

# Boat Leela of Lord Krishna



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## BOAT LEELA OF LORD KRISHNA

The Gopis were returning after selling milk, butter, etc. It was evening and not a single boat was in sight to enable crossing the river Yamuna. The Gopis were in a hurry as they were anxious to see Krishna who was expected at that time to return home after grazing the calves. From nowhere a boatman came towards them and he was extremely handsome and attractive although he was dark in colour. It was Krishna in disguise.

कृष्ण उवाच

गोविन्दः कर्णधारोऽहं सेवार्थं समुपागतः ।

स्वागतं वो महाभागाः प्रियं किं करवाणि वः ॥

He says - " I am boatman GOVINDA and have come for seva. He does not clarify whether he has come to take seva from them or render service to them. Actually it is the Gopis who are going to serve him by feeding him and massaging his feet. The second line is a repetition verbatim of what Krishna told welcoming the Gopis on the night they arrived for Rasa Leela. God comes himself to the seekers and gives them several clues to make them recognize him. Without His Grace who can recognize him? Here he tells his name as GOVINDA. Now the Gopis requested him to take them across the waters in his boat.

कृष्ण उवाच

चालयामि कथं नावं क्षुधया पीडितो भृशम् ।

गोप्यस्तं भोजयन्ति रम दधिशीरादिकं भृशम् ॥

Note : - Krishna will not take any seeker across the ocean of samsara ( as he is hungry for their love) until his hunger for their love appeased. He says he is hungry and so the Gopis feed him with the balance milk, curd, etc. When again hurried by the Gopis to row them across -

कृष्ण उवाच

चालयामि कथं पोतं इच्छामि स्वपितुं भृशम् ।

श्रान्तोऽहं अन्नपानेन किञ्चिद्वाहय मे पदम् ॥

Krishna is again not prepared to row the boat. He is tired after having had good repast and wants the Gopis to massage his aching feet. The Gopis are prepared to do any bidding of the boatman so long as he hurries to row his boat taking them all across.

गोप्य ऊचुः

उत्तिष्ठोत्तिष्ठ गोविन्द सायं सन्ध्या प्रवर्तते ।

गच्छ शीघ्रं वयं गोप्यः कृष्ण दर्शनं लालसाः ॥

Oh boatman Govinda get up. The Sun is going to set (and dusk will be coming). Make haste. Lord, the evening of our life has set in. Come and uplift us (second meaning).

The boatman says "My boat cant take all of you. Only 2 or 3 at a time can sit in it." The Gopis cajole him

Then श्रीकृष्ण उवाच

आभूषणानि दि०यानि गुरूणि सुबहूनि च ।

निष्कासयध्वं सर्वाणि तदा पोतो गमिष्यति ॥

नो चेदधिकभारेण जलेऽस्मिन् मज्जयिष्यति ॥

Krishna says - "You are all wearing too many silver and other metallic ornaments- all very heavy. The weight will be too much and the boat will drown along with us. You have to take off all the ornaments and throw them in the river waters.

Note: The ornaments represent the ego of beauty, youth, education and all conditioning of all vasanas. They will drown us in the Samsara.

Then Krishna asks them to remove all extra clothes they wore. This is where the curtain of ignorance has to be removed.

श्रीकृष्ण उवाच

स एवाहं स एवाहं यं द्रष्टुं गन्तुमिच्छसि ।

विश्वासो यदि ते नास्ति सम्यक् त्वं पश्य मे मुखम् ॥

Ultimately the Lord reveals himself/ "I am that. I am that person for seeing whom you are all hurrying. If you don't believe me, see my face well."

शौरिरेव तदा दृष्टो स्मयमान मुखाम्बुजः ।

पीताम्बरधरः स्वर्गी गोपीनां प्राणवल्लभः ॥

Each one sees that the boatman has become Krishna with a smiling face wearing a yellow garment and a garland - the beloved of the Gopis.

कर्णधारः पुनर्दृष्टः पुनश्शौरिस्तथैव च ।

नेत्रे संमील्य तिष्ठत्यः गोप्यो विस्मितमानसाः ॥

While looking at Krishna, he turned into the ordinary boatman Govinda and again into Lord Krishna and so on alternately. The Gopis stood with their eyes closed and their minds filled with wonder at the Leela of the Lord

JAI RADHE JAY RADHE

P.S. I have split the sandhis and written for ease of understanding.