

## Pleasing Krishna - Part 1

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 4.20.1 Maitreya Muni while narrating to Vidura about the appearance of Lord Vishnu in the sacrificial arena of Maharaj Prthu, says how Lord mercifully gives His darshan to those who please Him.

*maitreya uvāca  
bhagavān api vaikunṭhaḥ  
sākaṁ maghavatā vibhuḥ  
yajñair yajña-patis tuṣṭo  
yajña-bhuk tam abhāṣata*

**The great sage Maitreya continued: My dear Vidura, being very much satisfied by the performance of ninety-nine horse sacrifices, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Viṣṇu, appeared on the scene. Accompanying Him was King Indra. Lord Viṣṇu then began to speak.**

In any field, we are considered as successful person when we reach the target cent-percent. But in spiritual front, what matters is whether we are able to please Krishna by our attempts to serve Him. Prthu Maharaj wanted to 100 sacrifice. But after 99th sacrifice, Indra became anxious whether his post will be at stake, if Prthu Maharaja completes the 100th sacrifice. So he makes every effort to stop Prthu Maharaja from performing the 100th sacrifice. He steals the horse kept for sacrifice. Prthu Maharaj disappointed by the action of Indra tried to get it back from him. Since this was provoking Indra to do more and more offence Lord Brahma advises Prthu Maharaj to stop with 99 sacrifice. Prthu Maharaj obeys and abides by the advice of Lord Brahmaji instead of being fanatic about reaching his target of 100 sacrifice. This obedience pleases (*tushta*) the Supreme Lord who is also addressed in the above verse as Yajna Pati (Lord of all sacrifices) and Yajna-bhuk (Enjoyer of all sacrifice). Prthu Maharaj was not hankering for any personal name or fame.

So we have to understand that whatever we do should be pleasing to Krishna. Krishna is pleased when we respect and abide by the words of elders. Our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj says that **obedience is the greatest remembrance of Krishna**. Because of abiding by Lord Brahmaji's words, Prthu Maharaj not only got the darshan of the Lord, but was also able to hear from Him. When we stop obeying the advice of elders, we put ourselves in great trouble. Srimad Bhagavatam 10.4.46 Sukadev Goswami says to Maharaj Parikshit.

*āyuh śriyaṁ yaśo dharmam lokān āśiṣa eva ca  
hanti śreyāṁsi sarvāṇi puṁso mahad-atikramaḥ*

**My dear King, when a man persecutes great souls, all his benedictions of longevity, beauty, fame, religion, blessings and promotion to higher planets will be destroyed.**

So instead of doing anything whimsically, it is important that we seek the advice of elders and try to always abide by their instruction. Such simple deeds in our day-to-day life, pleases Krishna.

Thank you very much.

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



## Pleasing 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, "Pleasing Krishna" wherein we were meditating on the pastime of the appearance of Lord Vishnu in the sacrificial arena of Prthu Maharaj. In the previous offering we saw that

1. Lord is pleased to give His darshan, when we are obedient to elders.

Now we shall see further.

In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 4.20.2

*śrī-bhagavān uvāca  
eṣa te 'kārṣīd bhaṅgaṁ haya-medha-śatasya ha  
kṣamāpayata ātmānam amuṣya kṣantum arhasi*

**Lord Viṣṇu, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, said: My dear King Pṛthu, Indra, the King of heaven, has disturbed your execution of one hundred sacrifices. Now he has come with Me to be forgiven by you. Therefore excuse him.**

Father is never pleased when his sons fight amongst themselves. This is true with Supreme Father Krishna who brings Indra along with him to the sacrificial arena. Before even giving a chance for Indra to speak with Prthu Maharaj, Lord very gracefully explains to Prthu Maharaj about the reason for Indra's visit. He very nicely insists Prthu Maharaj - *kṣantum arhasi* - that he has to forgive Lord Indra as he has come along with Him.

Lord is very pleased when we forgive the offence of others. Draupadi forgave Ashwattama even though he had committed the heinous act of killing her sons. Prahlad Maharaj - in spite of all the atrocities done to him by his father Hiranyakashipu, did not take any offence, but prayed to Lord Narasimhadev to liberate his father. Dhruva Maharaj upon the good advice of His mother Suniti forgave his step-mother Suruchi and performed sincere devotional service. Parikshit Maharaj did not take Shrngi brahmana's word as an offence. Instead he accepted it as a blessing. Vidura considered Duryodhana's harsh words before the Kurukshetra war as a blessing and left the kingdom and could visit all places of pilgrimage.

So we can see how when these devotees were able to practise this golden quality of forgiveness, the Lord mercifully reciprocated to them by giving Him their darshan, giving them the opportunity to hear Bhagavatam. Our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj says that ***we should not only forgive others, but also forget about it.*** Else we would unnecessarily keep remembering their offence and think how great we are that we have forgiven them.

His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada very nicely mentions about the significance of word '*ātmānam*' in the above verse. *ātmānam* means "unto yourself". *It is a custom among yogīs and jñānīs to address one another (or even an ordinary man) as one's self, for a transcendentalist never accepts a living being to be the body. Since the individual self is part and parcel of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the self and the Superself are qualitatively nondifferent.* There is a saying that we can hate the sin, but not the sinner. When we train ourselves to see every living entity as atma, as part and parcel of Supreme Lord, then we will be able to forgive others and see Krishna's hand in all that happens in our lives.

By not holding grudges against others and forgiving their offences, not only we become more approachable to al, but Krishna also becomes very pleased by our behaviour.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sudarshana devi dasi

### Pleasing 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, "Pleasing Krishna" wherein we were meditating on the pastime of the appearance of Lord Vishnu in the sacrificial arena of Prthu Maharaj. In the previous offering we saw that

1. Lord is pleased to give His darshan, when we are obedient to elders.
2. Lord is pleased when we forgive the offence of others.

Now we shall see further.

In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 4.20.3 Lord Vishnu says to Prthu Maharaj the qualities of Narottama (best human being)

*sudhiyaḥ sādhave loke naradeva narottamaḥ  
nābhidruhyanti bhūtebhyo yarhi nātmā kalevaram*

**O King, one who is advanced in intelligence and eager to perform welfare activities for others is considered best amongst human beings. An advanced human being is never malicious to others. Those with advanced intelligence are always conscious that this material body is different from the soul.**

Narottamas are

- a. *sudhiyaḥ* - the most intelligent person
- b. *sādhavaḥ* - are inclined to perform welfare activities
- c. *nābhidruhyanti bhūtebhyo* - never malicious towards other living beings.

They know that the body is different from soul and so they don't hate the sinners. Now we might wonder how is it possible to be kind to the offenders. His Divine Grace gives a very nice example in his wonderful purport to the above verse. He says that just like how a madman is not given capital punishment when he commits a murder, similarly we should also see the offenders as those who are under the clutches of the material modes. Soul is pure. But when one is under the influence of the modes, they helplessly commit mistakes. Understanding this the *sudhiyaḥ* - advanced transcendentalists, does not act in a manner that will provoke them to do more and more mistakes. Srila Prabhupada very nicely gives three meaning for the word '*sudhi*'. He says *sudhi* means one who is devoted, one who is intelligent, one who is highly advanced. Such people are - *sādhavaḥ* - wish welfare for all. So they magnanimously forgive the offence of others.

When people offend we have inherent tendency to counteract and harm them by body, mind or words. But how advanced transcendentalist (those who are *sudhi* and *sādhavaḥ*) behave is very nicely explained in the concluding lines of the purport to the above verse by Srila Prabhupada. "**One who is both devoted and highly advanced in intelligence does not take action against the soul or the body. If there is any discrepancy, he forgives. It is said that forgiveness is a quality of those who are advancing in spiritual knowledge.**"

In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 11.7.37 also the avadhuta brahmana very nicely explains how a sober person behaves when he is troubled by others.

*bhūtair ākramyamāṇo 'pi dhīro daiva-vaśānugaiḥ  
tad vidvān na calen mārgād anvaśīkṣaṁ kṣiter vratam*

**A sober person, even when harassed by other living beings, should understand that his aggressors are acting helplessly under the control of God, and thus he should never be distracted from progress on his**

**own path. This rule I have learned from the earth.**

Our prayers at the lotus feet of Srila Gurudev and Srila Prabhupada to bless us with this quality of forgiveness so that we don't waste our time and energy in having unnecessary grudges against others.

Thank you very much.

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

## Pleasing 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, "Pleasing Krishna" wherein we were meditating on the pastime of the appearance of Lord Vishnu in the sacrificial arena of Prthu Maharaj. In the previous offering we saw that

1. Lord is pleased to give His darshan, when we are obedient to elders.
2. Lord is pleased when we forgive the offence of others.

Now we shall see further.

In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 4.20.4 Lord Vishnu says to Prthu Maharaj

*puruṣā yadi muhyanti tvāḍṛśā deva-māyayā  
śrama eva paraṁ jāto dīrghayā vṛddha-sevayā*

**If a personality like you, who are so much advanced because of executing the instructions of the previous ācāryas, is carried away by the influence of My material energy, then all your advancement may be considered simply a waste of time.**

In the above verse *vṛddha-sevayā* means **servicing the superiors** and *dīrghayā* means **for a long time**. Srila Prabhupada very nicely mentions in the purport that, "*Perfect knowledge is acquired from the ācāryas, or liberated souls. No one can be perfect in knowledge without being trained by the paramparā system. Prthu Mahārāja was completely trained in that line; therefore he did not deserve to be considered an ordinary man. An ordinary man, who has only a conception of bodily existence, is always bewildered by the modes of material nature.*"

For ordinary souls who are bewildered by material modes, it becomes necessary to follow ritualistic performances recommended in the *Vedas*. So they might have to engage themselves in sacrifices etc. But for people like Prthu Maharaj, there is no need to perform such things. Srila Prabhupada nicely quotes the example of Arjuna in his purport to verse 4.20.5. *Arjuna was advised to transcend the Vedic activities. The activities Arjuna was advised to perform were the transcendental activities of devotional service.* Lord is pleased when one engages in His transcendental loving devotional service.

Such loving devotional service is above all modes and therefore it is called *nīstraiguṇya*. **Devotional service to the Lord has nothing to do with the material conception of bodily comfort.** So Lord makes it clear to Prthu Maharaj that He is not pleased by ritualistic sacrifices, rather He is pleased by loving devotional service.

Thank you very much.

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

## Pleasing Krishna - 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, "Pleasing Krishna" wherein we were meditating on the pastime of the appearance of Lord Vishnu in the sacrificial arena of Prthu Maharaj. In the previous offering we saw that Lord is pleased.

1. when we are obedient to elders.
2. when we forgive the offence of others.
3. Lord is pleased when we engage in loving devotional service and not by Vedic rituals performed to satisfy our senses.

Now we shall see further.

4. **Discharging Occupational Duty**: In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 4.20.9 Lord Vishnu says to Maharaj Prthu

*yaḥ sva-dharmaṇa mām nityam nirāśiḥ śraddhayānvitaḥ  
bhajate śanakais tasya mano rājan prasīdati*

**The Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Viṣṇu, continued: My dear King Pṛthu, when one situated in his occupational duty engages in My loving service without motive for material gain, he gradually becomes very satisfied within.**

In the above verse the word *sva-dharma* is worth meditating. *sva-dharma* refers to one's occupational duties. Depending upon one's varna and ashrama each one of us might be having different *sva-dharma*. We may be in any varna or ashrama - but we should do our prescribed duties, remembering Krishna and as an offering to Krishna. Occupational duties should be never given up out of laziness. They should be performed without any motives - When we do in this mood, Lord will be pleased as a result we would also attain satisfaction. His Divine Grace very nicely mentions in the purport to the above verse, "**Discharging one's occupational duty as a means of rendering devotional service unto the Supreme Personality of Godhead is the ultimate goal of life.**"

Srimad Bhagavatam verse 1.2.6 also Suta Goswami very nicely explains about what is our supreme *svadharma*.and the mood in which we have to do it. He says, **The supreme occupation [dharma] for all humanity is that by which men can attain to loving devotional service unto the transcendent Lord. Such devotional service must be unmotivated and uninterrupted to completely satisfy the self.**

Srila Prabhupada very nicely elaborates in the purport above we can practise this loving service unto the Lord. **In this material world everyone is engaged in various professional and occupational duties, but the purpose of such activities should be to please the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Devotional service is very simple, and anyone can adopt it. Let one remain what he is; he need only install the Deity of the Supreme Lord in his house. The Deity may be Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa or Lakṣmī-Nārāyaṇa (there are many other forms of the Lord). In this way a brāhmaṇa, kṣatriya, vaiśya or śūdra can **worship the Deity with the results of his honest labor. Regardless of one's occupational duty, one should adopt the devotional means of hearing, chanting, remembering, worshiping, offering everything to the Lord and engaging in His service. In this way one can very easily engage himself in the service of the Lord. When the Lord is pleased with one's service, one's mission in life is fulfilled.****

Thank you very much.



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

## Pleasing Krishna - 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, "Pleasing Krishna" wherein we were meditating on the pastime of the appearance of Lord Vishnu in the sacrificial arena of Prthu Maharaj. In the previous offering we saw that Lord is pleased.

1. when we are obedient to elders.
2. when we forgive the offence of others.
3. Lord is pleased when we engage in loving devotional service and not by Vedic rituals performed to satisfy our senses.
4. when we discharge our occupational duties.

Now we shall see further.

5. Lord's Instructions:

In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 4.20.13 Lord Vishnu instructs Prthu Maharaj

*samaḥ samānottama-madhyamādhamaḥ  
sukhe ca duḥkhe ca jitendriyāśayaḥ  
mayopakṣiptākḥila-loka-saṁyuto  
vidhatsva vīrākḥila-loka-rakṣaṇam*

**My dear heroic King, please keep yourself always equipoised and treat people equally, whether they are greater than you, in the intermediate stage or lower than you. Do not be disturbed by temporary distress or happiness. Fully control your mind and senses. In this transcendental position, try to execute your duty as king in whatever condition of life you may be posted by My arrangement, for your only duty here is to give protection to the citizens of your kingdom.**

Just like how parent is very pleased with his/her obedient child, similarly Krishna is also very pleased when we follow the instructions given by Him. In the above verse Lord highlights few wonderful qualities which we shall try to meditate in today's offering,

1. *samaḥ* — **equipoised. to all living entities.** General tendency for us is that we respect people based on their social status and our degree of respect changes according to the prosperity of the people whom we meet. But here Lord Vishnu specifically advises that irrespective of the social status, we should treat everyone equally with love and respect.
2. **Equipoised in happiness and distress** - *sukhe ca duḥkhe ca*. Happiness and distress are all temporary in this material world and as Lord Krishna says in Bhagavad Gita - they are like seasons. So we should treat them also equally.
3. *jitendriyāśayaḥ* - **Control the mind and senses.** Uncontrolled mind and senses cause havoc not only to us and also the people around us.
4. *mayopakṣiptākḥila-loka-saṁyuto* - **To accept the plan of Lord and carry on with our prescribed duties. In the story of cobbler and** the priest, we can see how the cobbler did not crib about his material position - but he simply

carried on his duty of sewing the sandals and at the same time engaged in singing bhajans glorifying the Lord.

In Bhagavad Gita Chapter 12 also we find in verses 13 to 19, Lord Krishna says to Arjuna about all these qualities and about how Lord is pleased with those who possess them. In verse 12.18-19 Lord says,

*samaḥ śatrau ca mitre ca tathā mānāpamānayoḥ  
śītoṣṇa-sukha-duḥkheṣu samaḥ saṅga-vivarjitaḥ  
tulya-nindā-stutir maunī santuṣṭo yena kenacit  
aniketaḥ sthira-matir bhaktimān me priyo naraḥ*

**One who is equal to friends and enemies, who is equipoised in honor and dishonor, heat and cold, happiness and distress, fame and infamy, who is always free from contaminating association, always silent and satisfied with anything, who doesn't care for any residence, who is fixed in knowledge and who is engaged in devotional service - such a person is very dear to Me.**

Thank you very much.

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

## Pleasing Krishna - Part 7

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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This is in continuation of the previous offering titled, "Pleasing Krishna" wherein we were meditating on the pastime of the appearance of Lord Vishnu in the sacrificial arena of Prthu Maharaj. In the previous offering we saw that Lord is pleased.

1. when we are obedient to elders.
2. when we forgive the offence of others.
3. when we engage in loving devotional service and not by Vedic rituals performed to satisfy our senses.
4. when we discharge our occupational duties.
5. when we follow the Lord's instructions.

Now we shall continue further.

**6. Please Krishna by pleasing spiritual master:** In Srimad Bhagavatam 4.20.13 we saw how Lord Vishnu is very nicely instructing Prthu Maharaj about how important it is to be equipoised to all, equipoised in happiness and distress, fully control our mind and senses and to do his duty as king and protect the citizens. These instructions not only apply to Prthu Maharaj or kshatriyas - but to all of us. As Lord says, wherever He has placed us, according to our varna and ashrama we need to do our duties.

Not everyone of us would be qualified or fortunate enough like Arjuna or Prthu Maharaj to see Lord face to face or get instructions from Him directly. In his unparalleled purport to the above verse, Srila Prabhupada teaches us all conditioned suffering souls, the simple and sublime way in which we can please Krishna. His Divine Grace says, "**One has to execute the order of Lord Viṣṇu, whether receiving it directly from Him or from His bona fide representative, the spiritual master.... We have to stick to the principles stated in the Bhagavad Gita vyavasāyātmikā buddhiḥ: Every man's duty is to receive orders from Lord Kṛṣṇa or from His bona fide representative and take these orders as his life and soul, without personal considerations.** Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura states that one should not care very much whether he is going to be liberated or not, but he should simply execute the direct order received from the spiritual master. If one sticks to the principle of abiding by the order of the spiritual master, he will always remain in a liberated position."

In any condition of life, if we simply do our best to follow the instructions of our spiritual master, then we will not be bothered by whatever troubles we face in this material world and later also. In his wonderful lecture on Gita verse 9.2-3, given in Calcutta on March 8 1972 Srila Prabhupada very nicely says,

*yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo  
yasya aprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi  
dhyāyan stuvaṁs tasya yaśas tri-sandhyaṁ  
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

So this is *rāja-vidyā*, *rāja-guhyam*. **This is the secret, guru-kṛṣṇa kṛpāya** [Cc. Madhya 19.151]. **We should take advantage of this rāja-vidyā, devotional service, and take the mercy of guru and Kṛṣṇa and make our life successful. And it is very easy. It is very easy.** *Pratyakṣāvagamaṁ dharmyaṁ su-sukhaṁ kartum avyayam* [Bhagavad Gita 9.2]. *Su-sukham*, very easy and, I mean, very pleasing also, to execute devotional service. Very pleasing. Simply we are doing... What are we doing? We are dressing..., *śravaṇaṁ kīrtanaṁ viṣṇoḥ* [SB 7.5.23], simply chanting about Viṣṇu, Lord Kṛṣṇa. We are hearing about Kṛṣṇa, we are decorating Kṛṣṇa, we are feeding Kṛṣṇa, offering

nice foodstuff, and the benefit is coming to us. ***When you see Kṛṣṇa so nicely dressed, how it become..., how pleased we become. Kṛṣṇa has got many dress, but if you dress and see Kṛṣṇa, you will become pleased. You will become pleased. Kṛṣṇa does not require your dress or coat. If you offer nicest food to Kṛṣṇa, it comes to you.***

Simply by following the orders of spiritual master in a honest manner, we can please our spiritual master and when Guru is pleased Krishna is pleased. But when we displease Guru, there is no hope at all in our life. So as His Divine Grace insists, it is very important for us to hear, absorb ourselves in the instructions of Lord and His bonafide representatives and try our level best to practise the instructions.

Thank you very much.

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

## Pleasing Krishna - Part 8

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, "Pleasing Krishna" wherein we were meditating on the pastime of the appearance of Lord Vishnu in the sacrificial arena of Prthu Maharaj. In the previous offering we saw that Lord is pleased

1. when we are obedient to elders.
2. when we forgive the offence of others.
3. when we engage in loving devotional service and not by Vedic rituals performed to satisfy our senses.
4. when we discharge our occupational duties.
5. when we follow the Lord's instructions.
6. when we please spiritual master.

Now we shall continue further.

In Srimad Bhagavatam Lord Vishnu says as to what happens when Prthu follows the instructions of the authorities who come in parampara.

*evam dvijāgryānumatānuvṛtta-  
dharma-pradhāno 'nyatamo 'vitāsyāḥ  
hrasvena kālena gṛhopayātān  
draṣṭāsi siddhān anurakta-lokaḥ*

Lord Viṣṇu continued: **My dear King Pṛthu, if you continue to protect the citizens according to the instructions of the learned brāhmaṇa authorities, as they are received by the disciplic succession — by hearing — from master to disciple, and if you follow the religious principles laid down by them, without attachment to ideas manufactured by mental concoction, then every one of your citizens will be happy and will love you, and very soon you will be able to see such already liberated personalities as the four Kumāras [Sanaka, Sanātana, Sanandana and Sanat-kumāra].**

The word *dvijāgryānumatānuvṛtta* in the above verse means - following the instruction of learned brahmanas. The Lord is very pleased when we follow the instructions of Guru, sadhu and shastras and when we don't act according to our own whims. Bhismadev while lying on bed of arrows tells Yudhishtir Maharaj - *jīvitum nārhatha kliṣṭam vipra-dharmācyutāśrayāḥ* - "**You did not deserve to remain alive under those tribulations, yet you were protected by the brāhmaṇas, God and religion.**" In his wonderful purport to the above verse, Srila Prabhupada says, "**As long as a person is fully in cooperation with the wishes of the Lord, guided by the bona fide brāhmaṇas and Vaiṣṇavas and strictly following religious principles, one has no cause for despondency, however trying the circumstances of life.**"

So Lord Vishnu says to Prthu Maharaj that when he abides by religious principle according to the authorities, neither he nor his citizens will be despondent. Everyone will be happy because Lord Krishna is happy. Also Lord blesses Prthu Maharaj that he would get darshan of exalted devotees like Sanat Kumaras. So when we please Krishna by following the instructions of authorities, people around us are also pleased and have loving relationship with us. Also by Lord's mercy we would get association of devotees.

Thank you very much.

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

## Pleasing Krishna - Part 9

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, "Pleasing Krishna" wherein we were meditating on the pastime of the appearance of Lord Vishnu in the sacrificial arena of Prthu Maharaj. In the previous offering we saw that Lord is pleased by our behaviour, people around us are pleased, and we get association of devotees.

Now we shall see further.

In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 4.20.16 Lord Vishnu says to Prthu Maharaj

*varaṁ ca mat kañcana mānavendra  
vṛṇīṣva te 'haṁ guṇa-śīla-yantritaḥ  
nāhaṁ makhair vai sulabhas tapobhir  
yogena vā yat sama-citta-vartī*

**My dear King, I am very captivated by your elevated qualities and excellent behavior, and thus I am very favorably inclined toward you. You may therefore ask from Me any benediction you like. One who does not possess elevated qualities and behavior cannot possibly achieve My favor simply by performance of sacrifices, severe austerities or mystic yoga. But I always remain equipoised in the heart of one who is also equipoised in all circumstances.**

In the above verse, Srila Prabhupada very nicely translates the word '*guṇa-śīla*' as '**by elevated qualities and excellent behavior**' and '*yantritaḥ*' as '**being captivated**'. Lord is extremely pleased by the exalted behaviour of pure devotees like Prthu Maharaj and is willing to give whatever benediction he likes. Lord is not pleased by the number of yajnas (sacrifices) we do, nor by the austerities, nor by mystic yoga. But He is simply pleased by the way we behave and deal with other living entities. In the story of cobbler and brahmana we find that brahmana was expert in austerities, how Lord was pleased with cobbler because of His good behaviour and was dealing and said that he is guaranteed to return to spiritual world in the very birth. Whereas the brahmana although he was very scholarly and austere, he could not get the mercy of the Lord.

In his wonderful purport to the above verse Srila Prabhupada says, "*The Lord openly says that performing great sacrifices or undergoing the austerities of mystic yoga practice cannot satisfy Him. **He is pleased only by elevated character and behavior. But these cannot develop unless one becomes a pure devotee of the Lord. Anyone who has developed unalloyed, unflinching devotional service unto the Lord develops his original good qualities as spirit soul.** The spirit soul, as part and parcel of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, has all the good qualities of the Lord. When the spirit soul is contaminated by the material modes of nature, one is considered good or bad with reference to the material qualities. But when one is transcendental to all material qualities, all the good qualities come out.*"

So may we endeavour to engage in sincere devotional service and thereby please the Supreme Lord.

Thank you very much.

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



## Pleasing Krishna - Part 10

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, "Pleasing Krishna" wherein we were meditating on the pastime of the appearance of Lord Vishnu in the sacrificial arena of Prthu Maharaj. In the previous offering we saw how when Lord is pleased by the good behaviour of the devotees, He is willing to bestow any benediction on them.

### 10. **Mission of Human Life:**

After seeing the loving exchange between Lord Vishnu and Prthu Maharaj, Indra who had accompanied the Lord in the sacrificial arena repented for his mistakes. In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 4.20.18 Maitreya muni says

*spṛśantam pādayoḥ premṇā vrīḍitam svena karmaṇā  
śata-kratum pariṣvajya vidveṣam visasarja ha*

**As King Indra was standing by, he became ashamed of his own activities and fell down before King Pṛthu to touch his lotus feet. But Pṛthu Mahārāja immediately embraced him in great ecstasy and gave up all envy against him for his having stolen the horse meant for the sacrifice.**

This is a very very instructive interaction between Indra and Prthu Maharaj. Many times we offend others and become so insensitive that we don't care to introspect and repent for our mistakes. But somehow or the other if we are fortunate to get the association of Lord and His pure devotees, simply by their association, there is a change in our heart. When Indra was trying to steal the horse, he never realised his mistake. Every time he was deprived of the horse, he ended up doing more and more offence. Since Lord Krishna is *param pavitram*, He is purifying force and so in that good association Indra could realise his mistake and in order to seek forgiveness from Prthu Maharaj fell down to touch his feet.

There is a saying, "To err is human, to forgive is divine." When someone repents for the mistake and seeks forgiveness, we should not make them feel low, but be magnanimous enough to appreciate their attempt to change. Herein we find the glorious quality of Prthu Maharaj. He lovingly embraced Prthu Maharaj and there by both of them became free from all envy and anger. In his wonderful purport to the above verse Srila Prabhupada writes, "*Both King Indra and Mahārāja Pṛthu were envious and angry with each other, but since both of them were Vaiṣṇavas, or servants of Lord Viṣṇu, it was their duty to adjust the cause of their envy. This is also a first-class example of cooperative behavior between Vaiṣṇavas. In the present days, however, because people are not Vaiṣṇavas, they fight perpetually among one another and are vanquished without finishing the mission of human life.*"

The words of Srila Prabhupada are 100% true. Now-a-days we fight with each other for petty reasons, because we don't realise what is the mission of our life. Mission means that which needs to be done at any cost. So in this rare and valuable human birth, our mission is to become Krishna conscious and assist others also to the best of our ability to take up this process.

In the concluding lines of the purport His Divine Grace very nicely says, "*There is a great need to propagate the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement in the world so that even though people sometimes become angry and malicious toward one another, because of their being Kṛṣṇa conscious such rivalry, competition and envy can be adjusted without difficulty.*"

Thank you very much.

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

## Pleasing Krishna - Part 11

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, "Pleasing Krishna" wherein we were meditating on the pastime of the appearance of Lord Vishnu in the sacrificial arena of Prthu Maharaj. In the previous offering we saw how we should always remember the mission of our life which is to always remember Krishna and share this gift of devotional service with others. By doing so we please Krishna. Now we shall see further.

### 11. **Detain the Lord by good behaviour:**

After offering His benedictions and instructions to Prthu Maharaj, Lord was about to leave. But Prthu Maharaj's qualities were so captivating that he captured all the attention of the Lord and so Lord could not leave. In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 4.20.20 Maitreya Muni says

*prasthānābhimukho 'py enam anugraha-vilambitaḥ  
paśyan padma-palāśākṣo na pratasthe suhṛt satām*

**The Lord was just about to leave, but because He was so greatly inclined toward the behavior of King Prthu, He did not depart. Seeing the behavior of Mahārāja Prthu with His lotus eyes, He was detained because He is always the well-wisher of His devotees.**

In the above verse, the word *vilambitaḥ* is very nicely translated by Srila Prabhupada as "detained". In school days we might have heard this word when we fail in class and we would not be promoted to next class, but detained in the same class. So in mundane sense, this word is not so appealing. But here in the context of verse, this word shows the glorious nature of Lord and His devotee Prthu Maharaj. Why did the Lord choose to be detained on earth instead of ascending to spiritual world? It is because He is *suhṛt satām* - **always well-wisher of His devotees**. Just like how parents are best well-wishers for a child in this world and always love to spend time with child, Lord being Supreme Parent is pleased to spend time with His pure devotees. Lord became extremely pleased when Prthu Maharaj forgave Indra and treated him very lovingly. Father is happy when children are all united. So Krishna also was pleased to see the loving interaction between Prthu Maharaj and Indra.

Srila Bhakti Siddhanta Swami Prabhupada used to say, "**Do not try to see Krishna. Serve Him in such a way that He comes to see you.**" Our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj says that we should behave in such a manner that Krishna would love to stay with us, but many times our behaviour is such that Krishna would want to depart from us. That is why we must always take shelter of Srimad Bhagavatam. Maharaj says that in Bhagavatam we have 20% of verses about Lord's glories and 80% of the verses are about improving our character. So both type of verses purify us. Hence by taking shelter of these verses, we become cleansed of all anarthas and when we develop loving relationship with other living entities, Krishna will be pleased with us.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sudarshana devi dasi.

## Pleasing Krishna - Part 12

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, "Pleasing Krishna" wherein we were meditating on the pastime of the appearance of Lord Vishnu in the sacrificial arena of Prthu Maharaj. In the previous offering we saw how Prthu Maharaj would detain the Lord by his good behaviour. Now we shall see further.

In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 4.20.21 Maitreya Muni describe how Prthu Mahra

*sa ādi-rājo racitāñjalir harim  
vilokituṁ nāśakad aśru-locanaḥ  
na kiñcanovāca sa bāṣpa-viklavo  
hṛdopaguhyāmum adhād avasthitaḥ*

**The original king, Mahārāja Pṛthu, his eyes full of tears and his voice faltering and choked up, could neither see the Lord very distinctly nor speak to address the Lord in any way. He simply embraced the Lord within his heart and remained standing in that way with folded hands.**

In the above verse Prthu Maharaj is described as *ādi-rājā* - **the original king**. Srila Prabhupada very nicely mentions in the purport to the above verse, "*Just as Kṛṣṇa is addressed in the Brahma-saṁhitā as ādi-puruṣa, the original personality, so King Pṛthu, being an empowered incarnation of the Lord, is referred to in this verse as ādi-rājaḥ, the original or ideal king.*"

So what are the characteristics of ideal king? Lord Krishna says in Bhagavad Gita

*śauryam tejo dhṛtir dākṣyam yuddhe cāpy apalāyanam  
dānam īśvara-bhāvaś ca kṣātram karma svabhāva-jam*

**Heroism, power, determination, resourcefulness, courage in battle, generosity and leadership are the natural qualities of work for the kṣatriyas.**

Prthu Maharaj not only possessed these qualities of kshatriya, but He was also great devotee of the Lord. Srila Prabhupada nicely mentions his glories which makes him an ideal king or *ādi-rājā*

1. He was a great devotee
2. He was a great hero who conquered over all undesirable elements in his kingdom.
3. He was so powerful that he was equal in fighting to Indra, the King of heaven.
4. He gave protection to his citizens, keeping them engaged in pious activities and devotion to the Lord.
5. He did not collect a single cent of taxes from the citizens without being able to give them protection from all calamities.
6. Not only was he Krishna conscious - but he gave this gift to all his citizens as well

***The greatest calamity in life is to become godless and therefore sinful. If the state head or king allows the citizens to become sinful by indulging in illicit sex life, intoxication, meat-eating and gambling, then the king is responsible, and he has to suffer the resultant sequence of reactions for the sinful lives of the citizens because he levies taxes on them unnecessarily. These are the principles for a ruling power, and because Mahārāja Pṛthu observed all the principles for a ruling chief, he is referred to here as ādi-rājaḥ.***

Then Srila Prabhupada goes on to explain how bhakti is unconditional and not restricted to any varna or ashrama. As long as one surrenders to Supreme Lord and makes the Lord's mission as his life's mission, then one can please Supreme Lord. Lord loves to reclaim all the suffering souls back to Godhead and Pṛthu Maharaj by helping his citizens to take up the process of bhakti, he could please Supreme Lord. His Divine Grace very nicely says, "**Even a responsible king like Mahārāja Pṛthu can become a pure devotee of the first order.**"

And when one practises such pure devotional service, then they experience the true symptoms of transcendental ecstasy as mentioned in the above verse. On the other hand if the ruler himself is Godless and therefore unable to guide the subjects in the path of devotional service, then society becomes very chaotic.

So just like how Pṛthu Maharaj was a ideal king, according to whatever varna and ashrama, Lord has placed us, we must try to follow His instructions and thereby please Him.

Thank you very much.

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

## Pleasing Krishna - Part 13

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, "Pleasing Krishna" wherein we were meditating on the pastime of the appearance of Lord Vishnu in the sacrificial arena of Prthu Maharaj. In the previous offering we saw how Prthu Maharaj pleased the Lord by playing the role of responsible and ideal king. Now we shall see further.

In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 4.20.22, Maitreya Muni while narrating to Vidura about the loving dealings between Lord Vishnu and Prthu Maharaj says,

*athāvamṛjyāśru-kalā vilokayann  
atṛpta-dṛg-gocaram āha pūruṣam  
padā sprśantaṁ kṣitim aṁsa unnate  
vinyasta-hastāgram uraṅga-vidviṣaḥ*

**The Supreme Personality of Godhead stood with His lotus feet almost touching the ground while He rested the front of His hand on the raised shoulder of Garuḍa, the enemy of the snakes. Mahārāja Pṛthu, wiping the tears from his eyes, tried to look upon the Lord, but it appeared that the King was not fully satisfied by looking at Him. Thus the King offered the following prayers.**

Whenever the Lord descends in the material world, His only mission is to please the pure devotees. He also kills the demons who trouble His devotees. But all these pastimes which Lord performs here in this material world is only to give pleasure to His dear devotees. Satyavrata Muni describes in Damodar ashtakam, **the Lord immerses His devotees in pools of ecstasy** - *itidrik sva-lilabhir ananda-kunde* by His childhood pastime. The Lord is all powerful and even fear personified fears Him. Yet out of His unalloyed love for His dear devotee, Mother Yashoda - the Lord played the role of ordinary child and appeared as if He is crying out of fear of punishment from her.

Similarly in the above verse Maitreya Muni says that the Lord's lotus feet was almost touching the ground. In his wonderful purport to the above verse Srila Prabhupada explains how demigods being advanced in their spiritual practice retain their weightlessness, even after descending to the material world and so they stand without touching the ground. His Divine Grace very nicely mentions in the purport, "*Lord Viṣṇu is the Supreme Personality of Godhead, but because He lives in one of the planetary systems within this universe, He sometimes plays as if one of the demigods of this universe. When He first appeared before Pṛthu Mahārāja, He was not touching the ground of this earth, but when He was fully satisfied with the behavior and character of Mahārāja Pṛthu, He immediately acted as the Supreme Personality of Godhead Nārāyaṇa from Vaikuṅṭha. Out of affection for Pṛthu Mahārāja, He touched the earth, but He rested the front of His hand on the raised shoulder of Garuḍa, His carrier, as if to prevent Himself from falling down, since the Lord is not accustomed to stand on earthly ground. These are all symptoms of His great affection for Pṛthu Mahārāja.*"

Seeing such loving dealings, Prthu Maharaj had tears of ecstasy. Such symptoms of transcendental ecstasy appear only for those who are pure devotees. And we should be very careful not to imitate those symptoms at any point of time. When a devotee asked His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada about the significance of crying when we are chanting etc, His Divine Grace said a very nice point. "**Crying is a good symptom of a devotee. But everyone who cries is not a devotee.**" So one should not cry artificially for cheap name and fame. In case of Prthu Maharaj we find that he won the heart of Supreme Lord by his good behaviour and so the Lord wanted to stay on and continue to take association of pure devotee.

Thank you very much.

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

## Pleasing Krishna - Part 14

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, "**Pleasing Krishna**" wherein we were meditating on the pastime of the appearance of Lord Vishnu in the sacrificial arena of Prthu Maharaj. In the previous offering we saw the loving dealings between Prthu Maharaj and Lord Vishnu. Now we shall see further.

Understanding that just having darshan of Lord alone is not sufficient, Prthu Maharaj then began to offer nice prayers. In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 4.20.23 Prthur Maharaj began to offer nice prayers.

*prthur uvāca  
varān vibho tvad varadeśvarād budhaḥ  
katham vṛṇīte guṇa-vikriyātmanām  
ye nārakāṇām api santi dehinām  
tān īśa kaivalya-pate vṛṇe na ca*

**My dear Lord, You are the best of the demigods who can offer benedictions. Why, therefore, should any learned person ask You for benedictions meant for living entities bewildered by the modes of nature? Such benedictions are available automatically, even in the lives of living entities suffering in hellish conditions. My dear Lord, You can certainly bestow merging into Your existence, but I do not wish to have such a benediction.**

In the above verse the Lord is addressed as

- 1) vibho — my dear Supreme Lord
- 2) vara-da-īśvarāt — from the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the highest of the bestowers of benedictions
- 3) īśa — O Supreme Lord
- 4) kaivalya-pate — O bestower of merging in the existence of the Lord

Krishna being the Supreme Personality of God is glorified as "Varadaraja" -King of all those who can give benedictions. Normally when we approach Lord with prayers, we seek His benedictions. Different types of people wish for different kind of benedictions. Karmis or those who are engaged in fruitive activities may hanker for benedictions which will entangle one more and more in the cycle of birth and death. Jnanis might hanker for merging with Supreme etc. But such benedictions are not of the highest order. So Prthu Maharaj prays that although these are benedictions which Lord can very easily bestow, he is not interested in such kinds of benedictions.

In Srimad Bhagavatam 1.5.18 Narada Muni also says to Vyasadev

*tasyaiva hetoḥ prayateta kovidō  
na labhyate yad bhramatām upary adhaḥ  
tal labhyate duḥkhavad anyataḥ sukham  
kālena sarvatra gabhīra-rāmhasā*

**Persons who are actually intelligent and philosophically inclined should endeavor only for that purposeful end which is not obtainable even by wandering from the topmost planet [Brahmaloka] down to the lowest planet [Pātāla]. As far as happiness derived from sense enjoyment is concerned, it can be obtained automatically in course of time, just as in course of time we obtain miseries even though we do not desire them.**

Since happiness and distress are bound to come even for those who are living in hellish planets, as per nature's accord, one need not specifically seek the Lord for the same. So what sort of benediction does a devotee want? Devotee always prays to Lord to keep oneself always engaged in devotional service, irrespective of the external condition. Our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj also quotes nice prayer offered by devotees of the Lord.

*anāyāsenā maraṇam vinā dānyena jīvanam  
dehi me kṛpayā kṛṣṇa tvayi bhaktim acançalām*

**Please bestow us instant death (so that we don't become burden to others). May we not be dependent on others for our maintenance and as long as we are alive, may we always be engaged in uninterrupted devotional service unto Your lotus feet.**

To be engaged in the service of the Lord is the greatest benediction and devotees do not hanker for any other benediction. So Prthu Maharaj in the above prayer makes it very clear that although Lord is supremely powerful to bestow any kind of material benediction, there is no point in seeking such benedictions for it will keep us bewildered and entangled in the three modes of material nature.

Thank you very much.

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



## Pleasing Krishna - Part 15

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, "**Pleasing Krishna**" wherein we were meditating on the pastime of the appearance of Lord Vishnu in the sacrificial arena of Prthu Maharaj. In the previous offering we saw how Prthu Maharaj was not after any material benedictions. Now we shall see further.

In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 4.20.24 Prthu Maharaj prays

*na kāmāye nātha tad apy ahaṁ kvacin  
na yatra yuṣmac-caraṇāmbujāsavaḥ  
mahattamāntar-hṛdayān mukha-cyuto  
vidhatsva karṇāyutam eṣa me varaḥ*

**My dear Lord, I therefore do not wish to have the benediction of merging into Your existence, a benediction in which there is no existence of the nectarean beverage of Your lotus feet. I want the benediction of at least one million ears, for thus I may be able to hear about the glories of Your lotus feet from the mouths of Your pure devotees.**

Prthu Maharaj is very nicely requesting the Lord to bless him with millions of ears - simply to hear the glories of Lord's lotus feet. Each and every sense organ gifted to us by Lord is His causeless mercy and to engage that in His service is the only right thing to do. We are so keen to hear our own glories or the gossips about others. But all such things only keep us entangled in this material world life after life. Out of nine limbs of devotional service, shravanam or hearing of Krishna katha is the primary step of devotional service for all stages of devotional life. Srimad Bhagavatam 2.3.20 verse declares

*bile batorukrama-vikramān ye  
na śrṇvataḥ karṇa-puṭe narasya*

When we fail to use our ears in hearing Krishna katha, then it is as good as snake's ear hole.

In Caitanya Caritamṛta Madhya lila 2.31, Mahaprabhu says,

*kṛṣṇera madhura vāṇī, amṛtera taraṅgiṇī  
tāra praveśa nāhi ye śravaṇe  
kāṇākaḍi-chidra sama, jāniha se śravaṇa  
tāra janma haila akāraṇe*

**Topics about Kṛṣṇa are like waves of nectar. If such nectar does not enter one's ear, the ear is no better than the hole of a damaged conchshell. Such an ear is created for no purpose.**

Caitanya Mahaprabhu exhibits similar loving feelings in Sikshshtakam. He says,

*na dhanam na janam na sundarim  
kavitam va jagad-isa kamaye  
mama janmani janmaniśvare  
bhavatad bhaktir ahaituki tvayi*

**O almighty Lord, I have no desire to accumulate wealth, nor do I desire beautiful women, nor do I want any number of followers. I only want Your causeless devotional service birth after birth.**

Now-a-days we get so many junk news from all corners of the world through social media, mobiles etc which pollute our consciousness so badly. From Prthu Maharaj we can learn how we should be eager to hear Krishna's glories. Even if we don't have the eagerness to seek the benediction of millions of ears, we should atleast have the sanity not to misuse the two ears which Lord has blessed us in this birth. Our spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj always says when we use the senses in Krishna's service, being pleased with us Lord Hrshikesha guarantees that our senses are kept in good condition for longer time so that they can used nicely in His service. On the contrary when we misuse, the senses lose their power soon.

So may we always follow the footsteps of Prthu Maharaj, Caitanya Mahaprabhu and always pray for this benediction of engaging our ears in Krishna's service.

Thank you very much.

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

## Pleasing Krishna - Part 16

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, "**Pleasing Krishna**" wherein we were meditating on the pastime of the appearance of Lord Vishnu in the sacrificial arena of Prthu Maharaj. In the previous offering we saw how Prthu Maharaj was seeking for millions of ears to hear Lord's glories. Now we shall see further.

**Hearing from the bonafide authorities:** In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 4.20.25 Prthu Maharaj says

*sa uttamaśloka mahan-mukha-cyuto  
bhavat-padāmbhoja-sudhā kaṇānilaḥ  
smṛtiṁ punar viśmṛta-tattva-vartmanām  
kuyoginām no vitaraty alarṁ varaiḥ*

**My dear Lord, You are glorified by the selected verses uttered by great personalities. Such glorification of Your lotus feet is just like saffron particles. When the transcendental vibration from the mouths of great devotees carries the aroma of the saffron dust of Your lotus feet, the forgetful living entity gradually remembers his eternal relationship with You. Devotees thus gradually come to the right conclusion about the value of life. My dear Lord, I therefore do not need any other benediction but the opportunity to hear from the mouth of Your pure devotee.**

In the above prayer Prthu Maharaj glorifies the Lord as "Uttamashloka". Srila Prabhupada has beautifully translated this word as "One who is glorified by choice poetry." *smṛtiṁ* means remembrance and *viśmṛta* means forgetfulness.

*Since we have forgotten* our eternal relationship with Krishna, we are loitering in this material world, birth after birth. And we hardly remember, recognise or appreciate the value of this human birth. As a result we end up hearing and talking about every topic which is not related to Krishna. But somehow or the other when we start hearing the glories of the Lord from the mouths of pure devotees, we would begin to realise the value of this human birth. There are 8 million four hundred thousand kinds of species in which we can take birth. This human species is the only birth wherein we can hear, sing the glories of Krishna. Even after attaining this human birth, it is very rare to get the opportunity to hear about His glories.

Such glorifications are very pure and potent that when we hear them from great devotees, we can remember our eternal relationship with Krishna. Remembrance of Krishna is the greatest blessing and forgetfulness of Lord is the greatest misfortune in life. *smartavyaṁ satato viṣṇuḥ viśmārtavyaṁ na jātucit* - **We must always remember Krishna and never forget Him** - This is the key instruction of all our scriptures. .

So just like Prthu Maharaj may we also offer our prayers to Lord Uttamashloka and seek His mercy for giving us the opportunity to hear about Him from the mouth of pure devotee.

Thank you very much.

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

## Pleasing Krishna - Part 17

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, "**Pleasing Krishna**" wherein we were meditating on the pastime of the appearance of Lord Vishnu in the sacrificial arena of Prthu Maharaj. In the previous offering we saw how Prthu Maharaj prayed for the opportunity to hear about Krishna from pure devotees. Now we shall see further.

Prthu Maharaj by his personal example is teaching us what should be our mood while we offer prayers unto Supreme Lord. He first made it very clear that material benedictions would come for even people suffering in hell automatically. So we need not ask Lord explicitly for the same. The greatest benediction is to hear the glories of Krishna, from the mouth of pure devotees, very attentively. In the next Bhagavatam verse 4.20.26 Prthu Maharaj prays

*yaśaḥ śivaṁ suśrava ārya-saṅgame  
yadṛcchayā copaśṛṇoti te sakṛt  
katham guṇa-jñō viramed vinā paśuṁ  
śrīr yat pravavre guṇa-saṅgrahēcchayā*

**My dear highly glorified Lord, if one, in the association of pure devotees, hears even once the glories of Your activities, he does not, unless he is nothing but an animal, give up the association of devotees, for no intelligent person would be so careless as to leave their association. The perfection of chanting and hearing about Your glories was accepted even by the goddess of fortune, who desired to hear of Your unlimited activities and transcendental glories.**

The word *ārya-saṅgame* means "**in the association of advanced devotees.**" Prthu Maharaj very nicely glorifies the qualities of the Lord. He says that the Lord is *śivaṁ* - **all auspicious** and *suśrava* - **highly glorified Lord**. He goes on to explain how the glories of such all glorious Supreme Lord needs to be heard in the association of pure devotees.

The words *yadṛcchayā* and *sakṛt* in the above verse are worth meditating. Srila Prabhupada very nicely translates the word *yadṛcchayā* as "somehow or other". Many times our mind plays so many tricks to stop us or interrupt us from listening to Krishna katha. But *yadṛcchayā* - "somehow or other" if we force it to hear the pure transcendental sound vibrations, we will be purified. *sakṛt* means "even once" So somehow or the other, even once if we get the chance to associate with pure devotees and hear from them then our life become sublime. Our scriptures declare - "*lava-mātra sādhu-saṅge sarva-siddhi haya*" - "**by even a moment's association with a pure devotee, one can attain all success.**"

Prthu Maharaj very nicely says that we would be in a position to appreciate the value of association of pure devotees only if we are intelligent and not animal *paśu*. Mother Lakshmi who is always engaged in serving the Lord's lotus feet is always eager to chant and hear the Lord's glories. *Mahārāja Prthu points out that even the goddess of fortune, who is the constant companion of Lord Nārāyaṇa, specifically wanted to hear about the Lord's glories, and for the association of the gopīs, who are pure devotees, the goddess of fortune, Lakṣmī, underwent severe austerities.*

The importance of hearing the glories of Lord, chanting and association of pure devotees is also very nicely insisted by Kapila Muni in Srimad Bhagavatam verse 3.29.18

*ādhyātmikānuśravaṇān nāma-saṅkīrtanāc ca me  
ārjavenārya-saṅgena nirahaṅkriyayā tathā*

**A devotee should always try to hear about spiritual matters and should always utilize his time in chanting the holy name of the Lord. His behavior should always be straightforward and simple, and although he is**

**not envious but friendly to everyone, he should avoid the company of persons who are not spiritually advanced.**

So following the steps of Prthu Maharaj, may we always pray for good association, chanting and hearing the glories of Supreme Lord.

Thank you very much.

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

## Pleasing Krishna - Part 18

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, "**Pleasing Krishna**" wherein we were meditating on the pastime of the appearance of Lord Vishnu in the sacrificial arena of Prthu Maharaj. In the previous offering we saw how Prthu Maharaj prayed for the opportunity to hear about Krishna's glories in the association of pure devotees. Now we shall see further.

**18. Aspire to Serve:** The effect of good chanting and hearing of Krishna katha is that we would feel more and more enthused and eager to serve Lord and His devotees. Prthu Maharaj in his prayers to Lord Vishnu sought for benediction of hearing the Lord's glories in the association of pure devotees. Then he goes on to express his earnest desire to serve Lord's lotus feet. In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 4.20.27 he very nicely says,

*athābhaje tvākhila-pūruṣottamaṁ  
guṇālayaṁ padma-kareva lālasaḥ  
apy āvayor eka-pati-sṛḍhoḥ kalir  
na syāt kṛta-tvac-caraṇaika-tānayoḥ*

**Now I wish to engage in the service of the lotus feet of the Supreme Personality of Godhead and to serve just like the goddess of fortune, who carries a lotus flower in her hand, because His Lordship, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, is the reservoir of all transcendental qualities. I am afraid that the goddess of fortune and I would quarrel because both of us would be attentively engaged in the same service.**

In the above verse Prthu Maharaj is nicely glorifying the Lord as ' '

*akhila-pūruṣottama* - the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord of the entire creation. He is the best enjoyer.

*guṇālayam* - the reservoir of all transcendental qualities.

The word '*lālasaḥ*' in the above verse is also worth meditating. Srila Prabhupada has translated it as "being desirous." Just like how goddess of fortune although always situated on Lord's chest, is desirous or eager to serve the Lord's lotus feet, here in we find Prthu Maharaj is also eagerly desiring to serve the Lord's lotus feet. This eagerness is a very good sign. This word *lālasaḥ* reminds us of the word *laulyam* which means **to be greedy to serve**. Srila Prabhupada very nicely says in his lectures, "**Greedy for Kṛṣṇa. Tatra laulyam eka laulyam. To get Kṛṣṇa, you have only one price = to become greedy for Kṛṣṇa.**" His Divine Grace says, "**Laulyam, to advance in spiritual consciousness, or Kṛṣṇa consciousness, the value is only strong eagerness, laulyam, that "I must finish this business in this life to understand Kṛṣṇa."**

We should not mistake that Prthu Maharaj is trying to compete with Mother Lakshmi. In the material world when two people are engaged in same service, then there is lot of room for competition, envy etc. In our childhood we might heard of the story of old father and his greedy sons. In order to get big portion of the property, and to make a show of taking care of the father, started pulling the father's body when he was lying on the death-bed. So instead of serving the father, they could give him only more pain. But in case of Prthu Maharaj's desire to serve the Lord's lotus feet, His Divine Grace very nicely explains in the purport to verse 4.20.27 as to how it is above all material modes.

*Prthu Mahārāja desired to serve the Lord with the goddess of fortune, but this desire does not mean that he was situated on the platform of mādhurya-rasa. The goddess of fortune is engaged in the service of the Lord in the rasa of mādhurya, conjugal love. Although her position is on the chest of the Lord, the goddess of fortune, in her position as a devotee, takes pleasure in serving the lotus feet of the Lord. Prthu Mahārāja was thinking only of the lotus*

feet of the Lord because he is on the platform of *dāsya-rasa*, or servitorship of the Lord. From the next verse we learn that *Prthu Mahārāja* was thinking of the goddess of fortune as the universal mother, *jagan-mātā*. Consequently there was no question of his competing with her on the platform of *mādhurya-rasa*. Nonetheless he feared that she might take offense at his engaging in the service of the Lord. This suggests that **in the absolute world there is sometimes competition between servitors in the service of the Lord, but such competition is without malice. In the *Vaikuṅṭha* worlds if a devotee excels in the service of the Lord, others do not become envious of his excellent service but rather aspire to come to the platform of that service.**

May we remember this good lesson from *Prthu Maharaj* that when we meet other devotees, we can aspire to serve like them - but should not perspire out of anger or envy.

Thank you very much.

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

## Pleasing Krishna - Part 19

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, "**Pleasing Krishna**" wherein we were meditating on the pastime of the appearance of Lord Vishnu in the sacrificial arena of Prthu Maharaj. In the previous offering we saw how we should take inspiration from other devotees who serve Krishna nicely and always be eager to serve Him. Now we shall see further.

### **Our only Hope is Dīna-vatsala**

Prthu Maharaj was concerned that he should not offend Mother Lakshmi as he was also aspiring to do the same service like Her. In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 4.20.28, he very nicely prays to Lord Vishnu

*jagaj-jananyām jagad-īśa vaiśasaṁ  
syād eva yat-karmaṇi naḥ samīhitam  
karoṣi phalgv apy uru dīna-vatsalaḥ  
sva eva dhiṣṇye 'bhiratasya kim tayā*

**My dear Lord of the universe, the goddess of fortune, Lakṣmī, is the mother of the universe, and yet I think that she may be angry with me because of my intruding upon her service and acting on that very platform to which she is so much attached. Yet I am hopeful that even though there is some misunderstanding, You will take my part, for You are very much inclined to the poor, and You always magnify even insignificant service unto You. Therefore even though she becomes angry, I think that there is no harm for You, because You are so self-sufficient that You can do without her.**

This is very beautiful prayer showing us the transcendental loving exchange between the Lord and His devotees. Prthu Maharaj is addressing Mother Lakshmi as *jagat-janani* — **mother of the universe** (Lakṣmī). Generally *janani* or **mother** is very merciful even in this material world. And Mother Lakshmi - being *jagat-jananyām* is definitely embodiment of mercy and also will be very pleased when all Her children are engaging in service of Supreme Lord and would definitely not consider Prthu Maharaj's service as intruding Hers.

His Divine Grace in his sweet purport to the above verse, very nicely lists the innumerable services done by Mother Lakshmi, apart from massaging the Lord's lotus feet. *Mother Lakṣmījī, the goddess of fortune, is well known for always massaging the lotus feet of Lord Nārāyaṇa. She is an ideal wife because she takes care of Lord Nārāyaṇa in every detail. She takes care not only of His lotus feet but of the household affairs of the Lord as well. She cooks nice foods for Him, fans Him while He eats, smoothes sandalwood pulp on His face and sets His bed and sitting places in the right order. In this way she is always engaged in the service of the Lord, and there is hardly any opportunity for any other devotee to intrude upon His daily activities. Prthu Mahārāja was therefore almost certain that his intrusion into the service of the goddess of fortune would irritate her and cause her to become angry with him. But why should mother Lakṣmī, the mother of the universe, be angry with an insignificant devotee like Prthu Mahārāja? All this was not very likely. Yet Prthu Mahārāja, just for his personal protection, appealed to the Lord to take his part.*

Appealing to Jagadisha - the Lord of the Universe, Prthu Maharaj says - '*karoṣi phalgv apy uru dīna-vatsalaḥ*'

*karoṣi* — You consider; *phalgu* — insignificant service; *api* — even; *uru* — very great; *dīna-vatsalaḥ* — favorably inclined to the poor

Prthu Maharaj says, "Lord, because You are *dīna-vatsalaḥ*, You consider even insignificant service done unto You."



There are innumerable instances wherein how Lord accepts the service of individuals with varying capacities in a very equal manner. In Ramayana we find how Lord Ram accepted the service done by Hanumanji and other vanaras and that of the squirrel, in building the *sedhu bandhan* across the ocean to be the same. Hanumanji and other vanaras could throw boulders. Whereas squirrel could sprinkle only few particles of sand. Yet both their services were equally accepted by the Lord.

Also when Lord Krishna visited King Bahulashva and the brahmana Shrutadeva in Mithila at the same time, both of them welcomed the Lord according to their capacity. There was royal reception at the king's palace with all opulent cushion chairs, nice flower garlands, sandalwood pulp, incense, new garments, ornaments, lamps, cows and bulls. On the other hand the poor brahmana Shrutadeva could welcome the Lord and His associates only mattresses, wooden planks, straw carpets, fruits, incense, scented water, scented clay, *tulasī* leaves, *kuśa* straw and lotus flowers - according to his individual capacity. And all merciful Lord accepted both of them.

So the important lesson we can learn from Prthu Maharaj is that we need not become overwhelmed by the wonderful service performed by other devotees and end up envying others or feeling inferior about our ourselves. Our Lord is *Dīna vatsala*, *Bhakta vatsala* and *bhāva grāhi Janardana*. So all we need to do is simply serve Him honestly to the best of our ability.

Thank you very much.

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

## Pleasing Krishna - Part 20

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, "**Pleasing Krishna**" wherein we were meditating on the pastime of the appearance of Lord Vishnu in the sacrificial arena of Prthu Maharaj. In the previous offering we saw how Dinavatsala Krishna accepts even our insignificant services unto Him. Now we shall see further.

**Devotional Service is the Only Way:** Prthu Maharaj after praying to Krishna for the benediction of hearing, chanting Krishna katha in the association of pure devotees and serving Lord's lotus feet, then continues to glorify the effects of serving the Lord's lotus feet. He says in Srimad Bhagavatam verse 4.20.29

*bhajanty atha tvām ata eva sādhave  
vyudasta-māyā-guṇa-vibhramodayam  
bhavat-padānusmaraṇād ṛte satām  
nimittam anyad bhagavan na vidmahe*

**Great saintly persons who are always liberated take to Your devotional service because only by devotional service can one be relieved from the illusions of material existence. O my Lord, there is no reason for the liberated souls to take shelter at Your lotus feet except that such souls are constantly thinking of Your feet.**

Our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj says that there is no substitute for pure devotional service. Also bhakti is the means and the end. To attain pure devotional service, one needs to engage in devotional service. There is no other shor-cut for that. And by doing that we would be able to transcend the three modes of material nature. The words *sādhave* or *satām* in the above verse refers to saintly persons and by doing *padānusmaraṇād* - constantly remembering the lotus feet of Lord, they were able to transcend the modes of material nature. Suta Goswami also says in Srimad Bhagavatam verse 1.2.25,

*bhejire munayo 'thāgre bhagavantam adhokṣajam  
sattvaṁ viśuddhaṁ kṣemāya kalpante ye 'nu tān iha*

**Previously all the great sages rendered service unto the Personality of Godhead due to His existence above the three modes of material nature. They worshiped Him to become free from material conditions and thus derive the ultimate benefit. Whoever follows such great authorities is also eligible for liberation from the material world.**

So all we need to do is to simply follow the footsteps of these great sages - engage ourselves in devotional service and thereby transcend the modes. Lord Krishna Himself assures in Bhagavad Gita verse 14.26

*mām ca yo 'vyabhicāreṇa bhakti-yogena sevate  
sa guṇān samatītyaitān brahma-bhūyāya kalpate*

**One who engages in full devotional service, unailing in all circumstances, at once transcends the modes of material nature and thus comes to the level of Brahman.**

In his wonderful purport to the above verse Srila Prabhupada says, "*One should not be disturbed by the activities of the modes of nature; instead of putting his consciousness into such activities, he may transfer his consciousness to Kṛṣṇa activities. Kṛṣṇa activities are known as bhakti-yoga – always acting for Kṛṣṇa.*"

Whatever we hear, speak, remember has an impact on our consciousness. So it is always good to remember the concluding line of the translation to Srimad Bhagavatam verse 3.16.37 - "***What purpose can we serve on His behalf by deliberating on the subject?***" If the answer serves Krishna's purpose then we can proceed else as Srila Prabhupada advises we have to transfer our consciousness to Krishna's activities or bhakti yoga. That is the only way to become free from material conditions.

Thank you very much.

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

## Pleasing Krishna - Part 21

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, "**Pleasing Krishna**" wherein we were meditating on the pastime of the appearance of Lord Vishnu in the sacrificial arena of Prthu Maharaj. In the previous offering we heard from Prthu Maharaj as to how **devotional service is the only way** to get out of material modes. Now we shall see further.

### 21. **Material Benedictions are useless:**

In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 4.20.30 Prthu Maharaj continues to pray

*manye giram te jagatām vimohinīm  
varam vṛṇīṣveti bhajantam āttha yat  
vācā nu tanyā yadi te jano 'sitaḥ  
katham punaḥ karma karoti mohitaḥ*

**My dear Lord, what You have said to Your unalloyed devotee is certainly very much bewildering. The allurements You offer in the Vedas are certainly not suitable for pure devotees. People in general, bound by the sweet words of the Vedas, engage themselves again and again in fruitive activities, enamored by the results of their actions.**

Conditioned living entities in this material world are trapped by the influence of three modes of material nature in various degree. Lord as Supreme Father gives everyone a chance to come back to Him, back to Godhead. In order to cater to those who are not ready to take up the process of pure devotional service directly, Vedas prescribe the path of *dharma, artha, kāma and moksha*. But people who are less intelligent, simply get stuck with the karma kanda, jnana kanda activities and upasana kanda activities prescribed in Vedas and miss to understand the real purpose of the Vedas. Krishna Himself says in Bhagavad Gita verse 2.42-43

*yām imām puṣpitām vācam pravadyanti avipaścitaḥ  
veda-vāda-ratāḥ pārtha nānyad astīti vādinaḥ  
kāmatmānaḥ svarga-parā janma-karma-phala-pradām  
kriyā-viśeṣa-bahulām bhogaiśvarya-gatiṁ prati*

**Men of small knowledge are very much attached to the flowery words of the Vedas, which recommend various fruitive activities for elevation to heavenly planets, resultant good birth, power, and so forth. Being desirous of sense gratification and opulent life, they say that there is nothing more than this.**

Prthu Maharaj is therefore saying that we should not be allured by these flowery words of Vedas which are teaching the ways for getting material benefits. Such benefits are going to keep us more and more entangled in the cycle of birth and death. In his purport to verse 4.20.30 Srila Prabhupada says, "*Prthu Mahārāja therefore says that the allurements of material benedictions is another trap to entangle one in this material world. He therefore frankly tells the Lord that the Lord's offerings of benedictions in the form of material facilities are certainly causes for bewilderment. A pure devotee is not at all interested in bhukti or mukti.*"

In Damodarashtakam verse 4, Satyavrata Muni also nicely prays

*varami deva mokṣami na mokṣāvadhimi vā  
na canyami vṛṇe 'hami vareṣād apīha  
idam te vapur nātha gopāla-bālam  
sadā me manasy āvirāstāmi kim anyaiḥ*

**O Lord, although You are able to give all kinds of benedictions, I do not pray to You for the boon of impersonal liberation, nor the highest liberation of eternal life in Vaikuntha, nor any other boon (which may be obtained by executing the nine processes of bhakti). O Lord, I simply wish that this form of Yours as Bala Gopala in Vrndavana may ever be manifest in my heart, for what is the use to me of any other boon besides this?**

So following the footsteps of these great souls, may we understand the futility of material benedictions and seek the supreme benediction of being engaged in Lord's service always.

Thank you very much.

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

## Pleasing Krishna - Part 22

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, "**Pleasing Krishna**" wherein we were meditating on the pastime of the appearance of Lord Vishnu in the sacrificial arena of Prthu Maharaj. In the previous offering we heard from Prthu Maharaj that material benedictions are all useless. Now we shall see further.

In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 4.20.31 Prthu Maharaj beautifully concludes his prayers to Lord Vishnu by seeking a very nice benediction. He says

*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.**

This is the best benediction we can ask from Lord. Many a times we fail to realise what is really needed for us. With our puny brain, we foolishly desire and believe that we would become happy by getting some benefit here. We don't even bother to check if we ever deserve for it also. Sometimes a sick child might hanker for some eatable which is not good for his/her health. Just like how caring parent will not provide the child all that it hankers for, but would provide only what is beneficial for the child, the Supreme Lord also gives only what He thinks is best for the devotee. So Prthu Maharaj requests the Lord never to provoke him any more to ask for material benefits, but to just give whatever He thinks is best for Him.

This is very special prayer because our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj says that this was the prayer which he was meditating continuously when he was suffering from stroke in the year 2000. When doctors and others around were wondering whether Maharaj will be able to survive, as a pure devotee of Lord, Maharaj just offered this prayer to the Supreme Lord and said that if the Lord so desires, He can take Maharaj at that time itself, else He could let him stay so that he could continue with his service. Being a surrendered soul, Maharaj did not force any prayer, but simply asked Lord to do whatever He thought was best for Him. And within few weeks by causeless mercy of Supreme Lord, Maharaj got himself discharged from hospital, went straight to Bhakti Vedanta Manor to take darshan of the Lordships. Later Maharaj gave a wonderful class on the above verse and then spent 10 more glorious years of preaching Bhagavatam all over the world.

Srila Prabhupada went to West to preach Krishna consciousness as per the order of his spiritual master. While traveling to America on board the Jaladuta ship, he composed Markine Bhagavata Dharma wherein His Divine Grace prays to the Lord to help him in his mission - if Lord likes. He does not enforce that Lord should do what he wants, but just places a earnest request, fully surrendered to Lord's will. **"O Lord, I am just like a puppet in Your hands. So if You have brought me here to dance, then make me dance, make me dance, O Lord, make me dance as You like . I have no devotion, nor do I have any knowledge, but I have strong faith in the holy name of Krsna. I have been designated as Bhaktivedanta, and now, if You like, You can fulfill the real purport of Bhaktivedanta."**

So the lesson we should remember from the examples of these great souls like Srila Gurudev, Srila Prabhupada and Prthu Maharaj is that Lord knows what is best for us and so we let Him direct us in all situations.

Thank you very much.

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

## Pleasing Krishna - Part 23

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

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

This is in conclusion of the previous offering titled, "**Pleasing Krishna**" wherein we were meditating on the pastime of the appearance of Lord Vishnu in the sacrificial arena of Prthu Maharaj. In the previous offering we saw Prthu Maharaj asking the Lord to bestow whatever He thinks is best for him. Now we shall see further.

Our spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj always says that in Bhagvatam the prayers offered by devotees are very powerful. But when we study them, we should also study the verses before and after the prayers. The verses before the prayers, will help us understand the mood of the devotee, the circumstances in which he/she is offering the prayers. The verses after the prayers will help us understand how Krishna reciprocated to the devotees after He heard those prayers. So it is important for us to meditate on those verses as well. So in Srimad Bhagavatam verses 4.20.32-33

*ity ādi-rājena nutaḥ sa viśva-dṛk  
tam āha rājan mayi bhaktir astu te  
diṣṭyedṛśī dhīr mayi te kṛtā yayā  
māyām madīyām tarati sma dustyajām  
tat tvaṁ kuru mayādiṣṭam apramattaḥ prajāpate  
mad-ādeśa-karo lokaḥ sarvatrāpnoti śobhanam*

The great sage Maitreya continued by saying that the Lord, the seer of the universe, after hearing Prthu Mahārāja's prayer, addressed the King: **My dear King, may you always be blessed by engaging in My devotional service. Only by such purity of purpose, as you yourself very intelligently express, can one cross over the insurmountable illusory energy of māyā. My dear King, O protector of the citizens, henceforward be very careful to execute My orders and not be misled by anything. Anyone who lives in that way, simply carrying out My orders faithfully, will always find good fortune all over the world.**

So herein we can understand,

1. what Krishna considers as the best benediction for us - *mayi bhaktir astu te* - **be blessed by engaging in My devotional service.** To be engaged in Krishna's service is the greatest fortune in our life. Many a times we fail to realise the value of this and take the service opportunities for granted. But as Krishna Himself says - sincerely engaging in Krishna's service is the only way for us to overcome the insurmountable illusory energy. Losing taste for service, forgetfulness of Krishna - these are the greatest misfortune in life.

2. *tvaṁ kuru mayādiṣṭam apramattaḥ* - **be very careful to execute My orders and not be misled by anything.** Krishna assured Prthu Maharaj that simply by following His instruction there will always be good fortune for him. Our spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj also insists that **obedience is the greatest remembrance of Krishna and that obedience would result in our progress in devotional service.** On the other hand disobedience will lead to destruction. The best examples are Pandavas and Kauravas. Pandavas always obeyed Krishna and His devotee. So they were successful in all their endeavours. On the other hand Kauravas not only disobeyed Krishna and His devotees, but were also misguided by Shakuni etc. So ultimately all of them were destroyed.



Maitreya Muni while narrating the pastimes of Prthu Maharaj then goes on to say how the **Supreme Personality of Godhead amply appreciated the meaningful prayers of Mahārāja Pṛthu**. And after being properly worshiped by the King, the Lord blessed him and decided to depart.

As Maharaj says simply by repeating the prayers offered by such great souls like Prthu Maharaj, and sincerely attempting to follow his footsteps we can please Krishna.

Thank you very much.

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