# Śrī Brhad-bhāgavatāmrta

# by Śrīla Sanātana Gosvāmī

### Volume - 2

# Śrī-goloka-māhātmya

## The Glories of Goloka

Part 6

## Abhīsta-lābha

## The Attainment of All Desires

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But the residents of Vraja (te tatratyās tu), completely bewildered (vimohitāḥ) by the kālakūṭa poison (kālakūṭa) of their supreme love for Śrī Kṛṣṇa (śrī-kṛṣṇa-parama-prema), never think (sadā manyante) that any of these events (tāṁ sarvām) has ever occurred before (apūrvāṁ). Because the Vraja-vāsīs are never aware that Kṛṣṇa's pastimes are repeat performances, the attraction they feel for those pastimes is never impeded.

The highest states of kṛṣṇa-prema have the power to create such bewilderment.



Text 358 atas teṣāṁ hi nitarāṁ sa varīvṛdhyate mahān viyoga-yogayoḥ premāveśāvego nirantaram

Thus (ataḥ) the powerful force (nitarām vegaḥ) of their obsessive love (teṣām prema āveśa) ever-increasingly grows (nirantaram varīvrdhyate), both in union and in separation (mahān viyoga-yogayoḥ).



Text 359 <u>dūre 'stu tāvad vārteyam</u> tatra nitya-nivāsinām na tisthed anusandhānam nūtnānām mādṛśām api

As true as this is (dure 'stu tāvad) for the eternal residents of Vraja (tatra nitya-nivāsinām), even newcomers (nutnānām api) like me (mādrśām) can hardly remember (na anusandhānam tiṣṭhet) those past events (iyam vārtā). In pure devotional life everyone is fully absorbed in transcendence.

Some devotees, however, can be distinguished as nūtna ("new") because they were conditioned souls and have recently been reinstated in their original position by devotional practice and the Supreme Lord's personal grace.

**Text 360** tādrn-mahā-mohana-mādhurī-sariddhārā-samudre satatam nimajjanāt tādrk-priya-prema-mahā-dhanāvalīlābhonmadāt ke hi na vismaranti kim Iābhonmadāt ke hi na vismaranti kim Ans by gaining this theore of lac -> thay becre wallered. How can (kim) any resident of Vraja (ke hi) not forget in this way (na vismaranti)? The Vraja-vāsīs, after all, are ever immersed (satatam nimajjanāt) in the ocean (samudre) made by these river currents (tādrk sarit dhārā) of most enchanting (mahā-mohana) sweetness (mādhurī). And by gaining (lābha) the vast (mahā), most desirable (priya) treasure of pure love (tādrk prema dhana āvalī), the Vrajavāsīs become maddened (unmadāt).

#### Text 361

aho mahaiśvaryam asāv api prabhur nija-priya-prema-samudra-samplutah kṛtaṁ ca kāryaṁ ca na kiñcid īśvaraḥ sadānusandhātum abhijña-śekharaḥ

Serbkeel war

And, oh (aho), the most glorious thing (mahā aiśvaryam) is that the foremost (śekharaḥ) of enlightened persons (abhijña), the Lord Himself (asāu prabhuḥ), while drowning (samplutaḥ) in an ocean of love (prema-samudra) for His dear devotees (nija-priya), cannot (na kiñcit) always remember (sadā anusandhātum īśvaraḥ) what He has done (krtam ca) and what He is going to do (kāryam ca).

Isn't perfect knowledge an automatic byproduct of love of God?

Why then are the pure devotees of Goloka so forgetful?

Yes, to one who has prema omniscience comes naturally, but prema, being all-powerful, can redefine what is knowledge and what is ignorance. The Personality of Godhead Himself, by the influence of His-Yogamāyā, also forgets what He did before.

But though He often forgets, He sometimes remembers, if it serves the purpose of His pastimes.



The pastimes of the Lord (līla) are ever existing and purely spiritual (kila nityā eva), formed of eternity, knowledge, and bliss (sat-citānanda-mayī). Of their own accord (svayam), those pastimes (sā), attracted (ākṛṣyamāṇā iva) to the Lord's lotus feet (prabhu-pādapadmayoḥ) to engage in service (tadīya-sevayā), follow Him everywhere (pravartate), supplying the entourage and paraphernalia for each occasion (tat-tat-parīvāra-yutā). Kṛṣṇa's pastimes are sac-cid-ānanda-mayī, composed of sat ("eternal existence"), cit ("full awareness"), and ānanda ("pure ecstasy").

In this context the suffix -mayī could mean either "identity" or "transformation."

In other words, since Kṛṣṇa's līlās are a display of Kṛṣṇa's internal energy, they are nondifferent from Him, and they are also a manifestation of transcendental variety.

There are never any defects in Kṛṣṇa's līlās, even when Kṛṣṇa seems to behave like an ordinary person:

evam dhārstyāny uśati kurute mehanādīni vāstau steyopāyair viracita-krtih su-pratīko yathāste ittham strībhih sa-bhaya-nayana-śrī-mukhālokinībhir vyākhyātārthā prahasita-mukhī na hy upālabdhum aicchat "When Krsna is caught in His naughty activities, the master of the house will say to Him, 'Oh, You are a thief,' and artificially express anger at Krsna. Krsna will then reply, 'I am not a thief. You are a thief (evam dharstyany). ' Sometimes, being angry, Krsna passes urine and stool (kurute mehanādīni) in a neat, clean place in our houses (usati vāstau). Bu<u>t now,</u> our dear friend Yasodā, this expert thief (steyopāyair viracita-krtih) is sitting before you like a very good boy (yathā supratīkah āste)." Sometimes all the gopīs (ittham strībhih) would look at Krsna sitting there (**śrī-mukha ālokinībhir**), His eyes fearful so that His mother would not chastise Him (sa-bhaya-nayana), and when they saw Krsna's beautiful face, instead of chastising Him they would simply look upon His face and enjoy transcendental bliss. Mother Yaśodā would mildly smile at all this fun (vyākhyāta arthā prahasita-mukhī), and she would not want to chastise her blessed transcendental child (na hy upālabdhum aicchat). (Bhāgavatam 10.8.31) To Krsna's feet His pastimes are attracted by their own desire to serve

Him, and they are attracted by the service attitude of His devotees.

In the words of Śrī Viṣṇu Purāṇa (5.22.18): manuṣya-dehinām ceṣṭām ity evam anuvartataḥ līlā jagat-pates tasya chandataḥ sampravartate

"The pastimes (līlā) of the Lord of the universe (tasya jagat-pateh) unfold (sampravartate) by their sweet will (chandatah), as He imitates (anuvartatah) the activities (ity evam ceṣṭām) of living beings embodied as humans (manuṣya-dehinām)."



O brāhmaņa (<u>brahman</u>), thus I have told you (t<u>e kathit</u>ā) about Goloka's (<u>iyam golokasya</u>) unique (<u>vilakṣaṇā</u>), most extreme (<u>prānta-kāṣṭhā</u>) greatness (<u>māhātmya</u>) and sweetness (<u>mādhurī</u>), which flow everywhere (<u>sarvataḥ</u>) like a flooding river (dhārā).



Text 364 śrī-māthura uvāca kṛṣṇe madhu-purīm yāte vaset kutra bhavān katham yaś cirāt tat-padam prāptaḥ prayatnais tat-tad-āśayā

The Mathurā brāhmaņa said: After striving (prayatnaih) for so long (cirāt), in so many ways (tat-tat) and with so many desires in your heart (āśayā), you achieved (prāptah) Kṛṣṇa's abode (tat-padaṃ). Now that He (kṛṣṇe) has gone to Madhupurī (madhu-purīm yāte), where will you reside (kutra bhavān vaset), and how will you live (katham)?

For a very long time, Gopa-kumāra had harbored the desire to see Śrī Gopāladeva and join Him in His pastimes.

Now Gopa-kumāra has finally reached his destination, Goloka Vŗndāvana, but Kṛṣṇa has left Vṛndāvana to go to Mathurā.

Under the circumstances, how can Gopa-kumāra tolerate living in Vraja?

And since he is attached to the countryside where Kṛṣṇa performed His childhood pastimes, how can he consider living in Mathurā?



#### Text 365

<u>śrī-sarūpa uvāca</u> ādeśena prabhos tasya vraje nandādibhih saha vasanti mādṛśāh sarve tatra sva-sadṛśais tadā

Śrī Sarūpa said: By the order of the Lord (tadā tasya prabhoḥ ādeśena), I and all devotees like me (mādṛśāḥ sarve) continue to live (vasanti) in Vraja (tatra vraje) in the company of Nanda and the others (nanda ādibhiḥ saha) whose moods resemble ours (sva-sadṛśaiḥ). When Kṛṣṇa left Vraja, He gave special instructions to the new devotees who had come to His abode on the strength of His mercy and their spontaneous (rāgānuga) sādhana.

He told them to remain in Vraja and continue to associate with great devotees like Nanda, whose ways of devotion were similar to their own. Otherwise, if the new devotees were to go to Mathurā, the incompatible local mood would disturb them, and their spiritual development would be impeded.

With such considerations in mind, Śrī Hari-bhakti-sudhodaya (2.13) states: sva-kulardhyai tato dhīmān

sva-yūthān eva samsrayet

"If an intelligent person (tato dhīmān) wants to see his family prosper (sva-kulardhyai), he should stay (samśrayet) with his own kind (svayūthān eva)."



Text 366 tal-lokasya svabhāvo 'yam kṛṣṇa-saṅgaṁ vināpi yat bhavet tatraiva tisthāsā na cikīrṣā ca kasyacit

This (ayam) is the nature (svabhāvaḥ) of <u>Golok</u>a, Kṛṣṇa's world (tat-lokasya). Even in His absence (yat kṛṣṇa-saṅgam vinā api) the residents want to stay (tatra eva tiṣṭhāsā). None (na kasyacit ca) want to go anywhere else (cikīrṣā).

#### Text 367 Text 367 *(v) (v) (v) (v) (tatratyam)* yac ca tad duḥkham *(sological) (v) (v) (tatratyam)* yac ca tad duḥkham *tat sarva-sukha-mūrdhasu sa narīnarti śokaś ca kṛtsnānanda-bharopari*

There (yac ca tatratyam), sorrow (tad duhkham) dances vigorously (narīnarti) on the head (mūrdhasu) of every kind of happiness (tat sarva-sukha), and anguish (sah śokaś ca) gives a joy more intense than any bliss (kṛtsna ānanda-bhara upari).

In Goloka the apparent misery of separation from Krsna is in fact the greatest happiness, and the anxiety felt by the Golokavāsīs is more ecstatic than any other pleasure.

As already explained, both these contrary effects are due to the unique nature of the special love for Kṛṣṇa found only in Goloka.

#### Text 368

<sup>'</sup> i<u>ttham vasams tatra cireņa vānchitam</u> vānchādhikam cāviratam param phalam cittānupūrtyānubhavann api dhruvam vastu-svabhāvena na tṛptim āpnuyām

Jex ,

After so long (ittham cirena), having attained my desires (vānchitam), there I reside (tatra vasan), beyond all desires (vānchā adhikam ca), and to my heart's (citta) content (anupūrtyā) I relish (dhruvam anubhavan) the supreme (param) and endless (aviratam) perfection of life (phalam). Yet (api) the nature (svabhāvena) of that reality (vastu) is such that I never feel satiated (na tṛptim āpnuyām). NewText 369NewImage: Text 369NoverImage: Text 369NoverImage: Text 369NoverImage: Text 369NoverImage: Text 369NoverImage: Text 369Image: Text 369Im

Never (na kadāpi), then (atah), for any reason (kena api), can I give up (hātum īše) Kṛṣṇa's all-attractive (tat manoramam) lotus feet (dvayam pada-paṅkaja), smeared with kuṅkuma (kuṅkuma-ācitam) from the breasts (kuca) of the women of Vraja (vraja-strī). Never can I (na kadāpi aham) stop serving those feet with my senses, body, and mind (nija indriya ādinā), not even for a fraction of a second (na lavaleśam apy). Text 370 so tasyāpi yo dīna-tare jane 'smin mādhurya-niṣṭhāpta-kṛpā-prasādaḥ anyair asambhāvyatayā na vaktum kutrāpi yujyeta tathāpy anūktaḥ

Kṛṣṇa showed this (asmin) most wretched person (dīna-tare jane) the favor (prasādaḥ) of His mercy (kṛpā)—mercy others (yah anyaiḥ) can never hope for (asambhāvyatayā)—enhanced (āpta) with the taste (niṣṭhā) of His divine sweetness (tasyāpi mādhurya). To no one should this be disclosed (na kutrāpi vaktum yujyeta). Yet (tathā api) I have recounted my story to you (anūktaḥ).

# As Śrīla Sanātana Gosvāmī has revealed earlier in his commentary, Śrīmatī Rādhārāņī personally ordered Śrī Sarūpa to enlighten the Mathurā brāhmana.



After staying some time (evam ciram tişthan) in Goloka (tatra), I realized (apaśyam): This splendid (idam śrīmat) Mathurā-maņḍala (mathurā-maṇḍalam), here in the mortal world (martya-loka sthitam tu), is not different (khalu tādṛśam). Knowledge of Goloka applies equally to Gokula, and vice versa, because these two places are identical.

Just as a jñānī's realization of impersonal Brahman includes realization of the individual spirit soul, realization of either Goloka or Gokula includes realization of the other. Were impersonal realization to disallow the brahma-vādīs from perceiving their own selves, they would have no impetus to follow their own discipline, because knowledge of Brahman, in the beginning of its development, is too subtle to perceive.

Impersonal Brahman cannot be known by the untrained mind, and so for the benefit of neophyte jñānīs the Upaniṣads refer to Brahman merely as tat ("that"), as in the famous aphorism of the Chāndogya Upaniṣad (6.8.7) tat tvam asi ("you are that").

#### Text 372

Jotes 9 of in bolus tat-tac-chrī-gopa-gopībhis tābhir gobhiś ca tādrsaih paśu-pakși-kṛmi-kṣmābhṛtsarit-tarv-ādibhir vrtam

Varieties (tat-tat) of divine gopas, gopis (tabhih śri gopagopībhih), and cows (gobhih ca) abound in Gokula (vrtam), just as in Goloka (tādrśaih). And so do the other animals (paśu), and the birds (pakși), and the insects (krmi), and the mountains (ksmā bhrt), rivers (sarit), trees, and other beings (taru ādibhih).

Goloka and Gokula resemble one another down to the details of individual living beings.

The individual persons playing the roles in one place may be distinct from those in the other, but the functions they serve in the pleasure pastimes of the Personality of Godhead are exactly the same.

Gokula's cowherd men and women and all its creatures, down to the creepers and bushes, closely resemble their counterparts in the spiritual world.


And this place (tathaiva) is adorned (maṇḍitam) with a neverending (aviratam) stream (śreṇyāpi) of similar pastimes (tādṛk krīḍā), expanded (vistāryamāṇayā) by the glorious Kṛṣṇacandra (tena hi śrīmat kṛṣṇa-candreṇa).



I reside (vidadhe sthitim), therefore (tat), sometimes here (kadācit itaḥ) and sometimes there (kadā api tatra). No longer do I perceive (adhunā na upalabhe) any difference (kañcit bhedam) between these two abodes (etayoḥ padayoh). Śrī Sarūpa and his disciple are in Vraja-bhūmi on earth.

Now Śrī Sarūpa sees no difference between the two abodes, but before he attained this realization he had to make a great endeavor to transfer himself from Gokula to Goloka.



Traveling from one to the other, back and forth (gamanaāgamanaiḥ), may make it seem (sphutam iva) that there is some distinction (yaḥ bhedah kevalam prasajjeta), but I am (aham) so attached (āsaktyā) to both places (tat-tat) that I hardly notice (na jānīyām) any difference (tam ca). Śrī Sarūpa perceives a distance as he moves from the middle of the material universe to the topmost limit of the spiritual sky, but to him this distraction is insignificant.

The journey is no more troublesome than the walk a farmer has to take to a field near his home.



Text 376 asmāt sthāna-dvayād anyat padam kiñcit kathañcana naiva spṛśati me dṛstih śravaṇam vā mano 'pi vā

Neither (na eva) my sight (me dṛṣṭiḥ), nor my hearing (śravaṇam vā), nor even (api vā) my mind (manaḥ) ever touches (spṛśati kathañcana) any other abode (anyat padam kiñcit) than these two (asmāt sthāna-dvayāt).

Being exclusively attached to Kṛṣṇa and His abodes, Śrī Sarūpa is oblivious to everything else.



My heart (hrt) never thinks (na manute) that the original Supreme Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa (śrī-kṛṣṇo bhagavān svayam), or His devotees (tasya bhaktāḥ vā) like those present here (tādrśāḥ santī), could ever reside (vartate) anywhere else (anyatra kvāpi iti). Here Sarūpa is talking only about svayam bhagavān, the original Personality of Godhead, and His Vraja devotees, not about the Lord's expansions, like Vāsudeva in Dvārakā, and Their devotees like Vasudeva.



## Text 378 kadācid darśanam vā syād vaikuņṭhādi-nivāsinām śrī-kṛṣṇa-viraheṇārtān iva paśyāmi tān api

From time to time (kadācit api) I may see (darśanam syād) residents (nivāsinām) of Vaikuņṭha or some other place (vaikuṇṭha-ādi vā), but to my eyes they appear (tan paśyāmi) tormented (ārtān iva) by separation (viraheṇa) from Śrī Kṛṣṇa (śrī-kṛṣṇa). Ś<u>rī Sarūpa's vision is that of a paramahamsa situated in vraja-bhāva, the</u> mood of Vraja.

He sees everyone, even outsiders, as if they were also in that mood.

When he meets devotees from Dvārakā, Ayodhyā, and Vaikuntha, he projects his own feelings onto them and presumes that they are anguished by not being with Kṛṣṇa in Vraja.

In this way, nothing distracts Sarūpa from his meditation on the glories of Goloka, and he remains satisfied in all circumstances.

## Text 379

Soverius Label rejects Becore seens the rejects

kadāpi tesu vraja-vāsi-loka-

sādrsya-bhāvānavalokanān me

jātānutāpena bhavet tato 'pi

prema-prakāśāt paramam sukham tat

By not seeing (anavalokanāt) in those other devotees (teşu) a mood (bhāva) like that of (sādrśya) the residents of Vraja (vraja-vāsi-loka), I (me) may occasionally (kadā api) be disappointed (jāta anutāpena). Yet that (tataḥ api) only makes (bhavet) my love for Kṛṣṇa (prema) shine forth more brightly (prakāśāt). And so my disappointment becomes a cause (tat) of supreme joy (paramam sukham). Because the devotees of all the expansions of Godhead are eternally blissful, Sarūpa sometimes notices that even outside Vraja, even without Kṛṣṇa's direct company, such devotees are happy.

That anyone could think himself happy without being in the mood of Vraja disturbs Sarūpa occasionally, but that very agitation impels His love for Kṛṣṇa in Goloka to increase.

He can thus remain happy even while passing through Vaikuntha or the material world.

**Text 380** padārthasyākhyātum kati vivaraņāni prabhur aham tad āstām tal-lokākhila-parikarebhyo mama namah Just his erogeth ) I offer my oberenez to all of them. How much (kati) can I say (aham ākhyātum prabhuḥ) about that supreme reality (pada-arthasya vivaranāni)—oh (aho), the world of Goloka (golokīyaih)! Its multitude (nikhila) of residents (bhuvana āvāsi), honored (mahitaih) by all the worlds (taih taih lokaih), always (sadā) perceive (samanubhavaniyasya) its greatness (mahatah). So now I have said enough (tat āstām). To all (akhila) who live with the Lord (parikarebhyah) in that abode (tat-loka), I offer my obeisances (mama namah).

Goloka is the ultimate reality, and the essence of that reality is pure love for the lotus feet of Srī Nanda-nandana.

Hearing about and describing the wonderful sports of Kṛṣṇa in Goloka and in Mathurā Gokula on earth are the most worthwhile engagements for anyone. Ultimately, however, one can only say so much, and one must finish by simply offering one's respects to the most fortunate inhabitants of Lord Kṛṣṇa's abode.

By honoring them one honors their pure love for Kṛṣṇa, a love which is the highest goal of all endeavors.