

Śrī Brhad-bhāgavatāmṛta

by Śrīla Sanātana Gosvāmī

Volume-2

Śrī-goloka-māhātmya

The Glories of Goloka

Chapter-2

Jñāna: Knowledge

When they went to
their place to absorb
in meditation, I started
wandering in search of the
Lord of the Universe.

2.2.79

yathā-sthānam prayāteṣu
dhyāna-niṣṭheṣu teṣv atha
draṣṭum bhramāmi sambhāvya
pūrva-vaj jagad-īśvaram

When they went off to their respective places (teṣv atha yathā-sthānam prayāteṣu) to absorb themselves in meditation (dhyāna-niṣṭheṣu), I started wandering (bhramāmi), searching (draṣṭum sambhāvya) as always (pūrva-vad) for the Lord of the universe (jagad-īśvaram).

The assembly finished, the Kumāras and their associates disappeared from the spot and returned to their individual places of meditation.

Gopa-kumāra, left to himself, turned his mind to his favorite topic, the Lord of universe.

He conjectured that since the Lord was visible on Svargaloka and Maharloka, the Lord must be visible here as well.

With that idea in mind, Gopa-kumāra began searching.

Why didn't he just ask someone where to find the Lord?

He had no time to ask anything, because at first the four Kumāras had been receiving the worship of a large crowd of sages and immediately afterwards everyone reverted into trance.

Not Seeing the (Sage)
I turned to the Sage
Offered Prayers & Prayers
but they did not even look @
me

2.2.80

itas tato na dr̥ṣṭvā tam
apṛccham tān mahā-munīn
na te stuvantam mām agre
namantam lokayanty api

Not seeing Him anywhere (na dr̥ṣṭvā tam itas tato), I tried to inquire of the great sages (apṛccham tān mahā-munīn), but as I stood before them (agre) offering prayers (stuvantam) and obeisances (namantam) they did not even look at me (na te mām lokayanty api).

All of them
were fixed in
samādhi, self-satisfied,
Naiṣṭhika BCs, & full in all
of the Siddhis

2.2.81

prāyaḥ sarve samādhi-sthā
naiṣṭhikā ūrdhva-retasah
svātmārāmāḥ pūrṇa-kāmāḥ
sevyamānāś ca siddhibhiḥ

Virtually everyone there was fixed in samādhi (prāyaḥ sarve samādhi-sthā). They were all self-satisfied (svātmārāmāḥ) lifelong celibates (naiṣṭhikā ūrdhva-retasah), full in the achievement of all desires (pūrṇa-kāmāḥ) and served by mystic perfections (sevyamānāś ca siddhibhiḥ).

insight

Occasionally the residents of Tapoloka have philosophical meetings or worship the Supreme, but otherwise they remain externally disengaged.

Nothing in the outside world attracts them.

My constant desire
to see the Lord was
not fulfilled
↓
It seemed to vanish due to
dissipation of the sages

2.2.82

bhagavad-darśanāśā ca
mahatī phalitā na me
utābhūd viramantīva
teṣāṁ saṅga-svabhāvataḥ

This time my constant desire to see the Supreme Lord (me mahatī bhagavad-darśana āśā) was ungratified (na phalitā), and indeed by the influence of the company of the sages (uta teṣāṁ saṅga-svabhāvataḥ) it seemed to dwindle almost to nil (viramanti iva abhūd).

2.2.83

tatrāthāpy avasam tesām
prabhāva-bhara-darśanāt
guru-vāg-gauravād dr̥ṣṭa-
phalatvāc cātyajan japam

↓ Stayed there for
9 slot while being attracted
by their power.
① out of respect for my guru
② seeing the power of mantra
↓ did not give up chanting

Nonetheless (**athāpy**), I stayed there for some time (**tatra avasam**),
attracted by the display of great power (**tesām prabhāva-bhara-**
darśanāt). ~~Out of respect for my guru's order~~ (**guru-vāg-gauravād**),
and because I had seen how effective my mantra was (**dr̥ṣṭa-**
phalatvāt ca), I kept on chanting (**atyajan japam**).

The atmosphere of Tapoloka weakened Gopa-kumāra's resolve to see the Lord, but still he persevered in chanting his japa.

His guru had ordered him never to stop chanting, and Gopa-kumāra did not want to be ungrateful by disobeying.

By the glory
of TL, the bliss in
my heart increased, &
I chanted more attentively
& ... my desire to see the
Lord ↑.

2.2.84

sthāna-svabhāva-jāc citta-
prasādānandato 'dhikam
tena sampadyamānena
sā didṛkṣā vivardhitā

Thanks to the peaceful bliss in my heart (citta-prasāda ānandatah)
that the nature of that place inspired (sthāna-svabhāva-jāt
sampadyamānena), I chanted my mantra even more attentively than
before (tena adhikam). Thus my desire to see the Lord actually
increased (sā didṛkṣā vivardhitā).

At first the refined atmosphere of Tapoloka seemed to affect Gopa-kumāra negatively.

↓ insight
←

The pervasive mood of self-satisfaction seemed to reduce his desire to have the company of the Supreme Lord.

But that same peace of mind characteristic of Tapoloka gradually helped him improve his chanting, and then the mantra exerted its own influence.

analogy

As ghee poured on a fire seems momentarily to extinguish the fire but then gives it new life, the atmosphere of Tapoloka only briefly decreased Gopa-kumāra's desire to see the Lord of the universe.

Sage Pippalāyana
Understood my desire
To go to Pūrī to take
darsan of WN
He then spoke to me

2.2.85

sadā nīlācale rājaj-
jagannātha-didrksayā
viyāsum tatra saṁlakṣyā-
bravīn mām pippalāyanah

The sage Pippalāyana (pippalāyanah) noticed (saṁlakṣyā) that I eagerly desired to go to Nīlācala (nīlācale viyāsum) to see Lord Jagannātha (jagannātha-didrksayā), who lives there always resplendent (sadā tatra rājat). The sage then spoke to me (abravīt mām)

The thought of returning to Jagannātha Purī kept resurfacing in Gopa-kumāra's heart, first in Svarga, then on Maharloka, and now here on Tapoloka, for Lord Jagannātha did not manifest Himself on the planets of the demigods and sages.

Pippalāyana Ṛṣi, the middle son of nine self-realized sons of Lord Ṛṣabhadeva, observed Gopa-kumāra wandering aimlessly, a sad, discouraged look on his face.

Śrī Pippalāyana was practically omniscient, so he could easily understand the symptoms of Gopa-kumāra's distraction

Why do you
want to leave this
exalted place?
↓
Why are you so eager
to see the Lord with your
eyes?

2.2.86

śrī-pippalāyana uvāca
idaṁ mahat padam hitvā
katham anyad yiyāsasi
katham vā bhramasi draṣṭum
dr̥gbhyām taṁ parameśvaram

Śrī Pippalāyana said: Why do you want to leave this exalted place
(katham idaṁ mahat padam hitvā) for another (anyad yiyāsasi)?
And why are you wandering around (katham vā bhramasi) to see
(draṣṭum) the Supreme Lord (taṁ parameśvaram) with your eyes
(dr̥gbhyām)?

In Pippalāyana's opinion, the attempt to see the Supreme with one's eyes is useless, because the Lord is imperceptible to the material senses.

Tapoloka is the planet of the greatest masters of yoga, who have completely controlled their sex urge.

And the happiness enjoyed on Tapoloka is millions of times greater than that of the Prajāpatis.

Where else could Gopa-kumāra want to go?.