

Give Your Best to Krishna - Part 1

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

In Srimad Bhagavatam Yudhishtir Maharaj while inquiring Arjuna, who had returned from Dwaraka, says in verse 1.14.38

*yad bāhu-daṇḍābhyudayānujīvino
yadu-pravīrā hy akuto bhayā muhuḥ
adhikramanty aṅghribhir āhṛtām balāt
sabhām sudharmām sura-sattamocitām*

The great heroes of the Yadu dynasty, being protected by the arms of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, always remain fearless in every respect. And therefore their feet trample over the Sudharmā assembly house, which the best demigods deserved but which was taken away from them.

Just like how Satyabhama wanted to bring parijata flower from celestial planets to Krishna's palace in Dwaraka, in a similar mood, the heroes of Yadu dynasty also wanted the Sudharma assembly which was usually meant for demigods. Srila Prabhupada very nicely mentions in the purport to the above verse, "*During the time of Lord Kṛṣṇa's presence on the earth, the members of the Yadu family forcibly brought the celestial assembly house to earth and placed it at Dvārakā. They were able to use such force because they were certain of the indulgence and protection of the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa. In other words, **the Lord is provided with the best things in the universe by His pure devotees. Lord Kṛṣṇa was provided with all kinds of comforts and facilities available within the universe by the members of the Yadu dynasty, and in return such servitors of the Lord were protected and fearless.***"

This again is a very nice quality we should remember when we are doing any service for Krishna - to do the service in best possible manner. When a devotee sincerely tries his best to serve the Lord, the Lord reciprocates in ways which are inconceivable even to that devotee and arranges for the successful execution of the service.

Srila Prabhupada wanted to do his best to glorify Krishna all over the world. So he did not mind taking the trouble of traveling such a long, tiring voyage. During those trying moments when His Divine Grace suffered heart-attacks and later while crossing over the Atlantic ocean which was always turbulent, Krishna protected Srila Prabhupada's health and also gave His Divine Grace, the transcendental darshan of all the incarnations rowing the ship across the ocean. Later at every step of His Divine Grace's glorious life, we can see how Lord Krishna very dutifully helped him in his mission so much so His Divine Grace could build over 108 temples and establish this great society of ISKCON.

Our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj wanted to have nice stone temple for Sri Sri Rukmini Dwarakadish, so that temple stays for more than thousands of years and remain as inspiration for future generations to take up bhakti. Even though there were threats from local gundas to harm Maharaj, Maharaj bravely continued with his service. He told the gundas, "Its my fortune to leave my body in Dwarka. You are not fighting with me. But you are fighting with Krishna and Krishna never loses in any fight." Saying so Maharaj did his devotional service in the best possible manner by chanting Mahamantra and studying Srimad Bhagavatam. Both his old-age and related bodily ailments could not in anyway hamper the service Maharaj wanted to offer to Lord. Krishna Himself arranged for all the donors and now we have the glorious stone temple for Sri Sri Rukmini Dwarakadish in Dwaraka dham

Similarly in Rajkot, Maharaj wanted to build marble palace for Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Neel Madhav. Rajkot has a hot climate and there was lot of drought problem. Inorder that deities don't experience the heat in the summer season,

Maharaj was particular that temple should be made of full-marble. Marbles are quite expensive. But Maharaj wanted to give the best comfort for the Deities and again in Rajkot, Maharaj with full enthusiasm performed mangala-arati, japa and study of Srimad Bhagavatam all the time. As a result, "the Glory of Saurashtra" - got manifested couple of years.

All these Mahatmas teach us that we should do our best for Krishna's service. Krishna willing we shall relish continue to relish more nectar from Srila Prabhupada's purport to the above verse in the subsequent offering.

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much,

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sudarshana devi dasi

Give Your Best to Krishna - Part 2

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, "Give Your Best to Krishna" wherein we were meditating on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 1.14.38. In the previous offering we saw how the members of Yadu family were so very devoted to the Lord that they dared to do anything and everything, in order to give the best possible thing in the universe to Lord Krishna. We also saw how acaryas like Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva, gave their best efforts in serving Lord's mission. Now we shall meditate further on how we can give our best to Krishna.

1. Best part of the day is the early morning hours. Scriptures also insist how the brahma muhurta time is best for spiritual activities. So giving our best to Krishna means dedicating these early morning hours in Krishna's service. That's why all the acaryas insist that daily we wake up early in the morning, greet the Lord with nice arati, chant His Holy Names and sing His glories. Our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj very nicely says that all these are **appointments with Krishna and such appointments should not be missed**.
2. While chanting japa, sometimes we just mumble the Holy names or do it very mechanically, just for the sake of completing the rounds. Instead if we want to give our best efforts in this service, we should chant very lovingly, with all our heart, feeling very grateful for the opportunity given by the Lord to chant His names. Also we should chant loudly so that we can also hear and help other living entities around also hear the transcendental Holy Names. This is how we can give our best - while doing japa.
3. The best time to do bhakti in our life is right from childhood. Prahlad Maharaj says in Srimad Bhagavatam verse 7.6.1

*śrī-prahrāda uvāca
kaumāra ācaret prājño dharmān bhāgavatān iha
durlabham mānuṣam janma tad apy adhruvam arthadam*

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

Many times we have the wrong notion that devotional service should be taken in the fag end of our lives. First of all we don't know when the end is. Secondly we have no guarantee that our body will be in working condition at that time. So it is very very important that we engage ourselves in bhakti right from childhood so that we can offer our best service to Lord, when the body is in nice working condition. By serving Krishna nicely from childhood, Uddhava could continue in active service even when he became old. **When we give our best to Krishna, Krishna mercifully blesses us with best strength to carry out the services even when we are old.** We remember Maharaj, even at the age of 90, he was able to study one volume Srimad Bhagavatam, without the aid of any glasses because he never misused his eyes and other senses right from the beginning. Since he engaged his eyes in the best manner - to see Krishna, His devotees and serve them, Lord Hrishikesha arranged for Maharaj's eyesight to be in best condition always.

4. Best of all gifts in this world is gift of devotional service unto Supreme Lord. When we become instruments in the hands of Sri Guru and Krishna in giving this gift to others, we become dear to Krishna. As Krishna says in Bhagavad Gita, He considers this as our best service.

5. Srimad Bhagavatam is the best of all scriptures and that is why it is called Mahapurana. It tells us about the glories of Lord and His dear devotees. Starting from Krishna, Brahmaji and upto Srila Prabhupada and his disciples we can notice how each one of them played their best possible role in giving this best scriptures to humanity at large. On this auspicious day of Bhadra Purnima, let us pray that we always take shelter of this great scripture and put our best efforts in not only distributing the books, but also the nectar in this Mahapurana, to as many souls, whomever we meet or interact with in our day to day lives.

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sudarshana devi dasi.

Give Your Best to Krishna - Part 3

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, "Give Your Best to Krishna" wherein we were meditating on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 1.14.38. In the previous offerings we saw

1. The members of Yadu family, pure devotees, always give best possible thing to Krishna.
2. Best part of day (early morning hours), our life (childhood and healthy body) should be dedicated to Krishna.
3. Best service is to give Krishna to all - in the form of Holy Names, Bhagavad Gita and Bhagavatam.

Now we shall try to meditate on this verse further.

4. Hand-over to Krishna and be fearless:

*yad bāhu-daṇḍābhyudayānujīvino
yadu-pravīrā hy akuto bhayā muhuḥ
adhikramanty aṅghribhir āhṛtām balāt
sabhām sudharmām sura-sattamocitām*

The great heroes of the Yadu dynasty, being protected by the arms of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, always remain fearless in every respect. And therefore their feet trample over the Sudharmā assembly house, which the best demigods deserved but which was taken away from them.

In the above verse the words *bāhu-daṇḍā* refers to the **arms** of Lord Krishna. *hy akuto bhayā* means - **fearless in every respect**. When we face some difficult situations in life, instead of becoming overwhelmed, if we simply hand it over to Krishna, then we can be fearless. But when we try to solve it on our own, then we will be fearful. In the battlefield of Kurukshetra, when spies informed the Pandavas that Bhishmadev had kept aside five arrows and that he had vowed to kill the Pandavas, next day in the war, using the five arrows - Krishna was very worried. But Arjuna went and slept peacefully. Seeing this Krishna woke him up and asked him how he could sleep so peacefully after hearing such a disturbing news. Arjuna smiled and said that when **Krishna is worrying about them, there is no need for them to worry**. Such was his faith and surrender unto Supreme Lord. Our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj says, **Our business is to just chant Krishna's names and glories and it is Krishna's business to sort out our problems**.

Srila Prabhupada very nicely mentions in the purport to the above verse, "*A forgetful, conditioned soul is fearful. But a liberated soul is never fearful, just as a small child completely dependent on the mercy of his father is never fearful of anyone. Fearfulness is a sort of illusion for the living being when he is in slumber and forgetting his eternal relation with the Lord.*"

His Divine Grace gives the nice example of how a person when seeing a tiger in his dream, is fearful. When he wakes up to see the reality, he realises that there is no tiger and therefore nothing to fear. Likewise when we are also awake in the service of the Lord, then we would be fearless. He says, "*The tiger is a myth for both of them, namely the person dreaming and the person awake, because actually there is no tiger; but the man forgetful of his awakened life is fearful, whereas the man who has not forgotten his position is not at all fearful. Thus the members of the Yadu dynasty were fully awake in their service to the Lord, and therefore there was no tiger for them to be afraid of at any time. Even if there were a real tiger, the Lord was there to protect them.*"

Maharaj says that ***if we sleep, then we slip away from spiritual progress***. Maharaj insists that we should really be awake when we are awake. And when we are fully awake in service of Lord, then nothing can disturb us. Even if there is a dangerous situation, there is no need to worry as Lord will definitely protect. The Vrajavasis also were always awake in the service of the Lord and that's why even when there were so many varieties of attacks by the demons sent by Kamsa, they always remained fearless as they handed over themselves in the safe hands of Supreme Lord. ***Indeed those who leave everything in Lord's hands will eventually see Lord's hands in everything.***

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sudarshana devi dasi.

Give Your Best to Krishna - Part 4

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, "Give Your Best to Krishna" wherein we were meditating on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 1.14.38. In the previous offerings we saw

- 1) The members of Yadu family, pure devotees, always give best possible thing to Krishna.
- 2) Best part of day (early morning hours), our life (childhood and healthy body) should be dedicated to Krishna.
- 3) Best service is to give Krishna to all - in the form of Holy Names, Bhagavad Gita and Bhagavatam.
- 4) Hand-over everything to Krishna and be fearless.

Now we shall try to meditate on this verse further.

In Srimad Bhagavatam Canto 8, we find the nice example of Bali Maharaj who surrendered himself completely to Lord Vamanadev. Lord Vamana appeared in the sacrificial arena of Bali Maharaj in the form a dwarf brahmana. Bali Maharaj received Him nicely, washed His lotus feet and sprinkled the water on his head and requested Him to ask for charity. Lord asked him for 3 paces of land. Sukracarya knew that dwarf brahmana Vamana is Lord Vishnu and so he forbade his disciple not to give charity. He explained that in subduing others, in joking, in responding to danger, in acting for the welfare of others, and so on, one could refuse to fulfill one's promise, and there would be no fault. By this philosophy, Śukracarya tried to dissuade Bali Mahārāja from giving land to Lord Vamanadeva.

But Bali Maharaj did not want to cheat Vamandev or withdraw his promise. He knew that at the time of death, all of us would definitely have to be separated from all these material assets. So he wondered why he should not donate the land to the brahmana. The best way to use anything that we are blessed with in this world is to use it in Krishna's service. It could be our body, mind, words, assets. Using these in Krishna's service is the best usage. That's why Sukadev Goswami also very nicely says in 2.4.17, "**Let me offer my respectful obeisances unto the all-auspicious Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa again and again because the great learned sages, the great performers of charity, the great workers of distinction, the great philosophers and mystics, the great chanters of the Vedic hymns and the great followers of Vedic principles cannot achieve any fruitful result without dedication of such great qualities to the service of the Lord.**"

So Bali Maharaj said that even if dwarf brahmana is Lord Vishnu and has come to punish him, still he would be happy to donate the land as promised as he knew that giving charity to a saintly person was a very rare opportunity. When Vamanadev took the Trivikrama form and covered the lower planetary systems with one step, the higher planetary systems with the second step and asked for third step, Bali Maharaj requested the Lord to place His feet on his head. In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 8.22.2 Bali Maharaj says,

*śrī-balir uvāca
yady uttamaśloka bhavān mameritaṁ
vaco vyalīkaṁ sura-varya manyate
karomy ṛtaṁ taṁ na bhavet pralambhanaṁ
padaṁ ṛtīyaṁ kuru śīrṣṇi me nijam*

Bali Mahārāja said: O best Personality of Godhead, most worshipable for all the demigods, if You think that my promise has become false, I shall certainly rectify matters to make it truthful. I cannot allow my promise to be false. Please, therefore, place Your third lotus footstep on my head.

In loving reciprocation to the glorious deed of Bali Maharaj, Lord Vamanadev gave him Sutala planet, became his doorkeeper. Lord Vamandev says in Srimad Bhagavatam 8.22.35 - "**O great hero, I shall always be with you and give you protection in all respects along with your associates and paraphernalia. Moreover, you will always be able to see Me there.**"

Srila Prabhupada very nicely says in the purport to verse 8.19.18 of Bhagavatam, "*Devotees sacrifice all personal interests to satisfy the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and similarly the Supreme Lord, although having no personal interests, can do anything for the interests of His devotees. One who is full in himself has no personal interests.*"

Bali Maharaj even when he was rebuked and cursed by his spiritual master, did not falter from giving his best to Krishna and thereby received inconceivable blessings from Lord Vamanadev. May we always remember the lives of these glorious devotees and try to follow in their footsteps.

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

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

Errata: In yesterday's offering we had wrongly mentioned that 'Vrajavasis were continuously attacked by demons sent by Krishna.' 'They were actually attacked by the demons sent by **Kamsa.**' Sincere apologies for the mistake.

Perfection of Sight

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

In Srimad Bhagavatam Third Canto Chapter 21 we find that when Brahmaji commanded Kardama Muni to beget children and increase the progeny in the world, Kardama Muni underwent severe penance for about 10000 years to please Supreme Lord. Pleased with the austerities performed by Kardama Muni, the Lord Krishna showed His transcendental 4 handed form. Upon seeing the Lord in person, Kardama Muni was overwhelmed with joy. He offered his obeisances and began to render loving prayers unto Him. In Srimad Bhagavatam 3.21.13

*rṣir uvāca
juṣṭam̐ batādyākhila-sattva-rāśeḥ
sāmsiddhyam akṣṇos tava darśanān naḥ
yad-darśanam̐ janmabhir īḍya sadbhir
āśāsate yogino rūḍha-yogāḥ*

The great sage Kardama said: O supreme worshipful Lord, my power of sight is now fulfilled, having attained the greatest perfection of the sight of You, who are the reservoir of all existences. Through many successive births of deep meditation, advanced yogis aspire to see Your transcendental form.

In the above verse Kardama Muni glorifies the Lord as *akhila-sattva-rāśeḥ* means reservoir of all goodness. *siddhi* means perfection and *sāmsiddhyam* means complete perfection. Kardama Muni says that his eyes have attained complete perfection after having darshan of Lord who is reservoir of all goodness.

When Lord came as peace messenger in the assembly of Pandavas, the Kauravas wanted to arrest Him. At that time the Lord showed His universal form. Except few people like Bhishma, Vidurji, Drona etc all others could only see glaring effulgence. Dhrtarashtra although being physically blind, was bestowed by the causeless mercy of Supreme Lord to have Lord's transcendental darshan. At that time, when Lord inquired him whether he would like to continue with his vision, Dhrtarashtra very nicely replied that after seeing the Supreme Lord, he did not want to see anything else. Just like how Kardama Muni is feeling here that after seeing the Lord's form his sight has attained great perfection, Dhrtarashtra was also so captivated by the beauty of the Lord, that he did not want to continue with vision to see his wife, 100 sons or anything else for that matter. From this we can understand how attractive is the Lord's form.

So we must also be careful to use our sight, only in service of Lord and not to misuse it for sense enjoyment. Our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj even at the ripe age of 90 was able to read Srimad Bhagavatam (One Volume book - which has very small fonts) without any spectacles. When devotees inquired Maharaj about the secret of his good sight, Maharaj said - "I have never misused my eyes throughout my life and so Lord Hrishikesha ensured that these senses are granted power to continue the service for many more years." Living in this current age of electronic gadgets, our senses are being subjected to so much of misuse that even at young age we start losing power of sight and hearing.

Eye-sight is a great gift from the Supreme Lord. It is so unimaginable to live in a world of darkness throughout our lives. Having obtained this precious gift of sight, if we don't use it for the right purpose, for serving the Supreme Lord then Bhagavatam says that

*barhāyite te nayane narāṇām
līṅgāni viṣṇor na nirīkṣato ye*

The eyes which do not look at the symbolic representations of the Personality of Godhead Viṣṇu [His forms, name, quality, etc.] are like those printed on the plumes of the peacock.

May we use of power of sight, in having darshan of the Lord's forms - vigrahas at home and temple as well as the scriptures like Bhagavad Gita and Bhagavatam. Indeed that is the greatest perfection for our eye-sight.

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sudarshana devi dasi

Intoxicating Nectar

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

Kardama Muni performed 10000 years of penance when instructed by Lord Brahma to beget children and when Supreme Lord appeared before him, he began to offer beautiful prayers glorifying the Lord. In Srimad Bhagavatam 3.21.17 Kardama Muni says,

*lokāṁś ca lokānugatān paśūṁś ca
hitvā śritās te caraṇātapatram
parasparam tvad-guṇa-vāda-sīdhu-
pīyūṣa-niryāpita-deha-dharmāḥ*

However, persons who have given up stereotyped worldly affairs and the beastly followers of these affairs, and who have taken shelter of the umbrella of Your lotus feet by drinking the intoxicating nectar of Your qualities and activities in discussions with one another, can be freed from the primary necessities of the material body.

In the above verse *lokān* means 'worldly affairs' and '*lokānugatān*' means 'followers of worldly affairs'. What is the nature of that following? *paśūṁś* - *beastly*. Animals don't think much about good or bad, but simply follow others. Similarly when we don't lead a Krishna-centric life, we are so much bothered by unnecessary social status. We try to keep comparing ourselves with others and blindly want to imitate what others are doing. In the translation, His Divine Grace has further explained nicely that these worldly affairs are stereo-typed.

hitvā means to give up; *śritās* means *take shelter*; *te caraṇātapatram* means - the umbrella of Your lotus feet. Kardama Muni goes on to explain about what people who take shelter of the Lord's lotus feet do. They give up stereotyped worldly affairs and when they meet each other (*parasparam*) they engage in *tvad-guṇa-vāda-sīdhu-pīyūṣa*.

tvad means "Your"; *guṇa* means "qualities"; *vāda* means discussion ; *sīdhu* means intoxicating and *pīyūṣa* means nectar; Devotees who take shelter of Lord's lotus feet, when they meet others - they discuss the nectarean topics of Lord's glories. And because of this they are free from *deha-dharma* - **the prime necessities of the bodies.**

Pure devotees like Srila Prabhupada and all Maharajas by their personal examples are showing us how true and practical is the above statement. Srila Prabhupada went on translating Srimad Bhagavatam even during the final days of his life. The vaidya who came to check His Divine Grace health was so astonished as to how any other worldly man in that physical condition would actually be yelling out of pain, whereas His Divine Grace was just continuing his service of translating Srimad Bhagavatam. Indeed that was the secret for his being free from *deha-dharma*. Such great souls have practically shown how discussing Krishna katha gives us true bliss in all situations and helps us transcend all bodily pains. Indeed Lord Krishna has also declared in the second seed verse 10.9 of Bhagavad Gita that - "**The thoughts of My pure devotees dwell in Me, their lives are fully devoted to My service, and they derive great satisfaction and bliss from always enlightening one another and conversing about Me.**"

In his wonderful lecture on verse 1.14.44 of Srimad Bhagavatam, Srila Prabhupada says, "*We talk = talk of Kṛṣṇa. We sing = chant of Kṛṣṇa. We eat = taste, eat Kṛṣṇa prasāda. You will understand Kṛṣṇa. **Any foolish person, any uneducated or any position of life, you can use your tongue for Kṛṣṇa's service. Don't eat anything which is not eaten by Kṛṣṇa---your tongue becomes your most intimate friend. And don't talk anything except Kṛṣṇa. If you follow these two principles, Kṛṣṇa will be within your grip.***"

May we stop running around the stereo-typed worldly affairs and instead engage our tongues in drinking the intoxicating nectar of Krishna katha.

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much,

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sudarshana devi dasi.

Cows and Humans - Part 1

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

The following is humble effort to transcribe one of the nectarean class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on few verses in Srimad Bhagavatam Canto 1 Chapter 14.

As we all know this 14th Chapter of First Canto deals with various inauspicious signs which Yudhishtir Maharaj observed in his kingdom after the departure of Krishna to Goloka.

Maharaj : Krishna is there. That's it. And no, **for devotees, for devotees the undesirables are also desirables. Ya, because it's coming from Krishna. So everything is auspicious.**

(Then Maharaj asked devotees to recite the verses starting from 1.14.13-19 along with word-to word equivalents and translation. Maharaj then began to speak about verse 1.14.19 in detail)

*na pibanti stanam vatsā na duhyanti ca mātaraḥ
rudanty aśru-mukhā gāvo na hr̥ṣyanty ṛṣabhā vraje*

The calves do not suck the teats of the cows, nor do the cows give milk. They are standing, crying, tears in their eyes, and the bulls take no pleasure in the pasturing grounds.

Devotee: Maharaj I have seen that, before they slaughter the cows, I observe they (cows) cry.

Maharaj: They cry. They know.

Devotee: They run. Sometimes they run. They run and they (butchers) chase them. I see them cry. They know. They know they are going to die.

Maharaj: Cows are more essential being you know. Because *paśavaḥ trimśal-lakṣāṇi catur-lakṣāṇi mānuṣāḥ* - That's the sequence of the evolutionary process. The beasts, in that the cows are the highest beast. And so from cows only then attend the human form.

Devotee: So cow is a person.

Maharaj: Cow is a person because

*jalajā nava-lakṣāṇi sthāvarā lakṣa-vimśati
kṛmayo rudra-saṅkhyakāḥ pakṣiṇām daśa-lakṣaṇam
paśavaḥ trimśal-lakṣāṇi catur-lakṣāṇi mānuṣāḥ*

This is the sequence of the evolution. First we need to go to jalajā, aquatics. As soon as adhogati is there, adhogati is known as full top. And adhogati means, first you have to accept the jalajā, the life in the water. That's the start of the evolutionary process. Then jalajā nava-lakṣāṇi sthāvarā - then you come to non moving living entities like trees, mountains; these are non-moving.

Devotee: So from water, you come to land.

Maharaj: Ya land. And then *jalajā nava-lakṣāṇi sthāvarā lakṣa-vimśati kṛmayo rudra-saṅkhyakāḥ* - the living insects,

they fly, small insects *kṛmayo* and then *kṛmayo rudra-saṅkhyakāḥ, pakṣiṇām daśa-lakṣaṇam* - from there you become birds and then last you become *paśu; paśu*, beast. And among the beasts, cow is the best and from cow then you are promoted to the human being.

Devotee: Uncivilized human being or?

Maharaj: ah?

Devotee: Uncivilized human being or civilized human being?

Maharaj: You have to start uncivilized.

Devotee: Uncivilized and slowly,

Maharaj: But it depends upon the cow's behavior again. So cow is coming near to the human being. And that's why the cows have the same sentiment. They don't forget their offspring very soon. Dogs forget within; within a week they forget.

Devotee: Cows care for their kids, same like human being.

Maharaj: Ya. Same like human being. So ***cows are very near to human being and that's why every thing from the cow is useful for the human being. That is evolution in Krishna's process and that's why Krishna likes cows very much. Because He knew that these are the human beings soon.***

Krishna willing we will continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj in the subsequent offering.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Srilakshmi devi dasi

Kurnool.

Cows and Humans - Part 2

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in conclusion of the nectarean class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on verses in Srimad Bhagavatam Canto 1 Chapter 14. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj

1. Krishna's theory of evolution - based on Padmapuran verse *jalajā nava-lakṣāṇi*

Now we shall hear further.

2. **Protect the Cows:**

Maharaj: And because of these slaughters, we are really shortening their lives you know. It is a very degrading things. And we have to suffer. We are suffering un-surpassable miseries. The disasters like tsunami and so many other things is because of these slaughters you know. The time will not come in our lifetime that will see the planet without slaughter houses, but our aim should be that. And because we are not able to see the end of the cow-slaughter, so at-least we should be try to promote the cow protection, somehow or the other. So we have, we have a mind, if Krishna wishes you know, near Narmada River, in this area, now in South in the middle of India, only one river is very powerful and that is Narmada. So if we can get the land near Narmada River, then water will be plenty. Then we can maintain as many cows as possible. So really if we can, you know, we should have one thousand cows. (laughter) And the milk products are nil now.

Devotee: I couldn't see anything.

Maharaj: No, no. It's only in Kutch, still there is something and here and there finishing very soon. So milk products, for cow particular milk products, we must have the very big cow protection program. *Once the temple is over we will concentrate on that. The school buildings and these things, they are play thing, once the temple is ready. This temple is an elephant. It's very costly thing. So difficult work. **The thing is that everything circumambulates the temple. So that's why temple has to be first. If temple is not there, then cow protection also will not prosper. Krishna must be there. That's how we are giving priority to the temple. Otherwise cow protection, we should devote our lives to cow protection, really.** We should not do anything else except that.* It is very difficult. The labor is not available. So many things are there.

Devotee: Food is expensive

Maharaj: The cow maintenance is very expensive. For a common man, now it is not possible to maintain a cow. Either he doesn't have the place. If he has the place the corporation doesn't allow, or if he has everything, place and everything even then the fodder is very costly so they cannot maintain. Its only by the donations, the program can go on. And may be future I don't know, but it can be self-generating program. Because, even now the manure, dung manure, cow dung manure is very much value in this age also. Dung, cow dung manure is the natural organic thing.

Devotee: Maharaj in Germany they produce electricity from dung.

Maharaj: Yes.

Devotee: And the German say they want to make in our country.

Maharaj: Ya, no we have some crude thing, we produce gas.

Devotee: They produce electricity.

Maharaj: Ah, yes from gas, they produce electricity.

Devotee: I don't know how, how from dung they produce electricity, I don't know how.

Maharaj: But here they have crude machine in which they put the dung and then after few days the gas comes out. That gas is as good as the wood fire. So the things cooked on the cow dung gas, they taste much better than this natural gas. Anyway these things we have to keep in mind and try to struggle. ***If I am not here, please after temple, continue cow protection program - it is unlimited.***

Devotee: Maharaj the verse you quoted now after (jalajā nava-lakṣāṇi) is it from Bhagavatam?

Maharaj: No. It is not from Bhagavatam.

Devotee: It's not Bhagavatam?

Maharaj: It's from somewhere else. But this is the evolutionary process - It is very useful. And not only the evolutionary process, but 8 million four hundred thousand species, this is the number exactly. Eight million four hundred thousand, exact number is there. See

jalajā nava-lakṣāṇi - 9 lakhs means 900 thousand jalaja. In water there are 9 hundred thousand lives, 9 hundred thousand in water.

sthāvarā lakṣa-vimśati - 20 lakh plants - 20 hundred thousand plants

ḥṛmayo rudra-saṅkhyakāḥ - (11 lakhs) 1million 100 thousand insects

pakṣiṇām daśa-lakṣaṇam - (10 lakhs)1 million is pakshi - birds

paśavaḥ trimśal-lakṣāṇi - (30 lakhs) 3 million - are pashu, beasts cows dogs etc., beasts and

catur-lakṣāṇi mānuṣāḥ - (4 lakhs) four hundred thousand men, human beings.

This should come to 8 million 4 hundred thousand (or 84 lakhs)

Devotee: How it is 4 hundred thousand given (for humans)? I don't understand. Please correct.

Maharaj: See here according to color, there is division. According to height, there is a division, according to mental development, there are divisions, and these are there in the Vedas. So Vedas we don't doubt and really if we are able to count it will be correct.

Devotee: It's not only from this earth planet.

Maharaj: No It's everywhere, the whole universe.

Devotee: We don't know. What's up there?

Maharaj: No, no no no and no. It is regarding us also. Suppose we die, we don't know whether we are going take birth on this planet or somewhere else. We will be in the material manifestation.

Devotee: So this 8 million 4 hundred thousand includes the whole universe.

Gurudev: The whole universe, whole material creation.

Devotee: Whole material creation.

(Maharaj then concluded by reciting the verses upto 1.14.28 - with translation)

Jai Srila Prabhupada ki Jai!

Heartfelt thanks to Maharaj for wonderful class.

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

Krishna Returns with Interest - Part 1

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

In Srimad Bhagavatam Canto 1, Chapter 14, when Arjuna returns from Dwaraka to Hastinapura, Yudhishtir Maharaj could realise that his face was lacking the usual charm. So with great concern Yudhishtir Maharaj inquires him about the various reasons due to which Arjuna is looking dejected. In the concluding verse of this chapter, Yudhishtir Maharaj diagnoses the correct reason for Arjuna's dejection. Yudhishtir Maharaj inquires in Srimad Bhagavatam 1.14.44

*kaccit preṣṭhatamenātha hṛdayenātma-bandhunā
śūnyo 'smi rahito nityam manyase te 'nyathā na ruk*

Or is it that you are feeling empty for all time because you might have lost your most intimate friend, Lord Kṛṣṇa? O my brother Arjuna, I can think of no other reason for your becoming so dejected.

In the above verse the word *preṣṭhatamenā* means "most dear one"; *hṛdayena* - means intimate and *'ātma-bandhunā* means own friend and here it is referring to Lord Krishna who was the most intimate friend of Arjuna.

This is universal reason for dejection in our lives and not just for the Paandvas. When we fail to have our dearest friend Krishna in our lives, then we are bound to be dejected. In his wonderful class on above verse Srila Prabhupada very nicely mentions that on one hand devotees love Krishna and engage themselves in His service, dedicate their whole life in His service. And accordingly Krishna also loves the devotees and always looks forward eagerly to serve them. In this context His Divine Grace very nicely says, "*As the devotee always think of Kṛṣṇa, similarly Kṛṣṇa also thinks of the devotee. He thinks more. That is the reciprocation. ye yathā māṁ prapadyante tāṁs tathaiva bhajāmy aham [Bhagavad Gita. 4.11] If you think of Kṛṣṇa twenty-four hours, Kṛṣṇa will think of you twenty-six hours. [laughter] Kṛṣṇa is so kind. If you do some service for Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa will reward you hundred times. But people, they do not want. They think, "What we shall benefit by serving Kṛṣṇa? Let us serve my dog." You see? This is the misunderstanding.*

Prabhupada is revealing to us the glorious nature of Lord Sri Krishna. In this regard we are reminded of one of nice Gujarati bhajan composed by great devotee Narasi Mehta. This bhajan was very much relished by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj. Narasi Mehta says - '*koi no bhār na rakhe morāri, āpe vyaj sathe vanmalī*' - "**Lord Murari does not keep any debt with Him. He returns it along with interest.**" Narsi Mehta then goes on to give the nice examples of Sudama, Kubja, Draupadi, Vrajavasis.

Sudama just gave a handful of chipped rice to Krishna and the Lord in return gave him a golden palace. Kubja gave Him little sandalwood paste and in return to that insignificant favor, the Lord straightened her hunch-back and made her a beautiful girl. Once when Krsna's finger was injured and it was bleeding, Draupadi, without hesitation, tore a piece of her saree and bandaged Krsna's finger. In return to that small favor, Krsna supplied nine hundred ninety nine sarees and protected her when Dhushasan was trying to strip her saree off in front of everyone. Vrajavasis were always obedient to Him and just served the bhoga to Govardhan as instructed by Him. In return Krishna carried the Govardhan hill to protect them from the wrath of Indra.

Krishna willing we shall try 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

Krishna Returns with Interest - Part 2

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, "Krishna Returns with Interest" wherein we were meditating on verse 1.14.44 of Srimad Bhagavatam. In the previous offering we saw,

1. Root cause of our moroseness is forgetfulness of Krishna.
2. When a devotee remembers Krishna, He reciprocates in manifolds.

In one of the Bhagavatam classes, many devotees shared many wonderful pastimes of Lord wherein Lord Krishna reciprocates to His devotee's service, in inconceivable manner and Krishna willing we shall try to meditate on few of them in this series.

3. Putana wanted to kill Krishna. But in order to execute her plan, she had to disguise herself as a beautiful gopi. In the pretext of feeding Krishna, she carried Him and attempted to feed Him poisoned milk to kill Krishna. But Krishna very mercifully considered only her good act of trying to feed Him and bestowed her the post of motherhood in the spiritual world. This glorious pastime is nicely mentioned in verse 3.2.23 of Srimad Bhagavatam

*aho bakī yaṁ stana-kāla-kūṭaṁ
jighāṁsayāpāyayad apy asādhvī
lebhe gatim dhātry-ucitām tato 'nyam
kaṁ vā dayālum śaraṇam vrajema*

"Alas, how shall I take shelter of one more merciful than He who granted the position of mother to a she-demon [Pūtanā] although she was unfaithful and she prepared deadly poison to be sucked from her breast?"

As humans we may try to return help to people who help us or favour us. But we would not want to show any kindness, even by mistake to people who even intend to harm us. But here we see the glorious causeless mercy of the Supreme Lord. He is able to overlook Putana's faults and simply take her attempt to serve Him, although it was just a fake attempt. His Divine Grace very nicely mentions in the purport to the above verse, "*Lord Kṛṣṇa accepted the motherhood of Pūtanā because she pretended to be an affectionate mother, allowing Kṛṣṇa to suck her breast. The Lord accepts the least qualification of the living entity and awards him the highest reward. That is the standard of His character. Therefore, who but the Lord can be the ultimate shelter?*"

4. In Ramayan we find that when Jatayu saw Sita being carried away to Lanka by Ravana, he tried his best to protect Sita Mata from the clutches of Ravana. First he gave him a lot of good counsel as to how it is not Vedic etiquette to abduct the wife of another person. When Ravana did not listen, in spite of his old-age, Jatayu fought with Ravana. In the fight, both his wings were cut. As a result, he could neither fly, nor fight anymore. In that condition also, he was holding on to his life, simply waiting to convey to Lord Rama - the whereabouts of Mother Sita. Then when Lord Rama came, Jatayu narrated all that had happened. Lord Ram appreciated Jatayu's efforts to fight against Ravana, though he could not win over Ravana, due to his old-age. Also when Jatayu left his body, Lord performed the final rites for him - a service which Lord could not do even for His father Dasarath. When Jatayu was leaving his body, Lord Rama blessed that he would go to Vaikuntha and also he could visit this material world also whenever he wanted. Such is the amazing benediction bestowed by Lord on His dear devotees who eagerly surrender all their energy in serving Him.

Krishna willing we shall try 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

Krishna Returns with Interest - Part 3

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, "Krishna Returns with Interest" wherein we were meditating on verse 1.14.44 of Srimad Bhagavatam. In the previous offering we saw,

1. Root cause of our moroseness is forgetfulness of Krishna.
2. When a devotee remembers Krishna, He reciprocates in manifolds.

In this regard we were seeing the examples of Putana and Jatayu. Now we shall see further.

One devotee shared a very nice pastime of Lord Vittal and His devotee Senanayi who was barber. Everyday he used to wake up early in the morning chant Krishna's name and perform puja to Lord Vittala at his home. Senanayi was serving the king and so he would have to go to palace anytime when he was called for by the king. One day it so happened that king sent his messengers to bring Senanayi early in the morning. Since Senanayi had not finished his morning pooja, his wife with the intention of not disturbing his worship, lied to the messengers that Senanayi was not at home. Some envious neighbours later informed the king about this lie, with the intention of defaming Senanayi. The king became angry and was about to announce the punishment for disregarding the king's order. At that time, Lord Vittal appeared in the form of Senanayi and did all the menial services which a barber would do. But the very touch of Lord Vittal immersed the king in pools of ecstatic bliss. The king felt very happy with the services offered by his barber Sena. When he was being massaged by oil, he could see the reflection of face of handsome blue boy in the vessel containing the oil and was mesmerised by the beauty of that reflection. He did not want to let the barber go. Requesting to return immediately, the king gave him few gold coins for wonderful service.

Lord Vittal left the palace and then placed those coins in Senanayi's bag. After his puja was complete, his wife informed Senanayi about the messengers who came in the morning. Hearing that he thought that king would be very upset with him. As he was wondering how the king would react, the messengers came there and requested him to come to the palace immediately. Upon seeing the king, Senanayi apologised for not serving him in the morning. But the king said that he had received the best service from him on that day. As the king narrated what all had happened, Senanayi could realise that Krishna had mercifully come and played the role of barber in the morning, just to save him from punishment.

From the above pastime we can see how when one is sincerely engaged in Krishna's service, Krishna protects their service to continue uninterrupted. Lord Kapila very nicely says in Srimad Bhagavatam verse 3.21.24

*na vai jātu mṛṣaiva syāt prajādhyaḥṣa mad-arhaṇam
bhavad-vidheṣv atitarām mayi saṅgr̥bhitātmanām*

The Lord continued: My dear ṛṣi, O leader of the living entities, for those who serve Me in devotion by worshiping Me, especially persons like you who have given up everything unto Me, there is never any question of frustration.

Krishna willing we shall try 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.

Krishna Returns with Interest - Part 4

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, "Krishna Returns with Interest" wherein we were meditating on verse 1.14.44 of Srimad Bhagavatam. In the previous offering we saw,

1. Root cause of our moroseness is forgetfulness of Krishna.
2. When a devotee remembers Krishna, He reciprocates in manifolds.

In this regard we were seeing the examples of Sudama, Draupadi, Kubja, Vrajavasis, Putana, Jatayu, Senanayi.

Now we shall see further examples.

One devotee shared the nice example of Prahlad Maharaj. We all know how Prahlad Maharaj was subjected to various dangers by his own father Hiranyakashipu and in all such dangers, Lord protected Prahlad Maharaj and ensured that all the attempts which were done to harm/injure/kill Prahlad Maharaj were all foiled. In the end Lord appeared as Narasimhadev and killed Hiranyakashipu and later asked Prahlad Maharaj to seek some benediction from Him. Being a pure devotee Prahlad Maharaj did not want any material benediction for himself. But only requested the Lord to forgive the sinful deeds of his demoniac father. Hearing this Lord Narasimhadev told Prahlad Maharaj in Srimad Bhagavatam verse 7.1018-19

*śrī-bhagavān uvāca
triḥ-saptabhiḥ pitā pūtaḥ piṭrbhiḥ saha te 'nagha
yat sādho 'sya kule jāto bhavān vai kula-pāvanaḥ
yatra yatra ca mad-bhaktāḥ praśāntāḥ sama-darśinaḥ
sādhavaḥ samudācārās te pūyante 'pi kīkaṭāḥ*

The Supreme Personality of Godhead said: My dear Prahlāda, O most pure, O great saintly person, your father has been purified, along with twenty-one forefathers in your family. Because you were born in this family, the entire dynasty has been purified. Whenever and wherever there are peaceful, equipped devotees who are well-behaved and decorated with all good qualities, that place and the dynasties there, even if condemned, are purified.

Prahlad Maharaj was completely surrendered to the Supreme Lord and in loving reciprocation to Prahlad Maharaj's request, Lord Narasimhadev assures that how Lord will protect the whole dynasty, purify them even if they are condemned - simply taking into consideration the sincere devotional service done by even a single devotee in a family.

That's why later in Bali Maharaj's pastime also we find that the Lord appeared as Vamana (dwarf brahmana) simply to ensure that His promise to Prahlad Maharaj doesn't go in vain. When Bali Maharaj offered 3 paces of land, by giving his head for the third step of the Lord, the Lord became very pleased by the truthful nature of Bali Maharaj and He assured Bali Maharaj that although he was being sent to the lower planetary system (Sutala) there was nothing lacking in the luxuries offered in that planet. Lord said that Sutala planet will be personally free from mental and bodily miseries, fatigue, dizziness, defeat and all other disturbances. Neither demigods nor the demons can trouble Bali Maharaj on that planet as Lord will always protect him by giving him darshan all the time. In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 8.22.35, Lord says, "**O great hero, I shall always be with you and give you protection in all respects along with your associates and paraphernalia. Moreover, you will always be able to see Me there.**"

So here we find that both Prahlad Maharaj and Bali Maharaj although born in demoniac families - due to their surrender to the Supreme Lord, received benedictions which are not even bestowed upon the demigods. Such is the inconceivable mercy of the Supreme Lord.

Krishna willing we shall try 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.

Krishna Returns with Interest - Part 5

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, "Krishna Returns with Interest" wherein we were meditating on verse 1.14.44 of Srimad Bhagavatam. In the previous offering we saw,

1. Root cause of our moroseness is forgetfulness of Krishna.
2. When a devotee remembers Krishna, He reciprocates in manifolds.

In this regard we were seeing the examples of Sudama, Draupadi, Kubja, Vrajavasis, Putana, Jatayu, Senanayi, Prahlad Maharaj, Bali Maharaj.

Now we shall see further examples.

Our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj used to share with us nice pastime that occurred just few hundreds of years ago, in the life of Narsi Mehta who is an ardent devotee of the Lord. Narsi Mehta has composed so many nice bhajans in Gujarati and these bhajans convey the message of Bhagavatam in simple language. He loved to sing and glorify Krishna all the time. One day his wife informed him about the upcoming *shrāddha* ceremony for his father. Since she was teased by her co-sisters for not having contributed for this ceremony, she wanted to bear all the expenses for this ceremony. So she told him to sell her jewels, to buy provisions for the *shrāddha* ceremony, so that they could feed the guests. Narsi Mehta simply became happy on hearing that he could distribute prasadam and went to the market. He bought the provisions after selling her jewels and gave them to his wife. Only then they realised that he had missed to buy the most important ingredient - ghee. So he went again to the market. Now he had no money with him. So the shopkeepers did not want to lend him. Some people plainly refused. But others with intent to make fun of him told that they would give ghee, if he sings bhajans. As soon as he heard this, Narsi Mehta became very happy and started singing bhajans.

Meanwhile his wife was desperately waiting at home, wondering how it is possible to cook without getting ghee at the right time. At that time Lord appeared there in the form of Narsi Mehta. Seeing Him empty-handed she asked where is the ghee. He smiled and replied that everything is cooked and everyone in the village can come, honour prasadam in golden plate and take the golden plate back with them. His wife was taken back to hear this and when she rushed to kitchen she did find that what she heard was true. The whole ceremony was observed in a very grand manner. All the guests were very happy and pleased to take golden plates and were glorifying Narsi Mehta.

In the market Narsi Mehta opened his eyes, just to realise that it was already night time. The shopkeepers had all left without giving him ghee. He realised that he had missed the *shrāddha* ceremony itself. Not knowing how to face his wife, he went back home and began to apologise to her. But she asked him, "How did you get money for gifting golden plates to everyone?" Then Narsi Mehta heard from her all that had happened and realised how Krishna had personally come and done all the arrangements at his home, when he was busy singing bhajans in the market place.

In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 8.5.47 Lord Brahmaji says,

*kleśa-bhūry-alpa-sārāṇi karmāṇi viphalāni vā
dehinām viṣayārtānām na tathaivārpitaṁ tvayi*

Karmīs are always anxious to accumulate wealth for their sense gratification, but for that purpose they must work very hard. Yet even though they work hard, the results are not satisfying. Indeed, sometimes their work results only in frustration. But devotees who have dedicated their lives to the service of the Lord can achieve substantial results without working very hard. These results exceed the devotee's

expectations.

In this pastime we find that some people were making fun of Narsi Mehta's absorption in Krishna's bhajans, some of the relatives were critical about their ability to perform the ceremony etc. But Krishna never lets His devotees down. Pleased with Narsi Mehta's devotion, Krishna by His magical touch, ensured that it was best *shrāddha* ceremony in the village exceeding the expectation of all. Such is the causeless mercy and magnanimity of the Lord, who reciprocates so lovingly and is eager to serve His devotee in every possible way.

Krishna willing we shall try 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.

Krishna Returns with Interest - Part 6

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, "Krishna Returns with Interest" wherein we were meditating on verse 1.14.44 of Srimad Bhagavatam. In the previous offering we saw,

1. Root cause of our moroseness is forgetfulness of Krishna.
2. When a devotee remembers Krishna, He reciprocates in manifolds.

In this regard we were seeing the examples of Sudama, Draupadi, Kubja, Vrajavasis, Putana, Jatayu, Senanayi, Prahlad Maharaj, Bali Maharaj, Narsi Mehta.

Now we shall see further examples.

Sant Sakhu bhai was a great devotee of Lord Vitthala. Her parents were great devotees of Lord and lived in a village near Pandharpur. Initially they were childless. Pleased with their devotion, Lord Vitthala appeared in their dream and said that they would be soon blessed with beautiful girl child. And they named the child as Sakhu bhai. Right from childhood Sakhu bhai was always absorbed in singing bhajans glorifying Lord. She always longed to marry Lord Vitthala. But by providential arrangement she had to marry the groom chosen by her parents. Her husband and mother-in-law could never appreciate the loving devotion which she had for Lord and always ill-treated her. But she served them with love and respect. She was always burdened with lot of household chores. But in spite of all this; while milking the cow, cleaning the house, cooking and moping the house she would always be thinking and chanting about Vitthal. In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 10.46.46, there is nice description of how the gopis did the household chores.

*udgāyatīnām aravinda-locanam
vrajāṅganānām divam asprśad dhvaniḥ
dadhnaś ca nirmanthana-śabda-miśrito
nirasyate yena diśām amaṅgalam*

As the ladies of Vraja loudly sang the glories of lotus-eyed Kṛṣṇa, their songs blended with the sound of their churning, ascended to the sky and dissipated all inauspiciousness in every direction.

Our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj also had taught by his own example as to how we should always chant and sing Krishna's names and glories. Right from the time Maharaj wakes up, as he gets ready in the morning, while taking bath, washing his clothes, cooking bhoga - Maharaj always chanted shlokas from Gita and Bhagavatam and encouraged everyone to follow the same.

In the life of Sakhu bhai also, we can see how Lord was very pleased with her simple loving devotion. Once Sakhu bhai heard a group of devotees chanting Lord Vitthal's names. When she approached them, she came to know that they were on the way to Pandharpur to have darshan of Lord Vitthala on the auspicious day of Aashad ekadasi. Her eagerness to have darshan of Lord increased and so she asked them if she could join them. The devotees said that if she could get permission from her family, then she could come. Both her husband and mother-in-law refused to give permission for her travel. They tied her to a pillar in the house so that she could not leave. Bearing all the slaps from her family, she prayed very fervently to Lord Vitthala expressing her desire to see Him. At night Lord Vitthala appeared in her form and told Sakhu bhai that she can leave for the yatra and that He would take care of everything at home. Sakhu bhai happily left the house and went to Pandharpur. As she walked all the way to Pandharpur, she was singing and dancing and remembering the Lord. On the auspicious day of Aashad ekadasi, she entered the sanctum

sanctorum, drank the nectar of Lord's darshan through her eyes and touched Lord's lotus feet. Singing His glories, she left her body and attained eternal association of the Lord in Goloka. Meanwhile at her home, Lord Vitthala was personally doing all household chores of Sakhu bhai in such a nice manner that both her husband and mother-in-law could not realise her absence. When the devotees from Pandarpur came to her home to disclose the sad news of departure of Sakhu bhai on Aashad ekadasi in Pandharpur, her husband and mother-in-law could not believe it as they were staying with Sakhu bhai all the time. At this point Lord Vitthala, Who was serving in the form of Sakhu bhai disappeared from their vision and then everyone gathered realised, that it was Lord Vitthala's loving reciprocation to Sakhu bhai's devotion.

Lord Krishna says in Bhagavad Gita verse 9.32

*mām hi pārtha vyapāśritya ye 'pi syuḥ pāpa-yonayaḥ
striyo vaiśyās tathā śūdrās te 'pi yānti parām gatim*

O son of Pṛthā, those who take shelter in Me, though they be of lower birth - women, vaiśyas [merchants] and śūdras [workers] - can attain the supreme destination.

Life of Sakhu bhai shows us that one may be born as woman, or in a poor family, or be in a family which is very unfavourable to do devotional service, or may have inimical people as one's relatives. But nothing can be impediment to do bhakti. When one does his/her prescribed duties sincerely and surrenders to the Lord, He reciprocates in an inconceivable manner.

Krishna willing we shall try 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.

Krishna Returns with Interest - Part 7

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, "Krishna Returns with Interest" wherein we were meditating on verse 1.14.44 of Srimad Bhagavatam. In the previous offering we saw,

1. Root cause of our moroseness is forgetfulness of Krishna.
2. When a devotee remembers Krishna, He reciprocates in manifolds.

In this regard we were seeing the examples of Sudama, Draupadi, Kubja, Vrajavasis, Putana, Jatayu, Senanayi, Prahlad Maharaj, Bali Maharaj, Narsi Mehta, Sant Sakhu bhai.

Now we shall see further.

Since Krishna is unlimited, His love for devotees are unlimited, and He has unlimited devotees who have unlimited love for Him, the list of devotees to whom Lord reciprocates His love, is also unlimited. Not just for the pure exalted devotees, but even for conditioned souls like us, the Lord's mercy has always been causeless and magnanimous. But due to our limited vision, lack of gratitude, forgetfulness, ignorance and conditioned nature we forget or fail to recognise the Lord's mercy. And when things don't happen in the way we wanted, we simply blame and criticise the Supreme Lord. In this regard our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj used to quote the below verse from Srimad Bhagavatam 5.19.27

*satyaṁ diśaty arthitam arthito nṛṇāṁ
naivārthado yat punar arthitā yataḥ
svayaṁ vidhatte bhajatām anicchatām
icchāpidhānaṁ nija-pāda-pallavam*

The Supreme Personality of Godhead fulfills the material desires of a devotee who approaches Him with such motives, but He does not bestow benedictions upon the devotee that will cause him to demand more benedictions again. However, the Lord willingly gives the devotee shelter at His own lotus feet, even though such a person does not aspire for it, and that shelter satisfies all his desires. That is the Supreme Personality's special mercy.

The ideal situation is not to hanker for material things. But when we have not yet come to that level of mature stage in devotional service, there is nothing wrong in approaching Supreme Lord and engage in devotional service as stated in Srimad Bhagavatam verse 2.3.10 - "*Whether one is freed from all material desires, is full of material desires, or desires to become one with the Supreme, he should engage in devotional service.*"

But what we need to understand is that most of the times, we desire for things which we don't deserve. The omniscient Supreme Lord has the full prerogative either to sanction or not sanction our desires. So by approaching Supreme Lord we may or may not get what we had desired. But Krishna as a merciful father, bestows what is good for us, even if we did not hanker for the same. The advantage of doing devotional service unto Krishna is that, even if we go to Him with material motives, the process of devotional service is so pure and potent just like Krishna, that it cleanses our anarthas in our heart. Also Krishna kindly gives us shelter at His lotus feet. Since we don't know what is good or bad for us, Maharaj always suggests that we offer the below prayer to the Supreme Lord as spoken by Prthu Maharaj in verse 4.20.31 of Srimad Bhagavatam

*tvan-māyayāddhā jana īśa khaṇḍito
yad anyad āśāsta ṛtātmano 'budhaḥ
yathā cared bāla-hitam pitā svayaṁ
tathā tvam evārhasi naḥ samīhitum*

My Lord, due to Your illusory energy, all living beings in this material world have forgotten their real constitutional position, and out of ignorance they are always desirous of material happiness in the form of society, friendship and love. Therefore, please do not ask me to take some material benefits from You, but as a father, not waiting for the son's demand, does everything for the benefit of the son, please bestow upon me whatever You think best for me.

May we remember the sublime instructions of Srimad Bhagavatam, Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva and practise the same in our lives.

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much.

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

Save Yourself from Hell - Part 1

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

The following is an humble effort to transcribe one of the nectarean class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Bhagavad Gita verse 16.16 of Bhagavad Gita in Sydney on June 1 2003

*aneka-citta-vibhrāntā moha-jāla-samāvṛtāḥ
prasaktāḥ kāma-bhogeṣu patanti narake 'śucau*

Thus perplexed by various anxieties and bound by a network of illusions, they become too strongly attached to sense enjoyment and fall down into hell.

(Gurudev recited the verse lovingly and devotees repeat after him.)

1. **Way to Hell:**

Gurudev: See this anustup lyric, this lyric is best to have the devotion, sincere devotional service. Sing Mahāmantra always in this lyric. (Gurudev chants Mahāmantra so beautifully and devotees repeat after him.) This verse describes that how the living entities miss their chance in the human existence and fall down into the hellish conditions - *patanti narake 'aśucau, unclean*. This is all our words, you know: *patanti* - fall down, *narake* - in *naraka*, in hell, *aśucau* - unclean - with unclean life.

Remember this. First thing is *aneka-citta-vibhrāntā* - we are completely illusioned by so many so many worries, you know. *aneka-citta-vibhrāntā* and the result is *moha-jāla-samāvṛtāḥ*. *samāvṛtāḥ* means covered. We are completely covered by *moha-jāla*, the intricate web of the illusion. As it is we are in illusion and again because of our ignorance, in the blinded ignorance, we create a web around us of illusion, *moha-jāla-samāvṛtāḥ*. And we are covered by the web. How nice a verse you know. *aneka-citta-vibhrāntā moha-jāla-samāvṛtāḥ* - In that, because of this web we are attracted to *prasaktāḥ kāma-bhogeṣu* - we are attracted to so many lusty desires and this is the royal road to go to hell. *patanti narake 'aśucau* - **As soon as the verse is in front of us, we should go to the word to word and try to relish the meaning and then we can sing it very lovingly you know.** Please sing. (Gurudev sings the verse very beautifully and devotees repeat) *aneka-citta-vibhrāntā, moha-jāla-samāvṛtāḥ* - the result is *prasaktāḥ kāma-bhogeṣu*. And the end result is *patanti narake 'śucau*. (Gurudev lovingly encourages everyone to recite the verse)

Gurudev: Please repeat the meanings. *aneka* — numerous; *citta* — by anxieties; *vibhrāntāḥ* — perplexed; See, our mind is completely perplexed by innumerable, innumerable anxieties. (Gurudev continues to read the word to word and devotees repeat) *moha* — of illusions; *jāla* — by network; *samāvṛtāḥ* — surrounded; *prasaktāḥ* — attached; *kāma-bhogeṣu* — to sense gratification; *patanti* — they glide down; *narake* — into hell; *aśucau* — unclean.

Translation by Srila Prabhupada. Srila Prabhupada ki Jai ! - **Thus perplexed by various anxieties and bound by a network of illusions, they become too strongly attached to sense enjoyment and fall down into hell.**

Nice sentence, One sentence only is the translation. Prabhupada is very expert. **"Thus perplexed by various anxieties and bound by a network of illusions, they become too strongly attached to sense enjoyment and fall down into hell."** Please hear the purport by Srila Prabhupada .

"The demoniac man knows no limit to his desire to acquire money. That is unlimited. He thinks only of how much assessment he has just now and schemes to engage that stock of wealth further and further. For that reason, he does not hesitate to act in any sinful way and so deals in the black market for illegal gratification. He is enamored by the possessions he has already, such as land, family, house and bank balance, and he is always planning to improve them. He believes in his own strength, and he does not know that whatever he is gaining is due to his past good deeds. He is

given an opportunity to accumulate such things, but he has no conception of past causes. He simply thinks that all his mass of wealth is due to his own endeavor. A demoniac person believes in the strength of his personal work, not in the law of karma. According to the law of karma, a man takes his birth in a high family, or becomes rich, or very well educated, or very beautiful because of good work in the past. The demoniac think that all these things are accidental and due to the strength of one's personal ability. They do not sense any arrangement behind all the varieties of people, beauty or education. Anyone who comes into competition with such a demoniac man is his enemy. There are many demoniac people, and each is enemy to othersto others. This enmity becomes more and more deep — between persons, then between families, then between societies, and at last between nations. Therefore there is constant strife, war and enmity all over the world.

Each demoniac person thinks that he can live at the sacrifice of all others. Generally, a demoniac, demoniac person thinks of himself as the Supreme God, and a demoniac preacher tells his followers: "Why are you seeking God elsewhere? You are all yourselves God! Whatever you like, you can do. Don't believe in God. Throw away God. God is dead." These are the demoniac's preachings.

Although the demoniac, demoniac person sees others equally rich and influential, or even more so, he thinks that no one is richer than he and that no one is more influential than he. As far as promotion to the higher planetary system is concerned, he does not believe in performing yajñas, or sacrifices. Demons think that they will manufacture their own process of yajña and prepare some machine by which they will be able to reach any higher planet. The best example of such a demoniac man was Rāvaṇa. He offered a program to the people by which he would prepare a staircase so that anyone could reach the heavenly planets without performing sacrifices, such as, such as are prescribed in the Vedas. Similarly, in the present age such demoniac men are striving to reach the higher planetary systems by mechanical arrangements. These are examples of bewilderment. The result is that, without their knowledge, they are gliding toward hell. Here the Sanskrit word moha-jāla is very significant. Jāla means "net"; the fish caught in a net, they have no way to come out."

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,
Krishna Rati devi dasi,
Singapore.

Save Yourself from Hell - Part 2

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the offering, "Save Yourself from Hell" wherein we are transcribing one of the nectarean class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Bhagavad Gita verse 16.16 of Bhagavad Gita in Sydney on June 1 2003. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj

1. Way to Hell.

Now we shall hear further.

2. **Art of thinking about Krishna:**

Gurudev chants a beautiful prayer and devotees repeat:

*śrī kṛṣṇaḥ śaraṇam samasta jagatām kṛṣṇam vinā kā gatiḥ
kṛṣṇena pratihanyate kali malam kṛṣṇāya kāryam namaḥ
kṛṣṇāt trasyati kālā bhīma bhujago kṛṣṇasya sarvam vaśe
kṛṣṇe bhaktir akhanditā bhavatu me bho kṛṣṇa tvam eva āśrayaḥ*

Gurudev: The thing is that we, we are not habituated to see the remote cause of everything. There is immediate cause, and there is remote cause also. And because we don't have that trained eyesight, to see the remote cause, we only dwell into the immediate causes. And this is the greatest blinded ignorance in the human existence. This can only be removed by continuously thinking about our own experiences. And we have passed few years in this life. There are full of experience we have. **On the one hand we have the experience, on the other hand the Vedic culture, presents the essence of the scriptures.** Whether we prefer or not, whether we like it or not, sometimes we are forced to go to Kṛṣṇa through the scriptures. Maybe we open Bhagavad Gita or we may recite Hanuman Chalisa or we may do something but we have to go to the spiritual side.

Please remember that our whole parampara system starting from Vyasadev, Sukadev and etc, gives this instruction that, "**Please, combine these together - your experience and the essence of scriptures.**" As soon as you try this, then there is no going back. **There is no defeat. Because you have the essence of scriptures with you in the form of Bhagavad Gita and more so in the form of Bhagavatam and Caitanya Caritamrita etc - stick to one or two essential scriptures. Don't read too much. Read little, but try to digest it. And digest means, you eat the food stuff, the saliva of our tongue is mixed with this food stuff. And then again we drink water or we drink dal or we drink kadhi or whatever. So it is mixed. Food is not the alone, only thing. It is mixed with something. This, your experience should be mixed with the scriptural injunctions. This is the art of thinking about Kṛṣṇa.**

Don't go away from your experiences. And what experiences I have, you should also all have. Our experiences may differ here and there in their nature, but experiences are same, because we are all victimized by the three modes of material nature. We cannot get out of this, sattva guna, mode of goodness, mode of passion or mode of ignorance. And within this range millions of combinations are there. So you may have some experience, I may have some experience but the root is the same. It's very nicely said in scriptures that *atma anubhav, atmānubhav, our own experience definitely becomes sarvānubhava* (SB 1.2.3), *everybody's experience*. I may have certain type of experience, but everything depends upon three modes of material nature. And our endeavour in this world should be to come out of these three modes. And particularly the lower modes - mode of passion and mode of ignorance. *tadā rajas-tamo-bhāvāḥ kāma-lobhādayaś ca ye* (S.B. 1.2.19), as soon as we are victimized by the mode of

passion and ignorance, scriptures say to us very clearly that the result is *kāma* and *lobhā*, lusty desires and greed. And we are constantly haunted by these lusty desires and greed.

It is very kind of really Srila Prabhupada and we are indebted, all of us who are in the foreign countries and India also now, we are indebted to him life after life. He is the only one who has guided us properly. Everywhere as we saw, the preaching is wrong. It's completely anti-god, Anti Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Nobody so far had insisted that, our life should be pure to go to Kṛṣṇa. There are scriptures here and there. ***There may be some pockets of preaching, but universal preaching was completely absent. It is he who did it. And he is so kind, he gave it in total. Now nobody can give anything more than him. The best we can do is to imitate him. That's it. Please try to understand this. And find out the ways to curb our lusty desires and resultant greed. It is the way for the destruction.***

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Krishna Rati devi dasi,

Singapore.

Save Yourself from Hell - Part 3

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the offering, "Save Yourself from Hell" wherein we are transcribing one of the nectarean class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Bhagavad Gita verse 16.16 of Bhagavad Gita in Sydney on June 1 2003. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj

1. Way to Hell.
2. Art of thinking about Krishna.

Now we shall hear further.

3. **Elevate from the lower modes:**

Gurudev: If you want to have head on crash, we are seeing that wall and even then if you continue driving, then whose fault is it? You see the wall in front of you, you should press the brake, isn't it to stop? And this we are not able to do. And this is the real preaching. Otherwise Kṛṣṇa's realm is very beautiful. His relationships are very nice. It's all transcendental. Doesn't have to do anything with the material inebrieties. Everything is there. But before we go, these steps, small steps have got to be taken. I want to go to the first floor, so I have to climb the stairs. **Maybe I am staying here since last 20 years. So I am used to these stairs. But no time, I can skip the stairs. I have to climb on my own. The same thing happens in our spiritual life also. These lower steps have got to be taken. Because as soon as we stop bhakti, the devotional service, then we glide down to the lower modes. That's our serious condition.**

And in order to elevate ourselves from these lower modes, the whole paraphernalia is here. Otherwise what is the use of this? It doesn't have any other use at all. The living entities crowd here. What's the need? There are so many nice buildings maybe in Sydney, much greater than this or much beautiful than this. Why we living entities are crowding here? The result is that we get unknowingly some satisfaction, when we come out of these lower modes. For a while we come here, have *darshan*, *yat-kīrtanam*, *yat-smaraṇam*, *yad-īkṣaṇam* (S.B. 2.4.15). Just by, just seeing Him we come out of the modes of material nature. Kīrtan - just sing the glories and you will come out of it. As soon as kīrtan is there, smaraṇ is there, remembering is there. Anyone you know, either you perform kīrtan or you remember

*Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare
Hare Rāma Hare Rāma Rāma Rāma Hare Hare*

This is *smaraṇ*. Any, any mantra you take, whichever you have faith in, but please do something. Do something. We are not fanatics but our Guru Maharaj has given Mahamantra. So we are chanting ourselves and we find solace in it, so we propagate it. This is how we are very wide hearted. *yatra bhāgavatā rājan sādhaso viśadāśayāḥ*. (S.B.4.29.39-40) Our hearts are very wide, *viśadāśayāḥ*, we are not narrow hearted. Somehow or the other we have the intense desire that, "you please living entities come to this place, have nice prasadam, be blissful and sing with us - or at least you have darshan or you have *vandanam*, may be prayers or you have sravanam, you just hear, or you may have arhaṇam, that you may worship". Please! Please these are the nice six ways and it is said very clearly in the pages of Bhagavatam - "*Even one, one way you follow and you are perfect.*" So how easy Kṛṣṇa can be, Prabhupada can recommend. This is it. And all our endeavors are in this direction so that the demoniac qualities and unnecessary concocted miseries may not consume our health and our whole of our material existence. This is the required thing at the moment. Otherwise as it is unnecessarily we are consumed. And in this direction all these devotees are trying and we are very happy really Atmaram prabhu is putting so much endeavor to establish this thing and increase these things. As you might have known that he has ambitious project of that, what Mountain? Blue Mountain yes! Please! The

whole world knows Blue Mountain. And now maybe Kṛṣṇa willing, there will nice Narasingha Dev Kshetra there. We already have, excellently we have got a nice more than life size big, deity to be installed in that kshetra.

There are so many institutions, there may be colleges also, there may higher colleges also or the schools also. But there is no kshetra. ***Kshetra is pilgrim center. And this is what these Prabhupada's disciples, they are sincerely trying and why? They want us, the living conditioned, conditioned living entities to come together. And the only interest of these devotees is that to serve you and to free yourself from these anxieties, so that you will not be consumed by the demoniac qualities or running after your greed. It's the only reason. There is no other reason at all.*** Please don't concoct other reasons. See the bright side and then it naturally becomes our duty to assist, you know to our, best of our capacity. One man cannot do anything. But together we can really increase these places. Have nice namahatt programs around, so that we will come out from this blinded darkness. Give the people the essence of scriptures. At least they should hear.

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,
Krishna Rati devi dasi,
Singapore.

Save Yourself from Hell - Part 4

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the offering, "Save Yourself from Hell" wherein we are transcribing one of the nectarean class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Bhagavad Gita verse 16.16 of Bhagavad Gita in Sydney on June 1 2003. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj

1. Way to Hell.
2. Art of thinking about Krishna.
3. Elevate from the lower modes

Now we shall hear further.

4. **Be with Krishna - Be at ease:**

Gurudev: Srila Prabhupada went all the way from Vrindavan to America and the first thing he did was that he went to that Thompkinson Park and just chanted Mahamantra. That's it. Nothing else. There were no lectures, nothing at all. Mahamantra is the essence of everything. Why can't we understand these things? This is the necessity of the present age and all the ages. And in this age particularly, when we are completely short lived. Unexpectedly we leave this body, we are consumed by the chronic diseases, so many anxieties, our health is deteriorating. All the forces which we are following, they are completely anti our health. Why can't we come to this side? I don't know.

Just coming here and hearing these things or performing kirtan or assisting in a bit of whatever we can, you are completely at ease. And if you are at ease, you can never be diseased. Isn't it? Ease, E A S E, (Gurudev spells each letter separately) we are all searching this ease and because we are not at ease, naturally we are 'dis' 'eased.' So if you are diseased, then you must find out ease. Isn't it? So this is the place where in you can find the ease. If you have to perform bypass operation, you will spend millions of dollars maybe to go to America or here or there. And you are operated. Then you don't hesitate to spend for the medical things. This is the real hospital. We should build these hospitals. Why do you not spend millions of dollars in this? Man! Just to cut your breast, you are spending millions of dollars and fondle with Krishna's machinery inside. Take out this, tie there, tie there and tie there and eventually the nerves break down and you are Haribol! (Gurudev and devotees laugh) So all expenses will be completely gone.

This investment is for, forever here, for our generations together. These places are not meant for 100 years. Thousands of years. And our generations great, great, great, great grand children will also be proud that my great, great grandfather had built this institution or he had helped here. This is the way to completely give the ease, continuously to our coming generations, innumerable and the same time to help to liberate the generations which are already passed. Our forefathers may not have done that, but may be getting rotten in hell so they will also be liberated. And then we will save ourselves from this pursuit of lust and greed. That is the best effect of these - just by donations, just by coming here and encouraging the devotees, we do so much for our own health and so much for our own, own spiritual well being - is it not the necessity nowadays? What, what mistake these young devotees have done to sacrifice their life? And this is the way we should sacrifice. May not be that everybody is not ready to stop his or her activities. Nobody tells to do that. No shastra insists that you have to leave everything. But the consciousness has got to be changed. However you might be busy in your own things, you may have so much wealth as it is mentioned you know. So much you have. Doesn't matter, keep it, but look to these eternal things. This is missing in our society and that's why we are in anxiety. That is the purport of this verse - *aneka-citta-vibhrāntā*.

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Krishna Rati devi dasi,

Singapore.

Save Yourself from Hell - Part 5

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in conclusion of the offering, "Save Yourself from Hell" wherein we are transcribing one of the nectarean class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Bhagavad Gita verse 16.16 of Bhagavad Gita in Sydney on June 1 2003. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj

1. Way to Hell.
2. Art of thinking about Krishna.
3. Elevate from the lower modes
4. Be with Krishna - Be at ease

Now we shall hear further.

5. Real Medical expense:

Gurudev: All these anxieties, there is no need of it. We are not supposed to be (anxious). We just have to recognize the authority of our Father through the saints like Prabhupada. And there's no cheating in this, There's no cheating. It's all open. The cards are open. We want to have more beautiful places and why? Because the population at large should be liberated from this all wave of intricacy of these different anxieties. And anxieties are our own concoctions. Frankly speaking, there is nothing. Nothing touches our soul. It's all body. And how long we are going to, going to be on the bodily level? The time is running out, *āyur harati vai pumsām, udyann astam ca yann asau* (Srimad Bhagavatam 2.3.17) - **by rising and setting of the sun a day is decreased from our life.** *How many days are already gone? When are we going to be awake about these things? And waking means, we ourselves should devote some time for chanting, reading, coming to the temple and see that what is happening and to the best of our ability, we just cooperate thinking that this is medical expense.* You know we don't think about our medical expense. As soon as we are sick, all our treasuries open. (Gurudev and devotees laugh) You know for what? For cutting our own body!

Recently there was that Aditya Birla from India you know. Birla is a big businessmen there. So he must have millions of dollars here also. So he had a backache and so many people have backache, in India, here also. They are just carrying on you know doing something, exercise or whatever or some alternative medicines or whatever. But Aditya Birla had so much reservations maybe, reserved riches here. So he wanted to come to America and perform the operations or whatever, and get cured you know. So he came here and they have for this backache, they have a horrible way to have the diagnosis what is happening in the spine. They call it lumbar puncture. So they put big needle through the spine. And the graph is there and then they know what is happening. And then they operate and something. After operation also nobody gets cured really. But we think that, "Oh! I have this and that and instead of killing life, diagnosis itself is killing." This man might have experienced and might have some operation and some how or the other he succumbed to the operation. And he died really. This is the end result of the excess riches.

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,
Krishna Rati devi dasi,
Singapore.

Save Yourself from Hell - Part 6

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in conclusion of the offering, "Save Yourself from Hell" wherein we are transcribing one of the nectarean class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Bhagavad Gita verse 16.16 of Bhagavad Gita in Sydney on June 1 2003. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj

1. Way to Hell.
2. Art of thinking about Krishna.
3. Elevate from the lower modes
4. Be with Krishna - Be at ease
5. Real Medical expense

Now we shall hear further.

6. Give Krishna to the future generation:

Gurudev: And if not operations, you will be driven to the liquor shops or the prostitutes or somewhere. **Money has to go away. Money will not stay. That is nature of Lakshmi. Never stays in one place. It has to go. Either it goes in the use of Krishna consciousness or it goes, that is through some sinful activities.** Please! Try to think, elevate yourself. We are not after your riches or anything, but this is requirement. As I told you, when we have heart attack, then there is no time to think. We may sell our houses and repair our body. This is the fact. The same way, this is a very serious heart attack of the society. And when the society is suffering with the heart attack, our children cannot be saved. They must have some beautiful places to go to. So at least they will remember the existence of the Supreme Absolute Truth and they may gain nice things through Prabhupada's literature. And instead of these mad pursuits, they may come to their own senses. Otherwise as it is they are born in Australia or wherever outside India. So they will be completely dragged to the nonsensical activities.

You have earned money already for them. They have the readymade money. **Readymade money will be their enemy.** These points, we must think. Otherwise all these activities will be gone. Numeral anxieties will be after them and **we claim that we love our children, future generation. If you really love, is it not our, our duty to make them safe? At least we give Krishna, try to give.** In future everybody has his own ways but at least mother and father have seriously followed these things, always be in touch with the temple, always be cooperative in propagating these activities, then they know that mother and father was going there. So in their waning years also, they will be attracted and more so during their life. So this is the best use of your existence. Please try to ponder over these points and make the best of the things. Hare Krsna! Jai Srila Prabhupada ki Jai !

Devotees: HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj ki Jai !

Heartfelt thanks to Maharaj for his sublime instructions on how to save ourselves from hell.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Krishna Rati devi dasi,

Singapore.

Transcendental Meeting

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

In Third Canto 21st Chapter of Srimad Bhagavatam we see that Svayambhuva Manu, who is the emperor of the whole planet, goes along with his wife Satarupa and daughter Devahuti, to meet the sage Kardama Muni who was staying in his ashram which was situated on the banks of River Sarasvathi. On meeting the sage, the king offered his respectful obeisances. The sage after offering his benedictions and receiving the emperor with due honour, then began to genuinely appreciate the glorious nature of the emperor.

Kardama Muni glorified Manu that as he has been a true representative of Supreme Lord and the demigods, has been taking care of all the subjects nicely, thats why there are no criminals, rogues or rascals harrasing the living entities, in his rule. The way Svayambhuva responds to these appreciations, is very interesting to note, meditate and practise in our lives. In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 3.22.5 Manu says,

*tava sandarśanād eva cchinnā me sarva-saṁśayāḥ
yat svayaṁ bhagavān prītyā dharmam āha rirakṣiṣoḥ*

Now I have resolved all my doubts simply by meeting you, for Your Lordship has very kindly and clearly explained the duty of a king who desires to protect his subjects.

When someone appreciates us, this is how our mind would like to respond

1. We would thank them thinking that after a long time atleast, they could recognise the good qualities in us.
2. We would want them to glorify us more and superficially deny that we don't have those qualities.
3. We might find faults with them that they have not yet realised all our good qualities yet.

But here Manu responds as if he did not possess any of the good qualities earlier and that now after meeting the Kardama Muni only he has got all his doubts clarified as to how a king should behave.

Many years ago in one of the Vyasa pooja ceremony, we noticed that when the disciples were offering glorification to our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj, Maharaj in a very sober mood, kept softly chanting on his beads throughout. Although he was worthy of all the glorifications, he remained very sober and unaffected by the glorification. Maharaj was indeed listening to all of them. It was not that he was not listening to the loving offerings made by the devotees. But he showed us by practise as to how we should not become elated or carried away by the glorification and must remember the all glorious Lord Krishna, by whose grace we might have a spark of some good quality in us. Later one devotee said that when someone appreciates us, we should remember to pass it on to Guru and Krishna as the truth of the fact is that we are nothing without them and if at all others could see any good quality in us, it is because of grace of Sri Guru and Krishna.

In his transcendental purport to the above verse Srila Prabhupada very nicely mentions about how *lava mātra sādhu sanga* can work miracles in our lives. His Divine Grace says, "**Somehow or other, if one meets a saintly person and achieves his favor, then the entire mission of one's human life is fulfilled.** In our personal experience we have actual proof of this statement of Manu. Once we had the opportunity to meet Viṣṇupāda Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja, and on first sight he requested this humble self to preach his message in the Western countries. There was no preparation for this, but somehow or other he desired it, and **by his grace we are now engaged in executing his order, which has given us a transcendental occupation and has saved and liberated us from the occupation of material activities.** Thus it is actually a fact that if one meets a saintly person completely engaged in transcendental duties and achieves his favor, then one's life mission becomes complete. What is not possible to achieve in thousands of lives can be achieved in one moment if there is an opportunity to meet a saintly person

."

The transcendental meeting of His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada with his spiritual master Viṣṇupāda Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja, not only gave transcendental occupation to Srila Prabhupada alone, but even now so many millions of people who are directly and indirectly connected with this glorious Hare Krishna movement are all having transcendental occupation - simply by that transcendental meeting. So may we never take saintly people for granted and always approach them with a humble heart, so that we can learn from them the ways to please the Lord.

Thank you very much.

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

Successful Life

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

Krishna has blessed with one mouth and two ears so that we hear more and speak less. Particularly when we approach spiritual master, elders, saintly people it is important that we hear more from them. But these days we find that everyone of us have urge to speak more than to listen from others. When we are in this mood, it will not be possible for us to receive the knowledge from others. Our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj says that **when we approach a spiritual master, our hearts should be like clean slate**. Then we would be able to receive the knowledge from the acaryas nicely. But if we approach them with our own speculations and misconception, falsely thinking that we know better, we would not be the reseptacle of the priceless wisdom from them. In third canto 22nd chapter of Srimad Bhagavatam we find that Svayambhuva, although being a emperor of the whole world, went to the ashram of Kardama Muni, paid his obeisances, waited patiently for the sage to speak first. When the sage greeted him and glorified him for being a good emperor and following all Vedic injunctions, Manu very humbly says in Srimad Bhagavatam 3.22.7 that he is very fortunate to hear such nice instructions on how to be a good king.

*diṣṭyā tvayānuśiṣṭo 'ham kṛtaś cānugraho mahān
apāvṛtaiḥ karṇa-randhrair juṣṭā diṣṭyośatīr giraḥ*

I have fortunately been instructed by you, and thus great favor has been bestowed upon me. I thank God that I have listened with open ears to your pure words.

Manu is teaching us by his personal example as to how we should approach saintly people and the way to make best use of such association. The words '*uśatīḥ*' means **pure** and '*giraḥ*' means **words**. The words emanating from the lotus mouth of such exalted saintly people are all pure and so we should receive them with great attention. To emphasise this the words '*apāvṛtaiḥ karṇa-randhrair*' is being used in the above verse. *apāvṛtaiḥ* means **open** and *karṇa-randhrair* means **holes of the ears**. In conditioned state, we fail to realise the great fortune of meeting devotees and hearing from them. And therefore we continue to be entangled with miseries of the world.

Srila Prabhupada in his purport to the above verse, very nicely reveals how Manu felt on meeting the great sage. "*Manu said that since he was advised and instructed by Kardama Muni, he was very much favored. He considered himself lucky to receive the message by aural reception. It is especially mentioned here that **one should be very inquisitive to hear with open ears from the authorized source of the bona fide spiritual master**. How is one to receive? **One should receive the transcendental message by aural reception**. The word *karṇa-randhrāiḥ* means "through the holes of the ears." The favor of the spiritual master is not received through any other part of the body but the ears. This does not mean, however, that the spiritual master gives a particular type of mantra through the ears in exchange for some dollars and if the man meditates on that he achieves perfection and becomes God within six months. Such reception through the ears is bogus. **The real fact is that a bona fide spiritual master knows the nature of a particular man and what sort of duties he can perform in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and he instructs him in that way. He instructs him through the ear, not privately, but publicly. "You are fit for such and such work in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You can act in this way."** One person is advised to act in Kṛṣṇa consciousness by working in the Deities' room, another is advised to act in Kṛṣṇa consciousness by performing editorial work, another is advised to do preaching work, and another is advised to carry out Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the cooking department. There are different departments of activity in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and a spiritual master, knowing the particular ability of a particular man, trains him in such a way that by his tendency to act he becomes perfect."*

If not for the direction of spiritual master, we will be tottering in the waves of material ocean, not knowing our destination. But spiritual master, like a lighthouse guides us to final destination - which is Goloka. So what is the duty

of disciple after meeting and receiving instruction from the spiritual master? His Divine Grace very nicely mentions that in the concluding lines of the purport. "***He should faithfully try to execute that particular instruction and should consider that his life and soul. The faithful execution of the instruction which he receives from the spiritual master is the only duty of a disciple, and that will bring him perfection. One should be very careful to receive the message from the spiritual master through the ears and execute it faithfully. That will make one's life successful.***"

Thank you very much.

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

Favours

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

In Srimad Bhagavatam Canto 3 Chapter 22 we see that Svayambhuva Manu, the emperor of the whole planet approaches the sage Kardama Muni, submissively offers his obeisances and waits to hear from him. The sage Kardama Muni appreciates the royal duties expertly performed by Manu. Upon hearing this Manu, instead of taking any credits for the same, humbly says that Krishna has arranged this varnashrama system, so that by rendering the individual prescribed duties properly people from different varnas can protect each other and thereby experience the real protection of Supreme Lord. He thanked the sage Kardama Muni for giving him nice instructions on how to be a good king. Manu, was not proud of his position of being a great emperor. But when he met the sage, he placed himself in the humble position of disciple and as a good student, with open ears and mind, he received the instructions from the sage. Then in verse 3.22.8 of Srimad Bhagavatam,

*sa bhavān duhitṛ-sneha-parikliṣṭātmano mama
śrotum arhasi dīnasya śrāvitam kṛpayā mune*

O great sage, graciously be pleased to listen to the prayer of my humble self, for my mind is troubled by affection for my daughter.

In his wonderful purport to the above verse Srila Prabhupada very nicely teaches us how a disciple should behave and it is worth meditating.

"When a disciple is perfectly in consonance with the spiritual master, having received his message and executed it perfectly and sincerely, he has a right to ask a particular favor from the spiritual master. Generally a pure devotee of the Lord or a pure disciple of a bona fide spiritual master does not ask any favor either from the Lord or the spiritual master, **but even if there is a need to ask a favor from the spiritual master, one cannot ask that favor without satisfying him fully."**

Our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj says that when we want to be served by others, we are in maya. Unfortunately many times even after taking up the process of bhakti, we carry on fruitive mentality and continue to think Guru and Krishna as our order suppliers for us. Both Manu and His Divine Grace are teaching us through this verse as to when we really qualify to ask for any favours from spiritual master. The word 'consonance' which is used by His Divine Grace is worth meditating. Consonance means to be in harmony with spiritual master thinks. To be in harmony means, to honestly execute the instruction of the spiritual master at all times.

Many times we forget what we should do to please Guru and Krishna and keep wondering why They are not pleasing our senses, why They are not fulfilling our desires. Guru being representative of Supreme Lord, knows what is good/bad for us. So when our favours are not fulfilled we should understand that They have not sanctioned it because

1. We don't deserve it.
2. Such favours are not favourable for our path back home back to Godhead

So instead of brooding over our wants and needs, it is best we whole-heartedly surrender to Them and engage in Their service. The below verse from Srimad Bhagavatam (5.19.27) holds good for spiritual master as well.

*satyaṁ diśaty arthitam arthito nṛṇāṁ
naivārthado yat punar arthitā yataḥ
svayaṁ vidhatte bhajatām anicchatām
icchāpidhānaṁ nija-pāda-pallavam*

The Supreme Personality of Godhead fulfills the material desires of a devotee who approaches Him with such motives, but He does not bestow benedictions upon the devotee that will cause him to demand more benedictions again. However, the Lord willingly gives the devotee shelter at His own lotus feet, even though such a person does not aspire for it, and that shelter satisfies all his desires. That is the Supreme Personality's special mercy.

May we give up the fruitive mentality and engage in devotional service - simply for pleasing Guru and Krishna without expecting anything in return. The truth is that - opportunity to serve itself is a great benediction or favour bestowed by Them on us.

Thank you very much.

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

Culture the Knowledge - Part 1

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is a humble effort to transcribe one of the nectarean Bhagavad Gita class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on verses 13.8-12 in Singapore on 21st March 1992

*amānitvam adambhitvam ahimsā kṣāntir ārjavam
ācāryopāsanaṁ śaucaṁ sthairyam ātma-vinigrahaḥ
indriyārtheṣu vairāgyam anahaṅkāra eva ca
janma-mṛtyu-jarā-vyādhi-duḥkha-doṣānudarśanam
asaktir anabhiśvaṅgaḥ putra-dāra-grhādiṣu
nityaṁ ca sama-cittatvam iṣṭāniṣṭopapattiṣu
mayi cānanya-yogena bhaktir avyabhicāriṇī
vivikta-deśa-sevitvam aratir jana-saṁsadi
adhyātma-jñāna-nityatvaṁ tattva-jñānārtha-darśanam
etaj jñānam iti proktam ajñānam yad ato 'nyathā*

Humility; pridelessness; nonviolence; tolerance; simplicity; approaching a bona fide spiritual master; cleanliness; steadiness; self-control; renunciation of the objects of sense gratification; absence of false ego; the perception of the evil of birth, death, old age and disease; detachment; freedom from entanglement with children, wife, home and the rest; even-mindedness amid pleasant and unpleasant events; constant and unalloyed devotion to Me; aspiring to live in a solitary place; detachment from the general mass of people; accepting the importance of self-realization; and philosophical search for the Absolute Truth - all these I declare to be knowledge, and besides this whatever there may be is ignorance.

Maharaj: These are the 18 symptoms and now these 18 symptoms are very nicely described in this purport of this verse. These are the 18 symptoms. As advised in the thirteenth chapter of Bhagavad Gita 13th chapter verse number 8 to 12, one should culture knowledge in the following way. This is the way to culture the knowledge and that's why I am giving you the group of the verses. Unless you go into the heart of the Bhagavad Gita, you will never be wise. In order to create the wisdom, we must try this very sincerely, you know. Nobody pushes us. But it should be our *jijnāsa* you know. Ya.. very earnest desire.

In this we are not getting any money, but money comes. Because Prabhupada had earnest desire to do this, see how much money he has got. Frankly speaking we are not after money, but it is not the immediate result that we read and we get 10 dollars. It is not that way. It gives unlimited, but we have to create patience then and with the patience, we should try to minimize our other engagements. **No doubt, we have to carry on the show, so to that minimum extent we do and the rest of the time, we are completely engrossed with this and I will guarantee you that if you prepare these verses once, it will be the permanent asset with you, permanent.** And asset in the sense that anywhere, if somebody tells you to speak about Bhagavad gita, knowledge about Bhagavad gita, according to Bhagavad gita what are the symptoms of knowledge, then immediately without any much endeavour, you come to these verses. But first *sādhana* is required and that is how we should be attracted to the scriptures.

There are groups of verses in Srimad Bhagavatam, innumerable groups. We don't have time. What can you do? 18000 verses. We may learn here and there few verses. That's all. That is the only thing we can do. We can never touch. It is unlimited. But Bhagavad Gita could be within our limits. There is one nice girl in London you know. We have South London Naamahat program and since she was 7 years old, she is coming to that program and I saw that she is very

nice in pronunciation you know. So, I insisted that she should learn Bhagavad Gita as many chapters as possible. So we started by those 4 verses, the seed verses. So, she did that and then she learnt 12th chapter, then 15th chapter, then 10th, 7th 8th this way now she can recite 4 or 5 chapters without looking and she is at the moment 9 years old. And she always insists by the time she is 12 years old, she will know whole Bhagavad gita. **So, this is how if the children can do, we can very well do. But what happens that our attention is diverted here and there and the most important thing is we are prone to sleep you know.**

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Vaikunthanath Krishna das,

Sharjah.

Culture the Knowledge - Part 2

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the transcription of one of the nectarean Bhagavad Gita class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on verses 13.8-12 in Singapore on 21st March 1992. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj

1. Approach Bhagavad Gita sincerely.

2. **Regulate your life:**

Maharaj: (Giving the personal example of young devotee, (9 year old) from London, Maharaj was encouraging how just like that child it is possible for each one of us to study all 700 shlokas from Gita, but because we are lazy and prone to sleep, we are not doing it)

That (lethargy) is very important defect in our life. But we don't like you know. Suppose you get up at 4 o'clock in the morning, then we are not natural. We are struggling to get up at four o'clock. This should not be the case and why we are struggling because we are not regular in going to bed early. That is the thing. See if you really go to bed early, then you can get up early and that should be followed very seriously. What we do? That we in our family life, we linger on during night, 10'o'clock, 10:30, 11'o'clock, 12'o'clock and then after getting to bed also, we don't sleep. There are so many other things disturbing. So the sane person, what he does, that all disturbances, he takes away from his life. Whatever is disturbance, he carefully avoids those disturbances. And in order to do that, **we must regulate our life. Our food must be regulated. Our timings must be regulated. And then only we can come to scriptures** and once you come to scriptures, then it is very easy to compare you know. These different books, we are reading. And Prabhupada always refers the same thing in different books, but he gives the different perspective and that is how 18 knowledge symptoms are very nicely listed here -

1. "One should himself become a perfect gentleman and learn to give proper respect to others." - Same you know *am āninā māna denā*. So this is how.
2. "One should not pose himself as a religionist simply for name and fame." - *amānitvam adambitvam* - we should not be proud of our knowledge that, "I know this, I know that." No, but very submissively, we should submit to the scriptures.
3. "One should not become a source of anxiety to others." - We are really a source of anxiety to others always and we think that we are doing our duty whereas we are constantly a source of anxiety and this doesn't come.

These symptoms don't develop in our life because the root of all these symptoms is not in our life and the root is bhakti. Once we create devotional service we create all these 18 symptoms. And that is very nicely said in Srimad Bhagavatam (5.18.12) - *yasyāsti bhaktir bhagavaty akiñcanā sarvair guṇais tatra samāsate surāḥ* - **Where there is devotional service, all qualities come and where there is no devotional service, no quality is there.** The root of all these qualities is the sincere devotional service. And that is in short. If you find time just go through these verses. And try to learn them by heart and compare with this mantra 10 from Ishopanishad and if you can learn this mantra, it will give you a nice insight and Prabhupada's purport is really beautiful. A small purport about 18 symptoms and then he has discussed them here.

Prabhupada is really at his best in this purport. So, if you can, these purports should be taped. These verses should be taped. And then you keep on hearing. And many times, what happens if you tape these things, we may put on the tape in the car or this or that, but then again, we are inattentive. Too much tapes also is not good. We should try to work. Otherwise **our tendency is, that we buy a computer and we think everything is in computer. I hate the computer. Because then we have the tendency, "Oh everything is in the computer. Don't worry." And it remains always in the computer and never enter here and unless it is here, the computer cannot speak. No doubt, it is there, but who will do?**

"Oh! I have got everything. ok!" We are just in illusion of the computer. We just take the computers and there is nothing here and we don't know what to talk and what to learn and how to behave. This is the thing.

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Vaikunthanath Krishna das,

Sharjah.

Culture the Knowledge - Part 3

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in conclusion of the transcription of one of the nectarean Bhagavad Gita class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on verses 13.8-12 in Singapore on 21st March 1992. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj

1. Approach Bhagavad Gita sincerely.
2. Regulate your life.

Now we shall hear further.

3. **Simple living - High Thinking:**

Maharaj: Our whole tendency, our whole culture is really very good that our forefathers did not have the computers. Our forefathers did not have anything and they were doing everything manual. Not only that, but the whole banking system you must be remembering. In our childhood, in the village there will be a village banker and he will be alone and with all his books and everything, he will sit alone and he will deal with so many accounts, money lending and this and that and everything he will just find out immediately. Everything. And now yesterday we went to the bank and there are 25 more than 25 people working and no work is done and tables are full. They don't know what is happening and then everybody gets the overtime. Otherwise why that man will sit yesterday up to 7 o'clock? Why should he be there? He was working overtime and this is how the vicious cycle starts.

Our one man was doing the whole banking. I remember in our childhood we were in a Muslim kingdom near Hyderabad you know and they have different currency. So, currency exchange was also there. From the British currency to that king's currency and one man was handling the currency exchange, plus different accounts, plus lending, plus income from the farm, income from the business. And the whole account was just dealt with by one man and it was such a huge thing and he was managing the whole thing. And he hardly had one shelf of files. That's all. Nothing else. Now we have so much paraphernalia and even then, we cannot handle the business of our own accounts. [smiles] What to talk of the whole kingdom? This is the deterioration of the human energy because of undeviated, really unnecessary attachment to so many things.

That is why the **scriptures advise you that minimize your requirements, necessities and then you will do the required thing. This is the gist. How to do it is everybody's problem. Because everybody of us are in different circumstances. You may tell me that this is my circumstance. Even then I cannot judge you well because you alone know, what set up you are in.** You may have this that that that... so many. We have our own circles you know and we always roam about in our own circles. So instead of that Prabhupada says that create this eternal circle, that everything should be tested with this eternal circle of devotional service. If we can do it, then we will really be successful. And in the end it will help us to pass away from here. (laughs) Hare Krishna! Really very nice. These scriptures are really Prabhupada's mercy. So we better take a bit of rest and then get ready again. Haribol.

Devotee : Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj ki Jai!

Maharaj: Srila Prabhupad ki Jai !

Heartfelt thanks to Mahraj for his sublime instructions on how to culture the knowledge.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,
Vaikunthanath Krishna das,
Sharjah.

Never Forget the Traditions - Part 1

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is a humble effort to transcribe one of the nectarean class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 1.14.31 in Sri Sri Radha Neela Madhav dham, Rajkot.

*suṣeṇāś cārudeṣṇāś ca sāmbo jāmbavatī-sutaḥ
anye ca kārṣṇi-pravarāḥ saputrā ṛṣabhādayaḥ*

Are all the chieftain sons of Lord Kṛṣṇa, such as Suṣeṇa, Cārudeṣṇa, Sāmbo the son of Jāmbavatī, and Ṛṣabha, along with their sons, all doing well?

(Maharaj made everyone recite the verse lovingly and then read the word-to-word, translation and purport of the above verse. Maharaj began the class by explaining the meaning of verse 1.2.18)

Maharaj:

*naṣṭa-prāyeṣv abhadreṣu nityam bhāgavata-sevayā
bhagavaty uttama-śloke bhaktir bhavati naiṣṭhikī*

By regular attendance in classes on the Bhāgavatam and by rendering of service to the pure devotee, all that is troublesome to the heart is almost completely destroyed, and loving service unto the Personality of Godhead, who is praised with transcendental songs, is established as an irrevocable fact.

This is the purpose of Bhagavatam, Bhagavatam classes and here Prabhupada mentions as a class, (it) is not lecture. Lecture means the person gives the lecture and he doesn't care whether he has learned or not, but he had daily to take care that he has learned. This is the difference between the lecture and the class. Here, there is regular attendance. Now these children, they are learning because they are regularly attending. That's why they are learning. If regular attendance is not there, then learning is impossible and that's why formally in gurukul, the boys are sent as soon as they are 5 years old. They leave the house and stay there, work very hard and stay in the gurukul for all the time. That is regular attendance. Here also (referring to Sri Sri Radha Neela Madhav dham, Rajkot) it's a mini gurukul. This one is our mini gurukul. Sometimes living entities come, they stay here 10-15 days, 2 days, 3 days whatever and try to learn. This should be the purpose of the class.

Now in this chapter, we are just following the natural way of asking the inquiries, when we see some of our relatives returning from somewhere. That is Vedic tradition and **these traditions should never be forgotten or destroyed.** Under the name of the busy schedule, may be our business or service or whatever we forget to ask the welfare of others. This should not be done at all. What is it? - *kula-kṣaye praṇaśyanti kula-dharmāḥ sanātanāḥ* (Bhagavad Gita 1.39) As soon as *kula-kṣay*, the family is destroyed, the family system is destroyed under the name of the so called whole advancement, and because of this '*kula-dharmāḥ*' are completely *naṣṭa* destroyed. '*kula-dharmāḥ sanātanāḥ*' - these dharmas, they are eternal. It is not only that Yudhishtir is enquiring, but even now in Bharatiya families, they have, at least minimum real brothers and sisters. Sons and daughters they know, if not uncles you know. There are few families even now in Rajkot wherein the whole family is in a joint family, uncles and their sons - in one kitchen they eat. **Thereby economy is already there. In one kitchen, everything is arranged and apart from that, there is some affinity and because of the loving relationship everybody has full courage to go ahead materially as well as spiritually.**

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,

Devakee and Mangala,

Delhi

Moderator's Note: Devakee and Mangala matajis are daughters of HG Svayamprakash Prabhuji and HG Svayamprabha Mataji from Delhi. They are practising Krishna consciousness right from childhood. Both of them had the good fortune of meeting Maharaj during their childhood and at a very young age of 6 and 4 years itself, they used to recite the entire Brahma Samhita in front of him. Maharaj was pleased with their upbringing and respectful attitude towards elders.

Never Forget the Traditions - Part 2

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the nectarean class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 1.14.31 in Sri Sri RadhaNeel Madhav dham, Rajkot. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj as to how we should lovingly inquire about spiritual well-being of others when we meet them. Now we shall hear further.

2. Spiritual Quest:

Maharaj: The head of the family, it was custom that being elder, he would devote his more time, for this spiritual quest than the material dealings. That was the thing and **because the head of the family was always engaged in the spiritual quest, the younger generations will follow him, as soon as they also attain the age, middle ages or old age. They will do the same thing.** This is the thread in this chapter and these are all Vedic threads. It is required for the spiritual well being and that's why Prabhupada's mercy, we have created the new family. May be our own family, we have forgotten or separated or whatever. But we are new family and that's why we knew each other, we write to each other e-mails and so many things, just to enquire how everything is going on. And the first question is about the sadhana, whether sadhana is going on or not and these are again Vedic. When Vishwamitra visited Dasharath Raja's court, he wanted to take Bhagavan Ram with him, for fighting the demons. So that time Dasharath Raja asked Vishwamitra. He did not ask, "how are you doing?" The question was that, "How far you are going ahead on destroying your *janma, mrityu, jarā, vyādi?*" So spiritual question was there. This is the tradition.

So, every time, we are conscious of our own position, precarious position on this planet. Never it is permanent, and we regard it as permanent. The permanency comes from the soul, because our soul is eternal. So always, we feel that I am not going to die. Maybe we are dying second moment, but we feel that I am not going to die. In a way, it is correct because there is no death for the soul. And that common man also knows that 'ABC' has passed away we call. 'Passed away' means not dead. And then further they clarify again that the body is dead. Body is dead, but he has passed away. So, they know that there is no death for the soul, and this is the gift of Bhagavad Gita.

*dehino 'smin yathā dehe kaumāram yauvanām jarā
tathā dehāntara-prāptir dhīras tatra na muhyati*

As we grow from childhood to youth and youth to oldage, we don't shout, and we don't cry. So '*dehāntara-prāptir*' - so when we change the body, there is no need of any lamentation. And this tradition, to reintroduce this tradition, Prabhupada had really tried very hard and to some extent we are successful. **These traditions and the other traditions should be understood very carefully and continued in our own capacity in our life. That is the part of the quest, spiritual quest. It's a part of our devotional service.**

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupad and Srila Gurudev,

Devakee and Mangala,

Delhi

Never Forget the Traditions - Part 3

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in continuation of the nectarean class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 1.14.31 in Sri Sri RadhaNeel Madhav dham, Rajkot. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj

1. Lovingly inquire about spiritual well-being of others when we meet them.
2. Understanding and following traditions is part of our spiritual quest - devotional service.

Now we shall hear further.

3. Unite Mankind by broadcasting Prabhupada's message:

Maharaj: Loving relationship is the part of our devotional service. But we miss one point that everything we carry on, on a bodily level. That is mistake. As we saw in the previous verse, that the spiritual Supreme being cannot be divided, advayam - undivided. So, we have to enquire about the spiritual living being, Supreme and that is one. If you understand this, then unnecessary divisions will vanish. It's not necessary. But somehow or the other, I don't know how the mankind is very fond of dividing itself. Formerly it was not the case, but only because of the holocaust of the Kurukshetra war, this division started. Because they couldn't get in touch with each other and the whole terrible chaos was there. Because where there was land, there was water. Where there was water, there was land. Nobody could understand anything. So, they thought that now they can't go anywhere. So whatever Vedic remnant was, there will be somebody. He became the leader and started his own movement, and this is how the divisions started. **There is need of Prabhupada's message to be broadcasted around the planet so that, may be Krishna willing, again the whole mankind may unite.**

What is that in Gita-Mahatmya there is that verse, *ekam śāstram devakī-putra-gītam* -**there should be only one shastra, (It) is sung by Krishna, (It) is coming from the higher source.** A conditioned man can never write Bhagavad Gita. We would very much like to write Bhagavad Gita. But it is beyond our capacity. We are conditioned and this literature is unconditioned. There is no condition for this. It's not in our power to write all the pastimes which are there, that we tell in Srimad Bhagvatam, however hard we try. Because this is inter planetary history, not only inter planetary in the material manifestation, but the spiritual manifestation also. So that is beyond our capacity to think and write these literatures. And these are the original traditions, which depend upon the unconditional stage of our existence and that is why we sanely, we try every day, to attain the unconditional stage. At the moment we are hovering around the conditioned stage and in conditioned stage, always there are difficulties, because it is temporary and again it depends upon something. Whereas we are habituated to the permanent life, and permanent and no-no condition. It doesn't depend upon anything. It only depends upon Krishna.

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

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupad and Srila Gurudev,
Devakee and Mangala,
Delhi