

## Importance of Mother Cow

Hare Krishna dear devotees,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

As devotees of Krishna, we have a special interest in protecting cows because Krishna is a cowherd boy. It seems amazing. How could God be a cowherd boy? But sometimes truth is stranger than fiction... Krishna likes cows very much. Therefore, because Krishna is very friendly towards the cows, killing cows is more sinful than killing other animals.

In olden days, the food used to be cooked using the cow-dung cakes ; then later on wood was used as fuel, the gas came into existence few years back and lately we have the micro (My Crow) wave - an obvious indication of the advancement of Kali yuga.

The cow itself are scarce today; what to mention of cow-dung cakes. In Dec 2004, we were in India and we required cow-dung cakes for some ceremony. It cost us Rs 5,000 for a sack of the same!!! . It's not the money I am talking about but the cow-dung cakes which are in scarcity and that's why the cost is so high.

In his letter to Rupanuga, Dec 7 1975, HDG Srila Prabhupada writes:

***"In your country the dog is protected and the cow is killed. The dog is passing stool and urine in the street and the cow is all pure, stool, urine and milk but they are taken to the slaughter house and killed for food. What kind of civilization is this?"***

Few days back, a lady had come to my house and I offered her water to drink. At some point in our conversation when there came a discussion about cows, I said that cow has to be respected as good as our mother and she replied saying that some people drink the urine of cow as well but nobody will do the same with that of their mother. I thought that her argument is foolish enough not worthy of a reply and I ended the conversation by saying that we drink the milk of our mother but when she gets old we don't send her to some slaughter house whereas we drink the milk of cow and still in the end we kill her. She had no answer.

We have to remember that Krishna came as a cowherd boy and of all the animals, the cow is very dear to Him. All the animals are dear to the Lord but the cow has a special place. In the Vishnu Purana 1.19.65, its mentioned:

*namo brahmaṇya-devāya go-brāhmaṇa-hitāya ca  
jagad-dhitāya kṛṣṇāya govindāya namo namaḥ*

**I offer my respectful obeisances to the Supreme Absolute Truth, Krsna, who is the well-wisher of the cows and the brahmanas as well as the living entities in general. I offer my repeated obeisances to Govinda, who is the pleasure reservoir for all the senses.**

### **The Cow is our Mother:**

When our mother is no longer able to feed us in our infancy, it's the cows milk to our rescue. So, as per scriptures, cow is also our mother. We drink the milk but never think that how the milk is produced. Milk is produced from the blood of the cow, however she is happy to give her blood transformed in a peaceful, non-violent way in the form of milk.

We wish to maintain the cow only as long as they give milk. The moment she becomes old and invalid, and is of no use to us anymore, we send her to the slaughterhouse. How compassionate we are to this helpless creature ? There was

only one personality of Kali who was harming the cow 5000 years back, but now every nation has so many government authorised slaughterhouses where cows are killed in the most organised and sophisticated manner.

**Some Facts:**

1) It was found from research that to grow one pound of wheat requires only 60 pounds of water, whereas production of a pound of meat requires anywhere from 2,500 to 6,000 pounds of water!!!

2) In 1973, it was revealed that one large chicken slaughtering plant in America was found to be using 100 million gallons of water daily. The same volume would supply a city of 25,000 people!!!!!!

3) It is quite clear that a living cow yields society more food than a dead one - in the form of a continuing supply of milk, cheese, butter, yogurt and other high-protein foods.

Your humble servant,  
Nayana Priya devi dasi  
Abu Dhabi.

## Make Sure To Remember Krishna

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,  
Please accept my humble pranams. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

**Krishna Consciousness** - The first time, when I came across this word, I used to wonder why they used the word "*consciousness*". Over a period of time I started realizing that we perform some prayer or worship sometime during the day and then we completely forget the Lord for the rest of the day and we are completely absorbed in so many daily activities. Many times even while standing in front of Deity, mind keeps wavering and thoughts dwell upon the activities that are going to happen during the day. His Divine Grace has blessed us with this "Krishna Consciousness" movement in order to bring us back to our senses - and to make us conscious of our eternal position as servant of Supreme Lord.

The following is an extract of conversation between Srila Prabhupada and his disciples - as presented in Srila Prabhupada's Lilamrta- Volume - 5, Chapter 38

*Nanda-kumar: Srila Prabhupada would tell us to go bathe in the ocean. "Go to the beach," he would say. So one day I asked him, "Srila Prabhupada, whenever I go down to the beach, the sun is warm on my body, the water feels so good, the sand-it seems like such a comfortable material situation. How should I understand your reason for asking us to go to the beach? I know the spiritual master never gives the disciple anything that will cause him to become materially attached but always gives him whatever he needs to remember Krishna. But when I go to the beach, it seems I just enjoy my senses. How can I relate that to Krishna? How can I understand that this instruction is for my spiritual benefit?"*

*Prabhupada said, "The sun is there-Krishna is the light of the sun. The ocean is there-Krishna is the taste of water. You are surrounded by Krishna. How can you forget Krishna? He is all around you."*

*Pancajanya: I was a new devotee, and I asked Prabhupada, "What about swimming, Srila Prabhupada? Is that not maya?" Prabhupada said, "Lord Caitanya used to go swimming all the time. He used to play ball. So you can go and swim. Just make sure you remember Krishna."*

Lord Krishna has very explicitly told us in Bhagavad Gita 7.8 as below:

*raso 'ham apsu kaunteya prabhaasmi shashi-suryayoh*

**O son of Kunti, I am the taste of water, the light of the sun and the moon.**

The Supreme Lord is present everywhere. Just because we are not conscious we cannot deny His presence. So irrespective of time place and situation we are in, if we are always able to remember Krishna - then we are in right direction. It is not the activity that we do matters so much, rather it is the consciousness with which we do the activity that really matters!

Hare Krishna!  
Thank you very much.  
Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,  
Sudarshana devi dasi.

## Release from the Serpent of Material Nature

Dear Prabhujis and Matajis,

Hare Krishna! Please accept my humble pranams! All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev!

Maharaja Dhrtarastra, who was tightly bound in a network of material affinities, was firmly convinced by the forceful instructions of his brother Vidura and left home to set out on the path of liberation. Maharaja Yudhishtira was greatly distressed because of this. At that time, Narada muni, the powerful devotee of the Lord, arrived there and gave good counsel to relieve his distress. Since Yudhishtira was feeling anxious as to how his uncle and aunt will exist without Yudhishtira giving them protection, Srila Narada gave valuable instruction as below - Srimad Bhagavatam 1.13.46 says:

*kāla-karma-guṇādhīno deho 'yaṁ pāñca-bhautikaḥ  
katham anyāms tu gopāyet sarpa-grasto yathā param*

**This gross material body made of five elements is already under the control of eternal time(kaala), action(karma), and the modes of material nature(guna), How, then, can it, being already in the jaws of the serpent, protect others?**

We are all under the false illusion that we are the only protectors of our kith and kin. We try all out to counteract the onslaught of material nature, but ultimately we are defeated. Prahlada Maharaj explains that a child's protectors, his parents, cannot save the child from the onslaught of birth and death, nor can medicine and a physician save one from death, nor can a boat or a similar means of protection save a person drowning in the water, for everything is controlled by the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Even though we see this happening, again and again, we do not realize or we do not want to accept the fact (out of our foolish pride) that we can never be successful in conquering the miseries imposed by material nature or overcome her stringent laws. The above forceful instruction by Srila Narada muni forces opens our eyes to see things as they are. Thus it is very clear that a conditioned living being is under the full control of the following:

### 1. **Modes of material nature (Guna):**

There are three modes of material nature, namely goodness, passion, and ignorance. Due to the interactive conflict of the three modes, one wanders throughout the material nature creating one body after another. The word "Guna" also means rope and the conditioned soul is tightly tied by the ropes of illusion. Thus all the modes of material nature are binding and we are completely helpless being in the grip of these modes. How to come out of this grip, is explained by Lord Krishna in Srimad Bhagavad Gita 14.26, when He says:

*mām ca yo 'vyabhicāreṇa bhakti-yogena sevate  
sa guṇān samatīyaitān brahma-bhūyāya kalpate*

**One who engages in full devotional service, unflinching in all circumstances, at once transcends the modes of material nature and thus comes to the level of Brahman.**

Thus one who surrenders to Krishna at once surmounts the influence of the modes of material nature.

### 2. **Action (Karma):**

All activities are carried out from time immemorial according to the dictations of the three modes, and we are suffering or enjoying the fruits of our actions. Any work done in this material world for sense gratification is a cause of bondage.

How to get out of this bondage of karma? The Vedic injunction is that a person engaged in material activities, should

be given directions by which he can intelligently apply his activities to the service of the Lord to become free from material bondage (its quoted in BG 18.46 sva-karmaṇā tam abhyarcya siddhiṁ vindati mānavaḥ). In Sri Brahma samhita 5.54 it is said, "karmāṇi nirdahati kintu ca bhakti-bhājām"- For a person engaged in devotional service, all fruitive activities are burnt up to the roots.

### **3. Eternal time (Kaala):**

Above the modes of nature is the eternal time which changes the shape of everything in this material world. Everyone is crushed by the wheel of time. The serpent of eternal time, which is forceful in nature, endlessly chases everyone with imperceptible swiftness and ultimately swallows them. How to get out of the clutches of kāla? The answer is to take shelter of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. The assurance is given by the Lord in Bhagavad Gita 4.9 when He says, "tyaktvā dehaṁ punar janma naiti mām eti so 'rjuna"- For a person who fully surrenders to Lord Krishna, the present body is his last and after giving up this body, he does not accept a material body (dehaḥ pancha bhautikaḥ), but returns home back to Godhead to be with the Lord eternally, where there is no passing away of time (quoted in Sri Brahma samhita 5.56 'nimeṣārdhākhyo vā vrajati na hi yatrāpi samayaḥ").

A man bound by the hands and feet and who is in the jaws of the serpent cannot free himself. What to talk of helping or protecting others? A person who is unbound and not in the serpent's jaws can help him. As Srila Prabhupada asserts in his purport to Bhagavad Gita 7.14, - only Lord Krishna, or His bona fide representative the spiritual master, can release the conditioned soul. Without such superior help, one cannot be freed from the jaws of the serpent of material nature. Krishna, being the Lord of illusory energy, can order this cobra of material nature to release the conditioned soul from the shackles of kāla, karma and guna. He orders this release out of His causeless mercy on the surrendered soul and out of His paternal affection for the living entity, who is originally a beloved son of the Lord.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,  
Vaijayantimala devi dasi  
Abu Dhabi.

## The All Magnanimous Lord

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Srila Gurudev.

In the Bhagavad Gita, the Lord says that four kinds of pious persons renders devotional service unto Him and out of them the jnaani who has correct understanding of the Lord and worships the Lord in exclusive devotion is very dear to Him. Now after reading this we may think, "If only the jnaani is dear to the Lord, then what about the remaining three categories of devotees. Does not He like them?"

To clarify this doubt, the Lord immediately says, in Bhagavad Gita 7.18 says:

*udārāḥ sarva evaite jñānī tv ātmaiva me matam  
āsthitaḥ sa hi yuktātmā mām evānuttamām gatim*

**All these devotees are undoubtedly magnanimous souls, but he who is situated in knowledge of Me I consider to be just like My own self. Being engaged in My transcendental service, he is sure to attain Me, the highest and most perfect goal.**

The interesting thing to note here is that the first three classes of devotees are approaching the Lord asking for something. One person wants relief from distress, one wants wealth, one wants spiritual knowledge (and consequently freedom from material existence). The Lord calls all of them as "magnanimous souls"(udāra). In Srimad Bhagavatam also, the word, 'udrādhiḥ' is used in this connection. Actually in this world, when we approach somebody to ask for some wealth or help, we have to tell them, "Sir, you're very magnanimous. So please help me". In ancient times, poets use to praise the king as, "You're very magnanimous and broad-minded" and the king would reward them with wealth. When charity is given, the hand of the person receiving the wealth will be lower and the hand of the giver will be higher. There is no situation where the giver glorifies the receiver.

Here we're asking from the Lord and He is the giver. But still, he states that "You're magnanimous". He does not say that, "I'm magnanimous and I reward all of them". This shows the greatest quality of the Lord namely "vātsalya". Vātsalya means even if there is a seeming defect, it is taken as a good quality. Actually asking the Lord for material wealth and relief from distress is a defect in us. The Lord did not put us in samsāra (which is the cause of our distress) and He did not tell us to do bad karma (because of which we get less wealth and poor health). So He is not obliged to help us and accept our service when we pray to Him for material benefits.

However, the Lord never minds all these things. When He sees that we're approaching Him, He takes this attitude as our great qualification and calls us 'magnanimous". Just like a mother who forgets all the offenses of her offspring, the Lord ignores all our shortcomings and accepts our service. By serving the Lord with even material motives one gets purification because the very association of the Lord is purifying. If this is a result of worshipping the Lord with material motives, then one can think of the results the jnāni gets. The Lord states that the "jnāni is like My self and he attains Me who is the Supreme goal". The Lord gives Himself to such a devotee. So aptly Prahalad Maharaj says, "ko vai na seveta mukunda vikramam" (Who would not serve such a master as Mukunda?). Thus the conclusion of all the scriptures is that the Supreme Lord is the most merciful person who is worthy of all worship and service.

Your servant,

L.Harikumar

Chennai.

## Re: Make Sure to Remember Krishna

Hare Krishna Dear Devotees,

Please accept my humble obeisances ! All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev!

It was an excellent mail from H.G Sudarshana Devi Dasi - titled "Make Sure to Remember Krishna", wherein the importance of the consciousness with which we perform any activity was specified. I would like to add few words to it. In one of the Bhagavad Gita class that was held here, I gathered the following point as to what consciousness is. It is the energy of the soul that pervades the whole body. Till the time the soul is within the body, everything is perfect, the senses are alive, the hands are working and for that matter all the limbs of the body are doing their prescribed duties. But the moment the soul leaves the body, even though the limbs are present, they are of no use and that is because the energy that was linking all the limbs is absent there.

What is sub-conscious & Supreme Conscious?

We, (the living entities) are sub-conscious because I know only about my body whereas Krishna is Supreme conscious because he knows every BODY as He is situated within everybody. In Bhagavad Gita 13.3 Lord Krishna says,

*kṣetra-jñāṁ cāpi mām viddhi sarva-kṣetreṣu bhārata  
kṣetra-kṣetrajñayor jñānam yat taj jñānam mataṁ mama*

**O scion of Bharata, you should understand that I am also the knower in all bodies, and to understand this body and its knower is called knowledge. That is My opinion.**

In the introduction to "Bhagavad Gita As It Is" , His Divine Grace, Srila Prabhupada clearly explains that, '**The Lord is kṣetrajña, conscious, as is the living being, but the living being is conscious of his particular body, whereas the Lord is conscious of all bodies.**' So, we have to raise ourselves from the platform of sub-conscious to the level of the Supreme conscious. That's the reason why Prabhupada named the movement as Krishna Consciousness & not God Consciousness because He (Krishna) is the Supreme & has a Personal form.

How can one remain in Krishna Consciousness?

By doing divya karma (Transcendental Acts), the above can be achieved. Remembrance of other things except Krishna, entangles us into Kartavya Karma & Vikarma, for which we have to suffer the consequent reactions. Getting up early in the morning to perform the Arati, offering flowers, obeisances etc are all transcendental acts. Regular attendance of the Bhagavad Gita and Srimad Bhagavatam class is also one of the divya karma.

Our spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj so humbly requests all of us to remember Krishna in whatever we do. But for a dull-headed brain like mine, the concept is hard to digest. Before the start of any activity, for e.g, going out of the house to buy the grocery, taking a cab & other such activities, I pay obeisances to Lord Krishna but when the activity is over, my consciousness of Him is lost. Entering the flight, I remember Him but the moment I reach my destination, I don't remember to thank Him for the safe journey. Maharaj says that in the aeroplane, the 3 things - Water , Fuel and Electricity that are inimical to one another, are kept at their place by the inconceivable power and mercy of Krishna.

Be it a bullock cart or any other car(t) that we are travelling, chanting the Hare Krishna Maha mantra is a must . I hope some day, I can imbibe this in my mind.

My sincere prayer to Vaishnavas, Gurudev & Krishna that I may achieve the above.

Your humble servant,  
Nayana Priya devi dasi  
Abu Dhabi.



## Following Proper Guidance

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances! All Glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev!

Today I was reading a small book, "Light of the Bhagavata" written by His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupad. I have realized that how we are getting attracted to people because of a lack of proper guidance. We should strongly condemn and respectfully disagree if a person is not following regulative principles and making adjustments like a business.

"In Kali-yuga there is a dearth of proper guidance. One may take guidance in the evening from the stars and moon, but in the rainy season, the light of guidance comes from insignificant glowworms. The real light in life is Vedic knowledge. Bhagavad-Gita affirms that the purpose of the Veda is to know the all-powerful Personality of Godhead."

Lord Krishna, in Bhagavad Gita 15.15 says

*sarvasya cāham ḥrdi sanniviṣṭo  
mattaḥ smṛtir jñānam apohanam ca  
vedaś ca sarvair aham eva vedyo  
vedānta-kṛd veda-vid eva cāham*

**I am seated in everyone's heart, and from Me come remembrance, knowledge, and forgetfulness. By all the Vedas, I am to be known. Indeed, I am the compiler of Vedanta, and I am the knower of the Vedas.**

Kali Yuga - is supposed to be the worst time of all the yugas that had passed so far. But still, we are fortunate because due to Lord's mercy - both the compiler of Vedanta, Lord Sri Krishna - in the form of Bhagavad Gita and his pure devotee, Srila Bhakti Vedanta Swami Prabhupada are still present in the form of his imperishable writings. We can no more give a lame excuse that we don't know Sanskrit and hence we are not able to take advantage of the guidance provided in Bhagavad Gita, Bhagavatam and many other Vedic literatures. His Divine Grace has spent innumerable nights and spent every drop of his blood in translating the verses. With his guidance, it's our duty to spread the word of the Lord.

In one of his lectures on Isopanisad in Los Angeles on April 30, 1970, Srila Prabhupada said, "So you read every shloka, every mantra. Whenever you get time, you read the purport, you read the meaning. The whole philosophy is there. Now you are growing. There will be so many questions, so many philosophers. But our philosophy is so sound and solid, that we can meet any philosopher of the world, any philosopher. BUT YOU HAVE TO LEARN IT. The books are there, your intelligence is there, the guidance is there. Because you are preaching, sometimes we have to meet opposing elements. So if you cannot answer properly, that will be a disqualification. So every one of you should learn this philosophy. As soon as you are able to, I mean to say, guide yourself, or save yourself from the attack of the opposing element, then you'll know that you are making progress."

It is our duty to take shelter of the guidance provided by His Divine Grace and practice it in our day to day life.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Tusta Krishna das

Abu Dhabi.

## Success Formula

Dear Prabhujis and Matajis,

Hare Krishna! Please accept my humble pranams! All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev!

Nowadays everyone wants to be successful in everything. We have so many personality development courses, training people on key aspects to become successful in life. Right from a small child, to an old person, everyone dreams to become successful. Success is the key word in life. Srila Sukadev Goswami has said constant chanting the Holy Names of the Lord, as the key aspect for successful life. In Srimad Bhagavatam 2.1.11 Srila Sukadeva Goswami says to Maharaja Parikshit,

*etan nirvidyamānānām icchatām akuto-bhayam  
yoginām nṛpa nirṇītam harer nāmānukīrtanam*

**O King, constant chanting of the holy name of the Lord after the ways of the great authorities is the doubtless and fearless way of success for all, including those who are free from all material desires, those who are desirous of all material enjoyment, and also those who are self-satisfied by dint of transcendental knowledge.**

The points to be noted are as follows:

1. Constant chanting of the holy names of the Lord, following the ways of the great authorities is the doubtless and fearless way for success for all.
2. Includes those who are free from all material desires - self-realized souls
3. Those who are desirous of material enjoyment - illusory ways of life
4. Those who are self-satisfied by dint of transcendental knowledge - devotees of the Lord neither aspire to enjoy the material world nor desire to get out of it. They are after the satisfaction of Lord Sri Krishna. We are involved in so many activities in our day to day life, to satisfy our selves. But how can we satisfy Krishna ?

In Bhagavad Gita 9.27 Lord Krishna has given us the way,

*yat karoṣi yad aśnāsi yaj juhoṣi dadāsi yat  
yat tapasyasi kaunteya tat kuruṣva mad-arpaṇam*

**Whatever you do, whatever you eat, whatever you offer to give away, and whatever austerities you perform - do that, O son of Kunti as an offering to Me.**

In Krishna Consciousness, we should do everything for the pleasure of Krishna. Say if we are going out for shopping, and find:

ripe mangoes - if we think, How nice it would be if we could make mango-milkshake for Krishna

nice fabric - if we think, what new type of dress we could stitch for Krishna using this fabric

decorative items - if we think how can we use them in decorating Krishna's altar

or when we plan the menu for the day's meal - instead of thinking what food we would like to eat - if we could think what Krishna would like to eat today, in this manner if we could dovetail all the activities for Krishna's pleasure, then our lives will be successful.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Sindhu devi dasi

Abu Dhabi.

## Be Busy as a Bee

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

Laziness and Procrastination are two deadly enemies of our devotional life. We should never develop habit of abstaining or postponing our duties - be it prescribed duties or daily sadhana. An idle mind is devil's workshop. We should never remain idle. In Srimad Bhagavad Gita 3.4 Lord Krishna says,

*na karmaṇām anārambhān naiṣkarmyaṁ puruṣo 'śnute  
na ca sannyasanād eva siddhiṁ samadhigacchati*

**Not by merely abstaining from work can one achieve freedom from reaction, nor by renunciation alone can one attain perfection.**

Every creation of the Lord has a special quality - and when we notice the honey-bees , we can see how they busily collect the nectar from the flowers and accumulate them in the honey-comb. Similarly we should always, sincerely endeavor to get the nectar of Hari-Katha and fill our mind with the same. Even if we have completed all our prescribed duties and daily regular sadhana for the day, we should avoid spending idle time.

In his letter to Mukunda Prabhu on May 6 1968, Srila Prabhupada writes, "Every disciple should always remain busy in some work for Krishna. We shall not allow to remain vacant our mind, and if the mind is always filled up with Krishna Consciousness activities, there is no chance of Maya to sit on the mind and force us to act under her spell."

Whatever we give to Krishna, He returns it back multiple times. So if we spend our **time** in sincere devotional service, He blesses us with lot of time and so we would never have to say that we don't have time for anything. He arranges in such a way that we get sufficient amount of time for every activity.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Sudarshana devi dasi.

## Power of Material Attachment

Dear Vaishnavas,

Please accept my humble pranams. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 3.30.4, Lord Kapila, has nicely explained about the power of our bodily attachments:

*jantur vai bhava etasmin yām yām yonim anuvrajat  
tasyām tasyām sa labhate nirvṛtiṁ na virajyate*

**The living entity, in whatever species of life he appears, finds a particular type of satisfaction in that species, and he is never averse to being situated in such a condition.**

In his wonderful purport to the above verse Srila Prabhupada says: "*The satisfaction of the living entity in a particular type of body, even if it is most abominable, is called illusion. A man in a higher position may feel dissatisfaction with the standard of life of a lower-grade man, but the lower-grade man is satisfied in that position because of the spell of maya, the external energy. Maya has two phases of activities. One is called prakṣhepātmikā, (pulling down) and the other is called aavarānātmikā (covering). In any condition of life, the materialistic person or animal will be satisfied because his knowledge is covered by the influence of maya.*"

I shall narrate a nice story that I heard in connection to this in one of the lectures of H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj.

Once Narada Muni went to a brahmana's house. The brahmana welcomed him and inquired Narada Muni, the purpose of his visit. Narada Muni said, that he was coming from Vaikuntha and that Lord Krishna was pleased by the brahmana's service and would like to meet him. The brahmana was thrilled, but he told Narada Muni that he had the responsibility of bringing up his children who were very young and so requested Narada Muni to come after 20 years. 20 years later when Narada Muni went again, the brahmana told him that he had to get his children married and so extended the wait time by another 10 years. Then the brahmana had got grand-children and was not willing to leave their company. So after 10 years, when the brahmana heard that Narada Muni was approaching his house, he started running down the stairs, in an attempt to escape from Narada Muni's sight and accidentally slipped from the stairs and died.

Narada Muni went back to Vaikuntha and learned from the Lord that the brahmana had taken birth in the form of a dog and was living with the same family. Narada Muni returned back to brahmana's house and asked the dog whether he remembered him. The dog acknowledged him and told him that he was busy guarding the house as his children had gone out and would come with him once they are back. When the children returned, Narada Muni approached the dog again. To his surprise dog looked at him and said, "Narada why are you after me so much? Can't you see that I am so busy guarding my house? Can't you find some other living entity?". After saying this the dog left.

In the purport to verse 3.30.5, Srila Prabhupada writes a similar incident *wherein he mentions about how once Indra, the King of heaven, was cursed by his spiritual master, Brhaspati, on account of his misbehavior, and he became a hog on this planet. After many days, when Brahma wanted to recall him to his heavenly kingdom, Indra, in the form of a hog, forgot everything of his royal position in the heavenly kingdom, and he refused to go back. **This is the spell of maya. Even Indra forgets his heavenly standard of life and is satisfied with the standard of a hog's life.** Lord Kṛṣṇa is personally canvassing, "Give up everything in this material world. Come to Me, and I shall give you all protection," But we are not agreeable. We think, "We are quite all right. Why should we surrender unto Kṛṣṇa and go back to His kingdom?" This is called illusion, or maya. Everyone is satisfied with his standard of living, however abominable it may be.*

Maharaj said, "*Even in animal life, we are happy and we all look for some entertainment in life and comfort, even in temples we try to entertain our self and by doing so, we completely forget the real spiritual life which is full of austerities. How can we get out of this false attachment to our body? Is there any hope for living entities to get out from this big prison house - material world? **The only hope for the living entities in this material world is association of pure devotee like Srila Prabhupada and strongly catching hold of His Lotus feet- nāsty eva nāsty eva nāsty eva; there is no other way, no other way, no other way.***"

Thank you very much.

Your most fallen servant,

Murlidhara das

Yugoslavia.

## Controlling our Senses

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,  
Dandavat Pranams! All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev!

Few days ago, there was a class on Bhagavad Gita verse 2.67 and 2.68 in our Gokulnandan class. I would like to share whatever points I could gather from that class.

*indriyāṇām hi caratām yan mano 'nuvidhīyate  
tad asya harati prajñām vāyur nāvam ivāmbhasi*

**As a strong wind sweeps away a boat on the water, even one of the roaming senses on which the mind focuses can carry away a man's intelligence.**

*tasmād yasya mahā-bāho nigrhītāni sarvaśaḥ  
indriyāṇīndriyārthebhyas tasya prajñā pratiṣṭhitā*

**Therefore, O mighty-armed, one whose senses are restrained from their objects is certainly of steady intelligence.**

Krishna has blessed us with six senses:

Eyes to see

Nose to smell

Ears to hear

Tongue to taste

Skin to feel

Mind for thinking, feeling and willing.

Out of the above senses mind is very powerful. Mind is a nonstop factory. Mind can be the best friend and worst enemy. When we control it, it is our friend. if we let it free, it is our enemy. Using mind, we should understand what is yama (things which we should not do) and niyama (things to do).

If a person fixes his mind on Krishna, he will think to serve Krishna. So, when we see some flowers, we should think how to serve Krishna. In order to fix our mind on Krishna, we perform bhakti yoga. All other yogas are like small pond. ***Bhakti-yoga is like a sea. By doing bhakti-yoga, we can know about Krishna and He will catch our finger and guide us. When we get fresh ghee, then we don't buy oil, like that when we know Krishna, we should not go to someone else.*** We may go to watch movies, 6 or 10 times and from that we get material happiness but when we look at Krishna, we get Spiritual happiness.

Just by seeing bad things, we fall down from our good position. Just like how a floating boat is broken down when strong winds hits it. Earlier people do not even kill ants which come on the way. But nowadays, there are so many unclean asuras like butchers and meat-eaters. Seeing them is also not good. If you see unclean people, you should take bath to purify yourself. It's not possible to take bath in the road. So we must chant to keep our mind pure. If we have this habit, then we will be able to think of Krishna at time of our death.

Thank you very much.  
Your humble servant,  
Krishna Kinkar das  
Abu Dhabi.

**Moderator's note :** HG Krishna Kinkar das prabhu is very charming and intelligent kid (8 years old) living in Abu Dhabi. He has a wonderful devotee father HG Girivaradhari Prabhu and a loving devotee mother HG Abhira Kanya Mathaji who is bringing him up in a perfect Krishna conscious mood. Krishna Kinkara Prabhu has the amazing gift given by Krishna to play mrdanga wonderfully right from when he was two years old. He played mrdanga without anybody's guidance at that young age when he could barely extend his hands to the playing sides of the drum. He has a sharp intelligence and recites nice prayers from Bhagavatam/Bhagavad gita and also tells stories and pastimes of Krishna. Now at the age of eight, he has extended his musical skill to piano too.

## The All Attractive Lord

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my dandavat pranams. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

In Srimad Bhagavatam, verse 1.7.10, Suta Goswami explains to the sages at Naimisaranya, that the great sage Vyasadeva after compiling Srimad Bhagavatam taught it to Sukadeva Goswami who was already a liberated soul. On the request of the sage Saunaka, Suta Goswami described the reason why even liberated souls need to learn Srimad Bhagavatam in the following verse:

*sūta uvāca*  
*ātmārāmāś ca munayo nirgranthā apy urukrame*  
*kurvanty ahaitukīm bhaktim ittham-bhūta-guṇo hariḥ*

**All different varieties of atmaramas [those who take pleasure in atma, or spirit self], especially those established on the path of self-realization, though freed from all kinds of material bondage, desire to render unalloyed devotional service unto the Personality of Godhead. This means that the Lord possesses transcendental qualities and therefore can attract everyone, including liberated souls.**

In the purport Srila Prabhupada explains, that even liberated souls like the four kumaras, Narada Muni, Sukadeva Goswami are attracted by the transcendental pastimes of the Lord. Lord is all attractive and as His own way of attracting living entities towards Him. As soon as Sukdeva Goswami was born, he ran into the forest to do austerities and penance like Dyana yogis. But his father, Vyasadeva wanted him to take up bhakti yoga by learning Bhagavatam. So, he ran behind Sukadeva Goswami asking him to return back, but he couldn't succeed. Later on Sukadeva Goswami happened to hear verses from Srimad Bhagavatam describing the transcendental form and pastimes of Krishna. On verifying the author of these verses he found out that it is none other than Srila Vyasadeva, his father. Immediately he ran back to his father and surrendered unto his lotus feet and completely learnt Srimad Bhagavatam from him. He thus became a great exponent of bhakti yoga.

This clearly shows that the transcendental form and pastimes of Lord Krishna attracts even liberated souls as mentioned in this verse.

We, as conditioned souls, should especially take up the path of bhakti yoga by hearing and chanting the glories of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Krishna.

Your humble servant,  
Akhilesh  
Chennai.



## SIMPLE SAGES

Dear Prabhujis and Matajis,

Hare Krishna! Haribol! All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev! Please accept my humble obeisances.

The two sons of Kuvera, Nala-Kuvera and Manigriva, after being cursed by Narada Muni , were born as twin Yamala Arjuna trees in the garden of Sri Nanda Maharaja. There, they offered prayers to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Krsna, after He delivered them.

They offered the following prayer quoted in S.B. 10.10.30-31 to the Lord:

*tvam ekaḥ sarva-bhūtānām dehāsv-ātmendriyeśvaraḥ  
tvam eva kālo bhagavān viṣṇur avyaya īśvaraḥ*

*tvam mahān prakṛtiḥ sūkṣmā rajaḥ-sattva-tamomayī  
tvam eva puruṣo 'dhyakṣaḥ sarva-kṣetra-vikāra-vit*

**You are the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the controller of everything. The body, life, ego and senses of every living entity are your own self. You are the Supreme Person, Vishnu, the imperishable controller. You are the time factor, the immediate cause, and You are material nature, consisting of the three modes passion, goodness and ignorance. You are the original cause of this material manifestation. You are the Supersoul, and therefore You know everything within the core of the heart of every living entity.**

These qualities of Krishna can be remembered by a "simple" acronym:

1. S - **Supreme Personality of Godhead** (*bhagavān*): The word Bhagavan comes from two words: "Bhaga" meaning opulence and "van" meaning one who possesses. The Personality of Godhead, Krishna, possesses all the six opulences(in full): riches, strength, fame, beauty, knowledge, and renunciation.
2. I - **Imperishable Controller** (*avyaya īśvaraḥ*): We all think that we are the controllers of everything, but actually the Lord is the Supreme Controller of everything in this World. We may "possess" something temporarily, but then, after sometime we die. But, The Lord is imperishable, as He is the only one who exists after the final devastation of this material universe.
3. M - **Material Nature Consisting of the Three Modes** (*prakṛtiḥ sūkṣmā rajaḥ-sattva-tamomayī*): The Lord is the Material Nature, consisting of the Three Modes. In the Bhagavad Gita 7.12, Krishna says that three modes are manifested by His energy. But the Lord is never bound by the three modes of material nature. He is above them.
4. P - **Proprietor** (*adhyakṣaḥ*): The Lord is the Supreme Owner of everything. We do not own anything. The Lord has immense potencies. All emanations come from Him..
5. L - **Living Entities' body, life and soul** (*sarva-bhūtānām dehāsv-ātmendriyeśvaraḥ*) Being part and parcels of The Supreme Lord, our body, life and soul-everything belongs to the Supreme Lord.
6. E - **Eternal Time** (Kālah): Lord SriKrishna says in Bhagavad Gita "I am Eternal Time." In Brahma Samhita, Brahma says "*Yasyājñāyā bhramati sambhṛta-kāla-cakro*". "It is under the order of Govinda, that the sun performs the journey, mounting on the wheel of time."

7. S - **Supreme Person** (*puruṣaḥ*): This indicates that the Lord has a form, which is full of eternity, knowledge and bliss (Sat-cit-ananda vigraha). He is not impersonal, as concocted by the impersonalists and Mayavadis.
8. A - **All Pervading** (*viṣṇu*): Krishna, in the Bhagavad Gita 9.4 says, "*mayā tatam idaṁ sarvaṁ jagad avyakta-mūrtinā*" - "By Me, in My unmanifested form, this entire universe is pervaded". Just as the sunshine is spread all over the universe, the energy of the Lord is spread".
9. G - **Greatest** (*mahān*): Lord Krishna declares in Bhagavad Gita, that there is no truth superior to Him. He is one without a second. He is called "Vibhu".
10. E - **Everything's Controller** (*īśvaraḥ*): Everything animate, or inanimate, that is within the Universe is controlled and owned by the Lord. He is ultimately the owner of everything that exists.
11. S - **Supersoul** (*sarva-kṣetra-vikāra-vit*): The Lord is situated in everyone's heart as the Paramātmā (Supersoul) and He witnesses all our activities.

The acronym is "**SIMPLE SAGES**", remembering which, we can remember all the eleven wonderful qualities of the Lord, listed above. In order to understand the Supreme Lord, we must approach "simple sages", because they have simply surrendered to the Lord, the result of which is that they know all about the qualities of the Supreme Lord.

Your humble servant,  
Karthik.S  
Abu Dhabi.

## Cleverness in Krishna's Service

Dear Devotees,

Hare Krishna. Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

Two years back, during the Dwarka temple opening ceremony on Dec 6th, 2003, we had the good fortune of hearing a beautiful pastime of Srila Prabhupada through HG Ambarish Prabhu (Alfred Ford). I came across the same incident while reading Srila Prabhupada Lilamrita recently which I would like to share here with you.

The incident is about how Srila Prabhupada cleverly acquired a costly mansion in Detroit for a cheap deal by his sharp intelligence.

When the devotees were looking for a suitable place in the town for a temple, one of the devotees was showing the photos of a huge mansion of the late auto industry millionaire Lawrence Fisher. Srila Prabhupada was interested to buy it and hence they went with the real estate agent to see the building. Prabhupada liked the mansion very much and confided with his disciples that each room is worth the entire price.

After the tour, they all sat down to fix the final price.

"So, we are beggars," he began. He was serious, and yet he spoke with an air of humour. Ambarisha and Upendra hid their faces in embarrassment. "We have no money," Prabhupada continued boldly. "Therefore, we are asking you, please give us this building."

The owner glanced incredulously at his real estate agent and then laughed nervously. "It's out of the question," he said. "I can't do that."

The agent was also taken aback and upset. "He can't do that," she whispered.

"I can't give it to you," explained the owner, "because I have taken a loss in maintaining this property. So I have to make my money back. This property represents a major part of my income."

"Then," said Prabhupada, "how much do you want?"

"Well," the man replied, "I have to get at least \$350,000."

None of the devotees dared say anything. Prabhupada thought for a moment and then said, "We will give you \$300,000 cash."

"I'll have to think about it," the man replied. The real estate agent got to her feet, saying that a transaction like this is usually not done straight to the owner. But Prabhupada ignored her and spoke with the owner about how lovely the mansion was. Then the owner came the next day to Srila Prabhupada and said that he accepted the offer.

Afterward, Srila Prabhupada openly showed his blissfulness about the purchase. ***"Just see,"*** he said, ***"I didn't have one penny, and yet I offered him \$300,000 cash. And now Krsna has provided the money."***

As Prabhupada had told the estate owner, "I am a sannyasi. I have no money." And after collecting \$300,000 from his disciples, he still had no money. Within a few days he left for Toronto, taking nothing for himself. Everything was Krishna's, to be used in Krishna's service.

The startling fact in the above incident is that Srila Prabhupada was seeing Krishna in everything and used everything

in His service. And for that he dare to take any risk. Ultimately even after doing so much he was completely detached from everything! That is still more astonishing! Practically the whole of his lifetime he revealed to us these symptoms of pure bhakti again and again. If not for the appearance of such Mahatmas like him, bhakti would have remained a superficial concept instead of being a practical way of life.

*Dhyāyan stuvamś tasya yaśas tri-sandhyam vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam* - Let us remember and sing the praises of such a glorious spiritual master and offer our humble obeisances three times a day at his lotus feet!

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,  
Kalacakra Krsna das.

## A Learned Man

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

Last time when our spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj visited Abu Dhabi, he made everybody memorize the following verse just before his departure and asked me to post it to Granthraj. This verse has been spoken by Chanakya Pandit and quoted by Srila Prabhupada in his several lectures.

*mātrvat para-dāreṣu para-dravyeṣu loṣṭravat  
ātmavat sarva-bhūteṣu yaḥ paśyati sa paṇḍitaḥ*

**One who sees otherso wives as his mother, who sees all otherso possessions as insignificant as a lump of clay, and sees all living beings as himself - such a person is considered a learned man.**

### **mātrvat para-dāreṣu:**

This means one should see all ladies except his wife as his mother and treat and respect them like his mother.

For example, once Lord Rama and Laxmana were searching for mother Sita. They met Sugriva, who showed them the ornaments of some lady who was being forcefully carried away by a rakshasa. When Lord Rama showed these ornaments to Laxmana, he recognized only the anklets (leg bells) of mother Sita because he had never seen mother Sita except Her lotus feet. This shows that we should respect all women, just as Laxmana respected mother Sita.

### **para-dravyeṣu loṣṭravat:**

It means one should consider other's property as an insignificant lump of clay.

For example, Lord Rama conquered the golden Lanka, but He considered it very insignificant because it was someone else's property and gave it to Vibheeshan. Similarly, Krishna conquered Mathura but He did not rule over it, rather He gave it to the King Ugrasena.

### **ātmavat sarva-bhūteṣu:**

It means we should treat all living entities like we treat ourselves.

For example, when Draupadi saw Ashwatthama bound with ropes, she being a devoted lady could not tolerate this. Even though the murderer of her sons was right before her eyes, still she requested Arjuna to release Ashwatthama. Why? Srila Prabhupada explains in a lecture on SB 1.7.47, "*Draupadi is studying the position of Ashwatthama's mother from her position. Draupadi thought I am so aggrieved on account of my sons being killed. So she is thinking if Ashwatthama is killed, his mother would have to be under the distress of her son being killed like me.*"

Thank you very much.

Your servant,

Mukunda

Abu Dhabi.

**Moderator's Note:** HG Mukunda prabhu is the eldest son of HG Svayam Sphuraty Krishna Prabhu and H G Radhacaran Mataji, the pioneers of Hare Krishna gathering in Abu Dhabi. He is about 10 years old and is going to school. He is a very intelligent boy, knows lot of slokas by heart, and reads Srila Prabhupada's books with interest. His parents are bringing him up in a Krishna Conscious environment right from his young age and hence he has a bright future both materially and spiritually.

## The Behaviour of a Devotee

Dear Devotees,

Hare Krishna. Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

Today as I was browsing through one of the diaries of my spiritual master, I found the following verse noted by Maharaj in one of the pages. Interestingly he has titled it, "**How a devotee should behave**". This verse is from SB 3.29.18 where Lord Kapila delineates the science of devotional service to His mother Devahuti.

*ādhyātmikānuśravaṇān nāma-saṅkīrtanāc ca me  
ārjavenārya-saṅgena nirahaṅkriyayā tathā*

**A devotee should always try to hear about spiritual matters (*ādhyātmikānuśravaṇān*) and should always utilize his time in chanting the holy name of the Lord (*nāma-saṅkīrtanāc*). His behavior should always be straightforward (*ārjavena*) and simple (*nirahaṅkriyayā*), and although he is not envious but friendly to everyone, he should avoid the company of persons who are not spiritually advanced.**

Srila Prabhupada, in his purport, expands on some of the important words in the above verse as follows:

***nāma-saṅkīrtanāt***: It is especially mentioned here, *nāma-saṅkīrtanāc ca*: one should chant the holy names of the Lord "Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare/ Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare" either individually or with others. Lord Caitanya has given special stress to chanting of these holy names of the Lord as the basic principle of spiritual advancement.

***ārjavena***: Another word used here is *ārjavena*, meaning "*without diplomacy*." A devotee should not make plans out of self-interest. Of course, preachers sometimes have to make some plan to execute the mission of the Lord under proper guidance, but regarding personal self-interest, a devotee should always be without diplomacy.

***ārya-saṅga***: Association with persons who are not spiritually advanced is forbidden. Lord Caitanya advised, *asat-saṅga-tyaaga*: one should avoid persons who are attached to the temporary. *Asat* is one who is too materially attached, who is not a devotee of the Lord and who is too attached to women or enjoyable material things. Such a person, according to Vaishnava philosophy, is a *persona non grata*.

***nirahaṅkriyayā***: A devotee should not be proud of his acquisitions. The symptoms of a devotee are meekness and humility. Although spiritually very advanced, he will always remain meek and humble.

We are undoubtedly the most fortunate souls to be under the guidance of great saintly personalities like Srila Prabhupada. He is patiently waiting for us to turn our face towards the shastras and the moment we do so, he is right there, guiding us with boundless care and love. If we could realize this in this lifetime, that will be our greatest fortune.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,  
Kalacakra Krsna das.

## Serve the Servants

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my dandavat pranams. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev!

Below is the verse from Mukunda Mala stotra Text -25

*maj-janmanaḥ phalam idaṁ madhu-kaiṭabhāre  
mat-prārthanīya-mad-anugraha eṣa eva  
tvad-bhṛtya-bhṛtya-paricāraka-bhṛtya-bhṛtya-  
bhṛtyasya bhṛtya iti mām smara loka-nātha*

**O enemy of Madhu and Kaitabha! O Lord of the universe, the perfection of my life and the most cherished mercy You could show me, would be, for You to consider me the servant of the servant of the servant of the servant of the servant of the servant of Your servant.**

In this material world, everyone is jockeying for the position of being the boss or the master. In spiritual life it is just the opposite. In spiritual life, Sri Krishna's followers try to become the servant of the servant of the Lord's servant. The more we become the servant of the servant of the servant, as many times removed as possible, the more we become advanced in our spiritual progress. We are such fallen souls that we cannot directly approach Lord Krishna. Just like we cannot directly approach the GM or VP of our firm we are working for. For that we first take permission from our immediate boss and need to go through the proper channels. Similarly to approach Lord, we need to take the permission and guidance from our spiritual master, our bonafide guru, who comes originally from the Vaisnava Sampradhaya (parampara).

In Adi Purana, Krishna says to Arjuna,

*ye me bhakta-janāḥ pārtha na me bhaktās ca te janāḥ  
mad-bhaktānām ca ye bhaktās te me bhakta-tamā matāḥ*

**My dear Partha, those who say they are My devotees are not My devotees, but those who claim to be devotees of My devotees are actually My devotees.**

His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada by his sweet mercy and poignant instructions, had made us realise how fool we are. In this material world which is so called "dukhālayam", we run behind the unrestricted sense enjoyment, for a body, that is destined to do nothing more than to get birth, to get old, get sick and then die (janma, mṛtyu, jarā, vyādhi). In this world, everyone is suffering because they have lost their original connection with Sri Krishna, the Supreme Godhead, our Supreme Father.

When we get disconnected while talking with someone on the phone, it is a very disturbing break in our conversation. Immediately we want to reconnect with them, so we can pick up where we left off in our conversation. Originally we all had our own unique individual personal loving relationships with Sri Krishna in His kingdom. Somehow or other, that connection was broken because of our foolish desire to try to enjoy independently of the Lord. The spiritual master (the Servant of Lord Krishna) is that person who reconnects us, with that original ecstatic relationship, which we have unfortunately forgotten.

The spiritual master is the dear most servant of Lord Krsna (the representative) who has been sent for saving us from all the miseries, suffering conditions in this material existence. The bonafide spiritual master is like a rain cloud who mercifully extinguishes the blazing fire of material existence. We should inquire submissively and render all our

services unto him. Fortunately, by Krishna's mercy we have come in contact with wonderful spiritual masters. Why shouldn't we take the full advantage of their association and engage ourselves in becoming the servant of the servant of the servant of Lord Sri Krishna?

Hare Krishna! Hari Bol!  
Thank you very much.

Yours humble servant,  
Sarva Mangala devi dasi  
Abu Dhabi.



## Humility

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

Srimad Bhagavatam 1.19.11 explains about the humbleness of King Parikshit,

*anye ca devarṣi-brahmarṣi-varyā  
rājarṣi-varyā aruṇādayaś ca  
nānārṣeya-pravarān sametān  
abhyarcya rājā śirasā vavande*

**There were also many other saintly demigods, kings and special royal orders called arunaadays [a special rank of raajarshis] from different dynasties of sages. When they all assembled together to meet the Emperor [Parikshit], he received them properly and bowed his head to the ground.**

King Parikshit received all the saints, saintly demigods, kings and rajarshis respectfully and he bowed down his head to the ground showing his submissiveness. In Caitanya Caritamṛta, Madhya Lila 13.60 states:

*rājāra tuccha sevā dekhi' prabhura tuṣṭa mana  
sei ta' prasāde pāila 'rahasya-darśana'*

**Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu had been very satisfied to see the King accept the menial task of sweeping the street, and for this humility the King received the mercy of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. He could therefore observe the mystery of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's activities.**

Lord Jagannatha was astonished to see the transcendental dancing and chanting of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, and He stopped His car just to see the dancing. The seer and the dancer were one and the same Supreme Person, but the Lord, being one and many at the same time, was exhibiting the variegatedness of His pastimes. By the mercy of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, the King could understand how the two of Them were enjoying each other's activities.

The word humility signifies lowliness or submissiveness and it is derived from the Latin humilitas or from humus, i.e. the earth which is beneath us. Personal humility carries the notion of lowering or abasing oneself in such a manner as to attain a place of lowliness. Perhaps the best way to understand humility is attempting to see ourselves through Lord's eyes rather than our own. **"Humility is not denying the power or gifting you have, but admitting that the gifting is from Lord and the power comes through Him and not from you."**

The false ego existing in a person takes him away from humbleness. In the Fourth Canto of Srimad-Bhagavatam, Twenty-second Chapter, verse 39, wherein Sanat-kumara says, *"My dear King, the false ego of a human being is so strong that it keeps him in material existence as if tied up by a strong rope. Only the devotees can cut off the knot of this strong rope very easily, by engaging themselves in Krishna consciousness. Others, who are not in Krishna consciousness but are trying to become great mystics or great ritual performers, cannot advance like the devotees. Therefore, it is the duty of everyone to engage himself in the activities of Krishna consciousness in order to be freed from the tight knot of false ego and engagement in material activities."*

"There was a great devotee of Lord Caitanya known as Kholaveca Sridhara, who was a very poor man. He was doing a small business selling cups made from the leaves of plantain trees, and his income was almost nothing. Still, he was spending fifty percent of his small income on the worship of the Ganges, and with the other fifty percent he was somehow living. Lord Caitanya once revealed Himself to this confidential devotee, Kholaveca Sridhara, and offered him

any opulence he liked. But Sridhara informed the Lord that he did not want any material opulence. He was quite happy in his present position and wanted only to gain unflinching faith and devotion unto the lotus feet of Lord Caitanya. That is the position of pure devotees. If they can be engaged twenty-four hours each day in devotional service they do not want anything else, not even the happiness of liberation or of becoming one with the Supreme. (ref: Nectar of Devotion).

Hari Bol !

Srila Prabhupada ki Jai! Srila Gurudev ki Jai!

Your humble servant,  
Prabhupadananda das  
Abu Dhabi.

## Being Thankful

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,  
Please accept my humble pranams. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 1.14.9, King Yudhistira says:

*yasmān naḥ sampado rājyaṁ dārāḥ prāṇāḥ kulaṁ prajāḥ  
āsan sapatna-vijayo lokāś ca yad-anugrahāt*

**From Him only, all our kingly opulence, good wives, lives, progeny, control over our subjects, victory over our enemies, and future accommodations in higher planets have become possible. All this is due to His causeless mercy upon us.**

In his purport to the above verse Srila Prabhupada has mentioned,

*"Material prosperity consists of a good wife, good home, sufficient land, good children, aristocratic family relations, victory over competitors and, by pious work, attainment of accommodations in the higher celestial planets for better facilities of material amenities. These facilities are earned not only by one's hard manual labor or by unfair means, but by the mercy of the Supreme Lord. Prosperity earned by one's personal endeavor also depends on the mercy of the Lord. Personal labor must be there in addition to the Lord's benediction, **but without the Lord's benediction no one is successful simply by personal labor.**"*

Everything we enjoy in this material world is due to the Lord's mercy. But we forget this and when faced with some difficulty we start imagining that we are the sole sufferers in the entire universe. Today, I came across a physically challenged person at work. Seeing her struggle to climb the stairs - I was able realise how much ungrateful I am. Even with gift of two legs in good condition, I grumble when things go astray and forget to thank Krishna for the wonderful things He has blessed.

In the end of the purport Srila Prabhupada has said , "**Any successful man should feel grateful to the Lord for all he has achieved.**"

Counting the blessings each day will help us to remember how Krishna has been kind to us and will remind us about our constitutional position as servant of the Supreme Lord. We should not only be thankful to Supreme Lord, but also to all the living entities, for they are all part and parcel of Supreme. One of the qualities which I admire in His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada is his thankful nature. Whether he is addressing a lecture or writing a letter, be it whatever type of communication he was having with people, he thanked them sincerely and we can see how much Krishna was pleased by this humble and simple nature of Prabhupada that He showered His blessings to fulfill the mission of his spiritual master and spread Krishna Consciousness all over the world.

I pray at the lotus feet of His Divine Grace, so that we always remain thankful to Krishna and engage ourselves in His service to the fullest extent.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,  
Sudarshana devi dasi.

## Blasphemy of a Vaishnava

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

In each and every living entity, Krishna is residing as the paramatma. But practically speaking, we never really try to see His presence near us and hence we tend to do Vaishnava apradha - which includes actions of body, mind, words and heart.

As per the Skanda Purana, Vaishnava apradha includes the following :

- Killing a devotee,
- Blasphemy of a devotee,
- Enviousness towards devotees,
- Failing to offer obeisances to Vaishnavas upon seeing them,
- Becoming angry with a Vaishnava and lastly but not the least
- Not becoming joyful upon seeing a Vaishnava.

It also stresses on the fact that one who blaspheme Vaishnavas goes to the worst kind of hell along with generations of their ancestors. In short, Vaishnava apradha means to blaspheme, find fault, criticize or speak ill of devotees.

In Srimad Bhagavatam 10.74.40, it is beautifully said:

*nindām bhagavataḥ śṛṇvaṁs tat-parasya janasya vā  
tato nāpaiti yaḥ so 'pi yāty adhaḥ sukṛtāc cyutaḥ*

**Anyone who fails to immediately leave the place where he hears criticism of the Supreme Lord or His faithful devotee will certainly fall down, bereft of his pious credit.**

Further in the purport to SB 5.10.25, Srila Prabhupada quotes from Caitanya-Bhagavata madhya 22 as follows:

*vaiṣṇavera nindā karibeka yāra gaṇa  
tāra rakṣā sāmāthyā nāhika kona jana  
śūlapāṇi-sama yadī vaiṣṇavere ninde  
tathāpiha nāśa yāya — kahe śāstra-vṛnde  
ihā nā māniyā ye sujana nindā kare  
janme janme se pāpīṣṭha daiva-doṣe mare*

**One who blasphemes a Vaishnava cannot be protected by anyone. Even if a person is as strong as Lord Shiva, if he blasphemes a Vaisnava, he is sure to be destroyed. This is the verdict of all shastras. If one does not care for the verdict of the shastras and dares blaspheme a Vaisnava, he suffers life after life because of this.**

From Brahmaji down to the grass, every living being is Krishna's energy. Therefore, all shastras declare, "**Lord Krishna becomes very angry with anyone who blasphemes another living entity**". **The sin of blasphemy robs all intelligence and fills the heart with suffering . It is clear that Lord Caitanya delivers everyone except sinners who blasphemes Vaishnavas.**

During Mangala Arti, how many times have we recited the ten offences against the holy name, but we still don't stop

criticizing others. Why should a person be anxious to pry into other defects, when he does not see to scrutinize his own conduct? Before pinpointing anyone, we should ask ourselves, "**Are we perfect ?**". If we have defects in ourselves then why do we find fault in others?

As our dearest spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj always says, "**We spend our 75% of vital energy in criticizing others.**" He always emphasizes on putting ourselves in other's shoes, but fallen souls like us, are not able to really follow his words. It is said in the shastras that the spiritual master is responsible for the deliverance of his disciples, but this responsibility is not one way. It is the responsibility of the disciple too, that no offence is made to any living entity.

So, we pray to Krishna and Gurudev, that we don't involve ourselves in all these fallen deeds.

Thank you very much.

Your servants,

Sriniketan das & Nayana Priya devi dasi

Abu Dhabi.

## How to Perform Blissful Devotional Service?

Dear Prabhujis and Matajis,

Hare Krishna! Please accept my humble pranams! All Glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

The main objective of devotional service is to attain Krishna Prema which is on the topmost ladder of the devotional service. In order to attain we have to go through the various process of devotional service. Krishna says in Bhagavad Gita 9.2, "su-sukham kartum" - devotional service is joyfully performed. However, as we perform our devotional service with various anarthas, it is not so blissful.

One of the main anarthas is the subtle desire for name and fame. Every human being has this tendency and that is the reason people are performing extraordinary feats for obtaining name and fame. We tend to do our devotional service also with a motive so that we can obtain name and fame. This is called sa kāma bhakti. We should endeavor to improve ourselves to the platform of uttama bhakti, which is defined by Rupa Goswami as follows.

*anyābhilāṣitā-śūnyam jñāna-karmādy-anāvṛtam  
ānukūlyena kṛṣṇānu-śīlanam bhaktir uttamā*

**One should render transcendental loving service to the Supreme Lord Krishna favorably and without desire for material profit or gain through fruitive activities or philosophical speculation. That is called pure devotional service.**

In his Manah Siksha, verse 7, Srila Raghunath Das Goswami says that " The despicable desire for material honor and distinction is compared to a shameless and low born prostitute who eats dog meat - yet she is flagrantly dancing in my heart. How then can the pristine love of pure devotion to Sri Krishna ever find a place in my heart? "

Srila Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Thakura, to teach us, criticizes his own mind and asks, "Why are you after fame? Don't you know it is as worthless as the dung of a boar?" So how to overcome this desire for fame? The acharyas are very merciful in giving us the solution, for removing such subtle desires.

In Manah Sisksha, Srila Raghunath Das Goswami gives a clear way to get out of this pratistā āshā. We have to serve the unalloyed devotees of the Lord, who are his intimate associates and stalwart supporters. They alone can drive out this prostitute and enthrone the pure love of Godhead within our hearts. By offering prayers at the lotus feet of our beloved spiritual master, Srila Prabhupada, and Lord Shri Krishna and by our sincere endeavors, it is possible to curb this subtle desire.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Sajjana Priya Krishna das

Abu Dhabi.

## Hold on to Srila Prabhupada's Lotus Feet!

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

I am writing a few points which our dear spiritual master, HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj, told us during his last visit to Avataridesh. Maharaj expressed his sincere feeling for Srila Prabhupada and the Vedic literatures. He also emphasized on following Srila Prabhupada and to be careful with those not completely following the regulative principles. We address Srila Prabhupada as founder acharya of ISKCON. An acharya is one who teaches by his own example. Maharaj, beautifully explained this in a precise manner, through verse 6.9.22 in Srimad Bhagavatam:

*avimitam tam paripūrṇa-kāmaṁ  
svenaiva lābhena samaṁ praśāntam  
vinopasarpaty aparaṁ hi bālīśaḥ  
śva-lāṅgulenātītīrti sindhum*

**Free from all material conceptions of existence and never wonder-struck by anything, the Lord is always jubilant and fully satisfied by His own spiritual perfection. He has no material designations, and therefore He is steady and unattached. That Supreme Personality of Godhead is the only shelter of everyone. Anyone desiring to be protected by others is certainly a great fool who desires to cross the sea by holding the tail of a dog.**

Srila Prabhupada so very nicely quoted in the purport the verse 10.14.58 from Srimad Bhagavatam,

*samāśritā ye pada-pallava-plavaṁ  
mahat-padaṁ puṇya-yaśo murāreḥ  
bhavāmbudhir vatsa-padaṁ paraṁ padaṁ  
padaṁ padaṁ yad vipadāṁ na teṣāṁ*

**The Lord's lotus feet are an indestructible boat, and if one takes shelter of that boat he can easily cross the ocean of nescience. Consequently, there are no dangers for a devotee although he lives within this material world, which is full of dangers at every step. One should seek the shelter of the all-powerful instead of trying to be protected by one's own concocted ideas.**

Even after knowing that there is danger at every step in this material world, if we still hanker for directions from someone else other than Srila Prabhupada, then we should be considered as fools. After going through so many verses from Srimad Bhagavatam with wonderful purports from Srila Prabhupada, we are still running here and there. Srila Prabhupada sacrificed his life so that fallen souls like us will be benefited.

Just have trust in Srila Prabhupada and follow him. We have a proven result in front of us. There is theory and there is fact. We have a theory - Darwin's theory which talks about the evolution of man coming from apes, homosapiens, etc.. but this theory is not yet proved.

Gurudev said, "**What Srila Prabhupada has given to the universe is in front of all of us. His writing is uncomparable, unbelievable. One verse & one purport fixes us . And how many purports His Divine Grace has written???? So, how much fixed he should be to write these wonderful purports which are his personal ecstasies. We don't think about his mood, we only think about ourselves**".

We have got diamond in our hand but we are running after the stone. It's not a criticism but sheer ignorance. It takes

Lord Brahma to create this universe but it takes His Divine Grace A.C.Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupad, to deliver this universe. I am not exaggerating His Divine Grace but as mentioned earlier, the facts are in front of us. Running after somebody apart from the Supreme Personality of Godhead is like ***śvalāṅgulenātītarti sindhum***. When we have to cross the ocean, we see the dog is also there trying to swim through the ocean. The dog will go a little distance in the water & come out again. If we try to hold the dog's tail thinking that we will cross the ocean with the dog, we will drown ourselves along with the dog. Following somebody not in the line of the disciplic succession is like holding the tail of the dog. We have to be very careful and as Gurudev always says, "***Don't leave the dhoti of Srila Prabhupad***". Else we are verily condemned (jugupsitam).

Srila Prabhupada ki Jai!  
Thank you very much.

Your Servant,  
Sriniketan das  
Abu Dhabi.



## Jivan Mukta

Dear Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

Generally, the liberation takes place after a soul gives up this material body. However, there are a few souls who are liberated even in this lifetime, without giving up this material body. These souls are called jivan muktas.

Srila Rupa Goswami defines a jīvan-mukta in Bhakti-rasamṛta-sindhu:

*īhā yasya harer dāsyē karmaṇā manasā girā  
nikhilāsv apy avasthāsu jīvan-muktaḥ sa ucyate*

**A person acting in Kṛṣṇa consciousness with his body, mind, intelligence and words is a liberated person (jīvan-muktaḥ) even within this material world, although he may be engaged in many so-called material activities.**

Now, the question is - what are the symptoms of a jīvan-mukta? As there are symptoms of a rich man, mad man, diseased man, learned man, etc., there must be some symptoms of a jīvan-mukta so that other living entities do not commit mistake in identifying and recognizing such souls. Srila Prabhupada explains very nicely in his purport to Srimad Bhagavatam 5.4.5 - the symptoms of a jīvan-mukta, which are given in Chandogya Upanishad. These symptoms are as follows:

- 1) **Apahata pāpa:** The first symptom of a jīvan-mukta is apahata-pāpa which means that he is free from all sinful activities. One who is liberated in this life does not commit any sinful activities.
- 2) **Vijara:** Another symptom of a liberated person is vijara, which indicates that he is not subjected to the miseries of old age. (In reality, this does not refer to the body but to the heart. His heart is innocent as a child and as enthusiastic as a bubbling youth who has unlimited dreams and ambitions, except that they are all directed towards pleasing Kṛṣṇa. Even though the difficulties of old age affect him, he overcomes them by intense determination to serve the Lord).
- 3) **Vimṛtyu:** Another symptom is vimṛtyu. A liberated person prepares himself in such a way that he does not take on any more material bodies which are destined to die. (In other words, he does not leave this world like an ordinary materialist.)
- 4) **Visoka:** Another symptom is visoka, which indicates that he is callous to material distress and happiness.
- 5) **Vijighatsa:** Another is vijighatsa, which indicates that he no longer desires material enjoyment.
- 6) **Apipātā:** Another symptom is apipātā, which means that he has no desire other than to engage in the devotional service of Kṛṣṇa.
- 7) **Satya-kāma:** A further symptom is satya-kaama, which indicates that all his desires are directed to the Supreme Truth, Kṛṣṇa. He does not want anything else.
- 8) **Satya-sankalpa:** Finally, a jivan mukta is satya-sankalpa. Whatever he desires is fulfilled by the grace of Kṛṣṇa. First of all, he does not desire anything for his material benefit, and secondly if he desires anything at all, he simply desires to serve the Supreme Lord. That desire is fulfilled by the Lord's grace. That is called satya-sankalpa.

One may find above symptoms of a jivan mukta only in very rare souls. We can find such symptoms especially in His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada and all the acharyas in the line of Vaishnava sampradaya who are undoubtedly very rare in this condemned age of Kali-yuga.

Lord Nrsimhadev is called *vigna vināshaka* - One who destroys all the hurdles on the path of our bhakti. On this auspicious day of the appearance of Sri Lord Nrsimhadeva (and the day our spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj took sannyas), let us pray that He continues to protect us in any and every condition.

Thank you very much.

Your servants,

Svayam Sphuraty Krishna das & Radha Charan devi dasi

Abu Dhabi.

## Purpose of the Lord's Appearance

Hare Krishna Dear Devotees,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

Today being the all auspicious day of Lord Nrsimhadeva, I would like to share some points on the appearance of Lord Nrsimha. Srila Sridhara Swami, one of the great commentators on Srimad Bhagavatam explained that all the activities of the Lord in this particular incarnation are to support the statements of His devotees. In the Shrimad Bhagavatam verse 7.8.17 this point is explained:

*satyaṁ vidhātum nija-bhṛtya-bhāṣitaṁ  
vyāptiṁ ca bhūteṣv akhileṣu cātmanaḥ  
adṛśyatātyadbhuta-rūpam udvahan  
stambhe sabhāyāṁ na mṛgaṁ na mānuṣam*

**To prove that the statement of His servant Prahlada Maharaja was substantial in other words, to prove that the Supreme Lord is present everywhere, even within the pillar of an assembly hall the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Hari, exhibited a wonderful form never before seen. The form was neither that of a man nor that of a lion. Thus the Lord appeared in His wonderful form in the assembly hall.**

The following explanations are offered by Srila Sridhar Swami in explaining the first line of this verse.

1. The Lord appeared from the pillar to prove the words of His true devotee Prahlada and the statements of the Vedas which are faithful servants of the Lord. The Lord appeared in the form of a man-lion combination to prove that the statements of His devotee Lord Brahma are true.
2. The Lord killed Hiranyakasipu as he tried to harm Prahlad maharaj personally and by killing him the Lord proved the words of Narada Muni who said "No one can harm this boy as he is protected by the Supreme Lord".
3. The Lord killed Hiranyakasipu to fulfill the benediction He offered to Jaya and Vijaya, who has come as Hiranyaksha and Hiranyakasipu that the Lord should kill them in three life times and take them back to Vaikuntha.
4. The Lord also proved the words of the Sanat kumara sages that the two doorkeepers would be killed by Him and return to Him in three lifes.
5. The Lord, by killing Hiranyakasipu proved another assurance of Lord Brahma given to the demigods that, "The Supreme Lord will protect us from Hiranyakasipu".

Thus the whole purpose of the Lord's incarnation is to please His devotees and make their statements true. And above all, the Lord appears by His own sweet will to benefit all the living entities. This is confirmed by Prahlad maharaj, "Kshemāya bhutaya utātma sukhāyachāsyā".

Let me pray to Lord Nrsimhadev for His blessings and pray at the lotus feet of HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on this auspicious day of his accepting sannyasa to guide us on the way back to the Lotus feet of Lord Nrsimha.

Your humble servant,

L.Harikumar

Chennai.

**Moderator's Note:** I wish to quote Sriman Harikumar Prabhu's end note here - "Dear prabhu, Forgive me for the

mistakes in the mail as it is difficult to type with this German keyboard."

I was really taken aback by his enthusiasm to write a mail inspite of having a German Keyboard to work with. Our sincere thanks to him for his inspiration on this most auspicious day.

## Krishna - The Supreme Power House

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

After the end of the Mahabharata war, the Pandavs heard the sound of laughter. When they went near the source of sound, they could see Barbarik's head. Barbarik was none other than the grandson of Bhima and Hidimba. When he was a child he was taught by his grandmother Hidimba that one would be liberated even if he is killed by Krishna. This lesson was engraved in his mind deeply and to fulfill this mission he performed austerities for many years and obtained powerful weapons from various demi-gods.

When the Mahabharat war was about to begin Barbarik decided to take the side of Kauravas. When Krishna did not approve of this, he told Krishna that he would kill the Pandavas at once and was about to shoot a weapon at them. Immediately he was beheaded by Lord's Sudarshan chakra and his wish of being killed by Krishna was fulfilled by the Lord. Then Perbarik offered prayers to the Lord and requested Krishna to allow him to watch the pastimes of the Lord in Mahabharat war. The Lord granted him a spiritual vision. After watching all the pastimes of the Lord, Barbarik was laughing in ecstasy recollecting the same.

When the Pandavas heard this from Barbarik, they were eager to know who fought more bravely in the war. Barbarik replied - "In reality, NO ONE FOUGHT. Everywhere it was only Sudarshan chakra which was moving around actively causing Bhismadev, Dronacaraya, Karna, Jayadrath and all the warriors to fall down."

In Srimad Bhagavatam 1.15.21 its mentioned:

*tad vai dhanus ta iṣavaḥ sa ratho hayās te  
so 'haṁ rathī nṛpatayo yata ānamanti  
sarvaṁ kṣaṇena tad abhūd asad īśa-riktaṁ  
bhasman hutam kuhaka-rāddham ivoptam uṣyām*

**I have the very same Gandiva bow, the same arrows, the same chariot drawn by the same horses, and I use them as the same Arjuna to whom all the kings offered their due respect. But in the absence of Lord Krsna, all of them, at a moment's notice, have become null and void. It is exactly like offering clarified butter on ashes, accumulating money with a magic wand or sowing seeds on barren land.**

Srila Prabhupada explained nicely in his purport, "All energies and powers are derived from the supreme source, Lord Krsna, and they act as long as He desires and cease to function as soon as He withdraws. This is like a electrical energies are received from the powerhouse, and as soon as the powerhouse stops supplying energy the bulbs are of no use."

Many times in life when we are busily involved in work, or when we become experts in certain kind of work, there is a danger that we start believing that we are the doers. We forget the fact that we are totally powerless, insignificant creatures and that whatever talent or expertise appears to be in us is due to the grace of the Supreme Lord. Even a blade of grass cannot be moved without the Lord's will.

As Prahalad Maharaj very nicely explains to his father Hiranyakashipu in verse Sb7.8.7, "My dear King, the source of my strength, of which you are asking, is also the source of yours. Indeed, the original source of all kinds of strength is one. He is not only your strength or mine, but the only strength for everyone. Without Him, no one can get any strength. Whether moving or not moving, superior or inferior, everyone, including Lord Brahma, is controlled by the strength of the Supreme Personality of Godhead."

May we always remember the words of Lord's dearest devotee and serve the Lord sincerely.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Suniti devi dasi

Abu Dhabi.

## Be Content with What you Have!

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances! All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev!

Here's a story. Once upon a time there lived a king in Benaras with 3 sons named Dhanaraj, Balaraj and Ananda. Suddenly one day the king left his body and the kingdom was seized by the minister. The minister took charge of the kingdom and cheated the 3 prince by giving them a small house to live in a village which was located outside the kingdom. Now these three began to contemplate on the situation. The eldest one asked, "What is the finest thing in the world?" the youngest one said, "I don't know?" The middle one Balaraj said, "Power is the finest thing, the minister would not have snatched our kingdom without power". The elder prince disagreed saying, "The finest thing in the world is money. With money we can have power also. I will go to China and return with lots of money". Prince Balaraj said, "I will go to Turkey and raise a big army".

The brothers decided to meet at the same place after 10 yrs. Years passed by and one fine day a huge army came from one side and a huge caravan full of gold and jewels came from the other. They were led by Dhanaraj and Balaraj, both the brothers embraced each other. Dhanaraj told Balaraj, "I am the richest man in the world. I can bribe your soldier". Balaraj proudly said "My soldiers can loot your money." They looked out for their younger brother Ananda. He came out from the small house with a young woman and 2 children. Dhanaraj and Balaraj asked "Did you find the finest thing in the world?" Ananda said, "Yes. I have found that **contentment is the finest thing in the world, without it power and wealth are all useless**". The brothers suddenly realized that it's true, still they wanted to fight the Minister. Ananda laughed and told that the Minister died years ago and people wanted to make him the king. But he was too contented to leave. So, all their efforts had been in vain.

Here we see that the youngest prince Ananda was happy with whatever he had and thus was living peacefully. If you are happy with whatever you have, i.e. you are content with what you have there is no regrets. Then there is no desire and if there is no desire, you will be peaceful. Here is the verse from the shastras which says:

*santoṣa triṣu kartavyaḥ sva-dhāre bhojane dhane  
santoṣa triṣu na kartavyaḥ svādhyāya japa dānayoḥ*

**One should be always satisfied with these three things - their spouse, the food, and the amount of wealth they obtained. One should never be satisfied with these three things - the amount of scriptural study, the amount of chanting and the amount of charity they perform.**

We always want to accumulate wealth for future, want to build a house, take up life insurance policies and what not. Every one tries to possess more and more. How much ever we endeavor we shall get only that which is in our prārabdha. The Lord is taking care of our needs right from the time we are in our mother's womb. As soon as the child comes out, the mother's body is filled with milk. Still, we try to make all arrangements. This is because we don't have faith in Him. This is a disqualification for spiritual advancement. The 10th offense in chanting says, "*To not have complete faith in the chanting the holy name and to maintain some material attachments even after understanding so many instructions on this matter.*"

Therefore in order to advance spiritually, we should never be satisfied with our scriptural studies, chanting and charity. Let us engage ourselves in Krishna's service greedily and be content with our material possessions.

Your humble servant,  
Abhira Kanya devi dasi  
Abu Dhabi.

## Krishna Consciousness is Compulsory

Dear Prabhujis and Matajis,

Hare Krishna! Please accept my humble pranams! All Glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev!

In the material world everyone without exception, wants happiness and nobody wants any distress. All the endeavors are directed to this end. But unfortunately we find that in spite of all these endeavors, nobody is happy. This being the case, we have the forceful instruction from the youngest Mahajana Sri Prahlada Maharaj that, **it is not that in spite of our endeavors for happiness we are unhappy. Rather it is because of these endeavors that we are distressed.** This seems quite amazing for us. In Srimad Bhagavatam 7.7.42, Sri Prahlada says:

*sukhāya duḥkha-mokṣāya saṅkalpa iha karmināḥ  
sadāpnotīhayā duḥkham anīhāyāḥ sukhāvṛtaḥ*

**In this material world, every materialist desires to achieve happiness and diminish his distress, and therefore he acts accordingly. Actually, however, one is happy as long as one does not endeavor for happiness; as soon as one begins his activities for happiness, his conditions of distress begin.**

The question arises then, as to how to get happiness and get rid of distress? Srila Prabhupada answers that without endeavor, one can get the amount of happiness and distress for which he is destined, and one cannot change this.

Then, **what are we supposed to do?** The Vedas enjoin that one should work for self-realization and not for increasing happiness or decreasing distress for the sake of the perishable body.

**What is the consequence if we do not lead a life of tapasya (austerity) but waste our time in futile activities?** Then we must certainly be embodied in a body like those of cats, dogs, and hogs. Therefore, this life of lusty desires and sense gratification is extremely risky.

Srila Prabhupada in his purport to Isopanishad Mantra 3, warns us, **"If we do not care for self realization, the laws of nature force us to work very hard, even though we may not want to do so."** If we are not able to digest this powerful statement, then we should understand the following statement coming from the core of the heart of Srila Prabhupada whose compassion and concern flows in each and every word, just like a father instructing his beloved son (who is treading a dangerous path), with the intention of properly guiding the son, for his ultimate benefit.

In the Purport to SB 10.8.49 its mentioned *"Foolish persons do not know how risky life is here if one does not follow the instructions of Krishna. The Krishna consciousness movement, therefore, has been started so that by practising Krishna consciousness one can avoid the risky life of this material existence. There is no question of accepting or not accepting Krishna consciousness. It is not optional; it is compulsory. If we do not take to Krishna consciousness, our life is very risky."*

So the best thing for us is to indelibly impress upon our minds the Prabhupada punch in Isopanishad mantra 2 that, *"Factually, no one has to do anything more than render devotional service to the Lord."* The Lord again and again assures that there is no loss in this path. Another Prabhupada punch, which assures this, in Purport to Nectar of Instruction Text 3 is **"Devotional service is so pure and perfect that once having begun, ONE IS FORCIBLY DRAGGED TO ULTIMATE SUCCESS."**



Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Vaijayantimala devi dasi

Abu Dhabi.

## Be in Krishna Consciousness

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

These are the few points which I could grasp in one of the Bhagavad Gita class held at Abhudhabi.

In Bhagavad Gita 18.22, Lord Krishna says:

*yat tu kṛtsna-vad ekasmin kārye saktam ahaitukam  
atattvārtha-vad alpaṁ ca tat tāmasam udāhṛtam*

**And that knowledge by which one is attached to one kind of work as the all in all, without knowledge of the truth, and which is very meager, is said to be in the mode of darkness.**

When we learn something, we think it is knowledge but that is material knowledge. Real knowledge is what we get when we learn Bhagavad Gita. Our senses cannot give us spiritual knowledge. The books written by humans are not perfect as everybody makes mistakes. But Krishna does not make any mistakes. People think that wealth is the power of life. But Krishna is powerful than wealth. We can be cheated, but Krishna cannot be cheated. Due to all these wonderful qualities, the knowledge coming from Krishna through Bhagavad Gita is perfect. Simply hearing the verses is not enough. We should know the meaning.

Avidya - is material knowledge

Vidya - is spiritual knowledge

We are conditioned souls. The world is a zoo and we are the animals. In a way, animals are better than human beings. When they eat flesh of other animals they don't get the sin. But if human beings take it they are affected. When Prabhupada went to America and saw people killing animals for flesh he told "These people are in Maya". When we are a human being, we get the chance to be Krishna conscious. Instead of being conscious of our body, we should be conscious of our soul. We should learn things and share them with others.

Three modes of nature are:

\* Mode of goodness

\* Mode of passion

\* Mode of ignorance

Morning is mode of goodness. Afternoon is mode of passion. Night is mode of ignorance. So in the morning we are like a lamb. At school we behave like lion and fight with our friends. We should try to be in mode of goodness. We should see Krishna in everybody. A devotee needs knowledge and detachment. When we are in trouble, we should just chant. If we chant with feelings, Krishna will come to us and we will be peaceful. If we forget Krishna, Maya will come to us. We don't need to call Maya. Maya will come immediately, the moment we forget Krishna.

Your humble servant,

Krishna Kinkar das (8 years old)

Abu Dhabi.

## Devotional Service - Keep it Simple

Dear Devotees,

Hare Krishna. Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

HG Radha Madanmohan Prabhu's point about achieving material and spiritual opulence is very sublime. There are so many ways to cheat and achieve success in material life but there is only one way to achieve success in spiritual life - that is by doing simple devotional service following the orders of our spiritual master. In reality devotional service is naturally simple. Only when we complicate it, it becomes very difficult.

One of the most common examples is the devotees relationship with their parents after coming to Krishna consciousness. Generally when neophyte devotees start practicing Krishna consciousness they enter into what is called 'pure devotee syndrome'. They start thinking that their parents or anyone else who is not chanting is in maya and disrespect them. They think that by associating with them they will also lose their taste for Krishna consciousness and start avoiding them or treat them with disdain. As a result the relationship get strained and the whole situation becomes unnecessarily complicated. Our spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj very strongly advises against this behaviour. He always insists that one should give all respects to one's mother and father even though they may not be able to take up to Krishna consciousness. He says, *"If not for your father and mother, how would you have become Krishna conscious? They had so much tolerance and patience in taking care of you right from when you were in the womb. They are walking bhagavatas. Without their blessings we cannot proceed an inch in Krishna consciousness. We should always give full respect to all the elders no matter what they are."* A few years back when I was with Maharaj in Juhu for a pandal program, one teenage girl came to him and complained that she was not able to attend programs because her parents are not allowing her. Maharaj immediately said that if her parents does not allow her, she should obey them and stay back home. First comes respect of elders and then comes everything else. He ended with an astounding punch, ***"In this whole world, there are only two living entities who have genuine love for you - one is your father and the other is your mother."***

Interestingly I found a similar conversation in Srila Prabhupada Lilamrita where the devotees converse about the dealings with one's parents. Srila Prabhupada's golden words are worth imprinting in our hearts permanently for our lifetime

**Rameshvara:** "One of the commandments is that one shall honor thy father and mother.

Prabhupada replied that a devotee loves his mother and father by teaching them Krsna consciousness

**Hari-shauri:** "My mother testified to that. When I was at home she said I was impossible to live with. When she saw me afterwards, I was very nice.

**Prabhupada:** "Many. Hayagriva's father and mother also.

**Rameshvara:** "My parents think like that too. I could have no relationship with them before, but now that I am a devotee, I actually want to help them."

**Prabhupada:** "There are so many fathers and mothers who appreciate. None of our disciples are disrespectful to mother and father. Why? I never said you become disrespectful to your father and mother. ***At Brahmananda's initiation, his mother was standing there and I instructed Brahmananda, "Take the dust of your mother's feet first, then you offer me obeisances." So first of all he offered his obeisances to his mother. I told him, "You have got good mother. Otherwise, how she has got a son like you?" I always say like that.***" (end).

The above conversation only emphasises the undeniable fact that devotional service is simple for the simple and complex for the complex.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,  
Kalacakra Krsna das.

## Attaining Spiritual Opulence Versus Material Opulence!

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my dandavat pranams. All glories to Srila Praphupada and Srila Gurudev.

While studying 7th Canto I found a beautiful verse (verse 12) from chapter 3. The verse is as follows,

*iti śuśrūma nirbandham tapaḥ paramam āsthitaḥ  
vidhatsvānantaram yuktam svayam tri-bhuvaneśvara*

**O Lord, we have heard from reliable sources that in order to obtain your post, Hiranyakasipu is now engaged in severe austerity. You are the master of three worlds. Please, without delay, take whatever steps you deem appropriate.** (SB 7.3.12)

Above verse is spoken by demigods to Lord Brahma. Since Lord Brahma is authority in charge for this material world, demigods whenever they are in danger they use to approach Brahma for help. In his wonderful purport to the above verse, Srila Prabhupadawrites, "*In the material world, a servant is provided for by the master but is always planning how to capture the master's post. There have been many instances of this in history.*" Srila Prabhupada further quotes an instance, how a mohammedan boy, who was a servant of a big zamindar, (Subudhi rai) became Nawab Hussain shah (ruler of Bengal) through crooked means.

The thing is, in this material world people want more and more things ( money, power, name, fame etc.) with the shortest possible way. If it is not achieved through legal means (like through hard labour, intelligence etc.) then illegal means are employed to achieve it. And of course sometimes people get these so called opulences through illegal means, like Kamsa kidnapped his own father and became King, General Zia killed Bhutto and became ruler of Pakistan and so on.

BUT, there is not a single instance in the history where a living entity achieved spiritual opulence (Lord Krsna's favour) through illegal means. ***There is only one way to get Krsna's favour i.e, by genuinely serving Krsna's devotees (Bhagvatas) with sincerity and humility and by obeying their instructions cent percent.***

So from the core of my heart I have to throw out the idea of lording over material possessions and simply surrender to spiritual master whole heartedly. May be by his mercy, some day or other Lord Krsna will definitely favour us.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Radha Madanmohan das

Abu Dhabi.

## Process of Surrender to Krishna

Dear Prabhujis and Matajis,

Hare Krishna. Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

In the purport to the verse 18.66 in Bhagavad Gita Srila Prabhupada, has referred to the process of surrender to Krishna described in the Hari-bhakti vilāsa 11.676 as:

*ānukūlyasya saṅkalpaḥ prātikūlyasya varjanam  
rakṣiṣyatīti viśvāso goptṛtve varaṇam tathā  
ātma-nikṣepa-kārpaṇye ṣaḍ-vidhā śaraṇāgatih*

- 1) According to the devotional process, one should simply accept such religious principles that will lead ultimately to the devotional service to the Lord.
- 2) One may perform a particular occupational duty according to his position in the social order, but if by executing his duty one does not come to the point of Krishna consciousness, all his activities are in vain.
- 3) Anything that does not lead to the perfectional stage of Krishna consciousness should be avoided.
- 4) One should be confident that in all circumstances Krishna will protect him from all difficulties.
- 5) There is no need of thinking how one should keep the body and soul together. Krishna will see to that.
- 6) One should always think himself helpless and should consider Krishna the only basis for his progress in life.

As soon as one seriously engages himself in devotional service to the Lord in full Krishna consciousness, at once he becomes freed from all contamination of material nature.

Srila Prabhupada, in the purport of BG 18.66 says :

The particular words used here, "mā suchaḥ", "Don't fear, don't hesitate, don't worry," are very significant. One may be perplexed as to how one can give up all kinds of religious forms and simply surrender unto Krishna, but such worry is useless.

Be dependent only on Krishna and not on anyone else in this material world. You can never satisfy anyone in this material world. But once you satisfy Krishna, everyone is satisfied.

To reiterate once again - "One should always think himself helpless and should consider Krishna the only basis for his progress in life." In this miserable world, we always FEAR, HESITATE AND WORRY and Krishna reassures "DON'T FEAR, DON'T HESITATE, DON'T WORRY." JUST SURRENDER UNTO HIM AND HE WILL TAKE CARE.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,  
Sri Ramchandra das  
Abu Dhabi.

## Lava Matra Sadhu Sanga

Dear Prabhujis and Matajis,

Hare Krishna! Haribol! All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev. Please accept my humble obeisances.

In the Sri Caitanya Caritamrta Madhya 22.54, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu says to Sanatana Goswami:

*'sādhu-saṅga', 'sādhu-saṅga' — sarva-śāstre kaya  
lava-mātra sādhu-saṅge sarva-siddhi haya*

**The verdict of all revealed scriptures is that by even a moment's association with a pure devotee, one can attain all success.**

Once, in the Kingdom of Vanga, there lived a pious king named Virata. He had a brother who was always engaging in sinful acts. Virata was concerned about his brother and was always looking for ways to correct him. Once, Narada Muni visited King Virata. Virata welcomed Narada Muni and later requested Narada Muni to reform his brother. When Narada Muni went into the palace of the king's brother, he saw the brother engaged in sinful activities like wine and gambling. Narada Muni tried to advise him, but he paid no attention and continued to drink and told Narada Muni to join him.

Narada Muni went back to the king and told that his brother was not ready to receive knowledge. Virata requested Narada Muni to try again and so in his final attempt, Narada Muni went to the brother's palace and shouted, "If you ever get into trouble, ask one question, 'What is the result of a moment's association with a pure devotee?' " Then, Narada Muni left.

After some time, the brother died and he was taken to Yamaloka. Yama Raja asked him if he had any last desire. He thought for some time and then he told Yama Raja that he wanted an answer to a question and he asked the question which Narada Muni had told him to ask. Yamaraj was quite astonished by this question and since he didn't know the answer, he took the brother to Lord Siva. Lord Siva, as well as Lord Brahma could not give an answer immediately. So, they all went to Lord Visnu to get an answer. Lord Visnu smiled and he told Brahma, Siva and Yamaraj to go back to their duties. Yamaraj wanted to take the brother back to Yamaloka. But Lord Visnu smiled and said that the king's brother was going to stay in Vaikunta and that was the answer to the question asked by him. In this story, we see the result of associating with a pure devotee, even for a moment.

Association with the Sadhus is an essential requirement for progress in spiritual life. One cannot compare the association of devotees to anything material. It is considered the highest goal in life. In Srimad Bhagavatam, verse 4.24.57 Lord Siva told the Pracetas,

*kṣaṇārdhenāpi tulaye na svargaṁ nāpunar-bhavam  
bhagavat-saṅgi-saṅgasya martyānām kim utāśiṣaḥ*

**If one by chance associates with a devotee, even for a fraction of a moment, he no longer is subject to attraction by the results of karma or jnana. What interest then can he have in the benedictions of the demigods, who are subject to the laws of birth and death?**

In the purport to the above verse Srila Prabhupada says, "***Bhakti-yoga is sufficient to give the bhakta all happiness. As stated in Srimad Bhagavatam 1.2.6: yayātmā suprasīdati One can be fully satisfied simply by devotional service, and that is the result of association with a devotee. Without being blessed by a pure devotee, no one can be fully satisfied, nor can anyone understand the transcendental position of the Supreme Personality of Godhead.***"

May we remember the words of His Divine Grace and eagerly and attentively relish the association of sadhus both in the form of Bhakta-Bhagavatas as well as through Grantha-Bhagavata.

Thank you very much.

Your humble servant,

Karthik.S

Abu Dhabi.



## Qualifications of a Civilized Person

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,  
Please accept my humble pranams. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

We see that whenever any sacrifice is going on, the first mantra will begin with '**Om tat sat**' because the objective of the sacrifice is Krishna. As in Bhagavad Gita, 17.26-27 Krishna says:

*sad-bhāve sādhu-bhāve ca sad ity etat prayujyate  
praśaste karmaṇi tathā sac-chabdaḥ pārtha yujyate*

*yajñe tapasi dāne ca sthitiḥ sad iti cocyate  
karma caiva tad-arthīyaṁ sad ity evābhidhīyate*

**The Absolute Truth is the objective of devotional sacrifice, and it is indicated by the word 'sat'. The performer of such sacrifice is also called 'sat', as are all works of sacrifice, penance and charity, which, true to the absolute nature, are performed to please the Supreme Person, O son of Prtha.**

Krishna is the objective of devotional service and anything not related to Krishna has got no value. The word, "praśaste karmaṇi" (prescribed duties) is very important in the verse. This word indicates that there are many activities prescribed in the Vedas, which are purificatory processes. So, first we need to be civilized in our activities in order to purify ourselves. There are therefore ten qualifications to become a civilized person and can be remembered by a simple acronym SAFE PILLS.

S - to be Simple

A - not to become Angry

F - to Forgive

E - to Equally distribute wealth

P - to be Pure in mind and hygienic in body

I - not to be Inimical towards anyone

L - not to Lie

L - to beget children only by ones Legitimate wife

S - to Support-servants and subordinates

It is surely difficult to put into practice these rules and regulations. They may taste like poison. The pills given by the doctor initially taste poisonous. But we take these pills for our own good and the disease we are suffering from is then eradicated. Let's take for example, one of the rules - that is not to get angry. I am sure that we all get angry, if not I surely get angry. As soon as we get angry the Durvasa inside us is invoked. But by taking the pills, which are safe i.e., thinking of Krishna and no one else in such situations, (not by counting 1-10) we can overcome anger.

When one is scrutinizingly following these rules he is successful and will be able to taste the real nectar and be happy. Krishna says to Arjuna in Bhagavad Gita 18.37 as:

*yat tad agre viṣam iva pariṇāme 'mṛtopamam  
tat sukhaṁ sātṭvikam proktam ātma-buddhi-prasāda-jam*

**That which in the beginning may be just like poison but at the end is just like nectar and which awakens one to self-realization is said to be happiness in the mode of goodness.**

We always want to be civilized and want to live in a civilized society. The solution is here - SAFE PILLS

Your humble servant,  
Prashanth Sriram  
Abu Dhabi.