

**SB 1.1.4: Once, in a holy place in the forest of Naimiṣāraṇya, great sages headed by the sage Saunaka assembled to perform a great thousand-year sacrifice for the satisfaction of the Lord and His devotees.**

1. Significance of the forest of Naimiṣāraṇya.
  1. Animiṣa-kṣetre - the spot which is especially a favorite of animisa - Visnu who does not close His eyelids
  2. In the Vāyaviya Tantra, it is said that Brahma, the engineer of this particular universe, contemplated a great wheel which could enclose the universe. The hub of this great circle was fixed at a particular place known as Naimiṣāraṇya.
  3. In the Varaha Purana it is stated that by performance of sacrifice at this place, the strength of demoniac people is curtailed. Thus brahmanas prefer Naimiṣāraṇya for such sacrificial performances.
2. How to bring everyone real peace and prosperity.
  1. Acts must be performed sacrificially for the satisfaction of Visnu and His devotees.
    1. Else causes bondage to the performer (*yajñārthāt karmaṇo 'nyatra, BG 3.9*)
  2. Sages, real friends of all living entities know how, hence perform sacrifices to please Vishnu and His devotees.
    1. Compassion (Para dukha-dukhi).
      - Crest jewel of all Vaishnava qualities.
      - At least we should feel pain for our family members / devotees.
      - Srila Prabhupada left Vrindavan at an elderly age to give us Krsna.
      - If we strictly and sincerely follow rules we are compassionate.
      - Pure devotees purify the sins dumped in Ganges by people.
      - World is still inhabitable because of devotees presence.
    2. Great personal inconvenience.
      - Anything wonderful to achieve sacrifice is involved.
        - Athletes, weight lifters
        - To get a job
        - Become a topper
        - What to speak of pure devotional service.
      - HG Radha Krishna Prabhu: We should give until it pains.
      - HH Indradyumna Swami: When we give something we should feel the pinch.
      - Human life is meant for austerity.
        - Poison in the beginning, nectar at the end.
        - Mangala aarti, Book distribution.
      - This is how we show our love.
        - Love is to give the best thing we have.
        - Srila Bhaktivinoda thakura prays, "O Lord, obstacles I face in your service are my greatest ecstasies".
  3. In this age, the congregational chanting of the holy names of the Lord is the prescribed method.
  4. Srimad-Bhāgavatam is also presented for the same purpose
    - To give light in the dark age of kali (*kṛṣṇe sva-dhāmopagate, SB 1.3.43*).
    - Srila Prabhupada took up monumental work of translating Srimad Bhagavatam.

5. Forgetful men, atheistic leaders do not know the right path.
  - All plans for peace are sure to be baffled at every step.
  - **Analogy:** By pouring water on the root of the tree, all the parts of the tree are automatically nourished. Only those branches and leaves that are detached cannot be so satisfied. Detached branches and leaves dry up gradually despite all watering attempts. Similarly, human society, when it is detached from the Personality of Godhead like detached branches and leaves, is not capable of being watered, and one attempting to do so is simply wasting his energy and sources.

**SB 1.1.5: One day, after finishing their morning duties by burning a sacrificial fire and offering a seat of esteem to Srila Suta Gosvami, the great sages made inquiries, with great respect, about the following matters.**

1. Morning is the best time to hold spiritual services.
  1. Brahma muhurta - 1 ½ hour before sunrise.
  2. Especially recommended to chant our rounds.
2. Offered an elevated seat of respect called the vyasasana, or the seat of Sri Vyasadeva.
3. Qualifications of Vyasadeva representatives are:
  1. They exactly present the viewpoint of Sri Vyasadeva.
    - Sri Vyasadeva -> Srila Sukadeva Gosvami -> Srila Suta Gosvami.
  2. They are gosvamis (One who restrain their senses)
  3. They stick to the path made by the previous acaryas.
  4. They do not deliver lectures on the Bhāgavatam capriciously.
  5. They execute their services most carefully, following their predecessors
4. Addressed the speaker with great respect.
  1. Submissive inquiries - in order to elicit the clear meaning.
  2. Should not be done in a challenging spirit.
  3. Submit questions with a great regard for the speaker and the subject matter.
  4. Also the way recommended in Bhagavad-gita. (*tad viddhi praṇipātena*, [BG 4.34](#))

**SB 1.1.6: The sages said: Respected Sūta Gosvāmī, you are completely free from all vice. You are well versed in all the scriptures famous for religious life, and in the Puranas and the histories as well, for you have gone through them under proper guidance and have also explained them.**

1. Qualifications of representative of Sri Vyasadeva are:
  1. Must be free from all kinds of vices. The four major vices of Kali-yuga are:
    - Illicit connection with women,
    - Animal slaughter,
    - Intoxication,
    - Speculative gambling of all sorts.
  2. Should be spotless in character.
  3. Must also be well versed in all the Vedas.
    - Including the Puranas and histories like the Mahabharata or Ramayana.
  4. Must have heard and explained them.
    - Hearing (śravaṇa) and explaining (kīrtana) is more important than reading them.
    - One can assimilate the knowledge of the revealed scriptures only by hearing and explaining.
    - Hearing and explaining are of primary importance to make spiritual progress.

- Only one who has properly grasped the transcendental knowledge from the right source by submissive hearing can properly explain the subject.
  - One who hears well speaks well.
  - Person who explains learns more than one who hears.
  - HH Tamal Krishna Gosvami Maharaj - to learn a book taught it to devotees.

**SB 1.1.7: Being the eldest learned Vedantist, O Suta Gosvami, you are acquainted with the knowledge of Vyasadeva, who is the incarnation of Godhead, and you also know other sages who are fully versed in all kinds of physical and metaphysical knowledge.**

1. Qualifications of representative of Sri Vyasadeva are:
  1. Be conversant in all systems of philosophy both theistic and atheistic.
    - Theistic - Vedanta-sutra and Srimad Bhagavatam
    - 6 Authors of Atheistic philosophies - Gautama, Kaṇāda, Kapila, Patañjali, Jaimini and Aṣṭāvakra.
  2. One should present fully the theistic views of the Bhāgavatam in defiance of all other systems.
2. Srila Suta Gosvami was the proper teacher familiar with all philosophies.

**SB 1.1.8: And because you are submissive, your spiritual masters have endowed you with all the favors bestowed upon a gentle disciple. Therefore you can tell us all that you have scientifically learned from them.**

1. How to succeed in spiritual life
  1. By satisfying the spiritual master and getting his sincere blessings.
    - Srila Visvanatha Chakravarti Thakura has sung, "*yasya prasada bhagavat-prasado yasyaprasadan na gatih kuto 'pi*".
  2. My chastisement I thought, "my spiritual life was finished"
  3. Be very much obedient and submissive to the bona fide spiritual master.
    - Obey Spiritual Master's order - make it life and soul.
      - Asks for water get water not milk thinking it is better.
      - My Guru maharaja said, "First you are servant of your Guru".
      - HG Radha Krishna Prabhu conveyed that conviction on Guru's order to me - "You should try your best and I am sure it will happen by Guru's and Krsna's grace".
      - Srila Prabhupada said, "My only credit is that I did not change anything. I simply had faith in the order of my spiritual master and the Holy names".
    - Simply follow
      - Calls a rope a snake, it is a snake. Calls a snake a rope, it is a rope.
      - Yamuna mataji's incident with Vrindavan dieties - ([Disciple should simply follow](#)).
    - Non-Submissive examples:
      - HG Radha Krishna Prabhu and HH Tamal Krishna Gosvami Maharaj, "you don't train me. I was already trained by Srila Prabhupada".
      - HH Tamal Krishna Gosvami Maharaj's disciple asked money from Guru back when Guru didn't take her side.

- o Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur chastising Srila Prabhupada, "Why don't you come up here and speak instead of me?" – (*[Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati chastising Srila Prabhupada](#)*).
- 4. Srila Suta Gosvami was a bona fide disciple, and was therefore blessed by his spiritual masters. Therefore the sages were anxious to hear from him.