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Chaitanya Mahaprabhu: Exceptional social reformer

Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is considered to be an incarnation of Shri Krishna's Premavata i.e. Shri Radhaji, he is a great saint of Shri Krishna Bhakti Rasa culture in the Indian saint tradition. He took birth on the soil of India like an angel in medieval times and took Sanyas from Vaishnava saint Keshav Bharati and showed the oppressed, suffering human community the way to lead a loving life. He was a poet, social reformer and revolutionary campaigner. He was a great propagator of Vaishnavism and one of the main poets of the Bhakti period. He started the Harinam 'Sankirtana' movement to break the bond of caste and creed and to unite the entire human race. He landed in Jan Sagar and then Jan Sagar turned towards him.

His specialty as a great spiritual agitator saint was that he communicated and transmitted the spirit of religion equanimity, compassion, unity, love, devotion, peace and non-violence in the heart of the people. He travelled from city to town, village to village, explaining the importance of devotion and sankirtana and changing the hearts of the people. This devotional movement of his made countless people feel sankirtana rasa, away from the

discrimination of religion, caste, sect or country, and created such a unique environment that their lives should be filled with happiness, peace, harmony and love. He was the most devoted and humble saint in the bright glorious saint tradition of India.

Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was born in Samvat 1407 on the full moon day of Shukla Paksha of Falgun month, on the day of Holika Dahan in Singh Lagna, in a village called Navadvipa in Banga Pradesh, India. He was endowed with extraordinary talent since childhood. He did many public welfare works in his life. He did a special initiative especially for the welfare and salvation of widows. He had inspired the widows of Bengal and the country to come to Vrindavan and follow the path of devotion to God. It is because of him that Vrindavan has been known as the shelter of widows for about 500 years. Most of the widows who come here from all over the country with the desire to pass their last breath of life at the feet of Kanha, mostly about 90 percent are Bengali. Mostly illiterate and Bengali speaking. Mahaprabhu, seeing the pathetic condition and social disdain of the widows of Bengal, turned the rest of their life towards devotion to God



and only after that the tradition of his coming to Vrindavan started.

Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is considered to be the form of Lord Krishna and there is a story in this regard that one day a Brahmin came to the house of Shri Jagannathji as a guest. When he sat down to eat and he closed his eyes while meditating on his presiding deity, the child Nimai hurriedly came and ate a piece of food. The parents got very angry at the son and they sent Nimai out of the house and served food twice continuously for the guest but Nimai ate the food every time and then he appeared in Gopal form and pleased the father, mother and the guest.

Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is the inspiration of Bhakti Rasa culture. May all the living beings fill the world with love, get absorbed in the devotion of Sri Krishna and their spirituality be engrossed, such a wonderful and wonderful is the Sankirtana Rasadhar of the combined incarnation of Sri Radha-Krishna and the lifestyle of Sri Chaitanya. Through this, by declaring love and devotion as the best effort, he propounded the superiority of human religion. His teachings are the embodiment of the teachings of Shri Krishna. He said for human welfare, 'Love is the essence of life, not religion.' There are many miracles related to his life. But one day Mahaprabhu planted a mango

kernel in the ground to explain to the devotees what the essence is and what is meaningless in the world. Within a short time it sprouted. The sprout grew and became a small tree. Suddenly the tree grew and saw two beautiful ripe mangoes in it. Then in an instant the tree disappeared and the fruits i.e. mangoes remained there. Mahaprabhu explained to his devotees that look, the way the tree was now, it is no more and only the fruits are left, in the same way the world is futile. Mahaprabhu used to give spiritual knowledge to his devotees through such wonderful and inspiring incidents. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu had given a Sufiana message to the peo-

ple who were troubled by the political instability of that time by popularizing the unique style of singing bhajans. But he never stayed anywhere, but continued to travel, advocating God-love and devotion along with Hindu-Muslim unity. He condemned the mentality of caste, creed, high and low, but the biggest thing he did was to establish Vrindavan anew in the sky of devotion. The truth is that the then almost extinct Vrindavan was re-established by Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Had his feet not been there, then this Leela land of Shri Krishna-Kanhai, Killol-bhoomi would have remained only a myth.

Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and his devotees used to get so absorbed and engrossed in the hymns and sankirtans that tears flowed from their eyes incessantly. This supernatural scene of love, faith and crying used to stun everyone. Devotion to Sri Krishna further enhanced the prestige of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. The Suryavanshi emperor of Orissa, Gajapati Maharaj Pratap Rudradev, even considering him as an incarnation, fell at his feet, while Rupagoswami, a minister of a ruler of Bengal, resigned his post and took refuge in him. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, considered to be the Adi-Acharya

of the Gaudiya Vaishnava sect, composed many texts, but today there is nothing but the eight-verse Shikshashtak. In Shikshaashtak he says that Shri Krishna is the only God. They embody beauty and love. His three powers are Param Brahma, Maya and Vilas. The essence of this verse is that love is attained only when the devotee becomes more humble than a tree, more tolerant than a tree, self-respecting, respects others, chants 'Hari Naam' daily with a pure heart and prays to God. Do not wish for anything other than 'love for living beings'.

He also tried to rectify the mistake of human beings to consider himself as God. He was impressed by the devotion of Narada and used to chant Krishna-Krishna like him. But many texts were written on Gauranga, the main ones being the Chaitanya Charitamrita of Sri Krishnadas Kaviraj Goswami, Chaitanya Bhagavata of Sri Vrindavan Das Thakur, Chaitanya Mangala of Lochandas Thakura, Chaitanya Charitamrita, Sri Chaitanya Bhagavata, Sri Chaitanya Mangal, Amiya Nimai Charita and Chaitanya Shatak etc.

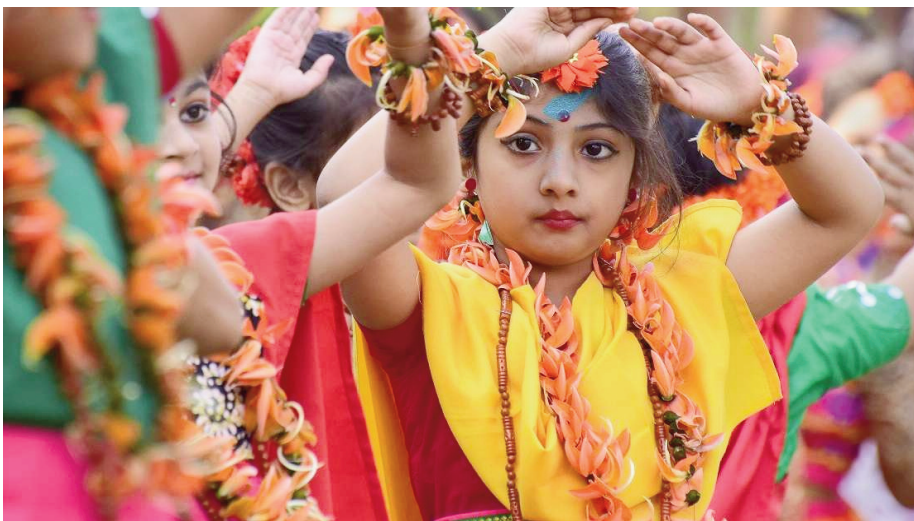
Chaitanya Mahaprabhu considers God as one. He sent his six main followers

from Navadvipa to Vrindavan and got the seven temples established there. Gopal Bhatt Goswami among his main followers joined him at a very young age. Raghunath Bhatta Goswami, Roop Goswami, Sanatana Goswami, Jiva Goswami, Raghunath Das Goswami etc. were his close devotees. These people established the seven temples in Vrindavan. At present they are called Govinddev Temple, Gopinath Temple, Madan Mohan Temple, Radha Raman Temple, Radha Damodar Temple, Radha Shyamsundar Temple and Gokulanand Temple etc. They are known only by the name of Saptadevalaya. Today in Vrindavan, the Ganges of Krishna devotion and spirituality is flowing, the credit goes to Mahaprabhu only.

The basic premise of Chaitanya School is love and pastimes. Shri Krishna's Leela in Gokul is eternal. Love is their basic power and it is also the cause of joy. This love is established in the mind of the devotee and becomes Mahabhav. Along with the worship of Radha, this Mahabhav is also the way to attain Shri Krishna. His unique characteristics of love, devotion and coexistence will continue to inspire humanity for ages.

- Lalit Garg

Fill yourself into true colours of Holi



The ultimate and immortal goal of this life is merging between devotee and God and becoming one color. That's why Holi is the unique confluence of this soul and spirituality.

Holi is a unique festival of getting drenched in the colours of love, mutual harmony and fun. Whether the colours of this festival have faded due to the Corona pandemic or because of unsocial spirit, runaway, selfishness and narrow-mindedness, there has been a change in the tradition of Holi.

The storm of circumstances has also affected the happiness of Holi, yet when life seeks an excuse to present the fun and happiness in itself, then nature gives us a colourful festival like Holi. The biggest feature of Holi is that by celebrating it, we increase love, unity and goodwill among the people by establishing human qualities in the society. The spirit behind celebrating this festival is to enrich the dignity of human relation-

ships, to give a new dimension to the recognition of life values.

Holi is such a festival, for which not only the mind but also the atmosphere is ready. Holi has special significance not only from a religious point of view but also from a cultural point of view. Keeping the glorious tradition of this festival intact, let us create a conscious atmosphere where we are all one and remove the dirty layers of the mind so that all the faces reflected in the mirror of the undivided mind are ours.

Despite the polluted environment, all the colours of life did not fade away. How naive are we that we are erasing our culture and ideal traditions. By burning their own house, they themselves are creating a spectacle. After all, we are those people who have spread the gunpowder of their selfish interests on them by laying deep and long tunnels of hideous elements like violence,

injustice, exploitation, terror, insecurity, kidnapping, corruption, anarchy, atrocities under the holy land of the country, without any thinking about the consequences, without looking at the possibilities of the future. Then how will the common man's ideal be able to remain safe. In the midst of these dark and complicated situations, festivals like Holi make us ready to wait for our light and fulfill our wish for light.

The question is, how permanent is this state of happiness, which becomes an obsession during the days of Holi? The melodious mentality in the melody of Dafli (musical instrument) and the chimes of Dandiya Raas limited the usefulness of a festival like Holi to only this scope, which can be called instant happiness, while it is expected that this tradition of colours should be given a long life. The main aim of this festival is to create affection and respect, love for others, friendship and harmo-

ny. This should be built on which human beings can be inspired to do something new, communicate love and energy in mutual relationships.

It is said that love and hate are two sides of the same coin. Love is a feeling full of positivity and energy; on the contrary, the feeling of negativity and anger. Why does it happen that those whom we love at one time, we end up hating after some time?

We have a loving relationship with many; the festival of Holi gives new dimensions and new colours to these relationships. We always want the happiness of those we love; there is no grudge or annoyance in our heart. Having them in our life is enough for us. American author and thinker Daniel Cardwell says, 'We always love with our hearts. On the contrary, the feeling of hatred emanates from the mind.' Holi is a festival of feelings attached to the hearts. It refines the mind and soul.

Holi of Braj is unique in the cultural tradition of Holi festival. Braj's Holi is special and unique. In other parts of the country Holi is celebrated for one or two days but in Braj Holi is celebrated for 50 days. In Braj, on the day of Basant Panchami, Holi sticks are planted at the places where mass Holi burns and wood, sticks etc. start gathering there.

From Basant Panchami itself, Abir-Gulal is used in the decoration of God in the temples and the voices of drums start resonating. The drums start thumping on the Chaupals

of the village, the cymbals and the strings are chirped and the reverberations of Holi are heard.

Holi has a special significance in the tradition of Indian classical music and folk music. The songs of Hindi films have also not remained untouched by the colours of Holi. A unique confluence of seven notes is seen with the colourful colours of Holi! While playing with colours, happiness, love and enthusiasm fills the mind and automatically the body and mind get excited to dance. It becomes difficult to stop the foot with the rhythm and cadence. The colours tell their effect, the melody and the rhythm go on immersing everyone in their melody! Dhamar is closely related to Holi in classical music.

The beauty of Holi songs can be seen in Dhrupad, Dhamar, Khote and Bade Khayal and Thumri too. Many beautiful bands performed on Holi, Dhamar and Thumri along with Kathak dance are very popular even today - Chalo Guiniya Aaj Khele Hori Kanhaiya Ghar. Similarly, beautiful descriptions of Holi are also found in Dhrupad, another part of music.

Various rich colors of Holi are also seen in literature. Muslim poets like Sufi saint Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya, Amir Khusrav and Bahadur Shah Zafar have also written beautiful compositions on Holi which are popular even today. In modern Hindi stories, Premchand's Raja Hardol, Prabhu Joshi's different matchsticks, Tejendra Sharma's Holi

once again, Om Prakash Awasthi's Holi is auspicious and Swadesh Rana's Holi will see different forms, dimensions and perspectives of Holi.

Various types of sports are played in the festival of Holi, children bring wood and sticks from outside the village and pile them up. Holika is worshipped duly with full material, the sinful demons are destroyed by the hymns, and chanting of mantras. Holika Dahan removes all evils. The huge adjustment of the festival of Holi has become a confluence of diversities in the changing environment, while celebrating this festival, it seems that after losing everything, the divided mind is standing alone in the hope of getting everything again. Because on this occasion, there is a tradition to drench your favourite friends, loved ones with colourful atmosphere by pouring color, gulal, which has been going on for years. In a way, this festival is a unique occasion to share happiness. Hiranayakashipu's sister Holika had the boon of not burning in the fire. So she entered the fire with her nephew Prahlad in her lap. But by the grace of the Lord, Prahlad came out alive safely and Holika was burnt to ashes.

Therefore, the festival of Holi symbolizes the 'Victory of Truth over Untruth' and 'Victory of Virtue over Wickedness'. Thus the festival of Holi symbolizes the victory of truth, justice, devotion and faith and also the destruction of injustice, sin and demonic tendencies

- Lalit Garg

Indira IVF organises first ever national 'REPRO Quiz'

Udaipur: Indira IVF, India's leading chain of infertility treatment hospitals, organised the first ever 'Repro Quiz', a national reproductive medicine quiz in association with Intas Pharma, in Udaipur. The onsite quiz was the final round out of the three levels in which the competition was conducted; comprising 20 finalists selected from around 110 medical colleges of 28 states across the country. The event was graced by Mr Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar – Prince of Mewar as the Chief Guest.

The initial two rounds of the competition was held last year in online mode at the state and zonal levels respectively. This first ever competition in IVF segment received tremendous response as more than 550 students participated from across the country. In the final round, Madhuri Kondisetty emerged as the national topper who was felicitated with a four month fellowship in Indira Fertility Academy and a gift coupon worth Rs 1,00,000. Additionally, Dr. Shiralee Runwal and Devika Raj bagged the second and third position, winning gift coupons worth Rs 75,000 and Rs 50,000 respectively along with the fellowship. Beside this, all national level participants were awarded with the four month fellowship at Indira IVF academy. Additionally, all state toppers have been awarded a one-month observership programme at Indira IVF hospital in their state. Indira IVF will organise this competition every year henceforth.

Dr Rajeev Pachar – Superintendent of Police, Anti-Corruption Bureau Udaipur, Dr Dinesh Kharadi – Chief Medical and Health Officer of Udaipur, and Dr Lakhansingh – Principal & Controller, RNT Medical College, Udaipur were also present for the event as the Guests of Honour. In order to enlighten everyone on the advancement of the subject, a panel discussion on 'The Future of Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART)' was held where Dr Kshitiz Murdia – CEO & Co-Founder of Indira IVF, Mr Nitiz Murdia – Director & Co-Founder of Indira IVF, Dr Nikolaos Polyzos – Dexeus University Hospital, Barcelona (Spain), Dr Chaitanya Nagori – Senior IVF Consultant in Ahmedabad, and Dr P Ramesh – Assistant Professor of Reproductive Medicine at Trivandrum Medical College took part. In his address, the Chief Guest, The Prince of Mewar, Mr Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar said, "It has been a pleasure to be part of this national quiz event conducted by Indira IVF and I congratulate all the winners for their brilliant performance. I would also like to acknowledge Indira IVF's unending commitment to help couples with the gift of parenthood through their infertility treatment services and spreading awareness on the subject."

Speaking on the future of ART, Mr Nitiz Murdia – Director & Co-Founder of Indira IVF said, "In the last several years, ART has advanced by leaps and bounds. With the awareness pertaining to the medical treatment of infertility increasing, it is encouraging to see more people opt for scientifically-backed solutions. India has one of the fastest-growing numbers of ART cycles conducted each year and will soon be the world leader. As ART is an ever-evolving space, it will always be Indira IVF's effort to integrate advanced and affordable technologies into the organisation and make the procedures available to the country's mass."