

**Stories  
by  
Students**

**Volume 1A**

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STORIES  
BY  
STUDENTS

Volume 1A

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ISKCON Ministry of Education

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## DEDICATION

This book is  
dedicated to its readers,  
many of whom have great appetites  
for Krishna conscious reading material,  
but never seem to have enough.

## INTRODUCTION

A perennial problem in the gurukula academic program has been a shortage of Krishna conscious reading material for students to use up until the time when they can regularly handle Srila Prabhupada's books.

When Bhurijana Prabhu was teaching in Gita-nagari, he started a program of "publishing" the children's writings by binding them up into little books. He found that the students enjoyed reading each other's stories. He continued the program when he moved to Vrindaban and Chaya d.d. carried it on in Gita-nagari.

At one of our many meetings where the subject of the shortage of reading material came up, Bhurijana suggested we might collect the little books together and somehow make them available more widely. This Stories by Students series is an attempt to do just that.

I've taken the stories from Vrindaban and Gita-nagari and edited and adapted them into suitable and consistent reading matter for children seven years old and above. This book is the first in a series of similar collections, which will be divided into three distinct levels, this volume being part of level one.

The books are not designed to be a basal reading series, but rather a versatile supplementary tool, from which teachers may use whatever portions suit them.

Several steps have been taken to make this book useful for the classroom as well as general reading for ages 7-9:

-- The stories were computer analyzed for readability level (ease of reading), by word, sentence and paragraph length and construction. Almost all the stories in this volume should be no more difficult than the prose at the end of Let's Read or volume 2:1B of the old Caitanya Readers.

-- The vocabulary was sorted by grade, and in the present volume, any words which could not reasonably be expected to have been introduced in a basal reading series by the end of Grade Two, have been included in the "New Words" lists.

-- The content questions at the end of each story are simple comprehension questions and they do not require any difficult reasoning or extrapolation.

I hope that the authors of the stories are not dissatisfied with the way I have edited them for this book. I should point out that most of the stories were written 2-4 years back, so the authors have all grown older and perhaps some of them have new names from their initiations which I am not aware of.

Sri Rama das  
May 5, 1986  
Almviks Gard, Sweden

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## THE BOATMAN AND THE ASTROLOGER

SHANTAYA DASI

Once, there was a boatman who was rowing an astrologer across a big lake. The astrologer began to ask the boatman many questions.

He asked if the boatman knew anything about astrology. Then he asked him if he knew anything about math. He also asked if the boatman knew about geography.

To each of the astrologer's questions, the boatman replied, "No, I don't." Every time the boatman answered like that, the astrologer would say that the boatman had wasted his life because he did not know about these things.

Then, there was a huge storm and the boat started to tip over in the water. The boatman jumped into the water and began to swim to land. He called back to the astrologer, "Do you know how to swim?" The astrologer answered, "No, I don't!"

The boatman replied, "Then you've wasted your whole life, because if you don't know how to swim, you're going to drown!"

This story shows us, how being proud of material knowledge cannot save us at the time of death. All this knowledge is useless if we do not know Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

--- NEW WORDS ---

astrologer      knowledge      wasted  
geography      drown

--- QUESTIONS ---

1. What three things did the astrologer ask the boatman about?
2. What did the astrologer think about the boatman?
3. Why had the astrologer wasted his life?

\* \* \* \* \*

## SERVICE TO SRI SRI PANCA-TATTVA

RASA DEVI DASI

Once, my mother was looking for some nice, delicious fruit for Sri Sri Panca-tattva. She took my brother and me for a ride in a black and green car through tropical forest land.

While we were driving, we passed by a house. In front, were nice peaches growing on a tree. My mother wanted to stop and ask the lady in the house if we could pick some of the fruit.

Before the house, there was a fence with a single gate. On the gate was a sign which said, "BEWARE OF DOG." Inside the fence were two dogs. One dog was much bigger than the other.

It was now time for me to tell my mother, "No, don't do it. Don't go behind the fence!" But mother said she would be OK and that she would ask the lady in the house if she could pick the peaches.

My mother opened the gate and went to knock on the door. "Oh no!" Suddenly, both dogs came running, and the bigger one bit her on the leg. Mother ran, shut the gate, and jumped into the car.

I said, "Mother, I told you not to go. Why didn't you listen to me?" Then I burst into tears.



Mother drove back to the temple and showed her bite to a devotee named Shukla. Shukla took care of her.

From this day, my mother could understand that Krishna was testing her to see how much trouble she would go through for Him.

--- NEW WORDS ---

peaches	delicious	burst
beware	testing	tropical
understand	written	

--- QUESTIONS ---

1. What kind of forest were they looking for fruit in?
2. Why did Rasa tell her mother not to go inside the fence?
3. What did mother do after being bit on the leg?

\* \* \* \* \*





## THE BIG LUNCH CLEAN UP

VRNDAVANA LILA DASÍ

After lunch, I brought all the buckets into the kitchen. Malini and Kunti cleaned the plates and bowls and put them in the cabinets.

The buckets were so dirty. There was still nectar in the containers. Rice was stuck on the spoons. As I was cleaning the containers, I forgot to empty the nectar, so it went into the drain. I scrubbed so hard, I became tired.

Then, I put everything away. The spoons, ladles, and trays were sparkling.

It was so nice to clean for Krishna, because I knew that I cleaned my heart.

### --- NEW WORDS ---

nectar	buckets	containers
drain	ladles	cabinets
scrubbed	sparkling	

\* \* \* \* \*



## STORIES FROM PRABHUPADA LILA

BALADEVA DAS

The Guru's Anger

Satsvarupa Maharaja told Srila Prabhupada that a famous swami was at one of the places he was going to speak at. The swami was saying, "I am God." Srila Prabhupada said, "God is the controller; the swami is not the controller."

Prabhupada was angry because the disciples did not prevent this wrong preaching. He said, "How come they didn't stop him? This is nonsense."

When Srila Prabhupada got back to his apartment, the devotees waited at the bottom of the stairs. Srila Prabhupada looked back and waved his hand and said, "Come on." He preached to them in his room.

While Srila Prabhupada was speaking, one devotee bowed down and was about to leave. Prabhupada said, "Come back." The devotee said, "We don't want to waste your time. We want you to use this time to write books and preach." Srila Prabhupada replied, "I am preaching right now!"

## Comment

Usually the spiritual master doesn't get angry. But when he does, his anger is not the same as the anger of someone like Durvasa Muni. The reason the guru gets angry is because the disciple does not listen or follow his instructions, which will help the devotee go back to Godhead.

The reason Durvasa Muni got angry, was because he felt he was offended, as shown in the following story:

Once, Durvasa Muni went to Maharaja Ambarish's palace while the king was fasting. Before eating, he went to bathe in the Yamuna River. While he was bathing, it was time for Ambarish Maharaja to break his fast. But instead of eating, he only drank some water to break the fast.

When Durvasa Muni returned, he could understand what had happened. He was very, very, very, angry because Maharaja Ambarish drank water without his permission.

### Be Clean

Once, when Srila Prabhupada went into the room where Govinda dasi and Gaurasundara dasa worked, he saw tissues all over the floor. He said, "This is why you are always sick, because you are not clean."

## Comment

We should always be clean, because if we are not, we will get sick. In one of his books, Srila Gurupada wrote, "Cleanliness is next to godliness."

Srila Gurupada also wrote that the devotees are always clean outside and inside. The way you keep clean inside, is that you do devotional service and always think of Krishna.

### --- NEW WORDS ---

reason	bathe	middle
godliness	controller	offended
permission	nonsense	cleanliness
tissue	palace	prevent

### --- QUESTIONS ---

1. In the first story, what did Srila Prabhupada think was nonsense?
2. Why did Prabhupada become angry with the devotee who wanted to leave his room?
3. How is a devotee clean "inside" ?

\* \* \* \* \*



## HELPLESS CONDITION

DAYAL GOVINDA DAS

When I was very young, I was scared of everything. I would never go out anywhere except with my sister or friends from the village.

My father had a huge mango grove where we took great pleasure playing beneath the cooling mango trees -- especially during the months of June and July, which are the hottest months of the year in India.

Usually, I would sit under a mango tree, eat the fruits, and study while the cooling breezes blew on my body.

One day while I was studying, a big storm came and blew my books all around. As the wind blew, the mangoes fell from the trees. The other children ran here and there, in an excited mood, to collect the fallen fruit.

After some time, I saw I was alone in the dark stormy grove, with no one else around me. I was not able to do anything but stand there thinking, "There is nobody here. What shall I do?"

While I remained there, with a heart full of fear, a big jackal came up behind me and stood watching for mangoes to drop from the tree. As soon as I saw the jackal, I was completely terrified. Thinking it to be a tiger, I began to scream loudly and run towards home.



Hearing my cries, my mother came out from the house and took me to her chest. "What has happened? What is the matter?" she asked.

"A tiger came to eat me." I replied.

"Don't worry. I will immediately go and kill it. Just stop crying," she said.

In the same way, if we cry out for Krishna, with love and devotion, "Hey Krishna! Hey Govinda! Oh my dear Krishna, please come and save me from the fearful clutches of maya," surely Krishna will help us.

Krishna, who is our real mother, father, and friend, will immediately come and take us to His heart. He will thus save us from the grip of maya, which is the most fearful thing of all.

--- NEW WORDS ---

heart	clutches	grip
storm	grove	fearful
condition	breeze	chest
considered	jackal	mood
collect	pleasure	scream
helpless	completely	village
devotion	worry	terrified

--- QUESTIONS ---

1. Why did Dayal Govinda and his friends like to play in the mango grove?
2. What did Dayal Govinda think the jackal was?
3. What is the lesson of the story?

\* \* \* \* \*



## A BIG REALIZATION

ANANDA DAS

One day, Mekhala and I were doing sankirtan, door to door. We went up to one house. When we rang the bell, a lady who was quite nice answered it. We told her, "We're from ISKCON School in Lake Huntington, and we're giving out these cookies to everyone today." We gave her an invitation and some cookies.

"What does this paper say?" she asked. "I can't read it because my glasses are upstairs."

"Oh, it's an invitation to our Sunday Love Feast."

"So you're telling me that I go to a fair and buy something?"

"No, no! It's a free vegetarian feast!"

"Oh, you're vegetarians. Do you eat fish?"

"No meat, fish or eggs."

"What do you eat for iron?"

I realized then that I had to pay more attention in Science class. Luckily my partner knew the answer.

"Oh, we eat lots of spinach."

The woman was pleased and gave us a donation, promising to come the next Sunday to our feast.

--- NEW WORDS ---

attention	booth	donation
invitation	iron	luckily
partner	promising	realization
science	spinach	vegetarian
upstairs		

--- QUESTIONS ---

1. What two things did Ananda give the lady?  
Did the woman give anything to Ananda?
2. Why did the woman ask about "iron" ? (Ask  
your teacher if you don't know.)
3. Why do we invite people to the temple on  
Sunday?

\* \* \* \* \*

## SANKIRTAN DIFFICULTIES

MOHINI DEVI DASI

It was the first time in a long time that I had been out on sankirtan, passing out books. It was hard in the beginning, because I was a little shy and it was cold outside. But as soon as I went up to the first person, I got into it. It was fun. Even though it was cold, I tried to push on.

I gave each person a cookie and asked for a donation. If the person gave something, I would then give them a book or magazine.

The first person Satya and I met, was an old woman. She was very nice. Satya gave her a cookie, but the woman said she could not eat any sweets. Then Satya offered her a book, but she said she couldn't see very well.

However, the woman did say she could give a donation and handed Satya a dollar. Then Satya asked the lady if she could say "Hare Krishna." The old lady said "Hare Krishna," and walked away.

Later, I met another old lady. I gave her a cookie, but she wouldn't take it. I asked her if she wanted a book and she asked my teacher what religion we were. My teacher said that we were the Hare Krishnas.



The woman replied that she didn't want any books. She said, "Those people just come down here and beg for money, and then they go and get a meal at the Strawberry Mall." The woman said she hated us.

The same day, I met a married couple and tried to give them a cookie. The wife wouldn't take it, but the husband took both a cookie and a book. While I was asking him for a donation, the wife walked away, telling her husband not to give anything. But the husband gave a dollar anyway.

Another time, I met a man and tried to give him a cookie, but he wouldn't take it. He just kept on walking. So I followed him and tried to give him a book, but he wouldn't take that either. I asked if he could give a donation and he replied, "No." Then I asked him if he could just say "Hare Krishna."

He said, "Yes I know those Hare Krishnas."

I could see that many of the people were really low-minded. A lot of them didn't know much about Krishna and the devotees, but they spoke harshly and made offenses.

Some people asked if we knew about Jesus. I could see that they thought the Hare Krishna devotees were ignorant. Actually, we know more than they do.



The Christians say that the Bible teaches us not to kill -- but still they kill animals, even though there are plenty of vegetables, grains and milk products to eat. Maybe not all of them eat meat, but most of the Christians I know do.



The thing that made me push on, was that I could see there were so many fallen souls. And, if I could at least get them to eat a prasadam cookie or give a penny, then they would be benefited.

--- NEW WORDS ---

benefit	products	harshly
low-minded	married	husband
Christians	meal	mall
Bible	religion	couple
offenses	Jesus	magazine

--- QUESTIONS ---

1. What did Mohini do when she approached a person on sankirtan?
2. What did one woman think the devotees did with the money they collected on sankirtan? Do you think it was true?
3. Why did Mohini "push on" ?

\* \* \* \* \*