

1. Completely rejecting all religious activities which are materially motivated

1. What is Dharma?
 1. Codes or the law given by God (*dharmam tu sākṣād bhagavat-praṇītam, SB 6.3.19*).
 - Law is that God is great, we are servant of God.
 - Laws of Birth, death, old age and disease.
 - Forced to accept the change of body from boyhood to youthhood to oldage
 2. Does not mean faith
 - Have faith or no faith, law will act.
 - **Analogy:** State laws (driving) will act whether we accept or not.
 3. Is the real characteristic, that which cannot be changed.
 - **Example:** water is liquid, stone is solid.
 4. Dharma of living being is to serve God (*jīvera 'svarūpa' haya — kṛṣṇera 'nitya-dāsa'*)
 - Either we serve God or serve our senses.
 - **Analogy:** Head of family is thinking he is master, but he is servant of senses.
 - Is the beginning of human life (else no better than animals).
 - To surrender unto God (*sarva dharman, BG 18.66*).
 - Teaches us how to surrender and love God (*sa vai pumsam, SB 1.2.6*)
 - Not meant for economic gain/sense gratification.
2. What is cheating religion? - Materially motivated religion.
 1. Generally people follow so-called religion, economic development, satisfaction of the senses, and when frustrated become one with God (liberation) - all are sense gratification.
 2. When can thrive economically give up so-called religion - become Godless.
 3. Think God as order supplier.
 4. **Examples:**
 - During world war, females went to church and prayed for their sons, husbands etc. When they all died, they became atheistic.
 - Lady carrying wood on head calls Narayana when wood falls. Narayana comes lady asks put the wood back on my head.
 - Kṛṣṇa can give eternal life of bliss and knowledge; we are asking for material things, which will keep us in this world.
 - Asking few rupees from a millionaire.
 5. Sentiment or practice that does not lead to highest goal of life.
 6. Original characteristic is to serve God, but I am misplacing my service to somewhere else (cheating or Maya).
 7. Any religious system on the platform of this false understanding (I am master, not a servant) is also cheating.
 8. If we approach God for material wealth, we will get cheated.
 - **Example:** Christians pray God give us daily bread. Communist asks to pray to them and give bread and proclaim there is no God. But actually bread is given by God through them. (**Approach God for wealth and get cheated**).

2. This Bhāgavata Purāṇa propounds the highest truth, which is understandable by those devotees who are fully pure in heart. The highest truth is reality distinguished from illusion for the welfare of all.

1. Why highest truth?

- Transcendental to four sense gratificatory activities (dharma, artha, kama, moksha).
- Describes Absolute truth in Personal feature (higher than Brahman and paramatma).
- Higher than impersonalist literatures and even jnana, karma and upasana kandas.
- Recommends worship of only Supreme Personality of Godhead - not other demigods.
 - Substance or root of all categories (His energies).
- Promulgates one and different philosophy of Vedanta Sutra.

2. Only understood by pure devotees who are:

- Transcendental to competitive sense gratification.
- Free from material envy.
- Well-wishers of everyone.
- Eager to establish competitionless society with God in center.

3. Such truth uproots the threefold miseries.

1. What are threefold miseries?

- Adhyatmika - those miseries, which arise from the mind and body.
- Adhibhautika - those miseries inflicted by other living beings.
- Adhidaivika - those miseries arising from natural catastrophes over which one has no control.

2. How does Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam uproot threefold miseries?

- In the material conception, one falsely thinks himself the lord of all he surveys, and therefore he is always troubled by the threefold miseries of life.
- As soon as one comes to know his real position as transcendental servant, he at once becomes free from all the miseries.
- Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam begins with the surrender of the devotee unto the Absolute Person. It helps one to be situated in the constitutional position; thereby he is freed from material encumbrances.

4. This beautiful Bhagavatam, compiled by the great sage Vyasadeva [in his maturity], is sufficient in itself for God realization. What is the need of any other scripture?

How is Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam unique among all scriptures?

- Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam is a personal commentation on the Vedanta sutra by Sri Vyāsadeva. It was written in the maturity of his spiritual life through the mercy of Narada.
- Sri Vyasadeva is the authorized incarnation of Narayana, the Personality of Godhead. Therefore, there is no question as to his authority.
- He is the author of all other Vedic literatures, yet he recommends the study of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam above all others.
- Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu has recommended the Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam as the spotless purana and distinguishes it from all other puranas.
- The Supreme Lord becomes fixed in the heart of the devotee immediately.

- One can realize the Supreme Personality directly by hearing Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam.
- One can be lifted immediately to the position of paramahansa simply by agreeing to receive this message.

5. As soon as one attentively and submissively hears the message of Bhagavatam, by this culture of knowledge the Supreme Lord is established within his heart.

How to receive Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam?

- Hear it submissively without challenging attitude.
- śuśrūṣu - One must be anxious to hear this transcendental message.
 - Rupa goswami says "greed" is the only price to attain love of Godhead.
 - Eagerness helps one from becoming mechanical and familiar.
- Kṛṣṇa reveals Himself in Katha, His Holy name, devotees, diety, prasadam corresponding to our eagerness to see Him (*ye yathā mām prapadyante, BG 4.11*)
- Is meant to be heard from the beginning.