

Glorify the All-Glorious - Part 4

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

We are continuing with the transcription of the beautiful lecture that HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj gave in Boston, Australia on 23rd May 1997. In the previous offerings we saw:

1. Glorify the all-glorious to become glorious.
2. Without Krishna we are living dead.
3. Krishna is not the object of mind and intelligence.
4. Be touched by Krishna and become enlivened.
5. Sleeping tongue will wake up by tasting Krishna.
6. With Krishna everything becomes lively.

So far Maharaj explained the meaning of the prayer by Dhruva Maharaj (SB 4.9.6), wherein he prays to the Lord to enter into his sleeping tongue and enliven it. Let us continue further.

7. Life without Krishna is ghost's life: This should be our prayer always, "*Please we are forgetting You. But You have to enter into our existence so that we can become lively.*" And we are very Vedic in our families and we always know that unless we chant the Lord's names, or unless we discuss about Him, it is very difficult to become lively. We are dead. So thats in our families, we always tell - "*Please talk about Krishna. If we talk about anything else other than Krishna, then we are living dead.*" There is no value for the existence at all. The living entities who have definitely followed this in their life, have become completely glorious. And thats why the gopis are singing in 31st chapter of 10th Canto. Each Gopi sings one verse and I have translated the verse in Hindi also. Gopika gītām is very nice lyric. Please sing after me.

*jayati te'dhikam janmanā vrajaḥ
śrayata indirā śaśvadatra hi
dayita dṛśyatām dikṣu tāvakā-
stvayi dhṛtāsavastvām vicinvate*

jaya means glories. *jayati te 'dhikam* means the glories increase. *jayati te 'dhikam janmanā vrajaḥ* - Because You have appeared in Vraja, that tract of land has become glorious. Otherwise what is there? Now suppose there is a temple and big hall with Deities, then even a child can sit there alone in front of the Deities in such a big hall. There are long halls in the temple. Because Deities are there and everything is very lively, even child can alone sit there in such a big hall. But suppose tomorrow we move the Deities, then we will be afraid to go to the hall during the day. It will be great fear. It will be black and completely dusty and what to talk of child, we will not be able to enter into it. And foolishly we don't believe the presence of the Deities. No. He is there. Otherwise you see the child is not afraid to go inside the temple room. The Deities are there and as soon as the Deities are removed the whole life goes away from the hall. The ghosts take over. ***This is how the life which is not full of Krishna also becomes a ghost-like life.***

Ordinary people behave as if they are haunted by ghosts always, because they are attached to material things. No doubt we are also materially attached. But we are attached to something more than the material things. Our lives are not materially haunted. No doubt. Krishna gives. Krishna gives to the Vaishnavas more than others, but we are not attached to it. Thats why our lives are not haunted by ghosts. Ordinary people are haunted by ghosts and they don't know what to do and the ghosts push them into the pubs. (laughter) And as soon as they get into the pubs, they have to spend so much money and they break their heads and cut their limbs. Why to pay so much money for breaking their heads and cutting the limbs. In particularly on new year parties, (laughter) before 12 'o clock, because the year is

ending they want to intoxicate themselves as much as possible. And then new year comes and they fight with each other. Early in the morning we used to go to the temple in London. We were staying bit far from the temple and on New-year day we could see that early in the morning, these people are bleeding like anything, and smoking and will appear like haunted by ghosts. ***If you come to Krishna, your life will be very sublime.***

Krishna willing we shall continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj in the subsequent offerings.

Thank you very much.

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

Stop Pampering - Part 2

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the notes taken during the nectarean class given by our beloved spiritual master His Holiness Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 5.10.10, in London on October 28, 2007.

*sthaulyam kārśyam vyādhaya ādhayaś ca
kṣut tṛḍ bhayaṁ kalir icchā jarā ca
nidrā ratir manyur ahaṁ madaḥ śuco
dehena jātasya hi me na santi*

Fatness, thinness, bodily and mental distress, thirst, hunger, fear, disagreement, desires for material happiness, old age, sleep, attachment for material possessions, anger, lamentation, illusion and identification of the body with the self are all transformations of the material covering of the spirit soul. A person absorbed in the material bodily conception is affected by these things, but I am free from all bodily conceptions. Consequently I am neither fat nor skinny nor anything else you have mentioned.

In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj that if we pamper the body, we completely lose the spiritual concept of life. Continuing the discourse on Bhagavatam's instructions, Srila Gurudeva emphasised that we must be alert to avoid the bodily concept in all spheres of life. Maharaja said, "Marriage is also pampering of the body. So much time goes for this. You have to find a flat. You have to find some service. So many suitable things must be arranged for, and who knows what what kind of spouse he or she will get. Wife and husband, they cheat each other because there is no spiritual center. So much trouble is there, just because of the bodily concept of life. This bodily concept of life will force you to sleep!

In India there are not so many facilities for eating, so you have to forget your body and be austere. As soon as you're in the bodily consciousness, the pampering of the body starts, increasing all the activities for bodily comfort, coloring the hair etc. There's one couple, you know, they stopped hair-coloring after they got initiated. They look more beautiful now, you know, with white hair. ***In order for us to cope with the material activities in life, we have to do them immaculately well. Leaving things for someone else to do, or for later, equals procrastination.*** Immediately we should do it, then forget about it. Change the clothes and go to the temple, finished. Srila Prabhupada has made it very easy for us.

If the body is not us, then how can we claim it is us? It's like a building, you know, we change house all the time! Prabhupada said, *this material world is like a toilet; an intelligent man makes a short stay here, and no need of going back if finished.* Not only do we pamper our body, we pamper our family also. Nobody is considering that one day we have to go alone. So this loneliness has to be experienced before that time, you know. Otherwise, the bodily demands will increase. Anything we do apart from Krishna is taking us to bodily activities. Only Krishna conscious activities can save us from this bodily conception of life."

Krishna willing we will continue with more nectar from Maharaj in the subsequent offering.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Amogha-drk Krishna dasa,

Copenhagen, Denmark

Glorify the All-Glorious - Part 5

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

We are continuing with the transcription of the beautiful lecture that our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj gave in Boston, Australia on 23rd May 1997. In the previous offerings we saw:

1. Glorify the all-glorious to become glorious.
2. Without Krishna we are living dead.
3. Krishna is not the object of mind and intelligence.
4. Be touched by Krishna and become enlivened.
5. Sleeping tongue will wake up by tasting Krishna.
6. With Krishna everything becomes lively.
7. Life without Krishna is ghost's life.

Now let us continue to hear from Maharaj the further explanation of Gopika gītam verse 10.31.1

8. **With Krishna there is no boredom:** If we come to Krishna, life becomes very sublime and pure. There is no misery at all. No expenses involved. Nothing. Nothing. It is so very sublime. It is so very sublime to come to Krishna. This thing Srila Prabhupada wanted to inculcate in the Western society. The Western society was very happy with economic progress. But with economic progress, if we could add Krishna, then economy also becomes very lively. This is said by gopis also. Gopis sing this nicely in this verse (SB 10.31.1)

*jayati te'dhikaṃ janmanā vrajaḥ
śrayata indirā śaśvadatra hi
dayita dṛśyatāṃ dikṣu tāvakā-
stvayi dhṛtāsavastvāṃ vicinvate*

Instead of explaining the meaning, we will sing this in Hindi. It is very nice to sing this in Hindi and Gujarati. Please hear this verse in Hindi.

*jaya baḍe vraj me āp janam se
nita base jahān nāth sāth sri
prakat ho priye khojthe sabi
āpke liye jivit hai hum sub*

jaya baḍe vraj me āp janam se - "**Because of Your birth, the glory of Vraj increases.**" *āpke liye jivit hai hum sub* - "**We are living for You only. We don't have any other reason to be alive and that is why please come before us.**" It is very nicely said. There are 7 to 8 more verses, but few verses we will take.

viṣa jalāp yayād -This *viṣa jal*, the water was poisoned because of Kaliya's presence in Yamuna river. "The Yamuna river was completely poisoned and You had protected us at that time", the gopis say like that.

*viṣajalāpyayādvyālarākṣasā-
dvarṣamārutādvaidyutānalāt
vṛṣamayātmajādviśvatobhayā-
dṛṣabha te vayaṃ rakṣitā muhuḥ*

Gopis faced so many dangers and He always protected them. So they are asking, "Please where have you gone now?"

vyāla rākṣasā - There was a *vyāla rākṣasā* (Aghasura) opening his mouth and all the gopas and the cows enter it and in the end, Krishna also entered and he just shut the mouth and then Krishna, in fact tore his body inside and then He had to take them out. And this is how he was killed.

*viśa jal me nāg bhay se
varśā tukān se agni bijali se
vrśamayāt bhaj ke viśwa bhay se
vividha sankaton se rakśā ki hai āp*

It is so very easy. So very easy. "You have protected us and now where have You gone? Please protect us now." ***These things increase our glory and the time will never be burden on us.*** Otherwise people will have to think, "what to do on annual holiday?" We don't have to think about it and Srila Prabhupada always says, "*There is no annual holidays in Krishna consciousness.*" I mean to say in Mangala aratis etc. Otherwise people work during early mornings or late nights and they want 2 months annual holidays. But ***devotees, since they are always enlivened, they hanker after Mangala arati and if we miss Mangala arati, then we feel it. This should be our nature.***

Krishna willing we shall continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj in the subsequent offerings.

Thank you very much.

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

Glorify the All-Glorious - Part 6

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

We are continuing with the transcription of the beautiful lecture that our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj gave in Boston, Australia on 23rd May 1997. In the previous offerings we saw 8 points.

1. Glorify the all-glorious to become glorious.
2. Without Krishna we are living dead.
3. Krishna is not the object of mind and intelligence.
4. Be touched by Krishna and become enlivened.
5. Sleeping tongue will wake up by tasting Krishna.
6. With Krishna everything becomes lively.
7. Life without Krishna is ghost's life.
8. With Krishna there is no boredom.

We will hear further nectar from Maharaj.

9. **Don't be Rejected by the Lord:** In Hindi there is a very nice bhajan. The poet says that name of Krishna is more powerful than Himself. You know in Ramayan it is a very nice example. Ramachandra bhagavan wanted to cross over from South India to Lanka in order to defeat Ravana, and He had to transport the monkey army also. He thought that, as it is He can't do anything. And He cannot take all the monkeys across because there was a 40 miles of ocean in between India and Lanka. He thought that we must have a bridge so that everyone can cross. So who can do it? He called Hanuman and told him, "We want a bridge tomorrow ready." Hanuman said "Alright Bhagavan." **Hanuman knew that the Lord does not only order the living entities. But when He orders, He gives the strength also so that we can fulfill His desire.** So he was sure. He started to bring big mountains and stones from all over India and try to deposit them near the coast of the ocean. On each stone he was writing 'Ram' and he was throwing them in the ocean. And the stones were floating. Lord Ramachandra was standing by the side. He was surprised that the stones were floating when they were thrown in the ocean.

Then Lord Ram wanted to try it Himself. He thought, "If these stones are floating just by writing My name on it, then when I throw also they must float." So He picked up a big stone and threw it in to the ocean. It sank in the ocean. He thought that something must be wrong. Again He picked up another stone and threw and again it went down. Hanuman was watching Ram. He asked, "What are you doing Bhagavan?" Ram didn't want to tell anything because He was not successful. Hanuman said, "I know Bhagavan what you are doing. You must know these things better than me. I am bringing the stones and **I am writing Your name on it. So Your association is there with the stone.** Even the stone if it has the association of Krishna or Ram, it will definitely float. But when **You throw the stone, You are rejecting the stone. So once You reject, how can they float?**" So Prabhupada says that do anything and everything, but don't get rejected by the Lord. The only way to avoid getting rejected by the Lord is to always chant His names and remember Him.

10. **We are Ruled by the Scriptures:** In Vedic culture unknowingly our families are dictated by these scriptures. The scriptures are very nicely known in sanskrit as shastra. There is a word '*śāśān*'. *śāśān* means to rule. *The scripture which rules you, is known as shastra.* We are unknowingly dictated by these scriptures. You will be surprised to know that *Manu samhita is the original code of all the rules - kāyādās.* We have all the rules here. Suppose you are driving here, you are driving on the right. Always you have to keep right. If you break the rule then you may have accident or policeman sees you, he will fine you. We cannot break the rules. All these rules, they are coming from Manu samhita. And every country has its own rules. They have the code of the conduct, code of rules, their police department also

depend upon the rules, everywhere there are rules. And **these code of rules, is the gift of vedic culture to the world.** Otherwise formerly the people did not know anything. They were staying in the forest and didn't have any idea of the rules. As soon as the Vedic culture spread all over the planet, these rules came in force. Otherwise there is no origin for these rules.

Originally Manu samhita is the code of conduct. This is how you can see the signs of Vedic culture everywhere. We went to Fiji and definitely Kaliya is there. There is a cave in Lamasa area, one Kaliya's temple is there. The deity is increasing there day by day. So many times, they have demolished the roof and increased the roof, we can see the signs. Again there is a cave wherein they say that he stays there. There are tunnels in between for him to go to the sea and come back, because in summer he goes to the sea and in winter he comes back. The tunnel also they say, is covered by gold. These things are very true. Vedic culture was there everywhere. When Parikshit Maharaj was there, he was the ruler of the whole planet and vedic culture was present everywhere. That's why the Vedic culture we cannot avoid. Fortunately Prabhupada came to these countries and he revived these things. Otherwise even we didn't know anything. We were very proud of our country (India) and our rules. The whole arrangement comes from Manu samhita. **No way we can avoid the scriptures.** We just have to do our prescribed duty at our destiny, be expert in your material activities and come back to spiritual activities as soon as possible.

Krishna willing, we will continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj in the subsequent offering.

Thank you very much.

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

Stop Pampering - Part 3

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

The following is the concluding part of the notes from His Holiness Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj's class on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 5.10.10, in London on October 28, 2007.

In the previous offerings we learned from Maharaja that we must be very alert to avoid the bodily concept in all spheres of life, because it inevitably leads to pampering the body, which makes us completely lose the spiritual concept of life all together.

I asked the following question to Maharaja: "After coming back from India last time, I was very skinny-looking. One devotee told me that I should eat more, because it's bad preaching to look very skinny and so on."

Maharaja immediately answered, "We're not in control of skinny or fat. Krishna is. If you are not fit to preach, limit your services; do temple worship instead. It doesn't mean that we should eat more and then preach more. Preaching is Krishna's activity. It's up to Him to use us or not. For preaching of course, we should look good, you know. Our clothes should be clean etc. Healthy appearance is good. Actually, the mind frames the body. If the mind is clean then the body is going to be good. But if the mind is full of scratch then the body will also appear unhealthy. And association is most important, bhakta's association is the best! If material association, then the health will definitely be bad. The one thing we should remember here is that we should not be merciful to ourselves."

Following Maharaja, we again recited Srimad Bhagavatam verse 5.10.10 in unison.

*sthaulyam kārśyam vyādhaya ādhayaś ca
kṣut tṛḍ bhayaṁ kalir icchā jarā ca
nidrā ratir manyur ahaṁ madaḥ śuco
dehena jātasya hi me na santi*

Fatness, thinness, bodily and mental distress, thirst, hunger, fear, disagreement, desires for material happiness, old age, sleep, attachment for material possessions, anger, lamentation, illusion and identification of the body with the self are all transformations of the material covering of the spirit soul. A person absorbed in the material bodily conception is affected by these things, but I am free from all bodily conceptions. Consequently I am neither fat nor skinny nor anything else you have mentioned.

Maharaja said, "This verse again helps us to avoid pampering the body. However we pamper the body, it will have to fall down anyway, you know. This material desire must be checked. *viśayā vinivartante* - you see, if we stop to eat, the tasting mellow will still be there! That mellow can only go away by continuous reciting scripture that is non-different from Krishna. *nityam bhāgavata-sevayā*: then you will not lack anything else. Self-sufficiency and independence is needed, even in old age. Our bodily consciousness never leaves us, never. Unless we try very hard, it is very difficult to get out of this consciousness. Constant cleaning of the heart is required!"

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Amogha-drk Krishna das

Denmark.

Glorify the All-Glorious - Part 7

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

We are continuing with the transcription of the beautiful lecture that our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj gave in Boston, Australia on 23rd May 1997. In the previous offerings we saw 10 points.

1. Glorify the all-glorious to become glorious.
2. Without Krishna we are living dead.
3. Krishna is not the object of mind and intelligence.
4. Be touched by Krishna and become enlivened.
5. Sleeping tongue will wake up by tasting Krishna.
6. With Krishna everything becomes lively.
7. Life without Krishna is ghost's life.
8. With Krishna there is no boredom.
9. Don't be rejected by the Lord.
10. We are ruled by the scriptures.

Now let us continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj.

11. **Go to Krishna with Full Heart:** This nice Hindi bhajan gives the importance of the names of Krishna. (Maharaj sings lovingly)

*hari se badā hari kā nām, prabhu se badā prabhu kā nām
anta meñ nikalā ye pariñāma
sumīro nām rūpa bina dekhe, kauḍī lage na dāma
nāma ke piche bāndhe āyeṅge ākhira ek din śyāma
hari se badā hari kā nām, prabhu se badā prabhu kā nām
anta meñ nikalā ye pariñāma*

Then he gives the example of the story from Mahabharat.

*draupadīne jab nām puñkārā, jhaṭa ā gae ghanaśyāma
sārī khaincata hārā duhśāsana, sārī baḍāi śyāma
hari se badā hari kā nām, prabhu se badā prabhu kā nām
anta meñ nikalā ye pariñāma*

You know the story that once Krishna had some wound in His finger. It was bleeding. Satyabhama was standing there, Rukhmini was there. And Draupadi was there. The Queens were thinking that we have to bandage His finger. Nobody was able to find anything for bandage. But Draupadi without thinking tore off her new saree and bandaged His finger. This was a little seva she did for Krishna. But when she was in need, He supplied 999 sarees. He supplied sarees, we have to remember. *He didn't supply the punjabi dresses (laughter). So you have to put on sarees if you want Him to supply (laughter).* The thing is when Draupadi was dragged into the assembly by Duhśāsana, they wanted to insult her. She was completely helpless. In the beginning she was looking to everyone. Bhishma was sitting there and she thought that Bhishma is here how can he allow this to happen. He also looked down, couldn't do anything. Dronacharya was there, she looked to him and he also looked down. Her five husbands were there and they also looked down. She then tried to protect herself. It was impossible. Finally (*chukrosha*) she shouted, "Govinda, Govinda, Govinda" and immediately the sarees came.

After everything happened, she asked Krishna, "Where were You all this time? Why were You so late to come?" He said, "*I was not late, You were seeing to Bhishma and Dronacharya. As soon as You called I was there.*" So the thing is, ***when we are completely helpless, He is there! Many times in our lives we have to jump into the dark. When we jump into the darkness, exactly He is there. Exactly He is there!*** Otherwise it is very difficult for us people, you don't know how difficult it was for us to leave our country and come to the Western world. It was impossible. It was impossible! For 9 years daily in the morning I was telling that I am going to go to London and people will laugh. They said, "He doesn't have fare to go to Bombay and he wants to go to London (laughs)." This constant meditation and trying hard somehow or the other, helped me to leave the country. Otherwise it is very difficult. ***Krishna, definitely He is there, but we don't go to Him with full heart.*** This is the main thing. As soon as Draupadi went to Him with full heart, the reciprocation was there.

Krishna willing we shall continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj in the subsequent offerings.

Thank you very much.

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

Taking Shelter at Every Step

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

It is an accepted fact and the experience of every one without exception that any activity in this material world is always a source of perplexity and anxiety. However materially well equipped we may be, however an expert manager we may be, however powerful we may be, we are forced to meet situations which makes us completely confused and perplexed. What we should do in these situations is very wonderfully shown by Arjuna in Srimad Bhagavad Gita 2.7. He approaches Lord Krishna, the spiritual master of the universe (Jagat Guru) and prays before Him very humbly

*kārpaṇya-doṣopahata-svabhāvaḥ
pṛcchāmi tvāṁ dharmā-sammūḍha-cetāḥ
yac chreyaḥ syān niścitaṁ brūhi tan me
śiṣyas te 'haṁ śādhi mām tvāṁ prapannam*

Now I am confused about my duty and have lost all composure because of miserly weakness. In this condition I am asking You to tell me for certain what is best for me. Now I am Your disciple, and a soul surrendered unto You. Please instruct me.

HG Devakinandan Prabhujji, during the Vyasa puja celebration of our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj in Rajkot insisted that this is the prayer we have to offer our beloved Gurudev every day, and in every step we take in our life. When we approach Maharaj in this proper mood accepting the two things:

- a) I am confused about my duty.
- b) I have lost all composure because of miserly weakness.

Maharaj is there for us to give us the proper guidance and this has been assured by our beloved Gurudev personally.

Many times we make the mistake that we may get guidance for one situation and then when an almost similar situation arises, we thinking ourselves as intelligent enough, try to apply the same solution without getting the guidance from the spiritual master. But that will not work. It is imperative that we approach the spiritual master in every step. This is very wonderfully shown in the pages of Srimad Bhagavatam. In the Seventh canto, we find that when Hiranyakashipu was terrorizing the universe the demigods and sages prayed to the Supreme Lord for relief from Hiranyakashipu's rule. In response to their prayers the Lord replies in Srimad Bhagavatam 7.4.26

*jñātam etasya daurātmyaṁ daiteyāpasadasya yat
tasya śāntim kariṣyāmi kālam tāvāt pratīkṣata*

I know all about the activities of Hiranyakashipu and shall surely stop them very soon. Please wait patiently until that time.

When the elephant Gajendra called out for the Lord, this very Lord who is asking the demigods to wait patiently for the right time, was so anxious to rescue Gajendra immediately that He rejected the sandals offered by the military commander, literally dragged Garuda being unsatisfied with Garuda's speed (actually nothing can be compared to the speed of Garuda) and this made the devotees offer obeisances not to the Lord but to the swift departure and speed of the Lord (*bhagavatas tvarāyai namaḥ*). This is inconceivable for us. The Lord has so many purposes to be accomplished by a single activity and before speaking the above verse asking the demigods to wait for the time, the Lord assures all good fortune to them (*bhadram astu vaḥ*) and hence it is imperative that we follow the Lord's

instructions for our own good fortune. In the eight canto, we see that the demigods, having been cursed by Durvasa Muni, were defeated in battle by the asuras. When the demigods were deprived of their heavenly kingdom, they offered prayers to the Lord and the Lord replies in SB 8.6.19:

*yāta dānava-daiteyais tāvāt sandhir vidhīyatām
kālenānuḡṛhītais tair yāvād vo bhava ātmanaḥ*

As long as you are not flourishing, you should make a truce with the demons and asuras, who are now being favored by time.

It is again really amazing to see that the Lord is advising the demigods to make truce with the enemies and saying that the demons are favored by time and advocates the demigods to be peaceful and patient and not to be anxious and agitated. But here again just before saying this, the Lord assures that His instructions will bring good fortune to them (*śreyo vaḥ syād*). The demigods implicitly followed these instructions and the results are there for us to see that they were ultimately blessed with the nectar. The Lord orchestrates the events in such a way that we are blessed with the gift of maturity and refinement in the course of following the instructions. In the eight canto, 15th chapter again we see that Bali Maharaj after performing the Vishvajit yajna becomes very powerful and he attacked the outskirts of Indra's kingdom. When Indra saw Bali Maharaj's prowess, he went to his own spiritual master, Brhaspati, told him about Bali's strength, and inquired about his duty. Thus we see that in these situations of perplexity, Indra approaches his spiritual master and he does not take any decision on his own based on any of his previous experiences. Brhaspati informed the demigods that because Bali had been endowed with extraordinary power by the brahmanas, the demigods could not fight with him. Their only hope was to gain the favor of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. In SB 8.15.30, the spiritual master advises

*tasmān nilayam utsrjya yūyañ sarve tri-viṣṭapam
yāta kālān pratikṣanto yataḥ śātror viparyayaḥ*

Therefore, waiting until the situation of your enemies is reversed, you should all leave this heavenly planet and go elsewhere, where you will not be seen.

Here we find that the advice of the spiritual master, who is a bonafide representative of the Lord, is in line with the instructions of the Lord as is seen from the previous instances. Indra immediately accepted these instructions and followed them, ultimately resulting in getting back his kingdom. Devaki prabhuji was explaining how in many instances, Maharaj just patiently and peacefully waited for the time for the solutions to come for the problems, always having the faith that Krishna will sort out the problems at the right time. Let us always remember what Srila Prabhupada says in his purport to BG 2.7, "*By nature's own way the complete system of material activities is a source of perplexity for everyone. In every step there is perplexity, and therefore it behooves one to approach a bona fide spiritual master who can give one proper guidance for executing the purpose of life.*"

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Krpana Vatsala Krishna das

Chennai.

Glorify the All-Glorious - Part 8

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

We are continuing with the transcription of the beautiful lecture that our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj gave in Boston, Australia on 23rd May 1997. In the previous offerings we saw 11 points. Now we shall continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj.

12. **Krishna's devotee never perishes:** You know in Gujarat there is a very nice Vaishnava poet Narsingh Mehta. And he was very much engrossed always in singing bhajans. This is not a very old story, it is just 250 years old. So once what happened, his father died. When the father died, every year they had to perform the shraaddha ceremony. Narsingh Mehta did not have anything. Always his elder brother was performing shraaddha ceremony. When Narsingh Mehta's wife and his brother's wife one day came together, his elder brother's wife cursed her, "You don't have anything. Your husband just goes on singing bhajans and every year we have to spend for shraaddha." Narsingh Mehta's wife couldn't take it. So she said, "This year you don't perform the shraaddha, we will perform." The brother's wife said, "Alright, let me see how you perform". In the end Narsingh Mehta's wife came home and told him that this year they have to perform shraaddha ceremony. Narsingh Mehta became very happy. He did not have anything to eat in his house. But as soon as he heard that they are performing the shraaddha, he was elated. Not only that, since that day he started inviting the whole village for the shraaddha ceremony. But there was nothing in the house. Shraaddha day was approaching and his wife was worried, "You have invited the whole village, they will start coming. We don't have anything in the house, what to give them?" He said, "Don't worry, something will come out." His wife said, "We don't have any bhoga in our house. You do one thing. I have golden bangles in my hand. Sell them and bring some bhoga so that we can cook for everyone. Forget about dakshina, they must have at least some plate of prasadam offered." She then prepared the list of the bhogas to bring.

Narsingh Mehta went to the market, sold the bangles, got a good amount and bought everything. But he forgot to buy ghee. His wife was very pleased, "At least there is something, now I can start cooking." But there was no ghee. Without ghee she cannot cook. She was wondering how to cook. So all the bhogas were kept in the room and Narsingh Mehta went back to the market to buy ghee, but this time he did not have any money left with him. He went to the first merchant and said, "You tell me the price of ghee and I will definitely give you, but today I don't have any money." People knew that this mad man is always singing bhajans, from where is he going to bring money. So the first man found out some excuse, "See, you are a very good man, and I have got a bad ghee. So I don't want to cheat you." (laughs) It was a civilized way of denying. The next shop found out some other excuse. So every shopkeeper found out some excuse. Narsingh Mehta did not get ghee at all. The end of the market came and he was completely perplexed, "How can I go back home without ghee? She can't cook without ghee." At the end of the market, under a tree, there was one person sitting with jars of ghee. Narsingh Mehta went there and enquired the price. He said that, "I don't have money today, but I will definitely pay, please tell me the price." The merchant said, "No, don't worry about the price, I will give you the ghee." Narsingh Mehta was happy but he insisted that he must fix the price. The merchant told him, "If you want to pay the price, then sing one bhajan." Narsingh Mehta was very happy as that was the opportunity he was always looking for. He went on singing bhajans and he didn't stop. He was completely engrossed, and she was shouting at home for ghee. She didn't know that this mad man is engaged in Krishna's bhajan somewhere.

In the mean time, Krishna went home in the form of Narsingh Mehta. The other Narsingh Mehta was singing bhajans. His wife asked, "You have come, where is ghee?" He said, "Why for you want ghee?" She said, "We have to cook, people are coming, are you mad? So long I sent you and you didn't bring the ghee?" He said, "No, No, where are the bhogas?" She opened the door and found that everything was already cooked. It was ready to serve. He said, "Today, everybody will come and eat in golden plates." She asked, "How many golden plates you have got?" He replied, "As

many as you want!" So the golden plates were there. She was completely elated and surprised, "I gave you only 2 bangles, from where have you brought all these gold?" He said, "Don't talk now, let them eat." Then He said, "Those who come for eating, they eat in the golden plate and take away the golden plate as a dakshina." Whole village was very happy. Immediately the word went out that Narsingh Mehta is giving out golden plates. Everybody in the village came over. And then He said, "Ladies who come, they get new sarees." So all the ladies came with torn sarees and got new sarees. Whole village was very happy. Narsingh Mehta (Krishna) finished the whole thing and went away. His wife was very happy that, "We did very nice shraaddha." And then original Narsingh Mehta came home. He didn't know anything, he was afraid that, "I didn't bring the ghee and now the time is over and I don't know what is going to happen (laughter)." He thought that he was going to get blasted (laughter). He went home and she offered her obeisances and said, "This time you did very nice. From where did you buy the gold? Come on bring some more gold (laughter)". He was surprised and when he heard what happened then he knew that Krishna arranged the whole thing.

We may not be able to repeat this, but ***definitely He becomes very helpful to us and does our job. We don't see Him but definitely He does our job. If we have the faith, we can come to this stage of devotion and our life will become completely perfect.***

Krishna willing we will continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj in the subsequent offerings.

Thank you very much.

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

Glorify the All-Glorious - Part 9

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

We are continuing with the transcription of the beautiful lecture that our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj gave in Boston, Australia on 23rd May 1997. In the previous offerings we saw 12 points. Now we shall continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj.

13. **Give Krishna to our Children:** As I told you yesterday, we put faith in this roof. I don't know who has constructed, I don't know what material they have used, but I am definite that it will not cave down and that is why we are very happy here, because we have the shelter of the roof. As soon as we don't have faith in this, we will be mad standing outside whole day, whether the roof will cave down or not. And we will not take the shelter at all. This is how **in our life, we must have unflinching faith in Krishna. And as soon as you do this, your life is completely perfect.** Particularly one thing is definite here in these countries, these young children are looking at us. We people have come from India. We have seen something or you have seen Prabhupada so many times here and you have visited India. So you have some culture. But these young people here don't have any culture. They have not seen anything. So it becomes our first duty to give them this culture. And the way to give the culture is, to follow the culture very seriously. That is the way to give. Unless you follow, they will not follow. By telling, they will not follow. But as soon as you do it, then they will definitely copy you. Definitely, definitely. Always depend upon Krishna.

These children always study the parents in two ways. We think that they don't see anything, they don't know anything. They know everything. They assess all of us here and they know how we are, what we are. The first thing they look is, where from the money is coming to the house? Somebody is going to work, doing business or that. They know the whole thing as to how the money is coming in the house. The second thing they see, that in grhastha life, always there is difficulties. How we face those difficulties? They study this. And if you take shelter of Krishna always and stop screaming and shouting, then they take that. If you don't take shelter of Krishna, they will also not take. And don't worry, even with all your following, they may freak out in their youth. But youth is not going to last for long. And they will have maya's kicks. And as soon as they have maya's kicks, they will come back again. We have been in San Diego and there was a boy who was a devotee's son. For 10 years he freaked out and now he is may be 20 years old and he has come back to the temple. **This is how, you go on performing your own thing. And these people may be in their young age will freak out here and there, but eventually they will definitely come.** This is how, example teaches us to have unflinching faith.

Then again there is a nice example from Bhagavatam you know, Gajendra moksha - how the elephant was delivered. It is very nice. Please sing after me.

*jal dūbat gajarāj pukāro, āye ādhe nama
nāmiko cintā rahati hai, nām na ho badanām*

He is worried that we are chanting His names and our difficulties are not over and then His name will be spoilt. (laughter) So in order to keep His name, He definitely helps us out. And the important help is that not only our life is perfected, but our children also get very nice response. They become very happy, very blissful. For them we are worried, you know. And one thing is definite. Because we are elder than them, we are going to pass away before them. And the day is bound to come, when we are going to leave those young ones on this planet alone. So **if you can give them Krishna, then they will be able to face the miseries.** As it is Kali yuga is increasing. The future generation, will have to face so much miserable life than us, otherwise they will go and end up in mental hospital, if they don't have Krishna. **In India somehow or the other even now, people are theists. They believe that there is Krishna and that's why they can tolerate.**

The mental hospitals are meager here. But see the western countries, with all the help from the government, *the mental hospitals are more because there is no faith*. So somehow or the other, children should have unflinching faith.

Krishna willing we will continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj in the subsequent offerings.

Thank you very much.

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

Glorify the All-Glorious - Part 10

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

We are continuing with the transcription of the beautiful lecture that our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj gave in Boston, Australia on 23rd May 1997. In the previous offerings we saw 13 points. Now we shall continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj.

14. Don't be in Rat-race: Then there is an example from Ramayan.

*jis sāgarako lāṅgha sake nā, binā pulake rāma
kuda gae hanumān usīko, leke hari kā nām
vo dil vale dub jāyeṅge, jinmeñ nahiñ hai nām
vo patthara bhi tar jāyeṅge jin par, likhā hari kā nām*

This unflinching faith is gift of Srila Prabhupada. Otherwise what happens we are attracted to so many things. As Prabhupada said, like rat race we are running, without even thinking to whom we are going. Why for we are going? He was giving the example that one rat runs and he doesn't know where he is going. And there was a line of rats and they were also running very fast. And if you stop them and ask, "where are you going?", they say - "i don't know, let me go." (laughter) At least you should know where are you going. But they say, "No. No we are very busy, let me go." They only know that they have to go. This is very bad tendency. Srila Prabhupada used to quote a very nice story. He said that there was one dhobi, washer-man who used to take a bundle of clothes to the river and daily wash and iron. That was his business. So there was no motorized vehicles. And he wanted to take the bundle of clothes to the Ganges daily and then he had to wash them. So he kept a donkey and the donkey was very dear to him as it was his Mercedes car. (laughter) So that donkey was like a family person. So he gave the donkey a name - Sunand Vidyadhar. (laughter) Big name, he gave for the donkey. So he used to call him, "Sunand Vidyadhar, Come on. Take this bundle and go to Ganges." And the donkey used to come and take the bundle to Ganges. This is how, very nicely the donkey served the washer-man for 20 years and he was as good as a family member you know.

So for the whole day he will be working and in the evening, he will release him in the bank of Ganges, so that he can eat some grass. So he was very happy. But at the end of twenty years, somehow or the other he died. When he died, this washer-man became very morose as if some family member died. He thought, "What to do now? I must do something for Sunand Vidyadhar." He knew that people go to Ganges and shave off and offer some pindas in Ganges. So he said, "I must go to Ganges and shave off." He went to the Ganges, shaved off and offered pindas and cried, "Sunand Vidyadhar, Sunand Vidyadhar". His friend came and asked, "Whats the matter today? Why have you shaved off?" The friend said, "Is it? I will also shave off." Then they both started crying, "Sunand Vidyadhar, Sunand Vidyadhar". So there is a vegetable market - In India we have vegetable market on the banks of Ganges. So many people came there to buy the vegetables. They saw these two people shaved off and crying, and asked - "What is the matter?" The friends replied, "You don't know? Sunand Vidyadhar died." "Oh is it, then we will also shave off." Those people thought that Sunand Vidyadhar is some important person, whom they didn't know. (laughter) So now 20 people shaved off and crying. So other people who came and saw these bunch of people shaved off and crying, they all shaved off and would sit with them and cry, "Sunand Vidyadhar, Sunand Vidyadhar". Nobody knew who he is.

Then a Parliamentarian came buy the vegetables. He saw the bunch of people crying and asked what it is. And when he heard Sunand Vidyadhar died, he thought may be that he is ignorant and didn't know Sunand Vidyadhar, may be he is a great person. So what he did, "I will also shave off." So he started crying. He went to Parliament and all other parliamentarians asked, "who died?" He replied, "Oh you didn't know? Sunand Vidyadhar died!". So the ministers also thought that they were ignorant, may be he is a great person, so they also shaved and cried. And the king came and

saw all parliamentarians shaved off. So he asked what is the matter? They replied, "Sunand Vidyadhar died." The king thought, "May be Sunand Vidyadhar is a prominent personality. Why to show my ignorance? Let me also shave off."

Krishna willing we shall continue to hear the remaining part of the story from Maharaj in the subsequent offering.

Thank you very much.

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

Glorify the All-Glorious - Part 11

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is the concluding part of the transcription of the beautiful lecture that our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj gave in Boston, Australia on 23rd May 1997. In the previous offerings we saw 14 points.

1. Glorify the all-glorious to become glorious.
2. Without Krishna we are living dead.
3. Krishna is not the object of mind and intelligence.
4. Be touched by Krishna and become enlivened.
5. Sleeping tongue will wake up by tasting Krishna.
6. With Krishna everything becomes lively.
7. Life without Krishna is ghost's life.
8. With Krishna there is no boredom.
9. Don't be rejected by the Lord.
10. We are ruled by the scriptures.
11. Go to Krishna with full heart.
12. Krishna's devotees never perishes.
13. Give Krishna to our children.
14. Don't be in Rat-race.

[Yesterday we heard half the story of Sunand Vidyadhar. Some of the devotees were not happy that the story was stopped half way. Our sincere apologies. Due to the length of the offering we had to stop half-way. We shall hear the remaining part of the story now.]

Story till yesterday: On hearing the death of the washerman's donkey Sunand Vidyadhar, without knowing who he actually is, everyone in the market place shaved their head. One of the parliamentarian who went the market also shaved off his head. When he came to the parliament, all the parliamentarians shaved off their head thinking that Sunand Vidyadhar must be a famous person. Seeing the entire parliament full of shaved heads, the king also shaved off his head thinking that he may be ignorant of a great person like Sunand Vidyadhar.

14. **Don't be in Rat-race** (contd): This way, the king also shaved off. The whole bunch shaved off and they started shouting, "Sunand Vidhyadhar ki jai! Sunand Vidyadhar ki jai!!" and nobody knew what is happening. Then the king went home and his queen asked, "What is the matter today, everybody is shaved off?" King said, "You don't know? Sunand Vidhyadhar died." She asked, "Who is Sunand Vidyadhar?" King scratched his head, "I don't know. The whole parliament is shaved off, I also shaved off." In the end, the king called the parliamentarian. The parliamentarian also blinked and said, "I don't know who is Sunand Vidyadhar. I went to the Ganges and there was a bunch of people shouting and crying. I thought that I will also shave off." Eventually queen called the washerman and asked him, "What's the matter? Who is Sunand Vidyadhar?" He said, "He is my donkey" (laughter).

This is how Prabhupada said, "**Whatever you do, at least you enquire what you are doing.**" Otherwise like a mad person we run after some living entity just because he produces ashes. In our human existence we have fortunately got the higher intelligence. **So with the higher intelligence we should always inspect our behavior.** Particularly in the spiritual field. Because spiritual field is the field wherein nobody can instruct us in the right direction. And we are prone to be misguided very easily. **We must find a pure devotee like Prabhupada. He is not here at the moment but he is very much alive in his books. Even now if you get in touch with his scriptures you will be completely saved.** This is the safe corner. Otherwise we only cheat each other. Instead of falling prey to these

things, we have to clear our life and come to one conclusion that "Come what may, I should go through these scriptures." Particularly Bhagavatam and Bhagavad-gita, they are the most important. As soon as you come to this, your faith increases day by day.

15. **Perfect your Lives by Sincere Devotional Service:** You know the sloka that Prabhupada used to recite every time:

*naṣṭa-prāyeṣv abhadreṣu nityaṁ bhāgavata-sevayā
bhagavaty uttama-śloke bhaktir bhavati naiṣṭhikī*

Almost all abhadra, inauspicious things go away from our life as soon as we take to devotional service. We had been to Australia and we saw a very nice devotee. He is a Russian devotee. I asked him how he came to Krishna consciousness. He said, "I was in Russia. My trade was butcher's trade, cutting the flesh whole day. In order to go to my shop I had to go through metro and bus. One day I was passing through metro. I saw Bhagavad-gita advertisement there. And then there was booth selling Bhagavad-gita. So I bought Bhagavad-gita and I was just going in the bus reading few pages here and there. On every page Prabhupada tells that you chant *Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare, Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare*. I started chanting and then I read in some page that I should be a vegetarian. I thought that I am a butcher no doubt. I will sell meat but I will become vegetarian." This is **how inauspicious things immediately vanish by Prabhupada's writings**, *naṣṭa-prāyeṣu abhadreṣu*.

Then he said, "I was going to the shop, but then eventually decided not to open the shop at all. Why I should unnecessarily incur sinful reactions?" So, he went back to Moscow to join the temple. In the temple he heard that if you want to spiritually progress very fast, then you must go to India. He didn't have money to go to India. He accepted a job in a railway train and went all the way to Vladivostok, 8 days journey. He traveled in the train working there. He didn't know any other language than Russian. So he thought that any steamer goes to India from Vladivostok. He caught hold of the steamer which was going to Sydney (laughter). And he got a job there. He didn't bother about where it is going. He thought that he is going to Bombay. Sydney harbor came and so nice buildings, and he thought, "Bombay is beautiful" (laughter). He got down there and he went to the temple and after 1 month he learnt that he is not in Bombay but he is in Australia (laughter). Since then he is staying in Brisbane. Very nice devotee, very sincere devotee. This is how **by only chanting the names and reading Prabhupada's books, our life is changed completely**. But one thing is required, i.e., **constant hammering is required**. Otherwise once reading will not help. We do that, "Oh, I have read, what is to be read again?". No, no. We have to read again and again and again and again. And chanting is a must. If you chant and children see you with japa mala in your hand, they will remember that. Because they take snaps. These impressions they take. This boy (Maharaj points to a boy) is so very young, but if mother chants, he will take that snap. These snaps will be eternally there. Because whenever he is in difficulty, he will think, "Oh my mother, was always chanting when she was in difficulty." And eventually he will also do it. This is how, please give the best snaps to these children. So that they will remember. They are going to take snaps anyway. **Whatever way you behave, they are going to take snaps. So please give them the best snaps and somehow or other perfect your lives.**

We must have only one pointed attention to Krishna - *vyavasāyātmikā buddhir ekeha kuru-nandana bahu-sākhā hy anantāś ca*, if you are not attracted to one, then your many branched buddhi will drag you anywhere and everywhere. You require may be millions of lives to come to this one point. It is not accident that we are sitting here. It takes so many lives to come to this point.

We sincerely thank Maharaj from the bottom of our heart for giving us this nectarean discourse to perfect our lives. We pray at his lotus feet that in this life time by his mercy we may become attached to unflinching service unto Krishna.

Thank you very much.

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

Genuine Renunciation - Part 1

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

Renunciation is a much talked about word in any religious circle, but unless the renunciation is genuine, it will create all forms of agitation and disturbance. In one of the classes on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 1.15.39 in Rajkot, HG Devakinandan prabhujis very nicely explained the meaning of genuine renunciation and I would like to share some of the important points from his class for all our benefit.

*mathurāyām tathā vajraṁ śūrasena-patiṁ tataḥ
prājāpatyām nirūpyeṣṭim agnīn apibad īśvaraḥ*

Then he posted Vajra, the son of Aniruddha [grandson of Lord Kṛṣṇa], at Mathurā as the King of Śūrasena. Afterwards Mahārāja Yudhiṣṭhira performed a Prājāpatya sacrifice and placed in himself the fire for quitting household life.

1. **Know when to stop ruling and when to stop being a leader:** The context for the above verse is that Yudhishtira Maharaj is settling his affairs as a king and he is doing it very expertly. He handed over the reins to Parikshit Maharaj and Vajranath, the great grandson of Lord Krishna was placed as the King of Mathura. Yudhishtira Maharaj is very great because he did not hold on to his position. Otherwise the most difficult thing in this world is to give up positions. Renunciation can take two forms. One renunciation is on a gross level where we change our clothing, but before changing our clothing, Yudhishtira Maharaj renounced by way of his behaviour. The greatness of a king or a leader is not only during the time he rules, but the fact that he knows when to stop ruling. A great leader knows when he has to stop being a leader. That is the sign of greatness. We see that many politicians they want to keep going on and on. We see that Srila Prabhupada did not hold on to the throne and once a temple was constructed, he handed over everything to the young disciples who were properly trained and he just moved on to preach.

2. **Discontinue when there is no loss to continue:** Maharaj says that genuine renunciation comes from leaving those things which your mind will always be attracted to. Though we have left so many things as devotees, all these are on the gross level. But we have not renounced the pride that we have renounced. If one is proud of his renunciation, that renunciation is not genuine still. Yudhishtira Maharaj was so exalted and expert that he could have very well continued to rule even after hearing of Krishna's departure. What is there to stop him ruling? Such a great personality, so pure, so dharmic, what would be the loss if the Pandavas stayed back to rule? When there is no loss to continue and one discontinues an activity that is genuine renunciation. Maharaj had settled all his family affairs. Maharaj could have continued to be a Vanaprastha. But Maharaj said, "I left when my thaali (plate) was full." Everything was nice to continue that station of life and that was the time Maharaj decided to leave. We should not wait till our sons and daughters start telling us, "I do not like your face. You are not earning. It is very difficult to maintain you." Maharaj says that we should leave in such a manner that they are begging, "please stay" or they should be bewildered, "Why you are leaving? Everything is fine." When Maharaj left, his family could not understand. They said, "Everything you have. Why you are leaving?" Maharaj said, "That is why I am leaving." This is genuine renunciation. This comes because of the quality of sincere devotional service.

Prabhujis went on to explain how genuine renunciation means understanding what our supreme task is and the same shall be offered in the next mail, Krishna willing.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Vaijayantimala devi dasi

Abu Dhabi.

Genuine Renunciation - Part 2

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the previous offering sharing some points from the class by HG Devakinandan Prabhujis on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 1.15.39 in Rajkot. We saw the following meanings of genuine renunciation.

1. Knowing when to stop ruling and when to stop being a leader.
2. Discontinuing when there is no loss to continue.

Here we see the other points.

3. **Not Neglecting one's Supreme Task:** If we do not leave at the proper time, the moment we cross over certain time, there is attachment. Where there is attachment, there is material affection. Where there is material affection, there is more attachment to the fruitive activities and we do not want to give up the fruits. If today the fruit does not taste good, we have the dream that tomorrow it will taste better. That is how we live and that is what keeps us going. We see that Srila Prabhupada and all the acharyas have followed the footsteps of Yudhishtira Maharaj. Srila Prabhupada could have continued to be a vanaprastha and he would still be pure devotee. But he writes in the purport to the verse SB 1.15.39

*"Yudhishtira Maharaja, as an ideal king, voluntarily retired from active administrative life to prepare himself for the next life. **Everyone's life must be so arranged that the last stage of life, say at least the last fifteen to twenty years prior to death, can be absolutely devoted to the devotional service of the Lord to attain the highest perfection of life.** It is really foolishness to engage oneself all the days of one's life in material enjoyment and fruitive activities, because as long as the mind remains absorbed in fruitive work for material enjoyment, there is no chance of getting out from conditioned life, or material bondage. **No one should follow the suicidal policy of neglecting one's supreme task of attaining the highest perfection of life, namely going back home, back to Godhead.**"*

4. **Being satisfied in spirit:** The whole world is searching for happiness and happiness means satisfaction. One who is satisfied is happy. One who is happy, may not be satisfied. The happiness in the material world is fleeting. Those who are satisfied in spirit, they are happy everywhere. No matter how hard we work, we can never satisfy the people around us fully. There is always some point which is lacking. There is no end to it. But foolishly we are working like asses trying to satisfy them. In doing so, our Bhagavatam time is gone, chanting is gone, sadhana is absent, all in the name of satisfying them first and thinking that after that I will have time for devotional service. That day will never come. It is a dream. Whenever we are suffering in the material world and getting the slaps, **foolishly we do not realize that the way to stop the slaps is to increase the devotional service.** Not to spend less time in devotional service. But the foolish man spends more time trying to solve the problems of life, thinking that he can solve it. But in solving, instead of being renounced, he becomes more attached to the problems. It is a very funny world we live in. We are happy to be attached to the problems thinking that we will solve them, but unnecessarily we get attached. This is the problem we always fail to understand. Anyone who comes with a problem, there is only one standard answer from Srimad Bhagavatam-**your devotional service is lacking. Please increase the quality and intensity of devotional service. There is no other reason.**

5. **Our motivation should be to please Krishna:** Yudhishtira Maharaj understood that his supreme task was to attain love of Godhead, to serve Krishna and the devotees. That is why, whatever station of life he was in, **he did not renounce for name and fame, but to remember Krishna.** Maharaj cautioned us that any station of life we may take, we should never forget what our first business is and that is to become devotee. We should render devotional

service in all the four stations of life in a way we are not motivated by any attachment but the motivation must be to please Krishna. There is no other reason for us to perform devotional service. We do not perform Kirtan to become a great Kirtaniya, we do not cook to become a great cook but we do all that to please Krishna.

6. **Our aim must be to purify our existence**: Srila Prabhupada says that the aim of the varna and ashrama system is to purify our existence and not to contaminate us. So at any stage of life, our aim is to always purify our existence. Every ashram has rules and these rules bring us to Krishna. Krishna is broad hearted enough to understand that a man cannot become sannyasi immediately. Those who artificially renounce, in the end, they become overly attached. But those who gradually renounce, frankly speaking, they become very genuine in their renunciation and it becomes glorious.

Prabhuji went on to explain how important it is to become detached, before we renounce, and the same shall be offered in the next mail, Krishna willing.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Vaijayantimala devi dasi

Abu Dhabi.

Genuine Renunciation - Part 3

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the previous offerings sharing some points from the class by HG Devakinandan prabhujis on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 1.15.39 in Rajkot. We saw the following meanings of genuine renunciation:

1. Knowing when to stop ruling and when to stop being a leader.
2. Discontinuing when there is no loss to continue.
3. Not Neglecting One's Supreme Task.
4. Being satisfied in spirit.
5. Our motivation should be to please Krishna.
6. Our aim must be to purify our existence.

Here we see the other points.

7. One must become detached before one renounces:

SB 1.2.7

*vāsudeve bhagavati bhakti-yogaḥ prayojitaḥ
janayaty āśu vairāgyaṁ jñānaṁ ca yad ahaitukam*

By rendering devotional service unto the Personality of Godhead, Sri Krishna, one immediately acquires causeless knowledge and detachment from the world.

Here, causeless knowledge means transcendental knowledge because it is coming from the causeless mercy of Krishna. In material world, every knowledge is caused because it is motivated. But in spiritual world, every knowledge is transcendental of the material modes. And therefore that knowledge is the first pillar that devotional service gives us. The moment we start rendering devotional service to Krishna, one pillar He creates for us - the pillar of transcendental knowledge. This knowledge is obtained by fixing ourselves at the lotus feet of Srimad Bhagavatam. By chanting Krishna's names on the platform of serious study of Bhagavatam, the *Śravaṇam* and kirtanam allows us to remember Krishna. This is the royal way of devotional service. The next thing that automatically comes is detachment. One must become detached before one renounces. Detachment can only come on the basis of knowledge. Otherwise it is artificial renunciation.

8. Increasing the quality of devotional service at every stage of life: Maharaj says that bhakti protects the renunciation of sincere devotees like a well-rounded fence. Actually bhakti protects bhakti because bhakti is absolute. Every time we change our ashrama or the order of life, we must increase the quality of our devotional service. Otherwise the ashrama will consume us. There are prayers chanted by Kardama muni before he enters into Grhastha ashrama and these prayers are to be chanted by those who are about to get married. He prays in 3.21.14:

*ye māyayā te hata-medhasas tvat-
pādāravindaṁ bhava-sindhu-potam
upāsate kāma-lavāya teṣāṁ
rāsīśa kāmān niraye 'pi ye syuḥ*

Your lotus feet are the true vessel to take one across the ocean of mundane nescience. Only persons deprived of their intelligence by the spell of the deluding energy will worship those feet with a view to attain the trivial and momentary pleasures of the senses, which even persons rotting in hell can attain. However, O my Lord, You are so kind that You bestow mercy even upon them

Kardama muni after being married with Devahuti became extremely pleased with the service of his wife that half the merits of his devotional service he gives to her. This is a benediction which the husband can give to the wife only if he is a devotee. Maharaj said that, "If you do not have 100% then what are you going to give? That means you have cheated your wife. That means you have not done the duty. Duty must be performed expertly." We can see the example of Svayambhuva manu who was genuinely renounced even while being a householder. Srimad Bhagavatam tells us in 3.22.35:

*ayāta-yāmās tasyāsan yāmāḥ svāntara-yāpanāḥ
śṛṅvato dhyāyato viṣṇoḥ kurvato bruvataḥ kathāḥ*

Consequently, although his duration of life gradually came to an end, his long life, consisting of a Manvantara era, was not spent in vain, since he ever engaged in hearing, contemplating, writing down and chanting the pastimes of the Lord.

Srila Prabhupada writes in the purport, "*As freshly prepared food is very tasteful but if kept for three or four hours becomes stale and tasteless, so the existence of material enjoyment can endure as long as life is fresh, but at the fag end of life everything becomes tasteless, and everything appears to be vain and painful. The life of Emperor Svayambhuva Manu, however, was not tasteless; as he grew older, his life remained as fresh as in the beginning because of his continued Krishna consciousness. The life of a man in Krishna consciousness is always fresh.*"

9. Renunciation must be genuine: Until the study of Bhagavatam is there, our renunciation is shallow because everything is based on sentiment. We must first renounce from the heart by sacrificing what we have and then very naturally what we wear will reflect our consciousness. It is not just a ritual. Renunciation must be a daily affair. Daily we must initiate and daily we must renounce something we are attached to. There should be a renunciation of all the anarthas or bad habits and bad thoughts like pride, anger, lust in the heart. We must aim towards that. Where there is genuine detachment, there is no agitation. In any argument, we can walk away without being affected and continue with our duties because we are not attached to the person or the outcome of the argument.

Prabhuji concluded by explaining how by cleaning our hearts with devotional service, all the faults will leave us and how genuine renunciation comes automatically and the same shall be offered in the next mail, Krishna willing.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Vaijayantimala devi dasi

Abu Dhabi.

Genuine Renunciation - Part 4

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in conclusion of the previous offerings sharing some points from the class by HG Devakinandan Prabhujis on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 1.15.39 in Rajkot.

10. Devotional service cleanses our heart: When we clean our hearts with devotional service, then all the faults will leave. In Caitanya Caritamrta, Madhya Lila, we find that Caitanya Mahaprabhu wanted to clean the Gundica temple. Hundreds of water pots and brooms were arranged for cleaning. Then the Lord and His associates started cleaning the temple very nicely. Mahaprabhu cleansed the temple in great jubilation, chanting the Holy name of Krishna all the time. He collected all the straw, dust and grains of sand in His cloth and threw them outside. Then He ordered everyone to cleanse the inside of the temple very perfectly by taking finer dust and throwing them outside. Then they washed everywhere with water and some people were filling the pots and others were washing the rooms but everyone was engaged in the chanting of the Holy name. One person begged for a water pot by chanting "Krishna, Krishna" and another delivered a pot while chanting "Krishna, Krishna." Whenever anyone had to speak, he did so by uttering the holy name of Krishna. Consequently, the holy name of Krishna became an indication for everyone who wanted something. In this way the temple was perfectly cleansed and cleared.

Srila Prabhupada writes in his purport to Madhya lila verse 12.135 of Caitanya Caritamrta that by cleansing the temple, Mahaprabhu is giving instructions on how one should receive the Lord within one's cleansed and purified heart. By His practical example, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu has shown us that all the grains of sand must be picked up thoroughly and thrown outside. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu also cleansed the outside of the temple, fearing that the grains of sand would again come within. In this connection, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura explains that even though one may become free from the desire for fruitive activity, sometimes the subtle desire for fruitive activity again comes into being within the heart. The subtle tendencies are explained as:

1. kuṭīnāṭī - This is the fault finding tendency. This is the first tendency we must renounce. Yudhishtira Maharaj could not find fault with anyone. We see that once when Yudhishtira Maharaj asked to find out one bad person in his kingdom, he returned saying that his mission could not be completed because everyone is good and not a single person is bad. When Duryodhana was asked to find one good person, he said that no one is good. The more we find faults with others, the less we are renounced. This is the direct relationship.

2. praṭiṣṭhāṣā -The desire for name and fame and for high position. If we have this subtle desire, when there is no glorification for our service, we stop performing our service.

3. jīva-himsana - Being envious of other living entities. We commit violence or himsa on the strength of envy. When we are envious of someone, we are violent. Maharaj instructed us to be gentle and loving with everything including our clothes. When Maharaj was young, he saw that Godavari river was flowing in one direction and he washed his clothes in the same direction of the flow, not wanting to hurt the flow of the river. This is the extent of absence of envy Maharaj had.

4. niṣiddhācāra - Accepting things forbidden in the shastra. We mentally concoct things and speculate. We do not remain chaste to Srimad Bhagavatam. We go for study of scriptures which are not recommended by our spiritual masters. We do not stick to the instructions. We cannot be renounced genuinely without following the instructions of the higher authorities.

5. **pooja - Desire for worship.** We want people to put us on an altar and worship us and this is a very bad tendency.

6. **kāma - Desire for material gain:** This is the reason people cheat. Maharaj said that we should not feel proud that we have not cheated. The reason we have not cheated is because we did not have an opportunity to cheat. We should not be proud that we have renounced the propensity to cheat.

The way to renounce is very nicely mentioned in Srimad Bhagavatam verses 2.8.4 and 2.8.5:

*śṛṅvataḥ śraddhayā nityam grṇataś ca sva-ceṣṭitam
kālena nātidīrghena bhagavān viśate hṛdi*

*praviṣṭaḥ karṇa-randhrena svānām bhāva-saroruham
dhunoti śamalam kṛṣṇaḥ salilasya yathā śarat*

Persons who hear Srimad-Bhagavatam regularly and are always taking the matter very seriously will have the Personality of Godhead Sri Krishna manifested in their hearts within a short time.

The sound incarnation of Lord Krishna, the Supreme Soul [i.e. Srimad-Bhagavatam], enters into the heart of a self-realized devotee, sits on the lotus flower of his loving relationship, and thus cleanses the dust of material association, such as lust, anger and hankering. Thus it acts like autumnal rains upon pools of muddy water.

Hearing of Srimad Bhagavatam regularly is the starting point of renunciation because all the bad tendencies are gone. Krishna comes in the form of sound incarnation. This is the basis for genuine renunciation. This is the formula all the acharyas have given us. When we do nice devotional service, automatically renunciation comes and automatically Krishna gives us the knowledge to be alert and even when our material plate is full, we walk away. Maharaj insists that we should renounce everything to come to Bhagavatam.

Our heartfelt thanks to HG Devakinandan Prabhujī for these thought provoking realizations and we pray at the lotus feet of our spiritual master to engage us in loving devotional service leading to genuine renunciation.

Thank you very much.

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

Krishna's Touch Enlivens us

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

Recent unfortunate tragedy with a girl in India made us broken hearted and demanding severe punishment to the culprits as early as possible. Everybody wants to give their suggestions and advice to stop such incidents in future but nobody is giving advice of Krishna consciousness, to control our mind. Our spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj makes a very powerful point, "If there is one word that we should take from Bhagavad-gita, then it is sanyam, control of the senses. Without control of senses we cannot dream of doing devotional service." If we follow the path given by Lord Krishna in Srimad Bhagavad Gita then by Krishna's mercy will get intelligence and there is a chance to avert such type of miseries. In Bhagavad Gita 2.69 Lord Krishna said,

*yā niśā sarva-bhūtānām tasyām jāgarti saṁyamī
yasyām jāgrati bhūtāni sā niśā paśyato muneḥ*

What is night for all beings is the time of awakening for the self-controlled; and the time of awakening for all beings is night for the introspective sage.

In his wonderful purport to the above verse Srila Prabhupada says, "There are two classes of intelligent men. The one is intelligent in material activities for sense gratification, and the other is introspective and awake to the cultivation of self-realization. Activities of the introspective sage, or thoughtful man, are night for persons materially absorbed. Materialistic persons remain asleep in such a night due to their ignorance of self-realization."

One can introduce all kinds of modern ways to prevent crimes, but if the urge of the senses, urge of the tongue are not controlled, no amount of vigilance or security can prevent the crime. The general mass is still active after sense gratification, both gross and subtle. And most of them do not even know that they are after sense gratification. They are perpetually sleeping in the lap of maya. In his purport to Srimad Bhagavatam 5.13.9 Srila Prabhupada says, "When one becomes unconscious due to being bitten by a snake, one cannot understand what is taking place outside the body. This unconscious condition is the condition of deep sleep. Similarly, the conditioned soul is actually sleeping on the lap of the illusory energy. Caitanya Mahaprabhu says,

*enechi auśadhi māyā nāśibāra lāgi'
hari-nāma-mahā-mantra lao tumi māgi'*

I have brought medicine to awaken every living being from perpetual sleep. Please receive the holy name of the Lord, the Hare Kṛṣṇa mahā-mantra, and awaken.

The Kaṭha Upaniṣad (1.3.14) also says, uttiṣṭha jāgrata prāpya varān nibodhata: "**O living entity, you are sleeping in this material world. Please get up and take advantage of your human form of life.**" The sleeping condition means loss of all knowledge."

In order to get out of the spell of ignorance and revive our constitutional position, the medicine of Hare Krishna Mahamantra is the only remedy. We have to get Krishna into our lives somehow or other. Studying Srila Prabhupada's books is a very easy but very powerful method to bring Krishna into our lives and dissipate the darkness of ignorance.

In one of his Bhagavatam class, HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj warns us, "**Without Krishna we are living dead.**" Maharaj insists, "We have to simply go through Srila Prabhupada's books very carefully. Everything is ready there." Through his books we will be able to see and experience Krishna in our life. Maharaj further says, "The name of Krishna is śakti-dharaḥ and He enters in our tongue and forces us to become lively. Otherwise our tongue is completely sleeping always, many times talking non-sense. So this should stop immediately, and we should pray to Krishna that '**Somehow or other, You please sit on my tongue**

.'" Then just like the effect of Sanjeevini mantra, our whole life will become rejuvenated and enlivened. Srila Prabhupada and Krishna will guide us to lead a life of sanity and we will not be affected by miseries of Kali yuga.

I sincerely pray at the lotus feet of Lord Krishna, Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev to bestow his mercy upon me so that I can understand the above facts and practise them in my daily life.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Tushta Krishna das

Sharjah.

Qualifications to Satisfy the Lord - Part 1

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

Our spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj has given a beautiful discourse on the Srimad Bhagavatam verse 4.11.13. We would like to share the nectar with everyone seeking the blessings of Guru Maharaj and Krishna.

*titikṣayā karuṇayā maitryā cākhila-jantuṣu
samatvena ca sarvātmā bhagavān samprasīdati*

The Lord is very satisfied with His devotee when the devotee greets other people with tolerance, mercy, friendship and equality.

1. **Tolerance Satisfies Krishna:** If we cultivate these four qualities, then Bhagavan is completely satisfied. And it is our duty in the human existence to satisfy the Lord. Unless you satisfy Krishna, your life becomes completely useless and useless life has no meaning. That is why it is useless. And as soon as something is useless it is to be thrown in the dustbin. *If your life is useless, not satisfying the Lord, it is supposed to go in the dustbin. If you want to throw yourself in dustbin then don't follow this path. If you don't want to throw yourself in the dustbin then you have to follow this program - bhagavān samprasīdati.* And the first thing is - *titikṣayā karuṇayā.* *titikṣayā*, you have to be very tolerant. Tolerate always. In marital relationships also if we tolerate each other it continues. In social relations also, if you tolerate each other the society goes ahead. In cities also, if you tolerate each other the city functions very efficiently. In the country also, if you tolerate each other, then the country functions very sophisticated. *And the globe, this is earth planet, if you tolerate each other then whole globe functions nicely.* And in this universe, this is one of the globes, if all of the planets tolerate each other the universe functions very efficiently. *And there are innumerable universes in the material manifestation, if all the universes tolerate each other, the whole bunch of material manifestation functions very efficiently. Otherwise one globe will bang the other globe and both will be destroyed or one universe will bang with another universe and the whole thing will be destroyed. The whole manifestation functions on this quality - tolerance.* Herein our temples also there are different personalities staying, different mental capacities are there, different modes of material nature are playing around and even then the temple is functioning. And *if you tolerate each other, then the temple will function very efficiently.* If you don't tolerate then there will be clashes and as soon as there is a clash, immediately there is destruction. That's why we avoid clashes. We work in the offices, we work in our own businesses and we avoid these clashes. So this is the first quality to be cultivated if you want to satisfy the Supreme Absolute Truth Krishna.

Then you must be extra-tolerant and Caitanya Mahaprabhu very nicely instructs us in one line *taror api sahiṣṇunā* - more tolerant than the tree. It's very beautiful to understand this line. *The tree, we beat the mango tree with a stone and the tree gives you mangoes. You cut the chandan tree and you are cutting, you are destroying the tree but it gives you the nice chandan flavor. It never resists. If somebody hits you with a stone what will you do? You'll run after him with a stone.* But that's not what the scriptures say. Then Krishna will not be satisfied. The tree, if it is hit by the stone it gives mango. If somebody hits you, you are much better than the tree, isn't it? Why do you run after him with the stone?

There was one King in Maharashtra, his name was Shivaji, famous king. So once it so happened, there was one lady and her children were very hungry, because for three or four days she could not provide any food for her children. So naturally the mother was worried because she wanted to feed her children so she went to the forest and she had a stick in her hand. So she thought that she would beat the mango tree, get a few mangoes and feed the children. It so happened that Shivaji was also riding on a horse and going under the same tree, so she raised the stick and she wanted to hit the mango. But instead of that, she missed the mango and the stick hit the turban of Shivaji. The king

was hit, so all the soldiers were very angry, "She's beating the king!" So the next day Shivaji called her to court and he asked her, "Why did you hit my turban?" So she said, "Please excuse me King, I did not want to hit your turban but my children were hungry for the past three, four days so I wanted to get some mangoes for them. So I wanted to hit the mango tree but instead of that, I missed it and I accidentally hit your turban." So Shivaji thought for a moment, "**Yes, if she would have hit the tree, the tree would have given her mangoes. I am better than the tree, so if the tree can give the mangoes when hit, then I must give her something more.**" And then instead of any punishment, the king gave her ten acres of land and 10,000 rupees. So the king said to her, "You go, till the land and give the food to your children."

So this is the way we should cultivate the tolerance. It's very easy to lecture about tolerance, but when it comes to the point we can't tolerate anything. We cannot tolerate anything. This cultivation has got to be there and *unless you tolerate, you cannot function properly. Even husband and wife, if they don't tolerate each other, they cannot function.* And that is the trouble all over the world. That is the reason why our couples are separated. Divorces and again marriage and again divorce, so many things happen because we don't tolerate. In Indian families also, they are degrading very fast but even now we see a bit of permanence. And if the couples are not together and the marital relations are not sound, then you are not interested to do anything. You just become lazy and life is completely destroyed, *you die before you are gone.* It's a living death because we are not tolerating! And this *tolerance is the quality that in the end, will satisfy the Supreme Absolute Truth Krishna according to Srimad Bhagavatam.*

Krishna willing, we will continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj in the subsequent offerings.

Thank you very much.

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

Qualifications to Satisfy the Lord - Part 2

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

We are continuing with the beautiful discourse by our spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on the Srimad Bhagavatam verse 4.11.13.

*titikṣayā karuṇayā maitryā cākhila-jantuṣu
samatvena ca sarvātmā bhagavān samprasīdati*

The Lord is very satisfied with His devotee when the devotee greets other people with tolerance, mercy, friendship and equality.

Yesterday we saw the explanation by Maharaj about *titikṣayā*.

1. Tolerance Satisfies Krishna.

Today we will see Maharaj's explanation on *karuṇayā* - Mercy.

2. **Merciful Attitude Pleases Krishna:** *karuṇayā* means merciful. We're all merciful to all living entities and that's why particularly we don't touch meat, fish or eggs because that is killing the animal. We don't kill for anything and we don't touch those things because *karuṇayā*, we have mercy towards everybody and we're all part and parcel of Krishna. So animals also are part and parcel of Krishna. Nobody has given us the right to kill the deaf and dumb animal just because they are not able to resist. If someone else was there, they would have resisted. When you try to kill them they will kill you. So we are very particular about this quality - to be merciful to everybody. This is the second quality to satisfy the Lord. Unless you have a merciful attitude it is very difficult to satisfy Krishna, to satisfy God.

The seed of the mercy from our heart is completely destroyed as soon as you put the piece of meat, fish or eggs into your mouth. There is no seed of mercy and because the seed of mercy is destroyed, then we have wars and so many troubles between the countries, in between the societies, in between the families, in between the husband and wife. It is very difficult to continue without a merciful attitude. It is the root cause of the disintegration of the society. Once the society is disintegrated, once the marital relationships are disintegrated it is very difficult to get the good city, it is very difficult to get the good country and it is very difficult to find out the good globe. It is very difficult to find the good universe and it is very difficult to find out the bunch of universes. The whole cosmic manifestation is completely wiped off. **And you forget one thing, that it is all one body, Krishna's body.**

So don't think if someone behaves bad somewhere, "How it is going to affect me?" No. ***Even a single living entity does something bad somewhere, immediately the whole material manifestation has to suffer.*** What to talk of one family, what to talk of one society, what to talk of one city or what to talk of one planet, what to talk of one universe? The whole bunch of universes are suffering and that's why ***if you cultivate these qualities like tolerance and mercy, unknowingly you are helping the whole material manifestation to function very smoothly.*** The thing is, this is the way to understand Srimad Bhagavatam. And this is the way Srimad Bhagavatam is very intimately related with our day to day life. *Our scriptures do not fly in the sky. No, they don't fly. They are very well on the ground. And our life has got to be organized on this way otherwise life is completely a scratch.* And this knowledge doesn't apply to one section of the society. It applies to mankind as a whole. Human existence is same. It doesn't matter whether you are Christian, whether you are Mohammedan, whether you are Jew or whether you are Hindu or whatever it is. It doesn't matter at all. Everybody has to satisfy God, everybody has to satisfy Krishna. Everybody has to be tolerant. Everybody has to be merciful. That will please Krishna.

Krishna willing we shall continue with the nectar from Maharaj in the next offerings.

Thank you very much.

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

Qualifications to Satisfy the Lord - Part 3

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in conclusion of the beautiful discourse by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on the Srimad Bhagavatam verse 4.11.13,

*titikṣayā karuṇayā maitryā cākhila-jantuṣu
samatvena ca sarvātmā bhagavān samprasīdati*

The Lord is very satisfied with His devotee when the devotee greets other people with tolerance, mercy, friendship and equality.

In the previous offerings we saw the explanation by Maharaj about *titikṣayā and karuṇayā*.

1. Tolerance Satisfies Krishna.
2. Merciful Attitude Pleases Krishna.

Today we will hear from Maharaj about friendship - *maitryā* and *samatvena* - equality.

3. Be friendly and Equiposed: Then second line gives you the third quality; *maitryā cākhila-jantuṣu*. *maitryā*, you must be friendly, friendly to each other. This is the best quality. Now there are three qualities here in two lines. Repeat - *titikṣayā karuṇayā, maitryā cākhila-jantuṣu*. *ca* means **definitely**. *akhila* means **all**. *jantuṣu* means **living entities, definitely friendly to all living entities**. If you are friendly to all living entities, how can you fully cut the neck of the chicken and put the dead body and stuff it into your throat? You can't do it. And if you do it, if you stuff those dead bodies into your stomach what are you going to get? They are rotten dead bodies. They may be colored or medicated in the meat factories or whatever it is but they can't improve. The nice wrapping doesn't improve the content. The contents are dirty. Please try to shun from these activities. When are you going to repay for these things? And apart from sins we are getting completely contaminated. The whole of our life, the whole of our society, the whole of your family pattern is completely destroyed. We don't see the satisfied living entities in countries where people eat meat although they have all the riches at their disposal. That society which has no place for Krishna in their life, it is completely rotten. It is highly the mercy of the Lord, because of His merciful attitude towards the living entities, He sent Prabhupada in his old age all the way from Vrindavana to New York otherwise I can't imagine what would have happened. Please take this opportunity and cultivate these qualities.

titikṣayā karuṇayā maitryā cākhila-jantuṣu

Then the third line; *samatvena* means **equal, equal to all living entities**, *ca sarvātmā* - towards every soul we are equal, whether he is poor, rich, whether he is knowledgeable or uneducated, whether he is small or big. We don't make any difference at all. We are completely equal to all living entities; *samatvena ca sarvātmā*. *sarva* means all. *ātma* means soul. And if you follow these four qualities, *titikṣayā karuṇayā, maitryā cākhila-jantuṣu, samatvena ca sarvātmā, bhagavān samprasīdati*, then the Lord is satisfied.

And there is an easy way to remember this verse. You take **mercy**, which is the first quality to satisfy the Lord, take out '**M**'. And then **equality**, take the '**E**'. '**M-E**'. Then **friendly** to all living entities '**F**'. '**M-E-F**' And then **tolerance**, **T**. '**MEFT**'. If you remember, "MEFT" M-E-F-T, what does it stand for? [**M**ercy, **E**quality, **F**riendly to all living entities and **T**olerant] and practise it then Jaya! - Completely satisfy Krishna. Smile and you'll be happy. Study the scriptures, you will be very successful. (Maharaj soulfully recites the verse and devotees repeat it after him).

Very nice! Do you remember now? *So if you cultivate these four qualities, Lord will be completely satisfied otherwise He will be angry with you. He will smash your head. (laughter) You have to cultivate these four qualities.* Jai Srila Prabhupada ki Jai!

Our heartfelt thanks to Maharaj for these powerful instructions. Srila Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj Gurudev ki Jai.

Thank you very much.

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

Moist Wood and Dry Wood

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 1.1.15 the sages at Naimisaranya say to Suta Goswami,

*yat-pāda-saṁśrayāḥ sūta munayaḥ praśamāyanāḥ
sadyaḥ punanty upaspr̥ṣṭāḥ svardhuny-āpo 'nusevayā*

Oh Suta Goswami, the great sages who have completely taken shelter of the lotus feet of the Lord, can at once sanctify others who may come into touch with them while the water of the Ganges can do so after a prolonged use only.

The scriptures insist that association of pure devotees is so powerful that it can purify our existence within a short while.

*'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.

Now the question arises that if even *lava-mātra sādhu-saṅge* can bring such a great change in one's life, why we are not able to see such drastic impact in our lives, although by the causeless mercy of Krishna, we get the association of many pure devotees. The following instructive conversation between Srila Prabhupada and his disciples in one of the morning walks in Mayapur in March 11 1976, removes all the doubts in our heart.

Disciple 1: How does that work, that if somebody has the association of a pure devotee for only a lava, one-eleventh of a second, that he attains all perfection?

Prabhupada: If he is so sincere.... Just like dried wood immediately ignites. And if it is moist, it does not. ***It is the quality of the wood. One takes three hundred years; one in three minutes. That's it. [break] One is dry from the material moist of contamination, he becomes immediately ignited in spiritual...***

Disciple 2: What is that drying process?

Prabhupada: Drying process is for many, many years one has tried to become Krishna conscious, for many, many lives, *bahūnām janmanām ante* [Bg. 7.19]. When he actually becomes man of knowledge he surrenders unto God. Otherwise he is lost. His drying process may take three minute or three millions years.

Disciple 3: But that knowledge that Krishna is everything comes by Krishna's mercy, Srila Prabhupada?

Prabhupada: Krishna's mercy is already there, but if you are not able to take it...

Disciple 1: Then you don't even have to hear from a self-realized soul. Simply by seeing him you can become completely purified.

Prabhupada: Yes. Both required. The matches must be also all right, and the wood must be also. Then there is fire. If one of them is defective, then, it will not.... But ***when you go to the fire, you become dry. But willfully we put again water. This nonsense business makes us late. This process is already there, how to become dry. But instead of taking the process, we put water. Then how it will be ignited? The rules and regulations is the drying process. But without following the rules and regulation, if you again become a victimized by maya, then there is water and again dry it. So this is going on, watering and drying, watering and drying. No straightforward process for driving***

. That will help. But difficulty is that we dry and again water.

So instead of making ourselves wet again and again, if we sincerely endeavour to dry ourselves from the material moist of contamination, by following the instructions of spiritual master and the acharyas, then we will also be ignited with fire of devotion.

Thank you very much.

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

Bhakti is Unconditional - Part 1

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

The following is transcription of instructive class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Bhagavad Gita verse 7.28,

*yeṣāṁ tv anta-gataṁ pāpaṁ janānāṁ puṇya-karmaṇām
te dvandva-moha-nirmuktā bhajante mām dṛḍha-vratāḥ*

Persons who have acted piously in previous lives and in this life and whose sinful actions are completely eradicated are freed from the dualities of delusion, and they engage themselves in My service with determination.

1. **Bhakti is unconditional:** Always we have a doubt in our minds that, "who worships the Lord?" Here again Krishna gives you two qualities. If you cultivate these two qualities then you get out of the duality of the material world. That is - happiness, distress, long, short, winning, losing. These are all the dualities. And we have to get out of these dualities. We should be equal anytime and every time. Whether we lose everything or what or whether we gain everything or what. It doesn't matter at all. That's why the devotional service of the Lord remains always same in whichever condition you are. This is worth understanding this point.

Devotional service means bhakti. Even if you lose everything and you are staying under the tree, even then you can carry on the devotional service. Or you may have a hut with you and you'll be able to carry on the devotional service. Or you may have a palace, you'll be able to carry on the devotional service. It doesn't matter at all what condition you are in. The same way you may be a child, you can do bhakti. You may be adult, youth you can do bhakti. You may be middle aged man, you can carry on the bhakti. You may be advanced aged man, you can carry on bhakti. If you have a completely dwindling body even then you can carry on the devotional service. Whether you are poor or rich, in whichever country you are in, maybe in India or Africa, Asian countries or Australia, New Zealand, Fiji or any other country on this planet you can carry on the devotional service. The devotional service doesn't require any material condition.

2. **Bhakti transcends:** Because bhakti doesn't depend upon the material conditions it is known as transcendental. It transcends. You know the meaning of transcends? Transcends - We are driving on the road. Of course if you're driving on the road, you are controlled by the laws of the road. You have to keep to right, you cannot go to left and if you drive to the left you may have the accident or you'll be punished while you're on the road. But have you seen anytime an aeroplane stopping near the red light? No, why? It transcends. That is the meaning of transcends. Bhakti transcends. It doesn't depend on any material condition, any material condition. And that's why Lord Hanuman sings a very nice verse in 5th canto of Srimad Bhagavatam. It shows that bhakti doesn't depend on any of the material conditions. In any condition of life you can just chant. If you have beads with you or even if you don't have, you have the fingers. You just start chanting

*Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare*

And you go on chanting. There is nothing needed. In any condition of life you can do it.

Krishna willing we shall continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj in the subsequent offering.

Thank you very much.

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

Bhakti is Unconditional - Part 2

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of instructive class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Bhagavad Gita verse 7.28. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj

1. Bhakti is unconditional.
2. Bhakti transcends.

Now let us continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj.

3. **Bhakti does not need material qualification:** Lord Hanuman prays to Lord Rama. He says, "Lord Rama, You are so very kind that I don't have any qualifications and then even then You have accepted me as Your servant." Not only that but because of the unflinching service attitude to Lord Rama, Hanuman is benedicted and Rama said to him that, "Wherever I will be, you will be." And you can see anytime that as soon as there is an altar with Rama, Lakshman and Sita, Hanuman is also there. Without Hanuman, the deities are not complete. This is the benediction he has received. And he himself says that he didn't have any qualifications. And in this verse he sings very nicely and it gives you the idea, you know? Please hear the verse.

SB 5.19.7

*na janma nūnaṁ mahato na saubhagaṁ
na vāṅ na buddhir nākṛtis toṣa-hetuḥ
tair yad viśṛṣṭān api no vanaukaśāś
cakāra sakhye bata lakṣmaṇāgrajaḥ*

Beautiful! Bhagavatam could be very nicely sung. **You please get into Bhagavad-Gita and Srimad-Bhagavatam. These scriptures are to be studied daily. Every second of your existence is meant for the study of these scriptures. As I told you that our scriptures are not flying in the sky, they are very much intimately connected with your day to day life so that your bhakti becomes unflinching on a strong foundation. Unless you have a strong foundation, foundation of devotional service, you will not be successful materially also. That is our experience and it is the instructions of the scriptures.** You understand this verse now.

na janma nūnaṁ mahato na saubhagaṁ na vāṅ na buddhir nākṛtis toṣa-hetuḥ Beautiful two lines; *na janma nūnaṁ* , "I don't have any high birth. It's a monkey's birth." Hanuman says that his birth is not even a human birth. He says, "I don't have a high birth." *na janma nūnaṁ mahato na saubhagaṁ*. "I don't have any riches with me. I am not a very rich person staying in a palace or staying in America." So Hanuman says that, "I don't have high parentage. I don't have any good fortune;" *na janma nūnaṁ mahato. mahato* means *mahān*, "I am not great. I don't have good fortune. I don't have anything." *na vāṅ* - "I don't have any speech, I can't utter Rama very clearly." *na vāṅ na buddhir*, "I don't have any intelligence." You know these things are completely absent. *na ākṛtis*, "I don't have a beautiful body. I have a completely ugly body full of hair. These things are completely absent from my existence."

na janma nūnaṁ mahato na saubhagaṁ na vāṅ na buddhir nākṛtis toṣa-hetuḥ - "I cannot satisfy Lord with all these things because I don't have anything with me", and then he says; *tair yad viśṛṣṭān api no vanaukaśāś* - and on top of this, "I don't have any residence in the city Chicago. I don't have any cities. I don't have a Los Angeles, I don't have any New York or something or Bombay or Ahmedabad or Delhi. We don't stay anywhere, we stay in the jungle. With all these things absent; I don't have buddhi, I don't have speech, I don't have intelligence, my janma, my birth is not high

parentage, I don't have any good fortune, I have nothing of these and on top of it my residence is in jungle and even then *cakāra*, You accepted me as Your servant - *lakṣmaṇāgrajaḥ*."

lakṣmaṇāgrajaḥ means Lord Rama, the elder brother of Lakshmana. "Please, You are so very kind to me Lord Rama that even though I don't have any of these things You have accepted me as Your servant." And this is the main instruction to our own life; that in any condition of life you can just go on chanting;

*Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare*

You please raise your hands lovingly. Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare/ Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare. It doesn't require anything at all. This is Srimad Bhagavatam.

Krishna willing we shall continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj in the subsequent offerings.

Thank you very much.

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

Bhakti is Unconditional - Part 3

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of instructive class given by our beloved spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Bhagavad Gita verse 7.28. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj

1. Bhakti is unconditional.
2. Bhakti transcends.
3. Bhakti does not need material qualification.

Now let us continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj on the verse BG 7.28.

4. **See Krishna in everyone:** Please recite this verse very lovingly,

*yeṣāṁ tv anta-gataṁ pāpaṁ janānāṁ puṇya-karmaṇām
te dvandva-moha-nirmuktā bhajante mām dṛḍha-vratāḥ*

Persons who have acted piously in previous lives and in this life and whose sinful actions are completely eradicated are freed from the dualities of delusion, and they engage themselves in My service with determination.

It's a beautiful verse, it tells you first two things; *yeṣāṁ tv anta-gataṁ pāpaṁ*, your sinful reactions must come to an end and there is no way that you can bring the sinful reactions to an end unless you try to recognize the existence of your own soul in your material body. We have a material body and this material body is as it is a dead body. Unless there is the motive power of the soul, your hand will not move. In dead body, the soul has already departed and that is why it can't move but your body can very well move because the soul is still there. And as soon as you recognize the existence of the soul, then you know that your real identity is the soul. *Nobody is a woman, nobody is a man. Nobody is the animal. Nobody is a dog, nobody is cow, nobody is tree, it is all soul. And this change of attitude will bring you to tolerate everybody. This change of attitude will force you to be merciful to everybody. This change of attitude will force you to be friendly with all the living entities. And this type of consciousness will force you to be equal to everybody because you don't see anything else but Krishna.* Everybody of us are part and parcel of Krishna, nobody is woman, nobody is man, nobody is cow, nobody is dog.

Wherever we see, we see always the Supersoul and the soul. And this is very difficult. In Bhagavad-gita Krishna says very clearly; *bahūnām janmanām ante jñānavān mām prapadyate* (BG 7.19). At the end of many many births, those who are knowledgeable, *maam prapadyate*, they surrender unto me. And they surrender to me, what is the knowledge? *vāsudevaḥ sarvam iti sa mahātmā su-durlabhaḥ*. Those who see Krishna everywhere, that *mahātmā*, that great person is very, very rare. Otherwise 99.9% we are always on a bodily level and we think that, "I am an American, I am an Indian American." The claim doesn't work, the bodily designations are the impediments in your devotional service, in your bhakti. And this is very nicely given here that as soon as you purify your actions on this foundation, you can then be devoted to the Lord otherwise you are always on the bodily level. And if you are on the bodily level, then you think that, "I am a woman, I am a man, I am a husband, I am a wife, I am a child, I am father, I am grandfather, or I am American, I am an Indian." All these are *upādhi*. Unless you completely get free from this deluding energy, this is the deluding energy of the Lord. You are not your body and you are thinking that you are body. As soon as you think that, "I am coming from Bengal, I am coming from Bombay we will try to fight with each other because it is east and west. There is no point in it. You think that, 'I am a Mohammedan, he is Hindu,' and we'll fight. There is no need of this, no need of this but this real knowledge is completely absent. And Srila Prabhupada is very merciful to

open our eyes otherwise our eyes were completely closed. One sincere soul like Srila Prabhupada is able to convert the whole world. If we become sincere, all of us, how many worlds can we convert. You please remember his greatness and you can be great. He was telling us that, "I am not the special living entity. I and you are equal but I am sincere and you are not sincere." He was very sincere. He would get up at 1 AM daily to translate all these things. We take five years to write one letter and he wrote 100 books in ten years time and managed 100 temples on his own. He was the only one to cultivate these people and these people are coming from the foreign background and have you seen our altars, how clean it is? Anywhere you go ISKCON temples and our altars are sparkling like this. Have you seen anywhere, the seva like this? You please open your eyes! We belong to Bharati culture, you are coming from India or are connected to Indian families, our life is completely useless unless we come to this knowledge.

We don't want to lock ourselves up in some samadhi or yogi or this or that, no, that is not meant for this age. You get out of this and ***you come to the field and you preach and you know yourself first! You study these things and then preach. You make your life successful and then make other's lives successful. This is our mission. This is our mission.***

Krishna willing, we shall continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj in the subsequent offerings.

Thank you very much.

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

Bhakti is Unconditional - Part 4

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in conclusion of the transcription of instructive class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Bhagavad Gita verse 7.28. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj

1. Bhakti is unconditional.
2. Bhakti transcends.
3. Bhakti does not need material qualification.
4. See Krishna in everyone

Now let us continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj.

5. **Way to Develop Devotional Attitude:** If Prabhupada would have locked himself up in a samadhi could he have been able to do anything? Because he came out in the field he preached day and night and he prepared himself for the whole of lifetime and then he was able to do so much. Any other process is not going to work in this Kali-yuga. Only,

*harer nāma harer nāma harer nāmaiva kevalam
kalau nāsty eva nāsty eva nāsty eva gatir anyathā*

In this age of quarrel and hypocrisy the only means of deliverance is chanting the holy name of the Lord. There is no other way. There is no other way. There is no other way. (Brhan-naradiya Purana 3.8.126)

This is the only way to develop the devotional attitude. And unless you develop the devotional attitude through the centers like this, your life is completely useless. Please take this message and try to reorganize your life on this principle that; *vāsudevaḥ sarvam iti sa mahātmā su-durlabhaḥ*. And this point then forces us to get attached to the centers like this. It is a beautiful place, a beautiful building and we are struggling to maintain this. Please this is not the pressure on any of you, but please try to give this message to your friends and take this message. It is your pious duty to maintain these centers. Without this center, can you imagine, where can we sit and discuss about the Lord? This is Prabhupada's mercy that we have such a beautiful place that is in the middle of Chicago. And we are very fortunate to come to this place. As soon as this point comes in our mind then because we know that we have to see Krishna everywhere and we come here and try to see Him on the altar very nicely maintained and worshiped since 4:00 in the morning to 10:00 at night. Who, who does this? Tell me? Who does this? We have plenty of temples all over the planet but they only open on Sundays. So show me the centers that everyday, 365 days, where the puja, the worship of the Lord, is going on from 4:00 in the morning to 10:00 at night. It is only Prabhupada's centers. It is our monopoly that we are the specialists in worship! Wherever you go, all over the planet, in ISKCON temples this is the worship.

And this is how Prabhupada did not give you the dry philosophy. On the one hand he has given the philosophy and on the other hand he has given a lifestyle to follow that philosophy and we are the heir apparents to that philosophy. It is your pious duty to carry his mission. Today every small child in the world knows the name of Krishna. Hare Krishna is taken very nicely in all the countries all over. Srila Prabhupada ki Jai ! Hare Krishna.

Our heartfelt thanks to Maharaj for these wonderful instructions. Srila Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj ki Jai!

Thank you very much.

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

Improve your Mould

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

In Srimad Bhagavatam, we see that Nanda Maharaja, after celebrating the birth of Krishna, went to Mathura to pay official taxes to Kamsa. There he met Vasudeva. Vasudeva had been imprisoned by Kamsa, and therefore, although present in Mathura, he was unable to see Nanda Maharaja for many years and on seeing Nanda Maharaja now, Vasudeva speaks the following wonderful verse in SB 10.5.24:

*diṣṭyā sarṁsāra-cakre 'smin vartamānaḥ punar-bhavaḥ
upalabdho bhavān adya durlabhaṁ priya-darśanam*

It is also by good fortune that I am seeing you. Having obtained this opportunity, I feel as if I have taken birth again. Even though one is present in this world, to meet with intimate friends and dear relatives in this material world is extremely difficult.

This verse has a special place in the heart of our beloved Gurudev HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj. Whenever Maharaj met anyone, he used to refer to this verse and tell how it is really a rebirth to meet the living entities and realizing this, Maharaj was genuinely pleased to meet the living entities, whoever it may be. The following is a transcription of a part of the speech by Gurudev in one of the discussions in Rajkot and Maharaj herein explains how we should not have any concoctions and presuppositions when we meet the living entities.

"Our whole life should have the foundation of the principles of Srimad Bhagavad gita and Srimad Bhagavatam. It should become our lifestyle. The whole life should be organized in such a way that one or the other principle we are following. We should not waste time. We should not concoct anything. Things are happening according to the Lord's plans. That we are definite. We cannot change His plans. If my desires do not work, why should I concoct about my desires? Concoction must stop. Concoction is concoction. There is no value in it. You just stop concocting and you save half your life time. Otherwise we concoct so many things and why are you concocting? We think that I have to stay here for 50 years more. The reality is, we are sitting here is a fact now. Tomorrow it will be a dream. We are sitting and talking is a fact now. But this fact never remains a fact. It becomes a dream. So every material thing has a definite inclination to be converted to dream and for dream, we do not worry. I may be killed in a dream. I may be in difficulty. As soon as I wake up, I find I am not in difficulty. Dreams - we do not worry about. So *gate shoko na karavyo* - so please forget the past. Do not worry about the past. Those who remember past and work according to past, they are known as bhutas - ghosts, because past is bhutkaal.

We may have so many bad or good experiences with the people. Do not presuppose. No presuppositions. Every time the living entity comes, it is a new page. Because, after so many days we are coming together. We are flying, we are alive. Your purse permits you to come here. How many things have to be arranged and then I presuppose. Oh! This man is like this! Like that! No!!! Our presuppositions are completely wrong because they are based on the past. Every time the living entity comes in front of us, it is a rebirth. In India, to cross the road is a rebirth. That amount of risk we are carrying and we see the living entity and we presuppose. So how the living entity will feel? That presupposition has no value. Everything in the world changes, so the man will also change for good or for bad or worse. We do not worry. We see only the good. We do not see the bad side. If I see good, good, good, eventually I become good. If I see bad, bad, bad, I'll become bad. Why should we become bad?

This is the way to pass the life in the Vedic mould. Otherwise vedic mould is there. Our mould must be nice and then the figure will be nice. If the mould is clear, the figure will be very fine. Our vedic mould is very fine and we should really try to have nice mould according to Bhagavad Gita and Bhagavatam. It is really like a rebirth that we are coming

together. Either I die or you die or you may be consumed with some chronic disease or I may be. So many things are going on. Even then we are seeing each other. So how much more He must be merciful on us that all the difficulties He has saved us from and we are together. We come together and we are kicking each other. In Hindi there is a nice saying,

*jñānī se jñānī mile hue do do bāt
gaḍhe se gaḍha mile hue do do lāt*

A knowledgeable person meets another knowledgeable person and they nicely talk with each other. A donkey meets another donkey and they kick with their legs. Do not be gaḍha (donkey). Gaḍha is not our mould. *jñānī* is our mould and we prefer gaḍha mould. (Maharaj laughs.) Now what to do? Eventually we become like gaḍha. Srila Prabhupada has improved our mould. Otherwise always we like to be in gaḍha mould. Some bad point we take out and then we grind it. It is a waste of energy in human existence and to improve the mould, we have to go to Bhagavad Gita and Bhagavatam regularly. *Nityaṁ bhāgavata-sevayā*. We should never think, I know Bhagavad-gita, I have read so many times. No. Every time you go, it is a mine of nice moulds. It will always give you the insight of the moulds and that mould will correct your life and it will help you all around. As soon as your mould is improving, your figure will improve, as soon as your figure improves, your whole atmosphere improves."

Thank you very much.

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

Service to Spiritual Master - Part 1

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

At Singapore all disciples of HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj got together at H G Devakinandan Prabhu's residence, yesterday on 25 Jan 2013, the date when Maharaj completed his pastimes in this mortal world. We listened to a lecture by Maharaj and read verses from Srimad Bhagavatam, SB 4.28.47 to 4.28.53.

Srila Prabhupada has very beautifully described how a spiritual master serves the Lord and the relation between the disciple and the spiritual master in the purports to these verses. Following are extracts from these purports on this topic.

1. As long as the spiritual master is physically present, the disciple should serve the physical body of the spiritual master, and when the spiritual master does no longer physically exist, the disciple should serve the instructions of the spiritual master.
2. Whenever an acharya comes, following the superior orders of the Supreme Personality of Godhead or His representative, he establishes the principles of religion, as enunciated in Bhagavad-Gita.
3. It is the acharya's duty to spread a bona fide religious system and induce everyone to bow down before the Supreme Lord. One executes the religious principles by rendering devotional service, specifically the nine items like hearing, chanting and remembering.
4. The acharya, the authorized representative of the Supreme Lord, establishes these principles, but when he disappears, things once again become disordered. The perfect disciples of the acharya try to relieve the situation by sincerely following the instructions of the spiritual master.
5. Just as a devoted wife becomes afflicted at the passing away of her husband, when a spiritual master passes away, the disciple becomes similarly bereaved.
6. A devoted disciple of the spiritual master would rather die with the spiritual master than fail to execute the spiritual master's mission. As the Supreme Personality of Godhead comes down upon this earth to re-establish the principles of religion, so His representative, the spiritual master, also comes to re-establish religious principles. It is the duty of the disciples to take charge of the mission of the spiritual master and execute it properly. Otherwise the disciple should decide to die along with the spiritual master. In other words, to execute the will of the spiritual master, the disciple should be prepared to lay down his life and abandon all personal considerations.
7. When one becomes serious to follow the mission of the spiritual master, his resolution is tantamount to seeing the Supreme Personality of Godhead. As explained before, **this means meeting the Supreme Personality of Godhead in the instruction of the spiritual master**. This is technically called vani-seva. Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakura states in his Bhagavad-Gita commentary on the verse *vyavasāyātmikā buddhir ekeha kuru-nandana* (Bg. 2.41) that one should serve the words of the spiritual master. The disciple must stick to whatever the spiritual master orders. Simply by following on that line, one sees the Supreme Personality of Godhead.
8. If one sticks to the principles enunciated by the spiritual master, somehow or other he is in association with the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Krishna willing we shall continue to meditate on other points mentioned by His Divine Grace in the subsequent offering.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Govardhan das

Singapore.

Service to Spiritual Master - Part 2

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled "Service to Spiritual Master", wherein we were meditating on some of the powerful points of Srila Prabhupada, in Srimad Bhagavatam verses 4.28.47 to 53 on how a spiritual master serves the Lord and the relation between the disciple and the spiritual master. In previous offering we saw 8 points. Now we shall see the remaining points.

9. In conclusion, if a disciple is very serious to execute the mission of the spiritual master, he immediately associates with the Supreme Personality of Godhead by vani or vapuh. This is the only secret of success in seeing the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Instead of being eager to see the Lord in some bush of Vrindavana while at the same time engaging in sense gratification, if one instead sticks to the principle of following the words of the spiritual master, he will see the Supreme Lord without difficulty.

10. The Paramatma is always the caitya-guru, the spiritual master within, and He comes before one externally as the instructor and initiator spiritual master.

11. The Lord can reside within the heart, and He can also come out before a person and give him instructions. Thus the spiritual master is not different from the Supersoul sitting within the heart.

12. Just as one gets a chance to consult with the Paramatma within his heart, one also gets a chance to see Him actually situated before him. Then one can take instructions from the Supersoul directly. This is the duty of the pure devotee: to see the bona fide spiritual master and consult with the Supersoul within the heart.

And when we are perplexed as to what we should do after the departure of our spiritual master in his absence, Srila Prabhupada writes:

13. At such a time the Supersoul immediately appears, provided the devotee is purified in heart by following the directions of the spiritual master. A sincere devotee who follows the instructions of the spiritual master certainly gets direct instructions from his heart from the Supersoul. Thus a sincere devotee is always helped directly or indirectly by the spiritual master and the Supersoul.

14. This is confirmed in Caitanya-caritamṛta: *guru-kṛṣṇa-prasāde pāya bhakti-latā-bīja* [Cc. Madhya 19.151]. If the devotee serves his spiritual master sincerely, Krishna automatically becomes pleased. *yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādaḥ*. By satisfying the spiritual master, one automatically satisfies Krishna.

15. Thus the devotee becomes enriched by both the spiritual master and Krishna.

We are extremely grateful to HG Devakinandan Prabhu and HG Radhika Mataji for sharing these verses with us and giving us an opportunity to discuss the purports.

After the programme when I was talking to HG Radhika Mataji, she mentioned that after our Guru Maharaj had departed, she and Prabhuji had thought of Maharaj and opened the Bhagavatam and these verses came before them. I was really touched to see how Maharaj reciprocated with Prabhuji and Mataji, who are very sincere. It is a fact that Maharaj is more with each and every one of us than before, when he was present physically among us. And the more we follow his instructions (and sincerely) the more he reciprocates and guides us. We could feel his presence amongst us yesterday. This is the nature of the spiritual world where there is no duality. Though Maharaj was absent, he was

also present and with us.

Maharaj told in the lecture that if Krishna is present in our lives, then we will not be anxious about the future. As Srila Prabhupada has stated in his purports, Krishna comes into our lives ONLY and ONLY by sincerely following our Guru's instructions. Thus the best way to bring Krishna into our lives and get rid of our anxiety is to remind each other of Guru Maharaj and his instructions and co-operate with each other, encourage each other, inspire each other while we endeavor to follow his instructions to the best of our abilities.

My sincere prayer to Maharaj is that I follow this and stop all my nonsensical activities and behaviour which keeps me away from Krishna.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Govardhan das

Singapore.

Obedience is the Key to Goloka - Part 1

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

Nowadays the word obedience is forgotten in our day to day life. The obedience of children to parents was prevalent atleast to some extent few decades ago, but as Kali yuga progressed, it has become a misnormer to the society. Every parent wishes their child to lead a honest and righteous life. And in order to train them properly, they sometimes chastise them, so that children realise their mistake and come to right path. But nowadays parents don't have the freedom even to chastise or punish the child for their mistakes. Children are educated to complain about the parents any time. This is not a good sign. Parents have full right to chastise the children to correct them because it is their responsibility. Each one of us know how much the care and concern that our parents showed on us, have now helped us to reach this stage in our life. If not for their guidance, we would have been lost. Our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj says that by obedience to elders and parents we achieve everything. He says the marriages sustained in those days because of obedience to elders and the word divorce was never even uttered. Because in those days everyone was living a Vedic way of life. They were obedient to their elders, spouse respected each other and marital relationship was considered as a sacred bond in which both husband and wife cared for each other.

But now Vedic life is completely forgotten and people are completely absorbed in TV and cinema culture. When the parents are absorbed in their own enjoyment, the children also become bereft of moral values. Even marriages have become a business. The bride and groom are more worried about the wealth they would get out of the marriage, than about the character of the life-partner. Also such marriages easily crumble down as they neither obey the parents and cooperate with each other, nor have any place for spirituality in their lives. Children are carried away and misled by whatever they see in TV and cinema and as a result it increases the disobedience rampantly in our present society. Therefore the whole society is in chaos and is suffering in anxiety without any peace of mind. So the next question that comes is what we should do to correct this situation under this circumstances. We have got no other way except to take shelter of the teachings of the topmost Vedic literature - Srimad Bhagavatam.

Srimad Bhagavatam unfolds the real definition of obedience and its characteristics. Manu being the father of mankind and who is the source of our existence, exhibits this wonderful quality and that is the reason we are called manushya. Brahma being pleased with the implicit obedience of Manu, glorifies Manu for his wonderful characteristics of obedience in two verses SB 3.13.9-10:

brahmovāca
pṛītas tubhyam ahaṁ tāta svasti stād vām kṣitīśvara
yan nirvyalīkena hṛdā śādhi mety ātmanārpitam

etāvaty ātmajair vīra kāryā hy apacitir gurau
śaktyāpramattair grhyeta sādaram gata-matsaraiḥ

Lord Brahmā said: My dear son, O lord of the world, I am very pleased with you, and I desire all blessings for both you and your wife. You have without reservation surrendered yourself unto me with your heart for my instructions.

O hero, your example is quite befitting a son in relationship with his father. This sort of adoration for the superior is required. One who is beyond the limit of envy and who is sane accepts the order of his father with great delight and executes it to his full capacity.

In these two verses we will see the characteristics of obedience. We will meditate on the following 6 characteristics and try to inculcate this obedience in our lives.

1. Without reservation (*nirvyaḷīka*)
2. Beyond the limit of envy (*gata-matsaraiḥ*)
3. Surrender with your heart for my instructions (*hṛdā ātmana arpitam*)
4. Sane person accepts the order of the Superior with great delight (*gr̥hyeta sādaram*)
5. Executes it with fully capacity (*kāryā śaktyā*)
6. Adoration of the Superior (*apacitir gurau*)

Krishna willing, we will discuss each one of these characteristics in detail in the ensuing offerings.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sajjana Priya Krishna das

Abu Dhabi.

Obedience is the Key to Goloka - Part 2

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the series titled, "Obedience is the Key to Goloka" wherein we were discussing on the nature and characteristics of obedience, based on Srimad Bhagavatam verses 3.13.9 and 3.13.10. Let us try to meditate on the points one by one.

1. **Without reservation (nirvyalika):** The first quality of obedience we meditate upon is *nirvyalika* - which means to be **non-deceptive, to follow without any reservation**. Without any deceptive motive means we accept without any condition or inner agenda. For example we have to sing Gurushtakam (*saṁsāra-dāvā*) in Mangala arati which talks about paying obeisances to Guru in every verse. We do arati to the Supreme Lord but we sing Guru arati. It seems to be contradictory. But we have to understand that Guru and Krishna are non-different and with the satisfaction of Guru, Krishna will automatically be satisfied. It is our acaryas' instructions and we simply accept it without any reservation. Krishna is supremely pure and we are so much materially contaminated and therefore we don't have any qualification to be engaged in His direct service. Therefore we pray to our Guru to engage in his service who in turn will offer it to the Lord. We have the example of Prahlad Maharaj who says very emphatically in his prayer to Lord Narasimha that he wants to be in the service of Guru instead of the Lord. He says in Srimad Bhagavatam 7.9.28:

*evam janam nipatitam prabhavāhi-kūpe
kāmābhikāmam anu yaḥ prapatan prasāṅgāt
kṛtvātmāsāt surarṣiṇā bhagavan ghrītaḥ
so 'ham katham nu visrje tava bhṛtya-sevām*

My dear Lord, O Supreme Personality of Godhead, because of my association with material desires, one after another, I was gradually falling into a blind well full of snakes, following the general populace. But Your servant Narada Muni kindly accepted me as his disciple and instructed me how to achieve this transcendental position. Therefore, my first duty is to serve him. How could I leave his service?

If Krishna comes face to face then we may even forget to express our gratitude to our spiritual master without whom we would not have got the darshan of the Lord. But Prahlad Maharaj shows us the way by saying very emphatically to the Lord that because of my spiritual master Narada muni, I have achieved this transcendental position and thus I am able to see You face to face and therefore how can I leave the service of my spiritual master? Srila Prabhupada gives the secret of success in spiritual life. The whole philosophy of singing *saṁsāra-dāvā* in Mangala arati is based on the concept that without being grateful to our acharyas it is not possible to achieve perfection in our devotional service. This is emphasized in the above verse of Srimad Bhagavatam. Srila Prabhupada makes it very clear in the purport of 7.9.28, "One should not attempt to please the Supreme Personality of Godhead by concoction. One must first be prepared to serve the spiritual master, and when one is qualified, he is automatically offered the platform of direct service to the Lord. Therefore Prahlad Maharaja proposed that he engage in the service of Narada Muni. He never proposed that he engage directly in the service of the Lord. This is the right conclusion."

a. We don't put any condition to our spiritual master for executing his instructions. We don't have to change his instructions according to our convenience. Our spiritual master wants it and Krishna wants it, we will do. Lord Parasuram is a perfect example in front of us. He executed the order of his father by killing his own mother and brothers implicitly and without any reservation even though it was impossible situation. What is the result of that obedience? He got back his brothers and his mother back. This is without reservation.

b. We should be ready to do any type of service, from cleaning to everything. We should not discriminate any aspect of devotional service. We should have Srimad Bhagavatam on one hand and duster on one hand. Devotional service is absolute - from slipper management to preaching.

c. We have to become malleable. When we are rigid it is not possible to execute the service without reservation. Pandavas were so malleable that Krishna served them in all ways from messenger to chariot driver. In all conditions Pandavas were executing the devotional service. This is without reservation.

d. Simplicity is a must for obedience. The more simple we are, the more obedient we will become without any reservation - *nirvyalīkena*.

e. Without reservation means we are ready to sacrifice our ego, mind and intelligence.

Krishna willing, we will meditate on other characteristics of obedience in the subsequent offering.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sajjana Priya Krishna das

Abu Dhabi.

Obedience is the Key to Goloka - Part 3

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the series titled, "Obedience is the Key to Goloka" wherein we were discussing on the nature and characteristics of obedience, based on Srimad Bhagavatam verses 3.13.9 and 3.13.10. In previous offering we saw that we should obey without reservation. Let us try to meditate on the next characteristic of obedience.

2. **Beyond the limit of envy - (gata matsaraih)**: Srimad Bhagavatam tells us that constitutionally we are envious in nature (because of bodily conception of life). It requires a tremendous effort to change this position. Our beloved spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj says that the main symptom of envy is the lack of following. Maharaj says that when we are envious, then we don't hear the spiritual master or the Lord which means we are envious of him. Such a powerful point Maharaj made. But on the contrary we can see Manu's non envious attitude from this verse 3.13.7

*tvam ekaḥ sarva-bhūtānām janma-kṛd vṛttidaḥ pitā
tathāpi naḥ prajānām te śuśrūṣā kena vā bhavet*

You are the father of all living entities and the source of their subsistence because they are all born of you. Please order us how we may be able to render service unto you.

Manu is requesting Lord Brahma humbly to order him to execute the service to him. Instead of following the mood of Manu what we do is that we force our requests to Guru and make him agree to our proposal and therefore we don't give opportunity to hear him. 99.9% of the time, we interpret the spiritual master instructions according to our convenience and thereby we do not follow him. On the other hand if we hear and follow the instructions of spiritual master the result is wonderful as confirmed by Lord Himself in Bhagavad Gita 3.31,

*ye me matam idaṁ nityam anuṣṭhanti mānavāḥ
śraddhāvanto 'nasūyanto mucyante te 'pi karmabhiḥ*

Those persons who execute their duties according to My injunctions and who follow this teaching faithfully, without envy, become free from the bondage of fruitive actions.

But if we do not hear then the result is given in 3.32 of Bhagavad Gita,

*ye tv etad abhyasūyanto nānuṣṭhanti me matam
sarva-jñāna-vimūḍhāms tān viddhi naṣṭān acetasaḥ*

But those who, out of envy, disregard these teachings and do not follow them are to be considered bereft of all knowledge, befooled, and ruined in their endeavors for perfection.

So with non-envious attitude, if we obey and serve then we are free from all fruitive actions. But when we are envious and disobedient, we are completely ruined. In one of the Bhagavad Gita classes Maharaj clarifies this point very nicely. "As soon as you try to disobey the Supreme Person, in other words the shastras, then you are thrown out. Thrown out means you are left at the mercy of the illusory energy. And then all miseries are there. In this position of obeying Krishna, obeying shastras, the miseries are also very nice. Because we think that we are separate from Krishna, as soon as we separate ourselves from Him, then we have to depend upon our own karmas. These children so far as they obey their parents, their karmas are covered by the parents. As soon as they stop obeying the parents, they have to fight with their own karmas. This is the case with us also. As soon as we are attached to Krishna, our karmas are under His control. There is no reaction. And if there is any reaction also, it is very mild. But as soon as we disobey, we become independent of Him, then we have to face the consequences. We lose our health and our thinking power in the

right direction. We lose our whole existence and we falsely think that we are enjoying. That is again maya. This is not enjoyment. Enjoyment is with Krishna. Without Krishna it is all miseries."

Krishna willing we will see the other characteristics of obedience in the ensuing offering.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sajjana Priya Krishna das

Abu Dhabi.

Obedience is the Key to Goloka - Part 4

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the series titled, "Obedience is the Key to Goloka" wherein we were discussing on the nature and characteristics of obedience, based on Srimad Bhagavatam verses 3.13.9 and 3.13.10. In previous offering we saw:

1. We should simply obey the superiors without reservation (*nirvyalika*)
2. We should stay beyond the limit of envy (*gata-matsaraih*)

Let us try to meditate on the next characteristic of obedience.

3. Surrender with your heart for instructions from superiors - (*hrdā ātmāna arpitam*): Manu's obedience was based on accepting the instructions without any reservations (*nirvyalika*) and beyond the limit of envy (*gata-matsaraih*) and this has resulted in his surrender to Lord Brahma with full heart for the instructions.

Our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj quotes a famous story from Mahabharat, to insist on how we should surrender whole-heartedly and accept the instructions from superiors. Indra once offended his spiritual master Brhaspati. The demons were quite submissive to their spiritual master Sukracharya and when there was battle between devas and demons, the demons were victorious, on account of their submission to their Guru Shukracharya. When the devas found that Shukracharya was using amrta sanjeevani mantra which was bringing the dead and injured demons back to life, Brhaspati summoned his son Kacha to go and learn the mantra from Shukracharya. Kacha wholeheartedly accepted his father's instruction and kept it as his only goal. So Kacha went to other camp and offered respects to Shukracharya and told him to accept him as his disciple. Sukracharya knew that Kacha's inner motive is to learn the amrta sanjeevani mantra. So he was determined not to teach that to him, but still allowed him to stay with him. In course of time, Shukracharya's daughter, Devayani fell in love with Kacha and decided that she will marry him. The asuras did not like Kacha's presence and so they decided to kill him. They chopped him into pieces and threw all the pieces in different directions. In the evening Devayani, not finding Kacha, went to her father and said, "Father, I feel that something wrong has happened. Please use your amrta sanjeevani and bring Kacha back as I want to marry him." So to please his daughter, Shukracharya chanted the mantra and from nowhere Kacha appeared again. Kacha requested him to teach the mantra with which he brought him back. But Shukracharya refused to give it. Kacha waited patiently.

The next time the demons took him to a faraway place to kill him. They ground his body in the grinding mortar into a nice paste and threw the paste into the ocean. Again Devayani cried and amrta sanjeevani was chanted and Kacha came back. Kacha requested Shukracharya for the mantra, but again he was denied. Kacha did not lose heart. He remembered the force and power of obedience - the potency of obedience. Next time the asuras wanted to make sure that the mantra is not used. So they killed Kacha, they chopped him up, they ground him, made him into a paste and then they took a glass of wine and they poured the powder into the wine and gave it to Sukracharya to drink. So in the evening, when Devayani asked for Kacha, Sukracharya realized that Kacha is in his stomach. But if he comes out, he will kill Shukracharya himself. Kacha spoke from within the stomach. Kacha said, "Shukracharya, I have a suggestion. You have no choice. If you want to live, you have to teach me amrta sanjeevani because when you first use amrta sanjeevani, and I come out, you will be dead. Before that if you teach me amrta sanjeevani, then when you are dead, I will use amrta sanjeevani and bring you back to life." Then Shukracharya had no choice and he had to teach the mantra. Grudgingly he blessed Kacha and said, "I do not know where you learnt this trait, but by the power of your obedience to your father and spiritual master, you have literally extricated this mantra from me which even the greatest of the devatas could not learn."

We can see Kacha has taken the instructions of his father to his heart with full surrender and so he was able to tolerate all the troubles. The result is complete success. Most of the time, we will take only those instructions which fit into our mind and intelligence and we will completely ignore those instructions which are not palatable to our mind, ego and intelligence. Arjuna surrendered with his heart to the instructions of the Lord and in the end came out successful in the battlefield of Kurukshetra. In verse 18.73 Arjuna says

arjuna uvāca
naṣṭo mohaḥ smṛtir labdhā tvat-prasādān mayācyuta
sthito 'smi gata-sandehaḥ kariṣye vacanaṁ tava

Arjuna said: My dear Krishna, O infallible one, my illusion is now gone. I have regained my memory by Your mercy. I am now firm and free from doubt and am prepared to act according to Your instructions.

Krishna willing we will see the other characteristics of obedience in the ensuing offering.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sajjana Priya Krishna das

Abu Dhabi.