

Is sannyasa-mantra only for those in the mood of the gopis?

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This very wonderful story describing the intimacy of our Srila Gurudeva, Srila BV Narayana Goswami Maharaja, and his siksha Guru and dear friend Srila BV Swami Maharaja was told by our Sripad BV Bhagavat Maharaja. Unfortunately, like a drop of alkali spoils the pot of milk, Sripad Bhagavat Maharaja has added his own theories, which may be his preaching tactic, I'm not sure. He wrote,

“ When Srila Prabhupada was in his last 5 hours he displayed many ecstatic symptoms. Trembling, Hair standing on end, rolling from side to side, crying, stunned, roaring, etc. Srila Prabhupada was totally absorbed in internal consciousness and was not externally aware of the devotees singing kirtan or massaging his body. The disciples were completely at a loss to know what to do or how to perceive this other than to continue with kirtan. I was a first hand witness as I was massaging his head. So I saw everything close up.

After about an hour of this Srila Narayan Maharaja came in the room. He walked purposefully to the head of the bed. Walked behind me and then kneeled down and placed his mouth directly next to Srila Prabhupada's ear while the kirtan was going on. At that point. I could see him mouthing some words as I was only 12 inches away from him as I was kneeling on the floor and massaging Srila Prabhupada's head. Right after he spoke those words in Srila Prabhupada's ear Srila Prabhupada came to external consciousness and stopped exhibiting all of his ecstasies. He remained motionless for a while and then raised his right hand and pointing it in Srila Narayan Maharaja's direction offered him a final blessing.

Three time over the years I asked Srila Gurudeva what it was he said and he kept refusing me saying was a very private communication by him to Srila Prabhupada. Then he one day he finally told me in private that he recited the Gopi Bhava Sannyas Mantra in his ear. This is what brought Srila Prabhupada to external consciousness from his profound ecstasies. This mantra as you well know can never be construed to have any elements in it of sakhya rasa. There was no reason for him to use this as a preaching tactic because as far as I know I am the only one who asked him and the only one he told.

So we have three options here: 1) Either Srila Gurudeva does not know who Srila Prabhupada is and erroneously chanted the wrong mantra in his ear 3 hours before he departed.

2) OR he was lying to me about what he said.

3) OR Srila Gurudeva knew exactly what he was doing and who Srila Prabhupada was and that is why he chanted that particular mantra in his ear at that particular moment 3 hours before he left and that is why Srila Prabhupada offered him his blessings.

I just wanted to clarify this by pointing out a few things.

Dear Bhagavat Maharaja,

Dandavat Pranams,

All glories to Sri Guru and Gauranga,

Thankyou for the nice past-times. I wasn't so happy by a few things you added. You implied directly that the Gopi-bhava sanyassa mantra can only be given to those in madhurya-rasa You wrote, “. This mantra as you well know can never be construed to have any elements in it of sakhya rasa.” and at the end, your first point tried to establish the same thing, again you wrote, “1) Either Srila Gurudeva does not know who Srila Prabhupada is and erroneously chanted the wrong mantra in his ear 3 hours before he departed.”

- First of all it is not called the Gopi-bhava-sanyassa-mantra, it is just the sanyassa mantra. It has not been referred to by that name by Sri Gopal Bhatta Goswami in his Sat Kriya Dipika. The sanyassa mantra nourishes all moods. Like the Gopal mantra, Guru mantra and Gauranga mantras. Even the maha-mantra nourishes all moods. Gopa kumar chanted the Gopal mantra and received sakhya-prema, in this mantra is also names of Radhika and the Gopis. Sri Gopal Bhatta Goswami never wrote anywhere that only those in madhurya-rasa may chant these mantras. There is no such consideration in the giving of sanyassa! Or even diksha! Mantra is a chintamani, it gives you what you want, it gives you whatever you desire. There is no basis at all for your idea that only those in madhurya-rasa may chant this sanyassa mantra, or indeed any mantra.
- Indeed this mantra is chanted by all sanyassis who appeared both during, before and after Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. And especially those in the time of Mahaprabhu's manifest past-times. Sri Paramananda Puri was a sanyasi and a disciple of Sri Madavendra Puri, but he is known to be Uddhava in Krishna lila. That means that his sthayi-bhava is sakhya-rasa. Should we now tell him he should stop chanting his sanyassa mantra because he is not in Madhurya-rasa? Visvarupa also took Vaisnava sanyassa, but he was Sankarsana, he was not in madhurya-rasa either. There are many other examples like Sri Ranga Puri who was a sanyassa disciple of Sri Madhavendra Puri. In Gaura ganadesa-dipika it states, " Sriman Ranga Puri manifested the sentiment of parental love for Lord Krsna." Should he stop chanting sanyassa mantra also? The nine Jayanteyas (who were previously known as the nava-yogendras), who were fixed in celibacy and equal vision, and who spoke the Shri Bhagavata-samhita to Janaka Rshi, appeared on this earth as nine sannyasis, and continually performed pastimes with Lord Chaitanya. Their names were: Shri Nrsimhananda Tirtha, Shri Satyananda Bharati, Shri Nrsimha Tirtha, Shri Chidananda Tirtha, Shri Jagannatha Tirtha, Shri Vasudeva Tirtha, Shri Rama Tirtha, Shri Purushottama Tirtha, and Shri Garuda Avadhuta, who was also known as Shri Gopendra Ashrama. The nava-yogendras are all mostly santa-rasa, they are also not in madhurya-rasa but are sanyassa associates of Mahaprabhu. Our Sri Akinchana Krishna Dasa Babaji was a well known follower of sakhya-rasa....do you think he wasn't chanting sanyassa-mantra?

So there is nothing here to indicate that Srila BV Swami Maharaja was in gopi-bhava just because he, or anyone else chanted the sanyassa mantra.

So I think that our PP Bhagavat Maharaja should think about this in regard to his first two points.

But we fully agree with him on the third point, and we thank him for pointing this out so nicely.

From Damodar Maharaja's Facebook wall

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/bv-damodara/is-sannyasa-mantra-only-for-those-in-the-mood-of-the-gopis/1037103766303151>