

BEYOND ALL RELIGIONS



hare krsna hare krsna
krsna krsna hare hare
hare rama hare rama
rama rama hare hare

(Disciple of Yuga Acharya Srila Narayana Maharaja)
Dr. Bhagavati Kanti Dasa Ph.D

GOKUL PUBLICATIONS

BEYOND ALL RELIGIONS

Offering at the lotus feet of Yuga Acharya Srila Narayana
Goswami Maharaja

Author

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Publication: GOKUL PUBLICATIONS
First Edition
Version 1.4, Sep 17, 2025

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One God
No Caste, No Color, No Creed, No Religion.

Only one mantra – the supreme Maha Mantra

*hare krsna hare krsna
krsna krsna hare hare
hare rama hare rama
rama rama hare hare*

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PREFACE

Gokul Bhajan & Vedic Studies (GBVS) is a unique non-profit service organization to spread Krishna Consciousness everywhere in this world. It has no affiliation or control by any other organization.

Our only goal is to practice pure bhakti under the footsteps and lineage of Yuga Acharya Srila Bhaktivedanta Narayana Goswami Maharaja, the Six Goswamis and Guru Parampara coming under the lineage of Lord Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

This book has been written specifically for those who are new and curious to know the truths and secrets beyond mundane religions, and help them to understand the Jaiva Dharma which is beyond all the religions.

We thank the following who helped by reviewing and providing graphics, materials and financial helps for making this book:

Kamala Devi Dasi
Karuna Mayi Radhika Dasi
Krishna priya Dasi (Nigeria)
Nava Kishori Devi Dasi
Prema Devi Dasi
Radha Kanta Dasa
Radha Shyamasundar Dasa

This book is submitted as an offering at the lotus hands of Srila Gurudeva Yuga Acharya Srila Bhaktivedanta Narayana Goswami Maharaja begging him for his causeless mercy upon us to become pure devotees and develop pure love for the Supreme Lordship Sri Radha Krishna Yugala.

Jai Srila Gurudeva!

Jai Srila Prabhupada!

INTRODUCTION

Socrates, the famous genius was once pushed over a police officer by someone in a crowded market place. The angry police officer asked, "Who are you?" Socrates humbly responded, "Sir! I have been asking this very same question to myself for so long. If you know who I am, please tell me."

The question, 'Who am I?' cannot be easily answered. Most of the people would answer telling their names, or about their parents or their jobs, their designations and so on. But none of them is correct, because we are not the body but are spirit souls also called jivas. But even though we are so proud of our external communications, we are not successful in communicating with our own soul. We have not seen our own soul. Even the most advanced science is not able to show us our soul. So, the question 'who am I?', is a lifelong question to ponder over until one realizing with the right answer.

Many ancient sages and yogis have spent their entire lives trying to find the answer to this seemingly simple question. Once when Swami Vivekananda was asked, 'Who are the living beings and where do they come from?', he could not give an answer either. He said, 'It is a very strange thing.' Thus, there are truths that even so-called scholars do not know. But we think we are very intelligent and try to know many things other than to know about our own selves.

Being pulled strongly by their minds, human beings in this world are caught in the illusion of this material world and wasting their lives only to satisfy their senses. These illusion-ed beings trapped into the ocean of repeated births and deaths (called 'samsara ocean'), do not know what the seemingly unending journey they are traveling across many many lives. They do not know when their journey will end. They are aimlessly wandering through various planets being born and dead so many times, and taking birth into the wombs of any of the 8.4 million kinds of species in unlimited material worlds.

'Who are we? Where did we come from? Where did all these universes come from? Who is behind all these wonderful creations? Does God exist? If He exists where is He? What is He doing? What should we be doing? Why am I in this endless journey? Who is controlling me? What is my real nature? Where is my peaceful shelter to be happy for ever? Where is my real home?'

Many such questions arise in the minds of but only few intelligent people, but they are not able to give enough time and importance to ponder over this. Everyone is carrying on with their own sense centered lives. However, when they run into miseries and problems that they cannot solve, then they inquire about any super powers beyond that is controlling us, our environment and all the worlds.

But not knowing where to find the real knowledge, many people are running after various religions just to try to get peace and happiness. But they are not finding real answers. The so-called religions are nothing but a set of sectarian people under certain faith and dogma based on teachings by contemporary prophets and others who postulate their own ideas about God and divide the one God into so many pieces and separate themselves into sectarian religions.

As we see in this world, there are nothing but fanatic societies who are trying to take advantage and mislead the people for their own self interests, benefits and profits. Instead of getting peace, they are getting caught into sectarian fanaticism. This is the fact we see in every religion in this age of quarrels and hypocrisy. Like one blind man leading other blind men, they all only fall into the deep ditches.

The fact is that living beings (called jivas or souls or spirits) do not belong to any religion, caste or race. Every jiva came from the same one God. They did not come from different Gods such as Hindu God, Christian God or Mohammedan God, etc.

Every jiva has only one intrinsic eternal divine nature (dharma) and that truth is called Jaiva Dharma. This Jaiva Dharma is not a religion and does not belong to any sectarian people. This Jaiva Dharma does not have any beginning or ending. It is eternal and had been followed in ancient times and will be continuing forever. So, the so-called religions are nothing but temporary inventions and artificial societies.

The author of this small book has taken his journeys through many popular religions and finally convinced about the eternal Jaiva Dharma that is beyond all the religions which is the title of this book. Unlike the religions that will have a beginning and hence an ending, Jaiva Dharma has no beginning and hence no ending. This book has been written in a way that anyone can easily read and understand. This will help anyone genuinely interested in knowing about the secret ancient wisdom and make one's life successful.

Thank you!

PART ONE – Common Questions

A. Sambandha - Our relation to God

1. Who is God?

While atheists argue that there is no God, everyone believes that there is some power beyond our control. The questions about God naturally comes from us from what we see from nature and ourselves. While we see amazing creations with nature and so many species, we do not see any visible entity controlling all these. So, some declare that God if at all exists, He should not have any form.

However, as nothings happens without a cause, there must be someone with super intelligence behind for all the effects we see. From the Vedic Wisdom we hear that everything comes from the Supreme God served by many demi-gods. As the Supreme God has a spiritual form, He is beyond our material senses. While it is easy to assume that the God has no form, we see from Vedic Wisdom that the Supreme God indeed has spiritual form – not material form.

Just because something is invisible, we cannot conclude that it is not there. Just because we are not able to see the air, we cannot say that there is no air. For example, when we see milk, we do not see ghee in it. In order to see the ghee, we have to boil the milk and churn it to find out. Similarly, only when we perform spiritual practices, we can realize and see the God face to face.

As per the Vedic Wisdom, God has no beginning and no ending from whom everything manifests, un-manifests and re-manifests. The Supreme God also is called Bhagavan, and He possesses six kinds of eternal qualities – all to the fullest extent. They are:

1. Opulence (Aishwarya)
2. Strength (Virya)
3. Fame (Yasya)
4. Beauty (Sri)
5. Knowledge (Jnana)
6. Renunciation (Vairagya)

However, we should also understand that the Bhagavan also expands into many manifestations full and partial that include demi-gods. When His quality of great opulence is predominantly exhibited, He is called Lord Narayana or Lord Rama and so on. When all the eternal qualities of that Supreme God are fully exhibited, He is called Lord Krishna. Therefore, Lord Krishna is the Supreme God or Bhagavan. He is situated in His eternal spiritual form that cannot be seen by our material eyes or by our perception.

2. Who created God?

God was never created by anyone. This question comes because we are under the control of His material creations that has a time (kala) dimension. The Vedic Wisdom says that all these creations with time dimensions are temporary manifestations from an eternal ever existing spiritual dimension beyond time (kala) where Supreme Lord is residing. The Vedic Wisdom says that God has no beginning and no ending and thus always existing. However, it is very difficult for us to understand from our material mind and intelligence. So, there is no sense in asking a question such as 'who was there before God' or 'who created God'. Not only God but we the souls also have no beginning and no ending because we are also part and parcel of the same Supreme God. Only from Supreme God comes all the creations with time and space. When one is spiritually progressing, then it is easy to understand the spiritual truths.

3. If we are not the body, who are we?

We are not the body but are souls that are spiritual in nature. What we see is just our gross body which is made of material elements such as ether, air, fire, water and earth covering our spiritual body as an outer shell. Inside our gross body is a subtle body comprising of mind, intelligence and false ego. Deeper to all these two layers is our soul. When one dies, he leaves only the gross body and goes out with the ghostly body comprising of the subtle body and the soul inside. This is what that reincarnates into different kinds of material bodies depending on the karma performed by the person in lives.

4. What is death? What happens at death?

Death is just an event in the journey of the soul where it discards the

worn out mortal physical body and prepares to get into another suitable gross body depending on its karma (activities performed with the physical body).

According to Vedic Wisdom, when a person dies, the soul leaves the gross body and becomes a ghost comprising of subtle body (mind, intelligence and false ego) wrapped over the inner soul. This ghost sees its own dead gross body and invariably gets shock. The experience of leaving the gross body is like going through a tunnel and getting out to a bright place. The ghost sees a semi spiritual world where the dead ancestors live until they are judged and are made to be re-born again depending on their past karmic acts. This place of dead ancestors is called pitru-loka (abode of the ancestors) which is part of the bhuvan loka above our earth. While they can see us, we cannot see them. Some Near Death Experienced persons (NDEs) think that this is the heaven of God. This is not true. This pitru-loka may look like heaven but it is actually a waiting place before the judgement by Yama Raja (God of Death) happens. Thus, the dead karmic jiva will be then allocated to hells and heavens.

Recently as more evidences are coming out by the reborn souls telling under hypnotic environment about their previous lives and death experiences, they all perfectly match with the Vedic Wisdom.

While the repeated birth and death is the norm of the conditioned souls, by the devotional process of Krishna Consciousness, one can put an end to the repeated birth and death and go beyond the pitru-loka and 14 levels of heavenly planets and reach the abode of the Supreme Lord. Once a jiva reaches there, there is always unlimited bliss and will never be subjected to be re-born in the material worlds any more. This is called liberation or moksha.

5. Is Reincarnation True?

Yes, reincarnation is a truth which is now proven by the scientists and doctors from the innumerable NDE cases where sometimes the person temporarily leaves the body but then gets back to the body alive again by emergency procedures. Volumes of books have been written about this where the spiritual world has been consistently narrated by those who returned after a moment of death.

While the reincarnation is completely true, if any religion refutes it, they are clearly in ignorance. As the Vedic Wisdom reveals, souls will be changing their bodies similar to changing their worn-out

clothes so many times until they get liberated.

6. Is Krishna Consciousness part of Hinduism?

No. Even though many people think that it is part of Hinduism, Krishna Consciousness is not a religion but is called Jaiva Dharma (Sanatana Dharma) which has nothing to do with any religions. Every jiva (soul) is inherently part of this Jaiva Dharma which is beyond all the mundane religions. Religions are sectarian. Jaiva Dharma is for every jiva.

The name 'Hindu' was given by the muslims invading India when they saw those civilizations around sindhu (Hindu) valley. Hindus worship demi-gods and believe that worshipping any god is same. Also in Hinduism there are many beliefs and their worships have nothing to do with Jaiva Dharma.

7. Why meat eating is sinful?

Meat is consumed only by those who are in the animalistic level. Meat is the most contaminated and unhealthy substance that comes from killing other living beings that have developed nervous system and thus subjected to pain when killed. Plant foods do not involve pain as they do not have nervous system as the animals do. While the nature of the animal kingdom is made to sustain on other living beings without incurring any karmic reactions, human beings are subjected to the laws of karma because the human form is given by the God to get back to the kingdom of God. So, meat eating has karmic consequence. Meat = 'Me Eat' now, and you 'Eat Me' later. This means one will incur the sin and bad karma and later be born and eaten by the others who were killed by this karmi. We also come to know from science that meat is NOT meant for the human beings who are Herbivorous compared to the Carnivorous (animals). This is why it is said in the Bible that 'Thou shall not kill'. But the same Christians everywhere promote slaughtering animals.

We should also have common sense that meat and blood cannot be separated. The blood is in every cell. So we should use our common sense and ask ourselves as how one can drain the blood and make it blood free meat?

However, one exception has been given for the kings who could perform ashwamedha yajnas (horse sacrifices) and consume meat

with rituals. But this is not pure devotion that we advocate for. In the Vedic culture we see offering of animals but we understood from Lord Caitanya that they were used as tests for the vedic students where they had to revive the sacrificed old animals back to life into young animals. All these are not related to Krishna Bhakti where meat eating is termed very sinful and surely punished in hell.

8. Can animals also get Krishna Bhakti?

The answer is yes and no. Even though Krishna Bhakti is hidden in every jiva, when a jivas is living as an animal, it is very difficult for the animal to wake up to that high level of devotional stage. However, in Vraja every thing appear there has pure devotion. When Supreme God gives opportunity to the souls to get a human birth, these souls can be in a awakened state by sadhana and eligible to revive Krishna Prema and go back to Supreme God. So, human birth is the very special chance to develop pure devotion.

9. Can we worship God without a Guru?

In this world, what did we learn by ourselves without the help of others? We could not even learn the simple alphabets by ourselves and we had to be taught. When we want to become a sports star, we approach a coach and learn from him. When we want to learn music, we learn from a music teacher. When we become sick, we go to a doctor. Sometime we even go for second opinions.

So, when even for such small things in this material world we cannot learn by ourselves, how can we learn about God and spiritual dimensions that we cannot even see and have no knowledge? Spiritual knowledge is not something we can do by ourselves.

The Vedic Wisdom (Bhagavad Gita and others) says that in order to learn about spiritual topics, such as God, His abode, His glories, etc. one must approach and surrender to a qualified teacher (guru) and learn from him by serving him with love and affection.

In fact the Vedic Wisdom says that we should offer our very first worship to our guru, and then only we can worship the Supreme God. This is the right and most effective way. This is why we see in the Krishna Consciousness temples that the Guru Puja is performed first.

10. Can one have many gurus?

Can anyone work for more than one boss? However, while one can work only to one master, he can have as many friends and advisors. But the master is the topmost authority. In the same way, a disciple will have only one 'diksha' guru who gave initiation by giving the sacred mantras. That divine personality is his master and in-charge to deliver from this world. However, one can have as many 'siksha' gurus. Siksha gurus are those who help in devotional practices and also by giving advices. But the important thing is that we should not have siksha gurus who is not in the line of the diksha guru.

11. Can Spiritual Master solve all the problems?

A spiritual master is sent by the Supreme Lord to solve only one problem! There is only one problem for all jivas in the material worlds. That is the repeated birth and death. This is the one and only problem to be solved. Anything other than this is not a problem and has nothing to with a genuine guru. If a spiritual master is trying to solve material problems of a disciple, that spiritual master is a bogus person. Similarly if a disciple tries to get material favors from his guru, he is also a bogus disciple and will surley loose bhakti.

12. What is the end of life?

There is no such thing as 'end of life' for a soul. While things in the material worlds have decay and end of life and recycled, there is no such thing for any soul. All the souls emanated from Supreme God. As Supreme God Lord Krishna has no beginning and no ending, souls also have no beginning or ending. Death is not the end of the life of a soul. Death is just the beginning of another incarnated life. In a higher perspective, the goal of a soul is to get liberated and eternally situated in the spiritual world. However, it is not the end of the life but the ultimate eternal and ever blissful destination.

13. If God is one why so many religions?

This is the main theme of this book. There is only one Supreme God. That Supreme God is situated way higher than the so called Demi-Gods. Let us say that you want to become a doctor. Becoming a doctor is your only one and highest goal for you. But why do you

have to go through the elementary school, middle school, high school, college, and then only to the medical college? If you have only one destination and why can't you go straight to the medical college?

So, the answer is that every religion is a step towards the same single pure Jiva Dharma that is to serve the Supreme God with love and affection. But not every jiva can go straight to that level. All the so called religions are nothing but the step stones that one can use to transcend. This is what Lord Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita (18.66) says that ultimately we throw away all the religions and go straight to Him which is the ultimate goal. This is actually the part-2 of this book in details.

14. Will there be resurrection after our death?

The resurrection is a modern illusionary theology. It makes one believe that our dead body is going to be used later and bring back to life. This is totally ignorant as those religions do not have any knowledge of reincarnation that is scientifically proven very well. Thus, this resurrection is an invented theory. It is common sense that we see the dead body decays and worms will eat and is disintegrated to the earth. Also we have been taking birth millions of times one body after another out of 8.4 millions kinds of species. What happened to all those dead bodies that we took birth in? So, this resurrection is a laughable myth. Please use common sense.

15. If a body is burnt when dead, is resurrection possible?

Resurrection from the dead body is a baseless and ignorant belief. When a soul leaves its gross body, it will have no connection or whatsoever with the dead body and will get disintegrated and mixed with the earth. Then how does it matter if it is burnt or buried? There is no difference. So, this question is another laughable myth. A soul is constantly leaving one physical body at death and taking new body depending on its karma. Out of the millions of dead bodies of the soul, which one are they talking about?

16. Can one have more than one wife?

No. Krishna Consciousness teaches that one should be free from trying to enjoy this world and satisfy our senses. The concept of marriage is only to regulate one's lusty desires. One of the four pillars of Krishna Consciousness is not to have relation outside one's single marriage.

According to the teachings from our acharyas, when one chooses to get married, there can be only one wife. There are cases when one's wife dies there can be another marriage. The examples are Srila Bhakti Vinoda Thakura and Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu during the ghashtha lives. One should not divorce and marry another one. That will be sinful and leads to hellish condition.

Srila Gurudeva says that it is best not to marry but dedicate the complete life only in devotion to the Supreme Lord. But if one marries, then both can live a devotional life and not bring any children. If one has a child, then it is the full responsibility of the parents to make the child into Krishna Conscious and deliver.

However, one exception was given to the kings in the Vedic times who could marry multiple women as he can also maintain them.

17. What if Christ and Islam did not come?

Nothing much would have happened. Not only this world but the unlimited universes created by the will of Lord, is always running with devotion and worship for uncountable millions of years – past, present and future. The so called modern religions come and go only for the particular need and circumstances. These temporary religions will vanish and new ones will come as the time elapses.

The Vedic Wisdom says there is only one religion called Jaiva Dharma the eternal religion. This does not have any beginning or ending. Every mundane religion that had a beginning will surely have an ending. In the infinite period of creation there have been so many religions came and gone. So, whether it is Christianity, Islam or any of the so called 200 religions are only like the temporary mushrooms that came only for temporary circumstances.

So, Jaiva Dharma is the only eternal religion with no beginning and no ending. Krishna Consciousness shows that eternal religion called Jaiva Dharma, which is the main theme of this book.

18. Do Krishna devotees face judgement day?

The concept of judgement day is an artificial belief. In fact the judgement is happening every moment. Whenever one leaves the body, depending on one's karmic actions Lord Yama (the god of death) gives punishments by sending the jiva to hell to suffer, or rewards by giving heavenly abode to enjoy. However, none of these are permanent and the jiva has to be re-born again.

When one surrenders to Lord Krishna and worships Him in love and devotion, he will not face any judgement. In fact the vedic wisdom says that when a Krishna devotee leaves the body, the God of Death Lord Yama gives honor to that devotee and is not subjected to his judgement or jurisdiction. This is repeatedly said in many scriptures. Whenever one chants maha mantra on tulasi beads and wears tulasi beads around his neck, the God of Death Lord Yama is never involved with the jiva for any judgement.

19. Chaos in this world! Is God out of control?

First of all, we must understand that the jivas born and living in the material worlds are not intelligent. Due to wrongly exercising their inherent freedom to enjoy the material worlds instead of to be in the spiritual world with the Lord, they are facing the consequences with miserable conditions. In fact, the Supreme God wants these jivas to face miserable conditions so that they will feel dejected with the material worlds and hanker to be back to the spiritual world. So, Lord has purposely arranged the material worlds to be miserable. If we do not feel miserable in this world, we will never think about God and forget about our spiritual nature. In Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna says that He purposely made the material worlds with 3 kinds of miseries:

- 1) Miseries due to our body (birth, disease, old age and death) and mind
- 2) Miseries caused by other beings
- 3) Miseries caused by the natures (controlled by demi-gods)

So, it is impossible to be happy here in this world because the material worlds do not belong to us and our original nature is spiritual – not material.

So, due to the arrangement by the Lord, we will go through the law

of karma we will only continually suffer. This is not heaven but will have one problem after another. God has no intention to make our life comfortable here. Supreme God has given the material worlds to be run by the demi-gods who use the karmas of the jivas to suffer here. However, when the condition is too cruel, He comes down to the material worlds and re-establishes the dharma as He says in Bhagavad Gita.

God indeed is in every atom, but He is not going to make this world into a happy place to live for us. So, our understanding should be that we should do whatever needed to develop devotion to the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna and get out from the repeated birth and death and go back to our real home in the spiritual and never return back.

20. Are other religions away from Krishna?

No. There is only one Supreme God, not two or many. We can call the same Supreme God with different names and worship with different approaches. Supreme God has other manifestations such as Brahman (the formless effulgence from Him) and Paramatma who resides in every heart of the Jiva. All the demi-gods who serve the Supreme God are also the manifestations from the same Supreme God.

Every religion has a purpose and they have different grades of approaches towards the same Supreme God. The karmis who wish to go to heaven of demi-gods are at the beginner level. Most of the modern religions fall into this category. Higher than them are those who want to merge in Brahman (moksha). Even higher than above are those who want to reach the spiritual abodes such as Vaikuntha. So, as all these came from the Supreme God, they are not away from Supreme Lord Sri Krishna.

However, above all these levels is the highest abode of Sri Krishna called Goloka Vrindavana. This can be reached only by pure devotion which is unconditional and without any selish motives.

21. How should devotees address Guru and Vaishnavas?

1. Any vaishnava who has not accepted the renounced order of life shall be addressed as 'Prabhu' or 'Prabhujii'

2. Any vaishnava who has accepted the renounced order of life (vana-prastha or sannyasa) should be addressed as 'Maharaja' or 'Swami'
3. One's guru who has given diksha (sacred initiation mantras) must be addressed as 'Gurudeva' (best) or 'Gurujii'. He should not be addressed as Maharaja or Swami or Prabhu. Thus, one should give the highest respect to one's diksha guru.
4. One can also have as many siksha gurus and they can be called as Maharaja or Prabhu depending upon their stage.

22. How many rounds of maha mantra should I chant daily?

Kanishtha adhikaris, the ones who have just taken harinama initiation shall chant 4 or 8 or upto 16 rounds as they progress and prescribed and monitored by the initiating guru. Madhyama adhikari who has taken diksha should chant 32, 48 or 64 rounds. In gaudiya sampradaya, the minimum rounds is 64 – not 16. The uddhama adhikari will be chanting 128 or even 192 rounds daily.

However, if one is dedicated to extensive guruseva, the chanting rounds can be adjusted. Thus, a madhyama adhikari doing guruseva shall chant at least 32 rounds daily.

23. Does the word 'rama' in maha-mantra refer to Lord Rama or Lord Balarama?

The maha-mantra is a Krishna Mantra. It is not a Rama mantra. Lord Rama has separate mantras. However, as being the supreme mantra, it gives many levels of realizations to the devotees. Some people even chant it starting with 'hare rama hare rama' and so on. We have a separate book written about the correct maha-mantra according to the authentic scriptures. All the authentic scriptures say that the maha-mantra starts with 'hare-krishna' and not 'hare-rama'.

Maha mantra gives different levels of realizations according to the levels of the chanters. Those who chant it starting with 'hare-rama' can get mukti but not krishna prema. These mostly the vaidhi bhaktas will have the realization that 'rama' represents sita-rama or bala-rama. Only the raganuga bhaktas will have the highest realization that it represents 'ramana'. The 'hare rama' represents

'radha-ramana'. As Srila Prabhupada had to first preach vaidhi bhakti to the westerners, he explained it to represent sita-rama or bala-rama. But this is just one level of realization. The highest realization of maha-mantra is prema only for Sri Radha Krishna.

24. Is spirit, soul, atma and jiva the same thing?

The word spirit means that it is not of material by nature, but is spiritual. Anything that belongs to the spiritual world is a spirit. Soul is a spiritual entity (vasthu) that is minute and came from God. It is also called atma. So, the word soul and atma are synonymous and signifies in pure form in the spiritual dimension. When a soul is entrapped into a physical (material) body, it is called jiva. This jiva can also be called as jiva-atma meaning that an atma is in a living body.

25. What is paramatma and super soul?

The parama-atma and super-soul both names represent the same spiritual entity that is beyond all the souls. The word 'parama' or 'super' means beyond or higher. Similar to the words atma and soul that are just synonyms, the parama-atma and super-soul are also synonyms and represent the one and only Supreme God from whom all the souls originated.

26. What is the difference between God and Supreme God?

When we say God in general, there are many so called Gods. God means some one who is a controller (demi-gods). But in Krishna Consciousness we do not give attention to the Gods, but only to the one and only Supreme God who is above all the Gods. While we do give respects to the demi-gods, different Gods may be worshipped by different religions. But the Supreme God who is above all the Gods is Lord Sri Krishna. The so called Gods or demi-gods are the servants of the Supreme God.

27. What is the relation between Supreme God and Soul?

All the souls emanated from the Supreme God Sri Krishna. Thus, all the souls are subordinate to the source who is Lord Krishna. Every soul has the intrinsic nature of a servant. So, by our intrinsic nature, we the souls are the loving servants of Supreme Lord Sri Krishna. We are all supposed to go back to Him from our fallen state and be with Him serving with love and devotion. To attain this original nature of ourselves, we follow bhakti-yoga and worship the Supreme God Sri Krishna.

B. Abhideya - Achieving God

28. Why do devotees worship cows?

The cows are said to be descending from a divine cow called Kamadenu residing in the heavenly skies and in the abode of Lord Krishna called Goloka Vrindavan. Out of 330 millions of demigods, many of them also reside on the body of the cows. It is also said that the triangular structure of the Indian cows channels the cosmic energy and thus even its urine and cow-dung are all said to be pure and powerful.

Scientists have found out the antiseptic and anti-radiation effects on the cow dung. When Lord Krishna descended to this earth about 5,000 years ago, He also brought the Kamadenu cows. The cows just by eating grass and drinking water, they give us milk including to the children who do not have enough milk from their mothers. So, a cow is considered as one of the seven mothers. Due to these divine natures, the devotees of Lord Krishna worship the cows.

29. Why is it sinful to kill a cow?

According to the Vedic Wisdom and now also supported by modern science, there are 8.4 million kinds of living species that can be grossly classified into plants, aquatics, insects, birds, beasts and human beings. Scientifically they are all having gradations in the development of nervous system. While the plants have no nervous system and human beings have the highest developed nervous system, the severity of the sinful karmic results depend on the

extent one harms other living beings making them to suffer. Thus, killing a plant has the very least karmic result compared to the killing of a human being which is highly punishable.

While whales and dolphins have the highest developed nervous system in aquatic animals, and dove and peacocks have the highest developed nervous system among birds, the cows have the highest developed nervous system among the beasts. According to Vedic wisdom, a cow will be born as a human being in its next birth. So, a cow is very close to a human being in this matter. In Vedic wisdom it is mentioned that when one kills a cow, he will be put into hell to rot and suffer for as many millions of years as many hairs were on that cow. So, we have to use our common sense intelligently and scientifically instead of having fanaticism from manufactured religions.

A human being when born, depends completely on the milk from its mother. A mother is the one who nurtures the child with her milk. Similarly, a cow also supplies milk for us by just eating grass and drinking water. So, it is the arrangement of god to make the cows also like a mother for us. Like a mother who gives the milk from her blood, the cow also give us milk from its blood. In fact when a mother cannot feed her baby anymore, it is the cow that gives the milk. In this way, a cows is like a mother who gives milk to her child.

The word 'mother' also means one who nurtures and takes care. The vedic wisdom tells that there are 7 kinds of mothers:

1. The earth that gives resources and shelter for us
2. One's own mother born from
3. The wife of a king who is supposed to be kind and nurture the citizens
4. The nurse who taking care like a mother when one is sick and bed-ridden
5. The cow that gives us milk and nurtures
6. The wife of spiritual master who kindly takes care of the disciples of the guru like their mother
7. The wife of a brahmana who gives spiritual knowledge

So, we have to understand that the word mother does not confine to one's physical birth alone. So, if one says, 'I am not born from a cow and hence cow is not my mother', then we only see his hellish arrogance and ignorance.

Thus, killing a cow is equivalent to killing one's own mother. The

Vedic Wisdom says that if anyone kills a cow, he will be tortured in the deep hell for as many millions of years as many hairs on the cow he killed. So, killing a cow is very severe form of sin.

30. What are the daily rituals of a devotee?

Krishna Consciousness is all about constantly keeping the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna at the center of our daily lives. When one gets up, he offers prayers to his spiritual master, and starts the day after taking full bath:

- Apply tilak on his body
- Chant the gayatri mantras – morning, noon and evening
- Chant the maha mantra on the tulasi beads
- Morning worship of guru and vaishnavas by singing prayers
- Morning worship of the Lord in deity form
- Water and worship Tulasi and circumambulate
- Perform the duties and works for the living
- Evening worship of deities in the temple room
- Hearing harikatha about the Lord and singing for Lord

Before chanting the maha mantra, chant the following pancha tattva mantra:

*sri krsna caitanya prabhu nityananda
sri advaita gadadara srivasadi gaura bhakta vrinda*

Then chant the maha mantra as many times one can. One round on the beads involves 108 times – one full mantra below for each bead. Initiated devotees should chant at least 16 rounds every day. In our Gaudiya sampradaya, advanced devotees should chant 64 rounds of mala daily as the minimum.

Here is the maha mantra to chant after pancha tattva mantra.

*hare krsna hare krsna
krsna krsna hare hare
hare rama hare rama
rama rama hare hare*

31. What if I eat meat again after I stopped?

Actually if one joins Krishna Consciousness and constantly chants the maha mantra everyday, taking prasadam and associate with

pure devotees, the heart and mind become pure and strong. His intelligence will get fixed in the right things and convinced that eating meat is sinful. A mentally strong person will not go back to eating meat again.

However, if that person had to eat meat due to circumstances, he should continue chanting begging the Lord to make him more strong. The chanting of maha mantra is so powerful that the mercy will come from the Lord. Nothing to worry but keep chanting that will make the belief stronger and eventually get back to the right path and completely give up eating meat.

32. Why do devotees worship Tulasi plant?

The spiritual world is very exalted and cannot be easily understood. Tulasi plant, even though for our naked eye looks like a plant, she actually has a higher spiritual origin. She is also one of the dear most devotees of the Lord in the spiritual sky who came down to the earth in the most simple form for us to worship. We need to offer just little water and sunlight. By worshiping her, she offers us the mood of pure devotion. Recently the scientists have proved that astonishing positive energy rays are emanating from Tulasi plants.

As the Lord is so merciful on the souls who are struggling in the material worlds, He sends some of His associates and dear most devotees to come down to the earth. They all come down as saints and gurus and instruct us to develop devotion to the Lord. There are several ways we can develop devotion and Tulasi worship is one of them:

- 1) By worshipping the Lord in deity form
- 2) By associating with pure devotees
- 3) By worshipping the pure devotees of the Lord
- 4) By worshipping Tulasi (holy plant), etc.

33. Why devotees wear Tulasi beads on neck?

The sacredness of Tulasi plant was given above. Even though we see this holy basil as a plant, she has spiritual origin and can bless us with devotion to Lord Krishna.

From the Vedic wisdom we learn that when one wears the sacred tulasi beads around his neck, when the soul of the devotee leaves the body, the soul will never be taken to Lord Yama (god of death)

and thus he will not face judgement. Instead, that soul will go to the abode of Lord Krishna or Lord Vishnu directly. This is the power of wearing Tulasi beads around the neck.

Recent scientific studies are also telling that when one wears tulasi beads, the anger and blood pressure subsides and provides a calmer mind. These are only the external benefits but the spiritual benefits are the most important.

34. Why do we chant mantra on tulasi beads?

The answer is self explanatory by seeing the answers to the above two questions about worshipping Tulasi and wearing neck beads made of tulasi.

When we chant the maha mantra on the tulasi beads, the Tulasi Devi who is a dear most devotee and associate of the Lord, connects us to the Lord and bestows mercy and mood to make our devotion stronger and help to develop deeper love for the Lord. The spiritual vibration of Tulasi enters enhances our aura and mood when chanting. Sins are eradicated when we chant on Tulasi beads.

35. Why do we chant on Tulasi beads in a bag?

Tulasi beads, and the maha mantra we chant on, are not ordinary. The spiritual vibration of the holy names of the Lord can give liberation easily. The demi-gods who live in the heavens do not have the facility to do chanting there and they come to earth roaming around to steal any results from any chanter who chants by exposing his beads. It is to protect from this that we use a bag to chant in. Also the bag helps to protect the tulasi beads from touching dirty places.

36. Can I use colored bags to chant the beads?

Even though other organizations may allow chanting inside colored bags, Gaudiya Sampradaya recommends to chant only inside a clean 'white' bag. The 'white' bag represents our pure heart to attain. The white bag not only stands for the shape of our heart but also to shine clean as white.

Thus, the white color bag represents clean heart that we should strive to achieve by chanting. White bag means pure devotion and

colored bag means colored heart with some contamination with the modes of the material nature.

It is also important that no pictures of Sri Radha Krishna, words of maha mantra or any sacred symbol such as tilak printed on the bag. When it is washed, we rub the bag to take out the dirt and would look like rubbing away Sri Radha Krishna or sacred symbols. Vaishnavas do not want to do any harm even to the printed pictures. So, we use only plain and pure white bag.

37. Why do we put index finger out of the bag when chanting?

Our index finger represents ahankar, or ego or pride. When one argues with another, it is this index finger that points to the other person. When we chant the mahamantra, we are supposed to be in full humility feeling like a worthless blade of grass on the street (Sikshashtaka verse 3). This implies that when chanting, we should not have any trace of ego or pride. Hence we put the index finger out of the bag when chanting.

38. Why does my mind sometimes think bad and sometimes good?

The jivas in the material worlds are all mostly fallen souls. They all carry so many karmic impressions accrued over many births. The vasana or the overall impressions will manifest in our minds due to the influence of three modes of material nature called sattvic, rajasic and tamasic which are under the control of maya who is under the control of the Lord.

Everything in this world is under the influence of these three modes of material nature. Even if you take a day, the morning is sattvic (studying), day time is rajasic (working) and night is tamasic (sleeping). Thus, the environment, our past karmas all decide how our thoughts are going. Sometimes good and sometimes bad. For example, morning our mind can concentrate easily, but at night it cannot. In Bhagavad Gita Arjuna tells Lord Krishna that it is easy to control the wind compared to the mind. However, by engaging in guruseva, sadhu sanga and deity (temple) seva, the bad thinking can be easily diverted.

39. Can one worship Krishna and demigods same time?

Sure, a jiva can worship whoever he wants. Lord Krishna has given freedom to do so. However, there are two kinds of bhakti towards Krishna with its own separate results:

(1) Misra Bhakti (devotion mixed with selfish desires)

Jivas who have selfish desires will tend to worship demi-gods (devas). It is simple psychology. They may worship demi-gods, ancestors, or ghosts and go to heavens or their lokas or born among ghosts. They do not go to the abode of Krishna. However when a jiva worships Lord Krishna along with demi-gods that jiva may get liberation from repeated birth, but does not go to the abode of Krishna.

(2) Ananya Bhakti (devotion only to Krishna)

Only those jivas who worship only Lord Krishna exclusively without worshipping any other will go to the abode of Lord Krishna. In order to go to the abode of Lord Krishna, one has to worship Krishna with hundred percent commitment without worshipping any other gods. Lord Krishna says this in Bhagavad Gita 9.25.

40. If one worshipped demi-gods before but now worships only Krishna, will he go to the abode of Krishna?

A jiva can turn to the worship of Lord Krishna anytime even after a long time of worshipping demi-gods. Demi-gods are actually the angas (limbs) of Lord Krishna. But worship of demi-gods cannot give Krishna. However, once a jiva surrenders fully to Lord Krishna and develops ananya bhakti, Lord Krishna gladly accepts him and takes that jiva to His abode.

41. If God is formless, why worship deities?

There is a huge misunderstanding in this whole world about God has a form or not. If every thing moving and non-moving with forms came from the God, then how can we say that God does not have any form? Even when an ant has a form, why God cannot have a form?

There are three kinds of forms:

- (1) Visible material forms
- (2) Invisible subtle forms
- (3) Spiritual forms

We can see these three kinds of forms in our own self. We have a visible physical form (or gross body) made of five kinds of material elements (earth, water, fire, air, ether). Inside us there is a subtle body made of three kinds of invisible elements called mind, intelligence, and false ego. Way deeper those two is the soul which has a spiritual form.

Just because we cannot see our own subtle form or our own spiritual form, how can we say that they do not exist. The real problem is that with our material eyes we cannot see the other dimensional forms.

Similarly, as God is a spiritual entity and beyond our material understandings, the Vedic Wisdom says that God has no material form. It does not say that God has no form. When we say He is formless it means that His form is beyond our perception as we do not have power to see the spiritual form of God.

The Vedic Wisdom says that God has four aspects: 'sat-cit-ananda-vigraha'

- 1) sat – all pervading
- 2) cit – all knowing
- 3) ananda – all blissful
- 4) vigraha – spiritual form

The reason we worship God in deity form is only to develop relationship with God. By uttering mantras to install and offer worship is a provision for those who wants to worship Him with love and affection. Those who worship God with fear cannot worship God in any deity form.

So, God has spiritual form not material form. In the Bible also it is said that the God created human being from His own image.

42. Why do we wear tilak on the forehead?

The tilak on the fore front represents the lotus feet of the Lord and

under that we put a symbol of tulasi leaf showing Tulasi Devi is directly serving the Lord. There is a total of 13 marks that a Krishna devotee paints on his body by chanting 13 holy names of the Lord. By marking our body with these tilak marks, we are making ourself into a sacred temple for the Lord to reside and the Lord protects us in every aspect of our life.

43. Why Krishna devotees do not fear of God?

Almost all the religions propagate fear of God. There are 3 ingredients mixed in proportions in every mundane religion:

- (1) Asha: Desire to enjoy in this world and go to heaven to enjoy there as well. This comes from selfishness.
- (2) Bhaya: Fear of God from His punishment of throwing into the hell. This comes from the trace of sinful acts.
- (3) Kartavya: Following certain rules and regulations in worship. This comes from fanaticism and mundane beliefs.

All the above involve worshipping the Lord with a mood of fear, awe and reverence. These kinds of worship do not have pure love as the basis in their hearts and thus keep them at a distance from the God. All the mundane religions promote only fear of God. That is the reason they are not qualified to worship God in deity form.

But Krishna Consciousness is above all these and is based on 'Raga' which means pure love and affection devoid of any of the above – no selfish desires, no fear and no blind following. Krishna Consciousness is the topmost science.

Even though in the beginning one starts worshipping with rules and regulations, the ultimate goal is to develop unconditional love to the Lord. This love can be developed only towards the Supreme Lord when one worships the Lord with His most loving form with the heart. The Supreme God also has sacred and powerful holy names. This is the reason in Krishna Consciousness we invoke the Lord with the topmost holy name 'Krishna' or 'Radha Krishna' and so on.

As the raga bhakti involves only love of God, the devotees in Krishna Consciousness do not develop fear of God, but instead develop love of God. Only sinners need to be afraid of God not the loving souls.

44. What books are followed by devotees?

There are hundreds of books and all those cannot be listed here. Here are only a few examples:

Srimad Bhagavad Gita
Srimad Bhagavatam
Sri Caitanya Caritamrta
Jaiva Dharma
Sri Caitanya Bhagavata
Madhurya Kadambini
Bhakti Rasmrta Sindhu
Sandharbas, Hari Bhakti Vilasa, and so on.

45. What should I ask God when praying?

In general there are 4 kinds of people in this world come to worship God:

- 1) One who wants wealth and enjoyment
- 2) One who is facing miserable conditions
- 3) One who is inquisitive to find about god and jiva
- 4) One who is wise and have knowledge about God

So, these people ask for enjoyment, relief from worries, or get liberation. All these people will also tend to worship the demigods even if they come to worship Lord Krishna.

However, a pure devotee of Krishna is above all these four reasons. He knows that this world is temporary and the happiness here is only flickering. So, he does not ask for bhukti (enjoyment) or mukti (liberation). Instead his only aspiration is to obtain pure devotional love and serve Supreme God which is the real and ultimate happiness for the jivas. So, asking for prema bhakti and thus allow to serve Lord Krishna is the topmost prayer.

46. Why do some devotees wear saffron cloth?

The dress of saffron color represents renounced order of life relinquishing from any family responsibilities. They are like monks and their only focus is to serve his guru and Krishna. By wearing saffron colored dress, others will know this fact and thus will not be bothering to discuss about any mundane topics with that person.

The saffron colored dress means pure dedication to Lord Krishna.

47. What should I do to reach Lord Krishna?

Four things must be done to reach Lord Krishna in this very life time itself:

- 1) Accept the shelter of a self realized and authorized guru
- 2) Perform the sadhana under his direction
- 3) Chant and perform Hari Nama Sankirtana
- 4) Do Guruseva and Vaishnava seva
- 5) Associate only with pure devotees of Lord Krishna

48. In Nigeria, we believe the heavy rains are due to Gods and we should worship them. Is it correct?

This belief has ignorance at the background. Worshipping nature and village gods have been in practice for a long time. In America, the native Indians worship the buffalos thinking that they are the ancestors. Even in Vrindavan, the Vrajavasis thought they should worship Lord Indra (the God of rain) to get good rains. But Lord Krishna wanted to teach them a lesson and we hear this in Srimad Bhagavatam as how Lord Krishna stopped them from worshipping Lord Indra.

No one needs to worship any God except the Supreme God. The only worship should go to the Supreme God who is Lord Krishna. All the Gods are doing their works under Lord Krishna and the rains are due to the karma of the jivas and the biological environment those Gods rule over.

If just by worshipping those Gods anyone can make rains, why don't the Nigerians worship their village gods in the sahara desert and make that area to have full of rains?

49. What do you say about the practice of voodoo in Nigeria and African countries?

All these voodos are not a way of worshipping any God and surely nothing to with the Supreme God. This has ignorance as the deep root. By performing voodos, the performer brings the ancestors or spirits to do actions and charm the people. In America, the native

Indians worship the buffalos thinking that they are their ancestors.

In Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna says that if one worships ancestors, he goes to their pitra-loka (worlds of ancestors), and if anyone worships spirits (bhutas) he will be born among them. In Krishna Consciousness we aspire only to worship the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna and reach only Lord Krishna.

50. How do I know if I am making my gurudeva happy?

When one serves his Gurudeva with sincerity, the results of the seva will touch the soul and make the soul happy. Then it radiates out and reflects in the mind of the surrounding subtle body and make it very happy. So, if one does good guruseva, that person will feel inner happiness.

51. Can a disciple offer wishes to his Gurudeva?

A disciple is supposed to be a subordinate to his Gurudeva. If one is subordinate, how can he bestow blessings to the master? For example, on the Guru Purnima day, if a disciple calls his Gurudeva and gives blessings or greetings such as 'O Gurudeva! Happy Guru Purnima', how awkward this is! A disciple can only beg for the blessings from his Gurudeva and not to offer any blessings to Gurudeva.

52. What are the qualifications for a preacher?

Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu wants every one to be a preacher. In fact every guru wants his advanced disciples to be a preacher. However, the important thing to remember is to ask oneself about the qualification to preach. Without qualification and following what he preaches how can he preach? One who preaches should have the following:

- 1) Chant at least 64 rounds of maha-mantra daily
- 2) Have realized the absolute truth
- 3) Blessed and ordered by his Gurudev to preach
- 4) Live as an example for what you preach
- 5) Do not wish to accumulate wealth, followers or fame

C. Prayojana - The Supreme Benefit

53. Why Krishna is the name of God?

The supreme god has many holy names. They are divine and spiritual. None of the holy names of supreme lord is sectarian. However each name has a different quality, mood and results. When one worships the supreme god with love and affection, he will naturally select the name that reflects that mood. The holy name 'Krishna' means all loving and attractive. The holy names such as Narayana, Allah and Jehovah meaning greatness and majesty will be attractive for those who want to worship the same supreme god with a mood of fear and reverence.

54. Where does God reside?

The term God is generic. It may mean the Supreme God and also may mean the demi-gods who are serving the one and only Supreme God. The Vedic Wisdom tells us that the Supreme God resides in the farthest and topmost region of the spiritual world called 'Goloka.' The demi-gods have their own planets (also called lokas) which are different kinds of heavens. Heavens are not the places where the Supreme God Sri Krishna resides.

In our universe there are 14 levels of planetary systems of which seven are hellish and seven are heavens. Demi-gods live in the heavens. Supreme God Krishna does not reside in any of these heavens but resides above all these.

55. Does God sleep as we sleep in this world?

Sleep is required only for those who have material body. In the material worlds, the jivas need sleep and rest to re-charge the vital force in the body. This limitation is only in the material worlds and not in the spiritual worlds. However in the spiritual world, for the sake of pastimes (leelas) sleep and rest are added to enhance to make them like human-like pastimes.

In fact the spiritual world has no time factor either. There is no such thing as past tense or future tense but is always kind of present tense. This is difficult to understand from the material point of view.

56. What is God doing?

When we say God, it may mean the demi-gods and also the Supreme God. So, we have to see this as two questions:

1) What is Supreme God (Lord Krishna) doing?

The Supreme God does not directly participate in material creation of the worlds comprising of unlimited planets, galaxies, clusters and super clusters. He is situated in His spiritual abode enjoying with His dear devotees. With His devotees He performs unlimited pastimes (called leelas) enjoying unlimited happiness with His dear devotees.

2) What do the demi-gods do?

All the demi-gods also called in general as gods are serving the Supreme God (Lord Krishna) with fear. When Lord Krishna 'wishes' to perform creation, He does not directly do the creation as He is beyond all these. It is only His expansion called Lord Mahavishnu who creates unlimited universes from the pores of His body and subsequently Lord Brahma in each universe performs the actual creation by implanting the worlds with creatures, plants and all those.

This Lord Brahma who is the secondary creator is what may be described in Bible as the God. We do not worship Lord Brahma, but only the Supreme God (Sri Krishna).

57. Why not many jivas do not come to Krishna?

Souls who come down to the material worlds by using their freedom wrongly and wishing to enjoy the material worlds instead of lovingly serving Lord Krishna, are called jivas – fallen souls, or baddha jivas.

When the fallen jivas eventually go through repeated births and deaths and suffer through three kinds of miseries (atyatmika, atibautika and atidaivika), few intelligent jivas will realize their mistake and the inferior nature of the material worlds. They get attracted to religions so that they can get liberated.

However, if a jiva performs devotional pious activities by attaching and helping pure Krishna devotees, they accrue something called 'sukrti'. When a jiva accrues enough sukrti, Lord Krishna will give opportunity to get a guru and come to Krishna Consciousness. Others who do not accrue sukrti do not come to Lord Krishna.

58. Can a liberated soul fall down from Vaikuntha or Goloka?

Every Gaudiya sastra says that once a jiva gets liberated and go to Vaikuntha Loka or Goloka Dhama, it can never fall down from there. The reason is that there is absolutely no maya there in those spiritual abodes. Thus, falling down to material world is simply not possible. The spiritual worlds are so powerful that it is impossible for any souls there to even think about any freedom to fall down.

59. Is reaching heaven the ultimate Goal?

Surely not. Heaven implies sense enjoyment. Many religions think that reaching heaven is the ultimate goal. But the Vedic Wisdom says that the heavens and hells are only for the karmis – not for Krishna devotees.

When the karmic jivas perform good karma, or worship demi-gods, they are awarded heaven to enjoy. If they perform bad karma, punishment is given to suffer in the hells. Both heaven and hell or temporary and one has to be born again on earth like planets. However a Krishna devotee reaches the abode of Lord Krishna and live there eternally serving Him with pure love and affection.

60. What is the ultimate Goal?

The ultimate goal is to develop unconditional love and affection to the Supreme Personality of Godhead Sri Krishna. This is called prema bhakti and can be had only with Lord Sri Krishna and not with any gods.

The vedic Wisdom says that Lord Krishna is love personified. We say 'God is Love' and that is Lord Sri Krishna. The Part-2 of this book is to gives so much of inside details about this.

PART TWO – Beyond All Religions

1. Why so many Religions?

We see that there are many religions in this world. It is said that as of now there are more than 200 known religions. Like many previous religions more religions may be coming and going. While the mundane religions exists by the will of the Lord for the jivas to grow in grades in spirituality, why do we have so many religions?

1.1. Ingredients of Religions

1.1.1. Three Modes

The ancient vedic scriptures mention that everything in our world is subjected to three modes of material nature. They are called sattvic (mode of goodness), rajasic (mode of passion) and tamasic (mode of ignorance). This applies to everything around us.

For example, even when we take a day, the morning time (3 am 11 am) is sattvic, daytime (11 am to 7 pm) is rajasic and the night-time (7 pm 3 am) is tamasic. Sattvic time boosts the efficiency of our brain, our studies and power of memory. Rajasic is the quality pertaining to our body and hard work. Tamasic is the quality pertaining to sleep and laziness.

Similarly, when we apply the three modes to us, the people are also classified into sattvic, rajasic and tamasic. Sattvic people tend to use their brain, study, memory and intelligence. Rajasic people tend to use their body and hard work in their lives. Tamasic people are found to be often lazy, sleepy and do not show interest to excel in anything.

Last but very importantly, even the ancient scriptures are divided into tamasic, rajasic and sattvic scriptures. Sattvic people will be attracted to sattvic scriptutes, rajasic people will be attracted to rajasic scriptures and tamasic people will be attracted to the tamasic scriptures.

1.1.2. Three Moods

Similar to the three modes of material nature playing on everyone, one's orientation towards selfish nature will also have effect on

choosing a particular religion. Ancient scriptures say the following as the basic ingredients:

1. Asha (Selfish desires to ask from God)
2. Bhaya (Fear of God)
3. Kartavya Buddhi (Rituals and Fanaticism)

1.1.2.1. Asha

Most people go to places of worship to ask God to fulfill their needs and desires. They ask for their daily bread or whatever they want so that they can live happily and enjoy this life.

1.1.2.2. Bhaya

Almost all the religions do have this ingredient, but the degree can be different. This fear comes in the minds of people who are guilty of committing sins. Instead of correcting oneself from sinful activities such as meat eating, they want to put their sins onto the God, and some believe that the God had sent His only son to die by taking the sins of the people. Many religions make the followers to be so afraid of God by teaching them that they will go to hell if they do not worship God daily for so many times.

1.1.2.3. Kartavya Buddhi

The rituals and strict rules of worship differs from religion to religions. In many religions as we see, these only develop fanaticism. The adulterated teachings by the so-called religions leaders create envy on other religions and most of the wars we see in this world are due to this fanaticism.

1.1.3. Religions from mix of Modes and Moods

We have seen three modes of material nature (sattvic, rajasic and tamasic), and three moods of worship (asha, bhaya and kartavya buddhi). Now, when we mix all these in different ratios, we get various religions!

For example, as there are 200 well known colors, we also have 200 well known religions.

Tamasic religions would say, "We should be afraid of God. Otherwise He may throw us into hell." Hence they preach to worship many times begging for their benefit so that they can escape from going to hell.

Rajasic religions encourage earning money and fame by worshipping God and then go to heaven and enjoy. Some even proclaim that this miserable world is the heaven.

But sattvic religions lead to reaching spiritual worlds starting with brahman which is beyond heavens that the tamasic and rajasic religions are preaching to reach. Also it is to be understood that heavens are not permanent.

1.2. Jaiva Dharma is beyond Religions

Beyond all the above modes and moods of worship, there is a 'suddha sattvic' mood of worshipping the Supreme Lord. It is not a religion at all but is beyond all the religions, and we call this as 'Jaiva Dharma' or eternal religion for all the jivas (souls).

In this Suddha Sattvic mode and mood of worship, one does not ask any favor ("Asha") from, or have fear ("Bhaya") of God, or have fanaticism ("Kartavya"). In fact, the jiva in the highest mode and mood will only want to give himself to the Lord and make the Lord happy. In this there is no trace of asha, bhaya or kartavya buddhi.

1.3. Love God, Not Afraid of God

This Jaiva Dharma lets us worship the Lord with love and affection. Worship of Sri Radha Krishna belongs to this eternal dharma.

Only the devotees of Sri Radha Krishna can get this highest loving mood and there is no fear of God. Sri Krishna is the God of Love. This love and affection for the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna is beyond any mode or mood found in any religion.

Sri Radha Krishna devotees reject heaven, mukti or any kind of liberation. Many people cannot understand this topmost mood of devotion. So called religions cannot even understand this. This is why Srimad Bhagavatam the topmost scripture that calls all the religions in this present age of kali (age of quarrel and hypocrisy) as cheating religions.

1.4. Types of Religions

All the known religions of the world can be divided into two types.

- 1) Vedic Religions
- 2) Non-Vedic Religions

Vedic religions have eternal root and promote closer loving devotion to God. On the other hand, non-vedic religions are temporary and often made due to the environmental circumstances and conditions at any time. They come like a mushroom, live for few thousands of years and vanish.

Non-vedic religions cannot worship God in the form of deities as those religions are based of fear of God and not love of God. Deity worship can only be done by the Vedic religions. Other religions are not allowed to worship deities.

The goal of Non-Vedic Religions is different. They are meant to bring the lower man up gradually. So, they may not teach about reincarnation, deity worship, and any of the higher realms above heavens. The only goal of Non-Vedic Religions is to go to heaven and be happy. The followers of Non-Vedic Religions may eat meat and drink alcohol and may not know the truths of the vast ocean of spiritual worlds.

The Vedic Wisdom (Srimad Bhagavatam) describes about three kinds of religions:

- 1) Jaiva Dharma (Eternal Religion) which is only one for all souls
- 2) Temorary Religions (Devised by God for circumstances. Eg; Hinduism that worships many Gods)
- 3) Cheating Religions (Created by some so called prophets)

Like the Vedas, Jaiva Dharma has no beginning and no end. That is why it is called Jaiva Dharma or Vaishnava Dharma. On the other hand, other religions have a beginning and therefore also an end. We see this in history itself. Anything that has a beginning must have an end. Only the Jaiva Dharma will be able to teach about the glories and absolute truth about the one Supreme God.

1.5. The Truths of Idolatry

As far as idol worship is concerned, no other religion except the Jaiva Dharma based on the Vedas allows this. When we talk about idolatry, they try to mock us 'Oh are you idol worshipers?' Actually, they talk like this without spiritual knowledge. Even in religions that

speak like this, they are indirectly worshiping idols. Christians worship the cross. Mohammedans venerate Mecca and the two black stones Hajar-al-Aswat in the Kabba, and the two-footed image of the holy Prophet Ibrahim called Makkam-Ibrahim. Many people say that those two sacred stones are the scratched Shiva Lingam. Researchers also say that they formerly worshiped the moon god (Lord Shiva wears the moon). Jews hold the Holy Wall as an object of worship. But for many religions 'money' is their biggest idol they worship!

A duly installed deity in a temple is like a post box. It is not just a stone statue. Only when we put the letter in a post box will it reach its destination. Otherwise, it doesn't go. The installed deity is like a post box. All the services we do to that deity go to the Lord.

1.6. Deity worship is not for everyone

If you see the history, Lord Krishna manifested Himself as deities to very advanced devotees. There are many such self-manifested deities. Swami Haridasa, who lived at the time of Emperor Akbar, was given the deity called Banke Bihari in Nidhuvan, by the Supreme Lord Sri Radha Krishna Himself. We can still see this deity and the holy places where it happened. When Sripad Ramanujacharya called his deity as "vaa yen chella pillai" (meaning 'come my dear child'), the deity ran to him and embraced! We can still see this place of history. The Radha Raman deity of Sri Gopala Bhatta Goswami was self-manifested. We also see in the history that deities even talked and walked. Sakshi Gopal deity from Vrindavan walked all the way to Vidya Nagara of South India. So, when Supreme Lord Krishna Himself is supporting deity worship fully, then what is wrong in deity worship?

If the Lord is omnipresent (situated everywhere) and omnipotent (powerful to do anything), then how can it be difficult for Him to come in a form for us so we can connect with Him? We have fallen into this material world, and it is His mercy with which He helps us to connect back to Him via deity worship. In the most authentic Holy Scripture Srimad Bhagavatam (11.27.12), it is said that a deity of the Lord can appear in eight varieties of objects - stone, wood, metal, earth, paint, sand, the mind or jewels (*śailī dāru mayī lauhī, lepyā lekhyā ca saikatī, mano mayī maṇi mayī, pratimāṣṭa vidhā smrtā*).

We also see in history where muslim invaders in India encountered

many events that blew their ignorant beliefs. When the Arcot Nawab called Ali Khan invaded South India in 1740 AD and stole the golden deity from Adi Kesava temple of Thiruvattar in Tamil Nadu, his chief queen suddenly encountered serious and mysterious illness with no cure at all. Then the deity appeared in the dream to the Nawab and demanded him to return the archa-vigraha (the deity he stole) back to the temple or else his queen would face death. The Nawab immediately returned the golden deity. The queen's illness vanished without a trace. With his strong faith in the deity, the Nawab donated many gifts including a very large golden crown to the deity. He fully believed that Adi Kesava deity in the temple was the 'Allah', the almighty God and hence named the mandap he built as a donation as 'Allah Mandap'. This mandap (small segment of the temple) can be seen even today.

We even hear that in the Holy Mecca they worship a deity resembling the Linga of Lord Siva surrounded with several other small deities as well. This indeed concurs with what the scholars are now saying that the moon god that they worshipped before, and also now, is indeed Lord Siva who has the crescent moon on his head.

The very important fact that we should remember is that, deity worship is not meant for every one, especially when one thinks that God is formless (nirakar), or believe that one should be afraid of God. If one does not want to connect to God by 'love' but with 'fear', then deity worship is surely not for them. This is the main reason that many modern religions based on fear discourage worshipping deities. They call them idols.

Everyone knows that jivas can never make a replica image of Supreme Lord. But he wants love from us, nor to be afraid of Him. Suppose a funny cartoon was drawn by a child about her father and gave it to him. Even though it looks like a scribbling, he takes it to his office where is the boss and keeps it on his table and shows it to everyone with so much of happiness. While that boss felt so happy for that tiny cartoon of him drawn by his dear loving child, just think about what would happen if the same thing was done by one of his servants who has relation with 'fear' to his boss? If this servant also paints a cartoon of his boss and gives it to his master and says, "O boss. This is you!" What will happen? Surely, his job will be finished in that very same moment and will be fired! Why? A servant has a relation with his master in the mood of **fear** (not of love) and hence he can't do that.

So, any religion that has 'Fear of God' in their core, can never worship God in deity form. That was the reason their prophets forbade them to worship deities.

In contrast, highly advanced devotees even literally talk to the deities. We have so many historical evidences on this. Srila Vamsi Babaji was talking to his deities all the times. The Sakshi Gopala deity in Vrindavan talked and walked behind His dear devotee. As no surprise, we see an account of our Srila Gurudeva talking to Sri Radha Krishna deity in Mathura and the deity responded back and people witnessed.

1.7. False Religions

About 40 years ago, I was visiting every religion to know who the Supreme Lord is and what the Supreme Truth is. Many things I heard from them only confused me. Here are few:

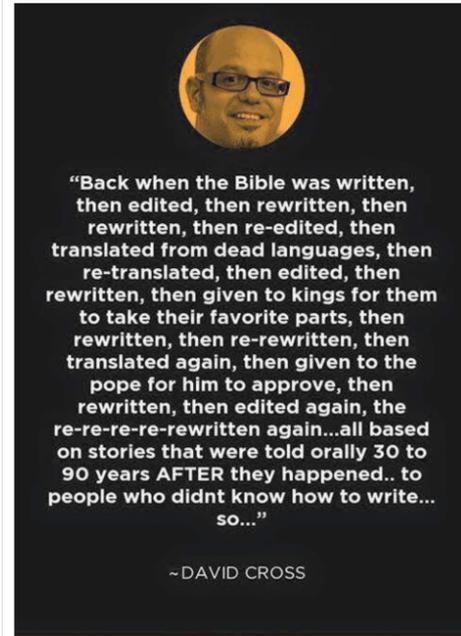
- 1) The world is flat
- 2) Animals do not have souls (According to the pre-1955 Bible, even women did not have souls)
- 3) Animals can be killed and eaten due to lack of soul in animals
- 4) God is jealous of other gods
- 5) There is no rebirth to living beings
- 6) We should always have fear of God
- 7) Sinners get eternal hell and pious get eternal heaven
- 8) Satan is as powerful as God
- 9) Do not worship God through deities
- 10) The wage of sin is death
- 11) God will come and resurrect from the dead body

But how true all these things are can only be understood if one examines them with common sense and wholeheartedly. We read that the Catholic Christians of the day poisoned an Italian scientist named Galileo who argued that the world was not flat as opposed to the Bible at that time. Now we see that the Bible had been changed many times with changes, updates and even rewrites as of this date.

In the Bible we see many fables that have changed the beliefs of many people. In one of the fables we hear that satan assumed the form of a snake and deceived Eve tempting to eat the apple that God originally told not to eat. According to Genesis 3:6, Eve ate the

fruit and then gave some to Adam.

The present day scholars find that the original Hebrew word 'Nahash' was wrongly translated to mean snake. Scholars say that the word 'Nahash' actually means 'shiny' or 'deceitful', and 'metallic luster' that attracts all.



Here, if we bring our vedic scriptures to compare, this fable maps to how maya tempted some of the jivas to enjoy the mayic lustrous material worlds and thus fell down as baddha jivas and suffer away from God.

Another fable we hear is about how Eve was made from a rib of a man. The Genesis 2:22-24 says, “From the rib, which Jehovah had taken from the man, made a woman, and brought her unto the man...”

But the scholars find that the Hebrew word 'tsela' has been wrongly translated into 'rib'. The word 'tsela' actually means 'side' or a part of a whole together.

If we bring vedic scriptures, an atma in its original form actually has no identity of male or female. Also when an atma falls down by the attraction and conditioned by maya, can become a man, woman or any of the 8.4 kinds of species.

So, it is very clear that this story was made up to make women less important than men, and thus the men could have control over the women.



One of the eternal vedic scriptures called Srimad Bhagavatam says that there will be many such self-interested and misinterpreted false religions and that one should throw them all away and follow only the para dharma or jaiva dharma which is beyond all the so-called religions:

*dharmah projjhita-kaitavo 'tra
paramo nirmatsarāṇāṁ satām... (Srimad Bhagavatam 1.1.2)*

"Throw away all deceiving (cheating) religions and follow only para dharma as stated in Srimad Bhagavatam..."

Lord Sri Krishna also says the same thing in Bhagavad Gita (18.66):

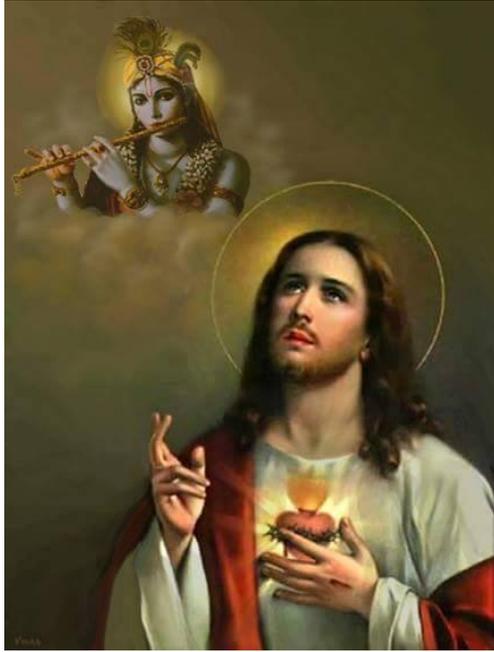
*sarva-dharmān parityajya, mām ekaṁ śharaṇaṁ vraja
"Abandon all religions and surrender to Me alone."*

In fact, every religion is meant to take man a step more. Different

religions are like different classes in any school. Living being can ascend only gradually. Jivas can go from atheism to as high as Krishna Bhakti which transcends all the religions.

The scriptures refer to atheists as two-legged beasts. Because their previous birth was some kind of animal. Above these atheists are those who worship ancestors and nature because at least they have a sense of higher power. The worshipers of the demi-gods are even better than those who worship their ancestors. But those who worship the Supreme Lord are the most superior and hence are above all worshipers.

2. Who is the Supreme Lord?



Who is that 'Father' in the Heaven?

2.1. Too Many Religions

Although there are more than 200 religions in this world, there is only one Supreme God. But every religion worships the same God in different ways under different names. We find that God has 17 names in the Bible and 99 names in the Quran. Jews say that God has 7 names. Thus each religion gives different names.

At the same time, there are so many philosophies and of which most of them are concocted ideas. Buddhists claim that everything came from void (nothing) and will go back to void. This is called sunyavada. Another sect called advaita mayavadis claim that everything is God.

Due to the current age of quarrel and hypocrisy, everyone in this world is confused by the ferocity of Kali Yuga and we have split the same one God into hundreds of pieces such as Hindu God, Christian God, Mohammedan God, and the God for the Jews and so on.

All the monotheistic and famous religions that we see in this world are enslaved to position and wealth and are actually doing business. Money is the real God for them. They hide the supreme truths spoken by the God and create impure scriptures and confuse the world. Some fanatics even persecute the followers of other religions. We hear that the Christian Bible alone has been revised about 63 times. Similarly, Puranas have also been edited and adulterated.

2.2. Supreme Lord is not easy to know

But what is the truth? In the Bhagavad Gita, Sri Krishna said, "You may be able to count all the atoms in this entire cosmic creation. But you will never be able to know about Me, or My names or My glories. At the same time, I can give real wisdom to my dear devotees who surrender unto Me."

Most people in this world think of Lord Krishna as an avatar of Lord Vishnu. But Lord Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu has explained that the Vishnu Purana is not correctly conveying the absolute truth. Also as per the Sandarbhas of Srila Jiva Goswami, we see that the real meaning of several words are found to be not translated by H.H. Wilson, a foreigner who translated the Vishnu Purana.

Knowing the Supreme Lord and the truth is not easy. This is why Lord Sri Krishna says this verse in Bhagavad Gita (9.11):

*avajānanti mām mūḍhā. mānuṣīm tanum āśritam
paraṁ bhāvam ajānanto, mama bhūta-maheśvaram*

"When I appear in this world in human form, fools will not know my real supreme position that I am the God of all the gods."

2.3. Why so many Gods?

Here you may ask, 'If God is one, why do people worship thousands of gods?' The truth can only be known by a thorough analysis from the scriptures.

The planet we live in, is one of the 14 levels contained in one of the innumerable Brahmandas (universes) emanated from the breathing of Lord Maha Vishnu. Scriptures say that there are 330 million demi-gods (devas) to maintain our universe. These gods are headed by Ishwaras as their chiefs, and above those Ishwaras are Maheswaras. None of them is the Supreme God. These gods can be compared to the ministers serving an emperor in a kingdom.

2.4. Who will worship Demi-gods?

We don't need to worship any of the demi-gods. There is only one king in a country. But he will have many ministers. But there will be many people behind those ministers with profit motive. Similarly, if one is addicted to petty material desires, his mind will not go to the Supreme Lord. As Lord Krishna said in the Gita, his mind leads him to worship the demi-gods. This is a scientific fact. Only one who renounces material worldly desires will have the desire to worship the Supreme Lord.

*kāmais tais tair hṛita-jñānāḥ
prapadyante 'nya-devatāḥ
taṁ taṁ niyamam āsthāya
prakṛityā niyatāḥ svayā* (Bhagavad Gita 7.20)

Lord Sri Krishna says, "Whoever's intellect is stolen by material worldly desires, he will not worship Me directly. Instead, he worships My servants the Devas through rules and regulations to satisfy his petty desires. Thus, he is drawn away by his petty selfish desires and worships demi-gods instead of Me."

2.5. Supreme God is One

Hindu, Christian, and Mohammedan scriptures also present the Supreme Lord in many forms. But the Brahma Samhita says that even the Vedas cannot fully know the Supreme Lord (vedeshu durlabham - Ref Brahma Samhita 5.33).

That Supreme Lord said, 'I am beyond all the Vedas. He says that the Vedas cannot know Me. So we have to seek the scriptures beyond the Vedas. About 500 years ago Sri Krishna Himself incarnated as Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and showed us such scriptures. He brought many rare scriptures from the eternal Akasha

Saptha to our world through the six Goswamis.

2.6. Who is the Supreme Lord?

Brahma Samhita, Srimad Bhagavatam, Sri Caitanya Charitamrta are the most superior of all the bhakti yoga scriptures. All of these say the very same truth firmly that Lord Krishna is the supreme lord:

*Īśvaraḥ paramaḥ kṛṣṇaḥ
sac-cid-ānanda-vigrahaḥ
anādir ādir govindaḥ
sarva-kāraṇa-kāraṇam*

“Kṛṣṇa who is known as Govinda is the Supreme Godhead. He has an eternal blissful spiritual body. He is the origin of all. He has no other origin and He is the prime cause of all causes.”

Sri Krishna also says the same thing in Bhagavad Gita:

*ahaṁ sarvasya prabhavo
mattaḥ sarvaṁ pravartate
iti matvā bhajante mām
budhā bhāva-samanvitāḥ ... (Bhagavad Gīta 10.8)*

“I am the source of all spiritual and material worlds. Everything emanates from Me. The wise who perfectly know this engage in My devotional service and worship Me with all their hearts.”

Srimad Bhagavatam also states the same truth as "Krishna is the Supreme Lord Himself". Its first nine cantos say either Lord Vishnu or Lord Narayana the greatest, but finally it says that all those are either expansions or the expansions of expansions of Lord Sri Krishna as below:

*ete cāmśa-kalāḥ puṁsaḥ
kṛṣṇas tu bhagavān svayam ... (Srimad Bhagavatam 1.3.28)*

So, Lord Krishna is the Svayam Bhagavan or the Supreme Lord.

3. Holy Names of Supreme Lord

Every religion speaks of the glories of the holy names of God. But very few know about the real glories of these names. Although the Supreme Lord is one, the potencies of His holy names are different. Vedic Wisdom says that chanting the Hare Krishna maha mantra comprising of the holy names of Lord Krishna brings happiness and bliss in the heart. Srimad Bhagavatam (2.3.24) says:

*tad āsma-sāraṁ hṛdayaṁ batedaṁ
yad gr̥hyamāṇair hari-nāma-dheyaiḥ
na vikriyetātha yadā vikāro
netre jalāṁ gātra-ruheṣu harṣaḥ*

"If someone chants hari-nama (suddha nama), the following symptoms manifest: he experiences a change of heart, tears flow from his eyes, and his bodily hairs stand erect. When, despite chanting Krishna Nama, a person does not experience any of these symptoms, it is to be understood that his heart has become very hard due to offenses and sinful activities."

3.1. Three types of Holy Names

Scriptures say that the unlimited holy names of God can be divided into 3 types.

3.1.1. Gauna (Ordinary) Nama

Jagadeesa, Allah, Jehovah, Ishwara, Lord, Paramatma, such names are Gauna names. These make us worship God with fear and reverence. Devotees who chant such names would prefer to get to heaven or liberation instead of going to hell. They are probably of tamasic or rajasic qualities. Due to lack of knowledge, many will kill other living beings and eat their flesh. But they do not understand that it is great sin. Although they may understand, they do not realize the truth because they are enslaved to their tongues. Their worship is entirely self-interested. People with excess of tamasic quality are also seen as religious fanatics.

3.1.2. Mukhya (Principal) Nama

These holy names help to worship the Lord with aishwarya (opulent) mood. Examples of important names are Lord Narayana, Lord

Krishna, Lord Rama and so on. These holy names help one to reach higher spiritual worlds. Devotees who chant such names are often possessed with sattvic qualities. They do not kill other living beings or eat any animal flesh. They prefer only sattvic foods.

3.1.3. Uttama (Prema) Nama

The highest of all the holy names of the Supreme Lord are the prema names. They are based by Prema Bhakti. Prema means unconditional love and affection to the Supreme Lord.

Radha Madan Mohan, Radha Ramana, Radha Govinda, Yashoda Nandhana, Syama Sundara, Gopi Natha are some examples in this category. Those who worship with these Uttama Namas are very pure with sattvic qualities.

These prema names enable a devotee to attain the highest spiritual abodes way higher than heavens, siva loka, vaikunta and so on. The highest abodes of Supreme God namely Goloka and Goloka Vrindavana are always seated in their hearts.

3.2. Prema Devotees

Prema devotees are the topmost in bhakti yoga. There is no self-interest found in the prema devotees. They are beyond karma, knowledge and yoga and do not desire to obtain even liberation (moksha) which is the main goal of many religions.

*jñāna-karma-yoga-dharme nahe kṛṣṇa vaśa
kṛṣṇa-vaśa-hetu eka — prema-bhakti-rasa
... (Caitanya Caritamṛta Adi 17.75)*

“By following the paths of jnana, the speculative philosophical knowledge, karma the fruitive activities or mystic yoga to control the senses one cannot win Kṛṣṇa. The only way of winning His love is through the taste of devotion in ecstatic love (prema).”

The sole aim of the devotees is always only to please Lord Krishna.

*anyābhilāṣitā-śūnyarṇ, jñāna-karmādy-anāvṛtam
ānukūlyena kṛṣṇānu- śīlanarṇ bhaktir uttamā
... (Caitanya Caritamṛta Mad. 19.167)*

“Uninterrupted loving service without any desire of jnana or karma but aiming only to give happiness to the Supreme God (Kṛṣṇa), is

Pure bhakti.”

Those who chant the Uttama Namas will rise further and further in Krishna Bhakti, and they will go higher to the spiritual level called Suddha Sattva, and even higher than that is Visudda Sattva who will clearly realize the fact that Sri Krishna is not an avatar but the avatari, and Lord Vishnu and Sriman Narayana are all actually expansions of that Svayam Bhagavan Sri Krishna.

3.3. Glories of Hari Nama

3.3.1. Maha Mantra gives Prema Bhakti

If one obtains the Maha Mantra (the topmost hari nama) from a qualified and authorized guru and chants it continuously, one will attain Prema Bhakti to Lord Krishna. There is nothing more important in our lives than this.

3.3.2. Hari Nama destroys all Evils

In some countries, especially in South India, you may hear about witchcraft. There are many people affected by it. They subjugate the demons with mantras and earn money by harming people with those demons.

But no ghost or evil spirit can come near to one who chants Hari Nama daily.

3.3.3. Hari Nama chases away Demons

Ghosts and other Spirits are mentioned in Srimad Bhagavatam. The planet we live in is just below the Bhuvar Loka and the Pitra Loka. We cannot see these worlds with our material eyes.

Those who die an untimely death and those who worship their ancestors go and remain in this Pitra Loka for a short time. The evil spirits living in this loka can also trouble the human beings living on this earth. But if one is chanting Hari Nama, no evil spirits can approach.

In the supreme scripture called Srimad Bhagavatam (10.6.27-29), we see the mentioning of ganas, ghosts, goblins and vinayakas as follows:

ḍākinyo yātudhānyaś ca, kuṣmāṇḍā ye 'rbhaka-grahāḥ
bhūta-preta-piśācāś ca, yakṣa-rakṣo-vināyakāḥ

koṭarā revatī jyeṣṭhā, pūtanā māṭṛkādayaḥ
unmādā ye hy apasmārā, deha-prāṇendriya-druhaḥ

svapna-drṣṭā mahotpātā, vṛddhā bāla-grahās ca ye
sarve naśyantu te viṣṇor, nāma-grahaṇa-bhīravaḥ

“The evil witches known as dākinis, Yātudhānis and Kushmāndas are the greatest enemies of children, and the evil spirits like Bhutas, Pretas, Pisācas, Yakshas, Rākshasas and Vināyakas, as well as witches like Kotarā, Revati, Jyashtha, Putanā and Mātrika, are always ready to give trouble to the body, the life air and the senses, causing loss of memory, madness and bad dreams. Like the most experienced evil stars, they all create great disturbances, especially for children, but one can vanquish them simply by uttering Lord Vishnu's name, for when Lord Vishnu's name resounds, all of them become afraid and go away.”

For 10,000 Bhutas, there is one lead Preta.

For 10,000 Pretas, there is one lead Vedala

For 10,000 Vedalas, there is one Brahma Rakshashi

For 10,000 Brahma Rakshasi, the leader is Lord Siva and Lord Ganapati (Lord of the Ganas).

So, we must be extremely careful whom we worship, because as Lord Krishna says in Bhagavad Gita, one who worships ghosts and spirits will go to their abodes when they die. They will not reach the abode of Supreme Lord Sri Krishna.

Holy names of Lord Krishna are extremely powerful. One who chants the names of Lord Krishna cannot be approached by any demons or devils. On the contrary, on hearing His holy names, they all will fly away.

A Krishna devotee should not worship spirits and ghosts as they also eat flesh and drink alcohol. We should worship only Sri Radha Krishna as that worship is the purest and involves prema bhakti. Don't be afraid. Associate with a devotee who worships Sri Radha Krishna and you will be one of the most fortunate in this world.

3.4. Kaliyuga dharma: Chant Mahamantra

The scriptures highly praise the Hare Krishna Maha Mantra. In this

Kali Yuga, due to the fierceness of Kali, no mantra except the maha mantra is effective:

*harer nāma harer nāma
harer nāmaiva kevalam
kalau nāsty eva nāsty eva
nāsty eva gatir anyathā ... (Bṛhad Nāradya Purana)*

"In this age of quarrel and hypocrisy (kali yuga), the only means of deliverance is the chanting of the holy names of the Lord Hari (Krishna). There is no other way. There is no other way. There is no other way"

So, we can chant this great mantra Hare Krishna mantra and get all the benefits.

*hare kṛṣṇa hare kṛṣṇa
kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa hare hare
hare rāma hare rāma
rāma rāma hare hare*

4. Origin and Quality of Souls (Jivas)

4.1 Origin of Jivas

All the living beings are called jivatmas. We are not our body or mind. No matter how many births we take, our atmas are always the same. When we die, we keep changing our bodies, just as one throws away a torn garment and puts on a new one. What is the origin of this jivatma? When did these appear?

Lord Krishna has three types of internal energies: (1) Antaranga Shakti, (2) Jiva Shakti, (3) Maya Shakti. The scriptures say that we all the jivas descended from the Jiva Shakti, one of the energies of the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna.

It is from His Jiva Shakti that various jivas have arisen. His magical energy called Maya Shakti creates all the universes. But as infinite rays of light emanate from the sun, all the jivas emanate from the Jiva Shakti of Bhagavan Sri Krishna. So we all came from His internal energy and thus we, all the jivas are subordinate to the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna.

4.2 When did the Jivas Originate?

Now a question may arise: When did we the jivas originate from Lord Sri Krishna's Jiva Shakti and how old are we?

The answer is that our spiritual age is same as that of Lord Krishna which means that as Lord Krishna has no beginning or ending, we also have no beginning and no ending. This is why in Bhagavad Gita we see this verse:

*na jāyate mriyate vā kadācin
nāyaṁ bhūtvā bhavitā vā na bhūyaḥ
ajo nityaḥ śāśvato 'yaṁ purāṇo
na hanyate hanyamāne śarīre.. (Bhagavad Gita 2.20)*

For the atma there is neither birth nor death at any time. He has not come into being, does not come into being, and will not come into being. He is unborn, eternal, ever-existing and primeval. He is not slain when the body is slain.

4.3 Eternal qualities of Jivas

While we are all emanated from the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna, we have also inherited some qualities from the Lord. Lord Krishna has 64 qualities. We have inherited 50 qualities out of them. However, above all the qualities of the jivas, one quality that binds us closely to Lord Krishna is the most important. What is it?

*jīvera 'svarūpa' haya — kṛṣṇera 'nitya-dāsa'
kṛṣṇera 'taṭasthā-śakti' 'bhedābheda-prakāśa'*

“It is the living entity’s constitutional position to be an eternal servant of Kṛṣṇa.”

This relation that every jiva has with the Lord is the most important to know.

4.4 Jivas have no caste but Gunas

When all living beings originates from the Lord's energy, they were all pure to start with as purity is their eternal nature. But due to the independence of jivas some are fallen to the material worlds and repeatedly being born and dead thus wandering in billions of universes. This fallen condition happened to the jivas due to their desire to enjoy the material worlds away from the Lord. But the material worlds have so many miseries and one of them is the various mixture of three modes of material nature: sattvic (mode of goodness), rajasic (mode of passion) and tamasic (mode of ignorance).

When the jivas are subjected to the mixture of modes of material nature, they develop different qualities. These are called varnas or colors. These qualities are divided into four divisions. They are called brahmanas, ksatriyas, vaishyas and sudras.

Many people in this world are confused with the four kinds of labor of division as they tend to map them to the later evolved caste system that has been created by human beings. Caste is a major issue in almost all religions today. They are not to be confused with the four kinds of divisions by the qualities the jivas.

Many people after reading the Bhagavad Gita half-heartedly, claim that Lord Krishna created the caste system. But, in the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna is talking about 'varnas' - not about castes.

Varnas means 'qualities' in Sanskrit.

*cātur-varṇyaṁ mayā sṛṣṭam
guṇa-karma-vibhāgaśaḥ
tasya kartāram api mām
viddhy akartāram avyayam .. Bhagavad Gita 4.13*

“According to the three modes of material nature and the work associated with them, the four divisions (varnas) of human society are created by Me. And although I am the creator of these system of universal division, you should know that I am yet the non-doer, being unchangeable.”

This varna is not something that a jiva is assigned with, but rather it comes from the character of the jiva as he/she develops. The scriptures say that by birth everyone is a sudra (janmana jayate sutrah). Then according to the will and quality of the jiva, he/she develops the particular guna.

We can see this fact in the world we live. All the human beings in the world can be divided into these 4 types based on their qualities:

- 1) Those who live by using intelligence
- 2) Those who live by using strength
- 3) People who live by trading (distribution).
- 4) Those who live by manual labor

Wherever we go in this world we can find these 4 types of people. It has nothing to do with caste. This is called "Division of Labor."

If we take all the people of this world, we see this:

10% Teachers (Brahmins)
20% Military and Chiefs (Ksatriyas)
30% Merchants (Vaisyas)
40% do the jobs (Sudras)
Total: 100%

In our body also we can find this division:

10% Head (intellect)
20% Chest and arms (combat)
30% Abdominal (distribution)
40% lower back and legs (to work or move)
Total: 100%

So, what Lord Krishna said has nothing to do with the later developed caste we see. Varna or division of labour is the truth all over the world. Castes have nothing to do with these varnas (qualities).

All these divisions and assigned with proper functions is critical to run this world and our body. For example, we cannot let our feet do the work of the brain and the feet to do the work of the brain. If we do that we will not be alive even for a moment. Similarly, sudras cannot be made to work as Brahmins and Brahmins cannot be made to work as sudras. Because their varnas (qualities) are different.

As we also see above, these varnas do not come to anyone by birth even though the karmic results from previous births may provide a suitable family to be born to start with. When we analyze the scriptures, we see that varna is not inherited from one's birth but comes from the quality one develops.

5. *Worships and Destinations*

5.1. Different kinds of Worshipers

As we see there are so many religions in this world, every religion has its own way of worship. Some worship the prophets, some worship ancestors, some worship demi-gods (devas), and only few are found to be worshipping the supreme lord. Every kind of worship has its own characteristic and destination. Srimad Bhagavad-Gita classifies these worships into four categories.

*yānti deva-vratā devān
pitṛn yānti pitṛ-vratāḥ
bhūtāni yānti bhūtejyā
yānti mad-yājino 'pi mām .. (Bhagavad Gita 9.25)*

"Those who worship the demigods will reach the abodes of the demi-gods (heavens); those who worship the ancestors go to the lokas of the ancestors (pitru loka); those who worship ghosts and spirits will take birth among such beings; and those who worship Me will live with Me in My own abode."

Now let us analyze this verse in details.

5.1.1. Worshipers of Ghosts and Spirits

bhūtāni yānti bhūtejyā

In the above verse, it has been said by Lord Sri Krishna that whoever worships ghosts or spirits, will be born among the ghosts or spirits. This is the lowest and most degraded form of worship. We also find many truths about ghosts, spirits and ganas (goblins) from the scriptures. Most of these are said to possess demoniac qualities.

When someone worships ghost, his soul will be snatched away by the ghost at the time of death and he will become part of the group of the ghost. Ghosts are wandering and collecting souls to be added to its group. Sometimes these ghosts can kill the worshipper earlier than the destined time of death. These ghosts live in a loka (abode) called Bhuvar loka. These varieties of groups of ghosts are also assigned with hierarchies of powers and positions as described

earlier.

In the shaivites tradition, we see even today that the shaivites sing some hymns from their Puranas at the death beds of dying persons wishing 'to become a ghost and join Lord Siva or Lord Ganapati.' This is actually a very unfortunate and dangerous wish. We should be completely away from these tamasic worships involving ghosts, ganas and goblins.

5.1.2. Worshipers of Ancestors

Worshipping the ancestors who have already passed away is a practice that we can find in many countries. pitru Loka is the abode which is very similar to the heavens of demi-gods where the dead ancestors live for some period before they are taken to the judgement by Lord Yama and assigned to punishments or rewards like hell or heaven. However, after those they will be born again in the material worlds.

We also hear stories told by those who temporarily left their body, but they returned to their body. These cases are called Near Death Experiences (NDEs). These NDEs used to claim that they saw the heaven and met their ancestors living there. Actually, it is not heaven but it is the pitru-Loka. This is what is mentioned in the Bhagavad Gita Sloka.

pitṛn yānti pitṛ-vratāḥ: (Gita 9.25)

After passing some heavenly time with the ancestors in the pitru-Loka, when Yamaraja calls them, they will be destined to hell to suffer for their sins and rewarded enjoy in the heaven for their pious deeds. There is no eternal heaven or eternal hell. For the good deeds one enjoys in the heavens and for the bad deeds one suffers in the hell.

The duration of heavenly stay depends on the number of good deeds (good karma) done by the jiva. For the sinful acts (bad karma) such as eating meat, etc. they suffer in the hells. After these, he will be born again in any of the 8.4 million types of living beings.

So, we should understand that the hells and heavens are not permanent. Actually, the heavens are the headquarters of the demi-gods who maintain any particular universe (brahmanda). Thus, every brahmanda has its own heaven. Depending on the mixture of good and bad deeds one commits, there will be mixture of heavens and hells. Eternal hell or heaven is a manufactured idea of some

religions.

5.1.3. Worshipers of the Gods

Even though all the material worlds are created and annihilated by the will of the Supreme Lord, He does not directly participate in the creation or destruction. Instead, His servants who are called demi-gods make the creation or destruction. Maha Vishnu who is an expansion of Lord Krishna and Lord Brahma are the primary and secondary gods of creation. Lord Siva is the god of destruction. But Lord Krishna is above all these gods.

All the material worlds are managed by demi-gods called Ishwaras. There are so many people who worship demi-gods. However, all those worships are passed up to the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna as He is saying in the Bhagavad Gita.

The worshippers of demi-gods are so many in the material worlds. They worship the demi-gods because of wanting to get materialistic favors. Where do all those worshippers go when they leave their bodies?

yānti deva-vratā devān (Gīta 9.25)

Lord Krishna says, "Those who worship demi-gods will attain the abodes of those demi-gods".

5.1.4. Worshipers of the Supreme Lord

So, if one wants to reach Supreme Bhagavan Lord Sri Krishna, he should worship only Lord Krishna.

yānti mad-yājino 'pi mām (Gīta 9.25)

Lord Krishna says, "But one who worships Me alone attains Me and live with Me in My own eternal abode".

So here we must think carefully. Why do we worship gods? As we explained earlier, we should know that we have selfish desires to enjoy in this material world and the demi-gods are empowered to bestow temporary bestowments.

5.2. Heaven is not Permanent

Many religions wrongly preach that the attainment of heaven is the ultimate goal. People go to hell or heaven depending on their sins.

But neither heaven nor hell is permanent. After suffering for sins committed, or after enjoying in the heaven for the pious deeds as stated in the Gita, they will be re-born again in somebody in some world.

It is very important to remember that going to heaven is a very silly thing compared to going to the abode of Lord Krishna which cannot be attained by ordinary materialistic minded devotion.

6. The Topmost Worship

6.1. Worshipers of the Supreme Lord

Who will worship Lord Krishna? Lord Krishna is the lord of love and love. If one takes interest in the worship of Lord Krishna, it means that he has done immeasurable pious deeds in his past and present births. Krishna Bhakti (devotion to Lord Krishna) is not available even to the gods. It is extremely rare:

*dharmācāri-madhye bahuta 'karma-niṣṭha'
koṭi-karma-niṣṭha-madhye eka 'jñānī' śreṣṭha
koṭi-jñāni-madhye haya eka-jana 'mukta'
koṭi-mukta-madhye 'durlabha' eka kṛṣṇa-bhakta*
(Caitanya Caritamṛta Mad 19.147-148)

“Among the followers of Vedic dharma, most of them follow the process of karma and karma yoga (fruitive activity). Out of millions of such people, there may be one who is wise (jnani). Out of many millions of such wise persons, only one may become liberated (mukta), and out of many millions of such liberated persons, a pure devotee of Lord Krishna is very rarely found.”

From this we know the ultimate supremacy of Krishna Bhakti towards Supreme Lord Sri Krishna.

6.2. Worship of Krishna and Demi Gods

Probably many people would have worshiped some demi-god before coming to Krishna Consciousness. The first question they ask us is this: "If I leave other gods and worship Krishna now, won't those gods get angry on me?"

But actually all the gods are servants of Lord Sri Krishna. What did Arjuna see when the Lord gave Arjuna a vision of His Visvarupa form? He saw all the gods as His limbs serving the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna. So it is enough if one worships Lord Shri Krishna. All the gods are automatically satisfied.

Srimad Bhagavatam explains this to us by taking a tree as an example. A tree with the root and base trunk has its various

branches and leaves. So where do we water that tree? We pour water only on the root of the tree. Only then can all the branches and leaves grow. Conversely, if we water every leaf and branch, the tree will literally die.

*yathā taror mūla-niṣecanena
ṭṛpyanti tat-skandha-bhujopaśākhāḥ
prāṇopahārāc ca yathendriyāṇāṃ
tathaiva sarvārhaṇam acyutejyā ... (Srimad Bhagavatam 4.31.14)*

“As pouring water on the root of a tree energizes the trunk, branches, twigs and everything else, and as supplying food to the stomach enlivens the senses and limbs of the body, simply worshipping the Supreme Personality of Godhead through devotional service automatically satisfies the demigods, who are parts of that Supreme Personality.”

The same is the case with our body. We do not feed each organ individually. We only give food to the stomach. In contrast, what happens if we feed our nose, ears, feet, and hands individually? We will not survive! Similarly, if we just worship Lord Krishna, all the devas who are His limbs are instantly happy and satisfied.

So what is the truth? If one worships Lord Krishna it is equal to worshipping ‘all’ the gods. Lord Krishna Himself makes this clearer in Bhagavad Gita. He says that even if one worship other deities, all that worship actually goes to Krishna.

Whatever gods we worship, they cannot claim that worship as their own. They should give it to their Lord Shri Krishna. Lord Krishna also says that even if we worship gods and goddesses, it is against the rule (vidhi) or norm, and the only proper way is to worship the Supreme Personality of Godhead Sri Krishna.

6.3. So, Whom should we Worship?

Some people, especially the Mayavadis, say the following:

1. They say: "One can worship any god. Since Lord Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita that all worship goes to Lord Krishna, how does it matter as whom do we worship?"

Here is our response:

Lord Krishna says in Srimad Bhagavad Gita 9.23:

*ye 'py anya-devatā-bhaktā
yajante śraddhayānvitāḥ
te 'pi mām eva kaunteya
yajanty avidhi-pūrvakam*

"Those who are devotees of other gods and who worship them with faith actually worship only Me, O son of Kuntī, but they do so in a 'wrong' way."

Why is this a wrong way? All the gods are the servants of the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna. Therefore the gods cannot accept any worship as their own. Gods should pass all the worship they get to their Lord Sri Krishna. In the same way, a guru who gets the worship from his disciples should pass it up to his own guru and so on. Finally, it reaches Lord Sri Krishna. This is the divine procedure.

2. They say: "Just as all rivers eventually merge into the ocean, all living beings ultimately go to the Supreme Personality of Godhead Sri Krishna."

Here is our response:

Lord Sri Krishna does not say that all the living beings will reach His personal abode. Instead, let us see what He says in Bhagavad Gita:

*yānti deva-vratā devān
pitṛn yānti pitṛ-vratāḥ
bhūtāni yānti bhūtejyā
yānti mad-yājino 'pi mām .. (Bhagavad Gita 9.25)*

"Those who worship the demigods will take birth among the demigods (ie they go to their heavens); those who worship the ancestors go to the lokas of the ancestors (pitru loka); those who worship ghosts and spirits will take birth among such beings; and those who worship Me will live with Me in My own abode."

What does this mean for us? Whoever one worships, all worship goes to Lord Krishna. But only one who worships Lord Krishna attains Him.

There are also verses in Srimad Bhagavatam that explains this more. One takes an example of a mountain, cloud, rain, river and sea. A worshiper of other god is compared to a mountain. The clouds are the procedures of worship of demi-gods. The rain is like the worship of those gods. All their prayers flow like a river towards

the ocean. Lord Krishna is compared to the ocean. Here, we see that the mountain (the one who worships other gods) does not reach the ocean while all their worship reaches the ocean!

Now looking at the verse above (Gita 9.25), it makes complete sense. So, worshipers of demi-gods go only to their lokas whereas all their prayers go to Lord Krishna.

And Lord Krishna also says in the Bhagavad Gita (7.23), that only the unintelligent people will worship demi-gods instead of worshipping the Supreme Personality of Godhead Sri Krishna:

*antavat tu phalaṁ teṣāṁ
tad bhavaty alpa-medhasām
devān deva-yajo yānti
mad-bhaktā yānti mām api*

“Men of small intelligence worship the demigods, and their fruits are limited and temporary. Those who worship the demigods go to the planets of the demigods, but My devotees ultimately reach My supreme planet.”

6.4. Krishna, Vishnu and Narayana

Although Visuddha Sattva texts such as Brahma Samhita and Srimad Bhagavatam say that Sri Krishna is the Supreme Lord and He is the source of the Vishnu and Narayana expansions and thus He is the avatari, some Karma Sastras say that Sri Krishna is an incarnation of Sriman Narayana or sometimes Lord Vishnu.

Visuddha Sattva texts say that Sri Krishna's abode is beyond all the Vaikuntha planets where Sriman Narayana is residing. But when Lord Krishna descends to our world Sriman Narayan and all Vishnus also come with Him. While the Vaidhi Marga looks at Lord Krishna from the side of Sriman Narayana who is the main object of Vaidhi Bhakti, the Raga Marga sees the truth from the side of Lord Sri Krishna. While the ultimate goal of Vaidhi Marga is to attain moksha in Vaikuntha and serve Lord Narayana in dasya mood, the Raga Marga throws away even the mukti and this does not ask for any favour from Lord Krishna.

6.5. Krishna Bhakti alone is the Highest

Thus, worship of Lord Krishna in Raga Marga is the highest and very sacred. There is no other higher form of worship than this.

The Visuddha Sattva sastras say that if one has devotion to the Lord Shri Krishna in raganuga, he is considered superior to all the gods. He doesn't need to obey anyone else (Bhagavatam 11.5.41).

*devarsi-bhutāpta nr̥ṇām piṭr̥ṇām
na kinkaro nāyam r̥ṇi ca rājan
sarvātmāna yah saranam saranyam
gato mukundam parihṛtya kartam*

“One who completely surrenders to Sri Krishna, the affectionate protector of the surrendered souls, no longer remains indebted to the gods, forefathers (ancestors), other living beings, kinsmen, or guests. He is not subordinate to anyone, and he is not obliged to serve anyone.”

It is said that it is enough just one Krishna devotee appears in a family, because he bestows liberation to everyone in that family. It is also written in the scriptures that if such a person becomes an advanced ‘pure’ devotee of Krishna, the ancestors in the upper world will jump and dance in joy of attaining liberation (moksha).

According to Sri Padma Purana, there are four authorized sampradayas in this world. They are Sri Sampradaya, Brahma Sampradaya, Rudra Sampradaya and Kumara Sampradaya. Even these Sampradayas do not know many facts about Lord Krishna or His abode called Goloka.

As stated in the Bhagavad Gita, and in all the Sattvic and Suddha Sattvic Puranas, there is no God greater than Lord Krishna. In the first nine chapters of Srimad Bhagavatam, the greatest of all Puranas, Sri Vishnu and Sriman Narayana are said to be supreme.

But when we reach the tenth canto, everything changes. The nine cantos so far are meant to prepare the devotees, saying that the Supreme Lord is Sri Krishna, and that the three forms of Vishnu, Sriman Narayana and all incarnations are expansions (amsa) or expansions of expansions from the Lord Sri Krishna. This is also mentioned in the first canto.

*ete cāmśa-kalāḥ puṁsaḥ
kṛṣṇas tu bhagavān svayam ... (Srimad Bhagavatam 1.3.28)*

“All the incarnations are either plenary portions or portions of the plenary portions of the Lord, but Lord Sri Krishna is the original Personality of Godhead”

So, worshipping Lord Sri Krishna is the highest of all the worships in all the three worlds!

7. Four Pillars of Krishna Bhakti

We have seen so far that worshiping Lord Krishna is the highest. But to engage in this worship the following four rules must be observed.

These four rules are like the four pillars of Krishna Bhakti. The Sastras say that wherever there are sinful activities like eating meat, drinking alcohol, gambling, and having extramarital affairs, there exists the cruel forms of Kali who drags one down to the hell.

7.1. No Meat Eating

Here is the first rule. No meat eating. In Krishna Consciousness, eating meat, fish and eggs should be avoided. Because it involves killing other lives. Eating meat is also very harmful to our body and mind. We are what we eat. The food we eat affects not only our body but also our mind, intellect and covers our soul away from spiritual awakening.

Any religion that advocates meat-eating is not a pure religion. These religions can never take us to the higher spiritual world. Instead they will throw us into hell. In Tirukkural, an ancient South Indian poet called Thiru-Valluvar has said this very beautifully in his famous couplets.

“One who has taken an oath not to eat meat will be respected even by Lord Yama who is the god of judgement for hell and heaven. The one who does not eat meat is not even going to be approached by Lord Yama” - (Tirukkural 326)

7.2. No Intoxication

Here is the second rule. No intoxication. Alcohol not only affects one's brain but also affects the whole body and mind. Hence drinking alcohol or any stimulant is prohibited in Krishna Consciousness. It is also better to give up drinking coffee and tea if one is serious in worshiping Krishna. Some religions openly support the consumption of alcohol even in places of worship. In fact consuming alcohol will destroy the family, peace and surely lead one to hell.

Regarding abstinence from alcohol, the South Indian poet Thiruvalluvar says this:

“If one consumes alcohol, he is not to be called even as a man. That person is condemned and thrown out of the society like an animal” ... (Thirukural 922)

7.3. No Gambling

Here is the third rule. No gambling. In this world there are many ways people engage in speculation and betting money. So many casinos and clubs promote this evil. The mind of the gambler is very dirty and cannot have spiritual awakening. He aims only at making gains. Bhakti, especially Krishna Bhakti, will never come to him.

So, one must stop gambling. The same South Indian poet Valluvar says this about gambling:

“If one spends his time in a place of gambling, it will destroy his wealth; It spoils even a good family.” - (Tirukural 937)

7.4. No Un-marital Relationship

Here is the fourth rule. No man-woman relation outside one's marriage. A man should be very restrained in physical relations between man and woman. Do not have physical relations with anyone before marriage. After marriage, one should not have any relationship outside of marriage. The same South Indian poet Thiruvalluvar says this about this as well:

“One who does not even look at the wife of another is a very noble person. He will be respected by everyone.” - (Thirukkural 148)

7.5. Hari Nama purifies the heart

One can easily get rid of all the above bad habits by constantly chanting the Maha Mantra. By chanting the names of Lord Hari, the heart is purified and all the above mentioned bad habits are automatically vanished.

8. Importance of clean diet

8.1. You are what you eat

We can easily predict a person's temperament from the food he eats and hence the pro-verb, "You are what you eat" is the golden language. The gross part of the food we eat nourishes our body and the subtle part nourishes our mind. The rest of the fecal matter passes out.

If one eats impure foods like meat, fish, eggs, alcohol, he will get an impure body and an impure mind. Only eating sattvic food leads to a clean body and a clean mind. Devotion can arise only in a pure mind.

*ahāra suddhau sattva suddhih
satva suddhau dhrva smrtih
smrti lambhe sarva granthī
nām vipra mokshah.....(Chandokya Upanisad 7.26.2)*

"By eating sanctified food, one's mind is purified. By the purification of mind, one can constantly think of God and attain the real goal, the spiritual perfection."

It is so alarming that many religions in this world support the consumption of meat, fish, eggs and alcohol. They shamelessly eat these unclean foods even in their worship and temples. Some claim that by reciting some words it becomes pure. This is cheating. They are impure religions. It is written in Srimad Bhagavatam that such religions will be popular in this age of Kali.

Foods can be divided into three types: sattvic foods, rajasic foods and tamasic foods. These are described in the Bhagavad Gita.

*āyuh sattva balārogya
sukha priti vivardhanāh
rasyāh snigdḥāh sthirā hrđyā
āhārāh sātṡvika priyāh ... (Bhagavad Gita 17.8)*

"Foods in the mode of goodness increase the duration of healthy life, purify one's existence and give strength, health, happiness and satisfaction. Such nourishing foods are sweet, juicy and palatable. "

*katv amla lavanāty ushna
tikshna ruksha vidāhinah
āhārā rāja sasyeshtā
duhkha sokā maya pradāh ... (Bhagavad Gita 17.9)*

“Foods that are too bitter, too sour, salty, pungent, dry and hot, are liked by people in the modes of passion. Such foods cause pain, distress, and disease.”

*yāta yāmam gata rasam
puti paryushitam ca yat
ucchishtam api cāmedhyam
bhojanam tāmasya priyam ... (Bhagavad Gita 17.10)*

“Foods cooked more than three hours before being eaten, which is tasteless, stale, putrid, decomposed and unclean, is food liked by people in the mode of ignorance.”

Meat, fish and eggs are all impure substances. They are not even food. Onion and garlic do not come in sattvic foods. As they attract and harbor bacteria, it becomes even worse. If one eats garlic and onion, he will become dull and lazy. Slowing down of the brain due to eating onion and garlic can be clearly seen on an ECG.

8.2. Onion and Garlic are Tamasic Foods

If one comes on the path of Krishna Bhakti, he will soon give up eating garlic and onions. Even when one joins an Ashtanga yoga class, they will give us a great commandment not to eat garlic and onions. But most people don't know its reason.

Apart from that, tamasic foods like onions, garlic, mushrooms should be also avoided as they belong to the family of fungus. One may ask why not to eat onions and garlic. There are many reasons. The bad body odor of onion and garlic is only one of the many reasons.

Around 1955, when airplanes were first used to carry passengers, a rule imposed on pilots was that they should not eat garlic or onions through 72 hours before the flight. The reason was that the onions and garlic would make the brain dull to respond to quick actions when flying in the sky. A pilot could fly only after passing a breath test. But now with computers this rule has been removed.

Apart from this, garlic contains a dangerous substance called Sulphone Hydroxyl. It penetrates the very delicate brain wall and dulls the brain. Scientists have now discovered this great fact. The Western scientist Dr. Beck who invented the EEG, has done extensive research on this and says that garlic and onions are actually poisons, enemies of mental health, and should not be even used as a medicine.

Few references:

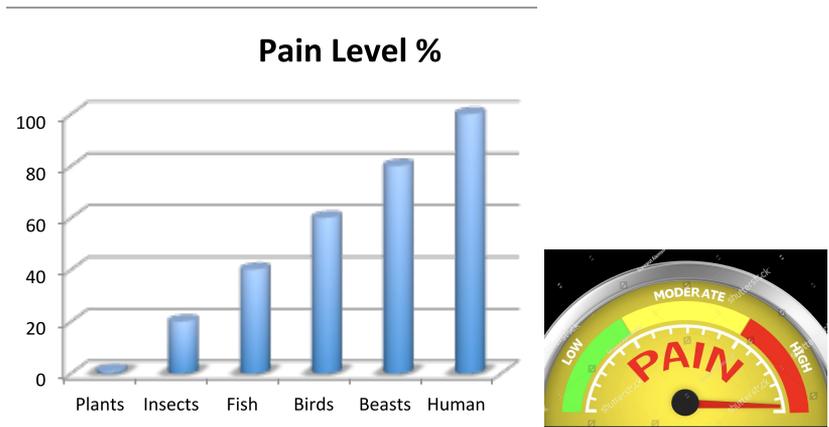
<https://groups.google.com/g/YRC-2009/c/OiIE7JA-8-E?pli=1>

<https://www.biocybernaut.com/blog/garlic-a-brain-poison/>

<https://www.isical.ac.in/~goutam.paul/onion.pdf>

8.3. Killing

Some religions wrongly say that animals do not have soul and hence they can be killed for food. Even in the Bible, until it was revised in 1955, women had no soul. These are certainly not God-given words. According to Jaiva Dharma, every living being has life. But there is a difference in their wakefulness. Because there is a difference in their nervous system development. How much pain we feel when we kill a living thing depends on the development of the nervous system of its body.



Plants do not have a nervous system. So, there is no sin in consuming them. Many meat eaters think they are smart and even

argue with vegetarians that they are killing plant life. But now the truth is understood. Plant food is sinless. Because it has no nervous system it has no pain. However, in the Bhagavad Gita Lord Krishna says that even plant food should be eaten only after offering to the Lord Because the Lord turns it into prasadam (blessings). When we eat prasadam, it gives us a clean spiritual body and especially a spiritual mind.

Unlike plants, the human nervous system is more fully developed. So if one kill a human being, the law give severe punishment to the individual. Just because animals do not have power to speak or protect, people kill and eat them in the names of religions and turn their stomachs into grave-yards. According to the law of karma, they all will go to hell.

All living beings are His children before the Lord. While the Bible says, "Thou shall not kill", they are the ones promoting animal slaughters. Human beings are supposed to protect the animals, not to kill and eat them.

Lord Krishna gives every jiva an opportunity to get the form of a human being. Attaining a human body is extremely difficult. Only a human birth gives the opportunity to go back to the Lord.

Hence only human beings are bound by karmic actions. So, if they kill other jivas they undergo sinful karmic reactions. Only animals do not have karmic reactions. Animals may kill another animal for food. It is the rule laid down by the nature. According to this rule, one animal becomes food for another animal. But that rule does not apply for human beings.

8.4. Spiritual Diet Rules

If one wants to worship Sri Radha Krishna at home, he must first take initiation from a Guru. Sri Radha Krishna worship cannot be done without initiation.

And much effort is required in terms of diet. In the worship of Sri Radha Krishna, only sattvic food shall be consumed. Tamasic and Rajasic foods are sinful in Krishna Consciousness. Meat, fish, eggs, alcohol are all sinful foods. They are also very tamasic foods. They never have a place in Krishna Consciousness.

9. Danger of Mayavada

9.1. Mayavada is a False Philosophy

What is Mayavada? It is one of the many hypothesis proposed by several scholars and thinkers of ancient India. "Vada" means a hypothesis (like educated guess) which can be retained or rejected based on a proof, or an argument based on a proposed theory with well established explanation, but lacking proof. It is not necessarily the truth. In India and all over the world, there are many people follow this mayavada.

According to Mayavada, everyone and everything is God, and 'Brahman' is the only reality that even God appears from 'Maya'. They would say, 'You are god, I am god, everyone is god.' They also say that this world is not real. They argue that this world simply does not exist. This theory of illusion was proposed and taught by Shripad Shankaracharya. But all the later Vaishnava Sampradaya Acharyas argued and defeated this mayavada theory. However, but still this mayavada is everywhere in the world.

Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu came to give Krishna Bhakti by eradicating this mayavada, which is another form of Buddhist Nihilism. Lord Caitanya also strongly warned that if one reads the mayavada books such as Viveka Sudamani by Sripad Shankaracharya, his devotion will be totally destroyed. So, this mayavada is very dangerous.

We also read in Sri Chaitanya Caritamruta that Lord Krishna himself made Lord Shiva to incarnate as Sripad Shankaracharya to teach mayavada to separate those who are not willing to serve Krishna with devotion. Following is what we see in the Shiva Purana, where Lord Krishna instructs Lord Shiva:

*dwaparadau yuge pudhva kalaya manusatisu
svakamaih kalpithais tvam ca
janan mad vimukkan kuru*

"You shall appear in the Kali Yuga which follows the Dvapara Yuga, and give false (imaginary) meanings to the words of the Vedas, and separate those who are not My devotees from Me."

And this is what we find Lord Shiva saying to Goddess Parvati in the

Padma Purana:

*māyāvādam asacchāstram pracchannaṃ baddha ucyate
mayaiva kathitaṃ devi kalau brāhmaṇarūpiṇā*

'I will teach the asad sastra of mayavada to those who have asura intellects who are not devoted to Krishna and I will separate them away from Krishna' - (Padma Purana 6.236.7)

Therefore, Shiva Purana, Padma Purana, Chaitanya Caritamṛta all tell this same truth.

9.2. Truth about Brahman (Brahmam)

We can find about Brahman in many higher scriptures. We read that Brahman is just the effulgence emanating from the spiritual body of Lord Krishna.

*brahma — aṅga-kānti tāhṛa, nirviśeṣa prakāṣe
sūrya yena carma-cakṣe, jyotirmaya bhāse*

The manifestation of impersonal Brahman is simply the rays of Kṛṣṇa's spiritual bodily effulgence. It is like the sun. When the sun is seen by ordinary eyes, it appears to only consist of effulgence. Similarly, when we try to see Bhagavan we are unable to penetrate his effulgence to see the beautiful form of Krishna within. Rather we are blinded by the powerful rays of the impersonal brahman." - (Caitanya Caritamṛta Madhya 20.159)

According to mayavada, there is nothing other than or higher than Brahman. According to mayavada, even Bhagavan comes from Brahman by the power of Maya. If only Brahman is real, then where does this Maya come from? Indeed, God is the source of Brahman which is just the tejas (effulgence) emanating from the spiritual body of Supreme Lord Sri Krishna.

In the example of sun and its light, the sun is the source of the light and light comes from the sun. Bhagavan Sri Krishna is like the sun and brahman is the spiritual effulgence emanating from His body.

Māyāvāda also teaches that none of these material worlds are real. They argue that it does not exist. But the truth is that material worlds are real as they are from the creation of the Lord but they are not permanent.

According to mayavada, there is no difference between Jiva Atma and Bhagavan (Paramatma). But in reality, the living beings are not the Supreme Lord. Atmas originate from Lord Krishna's Jiva Shakti. The living beings resemble the Lord in some qualities but differ in many ways from the Lord in quantity. If the Supreme Lord is a great fire, then the living beings are like the little sparks that come out of that huge fire.

Not only Sripad Madhvacarya and Sripad Ramanujacharya, but many Vaishnava Acharyas and sages have clearly stated that Jivatma and Paramatma are not identical. Even then, so many people are being attracted to this illusory theory of mayavadism.

This world is like an ocean filled with so many crocodiles of many philosophies and manufactured doctrines such as mayavada. Only who is fortunate can take shelter of a genuine guru who gives the genuine knowledge and cross this ocean.

10. Karma, Jnana, Yoga

10.1. Which Yoga is better?

While reading Bhagavad Gita, we learn about many topics such as Dharma, Karma. Karma Yoga, Jnana Yoga, Ashtanga Yoga, Bhakti Yoga. People who have read these may say that Karma Yoga, Ashtanga Yoga or Jnana Yoga is best depending on their spiritual condition.

But when one reads the Bhagavad Gita deeply, in each of its chapters, at the end Lord Krishna invariably says that Bhakti Yoga is the supreme. So in reality, Karma Yoga, Ashtanga Yoga and Jnana Yoga are all only stepping stones to Bhakti Yoga and without Bhakti one cannot attain any kind of Moksha. While Karmis reach heaven and hell, wise men reach Brahman. But these are not ideal goals and hence does not attract the Lord. Only pure devotion to Lord Krishna can attract the Lord.

*jñāna-karma-yoga-dharme nahe kṛṣṇa vaśa
kṛṣṇa-vaśa-hetu eka — prema-bhakti-rasa
... (Caitanya Caritamṛta Adi 17.75)*

“By following the paths of jnana, the speculative philosophical knowledge, karma the fruitive activities or mystic yoga to control the senses one cannot win Kṛṣṇa. The only way of winning his love is through the taste of devotion in ecstatic love.”

10.2. Being cheated by Ashta Siddhi

But what is the condition of Ashtanga Yogis? Many people try to practice Ashtanga Yoga, but it is very difficult to practice in this Kaliyuga, The ashtanga yogis starting from Yama, and transcends to Niyama, Asana, Pranayama, Pratyahara, and attain Ashta Siddhi when they reach the stage of Dharana. After that comes meditation and samadhi. It is Lord Krishna who actually gives the insignificant Ashta Shakti in the stage of Dharana.

10.3. Ashta Siddhi - The Dog Bone

But how good is this ashtanga yoga? Why does one do Ashtanga

Yoga? There are eight kinds of power an ashtanga yogi can get. So those people who want to get ashta siddhic power will be running after this. These people have no desire to render devotional services to Lord Krishna. So, Lord Krishna, who cannot be known by the Vedas or any gods, deceives him. How does He cheat the ashtanga yogis? He throws a bone like insignificant power at the yogi.

Here is an example to understand. Suppose a thief wants to break into a house guarded by a dog at night. He throws a piece of bone at the dog. When the dog gets that piece of bone, which is not useful, it gnaws on it and relishes it. It thinks that the blood coming from its mouth is thought to be coming from the bone. At that time, the thief goes inside the house and finishes his job. Ashta Siddhi is just like this dog-bone.

10.4. Ashta Siddhi is Illusion

This ashta shakti like a dog bone the yogi gets, will now start to work. He will use this to make tricks on the people such producing ash from nowhere, bringing things to appear from nowhere and he can even take copies of himself and appears in many places at the same time. Like this he will gather so many innocent people.

Eventually this ashta siddhi will even make the yogi to say that he himself is the God. He can even give illusory shows showing that even Lord Krishna Himself is subordinate to him! Even though what he shows is not Lord Krishna but his own created illusion, there are so many fools around him will believe it. Now he will get into kanaka (wealth), kamini (women) and prathista (fame) and he is completely lost.

Actually, when these ashta siddhi tells that he is the God, one should ask him to lift a mountain like Lord Krishna did. He cannot do that. He can't even lift a house.

We read in the Srimad Bhagavatam how Maya Dhanavan played with the Lord Himself with illusionary power.

10.5. What is the status of Ashtanga Yogi?

Lay people will look at him and think that he is the God. That is what he wants. He will get great name and fame due to Ashta Siddhis. He

will eat meat too. But the messengers of Yama would laugh at him. Finally, he kills himself by falling into hell and into the union of Brahman called Sayujya. By committing more and more sin, he completely loses the opportunity to reach the feet of Lord Krishna. This is his most miserable condition due to that dog-bone called ashta siddhi.

10.6. Do not worship Siddhas

Although the Siddhas are superior to the Ashtanga Yogis in a sense, they too are actually mayavadis in search of Brahman. They can never give devotion to Krishna.

kṛṣṇa-bhakta — niṣkāma, ataeva 'śānta'
bhukti-mukti-siddhi-kāmī — sakali 'aśānta'

“Because a devotee of Lord Kṛṣṇa has no material desire, he is peaceful. Karmīs desire material enjoyment, jñānīs desire liberation, and yogīs desire material opulence (siddhis); therefore, they are all lusty and cannot be peaceful.” - (CC Madhya 19.149)

So, never worship the siddhas as well. A Krishna devotee should be fully focused only in worshipping Lord Krishna.

11. Pancha Upasana

Sripad Shankaracharya, who preached mayavada, also established a fictitious methodology that is not found in any of the Vedas. The method he proposed involves worshipping and attaining brahman in five ways, is called Pancha Upasana. According to this, one can worship Lord Surya, Lord Ganesha, Goddess Durga Devi, Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu. We find this method of pancha upasana in all the Hindu rituals.



Sun God
(Dharma)



Ganesha
(Artha)



Durga
(Kama)



Shiva
(Moksha)



Vishnu
(Devotion)

11.1. Purpose of Pancha Upasana

This system has a deep meaning behind that some Hindus may not be even aware of. This pancha upasana is the path of spiritual development and signifies the progressive spiritual growth of the human beings. This method of upasana is based on purushartha: dharma (religiosity), artha (wealth), kama (sense enjoyment), moksha (liberation). First, a human being, especially a scientist, will see God's creation as coming from a power. He then worships nature knowingly or unknowingly. Thus, he indirectly worships the sun god.

Then he starts to worship Lord Ganesha so that his actions to earn wealth are free from hindrances (Vignas) when he is still spiritually developed. After that he worships Goddess Durga to get a wife, children and family. Then he worships Lord Shiva for more fame and happiness. But then he realizes that this world is really full of suffering and seeks Moksha. Then he may feel devotion to Vishnu.

He attains moksha only by that devotion. So, this method of Upasana is based on Purusharthas of Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha. But these cannot attract or reach Sri Krishna.

11.2. Panchopasana is not Krishna Bhakti

This method of pancha upasana can never give prema bhakti. These four Purusharthas are easily visible before Krishna Prema Bhakti.

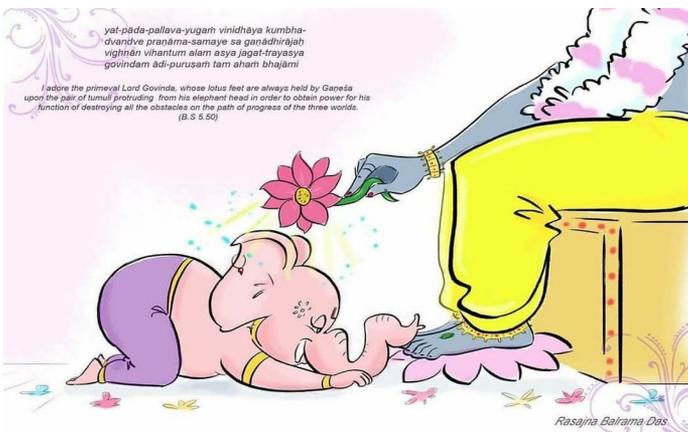
*pañcama puruṣārtha
premanandāmṛta-sindhu
mokṣādi ānanda yāra
nahe eka bindu ... (Caitanya Caritamṛta Adi 7.85)*

“For a devotee who has actually developed bhava bhakti, the pleasure derived from dharma, artha, kama and moksa appears like a drop of water in the presence of the vast ocean.”

Among the five kinds of moksas (sayujya, salokya, sarupya, samipya and sarshti), a devotee of Krishna or Vishnu hates Sayujya Mukti, union with the brahman. Brahma Moksha, which gives a coma-like state, can be called spiritual suicide. Do you want the dust-like bliss of Brahma moksha, or the infinite ocean-like premananda obtained from prema bhakti to Lord Sri Krishna?

11.3. About the present Ganesha Worship

Nowadays, worship of Lord Ganesha is going on in abundance among Hindus everywhere. This worship was popularized by one sage called Mudkala Rishi who appeared in the 16th century.



Lord Ganapati is the Lord of the ghosts (ganas), is also the remover of obstacles. But he is not independent. It is very clear in the Brahma Samhita written by Lord Brahma that Lord Ganesa is bowing his head at the feet of Lord Krishna and gets the required power to remove the obstacles in the path of devotion.

*yat-pāda-pallava-yugaṁ vinidhāya kumbha-
dvandve praṇāma-samaye sa gaṇādhirājaḥ
vighnān vihanātum alam asya jagat-trayasya
govindam ādi-puruṣaṁ tam ahaṁ bhajāmi - (Brahma Samhita 5.50)*

“I adore the primeval Lord Govinda, whose lotus feet are always held by Gaṇeśa upon the pair of tumuli protruding from his elephant head in order to obtain power for his function of destroying all the obstacles on the path of progress of the three worlds.

Lord Ganesha is the one who removes the hindrances of spiritual progress. In the Bhakti Rasamrta Sindhu, Srila Rupa Goswami has mentioned that for a neophyte devotee who is trying to get into Krishna Consciousness can pray to Lord Ganesha to remove the obstacles.

But one does not need to worship any demigods once he has come to the path of Krishna Bhakti. Krishna Bhakti is Ananya Bhakti. Therefore, Srila Prabhupada has said that Ganesha worship is unnecessary and should not be done by those who have become Krishna devotees.

Krishna devotees do not need to worship Lord Ganesha to get rid of their obstacles. Instead he can worship Sri Narasimha Deva, a direct incarnation of Lord Krishna who is 'Sarva Vigna Vinasa Kari' – one who removes all the obstacles in pure bhakti. In the picture shown it is Lord Narasimha who is giving the power to Lord Ganesha to remove obstacles. So, if Krishna devotees want protection and remove obstacles in the path of bhakti, he can directly worship Lord Narasimha Deva because He is Bhagavan Himself and not a demi-god.

At the same time one should not be averse to any demi-gods but offer respects to them. All the demigods are the servants and associates of Lord Krishna.

12. Jaiva Dharma is not Religion

12.1. What is our Dharma?

What is our true Jiva Dharma? We can see this beautifully in the scriptures.

*jīvera 'svarūpa' haya — kṛṣṇera 'nitya-dāsa'
kṛṣṇera 'taṭasthā-śakti' 'bhedābheda-prakāśa'
... (Caitanya Caritamṛta Adi 20.108)*

“The real nature of every living entity is that he is the eternal servant of Sri Krishna. All living entities originate from Sri Krishna. They are similar to Lord Krishna in some respects and different from Lord Krishna in other respects.”

So devotion to Krishna is our real dharma of life. It is not a religion. Religions are created to progress step by step and ultimately attain Krishna Bhakti. Bhagavad Gita, Srimad Bhagavatam etc. are not related to any religion.

12.2. Throw away all Mundane Religions

While all the religions we see in this world are created to gradually realize the true dharma of life, when one becomes a Krishna Bhakta, he belongs to the Jaiva Dharma. Jaiva Dharma is not a religion but is beyond all the religions. It is the eternal nature of every jivatma. So, when one becomes a Krishna devotee he transcends above all the mundane religions. This is what Lord Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita.

*sarva-dharmān parityajya
mām ekaṁ śharaṇaṁ vraja
ahaṁ tvām sarva-pāpebhyo
mokṣha-yiṣhyāmi mā śhu-chaḥ ... (Bhagavad Gita 18.66)*

Supreme Lord Sri Kṛṣṇa says, "Abandon all varieties of religions, and just surrender unto Me. I will deliver you from all your sins and sinful reactions. Do not fear."

But when can we throw away all religions and realize our Jaiva

Dharma?

12.3. Lord Yama salutes devotee of Krishna

We know about many religions. We have heard them talk about hells and Yamaraja's judgment (Judgment Day). But a devotee of Krishna Prema, who is initiated by a suitable Guru and wears a tulsi garland, does not belong to Yama Raja's rule. On the contrary, the Sastras say that not only that Yama Raja, but also other Devas will worship the devotee who has Krishna Prema. So great is Krishna Prema Bhakti. Devotion to Krishna is the real great dharma of life. So we should seek the one Krishna Bhakti that shines beyond all religions.

12.4. Need of an Authentic Guru

But to engage in the worship of Sri Radha Krishna, an authentic guru is essential. This is why Lord Krishna speaks of the importance of Guru in the Bhagavad Gita (Gita 4.34):

*tad viddhi praṇipātena, paripraśnena sevayā
upadekṣyanti te jñānaṁ, jñāninas tattva-darśinah*

"To learn the principles of Bhakti, you should surrender to a qualified Guru, serve him and listen to his teachings. He will teach you as he has realized the Supreme Truth."

12.5. Let us not waste our Precious Life

This highest truth of Jaiva Dharma was revealed by Sri Krishna himself who appeared as Lord Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. He appeared about 500 years ago and appointed six goswamis under Him to bring out the highest devotional scriptures that had been lost and forgotten for a very long time.

Jivas are wandering over so many universes being born and dead taking births from 8.4 million kinds of species. Getting a human birth is very rare and only in this human birth can we attain God. If we have wasted this birth, we don't know what birth we will get in the next birth. If we live like a dog, cat, or pig in this life, we will be born like that in the next life. But if we engage in the worship of the

supreme Sri Radha Krsna Yugala in this birth with the guidance of a Guru, we will be very fortunate. But it is up to us!

13. How to start in Krishna Bhakti?

We have given some backgrounds and details about the Supreme Personality of Godhead Sri Krishna. The mundane religions are showing only basic understanding about the Supreme Lord but mostly centered around the prophets and making sectarian beliefs. They can only divide the one Supreme God into pieces separating into Hindu God, Christian God, Jewish God, Mohammedan God and so on. They cannot show in details as who is the 'father' in the heaven. We show that father who is Lord Sri Krishna. So many very advanced scriptures show details about His abodes and His spiritual nature and pastimes but is beyond the scope of this small booklet.

While all mundane religions instill fear of God, the Jaiva Dharma shows us to approach Him by selfless and pure Love. Supreme Personality of Godhead Sri Krishna is the God of Love as He can be approached only by divine love. So, our path is Love of God, not Fear of God.

How do we enter this pure love of God? There are 9 ways (angas) to develop Krishna Bhakti and is given in the following verse from Srimad Bhagavatam (7.5.23):

*śravaṇaṁ kīrtanaṁ viṣṇoḥ
smaraṇaṁ pāda-sevanam
arcanaṁ vandanaṁ dāsyāṁ
sakhyam ātma-nivedanam*

The nine processes of devotion to the Supreme Personality of Godhead Sri Krishna are:

1) Sravanam - Hearing (hari kathas):

Hearing about His qualities, holy names, spiritual forms, abode, His teachings), singing His glories and holy names.

2) Kirtanam – chanting:

Chanting His holy names especially the maha mantra.

3) Smaranam – Remembering:

When we follow the above two angas, eventually we will be able to remember Krishna constantly.

4) Pada Sevanam:

When one reaches a higher stages in bhakti, feelings of love of God (not fear of God) develops. He will then accept the shelter of a bonafide guru and perform personal deity worship. Deity worship is very important for expressing love to God. However the prophets of mundane religions will prohibit deity worship because those religions are based on fear-of-god, not love of god and hence cannot worship god as deity.

5) Arcanam – Offering puja:

This offering of naivedyam needs qualification by receiving **Gayatri mantras from a guru.**

6) Vandanam – Offering prayers:

These offering of prayers are not for asking for selfish favors but the glorifications of the Supreme Lord.

7) Dasyam – Being a servant:

When the devotee becomes advanced in devotion, love of God will start to intensify. He will want to become a dear servant of the Lord serving in the temple and also in his mind.

8. Sakhyam – Friendship:

When the devotee becomes even more advanced, he will start seeing the Lord very dear to him and feel that without the Lord, there is no reason to live. Here, the smaranam gets more intensified.

9) Atma-Nivedanam – Offering oneself:

When the devotion to the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna further intensifies, he will give everything including his own atma (soul) itself to the Lord. This is an extremely high level of devotion to Lord Sri Krishna.

Another important thing to note in this devotional process is that one will not ask any favor from the Lord. He will only want to give everything including his own atma (soul) at the lotus feet of Supreme Personality of Godhead Sri Krishna.

The simple way to start into Krishna Bhakti, is to chant the maha mantra after pancha tattva mantra, sing kirtans and visit any of our temples, and hear hari kathas.

*sri krishna caitanya
prabhu nityananda
sri advaita gadadara
srivasadi gaura bhakta vrinda*

*hare krishna hare krishna
krishna krishna hare hare
hare rama hare rama
rama rama hare hare*

Please chant and be Happy!

Jai Srila Guru Deva!

Jai Srila Swami Maharaja!

Thank you!

PART THREE - QUIZ

1. Who translated Vishnu Purana into English?

- a. Max Muller
- b. Charles Wilkins
- c. H.H. Wilson
- d. Woodrow Wilson

2. "krsnastu bhagavan svayam" comes in...?

- a. Srimad Bhagavad Gita
- b. Srimad Bhagavatam
- c. Padma Purana
- d. Skanda Purana

3. The mind of the gambler is dirty. Why?

- a. He earns money in a crooked way
- b. Devotion will not come in the heart of a gambler
- c. Aims only to accumulate wealth
- d. All the above

4. Who are the so-called "two-legged animals"?

- a. Devotees
- b. Atheists
- c. The Brahmans
- d. Ashtanga Yogis

5. How does Lord Vishnu create universes?

- a. From his head
- b. From his leg
- c. From his shoulder
- d. From his pores of the hairs

6. What is the quality of sattvic diet?

- a. Giving health
- b. Giving longevity
- c. Giving a clean mind
- d. All the above

7. What are the four pillars of Krishna Bhakti?

- a. No drinking, no gambling
- b. No meat eating
- c. No illegal sex
- d. All the above

8. Which religion supports meat eating?

- a. Impure religion
- b. Pure religion
- c. A religion that nurtures devotion
- d. Religion that gives spiritual growth

9. Whose mind seeks Krishna worship?

- a. One who does not crave for sensual pleasures
- b. One with pure sattvic nature
- c. One who has no desire of material positions
- d. All the above

10. Which of the following is false?

- a. Jiva dharma is related to material religions
- b. Jiva Dharma is beyond all religions
- c. Krishna Bhakti is Jaiva Dharma
- d. Jivas originate from Lord Krishna's Jiva Shakti

11. From whom does Lord Ganapati get his power?

- a. From Lord Shiva
- b. From himself
- c. From Sri Narasimha Deva
- d. From Lord Brahma

12. Which of the following is false?

- a. Pancha Upasana is not Krishna Bhakti
- b. Guru is a must for Radha Krishna devotion
- c. Siddhas cannot give Krishna Bhakti
- d. Mayavadis are Krishna Prema Bhaktas

13. Which yoga is the best?

- a. Ashtanga Yoga
- b. Jnana Yoga
- c. Karma Yoga
- d. Bhakti Yoga

14. What is the truth about Brahman?

- a. God comes from Brahma
- b. Brahman is the effulgence of of Lord Krishna
- c. Merging in Brahman is the highest Moksha
- d. Union with Brahman is union with Krishna

15. What happens to one who eats tamasic food?

- a. Dullness arises
- b. Causes laziness
- c. Diseases increase
- d. All the above

16. Which of the following is false?

- a. Heaven is not permanent
- b. Those who worship gods attain abodes of gods
- c. Those who worship ghost are born with ghosts
- d. Whoever one worships, he will go to Krishna

17. Which of the following is Prema Nāma?

- a. Parameswara
- b. Ishwara
- c. Sri Radha Madan Mohan
- d. Jagadeesha

18. Why should one never kill animals?

- a. Killing causes pain for the animals
- b. The killer is punished in hell
- c. Killing spoils one's mind
- d. All the above

19. What are the 9 angas of Krishna Bhakti?

- a. Sravanam, atma-nivedanam and smaranam
- b. Kirtanam, pada-sevanam and dasyam
- c. Sakhyam, vandanam, arcanam
- d. All above

20. The topmost abode Lord Krishna resides in is...?

- a. Vaikuntha
- b. Brahmans
- c. Siva Loka
- d. Goloka

21. Which kind of religion cannot worship deities?

- a. Those who preach Love of God
- b. Those who worship Supreme Lord Sri Krishna
- c. Those who preach Fear of God
- d. Those who has reached atma nivedanam stage

22. How can one enter Krishna Bhakti?

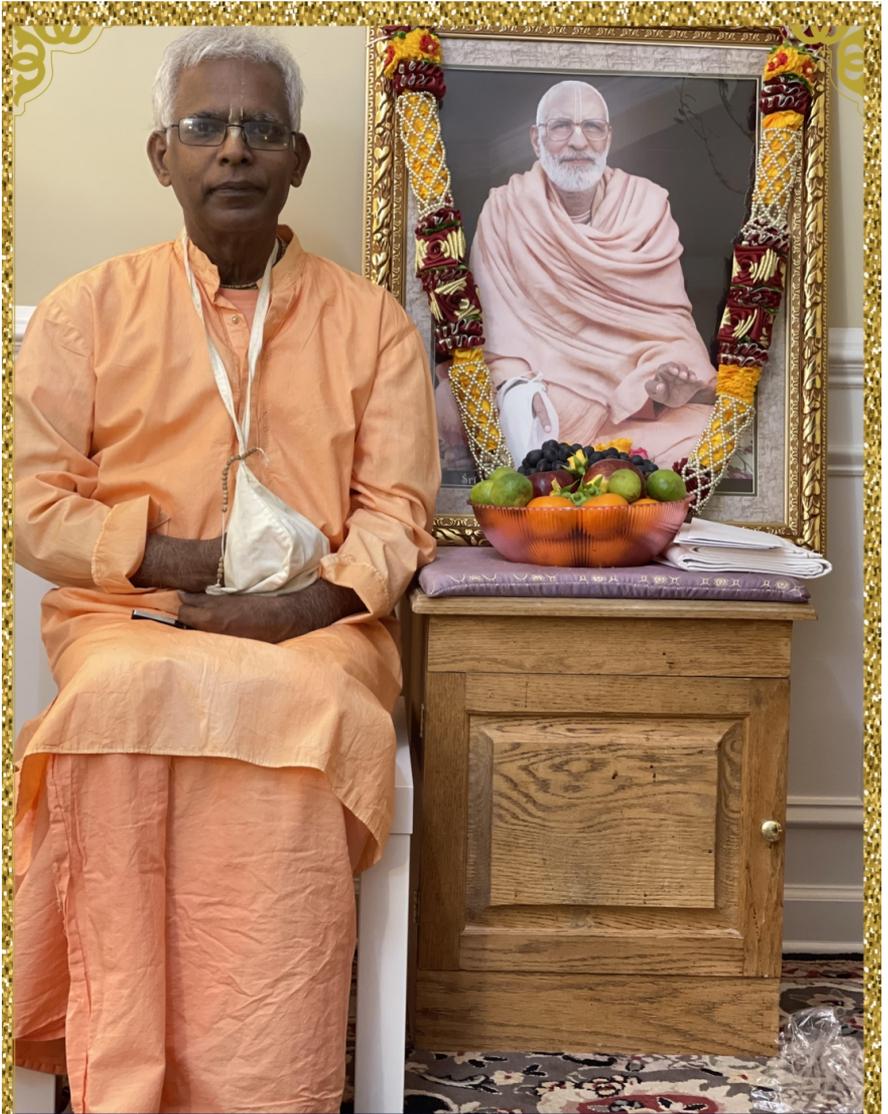
- a. By worshipping the demi-gods
- b. By doing ashtanga yoga
- c. By chanting maha mantra, and singing it as kirtans
- d. By doing Transcendental Meditation

23. What loka (world) the NDEs actually see when they get out of their body?

- a. The heaven
- b. Patala Loka
- c. Pitr Loka
- d. Brahmaloaka

24. Who will never meet Lord Yama who is the god of Judgement?

- a. Those who kill animals and eat meat
- b. Krishna devotee
- c. Those who are afraid of God
- d. Those who worship demi-god



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