



DEATH HAS NEVER BEEN CLOSER.



Death Terminator

- \* *Everyday, someone is dying somewhere, yet those who are alive think that they shall live forever.*
- \* *This is the inexplicable power of death – unseen and unheard until it snatches us from everything we love & cherish in this life.*
- \* *If death terminates everything, then can death itself be terminated ???*



- \* *One man proved it so in his glorious life.*  
– Emperor Parikshit

\* *Glories of Maharaj Parikshit*

- The War was between the righteous and virtuous Pandavas, great devotees of the Lord, and the demonic Kauravas, who opposed all the religious principles of the Lord
- At the end of the 18 day War, the Pandavas emerged victorious, but Yudhisthira Maharaj and his brothers felt no happiness in such victory
- Why? They were devotees merely executing their duties – they had no taste for the outcome
- Millions of soldiers died on the battlefield – losses on both sides, because they were all related, were catastrophic

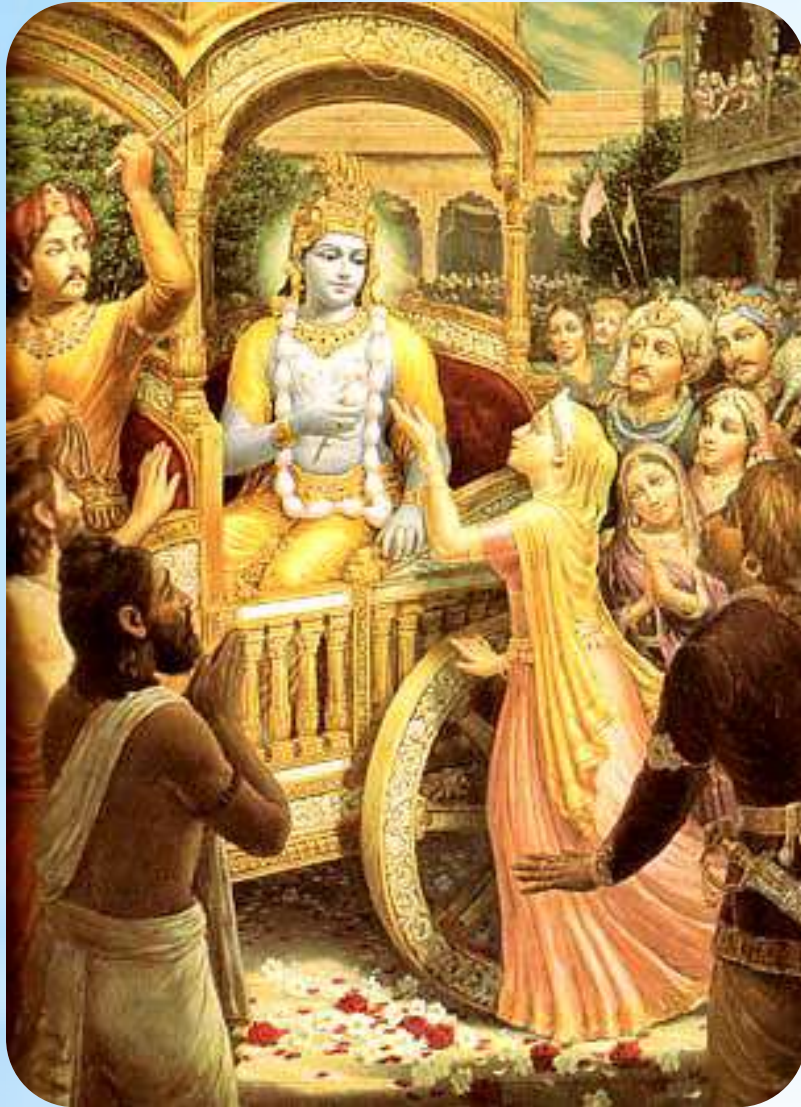


\* *End of the  
Mahabharat War  
- Gloom & Doom*

- Abhimanyu, the brave son of Arjuna, husband to Uttara dies unfairly on the battlefield
- His widow, the chaste Uttara, is carrying an unborn child, the descendant of the Pandu dynasty
- Meanwhile, Asvatthama, to avenge the death and loss of the Kauravas, kills the 5 innocent sons of Draupadi in their sleep and then dispatches the powerful brahmastra weapon to kill the unborn child of Uttara, and son of the dead Abhimanyu, scheming to end the Pandava dynasty, forever.



\* *Tragedy threatens the Pandavas' dynasty*



- After all the funeral rites were over, the Supreme Lord Krsna prepared for His departure.
- After blessing the Pandavas, he seated Himself on the chariot headed for Dwaraka when He saw Uttara hurrying towards Him in fear....

*\* The Unborn Child,  
the last of the Pandu dynasty - is attacked*



## \* Śrīmad Bhāgavatam 1.8.9

uttarovāca

pāhi pāhi mahā-yogin

deva-deva jagat-pate

nānyam tvad abhayam paśye

yatra mrityuh parasparam

- \* Uttārā said: O Lord of lords, Lord of the universe! You are the greatest of mystics. Please protect me, for there is no one else who can save me from the clutches of death in this world of duality.

\* *Devoted prayers of Uttara*

- \* The Pandavas arm themselves with weapons and try to counteract the Brahmastra weapon
- \* The weapon is released and proves irresistible - without check or counteraction - by anyone in this universe
- \* The Pandavas are too late to save the innocent child
- \* The Lord then takes up His all powerful Sudarsana Chakra
- \* He then simultaneously enters the womb of Uttara Himself and covers the embryo of Uttara by His personal energy

- \* The Brahmastra weapon is neutralized and foiled when confronted by the strength of Vishnu (Lord Krsna)

*\* The Brahmastra Weapon heads Directly for the Unborn Child of Uttara*



\*The Supreme Lord displayed special affection for Pariksit Mahraj even before he was born.



\*Why ???



- \*Pariksit Mahraj was already a devotee when he was conceived in the womb of his mother. He knew no one else but Krsna
- \*The Lord knew what a great and loving devotee and exemplary personality he would grow up to be – He therefore gave him darshan even when in the womb in all His splendour

*\* The Lord's Special Protection  
over the Unborn Child - Pariksit Maharaj - 9*

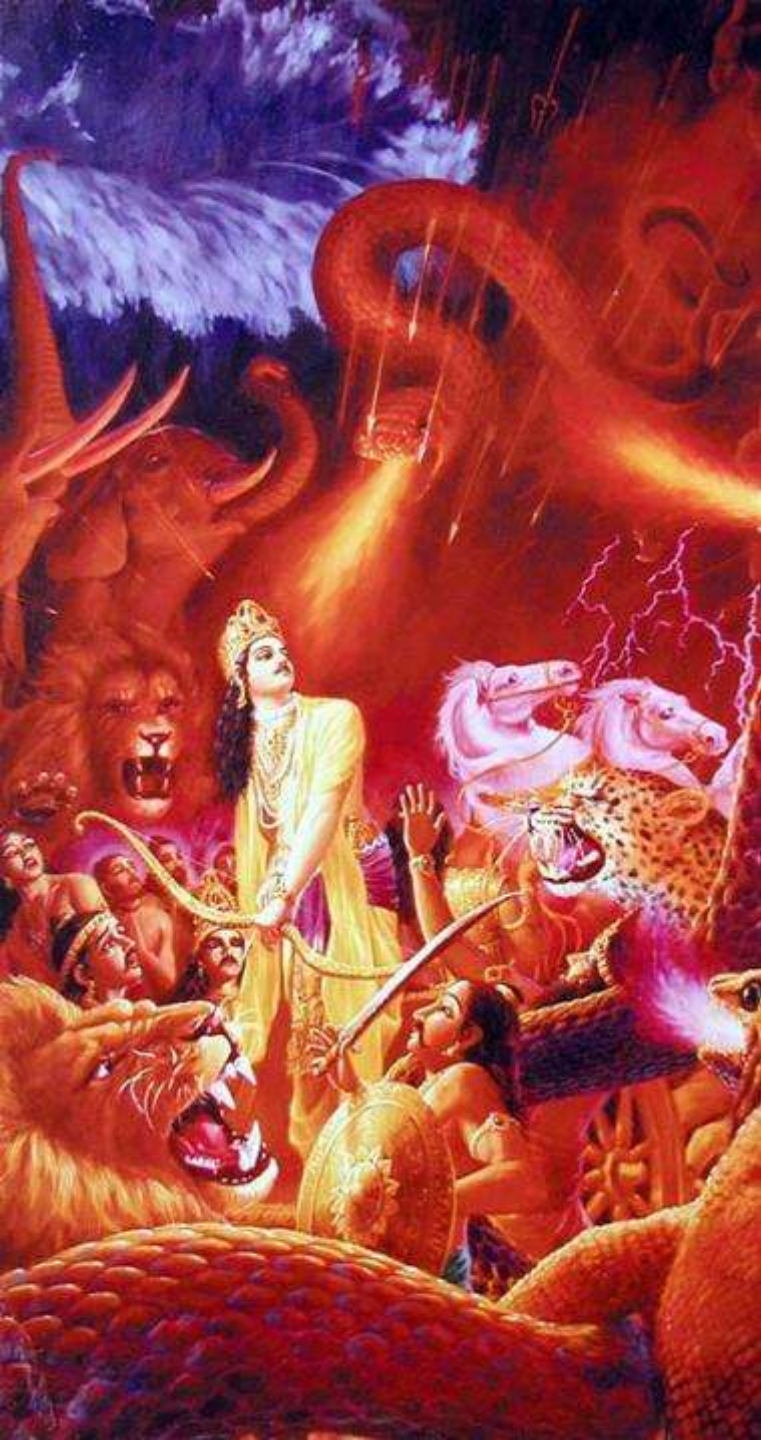




\* **Srimad Bhagavatam Purport 1.8.13:**

“... The Lord took up His weapon even at the risk of breaking His own vow. Although the Battle of Kuruksetra was almost finished, still, according to His vow, He should not have taken up His own weapon. **But the emergency was more important than the vow.** He is better known as Bhaktavatsala, or lover of His devotee, and thus He preferred to continue as bhakta-vatsala, or the lover of His devotee, and thus He preferred to continue as bhakta-vatsala than to be a worldly moralist who never breaks his solemn vow. ..”

\* *The Lord's Special Protection*



- \* Pariksit Maharaj was thus saved to live when he was doomed
- \* When born, all astronomical influences fell in place to herald his auspicious birth
- \* Astrologers and great sages blessed him saying that he would be as great a king as Lord Rama, as great as Bali Mahraj in patience, as staunch a devotee as Prahlad Maharaj, and as generous as King Rantideva
- \* *Life of Pariksit Maharaj - 9*

\* As he grew up, Pariksit Maharaj's life was defined by his impression of the Lord in the womb of his mother, and thus his contemplation on the Lord was constantly with him, and he could never forget the Lord in any circumstances

\* He became known as Pariksit (the examiner) because he came to examine all human beings in his search after that personality whom he saw before his birth...



\* *The Life of Pariksit Maharaj - 99*

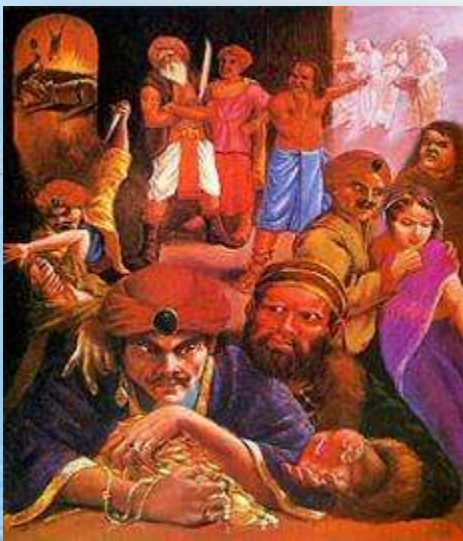


\*When the Lord wound up His pastimes in this world and left for His supreme abode, the Pandavas, in great separation of grief, retired from kingly duties and installed Pariksit Maharaj to rule the earth

\*Pariksit Maharaj was so powerful that when he ruled the earth, he performed great sacrifices for the benefit of mankind, and at these sacrifices, even the common man could see the devatas !

\* *The Life of  
Pariksit Maharaj - 999*

- \*The departure of Lord Krsna heralded the coming of a new age – the age of quarrel and hypocrisy – the age of Kali
- \*Pariksit Maharaj's greatest challenge began when he sensed the symptoms of Kali infiltrating within the jurisdiction of his state



\* *How Pariksit received the Age of Kali*

## 4 Symptoms of Kali:

- \* Illicit connection with women
- \* Indulgence in meat eating
- \* Taking pleasure in gambling
- \* Intoxication



## The deterioration of 4 pillars of spiritual principles:

- ✓ Cleanliness/Purity
- ✓ Mercy
- ✓ Truthfulness
- ✓ Austerity



\* *The character of Kali - 9*

## \* Śrīmad Bhāgavatam 1.1.10

prāyenālpāyushah sabhya  
kalāv asmin yuge janāh  
mandāh sumanda-matayo  
manda-bhāgyā hy upadrutāh

\* O learned one, in this iron age of Kali men have but short lives. They are quarrelsome, lazy, misguided, unlucky and, above all, always disturbed.



\* *The character of Kali - 99*

- \* Once, Pariksit Maharaj was wandering the earth in search of Kali when he saw man dressed like a great king but mercilessly beating and pounding a cow and bull
- \* The bull had lost three of his legs and was standing on only one leg, trembling and urinating
- \* The cow was rendered poor and calfless, beaten by this man. She had tears in her eyes and she was distressed and weak



\* *Kali tortures  
Mother Earth &  
Dharma -  
Religious Principle*



**\*Srimad Bhagavatam 1.17.5**

*“Oh, who are you? You appear to be strong and yet you dare kill, within my protection, those who are helpless? By your dress you pose yourself as a godly man, but by your deeds you are opposing the principles of religion”*

**\*Pariksit readies himself to kill Kali and takes up his sharp sword.**



**\* Pariksit  
confronts  
Kali**

\* **Srimad Bhagavatam 1.17.27-28:**

“ When the personality of Kali understood that the King was willing to kill him, he at once abandoned the dress of a king and, under pressure of fear, completely surrendered to him, bowing his head...”

\* *Maharaj Pariksit, who was qualified to accept surrender and worthy of being sung in history, did not kill the poor surrendered and fallen Kali, but smiled compassionately, for he was kind to the poor...”*



\* *Kali begs for his life*

- \* Pariksit Mahraj banishes Kali from his kingdom, for he is the friend of irreligion
- \* Where Kali stays, there will be greed, falsehood, robbery, incivility, treachery, misfortune, cheating, quarrel and vanity
- \* Kali begged that he could not then stay anywhere.
- \* The King permits him to stay where gambling, drinking, prostitution and animal slaughter occurs
- \* Kali cannot find such places in the kingdom, such was the purity of the King's rule, so he begs again, and the King allows him to reside where there is gold – gold attracts falsity, intoxication, lust, envy and enmity....

\* *Kali pleads for Mercy*



\* Pariksit Maharaj thus ordained that whenever we follow the 4 regulative principles and remember the Supreme Lord in devotional service, Kali – quarrel, disturbance and immorality cannot touch us



\* But where we are attracted to material opulence and immoral behaviour then Kali creeps into through the door of our lives

\* *The establishment of 4  
Regulative Principles of Living*

\* **Srimad Bhagavatam**  
**10.14.8:**

“My dear Lord, one who earnestly waits for You to bestow Your causeless mercy upon him, all the while patiently suffering the reactions of his past misdeeds and offering You respectful obeisances with his heart, words and body, is surely eligible for liberation, for it has become his rightful claim..”

\* *The great testing of  
Pariksit's Character*



- \* Once, Pariksit Mahraj, while hunting in forest, became overcome with thirst and fatigue
- \* He entered the hermitage of Samika Rishi looking for water and saw the sage sitting silently with closed eyes
- \* The King asked him for water, and when received no proper answer nor formal welcome, considered himself neglected and became upset



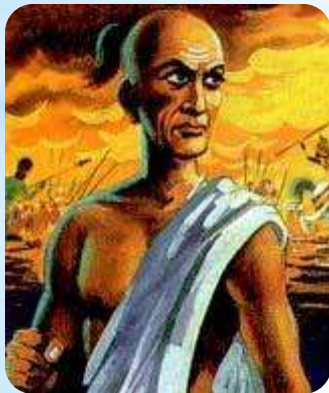
\* *Pariksit Maharaj  
cursed by brahmana boy - 9*



- \* The King, insulted, then left the hermitage, but only after placing a dead snake with his bow on the shoulder of the sage
- \* When he returned to the palace, Pariksit immediately felt remorseful and did not approve of his own action, and was astonished
- \* Repentance comes in the mind of a good soul as soon as he commits something wrong

*\* Pariksit Maharaj  
cursed by brahmana boy - 99*

- \* Sringeri, Samika Rishi's son, hears of his father's distress and divines that it is the King who has caused it
- \* Contrary to peaceful brahminical principles, the boy becomes angry, and, with eyes red-hot with anger, touched the water of the river and discharged a thunderbolt curse
- \* *“On the 7<sup>th</sup> day from today, a snake bird will bite the most wretched one of that dynasty because of his having insulted my father...!”*
- \* Samika's lamentation on hearing his son's curse



\* *Pariksit Maharaj  
cursed by brahmana boy - 999*



**\*Srimad Bhagavatam 1.18.48:**

*“The devotees of the Lord are so forbearing that even though they are defamed, cheated, cursed, disturbed, neglected or even killed, they are never inclined to avenge themselves..”*

**\*When Pariksit hears news of his impending death, the King accepted this as good news, for it would be the cause of his indifference towards worldly things...”**

**\* *How King Pariksit receives the impending doom of Death***



- \*The King immediately sat down firmly on the banks of the Ganges, concentrating his mind on Krsna consciousness, and rejected all other practices of self-realisation
- \*He became chaste in his undeviated attention to hearing and remembering the Supreme Lord, and began fasting to death



\* *Pariksit Maharaj turns his full attention to the remembrance of the Lord*

**\*Srimad Bhagavatam 1.19.14:**

The Supreme Personality of Godhead the controller of both the transcendental and mundane worlds, has graciously overtaken me in the form of a brahmana's curse. Due to my being too much attached to family life, the Lord, in order to save me, has appeared before me in such a way that only out of fear I will detach myself from the world..”



*\* Pariksit Maharaj's sees  
the hand of the Lord in everything - 9*

**\*Srimad Bhagavatam 1.19.16**

“ Again, offering obeisances unto all of you, I pray that if I should again take my birth in the material world, I will have complete attachment to the unlimited Lord Krsna, association with His devotees and friendly relations with all living beings..”



**\* Pariksit Maharaj's sees  
the hand of the Lord in everything - 99**

- \* In the assembly of great sages and personalities who gathered to witness the greatness and devotion of Pariksit Maharaj, the great devotee of the Lord, in full humility, inquired very seriously of the purpose and duty of his existence
- \* His devotion attracted the Lord's mercy, and the Supreme Lord, by His arrangement, sent His pure devotee, Sukadeva Gosvami, to speak the King of the Scriptures – Srimad Bhagavatam – for 7 days to the King



\* *Pariksit Maharaj's  
Requests Association of Devotees*

- \* Pariksit Maharaj, staring at death in the face, inquires: “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...”
- \* Srimad Bhagavatam is thus born.



\* *Glory of the  
Srimad  
Bhagavatam*

\*“Whenever pure topics of the transcendental world are discussed, the members of the audience forget all kinds of material hankerings, at least for the time being. Not only that, but they are no longer envious of one another, nor do they suffer from anxiety or fear.” **Srimad Bhagavatam 4.30.35**



\* *The glory of Srimad Bhagavatam - 9*



\*“Srimad Bhagavatam is the spotless Purana. It is most dear to the Vaishnavas because it describes the pure and supreme knowledge of the paramahamsas. This Bhagavatam reveals the means for becoming free from all material work, together with the processes of transcendental knowledge, renunciation and devotion. Anyone who seriously tries to understand Srimad Bhagavatam, who properly hears and chants it with devotion, becomes completely liberated”

- Srimad Bhagavatam 12.13.18

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**Srimad Bhagavatam 12.13.18**



\* *The glory of Srimad Bhagavatam - 99*

\*Pariksit Maharaj, after hearing Srimad Bhagavatam and the pastimes of the Lord for 7 days, and knowing his time is coming, states to Sukadev Gosvami with folded hands:

### **Srimad Bhagavatam 12.6.6**

***“ My lord, I now have no fear of the snake bird or any other living being or even of repeated deaths, because I have absorbed myself in that purely spiritual Absolute Truth, which you have revealed and which destroys all fear...”***



\* ***Pariksit Maharaj passes away gloriously - 9***



- \* Pariksit Maharaj, now fixes his thinking, feeling and willing on the Supreme Lord, and surrenders his life at His lotus feet
- \* The snake bird comes with great ferocity, and bites the King, and immediately burns his body to ashes by its great fire of poison
- \* But the snake bird only brought death to the body of the King, and not his soul, which had already been fixed at the lotus feet of the Lord, and thus was liberated.

\* *Pariksit Maharaj  
Passes away Gloriously - 99*



- \*The devotional nature of Pariksit Maharaj from womb to tomb.
- \*Pariksit Maharaj examined his life for Krsna, and searched always and everywhere for Krsna – in so doing, he saw the hand of Krsna in every junction of his life, in his glory and in the curse that befell him, in good times and in bad times. He was thus not disturbed nor bewildered. Great lesson for us in this world.

\* *Conclusion - 9*

- \*The Supreme Lord's mercy and protection on Pariksit Maharaj and His sincere devotees from womb to tomb is always assured, in different forms – the protection of one's devotional service, peace and happiness
- \*Why did Krsna allow such a calamity for Pariksit when He, in the first place, took so much trouble to save him in the womb?
- \*It was the Lord's will that the King, being a devotee, be hastened into pure devotional service and would leave all material attachments and concentrate on the Lord, and thus be gloried by all the three worlds even till today



\* *Conclusion - 99*



- \* Good behaviour (4 regulative principles attracts Srimad Bhagavatam and vice versa)
- \* His connection with Sukadev Gosvami produced the great presentation of the Lord in the form of Srimad Bhagavatam for all the struggling souls in Kali Yuga, the perfect antidote to this age of quarrel and misery
- \* The Lord glorifies His devotee by placing obstacles before him and showing the world how nobly the devotee faces such challenges

\* *Conclusion - 999*

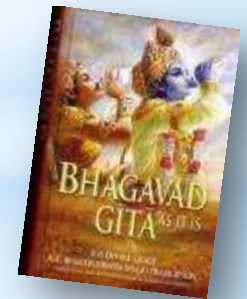
\**The noble character of Pariksit Maharaj:*

- ✓ No counteraction is best counteraction
- ✓ The value of peace and patience as opposed to anger and agitation
- ✓ Kali is an ocean of faults and appeared to have won by inducing the brahmana to curse the King, but Pariksit Maharaj conquered the curse and death by utilizing his time at the lotus feet of the devotees and the Lord



\**Conclusion - IV*

- \* Every day death is staring at us like the snake bird, ready to pounce
- \* Pariksit Maharaj was fortunate to be given 7 days advance notice - we may not be so fortunate
- \* Death comes to all of us; it is the surest and deadliest terminator in this universe
- \* Yet, death itself dies in the face of devotional service to the Lord
- \* Pariksit Maharaj cheated death in form of brahmastra weapon when he was unborn, and cheated death in the form of the snake bird by leaving his body in perfect Krsna consciousness, and ending his cycle of birth and death once and for all



\* *Conclusion - V*





**Srimad Bhagavatam 1.8.36:**

***“ O Krsna, those who continuously hear, chant and repeat Your transcendental activities, or take pleasure in others’ doing so, certainly see Your lotus feet, which alone can stop the repetition of birth and death...”***



***\* Final Conclusion:  
The Royal road of Pariksit Maharaj***

Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa  
Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare |  
Hare Rāma Hare Rāma  
Rāma Rāma Hare Hare ||