

Did Srila Gaura Govinda Maharaja ever reveal the svarup of Srila Prabhupad?

[6 March 2015 at 06:21](#)

Did Srila Gaura Govinda reveal the svarupa of His spiritual master Sril Bhaktivedanta Swami Maharaja?

All glories to Sri Sri Guru and Gauranga,

Dear Vaisnavas please accept my pranams,

Recently we have seen some claims that Srila Gaura Govinda Maharaja has revealed the details of the svarupa of His spiritual master Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Maharaja. I became interested in this and did a bit of research because I used to personally hear the hari-katha of Srila Gaura Govinda Maharaja while I stayed in Bhubaneswar from 1994 until 1996 when he entered the nitya-lila. During my time there I never heard such talks. I also used to do service in the tape ministry, and I heard hundreds of lectures there also, but I never heard of such things, neither from Srila Gaura Govinda Maharaja himself, or from his disciples.

Now PP Bhagavat Maharaja is saying that Srila Gaura Govinda Maharaja said that Srila Prabhupad is really Vimala Mani Manjari. Everyone now seems to be declaring that “Srila Gaura Govinda Maharaja also said he is in madhurya-rasa.” It seems our dear Maharaja heard it from our PP B.V Muni Maharaja. And PP Muni Maharaja has a tape recording of that.

But our Sripad Muni Maharaja wrote to me three days ago, “I think none of the Oriya devotees heard this tape though it is there in the tape ministry.” Another point is that our PP BV Bhagavat Maharaja doesn’t know Orisan language, so he could not have heard it himself and understood.

I was intrigued so I called the most senior disciple of Srila Gaura Govinda Maharaja, that is Sri Sachi-nandana Prabhu. he was there when Prabhupada came to Bhubaneswar. He was there for 20 years, like a shadow of Srila Gaura Govinda Maharaja. When I presented these new ideas to him he was shocked, “Maharaja I am hearing this for the first time” Then he called me a few hours later and told me he had called some of the most senior devotees like Atmarama Prabhu (temple president of Iskcon Bhubaneswar), Devaki didi and others. None of them had also heard Srila Gaura Govinda Maharaja allude as to Prabhupad’s svarupa in that manner.

Our PP BV Suddhadvaiti Maharaja also asked our Srila Gurudeva, Srila B.V Narayana Goswami if it was true that Srila BV Swami Maharaja was Vimala Mani Manjari, he shook his head in the negative saying he had never heard that. You may write to Maharaja directly if you wish.

With deep respect to our PP BV Bhagavat Maharaja, who is my senior in all ways, you only associated with Srila Gaura Govinda Maharaja for 2 or 3 years. From 1975 till 1978. After that you returned to America. You only returned to Bhubaneswar after the disappearance of Srila Gaura Govinda Maharaja in 1996. PP BV Muni Maharaja took hari nama from His divine Grace, but not second initiation, so in that sense they are very junior in terms of association with his Divine Grace Srila Gaura Govinda Maharaja. We cannot accept their claims that Srila Gaura Govinda Maharaja

ever revealed the rasa, or spiritual name of Srila BV Swami Maharaja (Srila Prabhupada) because those who were there constantly for more than two decades cannot support your claims. Of course I am junior to both of you, I am not trying to cause offense to the Vaisnavas, but I am not willing to let such things be attributed to our Srila Gaura Govinda Maharaja!

Srila Gaura Govinda Maharaja gave thousands of classes. He also wrote extensively. If you can show me some real evidence where he directly stated the rasa or svarupa of Srila Prabhupad, then I would be happy to stand corrected. If Prabhupad himself said anything about being a gopi, and as he never did, then we can accept it. If someone's statements are not supported by Srila Swami Maharaja himself then we cannot accept it as proof.

In this regards I may take the liberty of quoting a nice story told by Srila Gaura Govinda Maharaja, I think it is uniquely appropriate in this regards.

“There is a logic, nyaya called gaddalika-srota-nyaya, the logic of the flock of sheep. Gaddalika means flock of sheep. You see, a flock of sheep is moving with one sheep at the head, the front, the leader. If leader jumps into a ditch, the whole flock of sheep will jump into ditch. They never go by the other way. So this has been going on. Nobody has been serious. "Oh yes, all accept him as Guru." All say, "He's a first class devotee, paramahansa," like that. "So they have all accepted him as Guru, so let me accept him as Guru." But you're not seriously thinking, is it a true fact or not?

Let me tell you a funny story in this matter. Many acaryas tell this story. This is not my concoction, acaryas say. Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura has told this story.

There was a washerman and he washes clothes. He was the King's washerman. He washes the Kings' clothes and he also had an ass [donkey]. Generally washerman have asses. Asses are beasts of burden as they carry heavy loads. The washerman used to employ that ass to carry the dirty clothes for washing, you see. The washerman had this ass for a long period, many, many years. At last that ass grew old and died. That washerman had given the name Sunanda Gandharba to that ass, so the ass was known as Sunanda Gandharba you see.

So he thought, “Oh Sunanda Gandharba has died today so let me shave my head and have a dip in the holy water.” So he shaved his head and had a dip. The priest of king saw the washerman had shaved his head. He asked, "Why have you shaved your head?" Then that washerman said, “Don't you know, Sunanda Gandharba died today.” “Oh, Sunanda Gandarbha died?” “Oh yes.” “So it is a very auspicious... an auspicious day?” “Yes.” “So let me shave.” “Alright, you shave your head.” So the priest of the King shaved his head. Then the minister of the King saw the priest had shaved his head. So he asked the priest, “Why have you shaved your head?” Then the priest said, “Don't you know? Sunanda Gandharba died today, it is very auspicious day, so I shaved my head.” “Oh, is it? Auspicious day. . . .” “Oh yes!” “So let me shave my head,” the minister said. “Alright, you shave your head.” So the minister shaved his head. The King saw the minister had shaved his head. So King asked, “Why have you shaved your head?” “Don't you know? Sunanda Gandharba died today. Very auspicious day.” So the King said, “Oh, shall I shave my head?” “Alright, you shave.” So King shaved his head.

The Queen saw the King had shaved his head, so the Queen asked, “Why have you shaved your head? What happened to you? Why have you shaved?” Then the King said, “Don't you know? Sunanda Gandharba died today. It is an auspicious day, today.” The Queen replied, “Who told you?” The King said, “The minister told me.” “Ask that minister to come to me.” So the minister came, then the Queen asked, “Why have you shaved your head?” The minister replied, “Sunanda Gandharba died today.” “Who told you?” “The priest told me.” “Ask that priest to come here.” So when the priest came, the Queen asked, "Oh, priest you have shaved your head, alright. Why have

you shaved your head?" The priest replied, "Sunanda Gandharba died today." "Who told you?" The priest said, "The washerman told me." "Call that washerman." The washerman was called for, then Queen asked, "Washerman, who is that Sunanda Gandharba who died today? You have shaved your head and all are shaving their heads for Sunanda Gandharba? Who is he?" He said, "Oh Queen, I had an ass... his name was Sunanda Gandharba, he died today."

Note by Bhaktivedanta Damodar Maharaja's wall
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