

Never Leave the Bhagavatam Shelter - Part 2

Date: 01 Apr 2024

Author: Dinavatsala Krishna das

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of one of the instructive nectarean initiation class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj, in Sri Sri RadhaNeel Madhav dham Rajkot on 8th January 2005. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj that

1. even in difficult situations, if we take shelter of brahminical culture, religion and Krishna, then we will be saved.

Now let us hear from Maharaj.

Maharaj: In transcendence, there is no matter. So, there won't be any misunderstanding. There won't be any fight, nothing, we have crossed over all such things because of transcendence. We are not attracted to wealth at all. We require, as I told you, complete detachment is not possible. Till you have body, complete detachment is not possible at all. If somebody says that I am completely detached, he is nonsense. Some detachment has got to be there, but we don't have that mad attraction. That is the thing. We are completely crossing over these things. And because we are completely crossing over these things, the difficulties, to that extent reduce. Because these are the three sources of miseries. If the excessive attachment is there, the difficulties are bound to be there. The source of the difficulties is excessive attachment to these three things. If we reduce that attachment sanely, then there is no difficulty. Then there is only one difficulty we have to endure and that is our body. Additional difficulties are not there.

And you just continue preaching. The doctor says anything we believe, we really believe. So, I don't know how, but you should increase this idea of Transcendence. They may call it Krishna or something else, but this idea has got to be preached.

(Maharaj enquires about a devotee if he is back or not)

There is one nice doctor here, he is serving in hospital, very nice hospital. I think he is a neurologist? One family went to him (the doctor), wife was very sick. So he saw that nothing really is wrong. So he said to her - she stays in front at the government colony, in front here, we have government colony here, so they stay here, so they went. Now if there would have been any greedy doctor, he would have misdirected her. But he very frankly told her that you don't have any disease, you just do one thing Mata, in front of you, there is a temple, daily visit the temple and forget about the sickness.

And she was really very happy to hear that, because everybody was telling, "you are suffering from this, you are suffering from this." She was very happy to hear that. She said, 'Are you telling the truth? I don't have anything?' He said, "nothing is there, you just go to Krishna, chant His names and you will be alright." And now that family is so very attracted to the temple. And they are happy, their two kids are coming here. This is how. **Many times if the misdirection is absent in your profession, people will be really very, very much helped. Because everybody is suffering.** Pollution is there. Even if the man is healthy, what can he do about the pollution? Pollution here in the city is hell really. Everywhere it is bad, particularly in India. In addition to the pollution, there is dust also, so many things are there. Everyday people will be coming to you.

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,
Dinavatsal Krishna das
Singapore

Never Leave the Bhagavatam Shelter - Part 3

Date: 02 Apr 2024

Author: Dinavatsala Krishna das

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of one of the instructive nectarean initiation class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj, in Sri Sri RadhaNeel Madhav dham Rajkot on 8th January 2005. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj that

1. even in difficult situations, if we take shelter of brahminical culture, religion and Krishna, then we will be saved
2. If we direct people to Krishna, then that is great help because everyone is suffering.

Now let us hear from Maharaj.

Maharaj: Pollution here in the city is hell really. Everywhere it is bad, particularly in India. In addition to the pollution, there is dust also, so many things are there. Everyday people will be coming to you. This is a nice thing to see and to get in touch. The thing is, this is real initiation. You have fortunately, you have so much large group in front of you. Prabhupada wanted the educated people to understand this. Today he should be really happy. (Referring to another doctor devotee Taral Prabhuji, Maharaj says) Both of you are in the same profession. Moreover our Taral, and his name is always Tarun, I said always you have to remain *tarun* (young) (laughter). He is educated in Australia. How many years you took the education?

Taral Prabhu: 30 (laughter).

Maharaj: How much you might have done? (Taral Prabhu: 30 years in Australia) 30 years? Whoa. It is a long, long time (laughter). I don't know really what you did in 30 years (laughter.) And after that again, I remember you were taking training in some hospitals, and day duty and night duty and shift duties. And even now you are working. Now he is able to start the practise. These foreign countries, they are very honest about the profession. Very honest. Here everything is really Vedic culture.

Such elevated persons you are coming to Krishna, that is really Prabhupada's mercy. One thing is definite, that we belong to Prabhupad. **And Guru tattva is same, so please don't differentiate. No differentiation at all. Tattva is same, it is parampara, so same message has got to be repeated. There is no new message. If you create a new message, then we don't belong to the Parampara. It is the same message.** Whatever Sukhadev Goswami has given, Vyasa Bhagavan has given, Narada has given, the same message we have to continue. And it is very clear in the pages of Srimad Bhagavatam:

SB 1.6.26

*nāmāny anantasya hata-trapaḥ paṭhan
guhyāni bhadraṇi kṛtāni ca smaran
gām paryatams tuṣṭa-manā gata-sprhaḥ
kālaṁ pratikṣan vimado vimatsaraḥ*

This is our parampara. This one verse describes everything from Srimad Bhagavatam. There are 18,000 verses, each verse has the same message. Each verse is full Bhagavatam. Any verse you learn, one verse, and it will give you the same message. But this is Narada Muni – Mahajana explaining what is our duty. *nāmāny anantasya hata-trapaḥ paṭhan*. *paṭhan* means study, chant, that is *paṭhan*. *nāmāny anantasya*, Krishna's names.

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Dinavatsal Krishna das

Singapore

Never Leave the Bhagavatam Shelter - Part 4

Date: 03 Apr 2024

Author: Dinavatsala Krishna das

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of one of the instructive nectarean initiation class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj, in Sri Sri RadhaNeel Madhav dham Rajkot on 8th January 2005. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj that

1. even in difficult situations, if we take shelter of brahminical culture, religion and Krishna, then we will be saved
2. If we direct people to Krishna, then that is great help because everyone is suffering
3. Every verse in Bhagavatam, gives the full message of Bhagavatam

Now let us hear from Maharaj.

Maharaj: (Continuing to explain verse 1.6.26) And there is one adjective there hata-trapaḥ paṭhan, you have to hata-trapaḥ paṭhan, we ignore the material standards. To get rid of the trousers for a while and put on dhoti is also essential for our health. You know better that the whole body requires the oxygen. No doubt for our work and according to the countries we are staying, we have to dress something up. **We have done so much without Krishna. Now with Krishna, we have to go and that is the only our objective. That is real initiation, hata-trapaḥ.** And I have never seen him in any trousers. Two Muhammadans were there, they are wearing the dhotis, from Yugoslavia. One is doctor, Vishabhavana, he is a doctor. He was just moving about and shaved off completely. No hair. I think Krishna has shaved him off, half is already gone (laughter). Krishna has done half the job. I mean to say *hata-trapaḥ paṭhan* they have realised. Whichever verse you take from Bhagavatam, it is regarding common sense. Common sense prove it. So, this is the first line. Come on recite:

SB 1.6.26

*nāmāny anantasya hata-trapaḥ paṭhan
guhyāni bhadrāṇi kṛtāni ca smaran
gām paryatams tuṣṭa-manā gata-sprhaḥ
kālam pratikṣan vimado vimatsaraḥ*

hata-trapaḥ, see our one director of medical store comes. He is the only son, and plenty of money is there. So, he could behave very proudly or whatever. But here he comes, puts on dhoti and worships our Radha Neela Madhav on Sundays. This is *hata-trapaḥ*. Otherwise, his standards should be very high – silken clothes and this and that, plenty of money is there. But no, as soon as Prabhupada touches us, he gives us the reality.

Murali, he was translating SB as Simple, Basic. Simple Basic, the basic and the simplicity. Please, this is the first line. This is our way. We are not ashamed of anything. We do anything. His duty is to clean – this doctor. And he got high status also. And here in India, I don't know whether you have seen the doctors, they just straight away come from Vaikuntha (laughter). Very worshipable, to that extent. Even then, that doctor is very humble. His duty is to clean this floor.

In Chowpatty, there is Mafat Lal, Krishna candra, now he is a business tycoon. But his service is to stand at the shoe stall and take the shoes and give the token. This is hata-trapaḥ. We have completely taken the message from the Parampara. And that's why we are very humble, we don't mind to do any service, all the services are the same. So this we have completely understood. This comes from hata-trapaḥ. Only one word from Bhagavatam, puts us on the straight line, this is Bhagavatam. Please study these, so you will get more intelligence. Don't leave Bhagavatam.

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Dinavatsal Krishna das

Singapore

Never Leave the Bhagavatam Shelter - Part 5

Date: 04 Apr 2024

Author: Dinavatsala Krishna das

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of one of the instructive nectarean initiation class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj, in Sri Sri RadhaNeel Madhav dham Rajkot on 8th January 2005. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj that

1. even in difficult situations, if we take shelter of brahminical culture, religion and Krishna, then we will be saved
2. If we direct people to Krishna, then that is great help because everyone is suffering
3. Every verse in Bhagavatam, gives the full message of Bhagavatam
4. Every word in Bhagavatam teaches us how to behave. So we should never leave Bhagavatam.

Now let us hear from Maharaj.

Maharaj: This Kalacakra Prabhu, he manages this Granthraj, the website. You know, you download. He started reciting Bhagavatam on the 14th of December and completed the whole thing up to 31st of December. Mere recitation of the 12 Cantos. He read like a mad man, reading in the buses also, wherever he went he was reciting. And people really loved him, and he is full time working. He is in Bangalore at the moment. Sometime he will come here. This is how. And now again what he did is there are nearly 335 chapters, so he daily recites one chapter, so within one year he will complete it and reading with the purports also. So, this is how. If you really be after it, it will be ours. Again and again, we have to go to these scriptures. They are non-different from Krishna. **Whenever we want to see Krishna, please hata-trapaḥ paṭhan, ignore all the standards, and do these things. Those who do these things, they get everything.** *yasmin vijñāte sarvam evaṁ vijñātaṁ bhavati* (Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad 1.3). This is the message.

Then we go to the second line, *guhyāni bhadrāṇi kṛtāni ca smaran*. The confidential pastimes of Krishna should be studied in a Prabhupada's way. These confidential pastimes, they are the most delicate thing to misguide the people. We always try to imitate Krishna materially. It stops from that. So that's why, Krishna Book we should read, and we should try to read the chapters from Bhagavatam also with the aid of Krishna Book. And even then, your mind will go berserk. That is where the public is misdirected, so we have to correct the public also. We have to be very particular about this. *guhyāni bhadrāṇi*, and all these *guhyā*, confidential pastimes are also *bhadrā*, they are auspicious. They are auspicious. Any material dirty thing will never be *bhadrā*, it will never be auspicious. Never.

Theft is never auspicious because we are thieving from somebody else. In transcendence, that is, Krishna thieves and we worship – Makhanchor. And if we thieve from the supermarket, will see what happens to us (laughter). This is *guhyāni bhadrāṇi kṛtāni ca smaran*. We always meditate on these things. And meditation means, not sitting silent, we are very active. Because we are running after the most active principle. How much active Krishna should be? Just to run one school, our Gadadhar is absent from any program. Anytime you ask him, he will say, "I am very busy", and he vanishes. As yet the school is not that big, only 4 teachers are there. But even then, some organisation is required. So, here Krishna manages thousands and millions of suns to raise daily in time. Thousands and millions of planets He forces them to revolve around their own axis and around the sun also, around the Dhruv planet also. How much He might be managing. He is very active principle. And even then, He is completely free. *na tasya kāryaṁ karaṇaṁ ca vidyate*, doesn't have to do anything, Supreme Director. **This is how our life has to be organised. That we should be very active. But at the same time, the more active you are, the more expertly you do your prescribed duty, day duty, in the evening you are completely at ease. That is our way.**

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Dinavatsal Krishna das

Singapore

Never Leave the Bhagavatam Shelter - Part 6

Date: 05 Apr 2024

Author: Dinavatsala Krishna das

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of one of the instructive nectarean initiation class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj, in Sri Sri RadhaNeel Madhav dham Rajkot on 8th January 2005. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj that we should ignore all material formalities and focus on Srimad Bhagavatam.

Now let us hear from Maharaj.

Maharaj: We have experienced these things. **You do your duty nicely and you are very happy in the evening. You don't do your duty and you are completely upset. So, this is the way. The devotees are real workers, they are not shirkers, this is the point. This is our parampara.** Here the boys, they don't get any money. But they are working very hard. And if I don't see them working hard, I am angry with him. I can be angry, if I pay him money. He will say 'Eh, I have done my duty, I am going'. But here he obeys. This is the *parampara*. **Because, the work without money, should be done immaculately well.** And he maybe whatever he is, but here he waters the trees, he cleans the road, I see any scratch and I jump, 'why is it like that?', and he runs and picks it up. Why he should do it? Because it is expertly done. Everything is expertly done. And then in the evening, they go to bed and within five minutes they are dead. Their eyes are not open at all, because again at 3 'o clock, they have to stand. This is please *kṛtāni ca smaran*, **they always remember Krishna's past times.** He is watering trees, but his mind is always with Krishna. And he is happy why? Because he has adjusted his material things very nicely.

And then again, there is something more than this. That suppose with all our care, we are not able to adjust. You are lucky to have 30 years of education, (some may not be) lucky like you. It is very few. We don't have any 30, what to talk of (30), 5 years we can't spend. We can't adjust ourselves. There is a time when we try very hard, and nothing works right. So then now what to do that time? Then again, Prabhupada says, "don't worry, we should just surrender to Krishna. And tell Him that I have tried so hard, now it is up to You", and start chanting. Nothing is to be done. No moroseness. *prasannātmā*

BG 18.54

*brahma-bhūtaḥ prasannātmā na śocati na kāṅkṣati
samaḥ sarveṣu bhūteṣu mad-bhaktiṁ labhate parām*

This is brahma-bhūtaḥ. (Maharaj speaks in Gujarati) And these things have to be understood and meditated on. That is our message. And this message nobody changes. Persons maybe different here and there but the messages are the same. Bhagavatam remains same. (Maharaj speaks in Gujarati). The message is always one and this is the message - *kṛtāni ca smaran*. Then these two lines of this verse gives us our own preparation for Krishna Consciousness. Then once we are prepared, then what is to be done is given in the second two lines. This Bhagavatam is very important, very transcendental literature; you can see through Bhagavatam verses - Krishna. Please you habituate yourself to see through.

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Dinavatsal Krishna das

Singapore

Never Leave the Bhagavatam Shelter - Part 7

Date: 06 Apr 2024

Author: Dinavatsala Krishna das

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of one of the instructive nectarean initiation class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj, in Sri Sri RadhaNeel Madhav dham Rajkot on 8th January 2005. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj that we should habituate to see Krishna through the pages of Srimad Bhagavatam. Now we shall see further.

Maharaj: (Continuing to explain verse 1.6.26 of Srimad Bhagavatam) - Now the practical thing is given. *gām paryāṭams*, he says, *gām* means planets, you go from one planet to the other planet. Narada Muni was able to go. Saints and sages, they were also, they had the interplanetary travel system. Now unfortunately Kali Yuga is there, we can't do it. So, we restrict ourselves to one planet. So, on this planet you should move as much as you can move. That is *gām paryāṭams*.

Suppose we are not able to go on this planet also, then what is to be done? He says don't worry, so you are staying in some country, so you should move about in that country. So, you are in India. So big country, from one corner to the other corner, from Dwaraka to Calcutta, will take ages to go. And there are millions of villages and thousands of towns and hundreds of cities, and everything is there. So, you please try to move about in India. But somebody will tell, 'No, no I am a family man, I can't go anywhere, I have to work here'. So, he says don't worry, you are staying in the house in one city, so you move about from house to house in that city. Somebody says 'no I am in the house, and I can't go from house to house, city is too big for me'. Alright you are staying in one lane, you just go to your lane. Somebody says 'no, I can't do that', he says don't worry, take Japa mala and chant continuously. This is *gām paryāṭams*, everything is included in *gām paryāṭams*.

Whatever you can do, you please do. The bodies are there, and the bodies are going to lose their energy, whether we want or not, they will definitely lose. And the anti-Krishna conscious life, will force us to lose very soon. Krishna conscious life, is life. So, this way we should try to understand this *gām paryāṭams*. And then there are two adjectives that how you have to move. The first adjective is *tuṣṭa-manā*, *gām paryāṭams tuṣṭa-manā*, completely satisfied mind. Don't hanker after anything, no desire, *vigata-sprhaḥ*, all desires are gone. *sprha* means desire. We don't have any desire and we move about. Then people will be benefited. Otherwise every time you run after the riches or whatever, then they will get fed up. And what we are going to do? Suppose we ask money from everywhere and we amass wealth, what are we going to do? We understood that wealth maybe helpful for Krishna's activities, more than that there is no value for wealth. This is how we should be completely *tuṣṭa-manā vigata-sprhaḥ*.

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

Thank you very much.
Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,
Dinavatsal Krishna das
Singapore

Never Leave the Bhagavatam Shelter - Part 8

Date: 07 Apr 2024

Author: Dinavatsala Krishna das

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of one of the instructive nectarean initiation class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj, in Sri Sri RadhaNeel Madhav dham Rajkot on 8th January 2005. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj the meaning of *gām paryaṭams* - to move around and give Krishna to all.

Now we shall hear further.

Maharaj: And the fourth line is best, that every living entity has to pass away from here, *kālaṁ pratīkṣan*. So you wait for your *kāla*. Here *kāla* means death, you have to wait for your death. It is bound to come, but we don't know when, but it should be there. *kālaṁ pratīkṣan*, wait, *pratīkṣan*. *vimado*, no pride. (Maharaj speaks in Gujarati) And *vimatsaraḥ*, no enviousness. (Maharaj speaks in Gujarati). We have some traditions, rituals, family beliefs, so many things are there.

Prabhupada explains. *The Lord Himself comes and displays His transcendental pastimes typically represented at Vaikuntha, Mathura and Dwarka. He appears just to attract the conditioned souls back to Godhead, back home to the eternal world. But for want of sufficient piety, the onlookers are not attracted by such pastimes of the Lord. For example, in Bhagavad Gita it is said:*

BG 7.28

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

(Encouraging a small child to chant Mahamantra Maharaj says) These are the things to be given to the younger generation. They will not be able to tolerate, unless they are with Bhagavatam and Bhagavad Gita or Krishna. They will not be able to tolerate. **The younger generation, unless they are attracted to Krishna, they will not be able to survive. Please study Prabhupada.** *The entire Vedic way of ritualistic performances, is to put every condition soul on the path of piety.* At least the minimum thing all these rituals do, is to take you out from the material atmosphere. You may not go to Krishna, that is the final destination, but we may not reach there immediately. So, Prabhupada gives clear idea that all these Vedic rituals, Vedic way of life, ritualistic performances, is to put the living entity, conditioned soul on the path of piety and slowly they go ahead then.

Ritualistic performances is to put the condition souls on the path of piety. How nice sentence it is? He has given us the exact description of the Indian family's way of life. In our family there are so many traditions. We are attracted to Goddesses, we are attracted to demigods, we are attracted to some person, human being, this is the thing. So, nothing is condemned here, but the whole paraphernalia is to put the conditioned soul, on the path of piety. And once you are on the path of piety, then you can go ahead, and maybe Krishna's mercy, sometimes saints like Prabhupada come in our life and they take us very safely to the lotus feet of Krishna. Please repeat this sentence. **The entire Vedic way of ritualistic performances is to put every conditioned soul on the path of piety. By strict adherence to the prescribed principles for all orders of social life, one can attain the qualities of truthfulness, control of the mind, control of the senses, forbearance, etc., and can be elevated to the plane of rendering pure devotional service to the Lord.**

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,
Dinavatsal Krishna das
Singapore

Never Leave the Bhagavatam Shelter - Part 9

Date: 08 Apr 2024

Author: Dinavatsala Krishna das

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of one of the instructive nectarean initiation class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj, in Sri Sri RadhaNeel Madhav dham Rajkot on 8th January 2005. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj that ***the entire Vedic way of ritualistic performances is to put every conditioned soul on the path of piety.***

Now we shall hear more nectar from Maharaj.

Maharaj: Here there are so many qualities. Here Prabhupada again insists that everybody has to do his duty. In one paragraph everything is given. Here he gives it very clear see - By strict adherence to the prescribed principles for all orders of social life. Whether you are brahmachari, or grihastha, or vanaprastha or sanyasi, you have to adhere to the prescribed principles. (Talking to a devotee Maharaj says) Like you are a brahmachari, means you have to study, 30 years you studied, how long you did, how long you were brahmachari, (laughter) 30 years! And you can't run here and there, then you spoil your education if you don't concentrate. So, that is the principle of prescribed duty.

So, no sastra tells us to escape the prescribed duty. That is the beauty of this Bhagavatam. It never drags you out. But always remember that there are misfits. They can't fit into the social order. Just like Prabhupada was telling that they are a square peg in the round hole. The hole is round, and the peg is square, however hard you fit in, they will never fit in. There are people who never can fit into the prescribed order. So, for them, then Prabhupada started these temple communities. And here, they are leaders. This is the thing for few. General people they fit in into it. And when they fit into it, they develop these good qualities. How nice it is - ***the entire Vedic way of ritualistic performances is to put every conditioned soul on the path of piety. By strict adherence to the prescribed principles for all orders of social life, one can attain the qualifications of truthfulness.***

(Addressing a doctor devotee) Now because you are practising, so you are practising truthfulness. That you have to administer correct medicine to your patient. That is truthfulness. You are not cheating, truthfulness. Unknowingly by following your own prescribed principles, you are developing this quality, truthfulness. You are doing, he is distributing the cards to all the people there, and they are benefiting. So big crowd is there, we will see tomorrow. Why we are doing, because we are attracted to the truth through our prescribed principles of duty. Truthfulness. Then, control of the mind, that goes without saying. Nobody will go to the mad doctor (laughter). If the doctor is mad, people will not crowd there. So control of mind is there, unless the mind is controlled, he cannot administer the correct medicine. So, control of the mind also, you have to cultivate. Unknowingly these qualities are developed. Unless your mind is controlled, how can you give any advice for the management? People will not come to you if they see that you are a mad man. 'He cannot manage his own affairs how can he guide us'? How much you have to control your mind to guide the others.

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,
Dinavatsal Krishna das
Singapore

Never Leave the Bhagavatam Shelter - Part 10

Date: 09 Apr 2024

Author: Dinavatsala Krishna das

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

This is in conclusion of the transcription of one of the instructive nectarean initiation class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj, in Sri Sri RadhaNeel Madhav dham Rajkot on 8th January 2005. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj that no shastra tells us to leave the prescribed duty.

Now we shall hear further.

Maharaj: Through our prescribed duties we control our mind. We are truthful. We control our mind. Then control our senses. Forbearance, we tolerate so many things etc. And then we will be elevated to the plane of rendering pure devotional service to the Lord. These are the qualities which are required for pure devotional service. And you (addressing a devotee who is doing his prescribed duty) This is prescribed duty. So, don't please, don't feel that you are engaged in material activities, and those who are not engaged in material activities, they are more better than you, no.

The same thing is there. Our prescribed principles are completely, clearly defined in the pages of Bhagavatam, Bhagavad Gita. You just find out whether you are brahmachari, grihastha, vanaprastha or whatever, and you are (unclear). Please, we have different fields. Some gold merchant has taken vanaprastha. Really he has developed nice attitude. Here he is selling some gold because here the gold market is very powerful - international market. He had dealt with some merchant here, 2-3 years ago. So, they are doing something here in the form of gold. Because the gold prices have gone up, so beyond his expectation he got the money. Now we did not have any idea. I knew him from Fiji, and I know that he has a shop there, and he has now left, that's it, nothing more. But he had a dealing here, he donated to the temple, 5000 rupees, that Hrishikesh. We didn't know really, but this is vanaprastha. And this is his honesty to the prescribed principles for the social order. This is an example, a very recent example, and it is not a concocted thing, it was in front of our eyes. Daily he was sitting here like a milk man, we didn't know, and he said that within a week I will give so much that for the whole of lifetime in Krishna Consciousness, I did not know.

This is how, **people are pleased to hear Bhagavatam. People are very much elated if you give them Bhagavad Gita. Everybody wants guidance. And this is the supreme source of practical guidance, eventually leading to the last stage, going back, back home, back to Godhead.** And Prabhupada never writes 'back home' alone, if he would have only written 'Back home', you would have gone back to Minneapolis (laughter). He will say Prabhupada said I must go back home (laughter). Back to Godhead, as soon as you read Back to Godhead, you are controlled. Otherwise, everybody will rush to their homes. This is Prabhupada. Please, the more we tell, how much more we can see his glories. I will leave you to him. From today we are initiating this. So, please try to study and make the public aware of it. Jai Srila Prabhupada Ki Jai!

Devotees: Jai His Holiness Srila Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj Ki Jai!

Our heartfelt thanks to Mahabhagavata, Srila Gurudev for very nicely re-iterating the importance of taking shelter of Srimad Bhagavatam and study of Srila Prabhupada's books.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,
Dinavatsal Krishna das
Singapore

Spare the Rod and Spoil the Child

Date: 10 Apr 2024

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

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

How many of us like to be chastised? Many of us might not want to receive chastisement from others. But interestingly we like to chastise others or enjoy seeing others getting chastised. Many of us might have experienced how the strict nature of our parents or teachers in school has really shaped us into better human beings. So how much more true and beneficial and purifying is this chastisement in spiritual life, when we receive it from spiritual master.

Let us try to see from scriptures as to who can chastise and how chastisement should be received.

In Bhagavad Gita verse 17.15 Lord Krishna says,

*anudvega-karam vakyam
satyam priya-hitam ca yat
svādhyāyābhyasanam caiva
vāñ-mayam tapa ucyate*

Austerity of speech consists in speaking words that are truthful, pleasing, beneficial, and not agitating to others, and also in regularly reciting Vedic literature.

In the above verse, Srila Prabhupada translates the words *anudvega-karam vakyam* — not agitating words. When we chastise, we naturally agitate others mind. In the purport Srila Prabhupada makes it clear as to who can chastise. " *One should not speak in such a way as to agitate the minds of others. Of course, when a teacher speaks, he can speak the truth for the instruction of his students, but such a teacher should not speak to those who are not his students if he will agitate their minds. This is penance as far as talking is concerned.*"

So here we can see that when one is in the position of teacher or parent, then he/she can chastise their disciple/children. Since parents and teachers are best well-wishers and don't have any selfish motives, their chastisement is recommended for the well-being of the student/child. So such chastisement will make the recipient chaste. Many times we have seen how Maharaj used to chastise some devotee when they make some mistake, but after sometime Maharaj will speak again with that person with so much love and affection, without any tinge of grudge or anger. The person who received the chastisement, though would have felt very pained or bad to have displeased Maharaj, would later feel so much encouraged by his loving dealings that they would resolve not to make that mistake again.

In one of the lectures on Srimad Bhagavatam Canto 2 Chapter 9 given in Tokyo Srila Prabhupada narrates a very interesting incident about how his spiritual master His Divine Grace Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswathi Prabhupada chastised his disciples.

Srila Prabhupada says, "**A spiritual master has the right to chastise. Father, spiritual master, they are advised to chastise.** *putraṁ ca śiṣyaṁ ca tāḍayen na tu lālayet.* So father and teacher is advised by Cāṇakya Paṇḍita that "You should always chastise your son and disciple. Chastise." *Tāḍayet. Tāḍayet* means "Simply chastise. Always find out mistake." Don't be angry, but it is the business of the teacher and the father simply to find out your mistake, not to find out your good things. *Tāḍayen na tu lālayet.* *Lālayet* means patting - "Oh, my dear son, my dear boy, you are so nice. You have done..." Sometimes it is done, but it is the business of the teacher and the father to chastise. Never recognize the disciple's business or son's business as very good. Then they will spoil. That is the injunction of Cāṇakya Muni.

Lālāne bahavo doṣāḥ: "If you simply pat, then there will be so many faults." *Lālāne bahavo doṣāḥ.* *Doṣāḥ* means faults. *Tāḍane bahavo guṇāḥ:* "And if you chastise, oh, they will be very much qualified." *Tāḍane bahavo guṇāḥ, tasmāt:* therefore, *putraṁ ca śiṣyaṁ ca tāḍayen na tu lālayet,* "**Simply chastise. Don't pat.**" **This is the injunction, moral injunction. So, so far we are concerned, when our spiritual master used to chastise, we took it as blessing. That was very nice. And he would chastise like anything. "Damn rascal," "foolish," "stupid," anything, all good words.**

"One day it so happened... That was not my fault. My another old Godbrother was... Prabhupāda was speaking. So I was very much fond of hearing. That gentleman, he was a retired doctor. So he wanted to speak something. He should not have done so, but... Just like... So naturally I also... And Prabhupāda saw it, and he became so angry. So he knew that my attention was drawn by him. He chastised him like anything. He was old man, actually almost like his age. So he was paying sixty rupees in those days per month. So he became so angry, that "**Do you think that because you pay sixty rupees, you have purchased us? You can do anything and anything?**" He said like that. **Very strong word he used. "Do you think that I am speaking for others? You have learned everything? You are diverting your attention."** So many ways, he was very, very angry. You see? **So this is nice, to chastise.**

There is a nice quote in English - **Spare the rod and spoil the child** and acaryas like Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev out of their magnanimous compassion on all fallen souls like us, knew very well, when to use the rod and when not to. So may we have the sanity to take chastisement as blessings, try to introspect and improve ourselves, And when others are getting chastised, may we not foolishly enjoy, but learn from their mistake, so that we don't repeat it again.

Thank you very much.

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

Is Necessity the Mother of Invention?

Date: 11 Apr 2024

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

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

We have heard the saying, "Necessity is the Mother of Invention." But necessity alone will not result in any invention. Just like how a mother alone cannot beget a child and the seed is provided by the father, the sanction of Supreme Father Krishna is absolutely necessary for any discovery or invention. Srila Prabhupada makes this point very clear in his class on SB 2.9.5 verse in Tokyo.

His Divine Grace says, "**Even the greatest scientist, one who wants to discover something... It is not that somebody wishes to do something, to discover, it immediately comes out. No. He finds it difficult; therefore he makes researches how to do it. So when he is very keen and persistent, then from within, the Paramātmā, when He sees that "This man wants to do it," so He gives him direction, "Yes, you do like that." He is not actually inventor or discoverer. He is not. He tried. "Man proposes; God disposes."**

In our own tiny levels of experience in this world, we might have come across situations wherein we did not know how to solve a particular problem - either in educational field or at work or in the household. In some cases after many endeavours - all of a sudden, we might get a nice idea as to how to proceed. And that is Krishna's mercy or sanction. Real intelligence lies in understanding this truth that we are not the do-ers and that our actual source of knowledge, strength is all powerful Supreme Lord. If this was true even for Brahmaji's ability to recreate the world, then what to speak of insignificant living entities like us?

In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 2.9.5 Sukadev Goswami says

*sa ādi-devo jagatām paro guruḥ
svadhiṣṇyam āsthāya sisṛkṣayaikṣata
tām nādhyagacchad dṛśam atra sammatām
prapañca-nirmāṇa-vidhir yayā bhavet*

Lord Brahmā, the first spiritual master, supreme in the universe, could not trace out the source of his lotus seat, and while thinking of creating the material world, he could not understand the proper direction for such creative work, nor could he find out the process for such creation.

When Brahmaji could not trace out the source of his lotus seat or know how to create the material world, he performed tapa - austerities, and because of his non-deceptive penance, Lord Krishna bestowed Him with all transcendental knowledge. His Divine Grace very nicely mentions in the purport, "*The power of creation by Lord Brahmā was also achieved by bhakti-yoga. Brahmājī was bewildered in the matter of creation, and he could not even trace out the source of his own existence. But all this knowledge was fully achieved by him through the medium of bhakti-yoga.* **By bhakti-yoga one can know the Lord, and by knowing the Lord as the Supreme, one is able to know everything else.** One who knows the Supreme knows everything else. That is the version of all Vedas. **Even the first spiritual master of the universe was enlightened by the grace of the Lord, so who else can attain perfect knowledge of everything without the mercy of the Lord? If anyone desires to seek perfect knowledge of everything, he must seek the mercy of the Lord, and there is no other means. To seek knowledge on the strength of one's personal attempt is a sheer waste of time.**"

In this regard Srila Prabhupada further explains in his class that nothing happens by chance or by mere necessity, but everything happens by Supreme will of Krishna. When an atheistic author of a book titled, "Chance and Necessity"

claims that everything happens by chance, His Divine Grace smashes that statement and says - *"It is not chance; it is an opportunity given by Kṛṣṇa to you - "You are so much laboring hard. All right, do it." mattaḥ smṛtir jñānam apohanam ca [BG 15.15], in the Bhagavad Gita "I give you. I give that intelligence." They take it as chance. There is no question of chance. There is no question of chance. **When you become perplexed, you want to do something, Kṛṣṇa gives you the opportunity - "All right, do it like this." That is His mercy. There is no question of chance. There is nothing like chance. This is foolish proposition.**"*

Krishna is also known as "**Samanjas**" - "**the source of all Opportunities**" - So if we don't recognise His grace in every opportunity provided for us in life, then we are blinded by ignorance. His Divine Grace then gives a very practical example of creating an artificial flower - *"Suppose if you want to manufacture a flower like this, you have to secure so many things--the color, the ingredient, the paper, the brush. So many. Still, you cannot do like this. So if your nonsense, artificial flower takes so many instrumental assistance, brain, how do you think that this has come automatically? There is brain. It is not chance. You have no eyes to see. Therefore you call "chance." **But a devotee, he sees. He does not see this flower; He sees the hand of Kṛṣṇa, how He is preparing, how He is preparing, Kṛṣṇa. Therefore a devotee does not see anything except Kṛṣṇa, because he sees the craftsmanship, hands of Kṛṣṇa, how He is preparing. He sees Kṛṣṇa. He does not see this flower. The rascal sees this flower, and he thinks that it is coming out by chance. No chance. There is no question of chance.**"*

So no matter how advanced we are either in field of medicine or in space technology, we have to accept that without Krishna's sanction, no efforts would be successful. Medical field may claim that they are able to produce test-tube babies, but not every attempt is successful. And even in the successful attempt, the source was a life created by Supreme Lord. Likewise the successful rocket launch or visit to Mars or moon or anywhere in this material world is also possible simply by Lord's sweet will and sanction and not by chance or necessity.

Thank you very much.

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

The Transformation - Part 1

Date: 12 Apr 2024

Author: Vaijayantimala devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

It is the experience in many of our lives that when we are going through some difficult situations in life and we sincerely sit to hear the Bhagavad Gita or Srimad Bhagavatam classes, we find that whatever is spoken in the class, is absolutely meant for us and for our own situation and we feel that all our questions within our heart are answered. If we convey this experience to other devotees, surprisingly they will also say that the particular class was meant for them only. This way Krishna gives direction to so many living entities with fitting consolations and solutions, each applying individually to all, through one class. When I was just thinking about this, I came across a very interesting story which I am sharing here.

Once there was a very old King. He had organized a festival in his palace to which many other Kings were invited. The King's spiritual master had also come to the palace from the forest to participate in the festival. In that celebration, there was a dance performance by professional dancers. Everyone was very much absorbed in the dance performance. The whole night had passed and it was about to be dawn. The accompanying artists who were playing the various musical instruments, were feeling very sleepy and tired and this was observed by the dancer. In order to alert them to remain awake and not to spoil the performance when it is about to end, having done so well all this time, she sang the following verse.

*atīto bahu kālo re kincit evāvasishyate
kśana mātrasya dośena mā bhava tvam kalankitah*

This means that “ **Hey! A long time has passed. Only very little time is remaining. By committing a mistake in the last minute, don't become polluted or subject to be condemned.**”

Various personalities in the King's court understood the verse in different different ways according to their own situations and mentalities.

The artists who were playing the instruments became alert and they gave up their sleepiness and started playing the instruments very nicely.

The King's spiritual master, offered respects to the dancer who chanted the verse with great gratitude within his heart.

The princess gave her invaluable necklace as her gift to the dancer.

The prince offered his crown to the dancer.

Seeing the respect and honour being conferred upon the dancer by all these personalities, the King was very much amazed and he told the dancer “How is it that an ordinary dancer like you got so much gifts just by chanting a verse?”

On hearing this, the eyes of the King's guru were filled with tears. He told the King, "Don't tell her that she is an ordinary dancer. Today she is my Guru. She has opened my eyes. I have been spending all my time in the forest worshipping Lord Shri Krishna. When I am approaching my final years of my life, I have spoiled all my austerities and penances by watching this dance performance. That is what she indicated through the valuable and instructive verse she spoke. Today, I shall go back to the forest and continue with my devotional services at the lotus feet of the Lord, instead of wasting my precious time."

It is said - "**Life is short, Don't shorten it further by wasting time.**" When we indulge in unregulated sense-enjoyment, it is bound to lead us to disease which in turn will impact the duration of our active, healthy life in this body. Since time is non-different from Krishna, wasting time means we are ignoring or neglecting Krishna. So whenever our mind tricks to post-pone our daily sadhana, let us hammer the mind with the truth that, "Tomorrow never comes." It is said,

*kāl bhajanthā āj bhaj, āj bhajanthā ab
do pal mein pralaya hoyegi, phir bhajegā kab*

Whatever devotional service you planned to do tomorrow, do today, what devotional service you planned to do today, start it now, for there will be a devastation in a few moments, then when will you do it?"

Krishna willing we shall see the transformation that took place in others in the ensuing offering.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Vaijayantimala devi dasi

Chennai.

The Transformation - Part 2

Date: 13 Apr 2024

Author: Vaijayantimala devi dasi

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 wherein we are seeing a very interesting story of how the verse chanted by a dancer elicits so much of respect and honor for the dancer. She spoke the following verse actually to alert and awaken the accompanying artists who were playing the instruments

*atīto bahu kālo re kincit evāvasishyate
kśāna mātrasya dośēna mā bhava tvam kalankitah*

This means that “ **Hey! A long time has passed. Only very little time is remaining. By committing a mistake in the last minute, don't become polluted or subject to be condemned.**”

The King seeks explanation on the reason why all were offering so much respect and honor to the dancer and we saw the King's spiritual master speaking in the last offering. Now we see the others speaking out their hearts,

The princess told the King “*My dear father, though I have already reached the marriageable age, you had not been thinking about my marriage, So I decided to run away with the mahout who takes care of our elephant, but on hearing the verse spoken by the dancer, I woke up. Otherwise after maintaining dignity for all these years, I would have brought great disrepute to the royal family. The dancer saved me from committing this great blunder.*”

The prince said “Oh King ! even though you have grown old, I never saw any symptom of you leaving the kingdom and going to the forest as a vanaprastha. So I made an evil plan in association with the military commander, to kill you and take hold of the kingdom. But on hearing the verse spoken by the dancer, I got the message that “*be peaceful and patient. After the demise of the king you will only take over the kingdom. After waiting for all these years, why should you now carry the sin of killing your own father?*”

Srimad Bhagavatam 8.6.24 says

*yūyaṁ tad anumodadhvaṁ yad icchanty asurāḥ surāḥ
na samrambheṇa sidhyanti sarvārthāḥ sāntvayā yathā*

My dear demigods, with patience and peace everything can be done, but if one is agitated by anger, the goal is not achieved. Therefore, whatever the demons ask, agree to their proposal.

In this regard, there is a very famous couplet written by one of the foremost poets of Sanskrit literature Bhāravi in his great work Kirātārjunīyam.

*sahasā vidadhīta na kriyām avivekaḥ paramāpadām padam
vṛṇute hi vimṛśyakāriṇam guṇalubdhāḥ svayameva sampadaḥ*

One should not do anything in a hurry, A person who does not deliberate (avivekah) faces great calamities. Fortunes which are always attached to merits, seek on their own one who acts with reflection.

Hearing the speech by all of these personalities there was an inner transformation happening within the heart of the king also. He was remembering the words of King Yayati in Srimad Bhagavatam 9.19.14

*na jātu kāmaḥ kāmānām upabhogena śāmyati
haviṣā kṛṣṇa-vartmeva bhūya evābhivardhate*

As supplying butter to a fire does not diminish the fire but instead increases it more and more, the endeavor to stop lusty desires by continual enjoyment can never be successful. [In fact, one must voluntarily cease from material desires.]

He realized that life is meant for realizing the Supreme Lord. His spiritual knowledge was awakened. He became detached. After due consideration, he handed over the kingdom to his son, the prince. He also told his daughter the princess, "In this court now so many princes from various countries are there. You please select a suitable qualified prince as your husband. I will arrange for your marriage." The king then performed the marriage of his daughter and leaving the kingdom, went to the forest to be engaged in devotional service.

The dancer who had spoken the verse thought, "By hearing the verse, there has been so much transformation in the hearts of so many here. Why I am not getting transformed?" By thinking about this, she could feel detachment arising within her heart and she decided, "From today I shall give up all this and be engaged in the devotional service of Lord Shri Krishna, who is our Supreme master and thus spend my remaining life." She remembers the beautiful Pingala Gita from Srimad Bhagavatam 11.8.31 and prayed

*santaṁ samīpe ramaṇaṁ rati-pradaṁ
vitta-pradaṁ nityam imaṁ vihāya
akāma-daṁ duḥkha-bhayādhī-śoka-
moha-pradaṁ tuccham ahaṁ bhaje 'jñā*

I am such a fool that I have given up the service of that person who, being eternally situated within my heart, is actually most dear to me. That most dear one is the Lord of the universe, who is the bestower of real love and happiness and the source of all prosperity. Although He is in my own heart, I have completely neglected Him. Instead I have ignorantly served insignificant men who can never satisfy my real desires and who have simply brought me unhappiness, fear, anxiety, lamentation and illusion.

May the powerful verses of Srimad Bhagavad Gita and Srimad Bhagavatam and the purports of Srila Prabhupada bring about this inner transformation in all our hearts.

Thank you very much.

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

Srimad Bhagavatam and the Sun

Date: 14 Apr 2024

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

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

Shastras teach us that soul and Supersoul are both spiritual. Since Krishna is the embodiment of eternity, knowledge and bliss, we living entities are also bound to possess those qualities. But when we are influenced by the three modes of material nature, then we become blinded to the reality. When we don't take shelter of Guru, sadhu and shastras, we are bound to be plunged in the darkness of ignorance. We wrongly identify ourselves with our material body and bodily relationships. We also fail to realise the transcendental nature of the Lord and start thinking that He is also conditioned like us. All these misconceptions bewilder us and so we lose the vision to see things as they are.

In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 2.9.4 Sukadev Goswami teaches us what Brahmaji did when he was perplexed about his existence and duties. Brahmaji is the foremost living entity in this material world. So his example is worth meditating.

*ātma-tattva-viśuddhy-arthaṁ
yad āha bhagavān ṛtam
brahmaṇe darśayan rūpam
avyalīka-vratādṛtaḥ*

O King, the Personality of Godhead, being very much pleased with Lord Brahmā because of his nondeceptive penance in bhakti-yoga, presented His eternal and transcendental form before Brahmā. And that is the objective goal for purifying the conditioned soul.

His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada translates the word *avyalīka-vratādṛtaḥ* as non-deceptive penance. We conveniently don't mind cheating others, but we definitely are not pleased when others cheat us. Hypocrisy is not admirable or acceptable quality even in material dealings. So how much more honest we should be while executing devotional service. As a result of his non-deceptive penance, Brahmaji could know about "atma-tattva" - science of living entity and the Supreme Lord and by causeless mercy of the Lord He could get His transcendental darshan as well as a glimpse of the spiritual world. .

Srila Prabhupada very nicely explains in the purport to the above verse, "*The wrong conception of the jīvātmā is to identify the material body with the pure soul, and the wrong conception of Paramātmā is to think Him on an equal level with the living entity. But both misconceptions can be removed by one stroke of bhakti-yoga, just as in the sunlight both the sun and the world and everything within the sunlight are properly seen. In the darkness one cannot see the sun, nor himself, nor the world. But in the sunlight one can see the sun, himself and the world around him.*"

We might give lame excuse that we are very insignificant souls and our life-span is also short so can't perform penance like Brahmaji. So His Divine Grace says that if we simply chant 16 rounds of Hare Krishna Mahamantra sincerely and study Srimad Bhagavatam, then that is also bhakti-yoga.

His Divine Grace says in the purport to the above verse, "*Srimad Bhagavatam is not a creation of the mental speculators. The sound of Srimad Bhagavatam is transcendental, and the resonance of Srimad Bhagavatam is as good as that of the Vedas. Thus the topic of the Srimad Bhagavatam is the science of both the Lord and the living entity. Regular reading or hearing of Srimad Bhagavatam is also performance of bhakti-yoga, and one can attain the highest perfection simply by the association of Srimad Bhagavatam. Both Śukadeva Gosvāmī and Mahārāja Parīkṣit attained perfection through the medium of Srimad Bhagavatam*

Suta Goswami also says in Srimad Bhagavatam verse 1.3.43

*kṛṣṇe sva-dhāmopagate
dharma-jñānādibhiḥ saha
kalau naṣṭa-dṛśām eṣa
purāṇārko 'dhunoditaḥ*

This Bhāgavata Purāṇa is as brilliant as the sun, and it has arisen just after the departure of Lord Kṛṣṇa to His own abode, accompanied by religion, knowledge, etc. Persons who have lost their vision due to the dense darkness of ignorance in the Age of Kali shall get light from this Purāṇa

So when we regularly take shelter of the amal-puran Srimad Bhagavatam, all our misconceptions vanish and we would realise the truth that we are servants of the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna.

Thank you very much.

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

Chanting gives Everything

Date: 15 Apr 2024

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

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

In Srimad Bhagavatam Canto 2 Chapter 9 verse 6 Sukadev Goswami explains to Parikshit Maharaj as to how when Brahmaji was perplexed about what to do, he heard the voice "ta" "pa". Sukadev Goswami says,

*sa cintayan dvy-akṣaram ekadāmbhasy
upāśṛṇod dvir-gaditaṁ vaco vibhuḥ
sparśeṣu yat ṣoḍaśam ekavimśam
niṣkiñcanānām nṛpa yad dhanam viduḥ*

While thus engaged in thinking, in the water, Brahmājī heard twice from nearby two syllables joined together. One of the syllables was taken from the sixteenth and the other from the twenty-first of the sparśa alphabets, and both joined to become the wealth of the renounced order of life.

His Divine Grace very nicely explains in his lectures the last line of this verse - "*niṣkiñcanānām nṛpa yad dhanam viduḥ*" *niṣkiñcanānām* - means "those who are in the renounced order of life". *dhanam* means **wealth**. So *tapa* or penance is the real wealth. In every field of life, whether one is a singer or athlete, or student, or parent or teacher austerity is required. Without austerity one cannot attain anything materially or spiritually. His Divine Grace also nicely explains in the purport of the above verse that amongst all 8 million four hundred thousand species, this human birth, alone gives us the opportunity to execute penance. So having obtained this body, we must not be neglectful in our penance.

Our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj also warns us in today's calendar quote - "**Just as we keep account of our wealth, we should keep account of our chanting. As we have debits, loans, we should also pay interest with regard to our chanting.**"

Brahmaji executed non-deceptive penance and thereby got the darshan of the Lord and His abode. After having that divine darshan Brahmaji composed the Brahma Samhita and by grace of Caitanya Mahaprabhu now we are able to have at least one of the 100 chapters of Brahma Samhita. His Divine Grace says in the purport to the above verse,

"So Brahmājī was thus initiated by Lord Kṛṣṇa, and this fact is corroborated by Brahmājī himself in his book the Brahma-saṁhitā. In the Brahma-saṁhitā Lord Brahmā has sung in every verse govindam ādi-puruṣam tam aham bhajāmi. Thus Brahmā was initiated by the Kṛṣṇa mantra, by Lord Kṛṣṇa Himself, and thus he became a Vaiṣṇava, or a devotee of the Lord, before he was able to construct the huge universe. It is stated in the Brahma-saṁhitā that Lord Brahmā was initiated into the eighteen-letter Kṛṣṇa mantra, which is generally accepted by all the devotees of Lord Kṛṣṇa. We follow the same principle because we belong to the Brahmā sampradāya, directly in the disciplic chain from Brahmā to Nārada, from Nārada to Vyāsa, from Vyāsa to Madhva Muni, from Madhva Muni to Mādhavendra Purī, from Mādhavendra Purī to Īśvara Purī, from Īśvara Purī to Lord Caitanya and gradually to His Divine Grace Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī, our divine master. One who is thus initiated in the disciplic succession is able to achieve the same result or power of creation. Chanting of this holy mantra is the only shelter of the desireless pure devotee of the Lord. Simply by such tapasya, or penance, the devotee of the Lord achieves all perfections like Lord Brahmā."

Chanting the prescribed rounds of Hare Krishna Mahamantra attentively without any distraction is greatest tapa of this age and just like how Brahmaji could recreate the material universe, we could see that Srila Prabhupada was also

establish this world-wide movement of ISKCON simply by his austerity of chanting the Holy Names sincerely. Lord is pleased with austerities rendered by His sincere devotees and so He empowers them to do things which are inconceivable.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva

Sudarshana devi dasi

Uninterrupted Service

Date: 16 Apr 2024

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

Tomorrow is the most auspicious occasion of appearance day of our dear Lord Ramacandra. In one of the lectures on Srimad Bhagavatam Canto 2, Chapter 9, Srila Prabhupada was mentioning how we should see everything in relation to Lord. Currently we are so bodily conscious that we see everything on the bodily platform - like my body, my wife, my husband, my child, my parents, my team, my society, my city, my country etc...But the right consciousness is to see everything and everyone around us in relation to Krishna. All are parts and parcels of Supreme Lord and during our temporary stay in this material world, we should just see how we can help each other in serving Supreme Lord, in remembering Him and spreading His glories.

In this regard one devotee shared with us a very wonderful pastime of how transcendental were the family members of Lord Sri Ram. When Mother Kaikeyi sent Lord Ram to forest, all His brothers were displeased by her action. Since Lakshmana was present in Ayodhya, he immediately decided to travel with Lord Ram and Mother Sita - with the sole intention of serving Them during their stay in the forest. When Bharata returned to Ayodhya and came to know about the happenings, he was very angry with his mother Kaikeyi. Instead of accepting the royal crown, he decided to go to the forest, request Lord Rama to return back to the kingdom.

When he saw that Lord Rama was firm in his determination to stay in the forest, he requests Him to give His padukas and using them as representative of Lord Rama, he renders the service of ruling Ayodhya. Also for all the 14 years - he gives up royal life and leads a simple life just like how Lord Rama was in the forest. Later when Mother Sita was abducted by Ravana and Lord Ram along with vanara sena led by Sugriva and Hanuman, wages war with the asuras in Lanka, at one point Lakshmana becomes unconscious due to the brahmastra released by Indrajeet. At that time Hanumanji travels to North, to bring the herbs from the Sanjeveni mountains - While passing through Ayodhya some mystic force dragged him down and there he happened to meet Bharata who inquired who he was and why he was carrying the mountain. When Hanuman told that he was in hurry to return and save Lakshmana, Bharata requested him to convey this news directly to Sumitra mother of Lakshmana. When Sumithra heard the news, instead of crying for Lakshmana's life, she told Hanuman **to take her second son Shatrughna along with him, as she was much concerned that the service to Lord Ram should not stop even if one of her son dies. What a great mother she is !**

In SB 2.9.3 Sukadev Goswami says,

*yarhi vāva mahimni sve parasmin kāla-māyayoḥ
rameta gata-sammohas tyaktvodāste tadobhayam*

As soon as the living entity becomes situated in his constitutional glory and begins to enjoy the transcendence beyond time and material energy, he at once gives up the two misconceptions of life [I and mine] and thus becomes fully manifested as the pure self.

Every family member of Lord Ram considered themselves as a servant of Lord Ram and their only focus was on how to serve Him. Be it His brothers or His mothers, all of them did not care or mind for their own personal convenience or inconvenience, but were simply focused on serving the Supreme Lord. By constantly hearing and reading about these glorious devotees, let us pray that we also imbibe this quality of seeing everyone and everything in relation to Krishna and have the intelligence to use every opportunity in Lord's service.

Thank you very much.

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

Absorption in Lord Rama

Date: 17 Apr 2024

Author: Narahari Krishna das

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

Today is the auspicious day of Sri Rama Navami. Each of the incarnation of the Lord exhibits a specific special quality and as Rama the Lord exhibited His quality of compassion. Because of this compassion, He was able to attract all living entities of various backgrounds (monkeys, bears, demons and humans). Rama is called by many names base on different lilas. When He was crowned as king, He is called Pattabhirama, as husband of Mother Sita He is called Sitarama or Janaki Rama, Kothanda Rama (wielder of bow), Raja Rama (King of Ayodhya), Bāla Rama (a charming child), possessing infinite qualities and infinite form of bliss (Ananta Rama), beloved Lord of Lord Siva (SivaRama) etc. Raja means one who rules (rājate) everyone. He ruled citizens of Ayodhya not only by His leadership, but mainly by His affection for them and they were captivated by His qualities and grace towards them. In Padma Purana (5.35.50-52) the entire secret essence of all the Vedas and other scriptures is stated as follows by the great sage Aranyaka.

*sarveṣāṃ vedaśāstrāṇāṃ rahasyaṃ te prakāśitam
samācara tathā tvaṃ vai yathā syātte maṇiṣitam
eko devo rāmacandro vratamekaṃ tadarcanam
maṅtro'pyekaśca tannāma śāstraṃ taddhyeva tatstutiḥ
tasmātsarvātmanā rāmacaṅdraṃ bhajamanoharam
yathā goṣpadavattuccho bhavetsaṃsārasāgaraḥ*

I hereby reveal the essence of all Vedas and other scriptures. Please assimilate this with your intelligence and put into practice. There is only one Supreme God - Ramachandra. The only supreme vow is to worship Him. There is only one mantra which is the name of Rama. There is only one scripture i.e. that which glorifies Rama. Therefore with all your hearts please serve and worship the charming Ramachandra so that the ocean of material existence would become small like the hoof print of a calf.

The residents of Ayodhya practiced the above teachings in every step of their existence. When Lord Rama went on exile for 14 years, the entire Ayodhya was immersed in sorrow. Elephants threw out morsels of food from their mouth. Cows did not give suck to their calves. Mother did not rejoice on delivery of new child. The people became apathetic and lost interest in food and pastime. The trees withered without giving fruits and flowers. The lotus flowers immersed themselves in the lakes and became invisible. The water in the rivers, lakes and pools started boiling. Thus all citizens of Ayodhya including birds and animals and even inanimate things displayed their affection for Rama.

After return from forest and coronation, Lord Rama used to send spies to roam in the night and find out what people were talking about His rule. One spy went to various houses and observed interesting things. The Padma Purana states that in one house a mother was breast feeding her baby and to encourage the child to drink milk, she chanted the glories of Lord Rama. In one house husband and wife were preparing to engage in conjugal love and they were discussed the affection between Lord Rama and Mother Sita. In another house husband and wife were playing the game of dice and during that time also they chanted about the greatness of Lord Rama. **Thus the Lordships Sita Rama were the centre of all their activities and both during separation and union they were completely absorbed in Lord Rama. Because of their complete absorption, Lord Rama took them along with Him to the spiritual world.** The Srimad Bhagavatam (5.19.8) confirms this as follows.

*suro 'suro vāpy atha vānaro naraḥ
sarvātmanā yaḥ sukṛtajñam uttamam
bhajeta rāmaṁ manujākṛtiṁ harim
ya uttarān anayat kosalān divam iti*

Therefore, whether one is a demigod or a demon, a man or a creature other than man, such as a beast or bird, everyone should worship Lord Rāmacandra, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who appears on this earth just like a human being. There is no need of great austerities or penances to worship the Lord, for He accepts even a small service offered by His devotee. Thus He is satisfied, and as soon as He is satisfied, the devotee is successful. Indeed, Lord Śrī Rāmacandra brought all the devotees of Ayodhyā back home, back to Godhead [Vaikuṅṭha].

Thus Sri Rama Navami is meant to absorb ourselves in the name, form, qualities and activities of Lord Rama so that we can gain entrance into the spiritual world. Let us all pray at the lotus feet of our beloved Gurudeva, Srila Prabhupada and Lord Rama so that we can absorb ourselves in Rama bhakti.

Thank you very much.

Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada and Gurudeva,
Narahari Krishna das
Birmingham.

Lord Rama's Determination

Date: 18 Apr 2024

Author: Vaijayantimala devi dasi

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

We are all celebrating the appearance of Lord Shri Ramachandra, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. In Srimad Bhagavatam 5.19.3 we see that Hanumanji is glorifying and offering obeisances to the the lord as **sādhu-vāda-niṣaṅganāya - to the Lord, who is like a stone for examining all the good qualities of a saadhu.** Lord Rama is a reservoir of all the good qualities which continue to keep inspiring us all after lakhs of years.

One beautiful quality of the Lord is His being a dhṛta vrata – one who is fully determined to follow the vows. In Srimad Ramayana we see that Shri Rama agreed to go to be in the forest for fourteen years in order to keep up the promise given by His father Dasaratha to Kaikeyi. When Lord Rama went to Lanka and when Ravana was killed, the fourteen year exile period was almost over and only a few hours were left. At that point of time, immediately after the destruction of Ravana we see Lord Rama speaking these words to Lakshmana.

*vibhīṣaṇamimam saumya laṅkāyāmbhīṣecaya
anuraktam ca bhaktam ca tathā pūrvopakāriṇam*

*eṣa me paramaḥ kāmo yadimam rāvaṇānujam
laṅkāyāṃ saumya paśyeyambhīṣiktaṃ vibhīṣaṇam*

Gentle Lakshmana! Vibheeshana is friendly to me and devoted. He has done me good work in the past. Consecrate him in Lanka. O gentle one! This is my paramount desire that I should see this Vibhishana, the brother of Ravana being consecrated on the throne in Lanka. - Valmiki Ramayana 6-112-9 and 10.

Herein we see that Lord Rama, did not want to enter into the city of Lanka to consecrate Shri Vibhishana. At that point of time He was in the outskirts of Lanka wherein the battle took place. He did not want to break his vow of being in exile by entering into the city and hence He asked Lakshmanji to do the consecration. Once that was done, the next thing was that the Lord spoke to Hanumanji the following.

*anujnāpya mahārājamimam saumya vibhīṣaṇam
praviśya nagarīm laṅkāṃ kauśalam brūhimaithilīm*

O Gentle one! Taking permission from this Vibhishana, the great king and entering into the City of Lanka, inform about our welfare to Seetha. - Valmiki Ramayana 6-112-24.

Herein again with great humility and following dharma, from which He never deviated even a bit, (Rama vigrahavan dharmah) the Lord asked Hanumanji to get the permission of King Vibhishana and enter into the city and inform Seetha mata of Victory.

We see that after Sita Mata joins Lord Rama, Shri Vibhishana requested Lord Rama to stay back and rest for a few days in Lanka, but Lord Rama remembering Bharata, immediately wanted to return to Ayodhya. Thus even though it was just the last phase of few hours of the fourteen year exile period, Lord Rama as a dhṛta vrata, was so much determined to keep up the words. We saw the story of Transformation just a few days back in Granthraj wherein the dancer chanted a beautiful verse

*atīto bahu kālo re kincit evāvasishyate
kśana mātrasya dośena mā bhava tvam kalankitah*

This means that, "**Hey! A long time has passed. Only very little time is remaining. By committing a mistake in the last minute, don't become polluted or subject to be condemned.**"

We see herein that Lord Rama lived up to this by not deviating from His words in the last phase of the exile, after having followed it strictly all fourteen years, even though none would have questioned Him or judged Him on this.

Our spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj said, "*Our determination should be to become a devotee of Krishna. Instead of other determinations that drag us to the hellish life, we should be determined and resolved to be with Krishna.*"

I pray that I develop atleast a bit of this determination for my own purification.

Sri Ramachandra Bhagavan ki jai!

Thank you very much.

Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,
Vaijayantimala devi dasi
Chennai.

Invest for your Retirement - Part 1

Date: 19 Apr 2024

Author: Srividya Sharma

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

We usually invest money so that we can lead a smooth life after retirement. Along with it we have to prepare how best we could use our time after retirement.

To understand the time component of retirement, let us first look into some details of how the money that we invest will get used after retirement. We use this money to spend for our daily needs. We need clothes to wear, we need food for breakfast, lunch and dinner, we need a roof over our head to sleep in the night. We may need to save for health insurance and life insurance. Apart from these needs, we may have a few wants. We may want magazine subscriptions, television cable connection, club membership, money for conveyance, money for travel, salaries for maid, cook, driver etc

We need to plan our retirement money, true, but more importantly we have to plan our retirement time. Have we ever planned to invest our time for retirement?

Investing time for retirement means, spending our time in those activities which we wish to spend in our old age too. The consciousness we have in our old age is the consciousness we will most likely have at the time of death. We will have so much time during our retirement days. With 24 hours in our hand and no occupational duties to perform, we will be completely taken over by boredom.

By looking at retired people around us, we can soon understand that there is a pattern to what they do in their retirement days. People usually follow their passions. So if a person from younger days likes cricket, in his older days also, he will follow cricket news, debates and watch matches, both live and highlights. If a person watched serials or soap operas in younger days, then he would continue to watch that kind of content. If a person had even a slight inclination to politics in his younger days, he will follow political news, debates and messages related to political parties, their agendas, elections etc. If a person is passionate about singing (classical or hiphop) then in retirement time, he would go for concerts, watch them on TV, listen to music at home etc. Same is the case with people who have interest in cooking. They all follow their interests and spend time on those.

Content consumption has become an important part of our modern lives. We need to decide what kind of content and how much of that content we want to consume. Mindless scrolling on youtube, watching suggested videos and endless watching and forwarding whatsapp videos or insta reels is going to change our consciousness and guna drastically.

We have the most important duty to consume content which will only help us in Krishna consciousness. Physical content in the form of books are far better than digital content in the form of videos.

Krishna willing we shall meditate further on this topic in the subsequent offering.

Thank you very much.
Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,
Srividya Sharma
Secunderabad

Invest for your Retirement - Part 2

Date: 20 Apr 2024

Author: Srividya Sharma

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

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled, "Invest For your Retirement" wherein we were seeing how it is important for us to invest our time also and not just money for our retirement. Now we shall continue further.

Our consciousness from young age, as it has been molded, gets carried forward in old age and then in death and then to the next birth. This is what Krishna is talking about when He is saying that the type of consciousness you have at the time of death, will decide what your next body will be. BG 8.6,

*yaṁ yaṁ vāpi smaran bhāvam tyajaty ante kalevaram
taṁ tam evaiti kaunteya sadā tad-bhāva-bhāvitaḥ*

Whatever state of being one remembers when he quits his body, O son of Kuntī, that state he will attain without fail.

In our older days, if we are not able to somehow do Krishna conscious work throughout the day, then there are high chances that our consciousness is not perfect enough to enter Goloka.

Human birth is very rare. After getting such a rare birth, we should strive for the ultimate goal which is to go to Goloka Vrindavan. All these years we have spent on earning for our livelihood, for maintenance of the body. Simultaneously we have been doing a bit of Krishna consciousness. We might have spent 2 hrs on chanting and probably an hour on reading Bhagavad Gita and Bhagavatam.

Now it is time to ask ourselves the question, "Given the time, will I be able to study Bhagavad Gita and Bhagavatam for 24 hours a day? Am I in the mood for that? Or will I get hit by boredom after one hour of studying?"

HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj says that, "**our test for devotional service is how long we are able to sit alone with Bhagavad Gita and Bhagavatam.**"

Krishna willing we shall continue to meditate more on this topic in the subsequent offering.

Thank you very much.
Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,
Srividya Sharma
Secunderabad

Invest for your Retirement - Part 3

Date: 21 Apr 2024

Author: Srividya Sharma

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

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled, "Invest for your Retirement" wherein we were seeing how it is important for us to invest our time now in chanting, studying scriptures and engaging in other activities in devotional service.

Now we shall continue further.

There are certain things that we cannot predict about our future. "Will I be in a position to study? Will my eyes cooperate? Will I be in a position to chant? Will my hands and tongue cooperate? Will I be in a position to listen to lectures? Will my ears cooperate?" These circumstances are not under our control and neither can we predict any of this, but if we have a strong determination to do something, we will find ways to do them. Just by contemplating on these questions, we will be able to improve the quality of our Krishna conscious activities today (like chanting, studying etc).

There is an interesting story in this regard. A beggar entered into a foreign country (island) where he was resting under a tree. The people of the island were looking for a person to be their king. The priests on the island arranged for an elephant in the temple to carry a garland and whoever is garlanded by the elephant would be the king. The elephant chose the beggar and garlanded him and he became the king.

He was quite happy to see the opulent palaces with all arrangements for nice arrangements and everyone at his beck and call. At that time a wise old man came to him and said, "See young man, the rule of this island is that you can be the king here only for 5 years. After this, the people will send you to an unmanned island which is far from here. This same fate happened to all kings who were selected before you. So all of the enjoyment you have here is temporary." The king became shocked and enquired, "What happened to those kings who were sent to that island?"

The wise old man replied, "There are many wild animals on that island. So they might have killed them. Same will be your fate after 5 years." The king was scared and asked the wise old man what to do.

The wise old man said, "Please rule the kingdom to the best of your ability and at the same time start doing developments in that island where you will be sent after 5 years. In these 5 years, the people will listen to you and carry out whatever you say. Develop that island so that it is a perfect place to live after 5 years." The king took this instruction seriously and he first sent a batch of soldiers to clear out the forest area and fence it. In this way, he was making constant developments in the unmanned island. As expected, after 5 years the people expelled the king and send him to the unmanned island. But by this time, the island was a beautiful township and many people were waiting to receive him. The king just landed there and started his new life happily thanks to the old man's advice.

In this story, we can see that the king utilized his temporary tenure very wisely under the guidance of the wise old man. In the same way after attaining the human form of life, one should make this spiritual investment under the guidance of the pure devotees of the Lord, since the human body with all the senses and faculty of advanced intelligence is very suitable for God-realization.

When they're in good working condition if we engage them in devotional service, we can accrue permanent spiritual assets that can take us to the Lord's eternal abode.

Krishna willing we shall continue to meditate more on this topic in the subsequent offering.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Srividya Sharma

Secunderabad

Invest for your Retirement - Part 4

Date: 22 Apr 2024

Author: Srividya Sharma

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

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled, "Invest for your Retirement" wherein we saw the story wherein the beggar who was made king for 5 years, as advised by the sage, was alert to use his 5 years of ruling time to prepare for his stay in the unmanned island after 5 years. So likewise we must also be alert to use our youth to prepare for ourselves for old-age and ultimate destination after death.

Now we shall continue further.

There are some questions which haunt us from time to time. "Currently, we are being taken care of in our house, but in future, will we be taken care of? When we retire, will we get the same respect and service which we got during younger days?"

HH Srila Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj in his class on SB 1.13.20 in Fiji on 30th April 1997 explains how SB 3.30.15 talks about our old age.

*āste 'vamatyopanyastam̐ gr̥ha-pāla ivāharan
āmayāvy apradīptāgnir alpāhāro 'lpa-ceṣṭitaḥ*

Thus he remains at home just like a pet dog and eats whatever is so negligently given to him. Afflicted with many illnesses, such as dyspepsia and loss of appetite, he eats only very small morsels of food, and he becomes an invalid who cannot work any more.

In old age, we are retired. So when we are retired, we don't have to go anywhere. Even if we have to go, we can't go. In some one's car we have to go, or how to go? So we are not able to go. So we always stay at home. At home the lady (wife) who first used to feed him, she says, "Let the children eat first. You don't have to go anywhere, let the children go first." Because they all work. They all eat first and go. Afterwards, whatever is left over in the children thāli/plate, all that is collected and is put in front of him. "Now eat." āste 'vamatyopanyastam̐, he is neglected - gr̥ha-pāla ivāharan. like a dog, Grhapāl means a dog, Dog takes care of the house. Isn't it? He protects the house. So he is called Grhapāl. He eats and sits like a dog.

And in that also, what is his state? āmayāvy, he's diseased, apradīptāgnir - he can eat very less; 'lpa-ceṣṭitaḥ - he eats less. So his movements also become less. In this state, getting beatings, he stays at home. This is Kāl. If you don't understand Kāl then changing life is a big problem. We only know, "Today I am earning, and I am the owner of the house. Things are as per my way. And like this it will continue." No, when Kāl changes, the house which is serving you, the same house will kick you. This is Kāl. This is Kāl. We cannot blame anybody; we cannot blame anybody. This is Kāl. These kicks are from Kāl. Kāl comes.

Another problem of old age is that, we always like to express ourselves to others since we think we have gathered so many years of experience. On the other hand, those who are around us, may not be interested to hear what we wish to say. If we want to channelise our words in old age, we have to practice in our younger days. So, the first step in this direction, is to make it a habit during our younger days, to talk about Lord Krishna, **Bhagavad Gita and Bhagavatam regularly and always.**

Krishna willing we shall continue to meditate more on this topic in the subsequent offering.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Srividya Sharma

Secunderabad

Invest for your Retirement - Part 5

Date: 23 Apr 2024

Author: Srividya Sharma

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

This is in conclusion of the previous offering titled, "Invest for your Retirement" wherein we saw that we have to make it a habit during our younger days, to talk about Lord Krishna, **Bhagavad Gita and Bhagavatam regularly and always.**

Now we shall continue further.

This leads to our next question, "Is it possible to surround ourselves with people who would like to listen to us talk about Krishna? Will there atleast be one person willing to listen to us talk about Krishna?" If we start talking about Krishna to the people around us, then they will also develop an interest. Krishna is all-attractive. At least one of them, our spouse or children or elders in the family will soon be attracted. So, in this way, we will have someone who is habituated to listening about Krishna from us. It need not be a lecture or one-way communication. It could be a healthy discussion as well. It could be just reading from the book together and sharing the points.

HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj always insisted, "**Please invest your time in the pages of Srimad Bhagavatam and Bhagavad Gita**".

We could probably make a tentative agenda of activities that we can take up on a daily basis. Here is a suggestive list: (per day)

1. Chanting 16 rounds minimum
2. Bhagavad Gita Parayan (minimum 1 chapter) and few prayers from Srimad Bhagavatam
3. Listening to Srila Prabhupada's lecture and Guru Maharaj's lectures (at least one)
4. Self-study of Bhagavad Gita and Bhagavatam
5. Sharing the good points that we studied/heard with others.
6. Serving Deities at home (arati, shrngaar, bhoga, prasadam distribution)

We can take inspiration and ideas from older people who are in Krishna consciousness and are spending their time for Krishna. All is not lost, each of us should introspect and find out what are the activities in Krishna consciousness that we are passionate about and try to spend more time in those activities today onward. Then, in our older days, we will be inclined to do the same things. It is important to note that, we cannot suddenly develop an interest to do any of the above-mentioned Krishna conscious activities in our older age. We have to gradually develop the interest by investing our time on them today itself. It is interesting to note that: HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj says that, *every moment you invest in Krishna, you will not become old.*

Disclaimer: We do not know when our death will come. So, we may not even have the time to go through old age and then death. Nevertheless, we can keep investing our time for the future (be it, this life or the next).

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,
Srividya Sharma
Secunderabad

Devote your Attention to Krishna - Part 1

Date: 24 Apr 2024

Author: Uma Prathap

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

The following is a humble effort to transcribe one of the instructive nectarean Bhagavad Gita class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj in Singapore on 26th March 1992 on BG 18.58 Now let us hear from Maharaj.

Maharaj:

*mac-cittaḥ sarva-durgāṇi mat-prasādāt tariṣyasi
atha cet tvam ahaṅkārān na śroṣyasi vinaṅkṣyasi*

If you become conscious of Me, you will pass over all the obstacles of conditioned life by My grace. If, however, you do not work in such consciousness but act through false ego, not hearing Me, you will be lost.

(Maharaj reads the purport of BG 18.58) *This great freedom, the foolish cannot understand this great freedom from all anxiety. So one who acts in Krishna consciousness, Lord Krishna, becomes the most intimate friend. He always looks after His friend's comfort and gives Himself to His friend who is so devotedly engaged in working 24 hours a day to please the Lord. Therefore no one should be carried away by the false ego of the bodily concept of life. One should not falsely think himself independent of the law of material nature or free to act. He is already under strict material laws. But as soon as he acts in Krishna consciousness he is liberated, free from the material perplexities. One should note very carefully that one who is not active in Krishna consciousness is losing himself in the material whirlpool in the ocean of birth and death. No conditioned soul actually knows what is to be done and what is not to be done. But a person who acts in Krishna consciousness is free to act because everything is prompted by Krishna from within and confirmed by the spiritual master.*

Now we come to the glorification of the Lord. Srila Prabhupad has given us beautiful verse to glorify the Lord.

The glorification of the Lord is the perfection of human existence. We are suffering because we don't heartily glorify the Lord. There is no other reason. We have a tendency to blame others for our own sufferings. We have to very well remember that God is very kind, Krishna is very kind, beyond limits. And if you walk towards Krishna one step then He will take ten steps towards you. *Prito ham tena arjuna.* He says very clearly *prito ham 'I am bought by My devotees'*- provided you are a sincere devotee. And to devote, to become a devotee means you have to devote your attention, you have to devote your life, *man-manā bhava mad-bhakto mad-yājī māṁ namaskuru* (BG 18.65). Very nicely He describes in Bhagavad Gita, *man-manā bhava*, 'all your attention should be focused on Me'. It's very easy to understand these things.

Before fifty years we did not have water taps in our villages. There was no tap water in the villages. And our mothers and sisters they had to go to fetch water from the well. And while they were carrying two jars on their head and one jar in their waist. Three jars full of water and water is very heavy. And not only that they had to go to the well, or the river, and work hard to just take out the water from the well or get pure water from the river. But they were going in a group 2-3 you know, with their friends. And they were talking with each other. While coming back they had all jars full of water, two jars on head and one on the waist, you know. Even now in some villages, ladies do this hard work. While coming back also they chat with each other, chat with the friends, all female friends. I am sorry there were no male friends, this is the product of the Western philosophy. Boyfriend, you know. There was no boyfriend, you know. She had only one boyfriend and that the father had directed her to have that boyfriend in the marriage. There was no

connection otherwise. So, when they were coming back they were chatting with their friends again. But while chatting and while laughing and do everything, their whole attention was on the water jar. Otherwise, she knew that if the jars fell down her labour is wasted again. *So she was doing everything, but her attention was in the jars, she was trying to maintain the equilibrium so that the jars don't fall down. And this was the way to concentrate the attention on the water pot.* The same condition we are in that we are doing so many activities- we are conducting our businesses, we are doing some jobs, or we are maintaining our houses, we are managing our family affairs, we are performing marriages, we are performing thread ceremonies, and then, you know, so many things we are performing. ***And in so many activities we are engaged. But while doing all these things our attention should be towards Krishna. Otherwise, we miss Him***

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Uma Prathap

Thiruvanathapuram

Devote your Attention to Krishna - Part 2

Date: 25 Apr 2024

Author: Uma Prathap

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of one of the instructive nectarean Bhagavad Gita class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj in Singapore on 26th March 1992 on BG 18.58 Now let us hear from Maharaj. In the previous class we heard from Maharaj that

1. we are suffering because we are not heartily glorifying Krishna.
2. Amidst all our activities, we must direct our attention to Krishna.

Now we shall hear further.

Maharaj: And to direct the attention towards Krishna, we must have few nice prayers to chant, few nice verses from Bhagavad Gita or Srimad Bhagavatam or any other Vedic literature. And it is very nicely said that whichever scripture you read, it is very nicely said in some Vedic scriptures that Vyās Bhagavan is very clear about these things. He says

*āloḍyam sarva-śāstrāni vicārya ca punaḥ punaḥ
idam ekaṁ suniṣpannaṁ dhyeyo nārāyaṇaḥ sadā*

It is very clear in the meaning. *āloḍyam sarva-śāstrāni*, He says. *āloḍyam* means 'I have read', 'scrutinisingly I have read'. Not only I have read, but scrutinisingly I have read *sarva* all *śāstrāni* all scriptures. It is very clear. *āloḍyam sarva-śāstrāni* I have read all scriptures scrutinisingly. And *vicārya ca punaḥ punaḥ* and again and again *vicārya* I have thought over it, again and again what I have read. And *idam ekaṁ suniṣpannaṁ*, only one thing comes out *ekaṁ suniṣpannaṁ*, from all reading scrutinisingly from all the scriptures only one thing I take out, and what is that? *Dhyeyo* - you must meditate, you must remember Narayana, the Supreme Absolute Truth Narayana, Krishna, you must remember Krishna. *āloḍyam sarva-śāstrāni vicārya ca punaḥ punaḥ idam ekaṁ suniṣpannaṁ* only one thing comes out. And that teaches us that *dhyeyo nārāyaṇaḥ sadā* - always, in all the circumstances and everywhere, wherever you are and whichever circumstances you are, you have to remember the Lord. Srila Prabhupad, Srila Prabhupada's mercy we have taken this instruction very seriously.

Ready. When we waited for everybody to come for Mangal Arati, to our surprise they came at 10 o'clock in the morning. Then we told, we asked them "What is the matter? Mangal Arati you missed. Because the auspicious time is gone. Brahma muhurta has passed away." They said, "No, no, no, whenever we get up we perform Mangal Arati." So they don't have fixed time. Unless you are serious, you will not continue these spiritual activities in the time which is prescribed. Our Srila Prabhupad has prescribed this Brahma muhurta according to the scriptures, instructions of the scriptures. And because of that wherever we have these temples, our Mangal Arati is according to the local time at 4:30. And these children also they are up, they are in front of the Deities at 4:30. In order to get ready by 4:30 they should have to get up latest by 4 o'clock. This is the way to perform the spiritual matters. Otherwise, we cannot go on according to our own whim. *kintu aadaraad anudinam*. *anudinam* means **regularly**. And *aadaraad* with respect. We should follow these activities very regularly. And that's why we have to learn few verses.

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Uma Prathap

Thiruvananthapuram

Devote your Attention to Krishna - Part 3

Date: 26 Apr 2024

Author: Uma Prathap

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of one of the instructive nectarean Bhagavad Gita class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj in Singapore on 26th March 1992 on BG 18.58 Now let us hear from Maharaj. In the previous class we heard from Maharaj that

1. we are suffering because we are not heartily glorifying Krishna.
2. Amidst all our activities, we must direct our attention to Krishna.
3. The conclusion of all scriptures is that, whoever we are, wherever we are, we must always remember Krishna.

Now we shall hear further from Maharaj.

Maharaj: (Appreciating the Bhagavatam class given by another Maharaj, Maharaj says) Yesterday we had been to hear Maharajshri, he gives very nice discourses on Srimad Bhagavatam. Yesterday he had discussed Third Canto. And I was really surprised that we have got so very pure souls in India existing at the moment. We should not miss his lectures and try to understand Srimad Bhagavatam. Try to go through these things. And not only understand, but in the end, we have to realize. **Understanding mere is not enough. Knowledge is not enough.** These living entities are already within (spiritual realm). They know thoroughly well what they are speaking. And even then, we don't put into practice. **Unless we put into practice the knowledge cannot be realized.** We know, we have the knowledge, we have the *jnan* that if you get up early and go to bed early then you will be happy, healthy and wise, you know. What is that saying? 'Early to bed and early to rise,' is it Aristotle, am I correct?

(Referring to someone in the audience) Jai! Nice to see you. You look bit cleaner today (everyone laughs with Maharaj), for a change, you know. Otherwise yesterday you were dirty. Nice.

So the point is that we know, that is knowledge. Early to bed and early to rise is the way to be happy, healthy and wise. You know, happy, healthy, wealthy and wise. *We were small children you know, and our teacher taught us this saying: 'Early to bed and early to rise is the way to be happy, healthy, wealthy and wise'. We become wealthy, and I thought that I can be wealthy just by going to bed and getting up early? That is best, and then I told my mother that today I am going to bed at 7 o'clock in the evening. She was very curious "Why you are going"? I want to be wealthy I said. If I go to bed early and get up early, I will be wealthy. She didn't protest you know. She thought, let him try (laughs). So I slept early and got up early in the morning, before everybody was up. It was natural that if you go to bed early, you will be up early, isn't it? Isn't it? (Maharaj laughs).*

(Appreciating few boys in the class) This boy is very nice, these boys are very elevated, they know Bhagavad Gita 12th chapter, 15th chapter. They are working very hard, they are our gurukul boys. (Continuing with his experience) So what happened that, eight days I did this thing and there was no wealth in sight. (Everybody laughs). *So I thought it is wrong, teacher is wrong. Otherwise, how can I not get money. I have been doing daily. But I didn't know that by simply going to bed early, putting this into practice and getting up early in Brahma muhurta, you can obtain a very nice health. This is required for our own health.* This red blood cannot be there if you sleep up to 8 o'clock or 10 o'clock or 12 o'clock. And that is what we are very much accustomed to in London. You know, we are proud of London life. You come to London, the weather is damp, cold, dirty, there is no sunshine, very nice place to sleep (laughs). If you want to have holiday, and if you want to recoup, please go to London. And we are very proud that 'I'm staying in London'. Frankly speaking, Krishna curses us, those whom He wants to curse, He sends them to London. (Maharaj laughs). This is how we behave. We don't put into practice the knowledge. **And if we don't continuously put the knowledge into practice, then we are lost**

and that's why these verses have got to be meditated upon.

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Uma Prathap

Thiruvanathapuram

Devote your Attention to Krishna - Part 4

Date: 27 Apr 2024

Author: Uma Prathap

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of one of the instructive nectarean Bhagavad Gita class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj in Singapore on 26th March 1992 on BG 18.58 Now let us hear from Maharaj. In the previous class we heard from Maharaj that

1. We are suffering because we are not heartily glorifying Krishna.
2. Amidst all our activities, we must direct our attention to Krishna.
3. The conclusion of all scriptures is that, whoever we are, wherever we are, we must always remember Krishna.
4. Knowledge can be realised only when we put into practice. Mere understanding is not enough.

Now we shall hear further from Maharaj.

Maharaj: A beautiful verse Srila Prabhupada has given:

*he kṛṣṇa karuṇā-sindho dīna-bandho jagat-pate
gopeśa gopikā-kānta rādhā-kānta namo 'stu te*

Simply you know, *karuṇā-sindho*, **ocean of mercy**. Lord, help us to regain the spiritual consciousness. Then from Bhagavad Gita we recite, 10th chapter verse number 12. It's very easy, and Krishna is very kind to give us Arjuna's revelation. When Arjuna heard Him, when he saw Him in His Universal form, then Arjuna reveals himself that what he has seen regarding Krishna. And in two lines very simple two lines in this verse, Arjuna is describing ten qualities of the Lord. You will be surprised. In no other literature in the world - there are so many scriptures, Christianity has, Buddhism has, Mohammaddens have, but no other literature of the world, nothing, no other faith describes ten qualities of Krishna in two lines. It is very easy to remember.

param brahma, that is Supreme Absolute Truth, *param dhāma*, Supreme shelter, we take so many shelters, and they are all crumbling down. They are all very temporary. We take shelter of wife, and the wife goes wild (laughter). Finished, completely gone. Our shelter is completely gone. If she is Krishna Conscious and day and night if this seva, this service is going on in your house, then only we can keep sane. Otherwise, kali yuga enters in our house.

In order to keep sane, we have to come to Krishna consciousness.

And that is why these western countries, they are missing God. And you go to New York, every other man is mental. (Maharaj imitates a mental person). You get off at the airport and you are scared to talk to anybody. You look at him (Maharaj makes sound) 'eh, eh, eh'. Oh God! I told. And they have got pistol in their pocket. And their mind is not controlled, you know. So they do puff and finished (laughter). Finished. So don't talk, if you go to New York (everybody laughs aloud with Maharaj). You just collect your luggage and go to your place, that's all. And if you are lucky, you will reach alive. Everywhere this mentality is there. Why? Because God conscience is completely absent. We are missing God. And that's why our condition is very miserable.

If you chant these verses, few of the verses, your mind will be completely sane. For our own sanity, for our own family's sanity, for our own children's sanity, for our society's sanity, and for our country's sanity, we have to come to this conclusion. And this is how our God consciousness which is ingrained in our blood, being Indian in birth, we have to spread this knowledge. And otherwise, the whole society will go completely bankrupt in their sanity. And as soon as the society loses the sanity, the families are completely broken.

And once the families are broken, one after the other the miseries pounce on you. In the end you also lose the balance. This is why these verses are very important

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Uma Prathap

Thiruvanathapuram

Devote your Attention to Krishna - Part 5

Date: 28 Apr 2024

Author: Uma Prathap

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of one of the instructive nectarean Bhagavad Gita class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj in Singapore on 26th March 1992 on BG 18.58 Now let us hear from Maharaj. In the previous class we heard from Maharaj that **in order to keep sane, we have to come to Krishna consciousness.**

Now we shall hear further from Maharaj.

Maharaj: And otherwise, the whole society will go completely bankrupt in their sanity. And as soon as the society loses the sanity the families are completely broken. And once the families are broken, one after the other the miseries pounce on you. In the end you also lose the balance. This is why these verses are very important. *param brahma param dhāma*, that is Supreme shelter. Then *pavitram* - purest. Our life must be purest to approach the purest Lord. *param brahma param dhāma pavitram paramam bhavan* - transcendental *puruṣam* - enjoyer *śāśvataṁ* - eternal *divyam* - divine *ādi-devam* - oldest *ajam* - unborn and *vibhum* - greatest. These are the ten qualities given in two lines. And very simple lyric. We are all bathroom singers. You please, from bathrooms, other sounds must not come out. Otherwise, we rub our body (mai mai mai) so many sounds we make. Instead of that we should utilize that time in reciting these verses. Hear this verse, beautiful, you know.

*param brahma param dhāma pavitram paramam bhavān
puruṣam śāśvataṁ divyam ādi-devam ajam vibhum*

Doesn't take even two minutes.

(Maharaj sings the verse again) Then there is a beautiful verse from Bhagavad Gita 8th chapter 9th verse. Again 8 qualities of the Lord. If you learn two verses, you will have 18 qualities of Bhagavan. And you will dance then. You know that verse, isn't it? 8th chapter 9th verse?

*kaviṁ purāṇam anuśāsītāram
aṅor aṅīyāṁsam anusmared yaḥ
sarvasya dhātāram acintya-rūpam
āditya-varṇam tamasaḥ parastāt*

Then 38th verse from 11th chapter.

*tvam ādi-devaḥ puruṣaḥ purāṇas
tvam asya viśvasya param nidhānam
vettāsi vedyam ca param ca dhāma
tvayā tataṁ viśvam ananta-rūpa*

Very nice. Again 10 qualities. **There is no literature comparing Bhagavad Gita. And that's why we must have copy like this, Bhagavad Gita, pocket copy, any edition. But our edition is special because it gives you each word, translation of each word. Not only that but beautiful translations are given. And not only that, but nice explanatory purports are given. That's why Srila Prabhupad has taken labour to translate and write the purports. He was getting up daily at 1 AM. He has done this much labour for all the living entities. He was already 70 years of age, when he left India to go to America. And at that time he was not well at all. He did not have to gain any material profit out of this. His eyes were not on the material gain**

Material gain in Srimad Bhagavatam is known as *kaitava dharma*. We are not attracted to material gain at all. We want one thing, yes, we are very selfish regarding that. (Referring to a devotee hosting the program) And our SunderGopal Prabhu is very happy if this hall is full. He doesn't want anything else. He dances in his office as soon as the hall is full. This is our aim. We want your happiness. And somehow or the other we want to deliver God, Krishna to you - free of charge.

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

No charge. And if you give me, well and good. (Maharaj laughs loudly). But we are not after it. It is *kaitava dharma*.

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Uma Prathap

Thiruvanathapuram

Devote your Attention to Krishna - Part 6

Date: 29 Apr 2024

Author: Uma Prathap

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of one of the instructive nectarean Bhagavad Gita class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj in Singapore on 26th March 1992 on BG 18.58 Now let us hear from Maharaj. In the previous class we heard from Maharaj that ***Srila Prabhupada has done so much labour for the well being of all living entities, by translating the scriptures and that he was not after material gain - kaitava dharma.***

Now we shall hear further from Maharaj.

Maharaj:

*dharmah projjhita-kaitavo 'tra paramo nirmatsarāṇām satām
vedyam vāstavam atra vastu śivadamī tāpa-trayonmūlanam*

And this verse also could be very nicely sung. It is 2nd verse from 1st chapter. (Referring to few devotees) Our sisters are here, mothers and sisters, they were singing yesterday. Very nice.

*dharmah projjhita-kaitavo 'tra paramo nirmatsarāṇām satām
vedyam vāstavam atra vastu śivadamī tāpa-trayonmūlanam
śrīmad-bhāgavate mahā-muni-kṛte kimī vā parair īśvaraḥ
sadyo hṛdy avarudhyate 'tra kṛtibhiḥ śuśrūṣubhis tat-kṣaṇāt*

(Referring to another Maharaj) Yesterday, Maharajshri described this verse very nicely. We are short of time today, but these verses have got to be learnt, have got to be meditated upon, and have got to be thought over it again and again. And then you will be completely perfect. And we have beautiful again to glorify the Lord, there is a beautiful verse-

*ṣāntā kāram bhujagaśayanaṃ padmanābham sureṣam
vishvādhāram gaganasadrśham meghavarṇam ṣubhāngam
lakshmīkāntam kamalanayanam yogibhir dhyānagamyam
vande viṣṇum bhavabhayaharam sarvalokaikanātham*

Just few of the verses here and there and it completely satisfied us. This is the connection of our scriptures to our day-to-day life. Our forefathers, our saints and sages, our scriptures, they are not wrong. Our saints and sages, *santas*, our scriptures and our forefathers, were not mad that they have prescribed you this. Please, this is the message we want to convey to you that we have to come to this point.

Then the main question comes, about the younger generation. We have the experience that the children don't want to hear about these things. There is one way to convince them. That our house should be converted into temple. We must have small altar, we may have a Laddoo Gopal Deity, a beautiful Deity, Laddoo Gopal deity. We may not have elaborate Radha Krishna Deities, we may not have, but you can have nice small murti. Or you can put in pictures and try to perform yourself, ***you become yourself serious. And I guarantee you, when in front of you, till you are alive, the children may not follow. But as soon as you have passed away, and we are going to go away, before the children. And as soon as you go away, the child will exactly behave as you were behaving. And at that time he would be adult. And this is how by your own practical demonstration, you have given these things to your children. And by his practical demonstration, your child in turn will give this same knowledge to his younger generation***

. And this is how this readymade knowledge is passed on and it is known as *parampara*, from guru to disciple, guru to disciple. And we have all these family traditions.

As soon as you break family tradition, it becomes completely *adharma*, completely chaotic society.

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Uma Prathap

Thiruvanathapuram

Devote your Attention to Krishna - Part 7

Date: 30 Apr 2024

Author: Uma Prathap

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of one of the instructive nectarean Bhagavad Gita class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj in Singapore on 26th March 1992 on BG 18.58 Now let us hear from Maharaj. In the previous class we heard from Maharaj that if we do sincere devotional service, then children will definitely follow what we did, at least after our death. So it is important for us to be steady in devotional service.

Now let us hear further from Maharaj.

Maharaj: And as soon as the society is chaotic, then there are so many problems arising out of the chaotic society. And that is why the Western countries, particularly, are suffering. And we are expert in copying the Western countries. And that's why India is also suffering. Day by day we are losing the spirituality. Only very pious people, like associations like ISKCON and other all associations, they are keeping this dharma afloat. Otherwise, we will be completely gliding down. And this is our responsibility. Now we come to this verse. (Maharaj reads the purport of BG 18.58).

If you become conscious of Me, you will pass over all the obstacles of conditioned life by My grace. If, however you don't act in that consciousness but act through false ego, not hearing Me, you will become completely lost.

Srila Prabhupad is very clear in describing this translation. And Krishna is very clear, He is instructing us that you have to act in this way, and if you are not able to act in this way then you will be completely lost. That is how the result is. **We cannot change the result. But we can definitely change the activity. And we have to change the activity. Unless we know the importance of God consciousness, Krishna consciousness, our life completely proves futile.** There is no way we can survive, no way we can survive. The scriptures are very, very clear and they instruct us regarding these things. This scripture Srimad Bhagavatam, insists that you have to behave in this way. Otherwise you don't know Krishna. And the majority of the people don't have an idea that their own selfish interest is in knowing Krishna, Vishnu. That verse is beautiful verse in Bhagavatam (SB 7.5.31):

*na te viduḥ svārtha-gatim hi viṣṇum
durāśayā ye bahir-artha-māninaḥ
andhā yathāndhair upanīyamānās
te 'pīśa-tantryām uru-dāmnī baddhāḥ*

Beautiful verse to remember, you know. At least we should understand the translation. *na te viduḥ*, *na* means not, *te* means all of us, *te* these ordinary people they don't know, *viduḥ* means know. *na te viduḥ*, what do they not know? *svārtha-gatim*, *na te viduḥ svārtha-gatim hi viṣṇum*, *svārtha-gatim*, that is our selfish interest is in knowing Krishna, we don't know that. And because we don't know that then what happens, *durāśayā*, we are completely frustrated. In every activity he is completely baffled. *moghāśā mogha-karmāṇo mogha-jñānā vicetasah* (BG 9.12) completely baffled and bewildered, all the time, why? *na te viduḥ svārtha-gatim hi viṣṇum*, we don't know that our own *svārtha-gati* is in Viṣṇu. That is why we are completely baffled and bewildered.

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Uma Prathap
Thiruvananthapuram