

Demigod Worship in Kṛṣṇa Conscious Perspective (1)

— from Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura's *Kalyāṇa-kalpataru*

1. My dear mind, you are certainly most vile and wicked. Your Lord is Śrī Hari, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. So then why are you abandoning Him to worship the various demigods, following the path of lust?
2. The Supreme Lord is one absolute truth, above and beyond the Brahman effulgence. Therefore honor Him only with resolute determination, and completely dedicate the whole of your life unto Him. As far as all the innumerable demigods are concerned, their power and authority compared to His is only partial, for they are each the absolute controller of only one specific type of work within this material world's administrative structure.
3. Maintaining polite respect for these demigods, worship only Lord Hari, for He is the Supreme Controller of all these other small controllers. Incessantly pass your time, my dear mind, by arduously endeavoring for intense, single-minded devotional service unto Him, whose total potency of *māyā* is simply an insignificant shadow reflection.
4. By pouring water on the root of the tree, all the branches and leaves become strong and healthy. It is useless to try to pour water on the top part of the tree only. Similarly, all the demigods are the dear friend of one who has actual devotion to Hari. Indeed, they show great honor and respect to the devotee of the Lord.
5. Now Bhaktivinoda is telling you, dear mind, just worship always, just worship ceaselessly, just worship eternally the divine lotus feet of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

Demigod Worship in Kṛṣṇa Conscious Perspective (2)

Śrīla Prabhupāda told a story about an insensitive worshiper of the goddess Kālī. The “devotee” went to the temple and prayed to the goddess in a materialistic way, typical of a demigod worshiper. He asked for a material benediction. After his prayers and a perfunctory *pūjā*, he soon got the desired material result, but his *pūjā* included an obligation that when he got the result he would offer the goddess a sacrifice of a goat.

After some days passed, the goddess in the temple spoke to the worshiper and asked him, “Where is the goat you promised?”

“It is very expensive,” he said, “and I don’t think I can afford to offer you a goat.”

“All right,” said the goddess, “but you have to offer something, so go and offer me at least a pig.”

The worshiper went away, but neglected the goddess’s request. Then on another occasion in the temple the goddess spoke to him again and said, “Where is the offering of the pig?”

This time the devotee again excused himself and said, “I am sorry, but I could not find any pigs anywhere. It is not so easy.”

The goddess replied, “This is not very good. You have received your benediction and now you must give something in return. But just to make it easy for you, I request you at least to offer something that is available for you. So why don’t you at least offer me a fly?”

“But goddess,” said the worthless worshiper, “there are so many flies buzzing around you. Can’t you just grab one yourself?”

Such is the attitude of materialistic demigod worshipers, whose hearts are completely devoid of a loving service mood.