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### THREE INVISIBLE RESIDENCES

*Srila Narada Muni*

The principles of religion by which one can truly understand the Supreme Personality of Godhead are called *bhāgavata-dharma*. Therefore, this narration, which explains with these principles, properly describes actual transcendence. One who hears and chants this narration about the omnipotence of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Visnu, is certainly liberated from material bondage. Prahlada Maharaja was the best among exalted devotees. Anyone who hears this narration concerning the activities of Prahlada Maharaja, the killing of Hiranyakashipu, and the activities of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Nasimhadeva, with great attention, surely ascends to the transcendent spiritual world, where there is no anxiety.

**Narada Muni said:** My dear Maharaja Yudhishthira, you and your brothers [the Pandavas] are extremely fortunate, for the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Krishna, lives in your palace just like an ordinary human being. Great saintly persons know this very well, and therefore they repeatedly visit you here. The impersonal Brahman not different from Krishna because Krishna Himself

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is the source of that impersonal Brahman. Lord Krishna is the origin of the transcendental bliss which great saintly persons perpetually seek., Yet He, the Supreme Person, is your most dear friend and well-wisher and is intimately related to you as the son of your maternal uncle. Indeed, He is always like your body and soul. Although He is worshipable, He acts as your servant and sometimes as your spiritual master. Exalted persons like Lord Shiva and Lord Brahma can not properly describe the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Krishna. May the Lord, who is always worshiped as the protector of all devotees by great saints who observe vows of silence, meditation, devotional service and renunciation, be pleased with us.

My dear King Yudhishthira, long ago in history, a demon known as Maya Danava, who was had expertise in technical knowledge, disparaged Lord Shiva. In that situation, Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, saved Lord Shiva.

**Maharaja Yudhishthira said:** What was the cause of the demon Maya Danava defaming Lord Shiva? How did Lord Krishna save Lord Shiva and restore his good reputation? Kindly describe these incidents.

**Narada Muni said:** Once, when the demigods, who are always empowered by the mercy of Lord Krishna, fought with the *asuras*, the *asuras* were defeated. In that condition they took shelter of Maya Danava, the greatest of the demons.

Maya Danava, the powerful leader of the demons, prepared three invisible flying vehicles for the demons. These dwellings were like airplanes made of gold, silver and iron, and they contained uncommon paraphernalia. My dear King Yudhisthira, because of these three dwellings the commanders of the demons remained invisible to the demigods. Taking advantage of this opportunity, the demons, remembering their former enmity, began to attack the three worlds; the upper, middle and lower planetary systems. Thereafter, when the demons had begun destroying the higher planetary systems, the rulers of those planets went to Lord Shiva, fully surrendered unto him and said: Dear Lord, we demigods living in the three worlds are about to be vanquished. We are your followers. Kindly save us.

The most powerful and able Lord Shiva reassured them and said, "Do not be afraid." He then fixed his arrows to his bow and released them toward the three residences occupied by the demons. The arrows released by Lord Shiva appeared like fiery beams emanating from the sun globe and covered the three residential airplanes, which could then no longer be seen. Attacked by Lord Shiva's golden arrows, all the demoniac inhabitants of those three dwellings lost their lives and fell down. Then the great mystic Maya Danava dropped the demons into a nectarean well that he had created. When the dead bodies of the demons came in touch with the nectar, their bodies became invincible to thunderbolts. Endowed with great strength, they got up like lightning penetrating clouds.

Seeing Lord Shiva very aggrieved and disappointed, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Visnu, considered how to stop this nuisance created by Maya Danava. Then Lord Brahma became a calf and Lord Visnu a cow, and at noon they entered the demons' mystic residences and drank all the nectar in the well. The demons could see the calf and cow, but because of the illusion created by the energy of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the demons could not

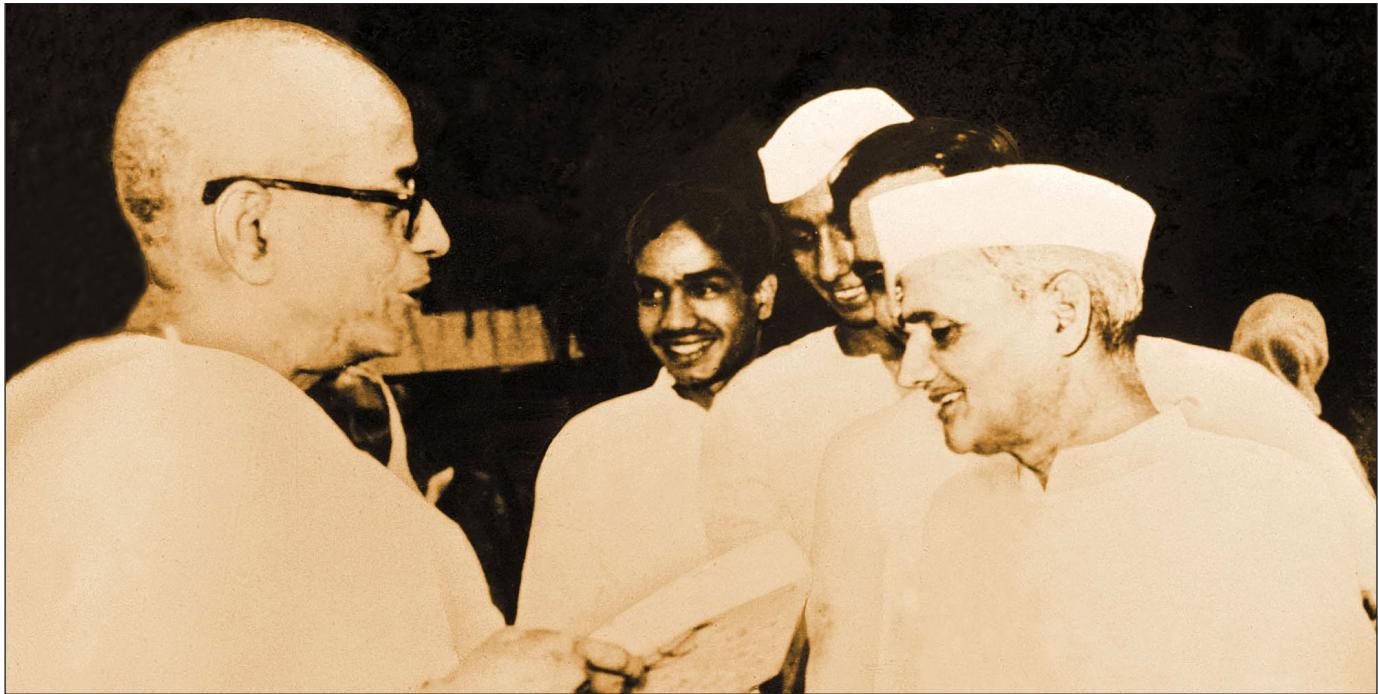


forbid them. The great mystic Maya Danava became aware that the calf and cow were drinking the nectar, and he could understand this to be the unseen power of providence. Thus he spoke to the demons, who were grievously lamenting.

**Maya Danava said:** What has been destined by the Supreme Lord for oneself, for others, or for both oneself and others cannot be undone anywhere or by anyone, whether one be a demigod, a demon, a human being or anyone else.

**Narada Muni continued:** Thereafter, Lord Krishna, by His own personal potency, consisting of religion, knowledge, renunciation, opulence, austerity, education and activities, equipped Lord Shiva with all the necessary paraphernalia, such as a chariot, a charioteer, a flag, horses, elephants, a bow, a shield and arrows. When Lord Shiva was fully equipped in this way, he sat on the chariot with his arrows and bow with the intention of combating the demons. My dear King Yudhisthira, the most powerful Lord Shiva joined the arrows to his bow, and at noon he set fire to all three residences of the demons and thus destroyed them. Seated in their airplanes in the sky, the inhabitants of the higher planetary systems beat many kettledrums. The demigods, saints, Pitas, Siddhas and various great personalities showered flowers on the head of Lord Shiva, wishing him all victory, and the Apsaras began to chant and dance with great pleasure. O King Yudhisthira, thus Lord Shiva is known as Tripurari, the annihilator of the three dwellings of the demons, because he burnt these dwellings to ashes. Being worshiped by the demigods, headed by Lord Brahma, Lord Shiva returned to his own abode. The Supreme Lord, Sri Krishna, appeared as a human being, yet He performed many uncommon and wonderful pastimes by His own potency. How can I say more about His activities than what has already been said by great saintly persons? Everyone can be purified

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by His activities, simply by hearing about them from the right source.

— *Srimad-Bhagavatam (BhagavataPurana)* » Canto 7: *The Science of God* » Chapter 10. *Prahlada, the Best Among Exalted Devotees: Verses 45-70.*

### THE NATURE OF A PURE DEVOTEE

*His Divine Grace*

*A.C.Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada*

*yūyam nr-loke bata bhūri-bhāgā  
lokam punānā munayo 'bhivanti  
yeśām grhān āvasatītī sākṣād  
gūḍharī param brahma manusya-līṅgam*

After hearing about the activities of Prahlada Maharaja, a pure devotee should be very anxious to follow in his footsteps. However, such a devotee might be disappointed, thinking that not everyone can come to the standard of Prahlada Maharaja. This is the nature of a pure devotee; he always thinks himself to be the lowest, to be incompetent and unqualified. Thus after hearing the narration of Prahlada Maharaja's wonderful activities, Maharaja Yudhisthira, who was on the same standard of devotional service as Prahlada, might have been thinking of his own humble position. However, Narada Muni, could understand Maharaja Yudhisthira's mind, and therefore he promptly encouraged him by saying

that the Pandavas were no less fortunate than Prahlada. Narada asserted that the Pandavas were as good as Prahlada Maharaja because although Lord Narsimhadeva appeared for Prahlada, the Supreme Personality of Godhead in His original form as Krishna was always living with the Pandavas. Although, because of the influence of Krishna's yogamaya, the Pandavas, could not assimilate their fortunate position, every saintly person, including the great sage Narada, could understand it well, and therefore they regularly visited the palace of blessed Maharaja Yudhisthira.

Any pure devotee who is constantly conscious of Krishna is naturally very fortunate. The word *nr-loke*, meaning "within the material world," indicates that before the Pandavas there had been many devotees, such as the descendants of the Yadu dynasty and Vasistha, Marici, Kashyapa, Lord Brahma and Lord Shiva, who were all extremely fortunate. The Pandavas, however, were better than all of them because Krishna Himself constantly remained with them. Narada Muni therefore specifically mentioned that within this material world (*nr-loke*) the Pandavas were the most fortunate.

— *Srimad-Bhagavatam (BhagavataPurana)* » Canto 7: *The Science of God* » Chapter 10. *Prahlada, the Best Among Exalted Devotees: Verses 45-70, Purport.*



### THE DEVOTIONAL SERVICE OF PRAHLADA MAHARAJA

*Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakura*

Regarding the devotional service of Prahlada Maharaja, Narada Muni narrates his characteristics to Yudhisthira Maharaja in the following verses of *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam* (7.4.36, 38, and 41): “Who could list the innumerable transcendental qualities of Prahlada Maharaja? He had unflinching faith in Vasudeva, Lord Krishna [the son of Vasudeva], and unalloyed devotion to Him. His attachment to Lord Krishna was natural because of his previous devotional service. Although his good qualities cannot be properly chronicled, they prove that he was a great soul [*mahātmā*]. Prahlada Maharaja was always absorbed in thought of Krishna. Thus, due to perpetually remaining in the supremely reciprocative Lord’s embrace, he could not understand how his bodily necessities, such as sitting, walking, eating, lying down, drinking and talking, were being automatically performed. Sometimes, feeling the touch of the Lord’s lotus hands, he became spiritually jubilant and remained silent, his hairs standing on end and tears streaming from his half-closed eyes because of his love for the Lord.” The *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam* (7.9.6-7) further states: “By the touch of Lord Narsimhadeva’s hand on his head, Prahlada Maharaja was completely freed

of all material contamination and desire, as if he had been thoroughly cleansed. Therefore he at once became transcendently situated, and all the symptoms of ecstasy became manifest in his body. His heart brimmed with love, and his eyes welled with tears, and thus he was able to completely capture the lotus feet of the Lord within the core of his heart. Prahlada Maharaja fixed his mind and vision upon Lord Narsimhadeva with full attention and entered complete trance.”

—*Purport to Sri Caitanya Bhāgavata* » Adi Khaṇda » Chapter 16 » Verse 135. *His Divine Grace Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Maharajā; Vrajaraṇa Press* » Translated by Bhumipati Dāsa

### THE MOST GLORIOUS PERSON IN THE WORLD *Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura*

The swan-like devotees who are expert in discriminating between matter and spirit are the most glorious persons in the world. Only the devotees are truly learned, because they have surpassed the ocean of material illusion. Only the devotees are endowed with spiritual qualities, because they have attained the platform of pure goodness, surpassing the three modes of material nature (goodness, passion, and ignorance). Only the devotees are happy, because they have attained the transcendental felicity of Vraja, which far surpasses the dualistic happiness and distress of the material world. Only the devotees are fearless, because they have become the inhabi-



tants of Goloka, surpassing material time, which takes everything away and promises an uncertain future. May the devotees live forever and bring benefit to the unfortunate persons here who are tortured by maya, who gives them her audience, associates with them, and converses with them.

—An excerpt from the Bhajanāmr̄ti commentary »Bhaktivinoda Vāṇī Vaibhāva» Published by Īśvaradāsa.

### THE CHARACTERISTICS OF AN UNALLOYED DEVOTEE

Srila Narottam Das Thakura

*rādhā-kṛṣṇa karon dhyāna suapane nā bala āma  
 prema binā āma nāhi cāri  
 jīgala-kiṣora-prema lakṣa-bāna jena hema  
 ārati-pīrīti-rase dhyāna*

The pure devotees always meditate on Radha and Krishna. They do not speak about any other topics even in their dreams. They hanker for nothing except loving service to the Divine Youthful Couple. Their loving sentiments towards Radha and Krishna are like gold refined a million times. Therefore, O my mind, please constantly meditate on Radha and Krishna as your only lovable object.

*jala binū jena mīna dūḥkha pāya āyū hīna  
 prema binū sei-mata bhakta  
 cātaka jalada-gati e-mati ekānta-rāti  
 jāne jei sei anūrakta*

Just as a fish out of water feels great distress and perishes, similarly the purified devotee feels distressed without love of God. As a cataka bird drinks only rain water as it falls from the sky, similarly unalloyed devotees relish only love of God.

*maranda-bhramara jena cakora-candrikā tena  
 pati-bratā janera yena pati  
 anyatra nācale mana jena daridrera dhana  
 ei-mata prema-bhakti-rīti*

Just as a bumblebee is attracted and attached to honey, a cakora bird to the nectar emanating from the moon, a chaste wife to her husband, and a poor man to wealth and opulence, similarly the minds of pure devotees are constantly absorbed in the loving service of Radha and Krishna.

*visaya garala-maya tāhe māna sūkha-caya  
 se nā sūkha dūḥkha kari māna  
 gobinda-biṣaya-rasa saṅga kara tānra dāsa  
 prema-bhakti satya kari jāna*

O my mind, material enjoyments are full of poison, but you consider them pleasing. Do not think of them as a source of happiness, but understand them as the source of distress. Be completely absorbed in thought of Govinda, associate with His devotees and conclude that loving devotional service to Him is the goal of life.



*madhye madhye āche dūṣṭa dūṣṭi kari haya rūṣṭa  
gūṇake biguṇa kari māne  
gobinda-bimukha-jane sphurīti nahe hena dhane  
laukika kariyā saba jāme*

Sometimes the impious and wicked become angry seeing the dealings of devotees. They accept their qualities as faults. The plenitude of loving devotional service does not manifest in the hearts of those who are averse to Govinda because they consider this wealth as material.

*ajñāna abhāgyā jata nāhi laya sata-mata  
ahārikare nā jāne āpanā  
abhimānī bhakti-hīna jaga-mājhe sei dīna  
bṛthā tāra aśeṣa bhābanā*

The demons who are overwhelmed with nescience do not take to the path of devotion. Such persons are full of false ego, pride and innumerable futile desires. They are most fallen in this world and are ever deprived of devotional service.

*āra saba parihari parama īśwara hari  
seva mana kari prema-āśa  
eka-braja-rāja-pūra gobinda rasika-barā  
karaha sadāi abhilāṣā*

O my mind, abandon everything and , with a desire to attain love of God, serve the Supreme Controller, Lord Hari. Make the service of Govinda, the reservoir of all pleasure in Braja, your only yearning.

*narottama dāsa kahe sadā mora prāṇa dahe  
hena bhakta-saṅga nā pāiyā  
abhāgyera nāhi ora michāja-hailū bhora  
dūḥkha rahe antare jāgiyā*

Narottama dāsa says, “My soul constantly burns without the association of pure devotees. There is no end to my misfortune as I am absorbed in misconceptions about pure *bhakti* to Radha Krishna, and my heart is completely devoid of devotion being filled with the distress of material absorption.”

— Śrī Prema Bhakti-candrikā » Śrīla Narottamadāsa Ṭhākura » Published by Ishvara Das.



!! Sri Sri Nitai Gaurchandra Jayati !!

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