

SB 1.1.9: Please, therefore, being blessed with many years, explain to us, in an easily understandable way, what you have ascertained to be the absolute and ultimate good for the people in general.

1. The Acharyas and Gosvamis are always absorbed in thought of the well - being of the general public, especially their spiritual well - being.
2. Spiritual well- being is automatically followed by material well - being.
 1. What is spiritual well - being and material well - being?
 - Spiritual well - being - Activities that satisfy the soul - Devotional service
 - Material well - being - Pleasure to the gross and subtle body.
 2. How does it work?
 - By serving Krsna, who is the owner of everything. He will provide whatever is necessary for our spiritual life.
 - I carry what they lack, and I preserve what they have (*yoga-kṣemaṁ vahāmy aham, BG 9.22*)
 - o Arjunacharya's faith on this verse. (*yoga-ksemam vahamy aham - I personally deliver*)
 - Krishna protects corresponding to our surrender.
 - o If we remember Krsna 1%, we will get 1% protection. If 100% than we get 100%.
 - o Draupadi asked Krsna later, why did He not protect her in the beginning and Krsna says she did not ask for His help first.
 - What does the Lord protect?
 - o Our Krsna consciousness. **Examples:** Bharata Maharaja, Gajendra.
 - o Not our physical bodies.
 - HG Radha Krishna Prabhu, "If we do any sincere service at all, Lord will protect you. Then, why one has to worry about retirement. If you want to serve Him, Krsna will give you service".
 3. Examples of How the Lord protects:
 - Draupadi, Gajendra, Prahlada Maharaja, Pandavas.
 - From death - Scheduled death can be evaded by mercy. (*Lord's protection from death*)
 - o Srila Prabhupada Jaladuta heart attack incident. (*Srila Prabhupada stroke on Jaladuta*)
 - o Srila Prabhupada's stroke in New York, May 1967. He wrote, "Your prayers saved my life". (*Srila Prabhupada saved from third stroke in New York*)
 - o HH Indradyumna Swami Maharaj after recovering from cancer says, "I feel my service to him has only just begun". (*Grateful for prayers and Realizations*)
 - HG Harivilas Prabhu's house burning incident.
 - Sannyasis depend completely on Krsna and the Lord protects them.
 4. How do we assess where we are?
 - What is our priority for chanting?
 - o My incident: Criticized about eating previous night's leftovers when trying to go for Mangala aarti every day.
 - Where do we take shelter when we have reversals?
 - Do we look for / take up opportunities that help us come closer to Krsna?

- o **Example:** Wife wants to move closer to temple, husband wants to stay closer to work.
 - What do we instill in our kids' lives?
 - o Srila Prabhupada said - Boys need to learn only Sanskrit and English and become preachers. That's the only thing needed.
5. How to increase our dependence / surrender?
- We start where we are and gradually replace with Krsna conscious activities.
 - Hearing/ Chanting is crucial - Krsna cleanses the heart of material enjoyment.
 - o Especially in Srimad Bhagavatam we can see Lord's reciprocation with his devotees.
 - Association / serving devotees who have this faith.
 - HG Radha Krishna Prabhu said, "If you are sincere and attached and don't give up, towards the end Krsna, Himself will drag you back home. That will be very painful."
 - o My incident: Forced to give up my old friends and fully embrace Krishna Consciousness.
3. First question of the sages - What is absolute and ultimate good for the people in general?

SB 1.1.10: O learned one, in this iron age of Kali men have but short lives. They are quarrelsome, lazy, misguided, unlucky and, above all, always disturbed.

1. The following are some of characteristics of people of this age:
1. Quarrelsome:
 - Alarming divorce rate for petty things.
 - o Recently divorce rate has reduced. Do you know why? People don't bother to get married anymore.
 - **Antidote:**
 - o Srila Prabhupada said, "You show your love by how you cooperate".
 - o Practice (*trṇād api su-nīcena*)
 - o By performing spiritual activities together, it raises us above the bodily platform.
 2. Short lived:
 - The duration of life is shortened not because of insufficient food but because of irregular habits.
 - Overeating, over-sense gratification, overdependence on another's mercy, and artificial standards of living sap the very vitality of human energy.
 - **Antidote:**
 - o Keep regular habits.
 - o Eat simple food.
 3. Lazy:
 - Not only materially but in the matter of self-realization.
 - Due to a bad system of education, men have no desire for self-realization.
 - **Antidote:**
 - o Hear about importance of human life at each moment.
 - o Hear about our good fortune.
 - o Cultivate gratitude towards the sacrifices of our parampara.
 - o Associate with / serve enthusiastic devotees.

4. Misguided:
 - Become victims of misguided teachers.
 - Become victims of different political creeds and parties.
 - Become victims of many different types of sense-gratificatory diversions, such as cinemas, sports, gambling, clubs, mundane libraries, bad association, smoking, drinking, cheating, pilfering, bickerings, and so on.
 - **Antidote:**
 - o Hear right knowledge from authoritative sources.
 - o Perform Book distribution to give this knowledge to others.
 - o Sankirtan yajna.
 5. Unlucky:
 - Unfortunate.
 - **Antidote:**
 - o Perform pure devotional service in all earnestness. It results in auspiciousness.
 - o Become eager and be qualified to receive mercy.
 6. Always disturbed:
 - Their minds are always disturbed due to so many different engagements.
 - **Antidote:**
 - o Experience higher taste in devotional service.
 - o Take shelter of Krsna in reversals.
2. Other characteristics of this age:
1. Many unscrupulous men manufacture their own religious faiths, which are not based on any revealed scriptures.
 - People who are addicted to sense gratification are attracted by such institutions.
 - In the name of religion, sinful acts are being carried out. As a result, people have neither
 - o Peace of mind, nor
 - o Healthy body.
 2. The student (brahmacari) communities are no longer maintained, and householders do not observe the rules and regulations of the grhastha-asrama.
 3. The so-called vanaprasthas and sannyasis who come out of such grhastha-asramas are easily deviated from the rigid path.
 4. The whole atmosphere is surcharged with faithlessness.
 5. Men are no longer interested in spiritual values.
 6. Material sense gratification is now the standard of civilization.
 7. Man has formed complex nations and communities, and there is a constant strain of hot and cold wars between these different groups.
 8. It is very difficult to raise the spiritual standard.

SB 1.1.11: There are many varieties of scriptures, and in all of them there are many prescribed duties, which can be learned only after many years of study in their various divisions. Therefore, O sage, please select the essence of all these scriptures and explain it for the good of all living beings, that by such instruction their hearts may be fully satisfied.

1. Second question by the sages - What is the essence of all scriptures?

1. Why should one look for the essence?

- There are many varieties of approaches, which are recommended for different types of living beings in different times and at different places. Consequently, the numbers of revealed scriptures are innumerable.
- There are different methods and prescribed duties recommended in these various scriptures.
- People in general in this age of Kali are fallen. It is not possible for the fallen souls to understand and undergo all the lessons of all these various scriptures.
- In Kali-yuga it is not even possible to execute the rules and regulations of varna and asrama society (the best institution for lifting the human being to the spiritual platform).
 - o It is not possible for the people in general to completely sever relations with their families as vanaprasthas and sannyasis.
- In Kali-yuga, the whole atmosphere is surcharged with opposition.