

Vaikunṭha Gatekeepers Cursed by the Sages



Lord Brahmā said: After thus congratulating the sages for their nice words, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, whose abode is in the kingdom of God, spoke as follows.

The Personality of Godhead said: These attendants of Mine, Jaya and Vijaya by

name, have committed a great offense against you because of ignoring Me. O great sages, I approve of the punishment that you who are devoted to Me have meted out to them. To Me, the brāhmaṇa is the highest and most beloved personality. The disrespect shown by My attendants has actually been displayed by Me because the doormen are My servitors. I take this to be an offense by Myself; therefore I seek your forgiveness for the incident that has arisen.

Because I am the servitor of My devotees, My lotus feet have become so sacred that

they immediately wipe out all sin and I have acquired such a disposition that the goddess of fortune does not leave Me, even though I have no attachment for her, while others praise her beauty and observe sacred vows to secure from her even a slight favor.

The brāhmaṇas, the cows and the defenseless creatures are My own body. Those whose faculty of judgment has been impaired by their own sin look upon these as distinct from Me. They are just like furious serpents, and they are angrily torn apart by the bills of the vulturelike messengers of

Yamarāja, the superintendent of sinful persons.

These servants of Mine have transgressed against you, not knowing the mind of their master. I shall therefore deem it a favor done to Me if you order that, although reaping the fruit of their transgression, they may return to My presence soon and the time of their exile from My abode may expire before long.

Brahmā continued: Even though the sages had been bitten by the serpent of anger, their souls were not satiated with hearing the

Lord's lovely and illuminating speech, which was like a series of Vedic hymns.

The Lord's excellent speech was difficult to comprehend because of its momentous import and its most profound significance.

The sages heard it with wide-open ears and pondered it as well. But although hearing, they could not understand what He intended to do.

The four brāhmaṇa sages were nevertheless extremely delighted to behold Him, and they experienced a thrill throughout their bodies.

They then spoke as follows to the Lord, who

had revealed the multiglories of the Supreme Personality through His internal potency, *yoga-māyā*.

The sages said: O Supreme Personality of Godhead, we are unable to know what You intend for us to do, for even though You are the supreme ruler of all, You speak in our favor as if we had done something good for You. O Lord, You are the supreme director of the brahminical culture.

O Lord, You are the personification of all religion. Whatever punishment You wish to award to these two innocent persons, or also

to us, we shall accept without duplicity. We understand that we have cursed two faultless persons.

The Lord replied: O brāhmaṇas, know that the punishment you inflicted on them was originally ordained by Me, and therefore they will fall to a birth in a demoniac family. But they will be firmly united with Me in thought through mental concentration intensified by anger, and they will return to My presence shortly.

Lord Brahmā said: After seeing the Lord of Vaikuṅṭha, the Supreme Personality of

Godhead, in the self-illuminated Vaikuṅṭha planet, the sages left that transcendental abode. The sages circumambulated the Supreme Lord, offered their obeisances and returned, extremely delighted at learning of the divine opulences of the Vaiṣṇava.

The Lord then said to His attendants, Jaya and Vijaya: Depart this place, but fear not. All glories unto you. Though I am capable of nullifying the brāhmaṇas' curse, I would not do so. On the contrary, it has My approval. This departure from Vaikuṅṭha was foretold by Lakṣmī, the goddess of

fortune. She was very angry because when she left My abode and then returned, you stopped her at the gate while I was sleeping. The Lord assured the two Vaikuṅṭha inhabitants, Jaya and Vijaya: By practicing the mystic yoga system in anger, you will be cleansed of the sin of disobeying the brāhmaṇas and within a very short time return to Me.

After thus speaking at the door of Vaikuṅṭha, the Lord returned to His abode, where there are many celestial airplanes and all-surpassing wealth and splendor. But

those two gatekeepers, the best of the demigods, their beauty and luster diminished by the curse of the brāhmaṇas, became morose and fell from Vaikuṅṭha, the abode of the Supreme Lord. Then, as Jaya and Vijaya fell from the Lord's abode, a great roar of disappointment arose from all the demigods, who were sitting in their splendid airplanes.

Lord Brahmā said: Those two principal doorkeepers of the Personality of Godhead have now entered the womb of Diti, the powerful semen of Kaśyapa Muni having

covered them. It is the prowess of these twin asuras [demons] that has disturbed you, for it has minimized your power. There is no remedy within my power, however, for it is the Lord Himself who desires to do all this. My dear sons, the Lord is the controller of the three modes of nature and is responsible for the creation, preservation and dissolution of the universe. That most ancient person, the Personality of Godhead, will alone come to our rescue. What purpose can we serve on His behalf by deliberating on the subject?