

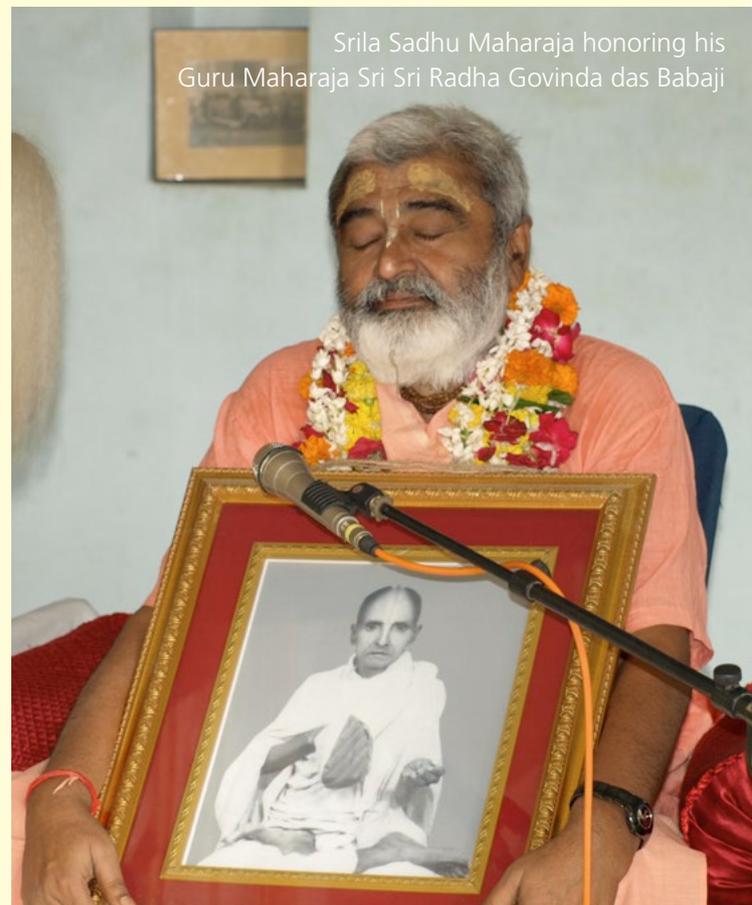


Sri Sri Radha Mohan

Dear Devotees,

We are happy to send you the latest newsletter. This is a special edition, dedicated to Sri Sri Radha Govinda das Babaji, the beloved Guruji of Sadhu Maharaja. His disappearance day will be celebrated on the 6th of May. The contribution in here are from: Sadhu Maharaja, Keshav Dada (godbrother of Sadhu Maharaja), Yamuna das (disciple of Krishna das, a western disciple of Radha Govinda das Babaji), and Anju Mataji (godsister and mother of Sadhu Maharaja's children). Precious images of Radha Govinda das Babaji can be found on youtube:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HfiBmXFrSMw>
<http://youtu.be/ijJfKCZYQ0c>

Vrindavan, May 2014



Sri Sadhu Maharaja honoring his
Guru Maharaja Sri Sri Radha Govinda das Babaji

Sadhu Maharaja

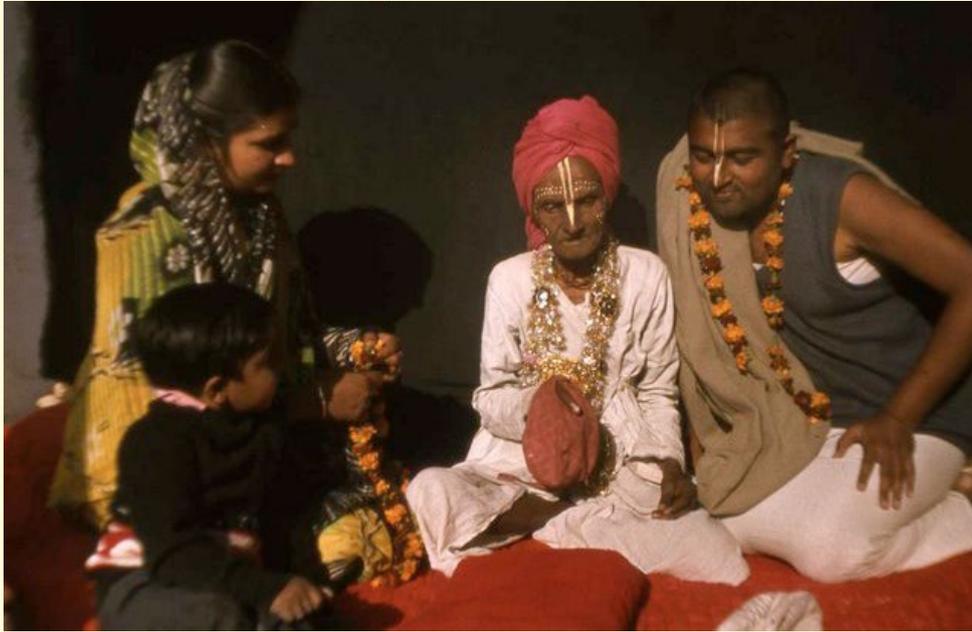
My experience with My Gurudeva on Ekadasi

One time in the morning - it was ekadasi - the program went on and nice kirtans were there and after that Gurudeva took prasadam. His health was not good, so he wasn't fasting because he was 115 years old. How could he fast then? When you are old, it is not an easy thing. A young man can jump but an old man not. He could only take some rice. So on ekadasi they also prepared some rice for him.

I was living very strict and was not eating grains or drinking water on these days. That special day I came very late from Delhi by train. I hadn't slept and hadn't the time for a bath or anything. I came to Munger Mandir and first gave dandavats to Gurudeva. He said,
"Come and sit with me."

had also invited them to sit with him but they had replied, "No, I am doing ekadasi. I cannot sit with you and eat rice."

I sat there, and what happened? He gave his remnants in my hand. I ate them. After taking this prasadam from him I went into trance for six months. I forgot my bodily consciousness and everything. I was in ecstasy. I was doing bhajan, and all the time I was seeing Krishna. I had no external consciousness. It was finished. This is mercy alone. There was no need to do anything from my side. I only accepted his prasadam and all realizations came into my life. It was so easy and my life changed. I could not work and not have any social life in this time. My body was just sitting there at the floor in a little room and people looking for me could hear some voice,



I sat at his side.

He said, "Today is ekadasi. I know you do ekadasi but I cannot do it because I am a sick man. Would you like to eat with me?"

I said, "Yes, Gurudeva. What will you serve?"

He was taking some rice and the devotees gave me some, too.

I said to myself, "When Gurudeva is eating rice, what problem should I have?"

And I also took some rice. By seeing this he became very happy because other devotees had come before and he

"Ha Radhe, ha Krishna!"

I don't remember anything what I was doing externally in these months. Especially my wife was worried because I would not speak to her. She brought me to the cinema to watch some movies and she thought that this would bring me back but I only saw Radha and Krishna. It happened many times like that.

*My blessings and well wishes to all,
Your Sadhu Maharaja*

Are you going to Vrindavan or Jamdaha this year?

If you are planning to stay at Munger Mandir, you can find information here: <http://sadhumaraja.net/contact/accommodation-and-arrival/>

For any information, room reservation and arrival, please send an email to: radhamohanmandir@gmail.com

If you are planning to visit Jamdaha, please contact: info@premseva.net

Adresses:
Radha Mohan temple, Munger Raj Mandir , Mathura Road (near R.K. Mission) , Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh , 281121, INDIA
Radha Patita Pavana temple, Jamdaha, District Banka, Bihar, 813102, INDIA

Param Guru 108 Sri Radha Govinda das Babaji Maharaj Goswami

Written on Gaur Purnima 2014 by Yamuna das and Tulsi devi dasi.

It fills us with great humility and joy to be able to write about our Param Guru. All the information we gathered here came from his closest disciples: Sri Krishna das Babaji, Srimati Radhika dasi, Sri Balaram das Babaji, Sri Sadhu Maharaj and Sri Radha Mohan das Babaji and his disciples.

In the 19th century it was not usual to own a birth certificate, so exact dates are in many cases unknown. Furthermore, research about Siddha Mahatmas teaches us the relativity of time and space. Therefore we ask to be forgiven for any inaccuracies.

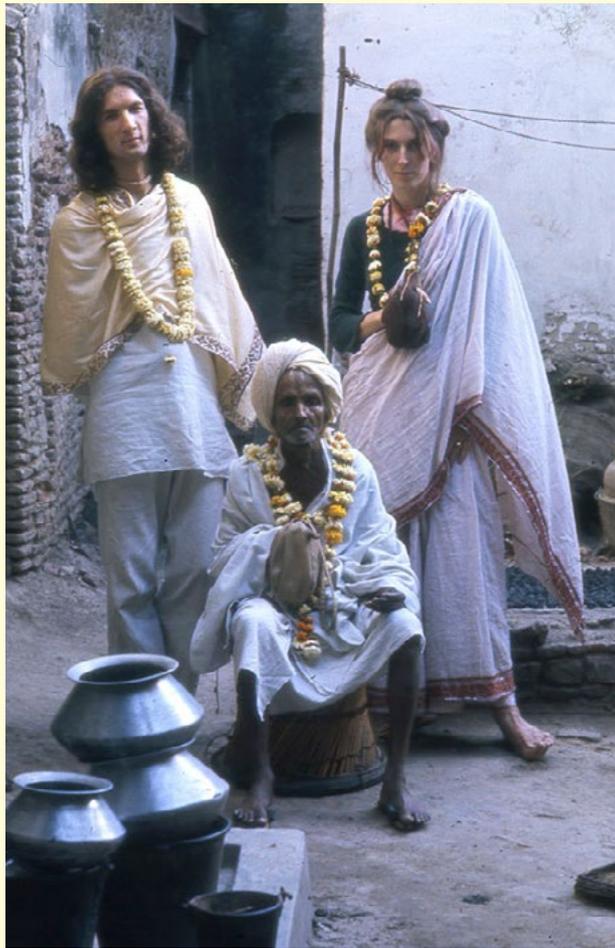
Sri Radha Govinda das Babaji was born in 1872, as the fourth of eight brothers, in East Bengal, today Bangladesh. His parents, Sri Ram Narayan Lahiri and Srimati Saraswati devi Lahiri were wealthy landowners and Vaisnavas. The three older brothers soon left home to lead renounced lives. Babaji's spiritual path was also marked out. Driven by his strong Bhakti Samskaras, he left home at the early age of 10, together with a Sadhu, who brought him to Vrindavan, in Braja. He spent 11 years in Mahaban in intensive spiritual practise, taking only one glass of milk a day. At the age of 21 he was ordered by God to give up that hard Sadhana and to take up Hari Nam Sankirtan. Babaji then received Diksha from Sri Yukt Prangopal, a great Siddha Mahatma of his time. He was initiated into the Guru Paramparam of Nityananda Prabhu and Srimati Janhavi Devi.

Babaji lived from now on in a small room in Harabari, Gopinath bazaar, next to the Mahaprabhu temple, in Vrindavan. Day and night he chanted the holy names of Krishna. To do so he sat in the lotus position, chanting five times, with every exhalation, the Mahamantra. This is also called Bhajana. As soon as the devotees arrived, ecstatic Kirtan would automatically begin, even without his instructions. This often happened as early as 3 o'clock in the morning. He made Vrindavan Parikrama daily and visited Sri Govindaji (Sri Radha Govinda Mandir) for Darshan. It is also known that Babaji liked to sit for many hours up to his chest in the shallow water of the Yamuna, near to Keshi Ghat, to practice Bhajanas.

Prasadam was also of great importance to him. He invited all devotees, particularly his disciples, to take it with him. Once it happened that a disciple accidentally allowed a grain of rice to fall out of his mouth on to Babaji's plate. Apologising profusely, he wanted to bring Babaji fresh Pasadam. Babaji, however, refused this, saying: "Mahaprasadam is purer than

the purest and cannot be contaminated by anything", and continued eating.

As in the year 1974 our Harinam Guru, Sri Krishna das and his wife, Srimati Radhika dasi, came for the first time to Vrindavan, a boy named Gopal stopped to talk to them. He told them that he lived with his Guruji, a most kind and merciful soul who had fostered him since he ran away from a broken home. This Guruji was none other than Babaji, who then invited them both to Harabari to meet him. It was soon clear to those seekers from the west that they would take shelter at the feet of no other saint but Babaji, and they became two of his closest disciples.



Sri Radha Govinda das Babaji was always gentle and compassionate and never angry. A generous, pure soul lived in that small, delicate body. Visitors often left him some money as a donation. Certain people got the impression that he was a rich man, and sometimes the money was stolen. He always reacted with equanimity. Vairagis (those who have renounced worldly life) as well as householders took refuge in him. He helped by giving everyone their own personal instructions. He gave generously the great gift of the Mahamantra. He often gave Krishna Prem to whole families. He was well renowned not only in Braja but also in Bengal, and now had many disciples. He was seen as a spiritual authority in Vrindavan, and was often asked for advice concerning the Scriptures. A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami also liked to visit Babaji when he was in Vrindavan.

People knew that Babaji could, like a Kalpataru, (wish-fulfilling tree), fulfil wishes. It is told that a couple were granted their wish for a child. He also gave to many his blessings that their "storehouses may always be full". But to those who came with transcendental wishes he gave lasting good luck and happiness.

Babaji spent the last months of his earthly life in Munger Mandir, Vrindavan. At the time came for him to leave his visible body, some of his disciples had gathered. They began, led by Sri Radha Mohan das Babaji and Sri Keshava Maharaj a long ecstatic Kirtan. As the Kirtan reached the climax, Nitai-Gauranga appeared personally to take our Param Guru Sri Radha Govinda das Babaji Maharaj to the eternal Vrindavan.

This was on the 21 April 1980, after a stay of nearly one hundred years in Braja. His Samadhi is since then there in Munger Mandir, Vrindavan.

How I met my beloved Guruji, 108 Sri Sri Radha Govinda Das Babaji Maharaj

Interview with Mataji (Guru Ma)

In 1976 or 1977 I came the first time to Vrindavan. Since then I used to do daily puja of Radha Mohan ji, Shiv ji and the Guru Samadhi. I remember the day very clearly when I first met my Guruji. I was doing puja in front of the Guru Samadhi, offering my prayers to the grandparents, when I heard very clearly the voice of grandmother inside of me telling me that now was the time for me to take diksha. Though dadiji (Sadhu Maharaja's grandmother) had spoken earlier to me that I should take diksha and accept a guru, I always felt not ready, mainly for one reason. My kids were still very small, and taking diksha I thought would imply to do one's bhajan very seriously and I was afraid I would not be able to obtain my bhajan.

However that day it came to me strongly, that actually now I can take the shelter of a guru, as all my kids are in school and I have the time to do bhajan. I saw the face of dadiji clearly in front of me, giving me her blessings. My desire to take shelter of a guru increased and then that one day my guruji appeared at the gate. He came towards the Samadhi, where I was standing, and asked me: "Anant Lal is here?" I replied: "Yes, who are you? He told me" I gave him diksha when he was very small, where is he now, I am here to give him diksha again". Immediately I took him to the big hall, where Maharaji was sitting. We sat down and talked for some time. Guruji instructed us to first go to Gopeshvar Mahadev temple and to offer milk and afterwards come back to him. We did as he had instructed us and when we returned he gave us both diksha in the big hall. Later also our children got diksha from him.

When I was about to receive diksha - actually at that time I did not believe very much in Babajis - the night before I dreamt everything I was about to receive from him. And then the morning when I received diksha, I was stunned that everything I had dreamt in the night had come true.

At that time Guruji used to live in Harabari, Gopinath Bazaar, next to the Mahaprabhu temple. We used to go to see him there everyday. One day he told us that he wants to live with us in Munger Mandir. He came with his Takur ji, chota Radha Mohan, which you can still see in the middle of the altar. He also instructed us to build his samdahi here in the temple.

During those years while used to live with us, I was cook-

ing for him every day. The cooking facilities those days were very simple. Everything was cooked on a stone oven. Guruji used to like shuta, rice, chena, though he used to eat only very little. He took some Prasad and distributed the rest to all of us. One day, I remember it very clearly, I was cooking lunch for him. Guruji would eat normally around 11am, but I was delayed that day. He came to the kitchen to see what I was pre-

paring. He left without saying anything. He went to Govind dev ji Mandir for darshan. He ate some khir there and came back with a big bucket of khir and gave it all of us and especially to me. I was overwhelmed by his love for me.

He was staying in room 43. Every morning around 2am Guruji woke up, took a bath and sat down for his bhajan. We all used to sit with him, sing kirtan. Keshav dada would heat up the water for him. Mohan dad and Krishna das lead the kirtan.

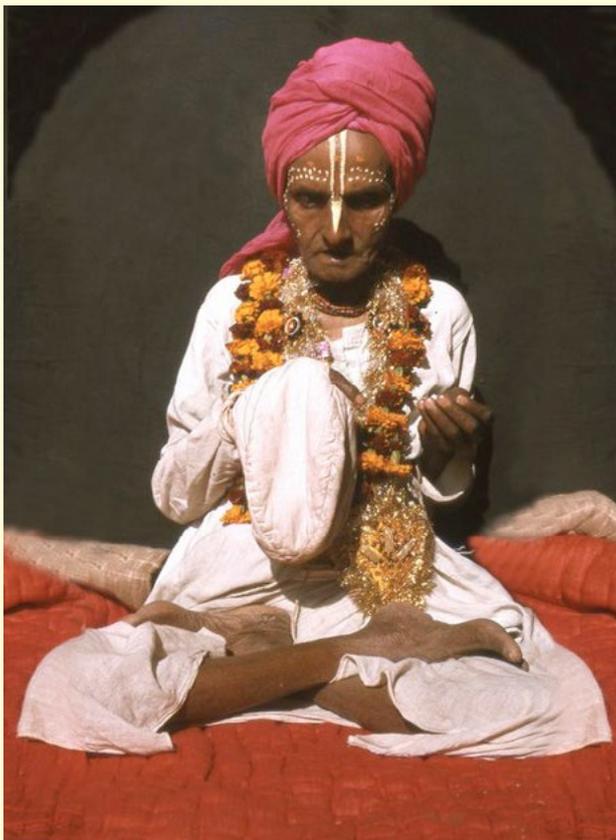
Sometimes he would have Nityanada avesh and the kirtan used to become very ecstatic. His disciples also performed ras lila and Mahaprabhu lila for him. The bhajan at that time was so special and beautiful, I cannot tell you. The whole day from early morning to late night we were in seva for Gurudev. Though he did not talk much, most of the time he was doing bhajan,

sometimes he gave katha, sharing with us the sweet pastimes of Radha Krishna; he also liked to listen from Chaitanya Caritavali.

He used to go for mangal aarti, do parikram of the temple; in the afternoon he used to like to go for a small walk, or in the winter months, sit in the sun on the veranda in the backside. But every day he used to go for dharshan to Govind dev ji and sometimes for a walk to Gandhi Park.

For many years Guruji was eating only little milk and some food. The last years his health became worse. Before Guruji left his body he ordered Maharaji and me to go to Munger. He told us that we should come back soon. The news of his departure arrived us in Munger. We could not get back in time for his samadhi puja. But the kids were in Vrindavan that time. They had just come from boarding school, for the summer vacation.

It was of course difficult for us not to be there, but in my heart I feel he never left me. He used to love me so much, I am always indebted to his mercy and blessings.



108 Sri Sri Radha Govinda das Babaji Maharaja

Attaining the lotus feet of Srimati Radharani by the mercy of my Gurudev, Sri Sri 108 Radha Govinda Das Babaji

Interview with Keshav Dada

I came to Vrindavan when I was about 18 or 19. I traveled alone from my village in Bengal. Some months earlier, Mohan Dada, later my godbrother, came to our village for sankirtan. He stayed there for some days and used to give katha and do kirtan everyday. It was from him that I for the first time heard about Vrindavan.

One day I was sitting next to him, he was sitting under a tree and asked me to give him a oil massage. What happened that day I do not know, but from that moment I could not stop thinking about Vrindavan. Then after this incident I decided I have to go and see this place, where Radha Krishna are eternally performing their lila.

When I arrived in Vrindavan, I first stayed at Madhan Mohanji temple. One day I saw Mohan dada and Krishna das doing kirtan on the parikram marg. They immediately recognised me and invited me to come with them to have darshan of their guruji, who was staying at Munger Mandir. He was already quite old and had just been released from RK Mission hospital. I did my pranams to him and sat there for some time. I did not say anything and nor did guruji speak a single word to me. Two days later Krishna das came to me and told me that guruji had sent him to get me. I went to see guruji and on that day I received diksha from him.

After that I moved to Munger Mandir. In those days Guruji used to love to hear kirtan and love to see us performing ras lila and Mahaprabhu lila. Krishna das and Mohan dada were the leaders of the kirtan. Guruji used to love Mohan dada and

his bhajan very much. One day we were doing kirtan in his room. Guruji was sitting on his asana, completely absorbed in bhajan as he suddenly roared “Jay Nitai, Jay Gaur!!!!” and went silent again. I did not know what had just happened, but two days later guruji told us that at that very moment Nityananda and Mahaprabhu themselves appeared in the kirtan. Guruji received their darshan and thus shouted loudly their names: Jay Nitai, Jay Gaur!

Guruji also loved to see ras lila and he used to decorate his disciples for the ras lila. He put on mukuts, dresses and ornaments. Wearing those cloths we used to do parikrama of the mandir and sing kirtan. He used to like the lila of Radha and Krishna so much.

Even in his old age his bahajan practice was very firm: getting up at 2-3am, chanting his mantras, doing bhajan until 11am. Sometimes siddha mahatmas, after reaching perfection, do not obtain firm routines of bhajan, but guruji always did. He never deviated from it; and why did he do it? It was not necessary for him, he was already a siddha mahatma; but still he was doing to show us that the instructions of Mahaprabhu and the goswamins have to be taken seriously. He did it to teach us sadhakas that we have to follow firm practice, only then can we attain the lotus feet of Srimati Radharani.

This human life is so rare and we should not waste it; we should dedicate it for the seva of Radha Krishna and guru; otherwise this life is waste. This was the meaning of Guruji to show us the importance of firm bhajan and seva.

