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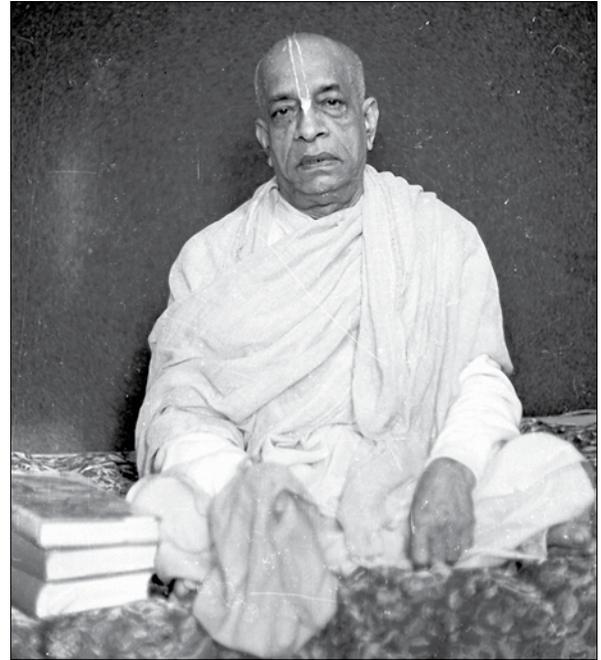
## STUDY SERIOUSLY FROM DIFFERENT ANGLES

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

If you get knowledge, automatically *tapasyā* will follow, and then you will make advancement in spiritual life. So to get knowledge is the first item for anyone who is hoping to find his perfection of life. Therefore, I advise you to daily read our books as far as possible and try to understand the subject matter from different angles of vision by discussing frequently with the devotees at the New York temple. (Letter to Bob, 16 June 1972)

Therefore, I recommend you to read our books more and more and try to understand the subject matter from different angles of vision and be always discussing it with your god brothers even while you are working at the press, and when you are working and you cannot read, then listen to the tapes of my lectures and hear in that way. (Letter to Bhargava, 13 June 1972)

I am very much stressing nowadays that my students shall increase their reading of my books and try to understand them from different angles of vision. Each *śloka* can be seen from many, many angles of vision, so become practiced in seeing things like this. If we are selling the books but we do not know what is inside the book, then that will be a farce, especially if you are preaching and selling books to the students of Edinburgh. (Letter to Tribhuvanatha, 16 June 1972)



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

I am very much stressing at this point that all of my students shall be very much conversant with the philosophy of Krishna consciousness, and that they should read our books very diligently at least one or two hours daily and try to understand the subject matter from varieties of angles. We are holding our morning class in Los Angeles in the temple and I am speaking from 7 to 8 am, and the process is that we are going through some chapters of *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam* by taking one *śloka* each day, and reading the Sanskrit aloud. Each word is pronounced by me and repeated by the students and then all



*Vrindavan Bihari Krishna*

together we chant the *śloka* several times until we have learned it. And then we discuss the subject matter very minutely and inspect it from all angles of approach and savor the new understandings. So you introduce this system in all of the centers in your zone and you will discover that everyone becomes very much enlivened by these daily classes. Read one *śloka* and discuss and then go on to the next *śloka* on the next day, and so on, and even you discuss one verse each day it will take you fifty years to finish the *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam* in this way. So we have got ample stock for acquiring knowledge. And if the students get knowledge more and more, they will automatically become convinced and very easily perform their duties for *tapasyā* or renunciation of the material bondage, and that will be their successful advancement in Krishna consciousness. So I want that advancement amongst all of my students, so you are responsible that the standard will be maintained. (Letter to Madhudvisa, 16 June 1972)

Your first job should be to make sure that every one of the devotees in your zone of management is reading regularly our literature and discussing the subject matter seriously from different angles

of seeing, and if they are somehow or other absorbing the knowledge of Krishna consciousness philosophy. If they are fully educated in our philosophy and if they can get all of the knowledge and study it from every viewpoint, then very easily they will perform *tapasyā* (renunciation) and that will be their advancement in Krishna consciousness. (Letter to Satsvarupa, 16 June 1972)

So especially you must encourage the students to read our books throughout the day as much as possible, and give them all good advice how to understand the books, and inspire them to study the things from every point of view. In this way, by constantly engaging our tongues in the service of the Lord, either by discussing his philosophy or by chanting Hare Krishna, the truth is that Krishna himself will reveal himself to us and we shall understand how to do everything properly. (Letter to Hamsaduta, 22 June 1972)

Yes, this program is very nice to try to attract the attention of the students seriously. That will be a great success. They should put intelligent questions and they should be answered properly with reference to modern science and philosophy. That will be very much convincing. I think if you read our books thoroughly you will get a supply of material to answer all the questions. Now I am preparing one book answering all types of philosophical arguments. Every morning, Shyamsundar is putting questions from different angles of vision beginning from Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, etc. and we are trying to answer. We shall discuss also Marx philosophy of communism. It will require some time but I wish that all our preachers should be well versed with all philosophical ideas and after studying all philosophical points of view we will put Krishna Conscious philosophy on the top. (Letter to Madhudvisa, 15 September 1971) ❀

## **EVERYTHING IS IN THE BHAGAVAD-GITA** ***Sri Srimad Gour Govinda Swami Maharaja***

You have many questions and many doubts, so humbly inquire and by service please the guru. In *Bhagavad-gītā*, Arjuna asked so many questions. He has already asked all questions for you, and he has not left any question. All questions are there in *Bhagavad-gītā*, and all answers are there too.



Painting by Gangapani Sharma. 1929. Gita Press, Gorakhpur

*Krishna and Arjuna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra*

So read *Bhagavad-gītā* and hear *Bhagavad-gītā* from that guru. Then all questions are answered; no question is left out. One should know that *tattva-vastu* (object of truth).

— From a lecture in Bhubaneswar. 16 October 1995.

## THE GLORIES OF BHAGAVAD-GITA from the *Hari-bhakti-vilāsa* 6.214-228

*skānde avantī-khaṇḍe śrī-vyāsoktau –  
gītā sugītā kartavyā kim anyaiḥ śāstra-vistaraiḥ  
yā svayaṁ padma-nābhasya mukha-padmād viniḥsṛtā*

In the *Skanda-purāṇa*, Srila Vyasadev says, “Memorize and sing sweetly this *Bhagavad-gītā*. What need is there to elaborate on other scriptures? She has descended directly from the lotus mouth of Lord Padmanabh.”

*sarva-śāstra-mayī gītā sarva-deva-mayī yataḥ  
sarva-dharma-mayī yasmāt tasmād etāṁ samabhyaset*

The *Bhagavad-gītā* contains the essence of all literatures. It is the sum total of all the demigods and the sum total of all religion. Therefore, one should study the *Bhagavad-gītā* thoroughly.

*śālagrāma-śilāgre tu gītādhyāyaṁ paṭhet tu yaḥ  
manvantara-sahasrāṇi vasate brahmaṇaḥ pure*

One who recites a chapter from the *Bhagavad-gītā* in front of a *śālagrāma-śilā* resides for a thousand *manvantaras* in Lord Brahma’s abode.

*hatvā hatvā jagat sarvaṁ muṣṭvā sa-carācaram  
pāpān na līpyate caiva gītādhyāyī kathaṅcana*

One who reads the *Bhagavad-gītā* is not touched by sin even by repeatedly killing or plundering the whole world with its moving and non-moving entities.

*teneṣṭāṁ kratubhiḥ sarvair dattaṁ tena gavāyutam  
gītām abhyasyatā nityaṁ tenāptaṁ padam ayyayam*

Such a person attains the result of donating ten thousand cows and the result of conducting all Vedic sacrifices. Those who constantly study the *Bhagavad-gītā* attain to the eternal spiritual world.

*gītādhyāyaṁ paṭhet yas tu ślokaṁ ślokārdham eva vā  
bhava-pāpa-vinirmukto yāti viṣṇoḥ param padam*

By reading a chapter, a verse or even half a verse from the *Bhagavad-gītā*, one is liberated from all sins and attains the topmost destination of Lord Vishnu’s planets.

*yo nityaṁ viśva-rūpākhyam adhyāyaṁ paṭhati dvijaḥ  
vibhūtiṁ deva-devasya tasya puṇyaṁ vadāmy aham*

A brahmin who studies the tenth and eleventh chapter of the *Bhagavad-gītā* attains the following result [as described in the next verse].



Krishna speaks the Gītā to Arjuna

*vedair adhītaiṛ yat puṇyam setihāsaiḥ purātanaiḥ  
ślokenaikena tat puṇyam labhate nātra saṁśayaḥ  
ābrahma-stamba-paryantam jagat-ṛptim karoti saḥ  
viśva-rūpaṁ sadādhyāyam vibhūtim ca paṭhet tu yaḥ*

By studying a single verse from these two chapters one attains the same result as studying all the Vedas,



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*Itihāsas and Purāṇas*, of which there is no doubt. One who studies the tenth and eleventh chapters enjoys all pleasures enjoyed by all living entities — from the ordinary blades of grass up to Lord Brahma.

*ahany ahani yo martyo gītādhyāyam paṭhet tu vai  
dvātriṁśad-aparādhānis tu kṣamate tasya keśavaḥ*

Lord Keshava forgives all thirty-two kinds of offenses for a mortal who recites a chapter of the *Bhagavad-gītā*.

*likhītvā vaiṣṇavānām ca gītā-śāstram prayacchati  
dine dine ca yajate hariṁ cātra na saṁśayaḥ*

There is no doubt that those who copy and gift this literature to the devotees of the Lord attain the same result as worshipping Lord Hari daily.

*caturṇām eva vedānām sāram uddhṛtya viṣṇunā  
trailokyasyopakārāya gītā-śāstram prakāśitam*

For the benefit of the three worlds, Lord Vishnu has extracted the essence of the four Vedas and manifested that essence in the form of the literature known as *Bhagavad-gītā*.

*bhāratāmṛta-sarvasvam viṣṇor vaktrād viniṣṛtam  
gītā-gaṅgodakam pītvā punar janma na vidyate*

Everything in the *Mahābhārata* has emanated from the mouth of Lord Vishnu. Those who drink the Ganges-like water of the *Bhagavad-gītā* do not take birth again in the material world.

*dharmam cārtham ca kāmam ca mokṣam cāpicchatā sadā  
śrotavyā paṭhanīyā ca gītā kṛṣṇa-mukhodgatā*

Those who desire religiosity, economic development, sense gratification, or liberation should always hear, study and sing the *Bhagavad-gītā*, which has emanated from the mouth of Lord Krishna.

*yo naraḥ paṭhate nityam gītā-śāstram dine dine  
vimuktaḥ sarva-pāpebhyo yāti viṣṇoḥ param padam*

The person who constantly reads the *Bhagavad-gītā* day after day gets liberated from all sins and attains Lord Vishnu's abode. ☸

— Sanskrit taken from Gaudiya Grantha Mandira (<http://www.granthamandira.com>)

