

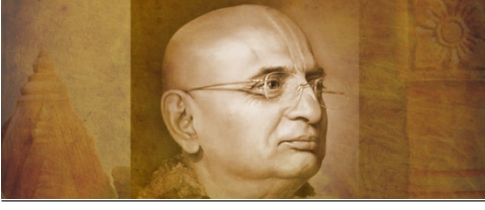
Ocean of Nectar

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1) Vyasadeva's concern and Narada Muni's advise

SB 1.4.17-18 *bhautikānāā ca bhāvānāā
çakti-hrāsaā ca tat-kātam
açraddadhānān niūsattvān
durmedhān hrasitāyūnāu*

*durbhagāāç ca janān vékñya
munir divyena cakñuñā
sarva-varēāçramāēāā yad
dadhyau hitam amogha-dāk*

TRANSLATION

The great sage, who was fully equipped in knowledge, could see through his transcendental vision the deterioration of everything material due to the influence of the age. He could also see that the faithless people in general would be reduced in duration of life and would be impatient due to lack of goodness. Thus he contemplated for the welfare of men in all statuses and orders of life.

PURPORT

The unmanifested forces of time are so powerful that they decay all matter in due course. In Kali-yuga, the last millennium of a round of four millenniums, the power of all material objects deteriorates by the influence of time. In this age the duration of the material body of the people in general is much reduced, and so is the memory. The action of matter has also not so much incentive. The land does not produce food grains in the same proportions as it did in other ages. The cow does not give as much milk as it used to give formerly. The production of vegetables and fruits is less than before. As such, all living beings, both men and animals, do not have sumptuous, nourishing food. Due to want of so many necessities of life, naturally the duration of life is reduced, the memory is short, intelligence is meager, mutual dealings are full of hypocrisy and so on.

Being a liberated soul, the great sage Vyāsadeva could see this by his transcendental vision. As an astrologer can see the future fate of a man, or an astronomer can foretell the solar and lunar eclipses, liberated souls can foretell the future of all mankind by seeing through the scriptures.

They can see this due to their sharp vision of spiritual attainment.

And all such transcendentalists, who are naturally devotees of the Lord, are always eager to render welfare service to the people in general. They are the real friends of the people in general, not the so-called public leaders who are unable to see what is going to happen five minutes ahead. In this age the people in general as well as their so-called leaders are all unlucky fellows, faithless in spiritual knowledge and influenced by the age of Kali. They are always disturbed by various diseases. For example, in the present age there are so many TB patients and TB hospitals, but formerly this was not so because the time was not so unfavorable. The unfortunate men of this age are always reluctant to give a reception to the transcendentalists who are representatives of Çréla Vyāsadeva, and yet these selfless workers are always busy in planning something which may help everyone in all statuses and orders of life. The greatest philanthropists are those transcendentalists who represent the mission of Vyāsa, Nārada, Madhva, Caitanya, Rūpa, Sarasvaté, etc. They are all one and the same. The personalities may be different, but the aim of the mission is one and the same, namely, to deliver the fallen souls back home, back to Godhead.

↓ Vyasadeva's concern

Vyasadeva's concern has being described here; it has also been described how in the age of Kali most of the people have a short span of life. And on top of that they will be slow and lazy. *Sumanda matayo* they will have defective mentality, their mind, the activities of the mind are improper. As Prabhupada summed it up as cheaters and the cheated. The mentality is very very bad. *Mando bhagya* very unfortunate. They are unfortunate because they don't have any credits of piety. It is due to pious activity one invites his good fortune and due to impious activity the sinful activity one invites his misfortune. This material nature is very systematically controlled. Just as we see in a good country or state the law and order is very well established anyone breaks the law he will be punished. So this divine arrangement of the Supreme Personality of Godhead in this material nature is maintaining everything very stringently. You do the right thing you will be rewarded that is called good fortune. You act in a wrong way you will be punished. Most of the people in the age of Kali will be sinful they will be very unfortunate that means they will be constantly punished. They won't have any facilities.

↓ Good fortune means facilities

Good fortune means facilities. Good fortune means ability to fulfill desires very quickly. One who gets his desires fulfilled easily is fortunate. Now what is that factor that causes one to have his desires fulfilled? Like for example you go to a shopping mall and you see something nice you desire it. And if you have money in your pocket immediately you can fulfill your desire but if you don't have your money then you just have to do your window shopping. In a gross way money is the wealth but what is subtle wealth? Subtle wealth is piety. You desire something and if you have the piety its granted. The demi-gods are actually controlling and they are seeing whatever our desires are and if they say okay so much credit in your piety granted. But if you don't its okay just be happy to do your window shopping. Desire but don't have it. So that is the condition of the people in this age of Kali because they are sinful. Vyasadeva could see that. After all Vyasadeva was the literary incarnation of the Lord with a specific purpose. What was the purpose? The purpose was simply to distribute the transcendental purpose of the Vedas. He is incarnation of the Lord to present the Vedic wisdom. So that's why Vyasadeva is considering what is the main problem. The main problem is that people do not follow the Vedic injunctions. Then again what is piety? Piety means right action. How does one determine what is right action? Vedas are giving the prescription. So this right action is the path of Dharma and wrong action is the path of Adharma. So in Kaliyuga most of the people are misdirected. There is no guidance and no education. No training.

↓ Does money fulfill their desires?

Like we can see what people are doing they all running after money because they are thinking by getting money they will fulfill their desires. Does money fulfill their desires? Intelligent class of men realizes that money cannot buy everything. Money cannot buy our most essential requirement. What is our most essential requirement? The most essential requirement is the satisfaction of the heart. Now money cannot buy that money can buy material objects but money cannot buy that internal contentment, satisfaction, joy, cannot be purchased. But they don't have that information rather they have the information they getting is earn money you get everything. The consumerist society is telling people massive publicity, and what they telling? In order to be happy you must have this or you not happy have this or if you have this but are still not happy then go for this one thats what is happening. iPhone and iPhone 2, iPhone 3 and is going on and on and on. Oh you have iPhone 4 and you are still not happy here is iPhone 5. In this way they are simply cheating people it's a game they playing. They are also thinking that money will buy everything. They thinking the best way to get money is by cheating people. The cheating is that you must have this because they don't have

proper information. Now Vyasadeva saw the need to provide proper information and that's why he made this endeavor. He was concerned this is the condition and Prabhupada pointed out this is the personality of Vyasadeva is *trikalade*. Personalities like Vyasadeva can see the time in totality. In the material nature time is in three aspects past, present and future. We can see only the present and past is a memory and the future is totally unknown. But the saintly personalities, the self realized souls are *trikalogy*, they can see past, present and future. They can see what is going to happen. Prabhupada is pointing out there is another way through astrology. Through Astrology we can see the past and the future. Therefore astrology has to be considered through the eyes of the Vedas. The Vedas have 6 limbs just as our bodies have 6 limbs. Hands and feet, belly, chest, head and out of them what is most important is eyes. With the eyes we see and through the eyes of the Vedas we can see all three aspects of time past, present and future. That is why those who know astrology can tell you what has happened in the past and they can also forecast the future. So in this way you can see the Vedas are so accurate and that also is not whimsically done. How is it done?

↓ What is Astrology?

What is astrology? Astrology is influence of the different planets on the individual from that one can actually foresee what is going to happen and these planets are actually under the influence of the Demi-Gods. So here we can see Vyasadeva is concerned and from that Prabhupada is pointing out that we have to be concerned. Real welfare is to deliver one from his suffering. Not temporary deliverance permanent deliverance. That is what Vyasadeva gave under the direction of Narada Muni. Vyasadeva tried to create general consideration for piety and so forth but they all material considerations therefore he was not satisfied so Narada Muni came and said look you gave temporary solutions you did not consider permanent solutions. You spoke about piety, Karma kanda, even Jyana karma but that's not the answer. *ksine punye martyalokam visanti* acquire piety and then enjoy. But when the piety is exhausted? With the piety you may go to the heavenly planets endless enjoyment but when you enjoying what's happening? Your piety is being exhausted your bank account is being diminished and when there is no credit then goodbye, go back where you came from. *ksine punye martyalokam visanti* when piety is exhausted then one falls one to *martyalok* world of death. The thing is that understanding the Vedas are important but what's most important? The ultimate understanding, partial understanding is not going to be desirable. What is desirable is the ultimate and therefore it has been pointed out that Vedas have described many different activities and unless and until one has the total understanding of the Vedas one will not get to know

what is the purpose or objective of the Vedas. What is the ultimate objective of the Vedas.

↓ The ultimate objective of the Vedas is to understand Krishna

The ultimate objective of the Vedas is Krishna Himself is describing the purpose of the Vedas is to understand me. That is the ultimate goal of the Vedas and that understanding came due to the instruction of Narada Muni in the form of Srimad Bhagavatam. So the Srimad Bhagavatam gives us the proper understanding. If you are caught up in the karma kanda section section it shows us the ways of enjoyment and the jnana karma shows us the way to liberation. Karma kanda gives bhukti material enjoyment and jnana karma gives mukti or liberation. But take note what is Caitanya-caritāmāta saying both this karma kanda and jnana karma is two pots of poison. So those who are after karma kanda and jnana karma may say well I am following the Vedas performing sacrifice in order to enjoy or I am performing astanga yoga to become liberated.

↓ Nothing but two pots of poison

They may say we are following the Vedas but Krishna Kaviraja Goswami is telling them its nothing but two pots of poison. So then what is the ultimate goal. The ultimate goal and desirable item is obviously not poison but nectar. This way we can consider when the milk ocean was churned by the demi-gods and demons, what came out, first came out the poison and then only the nectar. The demons did not get the nectar they were deprived they got misled by Mohini seeing the beautiful form again desire for enjoyment. So the goal of life is to surrender to Krishna and that surrender of Krishna will lead us to that nectar, the ultimate objective. That is Srimad Bhagavatam and Vyasadeva presented that under the direction of Narada Muni. Narada Muni is the ultimate deliverer. In the material nature if you notice before one becomes ready to go home back to Godhead he received the mercy of Narada Muni. Druva Maharaja received the mercy of Narada Muni, Prahlada Maharaja received the mercy of Narada Muni also *prajetas*. Narada the giver of the Supreme Personality of Godhead that's what he is so that's why Narada Muni came and told Vyasadeva this is what is missing so just give that unless and until you give that your heart will be dissatisfied. Thank you very much. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada!

2. Questions and Answers

↓ Guru Maharaja you mentioned in order for the piety to be materialized one can accumulate the piety but then is it that even though one may have the piety in this lifetime the Demi-Gods may decide that you may only get

access in a future life and for this period you only meant to have so much access?

Yes, they are the ultimate deciders living entities have their karma and they are being watched by the Demi-Gods and they will get the results of the karma in due course of time. And ultimately it is Krishna who is there as the supersoul. *Upadrañḥā. Anumantā* He is watching as a witness and he is approving sanction. demi-gods are subservient.

↓ If you do sense gratification according to the Vedasunclear

Like karma kanda section is they are saying the goal is to go to heavenly planets, performing austerities or pious activities by performing sacrifice they don't have any other information. They are thinking the goal is the enjoyment of everything. After karma kanda when one realizes that one cannot avoid suffering then he wants to become liberated so that is jnana karma section of the Vedas. But then the consideration is what is after that. If they think that is the goal then it is like poison. Two pots of poison. One is doomed and becomes degraded. A waste of time.

↓ The kind of people that will get attracted to Krishna Consciousness doesn't seem to correlate to whether they are pious or impious

No only pious and impious that's the absolute piety. Krishna Consciousness is the absolute piety transcending the duality of piety and sin. For example in the prison house the way the prisoners are acting accordingly he is being treated if the prisoners are obedient to the authority they treated nicely if the prisoners are disobedient to the authority then he is punished but when the prisoner submits to the king and becomes king's man then he is not under the jurisdiction of the prison authorities so then he is king's man like an example can be given even in the prison house those who are acting on behalf of the king like the prison employees taking care of the affairs of the prison. Are they prisoners? No although they are in the prison they are appointed by the King and acting on behalf of the King. They are not prisoners although they are in the prison so for them they are not subjected to prison courts. So yes the devotees are not affected by the piety or sin of this material nature because they are acting on behalf of Krishna. Therefore they are not interested also, material enjoyment what's the big deal? We already enjoying so much without our credit of piety. In Krishna consciousness do we enjoy your suffer? When we are enjoying why should we worry about things of enjoyment. For so many lifetimes we have developed so many bad habits will the habits go away straight away? It may take some time but if one is on the right path then in course of time. Consider

Krishna's assurance who can ever deny that? *sarva-dharmān parityajya mām ekaā caraēāā vraja ahaā tvāā sarva-pāpēbhyo mokñaiñyāmi mā çucau* so when one is free from all sinful reactions then where is the question of suffering? The impediments are there because they are not able to come to that platform to surrender. Often we will find they are not able to come to the platform of following the four regulative principles so its only a matter of time what to do they have developed this bad habits so they breaking the regulative principles so overnight they cannot come to the perfect stage it doesn't matter let him go through and when they break the law they will be punished and this is how they learn. So punishment they will be subjected to punishment but those punishments are actually a process of purification.

3. Srila Prabhupada appreciation

And Prabhupada mentioned that finally when Caitanya Mahaprabhu sent him to the West, he sent him as a pauper, without any money, without any resources. But all kinds of wonderful things started to happen. So Srila Prabhupada was not in the limelight, Srila Prabhupada was not even in the forefront when Srila Bhaktisiddanta Sarasvati was present. But Bhaktisiddanta Sarasvati Thakur knew who Srila Prabhupada was and what Srila Prabhupada would do. Bhaktisiddanta Sarasvati Thakur told Prabhupada that 'You are not successful in your business, you do not love money enough. In order to be successful in business, you have to love money enough. But you do not love money enough, therefore you are not successful in business.' Then Prabhupada was in Bombay. Devotees were setting up an ashram. They were establishing a centre in Bombay. Prabhupada was very involved. Prabhupada was helping them even though he was a householder. He was not living in the ashram but he was giving them all kinds of help. And some suggested that Prabhupada becomes the president of the temple in Bombay. Bhaktisiddanta Sarasvati Thakur said, 'No, there is no need to encumber him with any responsibilities. In due course of time he will do something wonderful.' Bhaktisiddanta Sarasvati Thakur detected that here is a person who is so absorbed in hearing. He listens very carefully. He was impressed with that. And Bhaktisiddanta Sarasvati Thakur also confided in Srila Prabhupada that very soon there will be fire in Gaudiya Math. He could see how the members of that institution would start to fight amongst themselves for the sake of position and power and property. And Srila Prabhupada was away from all that.

(Excerpt from "Prabhupada Realisations" by HH Bhakti Charu Swami)

4. Guru Maharaja's Instructions:

- ↓ So the goal of life is to surrender to Krishna and that surrender of Krishna will lead us to that nectar, the ultimate objective;
- ↓ The ultimate goal and desirable item is obviously not poison but nectar; and
- ↓ So yes the devotees are not affected by the piety or sin of this material nature because they are acting on behalf of Krishna. Therefore they are not interested also, material enjoyment what's the big deal? We already enjoying so much without our credit of piety.

(The content of this E-magazine was based on a Lecture given by His Holiness Bhakti Charu Swami on 13 March 2015 in ISKCON Midrand)

(Compilation & editing by Hemavati Radhika dasi)