



# THE APPEARANCE OF SRI GAURASUNDARA

by

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Within the sacred land of India, the holy footprints of the Lord and His devotees are a place of pilgrimage for the whole world. The seven auspicious places in India which are said to award liberation, are all found within those footprints. Among those holy places is Sri Mayapur which is situated in Sri Nabadwip Dham. It is non-different from Mathura mandal. Srila Vrindavana das Thakura has written, "There is no other village in the world like Sri Nabadwip, where Lord Chaitanya Gosai has descended". Truly Sri Nabadwip Dham is the best of all, and there is no other place like it, since the most magnanimous mercy-personified Sri Gaura Hari appeared in this part of the world. He indiscriminately distributed to all persons, whether they were qualified or unqualified, the highest perfection of love of God which is difficult for even the demigods to obtain. He has so generously distributed this highest gift even to the most fallen. Therefore Sri Nabadwip is incomparable in the world.



## Center Of Learning

Nearly 500 years ago Sri Nabadwip city was renowned throughout the world as the center of learning and knowledge. The science of logic which was brought from Mithila, was cultured by the intelligentsia of Sri Nabadwip, and its fame was spread all over the world. From Benares in Northern India, and from many other places sannyasis and the class of professors who were well read in *Nyaya* and *Vedanta* all came to Nabadwip for learning. From Kanchi in Southern India, and other places too, many students desirous of becoming well educated, all came to Sri Nabadwip. "Persons from different places all go to Nabadwip, for one who studies in Nabadwip he gets the taste for knowledge. No wonder there were hundreds of thousands of students and professors there". (*Chaitanya Bhagawat*). Truly speaking, "Even a boy can argue with a Bhattacharya," if he studied at Nabadwip. Everyone considered himself a great scholar if he studied there. And there was no chance of getting recognition from the scholarly community if one did not study or teach in Sri Nabadwip.



## Glories Of Sri Nabadwip

Nabadwip was noted for its opulence which, by the grace of Sri Lakshmidēvi, were shared by all the people there. On one bank of the Ganges, the greatest place of all learning, the most sacred Sri Mayapur was situated. Many wealthy persons from different parts of the world all came to settle there. Sri Ia Vrindavana das Thakura writes “Who can describe the opulence of Sri Nabadwip? Thousands of people go to take bath there, because Lakshmidēvi glances over that place. Everyone lives there in great happiness. The Lord, knowing He would appear there, had arranged everything very nicely for His descent”. The whole atmosphere was surcharged with auspiciousness, with many wealthy and learned persons coming from distant places to reside there in that holy place of pilgrimage and seat of learning. There is no need in mentioning the glories associated with such a place.



## The Aim Of Ritualism

But the pain within the hearts of the pure devotees knew no bounds. In the midst of all this grandeur and beauty they could see that everyone was simply wasting their valuable time in pursuing materialistic objectives. Seeing this how could they be happy? Everyone was simply mad for wealth, mad for physical beauty, mad for acquiring followers, mad for knowledge and intoxicated with the empiric speculations of materialistic science. Their mad attempt for profit, adoration and distinction looked like a frenzied dance, and in the midst of such things the devotees were perplexed. How to save them? Running madly after the flickering happiness of this world, the conditioned soul judges everything from the point of view of sense gratification, and uselessly waste their time with futile talks within that plane of existence. These things are all intolerable for the devotees. Srila Vrindavana das Thakura writes, "The whole world is devoid of real love for Ram and Krishna. As was predicted in the scriptures for Kali yuga, people only know about ritualistic ceremonies. They stay up the whole night singing the glories of some demigod.



## Sri Advaita's Promise

Sri Advaita Acharya was glorified by everyone, even among the society of non-devotees as he was representative of all the *vaisnavas*. Sri Advaita Prabhu was residing in Mayapur and for the welfare of the world was engaged in worshipping the Lord and preaching His glories. The miserable condition of the living entities who were all forgetful of Krishna was giving pain to his heart. He would arrange daily meetings for the devotees at which they would all express grief and profusely shed tears over the dreadful world situation. The Acharya, who was an ocean of mercy, found the miserable condition of the living entities to be unbearable and He decided resolutely within himself, that He would call the Lord, Himself, to descend and save the situation. "I will meet Vaikunthanath and bring Him here. Dancing and singing I will deliver all living entities". The glories of Advaita Acharya were not unknown to the devotees. All were pleased by hearing the promise of Advaita Acharya and they all engaged in His service having full faith in Him.



## Sri Nityananda's Appearance

With this promise fixed in His mind, Sri Advaita Acharya meditated on offering Ganges water and Tulasi leaf to the Lord constantly calling to Goloka Behari again and again. The Lord's throne was shaking. The devotees, who were also engaged in calling the Lord, abstained from all comforts and material enjoyment, and to relieve the devotee's unhappiness the all merciful Lord prepared to descend to this world. Of course when the Lord descends He comes with all His paraphernalia and associates, therefore before the Lord's descent the all auspicious Nityananda Prabhu, who appeared in Radha *desa*, came first to make all the necessary preparations to receive the Lord

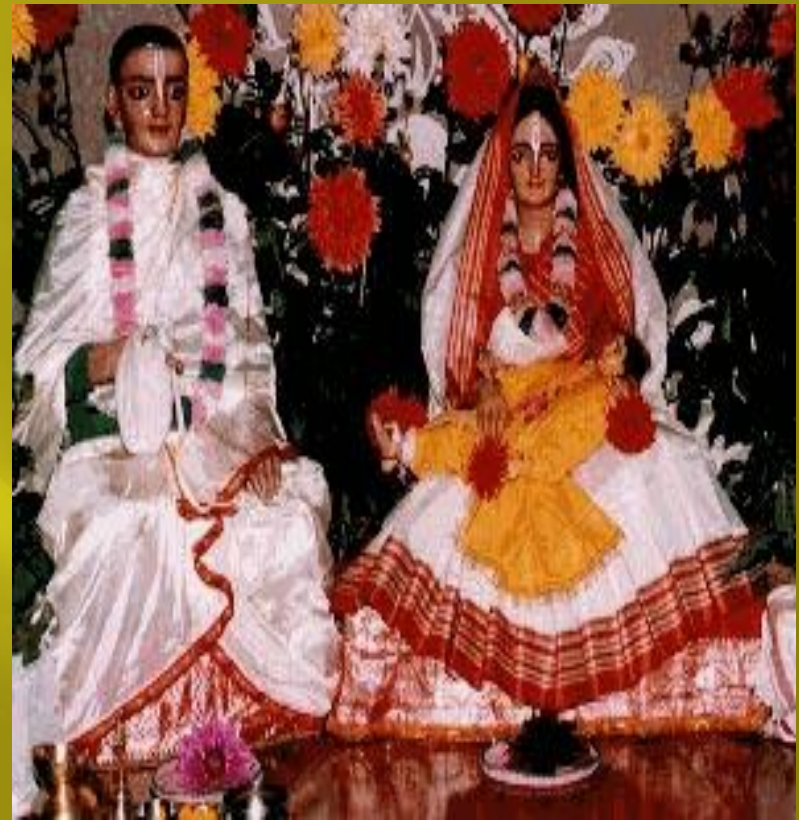


## Mayapur: Sri Jagannath Mishra's Home

Sri Mayapur is the center of Nabadwip Dham and is called Antardwip. Sri Jagannath Mishra lived at this place, Antardwip. He was a vastly learned and generous person and the resort of the purest souls. Srila Vrindavana das Thakura has written, "Nabadwip is the place of residence of Jagannath Mishra. He was as devoted to his religious duties as Vasudeva, Himself. His magnanimous character was as unlimited as Brahman. No one could compare with him. Formerly he was Kasyapa, Dasaratha, Vasudeva and Nanda Maharaja, and now, as Jagannath Mishra, was the combination of them all. His wife, named Sachidevi, was completely devoted to her husband. She was the emblem of Krishna bhakti and the mother of the whole world".

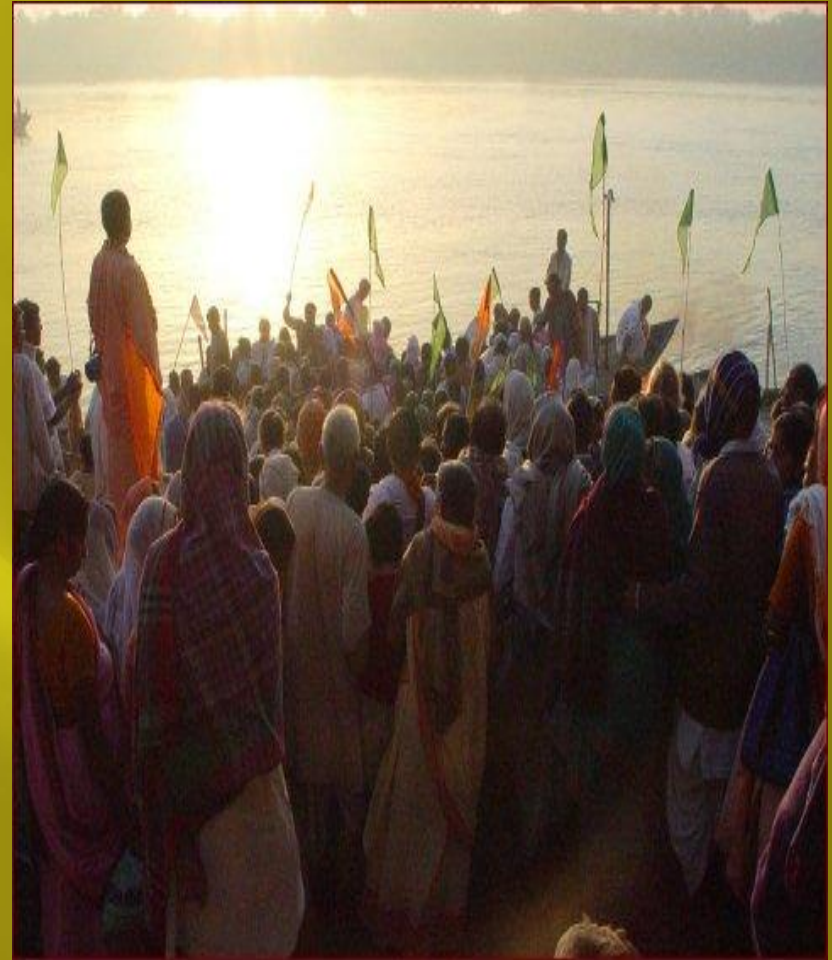


This very pure, divine couple tragically lost eight daughters, but after that they begot a son named Visvarupa who had uncommonly beautiful features. They always worshipped the Lord in great transcendental ecstasy. Day by day Visvarupa, who always satisfied his father and mother, grew like the bright half of the waxing moon. This dark world got the strength of the auspicious planets. In 1406 Saka there was a special day because Sri Jagannath Mishra saw a brilliant transcendental ray make its way into his heart, and again from his heart it entered into the heart of Sri Sachidevi. Feeling thrilled, Mishra was overwhelmed with joy, and from that day Sachidevi became transformed into a wonderful embodiment of that transcendental ray. Mishra told Sachidevi all these things he had observed, and when Sachidevi confirmed that she had also experienced the same things, it only caused Mishradev to increase his wonder. "I see in the sky as if many heavenly beings are making hymns in praise of me. The whole atmosphere has become delightful with many enlightened persons coming and going from this place". Noticing all these things, Mishra said with joy, "From these things I can understand that a great personality will be born." With great attention this divine couple was always performing Visnu worship.



## Where Did They All Come From?

On 1407 Sakabda, *Phalgun*, full moon day, at evening time, the Lord Sri Gaurachandra was born. On this pleasant spring evening, the day of the full moon, there was also a lunar eclipse. The banks of the Ganges and the roads of the city leading to the Ganges were all filled with throngs of people - a very thick crowd - and all were struggling along the way. Seeing this great crowd of people, one felt as if the whole universe had come here leaving the rest of the fourteen worlds vacant. Everyone was filled with ecstatic bliss. The sound of *Hari* filled up and resounded throughout the fourteen worlds. It was as if all the auspicious signs of the universe were rising at the same time, the splendor of Nabadwip was so brilliant. An unprecedented vibration of the name of *Hari* resounded from the many devotees gathered on the bank of the Ganges. The flood of *Harinam* made all inauspicious signs disappear on this occasion of the lunar eclipse, and instead brought boundless joy to everyone. As they stood on the banks of the Ganges, everyone was thinking, "Where did so many people come from? Previously there were so many eclipses, but so many persons, and such a great vibration of the sound of *Hari*, we have never seen or heard any thing like this before, and we are all overwhelmed with joy! They were all filled with intense happiness but they could not understand the cause. This was going on, and all without exception were feeling very good. Even fallen persons were laughing in the company of the Hindus, relishing the chanting of *Hari*, *Hari*. There was pleasure in all ten directions, and even the river water was feeling pleased.



## The Spotless Moon Appears

In Sri Jagannath Mishra's house, there was no limit to the joyful atmosphere found in Sri Sachidevi's room. The whole world was inundated by the flood of Harinam, as the spotless full moon appeared today. And that is why the moon in the sky covered his face out of shyness (in the lunar eclipse). Why shouldn't he cover his face? The moons on his toenails give such a brilliant, merciful light that they outshine millions of moons, and it is that same *Gaurachandra* who appeared today. Everywhere, on all sides flowers were raining from the sky. The sounds of millions of conch shells, beating drums, and dancing of divine personalities all began at that time. The whole earth resounded with "Jaya Jaya," and the entire universe became liberated. The news of the appearance of *Gaura Hari* was thus announced. The devotees directly felt within themselves full satisfaction. The sweet sounds of the conch, bells, mridanga, and kartals became sweeter still when mixed with the chorus of, "Jaya Sachinandana, Jaya Gaura Hari."



## Only The Fortunate Can See

Everything connected with *Gaura Hari* is eternal. His name, form, qualities, pastimes, associates, paraphernalia, etc. are all eternal. His appearance is eternal. For those fortunate persons who are pure in heart, the eternal Lord resides in their hearts always. These things can not be understood by our tiny brains. So the Lord is *acintya bheda bheda* appearing in the form of *Acharyadev* as the highest conclusion of this principle. Only by the grace of *sadhu* and *guru* are we able to know the glory of Sri Chaitanyadeva who is the eternally pure, fully liberated Ultimate Reality. At that time, those fortunate persons who have received the mercy of the sadhus can understand that *Gaurachandra* appears as Sri Krishna in the mood of Radharani. They feel great ecstasy within their hearts and they are able to understand, "Today also *Gaurangaraya* was performing His pastimes and only a few fortunate persons were able to see"

*adyapiha sei lila kare gauraya  
kona kona bhagyavan dehipara paya  
anarpita-carim carat karunayavatirnah kalau  
samarpayitam unnatojvala rasam sva bhakti sriyam  
harih purata sundara dyuti kadamba sandipitah  
sada hridaya kandare sphuratu vah sachinandana*





GAURA HARIBOL  
Sri Sri Guru Gauranga Jayatah

