

SB 1.1.20: Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the Personality of Godhead, along with Balarāma, played like a human being, and so masked, He performed many superhuman acts.

1. Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa is actually the Personality of Godhead. He did not become an incarnation of Godhead by popular vote.
 1. The doctrines of anthropomorphism and zoomorphism are never applicable to Śrī Kṛṣṇa.
 2. The theory that man becomes God by dint of penance and austerities is very much rampant nowadays
 - **Example:** Narada muni thought Lord Brahma was Supreme Lord, but when he heard him perform austerities he got a doubt. (**Supreme is Supreme**)
 3. Many unscrupulous men have created their own incarnations.
 4. This process of concocting an incarnation of God has become an ordinary business.
 - Temples are built to worship Movie actors, politicians etc.
 5. Any popular personality with a few traits of mystic powers can easily become an incarnation of Godhead by popular vote.
 - **Example:** One non-devotee challenged Srila Prabhupada what is your miracle. He replied, "I converted hippies into happies. That is my miracle". (**My miracle – Hippies into Happies**)
 6. Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa was not that type of incarnation.
2. He is Personality of Godhead from the very beginning of His appearance.
 1. He first appeared before His so-called mother as four-armed Viṣṇu. Then, at the request of the mother, He became like a human child.
 2. Lord exhibited His divinity even from the lap of His mother
 - He lifted Govardhana Hill at the age of seven
 - He killed demons like Putana, Trinavarta, Bakasura.
 - Brahma-Vimohana Lila - He expanded Himself into cowherd boys and calves.
 - All these superhuman deeds prove Him to be actually the Supreme Personality of Godhead.
 3. Why should one know about the Lord's activities?
 - The knowledge of the transcendental nature of the birth and deeds of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa is sufficient for liberation. (**Janma karma ca me divyam, BG 4.9**).
 - In the Bhāgavatam, the transcendental nature of the Lord is described in nine cantos, and in the Tenth Canto, His specific pastimes are taken up.
3. Yet, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa along with Balarāma, played like a human being
 1. Due to His mystic covering, He was always accepted as an ordinary human child by His so-called father and mother and other relatives.
 - Thus His parents were satisfied with unflinching parental love for their son.
 - **Example:** After Kṛṣṇa killed Putana demon, mother Yasoda forgetting He is God, smears His body with cow dung and cow urine and chants Holy names of Lord Viṣṇu for protection. (**Mother Yasoda protects Kṛṣṇa**)
 2. Śrī Baladeva, the counterpart of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, was also considered a human child born of another wife of Śrī Vasudeva.
 3. The sages of Naimiṣāraṇya also describe Him as apparently resembling a human being.

SB 1.1.21: Knowing well that the Age of Kali has already begun, we are assembled here in this holy place to hear at great length the transcendental message of Godhead and in this way perform sacrifice.

Yuga	Name	Duration of life	Process of self-realization
Satya-yuga	Golden age	100 thousand years	Meditation
Tretā-yuga	Silver age	10 thousand years	Sacrifice
Dvāpara-yuga	Copper age	One thousand years	Diety worship
Kali-yuga	Iron age	One hundred years	Hearing and Chanting about the Lord

Hearing and Chanting – The only way for self-realization:

1. In this Age of Kali, the duration of life is just one hundred years. That combined with various difficulties, the recommended process of self-realization is that of hearing and chanting about the Lord.
 - Simple but sublime
 - How does it work?
 - Attachment to anything begins through hearing.
 - By sound we get bound, by sound we get liberated.
 - Not ordinary sound, it is transcendental being non-different from Krsna.
 - Krsna himself cleanses the heart of a devotee who developed the urge to hear His messages. (*Nasta-prayesu abhadresu*, [SB 1.2.18](#))
 - **Example:** Rukmini devi
2. The sages of Naimiṣāraṇya began this process by preparing themselves to hear the pastimes of the Lord over a period of one thousand years.
3. Following their example, we should learn that regular hearing and recitation of the Bhāgavatam is the only way for self-realization.
 - Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu recommended that all those who were born in India should take the responsibility of broadcasting the messages of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. (*bhārata-bhūmite haila manuṣya janma yāra*, [CC Adi 9.41](#))
 - When one is well established in the teachings of Bhagavad-gītā, he can take up the study of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam for further enlightenment in self-realization.
 - HG Radha Krishna Prabhu blessed me, “Continue nicely and you will be rewarded in due course of time.”
4. Other attempts are simply a waste of time, for they do not give any tangible results.
 - Sages said, “We have just begun the performance of this fruitive activity, a sacrificial fire, without certainty of its result due to the many imperfections in our action. Our bodies have become black from the smoke...” ([SB 1.18.12](#))

SB 1.1.22: We think that we have met Your Goodness by the will of providence, just so that we may accept you as captain of the ship for those who desire to cross the difficult ocean of Kali, which deteriorates all the good qualities of a human being.

1. The Age of Kali is very dangerous for the human being, especially for those who don't want to utilize this life for self-realization.
 1. Men have completely forgotten the aim of life is self-realization
 - Busy with sense gratification
 - Say there is no need for it

- Think this life is all in all
 - The whole system of education is geared to sense gratification
 - Children of this age are being intentionally sent to the slaughterhouses of so-called education.
2. The life span will gradually decrease. (*prāyeṇālpāyusaḥ sabhya*, [SB 1.1.10](#))
 3. People will gradually lose their memory, finer sentiments, strength, and better qualities.
 4. A list of anomalies of this age is given in the Srimad Bhagavatam Twelfth Canto.
2. How to cross this dangerous ocean of Kali? - Follow the footsteps of the sages:
 1. Accept Śrī Sūta Gosvāmī or his bona fide representative as the captain of the ship.
 - We are eternally indebted to our Spiritual master
 - Indradyumna Swami says, “I feel my service to him has only just begun”.
[\(Grateful for Prayers and Realizations\)](#)
 - Only a person afloat can save a drowning man
 - Gaurangi says, “Guru Maharaja, it took so long to find me, please do not leave me now”.
 - Not to keep Guru like how one keeps cat or a dog
 - Not to solve material problems.
 - **Example:** One materialistic man approaches Srila Prabhupada saying, “Swamiji please give me blessings”. Srila Prabhupada finally says, “I bless you that your material life will be finished”. [\(Please give me your blessings\)](#)
 - To take us home, back to Godhead
 2. The ship is the message of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa (Bhagavad-gītā or Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam). We should:
 - Become familiar with the teachings
 - Practice them sincerely and diligently
 - Preach about them to others
 - When someone asked Srila Prabhupada, “How do we reciprocate with what you have given us”, He said “Just receive what I have given you, share it with each other and with others”. [\(How to receive mercy\)](#)

[SB 1.1.23:](#) Since Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the Absolute Truth, the master of all mystic powers, has departed for His own abode; please tell us to whom the religious principles have now gone for shelter.

This is the Sixth and final question by the sages - Where have religious principles gone for shelter?

1. Religion is the prescribed codes enunciated by the Personality of Godhead Himself. (dharmam tu saksad bhagavat pranitam)
2. Whenever there is gross misuse of the principles of religion, the Supreme Lord appears Himself to restore religious principles. (*yadā yadā hi dharmasya*, [BG 4.7](#))
3. **Answer:** The Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam being the transcendental sound representation of the Personality of Godhead is the full representation of transcendental knowledge and religious principles.
4. Persons who have lost their vision due to the dense darkness of ignorance in the Age of Kali shall get light from this Purāṇa. (*kṛṣṇe sva-dhāmopagate*, [SB 1.3.43](#))