

**A Bibliography of the
Literary Works of Śrīla
Thākura Bhaktivinoda
1838-1914**

Literary Works of Śrīla Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda

1849

Ulā-caṇḍī-māhātmya

Bengali verses composed by Bhaktivinoda at the tender age of 11 years old, glorifying the deity of goddess Ulā-caṇḍī in Ulā, Birnagar, the town of his birth.

1850

Hari-kathā

(Topics of Lord Hari)-a poem in Bengali.

1850

Līlā-kīrtana

(Glorification of the Lord's Pastimes)-a poem in Bengali.

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1851

Śumbha-Niśumbha-Yuddha

(The Battle With Śumbha and Niśumbha)

Bengali verses about the famous ancient battle between Goddess Durgā and two demons.

1855

Articles

Contributions of articles to various regional and national periodicals and magazines commenced from this year.

1857

Poriade

Part One-a poem in classical English about the wanderings of Porus, who fought Alexander the Great in the pre-Christian era.

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1858

Poriade Part Two

The second of what was planned to be a twelve-part series, but which was never completed. Still, these two volumes constitute an epic composition.

1860

Maṭhs of Orissa

English prose narratives about the various temples, monasteries and holy shrines in Orissa which were visited on pilgrimage by Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda.

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1863

Vijana-grāma (The Deserted Village)

Bhaktivinoda's description of his affectionate return to the beautiful village of Ulā (his birthplace). However, to his horror he finds the population of the town practically wiped out by cholera. Viewing the devastation of this once-thriving community, Bhaktivinoda feels an increase in his disgust for the material world of birth and death, as realized in his higher spiritual awareness. Composed in unmetered rhyming Bengali poetry.

1863

Sannyāsī (The Renounced Monk)

An intricately detailed story of the adventures of a young sannyāsī traveling throughout ancient India and abroad. The narrative is naturally full of important spiritual lessons. Composed in unmetered rhyming Bengali poetry, similar to Vijana-grāma.

Literary Works of Śrīla Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda

1863

Our Wants

An essay in English prose.

1866

Balide Registry

A manual of the Government Registration Department translated by Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda into Urdu.

1866

Speech on Gautama

A lecture in English about Gautama Muni and the philosophy of nyāya (logic), delivered before a philosophical gathering at Chapra in the state of Bihar.

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1868

Sac-cid-ānanda-premālaṅkara

(Decorations of Pure Ecstatic Love Abounding in Eternity, Knowledge and Bliss)

A poem in Bengali on the glories of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Bhaktivinoda composed this after reading the Caitanya-caritāmṛta for the first time, an experience which greatly fired his enthusiasm for spreading Lord Caitanya's mission.

1869

The Bhāgavat:

Its Philosophy, Its Ethics, and Its Theology

A lecture in English on the Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, delivered at Dinajpur in West Bengal. Some topics covered are: what Bhāgavatam really is, how Lord Caitanya preached the Bhāgavatam, the three great truths of absolute religion (sambandha, abidheya, and prayojana), māyā as a śakti of the omnipotent Lord, the duty of man to God, the superiority of the Bhāgavatam in synthesizing all sorts of theistic worship systems, and cultivation of the methods of bhakti.

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1870

Garbha-stotra-vyākhā

(Purport of the Garbha-stotra), or Sambandha-tattva-candrikā

(A Moonbeam of the Truth of Eternal Relationship)

A commentary in Bengali prose on the Garbha-stotra (Prayers by the Demigods to Śrī Kṛṣṇa in the Womb) from the second chapter of the tenth canto of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam.

1871

Reflections

A poem in English.

1871

Ṭhākur Haridās

Ten English verses about the disappearance of Nāmācārya Śrīla Haridās Ṭhākur, which are engraved in marble on the samādhi tomb of Haridās by the seashore at JagannāthaPurī.

1871

The Temple of Jagannātha at Purī

An English prose essay describing the history of the establishment of the great temple in Purī, Orissa. This piece also addresses the hypocrisy of temple priests as opposed to sincere devotional worship in pure love of God.

1871

The Ākharās in Purī

English critical exposī on certain Vaiṣṇava monasteries in Jagannātha Purī. Apparently these places were kept by temple priests for meetings where intoxication and other questionable activities were indulged.

1871

The Personality of Godhead

An essay in English prose.

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1871

Sāragrāhī Vaiṣṇava

(The Devotee Who Grasps the Essence)

A 22 verse English poem describing the mood of a devotee who knows how to remain aloof from gross worldly attractions while extracting the essence of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness everywhere and in everything.

1871

A Beacon Light

English prose.

1871

To Love God

A short English article describing bhakti (love) as the religion of the soul. The piece is based on Christ Jesus' teaching "Love God with all thy heart, with all thy mind, and with all thy strength, and love man as thy brother."

1871

The Attibaris of Orissa

A long letter in English to the editors of the "Progress", exposing a questionable sect of pseudo-Vaiṣṇavas popular in Orissa.

1871

The Marriage System of Bengal

An English article detailing Hindu marriage customs and their deplorable forms. He gives historical outlines of various types of traditional marriages, and expresses some sympathy for the women subjected to the inhumane marital practices of certain groups in Bengal.

1872

Vedāntādhikaraṇa-mālā

(A Garland of Chapters on Vedānta)

A compilation of Sanskrit verses on Vedānta philosophy, with Bhaktivinoda's own Bengali translations and explanations.

Literary Works of Śrīla Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda

1873

Datta-kaustubha

(The Kaustubha Gem of the Datta Family)

104 Sanskrit verses on Vaiṣṇava philosophy composed by Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda, including his own Sanskrit prose commentary.

1876

Datta-vaṁśa-mālā

(The Garland of the Datta Lineage)

Sanskrit verses giving a genealogical description of the Datta family of Bali Samaj. Since he was born Kedarnath Datta, this is a chronicle of Bhaktivinoda's own family tree.

1878

Bauddha-vijaya-kāvyaṃ

(Poems on the Defeat of Buddhism)

Sanskrit verses soundly defeating the atheistic philosophy of Buddhism, point for point.

1880

Śrī Kṛṣṇa-saṁhitā

An amazing and revolutionary treatise on the science of Lord Kṛṣṇa, His pastimes and His devotees. This book contains an 83-page introduction in which Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda discusses the philosophy and development of Indian religion from a historical and geographical viewpoint. Then, in the actual Saṁhitā portion of the book, he has composed 281 Sanskrit verses and divided them into 10 chapters which deal with descriptions of the spiritual world, the multifarious energies of the Lord, His incarnations, astonishing aspects of His pastimes, descriptions of how Lord Kṛṣṇa removes specific demonic obstacles in order for His devotees to attain the mood of Vraja, and a detailed analysis of the character of one who has attained Kṛṣṇa's association, etc. Accompanying the Sanskrit verses are Bhaktivinoda's Bengali prose translations and explanations. At the end of the book, the Ṭhākura gives a 50-page Conclusion in which religious philosophy is discussed in terms of the principles of sambandha, abhidheya and prayojana. He describes that all of his unique conclusions were revealed to him while in a deep spiritual trance.

1881

Kalyāṇa Kalpa-taru

(The Desire-Tree of Auspiciousness)

A songbook of 63 Bengali songs describing a desire-tree that Bhaktivinoda had brought directly from the spiritual world. Its trunk is divided into three branches called (1) Upadeśa (spiritual advice), (2) Upalabdhi (attainment of realization of the advice), and (3) Ucchvāsa (resultant overflowing spiritual emotions). In these ecstatic devotional songs, the Ṭhākura gives an eyewitness account of the actual transcendental emotions that come into play as the natural result of committing one's life and soul to Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi. Then he describes the final result of receiving the mercy of Lord Caitanya-entrance into the confidential daily pastimes of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava. This songbook became immediately popular upon its publication, and its songs were sung by devotees with great enthusiasm.

Literary Works of Śrīla Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda

1881

Sajjana-toṣaṇī

(She Who Pleases the Saintly Persons)

This was a monthly Vaiṣṇava periodical in the Bengali language which Bhaktivinoda began to edit and publish commencing from the year 1881 and continuing for 17 volumes.

1883

Review of the Sanskrit book

"Nitya-rūpa-saṁsthāpanam"

("Proof of the Lord's Eternal Form")

This book was composed in Sanskrit by Bhaktivinoda's contemporary named Paṇḍit Upendra Mohan Goswāmī Nyāya-ratna, and it gives many sound arguments culled from many scriptures to prove the eternal nature of the Lord's Deity-form. Bhaktivinoda presented an English prose summary in a contemporary format outlining some of the main points, urging his readers to read the book in the original Sanskrit.

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1885

Viśva-vaiṣṇava-kalpa-tavi

(The Desire-Tree of the Universal Vaiṣṇavas)

A small booklet published in order to acquaint the public with the functions and aims of a spiritual society he personally organized in Calcutta, called the Śrī Viśva Vaiṣṇava Sabhā (The Association of Universal Vaiṣṇavas).

1886

Śrīmad Bhagavad-gītā

(The Song of God)

The most famous of classical Sanskrit religious texts; Bhaktivinoda published a rare manuscript of it that included the Sanskrit commentary of Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura entitled Sārārtha-varṣiṇī (She who showers the essence of the intrinsic meaning). The elaborate introduction in Bengali was written by Bhaktivinoda, and for each Sanskrit verse of the Gītā he composed his own Bengali translation-commentary entitled Rasika-rañjana (That which pleases the relishers of mellows).

1886

Śrī Caitanya-śiksāmṛta

(The Nectarean Teachings of Śrī Caitanya)

A philosophical work in Bengali prose which is meant to show exactly how the teachings of Lord Caitanya are to be applied in the modern world. This includes the perfectly non-envious bridging of the gaps between all the world's major religions. These nectarean teachings, based on Lord Caitanya's instructions to Rūpa and Sanātana Goswāmī as found in the Caitanya-caritāmṛta, are just like a shower of pure nectar, and therefore the book is divided into 8 "showers", each of these being subdivided into "downpours". The 8 "showers" are listed as follows:

- (1) Ascertainment of the Topmost Religion
- (2) Secondary Duties, or Religious Activities
- (3) Primary Duties, or Regulative Devotional Service
- (4) Discussions on Spontaneous Devotional Service
- (5) Discussions on Ecstatic Devotional Service
- (6) Discussions on Devotional Service in Pure Love of God
- (7) Discussions on Transcendental Mellow
- (8) Conclusion.

Literary Works of Śrīla Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda

1886

Sanmodana-bhāṣyam

(The Commentary That Gives Pleasure to the Virtuous)

A comprehensive Sanskrit commentary on Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's 8 verses of instruction named Śikṣāṣṭaka. Bhaktivinoda also includes a Bengali song for each verse that paraphrases and expands on Lord Caitanya's devotional moods.

1886

Bhajana-darpaṇa-bhāṣya

(A Mirror Which Reflects the Purport of Devotional Worship)

A Sanskrit commentary on Śrīla Raghunātha dāsa Goswāmī's 12-verse Sanskrit prayer entitled Manaḥ-śikṣā (Instructions to the Mind). Bhaktivinoda also included his Bengali song translation/commentary of each verse, meant to be sung regularly by devotees.

Literary Works of Śrīla Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda

1886

Daśopaniṣad-cūrṇikā

(A Particle of Dust from Ten Upaniṣads)

A book of Bengali prose containing essential information gleaned from the 10 principle Upaniṣads (out of 108).

1886

Bhāvāvalī

(A Series of Ecstasies)

Sanskrit verses on the subject of rasa written by different Vaiṣṇava ācāryas of the highest order, compiled by Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda and published along with his own Bengali song translations.

Literary Works of Śrīla Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda

1886

Prema-pradīpa

(A Torchlamp of Divine Love)

A philosophical Vaiṣṇava novel written in Bengali prose. The basic plot is that three men from Calcutta travel to Vṛndāvana in order to meet a Vaiṣṇava (who is also a mystic yogī), with the intention of learning the transcendental science from him. Two of the men (who were impersonalists) gradually become convinced of devotion unto the Supreme Lord, whereas the third gets misled by the mystic yoga process, thus cheating himself of the rare treasure of ecstatic love for Lord Kṛṣṇa. The book is composed in 10 chapters, called "rays of light".

1886

Śrī Viṣṇu-sahasra-nāma-stotram

(The Thousand Names of Lord Viṣṇu)

Originally part of the Mahā-Bhārata, this prayer was published by the Ṭhākura along with the Sanskrit commentary of Śrīla Baladeva Vidyābhūṣaṇa entitled Nāmārtha-sudhā (The Nectar of the Meaning of the Names).

Literary Works of Śrīla Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda

1887

Śrī Kṛṣṇa-vijaya (Lord Kṛṣṇa's Glorious Victory)

A famous Bengali verse epic on the pastimes of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, written in the early 1470's by Mālādhara Vasu (Guṇarāj Khān.) This book, written in a simple folk style, was not only renowned for being the first volume of Bengali literature ever published, but was one of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's favorite books. Edited and published by Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda with his own introduction in Bengali.

1887

Śrī Caitanyopaniṣad (part of the Atharva Veda)

An Upaniṣadic treatise in Sanskrit dealing with Śrī Kṛṣṇa's appearance as the great preacher of love of Godhead, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. These 19 verses were edited and published by Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda with his own Sanskrit commentary called Śrī Caitanya-caraṇāmṛta (The Nectar of the Lotus Feet of Lord Caitanya), and Madhusūdana Dāsa's Bengali translation of the original Sanskrit verses called Amṛta-bindu (A Drop of Nectar).

Literary Works of Śrīla Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda

1888

Vaiṣṇava-siddhānta-mālā (A Garland of Vaiṣṇava Truths)

A Bengali prose work that gives a crystallization of all the basic tenets of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava philosophy. Bhaktivinoda intended this book to be read by the general public, therefore it is composed in simple, straightforward language. Some topics covered are: acceptance of a bona fide spiritual master, chanting of the holy names without offenses, regular practice of kīrtan, and so forth. The first chapter is in the form of instructive questions and answers on foundational spiritual topics.

1890

Āmnāya-sūtram (The Codes of Vedic Knowledge)

A classical Sanskrit composition based on the Upaniṣads, presented in the traditional style as 130 aphorisms, plus a short commentary on each aphorism in Sanskrit, quoted from various ancient scriptures. Bhaktivinoda also gives his own Bengali translation called the Laghu-bhāṣya (Brief Explanation). This book helps the aspirants in easily engaging their lives in devotional practices by presenting very simple statements of transcendental truths. The 130 aphorisms are divided into 16 extremely condensed and irrefutable chapters.

Literary Works of Śrīla Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda

1890

Śrī Navadvīpa-dhāma-māhātmyam
(The Glories of the Abode of Navadvīpa)

Parikramā-khaṇḍa

(The Canto Describing the Tour)

18 chapters of Bengali verse in which Bhaktivinoda describes the complete tour of the nine islands of Navadvīpa that was traversed by Lord Nityānanda. Taking the young Śrīla Jīva Goswāmī along, Lord Nityānanda Prabhu points out all the different places of pilgrimage and tells the stories behind those sacred sites.

1890

Śrī Navadvīpa-dhāma-māhātmyam
(The Glories of the Abode of Navadvīpa)

Pramāṇa-khaṇḍa

(The Canto Describing the Scriptural References)

Five chapters of amazing quotes from many different Vedic scriptures, Purāṇas and Saṁhitās that glorify the holy land of Navadvīpa. The Sanskrit verses are accompanied by Bhaktivinoda's Bengali prose translations.

Literary Works of Śrīla Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda

1890

Siddhānta-darpaṇam (The Mirror of Truth)

A philosophical Sanskrit work by Śrīla Baladeva Vidyā-bhūṣaṇa, edited and published by Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda with his own Bengali prose translations. Bhaktivinoda liked this book very much because it establishes, by quoting from many scriptures, that the Śrīmad Bhāgavatam is the crown jewel of all the Purāṇas.

1891

Śrīmad Bhagavad-Gītā (The Song of God)

Edited and published by Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda with Śrīla Baladeva Vidyā-bhūṣaṇa's Sanskrit commentary called Gītā-bhūṣaṇa (A Decoration of the Gītā), and his own Bengali translation-commentary called Vidvad-rañjana (That Which Pleases the Wise).

Literary Works of Śrīla Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda

1891

Śrī Godruma Kalpatavi

(The Desire-tree Grove of the Island of Godruma)

A collection of Bhaktivinoda's Bengali essays describing his program of Nām Haṭṭa, or the Marketplace of the Holy Name. He describes the different characters of the marketplace, how the holy names are purchased, various posts in the market, and qualifications of the participants. Included are reports of a number of Bhaktivinoda's actual preaching programs.

1892

Śrī Hari-nāma

(The Holy Name of Lord Hari)

The second chapter of Vaiṣṇava-siddhānta-mālā, excerpted and published in pamphlet form. This was used for public distribution by Bhaktivinoda in connection with his program of Nām Haṭṭa (the Marketplace of the Holy Name). This pamphlet describes the transcendental glories of the holy names, quoting from various scriptures, plus explanations of these quotes as given by various Vaiṣṇava ācāryas. It also lists and expounds on the ten offenses against the chanting of the holy names.

Literary Works of Śrīla Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda

1892

Śrī Nāma

(The Holy Name)

The third chapter of Vaiṣṇava-siddhānta-mālā, excerpted and published in pamphlet form, also used by Bhaktivinoda for distribution during his public Nām Haṭṭa programs. This work begins with a short introduction, then it has 100 names of Lord Caitanya arranged in 8 songs meant to be sung in kīrtan, followed by three more songs of Lord Caitanya's glories. Finally, there is a Bengali prose essay entitled "Śrī Śrī Godruma-candra's Order", which expounds on the sacred command that Lord Caitanya gave to all His devotees (as described in the Caitanya-bhāgavat, Madhya-līlā, chapter 13--bolo kṛṣṇa, bhaja kṛṣṇa, koro kṛṣṇa-śikṣā--"Going to each and every house, just beg like this--'Chant Kṛṣṇa, worship Kṛṣṇa, and follow Kṛṣṇa's instructions.'" Then Bhaktivinoda quotes from the seventh chapter of the eleventh canto of Śrīmad Bhāgavatam in which Nārada Muni tells Mahārāja Yudhiṣṭhīra about the thirty good qualities that are naturally manifest in the character of religious persons.

Literary Works of Śrīla Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda

1892

Śrī Nāma-tattva-śikṣāṣṭaka

(Eight Verses of Instruction Regarding the Truth of the Holy
Name of the Lord)

The fourth chapter of Vaiṣṇava-siddhānta-mālā, similarly excerpted by Bhaktivinoda and published as a pamphlet. This chapter systematically presents each of the eight verses of instruction written by Lord Caitanya, called Śikṣāṣṭakam. First is the original Sanskrit verse, then Bhaktivinoda's Bengali prose translation, then Bhaktivinoda's expanded Bengali song. After presenting all eight verses in this manner, Bhaktivinoda then concludes with several more songs of instructions to the people, begging them to instill their hearts with these nectarean teachings of Lord Caitanya.

Literary Works of Śrīla Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda

1892

Śrī Nāma-mahimā

(The Glories of the Holy Name)

The fifth chapter of Vaiṣṇava-siddhānta-mālā, printed as above in pamphlet form. After a brief introduction, Bhaktivinoda presents an eight-verse Sanskrit prayer composed by Śrīla Rūpa Goswāmī called Śrī Nāmāṣṭakam, which concisely describes the glories of the holy name of the Lord. Accompanying each verse is Bhaktivinoda's Bengali prose translation as well as expanded Bengali song. Then he concludes with three more songs which glorify many names of Lord Kṛṣṇa, including two Nāma Haṭṭa songs describing how Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityānanda distributed these names (yaśomatī-nandana; boro sukher khabor gāi; and doyāl nitāi-caitanya bole nachre āmār man).

Literary Works of Śrīla Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda

1892

Śrī Nāma-pracāra

(The Preaching of the Holy Name)

The sixth chapter of Vaiṣṇava-siddhānta-mālā, printed as above in pamphlet form. First, the Ṭhākura presents an important Bengali song he wrote-nadīyā godrume nityānanda mahājana-giving an elaborate prose purport for each of the four verses. This outlines the principle of ājñā ṭahal, the order of the Lord to go out and engage the public in the practice of congregational saṅkīrtan. Then, he presents eleven more songs he wrote for the general public to sing in kīrtan and bhajan, featuring the gist of Lord Caitanya's teachings.

1892

Śrīman Mahāprabhu Śikṣā

The Lessons Given by Śrīman Mahāprabhu)

A book written by Bhaktivinoda in eleven chapters. In the first chapter, he summarizes Śrī Caitanya's philosophy in ten points (daśa mūla). Then the following ten chapters fully explain each point individually. All philosophical conclusions are supported with profuse scriptural quotations in Sanskrit, which are accompanied by Bengali prose translations and explanations.

1893

Tattva-viveka

(Knowledge of Transcendental Truths)

Subtitled: Sac-cid-ānandānubhūti

(Realization of Eternity, Knowledge and Bliss)

In this book, Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda discusses the different precepts of the great Vaiṣṇava ācāryas as compared to the ideas of other famous philosophers, both Oriental and Western. He mentions the Greek philosophers Leucippus, Democritus, Plato and Aristotle; Diderot and Lamettrie of France; Lucretius of Italy; Von Holbach of Germany; Yangchoo of China; Carvaka of India; and Englishmen Mill, Lewis, Paine, Carlyle, Bentham, Combe, and so on. The book is composed of 48 Sanskrit verses, each with an exhaustive Bengali commentary. The First Realization, of 33 verses, is entitled "Realization of Eternity", and the Second Realization, of 15 verses, is entitled "Realization of Eternal Consciousness".

1893

Śoka-śātana

(The Dispelling of Grief)

A small booklet of 13 Bengali songs, which Bhaktivinoda composed between 1888 and 1890. These songs were meant to be sung by the general public, as they describe an ecstatic pastime in Lord Caitanya's life, an incident giving expression to important teachings of transcendental truths. This pastime was mentioned briefly by Vṛndāvana dāsa Ṭhākura in his Śrī Caitanya-bhāgavat, and Bhaktivinoda expanded the narrative very nicely. The basic story runs as follows: Once, during an all-night kīrtan performed by the Lord in Śrīvāsa Paṇḍita's courtyard, one of the five sons of Śrīvāsa suddenly died within the house due to some disease. All of the household ladies began to cry very loudly in lamentation, which was heard by Śrīvāsa as he was chanting and dancing with Lord Caitanya out in the courtyard. Entering the house, Śrīvāsa pacified the distressed ladies with sweet spiritual instructions and then returned to the ecstatic kīrtana as if nothing had happened. In the morning the kīrtan finally stopped, and Lord Caitanya inquired if anything was wrong in the house, for He was not feeling the typical ecstasy from His all-night kīrtan. Being informed of the fate of the boy, the Lord became severely afflicted with loving separation and asked that the body be brought out into the courtyard. Then asking the dead boy why he had died, Lord Caitanya manifested the jīva soul back into its body, and the boy then spoke many transcendental truths before leaving again. Afterwards, Lord Caitanya accompanied by all the devotees celebrated the funeral ceremony of the boy in great ecstasy, being joined by the personified Ganges River, Śrī Jāhnavī Devī herself.

1893

Śaraṇāgati

(Abandoned to the Lord's Shelter)

A Bengali songbook of 50 ecstatic songs about the process of purely devoted surrender unto the lotus feet of Lord Kṛṣṇa. This book has become very famous, and its songs are sung daily in hundreds of temples in India as well as around the world. It is based on the six processes of surrender mentioned by Śrīla Rūpa Goswāmī in his Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu. The book is divided as follows: the first part consisting of 32 songs describes the moods of a devotee as he systematically follows the six stages of surrender; then there are 13 songs called Bhajana-lālasā, or "Eagerness for Worship" (Bengali songs based on Śrīla Rūpa Goswāmī's Sanskrit Upadeśāmṛta, "The Nectar of Instruction"); then 3 songs called Siddhi-lālasā, "Eagerness for Perfection"; and finally, at the very end of Śaraṇāgati, the Ṭhākura concludes the book with two very important songs: first Vijñapti or "Confessions", in which Bhaktivinoda longs for the day when he will be engaged-body, mind and words-in activities of pure devotional service; and the last song is entitled Śrī Nāma-māhātmya, or "The Glories of the Holy Name". This song describes the powerful effects of the holy names of the Lord, and how the name takes the devotee back to Godhead.

1893

Gītāvalī

(A Collection of Songs)

A Bengali songbook of 70 rapturous songs which are meant to be sung regularly by devotees. Indeed, many of these songs are part of the daily devotional practice conducted by devotees all over the world. This book begins with 2 Aruṇodaya Kīrtanas, or songs to be sung at dawn, when the first reddish tint is seen over the horizon; then there are 4 āraṭi songs, to be sung while worshiping the deities on the altar; then 6 songs describe the devotional moods of honoring the Lord's various food remnants (prasād); 8 songs praise the glories of Nagar Kīrtan, the chanting of the Lord's holy names while processing around the town on Name-patrol; 4 songs list over 100 different names of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu; then 6 songs list 120 names of Lord Kṛṣṇa; 5 more songs chant the glories of Kṛṣṇa's many holy names; 5 songs ascertain the ultimate goal of life (Śreyo Nirṇaya); 2 songs called Bhajana-Gīta instruct the dull mind how to worship the Lord properly; 8 songs are based on Śrīla Rūpa Goswāmī's Sanskrit prayer known as Nāmāṣṭaka, or eight prayers to the holy name; 8 songs praise the glories of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī (Śrī Rādhāṣṭaka); and finally, 8 songs are based on the eight prayers of instruction written by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu called Śikṣāṣṭaka. Some editions published later added several songs as an Appendix-1 song of intense, eager longing for the highest spiritual perfection called Siddhi Lālasā, and a Sanskrit song composed by Bhaktivinoda in 20 metrically melodious verses called Śrī Śrī Godruma-candra Bhajanopadeśa (Instructions for the Worship of Lord Caitanya, the Moon Over Godruma).

1893

Śaraṇāgati

(Abandoned to the Lord's Shelter)

A Bengali songbook of 50 ecstatic songs about the process of purely devoted surrender unto the lotus feet of Lord Kṛṣṇa. This book has become very famous, and its songs are sung daily in hundreds of temples in India as well as around the world. It is based on the six processes of surrender mentioned by Śrīla Rūpa Goswāmī in his Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu. The book is divided as follows: the first part consisting of 32 songs describes the moods of a devotee as he systematically follows the six stages of surrender; then there are 13 songs called Bhajana-lālasā, or "Eagerness for Worship" (Bengali songs based on Śrīla Rūpa Goswāmī's Sanskrit Upadeśāmṛta, "The Nectar of Instruction"); then 3 songs called Siddhi-lālasā, "Eagerness for Perfection"; and finally, at the very end of Śaraṇāgati, the Ṭhākura concludes the book with two very important songs: first Vijñapti or "Confessions", in which Bhaktivinoda longs for the day when he will be engaged-body, mind and words-in activities of pure devotional service; and the last song is entitled Śrī Nāma-māhātmya, or "The Glories of the Holy Name". This song describes the powerful effects of the holy names of the Lord, and how the name takes the devotee back to Godhead.

1893

Baula-saṅgīta

(Songs of the Mad Wandering Saint)

A collection of 12 songs in Bengali verse. Bhaktivinoda saw that the Indian society at that time had become overrun with many different types of pretentious so-called Vaiṣṇavas. One group, known as "Baula", or transcendental madmen, used to wander all around the countryside singing bogus songs and begging alms. The Ṭhākura recognized them as false devotees, and he wrote these 12 songs so that the common people could learn to tell the difference between false Baulas and real Baulas. The language and dialect of these songs is just like the common street talk of the period, and Bhaktivinoda even signed the songs "Canda Baula"-he assumed a Baula name just so people would accept them! These songs each describe the various forms of cheating Baulas, exposing their deceptive hypocrisy, and finally propose the correct way for following Lord Caitanya according to authorized devotional principles.

Literary Works of Śrīla Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda

1893

Dālāler Gīta

(The Song of the Broker)

A song in Bengali verse that describes how Lord Nityānanda has opened up The Marketplace of the Holy Name at Surabhi-kuñja, which was Bhaktivinoda's headquarters on the island of Godruma in Navadvīpa. He says that Nityānanda is selling the Lord's name for the mere price of one's faith, and, taking the position of a transcendental 'broker' for the sale of the name, Bhaktivinoda urges his fellow countrymen to purchase and relish these transcendental goods.

Literary Works of Śrīla Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda

1893

Nām Bhajan

(The Worship of the Holy Name)

A small booklet in English prose on the divine name of Śrī Kṛṣṇa. He thoroughly discusses the goal of Kṛṣṇa-prema as reached by pure chanting; quoting from various scriptures, he establishes the inconceivable glories of the name; analyzing the process of worshiping the holy name, he proves that the name is an incarnation of Kṛṣṇa Himself on earth; then finally, Bhaktivinoda presents the various stages of devotion that are manifest to an ascending soul who is on the way back to Godhead.

1893

Śaraṇāgati

(Abandoned to the Lord's Shelter)

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