



# Bhisma Panchaka Challenge

Manual



**5 DAYS**

11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

November

**FOR**

**KRISHNA**



# Table Of Content:

- **WHEN IS THE BHISMA PANCHAKA CHALLENGE?**
- **GLORIES OF KARTIK MONTH**
- **WHAT IS BHISMA PANCHAKA?**
- **WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE?**
- **WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN?**
- **2 LEVELS OF FASTING**
- **SPECIAL OFFERINGS TO THE LORD DURING BHISMA PANCHAKA**
- **OFFERING TARPANA TO BHISMADEVA**
- **ONLINE SANGAS**
- **HOW TO BREAK THE BHISMA PANCHAKA CHALLENGE?**
- **SHARE AND INSPIRE!**
- **TESTIMONIALS**
- **SUPPORT BHAKTI KIDS!**
- **GLORIES OF THE MAHA-MANTRA**
- **HOW TO CHANT JAPA?**
- **GLORIES OF HEARING ABOUT KRISHNA**
- **GLORIES OF OFFERING LAMP DURING KARTIK MONTH**
- **BHISMA STUTI**
- **SING DAMODARASTAKAM**
- **DAMODARA PASTIME**
- **BHAKTI KIDS PRODUCTS**



Welcome to the Bhishma Panchaka Challenge!

?! Important Notice

Dates of Bhishma  
Panchaka  
Challenge:

November  
11th – 15th

Important Notice !!

Dates for Bhishma  
Panchaka Fasting in  
India: November 12-15th  
(Ekadasi to Purnima)

If you are outside of  
India, please refer to  
your local Vedic  
Calendar to confirm  
Ekadasi and Purnima  
dates for fasting!

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# Glories of Kartik Month

The scriptures state that out of all the months, Kartika month is the best. Srila Suta Goswami states that anyone who observes Kartik-vrata according to the rules and regulations goes to the spiritual world!

"Kartik is the best, the purest of purifiers, and most glorious of all months. Kartik month is particularly dear to Lord Sri Krsna. This month is full of bhakta vatsalya. Any vrata, even the smallest, will yield huge results. The effect of performing a Kartik-vrata lasts for one hundred lifetimes, whereas ordinary vratas only last for one lifetime!

And did you know that Srimati Radharani is the presiding deity of the holy month of Kartik? One of Sri Radha's names is Kartik Devi!

-Srila Sanatana Goswami in Hari-Bhakti Vilasa





# What is Bhisma Panchaka?

**Bhisma Panchaka falls in the holiest month of Kartik. The last 5 days of Kartik are called Vishnu Panchaka or Bhisma Panchaka. Srila Sanatana Goswami recommends in the Hari Bhakti Vilasa to intensify our devotional service in these last five days of Kartik.**

**Bhismadeva, the heroic grandfather from Mahabharata, observed this Vishnu Panchaka vrata for 5 days. The Lord was very pleased with Bhismadeva so He granted a boon to Bhismadeva and all those who worship Sri Hari and engage in devotional service during these five days. What is that special boon? Krishna says that he grants His devotees pure devotion to Him.**

**“durlabho bhakti-yogo me  
mama vasya-vidhayakah  
karttike mathurayam ca  
vratenanena labhyate**

**“Pure devotional service to Me which, because it places Me under My devotee’s dominion, is very difficult to attain, is easily attained by following this vow in Mathura (mandala) during Kartika.”**

*5 Days For Krishna!*



# What is Bhisma Panchaka?

**sarvabhista-pradam proktam  
mathure bhisma-pancakam**

**“Following the vow of Bhisma-panchaka in Mathura is said to fulfill all desires.”**

- **Srila Rupa Gosvami’s Sri Mathura Mahatmya**

**Sri Krishna was very pleased with Bhismadeva so He said that from now on, this Vishnu Panchaka will be known as Bhisma Panchaka. Bhisma means extreme austerity so Bhisma Panchaka means 5 days of extreme austerity.**

**Bhisma Panchaka is a fast recommended by our acharyas in the Hari Bhakti Vilasa. They state that observing fasting from certain foodstuffs during Bhisma Panchaka greatly pleases the Lord and that one makes spiritual advancement by such austerities. One who observes this fast during these days gains spiritual merit equivalent to observing all other fasts and becomes free from great sins.**

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# What is Bhisma Panchaka?

During these days, there are two levels of fasting, starting on Ekadasi and broken on Rasa Purnima (last day of Kartik). However, this year, Bhisma Panchaka will last for only four days, so we will fast for those four days (November 12-15th) but still complete the other challenge activities such as japa, offering lamp and singing Damodarastakam for five days (November 11-15th). By observing Bhisma Panchaka, we strive to follow Bhismadeva's example of love and devotion, bringing ourselves closer to Krishna.

(For more information, refer to the Hari Bhakti Vilasa)



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# What is the challenge?

Our acharyas encourage us to take advantage of this holy month by committing to extra spiritual activities as offerings to Krishna. The Bhisma Panchaka Challenge is designed to help us intensify our devotional service in the last 5 days of Kartik!

This challenge includes 5 activities to complete each day:



This is a special opportunity to increase our devotional practices through 3 different levels of Krishna-conscious activities.

Choose the level that inspires you, follow the 5-day calendar, and keep track of your progress! Join our online classes and offer your heart to Krishna! By the end, your names will be personally offered to Sri Sri Radha-Madhava, Panca-tattva, Nrsimhadeva, and Jagannath in Sridham Mayapur.

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# Why should you join?

Collect 100x  
benefit in your  
bhakti bank  
account

Have your name offered  
to Sri Sri Radha  
Madhava, Sri Sri  
Panca-tattva and Lord  
Nrsimhadeva in Mayapur  
Dham

Receive a  
certificate signed by  
HH Jayapataka  
Swami

And most importantly  
because it pleases  
Krishna! <3

Join our online  
sangas to hear  
from inspirational  
speakers

Get connected with  
hundreds of devotees from  
around the world in our  
sangas!

Because it is fun  
and you will  
experience so  
much bliss!

# How it works?

1. Fill up the registration form
2. Join our WhatsApp Channel
3. Download your calendar & the Bhisma Panchaka Challenge Manual
4. Join our sangas
5. Receive your certificate & have your name offered to the Deities!

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# Level 1 – fruits & Roots

The Hari Bhakti Vilasa suggests fasting from certain foods during Bhisma Panchaka for the pleasure of Lord Keshava. You can choose a level of fasting according to your capacity and convenience. It is important to select a level that won't disturb your daily sadhana and usual devotional services.

## What is Allowed!

Daab (Coconut Water)



Potatoes (boiled or baked)



Sweet potatoes (boiled or baked)



Ginger and haldi (turmeric)



Dates



Oranges



Grated Coconut



Dried Fruits



Banana



Nuts



Mandarins



Pears



Sea Salt



Apple



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# What is not allowed?

Pomegranate



Guava



Cucumber



Milk products



Papaya



Oil



**\* You can eat the permitted items during the day. In Mayapur, we typically eat in the morning and afternoon. For a more austere option, you may choose to drink only water throughout the day and honour prasadam at sunset.**

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# Level 2 – Havishya

The following are ingredients that can be used in making Havishya, which is like a khichdi made with these items.

- Rice
- Pure cow's ghee
- Cow's milk
- Sea salt
- Kacha Kola (unripe banana)
- Wheat
- Roots
- Sugarcane derivatives other than gur or molasses
- Kala sak – type of spinach, Pipali herb



You may also have these items:

- Daab (coconut water)
- Fruits
- Mango
- Jackfruit
- Labali fruit
- Roots except 'keaa' (a type of grass or root)
- Pippalii
- Haritakii
- Whole milk with cream from a cow



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## What is not Allowed!

- Dahl
- Oil
- Jeera (Cumin Seeds)
- Raddish
- Tamarind
- Beta Shak
- Haldi (Turmeric)



## Special Offerings to the Lord

As per the Garuda Purana, the following offerings are to be offered to the Deities during the Bhisma Panchaka days. If you do not have these specific items, you can mentally offer them to the designated parts of the Lord.

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# Special Offerings to the Lord

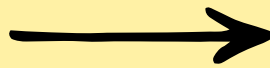
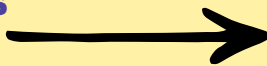
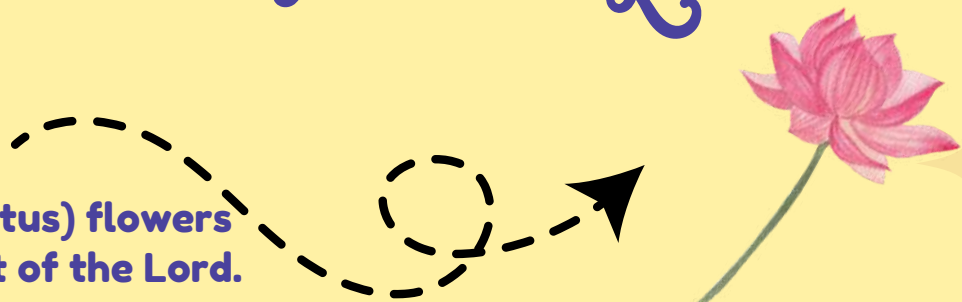
- **Day 1:**  
Offer padma (lotus) flowers to the lotus feet of the Lord.

- **Day 2:**  
Offer bilva (wood-apple) leaves to the thighs of the Lord.

- **Day 3:**  
Offer gandha (scents such as essential oils or rose water) to the navel of the Lord.

- **Day 4:**  
Offer white java flowers to the shoulders of the Lord.

- **Day 5:**  
Offer malati flowers to the head of the Lord.



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# Offering Tarpana to Bhismadeva

**Tarpana is a ceremony to please the forefathers performed by sons, but since Bhismadeva didn't have any descendants, because he had taken the vow of brahmacarya, on this Vrata we are acting as Bhismadeva's children and we are offering Tarpana for him.**

**Bhismadeva is the son of Mother Ganga and King Shantanu and one of the 12 mahajanas who is revered for his unwavering devotion to the Lord.**

**Tarpana is when the Brahmin thread is put backwards (if applicable) and water is taken in both hands. The mantra is chanted and then the water is offered with tilting both hands to the right and downwards so that the water flows down the right thumb. This is a way of offering oblations to the forefathers.**

**Ideally, one should bathe in the Ganges or other holy rivers daily during Bhisma Panchaka and offer tarpana (oblations) three times for Bhismadeva by reciting the following mantras:**

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## Tarpana

om vaiyaghra padya  
gotraya  
samkruti pravaraya ca  
aputraya dadamyetat  
salilam bhisvarmane

## Arghya

vasunamavataraya  
santanoratmajaya ca  
arghyam dadami bhisvaya  
ajanma brahmacarine

## Pranam

om bhisvah santanavo  
birah  
satyavadi jitendriyah  
abhiradbhiravapnatu  
putrapautrocitam kriyam



## Important Notice

**\*If you are not staying close to a holy river, the alternative is that while you take a bath, you can loudly call out, "Ganga! Ganga! Ganga! Ganga!" and in this way mentally bathe in the holy river.**







# Online Sangas

Doing this challenge with friends makes it more fun and easier! That's why we'll meet every day for one week in our online sangas on zoom to support and inspire each other. This year, we are going to discuss the importance of the 5 most powerful items of devotional service. We will explore the importance of chanting, hearing, Deity worship, association of devotees and living in the dham. We are going to have inspirational speakers so you do not want to miss out on this magical opportunity! Get ready for loads of fun activities and adventures!



**Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85125705100?pwd=UYChd6VbMr8H0JDL1baVSpMG7nPxoP.1>**

**Meeting ID: 851 2570 5100**  
**Passcode: PC108**

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# Online Sanga Speakers

Date	Timings (IST)	Topic	Guest Speaker
November 10th	5:00 - 6:15 pm	Glories of Bhisma Panchaka	Gourangi Gandharvika dd
November 11th	5:00 - 6:15 pm	Chanting the Holy Name	HH Candramauli Swami
November 12th	5:00 - 6:15 pm	Hearing Scriptures	HG Gauranga Darshan Prabhu
November 13th	5:00 - 6:15 pm	Living in the Dham	HG Jahnvi Nimai Priya dd (TBC)
November 14th	5:00 - 6:15 pm	Sadhu Sanga	HG Urmila Mataji (TBC)
November 15th	5:00 - 6:15 pm	Deity Worship	HG Jananivas Prabhu (TBC)
November 16th	5:00 - 6:15 pm	Special Final Sanga	HH Jayapataka Swami (TBC)

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# Online Sanga Schedule:

Timings	Activity
5 mins	Introduction
10 mins	Japa
10 mins	Bhisma Stuti
30 mins	Krishna-katha
10 mins	Damodarastakam & Arati
5 mins	Sharing Time

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# Important Information!!

**Please check our WhatsApp channel daily as we will share important announcements and activities for the Bhisma Panchaka Challenge.**

- **The online sangas will be held on Zoom. Please download this app on your electronic device of preference, or click on the link which will give you direct access to join. We will provide the link for the sangas on our WhatsApp channel.**
- **Please make sure you have your japa beads and lamp ready before the sangas. If you would like to offer full arati, then have your arati plate ready to offer to the Lord too!**
- **We will be going live on Facebook and YouTube. If you feel uncomfortable with this option, please leave your cameras off.**
- **Please do not feel limited by the calendars you have chosen. If you feel inspired, you can add even more Krishna conscious activities to your challenge.**

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# Important Information !!

- To ensure a smooth and uninterrupted flow during our sangas, all the participants' microphones will be kept on mute, except for the teacher's (unless you have raised your hand). If you have any questions or comments, feel free to type them in the chat box too.
- If you would like to speak with us, press on "Participants" (in the lower part of the screen). A box will appear on the right side of the screen, where you can find the button "Raise hand".

## How to Break Bhisma Panchaka Challenge?!

November 15th marks Rasa Purnima, the last day of Kartika and the last day of the Bhisma Panchaka. To complete the challenge:

1. Finish the activities on your calendar for the day.
2. Follow the fasting guidelines as prescribed.
3. Break your fast at sunset (or moonrise) by drinking a little of the panchagavya mixture (cow dung, cow urine, cow milk, cow yogurt).
4. Afterward, you're welcome to enjoy a feast!

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# Share and Inspire !!

We encourage you to take pictures or record videos of yourself participating in this challenge. Whether you're offering a lamp, reciting the Bhisma Stuti, or singing the Damodarastakam, share your experience and inspire others by tagging us on social media with the hashtag:

#BhismaDanchakaChallenge

Connect with us:



Bhakti Kids - CDM



Bhakti Kids - CDM



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Bhakti Kids CDM



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[www.bhaktikids.com](http://www.bhaktikids.com)

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# Testimonials!!!

**We would love to hear your feedback about the Bhisma Panchaka Challenge! You can share your experience in one of two ways:**

**Option 1: Submit a 30-second video sharing your experience**

**Option 2: Write a short message along with a photo of yourself participating in the challenge**

**\* Make sure to include your name, age and the country you are from.**

**At the end of the challenge, we will compile a video to celebrate the Bhisma Panchaka Challenge, and we want YOU to be a part of it! 🎉**

**We will share this video with HH Jayapataka Swami.**

**Please email your testimonial to:  
[cdmchildservices@gmail.com](mailto:cdmchildservices@gmail.com)**

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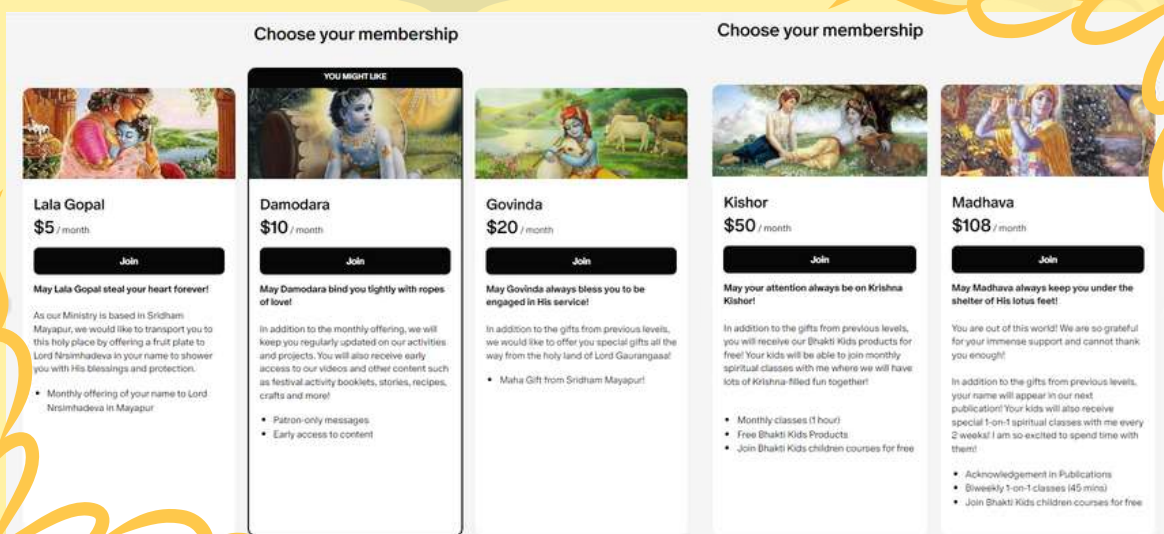







# We Value Your Support!

Organising these challenges requires significant effort from our dedicated team, along with covering various costs like website maintenance, creating certificates, graphic designing, producing videos, maintaining the Zoom platform for sangas, and more. Every donation you make directly supports Bhakti Kids and enables us to continue offering even more programs, publishing books, and creating valuable resources for you. We are extremely grateful for any contribution you wish to give.

We kindly request you to **SUPPORT US** by donating!

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<b>Join</b>	<b>Join</b>	<b>Join</b>	<b>Join</b>	<b>Join</b>
<p><b>May Lala Gopal steal your heart forever!</b></p> <p>As our Ministry is based in Sridham Mayapur, we would like to transport you to this holy place by offering a fruit plate to Lord Nrsimhadeva in your name to shower you with His blessings and protection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Monthly offering of your name to Lord Nrsimhadeva in Mayapur.</li></ul>	<p><b>YOU MIGHT LIKE</b></p> <p><b>May Damodara bind you tightly with ropes of love!</b></p> <p>In addition to the monthly offering, we will keep you regularly updated on our activities and projects. You will also receive early access to our videos and other content such as festival activity booklets, stories, recipes, crafts and more!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Patron-only messages</li><li>Early access to content</li></ul>	<p><b>May Govinda always bless you to be engaged in His service!</b></p> <p>In addition to the gifts from previous levels, we would like to offer you special gifts all the way from the holy land of Lord Gauranga!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Maha Gift from Sridham Mayapur!</li></ul>	<p><b>May your attention always be on Krishna Kishor!</b></p> <p>In addition to the gifts from previous levels, you will receive our Bhakti Kids products for free! Your kids will be able to join monthly spiritual classes with me where we will have lots of Krishna-filled fun together!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Monthly classes (1 hour)</li><li>Free Bhakti Kids Products</li><li>Join Bhakti Kids children courses for free</li></ul>	<p><b>May Madhava always keep you under the shelter of His lotus feet!</b></p> <p>You are out of this world! We are so grateful for your immense support and cannot thank you enough!</p> <p>In addition to the gifts from previous levels, your name will appear in our next publication! Your kids will also receive special 1-on-1 spiritual classes with me every 2 weeks! I am so excited to spend time with them!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Acknowledgement in Publications</li><li>Biweekly 1-on-1 classes (45 mins)</li><li>Join Bhakti Kids children courses for free</li></ul>

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# We Value Your Support!

**We kindly request you to SUPPORT US by donating!**



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[gourangiscarcella108@icici](mailto:gourangiscarcella108@icici)



**Zelle**



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**BSB Number: 066 - 132**

**Acct. No: 1110 4485**

**Acct. Holder: Krsna Consciousness Congregational Development Ministry Limited**

**Acct. Address: Krsna Consciousness Congregational Development Ministry Limited, 4 Cowper Road, Sorrento, Perth WA 6020, Australia**

**Paypal: [accounts@iskconcongregation.com](mailto:accounts@iskconcongregation.com)**

**Zelle: Name: Gourangi Scarcella**

**Confirmation Email: [gourangi.cdm@gmail.com](mailto:gourangi.cdm@gmail.com)**

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# Calendar Activities

## **Glories of the Maha-Mantra**

**Out of all spiritual activities, chanting the holy name of Krishna is the best.**

**Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare  
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare**

**Hare is Srimati Radharani,  
Krishna means the all-attractive Lord,  
Rama is the source of all happiness.**

**The maha-mantra is a prayer calling out, “Oh, Hare! Oh, Krishna! Oh, Rama! Please engage me in Your service.” Chanting is the most important practice in the life of a devotee!**

**For each yuga, there is a process given by the Vedas on how to develop pure love for Krishna. This is called yuga-dharma. The yuga-dharma for this current age of Kali is chanting the holy name of the Lord.**

**When we chant the holy name, we are not just saying words—we are actually speaking with Krishna! The holy name is non-different from Krishna so by chanting the maha-mantra we are directly associating with Him. In other words, chanting is our personal time with Krishna. It is how we build our relationship with Him.**

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# Calendar Activities

When we make the effort to set aside time to chant, we are showing Krishna, our best friend, that we want to spend time with Him. So, we must take advantage of this special opportunity by chanting with our hearts. It is through our sincerity that we truly connect with Krishna and can feel His love and presence more deeply in our lives.

## How to Chant Japa?

1. Start by holding the Krishna bead (the largest bead) between your thumb and middle finger. This is your starting point. Don't chant on this bead.

2. Move to the bead next to the Krishna bead. First, chant the Panca-tattva mantra:

**Jai Sri Krishna Chaitanya Prabhu Nityananda  
Sri Advaita Gadadhara Srivasadi Gaura Bhakti Vrinda**

3. Then chant the full Maha Mantra:

**Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare  
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare**



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# Calendar Activities

4. Then move to the next bead with your thumb and finger. Chant the full mantra once on each bead and continue chanting until you've gone through all 108 beads, without chanting on the Krishna bead again.

5. Once you get to the bead next to the Krishna bead, chant the Panca-tattva mantra again:

**Jai Sri Krishna Chaitanya Prabhu Nityananda  
Sri Advaita Gadadhara Srivasadi Gaura Bhakti Vrinda**

**This is 1 full round of japa.**



**5 Days For Krishna!**



# Glories of Hearing about Krishna

Our hearts are like special cups that can be filled with different things and our ears are like doors to our hearts. That's why it's super important to choose carefully what we let enter through our ears. When we hear about worldly things, it fills our hearts with thoughts about those things, and we become attached to them. Imagine that right now our hearts are like cups filled with muddy water. But don't worry, there's a way to make them clean! When we hear about Krishna, something magical happens! It's like pure water pouring into our hearts, washing away all the mud and making our hearts clean. Isn't that amazing?

So, it's important to be careful about what we allow into our ears. We want to avoid hearing things that distract us from Krishna because it makes our hearts muddy. Instead, let's fill our ears with sounds that are spiritually pure like kirtana, classes and stories about Krishna from books like the Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam and Kṛṣṇa Book.

You can find the online Krishna Book here -  
<https://vedabase.io/en/library/kb/>

5 Days For Krishna!



# Glories of Hearing about Krishna

The more we listen to stories and teachings about Krishna, and the more we think about Him, the more deeply we fall in love with Him. Hearing about Krishna is like sweet nectar that fills our hearts with love for Him and makes us thirsty for more. And you know what? When our hearts are overflowing with love for Krishna, all other things just fade away. We will only desire pure waters—to chant and hear about Krishna.

Krishna Himself sits on a lotus flower of love in our hearts! So, let's open the doors of our hearts warmly welcome Krishna into the temple of our hearts by using our ears to hear about Him. Embrace the power of hearing and let Krishna clean the garden of our heart so that it may blossom with love and devotion for Him.



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# Glories of Offering Lamp During Kartik Month



- A person who offers a lamp to Lord Damodara during Kartika attains the eternal spiritual world where there is no suffering.
- When one offers a lamp during the month of Kartika, his sins of many thousands and millions of births perish in half an eye blink.
- Even if there is no mantras, no pious deeds, and no purity, everything becomes perfect when a person offers a lamp during the month of Kartika.
- A person who during the month of Kartika offers a lamp to Lord Keshava has already performed all yajnas (sacrifice for the pleasure of the Lord) and bathing in all the holy rivers.
- To one who either at home or in a temple offers a lamp during the month of Kartika, Lord Vasudeva gives a great result.
- A person who offers a lamp to Lord Krishna during the month of Damodara (Kartika) becomes very glorious and fortunate.
- No sins exist anywhere in the three worlds that will not be purified by offering a lamp to Lord Keshava during Kartika.



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# Bhisma Stuti

The Bhisma Stuti is a set of prayers offered by Bhismadeva to Lord Krishna as he lay on a bed of arrows, preparing to leave his body after the conclusion of the Kurukshetra war. These prayers are recited in Srimad Bhagavatam (1.9.32–1.9.43), and they express Bhisma's deep devotion and glorification of Lord Krishna.

ŚB 1.9.32

śrī-bhīṣma uvāca

iti matir upakalpītā vitṛṣṇā

bhagavati sātvata-puṅgave vibhūmni

sva-sukham upagate kvacid vihartum

prakṛtim upeyuṣi yad-bhava-pravāhaḥ

## Translation

Bhīṣmadeva said: Let me now invest my thinking, feeling and willing, which were so long engaged in different subjects and occupational duties, in the all-powerful Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. He is always self-satisfied, but sometimes, being the leader of the devotees, He enjoys transcendental pleasure by descending to the material world, although from Him only the material world is created.

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### ŚB 1.9.33

**tri-bhuvana-kamanam tamāla-varṇam  
ravi-kara-gaura-vara-ambaram dadhāne  
vapur alaka-kulāvṛtānanābjam  
vijaya-sakhe ratir astu me 'navadyā**

#### Translation

**Śrī Kṛṣṇa is the intimate friend of Arjuna. He has appeared on this earth in His transcendental body, which resembles the bluish color of the tamāla tree. His body attracts everyone in the three planetary systems [upper, middle and lower]. May His glittering yellow dress and His lotus face, covered with paintings of sandalwood pulp, be the object of my attraction, and may I not desire fruitive results.**

### ŚB 1.9.34

**yudhi turaga-rajo-vidhūmra-viṣvak-  
kaca-lulita-śramavāry-alaṅkṛtāsye  
mama niśita-śarair vibhidyamāna-  
tvaci vilasat-kavace 'stu kṛṣṇa ātmā**

#### Translation

**On the battlefield [where Śrī Kṛṣṇa attended Arjuna out of friendship], the flowing hair of Lord Kṛṣṇa turned ashen due to the dust raised by the hoofs of the horses. And because of His labor, beads of sweat wetted His face. All these decorations, intensified by the wounds dealt by my sharp arrows, were enjoyed by Him. Let my mind thus go unto Śrī Kṛṣṇa.**

*5 Days For Krishna!*



### ŚB 1.9.35

sapadi sakhi-vaco niśamya madhye  
nija-parayor balayo ratham niveśya  
sthitavati para-sainikāyur akṣṇā  
hṛtavati pārtha-sakhe ratir mamāstu

#### Translation

In obedience to the command of His friend, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa entered the arena of the Battlefield of Kurukṣetra between the soldiers of Arjuna and Duryodhana, and while there He shortened the life spans of the opposite party by His merciful glance. This was done simply by His looking at the enemy. Let my mind be fixed upon that Kṛṣṇa.

### ŚB 1.9.36

vyavahita-pṛtanā-mukhaṁ nirīkṣya  
sva-jana-vadhād vimukhasya doṣa-buddhyā  
kumatim aharad ātma-vidyayā yaś  
caraṇa-ratiḥ paramasya tasya me 'stu

#### Translation

When Arjuna was seemingly polluted by ignorance upon observing the soldiers and commanders before him on the battlefield, the Lord eradicated his ignorance by delivering transcendental knowledge. May His lotus feet always remain the object of my attraction.



### ŚB 1.9.37

**sva-nigamam apahāya mat-pratijñām  
ṛtam adhikartum avapluto rathasthaḥ  
dhṛta-ratha-caraṇo 'bhyayāc caladgur  
harir iva hantum ibhaṁ gatottarīyaḥ**

#### Translation

**Fulfilling my vow and sacrificing His own promise, He got down from the chariot, took up its wheel, and ran towards me hurriedly, just as a lion goes to kill an elephant. He even dropped His outer garment on the way.**

### ŚB 1.9.38

**śīta-viśikha-hato viśīrṇa-damśaḥ  
kṣataja-paripluta ātatāyino me  
prasabham abhisasāra mad-vadhārthaṁ  
sa bhavatu me bhagavān gatih mukundaḥ**

#### Translation

**May He, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the Personality of Godhead, who awards salvation, be my ultimate destination. On the battlefield He charged me, as if angry because of the wounds dealt by my sharp arrows. His shield was scattered, and His body was smeared with blood due to the wounds.**



**ŚB 1.9.39**

**vijaya-ratha-kuṭumbha ātta-totre  
dhṛta-haya-raśmini tac-chriyekṣaṇīye  
bhagavati ratir astu me mumūrṣor  
yam iha nirīkṣya hatā gatāḥ sva-rūpam**

**Translation**

**At the moment of death, let my ultimate attraction be to Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the Personality of Godhead. I concentrate my mind upon the chariot driver of Arjuna who stood with a whip in His right hand and a bridle rope in His left, who was very careful to give protection to Arjuna's chariot by all means. Those who saw Him on the Battlefield of Kurukṣetra attained their original forms after death.**

**ŚB 1.9.40**

**lalita-gati-vilāsa-valguhāsa-  
praṇaya-nirīkṣaṇa-kalpitorumānāḥ  
kṛtam anukṛtavatya unmadāndhāḥ  
prakṛtim agan kila yasya gopa-vadhvaḥ**

**Translation**

**Let my mind be fixed upon Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, whose motions and smiles of love attracted the damsels of Vrajadhāma [the gopīs]. The damsels imitated the characteristic movements of the Lord [after His disappearance from the rāsa dance].**

*5 Days For Krishna!*



**ŚB 1.9.41**

**muni-gaṇa-nṛpa-varya-saṅkule 'ntaḥ-  
sadasi yudhiṣṭhira-rājasūya eṣām  
arhaṇam upapeda īkṣaṇīyo  
mama dṛśi-gocara eṣa āvir ātmā**

**Translation**

**At the Rājasūya-yajña [sacrifice] performed by Mahārāja Yudhiṣṭhira, there was the greatest assembly of all the elite men of the world, the royal and learned orders, and in that great assembly Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa was worshiped by one and all as the most exalted Personality of Godhead. This happened during my presence, and I remembered the incident in order to keep my mind upon the Lord.**

**ŚB 1.9.42**

**tam imam aham ajaṁ śarīra-bhājāṁ  
hṛdi hṛdi dhiṣṭhitam ātma-kalpitānām  
pratidṛśam iva naikadhārkam ekaṁ  
samadhi-gato 'smi vidhūta-bheda-mohaḥ**

**Translation**

**Now I can meditate with full concentration upon that one Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, now present before me because now I have transcended the misconceptions of duality in regard to His presence in everyone's heart, even in the hearts of the mental speculators. He is in everyone's heart. The sun may be perceived differently, but the sun is one.**

*5 Days For Krishna!*



# Sing Damodarastakam

During the sacred month of Kartik, we sing the Damodarastakam bhajan every day to remember our beloved Lord Damodara. This beautiful bhajan reminds us how Sri Krishna, the Supreme Lord, despite being the Controller of all, is controlled by the pure love of His devotees. Sing this bhajan daily and offer a lamp as an offering of our hearts to our Yasoda Damodara.

You can listen to the bhajan here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6syyq4RPbeo>

(1)  
namāmiśvaram sac-cid-ānanda-rūpaṁ  
lasat-kuṇḍalam gokule bhrājamanam  
yaśodā-bhiyolūkhalād dhāvamānaṁ  
parāmr̥ṣṭam atyantato drutya gopyā

(2)  
rudantaṁ muhur netra-yugmaṁ mṛjantam  
karāmbhoja-yugmena sātaṅka-netram  
muhuḥ śvāsa-kampa-trirekhāṅka-kaṅṭha-  
sthita-graivaṁ dāmodaram bhakti-baddham



5 Days For Krishna!

# Sing Damodarastakam

(3)

itīdr̥k sva-līlābhir ānanda-kunḍe  
sva-ghoṣam̐ nimajjantam ākhyāpayantam  
tadīyeṣita-jñeṣu bhaktair jitatvam̐  
punaḥ prematas tam̐ śatāvṛtti vande

(4)

varam̐ deva mokṣam̐ na mokṣāvadhim̐ vā  
na canyam̐ vṛṇe 'ham̐ vareṣād apīha  
idam̐ te vapur nātha gopāla-bālam̐  
sadā me manasy āvirāstām̐ kim anyaiḥ

(5)

idam̐ te mukhāmbhojam atyanta-nīlair  
vṛtam̐ kuntalaiḥ snigdha-raktaiś ca gopyā  
muhuś cumbitam̐ bimba-raktādharam̐ me  
manasy āvirāstām̐ alam̐ lakṣa-lābhaiḥ





# Sing Damodarastakam

(6)

**namo deva dāmodarānanta viṣṇo  
prasīda prabho duḥkha-jālābdhi-magnam  
kṛpā-dr̥ṣṭi-vr̥ṣṭyāti-dīnam batānu  
gr̥hāṇeṣa mām ajñam edhy akṣi-dr̥śyaḥ**

(7)

**kuverātmajau baddha-mūrtyaiva yadvat  
tvayā mocitau bhakti-bhājau kṛtau ca  
tathā prema-bhaktim svakām me prayaccha  
na mokṣe graho me 'sti dāmodareha**

(8)

**namas te 'stu dāmne sphurad-dīpti-dhāmne  
tvadīyodarāyātha viśvasya dhāmne  
namo rādhikāyai tvadīya-priyāyai  
namo 'nanta-līlāya devāya tubhyam**



5 Days For Krishna!



# Sing Damodarastakam

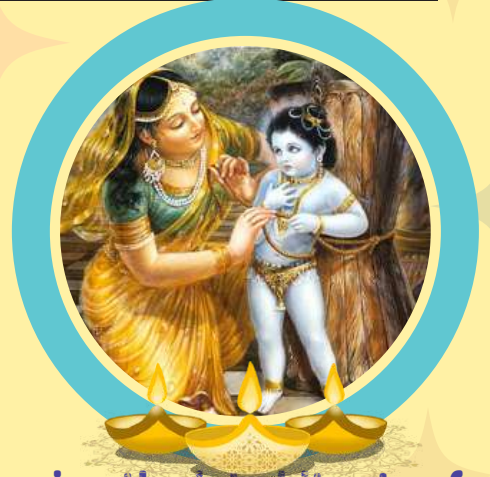


## TRANSLATION

1) To the Supreme Lord, whose form is the embodiment of eternal existence, knowledge, and bliss, whose shark-shaped earrings are swinging to and fro, who is beautifully shining in the divine realm of Gokula, who I (due to the offense of breaking the pot of yogurt that His mother was churning into butter and then stealing the butter that was kept hanging from a swing) is quickly running from the wooden grinding mortar in fear of mother Yasoda, but who has been caught from behind by her who ran after Him with greater speed--to that Supreme Lord, Sri Damodara, I offer my humble obeisances.

2) (Seeing the whipping stick in His mother's hand) He is crying and rubbing His eyes again and again with His two lotus hands. His eyes are filled with fear, and the necklace of pearls around His neck, which is marked with three lines like a conch shell, is shaking because of His quick breathing due to crying. To this Supreme Lord, Sri Damodara, whose belly is bound not with ropes but with His mother's pure love, I offer my humble obeisances.

# Sing Damodarastakam



## TRANSLATION

3) By such childhood pastimes as this He is drowning the inhabitants of Gokula in pools of ecstasy, and is revealing to those devotees who are absorbed in knowledge of His supreme majesty and opulence that He is only conquered by devotees whose pure love is imbued with intimacy and is free from all conceptions of awe and reverence. With great love I again offer my obeisances to Lord Damodara hundreds and hundreds of times.

4) O Lord, although You are able to give all kinds of benedictions, I do not pray to You for the boon of impersonal liberation, nor the highest liberation of eternal life in Vaikuntha, nor any other boon (which may be obtained by executing the nine processes of bhakti). O Lord, I simply wish that this form of Yours as Bala Gopala in Vrndavana may ever be manifest in my heart, for what is the use to me of any other boon besides this?

5) O Lord, Your lotus face, which is encircled by locks of soft black hair tinged with red, is kissed again and again by mother Yasoda, and Your lips are reddish like the bimba fruit. May this beautiful vision of Your lotus face be ever manifest in my heart. Thousands and thousands of other benedictions are of no use to me.

5 Days For Krishna!

# Sing Damodarastakam



## TRANSLATION

6) O Supreme Godhead, I offer my obeisances unto You. O Damodara! O Ananta! O Vishnu! O master! O my Lord, be pleased upon me. By showering Your glance of mercy upon me, deliver this poor ignorant fool who is immersed in an ocean of worldly sorrows, and become visible to my eyes.

7) O Lord Damodara, just as the two sons of Kuvera, Manigriva and Nalakuvara, were delivered from the curse of Narada and made into great devotees by You in Your form as a baby tied with rope to a wooden grinding mortar, in the same way, please give to me Your own prema-bhakti. I only long for this and have no desire for any kind of liberation.

8) O Lord Damodara, I first of all offer my obeisances to the brilliantly effulgent rope which binds Your belly. I then offer my obeisances to Your belly, which is the abode of the entire universe. I humbly bow down to Your most beloved Srimati Radharani, and I offer all obeisances to You, the Supreme Lord, who displays unlimited pastimes.



# Damodara Pastime

Once upon a time, seeing that her maidservant was engaged in different household duties, Mother Yaśodā personally took charge of churning butter. And while she churned butter, she sang the childhood pastimes of Kṛṣṇa and enjoyed thinking of her son.

The end of her sari was tightly wrapped while she churned, and on account of her intense love for her son, milk automatically dripped from her breasts, which moved as she labored very hard, churning with two hands. The bangles and bracelets on her hands tinkled as they touched each other, and her earrings and breasts shook. There were drops of perspiration on her face, and the flower garland which was on her head scattered here and there. Before this picturesque sight, Lord Kṛṣṇa appeared as a child. He felt hungry, and to increase His mother's love, He wanted her to stop churning. He indicated that her first business was to let Him suck her breast, and then she could churn butter later.

Mother Yaśodā took her son on her lap and pushed the nipple of her breast into His mouth. And while Kṛṣṇa was sucking the milk, she was smiling, enjoying the beauty of her child's face. Suddenly, the milk which was on the stove began to boil over. Just to stop the milk from spilling, Mother Yaśodā at once put Kṛṣṇa aside and went to the stove. Left in that state by His mother, Kṛṣṇa became very angry, and His lips and eyes became red in rage. He pressed His teeth and lips, and taking up a piece of stone, He immediately broke the butter pot. He took butter out of it, and with false tears in His eyes, He began to eat the butter in a secluded place.

5 Days For Krishna!



In the meantime, Mother Yaśodā returned to the churning place after setting the overflowing milk pan in order. She saw the broken pot, in which the churning yogurt had been kept. Since she could not find her boy, she concluded that the broken pot was His work. She smiled as she thought, “The child is very clever. After breaking the pot He has left this place, fearing punishment.” After she sought all over, she found her son sitting on a big wooden grinding mortar, which was kept upside down. He was taking butter from a pot which was hanging from the ceiling on a swing, and He was feeding it to the monkeys. She saw Kṛṣṇa looking this way and that way in fear of her because He was conscious of His naughty behavior. After seeing her son so engaged, she very silently approached Him from behind. Kṛṣṇa, however, saw her coming toward Him with a stick in her hand, and He immediately got down from the grinding mortar and began to flee in fear. Mother Yaśodā chased Him to all corners, trying to capture the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who is never approached even by the meditations of great yogīs. In other words, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Kṛṣṇa, who is never caught by the yogīs and speculators, was playing just like a little child for such a great devotee as Mother Yaśodā. Mother Yaśodā, however, could not easily catch the fast-running child because of her thin waist and heavy body. Still she tried to follow Him as fast as possible. Her hair loosened, and the flowers in her hair fell to the ground. Although she was tired, she somehow reached her naughty child and captured Him. When He was caught, Kṛṣṇa was almost on the point of crying. He smeared His hands over His eyes, which were anointed with black eye cosmetics. The child saw His mother’s face while she stood over Him, and His eyes became restless from fear.

*5 Days For Krishna!*



**Mother Yaśodā could understand that Kṛṣṇa was unnecessarily afraid, and for His benefit she wanted to allay His fears. Being the topmost well-wisher of her child, Mother Yaśodā thought, “If the child is too fearful of me, I don’t know what will happen to Him.” Mother Yaśodā then threw away her stick. In order to punish Him, she thought to bind His hands with some ropes. She did not know it, but it was actually impossible for her to bind the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Mother Yaśodā was thinking that Kṛṣṇa was her tiny child; she did not know that the child had no limitation. There is no inside or outside of Him, nor beginning or end. He is unlimited and all-pervading. Indeed, He is Himself the whole cosmic manifestation. Still, Mother Yaśodā was thinking of Kṛṣṇa as her child. Although He is beyond the reach of all senses, she endeavored to bind Him to a wooden grinding mortar. But when she tried to bind Him, she found that the rope she was using was too short – by two inches. She gathered more ropes from the house and added to it, but still she found the same shortage. In this way, she connected all the ropes available at home, but when the final knot was added, she saw that the rope was still two inches too short. Mother Yaśodā was smiling, but she was astonished. How was it happening?**

*5 Days For Krishna!*



In attempting to bind her son, she became tired. She was perspiring, and the garland on her head fell down. Then Lord Kṛṣṇa appreciated the hard labor of His mother, and being compassionate upon her, He agreed to be bound up by the ropes. Kṛṣṇa, playing as a human child in the house of Mother Yaśodā, was performing His own selected pastimes. Of course, no one can control the Supreme Personality of Godhead. The pure devotee surrenders himself unto the lotus feet of the Lord, who may either protect or vanquish the devotee. But for his part, the devotee never forgets his own position of surrender. Similarly, the Lord also feels transcendental pleasure by submitting Himself to the protection of the devotee. This was exemplified by Kṛṣṇa's surrender unto His mother, Yaśodā.

Kṛṣṇa is the supreme bestower of all kinds of liberation to His devotees, but the benediction which was bestowed upon Mother Yaśodā was never experienced even by Lord Brahmā or Lord Śiva or the goddess of fortune.

The Supreme Personality of Godhead, who is known as the son of Yaśodā and Nanda Mahārāja, is never so completely known to the yogīs and speculators. But He is easily available to His devotees. Nor is He appreciated as the supreme reservoir of all pleasure by the yogīs and speculators.

5 Days For Krishna!



After binding her son, Mother Yaśodā engaged herself in household affairs. At that time, bound up to the wooden mortar, Kṛṣṇa could see a pair of trees before Him which were known as arjuna trees. The great reservoir of pleasure, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, thus thought to Himself, “Mother Yaśodā first of all left without feeding Me sufficient milk, and therefore I broke the pot of yogurt and distributed the stock butter in charity to the monkeys. Now she has bound Me up to a wooden mortar. So I shall do something more mischievous than before.” And thus He thought of pulling down the two very tall arjuna trees.

There is a history behind the pair of arjuna trees. In their previous lives, the trees were born as the human sons of Kuvera, and their names were Nalakūvara and Maṇigrīva. Fortunately, they came within the vision of the Lord. In their previous lives they were cursed by the great sage Nārada in order to receive the highest benediction of seeing Lord Kṛṣṇa. This benediction-curse was bestowed upon them because of their forgetfulness due to intoxication.

The two great demigods Nalakūvara and Maṇigrīva were sons of the treasurer of the demigods, Kuvera, who was a great devotee of Lord Śiva. By the grace of Lord Śiva, Kuvera’s material opulences had no limit. As a rich man’s sons often become addicted to wine and women, so these two sons of Kuvera were also addicted to wine and sex.

5 Days For Krishna!





Once, these two demigods, desiring to enjoy, entered the garden of Lord Śiva in the province of Kailāsa, on the bank of the Mandākinī Ganges. There they drank much and engaged in hearing the sweet singing of the beautiful women who accompanied them in that garden of fragrant flowers. In an intoxicated condition, the two demigods entered the water of the Ganges, which was filled with lotus flowers, and there they began to enjoy the company of the young girls exactly as a male elephant enjoys female elephants within the water.

While they were thus enjoying themselves in the water, all of a sudden Nārada, the great sage, happened to pass that way. He could understand that the demigods Nalakūvara and Maṇigrīva were too much intoxicated and could not even see that he was passing. The young girls, however, were not so much intoxicated as the demigods, and they at once became ashamed at being naked before the great sage Nārada. They began to cover themselves with all haste. The two demigod sons of Kuvera were so much intoxicated that they could not appreciate the presence of the sage Nārada and therefore did not cover their bodies. On seeing the two demigods so degraded by intoxication, Nārada desired their welfare, and therefore he exhibited his causeless mercy upon them by cursing them.

5 Days For Krishna!



Because the great sage was compassionate upon them, he wanted to finish their false enjoyment of intoxication and association with young girls and wanted them to see Lord Kṛṣṇa face to face. He conceived of cursing them as follows. He said that the attraction for material enjoyment is due to an increase of the mode of passion. A person in the material world, when favored by the material opulence of riches, generally becomes addicted to three things – intoxication, sex and gambling. Materially opulent men, being puffed up with the accumulation of wealth, also become so merciless that they indulge in killing animals by opening slaughterhouses. And they think that they themselves will never die. Such foolish persons, forgetting the laws of nature, become overly infatuated with the body. They forget that the material body, even though very much advanced in civilization, up to the position of the demigods, will finally turn into ashes or stool. And while one is living, whatever the external condition of the body may be, within there is only stool, urine and various kinds of worms. Thus being engaged in jealousy and violence to other bodies, materialists cannot understand the ultimate goal of life, and without knowing this goal of life, they generally glide down to a hellish condition in their next life. Such foolish persons commit all kinds of sinful activities on account of the temporary body, and they are even unable to consider whether the body actually belongs to them. Generally it is said that the body belongs to the persons who feed it. One might therefore consider whether the body belongs to one personally or to the master to whom one renders service.

5 Days For Krishna!



**The master of slaves claims full right to the bodies of the slaves because the master feeds the slaves. It may also be questioned whether the body belongs to the father, who is the seed-giving master of the body, or to the mother, who develops the child's body in her womb.**

**Foolish persons are engaged in committing all sorts of sins due to the misconception of identifying the material body with the self. But one should be intelligent enough to understand to whom the body belongs.**

**A foolish person indulges in killing animals to maintain the body, but he does not consider whether the body belongs to him or to his father or mother or maternal grandfather. Sometimes a father gives his daughter in charity to a person with a view of getting back the daughter's child as a son. The body may also belong to a stronger man who forces it to work for him. Sometimes a slave's body is sold to a master, and from that day on the body belongs to the master. And at the end of life the body belongs to the fire, because the body is given to the fire and burned to ashes. Or the body is thrown into the street to be eaten by the dogs and vultures.**

**Before committing all kinds of sins to maintain the body, one should understand to whom the body belongs. Ultimately it is concluded that the body is a product of material nature, and at the end it merges into material nature; therefore, the conclusion should be that the body belongs to material nature. One should not wrongly think that the body belongs to him. To maintain a false possession, why should one indulge in killing? Why should one kill innocent animals to maintain the body?**

*5 Days For Krishna!*



When a man is infatuated with the false prestige of opulence, he does not care for any moral instruction but indulges in wine, women and animal killing. In such circumstances, a poverty-stricken man is often better situated because a poor man thinks of himself in relation to other bodies. A poor man often does not wish to inflict injuries upon other bodies because he can understand more readily that when he himself is injured he feels pain. Therefore, the great sage Nārada considered that because the demigods Nalakūvara and Maṇigrīva were so infatuated by false prestige, they should be put into a condition of life devoid of opulence.

A person who has a pinprick in his body does not wish others to be pricked by pins; a considerate man in the life of poverty does not wish others to be also put into that condition. Generally it is seen that one who has risen from a poverty-stricken life and becomes wealthy creates some charitable institution at the end of his life so that other poverty-stricken men might be benefited. In short, a compassionate poor man may consider others' pains and pleasures with empathy. A poor man is seldom puffed up with false pride, and he may be freed from all kinds of infatuation. He may remain satisfied by whatever he gets for his maintenance by the grace of the Lord.

5 Days For Krishna!



To remain in the poverty-stricken condition is a kind of austerity. According to Vedic culture, therefore, the brāhmaṇas, as a matter of routine, keep themselves in a poverty-stricken condition to save themselves from the false prestige of material opulence. False prestige due to advancement of material prosperity is a great impediment for spiritual emancipation. A poverty-stricken man cannot become unnaturally fat by eating more and more. And on account of not being able to eat more than he requires, his senses are not very turbulent. When the senses are not very turbulent, he cannot become violent.

Another advantage of poverty is that a saintly person can easily enter a poor man's house, and thus the poor man can take advantage of the saintly person's association. A very opulent man does not allow anyone to enter his house; therefore, the saintly person cannot enter. According to the Vedic system, a saintly person takes the position of a mendicant so that on the plea of begging something from the householder, he can enter any house. The householder, who has usually forgotten everything about spiritual advancement because he is busy maintaining family affairs, can be benefited by the association of a saintly person. There is a great chance for the poor man to become liberated through association with a saint. Of what use are persons who are puffed up with material opulence and prestige if they are bereft of the association of saintly persons and devotees of the Supreme Personality of Godhead?

5 Days For Krishna!



The great sage Nārada thereafter thought that it was his duty to put those demigods into a condition where they could not be falsely proud of their material opulence and prestige. Nārada was compassionate and wanted to save them from their fallen life. They were in the mode of darkness, and being therefore unable to control their senses, they were addicted to sex life. It was the duty of a saintly person like Nārada to save them from their abominable condition. In animal life, the animal has no sense to understand that he is naked. But Kuvera was the treasurer of the demigods, a very responsible man, and Nalakūvara and Maṇigrīva were two of his sons. And yet they became so animalistic and irresponsible that they could not understand, due to intoxication, that they were naked. To cover the lower part of the body is a principle of human civilization, and when men or women forget this principle, they become no better than animals. Nārada therefore thought that the best punishment for them was to make them immovable living entities, or trees. Trees are, by nature's laws, immovable. Although trees are covered by the mode of ignorance, they cannot do harm. The great sage Nārada thought it fitting that, although the brothers would be punished to become trees, by his mercy they would continue to keep their memory and be able to know why they were being punished. After changing the body, a living entity generally forgets his previous life, but in special cases, by the grace of the Lord, as with Nalakūvara and Maṇigrīva, one can remember.

5 Days For Krishna!



**Sage Nārada therefore contemplated that the two demigods should remain for one hundred years, in the time of the demigods, in the form of trees, and after that they would be fortunate enough to see the Supreme Personality of Godhead face to face, by His causeless mercy. And thus they would be again promoted to the life of the demigods and become great devotees of the Lord.**

**After this, the great sage Nārada returned to his abode, known as Nārāyaṇāśrama, and the two demigods turned into trees, known as twin arjunatrees. The two demigods were favored by the causeless mercy of Nārada and given a chance to grow in Nanda's courtyard and see Lord Kṛṣṇa face to face.**

**Although child Kṛṣṇa was bound up to the wooden mortar, He began to proceed toward the twin trees in order to fulfill the prophecy of His great devotee Nārada. Lord Kṛṣṇa knew that Nārada was His great devotee and that the trees standing before Him as twin arjuna trees were actually the sons of Kuvera. "I must now fulfill the words of My great devotee Nārada," He thought. Then He proceeded through the passage between the two trees. Although He was able to pass through the passage, the large wooden mortar stuck horizontally between the trees. Taking advantage of this, with great strength Lord Kṛṣṇa began to pull the rope, which was tied to the mortar. As soon as He pulled, the two trees, with all their branches and limbs, fell down with a great sound. Out of the broken, fallen trees came two great personalities, shining like blazing fire. All sides became illuminated and beautiful by their presence. The two purified personalities immediately came before child Kṛṣṇa and bowed down to offer their respects and prayers in the following words.**

*5 Days For Krishna!*



**“Dear Lord Kṛṣṇa, You are the original Personality of Godhead, master of all mystic powers. Learned brāhmaṇas know very well that this cosmic manifestation is an expansion of Your potencies, which are sometimes manifest and sometimes unmanifest. You are the original provider of the life, body and senses of all living entities. You are the eternal God, Lord Viṣṇu, who is all-pervading, the imperishable controller of everything, and You are eternal time. You are the original source of the cosmic manifestation, which is acting under the spell of the three modes of material nature – goodness, passion and ignorance. You are living as the Supersoul in all the multiforms of living entities, and You know very well what is going on within their bodies and minds. Therefore You are the supreme director of all activities of all living entities. But although You are in the midst of everything which is under the spell of the material modes of nature, You are not affected by such contaminated qualities. No one under the jurisdiction of the material modes can understand Your transcendental qualities, which existed before the creation; therefore You are called the Supreme Transcendence. Let us offer our respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of You, Lord Vāsudeva, the Supreme Brahman, who are always glorified by Your personal internal potencies.**

**“In this material world You make Yourself known only by Your different incarnations. Although You assume different types of bodies, these bodies are not part of the material creation. They are always full of the transcendental potencies of unlimited opulence, strength, beauty, fame, wisdom and renunciation. In the material existence there is a difference between the body and the owner of the body, but because You appear in Your original spiritual body, there is no such difference for You.**

*5 Days For Krishna!*





**When You appear, Your uncommon activities indicate that You are the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Such uncommon activities are not possible for anyone in material existence. You, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, cause the birth and death as well as the liberation of the living entities, and You are full with all Your plenary expansions. You can bestow on everyone all kinds of benedictions. O Lord! O source of all auspiciousness and goodness, we offer our respectful obeisances unto You. You are the all-pervading Supreme Personality of Godhead, the supreme source of peace and the supreme personality in the dynasty of King Yadu. O Lord, our father, known as Kuvera, the demigod, is Your servant. Similarly, the great sage Nārada is also Your servitor, and only by their grace have we been able to see You personally. We therefore pray that we may always be engaged in Your transcendental loving service by speaking only about Your glories and hearing about Your transcendental activities. May our hands and other limbs be engaged in Your service and our minds always be concentrated at Your lotus feet and our heads always bowed down before the all-pervading universal form of Your Lordship.”**

**When the demigods Nalakūvara and Maṇigrīva finished their prayers, the child, Lord Kṛṣṇa, the master and proprietor of Gokula, bound to the wooden grinding mortar by the ropes of Yaśodā, smiled and said, “It was already known to Me that My great devotee Nārada Muni had shown his causeless mercy by saving you from the abominable condition of pride due to possessing extraordinary beauty and opulence in a family of demigods. He has saved you from gliding down into the lowest condition of hellish life.**

*5 Days For Krishna!*



All these facts are already known to Me. You are very fortunate because not only were you cursed by him, but you had the great opportunity to see him. If someone is able, by chance, to see face to face a great saintly person like Nārada, who is always serene and merciful to everyone, then immediately that conditioned soul becomes liberated. This is exactly like being situated in the full light of the sun: there cannot be any visionary impediment. Therefore, O Nalakūvara and Maṇigrīva, your lives have now become successful because you have developed ecstatic love for Me. This is your last birth within material existence. Now you can go back to your father's residence in the heavenly planets, and by remaining in the attitude of devotional service, you will be liberated in this very life.”

After this, the demigods circumambulated the Lord many times and bowed down before Him again and again, and thus they left. The Lord remained bound up with ropes to the grinding mortar.

When the twin arjuna trees fell to the ground, making a sound like the falling of thunderbolts, all the inhabitants of Gokula, including Nanda Mahārāja, immediately came to the spot. They were very much astonished to see how the two great trees had suddenly fallen. Because they could find no reason for their falling down, they were puzzled. When they saw child Kṛṣṇa bound up to the wooden mortar by the ropes of Mother Yaśodā, they thought that it must have been caused by some demon.

5 Days For Krishna!



Otherwise, how was it possible? At the same time, they were very much perturbed because such uncommon incidents were always happening to child Kṛṣṇa. While the cowherd men were thus contemplating, the small children who were playing there informed the men that the trees had fallen because Kṛṣṇa had pulled the wooden mortar with the ropes binding Him. “Kṛṣṇa came in between the two trees,” they explained, “and the wooden mortar was topsy-turvied and stuck in between the trees. Kṛṣṇa pulled the rope, and the trees fell down. When the trees fell down, two very dazzling men came out of the trees, and they said something to Kṛṣṇa.”

Most of the cowherd men did not believe the statement of the children. They could not believe that such things were at all possible. Some of the men, however, believed them and told Nanda Mahārāja, “Your child is different from all other children. He just might have done it.” Nanda Mahārāja smiled to hear about the extraordinary abilities of his son. He came forward and untied the knot just to free his wonderful child. After being freed by Nanda Mahārāja, Kṛṣṇa was taken onto the laps of the elder gopīs. They took Him away to the courtyard of the house and began to clap, praising His wonderful activities. Kṛṣṇa danced along with their clapping, just like an ordinary child. The Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa, being completely controlled by the gopīs, sang and danced just like a puppet in their hands.

5 Days For Krishna!



**Sometimes Mother Yaśodā used to ask Kṛṣṇa to bring her a wooden plank for sitting. Although the wooden plank was too heavy to be carried by a child, still somehow or other Kṛṣṇa would bring it to His mother. Sometimes His father, while worshiping Nārāyaṇa, would ask Him to bring his wooden slippers, and Kṛṣṇa, with great difficulty, would put the slippers on His head and bring them to His father. When He was asked to lift some heavy article and was unable to lift it, He would simply move His arms. In this way, daily, at every moment, He was the reservoir of all pleasure for His parents. The Lord was exhibiting such childish dealings with the inhabitants of Vṛndāvana because He wanted to show the great philosophers and sages searching after the Absolute Truth how the Supreme Absolute Truth Personality of Godhead is controlled by and subject to the desires of His pure devotees.**

**Krishna Book Chapters 9-11**

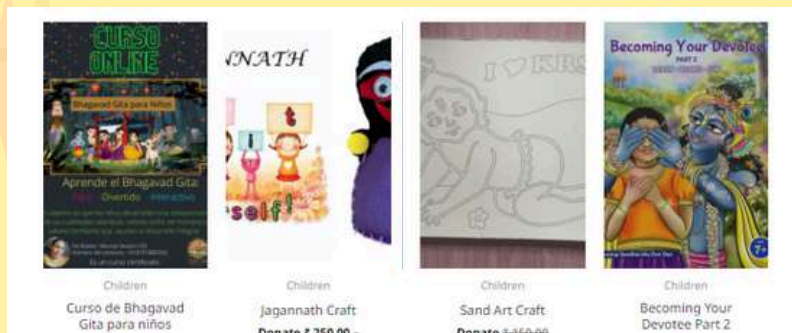
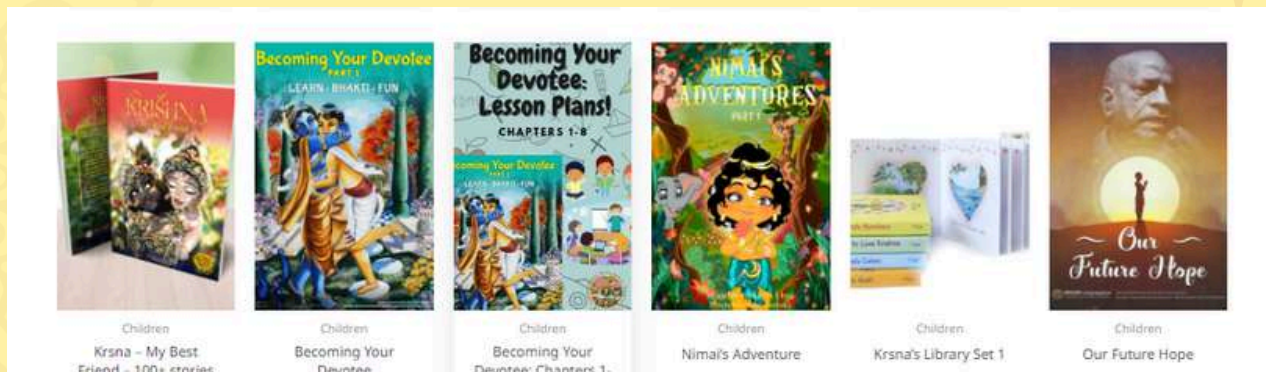
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