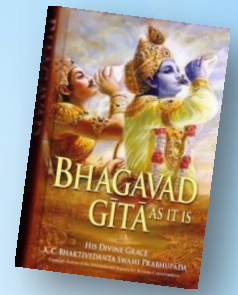


Determination Pinnacle



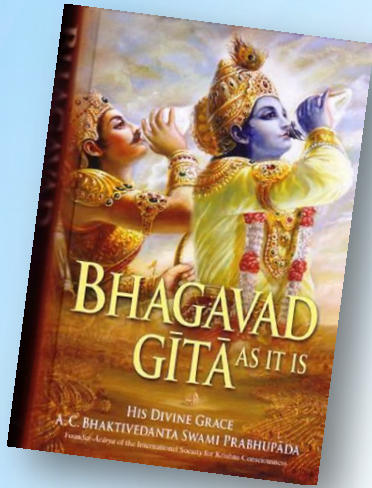
The Supreme Lord explains **3 kinds of determination** in the Bhagavad Gita 18.33,34 and 35:



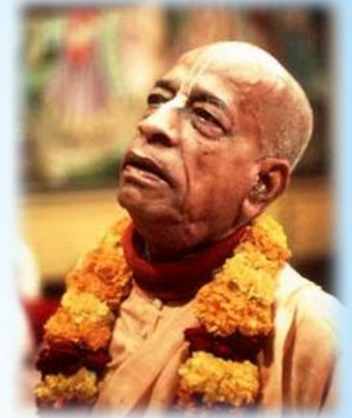
- ✓ That determination that cannot go beyond dreaming, fearlessness, moroseness and illusion – such unintelligent determination, on son of Prtha, is in the mode of darkness.
- ✓ But that determination by which one holds fast to fruitive results in religion, economic development and sense gratification is of the nature of passion, O Arjuna.
- ✓ That determination which is unbreakable, which is sustained with steadfastness by yoga practice, and which thus controls the activities of the mind, life and senses is determination in the mode of goodness.

* *3 Types of Determination*

Bhagavad-Gita 7.28



yesham tv anta-gatam papam
jananam punya-karmanam
te dvandva-moha-nirmukta
bhajante mam dridha-vratah



Persons who have acted piously in previous lives and in this life and whose sinful actions are completely eradicated are freed from the dualities of delusion, **and they engage themselves in My service with determination.**

** The Highest Form of Determination*

* Determination: The ability to persevere to achieve the supreme objective, while transcending many difficulties, challenges and obstacles along the way.

* How did little Dhruva become such an emblem of determination?



* *Bhagavatam's Definition of Determination*



- * King Uttanapaada - Powerful king who had two wives - Suniti and Suruci
- * Suruci was the favoured wife and so was her son, little prince Uttama
- * Suniti was least favoured and so was her son, little prince Dhruva
- * One day, the King places Uttama on his lap and is patting him when Dhruva also climbs on his father's lap
- * The king does not welcome him and he receives stinging words from his stepmother Suruci

* *Little Dhruva insulted by his Stepmother - 9*

*“My dear child, you do not deserve to sit on the lap of the King as you were not born from my womb... you are not qualified... you are trying to fulfill a desire which is impossible to fulfill...”

*“If you wish to fulfill this desire, then first **satisfy the Supreme Personality of Godhead first, die, and then pray to the Lord to be born in my womb...**”



* *Little Dhruva insulted by his Stepmother -99*

* When Dhruva hears this from Suruci; as a snake, when struck by a stick, breathes very heavily; Dhruva, struck by the strong words of Suruci, begins breathing heavily because of great anger.

* He sees his father silent and unprotesting, and so he immediately leaves the palace and finds solace in his mother



* Suniti also burns to see the grievous state of her child, but she did not know the factual remedy for the painful situation so she advises her son:

* *Little Dhruva reacts to the Insult- 9*



*“My dear son, don’t wish for anything inauspicious for others. **Anyone who inflicts pain upon others suffers himself from that pain...**”

*“Whatever spoken by your stepmother, though harsh, is **factual** – if you desire to sit on the same throne as your brother, **then give up your envious attitude** and immediately try to execute the instructions of your stepmother...”



* *Suniti's Powerful Advice to Dhruva - 9*



- *“Without further delay, you must engage yourself in the worship of the lotus feet of the Supreme Lord...”
- *Why? “The Supreme Lord is so great that simply by worshipping His lotus feet, your great grandfather, Lord Brahma, acquired necessary qualifications to create this material universe... because of the mercy of the Lord..”

** Suniti's Powerful
Advice to Dhruva - 99*



*“My dear boy, you should also take shelter of the Supreme Lord, who is very kind to His devotees. Persons seeking liberation from the cycle of birth and death always take shelter of the lotus feet of the Lord in devotional service. Becoming purified by executing your allotted occupation, just situate the Supreme Lord in your heart, and **without deviating for a moment, engage always in His service..”**

* *Suniti's Powerful
Advice to Dhruva - 999*

* Śrīmad Bhāgavatam 4.8.23

nānyam tatah padma-palāśa-locanād
duhkha-cchidam te mrigayāmi kañcana
yo mrigyate hasta-grihīta-padmayā
śriyetarair aṅga vimrigyamānayā



* My dear Dhruva, as far as I am concerned, **I do not find anyone who can mitigate your distress but the Supreme Personality of Godhead**, whose eyes are like lotus petals. Many demigods such as Lord Brahmā seek the pleasure of the goddess of fortune, but the goddess of fortune herself, with a lotus flower in her hand, is always ready to render service to the Supreme Lord.

* *Suniti's powerful advice to Dhruva - IV*



* ***In what mood did he leave?***

* “... after deliberate consideration and with intelligence and ***fixed determination***, he left his father’s house...”



* Srila Prabhupada: “In troubled times, ***mere lamentation of a condition of distress is useless – one should find out the means to mitigate one’s lamentation...***”

* ***Dhruva Leaves for Forest***



- Narada overheard the news of Dhruva's great activities **and was struck with wonder at his determination at such a young age**
- Approaches Dhruva and touching the boy's head with his all-virtuous hand, he persuades him to go home
- “Why are you so affected by words insulting your honour? This is simply result of your previous karmas.”
- ‘Be satisfied with whatever comes , favourable or unfavourable, by His supreme will.....’

* *Dhruva meets the Pure Devotee of the Lord*

- * “Such austerities of trying to see the Lord are too difficult for a small boy. It is very difficult to satisfy the Supreme Personality of Godhead...”
- * “Many yogis have tried for lives after lives and still are unable to find the end of the path of God realization...”
- * “One should try to keep himself satisfied in any condition of life, whether distress or happiness – which is offered by the supreme will. A person who endures in this way is able to cross over the darkness of nescience very easily...”

* *Narada Muni tells
Dhruva to go Home*



*“Every man should act like this: When he meets a person more qualified than himself, he should be very pleased; when he meets someone less qualified than himself, he should be compassionate towards him; and when he meets someone equal to himself, he should make friendship with him. In this way, one is never affected by the threefold miseries of this material world..” SB 4.8.34



* *Narada Muni's Ultimate Advice to Dhruva
on How to come out of this Material World*



- * “I am so covered by ignorance that, despite all your good advice to be peaceful, this kind of philosophy does not touch my heart...”
- * “I want to satisfy my material desire to have a position more exalted than any yet achieved by anyone in this three worlds...”
- * ***“ If you will oblige, kindly advise me of an honest path to follow by which I can achieve the goal of my life.”***

**** Dhruva's determined
Reply to Narada Muni***

- * Narada Muni then instructs Dhruva on how to meditate on the Lord - “Om Namō Bhagavate Vasudevaya..” and departs.
- * ***Dhruva begins his determined and powerful meditation and austerities in the forest of Madhuvan***



- * **1st month:** fruits and berries every 3rd day
- * **2nd month:** fruits and leaves only once every 6 days
- * **3rd month:** drank water only every 9 days
- * **4th month:** inhaled air only every 12th day
- * **5th month:** stood on only 1 leg without motion concentrating mind fully on Lord

**** Narada becomes pleased with Dhruva's Determination and initiates him with Mantra***



- * **He completely controlled his senses, fixed his mind without diversion on the Lord**
- * Thus he captured the Lord in his heart and the 3 worlds began to tremble
- * The pressure of his toe pushed down half the earth

* He became practically one in heaviness with Lord, and closing all the holes of his body and the universe choked up, causing all the inhabitants to take shelter of the Supreme Lord for help!

* *Dhruva's Power of Devotion*



- * The Supreme Lord, pleased by Dhruva's determination, appears before him
- * When Dhruva saw the form of the Lord before him, he was agitated and unsure, fell like a rod and became absorbed in love of Godhead. In ecstasy he looked upon the Lord as if he were drinking the Lord with his eyes, kissing the lotus feet of the Lord with his mouth and embracing the Lord with his arms
- * He was a small boy and inexperienced – did not know how to offer suitable prayers to the Lord
- * The Lord understood his awkwardness and touched him with his conchshell on his forehead and Dhruva was empowered to glorify the Lord

* *The Supreme Lord Appears before Dhruva*

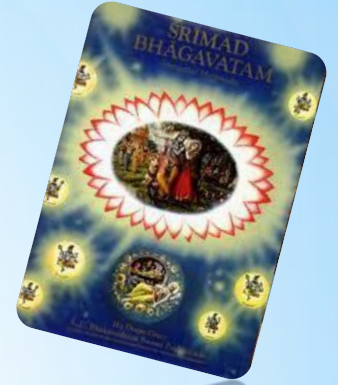


* **Srimad Bhagavatam 4.9.6:**
“My dear Lord, You are all – powerful. After entering within me, You have enlivened all my sleeping senses – my hands, legs, ears, touch sensation, life force and especially my power of speech. Let me offer my respectful obeisances unto You.”

* *The Power of Devotional Service Purifies Dhruva's determined heart and desires*

* Śrīmad Bhāgavatam 4.9.11

bhaktim muhuh pravahatām tvayi me prasaṅgo
bhūyād ananta mahatām amalāśayānām
yenāñjasolbanam uru-vyasanam bhavābhim
neshye bhavad-guna-kathāmrita-pāna-mattah



* Dhruva Mahārāja continued: O unlimited Lord, kindly bless me so that I may associate with great devotees **who engage in Your transcendental loving service constantly**, as the waves of a river constantly flow. Such transcendental devotees are completely situated in an uncontaminated state of life. By the process of devotional service I shall surely be able to cross the nescient ocean of material existence, which is filled with the waves of blazing, firelike dangers. It will be very easy for me, for I am becoming mad to hear about Your transcendental qualities and pastimes, which are eternally existent.

* Analogy: The broken glass Vs valuable stone

* *Dhruva's Prayers to Supreme Lord*



- * The Supreme Lord bestows Dhruva with Dhruvaloka – The Polestar
- * Dhruva is given blessings to rule the kingdom of his father and entire world for 36,000 years and his senses will continue to be as strong as they are now.
- * Dhruva will never grow old.
- * After this material life in this body, Dhruva will go to the Supreme Abode of the Lord - Dhruvaloka

** The Supreme Lord's
unlimited mercy and benedictions*



- * Many years later, Dhruva Maharaj, now undisputed king of the world, learns of his brother, Uttama's, death at the hands of a Yaksha.
- * Being overwhelmed with lamentation and anger, he travels to Alakaapuri, the planet of the Yakshas and proceeds to kill the Yaksha who killed his brother.
- * Then, his anger unappeased, he became determined to exterminate the Yaksha race who were not even offenders to begin with

** Dhruva Maharaj
Avenge's his Brother's Death*



- * “My dear son, please stop. It is not good to become unnecessarily angry – it is the path to hellish life. Now you are going beyond the limit by killing Yakshas who are actually not offenders..”
- * ***“You are a devotee of the Lord and your life and determination is meant for exemplary behaviour...”***
- * “You think that the Yaksha has killed your brother, but the birth and death of every living being is caused by the Supreme Lord. Do not forget this.”

* ***Svayambhuva Manu advises to cease the killings***

* ***Dhruva resumes his determination to worship the Lord***

* He renounces the world, and retires to the forest in Himalayas, where he controls his mind and senses perfectly and directs his heart to the Supreme Lord



* The Lord sends his messengers and airplane to take Dhruva back home.

* Enquires about his mother & Vishnudutas shows his mother's flight on the way to Vaikuntha.

* Dhruva ascends to Dhruvaloka, thus perfecting his life.

* ***Dhruva Maharaj returns Back to Godhead***

What can we learn about determination from Dhruva Maharaj?

- * Dhruva Maharaj started his life as an ordinary boy, filled with normal desires to be a king like his father
- * He was placed in a painful and hurtful situation– instead of lamenting and speculating, he sought advice from his mother and then fixed his mind on the goal she offered – the worship and rendering of service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead
- * This one goal he took deep into his heart – that apart from Krsna there is no one worth pleasing, therefore please Krsna and request from Him a fulfilment of a desire, material or otherwise



* *Conclusion -*

Drdha - Vratah of Dhruva Maharaj

* Determination requires that we do not find the easy way out and go home.

* Dhruva faced many obstacles :

- Was a small boy, alone in the forest
- Narada Muni discouraged him to continue
- When he relented, Narada's instructions were difficult to follow
- Had to perform great austerities to please Krsna



* ***But he sacrificed his time and fear for Krsna and instead he replaced it with great faith in the Lord.***

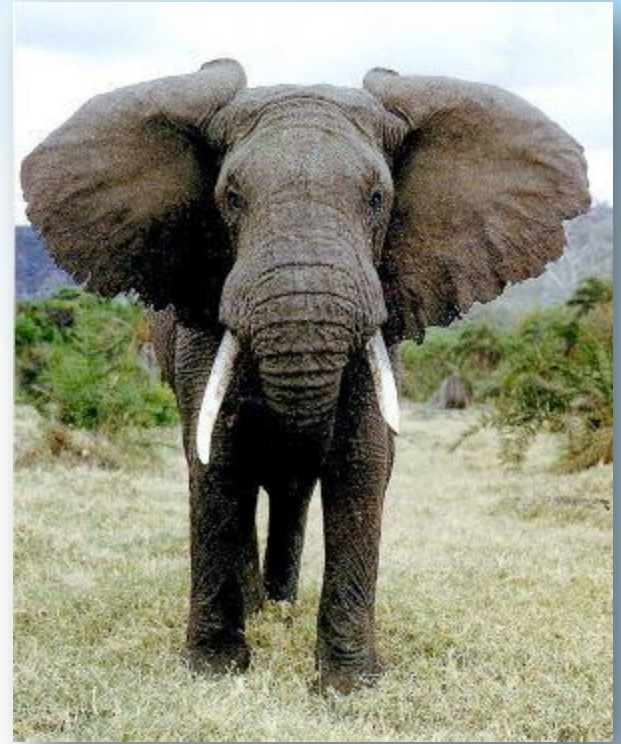


* ***Conclusion –
The connection between
determination and sacrifice***

* Dhruva had great faith in pure devotee of the Lord Narada Muni, and in his great devotee mother - this faith saw him through.

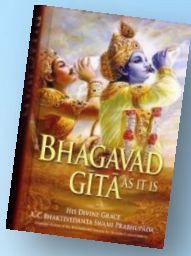
* Dhruva never became discouraged - always remained steadfast and positive that Lord would reciprocate.

* Faith in the Lord – Brahmin and the Cobbler



* *Conclusion –
The connection between
determination and faith*

*rāga-dvesha-vimuktais tu, vishayān indriyaiś caran
ātma-vaśyair vidheyātmā, prasādam adhigacchati*



- * But a person free from all attachment and aversion and able to control his senses through regulative principles of freedom can obtain the complete mercy of the Lord. (Bhagavad-gītā 2.64)
- * Determination is built on the platform of one's sincerity to the cause - and Dhruva's determination in devotional service and following instructions pleased Krsna and attracted His mercy
- * Dhruva's honest, sincere attitude formed the pillar of his determination, and therefore when he performed devotional service it was sure to be single minded and focused, undeviating and unflinching
- * Result: Dhruva's determination attracted the pure devotee and the Lord's mercy descended on Dhruva such that while he came for a material goal, he left tasting a spiritual one. Yet Lord was so merciful that He gave Dhruva both - **Bhagavad Gita 9.22**



* Dhruva exhibited his determination again when he attacked and kill the Yakshas and avenged his brother, Uttama, **but that determination was misplaced.**

* **But because of the stock of his devotional service, the Lord sent His devotee, Manu, to correct and advise Dhruva and he came to his senses.**

* ***Devotional service helps to Purify & Protect our Determination***



- * Determination attracts the Lord and His devotees.
- * Devotional service – is the reservoir of all good qualities, and not the other way around.
- * A quality used for the Lord, in His service, is enhanced and becomes an ornament of the devotee.

* – *Which comes first
– Determination or Devotional Service?*

* Śrīmad Bhāgavatam 5.18.12



yasyāsti bhaktir bhagavaty akiñcanā
sarvair gunais tatra samāsate surāh
harāv abhaktasya kuto mahad-gunā
manorathenāsati dhāvato bahih



- * **All the demigods and their exalted qualities**, such as religion, knowledge and renunciation, **become manifest in the body of one who has developed unalloyed devotion for the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Vāsudeva**. On the other hand, a person devoid of devotional service and engaged in material activities has no good qualities. Even if he is adept at the practice of mystic yoga or the honest endeavor of maintaining his family and relatives, he must be driven by his own mental speculations and must engage in the service of the Lord's external energy. How can there be any good qualities in such a man?

* *Reservoir of Exalted Qualities*

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