

“It is very essential to follow a pure Vaiṣṇava and happily try to practise Kṛṣṇa consciousness under his guidance. If someone is recognised by Gurudev or an authority as a Vaiṣṇava then we must consider that he is a Vaiṣṇava. Whenever Gurudev says that someone is a qualified Vaiṣṇava then we must believe that and surrender to that qualified Vaiṣṇava.”

—Śrīla Govinda Mahārāj *Āmnāya-Tattva*
tomāra hṛdaye sadā govinda-viśrāma
govinda kahena mama vaiṣṇava parāṇa

“In your heart Govinda (Śrīla Govinda Mahārāj, Śrī Govinda Sundar, etc.) is always resting and Śrī Govinda Himself says, ‘You, My dearest devotee, are My life and soul.’”

guru pādapadme rahe yāra niṣṭhā-bhakti
brahmāṇḍa tārīte se dhare mahā-śakti

“One who has sincere, chaste and exclusive devotion for the lotus feet of Śrī Gurudev is so greatly empowered that he can liberate the universe.”

Praṇām Mantra of

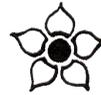
Śrīla Bhakti Nirmal Āchārya Mahārāj

pūjya-śrī-guru-varga-vandita-
mahābhāvānvitāyāḥ sadā
paurvāparya-paramparā-prachalita-
prājya-pramūrttākṛteḥ
bhakter nirmala-nirjharasya
nibhṛtaṁ samrakṣakaṁ sādaram
vande śrī-gurudevam ānata-śirā
āchārya-varyāṁ nijam

“I bow my head in eternal obeisance to my Gurudev, the best of Āchāryas, Śrīla Bhakti Nirmal Āchārya Mahārāj. He is the ever vigilant, stalwart guardian of the current of pure devotion whose highest form flows from our most worshippingable Śrī Rūpānuga Guru-varga in their exclusive dedication to Mahābhāva, Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī.”

prerakaṁ prāchya pāschatya
śiṣyānāṁ bhakti-vartmaṇi
bhakti-nirmalam-āchārya-
svāmināṁ pranamāmy aham

“I offer my respects to Swāmī Bhakti Nirmal Āchārya, who is energetically inspiring all of the Eastern and Western disciples on the path of pure devotion.”

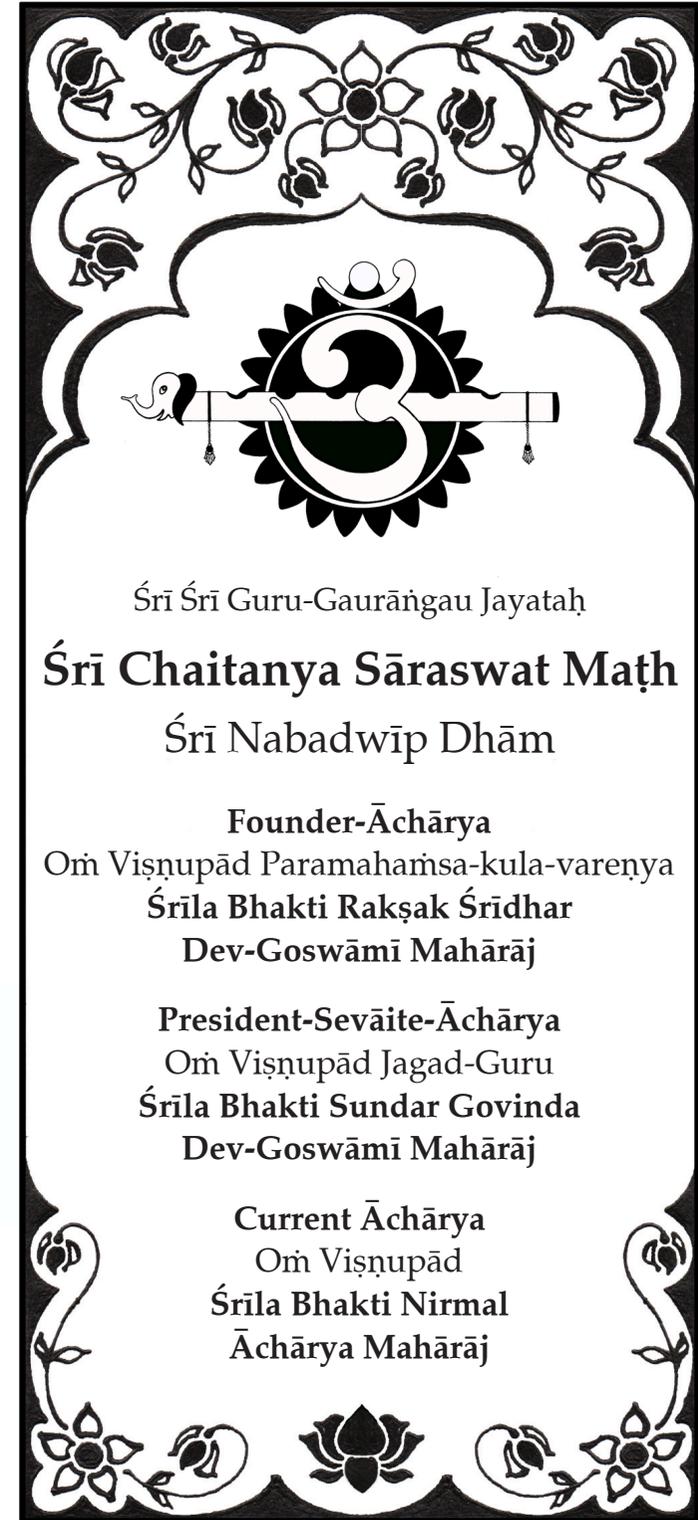


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Śrī Śrī Guru-Gaurāṅgau Jayataḥ

Śrī Chaitanya Sāraswat Maṭh

Śrī Nabadwīp Dhām

Founder-Āchārya

Om Viṣṇupād Paramahaṁsa-kula-vareṇya

Śrīla Bhakti Rakṣak Śrīdhar

Dev-Goswāmī Mahārāj

President-Sevāite-Āchārya

Om Viṣṇupād Jagad-Guru

Śrīla Bhakti Sundar Govinda

Dev-Goswāmī Mahārāj

Current Āchārya

Om Viṣṇupād

Śrīla Bhakti Nirmal

Āchārya Mahārāj

Śrīla Bhakti Nirmal Āchārya Mahārāj

Śrīla Bhakti Nirmal Āchārya Mahārāj surrendered at the lotus feet of Śrīla Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswāmī Mahārāj in 1992, and immediately began serving His Divine Grace and his Mission, Śrī Chaitanya Sāraswat Maṭh, with full energy. Excelling in all fields of service, Śrīla Āchārya Mahārāj's earnest desire to satisfy Śrīla Govinda Mahārāj has always been evident for all to see. His travelling throughout India leading pilgrimage parties, collecting foodstuffs and supplies for the Maṭh's service and establishing centres has profoundly increased public participation in the Mission of Śrī Chaitanya Sāraswat Maṭh. His dynamic international preaching as Śrīla Govinda Mahārāj's representative has attracted the hearts of devotees worldwide and inspired them with new life in their practice of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. His extensive works expanding the facilities of the Mission include manifesting gloriously Śrī Govinda Kuṇḍa, the long-standing desire of Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāj, as well as establishing beautiful temples in Śrīla Govinda Mahārāj's divine appearance place of Śrīpāt Bāmanpārā and in Siliguri. Śrīla Āchārya Mahārāj also established an unprecedented temple and ashram in Śrī Ekachakrā Dhām.

On the grand occasion of the inauguration of this ashram, which was likely the largest festival ever arranged by the Maṭh, a day on which Śrīla Āchārya Mahārāj made arrangements for 1,00,000 people to take *Prasādam*, Śrīla Govinda Mahārāj proclaimed in his broadcasted address:

“We are so indebted and so much blissful to Āchārya Mahārāj because he hears what

Guru Mahārāj wants, what I want, and he makes that... He has done everything, all arrangements. He has capacity, he has done so much and it is miracle... Śrīpād Bhakti Nirmal Āchārya Mahārāj, he is an impossible man! A miraculous man whose energy is over-flooded for the service of our society. He is my very dear friend, very dear disciple, very dear worker, everything. My blessings to him. He is doing all of my own attending service duties and I am so happy.”

Just prior to this indicative pronouncement Śrīla Govinda Mahārāj also glorified Śrīla Āchārya Mahārāj in a *darśan* in Kolkata in 2009:

“Śrīla Guru Mahārāj trained me from my childhood, ‘Serve the Vaiṣṇavas without enviousness.’ If we see a devotee doing our own job better than us then we must consider that they are doing much good for us. We should not be envious of him. When Āchārya Mahārāj is doing so much that I cannot do, I am praising him for that, I am not criticising him.”

Śrīla Govinda Mahārāj gave Śrīla Bhakti Nirmal Āchārya Mahārāj *tridaṇḍi-sannyās* ten years earlier in 1999 after being prompted by some of his intimate associates to select his successor. In this connection it is noteworthy that Śrīla Govinda Mahārāj previously expressed in private that he would only give the name ‘Āchārya Mahārāj’ to whom he would select as the next Āchārya of the Maṭh so as to make his desire abundantly clear.

After first hinting at his desire through the choice of Śrīla Āchārya Mahārāj's name and publicly indicating his desire through his heartfelt glorifications of Śrīla Āchārya Mahārāj, Śrīla Govinda Mahārāj formally

dictated his desire in his Last Will and Testament. Furthermore, on the last Śrī Vyāsa-*pūjā* celebration of his manifest Pastimes, 4th December 2009, before a packed assembly and a worldwide audience, Śrīla Govinda Mahārāj publicly declared Śrīla Āchārya Mahārāj as his future Successor-Āchārya:

“He, (Bhakti Nirmal Āchārya Mahārāj), is highly qualified and I have chosen him as next Āchārya of this Maṭh. All of you should unitedly proceed under his guidance, serve under him faithfully and love him. His love for the Maṭh is his greatest quality. That the Maṭh should not lose even one inch of its land, even one inch of its property—he is continuously working towards this end. I am now asking him to speak Hari-*kathā* as my representative... [Following Śrīla Āchārya Mahārāj's speech Śrīla Govinda Mahārāj continued:] Maṭh secretary, Maṭh manager, future Maṭh Āchārya, Śrīpād Bhakti Nirmal Āchārya Mahārāj *kī jay!* After me, all of you should continue as his followers. Everyone makes mistakes, but I very rarely see anyone with a sincere, heartfelt service mood like him. The type of profound vision and attentive care he has for every matter cannot be seen anywhere. I pray the Lord will bring him all goodness and auspiciousness.”

Following the divine disappearance of Śrīla Govinda Mahārāj, Śrīla Āchārya Mahārāj now continues to give great nourishment to the worldwide followers of Śrī Chaitanya Sāraswat Maṭh. His unparalleled mood of chaste devotion and dynamic preaching both in India and abroad is an invaluable inspiration and shelter for sincere seekers everywhere.