

Shrnvataam sva kathaā krshnah

Date: 01 Nov 2002

Author: Praveen Jamunar

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,
Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

The following is an astounding mail from one devotee mataji in Minneapolis. She listened to a lecture of Srila Prabhupada on the verse "*śṛṅvatām sva-kathāḥ kṛṣṇaḥ*" and has written down some striking points from that lecture.

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

*śṛṅvatām sva-kathāḥ kṛṣṇaḥ puṇya-śravaṇa-kīrtanaḥ
hṛdy antaḥ stho hy abhadrāṇi vidhunoti suhṛt satām*

Sri Krishna, the Personality of Godhead, who is the Paramatma [Supersoul] in everyone's heart and the benefactor of the truthful devotee, cleanses desire for material enjoyment from the heart of the devotee who has developed the urge to hear His messages, which are in themselves virtuous when properly heard and chanted.

"...Krsna means the highest pleasure. Everyone, every living being, is seeking after pleasure, but he does not know how to seek pleasure..."

"...Consciousness is the symptom of my real identity..."

"...Spiritual consciousness means to become free from all these [material] designations. So that freedom is achieved when we are in constantly touch with the supreme spirit, Krsna..."

"...Omnipotency means in everything relating to Krsna has the same potency...if you want water, you are thirsty, then this water, simply saying repeatedly, "water, water, water, water, water," will not satisfy your thirst. Because this word has not the same potency as water itself. You require the water as it is. Then your thirst will be satisfied. But in the transcendental, absolute world, there is no such difference. Krsna, Krsna's name, Krsna's words and Krsna's qualities, Krsna's pastimes -- everything is Krsna..."

"...So it is a fact that Lord Jesus Christ is present by his words, Bible. Similarly, Krsna is present by His words. These personalities, either God or son of God, who come from the transcendental world, they keep their transcendental identity without being contaminated by this material world. That is their omnipotency..."

"...God is situated in everyone's heart. God is not away from us. He's friendly. He's so friendly that in my repeated change of birth, He's with us. He's trying to see when we shall turn to Him. Rather, He's canvassing. He's so kind that we may forget Him, but He has not forgotten us. He is with us..."

"...I wanted to point out that this chanting and hearing is as good as actual association of Krsna. That is stated in the Bhagavata, that *śṛṅvatām sva-kathāḥ kṛṣṇaḥ puṇya-śravaṇa-kīrtanaḥ*. This process is called kirtana. Even one does not understand the language, still, by hearing only, he acquires some piety. His assets become pious life, even he does not understand. It is such powerful..."

"...electric current, is in some metal, the whole thing becomes surcharged with electricity, similarly, when Krsna is

interested in some matter, then the whole thing becomes Krsna-ized. Otherwise, there was no need of discussing the Battlefield of Kuruksetra..."

"...Two things are going on in this material world. The things which we do not possess, we hanker after it: "If I get these things, I'll be happy. Oh, I have no money. If I get one hundred thousand millions dollars, then I'll be happy." This is hankering. And when one hundred thousand million dollars you have got... Some way or other, it is lost, you cry, "Oh, I am gone." So either for earning or we hanker, that is also a kind of distress, and when we suffer loss there is distress. But if you are situated in *brahma-bhutah avasthana*, you'll be neither, neither distressed, nor hankering. You'll be in equilibrium..."

"...Suppose I am occupied in some business in which I have to speak lie. Without speaking lie, my business cannot go on. Now, suppose if that is the position. Now, speaking lie is not very good thing, and if you think that your business is not based on very moral principle, "So I should give up," then Bhagavad-gita you'll find that "Don't give up." Even if you are put into such circumstances that your livelihood cannot go on without that unfair means, you should not give it up, you should try to make it purified. How it is purified? You should not take the fruitive result of your work. That is meant for God..."

"...In the military rank the order of the captain or the commander is there. The soldier has to execute it. Never mind whether it is pious or impious. It doesn't matter. He has to act simply. Then he becomes a, real soldier. If he acts in that way, he gets remuneration, he gets reward, he gets title, he gets honor. He doesn't care. The commander asks him, "Just go and kill the enemy." He goes and kills. He gets reward. But killing, do you mean to say one gets reward? No. For the duty discharged..."

"...Suppose you are diseased. You are lying on the bed. And you are eating in that stage, you are passing your nature's call in that way, and taking bitter medicines, and always you have to keep by the nurses clean. Otherwise, there is some obnoxious smell. In such a condition you are lying, and some friends come to you and ask you, "My dear such and such, how are you today feeling?" "Yes, I am today feeling well." What is this "well"? He's lying on the bed. He's passing his nature's calls in that way. He's eating bitter medicine, and he cannot move. All these inconveniences, and he says that "I am well." Similarly, in our material conception of life, we think, "I am happy," that is foolishness. There is no happiness in material life. It is impossible to get happiness. Then we do not know meaning of happiness..."

Forever Your worthless servant,
Praveen Jamunar

Adhikara

Date: 02 Nov 2002

Author: Madana Gopal das

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,
Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

I wanted to add to the wonderful contributions of Granthraj. I liked this point regarding the relationship between Bhagavad Gita and the Srimad Bhagavatam. As we have learnt from Srila Prabhupada the Bhagavad Gita is the ABC of spiritual life and the Srimad Bhagavatam is the degree course.

"A devotee of Lord Krishna is he who believes sincerely that by becoming a devotee of the Lord one becomes fully equipped with everything spiritual. This teaching is imparted by the Lord Himself in the pages of the Bhagavad-Gita, in which it is clearly described that the Lord (Sri Krishna) is everything, and that to surrender unto Him solely and wholly makes one the most perfectly pious man. This unflinching faith in Lord Krishna prepares one to become a student of Srimad-Bhagavatam," Srimad Bhagavatam 2.1.11

Also in the following quote from Srimad Bhagavatam 2.2.3 purport - *"Every second of human life is important, an enlightened man should be very careful to utilize time very cautiously. One second of human life wasted in the vain research of planning for happiness in the material world can never be replaced, even if one spends millions of coins of gold."*

I pray to develop this strength of faith and conviction.

Thank you very much.
Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,
Madana Gopal das
Brisbane.

Festival

Date: 04 Nov 2002

Author: Kalacakra das

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,
Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

It is understandable that we all are tied up with lot of activities for the two days of big festivals - Diwali and Govardhan Puja! - both relating directly to the Lord's pastimes.

Diwali has more than one significance. As most of us are aware that this is the day when Lord Ramachandra was crowned as the King after His return from the 14 years of exile. May be not many of us are aware that this is the same day where the Lord performed His sweetest of pastimes-breaking the butter-pots and performing His childhood pastime as Lord Damodara! This was the day when the Lord was actually tied to the mortar by Mother Yashoda and then He crawled to the backyard to break the two Arjuna trees thereby delivering the two sons of Kuvera - Nalakuvera and Manigriva. Singing Damodarashtaka on this day is one of the best service we can do to the Lord, because that song automatically brings in front of us, the perfect picture of Lord Damodara's childhood pastime.

Tomorrow is the big Govardhan puja festival! According to dictionary - Festival means 'an occasion for feast'. And Govardhan puja is famous for just that - offering all that we can make for the Lord and then honouring the feast!! I am short of intelligence to express any further appreciation of these festivals. If other readers of our group can kindly take time to share their wonderful realizations or enlightening verses or purports or pastimes from our scriptures, that will be of immense benefit to all of us.

Thank you very much and wish you all a very happy Diwali and Govardhan Puja!!!
Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada,
Kalacakra das

Damodara Lila

Date: 05 Nov 2002

Author: Kalacakra das

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,
Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

We have the blessed association of H H Chandramouli Maharaj for the past few days. Maharaj has been sharing with us such sweet pastimes of Sri Sri Damodara! I am just passing on some of the interesting points.

This month is one of the most important month for the Vaishnavas as we all know already. This month of Damodara is very dear to Radharani. In this month whatever bhakti we do, will be multiplied thousands of times. Also this month is very special because the Lord showed in this month through His pastime that Bhakti is greater than Him!! This He practically proved by letting Himself 'bound' by the devotion and love of mother Yashoda. This pastime is so sweetly narrated by Srila Jiva Goswami in one of his commentaries.

Little child Krishna was stealing butter from the neighbor houses and Yashoda was getting frequent complaints on this issue. Mother Yashoda and Nanda Maharaj wanted to put an end to it. They thought that if Krishna is fed the best milk and butter in our home, then why should He go to other houses and steal? Nanda maharaj had 900,000 cows in his possession!! He selected the 1000 best cows out of those and fed them extra rich grass. The milk that was given by those cows were fed to the 100 best cows among them. And the milk that was given by those 100 cows was then fed to the 10 best cows. Then the milk given by them was given to 'the' best cow among those 10 cows. Finally the milk that was given by that best cow was taken and Mother Yashoda was boiling the milk to feed Krishna! Meanwhile little Krishna started crying out of hunger and Yashoda matha felt that she should feed Him milk. Then she laid Him on her lap and started feeding her breast milk.

In spiritual world everything (both living and non-living entities) have consciousness. When mother Yashoda was feeding Krishna, the milk that was boiling in the stove, started thinking, "Oh, I at is the use of my life ? Let me commit suicide!". Thinking this way, the milk in the stove started boiling and flowing out of the vessel into the fire. Mother Yashoda saw the milk boiling and felt that she should take care of the milk and hence put Krishna down and went to the kitchen. Little Krishna became very angry at being neglected by His mother. He wanted to do some mischief to grab the attention of mother Yashoda! [How fortunate and exalted Mother Yashoda should be ? Here we are trying in our puny little ways to grab the attention of the Supreme Lord with our inattentive chanting, and in the spiritual world, the Lord wants to have the attention of His devotees ?!!].

So the Lord went to the store room and found pots of butter hanging from the top. He took a piece of rock and broke one of the pots. He then called the 'celebrated monkeys of Vrindavan' that are always eagerly waiting to get the 'butter mercy' from the butter thief. The Lord uses the grinding mortar to climb up and take the butter from the pot and distribute it to the monkeys. Meanwhile mother Yashoda was searching for Krishna and became very angry at the mischief He created! She took a stick and went towards Krishna to catch Him. Seeing this, all the monkeys ran away. The Lord, seeing His mother with a whipping stick, became fearful and started running fast. But mother Yashoda ran faster than Him.

When she was chasing Krishna, the flowers she wore on her head started thinking in astonishment, "Who is this mother Yashoda ?! Our Lord is so powerful! The wind blows out of fear of Him! Death personified is afraid of Him! And she is fearlessly chasing Him ? We don't have the authority to stay on her head. We should fall at her feet and pay our obeisances!". Thinking this way, the flowers on mother Yashoda's head started falling down to the ground. Then Yashoda caught Krishna and brought some ropes to bind Him to the grinding mortar. To her astonishment the rope was two fingers too short. She brought more and more ropes but each time the length of the rope was always two fingers too short. Yashoda became very tired and almost gave up and then the Lord felt sorry for her and allowed Himself to

be bound! The 'two fingers short' indicate that to bind the Lord (or bring the Lord under control) we need

1. Endeavor and 2. Mercy. Without these two our devotion is not complete.

I will stop here as we know the rest of the story where Krishna goes into the backyard with the mortar and broke the two Arjuna trees and delivered the two sons of Kuvera who were cursed by Narada Muni! If anyone wants to share that pastime you are most welcome!!

The Lord's pastime as a child is so sweet that how much ever we hear it, we never get tired! He is so merciful to display some of His unlimited pastimes to us and capture our otherwise wavering minds!

Sri Sri Radha-Damodara ki Jai!!! Sri Sri Giri-Govardhan ki Jai!!!

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Kalacakra das

Big Mistake

Date: 06 Nov 2002

Author: Radha Madanmohan das

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

I wish to share an article given by HH Satsvarupdas Goswami Maharaj. He quotes that the biggest mistake of modern society is the forgetfulness of Lords very basic teaching. Lord Krsna says in Bhagavad Gita that, "You are not this body". We are spirit soul part and parcel of Krsna and our nature is to serve Him. *jivera swarup hoi nitya krishna das*

Just like in normal arithmetic, if we make any mistake in the beginning itself, then the same mistake will be carried out till the answer. Even if we take enough care, we will never get correct answer. Similarly if we do not understand the ABC of spiritual life that we are not this body, we are spirit we can not achieve perfection. Srila Prabhupada explains in one of his lecture that Perfection means -"**to remain fixed in devotional service**" of the Lord.

Further to this I wish to extend my heartiest thanks to HG Kalcakra Prabhu for writing such a nice pastime of Lord Damodar.

Thank you very much.

Your servant,

Radha Madanmohan das

Abu Dhabi.

If we are born again in this material world...

Date: 07 Nov 2002

Author: Devakinandana das

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,
Please accept my humble obeisances! All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Gurudev!

Parikshit Maharaj, even before meeting the liberated pure devotee, Sukadev Goswami showed the world what a realised personality he already was by giving us all a prayer to pray and ask for if **we somehow or other do not go back to Krishna in this life itself** - 1.19.16

*punaś ca bhūyād bhagavaty anante
ratiḥ prasaṅgaś ca tad-āśrayeṣu
mahatsu yām yām upayāmi sṛṣṭim
maitry astu sarvatra namo dvijebhyaḥ*

Again, offering obeisances unto all you brahmanas, I pray that if I should again take my birth in the material world I will have complete attachment to the unlimited Lord Krsna, association with His devotees and friendly relations with all living beings.

If we have these 3 components in our lives and we endeavor very hard to maintain them in our lives, by the Lord's mercy, even if we do not leave this material world, we will always however be in the spiritual world, because connection to these components is direct connection to the Supreme Lord!

Your servant,
Devakinandana das
Singapore

Srila Prabhupada

Date: 08 Nov 2002

Author: Kalacakra das

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,
Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

As you all know, today is the disappearance day of Srila Prabhupada. There is no practical difference between appearance day and disappearance day of the acaryas, because both give us a chance to remember them more intensely with a deeper sense of gratitude. Srila Prabhupada has done so much for all of us that as Maharaj used to say, "His glorification is going on 24 hours continuously all over the world". Today, we may all take a little time off from our busy schedules and think, what do we exactly mean when we say, "All glories to Srila Prabhupada!".

We say this so many times (some of us have stopped doing this too) that it becomes mechanical at some point. We even end up writing "PAMHOs" and "AGTSPs" to save our time and energy!

When I say "All glories to Srila Prabhupada", it will make sense if I actually think so in my heart! As Maharaj said in one lecture last year, "We all like to hear our own praises!". How true this is? If we truly introspect in our hearts, we will see that even in devotional service we do a lot of activities with '*pratishta asha*' (desire for fame). This is the last snare of Maya! And from this emanates pride, envy, anger, attachment and all the anarthas. Hence it is advisable to at least mentally offer all the glories to Srila Prabhupada. Today we can go to any part of the world, look into the BTG Magazine and dial a local number to get the association of devotees or visit a temple! If not for Prabhupada can we ever imagine getting this comfort? There was a recent article which said that in US alone there were over 5 million copies of Bhagavad Gita sold in the last few decades out of which more than 50% are that of Srila Prabhupada's "Bhagavad Gita As It Is!" He has made devotional service so easily available to everyone. We all can feel grateful for every single thing His Divine Grace did for us and truly say, "All glories to Srila Prabhupada!". We will get a chance to feel so, if we try to put into practice - His Divine Grace's transcendental instructions!

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

Narada Muni Special

Date: 09 Nov 2002

Author: Kalacakra das

Dear Prabhujis and Matajis,
Hare Krishna. Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

For quite some time i was not writing about Srila Narada Muni. Yesterday i just happened to find an awesome piece of purport in 4.31.3 by Srila Prabhupada. "The great sage Narada travels everywhere. He goes to the demons and the demigods and is **equally respected**. He is consequently described herein as **surasuredya, worshiped both by demons and by demigods**. For Narada Muni, the door of every house is open. Although there is perpetual animosity between the demons and demigods, Narada Muni is welcomed everywhere. Narada is considered one of the demigods, of course, and the word devarsi means "the saintly person among the demigods." **But not even the demons envy Narada Muni**; therefore he is equally worshiped both by demons and by demigods. **A perfect Vaisnava's position should be just like Narada Muni's, completely independent and unbiased.**"

[The words **independent** and **unbiased** are very interesting. Generally we are biased towards somebody only so long as we are getting some benefit from them(in other words we are dependent on them). This is because we are not totally dependent on the Lord. Whereas mahatmas like Narada Muni are **fully dependent on the Lord** which makes them completely independent of others. Hence they are also unbiased. As a result, they are completely **nirapeksha**-they have no expectations from others. If we don't have any expectation from others, then others wont be anxious in our association and we will have a pleasing relationship with everyone. Narada Muni is a practical example].

And then in 4.31.5, Prabhupada makes another excellent remark about Srila Narada Muni as follows...

*"Because of the night's darkness, everyone is afraid of rogues and thieves, especially in great cities. People are often afraid to go out on the streets, and we understand that even in a great city like New York people do not like to go out at night. More or less, when it is night everyone is afraid, either in the city or in the village. However, as soon as the sun rises, everyone is relieved. Similarly, this material world is dark by nature. Everyone is afraid of danger at every moment, but when one sees a devotee like Narada, all fear is relieved. **Just as the sun disperses darkness, the appearance of a great sage like Narada disperses ignorance.** When one meets Narada or his representative, a spiritual master, one is freed from all anxiety brought about by ignorance."*

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada
Kalacakra das

Punch from Abu Dhabi

Date: 11 Nov 2002

Author: Girivaradhari das

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

In Bhagavad Gita 1.15 I would like to share the punch in the purport of this verse

*pāñcajanyaṁ hṛṣīkeśo devadattaṁ dhanañ-jayaḥ
pauṇḍraṁ dadhmau mahā-śaṅkhaṁ bhīma-karmā vṛkodaraḥ*

Lord Krishna is referred to as Hrshikeshha in this verse because He is the owner of all senses. The living entities are part and parcel of Him, and therefore the senses of the living entities are also part and parcel of His senses.

The Lord, situated in the hearts of all living entities, directs their senses. But He directs in terms of the surrender of the living entity, and **in the case of a pure devotee He directly controls the senses.** This tells that the acts of pure devotees are controlled by Krsna himself.

Your servant,
Girivaradhari das,
Abu Dhabi

Glorification of the Lord is Identical with Him

Date: 13 Nov 2002

Author: Vaijayantimala devi dasi

Dear Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

The pure devotees of the Lord conclusively affirm that the Lord can be seen and heard by persistent chanting of the transcendental sound composed of His holy names. That is the reason Srila Narada muni, the dear most devotee of the Lord says that the constant chanting of the transcendental names and activities of Hari, the Supreme personality of Godhead is the only way to get out of the cares and anxieties due to desiring contact of the senses with their objects. Srila Narada muni says in Srimad Bhagavatam 1.6.33

*pragāyataḥ sva-vīryāṇi tīrtha-pādaḥ priya-śravāḥ
āhūta iva me śīghraṁ darśanaṁ yāti cetasi*

The Supreme Lord sri Krishna, whose glories and activities are pleasing to hear, at once appears on the seat of my heart, as if called for, as soon as I begin to chant His holy activities.

Srila Prabhupada says in his purport that, "*it is a natural psychology in every individual case that a person likes to hear and enjoy his personal glories enumerated by others. That is a natural instinct, and the Lord, being also an individual personality like others, is not an exception to this psychology because psychological characteristics visible in the individual souls are but reflections of the same psychology in the Absolute Lord.*" The Lord is *Sthothra priyah*.

There is a common saying that the sweetest and the most liked word for any one is his or her own names. Our attention immediately goes to the place where our names are heard. But then there is a difference between the Lord and the individual soul in this regard. Prabhupada beautifully says that as follows - "The only difference is that the Lord is the greatest personality of all and absolute in all His affairs. If, therefore, the Lord is attracted by the pure devotee's chanting of His glories, there is nothing astonishing. Since He is absolute, He can appear Himself in the picture of His glorification, the two things being identical."

Padma purana says

*nāma cintāmaṇiḥ kṛṣṇaḥ caitanya-rasa-vigrahaḥ
pūrṇaḥ śuddho nitya-mukto abhinnatvāt nāma-nāminoḥ*

Krishna's name is always liberated and spiritual. It is never conditioned by the laws of material nature. **This is because the name of Krishna and Krishna Himself are identical.**

Srila Narada muni very feelingly says *aahutha iva* which means "as if called for", the Lord appears on the seat of the heart. Whereas in the material world, if my son is away in a foreign country, even if I call his names with great love, we can never feel the presence which alone can give us satisfaction. The Lord is in the waiting for His devotee and as soon as His names are lovingly called out by a pure devotee, he makes His presence as He did for Draupadi, Gajendra and so many devotees in the line.

Thus the glorifications of the Lord are identical with the Lord. This understanding will help us to chant His names lovingly and with devotion.

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

Uncultured Men

Date: 14 Nov 2002

Author: Madana Gopal das

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances, All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj

I found this comment in the 2nd Canto Chapter 7 verse 38 of Srimad Bhagavatam in relation to Kalki Avatar. "

It is stated herein that the governmental power of society in the Kali-yuga will be passed over to the uncultured, godless laborer classes of men, and thus the nrdevas (or the ministers of the government) will be the vrshalas, or the uncultured lower-class men of society. No one can expect any peace and prosperity in a human society full of uncultured lower classes of men. The symptoms of such uncultured social animals are already in vogue, and it is the duty of the leaders of men to take note of it and try to reform the social order by introducing the principles of twice-born men trained in the science of God consciousness. This can be done by expanding the culture of Srimad-Bhagavatam all over the world."

Thank you very much,

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Madana Gopal das.

Why Arjuna is a Fit Person to Receive Self Knowledge

Date: 15 Nov 2002

Author: Karthik

Dear Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This a verse from Srimad Bhagavad-Gita 1.46

*sañjaya uvāca
evam uktvārjunaḥ saṅkhye rathopastha upāviśat
visrjya sa-śaram cāpaṁ śoka-saṁvigna-mānasaḥ*

Sanjaya said: **Arjuna, having thus spoken on the battlefield, cast aside his bow and arrows and sat down on the chariot, his mind overwhelmed.**

Purport: *While observing the situation of his enemy, Arjuna stood up on the chariot, but he was so afflicted with lamentation that he sat down again, setting aside his bow and arrows. Such a kind and softhearted person, in the devotional service of the lord, is fit to receive self knowledge.*

This line is the punch: "**Such a kind and softhearted person, in the devotional service of the lord, is fit to receive self knowledge.**"

To my limited understanding a person who is soft hearted is compassionate and whenever someone tries to hurt him he forgives that person. And he also forgets it. So his heart is free. As Maharaj used to say that our heart must be vacant to receive self knowledge. So Arjuna's heart is free(of ill-feelings like envy, hatred etc).That is why he is fit to receive self knowledge.

Thank you very much.

Your humble servant,

Karthik

Abu Dhabi

The Application of Srimad Bhagavatam in our daily lives!

Date: 16 Nov 2002

Author: Devakinandana das

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis!

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

A simple villager once picked up some English words just by listening here and there. He only knew "**Yes**" "**No**" and "**Very good**". But he never attempted to serious understand the application of these words in their proper context. He only thought that a sort of respect for an "English speaking person" could be attained by using these words in front of others!

Once some robbers killed a man while escaping with the loot from his house and made it look like the villager was the culprit. When the villager was brought before the judge in court, the Judge asked him in Bengali, "Did you commit the murder?" The foolish villager thought that if he could speak some English in front of the judge, then he would be impressed and have great respect for him. He may be relieved of these allegations. So the villager replied "Yes!"

The judge asked "Was there anyone else with you?" The villager replied "No!"

Then the judge said , "Do you realise that you will have to go to jail?"

Now the villager thought that he should put forth his protest against such injustice by applying his last resort. To show he was the perfect educated gentleman, he said loudly,

"Very Good!"

Needlessly to say, he was thrown into prison!

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur Maharaj, Srila Prabhupada's spiritual master quoted this story to illustrate that ***even in the field of devotional service, scriptural quotes without proper understanding of the instructions, and true purport but quoted in parrot like fashion is just a subtle way for devotees to receive respect and adoration from the masses.***

Gurudev remarked in Vrndavana that the true test of whether we have ingested the true purports of Srila Prabhupada in Srimad Bhagavatam is ***how we apply the verses and their purports to our daily lives - especially in moments of reversals, adversities and difficulties.***

The way to do that lies in the last line of **Srimad Bhagavatam 12.13.18:**

"...tac chrnvan su-pathan vicarana-paro bhaktya vimucyen narah"

First we must hear (*chrnvan*) Srimad Bhagavatam very properly and submissively, not in a challenging or fault-finding manner. Then whatever we hear we must properly chant with devotion (*su-pathan*), then finally whatever we have heard and now are chanting (meaning writing, transmitting, preaching etc) we must *vicarana paro* - being very serious about understanding - *vicarana* - digest it and ingest it into our daily life - then only we will be freed from the cycle of birth and death.

If we have digested Bhagavatam, then we will display the characteristics of Bhagavatam otherwise we will be like the villager and tie ourselves into a knot - In Srimad Bhagavatam 7.1.9, Narada Muni states very correctly that "...
one can understand whether a living entity is a demon or demigod by understanding that living entity's devotional performance. A thoughtful man can understand how much person is favored by the Supreme Lord by seeing his actions."

Your servant,
Devakinandana das

Srila Prabhupad Punch

Date: 17 Nov 2002

Author: Karthik

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

This is a verse from Srimad Bhagavatam 5.18.32

*jarāyujam̐ svedajam̐ aṅḍajodbhidam̐
carācaram̐ devarṣi-pitr̐-bhūtam̐ aindriyam̐
dyauḥ kham̐ kṣitiḥ śāila-sarit-samudra-
dvīpa-graharkṣety abhidheya ekaḥ*

My dear lord ,You manifest Your different energies in countless forms :as living entities born from wombs, from eggs and from perspiration; as plants and trees that grow out of the earth; as all living entities, both moving and standing, including the demigods, the learned sages and pitas; as outer space, as the higher planets, as the planet earth with it's hills, rivers ,seas ,oceans and islands. Indeed, all the stars and planets are simply manifestations of Your different energies but You are one without a second. Therefore there is nothing behind you. The entire cosmic manifestation is therefore not false but is simply a temporary manifestation of Your invincible energy.

In this verse this line is the punch: ***In other words, the energy of the Supreme Lord is as permanent as the Lord Himself, although His energy is sometimes manifest and sometimes not.***

In this verse we learn that Krishna is the one and only Supreme Lord and that He is *asamurdhavah*.

Thank you very much.
Your humble servant,
Karthik
Abu Dhabi.

Principle of a True Vaishnava

Date: 19 Nov 2002

Author: Sajjanpriya Krishna das

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,
Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Gurudev.

Prahlad Maharaj is one of the foremost devotee of the Lord as you can see that he is being glorified all over the world 24 hours a day. This was also nicely predicted by Kasyapa Muni in 3.14.45 of Srimad Bhagavatam where he says " *bhagavad yasasa samam*" (such pure devotees like Prahlad Maharaj are glorified to the same extent as the Lord). Such an exalted devotee of the Lord expresses his one of the fine instructions to us as follows.

Srimad Bhagavatam verse 7.9.28

*evam janam nipatitam prabhavahi-kūpe
kāmābhikāmam anu yaḥ prapatan prasaṅgāt
kṛtvātmasāt surarṣiṇā bhagavan gṛhītaḥ
so 'haṁ katham nu visrje tava bhṛtya-sevām*

My dear Lord, O Supreme Personality of Godhead, because of my association with material desires, one after another, I was gradually falling into a blind well full of snakes, following the general populace. But your servant Narada Muni kindly accepted me as his disciple and instructed me how to achieve this transcendental position. Therefore, my first duty is to serve him. How could I leave his service?

We can see so much of humility and respect is expressed by Prahlad Maharaj for his Spiritual Master eventhough the Supreme Lord has offered all the invaluable benedictions to him. Prabhupadaexplains nicely in the purport the real position of a disciple and symptom of a pure devotee.

Prabhupada uvaca: "He asked the Lord to engage him in the service of His servant Narada Muni. One should serve the spiritual master first. It is not that one should bypass the spiritual master and desire to serve the Supreme Lord. This is not the principle of Vaishnava. Narottama Dasa Thakura says:

*tandera carana sevi bhaktha sane vāsa
janame janame haya ei abhilāsa*

One should not be anxious to offer direct service to the Lord. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu advised that one becomes a servant of the servant of the servant of the Lord (*gopi bhartuh pada kamalayor dāsa dāsānudāsah*). This is the process for approaching the Supreme Lord. The first service should be rendered to the spiritual master so that by his mercy one can approach the Supreme Personality of Godhead to render service. While teaching Rupa Goswami, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu said, *guru-kṛsna prasāde pāya bhakthi latā bija*: one can achieve the seed of devotional service by the mercy of the guru, the spiritual master, and then by the mercy of Krishna. This is the secret of success. First one should try to please the spiritual master, and then one should attempt to please the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Vishvanatha Cakravarti Thakura also says, *yasya prasādāt bhagavat prasādo* - **One should not attempt to please the Supreme Personality of Godhead by concoction.** One must first be prepared to serve the Spiritual Master, and when one is qualified he is automatically offered the platform of direct service to the Lord. Therefore Prahlad Maharaj proposed that he engage in the service of Narada Muni. **This is the right conclusion.** Therefore he said ' *soham katham nu visrje tava brtya sevām?*' - "**How can I give up the service of my spiritual master, who has favoured me in such a way that I am now able to see you face to face.**" Prahlad Maharaj prayed to the Lord that he might continue to engage in the service of his spiritual master, Narada Muni."

Prahlad Maharaj being such a pure devotee (also a Mahajana) expressing through his prayers,we can understand our position and should try to follow the instructions of a great Mahajana, (*mahājano yena gathah sa panthah*).

Prahlad Maharaj Ki Jai ! Srila Prabhupada ki jai and Srila Gurudev ki jai !!

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sajjan Priya Krishna das

Abu Dhabi.

Srila Prabhupad Punch

Date: 20 Nov 2002

Author: Yogesh

Dear Prabhujis and Matajis

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

In Bhagavad Gita verse 1.19 Lord Krishna says,

*sa ghoṣo dhārtarāṣṭrāṇām hṛdayāni vyadārayat
nabhaś ca pṛthivīm caiva tumulo 'bhyanunādayan*

When Bhishma and the others on the side of Duryodhana blew their respective conch-shells, there was no heart-breaking on the part of the Pandavas. Such occurrences are not mentioned, but in this particular verse. It is mentioned that the hearts of the sons of Dhritarashtra were shattered by the sounds vibrated by the Pandavas' party. This is due to the Pandavas and their confidence in Lord Krishna .**One who takes shelter of the Supreme Lord has nothing to fear, even in the midst of greatest calamity.**

Thank you very much.

Your humble servant,

Yogesh

Recipe for Success in Spiritual Life !!

Date: 22 Nov 2002

Author: Samanjas das

Dearest devotees,
Dandavats. All glories to Sri Sri Guru and Gauranga. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

While rummaging through my cupboard, I stumbled upon this letter from Maharaj dated 8/02/1997 and it caught my attention instantly by dint of the fact that as a footnote of the letter, Maharaj had mentioned that this letter be printed out and circulated to everybody. As he himself pens it, "Pls show to every body. It will be useful to anybody." But somehow due to an unfortunate combination of many factors, primarily laziness I failed to execute his instruction then. Now I am 5 years late but I reasoned that better be late than never at all!! I thought that this sanga might be an appropriate platform to host the contents of this letter, which is remarkably illuminating of the spiritual precepts that we ought to adhere to in order to find success in devotional service and yet simultaneously grope our way through the material mire. I have reproduced the letter as was originally written albeit with some minor editing and omission of certain portions which I deemed to be of a personal nature pertaining to myself. Wishing one and all a pleasant and blissfully inspiring reading - Hari Haribol!!.

Thank you very much.
Your servant,
Samanjas das

Hare Krsna
Dwaraka Dham
8-02-97 Sat
6:15

Dearest Samanjas,
Please accept my heartfelt blessings. A.G.T.S.P. All glories to Sri Sri Rukmini Dwarkadhishji.

I am in receipt of your letter dated 22-01-97. Extremely pleased to go through the contents. If you expertly manage your studies etc at present and do expertly your material activities and in your spare time be sincere to chant 16 rounds and scrutinizingly study B.G & S.B or any book written by him or about him, then be sure dearest son, you are always with me, do not worry at all wherever you may be. Four regulative principles must be very seriously and sincerely followed.

You can serve by using your intelligence. I went through your notes on B.G verses. You have nearly covered all important points. At the moment, please concentrate on your studies. But soon Sri Krsna will give you sufficient time to update your notes, by supplementing with B.G verses you have referred to and relevant verses and stories from S.B regarding the same subject.

As soon as you settle in your service or any job, other developments are bound to follow by Krsna's mercy. Srila Prabhupad's lectures are alive eternally. Please grasp all inspiration and unlimited knowledge from them.

Please expertly do the material duties, that will bring you in the mode of goodness and then in goodness, with full force and purity you chant and study the scriptures scrutinizingly and as you intensely desire, prepare detailed notes. In future we will have to print books.

Please keep all this ready in your mind and Krsna will catch your finger and lead you to enlighten the public at large.

I must stop here. Krsna willing see you in the end of March 97.

I hope this meets you in good health and KC.

I remain,

Yours Ever Well-wisher

(signed)

Mahavishnu Goswami

Six Symptoms of Surrender

Date: 23 Nov 2002

Author: Gomathi Ganga devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances! All glories to Srila Prabhupada! All glories to Srila Gurudev!

When a person becomes firmly convinced about the importance of devotional service, he surrenders unto the Supreme Lord. There are six symptoms of surrender (given by Srila Prabhupada in one of his purport from Narada-bhakti sutra) :

- 1) One should perform only those actions favorable for devotional service to Krsna.
- 2) One should give up everything unfavorable for discharging devotional service.
- 3) One should firmly believe that Krsna will protect one in all circumstances and that no one is a better protector than Krsna.
- 4) One should have the conviction that Krsna is one's maintainer, and one should not take shelter of any demigod for maintenance.
- 5) One should always remember that one's activities and desires are not independent. In other words, the devotee should feel completely dependent on Krsna and thus he should act and think as Krsna desires.
- 6) One should always think himself the poorest of the poor and feel totally dependent on the mercy of Krsna.

Srila Prabhupada ki Jai !

Thank you very much.

Your servant,

Gomathi Ganga devi dasi

Govinda

Date: 24 Nov 2002

Author: Karthik

Dear Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

Hare Krishna. This is verse from Srimad Bhagavad Gita verse 2.9

*sañjaya uvāca
evam uktvā hṛṣīkeśam guḍākeśaḥ paran-tapaḥ
na yotsya iti govindam uktvā tūṣṇīm babhūva ha*

Sañjaya said: Having spoken thus, Arjuna, chastiser of enemies, told Kṛṣṇa, “Govinda, I shall not fight,” and fell silent.

In the previous verses, we see that Arjuna says "*oh this is drying up my senses, my mouth is drying up* (verses 1.28,2.8) etc.

Govinda means "**A Person Who gives pleasure to the senses**" - Krishna. And now we see that Arjuna's senses are numb. So Govinda (the giver of pleasure to senses) is going to enliven the senses of Arjuna.

Thank you very much.

Your humble servant,

Karthik

Abu Dhabi.

Krishna Conscious Atmosphere

Date: 25 Nov 2002

Author: Poorna Pragna das

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,
Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

Living in a society surrounded by material pleasures, a thought came on me "Am I really Krishna conscious?" It is said that the happiness of material enjoyment generally drags one to the lowest grade of life, namely degradation to animal life, because of unrestricted sense enjoyment. To be in Krishna consciousness, one need not go to the strict saintly life. Srimad Bhagavatam 3.22.34 says

*niṣṇātaṁ yoga-māyāsu muniṁ svāyambhuvaṁ manum
yad ābhraṁśayituṁ bhogā na śekur bhagavat-param*

Maitreya to Vidura: **Thus Svayambhuva Manu was a saintly king. Although absorbed in material happiness, he was not dragged to the lowest grade of life, for he always enjoyed his material happiness in a Krishna conscious atmosphere.**

In purport Srila Prabhupada says, "*Krishna consciousness does not stops one in his/her propensity for material enjoyment, but simply regulates ones habits in the life of sense enjoyment. In spite of their enjoying the material advantages, they can be liberated in this very life by practicing Krishna consciousness by the simple method of chanting the holy names of the Lord*

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

Thank you very much.
Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada,
Poorna Pragna das
Abu Dhabi.

Remembrance

Date: 26 Nov 2002

Author: Poorna Pragna das

Dear Prabhus and Matajis,
Dandavat pranams. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

Lord Krishna says in Bhagavad Gita verse 4.5

*śrī-bhagavān uvāca
bahūni me vyatītāni janmāni tava cārjuna
tāny ahaṁ veda sarvāṇi na tvaṁ vettha paran-tapa*

The Personality of Godhead said: Many, many births both you and I have passed. I can remember all of them, but you cannot, O subduer of the enemy!

Although the above statement is understandable, it applies to our memory related to material knowledge. Whereas the spiritual knowledge gained in this life will be carried over to next birth also. This is confirmed in Srimad Bhagavatam.

Vyasadeva was the disciple of Naradaji and was anxious to hear what Narada did after initiation from the spiritual masters. He inquired, (Srimad Bhagavatam 1-6-4) "O son of Brahma, how did you pass your life after initiation, and how did you attain this body, having quit your old one in due course?"

In purport Srila Prabhupada explains, "*A spirit is not annihilated even after annihilation of the material body, so also spiritual consciousness is not annihilated.*" *This is what happened when Gajendra was in danger. SB 8-3-1*

*śrī-bādarāyaṇir uvāca
evaṁ vyavasito buddhyā samādhāya mano hṛdi
jajāpa paramaṁ jāpyaṁ prāg-janmany anuśikṣitam*

Sri Sukadeva Goswami continued: Thereafter, the king of elephants, Gajendra, fixed his mind in his heart with perfect intelligence and chanted a mantra which he has learned in his previous birth as Indradyumna and which he remembered by the grace of Krishna.

Thank you very much.
Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,
Poorna Pragna das,
Abu Dhabi.

Bhakti - Development and Protection

Date: 27 Nov 2002

Author: Radha Madanmohan das

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,
Dandavat pranams. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

These are the excerpts from "Teachings of Lord Caitanya"

"Lord Caitanya said that by the mercy of the spiritual master one can achieve the causeless mercy of the Lord, and by the mercy of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, one can attain the mercy of the bona fide spiritual master.

Thus by the mercy of the spiritual master and Krsna, one receives the seed of devotional service. He has only to sow the seed in the field of his heart, just as a gardener sows the seed of a valuable tree. After sowing this seed, one has to water it in the form of chanting and hearing the holy name of the Supreme Lord or by taking part in discussions about the science of devotional service in a society of pure devotees. When the plant of devotional service sprouts up from the seed of devotion, it begins to grow freely. When it is full grown, it surpasses the length and breadth of this universe and enters into the transcendental atmosphere, where everything is bathed in the effulgence of the brahmajyoti. The plant even penetrates this brahmajyoti and gradually enters the planet known as Goloka Vrndavana. There the plant takes shelter at the lotus feet of Krsna. That is the ultimate goal of devotional service. After attaining this position, the plant produces fruit, which is known as the fruit of love of Godhead. However, it is necessary for the devotee, or transcendental gardener, to pour water on the plant daily by chanting and hearing. Unless one waters the plant by chanting and hearing, there is every chance that it will dry up.

Lord Caitanya pointed out to Rupa Goswami that there was a certain danger to be encountered while watering the root of the devotional plant. After the plant has grown some bit, an animal may come and either eat or destroy it. When green leaves of a plant are taken by some animal, the plant generally dies. The most dangerous animal is considered a mad elephant, for if a mad elephant enters into a garden, it causes tremendous damage to plants and trees. An offense to a pure devotee of the Lord is called vaisnavaparaahd, the mad elephant offense. In the discharge of devotional service, an offense to the feet of a pure devotee can create havoc. Thus one has to defend the plant of bhakti by tending it properly and taking care not to commit offenses. If one is cautious, the plant can properly thrive."

Thank you very much.

Your servant,

Radha Madanmohan das

Abu Dhabi

Spiritual Instructions

Date: 29 Nov 2002

Author: Samanjas das

Dear devotees,

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

I have extracted and reproduced excerpts from a letter dated 8/11/1994 which Maharaj wrote to me. They contain general instructions and are both enlightening and enlivening. The common thread that weaves through almost all of Maharaj's letters is that a sadhaka ought to strive to seek a harmonious balance between one's material and spiritual aspirations. However as he ages, the material fever should abate and in place the spiritual fever has to be upped more fervently.

Thanking one and all. Hari hari bol !!

Your servant,

Samanjas das

Hare Krishna

London 8-11-94 Tuesday

5.30 am

Dear Kumar,

Dear Daya, Vicknesh, Aris, Ashok, Hari and Sri - Prabhus, Unni and all Singapore Vaishnavas,

Please accept my heartfelt blessings. All glories to Srila Prabhupada, all glories to Sri Guru and Gauranga.

I am pleased to acknowledge the receipt of your detailed, humble letter dated 9-10-94. I was in Europe for two weeks hence bit delay in replying your letter.

Srila Prabhupada wanted everyone to understand the Vedic culture through our scriptures. As it is, in the material existence everybody is suffering unsurpassable miseries. And being ignorant, they are behaving like crazy persons. Please request them all to add Krsna and Bhagavad Gita to their disturbed miserable lives and they will find real solace with Krsna Consciousness. But all of you please learn 4 seed verses i.e Ch 10 verses 8, 9, 10 and 11 and Ch 12 and 15 full. And then as time permits you all please go through the whole B.G. May our Lord bless you all young persons to genuinely help the public at large. Sincerity of purpose is required. Rest of it is expertly managed by Krsna. My heart is really dancing in real ecstasy to read that you are all managing Krsna temple programme in Dhotis and tilaks etc. Please always try to be very punctual and serious in conducting the whole programme. With all these activities genuinely conducted my long cherished dreams seem to take definite shape. If all of you try genuinely, I guarantee you all that soon there will be a very nice sparkling group - maybe Krsna's grace situated in some preaching center. Our nucleus will be at Valsad. I am going to India in Jan, Feb 95 and staying there for 4/5 months this time to give definite shape to Valsad project.

On Sunday, we are flying to Nairobhi (Kenya) and South Africa for two months. We will be back in London in the middle of Jan 95 and soon depart for India. So please write to me at London's address.

Dear Kumar, as soon as time permits I am eager to write to your mother. Till that time all of you, without neglecting your studies or prescribed duties, genuinely further Srila Prabhupad's movement as much as can. May our dearest Lord Krsna be with you always.

Your Ever well-wisher,

(Signed)

Mahavishnu Goswami.