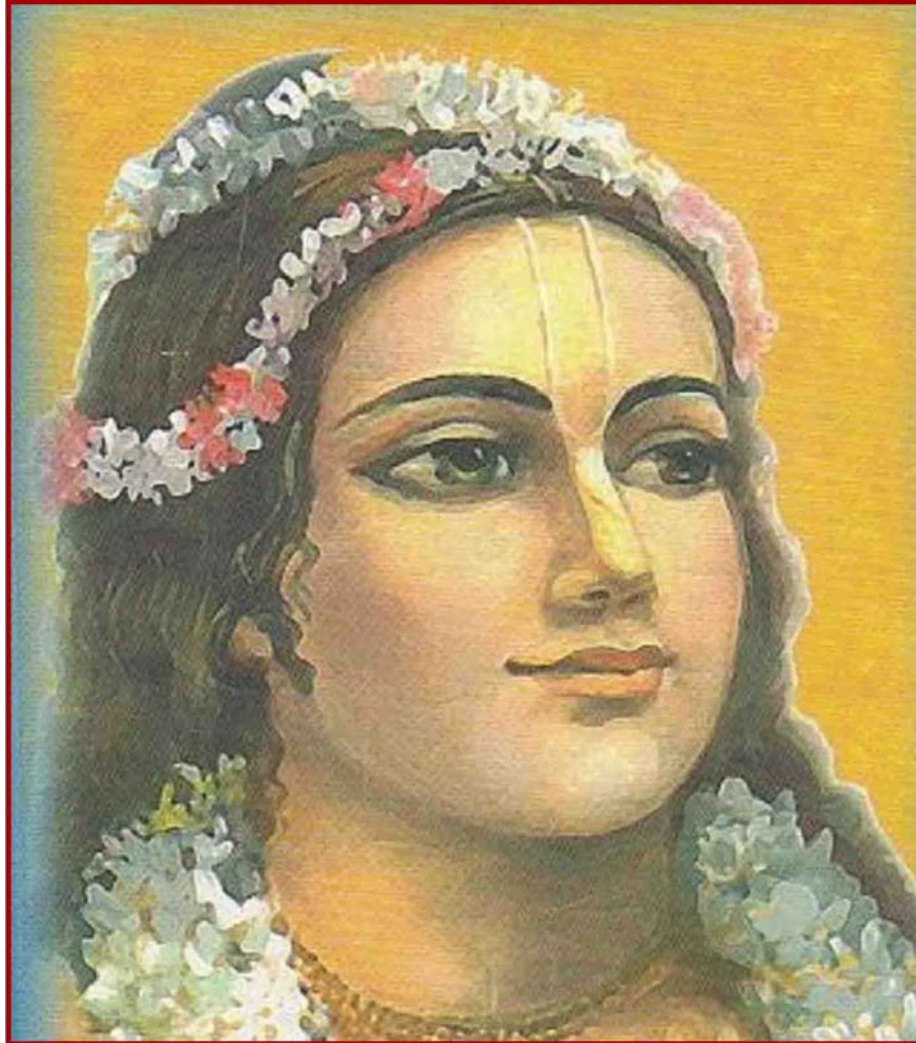


Nityananda Charitamrita



Shrila Vrindavana Dasa Thakura

Nityananda Charitamrita Introduction

by Isvara dasa

Srila Narottama dasa Thakura says,

"hena nitai bine bhai radha-krishna paite nai"

That without the mercy of Lord Nityananda, no one can attain Sri Sri Radha and Krishna. The ultimate goal of life is the attainment of krishna-prema. This is possible only by the mercy of sadhu-guru. Sri Nityananda Prabhu is the sum total of all gurus (samashiti-guru). He is guru-tattva. All individual gurus (vyashti) are representations of Sri Nityananda. Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura writes in the Harmonist magazine about the manifestation of guru in the form of Sri Nityananda:

The guru is the embodiment of the manifestation of the Divinity to the pure receptive spiritual essence of the disciple. Nityananda is the primary manifestive constituent of the Divinity. Nityananda alone possesses the distinctive function of the guru. In Nityananda the function is embodied. Nityananda is the servant-God. He serves Sri Gaurasundara by the distinctive method of reverential servitude. He is identical with Sri Balarama of krishna-lila. Sri Balarama is not the chum of Krishna, but His respected elder brother. It is an intimate relationship characterized by becoming reserved on one side, and of respectful deference on the other. Individual souls are under the direction of Nityananda. They receive their service of Sri Gaurasundara, i.e., of Krishna, at His hands. Nityananda is not a jiva. He is Divinity. He is the ultimate source of the jiva. The jiva is a potency of Nityananda. No jiva can be the medium of the service of the Absolute to another jiva. The Absolute alone may communicate His service to the separable constituents of Himself. This is the real nature of the function of the guru."

"But Nityananda does not directly instruct in the confidential service of Krishna. Srimati Radhika is the guru of the inner circle of the servants of Krishna. Srimati Radhika, however, accepts the offer of service of only those souls who are specially favored by Nityananda and are deemed by Him to be fit for Her service. There is, therefore, a most intimate relationship between the function of Nityananda and that of Srimati Radhika, which is at once supplementary to and inclusive of the former."

"But all jivas are not liable to be eclipsed by the deluding potency. Those who are so liable are again distinct from the eternally free jivas. The eternally free jivas are inseparable associates of Nityananda. They are integrated part and parcel of Himself. They never fall into the clutches of maya. When Nityananda manifests His appearance on the mundane plane, His inseparable constituents also appear in His company. They sometimes manifest their function on this lower place in a visible form on the errands of Nityananda. They are Vaishnavas whose subordination to Nityananda is natural and ingrained in their nature. It is not necessary for such souls to undergo the process of enlightenment for being restored to the spiritual plane. Unless this fact is borne in mind, the conditioned soul may be tempted to undervalue the constant guidance of the guru on the hypocritical plea of following in the footsteps of the eternally free pure devotees.

Those, therefore, who suppose that deliverance from the bondage of this world should be practicable without the constant guidance of the spiritual preceptor, confound the conditioned state with the free."

There is no difference between Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityananda. As Lord Krishna and Lord Balarama are essentially the same and the original forms of Godhead, so Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityananda, who are Krishna and Balarama directly, are one and the same. Lord Krishna manifested Himself as a separate form of Lord Balarama for the performance of His own lilas and to benefit the jivas by showing them the path of developing loving service unto Himself. In the Caitanya-charitamrita, Srila Krishnadasa Kaviraja Gosvami explains that Lord Krishna is eternally enjoying Himself in Goloka Vrindavana along with His unlimited associates. Lord Balarama, however, is the source of all

spiritual and material manifestations. All the Narayana and Vishnu expansions come from Lord Balarama. As such, Lord Balarama is directly the source of all incarnations in this material world.

As Lord Caitanya's pastimes are much more pleasing than Krishna's pastimes, so Lord Nityananda's pastimes are much more pleasing than those of Lord Balarama. Lord Balarama was famous for His pastimes of chastising the miscreants, such as killing so many demons, being ready to throw the whole city of Hastinapura into the ocean, and the killing of Romaharshana Suta. His form as Lord Nityananda, however, is known as akrodha paramananda nityananda-raya, He never gets angry. The form of Lord Nityananda is the most merciful form and the giver of krishna-prema-bhakti. Lord Caitanya Himself declared in sri nityananda-caritamrita antya-khanda, chapter three, "Those who develop love, affection, and respect for Sri Nityananda, develop love and affection for Me. All the demigods headed by Lord Siva and Lord Brahma offer worship to Nityananda Svarupa. If somebody thinks ill of Sri Nityananda or blasphemes Him, whoever he may be, still he must fall down. Even if such a person profess to be a devotee of Mine, he is not My devotee"

Sri Nityananda-caritamrita is an authentic Vaishnava literature compiled by Srila Vrindavana dasa Thakura. This book describes the transcendental glories of Lord Nityananda. The birth of Nityananda, His childhood pastimes, His leaving home, His traveling to the holy places, His arrival at Navadvipa and meeting Lord Caitanya, His preaching the holy names of the Lord by the order of Lord Gauranga, His pastimes with Mahaprabhu at Nadia, His presence at the Lord's pastime of accepting sannyasa, His accompanying the Lord to Nilacala, His return to Navadvipa by the order of the Lord, His marriage, His distribution of love of God, and His disappearance from this world. All these subjects are elaborately and properly described in this book. The author of this book, Srila Vrindavana dasa Thakura, is forever remembered in the Vaishnava communities for his wonderful literary work, Sri Caitanya-bhagavata. The glories of Sri Caitanya-bhagavata were proudly described by the author of Sri Caitanya-caritamrita, Srila Krishnadasa Kaviraja Gosvami, in his book as follows:

*manushye racite nare aiche grantha dhanya
vrindavana-dasa-mukhe vakta sri-caitanya*

"No human being can compose such a book. Actually, Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu speaks through the mouth of Srila Vrindavana dasa Thakura." (Caitanya-caritamrita Adi-lila 8.39)

Sri Caitanya-bhagavata is the original book in Bengali language about the pastimes of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Following the codes of Caitanya-bhagavata, other books such as Sri Caitanya-caritamrita were compiled. This present book contains what is presently in Caitanya-bhagavata about Lord Nityananda, but Srila Vrindavana dasa Thakura has given additional information. This includes: the affection of Hadai Pandita for Lord Nityananda, the marriage of Vasudha and Jahnava with Lord Nityananda, and the disappearance of Lord Nityananda. Therefore this book, Sri Nityananda-caritamrita, is very similar to Sri Caitanya-bhagavata. This book giving an exclusive narration of the pastimes of Lord Nityananda will serve as a great inspiration for communities of Vaishnavas, especially from the English speaking world.

Isvara dasa

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Vrindavana dhama, India.

For ordering the Nityananda Charitamrita Paper book: <http://www.touchstonemedia.com/books.html>

Nityananda Charitamrita, Adi-Khanda Chapter 1

The Birth and Childhood Activities of Lord Nityananda

All glories to Shri Krishna Chaitanya, the ocean of mercy! All glories to Lord Nityananda, the friend of the fallen souls! All glories to Sri Advaita Acarya, whose life and soul are Sri Gauranga and Sri Nityananda! All glories to Srivasa and Gadadhara Prabhus! All glories to Sri Visvambhara, the beloved son of Jagannatha and Saci! All glories to all the devotees and associates of the Lord! There is a village called Ekacakra* in Radha-desa in West Bengal, where the Supreme Lord Nityananda appeared.

From the day of His appearance, the whole of Radha-desa became all-auspicious. Famine, poverty, and other distresses at once disappeared. A short distance from Ekacakra, the Deity of Mauresvara is present. Lord Nityananda, who is non-different from Lord Balarama, had worshipped this Deity. In the village of Ekacakra lived Hadai Pandita. He was a qualified brahmana, very detached, and full of compassion. His wife's name was Padmavati, who was very chaste and an exalted devotee. She was the mother of the universe. Both Hadai Pandita and Padmavati Devi were very magnanimous. Lord Nityananda appeared in their family out of His own sweet will. On the auspicious thirteenth day of the waxing moon in the month of Magha (January-February), Lord Nityananda made His appearance. He was the eldest among the sons of Hadai Pandita. Seeing His all-auspicious symptoms, everyone's eyes filled with joy.

In time, Lord Nityananda began to grow. Due to the influence of His illusory energy, however, no one could recognize Him. Lord Nityananda concealed His real identity and happily played with His boyhood friends.

Whatever pastimes He enjoyed with His childhood friends were all related with the pastimes of Lord Krishna. He and His friends formed an assembly of demigods, and one of them acted as mother earth praying to the rest of them. Then they led mother earth to the riverbank where all the children began to offer prayers. One boy, hiding from the rest, loudly declared, "I will soon take birth in Mathura, Gokula."

One night, the Lord and His friends enacted the marriage of Vasudeva and Devaki. Another night, while everyone was asleep, they made a jail cell enacting the birth of Lord Krishna. They made one place into Gokula. Taking baby Krishna there, he was exchanged with Mahamaya, tricking Kamsa. Another time, they dressed someone as Putana. Someone climbed on her chest to suck her breast. One day Lord Nityananda and His friends made a sakata, or handcart, out of reeds and then broke it. Another day, the Lord and His friends stole from the houses of the neighboring cowherd men. The boys never left Nityananda to go home, but sported with Him day and night. The children's parents never complained, rather they affectionately embraced Nityananda. They said, "We've never seen such transcendental sports. How does this child know so many of Krishna's pastimes?"

One day, the Lord made snakes out of leaves and took His friends to the water. One of them jumped into the water and did not move. Later, the Lord brought him back to consciousness. Another day, the Lord and His friends went to Talavana where they killed Dhenukasura and then ate tala fruits. Lord Nityananda and his childhood friends went to the fields and enjoyed various pastimes such as the killing of Bakasura, Aghasura, and Vatsasura. In the afternoon, the Lord and His friends returned home blowing buffalo horns.

One day they enjoyed the pastime of lifting the Govardhana Hill, and another day they created a Vrindavana where they enjoyed various sports. Once they enacted Krishna's pastimes of stealing the

gopi's clothes and another day enacted His meeting the wives of the brahmanas. On one occasion, a boy dressed up with a false beard as Narada gave Kamsa some secret news. Another day, a boy dressed as Akrura took Krishna and Balarama to Kamsa's capital. As Lord Nityananda cried in the mood of the gopis, it seemed to His friends that a river was flowing from His eyes.

By the influence of Lord Vishnu's illusory energy, no one could recognize Lord Nityananda as He enjoyed pastimes with His friends. The children arranged a city of Mathura and then wandered through its streets. Someone played the role of a gardener, while another accepted a flower garland from him. Someone dressed as Kubja and sandalwood paste was accepted from her. They made a large bow and all shouted in joy when it was broken. They also enacted the pastimes of killing Kunalaya elephant and the wrestlers, Canura and Mushtika. Thereafter the Lord chastised Kamsa by grabbing him by the hair and throwing him on the ground. After killing Kamsa, the Lord danced with His friends in such a way that everyone watching Him began to laugh. In this way, Lord Nityananda and His friends imitated the pastimes of various incarnations.

One day, Lord Nityananda dressed as Vamana and went to cheat Bali Maharaja out of his kingdom, which covered the three worlds. Someone playing an aged Sukracarya forbid Bali from giving the three steps requested by Lord Vamana. Accepting the gift, the Lord placed His last step on Bali's head.

One day, Lord Nityananda enacted the pastime of building a bridge across the ocean with the boys playing the role of monkeys. They cut castor plants and made a bridge across the water. Then all the boys shouted "Jaya Raghunatha!" Lord Nityananda, taking the role of Lakshmana with a bow in His hand, went in anger to rebuke Sugriva. "O king of the monkeys, My Lord is in distress. Come quickly or I'll kill you! How can you sit here enjoying with women while Lord Ramacandra is lamenting on Malyavan Mountain?"

Another day Lord Nityananda spoke in anger to Parasurama, "O brahmana, I'm not at fault. Leave here at once." Lord Nityananda was thus absorbed in the mood of Lakshmana. The boys, unable to understand this, thought it was just a game. Another time the boys took the role of five monkeys and the Lord took the role of Lakshmana. "Who are you monkeys, wandering in the forest? I am the servant of Lord Ramacandra. Please tell me who you are!" They replied, "We are wandering in fear of Bali. Please take us to Lord Ramacandra. We wish to take the dust of His lotus feet." The Lord embraced them and led them to Lord Ramacandra, where they all fell at His feet.

Once the Lord enacted the pastime of killing Indrajit, the son of Ravana. Another day, in the mood of Lakshmana, He accepted defeat. They brought someone in the role of Vibhishana before Lord Ramacandra, and Lord Rama crowned him as the King of Lanka. One boy said, "I am the mighty Ravana. Now I'll release the sakti-shela weapon. Stop it if You can, Lakshmana!" Saying this, the boy threw a lotus flower at Lord Nityananda, who in the mood of Lakshmana, fell to the ground. After he fell unconscious, all the boys tried in vain to revive Him. When they found no symptom of life in the body of Lord Nityananda, they all held their heads and cried. The Lord's father and mother came running there and saw their son without a sign of life. They too fell senseless to the ground. Everyone who saw this tragedy was struck with wonder. As the boys described the entire incident, someone said, "I know why He is unconscious."

Once a great actor played the role of Dasaratha. Hearing that Rama had left for the forest, he left his body. Someone else said, "There's a boy dressed as Hanuman. If he gives Him medicine, then He'll be cured." Before the play the Lord had instructed His friends, "When I fall unconscious, you all surround Me and cry. After a while send Hanuman for some medicine. I will revive when he puts the medicine to My nose." The Lord fell unconscious by His own sweet will, but this bewildered all the boys. Since everyone there was so confused, they forgot the Lord's instructions. They simply cried loudly, "O brother, please get up!" Hearing people's comments, the boys remembered Lord Nityananda's order

and the boy dressed as Hanuman immediately went for the medicine.

Another boy dressed as a renunciate welcomed Hanuman with fruits and roots. He said to Hanuman, "My dear sir, please stay and grace my asrama. It's a wonderful fortune to meet such a person as you." Hanuman replied, "I must go and complete my important mission. I'd like to stay but I cannot delay. You must have heard that Lakshmana, younger brother of Lord Ramacandra, is unconscious from the sakti-sela weapon of Ravana. I'm on my way to Gandhamadana Hill to bring medicine. Only then He'll survive."

The renunciate then said, "If you must go, first take a bath and have something to eat. Then you may go." The two boys repeated whatever Lord Nityananda had instructed them. Everyone gazed at them in astonishment as they listened to their dialogue. On the request of the renunciate, Hanuman went to take a bath in the lake where another boy in the lake grabbed hold of his feet. The boy playing a crocodile tried to pull Hanuman into the water, but Hanuman pulled the boy to the shore. After a short fight, Hanuman defeated the crocodile. On returning to the renunciate's asrama, Hanuman saw a mighty warrior. A boy dressed as a rakshasa tried to swallow Hanuman. He challenged, "You defeated the crocodile, but how will you defeat me? I will eat you. Then how will you revive Lakshmana?"

Hanuman replied, "Your Ravana's a dog! I think him most insignificant. Get out of my way." After first exchanging some harsh words, they began pulling each other's hair. Finally, they began striking each other with their fists. Swiftly defeating the demon, Hanuman went to the Gandhamadana Hill. There he fought with some boys dressed as Gandharvas. Defeating the Gandharvas, Hanuman took the Gandhamadana Hill on his head to Lanka. Another boy playing a doctor meditated on Lord Rama as he held the medicine to Lakshmana's nose. At that very moment, Lord Nityananda came to His senses. His parents and others all smiled in relief. Hadai Pandita embraced his son and all the boys were overjoyed. Everyone asked, "Dear son, where have You learned all these plays?" Smiling the Lord said, "These are all My pastimes."

In his early childhood, the Lord was most attractive. No one wanted Him to leave his lap. Everyone had more affection for Lord Nityananda than for his own son. But none could recognize Him by the influence of Lord Vishnu's illusory energy.

In His childhood, Lord Nityananda had no other happiness than enjoying the pastimes of Lord Krishna. All His friends left their parents to constantly sport in the company of the Lord. I offer repeated obeisances at the feet of those boys who enjoyed the association of Lord Nityananda. From His childhood, Lord Nityananda had no interest other than enacting the various pastimes of Lord Krishna. Who can describe the pastimes of Lord Ananta? They are only manifest to one who has received His mercy.

Accepting Sri Gauranga and Sri Nityananda Prabhu as my life and soul, I, Vrindavana dasa, sing the glories of Their lotus feet.

Nityananda Charitamrita, Adi-Khanda Chapter 2

Lord Nityananda's Traveling To the Holy Places

Lord Nityananda enjoyed His pastimes at the house of Hadai Pandita for sometime. Later, He decided to leave home. But, from fear of separation, His mother and father were unable to allow Him to leave. If His mother Padmavati did not see Him for a moment, she felt this as more than a yuga. His father felt the same. Fearful of His leaving, Hadai Pandita never goes anywhere. Whether he goes to the field for farming, or to the temple, or the market, or anywhere else, Hadai Pandita repeatedly looks back at Lord Nityananda, so that Lord Nityananda may not leave home. Hadai Pandita embraced Lord Nityananda again and again, and the Lord's butter-soft body merged in His father's. Hadai went everywhere along with Lord Nityananda. Hadai Pandita's life and soul was Lord Nityananda, and Lord Nityananda's body was Hadai Pandita.

Lord Nityananda is the indwelling Supersoul of everyone. Knowing all this, He tried to give pleasure to His father. By providence, a beautiful looking sannyasi came one day to Hadai Pandita's house. Knowing the etiquette for receiving guests, he welcomed the sannyasi and happily fed him. Lord Nityananda and His father spent the whole night discussing topics of Lord Krishna with the sannyasi.

In the early morning, the sannyasi was about to leave. He then spoke to Hadai Pandita, "I have one request from you." Hadai Pandita replied, "Please tell me whatever you desire." The sannyasi said, "I wish to travel to the holy places; but I don't have a good brahmana companion. Why don't you give me your eldest son for a few days? I'll take care of Him more than my own life and, at the same time, he'll be able to visit all the holy places."

Hearing the words of the sannyasi, the pure hearted brahmana Hadai Pandita felt intense distress. He thought, "This sannyasi has begged for my very life. At the same time, if I refuse I'll be ruined. It is well known that in the past many pious men became glorious by offering their lives to satisfy mendicant sannyasis. Lord Ramacandra was the life of King Dasaratha. The holy sage Visvamitra asked Dasaratha to give his son. The Puranas say that although King Dasaratha was unable to live without Lord Ramacandra still he offered Him to the sage. Today, the same thing has now happened to me. O Krishna, please protect me from this dilemma. The same situation is here, so why shouldn't I have the same mind like Dasaratha. Besides, Lakshmana has appeared in my family as Nityananda." Thinking like this, the brahmana Hadai Pandita went before his wife and explained the situation to her in detail.

Hearing the dilemma from her husband, the chaste Padmavati, the mother of the universe said, "My Lord, do what you think is best. This is my opinion." Hadai Pandita then came before the sannyasi and, with his head bent down, offered him his son. Taking Nityananda with him, the sannyasi departed. In this way, Lord Nityananda left home. As soon as Lord Nityananda left home, Hadai Pandita fell senseless to the ground. Who can describe the lamentation and crying of Hadai Pandita? Even wood and stone melted hearing such lamentation. Hadai became stunned due to devotional mellows and people began to say that he had become a madman. He did not eat any grain for three months. He survived, however, only by the mercy of Lord Krishna.

It is natural that, due to attachment, both Lord and His servants are unable to leave each other. This is the inconceivable nature of the Lord and the Vaishnavas. Lord Kapila became indifferent and left His widowed mother Devahuti. Sukadeva Gosvami left his Vaishnava father, who was none other than Vyasadeva, without even looking back. Lord Gauranga, the crest-jewel among the sannyasis, was so detached that he left home, leaving his mother Sacidevi alone. From the spiritual point of view, such leaving is never actual leaving. Some intelligent persons will understand this. All these pastimes are meant to deliver the fallen souls. Hearing such pastimes melts even stones. If even a Muslim hears such pastimes as the lamentation of Lord Ramacandra when He lost Sita he will certainly cry.

Lord Nityananda Prabhu left home wandering in the holy places by His own sweet will and ecstasy. The Lord first went to Vakresvara and then He went alone to Vaidyanatha. From Vaidyanatha, he went to Gaya and then Kasi, the abode of Lord Siva where the Ganges flows towards the North.

Lord Nityananda was extremely pleased by seeing the Ganges. He took bath and drank some water, yet this could not relieve His grief. In the month of Magha (January), the Lord took early morning baths at Prayaga. Then He went to Mathura, His former birthplace. Lord Nityananda sported in the waters of the River Yamuna at Visrama-ghata. Then he went with great curiosity to see Govardhana. He visited each of the twelve forests beginning with Vrindavana. When He saw the house and courtyard of Nanda Maharaja at Gokula, He sat down and cried profusely. Offering His obeisances to Madana-Gopala, he left for Hastinapura, the abode of the Pandavas.

Seeing the Pandavas home, Lord Nityananda began to cry. The local people, due to lack of devotion, were unable to understand the Lord's sentiments. Remembering Lord Balarama's glorious activities in Hastinapura, Lord Nityananda called out, "O Haladhara, please save Me!" and then offered obeisances.

Lord Nityananda then went to Dvaraka where He joyfully took bath in the ocean. He next went to Siddhapura, the place of Lord Kapila. Then He went to Matsya-tirtha where He served prasada at a festival. The Lord then visited Siva-kanci and neighboring Vishnu-kanci. He smiled when He saw the followers of Lord Vishnu and Lord Siva quarreling there. The Lord also visited Kurukshetra, Prithudaka, Bindu-sarovara, Prabhasa, and Sudarsana-tirtha. He then visited the exalted holy place called Trita-kupa. He also went to Visala, Brahma-tirtha, and Cakra-tirtha. The Lord visited Pratisrota where the Sarasvati River flows in the opposite direction. The most magnanimous Lord Nityananda then went to Naimisharanya.

He next visited the city of Ayodhya where He cried on seeing the birthplace of Lord Rama. Lord Nityananda visited Candala-Guhaka's kingdom where He fell unconscious. Simply remembering the activities of Candala-Guhaka, Lord Nityananda was in a trance of ecstasy for three days. Seeing the forest where Lord Ramacandra had resided, Lord Nityananda rolled on the ground in separation. The Lord went to both Sarayu and Kausiki Rivers. After taking bath, he went to the asrama of Pulastya Rishi.

Lord Nityananda next took bath in the Gomati, Gandaki, and Sona Rivers. He also climbed the top of Mahendra Mountain. There He offered obeisances to Lord Parasurama. He also visited Haridvara, the source of the Ganges. The Lord took bath in Pampa, Bhimarathi, Venva, and Vipasa Rivers. After seeing Kartikeya at Madurai, the most intelligent Lord Nityananda went to Sri Saila, the abode of Siva and Parvati. Siva and Parvati live on this mountain in the form of a brahmana couple. When Lord Nityananda arrived there, they understood their most worshipable Lord was wandering on pilgrimage as a mendicant. Most satisfied to receive such a guest, Parvati happily cooked for the Lord. They fed the Lord with loving affection, and Lord Nityananda smiled and offered them His respects. Only Lord Krishna knows about their confidential discussions. Then Lord Nityananda continued His journey to Dravida-desa.

The Lord visited Venkatanatha, Kamakoshthi Puri, Kanci, and the River Kaveri. There the Lord visited the sacred place of Sri Ranganatha. Then He went to Hari-kshetra. Lord Nityananda visited Rishabha Mountain, Madurai, and the Kritamala, Tamraparni, and Uttara Yamuna Rivers. He visited the asrama of Agastya Rishi in the Malaya hills. The residents there were all jubilant to see the Lord. Lord Nityananda stayed as a guest in their asrama and then departed in deep ecstasy for Badarikasrama. Lord Nityananda stayed in seclusion for some days in the asrama of Nara-Narayana Rishis. Lord Nityananda then went to the asrama of Srila Vyasadeva, who recognized that He was Lord Balarama. Srila Vyasadeva personally received Lord Nityananda as a guest, and the Lord offered His obeisances to Srila Vyasadeva.

Lord Nityananda then visited a monastery where He found them all sitting together. The Lord asked a question, but no one replied. Becoming angry with them, the Lord kicked them in the head. They all simply smiled and ran away. Lord Nityananda thus fearlessly continued His travels through the forest.

Lord Nityananda eventually arrived in Kanya-kumari. After seeing Durga there, He went to see the Southern Ocean. He then went to Anantapura and, after that, He went to Pancapsara-kunda. He next visited the temple of Lord Siva known as Gokarna. He visited Kerala and the various places in Trigarta. He also visited goddess Parvati, who dwells on an island near Gokarna. The Lord then visited the Nirvindhya, Payoshni, and Tapi Rivers. He went to the city of Mahishmati on the banks of the Reva River and saw Malla-tirtha. The Lord then passed through the holy district of Surparaka on His way to the West.

The fearless ecstatic Lord Nityananda Prabhu traveled in this way without fear of anyone. Lord Nityananda had no control of His body due to ecstatic love for Krishna. Sometimes He cried and sometimes He laughed. Who could understand His ecstatic moods?

Accepting Sri Gauranga and Nityananda Prabhu as my life and soul, I, Vrindavana dasa, sing the glories of Their lotus feet.

Nityananda Charitamrita Adi Khanda Chapter 3

Lord Nityananda's Meeting With Shripada Madhavendra Puri

As Lord Nityananda traveled, by the will of providence He met Sri Madhavendra Puri. The body of Sri Madhavendra Puri was imbued with ecstatic love of God and his followers shared the same sentiments. He did not relish anything other than loving sentiments for Lord Krishna, who enjoyed His pastimes in the body of Madhavendra Puri. What can I say about the devotion of he who was the spiritual master of Sri Advaita Acarya?

Seeing Madhavendra Puri, Lord Nityananda at once fell unconscious to the ground, stunned in ecstatic prema. Seeing Lord Nityananda, Madhavendra Puri forgot himself as well and fell unconscious. Sri Gauracandra had repeatedly said that Sri Madhavendra Puri is the original root of worship in ecstatic love. After both Lord Nityananda and Madhavendra Puri swooned, the disciples headed by Isvara Puri all began to cry. Recovering after some time, Lord Nityananda and Madhavendra Puri embraced each other and cried. Overwhelmed by ecstatic love for Krishna, they rolled on the sand and cried out loudly. The tears of love flowing from their eyes like rains soaked mother Earth making her feel gratified. Shivering, shedding tears, hair standing on end, and other ecstatic symptoms appeared endlessly on their bodies. This was because Lord Krishna personally resides in their bodies.

Lord Nityananda said, All the pilgrimage I've done still now has now born fruit. Today, I've seen the lotus feet of Madhavendra Puri. Seeing his ecstatic love of God, My life has become successful. Shri Madhavendra Puri embraced Lord Nityananda and was unable to reply as his throat choked with love. Madhavendra Puri was so pleased that he was unable to release Lord Nityananda from his embrace. Isvara Puri, Brahmananda Puri, and all the other disciples of Madhavendra Puri felt intense attachment for Lord Nityananda.

They had met many sadhus, but never before seen such symptoms of prema. feeling distress mixing with materialistic people, they wandered in the forests. Now, meeting Lord Nityananda relieved their distress and aroused their krishna-prema. Lord Nityananda Prabhu traveled for a while with Madhavendra Puri relishing krishna-katha. The qualities of Madhavendra Puri were most wonderful. He would swoon just by seeing a dark cloud. Out of love for Krishna, he laughed and cried day and night, shouting, "Haya! Haya!" like a drunkard.

Lord Nityananda was intensely absorbed in the loving sentiments for Govinda. He laughed loudly, swaying to and fro. Madhavendra Puri's disciples constantly chanted the name of Hari seeing their extraordinary symptoms of love. The two forgot whether it was day or night in their absorption of ecstatic love. Although remaining together for a number of days, Lord Nityananda and Madhavendra Puri felt that period as hardly a moment. Who knows all that took place between Lord Nityananda and Madhavendra Puri? Only Krishna knows. unable to give up the company of Lord Nityananda, Madhavendra Puri constantly remained with Him.

*madhavendra bale e prema na dekhilu katha
sei mora sarvatirtha hena prema yatha
janilu krishnera kripa ache mora prati
nityananda hena vandhu painu samhiti
ye se stane yadi nityananda sanga haya
sei stana sarvatirtha vaikunthadi maya
nityananda hena bhakta sunile sravane
avasya paiba krishnacandra sei jane
nityananda yachara tilaka dvesha rahe
bhakta hai leu se krishnera priya nahe*

Madhavendra Puri said, "I've never seen such ecstatic love. Wherever there's such prema is my favorite holy place. I know Krishna's given me His mercy since He's given me such a friend as Nityananda. Wherever one finds Nityananda's company is the most sacred and transcendental place. That devotee who hears the name of Nityananda will certainly attain the lotus feet of Krishnacandra. If one has the slightest envy for Nityananda, Krishna never favours him even if he's a devotee."

Madhavendra Puri showed affection for Lord Nityananda day and night with his speech and deeds. Lord Nityananda considered Madhavendra Puri nothing else than His guru. These two vastly learned personalities did not know whether it was day or night due to their ecstatic love for Krishna. After staying together for some days, Lord Nityananda left for Setubandha (Ramesvaram), and Madhavendra Puri went to see the Sarayu River. In their absorption for love of Krishna, both Lord Nityananda and Madhavendra Puri forgot their bodies. Feelings of separation for the Lord maintain a devotee's life. Otherwise, how could one tolerate such intense feelings while lost in trance? Whoever hears about the meeting between Lord Nityananda and Madhavendra Puri will certainly achieve the wealth of love for Krishna.

After traveling in ecstatic mood for some days, Lord Nityananda arrived at Setubandha. Taking bath at Dhanushatirtha, He then went to see Lord Ramesvara. The Lord next went to Vijayanagara. He visited Mayapuri, Avanti, and the Godavari Rivers, and then He went to the abode of Jiyada Nrisimha. He visited Trumalla and Kurma-kshetra, and eventually went to see Jagannatha, the Lord of Nilacala. When He came near Sri Nilacala, He fell unconscious seeing the temple flag, surrounded by His dear devotees, He saw Lord Jagannatha as the source of the catur-vyuha: Vasudeva, Sankarshana, Pradyumna and Aniruddha. Immediately on seeing Lord Jagannatha, Lord Nityananda fell in rapture with His hair standing on end. When He recovered, He fell to the ground again. Shivering, perspiring, crying, swooning, and loud roaring who can describe these ecstatic symptoms seen in Lord Nityananda? After remaining in Nilacala for sometime, Lord Nityananda went in great jubilation to Ganga-sagara.

Who can describe the Lord's pilgrimage? I have only written briefly by His mercy. After visiting various holy places, Lord Nityananda returned again to Mathura. He remained in Vrindavana being so absorbed in Krishna that He was unable to tell if it was day or night. He did not eat, but occasionally drank some milk if someone offered it to Him.

Lord Nityananda knew well that Lord Gauracandra was living incognito in Navadvipa. He thought to Himself, "I will go and serve Lord Gauranga when He manifests His opulence." He therefore did not go to Navadvipa directly, but remained in Mathura. He regularly enjoyed sporting in the water of the Yamuna and playing with the children in Vrindavana. Although Lord Nityananda is omnipotent, He did not distribute devotional service to the Lord at that time.

yabe gauracandra prabhu kariba prakasa, tanra se ajnara bhaktidanera vilasa

"When Lord Gauracandra manifests His opulence, then He'll begin to distribute bhakti on His order."

The devotees of Lord Gauranga did not like to do anything without His order, but this did not diminish their glories in the least. Brahma, Ananta, Siva, and other demigods create, maintain, and destroy by the order of Lord Gauranga. Sinners who do not like to hear such things are not fit to be seen by the Vaishnavas. Just see for yourself how Lord Nityananda Prabhu blessed the people of this universe with the treasure of prema. Nityananda Raya is the foremost devotee of Lord Gauranga since the glories of Lord Gauranga always dance on His tongue. Day and night Lord Nityananda chants the glories of Lord Gauranga. When one worships Lord Nityananda, he surely attains devotion for Lord Gauranga.

All glories to Nityananda Raya, the first manifestation of Lord Gauranga! The glories of Lord Gauranga become manifest only by the mercy of Lord Nityananda. One becomes attached to Lord Nityananda by the mercy of Lord Gauranga. One who knows Lord Nityananda never faces any adversities. Those who wish to cross the ocean of material existence and drown in the ocean of

devotional service must worship Nityananda. Someone said, "Nityananda is just like Balarama." Another person said, "He's most dear to Lord Gauranga." Someone may consider Lord Nityananda a sannyasi, someone may consider Him a devotee, or someone may consider Him a jnani. They may all say whatever they like. Even if Lord Nityananda were the most insignificant servant of Lord Gauranga, still I would keep His lotus feet in my heart. Therefore, I kick the head of any sinner who disregards the glories of Lord Nityananda and dares to criticize Him.

If you find any follower of Lord Gauranga who seems to say something bad about Lord Nityananda, know what they said was actually glorification. Vaishnavas are always pure and full of knowledge. So, if there is ever any quarrel between them, know it simply to be part of their pastimes. If a person takes the side of one Vaishnava and criticizes another, then certainly he is vanquished. anyone who follows Lord Nityananda without finding fault in Him will surely attain the shelter of Sri Gauracandra. When will that day come when I will see Lord Gauranga and Lord Nityananda surrounded by Their devotees? Let me serve Lord Gauracandra under the instructions of Lord Nityananda, who is my worshipable Lord in all respects.

I desire to study Srimad-Bhagavatam under Sri Nityananda Svarupa birth after birth. All glories to the Supreme Lord Sri Gauranga! You have given me, and then taken from me, the association of Lord Nityananda. Still I beg for Your mercy so that my mind may remain absorbed on the lotus feet of You both. Nityananda Raya is Your greatest devotee. No one can attain Him without Your sanction.

Lord Nityananda wandered the forests of Vrindavana until Lord Gauracandra displayed His opulences. Whoever hears these descriptions of Lord Nityananda's visit to the holy places will certainly attain the treasure of divine prema.

Accepting Sri Gauranga and Sri Nityananda as my life and soul, I, Vrindavana dasa, sing the glories of Their lotus feet

End of Adi-khanda.

Nityananda Charitamrita Madhya-Khanda Chapter 1

Lord Nityananda's Meeting With Lord Gauranga Mahaprabhu

All glories to Sri Krishna Caitanya and all glories to Sri Nityananda! All glories to Sri Advaita Acarya and all glories to all the devotees of Sri Gauranga! All glories to the Lord, who is the life and soul of Narahari and Gadadhara! O Lord, please glance mercifully towards me. All glories to Sri Gauranga along with His devotees! If one hears the topics of Lord Nityananda, he will certainly achieve pure devotional service.

The topics of Madhya-khanda are just like nectar. Hearing them destroys one's atheistic mentality. Please behold the beautiful Lord Nityananda to your eyes full satisfaction. He is personified love and affection for Lord Gauranga. Lord Nityananda's limbs are filled with transcendental mellows for Lord Gauranga.

Speaking in a faltering voice and unable to walk properly, Lord Nityananda resided in Vrindavana. Meanwhile, Sri Gauracandra revealed Himself in Navadvipa. Lord Gauranga constantly did sankirtana in great ecstasy. He felt distressed, however, not seeing Lord Nityananda. Lord Nityananda could understand the manifestation of Lord Gauracandra. He lived in Vrindavana waiting for this auspicious moment. Understanding that His Lord had revealed Himself, Lord Nityananda immediately went to Navadvipa and stayed at the house of Nandana Acarya.

Nandana Acarya was a maha-bhagavata, a pure devotee of the Lord. He saw Lord Nityananda as effulgent as the sun. Lord Nityananda was dressed as an avadhuta, or mendicant. He possessed an attractive body. He was always in deep sober mood. Lord Nityananda chanted the holy names of Krishna day and night. He was the abode of Lord Gauranga's mercy within the three worlds. He often shouted loudly out of His own ecstasy, maddened with love of God. He was an incarnation of Lord Balarama.

The enchanting beauty of His face defeated millions of moons. His sweet smile enlivened all the people of the world. His beautiful brilliant teeth were just like pearls, and His two broad lotus eyes increased the beauty of His face. His hands stretched to His knees and His chest was very wide. His lotus feet were expert in walking. Lord Nityananda spoke with everyone with burning compassion. Hearing the words from His lotus mouth completely destroyed one's bondage to fruitive activities.

As Lord Nityananda arrived in Nadia, all the residents began to chant "Jaya Jaya!" Who is so expert to describe His glories? It is Lord Nityananda who broke the sannyasa danda of Lord Gaurasundara. It is He who enlivened all the fallen foolish traders of Bengal. If anyone even chants His holy names, he will certainly be purified. Seeing Lord Nityananda, Nandana Acarya became very happy. He offered Him lunch and kept Him at his house. Whoever hears about Lord Nityananda's arrival at Navadvipa will certainly obtain the treasure of love and devotion.

Aware of Lord Nityananda's arrival in Navadvipa, Sri Visvambhara became extremely happy within His heart. The Lord had, on some pretext or other, already disclosed the arrival of Lord Nityananda to the Vaishnavas. But none of them could understand the meaning of His words. Lord Visvambhara had said, "Within a day or two, an exalted personality will come here."

By providence, Lord Nityananda arrived in Navadvipa the same day. Lord Visvambhara, after completing His worship of Vishnu, came and sat with the Vaishnavas. The Lord said to everyone, "Today I had a wonderful dream. I saw a beautiful chariot, with a flag on top, that came and stopped near my door. Within that chariot there was a remarkable personality. He carried a large pillar on His shoulder and appeared restless. He had a stick tucked into His clothes and carried a pitcher in His left hand. He dressed in blue garments with a blue cadara on his chest. A wonderful earring hung on His left ear. By His features, I assume He is none other than Haladhara Balarama." He repeatedly asked, "Is this the house of Nimai Pandita?"

Lord Chaitanya continued, “I have never seen such a noble and powerful personality. He was effulgent and dressed as an avadhuta, or mendicant. I was severely stunned by seeing Him. I asked Him, Who are you?” He smilingly replied, I am Your brother. We will meet and know each other tomorrow.’ Hearing His words, My happiness increased. I consider Myself as similar to that personality.”

Speaking like this, Lord Gauranga fell into ecstatic trance and began to roar loudly in the mood of Haladhara Balarama. The Lord demanded, “Bring wine!” His loud voice almost shattered the ears of everyone present. Then Srivasa Pandita* said, “Please listen, O Gosai! The wine that you are asking for is right here in front of You. Only those You give it to can relish it.”

All the devotees remained shivering at a distant place. They all thought there must be some reason behind this. The lotus eyed Lord loudly talked aimlessly. He smiled and moved His body to and fro in the mood of Sankarshana. After a short while, the Lord returned to His normal condition. Explaining the meaning of His dream, He became absorbed in the mood of Balarama.

The Lord said, “I have a feeling in my heart that some holy personality has arrived in Navadvipa. I already told all of you that we would meet Him soon. O Haridasa*, O Srivasa Pandita, go and find out who has come and where has He come from?”

By the order of the Lord, both pure devotees (Haridasa Thakura and Srivasa Pandita) happily wandered and searched all over Navadvipa for Lord Nityananda. While wandering, both of them talked to each other. They thought Lord Sankarshana might have come here. They happily wandered the streets of Navadvipa, but were unable to get any news. After searching the entire Navadvipa for nine hours, they returned to the Lord without success. They humbly reported to the Lord, “We did not find the stranger in Navadvipa. We looked in the houses of sannyasis, Vaishnavas, jnanis, and atheists. We saw the entire Navadvipa, but did not go to villages outside Navadvipa.”

Hearing them, Sri Gaurasundara began to smile. By the pretext of ordering the search, He showed that Lord Nityananda is most confidential. Some people glorify Lord Gauracandra, but as soon as they hear the name of Nityananda, they get up and leave. Just like if one worships Govinda, but does not respect Lord Siva. For that offense, he will surely go to the abode of Yamaraja. Similarly, this incarnation of Lord Nityananda is most confidential. Without the inspiration of Lord Gauranga, no one can even see Him. If anyone criticizes Lord Nityananda’s unfathomable qualities, though he possesses devotion to Lord Krishna, such devotion will be checked.

Devotees headed by Srivasa Pandita are fully conversant with the science of Lord Nityananda. But for some fun, they could not find Him. After a while, Lord Gauranga said with a smile, “Come with Me. Let us go see Him.” All the devotees then joyfully went with the Lord while chanting, “All glories to Lord Krishna!”

On the way, Lord Gauranga called, “Murari, Murari! Have you not seen Avadhuta Nityananda?” Saying this, He began to smile. “He’s now staying at Nandana Acarya’s house. Come with Me, we’re going there. I’m telling you the truth.” While walking, the Lord repeatedly chanted, “Hari Hari!” His whole body shivered and His voice choked. Five or seven lines of tears flowed from His eyes. The lustrous golden Lord was unable to walk. Sometimes, He leaped up to five steps ahead like a powerful lion, and sometimes looked behind like a mad elephant. Out of ecstasy, the Lord would make a loud noise again and again, which was as grave as the noise of the cloud. In this way, Sri Gaurasundara, along with His associates, finally reached the house of Nandana Acarya.

Everyone saw a jewel-like personality sitting in the house of Nandana Acarya. His effulgence was equal to that of millions of suns. He was sitting in His own mood, deeply absorbed in ecstatic meditation. He was smiling all the time.

Aware that Lord Nityananda was in a deep trance of pure devotion, Lord Visvambhara and His associates offered obeisances. Everyone stood aside with awe and reverence. No one said a word; they simply stared at Him. Then Mahaprabhu Visvambhara came before Lord Nityananda, who at once understood His beloved and worshipable Lord was present. The form of Visvambhara was as beautiful

as that of a cupid. He wore an attractive dress and a flower garland. Sandalwood paste was smeared on His forehead. The luster of gold appeared most insignificant before the body of the Lord. Even the moon-god hankers to see His enchanting face. The Lord's teeth resembled a set of pearls and seeing His attractive hair, one becomes unconscious. Seeing His two broad pink eyes, one wonders, "Are there any more lotus flowers?" His two long hands stretched down to His knees. A fine thin brahmin thread beautified His broad chest. His forehead was wonderfully decorated with marks of tilaka and His body looked enchanting even without any ornaments. His fingernails defeat the beauty of millions of jewels. His attractive smile is nectar. Lord Visvambhara stood in front of Lord Nityananda, who at once recognized the Lord of His heart.

Lord Nityananda, out of joy, was stunned. He stared at Lord Visvambhara without blinking His eyes. He desired to lick Visvambhara with His tongue and drink His beauty through His eyes. Nityananda desired to embrace Visvambhara with His hands and smell Him with His nose. Lord Nityananda simply became stunned. Everyone was so astonished that he did not speak or move. Lord Gauranga, the life and soul of everyone, beheld the situation and began to invent ways to reveal Lord Nityananda.

With a gesture, the Lord instructed Srivasa to recite a verse from Srimad-Bhagavatam. Understanding the Lord's intention, Srivasa Pandita at once recited a verse from Srimad Bhagavatam glorifying Krishna's attractive form.

*barhapidam nata-vara-vapuh karnayoh karnikaram
bibhrad vasah kanaka-kapisam vaijayantim ca malam
randhran venor adhara-sudhayapurayan gopa-vrindair
vrindaranyam sva-pada-ramanam pravisad gita-kirtih*

"Wearing a peacock-feather ornament upon His head, blue karnikara flowers on His ears, a yellow garment as brilliant as gold, and the Vaijayanti garland, Lord Krishna exhibited His transcendental form as the greatest of dancers as He entered the forest of Vrindavana, beautifying it with the marks of His footprints. He filled the holes of His flute with the nectar of His lips, and the cowherd boys sang His glories" (Srimad-Bhagavatam 10.21.5)

Hearing this verse, Lord Nityananda fell to the ground unconscious. Out of great ecstasy, Lord Nityananda remained inert as Lord Gauranga told Srivasa to continue. Awakening after a short while, Lord Nityananda began to cry. Repeatedly hearing the verses from Srimad-Bhagavatam, Lord Nityananda became maddened. He roared like a lion and the sound shook the universe. He jumped in the air so forcefully that everyone thought all His bones would break to pieces. What to speak of others, even the Vaishnavas became afraid. They all prayed, "O Krishna, please save Him! O Krishna, please save Him!" Lord Nityananda rolled on the ground and His whole body became wet with tears. Seeing the attractive form of Lord Visvambhara, Lord Nityananda breathed heavily. Sometimes He would laugh loudly and sometimes He felt great happiness within His heart. Sometimes He danced, sometimes He clapped His hands, and sometimes He jumped forcefully.

A golden effulgence shown from the beautiful body of Lord Nityananda. Brightly shining ornaments decorated His charming bodily limbs. Yellow cloth adorned His waist and He wore a turban decorated with campaka flowers on His head. Tinkling ankle-bells sounded as He walked. Tears filled His deer-like eyes. His enchanting smile appeared as if the lightning had fallen down on earth. His captivating smile disturbed the chastity of women. His grave voice resembled the sound of a cloud. His roaring sound subdued the mad elephant in the form of Kali. He walked like an intoxicated elephant. Tears of love constantly flowed from His smiling face.

Overflooded with love of God, Lord Nityananda's body showed symptoms of ecstatic love such as shivering, standing of the hair on end, and perspiration. He held a golden stick in His hand as He defeated the pride of Kali. His lotus-like palms were simply wonderful. He was decorated with armlets,

bangles, necklace, bracelets, and ankle-bells. His two earrings were as bright as the sun. He rolled on the ground. Sometimes He stood up saying, "Please hold Me." Then He would ask everyone, "Where is that cowherd boy Kanai (Krishna)." Sometimes He uttered strange words and sometimes He cried or laughed. Sometimes He asked for honey and sometimes He praised His consort Revati. Sometimes He hopped. Sometimes He said one thing, the next moment something else. No one could understand what He said. The fragrance of His bodily limbs caused all the young girls and the married women to leave their houses without hesitation. Lord Nityananda fell on the ground to offer obeisances to Lord Visvambhara and humbly offered prayers with sweet words.

Lord Nityananda fell at the lotus feet of His Lord. Both of Them tried to catch hold of each other's feet. Both the Lords embraced each other and cried. Lord Nityananda looked at Visvambhara's face and smilingly said, "Where were You? I have searched the entire world but could not get any news of You. Finally, I heard that the son of Nanda Maharaja is living at Navadvipa in Gauda-desa hiding His real identity. I have come here to catch this thief. Today, I have caught You. How will You escape?"

Saying this, Lord Nityananda began to laugh, cry, and dance. Lord Gauranga also danced with Nityananda. Seeing Lord Nityananda's ecstatic madness for Krishna, Gauracandra cried along with all the Vaishnavas. The happiness of Nityananda increased without limit. Although everyone tried to pacify Him, they were unable. When all the devotees failed to calm Him, Visvambhara personally embraced Him. As soon as Visvambhara embraced Him, Lord Nityananda surrendered His life to Lord Visvambhara and became still. Lord Nityananda offered His life to Him to whom it belongs, and thus remained inert on the lap of Lord Gauranga.

Lord Nityananda floated in the water of Lord Gauranga's love just as Lakshmana lay on the lap of Lord Ramacandra being hit by the sakti weapon of Ravana. Lord Nityananda swooned pierced by the arrows of love and devotion. Gauracandra cried with Nityananda on His lap. Both Lords felt an indescribable happiness. Their love and affection for each other is like that of Sri Rama and Lakshmana. There is no other example of the affection seen between Gauracandra and Nityananda except this.

After a while, Lord Nityananda revived. All the devotees began to chant "Hari! Hari!" Seeing Lord Nityananda on the lap of Visvambhara, Gadadhara smiled and thought, "This is contradictory! Lord Ananta always carries Visvambhara on His lap. Today His pride has been smashed in the lap of the Lord." Gadadhara Pandita* knows the influence of Lord Nityananda and Nityananda knows the heart of Gadadhara. Seeing Lord Nityananda, the hearts of all the devotees filled with ecstasy.

Nityananda and Gauracandra simply stared at one another without uttering a word. Tears incessantly flowed down from Their eyes. Seeing each other stunned both of Them. The tears from Their eyes flooded the earth. Lord Visvambhara said, "Today is a very auspicious day for me. I have seen with My own eyes pure devotional symptoms that are the essence of the four Vedas. This shivering, flowing of tears, and loud shouting are not possible for anyone except one who is empowered by the Lord. If one personally sees this pure devotional service, Krishna will never reject him. I am firmly convinced that You are the full manifestation of the Lord's energy. By worshipping You, a living entity achieves devotion to Lord Krishna. You can purify the fourteen worlds. Your qualities are inconceivable, unfathomable, and confidential. There is no one existing who can defy you. You are the form of love of Krishna, the treasury of devotional service. If anyone meets You even for a moment, he will be delivered, even if he committed millions of sins. I think Krishna has a desire to deliver me. That is why He brought You to Me. By huge fortune, I have seen Your lotus feet. By worshipping You, I will most surely get the treasure of love of Krishna."

Fully absorbed, the most enchanting Lord Gauranga relentlessly offered prayers to Lord Nityananda. There were so many talks between Lord Nityananda and Lord Gauranga, but most of them were done with gestures. Lord Gauranga said, "I am afraid to ask You. Where are You from?" The mentality of Nityananda was very childish and He was overwhelmed with intense ecstasy. He spoke like a restless boy. Lord Nityananda knew the cause for the appearance of His Lord. He thus folded His hands and spoke very humbly. Hearing the words of Lord Gauranga, Lord Nityananda felt shy. Therefore, He

began to reveal His real identity. Lord Nityananda said, "I have traveled to many holy places. I have also seen all the holy places where Krishna did His pastimes. I saw only the holy places, but could not find Krishna there. I asked some exalted personality, Why do I see only thorns; the places of pastimes are all empty and covered? Can you tell Me where Krishna went?" He told Me that Krishna has gone to Bengal. Recently, He was at Gaya, but now has returned to Navadvipa. I have heard that joyous sankirtana of the holy names is being done in Nadia. Some people say that Lord Narayana has appeared here. I have also heard that Nadia is famous for the deliverance of the fallen souls. So, being most sinful as I am, I have come here."

Lord Gauranga said, "We are all immensely fortunate to see a pure devotee like Yourself. Today we are most satisfied having seen the flow of Your tears of ecstasy."

Then Murari smilingly said, "O Lord, we are confused hearing words such as Your' and Our' spoken by You." Srivasa Pandita said, "How can we understand Their dealings? Just as it is hard to understand how Krishna and Siva worship each other." Gadadhara Pandita said, "O Srivasa Pandita, what you say is right. Their qualities resemble that of Rama and Lakshmana." Someone else said, "Both of them are just like two cupids." Others said, "Both of Them are just like Krishna and Balarama." Someone said, "I don't know much about Them, but I have a feeling that Ananta Sesha has taken shelter of the lap of Krishna." Yet others said, "They are just like the two friends Krishna and Arjuna, as They exchanged such affection." Another person said, "It appears that They are closely related to each other. Whatever They speak is through gestures only." In this way, all the devotees happily described the glories of Lord Nityananda and Lord Gauracandra.

Anyone who hears about the meeting of Nityananda with Gauracandra will no doubt be released from material bondage.

No one except Lord Nityananda served the Lord as a companion, a friend, a brother, an umbrella, a bed, and a carrier. Lord Nityananda by His own will serves the Lord in various ways. If Lord Nityananda bestows mercy and qualification on anyone, then he can serve the Lord. Lord Nityananda is the expansion of the original Personality of Godhead. He is at once a great yogi, a supreme controller, and the topmost Vaishnava. Who can understand His unlimited glories? Without understanding His unfathomable glories, if anyone criticizes Him, then even after receiving devotional service to Lord Krishna, his advancement will be checked.

This is my only desire. May Lord Nityananda Rama, Who is a manifestation of and very dear to Lord Gauranga, become my life and soul. By His mercy, I am inclined towards Lord Gauranga and, by His mercy, I am writing about the glories of Lord Gauranga. As Raghunatha and Yadunatha refer to the same personality, similarly Nityananda and Baladeva are different names of one personality. Anyone who wants to cross the ocean of material existence and merge into the ocean of devotional service should worship Nityananda. All glories to the most enchanting Lord of lords, Sri Gauranga! All glories to the Supreme Controller, Sri Nityananda, who is non-different from Sri Ananta!

Accepting Sri Gauranga and Nityananda Prabhu as my life and soul, I, Vrindavana dasa, sing the glories of Their pastimes.

Nityananda Charitamrita, Madhya Khanda Chapter 2

Lord Nityananda's Stay with Shrivasa And His Vyasapuja Ceremony

Discussing topics of Krishna in the association of Lord Nityananda overwhelmed all the devotees. All of them were pure devotees and most magnanimous. They remained intoxicated by drinking the nectar of Krishna's topic and shouted loudly in ecstasy.

Nityananda Prabhu smiled and looked all around as the devotees shed tears of joy. Seeing Nityananda, Mahaprabhu Visvambhara was extremely pleased. He said to Lord Nityananda, "Listen, O Sripada Nityananda Gosai! Where will You do Vyasa-puja? Tomorrow is the auspicious full moon-day when one offers special worship to Sri Vyasadeva. Consider this matter and let us know."

Nityananda followed the intention of the Lord. He caught hold of Srivasa Pandita's hand and brought him before the Lord. Nityananda smilingly said, "Listen, Visvambhara. I'll do Vyasa-puja at this brahmana's house." Lord Visvambhara then said to Srivasa, "You have got a heavy responsibility on you." Srivasa Pandita replied to the Lord, "This is not at all difficult for me. By Your mercy, everything is available at my house. All the necessary items such as cloth, fragrant flowers, brahmana thread, ghee, betel nuts, and pan leaves are there in my house. I will only have to borrow a book that describes how to do Vyasa-puja. With great fortune, I will celebrate Vyasa-puja tomorrow."

Hearing the words of Srivasa Pandita, Mahaprabhu became very pleased, and all the Vaishnavas happily chanted the names of Lord Hari. Lord Visvambhara said, "Listen, Sripada Gosai. Please give Me permission so we can all go to Srivasa Pandita's house." Nityananda Prabhu was very happy to hear the words of the Lord. Then they all started for the house of Srivasa Pandita. Nityananda and Visvambhara along with all the devotees exactly resembled Balarama and Krishna with the cowherd boys of Gokula.

As soon as they entered the house of Srivasa Pandita, everyone felt boundless happiness within his heart. The Lord ordered them to lock the main entrance of Srivasa Pandita's house. He allowed no one except the relatives of Srivasa Pandita to come inside the house. The Lord then said to begin kirtana. Everyone began an ecstatic kirtana and thus lost his external consciousness. Both Lords danced jubilantly while the devotees sang around Them.

Sri Gauranga and Sri Nityananda who are eternally absorbed in love of each other danced together while meditating on each other. Someone shouted loudly, someone roared, while someone fell senseless to the ground and others simply cried. Signs of ecstasy such as shivering, perspiration, standing of the hair on end, being unconscious due to love of God, were visible on the bodies of the two Lords.

The two Lords danced in Their own happiness. Sometimes They embraced, and sometimes They cried. Both of Them tried to catch the other's feet, but neither got success. They both rolled on the ground in infinite happiness. They forgot Themselves, absorbed in Their internal moods. They went into such a trance They forgot to keep Their clothing intact. The Vaishnavas tried to quiet Them, but failed in their attempt. Who can hold Them who hold the three worlds? Both the Lords were intoxicated by enjoying the kirtana.

Sri Gaurasundara loudly exclaimed, "Chant more! Chant more!" His whole body became wet due to tears of ecstasy. Fulfilling His desire to be with Nityananda, Lord Gauranga lost awareness and floated in the ocean of bliss. The dancing of Visvambhara was so amazing that while dancing His lotus feet would often touch His head.

As Lord Nityananda danced, the whole earth shook. All the Vaishnavas thought there were earthquakes. The two Lords thus danced in ecstasy. Who can describe Their happiness? To reveal the glories of Lord Nityananda, Lord Visvambhara suddenly climbed on the throne of Lord Vishnu in the

mood of Lord Balarama. The Lord, overwhelmed in the mood of Balarama, repeatedly demanded “Bring wine, bring wine!”

Sri Gaurasundara then said to Sri Nityananda, “Give me a plow and club right away!” Instructed by the Lord, Lord Nityananda placed something in the hands of Gauracandra, who accepted it. Some of the devotees saw only the exchanges of hands and nothing else. Someone directly saw the plow and the club. Only one who is favored by the Lord can understand Him. Others, even if they see the Lord, cannot recognize Him. This is a very confidential topic. Only a few persons knew about it. And then only if they were favored by Lord Nityananda.

Receiving a plow and a club from Lord Nityananda, the Lord went mad and asked for varuni (honeyed wine). Everyone was confused, unable to decide what to do. They simply looked at each other’s face. After due consideration, all the devotees brought a pitcher of Ganges water and gave it to the Lord. Everyone offered water and the Lord drank it. It appeared as if the clouds drank the water.

On all sides, the devotees recited prayers glorifying Lord Balarama. The Lord repeatedly called out, “Nada! Nada!” The Lord moved His head back and forth asking for Nada again and again. None of the devotees could grasp the meaning of this word. All the devotees inquired, “O Lord, who are You calling by the name of Nada?” The Lord replied, “It is Him by whose loud call I have appeared. The one you all know as Advaita Acarya* is known as Nada. I have appeared because of Him.”

*mohare anila nada vaikuntha thakiya
niscinte rohila giya haridasa laiya
sankirtana arasbhe mohara avatara
ghare ghare karimu kirtana paracara
bidya dhana kule jnana tapasyara made
mora bhakta stane shara ache aparadhe
se adhama sabare na dimu premasoga
nagariya prati dimu brakshadira bhoga*

“Nada brought Me here from Vaikuntha. But He is living peacefully with Haridasa. I descended to inaugurate nama-sankirtana. I will preach this chanting in each and every house. I will not give love of God to those fallen souls who offend My devotees being proud of their learning, wealth, high birth, knowledge, and austerity. I will freely give to everyone this love of God, which even Lord Brahma rarely attains.”

Hearing the Lord, all the devotees floated in the ocean of bliss. After a time, the son of Saci calmed down. “What mischief have I done?” the Lord inquired. The devotees replied “Nothing serious.” The Lord then embraced everyone saying, “Please excuse My offenses.” Hearing the Lord’s words, the devotees began to smile as Lord Nityananda rolled on the ground. Lord Nityananda was unable to check His emotion. Love of God overwhelmed Lord Nityananda who is non-different from Lord Sesha. Sometimes He laughed, sometimes He cried, and sometimes He loosened His clothes. He appeared to be very childish. What remained of His sannyasa stick, what remained of His water pot, and what remained of His clothes? He scattered everything all over the ground.

The most grave Lord Nityananda became very agitated. Then Lord Gauranga personally caught and pacified Him. Appearing like one who is drunk, Lord Nityananda was easily controlled by the words of the Lord. The Lord said, “Please be quiet now. We will celebrate Vyasa-puja tomorrow.” After pacifying Lord Nityananda, the Lord returned home. All the devotees also returned to their respective homes. Lord Nityananda however remained at the house of Srivasa Pandita.

On that same night, Lord Nityananda shouted loudly and broke His sannyasa danda and water pot into pieces. Early next morning when Ramai Pandita got up from bed, he was astonished to see the broken danda and the water pot. Ramai Pandita at once told Srivasa Pandita about this. Srivasa said, “Go tell

this to Lord Gauranga.”

Hearing this incident from Ramai Pandita, Lord Gauranga came there without delay. He saw Lord Nityananda laughing being devoid of sense perception. The Lord picked up the broken sannyasa danda with His own hands and went to take bath in the Ganges with Lord Nityananda. All the devotees headed by Srivasa Pandita also went to bathe in the Ganges. The Lord personally threw the danda into the Ganges.

Unable to pacify the most agitated Lord Nityananda by words, the Lord had to chastise Him. Seeing a crocodile, Lord Nityananda tried to catch him. Gadadhara and Srivasa Pandita exclaimed, “Alas! Alas!” Lord Nityananda fearlessly swam in the middle of the Ganges. Only the words of the Lord made Him become somewhat peaceful. Visvambhara called Nityananda, “Hurry up. Today we will celebrate Vyasa-puja.” Hearing the call of the Lord, Nityananda came back to the bank. After completing His bath, He returned home with Lord Gauranga.

Soon all the devotees gathered at the house of Srivasa Pandita and did nama-sankirtana. Sri Gauranga appointed Srivasa Pandita as the head priest for the Vyasa-puja ceremony and by His order he performed everything. Everyone chanted the holy names in a sweet melodious tune. The house of Srivasa Pandita turned into Vaikuntha. Srivasa Pandita knew all the scriptural conclusions. He therefore executed all the proper rituals with utmost care and expertise. Placing sandalwood paste and nice flower garlands in the hands of Nityananda, he said, “Listen, Nityananda. Offer this garland and recite these prayers while offering obeisances to Sri Vyasadeva. It is the injunction of the scriptures that one should personally worship Sri Vyasadeva. By satisfying Sri Vyasadeva, one achieves all success.”

Lord Nityananda kept saying, “Yes, yes,” but He did not quite know what prayer He should recite. Nobody could understand the whispers of Lord Nityananda. Holding the garland in His hands, He repeatedly looked around. The most magnanimous Srivasa Pandita told Nityananda, “My dear sir, You are not worshipping Sri Vyasadeva.” Hearing the words of Srivasa Pandita, Sri Gaurasundara quickly rushed in front of Nityananda. The Lord told Nityananda, “Listen to me. Please put this garland on Sri Vyasadeva at once and complete the Vyasa-puja ceremony.”

All the Vaishnavas became overwhelmed in ecstasy. They all observed the Vyasa-puja ceremony with great pomp. Some of them danced, some sang, and some rolled on the ground. Everyone tried to catch hold of each other’s feet. Saci*, the mother of Sri Gauranga and the entire universe saw the whole fun from a distance. Seeing both Visvambhara and Nityananda, she treated Them equally as her sons.

The Vyasa-puja was the most magnanimous event. Only Lord Ananta can describe it properly. I am simply trying to glorify the qualities of Lord Nityananda in codes. If one somehow or other glorifies Krishna, he will be benefited. They completed the Vyasa-puja ceremony at the end of the day. Then all the devotees began to dance with Visvambhara. They were all maddened with jubilant ecstasy. They cried while chanting, “O Krishna!” After exhibiting His own devotional service, Visvambhara along with all the devotees became peaceful.

Then Visvambhara advised Srivasa Pandita, “Bring all the prasada of Vyasadeva right away.” When he brought all the items, the Lord personally served everyone with His own hands. Being served personally by Lord Gauranga, all the devotees joyfully honored the prasada. The Lord personally invited and served all who lived in Srivasa Pandita’s house. The servants and maidservants of the Vaishnavas easily received what the demigods headed by Lord Brahma rarely attain.

All these wonderful pastimes happened at the house of Srivasa Pandita. Who can describe his good fortune? In this way, various wonderful pastimes were performed at Navadvipa that were unknown to the ordinary people. Then Mahaprabhu told everyone, “Now that the Vyasa-puja is complete, chant the holy names of Krishna.”

Accepting Sri Gauranga and Nityananda Prabhu as my life and soul, I, Vrindavana dasa, sing the glories of Their pastimes.

Nityananda Charitamita, Madhya-Khanda Chapter 3

Lord Nityananda offers prayers to the six-handed form of Lord Gauranga

One day Srivasa Pandita invited Lord Nityananda Avadhuta for lunch at his house, and the Lord accepted the invitation. Nityananda Prabhu was very satisfied by the service of Srivasa Pandita. After taking lunch, He stayed at the house of Srivasa Pandita that day. At that time, Mahaprabhu Lord Gauranga happily arrived there. The Lord entered the temple room of Srivasa Pandita and sat on the throne of Lord Vishnu. He told Lord Nityananda to look at Him.

Hearing these words, Lord Nityananda, the topmost sannyasi, respectfully looked at the body of Visvambhara. Nityananda could understand neither the hint of the Lord nor the cause of the hint. Considering Nityananda His most intimate associate, Mahaprabhu Visvambhara made a special request, "All of you go outside." All the sober devotees were astonished to hear this. Following His order, all the devotees left Srivasa Pandita's house. Who can understand the intention of the Lord? The Lord then spoke something confidential to Lord Nityananda. No one could understand the meaning of Their conversation. Nityananda then saw Lord Visvambhara assume a six-handed form. The Lord held a conch, a club, a disc, a lotus, a plow, and stick in His hands. Seeing this form of the Lord, Nityananda fell unconscious on the ground.

There were no symptoms of life visible in His body. All the Vaishnavas became very afraid. They remembered Krishna and prayed to Him to protect Him. When Lord Nityananda fainted on seeing the six-handed form of the Lord, Sri Gauranga personally picked Him up and said, "Please get up, Nityananda. Calm Your heart. Hear the Lord's holy names being chanted in front of You. You appeared to preach the chanting of the holy names. Now This is fulfilled. What more do You want? You are full of love of God and loving devotional service is Your property. Unless You bestow this love of God, no one can possess it. Please pacify Yourself and get up. Glance mercifully towards Your own associates. Distribute this love of God to whom so ever You desire. If one maintains even a tinge of envy towards You, he is never dear to me in spite of worshipping me."

Hearing these sweet words of the Lord, Nityananda revived. He became ecstatic by seeing the six-handed form. Sri Gauracandra who eternally sits on the bed of Ananta Sesha certainly knows Lord Nityananda as non-different from this Ananta. Seeing the six-handed form of the Lord is not very astonishing for Nityananda. These are all different pastimes of the Lord's various incarnations. Seeing that wonderful and extraordinary form of the Lord, Nityananda Avadhuta remembered His previous incarnations and prayed:

"All glories to Lord Visvambhara, the father of everyone! He incarnated to initiate the sankirtana of the holy names of the Lord. All glories to the Lord, the protector of the Vedic religious principles and the maintainer of the brahmanas! All glories to the time factor, a representation of the Lord and the destroyer of all non-devotees! All glories to the Absolute Truth! All glories to eternal bliss personified! All glories to the most independent Lord of Lords! You are the source of innumerable universes, yet You manifested Yourself in the womb of mother Saci. Who can understand Your Supreme will? Creation, maintenance, and destruction are simply part of Your pastimes. You can easily destroy the entire universe simply by Your will. Are You unable to kill Kamsa and Ravana simply by words? Still You appear in the house of Dasaratha and Vasudeva and sportingly kill all those demons. Who can understand the cause of Your appearance? Only You Yourself know Your mind. Even one of Your servants can deliver countless universes by Your order. Yet to glorify the earth and to restore the principles of religion, You personally advent Yourself.

"O Lord, You appeared in Satya-yuga in white complexion. You taught meditation and austerity by personally undergoing them yourself. Wearing a deer skin and holding a stick and water pot in Your hands, You appeared as a brahmacari to establish the principles of religion. O Lord, You appeared in Treta-yuga in a beautiful reddish form. Being the only enjoyer of all sacrifices, You preached performance of sacrifices. Holding the articles for doing sacrifices in Your hand as a sacrificial priest,

You personally performed sacrifices and thus induced others to do so. O Lord, You appeared in Dvapara-yuga as a divine personality with the blackish color of a fresh cloud. You personally established the principle of temple worship. Dressed in yellow garments and marked with such signs as Srivatsa, You engaged in gorgeous worship as a king. In Kali-yuga, You appear in a yellow complexion as a brahmana to preach nama-sankirtana, which is unknown to the Vedas. You have innumerable incarnations. Who has the power to count them all?

“O Lord, in the form of Matsya, You enjoyed Your pastime in the waters of devastation. As Kurma, You were the shelter of all living entities. You protected the Vedas as Hayagriva. In that form, You killed the two original demons, Madhu and Kaitabha. O Lord, as Varaha, You delivered the planet earth. You took the form of Nrisimha, to tear apart the body of Hiranyakasipu. Assuming the wonderful form of Vamanadeva, You deceived Bali Maharaja. As Parasurama, You killed the kshatriyas and made the earth devoid of the martial class. Appearing as Ramacandra, You killed Ravana and in the form of Haladhara, You enjoyed unlimited pastimes. As Buddha, You manifested the principles of compassion, and in the form of Kalki, You will kill the mlecchas.

“As Dhanvantari, You delivered the nectar. As the Hamsa incarnation, You imparted transcendental knowledge to the demigods headed by Lord Brahma. As Narada, You hold a vina singing the glories of the Lord. As Vyasadeva, You explain Your own truths. As Krishna, You appeared in Gokula to enjoy various transcendental pastimes. You had wonderful qualities and enjoyed sweet joyful pastimes. The Bhakti-rasamrita-sindhu states:

*akhila-rasamrita-murtih, prasrimara-ruci-ruddha-taraka-palih
kalita-syama-lalito, radha-preyan vidhur jayati*

"Let Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, be glorified! By virtue of His expanding attractive features, He subjugated the gopis named Taraka and Pali and absorbed the minds of Syama and Lalita. He is the most attractive lover of Srimati Radharani and is the reservoir of pleasure for devotees in all devotional mellows."

“It is further described in the Tenth Canto of Srimad-Bhagavatam:

*valayanam nupuranam, kinkininam ca yoshitam
sa-priyanam abhuc chabdas, tumulo rasa-mandale*

"A tumultuous sound arose from the armllets, ankle bells and waist bells of the gopis as they sported with their beloved Krishna in the circle of the rasa dance."

“You will fill the entire universe with krishna-nama-sankirtana. Loving devotional service to the Lord will be preached in each and every house. You will fill the entire world with ecstasy, when You dance along with Your devotees. Inauspiciousness disappears simply by the influence of those who eternally meditate on Your lotus feet. Your steps will nullify the misfortune of the entire world when You dance in kirtana. You will purify all the four directions by your glance. When You raise Your hands while dancing, all that is inauspicious on the heavenly planets will be destroyed. Such is Your glory, such is Your dancing, and such are Your servants.

“O Lord, You personally appear in this world to distribute love of God by bestowing krishna-nama. Who has the power to describe Your wonderful glories? You Yourself will distribute devotional services to Vishnu that are unknown to the Vedas. We all intensely desire that devotional service. You keep it hidden while awarding liberation. O Lord, now You will distribute such wealth of bhakti to everyone in the world. This is the proof of Your causeless mercy. Simply chanting the holy names of the Lord completes all sacrifices.

“Out of compassion, You appeared at Navadvipa. Yogis meditate on You as the Supersoul in their hearts. This same Supersoul has now appeared in the village of Navadvipa. I also offer my respectful obeisances to Navadvipa-dhama where You have incarnated at the house of Saci and Jagannatha Misra.

“All glories to Visvambhara, the life and soul of everyone! All glories to Gauracandra, who is the ocean of mercy! All glories to the Lord who appears to fulfill the words of His devotees! All glories to Mahaprabhu, the most magnanimous incarnation! All glories to the beloved Lord of the Goddess of fortune! All glories to the enchanting Personality of Godhead, decorated with Srivatsa and Kaustubha gem! All glories to the Lord who distributes the Hare Krishna maha-mantra! All glories to the Lord’s pastimes of accepting love and devotion from His devotees!

“All glories to Mahaprabhu who lies on the bed of Ananta! All glories to the Lord who is the only shelter of all living entities! You are Lord Vishnu. You are Lord Krishna. You are Lord Narayana. You are Matsya. You are Kurma, and You are the original Personality of Godhead. You are Varaha and You are Vamana. O Lord, You appear in every yuga to protect the Vedas. You are the killer of Ravana and his entire family. You are the life and soul of Janaki. As Lord Rama, You blessed Guhaka-candala and delivered Ahilya. To protect Your devotee Prahlada, You incarnated as Nrisimha and killed Hiranyakasipu. You are the crest jewel among the demigods. You are the best of the brahmanas. You are the same Jagannatha who accepts opulent offerings at Nilacala. The four Vedas try to search for You, as You have appeared in a hidden form. You are very expert in concealing Yourself, but Your devotees always recognize You. You are the most peaceful personality.

“To inaugurate nama-sankirtana, You have now appeared in this world. There is no truth other than You within the unlimited universes. Lord Siva and goddess Parvati are overwhelmed by the transcendental glories of Your lotus feet. Lakshmi, the Goddess of fortune, serves your lotus feet. Sri Ananta Sesha with His thousands of mouths glorifies these lotus feet. Lord Brahma constantly worships these lotus feet. The Vedas, the smritis and the Puranas sing their glories. These lotus feet touched the topmost planet, Satyaloka. The head of Maharaja Bali became glorious by the touch of these lotus feet. Mother Ganges emanated from these lotus feet. Lord Siva became jubilant by holding the Ganges water on his head.

“You are celebrated as the son of Vasudeva and the son of Nanda Maharaja. Now You have appeared here to deliver the most sinful Kali. By the touch of Your lotus feet, a piece of wood turns into gold and a piece of stone turns into a living force.”

Lord Nityananda thus offered prayers with folded hands. He concluded, “O Lord, the three worlds worship You.” Then, Lord Nityananda began to dance in ecstasy. He floated in the ocean of love of God and became fully absorbed in it.

Visvambhara awards love of God not only to one who carefully sings these topics, but to the friends of that person as well. The holy names of Visvambhara are very rarely found in this world. Lord Chaitanya is the life and soul of everyone. Hearing about Lord Nityananda’s seeing the six-handed form of the Lord will certainly free one from material bondage.

Accepting Sri Gauranga and Nityananda Prabhu as my life and soul, I, Vrindavana dasa, sing the glories of Their lotus feet.

Nityananda Charitamrita, Madhya Khanda Chapter 4

Shrivasa's Love for Lord Nityananda and the Dream of Mother Saci

Lord Nityananda thus stayed at the house of Srivasa Pandita. He was constantly absorbed in childish mood and nothing else. He did not eat food with His own hand, but Malini devi fed Him just like her own son. Malini devi,* the chaste wife of Srivasa Pandita, knew well the glories of Lord Nityananda. She thus served Him as an affectionate mother.

One day Lord Gauranga was discussing Krishna with Srivasa Pandita. To test Srivasa Pandita, Lord Visvambhara asked him, “Why do you always keep this mendicant in Your house? We don’t know anything about His family and dynasty. But one thing I must say is that you are overly magnanimous. If you want to protect your family name, get rid of this beggar at once.”

*ishat hasiya bale srivasa pandita
amare pariksha prabhu! e nahe ucita
dineka ye toma bhaje se amara prana
nityananda toma deha-mohate pramana
manira yabani yadi nityananda dhare
jati prana dhana yadi mora nasa kare
tathapi amara citte nahiba anyatha
satya satya tomare kahinu ei katha*

Srivasa Pandita smilingly replied, “O Lord! You are testing me. This is unfair. Anyone who worships You even for a day is very dear to me. Nityananda is non-different from You. There is no doubt about this. Even if Nityananda holds a pot of wine or marries a Muslim girl, still my heart will not deviate even an inch from His glorious lotus feet though He destroys my caste, life, and wealth. I indeed tell You the truth.”

When the Lord heard this from Srivasa Pandita, He roared loudly and climbed on his chest. The Lord said, “What did you say, Srivasa Pandita? You have so much faith in Nityananda? You have actually understood the most confidential glories of Nityananda. I am so very pleased with you that I will give you a boon. Even if Lakshmi, the Goddess of fortune, begs in the street, there will never be any poverty in your house. Everyone in your house, including cats and dogs, will achieve undivided devotional service unto Me. I offer Nityananda at your disposal. Therefore, please take care of Him in all respects.”

After blessing Srivasa Pandita, the Lord returned home. Lord Nityananda would regularly wander throughout Nadia. Sometimes He swam in the middle of the Ganges, and sometimes the current of the water took him away. Sometimes He happily enjoyed sporting with the boys, and sometimes He would visit the house of Gangadasa* and Murari.

Lord Nityananda would sometimes visit the house of Lord Gauranga. Then mother Saci would show great affection to Him. In a childish mood, Nityananda would try to catch hold of Mother Saci’s feet, but she would immediately run away.

One day, Mother Saci saw something in a dream. She secretly related the whole story to her son, Visvambhara. She said, “At the end of night, I saw both You and Nityananda in a dream. Both of You were five-year-old boys, fighting and running all around the house. Then I saw both of You enter the Deity room and come out with the Deities of Krishna and Balarama. Nityananda held Krishna in His hands, and You had Balarama in yours. I clearly saw all four of You fighting amongst Yourselves. Then the Deities Krishna and Balarama said in an angry mood, “Who are You two pretenders? Get out of here. This house, these rooms, milk, sandesa, yogurt, and everything else in this house belong to

us." Then Nityananda said, "Those days are gone when You used to steal and eat butter and yogurt. The power of the cowherd boys is finished. Now the rule of the brahmanas is in force. Now recognize us and give up accepting all the offerings. If You don't give up out of love, then we'll beat You up. Now, if You steal the offerings who's going to leave You alone.' Both Krishna and Balarama replied, "Don't blame Us. We're going to bind up both of You pretenders right now.'

"Then Balarama challenged Nityananda in an angry mood, "If You play mischief with Us, then I swear on Krishna that You'll have to face the consequences.' Nityananda replied, I'm not afraid of Your Krishna. My Lord is Gauracandra Visvambhara.' Like this, all four of You quarreled amongst Yourselves and ate foodstuffs by snatching from each other. I also saw someone snatch a morsel from the other's hand and eat it. Someone else took food right from the other's mouth. Then Nityananda called me, "Mother, please give Me some rice to eat. I'm feeling very hungry.' Just then I woke up from my sleep. In fact, I couldn't understand anything. So I told You about my dream"

Hearing His mother, Lord Visvambhara smiled and spoke to her in a sweet voice, "O mother, You indeed had an auspicious dream. But please don't tell this to anyone else. Now I'm firmly convinced the Deities at Your house are directly the Supreme Personality of Godhead. My heart has become more strengthened by hearing your dream. While offering food to the Lord, I repeatedly found half of the food missing. But out of shyness, I didn't tell this to anyone. Actually I had a doubt on your daughter-law, but today that doubt is removed from My mind."

On hearing her husband's words, Lakshmi priya, who is directly the Goddess of fortune, simply smiled. She heard all about the dream from inside the room. Visvambhara said, "Mother, please listen. I will at once invite Nityananda and feed Him." Hearing the words of her son, Saci became very pleased and began to arrange for lunch.

Accepting Sri Gauranga and Nityananda Prabhu as my life and soul, I, Vrindavana dasa, sing the glories of Their lotus feet.

Nityananda Charitamrita, Madhya Khanda Chapter 5

Eating pastimes of Lord Gauranga and Lord Nityananda

Lord Visvambhara went to the place of Lord Nityananda to invite Him for lunch. Lord Gauranga said, "O Gosai, today kindly accept lunch at my house. But one thing You must remember, do not play any mischief." Nityananda caught hold of His own ears and murmured, "Vishnu, Vishnu". He continued like a mad man playing mischief. Then He said, "You consider me a naughty boy. Actually, You see everyone as being the same as Yourself."

Saying this, both of Them began to laugh and They left for Visvambhara's home discussing about Krishna on the way. When They reached the house, the relatives headed by Gadadhara welcomed them. They sat together inside the house. Isana* gave water to both Visvambhara and Nityananda for washing Their feet. Then both sat down for lunch.

Both the Lords sat down to eat. The scene resembled Sri Rama and Lakshmana eating together at the house of Kausalya. They both began to eat just like in Their former pastimes with loving exchanges. Mother Saci happily served Them food. Suddenly, the two plates of food turned into three plates right in front of her. The two Lords began to smile. Then Mother Saci returned with more food. Instead of the two Lords, she found two small boys no more than five years of age sitting there. She saw two most attractive boys with black and white colors. Both were four handed and naked. They were decorated with a conch, a disc, a club, a lotus, a plow, and a stick. They were also decorated with Srivatsa and Kaustubha gems and wore fish-shaped earrings. She saw her daughter-in-law within the heart of her son. Then, all of a sudden, she could not see anything more. Mother Saci fell senseless to the ground. Her whole body and clothes became wet due to tears of love. The rice she was carrying in her hand scattered all over the room. Seeing this extraordinary scene made mother Saci swoon.

Mahaprabhu quickly got up and washed His hands. He picked up His mother saying, "O mother, please get up. Please calm down. Why have you suddenly fallen on the ground?" After a while, mother Saci revived and quickly tied her hair. She spoke not a word, but simply cried inside her room. Breathing heavily, her whole body shivered. She became filled with love of God and forgot everything else.

Then Isana cleaned the room, leftovers, and kitchen paraphernalia. Isana served mother Saci constantly. He was thus the most fortunate person within the fourteen worlds. Like this, various pastimes were enacted everyday. No one except the confidential servants knows the purport of these pastimes. After They finished lunch mother Saci anointed the bodies of both Sri Gauranga and Nityananda Prabhu with sandalwood paste. She then offered various items for worship such as flower garlands.

Seeing Nityananda satiated the eyes of mother Saci. She kept staring at Nityananda's face being maddened by her affection for Him. Sri Gauranga told His mother, "You must treat Nityananda as Your own son. Take care of Him more affectionately than Me." Mother Saci then looked on the face of Nityananda thinking Him as own son. She said, "From now on, You are my son. Please be kind to my Visvambhara. From today on, both of You are my sons." Speaking like this, tears flowed constantly down from mother Saci's eyes. Out of motherly feelings, she took Nityananda on her lap. Nityananda offered obeisances at mother Saci's feet, thinking her His affectionate mother. He sweetly said to her, "Mother, what you say is true. I can declare with confidence that I am actually your son. O mother, please do not consider my offenses. Know for certain that I am without a doubt Your son*"

Filled with the emotion of being Nityananda's mother, tears flowed from the eyes of mother Saci and her voice choked. Both Sri Gauranga and Nityananda Prabhu merged in the ocean of motherly affection. By seeing the two sons, mother Saci became pleased and pacified.

Accepting Sri Gauranga and Nityananda Prabhu as my life and soul, I, Vrindavana dasa, sing the glories of Their lotus feet.

Nityananda Charitamrita, Madhya Khanda Chapter 6

Lord Nityananda's Pastimes at the home of Shrivasa

Sri Nityananda stayed at the house of Srivasa Pandita. With great affection, He would address Srivasa Pandita as father. He was always in trance absorbed in the mood of a child. He regularly drank Malini devi's breast milk. There was no milk in Malini's breasts, but by the touch of Nityananda's hand, they would become filled with abundance of milk. This was possible only by Nityananda's inconceivable potency. Mother Malini experienced such wonderful things, but, on the order of Lord Gauranga, she never revealed it to anyone. Malini devi constantly beheld the childhood pastimes of Nityananda.

Lord Visvambhara once said, "Please listen, Nityananda. I'm afraid that You'll pick quarrels with others. Please be calm and don't play mischief at Srivasa Pandita's house." Hearing this, Lord Nityananda at once remembered Krishna saying, "I assure You, You'll never find Me naughty. Don't think of Me like Yourself." Visvambhara said, "I know You very well." Nityananda replied, "Then tell Me My faults." Gauracandra smilingly said, "You want to know Your faults? It seems You have incarnated to shower rice all over the room."

Nityananda replied, "O Lord, only a mad man does such a thing. I think You're trying to find an excuse not to feed Me. You're enjoying Your rice, but not giving Me My share. How long will You do such shameful things?"

Lord Visvambhara said, "Actually I'm ashamed of Your conduct. That's why I always try to teach You." Lord Nityananda replied with a smile, "This is indeed very good. Please do teach Me whenever You find me misbehaving, O Lord. You clearly understand that I'm a very naughty boy." Saying this, Nityananda Prabhu looked at the Lord and laughed heartily. In ecstatic love, Nityananda went into rapture. He knew not what He was doing. Suddenly, He took off His cloth and tied it on His head. He jumped and laughed repeatedly while wandering about the courtyard like a drunk.

Gadadhara, Srivasa, and Haridasa all began to laugh. For the sake of teaching, they were allowed to see such a form of Lord Nityananda. Then Visvambhara called Nityananda and said, "What are You doing? This is most improper at the home of a householder. Just now, You told Me You're not a mad man. But just see, You've given up Your own words." How can words make a person ashamed if he is totally devoid of external consciousness? This was the case with Nityananda Prabhu. He simply floated in the ocean of bliss. The Lord then personally put clothes on the body of Nityananda. Such were the inconceivable activities of Lord Nityananda. Nityananda Prabhu is just like a maddened lion. He is only controlled by the words of Sri Gauranga and nobody else.

Nityananda never eats food with His own hands. Malini devi fed Him like a loving son. This chaste mother knew the transcendental glories of Nityananda. Therefore, she served Him exactly as a mother serves her son.

One day a crow came and took a bell metal bowl and flew away to the forest. As soon as the crow went out of sight, mother Malini became worried. The crow left the bowl in its nest and then returned. Malini devi saw the crow's mouth was empty. The behavior of Srivasa Pandita was very strict. Moreover, the bowl stolen by the crow was used to keep ghee for Krishna. She was afraid Her husband would be very upset when he heard what happened. Unable to know what to do, she began to cry.

Then Nityananda came there and saw Malini devi crying for some reason. Nityananda smilingly said, "Why are you crying? Tell me what's your distress and I will surely relieve it." Malini devi replied, "Please listen, Sripada Gosai. A crow has taken away the bowl which we use for keeping Krishna's ghee." Nityananda replied, "Mother, do not worry. I will bring back the bowl." Turning to the crow, He said, "O crow, go at once and bring back the bowl." Lord Nityananda is within everyone's heart. Who can disobey His order? Ordered by Nityananda, the crow instantly flew away. Malini devi looked on overwhelmed with lamentation. Soon the crow went out of sight and in a short while returned with

the bowl in his mouth. The crow placed the bowl in front of Malini devi and left. Malini devi knew well the glories of Lord Nityananda. Seeing this wonderful incident, she swooned in ecstatic love. After recovering, she stood up with folded hands and began to offer prayers.

“He brought back the dead son of His guru. He maintains the entire universe. He can bring anyone back from the house of Yamaraja. For Him to bring the bowl from a crow is not at all wonderful. On His head rest innumerable universes and He maintains them out of His own sweet pastimes. His holy names destroy all ignorance. For Him to bring the bowl from a crow is not at all wonderful.

“In an earlier incarnation, You constantly protected Sita during the exile as Lakshmana. You never saw any of Sita’s body except her lotus feet. Your formidable arrows killed the family of Ravana. For You to bring the bowl from a crow is not a wonderful thing. Seeing Your great power, Kalindi fell at Your lotus feet and offered prayers. You possess the strength to maintain the fourteen worlds. For You to bring the bowl from a crow is not a wonderful thing. Still, Your activities are not ordinary. Whatever You do is a truth. This is confirmed by all the four Vedas.”

Hearing Malini devi’s prayers, Lord Nityananda began to smile. In His childhood mood He said, “O mother, I want to eat something.” Whenever Malini devi saw Nityananda, milk would flow from her breasts. Nityananda in the mood of a child would drink that milk. Nityananda Prabhu’s activities are inconceivable. What more can I describe? All the world knows them. His activities are mysterious and extraordinary. One who knows them in truth accepts them all as facts.

Lord Nityananda, the abode of effulgence and fully absorbed in the ecstatic love, wandered all over Nadia day and night. Someone may call Nityananda a yogi, or someone may call Him a knower of truth. Let them say whatever they want. Let Nityananda be anybody to Sri Gauranga. Still I keep the treasure of His lotus feet within my heart. Thus, Nityananda resided at the house of Srivasa Pandita. Sri Gauranga constantly protected Him.

One day Lord Visvambhara was sitting peacefully at His house with Lakshmi priya. Lakshmi priya was supplying betel nuts to the Lord with great happiness. Absorbed in the service of the Lord, she was unable to tell if it was day or night. Whenever mother Saci saw Lakshmi priya and Visvambhara together, she became extremely happy. Knowing that seeing Them together pleases His mother, the Lord would spend time with Lakshmi priya. At one such time, Nityananda came to the house of Lord Gauranga overwhelmed and agitated with ecstasy. In a childish mood, Nityananda stood naked before them. Fully absorbed in love of God, He did not feel shy before anyone.

Sri Gauranga asked, “Nityananda, where are Your clothes?” Nityananda replied, “Yes yes.” Sri Gauranga said, “O Gosai, why are You doing this?” Nityananda replied, “I can’t eat today.” Sri Gauranga then said, “I’m asking something and why are You answering something else?” Nityananda replied, “I went there ten times.” Sri Gauranga being angry said, “It’s not My fault.” Nityananda replied, “Your mother is not here.” Sri Gauranga then said, “Please get dressed.” Nityananda replied, “Yes, now I’ll eat.” Nityananda Prabhu was fully maddened in the love of Sri Gauranga. He heard something and answered something else. He kept on laughing. Sri Gauranga then got up and personally put clothes on Lord Nityananda. Nityananda, the son of Padmavati, kept on laughing completely lost in trance.

Seeing the wonderful nature of Nityananda, mother Saci simply smiled. She considered Nityananda as her own son, Visvarupa. She heard from everyone that Nityananda was non-different from Visvarupa. She alone often saw this with her own eyes. She, however, did not reveal these secrets to anyone. She showed spontaneous affection for Nityananda. She treated both Nityananda and Visvarupa equally.

After coming to his senses, Nityananda dressed Himself properly. Mother Saci then gave Him five pieces of sandesa. Nityananda, however, ate one of them and threw the other four pieces away. Mother Saci then said, “What will You eat now?” Nityananda replied, “If you want more, you’ll surely receive more.” On entering her kitchen, Mother Saci found to her surprise that those same four pieces were

there inside the kitchen. Mother Saci then murmured, “These sweets were thrown far away. So how is it they’re here inside the kitchen?” In jubilant wonder, Saci brought these sweets and offered them to Nityananda. To her astonishment, she saw that Nityananda was eating those very sweets. Mother Saci said, “My son, where did You get these sweets?” Nityananda replied, “At first I threw them away. But seeing your distress, I brought them back.” Seeing this wonderful act, mother Saci thought, “Who is there who is unaware of the glories of Nityananda?” She then said to Nityananda, “Nityananda, why are You deceiving me? I know You are the Supreme Personality of Godhead. So please remove the influence of Your illusory energy from me.”

The qualities of Nityananda are unfathomable. They are a source of pleasure for the devotees and the cause of distress for miscreants. Even mother Ganges runs away from that sinful person who dares to blaspheme Lord Nityananda. Lord Nityananda, who as Lord Ananta Sesha who holds the universes on His hoods, is the king of the devotees. This is my heart’s desire and prayer to the feet of the Vaishnavas. May Lord Nityananda, who is Lord Balarama, become my life and soul.

Accepting Sri Gauranga and Nityananda Prabhu as my life and soul, I, Vrindavana dasa, sing the glories of Their lotus feet.

Nityananda Charitamrita, Madhya Khanda Chapter 7

Lord Gauranga glorifies Lord Nityananda

Both Lord Visvambhara and Nityananda Prabhu thus lived in Navadvipa enjoying various pastimes. Nityananda Prabhu was always merged in ocean of transcendental love of Krishna. He constantly behaved like an ordinary child. He loved everyone and spoke with them in a sweet voice. He often danced, sang, played musical instruments, and laughed to Himself. Sometimes out of His own sentiment, He roared loudly, striking everyone with wonder. In the rainy season when the Ganges filled with fierce waves and crocodiles, Lord Nityananda fearlessly swam and floated in her waters. Though everyone who saw Him floating in the Ganges would lament shouting, “Alas! Alas!”, Nityananda continued to float in ecstasy among the crocodiles. He floated in the Ganges absorbed in the mood of Ananta. Not understanding this, people became filled with lamentation.

Sometimes, Nityananda would fall down unconscious in ecstasy. He would sometimes remain so for three or four days. In this way, Nityananda enjoyed countless inconceivable pastimes. I am unable to describe them all, even with millions of mouths.

One day by providence, Nityananda arrived where Visvambhara was sitting. He was naked and smiling. Tears of love were constantly flowing from His eyes. He repeatedly shouted, “Nimai Pandita of Nadia is my life and soul.” Seeing Nityananda’s enchanting radiant naked form, Sri Gauranga began to smile. He quickly took off the cloth tied on His head and put it on Nityananda Prabhu. Nityananda simply laughed. The Lord personally smeared sandalwood paste on the body of Nityananda. He then put a flower garland on Nityananda. Sri Gauranga put Nityananda in front of Him and began to offer prayers as the devotees listened attentively. He prayed to Lord Nityananda thus:

name nityananda tumi rupe nityananda
ei tumi nityananda-rama murtimanta
nityananda paryyatana bhojana vyavahara
nityananda bine kichu nahika tomara
tomare bhujite sakti manusyera kotha?
parama susatya tumi yatha krishna tatha

“Your name is Nityananda and Your form is Nityananda. You are indeed the abode of eternal bliss, non-different from Balarama. You are wandering to the holy places. Your accepting food is simply filled with eternal bliss. Who has the power to understand You? You are the Supreme Absolute Truth and are as good as Krishna.”

The most magnanimous Nityananda was totally absorbed in the mellows of Sri Gauranga. Lord Gauranga wholly approved of whatever He said and did. Sri Gauranga asked Nityananda, “Please give Me one of Your kaupinas. I have a desire to keep it.” After saying this, the Lord took a kaupina from Lord Nityananda and tore it into small pieces. He distributed those pieces of Nityananda Prabhu’s kaupina to all the Vaishnavas.

prabhu bale e vastra bandhaha sabe sire
anyera ki daya iha vanche yogesvare
nityananda prasade se haya vishnu-bhakti
janiha krishnera nityananda purna shakti
krishnera dvitiya nityananda bai nahi
sangi sakha shayana bhushana bandhu bhai
vedera agamyā nityanandera carita
sarva jiva janaka rakshaka sarva mitra
ihana vyavahara saba krishna rasamaya

ihana seville krishna premabhakti haya
bhakti kari ihana kaupina bandha shire
mahayatne iha puja kara giya ghare

Lord Gauranga then said to all the Vaishnavas, “All of you tie this piece of cloth on your heads. What to speak of the Vaishnavas, even the masters of mystic perfection desire this piece of kaupina. One can surely get devotional service to Vishnu only by the mercy of Nityananda. Know that Nityananda is a complete potency of the Supreme Lord. There is no one more dear to Krishna than Nityananda. He eternally serves Krishna as a companion, a bed, an ornament, an associate, and a brother. The qualities of Nityananda are incomprehensible to the Vedas. He is the father, the protector, and the friend of all living entities. His dealings are full of transcendental mellows for Krishna. If one serves Nityananda, he will attain loving devotional service to Krishna without a doubt. All of you should tie this piece of Nityananda’s kaupina on your heads with devotion. You should worship this piece of cloth at your homes with great respect.”

Receiving the order of the Lord, all the devotees respectfully tied the piece of the kaupina on their heads.

prabhu bale sunaha sakala bhaktagana
nityananda padodaka karaha grahana
karilehi matra ei padodaka pana
krishna dridha bhakta haya ithe nahi ana

Sri Gauranga continued, “Listen, My devotees. All of you drink the water that has washed Nityananda’s lotus feet. Just by drinking that water, one will attain unflinching devotion to Krishna. There is no doubt about it.”

Instructed by the Lord, all the devotees then washed the lotus feet of Lord Nityananda and drank the water respectfully. In fact, every devotee drank the water five or seven times. Nityananda was, however, completely lost in rapture as He continued to laugh. Mahaprabhu Sri Gauranga personally distributed the caranamrita of Lord Nityananda with great jubilation. After drinking that water, all the devotees went insane and loudly chanted, “Hari, Hari.” Someone said, “Today my life has become successful.” Another person said, “Today I have become a servant of Krishna.” Someone else said, “Today has been an auspicious day for me.” Another said, “The water that has washed the lotus feet of Nityananda is very tasteful. In fact the sweetness in my mouth does not diminish at all.”

What a wonderful influence of the caranamrita of Lord Nityananda! As soon as all the devotees drank it, they all became agitated. Some of them danced, some of them sang, others rolled on the ground, while others shouted loudly. Then all the devotees happily started nama-sankirtana. Overwhelmed with ecstasy, they all began to dance. Soon Sri Gauracandra rose and began to dance wonderfully while roaring like a lion. Instantly Nityananda also got up and then both the Lords began to dance all around the devotees. Someone fell on another person, while another caught him in his arms. Someone tried to take the dust of another to put on his head. Someone embraced another and began to cry. It is very difficult to describe the activities of the devotees at that time.

No one was afraid to dance with the Lords. Both the Lords and the Their servants danced together. Nityananda and Gauranga embraced each other joyfully dancing in ecstasy. Being mad with transcendental loving mellows, the Lord of Vaikuntha danced along with His associates. The pastimes of the Lord are endless. The Vedas described these pastimes as appearance and disappearance. After dancing throughout the day, Lord Gaurahari then sat down surrounded by His associates.

He clapped His hands three times and said in a grave and pretentious manner, “Whoever puts faith and devotion in this Nityananda Svarupa actually does it to Me. Even Lord Brahma and Lord Siva constantly worship His lotus feet. Therefore, all of you should keep love and devotion in Him. If anyone maintains even a tinge of enmity towards Nityananda, then, even if such a person is a devotee, he is not dear to me. If air that has touched Nityananda’s body touches anyone, then Lord Krishna will never leave such a person.”

Hearing these words from the Lord, all the devotees loudly exclaimed, “Jaya! Jaya!” If one hears these topics with devotion, Lord Gauracandra becomes his life and soul. Those who have personally seen these pastimes of Nityananda Svarupa certainly know His glories. The dear fortunate associates of Lord Gauranga know many such wonderful glories of Nityananda.

Accepting Sri Gauranga and Nityananda Prabhu as my life and soul, I, Vrindavana dasa, sing the glories of Their lotus feet.

Nityananda Charitamrita, Madhya Khanda Chapter 8

The Deliverance of Jagai and Madhai

One day Lord Gauranga suddenly ordered Nityananda Prabhu and Haridasa Thakura as follows:

*sunā sunā nityananda! sunā haridasa!
sarvatra amara ajna karaha prakasa
prati ghare ghare giya kara ei bhiksha
“bala krishna bhaja krishna krishna kara siksha”
iha nahi ara na balabe na baliba
dina avasane asi amare kahiba*

“Listen, listen, Nityananda! Listen, Haridasa. Go and preach my order everywhere. Beg everyone, Chant Krishna, worship Krishna, and learn the science of Krishna.’ Do not preach anything other than this. At the end of the day, come and report to Me.”

“In spite of Your begging, if anyone refuses to accept Your offer, then I’ll come with a cakra to kill him.”

Hearing this command of Lord Gauranga, all Vaishnavas began to smile. In fact, no one has the power to disobey the Lord’s order.

Ordered by the Lord, Lord Nityananda and Haridasa left to fulfill the Lord’s mission. Nityananda Prabhu eternally carries the Lord’s order on His head. Anyone who doubts this is certainly a fool. Whoever serves Advaita Acarya without accepting Lord Gauranga will certainly be destroyed by Advaita Acarya Himself. Following the order of Lord Gauranga, Nityananda Prabhu and Haridasa went to each and every house in Nadia. They requested everyone to chant, sing, and worship Krishna. They further told that Krishna is the life and soul and wealth of everyone. They said, “Dear brothers, chant the names of Krishna with full attention.”

Both Lord Nityananda and Haridasa Thakura wandered all over Nadia preaching Mahaprabhu’s message to everyone. They both dressed as sannyasis. So whoever met Them would immediately offer respects and invite Them for lunch. But Lord Nityananda and Haridasa Thakura would beg only one thing, “Chant Krishna, worship Krishna, and learn the topics of Krishna.” After pleading in this way, the two would leave that place. Only saintly people, however, were pleased by Their request. Hearing the wonderful topic from the mouths of these two Lords, people would happily describe them in their own way. Someone would say, “I will certainly follow Their order.” Another would say, “These two have become mad by the fault of chanting mantras.”

There were those who were forbidden to enter the house of Srivasa Pandita when Lord Gauranga was dancing with His followers. As soon as Nityananda Prabhu and Haridasa Thakura approached their houses, they immediately shouted, “Beat Them! Beat Them!” Those people said, “You have become crazy by bad association, and now You have come here to make us crazy. Respected and civilized people have all become crazy because of Nimai Pandita. In fact, Nimai has spoiled everyone.”

Some other people would say, “It seems these two are the spies of a thief. In the guise of preaching, They’re checking out each house. If they’re really saintly persons, then why are they acting like this? If they come again, we’ll take them to the police.” Hearing this, Nityananda Prabhu and Haridasa Thakura would simply laugh. They were not the least afraid due to the strength of Lord Gauranga’s order. Both of them would thus regularly visit every house and preach. In the evening, they would return to Visvambhara and report everything.

One day Nityananda and Haridasa met two drunkards on the way. These two were plunderers, murderers, and addicted to wine and women. There was no end to their misdeeds. There was no sin they had not committed. Though born in a brahmana family, they ate beef and drank wine. They plundered people's wealth and set fires to people's houses. They absconded from the court and could not spend a day without eating meat and drinking wine. Both these drunkards roamed the streets and very severely beat whomever they caught.

People watched them from a distance not daring to come close. On one such occasion, Nityananda Prabhu and Haridasa arrived on the spot. These two drunkards were sometimes very friendly towards each other and other times pulled each other's hair in anger. They constantly abused each other with filthy words. "We'll degrade the caste of the brahmanas of Nadia," They exclaimed, fully intoxicated from drinking wine. Their bodies were filled with all kinds of sins. Only the sin of blaspheming the Vaishnavas was not yet committed.

Since they spent their days and nights in the company of drunkards, there were no possibilities for them to commit any offense against the Vaishnavas.

*ye sabhaya vaishnava ninda matra haya
sarva dharma thakileo tara haya kshaya
sannyasi sabhaya yadi haya nindya karsma
madyapera sabha ite se sabha adharsma
madyapera nishkriti achaye kona kale
paracacrccakara pati kabhu nahi bhale
sastra padiyao karo karo buddhinasa
nityananda nindya kare habe sarvanasa*

"Wherever blasphemy of Vaishnavas is done, even in religious places, nevertheless, the place and the blasphemers will be destroyed. If blasphemy is done in the assembly of the sannyasis, then such a gathering is worse than den of drunkards. A drunkard may be delivered in the course of time; but there is no salvation for those who criticize a Vaishnava. Even after studying the scriptures, such a blasphemer's intelligence will be ruined. Such persons as dared to criticize Lord Nityananda were thus destroyed."

Nityananda Prabhu and Haridasa watched from a distance how the two drunkards punched and abused each other with filthy words. Nityananda then asked some people of that area, "What is the caste of these two? Why are they doing like this?" The people replied, "O Gosai, these two drunkards are brahmanas. They were born to well-respected parents of a high family. Many of their forefathers lived in Nadia. In fact, there is not even a tinge of fault in their dynasty. Only these two forgot their social duties and commit all kinds of sins since birth. Considering them most sinful, their own family members rejected them since they freely mix with drunkards. The people of Nadia are always afraid of them because at any time these two may set their houses on fire. There are no sins these two have not committed. They rob, steal, kill, rape, eat meat and drink wine." Hearing about these two drunkards, the most compassionate Nityananda Prabhu began to ponder about their deliverance:

*pataki tarite prabhu kaile avatara
emata pataki paibena ara
lukaiya kare prabhu apana prakasa
prabhava na dekhi loke kare upahasa
e duiyere prabhu yadi anugraha kare
tabe se prabhava dekhe sakala samsare
tare hao nityananda caitanyera dasa*

*e duiyera karo yadi caitanya prakasa
edhana yemana matta apana na jane
eimata haya yadi sri krishnera name
emore prabhu' bali yadi kande duijana
tabe se sarthaka more yata paryyatana
ye se jana e duiyera chaya parasiya
bastera sahita ganga snana kare giya
sei sava jana yadi e donhare dekhi
ganga snana hena mane tabe more likhi*

“Lord Gauranga has descended to deliver the fallen people of this age. Where will He find anyone more fallen than these two? The Lord has not yet revealed Himself to the ordinary people. Not seeing His uncommon influence, they are ridiculing Him. If the Lord bestows mercy on these two sinful drunkards, then the people of the entire world will see His transcendental glories.

“Being known as Nityananda the servant of Lord Gauranga will only have meaning if I can purify their hearts and deliver them. How wonderful it will be, if they become intoxicated chanting Krishna’s names the same way they are intoxicated at present. If I can make these two take the Lord’s name and cry, I will then consider all My travels to holy places a success. At present, whoever even touches the shadow of these two drunkards at once bathes in the Ganges with his clothes on. I will be extremely fortunate if I am able to get people to accept that simply seeing these drunkards is the same as bathing in the Ganges.”

The glories of Lord Nityananda are unlimited. He descended to save the fallen souls. Thinking thus, Nityananda said to Haridasa, “Haridasa, look how miserable these two drunkards are. They are born in a brahmana family, but their behavior is most sinful. They will be unable to escape the most severe punishment of Yamaraja. O Haridasa, the Muslims beat you so severely that you almost died. Still you desired welfare for such people in your mind. If you really desire their welfare in your heart, then surely these two drunkards will be delivered. The Lord never ignores your will. He has often confirmed this fact. Let the people of the entire world see the uncommon influence of our Lord by which He will deliver these drunkards. Just as the deliverance of Ajamila is described in the Puranas, similarly let the people of the three worlds see directly how the Lord will deliver these drunkards.” Haridasa knew perfectly well the glories of Lord Nityananda. He thought, “He will certainly deliver these two drunkards.” Haridasa said, “Listen, O Lord. Whatever You desire is indeed the desire of Sri Gauranga Mahaprabhu. You are deceiving me just as a person deceives an animal. You are always kindly teaching me.” Smiling, Nityananda embraced Haridasa and said in an extremely soft tone, “Let’s go and repeat the Lord’s order to these two drunkards. The Lord commands everyone to worship Krishna. This is particularly fitting for the most sinful. Our duty is simply to repeat the Lord’s orders. Even after repeating, if it doesn’t work, then it’s the Lord’s will.”

To impart the message of Lord Gauranga, both Nityananda and Haridasa went before the two drunkards. Some pious people, however, forbid Them to go. They warned, “If You go near them, You may lose Your lives. We’re very much afraid of these two drunkards. That’s why we always remain inside our house. How dare You go near them? These two don’t care for sannyasis. In fact, they are accustomed to kill brahmanas and cows without any discrimination.”

In spite of the warnings given by many pious people, both Nityananda and Haridasa approached the drunkards while chanting “Krishna, Krishna.” From a little distance, Nityananda and Haridasa loudly repeated the Lord’s message to the two debauches. Nityananda and Haridasa said,

*bala krishna bhaja krishna laha krishna nama
krishna mata krishna pita krishna dhana prana*

“Chant Krishna, worship Krishna, and sing the glories of Krishna. Krishna is your mother, father, wealth, and life.”

“Lord Krishna has mercifully delivered you. Please give up your sinful life and worship Him.” Hearing the loud voice of Nityananda and Haridasa, the two drunkards raised their hands and looked around. Their eyes became red with anger. Seeing the sannyasa features of Nityananda and Haridasa, they chased Them screaming “Catch Them, catch Them!”

Nityananda and Haridasa quickly ran away. The two plunderers chased Them yelling, “Wait! Wait!” They ran behind Nityananda and Haridasa like a raging storm. The two Lords ran away as if in great fear. All the pious people thought, “We tried to stop these two sannyasis from going near the drunkards. Now they’re in great danger.” However, all the atheists began to smile secretly. They said, “Today Lord Narayana has awarded fit punishment to these pseudo sannyasis.”

The pious brahmanas prayed to the Lord, “O Krishna, please save Them. O Krishna, please save Them.” Soon everyone ran away out of fear. The two drunkards chased and the two Lords ran. Though the drunkards shouted, “We’ve almost caught them,” they were unable to catch hold of Nityananda and Haridasa. While running, Nityananda said to Haridasa, “O Vaishnava Haridasa, what do you think? If We survive today, it will be our good fortune.” Haridasa replied, “O Lord, what can I say? It’s all my fault that we’ll soon untimely lose our lives. This is the result of teaching drunkards about Krishna. We’ll soon get our just reward in the form of death.” Speaking like this, both Nityananda and Haridasa ran while smiling. The two drunkards chased the two Lords in a fit like a raging storm. They were both fat and unable to run as swiftly as Nityananda and Haridasa. They still tried to run as fast as possible.

The drunkards yelled at the Lords as follows, “O brothers, where are You going? Now how will You escape the grip of Jagai and Madhai? You don’t know who’s chasing You. Turn around and see. We are Jagai and Madhai here.” Feigning great fear, the two Lords ran very swiftly hearing the threats of the two drunkards. They prayed, “O Krishna! O Govinda! Please save us.”

Haridasa said, “I cannot run anymore. Alas! Why did I come with this naughty boy even knowing His restless nature? Krishna saved me before from the wrath of the Muslims; but now I’m going to surely lose my life because of this naughty boy.”

Nityananda replied, “I’m not a restless person. Think carefully and you’ll find it’s your Lord Gauranga who’s restless. Your Lord is but a simple brahmana, yet He orders like a king. By His order only, we’re going door to door to preach His message. Though we carry out His orders preaching door to door, so far we’ve not found anyone heeding our request. In fact, people simply call us thieves and cheaters and nothing else. If we don’t follow His order, we’ll be ruined. And if we do follow, then this is the result. I know you’ll not find fault with your Lord, so ultimately it’s me who is to blame.” Both Nityananda and Haridasa quarreled humorously while the two drunkards continued the chase.

Finally, Nityananda and Haridasa reached Lord Gauranga’s house. Dulled by drinking wine, the two drunkards were quite confused. They were unable to see the two Lords anymore. Being baffled, they began to push and pull each other. They were too drunk to understand where they were before or how they reached this place. After sometime Nityananda Prabhu and Haridasa Thakura looked back. They did not see the two drunkards following Them. Both Nityananda and Haridasa heaved a sigh of relief and embraced each other. Then they went to meet Lord Visvambhara.

The lotus eyed Mahaprabhu was sitting inside the house. He looked charming, His beauty conquering the beauty of the cupid. The Lord was sitting surrounded by the Vaishnavas. Everyone was discussing the topics of Krishna. The Lord was explaining His own truth to the assembled Vaishnavas just as Lord Narayana, the Lord of Svetadvipa, instructs the sages headed by Sanaka. Just then, Nityananda and Haridasa arrived before the Lord to report the day’s activities. They said, “Today we’ve seen two strange persons. They’re heavy drunkards, yet they call themselves brahmanas. We politely asked them to chant the holy names of Krishna, but they chased us in anger. We’re fortunate to be alive.”

The Lord asked, “Who were those two strangers? What are their names? Being brahmanas, why are they acting like that?” By the way, Gangadasa and Srivasa Pandita were also sitting there. Both of them revealed all the sinful activities committed by these drunkards. They said, “O Lord, their names are Jagai and Madhai*. They’re the sons of a pious brahmana.”

“By bad association these two have become so degraded. They cannot live without wine for even a single day. The people of Nadia are most afraid of them. There is no house in Nadia where these two have not committed theft. There is no end to their sins. O Gosai, You must have seen them and known everything.”

Lord Gauranga said, “Yes, yes, I know them very well. If they come here, I’ll cut them both to pieces.”

Nityananda said, “You can do whatever You want, but as long as these two drunkards are around, I’m not going to preach. Why do You needlessly brag about Yourself? First, You make them chant the names of Govinda. By nature a pious person chants the holy names of Krishna. But these two drunkards don’t know anything except committing sin. If You can deliver these two persons by awarding them devotional service, then Your name as The deliverer of the fallen souls will have meaning. The way Your glories increased by delivering Me will be much more if You deliver these two fallen souls.”

Lord Visvambhara smilingly replied, “These drunkards were already delivered the moment they had Your darsana. Since You desire their ultimate benefit, Krishna will soon deliver them.” Hearing this from the lotus mouth of the Lord, all the Vaishnavas immediately began to chant “Hari, Hari.” This convinced everyone that now these two drunkards will be saved.

Then Haridasa Thakura said to Advaita Acarya, “The Lord sent me with this restless boy. I remain somewhere while he goes somewhere else. The Ganges is filled with crocodiles in the rainy season. But Nityananda sometimes tries to catch them while swimming. I loudly call and warn Him from the bank. But alas! He floats fearlessly in the water with the crocodiles. When He comes out of the water, then seeing some of His friends, He chases them to beat them. When the parents of those boys come with sticks in their hands, I fall at their feet and beg pardon on His behalf. Sometimes, He steals ghee and yogurt from cowherd men and runs away. Those cowherd men then catch me and try to beat me instead. He does things He is not supposed to do. Whenever He sees an unmarried girl, He tells her, ‘I will marry you’.

“Sometimes He rides on the back of an ox and calls Himself Mahadeva. At other times, He milks others’ cows and drinks the milk. If I try to teach Him something, He scolds me. He boldly says, ‘What can your Advaita Acarya do to Me?’ He also says, ‘What can your Gauranga, who you think as Lord, do to Me? I’m not afraid of Him.’ I never disclose these things to the Lord. Today providence saved us from imminent danger. We saw two drunks lying in a stupor on the street. Nityananda went before them repeating the message of the Lord. With cruel anger the two drunkards rushed after us to beat us up. I think it’s by Your mercy alone we were saved today.”

Then Advaita Acarya smilingly replied, “This doesn’t surprise Me at all. A drunk will naturally keep company with another drunk. Three drunkards can remain together. Being a strict celibate, why do you mingle with Him? You’ll see. This Nityananda will turn everyone into a drunkard. I know Him very well. Just you wait and see. Within a few days He will bring those two drunkards to the assembly of devotees.” While speaking this way, Advaita Acarya became very angry. In a grave voice, he said, “We’ll soon see Lord Gauranga’s wonderful love and devotion towards Lord Krishna, as well as His power to induce everyone to dance and chant for Krishna. You will see tomorrow Nimai and Nitai will bring those two drunkards here and dance with them. Nimai and Nitai will not discriminate about the drunkards’ position. But I think you and I will have to leave this place to safeguard our social prestige.”

Seeing Advaita Acarya’s angry mood, Haridasa Thakura began to laugh. He thought that the two drunkards would definitely be delivered soon. Who can understand the words of Advaita Acarya? Only Haridasa Prabhu understood their meaning. Nowadays so many sinful persons take shelter of Advaita

Acarya and criticize Gadadhara Pandita. Thus, they soon are vanquished. A sinful person who takes the side of a Vaishnava and criticizes another will be positively destroyed.

The two drunkards Jagai and Madhai wandered all over Navadvipa. One day they came to the bathing ghat of the Ganges where Lord Gauranga usually took bath. By providence, the drunkards also made their camp at that ghat. During the day, they would wander around Navadvipa searching for their prey. All the people including the highly respectable, rich, and famous artisans became very much afraid of them. After dusk, no one dared go to the Ganges to take bath. If someone went at all, he would go with a group of ten or twenty. At night the two drunkards stayed nearby the Lord's house and thus remained awake all night hearing the sounds of kirtana.

When the mridangas and karatalas sounded during kirtana, the two drunkards would happily dance. They could hear the kirtana from afar. As soon as they heard the sacred sounds of kirtana, they would dance and drink more wine. Whenever kirtana begins, they quickly get up and dance. Wine so much bewildered them that they did not know a thing. Where they were before or where they would be after.

Whenever Jagai and Madhai met the Lord, they would say, "Nimai Pandita, did You finish singing Your prayers to goddess Durga? Actually you all sing very well and we want to see and hear You sing. We'll give You everything that we gather during the day." The Lord, however, always stayed aloof from them, knowing them to be most sinful. Everyone avoided them in the same way.

One day after traveling around Nadia, Nityananda Prabhu was returning home in the evening. Suddenly the two brothers caught Him. Jagai and Madhai screamed, "Who is this? Who are You?" Nityananda Prabhu replied, "I'm going to Lord Gauranga's house." Drunk as usual, they asked Lord Nityananda, "What's Your name?" Nityananda replied, "My name is Avadhuta." Absorbed in childhood mood, Lord Nityananda thus started to talk with the two drunkards out of His sweet pastimes. He had already decided to deliver these two fallen souls. He thus purposely came to their place that night. Hearing the name Avadhuta, Madhai became extremely angry. He picked up his pitcher and hit Lord Nityananda on the head. As the pitcher hit Lord Nityananda's head it cut Him and He started bleeding. Nityananda Prabhu simply remembered Govinda. Seeing Lord Nityananda's bleeding head, Jagai became compassionate. He forbade Madhai from hitting the Lord again. Jagai said, "Why did you do such a cruel thing? What will you gain by killing a beggar? Leave Him, leave Him. It's no good to kill a sannyasi."

People quickly went and told Lord Gauranga about this incident. The Lord instantly rushed to the spot along with His associates. Blood flew from Lord Nityananda's head. He still simply smiled standing between the two sinners.

Seeing blood on Nityananda Prabhu's head, Lord Gauranga went into a trance and began to invoke His Sudarsana cakra. The Sudarsana cakra instantly appeared there and Jagai and Madhai personally saw it. All the devotees became totally perplexed. In the meantime, Lord Nityananda quickly began to persuade the Lord.

Lord Nityananda said, "O Lord, when Madhai tried to hit Me again, this Jagai actually saved Me. Just by chance blood came out. I'm not at all disturbed. O Lord, I beg You. Please give Me these two bodies in alms. Please be calm for I have no distress."

As soon as Lord Gauranga heard that Jagai actually saved Nityananda Prabhu, He became pleased and embraced Jagai. The Lord said to Jagai, "May Krishna be merciful to you. You have purchased Me by saving Nityananda. Ask for any boon you so desire. From today you will achieve loving devotional service." When the Vaishnavas heard the Lord's benediction to Jagai, they jubilantly chanted, "All glories to Lord Hari!"

As soon as the Lord gave pure devotional service to Jagai, he at once fell senseless to the ground. The Lord said, "Jagai, please get up and look at Me. I have indeed awarded you love and devotion." Then, Jagai saw the beautiful four-handed form of Lord Visvabhara, holding a conch, a disc, a club, and a

lotus in His hands. Seeing this form of Lord Gauranga, Jagai again fell senseless to the ground. Sri Gauranga then placed His lotus feet on his chest. He obtained the wealth of the Lord's lotus feet, which are the life and soul of Lakshmi. Jagai caught hold of those invaluable jewels on his chest. Holding the Lord's lotus feet, Jagai began to cry. Such is the wonderful pastime of Sri Gauranga. Jagai and Madhai were one, but they had appeared in two different bodies. Their piety and sins were also one. As the Lord bestowed mercy on Jagai, Madhai's heart became purified and changed. In a moment, he took hold of the Lord's cloth and with folded hands he fell at Lord Gauranga's lotus feet.

He appealed to the Lord, "O Lord, both Jagai and I committed sins together. Why then do You discriminate in giving Your mercy? Please be merciful to me and I'll surely chant Your holy names. There's no one else in the world who can save me."

The Lord said, "I see no hope for your salvation. You dared to cut Nityananda's body and make it bleed."

Madhai replied, "O Lord, don't say that. Why do You give up Your own merciful nature? When the demons shot arrows at You, why did You still give them Your lotus feet?"

The Lord said, "Your offense is much more grave, since you made Nityananda bleed. Actually, Nityananda is far greater than I am. I make this firm truth known to you."

Madhai asked, "O Lord, if You've indeed told me the truth, then please tell me how I'll be saved? You're the crest jewel among doctors expert in curing all diseases. Therefore only if You cure me will my disease be cured. O Lord of the universe, please don't cheat me. Now I know who You are. How can You hide Yourself now?" The Lord said, "You committed a grave offense at the feet of Nityananda. Now fall at His lotus feet and beg for pardon."

Ordered by the Lord, Madhai at once caught hold of the invaluable wealth of Lord Nityananda's lotus feet, which are well known to Revati. Visvambhara said to Nityananda Prabhu, "Listen, Nityananda. It is proper that, if someone falls at Your lotus feet, You should be merciful to him. Since he made You bleed, only You can forgive him. Now he has surrendered unto You."

Nityananda replied, "O Lord, what can I say? You can bestow mercy to anyone, even to a tree. If I have any piety amassed from previous births, I am giving it all to Madhai. I'm telling You the truth. I don't care for the offenses he's done to Me. O Lord, please remove Your illusory energy and be merciful. This Madhai belongs to You."

Visvambhara said, "If You've indeed forgiven all his offenses, then please embrace him so his life will be successful." Instructed by the Lord, Nityananda Prabhu tightly embraced Madhai. All his material bondage and mass of sins were destroyed. Nityananda Prabhu entered the body of Madhai and thus Madhai became fully equipped with the all the energies of the Lord. Thus, both Jagai and Madhai were delivered. They then offered prayers at the lotus feet of Sri Gauranga and Nityananda Prabhu.

Sri Gauranga Mahaprabhu then commanded them, "Sin no more." Jagai and Madhai replied, "Dear father, no more, not again." The Lord continued, "Listen, both of you. I have indeed saved you from all your sinful reactions. If you do not sin again, then I'll destroy all your sinful reactions from millions of births. This is My responsibility. I'll eat offerings through your mouths, and incarnate through your bodies." Hearing these words from the Lord, both Jagai and Madhai fell unconscious on the ground in ecstasy. Their illusions thus removed, they floated in the ocean of happiness. The all-knowing Lord instructed, "Take both of them to my house. Tonight we'll perform kirtana with them. I'll reward these two with what even Lord Brahma rarely attains. Thus, I'll turn them into the best of persons in this world. The same people who took bath in the Ganges after touching these brothers will now say that these two brothers are as good as the Ganges. Nityananda's promise never goes in vain. Know that this is indeed the desire of Nityananda Prabhu."

Then all the Vaishnavas carefully escorted Jagai and Madhai into the house of the Lord. When all the associates and relatives of the Lord came inside, they closed the main door and allowed no outsiders in. Mahaprabhu Visvambhara sat in the middle of the house. Nityananda Prabhu sat on the right of the

Lord, while Gadadhara Pandita sat on His left. Advaita Acarya, the greatest recipient of the Lord's mercy, sat in front of Them. All the Vaishnavas sat on all the four sides of Their Lordships. There the devotees headed by Pundarika Vidyanidhi*, Garuda*, Ramai*, Srivasa, and Gangadasa.

Also present were Vakresvara Pandita*, and Candrasekhara Acarya*. Both of them know the mission of Lord Gauranga. Many other devotees sat around Sri Gauranga Mahaprabhu floating in the ocean of bliss along with Jagai and Madhai. The pure loving symptoms such as standing of the hair on end, shedding of tears, and shivering were visible on all their bodies. Both Jagai and Madhai simply rolled on the ground. Who could understand the intention of Lord Gauranga? He transformed the two great plunderers into great devotees.

The Lord said, "These two are no longer drunkards. From now on, they are My servants. All of you please bestow mercy on these two so that they may never forget Me life after life. In whatever way you may have been offended by them, forgive them and bestow your mercy on them." Hearing the words of the Lord, Jagai and Madhai fell at the feet of all the assembled Vaishnavas and begged pardon. All the great devotees then blessed Jagai and Madhai, who were instantly freed from all offenses. The Lord said, "Please get up, O Jagai and Madhai. Do not worry. From now, you are my servants. Personally, I will not take their offenses. No one should think them sinful anymore. Such an act is never possible in this very lifetime. Know it for certain that it was by the mercy of Nityananda Prabhu alone. Actually, I have taken all their sinful reactions on Me. O brothers, you all can see the proof of this directly." To convince everyone of this, the golden body of the Lord immediately turned black.

Converting the two plunderers and drunkards into pure devotees, Lord Sri Gauranga who is non-different from Hari, began to dance with His associates. In this way, Sri Gauracandra, the life and soul of the universe delivered Jagai and Madhai. Sri Gauracandra will certainly deliver whoever hears of the salvation of Jagai and Madhai.

Accepting Sri Gauranga and Nityananda Prabhu as my life and soul, I, Vrindavana dasa, sing the glories of Their lotus feet.

Nityananda Charitamrita, Madhya Khanda Chapter 9

Prayers of Jagai and Madhai to Lord Nityananda and Lord Gauranga

Sri Gauranga with His associates listened as Jagai and Madhai began to offer prayers. By the order of Sri Gauranga, the goddess of learning appeared on the tongues of Jagai and Madhai as they began to pray:

“All glories to Sri Mahaprabhu! All glories to Sri Visvambhara! All glories to Nityananda Prabhu, the most dear of Visvambhara!

“All glories to the Lord, the original Acarya for preaching His holy names! All glories to Nityananda Prabhu who fulfills the mission of Sri Gauranga Mahaprabhu!

“All glories to the son of Jagannatha Misra! All glories to Nityananda Prabhu who is fully surrendered to Lord Gauranga Mahaprabhu!

“All glories to the most merciful son of mother Saci! All glories to Nityananda Prabhu, the dearest friend of Sri Gauranga!

“All glories to the beloved Lord of the daughter of the royal priest! All glories to Nityananda Prabhu, the embodiment of compassion!

“All glories to Your transcendental activities, O Lord! All glories to Nityananda Prabhu, the King of the Vaishnavas!

“All glories to He who holds a conch, a disc, a club, and a lotus in His hands! All glories to Avadhuta Nityananda, who is non-different from the Lord!

“All glories to Gauracandra, the life and soul of Advaita Acarya! All glories to the thousand-headed Nityananda Prabhu!

“All glories to the life and soul of Gadadhara, and controller of Murari! All glories to the benefactor of Haridasa and Vasudeva*!

“In Your previous incarnation, You delivered so many sinful persons. Those wonderful pastimes are glorified throughout the universes. Saving most sinful persons such as us will certainly diminish Your previous glories. Our deliverance now overshadows Your glories of delivering Ajamila. We’re not exaggerating anything. We surely speak the truth. Ajamila was naturally a candidate for getting liberation. A person who has killed a million brahmanas is at once liberated if he simply utters Your holy names. This is the conclusion of the Vedas. Ajamila chanted Your holy name. So his deliverance was not at all astonishing. You incarnate to confirm the statements of the Vedas. If You do not deliver the most fallen souls, then the Vedas will be false. We have harmed Your dearest person. Yet, You delivered both of us. Now please consider us, O Lord. What a big difference is there between Ajamila and us. Hearing the holy name Narayana being uttered by Ajamila, four exalted personalities arrived instantly on the spot. Ajamila clearly saw this. By injuring Nityananda Prabhu, we saw You, Your weapons, Your associates, and Your entourage.

“O Lord, so far You have concealed all these glories. Now the extent of Your glories has been revealed. Now the Vedic literature will become more firm and powerful. Lord Ananta will sing Your glories with more pride and enthusiasm. Now Your hidden transcendental qualities are exposed. Your quality of delivering the most unworthy sinners is now confirmed. O Lord, You may say that the demons such as Kamsa were also liberated despite being envious of You. But please consider carefully how many qualifications they had for getting liberation from constantly seeing You and Your associates.

“Kamsa wanted to kill You by any means. Hence, he constantly remembered You out of great fear. Still he could not escape the sin of being envious. Thus, he with his entire family was destroyed. O Lord, the same devotees who used to bathe in the Ganges to purify themselves if they even touched our

shadows are now touching us without hesitation. This is indeed due to Your unlimited glories. How will You deceive anyone now? They have all understood Your real identity.

“The great devotee Gajendra, the king of the elephants, offered beautiful prayers to You. Seeing his unalloyed surrender, You delivered him. There were many demons like Putana, Agha, Baka, and others, who were envious of You and were ultimately killed by You. After being killed, they left their material bodies and attained the transcendental goal. However, only the Vedas saw their destinations. But everyone in this world directly saw the miracle You just did to our most sinful bodies. Whatever sinners You saved until now had some kind of piety or other. Now You have delivered the fiercest of demons. This is certainly Your causeless mercy, O Lord.”

Praying in this way, both Jagai and Madhai cried piteously. Such were the wonderful pastimes of Lord Gauranga. Seeing this wonderful incident, all the Vaishnavas stood up with folded hands offering prayers to the Lord. Jagai and Madhai concluded their prayers saying, “O Lord, who can understand Your inconceivable potency of how and on whom You bestow Your causeless mercy?”

Accepting Sri Gauranga and Nityananda Prabhu as my life and soul, I Vrindavana dasa sing the glories of Their lotus feet.

Nityananda Charitamrita, Madhya Khanda Chapter 10

Madhai's prayers to Nityananda Prabhu and his devotional service

By the mercy of Lord Gauranga, both Jagai and Madhai lived at Nadia as the most pious persons. They woke up early in the morning and bathed in the Ganges at a solitary place. They regularly chanted the holy names of Krishna two hundred thousand times. Thus they constantly condemned themselves and cried while chanting the holy names.

Receiving the mercy of Krishna, they became the most magnanimous. They saw everyone as dear to Krishna. Remembering their former envy, they would constantly cry and fall on the ground. "Gauracandra, O dear father, You are the deliverer of the fallen souls." Remembering this constantly, they cried again and again.

In ecstatic love for Krishna, they forgot to eat. Remembering the causeless mercy of Lord Gauranga, they would cry repeatedly. Lord Visvambhara and His followers would constantly solace them with sweet and assuring words. Although the Lord personally made them take prasada, this did not pacify their hearts. Particularly Madhai often cried remembering his violence to Nityananda Prabhu. Though Nityananda Prabhu forgave all his offenses, still his mind did not become peaceful.

"I made Nityananda bleed." Lamenting constantly like this, he would beat his chest with his hands. "The body in which Sri Gauranga enjoys His pastimes, I, the most sinful, have beaten that very same body." Remembering this, Madhai would swoon anew. He had no other activity except crying.

Nityananda Prabhu happily wandered all over Nadia in the mood of a young boy. Nityananda Prabhu was naturally most ecstatic. He wandered all over Nadia without any pride. One day seeing Nityananda Prabhu alone, Madhai fell down and caught hold of His feet. He washed Lord Nityananda's feet with the tears of love streaming from his eyes, and taking straw in his mouth, began to offer prayers,

"O Lord, as Vishnu, You maintain the entire universe. As Ananta, You hold untold universes on Your hoods. You are the epitome of devotional service. Lord Siva and Parvati always remember You. You bestow Your own devotional service to all. There's no one more dear to Lord Gauranga than You. By Your mercy alone, the most powerful Gaura happily carries Krishna as a matter of pastimes. You chant the glories of Krishna with Your unlimited mouths. You teach people that devotional service is the highest duty. The great sage Narada forever sings Your glories. Lord Gauranga is Your only wealth. Your other name is Divider of River Kalindi. King Janaka received transcendental knowledge by worshipping You.

"You are the embodiment of all religious principles and You are the original Personality of Godhead. The Vedas describe You as Adideva, or the Primeval Lord. You are the father of the universe and master of all mystic perfections. You are the great archer Lakshmanacandra. You are the destroyer of atheists and the master of all who savor devotional mellows. You know the internal mood and mission of Lord Gauranga. By seeing You, Mahamaya herself became worshipable. The innumerable universes desire the shadow of Your lotus feet. You are the devotee of Lord Gauranga and the source of pure devotional service. You are everything to Sri Gauranga. You are the omnipotent Personality of Godhead.

"You are the companion, the friend, the resting place, the umbrella, and the life and soul of Sri Gauranga. No one is more dear to Krishna than You. You are the origin of all the incarnations of Sri Gauracandra. O Lord, You save the fallen souls and You destroy the lives of the atheists. You always protect the Vaishnavas and You teach everyone the principles of Vaishnavism. By Your mercy, Lord Brahma creates the cosmic manifestation. Your consorts Revati and Varuni eternally serve you. You are the cause of everything, yet You are aloof from all things. You hold the Lord of countless universes on Your chest. Your transcendental body, the reservoir of all happiness, is as soft as the petals of

lotuses. Lord Krishna enjoys His pastimes with your body. I have harmed such a transcendental body. There is none more sinful than I am. Shame on me! Shame on me!

“Lord Siva and Parvati along with millions of chaste women worship Your transcendental form as their very life. Worshipping Your form destroys one’s material bondage. It is I who injured such a body. By adoring Your divine form, King Citraketu became the foremost Vaishnava and spent a happy and prosperous life. People in innumerable universes meditate upon Your transcendental body. I am so sinful: I tried to harm this body. Service to Your divine form freed the sages at Naimisharanya headed by Saunaka from material bondage. Being envious of this body, Indrajit was destroyed. Being envious of this body, Dvidida was killed. Jarasandha was destroyed by offenses to this body. Since I cut such a body, I have no hope of good fortune.

“What to speak of wounding, just for insulting Your transcendental personality, You crushed Rukmi, the brother-in-law of Lord Krishna. Romaharshana Suta, who had a life span equal to Lord Brahma, disregarded You by not welcoming You and was burnt to ashes. By insulting You, King Duryodhana was unable to survive; rather he died along with his entire family.

“By providence renowned devotees could easily know You as the cause of all causes. Queen Kunti, Yudhishtira, Bhishma, Vidura and Arjuna confirm your supremacy and greatness. By neglecting You, one’s life is doomed. Then where will I, the most sinful, go?” While praying, Madhai floated in love of God. Falling to the ground, he placed the lotus feet of Lord Nityananda on his chest and continued, “O Lord Nityananda, You are the protector of the surrendered souls. You are the wealth, life and soul of Madhai. All glories to the son of Padmavati! All glories to Nityananda, the treasure of the Vaishnavas! All glories to the most blissful Nityananda who never gets angry. It is befitting to forgive a person who has surrendered unto You. I am the most abominable dog-eater and ungrateful ass. O Lord, please forgive all my offenses.”

Hearing the humble prayers of Madhai, Nityananda Prabhu smiled and said, “Get up, get up, Madhai. You’re My servant. I’ve manifested myself in your body. Can an affectionate father feel sad if his child hurts him? I took your striking Me like this. Anyone who hears your prayers to me will definitely become devoted to My lotus feet. You’re the recipient of My Lord’s mercy. As far as I’m concerned, I don’t take even a hint of your offenses. Whoever worships Sri Gauranga is my life and soul. I deliver such a person millennium after millennium. If someone worships Me alone without worshipping Sri Gauranga, I will feel unbearable distress.”

After saying this, Nityananda Prabhu embraced Madhai. All Madhai’s miseries vanished at once. Madhai again caught hold of Lord Nityananda’s feet and begged, “My Lord, I have one more request. You reside in the heart of every living entity, and I have become envious and violent to many such living entities. I do not even remember those whom I have hurt. If I could recognize them, I would definitely apologize to them. I wish that those whom I have offended should somehow forgive my offenses. O my Lord, if You kindly tell me how to do this, I will forever remain grateful to You.”

The Lord replied, “Listen as I tell you the ways. Clean and decorate the bathing ghats of the Ganges regularly. When people will take bath happily and comfortably, then they will certainly bless you. This will nullify all your offenses and serve the Ganges as well. What more good fortune do you need than this? Humbly offer obeisances to everyone. Then all your offenses will be forgiven.” Being advised by Lord Nityananda, Madhai circumambulated the Lord and departed.

When Madhai chanted the holy names Krishna, Krishna, tears would flow from his eyes. People were astonished to see how Madhai cleaned and decorated the bathing ghats of the Ganges. They considered him a wonderful person. He offered them humble obeisances in return. He appealed to everyone, “Please forgive all the offenses I’ve done knowingly or unknowingly and bestow your mercy on me.” Seeing the crying of Madhai, everyone cried. Out of sheer bliss, they remembered Govinda.

When the people of Nadia heard this, they concluded that Nimai Pandita had turned Jagai and Madhai into glorious Vaishnavas. Hearing this, people were struck with wonder. They all concluded that Nimai

Pandita was not an ordinary human being. They said, “Many sinful people criticize Nimai Pandita without grasping His real identity. He truly does kirtana. Nimai Pandita is truly Krishna’s servant. Anyone who ridicules Him will be lost. Anyone who can rectify the most degraded Jagai and Madhai must be God Himself or empowered by God. Anyway, Nimai Pandita is not an ordinary mortal being. Now His real glories have been revealed.” People of Nadia discussed like this. They did not indulge in any needless criticism.

Madhai did severe austerities. Soon he became celebrated in Nadia as a brahmacari, or celibate. Living on the bank of the Ganges, he always saw her flowing waves. He personally used a shovel to build the bathing ghat.

By the mercy of Lord Gauranga, one can see the ruins of his ghat, which was popularly known as Madhaira-ghat, even today. The causeless mercy of Lord Gauranga and Prabhu Nityananda turned both plunderers into pure devotees. The topics of Madhya-khanda are like drops of nectar describing the salvation of formidable atheists. The principle cause of all this is Mahaprabhu Gaurangacandra. Anyone who feels distress by hearing this is certainly a cheater. The topics of Sri Gauranga are unknown even to the four Vedas. Therefore, please continue hearing them attentively.

Accepting Sri Gauranga and Nityananda Prabhu as my life and soul, I, Vrindavana dasa, sing the glories of Their lotus feet.

Nityananda Charitamrita, Madhya Khanda Chapter 11

Lord Gauranga discuss His sannyasa with Lord Nityananda

One day Lord Gauranga Mahaprabhu was sitting surrounded by all His followers. All of a sudden, the Lord uttered a wonderful word. No one understood its meaning. They were struck with wonder. Nityananda, however, knew the Lord's intention, that Mahaprabhu would soon leave home and take sannyasa. Nityananda Prabhu became overwhelmed with lamentation. He thought the Lord would surely accept sannyasa. Realizing that the beautiful hair of the Lord will soon be shaved, Nityananda became almost inert. After a short while, Sri Gauranga caught hold of Nityananda's hands and sat alone with Him. The Lord said, "Listen, Nityananda. I will tell You My heart's desires. I descended to deliver the whole world. Instead of delivering, I am simply destroying them. Instead of becoming free from bondage by seeing Me, people are entangled more and more. When they thought of beating* Me, they were at once entangled by unlimited bondage simply by this thought.

"I appeared to deliver the people, but instead I have personally ruined them all. You will see, tomorrow I will shave My head and accept sannyasa. I will beg arms door to door. Those who wanted to kill Me today, tomorrow I will go to their doors as a beggar. Seeing Me in that form, people will fall at My feet. I will thus deliver the whole world. People generally respect a sannyasi and would not dare to beat him. I will take sannyasa and wander door to door for alms. Let us see who will beat Me. So I have disclosed My heart to You. I am determined to give up My household life. Please do not feel sad about this. Rather You should encourage and help Me take sannyasa. I will do whatever You make Me do. Suggest to Me the way to take sannyasa. If You really want to deliver the whole world, then do not forbid Me. Do not even feel distress in Your mind, for You know the cause of My incarnation.

"Please hear one more thing, dear Sripada Nityananda Gosai. You should disclose this fact to only five persons. In the coming summer solstice when the sun will move from one sign of the zodiac to the next, I will certainly leave home to take sannyasa. There is a village called Katwa near the village of Indrani where the renowned Kesava Bharati lives. I am destined to accept sannyasa from him. So You should tell this to only the five following persons: my mother, Gadadhara, Brahmananda, Sri Candrasekara Acarya, and Mukunda."

Hearing that the Lord's attractive hair will be shaved, Nityananda's heart, mind, body and life scattered. He was so confused He could not think what to suggest. One thing He was sure of, that the Lord would definitely take sannyasa.

Nityananda Prabhu said, "My Lord, You are supremely independent. Whatever You desire will certainly happen. Who can instruct You about the rules and regulations of accepting sannyasa? What ever You desire is the confirmed truth. You are the maintainer and the Lord of all the universes. Therefore, You know the best what is most appropriate. Who else but You knows the ways and means to deliver the fallen souls of this world? Your quality is to be supremely blissful and independent. So whatever You desire will be done. Still You inquire from Your servants out of formality just to know what they have to say. You will do whatever You desire to do. Who can oppose Your own sweet will."

Hearing the words of Nityananda, Sri Gauranga Mahaprabhu was pleased and He began to embrace Nityananda repeatedly. After discussing with Nityananda, Gaurahari returned to the assembly of Vaishnavas. Realizing the Lord would leave home and take sannyasa, Nityananda was stunned and could not utter a word. When he was peaceful, Nityananda Prabhu began to contemplate, "How will mother Saci survive after the Lord's departure? How will she spend her cruel days and nights?" This very thought made the broad-minded Nityananda Prabhu unconscious. Thinking about the imminent miseries of Mother Saci, Nityananda Prabhu cried constantly in a solitary place.

Accepting Sri Gauranga and Nityananda Prabhu as my life and soul, I, Vrindavana dasa, sing the glories of Their lotus feet.

Nityananda Charitamrita, Antya Khanda Chapter 1

Lord Nityananda and Lord Gauranga meet with the residents of Navadvipa

*avatir nau sa-karunyahau paricchinau sad isvarau
sri krishna chaitanya nityanandau dvau bhratarau bhaje*

I worship the two brothers, Sri Krishna Chaitanya and Sri Nityananda, who descended in this world as the Supreme Controllers. They appeared in covered forms as incarnations of mercy.

All glories to Sri Krishna Chaitanya and all glories to the beloved Lord of Goddess Lakshmi! All glories to Nityananda, the most intimate associate of Sri Gauranga! All Glories to the Lord of Vaikuntha, the king of sannyasi! All glories to all the devotees of Sri Gauranga! All glories to Gauracandra, the deliverer of fallen souls! O Lord, please place your lotus feet within my heart.

Dear brothers, listen with utmost attention to the topics of sesha-khanda that describe Nityananda's meeting with His devotees.

On an auspicious day, Lord Gauranga along with all His devotees happily departed for Nilacala. The Lord said, "Listen, magnanimous Nityananda. Go at once to Navadvipa. Try to relieve the distress of all the devotees headed by Srivasa Pandita. Tell everyone in Navadvipa that I'm going to Nilacala to see Lord Jagannatha. On the way to Nilacala, I will visit the house of Advaita Acarya in Santipura and I'll wait there for all of you. Immediately gather the devotees and bring them to Santipura. In the meantime, I will visit Phuliya* the place of Haridasa Thakura.

On the order of the Lord, the most powerful Nityananda happily started for Navadvipa. He was fully drunk with transcendental mellows of love of God. Overwhelmed with ecstasy, Nityananda Prabhu constantly roared like a drunken lion. His pastimes are beyond all rules and regulations.

Sometimes He climbed on a kadamba tree and sometimes He played a flute standing in threefold bending form. Sometimes He rolled in the pastures and drank milk from a cow just like a calf. He danced the entire path out of His own sweet will. He merged so deep in the ocean of bliss that He totally forgot Himself.

Sometimes He would sit down on the road and cry. Hearing His cry melted the hearts of the people. He would often laugh loudly and sometimes take off His cloth and tie it on His head. Sometimes in His mood of Ananta, He floated enchantingly on the waves of the Ganges like a snake. The glories of Nityananda Prabhu are inconceivable and unfathomable. His causeless mercy is matchless within the three worlds. Floating like this, Nityananda finally reached the bathing ghats of Navadvipa.

Controlling His rapture, Nityananda went to the home of Lord Gauranga. He found that mother Saci had been fasting for twelve days. She survived simply by the mercy of Krishna. Mother Saci was overwhelmed in the mood of Yasoda. Tears of love continuously flowed from her eyes. She asked everyone she saw, "Are you from Mathura? Tell me how are Krishna and Balarama?" Saying this, she would fall senseless to the ground. Sometimes mother Saci said, "I can hear a horn. Maybe Akrura has come again in the pastures." Mother Saci, completely in a trance, forever merged in the ocean of separation from Krishna. Nityananda Prabhu offered his obeisances to her.

Seeing Lord Nityananda, all the devotees began to loudly cry. Mother Saci swooned on the ground saying, "O dear father, O dear father." No one knew who fell, or on which side he fell. Nityananda picked everyone up and embraced them. Bathing everyone in His tears of love, He told everyone the auspicious news of Lord Gauranga's journey to Santipura. He cried, "All of you quickly go and see Lord Gauranga. The Lord has gone to Advaita Acarya's house in Santipura. I came here to take you all there." In separation from Sri Gauranga, all the devotees had become morose and skinny. But the

words of Nityananda Prabhu fully enlivened them. Overwhelmed with ecstasy, they began to happily glorify Krishna.

From the day Lord Gauranga left home to take sannyasa, mother Saci had been completely fasting. It had been twelve days since she ate. Only by the influence of Sri Gauranga was she surviving. Seeing the condition of mother Saci, Nityananda Prabhu felt very unhappy. To solace her, He spoke sweet words.

“There’s no mystery of Krishna that you don’t know. What can I tell you? Please don’t lament. Be happy. Even the Vedas will never receive the mercy that you’ve gotten. The Lord, for whom the Vedas forever seek, is your own son. He’s the life and soul of everyone. That same Lord has placed His hand on your heart and promised to take full responsibility for you. The Lord repeatedly told that all your spiritual and worldly responsibilities are on Him. He knows what’s best for you. So please surrender yourself to the Lord and live happily. O mother, go and quickly cook for Krishna. Let all the devotees honor the Lord’s remnants and be happy. Everyone hankers to relish the food cooked by you. If you fast, then Lord Krishna will fast. Quickly cook various palatable offerings for Krishna. I, too, have a great desire to eat food cooked by you.”

Hearing the words of Nityananda, mother Saci forgot her separation and quickly went off to cook. The most pious mother Saci cooked various offerings for Krishna. After offering them, she gave the remnants to Nityananda Svarupa. Then Saci served the remnants to all the Vaishnavas. Finally, after pleasing everyone, She personally honored the prasada. When mother Saci ate after fasting for twelve days, the devotees became happy and satisfied. All the devotees along with Nityananda Prabhu jubilantly got ready to go and see Lord Gauranga.

Soon all the residents of Navadvipa heard about the sannyasa of Gauracandra. Hearing the Lord’s wonderful sannyasa name, Sri Krishna Chaitanya, everyone chanted “Hari, Hari!” and said, “May You be glorious!” Even the atheists who previously criticized the Lord went to see Him along with their families. They all repented, “We took birth as fools in Navadvipa and, unaware of the position of the Lord, we criticized Him. Now let us go and take shelter of His lotus feet. Thus we’ll counteract all our offenses.”

People ran towards Santipura in a lofty joyous mood. No one could estimate how many people went. They soon reached Phuliya and loudly chanted the names of Hari. The sound pierced the universe. Hearing the wonderful loud chanting of Hari, the Lord, the crest jewel among sannyasis, came out from His room. He incessantly chanted the maha-mantra, Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Hare Hare, Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare, as tears of love continuously streamed from His eyes.

All the people raised their hands and cried, “Save us! Save us!” Such were the wonderful pastimes of Gauracandra. Beholding His enchanting face overwhelmed everyone with ecstasy. Then Nityananda Prabhu, who is the same Lord Ananta, arrived from Nadia along with many devotees. When the devotees headed by Srivasa Pandita saw the Lord, they began to chant the names of Hari in ecstasy. All the devotees offered obeisances at the Lord’s lotus feet and began to cry profusely. Lord Gauranga embraced all the devotees, as they were all as dear to Him as His own life. The pathetic cries of the devotees purified the entire universe. Soon all the devotees began to sing the glories of the Lord. The Lord repeatedly shouted loudly, “Chant! Chant!”

What can I describe about the sweetness of that loving exchange? The Lord raised His hands and jubilantly chanted, “Hari! Hari!” The Lord’s dancing was full of sweet wonder. Seeing His dancing, all the devotees merged in great happiness. They all filled with rapture as they danced blissfully around the Lord. Somebody fell on someone and someone caught hold of another. Someone held another’s feet on his chest. Nityananda Prabhu, the abode of great effulgence, danced exuberantly around the Lord. Advaita Acarya danced and shouted loudly in ecstasy. Everyone tried to grab each other’s feet. Any fortunate person who hears this will certainly receive the service of Gauracandra’s lotus feet.

Lord Gauranga Mahaprabhu was again united with His devotees and jubilantly performed nama-sankirtana. Anyone who hears the story of this meeting will attain the treasure of krishna-prema. Accepting Sri Gauranga and Nityananda Prabhu as my life and soul, I, Vrindavana dasa, sing the glories of Their lotus feet.

Nityananda Charitamrita, Antya Khanda Chapter 2

Lord Nityananda breaks Lord Gauranga's sannyasa-staff

After meeting the devotees, Shriman Gauranga Mahaprabhu departed for Nilacala, He soon arrived on the bank of the river Suvarnarekha. The Lord and all the Vaishnavas took their bath in the crystal clear water of the Suvarnarekha. The Lord thus made the river glorious. Sri Gaurasundara, the Supreme Personality of Godhead in human form, then proceeded towards Nilacala. Nityananda Prabhu accompanied by Sri Jagadananda* was far behind Gaurasundara.

At a short distance, Gauracandra sat down waiting for Nityananda Svarupa to join Him. Nityananda Prabhu was fully absorbed in ecstatic love for Sri Gauranga. All His dealings were like those of a mad man. Sometimes He roared loudly and sometimes He cried. Sometimes He laughed and shouted loudly. He swam in the river Suvarnarekha and smeared dust all over His body. At times out of love for the Lord, He fell to the ground so hard that people thought that His bodily limbs would break into pieces. Other times, He danced according to His own sweet will. When He danced, the whole world seemed to shake. This is not at all astonishing for Him since He is non-different from Lord Anantadeva. He has now incarnated in this world as Lord Nityananda. Everything is possible by the mercy of Nityananda Prabhu in whose heart Lord Gauracandra constantly resides.

Leaving Nityananda at one place, Jagadananda went out for begging alms. Sri Jagadananda had been entrusted to carry Lord Gauranga's tridanda. He gave this sannyasa-danda to Nityananda Svarupa saying, "Please keep the Lord's danda very carefully. I'm going to beg alms and will return here soon." Nityananda quickly took hold of the danda and sat down in an agitated mood. Holding the danda in His hand, Nityananda began to laugh. He spoke directly to the danda, "O danda, it's wrong that He that I carry in my heart is carrying you." Saying this, the most powerful Nityananda Balarama broke the danda into three pieces and threw them away.

Only the Supreme Lord knows His own desires. How am I to know why Nityananda Prabhu broke the danda? Nityananda Prabhu knows the internal mood of Gauracandra, and Sri Gauracandra knows the heart of Nityananda. They are just like the two brothers, Sri Rama and Lakshmana. Both of them know each other's heart. To teach devotional service, the one Absolute Truth has appeared in two forms. We can understand Gauracandra simply by the mercy of Nityananda Prabhu. Who else is more powerful than Nityananda Prabhu who can break the danda of Sri Gauranga? Sri Gaurasundara explains all these things in some way or the other. Anyone who understands this pastime in truth is easily delivered.

After breaking the danda, Nityananda sat down peacefully. A short time later, Jagadananda returned. Seeing the Lord's danda broken into pieces, Jagadananda was struck with wonder. He became very worried within his heart. Jagadananda asked, "Who broke the danda?" Nityananda replied, "He who accepted the danda. The Lord Himself broke His danda. Who else can break His danda?"

Hearing this reply, Jagadananda said nothing more. He picked up the broken pieces of danda and left at once. He went ahead where Sri Gaurasundara was sitting and placed the broken pieces in front of Him. The Lord asked, "How did the danda break? You must have quarreled with someone on the way." Jagadananda Pandita narrated the whole incident to the Lord. He said, "The most sadly overwhelmed Nityananda broke this danda."

Later, Lord Gauranga asked Lord Nityananda, "Tell me, why did you break My danda?"

Nityananda replied, "I broke this bamboo stick. If You can't forgive me, then punish Me as you like."

The Lord said, "All the demigods are present within this danda, and you call it a bamboo stick?" Who can understand the pastimes of Gaurasundara? If one understands them in a particular way, still they come out different. Anyone who claims he knows the heart of the Lord is certainly a fool. If the Lord wants to kill someone, He apparently shows warm affection for him. He displays indifference even to

those who are equal to or dearer to Him than His own life. Such are the inconceivable and incomprehensible pastimes of the Lord. Only a person favored by the Lord can understand them. In fact, the Lord out of His own sweet will broke the danda and became angry.

The Lord said, “This danda was the only possession I had left with me. But today by the will of Krishna, that also has been broken. I think I’ll travel on alone. So either you all go first, or else I’ll go first.”

Mukunda* said “O Lord, You go first. We have some duties left to do, then we’ll follow You.”

“Good,” saying this Gaurasundara left like an invincible ferocious lion. In only a few moments, the Lord reached the village Jalesvara. He then visited the temple of Jalesvara in that village. The servants and worshippers of Lord Siva became astonished to see the Lord. They concluded that He was none other than Lord Siva himself. Out of great jubilation the Saivaites sang and played musical instruments with great enthusiasm and the Lord danced in ecstasy.

After a while, the Lord’s associates arrived headed by Mukunda. They also began to sing. Seeing His dear devotees, the Lord became more blissful and continued to dance surrounded by them. Who has the power to describe the symptoms of prema visible on the body of Lord Gauranga? Tears poured from His eyes like the flowing Ganges. This abode of Siva became glorious when the Lord of Vaikuntha personally danced there. After manifesting spiritual bliss for sometime, the Lord became calm and sat down with His dear associates. He then embraced everyone with love. They thus became happy and fearless.

Seeing Nityananda Prabhu, the Lord embraced Him and said, “You were supposed to look after me so that I could protect my renounced order of life, but on the contrary, You want to make Me mad. If You continue Your mischief, it will be like killing Me. Whatever You want Me to do, I do. That’s a fact and I always tell this to everyone.”

Lord Gauracandra told everyone to be extremely careful with Nityananda. “Nityananda is more dear than My very life. I boldly declare this. The love and devotion of anyone who commits offenses at the lotus feet of Nityananda will certainly be checked. There’s no fault of Mine in this regard. Anyone who maintains the slightest envy towards Nityananda, even if he’s a devotee, he is not dear to me.” Hearing His own praise, Nityananda Mahasaya felt shy and did not raise His head. All the devotees thus became joyful. Such is the pastime of the son of Saci.

Accepting Sri Gauranga and Nityananda Prabhu as my life and soul, I, Vrindavana dasa, sing the glories of Their lotus feet.

Nityananda Charitamrita, Antya Khanda Chapter 3

Lord Nityananda's darsana of Lord Jagannatha

Sri Visvambhara said, "All of you helped Me as a real friends since you brought Me to see my beloved Lord Jagannatha. Now please tell Me if you should go first or I should go first to see Jagannatha."

Mukunda replied "O Lord, you please go first." "Very good," saying this Sri Gauranga departed.

The Lord walked as swiftly as an inebriated lion. He soon reached Jagannatha Puri and entered the temple of Lord Jagannatha. By the Lord's will, Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya was present in the temple taking darsana of Jagannatha, Baladeva, and Subhadra, when Gauracandra, the life and soul of the universe, came to see Them. As soon as the Lord saw Jagannatha, He roared loudly and wanted to embrace Him. At that moment, the Lord fell unconscious on the ground out of ecstasy. Who can understand the unfathomable qualities of the Supreme Lord? Just by seeing Jagannatha, who is non-different from Him, Lord Gauranga fainted on the ground.

Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya personally attended to the Lord, but was unable to break His ecstatic trance. Finally, Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya decided to take Lord Gauranga home. Sarvabhauma said "Brothers, servants, please pick up this jewel-like personality and bring Him to my house." All the guards and servants assisting in the ceremony of Pandu Vijaya picked up Lord Gauranga and carried Him out of the temple to Sarvabhauma's house. They blissfully carried the Lord while continually chanting the names of Hari. At the very same time, all the devotees who accompanied the Lord from Navadvipa reached the main entrance to the temple complex, the Simha-dvara, (Lion Gate). They were struck with wonder seeing this scene unfold. It appeared as if ants were carrying a particle of grain. Many people happily carried Lord Gauranga to the home of Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya.

Offering obeisances to Jagannatha from the main entrance, all the devotees merrily followed the Lord. The temple servants brought the Lord to Sarvabhauma's house. As soon as the Lord was inside, they locked the door.

Seeing the devotees who had come with the Lord from Navadvipa, Sarvabhauma was especially pleased. Loudly exchanging greetings with everyone, Sarvabhauma's doubt about Lord Gauranga was removed. He became very satisfied in his heart. Who can estimate the good fortune of Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya? He whose glories all the Vedas describe had personally come to the house of Sarvabhauma.

Seeing Nityananda Prabhu, Sarvabhauma Mahasaya humbly took the dust from His lotus feet. Sarvabhauma arranged a guide for them and the devotees went to see Jagannatha. The guide requested the devotees with folded hands, "Please remain peaceful while seeing Jagannatha. Don't act like the previous Gosai. I don't understand what kind of people you are. If you promise to remain peaceful, then only will I take you to Jagannatha. What can I say? The way He fell on the ground no man could survive. I request all of you to please see Jagannatha with utmost care and restraint."

Hearing his words, all the devotees began to laugh. Saying, "Don't worry," they left to see Jagannatha. They entered the temple and saw Jagannatha, the origin of the first quadruple expansion, happily manifested in the midst of His devotees. Seeing Lord Jagannatha, all the devotees began to cry. They offered obeisances to Him, circumambulated Him, and prayed to Him.

The most sober Nityananda, enraptured in love for Gauranga, became terribly agitated on seeing Lord Jagannatha. He was unable to remain steady. As soon as He saw Jagannatha, He wanted to embrace Him. The guards could not check Him. Suddenly climbing onto the golden throne of Jagannatha, Nityananda embraced the Deity of Balarama. As He climbed on the throne, the guards tried to stop

Him catching hold of His hand. Nityananda simply pushed them away. Nityananda took the garland off Lord Balarama and put it on Himself. The priests took garlands from Lord Jagannatha and happily offered them to the devotees. Receiving Lord Jagannatha's mercy in the form of the garlands, all the devotees were extremely pleased. They quickly returned to the house of Sarvabhauma.

Wearing the garland of Balarama, Nityananda walked like the king of elephants. All the temple guards began to think, "This mendicant is not an ordinary man. How can anyone survive after touching Balarama? We control even mad elephants, what to speak of ordinary men. We tried to firmly catch hold of Him, but instead, he scattered us like straws." Considering this, the temple guards always showed respect to Nityananda whenever they saw Him. In His childish way, Nityananda Svarupa often embraced the Lord with loving affection.

Meanwhile, Lord Gauranga remained unconscious at the house of Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya. Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya sat at the feet of the Lord while the devotees surrounding the Lord chanted the names of Rama and Krishna. The qualities of Gauracandra are inconceivable and unfathomable. Even after nine hours, He had not regained consciousness. After a long time, Lord Gauranga, the life and soul of the universe, came to normal consciousness. All the devotees chanted the name of Hari. Becoming composed, the Lord asked everyone, "What happened to Me today?"

Lord Nityananda explained to the Lord, "When You saw Lord Jagannatha, You fell senseless to the ground. Luckily, Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya was present. He picked You up and brought You to his home. In ecstatic bliss, You remained in trance for nine hours. Here is Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya offering You his respectful obeisances." The Lord hurriedly embraced Sarvabhauma.

Lord Gauranga said, "Jagannatha is very merciful. He kindly brought Me to the house of Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya. I had grave doubts how I would even get your good association. Today, Lord Krishna has easily fulfilled My desire." Saying this and looking at Sarvabhauma, the Lord began to smile. He continued, "Listen. Today I saw Lord Jagannatha directly. Seeing Jagannatha, I intensely desired to embrace Him. But as soon as I tried to embrace Jagannatha, I lost My consciousness and was unaware of anything after that. Fortunately, Sarvabhauma was there and I was protected from all danger. I vow that, from today, I will see Jagannatha from a distance. I will never enter inside the temple room; rather I'll see Jagannatha while standing beside Garuda-stambha column. By good fortune, I did not embrace Jagannatha. Had I done this, it would've been a serious predicament"?

Nityananda Prabhu replied, "Today You've been saved. Now it's already quite late. Please go and take bath." Lord Gauranga said, "Nityananda, You'll control Me all the time. I surrender unto You." The Lord happily bathed and sat with the devotees with a smile on His face.

Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya quickly brought various kinds of maha-prasada and placed them before the Lord. Lord Gauranga offered His obeisances to the maha-prasada and began to honor it along with His devotees. Anyone who hears the ecstatic eating pastimes of Sri Gauranga at Nilacala obtains the association of Nityananda Prabhu without a doubt. By hearing Nityananda's visit to Nilacala described in Antya-khanda, one will float in the ocean of krishna-prema.

Accepting Sri Gauranga and Nityananda Prabhu as my life and soul, I, Vrindavana dasa, sing the glories of Their lotus feet.

Nityananda Charitamrita, Antya Khanda Chapter 4

Lord Nityananda's grand bathing at the house of Raghava Pandita

O brothers, listen attentively to the topics of Antya-khanda that describe the pastimes of Nityananda. One day Sri Gaurasundara, the Supreme Personality of Godhead appearing in human form, sat alone with Nityananda.

*prabhu bale suna nityananda mahamati
satvare calaha tumi navadvipa prati
pratigya kariya achi apanara mukhe
murkha nica daridra bhasaba prema sukhe
tumio thakila yadi muni dharma kari
apana uddama bhava saba parihari
tabe murkha nica yata patita samsara
bala dekhi ara keba kariba uddhara
bhakti rasa data tumi tumi sasvarile
tabe avatara ba ki nimitte karile
eteke amara vakya yadi satya cao
tabe avilambe tumi gaudadesa yao
murkha nica patita dukhiya yata jana
bhakti diya kara giya sabare mocana*

Lord Gauranga said, "Listen, magnanimous Nityananda. Go immediately to Navadvipa. I promised that I would drown everyone, including fools, fallen, and sinners, in the ocean of krishna-prema. If You remain here with me as an ascetic, keeping a vow of silence and concealing Your enthusiasm, who will deliver the fallen souls of this world? You are the bestower of love and devotion. Please tell me, if You must always check Yourself, what's the use of Your incarnation? If You want to make My words true, go to Bengal at once. Deliver everyone by giving prema-bhakti to all the foolish, fallen, low class and the distressed."

Instructed by Lord Gauranga, Nityananda Prabhu promptly left for Bengal with His own associates. Ramadasa, Gadadharadasa, and Raghunatha Vaidya, who were filled with love and devotion, Krishnadasa Pandita, Paramesvara dasa, and the most blissful Purandara Pandita all went with Nityananda Svarupa to Bengal. As He began His journey, He first induced His associates to become ecstatic. They all forgot themselves. There was no end to the ecstatic symptoms that arose in their bodies. For example, the mood of Sri Gopala manifested in the body of Ramadasa the foremost among the Vaishnavas. On the way, Ramadasa transfigured into a threefold bending form and remained unconscious for nine hours.

Gadadhara dasa absorbed in the mood of Radhika suddenly began to laugh loudly saying, "Who will buy yogurt?" The broad-minded Raghunatha Vaidya Upadhyaya displayed the mood of Revati. Both Krishnadasa and Paramesvara dasa constantly created mischief in the mood of cowherd boys. Purandara Pandita climbed on a tree and jumped down saying, "I am the great Angada." Nityananda Prabhu, the origin of Sri Ananta, inspired everyone to revive his original mood.

They walked very fast, sometimes forgetting themselves and walking in the wrong direction. They often asked the local people, "Brothers, please tell us how to reach the bank of the Ganges." People would reply, "Alas, alas! You're on the wrong path. You just wasted six hours of your journey." Getting proper directions, they would return to their original path. When they again asked for the right

way, the people told them to take a twenty-mile detour to reach the original path. All of them smilingly walked along the road. They did not know their own selves, what to speak of the roads. None of them felt the urges of the body such as hunger, thirst, fear, or distress. They were totally merged in bliss. No one can describe the unlimited pastimes Nityananda Prabhu did on the way to Bengal. Nityananda, the source of Sri Ananta, finally reached the village of Panihati* on the bank of the Ganges. Nityananda Prabhu along with His devotees arrived at the house of Raghava Pandita* at Panihati. Raghava Pandita was overjoyed to see Nityananda Prabhu. Sri Makaradhvaja Kara* who was a disciple of Raghava Pandita also became very happy.

Nityananda Prabhu along with His associates lived happily in the village of Panihati. He would roar loudly in of ecstasy. Always overwhelmed with prema, he would go into rapturous trance. When Nityananda desired to dance, three famous singers quickly assembled there. The most pious Madhava Ghosha was expert in doing kirtana. There was no better singer in the world. He was known as the singer of Vrindavana and was very dear to Nityananda Svarupa. As the three brothers Madhava, Govinda, and Vasudeva began to sing, the Supreme Lord Nityananda Prabhu began to dance. When the most powerful Avadhuta Nityananda danced, it seemed like the earth shook with every step.

Nityananda continually chanted the name of Hari and shouted loudly. Seeing His tottering dancing, people were struck with wonder. Sometimes He glanced on someone while dancing. That person would fall on the ground filled with love of God and transcendental mellows. This marked the auspicious beginning of Lord Nityananda's deliverance of the fallen souls. He danced for a long time showing all the signs of ecstatic love.

After some time, He sat down on a throne and ordered His servants to do abhisheka to Him. All His devotees headed by Raghava Pandita quickly arranged the abhisheka bringing thousands of pitchers of Ganges water mixed with various perfumes. With great satisfaction, they poured this scented water on the head of Lord Nityananda. Everyone chanted "Hari, Hari!" on all sides. They all recited suitable mantras while doing abhisheka and sang His glorification. All His associates submerged in the ocean of bliss. After abhisheka, they put new cloth on Him and applied sandalwood paste to His body. They decorated His broad chest with beautiful flower garlands mixed with Tulasi. They set a throne decorated with gold before the Lord. Lord Nityananda sat on the throne while Sri Raghavananda held an umbrella above His head. The devotees began to glorify Him and there arose a crying sound on all sides. Everyone raised their hands and exclaimed, "Save us!" They all went into a rapture of krishna-prema.

Lord Nityananda, absorbed in His own blissful mood, glanced at everyone showering prema, love of God, on them. Nityananda Prabhu ordered, "Raghava Pandita, please make a garland of kadamba flowers and bring it to me quickly. I am very fond of kadamba flowers. In fact I always reside in the forest of kadamba."

Raghavananda folded his hands and said, "Lord, it's not the season for kadamba trees to flower."

Lord Nityananda said, "Go home and look carefully. There may be a flower or two some place."

Raghava Pandita straight away went to his house. To his complete surprise, he saw something most wonderful! Beautiful kadamba flowers blossomed on the lemon tree in his courtyard. How wonderful were the colors and fragrance of those flowers! Just seeing them frees one from material bondage. Seeing those beautiful kadamba flowers, Raghava Pandita began to swoon in ecstasy. Controlling himself, he quickly made a garland of kadamba flowers and brought it before Lord Nityananda. Nityananda Prabhu was very pleased and put the garland on at once.

The sweet fragrance of kadamba flowers overwhelmed the Vaishnavas and they all felt very happy. Suddenly the most wonderful thing happened. Everyone could smell the scent of some wonderful flowers. The enchanting aroma of damanaka flowers filled all the ten directions.

Nityananda Prabhu smilingly said, "Listen, brothers. Can you tell Me what you smell?" Everyone folded their hands and replied, "We smell the fragrance of wonderful flowers; the smell comes from all directions." Nityananda, out of His causeless mercy, began to explain most confidential topics. "Listen to the mystery, for you must know the truth in detail. Today, Caitanya Gosai came here from Nilacala to hear our kirtana. He wore a garland of damanaka flowers and sat in a tree unseen. All the four directions filled with the aroma of that wonderful garland. To see your chanting and dancing, the Lord came from Nilacala. Give up all other affairs and always sing the glories of Krishna. May all of you forever glorify Sri Krishna Chaitanyacandra and be fully merged in the ocean of krishna-prema."

Saying this, Nityananda Prabhu shouted loudly and showered love of God on all directions. Being drenched in the rain of prema, everyone swooned in ecstasy.

O dear brothers, please hear the potency of Nityananda Prabhu how He awarded prema-bhakti to everyone in this world. By His mercy, everyone easily received the prema-bhakti of the gopis of Vrindavana described in Srimad-Bhagavatam.

As Nityananda sat on the gold throne, all His associates continued to dance in front of Him. Someone climbed a tree, walked on the leaves, and yet did not fall down. Out of ecstasy, someone shouted loudly and jumped down from a tree. Someone roared like a lion and caught the root of the tree, pulling it out of the ground while chanting "Hari! Hari!" Someone went to the forest of betel nuts and gathered five or six trees together. With immense strength due to love of God, he uprooted them all.

All the symptoms of love mentioned in Srimad-Bhagavatam, such as shedding tears, being stunned, heavy breathing, perspiring, hair standing on end, roaring loudly, faltering of voice, paleness, and falling unconscious were fully manifest in the bodies of everyone by the causeless mercy of Lord Nityananda. In any direction Nityananda Mahasaya mercifully glanced, he showered love and devotion. Anyone Nityananda looked upon would fall unconscious due to ecstatic krishna-prema. They would try to catch hold of Nityananda Svarupa who smiled sitting on His golden throne. Lord Nityananda invested His energies in all His chief associates. They became omniscient; their words became perfect. They looked as beautiful as Cupid. Whomever they touched with their hands was overwhelmed with love of God and forgot everything. Nityananda Prabhu lived like this in the village of Panihati for three months and continued His pastimes of distributing love and devotion.

For three months, all the devotees were lost in ecstatic trance. They stopped all bodily activities. They did not eat for three months. All they did was continuously dance in ecstatic bliss. The blissful pastimes Nityananda Prabhu enjoyed in the village of Panihati will be described in the four Vedas. Who can describe the extent of the pastimes Lord Nityananda performed within one and a half hours? From time to time, He would personally dance with His devotees on all sides. Sometimes, He would sit down in a hero's posture and encourage all the devotees to dance. The dancing of only one of His servants flooded all the surroundings with krishna-prema.

Just as banana trees fall flat by the force of a storm, so the devotees fell flat overwhelmed by the happiness of prema. As Lord Nityananda was personally overwhelmed by ecstatic love of God, He turned all the devotees into models of Himself. He constantly engaged in the congregational chanting of the holy names of Krishna introduced by Sri Gauranga (the maha-mantra) and encouraged all the devotees to do likewise.

Anyone who came to see Him was overwhelmed with krishna-prema. Such was the example of His distribution of love of Krishna. Whenever any servant of Lord Nityananda desired to have something, he would instantly get it. Everyone merged in the ocean of transcendental bliss and did not know how three months passed.

Accepting the lotus feet of Sri Gauranga and Nityananda Prabhu, I, Vrindavana dasa, sing the glories of Their lotus feet.

Nityananda Charitamrita, Antya Khanda Chapter 5

Lord Nityananda's meeting with Gadadhara dasa

One time, Lord Nityananda wanted to wear ornaments. As soon as He desired this, immediately various kinds of valuable and enchanting ornaments appeared before Him made of silver, gold, and diamonds. Fortunate people brought these ornaments bedecked with jewels and corals. They also brought fine cloth and necklaces of pearls, which they gave to the Lord and offered Him obeisances. Nityananda Prabhu decorated Himself with this jewelry according to His own sweet will. He decorated His two hands with golden bangles and put ten golden rings beset with jewels on His ten fingers. He decorated His neck with various divine necklaces made of jewels, pearls, and corals.

To please Lord Siva, He took a string of rudraksha and cat's eye with gold and silver respectively and tied it on His neck. He prepared two beautiful golden earrings bedecked with pearls and put them on His ears. He decorated His lotus feet with silver ankle-bells and put the most attractive rings on His toes. He dressed Himself with various fine cloths of different colors such as white, blue, and yellow. Dressed in this way, He appeared completely enchanting. He wore various garlands made of jasmine, Arabian jasmine, and campaka flowers, which continuously swung on His broad chest. He applied sandalwood paste on His beautiful limbs. He adorned His head with a turban made of various fine cloths and decorated it with different colored flowers. The beauty of His most attractive face defeated the beauty of millions of moons. He always smiled and chanted the name of Hari. In whichever direction Nityananda Prabhu glanced, His lotus eyes sprinkled showers of krishna-prema.

He took a stick of a high quality sculpted iron and plated both ends with gold. He always carried this stick in His hand in the mood of Lord Balarama who used to carry a similar stick. All the associates of Nityananda who were in the mood of cowherd boys of Vrindavana offered various ornaments such as bracelets, bangles, anklets, rings, garlands, horn, stick, flute, rope, and garland of gunja to their beloved Nityananda. Nityananda, by His own sweet will, enjoyed various pastimes with His associates.

Lord Nityananda with His associates visited the houses of the devotees. The most effulgent Nityananda traveled to all the villages on both sides of the Ganges. Lord Nityananda was full of transcendental mellows. His name and form are non-different. Simply seeing Him captivated all living entities. Even the atheists would immediately offer prayers to Nityananda as soon as they saw Him. They at once wanted to offer everything to Him. The body of Nityananda Svarupa is sweet and most attractive. He generously bestowed mercy on everyone. Whether eating, sleeping, or traveling, He did not waste a moment without doing nama-sankirtana. Wherever Nityananda did sankirtana and danced in ecstasy, He captivated hundreds of people.

Illiterate village children pulled big trees out of the ground without difficulty. They roared loudly as they uprooted the trees. They ran around shouting, "We are cowherd boys." The strength of one child was such that even seven persons together were unable to control him. The children happily roared like lions and chanted, "All glories to Sri Krishna Caitanya! All glories to Sri Nityananda!" Nityananda Prabhu, the life and soul of everyone, captivated the hearts of even the children. Some children ate nothing for a whole month. People were struck with wonder by seeing this. All the devotees were overwhelmed with ecstatic love, as Nityananda Prabhu became their sole protector. Lord Nityananda would feed everyone with His own hands treating them like His sons. Sometimes, He tied someone with rope or even beat him, and laughed loudly out of joy.

One day, to show affection to Gadadhara dasa, Nityananda came to his house. Gadadhara dasa Mahasaya was fully absorbed in transcendental bliss in the mood of the gopis. Gadadhara dasa put a pot of Ganges water on His head and cried out, "Who will buy milk?" He had a beautiful Deity of Sri

Bala-gopala at his house. The beauty and sweetness of this Deity were matchless. Seeing this enchanting Deity of Bala-gopala, Nityananda Prabhu held Him on His chest with great love and affection. When everyone saw that Sri Bala-gopala was clinging on the heart of Nityananda Prabhu, they loudly chanted the name of Hari. Absorbed in the mood of a cowherd boy, Lord Nityananda shouted loudly and began to dance. Madhavananda Ghosha sang of the pastime of Krishna demanding taxes from the gopis.

Hearing this song, Avadhuta Nityananda became very pleased. The sweet voice of fortunate Madhavananda completely captivated the heart of Nityananda. The Lord danced imitating the pastimes of Krishna in Vrindavana. The fortunate Gadadhara dasa forgot himself absorbed in the mood of the gopis. He always considered himself a gopi.

Hearing the pastimes of Krishna in Vrindavana, Nityananda Prabhu danced so emotionally that it was beyond description. He matchlessly danced exhibiting all the signs of ecstatic love and devotion. The movement of His dancing was equal to lightning. His legs and hands were most enchanting. How wonderfully He moved His eyes and smiled. The pastime of shaking His head was wonderful. He put His beautiful feet together and jumped up and down in a wonderful way.

All the men and women floated in the happiness of krishna-prema by the merciful glance of Nityananda. His merciful look was so intense that everyone forgot himself in spiritual bliss. By the mercy of Nityananda Prabhu, anyone and everyone easily achieved the love and devotion aspired for by sages and yogis.

If a person as big as an elephant does not eat for three days, he will become weak and unable to walk. But when a child eats nothing for one month and acts like a lion, it is indeed the manifestation of Lord Nityananda's mercy and energy. Still, by the illusory energy of Sri Gauranga, no one could understand this fact. Being thus absorbed in love of God, Lord Nityananda stayed at the house of Gadadhara dasa.

Gadadhara dasa was fully in trance as he induced everyone to chant the name of Hari. In the Gadadhara dasa's village lived a most sinful Kazi. He was vehemently opposed to the chanting of the holy name of the Lord. Fully absorbed in spiritual bliss, Gadadhara Mahasaya fearlessly went one night to the house of the Kazi of whom everyone was afraid. Chanting the names of Hari, he entered the Kazi's house. All the guards and the servants of the Kazi saw him there, but no one dared to come forward and speak to him. Gadadhara said, "Where is the Kazi? Chant the name of Krishna right now or I'll tear off all your heads."

The Kazi came out of his room as angry as fire. Seeing Gadadhara dasa, however, he became somewhat calm. The Kazi asked, "Gadadhara, why did you come here?" Gadadhara said, "I have something to tell you. Sri Gauranga and Sri Nityananda Prabhu have appeared in this world and have made everyone chant the name of Hari. You're the only one who's not chanted the name of Hari. This is why I come to you. Now chant the most auspicious holy names of Hari. They'll deliver you from all your sins." By nature, the Kazi was the most envious person; however, he did not utter a word. Rather he was stunned. The Kazi smiled and said, "Listen, Gadadhara, tomorrow I'll chant the holy names of Hari. But today, please go home."

As soon as Gadadhara dasa heard the name of Hari from the mouth of the Kazi, he was filled with ecstatic love. "Why tomorrow?" He said, "You've just now chanted the name of Hari. Now no misfortune will ever fall on you since you've chanted the name of Hari." Saying this, Gadadhara dasa became overwhelmed with ecstasy and began to dance and clap his hands. Later, Gadadhara dasa returned home. Lord Nityananda resided in the body of Gadadhara dasa. Such was the extraordinary glory of Gadadhara dasa who is counted among the associates of Lord Gauranga.

Gadadhara glanced mercifully towards the Kazi whom the devotees avoided from a distance. He had forcibly converted Hindus into Muslims and was the most sinful person. But even a person as sinful as the Kazi gives up violence by the merciful association of devotees of Krishna. It is indeed a fact that even snakes, fire, or tigers do not threaten one who is absorbed in Krishna consciousness.

By Nityananda Prabhu's mercy, His associates easily received the love and devotion desired by Lord Brahma and the attachment for Krishna aspired for by the gopis. O brothers, please worship the lotus feet of Nityananda Prabhu. It is by His mercy that one obtains the lotus feet of Sri Gauranga.

Accepting Sri Gauranga and Nityananda Prabhu as my life and soul, I, Vrindavana dasa, sing the glories of Their lotus feet.

Nityananda Charitamrita, Antya Khanda Chapter 6

Lord Nityananda's deliverance of the merchants of Saptagrama and His meeting with Lord Advaita Acarya

Nityananda Prabhu stayed at Khadadaha for some time and then He came to Saptagrama accompanied by His associates. Saptagrama is famous because the seven sages lived there previously. It is also known as Triveni-ghat. The seven sages did austerities there on the bank of the Ganges and achieved the lotus feet of Sri Govinda. The three rivers, namely the Ganges, Yamuna, and Sarasvati join at this place. This Triveni-ghat is well known throughout the universe. Simply seeing this holy place eradicates one's sinful reactions. With great happiness, Nityananda Prabhu bathed at the confluence with His devotees. The Lord stayed at the house of the most fortunate Uddharana Datta* on the bank of this Triveni-ghat.

Uddharana Datta faithfully served the lotus feet of Nityananda Prabhu with his body, mind, and words. Who can estimate the fortune of Uddharana Datta, for he received the chance to serve the lotus feet of Nityananda Prabhu? Nityananda Svarupa is the Lord of Uddharana Datta birth after birth and Uddharana Datta is the servant of Nityananda Prabhu birth after birth. Due to Uddharana Datta, the entire mercantile community was purified. There is no doubt about it. Lord Nityananda incarnated to deliver the merchant caste. He bestowed love and devotion to all of them. In Saptagrama, He personally performed kirtana at the house of each and every merchant. The merchants too worshipped His lotus feet with heart and soul. The people of the entire world were struck with wonder upon seeing the merchant's worship of Krishna. The glories of Nityananda are unlimited. He delivered fools, fallen souls, and the merchants.

Lord Nityananda happily enjoyed His pastimes of nama-sankirtana at Saptagrama. No one can describe these ecstatic chanting pastimes even in a hundred years. The residents of Saptagrama were now enjoying the happiness the people of Nadia had previously enjoyed. Everyone did nama-sankirtana without feeling thirst, sleep, or fear. Lord Nityananda performed kirtana in everyone's house on every street of Saptagrama. As soon as people saw the wonderful emotion of Nityananda Svarupa, they could not remain steady, but became overwhelmed.

What to speak of others, even Muslims naturally averse to Lord Vishnu took shelter of Nityananda's lotus feet. When the brahmanas of Saptagrama saw tears of love in the eyes of Muslims, they condemned themselves. All glories to Avadhuta Nityananda whose mercy makes these wonderful pastimes possible! Nityananda Prabhu happily enjoyed His pastimes throughout Saptagrama.

Some days later, He came to Santipura at the house of His dearest Advaita Acarya. When Advaita Acarya saw the beautiful face of Nityananda Prabhu, His happiness knew no bounds. He shouted loudly and offered Him obeisances. He repeatedly circled and embraced Nityananda Prabhu, drenching His body with tears of ecstatic love. Seeing each other intoxicated both of Them. They had indescribable feelings. They rolled on the ground while holding each other, trying to touch the other's feet. Both of Them roared like lions and their madness could not be controlled. After a while, Lord Nityananda became calm and sat down in a grave mood. Then the magnanimous Advaita Acarya folded His hands and happily began to offer prayers to Nityananda,

*tumi nityananda murti nityananda nama
murtimanta tumi caitanyera gunadhama
sarva jiva paritrana tumi mahahetu
mahapralayete tumi satya dharmasetu*

*tumi se bujhao caitanyera premabhakti
tumi se caitanya vakshe dhara purna shakti
brahma siva naradadi bhakta nama yara
tumi se parama upadeshta sabakara
vishnu bhakti sabe payena toma haite
tathapio abhimana na sparse tomate
patita pavana tumi doya drishti sunya
tomare se jane yara ache bahupunya
sarva yajnamaya ei vigraha tomara
abidya bandhana khao smarena yahara
yadi tumi prakasa na kara apanare
tabe kara shakti ache janite tomare
akrodha paramananda tumi mahesvara
sahasra vadana adi deva mahidhara
raksha kula hanta tumi sri lakshmana candra
tumi gopa-putra haladhara murtimanta
murkha nica adhama patita uddharite
tumi avatirna haiyacha prithivite
ye bhakti vanchaye yogesvara muni gane
toma haite taha paibe jeta jane*

"Your name is Nityananda and indeed You are nityananda, eternal bliss. You are the form of Sri Gauranga's transcendental qualities. You deliver all living beings and protect religious principles at the time of annihilation. You descended to give Gauranga-prema-bhakti. Indeed, You are the full potency of Lord Gauranga. You teach supreme knowledge to devotees headed by Lord Brahma, Lord Siva, and Narada. Everyone gets vishnu-bhakti from You, yet You're untouched by pride. You deliver the fallen souls without seeing their faults. Only the very pious can know You. You are the only enjoyer of sacrifices. Simply remembering You destroys the bondage of ignorance at once. If You do not manifest Yourself then who will understand You?

"You are the most blissful supreme Lord, completely free of anger. You are the thousand-headed Ananta who holds the universes on His hoods. You are Sri Lakshmanacandra, destroyer of the rakshasa dynasty. You are Haladhara, the son of a cowherd.

"You descended to save the fallen, wretched, foolish, and low class people. By Your mercy, everyone easily achieves devotional service that is aspired for by great sages and mystic yogis"

While describing the glories of Nityananda Prabhu, Advaita Acarya went into a trance of love of God. Advaita Acarya knew the glories of Nityananda Prabhu. Some rare great souls also know these facts. The quarreling that one sees between them is nothing but the expression of transcendental bliss. Who can understand these statements of Advaita Acarya, "Know for certain that He is non-different from the Supreme Lord." Both Nityananda and Advaita Acarya spent their time happily discussing auspicious topics of Krishna.

After exchanging many jokes and increasing His love and affection, Nityananda Prabhu took permission from Advaita Acarya and left for Navadvipa.

Accepting Sri Gauranga and Nityananda Prabhu as my life and soul, I, Vrindavana dasa, sing of the glories of Their lotus feet.

Nityananda Charitamrita, Antya Khanda Chapter 7

A brahmana's doubt in the character of Lord Nityananda and its removal by Lord Gauranga

All glories to Sri Gauracandra! All glories to Nityananda Prabhu! All glories to all the devotees of the Lord! Lord Nityananda happily enjoyed the pastimes of nama-sankirtana with His servants. As He previously enjoyed His pastimes in Vrindavana, Nityananda enacted His pastimes in Navadvipa. He made everyone in this world fully attached to the lotus feet of Sri Krishna Caitanya. Nityananda Prabhu, the abode of transcendental effulgence, wandered all over Navadvipa with His most enthusiastic associates. He decorated himself with beautiful ornaments and flower garlands. Betel nuts and camphor reddened His lips. Seeing the extraordinary pastimes of Lord Nityananda, many people became happy while others did not know what to make of Him.

A brahmana lived in Navadvipa who was a classmate of Sri Gauranga Mahaprabhu. Seeing the mysterious behavior of Nityananda, this brahmana got a doubt. He had firm faith and devotion to the lotus feet of Gaurangacandra, but he failed to understand the potency of Nityananda Svarupa. Once, this brahmana went to Nilacala for some days. He regularly visited Sri Gauranga Mahaprabhu for he had firm faith in His lotus feet. One day, he wanted to ask something of the Lord alone.

The brahmana said, "O Lord, I'd like to ask something, if You'll allow me. If You really think me Your servant, then please answer my question. I don't understand what this Nityananda Avadhuta is doing at Navadvipa. Everyone says that He's a sannyasi. But to everyone's surprise, He chews betel nut with camphor. A sannyasi is not supposed to touch gold and so on. But Nityananda decorates His whole body with gold, silver, and pearls. Abandoning kaupina and saffron robes, He dresses Himself with fine and gorgeous clothing. He also puts sandalwood paste on His body.

"Why does He carry an iron stick instead of a sannyasa-danda? He always mingles with sudras. I don't find His behavior in accordance with the scriptures. So I have a doubt in my heart. Everyone addresses Him as an exalted person, but He doesn't follow the rules and regulations of His asrama. O Lord, if You think me Your servant, then please explain the truth. Since the pious brahmana inquired from the Lord at an auspicious moment, Sri Gaurasundara explained everything to him.

suna bipra maha adhikari ye ba haya, tabe tanra doya guna kichu na janmaya

"Listen, my dear brahmana. Faults or defects do not affect an exalted person. Srimad-Bhagavatam 11.20.36 states:

*na mayy ekanta-bhaktanam, guna-doshodbhava gunah
sadhunam sama-cittanam, buddheh param upeyusham*

Material piety and sin, which arise from the good and evil of this world, cannot exist within My unalloyed devotees, who, being free from material hankering, maintain steady spiritual consciousness in all circumstances. Indeed, such devotees have achieved Me, the Supreme Lord, who am beyond anything that can be conceived by material intelligence.'

*padma patre yena kabhu nahi loge jala
eimata nityananda svarupa nirmala
paramartha krishnacandra tahana career
niscaya janiha bipra sarvada bihare*

*adhikari bai kare tahana amara
duhkha paya sei jana papa janma taya
rudra bine anye yadi kare bishagana
sarvathaya mare sarva purana pramana*

"As water doesn't touch a lotus leaf, so too no faults touch Nityananda Svarupa. O brahmana, know that Krishnacandra eternally resides in Nityananda's body. Those disregarding an exalted person will suffer miseries and reap sinful reactions. The Puranas say if anyone other than Lord Siva drinks poison, he will surely die. Srimad-Bhagavatam 10.33.29-30 also says,

*sri-suka uvaca
dharma-vyatikramo drishta
isvaranam ca sahasam
tejiyasam na doshaya
vahneh sarva-bhujo yatha*

Sukadeva Gosvami said: The status of powerful controllers is not harmed by any apparently audacious transgression of morality we may see in them, for they are just like fire, which devours everything fed into it and remains unpolluted.

*naitat samacarej jatu
manasapi hy anisvarah
vinasyaty acaran maudhyad
yatharudro 'bdhi-jam visham*

One who is not a great controller should never imitate the behavior of ruling personalities, even mentally. If out of foolishness an ordinary person does imitate such behavior, he will simply destroy himself, just as a person who is not Rudra would destroy himself if he tried to drink an ocean of poison.

*eteke ye na janiya ninda tana karma
nija dose sei duhkha paya janma janma
garhito karaye yadi maha adhikari
nindaya ki daya tanre hasilei mari
bhagavata haite se e sava tattva jani
taho yadi vaishnava-gurura murkhe suni*

"Those thus criticizing an exalted person without knowing his glories suffer miseries life after life from this fault. Even if an exalted person does something improper, what to speak of criticizing him, if one even laughs at him, such a person is doomed. Srimad-Bhagavatam describes all these truths. One can also hear this from the mouth of a bona fide spiritual master. Listen attentively to the results of laughing at the behavior of an exalted person described in Srimad-Bhagavatam:

"Once, Krishna and Balarama went to the asrama of Sandipani Muni to study. After completing Their studies, They wanted to go home. They asked Their teacher, 'What dakshina should we give?' After consulting his wife, the teacher asked Krishna and Balarama to bring back his dead son. Krishna and Balarama started at once for the abode of Yamaraja. After destroying all the child's karma, They

brought the boy back to Their teacher from the abode of Yamaraja. When Devaki heard of this most wonderful incident, she too asked Krishna to bring back her dead sons.

"One day Devaki addressed both Krishna and Balarama pathetically, Listen, Krishna and Balarama. You're the Lords of all mystic perfections. You're both the eternal Personalities of Godhead. Both of You are the fathers of the entire universe. I know that both of You are the cause of all the causes. Creation, maintenance, and annihilation are carried out by the portion of Your plenary portion. Yet, to diminish the burden of the earth, You've descended as my sons. You brought back the dead son of Your teacher from the abode of Yamaraja as dakshina. I, too, have a great desire to see my six sons who were killed by Kamsa. Though the son of Your teacher died long ago, You brought him back by Your extraordinary potency. So both of You please fulfill my desire by bringing my six sons back.'

"After hearing mother Devaki's request, Krishna and Balarama left at once for the abode of Bali Maharaja. When Bali Maharaja saw his own worshipable Lords, he merged in the ocean of transcendental bliss. He promptly surrendered everything including his house, children, body, wealth, and friends at the lotus feet of Krishna. In ecstasy his hair stood on end, tears of love flowed from his eyes, and he shivered in bliss. He caught hold of Krishna's lotus feet and began to offer prayers.

"All glories to Krishnacandra, the ornament of Gokula! All glories to Sankarshana, who is non-different from Ananta! All glories to Haladhara, the leader of the cowherd boys! All glories to the merciful devotees of Krishna who fulfill all one's desires! Although the demigods and sages are situated in pure goodness, still Your darsana is rare for them. O Lord, You are so merciful that You manifest Yourself even before the demons who are generally in ignorance. You do not discriminate between friends and enemies. The Vedas confirm it and I can directly see it. Putana came to kill You by smearing her breast with poison, still You sent her to Vaikuntha. Neither the Vedas, nor the scriptures, nor the great mystic yogis can understand Your heart. If the great mystic yogis are unable to know Your glories, then how can I, a sinful demon, know You? O Lord of the universe, please be merciful to me so that I may not fall down in the dark well of family life. I wish to hold Your lotus feet within my heart and live peacefully beneath a tree. O Lord, please make me a servant of Your servant. I have no other desire.'

"Holding the lotus feet of Krishna and Balarama within his heart, Bali Maharaja offered prayers. Bali Maharaja and his family members drank and touched their heads with the water that washed the lotus feet of the Lord and felt immensely fortunate. Such water purifies the abodes of Lord Brahma and Lord Siva just as the Ganges purifies the entire three worlds. He also offered worship with sandalwood paste, flowers, ghee lamp, incense, cloth, and ornaments. Finally, he offered his respectful obeisances and continued, 'O Lord, please instruct me if You really think me to be your servant. Anyone who follows Your instructions reaches beyond the jurisdiction of rules and regulations.'

"Lord Krishna, exceedingly pleased with Bali, began to explain the reason for His visit. The Lord said, "Listen, Bali Maharaja. The sinful Kamsa killed my mother's six sons. Thus he also finally died. Remembering her sons, mother Devaki continually cries in lamentation. Those six sons are with you and I want to take them back for the pleasure of My mother. Those six sons are actually perfected demigods, grandsons of Lord Brahma. Let Me explain to you why they had to undergo such tribulations.

"These six sons were previously the sons of Prajapati Marici, a son of Brahma. Once, Lord Brahma was bewildered by lusty desires and shamelessly chased his own daughter. Seeing the behavior of Brahma, the six sons of Marici laughed at him. Because of this fault, they at once fell from their positions. Since they ridiculed the activities of an exalted person, they were forced to take birth among demons. Leaving their demigod bodies, they took birth in the family of Hiranyakasipu who terrorized

the entire universe. They suffered various miseries and were ultimately killed by the thunderbolt of Indra. By the arrangement of Yogamaya, these six sons of Marici took birth from the womb of Devaki. Simply by laughing at Brahma's misbehavior, they incurred so many sinful reactions. They thus had to undergo these punishments. From their birth, they suffered unlimited distress. Though they were nephews of Kamsa, he killed them. Devaki is unaware of these mysteries. She simply cries considering them as her own sons. I wish to return those six sons to my mother. That's why I've come here to you. Drinking milk from Devaki's breast will release these six from the Brahma's curse.' Lord Krishna continued, O Bali, consider the consequences of ridiculing a Vaishnava. If perfect personalities like these received so much misery, what will be the fate of ordinary men? A sinner who criticizes a Vaishnava suffers misery birth after birth. Take this lesson to your heart. Never blaspheme or laugh at a Vaishnava. If one worships Me and chants My holy names, but blasphemes devotees, he'll be vanquished. Those who show love and respect to My devotees will surely obtain My favor. There is no doubt about it.'

"The Varaha Purana states:

*siddhir bhavati va neti samsayohucyata sevinam
nihsamsayastta tadbha-garicaryyaratatmanana*

"Whether there is perfection or not for the servants of Acyuta, there could be doubt. But for His devotees who are engaged in His service, there is no doubt."

"In Sri Hari-bhakti-sudhodaya it says:

*arcattva tu govindam tadiyannaccayatmane
na te vishnu prasadasya bhajanam danbhika janah*

"If one does not worship My devotees but only worships Me then he is simply a proud person and not a recipient of My mercy.'

"O Bali, I explained this confidential topic to you since you are My eternal and dear servant.'

"Bali Maharaja was very pleased to hear the teachings of Lord Krishna. Obeying the Lord's order, he at once brought the six sons and offered them to the Lord. Krishna and Balarama took them and returned them to mother Devaki. When Devaki saw her sons, out of affection she happily fed them breast milk. Drinking the remnants of Lord Krishna as Devaki's breast milk, they were filled with transcendental knowledge. They promptly offered obeisances to the Lord falling flat on the ground. Everyone witnessed this.

"Lord Krishna, glancing mercifully on them, began to compassionately instruct them, 'O demigods, now you may go home. Never blaspheme an exalted person again. Lord Brahma is the energy of the Supreme Lord. Even if he acts wrongly, one should not blaspheme him. You have suffered so much by ridiculing him. Now give up such a mentality. Go to Lord Brahma and beg his pardon. You'll then regain your happiness.' The six demigods offered obeisances to their mother and father, Devaki and Vasudeva. Then, after offering their obeisances to Krishna and Balarama, they returned to their heavenly abode."

Lord Gauranga said, "O brahmana, I've explained the topics of Srimad-Bhagavatam to you. Don't maintain the slightest doubt about Nityananda Svarupa. He is the most exalted personality. Unfortunate people are unable to understand Him. Accept His uncommon activities. Then you'll surely be delivered. He incarnated simply to deliver the fallen souls. He'll liberate all living beings. His dealings

are above all rules and regulations. Who has the power to understand Him? Anyone who blasphemes Nityananda without knowing His unfathomable qualities, even if that person achieved vishnu-bhakti, is doomed. O brahmana, go to Navadvipa and explain this truth to everyone. If anyone blasphemes Nityananda Prabhu in any way, no one will be able to protect that person from Yamaraja's punishment.

"One who loves Him actually loves Me. I'm telling you the truth. Even if Nityananda marries a Muslim girl or enters a wine shop, He is still worshipable by Lord Brahma. This is My verdict."

Sri Gauranga Himself spoken the following verse,

*grihniyad yavani panim vised ba sausnukalayam
tathapi brahmana bandyam nityananda padasvujam*

"Even if Lord Nityananda marries a Muslim girl or enters a wine shop, He is still worshipable by Lord Brahma."

The Lord's words made the pious brahmana very happy. He gained immense faith in the lotus feet of Nityananda and returned to Navadvipa. Arriving in Navadvipa, the fortunate brahmana first went to Nityananda Prabhu's house. He begged forgiveness for his offenses from Nityananda who fully bestowed His mercy on him.

Such are the dealings of Nityananda Svarupa. They are unknown to the Vedas and incomprehensible to ordinary men. From the spiritual point of view, Nityananda Prabhu is the master of the mystic yoga. He is also known as Adideva Dharani-dhara, the original personality who holds the universes on His hoods. He has thousands of heads and His body is eternal and pure. Without the mercy of Sri Gauranga, no one can know Him.

Some said, "He's Balarama," while others said, "He's the dearest associate of Sri Gauranga." Another said, "He's the most effulgent plenary portion of the Personality of Godhead." Still another declared, "We don't understand. If one calls Nityananda a living entity, a devotee, or a learned scholar, it doesn't matter. Nityananda Prabhu may be anyone to Sri Gauranga, still I keep His lotus feet within my heart. He's my Lord, and I'm His servant birth after birth. I pray to everyone to bless me to always remain this way."

Sri Gaurasundara is the Lord of my Lord. I always keep this faith within my heart. Will that day ever come when I'll see Gauranga and Nityananda surrounded by their devotees? All glories to Mahaprabhu Gauracandra! You kindly gave me the association of Nityananda, and then took Him away from me. Still, O Gaurahari, favor me so I never forget You and Nityananda Prabhu. Wherever You both appear, let me also appear as Your eternal servant.

Accepting Sri Gauranga and Nityananda Prabhu as my life and soul, I, Vrindavana dasa, sing the glories of Their lotus feet.



Nityananda Charitamrita, Antya Khanda Chapter 10

Lord Nityananda's pastimes of taking lunch at the house of Gadadhara Pandita

As soon as Lord Nityananda saw Jagannatha, He became overwhelmed with ecstasy and began to roll on the ground. Repeatedly He forcefully fell on the floor. Even a hundred people could not control Him. Seeing Lord Jagannatha, Lord Balarama, Subhadra, and Sudarsana cakra, Nityananda began to weep. Knowing the glories of Nityananda, the brahmana priest offered the flower garlands from Jagannatha, Baladeva, and Subhadra to Nityananda. When the servants of Lord Jagannatha saw Nityananda, they became extremely joyful. Those who did not know Him, asked others who He was. Everyone replied that He was the brother of Krishna Caitanya. Nityananda Svarupa also embraced everyone, drenching them with His tears.

After seeing Jagannatha, Nityananda was very happy and went to see Gadadhara Pandita. Only the Supreme Lord possesses the love and affection that Nityananda and Gadadhara exchanged. The most enchanting Deity of Lord Gopinatha resided at the house of Gadadhara. He appeared to be exactly like the son of Nanda Maharaja. Lord Gauranga had personally embraced this Deity. Seeing this Deity bewilders even a staunch atheist. When Nityananda saw the beautiful flute and attractive face of Gopinatha, tears of love incessantly streamed from His eyes.

Knowing that Nityananda had arrived, Gadadhara left his recitation of Srimad-Bhagavatam and in great haste came to greet Him. As soon as They saw each other, They embraced and began to cry. They offered their obeisances to each other and began to glorify one another. One of them said, "Today my eyes are purified." The other said, "Today my life is successful." Both the Lords rapturously floated in the ocean of prema. The love and devotion manifested from Their meeting was so intense that all the servants began to weep. The love and affection between Nityananda and Gadadhara is so wonderful that neither spoke to the other's enemies.* Gadadhara's vow was that he will never see the face of a person who blasphemes Nityananda. Gadadhara Pandita Gosai does not even manifest himself to those who have no love for Nityananda Gosai. When the two Lords became peaceful, They sat down to discuss the auspicious glories of Sri Gauranga. Then Gadadhara invited Nityananda to accept lunch at his home.

Nityananda brought forty kilos of very fine white rice from Bengal for Gadadhara to offer to Lord Gopinatha. He also brought a beautiful colored piece of cloth for the Lord, which He placed before Gadadhara. Nityananda said, "O Gadadhara, please take this rice and cook for Gopinatha. After offering it to the Lord, You may honor the remnants."

Seeing the fine rice, Gadadhara smilingly said, "I've never seen such a rice before. Did You bring this rice from Vaikuntha for Gopinatha? Mother Lakshmi cooks this rice and Krishna enjoys it. The devotees then honor the remnants." After happily praising the rice, Gadadhara took the piece of cloth and went before Gopinatha. He put the divine colored cloth on Gopinatha, and seeing His beauty, Gadadhara floated in the ocean of bliss.

Then he began to arrange for cooking. He plucked spinach from the compound of the Tota-gopinatha temple. Nobody sows this spinach. It grows by itself. Gadadhara collected a portion of the spinach to cook for Gopinatha. He picked the tender leaves of the tamarind tree and, after making a paste out of them, he mixed it with the boiled spinach and added salt. The most fortunate Gadadhara prepared a sour item and he brought it before Gopinatha to offer. At that moment, Gauracandra arrived.

Smiling while chanting the maha-mantra, Lord Gauracandra called, "Gadadhara! Gadadhara!" Gadadhara immediately appeared and offered his obeisances to the Lord with awe and reverence. The

Lord smilingly said, "What is this, Gadadhara? Am I not fit to be invited? Actually, I'm not separate from both of You. Even if you don't offer Me prasada, I eat by force. The ingredients of Nityananda, the remnants of Gopinatha, and Your cooking: I certainly have a share in it." Hearing these kind words of the Lord, both Nityananda and Gadadhara floated in the ocean of happiness. With immense satisfaction, Gadadhara brought the prasada of Gopinatha and placed it before Gauracandra.

The fragrance of the rice filled the entire compound of the Tota-gopinatha Temple. The Lord repeatedly praised the rice. The Lord said, "Divide the prasada in three parts. Today we'll sit together and eat." Attracted by Nityananda's rice, Mahaprabhu sat down to take His meal. Both Mahaprabhu and Nityananda Prabhu sat down to eat facing each other. They happily glorified the rice and the vegetables. The Lord said, "Just the fragrance of this rice guarantees one's devotion to Krishna. There is no doubt about it. O Gadadhara, what wonderful cooking! I've never eaten such a spinach preparation before. O Gadadhara, what an attractive way you have of cooking. How did you make such a preparation with tender tamarind leaves? I think you must be cooking for the Lord in Vaikuntha. And why are you hiding yourself?"

While smiling and joking in this way, the three personalities happily enjoyed their meals. Only these three know the loving sentiments of each other. Gauracandra never discloses them to anyone. After the Lords completed their eating and left, all the devotees grabbed their remnants. Anyone favored by the merciful glance of Gadadhara can actually know the science of Nityananda Svarupa. In the same way, anyone inspired by Nityananda Svarupa can understand the glories of Gadadhara. Nityananda happily enjoyed the association of Gauracandra. The three Lords, namely Sri Krishna Caitanya, Nityananda, and Gadadhara, always live together. They saw Jagannatha together and became overwhelmed when they did nama-sankirtana. Anyone who reads or hears these pastimes of the Lord's taking prasada certainly achieves Krishna and devotional service to Krishna.

Accepting Sri Gauranga and Nityananda Prabhu as my life and soul, I, Vrindavana dasa, sing the glories of Their lotus feet.

Nityananda Charitamrita, Antya Khanda Chapter 11

Lord Gauranga instructs Nityananda Prabhu to marry

One day in Nilachala Puri Dhama, Gauracandra Mahaprabhu discussed something alone with Nityananda.

*tumi yao gaudadese karaha samsara
tabe e saba lokera haibe nistara
punaha asiba ami tomara mandire
tomara grihe habe amara avatare
bhakti bilaiya punah asiba samsara
gupu avatara sastre naheta pracara
acintya amara shakti keha nahi jane
sei se janaye tumi janaha sei khane*

"Dear Sripada, return to Bengal and get married, then all the people will be delivered. I'll again manifest in Your family and stay in Your home. I'll distribute krishna-bhakti and deliver the whole world. These incarnations of Mine are secret and hidden in the scriptures. No one knows My inconceivable energies. Only You know them perfectly and others know only by Your mercy."

Nityananda replied, "You're the cause of everything. You're the operator and I'm the machine. You can do with Me as You like. No one can direct his intelligence independently. You're My personal protector, benefactor, and maintainer. All I do is dependent on You. You made Me a mendicant and made Me travel all over the country. Yet You put a curtain on My eyes and remained hidden from me. After a time, You gave Me darsana and satisfied Me by keeping Me with You. You made Me dance happily in Your ecstatic love. You awarded Me bhakti and made Me a Vaishnava devotee. Again, You made Me a materialist by changing My duties. I'm unable to understand what's happening to Me. Now You are again telling Me to enter family life. But You Yourself abandoned such a life.

"You gave up attachment for women and became attached to the chanting of Lord Krishna's holy name. You've given up all kinds of enjoyment and taken up the profession of a beggar. O Gosai, why do You trouble Me like this? Actually, I have no one other than You. I'm Your eternal servant. I'm unable to deny Your order. I always follow Your order as My life and soul." Then Nityananda fell silent. The Lord caught hold of His hands and began to speak.

"O Nityananda, You're the form of eternal bliss and the abode of My happiness and prosperity. You're My energy and I'm the energetic. Without energy, the existence of the energetic is useless. You and I are not separate at any time. To fulfill our mission, We've descended in this age of Kali. Just as a grain of dal has two parts, so You and I are not separate. We're one. My happiness lies in You only. Sometimes, I experience this happiness directly by Your presence, and sometimes through inspiration. Whatever I speak and do and wherever I travel is all due to Your desire. All My servants are certainly Your servants."

Nityananda replied, "Your words are all deceitful since You always speak in many different ways. Before, You sent a message to the gopis through Uddhava where You taught them the importance of spiritual knowledge. They gave up everything, still they could not attain Your association. It's Your eternal habit to harass Your own people. You even disappointed Your mother, father, sons, and friends; then what can be said about us? We're only Your menial servants. I'm destined to follow Your orders without fail. Who can deny Your infallible orders?"

"O Lord, please tell Me in truth when will I see You again? How will I tolerate the agony of Your separation?"

The Lord said, "You don't need to come here every year. Whenever You wish to see Me, You'll see Me. Whenever You dance in kirtana or My mother cooks for Me, I'll be there without a doubt. I'm going to spend days and nights absorbed in the mood of Radharani. After relishing the mood of separation from Krishna, I'm going to shortly wind up these pastimes and return home."

The Lord's intimate devotees have realized and disclosed the secret talks between Sri Gauranga and Nityananda Prabhu. "The present incarnation of Mine is not known to the Vedas. I'm revealing My mind only to You. I am telling You the truth that I will certainly appear in Your house in the near future*."

Hearing these words of Lord Gauranga, Nityananda Prabhu fell to the ground. Taking advantage of this, Gauranga Mahaprabhu took the dust from His feet. Both the Lords embraced and cried continuously. They stayed awake that night. Early the next morning, both the Lords finished Their morning duties and went to see the sweet form of Lord Jagannatha.

From that day onwards the condition of Lord Gauranga became pathetic. He constantly lamented afflicted with separation from Krishna. Nobody understood this most confidential mood of the Lord. Only the Lord realized His own mentality. Some intimate devotees, however, understood the Lord's mood by some hints. Others knew nothing. On the plea of pilgrimage, all the devotees took their leave of the Lord one by one. Nityananda Prabhu took His leave of the Lord and started for Bengal with some devotees. He traveled along the road absorbed in ecstatic krishna-prema. He appeared drunk from drinking honey. He soon arrived on the bank of the Ganges and entered Raghava Pandita's house in the village of Panihati.

Hearing about Nityananda Prabhu's arrival, everyone, including children and old men, happily rushed to see Him. People from Panihati to Triveni poured out non-stop to join the kirtana. Many people ate prasada there and many people carried it to their houses. Nobody could estimate how many people brought ingredients and how many people distributed prasada. During the day, they distributed prasada and at night, they arranged huge nama-sankirtana parties. Even Lord Ananta was unable to count the visitors. Many devotee singers sang and danced while others fanned them with peacock feather fans.

Nityananda Prabhu decorated His head with a turban of colorful cloths. He wore beautiful earrings and His brightly shining face defeated the beauty of the moon. He had bracelets on His hands and rings on His fingers. He wore a golden chain with a blue sapphire locket. His lotus feet were decorated with golden ankle bells whose tinkling banished one's miseries. Tears of love constantly flowed from His lotus eyes. Honeybees poured their honey on His lotus feet. His head resembled a lion's, His shoulders those of an elephant. He had a huge body with His two arms stretching down to His knees. His large hands resembled a wrestler's. His golden limbs were over flooded with prema. He was attached to chanting the holy names and to Sri Gaurangacandra. He swung left to right while chanting, "Krishna! Krishna!" like an elephant in rut when hit by a goad.

Sometimes He laughed, rolling his eyes and speaking very sweetly. Other times, He closed His eyes and remained silent. He cried loudly saying, "O My dear Krishna!" Sometimes folding His hands He chanted, "O My Lord!" and sometimes He covered His face with His cloth. He cried softly uttering "O Lord of My life!" and fell forcefully on the ground. He laughed loudly calling, "O My dear brother! O My dear brother!" Sometimes He asked Lord Brahma for wings to fly in the sky. Nityananda Prabhu's manifestation of prema was mysterious to the common people.

Accepting Sri Gauranga and Nityananda as my life and soul, I, Vrindavana dasa, sing the glories of
Their lotus feet.

Nityananda Charitamrita, Antya Khanda Chapter 12

The marriage of Lord Nityananda

One day, Lord Nityananda woke up early in the morning and, taking a servant with Him, went towards Ambika-nagara. He took along Uddharana Datta who was a merchant by profession and His intimate associate. He arrived at the doorstep of Suryadasa Pandita* and sent Uddharana Datta inside the house.

Uddharana Datta went inside and informed Suryadasa of the Lord's arrival. He rushed out to greet the Lord. Falling at the feet of Nityananda Prabhu, he offered his obeisances and with folded hands said, "What good fortune!î

The Lord said, "I've come to you with a purpose. I want to marry. Please give Me your daughter's hand.î

Pandita knew the glories of Nityananda Prabhu, but he forgot everything bewildered by the Lord's illusory energy. The brahmana humbly said, "How is it possible? We first have to consider many points like caste, stars, and family. Although You are the Supreme Personality of Godhead Narayana, You're an outcaste and I'm a brahmana.î

Hearing this reply, Nityananda Prabhu left that place as everyone watched in wonder. Suryadasa Pandita felt disappointed and went inside the house. He contemplated, "Will my dream come true? O Lord Krishna, will it ever happen by the arrangement of providence that Nityananda will become my son-in-law?î Pondering over this, he went inside the house. Gathering his relatives, he informed them of the proposal. He said, "Last night, I had a wonderful dream. I saw a wonderful person come to my house sitting on a chariot with a flag. He was huge like a mighty wrestler. His complexion was golden and His eyes were reddish. His chariot stopped in front of my house. He got down from the chariot and smilingly asked, "Is this Panditaji's house?

"He carried a plough on His shoulder and held a stick in His hand. He gestured for me to come. Flowers decorated His hair and He wore golden earrings. He dressed with blue garments with anklets on His feet. He said to me, "I'm going to marry your daughter. You haven't recognized Me till today.î Saying this, He disappeared. Then I got up from the bed and found it was morning.î As Jahnava heard the narration from within the room, her natural love for the Lord arose. Tears of love began to flow from her eyes. She covered her face with a cloth, but the cloth became soaked with her tears.

Pandita continued, "O friends, now I've told you my wonderful dream. Someone said, "We see so many things in dream. Nityananda Prabhu is the Supreme Brahman and we are but householders. How can we offer our daughter?î Suryadasa Pandita was naturally soft hearted. He became distressed and cried, "Save me! Save me!î

All of a sudden, everyone heard crying inside the house. Something had happened to Jahnava. They rushed inside and picked up Jahnava. They put her on the front veranda. She was unconscious and her eyes rolled in their sockets. Her whole body was cold and her face perspired.

A doctor came and diagnosed that she had epilepsy and there was no cure for it. Seldom does a person in such a case survive. He thus treated her according to the scripture. The doctor said, "Even after applying proper medication, there's no improvement. Now try to arrange for her spiritual rites. Take her to the bank of the Ganges for she is your eldest daughter.î

Hearing the words of the doctor, Suryadasa began to cry. Gauridasa, however, consoled him saying, "I

think we committed an offense at the feet of Avadhuta Nityananda. We must beg His pardon and bring Him back as soon as possible. As long as we live in this world, we should try to maintain relationships. After death, relationships no longer remain. If He can protect our daughter, then we should arrange her marriage with Him. This is my advice to all of you. This is our opinion. So let's all go to Nityananda Prabhu and fall at His feet.â

Lord Nityananda was sitting under a banyan tree on the bank of the Ganges. Tears trickled from His eyes as He chanted the name of Krishna. Gauridasa along with his relatives went to Nityananda Prabhu and fell at His lotus feet. The Lord quickly picked him up while patting his back.

Nityananda said, "You've all forgotten Me, O cowherd men?" Then He put His hands on his shoulders. Suryadasa Pandita fell at the feet of Nityananda Prabhu and lamented, "You bewildered me completely. You're able to do anything, yet You never inspired me to give up my attachment for varnasrama-dharma. Please give us the shelter of Your lotus feet and do good to all of us." Saying this, the Pandita took Lord Nityananda home.

His daughter, Jahnava, was lying at the doorstep. Jahnava was covered with a cloth and the sunshine fell on her. It appeared as if lightning were striking a cloud. Her eyes bulged in their sockets as tears fell incessantly. Her curly hair enhanced the beauty of her forehead. The signs of the final moments of life appeared on her body. At that moment, the aroma of the Lord's body entered her nostrils. As she smelled this aroma, she regained her consciousness touched by the art of revival. She hurriedly covered her face with cloth and said, "Where am I? What's happening?" Then she got up and entered the house.

Nityananda Prabhu, the reservoir of transcendental pastimes, displayed His six-armed form in the courtyard of Suryadasa Pandita. His two upper hands held a bow and an arrow, His two middle hands held a plough and a stick, and His lower two hands carried a sannyasa-danda and water pot. His head was decorated with a crown and His ears were decorated with earrings. His entire body was radiant with valuable jewels and ornaments. Seeing this form of the Lord, everyone fell at His feet. Pandita prayed to the Lord with folded hands. All the brahmanas gathered there were struck with wonder seeing this form of the Lord. Soon this form disappeared from everyone's vision and only Lord Nityananda remained. Smiling at everyone, Lord Nityananda sat on the doorstep of a Vishnu temple as all the brahmanas and Vaishnavas chanted, "Long life! Long life!"

They all served Nityananda Prabhu with great care and affection and made Him comfortable. All the learned brahmanas and the family priest planned to award Him the sacred thread according to the Vedic injunctions. They disclosed their plan to the Lord. The Lord accepted their proposal with laughter saying, "Do whatever you like; I have nothing to say. Only Caitanya Gosai is independent."

When everyone heard the Lord's approval, they became very happy. Then Pandita began to arrange for the marriage. He collected articles for a marriage that would be as opulent as that of a prince. He gathered things by begging and by his profession. He invited all his neighbors for the marriage ceremony. He brought a large quantity of betel nuts and pan. The brahmana then called his family priest and carefully chose an auspicious day for marriage.

From that day, there was a constant celebration at the Pandita's house. His friends and relatives began to arrive day by day. The musicians played various instruments and hundreds of brahmanas were fed daily. The women distributed vermilion, betel nuts, pan, oil, and sweets to all the ladies.

On the day of the marriage, the brahmanas came to Suryadasa Pandita's house after finishing their regular duties. They brought suitable items for performing sacrifices such as flowers, kusa grass, sitting mats made of kusa grass, wooden mortars, and spoons. They brought a stick, water pot,

umbrella, pair of shoes, belt, kaupina, deerskin, brahmana thread, and ghee.

After all the brahmanas prepared the sacrifice, the head priest asked Nityananda Prabhu to come to the sacrificial arena. As Nityananda Prabhu sat in the midst of the brahmanas, they offered ghee in the sacrificial fire chanting Vedic mantras. After completing the formalities required by the scriptures, the brahmanas put a stick and water pot in Nityananda's hands. He wore saffron colored kaupina and cadara with a saffron bag on His shoulder. The Lord then begged, "Mother, please give Me alms."

The wife of Suryadasa Pandita respectfully put gold, silver, and money in the Lord's bag. When the priest told Suryadasa Pandita to bring the bride, Nityananda Prabhu said, "Do that later." Then Lord Nityananda whispered something in the ear of the priest who quickly said, "That's alright." Holding a stick and water pot, Lord Nityananda laughed loudly again and again. He wore wooden shoes and held an umbrella in His hands. He appeared just like a young brahmana lad to everyone. Seeing His enchanting form, the ladies smilingly said, "He must be the younger brother of Sri Ramacandra. This is what we feel."

The Lord entered a secluded inner room and remained there for three days continuously. Rising early in the morning of the fourth day, the Lord looked at the sun and the brahmanas before coming out of the house. The most attractive Nityananda Prabhu then offered His obeisances to Lord Vishnu and sat on a wooden throne. Hundreds of women from Navadvipa came to the house of Suryadasa Pandita holding each other's hands and shoulders. They decorated their eyes with black ointment and chewed betel nuts. They arrived at the house of the Pandita while swinging their hands and bodies. The priest came to perform the duties to be done the day before the marriage while the ladies made auspicious sounds on all sides. The priest tied yellow threads on the hands of Lord Nityananda and Jahnava. She then went inside the house with her head down. The musicians played auspicious sounds on various instruments. People dove and surfaced in the ocean of joy.

As the ladies fetched water for the ceremony, some of them said, "Jahnava's indeed the most fortunate. Who else could have such a beautiful groom except Revati who previously got such a wonderful husband?" Someone said, "They look exactly like Sankara and Parvati." Others said, "They look like Lakshmi and Narayana." Another said, "It's like the meeting of Kamadeva and Rati." Yet others said, "They're like Rama and Sita." In this way, they spoke their minds each to the other. They laughed and fell on each other as if drunk. They were all simple young girls at the marriage of their friend and were unable to check their jubilation.

The whole day passed in such blissful events. Finally, the auspicious time for marriage arrived. Then Suryadasa Pandita told his relatives to decorate both the bride and groom. Hearing this, everyone became very happy.

Nityananda Prabhu came and sat in the courtyard of the Vishnu temple and Gauridasa Pandita began to decorate Him. Nityananda was naturally most enchanting. The Pandita put tilaka and sandalwood paste on His forehead. Naturally intoxicated with prema, Lord Nityananda's eyes always moved in circles. The Pandita put black ointment on those eyes.

The Lord's beautiful raised nose was marked with tilaka and sandalwood paste. The beauty of His face defeated the beauty of the moon. His broad chest was decorated with sandalwood paste and flower garlands. He wore white garments and a white brahmana thread. It appeared like Lord Ananta Sesha covering Lord Balarama. A crown adorned His head and He wore beautiful earrings. The golden ornaments adorning Him shone brightly.

The artistic ladies sat in a private place and began to decorate Jahnava with undivided attention. They combed and braided her hair in various attractive ways. Two colorful clusters of jute hung from her

head to her back covering both her ears. They made many beautiful braids with her hair beginning from her forehead. Wiping her face with the corner of their saris, they decorated it with kunkuma. They adorned her forehead with the marks of tilaka and applied black ointments to her eyes. They embellished her forehead and cheeks with many beautiful dots of sandalwood paste. They put tilaka on her nose and became captivated by her beauty. Then they began to dress her up. They put a golden ring with a pearl hanging from it in the tip of her nose. It swung on the top of her upper lip as she moved. It appeared as if honeybees were falling over a sesame flower.

Jahnava was wearing a golden kanti-mala with a locket that hung to her chest. She was decorated in the most attractive manner and her beauty was matchless. Golden earrings resembling campaka flowers decorated Her ears appearing like lightening. The earrings were fixed at one place, yet they desired to touch her other limbs. Golden bracelets and bangles bedecked Her hands. She wore golden ankle bells on her beautiful reddish feet. After decorating her properly, they put betel nut in her mouth and hung garlands of fragrant flowers on her neck. They sprinkled scented oil all over her body.

Then all the relatives and friends of Suryadasa Pandita told him to take his daughter and circle the groom. Pandita at once accepted the proposal saying, "Whatever you all say, I must follow." Everyone rushed in all directions to gather the necessary items for the marriage. They brought various articles before Suryadasa Pandita and set them before Lord Nityananda. They then made Him sit on a palanquin. The musicians began to play their instruments, filling the entire sky with sound. The singers and dancers sang and danced perfectly in tune with the music. Lord Nityananda beheld all this dressed in divine garments.

Sitting on a palanquin, Nityananda Prabhu was taken on procession through the streets as auspicious sounds of joy filled the four directions. The women of the city lined their doorsteps with their babies on their laps to have a glimpse of the groom. Young boys rushed to the spot and became overwhelmed with happiness as they joined the singing. After roaming all over the city, Nityananda Prabhu, resembling a full moon, arrived at the doorstep of Suryadasa Pandita.

Suryadasa Pandita offered incense, ghee lamp, sandalwood paste, and flower garlands to Nityananda Prabhu. He then led Him by the hand to the marriage arena. Someone sprinkled scented water before Nityananda as He walked. The ladies began to make auspicious sounds of ulu-dhvani. Then He stood on a low wooden platform. His radiance filled all directions.

Holding ghee lamps and flower garlands, all the brahmanas circled Nityananda seven times. The ladies smiled covering their mouths with their saris and falling on each other. They then brought the bride on a beautiful throne and made her circle Nityananda seven times. Jahnava and Nityananda glanced at each other as everyone threw flowers and pan. Their spontaneous love for each other awakened. After a long time when Jahnava saw her beloved Lord, she held her head down in shyness. They took Jahnava inside the room and all the brahmanas began to complete all the formalities according to the injunctions. Suryadasa Pandita offered jewelry, clothes, and other items to Nityananda Prabhu and formally accepted Him as a son-in-law. Then he brought his daughter and offered her to Nityananda Prabhu in charity as per the Vedic injunctions. Taking his daughter and son-in-law inside, he made them sit on a divine bed decorated with flowers. Many young girls also entered the room teasing and joking with the new groom.

The whole night passed in joyful happiness. In the morning, Nityananda Prabhu took bath and sat down for the Vedic ceremony of putting sindura (vermilion) on the bride's head. The brahmanas then performed the fire sacrifice according to the Vedic rules. Finally, hundreds of brahmanas were served a feast. Nityananda Prabhu lived happily at the house of Suryadasa Pandita for a few days.

One day, Sri Jahnava was serving Nityananda His lunch of Krishna prasada with utmost care. The

younger daughter of Suryadasa Pandita, Vasudha, whose mind was firmly attached to Nityananda since her childhood, came to assist. As she was serving prasada to Nityananda Prabhu, all of a sudden the part of her sari covering her head fell off. Since both her hands were engaged in serving, she manifested two more hands and replaced her sari on her head.

Seeing this, Nityananda Prabhu caught hold of her hand and made her sit on His right side. Nityananda then said to Suryadasa Pandita, "I'll take your younger daughter with Me as a dowry." Suryadasa Pandita replied, "I have no objection. There's nothing I can refuse You. I've surrendered my own caste, life, wealth, house, associates, and everything else at Your lotus feet." Saying this, Pandita raised his hands and danced in ecstasy while chanting "Hari! Hari!" He prayed, "O Krishna, O Yadava, please be merciful to me so that I may fix my mind, body, and speech at the lotus feet of Nityananda Prabhu." He explained all the details to his relatives. They all smilingly approved everything. They said, "We've also become lucky by your association. In fact, who has the power to disobey the Lord?" With folded hands, everyone said to Suryadasa Pandita, "You've actually purchased Krishna in Kali-yuga." Nityananda Prabhu inspired everyone of Ambika-kalna to float in the ocean of bliss.

Accepting the lotus feet of Gauranga and Nityananda as my life and soul, I, Vrindavana dasa, sing the glories of Their lotus feet.

Nityananda Charitamrita, Antya Khanda Chapter 13

The birth of Viracandra Prabhu and disappearance of Lord Nityananda

Lord Nityananda constantly enjoyed unlimited inconceivable pastimes at Ambika-kalna. In spite of manifesting so many pastimes, no one could recognize Him, as fish are unable to see the moon reflected on the ocean.

Lord Nityananda thought, "I'll build an asrama at Khadadaha to follow the orders of the Lord. I'll open up a market place for distributing holy names." After contemplating this, Nityananda went to Khadadaha to manifest His pastimes. The Lord followed the principles of household life and manifested the service of the Deity, Sri Syamasundara. Sri Jahnava and Sri Vasudha constantly worshiped the lotus feet of Nityananda. The Lord endowed them with His energies. He enjoyed various pastimes with both His consorts fulfilling their hearts' desires. The happiness of Jahnava and Vasudha knew no bounds for they had Nityananda Prabhu as their husband. Both had prayed to the lotus feet of Lord Gauranga that Lord Nityananda would be their husband birth after birth.

On an auspicious day, at an auspicious time, and during a most auspicious conjunction of the stars, the fortunate Vasudha bore a son as bright as the moon. The people of the three worlds floated in the ocean of bliss chanting the names of Hari. The multitudes in heaven and on earth glorified Vasudha for having such a beautiful child. He was born on the fourth day of the full moon in the month of January. Vasudha gave birth after keeping this male child in her womb for fifteen months. It was Lord Gauracandra reincarnated as Sri Viracandra Prabhu. Those who never saw Gauracandra now saw Him in the form of Viracandra. This most enchanting child enjoyed various childhood pastimes and grew up day after day.

One day while Lord Nityananda was sitting in the courtyard, Abhirama* arrived. He called out loudly, "O dear brother Balarama," and entering the courtyard, began to laugh. Lord Nityananda rushed to embrace him. Abhirama sweetly said to Nityananda, "I heard You had a son. Let me see him. I want to offer him obeisances." Nityananda said, "You know everything. I don't know who's come as My son." They both spoke by gestures and postures. Out of love and affection they embraced each other and cried. When Vasudha heard that Abhirama had come, she thought, "I don't know what plan Krishna has. I've heard lately that any Deity he offers obeisances to immediately cracks."

The child Viracandra was lying on a wooden cot holding a colorful piece of cloth on his chest. The eyelids half closed over his eyes. It appeared as if lotus petals were trapping bumblebees in the evening. The vivid mark of black ointment on his eyes stretched up to his ears. His forehead was marked with a dot of cow dung. His curly hair was tied in a topknot. Whoever saw him wanted to keep him in his heart. Abhirama came and looked at the child without blinking his eyes. He felt his eyes were smeared with the ointment of nectar. The sight of the child relaxed his whole body. The child was lying on his own cot appearing as if the morning sun had risen within the room. He had a raised nose and a beautiful forehead. His hands were long and his chest was wide. His two lotus feet marked with the signs of an exalted personality defeated the beauty of cinnabar.

Seeing the child, Abhirama became very happy. He went near his feet and offered obeisances. In this way, he offered obeisances three times. The Lord in the form of the child then woke from His yoga-nidra and began to smile. He started licking His feet just like an ordinary child. Abhirama repeatedly offered his obeisances and circumambulated Him. With great joy, he began to chant the names of Hari. He played his flute and horn before the child and then came out. Nityananda Prabhu respectfully offered him a place to sit.

Abhirama was decorated with a peacock feather and gunja bead garland. He wore earrings shaped like fish and thin bangles on his hands. He had a waistband with bells and anklets on his feet with bells. His complexion was that of a ketaki flower and he was strongly built. He was non-different from the eternally perfect cowherd boy called Sridama, the son of King Vrishabhanu. Now he was known as Abhirama. He stayed at the house of Lord Nityananda for one night. Then he joyfully went to other places.

Lord Virabhadra often revealed Himself during His childhood pastimes and gave immense pleasure to Lord Nityananda. Advaita Acarya came from Santipura and, after seeing the child, He carefully concluded, "A child born in the house of a thief will naturally be a thief. But how to catch this thief?" Advaita Acarya was naturally expert in speaking riddles. Only one He favors can understand them. After circling the child, Advaita returned to Santipura. All the Vaishnavas visited the child and returned home. Viracandra Prabhu continually enjoyed His attractive childhood pastimes. How can I describe the sweetness of Viracandra's beauty? Whoever saw Him kept on staring at Him. He wore anklets on His feet and a tiger's claw tied on a chain hung on His neck. What a wonderful combination of beauty and transcendental mellows the creator had made.

There is no difference between the pastimes of Viracandra and Gauracandra. The Vedas described them as appearance. Lord Gauranga is the fountainhead of all incarnations. His brother Nityananda is but another body of Sri Gauranga. Lord Nityananda constantly lamented in separation from Sri Gauranga. Very seldom did He regain His external awareness, and that too, He used only for discussing topics of Gauranga. He constantly meditated on Lord Gauranga with His body, mind, and speech. He always sang loudly the glories of Gauranga. He remained in Khadadaha and sometimes He saw the Deity of Lord Syamasundara as Gauranga. Who can understand the glories of Lord Nityananda?

One day, He entered His temple room and disappeared. Again He solaced Himself and came out of the Deity room. He then took Vasudha and Jahnava and left Khadadaha. From there He went to Ekacakra and saw Lord Banka Raya there. After staying there for a few days, Lord Nityananda entered the temple of Banka Raya and disappeared.

All the Vaishnavas were overwhelmed by separation from the Lord. Somehow or other they survived by the presence of Viracandra. Viracandra became restless in separation from the Lord. He would sit alone contemplating, "Now, what will I do? Where will I go? I'm totally confused. The Lord disappeared leaving Me alone. The Lord, the master of the fallen souls, has left us drowning in the ocean of separation."

All the devotees cried in lamentation and often became unconscious. They constantly chanted the names of Hari. They lamented, "What's the use of our wealth, followers, and very life? Lord Nityananda's left us." They sometimes held their heads and sometimes forcefully slapped their chests crying, "O Hari! O Lord Nityananda! You've left us." The devotees thus cried and rolled on the dust.

Hearing the news, all the people of Nadia came to Ekacakra. They were sorely distressed being unable to see Lord Nityananda anymore. They also began to hold their heads and cry. All the local devotees cried continuously. Everyone, including children, old people, women, and men cried in separation. However, the atheists laughed thinking, "We'll no longer see Nityananda."

Lord Nityananda is the deliverer of the fallen souls. Never serve anyone else except Him. Only a most foolish person unaware of the glories of Nityananda takes shelter of others. I consider such a person to be the most sinful in this world.

*jaya nityananda caitanyera priyatama
tri jagate ara keha nahi toma sama
ananda kanda mahaprabhu premabhakti data
ye sebaye sei bhakti paye ta sarvatha
sarva jivera prabhu ! karila prasada
kshemila sakala maha maha aparadha
sri krishna caitanya deva nityananda nama
prithivira bhagya avatari anupama*

All glories to Lord Nityananda, the dear most associate of Sri Gauranga! No one is equal to You in the three worlds. You are the reservoir of transcendental bliss who bestows prema-bhakti for Mahaprabhu. Those who serve You achieve pure devotional service. O Lord, You delivered all the fallen souls forgiving their grave offenses. Sri Krishna Caitanya and Sri Nityananda are the two matchless Lords who appeared for the good fortune of this world.

*ara ki kahiba katha bhagye avadhi
sri caitanya nityananda mahagunanidhi
abhimana duranta tathi na pai krishna rati
iha jani nityananda karaha bhakati
yahara prasade pamara paila nistara
hena prabhu nama haya hauka galara*

Who can describe the good fortune of the people of this world? Sri Gauranga and Sri Nityananda, the oceans of transcendental qualities, have descended to this world. False ego makes people devoid of attachment to Sri Krishna. Knowing this, worship Lord Nityananda. May the holy names of these Lords, whose mercy delivered all the fallen souls, be the garland on your neck.

*jaya jaya nityananda premamaya dhama
svabhava parama suddha nityananda nama
jagata tarana hetu yanra avatara
ye jana na bhaje sei papera akara
sri krishna caitanya nityananda eka deha
ihate niscaya kari kara eka leha
parananda maya duhun murati rasala
nitai caitanya prabhu srirama gopala
ihate karaye bhinna ati buddhi hina
ara na dekhiye tara vishnubhakti china*

All glories to Lord Nityananda, the abode of love of God. The holy name of Nityananda is naturally supremely pure. To save the entire universe, He descended to this world. Those not worshipping Him are surely piles of sin. Sri Krishna Caitanya and Nityananda are one. Firmly believe this and take shelter of Them. Both Lords are full of transcendental bliss and devotional mellows. Lord Nityananda and Lord Gauranga are Lord Balarama and Lord Krishna. Those who reject this are certainly wretched fools. There is no hope for such fools to achieve devotional service to Krishna.

*jaya jaya saci-suta ananda bihara
patita pavana nama vidita yanhara
nija nama diya jiva nistara karila
dena dayamaya prabhu bhajite narila
kaya vakyamane mora prabhura sharana*

mora sama patita nahika tribhuvana

All glories to Saci-suta, the enjoyer of transcendental pastimes! His name is well known as patita-pavana, savior of the fallen. The Lord delivered all beings giving His own holy names. Unfortunate as I am, I did not worship such a merciful Lord. Now I take shelter of my Lord with body, mind, and speech. No one is more fallen than I in all the three worlds.

*jaya jaya gauracandra bhuvana sundara
prakasaha pada mora hridaya bhitarā
yata yata bihara karila gaudadese
sakala prakasa mora hauka bisheshe*

All glories to Gauracandra, the most enchanting personality in the world! O Lord, please reveal Your lotus feet within my heart. Let all Your pastimes in Bengal manifest within my heart.

*jaya jaya lakshmikanta tribhuvana natha
carane sarana mora hauka ekanta
ara avatare kahi nana-vidha dharma
kevala kahila ebe premabhakti marma
ihate yahara mati nahila ananda
aharei janiha papishtha maha andha*

All glories to the husband of the goddess of fortune, Lord of the three worlds! Let me take shelter of Your lotus feet without deviation. In other incarnations, You gave various religious principles. But now You only prescribe loving devotional service. Anyone who is unhappy about this must be blinded by sinful reactions.

I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of all the Vaishnavas that they may overlook my offenses. Anyone who wants to cross beyond the ocean of material existence and merge into the ocean of devotional service must worship the lotus feet of Nityacandra. Sri Gaurasundara is the Lord of my Lord Nitai. I always keep this firm conviction in my heart.

Someone says Lord Nityananda is Lord Balarama and someone says He is the dear most associate of Lord Gauranga. Some say He is the most influential personality, yet others are unable to know who He is. Whether Nityananda is a renunciate or a learned devotee, let them say whatever they want. Let Lord Nityananda be anyone to Lord Gauranga; still I keep His lotus feet within my heart.

All glories to Lord Nityananda, the life and soul of Sri Gauranga! Please allow me to take shelter of Your lotus feet. O Lord, let me sing the glories of Sri Gauranga following in Your footsteps. Let me also remain Your eternal servant birth after birth.

My only wish is to have His darsana. Anyone who reads or hears Lord Nityananda's pastimes will receive the treasure of krishna-prema. They say that Your devotees are fully dependent on You, yet You are the supreme independent Lord. There is no end to the Lord's pastimes. The Vedas describe them simply as manifest and unmanifest.

Accepting Shri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and Nityananda Prabhu as my life and soul, I, Vrindavana dasa, sing the glories of Their lotus feet.

End of Antya-khanda