

SB 1.1.17: His transcendental acts are magnificent and gracious, and great learned sages like Nārada sing of them. Please, therefore, speak to us, who are eager to hear, about the adventures He performs in His various incarnations.

1. Fourth question by the sages – adventures regarding creation
2. Lord’s acts are magnificent and magnanimous
 1. They are described nicely by such liberated souls as Śrīla Nārada, Vyāsa, Vālmīki, Devala, Asita, Madhva, Śrī Caitanya, Rāmānuja, Vishnusvāmī, Nimbārka, Śrīdhara, Viśvanātha, Baladeva, Bhaktivinoda, Siddhānta Sarasvatī and many other learned and self-realized souls.
 2. The Personality of Godhead is never inactive.
 - The following two quotations seem contradictory
 - God has nothing to do, no responsibility. Nobody is found greater than Him. (*na tasya kāryam*)
 - I am the source of all spiritual and material worlds. Everything emanates from Me. (*aham sarvasya prabhavo*, [BG 10.8](#))
 - **Resolution:** Lord does everything through His energies. He personally does not do them. But as He and His energy are non-different, He is the ultimate doer.
 - Person looks at Kali she is killing (working). But he saw Krsna is just enjoying. He concludes Krsna must be God - very intelligent. (*Krsna is just enjoying*)
3. His creations both material and spiritual are all wonderful and contain all variegatedness.

Material realm	Spiritual realm
Full of opulence, beauty and knowledge	Full of opulence, beauty and knowledge
Less magnificent	More magnificent
Manifested for some time	Eternal kingdom
Perverted shadow of the spiritual kingdom	The Original one
Attracts people of less intelligence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no information of the reality • Consider material manifestation as all in all. 	More intelligent are aware <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • guided by sages like Vyāsa and Nārada
Temporary world full of misery	Full of knowledge, bliss and eternity
Smaller (1/4)	Larger (3/4)

- Magnificence of material creation
 - He can create machines in duplicate male and female forms. The male and female forms go on producing innumerable similar machines without God's further attention. ([SB 1.1.1 purport](#))
 - Complex workings of a small insect
 - Spider builds a complex web without getting struck.
 - As soon as the child is born there is milk in mother’s breast.
 - All the above is but “*spark of His splendor*” ([BG 10.41](#))
- Magnificence of spiritual creation
 - “Abodes built with spiritual gems, surrounded by millions of purpose trees, always served with great reverence and affection by hundreds of thousands of lakshmis or gopis”. (*cintāmaṇi-prakara-sadmasu kalpa-vṛkṣa*, [BS 5.29](#))

- Innumerable Vaikuntha planets and the Lord resides in all of them by expanding into His plenary portions.
 - The above should humble us to surrender.
 - Srila Prabhupada and Tamal Krishna Goswami story – “This one Tamal is thinking he is very important”. (***We are very insignificant***)
 - This should increase our faith that Lord shall protect me.
3. Why the Lord performs His adventures?
1. To attract the conditioned souls by displaying the eternal bliss of His association in the transcendental realm.
 - When we hear or see, we become eager to participate – *laulyam* increases
 - Krsna felt “I did not give chance for souls to participate in my pastimes”. He came as Gaura in whose lila we all can enact.
 - Only when we assist Lord Caitanya in delivering fallen souls, we become qualified to serve Radha and Krsna in the Spiritual world.
 - Sankirtana movement is non-different from Rasa-lila.
 2. Three categories of conditioned souls
 - *karmīs*, or fruitive workers - engaged in the false enjoyment of material senses
 - *jñānīs*, or mental speculators - negate their real life in the spiritual world
 - *sātvata*, or the devotee - transcendentalist engaged in the positive service of the Lord
4. The Lord has different incarnations of unlimited categories.
1. Material qualitative incarnations - Brahmā, Rudra, Manu, Pṛthu and Vyāsa etc
 2. Transcendental incarnations - Rāma, Narasimha, Varāha and Vāmana
 3. Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa is the fountainhead of all incarnations, and the cause of all causes. (***ete cāmśa-kalāḥ pumsaḥ, SB 1.3.28***)

SB 1.1.18: O wise Sūta, please narrate to us the transcendental pastimes of the Supreme Godhead’s multi-incarnations. Such auspicious adventures and pastimes of the Lord, the supreme controller, are performed by His internal powers.

1. Fifth question by the sages – Lord’s adventures in His various incarnations
2. Adventures of the Lord in various incarnations
 1. Are all auspicious.
 2. Everyone is benefitted - those who are present during such activities and those who hear.
3. Sukhadeva Goswami says to Maharaja Parikshit, “your question is glorious because it is very beneficial to all kinds of people. The answer to this question is the prime subject matter for hearing”. (**SB 2.1.1**)
 1. Lord Caitanya says “***premā pumartho mahān***” - The Highest perfection of life is to attain love for Krsna.
 2. By understanding Krsna, one gets out of the cycle of birth and death. (***Janma karma ca me divyam, BG 4.9***)
 3. Activities of Krishna are non-different from Krishna Himself. As long as one is engaged in hearing such transcendental activities, he remains aloof from the conditional life of material existence.
 4. They purify the speaker, the hearer and the inquirer. They are like the Ganges waters, which flow from Lord Krishna's toe, and purify everyone wherever they go.

SB 1.1.19: We never tire of hearing the transcendental pastimes of the Personality of Godhead, who is glorified by hymns and prayers. Those who have developed a taste for transcendental relationships with Him relish hearing of His pastimes at every moment.

Mundane stories	Transcendental pastimes
Hackneyed	Remain fresh even after repeated readings
Example: Mayavada philosophy	Example: <i>Bhagavad-gītā</i> , <i>Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam</i> , <i>Rāmāyaṇa</i> , <i>Mahābhārata</i> , and the <i>Purāṇas</i>
Static like matter	Dynamic like spirit
Quickly satiated	Never satiated
In the mode of darkness or ignorance	In the transcendental mode of goodness
Mundane	Transcendental
No satisfaction	Real pleasure
Get tired / bored	Never tired of repeated hearing
Described as pilgrimage for crows	Described as <i>Uttama-śloka</i>

1. How one relishes transcendental topics more and more
 1. Anyone may read Bhagavad-gītā or the Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam repeatedly throughout his whole life and yet find in them new light of information.
 - We have to do this entire lifetime. Key is to “go deeper”
 - Examples: HG Hari vilas prabhu, HG Mukunda dutta prabhu
 2. Those who have developed a taste for understanding the transcendental subject matter are never tired of hearing such narrations.
 - How to develop that taste?
 - Dutiful application of instructions – instruction to me “Read half hour to one hour every day”
 - By serving pure devotees. (*śuśrūṣoḥ śraddadhānasya*, **SB 1.2.16**)
 - **Example:** Narada muni served Bhakti Vedantas and achieved same taste for hearing and chanting. (*Devotional service is directly perceived*)
 3. Its light becomes more luminous with progressive reading and realization of the transcendental subject matter.
 - Srila Prabhupada also says, “Read once, if you don’t understand, read again, read again”
 - HG Radha Krishna Prabhu says, “If you don’t understand, keep reading. Gradually you will understand with purification”
 - My incident with Radha Krishna Prabhu during Second canto final exam paper - “Read purports three times. Then it will stay with you.”
 4. The so-called liberated persons tired of repetition of the words *ahaṁ brahmāsmi* turn to Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam to relish real pleasure.
 - Higher taste – food for the soul
2. Enough transcendental news from Spiritual world to keep us aloof from mundane literature
 1. Reading all the Srila Prabhupada’s books is enough for this life time.
 2. Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur’s comment to a politician about Nadiyā Prakāśa newspaper, “A newspaper about the spiritual world could be printed every moment, were there not a shortage of interested readers”. (*News from the unlimited spiritual sky*)