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PERPLEXED, BUT NEVER BROKEN

The Secret Power of Krishna's Devotees

By His Holiness

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Faith That Cannot Be Shaken

Notes from the class on the perplexities faced by great devotees

This is a deeply empowering purport in which Srila Prabhupada discusses how even the most confidential devotees of the Lord sometimes become perplexed in the discharge of their devotional service — but they are never discouraged, because they have faith in God. Prabhupada explains that this very faith paves the way for the smooth progress of a devotee's duty.

In Prabhupada's own life, in 1922 on Ultadanga Road in Kolkata, he received the instruction from his guru maharaj to bring the teachings of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu to the whole world. At the time, this seemed inconceivable and unattainable. Prabhupada offered the argument that perhaps it would be better to stand with Gandhi for the nation's independence, so that people would respect them and be inclined to listen. His guru maharaj, Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur, replied that the only real solution to the problems of the world is Krishna consciousness — understanding that Krishna is the controller, protector, proprietor, and supreme enjoyer of everything. We have forgotten this and become disconnected from our own soul, and as a result we remain in conflict with all of nature and with all living beings.

Srimati Morarji once remarked that Prabhupada was too old for such a task, that it was too cold, and spoke quite boldly against it — yet Prabhupada was not so old after all, and we have all seen how his destiny unfolded.

This is the same recurring theme: great devotees face the challenges of their lives not on the strength of intelligence, resources, or connections, but on the strength of their faith in Krishna and their surrender to His will. It is in this very willingness to surrender that they remain undiscouraged.

Vidura's Unbroken Faith

Vidura always tried to help Dhritarashtra, and even tried to help Duryodhana, yet he was repeatedly rejected and ultimately insulted and humiliated, forced into exile, away from his family and his service. Duryodhana screamed at Vidura that he was merely the son of a maidservant, and ordered him to leave the kingdom, allowing him to take nothing with him but his own breath.

Most perplexing of all, Dhritarashtra said nothing and sided with Duryodhana. And yet Vidura left with complete faith in Krishna. He was not discouraged, for he knew that Krishna would pave the way for him to serve in the best possible way.

Advaita Acharya's Compassion for a Fallen World

Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu descended into this world because of Advaita Acharya, who is Sadashiva Himself. Seeing the fallen, conditioned souls of this world, seeing how the very philosophy of dharma was being misinterpreted — even in Navadvipa, where so much corruption existed in the name of dharma — he witnessed thousands upon thousands of people learning Sanskrit and logic, yet hardly anyone with sincere bhakti to Krishna, chanting His holy name.

Without love for Krishna, everything else eventually perishes. Our happiness remains entirely vulnerable to circumstances that are so often beyond our control.

The Power of a Devotee's Prayer

The power of a devotee's prayer is the very seed of the Lord's appearance. When a great soul prays for the well-being of the earth and its people, it is there that the Lord responds. In this way, the prayers of a devotee with a compassionate heart are among the greatest blessings we can receive — when great souls pray for our souls, that is true blessing.

Mam upetya punar-janma na vidyate — from the highest planet of the material world to its lowest and most miserable, Krishna is the creator of the entire universe, and one who takes shelter of Him goes beyond the material world altogether, beyond the reach of *daivi hy esha guna-mayi*, His own divine and insurmountable material energy.

Someone may pray for us, and still we may pass away, today or tomorrow — yet we should know that the prayers and blessings of great souls upon our own soul may affect our external circumstances in ways we do not expect, sometimes even bringing difficulties, and still we should never be discouraged. This holds true not only in our own lives but also in the lives of others for whom we pray, or who pray for us.

We may be perplexed, even heartbroken, but we are never discouraged — because we know that the prayers of great souls always carry a supreme blessing for those who are prayed for.

Chanting as an Invocation of Prayer

Prabhupada taught us how to chant the maha-mantra as an invocation, in the very mood of prayer: “My dear Radha and Krishna, please engage me in Your loving service. Whatever situation may come, please let me serve and please You.” That is the true mood in which we chant the holy names of the Lord.

Brahma's Unshaken Faith

Why is Brahmaji never truly discouraged? Because Brahmaji took shelter of Krishna, surrendered to Krishna, and held complete faith in Krishna. It is that faith which keeps him from ever being discouraged.

The Mercy of Srimati Radharani

When we come before Radha Gopinath, Gopinath gazes so sweetly upon all the assembled devotees, playing His flute, inviting us back into His eternal loving pastimes. And Srimati Radharani, Her hands extended, blesses all the devotees with Her supremely compassionate mercy and love. In Her form at the Radha Gopinath temple, on behalf of all of us, whatever love, sincerity, and devotion we may have — in the form of a garland — She offers to Krishna, to Gopinath.

Prabhupada explained many times that Krishna is always subordinate to the wish of Sri Radha. When Sri Radha tells Krishna, “This devotee is serving My servants, and so this devotee is dearer to Me than I am to Myself — please accept him, please accept her,” then Krishna accepts us. When we serve the Vaishnavas, when we sincerely serve Prabhupada, how dear that service becomes to Srimati Radharani — and through the parampara, She offers us to Krishna. That is guru-parampara, and that is the true result of sincere Vaishnava seva.

Prabhupada on the Vyasasana

Prabhupada is present on his vyasasana, watching us reciprocate with his mercy by assisting him in the great mission of his own guru maharaj, worshipping Radha Gopinath and coming together as one united, loving community. This is such a blessing, such grace, bestowed upon us. It is our greatest fortune, and it should be our greatest aspiration.

Krishna: Our Only Shelter

Krishna is the only true shelter through every experience we pass through in this world — our successes, our failures, our shortcomings. The material energy, maya, is very powerful; it distracts us and casts its illusion over us. Whatever situation we find ourselves in, we must take shelter of Krishna.

Bhaktivinode Thakur writes that he has seen the inconceivable within all fourteen worlds, but that without Krishna's grace, nothing can save him. Whether we find ourselves in a prosperous situation or a devastating one, both can distract us equally, and both can come at any time. What we need is faith — and *sraddha* comes through the association of devotees, through hearing about the Lord. We need each

other; we need Vaishnava association.

Prabhupada said that anyone who thinks they can become Krishna conscious outside the association of devotees is simply in illusion. The temples exist for this very purpose, and Prabhupada's books exist for this very purpose — to hear, in the association of devotees, through reading, chanting, and serving together. That is our shelter, and we must seek it. Only in that association of hearing and chanting together can our faith remain strong, so that even if we become perplexed, we are never discouraged.

To not be discouraged does not mean we never struggle — it means we do not give up, because we know Krishna is present in every situation. And when things are falling apart, we must ask ourselves: is it Krishna we truly want, or merely the restoration of the things that are falling apart?

Surrender Is the Goal

Sarva-dharman parityajya — abandon all varieties of dharma and simply surrender unto Krishna. Krishna takes care of us; that is our true home, and that is our life. We must always keep this in the forefront of our mind — whatever happens in our life, this is Krishna's own promise. We should simply surrender to Him, take shelter of Him, and try to please Him, always keeping that ultimate goal before us, because nothing and no one can ever truly take it away from us. But if we become inattentive or insincere, we can let it slip away ourselves.

Even if we let go of it many times, Krishna is still there, and our faith and our bhakti are restored the moment we again seek shelter. Our sadhana, our association, and the steadiness of our service are themselves a beautiful form of the Deity — this is the very way Krishna manifests to give us shelter.

Perplexities Will Always Be There

Perplexities will always exist, whether one is Brahma himself or the most insignificant ant. This material world is deeply perplexing, and maya is very strong — yet maya remains entirely subordinate to Krishna's own control. If we take shelter of Krishna, He will protect us, restore us, revive us, and bless us.

We must be careful. Prabhupada warned his devotees, “You are not afraid enough of maya.” It surrounds us on every side, and we must remain aware and alert.

The Goal of Life

Real intelligence, real knowledge, means knowing that in every single moment we need Krishna's shelter. This is the very message of the Bhagavad Gita and of Srimad-Bhagavatam, and it is the very goal of life — to pass through the perplexities of this world with the faith that Krishna is our shelter, present always in our hearts, in His holy names, in the Deity, and in the hearts of the Vaishnavas, always there to give us shelter.

"Devotees may become perplexed, but they are never discouraged — because they know Krishna is always there to give them shelter."

Source: Class, 22nd February 2026 — ISKCON Chowpatty, Mumbai

Thank you very much. Hare Krishna.