

Name: _____ Date: _____

Nine processes of Devotional service

Introduction:

- ☺ Prahlada Maharaj is a great devotee of Krishna.
- ☺ In the 7th Canto of Srimad Bhagavatam, the story of Prahlāda is understood in detail.
- ☺ He has given many instructions about devotional service to Krishna for all of us to follow.
- ☺ He has listed nine different processes which are accepted as pure devotional service.
- ☺ One may perfect his life by following any of these processes and return back home, back to Godhead.

Nine Devotional Services:

- ☺ In this course, we will learn about these nine processes and actually practice them so we can experience the different ways of serving Krishna.
- ☺ Everyone is different so we want to see in which way we are inspired to offer nice services to Krishna
- ☺ This class will give us a chance to discover ways we can increase our love and service to Krishna
- ☺ With each process, there is one devotee who was able to practice that particular service perfectly.
- ☺ For each of the nine processes, we will also learn about that personality and see how he or she perfected their lives and was able to serve Krishna eternally.
- ☺ Following is the verse that was spoken by Prahlāda Maharaj. It is found in the 7th Canto of the Srimad Bhagavatam, Chapter 5, Verse 23 (S.B. 7.5.23).
- ☺ We will practice this verse over the next few lessons so that by the end of the course, we will have it memorized.

Teacher's sign: _____ Parent's sign: _____

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sravanam kirtanam visnoh
 smaranam pada-sevanam
 arcanam vandanam dasyam
 sakhyam atma-nivedanam



Translation:

Hearing and chanting about the transcendental holy name, form, qualities, paraphernalia and pastimes of Lord Vishnu, remembering them, serving the lotus feet of the Lord, offering the Lord respectful worship, offering prayers to the Lord, becoming His servant, considering the Lord one's best friend and surrendering everything unto Him - these nine processes are accepted as pure devotional service.

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The Nine Processes of Devotional Practices

Check for your understanding:-

Q1. What does 7th canto of Srimad Bhagavatam contain?



Q2. How can one perfect his/her life?

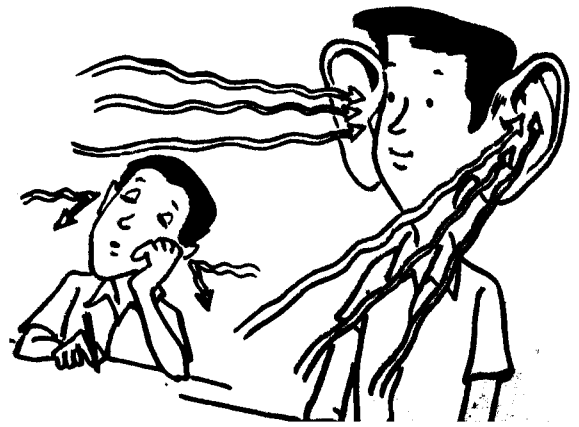
Q3. Write the English translation for the following:

Sravanam - _____; Kirtanam - _____
Smaranam - _____; Pada-sevanam - _____
Arcanam - _____; Vandanam - _____
Dasyam - _____; Sakhyam - _____
Atma-nivedanam- _____.

Teacher's sign: _____ Parent's sign: _____

Lesson One

Sravanam (Hearing)



Importance of hearing:

- ☺ Our sense of hearing is very important to us. It can be even more valuable than sight.
- ☺ Eg. If you are asleep in your house at night, you may not notice if a burglar happens to come in. But if he makes some noise, you could hear it and thus become alert.
- ☺ It would be quite difficult to get along in the world without the sense of hearing

Importance of hearing in spiritual life:

- ☺ In spiritual life, hearing is extremely important. But we must know what to hear.
- ☺ Hearing of the holy name of the Lord is the beginning of devotional service. In fact, it is a must.
- ☺ By chanting and hearing the holy name of the Lord, our heart gets cleansed from the effects of our sins. As we become purified, we can gradually understand Krishna.

Different ways of hearing in spiritual life:

- ☺ By chanting the holy name, we use our sense of hearing to listen to the name.
- ☺ We can also hear about Krishna from the scriptures. The Bhagavad Gita, Srimad Bhagavatam, Ramayana and Upanishads are some important scriptures that are full of information about the lord.
- ☺ Hearing of the lord's pastimes will purify us in the same way. It is very enjoyable to hear and tell stories of Krishna and His devotee.
- ☺ We can listen to the melodious Kirtans and bhajans which not only please our heart but purify our consciousness.

Whom should we hear from?

- ☺ It is extremely important to know from whom we are hearing about spiritual life.
- ☺ Eg. A person who has never seen an airplane in his life and he is telling others about an airplane, will his description be perfect? Obviously no. One has to be qualified before he speaks about a topic.
- ☺ Similarly, to hear about Krishna, we must hear from a qualified person. That person should be a pure devotee; someone whose only thoughts and desires are Krishna. Otherwise, we may very well hear the wrong thing.

Who perfected his life by Hearing?

- ☺ Maharaj Parikshit was a great king who took full advantage in hearing the glories of the Lord. He perfected his life and went back to Godhead simply by hearing. Here is the story of King Parikshit.

Parent's Sign: _____ Teacher's Sign: _____

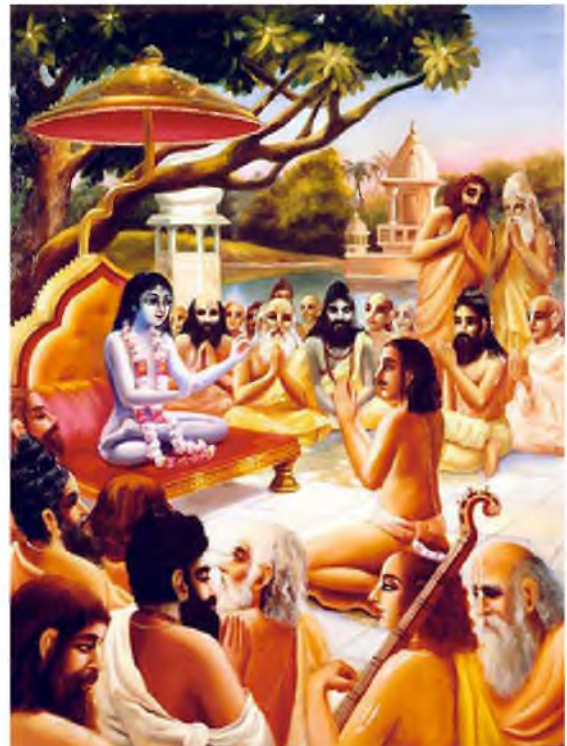
1. Sravanam

Story-Maharaj Parikshit

- ☺ Maharaj Parikshit was the son of Abhimanyu, who was the son of Arjuna. Arjuna was one of the five Pandavas and was the best friend of Krishna.
- ☺ During the battle of Kurukshetra, Parikshit was still in the womb of his mother, Uttara. At the end of the war, Asvatthama, the son of Dronacarya, tried to kill the child in the womb by throwing a weapon called brahmastra.
- ☺ The Supreme Lord Krishna saved Parikshit by entering into the womb of his mother.
- ☺ After the Pandavas left this material world, Maharaj Parikshit became the ruler of the entire planet. He was a just king. There were no social problems, no crime, no poverty and no disease in his kingdom.
- ☺ Once when Maharaj Parikshit went into the forest for hunting, he became very tired and thirsty. He entered the hermitage of sage Shamika Rishi who was meditating at that time.
- ☺ The king again and again requested for water but the rishi deep in meditation did not hear him. This enraged the king and he completely lost his intelligence.
- ☺ In his anger, the king picked up a dead snake and placed it on the shoulder of the sage.
- ☺ The rishi's son Shringi came to know about this incident and angrily cursed the king. He cursed that on the seventh day from that day, a snake-bird would bite Parikshit Maharaj.
- ☺ When Shamika Rishi came to know about the curse, he chastised his son.
- ☺ When king Parikshit received the news of his death, he accepted this curse as good news.



- ☺ Maharaj Parikshit was a great devotee of the Supreme Lord Krishna. He had full faith in the protection of the Lord. He did not try to make any arrangements to protect himself. Instead he immediately gave up his royal duties and went to the banks of the Ganges.
- ☺ He knew that one who engages in hearing the transcendental pastimes of the Supreme Lord gets liberated from the cycle of birth and death. He desired to associate with great saintly devotees who could speak to him about Krishna.
- ☺ By the arrangement of the Lord, many great saintly devotees also came to the banks of the river Ganges. The great sage Sukhdev Goswami, the son of Vyasadev appeared on the scene. Maharaj Parikshit accepted him as his spiritual master and requested him to narrate the transcendental, glorious pastimes of the Lord.
- ☺ Being very pleased by the submissive and devotional attitude of the king, Sukhdev Goswami then narrated the nectarean pastimes of the Lord and His various expansions. These are recalled in the book Srimad Bhagavatam.
- ☺ Maharaj Parikshit was completely absorbed in hearing about the transcendental pastimes of the Lord. Anyone who regularly hears Hari Katha becomes eligible to get liberated from the cycle of birth and death.
- ☺ After hearing the katha for seven days and nights without sleeping, eating or drinking, Parikshit Maharaj fixed his mind on the Lord and meditated on Him. The snake-bird Takshaka bit the king. The body of the king immediately burst into flames and burned to ashes due to the fire of the snake-bird's poison.
- ☺ Parikshit Maharaj went back home, back to Godhead by perfecting his life by hearing the transcendental glories of the Supreme Personality of Godhead.
- ☺ Thus all of us can perfect our life by regularly hearing and reading about the beautiful and transcendental pastimes of Lord Krishna and His different avatars.



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1. Sravanam (Story-Maharaj Parikshit)

I. Match by drawing lines from the name in the first column to the correct description in the second column.

Character	Activity
1. Shamika Rishi	(a) The poisonous snake-bird
2. Takshaka	(b) Perfected his life by hearing
3. Shringi	(c) The sage who angered the king
4. Maharaj Parikshit	(d) Who we should hear about
5. Sukadeva Goswami	(e) Cursed Maharaj Parikshit
6. Krishna	(f) Told the pastimes of the Lord to the king.

II. Answer the following question briefly:

1. Name the different ways in which hearing can be done in spiritual life?

2. What is the important thing to consider when you are hearing from someone about Krishna?

3. Why did Shringi curse Parikshit Maharaj? How?

4. How did Parikshit Maharaj perfect his life?

HEARING FROM GURU →



Parent's sign: _____