



Dedicated to His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmi Prabhupāda
Founder-Ācārya of the International Society for Kṛṣṇa Consciousness



Lord Rāmachandra

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FROM THE DESK OF
THE FOUNDER ĀCĀRYA

Lord Rāmachandra

Who is Lord Rāma and His associates?

Lord Rāma is the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and His brothers, namely Bharata, Lakṣmaṇa and Śatrughna, are His plenary expansions. All four brothers are viṣṇu-tattva and were never ordinary human beings. There are many unscrupulous and ignorant commentators on the Rāmāyaṇa who present the younger brothers of Lord Rāmacandra as ordinary living entities. But here in the Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, the most authentic scripture on the science of Godhead, it is clearly stated that His brothers were His plenary expansions. Originally Lord Rāmacandra is the incarnation of Vāsudeva, Lakṣmaṇa is the incarnation of Saṅkarṣaṇa, Bharata is the incarnation of Pradyumna, and Śatrughna is the incarnation of Aniruddha, expansions of the Personality of Godhead. Lakṣmījī Sītā is the internal potency of the Lord and is neither an ordinary woman nor the external potency incarnation of Durgā. SB 2.7.23

Lord Rāma's MIGHT:

In almost all cases, the kṣatriya king has to secure a wife by fighting or kidnapping. This sort of behavior for a kṣatriya is praiseworthy in the sense that a kṣatriya must show his power of chivalry to his would-be wife so that the daughter of a kṣatriya can see the valor of her would-be husband. Even



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the Personality of Godhead Śrī Rāma displayed such a spirit of chivalry during His marriage. He broke the strongest bow, called Haradhanur, and achieved the hand of Sītādevī, the mother of all opulence. SB 1.16.26-30

What lessons we can learn from Rāmāyaṇa?

Sītā is Lakṣmījī, or the goddess of fortune, but she is never to be enjoyed by any living being. She is meant for being worshiped by the living being along with her husband, Śrī Rāmacandra. A materialistic man like Rāvaṇa does not understand this great truth, but on the contrary he wants to snatch Sītādevī from the custody of Rāma and thus incurs great miseries. The materialists, who are after opulence and material prosperity, may take lessons from the Rāmāyaṇa that the policy of exploiting the nature of the Lord without acknowledging the supremacy of the Supreme Lord is the policy of Rāvaṇa. Rāvaṇa was very advanced materially, so much so that he turned his kingdom, Laṅkā, into pure gold, or full material wealth. But because he did not recognize the supremacy of Lord Rāmacandra and defied Him by stealing His wife, Sītā, Rāvaṇa was killed, and all his opulence and power were destroyed.

Prayers that can be Offered to Lord Rāma:

*ramante yogino 'nante
satyānanda-cid-ātmani
iti rāma-padenāsau
paraṁ brahmābhidhīyate*
[Cc. Madhya 9.29]

"The mystics derive unlimited transcendental pleasures from the Absolute Truth, and therefore the Supreme Absolute Truth, the Personality of Godhead, is also known as Rāma."

*rāmādi-mūrṭiṣu kalā-niyamena tiṣṭhan
nānāvātāram akarod bhuvaneṣu kintu
kṛṣṇaḥ svayaṁ samabhavat paRāmaḥ pumān yo
govindam ādi-puruṣaṁ tam ahaṁ bhajāmi*

I worship Govinda, the primeval Lord, who manifested Himself personally as Kṛṣṇa and the different avatāras in the world in the forms of Rāma, Nṛsiṁha, Vāmana, etc., as His subjective portions. Brahma-samhita 5.39

Kids Corner



**Dealings with
Juniors, Seniors
and Equals**



Snigdha Nair*Grade VII*

Interacting with seniors, juniors, and equals is a social part of our lives. Most of the seniors are known for more experience and knowledge, and some serve as mentors and guides to the juniors or equals. They offer valuable insights and wisdom, helping us go through challenges and make decisions in our life. However, some seniors may show trouble or challenge to change, which can't make themselves improve in their life.

Most of the juniors bring fresh perspectives and enthusiasm to the table. They show their skills and talents to people. They are mainly known for showing enthusiasm, into projects and inspiring creativity. However, juniors will also need guidance and support from the seniors as they find new challenges or opportunities in their life. Therefore, the equals and seniors help them by slowly developing their skills and confidence.

The equals are still growing up and facing their new challenges. They will face a lot of new things that they haven't faced before. They might be mature like the seniors, but they will still have some of the fun side of the juniors. I think that equals encourage people by showing respect and open communication, leading to productive outcomes. However, competition and disagreements among peers can also happen sometimes. They will have some challenges in peace and cooperation with a group.

Murali*Grade VI*

Anywhere you go, you will see three different people. The three different people are seniors, peers or friends and juniors.

Seniors are people who are usually greater or more advanced than you. Usually, we respect them and make sure not to offend them. Srila Prabhupad is a perfect example. Prabhupad always made sure to respect his Guru Maharaj and all of the other senior devotees and never disrespected them. Sometimes seeing someone as a senior can lead to envy and jealousy. So we must guard against envy and jealousy.

Peers are people who are at your level and are as advanced as you. Along with your peers, we should respect them but, you are generally very informal and are like a friend. Srila Prabhupad was like a peer when his sister used to come as they used to laugh together and were like friends. One disadvantage when they do something great, you make them feel envious of them and you may wish for their fall down.

Juniors are people who are inferior to you and they are a little less advanced than you. We must be very very careful and gentle with them and not ruffly and harsh. This is because they have not fully learned what we have learnt. In New York, Srila Prabhupad was very gentle and careful with the Hippies as they were not realized in Krsna Consciousness. We should never feel greater or superior to our juniors because that will make us proud that we are greater than them.



Tulasi Saptar

Grade V

There are good ways and bad ways to deal with seniors, juniors, and equals. When dealing with seniors one should not compete and try to prove that they are better than their seniors. One should instead listen to them, learn many good qualities and skills, ask meaningful questions, and look up to them.

With juniors however one should not be bossy and make them feel inferior or less knowledgeable, but they should try to encourage and support them for things they want to pursue. One should also be patient and answer their questions, no matter how simple they are.

Naturally, when dealing with equals or peers one wants to be better than them and be superior in many skills, one may also want to criticize the other person to make them feel inferior (even though they aren't). One should instead act friendly, learn new things together, and make each other feel supported and acknowledged.

Who Is She: The Embodiment of Grace

Swetha Mahesh

Grade X

*A Humble Praise for the
Goddess of Devotion (Bhakti
Devi)*

Lost and confused, I
wandered alone

No direction, no place to call
home

I didn't know what to do or
where to go

My heart was searching for
someone to love, I know

But then I saw a young
woman, teaching with grace

She said, 'Only Krishna can
love you, unconditionally
embrace'

Suddenly it clicked, in my
mind it shone

If Krishna can love me, why
can't I love Him, the one

But I didn't know where to
start, how to begin

I was lost in the darkness,
gazing with a grin

Then I realized, Krishna asks
for nothing but pure love

He will love me a million
times back, from within and
above.

It seemed like a deal, too
good to be true

I started loving Krishna,
and my life began anew

In a bed of thorns, I saw
roses grow

But little did I know,
Krishna was carrying me,
I didn't know

With each step I took, He
took ten more

He never let me down, He
was my savior

Once again, I saw the
young woman, teaching
with zeal

'Love Krishna and Krishna
alone, He will never let
you fall'

A devotee she was,
always had a gentle smile,

A young woman, pure
and always divine

Her heart was filled with
love for the divine

And her soul shone
bright, like a precious
shrine

She saw the world
with compassionate
eyes

And her purpose
was to make others
rise

To spread
happiness, wherever
she went

For her, it was a
calling, a divine
intent

From her many
learnt –

If you're lost and
confused, with
nowhere to go

Just remember,
'Krishna's love will
always flow'

Love Him and He
will love you back

A million times over,
that's a fact.

Kartik Agrawal,
Grade VI

The Perfect Poetry

Dhruva Mahārāja prays to Lord Prsnigarbha, saying that He, the all-powerful supreme Lord, has enlivened his sleeping senses – his hands, legs, ears, touch, life force and his speech - after entering into him. He offers his obeisances unto Him. (SB 4.9.6)

Usually, a five-year-old child is incapable of producing intricate and eloquent poetry in praise of the Lord, unless favoured by Him. Dhruva Mahārāja correctly realizes the fact that the prayers he is going to compose would be a form of the mercy of the Lord, and not his own greatness.

The Lord blesses us with some assets, while some assets are not provided to us. However, if we sincerely endeavour to serve the Lord with faith, enthusiasm and whatever we have, He bestows upon us whatever is needed to serve. The principle of *yoga-kṣemam vahāmy aham* comes into action only when we use everything in the Lord's service. Srila Prabhupāda entered the United States with just \$40, and those few bucks evolved into a billion-dollar project, the Temple Of Vedic Planetarium, besides hundreds of centres all over the world.

In this context, the Rāmāyana has a great example. Ratnakar, a sinful dacoit, had no assets to serve the Lord. He could not even pronounce the word 'Rāma' due to his sins. With the faith instilled in him by Narada Muni, he began chanting 'Rāma' with much difficulty and gave up his occupation. This Ratnakar evolved into Sage Valmiki who was blessed with the potency to compose the celebrated 'Valmiki Rāmāyana'.

Thus it can be concluded that if we use whatever we have to serve the Lord, He ensures to make our service a success.



Kamakshi Agrawal
Grade III

VERSE OF THE MONTH



Obeisances unto Lord Rāma

SB 5.19.4

*yat tad viśuddhānubhava-mātram ekaṁ
sva-tejasā dhvasta-guṇa-vyavastham
pratyak praśāntaṁ sudhiyopalambhanam
hy anāma-rūpaṁ nirahaṁ prapadye*

The Lord, whose pure form [sac-cid-ānanda-vigraha [Bs. 5.1]] is uncontaminated by the modes of material nature, can be perceived by pure consciousness. In the Vedānta He is described as being one without a second. Because of His spiritual potency, He is untouched by the contamination of material nature, and because He is not subjected to material vision, He is known as transcendental. He has no material activities, nor has He a material form or name. Only in pure consciousness, Kṛṣṇa consciousness, can one perceive the transcendental form of the Lord. Let us be firmly fixed at the lotus feet of Lord Rāmacandra, and let us offer our respectful obeisances unto those transcendental lotus feet.

ANALOGY ARENA



When a man is absorbed in a particular thought, he does not hear or see any external activities, even though they are enacted in his presence. Similarly, those who are fully absorbed in devotional service do not care what is going on with the external body. That status is called samādhi. SB 4.20.11 P

The Ganges is glorified because it emanates from the toes of the lotus feet of the Lord. Similarly, if one takes to the service of the lotus feet of the Lord, or takes to Kṛṣṇa consciousness, he is immediately cleansed of the many dirty things which have accumulated in his innumerable births. SB 4.21.31 P



In order to regulate the activities of the living entities, God has given us codes, just as a king gives codes of law in a state, and whoever breaks the law is punished. Similarly, the Lord has given the infallible knowledge of the Vedas, which are not contaminated by the four defects of human life—namely the tendency to commit mistakes, to be illusioned, to cheat and to have imperfect senses. SB 4.21.27 P

The Service of Clouds in Vrindavana:

Srila Sanatana Goswami says that The clouds protect Krishna from intense heat in Vrindavan. How do they do it? By spreading their clouds like an umbrella over Krishna. And why do they do that? Because they consider Krishna as their friend. And why do they consider Krishna as their friend? Because they have many similarities. Few similarities are mentioned below:

- 1] Both are dark in color
- 2] Both take away suffering of people by shower of rasa
- 3] Both are of the color of lightening (Krsna's lightening colored dhoti)
- 4] Both give off sweet sounds

More Similarities between Krishna and the CLOUDS:

- Clouds give rain without discrimination. Similarly, the cloud of Krishna's mercy gives rain to one and all without discrimination.
- Clouds give rain and thus provide sustenance to many people. Similarly, Krishna's rain cloud of mercy has the power to sustain unlimited living beings!

THEMATIC STUDY Krishna and the Clouds



Krishna's Body like a Cloud:

*naumīḍya te 'bhra-vapuṣe taḍid-ambarāya
guñjāvataṁsa-paripiccha-lasan-mukhāya
vanya-sraje kavala-vetra-viṣāṇa-veṇu-
lakṣma-śriye mṛdu-pade paśupāṅgajāya*

Lord Brahmā said: My dear Lord, You are the only worshipable Supreme Lord, and therefore I offer my humble obeisances and prayers just to please You. O son of the king of the cowherds, **Your transcendental body is dark blue like a new cloud, Your garment is brilliant like lightning**, and the beauty of Your face is enhanced by Your guñjā earrings and the peacock feather on Your head. Wearing garlands of various forest flowers and leaves, and equipped with a herding stick, a buffalo horn and a flute, You stand beautifully with a morsel of food in Your hand.

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NOMENCLATURE

SB: Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam

CC: Śrī Caitanya-
caritāmṛta

BG: Bhagavad-gītā

BS: Brahmā-saṁhitā

1.1.1: Canto 1, Chapter 1,
Verse 1

1.1.1 P: From Śrīla
Prabhupāda's purport to
SB 1.1.1

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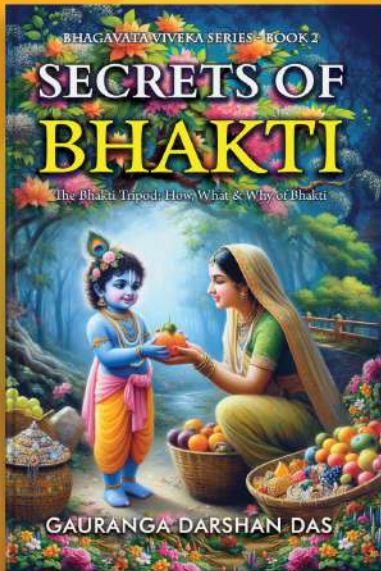
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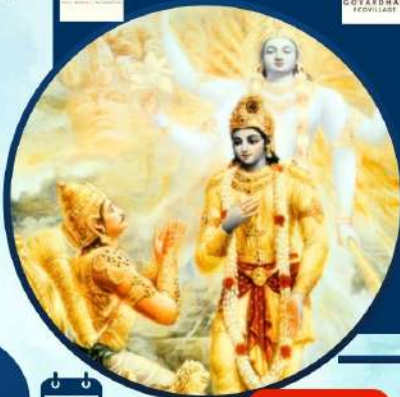


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