

# *Rowing along the wind*

*Instructive Stories from the teachings of  
Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur*



**A landlord once had a submissive servant, who was only interested in grabbing something for his own sense gratification by flattering his master.**

**Could you tell me  
what kind of vegetable  
is the potato?**





**O Lord!**  
**I pray that your honor may**  
**please narrate the nature of**  
**potato. Please let us hear**  
**your wise words on this**  
**matter.**







**Potatoes is the most  
delicious of all vegetables  
in the present age.**

**Even before the landlord  
could finish his statement,  
the sycophant ran into the  
conversation.**

**Yes, my Lord!**

**Really delicious! Excellently delicious,  
pleasantly delicious, highly tasteful  
and dainty! It is said that this round  
potato - boiled in rice, boiled in water,  
fried, mixed up in a subji,**





**put in a soup or dahl,  
either in pickle condiment, or rich  
gravy, or kofta everywhere in  
every recipe, this round potato is  
omnipresent. Is there any other  
vegetable comparable to it?  
It is simply second to none,  
unparalleled!**





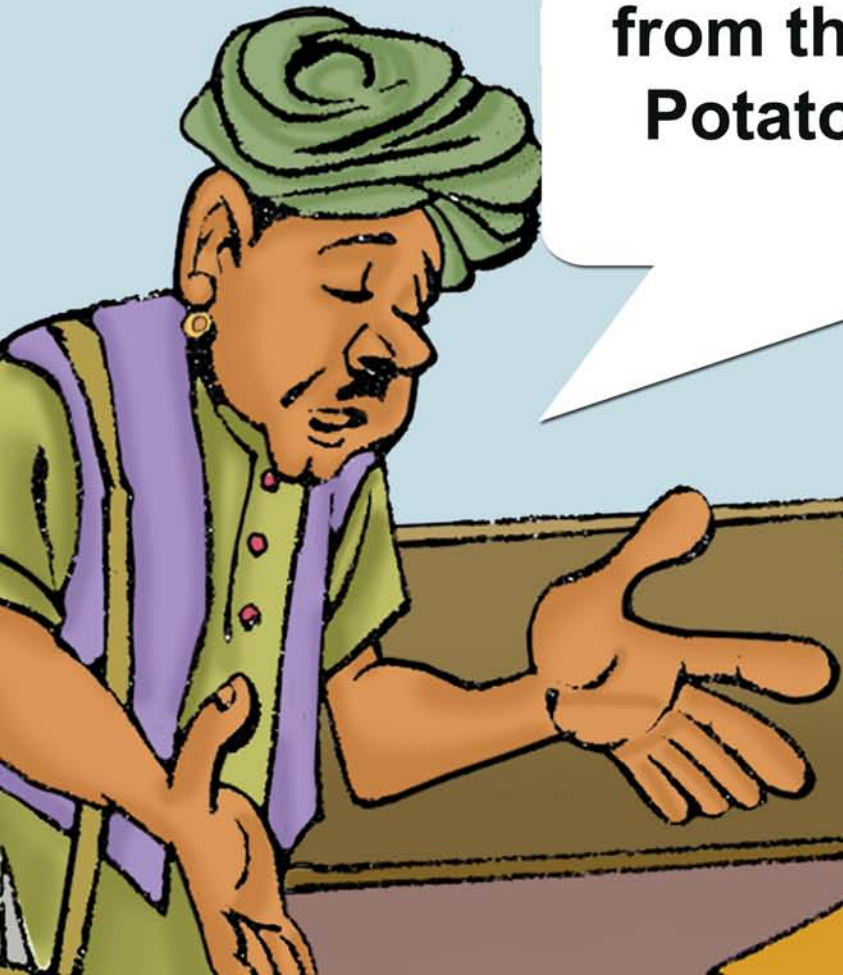
**Whatever you say,  
I should like to assert that  
potato is agitating and very  
dull, in spite of the fact that  
it is tasteful.**





**O! yes Lord, for sure.**

**It is a really agitating vegetable, very hot, excessively passionate, and very difficult to cool down. My Lord! We are being plague by a new wave of unknown diseases nowadays! These are all due to this round potato. All sorts o flatulence, cholera, diarrhea, diabetes, phthisis are resulting from this round potato do you know, My Lord? Potato is certainly the root cause of all these troubles.**






Well, what is  
your opinion about  
eggplant?







**O, Lord,  
let us first hear you,  
please, what is  
eggplant!**

**As far as  
I know, eggplant is  
a nice vegetable.**





**Yes Lord! Let us look at it: there is hardly another beautiful vegetable like it. What else is required when we get two pieces of fried eggplant? Then even butter is not comparable to it! When one has nothing else in the house, only one piece of eggplant could serve the purpose of maintaining prestige of householder you can roast it, fry it, cook it in a subji, and prepare chutney anyway you like that eggplant roves itself somewhat extraordinary among all vegetables. Still among all varieties of eggplants, take lapha eggplant excellent creation of the Supreme Godhead indeed!**





**Anyhow, there is no nutritious value in an eggplant.**

**O my lord of course! That's why it is called "be-gun", which means "no value at all." Simply like cow-dung, cow-dung! Even cow-dung some potential value, but begun, the eggplant is much more inferior to that. An eggplant gives more itching trouble in the mouth than any wild turnip or "kocu" root! Eggplant is the rot cause of so many troubles. Eggplant carries eternal bad luck. That's why it is often roasted before serving!**



**You're a very strange fellow!  
When I say 'Potato is good', you also repeat, 'Yes, potato is very good' and when I say 'It is bad', then you also start pleading that it is very very bad. When I said 'Eggplant is good", then your appreciation for eggplant knew no bounds. When I said 'Eggplant is bad', then you started deprecating it as if it should never be considered as a vegetable. Don't you possess an personal integrity?**







**O my lord!**

**Please have mercy, please forgive my offenses. But, to be truthful, I am not a servant of a potato, nor of an eggplant**

**I am simply your servant, My Lord! Whatever you may say, My Lord, I must say like wise. Potato will not provide me with a wage packet every month, and eggplant is not going to give me a job for my livelihood. I am your servant, so my lord's voice should be my voice.**



## ***Purport :***

**Some people always row with the wind for their own advantage, and express their concocted opinions only motivated by their own selfish desires for gaining reputation. Sometimes they pretend to be devotees of Lord Sri Caitanya, or patriots, social leaders, or simply unmindful lovers, or many other disguises. Basically they are impersonalists, or in other words, they do not believe in the eternal holy name, form, qualities, associates and pastimes of the Supreme Lord.**

**Any appreciation or eulogising of Lord Sri Caitanya expressed by such persons is simply their verbal expression, as they are anxious to pose themselves as “devotees” before the common people.**



**Many such persons eulogise Lord Sri Caitanyadeva with an ulterior motive of attracting some sort of honour and respect from a large community of Vaisnavas. But they are not at all interested in relishing the nectar of true instructions bestowed by Lord Sri Caitanyadeva who deprecated such renowned ideologies as Buddhism, Sankaracarya philosophy, and the doctrines of fruitive work, mundane knowledge and meditational yogic philosophy. Those motivated persons do not accept Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's advice to worship Lord Visnu only and to consider all other forms of demigods and goddesses as subordinate to Lord Visnu. Nor can they endorse wholeheartedly the devotional practices of religion, wealth, lust, and liberation.**



**In fact they are basically opportunists trying to gratify their senses.**

**These opportunists are of the opinion that “all doctrines are good”, but their real nature is exposed whenever it is clearly proved that the love for Lord Sri Krsna can never be equated with the non-devotional practices for gaining positions in the fields of religion, mundane wealth, material enjoyment, and liberation from the cycle of birth, death, old age and disease.**

**Any attempt in synthesizing all doctrines irrespective of their intrinsic merit is a hypocrisy. this was very boldly expressed by Lord Sri Caitanyadeva, with reference to His reflections on one of His own devotees, Sri Mukunda Datta Thakura, thus,**



*prabhu bale, o beta jakhan yetha jaye /  
sei moto katha kohi tathayi misaye //*

*vasistha padaye jave advaiter sange /  
bhakti-yoge nace gaye trna kori dante //*

*anya sampradaye giya yakhan sambhaye  
nahi mane bhakti, jathi maraye sadaye //*

*bhakti haite bada ache-ye iha vakhane /  
nirantar jathi more mare sei jane //*

**Lord Caitanya said : “Whenever that rascal (Mukunda) goes to the mayavadis, he becomes like them, talking according**



**to their theory. Whenever he studies the yogavasistha with Advaita Acarya, he dances in ecstasy holding straw in his teeth.**

**“And going to other sampradayas (mayavadis), when he speaks, not only does he neglect bhakti, he always attacks bhakti. One who says there is something better than bhakti, is beating Me.”** (*Caitanya Bhagavata M.10.188-191*)

**The person has made offences to devotional service and due to this he will never attain Krsna.**

**Most of the professional narrators of scriptural and mythological stories, speakers, writers, authors etc. Try to entertain common people through their deliberations and performances only to attract some sort of material gains and fortunes. In fact, their expositions of devotional scriptures, are not truly expressive of their real love and devotion for the Supreme Lord.**