

Kṛṣṇa Stops the Worship of Indra, Releases Nanda Mahārāja from the Clutches of Varuna and Saves Him from Being Swallowed by a Snake.

Audio Format (Part 1)

1. What *anartha* does the *worship of Indra* represent?
2. Our point of discussion will be Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura’s comment that:
“Another obstacle for the Vaiṣṇavas is the worship of minor demigods such as Indra with a desire for fruitive results even after becoming situated in the process of devotional service.”
3. A brief look at what *Bhagavad-gītā* has to say about demigod worshipers (Bg 3.12p, 4.12, 7.20, 7.23+p, 9.20 & 10.2)
4. Śrīla Prabhupāda’s position in a nutshell (“Persons who are attached to fruitive activities, desiring promotion to the comforts of higher planetary systems, cannot achieve their ultimate goal of life without the sanction of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. It is also stated in the *Bhagavad-gītā* that the less intelligent want to achieve material benefits and therefore worship different kinds of demigods, but they actually get the benedictions from the demigods through the permission of Lord Viṣṇu, or Kṛṣṇa. Demigods have no power to bestow material profit. Even if one is attached to material benedictions, he should worship Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and ask Him. Kṛṣṇa is completely able to give even material benedictions. There is a difference, however, between asking material benedictions from the demigods and asking them from Kṛṣṇa. Dhruva Mahārāja worshiped the Supreme Personality of Godhead for a material benediction, but when he actually achieved the favor of the Supreme Lord and saw Him, he was so satisfied that he refused to accept any material benediction. The intelligent person does not worship the demigods or ask favors from them; he directly becomes Kṛṣṇa conscious, and if he has any desire for material benefit, he asks Kṛṣṇa, not the demigods. – *Kṛṣṇa Book Ch 34.*)
5. A relevant story from Śrīla Prabhupāda. (Please see “Demigod” Handout (2))
6. What is the message for us from all this? (Please see “Demigod” Handout (1))

Audio Format (Part 2)

Readings from:

- a. Śrīla Prabhupāda’s *Kṛṣṇa Book*
- b. *Garga-saṁhitā*
- c. Śrīla Kavi-karṇapūra’s *Ānanda-vṛndāvana-campū*

Audio Format (Part 3)

1. What *anartha* does the *Varuna Līlā* represent?
2. Why don’t those absorbed in Vraja mood take intoxicants?
3. A relevant Śrīla Prabhupāda story from “What’s the Difficulty?” (No.155)
4. Stay High Forever – Śrīla Prabhupāda’s revolutionary way of dealing with the misuse of intoxicants.

Audio Format (Part 4)

Readings from -

- a. Śrīla Prabhupāda's *Kṛṣṇa Book*
- b. Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura's *Sārārtha-darśinī*
- c. Śrīla Kavi-karṇapūra's *Ānanda-vṛndāvana-campū*

Audio Format (Part 5)

1. What *anartha* does the Snake swallowing Nanda Mahārāja represent?
2. When does this become a problem for the practicing devotee?
3. Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura's very clear and convincing insights about impersonalism and *Māyāvādism*. (Please see handout.)

Audio Format (Part 6)

Readings from -

- a. Śrīla Prabhupāda's *Kṛṣṇa Book*
- b. Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura's *Sārārtha-darśinī*

Handouts:

1. Demigod Worship in Kṛṣṇa Conscious Perspective.
Side A: Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura on demigod worshipers.
Side B: Śrīla Prabhupāda on demigod worshipers.
2. Stay High Forever
3. Side A: My Foolish Impersonalism.
Side B: Impersonal Doubts vs Personal Truth.