

## Remedy for Threefold Miseries - Part 9

**Date:** 01 Dec 2015

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

The following is continuation of the topic "**Remedy for Threefold miseries**" which is transcription of nectarean class on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 7.15.24 given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj in Dwaraka dham on December 7 2003, on the auspicious occasion of Vyasa Pooja of Srila Gurudeva. In the previous offering we heard few points from Maharaj. Now we shall hear further.

6. **Natural Conditioning:** When we are in this material world, as it is we are in difficulty. And the other thing is that we should never give in to the conditioning. As it is we are known as conditioned souls - *baddha jiva*. We are not *muktas*. We are *baddha*, bound and natural conditioning is there. Natural conditioning means we have to take birth; And those of us who have taken birth, we have to die. That is definite. Our Yamaraj is not Indian officer. Otherwise you just give him 100 Rs and he is gone. (loud laughter) (Pointing to one devotee Maharaj jokes) You always give 100 \$ to the policeman and say forget about everything. But no, nothing like that with Yamaraj. Yamaraj is Yamaraj. When the time is over, we cannot tell him, "Please wait. I will complete few things in the bank." No. No time is given.

We have to be ready for these things and as soon as you understand these intricacies of material life. We know fully clearly that we have the material conditioning that we have to take birth to obtain this material body, we have to grow in adverse circumstances. And again those who are born, death is certain, one day we have to go. And in between old age is there. All these things are may be once. Birth is once, death is once and old-age also; but many times we are sick in between. Sickness is really horrible. Millions of times, we are always sick. ***If you are not with Krishna, means you are sick. Definitely. If you want to be alright, then you go to Krishna. You may be lying on the bed. But your eyes are not sick. Your body may be sick. So open the eyes and take to Bhagavad-Gita or Bhagavatam or hear Mahamantra.*** Please remember these things that these are natural conditionings. And these things also, birth, we already had anyway and so that does not reduce the miserable condition we had at the time of birth. So ***now knowledge should be there that again I do not want to squeeze myself into another womb. And by our own activities we are really ordering our next body.*** You know just like if you place order for sweets from shops, the parcel comes home. So we are also placing orders - "I want hog's body." And the parcel comes. We don't want that. Please, this is Bhagavatam's instruction.

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

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sudarshana devi dasi.

## Remedy for Threefold Miseries - Part 10

**Date:** 02 Dec 2015

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

The following is continuation of the topic "**Remedy for Threefold miseries**" which is transcription of nectarean class on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 7.15.24 given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj in Dwaraka dham on December 7 2003, on the auspicious occasion of Vyasa Pooja of Srila Gurudeva. In the previous offering we heard few points from Maharaj. Now we shall hear further.

**6. Don't increase the conditioning:** Prabhupada said that somebody has to remind us that we are in a miserable condition. Otherwise we take comfort that, "I am alright." One thing we can do regarding this conditioning is that we should not increase the conditioning. We are in the habit of increasing the conditioning under the name of material, artificial necessities. This is our greatest drawback. You come to Dwaraka and you want AC room! It is a bankruptcy of our devotional service. All the windows are closed and then you have to fit in the AC box and through that burnt air will come and you say, "How nice it is ! This is best." (laughter) You have come to Dwaraka and it is open-air. No pollution. At least stay here in *shuddh* air, purified air. Why condition again? "Without AC I cannot survive?" This is again conditioning. Once we were in Dubai and there was one business man who was running some electronic shop. He could not walk on the street at all. Dubai is very hot and everyone is very addicted to AC. In fact government has made it compulsory that you must have AC. All the AC boxes are on the road and they throw the fire out on the persons walking in the road. Nobody walks. It is like walking on fire. This is condition again. That man was not able to walk to the temple also. He said, "Without AC, I can't move." When he is in his shop AC, then when he steps into the car, again AC, when he goes into the house, again AC. This is additional conditioning.

Then without trousers, people can't walk on the roads. This is another conditioning, Gujarati conditioning (laughter). Once a local person here asked our Murali, "You are Muslim by birth. But how come you are wearing dhoti-kurta?" He said, "I have given all my trousers to Gujaratis." (loud laughter) Murali is very plain and straight forward man. So he told them, "I don't have any trousers as all of you have taken them." Please, this is conditioning. Again these collars, big and small and various styles. If it is cold climate, then it is ok. We can use the collars to close. But why do you need such clothing here? It has no need. We are using so much cloth for these collars. Some long shirts..Yesterday we saw a boy, he was in Muslim kurta. The whole body was covered with kurta. I told him, "There is no need of this. How much cloth you are using?" He replied, "It is father's money." (loud laughter) Ready made money. And here we find labourers who don't have anything to put on. They don't have any choice. Whatever they get, they will put because they have to earn hundred rupees. It is better to become labourers. Completely slim bodies, no diabetes, always hunger is there. Best thing. ***Please, don't increase the conditioning and that is Prabhupada's message. Have just the bare minimum necessities and then only devotional service is possible.***

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

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sudarshana devi dasi.

## Remedy for Threefold Miseries - Part 11

**Date:** 03 Dec 2015

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

The following is continuation of the topic "**Remedy for Threefold miseries**" which is transcription of nectarean class on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 7.15.24 given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj in Dwaraka dham on December 7 2003, on the auspicious occasion of Vyasa Pooja of Srila Gurudeva. In the previous offering we heard few points from Maharaj. Now we shall hear further.

**7. Study Prabhupada's books:** I was also in the mad crazy way when we first migrated to London and then tried to increase the whole thing and to my surprise, the expenses shot up. Then I understood that it was because the artificial conditioning is increasing. Minimum necessities should be there. But all extra necessities should be completely curtailed. Every one of us are in different situations. We try to be simple; but wife may not agree. Or wife may be simple; we may not agree. **There are so many difficulties. But somehow or the other, take shelter of Prabhupada in your disagreements also. Shout or scream; but read Bhagavatam.** (loud laughter) I many times tell the couples when they have children, "Please don't shout in front of the children. You have a shouting room, one separate room and whenever you feel like shouting at each other, go into that room and shout." Please, please avoid these things. **Even if you are screaming, you open Bhagavatam. Then you will be completely peaceful.**

Srila Prabhupada has insisted always that, "**Please be simple so that you have time for going to Bhagavatam which I had written laboriously.**" Just remember how daily 1 am he used to get up and without any rest till 10 pm in the night he was working. He will rest at 10pm and again within 3 hours he will wake up and write. Many times he was telling, "Why am I writing, if you are not reading?" Please, be fanatic about Prabhupada's books. Otherwise we don't have any capacity to uplift you. We have only one finger and that finger instead of pointing at anywhere else, we use to point towards Prabhupada. That's it. All other 9 fingers are useless. One is useful. This is how please come to the correct way and that is why we are here. Vyasa Pooja is correct word - we should worship Vyasadev. Vyasadev has shown that in no way under the name of religious activity, we should try to increase the sense gratification. That is our way. Otherwise everyone will say, "Oh, this doesn't suit me. This Krishna is too much austere. If I worship Krishna, I loose everything." I tell them, "I worship Krishna and instead of 10 by 10 room, I am in 20 by 100 room. I didn't loose anything. Why should you loose?" They say, "We are not ready." You are not ready for the Supreme Absolute Truth and that is our defect.

Even now we take comfort in our own situations and we hope that it should be good. But it will never be so because that is the way how material life is. Material life is not for happiness and we are trying to find out sukh there. How? This is what Srila Prabhupada has told us. And that is why nobody could deny, because it is sanatan. Otherwise how did Ambarish Prabhu get attracted to Prabhupada. He was already rolling in dollars. Why should he come this side? All of you may be very rich that time. But now you are all in simple clothes. **These young boys, particularly the younger ones, we should try to be merciful to them and just elevate them by teaching some verses or allow them to speak. They will be nice preachers in future. They will remember that, "My father was going to Dwaraka and there was some old man and he was calling me on the stage." (laughter) We would have gone by that time. But they will remember always. And that will give them the impetus to do devotional service.**

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

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

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

## Remedy for Threefold Miseries - Part 12

**Date:** 04 Dec 2015

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

The following is continuation of the topic "**Remedy for Threefold miseries**" which is transcription of nectarean class on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 7.15.24 given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj in Dwaraka dham on December 7 2003, on the auspicious occasion of Vyasa Pooja of Srila Gurudeva. In the previous offering we heard few points from Maharaj. Now we shall hear further.

**7. Practise Bhagavatam:** We should not be worrying about *adhibhautik dukkh*. It is Krishna's arrangement. Srila Prabhupada's teachings are eternal. He had started the 'League of Devotees' in Jhansi. And somebody donated a big building for his devotional activities. So it was arranged very nicely. Prabhupada was very happy. Printing was going on and the devotees were progressing nicely. One day the owner of the building came and said Prabhupada, "Swami, I want my house back." Without any hesitation, Prabhupada gave the key. And he didn't even have anything to take along with him. So many things were left. And he just went alone, "Forget about the whole thing." Why? Because He knew that Krishna has something else in mind. He saw Krishna and not this owner. Otherwise he could have gone to the court and proved that he is here and that the owner had promised him etc..But Prabhupada was not interested in wasting his time in these eventual events. Please take the lessons from his life. Without hesitation, he left and he did not have any direction at that time. He didn't know really what is there in the future. ***This is how any situation arises, it is Krishna given situation. In our languages we say many times that even the leaf of the tree does not move without the sanction of Krishna. So all the things which you are undergoing, are they not sanctioned by Krishna? So why keep blaming and worrying about people who are troubling? Please these are the tenets we should follow.***

Following is very difficult. To lecture is very easy. But Prabhupada, that's why gave very nice name. It is Bhagavatam class and not lecture. In college we see professors put on coat and suit and come and speak and go. But this is not lecture. Please, it is class. Class means you have to participate. Otherwise what is the meaning of class and in participation regarding Bhagavatam, we have to realise - 'real eyes', real. ***It should be reality. It should not be only discussion. Now we have discussed that we have to be merciful to other living entities who are troubling us. So that we have to realise. And real means to put into practice. And all the scriptures without fail gives this. You go through any of our scripture. Majority of the verses are regarding improving our behaviour.*** That's why, Prabhupada's way is that we never meddle into the sahajiya way, "Radhe Radhe Radhe". No 'Radhe, Radhe, Radhe". You sit down and work. We cannot simply dance, "Radhe Radhe" when everything is dirty. No you clean first. And Radha word comes from āradhana. Intensive prayers is known as Aradhana and that is Radha. She intensely does service. H H RadhaGovind Maharaj very nicely pointed out in yesterday's class that how the main gopi Radha, She was Herself serving Krishna. She has thousands of maids. But She Herself served. This is Radha. So instead of serving, if we simply dance, thinking that we are religious, then it is misdirection in the religion.

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

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sudarshana devi dasi.

## Remedy for Threefold Miseries - Part 13

**Date:** 05 Dec 2015

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

The following is continuation of the topic "**Remedy for Threefold miseries**" which is transcription of nectarean class on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 7.15.24 given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj in Dwaraka dham on December 7 2003, on the auspicious occasion of Vyasa Pooja of Srila Gurudeva. In the previous offering we heard few points from Maharaj. Now we shall hear further.

**7. Just follow Srila Prabhupada:** And one thing, I don't understand why we should go away from Prabhupada's books? If we are with Srila Prabhupada, so much he has given us. And now he is very much alive in his books. So other books, just forget about it. **Whatever he has given is all. No need of anything else. Frankly speaking for us, our Vyas is Srila Prabhupada, our Narad is Srila Prabhupada. Whatever we want is with Prabhupada.** Our Ramayan, Mahabharat all kadambini is in Prabhupada. *When we have not read Prabhupada carefully first, why do you want this kadambini and that kadambini?* I cry really when there is no Bhagavatam seminar and instead kadambini seminar. Please avoid these things. This is misdirection. *Never entertain these things and because of these misdirections, we don't know that we are losing our health.* Anything when we go away from Bhagavatam, away from Bhagavata dharma given by Srila Prabhupada, very nicely explained by Srila Prabhupada, instead of following the simple and straight forward way, we complicate the situations and follow our own concoctions, and then we lose our health.

And one day we are bound to lose the health and go anyway. So final nooze is going to be there. So till then please don't misdirect yourselves and particularly the young children. You will confuse them. Please give them only Prabhupada. Only straight forward way. Otherwise there are so many misdirections are going on. But no other way, no other way. **If you follow any other path apart from Bhagavata dharma, means you are sick. And in order to cure yourself from that sickness, you have to come to Bhagavatam and Prabhupada particularly.**

Prabhupada has given us such a nice life style - 'Get up early in the morning, such a nice pooja, nice chanting, nice Bhagavatam discussion - then you can do your seva or whatever duties you have prescribed, again come back, offer prasadam, nicely take prasadam, always happy.' What is wrong? What is wrong in this? The whole living pattern in Bhagavatam way, he has laboriously introduced and he has given to us. I don't know how those people who were leading a night life, they were sleeping at 3 am, how he made them get up at 4 am? How they could be convinced? But Prabhupada was very pure. That's why.

We were also very lazy and so very misguided in our country. Prabhupada wanted us to take up these things nicely. But we were not able to hear him. Always he used to request the families, "You have four children. Please give one child to me. I will make him a nice brahmana, Vaishnava." They will say, "Forget about it Swami. My children will become nice business men. I am sending him to London. He will become barrister and all the scratch from London, he will bring here." Please, we don't want that.

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

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sudarshana devi dasi.

## Remedy for Threefold Miseries -Part 14

**Date:** 06 Dec 2015

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

The following is continuation of the topic "**Remedy for Threefold miseries**" which is transcription of nectarean class on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 7.15.24 given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj in Dwaraka dham on December 7 2003, on the auspicious occasion of Vyasa Pooja of Srila Gurudeva. In the previous offering we heard few points from Maharaj. Now we shall hear further.

8. **Glimpse of Vedic Life:** Prabhupada used to say, "Better to go 100 years back." I can say that even 70 years back it was very beautiful. There was no electricity. 90% of the people were farmers. So much grains were there. No place to store. No bags to fill up. So we had cellars. There was small hole in the house and through that hole, the grains were poured into that rooms. And after the season, when it was required, it was used. So much grain was there, so much vegetables, so much fruits were there and cent percent people were honest business man. **There was no cheating. Corruption was completely absent.** When we were children, we lived in big house and 25 people were staying in house. And there was not a single chair. And nobody suffered from arthritis or something. No it was completely absent.

There was only one doctor and he also didn't have much to do. So every day he will come and ask in the market, "How are you? How are you?" and then he will say, "Oh, you are all alright! I am starving." (laughter) So eventually he had no job. So he will take small children and go for swimming. This is how those days were very peaceful. Bright moon light was there at night or darkness was there. **Night is meant for darkness and because we were studying using oil lamps, our eyes are still now very good. This glare of light was completely absent.** Till night there was no bright light at all. Some lamp was going on and no electricity bills. Oil seeds were supplied by the farms. We have the farm lands and with those seeds if we go, there was crude machine to take out the oil. That oil we could use for eating and burning the lamps. Nothing was bought. Rupee was completely unseen. We didn't see money. Mother sometimes gave 1 Rupee to buy the things and we three boys had to go to carry. (laughter) And now if we give 1000Rs also, one boy can carry.

Please, this is how **Bhagavatam life is the best life and at every point, remedy is there for all the dhukhas, all the miseries. sañkleśa-nirvāṇam uśanti nānyathā. sañkleś** - these Kaliyuga forces have created the mental anguish - klesh. There is nothing but klesh and this **klesh has to disappear and that can only disappear when you utilise the time in Bhagavatam. Otherwise it will increase. When you are with Bhagavatam, you don't have time to entertain the kleś. It is all mental.** And those who are with the mind, they are correctly known as mentals. **We are all mentals, if we don't come to Bhagavatam.** Then mental hospitals, get beat and drugged. Save yourselves from these things. Even now India is much better. In Western world, everybody is bound to become mental. The marriages don't survive. The children are left at their own mercy. So they are bound to become mentals. Either the children, parents or both. And we either have single-parent family or no-parent family. Please avoid these situations by sticking to Bhagavatam.

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

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sudarshana devi dasi.

## Remedy for Threefold Miseries - Part 15

**Date:** 07 Dec 2015

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

The following is conclusion of the topic "**Remedy for Threefold miseries**" which is transcription of nectarean class on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 7.15.24 given by our beloved spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj in Dwaraka dham on December 7 2003, on the auspicious occasion of Vyasa Pooja of Srila Gurudeva. It is very nice to note that today is 7th December 2015. It has been exactly 12 years since Gurudev has given this wonderful class. But Maharaj's instructions are eternal, sublime and timeless. In fact many devotees from around the world expressed their heartfelt thanks to Maharaj for this wonderful class full of so practical, timely sublime instruction that has been giving them so much faith, solace, courage and sanity to face adverse miseries in life. Srila Gurudev ki Jai !

Now let us hear further.

9. **Run after Krishna:** "Please stick to Bhagavatam. This is the way to realise - real, reality. You come to reality. We want pure ghee and not dalda or vanaspathy. Pure, real; Reality is in purity. Once, we were getting milk from milk-man here and he was very good. Daily he used to bring milk. But it was all water. So I told him, "Please, you pour water. But little less." (loud laughter) He said, "*No. I belong to Krishna's dynasty - Yadava. Never utter these things to me again. We are not pouring water at all. You can come to see when I milk the cows.*" So we were going to the cow-shed and we saw that he milks the cows and gives the milk. Even then it was watery. Then I thought that may be grass is not good or whatever. So one day we went a bit early to his place and we saw the milk-pots. There was already water in it. (loud laughter) He said, "I don't pour water. But while washing, some water might remain in it." This is Kaliyuga. Otherwise we were in the habit of having *dhāroṣana* milk. Cow was there in our home always and father will milk the cow and without even boiling it we will drink. It is best taste. No sugar. And now every alternate man suffers from sugar and says, "I have sugar, I have sugar. I can't eat this, I can't eat that." I told, "Stop eating for one month and your sugar will run away."

Please, please - austerity is completely absent because conditioning is there. "I can't sit down, I can't get up. I can't do this. I can't do that, back ache etc." Yesterday we went to a crorepati Field Marshal's house in Rajkot. I thought that he should be Field Marshal, but later came to know that he has a business and the oil engine he is manufacturing is known as 'Field Marshal'. So the owner was sitting in a very big farm. So we went to invite him, "Tomorrow we are installing the Deities in the temple. Please attend the program." He said, "No, I can't." I asked him, "Why? What happened?" He said, "Bypass". The doctors could not find the vein in the leg and they cut the whole thing and now he was sitting in wheel-chair. He was in such a pitiable condition and I told that ***it is better that we don't have money and then we don't go to the doctors so much.*** He was such a rich man, nice farm house was there, fresh air was there, but he was in such a pitiable condition. Please don't put yourself in that condition. We may not have any disease or we may have something, but diseases will automatically go away. This is a result of artificial conditioning that, "I must have a car. I don't have to walk." Then you are going to be sick. ***Even with the car, you must walk atleast. You should have some exercise. If you don't have anything, please clean the house. Clean the floor and all your stomach trouble will go away.***

I tell the people, "***We have nice temple hall. Clean the floor here and everything will all go away.***" ***These are few of the tips, practical tips to keep the body healthy. And as soon as the body is healthy, we will very well understand, 'aham sarvasya prabhavo'***. Krishna says, "I am the source of all spiritual and material worlds." *mattaḥ parataram nānyat kiñcid asti dhanañ-jaya* - "Because of Me everything is happening and apart from Me nothing exists". Then we will have time to realise that it is Him, who is the remote reason for everything. ***Don't worry about the immediate causes. But see only the remote cause. And please forget all these enmity. Don't envy each other. Do not fall prey to the lower modes and this is Bhagavatam. Srila Prabhupada has given us this. He is really brahma-but***



. As Krishna says in Bhagavad Gita, *mām ca yo 'vyabhicāreṇa bhakti-yogena sevate* - those who are doing unflinching devotional service, *sa guṇān samatīyaitān brahma-bhūyāya kalpate*, they are *brahma-bhūt*. We are all dhal bhūt, bhāt-bhut, patni-bhūt. We are all these different bhutas. But please change and become *brahma-bhūt* and run after Him. Hare Krishna.

Please never glorify me too much. I am becoming proud. I pray Krishna that I forget all these things and get back to Bhagavatam as usual. Hare Krishna."

The concluding lines of the above class just shows the amazing humility of Srila Gurudev and how a Mahabhagavata is always prayerful to Lord to help him to be with Bhagavatam always. No matter how much ever we try to glorify Srila Gurudeva, it is always not enough. Our heartfelt thanks to Maharaj for this beautiful class. Jai Srila Prabhupada ki Jai! Srila Gurudev ki Jai!

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

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

## Nature of Service

**Date:** 08 Dec 2015

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

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

Kunti Maharani in her prayers to Supreme Lord says how when we are ignorant about our actual position, we lose the opportunity to see or know about Supreme Lord. Our actual position is to serve the Supreme Lord. But when we foolishly forget that and think that we have to be served by others then we are in illusion. And this illusory curtain of maya separates us from Supreme Lord. Queen Kunti further says that even for great transcendentalists, philosophers and mental speculators, Krishna has shown that devotional service is the only way to see Him. So what should be the nature of such devotional service? Suta Goswami very nicely explains to the sages of Naimisaranya in Srimad Bhagavatam verse 1.3.38 as follows:

*sa veda dhātuḥ padavīm parasya  
duranta-vīryasya rathāṅga-pāṇeḥ  
yo 'māyayā santatayānuvṛtṭyā  
bhajeta tat-pāda-saroja-gandham*

**Only those who render unreserved, uninterrupted, favorable service unto the lotus feet of Lord Krishna, who carries the wheel of the chariot in His hand, can know the creator of the universe in His full glory, power and transcendence.**

The words *amāyayā*, *santatayā* and *anuvṛtṭyā* in the above verse are worth meditating. *Amāyayā* means rendering service **without reservation**. We should serve the Lord without any conditions. His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada, when he set for the West, did not mind about the inconveniences which either the voyage in Jaladuta can cause to him at that old age, nor did he care for the cold weather in the West. His motive was to fulfill the mission of his spiritual master and spread the glories of Krishna (*anuvṛtṭyā* - favourable). So as a result he was able to render uninterrupted service (*santatayā*). Since his motive was pure, even though he had to face several health issues both during the voyage and later during the busy schedules of preaching, there was no break in his service to the Lord. To the extent that even during the final days and moments of his stay in this planet Srila Prabhupada carried on his service of translating Srimad Bhagavatam. As a result of this glorious service, not only did His Divine Grace go back to Godhead, but he has shown the way for millions of souls to follow this path.

So devotional service should not be done whimsically as per our conveniences. Service should be *anuvṛtṭyā* favourable - to do what Guru and Krishna wants and not what we want. When we have some motive to gain name or fame etc, then we will not be able to do service without reservation. Instead of keeping Krishna in center, we start keeping ourselves and hence would be mindful of our own pleasures and inconveniences. And so over a period of time, when the motive is met, we stop the service. Or sometimes if the motive is not met also we stop the service. Such unfavourable attempts of service will never take us close to Krishna.

Suta Goswami is very nicely glorifying the Lord as 'Rathāṅgapāni' in this verse. Just like how the pure devotees are eager to do unreserved, uninterrupted and favourable service to Him, Lord is also equally anxious to do such kinds of service to His dear devotees. In the battlefield of Kurukshetra both Arjuna and Bhishma were His very dear devotees, though they were fighting against each other. Since they were serving Him as per His will, the Lord also without any reservation broke His own promise and took the chariot wheel in His hand and ran towards Bhishmadev and by His act protected both Arjuna and Bhishmadev. Such is the glory of Supreme Lord.

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

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

## Devotion without Deviation - Part 1

**Date:** 09 Dec 2015

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

Maharaj Bharat was the son of King Rshabhadeva. Srimad Bhagavatam says how when he inherited this planet from his father, he ruled it in such an exemplary manner that the whole planet which was earlier called Ajanabha was renamed as Bharatvarsha. Maharaj Bharata was a very pious and devoted king. He was obedient to his father and he was very immaculate in his prescribed duties. He was very devoted to Supreme Lord and performed various kinds of sacrifices for His pleasures. After ruling the planet for the destined time, he then gave the kingdom to his sons and left for Haridwar. There he stayed in Pulaha ashrama for spending the remaining days of his life in meditation of Supreme Lord. Srimad Bhagavatam verse 5.7.11 explains how he spent his time in Pulaha ashram.

*tasmin vāva kila sa ekalaḥ pulahāśramopavane vividha-kusuma-kisalaya-tulasikāmbubhiḥ kanda-mūla-phalopahāraś ca samīhamāno bhagavata ārāadhanam vivikta uparata-viṣayābhilāṣa upabhṛtopaśamaḥ parām nirvṛtim avāpa.*

**In the gardens of Pulaha-āśrama, Mahārāja Bharata lived alone and collected a variety of flowers, twigs and tulasī leaves. He also collected the water of the Gaṇḍakī River, as well as various roots, fruits and bulbs. With these he offered food to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Vāsudeva, and, worshipping Him, he remained satisfied. In this way his heart was completely uncontaminated, and he did not have the least desire for material enjoyment. All material desires vanished. In this steady position, he felt full satisfaction and was situated in devotional service.**

The word '*ekalaḥ*' in the above verse means **to live alone**. It is always easy for us to do devotional service when we are in a group. Our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj says that *our real test for devotional service is how we are performing sadhana when we are left alone*. When we are alone, we tend to become lazy and careless. But here we find Bharata Maharaj who had enjoyed royal opulence for thousands of years, stayed alone in Pulaha ashrama and sincerely engaged in devotional service.

His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada very nicely mentions in the purport to above verse, "*As stated in Bhagavad-Gita: patraṁ puṣpaṁ phalaṁ toyam yo me bhaktyā prayacchati [Bg. 9.26]. Worship of the Lord is not at all expensive. One can offer the Lord a leaf, a flower, a little fruit and some water.*" When Bharata Maharaja was king, he used to use his wealth nicely in service of Lord. Now at the forest, he worshiped the Lord with whatever things which were available there. In both the cases Krishna was pleased as Lord is concerned only with the intent and loving mood of service. In the concluding lines of the above purport Srila Prabhupada nicely mentions that, "**One may not be able to go to Pulaha-ashrama, but wherever one is one can happily render devotional service to the Lord by adopting the processes mentioned above.**"

So irrespective of the fact that whether we are rich or poor, we are alone or blessed with association of devotees, wherever we are and whatever ashram we are, when we perform our sadhana properly, do our prescribed duties and engage in serving the Lord, then we will always remain blissful. As Maharaj says *devotional service should be simple and at the same time be intense*.

Krishna willing we shall continue to meditate more on this topic in the subsequent offering.

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sudarshana devi dasi.

## Devotion without Deviation - Part 2

**Date:** 10 Dec 2015

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

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

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled, "**Devotion without Deviation**" wherein we were discussing the life of Bharata Maharaja through the pages of Srimad Bhagavatam. In the previous offering we saw the glorious life of Bharata Maharaja as a perfect king and how after completing his prescribed duties, he retired to the forest and engaged in sincere devotional service. Now we shall see further.

Srimad Bhagavatam Canto 5, Chapter 7 tells us how Bharata Maharaja was constantly engaged in thoughts of Supreme Lord and as a result symptoms of ecstasy also manifested in his body. But even in that sattvic environment of forest life, there was some distraction for Bharata Maharaja's devotional life. One day when Bharata Maharaj was meditating on the banks of river Gandaki, a pregnant doe happened to come there to drink water. At that time hearing a loud roar of lion, the doe became afraid and in a hurry jumped across the river to reach the other bank for safety. While she jumped the baby deer fell from her womb into the flowing waters of the river. Distressed by the thought of miscarriage and separation from her flock, the doe immediately died. Bharata Maharaja's meditation was disturbed by this incident. In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 5.8.7 Sukadeva Goswami says,

*taṁ tv eṇa-kuṇakaṁ kṛpaṇaṁ srotasānūhyamānam abhivikṣyāpaviddhaṁ bandhur ivānukampayā rājarṣir bharata  
ādāya mṛta-mātaram ity āśrama-padam anayat*

**The great King Bharata, while sitting on the bank of the river, saw the small deer, bereft of its mother, floating down the river. Seeing this, he felt great compassion. Like a sincere friend, he lifted the infant deer from the waves, and, knowing it to be motherless, brought it to his āśrama.**

The word '*anukampayā*' in the above verse means **compassion**. Bharata Maharaja being a pious king as well as devotee of the Lord felt compassionate for the baby deer and helped it. But then his compassion turned to passion and he started believing that he is completely responsible for the deer's growth and safety. By constantly meditating on the needs of the deer, he slowly started to forget his responsibilities in spiritual life. He forgot the rules and regulations for the advancement of spiritual life, and he gradually forgot to worship the Supreme Personality of Godhead. After a few days, he forgot everything about his spiritual advancement.

When some living entity is in trouble, it is natural for any human being to feel compassion for the same and try to render help. Out of compassion we may try to render help. But after that we don't have the maturity to just move on with life. The great Vaishnava poet Narsi Mehta very nicely sings in his bhajan.

*vaiśnav jan to tene kahiye je pīd parāyi jāne re  
paradukhkhe upakār kare toye man abhimān nā āne re*

**One who knows the pain of others are known as Vaishnavas and such Vaishnavas when they help others, never feel proud of themselves.**

But unfortunately we feel proud of what we did and forget the fact that Krishna had just used us as an instrument to help in that particular instance. As a result, the doer mentality dominates us and keeps us submerged in mode of passion and prevents us from discharging devotional service. His Divine Grace very nicely mentions in the purport to verse 5.8.8. of Srimad Bhagavatam, "*From this we can understand how we have to be very cautious in executing our spiritual duties by observing the rules and regulations and regularly chanting the Hare Krishna maha-mantra. If we neglect doing this, we will eventually fall down. **We must rise early in the morning, bathe, attend mangal-arati, worship the Deities, chant the Hare Krishna mantra, study the Vedic literatures and follow all the rules prescribed by the acaryas and the spiritual master. If we deviate from this process, we may fall down, even though we may be very highly advanced***

."

In the pretext of helping others, we should not be negligent in our sadhana. Krishna willing we shall continue to meditate more on this topic in the subsequent offering.

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,  
Kalacakra Krsna das & Sudarshana devi dasi.

## Devotion without Deviation - Part 3

**Date:** 11 Dec 2015

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

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

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled, "**Devotion without Deviation**" wherein we were discussing the life of Bharata Maharaja through the pages of Srimad Bhagavatam. In the previous offering we saw the below points.

1. Simple and intense bhakti brings bliss in any condition of life.
2. Compassion for others should not push us to mode of passion.

Now let us see further.

3. **Attachment leads to Agitation:** In Srimad Bhagavatam Sukadeva Goswami explains how Bharata Maharaj started developing more and more attachment for the deer. After saving it from drowning, he brought it to his ashram and began to feed it. When he had to go and collect paraphernalia for worship from the forest, he thought that deer might be harmed by any wild animals. So he began to carry it along with him wherever he went. He began to eat and sleep with the deer. In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 5.8.14 Sukadeva Goswami says,

*kriyāyām nirvartyamānāyām antarāle 'py utthāyotthāya yadainam abhicakṣīta tarhi vāva sa varṣa-patiḥ prakṛti-sthena manasā tasmā āśiṣa āśāste svasti stād vatsa te sarvata iti.*

**When Maharaja Bharata was actually worshiping the Lord or was engaged in some ritualistic ceremony, although his activities were unfinished, he would still, at intervals, get up and see where the deer was.**

**In this way he would look for it, and when he could see that the deer was comfortably situated, his mind and heart would be very satisfied, and he would bestow his blessings upon the deer, saying, 'My dear calf, may you be happy in all respects.'**

This verse shows how material attachments are great stumbling blocks in the path of devotional service. These attachments make us so restless and agitated that we start paying more attention to them, even while trying to do devotional service. Srila Prabhupada in his wonderful purport to the above verse says, "*In other words, if one's mind is distracted from worship, a mere show of worship will not be of any benefit. The fact that Bharata Maharaja had to get up at intervals to look for the deer was simply a sign that he had fallen down from the spiritual platform.*"

In case of Bharata Maharaja the attachment appeared in the form of a baby deer. Now-a-days the distractions are of many forms for us through mobiles, laptops and ipads, tablets etc, varying from messages to beeps in Whatsapp or Facebook and other social media. We are very attached to these gadgets and carry them everywhere and anywhere. But none of these are going to accompany us in final journey. So we should be alert not to be deviated by these gadgets while performing our sadhana. In one of the initiation lectures in Dwaraka our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj tells us a powerful mantra to chant before starting our Hare Krishna mantra, "*main sub kuch chodkar jānewāla hun*" - "**I have to go leaving everything behind.**"

Since none of these material things to which we are attached, are going to accompany us, what is the point in brooding over them or holding on to them? In fact these things are going to entangle us not only in this birth, but will push us to hellish life for millions of births. So for our own welfare, it is better we turn our attachment towards Krishna and attentively do our sadhana.

Srila Prabhupada beautifully mentions in purport to verse 5.8.13, "**One who is serious in advancing his spiritual life should be very cautious not to become attached to anything but Krishna.** Sometimes, in order to preach, we have to accept many material activities, but we should remember that everything is for Krishna. If we remember



*this, there is no chance of our being victimized by material activities."* Whether we are using these gadgets in service of Krishna or whether our attachments to these gadgets is distracting our attention towards Lord and agitating us is a honest check which we would have to do for our own selves.

Krishna willing we shall continue to meditate more on this topic in the subsequent offering.

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

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

## Devotion without Deviation - Part 4

**Date:** 12 Dec 2015

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

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

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled, "**Devotion without Deviation**" wherein we were discussing the life of Bharata Maharaja through the pages of Srimad Bhagavatam. In the previous offering we saw how Bharata Maharaj became attached to a baby deer which he saved from drowning, while he was meditating in the forest. Now let us see further.

**4. Meetings and Separations are Krishna's arrangement:** One day the deer ran away from the ashram of Bharata Maharaj and never returned back. Bharata Maharaj became very anxious and began to wonder if the deer had been attacked by wild animals in the forest. He considered himself very unfortunate for having lost the association of the deer who had become very dear to him like his own son. He began to wonder whether the deer had left him because he had not taken proper care of it.

In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 6.15.3 Angira Muni gives a very beautiful instruction to Maharaj Citraketu, when Citraketu laments for the death of his son. Angira Muni says,

*yathā prayānti saṁyānti sroto-vegena bālukāḥ  
saṁyujyante viyujyante tathā kālena dehinaḥ*

**O King, as small particles of sand sometimes come together and are sometimes separated due to the force of the waves, the living entities who have accepted material bodies sometimes come together and are sometimes separated by the force of time.**

In his wonderful purport to the above verse His Divine Grace says, "Like small particles of sand, bodies come together and are separated by the force of time, and people falsely lament for unification and separation. Unless one knows this, there is no question of happiness."

Our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj says that **our meeting any other living entity is like a re-birth**. In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 10.5.24 Vasudev while meeting Nanda Maharaj after a long time says, "It is also by good fortune that I am seeing you. Having obtained this opportunity, I feel as if I have taken birth again. Even though one is present in this world, to meet with intimate friends and dear relatives in this material world is extremely difficult". So Maharaj insisted that we should understand that all meetings and separations are all Krishna's mercy and arrangement.

We may leave for work etc from home and our return to home and meeting our family members is not in our hands. Depending upon our karma and Krishna's will, Lord makes the living entities to meet or separate. When we fail to see the hand of Krishna behind all these things and see it on a bodily platform, then we will always be bewildered and anxious. When we meet people we become very elated and forget everything about Krishna. And when we are separated, we start concocting so many things.

Maharaj used to give us this example of how if someone does not talk with us for a while, our mind starts imagining so many things about them, even if there is no real misunderstanding. The other person might have been busy or occupied with some other problem, but our mind tricks that we are being ignored or neglected. Such negative thoughts takes us far away from Krishna as we keep wasting time in mental speculations. Even while performing devotional service we will face such situations and Maharaj insisted that if we don't remain simple and straight-forward in our

dealings then we will fall a prey to such concoctions and they drag us down to the material rut. In case of Bharata Maharaj, due to his undue attachment for the deer, he was completely overwhelmed by illusory and began to move like a mad-man in the forest, in search of the deer, completing neglectful of his own needs and duties.

Krishna willing, we shall continue to meditate more on this topic in the subsequent offering.

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

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

## Devotion without Deviation - Part 5

**Date:** 13 Dec 2015

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

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

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled, "**Devotion without Deviation**" wherein we were discussing the life of Bharata Maharaja through the pages of Srimad Bhagavatam. In the previous offerings we saw how the great emperor Bharata Maharaj retired to the forest and performed great austerities. But in the attempts of saving a baby deer, he became distracted and deviated from his path of devotional service. In spite of his great care and attention, he somehow lost the deer and was searching for it desperately. Now let us see further.

**5. Negligence results in re-birth:** In Srimad Bhagavatam Sukadeva Goswami explains in verse 5.8.27 how **at the time of death, Bharata Maharaj saw that the deer was sitting by his side, exactly like his own son, and was lamenting his death. Actually the mind of the King was absorbed in the body of the deer, and consequently—like those bereft of Krishna consciousness—he left the world, the deer, and his material body and acquired the body of a deer. However, there was one advantage. Although he lost his human body and received the body of a deer, he did not forget the incidents of his past life.**

Srila Prabhupada in his wonderful purport to Srimad Bhagavatam 5.8.27, quotes the verse 8.6 from Bhagavad Gita:

*yaṁ yaṁ vāpi smaran bhāvaṁ tyajaty ante kalevaram  
taṁ tam evaiti kaunteya sadā tad-bhāva-bhāvitaḥ*

**Whatever state of being one remembers when he quits his body, that state he will attain without fail.**

Our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj says that *at the time of death, we will have rewind of snapshots of whatever we had been doing in life. If we utilised our time and energy in Krishna's service, then we will get those good snapshots and that will help us in our journey back home, back to Godhead. On the other hand if we had engaged our mind and senses mainly in other mundane things, then those snapshots will ensure us to be entangled in different bodies, life after life.* So here we find that Bharata Maharaj was always meditating on the deer and so after death he got the body of a deer.

Normally when we die thinking of some animal, we may get the body of animal. But we will not remember our past life. But in case of Bharata Maharaj, because of his sincere devotional activities which he did in the beginning, Krishna allowed him to remember his past life even in the body of deer. This is indeed causeless mercy of Krishna towards His devotees. Srila Prabhupada very nicely explains in his purport to verse 5.8.26 of Srimad Bhagavatam that, "*Maharaja Bharata purposefully became over-addicted to the deer and neglected his spiritual advancement. To immediately rectify his mistake, for a short time he was awarded the body of a deer. This was just to increase his desire for mature devotional service.*"

So as practising devotees we should be careful not to be negligent in devotional service. Krishna willing we shall continue to meditate more on this topic in the subsequent offering.

Hare Krishna.

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

## Devotion without Deviation - Part 6

**Date:** 14 Dec 2015

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

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

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled, "**Devotion without Deviation**" wherein we were discussing the life of Bharata Maharaja through the pages of Srimad Bhagavatam. In the previous offerings we saw how the great emperor Bharata Maharaj retired to the forest and performed great austerities. But being distracted by baby deer, he gave up his spiritual practice. At the end of his life, due to constant remembrance of deer he got the body of deer in next birth. Now let us see further.

6. **Devotional service never goes in vain:** In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 5.8.28 Sukadeva Goswami says,

*tatrāpi ha vā ātmano mṛgatva-kāraṇaṁ bhagavad-ārādhana-samīhānubhāvenānusmṛtya bhṛśam anutapyamāna āha.*

**Although in the body of a deer, Bharata Maharaja, due to his rigid devotional service in his past life, could understand the cause of his birth in that body. Considering his past and present life, he constantly repented his activities, speaking in the following way.**

In the above verse *bhagavad-ārādhana-samīhā* means '**past activities in devotional service**'. In his wonderful purport to verse 5.8.27 Srila Prabhupada says, "*There was a difference between Bharata Maharaja's acquiring a deer body and others' acquiring different bodies according to their mental condition at the time of death. After death, others forget everything that has happened in their past lives, but Bharata Maharaja did not forget.*"

We have poor memory that we can't even remember many things which we did in this life. But Supreme Lord is all powerful and omniscient. He has track of all our accounts and so when we engage sincerely in His devotional service, He is so merciful to help His devotees to remember Him, even in the body of animal. His Divine Grace says in purport to above verse, "*This is a special concession for a devotee. Even if he attains a body that is nonhuman, by the grace of the Supreme Personality of Godhead he advances further in devotional service, whether by remembering his past life or by natural causes.*"

After death when we get a new body, we don't carry the memories of previous life. But because of his, '**rigid devotional practice**', Krishna mercifully gave him the ability to remember his past life even in the body of animal. The life of elephant Gajendra is another example. When the crocodile caught his leg and the elephant Gajendra fought for thousand years, by the grace of Krishna he remembered the prayer which he used to recite in his previous life as king Indradyumna. Then he started offering those prayers again, the Supreme Lord immediately came on Garuda and saved him from the clutches of crocodile and from cycle of birth and death. As Krishna assures in Bhagavad-Gita 2.40,

*nehābhikrama-nāśo 'sti pratyavāyo na vidyate  
sv-alpam apy asya dharmasya trāyate mahato bhayāt*

**In this endeavor there is no loss or diminution, and a little advancement on this path can protect one from the most dangerous type of fear.**

Devotional service never goes in vain and it protects us life after life. So, now when we have a chance in this life to do bhakti, we must try to make the best use of the available opportunity. Krishna willing we shall continue to meditate more on this topic in the subsequent offering.

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

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

## Devotion without Deviation - Part 7

**Date:** 15 Dec 2015

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

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

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled, "**Devotion without Deviation**" wherein we were discussing the life of Bharata Maharaja through the pages of Srimad Bhagavatam. In the previous offerings we saw how the great emperor Bharata Maharaj got the body of deer in his next birth. Now let us see further.

7. **Repentance leads to rectification:** Remembrance of past, be it previous birth or present birth can be a blessing or a curse. Pleasing incidents might be sweet memory, but the sins we have committed and many other displeasing incidents would be mind-boggling and source of embarrassment. In case of Bharata Maharaj, the remembrance of his past life was very fruitful as it led to repentance of his mistake and increase in intensity of his devotion to Supreme Lord. In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 5.8.28 Sukadeva Goswami says,

*tatrāpi ha vā ātmano mṛgatva-kāraṇaṁ bhagavad-ārādhana-samīhānubhāvenānusmṛtya bhṛśam anutapya māna āha.*

**Although in the body of a deer, Bharata Maharaja, due to his rigid devotional service in his past life, could understand the cause of his birth in that body. Considering his past and present life, he constantly repented his activities, speaking in the following way.**

The words *bhṛśam* in the above verse means **always** and *anutapya-mānaḥ* means **repenting**. To err is human and being encaged in this human body and bound by modes of material nature, we keep committing some mistake or the other. But after doing the mistake, we have this bad habit of not accepting it. We try to blame others, the situation or Supreme Lord Himself for our downfall. As a result we never get free from material bondage. But Bharata Maharaj never blamed anyone else for his mistake.

Srimad Bhagavatam verse 5.8.29 tells us how in the body of a deer, Bharata Maharaja began to lament: "*What misfortune! I have fallen from the path of the self-realized. I gave up my real sons, wife and home to advance in spiritual life, and I took shelter in a solitary holy place in the forest. I became self-controlled and self-realized, and I engaged constantly in devotional service, hearing, thinking, chanting, worshiping and remembering the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Vasudeva. I was successful in my attempt, so much so that my mind was always absorbed in devotional service. However, due to my personal foolishness, my mind again became attached—this time to a deer. Now I have obtained the body of a deer and have fallen far from my devotional practices.*"

When we honestly introspect and accept our mistake and repent for it, then Supreme Lord who is residing as Super-soul in our heart, takes control of us and directs us to the right path. Until we accept our mistakes, we will not be able to hear the voice of Super-soul. In Srimad Bhagavatam 3.31.13, the child in the womb also very nicely mentions in his prayer, '*ātapya māna-hṛdaye 'vasitaṁ namāmi'* - **The Lord is perceived in the repentant's heart.**

Krishna willing we shall continue to meditate more on this topic in the subsequent offering.

Hare Krishna.

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

## Characteristic Traits of A Vaishnava

**Date:** 16 Dec 2015

**Author:** Vaijayantimala devi dasi

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

Once a disciple went to Parashara Bhatta a great acharya in the Sri Vaishnava sampradaya and asked him what are the '*lakṣana*' (characteristic) of a Vaishnava. Bhattar asked his disciple to go and see Ananthazhwar in Tirupati, who is a disciple of Sripada Ramanuja and seek the answer from him. The disciple, after several days of travel, reaches Tirupati. Ananthazhwar seated Bhattar's disciple in the first batch of visitors. After ten days, Ananthazhwar kept the man waiting, until two batches had eaten. After a few days, Ananthazhwar offered him very little food and that too was offered after everyone else had eaten. Then he said to Bhattar's disciple, "*The day you arrived, you said you had a doubt. What is that?*" The man asked him as to what are the characteristic traits of a true vaishnava.

Ananthazhwar replied, "**A Vaishnava is like a crane, is like a hen, is like salt and is like you.**"

**The crane** waits on the banks of a lake, and waits for the big fish alone to catch it for its meals, leaving out the rest of the tiny ones. Likewise a Vaishnava ignores all worldly things and only pays attention to that which pertains to the Lord.

**A hen** runs through garbage in the hope of finding a grain to eat. Just as the hen discards the rubbish and only eats the grain, so does a Vaishnava discard that which is useless. In other words, he discards that which does not pertain to the Lord. A Vaishnava, amidst all the shastras, picks up the essence of it alone filtering out the rest.

**Salt** gives any food its taste. Without salt, however carefully prepared, the dish is not palatable. It is added to every dish and yet we can't pinpoint the salt in the dish. It remains hidden imparting its flavor. So also a true vaishnava does not advertise himself. A servant is not seen but his service is seen.

**A true Vaishnava is truly humble - like you**, (*amāninā māna-dena*) who have disregarded all the ill-treatment meted out to you and sought only knowledge."

Srimad Bhagavatam in 4.21.44 declares that a devotee is *guṇāyanam* - a reservoir of all good qualities.

*guṇāyanam śīla-dhanam kṛta-jñam  
vṛddhāśrayam samvṛṇate 'nu sampadaḥ  
prasīdatām brahma-kulam gavām ca  
janārdanaḥ sānucaś ca mahyam*

**Whoever acquires the brahminical qualifications—whose only wealth is good behavior, who is grateful and who takes shelter of experienced persons—gets all the opulence of the world. I therefore wish that the Supreme Personality of Godhead and His associates be pleased with the brahmana class, with the cows and with me.**

Let us with the blessings of our acharyas, endeavor to develop these characteristics of a real Vaishnava and that alone can please them and the Supreme Lord.

Thank you very much.



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

## Death is Inevitable

**Date:** 17 Dec 2015

**Author:** Sarva Mangala devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This material world is called the world of death. Once Yudhisthira Maharaj is questioned by Yaksha as to what is the most wonderful thing in this world? Yudhisthira Maharaj replied, "**The most wonderful thing is that although everyday innumerable humans and their animals go to the abode of death, still a man thinks he is immortal.**" Man thinks he is never going to die and live forever. Every one who is born in this material world have a destined expiry date and no one can escape it. In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 2.1.4 Srila Sukadeva Goswami says,

*dehāpatya-kalatrādiṣv ātma-sainyeṣv asatsv api  
teṣāṁ pramatto nidhanaṁ paśyann api na paśyati*

**Persons devoid of ātma-tattva do not inquire into the problems of life, being too attached to the fallible soldiers like the body, children and wife. Although sufficiently experienced, they still do not see their inevitable destruction.**

His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada very nicely mentions in the purport to the above verse, "*Our friends, relatives and so-called wives and children are not only fallible, but also bewildered by the outward glamor of material existence . As such, they cannot save us. Still we think that we are safe within the orbit of family, society or country.*" One who properly prepares for the time of death is really intelligent, while one who thinks he can remain at home forever and enjoy the association of his wife and children is a fool. In illusion a man thinks, "My bank balance, my nice house, and my family will protect me." But these cannot protect anyone.

In this regard we came across following thought provoking story.

High in the reaches of Mount Kailash is the abode of Lord Shiva. One evening Lord Vishnu, came to see Lord Shiva. He left behind at the entrance Garuda, who served as His vehicle. Garuda sat alone, marveling at the natural splendor of the place. Suddenly his eyes fell on a beautiful creature, a little bird seated on the arch crowning the entrance to Lord Shiva's place. Garuda wondered aloud, "How marvelous is this creation! One who has created these lofty mountains has also made this tiny bird - and both seem equally wonderful." Just then Yamaraj came passing by with the intention of meeting Lord Shiva. As he crossed the arch, his eyes went over to the bird and he raised his brows in a quizzical expression. Then he took his eyes off the bird and disappeared inside.

Even a slight glance of Yamaraj is said to be the harbinger of death. So Garuda told himself, "Yamaraj looking intently at the bird can mean only one thing - the bird's time is up. Perhaps on his way back he will carry away the bird's soul with him." Garuda's heart was filled with pity for the helpless creature. That it was oblivious of its own impending doom further agonized Garuda and he resolved to save the bird from the clutches of death. He swooped it up in his mighty talons, rushed to a forest thousands of miles away and left the bird on a rock beside a brook. Then he returned to Kailash and regained his position at the entrance gate. Soon after, Yamaraj emerged from inside, and nodded to Garuda in recognition. Garuda greeted him and said, "While going in, you saw a bird and for a moment you became pensive, why?" Yamaraj replied, "Well, when my eyes fell on the little bird, I saw that it was to die in a few minutes, swallowed by a python, far away from here in a forest near a brook. I wondered how this tiny creature would traverse the thousand of miles separating it from its destiny in such a short time. But there are no such serpents here, high on Kailash, and I was briefly puzzled. Then I forgot. Surely it must have happened somehow." Saying this, Yamaraj smiled and went away.

This story nicely explains us however we hard we try to escape from death, "Death is inevitable". Death in the form of time, kaala will seize us just like the serpent seizes its prey. Srila Sukadeva Goswami is advising us that understanding the temporary nature of material existence, we must utilise our time for the self-realisation. When we fail to do this we will remain bewildered in this material existence, life after life. When we use time for Krishna, death is also blissful as after death we will again go back to Krishna.

Srila Prabhupada ki Jai! Srila Gurudev ki Jai!

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sarva Mangala devi dasi

Abu Dhabi.

## The Art of Living - Part 1

**Date:** 18 Dec 2015

**Author:** Vaijayantimala devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

In Maharaj's calendar for 15th December, our beloved Gurudev HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj very beautifully says, "**Whatever happens in this material world today is converted into a dream the next day. Therefore, just think of good days as good dream and bad days as a bad dream. Keep and discard accordingly without getting morose.**"

This is the secret of living which all of us should try to digest and follow. These thought provoking words take us to the following beautiful verse from Srimad Bhagavatam in 5.1.16 wherein Lord Brahma is instructing Maharaja Priyavrata on performing his duties as a ruler.

*mukto 'pi tāvad bibhryāt sva-deham  
ārabdham aśnann abhimāna-śūnyaḥ  
yathānubhūtaṁ pratiyāta-nidraḥ  
kiṁ tv anya-dehāya guṇān na vṛṅkte*

**Even if one is liberated, he nevertheless accepts the body he has received according to his past karma. Without misconceptions, however, he regards his enjoyment and suffering due to that karma the way an awakened person regards a dream he had while sleeping. He thus remains steadfast and never works to achieve another material body under the influence of the three modes of material nature.**

1. The first thing is that we have to accept the fact that we have received this body and our situations in life according to our past karma. This is what Lord Brahma explained to Priyavrata in Srimad Bhagavatam verse 5.1.15 when he said, "*My dear Priyavrata, according to our association with different modes of material nature, the Supreme Personality of Godhead gives us our specific bodies and the happiness and distress we achieve. One must therefore remain situated as he is and be conducted by the Supreme Personality of Godhead, exactly as a blind man is led by a person who has eyes with which to see.*"

This acceptance makes everything easy. Otherwise we have so many confusions and misconceptions which makes our life miserable.

2. The second thing is that having accepted a body according to our previous karma we are undergoing happiness and distress. How to go through these? This is very nicely explained by Srila Prabhupada in his purport to SB 5.1.16, "*While sleeping, one dreams many unreal things, but when he awakens he disregards them and makes progress in factual life. Similarly, a liberated person—one who has completely understood that he is not the body but a spirit soul—disregards past activities performed in ignorance.*"

Krishna willing we shall continue more on this topic in the subsequent offering.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Vaijayantimala devi dasi

Mumbai.

## The Art of Living - Part 2

**Date:** 19 Dec 2015

**Author:** Vaijayantimala devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the previous topic titled, "Art of Living", wherein we were meditating on Lord Brahma's instruction to Maharaja Priyavrata in Srimad Bhagavatam verse 5.1.16. In the previous offering we saw as to how we must accept the fact that,

- 1) We have got this body because of our past karma and
- 2) We are entitled to suffer/enjoy the distress and happiness in this body according to our karma.

Now we shall see further.

Our beloved spiritual master, HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj quotes from the shastras,

*sukhasya duḥkhasya na kopidātā  
parodadātīti kubuddhiresā  
purākṛtam karma sadaiva bhujyate  
dehin kvacin nistara yat tvayā kṛtam*

**No one is the cause for our happiness and distress. Only a foolish person thinks that the miseries are given by others. We always enjoy happiness or distress based on our previous karma. So as long as one is embodied, he has to patiently tolerate the results of his past karma and by this way he can get rid of it.**

Maharaj says, "We don't blame the whole world and create more complications. We blame ourselves that, 'My devotional service is less. And that is why this person is behaving like this.' **Please don't blame anybody else. Blame your own selves and there, the material things end. If you go on blaming others, then it is carried through. We don't want to linger around in the material existence. We want to cut it. We want to stop it. So this is the best way to stop..**"

3. The third thing is how to act in the present to avoid the complications of another birth? Srila Prabhupada writes, "He performs his present activities in such a way that they produce no reactions. This is described in Bhagavad-gita verse 3.9. *yajñārthāt karmaṇo 'nyatra loko 'yaṁ karma-bandhanaḥ: if one performs activities for the satisfaction of the Supreme Personality, the yajña-puruṣa, his work does not produce reactions, whereas kārmiṣ, who act for themselves, are bound by the reactions of their work. A liberated person, therefore, does not think about whatever he has ignorantly done in the past; instead, he acts in such a way that he will not produce another body by fruitive activities.*"

Our beloved Gurudev says "We don't want again to be squeezed in the mother's womb. Because we were once there. So many times we would have been there. And now we are completely fed up for those 9 months. If we don't try to escape the next material body, there is no way, but we have to squeeze. And that is a horrible result. This knowledge at least scares us, the way we are behaving."

This is the real art of living which will not put us into another womb to suffer the pangs of material existence.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Vaijayantimala devi dasi

Mumbai.

## Devotion without Deviation - Part 8

**Date:** 20 Dec 2015

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

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

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled, "Devotion without Deviation" wherein we were discussing the life of Bharata Maharaja through the pages of Srimad Bhagavatam. In the previous offerings we saw how the great emperor Bharat Maharaj got the body of deer in his next birth and repented for his mistakes in the past birth. Now let us see further.

**8. Don't waste time:** His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada in his matchless purport to the verse 5.8.29 of Srimad Bhagavatam explains how life of Bharata Maharaj is very good lesson for us. His Divine Grace says, "If we misuse our position and think that we are fully engaged in devotional service and can do whatever we like, we have to suffer like Bharata Maharaja and be condemned to accept the type of body that impairs our devotional service. Only the human form is able to execute devotional service, but if we voluntarily give this up for sense gratification, we certainly have to be punished."

Bharata Maharaja had attachment only to deer. But for us the desires are unlimited and so for each and every such desire, we would have to take that many number of births. And we have no control of how big our karma account would become in each of those birth. To save ourselves from these pitfalls of desires and attachments, Srila Prabhupada gives us the solution in the following lines of the purport. "The constant hearing and chanting of the glories of the Lord is recommended in Bhagavad-Gita: satataṁ kīrtayanto māṁ yatantaś ca dṛḍha-vratāḥ [Bg. 9.14]. Those who have taken to Krishna consciousness should be very careful that not a single moment is wasted and that not a single moment is spent without chanting and remembering the Supreme Personality of Godhead and His activities. By His own actions and by the actions of His devotees, Krishna teaches us how to become cautious in devotional service. Through the medium of Bharata Maharaja, Krishna teaches us that we must be careful in the discharge of devotional service. If we want to keep our minds completely fixed without deviation, we must engage them in devotional service full time."

His Divine Grace further says that we must take a lesson from the life of Bharata Maharaja to be very cautious and to see that **not a single moment is wasted in frivolous talk, sleep or voracious eating**. As our beloved spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj always insists,

*kālakṣepo na kartavyo kṣīṇam āyuh kṣaṇe kṣaṇe  
yamasya karuṇā nāsti kartavyam hari kīrtanam*

**Do not waste time. Our life-span is decreasing every moment. Yamaraj is not merciful and so our time now should be properly utilised in devotional service.**

Krishna willing we shall continue to meditate more on this topic in the subsequent offering.

Hare Krishna.

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

## Transcendental Power of Bhagavad-Gita

**Date:** 21 Dec 2015

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

Today is the auspicious occasion of Gita Jayanti - the day when Lord Sri Krishna spoke Bhagavad-Gita to Arjuna in the battlefield of Kurukshetra. Time and again we hear about glories of Gita, how much it is helping suffering souls in this world and that too even after so many thousands of years. By Krishna's grace yesterday we had one more opportunity to visualise the transcendental power of Gita.

Devotees had arranged for Gita recitation and we met a mataji in the program who appeared to have some health issues. Nevertheless, she sat for the whole recitation and in the end expressed genuinely how the recitation was a blissful experience for her. She mentioned that she always had been reading Gita for many years now and how it has given her great courage. She is suffering due to kidney problem since the age of 16 and is undergoing dialysis treatment. Life has been a great struggle for her as this problem had begun in prime time of life and she had been waiting for almost 21 years to see if she could get a kidney transplanted. But nothing worked and she said that in the course of this struggle, she was gifted Bhagavad-Gita by some of her friend and after studying Gita, she got so much solace and mental strength and now she is more courageous for she is completely convinced of the truth that, "***I am not this body.***"

We keep saying so many times that we are spirit souls and not this body, but seeing her condition and hearing that statement from her, a person who has been struggling for so many years had a profound impact. A slight swelling in leg or a fever for couple of days, turns us off. But here is a person who is suffering from a chronic problem for nearly 30 years, a problem which did not allow her to pursue the normal life-style any youngster would like to have. She was saying how Bhagavad Gita helped her to overcome the frustrations and accept the reality of life. She smilingly added, "***This body may continue to give me more problem in the years to come, based on my past karma - but whatever it is, now I am no longer going to be afraid or worried about it as the message in Gita is giving me strength. One good thing is that this disease has brought me close to Krishna and so all I need to do is just engage in devotional service to the best of my capacity.***"

All glories to Bhagavad Gita! All glories to Supreme Lord Sri Krishna for kindly giving this Gita to humanity! And all glories to Jagat Guru Srila Prabhupada, the dear most devotee of Supreme Lord, for translating it so laboriously into English and ensuring that millions and millions of people all over the world are still benefitted by it.

In one of his lectures on Srimad Bhagavatam 1.1.1 given in NewYork on July 6 1972, Srila Prabhupada says, "**So, if you chant these mantras, at least one in one day, your life will be glorious. This mantra, bhāgavata-mantra, not only Bhagavata, every Vedic literature is a mantra. Transcendental sound. So practice resounding this mantra. So we have taken so much labor to put in diacritic mark, all the words, word meaning, utilize it. Don't think that these books are only for sale. If you go to sell these books and if some customer says, "You pronounce it," then what you will do? Then he will understand, "Oh, you are for selling, not for understanding." What do you think? Eh? So therefore it is necessary now, you have got nice books, each and every shloka, verse, should be pronounced. Therefore we have given this original verse in Sanskrit, it's transliteration with diacritic mark—these marks are universally accepted amongst the scholars.**

*So all the scholars of Sanskrit, they agreed to use this mark for pronouncing Sanskrit language."*

His Divine Grace further says, "**I am therefore so much laboring hard that we, before my leaving this body, I may give you some books who you can enjoy after my death. So utilize it. Utilize it. Read every shloka nicely, try to understand the meaning, discuss amongst yourselves. nityam bhāgavata-sevayā. That is our mission**



."

May we always remember the words of His Divine Grace and recite the shlokas from Gita and Bhagavatam, not only on this day, but on every day. ***Indeed a shloka a day keeps miseries at bay.***

Srila Prabhupada ki Jai! Srila Gurudev ki Jai!

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

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

## Devotion without Deviation - Part 9

**Date:** 22 Dec 2015

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled, "**Devotion without Deviation**" wherein we were discussing the life of Bharata Maharaja through the pages of Srimad Bhagavatam. In the previous offerings we saw how the great emperor Bharat Maharaj got the body of deer in his next birth and repented for his mistakes in the past birth. Now let us see further.

9. **Silent Service:** It is very interesting to see what Bharata Maharaja did in his next birth in the body of deer. Sukadeva Goswami explains in Srimad Bhagavatam 5.8.30,

*ity evaṁ nigūḍha-nirvedo viśṛjya mṛgīm mātaraṁ punar bhagavat-kṣetram upāśama-sīla-muni-gaṇa-dayitaṁ  
śālagrāmaṁ pulastya-pulahāśramaṁ kālañjarāt pratyājagāma.*

**Although Bharata Mahārāja received the body of a deer, by constant repentance he became completely detached from all material things. He did not disclose these things to anyone, but he left his mother deer in a place known as Kālañjara Mountain, where he was born. He again went to the forest of Śālagrāma and to the āśrama of Pulastya and Pulaha.**

The word '**constant repentance**' in the above translation is worth meditating. This constant repentance helped Bharata Maharaj to be detached. Our natural tendency is that we conveniently forget our mistakes which we do, even now in this birth and don't feel guilty for the same. As a result we keep doing the same mistake again and again. Since the repentance of our mistake and gratitude for Lord and His devotees are all flickering, our progress in devotional service is also flickering. If we are really feel repentant and guilty of the sins we performed in the past, we will not repeat it again.

In spite of being in the deer body, Bharata Maharaj was constantly repentant of his past mistake. At the same time he always felt grateful to Lord for helping him remember the previous life. So he was determined to continue his devotional service to the Lord. He did not want to get into any more attachments or entanglements in this life. So he left his mother deer and again went to the same Pulaha ashrama wherein he had been practising austerities in his previous life. Bharata Maharaja went there in order to take association of saintly people who will visit the ashram. This indeed reflects the effects of the mature devotional service which he had been practising in his previous life.

The word *nigudha* in the above verse means '**hidden**'. His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada explains to us in the above verse that Bharata Maharaj did not keep boasting to everyone about how Lord had blessed him to remember his previous birth. Silently he left his birth-place. This is yet another lesson to be learnt from Bharata Maharaj. Beauty of secrecy remains until is hidden. Many a times, in the pretext of glorifying Krishna, we subtly boast about our own self for whatever benedictions we receive from Lord or His devotees. Our beloved spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj used to tell that *service should continue, but servant should not be seen*. Maharaj says that **we should be like the walls. There cannot be room without walls. People may appreciate the pictures hung on the walls, but no-one praises the wall. And as such walls never claim any recognition for its presence**. Instead of blowing our own trumpets either about the austerities or any other benedictions we receive from Lord and His devotees, it is important to focus on really executing the service.

Krishna willing we shall continue to meditate more on this topic in the subsequent offering.

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

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

## Devotion without Deviation - Part 10

**Date:** 23 Dec 2015

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

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

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled, "**Devotion without Deviation**" wherein we were discussing the life of Bharata Maharaja through the pages of Srimad Bhagavatam. In the previous offerings we saw how the great emperor Bharata Maharaj got the body of deer in his next birth and repented for his mistakes in the past birth. Now let us see further.

10. **Waiting Time is Serving Time:** In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 5.8.31 Sukadeva Goswami explains how Bharata Maharaja spent his life in the body of the deer.

*tasminn api kālāṁ pratīkṣamāṇaḥ saṅgāc ca bhṛśam udvigna ātma-sahacaraḥ śuṣka-parṇa-tṛṇa-vīrudhā vartamāno  
mṛgatva-nimittāvasānam eva gaṇayan mṛga-śarīraṁ tīrthodaka-klīnam ut-sasarja*

**Remaining in that āśrama, the great King Bharata Mahārāja was now very careful not to fall victim to bad association. Without disclosing his past to anyone, he remained in that āśrama and ate dry leaves only. He was not exactly alone, for he had the association of the Supersoul. In this way he waited for death in the body of a deer. Bathing in that holy place, he finally gave up that body.**

The words *kālāṁ pratīkṣamāṇaḥ* and *ātma-sahacaraḥ* in the above verse are worth meditating. His Divine Grace gives the word to word equivalent for *kālāṁ pratīkṣamāṇaḥ* as '**always waiting for the end of duration of life in the deer body**'. This waiting time is a crucial period.

Our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj always glorified Narada Muni by referring to the verse 1.6.26 in Srimad Bhagavatam. While Narada Muni is explaining about his previous life to Vyasadev, he mentions how in his previous birth, Narada Muni was son of a maid-servant. After his mother passed away, by the gift of devotional service which he learnt from few sages, he gets the darshan of the Lord for a moment. But then, Lord disappears and says that he will no longer get the darshan in that life time and that he has to wait till his next birth. But Narada Muni without being dejected spends his 'waiting time' in that birth very usefully.

*nāmāny anantasya hata-trapaḥ paṭhan  
guhyāni bhadraṇi kṛtāni ca smaran  
gām paryaṭams tuṣṭa-manā gata-sprhaḥ  
kālāṁ pratīkṣan vimado vimatsaraḥ*

**Thus I began chanting the holy name and fame of the Lord by repeated recitation, ignoring all the formalities of the material world. Such chanting and remembering of the transcendental pastimes of the Lord are benedictory. So doing, I traveled all over the earth, fully satisfied, humble and unenvious.**

So these great souls like Narada Muni, Bharata Maharaj never wasted their waiting time. When unfavourable or disappointing situations happens in our life, we always try to get out of the situation somehow or the other. These unfavourable situations are created because of our own fallacies and nothing else. But we try to avoid that situations and try to take some short-cuts. Bharata Maharaja did not take such adverse steps. He patiently waited for the time of his death in the body of the deer. He has shown us through his example as to how these situations also can be utilised to increase in our determination to serve the Lord. Parikshit Maharaj also saw the unfavourable situation of brahmana's curse as an opportunity to go closer to Krishna. We see from the life of these great devotees as how to change

unfavourable situation also as an opportunity to render service to Krishna.

Krishna willing we shall continue to meditate more on this topic in the subsequent offering.

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

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

## Devotion without Deviation - Part 11

**Date:** 24 Dec 2015

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

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

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled, "**Devotion without Deviation**" wherein we were discussing the life of Bharata Maharaja through the pages of Srimad Bhagavatam. In the previous offerings we saw how the great emperor Bharat Maharaj got the body of deer in his next birth and repented for his mistakes in the past birth. Now let us see further.

11. **Constant Companion:** In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 5.8.31 Sukadeva Goswami explains how Bharata Maharaja spent his life in the body of the deer.

*tasminn api kālāṁ pratīkṣamāṇaḥ saṅgāc ca bhṛśam udvigna ātma-sahacaraḥ śuṣka-parṇa-tṛṇa-vīrudhā vartamāno  
mṛgatva-nimittāvasānam eva gaṇayan mṛga-śarīraṁ tirthodaka-klinnam ut-sasarja.*

**Remaining in that āśrama, the great King Bharata Mahārāja was now very careful not to fall victim to bad association. Without disclosing his past to anyone, he remained in that āśrama and ate dry leaves only. He was not exactly alone, for he had the association of the Supersoul. In this way he waited for death in the body of a deer. Bathing in that holy place, he finally gave up that body.**

We had seen the meaning for the words *kālāṁ pratīkṣamāṇaḥ* in the previous offering. Now we shall try to meditate on the word *ātma-sahacaraḥ*. His Divine Grace gives the word to word equivalent for '*ātma-sahacaraḥ*' as '**having the Supersoul as the only constant companion (no one should think of being alone)**'.

From womb to tomb, we are never alone. Krishna as Supersoul is always our constant companion. The intention of Bharata Maharaj to return to the ashrama was to get association of sages who kept visiting those places. But in this material world, we have to understand and accept the reality that no-one can physically stay with us all the time, be it our friends, relatives, spiritual master or devotees. So we should never feel morose when we are placed in situations when we have to stay alone. As His Divine Grace very nicely mentions in the word to word equivalents, we should not think that we are alone, for the Lord is always with us.

In his purport to Bhagavad Gita verse 16.1 Srila Prabhupada while explaining about fearlessness says, "*One must thus have firm conviction that Krishna as Paramatma will take care of a soul surrendered to Him. "I shall never be alone," one should think. "Even if I live in the darkest regions of a forest I shall be accompanied by Krishna, and He will give me all protection."* That conviction is called *abhayam*, fearlessness. This state of mind is necessary for a person in the renounced order of life."

So having practiced renunciation for so long in his previous life, Bharata Maharaj continued to practice the austerity of eating frugally, bathing in holy place even in the body of deer. He was very careful about not getting into any bad association. Remembrance of our past is a blessing of the Lord if it gives us the impetus to increase our loving devotional service to the Lord. Bharath Maharaj received this blessing from the Lord due to his sincere devotional service in his past life. The remembrance of his past life and his slip in the last leg of his previous life made him very careful to avoid the hurdles in the path of spiritual life in his present birth. Always absorbed in thoughts of Supreme Lord, he waited for his death in the deer's body.

Krishna willing we shall continue to meditate more on this topic in the subsequent offering.

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

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

## H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj Vyasa Puja 2015 - Part 1

**Date:** 25 Dec 2015

**Author:** Kalacakra Krsna das

Dear Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

Today is the auspicious festival of the appearance day of our spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj. Devotees around the world have been celebrating the Vyasa puja of Maharaj lovingly with a major group of devotees gathering in Sri Sri Radha-Neelmadhav dham in Rajkot glorifying Maharaj.

We will be hearing the realizations and pastimes shared by different devotees in this series of offerings. We had a small, simple and sweet gathering in London with a few senior devotees sharing wonderful pastimes of Maharaj from the very early days their association with Maharaj. We will begin today with some of those recollections.

**1. Importance of Mangala arati:** Maharaj is well-known for giving utmost importance to mangala arati and different devotees had a variety of experience performing mangala arati with Maharaj under interesting circumstances. One senior vaishnava HG Dayal Baladev Prabhu shared a very interesting pastime. Once Prabhujis happened to travel to Antwerp (Belgium) with Maharaj for some preaching program. One another new bhakta named Neil also wanted to travel with them. Maharaj told him, "You can travel with us on the condition that you will attend the morning program." Neil agreed to that. But when they reached Antwerp, the following day Maharaj was ready for mangala arati but Neil was still sleeping. Maharaj asked Dayal Baladev Prabhu to bring him. When prabhu woke up Neil, Neil said that he will come in 5 mins. But even after half-an-hour he did not turn up. Maharaj again asked Prabhu to go and fetch him. And Maharaj also told him, "*If he does not come this time, wait for 5 mins and then drag him down the stairs along with his sleeping bag and tell him that you have my permission to do so.*" This time prabhu again woke up Neil and he again asked to wait for 5 mins. Prabhu then dragged him down the stairs along with the sleeping bag and Neil was shocked. He asked Prabhu why is he doing this, but Dayal Baladev Prabhu told him, "This is what I have been ordered to do by Maharaj."

One other devotee shared another instance of how he and Maharaj traveled in a long train from Valsad (near Mumbai) to Dwarka many years ago and reached Dwarka in the wee hours around 4 am. Maharaj and the devotee were expecting that the temple would be open and the mangala arati would have started but when they reached the temple, the temple door was locked and the devotees were not yet ready. Maharaj and Prabhujis neither could go inside the temple nor could call the devotees to come down and open the door. Maharaj, without any hesitation, started playing kartal right outside the temple door, singing samsara dava prayers. The devotees came running down to open the door and then they continued with the mangala arati.

There are many such instances where Maharaj performed mangala arati in peculiar situations and circumstances. He would do mangala arati in the airport, railway station, inside the train, bus, car or wherever. If it is 4:30 am, Mangala arati should be performed irrespective of wherever we are, that was what Maharaj followed strictly all through his life.

We sincerely pray to our Guru Maharaj that we instill at least some portion of that determination that Maharaj had, in performing mangala arati starting the day lovingly glorifying the Supreme Lord.

HH Srila Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj ki Jai! HH Srila Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj Vyasa puja mahotsav ki Jai!!

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,  
Kalacakra Krsna das.



## Perfection of Studying Bhagavad-Gita Part 1

**Date:** 26 Dec 2015

**Author:** Vaijayantimala devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

It was very inspiring to read the offering titled 'Transcendental Power of Bhagavad-gita' by Sudarshana mataji a few days ago. Krishna is glorified as *bhāva-grāhī janārdana*. So whatever service we do, the mood with which we do the service is what really matters. The following is part of the lecture by His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada delivered on November 25, 1968 in Los Angeles on the mood with which we should study the Bhagavad Gita.

"When Lord Caitanya was traveling in South India, in a big temple, Ranganatha temple, He went to see the Deity, and He saw one brahmana was reading Bhagavad-gita. And people were joking with him, 'Oh, Mr. Brahmana, how you are reading Bhagavad-gita?' Because they were neighbors, they knew that this brahmana was illiterate, and he was studying Bhagavad-gita. So they were joking. But the brahmana did not care about them. He was taking the book and in his own way he was reading. Caitanya Mahaprabhu saw this incident. He came to the brahmana. He asked the brahmana, 'My dear brahmana, what you are reading?' The brahmana could understand, 'This person is not joking with me; he is serious.' So he explained, 'My dear sir, I am reading Bhagavad-gita. Unfortunately, I am illiterate. I do not know even the alphabet.' 'Why you are reading Bhagavad-gita?' So he said, 'My spiritual master knows that I am illiterate, but still, he has asked me to read Bhagavad-gita. What can I do? Therefore I have taken this book. I am simply seeing. I do not know how to read.' 'Oh, that's all right. You cannot read. But I see that you are crying. How you are crying, if you are not reading?'

'Yes, I am crying. Of course, there is cause.' 'What is that?' 'As soon as I take this Bhagavad-gita, I remember Krishna. Krishna is sitting as driver and Arjuna is hearing. I have heard the story. I know something of the instruction but cannot read. So as soon as I take this book, this picture comes before me and *I simply think how Krishna is nice that He has become a charioteer of His devotee. He is so great. Still, He has accepted a menial service of His devotee. This gives me so much pleasure that I cry.*' Caitanya Mahaprabhu embraced him, '*Your Bhagavad-gita reading is perfect. You have taken the essence.*'

If you simply remember how Krishna is teaching Arjuna and Arjuna is hearing--if you simply remember the picture--that is sufficient. Even if you think that you cannot read. Because after all, we have to become Krishna conscious. *We don't have to become a learned man to argue with another learned man. If it is possible, we can do that. But it does not make any difference if I cannot argue with others or if I cannot teach very nicely Bhagavad-gita to others. Simply if I remember this picture, that is perfection. Because we have to become Krishna conscious. We have to simply think of Krishna. You think in any way. That is your perfection. smartavyaḥ satataṁ viṣṇuḥ* [Padma Purana]. This is the injunction. You have to think of Vishnu always. This is samadhi; this is meditation; this is *yoga siddhi*, perfection of yoga."

Krishna willing we shall continue to hear from His Divine Grace in the subsequent offering.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,  
Vaijayantimala devi dasi  
Abu Dhabi.

## Perfection of Studying Bhagavad-Gita - Part 2

**Date:** 27 Dec 2015

**Author:** Vaijayantimala devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis

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

This is the conclusion of the previous offering titled, "Perfection of Reading Bhagavad-Gita", wherein we were hearing from the lecture delivered by Srila Prabhupada on November 25 1968 in Los Angeles. In the previous offering His Divine Grace, by narrating the conversation between illiterate brahmana in South India and Caitanya Mahaprabhu, told us how remembering Supreme Lord while serving Him, is the perfection of life. Now we shall hear further.

"One who has learned to think of Krishna always, he is already on the perfectional stage. *ārādhito yadi haris tapasā tataḥ kim* [Narada Pancarātra]. If one has come to this stage, just to understand Krishna to be the great, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, he's a surrendered soul: 'Krishna, whatever You like You do. I am surrendered.' This is aradhana. Then he isn't required to undergo any austerities or penance. His everything is finished. And *nārādhito yadi haris tapasā tataḥ kim*. And if he does not come to this stage, his so-called scholarship, learned argument, this or that-- all nonsense, finished. Useless. One has to come to this stage. Therefore Lord Caitanya embraced the brahmana: 'Yes, your study of Bhagavad-Gita is perfect.' Because one has to come to this stage, thinking of Krishna always.

So, that is the perfection. Krishna and gopis. They were cowherd girls. Their father, mother, they were only ordinary village [people], keeping cows. That's all. What was their education? They were not Vedantists. But they learnt to love Krishna. That was their qualification. And Caitanya Mahaprabhu certifies, *ramyā kācid upāsanaṁ vraja-vadhū-vargeṇa yā kalpitā*: 'Oh, there is no better worship than that which was contemplated by the gopis.' They did not know what is Krishna, but they loved Krishna. That's all. They loved Krishna. Because Krishna was God or Krishna was something great? No. Their natural affection was for Krishna. They could not stay even for a moment without seeing Krishna. That was their qualification. This is Krishna consciousness.

So, one has to come to perfect Krishna consciousness some way or other. That is perfection. We have presented so many formulas. Why? Not that the formulas are important, but the formulas will help me to remember Krishna always. Just like you are going to sell our magazines. So this magazine selling or taking some contribution is not our business. Our business is that we are spreading Krishna consciousness; people are hearing something about Krishna. And because we are helping, we are also hearing. We are also benefiting. When you speak to somebody about Krishna, then I hear also Krishna. *Śravaṇam kīrtanam*. The first preliminary steps, hearing and chanting, are going on. So in this way we shall take all opportunities so that twenty-four hours, whether awakened or sleeping, we shall always think of Krishna. That is perfection. This chanting means always remembering Krishna,

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

I am cooking for Krishna, I am typing for Krishna, I am going to preach for Krishna, I'm distributing Back to Godhead for Krishna. In this way, always remember Krishna; that's all. That will make you perfect."

Let us sincerely strive to achieve this perfection of studying Srimad Bhagavad Gita with the blessings of His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Vaijayantimala devi dasi

Abu Dhabi.

## Wealth is the Killer of the Soul

**Date:** 28 Dec 2015

**Author:** Manohar Suvarna

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

One of the Nava Yogendras, Sri Prabuddha, wonderfully explains about disadvantages of accumulating wealth in Srimad Bhagavatam 11.3.19. Let us purify ourselves by meditating on the same.

*nityārtidena vittena durlabhenātma-mṛtyunā  
grhāpatyāpta-paśubhiḥ kā prītiḥ sādhitaiś calaiḥ*

**Wealth is a perpetual source of distress, it is most difficult to acquire, and it is virtual death for the soul. What satisfaction does one actually gain from his wealth? Similarly, how can one gain ultimate or permanent happiness from one's so-called home, children, relatives and domestic animals, which are all maintained by one's hard-earned money?**

Wealth is the biggest weakness of humankind. Everyone in this material world desire wealth, because they believe that wealth gives feeling of security and all comforts. Therefore, people want to acquire wealth by all means. Unfortunately, one who is after wealth does not care for the humanity. Does not care whether wealth is being acquired legitimately or not. In this Kali yuga, for the sake of wealth, people do not mind even killing some body or doing all kinds of evil acts. Even direct blood relationship (parents, brothers and sisters) which is believed to be a strong bondage turns pathetic in the path of acquiring wealth. People kill parents, brothers and sisters for wealth. Children wait for the death of parents to inherit properties. Thus, the whole world is completely overwhelmed with greed to gain more and more wealth. But Srimad Bhagavatam is warning everyone in the above verse that wealth is not just a source of distress but a 'perpetual' source of distress.

At the same time it is not easy to acquire wealth. All of us know very well that it is a huge struggle to save money. How many times, helplessly, we go against our consciousness for the sake of money in our daily life! We tolerate injustice, nonsense, inhuman behavior of the people. We tolerate false accusation, insults, minimizing, ill-treatment. The list is endless. Therefore, wealth is a virtual death for the soul. Above all, wealthy individuals do not care for the welfare of others. They degrade further by greed, envy, pride and anger.

Lord Krsna instructs Uddhava by narrating Avadhuta Brahmana's nectarian instruction to King Yadu in Srimad Bhagavatam 11.8.15 as follows: "A greedy person accumulates a large quantity of money with great struggle and pain, but the person who has struggled so much to acquire this wealth is not always allowed to enjoy it himself or give it in charity to others. The greedy man is like the bee who struggles to produce a large quantity of honey, which is then stolen by a man who will enjoy it personally or sell it to others. No matter how carefully one hides his hard-earned wealth or tries to protect it, there are those who are expert in detecting the whereabouts of valuable things, and they will steal it."

Our Guru Maharaj HH Mahavishnu Goswami says, "Hoarding money will kill us. Krishna must own our riches. Renunciation is the order of the day. It is the order and not a request. Grabbing tendency should completely stop. Then only we can become peaceful. Whatever is needed or essential is available freely everywhere. For example, oxygen is required for breathing and everywhere it is available. We don't have to grab. We are taking advantage of so many facilities and we have to return the facility. Always repay to the best of your ability. If you accept anything, use it for Krishna".

Therefore, Let us pray to our Spiritual Master and Lord Krsna to give us the intelligencē so that we remain sane in the

matters of wealth acquisition and utilization.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Manohar Suvarna

Abu Dhabi.

## H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj Vyasa Puja 2015 - Part 2

**Date:** 29 Dec 2015

**Author:** Kalacakra Krsna das

Dear Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

We will continue on the beautiful experience and realization that devotees shared about HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj.

2. **Importance of Chanting:** HG Dayal Baladev Prabhu shared another important and very powerful instruction of Maharaj on chanting. In one of the Bhagavatam classes Maharaj made a strong statement, "**Most of the devotees can actually chant 25 rounds easily in a day.**" This landed as a shock to the devotees since it is a struggle to even complete the 16 rounds everyday. Dayal prabhu had the same doubt in his mind sitting in the class and listening to Maharaj's thunderbolt, yet to come to terms with it. Everyone in the class felt it was impractical and pretty intense. Luckily for Dayal prabhu, one of the devotees asked the same question to Maharaj, which he had in his mind and so he was eagerly waiting to hear the answer from Maharaj.

So the devotee asked this question to Maharaj, "Maharaj, we are struggling to complete even our 16 rounds, how is it possible for us to chant extra 9-10 rounds every day?" Maharaj responded in his own inimitable way, "*When you are standing in the queue for Prasadam, instead of doing prajalpa you can chant 2-3 rounds. Then after prasadam, instead of sitting with other devotees and doing frivolous talks, you can chant another 3-4 rounds. It is not that you have to do all of them at one go. Every time you find out that your time is being wasted by whatever means, avoid it and take your japa mala and start chanting. This way you can easily do those additional 9-10 rounds.*"

This simple yet powerful truth had a great impact on Dayal Baladev Prabhu who started chanting 25 rounds since that day by stealing time from frivolous activities. And he said, "*It was actually easy for me to do once I realized that I can do those additional rounds by avoiding activities that waste my time. During the day we waste so much of our time that if we take out all those time and keep chanting, we can easily complete more rounds.*"

I reflected on this powerful statement by Maharaj and how Dayal Baladev Prabhu took it seriously and acted on it since that day. Maharaj showed us through his answer that when we give more importance to chanting than other unwanted activities, our sadhana will become strong and our taste for the holy name will genuinely increase. All our other activities like preaching, service etc will become all the more pleasing including our maintenance activities because an eagerness to chant and taste the holy name of the Lord is the ultimate goal to achieve in this human form of life. It will nourish all other activities and all those activities will blossom on this one principal service we offer to the Lord.

Let us sincerely pray to our spiritual master and the Supreme Lord to bestow upon us the eagerness to taste the holy names and give up unwanted prajalpa that wastes all our valuable time.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,  
Kalacakra Krsna das.

## Devotion without Deviation - Part 12

**Date:** 30 Dec 2015

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

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

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled, "**Devotion without Deviation**" wherein we were discussing the life of Bharata Maharaja through the pages of Srimad Bhagavatam. In the previous offerings we saw how the great emperor Bharat Maharaj got the body of deer in his next birth. Repenting for his mistakes in the past birth and remembering the Supreme Lord, he left the deer's body. Now let us see further.

Maharaja Bharata had done severe austerities in his previous lives as a pious king and in the subsequent birth as the deer. So by Lord's mercy in the next birth, he was born in the dynasty of Angira Muni as Jada Bharata. In the previous birth Lord Rshabhadeva, who is incarnation of Krishna was his father and now again in this birth he was fortunate to be born in nice devoted brahmana family. Sukadeva Goswami says in Srimad Bhagavatam verse 5.9.1 explains how Jada Bharata's father was fully qualified with brahminical qualifications. His father was well-versed in Vedic scriptures and was engaged in devotional service of the Lord and was expert in giving charity, and he was always satisfied, tolerant, very gentle, learned and non-jealous.

In Bhagavad Gita Chapter 6, verse 37 Arjuna asks a very nice question to Lord Krishna about what is the condition of a devotee who falls down from his spiritual practices. "*O Krishna, what is the destination of the unsuccessful transcendentalist, who in the beginning takes to the process of self-realization with faith but who later desists due to worldly-mindedness and thus does not attain perfection in mysticism?*" While replying to this Lord assures Arjuna that **nothing goes vain in devotional service**. Those who falls down after little progress, after many, many years of enjoyment on the planets of the pious living entities, is born into a family of righteous people, or into a family of rich aristocracy. Whereas those who have done longer practice of devotional service and then fall down, for such people the Lord says in verse 6.42,

*atha vā yoginām eva kule bhavati dhīmatām  
etad dhi durlabha-taram loke janma yad īdṛśam*

**Or [if unsuccessful after long practice of yoga] he takes his birth in a family of transcendentalists who are surely great in wisdom. Certainly, such a birth is rare in this world.**

In his purport to verse 6.42 Srila Prabhupada mentions the great advantage of being born in a family of transcendentalists is that "*The child born in such a family receives a spiritual impetus from the very beginning of his life. It is especially the case in the acharya or Goswami families. Such families are very learned and devoted by tradition and training, and thus they become spiritual masters.*" His Divine Grace further mentions that *if there is lack of proper education and training, then the child will still miss the chance in this birth even after taking birth in such a nice family.* So as responsible parents/elders we should try to gift the younger generation with an atmosphere which is conducive for them to nicely learn and practise devotional service.

Krishna willing we shall continue to meditate more Jada Bharata's life in the subsequent offering.

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

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

## Devotion without Deviation - Part 13

**Date:** 31 Dec 2015

**Author:** Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled, "**Devotion without Deviation**" wherein we were discussing the life of Bharata Maharaja through the pages of Srimad Bhagavatam. In the previous offerings we saw how the great emperor Bharat Maharaj got the body of deer and in the subsequent birth he was born in a brahmana family as Jada Bharata. In this offering we shall try to meditate on some of the sublime qualities of Jada Bharata.

a) **Being absorbed in Krishna internally:** Jada Bharata's father tried his level best to educate his son on cleanliness, Vedic scriptures and about performing sacrifices. But Jada Bharata posed as if he was a dull and dumb person. Since he was remembering his past births, he knew that all these sacrifices based on karma kanda will only cause more and more bondage. He was fully convinced that devotional service unto the Supreme Lord Krishna alone can free him from this cycle of birth and death. So he was always internally absorbed in the thoughts of the Supreme Lord. Normal human tendency is that we are worried about what others will think of us and always be cautious to pose as if we are good, smart and great personalities. But internally our minds may be polluted with all kinds of trash. In attempts of posing ourselves as nice devotees many a times, we lose out on the subtle and finer qualities of devotional service like humility, pridelessness and constant remembrance of Supreme Lord. In Srimad Bhagavatam Canto 5, Chapter 9 titled, "The Supreme Character of Jada Bharata", Sukadeva Goswami very nicely explains the glorious character of Jada Bharata. He was not worried about what others will think of him. In fact by posing himself as deaf, dumb and a dull person helped him to avoid the association of bad people. Seeing his condition his parents also thought that he was not fit for grhastha ashrama as well. So **Jada Bharata led his life like a covered diamond, not revealing his spiritual effulgence to others.**

b) **Steer Clear:** Failing in his attempts to educate Jada Bharata, the brahmana father died one day and Jada Bharata's mother leaving him under the care of his step-mother and nine step-brothers, voluntarily died by entering the funeral pyre of her husband. The step-brothers ill-treated Jada Bharata. But without any protest, Jada Bharata tolerated all their atrocities. **When animalistic men tried to criticise and defame Jada Bharata, he did not protest or try to convince them that he was not so.** Our nature is that when we receive any criticism, irrespective of whether we are right or wrong, we fight tooth and nail to prove our point. But by doing so, we get stuck in this material modes. Our beloved spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj gives a very nice example in one of his Bhagavatam classes. Maharaj says that **when we are driving on the road, two things are important. First thing is we should be very alert and secondly we should know what our destination is. When we are clear on these two things, then even if there is traffic jam, we try to steer clear and just keep moving towards the destination, without getting stuck.** Maharaj said that the same holds good for us in journey of human life as well.

So we see here that Jada Bharata was very alert and conscious of his final destination. His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada mentions in his purport to Srimad Bhagavatam verse 5.9.12, "**Bharata Maharaja was determined to finish his business in this material world, and he did not at all care for the world of duality. He was complete in Krishna consciousness and was oblivious to good and evil, happiness and distress.**"

Krishna willing we shall continue to meditate more on this topic in the subsequent offering.

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

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