked and leaving them unclothed like this. Moreover, you are being praised and respected by everyone in Vraja. Besides, You are very dear to everyone, including the birds, the animals, everyone.” Although Krsna used to steal butter from every home, no one in Vraj ever had an offensive feeling towards Krsna to the least. They always wanted that Krsna should come to our home, steal the butter, do this and do that. There is also another meaning to what the gopis are saying – That – “ if You give us back your clothes, dehi vasamsi, then Your honor and reputation will be maintained, or else, it will be affected”. So this was the first reason that he should return their clothes. Secondly , they are also saying that – “You just look at Yourself, and look at 'us', we are helpless, we are shivering in this water, and thus You should feel mercy upon us. So kindly give us back our clothes”.

Sripad Sanatan Goswami comments that – The gopis have started their request with the word 'ma' , meaning 'don't' , to denote 'don't be unfair' – ma anayam krta. They are showing their premsambodhan , meaning lovingly addressing him by saying – bho and ang. This word 'ang' is used for one

who is UTMOST DEAR. Both these words denote prem-sambodhan. They are saying that – You are the son of Gopa, and we are the daughters of Gopa, you are gopakumar and we are gopakumaris, so in this respect, you should not cause this trouble for us. Also, they are also saying - You are the son of Nanda, Nanda means one who gives ‘anand’ or pleasure to all, so You are the son of the one who gives pleasure to Vraj and so you should not give us this displeasure. Moreover, You are the son of the King, Raja and we are the praja – the citizens, so in this way also, you should be merciful upon us. Gopa-sutam – ‘go’ also means ‘prthvi’ or ‘earth’, so you are the maintainer of earth and you should not cause trouble upon us, the residents of earth. Please give us our clothes back, we are shivering.

Srila Vishwanath Ch.pad beautifully comments, that – Suppose Krsna is saying – “hey, mughda, meaning hey ignorant ones, do you who I am ?” (He intends to tell them that he is the son of the King.) The kumarikas are replying to this – “yes, we know, you are the son of Nand Maharaj. We do not know other Vrajavasis, but we know you. You are very dear to everyone in Vraj, vraj slaghaya”. Krsna says – “So,if I am the son of King, then how can there be any injustice from my end ? On one side you are defaulting me that I’m doing injustice, and on the other side, you are saying that I am vraj slaghya, I’m dear to everyone. How can one who is unjust be dear to everyone.?” The gopakanyas replied – “Yes, you are right. We are women, we do not know how to speak, please forgive us, please give us our clothes back, we are shivering.”

37.00

syamasundara te dasyah

karavama tavoditam

dehi vasamsi dharmajna

no ced rajne bruvama he

TRANSLATION

O Syamasundara, we are Your maidservants and must do whatever You say. But give us back our clothing. You know what the religious principles are, and if You don't give us our clothes we will have to tell the king. Please!

Now here daam niti is being used by the gopis – daam niti means , when the work is not done by praising, then one gives some money and gets the work done – this is daam niti. So, the gopis are saying here – Hey Shyam, Hey Sundar, O beautiful one, (sundar) , te dasyah - we will become your dasis, and tavoditam- we will abide by Your orders. Then they are using bheda niti – meaning known or unknown fear . So they are saying, Hey dharmajna , Hey knower of religious principles, if you don't give us our

clothes, then, rajne bruvama - we will tell the King. Sridhar Swami gives two meanings for 'King' – that is either Nand or King Kamsa. They are giving him two kinds of fear – one is the known fear and another is the unknown fear. The known fear or manifest fear is that the King will put one behind bars if anyone steals clothes of women like this. And the unknown fear or unmanifest fear is the fear of Yamaraj, who will give very very heavy punishments in the hell at the end of our life.

They are addressing him 'Shyamsundar' . Hey Shyamsundar, You are the most beautiful one, so we are your dasis and from today we will only serve you alone, whatever you say, we will do.

Uditam also means praise – meaning the gopakanyas are saying that – from today we will praise you only. You give us back our clothes and we will praise you in front of the entire Vraj.

In this sloka the main is the surrender – that we will become your dasi, You please accept us, You keep us in Your seva. In this way they are surrendering unto Krsna.

Otherwise, by having darshan of naked woman and in this way stealing others property, you will have the fear of adharmā.

Sripad Sanatan Goswami comments that – You are the son of a King, so we cannot force you . And by addressing him as 'ang vraj slaghyam' they are meaning that You are dear to everyone in Vraj , just because of your beauty, otherwise such deeds as this is not going to make you dear to anyone.

And, they are calling him dharmajna meaning - you are the knower of dharma and by not giving our clothes back you will have to face the fear of adharmā. And we will tell Dharmā-raaj – i.e. Yamaraj – meaning we will die in this water and you will have to face Yamaraj for our death.

Anyway, the main is that we are your maid servants, we will do whatever you say, you please return us our clothes.

Hearing them say this , Krsna is saying :

sri-bhagavan uvaca

bhavatyo yadi me dasyo

mayoktam va karishyatha

atragatya sva-vasamsi

praticchata suci-smitah

no cen naham pradasye kim

kruddho raja karishyati

TRANSLATION

The Supreme Personality of Godhead said: If you girls are actually My maidservants, and if you will really do what I say, then come here with your innocent smiles and let each girl pick out her clothes. If you don't do what I say, I won't give them back to you. And even if the king becomes angry, what can he do?

Krsna is the foremost among all speakers. Look how he is addressing them - Suci-smitah , sometimes sumadhyamah . Suci smitah– by this he is saying that you are having such fresh beautiful smiles, (he is relishing their beauty by this statement). (this suci smitah – is the smile which is coming from within the heart). So, here Krsna is addressing them as Suci smitah, meaning “Your beautiful smile shows that you are not shivering in the water. You are not having any distress of any sort. You are simply cheating”. He is also saying that, “so now, come here with your sweet smiles and each one pick up your own clothes. If you are really my dasis, then do this that I’m saying. And if you don’t want to take, then don’t try to threaten me about the king, what can the king do ? One meaning is that my father, the King, loves me so much, what will he do to me ? And other meaning is the King Kamsa what will he do ? I have killed so many of the demons, and he will also be killed by me. What can he do? So, you come here and take your clothes, I will not throw it into the water for you. And if you stay back in the waters, then I will give your clothes after tearing it into tiny tiny pieces. So, you better come here to me and take your clothes one by one”.

It was the love that the gopa-kanyas had for Krsna which was radiating from within their hearts on to their face as smiles.

By saying suci-smitah – “ Krsna means to say that you are param sundari, most beautiful and you are eligible to become my wives, so even without marriage I am ready to accept you as my wife.” This is called parakiya bhav. The girls did not ask Goddess to get them wedded to Krsna, they were asking Goddess – please make the son of Nanda our husband. They did not say – please get us married to son

of Nanda. Hence, Sripad Sanatan Goswami is explaining that, “ you are beautiful, so you are eligible to become my wives and I can accept you as my wife, even without marriage. What will the King do and what will Yamaraj do ? Even if we do not perform wedding, but if I accept you as my wife, then what will any King do or what can any Yamaraj do ?” This kind of marriage is called gandharva vivaha – Gandharva marriage – love marriage. In this the parents are not necessarily present. ‘Daivi marriage’ is that marriage performed by the will of parents. And Gandharva vivaha is love marriage. And there is yet another marriage called - Rakshasa marriage, this is a marriage by kidnapping the bride. Krsna did Rakshasa marriage with Rukmini. Otherwise, he would have had to kill her brothers to marry her.

The gop-kumaris are Krsna’s nitya priyas. Wherever Krsna comes, they take birth and they have purva-raag in them. So whether they are married or not, they WILL have asakti towards Krsna. This is parakiya bhav and this exists only in Vraj, no where else. It is a very pavitr bhav.

Now Krsna is saying – You better come here and take your clothes ,and if not, then just see, I’m going to make them a bed for myself on this branch, some of them will become my asan, some will become my blanket, some I will make them into flags, some I will cook them up, some I will make them my swing, but come what may, I am NOT going to give them to you. If you want, you have to come here and take them, otherwise I am not going to give you.

Now the gopis became speechless. Srila Vishwanath Ch.pad says the Krsna has used the gopis own words to make them speechless. They had said that they are his dasis and will do whatever he says, and now their statements are put to test, by Krsna telling them that he orders them to come and pick up their clothes. He has made them totally speechless.

In this way, Krsna is doing his lilas with his own nitya-priyas. This is an extremely prem lila. We should keep our minds at a very elevated stage and receive this lila. The gopis became speechless, they started looking at each other and in the end they took their decision :-

tato jalasayat sarva

darikah sita-vepitah

panibhyam yonim acchadya

protteruh sita-karsitah

TRANSLATION

Then, shivering from the painful cold, all the girls rose up out of the water, covering their pubic area with their hands.

Seeing this 'DESIRE' of the Lord ; hearing this call of Krsna's prem/love, they started coming out of the water. The gop-kumaris started thinking with each other – "that our priyatam is stubborn on this. We have been caught up by our 'own' words that we are your dasis and we will do what ever you say. Moreover, if we delay this incident even more, and in the meanwhile if someone comes here and sees all this incident, then what would be our state, it would be worse than our death. And even if we want to die, we will not be able to die, because our desire to be with him is SO HIGH that , 'this very desire to be with him' will NOT allow us to die either. Therefore, we will give up our stubbornness and abide by his stubbornness. So lets give up our wish , our desire to have the clothes back and fulfill his desire. So let's give up our shyness, we will close our eyes and by closing our eyes it will be all dark and dark everywhere. In this way, we will fulfill the desire of our Priyatam. Saying this, they came out of the water covering their body parts with their hands.

bhagavan ahata vikshya

suddha -bhava-prasaditah

skandhe nidhaya vasamsi

pritah provaca sa-smitam

TRANSLATION

When the Supreme Lord saw how the gopis were struck with embarrassment, He was satisfied by their pure loving affection. Putting their clothes on His shoulder, the Lord smiled and spoke to them with affection.

Here again Sukadeva Goswami is starting the sloka with the word 'Bhagavan'. So, here Bhagavan saw that I have killed them – ahatah – means killing. For a woman there is no worse death than to be naked in front of another man. It is not just 'like death', it is worse than death. So the word 'ahatah' meaning 'killed' is used. Sukadev Goswami is saying two words – suddha bhav prasaditah meaning he was pleased by their pure bhav and he is also using the word 'Pritah' – Krsna was pleased, seeing the pure love of the girls, seeing this great sacrifice of the girls. So, Krsna took all their clothes and put them on His shoulders. The lower garments and upper garments and inner garments each one Krsna put them on his shoulders, one by one before giving them away and he started calling them personally by their names and then asking them – is this your clothes ? is this your clothes ? A great devotee has beautifully

written that -Now the clothes have become Prasad and he gave them their clothes. After they wore the clothes and went home, WHENEVER they saw those clothes, they were immersed in such deep love for Krsna and such deep thoughts of Krsna and his play, that “our Krsna had kept these clothes on his own shoulders”.

The bhav of the gopis were so pure because , Sripad Sanatan Goswami says , because they wanted to have Krsna to become their husband and they wanted to SERVE him in this way. Not that they wanted him for their own pleasure, but to serve him in that way. From before this itself, Krsna was pleased with their pure bhav. Just think if Krsna would have not come there and done all this, they would have had their bath and gone home and all these wonderful events of Krsna keeping their clothes on his shoulders, all these would have never happened. So all this was such a blessing upon them. Just to please all those little girls, Krsna did all this.

Sa-smitam - Krsna was so pleased with their bhav, that he had the smile on his face. He kept their clothes on his shoulders. How can he keep the clothes of so many girls on his shoulders. Here again his opulence is being displayed. Just like in his little mouth, he showed the entire universe, similarly on his little shoulders , he can keep the clothes of all the girls.

Srila Vishwanath Ch.pad says that - Krsna saw that FOR ME, they gave up their shyness and faced a situation worse than death. And he kept their clothes on his shoulders in order to smell the fragrance of their bodies which was lingering on their clothes. And he wants to show them that he is keeping their clothes on his topmost part , his shoulders , thus showing his respect and love for their prem.

The gopis were worshipping the Goddess for him, there was an offense in that worship. The offense was – naked bath. But they were doing the worship for KRSna, so Krsna HIMSELF takes the responsibility of correcting it, yoga kshemam vahamy aham, so He Himself takes the responsibility. There was a discrepancy in their vrat, that they were bathing naked. They are small girls, so being naked was not such a wrong act. If it was just a normal day, it was not so wrong, but in the process of worshipping Mother Durga, bathing without clothes, all these things bring hindrances to achieving success. In Vrat, one should wear good clothes, be pure and be proper, eat sattvik food. Otherwise, better not to do the vrat. So in vrat they say – don't eat. If you need to eat, it should be pure items. Eating all other unwanted things all is very bad. It will hinder any success. So, Krsna thought that Lord of water – Varun devata is being insulted and Goddess worship is getting thwarted. So Krsna is Himself giving this lesson in order to complete the worship of the gopkumaris. He considers the kumaris as his wife, and it is the duty of the husband to correct the wife in any of her dealings. So Krsna Himself is teaching this lesson. For the entire women race, this is a bad karma. But out of love for me, these girls have performed this

bad karma, by 'giving up' their shyness. But they will have to do much 'more higher' than this to rectify their offenses. So they will have to raise their hands and offer pranams to me. We can see that when we do any seva, yajna ,,,in the end we offer prayers like – mantra hina, kriya hina, vidhi hina ... and Hey Janardhan,we offer obeisances to the Lord. By offering obeisances to the Lord, we get rid of all our offenses in the seva. And the Yajna is completed.

Here Krsna desires that these girls should get rid of their obstacles and get the result of their austerity.

So, Krsna says – hey sakhis, with your own mouth, you have claimed to be my dasis, and now I am testing your words now. If you will pass this test, then I will give you your clothes, and along with your clothes, I will give 'my own self', my soul, my life air, everything I will give you, along with your clothes. So what was the test ?

Right now, the gopis when they were coming out, their heads were bent down and eyes closed and hands covering their body parts. So now Krsna says :-

yuyam vivastra yad apo dhrita-vrata

vyagahataitat tad u deva-helanam

baddhvanjalim murdhny apanuttaye 'mhasah

kritva namo 'dho-vasanam pragrihyatam

TRANSLATION

[Lord Krishna said:] You girls bathed naked while executing your vow, and that is certainly an offense against the demigods. To counteract your sin you should offer obeisances while placing your joined palms above your heads. Then you should take back your lower garments.

Your offense is fully manifest in your worship. You have bathed naked during your vow. Deva helanam , in this way you have insulted the demigods, like Varun the lord of water, or Lord Narayan. So you should offer obeisances to Lord Narayan or Lord Varun and then take your clothes. And he saying – so first I will give you these big clothes, later I will give you the lower garments. If suppose, the girls says that shastra says , for children, naked bath is not an offense. For this Krsna says – 'I am' saying that this is offensive.

It is not offensive just for Goddess Durga, but it is offensive to all the Demigods, because all the demigods reside in all of our senses. Humans should never be naked, only ghosts are naked. Here helanam means a drawback. For this, one should offer obeisances by placing joined palms over the head. Hearing this, the kumaris started offering their obeisances with one hand. For this Krsna said- offering obeisances with one hand is offensive. Therefore, joined palms should be kept above the head.

Krsna makes his devotee complete their sadhana. Here, although they were fully surrendered to KRsna, still they were hesitating to surrender to the extent that he demanded. Devotee cannot by himself complete his sadhana. How many devotees 'want' to get up early morning and attend the mangala arati, but they are not able to. Here the gopis had a drawback, that they could not do what krsna demanded. So, there was a drawback in their surrender, so Krsna is completing what they lack by this advise – that if you don't do this, you will not get the result of your vrat, meaning you will not get me as your husband. On hearing this, they gave up all their shyness to somehow or the other we should get Krsna as our husband. And they came forward to do what he says.

ity acyutenabhihitam vrajabala

matva vivastraplavanam vrata-cyutim

tat-purti-kamas tad-asesha-karmanam

sakshat-kritam nemur avadya-mrig yatah

TRANSLATION

Thus the young girls of Vrindavana, considering what Lord Acyuta had told them, accepted that they had suffered a falldown from their vow by bathing naked in the river. But they still desired to successfully complete their vow, and since Lord Krishna is Himself the ultimate result of all pious activities, they offered their obeisances to Him to cleanse away all their sins.

One thing to note, the girls did not offer obeisances to Varun devata or to Lord Narayan, they offered to Krsna who is all and all to them. Pranamo dukha samanah – by offering obeisances unto Krsna all distresses are destroyed.

The gopkumaris thought, even if our community, family, dynasty everything gets destroyed, we should not lose Krsna. SO they decided to do each and everything that he said and thus offer him their

obeisances in the manner he demanded. They knew that all offenses can be removed thru Krsna alone. They knew that Krsna is infallible in his words, and it is better to follow whatever he says.

If you see, their vrat has become successful, because Krsna Himself has come to them, they have achieved their success. But still Krsna says that there is a drawback, so they are accepting whatever he has said, and in order to wash away that offense, they offered their obeisances. Now, there was NOTHING in between them and Krsna, no society, no family, no culture, nothing, they gave up everything that was standing between them and Krsna and stood in front of him, offering their obeisances. Seeing this state of theirs, Krsna was filled with EXTREME karuna, extreme mercy. And he returned their clothes, personally calling them by their names. And in this way he fulfilled their desires to have him as their husband. He gave Himself away to them.

Just think, if in this lila, Krsna had any lusty desire in his mind, then do you think Sukadev Goswami would 'not' have mentioned it? There is nothing of this mentioned by Sukadev Goswami. He is a virakt chudamani. Is such a thing mentioned anywhere in any sloka? no where. Krsna had gone to fulfill their purpose of vrat, to help them in their endeavours, to complete their process of surrender. No one can achieve Krsna without his help. If such highly elevated sadhaks like these girls were hesitant in their surrender. If such elevated sadhaks required help from Krsna, then what to talk of ordinary sadhaks. Those who are doing bhakti means there is mercy from the Lord.

They got their clothes, and right in front of krsna they wore their clothes, and they stood there. Now they could not go back to Vraj. Then Krsna had to convince them that he will fulfill their desires in the coming Sarad season thru raaslila, now you go back home. Hearing this desire of the lord, they went back home, otherwise they were not going home.

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

Hare Krishna.

Jay Srila Prabhupada.