

## Care and Attention

**Date:** 1 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Mathajis,

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

Irrespective of the type of activity we are doing, either at work or regular household chores, we must do them with great care and attention . Krishna consciousness definitely includes detachment from material activities. But as H.H. Mahavishnu Maharaj always say, "**Detachment does not mean carelessness. It means doing things with great care**". When we do our prescribed duties correctly we will be at peace and would be able to concentrate more on our sadhana.

The following statement by His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada, in his letter to Sriman Batu Gopala Prabhu on Feb 1 1973 , has quoted, "*We must all become ideal in our character and then people will be very impressed with such purity. A devotee is faultless . He has no flaws*". As the proverb goes, "**Practice before you preach**". If we are not perfect ourselves , our preaching will also be fake and ineffective . As the Lord quotes in Bhagavad Gita - verse 3.22 and 3.23,

*na me paarthaasti kartavyam trishu lokeshu kincana  
naanavaaptam avaaptavyam varta eva ca karmani*

**O son of Paartha, there is no work prescribed for Me within all the three planetary systems. Nor am I in want of anything, nor have I a need to obtain anything—and yet I am engaged in prescribed duties.**

*yadi hy aham na varteyam jaatu karmany atandritah  
mama vartmaanuvartante manusyaah paartha sarvashaha*

**For if I ever failed to engage in carefully performing prescribed duties, O Paartha, certainly all men would follow My path.**

As stated above, the Supreme Lord being the master of all creation has no prescribed duties to be done . But still Lord has mentioned that He is engaged in them carefully. The word "**atandritah**" mentioned in the above verse means with great care and attention. When our Supreme Father is engaged in His prescribed duties (although He has no need to perform), how much more essential it is for us (His children) to perform our duties with great care and attention ?

I pray at the Lotus feet of Gurudev, His Divine Grace and Sri Krishna so that the feelings of complacency and lethargy are wiped off and I do all my duties carefully.

Thank you very much,  
Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada,  
Sudarshana devi dasi.

# Be a SAGE

**Date:** 2 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Vajjayantimala devi dasi

Dear Prabhujis and mathajis,

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

It was a very spiritually uplifting experience to participate in the Dwaraka Rath yatra on 26.01.05 and the Rajkot Rath yatra on 28.01.05. The causeless mercy of their Lordships Sri Sri Rukmini Dwarakadish and Sri Sri Radha-Neelmadhav, the blessings of H.H. Mahavisnu Goswami Maharaj and the untiring, sincere loving efforts of the devotees made the yatras really successful.

The ongoing theme of the messages given by Maharaj was on the practical ways of how not to slip into the material modes. Maharaj said that everyone of us want to become vaishnavas. But again and again we are being pulled back into the modes and this is the practical problem faced by every one of us. The big question is how to avoid slipping into the modes. Here I am summarizing the various instructions given by Maharaj to achieve this.

1. Carrying out our duty: In kaliyuga everyone is engaged in one or the other duty so that we can maintain ourselves. This duty has to be carried out with honesty and purity. The best way to get rid of work is to do it perfectly. In that way, we can go to Krishna the rest of the time with a peaceful mind.

2. Avoiding criticism: We should never let loose our tongue or otherwise we will be destroyed. 75% of our time is being spent on criticising others and this way our vital energy is lost. This vital energy should be saved so that we can execute our devotional service with full force. We should not enjoy unnecessary happiness in the lower modes.

3. Leave the mental platform: Devotional service is completely independent of the obnoxious mind. So we should completely leave the mental platform.

4. Don't make saadhana a ritual: we should neither neglect our saadhana nor make it a ritual. In our heart there should be no place for anything other than Krishna. Then sanity will prevail. Sanity and full Krishna consciousness go hand in hand.

5. Never be lazy: Lethargy and devotional service go ill together. Prabhupada's stick is always warning us, "How many more births you want to take? How many more deaths you want to face?" There is so much to be done and we should have a busy engagement serving Krishna. If we are not following this, then our lives become a heavy burden on us filled with boredom.

6. Be fiery in devotional service: If at any point of time we feel weak in devotional service, we should take the shelter of Srila Prabhupada very sincerely. He has given us a lot of spiritual infrastructure in the form of so many vedic literatures, conversations, lectures and letters. Our lifetime is not enough to finish studying them.

7. Absorption in Krishna katha: Our lifestyle at home should change by complete absorption in the nectarean topics of Krishna. This way the younger generation is also saved.

8. Burning desire to preach: It is not enough if we are absorbed in Krishna consciousness. We should have a burning desire to help others by preaching. The more we preach, the more we are getting purified.

9. Understanding that everything is flickering: The following verse should be constantly ringing in our mind like a background music.

chalath chittham chalath vittham chalath jivana yauvanam  
chalaachalam idam sarvam bhaktir yasya sa jivathi

"Our Mind is flickering. Our wealth is unsteady. Our own life and youth are only a passing phase. There is steadiness and eternity only in devotional service."

Ultimately in order to follow the above instructions and thus save ourselves from slipping into the lower modes we have to become a SAGE.

Be Simple  
Austere  
Grave (sober)  
Energetic

If we become SAGE like this, then we can approach the greatest sage Srila Prabhupada, who is the reservoir of bliss and is like a running water purifying our existence (sattva samsuddhih).

Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada,  
Vaijayanthimala devi dasi  
Abudhabi.

## Future Preachers

**Date:** 3 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Girivaradhari das

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Dandavat pranams ! All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Gurudev!

This is from Prabhupada's Nectar.

**Interviewer:** *I notice that most of your followers, at least in this temple, are young, like in the college age or in the teenage. Is it because Krishna doesn't attract the older generation, I mean, your self excluded?*

**Prabhupada:** *No. Krishna attracts everyone. Just like magnetic stone attracts iron. But the iron is covered with too much muddy things, the magnetic force does not work. This younger generation, they are not too much dirty; therefore they are very easily attracted. You see? It is like a magnetic force. The same example, that magnetic force attracts iron. That is natural. But if the iron is too much rusty and covered with muddy things, then it does not act. So older generation means they are convinced in some way. They cannot accept any new thing. You see? They are in the last stage of life. Whatever they have understood, they cannot forget. But younger generation, they have got capacity to take new things. Just like nobody goes... No old man goes to school because they are unable to receive education. But younger generation,*

*they go. So there is a age to receive. So this age is recipient. Therefore naturally 'it is nice thing' they are receiving. (end)*

We often find this happening, when we call some one for the program they very coolly say "Yes I will join your group after I retire". Till then they will be attracted to MAYA not knowing YAMA is awaiting to behold him.

Our spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj always insists on giving Krishna to Children. As these children one day will become future preachers.

We have already lost half or more than of our life but these children are fortunate enough to associate with Prabhupada's transcendental books from their tender age.

Children are very clean by heart. That's why they are able to memorize slokas so quickly. They grasp stories nicely. And Krishna has shown us so many pastimes to prove his supremacy. If we tell these pastimes of Krishna and Rama to children they will not be attracted to the latest editions of maya like Superman, Spiderman, Pokemon and what not.

Prahlad Maharaj says in S.B.7.6.1,

*kaumaara aacaret praajno dharmaan bhaagavataan iha  
durlabham maanusham janma tad apy adhravam arthadam*

**Prahlad Maharaja said: One who is sufficiently intelligent should use the human form of body from the very beginning of life-in other words, from the tender age of childhood-to practice the activities of devotional service, giving up all other engagements. The human body is most rarely achieved, and although temporary like other bodies, it is meaningful because in human life one can perform devotional service. Even a slight amount of sincere devotional service can give one complete perfection.**

Lets all join hands to develop the children in Krishna consciousness sincerely by Srila Prabhupada and our spiritual master's blessings.

Hare Krishna!  
Your humble servants,  
Girivardhari das and Abhira kanya devi dasi  
Abu dhabi.

## **No Adjustment**

**Date:** 4 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Murlidhara das

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

As I was going through some of Prabhupada conversations, I found these powerful words of Srila Prabhupada which he told in another place in a nutshell - **"Material world is like toilet, every intelligent**

**person makes his business as short as possible in toilet".**

Morning Walk at Stow Lake, March 27, 1968, San Francisco:-

**Prabhupada:** They kill the grandfather and have a feast, the cannibals. Yes. That is a great sport, that the grandsons will kill the grandfather and have a feast on his body by toasting.(?) Yes. The same idea is being preached by the communists. They want that all old man of the society, they should be killed. That is one of the theories put forward by the communists. Because they are not producing anything. So just imagine, these things will come gradually. So better to leave this place as soon as possible. Not to come again. That should be our serious attention. The other day the radio man was asking, "Swamiji, how to adjust?" "**And there is no adjustment.** You have to go out of the scene. There is no adjustment." So he was not very happy. If I would have bluffed him, "Oh, you do this, you do that, you do this humanitarian work, you spread(?) education and give foodstuff." No! There is no adjustment. **The only adjustment is quit this place.** That is the function of this human form of life. **You can get out of this show by Krsna consciousness.** Krsna says that this is the abode of miseries and that also temporary. Because you can accept any miserable life. That is the spell of maya. Just like this dog life. If somebody asked me, "Would you like to be a dog? I can make you," shall I agree? Why not? Because I know that's miserable life. But the dog is satisfied. By becoming a purchased slave, very much satisfied. He has no independence, always chained and always servant, eternal servant of a particular man. He can do any harmful thing by the order of the master, he's so faithful. But still, his life is miserable because he's dog. But he is satisfied. He thinks that "Oh, it is a very nice life." This is called covering power of maya, illusion. Anyone in the most miserable condition of life he'll think, "Oh, I am very happy." Ask him, "How are you?" "Oh, very nice. Very nice." So there is no adjustment. He knows that **here only adjustment is to live in Krsna consciousness.**

Let us try our best in taking only KC adjustment in life,

Your humbe servant,  
Murlidhara das, Yugoslavia.

## **Krishna Consciousness in Adverse Circumstances**

**Date:** 5 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Kalacakra Krsna das

Dear Vaishnavas,

Please accept my humble dandavat pranams. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

A powerful verse depicting how to really be in Krsna Consciousness in our practical life is BG 4.22:

*yadrccha laabha-santusto dvandvatito vimatsarah  
samah siddhaav asiddhau ca krtvaapi na nibadyate*

**"He who is satisfied with gain which comes of its own accord, who is free from duality and does not envy, who is steady in both success and failure, is never entangled, although performing actions."**

And today I found the following interesting quote by Srila Prabhupada in his lecture on the same verse BG 4.22:

***"If you are working for Krsna, it is Krsna's desire if you be successful or not successful. That means don't think that because you are Krsna consciousness, you will always be successful. No. It doesn't matter. Even if you are unsuccessful, you must know it firmly that without Krsna's desire, nothing can happen."***

In reality this consciousness is what will help us to stand firm during trying circumstances in our lives. It is easy to accept someone glorifying us or helping us (which is what we usually expect Krishna or His devotees to do the moment we do some chanting or seva) because we think we naturally deserve them. Whereas in adverse circumstances we tend to lose faith. Recently, when I was traveling with my spiritual master, to one devotee he spoke these golden words, "**Our Krishna Consciousness is tested only in adverse circumstances.**" When I thought over it, really, it made sense - the test of our real faith happens when someone chastises us or harms us or things go against our will. In such situations, I thought it worthwhile to remind myself of the above transcendental words of Srila Prabhupada.

Thank you very much  
Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada  
Kalacakra Krsna das

## **A Step-by-Step Process for Constant Devotional Service**

**Date:** 6 Feb, 2005

**Author:** GopalKrishna das

Hare Krsna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

The Supreme Personality of Godhead Krsna mentions in Bhagavad Gita 10.10 that:

*teshaam satata-yuktaanaanm bhajataam priti-purvakam  
dadaami buddhi-yogam tam yena maam upayaanti te*

**"To those who are constantly devoted to serving Me with love, I give the understanding by which they can come to Me".**

But what does "**constantly devoted**" mean? And how does one get the understanding by being constantly devoted? Srila Prabhupada in Srimad Bhagavatam Canto 1, Chapter 2 Verse 16 to Verse 21, gives the answer by revealing the following step-by-step process (I am giving a gist of the translations here):

**Verse 16:** Serve pure devotees and get the affinity to hear messages of Vasudeva (One of the best ways to do devotional service is to listen and follow the instructions of a pure devotee thereby pleasing him).

**Verse 17:** Upon getting an urge to hear, Krsna cleanses desire for material enjoyment from the heart of the devotee.

**Verse 18:**

By regularly serving pure devotees and hearing Bhagavatam (i.e. hearing the messages) all that is troublesome to the heart is almost completely destroyed and loving service to Krsna is established as an irrevocable fact.

**Verse 19:** As soon as love is established, the effects of nature's mode of passion and ignorance disappear from the heart of the devotee and he becomes completely happy.

**Verse 20:** In this mode of unalloyed goodness and being enlivened by devotional service the devotee gains positive scientific knowledge of Krsna.

**Verse 21:** Thus the knot in the heart (ahankAra) is pierced and we begin to see our constitutional position that we are not this body but spirit soul and the supersoul who is his master.

In this way one can be constantly devoted unto the Supreme Lord Hari. Narada Muni personally explains in SB 1.5.23-32 how the above process worked for him personally.

And this is one reason why H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj has highlighted the importance of this second chapter of Bhagavatam first canto. Srila Prabhupada gives his punching statement in Verse 16 that "*By serving the servants of the Lord, one gradually gets the quality of such servants, and thus one becomes qualified to hear the glories of God. **The eagerness to hear about God is the first qualification of a devotee eligible for entering the kingdom of God.***"

Srila Prabhupada also refers to Bhagavad Gita (18.68 and 69) in Verse 16 where the Lord declares that no one is dearer to Him than one who risks everything to preach His glories and in return He guarantees pure devotional service.

So the best way to understand the mysteries of Krsna is to preach His glories. Because as H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj says, "*If you have to give class you have to prepare meticulously by preparing notes and following the MRTR (Memorize, Recite, Think and Realize) process*".

I sincerely pray to our spiritual master and Srila Prabhupada to shower their mercy on all of us to give us the strength and determination to follow this eternal process to continue with our preaching efforts in different parts of the world.

Hare Krsna!  
Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada  
Gopalkrsna das  
Auckland.

## Words of God

**Date:** 7 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Kalacakra Krsna das

Hare Krishna Dear Vaishnavas,

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

Today I found a wonderful piece of explanation by Srila Prabhupada to a question by a Japanese Gentleman on how can we see God in this world. The explanation was simple and practical to the core and even a child can understand it. On reading it I could understand why Srila Prabhupada was so successful in his preaching - it was because he was able to explain highly complex spiritual subject matters in a simple and straight forward manner so that we can apply the solutions in our day-to-day problems.

Here is the discussion...(Lecture on BG 16.8, Tokyo Jan 28, 1975)

**Japanese man:** How can we see God in this world. Although we can't see Him, how can we hear His sound ?

**Prabhupada:** You can see. You can hear the sound Krsna. Are you not hearing Hare Krsna? So that is a question of realization. You go on hearing, hearing. The child cannot understand what is the sound. The sound is the same. The car is going on. But his father can understand that with this sound this car is going on. But child cannot understand. So you begin hearing. Then gradually your ignorance will be cleansed, and then you understand that the sound is for car. Therefore you have to begin to hear the sound. Everyone is hearing, but those who are not experienced they cannot understand that this sound is of the car. But the... One understands or not understands, that doesn't matter. But the sound is of the car. That's a fact. So those who are experienced, they are understanding; those who are not experienced, they do not understand. That is the difference. It is the difference of experience. But the sound is of the car-that is a fact. Similarly, the Hare Krsna sound is God. Those who are advanced, they can understand. And those who are not yet advanced, by hearing, hearing, they will understand. You want to see God. That is your idea?

**Japanese man:** No. I don't know if I ever see God or not.

**Prabhupada:** No, you have not seen, but what is your desire? You want to see?

**Japanese man:** I want to at least hear God in this world, and I was wondering what is...

**Prabhupada:** So God is speaking Bhagavad-gita. Just like reading, Krsna is speaking. So hear it, God speaking, the sound. The devotees are chanting Hare Krsna, that is God, that sound is God, shabda-brahma. This is the way. And if you want to see God, you can see also. That is prescribed here. Just like Krsna says, *prabhaasmi shashi-suryayoh*: "I am the sunlight and moonlight." So you see the sunlight, moonlight, and you see God. Krsna says, "I am the sunlight. I am this moonlight." Then if you want to see Krsna, you see the... Sunlight you can see very easily. Is it very difficult for you? Then Krsna says, He personally says, that "I am the sunlight." You see the sunlight. You go on sunlight, seeing the sunlight, and you just take the words of Bhagavad-gita, "Now here is Krsna." Then you will understand, "Here is God." And factually you will see. If you think of only the sunlight, moonlight as instructed in the Bhagavad-gita, Krsna says, "I am sun...", - then one day very soon you will understand. You will see Krsna in sunlight. It is not bogus thing, that Krsna says, "I am the sunlight." He is. And He asks you to see. **You see minutely, and you'll see Krsna.** So where is the difficulty? You want to see Krsna. **You see Krsna as Krsna advises.** Krsna says, *raso 'ham apsu kaunteya*: [Bg. 7.8] **"I am the taste of the water or any liquid substance. The taste I am."** Now, whenever you drink water or drink any liquid thing or milk, the taste... There is... Everything has got a different taste. And if you think, as Krsna advises you, that "This taste is Krsna," then on that taste you will find Krsna. You begin as Krsna says. Then you will see Krsna. There is no difficulty. (end).

So many translations of Bhagavat-gita is out in the market. Who else but Srila Prabhupada has given such down to earth explanation to the words of God ?

Thank you

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada  
Kalacakra Krsna das

## Prabhupada Has Krsna

**Date:** 8 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Kalacakra Krsna das

Dear Vaishnavas,

Hare Krishna. Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

The following is a simply awesome incident that happened during Srila Prabhupada's visit to Madras in February 1972 for a few days. I read it in Srila Prabhupada Lilamrita.

Prabhupada received an invitation to Chief Justice Vira Swami's home. The two became friends, and the chief justice requested to join the Krsna consciousness movement as soon as possible. He liked Prabhupada's followers, especially three-year-old Sarasvati, and gave her a six-inch silver murti of Krsna playing the flute.

Another evening, Mr. Vira Swami came to see Prabhupada, and Prabhupada mentioned that he thought Sarasvati too young to have such a valuable silver murti and that he had taken it from her and was going to give her another one. But while they were talking, Sarasvati burst into the room and ran to her mother, crying, "Krsna is gone!"

Srila Prabhupada then called her forward and asked, "Sarasvati, where is Krsna?"

In anxiety, Sarasvati replied, "I don't know. Someone took Him."

Prabhupada repeated, "But where is Krsna?"

Sarasvati replied, "I don't know."

"Is He under the cushion?" Prabhupada suggested. And Sarasvati ran over to the cushion Prabhupada pointed to. She picked it up, but Krsna was not there.

"Is He on the shelf?" Prabhupada asked. Sarasvati ran to the shelf. Her eyes darted in all directions.

"Where is Krsna?" Sarasvati began appealing to the faces of the devotees, glancing at their hands, looking behind their backs, searching everywhere.

Prabhupada, intently watching Sarasvati, began reciting a verse about the six Gosvamis: *he radhe vraja-devi ke ca lalite he nanda-suno kutah*. "This is the mood of the Gosvamis," he said. "They never said, 'Now I have seen God. Now I am satisfied.' No, rather they were saying, 'Where is Radha? Where is Krsna? Where are You all now? Are You on Govardhana, or are You under the trees on the bank of the Yamuna? Where are You?' In this way they expressed their moods of Krsna consciousness."

Sarasvati's anxiety had become heightened to the point of tears. One of the devotees then hinted, "Sarasvati, where is Krsna? Who has Krsna?" Sarasvati's eyes widened. She exclaimed, "**Prabhupada has Krsna!**" and she rushed up to Prabhupada, convinced that he was holding Krsna. And Prabhupada reached behind his seat and pulled out a small Krsna murti similar to the silver Krsna he had taken from her.

"Here is Krsna, Sarasvati" Prabhupada said. Sarasvati was in ecstasy. All the devotees were struck by Prabhupada's exchange of devotional feelings with even a small child; by his expertise he had created within her a mood of separation from Krsna. Prabhupada continued explaining to the chief justice about the mood of separation from Krsna.

I felt that the above incident is simply too amazing to conceive the expertise of His Divine Grace in teaching so many instructions to so many living entities at the same time. He was playing with the little girl Sarasvati, and teaching her Krishna Consciousness playfully, at the same time relating her mood to the shastras to the actual mood of worshipping Krsna thereby teaching his disciples as well as the Chief Justice. This is possible only for his Divine Grace because, as Sarasvati exclaimed, "**Prabhupada has Krsna!**".

Thank you very much  
Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada  
Kalacakra Krsna das

## Understanding the Instructions of the Spiritual Master

**Date:** 9 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Tusta Krsna das

Dear Prabhujis and Mathajis,

Hare Krishna! Please accept our humble obeisances! All Glories to Srila Prabhupada and Gurudev!

Once there was a poor boy named Dharma Sethu who was seriously inquisitive to find the Absolute truth. So he approached a spiritual master. By his submission and service, he won the heart of the spiritual master. The other disciples became very much envious of him. So they would delegate all the menial services to him and in this way Dharma Sethu was all the time busy in serving. Thus they prevented him from attending any of the classes. Dharma Sethu felt very much that he could not attend the classes. He tried to always recite and think over whatever he had learnt from the guru earlier and was doing the services. The spiritual master was aware of all this but he did not say anything.

One day the guru called all his students and told them that he was going to test what they had learnt. All the other students were very eager to show their talent and at the same time were making fun of Dharma Sethu that because he did not attend the classes he would definitely fail. The guru asked each one of them to kill a bird in a place where nobody would see them doing so. He then told them that they had to return with the dead bird before sunset. As asked by the Guru, all the students ran and killed a bird each in places they felt nobody saw them doing so. But Dharma sethu came back without killing a bird. Surprised, the guru asked him why he did not kill one. He replied that there was no place in this world where nobody was watching him. He then said that he was watching the bird, the bird was watching him, and moreover the paramatma was watching both of them. Satisfied, the guru agreed that he was the only one who had

understood the instructions correctly.

Srila Prabhupada states in his purport to Srimad Bhagavad Gita 4.34,

"Unless there is submission and service, inquiries from the learned spiritual master will not be effective. One must be able to pass the test of the spiritual master, and when he sees the genuine desire of the disciple, he automatically blesses the disciple with genuine spiritual understanding." He further states, "A bona fide spiritual master is by nature very kind toward the disciple. Therefore when the student is submissive and is always ready to render service, the reciprocation of knowledge and inquiries becomes perfect."

When the sages of Naimisaranya were inquiring from Suta Goswami, they said (SB 1.1.8)

vettha tvam saumya tat sarvam tattvatas tad-anugrahaat  
bruyuh snigdhasya sishyasya guravo guhyam apy uta

**"And because you are submissive, your spiritual masters have endowed you with all the favors bestowed upon a gentle disciple. Therefore you can tell us all that you have scientifically learned from them".**

Srila Suta Goswami fulfilled all the qualifications as a disciple by being obedient and submissive and therefore he was endowed with all favors by his learned and self-realized spiritual masters such as Srila Vyasadeva and Srila Sukadeva Goswami.

What was the difference between the other boys and Dharma sethu in the above story ? They all acted as per their guru's order, then what made Dharma Sethu please his spiritual master more than others ? It was because he was humble and submissive and at the same time sincerely understood the principle behind his guru's instructions. Once we understand the principle behind the instructions, then we can apply it anywhere according to the time, place and circumstances. And only when we apply the instructions of the spiritual master and shastras, can we please him and get his blessings. As a result, realizations will appear in our hearts by the mercy of Guru and Krsna.

Srila Prabhupada rightly makes a punching comment in the first line of the purport - "The secret of success in spiritual life is in satisfying the spiritual master and thereby getting his sincere blessings."

Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada,  
Tusta Krishna das  
Abudhabi.

## **Real Life Realizations**

**Date:** 10 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Svayam Sphuraty Krsna das

Dear Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

The following is a humble realization from H G Svayam Sphuraty prabhu in Abu Dhabi.

Last month on 25 Jan 05, I had to rush to Calgary to attend the burial ceremony of my younger brother's first baby boy, Gopal, who was just 10 ten days old and died all of a sudden without any illness. It was very painful for me to carry tulsi twigs and pieces of sandalwood for the burial ceremony of Gopal for whom I had purchased the clothes and toys just three days back. I stayed in Calgary for one week consoling my brother and particularly sister-in-law. During this period, I struggled very hard in different ways to remain Krishna conscious and I had several experiences mixed with realizations, which are summarized as follows:

1. During the journey I felt that I would faint when I see the dead body of Gopal. However, just before the arrival of the graveyard I read Nrsimha Kavacha several times and chanted 'Hare Krishna' Mahamantra. Finally, when I first met my brother and sister-in-law and looked at the dead body of Gopal, I said to myself "there is no reason to shed tears for this lump of blood, urine and stool. The real Gopal (the eternal soul) has already left this body and exists somewhere else." These two things helped me wonderfully to control myself and my emotions during the one hour burial ceremony.
2. During the journey, I read King Citraketu's pastime and noted a couple of relevant points to console myself and others. Firstly, Srila Prabhupada says in his purport to SB 6.16.5 that one should think that this living entity was my enemy in my past life, and now, having appeared as my son, he is prematurely leaving just to give me pain and agony. So, one should feel jubilant and not lament on the death of an enemy. If one raises the question, that how could we have loved our child if it was really our enemy, Srila Prabhupada gives the answer for that too by saying that In such situation, we must remember that if the living entity comes back to his spiritual senses and starts talking to the person, he would not recognize us as his father or mother because in the previous so many millions of birth we were not his father and mother and in future millions of birth we are not assured to be his father/mother. Therefore, the so-called relationship of father/mother and son in just one birth for a very limited time has no meaning.
3. Another thought hit my mind was that it was Krishna's mercy that Gopal died after 10 days. Otherwise, Gopal's death after a longer period of his survival would have caused greater pain for my brother and sister-in-law. When I discussed these points with my brother, sister-in-law and some well-wishers over there, I observed that they (including myself) felt quite relieved from the grief.
4. One night I was feeling very dejected and disappointed upon seeing the pathetic condition of my sister-in-law. Also, I was thinking Krishna is very angry with me and I do not know how to please Krishna. However, I forced my mind to pick up SB and started reading the chapter 'Pahlada pacifies Lord Nrsimhadeva with Prayers'. In SB 7.9.4 & 5, I read that Pahlada Maharaja was able to pacify the Lord Nrsimhadeva just by offering his prostrated obeisances at His lotus feet. Also, I recalled our Guru Maharaja quoting a devotee's email in Granthraj that the difference between a problem and a solution is as small as difference between the knee and floor i.e. surrender to Krishna. I recalled further SB 12.13.23 *pranaamo duhkha shamanas...* that just by offering obeisances one is relieved from all material sufferings. Immediately within few minutes, I felt a great satisfaction that I got the solution of the problem. Next day morning, I offered my dandavat obeisances to Krishna remembering that just by offering obeisances I can please Krishna and relieve myself from duhkha. AMAZINGLY, that day turned to be the most peaceful and fruitful day, out of 7 days, not only for me but for everyone else also.
5. At one point of time, I thought that my sister-in-law would not live for a long time if she continues not to eat or drink. Then I consoled myself by remembering *antakale ca mameva smaran muktava kalevaram* that if she dies while murmuring "my Gopala, my Gopala", she would be liberated from the repeated cycle of birth and death as it happened with Ajamila who chanted "Narayana, Narayana.." not as God's name but his son's name, and still got liberated.

6. Whenever I remembered Krishna, I begged Him (though I should not) not to relieve me from miseries but to give me the strength to tolerate the miseries so that I can follow His instruction given in BG 2.14 *taams titikhasva bharata*.

7. Finally, during one week I saw my brother and sister-in-law lamenting so much on the separation of just 10 days old child. This made me think how much pain I had given (and still continue to give) to my mother and father who took care of me for 9,490 days(26 years) before I left them alone 12 years back to come to Abu Dhabi.

Nevertheless, I must admit that during this whole episode my mind remained extremely agitated, which is the symptom of a person who is NOT fully Krishna consciousness. But, I still have the hope that one day by the mercy of Krishna and vaishnavas, I would be able to control the agitations of my mind in the midst of any kind of miseries and fix my mind fully upon Krishna.

Your servant,  
Svayam Sphuraty Krishna das  
Abu Dhabi.

## Learn Something and Teach Others

**Date:** 11 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

Dear Devotees,

Hare Krishna. Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

The following is a simple but noteworthy incident narrated by H G Bhurijana prabhu (a disciple of His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada), in his book, "My Glorious Master" in which he shares wonderful realizations of his association with His Divine Grace.

I worked as a bricklayer's assistant to support the Chapel Hill temple. I made money at it, but I also learned how to lay bricks. I thought it would be something I could teach others. With an army of bricklayers, I thought, we could develop New Vrindaban. I informed Prabhupada of my idea when I saw him at New Vrindaban.

He approved. Then he described the Indian system of making bricks. "First, the clay is shaped into a brick. When they have many bricks, they place them on dried wood and light a fire under them. By the time the fire has died, the bricks are baked strong."

I was inspired by Prabhupada's directions. I walked into a field, found some local clay, and formed a small brick. I then threw it in the cooking fire. When I returned a few hours later, the clay had hardened.

When I showed it to Prabhupada, he took the brick in his hand and scrutinized it. I couldn't penetrate his mood. "Should I continue learning to lay bricks?" I asked.

"Yes," Prabhupada said. "*This is our philosophy: learn something and teach others.*"

Then H G Bhurijana Prabhu writes his realization as follows:

I was an ISKCON devotee, the president of a new temple, and a philosophy graduate from the University of Buffalo. Not only was I laying bricks, but I was thinking of it as a possible Krsna conscious career. Prabhupada accepted my enthusiasm, and although he didn't directly comment on my choice of vocation, he left me with a sparkling jewel: "***This is our philosophy: learn something and teach others.***"

***"Learn something and teach others"***. Simple, yet packed with the sentiment of Vaishnava-seva and the power of preaching. "***Learn something and teach others***": the key to practical study. "***Learn something and teach others***": the mood of a devotee as teacher. "Learn something and teach others": became grafted to my consciousness by Prabhupada as a fundamental principle of my Krsna conscious life. (end).

Srila Prabhupada's words are akin to sutras - very terse but impregnated with unlimited meanings. How much we can understand from these few words - "***Learn something and teach others***" ?! We can practically write a book on it! I pray that by the mercy of Srila Prabhupada and my spiritual master I may learn at least something from his instructions and share my lessons with others too.

Thank you very much  
Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada  
Sudarshana devi dasi

## We Have To Go

**Date:** 12 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Nayan Priya Devi Dasi

Dear Prabhujis and Mathajis,

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

In this world we are always discouraged from remembering 'death'. Remembering death is usually condemned and considered inauspicious. But the inner reality is the 'fear of death' that beckons us of the danger of material enjoyment and consequently prevents us from that enjoyment. But really, only a courageous person can think of death and welcome it just as an intelligent student is eager to appear in the examination and get 'top scores', only because *he is well prepared*.

The Vedas too liken our passing from this world to an examination, wherein the consciousness and qualities we have developed throughout our lives are 'put to test'. When we are forced to exit our material bodies, it is critical that we not be overly attached to the temporary connections binding us to this world. Accordingly, the Vedas enjoin us to educate ourselves in the higher reality of our spiritual identities. Without this understanding, the mind is traumatized by the experience of leaving behind all that we *imagine* to be 'ourselves'.

***At the time of death we confront ourselves as we really are; there remains no place for the self-delusions or rationalizations we may have used to 'smooth over' our reprehensible behavior. The naked truth of who we are and what we hold dear is laid before our eyes, without the protective embellishments our egos have always been quick to provide.*** It is, indeed, the ultimate 'reality check'. If we have developed no detachment and pursued only worldly enjoyments, we will be ill-prepared for the swift separation

imposed by death. But if we have come to know ourselves as non-material persons belonging to the spiritual world, our passing will be a joyous release from the bondage of birth and death.

To be more specific only a devotee can welcome death 'positively' because in Gita Krsna says that it is He who appears in front of us as Death (*mṛtyuḥ sarva haras ca aham*). Since Death is just another form of Krsna, a devotee will only see Krsna in front of him in his last moment, and not a horrible and fearful death.

H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj very often says jokingly that before chanting our Hare Krsna mahamantra, we should chant another maha maha-mantra - "Hare Muje Jaanaa Hai, Hare Muje Jaanaa Hai, Muje Jaanaa Hai, Muje Jaaanaa Hai, Hare Hare" (I have to GO, I have to GO). Because once we make it a practice to remind ourselves always of our final moments, as said above, our material enjoying propensities cease and we are in a better position to face our final examination.

Your humble servant,  
Nayan Priya devi dasi.

## Avoiding Artificial Necessities of Life

**Date:** 13 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Vajrang dasanudas

Hare Krishna, Prabhujis and Matajis,

Kindly accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Sril Prabhupad and to Gurudev.

I would like to share some instructive points from purport on S.B. 2.2.3 by His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada.

*atah kavir naamasu yaavad arthah  
syaad apramatto vyavasaaya-buddhih  
siddhe 'nyathaarthe na yateta tatra  
parishramam tatra samikshamaanah*

**"For this reason the enlightened person should endeavor only for the minimum necessities of life while in the world of names. He should be intelligently fixed and never endeavor for unwanted things, being competent to perceive practically that all such endeavors are merely hard labor for nothing."**

Srila Prabhupada expands the points in this verse very beautifully in his purport.

1. *"The whole material creation is a jugglery of names only; in fact, it is nothing but a bewildering creation of matter like earth, water and fire. The buildings, furniture, cars, bungalows, mills, factories, industries, peace, war or even the highest perfection of material science, namely atomic energy and electronics, are all simply bewildering names of material elements with their concomitant reactions of the three modes."*

It is really startling to think over this powerful point. Up until now, if we reminisce over our past, there are

so many things, activities, entities, persons etc which came in our way only to disappear into oblivion in due course of time. It is same case with us too - we have also entered and exited in so many persons life - some briefly, some for a little longer, but at the best only temporarily. Remembering this point is very essential for our life, otherwise the sense of possessive nature always occupy our minds and we utterly waste our time thinking over possessing all these persons and objects.

It is for this reason many times we use statements like, "it is for namesake only", "just for namesake". One who knows that this world is only a jugglery of names, will also stay in this world, 'just for namesake'. But a devotee, in addition to being detached from this world, lives in this world and does every activity 'for namesake only' - ie., **holy name's sake!** The best example is saints like *Srila Prabhupada whose every action was geared towards spreading the holy names all over the world.*

2. The next important point is that - "**One should never endeavor for unwanted things**". Here the term '*unwanted*' may apparently seem like it depends on each person and situation, but if we really delve deep inside, we can survive on very minimum needs. All we need is to practice some amount of austerity in the beginning and once we get used to it, it will become our natural way of life. For eg., if we get used to sleeping on the floor, it will become our natural way of life, on the other hand, if we train our mind and body to sleep in a comfortable cot & mattress, we will get used to that luxury and sleeping on the floor will appear like an austerity and next to impossible. Not only that, the result of such unwanted comfort is as mentioned rightly in the above purport - "...the concomitant reactions of the three modes". Sleeping in very comfortable mattresses with foamy pillows only make us more and more lazy and at the same time we end up getting back pain and neck pains.

This is the reason our spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj, who has always lived his life in the most simple and austere manner always advices us to make our lives very simple by reducing all the artificial necessities like

- a) **Beds and pillows** (the lesser the foam in our homes, the better it is for the healthy upkeep of our body and minds).
- b) **The no. of unwanted electrical and electronic appliances** (the more electrical and magnetic waves that surrounds us, the more it is harmful to our health). Infact, he would often say, there should be light in our homes just enough so that two people don't bang on each other.
- c) **Soaps, lotions, scents etc which contain artificial harmful chemicals.** He would always suggest chickpea flour for using while bathing, which is very natural and harmless.
- d) **Unwanted usage of medicines especially allopathic which has so many side-effects.** The alternative is to use food that has natural medicinal values like ginger, haldi, ghee, cinnamon, black salt etc. By using these in our daily meal, diseases will not even approach us.

In this way, if we make our lives simple, we will have lots of time for practicing devotional service - there will be no complaints such as "I have no time for chanting" or "I have no time to read Prabhupada's books".

Thank you very much  
Your humble servant  
Vajraanga dasanudas  
Dubai.

# Anomalies of Kali Yuga

**Date:** 14 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Sri Ramachandra Das

Hare Krsna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Dandavat Pranams. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

A list of the anomalies for this age is given in the Twelfth Canto (SB 12.2.1-16) where Sukadeva Gosvami instructs Maharaja Parikshit. Let us see what is in store for those who say that there is no need for self-realization and life is only meant to eat, sleep and be merry:

- 1) Not purified by any Vedic rituals and lacking in the practice of regulative principles, (these barbarians) in the guise of kings will be completely covered by the modes of passion and ignorance.
- 2) Religion, truthfulness, cleanliness, tolerance, mercy, duration of life, physical strength and memory will all diminish day by day because of the powerful influence of the age of Kali. (This is so true if we compare ourselves to the generation 50 years back, then what to speak of the future generation say, 100 or 200 years from now ?).
- 3) Men and women will live together merely because of superficial attraction, and success in business will depend on deceit.
- 4) Womanliness and manliness will be judged according to one's expertise in sex.
- 5) A man will be known as a brahmana just by wearing a thread. (Yes, the message of Lord Krishna in BG 18.42 is totally forgotten).
- 6) A person's spiritual position will be ascertained merely according to external symbols, and on that same basis people will change from one spiritual order to the next. (Thus there are so many fake sannyasis in this age roaming around minting money and cheating the public).
- 7) A person's property will be seriously questioned if he does not earn a good living.
- 8) One who is very clever at juggling words will be considered a learned brahmana. (Bhakti has no place in the life of the 'so called' brahmanas these days, this is a well-known fact).
- 9) A person will be judged unholy if he does not have money, and hypocrisy will be accepted as virtue.
- 10) Marriage will be arranged simply by verbal agreement. (The result is we see the disease of divorce rampant all over).
- 11) A person will think he is fit to appear in public if he has merely taken a bath. (What to speak of bathing, people only rely on scents, perfumes and talcum powders to cover their fowl smells).
- 12) A sacred place will be taken to consist of no more than a reservoir of water located at a distance. (Infact, if we find water in that place, it is a great miracle).
- 13) Beauty will be thought to depend on one's hairstyle. (One can judge this by counting the no. of beauty parlours and hair-stylists available in the market).

- 14) Filling the belly will become the goal of life. (Of course, otherwise how did His Divine Grace catch so many souls just by feeding them sumptuous prasadam ? He understood the goal of the general mass of people)
- 15) One who is audacious will be accepted as truthful. (Cowardice is commonly misunderstood as the quality of a devotee).
- 16) He who can maintain a family will be regarded as an expert man.
- 17) The principles of religion will be observed only for the sake of reputation. (Therefore, people do not know the reason behind the instructions in the shastras and are losing faith in God and shastras).
- 18) As the earth thus becomes crowded with a corrupt population, whoever among any of the social classes shows himself to be the strongest will gain political power. (The result is that pretty much every government or leader of a nation has become unruly and is committing so many scandals).
- 19) Losing their wives and properties to such avaricious and merciless rulers, who will behave no better than ordinary thieves, the citizens will flee to the mountains and forests.
- 20) Harrased by famine and excessive taxes, people will resort to eating leaves, roots, flesh, wild honey, fruits, flowers and seeds. Struck by drought, they will become completely ruined.
- 21) The kings will mostly be thieves.
- 22) The citizens will suffer greatly from cold, wind, heat, rain and snow. They will be further tormented by quarrels, hunger, thirst, disease and severe anxiety.
- 23) The maximum duration of life for human beings in Kali-yuga will become fifty years.
- 24) By the time the age of Kali ends, the bodies of all creatures will be greatly reduced in size.
- 25) The religious principles of followers of varnashrama will be ruined.
- 26) The path of the Vedas will be completely forgotten in human society, and so-called religion will be mostly atheistic.
- 27) The occupations of men will be stealing, lying and needless violence, and all the social classes will be reduced to the lowest level of shudras.
- 28) Cows will be like goats. (This is true for two reasons - The Cows having not been taken care of properly, are small in size and secondly, they are also being slaughtered mercilessly like the goats).
- 29) Spiritual hermitages will be no different from mundane houses.
- 30) Family ties will extend no further than the immediate bonds of marriage. (People already are asking what is the meaning of Joint Family. Privacy is rampant in this age. This is only because people do not know how to adjust and get along with each other).
- 31) Most plants and herbs will be tiny, and all trees will appear like dwarf shami trees.
- 32) Clouds will be full of lightning, homes will be devoid of piety,

33) All human beings will have become like asses. (Already we see that men/women call each other 'ass' when they get angry).

It is really mind-boggling to hear all these horrendous descriptions, but one need not be disheartened as Sukadeva Gosvami says in SB 12.3.51 :

kaler dosha-nidhe raajann asti hy eko mahAn gunah  
kiirtanaad eva krshnasya mukta-sangah param vrajet

"My dear King, although Kali-yuga is an ocean of faults, there is still one good quality about this age. Simply by chanting the Hare Krishna maha-mantra, one can become free from material bondage and be promoted to the transcendental kingdom."

To cross-over this grean ocean of miseries, we have to accept Acarya like Srila Prabhupada and his true followers as the captain of the ship, which is the message of Lord Sri Krishna in the shape of Bhagavat-gita and Srimad Bhagavatam. Then we will be saved.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada,  
Sri Ramchandra das  
Abu Dhabi

ps : My sincere apologies for the length of the mail, since I wanted to list all the anomalies of this age of Kali.

## Do unto others ...

**Date:** 15 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Mathajis ,

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

In Srimad Bhagavad Gita, 12.15 Lord Krishna says,

*'yasmaan nodvijate loko lokaan nodvijate ca yah  
harshaamarsha bhayod vegair mukto yah sa ca me priyah'*

**“He for whom no one is put into difficulty and who is not disturbed by anyone, who is equipoised in happiness and distress, fear and anxiety is very dear to me “.**

We find a nice Biblical equivalent for this verse, "Do unto others as you would like others to do unto you". These things become very clear as soon as we realise the "real" purpose of our life. Then we will never engage ourselves in causing troubles to others nor would we spend time dwelling our thoughts and energy on the troubles caused by others. What might appear as mountain of trouble today, will in due course of time become as small as an ant-hill and vanish away. Everything becomes a dream and so real intelligence lies in understanding the eternal nature of spiritual activities and practising the same under all circumstances as it pleases our Supreme Father.

Each verse in Bhagavad Gita is complete in itself and our purpose of life is fulfilled even if we follow at least a single verse specified in this "Song of God". The words coming from Supreme Lord are infallible just like Him. He has mercifully provided the verses and also the strength and intelligence to recite them. It is upto us to take His words seriously and purify our existence.

Thank you very much ,  
Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada,  
Sudarshana devi dasi.

## Chant and Pray with Heart

**Date:** 16 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Manohar Krishna Das

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

Last month I had the good fortune to visit Dwarka and Rajkot and meet H.H. MahaVishnu Goswami Maharajji! It was one of the most relishable, enjoyable and memorable experience in my life. I wish I had gone there with some service mentality. However, fallen and falsely proud as I am, full of defects, lazy, lusty and selfish, I did not do so. I hope to improve in future and seek mercy of devotees, Gurudeva and Prabhupadji.

On returning to Minneapolis I was asked as to what Maharaj told/taught, then I had difficulty stating the facts. I realized that although I had made a note on paper about what Maharaj told but I did not listen to him properly. I must have been sleeping!

However, if now asked about what are the important messages I got from the Dwarka/Rajkot Rath yatra visit I would summarize as follows:

1) **Chant, chant, chant with heart:** Please take the holy names as much as possible. Sing the prayers (like Jaya Radha Madhava ..., etc) with heart. (Priti ke saath gaayiye). Do not to make prayers a ritual.

*Jap kar jap kar itna jap kar, ki hadh kar de  
Ki Yamaraj bhi apne khaathe se teraa naam radh kar de*

**"Chant, chant, chant, chant so much that you exceed all limits, such that Yamaraj (God of death) also removes your name from his records!"**

2) **Krishna's sound form (vani) and Him is one and same.** Remember SB 1.6.25:

*etavad uktvo pararaama tan mahad  
bhutam nabho lingam alingam ishwaram  
aham ca tasmai mahataam mahiyase  
shirshnaavanaamam vidadhe 'nukampitah*

**"Then that supreme authority, personified by sound and unseen by eyes, but most wonderful,**

**stopped speaking. Feeling a sense of gratitude, I offered my obeisances unto Him, bowing my head."**

**Purport:**

That the Personality of Godhead was not seen but only heard *does not make any difference*. The Personality of Godhead produced the four Vedas by His breathing, and He is seen and realized through the transcendental sound of the Vedas. Similarly, the Bhagavad-gita is the sound representation of the Lord, and *there is no difference in identity*. The conclusion is that the Lord can be seen and heard by persistent chanting of the transcendental sound.

(Actually Maharaj was so meticulously dictating the whole verse/translation/sloka in his room, even though he had so many other busy schedules, I was completely astounded. Later that evening when we had the Bhagavatam class, Maharaj again recited the whole verse/translation and purport to all the devotees and made them repeat. I realized that whether it is one person or thousand persons, Maharaj's intensity of preaching and love is the same. As he makes everyone feel loved and cared for, and at the same time gives the powerful message of Bhagavatam, every living entity, whatever their propensities may be, take it with so much enthusiasm).

3) **Always respect and take care of parents and elders.** Never be harsh to them. we can never advance in our devotional service without the blessings of our parents. Elders mean not only in terms of age but also in terms of realization.

4) **Encourage and teach children to do devotional service.** Let them do aarati, change deity dress, etc. even though they may make mistakes in the beginning. Take them to temple. Organize school for children and teach Krishna Consciousness and simple life.

5) **Become a SAGE:** Become Simple, Austere, Grave(gentle) and Energetic.

6) **Be compassionate unto others.** Maharajji praised Narsing Mehta (a famous vaishnava poet) and sang the song written by him ...

*Vaishnava jana ko tene kahiyeje,peer parayee jane re  
Para dukkhe upkaar kare koyee, mana abhimaana na aaye re*

**"Those great souls are called Vaishnava who get pained to see the pains others undergo. While they do self-less service unto such suffering souls, they never get proud of that service."** Maharaj was emphasising on the second point (ie., not to become proud that I am helping so many people) very much to be followed by us. He said that this pride is so subtle that as soon as we do little seva like distributing food to a few people or help somebody out of difficulty we want the good name and when somebody praises us we are satisfied. If we are neglected, we feel so upset that nobody has paid attention to our 'great!' service. This is a perfect indication of our pride. Maharaj said, "To avoid pride we should always remember the answer of Lord Krishna to Brahma's prayers, that, all the prayers, service etc we are doing and even the firm faith on Krsna that we possess are due to His (Krsna's) causeless mercy. So, the service that we do to others is also originally instigated by Him (as Paramatma) only."

Prabhupadaji was already a self-realized person and he was happy doing bhajans in Vrndavana. Why should he come out from there and travel all over the world ? It was out of genuine compassion for the suffering mass of people. While helping them, he never wanted any glorification for himself. That is why, he got all the glorification. Whereas we are running around doing so many activities in the name of 'seva' thinking that others will notice us and praise us, but unless Krsna notices us what is the point in others' praises ? The primary condition for Krsna to notice us is to be *nirapeksham* - not having any expectation for glorification from others. Then we are qualified for His merciful glance.

7) **Stop Criticizing and Complaining:** 75% of the our energy/time is wasted in fighting with others/complaining about others. Please save that energy for reading Srimad Bhagavatam and Bhagavad Gita. Do your work for earning money very nicely and devote rest of the time in reading and chanting.

Srila Prabhupada ki jai! H. H. Mahavishnu Goswami Maharajji ki jai!

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada  
Manohar Krishna das  
Minneapolis

## The Taste of Mahamantra

**Date:** 17 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Radha Damodar das

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All Glories to Srila Prabhupad and Srila Gurudev.

The science of Krishna consciousness, the ultimate self-realization system, is not simply academic; it is tangibly lived and experienced at every second. Therefore it is quite appropriate that we can understand the science as it is tangibly experienced in the context of transcendental events.

When one is fully absorbed in Krishna consciousness one is submerged in an ocean of ever-increasing bliss and knowledge that totally surrounds you in all times, places and circumstances. Neither static nor stagnant, Krishna consciousness is dynamic, ever-fresh, and ever-increasing. It's not that once one becomes Krishna conscious, realizes the Absolute Truth that it becomes a closed book. No. It is quite to the contrary. The more one realizes Krishna the more newer and newer realizations flood one's consciousness with ever-increasing sweetness and frequency.

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

Why is this mantra so enlivening, compared to some other mantras that we have been able to keep chanting it every day for ever-increasing pleasure?

The answer is simple. God is absolute and everything in relation with Him is of the same absolute nature. Therefore He and His name are one and the same. When you chant the name "**Krishna**" you are directly associating with the Supreme Personality Godhead, the Ultimate Source from Whom everything is emanating at every second.

In this connection there is the example of one of the greatest saints in the history of the universe, named Rupa Goswami. He was fully immersed in Krishna consciousness 24 hours a day. When he was chanting he was thinking, "I have only one tongue and two ears. What can I appreciate of chanting? If I could have millions of tongues and trillions of ears, then I could relish something by chanting and hearing." What does this mean? Just imagine if I offered you an entire warehouse of the most delicious delicacies from every type of cuisine in the world, thousands and thousands of absolutely tantalizing tongue treats. It would be possible for you to enjoy only a very small number of the various dishes. However if you had one million

tongues and one million stomachs you could savor each and every preparation to your fully satisfaction.

The point here is that there is so much nectar in one pure utterance of the name "***Krishna***" that the entire universe cannot contain it. Therefore the life of one who seriously adopts the way of Krishna consciousness is inconceivably ecstatic. It is a life of ever-increasing happiness at every minute. It does not matter what your occupational duty is. Whether one is a saint, a school teacher, a student, a doctor, a lawyer, a housewife, or a newspaper distribution manager one can taste the highest happiness of ultimate self-realization by offering everything to Krishna.

There is no charge to embark upon this supreme journey. The only price we have to pay is to have a little faith that beyond the suffering of material existence there has to exist a dimension where all is sublime. Make an experiment. Give Krishna consciousness an open-minded try.

If we do so, we will surely experience results far and far beyond our greatest expectations.

We all are so fortunate that we are under the shelter of Srila Prabhupada, our beloved spiritual master who keep us reminding constantly 24 hours round the clock about Krsna Consciousness and to hold the lotus feet of Krsna in all circumstances.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada  
Radha Damodar das and Sarva Mangala devi dasi  
Abu Dhabi

**Moderator's Note:** H G Radha Damodar Prabhuji and H G Sarva mangala mataji are wonderful devotees living in the middle-east. They are very sincere and dedicated to Krishna consciousness and are an active family holding mangala arati regularly and also participating in the regular weekly programs. They perform their sadhana and seva with lot of dedication and are always eager to learn more and more in bhakti. They have a 2 year old son nimai who is also very cute and is being intelligently trained in Krishna consciousness by their parents.

## **Buddhi Yoga**

**Date:** 18 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Suniti devi dasi

Dear Prabhuji and Mathajis,

Hare Krishna! Please accept our humble obeisances! All Glories to Srila Prabhupada and Gurudev!

Once there was a materialistic person named Charu Datta who was under the shelter of guru but was not serious to know the Absolute truth. Always he use to wait for gurus instructions and use to give his mental speculations. The guru was aware of all this but he did not say anything. Once the Guru was traveling on a horse with Charu Datta. After covering a certain distance, the Guru's hat fell down. But the Charu Datta did not lift it. Surprised, the Guru asked him the reason for not lifting the hat. The disciple answered that the Guru had not asked him to do so. The Guru then warned him to pick up anything that fell down from the horse and give it to him. The horse, after a certain distance, passed stool. The Charu Datta lifted it up and offered it to the Guru. Irritated, the Guru chastised him that he had no common sense. The disciple

then told the guru that all that was very confusing and requested him to prepare a list of items to be picked when they fall down. The guru then prepared a long list of items such as spectacles, carries bag, shirt, stick, etc and gave it to the disciple.

Suddenly some wild animals crossed the horse. The horse got scared and jumped up. As a result, the Guru fell down along with some items. Seeing this, the Charu Datta checked the list and picked up all the items that were mentioned in the list. Finally the guru was found lying on the ground. He asked the disciple why wasn't he helping him get up to which the disciple replied, "Guruji, your name is not mentioned in the list!!"

Krishna instructed in B.G. 10.10:

tesham satata-yuktanam bhajatam priti-purvakam  
dadami buddhi-yogam tam yena mam upayanti te

"To those who are constantly devoted to serving Me with love, I give the understanding by which they can come to Me."

Srila Prabhupada says in his purport, "When a person knows the goal of life but is addicted to the fruits of activities he is acting in Karma yoga. When he knows that the goal is Krishna but he takes pleasure in mental speculations to understand Krsna, he is acting in jnana-yoga. And when he knows the goal and seeks Krsna completely in Krsna consciousness and devotional service, he is acting in Bhakti-yoga or buddhi-yoga which is the complete yoga. This complete yoga is the highest perfectional stage of life."

Krsna supplies the intelligence only if we are really eager to serve Him or His representative. Doing the seva according to our own whims and fancies is not real service. Real eagerness to serve means, before even the guru asks us for service, we identify his need and do that to please him. Or when we are serving our deities at home, we look after Them understanding that They are real persons, not some dumb dolls. We have to feed Them regular offerings, do proper worship at the right time and lovingly take care of Them. The main idea to bear in mind while serving is that even our attitude, interest and intelligence to perform that seva is coming from Guru and Krsna. By establishing this fact strongly in our minds, we will be in a position to constantly pray to Them for their mercy to carry out Their orders intelligently.

Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada,  
Suniti devi dasi  
Abudhabi.

## Duty of a Sane person

**Date:** 19 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Sajjana Priya Krishna Das

Dear Prabhujis and maathajis,

Hare Krishna! Please accept my humble pranams! All Glories to Srila Prabhupada and Gurudev!

Recently we witnessed a large scale of calamity happening around us(Tsunaami) and most recently in an unfortunate way an young devotee of Abudhabi passed away in a tragic accident in India leaving behind his parents who are sincere and dedicated devotees. Such a devoted family being put into such a traumatic tragedy disturbed me very much. My mind was so much agitated and I could not do my sadhana attentively.

The Granthraj Srimad Bhagavatham gave a wonderful answer to my agitated mind

vipadha santu taah sasvat  
tatra tatra jagad guro  
bhavato darsanam yat syaad  
apunar bhava darsanam  
(Srimad Bhagavatham - 1.8.25)

"I wish that all those calamities would happen again and again so that we could see You again and again, for seeing You means that we will no longer see repeated births and deaths."

This Prayer of Queen Kunti is really astonishing to ponder over and I do not have the courage to pray to the Lord like her. Srila Prabhupad writes a powerful statement in the purport which additionally reinforced and convinced my obstinate mind.

'This material world is certified by the Lord in the Bhagavad gita as a dangerous place full of calamities. Less intelligent persons prepare plans to adjust to those calamities without knowing the nature of this place is itself full of calamities. They have no information of the abode of the Lord, which is full of bliss and without trace of calamity. The duty of sane person, therefore, is to be undisturbed by worldly calamities, which are sure to happen in all circumstances. Sufferings of all sorts of unavoidable misfortunes, one should make progress in spiritual realisation because that is the mission of human life. The spirit soul is transcendental to all material calamities.

This statement of Prabhupad convinced my mind as follows:

I have to become a sane person - That means Presently I am insane. To become a sane person means to understand that:

1. Spirit soul is transcendental to all material calamities.
2. Calamities is sure to happen in all circumstances .
3. Spiritual realisation is the mission of human Life.

Once I understand and realise these three statements then definitely that is every probability that one day, I can become undisturbed by worldly calamities.

I pray to Srila Gurudev, Prabhupad and Lord Sri Krishna, for their mercy to this most useless and wretched and insane soul to become a sane person in all circumstances.

Srila Prabhupad ki Jai !  
Srimad Bhagavtham Granthraj ki Jai !!

Your humble servant,  
Sajjana Priya Krishna Das,  
Abudhabi.

# Solution to Frustrations!

**Date:** 20 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Mathajis,

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

In our normal day to day life, we meet different living entities in different modes and depending upon time, place and circumstances and our past activities we are tend to face some sort of miseries due to others. Though in the current scenario, the misery might appear to have been forced upon us by others for no mistake of ourself, we neither understand the hand of the Lord behind those incidents nor any of the above facts. "Forgive and forget" the mistakes done by others - is a quote which sometimes becomes impractical to follow when we see that person causing trouble is not even regretting for the mistakes. Another point ,we need to be cautious of in such situations is that we may tend to think too good of ourselves which in due course of time might develop pride and over-confidence in ourselves which are great pit-falls in the path of devotional service as well as performance of prescribed duties.

Today is the auspicious day of appearance of Lord Varaha and when I was going through Srimad Bhagavatham Canto 3 chapter 13 titled "The Appearance of Lord Varaha" , the mayaamaya (all merciful) Lord clarified my doubts through the following verse (3.13.49)

*tasmin prasanne sakalaashishaam prabhau  
kim durlabham taabhir alam lavaatmabhihi  
ananya-drshtyaa bhajataam guhaashayah  
svayam vidhatte sva-gatim parah paraam*

**"Nothing remains unachieved when the Supreme Personality of Godhead is pleased with someone. By transcendental achievement one understands everything else to be insignificant. One who engages in transcendental loving service is elevated to the highest perfectional stage by the Lord Himself, who is seated in everyone's heart."**

All things are possible for the Supreme Lord, and so though we may not possess the quality of doing good to people who harm us, when we engage ourselves in loving service of the Lord and try to please Him, we would be able to forget the miseries inflicted upon us and we would realise **that all these quarrels and miseries are all insignificant** and by His mercy we would be able progress in the path of serving Him. Srila Prabhupada has nicely mentioned in the purport to the above verse as follows

*'If one serves faithfully, there is **no possibility of frustration** because the Lord Himself takes charge of the devotee's advancement. The Lord is seated in everyone's heart, and He knows the devotee's motive and arranges everything achievable.'*

Now comes the question as how to engage in Lord's loving service ?

H.H. Mahavishnu Maharaj used to quote in his lectures, **"The sound of Bhagavat Gita and Bhagavatham should always be echoing in our household. There should not any other unwanted sounds. Only such circumstances are conducive for peaceful household and the growth of Krishna conscious children."**

By the mercy of acharyas and Supreme Lord, we have so many lectures and so many facilities to hear them. So we must make it a point to listen to atleast one lecture each day either while taking prasadam at home or while performing regular household activities. As Srila Prabhupada specifies in the final line of the purport, 'One merely has to become sincere in his purpose, and then the Lord is there to help in every way.'

When we attempt sincerely, we are sure to be lifted out of this ocean of miseries just like how Lord Varaha lifted Mother Earth from the ocean.

Sri Sri Lord Varaha Appearance day ki Jai !  
Thank you very much,  
Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada,  
Sudarshana devi dasi.

## Compassion

**Date:** 21 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Mathajis,

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

In Srimad Bhagavat Gita, while explaining about Karma Yoga to Arjuna, Lord Krishna specifies in verse 5.18

*vidyaa-vinaya-sampanne  
braahmane gavi hastini  
shuni caiva sva-paake ca  
panditaaha sama-darshinah*

**"The humble sages, by virtue of true knowledge, see with equal vision a learned and gentle brahmana, a cow, an elephant, a dog and a dog-eater [outcaste]."**

The following is a nice pastime illustrating the deep compassion of Srila Prabhupada who has showed to us by his personal example what *sama-darshinah* means. This is an extract from the book "The 1008 Ways to Remember Srila Prabhupada" by Govinda dasi mathaji .

In the late afternoon in New Jersey, Srila Prabhupada would often sit downstairs in the garden beside our bungalow. On one particular afternoon, Srila Prabhupada was comfortably seated in a chair, and I was sitting on the ground beside him. He was softly chanting japa, enjoying the fresh ocean air, mixed with the fragrance of roses and other flowers. Occasionally he would say something but mostly he would chant softly. Suddenly beside my sitting place I saw a large brown slug in all its slimy ugliness. Somewhat repulsed I leaned away from the creature. Srila Prabhupada looked at me quizzically and I said: 'Ugh, look at this', pointing to the slimy, sliding creature. Srila Prabhupada leaned forward and looked at the slug, his face grew full of love and compassion, and he said to me: '*Chant to the poor creature*', and so I sat there, chanting Hare Krsna to the slimy, yet benedicted slug for some time until he slithered away. He had incredible compassion even for the most abominable creature. Srila Prabhupada, I can never forget the sound of your voice when you gave me that instruction. In it, your whole mission was encapsulated. '*Chant to the poor creature*'. Your face looked pained, full of compassion for the poor jiva in that slimy body. ***You did not see the ugly slug that I saw. You saw the soul covered in suffering, forgetful of Krsna***. From that moment my heart opened for all creatures and I glimpsed the depth of your divine compassion. Thank you, Srila Prabhupada for sharing that compassion with me."

The magnanimous Lord has created all living entities and whatever be their outward appearance, each entity is a spirit soul. We see in day to day life, that people respect those who are rich, beautiful or possess some kind of opulence and one is discarded as soon as their material possession fades away. Here Srila Prabhupada has showed that we should not only be compassionate with people but also treat all living entities equal. We should therefore not consider any living entity as abominable - just by observing the outward appearance, but should compassionately spread the message of Lord to all.

I pray at the Lotus feet of His Divine Grace that I should always remember His compassionate nature and practise atleast one percent of the same.

Thank you very much,  
Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada,  
Sudarshana devi dasi.

## **Krsna always takes care of His offsprings**

**Date:** 22 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Sindhu Devi Dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Mathajis,

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

In the purport of verse 5.26 in Srimad Bhagavat Gita, the following verse is referred wherein Krishna tells Brahma :

darshana dhyana samsparshair  
matsya kuurma vihangamaah  
svaany apathyaani pushnanti  
tathaaham api padma-ja

**"By vision, by meditation and by touch only do the fish, the tortoise and the birds maintain their offspring. Similarly do I also, O Padmaja!"**

This verse was referred by Vaijyanthi Mala Mataji in one of the classes. While hearing this verse, I felt an instant attraction for Sri Krsna's words. Whatever I could gather with my limited knowledge I am explaining here.

- 1) The fish brings up its offspring simply by looking at them.
- 2) The tortoise brings up its offspring simply by meditation. The eggs of the tortoise are laid on land, and the tortoise meditates on the eggs while in the water.
- 3) The bird brings up its offspring simply by its touch.

Similarly we can think of Krsna always by these three processes :

- 1) Darshanaa - By looking at the deity of Krsna
- 2) Dhyana - By meditating upon Krsna always. A devotee in Krishna Consciousness although away from the Lord's abode, can elevate himself to that abode simply by thinking of Him constantly, by engagement in Krishna Consciousness.
- 3) Samparshair - By doing devotional service (by the sense of touch - serving the Deities)

When we surrender ourselves to Krsna, He nicely takes care of us, since we are His offsprings. We always like to be cared for or looked after lovingly by others. In this verse Krsna gives this assurance to Brahmaji that He is always taking care of his offsprings. We are part and parcel of Krsna and are eternal servitors of the Lord. If we realize this and immerse ourselves in Krishna Consciousness we do not feel the pangs of material miseries. Constant endeavour in devotional service leads to perfection. As H.H.Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj always stresses "we should always intensify our devotional service".

I pray at the Lotus Feet of Srila Prabhupada and Gurudev to help me to follow these instructions sincerely in my devotional service.

Your humble servant,  
Sindhu Devi Dasi,  
Abu Dhabi.

**Go for the RIPE FRUIT, Not fruitive activities**

**Date:** 23 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Vaijyantimala devi dasi

Dear Prabhujis and matajis,

Hare Krishna! Please accept my humble pranams! All Glories to Srila Prabhupada and Gurudev!

In the Sixth canto of Srimad Bhagavatam, chapter five, we find that the sons of Prajapati Daksa, known as Haryasvas, were engaging themselves in austerities to create more and more population as per the orders of their father. Srila Narada muni whose main purpose is to deliver the conditioned souls, described to them the ultimate aim of life and thus advised them not to become ordinary karmis. On hearing the words of Srila Narada, the Haryasvas considered them with their natural intelligence and thus were enlightened. Then they spoke ten verses, all of them ending with the question, 'kim asat karambhiih bhavet?' meaning, "What can be the benefit of performing temporary fruitive activities?".

These verses are all worth pondering over for all of us and in that way with superior intelligence, we must keep on instructing the flickering mind (bodhayan atmana atmanam) so that we become fixed in devotional service. The translation of these ten verses are summarized here:

1.R - Returning home back to Godhead: If one enters the Vaikunta-dhama, he does not return to this miserable material world. If there is such a place, what is the use of jumping like monkeys in the temporary material world? What will be the profit of performing fruitive activities which only bind us here?

2.I - Independent enjoyer is the Supreme Personality of Godhead: If the members of human society do not understand the Supreme, who is full of six opulences and fully independent, through their advancement in knowledge and activities, but simply work hard like cats and dogs for temporary happiness, what will be the benefit of their activities?

3.P - Prolonging materialistic life: If a living entity has polluted intelligence, then it brings various conditions of happiness and distress and is again and again frustrated by material nature. If one performs fruitive activities under such conditions, what will be the benefit?

4.E - Essence to be accepted from scriptures: The vedic literatures vividly describe how to understand the Supreme Lord and His material and spiritual energies. If a foolish rascal leaves aside the study of these shastras and thus does not discriminate between matter and spirit and does not accept the essence, but engages in temporary activities, what will be the benefit?

5.F - Field of activities(the material body) gives false designations: Since time immemorial, the living entity has received various types of material bodies, which are the roots of bondage to the material world. If one foolishly engages in temporary fruitive activities and does not look toward the cessation of this bondage, what will be the benefit of his actions?

6.R - Reservoir of the twenty-five elements: The Supreme Lord is the reservoir of the twenty-five elements, and He causes their manifestation. If one engages in temporary fruitive activities, not knowing that Supreme Person, what benefit will he derive?

7.U - Unsteady intelligence leads to change of body: Mixed with the mode of passion, the unsteady intelligence of every living entity is like a prostitute who changes dresses just to attract one's attention. If one fully engages in temporary fruitive activities, not understanding how this is taking place, what does he actually gain?

8.I - Illusory river's tossing waves: A living entity who unknowingly falls in the river of maya is submerged in its waves and is unable to get out. What will be the benefit of performing fruitive activities in that river of Maya?

9.T - Time is eternal and moves very sharply: Uninterrupted and fully independent eternal time , drives the activities of the entire world and can cause disaster if it is misused. If one does not try to study the eternal element of time, what benefit can he derive from performing temporary material activities?

10.S - Scripture is the real father: One takes his second birth by dint of receiving instructions in the shastra from a bonafide spiritual master and thus the scripture is the real father. All the shastras instruct that one should end his material way of life. If one does not understand this real purpose of the shastras, but engages in impermanent fruitive activities what will be the benefit?

The acronym of the above ten questions is "RIPE FRUITS". Contemplation on these ten questions thoroughly convinces our mind of the futility of performing temporary fruitive activities but instead go for the "RIPE FRUIT" (galitam phalam) in the form of Srimad Bhagavatam.

Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada,  
Vaijayanthimala devi dasi  
Abudhabi.

## Relationship of wife with her husband

**Date:** 24 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Syamasundar Das

Hare Krishna dear devotees,

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

Nowadays, in several houses, married life is broken even by slight misunderstandings. Peaceful household depends upon mutual understanding and respect between the life-partners - especially upon the degree of patience, tolerance and submissive nature of the wife.

Exhaustive guidance is available in the pages of Srimad Bhagavatam 9th Canto chapter 3, wherein the King Saryati has to give his young beautiful daughter in charity to a sage, Cyavana Muni, who is advanced in age, in order to escape from the danger of being cursed (as she had ignorantly pierced two glowing substances with a thorn in a forest). This is explained in the verse 9.3.10.

sukanyaa cyavanam praapya  
patim parama-kopanam  
prinayaam aasa citta jnaa  
apramattaanuvrttibhih

"Cyavana Muni was very irritable, but since Sukanya had gotten him as her husband, she dealt with him carefully, according to his mood. Knowing his mind, she performed service to him without being bewildered".

Srila Prabhupada has very nicely explained in the purport as follows ..

'This is an indication of the relationship between husband and wife. A great personality like Cyavana Muni has the temperament of always wanting to be in a superior position. Such a person cannot submit to anyone. Therefore, Cyavana muni had an irritable temperament. His wife, Sukanya, could understand his attitude, and under the circumstances she treated him accordingly. If any wife wants to be happy with her husband, she must try to understand her husband's temperament and please him. This is victory for a woman. Even in the dealings of Lord Krsna with His different queens, it has been seen that although the queens were the daughters of great kings, they placed themselves before Lord Krsna as His maidservants. However great a woman may be, she must place herself before her husband in this way; that is to say, she must be ready to carry out her husband's orders and please him in all circumstances. Then her life will be successful. When the wife becomes as irritable as the husband, their life at home is sure to be disturbed or ultimately completely broken. Westerners contend that this is a slave mentality for the wife, but factually it is not; it is the tactic by which a woman can conquer the heart of her husband, however irritable or cruel he may be.'

Caitanya Mahaprabhu also describes through the Padyavali verse

naaham vipro na ca nara-patir naapi vaishyo na shudro  
naaham varni na ca grha-patir no vanastho yatir vaa  
kintu prodyan-nikhila-paramaananda-purnaamrtaabdher  
gopi-bhartuh pada-kamalayor daasa-daasaanudaasah

'I am not a brahmana, I am not a ksatriya, I am not a vaisya or a Sudra. Nor am I a brahmacari, a householder, a vanaprastha or a sannyasi. I identify Myself only as the servant of the servant of the servant of the lotus feet of Lord Sri Krsna, the maintainer of the gopis. He is like an ocean of nectar, and He is the cause of universal transcendental bliss. He is always existing with brilliance.'

If each grhastha - either husband or wife, remembers the words of His Divine Grace and that of Mahaprabhu and helps each other in progress of devotional service then there will be no more divorces.

Thank you very much,  
Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada,  
Syama Sundar Das.

## **Fault finding**

**Date:** 25 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Mathajis,

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

It's unfortunately a symptom of Kali yuga to get caught up finding faults in others at least in the mind. Actually we should find the good in others and the faults in ourselves. The first offense which one has to avoid while chanting the Holy Name is, "To blaspheme the devotee who have dedicated their lives in propagating the Holy Names of the Lord ." In reality we should avoid blasphemy of any kind - be it devotees who are propagating the Holy Names or those who are not. Only then we would be able to look at our faults. When we are busy finding faults in others we overlook our mistakes and would never be able to make progress in devotional life.

In Caitanya Bhagavat, Lord Caitanya discusses how to get His mercy. "From Brahma down to the grass, every living entity is Lord Krishna's energy. Therefore all shastras declare, **'Lord Krishna becomes very angry with anyone who blasphemes another living entity'**." Lord Caitanya said , "***All the entities in the numberless universes are My servants. Therefore any living entity who harms or offends another living entity will perish. If a sannyasi blasphemes an innocent person the sannyasi will fall down and lose his piety.***" Then raising His arms, Lord Caitanya declared to the entire world, "***Renouncing criticism of others, everyone please chant Hare Krishna Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare, Hare Rama Hare Rama. Rama Rama, Hare Hare. I will personally deliver anyone who does not criticize others and who once chants Krishna!. Hearing Lord Caitanya speak thus, the devotees cheered "Jai, Jai, Jai!"***" (CB)

So I pray at the lotus feet of Gurudev and Gauranga so that I refrain from finding faults in others - but correct my mistakes and perform sincere devotional service.

Thank you very much,  
Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada,  
Sudarshana devi dasi

## **Krishna NEVER forsakes those who have Faith on Him!**

**Date:** 26 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Radha Damodhar Das

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and SrilaGurudev.

In Srimad Bhagavad Gita Chapter 9 verse 3, Lord Krishna says,

*ashraddadhaanaah purusaa  
dharmasyaasya parantapa  
apraapya maam nivartante  
mrtyu-samsara-vartmani*

**"Those who are not faithful on the path of devotional service cannot attain Me, Oconqueror of foes, but return to birth and death in this material world."**

Krsna states in the above quoted verse that those who reject Bhagavad-gita as authority cannot have any connection with Him, and because they have no relation to Him, they remain in the cycle of birth and death. *aprapya mam nivartante mrtyu-samsara-vartmani* -Being subjected to samsara, the cycle of birth and

death, does not guarantee that one will necessarily get a similar facility for understanding Bhagavad-gita in the next life. One may not necessarily be born again as a human being, or in America, or in India, or even on this planet. There is no certainty; it all depends on our work we do during our life. We take our birth, remain for some time, enjoy or suffer, then again give up this body and enter into the womb of a mother, either human being or animal, then prepare another body to come out and begin our work again. This is called *mrtyu-samsara-vartmani*. If one wants to avoid this path, he must take to Krsna consciousness.

When Yudhisthira Maharaja was asked, "What is the most wonderful thing in the world?" he replied, "The most wonderful thing is that every day, every moment, people are dying, and yet everyone thinks that death will not come for him." Every minute and every second we experience that living entities are going to the temple of death. Men, insects, animals, birds--everyone is going. This world, therefore, is called *mrtyuloka*--the planet of death. Every day there are obituaries, and if we bother to go to the cemetery or crematorium grounds we can validate them.

Yet everyone is thinking, "Somehow or other I'll live." Everyone is subject to the law of death, yet no one takes it seriously. This is illusion. Thinking we will live forever, we go on doing whatever we like, feeling that we will never be held responsible. This is a very risky life, and it is the densest part of illusion. We should become very serious and understand that death is waiting. We have heard the expression, "as sure as death." This means that in this world death is the most certain thing; no one can avoid it. When death comes, no longer will our puffed-up philosophy or advanced degrees help us. At that time our stout and strong body and our intelligence - which doesn't care for anything - are all vanquished. At that time the fragmental portion (*jivatma*) comes under the dictation of material nature, and *prakrti* (nature) gives us the type of body for which we are fit. If we want to take this risk, we can avoid Krsna; if we don't want to take it, but would hold on our faith to Krishna under all circumstances, then Krsna will come to help us.

Thank you very much,  
Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada,  
Your humble Servant,  
Radha Damodhar Das & Sarva Mangala Devi Dasi  
Abu Dhabi

## Purify your thoughts!

**Date:** 27 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Mathajis,

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

Thoughts reflect one's words and action. So it is very important that we purify our thoughts. Mind becomes a trash when we do not regulate the type of thoughts entering it. The only way to cleanse the trash is by engaging the mind in service of Supreme Lord.

In Srimad Bhagavatam, verse 1.15.29, it is mentioned,

*vaasudevaanghry-anudhyaana-  
paribrmhita-ramhasaa  
bhaktyaa nirmathitaasesha-  
kashaaya-dhishano 'rjunah*

**Arjuna's constant remembrance of the lotus feet of Lord Sri Krishna rapidly increased his devotion, and as a result all the trash in his thoughts subsided.**

Srila Prabhupada has nicely explained in the purport to the above verse the result of such bad thoughts and ways to remove the same.

*"Material desires in the mind are the trash of material contamination. By such contamination, the living being is faced with so many compatible and incompatible things that discourage the very existence of spiritual identity. Birth after birth the conditioned soul is entrapped with so many pleasing and displeasing elements, which are all false and temporary. They accumulate due to our reactions to material desires, but when we get in touch with the transcendental Lord in His variegated energies by devotional service, the naked forms of all material desires become manifest, and the intelligence of the living being is pacified in its true color. As soon as Arjuna turned his attention towards the instructions of the Lord, as they are inculcated in the Bhagavad-gita, his true color of eternal association with the Lord became manifest, and thus he felt freed from all material contaminations."*

Since instructions from Bhagavad Gita is non-different from the Lord, we should resolve to meditate on atleast one verse each day and by doing so we would be able to purify our thoughts.

Thank you very much,  
Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada,  
Sudarshana devi dasi.

## **When things go astray..**

**Date:** 28 Feb, 2005

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Mathajis,

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

In Srimad Bhagavad Gita verse 2.15, Lord Shri Krishna says,

*yam hi na vyathayanty ete  
purusham purusharshabha  
sama-duhkha-sukham dhiram  
so 'mrtatvaaya kalpate*

**"O best among men [Arjuna], the person who is not disturbed by happiness and distress and is steady in both is certainly eligible for liberation."**

When things are going smooth, we might be performing our prescribed duties as well as devotional activities in a peaceful manner. But the real test lies in how we react when distressful events happen in one's life.

In one of his lectures in Rajkot, H.H. Mahavishnu Maharaj said, "**Nothing is under our control. Krishna is running the whole show both in favourable as well as in adverse situations.**" If we understand this truth, that we are not the doers at any point of time and that we are just His instruments, then it will be possible for us to remain steadily in service. Maharaj was explaining how this holds true for all activities either spiritual or material. He further continued, "*If you desire He does it. Now Jagannath, Baladev, Subhadra dieties (3 feet tall) are here (Shree Shree Radha Neela Madhav Dham). There was a desire. We do desire. But when things don't happen the way we thought, we do not get dejected. But go along with circumstances and continue our bhakti. Krishna Himself fulfills. Performing austerity when everything is alright is not a great thing. Austerity needs to be performed when things go difficult too. Krishna Consciousness is like coconut-shell. So without the protective shell of Krishna Consciousness, we are also nuts. Never get dejected in your life. You are already in the right path of Krishna Consciousness. So please intensify your service by taking shelter of Srimad Bhagavatham daily.*"

Thank you very much,  
Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada,  
Sudarshana devi dasi