

Fixing the Mind on Krishna - Part 1

Date: March 21, 2014

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is a humble effort to transcribe the nectarean class of our beloved spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Caitanya Caritamrta Adi-lila verse 2.117 on the occasion of the disappearance of Krishnadas Kaviraja Goswami, author of the great literature Caitanya Caritamrta.

Today being the disappearance of Krishnadas Kaviraja Goswami, it is very much essential to know under what circumstances Caitanya Caritamrta is written. He was nearly 92 years old. His eyesight was failing because as the age advances and everyone of us are advancing in age, the diseases start from the nine gateways which we have in our body. Out of nine gateways, seven are situated in our face. Two eyes, two ear-holes, two nostrils and mouth - These are the places where diseases start. And two more - reproductive organ and evacuating organ. These are the nine places where diseases start as soon as the age advances. If we pass our youth recklessly, irregular life, then diseases take hold of our body very soon. If your body and youth is nicely regulated from the beginning, if you have prasadam in time, you have sufficient rest, always you get up early in the morning, go to bed early - Early to bed and early to rise is the way to be happy healthy and wise. If we pass your youth like this, the diseases will start late or if we are very lucky they might not start at all. The devotee of the Lord always prays to the Lord to give him/her these three things.

*anaayaasena maranam / vinaa dainyena jivanam
dehi me krpayaa krsna / tvayi bhaktim acancalam*

The first thing the devotee asks is *anaayaasena maranam*. *Maran* is death. Death should be *anaayaas* - instant. Just now we are here and we are gone. That type of death is what a devotee always wishes. Doesn't want to get caught in the wheel-chairs and invalidity etc - Devotee doesn't wish to have that and so this is the first thing they ask. And many times the lucky living entities they sleep and do not get up at all. Or they may have heart-failures. That doesn't mean we have to consume more butter and cheese and have heart failures. (laughter) This type of death is desirable. Otherwise death is a very horrible phenomena. It is much much more painful than whatever pain we have experienced throughout our life. And that is why devotees pray to the Lord, "**Please give me instant death.**" *vinaa dainyena jivanam* - **And till we are alive, we should be self-sufficient.** We should be able to do our own duties. That is the second thing the devotees ask and the third thing is very important - *dehi me krpayaa krsna / tvayi bhaktim acancalam*

- "**You give me Your unflinching devotional service.**" These are the three things devotees ask. But many times according to our karmas and according to the will of the Lord we are bound to suffer. That is how Kaviraja's eyesight was completely failing. He was not able to even see properly. And in that condition he has written this great literature. It is full of knowledge - much more than ocean - ocean of knowledge.

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

Thank you very much.

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

Fixing the Mind on Krishna - Part 2

Date: March 22, 2014

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of the nectarean class of our beloved spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Caitanya Caritamrta Adi-lila verse 2.117 on the occasion of the disappearance of Krishna das Kaviraja Goswami, author of the great literature Caitanya Caritamrta. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj about

1. The three wishes of devotees.

Now let us continue to hear further.

2. Bhagavatam and Caitanya Caritamrta are non-different: Srimad Bhagavatam is very important. Sri Caitanya Caritamrta is a very nice commentation on Srimad Bhagavatam. So many examples are given. So many verses from Bhagavatam, puranas and Isopanishad are quoted here to prove the philosophy of Srimad Bhagavatam. So if you want to understand Srimad Bhagavatam, you have to go through this literature first. If you understand Sri Caitanya Caritamrta then it will be very easy for us to understand Srimad Bhagavatam. This is how this literature was written by that great personality. And it is Prabhupada's mercy that he has translated the whole thing word by word again. There are so many Bengali verses and so many Sanskrit verses from Srimad Bhagavatam in this. And it is very relishing to hear the Bhagavatam verses in Caitanya Caritamrta because Srila Prabhupada has translated them bit differently from Srimad Bhagavatam. In Srimad Bhagavatam in certain episodes these verses are there and here the circumstances are bit different. How Srila Prabhupada has practically derived the meanings of these verses is very nicely shown in the pages of Sri Caitanya

Caritamrta.

This way these great personalities, they have done hard labour during the failing age. Srila Prabhupada was also very old and his body was also very failing. But he didn't mind that. He never complained about his bodily ailments. It was said by the physicians at the last stages of his life, that an ordinary living entity could not have survived for a single day in that condition. This body is not a very comfortable situation. At the moment, you people are young. You may not have the idea, because young age is such that everything goes on nicely. And you will be thinking what is wrong with the body? But the thing is we have to anticipate these things and experience these things through the pages of this literature which are written by highly elevated devotees. And these things will force to wake us up. We are sleeping. We are sleeping with open eyes and it is our duty to wake up immediately. "*Jiv jaago, Jiv jaago*" - Caitanya Mahaprabhu shouts, "How long are you going to sleep in the lap of maya?" You have to wake up -'*jaago re, jaago re*'. Unless we come to this this point that we ourselves wake up, we force ourselves to wake up, then our lives will be successful.

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

Thank you very much.

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

Fixing the Mind on Krishna - Part 3

Date: March 24, 2014

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of the nectarean class of our beloved spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Caitanya Caritamrta Adi-lila verse 2.117 on the occasion of the disappearance of Krishna das Kaviraja Goswami, author of the great literature Caitanya Caritamrta. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj about

1. The three wishes of devotees.
2. Bhagavatam and Caitanya Caritamrta are non-different.

Now let us continue to hear further.

3. Be Simple: By reading and appreciating the scriptures ourselves, on our own, with the guidance of Srila Prabhupada and all the guru parampara, we can only learn 40% of Srimad Bhagavatam. But *when we preach we learn 100%. That is the secret of learning. That is why everyone has to preach. As soon as you learn one verse, you appreciate that verse and you preach that verse.* This is how from the life of these great persons, we have to derive two important things. On one hand they were completely simple. To the minimum extent, they had their own necessities. *The sad-goswamis won't even stay under the same tree for two nights. And we fight for a room.* Simplicity - on one hand we have to learn the simplicity. I am very happy when I see somebody wearing the clothes without ironing. This ironing may be needed for impressing outside people. But not needed really, because our body is round, hand is round. How can pressed clothes remain pressed? It is completely contradictory. We are pressing the clothes and putting it on a round body. It is a waste of time and waste of energy.

For this pressing, the iron has to be manufactured and the labour force and the whole paraphernalia. Again we are utilising the electricity and expenses are there. Not only that expenses are there, but the electricity needs to be produced, for which there is again a factory and the power house is there. As soon as power house is there, there is question of consumption is there. The oil has to be consumed or nuclear energy or something. As soon as these things are consumed, the dumping of nuclear energy is a big problem in front of us. We know just 3 to 4 years ago there was the Chernobyl disaster in Russia. Even now it stands. They have just dumped it and don't know when it will erupt again. The dumping ash also has the erupting quality. This is effect of our excessive use of electricity. You may think, "O, if i stop ironing, what is there?". No it is nothing like that. You start and so many other people start. This is simplicity. By becoming simple we save so much. Otherwise these children will curse us. They will have the drastic effect. And the third generation, children's children will kill us. They will throw our pictures out of the house saying, "This is a rascal. He has utilised the whole thing and now I don't have anything." And the ground will not produce anything, if it is covered by the nuclear ash. And it is going to be covered with the usage of excessive electricity. We fly over the cities and cities at night, they appear burning. So much electricity at night. Night is meant for darkness and may be you can have very soothing lights. These are the few things to be learnt from the lives of these great personalities.

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

Thank you very much.

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

Fixing the Mind on Krishna - Part 4

Date: March 29, 2014

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of the nectarean class of our beloved spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Caitanya Caritamrta Adi-lila verse 2.117 on the occasion of the disappearance of Krishna das Kaviraja Goswami, author of the great literature Caitanya Caritamrta. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj about

1. The three wishes of devotees.
2. Bhagavatam and Caitanya Caritamrta are non-different.
3. Be Simple.

Now let us continue to hear further.

4. Don't be lazy: Our attention is, because of simple life, we get so much time and that time has to be utilised 100% in learning the scriptures and relishing the devotional activities. Please do the service very seriously. The co-operation is the word to be engraved in our mind. Without co-operation, these communities could not go on. So please fully co-operate. Do your service very sincerely and rest of the time, every second of your existence, has got to be utilised in order to understand the beautiful scriptures. With whole hard labour these acaryas have presented it before us. Srila Prabhupada has done a great job in giving us this literatures and referring so many verses and purports. With this we shall go to the verse which we want to discuss.

*siddhaanta baliyaa citte / naa kara alasa
ihaa ha-ite krsne / laage sudrdha maanasaa*

"A sincere student should not neglect the discussion of such conclusions, considering them controversial, for such discussions strengthen the mind. Thus one's mind becomes attached to Sri Krishna."

In the first para of the purport Srila Prabhupada says, "*There are many students who, in spite of reading the Bhagavad-Gita, misunderstand Krishna because of imperfect knowledge and conclude Him to be an ordinary historical personality. This one must not do. One should be particularly careful to understand the truth about Krishna. If because of laziness one does not come to know Krishna conclusively, one will be misguided about the cult of devotion, like those who declare themselves advanced devotees and imitate the transcendental symptoms sometimes observed in liberated souls. Although the use of thoughts and arguments is a most suitable process for inducing an uninitiated person to become a devotee, neophytes in devotional service must always alertly understand Krishna through the vision of*

the revealed scriptures, the bona fide devotees and the spiritual master. Unless one hears about Sri Krishna from such authorities, one cannot make advancement in devotion to Sri Krishna. The revealed scriptures mention nine means of attaining devotional service, of which the first and foremost is hearing from authority. The seed of devotion cannot sprout unless watered by the process of hearing and chanting. One should submissively receive the transcendental messages from spiritually advanced sources and chant the very same messages for one's own benefit as well as the benefit of one's audience."

There are so many things discussed here in this first para. The first point is that one should study the scriptures under the guidance of expert devotees, sadhus and saintly persons and the spiritual master. Then only we can come to the right conclusion. The best warning is given in one sentence here - "*If because of laziness one does not come to know Krishna conclusively, one will be misguided about the cult of devotion*". We are following devotional service and as it is it becomes difficult to convince the mind about the authenticity of devotional service. We stay here for years together. But there is a flicker of doubt in the mind always and it drags us away from these things.

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

Thank you very much.

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

Fixing the Mind on Krishna - Part 5

Date: March 30, 2014

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of the nectarean class of our beloved spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Caitanya Caritamrta Adi-lila verse 2.117 on the occasion of the disappearance of Krishnadas Kaviraja Goswami, author of the great literature Caitanya Caritamrta. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj about

1. The three wishes of devotees.
2. Bhagavatam and Caitanya Caritamrta are non-different.

3. Be Simple.

4. Don't be lazy.

Now let us continue to hear further.

5. Do not blaspheme or imitate exalted Vaishnavas: Many times we see that liberated persons, they behave in such a way and we try to copy them. That mistake, we do many times. *The activities of the liberated persons should not be copied. But the instructions have got to be followed.* We cannot understand, we cannot understand the activities of exalted Vaishnavas. He might have out of necessity, somewhere in the plane, he might have drank little 'Seven up'. And everyone started, "Prabhupada drank 'seven up'. Prabhupada drank 'seven up'. We can drink. We can drink". And we were staying in the Soho street temple in London and it has a house for brahmacaris to stay. And we were staying there and once we were clearing the junk from the attic. There were so many big bottles of 'seven up' we took out, everything drunk by devotees in the name of 'Prabhupada drinks seven up'. This is a silly thing. This is a silly thing. His instructions are '*patram pushpam phalam toyam*'. He said Bhagavad Gita as it is. *patram* means leaf - greens, *pushpam* means flowers, *phalam* means fruits and *toyam* is clean water. Krishna did not mention the name of any fizzy drinks. Otherwise He could have mentioned that in Gita. But He is not mentioning it. Srila Prabhupada exactly describes us. Sometimes, out of necessity sometimes, he might have sipped. I don't know exactly. But some devotee told me that sometime in a plane or somewhere, water was not available and he might have just sipped something. But the devotee who saw that took it that, "Prabhupada drinks 'seven up' and so we can also drink 'seven up'". And 700 big bottles we took out from the attic. (laughter) They must have taken bath with 'seven up'. This is the mistake and that is the warning Prabhupada is giving.

It is very difficult to control the mind, It is very difficult. It is just impossible. And particularly when we see the liberated persons. Many a times when we go to Vrindavan and we see so many activities going on and we completely lose faith in the scriptures. This is a dangerous situation. We have to be very careful in those places. There may be so many elevated living entities there and they may behave in a certain way. We don't know what type of level they have. That's why, we have to be very careful about these things. Otherwise *whatever sadhana we have done under the guidance of spiritual master, under the guidance of realised souls and under the guidance of translated scriptures, will be lost in a second. It is completely gone. As soon as you are misled by such things, you are completely gone. That is why you should have unflinching faith in these explanations and whatever activity we do particularly in Vrindavan or Mayapur, it should be exactly in accordance to the instruction given by Srila Prabhupada. Then you are safe. This is the main point to be understood.*

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

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

Fixing the Mind on Krishna - Part 6

Date: March 31, 2014

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi.

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of the nectarean class of our beloved spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Caitanya Caritamrta Adi-lila verse 2.117 on the occasion of the disappearance of Krishnadas Kaviraja Goswami, author of the great literature Caitanya Caritamrta. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj about

1. The three wishes of devotees.
2. Bhagavatam and Caitanya Caritamrta are non-different.
3. Be Simple.
4. Don't be lazy.
5. Do not blaspheme or imitate exalted Vaishnavas.

Now let us continue to hear further.

6. Be careful in sadhana: Srila Prabhupada further says in the first para of purport (of Adi-lila verse 2.117 of Caitanya Caritamrta), "*Although the use of thoughts and arguments is a most suitable process for inducing an uninitiated person to become a devotee, neophytes in devotional service must always alertly understand Krishna through the vision of the revealed scriptures*". And the first thing we do as soon as there is doubt in our mind, the first thing we do is that we stop the devotional activities. Many a times we have seen that as soon as the devotees' mind is polluted, the first thing he does is that he stops coming to Mangala-arati. As soon as he stops coming to mangala arati, we definitely know that this rascal is behaving in some other way. Then he stops completely. Even in the temple, they may do some service here and there, but they fail to attend the morning program, and that is the first thing they do, as soon as there is a flicker of doubt. Then we cannot guide anybody else and we lose already

whatever we have. These things needs to be carefully attended to.

7. Hear from the paramapara: Then we go to the second paragraph of the purport. "*When Brahma described the situation of pure devotees freed from the culture of empiric philosophy and fruitive actions, **he recommended the process of hearing from persons who are on the path of devotion.***" This is very important - Hearing. And please, you restrict yourself to hearing from Srila Prabhupada. This is the main thing we have to do. If you hear from any other source which is not collected to Srila Prabhupada, then we may have the divided mind and we may not be able to understand. As a devotee, as soon as you come to Krishna, you become alert. We are awake, we have special intelligence, because of Krishna's mercy, Prabhupada's mercy and Guru's mercy. We have that special intelligence by which we can identify what is right and what is wrong. So use that intelligence and come to the scriptures, which are correctly translated by Srila Prabhupada.

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

Thank you very much.

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

Fixing the Mind on Krishna - Part 7

Date: April 1, 2014

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi.

Hare Krishna Prabhujs and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of the nectarean class of our beloved spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Caitanya Caritamrta Adi-lila verse 2.117 on the occasion of the disappearance of Krishnadas Kaviraja Goswami, author of the great literature Caitanya Caritamrta. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj about

1. The three wishes of devotees.
2. Bhagavatam and Caitanya Caritamrta are non-different.
3. Be Simple.
4. Don't be lazy.

5. Do not blaspheme or imitate exalted Vaishnavas.

6. Be careful in sadhana.

7. Hear from the parampara.

Now let us continue to hear further.

8. Hearing gives faith: Srila Prabhupada further says in the purport, "Following in the footsteps of such liberated souls, who are able to vibrate real transcendental sound, can lead one to the highest stage of devotion, and thus one can become a maha-bhagavata. From the teachings of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu to Sanatana Goswami (Madhya 22.65) we learn,

*shastra-yuktye sunipuna drdha shraddhaa yaanra
'uttama-adhikaari' sei taaraye samsaara*

"A person who is expert in understanding the conclusion of the revealed scriptures and who fully surrenders to the cause of the Lord is actually able to deliver others from the clutches of material existence."

Those who act according to the shastras, those who continuously hear it, continuously hear the shastras, their bhakti becomes unflinching. They develop unflinching faith in the process. Otherwise we lose the faith and as soon as the faith is lost, you are completely destroyed - *buddhi naashaat pranashyati*. **"Your intellect is completely gone"**.

9. Three types of Devotees: And this *uttama adhikari* we have to understand. There are three nice verses in the 11 th Canto to understand the three kinds of devotees. We call them the lowest kind of devotee is one who is a very neophyte devotee and his description is given in the 2nd Chapter, verse number 47 and is known as *kanishta adhikari*. And he is very nicely described in one verse

*arcaayam eva haraye / pujaam yah shraddhayehate
na tad-bhakteshu caanyeshu / sa bhaktah praakrtah smrtah*

arcaayam eva haraye / pujaam yah shraddhayehate - He worships the Lord with full faith. He is always near the altar or standing in the congregation. But He disregards the devotee or anybody else. He just looks towards the Lord. He is *kanishta adhikari*. No doubt he is *adhikari*. He is much better than the neophytes, those who don't come to the Lord. He has elevated himself to the first stage and that is to get attracted to the forms of the Lord. And that is all. He doesn't perform anything else. He just walks into to the temple, bows down before the Lord, puts some money in the donation box and walks away. This is *kanishta adhikari*. In Bhagavatam class, many times when it is going on, some guest comes, they think that there is nothing happening here. They don't know anything at all. So they just bow down

before the Deity, prays, goes to the box, drops some money and then leaves. This is neophyte stage. They don't care for the devotees. They don't care for discussions. They don't want to understand and they think that they are pure devotees. That is the illusion in which they are. They think that, "I am attracted to the Lord". That is all. This is how completely neglect the instructions of the scriptures.

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

Thank you very much.

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

Fixing the Mind on Krishna - Part 8

Date: April 2, 2014

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of the nectarean class of our beloved spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Caitanya Caritamrta Adi-lila verse 2.117 on the occasion of the disappearance of Krishnadas Kaviraja Goswami, author of the great literature Caitanya Caritamrta. In the previous offerings we heard 9 points. In this offering let us continue to hear from Maharaj about the three kinds of devotees.

9. Three kinds of devotees: In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 11.2.46 there is description of another kind of devotee who is bit higher than the kanishta adhikari. That is the madhyama adhikari. And it is very nicely described,

*ishvare tad adhineshu / baalisheshu dvishatsu ca
prema maitri krpopekshaa / yah karoti sa madhyamah*

ishvare tad adhineshu / baalisheshu dvishatsu ca - These are the four things. Four things are given in one line and second line lists four things - *prema maitri krpopekshaa*. This type of devotee is called *madhyama adhikari*. He has prem - He loves the Supreme Absolute Truth. Then *tad adhineshu* - those who are attached to Krishna through devotional service, He is friend to them. He is friend to all living entities. Then *balisheshu* - those who are ignorant, for the ignorant people, he has *krpaa*. He is merciful to them and *dvishatsu ca* - those who are completely averse to devotional activities, for them he doesn't care. He just ignores them.

These are the four relationships - love for God, friendly nature to friendly attitude people, merciful to the ignorant who are innocent and those who hates this process, he just ignores them. Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakura very nicely describes this attitude in his literature also and he says that preachers do like this. Preachers are very friendly to the devotees, very merciful to the innocent or people who are completely neophytes and they ignore people who are opposed to this, so that they can carry on their preaching. And this is madhyama adhikari. Now when we talk of *uttama adhikari*, Srimad Bhagavatam verse 11.2.45 says

*sarva bhuteshu yah pashyed / bhagavad bhaavamaatmanah
bhutaani bhagavaty aatmany / esha bhaagavatottamah*

sarva bhuteshu yah pashyed / bhagavad bhaavamaatmanah - When we see in every living entity, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, then he is regarded as the *uttama adhikari*. And in Bhagavad Gita verse 7.19 Krishna says

*bahunaam janmanaam ante / jnaanavaan maam prapadyate
vaasudevah sarvam iti / sa mahatma su durlabhah*

After many many births we can come across this *uttama adhikari* and *he sees everything as the potency of Krishna. Then he hates nobody. He doesn't have any grudge about anybody. He goes on doing his seva.* And that is *uttama adhikari* and this is mentioned by Caitanya Mahaprabhu in the Adi-lilla verse 2.117 of Caitanya Caritamrta.

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

Thank you very much.

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

Fixing the Mind on Krishna - Part 9

Date: April 3, 2014

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of the nectarean class of our beloved spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Caitanya Caritamrta Adi-lila verse 2.117 on the occasion of the disappearance of Krishnadas Kaviraja Goswami, author of the great literature Caitanya Caritamrta. In the previous offerings we heard 9 points. In this offering let

us continue to hear more from Maharaj.

10. Fill the mind with Krishna katha: The important thing is to see Krishna everywhere. This is the best thing. And through the pages of Bhagavad Gita we must learn wherein we can see Krishna. There are 5 verses in 7th Chapter, verses 8,9,10,11 and 12 and they give you 15 situations wherein you can see Krishna. *But in order to understand these literatures, our mind must be completely purified. And there are very nice verses to show how the mind can be purified. Because mind is our enemy otherwise. If it is polluted then it is our enemy.* Krishna says in Bhagavad Gita verse 2.67

*indriyaanam hi carataam / yan mano 'nu vidhiyate
tad asya harati prajnaam / vaayur naavam ivaambhasi*

Mind is a great problem in this age. Fifty years we were in Vaishnava society and since last 5 generations Vaishnavism is very seriously followed in our community and because of that there was no question of mind at all. This mind was completely absent, because everybody was a devotee. As soon as your mind is engaged in devotional service, there would be no inebriety. Srila Prabhupada gives a very nice example, that there are paddy fields in Mayapur. The paddy field, main characteristic is that, that field should always be full of water. Always should be full of water. If it is full of water, then paddy field can grow. The weeds will not grow. But by some accident, if there is some leakage in the field, and the water dries out, drains out of the field, then *as soon as the field is dry, the paddy plant stops growing and the weeds grow.* This is how our mind also, if it is full of Krishna katha then it will not drag you anywhere else. Then the bhakti creeper will grow. But as soon as the mind is drained out of Krishna katha, then it will drag you to the material things. Weeds will grow and bhakti will never grow.

This is very nicely illustrated in the life of Bilvamangal Thakura. He was born in a very nice brahmana family, highly elevated family. He was married to a very nice chaste lady. The marriage was very nicely arranged and it was a very successful marriage. But the mind is a problem. One day for some job he visited a town and he saw a beautiful prostitute there. And his mind completely went astray. He tried to follow the prostitute. And because he himself was very handsome and nice personality, the prostitute also fell in love with him and she stopped going to other men. And they started saying together. The prostitute was known as Cintamani. He started to stay together with her and he completely forgot about the chaste wife at home. This is the mind. Immediately the mind dragged him away from the home.

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

Thank you very much.

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

Fixing the Mind on Krishna - Part 10

Date: April 4, 2014

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of the nectarean class of our beloved spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Caitanya Caritamrta Adi-lila verse 2.117 on the occasion of the disappearance of Krishnadas Kaviraja Goswami, author of the great literature Caitanya Caritamrta. In the previous offering we heard 10 points and how Bilvamangala Thakura left his chaste wife after he saw Cintamani, a prostitute. In this offering let us continue to hear more from Maharaj about the life of Bilvamangala Thakura.

11. Life of Bilvamangala Thakura: After Bilvamangala Thakura started staying with Cintamani, years passed and in his absence his father died because of the painful situation. The son has left the nice young wife in the home and this situation was unbearable for the father of Bilvamangala Thakura. So when he died after one year of his death, the wife wanted to perform some shraddha rites to satisfy the soul of the father-in-law. So she thought that she will go to Cintamani and beg her to allow her husband to come for one day only and the next day she will bring back the husband to her. So she went to Cintamani the prostitute and she requested that, "Please you do somehow or the other and can you please send my husband for one night? And I promise you that tomorrow again I will bring him back to you". So somehow because she was a chaste lady, pati-vrata, Cintamani her heart also melted and she thought that it is better to send Bilvamangala Thakura for one day. So she forced Bilvamangala Thakura to go there and perform the rites and come back immediately.

So he went there. He went there for a day and he had to stay there for the night and next day morning she would have accompanied him and brought him back to this prostitute's place - Cintamani's place. But this one, this Bilvamangala Thakura could not spend one night of separation from Cintamani. So rascal mind you see. See how the mind freaks out. It was so very raining very hard. There was a storm. And there was river in-between his home and Cintamani's home. The river was full of water and there was flood in the river. It was impossible to cross the river that night. Bilvamangala Thakura got up at 11'o clock in the night and started going somewhere. As soon as his wife saw that he has gone out, she followed him. In darkness she could not follow him, because he went down the river and she thought that he has gone up the river. So both were separated completely. He went down and she went up. And she didn't find Bilvamangala Thakura and she didn't know what to do. Then she thought, what is the use of this life? Husband is gone. He is attracted to prostitute. Father-in-law is also gone. Now there is nothing to do in this world. So she jumped into the river and was dead. This Bilvamangala Thakura was completely meditating on the prostitute and was shouting, 'Cintamani, Cintamani'. Instead of 'Krishna, Krishna', Cintamani was there. As soon

as Cintamani takes the grip of his mind, Krishna vanishes and all inebrieties come. So he was shouting Cintamani's name.

And he wanted to cross the river somehow or the other. It so happened that he found a log of wood floating. He thought that it is a log of wood. So he caught hold of it and tried to cross the river. Here his wife had died and that was not log of wood, but it was the dead carcass of his wife. And he just caught hold of it and could not know that it was dead body. He said, "O Cintamani, how she is kind. She has sent me the log of wood to cross the river!" He couldn't see. Just see how the mind completely freaks out. And in the dead of night, catching the dead carcass of his wife, he crossed the river. And he went the other side. It was raining very hard and the doors of Cintamani's house were closed. It was 1 am in the morning. He saw some rope hanging from the roof. So he said, "Hey Cintamani - how nice you are, you have kept the rope ready for me." He caught hold of the rope, climbed on to the roof and jumped into the compound. There was some noise and the servant woke up. So he went to Cintamani's room and he said, "O Cintamani, how kind you are! I have come to see you. I couldn't bear the separation. You had sent me log of wood and also kept rope here ready for me to climb. How nice you are! Our love is really divine." And she was very upset. "Why did you cross the river and how did you do it?" When he said about the log and rope, they went outside to see what it is and found that the log was the dead carcass of his wife and the rope was a serpent. He didn't know that it was serpent. Blinded by lust and this lust complete destroyed him that he couldn't recognise his first wife, he couldn't recognise the dead-body. *This is how even if one sense drags us away from Krishna, then our life is completely destroyed.* This is the main thing to be understood.

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

Thank you very much.

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

Fixing the Mind on Krishna - Part 11

Date: April 5, 2014

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajais,

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of the nectarean class of our beloved spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Caitanya Caritamrta Adi-lila verse 2.117 on

the occasion of the disappearance of Krishnadas Kaviraja Goswami, author of the great literature Caitanya Caritamrta. In the previous offering we heard 11 points from Maharaj and now we shall continue further.

12. Way to control the mind: In order to control the senses we have to control the mind. We have to control the mind. And in Srimad Bhagavatam the mind thing is very nicely described in one of the verses in 10th Canto. Beautiful verse. Please understand how the mind can be controlled. It is a nice way shown in Srimad Bhagavatam (10.5.4). In Bhagavad Gita also there are innumerable verses and references to control the mind.

*kaalena snaana-shaucaabhyaam / samskaarais tapasejyayaa
shudhyanti daanaih santushtyaa / dravyaany atmaatma-vidyayaa*

Beautiful verse you know and it can be sung nicely in Bhagavad Gita lyric. In this 9 items are given, how they are purified according to Bhagavatam. *kaalena* - by the passing of time, the land is purified. And all the material things are purified. This is the best example. If the land is made dirty by the construction of roads and bridges and this and that and if they are left for few years, then the tar will mix into the land and you will never see there was a road here. At the moment these roads are being used. If they are not used for few years then they automatically convert themselves into the land. This is how land is purified by itself with the passing of time. Then *snaana* - by taking shower, our body is purified. *shaucaabhyaam* - by cleaning the things, uncleaned things are cleaned. Then *samskaarais* - by different purificatory process, our birth is purified. Initiation is one *samskaar*. Birth is the beginning *samskaar*. Then again *dvija samskaar* - second initiation and our whole birth is purified. *tapasaa* - By austerities the senses are purified. In order to purify the senses there must be austerity. We are austere here. We don't drink tea or coffee and that is why our senses are under control. If we take these things, then our senses will drag us to sinful activities. *Then ijjayaa* - *by worship your mind is purified*. Your existence is purified. Then *shudhyanti daanaih* - your wealth is purified by charity - *daanaih*. *santushtyaa* - by satisfaction the mind can be controlled. *The mind cannot be controlled by anything else. By satisfaction alone, you will control the mind. In order to have the satisfaction, we should always be satisfied in our own situations. If you are satisfied, then it will always drag you and force you to have unflinching devotion towards the Lord.* Then *atma* or soul is purified by *atma vidyayaa* - knowledge of self-realisation. These are the 9 ways very nicely described.

Our point is that always the mind has to be controlled and purified. As soon as it is purified, it can be very controlled. In Bhagavad Gita it is very nicely in two words how the mind can be controlled - *abhyaasena tu vairaagyena* - *abhyaas* means practices. We are doing these practices by which the mind can be controlled and *vairaagyena* - detachment. *We have to forego the attachment to the material unwanted things. Things which are not required, we should be completely detached from those things and then only, we will be controlled.*

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Fixing the Mind on Krishna - Part 12

Date: April 6, 2014

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of the nectarean class of our beloved spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Caitanya Caritamrta Adi-lila verse 2.117 on the occasion of the disappearance of Krishnadas Kaviraja Goswami, author of the great literature Caitanya Caritamrta. In the previous offering we heard 12 points from Maharaj and now we shall continue to hear from Maharaj on how to control the mind.

12. Drag your mind to scriptures: There is a very nice line in this purport (referring to Caitanya Caritamrta verse 2.117) and I must read it to you. *"Imitation devotees, who wish to advertise themselves as elevated Vaishnavas and who therefore imitate the previous acaryas but do not follow them in principle, are condemned in the words of Srimad-Bhagavatam (2.3.24) as stone-hearted."* This is the main question before us. We have to find out really. Imitation devotees, who just wish to imitate and who don't change in their heart at all, who wish to advertise themselves as elevated Vaishnavas, there is a good example for this in South India where there is one such imitator. All over the world he has big temples. Have you seen him, the bushy one? We were in Auckland, Newzealand and there one bhakta came - the bushy bhakta. So he started preaching us that his guru is incarnation of Krishna. And I asked him that if the incarnation is mentioned in Srimad Bhagavatam, then we believe that he is incarnation. We don't deny that if there is scriptural proof. And you will be surprised because he said "Yes. I will bring the scriptural proof and then you will believe that he is Krishna". So next day he brought some cyclostyled papers which had some description about him. But eventually the scriptural evidence he gave was from the Bible. (laughter) He said that Christ loves lambs. In many pictures you would have seen Christ with lamb. Those pictures are very common. He is merciful to the lambs. And always lambs makes noise - 'ba ba ba'. He said that 'ba ba ba' is not ' just ba ba ba' but was referring to 'Ba Ba Ba'. Can you imagine? I threw the book on his face and said, "You rascal, get out of the place" (loud laughter). I was never angry to such an extent with anybody else. I was really upset.

These imitation devotees want to prove somehow or the other and so he caught hold of the poor lamb with Christ and from the noise he took out the 'ba ba ba', ' Ba Ba Ba'. This is how we are completely misled, we are completely misled. This misleading element, we should be

very careful of. *The best way is that there is so much to study - 18000 verses in Srimad Bhagavatam, so many verses in Caitanya Caritamrta - Mahabharat, Isopanishad - other Upanishad and Puranas and so much we have. Instead of paying attention to all these, misleading factors, you please try to drag your mind to these scriptures.* In Bhagavad Gita verse 6.26 Lord Krishna very nicely says,

*yato yato nishcalati / manash cancalam asthiram
tatas tato niyam yaitad / atmany eva vasham nayet*

yato yato nishcalati - Wherever it goes, it is a flickering mind, it will always go. *tatas tato niyam yaitad* - from there you must bring it back. by *niyamaya* - regulated - getting up at 4 am in the morning, doing mangala arati, tulsi pooja, chanting your rounds, reading scriptures and again attending Bhagavatam classes and for the whole day serving Krishna and again whenever you get time, you take to scriptures. Then there won't be any time for 'ba ba ba' or 'Ba Ba Ba'. We are not interested in it. This is the point.

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

Thank you very much.

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

Fixing the Mind on Krishna - Part 13

Date: April 7, 2014

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in conclusion of the transcription of the nectarean class of our beloved spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Caitanya Caritamrta Adi-lila verse 2.117 on the occasion of the disappearance of Krishnadas Kaviraja Goswami, author of the great literature Caitanya Caritamrta. In the previous offering we heard 13 points from Maharaj and now we shall continue to hear from Maharaj on how to control the mind.

14. **Be genuine in devotional service:** There is one more important point in this purport. And I cannot leave without saying this to you. (laughter) "*Srila Vishvanatha Cakravarti Thakura has commented on their stone-hearted condition as follows: bahir ashru-pulakayoh sator api yad dhrdayam na vikriyeta tad ashma-saaram iti kanishthaadhikaarinaam eva ashru-pulakaadi-mattve 'pi ashma-saara-hrdayatayaa nindaishaa.-Those who shed tears by practice, but whose hearts have not changed are to be known as stone-hearted devotees of the lowest grade*

. " Somebody may come and cry. I am sorry to give you one example. But I must tell you. (laughter) There was one Bhagavatam class going on and I was there in the Bhagavatam class. *I always had a point that whether I hear or speak it doesn't matter. Whether we are preaching or not, hearing is much much important than preaching.* So I was in that class. And the devotee was crying and we all thought how much love he has for Krishna. And afterwards, we came to know that his wife was divorcing him and that is why he was crying. So please, try to see what is what. These tears are very good in the remembrance Krishna, they are needed. It is very good, very nice. But provided they are genuine. *Harsha* - when we are very happy to remember the Lord and to discuss His topics, tears may flow. They are known as *harshaashru*. Those tears are coming because we are very joyful. It is not the pain. And the painful tears are cold. *Harshaashru* are warm. So we have to feel whether they are *harshaashru* or whether they are cold. So these things we cannot tell by seeing the eyes of a crying man. We have to be very careful about these things. Otherwise Vishvanath Cakravarti Thakura will not write these things.

Srila Prabhupada always avoided these outward symptoms. That is the main thing. If he would have done, then we all would have cried daily. "Prabhupada did. Prabhupada did. We must copy Prabhupada". As we are copying for 'Seven up', same way we would have cried. He completely avoided these things. (Maharaj continued with the purport) *"Those who shed tears by practice, but whose hearts have not changed are to be known as stone-hearted devotees of the lowest grade. Their imitation crying, induced by artificial practice, is always condemned. The desired change of heart referred to above is visible in the reluctance to do anything not congenial to the devotional way." Change of heart means that our life style must change. That is change of heart. And it must fit into the instructions of Krishna - four regulative principles - the minimum instruction Srila Prabhupada has given. There are so many other things. It must fit into this. "Their imitation crying, induced by artificial practice, is always condemned. The desired change of heart referred to above is visible in the reluctance to do anything not congenial to the devotional way. To create such a change of heart, conclusive discussion about Sri Krishna and His potencies is absolutely necessary. False devotees may think that simply shedding tears will lead one to the transcendental plane, even if one has not had a factual change in heart, but such a practice is useless if there is no transcendental realization. False devotees, lacking the conclusion of transcendental knowledge, think that artificially shedding tears will deliver them. Similarly, other false devotees think that studying books of the previous acaryas is unadvisable, like studying dry empiric philosophies. But Srila Jiva Goswami, following the previous acaryas, has inculcated the conclusions of the scriptures in the six theses called the Sat-sandarbhas. False devotees who have very little knowledge of such conclusions fail to achieve pure devotion for want of zeal in accepting the favorable directions for devotional service given by self-realized devotees. Such false devotees are like impersonalists, who also consider devotional service no better than ordinary fruitive actions."*

These things have got to be borne in mind and you should try to be very careful to perform the simple devotional activities as Srila Prabhupada has instructed. Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

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