

**Bhakti Vriksha Modules - Shraddhavan**  
**Week 8 – Members’ Section**

**The Nectar of the Holy Name**

*Atheists, Mental Speculators, and the Holy Name*

In Kali-yuga, rather than looking toward the light of mental speculation and atheists, people should take advantage of Lord Chaitanya’s movement of chanting Hare Krishna.

During the rainy season, in the evening, there are many glowworms visible about the tops of trees, hither and thither, and they glitter just like lights. But the luminaries of the sky, the stars and the moons, are not visible. Similarly, in the age of Kali, persons who are atheists or miscreants become very prominently visible, whereas persons who are actually following the Vedic principles for spiritual emancipation are practically obscured.

This age, Kali-yuga, is compared to the cloudy season of the living entities. In this age, real knowledge is covered by the influence of material advancement of civilization. The cheap mental speculators, atheists and manufacturers of so-called religious principles becomes prominent like the glowworms, whereas persons strictly following the Vedic principles or scriptural injunctions become covered by the clouds of this age.

People should learn to take advantage of the actual luminaries of the sky, the sun, moon, and stars, instead of the glowworm’s light. Actually, the glowworm cannot give any light in the darkness of night. As clouds sometimes clear, even in the rainy season, and sometimes the moon, stars and sun become visible, so even in this Kali-yuga there are sometimes advantages. The Vedic movement of Lord Chaitanya’s—the distribution of chanting the Hare Krishna mantra—is heard in this way. People seriously anxious to find real life should take advantage of this movement instead of looking toward the light of mental speculators and atheists.

*Krsna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead*

**Passage for Discussion**

*The Position of Krishna*

God and His energies

The Isopanishad explains that whatever we see, whether animate or inanimate, is controlled by the Supreme Lord. Lord Krishna says the same thing in the Bhagavad-gita (9.10)—that His energies are managing everything. And the Vishnu Purana confirms, eka-deca-sthitasayagner jyotsna vistarine yatha: “As heat and light are distributed all around by a fire situated in one place, so the whole creation is a manifestation of energies expanded from the Supreme Lord.” For example, the sun is in one place, but it is distributing its heat and light all over the universe. Similarly, the Supreme Lord is distributing His material and spiritual energies all over the creation.

The Position of Krishna

The Isopanishad states, “Although fixed in His abode, the Personality of Godhead is swifter than the mind and can overcome all others running. The powerful demigods cannot approach Him. Although in one place, He controls those who supply the air and rain. He surpasses all in excellence.” The Brahma-samhita says something similar: goloka eva nivasaty akhilatma-bhutau [Bs. 5.37]. Although Krishna is always in Goloka Vrindavana, He is simultaneously in the hearts of all living beings.

Krishna has no duties to perform in Goloka. He is simply enjoying in the company of His associates—the gopis, the cowherd boys, His mother and father, His cows and calves, etc. He is completely free. And His associates are even freer than He is, because when they seem to be in danger, Krishna feels some anxiety about how to save them. But His associates feel no anxiety. They simply think, “Oh, Krishna is here. He will protect us.” When Krishna enacted His pastimes five thousand years ago in Vrindavana, India, He would go every day with His cowherd boyfriends and their calves and cows to play in the forest on the bank of the Yamuna River. And often Kamsa would send some demon to try to kill Krishna and His friends. Yet the cowherd boys would continue enjoying their pastimes without anxiety because they were so confident of Krishna’s protection. That is spiritual life, which begins with surrendering to Krishna.

Surrendering to Krishna means having the strong faith that Krishna will save us in any dangerous condition. The first step in surrendering is that we should accept whatever is favorable for devotional service. Then we should reject anything that is unfavorable for devotional service. The next stage is the confidence that in any situation Krishna will protect us and maintain us. Actually, He is already giving protection and maintenance to everyone. That is a fact. But in Maya (illusion) we think that we are protecting ourselves, or that we are feeding ourselves.

For the devotees, Krishna personally takes charge of their protection and maintenance. And for the ordinary living entities, Mayadevi - Krishna’s external energy - takes charge. Mayadevi is Krishna’s agent for punishing the conditioned souls. The situation is like what we see in the state: good citizens are taken care of by the government directly, while criminals are taken care of by the government through the prison department.

*The Laws of Nature*

**Discovery:**

1. Where does Lord Krsna reside? How does He manage the material world?

**Understanding:**

1. Mention some reasons why Krsna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead.
2. How can we be free of all anxieties if we surrender to Krsna? Illustrate with an example.
3. How can we practically express our surrender to Krsna?
4. Who looks after those who do not surrender to Krsna? How are they treated?

**Application:**

1. Share your experience of a time when you were in great anxiety. How did you react then? Do you think you should have reacted differently in that situation? Why?

## Preaching is the Essence

*The preacher is very dear to the Lord*

“Therefore, my dear young friends ... show mercy to all living entities by enlightening them in devotional service, thus becoming their well-wishers.”

The Lord says in Bhagavad-gita (18.55), *bhaktya mam abhijanati yavan yaś casmi tattvatau*. “One can understand the Supreme Personality as He is only by devotional service.” Prahlada Maharaja ultimately instructed his class friends, the sons of the demons, to accept the process of devotional service by preaching the science of Krishna Consciousness to everyone. Preaching is the best service to the Lord.

The Lord will immediately be extremely satisfied with one who engages in this service of preaching Krishna Consciousness. This is confirmed by the Lord Himself in Bhagavad-gita(18.69). *Na ca tasman manusyesu kascin me priya-krttamau*. “There is no servant in this world more dear to Me than he, nor will there ever be one more dear.”

If one sincerely tries his best to spread Krishna consciousness by preaching the glories of the Lord and His supremacy, even if he is imperfectly educated, he becomes the dear most servant of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. This is bhakti. As one performs this service for humanity, without discrimination between friends and enemies, the Lord becomes satisfied, and the mission of one’s life is fulfilled.

Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu therefore advised everyone to become a guru-devotee and preach Krishna Consciousness (*yare dekha, tare kaha 'krishna'-upadesa* [Cc. Madhya 7.128]). That is the easiest way to realize the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

*Srimad Bhagavatam 7.6.24*