

I. Overview

A. Subject matter

We will be doing a general introduction to the subject, including a discussion on the subject of anarthas in general, then we will discuss the demons one by one.

1. The importance of hearing about Kṛṣṇa killing the demons:

ॐ "So here it is said that *yad uttamasloka-guṇopalambhaka*. We have to... Just like there are some *sahajiyas*. They think that "Kṛṣṇa's *rasa-līlā* is very nice, but Kṛṣṇa's fighting with the demons and killing of the demons, that is not very nice." But they do not know the Absolute Truth, that Kṛṣṇa is as good in any circumstances, either He is enjoying the company of the *gopīs* or He is killing the demon. That is the Absolute Truth. So these things should be understood. So any kind of *līlā*, *yad uttamasloka-guṇānu, līlā*, any kind of Kṛṣṇa's activities, if you remember by chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra, then you are liberated. Immediately you are liberated, from the authoritative description of *Srīmad-Bhāgavatam. Na niṣkṛtair uditair brahma-vādibhih. Brahma-vādibhih*, those who are very much anxious to realize Brahman, they have prescribed so many methods, ritualistic methods, but they are not sufficient because such things cannot elevate a person to the standard of a pure devotee. He may..." (Lecture, January 16, 1971 Allahabad)

ॐ "You can talk of Kṛṣṇa, about His pastimes with the *gopīs*. You can talk of Kṛṣṇa about His pastimes when He's killing the Putanā, Aghāsura, Bakāsura. Both are the same. Some of the rascals, they decide that to talk of Kṛṣṇa about His embracing the *gopīs* is very good, and the talk of Kṛṣṇa killing Putanā or other demons, that is not good. That is rascaldom. Anything about Kṛṣṇa, you talk, *vaikuṇṭha-guṇānuvarṇane*. Just like in the *Srīmad-Bhāgavatam* there are so many descriptions, so many other things, but because it is in relationship with Kṛṣṇa, so each word of *Bhāgavatam* is valued. Each word of *Bhagavad-gītā* is valued. Because there is relation. Similarly, if you dovetail everything in Kṛṣṇa's service, everything is good. Everything Vaikuṇṭha. That is Vaikuṇṭha. *Vaikuṇṭha-guṇānuvarṇane*." (Lecture, May 6, 1973, Los Angeles)

II. Texts

A. Caitanya Siksamṛta

ॐ "So Bhaktivinoda Thākura happens to be *ācāryas*, one of the *ācāryas*. And he has left behind him many books. *Caitanya-sikṣāmṛta, Jaiva Dharma*. These are very important books. They're in Bengali, in Sanskrit. And many songs. He has prepared many books of song. The song, *Ei nām gāya gauracānd madhura svare*, that is Bhaktivinoda Thākura's song. So we are

trying to present Bhaktivinoda Thākura's books also in English translation. Gradually you will get it." Lecture, Srīla Bhaktivinoda Thākura's Appearance Day, London, September 23, 1969.

B. *Professor Sanyal*

ॐ I am glad to learn that Donald has purchased Prof. Sanyal's book Krishna Caitanya. Late Prof. N. K. Sanyal was my Godbrother and his book Krishna Caitanya is approved and authoritative. Keep it very carefully and we may publish in Back to Godhead some articles from the book. It will help us a great deal because my Spiritual Master has given His approval to this book.* Please keep it carefully and when I return I shall see to it. Letter to Brahmananda March 14, 1967

C. *The Harmonist*

Regarding publishing articles from the Harmonist, after the departure of my Guru Maharaja so many nonsense things have been written. So we should know who has written these articles. Articles written by my Guru Maharaja can be published without any hesitation, but articles written by Prof. Sannyal after 1936, they are not at all good. Letter to Hayagriva November 7, 1969

III. Figurative meanings

Even though we are not simply trying to interpret Kṛṣṇa's pastimes like some Indian scholars, still Srīla Prabhupāda said there is sometimes a figurative side to some pastimes, to teach lessons:

A. *Morning Walk, London, August 30, 1973*

Prabhupāda: Yes, Bhāgavatam.

David Lawrence: A very great deal of what one could call demonology if you like. Now, I confess this raises problems for me. When a book like that...

Prabhupāda: Bhāgavata was written five thousand years ago.

David Lawrence: Yes, very, very ancient. Is it to be taken, the references say to Putanā, is this to be taken...

Prabhupāda: It is also fact.

David Lawrence: ...physically or spiritually as a demonic power or what?

Prabhupāda: No, no, which one?

David Lawrence: Where, is it the demoness Putanā takes Kṛṣṇa and Kṛṣṇa sucks her breast?

Syāmasundara: Should it be taken literally or allegorically?

Prabhupāda: No, literally, literally.

David Lawrence: Yeah, literally as a physical fact.

Prabhupāda: Oh yes, oh yes.

David Lawrence: Now, having said that then, if one goes on logically...

Prabhupāda: You'll find so many demons like Putanā even at the present moment.

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David Lawrence: So one could leap from behind a tree, putting it tritely if you like.

Prabhupāda: The, the Bhāgavatam, there is nothing... well, there are some figurative use. Just like we speak the story of Aesop's fables. That is for instruction. Just like jackal is talking with a lion. You see? So, there are stories like that.

David Lawrence: Yes, there are figurative stories.

Prabhupāda: Yes.