

Cooperating to Please Krishna

Date: 7 Mar, 2011

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Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

The sons of King Praacinabarhi were known as the Pracetas. They underwent severe austerities within the seawater to carry out the order of their father to increase progeny. On the way they met Lord Shiva who mercifully taught them the prayers to please the Supreme Personality of Godhead. By chanting and repeating the mantras given by Lord Shiva, they were able to satisfy Lord Vishnu, the Supreme Personality of Godhead and also get His darshan. This beautiful verse from Srimad Bhagavatam (4.30.8) is a reminder for all of us as to how we can please the Lord by cooperation. It nicely highlights, about what we are actually lacking in.

shri-bhagavaan uvaaca
varam vrneedhvam bhadram vo / yuyam me nrpa nandanaah
sauhaardena prthag dharmaas / tushto 'ham sauhrdena vah

"The Supreme Personality of Godhead said: My dear sons of the King, I am very much pleased by the friendly relationships among you. All of you are engaged in one occupation - devotional service. I am so pleased with your mutual friendship that I wish you all good fortune. Now you may ask a benediction of Me ."

Herein, Srila Prabhupada gives the definition of real unity. "*The unity of the individual souls attempting to satisfy the Supreme Lord or rendering service to the Lord is real unity.*" Krishna was more pleased by their cooperation rather than their austerity. In this kaliyuga, the biggest austerity is to cooperate with each other. We are all selfish by nature, and our selfishness is widened in our relationships too.

Externally we may try to be nice to everyone. But internally we feel envious. And out of envy gradually we start disregarding others. This showy act is definitely witnessed by Krishna Himself and taking us one step farther from Him finally, cause Krishna is more pleased with cooperation. As our beloved spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj always says "*Our showy business is going to end one day.*" We have to realise this truth and have to give up our pride and false ego. When we give up our pride and ego, then we would not hurt others. Thus we can move closer to the Lord, by being humble and submissive. Here, Krishna gives us the way to His lotus feet, i.e., cooperation. Cooperation comes with tolerance, no fault finding, no blaming, no criticizing, no arguing, and finally praising others efforts.

We have to introspect ourselves as to how am I cooperating with other living entities in this devotional journey. The Pracetas, could attain their goal of pleasing Supreme Lord Krishna by their mutual cooperation. So our first effort should be to tolerate each other, no matter what. We have to help each other in going to Krishna's loka, rather than finding faults in others endeavors, others progress (both spiritual as well as material). Our one pointed attention has to be towards our goal of pleasing Krishna. But when, we forget our actual goal, we land up doing showy devotional service and end up committing vaishnava aparadha every now and then. This sword of devotional service is more sharper, so we have to be more alert about our dealings with all the vaishnavas. Cooperation comes with unity and following the instructions of the spiritual master and acaryas as it is, without any arguments. This way, we can cooperate with each other and cooperate in pleasing Krishna finally.

In this above verse, Krishna is stressing on the quality of "*maintaining friendly relations*". This has to come in every relation, be it of spouse, or siblings or elders or any person we know in this life. All these relations are endangered when we do comparisons. We should try to see the good qualities of a person. "*Never compare, never criticize and never blame*

", is what Gurudeva stressed upon. If we follow these 3 things, it would be more easier to maintain any relation. As it is, our life can end anytime, so why should we blacken our memories with any person. We have to make our bond stronger by cooperating in all circumstances.

I seek blessings from all the Vaishnavas, Srila Gurudeva and Srila Prabhupada, so that I can cooperate with everybody in this journey of soul.

Thank you very much.

Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada and Gurudeva,

Nayan Priya Devi Dasi,

Ajman.