

Śrī Bṛhad-bhāgavatāmṛta

by Śrīla Sanātana Gosvāmī

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Volume-2

Śrī-goloka-māhātmya

The Glories of Goloka

Chapter-3

Bhajana: Worship

We are the proof of
this truth.
↓
We are eternal associates of
still we spread P.D.S

2.3.140

vayam atra pramāṇam smo
'niśam vaikuntha-pārsadāḥ
tanvanto bahudhā bhaktim
asprṣtāḥ prākṛtair guṇaiḥ

We ourselves (**vayam**) are evidence (**pramāṇam smah**) of this truth (**atra**). As associates of the Lord of Vaikuntha (**vaikuntha-pārsadāḥ**), we constantly spread (**aniśam tanvantah**) devotional service (**bhaktim**) in many ways (**bahudhā**) and yet are untouched (**asprṣtāḥ**) by the material modes (**prākṛtair guṇaiḥ**).

Even devotees who still live in this world in bodies made of material energy can engage in pure bhakti because the appearance of bhakti transforms their bodies.

Either their bodies become literally sac-cid-ānanda, or bhakti enters their material bodies by the potency of the Supreme Lord's special mercy, or else their bodies and senses become suitable for performing bhakti by some God-given potency inherent in the jīvas themselves.

The Vaikunṭha messengers themselves are proof that devotional service is completely nonmaterial and that those who have attained a spiritual body in Vaikunṭha engage in the various activities of devotional service, beginning with hearing and chanting.

The bodies of the Vaikuṅṭha residents are untouched by the twenty-three elements of matter.

As King Yudhiṣṭhira confirms in Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam (7.1.35), dehendriyāsu-hīnānām/ vaikuṅṭha-pura-vāsinām: “The bodies of the inhabitants of Vaikuṅṭha are completely spiritual, having nothing to do with the material body, senses, or life air.”

D.S appears to
neophytes to be a
function of their senses (material)
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so that they can engage in D.S
with relish.

2.3.141

navīna-sevakānām tu
prītyā samyak-pravṛttaye
nijendriyādi-vyāpāra-
tayaiva pratibhāti sā

Devotional service (sā) appears (pratibhāti) to new servants of the
Lord (navīna-sevakānām tu) to be a function of their own senses,
body, and mind (nija-indriyādi-vyāpāratayā eva) so that neophytes
can engage in devotional service with relish, (as they should) (prītyā
samyak-pravṛttaye).

When one undertakes devotional service, one perceives one's devotional activities to be external functions of the material body.

~~Why should such direct perception be denied?~~

It should be denied because such perception is only the experience of beginners in devotional practice.



Bhakti encourages those who are new to the Lord's service to think
"Oh, my own tongue is vibrating the names of God, and my own
ears are hearing them!"

In this way the faith of the neophytes is evoked, since otherwise they
would have difficulty making the effort required to surrender their
independence.