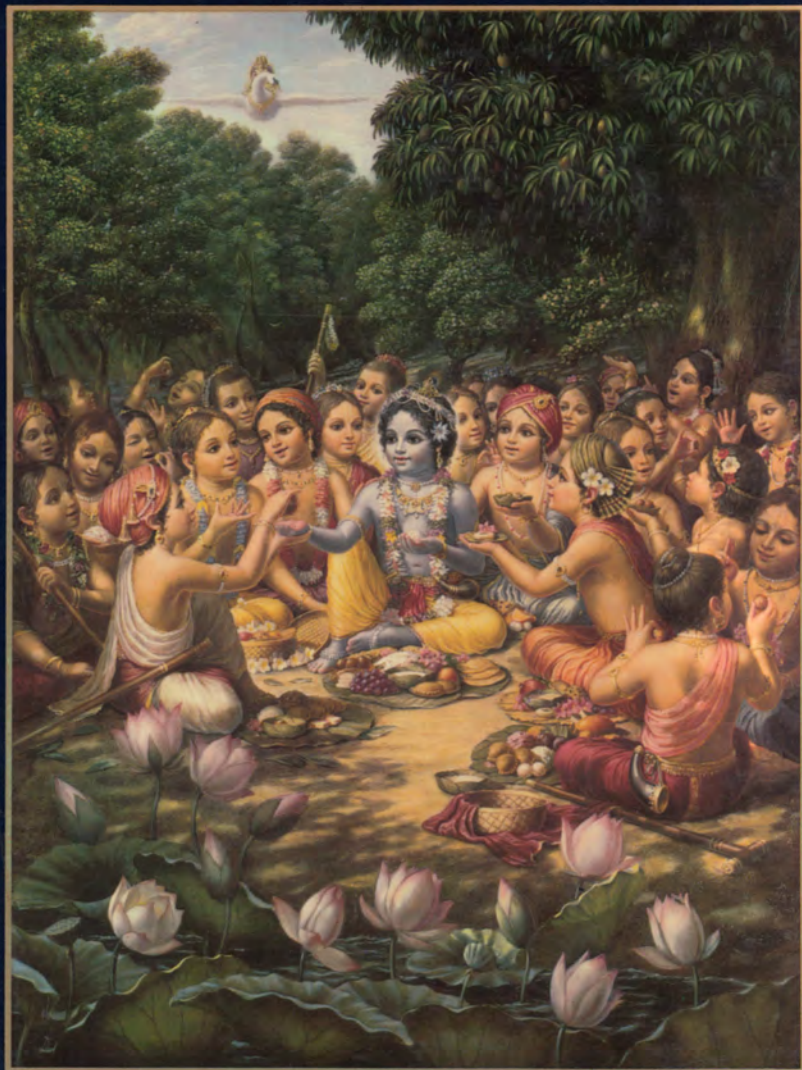


# ŚRĪMAD BHĀGAVATAM

Tenth Canto-Part Three



His Divine Grace  
**A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda**  
Founder-Ācārya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness

# ŚRĪMAD BHĀGAVATAM

*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, an epic philosophical and literary classic, holds a prominent position in India's voluminous written wisdom. The timeless wisdom of India is expressed in the *Vedas*, ancient Sanskrit texts that touch upon all fields of human knowledge. Originally preserved through oral tradition, the *Vedas* were first put into writing by Śrīla Vyāsadeva, the "literary incarnation of God." After compiling the *Vedas*, Śrīla Vyāsadeva was inspired by his spiritual master to present their profound essence in the form of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. Known as "the ripened fruit of the tree of Vedic literature," *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* is the most complete and authoritative exposition of Vedic knowledge.

After writing the *Bhāgavatam*, Vyāsa taught it to his son, Śukadeva Gosvāmī, who later spoke the *Bhāgavatam* to Mahārāja Parīkṣit in an assembly of sages on the bank of the sacred Ganges River. Although Mahārāja Parīkṣit was a great *rājarsi* (saintly king) and the emperor of the world, when he received notice of his death seven days in advance, he renounced his entire kingdom and retired to the bank of the Ganges to seek spiritual enlightenment. The questions of King Parīkṣit and Śukadeva Gosvāmī's illuminating answers, concerning everything from the nature of the self to the origin of the universe, are the basis of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

This edition of *Bhāgavatam* is the only complete English translation with an elaborate and scholarly commentary, and it is the first edition widely available to the English-reading public. This work is the product of the scholarly and devotional effort of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, the world's most distinguished teacher of Indian religious and philosophical thought. His Sanskrit scholarship and intimate familiarity with Vedic culture combine to reveal to the West a magnificent exposition of this important classic.

With its comprehensive system of providing the original Sanskrit text, roman transliteration, precise word-for-word equivalents, a lucid English translation and a comprehensive commentary, it will appeal to scholars, students and laymen alike. The entire multivolume text, presented by the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, promises to occupy a significant place in the intellectual, cultural and spiritual life of modern man for a long time to come.

ALL GLORY TO ŚRĪ GURU AND GAURĀṄGA

# ŚRĪMAD BHĀGAVATAM

of

KRṢṂA-DVAIPĀYANA VYĀSA

सतामयं सारभृतां निसर्गो  
यदर्थवाणीश्रुतिचेतसामपि ।  
प्रतिक्षणं नव्यवदच्युतस्य यत्  
स्त्रिया विटानामिव साधुवार्ता ॥ २ ॥

*satām ayaṁ sāra-bhṛtām nisargo  
yad-artha-vāṇī-śruti-cetasām api  
prati-kṣaṇaṁ navya-vad acyutasya yat  
striyā viṭānām iva sādhu vārtā (p. 3)*

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“The Summum Bonum”

(Special Edition—Chapter 13)

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Its Roman Transliteration, Synonyms,  
Translation and Elaborate Purports*

by

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## Foreword

This is the final *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* volume translated by His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, the founder-*ācārya* of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. It is smaller than the earlier volumes because it ends where the renowned author stopped translating just before his departure from this mortal world on November 14, 1977, at the Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandira in Vṛndāvana, India.

The first part of this volume was produced in the usual fashion. Śrīla Prabhupāda would sit and read silently from the Sanskrit text and then speak the translation and commentary into his dictaphone. Later, due to illness, it became necessary for his disciples to assist him personally.

In these last days Śrīla Prabhupāda was gravely ill. Unable to eat for weeks, his health had deteriorated, making even the slightest movement excruciatingly painful.

As he lay still, a devotee would softly read the Sanskrit to him. Another disciple, sitting on his bed, held the microphone to him, nearly touching his mouth. And then Śrīla Prabhupāda would speak, voice sometimes barely audible.

These recordings, made in his quarters at the temple, constitute the balance of this book.

In these final moments, the physician attending His Divine Grace confided that an ordinary man in such critical condition would have been crying out from the intense pain. Śrīla Prabhupāda's disciples were awestruck as they watched their spiritual master work quietly, undisturbed.

In the last part of the book we find Śrīla Prabhupāda's usual clarity of thought, constant scriptural references, scrupulous attention to detail, and rigorous philosophical exposition fully intact, just as they were in the preceding twenty-nine volumes of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda's last days and this translation will stand as an inspiring reminder that even the severest material circumstances cannot impede the activities of a pure devotee of the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

—The Publishers



## Preface

We must know the present need of human society. And what is that need? Human society is no longer bounded by geographical limits to particular countries or communities. Human society is broader than in the Middle Ages, and the world tendency is toward one state or one human society. The ideals of spiritual communism, according to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, are based more or less on the oneness of the entire human society, nay, of the entire energy of living beings. The need is felt by great thinkers to make this a successful ideology. *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* will fill this need in human society. It begins, therefore, with the aphorism of Vedānta philosophy *janmādy asya yataḥ* to establish the ideal of a common cause.

Human society, at the present moment, is not in the darkness of oblivion. It has made rapid progress in the field of material comforts, education and economic development throughout the entire world. But there is a pinprick somewhere in the social body at large, and therefore there are large-scale quarrels, even over less important issues. There is need of a clue as to how humanity can become one in peace, friendship and prosperity with a common cause. *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* will fill this need, for it is a cultural presentation for the respiritualization of the entire human society.

*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* should be introduced also in the schools and colleges, for it is recommended by the great student-devotee Prahāda Mahārāja in order to change the demoniac face of society.

*kaumāra ācāret prājño  
dharmān bhāgavatān iha  
durlabham mānuṣaṁ janma  
tad apy adhruvam arthadam  
(Bhāg. 7.6.1)*

Disparity in human society is due to lack of principles in a godless civilization. There is God, or the Almighty One, from whom everything emanates, by whom everything is maintained and in whom everything

is merged to rest. Material science has tried to find the ultimate source of creation very insufficiently, but it is a fact that there is one ultimate source of everything that be. This ultimate source is explained rationally and authoritatively in the beautiful *Bhāgavatam*, or *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* is the transcendental science not only for knowing the ultimate source of everything but also for knowing our relation with Him and our duty toward perfection of the human society on the basis of this perfect knowledge. It is powerful reading matter in the Sanskrit language, and it is now rendered into English elaborately so that simply by a careful reading one will know God perfectly well, so much so that the reader will be sufficiently educated to defend himself from the onslaught of atheists. Over and above this, the reader will be able to convert others to accepting God as a concrete principle.

*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* begins with the definition of the ultimate source. It is a bona fide commentary on the *Vedānta-sūtra* by the same author, Śrīla Vyāsadeva, and gradually it develops into nine cantos up to the highest state of God realization. The only qualification one needs to study this great book of transcendental knowledge is to proceed step by step cautiously and not jump forward haphazardly like with an ordinary book. It should be gone through chapter by chapter, one after another. The reading matter is so arranged with its original Sanskrit text, its English transliteration, synonyms, translation and purports so that one is sure to become a God-realized soul at the end of finishing the first nine cantos.

The Tenth Canto is distinct from the first nine cantos because it deals directly with the transcendental activities of the Personality of Godhead Śrī Kṛṣṇa. One will be unable to capture the effects of the Tenth Canto without going through the first nine cantos. The book is complete in twelve cantos, each independent, but it is good for all to read them in small installments one after another.

I must admit my frailties in presenting *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, but still I am hopeful of its good reception by the thinkers and leaders of society on the strength of the following statement of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (1.5.11):

*tad-vāg-visargo janatāgha-viplavo  
yasmin prati-ślokaṁ abaddhavyatī*

*nāmāny anantasya yaśo 'ñkitāni yac  
chṛṇvanti gāyanti gṛṇanti sādhabaḥ*

“On the other hand, that literature which is full with descriptions of the transcendental glories of the name, fame, form and pastimes of the unlimited Supreme Lord is a transcendental creation meant to bring about a revolution in the impious life of a misdirected civilization. Such transcendental literatures, even though irregularly composed, are heard, sung and accepted by purified men who are thoroughly honest.”

*Om tat sat*

A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami

## Introduction

“This *Bhāgavata Purāna* is as brilliant as the sun, and it has arisen just after the departure of Lord Kṛṣṇa to His own abode, accompanied by religion, knowledge, etc. Persons who have lost their vision due to the dense darkness of ignorance in the age of Kali shall get light from this *Purāna*.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.3.43)

The timeless wisdom of India is expressed in the *Vedas*, ancient Sanskrit texts that touch upon all fields of human knowledge. Originally preserved through oral tradition, the *Vedas* were first put into writing five thousand years ago by Śrīla Vyāsadeva, the “literary incarnation of God.” After compiling the *Vedas*, Vyāsadeva set forth their essence in the aphorisms known as *Vedānta-sūtras*. *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* is Vyāsadeva’s commentary on his own *Vedānta-sūtras*. It was written in the maturity of his spiritual life under the direction of Nārada Muni, his spiritual master. Referred to as “the ripened fruit of the tree of Vedic literature,” *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* is the most complete and authoritative exposition of Vedic knowledge.

After compiling the *Bhāgavatam*, Vyāsa impressed the synopsis of it upon his son, the sage Śukadeva Gosvāmī. Śukadeva Gosvāmī subsequently recited the entire *Bhāgavatam* to Mahārāja Parīkṣit in an assembly of learned saints on the bank of the Ganges at Hastināpura (now Delhi). Mahārāja Parīkṣit was the emperor of the world and was a great *rājarsi* (saintly king). Having received a warning that he would die within a week, he renounced his entire kingdom and retired to the bank of the Ganges to fast until death and receive spiritual enlightenment. The *Bhāgavatam* begins with Emperor Parīkṣit’s sober inquiry to Śukadeva Gosvāmī: “You are the spiritual master of great saints and devotees. I am therefore begging you to show the way of perfection for all persons, and especially for one who is about to die. Please let me know what a man should hear, chant, remember and worship, and also what he should not do. Please explain all this to me.”

Śukadeva Gosvāmī’s answer to this question, and numerous other questions posed by Mahārāja Parīkṣit, concerning everything from the nature of the self to the origin of the universe, held the assembled sages

in rapt attention continuously for the seven days leading to the King's death. The sage Sūta Gosvāmī, who was present on the bank of the Ganges when Śukadeva Gosvāmī first recited *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, later repeated the *Bhāgavatam* before a gathering of sages in the forest of Naimiṣāraṇya. Those sages, concerned about the spiritual welfare of the people in general, had gathered to perform a long, continuous chain of sacrifices to counteract the degrading influence of the incipient age of Kali. In response to the sages' request that he speak the essence of Vedic wisdom, Sūta Gosvāmī repeated from memory the entire eighteen thousand verses of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, as spoken by Śukadeva Gosvāmī to Mahārāja Parikṣit.

The reader of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* hears Sūta Gosvāmī relate the questions of Mahārāja Parikṣit and the answers of Śukadeva Gosvāmī. Also, Sūta Gosvāmī sometimes responds directly to questions put by Śaunaka Ṛṣi, the spokesman for the sages gathered at Naimiṣāraṇya. One therefore simultaneously hears two dialogues: one between Mahārāja Parikṣit and Śukadeva Gosvāmī on the bank of the Ganges, and another at Naimiṣāraṇya between Sūta Gosvāmī and the sages at Naimiṣāraṇya Forest, headed by Śaunaka Ṛṣi. Furthermore, while instructing King Parikṣit, Śukadeva Gosvāmī often relates historical episodes and gives accounts of lengthy philosophical discussions between such great souls as the saint Maitreya and his disciple Vidura. With this understanding of the history of the *Bhāgavatam*, the reader will easily be able to follow its intermingling of dialogues and events from various sources. Since philosophical wisdom, not chronological order, is most important in the text, one need only be attentive to the subject matter of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* to appreciate fully its profound message.

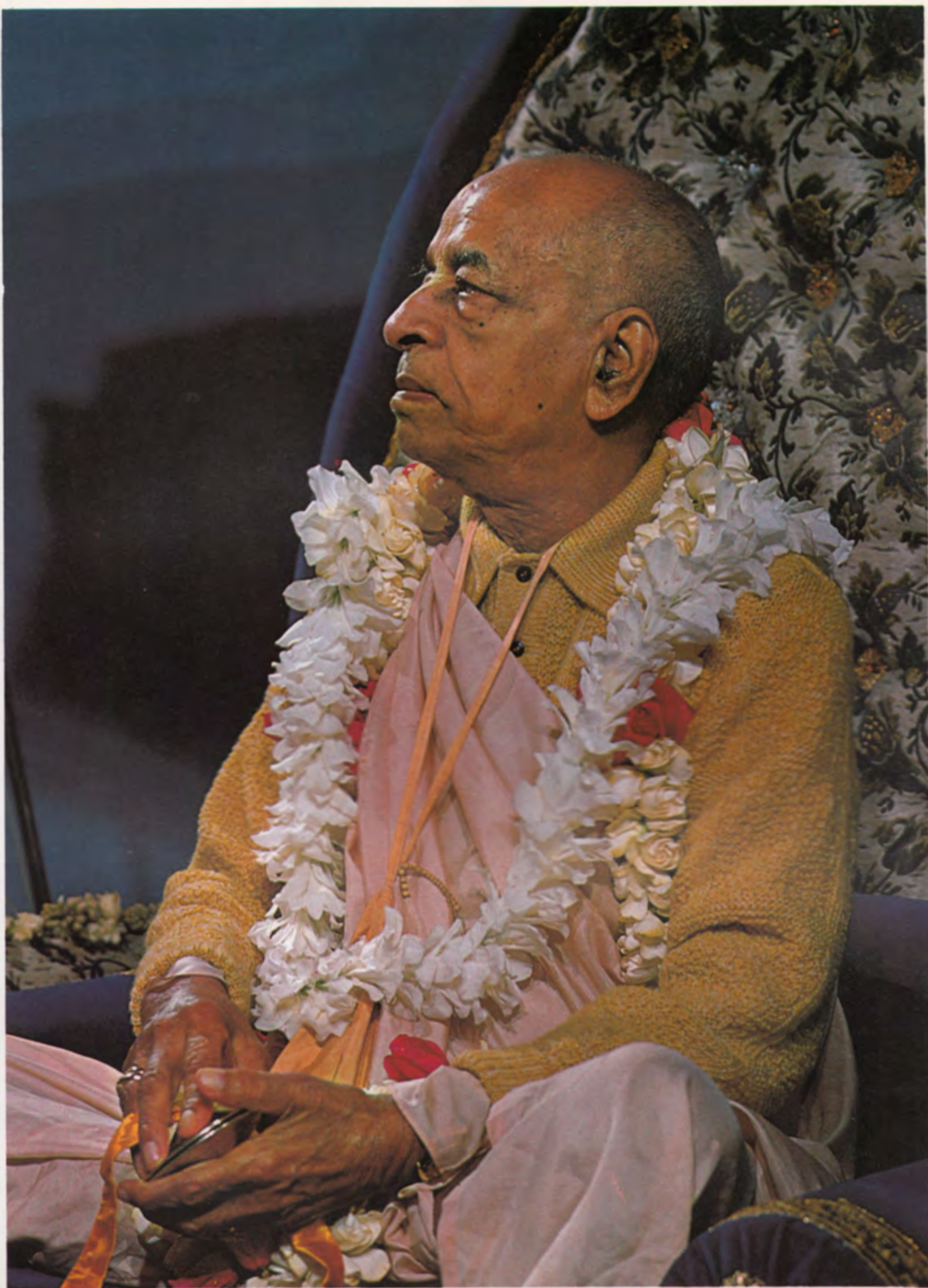
The translator of this edition compares the *Bhāgavatam* to sugar candy—wherever you taste it, you will find it equally sweet and relishable. Therefore, to taste the sweetness of the *Bhāgavatam*, one may begin by reading any of its volumes. After such an introductory taste, however, the serious reader is best advised to go back to Volume One of the First Canto and then proceed through the *Bhāgavatam*, volume after volume, in its natural order.

This edition of the *Bhāgavatam* is the first complete English translation of this important text with an elaborate commentary, and it is the first widely available to the English-speaking public. It is the product of

the scholarly and devotional effort of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, the world's most distinguished teacher of Indian religious and philosophical thought. His consummate Sanskrit scholarship and intimate familiarity with Vedic culture and thought as well as the modern way of life combine to reveal to the West a magnificent exposition of this important classic.

Readers will find this work of value for many reasons. For those interested in the classical roots of Indian civilization, it serves as a vast reservoir of detailed information on virtually every one of its aspects. For students of comparative philosophy and religion, the *Bhāgavatam* offers a penetrating view into the meaning of India's profound spiritual heritage. To sociologists and anthropologists, the *Bhāgavatam* reveals the practical workings of a peaceful and scientifically organized Vedic culture, whose institutions were integrated on the basis of a highly developed spiritual world-view. Students of literature will discover the *Bhāgavatam* to be a masterpiece of majestic poetry. For students of psychology, the text provides important perspectives on the nature of consciousness, human behavior and the philosophical study of identity. Finally, to those seeking spiritual insight, the *Bhāgavatam* offers simple and practical guidance for attainment of the highest self-knowledge and realization of the Absolute Truth. The entire multivolume text, presented by the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, promises to occupy a significant place in the intellectual, cultural and spiritual life of modern man for a long time to come.

—The Publishers



His Divine Grace  
A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda  
*Founder-Ācārya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness*



Śrīla Prabhupāda's room in the Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandira, where he spent his final days translating this volume of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.





The Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandira in Vṛndāvana, India.

## PLATE ONE

After selecting a pleasing location on the riverbank, Lord Kṛṣṇa and His friends opened their baskets of food and began eating in great transcendental pleasure. Like the whorl of a lotus flower surrounded by its petals and leaves, Kṛṣṇa sat in the center, encircled by lines of His friends, who all looked very beautiful. Every one of them was trying to look forward toward Kṛṣṇa, thinking that Kṛṣṇa might look toward him. Among the cowherd boys, some placed their lunch on flowers, some on leaves, fruits, or bunches of leaves, some actually in their baskets, some on the bark of trees and some on rocks. This is what the children imagined to be their plates as they ate their lunch. All the cowherd boys enjoyed their lunch with Kṛṣṇa, showing one another the different tastes of the different varieties of preparations they had brought from home. Tasting one another's preparations, they began to laugh and make one another laugh. In this way they all enjoyed their lunch in the forest. (pp. 6-10)



## PLATE TWO

One day, five or six nights before the completion of the year, Kṛṣṇa, tending the calves, entered the forest along with Balarāma. Thereafter, while pasturing atop Govardhana Hill, the cows looked down to find some green grass and saw their calves pasturing near Vṛndāvana, not very far away. When the cows saw their own calves from the top of Govardhana Hill, they forgot themselves and their caretakers because of increased affection, and although the path was very rough, they ran toward their calves with great anxiety, each running as if with one pair of legs. Their milk bags full and flowing with milk, their heads and tails raised, and their humps moving with their necks, they ran forcefully until they reached their calves to feed them. The cowherd men, having been unable to check the cows from going to their calves, felt simultaneously ashamed and angry. They crossed the rough road with great difficulty, but when they came down and saw their own sons, they were overwhelmed by great affection. At that time, all the thoughts of the cowherd men merged in the mellow of paternal love, which was aroused by the sight of their sons. Experiencing a great attraction, their anger completely disappearing, they lifted their sons, embraced them in their arms and enjoyed the highest pleasure by smelling their sons' heads. (pp. 29–33)



### PLATE THREE

While Lord Brahmā looked on, all the calves and the boys tending them immediately appeared to have complexions the color of bluish rainclouds and to be dressed in yellow silken garments. All those personalities had four arms, holding conchshell, disc, mace and lotus flower in Their hands. They wore helmets on Their heads, earrings on Their ears and garlands of forest flowers around Their necks. On the upper portion of the right side of Their chests was the emblem of the goddess of fortune. Furthermore, They wore armlets on Their arms, the Kaustubha gem around Their necks, which were marked with three lines like a conchshell, and bracelets on Their wrists. With bangles on Their ankles, ornaments on Their feet, and sacred belts around Their waists, They all appeared very beautiful. Those Viṣṇu forms, by Their pure smiling, which resembled the increasing light of the moon, and by the sidelong glances of Their reddish eyes, created and protected the desires of Their own devotees, as if by the modes of passion and goodness. Thus Lord Brahmā saw the Supreme Brahman, by whose energy this entire universe, with its moving and nonmoving living beings, is manifested. He also saw at the same time all the calves and boys as the Lord's expansions. (pp. 49-63)

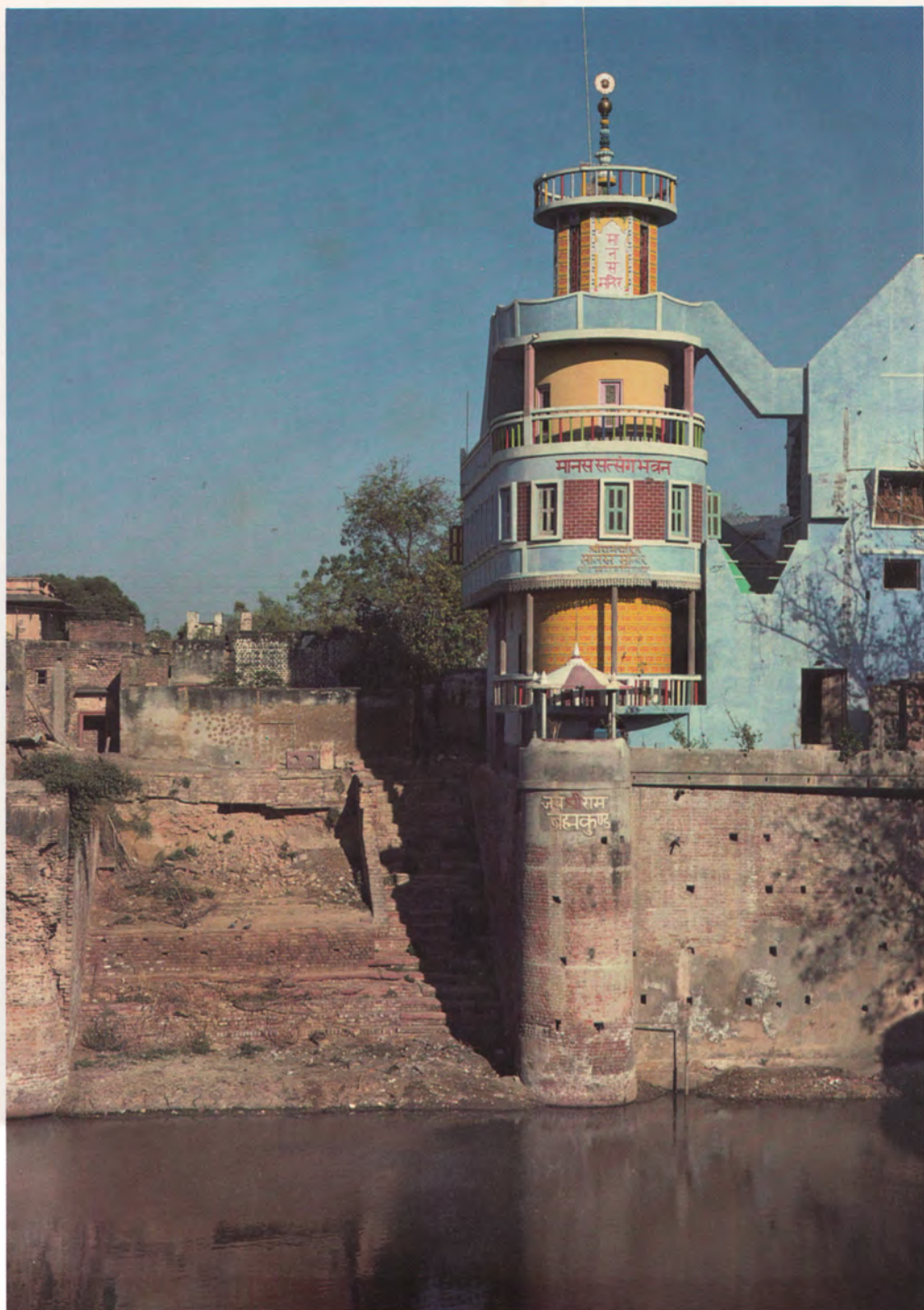


## PLATE FOUR

Lord Brahmā saw the Absolute Truth—who is one without a second, who possesses full knowledge and who is unlimited—assuming the role of a child in a family of cowherd men and standing all alone, just as before, with a morsel of food in His hand, searching everywhere for the calves and His cowherd friends. After seeing this, Lord Brahmā hastily got down from his swan carrier, fell down like a golden rod and touched the lotus feet of Lord Kṛṣṇa with the tips of the four crowns on his heads. Offering his obeisances, he bathed the feet of Kṛṣṇa with the water of his tears of joy. Rising and falling again and again at the lotus feet of Lord Kṛṣṇa for a long time, Lord Brahmā remembered over and over the Lord's greatness he had just seen. Then, rising very gradually and wiping his two eyes, Lord Brahmā looked up at Mukunda. Lord Brahmā, his head bent low, his mind concentrated and his body trembling, very humbly began, with faltering words, to offer praise to Lord Kṛṣṇa. (pp. 73-78)







Brahma-kunḍa, the site where Lord Brahmā offered his prayers to Lord Kṛṣṇa after the pastime known as *Brahma-vimohana-līlā*.

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

### The Stealing of the Boys and Calves by Brahmā

This chapter describes Lord Brahmā's attempt to take away the calves and cowherd boys, and it also describes the bewilderment of Lord Brahmā and finally the clearance of his illusion.

Although the incident concerning Aghāsura had been performed one year before, when the cowherd boys were five years old, when they were six years old they said, "It happened today." What happened was this. After killing Aghāsura, Kṛṣṇa, along with His associates the cowherd boys, went for a picnic within the forest. The calves, being allured by green grasses, gradually went far away, and therefore Kṛṣṇa's associates became a little agitated and wanted to bring back the calves. Kṛṣṇa, however, encouraged the boys by saying, "You take your tiffin without being agitated. I shall go find the calves." And thus the Lord departed. Then, just to examine the potency of Kṛṣṇa, Lord Brahmā took away all the calves and cowherd boys and kept them in a secluded place.

When Kṛṣṇa was unable to find the calves and boys, He could understand that this was a trick performed by Brahmā. Then the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the cause of all causes, in order to please Lord Brahmā, as well as His own associates and their mothers, expanded Himself to become the calves and boys, exactly as they were before. In this way, He discovered another pastime. A special feature of this pastime was that the mothers of the cowherd boys thus became more attached to their respective sons, and the cows became more attached to their calves. After nearly a year, Baladeva observed that all the cowherd boys and calves were expansions of Kṛṣṇa. Thus He inquired from Kṛṣṇa and was informed of what had happened.

When one full year had passed, Brahmā returned and saw that Kṛṣṇa was still engaged as usual with His friends and the calves and cows. Then Kṛṣṇa exhibited all the calves and cowherd boys as four-armed forms of Nārāyaṇa. Brahmā could then understand Kṛṣṇa's potency, and he was

astonished by the pastimes of Kṛṣṇa, his worshipable Lord. Kṛṣṇa, however, bestowed His causeless mercy upon Brahmā and released him from illusion. Thus Brahmā began to offer prayers to glorify the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

### TEXT 1

श्रीशुक उवाच

साधु पृष्टं महाभाग त्वया भागवतोत्तम ।  
यन्नूतनयसीशस्य शृण्वन्नपि कथां मुहुः ॥ १ ॥

*śrī-śuka uvāca*  
*sādhu pṛṣṭam mahā-bhāga*  
*tvayā bhāgavatottama*  
*yan nūtanayasiśasya*  
*śṛṇvann api kathām muhuḥ*

*śrī-śukaḥ uvāca*—Śukadeva Gosvāmī said; *sādhu pṛṣṭam*—I have been very much honored by your inquiry; *mahā-bhāga*—you are a greatly fortunate personality; *tvayā*—by you; *bhāgavata-uttama*—O best of devotees; *yat*—because; *nūtanayasi*—you are making newer and newer; *iśasya*—of the Supreme Personality of Godhead; *śṛṇvan api*—although you are continuously hearing; *kathām*—the pastimes; *muhuḥ*—again and again.

### TRANSLATION

Śrīla Śukadeva Gosvāmī said: O best of devotees, most fortunate Parikṣit, you have inquired very nicely, for although constantly hearing the pastimes of the Lord, you are perceiving His activities to be newer and newer.

### PURPORT

Unless one is very advanced in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, one cannot stick to hearing the pastimes of the Lord constantly. *Nityam nava-navāya-mānam*: even though advanced devotees hear continually about the Lord for years, they still feel that these topics are coming to them as newer and

fresher. Therefore such devotees cannot give up hearing of the pastimes of Lord Kṛṣṇa. *Premāñjana-cchurita-bhakti-vilocanena santaḥ sadaiva hṛdayeṣu vilokayanti*. The word *santaḥ* is used to refer to persons who have developed love for Kṛṣṇa. *Yaṁ śyāmasundaram acintya-guṇa-svarūpaṁ govindam ādi-puruṣaṁ tam ahaṁ bhajāmi* (*Brahma-saṁhitā* 5.38). Parīkṣit Mahārāja, therefore, is addressed as *bhāgavatottama*, the best of devotees, because unless one is very much elevated in devotional service, one cannot feel ecstasy from hearing more and more and appreciate the topics as ever fresher and newer.

## TEXT 2

सतामयं सारभृतां निसर्गो  
 यदर्थवाणीश्रुतिचेतसामपि ।  
 प्रतिक्रमं नव्यवदच्युतस्य यत्  
 स्त्रिया विटानामिव साधुवार्ता ॥ २ ॥

*satām ayam sāra-bhṛtām nisargo  
 yad-artha-vāṇī-śruti-cetasām api  
 prati-kṣaṇam navya-vad acyutasya yat  
 striyā viṭānām iva sādhu vārtā*

*satām*—of the devotees; *ayam*—this; *sāra-bhṛtām*—those who are *paramahāṁsas*, who have accepted the essence of life; *nisargaḥ*—feature or symptom; *yat*—which; *artha-vāṇī*—the aim of life, the aim of profit; *śruti*—the aim of understanding; *cetasām api*—who have decided to accept the bliss of transcendental subjects as the aim and object of life; *prati-kṣaṇam*—every moment; *navya-vat*—as if newer and newer; *acyutasya*—of Lord Kṛṣṇa; *yat*—because; *striyāḥ*—(topics) of woman or sex; *viṭānām*—of debauchees, who are attached to women; *iva*—exactly like; *sādhu vārtā*—actual conversation.

## TRANSLATION

**Paramahāṁsas, devotees who have accepted the essence of life, are attached to Kṛṣṇa in the core of their hearts, and He is the aim of their lives. It is their nature to talk only of Kṛṣṇa at every**

moment, as if such topics were newer and newer. They are attached to such topics, just as materialists are attached to topics of women and sex.

### PURPORT

The word *sāra-bhṛtām* means *paramahāṁsas*. The *hāṁsa*, or swan, accepts milk from a mixture of milk and water and rejects the water. Similarly, the nature of persons who have taken to spiritual life and Kṛṣṇa consciousness, understanding Kṛṣṇa to be the life and soul of everyone, is that they cannot give up *kṛṣṇa-kathā*, or topics about Kṛṣṇa, at any moment. Such *paramahāṁsas* always see Kṛṣṇa within the core of the heart (*santaḥ sadaiva hṛdayeṣu vilokayanti*). *Kāma* (desires), *krodha* (anger) and *bhaya* (fear) are always present in the material world, but in the spiritual, or transcendental, world one can use them for Kṛṣṇa. *Kāmaṁ kṛṣṇa-karmārpaṇe*. The desire of the *paramahāṁsas*, therefore, is to act always for Kṛṣṇa. *Krodhaṁ bhakta-dveṣi jane*. They use anger against the nondevotees and transform *bhaya*, or fear, into fear of being deviated from Kṛṣṇa consciousness. In this way, the life of a *paramahāṁsa* devotee is used entirely for Kṛṣṇa, just as the life of a person attached to the material world is used simply for women and money. What is day for the materialistic person is night for the spiritualist. What is very sweet for the materialist—namely women and money—is regarded as poison by the spiritualist.

*sandarśanam viṣayinām atha yoṣitām ca  
ha hanta hanta viṣa-bhakṣaṇato 'py asādhu*

This is the instruction of Caitanya Mahāprabhu. For the *paramahāṁsa*, Kṛṣṇa is everything, but for the materialist, women and money are everything.

### TEXT 3

शृणुष्ववहितो राजन्नपि गुह्यं वदामि ते ।  
ब्रूयुः स्निग्धस्य शिष्यस्य गुरवो गुह्यमप्युत ॥ ३ ॥

*śṛṇuṣvāvahito rājann  
api guhyam vadāmi te*

*brūyuh snigdhasya śiṣyasya  
guravo guhyam apy uta*

*śṛṇusva*—please hear; *avahitaḥ*—with great attention; *rājan*—O King (Mahārāja Parikṣit); *api*—although; *guhyam*—very confidential (because ordinary men cannot understand the activities of Kṛṣṇa); *vadāmi*—I shall explain; *te*—unto you; *brūyuh*—explain; *snigdhasya*—submissive; *śiṣyasya*—of a disciple; *guravaḥ*—spiritual masters; *guhyam*—very confidential; *api uta*—even so.

#### TRANSLATION

O King, kindly hear me with great attention. Although the activities of the Supreme Lord are very confidential, no ordinary man being able to understand them, I shall speak about them to you, for spiritual masters explain to a submissive disciple even subject matters that are very confidential and difficult to understand.

#### TEXT 4

तथाघवदनान्मृत्यो रक्षित्वा वत्सपालकान् ।  
सरित्पुलिनमानीय भगवानिदमब्रवीत् ॥ ४ ॥

*tathāgha-vadanān mṛtyo  
rakṣitvā vatsa-pālakān  
sarit-pulinam ānīya  
bhagavān idam abravīt*

*tathā*—thereafter; *gha-vadanāt*—from the mouth of Aghāsura; *mṛtyoḥ*—death personified; *rakṣitvā*—after saving; *vatsa-pālakān*—all the cowherd boys and calves; *sarit-pulinam*—to the bank of the river; *ānīya*—bringing them; *bhagavān*—the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Kṛṣṇa; *idam*—these words; *abravīt*—spoke.

#### TRANSLATION

Then, after saving the boys and calves from the mouth of Aghāsura, who was death personified, Lord Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme

Personality of Godhead, brought them all to the bank of the river and spoke the following words.

TEXT 5

अहोऽतिरम्यं पुलिनं वयस्याः  
 स्वकेलिसम्पन्मृदुलाच्छबालुकम् ।  
 स्फुटत्सरोगन्धहृताल्लिपत्रिक-  
 ध्वनिप्रतिध्वानलसद्द्रुमाकुलम् ॥ ५ ॥

*aho 'tiramyam pulinam vayasyāḥ  
 sva-keli-sampan mṛdulāccha-bālukam  
 sphuṭat-saro-gandha-hṛtāli-patrika-  
 dhvani-pratidhvāna-lasad-drumākulam*

*aho*—oh; *ati-ramyam*—very, very beautiful; *pulinam*—the bank of the river; *vayasyāḥ*—My dear friends; *sva-keli-sampat*—full with all paraphernalia for pastimes of play; *mṛdula-accha-bālukam*—the very soft and clean sandy bank; *sphuṭat*—in full bloom; *saraḥ-gandha*—by the aroma of the lotus flower; *hṛta*—attracted; *ali*—of the bumblebees; *patrika*—and of the birds; *dhvani-pratidhvāna*—the sounds of their chirping and moving and the echoes of these sounds; *lasat*—moving all over; *druma-ākulam*—full of nice trees.

TRANSLATION

My dear friends, just see how this riverbank is extremely beautiful because of its pleasing atmosphere. And just see how the blooming lotuses are attracting bees and birds by their aroma. The humming and chirping of the bees and birds is echoing throughout the beautiful trees in the forest. Also, here the sands are clean and soft. Therefore, this must be considered the best place for our sporting and pastimes.

PURPORT

The description of Vṛndāvana forest as given herewith was spoken by Kṛṣṇa five thousand years ago, and the same condition prevailed during



the time of the Vaiṣṇava *ācāryas* three or four hundred years ago. *Kūjat-kokila-haṁsa-sārasa-gaṇākīrṇe mayūrākule*. Vṛndāvana forest is always filled with the chirping and cooing of birds like cuckoos (*kokila*), ducks (*haṁsa*) and cranes (*sārasa*), and it is also full of peacocks (*mayūrākule*). The same sounds and atmosphere still prevail in the area where our Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma temple is situated. Everyone who visits this temple is pleased to hear the chirping of the birds as described here (*kūjat-kokila-haṁsa-sārasa*).

## TEXT 6

अत्र भोक्तव्यमस्माभिर्दिवारूढं भुधादिताः ।  
वत्साः समीपेऽपः पीत्वा चरन्तु शनकैस्तृणम् ॥६॥

*atra bhoktavyam asmābhir  
divārūḍham kṣudhārditāḥ  
vatsāḥ samīpe 'paḥ pītvā  
carantu śanakais tṛṇam*

*atra*—here, on this spot; *bhoktavyam*—our lunch should be eaten; *asmābhiḥ*—by us; *diva-ārūḍham*—it is very late now; *kṣudhārditāḥ*—we are fatigued with hunger; *vatsāḥ*—the calves; *samīpe*—nearby; *apaḥ*—water; *pītvā*—after drinking; *carantu*—let them eat; *śanakaiḥ*—slowly; *tṛṇam*—the grasses.

## TRANSLATION

I think we should take our lunch here, since we are already hungry because the time is very late. Here the calves may drink water and go slowly here and there and eat the grass.

## TEXT 7

तथेति पाययित्वाभर्मा वत्सानारुध्य शद्वले ।  
मुक्त्वा शिष्यानि बुभुजुः समं भगवता मुदा ॥ ७ ॥

*tatheti pāyayitvārbhā  
vatsān ārudhya śādvale*

*muktvā śikyāni bubhujūḥ  
samam bhagavatā mudā*

*tathā iti*—as Kṛṣṇa proposed, the other cowherd boys agreed; *pāyayitvā arbhāḥ*—they allowed to drink water; *vatsān*—the calves; *ārudhya*—tying them to the trees, allowed them to eat; *sādvale*—in a place of green, tender grasses; *muktvā*—opening; *śikyāni*—their bags of eatables and other paraphernalia; *bubhujūḥ*—went and enjoyed; *samam*—equally; *bhagavatā*—with the Supreme Personality of Godhead; *mudā*—in transcendental pleasure.

### TRANSLATION

Accepting Lord Kṛṣṇa's proposal, the cowherd boys allowed the calves to drink water from the river and then tied them to trees where there was green, tender grass. Then the boys opened their baskets of food and began eating with Kṛṣṇa in great transcendental pleasure.

### TEXT 8

कृष्णस्य विश्वक् पुरुराजिमण्डलै-  
रभ्याननाः फुल्लदृशो व्रजार्भकाः ।  
सहोपविष्टा विपिने विरेजु-  
श्छदा यथाम्भोरुहकर्णिकायाः ॥ ८ ॥

*kṛṣṇasya viṣvak puru-rāji-maṇḍalair  
abhyānanāḥ phulla-dṛśo vrajārbhakāḥ  
sahopaviṣṭā vipine virejuḥ  
chadā yathāmbhoruha-karṇikāyāḥ*

*kṛṣṇasya viṣvak*—surrounding Kṛṣṇa; *puru-rāji-maṇḍalair*—by different encirclements of associates; *abhyānanāḥ*—everyone looking forward to the center, where Kṛṣṇa was sitting; *phulla-dṛśaḥ*—their faces looking very bright because of transcendental pleasure; *vraja-arbhakāḥ*—all the cowherd boys of Vrajabhūmi; *saha-upaviṣṭāḥ*—sitting with Kṛṣṇa; *vipine*—in the forest; *virejuḥ*—so nicely and

beautifully made; *chadāḥ*—petals and leaves; *yathā*—just as; *ambhoruha*—of a lotus flower; *karnikāyāḥ*—of the whorl.

### TRANSLATION

Like the whorl of a lotus flower surrounded by its petals and leaves, Kṛṣṇa sat in the center, encircled by lines of His friends, who all looked very beautiful. Every one of them was trying to look forward toward Kṛṣṇa, thinking that Kṛṣṇa might look toward him. In this way they all enjoyed their lunch in the forest.

### PURPORT

To a pure devotee, Kṛṣṇa is always visible, as stated in the *Brahma-saṁhitā* (*santaḥ sadaiva hṛdayeṣu vilokayanti*) and as indicated by Kṛṣṇa Himself in *Bhagavad-gītā* (*sarvataḥ pāṇi-pādaṁ tat sarvato 'kṣi-śiro-mukham*). If by accumulating pious activities (*kr̥ta-puṇya-puñjāḥ*) one is raised to the platform of pure devotional service, Kṛṣṇa is always visible in the core of one's heart. One who has attained such perfection is all-beautiful in transcendental bliss. The present Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is an attempt to keep Kṛṣṇa in the center, for if this is done all activities will automatically become beautiful and blissful.

### TEXT 9

केचित् पुष्पैर्दलैः केचित् पल्लवैरङ्कुरैः फलैः ।  
शिग्भिस्त्वग्भिर्दृषद्भिश्च बुभुजुः कृतभाजनाः ॥ ९ ॥

*kecit puṣpair dalaiḥ kecit*  
*pallavair aṅkuraiḥ phalaiḥ*  
*śigbhis tvagbhir dṛṣadbhiś ca*  
*bubhujuh kṛta-bhājanāḥ*

*kecit*—someone; *puṣpaiḥ*—by flowers; *dalaiḥ*—by nice leaves of flowers; *kecit*—someone; *pallavaiḥ*—on the surface of bunches of leaves; *aṅkuraiḥ*—on the sprouts of flowers; *phalaiḥ*—and some on fruits; *śigbhiḥ*—some actually in the basket or packet; *tvagbhiḥ*—by the bark of trees; *dṛṣadbhiḥ*—on rocks; *ca*—and; *bubhujuh*—enjoyed; *kṛta-bhājanāḥ*—as if they had made their plates for eating.

## TRANSLATION

Among the cowherd boys, some placed their lunch on flowers, some on leaves, fruits, or bunches of leaves, some actually in their baskets, some on the bark of trees and some on rocks. This is what the children imagined to be their plates as they ate their lunch.

## TEXT 10

सर्वे मिथो दर्शयन्तः स्वस्वभोज्यरुचिं पृथक् ।  
हसन्तो हासयन्तश्चाभ्यवजहुः सहेश्वराः ॥१०॥

*sarve mitho darśayantaḥ*  
*sva-sva-bhojya-rucim pṛthak*  
*hasanto hāsayantaś cā-*  
*bhyavajahruḥ saheśvarāḥ*

*sarve*—all the cowherd boys; *mithaḥ*—to one another; *darśayantaḥ*—showing; *sva-sva-bhojya-rucim pṛthak*—different varieties of foodstuffs brought from home, with their separate and different tastes; *hasantaḥ*—after tasting, they were all laughing; *hāsayantaḥ ca*—and making others laugh; *abhyavajahruḥ*—enjoyed lunch; *saha-īśvarāḥ*—along with Kṛṣṇa.

## TRANSLATION

All the cowherd boys enjoyed their lunch with Kṛṣṇa, showing one another the different tastes of the different varieties of preparations they had brought from home. Tasting one another's preparations, they began to laugh and make one another laugh.

## PURPORT

Sometimes one friend would say, “Kṛṣṇa, see how my food is relishable,” and Kṛṣṇa would take some and laugh. Similarly, Balarāma, Sudāmā and other friends would taste one another's food and laugh. In this way, the friends very jubilantly began to eat their respective preparations brought from home.

## TEXT 11

बिभ्रद् वेणुं जठरपटयोः शृङ्गवेत्रे च कक्षे  
 वामे पाणौ मसृणकवलं तत्फलान्यङ्गुलीषु ।  
 तिष्ठन् मध्येस्वपरिसुहृदो हासयन् नर्मभिः स्वैः  
 स्वर्गे लोके मिषति बुभुजे यज्ञभुग् बालकेलिः ॥११॥

*bibhrad veṇum jaṭhara-paṭayoḥ śṛṅga-vetre ca kakṣe  
 vāme pāṇau masṛṇa-kavalam tat-phalāny aṅguliṣu  
 tiṣṭhan madhye sva-parisuhṛdo hāsayan narmabhiḥ svaiḥ  
 svarge loka miṣati bubhuje yajña-bhug bāla-keliḥ*

*bibhrat veṇum*—keeping the flute; *jaṭhara-paṭayoḥ*—between the tight clothing and the abdomen; *śṛṅga-vetre*—both the horn bugle and the cow-driving stick; *ca*—also; *kakṣe*—on the waist; *vāme*—on the left-hand side; *pāṇau*—taking in hand; *masṛṇa-kavalam*—very nice food prepared with rice and first-class curd; *tat-phalāni*—suitable pieces of fruit like bael; *aṅguliṣu*—between the fingers; *tiṣṭhan*—staying in this way; *madhye*—in the middle; *sva-pari-suhṛdah*—His own personal associates; *hāsayan*—making them laugh; *narmabhiḥ*—with joking words; *svaiḥ*—His own; *svarge loka miṣati*—while the inhabitants of the heavenly planets, Svargaloka, were watching this wonderful scene; *bubhuje*—Kṛṣṇa enjoyed; *yajña-bhuk bāla-keliḥ*—although He accepts offerings in *yajña*, for the sake of childhood pastimes He was enjoying foodstuffs very jubilantly with His cowherd boyfriends.

## TRANSLATION

Kṛṣṇa is *yajña-bhuk*—that is, He eats only offerings of *yajña*—but to exhibit His childhood pastimes, He now sat with His flute tucked between His waist and His tight cloth on His right side and with His horn bugle and cow-driving stick on His left. Holding in His hand a very nice preparation of yogurt and rice, with pieces of suitable fruit between His fingers, He sat like the whorl of a lotus flower, looking forward toward all His friends, personally joking with them and creating jubilant laughter among them as He ate. At

that time, the denizens of heaven were watching, struck with wonder at how the Personality of Godhead, who eats only in *yajña*, was now eating with His friends in the forest.

### PURPORT

When Kṛṣṇa was eating with His cowherd boyfriends, a certain bumblebee came there to take part in the eating. Thus Kṛṣṇa joked, “Why have you come to disturb My *brāhmaṇa* friend Madhumaṅgala? You want to kill a *brāhmaṇa*. This is not good.” All the boys would laugh and enjoy, speaking such joking words while eating. Thus the inhabitants of the higher planets were astonished at how the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who eats only when *yajña* is offered, was now eating like an ordinary child with His friends in the forest.

### TEXT 12

भारतैवं वत्सपेषु भुञ्जानेष्वच्युतात्मसु ।  
वत्सास्त्वन्तर्वने दूरं विविशुस्तृणलोभिताः ॥१२॥

*bhārataivaṁ vatsa-peṣu*  
*bhuñjāneṣv acyutātmasu*  
*vatsās tv antar-vane dūraṁ*  
*viviśuḥ tṛṇa-lobhitāḥ*

*bhārata*—O Mahārāja Parikṣit; *evam*—in this way (while they were enjoying their lunch); *vatsa-peṣu*—along with all the boys tending the calves; *bhuñjāneṣu*—engaged in taking their food; *acyuta-ātmasu*—all of them being very near and dear to Acyuta, Kṛṣṇa; *vatsāḥ*—the calves; *tu*—however; *antaḥ-vane*—within the deep forest; *dūraṁ*—far away; *viviśuḥ*—entered; *tṛṇa-lobhitāḥ*—being allured by green grass.

### TRANSLATION

O Mahārāja Parikṣit, while the cowherd boys, who knew nothing within the core of their hearts but Kṛṣṇa, were thus engaged in eating their lunch in the forest, the calves went far away, deep into the forest, being allured by green grass.

## TEXT 13

तान् दृष्ट्वा भयसंत्रस्तानूचे कृष्णोऽस्य भीमयम् ।  
मित्राण्याशान्मा विरमतेहानेष्ये वत्सकानहम् ॥१३॥

*tān dr̥ṣṭvā bhaya-santrastān  
ūce kṛṣṇo 'sya bhī-bhayam  
mitrāṅy āśān mā viramate-  
hāneṣye vatsakān aham*

*tān*—that those calves were going away; *dr̥ṣṭvā*—seeing; *bhaya-santrastān*—to the cowherd boys, who were disturbed by fear that within the dense forest the calves would be attacked by some ferocious animals; *ūce*—Kṛṣṇa said; *kṛṣṇaḥ asya bhī-bhayam*—Kṛṣṇa, who is Himself the fearful element of all kinds of fear (when Kṛṣṇa is present, there is no fear); *mitrāṅi*—My dear friends; *āśāt*—from your enjoyment of eating; *mā viramata*—do not stop; *iha*—in this place, in this spot; *āneṣye*—I shall bring back; *vatsakān*—the calves; *aham*—I.

## TRANSLATION

When Kṛṣṇa saw that His friends the cowherd boys were frightened, He, the fierce controller even of fear itself, said, just to mitigate their fear, “My dear friends, do not stop eating. I shall bring your calves back to this spot by personally going after them Myself.”

## PURPORT

In the presence of Kṛṣṇa’s friendship, a devotee cannot have any fear. Kṛṣṇa is the supreme controller, the controller of even death, which is supposed to be the ultimate fear in this material world. *Bhayam dvitīyābhiniveśataḥ syāt (Bhāg. 11.2.37)*. This fear arises because of lack of Kṛṣṇa consciousness; otherwise there cannot be any fear. For one who has taken shelter of the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa, this material world of fear becomes hardly dangerous at all.

*bhavāmbudhir vatsa-padam param padam  
padam padam yad vipadām na teṣām*

*Bhavāmbudhiḥ*, the material ocean of fear, becomes very easy to cross by the mercy of the supreme controller. This material world, in which there is fear and danger at every step (*padam padam yad vipadam*), is not meant for those who have taken shelter at Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet. Such persons are delivered from this fearful world.

*samāśritā ye pada-pallava-plavaṁ  
mahat-padam puṇya-yaśo murāreḥ  
bhavāmbudhir vatsa-padam param padam  
padam padam yad vipadam na teṣām*  
(*Bhāg.* 10.14.58)

Everyone, therefore, should take shelter of the Supreme Person, who is the source of fearlessness, and thus be secure.

#### TEXT 14

इत्युक्त्वाद्रिदरीकुञ्जगह्वरेष्व्वात्मवत्सकान् ।  
विचिन्वन् भगवान् कृष्णः सपाणिकवलो ययौ ॥१४॥

*ity uktvādri-darī-kuñja-  
gahvareṣv ātma-vatsakān  
vicinvan bhagavān kṛṣṇaḥ  
sapāṇi-kavalō yayau*

*iti uktvā*—saying this (“Let Me bring your calves personally”); *adri-darī-kuñja-gahvareṣu*—everywhere in the mountains, the mountain caves, the bushes and narrow places; *ātma-vatsakān*—the calves belonging to His own personal friends; *vicinvan*—searching out; *bhagavān*—the Supreme Personality of Godhead; *kṛṣṇaḥ*—Lord Kṛṣṇa; *sa-pāṇi-kavalah*—carrying His yogurt and rice in His hand; *yayau*—started out.

#### TRANSLATION

“Let Me go and search for the calves,” Kṛṣṇa said. “Don’t disturb your enjoyment.” Then, carrying His yogurt and rice in His hand, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Kṛṣṇa, immediately went out to search for the calves of His friends. To please His



friends, He began searching in all the mountains, mountain caves, bushes and narrow passages.

### PURPORT

The *Vedas* (*Śvetāśvatara Up.* 6.8) assert that the Supreme Personality of Godhead has nothing to do personally (*na tasya kāryam karaṇam ca vidyate*) because He is doing everything through His energies and potencies (*parāsyā śaktir vividhaiva śrūyate*). Nonetheless, here we see that He took personal care to find the calves of His friends. This was Kṛṣṇa's causeless mercy. *Mayādhyakṣeṇa prakṛtiḥ sūyate sa-carācaram*: all the affairs of the entire world and the entire cosmic manifestation are working under His direction, through His different energies. Still, when there is a need to take care of His friends, He does this personally. Kṛṣṇa assured His friends, "Don't be afraid. I am going personally to search for your calves." This was Kṛṣṇa's causeless mercy.

### TEXT 15

अम्भोजन्मजनिस्तदन्तरगतो मायार्भकस्येशितु-  
द्रष्टुं मञ्जु महित्वमन्यदपि तद्वत्सानितो वत्सपान् ।  
नीत्वान्यत्र कुरुद्वहान्तरदधात् खेऽवस्थितो यः पुरा  
दृष्ट्वाघासुरमोक्षणं प्रभवतः प्राप्तः परं विस्मयम्॥१५॥

*ambhojanma-janis tad-antara-gato māyār bhakasyeśitur  
draṣṭum mañju mahitvam anyad api tad-vatsān ito vatsapān  
nītvānyatra kurūdvahāntaradadhāt khe 'vasthito yaḥ purā  
dṛṣṭvāghāsura-mokṣaṇam prabhavataḥ prāptaḥ paraṁ vismayam*

*ambhojanma-janiḥ*—Lord Brahmā, who was born from a lotus flower; *tad-antara-gataḥ*—now became entangled with the affairs of Kṛṣṇa, who was enjoying luncheon pastimes with His cowherd boys; *māyā-  
arbhakasya*—of the boys made by Kṛṣṇa's *māyā*; *īsituh*—of the  
supreme controller; *draṣṭum*—just to see; *mañju*—very pleasing;  
*mahitvam anyat api*—other glories of the Lord also; *tad-vatsān*—their  
calves; *itah*—than that place where they were; *vatsa-pān*—and the

cowherd boys taking care of the calves; *nītvā*—bringing them; *anyatra*—to a different place; *kurūdvaha*—O Mahārāja Parīkṣit; *antara-dadhāt*—kept hidden and invisible for some time; *khe avasthitaḥ yaḥ*—this person Brahmā, who was situated in the higher planetary system in the sky; *purā*—formerly; *dr̥ṣṭvā*—was observing; *aghāsura-mokṣaṇam*—the wonderful killing and deliverance of Aghāsura from material tribulation; *prabhavataḥ*—of the all-potent Supreme Person; *prāptaḥ param vismayam*—had become extremely astonished.

### TRANSLATION

O Mahārāja Parīkṣit, Brahmā, who resides in the higher planetary system in the sky, had observed the activities of the most powerful Kṛṣṇa in killing and delivering Aghāsura, and he was astonished. Now that same Brahmā wanted to show some of his own power and see the power of Kṛṣṇa, who was engaged in His childhood pastimes, playing as if with ordinary cowherd boys. Therefore, in Kṛṣṇa's absence, Brahmā took all the boys and calves to another place. Thus he became entangled, for in the very near future he would see how powerful Kṛṣṇa was.

### PURPORT

When Aghāsura was being killed by Kṛṣṇa, who was accompanied by His associates, Brahmā was astonished, but when he saw that Kṛṣṇa was very much enjoying His pastimes of lunch, he was even more astonished and wanted to test whether Kṛṣṇa was actually there. Thus he became entangled in Kṛṣṇa's *māyā*. After all, Brahmā was born materially. As mentioned here, *ambhojanma-janiḥ*: he was born of *ambhoja*, a lotus flower. It does not matter that he was born of a lotus and not of any man, animal or material father. A lotus is also material, and anyone born through the material energy must be subject to the four material deficiencies: *bhrama* (the tendency to commit mistakes), *pramāda* (the tendency to be illusioned), *vipralipsā* (the tendency to cheat) and *karaṇāpātava* (imperfect senses). Thus Brahmā also became entangled.

Brahmā, with his *māyā*, wanted to test whether Kṛṣṇa was actually present. These cowherd boys were but expansions of Kṛṣṇa's personal self (*ānanda-cinmaya-rasa-pratibhāvitābhiḥ*). Later Kṛṣṇa would show Brahmā how He expands Himself into everything as His personal

pleasure, *ānanda-cinmaya-rasa*. *Hlādinī śaktir asmāt*: Kṛṣṇa has a transcendental potency called *hlādinī śakti*. He does not enjoy anything that is a product of the material energy. Brahmā, therefore, would see Lord Kṛṣṇa expand His energy.

Brahmā wanted to take away Kṛṣṇa's associates, but instead he took away some other boys and calves. Rāvaṇa wanted to take away Sītā, but that was impossible, and instead he took away a *māyā* Sītā. Similarly, Brahmā took away *māyārbhakāḥ*: boys manifested by Kṛṣṇa's *māyā*. Brahmā could show some extraordinary opulence to the *māyārbhakāḥ*; but he could not show any extraordinary potency to Kṛṣṇa's associates. That he would see in the very near future. *Māyārbhakasya īsituh*. This bewilderment, this *māyā*, was caused by the supreme controller, *prabhavataḥ*—the all-potent Supreme Person, Kṛṣṇa—and we shall see the result. Anyone materially born is subject to bewilderment. This pastime is therefore called *brahma-vimohana-līlā*, the pastime of bewildering Brahmā. *Mohitaṁ nābhijānāti mām ebhyaḥ param avyayam* (Bg. 7.13). Materially born persons cannot fully understand Kṛṣṇa. Even the demigods cannot understand Him (*muhyanti yat sūrayaḥ*). *Tene brahmā hṛdā ya ādi-kavaye* (*Bhāg.* 1.1.1). Everyone, from Brahmā down to the small insect, must take lessons from Kṛṣṇa.

## TEXT 16

ततो वत्सानदृष्ट्वैत्य पुलिनेऽपि च वत्सपान् ।

उभावपि वने कृष्णो विचिकाय समन्ततः ॥१६॥

*tato vatsān adṛṣṭvāitya*  
*puline 'pi ca vatsapān*  
*ubhāv api vane kṛṣṇo*  
*vicikāya samantataḥ*

*tataḥ*—thereafter; *vatsān*—the calves; *adṛṣṭvā*—not seeing there within the forest; *etya*—after; *puline api*—to the bank of the Yamunā; *ca*—also; *vatsapān*—could not see the cowherd boys; *ubhau api*—both of them (the calves and the cowherd boys); *vane*—within the forest; *kṛṣṇaḥ*—Lord Kṛṣṇa; *vicikāya*—searched all over; *samantataḥ*—here and there.

## TRANSLATION

Thereafter, when Kṛṣṇa was unable to find the calves, He returned to the bank of the river, but there He was also unable to see the cowherd boys. Thus He began to search for both the calves and the boys, as if He could not understand what had happened.

## PURPORT

Kṛṣṇa could immediately understand that Brahmā had taken away both the calves and the boys, but as an innocent child He searched here and there so that Brahmā could not understand Kṛṣṇa's *māyā*. This was all a dramatic performance. A player knows everything, but still he plays on the stage in such a way that others do not understand him.

## TEXT 17

क्वाप्यद्दृष्ट्वान्तर्विपिने वत्सान् पालांश्च विश्ववित् ।  
सर्वं विधिकृतं कृष्णः सहसावजगाम ह ॥१७॥

*kvāpy adṛṣṭvāntar-vipine*  
*vatsān pālāṁś ca viśva-vit*  
*sarvaṁ vidhi-kṛtaṁ kṛṣṇaḥ*  
*sahasāvajagāma ha*

*kva api*—anywhere; *adṛṣṭvā*—not seeing at all; *antar-vipine*—within the forest; *vatsān*—the calves; *pālān ca*—and their caretakers, the cowherd boys; *viśva-vit*—Kṛṣṇa, who is aware of everything going on throughout the whole cosmic manifestation; *sarvaṁ*—everything; *vidhi-kṛtaṁ*—was executed by Brahmā; *kṛṣṇaḥ*—Lord Kṛṣṇa; *sahasā*—immediately; *avajagāma ha*—could understand.

## TRANSLATION

When Kṛṣṇa was unable to find the calves and their caretakers, the cowherd boys, anywhere in the forest, He could suddenly understand that this was the work of Lord Brahmā.

## PURPORT

Although Kṛṣṇa is *viśva-vit*, the knower of everything happening in the entire cosmic manifestation, as an innocent child He showed ignorance of Brahmā's actions, although He could immediately understand that these were the doings of Brahmā. This pastime is called *brahma-vimohana*, the bewilderment of Brahmā. Brahmā was already bewildered by Kṛṣṇa's activities as an innocent child, and now he would be further bewildered.

## TEXT 18

ततः कृष्णो मुदं कर्तुं तन्मातृणां च कस्य च ।  
उभयायितमात्मानं चक्रे विश्वकृदीश्वरः ॥१८॥

*tataḥ kṛṣṇo mudam kartum  
tan-mātṛṇām ca kasya ca  
ubhayāyitam ātmānam  
cakre viśva-kṛt īśvaraḥ*

*tataḥ*—thereafter; *kṛṣṇaḥ*—the Supreme Personality of Godhead; *mudam*—pleasure; *kartum*—to create; *tat-mātṛṇām ca*—of the mothers of the cowherd boys and calves; *kasya ca*—and (the pleasure) of Brahmā; *ubhayāyitam*—expansion, both as the calves and as the cowherd boys; *ātmānam*—Himself; *cakre*—did; *viśva-kṛt īśvaraḥ*—it was not difficult for Him, for He is the creator of the whole cosmic manifestation.

## TRANSLATION

Thereafter, just to create pleasure both for Brahmā and for the mothers of the calves and cowherd boys, Kṛṣṇa, the creator of the entire cosmic manifestation, expanded Himself as calves and boys.

## PURPORT

Although Brahmā was already entangled in bewilderment, he wanted to show his power to the cowherd boys; but after he took away the boys and their calves and returned to his abode, Kṛṣṇa created further

astonishment for Brahmā, and for the mothers of the boys, by establishing the lunch pastimes in the forest again and replacing all the calves and boys, just as they had appeared before. According to the *Vedas*, *ekam bahu syām*: the Personality of Godhead can become many, many millions upon millions of calves and cowherd boys, as He did to bewilder Brahmā more and more.

## TEXT 19

यावद् वत्सपवत्सकाल्पकवपुर्यावत् कराङ्घ्र्यादिकं  
यावद् यष्टिविषाणवेषुदलशिग् यावद् विभूषाम्बरम् ।  
यावच्छीलगुणाभिधाकृतिवयो यावद् विहारादिकं  
सर्वं विष्णुमयं गिरोऽङ्गवदजः सर्वस्वरूपो बभौ ॥१९॥

*yāvad vatsapa-vatsakālpaka-vapur yāvat karāṅghry-ādikam*  
*yāvad yaṣṭi-viṣāṇa-veṇu-dala-sig yāvad vibhūṣāmbaram*  
*yāvac chīla-guṇābhidhākṛti-vayo yāvad vihārādikam*  
*sarvaṁ viṣṇumayaṁ giro 'ṅga-vad ajaḥ sarva-svarūpo babhau*

*yāvat vatsapa*—exactly like the cowherd boys; *vatsaka-ālpaka-vapur*—and exactly like the tender bodies of the calves; *yāvat karāṅghri-ādikam*—exactly to the measurement of their particular varieties of legs and hands; *yāvat yaṣṭi-viṣāṇa-veṇu-dala-sik*—not only like their bodies but exactly like their bugles, flutes, sticks, lunch bags and so on; *yāvat vibhūṣā-ambaram*—exactly like their ornaments and dress in all their varied particulars; *yāvat śīla-guṇa-abhidhā-ākṛti-vayaḥ*—their exact character, habits, features, attributes and explicit bodily features; *yāvat vihāra-ādikam*—exactly according to their tastes or amusements; *sarvam*—everything in detail; *viṣṇu-mayaṁ*—expansions of Vāsudeva, Viṣṇu; *giraḥ aṅga-vat*—voices exactly like theirs; *ajaḥ*—Kṛṣṇa; *sarva-svarūpaḥ babhau*—created everything in detail as Himself, without any change.

## TRANSLATION

By His Vāsudeva feature, Kṛṣṇa simultaneously expanded Himself into the exact number of missing cowherd boys and calves,

with their exact bodily features, their particular types of hands, legs and other limbs, their sticks, bugles and flutes, their lunch bags, their particular types of dress and ornaments placed in various ways, their names, ages and forms, and their special activities and characteristics. By expanding Himself in this way, beautiful Kṛṣṇa proved the statement *samagra-jagad viṣṇumayam*: “Lord Viṣṇu is all-pervading.”

### PURPORT

As stated in the *Brahma-saṁhitā* (5.33):

*advaitam acyutam anādim ananta-rūpam  
ādyam purāṇa-puruṣam nava-yauvanam ca*

Kṛṣṇa, *param brahma*, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, is *ādyam*, the beginning of everything; He is *ādi-puruṣam*, the ever-youthful original person. He can expand Himself in more forms than one can imagine, yet He does not fall down from His original form as Kṛṣṇa; therefore He is called Acyuta. This is the Supreme Personality of Godhead. *Sarvaṁ viṣṇumayaṁ jagat. Sarvaṁ khalv idam brahma*. Kṛṣṇa thus proved that He is everything, that He can become everything, but that still He is personally different from everything (*mat-sthāni sarva-bhūtāni na cāhaṁ teṣv avasthitāḥ*). This is Kṛṣṇa, who is understood by *acintya-bhedābheda-tattva* philosophy. *Pūrṇasya pūrṇam ādāya pūrṇam evāvaśiṣyate*: Kṛṣṇa is always complete, and although He can create millions of universes, all of them full in all opulences, He remains as opulent as ever, without any change (*advaitam*). This is explained by different Vaiṣṇava *ācāryas* through philosophies such as *viśuddhādvaita*, *viśiṣṭādvaita* and *dvaitādvaita*. Therefore one must learn about Kṛṣṇa from the *ācāryas*. *Ācāryavān puruṣo veda*: one who follows the path of the *ācāryas* knows things as they are. Such a person can know Kṛṣṇa as He is, at least to some extent, and as soon as one understands Kṛṣṇa (*janma karma ca me divyam evaṁ yo vetti tattvataḥ*), one is liberated from material bondage (*tyaktvā dehaṁ punar janma naiti mām eti so ’rjuna*).

## TEXT 20

स्वयमात्मात्मगोवत्सान् प्रतिवार्यात्मवत्सपैः ।  
 क्रीडन्नात्मविहारैश्च सर्वात्मा प्राविशद् व्रजम् ॥२०॥

*svayam ātmātmā-govatsān  
 prativāryātmā-vatsapaiḥ  
 krīḍann ātma-vihārais ca  
 sarvātmā prāviśad vrajam*

*svayam ātmā*—Kṛṣṇa, who is personally the Supreme Soul, the Super-soul; *ātmā-go-vatsān*—now expanded into calves that were also He Himself; *prativārya ātma-vatsapaiḥ*—again He Himself was represented as the cowherd boys controlling and commanding the calves; *krīḍan*—thus Himself constituting everything in these transcendental pastimes; *ātmā-vihāraiḥ ca*—enjoying Himself by Himself in different ways; *sarva-ātmā*—the Supersoul, Kṛṣṇa; *prāviśat*—entered; *vrajam*—Vrajabhūmi, the land of Mahārāja Nanda and Yaśodā.

## TRANSLATION

Now expanding Himself so as to appear as all the calves and cowherd boys, all of them as they were, and at the same time appear as their leader, Kṛṣṇa entered Vrajabhūmi, the land of His father, Nanda Mahārāja, just as He usually did while enjoying their company.

## PURPORT

Kṛṣṇa usually stayed in the forest and pasturing ground, taking care of the calves and cows with His associates the cowherd boys. Now that the original group had been taken away by Brahmā, Kṛṣṇa Himself assumed the forms of every member of the group, without anyone's knowledge, even the knowledge of Baladeva, and continued the usual program. He was ordering His friends to do this and that, and He was controlling the calves and going into the forest to search for them when they went astray, allured by new grass, but these calves and boys were He Himself. This was Kṛṣṇa's inconceivable potency. As explained by Śrīla Jīva Gosvāmī, *rādhā kṛṣṇa-praṇaya-vikṛtir hlādinī śaktir asmāt*. Rādhā and



Kṛṣṇa are the same. Kṛṣṇa, by expanding His pleasure potency, becomes Rādhārāṇī. The same pleasure potency (*ānanda-cinmaya-rasa*) was expanded by Kṛṣṇa when He Himself became all the calves and boys and enjoyed transcendental bliss in Vrajabhūmi. This was done by the *yogamāyā* potency and was inconceivable to persons under the potency of *mahāmāyā*.

## TEXT 21

तत्तद्वत्सान् पृथङ् नीत्वा तत्तद् गोष्ठे निवेश्य सः ।  
तत्तदात्माभवद् राजंस्तत्तत्सञ्च प्रविष्टवान् ॥२१॥

*tat-tad-vatsān pṛthak nītvā*  
*tat-tad-goṣṭhe niveśya saḥ*  
*tat-tad-ātmābhavad rājan*  
*tat-tat-sadma praviṣṭavān*

*tat-tat-vatsān*—the calves, which belonged to different cows; *pṛthak*—separately; *nītvā*—bringing; *tat-tad-goṣṭhe*—to their respective cow sheds; *niveśya*—entering; *saḥ*—Kṛṣṇa; *tat-tad-ātmā*—as originally different individual souls; *abhavat*—He expanded Himself in that way; *rājan*—O King Parikṣit; *tat-tat-sadma*—their respective houses; *praviṣṭavān*—entered (Kṛṣṇa thus entered everywhere).

## TRANSLATION

O Mahārāja Parikṣit, Kṛṣṇa, who had divided Himself as different calves and also as different cowherd boys, entered different cow sheds as the calves and then different homes as different boys.

## PURPORT

Kṛṣṇa had many, many friends, of whom Śrīdāmā, Sudāmā and Subala were prominent. Thus Kṛṣṇa Himself became Śrīdāmā, Sudāmā and Subala and entered their respective houses with their respective calves.

## TEXT 22

तन्मातरो वेणुरवत्वरोत्थिता  
उत्थाप्य दोर्भिः परिरभ्य निर्भरम् ।

स्नेहस्नुतस्तन्यपयःसुधासवं

मत्वा परं ब्रह्म सुतानपाययन् ॥२२॥

*tan-mātarō veṇu-rava-tvarotthitā*  
*utthāpya dorbhiḥ parirabhya nirbharam*  
*sneha-snuta-stanya-payah-sudhāsavaṁ*  
*matvā paraṁ brahma sutān apāyayan*

*tat-mātarah*—the mothers of the respective cowherd boys; *veṇu-rava*—because of the sounds played on flutes and bugles by the cowherd boys; *tvara*—immediately; *utthitāḥ*—awakened from their respective household duties; *utthāpya*—immediately lifted their respective sons; *dorbhiḥ*—with their two arms; *parirabhya*—embracing; *nirbharam*—without feeling any weight; *sneha-snuta*—which was flowing because of intense love; *stanya-payah*—their breast milk; *sudhā-āsavam*—tasting just like a nectarean beverage; *matvā*—accepting the milk like that; *param*—the Supreme; *brahma*—Kṛṣṇa; *sutān apāyayan*—began to feed their respective sons.

### TRANSLATION

The mothers of the boys, upon hearing the sounds of the flutes and bugles being played by their sons, immediately rose from their household tasks, lifted their boys onto their laps, embraced them with both arms and began to feed them with their breast milk, which flowed forth because of extreme love specifically for Kṛṣṇa. Actually Kṛṣṇa is everything, but at that time, expressing extreme love and affection, they took special pleasure in feeding Kṛṣṇa, the Parabrahman, and Kṛṣṇa drank the milk from His respective mothers as if it were a nectarean beverage.

### PURPORT

Although all the elderly *gopīs* knew that Kṛṣṇa was the son of mother Yaśodā, they still desired, “If Kṛṣṇa had become my son, I would also have taken care of Him like mother Yaśodā.” This was their inner ambition. Now, in order to please them, Kṛṣṇa personally took the role of their sons and fulfilled their desire. They enhanced their special love for

Kṛṣṇa by embracing Him and feeding Him, and Kṛṣṇa tasted their breast milk to be just like a nectarean beverage. While thus bewildering Brahmā, He enjoyed the special transcendental pleasure created by *yogamāyā* between all the other mothers and Himself.

## TEXT 23

ततो नृपोन्मर्दनमज्जलेपना-  
लङ्काररक्षातिलकाशनादिभिः ।  
संलालितः स्वाचरितैः प्रहर्षयन्  
सायं गतो यामयमेन माधवः ॥२३॥

*tato nrponmardana-majja-lepanā-  
laṅkāra-rakṣā-tilakāśanādibhiḥ  
saṁlālitaḥ svācaritaiḥ prahaṛṣayan  
sāyam gato yāma-yamena mādhaveḥ*

*tataḥ*—thereafter; *nṛpa*—O King (Mahārāja Parikṣit); *unmardana*—by massaging them with oil; *majja*—by bathing; *lepana*—by smearing the body with oil and sandalwood pulp; *alaṅkāra*—by decorating with ornaments; *rakṣā*—by chanting protective *mantras*; *tilaka*—by decorating the body with *tilaka* marks in twelve places; *aśana-ādibhiḥ*—and by feeding them sumptuously; *saṁlālitaḥ*—in this way cared for by the mothers; *sva-ācaritaiḥ*—by their characteristic behavior; *prahaṛṣayan*—making the mothers very much pleased; *sāyam*—evening; *gataḥ*—arrived; *yāma-yamena*—as the time of each activity passed; *mādhaveḥ*—Lord Kṛṣṇa.

## TRANSLATION

Thereafter, O Mahārāja Parikṣit, as required according to the scheduled round of His pastimes, Kṛṣṇa returned in the evening, entered the house of each of the cowherd boys, and engaged exactly like the former boys, thus enlivening their mothers with transcendental pleasure. The mothers took care of the boys by massaging them with oil, bathing them, smearing their bodies with sandalwood pulp, decorating them with ornaments, chanting

protective mantras, decorating their bodies with tilaka and giving them food. In this way, the mothers served Kṛṣṇa personally.

## TEXT 24

गावस्ततो गोष्ठमुपेत्य सत्वरं  
हुङ्कारघोषैः परिहृतसङ्गतान् ।  
स्वकान् स्वकान् वत्सतरानपाययन्  
मुहुर्लिहन्त्यः स्रवदौधसं पयः ॥२४॥

*gāvas tato goṣṭham upetya satvaram  
huṅkāra-ghoṣaiḥ parihūta-saṅgatān  
svakān svakān vatsatarān apāyayan  
muhur lihantyaḥ sraavad audhasam payaḥ*

*gāvaḥ*—the calves; *tataḥ*—thereafter; *goṣṭham*—to the cow sheds; *upetya*—reaching; *satvaram*—very soon; *huṅkāra-ghoṣaiḥ*—by making jubilant mooing sounds; *parihūta-saṅgatān*—to call the cows; *svakān svakān*—following their respective mothers; *vatsatarān*—the respective calves; *apāyayan*—feeding them; *muhuh*—again and again; *lihan-tyaḥ*—licking the calves; *sravat audhasam payaḥ*—abundant milk flowing from their milk bags.

## TRANSLATION

Thereafter, all the cows entered their different sheds and began mooing loudly, calling for their respective calves. When the calves arrived, the mothers began licking the calves' bodies again and again and profusely feeding them with the milk flowing from their milk bags.

## PURPORT

All the dealings between the calves and their respective mothers taking care of them were enacted by Kṛṣṇa Himself.

## TEXT 25

गोगोपीनां मातृतास्मिन्नासीत् स्नेहर्धिकां विना ।  
पुरोवदास्वपि हरेस्तोकता मायया विना ॥२५॥

*go-gopinām māṛtāsminn  
 āsīt snehardhikām vinā  
 purovad āsv api hares  
 tokatā māyayā vinā*

*go-gopinām*—for both the cows and the *gopīs*, the elderly cowherd women; *māṛtā*—motherly affection; *asmin*—unto Kṛṣṇa; *āsīt*—there ordinarily was; *sneha*—of affection; *ṛdhikām*—any increase; *vinā*—without; *puraḥ-vat*—like before; *āsu*—there was among the cows and *gopīs*; *api*—although; *hareḥ*—of Kṛṣṇa; *tokatā*—Kṛṣṇa is my son; *māyayā vinā*—without *māyā*.

### TRANSLATION

Previously, from the very beginning, the *gopīs* had motherly affection for Kṛṣṇa. Indeed, their affection for Kṛṣṇa exceeded even their affection for their own sons. In displaying their affection, they had thus distinguished between Kṛṣṇa and their sons, but now that distinction disappeared.

### PURPORT

The distinction between one's own son and another's son is not unnatural. Many elderly women have motherly affection for the sons of others. They observe distinctions, however, between those other sons and their own. But now the elderly *gopīs* could not distinguish between their own sons and Kṛṣṇa, for since their own sons had been taken by Brahmā, Kṛṣṇa had expanded as their sons. Therefore, their extra affection for their sons, who were now Kṛṣṇa Himself, was due to bewilderment resembling that of Brahmā. Previously, the mothers of Śrīdāmā, Sudāmā, Subala and Kṛṣṇa's other friends did not have the same affection for one another's sons, but now the *gopīs* treated all the boys as their own. Śukadeva Gosvāmī, therefore, wanted to explain this increment of affection in terms of Kṛṣṇa's bewilderment of Brahmā, the *gopīs*, the cows and everyone else.

### TEXT 26

ब्रजौकसां स्वतोकेषु स्नेहवल्ल्याद्भ्रमन्वहम् ।  
 शनैर्निःसीम ववृधे यथा कृष्णे त्वपूर्ववत् ॥२६॥

*vrajaukasām sva-tokeṣu  
sneha-vally ābdam anvaham  
śanair niḥsīma vavṛdhe  
yathā kṛṣṇe tv apūrvavat*

*vraja-okasām*—of all the inhabitants of Vraja, Vṛndāvana; *sva-tokeṣu*—for their own sons; *sneha-valli*—the creeper of affection; *ā-abdam*—for one year; *anu-aham*—every day; *śanaiḥ*—gradually; *niḥsīma*—without limit; *vavṛdhe*—increased; *yathā kṛṣṇe*—exactly accepting Kṛṣṇa as their son; *tu*—indeed; *apūrvavat*—as it had not been previously.

### TRANSLATION

Although the inhabitants of Vrajabhūmi, the cowherd men and cowherd women, previously had more affection for Kṛṣṇa than for their own children, now, for one year, their affection for their own sons continuously increased, for Kṛṣṇa had now become their sons. There was no limit to the increment of their affection for their sons, who were now Kṛṣṇa. Every day they found new inspiration for loving their children as much as they loved Kṛṣṇa.

### TEXT 27

इत्थमात्मात्मनात्मानं वत्सपालमिषेण सः ।  
पालयन् वत्सपो वर्षं चिक्रीडे वनगोष्ठयोः ॥२७॥

*ittham ātmātmanātmānam  
vatsa-pāla-miṣeṇa saḥ  
pālayan vatsapo varṣam  
cikrīḍe vana-goṣṭhayoḥ*

*ittham*—in this way; *ātmā*—the Supreme Soul, Kṛṣṇa; *ātmānā*—by Himself; *ātmānam*—Himself again; *vatsa-pāla-miṣeṇa*—with the forms of cowherd boys and calves; *saḥ*—Kṛṣṇa Himself; *pālayan*—maintaining; *vatsa-paḥ*—tending the calves; *varṣam*—continuously for one year; *cikrīḍe*—enjoyed the pastimes; *vana-goṣṭhayoḥ*—both in Vṛndāvana and in the forest.

## TRANSLATION

In this way, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, having Himself become the cowherd boys and groups of calves, maintained Himself by Himself. Thus He continued His pastimes, both in Vṛndāvana and in the forest, for one year.

## PURPORT

Everything was Kṛṣṇa. The calves, the cowherd boys and their maintainer Himself were all Kṛṣṇa. In other words, Kṛṣṇa expanded Himself in varieties of calves and cowherd boys and continued His pastimes uninterrupted for one year. As stated in *Bhagavad-gītā*, Kṛṣṇa's expansion is situated in everyone's heart as the Supersoul. Similarly, instead of expanding Himself as the Supersoul, He expanded Himself as a portion of calves and cowherd boys for one continuous year.

## TEXT 28

एकदा चारयन् वत्सान् सरामो वनमाविशत् ।  
पञ्चषासु त्रियामासु हायनापूरणीष्वजः ॥२८॥

*ekadā cārayan vatsān*  
*sa-rāmaḥ vanam āviśat*  
*pañca-śāsu tri-yāmāsu*  
*hāyanāpūraṇiṣv ajaḥ*

*ekadā*—one day; *cārayan vatsān*—while taking care of all the calves; *sa-rāmaḥ*—along with Balarāma; *vanam*—within the forest; *āviśat*—entered; *pañca-śāsu*—five or six; *tri-yāmāsu*—nights; *hāyana*—a whole year; *apūraṇiṣu*—not being fulfilled (five or six days before the completion of one year); *ajaḥ*—Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

## TRANSLATION

One day, five or six nights before the completion of the year, Kṛṣṇa, tending the calves, entered the forest along with Balarāma.

## PURPORT

Up to this time, even Balarāma was captivated by the bewilderment that covered Brahmā. Even Balarāma did not know that all the calves and

cowherd boys were expansions of Kṛṣṇa or that He Himself was also an expansion of Kṛṣṇa. This was disclosed to Balarāma just five or six days before the completion of the year.

## TEXT 29

ततो विदूराचरतो गावो वत्सानुपव्रजम् ।  
गोवर्धनाद्रिशिरसि चरन्त्यो ददृशुस्तृणम् ॥२९॥

*tato vidūrāc carato  
gāvo vatsān upavrajam  
govardhanādri-śirasi  
carantyo dadṛśus tṛṇam*

*tataḥ*—thereafter; *vidūrāt*—from a not-distant place; *carataḥ*—while pasturing; *gāvaḥ*—all the cows; *vatsān*—and their respective calves; *upavrajam*—also pasturing near Vṛndāvana; *govardhana-adri-śirasi*—on the top of Govardhana Hill; *carantyaḥ*—while pasturing to find; *dadṛśuḥ*—saw; *tṛṇam*—tender grass nearby.

## TRANSLATION

Thereafter, while pasturing atop Govardhana Hill, the cows looked down to find some green grass and saw their calves pasturing near Vṛndāvana, not very far away.

## TEXT 30

दृष्ट्वाथ तत्सनेहवशोऽस्मृतात्मा  
स गोव्रजोऽत्यात्मपदुर्गमार्गः ।  
द्विपात् ककुद्ग्रीव उदास्यपुच्छो-  
ऽगाद्धुकृतैरासुपया जवेन ॥३०॥

*dr̥ṣṭvātha tat-sneha-vaśo 'smṛtātmā  
sa go-vrajo 'tyātmapa-durga-mārgaḥ  
dvi-pāt kukud-grīva udāsyapuccho  
'gād dhukṛtair āsru-payā javena*



*dr̥ṣṭvā*—when the cows saw their calves below; *atha*—thereafter; *tat-sneha-vaśaḥ*—because of increased love for the calves; *asmṛta-ātmā*—as if they had forgotten themselves; *saḥ*—that; *go-vrajaḥ*—herd of cows; *ati-ātma-pa-durga-mārgaḥ*—escaping their caretakers because of increased affection for the calves, although the way was very rough and hard; *dvi-pāt*—pairs of legs together; *kakut-grīvaḥ*—their humps moving with their necks; *udāśya-pucchaḥ*—raising their heads and tails; *agāt*—came; *huñkr̥taiḥ*—lowing very loudly; *āśru-payāḥ*—with milk flowing from the nipples; *javena*—very forcibly.

### TRANSLATION

When the cows saw their own calves from the top of Govardhana Hill, they forgot themselves and their caretakers because of increased affection, and although the path was very rough, they ran toward their calves with great anxiety, each running as if with one pair of legs. Their milk bags full and flowing with milk, their heads and tails raised, and their humps moving with their necks, they ran forcefully until they reached their calves to feed them.

### PURPORT

Generally the calves and cows are pastured separately. The elderly men take care of the cows, and the small children see to the calves. This time, however, the cows immediately forgot their position as soon as they saw the calves below Govardhana Hill, and they ran with great force, their tails erect and their front and hind legs joined, until they reached their calves.

### TEXT 31

समेत्य गावोऽधो वत्सान् वत्सवत्योऽप्यपाययन् ।  
गिलन्त्य इव चाङ्गानि लिहन्त्यः स्वौधसं पयः ॥३१॥

*sametya gāvo 'dho vatsān*  
*vatsavatyo 'py apāyayan*  
*gilantya iva cāṅgāni*  
*lihantyaḥ svaudhasaṁ payaḥ*

*sametya*—assembling; *gāvah*—all the cows; *adhah*—down at the foot of Govardhana Hill; *vatsān*—all their calves; *vatsa-vatyah*—as if new calves had been born from them; *api*—even though new calves were present; *apāyayan*—fed them; *gilantyaḥ*—swallowing them; *iva*—as if; *ca*—also; *aṅgāni*—their bodies; *lihantyaḥ*—licking as they do when newborn calves are present; *sva-odhasam payaḥ*—their own milk flowing from the milk bags.

### TRANSLATION

The cows had given birth to new calves, but while coming down from Govardhana Hill, the cows, because of increased affection for the older calves, allowed the older calves to drink milk from their milk bags and then began licking the calves' bodies in anxiety, as if wanting to swallow them.

### TEXT 32

गोपास्तद्रोधनायासमौघ्यलज्जोरुमन्युना ।  
दुर्गाध्वकृच्छ्रतोऽभ्येत्य गोवत्सैर्ददृशुः सुतान् ॥३२॥

*gopās tad-rodhanāyāsa-*  
*maughya-lajjoru-manyunā*  
*durgādhva-kṛcchrato 'bhyetya*  
*go-vatsair dadṛśuḥ sutān*

*gopāḥ*—the cowherd men; *tat-rodhana-āyāsa*—of their attempt to stop the cows from going to their calves; *maughya*—on account of the frustration; *lajjā*—being ashamed; *uru-manyunā*—and at the same time becoming very angry; *durga-adhva-kṛcchrataḥ*—although they passed the very rough way with great difficulty; *abhyetya*—after reaching there; *go-vatsaiḥ*—along with the calves; *dadṛśuḥ*—saw; *sutān*—their respective sons.

### TRANSLATION

The cowherd men, having been unable to check the cows from going to their calves, felt simultaneously ashamed and angry. They

crossed the rough road with great difficulty, but when they came down and saw their own sons, they were overwhelmed by great affection.

### PURPORT

Everyone was increasing in affection for Kṛṣṇa. When the cowherd men coming down from the hill saw their own sons, who were no one else than Kṛṣṇa, their affection increased.

### TEXT 33

तदीक्षणोत्प्रेमरसाप्लुताशया  
जातानुरागा गतमन्यवोऽर्भकान् ।  
उदुब्ध दोभिः परिरभ्य मूर्धनि  
घ्राणैरवापुः परमां मुदं ते ॥३३॥

*tad-ikṣaṇotprema-rasāplutāśayā*  
*jātānurāgā gata-manyavo 'rbhakān*  
*uduhya dorbhiḥ parirabhya mūrdhani*  
*ghrāṇair avāpuḥ paramām mudam te*

*tat-ikṣaṇa-utprema-rasa-āpluta-āśayāḥ*—all the thoughts of the cowherd men merged in the mellow of paternal love, which was aroused by seeing their sons; *jāta-anurāgāḥ*—experiencing a great longing or attraction; *gata-manyavaḥ*—their anger disappeared; *arbhakān*—their young sons; *uduhya*—lifting; *dorbhiḥ*—with their arms; *parirabhya*—embracing; *mūrdhani*—on the head; *ghrāṇaiḥ*—by smelling; *avāpuḥ*—obtained; *paramām*—the highest; *mudam*—pleasure; *te*—those cowherd men.

### TRANSLATION

At that time, all the thoughts of the cowherd men merged in the mellow of paternal love, which was aroused by the sight of their sons. Experiencing a great attraction, their anger completely disappearing, they lifted their sons, embraced them in their arms and enjoyed the highest pleasure by smelling their sons' heads.

## PURPORT

After Brahmā stole the original cowherd boys and calves, Kṛṣṇa expanded Himself to become the boys and calves again. Therefore, because the boys were actually Kṛṣṇa's expansions, the cowherd men were especially attracted to them. At first the cowherd men, who were on top of the hill, were angry, but because of Kṛṣṇa the boys were extremely attractive, and therefore the cowherd men immediately came down from the hill with special affection.

## TEXT 34

ततः प्रवयसो गोपास्तोकास्तेषुनिर्वृताः ।  
 कृच्छ्राच्छनैरपगतास्तदनुस्मृत्युदश्रवः ॥३४॥

*tataḥ pravayaso gopās*  
*tokāśleṣa-sunirvṛtāḥ*  
*kṛcchrāc chanair apagatās*  
*tad-anusmṛty-udaśravaḥ*

*tataḥ*—thereafter; *pravayasah*—elderly; *gopāḥ*—cowherd men; *toka-āśleṣa-sunirvṛtāḥ*—became overjoyed by embracing their sons; *kṛcchrāt*—with difficulty; *śanaiḥ*—gradually; *apagatāḥ*—ceased from that embracing and returned to the forest; *tad-anusmṛti-uda-śravaḥ*—as they remembered their sons, tears began to roll down from their eyes.

## TRANSLATION

Thereafter the elderly cowherd men, having obtained great feeling from embracing their sons, gradually and with great difficulty and reluctance ceased embracing them and returned to the forest. But as the men remembered their sons, tears began to roll down from their eyes.

## PURPORT

In the beginning the cowherd men were angry that the cows were being attracted by the calves, but when the men came down from the hill, they themselves were attracted by their sons, and therefore the men embraced them. To embrace one's son and smell his head are symptoms of affection.

## TEXT 35

व्रजस्य रामः प्रेमर्धेर्वीक्ष्यौत्कण्ठ्यमतुक्षणम् ।  
मुक्तस्तनेष्वपत्येष्वप्यहेतुविदचिन्तयत् ॥३५॥

*vrajasya rāmaḥ premardher  
vīkṣyautkaṅṭhyam anukṣaṇam  
mukta-staneṣv apatyēṣv apy  
ahetu-vid acintayat*

*vrajasya*—of the herd of cows; *rāmaḥ*—Balarāma; *prema-ṛdheḥ*—because of an increase of affection; *vīkṣya*—after observing; *autkaṅṭhyam*—attachment; *anu-kṣaṇam*—constantly; *mukta-staneṣu*—who had grown up and were no longer drawing milk from their mothers; *apatyēṣu*—in regard to those calves; *api*—even; *ahetu-vid*—not understanding the reason; *acintayat*—began to consider as follows.

## TRANSLATION

Because of an increase of affection, the cows had constant attachment even to those calves that were grown up and had stopped sucking milk from their mothers. When Baladeva saw this attachment, He was unable to understand the reason for it, and thus He began to consider as follows.

## PURPORT

The cows had younger calves who had started sucking milk from their mothers, and some of the cows had newly given birth, but now, because of love, the cows enthusiastically showed their affection for the older calves, which had left off milking. These calves were grown up, but still the mothers wanted to feed them. Therefore Balarāma was a little surprised, and He wanted to inquire from Kṛṣṇa about the reason for their behavior. The mothers were actually more anxious to feed the older calves, although the new calves were present, because the older calves were expansions of Kṛṣṇa. These surprising events were taking place by the manipulation of *yogamāyā*. There are two *māyās* working under the direction of Kṛṣṇa—*mahāmāyā*, the energy of the material world, and *yogamāyā*, the energy of the spiritual world. These uncommon events were taking place because of the influence of *yogamāyā*. From the very

day on which Brahmā stole the calves and boys, *yogamāyā* acted in such a way that the residents of Vṛndāvana, including even Lord Balarāma, could not understand how *yogamāyā* was working and causing such uncommon things to happen. But as *yogamāyā* gradually acted, Balarāma in particular was able to understand what was happening, and therefore He inquired from Kṛṣṇa.

## TEXT 36

किमेतदद्भुतमिव वासुदेवेऽखिलात्मनि ।  
 ब्रजस्य सात्मनस्तोकेष्वपूर्वं प्रेम वर्धते ॥३६॥

*kim etad adbhutam iva  
 vāsudeve 'khillātmani  
 vrajasya sātmanas tokeṣu  
 apūrvam prema vardhate*

*kim*—what; *etat*—this; *adbhutam*—wonderful; *iva*—just as; *vāsudeve*—in Vāsudeva, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa; *akhila-ātmani*—the Supersoul of all living entities; *vrajasya*—of all the inhabitants of Vraja; *sa-ātmanah*—along with Me; *tokeṣu*—in these boys; *apūrvam*—unprecedented; *prema*—affection; *vardhate*—is increasing.

## TRANSLATION

What is this wonderful phenomenon? The affection of all the inhabitants of Vraja, including Me, toward these boys and calves is increasing as never before, just like our affection for Lord Kṛṣṇa, the Supersoul of all living entities.

## PURPORT

This increase of affection was not *māyā*; rather, because Kṛṣṇa had expanded Himself as everything and because the whole life of everyone in Vṛndāvana was meant for Kṛṣṇa, the cows, because of affection for Kṛṣṇa, had more affection for the older calves than for the new calves, and the men increased in their affection for their sons. Balarāma was astonished to see all the residents of Vṛndāvana so affectionate toward their own children, exactly as they had been for Kṛṣṇa. Similarly, the

cows had grown affectionate toward their calves—as much as toward Kṛṣṇa. Balarāma was surprised to see the acts of *yogamāyā*. Therefore He inquired from Kṛṣṇa, “What is happening here? What is this mystery?”

## TEXT 37

केयं वा कुत आयाता दैवी वा नार्युतासुरी ।  
 प्रायो मायास्तु मे भर्तुर्नान्या मेऽपि विमोहिनी ॥३७॥

*keyam vā kuta āyātā*  
*daiivī vā nāry utāsuri*  
*prāyo māyāstu me bhartur*  
*nānyā me 'pi vimohinī*

*kā*—who; *iyam*—this; *vā*—or; *kutaḥ*—from where; *āyātā*—has come; *daiivī*—whether demigod; *vā*—or; *nāri*—woman; *uta*—or; *āsuri*—demoness; *prāyaḥ*—in most cases; *māyā*—illusory energy; *astu*—she must be; *me*—My; *bhartuḥ*—of the master, Lord Kṛṣṇa; *na*—not; *anyā*—any other; *me*—My; *api*—certainly; *vimohinī*—bewilderer.

## TRANSLATION

Who is this mystic power, and where has she come from? Is she a demigod or a demoness? She must be the illusory energy of My master, Lord Kṛṣṇa, for who else can bewilder Me?

## PURPORT

Balarāma was surprised. This extraordinary show of affection, He thought, was something mystical, performed either by the demigods or some wonderful man. Otherwise, how could this wonderful change take place? “This *māyā* might be some *rākṣasī-māyā*,” He thought, “but how can *rākṣasī-māyā* have any influence upon Me? This is not possible. Therefore it must be the *māyā* of Kṛṣṇa.” He thus concluded that the mystical change must have been caused by Kṛṣṇa, whom Balarāma considered His worshipable Personality of Godhead. He thought, “It was arranged by Kṛṣṇa, and even I could not check its mystic power.” Thus Balarāma understood that all these boys and calves were only expansions of Kṛṣṇa.

## TEXT 38

इति सञ्चिन्त्य दाशार्हो वत्सान् सवयसानपि ।  
सर्वानाचष्ट वैकुण्ठं चक्षुषा वयुनेन सः ॥३८॥

*iti sañcintya dāsārha*  
*vatsān sa-vayasān api*  
*sarvān ācaṣṭa vaikunṭham*  
*caḅṣuṣā vayunena saḥ*

*iti sañcintya*—thinking in this way; *dāsārhaḥ*—Baladeva; *vatsān*—the calves; *sa-vayasān*—along with His companions; *api*—also; *sarvān*—all; *ācaṣṭa*—saw; *vaikunṭham*—as Śrī Kṛṣṇa only; *caḅṣuṣā vayunena*—with the eye of transcendental knowledge; *saḥ*—He (Baladeva).

## TRANSLATION

Thinking in this way, Lord Balarāma was able to see, with the eye of transcendental knowledge, that all these calves and Kṛṣṇa's friends were expansions of the form of Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

## PURPORT

Every individual is different. There are even differences between twin brothers. Yet when Kṛṣṇa expanded Himself as the boys and calves, each boy and each calf appeared in its own original feature, with the same individual way of acting, the same tendencies, the same color, the same dress, and so on, for Kṛṣṇa manifested Himself with all these differences. This was Kṛṣṇa's opulence.

## TEXT 39

नैते सुरेशा ऋषयो न चैते  
त्वमेव भासीश भिदाश्रयेऽपि ।  
सर्वं पृथक्त्वं निगमात् कथं वदे-  
त्युक्तेन वृत्तं प्रशुणा बलोऽवैत् ॥३९॥

*naite sureśā ṛṣayo na caite*  
*tvam eva bhāsīśa bhida-āśraye 'pi*



*sarvaṁ pṛthak tvam nigamāt katham vadety  
uktena vṛttam prabhuṇā balo 'vait*

*na*—not; *ete*—these boys; *sura-iśāḥ*—the best of the demigods; *ṛṣayaḥ*—great sages; *na*—not; *ca*—and; *ete*—these calves; *tvam*—You (Kṛṣṇa); *eva*—alone; *bhāsi*—are manifesting; *iśa*—O supreme controller; *bhit-āśraye*—in the existence of varieties of difference; *api*—even; *sarvam*—everything; *pṛthak*—existing; *tvam*—You (Kṛṣṇa); *nigamāt*—briefly; *katham*—how; *vada*—please explain; *iti*—thus; *uktena*—having been requested (by Baladeva); *vṛttam*—the situation; *prabhuṇā*—(having been explained) by Lord Kṛṣṇa; *balah*—Baladeva; *avait*—understood.

### TRANSLATION

Lord Baladeva said, “O supreme controller! These boys are not great demigods, as I previously thought. Nor are these calves great sages like Nārada. Now I can see that You alone are manifesting Yourself in all varieties of difference. Although one, You are existing in the different forms of the calves and boys. Please briefly explain this to Me.” Having thus been requested by Lord Baladeva, Kṛṣṇa explained the whole situation, and Baladeva understood it.

### PURPORT

Inquiring from Kṛṣṇa about the actual situation, Lord Balarāma said, “My dear Kṛṣṇa, in the beginning I thought that all these cows, calves and cowherd boys were either great sages and saintly persons or demigods, but at the present it appears that they are actually Your expansions. They are all You; You Yourself are playing as the calves and cows and boys. What is the mystery of this situation? Where have those other calves and cows and boys gone? And why are You expanding Yourself as the cows, calves and boys? Will You kindly tell Me what is the cause?” At the request of Balarāma, Kṛṣṇa briefly explained the whole situation: how the calves and boys were stolen by Brahmā and how He was concealing the incident by expanding Himself so that people would not know that the original cows, calves and boys were missing. Balarāma understood, therefore, that this was not *māyā* but Kṛṣṇa’s opulence. Kṛṣṇa has all opulences, and this was but another opulence of Kṛṣṇa.

“At first,” Lord Balarāma said, “I thought that these boys and calves

were a display of the power of great sages like Nārada, but now I see that all these boys and calves are You.” After inquiring from Kṛṣṇa, Lord Balarāma understood that Kṛṣṇa Himself had become many. That the Lord can do this is stated in the *Brahma-saṁhitā* (5.33). *Advaitam acyutam anādim ananta-rūpam*: although He is one, He can expand Himself in so many forms. According to the Vedic version, *ekam bahu syām*: He can expand Himself into many thousands and millions but still remain one. In that sense, everything is spiritual because everything is an expansion of Kṛṣṇa; that is, everything is an expansion either of Kṛṣṇa Himself or of His potency. Because the potency is nondifferent from the potent, the potency and the potent are one (*śakti-śaktimator abhedah*). The Māyāvādīs, however, say, *cid-acit-samanvayaḥ*: spirit and matter are one. This is a wrong conception. Spirit (*cit*) is different from matter (*acit*), as explained by Kṛṣṇa Himself in *Bhagavad-gītā* (7.4–5):

*bhūmir āpo ’nalo vāyuḥ  
khaṁ mano buddhir eva ca  
ahaṅkāra itiyam me  
bhinnā prakṛtir aṣṭadhā*

*apareyam itas tv anyāṁ  
prakṛtiṁ viddhi me parām  
jīva-bhūtāṁ mahā-bāho  
yayedam dhāryate jagat*

“Earth, water, fire, air, ether, mind, intelligence and false ego—all together these eight comprise My separated material energies. But besides this inferior nature, O mighty-armed Arjuna, there is a superior energy of Mine, which consists of all living entities who are struggling with material nature and are sustaining the universe.” Spirit and matter cannot be made one, for actually they are superior and inferior energies, yet the Māyāvādīs, or Advaita-vādīs, try to make them one. This is wrong. Although spirit and matter ultimately come from the same one source, they cannot be made one. For example, there are many things that come from our bodies, but although they come from the same source, they cannot be made one. We should be careful to note that al-

though the supreme source is one, the emanations from this source should be separately regarded as inferior and superior. The difference between the Māyāvāda and Vaiṣṇava philosophies is that the Vaiṣṇava philosophy recognizes this fact. Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's philosophy, therefore, is called *acintya-bhedābheda*—simultaneous oneness and difference. For example, fire and heat cannot be separated, for where there is fire there is heat and where there is heat there is fire. Nonetheless, although we cannot touch fire, heat we can tolerate. Therefore, although they are one, they are different.

## TEXT 40

तावदेत्यात्मभूरात्ममानेन त्रुद्यनेहसा ।  
पुरोवदाब्दं क्रीडन्तं ददृशे सकलं हरिम् ॥४०॥

*tāvad etyātmabhūr ātma-  
mānena truty-anehasā  
purovad ābdam kṛḍantam  
dadṛṣe sa-kalam harim*

*tāvat*—for so long; *etya*—after returning; *ātma-bhūḥ*—Lord Brahmā; *ātma-mānena*—by his (Brahmā's) own measurement; *truty-anehasā*—by a moment's time; *puraḥ-vat*—just as previously; *ā-abdam*—for one year (by human measurement of time); *kṛḍantam*—playing; *dadṛṣe*—he saw; *sa-kalam*—along with His expansions; *harim*—Lord Hari (Śrī Kṛṣṇa).

## TRANSLATION

When Lord Brahmā returned after a moment of time had passed (according to his own measurement), he saw that although by human measurement a complete year had passed, Lord Kṛṣṇa, after all that time, was engaged just as before in playing with the boys and calves, who were His expansions.

## PURPORT

Lord Brahmā had gone away for only a moment of his time, but when he returned, a year of human time had passed. On different planets, the

calculation of time is different. To give an example, a man-made satellite may orbit the earth in an hour and twenty-five minutes and thus complete one full day, although a day ordinarily takes twenty-four hours for those living on earth. Therefore, what was but a moment for Brahmā was one year on earth. Kṛṣṇa continued to expand Himself in so many forms for one year, but by the arrangement of *yogamāyā* no one could understand this but Balarāma.

After one moment of Brahmā's calculation, Brahmā came back to see the fun caused by his stealing the boys and calves. But he was also afraid that he was playing with fire. Kṛṣṇa was his master, and he had played mischief for fun by taking away Kṛṣṇa's calves and boys. He was really anxious, so he did not stay away very long; he came back after a moment (of his calculation). When Brahmā returned, he saw that all the boys, calves and cows were playing with Kṛṣṇa in the same way as when he had come upon them; by Kṛṣṇa's display of *yogamāyā*, the same pastimes were going on without any change.

On the day when Lord Brahmā had first come, Baladeva could not go with Kṛṣṇa and the cowherd boys, for it was His birthday, and His mother had kept Him back for the proper ceremonial bath, called *sāntika-snāna*. Therefore Lord Baladeva was not taken by Brahmā at that time. Now, one year later, Brahmā returned, and because he returned on exactly the same day, Baladeva was again kept at home for His birthday. Therefore, although this verse mentions that Brahmā saw Kṛṣṇa and all the cowherd boys, Baladeva is not mentioned. It was five or six days earlier that Baladeva had inquired from Kṛṣṇa about the extraordinary affection of the cows and cowherd men, but now, when Brahmā returned, Brahmā saw all the calves and cowherd boys playing with Kṛṣṇa as expansions of Kṛṣṇa, but he did not see Baladeva. As in the previous year, Lord Baladeva did not go to the woods on the day Lord Brahmā appeared there.

#### TEXT 41

यावन्तो गोकुले बालाः सवत्साः सर्व एव हि ।  
मायाशये शयाना मे नाद्यापि पुनरुत्थिताः ॥४१॥

*yāvanto gokule bālāḥ  
sa-vatsāḥ sarva eva hi*

*māyāśaye śayānā me  
nādyāpi punar utthitāḥ*

*yāvantaḥ*—whatsoever, as many as; *gokule*—in Gokula; *bālāḥ*—boys; *sa-vatsāḥ*—along with their calves; *sarve*—all; *eva*—indeed; *hi*—because; *māyā-āśaye*—on the bed of *māyā*; *śayānāḥ*—are sleeping; *me*—my; *na*—not; *adya*—today; *api*—even; *punaḥ*—again; *utthitāḥ*—have risen.

### TRANSLATION

Lord Brahmā thought: Whatever boys and calves there were in Gokula, I have kept them sleeping on the bed of my mystic potency, and to this very day they have not yet risen again.

### PURPORT

For one year Lord Brahmā kept the calves and boys lying down in a cave by his mystic power. Therefore when Brahmā saw Lord Kṛṣṇa still playing with all the cows and calves, he began trying to reason about what was happening. “What is this?” he thought. “Maybe I took those calves and cowherd boys away but now they have been taken from that cave. Is this what has happened? Has Kṛṣṇa brought them back here?” Then, however, Lord Brahmā saw that the calves and boys he had taken were still in the same mystic *māyā* into which he had put them. Thus he concluded that the calves and cowherd boys now playing with Kṛṣṇa were different from the ones in the cave. He could understand that although the original calves and boys were still in the cave where he had put them, Kṛṣṇa had expanded Himself and so the present demonstration of calves and boys consisted of expansions of Kṛṣṇa. They had the same features, the same mentality and the same intentions, but they were all Kṛṣṇa.

### TEXT 42

इत एतेऽत्र कुत्रत्या मन्मायामोहितेतरे ।  
तावन्त एव तत्राब्दं क्रीडन्तो विष्णुना समम् ॥४२॥

*ita ete 'tra kutrtyā  
man-māyā-mohitare*

*tāvanta eva tatrābdam  
krīḍanto viṣṇunā samam*

*itaḥ*—for this reason; *ete*—these boys with their calves; *atra*—here; *kutratyāḥ*—where have they come from; *mat-māyā-mohita-itare*—different from those who were mystified by my illusory potency; *tāvantaḥ*—the same number of boys; *eva*—indeed; *tatra*—there; *ā-abdam*—for one year; *krīḍantaḥ*—are playing; *viṣṇunā samam*—along with Kṛṣṇa.

### TRANSLATION

A similar number of boys and calves have been playing with Kṛṣṇa for one whole year, yet they are different from the ones illusioned by my mystic potency. Who are they? Where did they come from?

### PURPORT

Although appearing like calves, cows and cowherd boys, these were all Viṣṇu. Actually they were *viṣṇu-tattva*, not *jīva-tattva*. Brahmā was surprised. “The original cowherd boys and cows,” he thought, “are still where I put them last year. So who is it that is now keeping company with Kṛṣṇa exactly as before? Where have they come from?” Brahmā was surprised that his mystic power had been neglected. Without touching the original cows and cowherd boys kept by Brahmā, Kṛṣṇa had created another assembly of calves and boys, who were all expansions of *viṣṇu-tattva*. Thus Brahmā’s mystic power was superseded.

### TEXT 43

एवमेतेषु भेदेषु चिरं ध्यात्वा स आत्मभूः ।  
सत्याः के कतरे नेति ज्ञातुं नेष्टे कथञ्चन ॥४३॥

*evam eṣu bhedeṣu  
ciraṁ dhyātvā sa ātma-bhūḥ  
satyāḥ ke katāre neti  
jñāturṁ neṣṭe kathañcana*

*evam*—in this way; *eteṣu bhedeṣu*—between these boys, who were existing separately; *ciram*—for a long time; *dhyātvā*—after thinking; *saḥ*—he; *ātma-bhūḥ*—Lord Brahmā; *satyāḥ*—real; *ke*—who; *katāre*—who; *na*—are not; *iti*—thus; *jñātum*—to understand; *na*—not; *iṣṭe*—was able; *kathañcana*—in any way at all.

### TRANSLATION

Thus Lord Brahmā, thinking and thinking for a long time, tried to distinguish between those two sets of boys, who were each separately existing. He tried to understand who was real and who was not real, but he couldn't understand at all.

### PURPORT

Brahmā was puzzled. “The original boys and calves are still sleeping as I have kept them,” he thought, “but another set is here playing with Kṛṣṇa. How has this happened?” Brahmā could not grasp what was happening. Which boys were real, and which were not real? Brahmā was unable to come to any definite conclusion. He pondered the matter for a long while. “How can there be two sets of calves and boys at the same time? Have the boys and calves here been created by Kṛṣṇa, or has Kṛṣṇa created the ones lying asleep? Or are both merely creations of Kṛṣṇa?” Brahmā thought about the subject in many different ways. “After I go to the cave and see that the boys and calves are still there, does Kṛṣṇa go take them away and put them here so that I come here and see them, and does Kṛṣṇa then take them from here and put them there?” Brahmā could not figure out how there could be two sets of calves and cowherd boys exactly alike. Although thinking and thinking, he could not understand at all.

### TEXT 44

एवं सम्मोहयन् विष्णुं विमोहं विश्वमोहनम् ।  
स्वयैव माययाजोऽपि स्वयमेव विमोहितः ॥४४॥

*evam sammohayan viṣṇuṁ*  
*vimohaṁ viśva-mohanam*

*svayaiva māyayājo 'pi  
svayam eva vimohitaḥ*

*evam*—in this way; *sammohayan*—wanting to mystify; *viṣṇum*—the all-pervading Lord Kṛṣṇa; *vimoham*—who can never be mystified; *viśva-mohanam*—but who mystifies the entire universe; *svayā*—by his (Brahmā's) own; *eva*—indeed; *māyayā*—by mystic power; *ajaḥ*—Lord Brahmā; *api*—even; *svayam*—himself; *eva*—certainly; *vimohitaḥ*—was put into bewilderment, became mystified.

### TRANSLATION

Thus because Lord Brahmā wanted to mystify the all-pervading Lord Kṛṣṇa, who can never be mystified, but who, on the contrary, mystifies the entire universe, he himself was put into bewilderment by his own mystic power.

### PURPORT

Brahmā wanted to bewilder Kṛṣṇa, who bewilders the entire universe. The whole universe is under Kṛṣṇa's mystic power (*mama māyā duratyayā*), but Brahmā wanted to mystify Him. The result was that Brahmā himself was mystified, just as one who wants to kill another may himself be killed. In other words, Brahmā was defeated by his own attempt. In a similar position are the scientists and philosophers who want to overcome the mystic power of Kṛṣṇa. They challenge Kṛṣṇa, saying, "What is God? We can do this, and we can do that." But the more they challenge Kṛṣṇa in this way, the more they are implicated in suffering. The lesson here is that we should not try to overcome Kṛṣṇa. Rather, instead of endeavoring to surpass Him, we should surrender to Him (*sarva-dharmān parityajya mām ekaṁ śaraṇam vraja*).

Instead of defeating Kṛṣṇa, Brahmā himself was defeated, for he could not understand what Kṛṣṇa was doing. Since Brahmā, the chief person within this universe, was so bewildered, what is to be said of so-called scientists and philosophers? *Sarva-dharmān parityajya mām ekaṁ śaraṇam vraja*. We should give up all our tiny efforts to defy the arrangement of Kṛṣṇa. Instead, whatever arrangements He proposes, we should accept. This is always better, for this will make us happy. The



more we try to defeat the arrangement of Kṛṣṇa, the more we become implicated in Kṛṣṇa's *māyā* (*daivī hy eṣā guṇamayī mama māyā duratyayā*). But one who has reached the point of surrendering to the instructions of Kṛṣṇa (*mām eva ye prapadyante*) is liberated, free from *kṛṣṇa-māyā* (*māyām etām taranti te*). The power of Kṛṣṇa is just like a government that cannot be overcome. First of all there are laws, and then there is police power, and beyond that is military power. Therefore, what is the use of trying to overcome the power of the government? Similarly, what is the use of trying to challenge Kṛṣṇa?

From the next verse it is clear that Kṛṣṇa cannot be defeated by any kind of mystic power. If one gets even a little power of scientific knowledge, one tries to defy God, but actually no one is able to bewilder Kṛṣṇa. When Brahmā, the chief person within the universe, tried to bewilder Kṛṣṇa, he himself was bewildered and astonished. This is the position of the conditioned soul. Brahmā wanted to mystify Kṛṣṇa, but he himself was mystified.

The word *viṣṇum* is significant in this verse. Viṣṇu pervades the entire material world, whereas Brahmā merely occupies one subordinate post.

*yasyaika-niśvasita-kālam athāvalambya  
jīvanti loma-vilā-jā jagadaṇḍa-nāthāḥ*  
(*Brahma-saṁhitā* 5.48)

The word *nāthāḥ*, which refers to Lord Brahmā, is plural because there are innumerable universes and innumerable Brahmās. Brahmā is but a tiny force. This was exhibited in Dvārakā when Kṛṣṇa called for Brahmā. One day when Brahmā came to see Kṛṣṇa at Dvārakā, the doorman, at Lord Kṛṣṇa's request, asked, "Which Brahmā are you?" Later, when Brahmā inquired from Kṛṣṇa whether this meant that there was more than one Brahmā, Kṛṣṇa smiled and at once called for many Brahmās from many universes. The four-headed Brahmā of this universe then saw innumerable other Brahmās coming to see Kṛṣṇa and offer their respects. Some of them had ten heads, some had twenty, some had a hundred and some had a million heads. Upon seeing this wonderful exhibition, the four-headed Brahmā became nervous and began to think of himself as no more than a mosquito in the midst of many elephants. Therefore, what can Brahmā do to bewilder Kṛṣṇa?

## TEXT 45

तम्यां तमोवन्नैहारं खद्योतार्चिरिवाहनि ।  
महतीतरमायैश्यं निहन्त्यात्मनि युञ्जतः ॥४५॥

*tamyām tamovan naihāraṁ  
khadyotārcir ivāhani  
mahatītara-māyaiśyaṁ  
nihanty ātmani yuñjataḥ*

*tamyām*—on a dark night; *tamaḥ-vat*—just as darkness; *naihāram*—produced by snow; *khadyota-arcir*—the light of a glowworm; *iva*—just as; *ahani*—in the daytime, in the sunlight; *mahati*—in a great personality; *itara-māyā*—inferior mystic potency; *aiśyam*—the ability; *nihanti*—destroys; *ātmani*—in his own self; *yuñjataḥ*—of the person who attempts to use.

## TRANSLATION

As the darkness of snow on a dark night and the light of a glowworm in the light of day have no value, the mystic power of an inferior person who tries to use it against a person of great power is unable to accomplish anything; instead, the power of that inferior person is diminished.

## PURPORT

When one wants to supersede a superior power, one's own inferior power becomes ludicrous. Just as a glowworm in the daytime and snow at night have no value, Brahmā's mystic power became worthless in the presence of Kṛṣṇa, for greater mystic power condemns inferior mystic power. On a dark night, the darkness produced by snow has no meaning. The glowworm appears very important at night, but in the daytime its glow has no value; whatever little value it has is lost. Similarly, Brahmā became insignificant in the presence of Kṛṣṇa's mystic power. Kṛṣṇa's *māyā* was not diminished in value, but Brahmā's *māyā* was condemned. Therefore, one should not try to exhibit one's insignificant opulence before a greater power:

## TEXT 46

तावत् सर्वे वत्सपालाः पश्यतोऽजस्य तत्क्षणात् ।  
व्यदृश्यन्त घनश्यामाः पीतकौशेयवाससः ॥४६॥

*tāvat sarve vatsa-pālāḥ*  
*paśyato 'jasya tat-kṣaṇāt*  
*vyadrśyanta ghana-śyāmāḥ*  
*pīta-kauśeya-vāsasaḥ*

*tāvat*—so long; *sarve*—all; *vatsa-pālāḥ*—both the calves and the boys tending them; *paśyataḥ*—while he was watching; *ajasya*—of Lord Brahmā; *tat-kṣaṇāt*—immediately; *vyadrśyanta*—were seen; *ghana-śyāmāḥ*—as having a complexion resembling bluish rainclouds; *pīta-kauśeya-vāsasaḥ*—and dressed in yellow silk garments.

## TRANSLATION

Then, while Lord Brahmā looked on, all the calves and the boys tending them immediately appeared to have complexions the color of bluish rainclouds and to be dressed in yellow silken garments.

## PURPORT

While Brahmā was contemplating, all the calves and cowherd boys immediately transformed into *viṣṇu-mūrtis*, having bluish complexions and wearing yellow garments. Brahmā was contemplating his own power and the immense, unlimited power of Kṛṣṇa, but before he could come to a conclusion, he saw this immediate transformation.

## TEXTS 47-48

चतुर्भुजाः शङ्खचक्रगदारजीवपाणयः ।  
किरीटिनः कुण्डलिनो हारिणो वनमालिनः ॥४७॥  
श्रीवत्साङ्गददोरत्नकम्बुकङ्कणपाणयः ।  
नूपुरैः कटकैर्भाताः कटिसूत्राङ्गुलीयकैः ॥४८॥

*catur-bhujāḥ śaṅkha-cakra-  
gadā-rājīva-pāṇayah  
kirīṭīnaḥ kuṇḍalīno  
hāriṇo vana-māliṇaḥ*

*śrīvatsāṅgada-do-ratna-  
kambu-kaṅkaṇa-pāṇayah  
nūpuraiḥ kaṭakair bhātāḥ  
kaṭi-sūtrāṅgulīyakaiḥ*

*catur-bhujāḥ*—having four arms; *śaṅkha-cakra-gadā-rājīva-pāṇayah*—holding conchshell, disc, club and lotus flower in Their hands; *kirīṭīnaḥ*—bearing helmets on Their heads; *kuṇḍalīnaḥ*—wearing earrings; *hāriṇaḥ*—wearing pearl necklaces; *vana-māliṇaḥ*—wearing garlands of forest flowers; *śrīvatsa-aṅgada-do-ratna-kambu-kaṅkaṇa-pāṇayah*—bearing the emblem of the goddess of fortune on Their chests, armlets on Their arms, the Kaustubha gem on Their necks, which were marked with three lines like a conchshell, and bracelets on Their hands; *nūpuraiḥ*—with ornaments on the feet; *kaṭakaiḥ*—with bangles on Their ankles; *bhātāḥ*—appeared beautiful; *kaṭi-sūtra-aṅgulīyakaiḥ*—with sacred belts around the waist and with rings on the fingers.

### TRANSLATION

All those personalities had four arms, holding conchshell, disc, mace and lotus flower in Their hands. They wore helmets on Their heads, earrings on Their ears and garlands of forest flowers around Their necks. On the upper portion of the right side of Their chests was the emblem of the goddess of fortune. Furthermore, They wore armlets on Their arms, the Kaustubha gem around Their necks, which were marked with three lines like a conchshell, and bracelets on Their wrists. With bangles on Their ankles, ornaments on Their feet, and sacred belts around Their waists, They all appeared very beautiful.

### PURPORT

All the Viṣṇu forms had four arms, with conchshell and other articles, but these characteristics are also possessed by those who have attained

*sārūpya-mukti* in *Vaikuṅṭha* and who consequently have forms exactly like the form of the Lord. However, these *Viṣṇu* forms appearing before Lord *Brahmā* also possessed the mark of *Śrīvatsa* and the *Kaustubha* gem, which are special characteristics possessed only by the Supreme Lord Himself. This proves that all these boys and calves were in fact directly expansions of *Viṣṇu*, the Personality of Godhead, not merely His associates of *Vaikuṅṭha*. *Viṣṇu* Himself is included within *Kṛṣṇa*. All the opulences of *Viṣṇu* are already present in *Kṛṣṇa*, and consequently for *Kṛṣṇa* to demonstrate so many *Viṣṇu* forms was actually not very astonishing.

The *Śrīvatsa* mark is described by the *Vaiṣṇava-toṣaṇī* as being a curl of fine yellow hair on the upper portion of the right side of Lord *Viṣṇu*'s chest. This mark is not for ordinary devotees. It is a special mark of *Viṣṇu* or *Kṛṣṇa*.

## TEXT 49

आङ्घ्रिमस्तकमापूर्णास्तुलसीनवदामभिः ।  
कोमलैः सर्वगात्रेषु भूरिपुण्यवदार्पितैः ॥४९॥

*āṅghri-mastakam āpūrṇās*  
*tulasī-nava-dāmabhiḥ*  
*komalaiḥ sarva-gātreṣu*  
*bhūri-puṇyavad-arpitaiḥ*

*ā-āṅghri-mastakam*—from the feet up to the top of the head; *āpūr-ṇāḥ*—fully decorated; *tulasī-nava-dāmabhiḥ*—with garlands of fresh *tulasī* leaves; *komalaiḥ*—tender, soft; *sarva-gātreṣu*—on all the limbs of the body; *bhūri-puṇyavat-arpitaiḥ*—which were offered by devotees engaged in the greatest pious activity, worshipping the Supreme Lord by hearing, chanting and so on.

## TRANSLATION

Every part of Their bodies, from Their feet to the top of Their heads, was fully decorated with fresh, tender garlands of *tulasī* leaves offered by devotees engaged in worshipping the Lord by the greatest pious activities, namely hearing and chanting.

## PURPORT

The word *bhūri-puṇyavad-arpitaiḥ* is significant in this verse. These forms of Viṣṇu were worshiped by those who had performed pious activities (*sukṛtibhiḥ*) for many births and who were constantly engaged in devotional service (*śravaṇam kīrtanam viṣṇoḥ*). *Bhakti*, devotional service, is the engagement of those who have performed highly developed pious activities. The accumulation of pious activities has already been mentioned elsewhere in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (10.12.11), where Śukadeva Gosvāmī says,

*itthaṁ satām brahma-sukhānubhūtyā  
dāsyam gatānām para-daivatena  
māyāśritānām nara-dārakeṇa  
sākaṁ vijahruḥ kṛta-puṇya-puñjāḥ*

“Those who are engaged in self-realization, appreciating the Brahman effulgence of the Lord, and those engaged in devotional service, accepting the Supreme Personality of Godhead as master, as well as those who are under the clutches of *māyā*, thinking the Lord an ordinary person, cannot understand that certain exalted personalities—after accumulating volumes of pious activities—are now playing with the Lord in friendship as cowherd boys.”

In our Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Temple in Vṛndāvana, there is a *tamāla* tree that covers an entire corner of the courtyard. Before there was a temple the tree was lying neglected, but now it has developed very luxuriantly, covering the whole corner of the courtyard. This is a sign of *bhūri-puṇya*.

## TEXT 50

चन्द्रिकाविशदसरैः सारुणापाङ्गवीक्षितैः ।  
स्वकार्थानामिव रजःसत्त्वाभ्यां स्रष्टृपालकाः ॥५०॥

*candrikā-viśada-smeraiḥ  
sāruṇāpāṅga-vikṣitaiḥ  
svakāṛthānām iva rajah-  
sattvābhyām sraṣṭṛ-pālakāḥ*

*candrikā-viśada-smeraiḥ*—by pure smiling like the full, increasing moonlight; *sa-aruṇa-apāṅga-vikṣitaiḥ*—by the clear glances of Their reddish eyes; *svaka-arthānām*—of the desires of His own devotees; *iva*—just as; *rajaḥ-sattvābhyām*—by the modes of passion and goodness; *sraṣṭr-pālakāḥ*—were creators and protectors.

### TRANSLATION

Those Viṣṇu forms, by Their pure smiling, which resembled the increasing light of the moon, and by the sidelong glances of Their reddish eyes, created and protected the desires of Their own devotees, as if by the modes of passion and goodness.

### PURPORT

Those Viṣṇu forms blessed the devotees with Their clear glances and smiles, which resembled the increasingly full light of the moon (*śreyaḥ-kairava-candrikā-vitarāṇam*). As maintainers, They glanced upon Their devotees, embracing them and protecting them by smiling. Their smiles resembled the mode of goodness, protecting all the desires of the devotees, and the glancing of Their eyes resembled the mode of passion. Actually, in this verse the word *rajaḥ* means not “passion” but “affection.” In the material world, *rajo-guṇa* is passion, but in the spiritual world it is affection. In the material world, affection is contaminated by *rajo-guṇa* and *tamo-guṇa*, but in the *śuddha-sattva* the affection that maintains the devotees is transcendental.

The word *svakāṛthānām* refers to great desires. As mentioned in this verse, the glance of Lord Viṣṇu creates the desires of the devotees. A pure devotee, however, has no desires. Therefore Sanātana Gosvāmī comments that because the desires of devotees whose attention is fixed on Kṛṣṇa have already been fulfilled, the Lord’s sidelong glances create variegated desires in relation to Kṛṣṇa and devotional service. In the material world, desire is a product of *rajo-guṇa* and *tamo-guṇa*, but desire in the spiritual world gives rise to a variety of everlasting transcendental service. Thus the word *svakāṛthānām* refers to eagerness to serve Kṛṣṇa.

In Vṛndāvana there is a place where there was no temple, but a devotee desired, “Let there be a temple and *sevā*, devotional service.” Therefore, what was once an empty corner has now become a place of pilgrimage. Such are the desires of a devotee.

## TEXT 51

आत्मादिस्तम्बपर्यन्तैर्मूर्तिमद्भिश्चराचरैः ।  
 नृत्यगीताद्यनेकार्हेः पृथक् पृथगुपासिताः ॥५१॥

*ātmādi-stamba-paryantair  
 mūrtimadbhiś carācaraiḥ  
 nṛtya-gītādy-anekārhaiḥ  
 pṛthak pṛthag upāsītāḥ*

*ātma-ādi-stamba-paryantaiḥ*—from Lord Brahmā to the insignificant living entity; *mūrti-madbhiḥ*—assuming some form; *cara-acaraiḥ*—both the moving and the nonmoving; *nṛtya-gīta-ādi-aneka-arhaiḥ*—by many varied means of worship, such as dancing and singing; *pṛthak pṛthak*—differently; *upāsītāḥ*—who were being worshiped.

## TRANSLATION

All beings, both moving and nonmoving, from the four-headed Lord Brahmā down to the most insignificant living entity, had taken forms and were differently worshipping those viṣṇu-mūrtis, according to their respective capacities, with various means of worship, such as dancing and singing.

## PURPORT

Innumerable living entities are engaged in different types of worship of the Supreme, according to their abilities and *karma*, but everyone is engaged (*jīvera 'svarūpa' haya—kṛṣṇera 'nitya-dāsa'*); there is no one who is not serving. Therefore the *mahā-bhāgavata*, the topmost devotee, sees everyone as being engaged in the service of Kṛṣṇa; only himself does he see as not engaged. We have to elevate ourselves from a lower position to a higher position, and the topmost position is that of direct service in Vṛndāvana. But everyone is engaged in service. Denial of the service of the Lord is *māyā*.

*ekale īśvara kṛṣṇa, āra saba bhṛtya  
 yāre yaiche nācāya, se taiche kare nṛtya*



“Only Kṛṣṇa is the supreme master, and all others are His servants. As Kṛṣṇa desires, everyone dances according to His tune.” (Cc. *Ādi* 5.142)

There are two kinds of living entities—the moving and the nonmoving. Trees, for example, stand in one place, whereas ants move. Brahmā saw that all of them, down to the smallest creatures, had assumed different forms and were accordingly engaged in the service of Lord Viṣṇu.

One receives a form according to the way one worships the Lord. In the material world, the body one receives is guided by the demigods. This is sometimes referred to as the influence of the stars. As indicated in *Bhagavad-gītā* (3.27) by the words *prakṛteḥ kriyamāṇāni*, according to the laws of nature one is controlled by the demigods.

All living entities are serving Kṛṣṇa in different ways, but when they are Kṛṣṇa conscious, their service is fully manifest. As a flower in the bud gradually fructifies and yields its desired aroma and beauty, so when a living entity comes to the platform of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, the beauty of his real form comes into full blossom. That is the ultimate beauty and the ultimate fulfillment of desire.

#### TEXT 52

अणिमाद्यैर्महिमभिरजाद्याभिर्विभूतिभिः ।  
चतुर्विंशतिभिस्तत्त्वैः परीता महदादिभिः ॥५२॥

*aṇimādyair mahimabhir*  
*ajādyābhir vibhūtibhiḥ*  
*catur-vimśatibhis tattvaih*  
*paritā mahad-ādibhiḥ*

*aṇimā-ādyaiḥ*—headed by *aṇimā*; *mahimabhiḥ*—by opulences; *ajā-ādyābhiḥ*—headed by *Ajā*; *vibhūtibhiḥ*—by potencies; *catur-vimśatibhiḥ*—twenty-four in number; *tattvaih*—by elements for the creation of the material world; *paritāḥ*—(all the *viṣṇu-mūrtis*) were surrounded; *mahat-ādibhiḥ*—headed by the *mahat-tattva*.

#### TRANSLATION

All the *viṣṇu-mūrtis* were surrounded by the opulences, headed by *aṇimā-siddhi*; by the mystic potencies, headed by *Ajā*; and by

the twenty-four elements for the creation of the material world, headed by the mahat-tattva.

### PURPORT

In this verse the word *mahimabhiḥ* means *aiśvarya*, or opulence. The Supreme Personality of Godhead can do whatever He likes. That is His *aiśvarya*. No one can command Him, but He can command everyone. *Ṣaḍ-aiśvarya-pūrṇam*. The Lord is full in six opulences. The *yoga-siddhis*, the perfections of *yoga*, such as the ability to become smaller than the smallest (*aṇimā-siddhi*) or bigger than the biggest (*mahimā-siddhi*), are present in Lord Viṣṇu. *Ṣaḍ-aiśvaryaḥ pūrṇo ya iha bhagavān* (Cc. *Ādi* 1.3). The word *ajā* means *māyā*, or mystic power. Everything mysterious is in full existence in Viṣṇu.

The twenty-four elements mentioned are the five working senses (*pañca-karmendriya*), the five senses for obtaining knowledge (*pañca-jñānendriya*), the five gross material elements (*pañca-mahābhūta*), the five sense objects (*pañca-tanmātra*), the mind (*manas*), the false ego (*ahaṅkāra*), the *mahat-tattva*, and material nature (*prakṛti*). All twenty-four of these elements are employed for the manifestation of this material world. The *mahat-tattva* is divided into different subtle categories, but originally it is called the *mahat-tattva*.

### TEXT 53

कालस्वभावसंस्कारकामकर्मगुणादिभिः ।  
स्वप्दिचस्तपदिभिर्पूतिषद्विर्यासिताः ॥५३॥

*kāla-svabhāva-saṁskāra-  
kāma-karma-guṇādibhiḥ  
sva-mahi-dhvasta-mahibhir  
mūrtimadbhir upāsitāḥ*

*kāla*—by the time factor; *svabhāva*—own nature; *saṁskāra*—reformation; *kāma*—desire; *karma*—fruitive action; *guṇa*—the three modes of material nature; *ādibhiḥ*—and by others; *sva-mahi-dhvasta-mahibhiḥ*—whose own independence was subordinate to the potency of the Lord; *mūrti-madbhiḥ*—possessing form; *upāsitāḥ*—were being worshiped.

## TRANSLATION

Then Lord Brahmā saw that *kāla* (the time factor), *svabhāva* (one's own nature by association), *saṁskāra* (reformation), *kāma* (desire), *karma* (fruitive activity) and the *guṇas* (the three modes of material nature), their own independence being completely subordinate to the potency of the Lord, had all taken forms and were also worshipping those *viṣṇu-mūrtis*.

## PURPORT

No one but Viṣṇu has any independence. If we develop consciousness of this fact, then we are in actual Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We should always remember that Kṛṣṇa is the only supreme master and that everyone else is His servant (*ekale īśvara kṛṣṇa, āra saba bhṛtya*). Be one even Nārāyaṇa or Lord Śiva, everyone is subordinate to Kṛṣṇa (*śiva-virīñcīnutam*). Even Baladeva is subordinate to Kṛṣṇa. This is a fact.

*ekale īśvara kṛṣṇa, āra saba bhṛtya*  
*yāre yaiche nācāya, se taiche kare nrtya*  
 (Cc. Ādi 5.142)

One should understand that no one is independent, for everything is part and parcel of Kṛṣṇa and is acting and moving by the supreme desire of Kṛṣṇa. This understanding, this consciousness, is Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

*yas tu nārāyaṇaṁ devaṁ*  
*brahma-rudrādi-daivataiḥ*  
*samatvenaiva vīkṣeta*  
*sa pāṣaṇḍī bhaved dhruvam*

“A person who considers demigods like Brahmā and Śiva to be on an equal level with Nārāyaṇa must certainly be considered an offender.” No one can compare to Nārāyaṇa, or Kṛṣṇa. Kṛṣṇa is Nārāyaṇa, and Nārāyaṇa is also Kṛṣṇa, for Kṛṣṇa is the original Nārāyaṇa. Brahmā himself addresses Kṛṣṇa, *nārāyaṇas tvaṁ na hi sarva-dehinām*: “You are also Nārāyaṇa. Indeed, You are the original Nārāyaṇa.” (*Bhāg.* 10.14.14)

*Kāla*, or the time factor, has many assistants, such as *svabhāva*, *saṁskāra*, *kāma*, *karma* and *guṇa*. *Svabhāva*, or one's own nature, is

formed according to the association of the material qualities. *Kāraṇam guṇa-saṅgo 'sya sad-asad-yoni-janmasu* (Bg. 13.22). *Sat* and *asat-svabhāva*—one's higher or lower nature—is formed by association with the different qualities, namely *sattva-guṇa*, *rajo-guṇa* and *tamo-guṇa*. We should gradually come to the *sattva-guṇa*, so that we may avoid the two lower *guṇas*. This can be done if we regularly discuss Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam and hear about Kṛṣṇa's activities. *Naṣṭa-prāyeṣv abhadreṣu nityam bhāgavata-sevayā* (Bhāg. 1.2.18). All the activities of Kṛṣṇa described in Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, beginning even with the pastimes concerning Pūtanā, are transcendental. Therefore, by hearing and discussing Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, the *rajo-guṇa* and *tamo-guṇa* are subdued, so that only *sattva-guṇa* remains. Then *rajo-guṇa* and *tamo-guṇa* cannot do us any harm.

*Varṇāśrama-dharma*, therefore, is essential, for it can bring people to *sattva-guṇa*. *Tadā rajas-tamo-bhāvāḥ kāma-lobhādayaś ca ye* (Bhāg. 1.2.19). *Tamo-guṇa* and *rajo-guṇa* increase lust and greed, which implicate a living entity in such a way that he must exist in this material world in many, many forms. That is very dangerous. One should therefore be brought to *sattva-guṇa* by the establishment of *varṇāśrama-dharma* and should develop the brahminical qualifications of being very neat and clean, rising early in the morning and seeing *maṅgala-ārātrika*, and so on. In this way, one should stay in *sattva-guṇa*, and then one cannot be influenced by *tamo-guṇa* and *rajo-guṇa*.

*tadā rajas-tamo-bhāvāḥ  
kāma-lobhādayaś ca ye  
ceta etair anāviddham  
sthitaṁ sattve prasīdati  
(Bhāg. 1.2.19)*

The opportunity for this purification is the special feature of human life; in other lives, this is not possible. Such purification can be achieved very easily by *rādhā-kṛṣṇa-bhajana*, devotional service rendered to Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa, and therefore Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura sings, *hari hari viphale janama goṅāinu*, indicating that unless one worships Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, one's human form of life is wasted. *Vāsudeve bhagavati bhakti-yogaḥ prayojitaḥ janayaty āśu vairāgyam* (Bhāg. 1.2.7). By

engagement in the service of Vāsudeva, one very quickly renounces material life. The members of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, for example, being engaged in *vāsudeva-bhakti*, very quickly come to the stage of being nice Vaiṣṇavas, so much so that people are surprised that *mlecchas* and *yavanas* are able to come to this stage. This is possible by *vāsudeva-bhakti*. But if we do not come to the stage of *sattva-guṇa* in this human life, then, as Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura sings, *hari hari viphale janama goñāinu*—there is no profit in gaining this human form of life.

Śrī Vīrarāghava Ācārya comments that each of the items mentioned in the first half of this verse is a cause for material entanglement. *Kāla*, or the time factor, agitates the modes of material nature, and *svabhāva* is the result of association with these modes. Therefore Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura says, *bhakta-sane vāsa*. If one associates with *bhaktas*, then one's *svabhāva*, or nature, will change. Our Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is meant to give people good association so that this change may take place, and we actually see that by this method people all over the world are gradually becoming devotees.

As for *saṁskāra*, or reformation, this is possible by good association, for by good association one develops good habits, and habit becomes second nature. Therefore, *bhakta-sane vāsa*: let people have the chance to live with *bhaktas*. Then their habits will change. In the human form of life one has this chance, but as Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura sings, *hari hari viphale janama goñāinu*: if one fails to take advantage of this opportunity, one's human life is wasted. We are therefore trying to save human society from degradation and actually elevate people to the higher nature.

As for *kāma* and *karma*—desires and activities—if one engages in devotional service, one develops a different nature than if one engages in activities of sense gratification, and of course the result is also different. According to the association of different natures, one receives a particular type of body. *Kāraṇam guṇa-saṅgo 'sya sad-asad-yoni-janmasu* (Bg. 13.22). Therefore we should always seek good association, the association of devotees. Then our life will be successful. A man is known by his company. If one has the chance to live in the good association of devotees, one is able to cultivate knowledge, and naturally one's character or nature will change for one's eternal benefit.

## TEXT 54

सत्यज्ञानानन्तानन्दमात्रैकरसमूर्तयः ।  
 असृष्टभूरिमाहात्म्या अपि ह्यपनिषद्दृशाम् ॥५४॥

*satya-jñānānantānanda-  
 mātraika-rasa-mūrtayah  
 asrṣṭa-bhūri-māhātmyā  
 api hy upaniṣad-dṛśām*

*satya*—eternal; *jñāna*—having full knowledge; *ananta*—unlimited; *ānanda*—fully blissful; *mātra*—only; *eka-rasa*—always existing; *mūrtayah*—forms; *asrṣṭa-bhūri-māhātmyāḥ*—whose great glory is not touched; *api*—even; *hi*—because; *upaniṣat-dṛśām*—by those *jñānīs* who are engaged in studying the *Upaniṣads*.

## TRANSLATION

The *viṣṇu-mūrtis* all had eternal, unlimited forms, full of knowledge and bliss and existing beyond the influence of time. Their great glory was not even to be touched by the *jñānīs* engaged in studying the *Upaniṣads*.

## PURPORT

Mere *sāstra-jñāna*, or knowledge in the *Vedas*, does not help anyone understand the Personality of Godhead. Only one who is favored or shown mercy by the Lord can understand Him. This is also explained in the *Upaniṣads* (*Muṇḍaka Up.* 3.2.3):

*nāyam ātmā pravacanena labhyo  
 na medhasā na bahunā śrutena  
 yam evaiṣa vṛṇute tena labhyas  
 tasyaiṣa ātmā vivṛṇute tanurṅ svām*

“The Supreme Lord is not obtained by expert explanations, by vast intelligence, or even by much hearing. He is obtained only by one whom He Himself chooses. To such a person, He manifests His own form.”

One description given of Brahman is *satyaṁ brahma, ānanda-rūpam*: “Brahman is the Absolute Truth and complete *ānanda*, or bliss.” The forms of Viṣṇu, the Supreme Brahman, were one, but They were manifested differently. The followers of the *Upaniṣads*, however, cannot understand the varieties manifested by Brahman. This proves that Brahman and Paramātmā can actually be understood only through devotion, as confirmed by the Lord Himself in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (*bhaktiyāham ekayā grāhyaḥ, Bhāg. 11.14.21*). To establish that Brahman indeed has transcendental form, Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura gives various quotations from the *śāstras*. In the *Śvetāśvatara Upaniṣad* (3.8), the Supreme is described as *āditya-varṇam tamasaḥ parastāt*, “He whose self-manifest form is luminous like the sun and transcendental to the darkness of ignorance.” *Ānanda-mātram ajaram purāṇam ekam santam bahudhā drśyamānam*: “The Supreme is blissful, with no tinge of unhappiness. Although He is the oldest, He never ages, and although one, He is experienced in different forms.” *Sarve nityāḥ śāśvatās ca dehās tasya parātmanaḥ*: “All the forms of that Supreme Person are eternal.” (*Mahā-varāha Purāṇa*) The Supreme Person has a form, with hands and legs and other personal features, but His hands and legs are not material. *Bhaktas* know that the form of Kṛṣṇa, or Brahman, is not at all material. Rather, Brahman has a transcendental form, and when one is absorbed in it, being fully developed in *bhakti*, one can understand Him (*premāñjana-cchurita-bhakti-vilocanena*). The Māyāvādīs, however, cannot understand this transcendental form, for they think that it is material.

Transcendental forms of the Supreme Personality of Godhead in His person are so great that the impersonal followers of the *Upaniṣads* cannot reach the platform of knowledge to understand them. Particularly, the transcendental forms of the Lord are beyond the reach of the impersonalists, who can only understand, through the studies of the *Upaniṣads*, that the Absolute Truth is not matter and that the Absolute Truth is not materially restricted by limited potency.

Yet although Kṛṣṇa cannot be seen through the *Upaniṣads*, in some places it is said that Kṛṣṇa can in fact be known in this way. *Aupaniṣadam puruṣam*: “He is known by the *Upaniṣads*.” This means that when one is purified by Vedic knowledge, one is then allowed to enter into devotional understanding (*mad-bhaktiṁ labhate parām*).

*tac chraddadhānā munayo  
jñāna-vairagya-yuktayā  
paśyanty ātmani cātmānaṁ  
bhaktyā śruta-gṛhītayā*

“The seriously inquisitive student or sage, well equipped with knowledge and detachment, realizes that Absolute Truth by rendering devotional service in terms of what he has heard from the *Vedānta-śruti*.” (*Bhāg.* 1.2.12) The word *śruta-gṛhītayā* refers to *Vedānta* knowledge, not sentimentality. *Śruta-gṛhīta* is sound knowledge.

Lord Viṣṇu, Brahmā thus realized, is the reservoir of all truth, knowledge and bliss. He is the combination of these three transcendental features, and He is the object of worship for the followers of the *Upaniṣads*. Brahmā realized that all the different forms of cows, boys and calves transformed into Viṣṇu forms were not transformed by mysticism of the type that a *yogī* or demigod can display by specific powers invested in him. The cows, calves and boys transformed into *viṣṇu-mūrtis*, or Viṣṇu forms, were not displays of *viṣṇu-māyā*, or Viṣṇu energy, but were Viṣṇu Himself. The respective qualifications of Viṣṇu and *viṣṇu-māyā* are just like those of fire and heat. In heat there is the qualification of fire, namely warmth; and yet heat is not fire. The manifestation of the Viṣṇu forms of the boys, cows and calves was not like the heat, but rather like the fire—they were all actually Viṣṇu. Factually, the qualification of Viṣṇu is full truth, full knowledge and full bliss. Another example may be given with material objects, which may be reflected in many, many forms. For example, the sun is reflected in many waterpots, but the reflections of the sun in many pots are not actually the sun. There is no actual heat and light from the sun in the pot, although it appears as the sun. But each and every one of the forms Kṛṣṇa assumed was fully Viṣṇu.

We should discuss *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* daily as much as possible, and then everything will be clarified, for *Bhāgavatam* is the essence of all Vedic literature (*nigama-kalpataror galitaṁ phalam*). It was written by Vyāsadeva (*mahāmuni-kṛte*) when he was self-realized. Thus the more we read *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, the more its knowledge becomes clear. Each and every verse is transcendental.



## TEXT 55

एवं सकृद् ददर्शजः परब्रह्मात्मनोऽखिलान् ।  
यस्य भासा सर्वमिदं विमाति सचराचरम् ॥५५॥

*evam sakṛd dadarśajah  
para-brahmātmano 'khillān  
yasya bhāsā sarvam idam  
vibhāti sa-carācaram*

*evam*—thus; *sakṛt*—at one time; *dadarśa*—saw; *ajah*—Lord Brahmā; *para-brahma*—of the Supreme Absolute Truth; *ātmanah*—expansions; *akhilān*—all the calves and boys, etc.; *yasya*—of whom; *bhāsā*—by the manifestation; *sarvam*—all; *idam*—this; *vibhāti*—is manifested; *sa-cara-acaram*—whatever is moving and nonmoving.

## TRANSLATION

Thus Lord Brahmā saw the Supreme Brahman, by whose energy this entire universe, with its moving and nonmoving living beings, is manifested. He also saw at the same time all the calves and boys as the Lord's expansions.

## PURPORT

By this incident, Lord Brahmā was able to see how Kṛṣṇa maintains the entire universe in different ways. It is because Kṛṣṇa manifests everything that everything is visible.

## TEXT 56

ततोऽतिकुतुकोद्भृत्यस्तिमितैकादशेन्द्रियः ।  
तद्धान्नाभूदजस्तूष्णीं पूर्वेव्यन्तीव पुत्रिका ॥५६॥

*tato 'tikutukodvṛtya-  
stimitaikādaśendriyaḥ  
tad-dhāmnābhūd ajas tūṣṇīm  
pūr-devy-antīva putrikā*

*tataḥ*—then; *atikutuka-udvṛtya-stimīta-ekādaśa-indriyaḥ*—whose eleven senses had all been jolted by great astonishment and then stunned by transcendental bliss; *tad-dhāmnā*—by the effulgence of those *viṣṇu-mūrtis*; *abhūt*—became; *ajāḥ*—Lord Brahmā; *tūṣṇīm*—silent; *pūḥ-devī-anti*—in the presence of a village deity (*grāmya-devatā*); *iva*—just as; *putrikā*—a clay doll made by a child.

### TRANSLATION

Then, by the power of the effulgence of those *viṣṇu-mūrtis*, Lord Brahmā, his eleven senses jolted by astonishment and stunned by transcendental bliss, became silent, just like a child's clay doll in the presence of the village deity.

### PURPORT

Brahmā was stunned because of transcendental bliss (*muhyanti yat sūrayaḥ*). In his astonishment, all his senses were stunned, and he was unable to say or do anything. Brahmā had considered himself absolute, thinking himself the only powerful deity, but now his pride was subdued, and he again became merely one of the demigods—an important demigod, of course, but a demigod nonetheless. Brahmā, therefore, cannot be compared to God—Kṛṣṇa, or Nārāyaṇa. It is forbidden to compare Nārāyaṇa even to demigods like Brahmā and Śiva, what to speak of others.

*yas tu nārāyaṇaṁ devaṁ  
brahma-rudrādi-daivataiḥ  
samatvenaiva vīkṣeta  
sa pāṣaṇḍī bhaved dhruvam*

“One who considers demigods like Brahmā and Śiva to be on an equal level with Nārāyaṇa must certainly be considered an offender.” We should not equate the demigods with Nārāyaṇa, for even Śaṅkarācārya has forbidden this (*nārāyaṇaḥ paro ’vyaktāt*). Also, as mentioned in the *Vedas*, *eko nārāyaṇa āsīn na brahmā neśānaḥ*: “In the beginning of creation there was only the Supreme Personality, Nārāyaṇa, and there was no existence of Brahmā or Śiva.” Therefore, one who at the end of his

life remembers Nārāyaṇa attains the perfection of life (*ante nārāyaṇa-smṛtiḥ*).

## TEXT 57

इतीरेशेऽतर्क्ये निजमहिमनि स्वप्रमितिके  
 परत्राजातोऽतन्निरसनमुखब्रह्मकमितौ ।  
 अनीशेऽपि द्रष्टुं किमिदमिति वा मुह्यति सति  
 चछादाजो ज्ञात्वा सपदि परमोऽजाजवनिकाम् ॥५७॥

*itīreśe 'tarkye nija-mahimani sva-pramitike  
 paratrājāto 'tan-nirasana-mukha-brahmaka-mitau  
 anīśe 'pi draṣṭuṃ kim idam iti vā muhyati sati  
 cacchādājo jñātvā sapadi paramo 'jā-javanikām*

*iti*—thus; *irā-īśe*—Lord Brahmā, the lord of Sarasvatī (Irā); *atarkeye*—beyond; *nija-mahimani*—whose own glory; *sva-pramitike*—self-manifest and blissful; *paratra*—beyond; *ajātaḥ*—the material energy (*prakṛti*); *atat*—irrelevant; *nirasana-mukha*—by the rejection of that which is irrelevant; *brahmaka*—by the crest jewels of the *Vedas*; *mitau*—in whom there is knowledge; *anīśe*—not being able; *api*—even; *draṣṭuṃ*—to see; *kim*—what; *idam*—is this; *iti*—thus; *vā*—or; *muhyati sati*—being mystified; *cacchāda*—removed; *ajah*—Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa; *jñātvā*—after understanding; *sapadi*—at once; *paramaḥ*—the greatest of all; *ajā-javanikām*—the curtain of *māyā*.

## TRANSLATION

The Supreme Brahman is beyond mental speculation, He is self-manifest, existing in His own bliss, and He is beyond the material energy. He is known by the crest jewels of the Vedas by refutation of irrelevant knowledge. Thus in relation to that Supreme Brahman, the Personality of Godhead, whose glory had been shown by the manifestation of all the four-armed forms of Viṣṇu, Lord Brahmā, the lord of Sarasvatī, was mystified. “What is this?” he thought, and then he was not even able to see. Lord Kṛṣṇa, understanding Brahmā’s position, then at once removed the curtain of His *yogamāyā*.

## PURPORT

Brahmā was completely mystified. He could not understand what he was seeing, and then he was not even able to see. Lord Kṛṣṇa, understanding Brahmā's position, then removed that *yogamāyā* covering. In this verse, Brahmā is referred to as *ireśa*. *Irā* means Sarasvatī, the goddess of learning, and Ireśa is her husband, Lord Brahmā. Brahmā, therefore, is most intelligent. But even Brahmā, the lord of Sarasvatī, was bewildered about Kṛṣṇa. Although he tried, he could not understand Lord Kṛṣṇa. In the beginning the boys, the calves and Kṛṣṇa Himself had been covered by *yogamāyā*, which later displayed the second set of calves and boys, who were Kṛṣṇa's expansions, and which then displayed so many four-armed forms. Now, seeing Brahmā's bewilderment, Lord Kṛṣṇa caused the disappearance of that *yogamāyā*. One may think that the *māyā* taken away by Lord Kṛṣṇa was *mahāmāyā*, but Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura comments that it was *yogamāyā*, the potency by which Kṛṣṇa is sometimes manifest and sometimes not manifest. The potency which covers the actual reality and displays something unreal is *mahāmāyā*, but the potency by which the Absolute Truth is sometimes manifest and sometimes not is *yogamāyā*. Therefore, in this verse the word *ajā* refers to *yogamāyā*.

Kṛṣṇa's energy—His *māyā-śakti*, or *svarūpa-śakti*—is one, but it is manifested in varieties. *Parāśya śaktir vividhauva śrūyate* (*Śvetāśvatara Up.* 6.8). The difference between Vaiṣṇavas and Māyāvādīs is that Māyāvādīs say that this *māyā* is one, whereas Vaiṣṇavas recognize its varieties. There is unity in variety. For example, in one tree, there are varieties of leaves, fruits and flowers. Varieties of energy are required for performing the varieties of activity within the creation. To give another example, in a machine all the parts may be iron, but the machine includes varied activities. Although the whole machine is iron, one part works in one way, and other parts work in other ways. One who does not know how the machine is working may say that it is all iron; nonetheless, in spite of its being iron, the machine has different elements, all working differently to accomplish the purpose for which the machine was made. One wheel runs this way, another wheel runs that way, functioning naturally in such a way that the work of the machine goes on. Consequently we give different names to the different parts of the machine, saying, "This is a wheel," "This is a screw," "This is a spindle," "This

is the lubrication,” and so on. Similarly, as explained in the *Vedas*,

*parāśya śaktir vividhaiva śrūyate  
svābhāvīkī jñāna-bala-kriyā ca*

Kṛṣṇa’s power is variegated, and thus the same *śakti*, or potency, works in variegated ways. *Vividhā* means “varieties.” There is unity in variety. Thus *yogamāyā* and *mahāmāyā* are among the varied individual parts of the same one potency, and all of these individual potencies work in their own varied ways. The *saṁvit*, *sandhini* and *āhlādinī* potencies—Kṛṣṇa’s potency for existence, His potency for knowledge and His potency for pleasure—are distinct from *yogamāyā*. Each is an individual potency. The *āhlādinī* potency is Rādhārāṇī. As Svarūpa Dāmodara Gosvāmī has explained, *rādhā kṛṣṇa-praṇaya-vikṛtir hlādinī śaktir asmāt* (Cc. Ādi 1.5). The *āhlādinī-śakti* is manifested as Rādhārāṇī, but Kṛṣṇa and Rādhārāṇī are the same, although one is potent and the other is potency.

Brahmā was mystified about Kṛṣṇa’s opulence (*nija-mahimani*) because this opulence was *atarhya*, or inconceivable. With one’s limited senses, one cannot argue about that which is inconceivable. Therefore the inconceivable is called *acintya*, that which is beyond *cintya*, our thoughts and arguments. *Acintya* refers to that which we cannot contemplate but have to accept. Śrīla Jīva Gosvāmī has said that unless we accept *acintya* in the Supreme, we cannot accommodate the conception of God. This must be understood. Therefore we say that the words of *śāstra* should be taken as they are, without change, since they are beyond our arguments. *Acintyāḥ khalu ye bhāvā na tāms tarkṣya yojayet*: “That which is *acintya* cannot be ascertained by argument.” People generally argue, but our process is not to argue but to accept the Vedic knowledge as it is. When Kṛṣṇa says, “This is superior, and this is inferior,” we accept what He says. It is not that we argue, “Why is this superior and that inferior?” If one argues, for him the knowledge is lost.

This path of acceptance is called *avaroha-panthā*. The word *avaroha* is related to the word *avatāra*, which means “that which descends.” The materialist wants to understand everything by the *āroha-panthā*—by argument and reason—but transcendental matters cannot be understood in this way. Rather, one must follow the *avaroha-panthā*, the process of

descending knowledge. Therefore one must accept the *paramparā* system. And the best *paramparā* is that which extends from Kṛṣṇa (*evam paramparā-prāptam*). What Kṛṣṇa says, we should accept (*imam rājarṣayo viduḥ*). This is called the *avaroha-panthā*.

Brahmā, however, adopted the *āroha-panthā*. He wanted to understand Kṛṣṇa's mystic power by his own limited, conceivable power, and therefore he himself was mystified. Everyone wants to take pleasure in his own knowledge, thinking, "I know something." But in the presence of Kṛṣṇa this conception cannot stand, for one cannot bring Kṛṣṇa within the limitations of *prakṛti*. One must submit. There is no alternative. *Na tāms tarkeṇa yojayet*. This submission marks the difference between Kṛṣṇa-ites and Māyāvādis.

The phrase *atan-nirasana* refers to the discarding of that which is irrelevant. (*Atat* means "that which is not a fact.") Brahman is sometimes described as *asthūlam anaṅv ahraśvam adīrgham*, "that which is not large and not small, not short and not long." (*Bṛhad-āraṇyaka Up.* 5.8.8) *Neti neti*: "It is not this, it is not that." But what is it? In describing a pencil, one may say, "It is not this; it is not that," but this does not tell us what it is. This is called definition by negation. In *Bhagavad-gītā*, Kṛṣṇa also explains the soul by giving negative definitions. *Na jāyate mriyate vā*: "It is not born, nor does it die. You can hardly understand more than this." But what is it? It is eternal. *Ajo nityaḥ śāśvato 'yaṁ purāṇo na hanyate hanyamāne śarīre*: "It is unborn, eternal, ever-existing, undying and primeval. It is not slain when the body is slain." (Bg. 2.20) In the beginning the soul is difficult to understand, and therefore Kṛṣṇa has given negative definitions:

*nainam chindanti śastrāṇi  
nainam dahati pāvakaḥ  
na cainam kledayanty āpo  
na śoṣayati mārutaḥ*

"The soul can never be cut into pieces by any weapon, nor can it be burned by fire, nor moistened by water, nor withered by the wind." (Bg. 2.23) Kṛṣṇa says, "It is not burned by fire." Therefore, one has to imagine what it is that is not burned by fire. This is a negative definition.

## TEXT 58

ततोऽर्वाकं प्रतिलब्धाक्षः कः परेतवदुत्थितः ।  
 कृच्छ्रादुन्मील्य वै दृष्टीराचष्टेदं सहात्मना ॥५८॥

*tato 'rvāk pratilabdhākṣaḥ  
 kaḥ paretavad utthitaḥ  
 kṛcchrād unmīlya vai dr̥ṣṭīr  
 ācaṣṭedarī sahātmanā*

*tataḥ*—then; *arvāk*—externally; *pratilabdha-akṣaḥ*—having revived his consciousness; *kaḥ*—Lord Brahmā; *pareta-vat*—just like a dead man; *utthitaḥ*—stood up; *kṛcchrāt*—with great difficulty; *unmīlya*—opening up; *vai*—indeed; *dr̥ṣṭīḥ*—his eyes; *ācaṣṭa*—he saw; *idam*—this universe; *saha-ātmanā*—along with himself.

## TRANSLATION

Lord Brahmā's external consciousness then revived, and he stood up, just like a dead man coming back to life. Opening his eyes with great difficulty, he saw the universe, along with himself.

## PURPORT

We actually do not die. At death, we are merely kept inert for some time, just as during sleep. At night we sleep, and all our activities stop, but as soon as we arise, our memory immediately returns, and we think, “Oh, where am I? What do I have to do?” This is called *suptothitanyāya*. Suppose we die. “Die” means that we become inert for some time and then again begin our activities. This takes place life after life, according to our *karma*, or activities, and *svabhāva*, or nature by association. Now, in the human life, if we prepare ourselves by beginning the activity of our spiritual life, we return to our real life and attain perfection. Otherwise, according to *karma*, *svabhāva*, *prakṛti* and so on, our varieties of life and activity continue, and so also do our birth and death. As explained by Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, *māyāra vaśe, yāccha bhese, khāccha hābuḍubu bhāi*: “My dear brothers, why are you being washed

away by the waves of *māyā*?" One should come to the spiritual platform, and then one's activities will be permanent. *Kṛta-puṇya-puñjāḥ*: this stage is attained after one accumulates the results of pious activities for many, many lives. *Janma-koṭi-sukṛtair na labhyate* (Cc. *Madhya* 8.70). The Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement wants to stop *koṭi-janma*, repeated birth and death. In one birth, one should rectify everything and come to permanent life. This is Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

## TEXT 59

सपद्येवाभितः पश्यन् दिशोऽपश्यत् पुरः स्थितम् ।

वृन्दावनं जनाजीव्यद्रुमाकीर्णं समाप्रियम् ॥५९॥

*sapady evābhitāḥ paśyan*  
*dīśo 'paśyat puraḥ-sthitam*  
*vṛndāvanam janājīvyā-*  
*drumākīrṇam samā-priyam*

*sapady*—immediately; *eva*—indeed; *abhitāḥ*—on all sides; *paśyan*—looking; *dīśaḥ*—in the directions; *apaśyat*—Lord Brahmā saw; *puraḥ-sthitam*—situated in front of him; *vṛndāvanam*—Vṛndāvana; *janājīvyā-druma-ākīrṇam*—dense with trees, which were the means of living for the inhabitants; *samā-priyam*—and which was equally pleasing in all seasons.

## TRANSLATION

Then, looking in all directions, Lord Brahmā immediately saw Vṛndāvana before him, filled with trees, which were the means of livelihood for the inhabitants and which were equally pleasing in all seasons.

## PURPORT

*Janājīvyā-drumākīrṇam*: trees and vegetables are essential, and they give happiness all year round, in all seasons. That is the arrangement in Vṛndāvana. It is not that in one season the trees are pleasing and in another season not pleasing; rather, they are equally pleasing throughout the seasonal changes. Trees and vegetables provide the real



means of livelihood recommended for everyone. *Sarva-kāma-dughā mahī* (*Bhāg.* 1.10.4). Trees and vegetables, not industry, provide the real means of life.

## TEXT 60

यत्र नैसर्गदुर्वैराः सहासन् नृमृगादयः ।  
मित्राणीवाजितावासद्भुतरुद्रर्षकादिकम् ॥६०॥

*yatra naisarga-durvairāḥ*  
*sahāsan nṛ-mṛgādayaḥ*  
*mitrāṇīvājītāvāsa-*  
*druta-ruḍ-ṛṣakādīkam*

*yatra*—where; *naisarga*—by nature; *durvairāḥ*—living in enmity; *saha āsan*—live together; *nṛ*—human beings; *mṛga-ādayaḥ*—and animals; *mitrāṇī*—friends; *iva*—like; *ajita*—of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa; *āvāsa*—residence; *druta*—gone away; *ruḍ*—anger; *ṛṣaka-ādīkam*—thirst and so on.

## TRANSLATION

Vṛndāvana is the transcendental abode of the Lord, where there is no hunger, anger or thirst. Though naturally inimical, both human beings and fierce animals live there together in transcendental friendship.

## PURPORT

The word *vana* means “forest.” We are afraid of the forest and do not wish to go there, but in Vṛndāvana the forest animals are as good as demigods, for they have no envy. Even in this material world, in the forest the animals live together, and when they go to drink water they do not attack anyone. Envy develops because of sense gratification, but in Vṛndāvana there is no sense gratification, for the only aim is Kṛṣṇa’s satisfaction. Even in this material world, the animals in Vṛndāvana are not envious of the *sādhus* who live there. The *sādhus* keep cows and supply milk to the tigers, saying, “Come here and take a little milk.” Thus envy and malice are unknown in Vṛndāvana. That is the difference between Vṛndāvana and the ordinary world. We are horrified to hear the

name of *vana*, the forest, but in Vṛndāvana there is no such horror. Everyone there is happy by pleasing Kṛṣṇa. *Kṛṣṇotkīrtana-gāna-nar-tana-parau*. Whether a *govāmī* or a tiger or other ferocious animal, everyone's business is the same—to please Kṛṣṇa. Even the tigers are also devotees. This is the specific qualification of Vṛndāvana. In Vṛndāvana everyone is happy. The calf is happy, the cat is happy, the dog is happy, the man is happy—everyone. Everyone wants to serve Kṛṣṇa in a different capacity, and thus there is no envy. One may sometimes think that the monkeys in Vṛndāvana are envious, because they cause mischief and steal food, but in Vṛndāvana we find that the monkeys are allowed to take butter, which Kṛṣṇa Himself distributes. Kṛṣṇa personally demonstrates that everyone has the right to live. This is Vṛndāvana life. Why should I live and you die? No. That is material life. The inhabitants of Vṛndāvana think, “Whatever is given by Kṛṣṇa, let us divide it as *prasāda* and eat.” This mentality cannot appear all of a sudden, but it will gradually develop with Kṛṣṇa consciousness; by *sādhana*, one can come to this platform.

In the material world one may collect funds all over the world in order to distribute food freely, yet those to whom the food is given may not even feel appreciative. The value of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, however, will gradually be very much appreciated. For instance, in an article about the temple of the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement in Durban, South Africa, the *Durban Post* reported, “All the devotees here are very active in the service of Lord Kṛṣṇa, and the results are obvious to see: happiness, good health, peace of mind, and the development of all good qualities.” This is the nature of Vṛndāvana. *Harāv abhaktasya kuto mahad-guṇāḥ*: without Kṛṣṇa consciousness, happiness is impossible; one may struggle, but one cannot have happiness. We are therefore trying to give human society the opportunity for a life of happiness, good health, peace of mind and all good qualities through God consciousness.

### TEXT 61

तत्रोद्धत् पशुपवंशशिशुत्वनाट्यं  
 ब्रह्माद्वयं परमनन्तमगाधबोधम् ।  
 वत्सान् सखीनिव पुरा परितो विचिन्व-  
 देकं सपाणिकवलं परमेष्ठयच्चष्ट ॥६१॥

*tatrodvahat paśupa-varṁśa-śiśutva-nāṭyam*  
*brahmādvayam param anantam agādha-bodham*  
*vatsān sakhīn iva purā parito vicinvat*  
*ekam sa-pāṇi-kavalam parameṣṭhy acaṣṭa*

*tatra*—there (in Vṛndāvana); *udvahat*—assuming; *paśupa-varṁśa-śiśutva-nāṭyam*—the play of being a child in a family of cowherd men (another of Kṛṣṇa’s names is Gopāla, “He who maintains the cows”); *brahma*—the Absolute Truth; *advayam*—without a second; *param*—the Supreme; *anantam*—unlimited; *agādha-bodham*—possessing unlimited knowledge; *vatsān*—the calves; *sakhīn*—and His friends, the boys; *iva purā*—just as before; *paritaḥ*—everywhere; *vicinvat*—searching; *ekam*—alone, all by Himself; *sa-pāṇi-kavalam*—with a morsel of food in His hand; *parameṣṭhī*—Lord Brahmā; *acaṣṭa*—saw.

### TRANSLATION

Then Lord Brahmā saw the Absolute Truth—who is one without a second, who possesses full knowledge and who is unlimited—assuming the role of a child in a family of cowherd men and standing all alone, just as before, with a morsel of food in His hand, searching everywhere for the calves and His cowherd friends.

### PURPORT

The word *agādha-bodham*, meaning “full of unlimited knowledge,” is significant in this verse. The Lord’s knowledge is unlimited, and therefore one cannot touch where it ends, just as one cannot measure the ocean. What is the extent of our intelligence in comparison to the vast expanse of water in the ocean? On my passage to America, how insignificant the ship was, like a matchbox in the midst of the ocean. Kṛṣṇa’s intelligence resembles the ocean, for one cannot imagine how vast it is. The best course, therefore, is to surrender to Kṛṣṇa. Don’t try to measure Kṛṣṇa.

The word *advayam*, meaning “one without a second,” is also significant. Because Brahmā was overcast by Kṛṣṇa’s *māyā*, he was thinking himself the Supreme. In the material world, everyone thinks, “I am the best man in this world. I know everything.” One thinks, “Why should I read *Bhagavad-gītā*? I know everything. I have my own interpretation.”

Brahmā, however, was able to understand that the Supreme Personality is Kṛṣṇa. *Īśvaraḥ paramaḥ kṛṣṇaḥ*. Another of Kṛṣṇa's names, therefore, is *parameśvara*.

Now Brahmā saw Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, appearing as a cowherd boy in Vṛndāvana, not demonstrating His opulence but standing just like an innocent boy with some food in His hand, loitering with His cowherd boyfriends, calves and cows. Brahmā did not see Kṛṣṇa as *catur-bhuja*, the opulent Nārāyaṇa; rather, he simply saw an innocent boy. Nonetheless, he could understand that although Kṛṣṇa was not demonstrating His power, He was the same Supreme Person. People generally do not appreciate someone unless he shows something wonderful, but here, although Kṛṣṇa did not manifest anything wonderful, Brahmā could understand that the same wonderful person was present like an ordinary child, although He was the master of the whole creation. Thus Brahmā prayed, *govindam ādi-puruṣam tam aham bhajāmi*: “You are the original person, the cause of everything. I bow down to You.” This was his realization. *Tam aham bhajāmi*. This is what is wanted. *Vedeṣu durlabham*: one cannot reach Kṛṣṇa merely by Vedic knowledge. *Adurlabham ātma-bhaktau*: but when one becomes a devotee, then one can realize Him. Brahmā, therefore, became a devotee. In the beginning he was proud of being Brahmā, the lord of the universe, but now he understood, “Here is the Lord of the universe. I am simply an insignificant agent. *Govindam ādi-puruṣam tam aham bhajāmi*.”

Kṛṣṇa was playing like a dramatic actor. Because Brahmā had some false prestige, thinking that he had some power, Kṛṣṇa showed him his real position. A similar incident occurred when Brahmā went to see Kṛṣṇa in Dvārakā. When Kṛṣṇa's doorman informed Lord Kṛṣṇa that Lord Brahmā had arrived, Kṛṣṇa responded, “Which Brahmā? Ask him which Brahmā.” The doorman relayed this question, and Brahmā was astonished. “Is there another Brahmā besides me?” he thought. When the doorman informed Lord Kṛṣṇa, “It is four-headed Brahmā,” Lord Kṛṣṇa said, “Oh, four-headed. Call others. Show him.” This is Kṛṣṇa's position. For Kṛṣṇa the four-headed Brahmā is insignificant, to say nothing of “four-headed scientists.” Materialistic scientists think that although this planet earth is full of opulence, all others are vacant. Because they simply speculate, this is their scientific conclusion. But from the *Bhāgavatam* we understand that the entire universe is full of living en-

tities everywhere. Thus it is the folly of the scientists that although they do not know anything, they mislead people by presenting themselves as scientists, philosophers and men of knowledge.

## TEXT 62

दृष्ट्वा त्वरेण निजधोरणतोऽवतीर्य  
 पृथ्व्यां वपुः कनकदण्डमिवाभिपात्य ।  
 स्पृष्ट्वा चतुर्मुकुटकोटिभिरङ्घ्रियुग्मं  
 नत्वा मुदश्रुसुजलैरकृताभिषेकम् ॥६२॥

*dr̥ṣṭvā tvareṇa nija-dhoraṇato 'vatīrya*  
*pr̥thvyām vapuḥ kanaka-daṇḍam ivābhipātya*  
*spr̥ṣṭvā catur-mukūṭa-koṭibhir aṅghri-yugmam*  
*natvā mud-aśru-sujalair akṛtābhiṣekam*

*dr̥ṣṭvā*—after seeing; *tvareṇa*—with great speed, hastily; *nija-dhoraṇataḥ*—from his swan carrier; *avatīrya*—descended; *pr̥thvyām*—on the ground; *vapuḥ*—his body; *kanaka-daṇḍam iva*—like a golden rod; *abhipātya*—fell down; *spr̥ṣṭvā*—touching; *catur-mukūṭa-koṭibhir*—with the tips of his four crowns; *aṅghri-yugmam*—the two lotus feet; *natvā*—making obeisances; *mut-aśru-su-jalaiḥ*—with the water of his tears of joy; *akṛta*—performed; *abhiṣekam*—the ceremony of bathing His lotus feet.

## TRANSLATION

After seeing this, Lord Brahmā hastily got down from his swan carrier, fell down like a golden rod and touched the lotus feet of Lord Kṛṣṇa with the tips of the four crowns on his heads. Offering his obeisances, he bathed the feet of Kṛṣṇa with the water of his tears of joy.

## PURPORT

Lord Brahmā bowed down like a stick, and because Lord Brahmā's complexion is golden, he appeared to be like a golden stick lying down before Lord Kṛṣṇa. When one falls down before a superior just like a stick, one's offering of obeisances is called *daṇḍavat*. *Daṇḍa* means

“stick,” and *vat* means “like.” It is not that one should simply say, “*daṇḍavat*.” Rather, one must fall down. Thus Brahmā fell down, touching his foreheads to the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa, and his crying in ecstasy is to be regarded as an *abhiṣeka* bathing ceremony of Kṛṣṇa’s lotus feet.

He who appeared before Brahmā as a human child was in fact the Absolute Truth, Parabrahman (*brahmeti paramātmēti bhagavān iti śabd-yate*). The Supreme Lord is *narākṛti*; that is, He resembles a human being. It is not that He is four-armed (*catur-bāhu*). Nārāyaṇa is *catur-bāhu*, but the Supreme Person resembles a human being. This is also confirmed in the Bible, where it is said that man was made in the image of God.

Lord Brahmā saw that Kṛṣṇa, in His form as a cowherd boy, was Parabrahman, the root cause of everything, but was now appearing as a human child, loitering in Vṛndāvana with a morsel of food in His hand. Astonished, Lord Brahmā hastily got down from his swan carrier and let his body fall to the earth. Usually, the demigods never touch the ground, but Lord Brahmā, voluntarily giving up his prestige as a demigod, bowed down on the ground before Kṛṣṇa. Although Brahmā has one head in each direction, he voluntarily brought all his heads to the ground and touched Kṛṣṇa’s feet with the tips of his four helmets. Although his intelligence works in every direction, he surrendered everything before the boy Kṛṣṇa.

It is mentioned that Brahmā washed the feet of Kṛṣṇa with his tears, and here the word *sujalaiḥ* indicates that his tears were purified. As soon as *bhakti* is present, everything is purified (*sarvopādhi-vinirmuktam*). Therefore Brahmā’s crying was a form of *bhakti-anubhāva*, a transformation of transcendental ecstatic love.

### TEXT 63

उत्थायोत्थाय कृष्णस्य चिरस्य पादयोः पतन् ।  
आस्ते महित्वं प्राग्दृष्टं स्मृत्वा स्मृत्वा पुनः पुनः॥६३॥

*utthāyothāya kṛṣṇasya  
cirasya pādayoḥ patan  
āste mahitvaṁ prāg-dṛṣṭam  
smṛtvā smṛtvā punaḥ punaḥ*

*utthāya utthāya*—rising repeatedly; *kṛṣṇasya*—of Lord Kṛṣṇa; *cirasya*—for a long time; *pādayoḥ*—at the lotus feet; *patan*—falling down; *āste*—remained; *mahitvam*—the greatness; *prāk-dṛṣtam*—which he had previously seen; *smṛtvā smṛtvā*—remembering and remembering; *punaḥ punaḥ*—again and again.

### TRANSLATION

Rising and falling again and again at the lotus feet of Lord Kṛṣṇa for a long time, Lord Brahmā remembered over and over the Lord's greatness he had just seen.

### PURPORT

As stated in one prayer,

*śrutim apare smṛtim itare  
bhāratam anye bhajantu bhava-bhītāḥ  
aham iha nandaṁ vande  
yasyālinde param brahma*

“Let others study the *Vedas*, *smṛti* and *Mahābhārata*, fearing material existence, but I shall worship Nanda Mahārāja, in whose courtyard is crawling the Supreme Brahman. Nanda Mahārāja is so great that the Parabrahman is crawling in his yard, and therefore I shall worship him.” (*Padyāvali* 126)

Brahmā was falling down in ecstasy. Because of the presence of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who exactly resembled a human child, Brahmā was naturally astonished. Therefore with a faltering voice he offered prayers, understanding that here was the Supreme Person.

### TEXT 64

शनैरथोत्थाय विमृज्य लोचने  
मुकुन्दमुद्गीक्ष्य विनम्रकन्धरः ।  
कृताञ्जलिः प्रश्रयवान् समाहितः  
सवेपथुर्गद्गदयैलतेलया

॥६४॥

*śanair athothāya vimrjya locane  
mukundam udvikṣya vinamra-kandharah  
kṛtāñjaliḥ praśrayavān samāhitaḥ  
sa-vepathur gadgadayatelayā*

*śanaiḥ*—gradually; *atha*—then; *utthāya*—rising; *vimrjya*—wiping; *locane*—his two eyes; *mukundam*—at Mukunda, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa; *udvikṣya*—looking up; *vinamra-kandharah*—his neck bent; *kṛtāñjaliḥ*—with folded hands; *praśraya-vān*—very humble; *samāhitaḥ*—his mind concentrated; *sa-vepathuḥ*—his body trembling; *gadgadayā*—faltering; *ailata*—Brahmā began to offer praise; *īlayā*—with words.

### TRANSLATION

Then, rising very gradually and wiping his two eyes, Lord Brahmā looked up at Mukunda. Lord Brahmā, his head bent low, his mind concentrated and his body trembling, very humbly began, with faltering words, to offer praises to Lord Kṛṣṇa.

### PURPORT

Brahmā, being very joyful, began to shed tears, and he washed the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa with his tears. Repeatedly he fell and rose as he recalled the wonderful activities of the Lord. After repeating obeisances for a long time, Brahmā stood up and smeared his hands over his eyes. Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura comments that the word *locane* indicates that with his two hands he wiped the two eyes on each of his four faces. Seeing the Lord before him, Brahmā began to offer prayers with great humility, respect and attention.

*Thus end the Bhaktivedanta purports of the Tenth Canto, Thirteenth Chapter, of the Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, entitled “The Stealing of the Boys and Calves by Brahmā.”*



# **Appendixes**

## The Author

His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda appeared in this world in 1896 in Calcutta, India. He first met his spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī, in Calcutta in 1922. Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī, a prominent religious scholar and the founder of sixty-four Gauḍīya Maṭhas (Vedic institutes), liked this educated young man and convinced him to dedicate his life to teaching Vedic knowledge. Śrīla Prabhupāda became his student, and eleven years later (1933) at Allahabad he became his formally initiated disciple.

At their first meeting, in 1922, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Thākura requested Śrīla Prabhupāda to broadcast Vedic knowledge through the English language. In the years that followed, Śrīla Prabhupāda wrote a commentary on the *Bhāgavad-gītā*, assisted the Gauḍīya Maṭha in its work and, in 1944, without assistance, started an English fortnightly magazine, edited it, typed the manuscripts and checked the galley proofs. He even distributed the individual copies and struggled to maintain the publication. Once begun, the magazine never stopped; it is now being continued by his disciples in the West and is published in nineteen languages.

Recognizing Śrīla Prabhupāda's philosophical learning and devotion, the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Society honored him in 1947 with the title "Bhaktivedanta." In 1950, at the age of fifty-four, Śrīla Prabhupāda retired from married life, adopting the *vānaprastha* (retired) order to devote more time to his studies and writing. Śrīla Prabhupāda traveled to the holy city of Vṛndāvana, where he lived in very humble circumstances in the historic medieval temple of Rādhā-Dāmodara. There he engaged for several years in deep study and writing. He accepted the renounced order of life (*sannyāsa*) in 1959. At Rādhā-Dāmodara, Śrīla Prabhupāda began work on his life's masterpiece: a multivolume translation of and commentary on the eighteen-thousand-verse *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (*Bhāgavata Purāna*). He also wrote *Easy Journey to Other Planets*.

After publishing three volumes of the *Bhāgavatam*, Śrīla Prabhupāda came to the United States, in 1965, to fulfill the mission of his spiritual master. Subsequently, His Divine Grace wrote more than sixty volumes

of authoritative translations, commentaries and summary studies of the philosophical and religious classics of India.

In 1965, when he first arrived by freighter in New York City, Śrīla Prabhupāda was practically penniless. It was after almost a year of great difficulty that he established the International Society for Krishna Consciousness in July of 1966. Before his passing away on November 14, 1977, he guided the Society and saw it grow to a worldwide confederation of more than one hundred *āśramas*, schools, temples, institutes and farm communities.

In 1968, Śrīla Prabhupāda created New Vrindaban, an experimental Vedic community in the hills of West Virginia. Inspired by the success of New Vrindaban, now a thriving farm community of more than one thousand acres, his students have since founded several similar communities in the United States and abroad.

In 1972, His Divine Grace introduced the Vedic system of primary and secondary education in the West by founding the Gurukula school in Dallas, Texas. Since then, under his supervision, his disciples have established children's schools throughout the United States and the rest of the world. As of 1978, there are ten *gurukula* schools worldwide, with the principal educational center now located in Vṛndāvana, India.

Śrīla Prabhupāda also inspired the construction of several large international cultural centers in India. The center at Śrīdhāma Māyāpur in West Bengal is the site for a planned spiritual city, an ambitious project for which construction will extend over the next decade. In Vṛndāvana, India, is the magnificent Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Temple and International Guesthouse. There is also a major cultural and educational center in Bombay. Other centers are planned in a dozen other important locations on the Indian subcontinent.

Śrīla Prabhupāda's most significant contribution, however, is his books. Highly respected by the academic community for their authoritativeness, depth and clarity, they are used as standard textbooks in numerous college courses. His writings have been translated into twenty-eight languages. The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, established in 1972 exclusively to publish the works of His Divine Grace, has thus become the world's largest publisher of books in the field of Indian religion and philosophy.

In just twelve years, in spite of his advanced age, Śrīla Prabhupāda circled the globe fourteen times on lecture tours that took him to six continents. In spite of such a vigorous schedule, Śrīla Prabhupāda continued to write prolifically. His writings constitute a veritable library of Vedic philosophy, religion, literature and culture.

## References

The purports of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* are all confirmed by standard Vedic authorities. The following authentic scriptures are specifically cited in this volume:

*Bhagavad-gītā*, 17, 40, 55, 58, 59, 68

*Brahma-saṁhitā*, 3, 21, 40, 47

*Bṛhad-āranyaka Upaniṣad*, 68

*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, 54–55, 56, 57, 67, 70

*Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad*, 60

*Padyāvali*, 77

*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, 13, 14, 17, 52, 57, 58, 61, 62, 71

*Śvetāśvatara Upaniṣad*, 15, 61, 66

# Glossary

## A

**Abhiṣeka**—a bathing ceremony, particularly for the coronation of a king or the installation of the Lord's Deity form.

**Ācārya**—a spiritual master who teaches by example.

**Acintya-bhedābheda-tattva**—the philosophy of the inconceivably simultaneous oneness and difference of the Lord and His creation, first propagated by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

**Advaita-vādīs**—*See: Māyāvādīs*

**Aghāsura**—the python-shaped demon sent by Kāmsa to kill Kṛṣṇa.

## B

**Balarāma (Baladeva)**—a plenary expansion of the Personality of Godhead, appearing as the son of Rohiṇī and elder brother of Lord Kṛṣṇa.

**Bhagavad-gītā**—the battlefield discourse between the Supreme Lord, Kṛṣṇa, and His devotee Arjuna expounding devotional service as both the principal means and the ultimate end of spiritual perfection.

**Bhakta**—a devotee of the Supreme Lord, Kṛṣṇa.

**Bhakti-yoga**—linking with the Supreme Lord by devotional service.

**Brahmā**—the first created living being and secondary creator of the material universe.

**Brāhmaṇa**—one wise in the *Vedas* who can guide society; the first Vedic social order.

## C

**Caitanya Mahāprabhu**—the incarnation of Lord Kṛṣṇa who descended to teach love of God through the *saṅkīrtana* movement.

**Catur-bhuja**—four-armed.

## G

**Gokula**—*See: Vṛndāvana*

**Gopīs**—Kṛṣṇa's cowherd girl friends, His most confidential servitors.

**Gosvāmī**—one who has become master of his own senses.

## J

**Jīva-tattva**—the individual living entities, who are atomic parts of the Lord.

**Jñānī**—one who cultivates transcendental knowledge by empirical speculation.

## M

**Mahābhārata**—Vyāsadeva's epic history of the Kurukṣetra war.

**Mahāmāyā**—*See: Māyā*

**Mahat-tattva**—the total material energy in its original, undifferentiated form.

**Maṅgala-ārātriḱa**—the daily early-morning ceremony of worship for the Deity of the Supreme Lord.

**Mantra**—a Vedic sound vibration that can deliver the mind from illusion.

**Māyā**—the inferior, illusory energy of the Supreme Lord, which rules over this material creation; also, forgetfulness of one's relationship with Kṛṣṇa.

**Māyāvādīs**—impersonal philosophers who say that the Supreme Lord cannot have a spiritual body.

**Mlecchas**—uncivilized humans, outside the Vedic system of society, who are generally meat-eaters.

**Mukunda**—a name of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who is the giver of liberation.

## N

**Nārāyaṇa**—a name of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who is the source and goal of all living beings.

## P

**Parabrahman**—the Supreme Absolute Truth as the Personality of Godhead, Viṣṇu, or Kṛṣṇa.

**Paramahansa**—“topmost swan”; a person on the highest platform of God consciousness.

**Paramātmā**—Lord Viṣṇu as the Supersoul present within the heart of every individual living being.

**Paramparā**—a disciplic succession of spiritual masters.

**Prakṛti**—material nature.

**Prasāda**—“the Lord’s mercy”; food which has become spiritualized by first being offered for God’s pleasure.

## R

**Rajo-guṇa**—passion, one of the three modes which control material existence.

**Rāvaṇa**—the demoniac ruler who was killed by Lord Rāmacandra.

## S

**Sādhana**—the beginning phase of devotional service as regulated practice.

**Sādhus**—saintly persons.

**Śaṅkarācārya**—the incarnation of Lord Śiva who, ordered by the Supreme Lord, propagated the famous Māyāvāda philosophy, which maintains that there is no distinction between the Lord and the living entities.

**Sārūpya-mukti**—the liberation of achieving a spiritual form similar to that of the Supreme Lord.

**Śāstras**—revealed scriptures, such as the Vedic literature.

**Sītā**—the eternal consort of Lord Rāmacandra.

**Śiva**—the demigod in charge of the mode of ignorance and the destruction of the material manifestation.

**Smṛti**—supplementary Vedic scriptures, apart from the original *Vedas*.

**Śuddha-sattva**—the transcendental platform of “pure goodness,” beyond the material modes of goodness, passion and ignorance.

## T

**Tamo-guṇa**—ignorance, one of the three modes which control material existence.

**Tilaka**—auspicious clay marks that sanctify a devotee’s body as a temple of the Lord.

**Tulasī**—the sacred plant whose leaves are especially dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa.

## U

**Upaniṣads**—the philosophic portions of the *Vedas*.



## V

**Vaikunṭha**—the kingdom of God, which is “free from anxiety.”

**Vaiṣṇava**—a devotee of the Supreme Lord, Viṣṇu, or Kṛṣṇa.

**Vedānta**—the summary presentation of “the final conclusion of Vedic knowledge,” compiled by Śrī Vyāsadeva in concise codes.

**Vedas**—the original revealed scriptures, first spoken by the Lord Himself.

**Viṣṇu**—Lord Kṛṣṇa’s expansions in Vaikunṭha and for the creation and maintenance of the material universes.

**Viṣṇu-mūrtis**—forms of the Supreme Lord.

**Viṣṇu-tattva**—the different direct expansions of the Lord, each of whom is the same Supreme Person.

**Vraja (bhūmi)**—See: Vṛndāvana

**Vṛndāvana**—Kṛṣṇa’s eternal abode, where He fully manifests His quality of sweetness; the village on this earth in which He appeared five thousand years ago.

## Y

**Yajña**—sacrifice performed for the satisfaction of the Supreme Lord.

**Yavanas**—barbarians.

**Yogī**—a transcendentalist who, in one way or another, is striving for union with the Supreme.

# Sanskrit Pronunciation Guide

## Vowels

अ a आ ā इ i ई ī उ u ऊ ū ऋ ṛ ॠ ṝ  
ऌ ḷ ए e ऐ ai ओ o औ au  
◌ं ṁ (anusvāra)      ◌ः ḥ (visarga)

## Consonants

Gutturals:	क ka	ख kha	ग ga	घ gha	ङ ṅa
Palatals:	च ca	छ cha	ज ja	झ jha	ञ ña
Cerebrals:	ट ṭa	ठ ṭha	ड ḍa	ढ ḍha	ण ṇa
Dentals:	त ta	थ tha	द da	ध dha	न na
Labials:	प pa	फ pha	ब ba	भ bha	म ma
Semivowels:	य ya	र ra	ल la	व va	
Sibilants:	श śa	ष ṣa	स sa		
Aspirate:	ह ha	ऽ ' (avagraha) – the apostrophe			

The numerals are: ०-0 १-1 २-2 ३-3 ४-4 ५-5 ६-6 ७-7 ८-8 ९-9

The vowels above should be pronounced as follows:

- a – like the *a* in *organ* or the *u* in *but*
- ā – like the *a* in *far* but held twice as long as short *a*
- i – like the *i* in *pin*
- ī – like the *i* in *pique* but held twice as long as short *i*

u – like the *u* in *push*.

ū – like the *u* in *rule* but held twice as long as short *u*.

ṛ – like the *ri* in *rim*.

ṝ – like *ree* in *reed*.

l̄ – like *l* followed by *ṛ* (*lṛ*).

e – like the *e* in *they*.

ai – like the *ai* in *aisle*.

o – like the *o* in *go*.

au – like the *ow* in *how*.

ṁ (*anusvāra*) – a resonant nasal like the *n* in the French word *bon*.

ḥ (*visarga*) – a final *h*-sound: *aḥ* is pronounced like *aha*; *iḥ* like *ih*.

The vowels are written as follows after a consonant:

Ṛ ā ṛi ṛī ṝ u ṛū ṛṛ ṛṝ ṝ e ṝ ai ṝ o ṝ au

For example: क ka का kā कि ki की kī कु ku कू kū  
कृ kṛ कृ̄ kṝ के ke कै kai को ko कौ kau

The vowel “a” is implied after a consonant with no vowel symbol.

The symbol virāma (◌̣) indicates that there is no final vowel: क्

The consonants are pronounced as follows:

k – as in *kite*

jh – as in *hedgehog*

kh – as in *Eckhart*

ñ – as in *canyon*

g – as in *give*

ṭ – as in *tub*

gh – as in *dig-hard*

ṭh – as in *light-heart*

ṅ – as in *sing*

ḍ – as in *dove*

c – as in *chair*

ḍha – as in *red-hot*

ch – as in *staunch-heart*

ṇ – as *rna* (prepare to say

j – as in *joy*

the *r* and say *na*).

t – as in *tub* but with tongue against teeth.

th – as in *light-heart* but with tongue against teeth.

d – as in <i>dove</i> but with tongue against teeth	
dh – as in <i>red-hot</i> but with tongue against teeth	
n – as in <i>nut</i> but with tongue between teeth	
p – as in <i>pine</i>	l – as in <i>light</i>
ph – as in <i>uphill</i> (not <i>f</i> )	v – as in <i>vine</i>
b – as in <i>bird</i>	ś (palatal) – as in the <i>s</i> in the German
bh – as in <i>rub-hard</i>	word <i>sprechen</i>
m – as in <i>mother</i>	ṣ (cerebral) – as the <i>sh</i> in <i>shine</i>
y – as in <i>yes</i>	s – as in <i>sun</i>
r – as in <i>run</i>	h – as in <i>home</i>

Generally two or more consonants in conjunction are written together in a special form, as for example: क्ष kṣa त्र tra

There is no strong accentuation of syllables in Sanskrit, or pausing between words in a line, only a flowing of short and long (twice as long as the short) syllables. A long syllable is one whose vowel is long (ā, ī, ū, e, ai, o, au), or whose short vowel is followed by more than one consonant (including anusvāra and visarga). Aspirated consonants (such as kha and gha) count as only single consonants.



## Index of Sanskrit Verses

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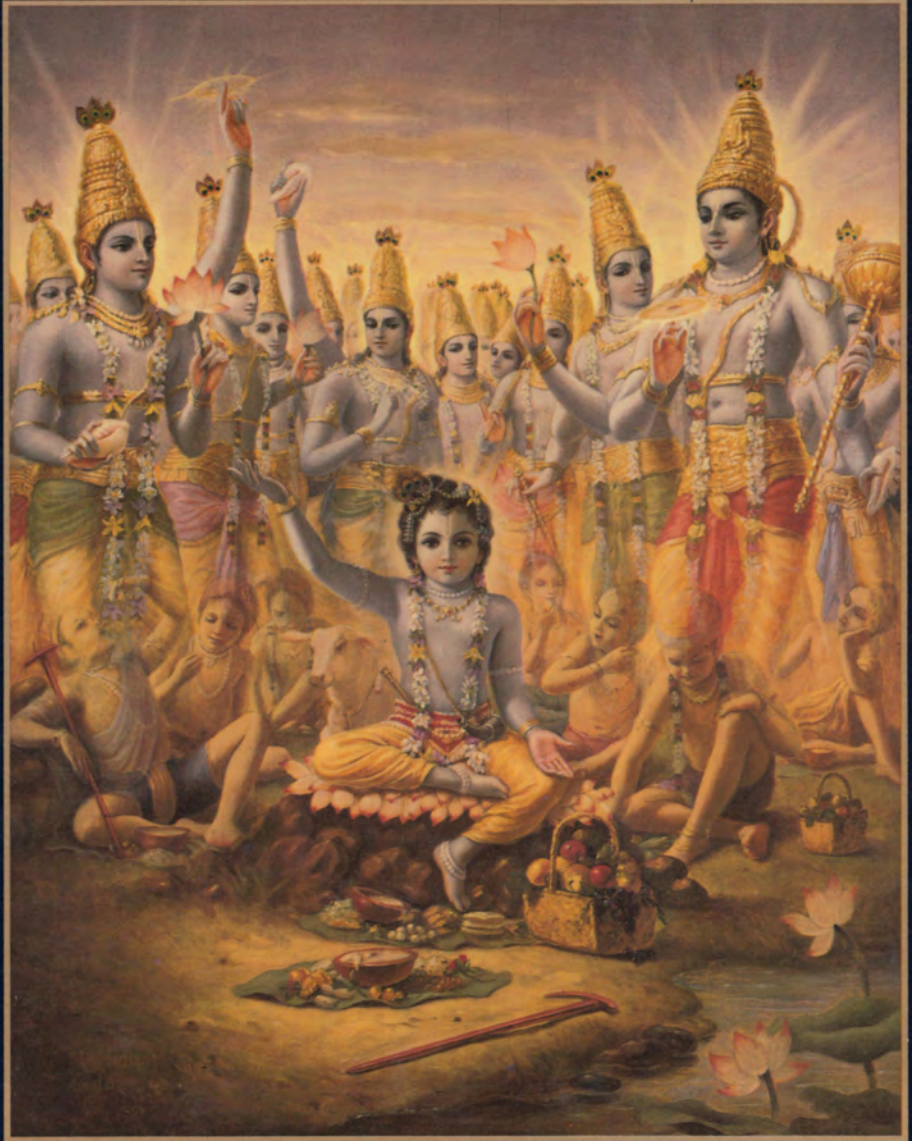
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