

Hare Krishna all,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

I wanted to recap what we spoke yesterday so that we are all clear about what is required from each of us. It is imperative that you follow what I have outlined below as this is what was presented to the GBC Board of Examiners.

For the Bhakti Vaibhava course we are required to follow a strict standard. Of course within the standard we do have flexibilities as well but one should not try and exploit it for one's own benefit. That is not Krishna consciousness. So here are some of the points that were raised yesterday:

### 1. Timesheets

All participating devotees are meant to fill this time sheet. Questions were raised about what happens when you go for a long vacation. Well basically this is what should happen.

Within the group, those who go for such vacations or yatras, should meet together when they come back and do the 'make up' timings. That is you can meet twice a week to do your catch up. The group that is not going for vacation should continue with the same schedule. For example, when group A leaves at Chapter 4 discussion and comes back in 4 weeks, then the current group B should be doing Chapter 8. Group A should prepare for Chapter 8 as well when meeting with group B. In the meantime, group A should also have an extra weekly meeting with all those who went on vacation to do catch up. This is one way to catch up. But I will leave you to your own discretion in doing a reasonable catch up session.

If someone goes for 2 or more months of vacation then I think it will be difficult and not reasonable to expect them to catch up with the proper understanding of the chapters studied. Studying together is the real nectar. So if you are alone in vacation, you may find a partner there and study. But you will not get the group study input so you will be still at a disadvantage.

Overall for the year you are expected to do between 158 hours to 178 hours. Now this is not mandatory but if you are close to 10% of this, it is good enough. Ideally you need to spend between 3.5 hours to 5 hours weekly and you are safe.

Remember those of you who attended my classes will get an automatic 60 hours for Canto 1. I recalculated for Canto 2 and it is only 50 hours - I was sick and the party. Those who did not attend all of the classes you can deduct accordingly from the above figures. Please be truthful.

### 2. Presentations.

Presenters must be on time. Preferably be the first one there. If you are late for your own presentation, it will be noted in your assessment sheet. I will decide the outcome of your grade based on your tardiness and overall attendance throughout the year.

Presentations must be only 40 minutes long. After presentations, there will be 15 minutes for discussions only.

Presenter must explain a brief overview of what the theme of his topic is. And then give a good presentation of the verses s/he is going to give. Try to present it based on your own understanding and from Srila Prabhupada's purports and classes. Of course you can listen to other senior vaisnavas and gurus classes but the presentation should still be 40 minutes long regardless of how much info is there.

If you are running late and you are told that there is 5 minutes left, you **MUST** wrap up. Failure to do will result in loss of points. Devotees will judge on how well you are presenting based on the scoring sheet given. From the overall score I will then make my own assessment to see if the overall score is objective and reasonable or not as I will also view the classes directly at the same time or view the Ustream recording later. So no one should worry about it too much. All the scorings will be private and will be documented online only for my perusal later to see who is not being fair etc.

All devotees participating in Bhakti Vaibhava must be present during the presentation of a class. Unless one is on vacation, having a fever, on call or something unforeseen there is no excuse for being absent. The reason for your being absent will be recorded as well.

What happens when we go on vacation?

Well, again, if you have completed at least two presentations, then there is no need for a third. But otherwise, you do your presentation when you come back. If 50% of the devotees are on vacation then there will be no presentation until we have a 80% attendance. You can still meet for your weekly discussion regardless of the number of devotees present during such vacations. Unless of course there is no one then there will be no meeting and presentations.

3. Master classes are classes or seminars conducted by the visiting sannyasis or senior devotees based on the Canto you are studying.

4. Partner system

All of you are recommended to study with a partner or partners where there is an odd man out. Ideally for most of you it will be your husbands or wives. Of course you can also partner with someone outside if you feel uncomfortable with your spouses. No problem in that.

Once a week you can all come together for 1 hour to do a group discussion of that particular chapter that you did with your partner.

5. Filings.

All your assignments - weekly, presentations, essays, tests and final examinations must be filed in a large binding file per Canto. As you study over the years you can go back and add more notes to your files. This will become a valuable resource for the future when all of you can put the study notes together and make a study book for the future generation! Srila Prabhupada will be most pleased if we can help others cooperatively no?

These binders will be requested by me for checking purposes or auditing to see if you are actually studying and not simply copying. So at the end of each year when I come I will request all of you to meet with me and with you binders.

I pray this helps you in your preparation and study of the Srimad Bhagavatam.

Your servant,  
Radha Krishna dasa