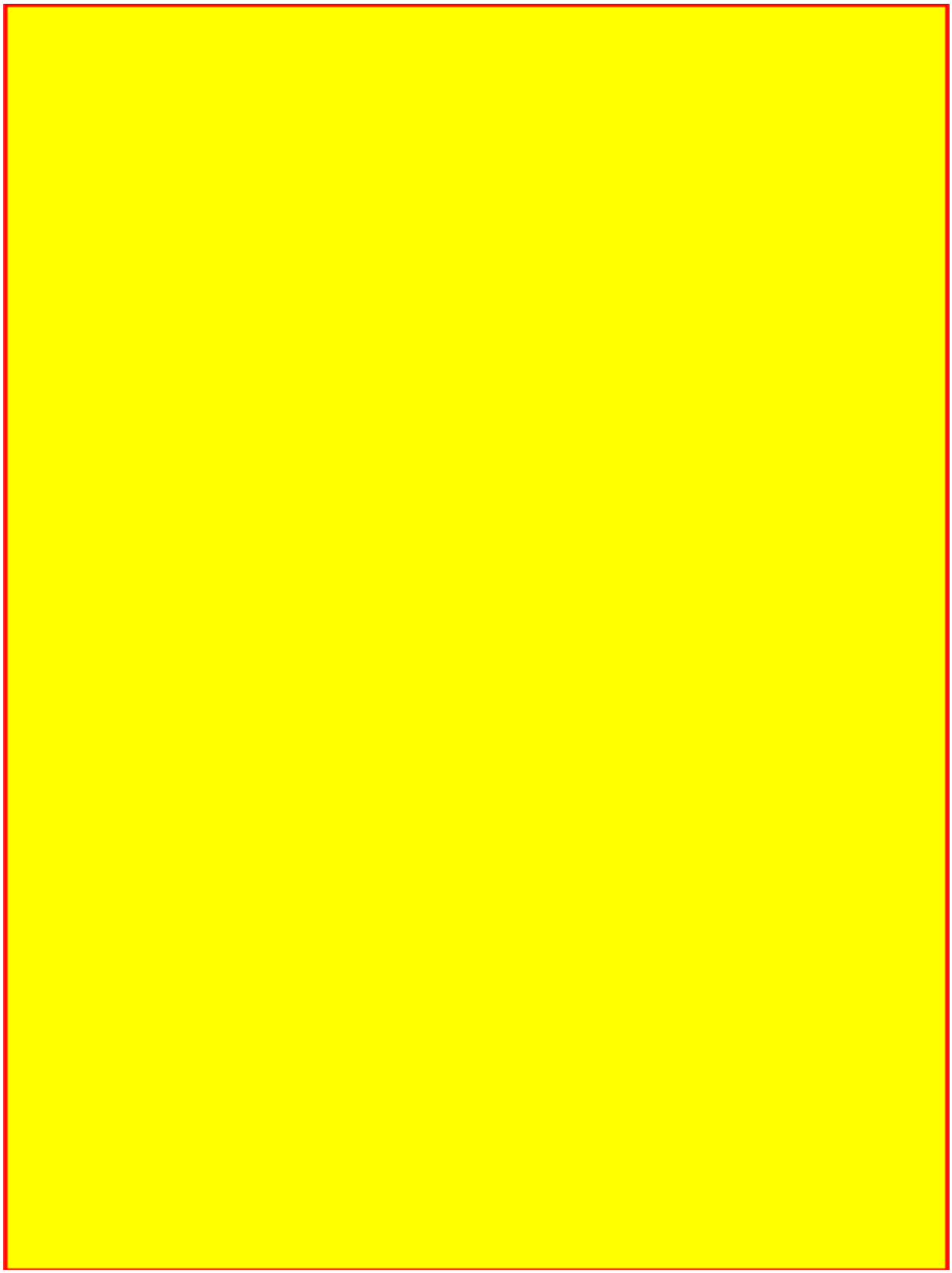

Bhadra Kalyanam

Dr. K. V. Krishnakumari

A treatise in Telugu, inspired and written by the grace of

Bhagwan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

Ultimate Relationship

Unconditional love in marriage

Translation - Turaga Kamaraju & Turaga Pramila

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Preface

“Bhadra Kalyanam” by Dr. K. V. Krishnakumari (popularly called Krishnakka) is a treatise in Telugu, inspired and written by the grace of Bhagwan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. By the divine blessings of Swami and the loving consent from Krishnakka, this translation attempt is a humble offering at His divine lotus feet.

Krishnakka filled with devotion is anxious to offer the nectarean drops of the essence of Sri Krishna to devotees in an exclusive manner. So that it increases the devotion in those who are already devoted. So that it inculcates thoughts towards the Bhagawan in those who do not have any devotion and also in those who have limited awareness about Sri Krishna.

The great classic work of Krishnakka in the sweet free flowing Telugu is mesmerizing. Any attempt to translate such inspiring treatise in to English may not reproduce the original spirit and may dilute the divine theme. However, for the benefit of sincere devotees who are not familiar with Telugu and yet wish to have the experience of reading and understanding the essence of Bhadra Kalyanam, an attempt has been made to translate the treatise.

We share below some of Krishnakka’s thoughts on love and devotion, being the essence of Sri Krishna, to help in setting the context.

Bhadra Devi is the symbol of Advaita (non-dualism). She is the very form of the lamp of Advaita. The world knows very little about Bhadra Devi. She is Sri Krishna’s paternal aunt’s daughter. Her love for Sri Krishna is filled with devotion. Her devotion is with love. After pining for Him for a long time, Sri Krishna finally marries her. Though she married Sri Krishna in a worldly way, she acquired the eligibility to merge with Him spiritually. Thus looking in the worldly way Bhadra Kalyanam is filled with pining, but when viewed spiritually it is victory over one’s ego. It is an inward journey set out from desire to ultimately merging in love. Rising with the awareness of life from the limits of the sense organs she merged with Bhagawan Sri Krishna, who is all powerful, omnipresent and one with the form of pleasant vitality. Bhadra Devi was a house wife who acquired the state of Advaita in the realm of spirituality. The grace of Sri Krishna that Bhadra Devi endeavoured for and received as the seventh consort among the eight consorts, was not possible for anyone else.

When one recognises that, the person who loves, the one who is loved and the experience of loving are the three aspects of the same phenomenon, then that person is in the state of sublime love. An exemplary attitude in relationship is expressed by one spouse to another saying, “My dear, I am aware that besides me, you have your own world. But, for me you are my only world. Your world is my world too, not different. That in me, you will see not only me but your world as well, is my belief.” This is the foundation of consummate relationship which is supreme and flawless.

When those who love become the loved ones, then will not those being loved become those who love? While meditating upon Sri Krishna when you become verily Sri Krishna, then that Sri Krishna who is also meditating upon you, will become yourself. That is the essence of Sri Krishna.

The Bhagawan through His grace created this bountiful nature and made it available within the reach of everyone. It is to be distributed among all without jealousy, hatred, pride or deceit following righteousness and for us to live together peacefully. It is Bhagawan's resolve that we once again make attaining divinity, as the purpose of life. But man by creating money, attaching a monetary value for everything and offering it for sale has become its slave. Man has completely surrendered himself to limitless desires and greed leading him to disappointment and despair. Focusing on accumulating wealth, going beyond his needs, going beyond the needs of the generations to follow him, increased his attachment towards ways and means of acquiring wealth. Man should be striving to reach divinity, which is his original self. Instead man is racing towards animal nature, developing qualities of a beast and acquiring demonic traits and perishing. He is trying to defend injustice to be justice. He is following unrighteousness as righteousness. He is thinking being cruel is justified. The root cause for all this is his false attachment developed towards the wealth. That is the reason why nothing attracts more than the attraction of gold.

The present era 'Kali Yuga' is a rich mine for the unbecoming qualities for man. People will be highly intellect. But they will go astray. People will turn away from worshipping and meditating upon the Bhagawan. However, the Bhagawan has bestowed one nice attribute to man. That is, man just by extolling the divine virtues of Sri Krishna will be able to unshackle himself from worldly attachments and reach the supreme self.

Sri Krishna is the soul of all souls. He is the indweller of all living beings. Being in the minutest form He is Omnipresent. Nobody can escape from His vision and commit any sin. There is no place in this universe where He is not present. There is no lonely place for anyone to commit sin. The reason being, He is present in every living being. The hearts of men are the temples of the Bhagawan. To hate someone, to think ill of someone, to make someone suffer will be verily betraying the Bhagawan. Serving the deprived, the poor, the alms seeker, the orphans and supporting every life with truth, non-injury, peace and love is like worshipping the Bhagawan. The individual soul is an aspect of the supreme soul. The body of every living being is the temple of the Bhagawan.

Love towards the one who is worth worshipping is called devotion. Love transforms into devotion. Devotion transforms into love. However, love is superior to devotion. Bhagawan is filled with love hence love is the form of the Bhagawan. Hence, love is superior. Love is the essence of the universe. The essence of the world is love. It is love that binds the world. Love is the essence of Sri Krishna. When Bhagawan incarnates at a place, He is restricted to only that place by the foolish people. The ignorant suffer thinking that the Bhagawan may be restricted to only that place. To decide boundaries to the divine form of the Bhagawan will be insulting the divine. Bhagawan Sri Krishna is the divine glow of wisdom. The form, the weapons like Sudarshan chakra and other, the divinity and the pleasant awareness are all His. Though He is with a form, He is indeed formless. Not only that, all the forms are His.

"I am not bound by action. There is no relevance of birth and death for Me. Even then, as per My resolve, I incarnate taking the forms of deities and human" declares the Bhagawan.

The Bhagawan Himself selects one, loves the selected one and accepts that one dearly. He selects the one who is longing for the grace of the Bhagawan, the one who is pining in separation from the Bhagawan. He selects the one who completely depends only on His grace without depending on one's own intelligence and strength to act. He selects one who practises

discharging his duties without attaching himself to fruits of action. He selects the one who is able to visualise and experience the essence of Bhagawan's universal grace everywhere and at all times. The Bhagawan reveals His original form in the presence of a devotee who is constantly contemplating upon Him.

Not only fulfilling the wishes of His dear devotees, subjecting His devotees to many different tests, giving opportunity for introspection and there by showering extraordinary grace is a part of the enjoyment in Sri Krishna's divine sport.

Devotion is the only and easy way to attain the Bhagawan. There is no need for other means. The ultimate objectives of human life are peace and supreme bliss. These two are the forms of love and devotion. A person who has love and devotion remains detached from the worldly affairs. He has balanced view with respect to success and failure. He may face many obstacles, sufferings and insults. He will consider them only as the resolve of the Bhagawan. But under any circumstances he will not be away from the devotional love and divine devotion. He will readily sacrifice the fruit of his devotion but will not expect any thing in return. A true devotee will stay away from the inordinate affection for a woman, greed for wealth and atheistic arguments. He surrenders pride and selfishness to the Bhagawan. Like weeds he uproots all desire prompting subjects from the roots. By developing the devotion of a servant he completely removes lust, anger, attachment and pride from his heart. The devotion towards Sri Krishna is extraordinary. He adores only Sri Krishna with all his feelings. He performs only those duties which are befitting to Sri Krishna.

To gain the right awareness about the essence of love of Sri Krishna, one should understand the divine sports of Sri Krishna from the spiritual perspective. In accordance with the righteous principals adopted in a particular era, the conduct and cultural practices, the rules and regulations keep varying. Keeping in view the set up of today's society and its moral values and regulations, criticising the incidents of the legendary era is not appropriate. We need to take a guarded view once again.

We are happy to share with our readers about Bhadra Kalyanam and its relevance in sustaining relationships, especially between husband and wife in today's fast changing digital world.

In this ever-expanding digital world, attention span on the screen of a mobile, tablet, laptop or TV and other gadgets is less than 6 seconds. We are constantly bombarded with messages that emphasise on instant gratification. Our minds are unable to pause and apply the required thinking before acting. It may be possible to acquire a few desired objects or get some quick fixes that offer superficial satisfaction. However, with such an unsteady mind, it is a challenge to maintain relationships.

In our everyday life, we come across relationships with parents, children, husband, wife, siblings, friends and colleagues at work. These relationships extend to communities and across countries. Each one of us must make concerted efforts to nurture these relationships continuously to experience the joy and peace in life.

The divine inspiration for translating the treatise in to English is a memorable one. Krishnakka was invited to a spiritual gathering to give a discourse on Bhadra Kalyanam. It was arranged at the residence of Sri. Velicheti Satyanarayana Murthy and Srimati Nirmala in

Hyderabad on 19th November 2016. Nirmala, sister of Pramila invited both of us to participate. This was our first meeting with Krishnakka. Krishnakka shared Swami's inspiration and the flow of the divine thoughts and expressions through her, in creating the treatise in thirty days.

The source for the translation is the 37th. edition of Bhadra Kalyanam released on Swami's 90 birthday.

Our deep gratitude to Acharya Sri. Vangapalli Viswanadham for steering us throughout the journey of translation with his deep insight of the original treatise in Telugu. He guided us in maintaining the devotional aspect of the original treatise in the English translation.

We pray to Swami that this miniscule effort will help in creating, establishing and immersing the aspirants in devotion. May this offering lead to ultimate relationship from love to sublime love through marriage.

We are fortunate to be Swami's instruments in His divine resolve of translating the noble treatise Bhadra Kalyanam.

In Sai Service,

Turaga Kamaraju

Turaga (Vissa) Pramila

Hyderabad

11 May 2019

Bhadra Kalyanam Treatise – Inspiration and Genesis

‘That which is expressed, is Bhadra Kalyanam

The one who expresses it, is Sai Eswara.’

I feel it essential to share with you a few facts, some unbelievable and the history behind the inspiration given by Swami, for writing this auspicious treatise.

As a child, I got into the habit of listening to the essence of Geeta from my grandfather Sri. Bendapudi Venkata Krishna Rao. I adopted to this practice as easily as drinking milk. At home there was a regular ritual of fire worship. The environment was filled with Krishna. There was no other world for us excepting worship of Sri Krishna and reciting the name of Sri Krishna.

My mother Srimati. Sathyavati was an ardent devotee, reminding us the devout Meera Bai. She was a true inheritor of grandfather in every aspect. Constant recitation of the name of Krishna was like a breath to her and her only focus.

My father Doctor Kaja Venkata Jagannadha Rao Garu, is a noble soul who dedicated his life with the faith that ‘serving humanity is serving God.’

As an inheritance, I have acquired devotion towards Krishna and aspiration for medical profession. My life goals were easily fulfilled by Sri Krishna in whom I have complete faith. By making me a medical doctor, He decided my duty. By making me ‘Krishnakka’ He further increased my responsibilities.

Now by creating inspiration for writing this significant treatise, He conferred the rare opportunity to bring about the awareness and noble qualities of Bhadra Devi, the leading lady in this treatise. He made my life blissful.

My first interaction with Swami

Approximately 35 years ago, I was preparing for my anatomy examination sitting in the ladies hostel at the medical college in Kakinada. In the meantime, a sweet nectarean voice touched my ears. That divine voice went straight into the inner recesses of my heart. I felt ecstatic. I closed my books. I could hear Bhagavat Geeta being recited. I felt as though Bhagwan Sri Krishna Himself was preaching. There is so much sweetness in that voice. There is so much significance in those words! Involuntarily my legs moved in that direction.

Right opposite in the engineering college campus was a huge gathering of people. Crossing the streams of devotees, I went close to the dais and sat down. A beautiful form was standing in front of the mike. That form in saffron robes was shining brilliantly in the glow of the electric lights. His lustrous black hair in the form of a crown was radiating. His beautiful hands were making unusual gestures, as though giving messages to some, removing pain for a few and distancing suffering for many more. Involuntarily I folded my hands.

That divine form is verily Bhagwan Sri Satya Sai Baba. For many days I used to listen to Swami’s teachings of Geeta, regularly as my duty. In that divine form, I could see Sri Krishna. In that speech, I heard grandfather’s words. Saw the affection and love of mother reflecting in

those eyes. I used to be totally immersed. The fortune of being close to that divinity for so many days, is due to the merits earned in my previous lives. One day as usual I went to hear Swami's discourse, but I saw the place was empty. My heart became heavy for reasons unknown.

'Looking for Swami dear'! enquired an elderly man affectionately. My tears rolled down my cheeks. 'Swami is going back to Puttaparthi tomorrow. You may see him if you early in the morning'. I took the address from him with gratitude. After giving the address, he disappeared. At that moment, I did not have the least presence of mind to know who that person was. Next morning, I went in search of Him to the address given to me. The essence of the universal love in those eyes created an unusual awakening in me. I stopped in front of the bungalow. I moved ahead anxiously through the huge gathering. Suddenly there was a stir. Within moments there was absolute silence. All of us were folding hands in reverence to the divine radiating form standing in the balcony. That place was filled with divine vibrations. I felt Swami was closely looking into my eyes and I forgot myself. I went up climbing the stairs. Swami, with His wide eyes spreading the glow, with the attractive movements of His eyebrows, with the glowing lustrous hair, was conversing with love and affection with the devotees and offering them prasadam. I too received the prasadam with reverence. I bowed at those divine feet. At that moment I did not realise that I will get that rare fortune several times in the future. After that many years passed by.

I was completely immersed in my medical profession. Unfortunately, my father passed away at his prime age of 50, while attending to his duties. I was deeply engrossed in my professional duties and in discharging my responsibilities as the eldest daughter of the family. I was deeply immersed in Sri Krishna's devotion, carrying the family lineage. Surprisingly, the memories of Bhagwan Sri Satya Sai Baba faded away in me.

By the inspiration of Bhagwan Sri Krishna, I completed the book titled 'Karma Yogi,' based on the true life of my grandfather, who lived like a Karma Yogi. Little Krishna struggling with the weight of the heavy books about the essence of Krishna, brought them and kept next to my head while I was sleeping. Touching me softly, He woke me up and encouraged me to write the treatise 'Karma Yogi.' This was an historical incident in my life. The divine story of my grandfather was published in the weekly magazine, 'Andhra Patrika' as a serial, attracting several readers.

At the same time, the vision of the divine form of Sri Rama Krishna Paramahamsa, woke me up with a soft touch. He conversed with me for several days. He explained the specific duties laid down for me. He touched and awakened the essence of universal love from the inner recesses of my heart. This is yet another amazing incident of my life.

As though God sent, Sri. Saarvari, a renowned journalist and a spiritual follower, approached with an intention of interviewing me. That was an extraordinary moment. As 'Krishnakka' my life going beyond the boundaries of the essence of love, took off in the direction of the essence of universal love. That amazing incident took place in 1974 in Tenali. At that time, I was working as an Assistant Civil Surgeon in the Government hospital in Tenali.

Five years ago (1995) on the auspicious day of Deepavali, after offering worship to her revered Bhagawan Sri Krishna, while meditating on Him, my mother merged in Sri Krishna. The pain from the void created by the absence of my mother and that suffering is beyond

description. Under these turbulent circumstances, Swami once again awakened His awareness in me for the first time in the form of Shirdi Sai.

In December 1988, returning from the hospital as a routine turned on the TV. The life history of Shirdi Sai was being telecast. Though, at that time I had not much awareness about Swami, still I was watching it sincerely. Suddenly breaking the silence, the phone rang.

It was from my brother-in-law Bharat Kishore from New Zealand. That his sugar level in the blood had crossed beyond the critical level and that the doctors were anxiously making arrangements to admit him in the ICU. As he was narrating agitatedly, my mind was going blank. As a doctor, I could well imagine the critical situation. Yet, I could not reconcile. That was the state of slipping into diabetic coma. Involuntarily, I folded my hands in prayer at Shirdi Sai on the TV screen.

“Swami! I never offered you salutations before. It is said that you protect those who suffer, by taking them close to you. If that is true, then save Bharat.” I sincerely offered salutations.

After a few hours, once again there was call from Bharat. Surprisingly, the sugar level returned to normal. The doctors are amazed that this appears like some divine miracle.

I was not listening to the details any more. Taking a vow that I will come to Shirdi and be in His presence, I folded my hands with great joy. In January 1999, I had the grace to be in His presence in Shirdi. Exactly after one month-

In Swami’s presence - second time

With Srimati Jamuna’s encouragement, I visited Puttaparthi for the first time on 6th February 1999. Without Swami’s resolve, it is not possible to have the grace to be in His presence. I could not immediately comprehend that Swami conveyed His resolve through Jamuna. I stepped into Prasanthi Nilayam.

Observing people from various countries, forgetting their positions and cultural differences meditating and eagerly waiting for His divine appearance, made me spellbound. The unity in such diversity and their faith in the essence of Swami’s love immersed me in astonishment. That serene atmosphere brought unimaginable change in me. Within a short period, I attempted to know the details about Swami. That attempt was like standing before the sea and measuring it with a small earthen pot. That innocence was like standing before the sun and holding small lamp to look at the sun.

Before the day break itself assembled for Swami’s divine appearance. Large gathering of people were waiting without batting an eyelid for Swami’s divine appearance. A surprising vibration. An unimaginable experience.

As an indication of Swami’s arrival, could hear pleasing music. That divine form in saffron robes, glowing with radiance, with the crown of lustrous hair was getting closer. That expanse was filled with marvellous fragrances.

Swami’s eyes were focused on me with love and coming closer. I kept looking at the divine glow in those wide eyes.

“Jamuna! When did you come?” though He was talking to her, the glow in those eyes was penetrating through me. Swami continued that focused look. In those eyes I saw mother. The streams of love of multitude mothers was overflowing.

“Mother” felt like shouting at the top of my voice.

Mother, whom I could not see for the past three years, as though suddenly appearing in Swami’s form, made me uncontrollable. My eyes continued to flow with tears. With Swami’s nectarean glances all those doubts, misconceptions and apprehensions in me scattered away. I continued looking in wonder at Swami, who appeared in the form of Krishna, the one with dark cloud complexion, till He moved away from the sight.

The next day again we assembled for Swami’s divine appearance. The same vibration and the same experience as Swami was approaching. At that moment a thought occurred in my mind that ‘if there is even a bit of selflessness left in me, if I ever helped anyone even a little, then Swami should speak to me.’

Swami came close to me and asked me to come for the interview. I was unable to believe my fortune and became still.

Recovering within moments, me, Jamuna, Kulwant Rai, two bishops, two more foreigners followed Swami’s call for the interview.

In that room, Swami seated on a throne glowing with radiance, with beautiful smiles, inviting with love, was looking magnificent like an emperor. Looking at me, “where is your husband?” He asked, looking straight into my eyes. Unable to answer, I was confused.

Again, the same question.

“But Swami, I am not married”

To my reply, He smiled in a peculiar manner.

“Oh! In this life you have not yet married, isn’t it!”

I did not understand.

All of us sat around Swami’s feet. His feet were tender like beetle leaves, softer than lumps of butter and were shining. We touched His feet with reverence.

“Swami! She is Doctor Krishna Kumari” even before Jamuna could complete the introduction, smiling with the coolness of the moon, He nodded head in the manner ‘I know.’

“Bangaru! (precious one), You indeed carry everyone’s sufferings, everyone’s challenges on your head. Your head is filled with thoughts. You do not take rest even for a moment. You struggle for the sake of everyone. Your own people will become your enemies. Bangaru! Look how you are neglecting your health!”

I continued looking into Swami’s eyes stunned.

“Nothing to worry. I am there for you Bangaru” creating Vibhuti (sacred ash) He filled my palms. He continued patting my head. In those eyes was the love of multitude mothers. That

stream of love is overwhelming. That love and affection is limitless. Swami was conversing for a long time with such closeness, as though the bond is across several lives. He said-

“Bangaru! What do you want?”

When Bhagawan Himself standing before is asking you to request for a boon, what can anyone request? What can anyone ask? I did not know, at that moment. What does Swami want? What does He wish? When Swami repeatedly asks, ‘what do you want?’ perhaps, only those who have relationship with Swami over several years, only those who are familiar with Swami’s literature may be knowing what is the answer that Swami really wishes?

But I do not know Swami’s intent, isn’t it? When Swami repeatedly asked, I said sincerely and instantly-

“I want my Krishna, Swami!”

Perhaps, Swami received a request He was wishing for! Swami smiled spreading multitude moonlights.

“I will give Bangaru. But then, will you be looking for Me in Krishna? Will you look for Krishna in Me?”

“I will look for you in Krishna, Swami!”

Immediately waving His hand in air and was about to give a glittering gold chain. Seeing clearly Bhagawan’s symbol ‘Om’ on the pendant, I extended my hand happily.

“Uh hu!”

Showering love like my mother, signalling me to bend my neck, affectionately putting it around my neck, He blessed me abundantly. At that moment I felt ‘the soul that has separated from the supreme soul, recognising its own nature and merging again with its place of origin has taken so many births? How many more births would it further take? Though having received so many awards, this award from Bhagawan in appreciation for a little goodness and for a little humanitarian deed, Himself decorating the pendant with symbol ‘Om’ on my neck, I felt that I am truly very fortunate.’ In that short time, He blessed so many times!

That day the interview was concluded. I was overjoyed for such fortune bestowed on me.

The next day-

We sat again in the assembly waiting for Swami, with the intention of seeking Swami’s permission and blessings before leaving for Hyderabad. “Krishna! Swami is looking at you and walking towards you.” I was alerted by Jamuna’s words and looked. The music from the flute could be heard faintly in the background.

Swami, verily in the form of Sri Krishna was coming close. That pair of wide eyes came and stood near me.

He was looking at me very focused. He was once again conferring vibhuti. Standing near me He was showering abundant blessings and allowing me to touch His feet. I was struggling to clearly look at Him with my eyes filled with tears.

“Bangaru! Are you happy?”

Anxiously I lifted my head and looked at Him. I attempted to read the expressive feeling in Swami’s eyes.

I nodded my head as a reply to Swami who was asking so affectionately. My tears jerked from the eyes and touched Swami’s feet. I went as an empty reed with many doubts and apprehensions. I returned filled completely with the essence of love and like the divine flute flowing with nectarean love. Later on, there were many incidents and experiences related to Swami!

At Puttaparthi, as per the resolve of Swami, Sri. C. Venkateshwara Rao, a devotee and a freedom fighter approached me saying “Akkayya” and handed over a large collection of cassettes and books to be kept in my custody. That was His manner of giving me more about His awareness. Swami created many opportunities for me to understand Him to the extent I could.

In Swami’s presence - third time

Last year (1999) on the day of Krishnashtami (Sir Krishna’s birthday) went to Puttaparthi for the third time to be in Swami’s presence and receive His blessings. Due to the visit of the Prime Minister and other dignitaries and due to the ongoing celebrations of Krishnashtami, no interviews were given. Even then, Swami blessed and wished me several times and walked along the way I was seated. I was satisfied with that fortune. Swami came towards me before I left Puttaparthi.

“Swami! I am leaving today.”

I kept looking at those divine eyes with happiness. Those white beautiful wide eyes were sparkling brightly. Extending towards the ears were spreading the glow. I was immersed in looking at the brilliance and the shine in those eyes.

“Bangaru! Are you well?”

I was moved by the love, affection and the compassion of a mother flowing through those divine eyes.

“Bangaru! Open your palm..”

I lifted my hand and opened my palm anxiously.

Filling my hand with Vibhuti, showering blessings, with His tender feet reminding the softness of the lumps of butter, He stood near me. I kept touching those divine feet. For a long time! Sharing the love of multitude mothers, giving the affection as a father, making me ready once again for discharging the duties, He is making me move forward with His blessings.

Filling my heart with universal essence of love, He is once again bestowing as a boon of the inheritance, the inexplicable spiritual wealth. Now the heart is only filled with tranquil. There is only peace in the heart. While looking at anyone, there is only a feeling of oneness.

The entirety is filled with Krishna. Everything belongs to Sai Eswara. By Swami's grace the weaknesses in me, the scarcity of feelings and the undesirable feelings began to recede. Inexplicable spiritual state and an extraordinary state beyond the mundane began to take place in me.

Exactly one year back, there was a call from my sister Anuradha anxiously explaining about her husband Bharat Kishore (New Zealand) being admitted in the hospital due whito a heart attack.

By His mere resolve Swami protected brother Bharat Kishore living in New Zealand from heart attack and thereby He once again established His omnipresence.

One day while alone was thinking "Swami, I have come to know that you are verily the Bhagwan through many proofs. But in the family, no one has this awareness. How come Swami! Can you not create this awareness in any of the brothers?" Drifted in to sleep with these thoughts. At the very moment my brother Ramu was travelling by bus from Rajahmundry to Hyderabad.

Swami travelled as a co-passenger with my brother Ramu who had no awareness about Swami. For about 90 minutes He explained to Ramu about the incidents and the ways He protected their family as God and disappeared. Swami once again blessed me by fulfilling my wish of making my family becoming aware of Him. There are so many more instances and experiences to narrate! So many to write about! I can continue for years together!

The auspicious beginning for the sacred responsibility of writing the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam entrusted to me was done on the day of 'Durgashtami' as per the resolve of Swami. The divine story of Bhadra Devi, hitherto unknown to history, with the confidence that it will further support for the prosperity of the society under the present circumstances, Swami moulded me as an instrument. He made my life blissful. However, for me struggling between the profession and other occupations mid-night was the only opportune time for writing the treatise. There will not be any other opportune time.

Swami repeatedly mentioned that as I do not have the required awareness about Bhadra Devi, He will Himself provide the inspiration and make me write. However, after initiating to write the treatise, it occurred to me. Swami, who is compassionate towards His devotees is immersed in constantly protecting them without resting even for a moment. I felt, Swami giving up His rest with the pretext of writing the treatise is not justified. Therefore, I decided that I myself will complete the writing of the treatise. The reply given by Swami for my ignorance was like a slap on the face.

"Rest for Me? If I take rest then what happens to this world? Besides, who is making you write? Who is writing? Is it you? Or Me!"

What a befitting reply for my ignorance? Though very late, I could recognise the truth that, in accordance with my nature I have been ordained to be only an instrument to implement the divine resolve. As per Bhagawan's resolve, I began the search for Bhadra.

In that search, foremost in providing the news about Bhadra Devi, though very little was Acharya Vangapalli Viswanadham Garu.

My interactions with Sri Viswanadham Garu for 'Yuva Bharati' programmes lead to spiritual relationship. This was not just a coincidence. I felt this incident was meant for a significant purpose and only as a divine resolve.

"Krishna Akkayya Garu! Came to know a little about Bhadra Devi."

For the happiness in his voice I reciprocated with equal happiness. There is some description about Bhadra Devi in the treatise 'Bhagavatam' by 'Potana' in the 10th section on page number 353.

I felt very happy even with that little information. I repeatedly thanked Sri Viswanadham Garu.

"It is Swami's resolve isn't it! Swami Himself will provide everything." The words from Viswanadham Garu further increased self confidence in me. I moved two more steps in the direction of Bhadra.

As per Swami's resolve, I met several learned people in this search to know more about Bhadra Devi. I met Dr. Kasireddy Venkata Reddy Garu, Dr. Anantha Lakshmi Garu, Dr. Utpala Sathyanarayana Aacharyulu. I obtained the treatise 'Ashtamahishi Kalyanam' written by late Thiru Vengalanadh. I also obtained the treatise 'Sri Krishna Sandesam' by Dr. Kasireddy. Some more details were available from the treatise 'Andhra Bhagavatam Kathaardham' written by Dr. Vinjamuri Viswanadhayya Garu.

In the extensive search to know more about Bhadra Devi, obtained a few more details. Met Dr. Utpala Sathyanarayana Aacharyulu and came to know about the treatise 'Sri Krishna Satakam' written by him. Recollecting with him about the incidents in the incarnation of Sri Krishna, I felt very elated.

As per Swami's resolve, one more treatise came to me. That was the treatise 'Sri Krishna Leelamrutam' written by Sri Puranapanda Radha Krishna Murthy Garu. That is the exclusive blessing of the supreme Sri Krishna given as an invaluable gift. An exclusive gift preserved safely for me and given by Srimati Hemavati, wife of Sri Kantha Rao, celebrity actor and ardent devotee of Swami.

I could get some more details about Bhadra Devi from other treatises. There is a reference to the eight consorts in the treatise 'Sri Krishna Leela Tarangini' written by Sri Narayana Teerthulu.

In the Telugu literary work 'Radha Tatvam' a research treatise of Dr. Anantha Lakshmi, there is a section describing about Radha sharing her suffering with Rukmini and Bhadra, the prime devotees among the eight consorts.

In my search as per Bhagawan's resolve, one of the rare treatise I obtained was 'Bhadra Parinayamu.' I held that treatise close to the heart. Unable to control my emotions and happiness, tears were streaming down my eyes.

The writer of that treatise was late Sri Allamaraju Subramnaya, a poet. He was the son of Sri Rangadhama Acharya, the author of 'Narayanachala Mahathyamu.' And grandson of Sri Yellanna Acharya, who was the cousin brother of poet Sri Rama Krishna. He was born in 1831. The great treatise 'Bhadra Parinayamu' was written in 1879 and was offered as a composition as per the request of the chief Sri Gangadhara Ramaraya. These details are available in the treatise.

The original 'Bhadra Parinayamu' written by Peddanna Somyaji, with a few changes was rewritten by Sri Allamaraju Subramanya. Eagerly read the original 'Bhadra Parinayamu' and totally overwhelmed. This treatise was written by Peddanna Amathyudu of that era with so much happiness. This is the extraordinary treatise written as a composition by poet Sri Allamaraju Subramnaya, grandson of Sri Rama Krishna during the period of the reign of Salivahana dynasty. Again, after many years it is going to be in limelight as 'Bhadra Kalyanam' in the year 2000. That too with the divine initiation. And that too moulding me as an instrument.

I am very blessed. What might be the reason for this eligibility for me? Is it because I am born in an erudite family lineage that has been immersed in the devotion of Sri Krishna? Or is it because I am also born in the same family as the poet Sri Rama Krishna? Or is it because I have some kind of relationship in my previous birth that bonds me with Bhadra and Sri Krishna? I left it to only Bhagawan to clarify my doubt.

Being surprised at my fortune, I held my pen. The treatise 'Bhadra Parinayamu' supported me as a magnetic compass.

However, it was Swami, who gave me the vision and filled life into my pen with the significance of the treatise, the greatness of Bhadra Devi, the essence of the affectionate married life of Bhadra Krishna, the necessity to convey this in the present circumstances and helped me to progress very rapidly.

Swami giving the insight for many interesting and very purposeful historical facts which were not known to history, made me write the treatise. This is the history that has been lost to history. This is a wonderful historical treatise. Swami handed over this significant responsibility to me for bringing the necessary social and healthy changes in the current generation.

Swami Himself explained as 'His word' the significance of this treatise, through the foreword written by Dr Girija Shankar. That is why, my attempt to write it will only be a repetition.

I will never be able to thank Swami enough for bestowing on me this eligibility and the opportunity. Only in 30 days, I could complete writing the manuscript of the treatise 'Bhadra Kalyanam.' No, no, was completed by Swami. I went with the unprinted manuscript.

In Swami's presence - Fourth time

As Swami was showering His blessings I said- "Swami! Bless me too."

Immediately flashing smiles Swami showered His blessings once again on ‘Bhadra Kalyanam’ and on me.

“It is wonderful Bangaru! However, did you write that treatise? Did I write?”

I replied to Swami through my eyes. ‘You only wrote, Swami!”

A ritual in words of worship has been completed. The extraordinary Bhadra Kalyanam in the form a treatise was very beautifully decorated and ready to receive Swami’s blessings. It was difficult to control my tears of joy.

Me and my brother in law, Bharat Kishore who had come from New Zealand for receiving Swami’s grace, left for Puttaparthi. The bus from Dharmavaram reached Puttaparthi late. It was getting close to 6:00 a.m. in the morning. My uncle Professor Bhairav Murthy Garu received us and took us to the room allotted for us. Swami will be coming by 7:00 a.m. There was not enough time. Even if one opportunity to be in Swami’s presence is missed, many valuable moments are lost. This truth I had realised many times through my own experience. Getting ready in moments, holding the treatise started walking towards the temple. There were only five minutes left before Swami’s arrival. Though late, to be able to sit in the front row was surprising and verily due to Swami’s resolve. Immediately after sitting, heard the music of the flute. Swami filled with love was walking with concentration towards me. He extended His hands affectionately for the book. He was happily admiring at His picture as the bridegroom swinging on the swing decorated with flowers, on the front cover of the book. He abundantly showered His blessings.

“Bangaru! Open your palm..”

He created Vibhuti and filled my palms. Receiving the letter allowed me touch to His feet. Flashing a brief smile, majestically He went walking amidst devotees. I felt very satisfied.

Such kindness! So much affection! Such abundant blessings!

The treatise ‘Bhadra Kalyanam’ went around the temple. As the treatise that has received Swami’s abundant blessings, everyone was holding it to their eyes in reverence and started enquiring anxiously about the treatise. Swami showered blessings and bestowed great fortune on several occasions in various forms during my stay of four days.

Sri Gandikota Subbarao Garu, Sri Anil Kumar Garu, Srimati Geeta Paramahansa … and many other elders enquired about ‘Bhadra Kalyanam’ that occupied a place in Swami’s heart and knowing the details about it felt elated.

On the day of return, as usual the heart was heavy with unknown pain. The eyes were filled with tears. In the meanwhile, Swami approached. Holding the treatise once again, placing His divine hands on it as the titleholder, showered blessings once again. As He was allowing me to touch His feet and was once again placing Vibhuti in my hands, I said in pain-

“Swami! I am going away.”

Swami looked at me in a strange manner.

"You are thinking of going isn't it, then go."

I did not know what to say.

Swami said again.

"Where are you going?" Swami was asking as though He is not aware. In reply I said "Hyderabad." Swami smiled in a strange manner. "Hyderabad? How far is it? How far are you going away? As though you are going away very far, should you be saying 'I am going away Swami'? You ought to be coming once in a way, isn't it!" I kept looking at Swami, who was walking away briskly.

Bhadra Devi repeatedly received rare abundant blessings from Swami in unimaginable manner. This time it was pleasantly thrice. Gathering that fortune and preserving that unlimited self-satisfaction I returned to Hyderabad. Swami bestowed on me the eligibility and the fortune to offer the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam as 75th birthday gift to Him. Establishing Himself in me, giving the inspiration and getting the treatise written by me, He offered His acceptance as the title holder. What can I give in return to Swami? What can I give to clear such liability? However, to remain liable to Swami is not an ordinary fortune, isn't it?

I received the directions to include some content towards 'the essence of Sri Krishna, the essence of Sai and the essence of love' in this treatise. Only then the writing of this treatise will achieve the status of being complete. This was the message Swami conveyed through Sri Gandikota Subba Rao Garu.

Before I conclude about my inspiration-

I wish to convey my gratitude to all those close relations who helped me extensively, else it would be committing wrong towards the divine. Acharya Vangapalli Viswanadham Garu, gave a form to Bhadra Kalyanam, filled it with life and made her walk towards the stage for the marriage on time. Brother worked continuously without any break, without caring much for health, without bothering about food and drink and without taking any rest. He is working as Professor in the Department of Commerce at the Osmania University. Besides, he is very fortunate to have received Swami's grace in many forms.

His efforts have been contributed only as per Swami's resolve. Also, I will never forget those efforts.

I will always be indebted to Dr Girija Shankar Garu for assisting me on behalf of Swami for conducting the auspicious marriage in the passage of 'Bhadra Kalyanam' without any obstacles and for conveying Swami's words through the foreword. I also wish to convey my sincere gratitude to my brother-in-law Sri Ravi Kumar Kaushik for supporting in many ways. He is Swami's devotee and a worshipper of Devi. I also wish to convey my gratitude to Sri Madhukar Reddy and Sri Varaprasad Reddy.

I wish, look forward and invite you to be participants in the celebrations of 'Bhadra Kalyanam' initiated and conducted by Swami. I wish to take your leave.

Om Sri Sairam!

Durgashtami, 5th October 2000 Dr. K. V. Krishna Kumari.

Essence of Sri Krishna – Essence of Sai – Essence of Love

This is the essence we need to understand.

This is the essence we need to cultivate in our heart.

This is the essence of love.

The essence of Sai is verily the essence of Sri Krishna. That is the essence of love.

The same essence of love is the under lying theme in the gist of 'Bhagawad Geeta[1]' delivered by Bhagawan[2] Sri Krishna, the embodiment of Love in totality.

The same essence of love is completely concealed throughout the 'Sathya Geetamrutam' of Bhagwan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the personification of total love.

I always feel ecstatic in exploring about the essence of love. Swami[3] has once again bestowed this divine opportunity, only to fulfil my wish to write about the essence of love.

'Bhadra Kalyanam' the treatise, an offering of words adopted the form of love. Completed the script. Realised at that moment. I have always been feeling ecstatic in exploring about the essence of love. In me, Swami created the inspiration to write 'Bhadra Kalyanam.' Swami has been addressing and blessing me, every moment throughout the duration of my writing. I felt like writing about that essence of love. This is about that essence of love which, for Sri Sathya Sai is the entirety of His life. He is demonstrating by following it. There are a few feelings in my heart about the similarities in the essence of love of Sri Krishna and Sai. It is my earnest request that you should read about them at the beginning.

'Bhadra Kalyanam', a treatise acquired it's form by blending the nectarean[4] essence of Sri Krishna and the nectarean love of Sai Krishna. It may be Swami's resolve that you should receive the nectarean love before you behold the treatise!

This graceful notional attempt may be for that reason!

The stream of divine love flows through the nectarean looks of Swami, the embodiment of love. Filling up to the brim and overflowing from that heart, is the true flow of love. Those nectarean words reflect the essence of love. Overflowing through that greeting, is the river of love beyond assessment.

To analyse Swami's heart of nectarean love in Swami's own words –

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[1] A song of God. Portion of the epic Mahabharatha war. A dialogue between Arjuna, one of the Pandava brothers and Bhagawan Sri Krishna.

[2] God. An epithet for a deity, particularly for Sri Krishna

[3] Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai is also referred as 'Swami' in this chapter.

[4] Adjective of Nectar. Nectar - A drink of the Gods (no death or immortal). Also, a sugary fluid secreted within flowers to encourage pollination by insects and other animals, collected by bees to make honey.

'This entire world is filled and sustained by love. Unable to recognise this love which can confer everything, man is surrendering to worldly desires. He is giving up sacrifice, love, truth etc. It is only love, that can establish the unity and divinity in humanity. To attain the love of Bhagawan, one should fill one's heart with love and offer it to Swami. The absence of love is the reason for today's misfortunes.

If you are really seeking Bhagawan, like Prahallada[5] constantly chant '*Om Namo Narayanaya Namaha*.'

Like Radha[6] and Meera[7] live remembering Bhagawan. Always pray to Bhagawan like the ardent devotees Jayadeva, Gauranga and Tukaram. Like the devotee Ramakrishna, cry incessantly for the appearance of Bhagawan. Only then, Bhagawan will reveal Himself. Attain the embodiment of love, only through love. Didn't the Lord of the universe equal his weight to a leaf of Tulasi[8] plant, when Rukmini[9] offered it, by recollecting His name with love? It is possible to attain or weigh Bhagawan only through love. Can you obtain Bhagawan whenever you want, if you have not developed love in you?

'*Sarvam Vishnumayam jagat*', '*This world is filled with Bhagawan.'*

Every atom is filled with only Bhagawan's form. Love even your enemies and be the inheritors to the essence of universal love. Get closer to Bhagawan.

My entire life is full of love. My love fills the hearts of all, with love. It is only through this love, the essence of Swami is spreading all over the world. The love in Me, like a magnet is attracting you towards Me. Purify your heart where ever you may be. Realise the purpose of your life with pure love. With a pleasant smile, make people who hate you as your own. Share the universal love with others. Love will grow where there is purity. Happiness will proliferate only there.'

The rivulets of the nectarean love overflowing from every atom in the embodiment of love, are constantly gifting life to multitude life forms and developing humanity.

'Start the day with love, fill the day with love, spend the day with love, end the day with love and that is the way to God.'

Swami clarified that the direct and proper way to reach Bhagawan is through love.

The duties chosen by Sri Krishna, the embodiment of love and the responsibilities discharged by Swami, the incarnation of love, are different. The changes may be as per the needs of the divine incarnation, appropriate to the period.

Hence, Swami says -

'Paritranaya saadhunaam, vinasayacha dushkrutaam…'

[5] A child devotee. Refer the scripture 'Srimad Bhagavatam.'
[6] Cowherd maid, chief devotee of Krishna.
[7] Devotee of Sri Krishna, a princess of Rajasthan, India. Composed devotional songs of exceptional quality during the 15th century.
[8] The Sacred Basil, Ocymum sanctum.
[9] First consort of Lord Sri Krishna.

'protecting the good natured, destroying the evil minded…'

That doesn't just mean, destroying the evil minded and protecting the good hearted. There is no person who is completely good, no person who is totally evil minded. Under such circumstances, if destruction is carried out then who will survive?

That is why, I have incarnated with the objective of, only destroying the evil thoughts in men, to encourage good conduct and to guard the truth. My duty is only to bring about moral conduct by developing spiritual thinking in men. Teaching them the reality and the goal of life, leading them to walk and reach it.'

This is the distinctiveness in the incarnation of Sathya Sai.

By destroying the untruthful men using the trident like Siva[10], the disc like Krishna and the bow like Rama[11], then who will survive in this present Kali Yuga[12]?

This form of incarnation, carrying the mission of establishing the righteousness with only love as His weapon, is an offering of love that is inspiring the entire world.

Swami puts into practice love, compassion, forgiveness, renunciation, appropriate timely care, persuade with love and well-disciplined conduct for us to understand and benefit. Thus, enabling us to follow these worthy tenets of love in life.

It is beyond words to express the great fortune of those individuals, who could be in His presence, converse with Him and experience the graceful touch of Bhagawan, moving amongst us and receive Swami's unlimited flow of love. The divine incarnation of Bhagawan Sri Krishna is an indication of love. Foundation for compassion. Abode of forgiveness. Replica of patience. Complete real form for renunciation.

In the same way, the awareness of Bhagwan Sathya Sai is full of love. His cool subtle glances are the very fountain-head for compassion. Swami's heart is the prime abode for forgiveness and forbearance. Swami's life is verily the proof of fondness towards renunciation.

"My life is my message" says Swami.

'The true selfless love is beyond likes and dislikes. Such love knows only to give and not to receive. It is possible to make the embodiment of love your own, not only by repeating prayers, penance and through yoga but also with love. He will certainly come and be with the devotee only when one offers to Bhagawan, intense devotion filled with love without any expectations.'

[10] The Destroyer, the Third of the Hindu Trinity of Brahma (the Creator), Vishnu (the Preserver), and Siva (the Destroyer).

[11] Divine incarnation of the Thretha yuga (era). Hero of the epic Ramayana; killed the wicked Ravana to rescue his wife Sita, who had been kidnapped. "Rama" means " he who pleases".

[12] Era or age. There is a cycle of four Yugas: the Krita yuga, Thretha yuga, Dwapara yuga and Kali yuga. Present age is the Kali yuga.

As ‘Gajendra moksha[13]’ is an evidence, so is ‘Bhadra Kalyanam’ an evidence, written through Swami’s inspiration.

Bhagawan Sri Krishna melts with pure, selfless, desireless, steadfast devotedness with limitless love. Offering support, He establishes in the heart. In the same manner, creating the inspiration, concealed in the inner recesses of my heart, took an auspicious form of love in ‘Bhadra Kalyanam’ to manifest the truth.

Swami is distinctly reasserting that, He will merge in Him those dear devotees who have the wisdom to distinguish the soul from the creation with name and form. That He will protect them by always being together, at home, by accompanying them wherever they go and always keep them within His sight.

‘Love enters man and takes the form of truth. That becomes righteousness by practice. Peace is concealed in righteousness. Only by developing truth, righteousness and non-injury, it is possible to come close to Bhagawan, preached the Teacher of Geeta in the past and Sai Krishna in the present. Bhagawan has been proclaiming in all incarnations that to attain Him, grow in your heart the complete essence of love and in that fullness, develop complete faith. Swami continued narrating as His own story, how only through that complete love, Bhadra Devi could attain Sri Krishna.

The essence of Bhakti yoga in Geeta, is the essence of love.

The incarnation of Swami is only for the propagation of the essence love. The Teacher of Geeta said that to practice devotion, one should first control anger. He said that it is possible only through love.

‘Where there is love, there is no selfishness. There is nothing in this world that cannot be gained through love. Only a heart filled with love can recognise the awareness of Bhagawan, the indweller of all beings, even in the hearts of enemies.

‘Isavasya midam sarvam’,

As the Omnipresent is present in everybody, hating a person or ridiculing another will be indeed unwise. This fact can be appreciated only by a mind filled with love.

Love is God. Live in love.

Swami says that it is possible to achieve truth, peace and right conduct only with love.

‘Anudvegakaram vaakyam sathyam priyahitamchayat

Swaadhyayabhyasam chaiva vaangmayamtapa uchyatay’

In the past, the Teacher of Geeta and in the present, also Sai Iswara have been repeatedly conveying only about the control of speech. One should always utter only truthful words and pleasant words which create happiness filled with purity.

[13] Lord Vishnu came down to earth to protect Gajendra, the elephant, from the clutches of a Crocodile, answering his prayers. This episode is from the scripture ‘Srimad Bhagavatam.’

Swami while preaching that the tongue bestowed by Bhagawan should always be used only for the welfare of others, for the happiness of others and for the betterment of others, is following it himself and setting an example. He is living this incarnation's mission by Himself adhering to truth and spreading His limitless true love across the continents, setting an example.

The incarnation of mother 'Geeta' was for the sacrifice of selfishness and eradication of attributes such as likes, dislikes, possessiveness and ego. There is no difference between one's own mother and the celestial tree that offers boons. In the same manner, mother 'Geeta' like the celestial tree, is always ready to offer whatever the needy wish, at once.

'Geeta is the only messenger of Bhagawan,

Geeta is the only universal mother,

Geeta is the only support for an achiever,

Geeta is the only help for a householder, to swim across the ocean of life,

Geeta is the only bundle of sacred hymns,

Geeta is the only essence of Vedas,

Geeta is the only good pathway laid with flowers,

Geeta is the only pathway of great kings.

This is the word of Sai' says Swami.

In the past Bhagawad Geeta was recited to the Sun. Through him it was recited to Manu. Through him it was recited to Ikshwaku. While it was being recited to Arjuna during the great battle of Kurukshetra, it was also heard by the monkey king sitting on the flag. It was also heard by Dhrutarashtra through Sanjaya. All of them attained the purpose of their lives.

At present, we are very fortunate to listen to 'Satya Sai Geetamrutam' and are blessed to receive the abundant love of Swami. However, we should preserve this treasure with care and understand at least a few sections. We should invite it into the inner recesses of our heart, assimilate it with love and experience it through self-bliss. His direction is, practising this essence is the only path and opportune means to attain liberation.

In the past through Geeta, the Supreme Being declared that to put in practice the thought in the mind, to declare what has been practised and the unity in thought, word and deed, is divinity. At present, through 'Sai Geeta' Bhagawan Sathya Sai is doing the same. By practising what has been repeatedly said, He is thereby establishing the divinity.

Besides, He is conveying the essence of wisdom that seeking protection from anyone is purposeless, excepting Bhagawan. That the divine radiance verily is the glow of entire Advaita. Swami is the embodiment of love, incarnated to light the lamp of love, in the heart that is filled with darkness without love.

If everyone can light the lamp of love in their heart, that indweller of the heart will establish His place there itself. Renunciation being the characteristic of an heart filled with love, the ultimate aim in the life of the incarnated form of love is only renunciation. The inner meaning for

the incarnation of Swami is to brighten the hearts of men, to create awareness in their hearts and to fill their hearts with love through the lamp of love in Him.

Swami keeps addressing everyone 'Embodiments of love, Divine embodiments,' only to awaken the essence of the Omnipresence of Bhagawan.

Sri Krishna, the supreme soul very clearly described and preached about His entire glory in 'Vibhuti yoga.'

In praise of Swami the poet Viswayogi Viswanji said-

'Filling the entire universe, pouring out wisdom

The universal form who establishes the universal peace

The entire universe is yours. Victory is also yours.

You confer peace and love. Sathya Sai.'

Swami gives utmost importance to the nature of sacrificing that is concealed in the essence of love. His life itself is a replica for that sacrifice. The ordinary lamp spreads light to others, while it melts. However, the complete widespread lamp of love in Swami, makes the lives of multitude devotees, radiant.

'*Yath bhaavam, tath bhavathi'*, 'whatever happens will be in accordance to what one thinks'.

When the heart is filled with love, the virtues of the Bhagawan, the indweller in all, shines full of love, like an abode of divine. That feeling makes one get closer to Bhagawan. This embodiment of love wishes only that essence of closeness. The inmost heart of 'Prema Sai' is full of the essence of love. That is why the essence of Sai is verily the essence of Sri Krishna. The essence of Sai is verily the essence of love.

In the past, everybody could not recognise Sri Krishna, the supreme soul as Bhagawan. There were more people who developed hatred than who worshipped, more people who criticised than adored, more people who found faults in Him, than who were in search of the essence of Krishna. Even then He extended His unlimited universal love equally on all. Even to those who hated Him, when their end approached, with sympathy He merged them in Himself and granted liberation.

In the present age too, there are people who hate, people who criticise and people who ridicule Swami. The reason being that Bhagawan is also like them, like one amongst them and living with them. Unable to recognise their good fortune, unable to understand the divine play of Swami, they ridiculed Him. Even then Swami looks at them with love. Takes them close due to His attachment for sacrifice.

Swami says "Sacrificing is My only enjoyment. My life is an example for it. I love everyone, including those, who are known to be wicked in the eyes of the world. I love them more, those who abuse Me. I take them closer, those who make fun of Me. Why because, they are all My children. Why because, having forgotten their duty, having forgotten their humanity, they are the unfortunate ones, who are succumbing to sorrow. Won't any mother look after those children

with ill health, with utmost care and love! I get immense happiness by loving all. To sacrifice is My greatest enjoyment, fortune."

Love should be expressed through heart and not merely from lips. That universal love should move the heart, melting it should increase the pain. Should be shared it with others. The nature and all living beings that have tasted that divine nectarean love should become ecstatic. They should attain the state of Advaita. They should be able to recognise and attain the state of oneness. Only then the self in the supreme self and the supreme self in the self will merge in each other. Will there be any other noble purpose beyond this? This feeling continues to be distinctly expressed in both the essence Krishna and in the essence Sai.

Thinking at body level, the abode of Sri Krishna is His throat. When the flute softly touches the nectarean lips of Sri Krishna, even that piece of bamboo acquires the essence of the nectar and experiences the eternal bliss. The overflowing river of love from the heart of Bhagawan, flowing through the flute is captivating the nature. Experiencing that nectarean music the trees, insects, stones, boulders, streams, leaves, and flowers become ecstatic. All the moving and non-moving beings in the nature, forgetting their differences, their status and their natural attributes, surrender themselves to the one who loves playing the flute. They receive an inexplicable happiness by the power of the magnificence of the Omnipresent, never known before and become ecstatic. That is the wondrous state bestowed by Bhagawan Sri Krishna in the past era of 'Dwapara yuga.'

In the present era of 'Kali yuga', Sathya Sai's flow of words of nectarean love are beyond the flow of nectarean love of the music of the flute. Swami's love that flows during the discourses, filled with love is captivating everyone. That glowing love from His eyes, that affectionate love dancing on His lips, that feeling of closeness reflecting in His talk, are all enthralling the nature. Shows the state of non-duality and the ascending paths to eternity, to the devotees coming from different continents. Directs them towards the goal. What an admirable proximity!

'Ananyaas chintayantomaam, ye janaha paryupaasatey!

Teshaam nityaabhiyuktaanaam, yogakshemam vahaamyaham'

- says the Teacher of Geeta.

Likewise, Swami says "whenever any person completely surrenders to Me, I shall protect him in every way. Taking him into My heart, I will remove his weariness."

Swami continues to shower the love of multitude mothers on His students. Children habituated to drink the nectarean affection in the presence of Mother Sai, unable to leave that divine love, shed tears. Swami with a heart of a mother who cannot leave her children, responding so affectionately, is an amazing experience.

"Do not look down on the benefit you are getting, by being in My presence. These are the blessings you are experiencing due to the merits earned in previous lives. Even the deities in the heaven look forward anxiously for the grace to be in My presence. You are getting that fortune of being in the great presence every day, so easily. This is due to the exclusive merits earned across many births. When the time is appropriate for you, due to the grace of My

presence, the blessings conferred on you will fructify" thus Swami Himself clearly stated on many occasions.

Not only that, Swami analysing His own essence said-

"Do not make assessments about Me through outward vision. The power of Sai is limitless, boundless. All types of powers are in the control of Sai. There are no limits to My powers. My power, My individuality, My essence are all beyond limits. They are only in My hands. I am subservient to devotion. When I am moving about with all in the form of an ordinary human, continuing to dance and sing, even those who are known to be powerful, cannot understand My power and My nature. My only aim is to bring humanity together, ascertain the essence of the soul and make them reach the divine state. I have come to accomplish many important activities, to uplift the human world, to make all humans follow the path of truth, righteousness, peace, love and to make them reach their destined places. Truly, there is no need to talk about Me. But I am talking only because the appropriate time has come. Those who do not know anything will not understand anything that is told to them. There is no need to tell those who already know. It is for those who know, yet not know completely, I have to unavoidably show miracles to make them understand" thus declared Bhagawan Sathya Sai.

Doing service as per one's ability, providing alms to the needy, awakening the lamp of love in the heart, sharing the nectarean love, developing an attitude of sacrifice and to achieve the purpose of life is the message of Swamy.

The indweller in all

Bhagawan is all pervading. He is the indweller in all. Multitude devotees believe that Swamy belongs to them and experience Him being with them. Each devotee recalls in wonderment their interactions with Swami, those stories, narrations and miracles. They also recall the instances, when just by a making a simple wish, Swami saved them with ease, amazingly being at the same moment in different places.

'Swami is within us. He is with us. He is protecting us every moment. Where is His absence for us?' is the language of the heart and the personal feeling echoing in everyone, visiting from across the continents.

This is today's evidence for that ancient truth. Even during the time of the incarnation of Sri Krishna, going beyond the circumstances and boundaries of space and time, He explained His nature of being the indweller in all, His universal essence and the essence of love, He has towards His creation. That comparison is felt in our innermost hearts.

As a reply to a devotee Swami said,

"Which is the place where I am not there? In everything that comes under my gaze, in every area you have walked, in every person you have met, I am present. I am present in every atom in a minuscule form. Is there a place where I am not? Am I not Omnipresent?"

'Yomaam pasyati sarvatra sarvanchamayi pasyati

Tasyaaham napranasyaama sachamena pranasyati'

“I am present in all elements. All elements are in Me. For those who can identify Me in every atom, there is no possibility of not seeing Me.”

It is our good fortune to hear through Swami once again, the same statements made by Sri Krishna in the Bhagawad Geeta.

“Indweller of all beings is not limited only to human beings. From the tiny ant to the mighty Lord Brahma, life is identical like the essence of the soul. There is divinity in every living being. Love, an attribute of divinity should be spread amongst all living beings. Singing glory of God while being cruel to a human, worshipping God while troubling a human, will be going against equality. The living being is verily God. God is verily the living being.

It is not enough just to repeat the words ‘compassion and compassion.’ One should remove the sorrows of people who are suffering and support them as much as possible. Swami says that only a compassionate heart is a divine temple. No one can clearly grasp Swami’s divine powers, Swami’s complete virtue. It is beyond imagination. Swami who has no wishes, is like the celestial cow, like the celestial tree, both fulfilling all our wishes. Swami encourages us to partake the milk of love from this celestial cow. Swami wants us to receive wealth of fruits of spirituality from the celestial tree and make our life blissful.

By filling the mind and intellect of the devotees with awareness, Swami bestows full glow to the lamp of wisdom in them. Cleansing the hearts of all kinds of persons, lighting the lamp of wisdom in them, makes their path towards the direction of wisdom very easy.

As narrated by revered Late Gandikota Subramanya Sastri Garu ‘The divine discourses of Swami are equal to the sacred hymns of Vedas. Swami is all, the Vedas, the branches of Vedas and the sage for interpreting the Vedas. The discourses of Swami, who is the seer of Gayatri are the abstracts of the sacred hymns of Vedas. They are verily the hymns.

Therefore, there is no other specific initiation of any hymn except the repetition of the name of Sai’ says sage like Sri. Subramanya Sastri Garu.

Swami’s nectarean touch has the power to distance even death. The power of attraction of Swami’s form is extraordinary. The rays that emanate from Swami’s proximity, purify the innermost feelings in the heart of the devotees. The preaching of the essence of love by the form of love and bliss, makes everyone spellbound.

Swami, who robs heart, entering our heart sows the divine seeds of thoughts of truth, righteousness, peace, love, non-violence and sacrifice, in a sacred place of our heart. He allocates the condition of facing the circumstances with courage and steadfastness by blending only with sense of duty, without expecting fruit of action. Establishing in our memory, filling our mind with divinity, pouring it into the heart with love He readjusts in many ways our lives as lamps of awareness.

Sri Gandikota Subramanya Sastri Garu narrated, that it was possible to attain the grace of the divine presence, through penance in the age of ‘Krita’, through sacrifice and oblations in age of ‘Treta’ and through worship and prostrations in the age of ‘Dwapara’. However, in this age of ‘Kali,’ by only repeating the God’s name, it is possible to get that divine presence. Those narrations are the fortunate experiences of multitude of devotees, every day.

Swami entering in us in the form of a seed, bestows on us the fruit of divinity and bliss. Creating the awareness of the soul within the body, makes us experience the blissful feelings. Developing the feelings of sacrifice through His graceful presence, through His conversations and through His fortunate touch, makes multitude of devotees attain salvation.

Revered Sri Gandikota Subbarao Garu explained affectionately, very fascinatingly the sixteen divine attractive powers of Sri Sathya Sai. He is the son of Late Sri Gandikota Subramanya Sastri Garu. He is spiritually related to Swami. He is the blessed soul who wrote 'Saithree' as per Swami's resolve.

"You are all very fortunate indeed, that the supreme Lord Sri Krishna, the complete incarnation of love, is now standing in your presence itself" said Swami declaring His incarnation making everybody happy and ecstatic.

'I am a child amongst children. A woman among women. When alone I am the supreme soul,' Swami asserted this once again in this age. Swami clarified through His childhood divine sports on the banks of river Chitravati, that those who have complete faith in Bhagawan without any desires, Bhagawan will support them like the celestial tree.

In 'Shrimad Bhagavatam', the Gopikas were the group of celestial beings and in this incarnation, 'sevadal'[14] are the Gopikas. Swami is creating awareness amongst devotees, making them realise His presence and offer them composure through service activities.

Swami's devotee learned Sri. G. V. Subramanyam Garu, giving an example of the divine sport of Sai Krishna from 'Sathya Bhagavatam' said-

'During the incarnation of Rama, Bhagawan rescued the devotees from drowning in the ocean of secular life, by Himself swimming with them.

During the incarnation of Sri Krishna, staying in the ship He rescued devotees by pulling them up from the river.

Today Sri Sathya Sai, walking without getting drowned in water, Himself offers the hand of love to those devotees who are getting drowned and makes them reach the shore.' Professor Sri. G. V. Subramanyam Garu explained elaborately the essence of Swami's complete incarnation.

Sai declares Himself as Sri Krishna's incarnation

Sri Sathya Sai, the complete incarnation, has been teaching and declaring to devotees about the essence of His incarnation as the form of love approximately for over sixty years.

In the year 1977 in Brindavan, while explaining to the students of Sathya Sai hostel about the essence of Sri Krishna, displayed the 'Kousthubha[15]' necklace and made them ecstatic.

'This Sathya Sai is truly the same Sri Krishna, the complete incarnation of love' thus once again declared about His incarnation.

[14] Volunteers of Sri Sathya Sai Organization.

[15] the jewel (precious stone) worn by Vishnu on his breast.

Swami has been declaring that Sri Krishna was a complete incarnation of love. That by spreading His essence of love, that embodiment of love was immersing the entire world with streams of His nectarean love. That as an eternal charioteer, He used to divert the innermost feelings of the devotees towards the goal of liberation. That He continues to do it in this incarnation also.

At Kodaikanal, Swami while chatting with students-

'Bhagawan Sri Krishna has manifested in the form of Sathya Sai on earth. Like Sri Krishna mine too is a complete incarnation. I have been sent here by the divine power, for the purpose of protecting the world,' He explained.

The great yogi 'Aravind' coming out of his deep meditation state on November 24, 1926 very happily declared about the birth of Bhagawan.

'Yesterday on November 23, Bhagawan Sri Krishna has once again incarnated as a complete incarnation. His infinite divine power like a divine speech, like a stream of love will fill the entire world with awareness and make human beings blissful.' This he conveyed very happily.

Learned people say that there are sixteen virtues in a complete incarnation. Even in the incarnation that has incarnated in a human form, there exist the natural attributes like five organs of action, mind, intellect, self-motivated inner voice and heart. Besides these there will also be special attributes. that symbolise the complete incarnation. Our Swami is accompanied with all those attributes.

Many scientists, spiritual masters, scholars and devotees have explained citing examples that, after the incarnation of Sri Krishna, after six thousand years in the 'Kali yuga', a complete incarnation will arise, and that complete incarnation will be Sathya Sai.

In an interview given to a Buddhist monk who was a preceptor teaching about the ideologies of Buddhism in a well-known university for Buddhist monks located in Thailand-

"I am the incarnation that has come after Buddha" said Swami asserting again.

Unlike in the incarnations of Rama and Krishna, the path chosen by Swami in this incarnation for achieving the goal is very different. With the divine resolve of making mankind march towards spiritual thinking, Swami selected man himself as His instrument.

Nearly after five thousand years of the completion of the incarnation of Krishna, in 'Kali yuga' there was no end to the powers of the wicked, people with wicked nature and demonic attributes. At the time when this satanic behaviour spreading like wild fire was about to destroy the soul of the mankind, the incarnation of Sathya Sai took place.

Swami selected a wonderful endeavour without bloodshed. At the time when human existence itself was getting destroyed, Swami chose to establish values like love, peace, compassion, sacrifice and affection in the heart of man and to bring out the naturally existing divinity within them, as the goal for His incarnation.

Swami addressing devotees on an occasion-

“Looking at Me, you are all wondering! Are you are thinking of knowing who I am? Then listen. Sathya Sai Baba is an incarnated man. He is truly the Bhagawan. Do not get confused at all about this incarnation. My goal will be achieved. I will make you come closer to Me. I will also grant you a few worldly wishes.

However, they will all be only to divert your attention towards Bhagawan. Going into large gathering of people, giving them appropriate advices and leading them to the correct path, comforting them when they are in difficulties, rescuing them, turning them towards the path of following human values like truth, righteousness, peace, love, are happening as per My goal and only as per My resolve. Until now no other incarnation did these kind of activities. My current incarnation is only to accomplish this activity. You cannot attain My proximity through external issues. Though you are next to Me, it is like being faraway. If you adhere to truth, righteousness, peace and love, however far you may be, you will be very close to Me. These are the milestones that bring you closer to Me. If you give humbleness, faith and other good attributes to Sai, where ever you may be, whatever you may be doing, Sai will extend appropriate help and assistance” says Swami.

This incarnation is not through birth. It has happened through admittance. Swami gave the explanation to the doubting people through His mother. Mother Eswaramma explained in great detail, about the fact of a ball of fire with blue glow entering her womb.

Bhagawan while conversing with the devotees, observing their curiosity explained vividly about the form of child Krishna. Swami clarified that there was a mole on the chest of Sri Krishna, that it is a symbol that will be certainly present in all incarnations and that it is present even in Sai’s incarnation. It is a well-known fact to the devotees, that the mole on the chest that is present only for the incarnations of Sri Maha Vishnu, the symbols of the conch and the discus present in the feet, are also present in Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai.

In Prasanthi Nilayam, to a person who has been a devotee of Krishna, Swami graced him in the form of Sri Krishna, cleared his doubts and embraced him. That person, an ardent devotee of Sri Krishna surrendered his life at the feet of Swami.

While conversing with the editor of ‘Navakal’ a daily newspaper from Bombay, answering his questions Swami responded-

‘I have been showing the proof of the divine powers since My birth. Not only that, long time ago, even before incarnating in the family of Ratnakar in Puttaparthi, I was in Shirdi as Sai Baba. Much before that I was Sri Krishna. That means, I decide my birth.’

Not only Swami’s words, the related evidences are constantly becoming very clear to the devotees, crystallise before their eyes and are receiving worship in the temple of their heart.

Swami during His childhood made arrangements to worship Krishna on His birthday. During that worship as per the wish of devotees, He was displaying the ten incarnations in a sequence making everyone wonder with happiness. They continued looking astounded. They could only see the divine incarnations of Sri Maha Vishnu and not Swami’s nature.

During the part of the incarnation of Narasimha, the scene was of roaring fearfully with sharp nails tearing into the stomach of the person on his lap. Looking at that flow of blood, that frightening scene both mother and sister got scared and became unconscious. Swami’s

brother's brother-in-law Sri Ramaraju Garu recovering slightly, still looking with fear, broke a coconut and prayed to become peaceful. Young Sathyam smiling briefly removed their fear. Swami adopting the body posture with three bends was playing the flute enchantingly. Looking clearly at the cow standing in ecstasy in the presence of Swami, the devotees folded their hands.

Sri Kasturi Garu on his way to Tirupati requested Swami for blessings. Swami smiling briefly said-

"Definitely go. However, whom will you be seeing there?"

Kasturi Garu responding immediately said "Swami yourself."

To Sri Kasturi Garu who had taken the blessings of Swami, in the place of Sri Venkateshwara, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai graced with His divine presence looking at Kasturi. While at Srirangam, Kasturi Garu who was in the presence of Sri Ranganatha, chanced to look at swami's feet. Looking at Swami's brown complexion, delicate, soft, beautiful moving feet he became ecstatic.

In the year 1970 at Bombay, among the group of devotees of Swami was the Rajmata of Navagiri. She expressed her wish of seeing Dwaraka. Her wish was fulfilled. However, Swami's mother Eswaramma was not yet fully satisfied. Having realised this, Swami assembled everyone on the sea shore converted the sand into sugar, into ash and offering to everyone

said -

"Why are you disappointed that you could not properly look at Krishna? Isn't Krishna here?" saying thus with a brief smile, created a golden statue of Krishna. He was radiating in that brilliant glow as Krishna, made His mother and devotees enthralled with happiness.

Swami appearing in a dream is not an ordinary occurrence.

"Without My resolve, I will not manifest in dreams. I will come on My own accord and will not come merely by anyone wishing. Those who experienced the dreams about Me should remember one thing. They are not dreams, they are only truths" thus Swamy keeps saying. One day in the dream He came to our house. Saying that He is hungry asked to be served food. He took me in a car for a drive. Turning back and looking at me, smiling happily was engaged in conversation. I said-

"Swami! I heard that it was said that these words were spoken by Sri Krishna during the incarnation of Krishna" even before completing my statement Swami laughed.

"Then, who am I? Am I not Krishna?"

Saying that He took us towards the ocean of milk.

"It has been a long time since I came here. Look, how peaceful the atmosphere is!"

Swami continued elaborating about Vedas, Upanishads and the essence of Geeta.

I Do not know how many hours were spent in this manner. But after Swami dropped me back home in the car and left, I woke up. So many such exceptional experiences.

On an auspicious day, hearing the declaration about the divinity of Swami, multitude of devotees applauded loudly with the sounds reverberating in all directions. Swami has been clearly explaining about Him being Sri Krishna, about the significance of the essence of the incarnation of love, past sixty years to many people in many ways.

He motivated me to write the treatise 'Bhadra Kalyanam'. He selected me as an instrument for this sacred responsibility. Swami made me complete the writing of this treatise to accomplish the purpose of my life. Unless one reads this treatise, they will not understand the purpose of Swami's resolve. For granting such fortune to me, the merits earned by me in previous birth must be very significant.

"Write about Swami's essence of love, my dear daughter" saying thus Acharya Vangapalli Viswanadham Garu was the first one to motivate me. That encouragement and motivation is also from Swami. That is why, as a sacred responsibility put on his shoulders, as a divine activity, Sri Viswanadham Garu offered his part of services in the mission of writing 'Bhadra Kalyanam' treatise. The inner significance in Swami's motivation having been created, is once again revelling in the innermost heart of the embodiment of love.

Swami's resolve was once again indicated through Sri Gandikota Subbarao Garu.

Swami immensely respects women. It is only due to the presence of virtuous mothers that righteousness is still prevailing, says Swami. There are no divine forms greater than the women who gave birth to the incarnated men who appeared in the sacred places of pilgrimage.

For that reason, women should further develop divinity. Swami preaches that the Indian woman should enhance her greatness by developing goodness, love, affection, magnanimity and become an ideal woman for the prosperity of home, as a mother and wife.

Shyness, modesty, respect, good nature, generosity are the natural ornaments of a housewife. Swami explains emphatically that it is the responsibility of men to take exclusive care of women who are the visible forms of divinity, with utmost purity and with affection. Swami's feelings towards the womanhood, being His own nature, were glowing with a blend of infinite devotion and abundant love. Swami made Bhadra Devi re-live through the treatise.

Bhadra's flawless devotional feeling is combined with her pure adoring love. The attachment to sacrifice, merging in it was able to glow beautifully. That infinite adoring love, understanding Swami's powers and His all-pervading essence, is worshipped in her pure innermost heart. Going beyond the cultural boundaries, Bhadra Devi could present herself today before you as a mirror to Krishna's essence of love in the ancient times and Sai Krishna's essence of love in the present times.

Swami becoming the revealer of the heart filled with love, me becoming an instrument for this rare incident is due to the merits earned over several births.

Swami feels that besides the knowledge about man, it is essential to have knowledge of nature with its attributes. Because, man without nature and nature without man do not exist. Nature itself exists in the supreme soul as unmanifested nature. The existence of the entire

universe is due to interactions between man and nature. Knowledge of these two is essential to know the ancient knowledge. For one who attains such knowledge, there is no rebirth.

“Kshetra kshetra vibhaga yogamu”

In the past, the Teacher of Geeta and in the present, Bhagawan Sathya Sai handed over the nectarean explanation about the unity and affection between Man and Nature, about the status of Advaita being the benedictory verses for creation, about attaining that divine status and about the fortune of that divine result. The unity between husband and wife is not limited to physical relationship. It is the sacred union of the soul with supreme soul, a sacred union of man and nature. To convey this message Swami made to write the treatise ‘Bhadra Kalyanam.’

The essence of love is filled with the unity of man and nature. Naming the feeling of love filled in His innermost feelings as ‘Bhadra Devi’. As per His wish, He re-formed her as His beloved. To an exceptional lead woman hidden in the history from ‘Dwapara yuga,’ He installed life once again in ‘Kali yuga.’ Made her come re-live again. Made me hold the pen for the welfare of the society. His all-pervading nature, His greatness beyond time, for the hidden meanings of the mystery’s unknown to history and their inner meanings, got them extricated for the purpose of the world.

Swami made His essence of love speak very clearly through Bhadra Devi.

I am blessed!

By: Dr. K. V. Krishna Kumari

Chapter 1 - Bhadra Devi's Appeal to Sri Krishna

Bhagawan[16] Sri Krishna, the supreme soul, one who shines with virtuous traits, the sovereign of the universe, with radiance of many suns, with the form excelling Manmadha[17] numerous times, was in a blissful solitude.

Bhagawan Sri Krishna looked cheerfully at the approaching exceptionally attractive woman with golden complexion. Her beauty was overwhelming, exceeding the beauty of the celestial beings. She was serene and inculcating noble thoughts of reverence owed to sagacious women.

To the all-knowing almighty, the presence of this cache of beauty, the hidden purpose of her arrival is not unknown. Even then, the heart of the unseen conductor of the divine play, was enthused for a moment.

Swami[18] understood that the person who has come is Srutiranjani, with an appeal of love from His Bhadra.

This exceptional beauty that robbed the heart of Manmadha, can belong only to a celestial woman. Only in the companion of Goddess Saraswati[19] can there be such virtuous brilliance unified within. Only the face of the fortunate one bestowed with the grace of Sri Lakshmi [20] will be emitting such aspects of Lakshmi. To have such rare attributes in others is impossible.

That celestial woman was totally engrossed looking at that blissful form. With folded hands, the divine woman stood in an inanimate state. The very form of Sri Hari [21] is a perfected form of spirituality, a shape taken by spiritual principal and a blissful appearance. She approached Him without even an iota of doubt, whether her ordinary eyes will be able to capture the immense form of the Almighty. Showering His compassion, forgave her ignorance and reduced His radiance by several echelons. Forgetting herself, she was feasting her eyes in beholding the form of the divine actor appearing in the human form, to her heart's content. She forgot herself.

Lord Jagannath[22] who regales in spiritual wealth, having taken the human form, observing human duties, is sharing the essence of spirituality with great sages and nectarean love with relations. Full of enchantment and miracles, He is moving among humans. Does she have the merit to appear as a messenger in His presence? From where did she acquire such worthiness? Even for the great ascetics to identify the essence of Krishna through practice, the ability to

[16] God. An epithet for a deity, particularly for Sri Krishna.
[17] The Hindu cupid, God of love, name of the most handsome person ever born as per legend.
[18] A lord, master, sovereign, owner, proprietor, husband, spiritual guide or preceptor.
[19] Goddess of Knowledge, consort of Lord Brahma.
[20] Goddess of wealth, consort of Lord Vishnu.
[21] Another name for Lord Vishnu, one of the Hindu Trinity.
The Trinity are Brahma (the creator), Vishnu (the preserver) and Siva (the destroyer).
[22] Lord of the world, an epithet of Vishnu.

enhance it and the capability to assimilate it, is subjected to challenges. Then, with what confidence did she come expecting to appear before Krishna? With how much confidence is she going to initiate a conversation? With what courage is she imagining to appeal to Him about Bhadra's love?

In the presence of the dazzling and mesmeric divine form of the Lord Jagannath, that shining beauty was standing like a sculpture. The captivating smile of Sri Krishna excited her like waves of lightning. The delusion hidden in that excitement once again enthused that sagacious woman in an astonishing way. With her eyes filled with tears of joy, offered the rare flower of her heart at the divine lotus feet of Sri Krishna. Melting in elated devotion, she sat at His feet, in adoration.

In the next moment coming under the delusion of Sri Krishna, she forgot the all-knowing nature of the Lord Jagannath who Omnipotent, Omniscient and Omnipresent is. Having remembered her duty, she folded her hands and cleared her throat.

"Lord! I have come to Dwarakapuri [23] for your grace to be in your divine presence. However, while travelling through the skies, I lost the sense of direction. My only faith was, you are the direction for everything. There is no perception about when and where the fortune of Bhagawan's perceptible divine manifestation will be obtainable. However, due to the good deeds of my previous birth, I could find you alone on top of this palace. My life is blessed."

She bent her head at the feet of Sri Hari and was revering with tears of joy. Sri Krishna lifted her with affection and was pretending to search for a reason in her beautiful eyes. She felt captivated by the divine contact of Sri Krishna and yielding to the delusion once again, was speechless for a moment. Recovering in some moments from the experience of the divine joy from that contact of Sri Krishna, with folded hands she narrated her details.

"Swami! The very abode of Lord Brahma[24] is my home. I am the chosen companion of Saraswati Devi. The holy abodes inhabited by Sankara[25], Indra[26] and all other deities are the places, I move about. I am the daughter of a divine sage. Having assimilated the path of devotion, I am a yogini [27] suffering in pain for your divine manifestation. They say, my name is Srutiranjani."

The Omniscient cheerfully nodded his head.

Srutiranjani hesitated for a moment, does He know or wants to know!

"Kaykaya kingdom is the very abode of Lakshmi Devi. It's Emperor Drushtaketa, is a highly renowned, valorous, celebrated ruler and shines like a sun. That unblemished, reputed and powerful king has a soft heart. He is the personification of love residing in everyone's heart. With

[23]A city by name 'Dwaraka', capital of Sri Krishna's kingdom.
After Krishna's death the city was swept over by the sea; researchers believe it is situated in the sea, west of Gujarat, India.

[24] The creator, the first of the Hindu Trinity.

[25] Another name of Lord Siva.

[26] Name of the lord of the Devas (celestials). The deity presiding over 'Swarga' or Paradise.

[27] A woman who is proficient in yoga, a female mendicant.

the intention of getting children as successors for his rich reputation, he made Sruthikirti Devi, his queen."

She was narrating to Him in detail, the stories of His creation and about His own intentions. Making the flute touch His lips and offering its nectar, the all-powerful form kept looking at the exceptional messenger, smiling gently.

"Sruthikirti Devi was overjoyed that she has the boon from Goddess Durga Devi[28], that she will be blessed with a daughter with the aspect of Lakshmi Devi. Sruthikirti Devi gave birth to a son inheriting the bravery and valour from her husband Drushtaketa and a pretty daughter with the very aspect of Sri Lakshmi, with her glowing virtues."

The all-knowing Sri Krishna, the supreme soul, was nodding His head, pretending innocence and showing inquisitiveness, as if He was hearing this for the first time. Having yielded to the delusion of Sri Krishna, the Omniscience of Bhagawan became obscure for a brief period in Srutiranjani.

She forgot the fact that the one in front of her is the Omnipresent Lord. Prompted by the intense curiosity shown by that principal actor of the divine play, she continued her narration with great enthusiasm.

"They named their son as Santharthanudu, who resembled Manmadha. They named their charming daughter as Bhadra, who was born with the aspect of Lakshmi, with a wealth of eminent virtues and having unparalleled beauty."

Srutiranjani looked in daze at the astonishing flash of lightning in the eyes of Sri Krishna.

"Bhadra Devi was being brought up with unlimited love and affection from her parents. She was flourishing day by day with matchless features, aspects and with incomparable beauty. Bestowed with the virtues of Lakshmi she can win over the three worlds[29]. Born with a boon, she was prospering with rare brilliance."

Sri Krishna was beholding attentively with His eyes half closed. Looking at Him Srutiranjani once again yielded to delusion.

"One day Saraswati Devi directed me to go and meet Goddess Lakshmi Devi. I immediately approached her.

Lakshmi Devi affectionately said 'Dear Srutiranjani, on planet Earth, to the king of Kaykaya an exceptionally beautiful daughter with my aspect is born by the name Bhadra. She is glowing with my own virtues. You must immediately take a human form, go to Kaykaya and seek shelter of Bhadra Devi. Make her achieve spotless glory and become an expert in dance, singing, painting and all other art forms. Mentor her to be an unrivalled genius in literature and statesmanship. There is no celestial more beautiful than Bhadra on Earth, Sky and elsewhere. In the same manner, set right and mentor her to be an expert in all art forms in a way there is nobody to surpass her in this creation itself'. I happily undertook the directive of Sri Lakshmi.

[28] Goddess of the universe, mother earth, daughter of Himavat and wife of Siva. Also, known as Parvati.

[29] the earth, heaven and the nether world.

Swami! After offering salutations to Lakshmi Devi and seeking permission from Saraswati, left the heavens and entered Kaykaya, an equally wonderful land.

I was astonished to see Bhadra Devi, in the very form of Lakshmi Devi. I was unable to shift my sight from her glowing face. I was delighted with Bhadra's sweet and soft words of greetings.

Swami! I am a yogini. A devout miniscule particle with complete faith in your lotus feet. My expertise in painting, music, literature, dance forms, field of grammar, logic and passionate poetic compositions had gained unchallenged reputation in this universe. I have gained accolades from Saraswati. That day itself I realised, for a person like me, having Bhadra Devi, the darling daughter of king Kaykaya as a disciple is indeed an unusual gift for my virtues. At that time, I never imagined that it will lead to today's opportunity of your grace. Now, I realised in your presence that there will be no other person in the entire universe as fortunate as myself.

Swami! Bhadra is a highly sharp woman. The responsibility of teaching all art forms to such a heavenly form, born as an aspect of divinity, was handed over to me. It is only to bless me, else will there be any type of learning not known to that divine form? Will there be anything not achievable? The talent she exhibited in painting surprised me. Her music, literature, the magnificent and expressive art forms humiliated me. Her mercurial swiftness in grammar and logic astounded me. In expressing the cravings of a leading actress in zealous masterpieces, she proved herself as an exceptional author par excellence. She crushed my exaggerated opinion that there is nobody better than me, thus offering a chance for soul-searching."

Srutiranjani was unable to recognise the enlightening Omniscient looks in the divine eyes of Sri Krishna. Temporarily overcome by Krishna's delusion, she observed only the engrossed look in those eyes and continued with more enthusiasm.

"Swami! Bhadra Devi is the affectionate child of your paternal aunt[30] Srutikirti Devi. She is the quintessence of Sri Mahalakshmi. A divine personality. She is graceful in all art forms. An amazing beauty. It is a fact and not an exaggeration that, even Brahma will not have the proficiency to articulate her beauty. Bhadra's lips are like very tender leaves, reddish and juicy with honey. Her flashy glances reflect on her glistening cheeks like streaks of lightning. The lively glow, the sparkle and the enchantment in her expansive eyes are all the essence of Krishna. Perhaps that is why the glow of blue sapphire keeps spreading on her smooth cheeks. Her enchanting figure resembles a fully blossomed creeper in springtime, diffusing lingering aroma. Her lotus like feet and elegant hands are very attractive. Her voice is spellbinding like the melody of a cuckoo. Her extraordinary, uncommon and exceptional youthfulness is a divine gift. Bhadra has taken birth to be offered as a gift to God and thus ordained."

The gorgeous and the blooming form of Bhadra, dwelled for a moment in the heart of the Omnipresent. Sri Krishna's lute like heart muted in trance. Thoughts of Bhadra made it more subdued. Such is the state, that without the touch of Bhadra, those strings will not vibrate. That was an ecstatic stage to experience the rhythms of navarasa[31], only in the embrace of Bhadra.

[30] Father's sister. It is an accepted norm in some parts of India, to get the children of brother and sister married.

[31] Navarasa means nine emotions in which 'Nava' signifies nine and 'Rasa' signifies emotions. The nine emotions included in Navarasa are Shringara (love/beauty), Hasya(laughter), Karuna (sorrow/pity), Raudra (anger), Veera (heroism/courage), Bhayanaka (terror/fear), Bibhatsya (disgust), Adbutha (surprise/wonder), and Shantha (peace or tranquillity).

Srutiranjani could clearly see Sri Krishna was in rapture, oblivious of everything. She renewed her enthusiasm tenfold. In her emotional outbursts, she was repeating herself.

“Oh supreme being! It is a fact, that there is no woman in these three worlds who can match Bhadra Devi in her perpetual ingenuity, eternal melodious music, sweet proficient speech, extremely pure character, etiquette worth emulating and unusual dazzling attractiveness.”

Srutiranjani folded her hands. She was unable to shift her focus from the extraordinary divine form of Sri Krishna, dazzling brightly in the moonlight. She was astonished and stood motionless. She recalled her duty.

“Oh Lakshmipati[32]! You are the divine husband of Sri Mahalakshmi. Your paternal aunt’s daughter Bhadra is an aspect of Sri Mahalakshmi. Hence, you marrying her is befitting. Only to submit this plea, I came in search of Dwarakapuri. I gained the confidence to fulfil the wish of my Bhadra.”

Sri Krishna’s glances had the coolness of numerous moonlights. In that smiling face was the immortality of countless crescent moons. Sri Krishna was observing Srutiranjani’s efforts to impress him and her genuine concern. The jubilant lotus heart of Bhadra Devi merging with Sri Krishna’s compassionate heart clearly manifested once again. Srutiranjani’s heart ache was towards Bhadra. This was persistently touching the heart of Lord Sri Krishna.

“Swami! You are all-knowing and all-pervading. I am aware that there is nothing unknown to you in this creation. However, the reason for this very important visit of mine is due to Bhadra’s intense pangs of separation. The reason for her worry is the announcement of the celebrations of Swayamvaram[33] for the princess, as per the wish of her father King Drushtaketa. As though adding fuel to fire, it is rekindling the pangs and engulfing Bhadra Devi. Even though he is aware that there is none in the universe, other than Lord Sri Krishna to be the eligible husband for our Lakshmi Bhadra, conducting this event is unavoidable due to the traditions. Besides, will the Lord in the human form, coincidentally being such a close relative, accept his daughter, was the hesitation. He was aware that his daughter is the very incarnation of Lakshmi Devi and only the Lord can accept her in marriage. However, overcome by delusion, with hesitation unknown to him, arrangements for the Swayamvaram are being made. I have come to inform you that news. Being Omniscient you know it. Bhadra is deeply in love with you. She painted an image in her mind, showering love concealed it delicately in her heart. That is your image. It is impossible for anybody else to occupy that place. However, the state of Bhadra Devi’s mind is very pitiful. It is also true that her agitated mind is confusing me, and several doubts are exhausting my mind.

Engaged in your activities of creation, sustenance, and destruction, that you may forget about Bhadra Devi, is the doubt. You may not remember Bhadra, is the hesitation. The anxiety is that, engaged in the embraces of six consorts[34], the Lord may not be enthusiastic to look at Bhadra. Above all, though the relationship of the mighty God with a king is as per tradition, the

[32] Husband of Goddess Lakshmi.

[33] the selection of a husband by a princess or daughter of a Kshatriya (warrior) at a public assembly of suitors held for the purpose.

[34] The six consorts of Sri Krishna are Rukmini, Jambavati, Sathyabhama, Kalindi, Mitravinda and Sathyakirti.

fear and anxiety is, that it may not match the dignity. Again, there is a certain belief that the mighty God may be pleased by a small appeal from the heart full of love and devotion."

Bhagawan Sri Krishna, the supreme being was radiating with an imposing expression. Srutiranjani was standing with folded hands in His presence. Thinking that she was unable to express all she wished to convey, made her confused and restless.

"Lakshmipati! Bhadra's father collected the portraits of all the princes in the world and sent them for selection to Bhadra Devi. She has been rejecting them without even a sidelong glance. The portrait imprinted in her heart is your splendid auspicious picture. You are her thought, breath and everything. Making her heart as a paint brush, fervent love and affection for you as a blend of brilliant colours, she painted your spectacular portrait. Breathing life in to your portrait, waiting for you like the proverbial Partridge bird. The brightness in her eyes are dimmed, she is neglecting her health and becoming frail. Unaware of her mind, her father arranged the Swayamvaram. Watching the portraits of princes, hearing the explanations of their individual character, valour and gallantry and detailed analysis was disgusting. Unable to express her heartache to anybody, she is feeling miserable. She is desirous to hear series of praises about you from her father. She is eagerly looking forward if somebody can describe your celestial attractive form. She is agitated that your portrait has not yet arrived.

Hesitant and blushing with the thought that somebody may see your portrait in her heart, her blossomed face is shrivelling. Her eyes are becoming dry and lifeless. Her mirror like cheeks are losing their shine. I was following that beautiful young woman, pristine and pure maiden, beautiful and soft-hearted lass, to know her mind. I chose an appropriate time to ascertain the portrait in her mind and to recognise the Lord in that portrait. Finding her alone, I asked her 'who is the Lord of your heart', pretending vagueness."

The mind of the Omniscient pulsated curiously to listen to the known facts as Bhadra's words through Srutiranjani. Those pair of wide eyes expressing aesthetic preference and excitement became wider. The pair of ears became attentive with great eagerness. The shining eyes of numerous peacock feathers in the crown, were unable to compete with the inexplicable expressions in the pair of eyes of the Bhagawan.

Srutiranjani became emotional and her eyes were filled with tears and her lips were quivering.

"Bhagawan! There is none other than you in Bhadra Devi's heart. Her breath is singing the appellations of Krishna, reminding the melodious music of the flute. Every atom in her body is ecstatic with the sound of Krishna. Every cell in her blood is enlivened acquiring the form of Krishna. Her eyes are filled with your form. Her nectarean lips are reciting only your name. Her stances emulate you. Swami, in fact to my eyes she appeared as the very form of Krishna. That form displayed the unity of the individual soul with the supreme soul. The merging of Sri Krishna and Bhadra was evident in that divine form.

Sri Krishna! She is non-existent without you. She is an inert body without you. She is lifeless without your attractive grace. Unable to perceive your form, her eyes are lifeless. She is full of hope of your coming and confident that you will accept her as a queen. She is anxious to see you and desires to merge in your heart.

However, she is doubtful that you may not come, uncertain of seeing you and hesitant that you may not accommodate her in your heart. Krishna! Bhadra Devi feels distraught. She has already abandoned food, drink as well as sleep. While constantly remembering you, meditating upon you and in propitiating you in all situations, she is scorching herself. She is shrivelling in the fire of love. She is in distress that her penance is not adequate for the grace of your appearance. Unable to identify any other way to appease you, she is baffled. Full of grief and due to lack of sleep she is becoming feeble.

Swami! By her birth, Bhadra Devi is yours. She has inherited the virtues of your Lakshmi., Due to her affection and the pangs of separation from you she is heartlessly diminishing those virtues. This is not befitting.

With a large heart please visit the kingdom of Kaykaya, participate in the Swayamvaram and hold the hand of Bhadra Devi. I pray to you to make her your consort, best half and absorb the glow of that virtuous Lakshmi in your eyes. This is also my earnest appeal. This is the message, a representation as well as a request being conveyed by Bhadra Devi with tearful salutations, pangs of separation and unpretentious heart."

Srutiranjani was folding her hands in reverence with tears flowing from her red eyes. She gathered courage while her heartbeat missed the rhythm. Having conveyed the distress message of her companion, she was making great efforts to regain her composure.

Sri Krishna looked at Srutiranjani with a cheerful smile and was silent for a moment.

Agitated with doubts, Srutiranjani looked confused. Her eyes were expressing fear and anxiety. Though she gained immense courage from the smile of Sri Krishna, his silence was unbearable. Did I say inappropriate words in the presence of the Bhagawan? As a messenger of Bhadra Devi did I display familiarity? Many great men and ascetics perform unlimited penance, only for the glimpse of the feet of the Bhagawan. Her heart was wholly absorbed by the manifestation of Bhagawan, which is difficult to obtain. Is that why, in that state she might have been unsuccessful in representing humbly the emotions of Bhadra to Bhagawan? Owing to lack of power to absorb the limitless and unusual fortune, I might have behaved forgetting my worthiness! She is aware that she does not have the eligibility to stand at the lotus feet worshipped by the very Lord Brahma. She is also aware that, in the vision of the Lord Jagannath, she is a minutest atom. The courage to stand in the presence of the Omnipotent Swami for such a long period, is only due to the blessings of Bhagawan. It created an illusion that she might be eligible to expect a reply. Is it due to her association with Bhadra Devi?

Has she been blessed with that much fortune due to her proximity with Lakshmi and Saraswati? Though she gathered courage and has come, maybe she has not properly expressed the distress of Bhadra Devi's heart! Is that is the reason for the indifference of Bhagawan? Am I incapable to narrate about Bhadra Devi in an appropriate way, worthy enough for Bhagawan? Is that the hidden meaning of the engrossed thought of the Lord? Srutiranjani could not gather enough courage to lift her head and look at the silent Bhagawan. Is it not her foolishness to attribute all her demerits as merits by herself and trying to justify the same?

Perhaps that is the reason for Srimannarayana[35] to adopt the silent posture. Belittling herself low, unable to comprehend the status of Sri Krishna's mind, Srutiranjani stood in silence.

[35] Another name of Lord Vishnu.

Observing her incomprehensible curiosity and helplessness to probe, Sri Hari nodded his head with a smile. There were numerous lightning flashes. She felt a lightning surge in her heart. She slowly lifted her eyes and looked at the lotus eyed Lord.

The beautiful blue cloud radiant like numerous suns was showering the moonlight. Numerous blue clouds were representing the coolness of the moon. Srutiranjani was trying to grasp the hidden meaning in those divine eyes showering affection.

“Srutiranjani! You are a divine woman with great devotion. You have acquired proficiency in all fine arts. You are a companion of Saraswati. As per the directive of Lakshmi, you are the pious woman to have accepted being a guru to Bhadra Devi, bestowed with the virtues of Lakshmi. Your nectarean words gave Me immense happiness and provided lot of satisfaction. Your timely visit presents an auspicious indication. Convey this to Bhadra as my word. At the time of Swayamvaram I will come to Kaykaya kingdom. I will marry my Bhadra and accept her as my consort. My word is certain. There is no iota of doubt about it. This is my promise” said Bhagawan keeping his hand in the hands of Srutiranjani. She felt elated as though her life was fulfilled by the divine touch. Not anticipating such fortune, the heart of that devotee overflowed with joy. Unable to control the happiness, she plummeted near the feet of the Lord. She washed the divine feet of Bhagawan with her tears of joy in reverence. She silently offered thankful salutations to Bhadra Devi for granting her such fortune.

Having completed her responsibility triumphantly, she was travelling through the sky with a stance of accomplishment, in the direction of Kaykaya kingdom. Lord Sri Krishna kept looking at her with a cheerful smile.

Bhadra’s agony is touching His heart every moment. Bhadra’s pangs of separation are kindling the fire of separation in Him. Bhadra’s tearful offerings are melting and dissolving His heart. Bhadra’s devotion and surrender are tingling His heart with ecstasy. Bhadra’s soul is making offerings to His soul. Bhadra’s sweet enticements are submerging Him in the river of affection and making Him gasp for air.

Alas, Bhadra is not aware that her aspect emerged from Me alone. She does not seem to understand that her soul has already united with My soul long ago. She is not able to realise that Me and Bhadra are not separate. That I am in her and we are both icons of the rare essence of Advaita[36]. Unable to recognise Me in herself she is asking the nature. Searching for Me in the nature. Unable to identify Me pervading every atom in her, she is requesting each atom she notices to inform about My existence. Am I different from her?

Isn’t Bhadra the very life in Me? His thoughts made Him smile. He also felt, is it relevant to refer here the subject of Dvaita[37] and Advaita? Bhadra is a delicate and a simple budding girl. A rare virgin flower. Encouraged by Him from her childhood, she grew up imagining Him to be her life and soul mate. She is beyond jealousy and hatred. Bhadra’s way of living is a worthy ideal even for distinguished women for many generations to come.

Many great persons, ardent devotees and even preeminent sages wish more for Dvaita than Advaita. They do not agree to completely merge in Him. They continue to imagine that the

[36] Nondualism, monism, the doctrine that everything is God, the philosophy of absolute oneness of God, soul, and universe.

[37] Dualism, the doctrine that the individual and the supreme soul are two different principles or entities.

individual soul and supreme soul are separate. They prefer to pine in devotion and wander together with the supreme soul. They wish to gain only this ecstatic bliss. Bhadra is of that mindset. Is it unusual to express desire, love, affection, wishing for an exceptional married life and pure relationship with her Bava[38]? Is it any wonder that she is scorching herself in the pangs of separation? Whoever wishes to attain Him in whichever manner, to grant them in that manner is indeed His nature. That indeed is his propensity, isn't it!

Bhadra would be an exemplary housewife not only for other distinguished women but also for His six consorts. She shines like the crown jewel among the virtuous woman and characterises the true meaning of relationship in marriage. It is inappropriate to disregard her any further. The auspicious time is nearing to accept Bhadra and take her in to His heart. Bhagawan Sri Krishna made a strong resolve. His resolve became firmer by the overflowing tears from the heartache of Bhadra Devi.

"Bava Krishna! I am your Bhadra, breath in your breath, soul in your soul. Won't you appear at least once Bava! Won't you call me Bhadra, at least once! Addressing thus, is enough Bava. The flickering glow in me will get a new life. That call will rejuvenate the dimming life in me, like nectar. That call will fill new life in my weakening lifeless body. Bava, won't you come here once. Look at your Bhadra once! Here… this way Bava."

Bhadra's beautiful and alluring image appeared in the heart of Bhagawan Sri Krishna, the powerful supporter in distress. That humility, melting in to tears emerged again before the eyes of Bhagwan Sri Krishna. His divine eyes beholding attentively, filled with love were half closed. They quivered strangely as though they cannot anymore bear his beloved Bhadra's pangs of separation. The Omnipresent became alert to perform his responsibility towards Bhadra Devi.

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[38] Affectionately addressing the son of paternal aunt (father's sister) or maternal uncle (mother's brother). It is an accepted norm in some parts of India to get children of brother and sister married.

Chapter 2 – Bhadra Devi's Pangs of Separation

Meditating on Krishna and suffering from the pangs of separation, Bhadra let her body become frail. She thought this life which cannot attain Swami is meaningless. Though having many wives, can the Lord not accept her as one more amongst them? Wherever, with whom so ever and at whichever place He may be, can He not wish her as 'Bhadra' at least for a moment just once in a day and give her the nectarean affection flowing from those wide eyes?

Can the melodious flute be not stopped for a moment, to make the flowing nectar of His lips her own for a moment? She is not envious of the flute. She is not at all jealous of the flute experiencing the touch of Swami and enjoying the constant pursing of those divine lips. She is not upset for not gaining that experience even for a moment.

She is not jealous of the Vanamali[39]. She is in pain that the garland though constantly staying on the heart of Sri Krishna, is not ready to move and offer its place to her, for a minute at least.

She has no enmity towards the peacock feathers that adorn the crown of Sri Krishna. She does not have even slightest feelings of difference towards the other six consorts including Rukmini[40]. No jealousy at all. She will not be hurt even if there were discussions about them and their romantic experiences, in her presence. She will not belittle Swami's heart.

She has developed this relationship with Swami. That is recognised by the soul. Swami has arranged this relationship. However, as per tradition, Swami should openly acknowledge being her husband.

Not only witnessed by the soul, but also accept the stark truth of her being His better half in the presence of the sacred fire and show before all the five elements of nature. The whole world should see.

The sacred Mangalyam[41] symbolising their relationship is visible only to her and her Swami. Now her Swami should decorate her neck with that sacred ornament in the presence of deities and relations and make it visible to all. All the living beings should be very happy looking at them as a couple. Being the reason for that happiness, she would also feel happy.

But, is that possible? If that was possible, why these preparations for Swayamvaram?

Why these pompous preparations to bring the portraits of so many princes? Her parents could have asked the wish in her heart. Being shy, she may not have mentioned. But they could have made persons like Srutiranjani to ask her. Instead, they are rushing with the preparations

[39] A long garland made of seasonal flowers and leaves worn by Krishna.
[40] First consort of Lord Sri Krishna.
[41] An ornament put around the neck of the bride by the bride groom as a token of their sacred relationship at an auspicious time with Vedic chants during marriage ritual.

for the Swayamvaram. Evidently, they are doubtful that they may not match the level of Sri Krishna.

Then, if there was such a doubt, why did her parents raise hopes in her from childhood to think that she was born for Sri Krishna? If it was not done that way, there would be devotion deeply rooted in her instead of feelings for a husband. Would there be? How will it not be, cannot be.

Her birth itself is only for obtaining a permanent abode in the heart of Swami. Bhagawan has breathed life in to her only to make her His better half. Swami is making her go through such suffering. Is it to keep her away from Him? Or is it to bring her closer? Being naive, she can express her suffering and pain only to Sri Krishna, dwelling in her heart. She is incapable of informing even her mother.

However, recalling the wedding ceremony of Rukmini gave her huge comfort. The courage and initiative shown by Rukmini gave her enormous self-confidence. Sri Krishna, the Omnipresent, heard about the pangs of separation of Rukmini. He recognised the pain of her heart. He received her message of love. He rushed immediately and held her hands pleasingly and brought her in a chariot to Dwaraka. He married her in grandeur, made that Sri Devi His own. How fortunate is Rukmini!

At once Bhadra's mind was disturbed. She was dazed as though under delusion. Rukmini might have been an ardent devotee. She might have been the fortunate one, who adulated Him as husband, worshipped Him as God and offered her soul.

Then, what about me?

My birth itself is for Him. His thoughts increased my hopes. My affection grew only with His memories. How many times didn't I marry Him, while playing mock weddings with dolls.

Making a close friend to play the role of Krishna and herself as Bhadra, didn't she marry Him several times. Looking at Swami in her friend and unable to control emotions, she would sit down at her friend's feet with tearful eyes. Many such incidents made her friends confused. Looking at the form of Swami, she would bow down in reverence at the feet of her friend. Getting frightened and confused the friend would in return bow down in reverence at her feet. When she attempted again, her friend would get scared and run away. At that moment, what did I say? What did I do?

"Swami! Why are you running? Where are you running? You had held my hands in the presence of my friends, witnessed by the nature, by the trees, by the bushes and the five elements. You have churned my heart with your playful looks. Playing with my heart as a harp and plucking its strings you have filled me with the essence of navarasa.

The eyelids are becoming heavy with the hope of filling your beautiful form in the eyes and slowly shutting. Filled with your sweet thoughts, I am unable to see you to my heart's content. Engrossed in your sweet thoughts, I was unable to gaze at you to my heart's content. Amidst Veda[42] chanting, while you were participating in one of the rituals of the marriage of placing your

[42] The oldest and the holiest of the Hindu scriptures, the primary source of authority in Hindu religion and philosophy. They are four in number: the Rig-Veda, Sama-Veda, Yajur-Veda, and Atharva-Veda.

hand over my head[43], you were bending down and searching my eyes. I was unable to face your piercing looks and was struggling with shyness. Finally, when I gathered courage to look in to your eyes, those glances and amazing eye brows, made me motionless, is it not Swami!

How beautiful are those eyes? How glowing are those eyes? How mesmerising are those eyes? How lovely and fascinating are those eyes? Looking at those eyes I forgot the world. You are tying the Mangalyam, a sacred bond around my neck. Swami, that sacred bond is of several eons. Swami, our bond is of several lives.

The pain of this soul is to unite with the supreme soul. The restlessness is due to the inability to stay away from you even for a moment and the anxiousness to merge in you at once.

But Swami how? How! You are not even to be seen before my eyes. You are known to grant boons to your devotees.

What is this, Swami? Are you angry that I am adoring you as a beloved? Is the feeling of devotion lacking in me? Is that the reason for this indifference? But then isn't love and feeling of devotion the same? Is it not? You are known to be the Kalpavruksha[44] for all devotees, is it this Swami? Why are you making me so helpless?

Is there no maturity in my love? Is my devotion lacking purity? How else do I gain maturity? What else should I do?

Swami, then what else can I offer to win your heart? With what kind of devotion should you be worshipped, Swami? You have indeed hidden the entire universe in your heart. Can you not provide a little, a small place in that heart for your Bhadra?

I have heard that there are nine types of devotion[45]. But I know only one type of devotion and that is love. The type of devotion I experience is love. I can offer only love. And I desire only love Swami.

You are known as an embodiment of love. It is said that, whenever a heart beats with love, your heart searches for that love. Is that so, Swami? Is that the essence of your love? Swami, one thing occurs to me. You are a connoisseur of beauty. Where there is exceptional beauty, you claim it as yourself. You are an expert in moving around like a hunter exploring for that magnificent beauty and capturing it. Likewise, enthralled by nature you merged it in you.

You admire the beauty in cowherd men and women without distinction. You make them fortunate. You have engrossed many beautiful women in the joy of divine play. You have captivated them. Yes Swami, now it occurs to me. I can see why you are not lifting your eyes to look at me.

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[43] The ritual involves in placing a paste made of jaggery and cumin seeds on each other's head by the bride and groom accompanied by Vedic chanting. The paste symbolises the togetherness of the couple. It is also believed that the paste creates vibrations leading to mutual admiration.

[44] As per Indian mythology 'Kalpavruksha' is the name given to a tree in the heaven. It is believed that when a person stands under this tree and makes a wish, it is instantly fulfilled.

[45] Nine types of devotion are sravanam (listening), kirtanam (singing), Vishnusmaranam (contemplating on Vishnu), padasevanam (serving His lotus feet), vandanam (salutation), archanam (worship), dasyam (servitude), sneham (friendship), atmanivedanam (self-surrender).

Swami! Immersed in your thoughts I let my beauty melt. I am allowing my exceptional loveliness to scorch in the pangs of separation from you. Contemplating on you, I am making my body frail. I no longer possess the wealth of lush tresses which you admire. Thinking of you, I neglected it.

Charismatic beauty may not be seen in my eyes. My eyes may now lack that attraction and the magnetic power to compete and possess your mesmerising eyes. Those eyes are tired in your anticipation. Those eyes have lost their glow with concern for you. Unable to see you, those eyes have become like dried-up hibiscus flowers.

You have distanced the fondling reflections in those eyes. Instead, filled them with hopelessness and misery. The twinkle in the bright rays owing to the eagerness for being with you, have been taken away by you. In its place, you have gifted lifeless overflow of tears and watching them curiously.

Swami! During childhood itself looking totally engrossed in me, you extolled eloquently. You articulated giving several interpretations to my future physical form. You excited me.

Those adorations have been assimilated by every nerve in me. Swami! they have become true. Your playful looks of them days have made permanent impressions in my heart. This body is created for you. This unsullied temple is for you. Your Bhadra is restless to offer you this most attractive body that has developed with astonishing beauty and full of charm. But alas, you have not even cast a glance nor spoken a word. Did you think that, this cache of beauty is not worth for an admirer of beauty like you? Did you think it is not worth compared with your divine beauty? Did you think by giving me such pangs of separation and so much sorrow you are doing justice? Being generous?

Swami! In those pair of eyes which you admire most, there is no glow now. In childhood, you lovingly touched my beautiful nose with your index finger. But now unable to bear the continuous flow of my tears it has become red and quivering.

My red lips which you were fondling with your finger tips and watching eagerly are no longer blooming and bringing out unusual gloss with longing for you. They are lifeless in the pangs of separation from you. They are disturbed in your thoughts.

Swami! Do you remember what you said looking at your blue form on my cheeks?

During that childhood –

“Bhadra! The glow of my blue colour is curiously shining on your golden cheeks with brightness of lightning. It is as though blue cloudlets are playing hide and seek on your mirror like cheeks.

When I keep moving, it appears as though the shine of the blue sapphire is dazzling by the splendour on your golden cheeks. Saying ‘how wonderful, how wonderful,’ you deluded me then.

Those cheeks, it appears have lost their golden hue by repeatedly drenching in my tears. You had said that it is beyond even Lord Brahma to describe my smooth, round and shining chin.

But now it is trembling like a tender leaf inundated in your recollections. It is unable to withstand the pangs of separation from you.

‘Charming are those lines on the conch shaped neck. Bhadra! I wish to blow that conch and watch those mesmerising gleams in rapture.’ Saying thus, you were looking with your alluring eyes at my lips. I melted in your poetry. I believed your wish to be real.

Am I wishing too much by desiring your nectarean lips which are always claimed by your flute? Because of the company I desire with you, the flute which has never left you will not get neglected, is it not!

Swami! Perhaps, this charming and rare conch which is adored by you is unable to guard its natural beauty. Where is the need here for your playful glances which cannot look away from my form? These shades of beauty which are so dazzling may now be losing their attraction.

You are not leaving Gokul[46] nor going away from Brindavan[47].

Swami! All those aspects in my body which attract you are losing their beauty. Even if they lose, it is only due to the thoughts about you. Why this lethargy?

Swami! You said that the heart is more important than the beauty of the body. Then how come even my heart is unable to attract you?

You said that beauty of soul is only required, why the outward glitter! Then is there a dearth of that beauty you are wishing, in my soul!

Is this… Is this the essence of love you have mentioned?

Is this the essence of devotion towards you? Considering me to be a shrivelled flower, did you think it was not fit for your worship?

So is that the reason for you to eagerly accept the maidens who are like newly blossomed flowers spreading their fragrance!

Being no more attractive and due to lack of elegance, are you thinking that I have lost my eligibility to unite with you! Is that the reason for this disregard!

Bava! Why I have become like this? For whose sake did I dissipate my beauty? For you, is it not! Why am I scorching myself like this? Unable to bear the pangs of separation from you, is it not!

The shine in my eyes have lost their beauty while waiting for you.

The attractions of my body are vaporising in your remembrance.

Swami! Is there no love in my pining!

Is there no reverence in my feelings!

[46] Village of cowherds on the banks of river ‘Yamuna’ wherein Krishna resided as a child.
[47] The forest and pastoral lands where Krishna played in his childhood.

Is there a lack of self-sacrifice in my offering!

What else should I do Swami! If this love is not enough, how else should I love!

If this worship is not adequate, how else should I worship!

Along with self- sacrifice, I have even offered my body! I have offered everything to you, without keeping anything aside for my sake!

What else to do? What else should I do Swami?

What else can I do for your manifestation?

What else to do to hear your words?

Swami! I have no energy. This tender heart is unable to bear the separation from you anymore. This cage which has discarded food and drink is losing the spirit of life without the awareness of my Swami. Will there not be any significance to my yearning unless this flickering human soul merges with you, the supreme soul?

Will my worship not achieve its aspiration?

Will there be no significance to my surrender?

If that is your will Swami, take away my life breath and let me merge in you. Swamy, please embrace me tightly so that even air cannot pass through. Grant me relief from this pain Swami!

Your face is shining like a blue cloudlet and mesmerising. Your divine eyes are radiant like lotus flowers. Swamy! Please look at me at least once, through those divine brilliant eyes with red glow.

Swamy, opening those divine eyes steadily speak to me, at least once. Pining in the fire of separation, I am like a dry field. Your divine glances give the feeling, of slowly watering the dry field and eliminating this heat. Your soothing glances are like applying a layer of cool sandalwood paste, giving huge relief to my body burning in the fire of separation.

Krishna! Is it true that you are known as an ocean of compassion? If so, I am equally happy to be drowned by the raising and lashing waves of that ocean.

Krishna! Like the black cuckoo which subsists on rain drops, my life is dependent on your compassionate looks. Swamy! Slowly grace me with your compassionate glances. Will your grace be available or not! Every moment there is an unknown worry whether I will obtain your company or not.

My wish is to receive the grace of Sri Krishna and to experience that exceptional joy. But Swami! The concern whether I will obtain that much fortune or not, is not allowing me to be at ease.

Krishna! Fulfilling the wishes of your devotees without resting even for a moment, you might be very tired indeed! I wish to serve you and attain salvation, Swami. I wish to remove your fatigue and rest on your tired heart. I am ashamed of my ignorance in forgetting to fan you with

the white whisk[48]. I wish to constantly gaze at your charming face. The sacred dust of your divine feet is prasadam[49]. I wish to decorate my forehead as a bottu[50] with it and also sprinkle it on my head.

Sri Krishna! You possess tresses which are highly praised. Nobody else has such wealth of tresses. In view of such wealth, you acquired the title '*Kesava*[51]'. From tresses to toe, your body whiffs with the fragrance of flowers. Swami, spread that fragrance of perfume in all the directions, bless me to let the fragrance adhere to my body. Lord, make me feel ecstatic with that fragrance.

Allow me to get soaked in your compassionate nectarean looks, merge every atom of mine in you, which is scorching in the fire of separation. Is not love a form of madness?

That is a state of feeling secured. It is not possible for spectators to appreciate the state of mind of persons overcome by love. Particularly those melted in divine love, immersed in the ocean of tears and looking troubled. It is natural that their gestures appear amusing.

Is it because that true natural state appears unnatural? The fortune of reaching that state is not easily attainable.

However, persons overcome by love are not aware of the status of their own mind. Admiring the form of the supreme soul through their inner vision, they can dwell on the divine aspects of the supreme soul to their utmost satisfaction. Glorifying the limitless love and merging in the essence of universal love is the pleasant state of Advaita. It appears that I have reached that pleasant state. Yet, I am not certain. This divine experience is so mystifying.

Sri Krishna! Your essence is filled with love, full of nectar. I have heard from others that you accept whatever is offered to you and in return grace them with the essence of nectar and inexplicable pure love.

Putana[52] attempted to offer poisoned milk. Being full of love you drank it. You are the divine form who in return gave her the essence of nectar and bestowed her a place in paradise. Swami! Then why are you subjecting me to such disregard. Swami! Like a bee that drank the sweet honey and got intoxicated losing the sense of time, you are in someone's heart, in someone's company, in someone's embrace experiencing happiness. In that state, are you able to hear my wails? Can you come close to me?

Krishna! To all those who seek refuge in you, you offer shelter in your heart. You have a very large heart to provide shelter to millions of living beings. Can you not provide a little shelter to this little one? Are you not able to hear my call? Having heard me, is it appropriate to neglect,

[48] A fan made using the tail of a Yak.

[49] Food or anything graciously and condescendingly offered to the God. The remnants of food presented to an idol or left by a spiritual teacher/Guru.

[50] A sectarian mark on the middle of the forehead, white (vibhuti / sacred ash), yellow (sandalwood paste) or scarlet (Kumkum), long or round. An ornamental patch or beauty spot. 'Kumkum' is generally used for scarlet which is a fragrant cosmetic or rouge, composed of turmeric, alum and lime juice.

[51] One with lustrous tresses.

[52] A demoness who tried to breast feed infant- Lord Krishna by poisoned milk with the motive of killing him. However, the infant Krishna killed her.

Swami? Well, even if you don't come, at least can you not speak a word? Am I not destined for just that one call 'Bhadra'? That call may relieve my grief.

Swami! If you do not shower this little grace, your glory of being known as a benefactor of those in distress, will be questionable. Swami! You will lose your name and fame as the primordial saviour who rescues those in sorrow. Swami, I cannot imagine that happening. I cannot bear it. Can you not rescue me and permanently re-establish that all those titles are true? This will give me peace of mind. Swami, will you not prove it to me that you are worth those titles and guard your universal glory?

Waiting for Swami's manifestation and compassion, wailing in the ocean of tears, Bhadra Devi at times used to completely lose her patience. Strangely, jealousy and hatred unknown to her earlier, were momentarily flaming the heart of Bhadra Devi.

Who can understand the hidden truth of His divine play, one who is beyond delusion? Sometimes the mind is filled with suspicion and swayed by uncertainty. Every time a doubt arises, He doubly increases the faith through His compassionate acts. Bhadra's heart was immersed in the God of Gods, who constantly guides His devotees towards divinity. Meanwhile doubts arise. At once the faith is doubled, strengthening devotion and growing love.

That Omniscient knows that the emotional state of Bhadra is as per His intention. However, it is only Bhadra who has not yet realised it completely.

Since childhood Bhadra heard many divine plays of Sri Krishna with Gopikas[53], Radha Devi and Neela Devi. At that time, those incidents enthralled her heart and gave inexplicable happiness. But now in the present circumstances those feelings and thoughts are burning her heart. They are disturbing her peace of mind and increasing impatience.

"Bava! You have many beloveds. I am aware. Though knowing, I have developed so much desire for you. I do not feel it to be wrong. You know the reason, isn't it? I belong to you since my birth. I am your half. Am I only half? No, standing as an evidence for the unified oneness absorbed within you, I belong to you. You are the Lord of compassion. I have heard that you have equal love and affection for every person who loves you.

I am aware that each one feels that you belong to them. I am also aware that you conduct accordingly. Swami, could you not have similar sensitivity, love and affection towards me. Swami! You are an embodiment of love with an assurance that if anyone takes one step towards you, then you leap ten steps to hold them. Then, not just steps, I have entwined myself to you in deep pain. Can you not shower love on your Bhadra, as her husband? Can you not embrace me with the same pain?"

For Bhadra Devi the cool springtime had turned into a ball of fire. The cool gentle breeze was encircling her like hot wind. The singing of cuckoo sounded harsh to the ears. The buzzing of the honey bees was harassing the heart. This springtime which is very dear to her Swami and a source of joy to her, should have made her heart more delightful with Swami's thoughts. Instead, it is venting an intense lack of peace. The memory of her Swami engaged in the divine play with Gopikas in Brindavan was setting her tender heart on fire.

[53] Gopika - Cowherd maiden. Gopikas – plural of Gopika.

She was imagining that Radha and Gopikas were encircling Sri Krishna with excitement. They were entranced. Touching his cheeks, they were lost in gazing at those captivating eyes. Radha and Gopikas were watching the blessed flute enjoying the constant pursing of nectar from the divine lips. These imaginations disturbed her extremely.

“Bava! You are known as an actor in human form, performing divine play. You are known to possess extraordinary appreciative quality. Then what is this? Are these acts that are appearing in front of my eyes just delusions? Or are they mirroring the state of my mind?

One Gopika is trying to catch your attention by making rhythmic sound in tune with the music of your flute with her bangles and anklets. What a thrill? Why so much excitement? What is it in her eyes, that makes you search so adoringly? What is so exclusive in her gestures for such generous admiration? I did try to entice your mind a thousand times more than that. Even then you did not raise an eye to look at me. Why this favouritism? This partiality?”

Having forsaken food and drink, unable to withstand the disregard from Sri Krishna, Bhadra Devi was continuously sobbing in grief. Watching Bhadra’s anguish caused tears in her friend’s eyes. Bhadra, through her tearful eyes could not bear to watch her friend. Bhadra’s head was bent down and her lips quivered in sadness. “Alas! I am not able to understand my own mind. Unable to bear the separation from Bava, my mind is thinking in so many ways. Feelings of jealousy and hatred hitherto not known, are confining me. They are severely arising lack of peace. They are kindling the fire of anger on my Bava. The Gopikas beautiful play and dances with my Bava are increasing the feelings of aversion in me.

Radha’s[54] pining of separation is making my heart burn even more. The deep sighing of Gopikas is causing unbearable pain in me. Even then, surprisingly my mind wishes to dwell more on my Bava. I wish to repeatedly experience the pleasure of embracing my Swami and merge with my Swami.

What is this surprise? What is this divine play? Pining for a moment, next moment anger, then momentary aversion and the next moment attachment. Amazing thoughts beyond imagination are surrounding me. The display of Bava’s divine play appears to be a figment of my imagination. Even if it is true, I feel like pardoning Bava. The divine play of Bava appears to be temporary. More than that, the anger and sorrow appear to be momentary.

That is why, I feel like forgiving Swami. I feel like pleading Him to forgive and take me close. But, I am unable to forget the stories narrated by Radha, however much I try. The experiences shared by her are burning my heart like a forest fire. It seems Radha was unable to control her pangs of separation. She was eagerly searching with her widened white eyes among the bushes in their favourite romantic place, for the dark beloved in every atom. It seems she used to embrace the pitch darkness with passionate love, assuming it to be her dark beloved. Unable to spot her dark beloved, unable to bear the separation, she had decided to set herself ablaze in the fire of separation. It seems at that moment, Sri Krishna who was hiding all the while in the bushes used to rush and hold her.

Later on –

[54] Cowherd maid, chief devotee of Krishna, one of Lakshmi’s forms.

Bhadra Devi was jealous of Radha Devi. For a moment, she detested the way Radha Devi was in deep thoughts about Sri Krishna abandoning her bashfulness. Yet, she could not stay without complimenting the good fortune of Radha Devi, the very next moment.

The good fortune of Radha belongs only to Radha. Bava! Can you not offer at least a thousandth part of that fortune to me?" saying thus, was sobbing in pain.

Looking at Bhadra Devi filling her stomach only with tears and becoming feeble, her friends eyes were filled with tears. They were accusing the heartless Krishna.

Bhadra, repeatedly beckoning the Omniscient, was exasperated and felt that the term Omniscient was only an exaggeration.

Listening to which playmate's tinkling's of the anklet did He forget Himself? Which playmate's jingles of small bells around the waistband did He immerse himself in? Else, under which playmate's hem of the garment did He absorbed himself, forgetting the world? Can He, who has surrendered Himself to Gopikas, hear my appeals? Will He, who has surrendered Himself to Radha, understand the pain of my tears?

Unable to hear or understand! Then how can He be the Omniscient? How can He be the benefactor of all?

Bhadra was unable to look at the fruits or sip the fruit juices offered by her companions. Having given up food and drink, she was melting in tears and thinking every moment about her Swami. Her torrent of tears were flowing as rivulets. She was anxious to see and touch the moon of Brindavan. Her hope was at least in that manner, she would be spotted by Sri Krishna.

But, can I withstand looking at those scenes? Even just imagining such intimate scenes takes away my breath, then can I look at them and control myself? While thinking thus, Bhadra heard the whispers of Radha.

"Bhadra! Suffering extremely from the pangs of separation, searching for Sri Krishna, I stepped into Brindavan. Do you know what scene I saw? Krishna was engaged in the divine play with Gopikas. Taking advantage of my absence, He was boldly getting excited. Looking at my red eyes and uncontrollable excitement, He was dazed. The flute fell down. His cheeks became pale. He was looking down in embarrassment. I did not miss observing Him giving signals to Gopikas with His eyes. Maintaining distance, they continued gazing into those wide red eyes. The Gopikas could not move even an inch from their dark beloved. They cannot. He has that magnetic power. Should I get upset at the divine play or feel happy at the uneasiness shown by Him? I was in a state of confusion.

The memories of Radha were not leaving the mind of Bhadra. The red lotus flowers are not taking a break from shedding tears. The acts at Brindavan were deceptively standing before her eyes and blocking her eyelids from shutting.

Swami! The pining of separation is not new to Radha. Likewise, your divine play with Gopikas and your pretentions with Radha are not new to me. Should I imagine that you are aware of the distress of this Bhadra, while you are engaged in wandering with Gopikas? Your affectionate adoration always goes on in an attempt to make Radha forget her anger. At such times, can you hear the pain of my mind?

You may say that the sufferings of separation from Sita[55] during the previous birth has still not faded from the frame of your heart. Reliving that experience of separation again, you may be searching for Sita in every atom in the nature. Should I assume that with those memories of separation, you have completely forgotten me?

Else, are you so engrossed in the pleasant memories of Radha, who is part of you? Are you so immersed in the pleasure of the delicate touch of Radha that you forgot me? Why would you then think of me in those moments? Come to think of it, why not? Your nature of being Omniscient should be evident in my case too.

Swami! I cannot bear these pangs of separation even for one more moment. Bava, I am upset that I am unable to hear or look at you. Though you are The Omnipresent, I am imagining you to belong to only Brindavan or Gokul or Vaikunta[56] or Dwaraka. Is that why you are laughing at my ignorance? You enthral the entire mankind. However, I am thinking of you only as the thief who stole the hearts of Gopikas, as the one always making Radha happy, as the Lord of Rukmini's heart. Is that why you are angry at my foolishness?

If I had recognised you as the indweller of my heart, would you have spoken to me? Would you have made my eyes rejoice? Would you have fulfilled my wishes? Who knows? The pangs of separation from you have made me unsteady. That is why I am unable to recognise your presence in the right manner. The reason for that may be the tough tests you are setting for me.

Swami! You create a feeling in me that your Omnipresence is missing in my case. Contemplating on you, who is invisible, you are making a fool out of me. Seated in the hearts of everyone, you are accepting their offerings. But you are playing games with me by not visiting the temple built by you for yourself, in my heart. That may be the reason for the state of my restlessness.

Bava! Look at the moon. How he is scorching me without any compassion! Look at this moonlight. How it is engulfing my heart like a forest fire? The coral necklace which you presented with love has become sparks of fire and scorching my body. Like a small fire it is spreading fast to every nerve.

Lord, why this situation for me? Why am I in such a misery? What sin have I committed? Is it an offence to imagine God as my Bava? Is it wrong to wish the Lord Jagannath to be my husband? I wish He embraces me instead of embracing the universe. Is thinking thus, a proof of my petty mindedness?

I was mocking at your Omnipresence. It would not be a fault to accost me for such an act without realising my status. Is that why this punishment for me? Is that why this much penalty? Swami! Instead of imposing such punishment, can you not grant me the fortune of merging in you. Can you not provide me the fortune of melting in your divinity and absorbing in you? At least quench this grief and offer me the boon of life. Else, provoke this grief to snuff out my life and merge me in you. You are really the sole driving force for creation, sustenance and

[55] Lord Sri Rama was the previous incarnation of Lord Sri Krishna. Sita was the consort of Lord Sri Rama. Sita who had been kidnapped by Ravana. Rama killed Ravana and rescued His wife Sita. Refer epic 'Ramayana' for details.

[56] Abode of Lord Vishnu.

annihilation. I have been created for you. You are also the form of death that can annihilate me. At least in that form can you not come close and merge me in you?

Bava! Since childhood my love for you has grown with me. Every atom in me is of your form. That form is very minute. The groups of atoms are acquiring the form of Krishna and filling my body with Krishna. I am unable to hold your supreme form within me. Every cell in me is strangely getting modified in to various forms. Swelling in your divinity every cell is experiencing unimaginable ecstasy. I am being targeted to immeasurable grief. You are filling every atom in me and creating blockages for free flow of blood.

Swami! My heart beat is galloping. Mind is losing its track. As if in a state of insanity, my thoughts appear meaningless to me. Bava! Is this how one feels the pangs of separation? Does this cause so much distress Swami? I am unable to bear this even for a moment. Please, can you not immediately merge me in you? Can you not unite me with you?

You are known to be one with a butter like heart. But the truth is you are the one who only steals butter. Your heart is not like butter. It's only an imagination of devotees, an overstatement of lovers, a fanciful imagination of poets, that's all. I feel you have a hard-inner core. Your heart is made of stone. That is why you are tormenting me so much. Even while suffering such pangs of separation, I visualise only Radha's form before my eyes. I hear only Radha's words. Only by hearing the name of Radha, it appears that you are unable to control the excitement. It seems you constantly repeat Radha's name and become worried. You do not prefer to place anyone else in your heart. You show reluctance even to accommodate thoughts about anyone else. Even now if you are in the same state, then how can you hear my pain and sorrow Bava?

I heard it from Radha. She was suffering from the pangs of separation and it was pitch dark in front of her eyes. While searching intensely with broad eyes, she saw the darkness take a beautiful shape that approached her with open arms. And by a simple wish merged in Radha.

Bava! Isn't that your form? Wasn't that your action? That playful form was yours, isn't it? Can you not grace me at least in that manner? What offence did I commit? Swami! What is my doing that is so improper and dreadful? This spring season is choking me without your company. The mild breeze will be effective only with your touch, which is like the coolness of sandalwood. Only on being able to entwine with your body, even the mild breeze carrying the fragrance of flowers will achieve its purpose.

When feelings of oneness and affection touch the lute, only then, the seven musical notes manifest from the strings of the heart. There is a surge of all nine types of emotions. The flute will play delightful notes. Forgetting her surroundings, the peacock dances.

But alas, where are they? Why this spring season?

Oh, mountain breeze! Your awareness and inner significance makes sense only when my Swami is with me! Unable to bear your presence between me and my Swami, many a times I have ill-treated you. That too only in my dream and in my imagination. Unable to bear even imagining your presence between us, I lost my patience several times. As a revenge do not punish me.

Please express my anguish and repentance to Swami and bring him along. You will be known as a benefactor of life only when you fulfil my yearning. If not, with your mighty speed scorch me in the blazes, set by the pangs of separation.

At least convey the news of my death to my Swami. Earning the title of an assassin, play along with Swami amidst Gopikas. Rejoice in sinister pleasure." Saying thus, in the next moment she was unable to hold herself from the sorrow blowing through her heart, was repenting. Immediately she pleaded the Wind God in desperation.

"I have insulted you by uttering undeserving words. I have held you responsible for the deeds of my previous birth. I have made you responsible for my destiny and blamed you in ignorance. At this difficult time, please convey this agony to my Swami. You are my only friend who can conduct appropriate mediation and make Him realise. Please understand my distress. Please ensure that at least one ember from the fire of separation I am suffering, reaches the heart of my Swami.

Look, even if He is with Radha, Gopikas or other consorts make Him realise my presence through this ember. My heart breaks imagining my Swami with other women. A thought of His absence is changing even the cool breeze into a ball of fire. The presence of the moon is unbearable. The clash of thoughts about the beloved is creating feelings of hatred.

If my Swami is with me even for a moment, I will completely forget jealousy and hatred. I can.

In my lotus heart, I will hide that Kamalanabha[57] carefully and worship. All this while you scorched me and filled my eyes with tears. But I will not utter a word in complaint. Instead, I will offer you the fragrance of the perfume from the intimacy of my beloved.

I will make you the witness for the divine moments I attain with my Swami. At least can you carry this pain some way and convey it in your own words to my Swami. Can you not do this?

Being immersed in the divine play, my Swami may not be aware of not only me but about you as well. Having completed the divine play with the Gopikas He may be tired and beholding attentively His red eyes half closed, taking rest. Request you not to disturb Him at that time. Let Swami completely enjoy that divine happiness. Begin with my introduction. Make my heart's feelings known to Him. Swami nodding His head with a brief smile is enough. His brief smile is enough. He may be immersed in the moments of leisure and joyous divine play. Even in that state make His eyes reflect with sympathetic looks towards me, just for a moment. Enough, that is enough for me."

With no energy left to console Bhadra Devi who was lamenting helplessly, the Wind God did not respond. Bhadra put forth her request once again.

"Swami! Perhaps, unending explanations can be given for smearing sandal paste for the state of weariness! I can cool the redness in your wide red eyes with my tears and make them relax. I can treat Swami's lips that have become red due to the over indulgence of Gopikas, with the sweetness of my lips and making it ecstatic. Those attractive blue cheeks have become red with the scars from the pressure of the bangles of the companions. I can soak them with my

[57] Lord Vishnu, who has a lotus on His navel. Another name of Lord Sri Krishna.

tears and cool them caressing with my icy cheeks, giving cosiness. The doorway to Swami's heart is flashing blood red colour due to the scratches of the sharp nail corners of the lasses. I can cool it with my lotus heart and worship Him. I can make Him a child. I can let Him sleep and hide him in my heart. Those tender lotus feet are exhausted and tired from playing and dancing with Gopikas. I can wash them with my tears, kiss them with my lips, and worship them with flowers of tears. I can tenderly press them with my lotus hands to soften and provide divine relaxation."

Her red eyes are filled with tears. She is a recluse suffering from pangs of separation. She is an ardent devotee. She is with a broken heart. She is the celestial beauty who has chosen the Wind God as her messenger. She is the unusual form of pristine love. The startled Wind God continued admiring her immense blissful devotion.

The wind thickened. The nature stood still. The generous fragrance freely moving with the light breeze withdrew itself. She was like a beautiful jasmine flower dampened by the dew drops. Now, melting like a camphor statue in the fire of separation. She felt lifeless. Bhadra Devi was standing in sadness. A large parrot with golden hue landed on her shoulder. In her red beak was a sweet fruit more reddish. She was about to offer that fruit to Bhadra Devi, who abstained from food and drink. Bhadra looked at the large red parrot with sympathy.

"Didn't Swami send you!"

Bhadra was grief stricken by the silence of the parrot.

"Isn't this fruit that has not been touched by the lips of Swami, equal to poison?"

That big red parrot bowed its head.

"Did you bring any message from Swami?"

As the big red parrot was about to open its mouth, the fruit fell to the ground. The parrot was whispering and moving towards the companion. This condition shook Bhadra with fear.

"No need. You need not come near me. Please do not tell me the details of the pangs of separation narrated by Radha to Gopikas. Bringing together the companions who are upset and individually pacifying their temporary tantrums with pleasing words, playful acts, with exaggerations and overstatements, is a delightful activity for the Lord. I cannot listen to those pining narratives by the Lord, intended for them. They are the very life and everything for Him. Let His madness of love not touch my ears. Do not add fuel to this raging fire of separation and watch the fun."

Intimidated by Bhadra Devi's traces of heavy sighs, reddish piercing looks, simmering waves from her heated body, that big red parrot abruptly flew away with pounding heart.

The fire of separation is entirely scorching Bhadra. She is known to excel in all art forms, having knowledge like Saraswati, a permanent crown jewel, a universal beauty, another form of Lakshmi. However, at that moment she could not see any option other than death. The mind is unable to think anyone closer than the angel of death.

The whereabouts of Srutiranjani, who went as a messenger is not known.

She proclaimed that she will vividly explain her plight to Bhagawan. Later she would fill His heart with her love. She would rush back flying over the clouds in the sky way and would comfort her with that auspicious news. Alas, her whereabouts are still unknown. If only her explanations were to be true, she should have already been here, faster than the speed of the wind.

But, where is she? The only hope has faded away. Unable to speak to anybody else and overcoming shyness, she confided in Srutiranjani. She requested Srutiranjani to offer the yearnings of her heart to her Bava. Did I divulge my heart in haste?

By telling her so, did I become more submissive to Srutiranjani? Perhaps not, that would never ever happen. She is like the outer being to Srutiranjani. Though Srutiranjani was her mentor, she is like a friend, a mother and a close member of the family. She earned a place in her heart. She cannot see her in tears under any circumstances. Nor see and bear it. She would do to anything for her. She would have conveyed about her situation to her Bava. She would never lax in her efforts.

Bhadra restrained her heart.

Bhadra's heart was disturbed by a mere thought. Perhaps until now, Srutiranjani did not get the opportunity to be in the presence of Sri Krishna. Is it possible to meet Him that easily? Countless devotees who have been patiently waiting for years together are not fortunate to receive the grace of His side long glances. It is very rare to attain even a glimpse of His feet. Then how did she even imagine that Srutiranjani, an unknown messenger on her behalf will get an opportunity to meet Him? Is she being naïve in expecting her to return with a favourable reply? Besides, when Srutiranjani went to meet Him, who knows in which consort's embracing arms He might be!

Who knows in adoring the beauty of which beloved, He forgot the essence of everything else! Compared to the strong attachments He possesses, will the attachment with her even be considered? Will the attachment with her be given any importance? She is the daughter of an ordinary emperor. He is the Lord of the entire universe. If He wishes, countless maidens outshining her will offer themselves at His feet. Amongst them she may be an anonymous one!

He may be Bava to Her. But He is indeed a beloved to everybody. Being her Bava, she took the liberty and with affection developed love. She lived with only Him as her world. Resided Him in her mind. She is living only with His thoughts.

However, her Bava need not have similar experiences or such intense attachment. Being Bhagawan, He is accepting prayers in His heart.

But I am a mere devotee. Perhaps, I may be one among the countless devotees He has. He has another world beyond me. There are many related to Him. There are those desired by Him. There are Gopikas and other beautiful women who are yearning and wish to be with Him. I may or may not have a place amongst them! By innocently sending Srutiranjani as a messenger, I may have belittled myself. Srutiranjani may have been subjected to insult.

What is this mediation through a messenger, without knowing the mind of Swami? What is this mediation without knowing the status and comparative merits? If He was only an emperor or a superior king, then the manner would be different. But, He is the ruler of the universe who is

the unseen conductor of the world play. I have sent Him a message as though sending it to emperors, who are not even worth His toe nail. I have committed a big blunder. I have done enormous offence. Besides, He is habituated to disappoint in love. Would He have sent amends to perform as a repentance matching my ego through Srutiranjani? I forgot the traditions and ignored the family honour. Being under the shelter of mother, the mind should have been concealed in the heart. As an innocent maiden, instead of being within bounds exceeded the limits. This might have caused anger to my Swami. This way I might have become a target of Bava's anger. If that was true, then will there be any other punishment to me than self-immolation?

Bhadra was on a bed of peacock feathers grief stricken and sobbing with hiccups. The maids were not bold enough to approach her. They had no confidence of calming her. At the same time, they had no permission to convey her sorrow to her parents and brother. Either way the situation was becoming critical. This was the strict order from the very fragile Bhadra Devi, a self-imposed difficult test.

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The heart of beloved Sri Krishna, which was hidden within Bhadra, melted. The heart of the Omnipresent was very close to Bhadra. Close enough for hugging. He was anxious to embrace Bhadra, longing to wet His parched throat with the streams of her tears, worried and eager to purse her lips which were like shrivelled petals of rose.

Krishna was yearning to hold in arms with love that tender rose bud which was getting completely scorched in the fire of separation. He desired to bring together Bhadra's body which was scorching in the fire of separation with His sweltering body and experience the flares of fire of their union. And make her also experience that.

However, the time for that, has not yet come. Though, knowing that the time will certainly come, He was unable to supress His anxiety. He was unable to control His anxiousness. Then how can the graceful Bhadra control her suffering? How can she contain the pangs of separation?

Bhadra's pangs of separation are creating astonishing pulsation in Sri Krishna.

Bhadra's suffering is kindling unusual yearning in Sri Hari. However, that pulsation and yearning have unified in Bhadra. Bhadra is unable to identify the Lord Jagannath residing in her. Bhadra is unable to identify that through her, the unseen conductor of the world play, is silently witnessing her heartache.

Bhadra desires Dvaita.

But the Lord is wishing for Advaita.

Bhadra wishes herself to be locked in the arms of her Swami.

But the Lord wishes to merge as is, in Bhadra. He wants Bhadra to understand that state. Together with Him, she should also experience the unfathomable responsiveness of that union. Her experience should inspire further excitement in Him.

But then, there is still time for that occasion.

The all-knowing Madhava[58] saw Srutiranjani returning to the palace and concealed Himself affectionately in the heart of Bhadra.

Return of Srutiranjani

Bhadra was delighted to see Srutiranjani entering the palace. She was not sure what she was looking at was a dream or real. Due to starvation, her weak eyes were seeing double forms of Srutiranjani. She was blinking to clear her vision. Tears were flowing across her cheeks.

Srutiranjani's form was coming closer. Her facial expressions were not clear to the anxious Bhadra. Unable to muster the courage to read the feelings of Srutiranjani's heart, Bhadra lowered her head. She was not getting enough courage to look at her. Her heart was a lump in the throat. That vibration was fast and intense. She was unable to imagine the outcome. She had no energy to hear an unfavourable reply and endure.

All along, she was anxiously waiting for Srutiranjani to return. But now, when Srutiranjani was about to speak, her eagerness grew tenfold with a lump in her throat.

"Bhadra Devi!"

Bhadra held her breath. She could not hear any other word. She felt her breathing stopped. The next moment Srutiranjani was showering kisses on Bhadra's cheeks, eyes and forehead with exuberance. Bhadra was astonished with this emotional outburst from Srutiranjani.

Srutiranjani following her heart through the gestures clearly indicated the successful mediation of the alliance for an auspicious marriage.

For Srutiranjani, Bhagawan Sri Krishna is the family God and reverential deity who is compassionate to His devotees. She has been worshipping Him at all times. Srutiranjani was overwhelmed with her good fortune of the divine grace, touching and conversing with Bhagawan. Immersed in her experience she forgot everything around her. In the presence of Bhadra, more than her duty, the anxiousness to happily share the ecstasy of exceptional divine experiences, successfully gained an upper hand. She remained in a condition that she was unable to recognise Bhadra Devi's pain. Srutiranjani was blessed by the divine appearance of Bhagawan. She was anxious to narrate about her divine providence, which was so rare to attain, even for great yogis. She wanted to share her luck and fortune.

"I saw your beloved. Because of you, I got the good fortune of seeing that Lord Jagannath to my heart's content, who is not visible to common people. There would not be a greater gratitude offered in return by any disciple in the universe to their Guru[59]." Her eyes were streaming with tears. Srutiranjani continued her narration re-experiencing that divine assembly.

Bhadra was watching emotionally.

[58] Another name of Lord Vishnu.

[59] Spiritual guide, a knower of Brahman, who is calm, desire less, merciful, and ever ready to help and guide spiritual aspirants who approach him.

“Bhadra! It is not possible even to Brahma to describe the divine form of that Lord Jagannath. He is the originator for all scriptures, mythologies and history. He is the caring protector of those in distress, who by His sheer will created this world and is sustaining it. There is so much coolness and attraction in those wide lotus-like eyes. Alas, even if numerous suns and moons were to come together, they would be lacklustre in the presence of His brilliance. Bhadra, I had the divine glimpse of Bhagawan, who by His command can make all the deities to follow. The glow of the body of that great person, which is like a blue sapphire, is not possible to see, except with divine eyes only.

It is indeed a result of numerous virtuous deeds to see the Lord of Vaikunta in that real form. He was wearing the yellow silk ensemble, with the symbol of the Sri Vathsa[60] adhering to the chest, shining with divine weapons Shankha[61] and Chakra[62] and who can be known through Vedas. That fortune of seeing the Lord was attained only because of you.

Bhadra! How can I describe that eternal and complete being whose form enamours the entire world?

Bhadra! Swami is the one, who can be known through Vedas. He liberates from the bondages of worldly illusion. He gives shelter to the wise and makes their lives blissful. How do I describe my good fortune of seeing that radiant form of the Sun with these eyes?

Bhadra! Swami is the form for truth, knowledge and bliss. He is the foundation for all auspicious attributes. He is not only beyond attributes but is also unequalled. He is the Bhagawan who liberates those who seek shelter. Due to our fortune, He is moving about in this world in a human form. He is radiant like numerous suns. For our sake, He has reduced His radiance several levels and is moving about. That is why, it is possible to look at Him with these human eyes. We are able to hear that divine voice in a very easy manner. We are able to get the divine glimpse of His feet, which were washed by Lord Brahma.

Bhadra Devi! That divine enchanting form is manifesting repeatedly before my eyes. Wish to repeatedly see that form of *Yagna*[63], the creator of the world, that form with dark blue body and the personification of knowledge. The heart does not accept to see this mundane world through these eyes which have seen Swami. While looking at that divine form a strong desire is developing to merge in Him. Get an aversion towards these worldly desires and existing relationships. Not only for this life but for many more lives, there would not be any greater fortune than this. Neither I wish for one.”

Srutiranjani with tearful eyes was visualising the Lord Jagannath and evoking that divine form with fond memories. Observing His radiance in that heart, she remained like an ascetic. Srutiranjani repeatedly remembering and narrating about Lord Jagannath, her Lord, immersed Bhadra Devi in unfathomable happiness. Having gone to invite Him for Swayamvaram, now she adores Him as the compassionate, one who relieves devotees from the bondages of the world. She was gloriously portraying Him as the only protector of those who seek His shelter, experiencing the tranquillity of a hermit.

[60] A mark, said to be a curl of hair, on the breast of Lord Vishnu.
[61] A conch
[62] A Discus
[63] Sacrificial rites, Yagna Swaroopa – another name for Lord Vishnu

Srutiranjani was not discussing about the subject for which she was sent. She was only narrating her experiences. She was not clearly explaining the message from Swami. Bhadra was confused for a while. She became anxious. May be the Lord Jagannath showed reluctance for Swayamvaram. Maybe, the unseen conductor of the universal play expressed a doubt that this daughter of an emperor is not suitable for the eminence of the Lord Jagannath. Her agony and pangs of separation might have appeared as a childish attribute to the Eternal Lord, who holds the discus. She may be appearing utterly naïve to the connoisseur of beauty dwelling in the world of divine play. Perhaps, He might have felt her anguish like a sport. He might have smiled at her pangs of separation and been amused at her pain. He might have felt the episode of sending a messenger was very immature. Perhaps!

Bhadra was sighing and unhappy. Srutiranjani held and shook her vigorously.

“Bhadra! If this is your reaction to my words and feelings, then what would become of you when that enigmatic form stands next to you?”

Bhadra’s eyes moved heavily.

“What will happen to you when that divine handsome, looks intensely in to your eyes with overflowing love?”

Bhadra’s broad eyes are widening inquiringly?

“How will you be when that fortunate time approaches to see the divine auspicious form and to see the divine eyes to your heart’s content? At that auspicious moment when Swami merges you in Himself…”

Bhadra’s eyes opened wide. Unable to grasp if they were doubtful happy moments or happy doubtful moments, those eyes fluttered. She looked at Srutiranjani in wonder.

“Bhadra! why are you looking that way? You are about to achieve a victory which is not achievable even for Brahma and others.”

Bhadra was motionless was unable to understand Srutiranjani’s words. She did not have enough strength to understand.

“Bhadra! Knowing that it is impossible to get an audience with that supreme being, for your sake I gathered courage and went to the city of Mathura. While searching for Sri Hari in pathways of the sky, shining in the brightness of numerous moons, I saw a royal palace touching the sky. Wondering, I went close. Two eyes were not enough to see the Lord of the Universe, shining with the brightness of numerous lamps, the power in those eyes, the attractiveness in that smile, the extraordinary energy in that form.

Bhadra! At that moment, my eyes closed. I could not speak. With folded hands at those divine feet…” completely immersed and continuing her narration, Srutiranjani cast a glance at Bhadra. Srutiranjani thought Bhadra will feel delighted on hearing her happiness and her good fortune. Instead the doubts and hesitation written all over Bhadra’s face was evident to her. Waiting for a moment and looking at the speechless Bhadra, she realised her mistake.

“Bhadra! Pardon me. Instead of cooling your pangs of separation, I am igniting it more.” She came close and lifted her beautiful chin. She wiped with her mantle those red lotus-like wide

moist eyes. For a few moments, she stood still looking at her in astonishment. Bhadra was unable to conceal her impatience. With the heaves of warm sighs touching her body, Srutiranjani once again remembered her duty. Accepting her fault and not delaying even a moment, Srutiranjani decide to describe the issue.

“Bhadra Devi! Pardon me. I was thinking of the immense happiness of seeing Bhagawan Himself. I was only describing my good fortune. But I could not understand your pain. I saw Lord Jagannath with these eyes to heart’s content and meditated in rapture. That conductor of the divine play in the human form was very delighted. Pretending innocence of not knowing anything, He asked the reason for my visit. Overcome by the magic spell of Sri Krishna, I described everything about you. About your birth, types of your virtues, your unbound growing love for Him and your unbearable pangs of separation. The agitation you are going through in your mind for not able to see Him. Told him about the preparations for your Swayamvaram. Explained everything, ignorantly thinking that He does not know. I narrated to the all-knowing Lord, with a feeling that He may not know unless I explain. I realised that, there is an unfathomable magic spell in those fleeting glances from the corner of His eyes.”

Felt as though Bhadra’s heart stopped beating for a moment. She became inanimate with joy. She was visualising before her eyes, Srutiranjani explaining about her to that pleasing divine auspicious form.

“Bhadra Devi! The Lord was attentively listening about you from the beginning till the end, with a smile. Though knowing everything, He made me repeat to listen again”.

“After listening?”

Not knowing the type of truth Srutiranjani was about to narrate, she was choked with emotion and slipped faintly on to the couch laid with peacock feathers. That was the exact state Srutiranjani had imagined about Bhadra. An innocent beauty who surrendered all her energies to Sri Krishna. She is not in a state to absorb the divine experience offered by the very name ‘Sri Krishna’. That tender beauty is in such a sad state, that she cannot assimilate the power in meditating on Sri Krishna. Indeed, it is her foolishness to expect Bhadra to hear the auspicious news to be real and endure the same. Immediately with the help of her companions offered soothing services. Slowly opening her eyes, beautiful Bhadra looked all around.

Unknown to herself Bhadra’s body started experiencing vibrations of a divine vitality. Plucking the strings of her lute like tender heart, creating pulsations of love and melting away the clouds of doubt. He was softly touching that well-formed neck which was shining like a crystal and fondly lifting her chin and tasting with lips the streams of tears flowing down the mirror like cheeks. Speaking affectionately to the very soft rose petal like lips. Caressing with lips those amazing pair of eyes which were adapting to the pleasing lovely colour of the corals. Setting right the vermilion Kumkum mark on the wide forehead and effortlessly adjusting the fragrant locks which were like the tassels of silk, like wings of a honey bee. Providing enormous courage and with inherent power making Bhadra to sit normal was the dweller in Bhadra’s heart. Srutiranjani could clearly identify Him, the husband of Lakshmi Devi in Bhadra Devi. She folded her hands in reverence.

By the awareness given by Swami, Bhadra Devi could identify in the inner recesses of her heart that Madhava is the foundation for the wondrous vibrations, the unusual movements, the

five types of life forces and the power in her breath. With the strength from Sri Krishna she stood up.

She was inquisitively looking in to the depths of the eyes of Srutiranjani.

In those searching eyes, Srutiranjani was not only seeing the anticipation of Bhadra but could also recognise the glances of Sri Krishna. Srutiranjani was blessed.

“Bhadra Devi! You are the very illustrative aspect of Lakshmi Devi. There is none who can hold your hands in this cosmos except Lord Maha Vishnu. You have been created with His intention. Only by His will, you are His paternal aunt’s daughter and thus born as a blood relation. Only by His will you have gained expertise in all art forms, you have become an essence of beauty beyond comparison and moulded yourself as an exceptional jewel among women.

“Bhadra Devi! You are born with a purpose. There is a special significance for your life. Your life has a set goal. Lord Sri Hari created you for the coming generations, for the awakening of womanhood for many generations. To develop their good, auspicious and desirable traits as an ideal for womanhood and ultimate essence of a woman and as an exemplary form even for sagacious mothers. Though I knew this before, it is only now that I have clearly understood. The appointed time has come for fulfilling that noble objective. It is time for that Lord Jagannath to be your beloved lord and hold your lotus hands.”

Lakshmipati wished me to convey to you as His word. He asked me to convey that the opportune moment to hold Bhadra’s lotus like hands delicately and take marriage vows is not far. He wanted me to explain to you further, thus. “I am your beloved from your birth. Long ago, in spirit I have established Myself in your heart as husband of Bhadra. With your Atma[64] I have been observing the duties of married life of Paramatma[65]. I am your loving husband through My thoughts, words and actions. However, in conforming with the morality of the world, respecting the rules of the society and following the norms of the culture, I shall marry you, my beloved and make you My better half. I am looking forward for that auspicious moment more anxiously than you, my dear Bhadra.”

Further, He wanted me to tell you as His word that, in the presence of vast gathering of friends and relatives, at the auspicious moment when the whole word is rejoicing, he would merge in you as husband of Bhadra. He will accept and merge you in Himself.

For a moment Bhadra could not comprehend what she was listening. She stood like a statue. She was unable to believe her good fortune. Unable to ascertain whether, what she heard was a dream or a fact. She regained her composure with Srutiranjani touching her cheeks, holding her delicate hands and showering kisses. She realised this is for real and not a dream. Boundless happiness was overflowing from the inner recesses of her heart.

Bhadra was bending to touch the feet of Srutiranjani with folded hands. Srutiranjani immediately lifted Bhadra and held her close to her heart.

[64] Self, Soul. Self with limitations is the individual soul. Self with no limitations is Brahman, the supreme Reality.

[65] supreme Self, supreme Atma.

She was showering Bhadra with kisses. Looking at this site was the dark-complexioned Lord, who was entwined within Bhadra, his cheeks red and blushing. The playful Lord snuggled in the heart of Bhadra was relaxed. He was waiting for the next act in His grand vision being created for the prosperity of the world.

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Chapter 3 – Sri Krishna's Arrival in Indraprastha

The city of Indraprastha [66] was glowing with golden hue reminding the paradise. The splendour and glory of Indraprastha, full of auspiciousness, with tall mansions and palaces touching the sky was making paradise look less glorious. To say that the brightness of Indraprastha when reflected on paradise will only attain the excellence of Indraprastha, is no exaggeration.

Indraprastha, being reigned by Dharmaraja[67], was glittering with the lamps of righteousness and shining as abode of justice. Bhagawan Himself arrived surprising relatives, friends and immersed them in excitement.

The auspicious music was echoing. The rendering of sweet songs was delightful and pleasing. The recitation of Vedas was touching the sky. The Pandava brothers were feasting their eyes at the divine auspicious form of Bhagawan Sri Krishna after a long time. Unable to believe their fortune they stood motionless with eyes filled with tears of joy.

Yudhishthira, eagerly hugged Swami. Unable to contain his happiness, with reverence he dotted Sri Krishna with flowing tears. He was equally immersed in spiritual contentment. Bhimasena embracing his maternal Bava became unwary of his surroundings. Sri Krishna affectionately hugged Arjuna, who was excitedly looking at Narayana.

"Bava! Is everything fine?"

In response, Arjuna's tear filled eyes shed pearls. They offered the coolness of sandalwood on the body of Sri Krishna.

Nakula and Sahadeva while affectionately embracing Sri Krishna as though unconscious leaned over His body helplessly. Both the brothers worshipped the divine feet of Sri Krishna and felt blessed.

Sri Krishna was offering love and affection with happiness and ecstasy, conversing in honey like sweet words, acknowledging salutations and receiving garlands. He was accepting the tears of joy as flowers of worship. He held the hands of Dharmaraja, who was waiting in reverence with folded hands to offer water for cleansing feet and to drink. Dharmaja washed the lotus feet of Sri Krishna and sprinkled the divine waters on himself and over the heads of his brothers. The Pandava brothers worshipped the divine feet of the Lord Jagannath with heaps of beautiful flowers that have borrowed the lingering aroma from the delightful blossoms of springtime. They felt overjoyed. The Lord, who is wholly devoted to people in distress, addressed each brother and embraced them to heart. He enquired their well-being and bestowed blessings.

[66] City of residence of the Pandava brothers. In the Mahabharata, a Hindu epic the Pandavas are the five sons of Pandu. Their names are Yudhishthira, Bhimasena, Arjuna, Nakula and Sahadeva.

[67] Another name of Yudhishthira.

Dharmaraja with folded hands and unending flow of tears of joy was looking with complete enchantment. The son of Nanda[68] affectionately took him close once again.

Sri Krishna was tapping Dharmaraja on his shoulder saying “Dharmaja! Why this ecstasy? I am your Bava”. Yudhishthira was startled by the divine touch.

He complimented himself for the good fortune of looking at that graceful and divine auspicious form. In response, with great effort the lips parted in elation.

“Sure Sri Krishna, you are our Bava, indeed. Your being so close to us, is due to our good fortune. The glory of Pandavas with Nandas will be written on golden pages in history. Due to our good fortune you are conducting yourself as our Bava in this physical form, showing affiliation to Pandavas. Truly, will it be possible for ordinary people like us to grasp your nature of Omnipresence? By allowing us to engage our hearts at your divine lotus feet, you have blessed us to understand a tiny aspect of your supreme being. Through this unexpected manifestation you are reminding us the need for constantly focusing our mind in your divine service. Thus, blessing us. You are the God of all deities. You are one without attributes. We recall your divine virtues through mind, word and actions while surrendering to you. We are completely dependent on you. We live with the wish to merge with your divine essence.

Lord Jagannath! You are the personification of love and the compassionate one who accepts with love the small services offered by the devotees and blesses them with exceptional boons and fruits.

Sri Krishna! Your body which is the support for the supreme light can never be the ordinary physical body even for a day. Not possible. You are the very form of existence, knowledge and bliss residing in everyone’s heart. Your real form is the form of Krishna. Fortunate are those who come to realise that you are the supreme soul. How ignorant are those who, unable to identify the all-pervading and the supreme being in their own hearts, search for You in different places? Your enchantment is so significant!

Sri Krishna! We are fortunate to obtain your divine touch in such close proximity. Is it possible for such fortunate people like us to exist in this creation? We wish for the fortune of such relationship in all our lives to come.” Immersed in the fortune of the divine presence, Dharmaraja forgetting everything was happily engrossed in adoring Him with reverence. Sri Krishna affectionately patted his head.

The sons of Pandu were overjoyed in the divine presence of Sri Krishna. The arrival of the one with peacock feather in His crown was historic. They were recollecting the experiences with the one who holds discus and their fortune of being with the charismatic Kesava. He was affectionately questioning them about their welfare, enquiring about their health and prosperity and proceeding with a smile. The honey droplets from the fragrant flowers of the creepers and the petals of the flowers touching the head of the Lord, served the purpose of their very existence.

The sons of Pandu were ecstatic with the questions about their wellbeing, with mutual affectionate looks filled with love, devotion and fondness. They approached the exclusive palace with much laughter and friendly conversations with Lord Sri Krishna, their manifested God. He

[68] The chief cowherd of Gokul. Sri Krishna was brought up by Nanda.

was admiring Dharmaraja for his righteous conduct and immersing the extremely strong Bhimasena with praises. He was taking Arjuna close, who shines like His external life and who is very dear to His sister Subhadra.

He was bestowing all blessings to Nakula and Sahadeva, the kind forms who inherited the good nature of 'Ashwini' deity as foremost devotees. Draupadi, the wife of Pandavas, was always looking forward for His grace. Having assimilated the essence of Krishna, bearing the name of Krishna, believing Him as God through her thoughts and words, she was worshipping Him. The Lord bestowed her with His blessings.

Kunti Devi, mother of Pandava brothers was looking at Bhagawan Lord Sri Krishna. Looking at her dearest nephew, feelings of love, affection and devotion rose like waves and surrounded her bed. She managed to get up and made Him sit near her and was in a state of inexplicable experience.

Subhadra, who accompanied Draupadi, rested her head at the feet of her brother in reverence. Sri Krishna showered blessings with love and affection. He was interacting with the troubled, with the devotees and with people who are engaged in noble deeds due to their good actions in the past lives. He was also interacting with those blessed people who became great scholars and devotees through His power. He was asking all those noble mothers about their wellbeing, who have been meticulously observing their vows of chastity and who are conducting themselves in a manner which is very dear to Him. He was moving ahead praising people appropriately, showing kindness, affection and making everybody happy.

Those fortunate people, who were graced by the appearance of Sri Krishna, achieved the purpose of their lives. They were absorbed in meditating on Sri Krishna. Swami made everybody satisfied by His boundless enthusiasm, with conversations and talks, with skilful contextual discussions and with spiritual discourses. Those who received the divine messages from Swami either devotional, spiritual or related to Vedas, were surprised at their merits accumulated over previous lives. Bhagawan Sri Krishna's most favourite spring season, shining with decorations and spreading the fragrance of flowers, welcomed Him with devotion and submission. The mild breeze carrying heady whiffs of fragrance surrounded Swami.

The gentle wind sounded like the chants of Veda. The roar from the traces of bamboo resounded the note '*Omkara*'[69]. The cool breeze accompanied by the fragrance of rare flowers and pure sandalwood trees was pleasing the Lord's body. The honey sucking bees were worshipping the head of Sri Krishna with pollen dust and showering nectar. The spring season turned nature into a lovely woman, like an enchanting beauty of the woods. She was alluring the enthralling looks of the supreme being. She was displaying elegance. She embraced that divine beautiful form and was wholly absorbed. With whispers in her heart, she melted in the rhythms of Swami's heart. She was experiencing the trance of those mesmeric looks. She accepted it as an everlasting boon from that Lord Jagannath. She realised the purpose of her existence. She commemorated her life. The Blissful form stood steadfast, experiencing the beauty of His most

[69] The name of the sacred syllable 'Om', the mystic name of God. 'Om' or 'AUM' being the triliteral name of the Hindu Trinity. The sound emerging from the vocal cords starts from the base of the throat as "A." With the coming together of the lips, "U" is formed and when the lips are closed, all sounds end in "M."

favourite spring season. In the eyes of Sri Krishna, the enchanting beauty of woods having acquired auspicious virtues appeared as glowing Bhadra.

Swami's eyes became brighter. Swami at that moment is feeling that the beauty of woods, glowing with all virtues was like Bhadra Devi whose life breath depends on Him and that she was enthralling Him.

Sri Krishna's heart that distributes the coolness of numerous moons to the world was getting warmth from the thoughts of the new blooming Bhadra. Bhadra, melting away for love of Krishna was toiling in the stream of sweat that touched Sri Krishna and vaporised. It was still trying to reduce the pangs for Krishna's love.

Having observed the auspicious change in Sri Krishna, Partha[70] searched for the reason. Realising that the change is propitious, felt satisfied. There is nothing hidden between two, known as Naranarayana.[71] The splendour of the divine propitious marriage was amusingly playing hide and seek with the waves of elegance in the eyes of the auspicious Swami. It was holding a mirror to reflect the intention of Sri Krishna. Though the hidden meaning for the sudden arrival of Sri Krishna was looking evident, Partha was waiting eagerly with great enthusiasm for the confirmation of this fact.

Bhagawan Sri Krishna was heading a discussion with Draupadi and Pandavas. During that time the royal priest from Kaykaya as an emissary brought a message. The Pandava brothers pleased him with all tributes and offered appropriate place to occupy. Enthusiasm was dashing through his speech. Traces of bringing the auspicious invitation are visible. He had come for Pandava brothers. As a great fortune, he was looking at Sri Krishna right in front. He was overcome with joy. The experience was like getting stuck by a creeper, which one was in search of. His uncontrollable happiness was easily visible to all.

Looking in to the eyes of Sri Krishna, Phalguna[72] quickly grasped the subject. Having heard about the Swayamvaram of Bhadra though unclear, the timing and the context gave him immense enthusiasm. The heart of Kiriti[73] heard a voice predicting the auspicious message that on account of his sister Bhadra, the relationship with his Bava will further be strengthened. Watching Partha, Sri Krishna's eyes filled with playful looks, smiled knowingly.

The royal priest from Kaykaya, a devotee of Sri Krishna was overwhelmed with the unexpected presence of the Lord. Feeling elated at his fortune and looking at the Lord was surprised for a moment. Regaining himself in the next moment, carefully picked up the invitation for the Swayamvaram preserved safely in the propitious container, meant for the Lord. Held it with devotedness, touching it to his eyes with reverence and thoughtfully looked at Dharmaraja.

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[70] Another name of Arjuna. Partha means "son of Pritha" in Sanskrit. Pritha is another name of Kunti, mother of Pandavas.

[71] Sri Krishna and Arjuna together are referred to as 'Naranarayana'. Arjuna is 'Nara' and Sri Krishna is 'Narayana'. Nara means human, and Narayana refers to the name of the deity.

[72] Another name of Arjuna. Arjuna was born on a winter day when the Moon passed through two paired star-clusters: Purva and Uttara Phalguni. This noteworthy birth earned him the name Phālguna.

[73] Another name of Arjuna. Being the son of Indra, he wore the celestial crown, Kiriti, presented by Indra, and therefore was called by this name.

Observing his happy approval with delight, standing at the feet of Bhagawan Sri Krishna, adjusted his throat humbly.

“Auspicious Lord! I consider it as my great fortune to hand over the invitation for the auspicious Swayamvaram of Bhadra Devi, to you directly through my hands. This invitation was supposed to be handed over in Dwaraka. It is providential and as per your divine will that I hand over this invitation to you here, on this auspicious day. My inner voice speaks that these auspicious moments are the indications of the foundation for the forthcoming wedding celebrations and for holding the hands of Bhadra.

Swami! Six days from now, is the Swayamvaram of the princess of Kaykaya kingdom, Bhadra Devi as decided by King Drushtaketa. Your paternal aunt Sruthikirti and uncle Drushtaketa invite you and particularly wished to convey to you, that they will be eagerly looking forward to your visit. They request you to consider this auspicious invitation as their personal and special invitation. Requesting you to definitely come over, be the principal actor of Bhadra’s wedding and be a participant in that big event.”

Sri Krishna accepted the invitation with His divine hands. Looking at the forthcoming marriage through His inner vision flashed a smile.

Mesmerised by looking at the determined Lord with a gentle smile, that distinguished *brahmin* [74] turned towards Dharmaraja.

“Greetings to the righteous ruler, Dharmaraja and Pandava elders. I have come to handover the invitation from King Drushtaketa for the Swayamvaram of his only daughter Bhadra Devi. I have come on their behalf to give this message. You are requested to participate in the Swayamvaram celebrations and shower your blessings on your sister Bhadra Devi and make it auspicious.”

Yudhishthira took the invitation with great pleasure, read it and handed it over to his brothers. He pleased that priest with all gold articles and carriages. He informed that their visit is certain. He felicitated him with all tributes.

The message of Bhadra Devi’s Swayamvaram created unbound happiness to Pandavas, who along with being blood relatives, were having very cordial relationship with that family.

For a long time, Draupadi was observing the expressions of Sri Krishna. She noticed the happy and emotional outburst of the royal priest of Kaykaya. She happily understood the smile of the would-be bridegroom Sri Krishna while accepting the auspicious invitation.

“Dear Brother! Bhadra is an epitome of noble virtues. She has mastered all forms of knowledge. That valliant’s life will be most accomplished, who would hold the hands of such a wonderous abundant beauty. She shines with the virtues of Goddess Lakshmi, having born as her divine aspect. It will be impropriety for ordinary kings even to think of accepting her. Is it not so, brother?”

[74] A caste in Hinduism specialising as priests, teachers and protectors of sacred learning across generations.

“Indeed” said the would-be bridegroom, subsiding the emerging smile and nodded his head in an approving way.

Partha felt happy that now his assumptions have been confirmed.

For a split-second Sri Krishna’s mind dwelt on Bhadra. Through His inner vision, He was looking at Bhadra pining in separation with anguish and tears. She was swaying in her brightness and spreading her amazing beauty. She was extending her soft and smooth lotus like hands. She was desperately waiting for Him. Sri Krishna’s heart was anxious to invite Bhadra Devi in to His heart.

Swami, who submits Himself only to love, is an embodiment of Love. His form is of divine love. He is an incarnation of love and expects only love. His craves only for love. He serves and bows only to love. His form is filled with love and melts in love. Today, He is anxious for Bhadra’s love, for being with Bhadra and merging Bhadra in Him.

Having accepted the tributes from Pandavas, that handsome one with the flute was getting ready to leave for Kaykaya kingdom. He received blessings from His aunt Kunti. Dharmaraja, Bhimasena, Arjuna, Nakula and Sahadeva climbed the chariot and bid farewell with devotion and submission. The Lord of the Universe hugged them to heart, made their minds contented and took leave.

Satyaki[75] and others followed the Lord.

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[75] He was a powerful warrior belonging to the Vrishni clan of the Yadavas, to which Sri Krishna also belonged. Satyaki was devoted to Krishna and was a student of Arjuna.

Chapter 4 – Nectarean Essence of Sri Krishna

The unseen conductor of the universe, the performer of divine sport in human form, is also a responsible charioteer of the eternal righteousness. In conducting the rules of righteousness, in acting with responsibility, in defending the righteousness of the age, in protecting the practice of righteousness, that all-mighty is not only an unseen conductor but also the director of righteous path and an ideal follower. He is the instructor of moral rules.

There is no space hidden from Bhagwan, the indweller of all. There is no place not created by Him. There is no aspect not experienced by Him. There is no miniscule particle not aware of Him. He is the very form of the atom. He is the very life of the miniscule particle. He is the very aspect in the experience.

He is the awareness in all living beings in this universe of sentient and non-sentient beings. He is the steadiness in all inert things. One can experience His presence by making a simple resolve. Yet, it is impossible. Swami is unattainable. Yet, He is easily approachable. However, the possibilities depend on the inner maturity of the devotees. It depends on the merit acquired by one's own austerities. It depends on the unattached essence of devotion of the ascetics. It depends on the unwavering devotional characteristics of true devotees. It depends on the worthiness gained through offering laudable services.

Each one attains Him, as they deserve. It depends on the nature of love of those women who are pining for the captivating love from Bhagawan. It depends on the stage of Advaita being experienced by Gopikas. It depends on the self-surrender of the residing deity Radha Devi. It depends on the unlimited feeling of devotion of Rukmini Devi. It depends on the ability to understand the loving nature of their husband, by other consorts.

It is said that, what one wills, happens. Many adore Him, love Him, worship Him and pine for Him. Whoever desires response in which ever form, expect whatever type of experiences, whatever relationships they look forward to build, which ever type of emotion they expect to rejoice, the all compassionate Bhagawan satisfies each one in accordance to what they deserve and at the appropriate time.

He will never disregard anyone who has implicit faith in Him. He will never distance Himself from those who wish to be near Him. He is an embodiment of love at all times to those who love Him. In His view, all are equal. All are worthy of His divine love.

However, the Lord Jagannath always wishes that those who think they are close to Him, should realise His true nature. He always wishes that, those who are seeking His true nature can permanently merge their soul with the supreme soul and swing in the currents of that inexplicable joy. This in turn will give Him the divine joy, He has always been wishing. It is not just the devotee who conceals from Bhagawan, but even Bhagawan conceals from His devotees, His share of desires within Himself. He expresses them when the need arises.

The formless Bhagawan wanting wishes to be fulfilled! Can Bhagawan, who is beyond everything, have expectations from the devotees? True. The Lord, who loves the devotees, always thinks about them. The compassionate Lord Madhava, always worries about the devotees. The Lord Jagannath, who is immersed in love, always thinks about the devotees who are the forms of love. The officiating priest of love is anxious to remove the pain from those hearts that are ever filled with love. This is to indicate the closer route towards His awareness, true nature and liberation. Thus, make their lives purposeful to attain salvation. Several events reflected briefly, in the mind of Bhagawan Sri Krishna. For a moment, the universal Lord's Omnipresent nature took the form of a responsible householder.

The nature of The Omnipresent Lord, the divine player in human form, appeared strange for a moment.

Even before going to the Swayamvaram, the inspiration of the all pervading Bhagawan Sri Krishna and that divine form were reflecting the essence of Sri Krishna. He is showing His responsibility as His duty and also performs it at the same time.

The way in which He conducts the household chores, makes each one believe that He belongs to them exclusively. This is the divine play of the unseen conductor of the universe.

That is an inexplicable emotional state, where each one feels that Sri Krishna belongs to them. He is with them and in them. Without hurting anybody's heart, He makes them always rejoice their inward blissful nature. This is the state of Dvaita and Advaita of the soul. This is the divine player's amazing manner of directing the path, to those who worship Him in different ways.

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Sri Krishna, the supreme soul, was in the palace of Devaki and Vasudeva to receive their blessings. He was sitting at their feet with folded hands and His head bowed.

The enchantment of Sri Krishna constantly overwhelms the pious couple. Even as they are about to recognise that their son is the universal Lord, their affection for their child keeps concealing those feelings.

He made them permanently experience the joy and the fortune of having Sri Krishna as their child. He felt extremely happy that He could fulfil the duty as a son. To express the immense satisfaction derived by the Lord is beyond description. The noble couple could recognise the happiness and series of new expressions in their child. They blessed their son and made Him sit next to them.

"How are you both doing?" asked the auspicious Lord showering compassion.

Devaki Devi hugged Sri Krishna affectionately and said, "Every moment you are keeping a watch on us. You are protecting us with thousand eyes, without leaving us even for a second. Where is the dearth for our safety while you are with us, dear child?"

"We should be asking that question. But, you are the reputed universal protector; hence we are unable to ask."

Sri Krishna leaned his head over the shoulder of Devaki Devi charmingly. Looking in to the eyes of His mother smiled pleasantly.

“How come mother! Whatever may the status of sons, they are always children in the eyes of the parents. Even the Almighty is like a child desiring the affection of parents. Am I not your little Krishna? Not just enquiring my welfare, you should always be showering me with your blessings. By conducting marriages, aren’t you handing over more responsibilities? Looking at the charming child like innocent face of Sri Krishna asking questions, that mother’s heart elated inexplicably. She kissed His forehead and was speechless looking at the radiant form.

“You are always looking at me that way. Are you not content mother?”

Looking at the love flowing from eyes of the dark child, the mother’s heart melted. She nodded her head in approval. In the next moment adjusting herself and looking affectionately said “How are the daughters-in-law doing dear son? Aren’t they without any differences?”

Sri Krishna gave a sweet smile.

“Only if there were occasions for differences, mother.”

Observing the hesitation in the eyes of her son to say something, Devaki Devi looked at Him questioningly.

Vasudeva was looking emotionally at Devaki who was unable to conceal her curiosity. There is something new in Sri Krishna’s behaviour. In that hesitancy too, surprises were being showered. Though looking responsible, yet He was pretending with childlike gestures in the presence of His parents. Devaki Devi moving close to her son and showering compassion said, “What is it my dear child? You look different? You seem to want to say something. To my mind, it appears to be auspicious”.

Sri Krishna smiled with the glow of numerous moon lights.

“I am attending the celebrations of the Swayamvaram of Bhadra Devi.”

Devaki Devi hugged Sri Krishna who was bowing His head for her blessings. Vasudeva was enthralled. Their hearts filled with great delight.

Their son was about to fulfil the desire of their heart. He is about to change their blood relationship with Srutikirti to a new permanent bond. Bhadra Devi is known for her noble virtues and unparalleled beauty. Above all, she has been pining for Sri Krishna. Bhadra is being accepted as His better half and consort. Vasudeva felt as though Sri Krishna read his mind and took decision to fulfil his wishes. He hugged Sri Krishna and blessed him.

“Very auspicious. I will be looking forward for that auspicious moment when you will bring Bhadra as a daughter-in-law. We are immensely pleased with your decision to give importance to blood relationship and marrying my sister’s daughter and making her your consort. We will come and participate as soon as we get the wedding news.”

Vasudeva’s eyes filled with tears of joy. The brotherly love for his sister Srutikirti was evident in his expressions.

Sri Krishna smiled knowingly.

“Is this excitement because she is your sister’s daughter?”

Looking at the playful expression of Sri Krishna, Devaki Devi responded “No. Bhadra Devi is a golden doll. She glows with the aspect of Lakshmi. We had decided that the pleasant mannered beauty will be your wife at the time of her birth. She has been growing not only in her radiant form but also in her virtues, conduct, devotion and other humble qualities, incomparable with others. She used to be ecstatic while listening to the stories of virtuous women and about your miracles from me, about your childhood from Yashodha and Nanda, about your divine play from Radha. Bhadra’s good conduct is beyond her age. Her devotedness far exceeds her beauty. Her good-natured behaviour, her love and compassion, her sense of responsibility are very pleasing. Bhadra’s image as our daughter-in-law has long been established in our hearts.”

Sri Krishna was astonished looking at His mother’s eyes overflowing with joy, never seen before. Bhagawan Sri Krishna was elated in the presence of His parents congratulating Him for the decision and showering their blessings for the forthcoming marriage event.

As the Lord is beyond time, there is no distinction between past, present and future. As He is the Omnipresent, there is no possibility to think that He is present here and not elsewhere. As He is the Omniscient, there is no need for others to inform Him. The all-knowing Lord is the source of everyone’s intent and hence, He is aware of their feelings. However, He is an expert in pretending to respond to what others are asking. He playacts to ask others and appear to listen intently. To that wide eyed one, behaving thus is a talent since birth.

As He is the all-pervading, there need not be any doubt that He is present here and not there. In our view, is He present at the same time in different places? In His view, He is present at all times, at all places. He has no needs or wishes. But for our sake, the all-knowing is reminiscing.

Those heartening incidents are only to make our hearts enthral, to moist our eyes and to make our lives auspicious. Else, where is the need for Swami to discuss those issues with us? Isn’t this our good fortune? It is indeed due to our noble deeds and good fortune.

That’s why …

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The one who is all-pervading at Rukmini’s palace too…

The inner chamber of the palace was glowing with streamers of glowing pearls, decorations made of precious stones and gems and fragrant garlands. The shining Lord was reclining on the royal couch with a knowing smile. Rukmini immersed in serving the Lord with the bejewelled hand fan, observed a change in the Lord’s behaviour. There was a new distant look.

All of a sudden, He held the hand fan, took her hands towards His heart and was showering kisses. Rukmini noticed that the mind of Lakshmipati was elsewhere. She was dabbing the pearl like shining sweat droplets from His forehead, with the edge of her saree. She was reshaping the auspicious scarlet mark mixed with musk perfume. Startled by the touch of Rukmini’s hands, He came back from the distant look to the present. He was now concentrating on Rukmini.

He held her closely and was admiring her beautiful form, as though He was apologising for His inattentiveness.

“Devi! Are you disappointed that I was not attentive to the services rendered by you? Did I behave in an improper way? Shall I apologise?” How alluringly can Swami ask?

Can anyone…Can anyone endure such courtesy?

She put across her soft and tender hand to cover the lips of her beloved, as He was speaking His heart. Sri Krishna was delighted to see the glowing affection in the eyes of the queen of His heart. He was overjoyed to observe the expected response. While accepting the fragrant beetle leaf with camphor being offered, was anxiously looking at Rukmini.

“Devi! You quickly observed that, though being with you my mind was elsewhere for a moment. Are you not angry?” said Sri Krishna searching for a response. While further engrossed in His services, a smile flashed across the bright face of Rukmini owing to the side long glances of her beloved.

“Not just smiling, you must tell why you are not angry” said the Lord eagerly. Rukmini was looking with adoration at the insisting Swami.

“Swami! You are longing to hear about your own essence, through me. Else, being the all-knowing, will you not know about my heart? Should I open my mind to you, who is residing in my heart? Besides, Swami! You pervade everywhere at the same time and are Omniscient. Your creation is your form. Every atom created by you is filled with your nature. Is it not your essence? You create a feeling in your devotees, in your beloved friends, in those who have faith in you and in everyone, that you belong to each one and make them immensely happy. You can create and play in such experiences. You are the embodiment of love.

You are the supreme teacher. You are a Karma[76] Yogi[77] observing the Vedic[78] ceremonies with the intension of teaching and setting an example for others to practice. You are the supreme being following the practices of all faiths and occupied in the regular chores of a house holder, setting an example for others to follow. The householders are bound to the mundane lives. With the intention to preach the observation of the rules of the householder, you are the Bhagawan immersed in the family life, like an ordinary one.

[76] Action, deed, work, religious rite, the totality of innate tendencies formed as a consequence of acts done in previous lives. Every karma produces a lasting impression on the mind of the doer, apart from affecting others.

[77] One who practices Yoga.

Yoga:

(a) Union of individual self or Atma with supreme being or Universal Self; act of yoking.

(b) Spiritual discipline or exercise aimed at control of the senses.

(c) Science of divine communion.

(d) self-control.

[78] Relating to the Vedas.

It is true that you are beyond the four types of purushartham[79] and spiritual pursuit. However, with the intention of teaching others the importance of each objective, you have been practicing them in ideal manner like an adorable house holder. Though you are the indweller of the hearts of all beings and Omnipresent, to display the inward powers, you are playing the role of an ordinary human being. You are the unseen conductor of divine play. Being in my presence, you pretended to have lost heart somewhere. With the intention of knowing my heart, you wanted me to express feelings in your heart. You know my heart. Hence, you conferring this eligibility makes me feel proud".

For a moment, Bhadra's form appeared in the adoration of Rukmini's eyes. In the next moment Bhadra's figure appeared in her innermost pure heart. It is true that, Rukmini standing in front and Bhadra in innermost heart are both the divine aspects of Lakshmi Devi. Swami was not surprised. He is continuing the divine play.

"Why are you thinking that I want to share the feelings in my heart with you?"

The manner in asking repetitively is pleasing.

"If that was not your intention, then you would have hidden the feelings in your heart and without wasting even a moment kept me enthralled. You would have mesmerized me."

"Are you unhappy that I am unable to give you that pleasure, now?"

Rukmini smilingly answered her husband who was teasing by asking what is already known. Having realised the essence of the supreme soul, she was aware that she is not separate but a part of Him. Hence, she played her role in the drama being unfolded by the unseen conductor of the universal play.

She briefly said "no."

"Then?" The expertise is in insisting to get His expected reply.

Leaning over Sri Krishna's heart Rukmini affectionately said "no thought can arise without your intent. There can be no action. You are the embodiment of love, fulfilling the desires of each one as per the wishes in their heart. Truly, you are without emotions. Attracting you with wishes, glamour, worldly desires and thinking of holding you captive is a misapprehension and not real. Those who desire you physically in your human form, you are with them fulfilling the desires of each one. But your awareness with them is limited to their experiences only. However, it is not an indication of your true nature. But for those who can recognise your true nature, residing in them permanently you keep offering divine happiness, eternal wishes and divine experiences of the soul, every moment. Where will there be any separation for those who are fortunate to own this fortune. Where is the need to yearn for you? Will there be anybody in

[79] the principal object of human life and pursuit, of which four are enumerated;
1) Dharma - discharge of duty,
2) Artha - acquirement of wealth,
3) Kama - gratification of desire,
4) Moksha - final emancipation.

this universe who is more fortunate than those who are fortunate in Advaita state and not wishing for Dvaita.

Playfully stopping the words from Rukmini, Sri Krishna said, “except Rukmini, yes?”

As though responding to the pleasing remarks from Sri Krishna, Rukmini smiled charmingly. In that beauty, there was playfulness as though to tease the one who is teasing.

“Along with Rukmini there are relatives and other important persons who belong to this group, isn’t so my Lord.”

Sri Krishna’s eyes were smiling playfully and watched with curiosity, knowing that it was a part of His play.

“Rukmini, Radha, Gopikas … and?”

“And?”

Looking calmly in to the eyes of her beloved husband, whose eyes were searching Rukmini’s eyes questioningly, she wholeheartedly said “Swami, should I tell more? The person responsible for your inattentiveness some time back is your beloved Bhadra Devi.”

Sri Krishna pretended to be speechless. The Lord was happy for Rukmini grasping the truth and for getting His wish materialised. He was pleased for His prowess in performing the melodrama. Bhagawan was looking at Rukmini with a hearty smile.

“Bhadra Devi shines in all attributes exactly like my own image. I am aware how dear she is to you. The reason for your deep love is her infinite devotion and exceptional nature of analysing your true essence. Above all, the supreme soul who can be reached only through love was won with her adorable and unfathomable bond of love. I heard about Bhadra’s Swayamvaram. I am also aware that holding the hands of that beautiful woman you will make her a consort and a great celebrity. Accomplishing such an event is not only your wish but my wish too. Because, Bhadra and me are not separate, isn’t it? We and you are not separate, isn’t it?”

The husband of Rukmini Devi, with immense love, overflowing joy and uncontrollable eagerness tightly embraced his beloved Rukmini. She was melting in the embrace of the Sri Krishna who inspired her with oneness and compassion. She was whispering to her beloved within.

“Swami! Is it possible for anyone to experience such vibration, such sweet experience and this exceptional state of blissfulness flowing from the unique merger of individual soul with the supreme soul? Yes, only to those who come to realise your true essence with your blessings. Only to those who can have the inner vision of your universal supreme form and that wealth of divinity. Only to those fortunate who can see you everywhere. Swami, is this feeling possible through union at the physical level only? Is this state of captivation possible? How fortunate I am, Swami!” In the beloved’s heart that was merging in Rukmini, the feeling of a husband moved gently.

As though responding to Rukmini, that hidden voice sweetly said, “Not only you Rukmini, I am more fortunate than you … yes I am.” Saying thus, with great happiness the words of the supreme being have been revealed to us, due to our fortune and for us to express joy.

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Exactly at the same time, Sri Krishna was immersed in adoring the beauty of Sathyabhama[80] in the inner chamber of her palace. Sathyabhama is an amazing gorgeous woman. Every atom in her is a dazzling beauty becoming resplendent which keeps glowing. She perpetually attracts and allures Sri Krishna, who reveres and worships beauty, with her exceptional charm. She constantly dreams of making the Lord Jagannath who is her husband, surrender to her love and permanently reside deep in her heart. Proud Sathyabhama is ready to share everything with others except her treasured love. She is always contemplating on her beloved husband residing in her heart and keeps enjoying that experience.

It may be called selfishness, selfish love or by any other name, she is least concerned with what others think. Sathyabhama only wants the presence of her husband to experience an uninterrupted closeness with him.

“Sathya! With your beauty, love and adoration you are binding me. You possess the enchanting prowess of attraction which no other consorts have. It is my good fortune to have you as my sweet beloved and better half.”

Sri Krishna was admiring, savouring the beauty of Sathyabhama through His eyes. Unable to face those captivating looks she was blushing, and her eyes drooped.

“Is that shyness? Or tired in my anticipation…”

Holding that beautiful chin, He was about to look deep in to her moist eyes to heart’s content. Vasudeva[81] was perplexed.

“What is this Sathya? Why that water in those lotus eyes? Are they tears of joy my dear?

She lovingly pushed aside her beloved’s hand which was about to wipe those droplets of pearls.

“Then is it anger, why?”

He was asking her pretending innocence. She was about to look straight in to His eyes but melted with the love flowing through those divine eyes. The sensation of her beloved’s touch enthused her. He closed her lips as she was about to speak. The divine player in human form was playing the strings of her heart melodiously while whispering.

“Sathya! Do you think I will not understand what you are about to say? Are you not aware of the blame I carry, that I conduct myself by reading your mind, following your orders and remain close only with you? Are you not aware how enthusiastically I look forward to fulfilling your desire of making me famous as the husband of Satyabhama? There are many and someone else may come, but nobody can occupy your place. Nobody can outshine your spellbinding

[80] One of the eight consorts of Lord Sri Krishna.
[81] Another name of Lord Sri Krishna. Son of Vasudev.

beauty. Nobody can ever follow you. Nobody can ever gladden My heart like you. Sathya! This is true."

Listening to the soft and sweet narrations from Sri Krishna, Sathyabhama forgot everything and melted in His arms.

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Exactly, at this very moment, in the inner chambers of the palace of Jambavati[82], He was playing with the heart of that beautiful woman. He was convincing her that, caught in her affectionate arms cannot imagine being away even for a moment. It was pleasing to watch the one with dark cloud complexion, anointing cool sandalwood paste to her heart filled with wishes.

Exactly at the same moment, the one beyond time was having exciting conversations with His better half Kalindi[83], daughter of Sun. She was confronting Him saying that it was unfair to leave her while asleep and go to Sathyabhama. With the pretext of making her understand, He was embracing the young woman to His heart. The butter thief[84], was taking her close with pleadings to pardon.

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At the same moment, He was conversing with His other paternal aunt's daughter Mitravinda[85] and inquiring about her wellbeing and the responsibilities she is discharging towards her in laws. Thus, expressing His relationship with her and glorifying their closeness. With the intention of not giving scope for any dissatisfaction towards other consorts, the lotus eyed one was making utmost efforts.

During the same time, at that very instance –

He was conversing fondly with Nagnajiti[86], daughter of the King of Koshala. He was making her repeat the pining experiences she suffered and was listening with excitement. He was convincing her not to listen to what other consorts say and upset her mind. That, pining in separation will diminish the glow in her beauty, which He cannot endure. Pretending that He was hungry ate fruits and took sweet dish made of milk from the hands of Nagnajiti expressing His satisfaction.

Even when Bhagawan Sri Krishna plays a human role, the divinity of the God of Gods merges within and continues to glow. That divine player awakes at the auspicious time before the dawn and playfully discharges His many alluring responsibilities at the same time in different palaces with His consorts. He is discharging all duties without missing the order. Thus, He is setting an example to the world that everybody should do their duty. That is how He gained universal reputation.

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[82] One of the eight consorts of Lord Sri Krishna.

[83] One of the eight consorts of Lord Sri Krishna.

[84] By engaging himself in the divine sport of stealing butter from different households, Lord Sri Krishna apart from satiating the hunger of his poor friends, responded to the prayers of the Gopikas and helped them to think of him constantly."

[85] One of the eight consorts of Lord Sri Krishna

[86] One of the eight consorts of Lord Sri Krishna

The fragrance from the flowers of the gardens of every consort is anxious to embrace the God of Gods at the Brahma-muhurtham[87]. During that auspicious time, the supreme being meditates on Himself. Every atom in Sri Krishna is a form of that supreme being. He is the beginning and the entirety. Even the physical body adopted by Sri Krishna not being separate from Him cannot be considered only physical. After meditation, Bhagawan performs the other tasks like the routine rituals prescribed in the Vedas, offerings to fire deity, chanting of Gayatri[88] and conducting the prayers to Sun God during sun rise and feels satisfied. These rituals are done only to increase the awareness about the duties of a house holder. He also feels satisfied by offering oblations to ancestors, reminding the common people about their normal duties in this world. Decorating thousands of cows beautifully and gifting them to Brahmins is very important to Sri Krishna among His daily chores.

Later, in the king's court He addresses the common people, fulfilling their different wishes and satisfies them. He would get into the chariot driven by 'Daraka' and accompanied by 'Uddhava' and 'Satyaki' to move around the streets of the city. He would cast His glances at the consorts who are anxious and waiting with anxiety. He would watch them playfully and set off in the chariot. This was an important activity in His daily routine.

There are only a few people who have grasped a little about the divinity of the Omniscient Swami, who is aware of the past, the present and the future.

At the same instance, He was caught in the embracing hands of His consorts….

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He was indulging in raasakreeda[89] with the Gopikas. They are among those who are fortunate to have acquired wisdom like ascetics and assimilated the essence of Krishna. They wish to be close to Him. Yearn for His love. They are anxious to receive His compassion every moment and longing for His divine glances. Having sacrificed everything, they have adopted desire less action with steady devotional nature. Looking at the Omnipresent Lord in everything, aware of nothing but love they desire only love. Gopikas are such great devotees but for others they appear as innocent, mad and desperate in love. Bhagawan bestowed on them the great opportunity to experience Bhagawan's divine love with exceptional fortune. They are selfless people who had already offered everything to Sri Krishna.

They are pining for Sri Krishna and they are making themselves frail. They are searching for Sri Krishna everywhere. They can look at the Lord Jagannath residing in their hearts through their inner vision. They can experience the true essence of the supreme soul glowing within every atom. They are the blessed beings who have realised this truth and remain joyful and ecstatic.

They do not have any worldly desires. They wish only for spiritual relationship. They expect only inner unity. They are the virtuous people who have obtained Advaita with their exceptional devotion. In Brindavan, the Lord is engaged in raasa kreeda with them every moment. He is

[87] Sacred period during early morning, when spiritual practices such as meditation are recommended. Approximately 96 minutes before sunrise for 48 minutes, but one can also find it defined as 04:08–04:56. A muhurtha is approximately 48 minutes.

[88] The name of a short prayer addressed to the Lord Sun.

[89] A divine dance of Lord Sri Krishna with Radha and Gopikas.

spreading the true essence the relationship between nature and living beings. Dancing is the most dear and enjoyable entertainment for the supreme Lord.

He is dancing with each Gopika. He is satisfying and making each one happy. He is playfully teasing each one. He makes everyone pine for Him. He preaches nature of divinity and in turn gathers essence of nature from them. Engaging with them in several ways, makes the Lord Sri Krishna immensely pleased. On the other side, He is merged with Radha Devi, the lead female character of the raasa kreeda. Residing in her heart He is dancing marvellously.

Radha and Krishna are nature and supreme soul. He makes that nature as the strength of worship. Through worship, He wins over the hearts of devotees. He is thus giving His devotees freedom and liberation. This is a subject very dear to Sri Krishna.

For the blessed Radha, who could grasp the complete essence of Krishna, it is Sri Krishna everywhere. This relationship is beyond description and physical desires, which are impossible for others to achieve. This is a divine secret treatise unknown to beings.

Radha is the blessed soul who spread the essence of Bhagawan Sri Krishna to the world. About that Lord Sri Krishna who is the substratum for the entire creation, who is also the Omnipresent and the universal Lord.

The relationship between Radha and Krishna is the true essence of nature and man. She worshipped and filled her heart with divinity. Radha is being worshipped with prayers and other rituals as the principal deity for spreading the essence of Krishna to the world.

Sri Krishna residing in the heart of Radha, merging with her is playing with immeasurable joy. Thus, at the same time in numerous ways, He is playing many roles with great dexterity. Though, by a simple wish He can be all, the Omniscient Lord is discharging His normal duties without missing the order.

He continues to search constantly for true devotees and those seekers who can assimilate the essence of His nature.

Having taken the human form for universal good, the Lord Srimannarayana does not exempt even His consorts in searching for Him. For those who have grasped His true nature, He is the motivator for seeking the truth. He is the truth and also its essence. He takes the responsibility for everything, holds hands and leads the path towards truth. He fills them with the inexplicable joy through inner spiritual vision. Becoming all, He merges in them. The compassionate Bhagawan is happier and more ecstatic than His devotees.

For those who have realised His true nature, Bhagawan resides in their hearts filled with love and permanently establishes the manifestation of God. However, in majority of people the feeling of concerted devotion and inquiry in to one’s own true nature is deficient.

Such people can gain or expect to gain from Him, the physical experiences based on their feelings. Experiences related to the physical body and to beauty are only temporary. They will be just left with or accumulate only experiences. They will experience only those experiences related to what they have accumulated and no spiritual experiences of divine nature. They assume that they have realised the awareness of God. But what is left in them is, only the physical aspect of a husband and not the essential devotional feeling of a devotee.

There are a few who have realised the essence of Bhagawan Sri Krishna, His universal nature and assimilated His infinite supreme nature. They are in the state of Advaita which is unknown to separation. They are merged in the unity of their individual soul with the supreme soul without any difference. They captivate Him through nine different forms of worship. They are aware that He is one without attachments. Among such people are Gopikas, the true devotees; Radha Devi, the origin of nature; Rukmini Devi, the incarnation of Lakshmi who constantly worships His lotus feet and the beautiful Bhadra Devi, the divine aspect of Lakshmi. He is never separate from them. The creation of pangs of separation is only to experience with joy the nectar emerging from the churning of their hearts. Through that they experience divine and permanent bliss. Among the other consorts, many were trying to attract Him only through their vast beauty. They aspire only for His external beauty. They only criticise His true nature. They can only plunge in jealousy and hatred like ordinary house wives. They wish only for physical closeness with Him and satisfy themselves becoming competitive and obstinate. They imagine that with their beauty they can bind their Swami. When their ego is so firmly established, they may come up to Dvaita and stop; but will be far away from Advaita.

That is why…That is why Bhagawan Sri Krishna is anxious to be close to Bhadra Devi, the indweller of His heart. He wishes to create a new distinguished awareness for Bhadra Devi to grow from the state of Dvaita to Advaita, to know Him completely. He is yet to convey His true essence to Bhadra, the form taken by His intent. The spiritual master, the indweller of all beings and the universal master was eagerly looking forward as the time for achieving this completeness has arrived.

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Chapter 5 - Sri Krishna's Appearance as Subhadra

The Lord Jagannath's chariot is dashing forward faster than Sri Krishna's mind. The horses are galloping towards the kingdom of Kaykaya. The reins in the hands of the charioteer were moving rhythmically indicating the arrival of auspicious moments.

Swami's form is excelling many Manmadhas. The delicate and soft arrows of Cupid are anxious to make those sweet sensations in Swami's heart and feel blessed. The pangs of separation in Bhadra with its gentle warmth, is making the flower of love in His heart bloom. This experience is inexplicable. Impossible to describe even for Lord Brahma. The thoughts related to the new bride are causing ecstatic feelings in the eternal one. The female lead of Navarasa with her touch is immersing the 'Kousthubhadari'[90], the Lord Himself in the ecstasy of navarasa.

Though Swami is formless, He is amused by the awareness created by Bhadra's love. He is always steady. Even then, He is surprised by the happiness being created by Bhadra's love.

[90] The breastplate or jewel worn on his breast by the Lord Vishnu.

The awareness of the Omnipresent Lord Jagannath is being surprisingly questioned by Bhadra's love. Bhadra's love is creating an apprehension to the honourableness of Lord Sri Hari, who is the best among the excellent. The heart of Sri Krishna, who has robbed the hearts of thousands of Gopikas and countless beautiful woman, was stolen by Bhadra's love. Bhagawan Sri Krishna, who is ever steady became powerless with Bhadra's pure, selfless and exceptional love.

Though He is the indweller of all, He is anxious to hold the blooming heart of Bhadra perceptibly. He is eager to relieve the pain in His eyes with the cool touch of Bhadra's lotus hands. Experiencing every moment as an eon while waiting for His perceptible glimpse and desirous of melting in His embrace, Bhadra was becoming frailer. Sri Krishna was very impatient to enliven her spirit and rejuvenate her with His nectarine lips. Love is a synonym for serene devotion. For pure love, devotion is an honest mirror. Bhagawan is unable to withstand such intense devotion with love. Bhagawan is unable to hold himself, even for a moment from melting and merging in such devotion.

However, there is still time to perceptibly merge Bhadra with Himself. If her yearning is satisfied earlier than the appointed hour, from then on, every moment will become an eon and she will not be able to survive until those auspicious moments. Will not be able to live without attaining Him. Even then, His immediate duty is to make Bhadra free from weariness and to pacify her. With His thoughts around Bhadra, Sri Krishna, the supreme soul, imagined His own intent taking the form of His younger sister Subhdara[91]. The Protector of truth, moving faster than His mind, put His identical self into the form of Subhadra and manifested her at once in the presence of Bhadra.

Perhaps, He is desirous to make Bhadra go through the tests, or to make her successful in the tests conducted by Him and very quickly hold her lotus hands close to His heart. He may be desirous to merge this aspect of Lakshmi with His Lakshmi, residing in His heart and experience the ecstatic joy. Swami only knows. He was smiling within Himself. Beholding elegantly with His eyes half closed and with a sweet smile on His bright face, was blissful. Lord Jagannath as Subhadra was elated with the feeling of nearing the inner chamber of Bhadra's palace.

Bhadra Devi's Innermost Feelings

On receiving the message from Srutiranjani, the yearning in Bhadra increased manifold with the expectations of auspicious rituals of the marriage. That propitious form of Lakshmi, having lost shades of shine pining in separation was perplexed. She was constantly recollecting the good fortune of Srutiranjani. She was recalling the blissful form of her beloved, seen by Srutiranjani. She was agitated, sorrowful, worried and pining to be in the presence the Lord Jagannath.

The beautiful form of Sri Krishna, which her eyes are feasting upon is getting blurred through her moist eyes and disappearing each moment. She is clearly experiencing the feeling of that form entering her heart. The feelings of Krishna within the heart, merging with the formless in her, is visible to the inner vision. But was not being revealed to her eyes. The glowing energy of Sri Krishna filling her entire body is creating unbearable sensation. With mere imagination, Sri Krishna's arms are holding her delicate body tightly, clearly expressing her hidden feelings.

[91] Sri Krishna's younger sister.

Hearing her say ‘Swami’, the next moment holding delicately and making her relax is evidently her Swami. But, can He not appear before her eyes at least once? Can He not call out ‘Bhadra’ at least once? Swami, why this test for me? Perhaps, this test is not for me? This may be a test to challenge your Omnipresence. Even then, can I accept you not being successful in this test? Can I live?

As the time for the Swayamvaram was approaching, unexpected agitation started in Bhadra. Many doubts are arising and increasing her impatience. There is an uproar in the capital city of Kaykaya. Parents are unable to contain their enthusiasm and happiness. Their eyes are glowing with the confidence of certainly getting a suitable husband for Bhadra and a deserving son-in-law for themselves. She was also immersed in greater delight and excitement since the the return of Srutiranjani after mediation. She was experiencing ecstatic moments beyond expression.

But again, why this situation? Why this uncertainty? Why these doubts? Are these unnecessary imaginations as she is a poetess? Are these irrelevant doubts rising because she is a writer? Are these feelings beyond emotion because she is an emotional person?

These baseless doubts are so many, that they may shake the confidence on the unseen director of the divine play. Are these emotions a part of the divine play conducted by the mesmeric actor in the human form?

You are the one who can be known through Vedanta[92]. You are not related to the worldly changes. You are not easily attainable, except to the ascetics with complete detachment. Because you are of that nature, a doubt arises in me. I love you. Identified you as a husband. I am dreaming of binding you to family life. I am dreaming to be permanently in you, as a beloved who cannot leave your embrace even for a moment.

Swami, many doubts surround me. I am getting afraid that you may say ‘family ties for an ascetic like me? Marriage for me, who remains detached from society? I being a resolute brahmachari[93], a wed-lock with you? Offerings of love to one who is eternally withdrawn?’

But again, get confidence as you are one with many families. Have faith that you are the embodiment of love, who surrenders Himself to love. You are celebrating married life with six consorts and with Radha Devi. You enjoy playing with them and make them contented, which gives you total satisfaction of a complete man. This reality is giving me the courage.

However, I am experiencing happiness rather than jealousy. In that way, I am overcoming the doubts. But Swami! the auspicious time for Swayamvaram is approaching. But then, at that moment, absorbed in sister Rukmini’s devotion towards her husband, will you be forgetting me? In the intense embrace of sister Jambavati, you may forget everything, forget me too and may be absorbed there forever.

[92] It is the essence of the Vedas enshrined in the Upanishads. The philosophy of non-dualism, or qualified non-dualism, or dualism based on the Upanishadic teachings, is denoted by this term.

[93] A bachelor, one who practises celibacy.

The beautiful and charming sister Satyabhama is your favourite consort. She controls your freedom and proudly claims to own all rights on you. She may bind you by her tresses and take you away you from my thoughts!

The attractive and gorgeous Kalindi, Mitravinda and Satyakirti Devi whom you have thoughtfully selected and married, may not allow you to participate in one more Swayamvaram. Will they sacrifice jealousy and hatred to accept me in the place of the seventh consort?

Bava! I am confused with so many doubts, why don't you offer relief to me? Can there not be at least one close relative coming this way, who can give appropriate cure for my pining pain? The pain in my heart is engulfing me like a wild fire. Oh Swami! I need somebody to wipe my tears and give me courage. Give an assurance that you would come, hold my hand and hide me in you. I look for a reassurance from such a compassionate heart.

Srutiranjani returned a few days ago. Meanwhile, your mind has not changed, isn't it? You will not give up the word, isn't it! Love for me has not declined, isn't it? The intensity of recalling me through my complete love for you has not diminished, isn't it?

Who knows! Her left shoulder quivered[94], as though to clarify her doubt. Indications of marriage ritual became evident. Bhadra Devi felt a cool touch over her head. A touch, opening her lotus eyes delicately. An exceptionally sensitive touch, making her withered cheeks lively once again.

"Bhadra! Bhadra! Bhadra!"

Faint whispering divine voice was playing in the ears. Bhadra could not come out of that ecstatic state.

"Bhadra! Look, who is here!"

Bhadra opened her eyes excitedly. Standing in front of her eyes was a blooming enchanting form. A beautiful and gorgeous form.

Those surroundings began to soak with the fragrance of perfume. For a moment it felt like being in the abode Vaikuntha.

Widening her eyes, she was looking curiously.

Standing before her eyes was Subhadra. Sister of her Swami. Next to her Swami, very dear to her. Very important close relation. In a way has the eligibility to own all the rights over her, like half[95] husband.

Subhadra was looking fondly in to Bhadra's eyes and smiled teasingly. Divine glow in Subhadra, never known before.

Bhadra could not look straight.

[94] It is a cultural belief that quivering of left shoulder for a woman is an indication of auspicious time.
[95] Husband's sister has a dominating role in certain cultures, hence the phrase 'half husband.'

“What is this? Why have you become like this? That is why, my brother sent me to give you courage”, said Subhadra caressing Bhadra’s chin and looking steadily in to her eyes. That touch felt like plucking of the strings of several lutes in her.

Every nerve was charged with lightning waves in an unusual and strange manner. With uncontrollable joy relaxed her head over the shoulder of Subhadra.

She was wishing for the support of one with a compassionate heart who could give her courage. Her wish was immediately fulfilled by her Swami. Not knowing how to thank Him, she remained silent with a heart filled with happiness.

In Subhadra’s touch, in the vibrations originating from her, embedded in her fondling are experiences beyond description. This pleasing inner comfort which is due to the Lord Jagannath is plucking the strings of her heart like a lute in an unusual and strange manner.

“Bhadra! You are aware that my brother is a connoisseur of beauty. If you become so feeble now before the Swayamvaram, then how will He select you? How will He accept you?”

The ears of Bhadra Devi entwined to Subhadra, softly heard these questions.

Bhadra’s inner self responding strangely, unfolded the deep emotions within.

“At the time of Swayamvaram, I am the one to select and garland, isn’t it!”

“But my brother is a connoisseur of beauty, isn’t it? He steals the hearts of beautiful women, isn’t it? He is the beloved of Lakshmi, isn’t it? Though He may accept your request, what if He ignores later!”

“No. No. My Bava will never do like that. Though, He is the husband of Lakshmi, may have stolen the hearts of several wives, but He is not indecisive. Definitely not.”

Bhadra was trembling with that very thought. Subhadra took her closer.

“What a faith?”

Bhadra was hearing those words as if in a dream. Experiencing them in a dream.

“Yes. You may not have faith in your brother. But I have complete faith in my Bava. Do you know why?”

Subhadra bent her head gladly to the whispers of Bhadra.

“My Bava is not an ordinary human. He is the real form of Parabramma[96]. Not only that, He is the embodiment of Love. As a personification of love, He is beyond description. Only those who can attain and experience that love are blessed. In that embodiment of love, all that I can envision is love. The moment I think of Bava, every atom in my body fills up only with love. Immediately with astonishing elation my words falter. Stop in the throat itself. My heart melts into tears. I become anxious to fill my entire heart with Bava. Unable to see my Bava, I lament in grief. Next moment, overjoyed with love, I burst into laughter. These surroundings do not bother me. I am not even aware of what others are thinking. I sing His beauty, who is the most

[96] The supreme Spirit.

attractive in the entire world. I discover in the inner recesses of my heart the image of Swami, whose form is equivalent to many Manmadhas. I dance with joy. That is the highest state of a devotee filled with love. That is the ultimate state to discover the heart of a devotee.

Vodina[97]! Why I am telling you all this is because my love is full of devotion. My devotion is filled with love. That is why my Bava does not show hesitation about me. My Swami who does not concede to anything, surrenders to love. He readily agrees to serve for love. He lives interlaced in the hearts of lovers. Swami is an infinite being. I have extreme faith in His infinite nature. I have confidence in attaining presence near Him with my infinite love. This infinite nature is the foundation for our relationship."

Beautiful Bhadra's act of exploring the heart was creating happiness to Sri Krishna, who has come in the form of Subhadra. The heart of the attractive woman immersed in love is captivating. Bhadra's marvellous love vested in Him from young age is not unknown.

The fact that Bhadra got to know about Him through *Kunti*[98] and *Akrura*[99] and assimilated in herself is not unknown to Him. Recognising that everything is the essence of Sri Krishna, she worshipped and surrendered herself. Bhadra's boundless devotion has a special place in His heart.

Bhadra's birth is for Him. Born as an aspect of Lakshmi Devi, worshipped Him in most natural manner, loved Him and with her unsullied love bound Him. Bhadra was seeing the form of Sri Krishna in each atom of the creation. She was hearing only the essence of Sri Krishna. She excelled in the art of dance only for Him. She is dancing like Radha in Gokul. She is establishing the form His Omnipresence in her vision and confined Him by locking in her arms.

Became an expert singer only for Him. Having known that He loves music, by singing the essence of His Universal form, divine plays and deluding acts she forgot everything. That attractive girl's soul used to merge in Him. Became famous in the art of painting only for Him. She used to repeatedly paint the attractive features of the beautiful form appearing in her mind and felt elated. Gossiped with dazzling eyes. With her entrancing and warm lips used to shower drops of nectar on the moving lips of His live portrait. Hiding her lotus like face in His lotus heart used to be totally absorbed.

Bhadra's heart is affectionately charming. Bhadra's mind is the true reflection of pure devotion. Bhadra's inner self is a temple built for Him. Every atom in Bhadra, filled with the feeling of chastity for Him, is like a flower in the bouquet offered in worship.

Therefore, He gave equivalent place with Rukmini, in His heart.

He invited on Himself, for Bhadra's sake, the pining of separation exceeding that of Bhadra. He is thus experiencing exceptional happiness. Their extraordinary relationship is the true reflection of the experiences of a lover and a sweetheart. A reflection of the relationship between the husband and wife, true bonding of their love and affection. A reflection of the unimaginable power of deep devotion, of the unusual merging of Dvaita and Advaita schools of philosophy. A reflection of the essence of divine relationship of the individual soul with the

[97] Term used to address sister-in-law, brother's wife or husband's sister.
[98] Kunti was the sister of Vasudev, the father of Lord Sri Krishna.
[99] Relative of Lord Sri Krishna.

universal soul. His only wish is to reveal this truth, the reason for the deceptive indifference. The reason for the soft attitude and controlled restrain for anticipation. That is the inner meaning for creating perpetual pining of separation in Bhadra.

Looking at Subhadra in silence, Bhadra's mind was agitated. In that state of obsession, had a suspicion if she spoke out of turn! Had a doubt if she hurt Subhadra's heart! Scared if she might be hurting Bava's heart.

Looking intensely at Subhadra's face Bhadra became still. The form in front of her is not of Subhadra. It is indeed the divine form of that mesmerising Gopala[100] emitting the ecstatic enchantment with incomparable beauty. Everything was filled with fragrance. In the presence of that Srinath[101] all types of fragrances including the delightful perfume of sandalwood, jasmine, parijata[102] and other such divine aromas were becoming mild. The sweat drops like white pearls were spreading unusual brightness on the *Kasturi tilakam*[103]. Climbing down several echelons for her sake, He is spreading light with the brightness of the moon. He is tenderly caressing her cheeks with His attractive nose like the *sampenga*[104] flower. He is exploring anxiously her face with His nectarine juicy lips. For a moment the formless one appeared clearly as Sri Krishna and immediately settled in the form of Subhadra. The affectionate charm of those divine eyes, becoming reddish in the fire of love, acquiring red colour with desire, full of expectations shining like rubies, was pulsating. Shying bashfully with an extremely trembling creeper like body, Bhadra entwined to Subhadra's form.

"Bhadra! What is this? I am not your Bava, I am Subhadra, your Vodina."

The playact of her beloved touched her ears pleasingly in the voice of Subhadra.

Unable to respond, Bhadra became vulnerable.

"Bhadra! From childhood you are accustomed to performing marriages of dolls, with your friends. Making one friend as Sri Krishna, tied the Mangalasutra in the traditional way. Engrossed by those thoughts, imagined Sri Krishna as a husband in the heart and felt happy. Seeing the form of Sri Krishna in every living being, in nature's every atom and became full of incomprehensible happiness. Isn't it? Are you not caught in the same imagination, even now? You are taking me to be your Bava, isn't it so?"

Returning to reality by the words of Subhadra, Bhadra looked at her in confusion. The words are of Subhadra, but then that form! that touch! that vibration! that tingling! that ecstasy!!

The divine form of Sri Krishna is constantly manifesting in Subhadra's form. The nectarine glances are ever-increasing the emotional experiences in her.

[100] Another name of Lord Sri Krishna.
[101] Another name of Lord Sri Krishna.
[102] One of the five heavenly trees in the pleasure garden of Lord Indra.
[103] An auspicious symbol painted on Lord Sri Krishna's forehead using paint of vermillion with musk (Kasturi) perfume.
[104] The 'gold flower', Michelia champaka.

The incomprehensible emotional vibrations continue to submerge her. What Subhadra said may be true. But…but this kind of divine experience from Subhadra never happened to her! She has never known such emotional vibrations before.

Subhadra with fondness comfortably seated Bhadra, who was looking mesmerised. Making Bhadra sit on an elegant looking couch with scattering unusual glow that can awaken ecstatic desires. She dabbed Bhadra's face glowing with sweat pearls with her soft garment. She realigned the Kumkuma[105] on the forehead, wiped the moist eye brows, patted the attractive lips. Holding the eyelids that were becoming heavy with shyness with her power of attraction, Subhadra asked caringly.

"Bhadra! You have the devotion and can seek refuge in the Omnipresent, looking everywhere. Identifying my brother clearly in me is no surprise. Because, there is Advaita underlined in our relationship as brother and sister."

'Perhaps!' gestured Bhadra's fluttering eyes.

"By the way, you did not even ask the reason for my visit" Bhadra was anxiously observing Subhadra, who was watching fondly.

"My brother Sri Krishna received your invitation for Swayamvaram in Indraprastha along with your Pandava brothers. Even before that, His body became bluer due to the flares emitting from the fire of your separation. Much earlier to that, He was defeated by the rapture of your unbound devotion. And much before that, He was immersed in the flow of your love. And much before that …"

Bhadra's eyes trapped in the puzzling looks of Subhadra, drooped heavily.

"My brother is truly Omniscient. Looking at your pangs of separation became anxious. Being an embodiment of love, He is submerged in your river of love. He became more anxious than yourself, to reach you. However, He is the eternal One. He is waiting for the appropriate time to hold your hand as per tradition. That good opportunity emerged through the mediation of Srutiranjani. Became auspicious with the message of Swayamvaram. Holding your hand will be the happy ending."

Subhadra held the lotus like soft hands of Bhadra. The lightning waves from that touch filled Bhadra with a new vitality. The necklace of rubies which Bava fondly decorated her neck when young, touched her cheek unexpectedly. Young Bhadra accepted that gift as the exclusive sacred mangalasutra from Sri Hari.

She is aware of not removing that priceless gift from the neck even in her dream. In that auspicious necklace is the sacredness not visible to others. It is touching the heart recalling pleasant memories. It offered a new definition to the bonding with Advaita. Her favourite red colour was shining with exceptional ruddiness. The past event of Bava affectionately decorating her neck is manifesting before her eyes even today. That charming touch tickles with ecstasy even today. Lovingly touching her cheek to the necklace, she was experiencing divine

[105] An ornamental small round patch or mark on the forehead, generally using kumkuma. Kumkuma is a fragrant cosmetic or rouge, composed of turmeric, alum and lime juice.

happiness. The Lord Jagannath in Subhadra looking at Bhadra was marvelled and entranced with profound happiness.

“Bhadra! Have you preserved the necklace gifted by my brother with such care?” Bhadra looked puzzled. Those lotus eyes closed bashfully.

Why is she having the urge to express the wealth of fond feelings now, which was hidden in the heart since long? How come she desires to make known the experiences kept hidden in her mind?

Right from young age, her heart shaped in to a temple with devotion for Sri Krishna. In that temple the form of Sri Hari is stable. Eternal. She grew up with the divine feeling that Lord Jagannath was her husband in past lives. She is spiritually aware that Bava is the leader of her heart. Her heart extended beyond measure.

There is an inseparable bond between her and her Bava. That is a relationship since past lives. That is a divine and affectionate relationship between her Lord and herself. That is a sacred relationship of a husband and wife uniting her since several lives.

There exists a close bond between herself and Swami. That is an extraordinary relationship between nature and man. Now, for the first time she feels like opening her heart and tell this truth. At this moment she feels like making it known, in the presence of Subhadra, her auspicious true form, which has been reformed with the features to be the wife of Sri Krishna. She feels like telling her, the way she is being targeted to the flames of the pining of separation without compassion, by the Omniscient Lord Jagannath, being her lord too.

She feels like describing the constant suffering of the spirit and the extent of pain being created. Having granted the permanent position of a wife in heart of hearts, is it fair for your brother, to kindle unbearable flames of pining in separation? Thus, she feels like confronting and asking Subhadra. Bhadra was getting disturbed with several experiences and thoughts all at once.

Looking at Bhadra getting perturbed with that impact, the Omniscient in Subhadra felt like holding Bhadra tightly to heart.

“You are not only my better half, you are the energy in me. I am the spirit in you. You are the invisible nature in me. I am the supreme being merged in you. However, it is not yet the opportune time to announce this reality through you. Being bound to eternal tradition, I will create that moment very soon.”

Sri Krishna’s inner voice reached the depths of Bhadra’s heart through Subhadra’s looks.

Within moments Bhadra was overcome by the delusion of Sri Krishna.

“Bhadra! Why didn’t you tell in detail about the necklace given by my brother?

A new glow flickered in Bhadra’s eyes. She held the necklace of rubies which she considers as her Mangalasutra, to her eyes with reverence.

“At the time of sister Rukmani Devi’s wedding, Bava specially decorated my neck with this necklace.”

Lakshmipati in Subhadra smiled playfully.

“How?”

“What how?” thought Bhadra, making her cheeks turn red competing with the rubies. The quivering red lips brightened up. The glow of her bashful eyes created shine on her cheeks.

“You have assigned so much value to that necklace of rubies! To that event!”

Had Bhadra raised her head, she would have observed the pranks of playful Krishna. Unable to shift her eyes from that divine auspicious form, she would have been totally absorbed.

Bhadra’s beloved was charmingly arranging the curls and softly stroking the lotus like hands. He was immersing her alluringly, making it difficult to lift her head.

At that moment it was not Swami’s intention to reveal to Bhadra that He is indeed her Bava. Why! Only Swami would know!

Bhadra's mind was filled with the memories of her dearest Rukmini and the indescribable experiences related to the wedding moments of Rukmini.

The sweet feelings safely hidden in the heart all along, gushed out suddenly. She has been dreaming to narrate it to her close relations and feel happy. Bhadra was entranced with joy, that her heart’s wish is fulfilled today in the presence of Subhadra.

“Vodina! Many relatives were comparing the radiant face of Rukmini with my shine, the extraordinary beauty of Rukmini with my beauty and the virtuous qualities of Rukmini with my qualities. They used to compare Rukmini’s amiability, devotion and obeisance with mine and felt pleased. I used to be very anxious to know the undisputed truth of their words and to see it with my own eyes.

Even before seeing Rukmini Devi, from the details I heard about her and the similarities acquired by me, I developed great admiration for her. I specially came to attend Rukmini’s wedding. I heard the news about Bava’s show of gallantry in winning over the enemies, holding the hands of Rukmini Devi and reaching the city of Dwaraka. I imagined that delightful depiction and was excited.

I was not jealous, don’t know why. Envy and hatred did not surface. Imagined that the wedding is being conducted for me. For my sake Bava trounced the enemies to dust. The thought that He held my hands, took me closely to heart and reached the city of Dwaraka was strange to myself.

I was myself surprised by my thoughts. There are no explanations for the thought of imagining myself in place of Rukmini. Clarifications are not available.

The wedding stage was exquisitely decorated. The wedding palace was excelling Vaikuntha and was very sacred. Exceptionally picturesque. Its glow was making the wedding guests

astounded. Rukmini and Sri Krishna, the true forms of Lakshmi Devi and Lord Narayana were seated on the wedding thrones. Thus, began the marriage ritual."

The divine events of Rukmini's wedding were extending feast to the eyes of Bhadra Devi.

The grandeurs of the wedding with Rukmini, the incarnation of His virtuous wife Lakshmi Devi was distinctly visible. Sri Krishna was over joyous and beholding attentively with eyes half closed. At that moment forgot the fact that He is in Subhadra's form.

"What after that?"

Bhadra could hear Subhadra's deep voice.

"He is eternally pure, Lord Jagannath, a celibate inviolate, head of many households, a hermit, endowed with wealth, immutable, ever gratified, Omnipresent and bestowed with virtues. That Sri Krishna pretending innocence was sitting still next to Rukmini. He, who is the Lord of the hearts of Gopikas, the connoisseur of beauty, one who stole Radhika's heart was displaying ignorance. He was glancing at Rukmini sideways with hesitant looks, as though never seen or touched a woman before. I was surprised by the act put up by the unseen conductor of the divine play of the universe.

The radiance of that form in yellow silk vesture was dazzling the eyes. The glow of the body with dark complexion was overpowering the eyes with its shine. The flashes from the gems in the necklace reflecting on the moon like face were turning pale. All the deities and numerous families of the universe were waving lamps and burning camphor. The glow from these offerings were turning pale before the brilliance of Lord Jagannath, like small lamps in the presence of the Sun. I realised that to look completely at that resplendent shining form of the Lord, even divine eyes may not be adequate. He can enthral everybody playing the flute. The entire gathering look forward for the nectar from the lips of Lord Venugopal,[106] like the black cuckoo waiting for rain drops for subsistence. That fortune is now going to be acquired by Rukmini Devi as the principal queen. Those who can perceive this spectacle are indeed very fortunate.

I was overwhelmed for getting that fortune. I was watching Rukmini Devi, the true form of Mahalakshmi, the benefactor of auspiciousness, spellbound. There was absolutely no jealousy rising in me. That divine virtue as me and myself being that divine virtue creating the Advaita state in the heart of hearts, was exclusive. Watching the Lord Jagannath as husband of Rukmini, as husband of Lakshmi and sitting with a veil of ignorance covering His all-knowing nature, was delightful to the eyes.

Swami was affectionately redoing the vermillion symbol on Rukmini Devi's forehead. Just that light touch was making Sri Devi excited. He was glancing amused. Surprisingly, this scene created a sensation of plucking of the strings of lute in my body. The thought of Bava redoing my forehead was so realistic that I felt I was in the place of Rukmini. That divine touch became lightning waves and created pleasant sensation in every atom in me. This was a new experience.

I was thinking myself to be in the place of Rukmini Devi, casting her adoring glances on Sri Krishna who was holding fingers on the symbolic yoke as a ritual. The drops of water falling

[106] Another name of Lord Sri Krishna.

through it were being playfully splashed by Bava. Those tiny sprays falling on me were like display of rainbows in my heart, reminding the Lakshmi aspect in me. Reinforcing the wedding feeling, which is the cherished wish of my heart.

This aspect of Lakshmi merging and shining in that Lakshmi, an experience beyond imagination. The divinity in the merging of the nature and man, like Lakshmi and Narayana without separation. The exceptional state of advaita of Rukmini, Jagannath and myself radiating as one soul was eternal. Truth at all times.

Rukmini's neck was decorated with mangalasutra by her husband. The supreme being with zeal turned His forefingers sensitive by diminishing their power of lightning waves by several echelons. He was tenderly pressing them on her soft neck. He was admiring the beauty of Sri Devi through His charming eyes. He was affectionately tying the three knots of the sacred thread of mangalasutra, amidst showering of akshita[107]. This experience is due to my great fortune. The confidence that Swami will accept me and the happy feeling that those auspicious moments are coming soon, strengthened further. Incomprehensible responsiveness in Rukmini, unique experience of emotion in Sri Lakshmi, melted her complete self in the feelings of devotion mixed with tears of joy. Had an ultimate pure wish of washing the feet of that unseen conductor of universal play and become blissful. Experiencing the same emotions along with Rukmini, I too had that pure wish at the same time.

The Trinity with their consorts, Vigneswara[108], eleven Rudrulu[109] and twelve Adityulu [110] were showering flowers. Together Lakshmi and Narayana were bestowing auspiciousness and enchanting the universe. From relatives, devotees and friends they were smilingly accepting the flowers of worship, hymns of praise and offerings of camphor. Along with Rukmini and Sri Krishna having these experiences, I was also subjected to exceptional ecstasy.

My form is unified in Rukmini. His unmatched attractive form dissolved in me. The supreme light glowed with divine energy. This is not an imagination but an indication from the soul.

This is not an illusion, it is an experience of the soul.

The yellow mangalasutra is shining gloriously around the neck of Rukmini. The same brightness of the mangalasutra appears to be shining around my neck too. The dancing forefingers of Swami tying three knots are tickling my neck too.

At once, I surrendered to an extraordinary experience. Now, as Sri Devi, as his better half along with Rukmini, the feeling of myself merging in Him, is very exclusive. Such fortune will not be available anywhere, to anyone, in this entire world, isn't it so?"

Bhadra continued narrating emotionally. The suppressed emotions are gushing out making Bhadra breathless. She is able to freely express the feelings of the hidden emotions and inspirations. The true feelings that were hidden within the soul spread their wings in the presence of the soulmate.

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[107] Grains of raw rice made yellow with turmeric, used in religious ceremonies. Also showered on persons as blessings.

[108] Eldest son of Lord Siva and Parvathi.

[109] Sons of Lord Brahma.

[110] Sons born to Sage Kashyap and Aditi.

The Lord of the heart of Bhadra as Subhadra was observing only Bhadra. He was listening to the expressive feelings. The all-knowing Lord Jagannath is pretending as though exploring Bhadra's heart anew.

This pretension is not for Himself. It is with the intension of making the true facts about Bhadra to be openly known to the world. This play is not for His sake. It is with the intension to offer the significance of the incarnation of Bhadra Devi, her noble essence and her nature of being without jealousy, as an ideal gift to the coming generations of illustrious women.

Bhadra's mind is now in a state of tranquil, in an inexplicable state and with extraordinary feelings. The words of the supreme soul merging with the soul, are being expressed in this manner.

"Bhadra!"

It was like the call from her Bava, in a low tone. Very softly and sweetly it touched the ears. Bhadra was totally absorbed.

Unintentionally she said 'hmm..'

"Therefore, that husband of Lakshmi, as your husband completed the ritual of tying the mangalasutra at that auspicious moment?"

The hands of the Omniscient softly touched Bhadra's neck.

Bhadra's body tingled with ecstasy. By that zealous touch, the inner soul attained salvation. She had a divine experience of the very hands of her beloved dancing on her neck. A divine experience of those playful hands were giving the fervent touch to every atom in her. Bhadra's lips moved involuntarily.

"Yes! such experiences related to the soul are not new to me since childhood. Radha Devi taking me close, used to tell in detail the divine plays of Sri Krishna. She used to describe the games of Sri Krishna, as if happening before her eyes. I used to wonder. Listening to the games of Bava through Radha, I used to attempt to assimilate the essence of Sri Krishna. Listening to the divine sport of Radha and Madhava, I used to attempt to understand the essence of Radha."

'At such young age itself?'

Felt as though remembering once again the fact known since several lives.

Leaning her head over the subtle form of Sri Krishna, Bhadra softly said yes.

"Since birth, I was acknowledged as Sri Krishna's better half. On the day of the cradle ceremony my mother-in-law Devaki Devi decorated my little neck with the necklace studded with nine types of precious stones along with a pendant of a carved form of Sri Krishna, the universal Manmadha. On the day of 'first-rice-eating'[111] celebration, received from my elder brother Dharmaraja, a special flute studded with diamonds. On the first birthday received a gold statue of the sacred form from brother Phalguna and anxiously embraced it to the heart.

[111] An infant is introduced to solid food at a function.

During the occasion of the celebrations of adolescence, hearing the news about the arrival of Bava, I became overjoyed with happiness. Like a new blossoming flower with fragrance, I surrendered my soul to Bava. On the pretext of observing the beauty of the spring, the butter thief manifested before me in the garden. He enticed me and looted my heart."

Bhadra overjoyed with happiness was quivering like a tender leaf. Subhadra held her delicately with affection. Bhadra by sheer imagination was perspiring and getting thrilled. Subhadra securely held Bhadra in her arms.

Bhadra rapturous in her past memories is able to recollect, though not completely, the touch of Sri Krishna, who has concealed her in His heart. Bhadra is immersed in those sweet feelings. Though Sri Krishna's warm breath is offering more warmth, she is unable to recognise that warm exquisite sweetness.

"Looting heart means?"

Bhadra does not have an answer for that playful question.

"After that?"

The unseen conductor of the universe was asking provocatively.

"During childhood itself, hearing about Bava through Radha Devi, built a temple in my heart for that Lord, who allures the world. Hearing through Neela Devi, I installed Him, the one with young attractive body, in that temple. Hearing from Akrura and Narada, I have been worshipping that divine form. Hearing from brothers, sons of Pandu, I have surrendered my soul to that Lord Jagannath.

Hearing from Kunti Devi stories after stories about His nature of being occupied in alleviating those in distress, I have developed extraordinary feelings of worship. Hearing from Yashodha and Nanda the essence of supreme soul displayed by Bava through games as a child, I am filled with adoration. Bava is my breath, Bava is my focus and Bava is my entirety. However, nobody can express the form of Bava I saw in the garden, the way I perceived. Nobody can express."

"Means?"

"Swami in my view is several times with more brilliance than in their view. He is the very form of Manmadha. It is not possible even for Brahma to describe the divine beautiful form of the one with dark cloud complexion. He manifested gracefully as the supreme of yagna with extraordinary radiance. He is established in my heart as the supreme being. Becoming an indweller of all souls, He created a feeling of Him merging me in Himself. In that feeling which is divine and indifferent to the world, I stood still forgetting everything.

Reading my feelings Bava smiled with the coolness of numerous moons. Looking intensely in my eyes, He put me in trance. He filled the devotional ecstasy in me with love. Filling my heart with love and affection, He offered an in-depth elucidation for oneness. Through experience I understood the power of attraction of the one, who is affectionate to His devotees. That is the moment when boundless devotion formed a bud of exceptional love. His supreme brilliance cannot be gazed. In those eyes of the conductor of universe, I saw the form of love.

I felt fortunate looking at that form of knowledge, at the one with a glowing form, who is above blemishes and who is loved by all. I experienced the essence of being complete by filling Him in my entire heart.

Bhadra was not able to come back from the thoughts on that divine form of Sri Krishna. That dweller in the heart of Bhadra was entranced at her devotional joy. Bhadra assimilated His nature as the indweller of all beings to such an extent that she was capable of convincing even Him. Swami was over joyed at the essence of entirety of her heart. Bhagawan Sri Krishna merged in that unfathomable devotional feeling overflowing in that young beautiful woman.

The concentrated devotional feeling poured out all at once in Bhadra Devi. The aspect of Lakshmi in Bhadra who is born for a reason, becoming humble and hesitant continued offering salutations with tears of joy to Bhagawan Sri Krishna.

Bhadra Devi is born with the aspect of Lakshmi Devi, with the virtues of Lakshmi Devi and as a boon from Durga Devi, inheriting all the three forms. She has the essence of complete devotion. Her concentrated devotion and surrender are with pure love. She has an extraordinary wish to know more. Her heart's stream filled with love is exceptional. Bhagawan desires to make known these virtues, with nature as witness, with the eight guardians of directions as witness and with the Trinity as witness. That manifestation will be a proof for the world prosperity, as intended by Him. Hence, the divine human, donning the garb of Subhadra and His behaviour befitting the role.

"Vodina! I did not feel devotion and love are separate. The feeling of devotion may be growing from flawless essence of love. The nectarean love may be hidden in the intense divine feeling. The divine form of Bava manifests before my eyes. In the very next moment, the divine feeling of that blissful form becomes imperceptible filling the inner recesses of the heart.

The manifestation of that divine form remains concealed in the heart itself. The heart like a purified flower is offering itself with devotion at the lotus feet of the Lord. I surrender with this feeling of love. The Lord, like a honey bee is tasting the devotional essence being hidden in my lotus like heart. I will offer all that to Swami and will merge myself.

His face is filled with a slight gentle smile. His intense beauty renders brilliantly. He is wholly pervaded with glow. His very glorious and attractive form can make devotees spellbound. How did the Gopikas endure the separation from such a complete being? This sad thought makes me suffer in pain, which is not uncommon. The grace of being in the presence Lord Jagannath, is lacking. Conversations are becoming rare. Touching is impossible. Numerous devotees are feeling very anxious. That feeling is creating lack of peace in me. This is not an exaggeration.

I consider the Lord Jagannath as my Lord, meditate on Him, worship Him and surrender to Him. I am perpetually meditating on Swami, longing for His manifestation and pining in His separation. I am offering to Swami this flower like body which will perish in a fleeting moment, purifying it with the essence of devotion and sanctifying it with devout feelings. I am offering to the Lord my soul filled with love. I am unable to subside the strong urge to merge with the Lord. I am unable to get the grace of being in the presence of the Husband of Lakshmi Devi. I am unable to play a part in the state of attaining the fortune of His divine touch. I am aware of all these, as I live such an unbearable life.

The unbound happiness and peace is much more than the difficulty of surrendering the soul to that Bhagawan. There is so much suffering in pining for Sri Hari. Numerous times more than that is the happiness for the soul. Our soul will experience immortality by surrendering to the Lord Jagannath. Numerous times more than that, is the everlasting happiness experienced by the soul."

The offerings of Bhadra Devi's soul, forgetting everything was continuing the offering to the universal Lord. She is searching for a soulmate to present the vibration experienced by the heart. To receive very carefully Bhadra's fragrant flower like heart, the very beloved in the guise of His sister is experiencing and enthralling in joy. The charm and the extraordinary devotion in the devout Bhadra, is coming together and mixing in the heart filled with love. He is waiting to receive that flower like heart.

The first glance from Bhagawan Sri Krishna, the one without beginning or end, the complete being, touched and awakened in me, the bonds of several lives.

He is the form of the indweller. He is the form of existence, knowledge and bliss. His powerful form is always meditated by yogis, sages, great hermits, ascetics and everybody. In the very first glance of Sri Krishna, the urge of seeking more about His essence increased in me.

However, to that Lord, who is the creator, sustainer and destroyer, is an ordinary woman like me a suitable worshipper? Is it appropriate to imagine the Lord, who is endowed with spectacular intellect and a blissful form, as my husband?

Will I be able to understand that Lord, the Husband of Lakshmi Devi, who has the minutest form and is all pervading? Is it befitting to beg one who belongs to everybody, to remain restricted only to myself? Such is the thought filled with selfishness. In the meantime, making an appeal to one who belongs to all, with a feeling of self-surrender together with the heart, to make me too as one belonging to Him. I ventured to give interpretations for love, to the embodiment of Vedas. Eloquently describing the supreme being who incarnated taking a human form, only as an embodiment of love, I dared to make Him the Lord of the very kingdom of love.

I used to recollect that I am born only for Sri Krishna, that my thoughts are only on Sri Krishna, that my form itself is of Sri Krishna, that all my meditation is on Sri Krishna and that everything is composed of Sri Krishna.

At that very moment while thinking that way, He, the one who is beyond illusion, immersed me in delusion. The very next moment after landing in the illusory world, I felt this way.

He is a close relative being worshipped by my five Pandava brothers. He is the deity being worshipped by Akrura, chief among steadfast devotees. Above all He is my paternal Bava. He is the embodiment of love, who nurtured my tender heart to grow with the nectarean flows from His heart. He is the butter thief, who looted and concealed my tender heart.

He made the relationship with the soul steady. Bestowing the nature of a house wife, He made me His better half. Through His thoughts, words and actions, He lives only as a husband with me. He is the form filled with love, hidden within me.

Vodina! My condition appears aimless to me. These rare thoughts, these unending inner conflicts, these continuous endless introspections of the mind and various doubts, are taking

away my peace of mind. I am getting suffocated with those questions that are unable to find answers. Until now, nobody worth has appeared before me to whom I could open my heart this way. In fact, I myself did not know that I could speak in this manner and that there are so many thoughts and inner conflicts in my mind. Your coming as though Swami has sent and I being able to speak to you with an open heart in this manner, is surprising to me as I have never done this before. It's absolutely unbelievable. You are the sister of the one beyond delusion. I am grappling having succumbed to delusion. I will be indebted to you, if you can understand my condition and tell me what the real mystery."

Sri Krishna was intensely looking in to the deep thoughts of Bhadra Devi, completely engrossed. The glances of that supreme being arose waves of happiness in the heart of Bhadra. With the exceptional vibration of her heart, those beautiful eyes half-closed with happiness.

Subhadra affectionately took Bhadra closer. Lifting the chin delicately, holding Bhadra's lotus like face with her two hands, very softly kissed those half-closed eyes. With that divine touch, Bhadra felt as if the bond of several lives has been touched and awakened.

"These feelings towards Sri Krishna are regular experiences for me in the dream world. This inner joy of seeing only Krishna is very familiar. But, this feeling is different and beyond imagination, giving inexplicable happiness. There are no expositions for this feeling that is penetrating the depths of my heart, rising sweet vibrations in every miniscule particle. Who will have the power to articulate this experience? Except for a fortunate one like me."

Observing the feelings of Bhadra's heart, Subhadra patted her back with affection.

"Bhadra! Pre-occupied with my brother's thoughts, you are forgetting everything else. With the same engrossment, hope you will not be forgetful on the day of Swayamvaram!"

Bhadra could not withstand those playful looks. Intelligence, remembrance and forgetfulness being Himself, the supreme being in the guise of Subhadra, cautioned Bhadra about being forgetful.

Bhadra's eyelids drooped heavily. The quiver on her red lips incited yearning. The melody of the flute of Mohana[112] echoed in her heart.

Shyness for Sri Krishna is the most regarded and fundamental feeling about women. Extremely pristine brightness rests unified in those women, who shine with shyness as their most treasured jewellery. One may be a cache of beauty, wear innumerable priceless ornaments, but if there is a lack of original shyness that is natural to a woman, all that beauty becomes unpleasant, lacklustre, full of defects and without essence. Among the most important qualities a woman should possess, the primary are humility, modesty, obedience, extreme delicate tenderness, calmness symbolising good nature and sweetness creating pleasantness. Being shy is a rare combination of these. Shyness is that ornament of a woman which is not decked. An ornament that is very radiant and auspicious. The woman who wears this ornament would have gracefulness, good conduct and merits of a virtuous wife. She would be the one who is not known to cross her limits and one who has a noble conduct. She would be competent in making her own, this uniqueness to earn the entire reputation and for being a tradition bound

[112] Another name of Lord Sri Krishna.

house wife. She should be. Shyness will bring about an exclusive and pure eminence for such a woman. A woman having acquired such very high eminence, naturally does not expect any fame that is temporary, unnatural and unrelated. She does not expect any other honours, tributes, name or fame.

The combination of all these attributes is ‘gracefulness.’

The synonym for gracefulness is ‘Bhadra.’

The essential attribute in Bhadra is gracefulness.

The Lord of Bhadra’s heart who loved this woman with blossoming heart very deeply, was observing with fascination these attributes in her, which are so dear to Him with delight.

Subhadra adjusting the brilliantly shining necklace studded with rubies around the neck of Bhadra, continuing to explore Bhadra’s heart further, said affectionately …

“Why did you stop narrating about Rukmini’s marriage?”

Sliding in to the arms of Subhadra, resting against the invaluable God given gift touching her cheek, Bhadra was completely absorbed. She glided in to the sweet memories of that day. Krishna kept gazing at the gracefulness in those half-closed eyes, like a bee in search of honey. He smiled playfully at His difficulty to control Himself being in the form of Subhadra, though He is one who is beyond restraint.

Bhadra’s heart went in to the past, in a way slid in to a dream stage and said like this.

“At the auspicious time of tying of the Mangalasutra for sister Rukmini, this invaluable necklace which as though appeared around my neck, did not make me think of it otherwise. I thought of it as Mangalasutra. I experienced the feeling of Bava marrying me at the same time. The feeling of Bava’s very soft fingers dancing on my neck and tying the three knots was very clear to me.”

The divine in the human form, took Bhadra who moved closer to Subhadra. The soft touch of His divine fingers continued to delicately touch the necklace around Bhadra’s neck. Once again patted and awakened the enthralling touch exciting feelings in Bhadra.

“As another form in Rukmini, shining as an aspect of Lakshmi, that Mangalasutra was shining brilliantly on my neck. I felt it appeared for a moment as a necklace of rubies and in the next moment as a bond of marriage. It did not create any curious feelings in me. I felt extremely strange. The bond of sacred marriage has not decorated my neck perceptibly in the presence of all relations, in the vicinity of all beings, under the gazes of the guardian angels of different directions and with the blessings of akshita from all preeminent sages. It is only when thus decorated, my Bava will become my husband in the eyes of this world.

However, with my soul as a witness, I know. This sacred thread has been tied by Bhagawan with the akshita of affection. With the supreme being as the witness, I know that with the tying of the Mangalasutra the Lord of the Universe has become my lord. That is why, in public view this necklace given by Bava with love is just a necklace of rubies. However, to my inner vision, I feel

this bond which can lead to the unity of the soul with the supreme soul, is like an auspicious bond."

That pleasant feeling increased the burden of delight in Bhadra's heart. That pleasing vibration became a nectarean tune of Sri Krishna and enthused the heart.

"Have you never opened your heart and expressed to your Bava, whom you adore this much?" Subhadra asked innocently. Some unknown playfulness appeared in those eyes.

"Where is that actual opportunity for me? Always asking about my welfare, in absentia. That too through well-wishers and close relations. How is Bava? Does Bava remember me? Was Bava enquiring about me? What was He enquiring about? Did He have anything to tell me? Thus, I used to feel happy by anxiously asking them repeatedly to tell me. I used to be thrilled by recalling them often.

Can He not directly call me affectionately 'Bhadra' instead of through somebody else? In every visit He addresses me through His eyes. With that total brilliance that remains in my eyes, He raises pleasant unrests in my heart. Filling that divine beautiful form, He increases the vibration further with those playful glances. Bava knows to how create excitement and leave. Does Bava not know how happy I would feel, if only He was to directly call me?

I heard that residing in the hearts of numerous devotees as Bhagawan, He keeps conversing with the devotees constantly. I heard that He engages in their personal problems and extends clarifications to their doubts. He keeps moving as the dearest to the devoted people, making Himself available at every moment. I also heard that to those who believe in Him, just by remembering, He manifests and offers the boon of the fortune of His presence, touch and conversation.

I also heard that Swami, the Omnipresent, just by His will, enters the seat of hearts of the devotees, holding their hands makes them walk towards the path of liberation. Then, should I assume that my pain is not known to Bava? How can I assume? Thinking that way, I cannot belittle His Omnipresence, can I? Should I accept the illusion that Swami is not recognising my love and affection to be true? Thinking thus, should I bring a blemish to the very incarnation of love, to the essence of incarnation and to the very awareness of Him. Should I assume that my devotion towards Swami has not yet reached Swami? Thinking thus, should I assume that the extent of the affection of the one, who is affectionate to His devotees, has reduced?

Else, should I think that the penance I am doing is not enough! If so, should I think that my penance is insignificant compared to the penance of the revered ascetics! What so ever, I am unable to see an end to this suffering that is being suppressed and beyond description."

Bhadra's eyes like red lotuses, were spraying water. The rubies were shining on the smooth cheeks. The small chin was quivering intensely due to the uncontrollable hurt.

The longing remains in that playful Krishna, in spite of constantly looking at those attractive red lips. Those eyes were as though, looking at the fun of teasing a tender baby. There were queries still appearing in them.

Swami's feeling is that, only when the sentiment of the same indweller in all souls is stable, complete attainment is possible. Even if there is a little shortage, that there will be a deficiency

in the fulfilment, is His feeling. Though, on one side there is the feeling that pride is being promoted, to completely eradicate such vanity is indeed the intention of Swami. Only when she forgets herself, Bhadra will be able to recognise her origin, is the opinion of Swami.

“Meaning? Is your devotion superior than the ardent devotees who constantly worship Sri Krishna, then the revered persons with wealth of penance, than the preeminent yogis who are becoming holy men only with their constant devotion to Krishna? Is your devotedness and spirit of worship superior? Is that why, you are becoming jealous?”

The endeavour of the butter thief is to make the bowl of love in Bhadra’s heart more holy. Making apparent the great heights of the essence of love in Bhadra’s heart and her nature of being without jealousy. Making Bhadra realise the need to give up the remaining traces of pride. Swami’s intention in using Bhadra as a pretext is to declare once again this sacred truth to the multitude of devotees. Isn’t Swami the one to determine the truth!

For an instant her mind agitated without her being aware of them. There were shadows of arrogant feelings in her. Bhadra was getting irritated to uncover the thin veil that was erasing and creating differences between herself and Swami. It is not her pride but only her anxiousness to express her appeal filled with extreme devotion and unbound love. It is only the thought of ignoring the ego, in fact there is no ego. The anxiousness is only to offer the inner self, else there is no blemish in her conscience.

“Whatever! I am not able to understand what answer I should give you. In the pangs of separation from Swami, in this suffering for Swami, I am forgetting this world itself. I am forgetting everything except Swami. I do not know about the nine types of devotion and their details. All that I know is that my Swami is the very Lord Jagannath. Believing the Lord Jagannath to be my husband, I surrendered my soul. All that is filled in me is only love towards my Swami. The essence of love swallowed the blood in me. Every miniscule particle is filled with that essence of love. In every particle that vibrates there is the very form of Sri Krishna. The very natural form of Sri Krishna. Every cell of my body is full of the very form of Swami. When my eyes are open, they are full of the very form of Swami. Even when my eyes are closed, it is the very form of Swami, the indweller.

My ears do not hear any other sound, except the melody of Swami’s flute. My hands do not do any work, except earnestly worshipping the lotus feet of Swami. To me while in sleep or in wakefulness it is only recollections about Swami, recitation of Swami’s name and meditating upon Swami. It is said that Swami surrenders only to love. It is said, attaining Swami is possible only through love. It is said, He is the form of love who can forget everything and melt in love. If that is true, my doubt is whether that love which can move Swami is falling short in me. Should I assume that the power in my love to melt Swami’s heart has diminished. If it is Swami’s intention, no power can obstruct me from not being content, isn’t it? I am thinking that Swami is the very form of husband, son, relative, associate, well wisher and father. Why did Swami, who is the very form of truth, the indweller and supreme soul create so much love towards Him in me? Why increase so much devotion in me? Why sprout so much attachment? Why develop the feeling of detachment towards this life that cannot be in His graceful presence?”

Doubts and fears were competing in confusion. The divine thoughts are bringing clarity to the hesitations so snugly fit in the mind. It is becoming clear that it is Swami's intention that the pure blend of love and devotion without hesitancy should swell in her.

She knows the person in front of her is Subhadra. Then immediately, there is a feeling that the one present is indeed Swami. Maybe for her sake, did her Swami come in the form of Subhadra? Yet, there is an unusual feeling of surrendering her heart to Swami.

This is an eternal bond which is running without a break for many eons across lives. This is an exceptional bond that continued by calling and creating an urge to call, by remembering and causing to remember and by desiring and becoming desirable.

"I wish to unite with you else wish for your cooling touch. If that is not possible, waiting for a sweet call from you. If that becomes impossible, can you manifest at least in my dream? Why are you constantly testing me? What sin have I committed? At least, can you not fulfil the smallest wish among my list of wishes?"

When there is a thought that her Swami is always with her, then it is the state of Advaita. The realisation of the immediate presence of Swami resulting in pining, is the feeling of Dvaita. There is a thin veil in between the state of Dvaita and Advaita. That is the delusion of the One beyond delusion.

"Subhadra! As I am not having enough strength to describe my unbound love towards Swami, I am attempting to explain at least a little of it to you. If Swami has thought that the devotional feeling I have towards Him has not reached a state of fruition, then can He not somehow convey how to achieve that exceptional devotion? But then, Swami is not be seen. I cannot hear Him. If this love is unable to move that supreme self, then what other merits need improvement? How many more eons to await like this? If that manifestation becomes unachievable to this devotee of love, then by contemplating on her Swami, she will become feeble, diminutive, void and merge in Swami."

Bhadra Devi was eager to make it known through her pained and suffering heart the love that filled her mind and her eagerness to reduce the heaviness of her heart. With a gentle smile Subhadra kept looking at Bhadra Devi.

Bhadra was looking at Subhadra with adoration. There was a glimpse of her Swami, the one with divine auspicious form enthralling momentarily.

Bhadra's heart lightened with happiness for a moment. In that moment there was a pleasant experience of the unfolding of the fortune of many eons in her presence. A divine experience.

Bhadra, who has completely assimilated the essence of Sri Krishna, was being overpowered by the delusion of Sri Krishna every moment in an astonishing manner. She is aware that the Omnipresent is present within herself. She is aware that He is not separate from her. She also knows that the awareness of the unseen conductor of the universal play merged in her, which is also evident to her. She is aware that residing in her heart He constantly conducts in different ways. Just by remembering, His awareness vibrates enthralling her, conducting in accordance with her feelings and moving in the manner desired by the heart.

However, making her forget everything and by keeping her in a state of confusion, He provokes the pining of separation. To watch this delightfully, is one of the delights for Bhagawan Sri Krishna. Any sport or type of amusement that takes a form as per the intention of the supreme soul is of significant practical application. More than that, it acquires different forms to offer a purpose and the resulting joy. It certainly makes one experience the divine happiness.

“Bhadra! Can I ask you something?”

Bhadra’s eyes fluttered innocently.

“My brother is behaving without any compassion in your case. Yes, that is true.

I am not able to tolerate Him causing you so much pain, in spite of knowing that you are a woman with a tender heart and a very delicate person. From a very young age, you have assimilated only devotion towards Krishna. You are living with Krishna as your world, your husband and your entirety. He has not taken you close and consoled at least as your Bava. Thinking of His stone like heart, my heart is raging with anger. Never imagined my brother to be so unkind. Never thought your Bava to be so cruel hearted. What you said is true. He is not a relative of helpless people. He is the wicked who targets helpless people to unimaginable sufferings. He is not affectionate to devotees. He is the cruel hearted one who subjects devotees to gruelling tests. To such a stone like person offering everything, imagining Him to be a beloved and husband and making yourself frail does not appear appropriate to me.

In fact, for the earnestness in your call, shouldn’t Sri Krishna instantly come? Acknowledging your penance, shouldn’t He manifest and merge you in Himself? In fact, for the earnestness in your call, shouldn’t Sri Krishna instantly come? Acknowledging your penance, shouldn’t He manifest and merge you in Himself? As your deity who is hidden in your meditation, shouldn’t He be standing before your eyes? He, whom you believe to be your very breath, isn’t He taking away your breath itself? He is changing you, who is living in constant awareness of Swami, in to a lifeless being, isn’t He? That is why, a thought occurs to me.”

Bhadra was unable to bear the criticism about her Swami.

Bhadra’s intense looks became hazy by the divinity in the examining looks of Subhadra. Else, if there was any body else in front, it is certain that they would be scorched with those piercingly looks.

Bhadra’s looks were humbled by the charismatic weapon of Swami in Subhadra’s eyes. However, in the normal course the power of those looks would have ignited fire of total annihilation.

Subhadra smiling with conciliation, took Bhadra close.

“Bhadra! You are wasting your life for such a difficult stone hearted one. Instead, there are monarchs, emperors who will be participating tomorrow in your Swayamvaram. They have been dreaming for you and looking forward for the auspicious moment of Swayamvaram to hold your hand and feel fortunate. Any one amongst them…”

Subhadra’s words pierced Bhadra’s heart like arrows, making her miserable. She felt improper and suicidal hearing a subject that should not be heard and that too from one who should not be saying. Those words were surrounding her like a wild fire and burning her to

ashes. Even then she may not release herself from the blame of hearing such words. Her heart was lamenting. With uncontrollable anger her eyes were like live coal. Looking intensely at Subhadra whose eyes were looking down, Bhadra spoke harshly.

“Subhadra! You…should you be saying these words? Have I to listen to these words from a woman who is chaste, virtuous and one who can find place in the annals of history? Even after hearing it, Lord Jagannath has kept me alive. Truly, He is very much like a stone and I agree with what you said.

Subhadra! I am the innocent who imagined Lord Srinath as my husband in my thought, word and actions, loved and surrendered myself. I am the one who, forgetting my eligibility, offered myself to the very Bhagwan. I am an ordinary woman. I am the one not having the eligibility to imagine the all pervading as my husband. It is true. I am merely a daughter of an emperor. It is true that I do not have any eligibility to wish Lord Jagannath to be my husband.

You are not telling me this truth directly. Are you cautioning that instead of marrying somebody of matching status, union with the supreme soul is not appropriate for me? Are you saying that only Lord Brahma and those who constantly worship and adore are eligible for the manifestation of Sri Krishna and that I am not eligible as I am an ordinary woman?

Along with the feelings of righteousness, wealth, desires and liberation it is the same Indweller in all attachments, existence, conduct, accomplishment, possibility, various means and natural forms. He is not easily attainable even to those wise people who have sacrificed everything and to yogis. With the feelings of righteousness, wealth and desires, I am thinking of pleasing Swami. Are you despising me for not being fit for that state?

Though I may wish Swami for worldly pleasures, worship Him with desire filled intention, invite Him towards family obligations, look forward to bind Him with the bond of husband and wife, it is not possible to make the One come close, who has relinquished all attachments and is a yogi beyond change. Unable to tell this truth are you sympathising with my ignorance?

Only those virtuous people who distance themselves from pain and sins have the eligibility to seek the shelter at the auspicious lotus feet of Swami and become blessed. Are you questioning me, who is struggling with attachment, affection, pining and sorrow to get such eligibility? Isn’t it the reason you spoke such words which I couldn’t bear to hear even in my dreams?

Subhadra! Please never make such insulting statements about my Swami. Never again say such unbecoming words about Swami. Never again say such words about Swami that cannot be heard. Even if heard cannot be tolerated. My Bava is the very form of love. He surrenders only to love. He expects only pure love. He readily surrenders only to such love. To achieve such purity, to recognise and merge in Him, He conducts many ordeals. He creates unbearable sufferings and later makes one experience eternal happiness.

Will there not be some sufferings for those who aspire for Bhagawan’s love? Will there not be pains? Just because of that, can you doubt the serene love of the One who possess love?

It is possible to be habituated towards Krishna’s devotion. But, is it an easy task to develop such devotional feeling in the heart with exceptional devotion and make that Bhagawan propitious?

May be, I am in the midst of making efforts to make that impossible possible. That is why Lord Jagannath is awaiting to bestow His grace. How could you even utter about Him who is so compassionate towards His devotees, to be hard and stone hearted? Why do you assume that my beloved has not recognised the suffering in my call? May be the supreme self uniting with this self is increasing the suffering further? May be making my pain aggravate more? May be, by scorching me in the fire of separation, making me pure to merge me in Him?

Subhadra! Swami is not depriving me of my breath. He is sustaining the breath in me. That is why I am able to live. I am able to recite the name of Krishna. I am able to bring about more liveliness while meditating on Swami and contemplating on Swami. I may be in the process of digesting the essence of Sri Krishna!

Can I, who has surrendered to Bhagawan think about other ordinary people? How did you imagine that this body which has been given as oblation to the Lord, could be offered to ordinary people filled with desire, anger and greed? Subhadra! Be sympathetic to my situation. Please wish that my Swami will grace me quickly. Be happy looking at my devotion. Bless me that Swami will soon be melted by my devotion and hold my hand. Please understand my pangs of separation. Please bless me wholeheartedly that the Lord Jagannath who is all pervading will be moved by my pangs of separation and the occasion to make me His own, will be attained soon.

Subhadra! Do you know whom the ordinary people wish? Those unfortunate people who cannot behold the compassionate looks of Bhagawan. Do you know who wish for the affection of most ordinary emperors? Those who do not have the eligibility to experience the divine love. Those are the unfortunate people who are not aware of divinity.

Subhadra! In others view I may not be married. But, in my mind I have married Bava long ago. The witnesses for the decoration of Mangalyam by Swami are all elements, all deities and not only all guards of directions but also the Trinity themselves along with my soul. Why any other witness? The soul itself is the witness, the evidence and everything. The soul itself is eternity, the truth and entirety. The soul itself is the goal, the path, the effort and success.

I was hoping you would comfort me with kind words, tell me the details about my Bava, convey His cool messages. Anoint sandalwood paste on my burning heart to reduce the heaviness of my heart and lessen the suffering in my mind. Instead, with words like pointed arrows you are hurting me more. Is it fair?

Until now the suffering I experienced was one aspect. Your words like poisonous spears is the other aspect. You have subjected me to so much suffering. Will there be any one more stone hearted than you? Will there be any other woman with a similar stone heart like yours? Both of you, brother and sister are competing in being tough like a stone and are testing me. He, being invisible and you visibly, are attempting to make me apprehensive. Both of you are alike.

Are you really Subhadra? Come in Subhadra's form to test me…"

Bhadra was having hiccups with pain. Subhadra full of sorrow, filled with affection and overflowing love, took Bhadra extremely close. The essence of Sri Krishna is the form of Subhadra. Holding Bhadra closer to heart, touched with lips those red eyes flowing with tears

like pearls. Subhadra spoke softly into Bhadra's ear, as she leaned against her shoulder listlessly.

"Bhadra! Forgive me. You are already suffering in pain. I made you suffer more.

I should be consoling and giving courage to you. Instead I upset your heart. Forgive me. Perhaps, Sri Krishna, the soul in all forms, was unable to bear the feelings and pain experienced by your soul, as an indweller. He wished to hear as a listener. Hence, surrounding me, accepted your flower of love without desire. He merged your serene inner self in Him. His intention is only to repeatedly hear about these feelings of the heart and be happy. Hence, He might have made me say that in such a manner."

Subhadra's consolation made Bhadra's heart lighter.

But in the very next moment Bhadra Devi's heart was surrounded by series of doubts. She looked at Subhadra innocently, expecting suitable replies.

"Subhadra! For the question you asked me earlier, I hope there are no other meanings!"

Subhadra looked as though she has not understood.

"Is Swami wondering how an ordinary woman could offer her heart to the Bhagawan?"

Subhadra's eyes smiled.

"Are you ordinary? Are you not the representation of Lakshmi?

"A relationship for the Lord Jagannath with the daughter of an ordinary emperor?"

Subhadra's eyes smiled sportingly.

"You are not merely the daughter of an emperor. You are actually the daughter of the paternal aunt of Sri Krishna."

"Are you angry at my ignorance in asking the Lord Jagannath to be only my beloved and be eternally seated in my heart?"

Subhadra affectionately adjusted Bhadra's curls.

"Though He is the Lord of the universe, to proclaim that He is only her lord by a wife is very natural. Those who are in His presence feel that He is everything and belongs only to them. He creates a feeling that He is the entirety. It is possible only for Sri Krishna to increase that divine feeling, to make known His infinitude nature and pure supreme essence. Are you not able to believe Bhadra?" Subhadra was asking affectionately. Hearing the soft words in that voice Bhadra became mystified.

"Vodina! Can I ask you something that is bothering me?"

The supreme soul in Subhadra is aware of that doubt. But He wishes to hear from His beloved.

"Ask Bhadra!"

The feeling in those sporting eyes was as though having read Bhadra's doubt, was smiling happily.

"Everybody worships Bhagawan. They worship God in the alter at home. They adore with hymns and flowers. They please by group singing accompanied with music and sing the glories. They worship through vows, religious rites, meditation and concentration. They place the idols of Gods in the alter at home and worship through rituals like lighting of lamps, incense sticks and offer oblations without interruption. Those are the attributes of true devotees, the manner and paths followed by wise and the learned people towards God. I too developed devotion towards Sri Krishna. Developed love. Developed adoration. Surrendered my soul. But…but…"

"But!"

Bhadra's confusion was very charming to Sri Krishna, increasing His fondness for her.

"Shall I tell Subhadra!"

At that moment if Bhadra were to directly look at Subhadra, the answer to her question would be available in the very captivating eyes of the sporting Krishna in Subhadra. But, the desires of her heart leaving through the doorway of wishes while hiding along the path of the eyelids, were drooping heavily. Sri Krishna was observing in fascination. His looks resonated the strings of her heart.

"But for me… for me looking at the idol of Sri Krishna, I do not get the exclusive feeling that He is only a Bhagawan. Overwhelming than that is an unimaginable feeling, a vibration beyond imagination making me spellbound in an astonishing manner. The indescribable desire in those red eyes of the one with dark cloud complexion, was piercing through my heart and creating sweet stirs.

Unable to control the desire to gaze to my heart's content those red lips on which the flute is leaning, I feel like competing with that flute. But, at once I restrained having a doubt that it might disturb Swami's happiness. Feel like pursing perceptually that sweet nectarine juice flowing over those lips to my heart's content. Feel like fondling those attractive cheeks and smooth chin to my heart's content. Feel like resting happily on the heart of that dark attractive one shining with 'Kousthubha' jewel and 'Vanamali' garland.

He is engaged in fulfilling the wishes of devotees and clarifying their doubts. He is occupied in extinguishing the fire of separation of Gopikas by the touch of His heart giving the coolness of sandalwood. He is swaying in the ecstasy of Rukmini's devotion filled with allure. He is immersed with another companion in gambling without interruption. With another consort He is sportingly indulging in merry conversations, without any sense of time. He is Worshipping the five types of fire with another consort. Accompanied by another consort He is extending to the wise brahmins, the traditional courtesies offered to revered guests. At another place, He is partaking the leftovers of oblation to fire God. He is like the moon of Brindavan, a resident of land of cows. He is the Lord of Dwaraka. He is the protector of the world, a relative during adversity. He punishes the wicked and protects the virtuous. He is the creator, sustainer and the destroyer. He is the Lord Jagannath. I wish to tenderly hold those soft lotus-like hands of that Lord Jagannath, who knows no respite and ease them with the warmth of my lips. I wish to softly dab those sacred lotus-like feet, worshipped by Lord Brahma, with my tender lotus like hands. I wish to worship them with my warm tears of joy. I wish touch them with the warmth of

my very smooth lips. I feel like removing the weariness in Him by singing His favourite song. As a wonder of wonders, all my wishes are fulfilled in those feelings. I experience complete fulfilment by Swami's intent.

Subhadra! You too are a daughter and very close like my own breath. Next to my Lord, you rightfully grace half of his position. I cannot narrate these experiences to anyone else or share with anybody. Also, there are no opportunities to share with my Lord at present. Hence I am attempting to tell you.

For unknown reasons the more I share the experiences of my heart with you the intensity of those feelings are becoming deeper. A sense of satisfaction is emerging. Subhadra! I am not aware of your memories and experiences towards my brother Phalguna. He, being an aspect of Lord Narayana having the attributes of Swami, is not surprising. Being the sister of Swami, you too will have the attributes of that Lord Narayana. Therefore, it is my firm belief that possessing the same attributes the experiences of both of you will be filled with happiness.

However, Subhadra shall a I tell you about myself? The moment I think about that Lord Jagannath, there is a wonderful vibration in me. There is a divine experience of Swami being present throughout my being. That is all. There is no dearth of anything. And there is nothing more to wish."

Bhadra's pair of eyes becoming red, were slowly drooping. Her mirror like shining cheeks were becoming reddish due to her red eyes and were glowing like petals of rose. The necklace of rubies was spreading streaks of lightning. The red colour silk saree woven with excellence was looking brilliant. Bhadra was shining like a dazzling crown of beauty. She appeared with the glow of a bride. The embellished beauty and the divine attractiveness of that young woman made the very Bhagawan Sri Krishna surrender to her charm. He is unable to restrain from complimenting His creation getting His own accolades.

Forgetting for a moment the fact that He is in Subhadra's form, anxiously held Bhadra's shoulders firmly and embraced her closely to His heart.

That act of the husband of Lakshmi touching her body felt familiar to Bhadra, awakening in her heart the divine nectarine feelings of love never known before. Bhadra becoming ecstatic from the unparallel essence of love was looking inquiringly in to the eyes of Subhadra.

To her she is not appearing as Subhadra. This is verily that attractive Shyama[113] in the form of Subhadra! Her Swami! That Lord who allures the world! Is it possible for anyone else to make her ecstatic with charm except her Swami?

The yearning in those eyes is full of charm. The glow reflecting in those wide eyes is making the heart rejoice. The divine energy manifesting through those wide eyes is looking into the inner recesses of her heart. It is creating a waterfall of nectarine love on the waves of her heart's feelings. It is the sweet form of Sri Krishna that is swaying in those pupils of the eyes.

The nectarine tears of joy gushing out as a result of the churning of nectar, were flowing through the pair of eyes. He was shaking Bhadra who was looking at Him in ecstasy. Overcome

[113] Another name of Lord Sri Krishna.

by her charm, He was kissing her forehead. Bhadra surrendered herself to Sri Krishna who was in the form of Subhadra.

She leaned over Sri Krishna in the form of Subhadra. Subhadra was fondly looking and smiling gently at Bhadra who came back to reality after a long time.

“Bhadra! Shall I give you one reply to all your questions?”

The anxiousness in Bhadra’s eyes was comforted by the cool looks of Subhadra’s eyes.

“Bhadra! Your doubt is genuine. To those devotees who constantly worship, love and surrender everything, Sri Krishna is the protector, Lord, companion and a friend. He is entirety. All devotees having realised the essence of worshipping Sri Krishna became focussed devotees. Their devotion is extraordinary. Some, through their melodious tunes merge with Sri Krishna and dance in trance. They have no worldly desires. Not even conscious about them. For them everything is filled with Krishna. Everything is Krishna.

For Bhagawan there is no difference between attachment, devotion, exceptional consecration and remarkable love. However, Bhagawan who bestows prosperity and happiness to devotees, gives opportunities to devotees also to share their eligibilities and lays the path to reach Him. The same Bhagawan who yields to love, being the entirety, rushing Himself accedes to those who are capable of loving Him. Either by voicing loudly and calling the devotee to come running to Him or tingling with ecstasy, He Himself comes rushing towards the devotee. This victory is of Swamy. That is also the victory of the devotees. He will not allow failure to be anywhere near His devotees who have faith in Him. He will not let failure to even look at those who wholeheartedly love Him. He considers the failure of the devotees as His failure. Both devotion and love are His own forms. Forms of the Formless.

Sri Krishna dances in Brindavan with the feeling of a beloved. In a similar way He rejoices in Dwaraka as a husband. The hidden significance of His divine play is inconceivable and not possible for others. Sri Krishna declared Himself as husband of Radha and other Gopikas. They are not strangers but devout women. Gopikas have always been an epitome of purity.

Sri Krishna is always engaged with those whose hands he held as a husband, discharging duties as a householder, fostering children and grandchildren and satisfying their justified desires. However, Gopikas with their alien feeling sincerely wish only to make their beloved happy. There is no place for any other desire in them. They recall only Sri Krishna. Sri Krishna is their life breath. They can not live even for a moment away from Sri Krishna. The essence of love between Radha and Krishna and the love of Gopikas for Krishna is interwoven as an extraordinary devotion. This type of practice of devotion is not possible for others. It is impossible. The supreme being Sri Krishna is the only man, the ultimate one. All others are women. It is possible only for women to imagine the supreme being as a husband and get enlightened. It is impossible for those born as men. Only in being born as a woman, there is a realisation that she is the very nature and is separated from Him for His divine sport. Only when that feeling is stabilised, then there is a budding urge to merge with that supreme soul. This indicates the beginning of experiencing the state of Advaita.

However, such sweet honeyed love can only be experienced and cannot be described in words. Swami bestows such feeling of love filled with extraordinary devotion to a few selected fortunate persons only.

More than that feeling of devotion, the feeling of love thriving every moment keeps continuously growing. Possibly there could be a feeling of desire though not evident. In their divine eyes Bhagawan manifests as an incarnation of love, more than the one with a form. They satiate themselves with that heart filled with love.

“Unable to describe love, their lips quiver. Their throat becomes husky. Their eyes shower tears in reverence.

Being in that state of indifference to the world, love is a condition of madness. Only those who are in that condition of madness, will understand the sweetness, the inexplicable happiness and the extraordinary devotional form of that madness. To them everything is filled with the essence of Krishna and nothing else is visible. Only such devotees of love are extolled in all the three worlds. They are respected. Becoming an inseparable part of Sri Krishna, they will be worshipped.

Bhadra! You too are such a fortunate one. There is no distinction between Sri Krishna and you. You are that eternally glowing aspect of Lakshmi in Him. He who is arranging His abode in you, is the husband of Lakshmi. Not only that, Sri Krishna is the thief who stole your heart. Your husband. Your entirety. You are an illustrious, chaste and virtuous wife filled completely with the feeling of reverence towards your husband. Your Swami has installed you in His heart as a wife, as a beloved, as a female ruler of His heart, as a companion on the righteous path of life and as a consort. The ecstasy being created in you by your Swami, is the source of your feelings. How can your husband appear only as a divine form and not as a husband? How will the beloved of your heart create only feelings of devotion without creating feelings of love?

Though being Lord Jagannath, as the lord of your heart, He is creating sweet excitements in your heart with raising imagination while He is dancing and behaving as per His will. Bhadra! Your imaginations, feelings, perceptions and experiences related to Swami are all acts happening as per His will and nothing more. He is the one who creates the feelings and also provokes the feelings. He is the one who dances and behaves amusingly saying ‘As you think, so it will be’. As an illustrious house wife, as a better half, as the submerged energy of His soul, as the deity presiding over Swami’s heart, as mother nature, as the soul of the supreme being, your position is of ultimate worship. You are the presiding deity. These acts related to Sri Krishna have been created in you as intended by Sri Krishna for His happiness and to make you happy. Has your doubt been cleared? Hope you will not get caught again in the whirl of doubts!”

Sri Krishna’s diction got mixed in Subhadra’s speech. Subhadra’s form faded away and the manifestation of the divine player in human form became distinct.

Bhadra was ecstatic and looking through her wide eyes. Subhadra patted her back and smiled playfully.

“Bhadra! The lord of your heart is coming in great rush for you. He wished me to convey to you that, your fire of separation touching His heart is fuelling sweet pain. Not having enough strength to bear that pain He is coming to you at the speed of the wind. You are going to be a bride. He wanted me to tell you as His word that, it is not at all pleasing for Him to be the reason

for you becoming this feeble, in the pangs of separation. He wanted me to tell you as His word that, you are about to receive His love, worship and affection much more than your love and worship for Him.

He wants me to tell you that, there is no need for you to go in search of Him in every atom and get disturbed. He is going to occupy every atom and give you unimaginable happiness and experiences.

He wants me to tell you that the message of love through Srutiranjani is for name sake and only a pretext. He has been following you, been with you, established in you and dwelling in your eyes. Having merged in you He too has been experiencing your pain, your pangs of separation, your pining and your attachment every moment. Closing the curtain on them, He wants to open the curtain for your wishes. Those auspicious moments of merging you in Him are nearing very soon."

Bhadra felt as though she has merged with Subhadra. To her those words were as though in a dream. Bhadra on hearing what she was longing and craving to hear all along, could not make out if it was a dream or real.

"Bhadra! Your Bava wanted you to open your heart and tell if there are any unfulfilled wishes. There is more sweetness in the wishes which are fulfilled before marriage. He too has the desire to taste those experiences. He wanted me to tell you as His word that, you should mention about those wishes without hesitation."

Bhadra's cheeks turned red. She held the quivering lips between her front teeth. She widened her elongated eyes and looked charmingly.

"Bhadra! Don't look in that manner. I am unable to sustain your charming beautiful form. You may preserve all those looks to be cast on my brother. However, to my question, I mean.. reply to my brother's question."

Bhadra was silent for a moment looking at the assertive Subhadra.

"He wanted me to tell you that, if you wish He is willing to offer all the treasure hidden in the oceans to you as a wedding gift. If you are longing, He is willing to affectionately surrender the entire earth full of gems. If you have an inclination, He is willing to make sky high stacks of the rare treasures from all the three worlds and offer to fulfil your joy."

Bhadra's lips opened gracefully. They were smiling curiously.

In that smile were numerous meanings. However, Sri Krishna was comprehending the hidden meaning. There were many feelings in that serene face. However, the real feeling is very clearly visible.

"Bhadra! Why don't you reply?"

Bhadra smiled full of feeling.

"Did Swami really wanted me to wish?"

"Yes."

“Should I assume that Swami is not aware of what is most valuable to me? It may be Swami’s fondness to ask and get a response, though He knows. I have no other requirement. Excepting for my Swami, I have no other requirement before or after marriage. Because, Swami is my entirety. However, you are emphasising because Swami has insisted so much on me to ask. Hence this request. This love is beyond the world, with the supreme as the witness. As there is a need for a witness belonging to the world, I wish for the divine Mangalyam and a ring.

I sincerely wish through my heart for that divine ring that He will adorn with affection at the time of marriage. This will be a proof for the consent of His heart. If all the universes with their hidden treasures are kept on one side of the balance and only this ring decorated by Swami Himself on the other side, will not the worlds float becoming lighter by the power of the ring? Will there be a better place than my place in the heart of the Lord? Will there be a better fortune?

The place Swami has shaped for me as a paternal cousin, as a devotee, as a worshipper, and as a better half is exceptional and obtained fortunately.

His manifestation on the day of Swayamvaram itself is my great treasure. Swami engaging in the ritual of holding hands is exceedingly auspicious for me. Will there be a greater fortune for me than the Lord decorating me with the Mangalyam and merging me in Him in the presence of all the guardians of directions, all deities, preeminent ascetics, pristine forms, virtuous illustrious women and the Trinity as witnesses.

My Bava knows this fact. That supreme witness also knows. Even then, I think only to subject me to further examination, I have been asked these questions. Even then, as Swami has wished to know my liking, I have a few wishes to be fulfilled at the time of Swayamvaram before the ritual of holding the hand. If you are willing to appeal to Swami, then I will tell you.”

Subhadra looked anxiously.

This time there were no folds of shyness in the eyes of Bhadra. There was no innocence in the charm. Nor were any drooping looks heavy with charm and sporting fire of separation. The steadfastness, strength, self-confidence and resoluteness competing each other astonished Subhadra. What a difference between Bhadra she had seen and this Bhadra!

“Vodina! Didn’t I tell? Somehow I have a unique affinity towards Rukmini Devi. More than that a sense of oneness has also made a place in me. She is not a relative of ours before the marriage. We have no other connection with her as far as this life is concerned. However surprisingly her features and mine look similar. Her aspects and my aspects are like an image and its reflection. Her thoughts and my thoughts are of same nature. The devotion, love, affection and attachment that I have towards Bava are in same proportions in both of us. This truth has been declared by my inner voice.

When ever any one comes from Dwaraka, I used to ask and get the details about Rukmini Devi. She is the consort of my beloved Sri Krishna. She occupied the position that I wished for, much before me. To my Bava she is more than a better half. She has occupied the throne of Swami’s heart. But I never had envy or jealousy any day. Besides, her details and thoughts were comforting and were like anointing cool sandalwood paste on my heart creating inner bliss which is beyond this world. I came to realise that not only in features but also in many aspects there are similarities in both of us.

Rukmini Devi is the only daughter of the King of Vidarbha. I too am the only daughter of King of Kaykaya. Rukmini heard through others Sri Krishna's attractiveness, mannerisms, virtuous attributes, essence of spirituality and His divinity. She was influenced and becoming ecstatic, installed Sri Krishna in heart as her husband. She decided that there is not even a thought of marrying anyone else than Him.

Am I also not like that? However, I am the one having a blood relationship, born only to fulfil the purpose of life as the wife of Sri Krishna. I used to hear about Bava's miracles, about the divine radiance of that universal charmer, about the divine sports of the divine player in human form, about the overall supremacy of the Lord Jagannath through elders, family members, Kunti, Draupadi, Radha, Neela and Gopikas. Essentially hearing about the unending essence of that supreme being I was becoming ecstatic. Since tender age not knowing the meaning of a husband, I worshipped Him taking Him to be my entirety.

However, in the matter of Rukmini Devi her parents and other brothers agreed to offer her to Sri Krishna as per her intention. But Rukmini's elder brother Rukmi opposed strongly and decided to offer her to Sisupala. Isn't it!

Rukmini was afraid that she may not be able to attain Swami and that strong Sisupala may abduct her. She went through enormous pain and became suspicious minded.

That I can understand. Rukmini who was feeling directionless sent a message through Agnidyota, a brahmin to Him, who is the shelter for all, requesting Him to accept her.

In my case, I have strong confidence that Bava will marry me. However, there is some suspicion. Certain doubts. A fear used to disturb me from within that someone may do something to stop Bava from belonging to me.

The first consort of Bava is Rukmini. Swami had an easy access of a royal way in holding her hand without any hindrances, not accounting for Radha, Neela and other Gopikas. Because they belong to Gokul and Brindavan. Their God has already established His awareness every moment in their heart of hearts, in their constant meditation and as breath in their breath.

But when it comes to my situation? There are six consorts in Dwaraka. All those six are with extraordinary beauty. It is a general impression that there are no such gems of beauty in all the three worlds. Will my Bava who is caught in their beauty, stances and attraction be able to hear my pain? Will He understand my feelings? Why I got this doubt is because Bava knew me as a child and I grew up playing in His arms. I am having a doubt if Swami is aware of these feelings of my heart. I am getting confused with such thoughts.

I am aware that my doubts are meaningless. As in the case of Rukmini, there is none in our family who will oppose my Bava. Not only being blood relation, everyone is indeed Swami's devotee. If at all there is any opposition then it is from Swami. It is only on His behalf. This is my doubt. To remove this doubt even before getting into Bava's mind, I sent Srutiranjani to Bava with a message of love.

The summary of the messages of love from both us, is nearly the same. The pain and pangs of separation of both of us are same. Only Bhagawan Sri Krishna has the eligibility to be the husband of Lakshmi. Both of us have worshipped Sri Krishna. Conducted rituals to obtain Him

as husband. Performed rites of religious merit. Performing the worship of Goddess Gauri filled with fervent devotion before the marriage, is the traditional ritual followed in both the families.

Rukmini sent a message stating to win over Sisupala and accept her. And that if this does not happen then she will sacrifice her body on that day. She too made a resolution like me. That supreme soul made a resolution that He will graciously receive Rukmini after winning over Sisupala, who is having an evil desire to gain Rukmini, without knowing the comparative merits. The whereabouts of the noble brahmin who was sent as a messenger to Sri Krishna was not known to Rukmini. No other type of message was received by her. I can understand how much pain Rukmini must have experienced due to this. I too have experienced similar amount of pain, the type of doubts and the suspicion I underwent while waiting for Srutiranjani's return.

Rukmini was anxious if she will match the status of Sri Krishna. Hearing the news about the marriage given by Vipravaryudu, she was filled with great joy. The return of Srutiranjani bringing the auspicious message from Bava filled me with equal happiness.

Rukmini offered salutations to that Mother of the universe seeking blessings in making Sri Krishna her husband. Having done her duty, Rukmini felt satisfied. Great valorous emperors were looking at Rukmini's divine beautiful form that charms the entire universe and at her marvellous magnificence. Forgetting their comparative merits, they succumbed to avariciousness. Bhagawan Sri Krishna who manifested before Rukmini held her in His hands with dexterity. He tore in to pieces the group of all those emperors who showed avarice towards Rukmini and dashed ahead speedily.

Sisupala and others becoming angry with rage gathered army and attacked Sri Krishna. But biting the dust, they had to run away. In the presence of Bhagawan Sri Krishna who was raging like the ruler of hell, they collapsed like grasshoppers approaching the ball of fire. Rukmi who declared in the presence of the enemy warriors that he will not return without bringing back Rukmini, unable to face Sri Krishna was defeated. Lord Sri Krishna along with Rukmini reached Dwaraka with pride of victory and married Rukmini as per rituals.

Bhadra was engrossed in her narration. Subhadra was looking at her sharply. Bhagawan present in the merged form understood the matter. Bhadra's wish became crystal clear. He looked at her innocently.

"Bhadra! I am aware that you have abundant respect and affection towards Rukmini. In your features, feelings, love and affection towards Sri Krishna there are many similarities in both of you. That is true. Even your feelings and experiences towards Sri Krishna are like images and their reflections. On behalf of Sri Krishna I asked if there was any wish in your heart to be fulfilled by Swami before the Swayamvaram. What is this coming from you? Narrating the entire marriage event of Rukmini with vivid details, as though you were present and closely watched everything?" Bhadra looked incredulously at Subhadra who was asking, as though she does not know.

"I am telling you because you asked my wish to describe it to Bava."

"About Rukmini's marriage! Doesn't your Bava who married her know the details?"

Bhadra gave a brief smile at Subhadra's jest.

"There is a hidden meaning for narrating Rukmini's marriage. There is an exclusive status for Rukmini's marriage. Though the Lord had many marriages, there are reasons for the marriage with Rukmini only to be in accordance with the world and revered by the world. Rukmini is the very incarnation of Lakshmi Devi. The marriage of Lakshmi with Narayana is very sacred and worthy of worship by the entire world. Besides, Sri Hari did not hold her hands in a common manner in an ordinary Swayamvaram. Battling bravely, raging like a dreadful fighter, winning over enemies, establishing about Himself in a rightful manner made Rukmini His own.

Rukmini is so fortunate. In a regular Swayamvaram the bride offers the garland. They receive blessings as husband and wife. Instead, winning her in a battle as His own, His would be better half with her entirety and victoriously making her His own, is such a sweet experience. That…that same fortune I too wish to gain.

I am Sri Krishna's paternal aunt's daughter. I have gained the right to marry by birth itself. I am the one to hold Bava's hands in Swayamvaram and walk along with Him on the path of righteousness.

But, unlike an ordinary and a common incident, Bava should fight with opponents. Make into pieces their strung bows. The Lord's conch 'Panchajanya[114]' should create fear like enemy's dreadful war cry and rift the opponent's heart. Only when I am rescued by waging a war, it will be known to this world how much love and affection my Swami has for me. I wish it happens that way. It is my wish that I too should gain fame as His beloved, by competing through bravery and making me His own. It is my earnest wish that He should merge me, having the divine aspect of Lakshmi, in Him. Like Rukmini, righteously and lawfully make an auspicious beginning of our matrimonial relationship.

The marriage of Bhadra should be like the marriage of Rukmini, well known to the world as the wedding of the supreme, as an excellent event of the universe. I will consider fulfilling this wish of mine as an extraordinary gift of the Swayamvaram from my Bava. That it should be known to the world and be worshipped by everyone is my wish. I am expecting this as a wedding gift from my Bava and take it as my good fortune.

Bhadra wanted Him to hold her hand because He too wished for her and not just because she is a relative. Wanted Him to hold her hand as a brave winner having defeated the competitors. Having understood Bhadra's inner feeling of Him gaining universal glory, Sri Krishna was looking at Bhadra meaningfully.

For a moment He forgot the fact that He is hiding in Bhadra. Her personality, virtuousness, valour and the strong will power to look at herself also as a warrior's wife, created amusement to the Lord.

"So shall it be."

The divine voice in Subhadra, that voice of Bhagawan spoke softly and firmly.

Swami in Subhadra having heard and acknowledged Bhadra's innermost wishes, filled her with great happiness.

[114] Name of Lord Sri Krishna's conch.

Involuntarily she was about to prostrate at the feet of Subhadra. Lifting gently, Subhadra embraced her to heart. In that touch, she experienced Swami's touch. With that feeling Bhadra remained in the embrace.

"Bhadra! How long will you fill my stomach with words? I am hungry" Subhadra was asking adorably, charmingly, teasingly and sportingly.

Being in the presence of Swami and totally absorbed, it is natural for her not to remember about her hunger. However, her forgetting the hunger of Subhadra, a close relative is to forget being respectable. Bhadra's heart felt unsteady for a moment. Bhadra was still thinking about what is within reach to offer Subhadra. In the meanwhile, Sri Krishna was holding the dish containing milk pudding available nearby.

Surprisingly, the milk pudding which is dear to the Lord manifested in a gold dish in hands. Krishna in the form of Subhadra with the pretext of her hunger, was anxious to utilise the opportunity of Himself feeding Bhadra who has forgotten to eat. To sustain life through the milk pudding and to fill new awareness with the pretext of milk pudding is the ultimate objective of the supreme soul.

Hunger is only an excuse for that Formless. Looking only at Bhadra, held the dish with milk pudding against His lips. In that moment Bhadra felt that, she could not even become the dish with milk pudding. The shadow of the red lips of the One with dark cloud complexion, were reflecting unusual glow on the white milk pudding.

Multitude of blue rays of the sapphire were reflecting on the gold dish and dazzling the eyes.

He offered the gold dish to the lips of Bhadra who involuntarily extended her hand. Anxiously and with haste Bhadra was tasting Bhagawan's prasadam closing eyes partially in ecstasy. Sri Krishna's sweet looks softly danced on her lips.

Swamy was searching in Bhadra's pair of eyes if she has understood or not this instantly appearing contentment for the words 'so shall it be', said by Him.

Swami can achieve any thing by mere intent. Even with that service of divine nectarine milk pudding as a pretext, blew new life breath in to Bhadra. Surrendering herself to His thoughts, forgetting hunger, becoming feeble she was weak with imaginary fears. She was appearing as though the glow of her divine aspect of Lakshmi was diminishing. That brilliant form filled divine brilliance in Bhadra.

The supreme soul enhanced the essence of being complete. Bhadra became ecstatic with that divine experience newly filled in her. The divine new awareness rising in every nerve is filling a new enthusiasm distinctly. It is becoming much clearer as though regaining something that has been lost.

She is able to understand who is in her presence. Her eyes filled with the rising doubt if this was real or a dream. Bhadra hastened to look into Swami's eyes as if requesting Him to clear her doubt.

Lord Sri Krishna, the one who is blissful within, was in complete happiness within Himself. That experience appeared as a divine sport to Bhadra's eyes. Atma and Paramatma are not separate. That supreme soul is indivisible. Being Omnipresent, He is in Subhadra's form and

also creating emotional vibrations in Bhadra. This divine experience was giving Bhadra an extraordinary happiness. The very next moment that divine nectar touched the lips and Bhadra was glowing full of vitality as Lakshmi Devi. Looking at her to His heart's content, took her close affectionately. Bhadra kept looking at the form of Krishna with His eyes spreading brilliance, to her heart's content. Forgetting herself, forgetting her physical self.

"Bhadra! You are a bride. Look how feeble you have become? How can this be?"

Bhadra's eyes that were only looking at Sri Krishna's form, drooped bashfully.

"Swayamvaram has come close. How will you be adorning? How will you be attracting your Bava?"

The playfulness in those words was like a spray of perfume on Bhadra.

"Your Bava has already received all your messages. Suffering from the pangs of separation more than you, He is about to come and be in your presence. His anxiety is that the message sent by Him through Srutiranjani may not perhaps remove your doubt. Hence, He especially sent me to treat your ears with the most desired message about the marriage.

The brightness in Bhadra's eyes was attaining fullness every moment and glowing as a depiction of Sri Krishna's boundless brightness.

"Bhadra! Your Bava has sent this gift for you. He wanted me to personally adorn your neck. He wanted you to feel that He Himself was adorning it. That is because, as a sister-in-law, I am your half husband"

Bhadra smiling with meaningful expression looked at the gift about to be adorned in the neck. She became as happy as the sea would be reaching for the full moon.

Bhadra looked anxiously at that priceless gift with immense happiness.

That necklace is similar to Mangalyam in all aspects. That divine gift of yellow shining gold, with nine leaves and inlaid with divine diamonds is shining brilliantly making them glitter before Bhadra's eyes and glowing auspiciously like Mangalyam. It is not Subhadra who is about to adorn that necklace but Sri Krishna himself. This is not an illusion but truth. Absolutely true. A truth that can be seen by Bhadra's inner self. Truth that can be known by the inner layers in Bhadra. Truth that has been realised with Bhadra's soul as the witness.

"Bhadra! This necklace is the symbol representing our relationship. These nine leaves indicate the nine types of relationships. As a companion, a well-wisher, a friend, a husband, a protector, a guardian, a guru and Himself being in all. This is an invaluable gift by which the Lord can enlighten His presence in your heart."

That strand shining all over her neck with the pendant of nine leaves, touched Bhadra's heart. It excited her like the touch of Kousthubha. She felt as though Swami Himself adorned and embraced her.

That gift filled her heart with complete satisfaction. That touch is filling her thoughts with pleasantness.

She felt a new splendour around her neck. That yellow strand is making her shine like a new bride. Above all, the gratifying divine touch, secured the priceless position of a house wife in the heart of her beloved. It made her fortune very distinct.

In that excitement Bhadra moved closer to Subhadra. Holding firmly that delicate woman with tender body, kissing those attractive looking cheeks, taking Bhadra in hands Subhadra embraced her. Slowly Subhadra disappeared in Bhadra's heart.

Bhadra being unaware of this fact continued talking to Subhadra. Filled with shyness she continued looking at that one with dark complexion in Subhadra.

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Bhadra who was sleeping, appeared to be talking to someone. There was nobody around. Wondering how she could talk when there was nobody, companions tried to wake up Bhadra.

Bhadra did not come to reality. Being secure in the embrace of Swami, the feeling that she is not free is very pleasing. The feeling of helplessness of not becoming free from the embrace of the Lord, is more pleasing. She is still able to hear Subhadra's voice melodiously telling the narratives about the Lord.

The companions confused by the behaviour brought the queen Srutikirti Devi instead of waking up Bhadra. She saw the lustrous face of Bhadra, with exceptional happiness, with the face expressing satisfaction, glowing with a new shine which she has never seen before. Feeling immeasurably happy, slowly touching her head she woke up Bhadra.

Getting up with great effort, Bhadra anxiously looked around searchingly. Bhadra was looking at her mother who was searching with happiness and doubt and at her companions, who were attending to her and serving, as though unable to understand them.

"Where is Subhadra?" she was asking. No one there could understand Bhadra's words. Srutikirti was looking surprised.

"Yes mother. Subhadra was talking throughout the night and was with me till now."

Everybody saw the lightning in Bhadra's eyes in wonder.

"Yes mother, true. Until now she was here only," Bhadra was still looking around trying to clarify her doubt. Srutikirti was surprised at Bhadra's action.

"No dear. Subhadra has not come. Did you dream?" asked Srutikirti doubtfully.

She was confident that Bhadra must have been submerged in the inexplicable world of sweet dreams and just surfaced. She decided to know the truth some other time and not in the presence of companions. She directed them towards that day's immediate tasks.

"Bhadra! Today is your birthday. You are in a state of joy and happy mood. You are the boon of Sri Mata. It is time for the worship at the temple of Durga Devi. Hurry up" saying thus, allocating tasks to the companions Srutikirti left happily.

‘Is that all a dream? No. Subhadra coming, Her Bava staying with her in Subhadra’s form is not a dream at all. If it were a dream, then?’

Involuntarily she touched her neck.

Along with her necklace of rubies she adorned, which is dearer than life, her hand felt the replica for Mangalyam. In the night not Subhadra but her Bava in the form of Subhadra, her Lord adorned the Mangalyam around her neck with love. A symbol for nine types of relationship. She arrived at a strong decision. Where is the doubt when she is glowing with effulgence, pleasing with unusual lustre and spreading new brightness in her?

She became ecstatic recollecting each incident that occurred the previous night.

It is not false. The unusual incident that happened in the night is not an illusion. Neither a fallacy. That is true. Nothing but truth. Her love is true. This necklace is true. Her Bava adorning this necklace on her neck is true.. Her effort is true. Everything is true. True without even an iota of doubt. Swami who has understood her inner self, fulfilling her wish to her satisfaction, is true. That she has not dreamt, is true. Subhadra’s coming is true. Subhadra changing in to Sri Krishna… no no…coming as Sri Krishna is true. Thinking that this Mangalyam necklace is true, she touched her heart.

Tickling the heart, merging one heart in to another, with a feeling of whispering with the form of Bava, Bhadra was ecstatic. Her face was shining with many thousands of moon rays. In those rosy cheeks were numerous roses. In that heart were innumerable unending streams of nectar.

Her nectarine lips were quivering and elongated eyes becoming heavy were drooping. With the feeling that her Bava should not move even a little distance from her, holding that Mangalyam in both the hands touched her heart earnestly. Recovering in the very next moment, she was feeling shy from the looks of her companions. Confused, at once she covered herself fully with the upper garment.

They were of the feeling that Subhadra had not come. She was doubtful of convincing them that her Bava who had come in the form of Subhadra had adorned her with the necklace. She once again held that necklace to her heart and concealed it with pride.

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Chapter 6 - Bhagawan Sri Krishna's Advent

Bhagawan Sri Krishna was completely satisfied in Bhadra's closeness that expresses the offering of the soul. He intended to hear the yearning of her heart through Bhadra, who is the form of His soul. If not for Himself, to make it known to this world about the deep love in her heart. Being completely satisfied with the fulfilment of His wish, He was moving ahead feeling triumphant of the victory. Having understood Swami's feelings, the horses were galloping with the chariot towards the kingdom of Kaykaya.

Bhagawan Sri Krishna's chariot was reaching the outskirts of Kaykaya kingdom. The horses were jumping with renewed enthusiasm. That country was very beautiful. The swaying green trees were welcoming Bhagawan. The bees were extracting with intoxication the sweet nectar from different flowers. Leaving behind their intoxication, the bees were looking at the beauty of the lotus face of Sri Krishna, which was like a divine blossoming flower spreading the lingering aroma. They felt happy for their fortune. On the arrival of the one, with a peacock feather on His crown, muster of peacocks opening their plumes offered their dance. Group of black cuckoos were biting at tender leaves and adjusting their throat. They were absorbed looking at the youthful handsomeness of Sri Krishna. Offering their sweet nectarine song to Swami, they realised the purpose of their lives. The entire nature rejoiced.

As Sri Krishna entered the garden, His heart was ecstatic with Bhadra's form. Her unlimited devotion enthralled Him. Her exceptional affection enraptured Him. Bhadra was the ultimate union of devotion and love for Him. He is the embodiment of love who was enchanted by the thoughts of Bhadra. As Bhagawan was rushing into the garden, the breeze that was blowing through the cherry trees entwined by the wild jasmine creepers carrying the lingering fragrance of the beautiful flowers, quickly enveloping Sri Krishna felt thrilled. Touching the body of the new bridegroom felt blessed. The pollen dust of the white flowers unable to control their excitement, were showering on Sri Krishna. They were spreading their fragrance and sharing their fortune happily.

The humming sound of the group of bees were giving the indications of the victorious Swayamvaram. Tender bamboo plants felt blessed with the manifestation of Swami. They were elated that in the future they may shine as ornaments in the hands of the flute player and play the seven musical notes. Lord Sri Hari, the indweller of Bhadra's heart was rushing through the trees filled with fragrance. The pollen dust from the flowery bushes once again sticking to the body of the would-be bridegroom Sri Krishna, brought new splendour. Due to the speed of the crowned Sri Krishna, the champak flower stuck in the crown was shining like a basikam[115] on the forehead.

Bhagawan Sri Krishna was anxiously advancing across the flowery bushes. The floral creepers entwined with His forearms were shining like the auspicious bracelets worn by the bridegroom. His chest was wet with the pollen dust of different flowers and honey spray. The petals of flowers were stuck on His heart and appeared like a garland. Sri Krishna was like the

[115] A nuptial crown worn on the forehead by the bride and bridegroom.

winner of Swayamvaram and looking very attractive. That garland was interweaving around the heart that was hiding Bhadra. In Him, who wears yellow silk vesture, the entire nature was visible and as an indication to the unity of nature with supreme soul was a feast to the eyes. The nature was experiencing ecstasy.

Bhadra's form with necklace of rubies, with the shine of corals, wearing her favourite red colour garments, with golden hue body, shining brilliantly was faintly visible to the Lord of Lakshmi, pleasing abundantly.

She flashed briefly for a moment like a delicate brilliant streak with nectarine red lips, with enchanting fleeting sideway glances. Her elegant lotus like eyes becoming bright were searching around and waiting only for Him. They were anxious to see Him. Her beautiful black colour high tresses were vibrant like raising waves. Her raised bodice intensified the engrossed attraction. Moving aside the creepers that were standing in the way of the flowery bushes, He was anxiously looking at her. Looking at that crowning beauty, the wide eyes of Sri Krishna experienced divine magnificence.

There is some difference in the very beautiful form that was hidden in the heart while moving closely with Bhadra in the form of Subhadra. There is a great distinction. That extraordinary beauty is intended exclusively for the ruler of the heart of the universe. Like a celestial beauty she is captivating. This exceptional auspicious form in the garden is looking so beautiful. She is immersing Him, the one who allures all hearts, with her enchantment.

Swami was moving aside the creepers wishing to see Bhadra distinctly. However, the creepers appeared to intentionally block Him for the divine touch of His hands. Looking at the supreme being on one side and Bhadra Devi glittering with natural beauty on the other side, the nature was delighted for its blessing. The leaves, twigs, buds and flowers were playing hide and seek with each and every atom of Bhadra, who was shining like an angel of the garden. Sri Krishna was ecstatic looking at that extraordinary beauty who is born with His intention for Him, with dazzling attractiveness, intense pangs of separation and youthful vitality.

Will there be any other supreme being who can embrace tightly to the heart and merge in Him that woman, that aspect of Lakshmi, that lustre of beauty? Becoming a life partner to this beauty is itself a great penance. It is not possible to find such a cache of beauty even if one searches with a magnifying glass among the maidens in this world or among the princess in other worlds, including Heavens. There are no maidens who can be equivalent to this beauty in spite of searching the three worlds. Looking continuously at the shine on that face resembling the moon is creating ecstasy. Lord Brahma might have imagined the form for this woman by sharpening his exceptional intellect and with the excellent combination formed by mixing pure gold, the sixteen virtues of the moon, the attributes of the lotus and the grand perfume from the nature. Otherwise, how is it possible to obtain this complexion and such amazing beauty? Her feet are very delicate like lotus. They are amazing like lamps of beauty. The stars in the sky taking shelter as the toe nails of her feet, felt their life blessed due to the merits acquired over several lives. The stride of this woman is very astonishing like the movement of an elephant. Her waist pleasing with the youthful vitality and vibrating like a creeper is a wonderful creation of Brahma. Manmadha was astonished at the loveliness of the body of Bhadra, the cache of beauty surpassing this world. As an indication to the acceptance of His defeat, discarded his floral bow.

Bhadra caused a sweet vibration in the heart of Sri Krishna. Her prominent bodice and the arms like golden creepers are touching His heart and trying to entwine. That feeling itself is extremely sweet. Bhadra's neck reminding the auspicious lines in the divine conch and resembling the conch of Manmadha was charming. Her chin adding great shine to Lakshmi in the form of a woman, appears to be shaped as though waiting to be appeased by Sri Krishna. It is evident that the pleasantness in the soft and sweet words of this lovely woman if compared, even grapes will lose in shame, dry up and be defeated.

It is fascinating to observe that even Partridge birds in rapture, look at the moon shaped face of this cache of beauty and look forward as though to drink the shining moonlight through her eyes with a smile spreading over her face.

Her curved eye brows were like the bow of Manmadha aiming and releasing the arrows of love. Faster than those arrows were the hot glances that were making Sri Krishna rapture with fascination. The bees that were about to approach the blue stone resting on His curls, avoiding that dazzle were coming towards the lotus like face of Bhadra for the whiff of the perfume. Sri Krishna was anxious to come forward but controlled Himself with great effort. He remained ecstatic in drinking the exquisite sweetness of the honey from the beauty of Bhadra Devi.

Sri Krishna's glances filled with love were gazing with envy at the black curls on the forehead of Bhadra, reminding Him of a swarm of bees. The sweet feeling of kissing the forehead of Bhadra in Him was several times more than the feelings of the swarm of bees.

Sri Krishna's playful looks were deeply penetrating every atom in Bhadra. The feeling of completely savouring the bursting artistic elegance of that leading beauty is exceedingly sweet.

Bhagawan Sri Krishna looked at the dazzling crest of beauty in the garden, the ruler of the kingdom of His heart. Looking at the beauty of Bhadra to His heart's content, realised that the time to approach her has arrived. He moved ahead anxiously.

Bhadra was meditating on Sri Krishna. She was immersed in the pangs of separation from Sri Krishna. She was anxious for Sri Krishna's manifestation, for His sweet call and for His warm touch. Bhadra's dearest companion looking at her docilely placed the lute before her and stood humbly.

"Devi! Silence will make your mind heavier. The pain that is not expressed will increase the heaviness of your heart. Right now, you are wishing for the presence of your beloved. You are longing to attain the lord of your heart. That is not possible through silence. Sing through your heart a tune filled with love. Melting by the stream of love from that song, your Swami will manifest before your eyes. The lord of your heart who is a lover of music, becoming ecstatic by your nectarine singing will be standing before you fulfilling your cherished wish."

Beginning with the permutations of tunes, the ascending scales of the music was completed. Bhadra was in tune with the lute before beginning the descending scales. As she was plucking the strings the very next moment tearing the flowery creepers Bhagawan Sri Krishna appeared with the shine of the full moon emerging behind the clouds. Looking at Him, Bhadra Devi's companions stood astonished.

Looking at the brilliant form of Bhagawan Sri Krishna, shining like numerous moons is dazzling the eyes. Melting from the flow of affection dripping from those eyes Bhadra was

transfixed. The alluring divine auspicious form of the one, in yellow silk vesture was exactly resembling a bridegroom. While filling her eyes with the divine form overcome by veils of shyness, she held her hands in-between. Accusing for wasting those precious moments moved her hands away and widening her lotus eyes was looking at the lord of her heart. Is it possible to match the toe nail of her Swamy who is like many Manmadhas? The moon who could not stand in the presence of the brilliance of that divine auspicious form became pale and feeling shy for the diminished shine, merged in Bhagawan.

Bhadra was looking at that divine auspicious form with widened eyes to her hearts content, an opportunity which common people do not get. Bhadra owing to shyness was not able to look and fill her eyes with the divine form of the one with dark cloud complexion, who is visible only through divine eyes. Bhadra's eyes resting on the broad chest of her lord felt as though she was carefully observing her true permanent place.

Bhadra attempting to look from the corner of eyes at the one who is like many Manmadhas became ecstatic with bashfulness. Though the heart was hastening to see and fill the eyes with that divine form, her extreme shyness was making Bhadra unable to look. The sweat drops on the forehead were shining like pearls. It was shining like a naturally formed ornament on the nature's feminine form that has acquired the wedding glow.

His all auspicious divine form is a feast to her eyes in her imagination. His divine auspicious appearance enchant her in dreams. His divine beautiful form makes her dream of seeing Him every moment. That divine form has manifested before her today, with the intention of holding her hand due to the merits she has acquired in past lives. She being a simpleton is unable to stand in the presence of Him, the complete being. She is unable to stand His looks resembling the flowered arrows.

His heart vibrated instantly with the plucking of the strings of the lute and He arrived anxiously. Bhadra's heart was hastening to reach that heart filled with love of that embodiment of love. She was blaming the state of her mind for not being able to see that divine auspicious form to her heart's content. In her is the feeling of separation of many years. In her is the feeling of unified affection past several years. And the feeling of pain due to pangs of separation over many years. This simpleton has been pining every moment for the manifestation of her Lord. Today in the presence of Her lord who has come looking for her, she is puzzled and is unable to stand. She is unable to believe her good fortune. She is unable to ascertain if this is a dream or reality.

That young woman's heart was anxious to sing peacefully in the presence of her Swami, the musical compositions about Sri Krishna, which she used to sing in rapture. She was anxious to dance heartily the divine plays of Sri Krishna that she used to dream about and also perform as Radha with her companions. She was anxious to rest her youthful vivacity needing constant support, on His heart and merge in that enchanting one with the flute. She was anxious to melt in His embrace. She was anxious to enjoy the nectar of those lips by pushing the flute aside at least for a moment and live long in the very cave of His heart. This body, heart and every atom is hastening for the enchanting play of the maddeningly delighting Gopala. Above all, the tender heart of Bhadra is getting crowded with numerous doubts. Is this manifestation of Sri Krishna true? Is Swami's divine revelation real? Does she possess that much devotion and feelings of

surrender to make that Lord Jagannath content? Is her becoming blessed in the streams of love that won the heart of such an embodiment of love, true? Is it true?

Else, is this too a characteristic of the divine play of that divine player in human form? Else, is this also a web of illusion created by her Swamy to immerse her in delusion to cool her pangs of separation? It should never be so. It should not be a dream. It should only be the truth.

Bhadra's heart in pain was beating each time in a different way, filled with doubt. Srutiranjani hurriedly approached Bhadra, who was unable to control her exulting exceptional happiness.

Holding Bhadra's shoulders firmly became ecstatic with joy making her breathless.

"Bhadra Devi! You are so fortunate. That chief of Gods who is unattainable even to Brahma and other deities, bound by your love, yielding to your worship has come wishing to see you. Honouring the word given to you, He has come to be with you. Bind Him with the bonds of devotion, with your side long glances. Make good use of this valuable opportunity."

That beautiful woman was unable to reply Srutiranjani. She is becoming confused in the presence of Sri Krishna. Kalavani, one of Bhadra's companion, like a closed bud with a feeling of worship sat down hesitantly at the feet of Sri Krishna. With great difficulty she cleared her throat to speak.

"Bhagawan! Due to the good deeds done in our past lives we became the favourite companions of Bhadra Devi. It is the result of those merits that gave us the fortune of your divine manifestation today. We might have earned merits for many lives to see you in this form! We have been waiting every moment as an eon and looking forward to see the celebrations of you holding the hands of our dearest companion. Our Bhadra Devi is the crest of beauty in the universe, a gem among woman, a collection of noble virtues and above all your ardent devotee. She does not know anything except remembering you. She does not have any other pursuit except meditating upon you. She does not wish for anything except your manifestation. She is a hermit who does not wish for anything except merging with you. She is your beloved, your paternal aunt's daughter anxious to unite with you.

Binding our companion with the bond of Mangalyam make her ecstatic with joy by churning her heart with the bonds of affection. Shower your blessings on us. This is our earnest request to you."

The requests appearing like prayers from Kalavani and Induvadana on behalf of all the companions made Sri Krishna ecstatic with elation.

Bhadra was pleasantly happy at the skilful way her favourite companions were expressing the feelings of her heart, so alluringly as if she spoke. Conveying yet not saying.

Looking at Swami with her eyes wide open she silently pleaded "those are the thoughts in my mind. My feelings. My appeals. Swami, please accept them thus." Those silent prayers resounded in the heart of the one who is the originator of sound.

"Lord did you hear my prayer. Swami did you come to fulfil my wish. I am happy at my fortune. There are no reins to control my happiness. If there are such reins, they are in your hands. I can not say anything further. I can not speak. I do not feel like moving away from your presence. My doubt is that others may not appreciate my continuing to be here. Hence, forgive

me Swami.” Bhadra earnestly folding her hands lifted her head once again and kept looking. Those glances of love, full of gratitude were attempting to convey numerous feelings in several languages. Once again offering her heart filled with affection, was about to turn around.

“Bhadra! The inexpressible devotion in your heart, the affection you offer, and your intense love made Me yours. It is true that I was looking forward for the message of love through Srutiranjani. I knew about it much before. Even then to know your heart, I made you to look forward. I came as Subhadra only to create that trust in you. During Swayamvaram I will hold your hands as per your wish. This is certain.

‘To be alone with me at this time will not be appropriate as per tradition’ is the aptness of your feeling that pleases me. Bhadra! May you be married” conveying this through His eyes, was looking at her with satisfaction. Bhadra realising this, with happiness turned around.

Lifting her head that had completely bowed with shyness was unable to control the anxiousness to repeatedly look at the one, with peacock feather in the crown. Around her heart are the bright gifts of love from Swami. The necklace of rubies entwined with the string, signifying the relationship of nine types of oaths is dazzling and filling the eyes with a new glow. Midst of all these she is imagining about the relationship of the auspicious gold Mangalyam to be tied by her beloved. Unable to bear the weight of her youthfulness was trembling like a tender creeper with slender waist movements. Her trinkets were making soft and sweet sound waves. Her movement with small traces was very pleasing. Like an emerging bright ray, reflecting from the exclusive glow of her complete form, Bhadra moved. Bhadra shining brilliantly was walking gracefully towards the inner chambers. Her favourite companions observing the very pleasing new change in her were astonished.

The manifestation of Sri Krishna brought the brightness of the sun on her face acquiring new beauty. She acquired renewed beauty. She was getting choked with the happiness that could not be contained. The time was right for her companions to tease. They could not see a better time to make fun of their friend. But she was in no state to respond to their teasing words or amusing actions. Bhadra who was filled with inexplicable experiences and treading towards her palace stopped for a moment. This situation of leaving Swami and going is unavoidable.

Swami is capable of everything. But Bhadra is not supposed to stay back and attend to Swami. She gave orders to her favourite companions through eyes and left.

Bhadra was glowing with new radiance. Sri Krishna felt satisfied for pleasing her and continued looking at her in rapture.

“What is this disturbance in the royal garden? What is the reason for the new enthusiasm you are showing?” saying thus Sri Krishna was asking as though He was not aware. The favourite companions humbly bowed at the all-knowing.

“Lord! Our King Drushtaketa along with his queen has come to this royal garden. Lord, it is a tradition to worship the spring God during the Spring season. In view of that occasion we have come here to conduct the celebrations.”

Bhagawan Sri Krishna smiled softly. He got ready to greet Drushtaketa who has come to the royal garden accompanied by His people who were wishing to merge in Him.

The place that was allocated for invitees by Drushtaketa had a festive look. The king of Kaykaya accompanied by the queen were seated on thrones, surrounded by others. The clanks of the gold anklets were creating melody to the ears. The attendants were fanning them with white whisks. The creative dances and songs of the artists was feasting the eyes. The singers were offering a treat to the ears. Many feudatory kings were seated encircling king Drushtaketa and sharing their immense joy with him. Their bodies were shining with unusual glows from the invaluable ornaments they were wearing. The king of Kaykaya is highly renowned and has won many accolades from others for his valour, courage, glory, wealth, virtuous conduct as an unparallel noble. The king of Kaykaya was radiating like a personified image of valour with exceptional ornaments, adorned with a brilliantly shining crown and surrounded by minstrels and bards.

That place was filled with an unknown new experience of happiness. That place is getting influenced by new glows filled with an exceptional fragrance. With the arrival of Sri Krishna, they understood the reason for the same. Lord Jagannath looked at Drushtaketa with a brief smile.

Sri Krishna, the supreme soul adorned with divine ornaments arrived with the shine of numerous moons that are dazzled the eyes. By His very presence that place was filled at once with an aroma of perfume. The king of Kaykaya stood up with excitement. The feudatory kings unable to look directly at the divine form of the Bhagawan walking were rubbing their eyes in bewilderment. That emperor approaching the Lord Jagannath coming in grandeur welcomed Him with tears of joy, with dazzled eyes, with quivering mind and an astonished heart.

“Sri Krishna! Is this a dream or real? You accepting my invitation for Swayamvaram and coming on the occasion to participate, is giving me an exceptional experience. Sri Krishna, I do not have the capacity to express that experience” saying thus, the king of Kaykaya hugged Sri Krishna.

Sri Krishna was respectfully offering salutations to Drushtaketa, husband of Srutikirti Devi who is his father’s sister and His paternal aunt. Becoming ecstatic at the manifestation of Bhagawan Sri Krishna he was once again wondering at his great fortune. In that elation he folded his hands involuntarily. Though he is older in age and elder in relation, Bhagawan is the eldest and the foundation for all types of elderliness. That king of Kings was conscious about being in the presence of the supreme soul and offered tears of joy. He seated Sri Krishna on a golden throne studded with precious stones. He welcomed with humbleness Satyaki, Uddhava and others who accompanied Sri Krishna. Extending courtesies meant for guests, he enquired about their welfare.

Becoming humble in the presence of Sri Krishna –

“Madhava! Your advent is a blessing and very auspicious. Your appearance today in this manner might be the result of the good merits earned by us in our past several lives. With your advent and with the fortune of your manifestation, our lives have become blissful. You have blessed us so much that in this life we do not have any other wish to be fulfilled. Our country and all living beings in our country have become fortunate. *Madhusudana*! Is my brother-in-law Vasudeva doing well? Is Devaki Devi prosperous with all virtues? Is Balarama healthy? Hope Rukmini, Jambavati, Sathyabhama and other consorts are doing well. Hope the preeminent ministers, citizens and all are happy. However, being in the very presence of Bhagawan,

enquiring about the welfare of those who are in the shelter of Bhagawan is my ignorance, what else could it be?”

Sri Krishna touched the hand of His uncle with respect and affection.

“With the blessings from elders and well wishers like you, everybody is doing well” said Lord Jagannath in accordance with His elderliness and showing humbleness. Drushtaketa was looking at the Lord’s eyes that was overflowing with love. He was looking at the incarnation of Lord Trivikrama[116], an epitome of humbleness. He was looking at that divinity in ecstasy.

His paternal aunt Srutikirti Devi was enquiring about the welfare of the relatives. He was describing the wellbeing of individuals with their names. Sri Krishna received love and blessings while humbly offering His salutations.

Bhagawan Sri Krishna after spending some time in interesting conversations, mutual welfare news and discussions on favourite topics went to the divine palace studded with precious stones arranged by Drushtaketa as a temporary residence. After entering the temporary residence, in the very next moment the pangs of separation from Bhadra surrounded Sri Krishna in a strange manner. That amazing crest of beauty that His eyes were feasting on, in the royal garden was moving again and again before His eyes. That soft, charming and alluring form is kindling sweet sensations in the heart. Swami is wondering. It is so true that to His devotees He is visible everywhere. It is equally true that to Him His Bhadra is visible everywhere. What is this! It is so astonishing. He can understand the condition of Bhadra’s heart. To Bhadra He is entirety. To Bhadra there is not even a moment or a thought or a purpose without Him.

But, to Him who knows all, to Him who has experienced everything, His Bhadra completely pervading all over His heart is astonishing. It is appearing as though Bhadra is competing with His compassionate glances, with the essence of fullness of viewing the entire creation and with Him. The thought of Bhadra has become entirety to Him, who is the indweller of all.

Through her thoughts, word and action, she has developed faith only in Him. His memories are her breath. His affections are her focus. She is longing to be with Him. That serene form of the exceptional crest of beauty is offering a feast to His eyes. The worshipping looks in those eyes, the total engrossment in that face, those nectarine lips, the youthfulness in that body are all being offered to Him. Standing helplessly, she is extending her arms to unite with Him. That simplicity is creating sensations in the heart of Sri Krishna. Holding those lotus hands once and fondling softly feels like informing her the time for the marriage has approached. Feels like clarifying that the auspicious moment to merge that tender creeper like body in Him, is also coming soon. Feels like combining His pangs of separation with her pain and make her sleep in that warmth. But making that tender heart more agitated, increasing those pangs of separation, offering touch of comfort and thereby increasing the pain of separation manifold is not as per tradition till Bhadra is made His own through Swayamvaram. Till then it is acceptable as per the law. How elated she must be having seen Him? How anxious she must be expecting to be with Him?

[116] He who subjugated the three worlds in three strides, i.e. Lord Vishnu.

Sri Krishna's face lacked lustre. It was as though the boundless presence lost its lustre. He thought, is it justified to subject such an extraordinary crest of beauty, one full of virtuous traits, to so much pain.

Further trials for the unbound devotion of Bhadra? Further questions about the divine love? Will it be appropriate of Him, who is the essence of love and known to be the epitome of being affectionate to devotees, in attempting to subject further pain of separation? Lord Sri Krishna was inquisitive.

That bejewelled lute constantly playing many divine melodious tunes without moving away from the soft touch of Bhadra's hand, is in raptures. How great must be the fortune earned by the lute in its previous birth. That necklace of rubies which is so gifted of dancing constantly on the heart of Bhadra must have already earned immense fortune. In comparison with that fortune, the fortune acquired by the necklace with nine gold leaves inlaid with diamonds which He decorated while in the form of Subhadra, is recent. So what? The divine Mangalyam which He is about to tie will be acquiring the great fortune of dwelling in constant touch and never separating from the boundary of Bhadra's heart.

Sri Krishna thought for a moment. That necklace of rubies which is dancing on Bhadra's heart from a long time, the recently decorated necklace with nine gold leaves inlaid with diamonds and the Mangalyam necklace, which is soon to occupy its permanent place, all three being in a formation to pleasantly symbolise the three knots. Lord Murari[117] felt elated.

He Himself may have to be away from the tight embrace but the Mangalyam which He is about to tie will indeed constantly experience that exceptional happiness. Thinking thus, the supreme self reconciled that He should not feel jealous for the good fortune of the Mangalyam.

The rare beauty in Bhadra, her gentleness, virtuousness, friendliness, blend of attributes of a chaste woman, that humbleness and that glow of goodness are glowing distinctly in Bhadra, possessor of all noble qualities, like the reflection of Sri Krishna's heart filled with love.

All these souls are born only from His resolve. Having complete understanding of His resolve to its fullest extent and the purity of living every moment of life, contemplating on the supreme soul is creating happiness to Himself, being the supreme soul. The fact that the glow of the beauty of Bhadra's soul is indeed His reflection, occurred in Krishna's mind. The supreme being is becoming anxious to merge that maiden of Nature in Him.

Drushtaketa was immersed in attempting to please Bhagawan with his hospitality. To extend hospitality to Lord Narayan is not possible to even deities including Lord Brahma. The emperor is happy that he has earned that opportunity due to merits acquired in previous birth. He appointed extraordinary attendants in service of Sri Krishna. He was concentrating every moment in supervision.

He was himself serving all delicious dishes to Bhagawan Sri Krishna, imagining it to be offerings to the supreme soul, partaking them and rejoicing for the good fortune. The emperor is considering it to be his great fortune to share this joy with his relations and friends.

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[117] Another name of Sri Krishna. The vanquisher of demon by name 'Mura'.

The manifestation of that Lord who delights the world, increased the pangs of separation manifold in Bhadra. Making her eyes rejoice even while they are closed or open. Making her mind gallop with joy. The heart of that woman is getting anxious to be nearer to that Madana Mohana[118].

Imagining the pleasing sound waves coming through the bamboo trees, created by the touch of the wind God, to be the tune from the flute, she is getting perplexed. Imagining the sight of even a peacock feather to be Him, the one with peacock feather in the crown, she is feeling ecstatic. Imagining the dense pollen dust covered by lotus flowers to be the form of Swami, she is becoming eager. Looking at the glow of sapphire and imagining it to be the glow of Sri Krishna's body she is about to extend her arms to come close and gets extremely impatient. Bhadra is engrossed every moment in meditating upon Sri Krishna. Bhadra is identifying Sri Krishna in whatever she looks at. She who has seen the supreme soul, to look with the feeling of same soul in all, felt it to be her natural aspect.

Bhadra's lotus like eyes were half closed as buds in the presence of the moon-faced Sri Krishna, settled in her heart. Following immediately, with the effect of the talent of Manmadha, they are blossoming several times and are reflecting new elegance with various opposing pressures. Reflecting upon Sri Krishna, Bhadra's eyes were wishing to look at Sri Krishna. Unwilling to recognise them who are in front of her eyes and being absent minded is causing a little pain to her dear companions. Though they are aware that the reverie is due to meditating upon the supreme soul.

They are in a little pain about their diminishing opportunity. The time for their companion to be in the presence of her Swami, who is the penance of her life and for whom she was intensely pining, is fast approaching. On one side are the tears of joy created from the immeasurable happiness rising and overflowing from her heart. At same time tears due to the uncontrollable pain as the unavoidable situation presented itself. It is time for their dear companion, with whom they shared affection more than their own life breath, to distance herself a little from them. Though the tears of joy gained upper hand, the flow of tears is not stopping.

"Bhadra you were never able to stay even for a moment leaving us. You never had the courage to do anything without our assistance. How did you get the thought of coming to this royal garden? Why this thought? Are you already considering us to be outsiders? You never used to like to leave us even for a moment. How come even without uttering a word to us you have come to the royal garden leaving the inner chambers? Has this ever happened earlier?

Do tell us if there are any ways to reduce this pain. Your Swami likes sandalwood. Shall we take vessels filled with sandalwood and tell Him that the offering is from His beloved companion. Swami likes flowers. We will weave lengthy garlands with beautiful flowers matching His height. Shall we go and offer them saying that you have personally made the garlands for Swami's decoration? As a matter of routine shall we enquire, how Swami is feeling? Is He thinking about you or not? What is He thinking about you? Do tell if you wish us to go and inform Swami the tales about you. And come back to tell you about Swami's thoughts. Tell what you want us to do? You being absent minded like this is not at all appropriate.

[118] Madana means Cupid. Cupid enchants everyone. And Krishna enchants Cupid. Therefore, His name is Madana-Mohana. He's so beautiful that even Cupid is enchanted by Him.

However, why so much sorrow? Why so much sadness? Your beloved has come only to hold your hand, isn't it? Very soon holding your hands He will permanently conceal you in His heart. That day is nearing. Why are you in such pain? Moreover, you are the form of Lakshmi. Is it justified to get baffled at the time of the marriage?" saying thus Kalavani was reassuring. Her words gave a little respite. The favourite companions took Bhadra to a playground and were attempting to make her heart rejoice.

The soft and sweet tune from Mahati[119], which acquired the purity by constant recitation of Narayana was touching the ears slowly. The sage Narada is a prime devotee who has absolute clarity about when, where, why, whom to approach and what type of divine activities to be accomplished on behalf of Swami. For devotees, the arrival of sage Narada is in itself an indication sent by Swami for them.

"Narayana…Narayana" thus on hearing the sweet recitation of the name once again, Bhadra and companions folding their hands together humbly bowed to Narada seeking his blessings.

"Dear Bhadra Devi! Are you finally bestowing on us the fortune of being the witness to the sacred occurrence of the merging of the divine aspect of Lakshmi with Swami? I am aware my dear. That Swami has come here. That He has met you. He has given a word that He will fulfil your wish. That the auspicious moment of marriage for which the three worlds are looking forward is about to be a reality, I am aware my dear. I do remember my dear. Some days ago, in my natural teasing way with the intention of just playing a prank on you, to know the intensity in your adoration for Swami, I had said this to you.

'How come you want Him, who has six wives? Even those six consorts are unable to decide their turns and are getting baffled. Is it a worthy task for an unmatched crest of beauty like you to appeal as the seventh? If you so wish, will there not be several admirers who will yearn for you? Will they not place you on a pedestal and worship' saying thus I intended to test the feelings of your heart. At that moment without any change in your smile you used to directly convey your strong conviction. That your life is offered only to Lord Sri Krishna, that not six even if sixteen, you will offer yourself to the supreme being. You requested me to understand the intensity of that penance and to offer your yearning to Swami. I am aware that the intensity of the feelings emerging out of your firm resolve would have reached Swami even before you expressed them to me.

Though I am known as the maker of disputes, with a wish to earn the name as the one who brought both of you together in your marriage, I have accepted this responsibility. I am also aware that without Swami's intent even a tender leaf will not move in this creation. That is why, though aware of just being an insignificant entity, I took the courage to earnestly bless you saying 'May you get married. May you be wedded to Sri Krishna. Let it be certain.' Having taken that challenge, went to Swami, explained the details, conveyed the circumstances-

'Swami! Decide the auspicious time for holding the hand of Bhadra', I requested and accomplished it. As per the resolve of Swami and as per your wish everything will be happening in the right manner, isn't so. You must be happy, my dear. Your eyes are showing without you telling. Let me experience the fortune of making Swami happy by conveying to Swami the state

[119] The name of the stringed instrument (Veena or Lute) of Sage Narada.

of your great happiness. Can I take leave of you, universal mother? Saying thus the divine sage left.

Celebrations of Bhadra Devi's Swayamvaram

Knowing the importance of this day in the boundless time, the sun with his power is slowly radiating in all the directions. The soft rays of the sun are swelling with joy for their rare fortune of merging with Bhagawan Sri Krishna, who is equivalent to the radiance of numerous suns. They are getting eager to make their presence blissful.

As per the orders from the emperor of Kaykaya the bards with their very sweet nectarine filled tunes and their soft melodious voices are singing songs of the dawn, to awaken everyone in the morning. With the flow of that auspicious pleasing songs all those leaders from different kingdoms are waking up to get ready.

The arena is filled with all types of decorations, with all priests, ministers, relatives with their entourage. It is bestowing auspiciousness and is blooming as never before nor likely to be seen in the future. The ruler of Kaykaya wished to organise everything and be in the presence of Sri Krishna. However, as he was occupied with the chores of Swayamvaram he handed over the responsibility of properly extending etiquettes to his son Santharthnudu and was a little relaxed. The king of Kaykaya is full of joy in obtaining the collection of auspicious things required for the occasion of the celebration of the Swayamvaram. He is personally having discussions with well-wishers and priests regarding all things and condiments to be arranged during the marriage ritual.

He was arranging all comforts for the princes in the guest palaces. Along with it, he was observing with joy the way in which his entourage carried the orders to decorate the palaces and the cities with responsibility.

The entrances to the fort and palaces being covered with golden sheets were reflecting with golden hue and shining brilliantly. The royal pathways and the bazaar streets being washed with scented water and the floors ornamented with coloured powder and pearls, are spreading beautiful aroma. Golden yellow colour flags are fluttering from the royal palaces and on top of towers over the gates of temples. The sports complexes and courtyards of houses were anointed with musk and sandalwood paste, floors ornamented with coloured powder and inlaid with pearls and decorated with heaps of nine colours of precious stones. The entire city glittering in splendour with fragrant substances and the pandals covered with cuscus roots sprayed with perfume, is offering a feast to the eyes.

Bhagawan Sri Krishna was looking at that form shining like moon, looking at Him with love and affection and approaching quickly towards Him. For a moment a doubt raised in His mind, if Bhadra adoring the form of a man was coming with the intention of seeing Him. However, instantly looking at that manner of walking, that manly majestic face flashing smiles, those strong arms revealing the natural pride of a valorous royal youth, gave assurance to Swami that the one coming is not Bhadra and that its Bhadra's brother Santharthanudu.

Santharthanudu prostrating at the feet with humility and in a pleasing manner enquired about the welfare with soft and sweet conversations. Adhering to the devotion and surrender acquired through family heredity, he repeatedly enquired Madhava, His relations and entourage about the

hospitality being offered to the guests. Sri Krishna was pleased with his noble attitude of humility and devotedness.

Bhadra's features were very evident in Santharthanudu. He took him close with overflowing love and affection and praised his dedication and devotion. Fondling his head showered blessings and made him sit by His side.

Bhagawan Sri Krishna was filled with immense happiness with the arrival of the glowing Narada, with clusters of tresses resembling the very beautiful rays in kumkuma, wearing the necklace of Tulasi[120] beads, playing the divine Mahati in the pleasing melodious fifth note, thinking of Narayana, with the magnificence of Brahma, with the fair complexion like the cloud during autumn season.

Seer Narada was totally absorbed looking at Bhagawan, who was folding hands in reverence and expecting blessings from that divine sage. Though himself being without winks, the divine sage was admiring that glowing form without closing the eye lids. There were tears of joy. From the salutations being offered by the supreme soul, Narada experienced a tingling sensation. Unintentionally said "May you accomplish the task of holding the hands of Bhadra."

Sri Krishna offered a sweet nectarine smile in return for that blessing. He made Narada who had offered the blessings, to occupy a suitable throne in an appropriate manner. Covered by the streams of tears of joy, the divine auspicious form of Bhagawan who was right in front was not clearly visible. He did not like to miss looking at Bhagawan even for a split moment while wiping his eyes. He sat down completely immersed in that ecstatic love. He was filled with a tingling sensation from the divine manifestation of Bhagawan, which was rare to obtain even for Brahma and others. Though he had several opportunities for the grace of His manifestation in the past, each time the boundless divine happiness is refreshingly new. In that happiness he said –

"Swami! I could have this grace of your appearance in this form as the conductor behind the scenes in this auspicious place. Sri Krishna! how much merit I must have earned. You are the supreme spirit praised by all deities every moment. You are the creator, sustainer and destroyer. You can be possessed only through boundless devotional feelings and bonds of serene love. You are responsible for the universal prosperity. You are the embodiment of resolution and by your slanting glances, can resolve the yearnings of your devotees and those who take refuge in you. You are the form of incarnation, who incarnated to punish the wicked and protect the devoted. Though you have filled your heart with Sri Maha Lakshmi, you have the intension of securing a permanent place in the hearts of devotees too. You are always biased towards devotees who seek you, as you consider this to be the greatest happiness. Oh! auspicious form. Oh! Propitious form! You have granted me the rare fortune of having the glimpse of your smiling face in this manner. You made me an eligible recipient for such divine compassion. Swami, will there be anyone else more fortunate than me? You have bestowed me with such immense fortune of looking at your divine lotus feet that have been washed by Lord Brahma and an opportunity to offer the flower of my heart. Swami that is the reason why my voice which constantly sings your glory in rapture is becoming silent at this moment. Swami! You are the very source of radiance. With your divine radiance you can make the entire solar universe look insignificant. That supreme, folding hands before me? That is an attribute to your wealth of humbleness and Omniscience. A measure of your characteristic in abiding traditions. Oh!

[120] The sacred Basil, Ocymum sanctum.

Hrusheekesha[121], Viswambhara[122], all forms are yours and you are the indweller in all. The attractive and dense hair on your head resembling a big cluster of dark clouds is looking beautiful and creating a spell. You are the form of the universe, spreading all over the universe, penetrating into the inner recesses of the universe. Your form has neither a beginning nor an end. All living species and all universes are concealed within you. Bound by love, an embodiment of love, you have come as the incarnation of love. Lord! You have manifested taking the human form by diminishing your radiance by several echelons and with most fondling and alluring facial features that are attractive.

Are you about to be a bridegroom once again and be the indweller of Bhadra's heart and become radiant? You are the embodiment of love, who loves the entire creation. You accept the love of each one in accordance with their eligibility. Conduct with each one in a different manner. Distribute the nectarine love and give it to each one, as per their worthiness. Swami, are you kindling the self-happiness in each one feeling for himself, that you belong to them and making all living species attain the purpose of their lives? Swami! Is it possible for any one to comprehend your true essence? Is it possible to describe the sea? I am gaining the satisfaction by describing just a drop of the sea. I am unable to look at you who is equivalent to the radiance of several suns. Even then just by looking at the form of one brilliant ray and the thought that I was able to describe it, is giving me the self-satisfaction. Its only for that purpose. Else, am I capable of either realising your true essence or to extol you Swami."

Unable to stop the flow of tears of joy, unable to control his overwhelming joy and extolling the virtues and singing in praise of his favourite deity in ecstasy, sage Narada was about to seek permission to leave from the supreme one. Observing Sri Krishna's smile accompanied with an appeal, asked directions for the task and stayed back.

"Narada! Enough of your eloquent praises about glory. In that trance, you seem to be going away without informing about the fact of your coming here after visiting Bhadra Devi. Why that haste? You appear to have made some promises to Bhadra Devi? How can I know, if you do not tell me? Hope this is not a ploy to create a lover's quarrel between both of us. Is it appropriate to behave inadvertently, not fulfilling the responsibility taken by you? For some time keep aside philosophical thoughts, inquiry about reality, your devotedness and seal it. Recognising the duty, will you conduct yourself?" thus looking at the alerting Swami said-

"Yes Swami. I forgot the reason for my visit. Even if I don't mention it, you will any way know is my belief. You are the one who makes me do and make me forgetful. You are the intelligence, memory and forgetfulness. Everything is a delusion created by you. Besides, where am I going away. Swami, I will leave only after seeing your Swayamvaram and experiencing the fortune of showering the divine akshita on your head. Meanwhile, by your grace I am recollecting the divine tasks to be accomplished. True, you are the embodiment of will power. However, by delegating the responsibility of fulfilling that task on ordinary ones like us, you grace us with that fortune. And grace us with the task that can be fulfilled as per the will and our fortune. Then, shall I carry on with the task, that can be fulfilled as per your will Swami? In the manner you gave word during the holding of hands of Bhadra, give us the fortune of witnessing your bravery Swami". Looking at Narada saying thus, instructed with eye gestures. He was conveying His

[121] One who is the Lord of the senses.
[122] One who wears the universe.

approval to the thoughts sprouting in the mind of Narada. The form of knowledge and bliss remained radiating smiles all around.

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Two kings by the name of Vindudu and Anuvindudu were coming in their chariots to attend Bhadra's Swayamvaram with great enthusiasm and excessive desire, forgetting their eligibilities and capabilities. Narada looking at them smiled and asked them to wait for a while.

To the two kings who developed excessive desire for Bhadra, the presence of Narada appeared as an auspicious indication. They halted their chariots, came close and stood. Their character and attributes appeared lacking in humility and obedience. The prime devotee thought this to be insignificant and waited examining searchingly their anxiousness. He felt that talking to these mean persons would be an insult towards Bhagawan. However, as it is essential to fulfil the divine task, he attempted a conversation. Both the kings displayed extreme haste and impatience.

"Narada! They say you are aware of everything. The past, present and future periods are not unknown to you. That too you are arriving from the venue of Swayamvaram in great jubilation. We have the belief that Bhadra Devi, the wonderous crest of loveliness and universal beautiful form, will definitely select anyone of us. However, whom she will select between the two, has remained a question in us. Only you are capable of clarifying our doubt and reducing the pressure on our minds. Tell us quickly without delay. Whom will Bhadra Devi marry between the two of us?" they said thus with extreme ego and with an irresponsible attitude in a challenging manner. Looking at them Narada felt there doubt unbearable and it sounded harsh to his ears. With folded hands praying to Lakshmi Narayan in his mind for pardon, cleared his throat.

"Both of you are equal and in par with each other. It is impossible even for Lord Brahma who has created you to identify one of you as superior. The arrival of Sri Krishna is providing life breath to the flowing imaginations of Bhadra, born as an aspect of Lakshmi, of becoming one with that Narayana. The opportunities for Sri Krishna with six consorts in accepting Bhadra as the seventh wife cannot be denied from the view point of their relationship. I think both of you coming for this Swayamvaram is the will of the divine. Set aside the argument about whose neck will be decorated with the wedding garland. Foremost is conducting in unity. If the desire to appropriate this extraordinary opportunity is strong in you, then recollect about the abduction of Rukmini. Conduct with alertness." Listening to the subtle words of Narada, each one interpreted the meaning as per their imagination. Long ago, at the time of the Swayamvaram of Rukmini, Sri Krishna abducting Rukmini depriving Sisupala who was waiting for her, surfaced in their mind. Thought together they will likewise abduct and make the bride unavailable to Sri Krishna. They will be able to recreate the old incident of abduction. They forgot with whom they are confronting. They were inviting their own destruction with such extreme behaviour. Watching Narada leave after cautioning, they set to accomplish their immediate task.

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Chapter 7 - Bhagawan Sri Krishna's Victory

Many kings and nobles from different kingdoms arrived at Kaykaya to participate in the Swayamvaram. Emangada from Kalinga region wearing many ornaments and mounted on a well decorated elephant was accompanied by his soldiers. The king of Magadha in a golden chariot, was accompanied by bards and minstrels showering eloquent praises. Saindhava, the king of Sindhu region arrived in a sports chariot at the speed of the wind. The king of Panchala came riding on an exceptionally powerful horse. Many more arrived from other regions including Mathsya, Kunthala, Kosala, Madra, Chola, Nepala, Malava and Surasena.

The emperor of Kaykaya received everyone with immense joy. Arranged extraordinary palaces for the guests. He extended warm welcome that pleased them.

A suitable wide place was selected as an appropriate venue for the Swayamvaram. The eminent ministers of Kaykaya are inviting the nobles from different regions with honour to occupy the special thrones arranged for them.

Among the nobles from the different regions who are participating in the Swayamvaram, there are a few matching the elegance of Manmadha. A few having the attractiveness that can be compared with the moon. A few more with comparable physique of King Nala and deity Kubera. Some having the attractive charm of the deity Indra. The arena of Swayamvaram is offering a feast to the eyes with the presence of kings and nobles who are like symbols of elegance. Conversing light heartedly with His relatives, well-wishers and friends, Bhagawan Sri Krishna stepped in to the arena of the Swayamvaram. Looking at Him in amazement all the heads of the regions stood up inadvertently and remained standing.

Unable to look directly at Bhagawan with His divine radiance their eyes dazzled. Though He diminished His radiance considerably, Bhagawan Sri Krishna's form is clearly visible like the brightness of the sun. In the presence of the divine form the ordinary emperors and sons of kings inadvertently folded their hands and stood with reverence.

Sri Krishna's ear rings and ornaments on His arms were shining brilliantly. The crest decorated with a crown, studded with precious stones was amazing. Sri Krishna ascended the invaluable throne, glowing astonishingly with decorations and precious stones specially arranged for Him.

After Swami majestically occupied the throne, the other dignitaries of the regions occupied their seats.

The Swayamvaram portico was looking majestic with Bhagawan and nobles from other regions. It was glowing and filled with auspiciousness. At that instance, king Kaykaya sent a message to Bhadra Devi.

Bhadra sincerely worshipped Goddess Gouri[123] Devi who bestows auspiciousness. She sought her blessings for marriage and prayed to make Sri Krishna her husband and started for the venue.

The divine enchanting form of that golden figurine, decorated with nine types of ornaments inlaid with precious stones, is enthralling even to her companions. Bhadra fondly touched the necklace of rubies that was decorated by her Bava which she considers as Mangalyam and the other extraordinary necklace that united her in nine different relationships. She held the necklaces to her eyes in reverence. She was about to set the kumkuma once again on the forehead. She offered kumkuma to the two entwined necklaces on her neck and held them to her lips. Bhadra was feeling as though she was going to her husband's place after the marriage. There was no trace of any feeling in her that she was going for her Swayamvaram.

Bhadra Devi was about to climb the palanquin which was decorated with gold paintings and was glowing with grandeur. She was resembling Sri Maha Lakshmi emerging from the ocean of milk and was offering a feast to the eyes. The urgency of Bhadra Devi is reminding of the anxiousness of Sri Lakshmi searching for the presence of Swami who disappeared right before the eyes to fulfil the wish of some devotee as Sri Narayana, the benefactor of those in distress.

Bhadra Devi, radiating with the glow of Lakshmi Devi and establishing the Lord Jagannath as her lord in her heart, was engrossed thinking about that divine presence. Tracing her whereabouts Vindudu and Anuvindudu became enraged and arrogant in a demonic manner. They forgot the prudence of merits and demerits. There only objective was to possess Bhadra. They stopped the chariot of that innocent woman. With their loud and scary screams unnerved everyone with fear. They forced the shrieking companions to climb the chariot along with Bhadra and were getting away. At that moment –

Bhadra was shocked at the sudden turn of events. At once she meditated on Krishna. She appealed her situation to the universal mother and pleaded to be rescued.

On the dais of the Swayamvaram, Sri Krishna was happily holding conversations while inwardly kept looking at Bhadra Devi and recalling her appeals. Heard the news and was showing anger towards the mean Vindudu and Anuvindudu. Heard the details from secret agents. The news about the abduction of Bhadra spread like wild fire. Everyone got up in anger, especially the king of Kaykaya and Bhadra's brother.

The supreme soul blew His conch Panchajanya, frightening the enemies.

With the frightening loud sound ringing in the ears, the supreme soul Sri Krishna gave courage to Bhadra and produced fear in Vindudu and Anuvindudu. He explained the incident occurred to the gathering of kings seated in the arena of the Swayamvaram.

Mukunda[124] prevented king Kaykaya who was about to begin the battle, explained that He should be taking a personal revenge and proceeded.

Bhagawan Sri Krishna in rage, like a reflection of sun emitting embers of fire, climbed the chariot and rushed faster than the speed of the wind. He was racing ahead furiously like the lord

[123] A title of the Goddess Parvati.

[124] Another name of Lord Sri Krishna. One who liberates.

of death towards the enemies. Looking at Him the kings and nobles were petrified. Satyaki with his army accompanied Sri Krishna with their weaponry.

The supreme soul Sri Krishna challenged Vindudu and Anuvindudu like a strong lion confronting elephants. Sri Krishna advanced with menacing sounds, like the thunder of a cloud towards the thoughtless men.

Satyaki and other brave warriors wielding their glittering swords that dazzled the eyes, dashed towards the enemy soldiers and pounced upon them.

Vindudu and Anuvindudu did not delay a moment. They did not waste time even to blink. Overcome by delusion they were not even conscious that they are about to be confronted verily by Bhagawan Himself, as the Lord of death. Stopping the chariot in the middle, blew their conches. They began attacking Sri Krishna severely and mercilessly by shooting arrows.

Amidst the sound of elephant's trumpets, the growls of the brave warriors, the unusual sounds resulting from the continuous stringing of arrows, the shattering battle cries resounding in all directions, the battle ground tuned in to a severe combat area.

The dust from the stamping of the feet of the soldiers, horses and elephants raised high like clouds, covering the sky. That created a dark and dense atmosphere. Sri Krishna with His unlimited prowess in shooting the arrows was fragmenting the innumerable array of arrows, released from the bows of the enemies in the mid-way itself.

Unable to tolerate the insult to the God, Sri Krishna's attractive eyes became red and emitted fire. He was raging like Lord Siva in destruction. He was killing the strong intoxicated elephants with powerful array of arrows. They were letting out frightening shrieks and collapsing to the ground, creating tremors. Looking at their helpless situation, the troop of horses were struck by fear. Dreading for life, the horses were whinnying loudly and running helter-skelter in confusion.

Vindudu, watching Sri Krishna killing his charioteer with a single arrow was shocked. Then Anuvindudu in rage threw the mace forcefully at Sri Krishna. With His fist Sri Krishna broke it into pieces. Selecting a powerful arrow, He spattered sparks on the chariot of Anuvindudu and the charioteer fell on the ground. Anuvindudu scared to death stood dumbstruck.

Satyaki and other warrior of Yadu dynasty forcefully charged on the enemy ranks. They are dispersing the enemy ranks with array of arrows in great enthusiasm. Satyaki was challenging with great rage the advancing enemy formation that was spreading like dark dense cloud.

The armies of Vindudu and Anuvindudu were running away fearing their lives. Vindudu stopped them and forced them to battle again.

Vindudu and Anuvindudu dazed by the fear of defeat, lost their presence of mind. Forgetting the rules of the warfare, both confronted Sri Krishna at the same time. They decided to utilise the most powerful missiles known to them. Vindudu released the missile 'Varun' while Anuvindudu utilised the missile 'Naga' at the same time.

The Varun missile, which started like a waterfall, a heavy down pour and a deluge, turned in to steam with the fire from the intense slanting glances of Swami. The Naga missile started moving like a black serpent. Realised that it has been aimed at that one who has the eagle as

His vehicle and one who has the king of serpents as His couch and reclines on it. At once seeking refuge saved its own honour.

They were heart stricken for the ineffectiveness of their prowess in missile warfare. They decided to strike once again. Vindudu shot the most powerful arrow and Anuvindudu released hundred arrows at the same instant. Sri Krishna broke them like twigs and threw away. With every arrow He threw, many fell to the ground. The horses fell on ground crying loudly. The chariots were broken. The flags fell off to the ground. The environment was terrible amidst the cries of the wounded. They lost chariots, charioteers and their honour and fame. Even then, Vindudu and Anuvindudu picking up their swords and shields attempted to pounce on Vasudeva. Sri Krishna with just one arrow broke their swords to pieces.

Using marvellous arrows, He made them despair. The array of arrows used by Sri Krishna directly hit their life breath. They were running away in fear of life. Hearing the menacing sound from Sri Krishna, they missed their heart beat and stopped for a moment. Looking at that Lord of destruction, they were trembling with fear and stood on inert legs without any strength.

“Oh, Vindudu and Anuvindudu! Bhadra Devi is the most virtuous woman. You attempted to abduct her without discriminating the right and the wrong. You suffered the consequence. Taking the form of the fire of death I can at once make you bite the dust. But you are not that fortunate. I will make you incapable. I will change you to live corpses for the rest of your lives. This will be my message to those who are not worthy. I am leaving you alive. Your lives must teach them a lesson. As a matter of fact, there is no need for Me to confront worthless people like you in the war front. Only by My resolve, I can make you incompetent.

Some of the soldiers who died in this war are fortunate. In their previous birth they wished for the grace of My presence at the end of their lives. They wished to be killed by Me to attain salvation. That is how in my presence they could achieve the liberation they wished. Where is that fortune for you who are foolish and hate the God and for those remaining soldiers who supported you? You deserve only this punishment. This is a play that I played as per the wish of Bhadra Devi to amuse her. In this play you all have earned the result befitting your thoughts and entitlements. At least from now on conduct thoughtfully. Get away from my sight.”

Hearing the menacing sound from that form of the destruction, Vindudu, Anuvindudu and the soldiers gathered the courage that was left in them and were going away without looking back. Bhadra was looking at them. At the same time she was looking at Swami with weapons of destruction, with her contented heart filled with satisfaction.

In the next moment Sri Krishna blew the sound of victory with the Panchajanya. Sri Krishna’s chariot rushing speedily halted near Bhadra Devi, who was standing as a witness for the terrible war fought in her presence.

Bhadra, who was wishing to look at the flow of affection in those wide eyes of the one with lotus like eyes was astonished to see the fires of rage emitting embers, bravery and valour. Bhadra was imagining herself tied and bowing in harmony in the soft arms of Sri Hari. She was filled with joy, looking at Swami’s prowess in using and retrieving those divine weapons and at those amazing powerful pair of arms that frightfully wrangled with mighty enemies and tore them to pieces.

Bhadra was ecstatic imagining the form of love, the one with a graceful heart and whose lovely form is filled with elegance and affection. She observed His unbound love and His brave liberal attribute in pardoning and letting free those who have been defeated. She observed His extreme compassionate heart in remembering the boon, sanctioning heroic death to those eligible and offer them the essence of immortal liberation. She was rejoicing that divine experience and the fortune of Swami becoming her own. She earnestly folded her hands to the form of all purity, for fulfilling her wish in the presence of everybody.

It is possible only for the supreme soul who is complete in Himself to explain the mysteries of the creation, the ultimate purposefulness of life, the significance of Advaita, the secrets of liberation and the divine essence of Ardhanarishvara[125]. Looking at that complete form Bhadra had an exceptional experience of Advaita.

Bhadra was shaken by the warfare that happened in front of her eyes. Her Swami fought in the war only to fulfil her wish. In fact, why did she wish Swami to wage a war and hold her hands? Somewhere from the inner recesses of Bhadra's heart appeared an explanation. The marriage of Rukmini is well known in the world. Even her marriage should be performed in no less measure. It should not be because of the paternal relationship that her Bava is showing mercy and holding hands. That is why she did not openly express the love in her heart for Bava, even to her parents.

The Swayamvaram must be announced. Her Swami should receive an invitation along with others. Swami should come. At the time when others are wishing for her, Bava by His bravery should win her. In that manner her love for Bava should be expressed as Bava's love for her. That is how after winning series of fights her place as a beloved would be established. The history of her marriage should be no less in comparison to the marriage of Rukmini. It should be conducted with a unique significance.

That is why she longed for such a wish. That is why she mentioned this wish when in the form of Subhadra, He asked if there were any wishes to be fulfilled before Swayamvaram.

She never imagined even in a dream, that her personal wish will be the cause for such large distress. A fear is surfacing that she may be bound by that sin. However, she might have wished as per His wish. Could her Bava not convince her that it is not right or appropriate? Why should Bava be prepared to fulfil my wish? Bhadra was getting disturbed in several ways. Sri Hari conveyed to her through His eyes to hold His hands.

As the fruitful result of her life long expectation and as an indication of holding of hands, Swami is offering His hands. Feeling this affection, Bhadra held on to Swami with both her hands with love.

Padmanabha swiftly holding the tender lotus like hands of His beloved, positioned her on the chariot close to Him.

While Bhadra's companions got on other chariots, the chariot of the Lord of Lords was moving towards the city.

[125] The Ardhanarishvara is a composite form of the Hindu deities Shiva and Parvati.

Standing very near to her Swami, close to His heart, Bhadra's heart was throbbing rapidly. The warmth in those throbs touching Sri Krishna is creating sweet stimulation in Him.

"What's your hesitation? Isn't this war as per your wish!"

Those soft words of the one with dark complexion, directly touched Bhadra's heart.

"You wished for your Bava to become very outrageous, attack in the war and defeat the enemies to win over you. Did you not wish that I hold your hands like Rukmini and declare the significance of 'Bhadra's marriage' and offer new interpretations to our unique love and affection?

The wish that you yearned, if viewed from your perspective, if viewed in a materialist way, appears that you are expecting with selfishness. That is why you are feeling repentant. But your yearning for that wish is also because of My resolve. You as a person are merely a motive. It is only to fulfil the wish of a few devotees, who in the past wished for the fortune of being killed by Me, that I initiated this war. That is why I directed you to yearn that wish. Because of you, My devotees attained heavens. This is an instance you should only rejoice and not be a subject for repentance." Thus, to the explanation offered by the Omnipresent Lord, Bhadra was contented.

"Swami, from now on you are in charge of me" saying thus she rested on Sri Krishna's heart.

Meanwhile looking at Swami's yellow silk vesture with blood stains in some spots and a few minor injuries she felt regretful. Her Swami had such inconvenience at the time of Swayamvaram only because of her, isn't it? Those lotus eyes that glow with moonlight have become red with such weariness.

Those divine lotus-like feet which she dreamt of clasping them and touching with her very soft hands have become red owing to severe exertion. Isn't that sin attributed to her? Is it not due to her wish!

Bhadra's moist wide eyes looked at her Bava with love. Bhadra was about to dab the drops of sweat with the edge of her saree. Swamy took her closer. The necklace of Kousthubha of Sri Krishna and the necklace of nine pendants in Bhadra's neck entwined lovingly. They were so much entangled that it was impossible to separate them. Sri Krishna separating them delicately and with teasing glances said softly.

"Bhadra, have you observed! How strong this bond is? Will there be a better example for establishing the nine types of union?

Our bond is a nice example for the union of self and supreme self, the relationship between nature and man, is it not!"

Bhadra was completely absorbed looking at her husband who so sweetly, so intensely, so heartily tied her with the nine types of bonds of relationships.

He is one with the nectarine glances, father, protector, the only soulmate intended for her and a husband. He is the supreme who is can know her completely. Her Swami would become her support, merge with her soul and accept the offering of her heart. In return He can make her to

offer her heart. He is her Swami. He is her entirety. Bhadra was smiling shyly at her Bava's oratory skills in beautifully explaining the inner significance of tying of the three knots.

Coming together of these necklaces and entwining softly appeared as a meaningful indication of the forthcoming bonding of tying the three knots.

Sri Krishna was smiling very pleasantly like the moonlight. In Him, Bhadra was looking at all types of bonds and realised the meaning of the essence of the unbound love.

Those eyes are filled with the love of many mothers. She was immersed in that river of love. In that company she had a secured feeling of being with a father and felt assured. She was astounded at the feeling of the close friendship expressed in that greeting. The pleasant feeling and emotions of love from those teasing tidings of the beloved are becoming beyond description. The warmth in that company and huge self confidence made permanent place in her heart. The pleasant feeling of that touch with love continued to play the strings of her heart sweetly.

Bhadra was observing the sense of responsibility of a husband in her beloved, who was protecting her very carefully and looking after her very cautiously. These divine experiences which she was not aware even in her dreams, filled every atom in her.

He is Omnipresent. He Himself is asking 'I am your entirety, isn't it?' There cannot be any other appropriate reply than saying 'Yes, my Lord'.

That is why, not just nine types of union, even if there are numerous types, her entirety is for Swami. Belongs to the Omnipresent. He is the Doer of all. He is the Supporter of all. Everything belongs to Swami.

"Bhadra! Will you not leave these entwined divine necklaces in the same manner?" to the innocently enquiring Swami –

"Swami! Is their union of the present? It is from eternity. They experienced independently the pangs of separation for a few days in accordance to the ways of the world. Today they have united happily. After you tie those three knots these two will become one. Temporarily for the sake of others they need to be separated, isn't it!"

She set aside all her doubts in the presence of her beloved, who is the protector of all. All her apprehensions have been removed. She rested her head on her Swami's heart, a place dedicated to Sri Lakshmi. Bhadra was looking like Lakshmi Devi.

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He handed over His Bhadra whom He brought after winning very carefully to king Drushtaketa and paternal aunt Srutikirti Devi, who were waiting very anxiously. He once again gladdened the heart of Bhadra with His soft pleasing smile and very cool glances filled with love.

The applause of everyone present in that arena echoed in the sky. Sri Krishna was going towards the guest palace displaying royalty. Even thousand eyes were not enough to grasp that view. That royal couple with widened eyes, with tears of joy were praising that Sri Hari.

In the very next moment of His heroic win, their precious daughter belonged to Sri Krishna. Now, only the formal marriage celebrations remained.

The king of Kaykaya kingdom summoned the royal priests immediately and handing over the marriage invitation sent an invite to Sri Krishna seeking permission.

The priest being a devotee of Sri Krishna was thrilled at his fortune. In that ecstasy he forgot himself.

He came to Sri Krishna, his favourite God, the lord he worships, at the speed of wind to explain the contents of the marriage invitation and to hand over the invite. He stood in astonishment near the Lord Jagannath. Unable to believe his fortune even now, with tears of joy and with folded hands he bowed at the feet of Sri Hari. Singing the glories of that Lord supreme, he forgot himself.

“Swami! You are the Omnipresent and are not touched by any material object. I heard that only by touching the hearts of ardent devotees, you create the fortune of your divine presence. Swami! Am I this fortunate! Am I so blessed? To experience this blessing of your divine presence, touch and conversation, I must have earned much merit in my previous births. Lord of Lords! The formless attribute of your divine body is merely a play of your delusion. You are the very source of light. The heaps of brilliance emitting from you are your extensions. Swami! Is it possible for anyone to know your delusive power? You can exist as one who is fixed to a place as well as one who is Universally present at the same instance. All the seven heavens are functioning with consciousness only by your grace.

Lord! You are the complete being. You become the subjective cause for the emergence of the universe and also, for the elements within at the same instance. Swami! You are free from cause. You give divine appearances as different incarnations of Lord Vishnu through your inner power. Oh, supreme soul who is dear to all beings! Oh, supreme being who is always extolled by the Trinity! Oh, primordial Lord who is the root cause of whole universe! one without beginning or end! one who is the sustainer! one who is the cause for annihilation! You are equally present in all. You are highly worshipped. I have taken shelter at your lotus feet seeking liberation from these worldly bondages.

Swami, even Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva are dependent on you. Even when you take the forms for the three attributes, the form of Brahma being the creator, the form of Vishnu when incarnated for sustaining the world, the form of Shiva as the destroyer, you remain beyond them. You are the father of this entire creation. You are the embodiment of time. Lord Jagannath! I happen to come close to your feet with your marriage invitation due to the fortune of many lives. Swami, by receiving this marriage invitation, accepting it and blessing me, please shower your divine compassionate sanctifying glances over me.”

Those divine feet that were washed by Lord Brahma, now being revered with the flowers of his tears, that ardent devotee remained immobile. The Lord who is affectionate towards devotees, lifted him by shoulders and held him close to His heart.

The priest became absolutely still and was unable to contain himself. Sanctified by that divine touch he forgot everything in that spiritual joy. Swami took the marriage invitation from the priest and fondly seated him comfortably. Swami was smiling and moving His head conveying the auspicious indication through His glances. In reciprocation He folded His hands and remained

standing. Looking to his heart's content at the folded hands of Sri Krishna, the priest was pleased and unable to shift his sight. The priest was unable to believe his fortune of accepting the salutations offered by Bhagawan Himself and inadvertently as a routine lifted his right hand and blessed.

"Oh, auspicious One! May you be married at once!"

That Lord of the universe as though for the satisfaction of His devotee continued to bow His head in acceptance of the blessings!

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Chapter 8 – Bhadra and Sri Krishna's Marriage Celebrations

The Kaykaya Emperor's enthusiasm and happiness were boundless. His happiness of verily making that supreme Lord his son-in-law is uncontainable. He was respectfully welcoming Devaki and Vasudeva, Balarama with his consort, Dharmaraja, Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula, Sahadeva and other guests who arrived on receiving the invitation for the marriage celebrations of Sri Krishna. Repeatedly narrating about his good fortune, he was immersed in the arrangements of appropriate palaces for the guests.

Following the tradition, married women accompanied by the musicians playing auspicious tunes arrived to get Sri Krishna ready as the bride groom. Repeatedly looking at the divine auspicious form, they were thrilled at the good fortune of Bhadra Devi. They decorated the divine body of Sri Hari with fragrant substances like civet, musky perfumes, rose water etc. Applied fragrant oil extracted from champak flowers on the head crest of Kesava, one with beautiful abundant hair. Cleansed and purified the skin of that divine body with shining and fragrant paste of green gram. They were thrilled at their fortune in offering these services to Swami. Looking at that divine beautiful form to their hearts content, they were being filled with ecstasy.

A few other women untied the head crest and were rubbing perfumed paste of acid fruit. They applied warm oil mixed with civet perfume. They bathed Sri Krishna with cold water floating with chrysanthemum flowers.

Sri Krishna's divine body was delicately wiped with a fine fabric by one. Making Him wear divine vesture with whiteness that reminds the shades of mount Kailash and attached with various colourful flowers shining with the hues of a rainbow. Another was decorating the auspicious mark on the forehead with scarlet paint mixed with musk perfume. They were filled with immense joy for their good fortune. Another woman making a paste by mixing civet, musk, pure cologne and other aromatic substances and affectionately applying to Sri Hari who is like sandalwood felt overwhelmed with joy.

Another woman decorated the crown shining with divine ornaments on the head of one, with dark complexion. Another virtuous woman tied a pendant made of pearls on that attractive forehead. Yet another woman assisted in placing the shoulder ornaments. Another woman helped in positioning the garlands of selected pearls and the necklace of Kousthubha with precious stones. Another decorated the anklets studded with gems and finger rings. Swami who shines with natural divine beauty needs no decorations.

Even then fully decorated with all types of ornaments brought attractiveness to the divine ornaments. Becoming radiant and with exceptional brightness Sri Krishna is rejoicing as the bride groom. A few were applying a black round mark on Swami's cheek to ward off evil looks. While some were engaged in the gestures of discarding the evil looks. Lord Narayan with flashing smiles is looking more enchanting.

The auspicious time to receive the marriage group was approaching. King Drushtaketa gave orders to a few princes among the relations and friends to fetch Bhagawan Sri Krishna.

The clamour of the celebrations touched the sky. The sounds from the stringed instruments reached the sky. The auspicious musical instruments were playing propitious tunes. Lord Sri Krishna was seated with honour on the royal elephant which was shining with all decorations. Everything was ready for the procession of the bride groom.

Bhagawan Sri Krishna wearing all types of ornaments accompanied by relations, friends and all other dear ones started from the palace. That sight was like a feast to the eyes. The expansive golden umbrella decorated with pure pearls resembling the cream layers of milk was reflecting white rays. Lord Narayana's divine vestures are looking very pleasing with the pollen from different astounding and exquisite flowers filled with fragrance. The glitter from the diamond ornaments mixing with the dark complexion of the Lord was dazzling with an unusual shine. Surrounded in that glow Bhagawan Sri Krishna as a new bride groom was shining radiantly.

Reducing His brightness which is the source of all radiance, in accordance to the need, offered the grace of His presence even to the ordinary persons. It was as though the splendour of that one, with the complexion of a dark cloud, the sun and moon over that dark cloud, the canopy of stars, the revelation of the rainbow were all occurring at the same time. The citizens of Kaykaya kingdom were filled with unusual happiness.

The white whisks were moving merrily in the air. The wind God is becoming ecstatic with the touch of the Bhagawan. The buzzing bees were landing on the frontal globe on the forehead of the intoxicated elephants. The sounds from the moving tinkling ornaments on the neck of countless horses, the jingles from the anklets, the sounds from the drums of the deities, the pleasing sounds from the conch, the percussion instruments, the lute were mixing with the sounds of the flute in tune and filling the earth and sky in exuberance and joy. The rays of the celestial white lilac sliding from the sky to the earth falling on the shining white umbrella over the head of Bhagawan Sri Krishna, are dazzling the eyes with an unusual lustre.

The invaluable ornaments worn by the nobles were insignificant in the presence of the glow of Sri Krishna. To obtain the fortune of seeing the celebrations of Swami's marriage and getting blessed, the angels, all guardians of directions, all deities are worshipping the Lord Jagannath with celestial flowers from the heavens. The dazzling new bride groom, the one with the complexion of a dark cloud, reached the venue of the marriage.

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Here, at the inner chambers of the bride's palace a few virtuous women filling the gold containers with perfumed water performed auspicious bath to the bride. They tenderly and affectionately wiped that beautiful woman's body, which was delicate than a flower with a very soft cloth.

They made her wear bright silk vestments. Applied a paste made of lamp black and oil to the eyes, to increase their brilliancy. They put a mark on the forehead with scarlet paint as an ornament. They painted a black spot on the cheek to ward off evil looks. Decorated her with fragrant celestial flowers. Got her ready with Kasturi and other perfumes. They brought Bhadra,

the exclusive woman to the marriage stage, decked with all types of ornaments made of diamonds, precious stones and gems.

The emperor of Kaykaya received the bride groom Sri Krishna at the entrance of the palace while the auspicious music was playing. Sri Krishna with a smiling face, with an exclusive charisma, glowing with exceptional brightness, was verily like Lord Maha Vishnu Himself descending from heaven to the earth, He was folding His hands as a son-in-law and wishing for the blessings. The emperor at once becoming motionless for the grace of the divine appearance, folded his hands with tears of joy, was filled with exhilaration. Recovering quickly he started walking towards the Bhagawan. As he was proceeding, he was acknowledging the blessings through the Vedic chants of the revered priests. He was listening to the praises and tributes being showered by bards and panegyrists. The emperor was appreciating the sweet nectarine tunes about the marriage celebrations of Lakshmi and Narayana by the group of singers and was blessing them.

As the auspicious music was playing loud, he brought Bhagawan to the marriage stage. The virtuous women were offering the auspicious glow from the lighted camphor placed in the golden trays. The face of the radiant Sri Krishna was shining with exceptional splendour in that auspicious light. Sri Hari proceeded looking at them with happiness.

He was looking at the strange reflections of the camphor glow in the water filled in the large golden containers, placed at the junction of the four doorways and proceeding with a smile.

He was folding His hands in reverence to Devaki and Vasudeva, Revathi and Balarama and was receiving their blessings. He was accepting with a smile the flowers of tears of joy and exceptional offering of the flower of the heart from Dharmaja. He accepted with love the folded arms extended with affection by Arjuna. He received the bouquet of flowers of Kalpavruksha from Narada as blessings. He was greeting with flashing smiles those beautiful women who were standing around the pillars studded with corals and were showering flowers on Him. He was beholding with a smile, that auspicious place which was crowded with the presence of priests, renowned brahmins and virtuous women. He was satisfying with the gesture from the hand of protection those who were eagerly seeking His blessings. That Lord of Bhadra’s heart was moving ahead.

The patterns weaved with heaps of fragrant substances in the middle of the marriage stage was adorned with pleasing formations. A couch made of emeralds with brilliantly shining golden pedestal studded with rubies was arranged on the stage to seat Sri Krishna. The very presence of Sri Krishna seated majestically on that marriage pedestal, made everybody forget everything else. They offered their hearts in folded hands with exceptional devotion. Everyone’s focus was only on Swami. They were watching without batting their eyes. There was no other thought rising in their minds. They were watching with single pointed concentration, with the purpose of permanently retaining in their hearts that exceptional view, that vision of Swami with divine decorations.

While queen Srutikirti was pouring spurts of the divine water of Ganga from the golden jar, the king as the donor of the daughter was elated at his fortune of washing the feet of Bhagawan Sri Krishna. Filled with immense joy, performed the ritual of donating his affectionate daughter Bhadra Devi.

Bhadra, appeared as the exceptional woman, who has come walking from the ocean of milk to the earth. He offered his charming daughter who is verily the reflection of Lakshmi Devi to the dweller of the ocean of milk as his seventh consort. All those elders present on the stage witnessing with their eyes this rare sight of verily Lord Narayana as the bride groom were filled with joy and ecstasy at the good fortune of the emperor of Kaykaya kingdom.

The scriptures sing the glory of only those parents who can perform the ritual of offering their daughter in the marriage that pleases Lord Vishnu and are considered as sacred souls in this world. Then how sacred should be the souls of those who offer their daughter to Lord Vishnu Himself? Is it possible even for Lord Brahma to assess their fortune?

The golden screen with a border of pearls, that was held between Lord Sri Krishna and Bhadra Devi was slightly lowered by the companions. Bhadra Devi who had lowered her head till then with the weight of her shyness, was attempting to look at her beloved glancing from the corner of her eyes. At that very moment the one who allures with the flute, was charmingly looking at her and stirring sweet thoughts and pulling her heart with a hook of excitement. Bhadra unable to face those glances filled with love, becoming bud-like with shyness lowered her head.

The sounds of the bracelets of gems are mixing with the sound of the auspicious instruments. The rice poured over the head of the bride and bride groom for luck, mixed with precious stones and with various fragrant substances spreading lingering aroma, was shining amazingly. Bhadra Devi anxiously took a portion from that heap, filling her tender palms held together forming a cup. The rice mixture filling her palms appearing more delicate than the petals of lotus flowers was shining with various glimmers. While that weight was tickling her heart, she was becoming humbler. Noticing this her dear companion Kalabhashini lifted Bhadra's chin making her gaze at Sri Krishna.

Full of happiness, as the unsteady rice mixture was falling over, unable to directly look at her beloved, Bhadra swiftly glided the rice mixture over the head of Sri Hari.

Sri Hari was looking at her anxiously and longingly, as though drinking her astonishing beauty hidden in her every atom through His eyes. Touched by the shyness from His looks, Bhadra quivered like a tender creeper. The excessive shyness could not keep hold on Bhadra for a long time. Bhadra holding her palms together forming a cup was quickly showering the rice mixture. Holding her hands enthusiastically, the Lord of Bhadra lifted the golden tray and emptied the rice mixture over Bhadra's head.

The sounds of the auspicious instruments were resounding in the sky. The Lords of the three worlds along with their consorts were watching the celebrations. The guardians of all eight directions filled with great happiness are witnesses to this rare celebration. All relatives with their entourage are watching in great eagerness.

Amidst the echoing Vedic chants by the priests, Sri Krishna was holding the pure gold mangalasutra inlaid with rubies. Being shy Bhadra became like a bud, with her chin over her knees was looking at the floor gracefully. She was observing from the corner of her eyes the movements of the hands of her beloved. He was deftly pressing the neck of Bhadra and making her experience the sensation of plucking of thousand strings of the lute. With the pretext of searching for the ends of the string of the Mangalasutra, He was plucking with His finger tips the

very soft neck of Bhadra to His heart's content. Steadily observing from the corner of His eyes the sensations created from the touch in Bhadra, pleasing His eyes, tying the Mangalasutra to His paternal aunt's daughter, the crest of beauty whom He has won in the battle, that cache of beauty who has won Him through her devotion and love, He tied her permanently in the cave of His heart.

Once again He was caught within the bounds of her heart.

Bhadra herself was blessing their union, the symbols of the individual soul and the supreme soul. The Lord Himself has tied the sacred Mangalyam decorating her neck, which explains the meaning of righteousness, wealth, desires, liberation and signifies the bonding between the subtle and material bodies. She is holding that Mangalyam to her heart, which is spreading its glow all over her body. She is experiencing that touch of the indweller of her heart and is immersed in that ecstasy.

The fire God was anxious to observe the shine of the glowing beauty and the auspicious brilliance in this virtuous couple, sitting before the fire place. He expressed his happiness through the tongues of fire rising tall with more glare. The fire God was being satisfied with the offerings of dry twigs and other sacrificial substances. Bhadra was offering fried grains to the fire God through her palms forming the shape of cup. The fire God not wishing to compete with the unusual layers of brilliance in Bhadra's eyes was happy for the fortune of discharging his duty. He was observing with happiness the very source of brilliance which is the basis for his own glow. He is discharging his duty with more alertness.

There is an exceptional smile on the face of Bhadra as she continued offering fried grains from her palms to the fire. These offerings of fried grains meant for the longevity of husband and for her continued status of a woman whose husband is alive, appeared strange to that virtuous form.

Sri Krishna is the creator, sustainer and destroyer. He is the creator of the universe. He is the life support of all living beings. He is the Lord who can create this world of animate and inanimate things and dissolve it merely by His resolve. He is the supreme ruler of the universe. For Him who is the entirety, offering fried grains to the fire God for the longevity?

Is an offering for continued status of woman whose husband is alive, required for a woman who bestows auspiciousness at all times and is the indweller of the heart of Sri Maha Vishnu? Reading the heart of Bhadra, the supreme Lord Sri Krishna's lips blossomed softly and pleasingly.

"A traditionbound life is a worthy ideal for anyone, worth emulating. We must follow those activities and rules which become worthy for everybody to follow. Must adopt and demonstrate. The rules are not established for our sake. It is only when we adopt them for the prosperity of the world, people will accept those rules as credible. Follow faithfully. However, it is not the value of the thing being offered, the ultimate essence in the feeling of offer, is essential."

Sri Krishna's indication made Bhadra ecstatic.

With the pretext of keeping feet on the stone, on which food articles are powdered as part of the ritual, Bhadra placed her right leg on the stone wishing for permanency in her married life and was looking at Sri Narayana from the corner of her eyes.

“You are the one who arranged a permanent place in My heart itself. Will there be any other permanency beyond this?”

Sri Lakshmi residing in the heart of Swami, was pleasingly flashing a smile with love. She was happy that her aspect of Lakshmi has come close to her Swami again.

Bhadra feeling shy lowered her head.

The soft lotus like feet of Lakshmi and Narayana anxiously came closer. The streaks of lightning from the tips of their toes becoming intense were dazzling. This sacred bond which is symbolic for love and affection has been tied together for past several lives.

As individual soul with the supreme soul is rejoicing in the state of Advaita. This heavenly experience is hidden in the essence of unity.

The individual soul within the supreme soul. The supreme soul in the individual soul.

The diversity in unity, the unity that combines the diversity. That is divinity.

Which of the two, is this act combining? Is it the supreme soul within the individual soul? The individual soul in the supreme soul? The individual soul that recognises who it is, becomes realised. When it inherits the feeling of being the supreme soul, the individual soul merges in the supreme soul.

Amidst the Vedic chants, performed the hand holding ritual, saying that ‘I will hold your hands at all times and in all circumstances in accomplishing all householder obligations.’ Thus, the ancestral deities performed the hand holding ceremony.

Who held the extended hand? Who is holding the hands? It is the union of the individual soul with the supreme soul that illumines without the form. Is it not beyond the ordinary physical union?

It is indeed beyond the ordinary. Even then, isn’t it our duty to explain the purpose and the delight in taking the seven steps.

Bhadra full of delight, looking at the message filled with love in the eyes of her beloved, flashed a brief smile.

“For each of the seven steps you walk along with me, Lord Vishnu bestows a meaning. Hear what those resultant fruits are. Food from the first step, accumulation of strength from the second step, auspicious happenings from the third step, well being from the fourth step, growth of cattle from the fifth step, bounty of seasons from the sixth step and grace of the sages from the seventh step, I shall bestow…that is, He will bestow.”

Bhadra’s eyes pleasantly smiled with love.

Appropriate to the saying ‘walking together seven steps is friendship’ Bhadra followed her beloved Lord Jagannath.

Will there be an interpretation to the union of the supreme being and the Nature? Will there be commentaries? This relationship which is beyond feelings is inexpressible, isn’t it?

Looking side long only at Bhadra, the eyes of Bhadra’s husband were twinkling unusually. Those exceptional sensations, those experiences, those innermost feelings are all His, isn’t it, are only from Him, isn’t it?

Looking affectionately at Bhadra within Himself, bowing to the traditions, He is holding the feet of Bhadra and making her step on the stone. The entire world with living and non-living beings became anxious to observe this event. Observed and rejoiced. The fire God who gave them that fortune of clearly witnessing the event, is glowing happily for having taken the responsibility. The virtuous woman tying the ends of the vestures of the bride and the bridegroom were waving the light from the burning camphor. Full of enthusiasm they were pointing at the Dhruva[126] star and the Arundhati[127] star to the pristine couple. Sri Krishna’s voice spoke in Bhadra’s heart as she was observing eagerly.

“Our relationship should be stable as Dhruva. Like Arundhati you should meticulously discharge the duties and obligations of a virtuous wife. That is the significance of this observation.”

Bhagawan read Bhadra’s mind showing more keenness. His voice once again spoke in Bhadra’s heart pleasantly.

“Bhadra! Arundhati is the wife of Vasishta, one of the seven sages. She is a noble woman and a yogini. She is a virtuous woman. When there is a mention of ideal relationship of a married couple, remembering about Arundhati and Vasishta is auspicious. Vasishta along with other sages went to mountain regions for collecting food substances. Due to famine and scarcity had to stay back there itself for 12 years. Under those circumstances, Lord Sankara in the guise of Brahmin came to the hermitage of Arundhati seeking shelter. She spent nearly 12 years in teaching him the ways of righteousness while attending to chores like frying the seeds of fruits. On the return of the seven sages with fruit, grains and other substances, Lord Sankara manifested in His original form and showered praises about the chastity of Arundhati. He explained the truth about the power of her virtuousness as superior than the penance done by them in the region of Himalayas and the fruits earned thereof and disappeared. Once the Fire God, Sun God and God Indra wanted to test the chastity of Arundhati. Looking at the wonders achieved by Arundhati just by repeating the name of her husband, they offered their salutations and went away.

Swaha Devi, wife of Fire God with the intention of accomplishing her wish could adopt the forms of the wives of other seven sages except the form of Arundhati, the better half of Vasishta. She became powerless. She was astonished at Arundhati’s exceptional power.

“Your husband sage Vasishta is always present next to you in the form of a star in the orbit of the seven sages. Any bride at the time of the marriage, in the presence of the priest, tries to

[126] The Pole Star, As per Hindu mythology, name of a child-sage who became the Pole Star.
[127] The wife of the sage Vasishtha, recognised for her virtue, who became a star.

have your vision with her husband, will always have the status of a woman whose husband is alive, shall prosper and be full of humility.” Thus, blessed Swaha Devi. This is the real intention and essential meaning in looking at the Arundhati star by us. Only because of this immaculate married couple, we live without separation even for a moment.

He was explaining the details of the marriage rituals and their inner significances at every step. He was explaining the affection between husband and wife and the pleasant experience of that affection. Observing the great eagerness for the traditions and the conduct with sense of responsibility of that ancient charioteer, Bhadra was filled with joy and became ecstatic.

The nature of the feelings of Bava who has been attracting her in the imaginary world all the time and the Bava whom she has understood, is so different. Many subjects that are not known to her, that are hidden in Bava, are now getting clarified. The exceptional experiences offered by Sri Krishna, pleasing her as a beloved, only in the dreams are different. As a husband taking a permanent place in her heart, He hides and plays with her invisibly. The divine experiences related to those sensations, offered by that Divine player in human form are so different.

As the supreme Lord hearing the painful cry of this devotee and the characteristic way of offering the fruit of devotion, is different. As the divine player in the guise of a man gratifying her, playing with her, challenging her, making her pine in separation and targeting her heart filled with love to unimaginable tests. He then wishes to offer her the fruit of pure love. The role play of that universal player is so different.

He is residing in her in the form of self. He is constantly touching her as the Indweller in All. He leaves behind the experience of Him playing with her by mere resolve. Unable to see Him. Unable to hear Him. He is subjecting her to unusual pain. He is creating the state of being unable to live without seeing Him. He is subjecting her to unusual troubles without revealing Himself almost drawing her towards self-sacrifice. The extolling of the reward related to the spectacular marvels of Swami are indeed different.

He pleased her as a beloved. He played with her as a companion. He conversed with her as a friend. He wiped her tears as a relative. He made her sit beside and comforted her as a father. He shared with her the nectarine love as a mother. He blessed her as Bhagawan. He concealed her in the heart as a husband. But now as a preceptor He is explaining to her in detail, the ultimate essence and discharging the duty of a preceptor, with such love. Bhadra was immersed in the incomprehensible experiences from the newly acquired attitude of her husband. As an eternal charioteer He is imparting the eternal doctrines. As the creator of good traditions, He is taking her to depths of tradition bound feelings. As a responsible house holder, He is preaching His household goddess, the rules to be observed by the house wife.

As the Eternal One who respects the chastity of a woman, He is teaching the rules of being a chaste woman to His better half. Though He being the Lord of the destiny, like everyone He too is discharging His prescribed duties as a follower of rules.

Though He is the Bhagawan, the creator, the sustainer and the destroyer with the intention of making it known to others the significance of being bound by good traditions, He too adopts them and demonstrates. He is superior to everyone. These rules are declared by Him. As He is superior, who can point the mistake if He does not follow? However, the rules declared by Him are also applicable to Himself. He is a follower of rules and is bound by them. That is why

Swami is always a partisan towards rules. He is without a beginning or an end. He is with an expansive form. Bound by the tie of love He merged in her fist sized heart as an embodiment of love. This was the feeling in Bhadra's heart.

Bhagawan who is formless, melting by the unbound devotional feeling appeared with a form. The infinite being without attributes revealed Himself with attributes, for her sake. The Lord supreme who is without bonds, getting caught in her bond of love, becoming an incarnation of love, is seen as a prisoner in her heart. That young woman who is in the midst of Dvaita and Advaita, the feelings of oneness, unity and affection are sensitising her delightfully and divinely.

The feelings towards Bhagawan are energising every atom and creating pleasant sensations beyond imagination, as though playing numerous lutes in her heart. Besides the subjects which He had enlightened, made her to listen to many others in silence through the illuminations of His glances making them secure in Bhadra's heart. He is the attachment for the people with attachments. He is one who is free of universal attachments.

"Bhadra!" saying softly, gently caressing her hand Madhava looked directly in to Bhadra's heart with wide eyes. He once again touched and awakened the unbound essence of love in the heart of the new bride.

The devotional feeling filled with love that is offered to the heart, the unwavering devotional bent that is filled with affection, the unbound essence of devotion that has reached its pinnacle, the eternity in the unity are enlivening the feelings in Bhadra.

The urge to fully merge with Swami, becoming a little intense at that moment, turned into an extreme urge. Inviting those extreme new feelings Swami's hand came much closer to her soft hand.

She looked in to Swami's eyes adoringly. A moment without His thought is a waste, her life is a waste. The real experience is of the minutest form of that divine merging within herself. He is pleasantly visible to her eyes, making a permanent residence in herself. Filled with affection He is plucking in harmony every atom in her with sweet tunes. He is giving a feeling of being united without a break. This state of exceptional happiness of that divine form, which is formless, is making every atom in her rejoice.

The unbound love that is very distinct in the inner heart, is different from that which is present before the eyes. Conversing with her inner voice, eagerly knitting together every atom in her, making her inner self rejoice by embracing the divine experience beyond the physical vision, she is experiencing that unique sensation within herself. Bhadra is making the essence of being complete to be her own, in the presence of Bhagawan.

He was reading the thoughts of Bhadra's mind and looking at her affectionately to His heart's content. He was fondly observing that young woman, who has made Him her own through unbound devotion and genuine love. The heart of the one, who is compassionate towards His devotees, was overflowing with love and affection. The inner self of that embodiment of love, filled with the feelings of a husband merged with the heart of Bhadra. The unique essence of being complete was becoming clearly evident in Bhadra's consciousness. Sri Krishna, the one who is the witness of all, was feeling happy.

That young woman grew up as the charming child of the emperor with delicate care and much leniency. She developed with determination an unbound common devotional feeling towards Him. Love and affection beyond description. The manner in which that tender woman decorated the seat of her heart with constant meditation, made a permanent place for Him and for His love. The steady mind did not think of any one else excepting Him through her thought, word and action. That penance of love pined only for Him as a beloved, as a husband and as entirety. These made even Sri Krishna joyful and ecstatic. Pandavas and all other groups of relatives offered beyond estimation, invaluable riches as gifts to the newly married couple. Those heaps of gifts growing like mountains were dazzling. They were becoming pale unable to compete in the presence of the unusual brilliance of the pristine couple.

The king of Kaykaya kingdom is the pure form who verily performed the marriage of Lakshmi and Narayana. He washed the feet of that Narayana and offered his daughter. Looking at the most valuable gifts offered by the king to his charming daughter, even Lord Kubera was astonished. Felt embarrassed looking at his own wealth. The precious stones and diamonds in their efforts of balancing equal with the glacier, smiled victorious. The Kaykaya king offered vast land parcels, exclusive articles and vehicles to his exceptional daughter as an inheritance, for her wellbeing.

The king of Kaykaya offered to Bhagawan Sri Krishna, his son-in-law, the chief of Yadu dynasty many gifts such as the divine horses by the name ‘Sri Vrukshakulanu’ trotting with exceptional beauty, capable of competing with the speed of the mind. Also, a group of elephants by the name ‘Vedula’, mighty to challenge even exceptional elephants in testing their strength. Also, very beautiful golden chariots studded with gems and other precious stones making one to forget even the lightnings. Also, many celestial woman resembling divine woman as attendants and invaluable gems and other ornaments.

Many more auspicious things were offered as gifts to Bhadra Devi by her god like father including matchless divine gems, divine silk garments making others envious including deities, fragrant substances like civet, musk and others, extraordinary ivory chests, many companions, ornamental bedsteads inlaid with gold, precious stones and with shining legs of emeralds.

Those celebrations which could not be grasped by even thousand eyes, created permanent divine memories in the hearts of everyone. The marriage celebrations were conducted in a grand manner. Becoming ecstatic with those thoughts, the oblations placed in that divine fire felt blessed.

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Chapter 9 – The Divine Union of Bhadra and Sri Krishna

The marriage celebrations of Bhadra and Sri Krishna were performed in grandeur offering a feast to the eyes like never before and nor likely to happen in the future. Later, the king of Kaykaya Drushtaketa and Srutikirti Devi were engaged in the programme of giving appropriate gifts to each and every one and making them happy. The guests included the kings who had come from all the regions, all noble ministers, all close relatives, the groups of priests, all bards and minstrels and innumerable groups of relatives.

Later, Srutikirti Devi spoke to her husband and then discussed with the royal priests and decided the auspicious time for the first union of their charming daughter with Lord Jagannath.

The auspicious time that Sri Krishna and Bhadra Devi were looking forward impatiently and with heart ache has finally arrived.

Bhadra, whose heart was closed like a bud of shyness, was bathed in perfumed water added with fragrant substances. She was liberally anointed with sandalwood perfume. She was decorated with invaluable ornaments. They draped the charming woman with Swami's favourite coloured, dazzling white saree with shining borders.

The necklace of rubies gifted with love and affection by her husband, the gold necklace symbolising the nine types of bonds and resembling a token of marriage that was decorated in Subhadra's form, the brilliantly shining Mangalyam tied in yellow thread, the splendid ornaments offered with love and affection by her in-laws, all were trying to compete with the exceptional beauty of Bhadra.

The unusual mix of different colours from the splendid ornaments was scattering new glow. They were stabilising Bhadra to be determined as a dweller in Swami's heart. To look at Bhadra Devi glowing with all the ornaments even thousand eyes were not enough for Srutikirti Devi and companions.

Everything is ready. However, there is still time. To make better use of the time while waiting for the auspicious moment, the companions entered into small conversations.

"My dear! Until now you have been pining in separation for Lord Jagannath. From the beginning, during child marriages many times making us wear the disguise of your husband, you got married. That day we did not understand the value of this fortune. Where is Swami? Where are we? All this time you have lived like an ascetic by reflecting only about Swami. That Indweller of all, by knowing your heart, by hearing your lamentation, by loving you, by defeating the enemies in ferocious battle and making them bite the dust, heroically made you His own. This is the fruit of your good fortune. Holding you as though it is His birth right, accepted you as the deity of His heart and as a consort. This is the power of your destiny. You are about to step in to His life, as the life partner of Lord Jagannath. As a boon of penance, you have acquired such exceptional fortune and adoration. Such virtuous one like you will never be born anywhere. The auspicious moment for your Swami to merge you in Him has approached. As it is you are

very delicate. With your gracefulness and beautiful charming form you can make Him happy. Rejoice becoming part of Him."

The hearts of all companions are becoming anxious. On this occasion they are conveying to Bhadra, the love that has grown delicately in their hearts, being close to her all these years. They are competing with one another and are eager to convey her through pleasing statements the indications, suggestions, cautions, alerts, things to remember and to remember the things to be forgotten. Bhadra Devi along with her favourite companions Srutiranjani and Kalabhashini was listening carefully to the words of the companions. which were like the efforts of tuning the lute.

She is understanding the love and anxiousness they have towards her. With cheerful smiles, uttering 'Oh' and with eye signals, was expressing her sense of gratitude. Conveying her happiness.

The remaining companions particularly Srutiranjani and Kalabhashini noticed the importance of this occasion. Having realised, they were making efforts in trying to recollect about the subjects they would like to say after others have spoken. About more lofty, liberal and amiable topics that they should be conveying.

"Bhadra! It is said that Sri Krishna is a connoisseur of beauty. He is the beloved of Gopikas, always engaged in a sportive dance. A merry maker immersed in playing multitude roles as Manmadha. Besides, He is the Lord of the heart of six consorts. It is also said that He is the foremost sporting dancer indulging with Gopikas and wives in sportive dance, makes them contented and become ecstatic. Satisfying, by all means your husband of that nature, making Him contended and able to establish your place in His heart permanently, able to make a special place for yourself, is not such an ordinary issue.

Whenever any consort, any Gopika or even Radha Devi, unable to bear being away from Sri Krishna says 'Krishna' in pain of separation, at once feeling elated your Swami can disappear.

That is why… That is why it is essential to be with utmost vigilance at that Lord having Lakshmi in His heart. Not only that, the husband of Lakshmi who has installed Lakshmi in His heart may even wander a little timidly, with more shyness in your presence. That is because, this is an occasion for His sporting dance in the presence of Lakshmi Devi residing in His heart. That too with Bhadra Devi His paternal cousin, for whom He yearned so much and made her yearn. Also, because it is the occasion of their first union.

Enamour that feeling in Lord Sri Nath. Unite Him in you as your husband. As your Swami merge Him in you. Behave cautiously so that He does not get any other wish, any other thought except yours. We also heard that Radha and Gopikas constantly keep looking for cooling their own fire of love and to claim the great treasure of being in the proximity of that one, who is like numerous Manmadhas. You must cultivate the competence to distance the possibilities of their hot yearns reaching the heart of your husband, at least for these three days.

It seems gracefulness, shyness and modesty are very dear to your husband. They are your inborn qualities. However, when there is an opportunity to mix together the shrewdness of Sathyabhama, the stubbornness of Jambavati, the devoutness of Rukmini, the adoration and eagerness of Radha Devi, the essence of love of Gopikas, behave with alertness, be brave instead of being a simpleton. Gratify Swami excelling all of them. Rapture Him. Behave in a

manner that they do not come within the boundary of the memory of your husband. Establish that there is nobody or will be equivalent to you in sporting dance, in devotedness, in stubbornness, in adoration with heart and in worshipping with heart. Make your place permanent.

You are a new bride. That too, the bride about to consummate the marriage. These are delicate issues. We are telling you out of our concern. We believe that you will understand the circumstances. The reason being, the Lord of your heart is not an ordinary one. He is the Lord Jagannath. At the time when you are melting in His embrace thinking that He is a husband to you only, some woman in pain, or some faithful woman, or some woman devotee, or some one residing in the heart, with pain, or with love, or with eagerness, or with pangs of separation, or with devotion think about Swami, the very next moment Swami may disappear. You are so innocent and believed that Bava is your entirety. You have been living by constantly thinking only about Bava and that the world is only with Bava. You have been dreaming of melting in His union as a boon of penance of all these years. With the doubt of what you will be, what you will become, we must narrate these details to you.

You have love and affection, devotion and sense of surrender in plenty, exceeding all of them. Offering all those to your husband, bind Him in your tight embrace. Bind Him to the throne of your heart, making Him unable to move. With unbound devotion make Him your own. Because, your husband melts only for love. Surrenders only for love. Submits only to love and dissolves in love itself. We are aware that you have offered such a heart, filled with love to Him. Even Swami is aware. That is why, submitting to that love and with the strong urge to unite with you, that He accepted you as His lawful wife, is also known to us. Though we are aware of all this, we do have our doubts. We have our fears. They arise out the love and affection we have for you. It is our duty to tell you about all precautions and send you to the presence of your husband. It is also our responsibility.”

Bhadra was silently listening to the warnings, directions, doubts and precautions of her companions. She was steady and calm. Her softness was more than that of the divine celestial flower spreading its fragrant aroma. She continued spreading exuberance with elegance. In those eyes any kind of apprehensions or any type of doubts about the companions were not to be seen. The lotus eyes were not reflecting even traces of the response related to the feelings being expressed by the companions and of that experience. Srutiranjani, other favourite companions and numerous attendants looked in wonder at Bhadra, who was steady like an idol of Lakshmi, very graceful, as an all-knowing woman in a yoga posture. Bhadra Devi’s face is clearly revealing the magnificence, which they have never known before. Those eyes are shining with new divinity, which they have never seen. There is an amazing glow in Bhadra dazzling the eyes of the companions, which they have not experienced. She was constantly being troubled in meditating upon Swami, longing to be in the presence of Swami, yearning to be united with Swami. Is she that Bhadra? She was playing with them, getting married with dolls in the royal garden, getting alarmed remembering Krishna, getting engrossed in songs about Krishna. She was unable to sustain that pine of separation and crying like a baby with hiccups, being in pain hugging every companion coming along, telling about her pangs of separation from Krishna and cooling that fire. Is she the same Bhadra?

She is with a very soft delicate body blossoming with tender youthfulness. Their companion was a simple hearted, who intensely wished that Sri Krishna should become her own. Is she

that Bhadra? Many questions are arising in the minds of the companions. They were delicately, softly touching the heart of Bhadra.

“Bhadra! You used to wish that Lord Sri Hari should remain only as your own. You were against even listening about Radha, do you remember? When we use to tease you saying that He is the beloved of Gopikas, you used to react vigorously, hope you have not forgotten. You were suffering unbearable pain at the reference of consorts, at that time. When! When the fire of separation was unbearable, when the pine of separation was intolerable, when a doubt was created that your Swami may not be able to understand your love.

It is our intention not to give place to any kind of unguarded feelings in you, who had such thoughts. As an early precaution, we are telling you only the traces about the personal matters of your husband. Thinking that it is our duty, we are narrating so much.

How come this steady condition in Bhadra without even an iota of confusion? From where is this very great insight? Is such a change possible after the marriage? Is it abiding the nature? A natural consequence? That too in case of Bhadra! In case of such an innocent one!

Srutiranjani recovering early, holding the chin of Bhadra looked admiringly at that lovely face.

“Bhadra! I feel proud for such a charming woman being my disciple, for being so close to one who is born for such a great purpose. I am still not able to believe the fortune of becoming the messenger between the very Lakshmi and Narayana. There, your husband would be watching the pathways for you. It is not expected to delay even for a moment. It is also our wish to give the offering meant for Bhagawan at the appropriate time and become the recipients of His grace” without giving a chance for another word, Srutiranjani made Bhadra to start right away.

Bhadra was listening to her words sincerely with a charming face. Srutiranjani kissing Bhadra on her forehead moved ahead.

Srutiranjani realising that there are still a few more topics to be explained –

“Dear Bhadra! Let us wait for a minute. One important subject needs to be discussed with you. By listening to our words that Swami should be owned only by you, that He should be only with you and kept away from others, you may behave with the natural and normal selfish thoughts of a woman. That is the fear in my heart. Recall your divine essence. You are not an ordinary woman. You are with the aspect of Lakshmi, bestowed by Swami. Even in dreams do not forget the fact that Swami is Omnipresent. The matter of Swami staying only in your heart depends only on you. As a lawful wife there is a need for you to co-operate whole heartedly for the accomplishment of His duty. A need may arise to reduce your selfishness and make a sacrifice. When that sacrifice is done out of love, as it is not filled with selfishness, that love becomes more sacred. Your Swami wishes for only such sacred love. Only that which is given, remains. Only that which is shared, grows. If boasted of securing, it may slip away from hands. You should offer yourself whole heartedly to Swami not only with devotion but also with sacred love. The effort of blending love and devotion with the ecstasy, would make Swami our own.

You have a keen mind. I am aware that there is no need to tell you more. You may forget your true nature in your anxiousness. It is out of that concern, out of affection and with devotion

towards Swami I am advising. I hope you will grasp its inner significance. You are the auspicious one who can bestow all virtues to everybody. You will be blessed with all virtues."

The mansion for the nuptial celebration was beautifully decorated. The divine bed arranged for Sri Maha Vishnu is softer than Seshasai[128], very soft and very smooth. The milky foam bed sheet spread on that divine bed is dispersing amazing glow, like the waves in the milky ocean surrounding with great happiness. The mansion is arranged with mirrors. The milky foam curtains arranged on the canopy of the bed are hovering over the legs made of tusks, studded with corals. They are playing hide and seek with their borders stitched with garlands made of nine types of gems. They are covering the romantic paintings out of shyness, yet with the eagerness to look repeatedly, are fluttering offering a treat to the eyes.

The whiffs from all fragrant substances and the exceptional aromas from different types of flowers are creating excitement, for the experience of beautiful love. With burning sweet scented sticks, burning pellets of aromatic paste and fragrance of rose water, it was shining like a divine temple.

Bhagawan Sri Krishna Himself as the bridegroom is anxiously looking forward to unite with Bhadra Devi for the first time. Filled with very pleasant feelings, remained standing at the window. In the presence of Sri Krishna, who is shining with the moonlight equivalent to numerous moons, the moon shining like a small lamp losing its moonlight, hid behind the clouds. Lady moonlight who was dispersing brightness of the moonlight was becoming indistinct in the presence of the brilliance of Sri Krishna. Wishing to merge in the brilliance of Sri Krishna, she dissolved in Sri Krishna's luminosity.

The wind God respectfully brought along the fragrance of jasmine, pink jasmine and grand jasmine flowers climbing over the walls of the inner palace. In the presence of the natural divine fragrance of Sri Krishna, he bowed his head. Bhagawan is the essential cause for all creation, for the entire world of living and non-living beings and for all manifestations. He attempted to respectfully offer Bhagawan's own marvellous creation to Him. He felt ashamed at his ignorance.

Bhagawan was leaning against a pillar of a wall in the inner palace. At first even the pillar hesitated to support Him to stand. It was afraid that, if she changed to a woman by Bhagawan's touch[129], then her presence there would create disturbance. Felt happy at the fortune of seeing the sport of divine love of Bhadra and Sri Krishna. Besides, will there be a better fortune than Bhagawan's divine touch? Thus, felt reconciled, felt delighted. For one who is blessed with such fortune in this life, was wishing that its bonds of several lives with Bhagawan Sri Krishna may be bestowed in the name of some type of a bond. As an indication of fulfilling the wish of that marble stone, the divine player in human form smiling mysteriously, leaned more closely against that pillar.

[128] Seshasai is depicted in the form of a snake that floats coiled in space, or on the ocean of bliss, to form the bed on which Lord Vishnu lies.

[129] Many translations and interpretations of the Hindu epic Ramayana try to suggest that Sage Gowthama cursed his wife Ahalya for adultery with Indra and turned her into stone. Later, after many years, Lord Rama's feet touched her and turned her back into human. Lord Rama was an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, much before His incarnation as Lord Sri Krishna.

Sri Krishna's heart was filled with sweet feelings towards Bhadra. With her ecstatic love Bhadra softened Him and made an impression. She created a yearning to unite with her. She kindled the fire of separation. She brought Him to a stage where He cannot stand even for a moment without joining her. That Bhagawan's heart is vibrating in an amazing way for those sweet moments waiting to see Bhadra.

The beautiful charming form that appeared to Him in the royal garden was moving before the eyes of Sri Krishna. The sound of small bells from delicate anklets coming from the direction of the doorway, could be heard getting closer. The one with lotus eyes, with folded arms and closed eyes was inwardly visualising the female ruler of the kingdom of His heart. He who has stolen Bhadra's heart, was enjoying that beauty with a sweet gentle smile.

The brilliance from the diamond ear ornaments are glittering with flashes. Those swift glimpses from the slanting glances are spreading their splendour. That beautiful allure is beyond description. That form is full of attractiveness. That captivating form is with abundant features. That attractive slender waist is swaying with sweet feelings. That divine beautiful form cannot be described even by Lord Brahma. She is a graceful woman moving gently amongst companions searching for her beloved shyly with sidelong glances. She is like a beautiful gold statue with life. Bhadra was approaching her husband's mansion of love, which is filled with the aroma of fragrance. Moving with the sweet and soft sound of her anklets, she stopped for a moment.

The profoundness in her feelings that were cultivated until then melted away like snow. The proudness sagged. Bhadra, who is capable of winning her husband with her cheerful form being preoccupied in His thoughts obliviously stood looking at her feet stuck to the ground.

"Dear friend, are you testing your Swami's prolonged wait right at the beginning?"

Bhadra lowered her head without indicating any answer to her companion.

"Are you wishing to increase the fire of separation further in Swami, and then unite?"

Roses bloomed on the red cheeks of Bhadra.

"It is your wish that Swami Himself should come and hold your lotus hand and take you affectionately to the bedroom, is that so?"

Bhadra's elongated eyes lowered with shyness.

"Looking at your proudness and profoundness shown earlier, we were surprised. But, they are all cultivated, isn't it. Your wish to go inside at once and reach your Swami is getting delayed by your shyness, isn't it so. Is it fair?!"

Bhadra is not a in a state to respond to her helplessness and her companion's hurriedness. Bhadra felt that silence is the best blessing.

Truly, her heart is hastening to be in Swami's presence, at a speed exceeding the wind. Her heart is hurrying to melt away in the embrace of Swami tightly, not allowing even the wind to pass through. Her heart is galloping with intolerable impatience of accepting anything between her and her Swami. Each moment being away from the presence of Swami, feels like an eon. Every moment that cannot be used in reaching Swami is like wasting many eons, which is bothering her. The sermons from the companions, their justifications, descriptive discourses,

brief hints, short cautions all appear to be taking away the sweet moments she is wishing for. They appear to further the delay. Besides, unable to openly express to her companions, who love her more than their breath. She was unwilling to disappoint them with her impatience and pretended to be a little angry, covering her helplessness. She controlled that little anger with a brief smile.

“Why do you hurry like that? Until now I have never been away from you even for a moment. From now onwards, I will not be having any opportunity to be with you even for a moment. I have waited these moments only for you. Should you not be happy? Why do you rush me to go? Is this the love and affection you have towards me?”

As Bhadra’s lips were moving without clarity, her favourite companions looked in to each others face, smiled guardedly.

“Bhadra Devi! How strangely you speak? Don’t we know that your words have come only through your lips? You were the one who used to cry uncontrollably saying that you can not live even for a moment without Swami, that you can not imagine life with out Swami. You were the one who used to suffer so much, so many times saying that Swami is not to be seen, that you could not hear His words. But now? Have you made all those attempts of leaving us permanently and being able to live? Unable to put your step forward, you have stopped. Is it for us? Do you want us to believe? Did you not obtain this state due to the beautiful ecstasy kindled by the thoughts about Swami?

You heart is hastening to be in the presence of your Swami. In that haste your steps are getting confused. To hide your helplessness, are you putting the blame on us saying that we are hurrying you? Stop this self-deception. Enough of these beautiful cheatings. Hurry to reach the presence of your Swami.”

Bhadra was not ready to give an appropriate answer to the companions. Making her walk delicately, with an effort the favourite companions could bring her in the presence of Sri Krishna. Sri Hari was observing everything with a smiling face. The favourite companions with folded hands, full of adoration, with half closed eyes, stood completely immersed in His presence. Remembering the occasion, realising their duty they prayerfully mentioned to Bhagawan.

“Swami! It is not unknown to you. Our friend is an unmatched crest of beauty. She yearned only for you. Worshipped only you. Considering you as her husband and fulfilling her wish, she has reached your presence. Our friend whose life is for a noble cause is of a charming form. She is an innocent woman who does not know anything in this world excepting you. She is very delicate. We pray to you to heartily accept our friend with compassion.”

He accepted their prayer with great happiness. He vividly conveyed them His acceptance of their offering through His eyes. They happily beheld the soft sweet smiling face of Lord supreme. Continuing to look at Sri Krishna’s sweet face with the brief smile, becoming ecstatic by the cool flow of love from those eyes, the favourite companions feeling blessed moved aside, as they had no option.

Sri Krishna was looking at the new bride Bhadra’s beautiful form, afresh with concentration. Looking through her side long glances, at those broad eyes becoming red with unfulfilled wish, at that yearning kindled with wishes, Bhadra’s body quivered like a tender leaf.

Just by the awareness of her beloved's glances filled with affection and anxiously coming close to her made Bhadra's creeper like body shine like a lightning. Unable to withstand the effect of even the fond recollections of Sri Krishna, that lovely woman due to the weight of shyness could not control herself. Her Bava, coming closer reached out to hold her hand softly with dexterity. That divine touch made her totally ecstatic. The sweat drops were shining like pearls on her moon like face. Those lotus-like eyes are getting moist with happiness. Bhadra was immersed in joy with excessive love and affection.

"Bhadra!"

That call from Sri Krishna made Bhadra totally ecstatic and was unable to control her happiness and excitement.

"Swami! I am hearing this call after so many days. I have been longing so much for this call. The thought that will I ever be able to hear this call from you, troubled me so much. At least now is this true,? Is it you who is calling? Is it me who is hearing?"

As a reply to the doubts raising in Bhadra's eyes, Bhadra's husband with His warm lips kissed those moist eyes and held her close to His heart.

"It is I who called. It is you who has heard. This is real." Bhadra listening to the soft-spoken divine words entwined Him like a creeper.

With exceptional sensation, with yearning, while every atom is longing for the union with Sri Krishna, Bhagawan Sri Krishna took her close, very close.

"Bhadra! You have been scorched in the fire of separation. I thought, you will repeatedly describe the pain of your separation. I thought, you will severely insult me for targeting you to so much pain, display anger and sit aloof adamantly. I thought, you will be asking reasons for my neglect, search for meanings and interpreting them, make me a prisoner in the house of anger. I thought, imagining reasons, burning with jealousy and hatred, by making me to appease you, by increasing the fire of separation in me, you will pacify your anger. But what is this? As soon as I called Bhadra, you became ecstatic. As I held your hand with love, you plummeted on my heart. As I embraced you to my heart, you melted in me?"

Bhadra is in an exceptional and incapable state to answer the teasing words of her husband. That is an ecstatic state, unknown to dream or reality. He is showering kisses on the cheeks of Bhadra sleeping like a baby on His laps. He is delicately touching the beautiful eyes. He is looking at His Bhadra filled with contentment. Sri Krishna involuntarily picked up the white whisk and was about to wave it back and forth, like an expert. Bhadra watching this from the corner of her eyes, was about to get up abruptly. About to protest.

"Why, should I not wave it back and forth?"

"Yes. yes… no, no" Krishna affectionately looked at the confused Bhadra.

"I … I will wave it back and forth."

Sri Krishna at once softly stopped Bhadra who was about to take the white whisk.

“Are there still differences like you and me?”

Bhadra, who had no capacity to describe the feelings in the eyes of her beloved, with shyness, with exceptional vibration became ecstatic. Bhadra tried to stop again. Her throat quivered slightly.

“Though there are no differences, there are those righteous duties, isn’t it?”

Bhagawan smiled pleasantly.

“The righteous duty that I know of is, to remove the weariness from the young woman who having pleased Me, offered everything to Me and has faith only in Me.”

Bhadra stopping softly, said firmly “The righteous duty that I know is, as a wife to serve her husband. Gathering all my strength remove your weariness.”

Those rose lips stressing on the words as a ‘wife’ moved very fascinatingly. While addressing as the ‘husband’ for the first time, those eyes lowered heavily filled with love, with devotion and with inexplicable affection.

“Should I get services done from such a delicate woman?”

He was delicately pressing the soft hands of Bhadra. She held the hands of the lord of her heart touching her eyes. Sri Krishna filled with affection remained looking at Bhadra, whose eyes were closed with devotion.

“Should I distance myself from the fortune of offering services to Lord Jagannath? Besides, the nature should abide by the man and not man with nature, isn’t it?”

Krishna looked surprised.

“Bhadra! You are so young. Besides, you are my paternal aunt’s daughter. You have longed all these years to unite with Me. You have adored Me as Bava, as beloved and as husband. Over and above you are at a tender prime age. Your behaviour at the time of our first union should have been in a different way. But from where did you get this restraint, this devotion, this strength to follow righteous duty? From whom did you learn?”

Bhadra was looking at her Bava with adoration. Her eyes were flooded with tears of joy. Her lips quivered with the flow of nectarine love. The worthiness that Swami has nurtured in her with compassion, made her very happy to become the recipient of Swami’s praise.

“Swami are you asking because you do not know? How can I think that the Omniscient does not know? It is only to make me tell, isn’t it? You want to feel happy, listening to what I say, isn’t it?”

That beloved of Lakshmi kept looking steadily at Bhadra.

She is His new bride. She is the bride ready for the consummation of the marriage. She has yearned so much to be in the presence of her Bava, whom she has loved more than her breath. Even then, she did not speak. She was troubled by the pangs of separation with the beloved, installed in her heart. Even then, apparently she did not come close. She adored Him with the feeling of a husband. She was longing for the grace of His presence. Not hearing from Him, she

was even ready for self-immolation. Today, in spite of her dreams coming true, instead of forgetting everything in the embrace of her beloved, she is following the mandatory righteous duties and maintained restraint. She is discussing about righteous deeds. That too on the first night! That too, during the occasion of that charming woman uniting with her husband, whom she longed for and made Him yearn for her!

“Swami! You know everything about me. I cannot imagine that you, being the indweller of all, are not aware about my heart. However, you are giving me the power to read the feelings of your heart and your thoughts, as well as the opportunity to express the feelings of my heart to the world. Through that you are intentionally giving me the fortune of making my role to be permanent in the pages of history. Swami, you are purposefully bestowing on me this fortune with compassion and love, isn’t it so?”

Sri Hari’s lips curled like a blooming flower. The beautiful eyelids moved over the wide eyes as though saying yes.

“Swami! You are aware about the fact that I am very close with brother Dharma Raja, with aunt Kunti Devi, with noble Akrura, with my brother Phalguna who is very dear to you, with my sister Rukmini Devi and with Radha Devi the soul in you. Who are they? Aren’t they all devotees of Krishna? Then, will I not be practising the essence of Krishna, at least in a small measure? More than that is the devotion towards Krishna that I am habituated, due to the fortune of previous lives, isn’t it? To nurture and make it grow was possible because of your compassion, isn’t it?”

Unlike a beloved, she was like a devotee. Unlike a better half, she was like a form of the soul. Unlike a female ruler of the heart, she was like an indweller of the heart. She is surrendering to Him with adoration, with love, with devotion and with complete engrossment. He was looking at the feelings He expected in Bhadra. That divine player in the guise of human, remained with a brief smile.

There is a supreme meaning to the offering of Bhadra’s heart.

There is a purpose for Bhadra’s history in the future.

Bhadra’s natural amiability, that devotion and feeling of surrender, that exceptional devotion, that immeasurable love and that selfless service, all need to thrive as ideals to follow and worth emulating, not only for virtuous mothers but also for devotees and people searching for knowledge.

“Swami! You came in the form of Subhadra to comfort me and reduced the heaviness of my heart. You fulfilled my longing. You also fulfilled your longing of making my heart to divulge and left. Owing to my fortune, I am born as the daughter of your paternal aunt. I have been introduced not only as a woman with blood relation, but also as a woman who is related through the soul. I am born as your wife. I have grown up with the thought that I am your wife. However,…”

Gopala was affectionately handing milk to Bhadra who was about to say something. She looked at Him charmingly.

“This is not about the nature abiding with the man. Husband fulfilling his longing through wife.”

She was drinking the nectarine affection from the eyes of her beloved. She was drinking nectar like milk and was offering that container to Sri Krishna. Bhadra said with a quiver.

“Then this too is a wish, the wife is longing to fulfil through husband. Besides, today your flute has left behind a little nectar from your lips for me, hearing my pleas. My fortune, isn’t it.”

Krishna was delighted at the oratory expertise of Bhadra.

Her beloved drinking a little milk, handed it back. Bhadra remained admiring that universal alluring form to her hearts content. Stopping her with His eyes, the fine looking one with the dark complexion, smiled beautifully.

“Milk…should drink the milk. What are you drinking with your looks?”

Bhadra was totally absorbed in looking in to the eyes of Sri Krishna to her hearts content. Those divine eyes are a pair of divine brilliance, that can make even the brilliance of numerous suns and moons lack lustre. To look at that brilliant form these external eyes are not adequate for her. Except for the divine eyes, such fortune will not occur.

“Bhadra! What are you looking at steadily, as though you drank with your eyes? Many times in your feelings, in your recollections, while remembering Me, while meditating upon Me, you remained looking in this manner, isn’t it? Finally, even during your cherished dream you were looking at My eyes in this manner, carefree, isn’t it. Are you looking further for something new? If you remain looking like this in to My eyes, will this first night not melt away? Also, will your sweet moments not slip away?”

Bhagawan was looking affectionately in to Bhadra’s eyes. Many new beautiful elegances which are yet to be seen by Him, are overflowing. Those eyes are over flowing with the river of love of numerous mothers. The river of affection which she never saw before, is overflowing. Surprisingly, those divine eyes are bestowing extraordinary calmness.

Bhadra’s feeling of love, her feeling of surrender and her devotional feeling surpassing the other feelings, enamoured Sri Krishna.

“Swami! It is true. Your wide eyes filled with brilliance are life to me. Your divine eyes spreading brilliance are with white glow. Swami! how can I describe that divine experience, that attraction, that magnetic pull which are kept in safety in the inner recesses of my heart. I felt like having that same experience repeatedly. That is why in my recollections, in my reflections and in my meditation I used to mostly wish for the manifestation of only your divine eyes. But in the dreams, surprisingly a light pink colour was seen in your eyes. That gradually acquiring the red colour of rubies, was making me anxious. Unable to understand the meaning of that red colour in your white crystal-clear eyes, flashing numerous rays of light, I used to feel perplexed. However, I used to be satisfied that I could also explore the reason for it.”

Sri Krishna looked eagerly.

“Yes, however much I pine in separation, however much I suffer, however much I burn in the fire of separation, you will not open your mouth isn’t it Swami? You do not even appear before my eyes, isn’t it so.”

In Bhadra’s accusation there was no insult. There was no anger, except pain.

The beloved of Lakshmi pressed Bhadra’s soft hands on His heart.

Inadvertently Bhadra’s lotus like eyes dampened.

“Swami! You might have been immersed in some act of attraction with some consort! At that time unknowingly, appealing to you about my pine of separation, I might have put pressure on your heart! You might have been immersed in playing the divine dance with some Gopikas and forgotten everything! At that moment hastily with my pining, I might have created disturbance in you! You might have been hurriedly preparing to leave hearing the cry of some devotee to rescue him, you being a relative who always rescues! In that moment, narrating my troubles in ignorance, might have become responsible for creating impatience in you! Because of which your beautiful eyes might have acquired red colour!

Whatever! Imagining like that, I used to suffer a lot. I used to feel that, if the reasons are true as I had imagined and if I were not to remember you, then your eyes would not have become red. But I am immersed in reflecting only about you at all times and in all circumstances. I could not be without thinking about you. This may be selfish of me. But I am an incapable one who can not sacrifice selfishness. I am aware of your unbound power and capabilities. You may convert the redness in your eyes either as sweet traces filled with love or set it right as tongues of flame to punish some wicked people. I have complete faith in your capability to take that decision.”

Sri Krishna’s heart rapidly waved once again by the calm love in the eyes of Bhadra, by her unbound devotional feeling concealed in the lotus heart of Bhadra, by her expertise in conveying the significance of a subject. He delicately embraced Bhadra to His heart.

He, fulfilling the intense yearning of Bhadra’s wishes to unite with Him, continued holding her. She remained completely absorbed on the heart of her beloved and inadvertently lifted her head. Bhadra filled with affection kept looking in to those eyes. Her eyes twinkled with happiness. They lowered heavily due to her shyness.

“My eyes are now like balls of fire, isn’t it? Similar to those that you have seen in your dreams! Why is it so?”

He is Omniscient. He is questioning, pretending to be completely innocent. Bhadra, looking steadily at that attractive beautiful form was confused to give a reply.

“Because… because…your beautiful eyes might have acquired the redness due to the intense inclination kindling in you towards me for our first union. With the determination of fulfilling my wish, they might have further become red. Also... also…”

He was embracing to His heart that charming woman with redness owing to shyness looking like a celestial flower. That Madana Mohana was spreading the redness of His eyes to those lotus eyes and is smiling contentedly.

In the next moment He raised His eyebrows questioningly.

“But then, there have been evidences that even to the ardent devotional preeminent sages, once in a way my eyes appear just like this. Would I be having a wish like this on those persons with long matted hair? Would you say that I have a similar wish on those preeminent seers? Thinking that there would be a similar wish on those who have sacrificed everything in society, will be laughable, isn’t it?”

That beloved of Bhadra was teasingly asking her as though He did not knowing anything. Bhadra avoiding His mischievous eyes, smiling briefly said charmingly -

“The reason for appearing like that in their eyes, may be due to their interruption in your meditation during yoga.

Moreover Swami! You are the only man. Besides you, in this creation are there anyone known as men separately? Swami! All those being in the form of a man and all those who are being reckoned as men, are they all men? They all have obtained the form of a man from the heart of a woman, isn’t it? Aren’t they all forms of the nature? The feeling of unity of the nature and the man is the first principle of the essence of Sri Krishna isn’t it! Is it not!”

Sri Krishna’s heart flooded with the river of love, completely immersed Bhadra Devi.

“Swami! Due to the overflow of my love, the eyes that I viewed imperceptibly in my dreams are different. This wealth of eyes which I am now able to see distinctively are different. There are limitations to your power and your brilliance that I imagined out of ignorance. There are boundaries to your divinity that I imagined out of my unawareness. That is how they are fragments of imagination. Visions in a dream. But Swami! Do you know what I think I have realised with your perceptible appearance? That there is so much I have yet to know. You are not visible to the organs of the ordinary. Your divinity is such, that unless there is a little fortune from the previous birth, unless there is a relationship since many births, it is not possible even to imagine in the mind. That too, you have to manifest with your resolve by surrendering to devotion, subdued by love and being pleased. Your divine form will not be visible by searching with pain, by exploring with anxiousness or by praising with concern, isn’t it?”

That beloved of Bhadra, looking with a brief smile at the new perspective of the devotional feeling in Bhadra, displayed surprise.

“Bhadra! Aren’t you a poetess too! You are able to fill life in to your feelings and present them as paintings with life to me. That is My fortune. But Bhadra! I thought you will melt in Me becoming a bud of shyness. You being a woman with natural shyness, I thought it would be impossible to make you utter even a word. I thought it would take a lot of efforts for that. But what is this? By blending the devotional feelings and essence of love you are quickly reciting the poetry on love. In My experience, this new form of blending is rare indeed!”

Bhadra’s eyes swelled with tears of joy with Sri Krishna’s compliments immersing Bhagawan’s heart with devotion.

“Swami! Your intent is to establish that rare fact, isn’t it? Your intent is to change this night of consummation of the marriage, as a stage for the discussions and to bring forth the wealth of feelings from the depths of my heart, isn’t it? Swami! If only you were not to intend, then will I be

able to part my lips and speak in your presence? My words have been created only by your intent, isn't it? These feelings, these words, this formation, this expertise are all yours. Even the mouth that uttered is not mine, isn't it?

Being ecstatic by the touch of Bhagawan, I am not in a state to express my silent love. Making me speak in this manner is your intent, else is it possible for me? As a boon of the penance of many eons, obtained today the fortune of being so close to you. Waited so long for these sweet moments to melt in your love, be moved by your affection and be united through the soul. And now feeling so delighted! Being completely immersed in your thoughts, I was unable to move my feet at the doorway. And now experiencing your touch, I am unable to move even my eyelids. I forgot my own self the moment I melted in you.

However,… however even in this state, for some purpose you are making me talk like this. What may be the purpose! You are awakening the devotional feeling in me. You are getting the essence of Krishna in my heart revealed. Swami! What any one does, any one says and whatever happens is only as per your intent, isn't it? Any uniqueness conferred, any power and means bestowed, whatever has to be accomplished, when and by whom, whatever is thought to be spoken and whatever happens is only as per your command, isn't it so Swami!

That day you came in the form of Subhadra and moved the depths of my heart. Today you are specifically touching a portion of what was left that day. Swami! No new bride would have had this opportunity! Any bride at the consummation of her marriage may not perhaps like this part. You know why…"

Soothing Bhadra's cheeks that turned reddish by mere imagination, the divine player in the guise of a human, completed the statement.

"Why because, nobody likes the nectarine moments they dreamt to be melted away meaninglessly. That's why! In this rare privilege of the act of merging nobody will ever be in a state of enduring separation even for a moment. You agree, don't you!"

Bhadra had no answers for the questions from the Omniscient. Even then her eye lids lowered in answer.

"Leave it! as per your wish let us stop this part with this and move towards another important part…"

Bhadra recognising the feeling in the teasing looks of her beloved smiled briefly. She stopped with her pair of wide eyes.

"Swami! You said as per my wish. Then, it is not as per your wish, is it? That which you do not wish for, then how will it be worth accepting for me? The significance of the first union is not just to fulfil the desires related to the body without wasting a moment, isn't it? Besides that, the awareness towards the feelings related to the heart and the mutual discussions that can contribute for that, become essential, isn't it?

That too, during this nectarine moment of uniting verily with Bhagawan. This soul is cheerfully interacting with the supreme soul, offering the feelings of the heart at the feet of the Bhagawan as gift. By her self-sacrifice in offering the soul to the heart of her husband, she is increasing her

worthiness. These are the nectarine moments of being merged with the supreme soul. Every moment of this is indeed nectarine, isn't it Swami."

"Bhadra! You have understood My essence very deeply. Then why did you suffer so much pining in separation? Did you not feel like experiencing of getting satisfied merely by remembering and to be completely absorbed in Me? If felt, why did you neglect your body to this extent? Why did you get ready for self-immolation?"

Bhadra looked nervously at her beloved, who was adjusting Bhadra's black curls and asking lovingly.

"I know you will be satisfied by my just recalling you and will come to me. I also know that if your resolve accompanies, then you being the Omnipresent will be realising my suffering and pain every moment. Not only that, I also know that holding all the worlds within yourself, during the dissolution process while they tremble, not even an atom trembles in your absolute stable form.

You are the embodiment of the entire knowledge. Though filling inside and outside of all the living beings, though spread all around, you can create an illusion of being very distant. You can also establish the fact of your residing in the heart itself.

Swami! Even that *Sri Ramachandra*[130], verily the manifestation of Bhagawan, was overcome by the illusion, to know that he is the Bhagawan. Illusion shrouded him. Therefore, about the subject of your Omniscience, will illusion not spread over an ordinary woman like me? When the divine player in the guise of a human is immersed in thoughts, will illusion not come closer?

The entirety is an illusion created by you. This illusion is also your resolve. Will you be sending the illusion first, later come and bless, or come, bless and go, leaving behind the illusion? It is not known to us, who are overpowered by illusion, isn't it! Only you, who is beyond illusion will know, isn't it! It is impossible to cross over your illusion, isn't it! Over powered by illusion, we do not know in which moment your illusion will envelop our heart. We do not know In which moment, briefly moving aside a little, we will be able to rejoice this nectarine awareness. We will not know what is possible and when.

Swami! I know that you fill every atom in my body which is becoming warm with constant repetition of your name. That you will keep watching my constant pain, becoming my inner self. That you will keep accepting my constant offering every moment. But, as the daughter of your paternal aunt, my young heart was wishing for many sweet experiences of the body from you.

As your beloved, your Bhadra's body was also wishing every moment to unite with you.

As your better half, was also expecting your affectionate embrace every moment and live as a married couple.

Swami, this is natural, isn't it?

Swami, I am not just a devoted woman. I am not just a woman who adores you. As a better half, I am living with you in my recollections. As my beloved, installing you in my heart and pining every moment for you, will I be satisfied by merely imagining? Will it be inappropriate in

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wishing to see you physically, who is installed within me? Will it be too much to wish to be in your presence, to see your divine beautiful form and be in your embrace, conversing with you to my heart's content?

Swami! Your body is beyond the experience of sensory organs. You are Omnipresent and though only you are present in all the elements, you are the one who declared that you are not under their control. Besides, the awareness has not left me that you are bound by love, by unbound love and by serene love.

Swami! There are many hidden proofs available, to establish that you being the Omnipresent, are dwelling very much in me. Those are not unknown to you. Those are experiences beyond description. Those are evidences for your universal pervading nature.

However, the inner meaning of being bound today in this manner, in my presence, by my love in the form of a human, is only to demonstrate your Omnipresence externally. I know that no one can tie you up. However, I know for certain, that only the bond of love will bind. I have complete faith on the unbound love I have for you and on that mighty power. Even then, there was a doubt that you may be having many more celebrated lover's superior to me. There was a doubt that my love may appear inferior to them. There was a fear that an injustice may be done to me. Those fears were further increasing my pines of separation and anxiousness.

I am aware that those are also illusions. I used to feel, even that too was your resolve. Whatever! But the anxiousness in me was not getting pacified."

Bhadra was not able to directly look at the delightfully looking Sri Krishna. She remained motionless for a moment. Next moment after self-searching, was surprised.

How come she is able to talk like this in the presence her Bava? She is the personified form of charm, like a bud of shyness who can not even raise her eyes to look at her Bava. This is a rare, sweet and an uncommon day to be most cherished. Until this moment, just by hearing the name of her Bava she used curl up in shyness. Just by imagining the touch of Bava and His presence, she used quiver like a tender leaf. In fact, did she think that she will be able to sit like this with her Swami? Is this an occasion even to utter a word in the presence of the beloved? How come these discussions? Why this Vedanta? A new bride pining in the fire of separation with her bridegroom for this long, like this …

Taking Bhadra much closer He was adjusting slowly the smudged vermilion symbol. Bhadra was looking at Him with a charming face. Locking with her looks, He smiled delightfully.

"Bhadra! You loved Me as a Bava. You worshipped as a devotee. As My better half you experienced all your enchantments. Besides, this satisfaction, this happiness and this fortune you wish for, will remain for ever. That will be possible only with your full cooperation."

Bhadra looked startled.

"Bhadra! You are young. In a way a child. Thinking that you know everything about Me, you have developed unbound love and affection for Me. I became a slave to your pure love. That is My nature, isn't it! However, there is a necessity to remind you that, though you know so much about Me, the truth is there is still so much to know."

Bhadra is looking motionless. Bhadra's beloved slowly fondling Bhadra's chin, looking affectionately, with more appeasement said.

"Bhadra! All these years owing to our blood relation, you have visited the home of your Bava as a relative. You displayed your child like behaviour in the presence of your aunt and uncle. You conducted yourself with child like behaviour in the presence of the would-be fellow wives. You moved around with closeness owing to that relationship. While spending more time with Rukmini, you behaved giving equal importance to other consorts. I used to keep observing your beautiful eyes searching for me with anxiousness, with adoration and with anxiety, also the hidden expectation, love and affection in them. However, in those eyes, only your pure feeling of surrender was to be seen. Only unsullied feeling of love was to be seen on that face. Only an unblemished heart that is beyond attachment and hatred was seen.

But your present stature is different. You are about to come with all the rights of a consort. Generally, every new bride wishes that her husband should belong only to her, that the place in that heart should only be for her, that his total love and affection should remain only with her. But knowingly you are about to step in to an environment that is very different. These issues are known to you. Even then I am reminding you once again. There, besides you there are six more world renowned beautiful daughters of great kings who made your beloved as their husband. They are all those who loved Me and enchanted Me towards them. They also got attracted and selected Me in Swayamvaram. I have won a few in the battle and brought them.

All six are astonishing assemblage of beauty. They are such emotional women, who can compete with you in all aspects. All your six fellow wives who are pining for uniting with me and clinging on without leaving even for a moment are at your mother-in-law's place. I am not telling you because you do not know. In spite of knowing all this you are offering everything to Me. I am entirety to you. Holding my hand, you are about to step as one more consort in to the house of mother-in-law. I consider it as My responsibility to describe the present situations to My beloved. Because, it is natural for your feelings to change from then to now and in those thoughts related to the heart and also in the evaluation of rights, isn't it?" That husband of Lakshmi fondling Bhadra's hand continued to say.

"Any woman can face any type of situations and withstand but will not be ready to share her husband's heart and body with another woman, isn't it! For her that appears like committing suicide. Nobody can bear such pain. While that is so, not one, not two for the present six. Further…"

Sympathy is evident from the part narration of her husband. Bhadra remained silent for a moment. He is trying to provoke intense feelings in her. Observing from the side long looks, He is trying to read her inner feelings. At the same time, He is showing eagerness to openly express the analysis of her personality. Bhadra looked at her beloved with composure.

Her eyes are showing only steadfastness and no other feelings. There is only peacefulness on her face and no other worry. In spite of targeting to so many tests, there is an unwavering stability in those eyes. Holding the hand of her husband who was fondling her hands softly, placing it on her eyes in reverence, touched softly with her very tender lips.

"Swami! In all these years you have targeted me emotionally and physically in many ways to different tests, holding my hands you have taken me close. You have tested my tender heart. You have kept it concealed in your heart. Accepting my victory as your victory, you have hidden me in you.

Facing every intricate test and surmounting them, I could reach your presence. Under all circumstances I did not wish for anything except being in your presence. Except serving your feet, I did not wish for any other fortune under any circumstances. You are aware how much I used to suffer, waiting every moment for your call, for your touch at least in a dream, to be in your presence at least through imaginations. Burning a shapeless lump of gold, melting it, pouring it in to casts, polishing it in many ways, grinding it skilfully, shaping it in the form as you want, you decorate in your heart with affection. I might have displayed a little arrogance of assuming to have reached that stage. Perhaps, that is why you are repeatedly subjecting me to the test, in this manner.

Swami! An innocent woman, a beloved, a woman separated from her lover, a new bride on the night of her dreams coming true, instead of shielding in the heart you are reading her heart. Instead of merging her in you, you are still examining her worthiness to merge. Such an incident is rare in the history itself, isn't it! A new bridegroom subjecting a new bride on the first night itself to this type of analysis in this manner…" Bhadra is offering her heart. Truly, this is an uncertain situation. But not for the one, who knows the past, the present and the future.

He was affectionately fondling the cheeks of the charming woman and lovingly looking at her with the expression 'where is the answer to my question.' Bhadra looking at Him, bowed her head with respect.

"Swami! You are telling about the current situation at the mother-in-law's place. You are leading a household life with six wives, that too such world-renowned jewels of beauty, such illustrious learned woman possessing infinite ingenuity. Having surrendered to you, with numerous wishes I am stepping in to the house of the mother-in-law. You are asking me if I can withstand my emotional situation, isn't it? You are anxious how will I be able to reconcile.

Swami! Whatever may it be, it is only in accordance with your resolve. Whatever may be the outcome, it is bestowed only by you. Besides, the courage and steadfastness to face any type of situations are bestowed only by you, Swami. These feelings have not sprouted in me today. Radha Devi used to visit mother very often. I was very dear to Radha Devi. She used to spend more time with me than with mother. You are her life breath. You are her life force. You are her focus.

You are her entirety. She used to describe at length about playing the divine sport with you. Unable to spot you, she used to enact, experience and demonstrate her experience of suffering the pains of that separation. She used to be completely immersed in your recollections. She used to forget everything with your imaginations.

On some occasions she used to play imagining me to be you. She used to sing. She used to feed me with morsels of butter. She used to feed me small morsels of food. She used to shower me with kisses. She used to hug me so tightly, making me breathless. Falling at my feet she used to choke. Looking in to my eyes she used to narrate the suffering of her heart. Lying on my

small lap, she used to forget everything. Slowly over the time, I got used to all her words, her sufferings and her feelings.

The seed for the effort to understand the meaning in them, their inner significance, those feelings beyond perceptions and the inexpressible experiences, was germinated at my tender age. Her love is without motives. Her affection is very pure. Her embrace is more sacred than a live coal. Her heart is more sanctified than a temple.

Her actions showed profound meanings that were beyond explanation. Her suffering sounded with only unbound devotional feeling. Her tears showed the yearning of the soul to be united with the supreme soul and not the pain experienced by a woman for her beloved.

I had secured your divine beautiful form in my heart that day itself. I began to understand the meaning of the essence of love through Radha Devi, at that age itself when one does not know about love. I did not know about worshipping at all. But could get the inspiration for worshipping the divine from that Radha. I did not know the meaning of affection. But got used to grasping the essence of affection from the tunes sung by Radha. Surprisingly, I used to see you in Radha. Radha Devi used to manifest in you. I used to comprehend the divinity in the merger of the two of you. This is how my tender heart grew. Along with the heart an anxiousness to acquire maturity and clarity started. It started with rapturous devotion and grew up to contemplate upon the highest truth. Only after achieving a maturity, only after doing regular practice, love for you sprouted in my heart. I acquired the fortune of worshipping the mysteries of the essence of the manifestation of your love form.

That is why, starting with devotion, growing up as love, my heart is an exceptional blend. Starting as love and if devotion was to come and join later, I would not have withstood your tests Swami. Devotion is my strength. Love is my breath. You are both my devotion and my love."

Sri Krishna, looking steadily at Bhadra, was plucking her rose lips with the nail of the little finger, while delicately embracing her in His arms. Bhadra embraced Sri Krishna as though stuck to a magnet.

Closing her eyes in ecstasy, as though in some other world, she continued to tell.

"I have learnt extraordinary alluring feelings from Radha. From your divine sport assimilated unsullied depths in enticing. Radha Devi is aware that I have taken birth only for you. Saying that 'You with the virtues of Lakshmi are the property of Sri Maha Vishnu,' she used to shower me with kisses.

Amazing! Her proximity, her touch, her affectionate glances used to remind me only about you. I used to feel that, to be your presence. Imagining her presence to be verily your presence, I used to become ecstatic. So also, was she. She used to perform alluring acts with me. Sing love songs. Enact pines of separation. Unable to bear the charm, she used to embrace me closely.

She used to see you, in me. The meanings for your Omnipresence were visible. For anybody else, to anyone else her mad love will be like physical love, her prattling will be like mad lamentations. Her acts will appear meaningless."

Bhadra who was entangled with the eager looks of Sri Krishna said in a low tone.

“But…but I never felt like that any time. If I were to feel in that manner, then that day itself jealousy would have ignited in me. I would have hated her, one who loves my Bava so much and is pining in separation to this degree. I would not have tolerated the existence of Radha Devi who was saying, to me who was born only for you, that you were born only for her.

As far as I understand, the sacred and strong affectionate bond that is entwined between both of you is not materialistic and certainly not an alluring feeling related to the body. That is an exclusive relationship formed between the soul and the supreme soul owing to mutual affinity. Radha worshipped only the essence of Krishna. In her view entirety is filled with Krishna. Yours is the pure merger of man with nature. Neither you are separate nor she. Moreover, seeing each separately and ascribing a difference is not only incorrect, felt as sin. Analysing about your mutual relationship, which is not possible even for Lord Brahma, I came to realise it owing to the good fortune earned over several lives. That state was possible only by overcoming jealousy and hatred. The very pure feeling of merging in you used to create divine ecstasy in me.

Swami! It is not that easy to understand the essence of the nature of Radhamadhava. However, I used to feel blessed with the satisfaction of attempting to understand within my boundary. The pure merger of man with nature is also very untainted, also very credible and virtuous.”

He was plucking at Bhadra’s cheeks like the strings of the lute. Swami’s fingers, that played the flute mesmerising the universe and capable of filling life to sound and to the conformations of the seven notes, were filling the sweetness of the notes on Bhadra’s cheeks.

Sri Krishna asked in secrecy-

“Therefore, Not realising the very pure, uncommon, highest truth about Radhakrishna, just imagining it as the feeling related only to bodies is a wicked view and petty mindedness. In the allurement of Radhakrishna that there are no physically related wishes, is the truth that you have understood. That is why that relationship did not foment jealousy and hatred in you. Is that so?”

Bhadra’s lips slowly flowered. The marvellous feeling hidden in the teasing eyes of Krishna made her ecstatic.

“True Swami! This is a great truth. Whoever can understand the pure merger of Radhamadhava are blessed and virtuous beings. They can go beyond that jealousy and hatred. This feeling of oneness between man and nature is the most astonishing secret hidden in the teachings of Advaita, isn’t it Swami. I adored, loved and worshipped you the supreme man and Radha Devi, the form of supreme Goddess in one form itself. Not only that, me having merged with Radha Devi, felt as though I have united with you.

Whatever others may imagine, it depends on their individual refinement. How many will have the good fortune of understanding the essence of Radha and the essence of Krishna? Among those who have come to know the essence of Bhagawan, there is no possibility of getting this jealousy and hatred, isn’t it?”

Every time he embraces His young Bhadra closely to heart, he feels happy to acknowledge the way she narrates details, the way she describes and analyses. Swami is conveying his approval to the one with the matured mind.

“Therefore, if Radha Devi were to clearly know the essence to the extent that you could know, then why did she scorch in the pangs of separation this much? Why did she suffer so much in separation? Why did she vent strongly her jealousy and hatred towards Gopikas?” Bhadra looked smilingly at Sri Hari who was looking with eagerness.

‘Are you asking me, as you really do not know, Swami?’ was the meaning that reflected in her smile.

“Swami! Truly Radha Devi is an aspect of the exceptional love and joy in you. I regard that aspect as pervading the expanse of the universe and to be extraordinary. Gopika women were no less than Radha Devi in their devotional feelings and self-surrender. That is why they have become deities to be worshipped by all, including other deities.

Gopikas who were equivalent to Radha Devi could attain that spiritual awareness by stealing your heart and by enthralling you with their worship. Even great yogis and sages work hard to reach that state. There are people who have sacrificed everything for you, making your recollections as their life breath and making that as their constant focus. They are enduring the painful separation from you and the fire from that separation. For your sake they have filled their life energies with the awareness of Krishna and live with it as life support. For them there is no other world except you. There will never be more fortunate people than those who have reached the state of complete knowledge.

However, my Lord! The opportunity of making the relationship with you stable is possible only from the love that is born out of separation, making it achieve the state of stability. To make that state of stability their own and to make them blissful by making your mutual relationship with them permanent, Swami you only create the pining in separation. That pain in separation increases the unbound love multiple times. That makes the blocking wall between Bhagawan and the devotee disappear. It fulfils the wish of the devotees to experience the permanent state of Advaita. It is only to bestow such fortune that you play hide and seek with the devotees. Only for that reason, you increase the pine of separation by disappearing, isn’t it so Swami?

Unbearable pine of separation will make anyone temporarily insane. It destroys the sense of discrimination. It conceals the true feelings of the heart. It upsurges the intenseness of love by increasing jealousy and hatred. Swami it is only in that state you give comfort and bring them to your shelter. Swami it is only in that situation you teach the interpretations to the essence of the soul and the supreme soul.

Swami! The ultimate for the pain of separation that is fomenting between the lover and sweetheart is constant recollection, self-sacrifice, unity and finally their union, isn’t it! Along with Radha Devi, Gopikas, you finally brought me too, to that state. The direction to the pathway in uniting with you is only through uninterrupted meditation upon you, constant remembrances about you, reflecting upon your true essence and true self-sacrifice. Swami, the secret of your incarnation is only to preach this to everyone, isn’t it?

It is only by your resolve either for Radha Devi or the Gopika women folk or me or for anyone else, we could make ourselves sanctified with worship of love, with sacrifice, with yearning and

with separation. It is only by the illusion created by you, becoming insane in love, we danced and behaved as though that world, which is you, does not exist. We developed further feeling of love for you with the increase of jealousy and hatred, which is against our very nature.

Realising that our solace is only at your divine feet, we surrendered. With your grace we could attain a permanent place at your feet. What more can I say Swami!"

Bhagawan continued looking at Bhadra with the brief smile and had a satisfactory laugh. He was pleased with Bhadra's feelings of the heart being offered with ease by His encouragement. Lord Jagannath looking delightfully at the lovely face of Bhadra with intense love, embraced her more closely. Through His very glances, He is filling Bhadra's heart with the secrets of the ultimate truth. Through His eyes, He is filling the divine glow. He wants to listen more. He is listening. He is getting satisfied.

That supreme being laughed enchantingly. He was becoming eager to hear some more opinions of Bhadra about Radha Devi, the deity of His heart and about Gopikas, who are the residents of His heart.

"Then, what about Gopikas! In your pine of separation, you have made many accusations about Gopikas many times, didn't you? I do move about with them with strong yearnings, is it not so? Even now, am I not completely satisfied when called 'the beloved of Gopikas.' The relationship that exists between us is also known to the world, that they attract me with many alluring acts and get adorned by me. You are so young and delicate. Going forward, you may have to listen to much more and bear with it. Will that be possible for you?"

Caution was visible in Sri Krishna's questions. His Omniscience was evident.

"Swami! Before getting reformed even to this extent, in my pine of separation, I displayed some jealousy and hatred towards Gopikas. That is true. Along with Radha Devi, not only your other consorts, I even insulted your devotees. I have ridiculed all those close to you. Not only that, I have doubted your Omniscience, your Omnipresence, your heart filled with love and even your essence of universal love. I have also insulted you in many ways.

I benefited by insulting you and your people. There is an awakening in me. Shall I tell you what that is Swami! The jealousy in me has evaporated. The hatred has disappeared. I have comprehended your unbound essence, that cannot be kept bound by anyone. But truly, you know that there is no place for jealousy and hatred at all, in my heart. That my pain is created only from the pine of separation. That my suffering is due to the negligence being shown by you. That the yearning of my heart is because you are not recognising my love. Those feelings are only due to lack of knowledge and due to my hasty nature. Above all, that it is only due to some illusion created by you covering me at that time. That they are all temporary. Not that I am not aware. Not that you do not know.

Swami! I was able to recognise how zealous is the love between Gopikas and Krishna, how strong it is and how pure it is. Through the essence of Radha, through the essence of Krishna that I have grasped, through the essence of Gopikas I heard from Neela Devi, I have understood to an extent that Gopikas and you are not separate. They are souls separated from the form of your supreme soul due to destiny and acquired the form of bodies on the earth, born for a purpose. They are forms of the supreme soul. They are born only to merge with the supreme soul that is the form of their soul, their eternal place of origin. They are pure forms who

are yearning for attaining the state of Advaita. They are great realised Yogis, forms of the supreme soul and with divine beautiful forms. They are the fortunate lives who could merge in your eternal blissful form. It is only when a feeling of separation is established between them and you, jealousy and hatred are created, isn't it Swami?"

Bhadra felt comfortable with the very closeness of Sri Hari, who was kissing Bhadra's cheeks very affectionately. Her ecstasy reached its peak. Bhadra grew up meditating every moment on Krishna. The age of Bhadra's devotion is limitless. Bhadra has become immortal by drinking the nectarine love of Krishna. Bhadra's age is beyond imagination. The relationship is of several births. The secret essence of the soul and the supreme soul is very pure and very sweet.

"Swami! You bestow only to a few, the fortune of the power to even briefly describe the pure essence of their love for you. I think I am one of those few fortunate.

Your form which is filled with love is praised and worshipped by Gopikas. In the same manner the ardent devotees worship you and become blissful. It is only the feeling of love that is immersed in this devotion. This feeling of love is all expansive like your Omnipresence. It is also the minutest of the minute. Understanding Bhagawan will be possible, only in the glow of this light of love. Merging with Bhagawan will be possible only with this feeling of love.

Swami! There is no feeling of separation between a devotee and Bhagawan just as there is no separation between love and the person who loves. Besides, for anyone who meditates with uncommon devotion will get a feeling that you are the husband, isn't it so Swami! You are the complete supreme being. All things in this universe are elements of nature without any distinction as man or woman, isn't it so. In that feeling there is only a pure relationship of the soul and not related to the body. That is a bond beyond all bonds, isn't it so. Any devotee who wishes to live the sweet experiences and the vibrations of love, must imagine himself to be a Gopika. Must show the love of a Gopika."

That complete being laughed very charmingly.

"I know you are a poetess. I did not know you are such a great orator too. I know that there is a large heart of a poetess filled with the vibrations of love in you. But I did not know that you can express before me in such a lovely manner."

Bhadra's heart felt ecstatic at the shower of praises glowing in those teasing looks. The throat of that obedient woman quivered with great happiness.

"You are the motivation, encouragement, life force and everything for the poetry in me, for the power of oration in me, for the vibration of love in me and for the heart filled with poetry, isn't it? Will I be able to express feelings without your motivation, without you making me speak? Will I be able to even part my lips in your presence?"

She was aware that her feelings, that are unable to come out of the lips due to the vibrations of the heart, may become repetitive. Even then, the lawful wife of Bhagawan thought that in accordance with the wish of Swami, it is her righteous duty to divulge the wealth of feelings hidden in the inner recesses of her heart. Bhadra's heart is becoming lighter observing the satisfaction created from Swami's series of questions and the flow of details being given by her. She is becoming closer to her Lord through her soul. Bhadra is delighted for the good

opportunity of offering once again to her Swami, the feelings of the highest truth from the depths of her heart.

“Swami! Having understood the essence of Radhamadhava, there are no feelings of any jealousy and hatred towards Radha in me. Besides, identifying Radha Devi as the supreme deity, adoring her, taking that boundless love as the model and concealing her my heart, I could come so close to my Swami.

As a couple, as man and nature, as symbols for love, you are receiving worship from devotees. In the view of those who cannot understand, it is seen as a relationship of bodies, it is seen as a cheap relation, that provokes allurement. Even then I am unmoved. Can any kind of relationship with Bhagawan ignite in me the fire of jealousy and hatred!

I could grasp your all-pervading nature and your awareness as the indweller in all, being the symbols of the essence of Gopikas and Krishna in the divine dance sport. I am thrilled to see you in every Gopika and everybody in you. Can any relationship that is pledged with you, the indweller in all, ever ignite pain and suffering!

Swami, your married relationship towards your consorts will not create any kind dissatisfaction in me. Cannot create any discontent. Besides your conduct filled with responsibility, is a support to further develop devotion and feelings of surrender towards my Swami. I am not able to remain without offering my salutations with folded hands.”

She was cleansing the pure lotus feet of her husband with tears of joy. Unable to control her emotions, she was touching them with her lips. That supreme being at once holding Bhadra delicately, lifting her with love eagerly embraced her to heart.

“Bhadra! I was very much afraid for you. You are indeed so delicate. Your heart is very much like butter that is concealed safely for me. I was so much disturbed that having melted away in pain on behalf of Radha, you might be without a heart.”

Bhadra was observing the longing for more answers in the heart of her husband. Not because He does not know. But Bhadra having realised the responsibility of explaining, leaning her head over the shoulder of Sri Krishna, pleasingly said-

“I do not get moved by what others say, would I? I will worship the divinity of nature and man, won’t I?”

“I was disturbed that someday you might make your heart suffer on account of Gopikas. Because anyone from so many Gopikas… anyone looking at your universal beauty and feeling jealous…”

Bhadra, though moving very close to His warm heart with shyness, spoke firmly with unwavering steadiness.

“Any Gopika who speaks will be as per your resolve, isn’t it? That form is a replica of your form, isn’t it? Besides, I am aware that though you have been moving around with them, the fact is that you are the inviolate celibate. It is only to satisfy their wish, following their intent, in making them happy and to proclaim to the world about your Omnipresence, you played in the divine dance sport and not because you wished for it, isn’t it? Besides, will the supreme Lord have yearnings towards women? What is this union of you with another, when the entirety is

lying concealed within you? Your divine sport in the guise of a human is only an epitome for the unbound essence of devotion."

Embracing Bhadra more closely and as though not able to contain eagerness, Lord Narayana said softly.

"That is fine, but in your mother-in-law's house for now, in your presence besides you six fellow wives will be discharging the duties of married life like everyone, isn't it? All possible efforts will be made to keep the consorts happy. You cannot say no to these relationships, this married life, this truth that is visible to the eyes, can you? I have married so many in accordance to the law and with fire God as witness. Also, I do not know how many more I may marry. Watching all this you will not trouble your heart, will you? You will not melt away in tears, will you? Passing the fires of pining towards Me, you will not trouble the helpless Me, will you?"

Being bound by her love, being tied by her devotional feeling, being enthralled by her pure innermost heart, that Lord Jagannath Himself is expressing His love, like an ordinary human. He is wishing to know her heart. He is asking very innocently, charmingly, delightfully, as an ordinary husband. As though, He has no other world except herself. As though, there is no other wish except her happiness. As though, there is no other incident that can disturb His heart, except her suffering. As though, He is wishing for a solution for a problem, related with having many wives. An overwhelmed Bhadra, continued looking at that Lord Jagannath.

"Swami! I am aware that besides me, you have this vast universe. For me, you are my universe. Your universe too is my universe itself. Hence, it is not different. I have the faith that, in me besides myself, you can also see your universe. Swami! The entirety is filled with Sri Krishna, isn't it?"

It is very evident that her husband is wishing to know her heart thoroughly. This incident may be the prelude for some mighty scheme. The analysis of her feelings may become helpful in some big activity. This may be intended for pursuing some higher truth. It is not necessary to inform her everything completely at once, isn't it!

"Swami!" He softly closed her lips as she was about to say something. Bhadra appeared confused, looking at her husband who was attractively moving His head and charmingly blinking His eyes.

"Bhadra! You have been praying to Me since many years to call you 'Bhadra' just once from the bottom of My heart. You requested. Unable to hear My call, you accused Me. Your eyes were filled with tears. You became very sorrowful. That moment has arrived. From now on, every moment your ears will keep hearing My call, even if you do not wish for. Besides, there will not be that much distance between us any more requiring a call or a word. However, I too have a wish. Can you not fulfil that wish first and then tell the answer you wish to give?"

Bhadra could not understand.

Sri Krishna, who commands the universe, having a wish that has to be fulfilled by me? He immerses the entire creation of animate and inanimate with devotional feelings. He fulfils all the wishes of multitudes of devotees, just by His resolve. For that Bhagawan will there be any wish to be fulfilled? That too, to be fulfilled by me, all by myself. Am I that fortunate?

She folded both her hands. Filled with tears of joy, she was short of words. She wanted to say something but was unable to say. Holding Bhadra's hands softly said-

Observing the signal "Shall I ask?" in her husband's eyes, Bhadra requested her husband to ask, with her eyes.

"Bhadra! I have many relationships. Some are related with the soul, some with devotion and some with love. You are aware. A few more are also tied up with marriage relationship. Whoever may call by which ever name, if called with complete love I will answer. The call 'Swamy' is very close to Me. It has been moving My soul since eons.

However, it is your only one call made in your pining, in your love streams, in your unbound devotional feelings, with your innocent suffering heart, very often tearing the doors of My heart made Me ecstatic with sweet feelings. Until now no one ever called Me as a beloved, as a would-be better half with a heart filled with love, with heart full of love, as a female ruler of my heart and with feelings filled with love. I am looking forward to that call from you. That sweet addressing is not the call 'Swami'.

I am observing from the very moment you stepped into the room. When you address Me as 'Swami', the call is of an ardent devotee, a form filled with love and a feeling of service is conveyed. The sacrifice of selfishness is visible. The pure merging of devotion and love is feasting My eyes. The attitude of self-surrender is clearly evident. The tall peaks of highest truth are clearly distinguishable. The noblest feelings of surrender which ordinary can not reach are getting expressed. That is why I like that call.

But, you are a blood relation. You are the one who owned Me with love more than devotion, with affection more than love, with adoration more than affection, with self-sacrifice more than adoration. You are the replicate form of Sri Devi who dwells in My heart. Only you are capable of fulfilling this wish of Mine."

Bhadra had no energy to face and withstand her husband's conversations filled with love and those affectionate glances. He embraced her more closely. That divine sport in human form as though wishing not to increase Bhadra's suffering further, softly, very sweetly vibrated near her ears like the notes from the flute.

"That is! Instead of saying Swami, the call 'Bava' from you is very dear to me. Any relationship that is established owing to this body will not call Me in this manner, isn't it. No other consort has that privilege and such exclusive relationship, isn't it?"

She was about to say something in that ecstasy. She was about to open her eyes wide and look. Sri Krishna showering kisses on the eyes of Bhadra looked at her charmingly with love.

Bhadra's very tender lips appeared making small movements stopped in hesitation.

Sri Hari smiled briefly.

"I have understood your doubt. You are about to ask regarding Mitravinda, the daughter of aunt Raja Devi, isn't it?"

Bhadra's eyes flickered innocently in reply.

“There is an uniqueness in Mitravinda. She displays an outlook of friendship in her behaviour. The privilege she takes is different. The boldness she shows is different. The way she moves Me itself is so different. Mitravinda may also address Me in this manner due to the relationship. However, the virtue of Lakshmi in the lovely form of My Bhadra is very dear to Me. You are the boon from Durga Devi. You are born with the grace of the Goddess with three eyes, as a divine aspect of Sri Maha Lakshmi. Through Srutiranjani, a very close friend of Saraswati Devi you have excelled in extraordinary literature, music, dance, painting and all other sixty-four art forms. You are endowed with power and strategy, vast knowledge, learning, humbleness and with the full glow of the splendour of Lakshmi Devi. This exclusive combination is a rare instance in this creation. You being that rare one, your birth itself is for My sake, for accomplishing a purpose. For a very secretive mission. Besides, more than that you have the power of intent to face difficult tests bravely for My sake, though you are so delicate.

You are one who is filled with devotion and exceeded that by assimilating the feeling of love.

You are a form filled with so much love, multitude times than that, is your capability of distributing the essence of devotion. Above all, having studied the essence of love, you are in the process of assimilating the essence of Krishna.

You are the soul in the soul of Rukmini Devi, a worthy ideal to follow, glittering as the crest jewel among all the consorts. You are the form of her soul.

Bhadra! While you were a baby in the cradle, a flute studded with nine precious jewels was given to you affectionately. Inadvertently holding it on your lips you filled it with rubs of your little breaths. Hearing those sweet notes all the relatives and people around were astounded on that day. Abiding as the breath in your breath stabilised in you long ago, I am yours. At the time of the ritual of initiating solid food, you selected My idol three times. You continued meditating on that idol. That form was growing in you. In the beginning you made that form sleep on the doll’s bed made of thin old cloth, singing lullabies. Later, you married it performing wedding of the dolls. Without leaving it even for a moment from you, made it sleep next to you. Holding conversations, having amusing pastimes, embracing to heart, sharing warmth, took Me very close to you. You are the most innocent. You are so soft that a mere touch will tan you. You are My very dear beloved. Your very call ‘Bava’ creates in Me, the experience of hearing the unique composition of numerous flutes. Those two letters in this call that you address, with such closeness that no one else has, creates a divine experience that I have never obtained. Foments sweet love in Me. Well, call Me Bava once.”

Lord Jagannath Himself was asking fondly, cheerfully, anxiously and affectionately. Bhadra’s creeper like body quivered. Felt ecstatic with surprise and happiness. A right that is formed due to the relationship is enjoyed in that call ‘Bava.’ That call with certain authority, fair amount of love, further closeness is delightful. After forming the bond with the tying of the three knots, there would be further responsible behaviour and diverse distinct limits following the traditions. By recalling all that, she is no longer at liberty in addressing Him as Bava, which she used to call until now.

But for her Bava the call ‘Bava’ is so dear to Him. He is opening His mouth and asking for it with delight. Bhadra felt that there is no need to feel hesitant any more.

Resting her lips on the ear of Sri Krishna, with overindulgence, in a low sound, sweetly, softly, anxiously, happily, whole heartedly, gently addressed Him as Bava in ecstasy. She satisfied Swami's wish to be addressed not one time, three times and demanding more. That beautiful form with the flute, became ecstatic with that call that is so dear to Him and with the sweetness in that call.

"Come again! Call me once more" saying thus getting addressed repeatedly satisfied His wish.

"Say now. Address with the same call," unable to withstand the divine love in her Bava's satisfied look, bowing in the temple of Swami's heart-

About to say "Swami!", said "Bava" without inhibition.

Bhadra recognised the flash in the eyes of her beloved, no sooner He heard that call. She could call once again whole heartedly… several times again and again.

Bhadra is appreciating the new unusual splendour in her call. It is becoming clear that the closeness she had earlier, the authority she gained now and her Swami's ever-growing wish, are giving to the call Bava coming through her, a special capability of reflecting an auspicious and a divine authority with affection.

"Bava! You are the charioteer of the eternal righteousness. You adhere to those traditions. Though you are formless, for you who is Omnipresent, have only relationships related to the soul and do not have bonds towards the body. However, even for God, having taken the form of a human, bound by the society's rules and observing the duties of the world, you value tradition bound customs. You stand as an ideal worth adoring by everyone. You perform noble acts. You remain as a witness while following righteousness. Becoming the establisher of the righteousness of the era, examining it is your duty.

"Bava! You are the charioteer of the eternal righteousness. You adhere to those traditions. Though you are formless, for you who is Omnipresent, have only relationships related to the soul and do not have bonds towards the body. However, even for God, having taken the form of a human, bound by the society's rules and by observing the duties of the world, by valuing the tradition bound customs, by standing as an ideal worth adoring by everyone, by performing noble acts, by remaining a witness while following righteousness and by establishing the righteousness of the era and to examine it is your duty.

You are the Bhagawan who is following that righteousness as is. Rukmini Devi wished you through her heart. She imagined you to be her husband through her heart, word and action and loved. She worshipped you. She requested to be accepted as a lawful wife. You are the indweller in all. You are the form of all souls. You have accepted her through a righteous battle. You have married her in accordance to the scriptures. You have accepted her as a consort. You are fulfilling your prescribed duties as a husband.

She wished for you. She is the crest jewel of beauty of the universe. She is the very Sri Devi residing in your heart. Even then, you did not fulfil any acts of married life with her in haste, it was only after the marriage. You are such a great follower of good traditions!

So also, with Jambavati Devi. You have accepted her on the request of her father Jambavantudu. You accepted Sathyabhama who was offered to you by her father Satrajithu as a compensation for wrongly accusing you. Kalindi, the daughter of Lord sun developed liking for you and wanted only you to be her husband. For that reason, you held her hand too in marriage. Having grasped the wish of Mitravinda, my sister who developed a liking for you, made her your own. Nagnajiti wished only you to be her husband. As a boon for the good merits earned by her in previous births, you made her too your consort. You fulfilled the strong wish of each one. You made them your lawful wives to fulfil their wishes according to the good merits earned in previous births by each one.

You made all of them your own only after the marriage. You were aware that, they are the forms of love pining for you. Their pining in separation created suffering in you, heart ache in you. But, you waited for the appropriate time. You fulfilled the rituals of marriage as per the tradition. Though you are the witness for all, though you are the creator you conduct yourself as an ordinary householder. Accepting the blessings from elders, traditionally tying the Mangalyam, you are conveying for many generations, the importance of the duty of the householder.

Under no circumstances you showed haste. The inner significance in your behaviour is only to convey, not to be hasty. In my case too, if you had wished, you residing in me could have manifested. You could have accepted my union being offered only to you, did you? You could have made this young woman who had self-surrendered to you, as your own. You could have bestowed the unending happiness wished by me, did you? But you did not bestow, did you? You tested me. You made me wait.

You have protected my chastity like a divine celestial flower. You safeguarded me on your own. You have defended righteousness. Unable to see the intensity of my pain, you pacified me in the form of Subhadra with indescribable calming affirmations. As per my wish rambling as a valiant in the battlefield and conquering the enemies victoriously you held my hand. You accepted me as your better half. Only after accepting isn't it, me in this way…"

Bhadra who was continuously talking until then, was carried off by Sri Krishna's touch, became ecstatic. In that exceptional condition needing no words, she leaned over the heart of Sri Krishna. Bhadra continued with excitement, with enthusiasm, with surprise and with happiness in a state of indefinable ecstasy. She held the hand of her husband who was about to serve and stopped him charmingly.

That attractive form with the flute looking fondly at Bhadra smiled beautifully.

"Bhadra! Except Rukmini all other fellow wives experience boundless happiness with my services. They also repeatedly wish for my services in many ways."

There was no visible change in Bhadra's expressions.

"You and Rukmini are reacting and responding in the same manner."

Bhadra looked without batting an eyelid at her Bava, who was talking as a responsible husband, as one tied up by relationships with many wives.

"Bhadra! Why are you looking in that manner?"

“I am trying to understand your divine play Bava!”

Sri Krishna smiled very sweetly.

“You are the exalted personage capable of satisfying whoever seeks your shelter and whoever worships by fulfilling all kinds of wishes of each one, with any kind of wishes, isn’t it? I feel immensely happy for comparing me with sister Rukmini. However, only the forms are different, the one present in all of us is yourself Bava, isn’t it? You who is formless, have assumed the body for our sake. In the same way, we have been created by you for your purpose. You are the shining life, the light form within us, isn’t it Swami! Only as per your resolve, wishes are created in us. Only as per your resolve, even our wishes are fulfilled. That means, all your wishes are being fulfilled only by you. You, who are the embodiment of knowledge and bliss, are experiencing the spiritual bliss, isn’t it Bava! Under such situations who should feel jealous on whom? Developing jealousy and hatred on my Swami Himself is inappropriate, isn’t it? That would be impropriety against God, isn’t it?”

The virtue of Lakshmi that is so dear to Him is questioning in the form of Bhadra. She is discussing the same subject that is on His mind. Bhagawan Sri Krishna was filled with unbound happiness. He was unable to suppress His wish of repeatedly listening fondly to Bhadra’s pleasing words.

“You said that you felt, as a husband I am appropriately fulfilling my duties. Very happy. Then as a wife, fulfilling of your duties might have been taught to you by your aunt and uncle right from your childhood. That way, I feel your aunt and uncle are fortunate, aren’t they?”

The answers of the queen of His heart to the questions from the Omniscient, give the impression as though He is answering Himself. It appears as though, the soul is conversing with the supreme soul.

“Bava! The refinement from previous lives, the fruits of merit from previous lives, impact of upbringing by parents, the feelings of devotion that I inculcated towards you, the essence of love filled by you in me, the capacity to accomplish my allocated duties by myself, made me mould myself. No, no, only you in me improved my worthiness of becoming your better half. You moulded me in the manner you wished.

Bava! In a manner to uphold the fame of the family and the name of the parents, with the wealth of virtues, with devotedness, with series of noble qualities, with feelings of devotion towards you, with abundant possible love, I transformed for your sake, as a pure flower worth worshipping your feet.

Swami bless me to walk along your footsteps as your better half, to properly accomplish the duties of a chaste wife in a manner, that will bring fame to chastity itself and become realised. My aunt Devaki Devi is a crown jewel among chaste women. She is a fortunate woman to have you as her son. Swami bestow on me the worthiness that will double their fame and esteem.

My gems like sisters are very fortunate to become the consorts in the kingdom of your heart. Swami bless me that I can occupy an equivalent throne along with them and continue keeping steady this unbound love and affection towards them. Swami, bless me with the ability to conduct knowing the worthiness of others, the patience to serve my people, to give judgement

in accordance with the soul and in accordance with the world and that those capabilities should remain steady in me."

Bhadra Devi, an embodiment of womanhood with her purity is glowing like a spotless lamp. She is standing at the preeminent state to appropriately apply all powers, to all types of species and bestow happiness and peace. She is with the form of the supreme Goddess, who can bestow relief from this and other worlds and to attain eternal bliss for all living and non-living beings. Standing in the position of Vijaya Lakshmi, she is offering a feast to the eyes of Sri Krishna. Looking at His Sri Devi, at His consort, at the true form of His Bhadra Devi to His heart's content, was very much pleased.

Bhadra's eyes reflecting patience, love, forgiveness, kindness, compassion, sympathy and other noble qualities are fascinating. In her obedience, humbleness, respect, tenderness, goodness and above all simplicity are clearly visible. Along with the combination of these noble qualities, interwoven with her is the shining divinity, purity, worthy adorable stature and auspicious divine form, which are making the supreme Lord Sri Krishna Himself spellbound.

The courage, bravery, generosity, sense of honour that are lying hidden in Bhadra, matching with His standard are enthralling the supreme Lord.

The form of love in Bhadra is the essence of love that is beyond description. It is the ever-glowing devotion towards her husband. It is the devotion for God which is not possible even to ardent devotees. It is the essence of knowledge which is not achievable even to yoginis. It is knowledge gained through worship. It is the service with devotedness. These made the wonderful heart of Bhagawan Sri Krishna ecstatic.

He, the doer in all, the custodian of all, the witness for all is feeling happy for His right resolve revealing so beautifully in Bhadra's form.

The form of the great power with all her mighty powers manifested in Bhadra Devi and in a moment merged in the eyes of Bhagawan.

In the next moment embodiment of love took the form charmingly. Bhadra who was in trance, was once again touched by Krishna's delusion. Her husband's voice vibrated very softly.

"Bhadra! You are coming away from your parents house with Me. I have the confidence that you can face and withstand any type of unavoidable circumstances."

That Lord Jagannath Himself, as a responsible husband is showing grace in this manner on her, who has stepped in the place of a house wife. An unknown happiness opening its feathers danced in Bhadra's heart.

"I am stepping into the house of mother-in-law with honour, into a place that I have dreamt about, that too having acquired the fortune of worth becoming your better half. How many will have such fortune, Swami. In that sacred temple in the very presence of Bhagawan, will there be any possibility for misunderstandings and confusions?

"Bava! Only when you are not in my presence, I am dissatisfied. Only when not hidden within me, there is confusion. The interpretation for the nine types of relationships was told by you. You created that necklace and decorated my neck, didn't you? For me who has become close with such significant bond, will there be anything I wish to have in this world? Will there be any

insufficiency? My only duty is to serve you through my heart, through my words and through my actions. And that is my duty. Worshipping you is my daily ritual. I will make my life blissful by constantly supporting in the efforts of your goal. I will make my life purposeful by making your heart exuberant. I will continuously make my own awareness sacred as a partner in your life. Swami, I am the blemish less who has offered herself to you long ago.

All I wish is to serve when you return exhausted. However, the reasons for your tiredness is not my concern. I will not question you and your actions. You are the powerful, who can prompt an answer in me, for a question that is about to surface in my mind. It is my firm belief that every thing is as per your resolve. I wish to offer services to you, who is deeply immersed in the creation of the universe. If you bestow the power and appropriate worthiness in me, if required I wish to make efforts to delight your heart. I wish to touch your lotus like hands, that are exhausted in conferring blessings to the devotees, with my hands very softly and give relief with my warm lips. I wish to wash your lotus like feet, that have become sore due to moving around the earth, heaven and other worlds, with my tears. I wish to pat them with my warm lips and worship them with my flower like heart. I wish to lightly press your feet and relieve your tiredness. I will consider all these as my daily activities. I will accomplish with love. Leaning my head on your tired heart, I will bring relief to you.

You have conferred this fortune on me. Bless me that the same fortune will be secured for me in all future lives. You have the entire universe hidden in you. Always give a little recognition for the place I have in you. Grant a secured place in your heart for your Bhadra. I feel, a fortunate woman like me is rare in this creation. Make this true.”

Bhadra, unable to control her excitement and outburst was expressing to Him, feelings of her heart and bowing at His feet. He held her by shoulders with love. He affectionately held those soft hands and lifted them to His eyes and kissed.

He experienced that gentle warmth contentedly. Held it to His lips. Gifted the warmth of His lips in return. Embraced her to heart. Honoured the place of His residence in Bhadra’s heart with a touch.

He conveyed not in words but through His looks and actions, that He has received all her offerings, that He has accepted whole heartedly, that He has whole heartedly bestowed all wishes and blessings more than she wished for. He, who is competent in restrain and grace, could communicate convincingly.

It was time for the merger of the soul and the supreme.

It was time for the nature to unite with the supreme being. That alluring form, spreading wide His broad shoulders, is welcoming Bhadra into the cave of His heart. It was time to increase His pines with Bhadra’s excessive pines, and then with His pines of separation ignite Bhadra’s pining fire and unite. Even then, by observing self-control with patience and restraint, He offered a new definition for the married life itself. He offered a new explanation to the significance for the most memorable first night. At the time of the merger of Bhadra and Lord Jagannath, the Trinity with their respective wives were engaged in pleasing conversations.

Various types of flower creepers with beautifully blossoming flowers are mesmerising by spreading their fragrance. Shying away from the wind God, pretending more shyness, the

creepers closed up. The bees making possible attempts to suck the honey getting tired drooped on those very flowers with tipsiness.

After quite some time –

Looking at Lord Jagannath, who was about to pickup the white whisks to fan Bhadra Devi, who is exhausted and resting in Sri Krishna's arms, the wind God spread cool breeze filled with fragrance. Different types of flowers blooming in ecstasy, joining in competition with the wind God, allured Bhadra and Krishna. The tunes of cuckoo were coupling with the buzz of the bees. The inspired peacocks were dancing, carefree.

"Bhadra!"

Bhadra, immersed in ecstasy hearing her husband's call dripping with love, looked with half closed eyes.

"Can you tell your response to our union?" Being in that ecstatic state, she is not able to reply to her husband who is asking so pleasingly.

"Otherwise, I will tell. You can say yes or no after listening."

She conveyed to Him to tell, by flapping her eyelids.

"The form of the soul that has been separated from the form of the boundless soul with the resolve of the supreme soul, is wanting to gain it's original place once again and wanting to merge in the form that supreme soul. I could see in you that soul experiencing the unimaginable anxiety, pain and quest for happiness. I saw in you, the same anxiousness and the speed of a wave that has come rushing away from the sea, struggling to reach back to the sea with same anxiousness and speed. I could see in you the majesty, the gracefulness and agreeableness that I very much love and respect**.** In uniting with you, I experienced the response to the pines of your separation that I went through."

Bhadra became ecstatic with the accolades from her husband.

With such exceptional happiness that tender heart touched the edges of limitlessness. She realised the real intention of the limitless. Bhadra who was lying close to Sri Krishna, immersed in her thoughts with her eyes closed, heard whispers in her ears as though plucking the strings of her heart.

"Bhadra**!** Will you not tell your response?"

Bhadra replied to her husband's request.

Sri Hari's eyes were keenly looking at the hidden feelings in Bhadra. "Bava**!** At the auspicious moment when the soul unites with the supreme soul, the soul leaving its individual identity dissolves in the supreme soul. At such a moment, will there be feelings left in the soul other than supreme soul? Where will they come from? My response is your response, isn't it so**!** The response from the supreme soul for the offering of the soul and the feeling of the soul for the acceptance by the supreme soul, will they be different from each other Bava? However in our union, I have observed a few more aspects.

Lord Jagannath was looking innocently as though not aware. Bhadra charmingly looking at Him, smiled sweetly.

“In that moment, at the same time, I realised your infinite divine conjunction. I saw with my own eyes your union with your consorts, the unity of Radhamadhava, your alluring divine sport immersed with Gopikas and the divine acts that you are conducting, all at the same time.

While I was feeling that you and your entire creation appeared to be entering in me, I realised that along with me all that entirety is entering back in you. I realised that everything is an assemblage of brilliancy. Swami, I realised that you are everything and that you are everywhere.

I saw your complete radiant form that is submerged with creation, sustenance and annihilation, without a beginning or an end.

I saw your nature of giving protection to those who are in distress, that protects your multitude of devotees every moment.

I saw the might of your divine play in giving staunch support to each and every one at every moment.

I saw the pines of separation that you experienced for me like a true lover. You have ignited the fires of separation in me. You have showered love and affection on me. We struggled every moment like an eon, to unite with each other. Even though there was an opportunity for uniting within reach, I saw the ability of your steadfastness in establishing restraint in me. I saw your resolve to make it known to the world about my character.

Bava! You are the indweller in all. That is why I saw you everywhere. You are the form of the soul. You shine in everyone’s soul. You are the embodiment of happiness who always follows everyone who believes in you. You are the manifestation of love, making each one feel that you only belong to them, making them happy, fulfilling their wishes, you show them the path towards the realisation of the soul. Your resolve gives immense happiness.

Swami! It is clear to me. You are verily residing in me. You will always be with me. You manifest by a simple wish. You make me a contended woman. You make me happy. You delight me. These feelings may appear same in all those fortunate ones, who with unbound devotion, with the feeling of love, who meditate upon you every moment, worship and revere you. You may also create the feeling in each one that Lord Jagannath is only their Lord. You do create it.

You are the most auspicious form. You are the divine form. All the elements in the body are your divine attributes. You, who are responsible for the entire creation, created me for your purpose.

You who is the very form of preeminent yogi, bound by love, surrendering to the adoring love, for the prosperity of the universe, for preaching the eternal righteousness, you once again became a householder for my sake.

In return to the devotedness offered with love by your devotees, you are ready to offer yourself going to any extent, by a mere resolve.

Swami! All that I have come to know with the nine types of devotional feelings is only self-surrender. It is not about reflecting on others, but only you in thought, word and action. I

don’t need anything else in your creation, excepting you. Not required. However, though rarely, I used to be overcome by your delusion. It used to create ignorance. It used to develop ego. It used to incite jealousy and hatred. It used to create aversion. It used to develop abstinence for not seeing you. It used to increase the pain in my heart for not hearing your call.

But they were all, only momentary. Every time, the unbound love in me used to grow further. The allure, inclination and affection for you used to expand several folds. It used to be anxious to unite with you, the most accomplished spiritual yogi. It used to be eager to melt in you, the complete being.

Swami! I do not have any wish to gain liberation by venerating you through devotion, knowledge and yoga. I am in that state, where I cannot live even for a moment without you, your meditation and your proximity. I do not know what type of explanation you will offer me, for this state of this insignificant woman.

I could see the manifestation of your form in every atom in all sentient and non-sentient things in the world. I could realise that the entirety is composed of Krishna.

You are in Radha, you are Radha. You are in Rukmini, you are Rukmini. You are in all consorts. You are, all consorts. You are in Gopikas. You are the Gopika women. You are me, I am you. After knowing that you are the indweller in all, who is present at all times everywhere, then where is the place for jealousy? Swami, whom should I feel jealous of?

Should I feel jealous of you? Can I feel? Is there a sense in me feeling jealous about myself, except feeling ignorant?

I have gained a mighty God as my husband, who can protect me by all means. I bow my head and abide by the order of my husband, who commands the universe. I will continue to have peace in the security of my husband, who is the protector for the universe. I will continue to gain the entire streams of love, of the embodiment of love, who loves all beings. You make everyone contended. I will continue to gain matchless contentment in your presence as your better half. Due to your resolve, I have been bestowed with the fortune of worshipping the Lord Jagannath as my husband and be liberated.

Your eternal nature is beyond limits. I am aware that, I should not imagine the truth that I could realise a little, as eternal nature itself. It is like standing before the ocean, take some water in hands and with that in the folded palms, imagine taking the ocean itself. The attempt in imagining that I have understood your essence, is like the ignorant feeling of having caught the limitless atmosphere in one’s own fist. Kindly pardon me whole heartedly, if I have spoken wrongly due to the freedom given by you.

Swami! Have I the ability to understand your entirety completely? To imagine that I have understood your nature, is ignorance. To imagine that I can explain it is arrogance. Investigating your nature is difficult to achieve. Enquiring your nature, is exceedingly unachievable.

That is why Swami! by repeatedly asking me, you intentionally made me tell the small amount of feelings that I have understood, and I was hiding them in my heart.”

‘Swami…Bava’ Bhagawan Sri Krishna continued looking at Bhadra who was confused with unease.

Love and affection that are beyond description are overflowing in Bhadra's form filled with love. In those lotus eyes every atom is reverberating with the devotion beyond imagination. The love of many mothers is showering in Swami's form and in His kindness. There is a burst in the flow of affection of a responsible father.

The manner in which even Lord Jagannath changed as Bhadra's husband is becoming evident. He was completely contended by the impact of the inner struggle, that He wished through her inner self. That mystical happiness beyond imagination, reflecting in her husband all at once made Bhadra short of breath. In that lovely woman the wealth of feelings as per the inclination of Sri Krishna, blossomed in series like the wishing tree in paradise. Her extraordinary restraint to go beyond the worldly wishes, the exceptional wisdom that Bhadra is showing in the investigation of the essence of Sri Krishna, that humble oration, that rare vibration filled with love made Sri Krishna spellbound.

Bhadra is a charming woman. In the presence of Him, who is beyond delusion, she is a deluded woman. For Bhadra, it is a divine merger of abundant devotion and love. As an offering to Swami in the pretext of Bhadra divulged the interpretations for the distinct attributes He wanted to make them clear to this world. As an offering to Swami in the pretext of Bhadra divulged the interpretations for the distinct attributes He wanted to make them clear to this world. As a pretext of Bhadra's offering to Swami, He divulged the distinct interpretations, to make them clear to this world.

In the responsibility of establishing the righteousness, Bhadra's role is foremost. In His heart, Bhadra occupied a permanent place. The resolve of the one, who makes the world rejoice was accomplished. The glows of the moonlight coming forth from the brief smiles of happiness from the one, who accomplished His resolve, are spreading all over the universe.

The nature woman dissolved in the supreme being.

That chaste wife united with her husband.

She recognised her awareness in the supreme being.

This soul melting in the supreme form merged with her Swami.

In the supreme being the nature woman dissolved … dissolved … dissolved.

***

Garland of Opinions

Many illustrious individuals have offered their appreciation about the treatise ‘Bhadra Kalyanam’ and about the exceptional flow of thoughts into expressions of rich words by the writer Dr. K. V. Krishna Kumari. Following are the translated extracts from the original Telugu version.

1) Divine Resolve

Bhadra Devi, the crest jewel among virtuous woman is the principal female character for this new treatise, unknown to anyone till now. This wonderful treatise is about the exceptional way in which she actualised her life. Hearing about her virtuous attributes, the principal male character chooses and marries her. The treatise beautifully describes the feelings of both for each other.

Dr. K. V. Krishna Kumari, who is well known to the world of Telugu readers as ‘Krishnakka’ is the fortunate writer, from whose pen this treatise has streamed. This motivation was created in her by Sri Sathya Sai Baba. This treatise describes the way in which Bhadra Devi, a pleasing personality, a woman with noble conduct, an assemblage of virtuous attributes, could impress Bhagawan Sri Krishna. This treatise shows how she could obtain Lord Jagannath’s admiration, how they were affectionate towards each other and were ideals worth emulating. It also vividly describes the attributes of their hearts. It is only Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai’s resolve that has given a form to this treatise through Krishna Kumari Garu. Every word in this treatise is expressed only by the resolve of Swami. This forward has been written by Swami making me an instrument.

– Dr. Gollapudi Girijasankar

2) Personal Respectful Representations

This Bhadra Kalyanam written through the motivation created by Swami is a noble transformation, a divine awakening in the life of our Krishnakka Garu. Such is the strength of Swami’s resolve. It is my staunch belief that, there will be divine awakenings and noble transformations, even in the lives of all readers of this treatise. The support for my belief is only the complete faith I have on Swami’s resolve.

Bhadra Kalyanam as a pretext and selecting Krishnakka as an instrument, it is Swami’s resolve to explain once again, the prime essence that is like a divine protection, for the subsistence of mankind. An essence that is true at all times and eternal. An essence that is ideal and shining with mutual attachment and affectionate bonds. An essence that touches the heart of today’s society pleasantly and beautifully.

The modern society in adopting to new cultural traits is struggling to sharpen the mind. The human values that must be deep rooted in the heart, are unable to recognise love, truth, righteousness, peace and others. The ultimate objective of life is to practice the significance of these values every moment in our daily life. To make us remind this through this auspicious treatise, particularly the last chapter, is the absolute evidence for Swami’s resolve.

Swami is the indweller in all. Nothing happens without His resolve. Swami's resolve is for the auspiciousness of the world. Whoever does whatever activity, it is a part of the service to Swami. For the little service done by me, Krishnakka showered praises affectionately. That is not due to my eligibility but because of my fortune and the resolve of Swami. I humbly accept them as abundant blessings.

These are my personal respectful representations to Swami and to all of you who are fortunate to be addressed by Swami as 'embodiments of love'.

– Acharya Vangapalli Viswanadham

3) Swami's blessing to Bhadra Kalyanam treatise

Assurance of blessings:

'When women who are yet to be married read with reverence Bhadra Kalyanam treatise, starting on a Thursday and completing it on the next Thursday, will certainly get married and be successful' is the blessing given by Bhagawan.

Bhadra Devi is Bhagawan Sri Krishna's better half who wished for Him, made Him wish for her and married Him. She is the cherished daughter of the king of Kaykaya, daughter of Sri Krishna's paternal aunt. Moreover, she is the symbol of the individual soul who could make even Sri Krishna, the supreme soul to experience the pine of separation. She is a fortunate woman, who going through the changes as a devoted woman, as a woman pining in separation, as a yogini, as a female ascetic and finally offered herself to Bhagawan. In Geeta, Sri Krishna the supreme soul, explaining about the aspect 'who is dear to Bhagawan,' describes those attributes. Bhadra Devi is the humble woman who had completely absorbed all those attributes. The pain that great seers undergo to reach the supreme soul, living in the hearts of eminent yogis with eagerness to understand the essence of Bhagawan, the ardent devotion that made Sri Krishna run with unbound essence of love, are all personified in Bhadra Devi.

Bhadra Devi is the real meaning for pain and a purpose for creating history. Her natural amiability, devotion, seeking refuge, ardent devotion, unbound love, selfless service, are worthy ideals to follow, not only to virtuous women but also for devotees and sincere enquirers. Begining with devotional ecstasy, growing with contemplation on highest truth, Bhadra Devi achieved a culmination. An ideal for those striving for salvation. That constant remembrance, pine in separation, self-sacrifice, unity are for merging, has been very well explained by the principal female character Bhadra Devi.

– Dr. G. Girijasankar

4) Marriage Splendour

The essence of Sri Krishna is a great mystical energy that transforms the relationship between man and woman to spiritual heights. Without the awareness of the essence of Sri

Krishna, it is not possible to appreciate the rewarding rich thoughts of spirituality. The sensation of love, which is a form of the sweet pain experienced by the self in reaching Bhagawan, in attaining Him, in merging with Him is a divine relationship between Bhagawan and the devotee (self). The feelings of attachment towards God expressed in the lives of the ardent devotees like Meera Bai and Sakkhu Bai, were acknowledged with only essence of love. Those chaste women did have husbands. If observed from the view point of married life, they were noble chaste women. The obligations of the body and mind belong to the family life. While pure love related to supreme world, follows the path of devotion to merge with Sri Krishna. That is the merger of souls. In other words, the souls of the husbands of virtuous women like Meera Bai and Sakkhu Bai, were also of the same embodied spirit. In the relationship formed between Meera Bai or Sakkhu Bai with Bhagawan, there is no relevance of gender. Being in pristine awareness without gender bias, is pure love. In common parlance, love means selflessness and having serene good feeling without ego.

“Love is God. Live in Love. Love is selflessness” says Swami. In short, Sri Krishna is an embodiment of love. His devotees are worshippers of essence of love and followers of love.

There are essentially five aspects of the essence of Lord Krishna to be known by the people of the mundane world.

The first aspect is about the relationship of Gopikas with Sri Krishna. The second aspect is about the relationship of devotees like Uddhava, Arjuna, Akrura etc. The third aspect is about the relationship with Yashodha and other mother like forms. The fourth aspect is about the relationship with Rukmini and other consorts. The fifth aspect is about the relationship with Radha.

These five aspects are the five attributes that exist in a devotee as five expressions. If deeply thought they appear as the following.

The effort to transform ‘Annamaya kosa’ to ‘Anandamaya kosa’ is the trait of Gopikas.

The effort to transform ‘Pranamaya kosa’ to ‘Anandamaya kosa’ is the trait of Yashodha.

The effort to transform ‘Manomaya kosa’ to ‘Anandamaya kosa’ is the trait of Rukmini and other consorts.

The effort to transform ‘Vigyanamaya kosa’ to ‘Anandamaya kosa’ is the trait of devotees such as Uddhava, Arjuna and Akrura.

The effort to transform ‘Anandamaya kosa’ to ‘Brahmanandam’ – eternal bliss is the trait of Radha.

The goal of all these five traits is to merge in the essence of Sri Krishna.

The unique honour of merging with Sri Krishna embracing all the five traits belongs only to ‘Bhadra Devi’, prolifically narrated in ‘Bhadra Kalyanam’.

In the spiritual precepts, it is believed that, Sri Krishna is the supreme soul and the individual soul is enshrined in the body. The eight consorts of Sri Krishna are assumed as the eight organs in the body, including the five sense organs, mind, memory and ego. The 5 organs of action (Hands, Legs, Vocal cords, Genitals, Anus), 5 organs of perception (Ears, Eyes, Tongue, Nose,

and Skin), Mind, Intellect, Ego, Memory, Gross body, and Subtle body add up to number 16. The number 16 is just an indication. The number 1000 indicates numerous. This essentially means that the Sri Krishna who is the supreme soul is playing through the 16 organs in numerous subjects. This is the spiritual essence of Sri Krishna's ecstatic dances with 16,000 Gopikas.

If the soul is identified as Sri Krishna, then Rukmini is the Mind, Sathyabhama is the Ego, Bhadra is the Consciousness. The other consorts Jambavati, Kalindhi, Mitravinda, Naagnajiti, and Lakshana are the organs.

'Mana eva manushyanam Kaaranam bhandha mokshyaho'

Accordingly, the Mind is critical and at the centre. Rukmini is in the first position amongst the eight consorts. When the nature of the Mind is good and serene, then pure love sparkles through it. However, Rukmini could not steadily realise the supreme soul within herself. She could contain the attributes of all living beings easily through her good nature. Rukmini pondered over and as though explaining said to Sri Krishna "I am aware Bhadra Devi, who is glowing with all my attributes is beloved to you. Her nature of unbound devotion is the reason for your intense love." Sathyabhama, who was possessive and always wished that Sri Krishna to be only with her, symbolises the attribute of good-natured ego. Jambavati and the other consorts wished that the Sri Krishna always remain in their clasp, which symbolises the attribute of good-natured sense organs.

– Acharya G. V. Subramanyam

5) *Sri Krishna's blessed form – Krishna Kumari*

Dr. Krishna Kumari is a well-known doctor and a popular writer. She is a very learned woman with noble qualities. Her heart is dedicated to Sri Krishna. Krishna Kumari has no other wish except devotion to Sri Krishna. She is a virtuous woman. For those who have read Gopika Geeta, Venu Geeta, Bhramara Geeta, Mahishi Geeta, Sruti Geeta from Srimad Bhagavatam will come to understand the universal Lord Sri Krishna. His glories are worth knowing, to be meditated upon and to be remembered. It will create only ascetism and they will not be attracted by other subjects. They will be free from all worldly pleasures. These five types Geeta will create affection towards Sri Krishna. The essence of these five took the form of 'Bhadra Kalyanam.' Bhadra became the leading female character in it.

Some may have a misconception that 'Bhadra Kalyanam' written by Dr. Krishna Kumari is a treatise of passion. It feels that the writer was watching Bhadra Devi's love, her pines in separation, her worship and wrote about them. The lead female character was always presented before the eyes, as an audio-visual commentary.

As said in a stanza in Srimad Bhagavatam, with whatever feelings the devotees keep contemplating Bhagawan, to bless those devotees Bhagawan taking a form appropriate to those imaginations, makes their imaginations a reality. It is to be recognised that all the imaginations of the devoted Krishna Kumari are only true as per the above stanza. That means, all those

praises of Bhagawan described looking inwards by the intellect granted by Bhagawan will become only real.

In Bhadra Kalyanam, Krishna Kumari guardedly and very attractively painted the state of the heart of a devotee, filled with love. While Bhadra Devi is about to be a bride, endless low-spiritedness is increasing in her heart. That is the wonder! As the low-spiritedness increases, the experience of Sri Krishna's grace increases abundantly in her. She becomes anxious to further gain that grace. That virtue may have been passed on by Kunti Devi, her mother's elder sister. True low-spiritedness is experienced during the maturing stage of love. That constantly keeps developing. Both love and low-spiritedness mutually become 'action and cause for action.' The form of love is known only to the one, who loves. Recognising the low-spiritedness of Gopikas, Sri Krishna remained with them for ever. In the same way acknowledging the low-spiritedness of Bhadra Devi, Bhagawan became her husband.

- Sri Utpala Sathyanarayana

6) Prosperity Everywhere

Bhadra, one among the eight consorts of Sri Krishna, having surrendered to that supreme soul, adored Him. She is a blessed woman like the shining Radha and other Gopikas. Adopting Bhadra's exclusive adoration as the theme, Dr. K. V. Krishna Kumari wrote Bhadra Kalyanam treatise. That has been written as per the direction of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, today's incarnation of love. The treatise has gained the approval of Bhagawan. That is the good fortune of the writer.

Only Bhagawan Baba would know the purpose in making Krishna Kumari to carry out this task. Krishna Kumari may perhaps know a little of it. People like us will not know its inner significance. For a person like me, who has read this treatise I understand the beauty of the language, the stringing together of words, the correct weaving of the story, the multi-coloured feelings, patronage of characters, the intensity of the emotions, the way of expressing them and such other simple aspects. To ask a person like me with such knowledge, I can only narrate a little.

– Acharya B. Ramaraju

7) Bhadra Kalyanam – Universal Prosperity

To those devotes who read this treatise like a holy book every day, it will give each one of them good fortune in a unique way, without differentiating their sex or age. Acknowledging that reading Bhadra Kalyanam gives protection to devotees, is not an exaggeration. Swami Himself has given the boon that, as a reward to those who read this treatise, they will achieve success in their effort and young girls will get married. It is said by elders that 'a treatise provides

prosperity to the entire world.' Is there a need for any other proof to say that this treatise provides prosperity?

Krishnakka has the expertise of writing every incident making them appear before the eyes, in her own fault free, easy to understand style. Along with this, like adding glitter to gold, is her service attitude. As a doctor she is doing relentless service in providing relief to many patients with psychological and physical problems. For her, earning money is not an objective. She is keeping her own health at stake. She continues to offer social service keeping in view the human values. In totality, she is a complete person. That is the reason why Swami must have selected Krishnakka to write the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. This is my strong belief.

We cannot but be surprised that Krishnakka completed writing this treatise in 30 days, in spite of her worldly duty as a doctor without any free time. It is only the motivation and direction from Swami, concentration of Krishnakka, uninterrupted dedication and devotional feelings appear to be the reasons for achieving this noble activity.

Sri Krishna's essence of love is seen in Swami, who surrenders only to love, is an embodiment of love and one whose form is love. He is the incarnation of love who wishes only love. He is the form of love who pines only for love. He is a slave of love, who bows His head only to love. Sri Sathya Sai, the incarnation of love and the essence of Sai, has been indeed arranged beautifully in these sentences.

That devotion will develop from love and further love will develop from devotion, is the essence of Sai. He made Bhadra narrate this beautifully. 'My devotion is along with love. My love is full of devotion'. How pleasing is this mutual relationship!

Reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam by Students (meaning, all those who seek the real knowledge including young, old, ordinary, scholars are all students in the presence of Swami) is an essential duty. This is not just a book to be read, it is an acclaimed treatise to be studied.

Offering my humble salutations at the lotus feet of Swami, as an ordinary human, I have a humble prayer. This rich treatise should not be limited to only people knowing to read Telugu. This should be translated in to different languages. May He create an opportunity to people from all languages in the world to consume this nectarine treatise and become blessed!

By that the statement ''a treatise provides prosperity to the entire world' will become completely significant towards this treatise.

May the entire universe by happy.

- *Acharya Pochiraju Bhimasankaram*

8) Bhadra Kalyanam – A Bhagawad Geeta about the four objects of life

Giving a divine interpretation to the relationship between husband and wife of their married life, being narrated by a Krishna, who has not experienced a married life, is indeed a divine play of Swami. It is my understanding that Bhagawan has bestowed this right to this devoted woman.

Among the eight consorts of Sri Krishna, the celibate inviolate, Rukmini believed in His feelings, Satyabhama believed in His form and Bhadra Devi believed in His essence.

Traces of the relationship of husband and wife can be observed, in the feelings of Rukmini's focus on goodness and in the feelings of Satyabhama's high levels of passion. The same is also evident in Jambavati.

Bhadra as a wife, thinking about the essence of Krishna, could perceive Krishna in the entire universe. She did not hold the form of Krishna as the basis. The devotion in Rukmini ended as knowledge in Bhadra.

It is my firm belief that Bhadra Kalyanam is a boundless exposition of a devotee, without the distinction of a woman and a man, like 'A Bhagawad Geeta about the four objects of life.'

Aspect of Bhadra

It can be comprehended through Bhadra Kalyanam that, eons may change, caste and traditions may change, variations may occur in country, time and place, but the condition of gaining success in the state of a devotee, remains the same. The patronage she had for her body at the worshipping state, becoming self-surrender in the state of a soul, reached the step called 'knowledge is the supreme.' On reaching the higher state 'Thou are That' she realised the essence of Vishnu in the soul. On reaching the state of steadiness, 'the universe is filled with Vishnu,' she recognised that, delusion and Vishnu are not different. She recognised the complete absorption in devotion, non-violence and love. On reaching the state of eternal bliss, uniting with Vasudeva she changed to 'I am That'. By discarding the worldly knowledge, she obtained eternal happiness. By obtaining the essence of the soul, she gained the state of absolute bliss. In that state Bhagawan, Bhadra and peace are not different. Reflection of that is love. That is the perceptible experience gained by Bhadra.

– Dr. Kasibhatta Satyamurty

9) The Path of Bhadra

Truly human life itself is music of Krishna. Sai's message is about human existence in the present time. In this rare setting, the pine of separation, essence, victory and celebration are happening unitedly. The orderly collection of the magical, secretive, sweet textual songs is Bhadra Kalyanam. The wave of feelings is the devotional potion overflowing from the shelter of the soul. It a splendour of affections.

Bhadra experienced this entire journey, all this trouble with her body. In the world of her feelings, she could see, touch and converse with the supreme soul. She took the form of a soul which has no birth and death, no attachment for having relationship with others and without any impressions. Becoming the invaluable life-force with abundant intellect, she too became a part

with the feeling of the supreme soul and merged. That means united. All souls are Bhadra. All lives are that of Subhadra.

The journey undertaken so far as Kumari Krishnakka, is the food sheath (body).

The present achievement 'Bhadra Kalyanam' as Krishna Kumari, is the sheath of blissfulness. This creation of the essence received through the compassion of Bhagawan Sathya Sai, is beyond the worldly vision, within the grasp of vision of knowledge.

This treatise is the path of Bhadra.

Bhadra Kalyanam has already gained publicity being worthy of appreciation by scholars as well as ordinary people, being an object of faith, being a bridge for relationships. A new search in the modern literature, like a newly blossomed reddish fragrant water lily.

While reading Bhadra Kalyanam, it is a delightful Advaita, on the completion of that experience it is a gratifying Advaita.

As a soul, as Bhadra, living through inner self, feeling it, she reached the state of bliss which is truly eternal and immortal. Amongst all, she is the blessed. That is why she is Bhadra.

- Sri. V. S. R. Murty (for seventh edition 15-3-2004)

10) Bhadrachalam – Bhadra's Marriage

Auspicious blessings to Dr. K. V. Krishna Kumari. I have received the excellent treatise which is extending the glow of Bhadra through Swami's auspicious blessings. It has added beauty to happiness. I immediately browsed through your treatise. It is very fine. I am reminded of my daughter Kalyani. Truly your treatise Bhadra Kalyanam has excelled like Bhadrachalam. While reading Bhadra Kalyanam every moment I am reminded of the poem 'our good-natured Kalyani, spreading goodness angel' written long back and also reminded of my daughter Kalyani. May Swami's motivation bless all of us constantly.

- Sri. Ilapaluri Panduranga Rao

11) View point of Bapu

Dr. Krishna Kumari, I have received your treatise Bhadra Kalyanam which is filled with emotions. Immediately on receiving the treatise, made me complete the reading in one sitting. My heart filled compliments for such a beautiful and pure treatise. Whatever Swami does or gets it done gives only happiness, isn't it! You have developed this Bhagavatam up to the marriage of Bhadra with Sri Krishna. Now if He graces you must show about Sri Krishna of Bharata. In the play 'Tulabharam' sage Narada tells Sathyabhama 'You are thinking that the supreme soul to be your husband, Rukmini Devi thinks her husband is the supreme soul.' I felt like sharing this thought as you are also a devotee of the Goddess like me.

12) Bhadra Kalyanam – An endeavour for this world and beyond - (for Ninth edition)

Dr. K. V. Krishna Kumari, who has written this treatise Bhadra Kalyanam is well known to the Telugu literary world as Krishnakka. This treatise written in Telugu dialect of every day usage is read as a sacred scripture.

On hearing the name Bhadra Kalyanam, two topics come to mind. ‘Bhadra’ which means ‘security’ and ‘Kalyanam’ which means ‘marriage or auspiciousness.’ Besides it can be understood as Bhadra Devi’s marriage. Who is this Bhadra Devi? She is the wife of Bhagawan Sri Krishna, the form of Sri Maha Vishnu who has incarnated with all His sixteen virtues for the upliftment of the world. Dr. Krishna Kumari is a devotee of Krishna. With that devotion and with the grace of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai she could visualise Bhadra Kalyanam through her mind’s eye and write. Dr. Krishna Kumari has been leading her entire life in devotion to Krishna, in community service, in the company of pious and good-natured people. It was possible only for her to write this treatise.

Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai blessed that, to those who read this treatise regularly as a prayer, their sorrows will end, will get all auspiciousness and will acquire happiness.

A few friends of mine have benefitted by reading this treatise as a prayer. My friend Sri. Sankar Narayana, presented this treatise to Sri. Dixitulu, who recovered from his ill health. This is also included in this treatise in a letter form. Such incidents are many.

I wish that all devotees will read this treatise Bhadra Kalyanam written by Dr. Krishna Kumari, regularly as a prayer and fulfil their wishes, be secure and gain auspiciousness.

- *Sri Chembrolu Bala Venkata Subramanya Sastri*

13) Bhadra Kalyanam – Srimad Bhagavatam (for the ninth edition)

While reading Bhadra Kalyanam, felt the sweet nectarine love of Gopikas who have surrendered their entirety, the power of the supreme, the nectarine music of the flute with the life breath making Brindavanam swing. This complete nectarine love created ecstasy.

Bhadra Devi’s pure, serene, blemish less, self-less love, for herself surrender, for the pining of her heart, Bhagawan Himself comes over and accepts her.

Magnificent style. Every letter with true essence of love, with pure essence of devotion, moving the hearts, takes them to the Dwapara yuga and immerse the readers in sweet devotion. Writing such treatise is not possible, except for the one who has the complete grace of the supreme.

Recently when I visited Sri. Upadyayala Satyanarayana’s house in Los Angeles, I saw the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. He said with great happiness ‘that by reading this treatise they all became very inspired. Krishna Kumari has also written about you in this treatise. It seems you have clicked her picture with Swamy. It’s very nice.’

His happiness also gave me happiness.

When Dr. Krishna Kumari requested for an opinion about Bhadra Kalyanam, I was speechless for a moment. Though I do not practice much in Telugu, I felt it is Swami who made me utter the above sentences.

Bhadra Kalyanam is a divine treatise inspired by that complete incarnation of love. It is immersed with love, a sweet essence of love. It is a nectarine essence of Advaita that can win the heart of Bhagawan with love.

The number nine is very dear to me. The offering of the words in my heart for the ninth edition as a token, is only due to the inspiration of Swami, only due the resolve of Swami.

– Dr. Chowdhary Oleti

14) Separation leads to Union

Getting experience means to view both the physical state and emotional state, not separately but together in the same state. For this Bhadra is the symbol.

While reading Bhadra Kalyanam, pages from scriptures beyond imagination opened in my heart. Bhadra wishes for Dvaita but Bhagawan wants Advaita. Along with Him Bhadra also should experience that inexplicable feeling in the union. This is the blessing of the Deity of the deities. Imprisoning herself by the relationship with that Krishna, with attachment and affection and thinking that He is away, Bhadra used to pine in separation for the grace of His presence, touch and conversation. Srutiranjani's words and statements beautifully express her magnificence with anxiety and her charm with affection. It is difficult to mention the numerous angles from which the writer has painted Bhadra Devi's pines of separation. The reason being, Bhadra Devi's responsive actions.

Describing Gopala, a definition of love as 'Swami an embodiment of love who surrenders only to love. An incarnation of love who wishes only love. A form of love who pains only for love. A slave of love who bows head only for love. A form filled with love who melts in love' these words evidently are the declarations of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. In fact, this treatise belongs only to that relative of love.

When love takes the downward movement it becomes physical, materialistic and worldly. Experience of love is a step towards an upward path and not for downward movement. When that love proceeds with an upward movement it takes the form of the state of Advaita, a state of eternity. 'Where is the separation from you?' says Rukmini to Sri Krishna.

Sri Sathya Sai keeps saying 'If the amusement from the divine play of Sri Krishna becomes a swing, if it becomes a stable mind without other thoughts, then there is no separate soul, the entirety is filled with Madhava.'

For those who have read this treatise from the beginning to the end, may have had experiences beyond imagination. Devotion and love like the two sides of a coin, appeared all through the treatise.

Above all, I have only one thought. How fortunate we will be, if all of us become Bhadra at least for a moment. I wish that those who have read this Bhadra Kalyanam, will live by going

beyond jealousy and hatred, by meditating on the Deity of deities as their life breath and become blissful.

- *Dr. K. N. Ratnakar*

15) Showers of nectar from Advaita

This Bhadra Kalyanam written by Sai sister Dr. Krishna Kumari, is a pure divine treatise. This is a magnificent treatise. Krishna Kumari who remained single for Krishna, revealing through words, the pain she has kept securely over many lives and offering it at the divine lotus feet of the incarnated supreme Sai Krishna, became blessed. She became renowned to the multitude of Sai family members.

In the inner recesses of the heart of our sister Krishna Kumari is a heaving pain, accumulated over many lives. That aspect is known only to the Deity of deities, the compassionate Bhagawan Sathya Sai. That is why, with the fortune of the grace of His presence, with those glances conferring compassion, with sweet smiling conversations, with the smile of the moonlight of multitude moons, made all at once that pining in separation, that pain, that penance in her towards Bhagawan, swell and overflow like an ocean of milk, burst in to a stream of marriage composition in this manner.

Earlier, it was said that, if young unmarried women read ‘Rukmini Kalyanam,’ they will get married. Now, this Bhadra Kalyanam has obtained such auspicious blessings. Swami said, ‘if you read Bhagavatam you will prosper.’ Now “Look in to any home, reading this treatise seems to be the only way for the marriage of the unmarried women!”

In this treatise about marriage, one can experience in every atom the presence of Krishna, the presence of Sai Krishna, like the fragrance of sandalwood.

Once I said to sister Krishna Kumari, “you have elaborately described and developed the narration about Bhadra Devi’s marriage, which is briefly mentioned in Bhagavatam. You have merged with the character of Bhadra, isn’t it?” for which she said, “all of us are Bhadra, isn’t it so?” Yes, it is true. For Sri Krishna’s grace, Bhadra Devi experienced so much pine of separation, so much pain, so many troubles, so many nightmares. We are also in similar state for the grace of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai.

The relationship between the nature and the supreme being, the unity of the soul and the supreme soul, about the sweetness in their pines in separation, the auspiciousness in their merging have been vividly described as ‘showers of nectar from Advaita,’ sweetly, pleasantly with beautiful expressions by Dr. Krishna Kumari. Bhagawan Baba blessed her saying ‘Be prosperous.’ The nectar of Sai and the story of Krishna both have united. That is why, this has become ‘Sai Krishna nectarine story.’ Let us all become blessed by drinking this nectar. Many grateful salutations to sister Krishna Kumari for giving the experience of wandering in hundred flowery gardens.

- *Dr. Jandyala Sumanbabu*

16) Bhagawan's Blessings of Love for 'Bhadra Kalyanam' (for 18th edition)

One of my patients said that after reading Bhadra Kalyanam her daughter's marriage was fixed. Immediately I took the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam and placed it in Swami's shrine and took it back. That night opening the treatise, I was astonished. In the first page and at the place where Krishna is in the form Yogiswara in the treatise there was Vibhuti (sacred ash) and Kumkuma (vermillion powder). I completed reading in one day. I was surprised at the glory of the treatise.

In the month of March 2006, in the temple we heard Krishnakka speaking to a group of devotees, about her experiences in Australia. We were immersed with wonderful feelings in deep meditation. In those nectarine words filled with love and devotion, we were hearing only Swami's statements. This is a response out of an experience.

Seeking Swami's blessings for the eighteenth edition of Bhadra Kalyanam, Krishnakka decided to hand over two prints to Dr. Sagi Sathyanarayana (Organiser of Sri Vijaya Sathya Sai temple, Committee Member, SIMS Hospital). He kept the two prints in Krishnakka's room itself and wanted to take them with him when he goes for Swami's darshan in the afternoon. Meanwhile he got message from Swami to get the prints for Swami's blessings. Immediately he rushed to Swami with the prints.

Swami kept one print near Him. He was looking at the other print with love, watching intently and glancing at each picture for some time. He was gazing at the pictures which Swami made Sri Goli Sivaram paint. He was looking at the picture of Sri Krishna as Yogiswara with concentration. Saying "happy, very nice" opening the first page magnificently wrote with His index finger (without a pen), what appeared was "WITH LOVE BABA" letters written in green ink. They were written like charming strings of emerald. Swami sent a beautiful huge garland along and the treatise with the doctor to Krishnakka. Receiving our letters, Swami offered His divine blessings. I was fortunate to put that garland around the neck of Krishnakka. My daughter Kavita clicked a few pictures. Krishnakka shared with us the food that was partaken by Swami from the container. We are blessed.

"Did Bhagawan tell to give anything more!" as a reply to that question, doctor requested Krishnakka to hold her palms and filled them with Rudraaksha (holy beads). A few of those beads rolled over to the ground, which we received as Swami's grace.

In a way, the divine story with highest truth of that Dwapara yuga, in the present Kali yuga, Swami making Krishnakka to write, blessed her and the devotees.

"All of us are only forms of Bhadra" saying it repeatedly and stressing, Krishnakka seeing Bhadra in all became blissful. Seeing Bhadra in her, we too feel blessed.

Every time while reading the treatise many new interpretations occur. The institution of marriage which should be sacredly respected is becoming chaotic to a large extent today. The relationships that have to practised sacredly are getting disrupted. The lack of understanding is destroying the family traditions. If that should not happen, then how should the husband and

wife behave? How should they mould their lives being responsive to love, filled with affection and with a nature of giving?

For many such questions Sai Krishna gave us clear answers through Bhadra.

Swami bestowed a great divine message to humanity for a complete married life appropriate to this age through this divine treatise and made us blissful. He continues to make us blissful.

Received once again through Krishnakka, Swami's nectarine message about developing and sharing the essence of universal love and thereby making lives purposeful.

Making me as one of the witnesses for Swami's blessings of love, particularly to this eighteenth edition, Swami bestowed me a miniscule place for the feelings of my heart in this divine treatise.

I am blessed.

– *Dr. Malladi Sathya Kalyani*

17) Swami's initiated treatise with syllables of nectarine love drops

From 1st to 5th June 2006, I was participating in the Sri Sathya Sai mobile medical service in Puttaparthi and later went to Bangalore for Swami's darshan. Dr. Satya Kalyani and Srimati Jayasri accompanied me. There seeing Krishnakka near VIP rooms at 11:00 A.M. felt very happy. During the discussions in Krishnakka's room while mentioning about the 18th edition of Bhadra Kalyanam, she explained the value, significance and sacredness of the number 18. Saying "any way you will be going to Swami, so give one print to Swami and on the second print get Swami's blessings" Krishnakka placed two prints of Bhadra Kalyanam in my hands. I took those prints and informed her that I will offer the prints to Swami, during the evening darshan at 3:00 pm.

On seeing Turmeric powder, Vermillion and Vibhuti (sacred ash) from the printed books the devotees were ecstatic.

Meanwhile received a message from Swami. "Those who wish to obtain blessings on their treatise can come."

I was not ready to miss this divine opportunity. Immediately I took the prints of Bhadra Kalyanam given by Krishnakka to Swami. On entering the room, Swami took those prints of the treatise. Looking at every picture in the treatise with a brief smile turned the pages. "Very nice" I saw Swami's face reflect with a brief smile filled with love.

"Swami, please write your blessings."

For the prayer of Krishnakka in me, with a brief smile Swami wrote something in the book with index finger. I did not know what He wrote. What is He writing! I thought.

On receiving the treatise, I was filled with ecstasy.

Along with Vibhuti “WITH LOVE BABA” in green charming letters were seen. I folded my hand to Swami for fulfilling Krishnakka’s wish in this manner.

Swami kept one print of the treatise with Him. Along with the treatise He blessed, taking the divine garland from the idol of Vinayaka, directed me saying ‘give it to Krishna.’

Krishnakka receiving that garland and the treatise that has been blessed, could not control her emotions and happiness. Her feelings of emotion are beyond description. It was evident that she worshipped the indweller with flowers of tears.

Dr. Satya Kalyani and Jayasri were elated. Dr. Satya Kalyani decorated Krishnakka’s neck with the divine garland sent by Swami. I captured that scene with my camera. We will never forget that divine experience. For Swami, who can erase the destiny written on our forehead and rewrite it, to get drops of nectarine blessing written on Bhadra Kalyanam which was written as per His resolve for the benefit of the world, will there be a need for a ‘pen’!!!

We are blessed for being the witness to Krishnakka’s fortune. It is only as per Swami’s resolve that I am writing about my experience after so many days.

- Dr. Sagi Satyanarayana

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Inward Journey

Marriage is a sacred and perfect merge of two souls, both representing divine aspects.

To transform the relationship between husband and wife beyond physical and emotional limitations to spiritual heights through divine love, should be the goal of one's life. This theme has been very subtly brought out by Dr. K. V. Krishankumari in her treatise titled "Bhadra Kalyanam," a divine inspiration by Swami.

Narrating the fathomless spiritual experiences with ease in a story form, is the creative genius of Dr K. V. Krishnakumari. In brief, this is about the spiritual journey of Bhadra, Sri Krishna's paternal aunt's daughter, from being in physical love to merging with Sri Krishna the supreme soul, as a devotee. This story is about that journey, with extraordinary preparation and inward expanding wisdom.

Importance of relationship

Elaborating on relationship Swami says "Good character is very essential not only for ladies but for gents too! If only one has character, you can call them a man or a chaste woman. Today, we find boys and girls moving very close and behaving as though they are husband and wife. But for how long? Only for a short period. Thereafter, the situation changes. Once they are married, the boy will be somewhere, and the girl will go somewhere else. However, there will be no change at all in the divine nature. It is customary to exchange diamond rings between a boy and girl when they marry. The diamond ring, which is a permanent object, is symbolic of divinity, which is changeless and is available to people at all times. We should safeguard our character like a diamond. It is the custom of even overseas people to exchange diamond rings at the time of marriage. Thus, there is a meaning in every custom and tradition not only in India but in all countries."

"Love is God. Live in Love. Love is selflessness" says Swami. In short, Bhagawan Krishna is an embodiment of love and His devotees are worshippers of eternal love.

Swami says "It is a common practice in the country of Bharat that a girl after her marriage goes to her in-laws' house to live there with her husband and in-laws. The lady of the in-laws' house is referred to as 'mother-in-law' in the English language. But Mother Parvati is 'Mother-in-love' for the whole world. 'Law' is a word relating to the world, whereas 'love' refers to one's heart. Hence, first and foremost develop love. Consider love as your everything. It is only then that you would have led a fruitful life".

Five aspects of Bhagawan Sri Krishna

Our scriptures declared that there are five sheaths (kosa) enveloping the soul of an individual. The outer most sheath is 'Annamaya kosa'- the physical body, followed by 'Pranamaya kosa' - life, 'Manomaya kosa' - mind, 'Vigyanamaya kosa'- intellect, and the innermost sheath being 'Anandamaya kosa'- bliss. This concept can be appreciated by referring to the following illustration.

The essence of Bhagawan Krishna has been brought out in a simple yet profound way by Acharya G. V. Subramanyam in his study of Bhadra Kalyanam treatise.

There are essentially five aspects of the essence of Bhagawan Krishna to be known. The first aspect is about the relationship of Gopikas with Bhagawan Krishna. The second aspect is about the relationship of devotees like Uddhava, Arjuna and Akrura etc. The third aspect is about the relationship with mother Yashodha and other elders. The fourth aspect is about the relationship with Rukmini and other consorts. The fifth aspect is about the relationship with Radha. These five aspects are the five attributes that exist in a devotee as individual traits.

The effort to transform 'Annamaya kosa' to 'Anandamaya kosa' is the trait of Gopikas.

The effort to transform 'Pranamaya kosa' to 'Anandamaya kosa' is the trait of Yashodha.

The effort to transform 'Manomaya kosa' to 'Anandamaya kosa' is the trait of Rukmini and other consorts.

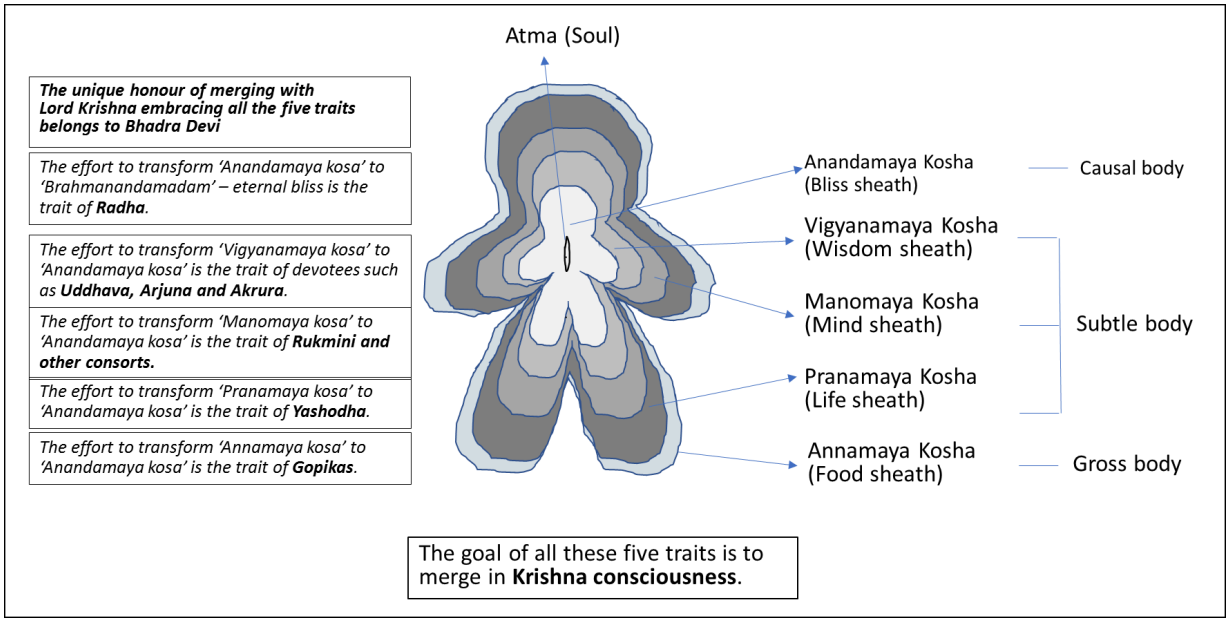
The effort to transform 'Vigyanamaya kosa' to 'Anandamaya kosa' is the trait of devotees such as Uddhava, Arjuna and Akrura.

The effort to transform 'Anandamaya kosa' to 'Brahmanandam' – eternal bliss is the trait of Radha.

The goal of all these five traits is to merge in Krishna consciousness.

The unique honour of merging with Bhagawan Krishna embracing all the five traits belongs to 'Bhadra Devi', prolifically narrated in 'Bhadra Kalyanam.'

This concept of five traits can be appreciated by referring to the following illustration.



In the spiritual process, Bhagawan Krishna is supreme soul and the individual soul is enshrined in the body. The eight consorts of Bhagawan Krishna are assumed as the eight organs in the body, including the five sense organs, mind, memory, and ego. The number 16 is just an indication. The 5 organs of action (Hands, Legs, Vocal chords, Genitals, Anus), 5 organs of perception (Ears, Eyes, Tongue, Nose, and Skin), Mind, Intellect, Ego, Memory, Gross body,

and Subtle body add up to number 16. The number 1000 indicates numerous. This essentially means that the Bhagawan Krishna who is the supreme soul is playing through the 16 organs in numerous subjects. This is the spiritual essence of Bhagawan Krishna's ecstatic dances with Gopikas.

If the soul is identified as Bhagawan Krishna, then Rukmini is the Mind, Sathyabhama is the Ego, Bhadra is the Memory. The other consorts Jambavati, Kalindhi, Mitravinda, Naagnajiti, and Lakshana are the organs.

Accordingly, the Mind is critical and at the centre. Rukmini is in the first position amongst the eight consorts. When the nature of the Mind is good and serene then pure love sparkles through it. However, Rukmini could not steadily realise the supreme soul within herself. She could contain the attributes of all living beings easily through her good nature. Rukmini pondered over and as though explaining said to the Bhagawan Krishna "I am aware Bhadra Devi, who is glowing with all my attributes is beloved to you. Her nature of unbound devotion is the reason for your intense love." Sathyabhama, who was possessive and always wished the Bhagawan Krishna to be only with her, which symbolises the attribute of good-natured ego. Jambavati and the other consorts wished that the Bhagawan Krishna always remain in their clasp, which symbolises the attribute of good-natured sense organs.

Bhagwan Sri Satya Sai Baba while explaining about five sheaths (punch kosas) said, "You are verily the embodiments of bliss and happiness. Is it not sheer ignorance to search for bliss and happiness in the external world when they are very much present in you? True spiritual transformation lies in understanding one's own real nature. The pure Atma is enveloped by five sheaths; and due to its association with these sheaths, it acquires their traits.

The physical body is referred to as the Annamaya Kosha (food sheath). The atma associated with gross body in its waking state is called 'Viswa' as it is endowed with jnanendriyas and karmendriyas (organs of perception and action). As this body is involved in various external activities, it is also known as Vyavaharika. Thus, the Vedas have given various names to this sheath which comprises the sthula sareera (gross body).

The Pranamaya Kosha (life sheath), Manomaya Kosha (mind sheath) and Vijnanamaya Kosha (wisdom sheath) form the sukshma sareera (subtle body) as they are not visible to the naked eye. Mind in its subtle form is all-pervasive. That is why it is said, '*Manomoolam Idam Jagat'* (mind is the basis for the entire world).

Anandamaya Kosha (bliss sheath) refers to the kaarana sareera (causal body). One should go beyond all the five sheaths in order to experience bliss. This state is known as turiya, which is beyond sushupti. This refers to the Mahakarana Swarupa (supreme casual aspect). This is Paramarthika (the ultimate spiritual principle). The bliss experienced in this state is true bliss. This bliss cannot be obtained through the senses, mind, or intellect.

Further, there are five types of kleshas (obstacles), which come in the way of experiencing this bliss. They are: Avidya Klesha, Abhinava Klesha, Asthitha Klesha, Raga Klesha and Dwesha Klesha. Man is unable to have the vision of the Atma and experience atmic bliss due to these five kleshas.

One who has excessive attachment to the body suffers from avidya klesha, which leads to various desires and diseases and makes one's life miserable. The abhinava klesha arises when

one does not exercise control over one's mind. Man gives undue importance to the body and gets carried away by the vagaries of the mind and as a result is put to suffering. The asthitha klesha arises out of interest in worldly pleasures. The raga klesha results from attachment towards wealth and material objects. The dwesha klesha arises when one's expectations are frustrated, and desires are not fulfilled. Some devotees worship God expecting something in return. They are happy if their desires are fulfilled or else they will start hating even God. They do not enjoy the fortune on hand. On the contrary, they desire for something more which they do not deserve. Thus, they are subjected to distress. The five Kleshas can be understood by referring to the following illustration.

Today even the relationship between mother and child, husband and wife and between one brother and another are marred by 'dwesha' (hatred). The sheaths other than Anandamaya Kosha put man in bondage and subject him to kleshas. In order to understand the principle of Paramarthika, one should get rid of the mind or at least have control over it and gradually give up body attachment. The body is made up of five elements and is bound to perish some time or the other. But the indweller has neither birth nor death. He does not have attachment or bondage. Truly speaking, the indweller is God Himself.

Respect Women

Swami immensely respects women. It is only due to the presence of virtuous women that morality is still prevailing says Swami. There are no divine personalities greater than the women who gave birth to the incarnated men who appeared from the places of holy pilgrimage.

For that reason, women should further develop divinity. Swami preaches that a woman should develop goodness, love, affection, and magnanimity to become an ideal house keeper, mother, wife and enhance her self-image.

Shyness, modesty, respect, good nature, generosity are the natural ornaments of a housewife. Taking exclusive care of women personified in divinity, with reverence is the responsibility of men ordains Swami. Swami's feelings towards the womanhood, being His own nature, were glowing with a mix of infinite devotion and ample love. Swami reincarnated 'Bhadra Devi' again. The pure love worship merged with the flawless divine feeling of Bhadra. Embedded with generosity it was glowing beautifully.

Going beyond the cultural boundaries 'Bhadra Devi' could present herself today as a mirror to the early Krishna consciousness and the present Sai Krishna consciousness.

Knowledge of Man and Nature

Swami observes that besides the knowledge about man, it is essential to have knowledge of nature with its attributes. Because, man without nature and nature without man cannot exist. Nature itself exists in supreme consciousness. The existence of the entire universe is due to interactions between Iswara and Iswari. Knowledge of these two is essential to know the ancient knowledge. For one who attains such knowledge, there is no rebirth.

In the past Bhagawan Krishna and in the present Swami gave us the significant explanation about the unity and affection between man and nature, about non-duality being the foundation of creation, about attaining that divine condition and about the fortune of that divine result. The relationship between husband and wife is not just physical. It is the sacred bond of individual

consciousness with supreme consciousness, a bond of man and nature. Swami conveyed this important message through the author in the treatise ‘Bhadra Kalyanam.’

Turaga Kamaraju

Devotees' Divine Experiences and Beliefs

Swami is the symbol for the essence of Sri Krishna.

This chapter is included for the convenience of devotees to share their divine experiences, after reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. For this edition of the English translation, devotees experiences in connection with health and marriage have been included, as per Krishnakka's suggestion.

1) Swami personally gave me Bhadra Kalyanam treatise

– Dr. Sishtla Jagadiswar Prasad, Kakinada

I retired as a Gynaecologist from the Government Hospital at Kakinada. My husband Dr. Prasad also retired as Principal from the Medical college at Kakinada. In the month of February 2010, we attended the medical camp at Puttaparthi. Every day we were getting the divine opportunity to be in Swami's presence and receive His blessings in abundance. One day while sitting in the line as Swami was approaching us in a wheel chair – felt Lord Siva approaching, mounted on His carriage Nandi. I felt ecstatic. While Swami was blessing, I felt some object being thrown forcefully in my direction. That object fell in my lap. I felt it was an indication from Swami with a message to read and I looked at it with surprise. In my lap was Bhadra Kalyanam treatise, written by Dr. K. V. Krishna Kumari. My eyes were moist with happiness. She is our relative, also a relative of the Supreme Soul.

2) Srimati Rayasam Sakuntala – Hyderabad

I retired as a college principal. Recently while visiting my son in Dallas city in America, I took seven copies of Bhadra Kalyanam treatise with me. There in the Sathya Sai Shrine, people purchased the copies by paying in dollars. I calculated carefully and kept it safely in a sealed cover. On returning to Hyderabad when I checked, the dollar amount had doubled. I was astonished. Who could have kept the extra dollars in a sealed envelope?

My son's name is Ramu. With a wish that my daughter-in-law, be promoted as a bank officer, all three of us read Bhadra Kalyanam. With Swami's grace both got promoted.

3) Srimati Eturi Vani Seshagiri Rao – Hyderabad

My father Ayyagari Virabhadra Rao who retired as a station director of AIR, is a devotee of Shirdi Sai. He had translated the book 'Shirdi Puttaparthi' in to many other languages. I read Bhadra Kalyanam treatise wishing for my second son's marriage. On the very day of completing the treatise, that afternoon, an appropriate marriage proposal was presented, as though

searching for us, which was beyond our imagination. With Swami's blessings, the marriage was performed in a grand manner. My son received many compliments at his work place. In Kakinada Rangaraya Medical College, my husband was the professor of Bio Chemistry to Dr. Krishna Kumari. We offered our gratitude to Dr. Krishna Kumari. We offered our grateful salutations to Swami.

4) Srimati Annapurna Krishna Kumari – Hyderabad

I started reading Bhadra Kalyanam while looking out for marriage proposals for my son. A very good proposal came, as though in search of us. With swami's divine blessings the marriage was performed in a grand manner. Swami instructed us to hand over copies of Bhadra Kalyanam treatise to those with problems and to the unmarried. We humbly obeyed Swami's instructions.

5) Ayyala Somayajula Venkatarao – Hyderabad

Our only daughter Leela Pavani completed her MBBS, GRE and TOEFL. I went with my daughter to Dr. Krishna Kumari. She gave a copy of Bhadra Kalyanam treatise to my daughter and asked her to read with devotion and blessed saying that as per her wish she will get fellowship from Laredo University. It happened the same way. We were speechless with surprise. We held Bhadra Kalyanam treatise to our eyes with reverence. Swami's resolve and Swami's grace are boundless.

6) Kovvuri Rama Devi - Hyderabad

My sister Prasanthi lives in Canada. She has Anxiety Neurosis. We have been on the lookout for marriage proposals for her, for a long time with no success. My mother started reading Bhadra Kalyanam treatise with a lot of anxiety. On the third day itself, a good match was finalised, and the marriage was performed. Both are now well settled in Canada.

7) Panati Sivajyothi – Hyderabad

My brother Kandati Sadartha returning from Puttaparthi after participating in a service activity, placed Bhadra Kalyanam treatise in my hands, said that it is a gift from Swami. Within a week of completing the treatise, my marriage was fixed. The bride groom is a chemical engineer. Me being an engineer was welcomed in to the family without any conditions. The most precious gift that Swami bestowed on me through Bhadra Kalyanam is my husband.

8) Saraf Kirti – Atlanta, USA

I am been suffering past six years with severe ill health. Recently the doctors diagnosed me with brain tumour. All of us felt miserable. We came to know about the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam through Dr. Laxmana Murthy, Swami's devotee from Warangal. I read Bhadra

Kalyanam treatise with great devotion. Doctors were stunned looking at the MRI scanning reports. It was a normal report.

9) Gannavarapu Venkata Ramana Murthy, Lakshmi Devi – Vijayanagaram

Vandana is Swami's devotee. She had strong wish to marry our son (her cousin). She read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. With Swami's resolve their marriage was performed in Vijayanagaram in a grand manner. Krishnakka attended the marriage and blessed them.

10) Podali Narasimha Murthy – Chennai

I am working as a superintend at a medical institute in Chennai. My wife is a lawyer. My daughter had a wish to marry an engineer. Her wish was fulfilled immediately after reading Bhadra Kalyanam.

11) Kalidindi Sitaramaraju – Ganapavaram (Nindrakollu)

We were anxious about the marriage of our daughter. Srimati Kusuri Appala Narasamma (Hyderabad) gave us the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Sarada completed reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Her marriage was fixed immediately. We performed her marriage in a grand manner.

12) Kotra Ravikumar Koushik – Nallakunta, Hyderabad

My health got affected beyond imagination. My weight was steadily increasing. My body was retaining water and swelling. I could not talk. I could not swallow. Pain in the heart, breathlessness and unable to walk. A busy person like me went into unconsciousness. All at home panicked. Tests were done. Seeing the report my sister-in-law and Dr. Krishna Kumari were stunned. Immediately they sent the reports to my other sister-in-law Dr. Hemalatha in Canada. It was diagnosed as a dialysis case. Triglycerides at 705? What are those cholesterol levels? They advised me to be admitted to a hospital before drifting to coma. I understood that my condition is very serious. However, I had unusual confidence. A confidence that Swami will protect me. I had a vision of Swami in drowsiness. He gave an assurance. My sister started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Only as per Swami's directions I had applied for MBA to a college in Banjara Hills. Then will Swami not take care of me? I had kept a copy of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam close to me. 'Nothing will happen to Ravi. He is not taking enough rest. Health will improve by taking medicines regularly' was a message from Swami that I received. One day passed. I got the tests repeated at Vijaya diagnostics. Doctors were surprised. In one day, Swami changed the reports totally. The reports were almost normal. My case has challenged the medical science. One day was the stage of slipping to coma. Second day revived health. Is it believable? In normal way it is impossible. But possible for God. For Bhagawan who is holding death itself within His fist, will there be anything not possible? However, Swami gave this shock treatment to make me understand that rest is essential for human being.

13) B. Hemavati – Hyderabad

Though I do not like asking God to fulfil wishes or to worship for the fulfilment of wishes, I completed reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam between two Thursdays. My wishes were for my daughter's job and her marriage. A good marriage proposal was finalised for my daughter. She also got a job.

14) Srimati Chilakamarri Sita Devi –

(Retired Additional Commissioner, Commercial Taxes, Hyderabad)

By the grace of Sri Sai, my granddaughter Soujanya received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam and completed reading it. She happily obtained the state of being married which she was looking forward since long time.

15) Ratna Mahidhar – Himayat Nagar, Hyderabad

Bhadra Kalyanam treatise is not a treatise that is read once and put aside. As one continues to read, besides feeling happy there is a divine experience. My friend Rama Devi after reading the treatise within ten days surprisingly got married. In the same manner Sarojini's daughter also got married in a grand way.

16) C.H. Sailaja – Upper Siler

On receiving the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam from a fiend I started reading. As soon as I completed the reading, treatise I got married.

17) R. V. Prasad Rao – Advocate, Hyderabad

When my daughter Aparna was not yet married, I obtained a copy of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam from my brother R. V. Subba Rao and made her read. On completing the reading of the treatise, a good proposal was fixed for my daughter and the marriage was performed in a grand manner.

18) L. Venkateshwara Rao – Retired Principal, Hyderabad

My second son Sridhar who remained unmarried for a long time, got married within two weeks after reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam.

19) Bhimasankaram – (Defence organisation) Hyderabad

I was feeling that I do not have the eligibility to think that I am Swami's devotee. However, when I went to California during my daughter's pregnancy, I read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. When my daughter was admitted to the hospital, praying to Swami, I was reading Bhadra Kalyanam. All of a sudden as though someone asked, a senior doctor without anybody's request did the delivery. We named the child Sai. This is the virtue of Bhadra Kalyanam. What else can it be?

20) Maithili – Nujiveedu

My brother Janakiram became seriously ill and reached a stage of kidney replacement. At the same time, we received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam through our friends, as though to remove our anxiety. By the time we completed reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam three times, the operation which was postponed a few times was completed and he recovered his health. A friend of mine read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam that was with us and got married. I can say beyond any doubt that all this is due to the virtue of reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam.

21) Sandhya Rani – Nallakunta, Hyderabad

When my sister was subjected to serious ill-health, I received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam through our spiritual guru Sri. Ravi Kumar Koushik. I do not know to read Telugu. That is why I kept it under the pillow and slept. That night while in a dreamy state, Swami in orange robes came from the balcony in to our room. The room was filled with the aroma of perfumes. Swami gave the opportunity to touch His feet. He asked me to go to the hospital and kiss my sister and return. At that time, she was in the ICU. I went to the hospital and kissed her. She said that she does not have any kind of fear and that Baba is with her. I felt ecstatic that Swami is in our home. Even now I keep the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam under my pillow.

22) Rayaprolu Geeta Padmini – Hyderabad

I heard about Bhadra Kalyanam through my aunt. If I distribute nine copies of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam my wish of bearing a child may be fulfilled. I accordingly distributed and later also read Bhadra Kalyanam. In a dream I felt I was pregnant. After examination I realised that it was not a dream. Not only reading the treatise, one would get the fortune of distributing the treatise is established by my experience.

23) C. V. Vyjayanthi Raghuvir – Hyderabad

We admitted my husband who was seriously ill with brain tumour for a surgery in Medwin hospital. At that critical time our spiritual guru Sri Ravi Kumar Koushik handed us the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. As soon as I started reading it an astonishing incident happened. Emergency

operation was postponed. My husband's condition became completely normal without the surgery. Doctors said this is a wonder in medical history. Both my sons got jobs. Unexpectedly we could repay the loans.

24) Srimati V. Indira Raghavan – Nallakunta, Hyderabad

For my husband's brother's daughter Malati a marriage alliance could not be fixed in spite of several efforts in the past four years. While receiving the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam from Krishnakka she said 'read the treatise. Within a week the marriage will be fixed.' It happened exactly the way Krishnakka said. On the fourth day of reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam marriage was fixed. The marriage was performed within ten days. This is truly a wonder.

25) Srimati Pendyala Sailaja – Kavadiguda, Hyderabad

It has been five years since I got married. I have tried many medical treatments for getting a child. My father Kalvakuda Sureshchandar Rao brought the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam from Dr. Krishna Kumari and gave it to me. I started reading the treatise. Within two months doctors confirmed that I am pregnant. Reading of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam filled our home with happiness.

26) Gaddam Mallikarjuna Rao – Housing Board A.E. Palvancha

It has been seventeen years since our marriage. Till now we have no children. We went to consult Dr. Krishna Kumari for my wife's gynec problem. From the earlier scan reports it was diagnosed that there are fibroids in the uterus and there are no chances for a child birth. Dr. Krishna Kumari examined and got the scan done. She said that the chances for a child birth are very slim. However, if one has God's grace anything is possible. Wiping our tears, she gave us the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam and bid farewell. Amazing… my wife was pregnant. Now it is the fifth month. That treatise has become a part of us.

27) G. Vinodini Devi – Hanumakonda

We belong to Katkoori village. I happen to listen to Krishnakka's spiritual discourse. Along with others I also got the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. I had severe joint pains. Even after consulting several doctors and taking many medications I did not get relief. I was tired. Putting all my hopes on Swami I started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. With Swami's blessings now all my pains have subsided.

28) Srimati Sayyohi Usha – Yerramanjil colony, Hyderabad

During the marriageable age of my daughter Swati. in spite of intense efforts there was no result. I started reading Bhadra Kalyanam. Within a week that is on 28.2.2003 a marriage

alliance was fixed. This truly is the virtue of Bhadra Kalyanam inspired and made to write by Swami.

29) S. P. Madhuri – Secunderabad

I went to Krishnakka with a gynec complaint for a test. She cautioned me that I should not have any kind of stress. She gave the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Though I do not know Telugu properly I started reading the treatise. Everyone was wishing that I soon become pregnant. I used to carry that treatise to office and read it in the bus as well. Within one month I got the happy message that I am pregnant.

30) Ambati Uma Maheswari – Hyderabad

Srimati T. S. Sada Lakshmi (former minister) whom I consider as my mother and take utmost care was diagnosed with cancer. As she was suffering miserably with acute pain for the past two days, she was given tranquilising injection. Even then there was no relief from pain. Her blood pressure was very high. Under these conditions I sat next to mother and started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Surprisingly from the pages I was reading I could see a form like a shadow. I wiped my eyes and looked again. A peacock blue colour started appearing from every page. Immediately the room was filled with aroma of fragrance indicating the manifestation of Swami. Looking at mother sleeping peacefully I was further surprised. In the morning mother informed that she is completely relieved from the pain. Immediately as per mother's wish we all went to see Krishnakka whom we have never met before. We received from Krishnakka the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Without any medication mother's blood pressure returned to normal. On Sivarthri day along with mother we went Puttaparthi and had Swami's darshan and returned. Now mother is actively participating in politics. Is this not like a challenge for the medical science! Afterwards I read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam many times. Each time there are only divine experiences. Vibhuti (sacred ash), Turmeric powder and Vermillion powder falling from the treatise, Swami gracing with His physical presence. How many do I narrate!

31) Srimati Vijaya Lakshmi – Gandhi Nagar

I started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam with a wish that my daughter should get married. As per the wish her marriage was fixed. It was as though the stress on the mind which was there until then has been removed by hand and disappeared. The heart was filled with happiness, there was no more anxiety.

32) Srimati Kasibhatta Suryakumari – Gandhi Nagar, Hyderabad

On an early morning I woke up alarmed. I was suffering with distressed mind. I heard Swami's voice clearly filled with love and cautioning me –

"Why this anxiety! 'Bhadra Kalyanam'. This is not a dream. Not an illusion. Reality. I anxiously took the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam, which is always kept close to me and held it to my chest. Immediately I phoned Krishnakka. This happened two days back on 28.3.2003. Past many years I have been in bed with ill health unable to move. I was tossing in the bed and suffering. My elder daughter Suvarchala said with pain 'Mother! You have read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam so many times. Then why can't Swami remove your pain!' Unable to bear the pain applied Swami's Vibhuti (sacred ash) all over the body and kept the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam close to me. An Amazing incident happened. All the pain disappeared as though removed by a hand.

33) K. Sri Lakshmi – Kavali, Appala Agraharam

After reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam, the ill health I and my son were suffering from a long time, got to normal state. My son settled in a good job unexpectedly. All this happened in very quickly.

34) Narsamamba Anjaneyaraju – Jivankalyan Nagar, Mehadipatnam

For a long time, we have been trying to fix a marriage alliance for our son. We heard about the virtues of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam and with a wish to fix our son's marriage started reading it. Surprisingly, immediately his marriage was performed. That too as per our wish the daughter-in-law was an electronics engineer. It is all Swami's grace bestowed through the treatise.

35) Srimati Jalakanoori Aruna Kumari – Tuni

In the year 2005 when our family went to Sri Kalahasti temple, there in a shop I saw the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam in a shop. As my husband was away and as I did not have enough money with me I could not buy the treatise. However, my mind was still on the treatise. An hour later while we were walking on the street, we were passing a house. The pictures in that house attracted me and without being aware I entered the house. A woman with a big vermillion mark on her forehead invited me. Looking at the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam on a small table I was astonished. Looking at me with a smile said 'we are Tamilians. We don't know Telugu. However, about an hour and half back while my son was on Tirumala hill, an unknown person placed the treatise in my son's hand and went away. Saying that whoever wishes for the treatise will receive it, my son kept it here just now and went. Perhaps it is only for you.' Saying thus she placed the treatise in my hands. I felt ecstatic. On reaching home I opened the treatise. Along with Swami's blessings I felt I also I saw Swami's signature. In our house in Vijayanagaram the prayer room was full of Vibhuti (sacred ash). Nearly for nine days there was constant shower of Vibhuti and Akshita (rice grains mixed with turmeric powder). While reading the treatise I was not aware of the external world. Travelling to Dwapara yuga I was looking at Bhadra and

Krishna, me becoming Bhadra. In the year 2008 in October, during meditation Swami directed 'offer Bhadra to Srimati Lakshmi, residents of Tuni.' She had read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam wishing for the marriage of her son. Swami manifested and asked her "do you want a daughter-in-law like Bhadra or like Radha? She wished for a daughter-in-law with mixed traits of both. Swami said, "So be it" and disappeared. We happily shared many experiences with Krishnakka. We are blessed.

36) Surya Prabha – Social worker, Siddhipeta

My husband was very sick and became unconscious. Even doctors asked us to give up hope. At that time, I received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Immediately after reading the treatise, he was taken to Swami's super speciality hospital in Bangalore. Looking at him completely recovered people were surprised. Through the treatise Swami made him come close and made him healthy.

37) Garlapati Sita Mahalakshmi – Vidyanagar, Hyderabad

My brother Kaja Mohan Rao is working as vice president marketing in deccan cements. They were making many efforts to get their daughter Subhadra married, but were not successful. I gave them the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam asked them to read. Surprisingly even before completing the treatise her marriage was fixed. On 26 January 2004 the marriage was performed in Hyderabad.

38) Komaraboina Ravinder – Gosh Mahal, Hyderabad

My brother's wife was finding normal delivery difficult and was getting ready for Caesarean as the only option. That night I made her read a few pages of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Next day morning without any surgery she delivered a boy.

Likewise, my sister's daughter was not getting married for a long time. I gave her the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam to read. Surprisingly within three months she got married.

39) Srimati Himabindu – Vidyanagar, Hyderabad

On 4th November I had a major accident and underwent a surgery. After that realising that I am pregnant I was miserable with fear and stress. Through my colleague Srimati Nagamani I met Krishnakka. I brought with me the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam with a lot of confidence. I started reading the treatise. I experienced great peace. On 17th July I delivered. All my fears and anxieties disappeared. We gave Swami's name to our daughter.

My parents were very concerned regarding the marriage of my sister Kavita Sravanthi as their efforts were not successful. I gave them the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam to read. Within one month her marriage was fixed.

40) Gadey Anuradha – Hyderabad

While I was pregnant, I was sincerely reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam with devotion. During the seventh month though I was not keeping good health due to pressure I had to go to my in-law's place. I was scared about the delivery. Just two days before the journey Swami appeared in my dream and placed the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam in my husband's hand and asked him to read. I went to my in-law's place with much courage. My daughter was born healthy and beautiful. Everything is so peaceful. Home has become Prasanthi Nilayam.

41) P. V. Suryaprakasa Rao – D.D. Colony, Hyderabad

My wife Durgamba developed a clot in the brain and became unconscious. We had to immediately admit her in a hospital. Along with her all family members have faced difficult situations. Extreme problems one after another were chasing us. During those challenging times, I started reading of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. From the time my wife was admitted in the hospital we kept the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam under her pillow without forgetting. Krishnakka's encouraging words and the courage she gave us protected my wife and pulled all of us out the maze of difficulties.

In the month of April last year, I had the opportunity to meet Krishnakka for the first time. All the members of my family read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Later towards end of May preparations were made for awarding me life time achievement award and was honoured with the award.

My daughter Padmalal from the time she got the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam until now has been constantly reading it. She has been much stressed for the past three years regarding her daughter Sudha Smitha's marriage. By her sincere reading of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam without a break, with Krishnakka's regard and affection, with Swami's grace her daughter's marriage has been fixed to be performed on 19th November 2003 in Sri Sathya Sai Nigamagama hall. Sai's grace is infinite.

42) Srimati Rayaprolu Geeta Padmini – Alwal, Hyderabad

I distributed nine prints of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam achieving my dream of becoming pregnant. As the pregnancy was advancing it was indicated that due to deficiency the baby may not be healthy. For delivery I went to Kakinada. There I got admitted to the hospital run by Dr. Kameswari. She was concerned for baby's condition. I came to know that she is a friend of Krishnakka. Both of them discussed over the phone. My father Chada Sankara Prasad read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam during that week wishing that the baby should be born healthy. Dr. Kameswari also read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. On 27.5.2003 through surgery a healthy baby was born. I named her Bhadra Saranya.

43) Kala Venkata Subramanya Sarma Dikshitulu – Hyderabad

I got heart attack on 9th January. Doctors examined and said that my condition is very serious. It is not appropriate to even attempt a surgery. My condition was critical. It seems my literary friend Sri Sankara Narayan had come as though God sent. Showing compassion, he said to my wife "There is an amazing treatise Bhadra Kalyanam written by Krishnakka. That treatise is a divine blessing. Having read the treatise, I have experienced many wonders. I will immediately get it. Place it under his pillow as he is unconscious." He contacted Krishnakka. As per her advice got the treatise and vibhuti from Sri. Subramanya Sastri. I am not aware of any of these things. Surprisingly my health became stable. Doctors assured that 100% I will become normal. The bypass surgery was completed in three days. I became completely normal. While in ICU itself I could see Prasanthi Nilayam. Now I am attending to the duties in Thyagaraja Gaana Sabha, as before. When Krishnakka visited us my wife Sarada and me shared the spiritual happiness with her.

44) Srimati Sarada Dikshitulu – Hyderabad

After the wonderful experience of my husband, I started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. I have been having sugar complaint from a long time. As the tablets were not controlling, I was taking insulin. Still the levels were very high. When Krishnakka visited us on February 11th to see my husband, I was still reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. I mentioned to Krishnakka that if I get any experience, I will immediately write and give her. In view of my husband's health condition, I have been under stress. Thinking that my sugar levels will be very high, I went for the test with that fear. Amazing that report was normal. Is this possible? Immediately I contacted Krishnakka and informed her.

45) Maneka Sudha Rani – Padmasali Nagar, Kavadiguda

Whenever there is any difficulty at home reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam without a break has been the normal practice for us. Recently I suffered with severe stomach pain. That pain cannot be explained. On examination it was diagnosed that there are stones in the Kidney. Unable to bear the severe pain I was crying. I held the treatise to my heart. Great wonder, even if I tell, one may not believe. A large kidney stone fell. All the pain subsided in moments.

46) Kasi Somayajula Lalitha Kumari – Visakhapatanam

After all the problems at home were resolved, I started reading Bhadra Kalyanam once again wishing for fixing the marriage for our daughter. Praveena our daughter is also reading the treatise very sincerely. Unexpectedly a very nice proposal was fixed. The marriage date has been fixed for 27.2.2004. My husband is coming from Saudi for the marriage. We went to Puttaparthi and had Swami's darshan and received blessings in abundance. Our son has been calling regularly and informing that Swami is appearing in dreams daily and shower His blessings. We shared our happiness with Krishnakka.

47) Dr. Vemavarapu Poornachandra Rao – Ramanthapur, Hyderabad

Krishnakka was a senior to us in the medical college. Coincidentally I used to practice as a Paediatrician in Ramanthapur itself. We have tremendous faith on her word and the virtues of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. She gave us the treatise and said that many auspicious incidents would happen to us. Our daughter with the determination to go to America started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam sitting near the shrine. Within one reading the treatise her wish which was not fulfilled from long time showed result. Her going to America and joining MS as per her wish was fulfilled. Not only that, our daughter Sushmita's marriage was fixed for with a person, who is working as an electrical engineer there itself. The marriage is going to be performed on 20th August in Hyderabad.

48) Srimati D Vijaya Lakshmi Krishna – Tarnaka, Hyderabad

We were very anxious about fixing the marriage for our only son Harish Kumar. We were wishing for a good proposal and that our daughter-in-law should be educated and be humble. There should also be the divine grace. That grace has come to us in the form of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. My son went to Krishnakka and got a copy of the treatise for his would-be wife. Reading the treatise and Swami's blessings flowing together we celebrated the marriage of Harish and Santi Priya on 14th February at Visakhapatnam in a grand manner.

49) Srimati Jandyala Maha Lakshmi – Meerut, Maharashtra

Shiv Sankar Anekar and Sruti Anekar live in the city of Meerut in Maharashtra. Shiv Sankar is working as a sales manager in Coromandel Enterprises at Meerut. They have a seven-year-old boy. Three years ago, when she was pregnant due to high blood pressure the child died in the womb itself. She was under tremendous stress that it might happen in the third pregnancy. On one Thursday when she went to attend divine singing, she received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam and Vibhuti (sacred ash). As she did not know Telugu, she started keeping the treatise under her pillow. There was peace never experienced before. Twenty days before the delivery she had a dream that she was sitting in Sai Kulwant hall and Swami showering His blessings made her eat a sweet dish (srikhand). Later, on Friday 2nd January, evening she delivered a girl comfortably. Now she is completely healthy. Everyone is happy that this is the result of Swami's grace through the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam.

50) Haimavati, Venkataswami couple - Zambia

We have been staying in Zambia, Africa for past 21 years due to my husband's job. We came to Hyderabad on Baba's 77th birthday and happen to visit the temple at Shivam. We had come in preparation for fixing our daughter's marriage. There we came to know about the virtues of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. But due to pressure of work without collecting the treatise we went back to Zambia. I regretted for not bringing the treatise back with me. I prayed to Swami to grant that opportunity. We returned within two months itself. I got the treatise and started reading. Two

days before completing the treatise, Gnana Krishna met my daughter in America and their marriage was fixed. During the same time our son got a job. On 1st November 2003 the marriage of Kavita and Krishna was performed in the presence of God at Tirupati. Swami has graced us abundantly.

51) Dataru Sarada Prabhakar Rao – Hanumakonda

Archana is my sister's daughter. On our 25th wedding anniversary (9th June) she gifted us with the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. That is my fortune. In the month of August, I was very unwell. I was feeling totally lost. At that moment I remembered about the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. However, as I did not have the energy to read, I kept the treatise under my pillow and slept. Surprisingly I recovered. In a few days I gained normal health. Started reading the treatise on a Thursday and completed in one week. Our son Bharadwaj could not get his visa and we were all worried. I started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam with a wish that my son should get visa. By Swami's grace on the 5th day itself my son got his visa. He left for US on 4th January 2004. These incidents are all Swami's grace through Bhadra Kalyanam.

52) Peri Aruna – Hyderabad

I started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam when my health was totally down. As I was unable to even walk my husband wanted to admit me in the hospital. I was contemplating only on Swami and was feeling drowsy. Suddenly there was a beautiful vision. I was before Swami in Swami's interview room on a wheel chair. Swami blessing me put two drops in my mouth flowing over a Rudraaksha and said 'you may not know the taste isn't it. This is nectar.' Meanwhile someone from outside said 'this is Swami's interview room, how did you come.' Swami pointing His hand towards them indicated to them not to talk. Which means that Swami treated me in His interview room. Now I have become completely healthy.

53) Singaraju Lingeswara Prasad - Vijayawada

I am computer engineer settled in Vijayawada with my parents. It was the wish of everyone at home that I should get a wife who is tradition bound, devotional and with a sense of responsibility. For my sister Uma, Krishnakka is very dear. She got the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam and started reading wishing for my marriage. Surprisingly through Krishnakka's introduction my marriage was fixed in no time. That girl was a relative of Dr. D. Kameswari, residing in Kakinada. It is surprising that the girl Suvarna Lakshmi also read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam with a wish to get married. On Saturday 31 January 2004 our marriage was performed in Vijayawada. Krishnakka attended the marriage and blessed us.

54) Achyuta Narayana Rao – Hindupur

I am working as a Mathematics reader in Government Women's college. I have been suffering from ill health over a long period. Many doctors diagnosed it as heart related and

treated spending many thousands of rupees. As per the advice of B. S. Geeta I kept the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam under my pillow. Within 20 days itself it was established that it was not related to the heart. My sister's daughter Desai Padmaja having tried for many jobs in Hyderabad was not successful and was disappointed. However, after sincerely started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam on a Thursday, she got a job.

55) Palepu Sri Devi – Hyderabad

After 5 years of our marriage a daughter was born. My wish was to have one more child. For four years that wish could not be fulfilled. My friend Shailaja gave me the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. With a wish to become pregnant I started reading on a Thursday and completed next Thursday. As I had a doubt in mind went to the doctor. The doctor confirmed that I was pregnant. I was speechless. I read the treatise taking an oath that if a boy is born to me, I will name him Sai Krishna. During the ninth month the doctor advised that he will conduct a caesarean as the position of the child is not appropriate. Completed Bhadra Kalyanam on a Wednesday and got caesarean done on Thursday. A healthy Sai Krishna was born.

56) P. Padma Sastry – Safeelguda, Hyderabad

After reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam, fulfilling my wish, my sister's daughter's wedding was unexpectedly fixed and performed in a grand manner. It is my fortune that this incident has already been included in this treatise. That time itself I wished for one more wonder. It has been three years since Sirisha, my brother's daughter got married. She underwent many treatments for a child. At last the doctors advised that it is very difficult for her to give birth to a child. I took the shelter of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam blessed by our revered God Sathya Sai. Sirisha read it sincerely with devotion. Hearing that she is pregnant we were all surprised and immersed in joy. We expressed our gratitude and happiness to Swami in our hearts and personally with Krishnakka. My wish of one more wonder in our home has been fulfilled.

57) Desaraju Sai Prasanna – Palvancha

The treatise Bhadra Kalyanam is like the celestial tree which can fulfil any wish. In the case of our daughter Padma's marriage we made several efforts. With firm resolve I read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam with determination making her sit along. I could complete in one week. On the day of completing Padma's marriage with Nageswara Rao was fixed and performed. Now they are happy with a daughter. This treatise Bhadra Kalyanam must be read by all, make others read and with Swami's abundant blessings everyone's lives will become happy is my faith through experience.

58) Vemparala Lakshmi Visweswara Pavan Kumar - Hyderabad

I was doing my MSc and unable to concentrate I was thinking of giving up my studies. At that time, I got the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. I started reading the treatise. Not only I could concentrate, I completed MSc. On the last day of reading there appeared Kumkuma (Vermillion powder) in the treatise. For my sister's marriage there was lot of anxiety. At that time, I once

again started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. We overcame the difficulties. Surprisingly sister's marriage was performed in Swami's presence in a grand manner. Today that couple is living very happily.

I was disturbed about the delay related to my job. Once again, I read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam nine times. On 27.7.2004 I took up a nice job. The treatise Bhadra Kalyanam has created many wonders in our home.

59) P. V. S. Satyanarayana Murthy – Chodavaram, Visakha District

Pusarla Sankara Rao (Convenor, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samiti)

My wife Srimati Jyoti started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam on Thursday, 20th May 2004 and completed on 26th. She read the treatise wishing for our son Sai Raju's marriage. Our son's marriage was fixed on Wednesday June 2004. Within one week of reading the treatise, Swami graced us with a daughter-in-law with all merits we wished. They came in search of us being Swami's devotees. This fortune is only due to reading the sacred treatise Bhadra Kalyanam.

60) Reddy Satyanarayana – MLA, Madgula

Our daughter-in-law has been suffering past few months due to a problem in her spinal cord. She was not even in apposition to come to the mandir (temple). At that time Sri. Sankara Rao, convenor of Sathya Sai Seva Samiti, gave the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam and said 'on reading the treatise all sufferings will be removed' thus giving much courage. After reading the complete treatise twice she got unexpected courage. A feeling that He is always with her was established in her. She started coming to mandir in the normal manner. This is the unbelievable truth. This is the wish granted by Swami through the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam.

61) Srimati Sudha – Visakapatnam

My co-sister's elder brother met with an accident injuring his head went into coma. She started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Swami appeared in her dream and said, 'don't be afraid, it will subside.' When I went to the hospital, he was fully conscious and speaking nicely. Looking at that wonder we were all happy. Immediately I started reading the treatise. On completion I went to the temple of Lord Venkateshwara and wished that 'Swami! Grant me the devotion like Bhadra.' Instantly a flower dropped from Lord Venkateshwara as a blessing.

62) Vegesna Rohini – Tokyo, Japan

My father Koonaparaju Suryanarayana is doing real estate business in Hyderabad. I heard about the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam and read it sincerely with a wishing auspiciousness. Within a few days of reading I got married to Vegesna Ramesh a software engineer. He has settled in a

good position in Tokyo. We are living happily. We have recently informed Krishnakka about this happy news through my cousin Koonaparaju Srinu.

63) Channa Sathya Rao – Hyderabad

I personally got the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam from Krishnakka and started reading it. I have been suffering from sinusitis and got relief without surgery. I kept the treatise near Swami and was offering prayers. At that time received the information about our son Srinivas getting a foreign job. He has been trying for past five to six years with no success. By Swami's grace on reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam wishes were fulfilled.

64) Komarraju Durga Prasad Rao, Padma – New Jersey

Our son Praveen Kumar is working as a software engineer in New Jersey. We have come to India to make efforts for fixing his marriage. But we do not have the confidence of performing his marriage before we leave. We have read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. We went to see Krishnakka. 'You have read the treatise isn't it. By Swami's grace very soon your son's marriage will be celebrated' saying thus Krishnakka offered her blessings to our son. Surprisingly within two days the first proposal itself was fixed. We gifted the bride the treatise personally blessed by Krishnakka. The marriage will be performed on 21st August 2004 early morning at 3.55 am in Khammam.

65) Paladugu Subbalakshmi – Tadepalligudam

My grandson became very serious and was admitted in a hospital in Hyderabad. We got information that as the boy's condition is not good and no treatment will help the doctors have asked them to take him home. Keeping complete faith on Swami we were immersed in reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Once again, we received a call from Hyderabad. That the boy has recovered and that he is returning home completely healthy. We organised a gathering for prayers and singing devotional songs. Some unknown persons handed over hundred photographs of Swami. Vibhuti (sacred ash) was dropping from Swami's photo and from Swami's throne. We felt blessed for Swami's grace. We became the recipients for Swami's grace through the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam.

66) Pappu Padmavasavi – New Jersey

My husband Sai Giridhar is working as computer administrator in New Jersey. Swami gave him that name. Earlier I did not know about the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. But Swami showed the marriage as a vision on the terrace of my mother's house. Swami looking very young shining brilliantly wearing white clothes like a bridegroom was seated on the platform arranged for the marriage. The bride wearing white clothes with exclusive jewellery was shining. The face was not clear. Swami was constantly lifting His head and looking "I am marrying my aunt's daughter;

can you see me" thus saying started repeatedly asking. After that I received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam.

While I was pregnant during fourth and fifth month, due to bleeding complications developed. The condition was uncertain if the delivery would be normal. 'Swami! Everything should happen properly. Swami confirm this through someone in some manner' saying thus I folded my hands. My eyes were filled with tears. At once there a call from India. That was a call from Krishnakka. She was speaking to me giving lot of confidence and gave me much courage. I used to sleep keeping the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam under my pillow. During that time, I used to hear from Swami's photo words and directions. I had a normal delivery and a son was born. Recently met Krishnakka (July 2004) and shared the happiness.

67) Kuppa Sudha – Neredmet, Hyderabad

Due to ill health we went to Krishnakka for treatment. Understanding my suffering as I do not have children Krishnakka comforted me. Personally, giving me the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam she offered much courage. The same day at night I had the vision of Swami in Lord Venkateswara Swami's temple. In black, shining brilliantly with mighty form gave me the opportunity to bow and touch His feet. In the next moment changing in to a baby was raising His hands as though to lift and hold. He created the faith in me that I will definitely get children.

68) Edunootula Sailaja – Khammam

I have done my PG in Journalism. My father Edunootula Ramachandra Rao retired as a chief engineer and settled in Khammam. Discussions about my marriage with my maternal uncle's son Mattigunta Ramachandra Murthy are in progress. Both the families like our marriage. However, he went to Italy to do a course in fashion design. Our wish is that the marriage should not be delayed. Krishnakka has been advising me to read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. I heard that everyone's experience is very favourable as per the treatise. Thinking that if I read the treatise and if we get married immediately, it will be an obstacle to his course, so I did not read the treatise till now. But recently I read with determination. Surprisingly his course which requires two years to complete was completed in one year. They also awarded a certificate. He also has two or three job offers. He sent a message that he is coming back to India.

Our marriage is being celebrated on 18th August 2004 night at 12:00 in TTD marriage hall at Khammam. Also, we informed Krishnakka in advance over the phone. Shared our happiness with Krishnakka.

69) Devulapalli Poornima Suman - Visakhapatnam

We considered several marriage proposals for my elder brother Devulapalli Surya Kiran. As no proposal was acceptable, we were becoming very anxious. At that time Sri Narasa Rao working in the stores in Shivam (Hyderabad) unable to see the suffering of my mother said, "You please read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam, the auspicious event will certainly happen." We got the treatise and started reading. Our mind was pleasant and filled with peace. We felt very

happy when we came to know about Swami's blessings for Kiran's marriage through Krishnakka on 8th February 2003. On 15th November 2003 Swami showed Kiran's marriage in a dream very clearly. Showed the bridegroom. Unexpectedly Kiran's marriage was fixed. The bridegroom was the same shown in the dream by Swami. The marriage is being performed in August at Visakhapatnam. Swami is granting divine blessings in several ways through the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. We are blessed.

70) Gannavarapu Gopala Krishna Murthy – Hyderabad

My wife Srimati Lakshmi Surya and I started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam wishing for our son Aravind's marriage. Our wish was fulfilled. The marriage was fixed with Vaidehi daughter of Sri Kondapi Raghavayya and Srimati Sita. The marriage is being celebrated on 29.8.2004 in Visakhapatnam.

71) Vaddadi Venkata Ramarao – UNPP, Africa

Six months back I came to India on leave. I have been suffering from slip disc problem. Even an hour before boarding the flight to India I was lying in the bed. I prayed to Swami for my health. I bowed praying if there is anything I can do, if my trip to India is of any use to me, please protect me. Surprisingly for 48 hours I had no pain and reached India. But later for one month I was lying in bed. During that time, I had a few tests done. It was diagnosed that the condition of my heart is critical. Doctors confirmed that first Angiogram will be taken and then by-pass operation be completed. Immediately went to Krishnakka and collected the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam and Vibhuti (sacred ash). Krishnakka saw the report and was silent. I understood that her silence was because of my serious condition. After reading the treatise went for test. Doctors confirmed that surgery is not required and that I am healthy. I was unable to control my joy and happiness and immediately conveyed to Krishnakka.

72) Devarakanda Krishna Kumari – Kakinada

The first time I heard about the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam was through Sri Satyadev and Srimati Lakshmi from Visakhapatnam. We received two prints from Krishnakka on Krishnashtami (Krishna's birth day). We completed reading the treatise in one week. My wife Padmavati has been suffering from arthritis for over 25 years. She started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. She had an amazing dream. In that dream our elder daughter Usha, was worshipping Krishna's idol. That idol turning in to a baby Krishna was insisting to be carried. Forgetting her pain my wife lifted and held the baby. Meanwhile, four women came and said, 'start reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam all your suffering will be removed' and disappeared. We completed the treatise on 9.9.2004. On 12.9.2004 we were returning from the Simhachalam hill, there was power failure and it was dark all around. In that condition felt that Shirdi Sai manifested and gave reassurance and disappeared. There may be many more wonders!

73) Chiruvolu Veeranjaneyulu – Hyderabad

We were concerned about the marriage of our third daughter Malati and started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. That was on 23rd September. On 26th a good proposal was suggested by a family coming in search of us. They met the girl and confirmed the alliance next day itself. Immediately engagement was done. I am working in AG's office as deputy director.

74) Kosuri Vijaya Lakshmi Seshgiri Rao – Barhampur

We started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam wishing for our daughter's marriage. Our daughter Surekha does not know Telugu. Even then with much efforts learnt Telugu. Reading the treatise was completed. Immediately after reading, her marriage was fixed with the son of Aaloori Padmanabham, a devotee of Swami. Their son Balaji is CA. The marriage is being celebrated on 26th at Visakhapatnam.

75) Dr. Kolluru Venkateswarulu – Visakhaptnam

I received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam through Professor P. V. Ramana Murthy (Department of Mathematics, Andhra University). On reading the treatise twice, I got an opportunity at Adis Baba University, Ethiopia as assistant professor of Mathematics.

On 7.9.2004 my brother-in-law met with a scooter accident and was in a serious condition. I once again read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Surprisingly he was out of danger. I understood that these fortunes are due to the grace of Swami through the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam.

76) Katrapalli Deepika Krishna - Hyderabad

We were very concerned about getting children. At that time my father-in-law Gupta's close friend R. V. Subbarao (senior advocate, Himayatnagar) advised us to meet Krishnakka. Accordingly, my husband and I met Krishnakka. We got the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam from her and started reading. Surprisingly on the 15th day from the day we started reading, doctors confirmed that I am pregnant. Our family was very happy and peaceful. This is all due to the grace showered through the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam.

77) Pingali Archana – Hyderabad

Krishnakka gave the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam and a coconut to my uncle P. V. Rajeswara Rao and wife. Looking at the Vibhuti (sacred ash) coming from the coconut past two years I became very inspired. I read the treatise wishing for my marriage. My marriage with Pravin was celebrated in a grand manner. Krishnakka attended our marriage, blessed us and gifted the

treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Later when we opened the treatise looking at the Vibhuti we were immersed in joy.

78) Chintapalli Lalitha Goutami – Rajahmundry

I am the granddaughter of Shanthi Sri who wrote the book Tapovanam. I am doing MSc. I received Bhadra Kalyanam on Thursday. On Sunday the families met. On Thursday morning at 9:00 am the bridegroom's father called saying 'we liked the girl. We would like to have relation with a family having such devotion.' The bridegroom's name is Shiva Krishna Prasad.

79) Chalikamarri Sita Devi – Hyderabad

I retired as additional commissioner, commercial tax. Unable to see Swami, I got used to see Swami's devotees and feel satisfied as though I have seen Swami. My brother's granddaughter Lakshmi Saroja's marriage was getting delayed beyond our expectations. Wishing for her marriage started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. On 25.9.2004 being my birth day went to meet Krishnakka to get Swami's touch of love through her. At that moment she was not available. I kept the saree I wanted give it to Swami with a note. I requested her to wear that saree and to have Swami's darshan in Puttaparthi. Later I returned home. Surprisingly, the news that my granddaughter's marriage has been fixed was waiting for me.

80) Srimati and Sri Pasumarthi Vishnu Sarma – Hyderabad

Our son Naga Anjaneya Kumar is working as Software engineer in USA. We read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam wishing for a good marriage proposal for our son who has all eligibilities and is Swami's devotee. Unexpectedly his marriage was fixed with Vishnu Priya daughter of Somanchi Narasimha Murthy. The marriage was celebrated on 16th October 2004 in presence of Krishnakka in a grand manner.

81) Srimati S. Rajyalakshmi Adinarayana Reddy – Rajahmundry

My husband Adinarayana Reddy is doing a contract in Orissa. I received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam from a friend on 19.8.2004 and started reading it. On the same day there were discussions about our daughter Geeta Lakshmi's marriage. On 26.8.2004 the prospective groom's family visited us. On 2.9.2004 our son Sudhakar Reddy and would be son-in-law went to Puttaparthi for Swami's darshan. They started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam there itself. Our son-in-law calls our daughter as Bhadra.

Gautami started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam on Thursday, 30.9.2004. Her marriage was fixed the next Thursday. That Gautami is the granddaughter of Shanti Sri, Swami's devotee who wrote 'Tapovanam' a treatise to be read regularly.

82) G. Sai Venkata Kiranmayi – Vijayanagaram

A friend of mine from Vijayanagaram after reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam got married. She also made me read the treatise. Surprisingly my marriage has been fixed. On 11th February my marriage with Cheemalapati Venkat Bhanusesha Kumar will be celebrated.

83) Panganamala Venkata Surya Prakasa Rao – Hyderabad

The virtues of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam have been realised in our home in many ways. Many auspicious events occurred. My younger brother late Panganamal Venkateswara Rao's daughter Sesha Lakshmi Haimavathi's marriage was getting delayed for a long time. In that context I gave the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Within a few days of reading the treatise a worthy proposal was finalised and marriage was celebrated in a grand manner.

84) S. V. L. Narasimha Rao – Singareni Collieries

We have been making efforts to fix our daughter Sravanthi's marriage. We received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam from my brother-in-law Kankipati Ramprasad. We made our daughter read the treatise. By Swami's grace we finalised a good proposal. The groom is in a good job at Singareni Collieries. This fortune granted to us is only by Swami's grace.

85) Chada Sankar Prasad – Tondangi

Krishnakka visited Yelamanchili on 2nd December at the invitation of Srimati P. Kameswari, Principal, Mother Sai Niketan school. In the presence of Krishnakka many events related to Bhadra Kalyanam were celebrated in a grand manner. Later Krishnakka was invited by my uncle Dantoorthi Sri Ram Murthy to his house. It was in Yelamanchili that Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba set His divine feet for the first time in the entire district of Visakha. That time my uncle received Swami at the station. My aunt Srimati Ratnam has been suffering from Glaucoma past several years. Her eyes have also been operated four times. Even doctors have given up hopes regarding her eye sight. She was brought home with the intention of giving her the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam personally through Krishnakka. My aunt though she uses spectacles cannot see properly. My aunt receiving the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam from Krishnakka, held it to her eyes in reverence. Krishnakka spoke to her giving courage. Later it was a surprise and a wonder. Even without using the spectacles my aunt began to see clearly. She is doing her own chores.

86) Pulugurtha Venkata Narasimha Rao – Hyderabad

By reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam I escaped a serious threat to my life. Now there is so much peace at home that we never felt before. On 25th December we organised a prayer meeting for singing devotional songs of Sri Sathya Sai followed by an interactive spiritual session with Krishnakka. Sai devotees participated in large numbers and experienced great joy. This divine treatise, which is creating auspiciousness all around, creating divine happiness in

this world, making its awareness at all times and in all places has been bestowed on us by the form that is beyond all the deities.

Our son Murthy Raju suddenly became very sick on 27-12-2004. His condition was so critical that his BP and pulse could not be recorded. We placed the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam in his hands, put a little Vibhuti (sacred ash) in his mouth and kept Swami's photograph in his pocket. Admitted mu son in to ICU. From such a critical condition by Swami's grace he recovered quickly. Swami is granting all of us nectarine blessings through the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam.

87) Dr. Kakaraparthi Poornachandra Rao – Hyderabad

We came to know about the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam through my brother K. V. Durga Mallikarjuna Rao (Vetapalam). I was very happy to know that the authoress of the treatise is Dr. K. V. Krishna Kumari who was our classmate in medicine writing such divine treatise. My wife Rajya Lakshmi and I read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam wishing for the marriage of our daughter Aparna. On 11th February 2005 we are celebrating the marriage of Aparna with Prakash in Hyderabad.

88) Srimati C. H. Rama Lakshmi, Satyanarayana Murthy – Kottanimmakuru

I used to suffer from acute head ache and anxiety for a long time. After reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam unexpectedly my head ache disappeared. Having experienced the real divine happiness through the treatise we are blessed.

89) S. Kusuma Kumari, Ram Mohan Rao – Kovvuru

On the second day of reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam, Swami appeared in my dream in a big hall opening a bundle on a white cloth and showering gold. Swami was smiling sweetly looking at that glow shining on my face. While we were still in that happiness, a good marriage proposal was suggested for my daughter. This is only due the virtue of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam.

90) K. Venkateswaramma – Mudinepalli

I am 19 years old. I am not yet married. Unable to sleep at night with lot of stress I used to scream randomly. Though I consulted many doctors there was no relief. As a divine guidance I started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. I used to keep the treatise under my pillow without fail and sleep. Surprising, I am now peacefully getting sleep. Those stresses related to the mind disappeared.

91) Srimati Kommineni Rajya Lakshmi – Hyderabad

We went to meet Krishnakka at her home in February. We discussed about the marriage of our daughter and requested for the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Krishnakka blessed and said that by Swami's grace our daughter's marriage will happen very soon. As predicted my daughter Jasmita Devi's marriage with Sunil was performed on 18th February in a grand manner. These are the blessings showered by Swami through the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam.

92) Koratamaddhi Lakshmi Prasanna – Chicago

I had many problems regarding the Visa for USA. As I was clueless I got the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam from Krishnakka and read it. The problem was resolved very easily. I went USA. I always had the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam with me as a part of my body without ever leaving it.

Recently my health was badly affected. Doctors investigated Thyroid appearing like a tumour. They suspected it may be related cancer. My heart was shattered. My children are very young. If it is diagnosed as cancer, then life is only for a few days more isn't it. I called Krishnakka. She gave me lot of courage and said that the biopsy report would be normal, and Swami is there. Even in that condition I read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Received the report and there is no cancer. Now I have regained my normal health.

93) Satthi Krishna Reddi – Jonnada

When my sister was seriously ill I received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Putting all my faith in Baba I started reading the treatise. Surprisingly my sister who went in to coma recovered. She regained her normal health. All the members in our family are reading the treatise. We are narrating the virtues of the treatise to others and feel blessed.

94) Jyotsna Banda – Hyderabad

My husband Panganamala Sudhakar and me returned from USA and settled in Hyderabad. We are reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam without a break. My husband got a very good job in Hi-Tech city. As was thinking that even after four years since marriage I am not fortunate to have children, I became pregnant.

95) Nandigama Satyanarayana Prasad, Nandigama Venakata Krishna Mohan - Hyderabad

I accompanied my uncle Dharanikota Madhava Rao to Vijaya Sathya Sai hall at Malkajigiri. There we heard about the virtues of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. He got a print of the treatise and left for Bhopal. His daughter got married in the year 2000. But unfortunately, her husband died within six months due to heart problem. This event shattered Madhava Rao. Within six months of reading the treatise his daughter got married again. Likewise, their youngest son Sai

Prabhu got married. They are narrating about the virtues of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam to others.

96) Bodela Hari Krishna – Hyderabad

Couple Ketavaraju Jagan Mohan Rao and Malati are distant relatives of my wife. We came to know that Malati has been very sick and suffering acutely. As per the directions from Swami we took the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam, Vibhuti (sacred ash) and reached Vemuru. Malati's condition was very pathetic. I applied some Vibhuti and placed the treatise in her hands. We were surprised to see in the treatise on the picture of Vinayaka a lump of turmeric powder mixed with oil. We were informed that Malati is recovering.

97) Chintha Rama Krishna Reddy – Oobalanka

The daughter of one of our close relative attempted suicide and is now in a critical condition. Prayed to Swami that if it is true that the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam has such virtue then please save that girl. While reading the treatise I slept off. In the sleep I had a wonderful dream. That I went to the hospital to see the girl. There a young girl was talking to me about Swami and handed over a new print of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. As I was turning the pages I saw Swami blessing from those pages. At the day break that girl came out of coma. Doctors who said only 24 hours more said it is very unusual to recover within 12 hours. From that moment onwards all the members of our family treat Baba and the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam as our life breath.

98) Medapati Venkata Krishna Reddy – Oobalanka

My mother-in-law Rajya Lakshmi gave me the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. My brother-in-law Sudhakar Reddy and I went to Puttaparthi and had Swami's darshan closely and received His blessings. After offering a coconut to Lord Ganesh in Prasanthi Nilayam, I started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam that I had brought with me. At that time a wonderous incident happened. I felt as though baby Krishna was moving in my hands in the place of the treatise. I was ecstatic. The debts I had to collect past ten years were recovered. It is only after reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam by my mother-in-law that the marriage between her daughter Geeta Lakshmi and me was celebrated.

99) Golupuri Venkata Reddy – Jonnada

The date and the auspicious time for celebrating the marriage of my son was fixed for 11th February. However, grandfather's health suddenly became critical and doubtful. Under those circumstances both the bride and bridegroom started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. By the time they completed grandfather recovered, sat in a chair and witnessed the celebrations and blessed the couple. We have preserved the treatise securely and continue worshipping it.

100) Kavvuri Veereddy – Ravulapalem

I am working in Hyderabad. My aunt Rajya Lakshmi got a dream that Swami is giving me the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam while she was present. As per the directions of Swami I started reading the treatise. Surprisingly within fifteen days a marriage proposal was finalised and on 17.2.20025 engagement was done.

101) Lakshmi Suvarchala - Dulla

I was emotionally very disturbed due to the conduct of my husband. I read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. A girl in our town was pregnant. Her husband deserted her, went to Hyderabad and married another girl. It has been eight months since the child is born, but he has not come to take her back. I gave the treatise to that girl and she read with sincerity. It is unbelievable, within a week her husband came and took her to set up his family. The girl's name is Sathya from the village Kutukuluru.

Again, the treatise went to a girl within our relations. There too a marriage was celebrated.

I read the treatise again. My father's property that was under a dispute for a long time was settled unexpectedly in my favour.

102) Potamsetty Tarunagiri Kumari – Komarajulanka

It has been one year since my husband died. I was totally shattered for this calamity at this young age. By the grace of Bhagawan I received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. I read it sincerely. The person who offered the first proposal, knowing all my details and having a liking for me, married me. The marriage was performed on 10th February. Swami made me read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam and performed my Kalyanam (marriage).

103) Sammohi Usha Rani – Naagolu

My brother-in-law's daughter Haritha got divorced some time back. They were trying hard to get her married again. At that time, she started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. The next day they had a proposal which was finalised, and the marriage celebrated. Everything happened so quickly. This is so surprising.

My friend Vijay Lakshmi has been married for over ten years but had not children. They were very disappointed. After reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam she become pregnant. That couple is now very happy.

104) Karlapudi Chander Rao – Satthupalli

My daughter Neelima received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam from Ram Prasad. Wishing for my daughter's marriage not only Neelima but all the members of our family read the treatise. By Swami's grace her marriage is fixed.

105) Srirangam Bala Tripura Sundari – Bangalore

I was afraid that if I read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam I will immediately get married. Hence I did not read the treatise. However, due to the pressure at home read the treatise. At first I got a job in a good company. Later a good marriage proposal was suggested, and my marriage was fixed.

106) Atluri Eswaramba Bhima Rao – Gudivada

My husband' heart surgery was done at Usha Mullapudi hospital. Even after 15 days of surgery he did not recover. All those persons who had their surgery done along with him have gone home. I was very worried and started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Swami appeared blessing with both hands. He recovered within nine days.

107) Jesus Christ – Srikakulam

The day I received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam Swami appeared in dream and blessed. My wife Padmavati has been suffering due to pain in her throat. We consulted a doctor. They cautioned that she should not speak for three months and that there are chances of her losing her voice. As Krishnakka was leaving the temple after her discourse, Padmavati in tears approached her with hand gestures requested her to apply Vibhuti (sacred ash) on her throat. That wish was fulfilled. Krishnakka blessed saying that my throat will become normal. Surprisingly on the very the next day my wife started her activity by singing a devotional song. Kumkuma (Vermilion powder) appeared in two pages of the treatise. Swami appeared as a doctor in the dream. For past many years I was trying to give up drinking tea and smoking but failed. While reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam I gave them up completely.

108) Chada Sankar Prasad - Tondangi

The relationship with the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam is connected right from the beginning. Many experiences and many more wonders have happened. We came to know that our daughter Geeta Padmini is suffering from throat cancer. Without losing courage we started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Showing remarkable improvement within three therapies was beyond the imagination and surprised even doctors.

At the same time, I had a serious heart attack and was unconscious, and an emergency by-pass was done. During that time, I continued reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. The

most significant point was that Krishnakka herself read the treatise wishing our good health. Now I am completely healthy.

109) Peruri Vijay Chandra Mohan – Katiyat, Bihar

My daughter Vandana (12 years) is studying in 7th class. Unfortunately she fell down from a height of 35 feet and injured her spinal cord. Doctors did MRI scan and advised three months bed rest. They also said they were not sure if she will be able to walk later. Krishnakka sent the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam and Vibhuti (sacred ash). Swami blessed with Vibhuti in the earlier copy of the treatise we had with us. Krishnakka has been constantly in touch over the phone. We were regularly applying Vibhuti to our daughter. We started reading the treatise sincerely. We kept a copy of the treatise under the pillow of our daughter. Surprisingly our daughter started walking within six weeks. Doctors examined and said everything is normal. As per our daughter's wish we went to Puttaparthi in October. Our daughter walked long distances in the ashram. She also sat down for long duration. There was no pain of any nature. We received blessings from Swami from close distance.

110) Hota Venkata Subbarao – Nidadavolu

I am working as a Hindi lecturer in a degree college. Wishing for our daughter Padmini's marriage we started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Swami appeared in my dreams. 'Swami! Only for me, pleased grant your presence to everybody' said I and Swami smiled. Swami blessed our daughter. Marriage has been fixed for my daughter.

111) Y. Vijaya Lakshmi – Visakhapatnam

After reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam all our difficulties melted away like snow. When my back was hurt and was immobilised Swami Appeared in my dreams and blessed. My health revived. There was no need for any operation. Whenever we open the treatise, the house is filled with fragrance.

112) Ambati Uma Maheswari – Puttaparthi

After reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam I had the fortune of settling in the presence of the Lord at Puttaparthi. From that time onwards Swami in the form of Bhadra Kalyanam has been protecting me as Bhadra. In the recent past my health suffered very much. Keeping the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam close I prayed to Swami. Surprisingly my health became normal. In the presence of Swami, I who used to be a non-believer am in a state of not setting aside the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam even for moment.

113) Kancharla Bhanu Prasad – Pithapuram

One of our relative's daughter's health was critical. During that time my aunt heard a message to get the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam from Hyderabad and to start reading it. After reading the treatise the girl was out of critical condition and recovered. My wife and I also read the treatise. Swami appeared in my wife's dream standing at our entrance and blessing. Next day while we were reading the treatise both of us heard a voice saying 'Om Sai'. Swami blessed us with Turmeric powder in page 93 of the treatise.

114) Karri Sri Ram Murthy – Visakhapatnam

Though a good proposal has been finalised for the marriage of my granddaughter there has been great delay in fixing the marriage. We received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam from Sri. N. Gopala Rao, convenor of Sri Sathya Sai seva samithi for Railway area. We started reading the treatise. After reading the treatise, surprisingly the family whose proposal we almost decided to cancel because of delay, approached again and fixed the marriage. The marriage will be celebrated on 22.12.2005.

115) J. Rajani – Mehboob Nagar

As I was acutely suffering from stomach ache I stared reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam for becoming normal. My husband also started reading the treatise. My daughter who is in US came to know about my health issue and was much disturbed. Swami appeared to her in dream and granted her sacred water. It seems having heard my daughter's prayer Swami said 'Don't be worried about mother. I am there' and blessed her.

116) Damarla Satyavathi – Chennai

Wishing for my daughter's marriage I started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Kept the treatise aside and slid in to deep sleep. Looking at the showers of turmeric, vermillion and Vibhuti (sacred ash) in the dream I was filled with joy.

117) G. Ramanamma – Hindupur

I am working as Reader at Hindupur Government Degree College. On the day I started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam, Sathya Sai appeared as Krishna in my dream. After reading the treatise my father who been unwell for some time completely recovered his health. My friend who has been working as a Physics lecturer in SDGS college, her marriage has been fixed as per her choice.

118) Moodugula Padmavati – Hyderabad

I have been suffering from disc problem and it aggravated to a stage where I was unable to sit or stand. Doctors advised me that I must take rest at least for six months. I started reading

the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam sincerely with devotion. I became completely normal to the surprise of even the doctors. I do not have the ability to explain about the devotion which is beyond logical arguments.

119) Bandakavi Ramana Murthy, Sarada – Hyderabad

Wishing for our son's marriage read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Completed the treatise. Our son got a good proposal with no efforts. Our son is a doctor. We were wishing that the bride should also be a doctor. By Swami's grace it happened just that way.

120) Vadrevu Sankar – Dhavileswaram

Our daughter Santoshi read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam wishing for her marriage. Immediately after reading the treatise got a good proposal and her marriage has been fixed. The marriage will be celebrated on 25th November in Rajahmundry.

121) Kummari Srinivas – Guntur-2

After reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam got the opportunity to be in Swami's presence at Puttaparthi. Swami told my father 'I will take care of Srinivas' giving assurance. My father was suffering with cancer. There was anxiousness at home for my marriage. But, I insisted that only when father's cancer condition improves I will get married. Father's cancer was being treated. Surprisingly even before the treatment was completed, the doctors at Bommidala Cancer hospital informed that the cancer has been completely eradicated. Swami directed me to get married and fixed the auspicious time for the same. I got married to Uma on 30-4-2006.

122) Baireddy Swarajya Lakshmi – Sydney, Australia

In February 2005 I was affected by a leakage of CSF and was admitted to a hospital and my condition was critical. At that time I received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam through Sri Potukoochi Murthy. As I do not to read Telugu, my husband Madhusudan Reddy read out the treatise for me. I became very emotional listening to the pangs of separation suffered by Bhadra Devi for Sri Krishna. When Swami appeared in my dream I earnestly pleaded with Him "Swami! If I come out of this crisis alive, then please do send Krishnakka to Australia. I am longing to see Krishnakka." Swami Himself did the surgery on me in the hospital. Swami sent Krishnakka to Australia within a year. Nearly for over two months we spent happy time with Krishnakka sharing divine experiences.

123) Srimati Renuka – Sydney, Australia

My muscles were paining acutely and with increasing breathlessness I was admitted to a hospital. Doctors examined me and diagnosed that I am suffering from Pulmonary Embolism. They explained that in both my lungs there are blood clots and the condition is critical. Earlier I

had heard about Krishnakka and the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. On hearing that Krishnakka has come to Australia, I went to the house of her sister Anuradha Mylavarapu. Krishnakka saw my reports and talked to me very reassuringly and prayed to Swami. She gave me the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam and Vibhuti (sacred ash). As I did not know Telugu she advised me to keep the treatise under my pillow. I did exactly as told. I mixed Swami's Vibhuti in water and drank. When I went for second scanning the doctors were surprised. The clots disappeared not even leaving any traces.

124) S. Subhash – Hyderabad

Wishing for our daughter Lakshmi's marriage read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. A proposal was suggested with no efforts, making everyone happy. Lakshmi's marriage with Krovi Buchhibabu will be celebrated on 3rd. February.

125) Srimati Bandla Gayatri - Bangalore

The treatise Bhadra Kalyanam has revealed several virtues at home. Wishing for marriage of our daughter Sarita both my daughter and I read the treatise. By Swami's grace our daughter's marriage has been fixed with Srinivas Prasad, residents of Anantapur to be celebrated on 22.5.2006 in Bangalore. Went to Hyderabad and personally invited Krishnakka for the marriage. We took her blessings and were returning by train. I was reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam and later kept it under the pillow and slept. In the mid night at 2:30 am in the temple hall at Prasanthi Nilayam, in the presence of Swami, I saw Krishnakka and others singing devotional songs. Meanwhile I heard a voice speaking. "Look behind… I am there – I will protect you." When I looked behind – idol of Lord Ganesh – Vibhuti showering from that idol. When I opened my eyes the train was in Dharamavaram station.

126) Potukoochi Venkata Subba Lakshmi – Hyderabad

When my health was not good I received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam from my brother-in-law's daughter Chitta Annapoorna (England). After reading the treatise not only my health became normal, Swami's grace continued to shower on us. Recently I read the treatise with three wishes. All those wishes have been fulfilled. Our granddaughter Sri Anuradha passed scoring good marks and joined a good job in Mumbai. Grandson Aditya is doing engineering in REC in Jaipur. Our son is appearing for IFCA exams. The God who walks amidst us, Swami who is all pervading, Swami who is indweller of all.

127) Srimati Jandyala Uma Maheswara Rao – Hyderabad

We celebrated our daughter Lakshmi Vydehi's marriage on 11.5.2006 at Tarnaka in a grand manner. It has become a tradition for us to read Bhadra Kalyanam before any auspicious occasion. It is so significant because our would-be son-in-law read the treatise Bhadra

Kalyanam much before the marriage. He informed about this aspect to Krishnakka who attended the marriage to bless the couple.

128) Srimati Sathya Sundari (Suguna) – Hyderabad

Wishing for the marriage of our only daughter Lakshmi Swaroopa we read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Her marriage has been fixed with Chitta Nageswara Rao and will be celebrated on 17th in Hyderabad.

129) Srimati Vadlamaani Nagaratnam – Yelamanchi

Wishing for the marriage of our daughter Prasanthi I read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. I was disturbed that I did not read with all attention. But, during that time her marriage was fixed to be celebrated on 20th May 2006. Swami is so compassionate. He is showering so much grace on us.

130) Kasilingam Maharani – Sydney, Australia

My husband Sahadevan was lying unconscious in the ICU of a hospital. His heart and Kidneys were not functioning properly. In tears I continued praying Swami, the one who rescues from difficulties. I have complete faith that Swami will shower His grace in some manner through some one. At that moment I received a call from sister Bhagirathi inviting me to their house to participate in worshipping Lord Shiva. I went to their house. Seeing Krishnakka in their house could not control my happiness and emotions. From Krishnakka I received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam, vermilion powder and Swami's Vibhuti (sacred ash). I felt that Swami offered these through Krishnakka during this emergency. I kept the treatise under the pillow of my husband and prayed to Swami for His blessings. The next day there was considerable improvement in my husband's condition. Recently observing his health condition to be serious I called Krishnakka. She asked me to meditate up on Swami, the God moving amongst us. I am doing that. Recently we brought him home. He spoke to Krishnakka in India.

131) Doctor Balusa Nagamani – Dharmavaram

On the day I started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam Swami appeared in the dream wearing a saree and hair in a knot like Goda devi. I had an operation done for ovarian cancer. Swami continues to protect me from the critical condition.

132) Harinath Sitamraju – Sydney, Australia

I had a swelling in my knee and was unable to walk. I came to know that Krishnakka is in Australia and on that day she was visiting the house of Sri Murthy Pothukoochi for a spiritual meeting. I had already known about the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Though I was not physically fit with great difficulty I left for their house. I was facing challenges regarding my CA membership

registration. Under these circumstances of my ill health and professional issues, I was keen in meeting the authoress of Bhadra Kalyanam. I was praying Swami sincerely. I casually opened the internet and was very surprised. I saw the approval of my permanent membership. I immediately rushed to the spiritual meeting of Krishnakka. I received Swami's Vibhuti (sacred ash). That night applied vibhuti to my knee with devotion. I slept meditating up on Swami. Surprising! Wonder! When I got up in the morning my knee was in normal condition.

133) Uppugunduru Venkayya, U.V. Babu – Chennai

I have settled in Madras as a film director past many years. I was inspired by reading the serial 'Karmayogi' written by Dr. Krishna Kumari. We have also produced a movie in Malayalam based on 'Vasudha' written by her. I was surprised to know about the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam and its virtues. I received the treatise from her and after reading it I forgot myself. After reading the treatise we got good proposal for our daughter and celebrated the marriage in Madras in a grand manner. We also received our ancestral property. Swami has graced us with peace never experienced before.

134) Pisupati Ramana Rao - Hyderabad

After reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam celebrated the marriages of our daughters Swati and Deepthi in a grand manner.

135) Satthi Rajyalakshmi (Bhadra Kalyanam Rajyalakshmi) - Rajahmundry

The marriage of our daughter Medapati Geeta Lakshmi (Ooblanka) was celebrated with the divine blessings of Swami. From the day my daughter became pregnant I have been praying to Swami that the delivery should be on Swami's birth day. I started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. I had an earnest wish like the experience of Krishnakka narrated in page B-32 in the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. My daughter was discharged on 20th November from the hospital saying that there is no possibility of delivery for some time and that it may take minimum 15 days more. She was admitted again on 22nd. The same doctor who had earlier advised that there is no possibility for delivery on 23rd. now said there are chances. Though I was physically sitting near the bed my mind was in Puttaparthi going around Swami's temple, Eswaramma's monument and Ganesh's temple. In the early hours at 3.35 am on 23rd November Sai was born.

Dr. Aruna Kumari who is attached to the Harsha hospital where the delivery was done is also a devotee of Swami. Ten years back she had given birth to a boy on 22nd November instead of 23rd November as she wished and was disappointed. She also prayed to Swami that our baby should be born on 23rd. November. Swami fulfilled her wish too.

136) Goparaju Paparao – Bhimavaram

Wishing for the marriage of our daughter Nagavalli my wife Krishnaveni and I read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. By Swami's grace, we received a good proposal. We had no funds for performing the marriage. However, by God's grace surprisingly we received sufficient funds. On 22nd March the marriage of our daughter with Kiran was celebrated in Bhimavaram in a grand manner.

137) Srimati Soodini Geeta – Sydney, Australia

I received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam through Anuradha, sister of Krishnakka at a time when I was emotionally and physically feeling very low. After reading the treatise my life itself changed. Earlier I used to call Krishnakka over the phone and narrate my difficulties. But now I have reached the state of creating self-confidence and courage in others. While I was reading the treatise, Swami appeared in my dreams. Krishnakka was very busy during her visit to Australia. Hence, she could not come to our house. This caused me disappointment. Krishnakka along with child Krishna in my house appeared in the dream. When we have Swami who with His resolve fulfils our wishes, will there be anything lacking.

138) Urwasi – New Zealand

It has been many years since our marriage. The disappointment of not having children has become a pain to everyone in the family. I was emotionally very depressed. Anuradha Mylavarapu is a close friend. Observing my pain sent me the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. I do not know Telugu. Even then I kept it always close to me as a part of my body. During Krishnakka's visit to Australia, all of a sudden Bharat Kishore Anuradha's husband suggested that I speak to Krishnakka over the phone. Hearing Krishnakka's voice over the phone felt very happy. I informed her the auspicious news that after many years I have become pregnant and shared the happiness.

139) Jajimi Gauri Sekhar – Hyderabad

Our second daughter Sudha went to USA. While I was reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam for my daughter had a dream in which Swami was wearing yellow vestures and sitting in a palanquin. Woke her up saying "Bangaru (my dear) get up. Why are you getting afraid!" He asked. "Swami! I am away from my parents. Only wish for their good health, that is all" said she. Swami blessing her said "They will be fine. DO not have any worry."

I had severe stomach pain. After scanning they decided to operate. I was afraid and praying to Swami started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. After that the report showed everything normal. The pain subsided completely.

140) Pattamatta Sitamahalakshmi – Bangalore

Our daughter Madhuri read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam wishing for her marriage. Within a week a good proposal was fixed. Her marriage with Venkat Arun was celebrated on 17.5.2005 in Hyderabad. This is only due to the blessings of Swami.

141) Rohini Saandilya – Sydney, Australia

Wishing for the marriages of my brother's daughters I read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. By Swami's grace the marriages of both the daughters were recently celebrated in a grand manner.

142) Sri Eeswari Devi – Ravulapalem, East Godavari District

We received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam in Puttaparthi. We started reading the treatise. We were in no state of owning a house. However, at that moment we were informed that there is only one flat available in the building named 'Bhadrayamma.' We happily bought it. On the day the foundation stone was laid we received one more copy of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. We felt Swami himself has come home. The house warming function was done without any disturbance. Later my marriage was celebrated. The treatise Bhadra Kalyanam has become a celestial cow fulfilling all our wishes.

143) Dr. Sunder Raja Perumal Tondaradi Poondi – Hyderabad

After writing the entrance for MD I was anxiously waiting for the results. My mother was praying to many deities. Meanwhile God's grace was showered on us in the form of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. As soon as we placed the treatise in the shrine for worshipping, our results were declared. I secured 9th rank. My father did not approve our marriage proposal stating that the horoscopes does not match. Mother read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam once again. An incident happened that established faith in my father that the horoscopes have matched. My wife Kavitha is also a doctor. We a have a cute daughter. Her name is Sai Krishna Priya.

144) Janyavula Girija, Janyavula Sambasiva Rao – Nellore

For many years we have been in search for a good marriage proposal for our elder daughter Anuradha. But we were not successful. We read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam as instructed by Krishnakka. A good proposal has been fixed for our daughter. We have decided to celebrate the marriage on 4.2.2007.

145) Lolabhattu Srinivas Raju – Rangam peta, East Godavari District

Swami appeared in a dream while reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. I had the grace of Swami's physical presence in proximity at Puttaparthi. Had the grace of Sri Krishna appearing in a dream. It has been over five years since the marriage of Rambabu and Rani, but they have no children. After reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam she is in the 3rd month of pregnancy. My

grandmother Kantipoodi Sathyavathi said that this is the blessing of reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam.

One of relatives Sai Lakshmi is born dumb. In spite of searching for marriage proposals past four to five years there was no success. Within 5 months of reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam a good proposal was received, and the marriage was celebrated in a grand manner.

146) Gummella Sathyavati – Gopalpatnam

I had serious health issues. Wishing for Swami's grace I started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Swami appeared in the dream and showered divine Akshita (rice grains mixed with turmeric) and blessings. My spinal cord became normal. I regained my health in 15 days. Now it is very peaceful.

147) G.V.M. Lakshmi – Sathyavaka, West Godavari District

My husband Surya Prakasam is an RMP doctor. We have two sons and two daughters. We were concerned about the marriage of our second daughter. Meanwhile we received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Our daughter started reading the treatise. We received funds after completing a long outstanding task. Even I started reading the treatise. We received a good proposal and fixed our daughter's marriage. We consider it as a blessing from Swami. We continue reading the treatise and have the vision of Krishna and Bhadra.

148) B. Narayana Reddy – Shirdi

I am a lawyer by profession. I am the editor of a monthly magazine 'Sai Yugam.' My friend Venkata Rama Nayudu from Nellore visited me and placed the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam in my hands. I kept looking at the picture of Sai Krishna on the cover of the treatise. Sri Koganti Jagannadha Sarma, a priest in the Mahalakshmi temple at Shirdi took the treatise and said he will have a look at it. After three days he came back and said that he has not yet read the treatise and that his daughter-in-law Madhavi Lata is reading it. Even after many days I did not receive the treatise back.

A few days back suddenly Sarma came to me and told me about an astonishing incident. Though Madhavi's sister Syamala's marriage was fixed the groom's family backed out. The girl was depressed, and the entire family was sad. At that stage they received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. The groom's family sent a message that they are on their way to get the marriage done and that they regret for what has happened earlier. Syamala's family was surprised and their happiness was limitless. I did not get back the treatise. I went to Hyderabad and narrated this incident and received the sacred treatise Bhadra Kalyanam.

149) Ammaraju Hema Latha, Siddhi Arun Kumar – Hyderabad

Wishing for the marriage of our daughter Amita I started reading the treatise received from my sister praying to Swami. While still reading the treatise received a marriage proposal without

any efforts. Our daughter's marriage was celebrated with Ram Mohan (Engineer from California, USA) on 13th August. Swami showered His grace on us in this manner and blessed us making us fortunate.

150) Aadiraju Padmaja, Ramesh, Ramesh – Anantapur

Wishing for the marriage of the daughter of Chelincharla Krishna Murthy I read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam and placed it in the altar before Swami. Later observed the words "May it be fortunate, may it be auspicious, may it be prosperous" and a necklace with two pendants written using turmeric and vermillion powder. Later observed the same message at the end of the treatise in the 17th edition. While watching the video of the Vedic ritual being conducted by Swami amidst the chanting of Vedic hymns, Swami showed the would-be son-in-law in the video. The same person agreed to marry the girl. All those seeing the video were pleasantly surprised.

151) Kaja Prabhavati – Kaikaluru

Our son is in USA. We were very concerned about our son's marriage. At last by God's grace we received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. We determination we read the treatise sincerely. Immediately our son's marriage was fixed in an unexpected manner. The marriage was celebrated recently in a grand manner.

152) Erramsetty Raghavamma – Puttaparthi

My husband Erramsetty Surya Narayana is working in the office of Sanatana Sarathi magazine office. Our family lives in Kaikaluru in Krishna district. Wishing for the marriage of our granddaughter Bala Bharathi we read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Unexpectedly her marriage was fixed and celebrated in a grand manner.

153) Desaraju Sudarsana Rao – Mehboob Nagar

My wife Shantha Devi and my daughter read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam wishing for the marriage of our son. On reading the treatise by Swami's grace our son Krishna Mohan's marriage was fixed. The marriage will be celebrated in the month of February.

154) Regalla Vishnu Vardhana Rao – Puttaparthi

I am doing MTech at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Education. I will be completing by next February. Before Swami's visit to Kodaikanal I was standing in Kulwant hall much worried. Swami called me to come close. I requested saying "Swami! I have many difficulties. One of my sisters Savitha is still not married. The elder sister does not have children. Swami only you have to rescue." Swami said very affectionately "Read the treatise written by Krishnakka. Have faith in

Me. You will experience the essence of being complete. Your wishes will be fulfilled." Swami said this distinctly. Recently in one of the discourses Swami included "Bhadra Kalyanam" as one of the treatises to be read. I immediately called my sister Savitha and asked her to convey this message to Krishnakka and take the treatise from her. She is working in Hyderabad as a lecturer. My happiness is beyond description.

155) R. Laxman Rao – Srikakulam

We celebrated Sri Bhadra Kalyanam in Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi's temple in Srikakulam. In that celebration my wife Kamala Triveni, our daughter Divya Sai and me participated. We prayed for our daughter's marriage. She is studying in the 3rd year B. Tech course. By the grace of Bhadra Kalyanam immediately her marriage was fixed with my elder sister's son. The groom is doing his final year in B.E. The marriage will be celebrated on 21st June. This fortune is the grace bestowed by Swami through Bhadra Kalyanam.

156) Ambati Uma Maheswari – Puttaparthi

This is an emotional incident I wish to narrate about the astonishing rebirth of my father Ambati Yadagiri Raju. My father has been in an unconscious condition for over a week. On 17th April he had a heart attack. He was profusely sweating throughout the night. Though we five sisters were wiping the sweat constantly it continued like a flood. The whole body became cold like a block of ice. We were unable to even touch him in that condition. Swami's photograph was on his chest. The treatise Bhadra Kalyanam which is father's life breath was under his pillow. That sacred treatise is like an organ of his body. His lips and body turned blue. He became stiff like a log of wood. The breathing stopped. In the morning at 2:30 am we informed everyone over the phone that he passed away. At that moment amazingly an exceptionally large size grass hopper from somewhere landed on his body and started moving all over the body. Movements started in father. In which ever direction the grass hopper was moving his eyes followed. We were watching in astonishment. In the middle of the night an ambulance arrived, as though sent by someone. Swami through Bhadra Kalyanam in the form of a grass hopper using ambulance as an instrument granted rebirth to father.

157) Koraada Nagaraju – Narasanna Peta, Srikakolam

Even after four years of marriage we were not fortunate to have children. Went around many places and finally we both read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. We completed the treatise. My wife conceived. Krishnakka examined and told us the good news.

158) Gottumukkala Radha Rani – Bhimavaram

Wishing for the marriage of our daughter Deepti (B. Tech) I read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Marriage has been fixed with an engineer working in Sydney, Australia.

159) Nemaani – Sitafalmandi, Hyderabad

I was sincerely reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam wishing for the marriage of our daughter Sujata. I had a dream. In an unknown state I went to Krishnakka's house with the marriage invitation. As I was about to handover the invitation to Krishnakka she smilingly said "As Swami is here itself you could give the invitation directly to Him, isn't it?" I looked with joy. Swami received the invitation from my hands and blessed. Will there be a better evidence than this for the grace of the Indweller in All?

160) Khammam mettu Bhrammaji Rao Gandhi – Hyderabad

After reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam our daughter Rama Haritha completed her MCA, got a good proposal and marriage was fixed. The marriage was celebrated on 6.5.2007 at RTC marriage hall in a grand manner. This fortune is only due to Swami's grace.

161) Savarakota Kanaka Lingeswara Rao, Usha Rani – Tekkili

After reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam the marriage of our elder son Sai Kiran with Sri Valli from Srikakulam was celebrated in a grand manner.

162) Manchiraju Bharathi Bucchi Ramayya – Visakhapatnam

When my husband suffered a heart attack, the doctors examined and advised bypass operation to be done immediately. We were meditating up on Swami and were reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam and went to Puttaparthi. There the doctors said that there was no need for operation. With that happy news he recovered his health. Our son Arun Kumar was studying in the first year of Inter. He was with us in the hospital reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. We thought he may not pass in the exams. Surprisingly he got first rank. Also, our daughter Lakshmi Anupama could not study much but secured 82% in Inter exams.

163) Chintha Sai Jyotsna – Dhubbaka

Wishing for my marriage I got the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam from Krishnakka and read it. Within a week my marriage was fixed. Our happiness was limitless.

164) Srimati and Sri Gunaratnam, Srimati and Sri Rajeswari – Australia

During the visit of Krishnakka to Australia through her spiritual gatherings we repeatedly heard about Swami's divine grace and the virtues of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. We felt very happy. By the divine grace of Swami the marriage of Kogulan and Chithroobi will be celebrated on 13th May in Australia.

165) Srimati Paranandi Narmila, Professor Paranandi Venkata Murthy – Visakhapatnam

The treatise Bhadra Kalyanam is our breath. Swami is our life breath. We translated the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam in Hindi and sent to Krishnakka for review. Wishing the marriage of our son Madhavram we read the treatise. His marriage has been fixed with Sudha. The marriage was celebrated on 6.5.2007 in Visakhapatnam.

166) Manda Nagamani – Vijaynagaram

My mother had fractured her leg and in that condition was unable to put it down. She was completely bed ridden. At that moment we received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. I prayed that only if my mother walks I will read this treatise. Surprisingly from the next day itself she started walking with the help of a walker.

167) M. Rama Rao – Secunderabad

I read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam three time continuously for three weeks. Every time with only one wish that my wife should have normal delivery. That both mother and child should be safe and healthy. However, the doctors advised that an operation is necessary. On December 3rd meditating up on Swami I kept the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam close to my heart and slept. There was a telephone call in the middle of the night. My wife had a normal delivery. As I wished a baby girl was born.

168) Alampalli Sunitha

Immediately after reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam I got admission in B. Ed course. A good proposal was suggested without any effort and was my marriage was celebrated in a grand manner.

169) Poosapati Saraswati – Jonnavalasa, Vijayanagaram

Wishing for the marriage of our elder daughter started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. On the second day itself received a phone call from common friends with a proposal. On completing the treatise marriage was fixed. Our wish was fulfilled.

170) Gandham Sridevi Sudhakar – Hyderabad

Received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam from Krishnakka and read sincerely to fulfil our long-standing wish. In that same month I was given the auspicious news that I have conceived. Our wish was fulfilled.

171) Alluri Rama – Hyderabad

With the wish that our daughter Kilambi Rama should have a child we read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. On the night when we read the treatise Sri Krishna appeared crawling in the dream of my husband Rajeswara Rao. On the next day itself we heard the auspicious news that our daughter is pregnant.

172) Vadrevu Venkata Ramana – Rajahmundry

Before reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam Swami appeared in a dream. Immediately started reading the treatise. Swami granted my wish. The marriage of our daughter with Sai Kishore was celebrate at Parvathi Parameswara marriage hall in Rajahmundry in a grand manner.

173) Kuchharlapati Sathya Narayana Raju, Subhadramma – Rangampeta, East Godavari District

Immediately after our son Siva Rama Raju started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam, I had a dream that a proposal will be finalised. On completion of the treatise the marriage was fixed and celebrated on 5th May in Bhimavaram.

174) Tipiri Setty Sathyavathi Subbarao – Rangam peta

Wishing for the marriage of our grandson Sai Sudhakar we read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. The marriage has been fixed with Sathya Veni from Sitapuram. We performed Bhadra Kalyanam with devotion and sincerity. We shared our happiness with Krishnakka.

175) Medapati Pushpavati – Oobalanka

Reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam is an activity that goes on continuously at home. My father reads the treatise constantly. Doctors diagnosed that he has heart problem. Father got himself examined only at Puttaparthi and no other place. Doctors advised that father was with normal health. We were very happy. He appeared in my dream as Goddess Gayatri. Later Swami gave me two copies of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam and directed me to read.

176) Itikaala Tushara Kumari – Vaddeypalli

My husband ‘s name is Neelakantha Rao. In Warangal while crossing over a road divider I got hurt and was not able to walk. I have been in bed for 20 days. Doctors are treating and asked me not to move. Recently Krishnakka visited Warangal for a spiritual gathering. I could not attend due to the condition of my leg. My husband heard Krishnakka’s discourse and got the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam and gave it to me. I started reading the treatise while in bed itself. At that moment I heard a voice in my ears “Get up… get up and walk.” While saying “I cannot walk” I started walking as per the instructions of Swami. Feeling very happy I shouted, “I am able to walk!” I do not have enough words to express his happiness. We shared our happiness about this wonder with Krishnakka at Swami’s temple in Husnabad.

177) Devaguptam Radhika – Hyderabad

Due to serious ill heath my mother was admitted to Image hospital. At that time, I sincerely read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam two times. Meanwhile we also met Krishnakka. Surprisingly mother’s health became normal and was discharged. Same day my marriage was fixed.

178) Srimati and Sri Shanmukha Nadhan, Srimati and Sri Sahadevan – Australia

Recently when Krishnakka visited Australia we participated in all her spiritual gatherings without missing even one. Blessing our children, she gave us the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Though we did not know the language we were moved by the sacred feelings in the treatise. The marriage of Selvan Rajeev and Selvi Tachagini will be celebrated very soon.

179) Medapati Venkata Reddy – Samarlakota

Wishing for the marriage of our daughter Sai Eswari my wife Vijaya Lakshmi read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Within a week the marriage was fixed. That family are also devotees of Swami.

180) Ganyavula Sambasiva Rao, Girija – Nellore

Wishing for the marriage of our daughter Anuradha we read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Immediately on completing the treatise our daughter’s marriage was fixed with a software engineer. The marriage was celebrated in a grand manner. Both have gone to USA.

181) Mandapadmina Jyotsna – Srikakolam

Wishing to get married to my colleague Venkata Ramana Murthy I sincerely read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. With the blessings of elders, the marriage was celebrated on 10-5-2007 in Annavaram in the presence of the Lord.

182) Srimati Pootukooru Venkateswara Rao, Srimati Indira – Gampala Gudem

Wishing for the marriage of our only daughter Rama Devi we read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. With Swami's divine grace our daughter's marriage with Srinivas Kalyan Kumar was celebrated on 9-5-2007 at Sri Arya Vaisya marriage hall in Madhira in a grand manner. While we were still celebrating received Krishnakka's blessings through a phone call. We all recognised the presence of Swami with joy.

183) Devaguptam Venakata Krishna Rao, Srimati Gayatri – Malamguru

After reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam with the divine blessings of Swami our daughter Venkata Naga Radhika's (B. Tech) marriage with Nadindla Giridhar (B. Tech, MS) from Vijayawada was celebrated on 9/5/2007 at Manuguru in a grand manner.

184) Srimati and Sri Kuchharlapati Satyanarayana Raju - Bhimavaram

The marriage of our only son Sivaramaraju with Deeptiki daughter of Sri Senmetsa Sathya Narayan Raju from Amiram village was celebrated in a grand manner. This marriage is a fortune showered by the divine blessings of Swami through the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam.

185) Devarabotla Suryanarayana Venkata Subramanya Saram, Srimati Annapurna

– Ravulapalem

By reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam, the divine grace of Swami, the marriage at our home was celebrated in a grand manner. The marriage that was celebrated between our second daughter Bhadra Kali Devi with Sri Ramachandra Murthy from Bhimavaram, is all due to the grace of God. Our hearts are the evidences for this.

186) Gunda Varahalu Petti, Visalakshi – Anakapalli

With Swami's divine blessings and through the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam the marriage of our elder son Kalyana Chakravarthi with Vasavathi from Rajahmundry was celebrated in a grand manner at Rajahmundry.

187) Chinta Krishna Murthy, Srimati Geeta – Siddhipeta

Reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam filled our home with the shining auspiciousness. The marriage of our elder daughter Sai Jyotsna with Phanindra from Hyderabad was celebrated in

Siddhipeta in a grand manner. All of us could experience Swami's presence and that great fortune. We are blessed.

188) Pantula Rama Krishna, Srimati Vasantha Rama Krishna – Visakhapatnam

Wishing for auspiciousness and wishing for an auspicious event we read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. The marriage has been fixed between our elder son Praveen and Naga Shirisha, daughter of Sri B. V. Subbarao from Hyderabad.

189) Srimati A. Venkata Vijaya Lakshmi, Sri A. Venkata Rao – Hyderabad

We read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam sincerely. The marriage of our son Phani Ravi Sankar with Sudha Sri was celebrated at Hyderabad in a grand manner.

190) Isukapalli Kameswari, Purushottam – Hyderabad

Wishing for the marriage of our elder daughter Lakshmi Prasanna (MCA) praying to Swami I started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. By Swami's grace within a few days a good proposal was suggested, and the marriage has been fixed.

191) Sadanala Subbarao – Padalada

We are from Rajolu mandal area. My elder brother Sadanala Tatarao's daughter Venkata Lakshmi's marriage was getting delayed. We read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Immediately we went to Puttaparthi and had Swami's grace to be in His presence. Immediately fixed the marriage and celebrated in a grand manner. Everything happened quickly as a dream.

192) Sangeeta Rao, Sakunthala – Berhampur

Wishing for the marriage of our younger daughter started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam on a Thursday. After reading the treatise our daughter got married to the person she liked in Berhampur itself by Swami's grace.

193) Duvvuri Someswara Rao, Surya Prabhavati – Ramachandrapuram, East Godavari District

We received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam at a time when we were concerned about the marriage of our daughter Anuradha. On the fourth day of reading the treatise we were

suggested with a good proposal without any efforts. The marriage was celebrated in a grand manner.

194) Vemuri Narasamma – Berhampur

It is over three years since our son got married but they had no children. Praying to Swami started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. In the same month received the happy news about our daughter-in-law becoming pregnant.

195) Ilapagurthi Ramamurthy – Narsipatnam

After reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam finalised a good proposal for our daughter Santosha Roopadevi and celebrated the marriage on 7-7-2007 with Swami's grace.

196) Ambala Dharmapal, Vijaya Lakshmi – Nizamabad

I was meditating up on Swami for the good health of our daughter Sravani. Swami appeared in a dream along with a close friend of mine and blessed. I was asking "Swami! My daughter's health" to which he replied "I will send … I will send" and left. I did not understand what He is going to send. The next day the same lady who appeared in the dream came and asked me to read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Immediately I contacted Krishnakka and arranged for the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Then I realised what Swami meant when He said, "I will send." It was the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam.

197) Vasantha Chavalapalli - Visakhapatnam

While reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam I kept a few flowers as page marker. The next day looking at that page I was astonished. In the place of flowers, I saw Akshita (rice grains) in honey colour. Will there be a better evidence to establish the divine blessings of Swami? The lady who supplies us milk was suffering from severe back ache. She started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Swami appeared in her dream and blessed. She recovered her health.

198) Banda Mahalakshmi – Hyderabad

Wishing for our daughter's marriage started reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. I was meditating upon Swami. Within a week prospective groom's family visited us and the marriage was fixed.

199) Chinagudaba Kesava Rao, Srimati Suseelamma – Parvatipuram, Vijayanagaram

As a boon of reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam the marriage of our only son Jagadeesh with Soumya has been fixed to be celebrated in New Belgaum.

200) Srimati Neelima – Nellore

With Swami's grace I had the opportunity to read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. I read the treatise wishing for a husband from a family who are Swami's devotees. Ramesh Kumar is the brother of Kumaramma who wrote the treatise "Anyadha Saranam Naasthi." Sanjay Kumar is the third son of Ramesh Kumar with whom my marriage was celebrated by Swami. The day when I started reading the treatise, I had the fortune of being in presence of Swami at close proximity in Kodaikanal. I read the treatise five times. Bhadra Devi appeared in my dreams and dropped a packet in my laps – immediately my marriage was celebrated is all Swami's grace.

201) Akkiraju Subbarayudu – Amalapuram

In February 2007 I came to know that I have a cancer. At the same time, I received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Praying to Swami I started reading the treatise. I got my treatment done at Indo American Cancer Institute at Hyderabad. Even in such critical condition I had great courage. There was no anxiety. A courage that Swami will protect me. During the treatment went to Puttaparthi to receive Swami's grace being in His presence. I went Hyderabad and showed my report to Krishnakka. She gave me much courage. She gave Swami's Vibhuti (sacred ash) and the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. As you have full faith in Swami, He said justice will be done to you. Recently I came for check-up. All tests were done, and Doctors were astonished. Dr. Dattatreya wrote on the report "Congratulations." Swami cancelled the cancer. Immediately went to Krishnakka and shared our happiness.

202) Gandham Sridevi, Prabhakar – Hyderabad

It has been over three years since our marriage, and we did not have children. When we consulted doctors, they said that there are no chances for us to have children. We heard about the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam at Puttaparthi, collected the treatise and started reading it. Yhe same month I conceived, and a child was born. The baby girl was named Sathya Priya by Krishnakka.

203) Pulimamidi Murali – Hyderabad

It has been eight years since we got married. We have consulted so many doctors about children. We went to Krishnakka for advice regarding having children. There we came to know about the virtues of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. We had a strong urge to read the treatise. That night Swami appeared in a dream and directed us to name the child to be born to us as "Sathya" and disappeared.

204) Srimati Challa Swarna Kumari – Bhumulapuram

My uncle's granddaughter had Polio effecting her leg and a hand. As she was not getting married, I gave her the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Fifteen days after reading the treatise a professor teaching in an American university came on his own wishing to marry her. The marriage has been fixed to be celebrated in April.

205) M. Subbarao – New Delhi

I retired from National Book Trust India as an editor. Wishing for the marriage of our daughter Padmavati we read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Her marriage has been fixed with Subramanyam to be celebrated on 23rd April in Bangalore.

206) Srimati Panchadara Nagalakshmi - Hyderabad

It has been many years since we got married but we have no children. We visited so many hospitals. We made lot of efforts. Doctors said that there are no chances for me to have children. I went to Krishnakka and read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. I became pregnant. During the sixth month of pregnancy Swami appeared in my dream and asked "Which month? How is your health?" With the ignorance that Swami does not know I said "Swami! sixth month. I have conceived after reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam." Then smiling beautifully Swami said "reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam is a noble activity. Those who read that treatise will be blessed with all fortunes" and said something in Sanskrit language. I shared this extraordinary experience with Krishnakka.

207) Gandham Ramachandra Rao – Hyderabad

Wishing for our daughter's marriage we collected the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam from Krishnakka and read it. Within a month her marriage was fixed and celebrated. Now our daughter and son-in-law are in USA. Our salutations to Swami who inspired Krishnakka to write this sacred treatise. Our thanks to Krishnakka for serving the devotees through the treatise.

208) Vanamu Chakradhara Rao, Sandhya Rani – Tirupur

Wishing for our daughter's marriage I read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Within a month the marriage was fixed. The apple that was offered in the worship was showered with Vibhuti (sacred ash). By Swami's grace our son recovered from the critical Brain fever.

209) Kotti Ramarao – Machilipatnam

Being from the literary field as a poet, writer and as president of Andhra Saraswati samiti I know Krishnakka. I received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam from L. S. Sastry and started reading it. Immediately I achieved my goal. Our granddaughter completed her B. Tech in first class. Past four years we could not fix her marriage in spite of best efforts. On the third day of reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam auspicious moments began. The marriage was celebrated in Sri Krishna temple in a grand manner.

210) Tarra Srividya – Hyderabad

My sincere wish to marry my 'Bava' (name given to the relationship with maternal uncle's son) was fulfilled by reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Krishnakka blessed my Bava Srinivas Rao and me describing us as "Bhadra and Krishna." Our marriage will be celebrated on 24th August 2008 at Srikakulam.

211) S. Sankararao – Palakonda, Srikakulam District

Due to a problem in my kidneys I underwent dialysis. I got admitted to Apollo hospital with acute stomach pain on 16-9-2007. Slowly the functioning of liver and kidneys failed. Jaundice was severe and I drifted in to coma in the morning on 4-10-2007. Doctors identified the threat to life and all close relations were informed. The treatise Bhadra Kalyanam was under my pillow. I had handed over the sacred treatise to numerous persons. My wife was holding the treatise in hands and fighting with Swami to bring me back to life. In the meantime, an unknown person put some Vibhuti (sacred ash) in her hands blessed saying everything will be auspicious and disappeared. Though the doctors left as there was no hope, my wife had a strong faith that Swami will rescue through Bhadra Kalyanam. Swami made it true. Around 2:00 doctors returned as I have chances to survive. They were injecting blood in to me. People present there could clearly see Swami's form in that blood bottle. On the same day people over there recognised Swami wearing red robes sitting in a wheel chair entering the ICU. When I was healthy, I used to read the treatise constantly. I was discharged on 26-10-2007 and recovering normal health was moving amidst people. Doctors were wondering how I survived with the type of sickness I suffered. They keep saying your Baba saved you. On 24-02-2008 Sunday, Krishnakka visited us at Palakonda accepting our invitation.

212) R. Laxmana Rao - Srikakulam

I have been experiencing the divine virtues of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. I came to know about Swami's ardent devotee Sri Sankara Rao lying in his last stage. I went to see him for the final time. He was lying stiff like a log. The treatise Bhadra Kalyanam was near his head. At that moment as though, Swami made me to speak – I softly said in his ear "Sankararao – Nothing will happen to you. You will return with normal health. I will bring Krishnakka to your home. You

will welcome her.” For ten days I was away and when I returned Sankararao fully recovered met me with a smile.

I was not surprised. Because I am devotee having complete faith in Swami.

The words that Swami made me speak came true.

On 24-2-2008 after celebrating Bhadra Kalyanam Sankararao himself welcomed Krishnakka to his house.

213) Pisupati Ramadevi - Hyderabad

While I was reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam I got a message that in Puttaparthi Swami accepted my letter. Our son Rithwik was suffering from a muscular disease and was unable to even walk. For his sake five lines were drawn with a sacred water (turmeric and lime mixed in water). He started walking. Four days later we went to Puttaparthi. We had the grace to be in Swami’s presence. Swami also accepted our letter. We are with happy feelings with the faith that by Swami’s blessings our son will walk normal. While my husband Lakshminarayana was reading the treatise, Swami appeared in his dream. Swami also appeared in our son’s dream. A divine glow from Swami’s hand spread over each of them creating a divine experience.

214) Ramarajyam - Visakhapatnam

After reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam our son got a confirmation for a seat in research. Our daughter who is staying in Canada was having complicated issues and they are were all resolved. Her marriage was celebrated in a grand manner. Suspecting the condition of the baby growing in the womb was recommended for an angiogram test. She offered prayers to Swami and to the sacred treatise Bhadra Kalyanam, put some Vibhuti (sacred ash) in her mouth and went for the test. Surprisingly the report showed everything normal. It is all Swami’s grace.

215) Gollapudi Lakshmi Sarada Chandrakala – Nandyala

I read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam 9 times wishing for my marriage and good health. As per Swami’s resolve my marriage has been fixed. The marriage will be celebrated in August.

216) Namboori Umadevi – Nandyala

Swami appeared in my dream and blessed with the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Every page was filled with Vibhuti (sacred ash). Further, He directed me to go and keep the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam under Raghava’s pillow. The next day happened to be Thursday. I followed swami’s directions. Raghava who was in a critical condition until then recovered very well. This incident recently happened in Virginia, USA.

217) Aruna Chandrala – Sydney, Australia

I am associated with Telugu association as the president. After the visit of Krishnakka to Australia we started conducting classes on Bhadra Kalyanam. I used to read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam in Telugu and explain in English. Earlier wishing for the marriage of my brother's daughter I read the treatise. His daughter got married and is now living in USA. I do not have the capacity to describe the virtues of the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam.

218) Taati Padma Choudhari – Bangalore

I started reading the treatise on a Thursday. On the seventh day Bhadra and Krishna appeared in my dream. Till now I have read the treatise 10 times different wishes. Nine wishes have been fulfilled. Recently I came to know about my friend Radha Kulkarni (well-known writer) that her husband Sri Krishna was suffering from Paralysis. I took the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam to her. They both are ardent devotees of Krishna. We kept the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam on his bed. Both Radha and I felt a current passing through us and were astonished. She said happily "my husband will walk soon." Krishna walked and said, "Give me tea". We were totally immersed in joy.

219) Kuruganti Vijaya Lakshmi – Hyderabad

Doctors advised me that I have Fibroids in the womb and that I need to undergo operation. I went to Krishnakka and she counselled for long time. She asked me to try to keep mind peaceful and said everything will turn out good. I sincerely read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. After a month scanning was done again. The Fibroids disappeared without leaving any traces. This is grace showered by Swami through the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam.

My cousin's daughter had infection in the lungs and became very serious. Doctors said she may not survive beyond two hours. We gave her water mixed with Swami's Vibhuti (sacred ash). The infection started receding. But the doctors observed a large hole in the lungs and advised immediate lung operation. Immediately I went to Krishnakka's house and sent the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam to the child. That child of 7 years started reading the treatise. She used to keep the treatise under her pillow regularly. On examination such a large hole disappeared leaving no traces. Doctors were astonished.

220) Dr. Sarada Vani K, Sai Vani Hospital – Hyderabad

In our hospital Dontarajula Anantha Lakshmi is working for past 10 years. She lost her parents at a very young age. Three months back she lost her uncle who brought her up. She

was in distress. I gave her the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam and asked her to read it. She had just finished reading only half and within a month her marriage was fixed. But the groom's family was insisting on expensive jewellery and other gifts. As this was not possible, she was feeling very bad that she is not fortunate enough to get married. She was holding the treatise and lamenting. On the third day in the early morning around 5:45 Swami manifested in physical form showering divine blessings gave her assurance. Swami granted her the opportunity to touch His feet. In about three hours around 9:00 am Anantha Lakshmi got a call from the groom's family. They said we do not want any jewellery or gifts. That their would-be daughter-in-law is a big gift. We got an indication that this marriage should be fixed from our family deity Durga Devi. This marriage will be celebrated in February. Bhadra Devi is a boon from Durga Devi. This marriage after reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam is verily being celebrated by Swami. Anantha Lakshmi says she is unable to forget the soft touch of Swami's feet.

221) Korada Anasuya – New Jersey

We came to know in October 2008 that my father-in-law Sri Lakshmi Prasad (USA) is having cancer at stage 4. All of us at home have read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam several times. Father-in-law read the treatise very sincerely. From that time onwards he does not have any pain and is peaceful. Swami appeared in my husband's dream and blessed with Vibhuti (sacred ash) and handed over a bottle with water. Swami is also appearing in my dreams very often and granting peace of mind.

222) Srimati Lakshmi Sundari, Surya Narayana Sarma – Tanuku

My husband and me are working as college principals in Tanuku. My husband had a bypass surgery in 1992. Again in 2006 doctors advised that there are blocks and operation is risky. Out of fear my husband postponed the operation by two years. As per God's divine will we received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam and read it. We recently came to Hyderabad with lot of faith and courage. Dr. Gopichand did the bypass operation. We felt as though Swami is doing the operation. Now his health is normal.

223) Gundla Sai Ganesh Gayatri – Mumbai

It has been 7 years since we got married. We have been praying to several Gods for having children. Many advised that as there are no chances for having a child to adopt one. By God's grace received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. I started reading the treatise. My brother's job was made permanent. I completed the treatise. It was confirmed that I am pregnant. On Swami's birth day on 23rd November 2008 a healthy boy was born.

224) Kompella Prasanth, Deepika – Sydney, Australia

From the time Krishnakka visited Australia and returned there have been spiritual gatherings to celebrate Bhadra Kalyanam. While I was reading the treatise in Telugu, Pradeep Saxena and

Amita Saxena couple used to translate in English. Through internet everyone was given the English translation. Though we were married for a long time we had no children. After different type of tests, the doctors advised there are no chances adoption is the only option. We were depressed and came to Hyderabad. We arranged for a spiritual gathering at our home in Sainikpuri. We showed all our reports to Krishnakka. In medical terms Deepika becoming pregnant is impossible. However, you have faith in Swami. Through the treatise you are able to see Sai Krishna. You will always have Swami's blessings. Krishnakka gave us Swami's Vibhuti (sacred ash) and the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam and blessed us. Within few days of reaching Sydney we came to know that Deepika is pregnant. In March 2009 we had a healthy boy. Immediately we telephoned Krishnakka and shared our happiness.

225) Dintyala Venkata Subramanyeswara Rao - Hyderabad

I retired from AG's office as audit officer. Earlier I was not aware about Swami. But after reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam I have developed the faith that Swami is the supporter of all. I am 77 years old. There was an immediate need for heart operation. But due to fear and anxiety could not attempt it. But Krishnakka gave me the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam asking me to be always meditating up on Swami. She said that Swami will protect me and be courageous and get the operation done. She gave me immense courage. The operation was successful. By Swami's grace I am maintaining good health.

226) Bonadalapati Venkateswara Rao, Indira – Hyderabad

Wishing for the marriage of our daughter Ramya we took the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam from Krishnakka. On the day of Krishna's birth our daughter started reading the treatise. Ramya has been trying to get transferred to Hyderabad from a long time. Her boss called her and informed that she is being transferred to Hyderabad. She was pleasantly surprised. She once again started reading the treatise. Her marriage was fixed. Swami personally received the marriage invitation and blessed.

227) Murthy Pothukoochi, Sarada Potukoochi – Sydney, Australia

Our son Sarath has a great respect and love for Krishnakka. Immense faith about the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. When Krishnakka visited Australia, he was constantly taking care. With Swami's grace Sarath's marriage was fixed with Bhadra Abhirami, daughter of Shanmukhanadhan from Sydney. This is truly the marriage of Bhadra Kalyanam. All the members of Abhirami's family are Swami's devotees. The marriage is being celebrated on 27th in Puttaparthi in Swami's temple. The marriage invitation was written by Krishnakka. Swami personally accepted the invitation and blessed. We are very fortunate.

228) Panughanti Sridhar – Karimnagar

I am working as a medical representative. Since April 2005 I have been suffering from cancer. I have been undergoing the treatment for past two and half years at Mumbai and two years in Hyderabad. Now the body is not able to sustain chemotherapy treatment. I have been very worried. I received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam through Dr. K. Sampath Kumar, Swami's devotee. I read the treatise. In a short time received a report that my cancer has been cured. While reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam Swami appeared in NIMS hospital and blessed me.

229) Hema Malini Vembar – Nallakunta, Hyderabad

My mother had severe heart attack on 1/4/2010. Water accumulated in the lungs. Doctors said her kidneys failed. They said her condition is critical and chances are slim. Feeling completely lost we went to Krishnakka's hose. She gave us much courage and gave us Swami's Vibhuti (sacred ash) and the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Doctors said they will observe for 48 hours and then only advise. We applied the vibhuti to mother and kept the treatise under her pillow. Observing mother's steady recovery doctors were surprised. They said it is only Sri Sathya Sai Baba in whom you have so much faith has protected mother. We were filled with joy.

230) Nanduri Srinivasa Rao – Hyderabad

Recently I became very sick. There was flem collection in my lungs and was unable to breathe. I lost all hopes. I became unconscious. Swami appeared in dream and with His divine touch and blessing, completely removed my disease. Though it was a dream it appeared so real. I woke up. Surprising, I had no traces of ill health. Recognising myself as a complete healthy person I was immersed in joy. Bhadra Kalyanam has become part of us at home.

Recently my wife Lakshmi Kanaka Durga has severe chest pain in the night. She was sweating profusely and in pain holding her chest and crying. In the middle of the night doctors are not easily available. I was just praying Swami. Suddenly Durga opened her eyes and said "No need of doctors – give me Bhadra Kalyanam" in a feeble voice. I immediately gave her the treatise. She kept it on her chest. She drifted in to sleep. She saw a form in white leaving her body. The next day morning she was normal and with more enthusiasm went about doing her daily chores. This is an unbelievable truth. A wonder.

231) A. Obayya, Kamala – Doordarsan, Hyderabad

When I was reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam Swami appeared in dream and allowing to touch His feet blessed. Wishing for the marriage of my sister's daughter I read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Within four days her marriage was fixed. While my grandmother Raghavamma was reading the treatise, Sri Krishna appeared in her dreams making her very happy.

232) Srimati Garapati Jhansi Lakshmi – Hyderabad.

Our daughter Ujwala is a doctor. Wishing for the marriage of our daughter I took the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam from Krishnakka and read it. Immediately after reading the treatise our daughter's marriage with Rajesh was celebrated in Gudivada in a grand manner. Our other daughter Pragnya read the treatise wishing to go to USA by 5th September. Surprisingly with Swami's blessings she went to USA at the same time.

233) Gorlamandala Ram Naresh – Sydney, Australia

When Krishnakka visited Sydney, I participated regularly in her spiritual discourses. I also used to read aloud the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam and explain in English for the benefit of foreigners. Recently when I came to Hyderabad to attend a marriage Krishnakka gave me the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam and blessed saying soon you will distribute your marriage invitation. I am Swami's student. Surprisingly my marriage was fixed in a short time with Sri Harshini MBA who was also Swami's student. The marriage will be celebrated on 17th November 2010 in Puttaparthi in Sai Kulwant Hall through the divine hands of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Will there be any other greater fortune!

234) Srimati Chintha Venkata Reddy - Bangkok

Our elder son died in a car accident in 2004. Our lives became gloomy. We got our daughter married. I was 42 years old. Thinking that if we had another son our sorrow will disappear, I tried IVF nearly 8 cycles. But there was no success. We received the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam on 1st May 2011. On 5th. May we came to know that I am pregnant. How can we ever repay our debt to Swami?

235) Srimati Sobha Gopal – Bangalore

(She is the authoress who translated the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam in to Kannada and received Swami's blessings)

When Krishnakka visited Pavgad for giving a discourse, Bhadra Kalyanam festival was celebrated. I requested Krishnakka that I will translate the treatise in to Kannada and to bless me. She blessed me and advised to take Swami's blessings for the manuscript. Even before completing the translation work our only daughter Sai Leela got a worthy husband. His name is Lakshmi Narayana. Completion of the treatise and celebration of our daughter's marriage happened at the same time by Swami's grace. As advised by Krishnakka the manuscript received Swami's blessings in the mandir (before Swami was admitted to the hospital).

236) Kovela Deepti - Hyderabad

It has been one year since I got married. Unable to bear the pressure my in-laws were putting on me for a divorce I came to my parents place. The matter is in the court and getting delayed. I was in depression and went to Krishnakka and collected the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. The case proceeded quickly. I got the divorce. A good marriage proposal was finalised. The marriage will be celebrated on 26.6.2011. All this appears like a dream. Will I ever be able to pay back my debt to Swami!

237) Dronavarjula Anuradha – Hyderabad

Wishing for the marriage of our niece Tanikella Shanti read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam without missing the order. Within ten days after reading the treatise her marriage was fixed. The marriage was celebrated in a grand manner. Will there be a better evidence for our faith and Swami's grace?

238) Srimati M. Padma – Srinagar colony, Hyderabad

My cousin Roopa (8 years old) became serious and was admitted to Rainbow hospital. Doctors gave up their hope. That child was in ICU for 25 days. I sent the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Unexpectedly the child recovered and became completely healthy.

239) Srimati Varikooti Suman – Hyderabad

Doctors said that there is no possibility for me to have a second child. My mother Visalakshi advised me to read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam wishing for a child. Though I was a little disappointed that Swami did not appear in my dreams, I read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam for the third time. Swami appeared in my dreams and blessed with turmeric and vermilion powder. Swami again appeared in my dreams on 23rd March 2012 the day of Ugadi festival allowed me to touch His feet and showered Vibhuti (sacred ash) on my head.

My pregnancy was confirmed. All the doctors were astonished. They said it is possible only by God. What is this Swami not being there? What is this Bhagawan going away?

240) Devaguptam Radhika – Hyderabad

I got married after reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. My mother's health improved. When I was in the fifth month of my pregnancy, I lost my job. As advised by Krishnakka I once again read the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. Wonder. I got a good job. While our younger son Kumar Satyajit was in the hospital Swami protected him. He was just one year old, and his platelets count dropped, and his condition became serious. Krishnakka advised over the phone to put a little Vibhuti (sacred ash) in to his mouth. I was constantly reading the treatise Bhadra Kalyanam. As we did not have Vibhuti in the hospital, my father went to nearby Sathya Sai temple. There a person was standing as though waiting for father. While that person was placing the packet of Vibhuti in father's hand he surprisingly asked him "What is your name."

With a smile he said, "My name is Sathya Narayana Raju" and left. We applied the Vibhuti to the children. Both are in good health.

Glossary

Term	Meaning
Adityulu	Sons of Sage Kashyap and Aditi
Advaita	Nondualism, monism, the doctrine that everything is God, the philosophy of absolute oneness of God, soul, and universe.
akshita	Grains of raw rice made yellow with turmeric, used in religious ceremonies. Also showered on persons as blessings.
Akrura	Relative of Sri Krishna
amritha	Divine nectar – drink of the Gods (literally, no death or immortal).
Ardhanarishvara	The Ardhanarishvara is a composite form of the Hindu deities Shiva and Parvati
Arundhati	The wife of Sage Vasishtha, recognised for her virtues, who became a star.
Atma	Self, Soul. Self with limitations is the individual soul. Self with no limitations is Brahman, the Supreme Reality.
Avatar	Incarnation of God
basikam	A nuptial crown worn on the forehead by the bride and bridegroom.
Bava	Affectionately addressing the son of paternal aunt (father's sister) or maternal uncle (mother's brother). It is an accepted norm in some parts of India to get children of brother and sister married.
Bhagawad Geeta	Literally, Song of God. Portion of the epic Mahabharatha war. A dialogue between Arjuna, one of the Pandava brothers, and Lord Krishna.
Bhagawan	God. An epithet for a deity, particularly for Sri Krishna
bottu	A sectarian mark on the middle of the forehead, white (vibhuti/sacred ash), yellow (sandalwood paste) or Scarlet (Kumkum), long or round. An ornamental patch or beauty spot. 'Kumkum' is generally used for Scarlet which is a fragrant cosmetic or rouge, composed of turmeric, alum and lime juice.
Brahma	The creator, the first of the Hindu Trinity.
Brahmachari	A bachelor, one who practises celibacy
brahmin	a caste in Hinduism specialising as priests, teachers and protectors of sacred learning across generations.
Brindavan	The forest and pastural lands where Krishna played in his childhood.
Chakra	Discus
darshan	Sight of a holy person.

deva	Deity, celestial being, God.
dharma	Righteousness, religion, code of conduct, duty, essential nature of a being or thing. It holds together the entire Universe. Man is exhorted to practice dharma to achieve material and spiritual welfare. The Vedas contain the roots of dharma. God is naturally interested in the reign of dharma.
Dharmaraja	Another name of Yudhishthira.
Dhruva	The Pole Star, as per Hindu mythology, name of a child-sage who became the Pole Star.
Durga Devi	Goddess of the universe, mother earth, daughter of Himavat and wife of Siva. Also known as Parvati.
Dvaita	Dualism, the doctrine that the individual and the supreme soul are two different principles or entities.
Dwaraka / Dwarakapuri	A city by name 'Dwaraka', capital of Sri Krishna's kingdom. After Krishna's death the city was swept over by the sea; researchers believe it is situated in the sea, west of Gujarat, India.
Gayatri	The name of the short prayer addressed to the Lord Sun.
Gokul	Village of cowherds on the banks of the river 'Yamuna', where Krishna resided as a child.
Gopi / Gopika	Cowherd maiden. Gopikas plural of Gopika
Gopala	Another name of Lord Sri Krishna
Gouri	A title of the goddess Parvati.
Hrusheekesha	One who is the lord of the senses
Guru	Spiritual guide, a knower of Brahman, who is calm, desire less, merciful and ever ready to help and guide spiritual aspirants who approach him.
Indra	Lord of the Devas (celestials). The diety presiding over 'Swarga' or Paradise
Indraprastha	City of residence of the Pandava brothers. In the Mahabharata, a Hindu epic text, the Pandavas are the five sons of Pandu. Their names are Yudhishthira, Bhimasena, Arjuna, Nakula and Sahadeva.
Jagannath	Lord of the world, an epithet of Vishnu.
Jambavati	One of the eight consorts of Lord Sri Krishna
Kalindi	One of the eight consorts of Lord Sri Krishna
Kalpavruksha	As per Indian 'Kalpavruksha' is the name given to a tree in the heaven. It is believed that when a person stands under this tree and makes a wish, it is instantly fulfilled.
Kamalanabha	Lord Vishnu, who has a lotus on His navel, another name of Lord Sri Krishna
Karma	Action, deed, work, religious rite, the totality of innate

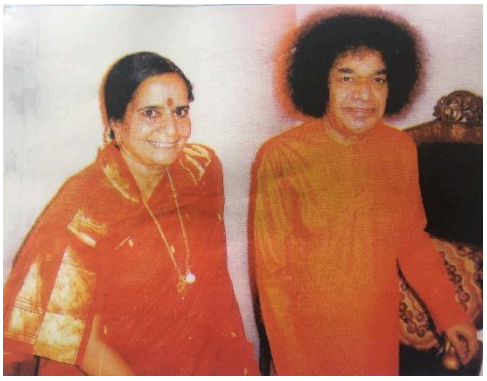
	tendencies formed as a consequence of acts done in previous lives. Every karma produces a lasting impression on the mind of the doer, apart from affecting others.
Kasturi tilakam	An auspicious symbol painted on Lord Sri Krishna's forehead using paint of vermillion with musk (Kasturi) perfume.
Kesava	One with lustrous tresses.
Kiriti	Another name of Arjuna. Being the son of Indra, he wore the celestial crown, Kiriti, presented by Indra, and therefore was called by this name.
Kousthubhadari	The breastplate or jewel worn on his breast by Lord Vishnu
Kumkuma	An ornamental small round patch or mark on the forehead, generally using kumkuma. Kumkuma is a fragrant cosmetic or rouge, composed of turmeric, alum and lime juice.
Kunti	Kunti was the sister of Vasudev, the father of Lord Sri Krishna
Lakshmi / Lakshmi Devi	Goddess of wealth, consort of Lord Vishnu.
Lakshmipati	Husband of Goddess Lakshmi
laya	destruction
Madana Mohana	Madana means Cupid. Cupid enchants everyone. And Krishna enchants Cupid. Therefore His name is Madana-Mohana. He's so beautiful that even Cupid is enchanted by Him.
Madhava	Another name of Vishnu
Mahati	The name of the stringed instrument (Veena or Lute) of Sage Narada
Mangalasutra / Mangalyam	An ornament put around the neck of the bride by the bridegroom as a token of their sacred relationship at an auspicious time, with Vedic Chants during the marriage ritual
Manmadha	The Hindu cupid, God of love, name of the most handsome person ever born as per legend.
Mitravinda	One of the eight consorts of Lord Sri Krishna
Mohana	Another name of Lord Sri Krishna
Mukunda	Another name of Lord Sri Krishna. One who liberates.
Murari	Another name of Lord Sri Krishna. The vanquisher of demon by name 'Mura'.
Nagnajiti	One of the eight consorts of Lord Sri Krishna
Nanda	The chief cowherd of Gokul. Sri Krishna was brought up by Nanda.
Narayana	Another name of Lord Vishnu
Naranarayana	Sri Krishna and Arjuna together are referred to as 'Naranarayana'. Arjuna is 'Nara' and Sri Krishna is 'Narayana'.

	Nara means human, and Narayana refers to the name of the deity.
Navarasa	Navarasa means nine emotions in which 'Nava' signifies nine and 'Rasa' signifies emotions. The nine emotions included in Navarasa are Shringara (love/beauty), Hasya(laughter), Karuna (sorrow/pity), Raudra (anger), Veera (heroism/courage), Bhayanaka (terror/fear), Bibhatsya (disgust), Adbutha (surprise/wonder), and Shantha (peace or tranquillity).
Nectar	A drink of the Gods (literally, no death or immortal). Also, a sugary fluid secreted within flowers to encourage pollination by insects and other animals, collected by bees to make honey.
Nectarean	Adjective of Nectar.
Om / Omkara	The name of the sacred syllable OM, the mystic name of God. Om' or 'AUM' being the triliteral name of the Hindu Trinity. The sound emerging from the vocal cords starts from the base of the throat as "A." With the coming together of the lips, "U" is formed and when the lips are closed, all sounds end in "M."
Padmanabha	Another name of Lord Vishnu. One with lotus in His navel.
Panchajanya	Name of Sri Krishna's conch
Pandavas	Sons of Pandu; family of 5 brothers that fought the Kauravas: Dharmaraja, Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula, and Sahadeva. See Mahabharatha.
Paramatma	Supreme Self, Supreme Atma.
Parabramma	Supreme spirit
parijata	One of the five heavenly trees in the pleasure garden of Lord Indra
Partha	Another name of Arjuna. Partha means "son of Pritha" in Sanskrit. Pritha is another name of Kunti, mother of Pandavas.
Parvati	Consort of Siva, goddess of energy / power. Also known as Durga.
Phalguna	Another name of Arjuna. Arjuna was born on a winter day when the Moon passed through two paired star-clusters: Purva and Uttara Phalguni. This noteworthy birth earned him the name Phālguna.
Prasadam	Food or anything graciously and condescendingly offered to the God. The remnants of food presented to an idol or left by a spiritual teacher / Guru
Purushartham	the principal object of human life and pursuit. Of which four are enumerated;

	Dharma – discharge of duty, Artha – acquirement of wealth, Kama – gratification of desire Moksha – final emancipation.
Radha	Cowherd maid, chief devotee of Krishna, one of Lakshmi's forms.
Rama	Avatar of the Thretha yuga (era). Hero of the Ramayana; killed the wicked Ravana to rescue his wife Sita, who had been kidnapped. "Rama" means "he who pleases".
Rasakreeda	A divine dance of Lord Sri Krishna Radha and Gopikas
Rudrulu	Sons of Lord Brahma
Rukmini	First consort of Lord Sri Krishna
sampenga	The 'gold flower', Michelina champak
Sankara	Another name of Lord Siva
Saraswati	Goddess of Knowledge, consort of Lord Brahma.
Satyabhama	One of the eight consorts of Lord Sri Krishna
Satyaki	Satyaki was a powerful warrior belonging to the Vrishni clan of the Yadavas, to which Sri Krishna also belonged. Satyaki was devoted to Krishna and was a student of Arjuna.
Seshasai	Seshasai is depicted in the form of a snake that floats coiled in space, or on the ocean of bliss, to form the bed on which Lord Vishnu lies.
Shanka	A conch
Shyama	Another name of Lord Sri Krishna
Siva	The Destroyer, the Third of the Hindu Trinity of Brahma (the Creator), Vishnu (the Preserver), and Siva (the Destroyer).
Sri Hari	Another name for Lord Vishnu, one of the Hindu Trinity. The Trinity are Brahma (the creator), Vishnu (the preserver) and Siva (the destroyer)
Srimannarayana	Another name of Lord Vishnu
Srinath	Another name of Lord Sri Krishna
Sri Lakshmi	Goddess of wealth, consort of Lord Vishnu.
Sri Vathsa	A mark, said to be a curl of hair on the breast of Lord Vishnu
srishti	creation
sthithi	sustenance
Subhadra	Sri Krishna's younger sister
Swami	A lord, master, sovereign, owner, proprietor, husband, spiritual guide or preceptor.
swayamvaram	the selection of a husband by a princess or daughter of a Kshatriya (warrior) at a public assembly of suitors held for the purpose.
Trikalagnya	One who knows the past, present and future

Trinity	The Hindu Trinity of Brahma (the Creator), Vishnu (the preserver), and Siva (the destroyer).
Trivikrama	He who subjugated the three worlds in three strides i.e. Lord Vishnu
Tulasi	The Sacred Basil, Ocymum sanctum
Vaikunta	The abode of Lord Vishnu.
Vanamali	A long garland made of seasonal flowers and leaves worn by Krishna.
Vasudeva	Another name of Sri Krishna, son of Vasudev
Veda	The oldest and the holiest of the Hindu scriptures, the primary source of authority in Hindu religion and philosophy. They are four in number: the Rig-Veda, Sama-Veda, Yajur-Veda, and Atharva-Veda
Vedanta	It is the essence of the Vedas enshrined in the Upanishads. The philosophy of non-dualism, or qualified non-dualism, or dualism based on the Upanishadic teachings, is denoted by this term.
Vedic	relating to the Vedas.
Venugopal	Another name of Lord Sri Krishna.
Vigneswara	Eldest son of Lord Siva and Parvati
Viswambhara	One who wears the universe
Vishnu	The Preserver, the Second of the Hindu Trinity of Brahma (the Creator), Vishnu (the Siva (the Destroyer).
Visistadvaita	Qualified non-duality
Vodina	Term used to address sister-in-law, brother's wife or husband's sister
yagna	sacrificial rites, Yagna Swaroopa – another name of Lord Vishnu
whisk	A fan made using the tail of a Yak
Yoga	(a) Union of individual self or Atma with Supreme Being or Universal Self; act of yoking. (b) Spiritual discipline or exercise aimed at control of the senses. (c) Science of divine communion. (d) self-control.
Yogi	One who practices Yoga
yogini	A woman who is proficient in Yoga, a female mendicant
yuga	Era or age. There is a cycle of four yugas: the Kritha yuga, Thretha yuga, Dwapara yuga, and Kali yuga. Present age is the Kali yuga.
Yudhistira	Another name of Dharmaraja

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Author receiving divine blessings from Bhagawan Sri Satya Sai Baba
on her birthday 8th Feb 2003.

Dr. K. V. Krishna Kumari is a Doctor by profession, a Writer by temperament, a Devotee by conviction and dedicated Counsellor with a humanistic approach.

Affectionately addressed as KRISHNAKKA, she advises an ever expanding number of people who seek solution to their personal, medical, psychological and family problems, both in person and through her replies to issues raised in popular magazines. In short "Krishnakka", has become a popular household name.

Her father Late Dr. K. V. Jagannadha Rao, also a Medical Doctor, had a very humanistic approach. Her mother, Smt. Satyavathi hails from a traditional family of ardent Krishna devotees, and her family ancestry can be traced back to the famous devotee poet Sri Tenali Ramakrishna Kavi. Her grandfather, Late Sri Bandapudi Venkata Krishna Rao, was the disciple of the first disciple of the grate saint poet Sri Tyagaraja Swami. Thus she inherited devotion for Lord Krishna, along with considerable confidence and expertise in the fields of Literature, Music, Dance, Painting and other Fine Arts.

She is a popular writer and has written many novels and short stories. She has broadcast many lectures besides teleplays, on many medical, family and social problems.

She has been honoured several times at public functions as an eminent Doctor, popular writer, inspired.

Humanist and active Social Worker. She has received many National and International Awards.

The present work titled BHADRA KALYANAM, is the result of divine inspiration provided by Bhagawan Sri Satya Sai Baba and is offered as a humble token of gratitude, at his Lotus Feet, on the auspicious occasion of Swami's 80th. Birthday.

She considers this work as reflecting her sincere devotion, spiritual discipline and dedication to

service.

ABOUT THE TRANSLATORS

Turaga Kamaraju born in 1950 completed education, worked and retired as an IT professional in Mumbai. Pramila born in 1955 completed education, worked and voluntarily retired as an English Professor in Mumbai. Both studied from Andhra School in Mumbai. Happily married since 1977. They have relocated to Hyderabad since 2012. Kamaraju is a Mentor and a Digital Strategy advisor for start-ups. Pramila is a volunteer for an NGO supporting an educational portal. They are actively engaged in many community services.

BHADRA KALYANAM

The celestial communion of the seventh consort of Bhagawan Sri Krishna, Bhadra.

Bhadra, the Divine aspect of Sri Mahalakshmi, is the confluence of beauty, devotion and love, that pined to merge in the ocean, Lord Krishna. This unique combination of relation and elation pleased the Lord and made her, His consort!

The advent of Bhagawan Sri Satya Sai Baba is to re-establish the traditional glory of womanhood and re-affirm the strength of marriage system; unity, purity and Divinity being the under current. It is Swamiji's will that this work should serve that purpose and hence His inspiration turned into imagination and result is this work.

Marriage should never be a mirage!

Marriage is a sacred and perfect merge of two souls, both representing Divine aspects. Aspiration, Information, Transformation, Communication, Communion, Liberation and Salvation are the seven steps of Sadhana which Jeevatma should follow to realise Paramatma.

Bhadra Kalyanam is all about 'THAT'.