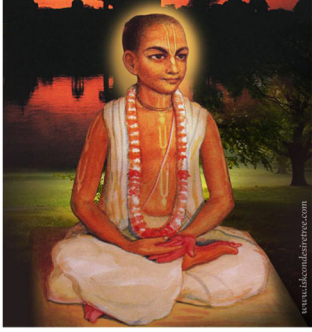


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# Narottama Dasa Thakura



Narottama Dasa Thakur was Champaka Manjari in Krishna-lila, eternally assisting Rupa Manjari in her service to Radha and Krishna. Champaka Manjari appeared as Narottama in the village of Kheturi. Narottama was born on the Maghi Purnima. His father was Raja Krishnananda Datta, the local zamindar. His mother's name was Narayani Devi. From his early childhood, Narottama began to display symptoms of his future greatness. Everyone was amazed to see his great intelligence and his devotional conduct. The Lord and His associates appeared to him in his dreams.

When Mahaprabhu passed through Kanair Natashala, as He was dancing ecstatically in kirtan, He began to call out the name Narottama. When Nityananda asked Him why He was calling out this name, Mahaprabhu answered, "When we went to Jagannath Puri, you shed tears out of divine love, day after day. I managed to capture your divine love and save it. Now I wish to keep it here by the Padmavati River for Narottama Das." Mahaprabhu then went on to the Padmavati River, where He bathed and sang and danced in ecstasy. He then called out to the river, "O Padmavati! Take my love and keep it here. When Narottama comes and bathes here, give it to him." The place where Mahaprabhu placed prema for Narottama's sake was later given the name Prematali.

By the mercy of the Sri Sri Gaura-Nitai, Narottama became detached, left his opulent family, and ran to Vrindavana. He took diksha from Sri Lokanatha Goswami and siksha in Gaudiya philosophy from Sri Jiva Goswami.

In Kheturi, Sri Narottama Dasa Thakura arranged the famous Kheturi Mahotsava. This was the first "Gaura-Purnima" festival to honor the divine appearance day of Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. During the festival six Deities were installed: Sri Gauranga Deva, Sri Vallabhi Kanta, Sri Vraja Mohana, Sri Krishna, Sri Radha Kanta, Sri Radha Ramana. After the Kheturi festival, Narottama's fame spread throughout the Vaishnava world. Prominent Brahmins like Ramakrishna Acharya and Ganga-Narayan Chakravarti became his disciples.

Narottama did his preaching through kirtan. He created the style of kirtan known as Garanahati. He wrote two books, Prarthana and Prema-bhakti-chandrika. He wrote many devotional songs about the spiritual master, the Devotees, devotional service, the six Goswamis, Gaura-Nityananda and Radha-Krishna.

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare