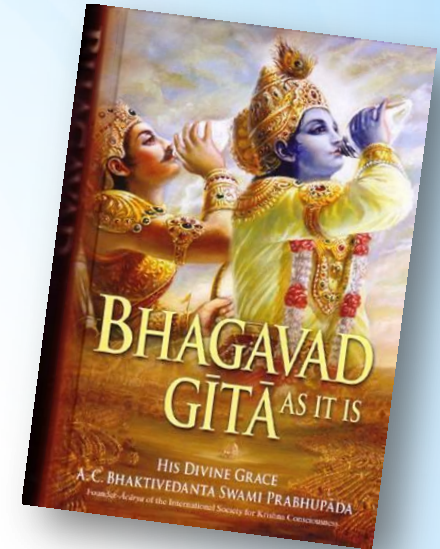


When GOD
refuses
TO HELP



* 18.66 of Bhagavad Gita:

*Sarva-dharmaan parityajya
Maam ekam saranam vraja
Aham tvaam sarva-paapebhyo
Moksayisyami maa sucah*



* **GOD -THE SUPREME PROTECTOR**



* “Abandon all varieties of religion and just surrender unto Me. I shall deliver you from all sinful reactions.

* Do not fear”

* **Meaning of Verse**

18.33 Lanka-kaanda, Ramayana:

“Sakrdeva prapanno yas
tavaasmiti ca yaacate
Abhayam sarvadaa tasmai
Dadaamy etad vratam mama”



“It is my promise and duty to give all protection
to one who surrenders unto Me without
reservation...”

***The great vow of the Lord**

* Where the Lord refuses to help, His devotee never refuses!

* What makes the devotee of God so special that he/she can help when God appears to be silent ?



* The best kept “secret” of devotional service

* **Lord Shiva's statement to Parvati:**

“aaraadhanaanaam sarvesam
Visnor aaraadhanam param
Tasmaat parataram devi
Tadiiyaanaam samarcanam”



“My dear Devi, although the Vedas mention worship of demigods, the worship of Lord Vishnu is topmost and is ultimately recommended. However, above the worship of Lord Vishnu is the rendering of service to the devotees who are related to Lord Vishnu”

* **The greatness of a sincere and
pure devotee of the Lord - I**

Padma Purana:

“O Narada, I am not in Vaikuntha, nor am I in the hearts of the yogis.

I remain where My devotees glorify My name, form, qualities and transcendental pastimes.”



* **The greatness of a sincere and pure devotee of the Lord - II**

- * Ambarish Maharaj – great devotee of the Lord and King of the known world
- * Even though great King - not at all attached to his property, his kingdom and wealth – saw them to be temporary and merely an execution of his duty.
- * Instead Ambarish Maharaj, in between his duties, always engaged in service to Lord.

* **The glorious incident of King Ambarish and Durvasa Muni - I**

Ambarish Maharaj engaged:

- Mind in meditating on Lord
- Words in glorifying the Lord
- Hands in cleansing temple of Lord
- Ears in hearing words spoken about the Lord
- Eyes in seeing Deity of Lord
- Touch in touching bodies of Lord's devotees
- Smell in smelling fragrance of tulasi offered to Lord
- Tongue in tasting Lord's prasadam,
- Legs in walking to holy places
- Head in bowing down before the Lord



* **The glorious incident of King
Ambarish and Durvasa Muni - II**

- * One day, about to end observance of Ekadasi vow by breaking fast
- * At that time, Durvasa Muni enters as uninvited guest
- * The King receives him warmly and requests him to eat
- * Durvasa accepts but goes to performs prayers before his meal
- * Meanwhile, the time for breaking fast approaches - imperative fast be broken but etiquette demanded that King wait for Durvasa to return
- * King decided not to eat but drink water to break the fast
- * Durvasa Muni returns and discovers that King has sipped water – furious with Ambarish and curses him

* **The glorious incident of King Ambarish and Durvasa Muni - III**

- * Durvasa Muni, in anger, uproots branch of hair from his head and creates a terrible demon to punish Ambarish Maharaj
- * The terrible creature approaches Ambarish Maharaj, but the King, upon seeing him, is not at all disturbed, and did not move slightly from his position
- * The Lord immediately dispatches His powerful weapon – Sudarsana chakra, which burns the demon into ashes and protects Ambarish Maharaj
- * Now the Sudarsana Chakra rushes to punish Durvasa Muni, who promptly starts running away!

*** The glorious incident of King
Ambarish and Durvasa Muni - IV**

- * He first of all runs in all directions
- * He runs to Sumeru mountains
- * He runs to seek shelter of Lord Brahma his father
- * He runs to seek shelter of Lord Shiva, the annihilator of the material world
- * He then runs to Vaikuntha to see Lord Vishnu, who servant is Sudarsana Chakra and begs forgiveness from the Lord for attempting to harm His devotee.

*** Durvasa Muni seeks help - I**



Lord advises Durvasa:

“O brahmana, let Me now advise you for your own protection. Please hear from Me. By offending Ambarish Maharaj, you have acted with self-envy. Therefore you should go to him immediately, without a moment’s delay. One’s so-called prowess, when employed against the devotee, certainly harms he who employs it. Thus it is the subject, not the object, who is harmed.

“If you can satisfy Ambarish Maharaj, then there will be peace for you.”

*** Durvasa Muni seeks help - II**

- * Durvasa Muni runs back to Ambarish Maharaj and clasps his feet.
- * Ambarish Maharaj is very much ashamed and he prays to Sudarsana Chakra to please leave Durvasa Muni unharmed.



* **The Devotee helps Durvasa Muni**

* **9.5.14 -17 of Srimad Bhagavatam:**

“My dear King, today I have experienced the greatness of devotees of the Lord, for, *although I have committed an offence, you have prayed for my good fortune*”

“For those who have achieved the Supreme Lord, the master of the pure devotees, what is impossible to do, and what is impossible to give up?”

“ O King, overlooking my offences, you have saved my life. I am very much obliged to you because you are so merciful...”

* **Durvasa Muni learns the
value of devotees**

- * Hallmark of a great devotee of the Lord – merciful and forgiving nature – seeing the hand of the Lord in everything and everyone
- * The devotee of the Lord never retaliates – has implicit faith in Lord and His plans
- * The devotee never thinks himself greater than Lord, but servant of the servant of the servant of the Lord
- * Result of such behaviour is the unalloyed reciprocation of the Lord:

9.4. 63 of Srimad Bhagavatam:

“I am completely under the control of My devotees.

Indeed I am not at all independent. Because My devotees are completely devoid of material desires, I sit only within the core of their hearts.

What to speak of My devotee, even those who are devotees of My devotees are very dear to Me...”

*** Conclusion - I - The Devotee’s
Special Position with the Lord:**

- * The story of Prime Minister Gladstone
- * Lord is ready to always glorify His devotee more than Himself so He puts the devotee always in the limelight – eg chariot driver to Arjuna
- * The Lord “listens” to His devotees
 - eg. His loving relationship with Mother Yasoda
 - His deliverance of Manigriva and Nalakuvera on account of Narada Muni

*** Conclusion – II – The Lord’s special position with His devotee**

- * Render loving service to the Lord but take shelter and loving association of the great devotee of the Lord
- * Who is a great devotee of the Lord?
- * The shortcut in Bhakti - Know the personal assistant to get audience with the Boss
- * The story of Vibheesana

* Conclusion – III – Moral of the Story

* 11.14.16 of Srimad Bhagavatam:

“nirapeksam munim santam
Nirvairam sama-darsanam
Anuvrajamy aham nityam
Puyeyety anghri-renubhah”

“With the dust of My devotees’ lotus feet, I desire to purify the material worlds, which are situated in Me.

Thus, I always follow in the footsteps of My pure devotees, who are free from all personal desires, rapt in thought of My pastimes, peaceful, without any feelings of enmity, and of equal disposition everywhere.”

* **Conclusion - IV**



Thanks a lot.

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

