

Miracles in the Life of Sri Jayadeva

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Jagatguru Shri Sankarcharya has narrated Lord Jagannath of Puri Dham as "*Kalinditata Bipina Sangitkabaro*." Jayadev is the first poet who mentioned Lord Jagannath as Radha and Krishna who are mingled together. He is the poet who eulogized Lord Jagannath, the God who is the

same who undertook Dasabatar. Dasabatar is a part of immortal Sri Gitagobinda. The miraculous incidents relating to life history of Sri

Jayadev and his wife Padmabati who dedicated themselves to the heart of Lord Jagannath of Puri Dham, go to prove that there was no difference between Lord Sri Jagannath, Sri Jayadeva and Padmabati.

Jayadeva was one of the best writers on Sanskrit musical verses and known as such throughout India and abroad by writing of Sri Gitagobinda. The musical charm in composition remain unique to its type in Sanskrit literature and thus has perennial appeal to the audience. His poetic genius was highly appreciated, his Gitagovinda was translated into English by Sir

William Jones and then to German, French and other European languages, which made the acceptance of Gitagovinda as one of the masterpieces even in world literature.

Sri Jayadeva was famous in Orissa, especially at Puri Dham for his composition of

Gitagovinda. His father's name was Bhojadeva and his mother's name was Radha Devi. His wife's name was Padmabati. His birth place was a known

village, namely Kendubilwa, a few miles away from Puri. He was the sole devotee to Lord Sri Krishna or Lord Jagannath of Puri Dham, Orissa.

Devasharma, a Brahmin devotee of Lord Jagannath, was also living in Kendubilwa. He was childless who prayed Lord to grant one child so that he will offer the same to Lord. A daughter was born. He offered her to Lord. But Lord told him in dream and to priests of Lord Jagannath to offer her to Jayadeva who was a saint poet, engaged in meditation and living a sacred life. She was Padmabati by name. Accordingly, the marriage was performed through the intervention



of Lord Jagannath. Both wife and husband were devoted to Lord and had a religious life.

He composed Gitagovinda and sang the same with his wife before Lord Jagannath and danced while singing losing worldly consciousness. It deals with divine play of Sri Krishna with Radha and their conversation while playing both in spring being affected by cupid. While composing the Gitagovinda one line of conversation of Sri Krishna to Radha could not be filled up with appropriate words. He went for bath keeping his pen and book. While away for bath, Lord came in his form and wrote the incomplete verse "Smar-garala-Khandanam, mama sirasi mandanam dehi pada-pallava mudaram" (10th canto of Gitagovinda) "Sri Krishna was approaching Radha to be gracious to remove the poison of separation by placing her feet liberally like a lotus on his head." Not only Lord filled up the appropriate words, but took meal in guise of Jayadeva, being served by Padmabati.

Being irritated by envy, listening to the popularity of Gitagovinda of Jayadev, Maharaja (Gajapati) king composed one poem himself with the same theme and music and asked the singers to sing it in the temple and asked not to allow Jayadev's Gitagovinda to be sung in temple. But still through grace of Lord, Jayadev sung Gitagovinda while dancing in devotion in that temple. When asked by Maharaja, why he did not sing the song composed by the king, he replied that Lord considered his Gitagobinda as superior. To test this, both the composition of Maharaja and Jayadev were kept in front of Lord, the door of the temple was closed and all vacated the temple. A few minutes later, when door was opened, it was seen that Gitagovinda was placed above Maharaja's composition. The test of

superiority of Gitagovinda was cleared up by Lord Jagannath himself.

Another miracle can be mentioned here. An old lady, a seller of Bruntap-fruit (sweet fruit grown in thorny trees) went to jungle filled with thorny Bruntap trees, and while collecting fruits, sang devotional Gitagovinda in melodious voice and whole-hearted devotion. It was a moonlit autumn night. Lord Sri Krishna was enchanted, left his seat and followed her. His dresses were torn into pieces coming in contact with thorns. The priests in the morning could find night dresses of the Lord torn though temple of Lord Jagannath was closed. In dream, the priests and Maharaja could know the real incident of Lord Jagannath in form of Sri Krishna following the old lady in the thorny jungle, lured by the devotional singing of Gitagovinda.

While Padmavati was in the palace of the Gajapati king, the queen out of joke told that Jayadev breathed his last while in meditation in the temple of Lord Jagannath. Hearing this news Padmabati also breathed her last, out of sorrow. King told Jayadev about the mischief of his queen. Jayadev never minded. He prayed to Lord and sang the appropriate line from Gita Govinda "Priye, Charusile, munch mayee mana manidanam" with help of musical instruments. This forming the part of the composition in the 10th canto of his lovely epic "Gitagovinda" refers to the story that when Lord was cupid-affected and felt the absence of Goddess, Lord was singing song to get the love of his consort lying affected by the separation of the king. Lord has wished to get a sight of her eyes in order to get the nectar like drips from the lips of the man's face besmeared with glistening light from white teeth. Hence, Lord was approaching the goddess saying "O my lovely darling of very gentle

behaviour, give up your fear uselessly arising in your heart. Now my mind is burnt by a sensation of cupid, give me a drink of honey dripping from your lotus like face and let my eyes become very much pleased at your sight. Padmabati got senses and got up and sang the song with Jayadev joining herself in chorus.

Sri Jayadev spent his last life at Banaras and left his mortal body.

There is another miracle witnessed at Banaras. Once, Jayadev felt weak due to his old age on the way going to Ganga after performing the call of nature and took rest on the way. The king requested him to avail a conveyance to go to Ganga at this old age, but he declined and pleaded that according to his ability he will proceed to Ganga and take bath. At night, Jayadev dreamed Ganga in the form of a lady who approached him saying that henceforth from the morning for all the time, I will reside in the well, used by Jayadev. The fact became true. Next day, Jayadev narrated the story and with Padmavati, the king and the queen went to the well to take bath. Jayadev worshipped Ganga. He while reciting the Mantras before taking bath found that the water of the well swelled up high, the colour of the water changed and became as transparent as white as milk. People were surprised at this and Jayadev's eyes became filled with tears of joy, worshipped the Ganga and took his bath. This is the devotion of the great Jayadev.

At Kashi (Banaras) when he was residing and moving alongwith the king of Kasi, at Manikarnikar Ghat on the bank of sacred Ganga, a lady was found following her dead husband's body. Jayadev remarked that this is not sign of a chaste lady, because a chaste lady can not bear the life for a moment on the death of her husband.

The king did not relish the words and made query whose wife is of this nature. Jayadev claimed that his wife Padmabati is like this. To test the veracity, the king sent a detective to observe the real fact. That messenger detective confided to Padmabati that her husband, the poet Jayadev was dead due to capsizing of the boat in the Ganga when he was making boat journey with king and got drowned in heavy current of the Ganga. On hearing the death news of her beloved husband Padmabati left her life out of severe sorrow due to separation. The queen of Kashiraj felt much. Jayadev, when knew the fact became unconscious. Jayadev, after gaining consciousness addressed the goddess of learning to be messenger to establish eternal love between them. Being appeased, goddess Saraswati went to Radha and Sri Krishna and told that both Sri Krishna and Radha are cupid affected. They require conjugation. She eulogized that chanting sacred name of Krishna can repeated to the ward off evil and to ensure sacred life. At this, Sri Krishna advised Saraswati to repeat the lines of Gitagovinda "Priye, Charusile" before Sri Radha as a messenger. Saraswati repeated this verse before Padmabati, who is recognised as Radha in another form incarnated. Then, Padmabati regained consciousness, got life, became reunited with Jayadev, the human incarnation of Lord Krishna (Jagannath) and both of them sang Gitagovinda while dancing in ecstasy before Lord and vanished from the world.

Thus, the miracle ridden life of the divine couple disappeared from human eyes at Kashi by having permanent union.

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