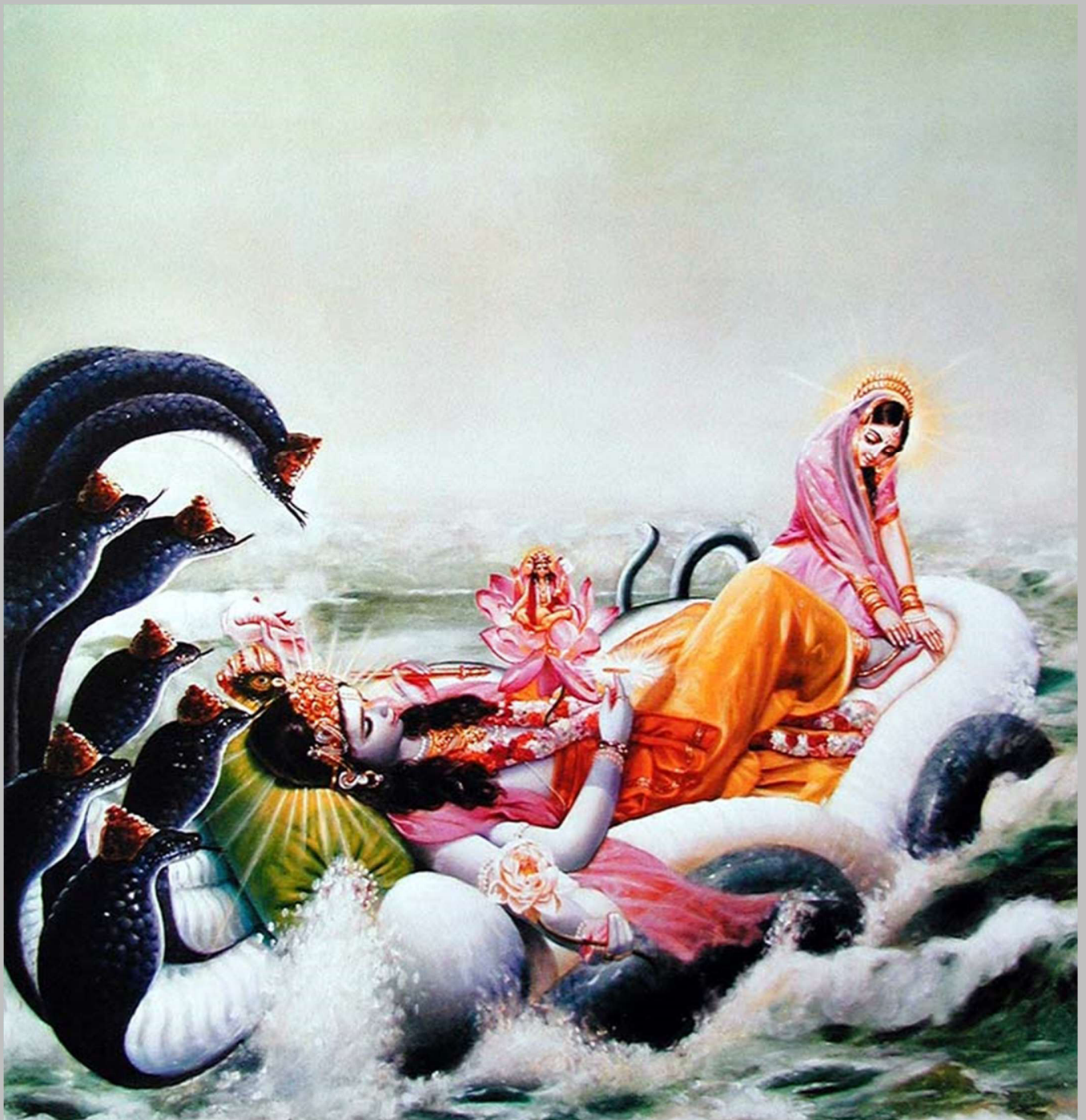


Chatur Shloki

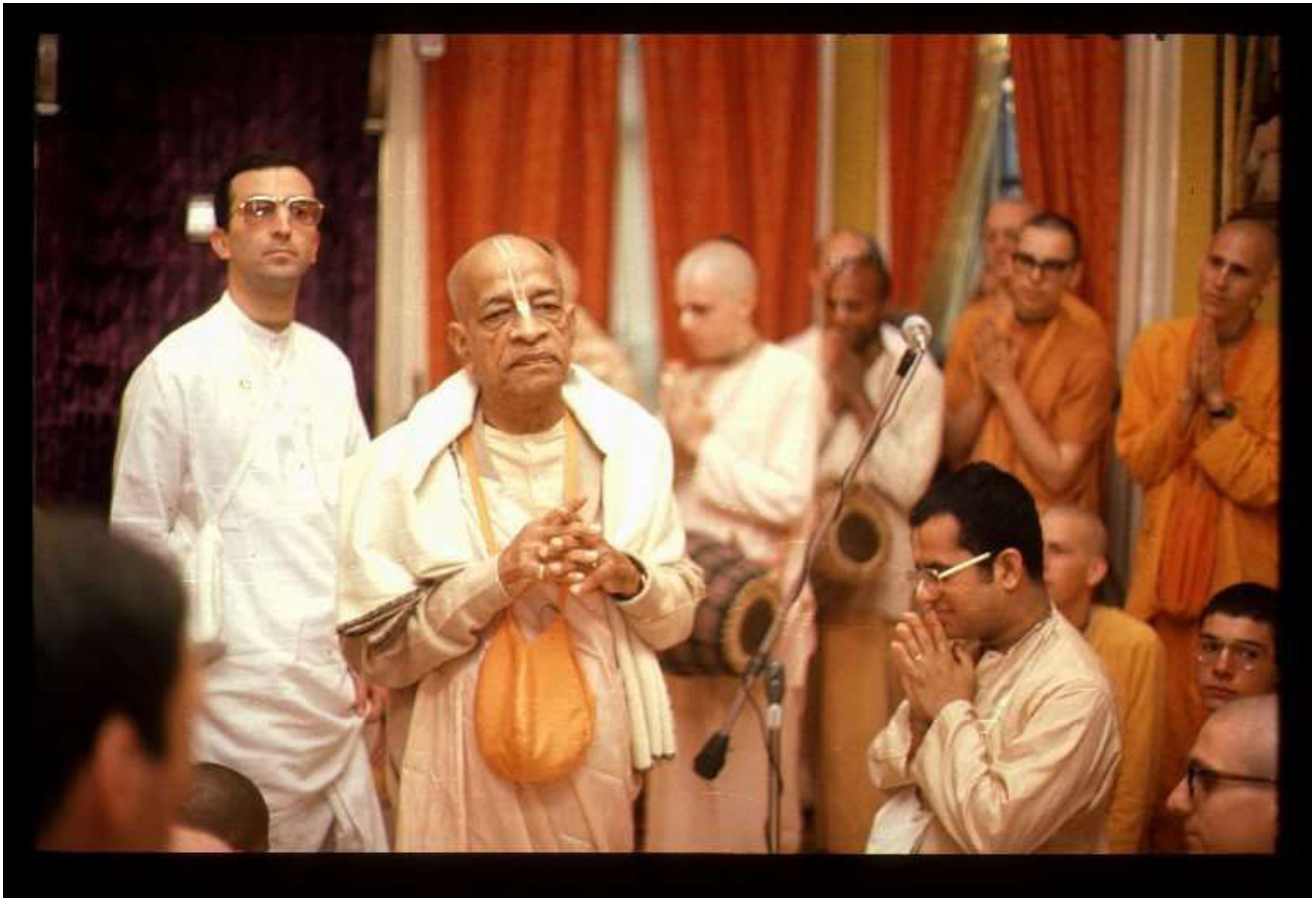
Srimad Bhagavatam

2nd Canto 33rd to 36th Verses



Content and Design by Samhita Iyer

Dedicated to
His Divine Grace
**A.C.Bhaktivedanta Swami
Prabhupada**



**Founder Acharya of the International Society for Krishna
Consciousness**

Dear Reader !!

Have you heard the name “Brahma” ?

Lord Brahma has four heads and He sits on a lotus. He is appointed as the creator of the universe by the Supreme Lord



Lord Brahmā, the first spiritual master, could not trace out the source of his lotus seat, and while thinking of creating the material world, he could not understand the proper direction for such creative work, nor could he find out the process for such creation. While thus engaged in thinking, Brahmājī heard twice from nearby two syllables joined together. One of the syllables was taken from the sixteenth and the other from the twenty-first of the sparśa alphabets, and both joined to become word for indicating “**MEDITATION**”



When he heard the sound, he tried to find the speaker, searching on all sides. But when he was unable to find anyone besides himself, he thought it wise to sit down on his lotus seat firmly and give his attention to the execution of penance, as he was instructed.

Lord Brahmā underwent penances for

1000 years !!! by the calculations of the demigods !



Thus he controlled his mind and senses, and the penances he executed were a great lesson for the living entities. Thus he is known as the “greatest of all ascetics”.

The Personality of Godhead, being thus very much satisfied with the penance of Lord Brahmā, was pleased to manifest His personal abode, Vaikuṅṭha, the supreme planet above all others. This transcendental abode of the Lord is worshiped by all self-realized persons freed from all kinds of miseries and fear of illusory existence.



The inhabitants of the Vaikuṅṭha planets are described as having a glowing sky-bluish complexion. Their eyes resemble lotus flowers, their dress is of yellowish color, and their bodily features very attractive. They are just the

age of growing youths, they all have four hands, they are all nicely decorated with pearl necklaces with ornamental decorations, and they all appear to be effulgent.

The Vaikuṅṭha planets are also surrounded by various airplanes, all glowing and brilliantly situated. These airplanes belong to the great mahātmās or devotees of the Lord. The ladies are as beautiful as lightning because of their celestial complexions, and all these combined together appear just like the sky decorated with both clouds and lightning.



Lord Brahmā saw in the Vaikuṅṭha planets the Personality of Godhead, who is the Lord of the entire devotee community, the Lord of the goddess of fortune, the Lord of all sacrifices, and the Lord of the universe.



The Personality of Godhead, seen leaning favorably towards His loving servitors, He was dressed in yellow robes and wore earrings and a helmet on his head. He had four hands, and His chest was marked with the lines of the goddess of fortune. The Lord was seated on His throne and was surrounded by different energies.

Lord Brahmā, thus seeing the Personality of Godhead in His fullness, was overwhelmed with

joy within his heart, and thus in full transcendental love and ecstasy, his eyes filled with tears of love. He thus bowed down before the Lord.

And seeing Brahmā present before Him, the Lord accepted him as worthy to create living beings, to be controlled as He desired, and thus being much satisfied with him, **the Lord shook hands with Brahmā** and, slightly smiling, addressed him thus.





The beautiful Personality of Godhead said :

O Brahmā, you are filled with the Vedas, I am very much pleased with your long penance with the desire for creation. Hardly am I pleased with the pseudo mystics. I wish you good luck !! O Brahmā, you may ask from Me, all that you may desire. You may know that the ultimate benediction, as the result of all penances, is to see Me by

Lord Brahmā said:

O Personality of Godhead, You are situated in every living entity's heart as the supreme director. In spite of that, my Lord, I am praying to You to kindly fulfill my desire.....



Do you want to know what was the desire of Lord Brahma ??

I will tell You

Lord Brahma Wanted answer to 4 Questions

Now we will see what were the questions asked by Lord Brahma and how did the Supreme Lord answer the questions.



Lord Brahma's 1st Question :

Oh Lord ! Can you please inform me about Your Material & Spiritual forms ?

The Lord answers :

Śrīmad Bhagavatam 2nd Canto 9th Chapter 33rd Verse

अहमेवासमेवाग्रे नान्यद् यत् सदसत् परम् ।
पश्चादहं यदेतच्च योऽवशिष्येत सोऽस्म्यहम् ॥ ३३ ॥

*aham evāsam evāgre
nānyad yat sad-asat param
paścād ahaṁ yad etac ca
yo 'vaśiṣyeta so 'smy aham*

Synonyms

aham — I, the Personality of Godhead; *eva* — certainly; *āsam* — existed; *eva* — only; *agre* — before the creation; *na* — never; *anyat* — anything else; *yat* — all those; *sat* — the effect; *asat* — the cause; *param* — the supreme; *paścāt* — at the end; *aham* — I, the Personality of Godhead; *yat* — all these; *etat* — creation; *ca* — also; *yaḥ* — everything; *avaśiṣyeta* — remains; *saḥ* — that; *asmi* — I am; *aham* — I, the Personality of Godhead.

Translation

Brahmā, it is I, the Personality of Godhead, who was existing before the creation, when there was nothing but Myself. Nor was there the material nature, the cause of this creation. That which you see now is also I, the Personality of Godhead, and after annihilation what remains will also be I, the Personality of Godhead.

Lessons to learn :

- 1) The form of the Lord, as seen by Brahmā, existed before the creation of Brahmā, and the material manifestation with all the ingredients and agents of material creation are also energetic expansions of the Lord, and after the exhibition of the Lord's energy comes to a close, what remains is the same Personality of Godhead. **Therefore the form of the Lord exists in all circumstances of creation, maintenance and annihilation.**
- 2) The singular I is the creator, and the created I's are of plural number because there are many I's like Brahmā and those generated by Brahmā.



For example : The father creates or begets a son, and the son also creates many other sons, and all of them may be one as human beings, but, at the same time from the father, the son and the grandsons are all different. The son cannot take the place of the father, nor can the grandsons. Simultaneously the father, the son and the grandson are one and different also. As human beings they are one, but as relativities they are different.

Similarly the Supreme Lord is the Absolute Supreme Father. He created Brahma, who created all of us – living entities. So we are all qualitatively equal with the Lord but quantitatively we are all **very small.**

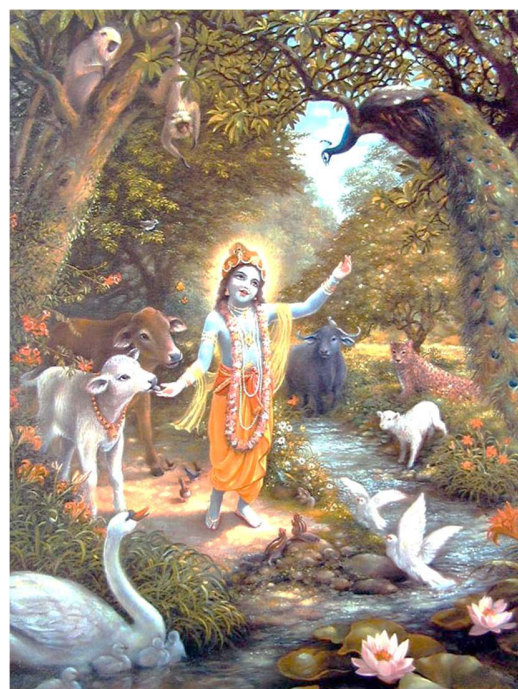
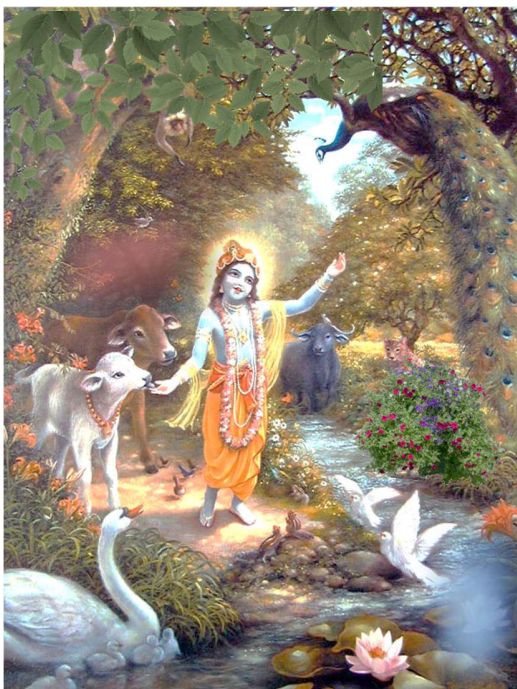
3) The Lord indicates herein that....

Before the material creation He existed in fullness with all transcendental opulences,

- including all strength,
- all wealth,
- all beauty,
- all knowledge,
- all fame
- all renunciation.

If one thinks of a king, he automatically thinks of his secretaries, ministers, military commanders, palaces and so on.

Similarly **the Lord was NOT ALONE. His personal associates were also present** who were serving Him before the creation and even after the creation they will continue to do so.



ACTIVITY

Find out the differences between these 2 pictures of Lord Krishna :

Could you find any difference in the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna ?? NOOOO Think why? Because the Lord always Supreme everytime !

Lord Brahma's 2nd Question :

Oh Lord, Can you please tell about your material and spiritual energies ?

The Lord answers :

Śrīmad Bhagavatam 2nd Canto 9th Chapter 34th Verse

ऋतेऽर्थं यत् प्रतीयेत न प्रतीयेत चात्मनि ।
तद्विद्यादात्मनो मायां यथाभासो यथा तमः ॥ ३४ ॥

*ṛte 'rtham yat pratīyeta
na pratīyeta cātmani
tad vidyād ātmano māyām
yathābhāso yathā tamaḥ*

Synonyms

ṛte — without; *artham* — value; *yat* — that which; *pratīyeta* — appears to be; *na* — not; *pratīyeta* — appears to be; *ca* — and; *ātmani* — in relation to Me; *tat* — that; *vidyāt* — you must know; *ātmanaḥ* — My; *māyām* — illusory energy; *yathā* — just as; *ābhāsaḥ* — the reflection; *yathā* — as; *tamaḥ* — the darkness.

Translation

O Brahmā, whatever appears to be of any value, if it is without relation to Me, has no reality. Know it as My illusory energy, that reflection which appears to be in darkness.

Lessons to learn :

1) There are 2 energies of Lord Krishna : Yoga-Maya & Maha-Maya

Yoga Maya	Maha – Maya
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When we are under her influence, we accept each and every thing in relationship with the Supreme Lord, Sri Krishna - This is the right conception ✓ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When we are forgetful and accept things as real without being related to the Supreme Lord, then we are under her influence. - This is a wrong conception ❌

For example :



Is Shyam thinking correctly?
- **TRUE**, It is a rope



Is Bitu thinking correctly?
- **FALSE**, It is a snake



- Romu's thinking is **FALSE**



- Devi's thinking is **TRUE**

Let us read 2 stories to understand the above concept more clearly

The Foolish King - Paundraka

King Paundraka, the King of the Karusa province, wanted to declare himself as God. While Lord Balarama was absent in Vrindavana, this king, being foolish and puffed up, sent a messenger to Lord Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

The messenger reached the royal assembly of Krishna in Dvaraka and conveyed the message given by his master, Paundraka. The message contained the following statements.

“I am the only Supreme Personality of Godhead, Vaasudeva. I have descended as King Paundraka, taking compassion on the distressed people. You have falsely taken the position of Vaasudeva without authority. O descendant of the Yadu dynasty, please give up all the symbols of Vaasudeva which You have falsely assumed. And after giving up this position, come and surrender unto me. If You do not care for my words, then I challenge You to fight. I am inviting You to a battle in which the decision will be settled.”



When all the members of Lord Krishna’s royal assembly heard this message sent by Paundraka, they laughed very loudly for a considerable time. After enjoying the loud laughter of all the members of the assembly, Lord Krishna replied to the messenger as follows. “O messenger of

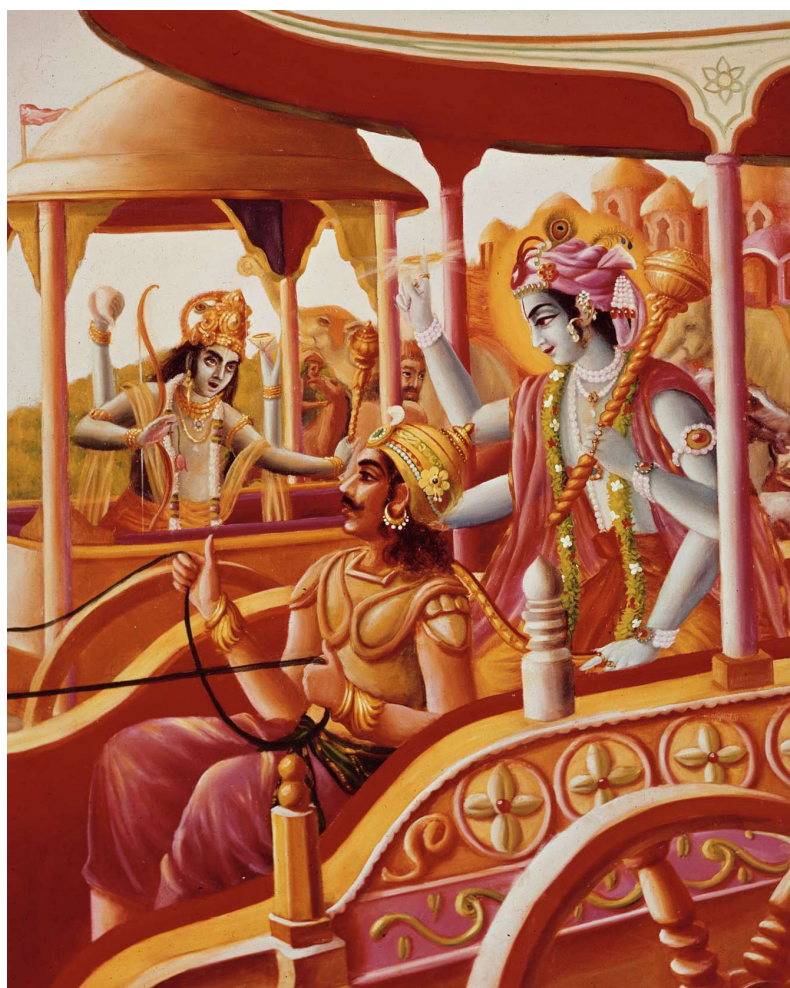
Paundraka, you may carry My message to your master: He is a foolish rascal. I directly call him a rascal, and I refuse to follow his instructions. I shall never give up the symbols of Vasudeva, especially My disc. I shall use this disc to kill not only King Paundraka but all his followers also.”

The messenger carried the words of Lord Krishna to his master, Paundraka, who patiently heard all these insults. Without waiting longer, Lord Sri Krishna immediately started out on His chariot to punish the rascal Paundraka.

King Paundraka was a great warrior, and as soon as he heard of Krishna’s attack, he came out of the city along with two aksauhini divisions of soldiers. The King of Kasi was also a friend to King Paundraka, and he came out with three aksauhini divisions. [An aksauhini phalanx consists of 21,870 chariots, 21,870 elephants, 106,950 infantrymen and 65,600 cavalrymen.] When the two kings came before Lord Krishna to oppose Him, Krishna saw Paundraka face to face for the first time. Krishna saw that Paundraka had decorated himself with the symbols of the conchshell, disc, lotus and club. He carried the Sarnga bow, and on his chest was the imitation mark of Srivatsa. [These are all ornaments of Lord Krishna.] King Paundraka was exactly imitating Krishna’s. When Lord Sri Krishna saw Paundraka imitating His posture and dress. He could not check His laughter, and thus He laughed with great satisfaction.

The soldiers on the side of King Paundraka began to shower their weapons and Lord Krishna counteracted all of them. He smashed not only the weapons but also the soldiers and assistants of Paundraka. After a fierce battle, Lord Krishna told Paundraka, “Paundraka, you requested Me to give up the symbols of Lord Visnu, specifically My disc. Now I will give it up to you. Be careful! You falsely declare yourself to be Vasudeva, imitating

Myself. Therefore no one is a greater fool than you.” In this way, after rebuking Paundraka very severely. He smashed his chariot to pieces by shooting an arrow. With the help of His disc He separated the head of Paundraka from his body. Lord Krishna did this just as a hurricane carries a lotus petal here and there. Lord Krishna killed Paundraka and his friend Kasiraja on the battlefield, and then He returned to His capital city,

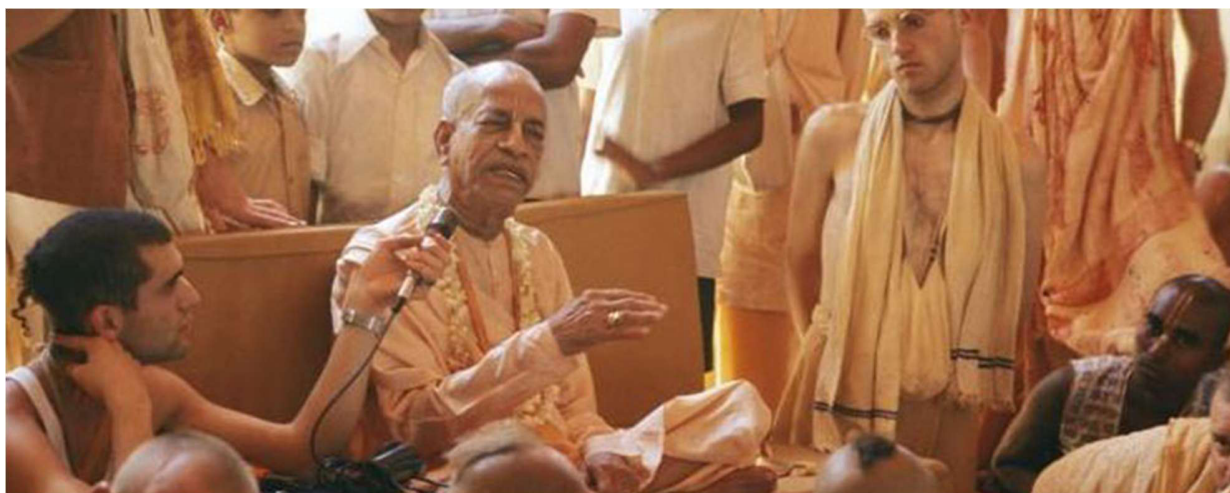


Dvaraka. When Lord Krishna returned to the city of Dvaraka, all the Siddhas from the heavenly planets were singing the glories of the Lord.

MORAL : Never think yourself as the Supreme Lord or there is something which is not related to the Lord. Then you will be in illusion which will lead to destruction.

Srila Prabhupada

Once there was a new devotee from America named Anuttama Prabhu joined ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness). He met Srila Prabhupada – His guru. Srila Prabhupada told Him that his daily service was to go to the roof every morning and as soon as there was sunlight, enough to see his hand, he has to run down from floor to floor and turn off all the lights in the halls and other public areas. Because Srila Prabhupada would feel annoying when he saw some light or fan turned ON when not necessary, He would tell his disciples, “Why are you keeping the lights ON now?? Energy is getting wasted. It is Krishna’s energy. Actually, there is nothing but Lord Krishna all around us. This is explained in the Bhagavad Gita (10th Chapter) He is the taste of water, light of the moon, the fragrance of the flower, light of the sun, sound of the sky, the power of the strong and so on. So one who is making progress in Krishna Consciousness, he can see Krishna everywhere. Without Krishna there is nothing.” So Anuttama Prabhu would follow the instructions of Srila Prabhupada and do his service regularly without fail.



MORAL : Follow in the footsteps of Srila Prabhupada and see each and everything as Lord Krishna’s energy.

Lord Brahma's 3rd Question :

My dear Supreme Lord, Please tell me about Your material and Spiritual Pastimes

The Lord answers :

Śrīmad Bhagavatam 2nd Canto 9th Chapter 35th Verse

यथा महान्ति भूतानि भूतेषूच्चावचेष्णु ।
प्रविष्टान्यप्रविष्टानि तथा तेषु न तेष्वहम् ॥ ३५ ॥

*yathā mahānti bhūtāni
bhūteṣūccāvaceṣṇu
praviṣṭāny apraviṣṭāni
tathā teṣu na teṣv aham*

Synonyms

yathā — just as; *mahānti* — the universal; *bhūtāni* — elements; *bhūteṣu ucca-avaceṣu* — in the minute and gigantic; *anu* — after; *praviṣṭāni* — entered; *apraviṣṭāni* — not entered; *tathā* — so; *teṣu* — in them; *na* — not; *teṣu* — in them; *aham* — Myself.

Translation

O Brahmā, please know that the universal elements enter into the cosmos and at the same time do not enter into the cosmos; similarly, I Myself also exist within everything created, and at the same time I am outside of everything.

Lessons to learn :

1) The Universal Elements are :



Earth



Water



Fire



Air



Ether

These elements were created first, and therefore they entered into the bodily construction later.

For example : **A mountain** and a **human being's body** both are made up of earth. But **earth is also present separately**.

So in both circumstances the elements entered the cosmos and also did not enter.

Similarly, the Supreme Lord is within everything - in the manifested cosmos, and at the same time He is outside of everything, situated in the kingdom of God (Vaikuṅṭhaloka).

ACTIVITY

Circle out the places where the Supreme Lord is present in the below picture :



It is little difficult to circle everywhere right ? Yes ! Because the Lord is present everywhere – in every moving and non-moving thing, even in an **“atom”**. But at the same time, the Lord is also present in His abode

- 2) Although the Supreme Personality of Godhead is present in every atom, He may not be visible to the dry speculators; still the mystery is unfolded before the eyes of the pure devotees because their eyes are anointed with love of Godhead.



Just like anyone can watch Cricket game going on at a far-away ground in a Television while sitting at home

Similarly the pastimes of the Supreme Lord in Vaikuntha are being televised always in the heart of a pure devotee.

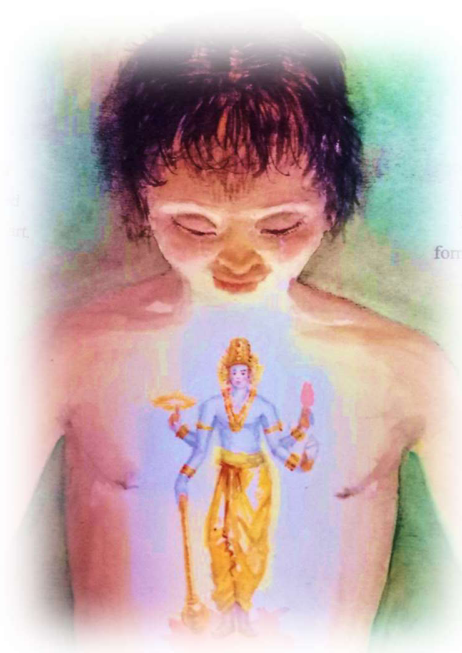
Such pure devotees are very rare, just like a touchstone.

Do you too want to see Lord Krishna everywhere and in your heart?

Then start chanting from today,

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare

Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare



Lord Brahma's 4th Question :

O my Supreme Lord, Please tell me now how should I practice whatever You have taught me. Please empower me to execute your order. And how should I be free from pride and not think myself as the Supreme?

The Lord answers :

Śrīmad Bhagavatam 2nd Canto 9th Chapter 36th Verse

एतावदेव जिज्ञास्यं तत्त्वजिज्ञासुनात्मनः ।
अन्वयव्यतिरेकाभ्यां यत् स्यात् सर्वत्र सर्वदा ॥ ३६ ॥

*etāvad eva jijñāsyam
tattva-jijñāsunātmanaḥ
anvaya-vyatirekābhyām
yat syāt sarvatra sarvadā*

Synonyms

etāvat — up to this; *eva* — certainly; *jijñāsyam* — is to be inquired; *tattva* — the Absolute Truth; *jijñāsunā* — by the student; *ātmanaḥ* — of the Self; *anvaya* — directly; *vyatirekābhyām* — indirectly; *yat* — whatever; *syāt* — it may be; *sarvatra* — in all space and time; *sarvadā* — in all circumstances.

Translation

A person who is searching after the Supreme Absolute Truth, the Personality of Godhead, must certainly search for it up to this, in all circumstances, in all space and time, and both directly and indirectly.

Lessons to learn :

- 1) What is absolute truth ? – That which was true in the past, is true in the present and will be true in the future.
Searching for that absolute truth - the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and understanding that we are the spirit soul and not the body. So we should serve the Supreme Lord all the time and make Him happy. That is called **“Self Realization”**



Now those people who are inquisitive, try to find answers to their questions and search for self-realization in different ways :



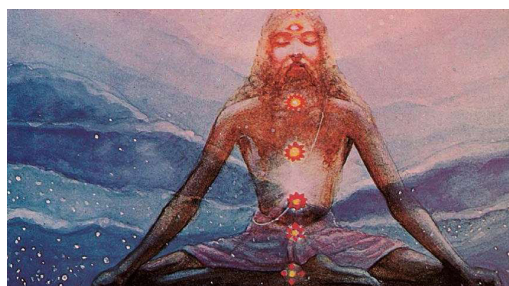
Karma Yoga



Jnana Yoga



Raja Yoga



Dhyana Yoga



Bhakti Yoga

Please NOTE : **BHAKTI YOGA** is the best & the most easiest process which will please Lord Krishna. And we will be free from Pride

2) We are all human beings right??

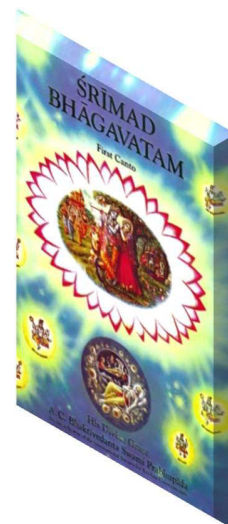
The goal of human life is : To know about the Supreme Lord from a bonafide spiritual master

What is the source to know about God & His devotees?

*Answer : **Srimad Bhagavatam** - This spiritual literature has the answers for all the inquires of various students*

Who is a bonafide Spiritual Master ?

Answer : a spiritual master who comes in the line of a discipic succession and is one hundred percent Krishna conscious is the bona fide spiritual master, for he can solve the problems of life.



For example : In the starting pastime of this book, Lord Brahma is asking questions regarding self realization from the most bonafide spiritual master – the Supreme Lord Himself. Therefore Lord Brahma has achieved perfection of His life.

So to attain perfection of you life, you must attain your goal. Follow these steps :

- Learn about the Supreme Lord
- Read Srimad Bhagavatam
- Hear from a bonafide spiritual master
- Remember Lord Krishna and never forget Lord Krishna, in any time, space or circumstance
-

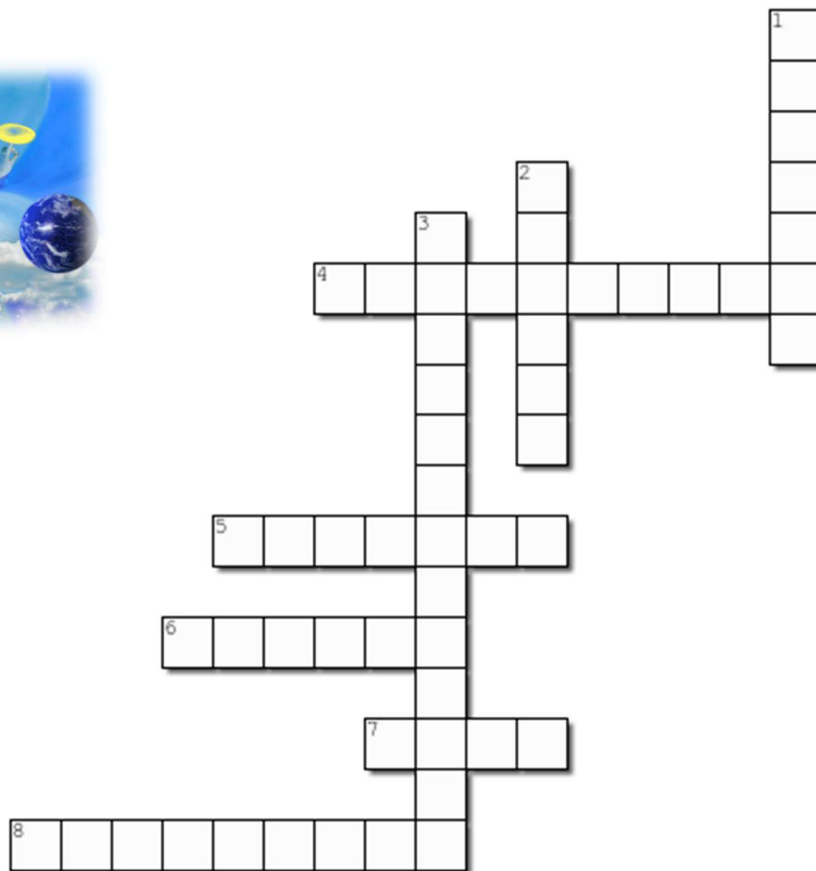
Haribol !! Well Done ! You finished reading the whole book? Did you understand all the concepts very well?

Now, let's take a test : **SOLVE THE CROSSWORD BELOW**

Name: _____

Chatur Shloki

Read the statements below and fill in the answers in the appropriate boxes :



Across

- 4. Srimad _____ is the best book to know about the Lord and His devotees
- 5. The pastimes of the Lord are always televised in the heart of a pure _____
- 6. Who is asking these 4 questions to the Lord?
- 7. When we relate everything to Lord Krishna, it is called _____ Maya
- 8. The foolish King _____ though himself to be Lord Krishna

Down

- 1. The _____ Lord was present before the creation, also present now and will also be present after annihilation
- 2. _____ Yoga is the best process to please the Lord easily
- 3. The Supreme Lord is present inside & outside of everything, as well as in His abode called _____



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