

Offering Obeisances with Body - Part 5

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Author: Narahari Krishna das

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled "**Offering Obeisances with Body**". We have been meditating on the below points.

1. Seeking forgiveness by offering obeisances.
2. Offering obeisances is beginning of devotional service.

Now let us continue further.

3. **Consequence of not offering obeisances:** While the scriptures glorify the act of bowing down to the Lord, they also equally condemn people who do not bow down to the Lord and explains the consequences of not bowing down to Him. In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 2.3.21, Sukadeva Goswami says as follows:

*bhāraḥ paraṁ paṭṭa-kirīṭa-juṣṭam apy uttamāṅgaṁ na namen mukundam
śāvau karau no kurute saparyāṁ harer lasat-kāñcana-kañkaṇau vā*

The upper portion of the body, though crowned with a silk turban, is only a heavy burden if not bowed down before the Personality of Godhead who can award mukti [freedom].

Srila Prabhupada explains in the purport to the above verse, "*But the common man, who is expected to become at least a third-class devotee, is advised herein to visit the temple of the Lord and bow down before the Deity, even though he may be a very rich man or even a king with a silk turban or crown. The Lord is the Lord of everyone, including the great kings and emperors, and men who are rich in the estimation of mundane people must therefore make it a point to visit the temple of Lord Sri Krishna and regularly bow down before the Deity...The common man who is puffed up with his material position and does not bow down before the Deity of the Lord in the temple, or who defies temple worship without any knowledge of the science, must know that his so-called turban or crown will only succeed in further drowning him in the water of the ocean of material existence.*"

Also in the Bhagavata purana verse 6.3.29, Yamaraj tells his assistants to bring to him those sinful persons who do not bow down to the Lord even once. (*kṛṣṇāya no namati yac-chira ekadāpi*)

In Sri Pahlada school in Rajkot, all the school children come in queue and each one of them bow down to the deity and Srila Prabhupada before they go to the class. When our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj was physically present, they used to bow down before Maharaj and now they bow down to his picture. In this way, their daily studies very nicely start by offering obeisances to the Lord and His devotees.

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 Gurudeva,

Narahari Krishna das

Chennai.