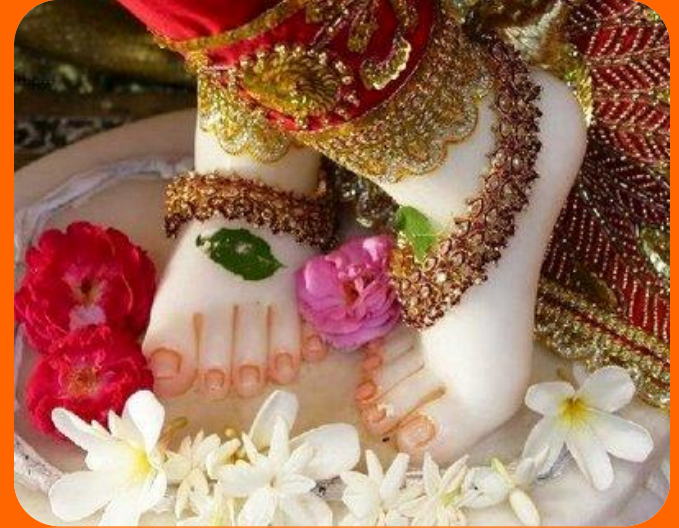


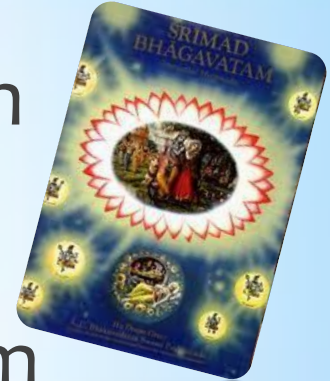
The

ULTIMATE BENEDICTION



* 5.19.27 of Srimad Bhagavatam:

Satyam disasty arthitam arthito nrnaam
Naivaarthado yat punar arthita yatah
Svayam vidhate bhajataam anicchataam
Icchaapidhaanam nija-paada pallavam



* THE ULTIMATE BENEDICTION

“The Supreme Personality of Godhead fulfills the material desires of a devotee who approaches Him with such motives, but He does not bestow benedictions upon the devotee that will cause him to demand more benedictions again.

However, the Lord willingly gives the devotee shelter at His own lotus feet, even though such a person does not aspire for it, and that shelter satisfies all his desires. That is the Supreme Personality’s special mercy. “

* **Meaning of prayer**

* Bali Maharaj – The Demon King who becomes very powerful on account of obedience to his guru – Sukracharya

* The power of his obedience allows him to conquer Heaven – the height of sense pleasures in this material universe



* The glorious episode of Bali Maharaj and the Dwarf Incarnation - Lord Vamanadev- I

- * All the devas are forced to leave the heavenly planets.
- * Their mother Aditi mourns for their situation and takes a great vow to worship the Supreme Lord by the process known as Payo-vrata for 12 continuous days.
- * The Lord becomes pleased with her and appears before her in his beautiful four handed form, before manifesting Himself as a dwarf brahmana in her womb.



* The glorious episode of Bali Maharaj and the Dwarf Incarnation - Lord Vamanadev- II

- * When the Lord hears that Bali Maharaj was performing a great sacrifice in heaven, he proceeds there to see the demon king.
- * He appears in the sacrificial arena as a harmless little brahmana boy, but like a blazing sun, all members of the assembly are robbed of their splendor.
- * Bali Maharaj receives the Lord with great humility and washes His lotus feet as His guest.
- * He now asks the Lord what he wishes to take from him, the great demon king and ruler of Heaven, since it is customary for the king, at the end of the sacrifice, to give away donations

* The glorious episode of Bali Maharaj and the Dwarf Incarnation - Lord Vamanadev- III

* Bali encourages Vamanadev to take **ANYTHING** he wants from him – cows, gold, a furnished house, palatable food and drinks, the daughter of a brahmana, prosperous villages, horses, elephants, chariots or “whatever You desire...”

* Why so generous? Because he believed everything belonged to him



* **The glorious episode of Bali Maharaj and the Dwarf Incarnation - Lord Vamanadev- IV**

- * Vamanadev becomes pleased by Bali's wide-heartedness and his adherence to principles
- * He requests 3 paces of land measured with only His tiny little feet.



Bali Maharaj urges Vamanadev to take more, because it is so little – *“One who approaches me to beg something should not ask anything more, anywhere....”*

- * **Lord Vamanadev begs charity from Bali Maharaj - I**

* Sukracarya suddenly realizes that Bali is about to be “cheated” and advises him to refuse to fulfill his promise to the dwarf boy...

* But Bali refuses to back down from his promise and proceeds to honour it...



- * “How can I withdraw my promise because of greed for money when I have already said that I shall give this land?”
- * “There is nothing more sinful than untruthfulness. Because of this, Mother Earth once said: “I can bear any heavy thing except a person who is a liar..”
- * “I do not fear hell, poverty, an ocean of distress, fall down from my position or even death itself as much as I fear cheating a person...”

* The greatness of Bali Maharaj - I

*“If Vamanadev is not satisfied by whatever gifts one has given, why not please Him with the riches one is destined to lose at death?”

*“... Whether that same Lord Vishnu has come here to give me all benedictions or punish me as His enemy, I must carry out His order and give Him the requested tract of land without hesitation...”



*The greatness of Bali Maharaj - II

- * Bali Maharaj washes Lord's feet and invites Him to take 3 paces
- * Lord begins increasing to a phenomenal size – He covers with his 1st step all the middle and lower worlds
- * With the second step, He covers the entire heavenly planets and higher worlds touching the end of the material universe
- * Thus the Lord took away all Bali's possessions with just 2 steps, and one remaining...



* **The Lord takes His 3 steps - I**

- Garuda arrests Bali Maharaj with ropes to appear before the Lord for his failed promise.
- Lord “demands” where to place His third step, as there is nothing left for Bali to give, and he has defaulted after vainly boasting not to do so. Therefore he must enter the hellish planets and be punished....



* **The Lord takes His 3 steps - II**

- * Bali Maharaj thinks deeply now – He has lost all material possession, but, in his hands, he has the choice whether or not to lose his character and integrity as well
- * An exalted person may suffer the consequences of hellish life, but is very much afraid of being defamed for deviation from the truth
- * Bali agrees with great pleasure to accept his failure and requisite punishment from Lord, and he offers his head in charity for the Lord's 3rd step

*** The Lord takes His 3 steps - III**

*“Because of material opulence a foolish person has no respect for anyone within the three worlds and defies even My authority. To such a person, I show special favor by first taking away all his possessions...”

*“Bali Maharaj has become the most famous among the demons, for in spite of being bereft of all material opulence, he has remained fixed in his devotional service..”

***The ultimate benediction
of the Lord - I**

*“Although bereft of his riches, fallen from his original position, defeated and arrested by his enemies, rebuked and deserted by his relatives and friends, although suffering the pain of being bound and although rebuked and cursed by his guru, Bali, being fixed in his vow, **did not give up his truthfulness** He is true to his words...”

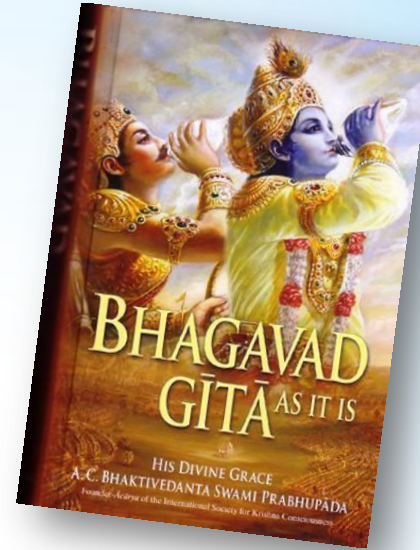
* **The ultimate benediction
of the Lord - II**

- * Bali Maharaj lost all his material possessions due to greed and pride.
- * But Bali Maharaj did not waiver from his standard of character – keeping his vow of truth and integrity
- * Bali Maharaj’s “enemy” was Lord Vishnu, but even then he had the integrity to recognize the power and supremacy of the Lord
- * ***This recognition is the starting point and basis of our connection with the Supreme***

* **Conclusion - I :**

* **2.66 of Bhagavad Gita:**

*Naasti buddhir ayuktasya
Na caayuktasya bhaavanaa
Na caabhaavayatah saantir
Asaantasya kutah sukham*



“ One who is not connected with the Supreme can have neither transcendental intelligence nor a steady mind, without which there is no possibility of peace. And how can there be any happiness without peace?”

* **Conclusion - II**

- * Knocking a nail into a wall is what the Lord did to Bali
- * The value of being satisfied with what is *needed*, and not what is *wanted*.
- * By being ready to lose, Bali won – he becomes ruler of Sutala, personally guarded by the Lord as His eternal companion
- * Spiritual life is not about possessions and the body, it is about character and integrity – this attracts the mercy of the Lord.

* **Conclusion - III**



Thanks a lot.

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

