

Below please find the essays allotted to the devotees who are actively participating in the Bhakti Vaibhava studies.

Below you will find the essay topics for your 1st Canto, Srimad Bhagavatam. You are required to write an essay not less than 2200 words and not exceeding 2500 words on **ONE** of the topics below. The essays are due **July 1st 2013**. There will be no extensions.

1. From your readings of the 1st Canto of Srimad Bhagavatam, what roles do you see a monk play in the modern society particularly with reference to our Gaudiya Vaisnava acaryas like Srila Bhakti Vinoda Thakura, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakura and Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada?
2. Nowadays we hear a lot about being green and having a good ecosystem. From the 1st Canto of Srimad Bhagavatam compare and contrast how you think the values espoused during the Vedic times help us in such endeavors these days.
3. We find the leaders nowadays being very different than those of the Vedic times. What are some of the values you find not conducive for a proper religious as well as material development of society and how would you go about changing such values if you are placed as a leader. Please base your arguments on the verses and purports in the 1st Canto of Srimad Bhagavatam.
4. Most people will find that the stories like Bhismadeva on a bed of arrows to be fictional and mythical. How would you using your knowledge of the 1st Canto Srimad Bhagavatam and Srimad Bhagavad-gita convince a lay person that such events did occur or at least could have occurred and why such recorded stories are valuable for our own development as a human being.

Randomly assigned essay topics:

- Amritananda dasa 4
- Anuradha-sakhi devi dasi 2
- Balarama-lila dasa 3
- Damodara Prasada dasa 1
- Divya-drsti devi dasi 1
- Gauranga-candra dasa 3
- Harivallabha dasa 2
- Madhava-candra dasa 4
- Madhava-gauranga dasa 2
- Nava Kishori devi dasi 1
- Naveena Krishna dasa 3
- Radhika Gopinath dasa 4
- Sudeva devi dasi 1
- Syamala dasi 3
- Vedanarayana dasa 2

Devotees assigned similar essays can work together but **MUST** submit their own paper.