



Home Deity Worship Course

The story of Rāghava Paṇḍita



ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry

Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā 15

Text 69

*inhāra kṛṣṇa-sevāra kathā śuna, sarva-jana
parama-pavitra sevā ati sarvottama*

Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu then informed everyone, “Just hear about the pure devotional service rendered to Kṛṣṇa by Rāghava Paṇḍita. Indeed, Rāghava Paṇḍita’s service is supremely pure and highly accomplished.

Text 70

*āra dravya rahu — śuna nārikelera kathā
pāñca gaṇḍā kari’ nārikela vikāya tathā*

“Apart from other commodities, just hear about his offering of coconuts. A coconut is sold at the rate of five gaṇḍās each.

Text 71

*vāṭite kata śata vṛkṣe lakṣa lakṣa phala
tathāpi śunena yathā miṣṭa nārikela*

“Although he already has hundreds of trees and millions of fruits, he is still very eager to hear about the place where sweet coconuts are available.

Text 72

*eka eka phalera mūlya diyā cāri-cāri paṇa
daśa-krośa haite ānāya kariyā yatana*

“He collects coconuts with great endeavor from a place twenty miles away, and he pays four paṇas each for them.

Text 73

*prati-dina pāñca-sāta phala cholāñā
suśītala karite rākhe jale ḍubāñā*



“Every day five to seven coconuts are clipped and put into water to keep cool.

Text 74

*bhogera samaya punaḥ chuli' saṁskari'
kṛṣṇe samarpaṇa kare mukha chidra kari'*

“At the time of offering bhoga, the coconuts are again clipped and cleansed. After holes are made in them at the top, they are offered to Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Text 75

*kṛṣṇa sei nārikela-jala pāna kari'
kabhu śūnya phala rākhena, kabhu jala bhari'*

“Lord Kṛṣṇa drinks the juice from these coconuts, and sometimes the coconuts are left drained of juice. At other times the coconuts remain filled with juice.

Text 76

*jala-śūnya phala dekhi' paṇḍita — haraṣita
phala bhāṅgi' śasye kare sat-pātra pūrita*

“When Rāghava Paṇḍita sees that the juice has been drunk from the coconuts, he is very pleased. He then breaks the coconuts, takes out the pulp and puts it on another plate.

Text 77

*śasya samarpaṇa kari' bāhire dheyāna
śasya khāñā kṛṣṇa kare śūnya bhājana*

“After offering the pulp, he meditates outside the temple door. In the meantime, Lord Kṛṣṇa, having eaten the pulp, leaves the plate empty.

Text 78

*kabhu śasya khāñā punaḥ pātra bhare śāmse
śraddhā bāḍe paṇḍitera, prema-sindhu bhāse*



“Sometimes, after eating the pulp, Kṛṣṇa fills the plate again with new pulp. In this way, the faith of Rāghava Paṇḍita increases, and he floats in an ocean of love.

Text 79

*eka dina phala daśa saṁskāra kariyā
bhoga lāgāite sevaka āila lañā*

“One day it so happened that about ten coconuts were properly clipped and brought by a servant to offer to the Deity.

Text 80

*avasara nāhi haya, vilamba ha-ila
phala-pātra-hāte sevaka dvāre ta’ rahila*

“When the coconuts were brought, there was little time to offer them because it was already late. The servant, holding the container of coconuts, remained standing at the door.

Text 81

*dvārera upara bhite teñho hāta dila
sei hāte phala chuñila, paṇḍita dekhila*

“Rāghava Paṇḍita then saw that the servant touched the ceiling above the door and then touched the coconuts with the same hand.

Text 82

*paṇḍita kahe, — dvāre loka kare gatāyāte
tāra pada-dhūli uḍi’ lāge upara bhite*

“Rāghava Paṇḍita then said, ‘People are always coming and going through that door. The dust from their feet blows up and touches the ceiling.

Text 83

*sei bhite hāta diyā phala paraśilā
kṛṣṇa-yogya nahe, phala apavitra hailā*



“ ‘After touching the ceiling above the door, you have touched the coconuts. Now they are no longer fit to be offered to Kṛṣṇa because they are contaminated.’

Purport

Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura states that Rāghava Paṇḍita was not simply a crazy fellow suffering from some cleansing mania. He did not belong to the mundane world. In lower consciousness, accepting something to be spiritual when it is actually material is called bhauma iṣya-dhīḥ. Rāghava Paṇḍita was an eternal servant of Kṛṣṇa, and everything he saw was related to the service of the Lord. He was always absorbed in the transcendental thought of how he could always serve Kṛṣṇa with everything. Sometimes neophytes, devotees on the lower platform, try to imitate Rāghava Paṇḍita on the platform of material purity and impurity. Such imitation will not help anyone. As explained in the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Antya-līlā 4.174), bhaṛābhadrā-vastu-jñāna nāhika ‘prākṛte.’ On the transcendental platform there is no higher or lower, pure or impure. On the material platform, distinction is made between good and bad, but on the spiritual platform everything is of the same quality.

‘dvaite’ bhaṛābhadrā-jñāna, saba — ‘manodharma’
 ‘ei bhāla, ei manda’, — ei saba ‘bhrama’

“In the material world, conceptions of good and bad are all mental speculations. Therefore, saying ‘This is good and that is bad’ is all a mistake.” (Cc. Antya 4.176)

Text 84

*eta bali’ phala phele prācīra laṅghiyā
 aiche pavitra prema-sevā jagat jiniyā*

“Such is the service of Rāghava Paṇḍita. He did not accept the coconuts but threw them over the wall. His service is purely based on unalloyed love, and it conquers the whole world.

Text 85

*tabe āra nārikela saṁskāra karāila
 parama pavitra kari’ bhoga lāgāila*



“Thereafter, Rāghava Paṇḍita had other coconuts gathered, cleansed and clipped, and with great attention he offered them to the Deity to eat.

Text 86

*ei-mata kalā, āmra, nāraṅga, kāñṭhāla
yāhā yāhā dūra-grāme śuniyāche bhāla*

“In this way, from distant villages he collects excellent bananas, mangoes, oranges, jackfruits and whatever other first-class fruits he has heard about.

Text 87

*bahu-mūlya diyā āni’ kariyā yatana
pavitra saṁskāra kari’ kare nivedana*

“All these fruits are collected from distant places and bought at a high price. After trimming them with great care and purity, Rāghava Paṇḍita offers them to the Deity.

Text 88

*ei mata vyañjanera śāka, mūla, phala
ei mata ciḍā, huḍuma, sandeśa sakala*

“Thus with great care and attention Rāghava Paṇḍita prepares spinach, other vegetables, radishes, fruits, chipped rice, powdered rice and sweetmeats.

Text 89

*ei-mata piṭhā-pānā, kṣīra-odana
parama pavitra, āra kare sarvottama*

“He prepares cakes, sweet rice, condensed milk and everything else with great attention, and the cooking conditions are purified so that the food is first class and delicious.

Text 90

*kāśamdi, ācāra ādi aneka prakāra
gandha, vastra, alaṅkāra, sarva dravya-sāra*



“Rāghava Paṇḍita also offers all kinds of pickles, such as kāśamdi. He offers various scents, garments, ornaments and the best of everything.

Text 91

*ei-mata premera sevā kare anupama
yāhā dekhi' sarva-lokera juḍāya nayana*

“Thus Rāghava Paṇḍita serves the Lord in an incomparable way. Everyone is very much satisfied just to see him.”

Text 92

*eta bali' rāghavere kaila ālīṅgane
ei-mata sammānila sarva bhakta-gaṇe*

Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu then mercifully embraced Rāghava Paṇḍita. The Lord also offered all the other devotees a farewell with similar respect.