

Gita Govinda

Gita Govinda speaks the pain of separation of Radha and Krishna and their union. Radha seeks for Krishna again and again; finally, she attains Him. The power of her longing makes Krishna respond to her love and as a result

He suffers as much as she does.

Intense earthly passion is the setting that Jayadeva uses to show the power of divine love. The love between Radha and Krishna is a metaphor of pure love for God.

When a devotee lives only for God, God comes in search of the devotee; this is the true interpretation of Gitagovinda.

A line in Gitagovinda says...

'Krishna the destroyer of Kamsa has Radha in His heart.'

Kamsa symbolizes the evil of Kali age; Radha symbolizes the plight of the individual soul, the jeeva. All jeevas are female; the Lord is the only male head. *One has to read Gitagovinda keeping this in mind.*

The friend who carries the messages between Radha and Krishna represents the role of a guru. The guru relates the jeeva's plight to the Lord and secures His grace for the jeeva.

The friend tells Krishna about Radha's pain. Krishna says,

'Bring Radha, I too am yearning for her.'

The friend goes to Radha and tells about Krishna's yearning for her. Radha is in despair that she cannot go to Krishna. When Krishna comes to Radha, she sends Him away in an angry mood. The friend tells Radha...

"What if He does not return? What will you do?"

Radha cries and says that she cannot live without Krishna. She laments repenting her harsh words to Him. She is sad that she sent Him away after He had asked her for forgiveness. In the end, Radha goes in search of Krishna.

Krishna welcomes Radha and accepts her. They both unite in bliss. This is the story line of Gitagovinda.□

Here is a small story about the glory of Gitagovinda. A poor brahmin walks in the streets singing Gitagovinda; he lives on the alms given by those who listen to his songs. While passing a particular street he sings the stanza, 'Theerasameera'. A young woman, who hears this song, begins to sing it for her Lord. She is a weaver and sings the song while weaving. Soon **the Lord, who is bound by her devotion, appears in front of her and dances to her song.** He also mischievously cuts the threads of her loom. The young woman pleads with Him as though she is talking to a small child and says, "My dear, do not cut the threads, I will give You some sweet meat."

Daily, the young woman sells the threads that have not been cut and gets a very good price for them in the market. One day she thinks that she must do something for the brahmin to express her gratitude. She duly invites him to her house. When the brahmin comes, he sees the heap of threads on the floor and asks the young woman about it. She says, "While weaving I sing your song, at that time Kanha comes here, He dances and playfully cuts the threads."

The brahmin cannot believe this and says, "Tell Him to be here when I come tomorrow and I too will have His darshan!" The woman prays to Krishna, "I have asked the brahmin to come here today; You should help me keep my word." Krishna says,

"Until now you have honored Me without knowing who I am. I will fulfill your wish. But know that each one gets My darshan only according to their karma. Though you are born in a low caste, due to your one-pointed devotion, you will attain My feet when the body perishes. The brahmin is high born and devoted to Me, yet he is not free from attachment and his mind is not pure. He does not have dispassion for worldly things. Though He is in the state where He does not want to worship anyone other than Me and though he is enjoying an exalted state of a Bhagavatha, his ego hides his wisdom. It is because of some small merit from a previous birth that he is singing My song and walking past the street where you live. He does not have the merit to have My darshan. But for your sake I will be here when he comes. You will see Me as usual, but he will not see Me. Today, he thought that you were mad when you told him about Me. Tomorrow also he will be thinking that you are mad. But you should not feel sad about it."

The Lord disappears saying this. The next day the Lord gives His darshan and all happens just as He said.

Since the young woman sang the song with true feeling and devotion, she was able to see Balakrishna's dance. You too will get Krishna darshan if you have a child-like heart filled with pure feelings.

Rasaleela...a new gate of wisdom

Bala Krishna was very mischievous; He would go with His playmates to the houses of Gopis, break butter pots and steal butter. The Gopis were not annoyed because they enjoyed the Lord's mischief. **This bala leela, childhood play of the Lord, captivated the hearts of the Gopis; they felt very blissful** . The Gitagovinda expresses Krishna's twelve different moods all of which gave great joy to the Gopis.

The 580 crores of people in the world have differing nature. From morning to night we experience countless moods. We may have anger, fear, apathy, happiness, anxiety, peace, hatred, etc. All these should be enjoyed as the Lord's play. For example, the family members and their moods can be seen as Krishna's bala leela. If we react showing our feelings, fear, anger, and hatred may arise in us. **These emotions will be registered in the mind and become deep impressions, seeds for rebirth** . Like food that is made sweet, salty or spicy depending on our individual taste, we take birth based on our deep impressions.

We must see everything as the Lord's play. How? First one should realize that the universe is the play of the Supreme Consciousness. There is only the One, who has become many, "*Ekohu m bahushyam*"

An example: Using potatoes we can cook different dishes like fries, sambar or chips. The same vegetable is used in many different ways. Similarly, God is the primal source of all creation. One may be good or bad, but the Lord is the Indweller of all. If we know this truth, we will not react to the moods of others. All is His leela. Only if we realize this, will we feel the sweetness of the Lord at all times and know to drink the rasa, the sweet nectar of the Lord. The whole world then becomes Rasaleela. Poet Barathiyar sang...

Kanha is playing mischief on the streets of Gokul, He is throwing dust on the saris of Gopis beautiful!

If someone in the family troubles you, think of it as a bala leela of Kanha; enjoy the person's angry mood as if it were the Lord's. If you are disappointed by someone's behavior, you should think of the following lines of the poet.

*You gave a tasty fruit to eat Kanha,
As I was relishing it,
You suddenly snatched it away!*

This is how ***you should accept failure and disappointment thinking that it is all divine play***

If you take everything as His leela you will enjoy bliss.