

Road to Hell - Part 1

Date: 2015-01-19

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 2.7.25 Lord Brahma says,

*vakshah-sthala-sparsha-ruguna-mahendra-vaaha
dantair vidambita-kakubjusha udha-haasam
sadyo 'subhah saha vineshyati daara-hartur
visphurjitair dhanusha uccarato 'dhisainye*

"When Ravana was engaged in the battle, the trunk of the elephant which carried the King of heaven, Indra, broke in pieces, having collided with the chest of Ravana, and the scattered broken parts illuminated all directions. Ravana therefore felt proud of his prowess and began to loiter in the midst of the fighting soldiers, thinking himself the conqueror of all directions. But his laughter, overtaken by joy, along with his very air of life, suddenly ceased with the tingling sound of the bow of Ramacandra, the Personality of Godhead."

This verse very nicely brings out the message of *raakhe krsna maare ke / maare krsna rakhe ke*. As His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada very nicely mentions in the purport, "*However powerful a living being may be, when he is condemned by God no one can save him, and, similarly, however weak one may be, if he is protected by the Lord no one can annihilate him.*" Our Godbrother H G Govardhan prabhujis from Indonesia had given a nice class on the above verse in Sri Sri Radha Neel Madhav dham last month and in this offering we shall hear some of the points shared by Prabhujis.

1. Power leads to pride and pride leads to destruction. We see in case of Ravana, he wanted to become very powerful and so he got a boon from Brahma so that he could win over the demigods. So once, he was able to even win over Indra. He was so confident of his prowess that he thought no human being or animal could ever touch him. But the Supreme Lord being omnipotent destroyed his whole army with the help of monkey army led by Sugriva, Lord Rama and Lakshmana. So whenever we get some powers, we should pray that we don't become proud and understand that the real source of power is the Supreme Lord.

2. When we are alone, on our own, without proper association, we get more succumbed to modes of material nature. Even sattva guna, mode of goodness attacks us in the form of pride. Good association helps us to come out of the clutches of modes. So wherever there is good association, satsang, we should run towards it. Prabhupada had given us International Society of "**Krishna**" consciousness, but if we succumb to modes then we become part of International Society of **Kamsa** consciousness or **Kali** consciousness.

3. In case of Ravana, we see that couple of things which led to his destruction are pride and excessive sense-gratification. Krishna is Supreme and we should never try to imitate Him. We should simply follow His instructions. But Ravana wanted to enjoy Sita, Lord Ram's consort and so he was doomed. So even material well-being, wealth and so called advancements if not properly engaged in service of Lord, leads to arrogance, pride and unlimited sense gratification. Nowadays this Ravana mentality is being promoted in us in the name of technology advancement (electronics, web, social medias, modernization etc) and is taking us away from Krishna. We must be careful not to become prey to it and use technology also in Krishna's service.

Krishna willing we shall continue to hear more from Prabhujis in subsequent offering.

Thank you very much.

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

Road to Hell - Part 2

Date: 2015-01-21

Author: Sudarshana 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 titled, "Road to Hell" wherein we were seeing some of the points shared by our Godbrother HG Govardhan Prabhujis on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 2.7.25 in Sri Sri RadhaNeel Madhav dham, Rajkot. In previous offering we saw how pride and excessive sense gratification pave the way to hell. Now let us continue to hear other points.

4. Ravana's disease was that he wanted to become parameshwar. When we want to be controllers, then we forget that Krishna is the Supreme and foolishly think that "I am the Supreme". "I" dominates. In Bhagavad Gita verse 3.27 Krishna very nicely says,

*prakrteh kriyamaanaani / gunaih karmaani sarvashah
ahankaara-vimudhaatmaa / kartaaham iti manyate*

"The spirit soul bewildered by the influence of false ego thinks himself the doer of activities that are in actuality carried out by the three modes of material nature."

So we must give up with this doer mentality or "I" mentality. When "I" falls down, it becomes "H" and "H" stands for humility. Without humility we cannot advance an inch in Krishna consciousness. Else material energy will easily destroy us.

5. Our behaviour should be good. Not one bad word should come out of our mouth. Our tongue is like a slaughter house. If we are even having bad thoughts in our mind, then it surely comes out and it bounces back on us. As our spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj says, "**No counteraction is the best counteraction**".

6. Only if we have good *aachar*, we can do *prachar*. If we practise good behaviour, then we can preach to others and that preaching will be effective.

7. Every word of spiritual master has to be seriously followed. We should not be casual or careless in our dealings with Guru. Even if we had been like that in the past, we should at least change now.

8. Austerity is a must and we must be regulated in our life (eating, sleeping, mating and in work). Once when we asked Maharaj, how to be regulated in work, Maharaj said, "**Concentration in work IS Krishna. Before working remember Krishna. As you work remember Krishna and after you finish your work, again remember Krishna.**" When we asked how is it possible to remember Krishna during the work, Maharaj said, "**When you are working very sincerely with compassion for all people around, then that is devotional service**". This way we get free from miseries.

Krishna willing we shall continue to hear other points from Prabhujis in the next offering.

Thank you very much.

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

Road to Hell - Part 3

Date: 2015-01-22

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in conclusion of the previous offering titled, "Road to Hell" wherein we were seeing some of the points shared by our Godbrother HG Govardhan Prabhujis on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 2.7.25 in Sri Sri RadhaNeel Madhav dham, Rajkot. In previous offering we saw

1. Pride and excessive sense gratification pave the way to hell.
2. We must give up the doer mentality and be humble.
3. Even when we are doing our prescribed duties, we should do sincerely with compassion for all people around.

Now let us continue to hear other points.

9. When our life is aligned according to the will of Guru and Krishna, then we are protected from all miseries. Miseries will always be there in this world, but they will not affect us. In miserable situations, we must reflect how much we have disobeyed Guru and Krishna. **To the extent we are not surrendered to Krishna, to that extent miseries will affect us.**

10. We should never deviate from devotional standards or dilute the process. Children learn a lot from how we behave. So if we ourselves lower the standard, then they will take that as the standard and that will affect their progress as well. Even if children are not around, for our own well-being, we must not deviate from devotional standards. Whatever standards are to be followed, we must make a genuine sincere endeavour to abide by it. For example if we are chanting 16 rounds every day, on some day if we are not able to make it, then we skip for 1 day and then at the second instance we will not even feel guilty for not having chanted the stipulated rounds. **The more we deviate from standards, the more difficult it will become later for us to come back to track.**

11. We must always take shelter of spiritual master and his instructions and follow them as sincerely as possible. Then we will get full protection. If not we will be like Ravana, maddened by pride and excessive sense gratification, we will be doomed to hell. We must approach Guru and Krishna with the same mood of surrender as how Arjuna approaches Krishna in Bhagavad Gita verse 2.7

*kaarpanya doshopahata svabhaavah
prcchaami tvaam dharma sammudha cetaah
yac chreyah syaan nishcitam bruhi
shishyas te 'ham saadhi maam tvaam prapannam*

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

So when we follow the instructions of Guru and Krishna, then even if greatest difficulty comes, we will be able to face it and remain blissful.

Our heartfelt thanks to HG Govardhan Prabhujis for these sublime instructions.

Thank you very much.

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