

gopyah kim acarad ayam kusalam sma venur

damodaradhara-sudham api gopikanam

bhunkte svayam yad avasishta-rasam hradinyo

hrishyat-tvaco 'sru mumucus taravo yatharyah

#### TRANSLATION

My dear gopis, what auspicious activities must the flute have performed to enjoy the nectar of Krishna's lips independently and leave only a taste for us gopis, for whom that nectar is actually meant! The forefathers of the flute, the bamboo trees, shed tears of pleasure. His mother, the river on whose bank the bamboo was born, feels jubilation, and therefore her blooming lotus flowers are standing like hair on her body.

Here Radharani is saying this sloka about the flute. Sripad Jiva Goswami says that the gopis have Mahabhav prem in them. And Radharani's is topmost of them. As a result of the unmad exhibited due to this Mahabhav prem, the gopis are feeling envious towards even a non-living entity like the flute, and they are having false feelings that the flute is drinking the nectar of Krsna's lips which is actually their property. Radharani says some steal others property. But this flute steals our property by challenging loudly to us – "Hey gopis, if you want to drink the nectar of Krsna's lips, then give up all your shyness and religion and all the rules of the society and come here and take this nectar, or else I am not afraid of you all or anyone, I will continue to drink this nectar. I consider you gopis a bit because you also have the right on this nectar, but as for others, I consider them like a blade of grass."

Sripad Sanatan Goswami says that what to speak of the fortune of the sakhas, just look at the fortune of this neeras, ras-less bamboo which has no ras in it. The words Venu, murali, bansuri etc are used for the flute. In Sanskrit dhaar means wife, dhaara also means wife. Similarly Vamsi, venu, murali all stands for female gender. But it is neither female nor male. But Radharani is having the bhav that this flute is a male. So she is saying that this flute even after being a male is drinking that which we females are supposed to drink. So she is thinking, oh why did I and all of you sakhis, take birth as a gopi, why did we not take birth as a bamboo ??!! What austerity has this flute done? It is always in the hands of Krsna or on his lips or on his hips, never away from him.

Sripad Vishwanath Chakravarthy pad is saying that Radharani is saying – what austerity did this flute do? what charity did it do, to whom? what sacrifices did it do? Then we all will also do the same. The bamboo has no ras, no fruits, no flower, still what austerity did it do? In this birth, he has not done

anything. May be in his previous birth he was a human and did something. Please find out , so that we can also do the same and achieve this fortune of drinking the nectar of Shyamsundar's lips.

Why is the word 'Damodar' used, not any other name ? Sripad Sanatan Goswamipad says that Damodar word has the name Radha hidden in it – as Radha Damodar. Also it shows the love that Yasoda maiya had by which she could tie him up. Also, Radha has also tied him up with flower garland. So it is Radha's Damodar – this is the hidden bhav.

If Radharani would have said that Krsna's lips are meant for females only, it would have been wrong. Because, there are females even on heavenly planets, earth ...etc. But it is not meant for any of them. It is meant only for the gopis alone. That is why here in this sloka, Radharani is saying that it is meant for the GOPIS alone.

Radharani continues to say – This Shyamsundar never goes against the flute. He is always on his side. Sometimes Radharani finds no fault with the flute, and puts all the blame on Krsna like this. It is Krsna who is constantly keeping the flute on his lips. He could keep it on his waist, or in his hands, why lips ? He wants to enjoy the flute.

Here, Radharani is saying - This flute drinks the nectar without leaving even a drop for us. We get only a taste of his lips. That's all the flute leaves for us. We are getting the remnants of the remnants of the remnants of the flute.

Sripad Sridhar Swami says – that the lotus is a false reasoning of the rivers. Actually the rivers are having their hairs standing in the form of these lotuses, due to the happiness they derive by thinking themselves to be the mother of the bamboo. Even the trees are feeling jubilant thinking that in our lineage we have such a high grade devotee like the bamboo flute , and therefore the trees are shedding tears of pleasure in the form of the honey.

When Krsna plays in the rivers, his adharamrt gets mixed in the waters, and the trees drink this adharamrt from the water and in their lineage such a devotee has been born who is constantly drinking that adharamrt. And he is constantly drinking the leftovers of the gopis' ras which the gopis have drunk and left. And drinking that little left over, it is so jubilantly singing aloud. This is another bhav for this verse.

All the rivers of Vraj have the nectar of Krsna's lips. The trees drink that nectar. And just like the forefather are filled with happiness when a great devotee takes birth in their lineage, similarly the trees are filled with jubilation when such a bamboo has taken birth in their lineage.

Hearing this sloka from the lips of Ramanand Ray, Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu explains the meaning of this sloka with madness that :

These Vrajendra Nandana will definitely marry the ladies of Vraj. The way they look at him without any shyness and he too comes and tells them – "I have asked an astrologer whom will I get married, and he took your name", In this way he would tell them directly as well as thru his flute. Hence, the gopis have full faith that Krsna's adharamrt is their own property. But today look, this same adharamrt which is OUR PROPERTY, today we are getting it thru another person , the flute. What austerity , in which holy place , what charity and what mantra jaap did this flute do , in this life or in the earlier life ? Krsna's adharamrt is such that even amrt or nectar has no place in front of it. And that very nectar for which we are keeping ourselves alive, that very nectar is being drunk by this purush, male , the flute, that nectar which this flute has no adhikaar, no right on it, it is drinking. And after drinking it is challenging us in loud voice, and great people are drinking the uchhisht of this flute !! Manasa Ganga and Kalindi are bhuvana pavana, delivers the entire universe. In spite of being bhuvana-pavana-nadi, they are still drinking the uchhisst, remnants of the flute. (When Krsna plays in the rivers, the nectar of his lips gets mixed in the waters)

What to speak of the rivers, even the trees who are living on the banks of these rivers, are drinking the remnants of the flute, and they are becoming jubilant, and oozing out sap from their trunks as the sign of tears of happiness.

In this way, Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu explained on this sloka to Svarup Damodar and Ramanand Ray and became ecstatic.

Now we heard all these explanations in Sanskrit and Hindi. We are sitting here in Vraj, and my desire is to hear this in Vraj vasi language. Radha Krsna and gopa gopis all talk in Vrajbhasha. Let me sing a pad in vrajbhasha by Surdasji, where the gopis are blaming the flute, and the flute is replying to them :

Gvalini tum kathau rahana dena

Hey gopis, why are you blaming me, what wrong am I doing ? If I am drinking Krsna's adharamrt, then I have definitely done something to drink it, is it not ? Why are you blaming me that I have no right to drink and I'm forcibly drinking it....etc.?

Poochou jaayi shyamsundar ko , jahi dukh jurayo sanero

Go ask Shyamasundar , that after facing how much of distress I have rcvd this love from me, got his association , after how much of austerities, how much of miseries , you ask Shyamasundar Himself.

Janamat hi te bhayi virat cit, tajou gaav gun geh

Do you know from when I am virakt. Right from birth I am in virakt fm my family. I left my village, my twice born thread, everything. (When Bamboo takes birth, it stands all alone. If I have any leaves etc, I have not accepted it, I have given it up.)

Ek hi paav rahi ho thadi, him grishm sab ritu me

I have done my austerities standing on one feet, facing all the heat, cold, rains (you people are on two feet and you are more bothered about home, family and society to meet Krsna)

Tajou mool shaakha supatr sab, soch sukhani deh

I gave up my roots, branches, leaves everything. (to make a flute, all these has to be cut off) (can anyone imagine to have their hands cut off, legs cut off ...?) and then I have got dried up in the hot sun.

Agni salakat muri na tan man

Inorder to make holes in me chest, I was poked by the fire like iron, and I did not cry with my body or mind or words, and in this way 7-8 holes were made on my body. My body did not even turn or twist when this hole was made.

Why do you keep calling me – bansuri, baans wali, ,,,etc and you people keep blaming me tamo guni krodh ? You too do such austerities like I did, and take this right of his adharamrt, what is the use of talking ill about me. You cannot move me out of my place, by saying all this. I will not move from my place, it is my right. I will remain here only.

In this way, SHyamsundar is giving reply to the gopis by singing this thru the flute, as if the flute is giving reply to the gopis.

The gopis say - To play the flute, KRsna has to bend himself in 3 places, and Krsna has to bend and bow down his head in order to play it, and Krsna has to massage it by his fingers in order to play it. Like this the flute is making Krsna do so much seva to play on it. The flute thus makes Krsna dance and makes all of us also dance in madness.

There are so many pads like this. Harisuri ji says :

What qualities are there in this flute ? No ,there is not flute, it has taken shelter of Your hands, Krsna, so all the qualities have come in it. One who is dhara-ashrit (shelter of earth, dhara is earth, it is born on earth) has become adhara-ashrit (shelter of lips). It has broken all the treasure house of ras, and still got the main ras – ras of Krsna's lips. It is low born, still the most high born worships it. Why is this so ? All this is the greatness of Your hast-kamal-ashray. So all the qualities have come in it.

Hare Krishna.