

## Beyond Action

*Source: Story narrated by Swami Shantananda Puri Maharaj*

**Enlightened beings are beyond action.  
They need to do nothing. Their mere  
presence makes things happen.**



Oriya Baba was one of the greatest saints who lived in Brindavan. One morning, after a satsang, he told sadhaks and devotees that they were invited the following day for bhiksha. Everyone around Oriya Baba wondered why he called so many people when there was absolutely nothing in the larder! They voiced their concern to their Master, "Where we will get groceries to prepare a meal tomorrow, Swamiji?" He calmly answered, "If it is in their prarabhdha to eat tomorrow, they will get a meal. If it isn't part of their prarabhdha, they will have to fast like me."

Who can really follow the wisdom of an enlightened being?

The disciples merely kept quiet and waited till the sun rose the following morning. People started to stream in for the midday bhiksha and not a grain of rice was in sight to serve any one of the guests. Oriya Baba showed no reaction whatsoever. The disciples kept quiet even if they felt immensely embarrassed for their Master that the guests would have to leave without the promised bhiksha.

As soon as it was time for lunch, a wealthy seth happened to turn up at the Ashram to have Oriya Baba's Darshan. And guess what he carried with him that day? A massive basket full of

puris, potato curry and kheer. A feast indeed! There was enough for each and every guest there, the hosts including.

Oriya Baba did not even need to say, "Look, I told you!"

What does this incident reveal? Enlightened beings are beyond action. They need to do nothing. Their mere presence makes things happen. They don't have any sense of doership. They do not plan, worry, doubt and execute.

**\*\* Hari Om\*\***

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