

## ENHANCING CULTURE OF SRILA PRABHUPADA BOOK READING

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## SRILA PRABHUPADA'S EMPHASIS ON READING HIS BOOKS

Srila Prabhupada has personally emphasized the importance of reading his books thoroughly for individual and institutional success:

### READING LEADS TO ADVANCEMENT IN KRSNA CONSCIOUSNESS

*"So I am requesting all of my students to read my books seriously every day without fail. In this way, if your mind becomes absorbed at least one or two hours daily in the transcendental subject of Srimad Bhagavatam...then very easily you will make advancement in Krishna consciousness"*

Letter of June 13, 1972

### DUTY OF GBC TO SEE THAT BOOK READING IS GOING ON IN EVERY TEMPLE

*Similarly, the GBC member means they will see that in every temple these books are very thoroughly being read and discussed and understood and applied in practical life. That is wanted, not to see the vouchers only, "How many books you have sold, and how many books are in the stock?" That is secondary. You may keep vouchers... If one is engaged in Kṛṣṇa's service, there is no need of vouchers. That is... Everyone is doing his best. That's all. So we have to see that things are going on very nicely. So in that way the GBC members should divide some zones and see very nicely that things are going on, that they are chanting sixteen rounds, and temple management is doing according to the routine work, and the books are being thoroughly discussed, being read, understood practically. These things are required. Now, suppose you go to sell some book and if somebody says, "You have read this book? Can you explain this verse?" then what you will say? You will say, "No. It is for you. It is not for me. I have to take money from you. That's all." Is that very nice answer?*

Lecture on SB 2.9.3 -- Melbourne, April 5, 1972

### THESE BOOKS HAVE THE FUEL FOR PREACHING FOR NEXT 1000 YEARS

*I have given you everything, so read and speak from the books and so many new lights will come out. We have got so many books, so if we go on preaching from them for the next 1,000 years, there is enough stock. Just like we have spent one day discussing one sloka, so you*

*introduce this system in all of the temples, and very quickly the devotees will make spiritual progress by getting knowledge.*

(Letter to: Satsvarupa – Los Angeles 16 June, 1972)

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### *THESE BOOKS HAVE THE ANSWERS TO ALL QUESTIONS*

Paramahansa: Śrīla Prabhupāda, **when you are not present with us, how is it possible to receive instructions, for example, on questions that may arise?**

Prabhupāda: Well, the questions... **Answers are there in my books.**

Morning Walk At Cheviot Hills Golf Course -- May 13, 1973, Los Angeles

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### *SRILA PRABHUPADA WANTED HIS DISCIPLES TO COMPLETE READING ALL HIS BOOKS*

*Before taking rest after his night-time massage, Prabhupada asked Srutakirti, "How long does it take to read one verse and purport of my books, and understand it?"*

*Srutakirti replied, "I suppose about thirty minutes." Prabhupada made a quick calculation. "So, at 400 verses a book, three hours reading a day, it will take at least eight years to read all of the books published so far. And it will take at least twenty years to read them all when published."*

From The Great Transcendental Adventure by Kurma dasa

## **IMPEDIMENTS ON THE PATH OF READING**

Some of the prominent impediments in reading of SP books have been listed below:

1. Lack of Awareness/ Urgency
2. Lack of Incentives
3. Lack of Time/ Presence of Distractions
4. Lack of Consistency
5. Lack of Taste/ Inclination/ Confidence
6. Lack of Training in study skills/ navigating through technical sections
7. Lack of continual Guidance/ Troubleshooting Help
8. Lack of Resources/ Aids
9. Improper mood eg. Fruitive reading

Handicaps caused by each of these impediments are being stated below:

#	IMPEDIMENTS	HANDICAPS
1	Lack of Awareness/ Urgency	Devotees are many times unaware of importance of reading SP books as the foundation for individual and institutional success and also of SP's emphasis on the same
2	Lack of Incentives	Whatever has been promoted as an official criteria for initiations etc. has always become a norm in our society eg. Chanting 16 rounds, following reg principles, taking disciple course etc. However since there is no official binding in terms of reading SP books, it tends to be overlooked
3	Lack of Time/ Presence of Distractions	With busy and distracted modern lifestyles, devotees don't have any clue how to make adjustments so as to be able to read SP books
4	Lack of Consistency	Even if one makes a determination and starts reading, one is not able to make a consistent endeavor and then loses track of what one was reading and consequently loses enthusiasm
5	Lack of Taste/ Inclination/ Confidence	Reading scriptures needs some amount of goodness and inclination to read which is becoming very rare in this age
6	Lack of Training in study skills/ navigating through technical sections	Devotees tend to get overwhelmed by too much information or technical sections and have no clue how to navigate through them. They lack training in study skills which can enable them to effectively read
7	Lack of continual Guidance/ Troubleshooting Help	One may encounter doubts/ queries in the course of ones study which if not cleared timely may lead to difficulty in further reading
8	Lack of Resources/ Aids	For every major textbook, there are guide books to help elucidate the complex subject matters. Absence of proper guide books also adds to the inertia
9	Improper mood eg. Fruitive reading	Improper mood like collecting information to impress others, or conquer the subject matter leads to dryness in the long run

## SOLUTIONS PROPOSED TO ADDRESS THESE IMPEDIMENTS

The proposed solutions are listed below:

1. Initiatives for creating Awareness & Inspiration
2. System of Rewards for reading SP books
3. Counseling & Facilitation Services
4. Courses & Training Programs
5. Association- Study Circles & Clubs

6. Q&A Forums
7. Resources & Aids like Study Guides, Web Apps
8. Promoting good reading Styles & Moods

These solutions correspond to and address one or more of the impediments listed:

#	IMPEDIMENTS	SOLUTIONS PROPOSED
1	Lack of Awareness/ Urgency	Initiatives for creating Awareness & Inspiration
2	Lack of Incentives	System of Rewards for reading SP books
3	Lack of Time/ Presence of Distractions	Counseling & Facilitation Services
4	Lack of Consistency	Association- Study Circles & Clubs, Counseling & Facilitation Services
5	Lack of Taste/ Inclination/ Confidence	Association- Study Circles & Clubs, Courses & Training Programs
6	Lack of Training in study skills/ navigating through technical sections	Courses & Training Programs
7	Lack of continual Guidance/ Help on Doubts	Association- Study Circles & Clubs, Q&A Forums
8	Lack of Resources/ Aids	Resources & Aids like Study Guides, Web Apps
9	Improper mood eg. Fruitive reading	Association- Study Circles & Clubs, Promoting Good Reading Styles & Moods

Each of these solutions is elaborated upon below:

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#### INITIATIVES FOR CREATING AWARENESS & INSPIRATION

1. Earmark SP Book reading as one of the regular themes for ILS
2. Celebrate SP Book Reading Week every year like Holy Name week
3. Emphasis on SP book reading in SB classes
4. Gurus emphasize on reading of SP books as one of their fundamental instructions for their disciples following in the footsteps of Srila Prabhupada
5. E-nspiration- Japa e-mails/ sms could be sent every week with SP Book reading meditations, inspirational sections and quotes from Prabhupada.
6. Notice- Temple Notice Board could feature quotes on SP Book reading.

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#### SYSTEM OF REWARDS FOR READING SP BOOKS

1. Commitment to read a minimum stipulated quota of SP books daily as part of 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Initiation vows
2. Bhakti Vaibhav as Mandatory requirement for 2<sup>nd</sup> initiation, taking saffron clothes, Leadership roles etc.
3. Regular study of SP books mandatory for Leaders- if leaders are not seen studying how followers will learn

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## COUNSELING & FACILITATION SERVICES

1. Time Management Counselling by ones Counselor/ Shiksha Guru
2. Accountability & Reporting to ones Counselor/ Shiksha Guru
3. Online forum for resolving difficulties encountered while reading SP Books

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## COURSES & TRAINING PROGRAMS

1. Short Workshop course on overcoming obstacles in reading SP books and developing study skills
2. Study of small & medium books of SP as a core focus of Bhakta Programs throughout the World- *Catch Them Young*
3. Multi level Certificate course for studying all Srila Prabhupada books
4. Bhaktivedanta Vidyapitha for systematic study of BG, SB & CC
  - a. Intensive 2 year Residential course
  - b. Monthly 4 days
  - c. Weekly Once
5. Continuous Education Programs held once a week in each temple covering a book sequentially and systematically
6. Distance Learning/ Correspondence Courses
7. Degree Courses:
  - a. Short Term/ Weekend Diploma courses
  - b. Bachelors in Philosophy or Literature
  - c. Masters in Philosophy or Literature
  - d. Doctor in Philosophy or Literature

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## ASSOCIATION- STUDY CIRCLES & CLUBS

1. Encouraging devotees to study SP books cover to cover in pairs or small groups
2. Forming Weekly SB Study Circles where devotees come together and study
  - a. Defining template for conducting Study Circle
3. Online Book reading community like *CHAD* facilitated through Facebook, Skype etc.

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## Q&A FORUMS

1. Q&A Forum like Quora to answer doubts of devotees

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## RESOURCES & AIDS LIKE STUDY GUIDES, WEB APPS

1. Publishing Study Guides to facilitate easy understanding of SP book reading
2. SP Book Study App which records how much you have read when and generates a report on your study frequency and habits
3. Website- A dedicated website containing all the material related to reading of SP books. It could also serve as a QA portal/ blog.

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## PROMOTING GOOD READING STYLES & MOODS

1. Opportunity for everyone to take upto reading as per their level
  - a. Verse a day
  - b. Chapter a day
  - c. Anything in between or outside
2. Scrutinizing study of each verse with Word for Word
3. Studying a verse from all angles of vision
4. Setting aside stipulated time everyday
5. Reading repeatedly till one understands
6. Read & Discuss in Association of devotees
7. Take help from senior devotees
8. In a step by step fashion
9. Scientifically
10. Consistently
11. Reading a book cover to cover
12. Maintaining Reading Notes Diaries
  - a. Daily Reading Diary
  - b. Striking Verses Diary
13. Reading of SP books as a personal connection with Srila Prabhupada & for understanding the mood and mission of the Founder-Acharya
14. Pray to the personalities who appear in the sections of SB

In the following section, these Reading Styles have been elaborated upon:

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### *SCRUTINIZING STUDY OF EACH VERSE WITH WORD FOR WORD*

5 features of a Verse:

1. Padachheda or Sandhi viccheda

2. Padartokti
3. Vakya yojana
4. Vighraha
5. Tarka

## PADACHHEDA OR SANDHI VICCHEDA

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- Dividing the verse into different words for our proper understanding.
- Sandhi viccheda by a bona fide acharya makes people in general not to be misled by wrong division of the words.

*Saḥ—ayam—adya—mahārāja*

*Bhagavān—bhūta-bhāvanaḥ*

*kāla-rūpaḥ—avatīrṇaḥ—asyām*

*Abhāvāya—sura-dviṣām*

## PADARTOKTI

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- Giving meanings to individual words
- Sometimes the meaning changes according to the context
- Amarakosa dictionary is typically used
  - Kala rupa = one who has form of time

*saḥ—that Supreme Lord; ayam—the Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa; adya—at present; mahārāja—O King; bhagavān—the Personality of Godhead; bhūta-bhāvanaḥ—the creator or the father of everything created; kāla-rūpaḥ—in the disguise of all-devouring time; avatīrṇaḥ—descended; asyām—upon the world; abhāvāya—for eliminating; sura-dviṣām—those who are against the will of the Lord.*

## VAKYA YOJANA

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Generating the prose sentence of the poetry

*That Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, in the guise of all-devouring time [kāla-rūpa] has now descended on earth to eliminate the envious from the world.*

## VIGRAHA

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- Vighraha is expansion – to give real meaning of the compound words
- Ex: “Hare Krishnas are coming” = “The people who chant Hare Krishna are coming.”
  - Ex: Kalarupa – one who has form of time.

## TARKA

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- Tarka is commentary
  - Presenting one's argument and counteracting other arguments.
  - Ex: Prabhupada presented several arguments counteracted some existing argumnets to prove – “Krishnastu bhagavan svayam”

*PURPORT: There are two classes of human beings, namely the envious and the obedient. Since the Supreme Lord is one and the father of all living beings, the envious living beings are also His sons....*

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### STUDYING A VERSE FROM ALL ANGLES OF VISION

*Now I am feeling very much inclined for retiring behind the scenes to translate my Srimad-Bhagavatam. This means that now you all leaders, especially the GBC members, must become very much responsible and do the work that I am doing to the same standard. So I want you leaders especially to become very much absorbed in the philosophy of Bhagavad-gita, Srimad-Bhagavatam, and become yourselves completely convinced and free from all doubt. On this platform you shall be able to carry on the work satisfactorily, but if there is lack of knowledge, or if there is forgetfulness, everything will be spoiled in time. **So especially you must encourage the students to read our books throughout the day as much as possible, and give them all good advice how to understand the books, and inspire them to study the things from every point of view.***

Letter to Hamsaduta -- Los Angeles 22 June, 1972

*I am very much stressing at this point that all of my students shall be very much conversant with the philosophy of Krishna Consciousness, **and that they should read our books very diligently at least one or two hours daily and try to understand the subject matter from varieties of angles.** We are holding our morning class here in Los Angeles in the temple and I am speaking from 7 to 8 am, and the process is that we are going through some chapters of Srimad-Bhagavatam by taking one sloka each day, and reading the Sanskrit aloud, each word is pronounced by me and repeated by the students and then altogether we chant the sloka several times until we have learned it. **And then we discuss the subject matter very minutely and inspect it from all angles of approach and savor the new understandings.***

Letter to Madhudvisa -- Los Angeles 16 June, 1972

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### READING REPEATEDLY AGAIN AND AGAIN

#### SETTING ASIDE STIPULATED TIME EVERYDAY

*The new men should also go out for samkirtan, chanting or distributing my books. This will make them strong. **Also, they must study my books at least three hours a day (including classes).***

Letter to Bhadravardhana, Hridayagovinda -- Vrndavana October 25, 1976

*If you chant daily 16 rounds and **read at least one hour daily Srimad-Bhagavatam**, plus your other prescribed duties, never mind this or that, you will feel yourself becoming happy more and more and these practices will protect you from maya or hazy consciousness without any doubt.*

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### READING REPEATEDLY TILL ONE UNDERSTANDS

*In my books the philosophy of Krishna Consciousness is explained fully so if there is anything which you do not understand, then you simply have to read again and again. By reading daily the knowledge will be revealed to you and by this process your spiritual life will develop.... You may please me the most by reading my books and following the instructions therein and by becoming fully Krishna Conscious in this life time.*

(Letter to: Bahurupa, Bombay, 22 November, 1974)

*Bhāgavata is the only guide. **Read Bhāgavata, repeatedly whole life.** Safe. Always. Always, whenever there is time, read, read, read.*

Room Conversation -- February 16, 1977, Mayapura

*So every one of you should **read this Nectar of Devotion repeatedly.** The whole substance of Vaiṣṇava philosophy and activities, everything is there. **So every one of you read this Nectar of Devotion once, twice, thrice.** Unless you have got full-fledged ideas what is this devotional service.*

The Nectar of Devotion -- Los Angeles, June 23, 1970

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### READ & DISCUSS IN ASSOCIATION OF DEVOTEES

*If we are Krishna Conscious, any type of occupation will suit me and we shall always be satisfied. Therefore, I recommend you to read books more and more and try to understand the subject matter from different angles of vision and **be always discussing it with your godbrothers even while you are working at the press**, and when you are working and you cannot read, then listen to the tapes of my lectures and hear in that way. And never neglect to chant your 16 rounds of beads daily, rise early without fail, attend mangal arati, take bath, and follow the other regulative principles, and everything will come out very successfully, you can rest assured of that.*

Letter to Bhargava, June 13th, 1972

*So try to understand this philosophy of Krishna Consciousness by reading our books and literatures, **discussing amongst the devotees** and chanting Hare Krishna Mantra as much as possible.*

Letter to Oliver -- Los Angeles 19 August, 1969

*When we speak of hearing and chanting, it means that not only should one chant and hear of the holy name of the Lord as Rāma, Kṛṣṇa (or systematically the sixteen names Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare), but one should also read and hear the Bhagavad-gītā and Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam in the association of devotees.*

SB 2.2.30, Purport

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### TAKE HELP FROM SENIOR DEVOTEES

*Study our literatures with the cooperation of your God-brothers and sisters in Buffalo, and any questions you may have may be submitted to Srimad Rupanuga for answering.*

Letter to Tejiyas -- Los Angeles 20 May, 1970

*Now try to learn our philosophy very nicely with the help of your elder God brothers and sisters, go on Samkirtan, and always be engaged in some kind of Krishna work, then Krishna will bless you to advance more and more in Krishna Consciousness.*

Letter to Kasturika written from Los Angeles April 1970

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### STEP BY STEP

*The only qualification one needs to study this great book of transcendental knowledge is to proceed step by step cautiously and not jump forward haphazardly like with an ordinary book. It should be gone through chapter by chapter, one after another. The reading matter is so arranged with its original Sanskrit text, its English transliteration, synonyms, translation and purports so that one is sure to become a God-realized soul at the end of finishing the first nine cantos.*

SB Preface

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### SCIENTIFICALLY & CRITICALLY

*By reading and hearing Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam as a scientific presentation, the conditioned souls will gradually be promoted to the higher status of transcendental knowledge after being freed from the illusory energy based on sense enjoyment.*

SB 2.7.53, Purport

*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam you should study very scrutinizingly, critically. And there is explanation of great, I mean, stalwart devotees.*

Lecture on SB 1.5.1-4 -- New Vrindaban, May 22, 1969

*Prabhupada: If you actually believe in God, then try to understand what is God. Otherwise how you can believe? If you do not know the person in whom you have to trust, how you can trust Him? . . . I say, "Trust in Him," but if I do not know that man, how I can trust? You must explain that "This man is in this way trustworthy." Otherwise what is the meaning of my trust? This science should be understood, what is God and what is trust. That you discuss thoroughly, threadbare. Otherwise how you will be able to preach?*

12.18.73 MW

*Prabhupāda: Because everything is threadbare explained. You can have answer of all questions from this Bhagavad-gītā, chapter by chapter. Everything is completely understood. Yes.*

1.14.69. BG

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## CONSISTENTLY

Prabhupāda: You read regularly, Nectar of Devotion, regularly. All these books should be regularly read. That will give you guidance. You haven't got to ask repeatedly to me; everything is there.

Room Conversation -- April 2, 1972, Sydney

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## IN THE MOOD OF DIRECT ASSOCIATION OF SRILA PRABHUPADA

*Indian Man (2): ...like your company very much in Toronto and we feel like talk you so much, but we don't have so much time to talk with you. You have so much mercy, so we have not... know so much about Krsna from you.*

*Prabhupada: So in my absence you read the books. What I talk, I have written in the books. That's all.*

*Indian Man (2): Personally, we think more greater.*

*Prabhupada: That's all right. But still, you can associate with me by reading my books.*

Morning Walk — August 7, 1975, Toronto

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## PRAY TO THE PERSONALITIES WHO APPEAR IN THE SECTIONS OF SB

*We are sure, therefore, that everyone in human society will welcome Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, even though it is now presented with so many faults, for it is recommended by Śrī Nārada, who has very kindly appeared in this chapter.*

S.B. 1.5.11 Purport

## EXECUTION MECAHNISM

For the above proposed initiatives and projects to see the light of the day, it would be important for the drive to come from the top i.e. through GBC Resolutions/ ISKCON Law etc. Also it would be important to create an empowered **Central Shastric Training & Education Cell (CSTEC)** of ISKCON which will breed and proliferate ideas and initiatives for increasing reading of SP books. The cell should consist of members who are themselves well read and committed to enhance reading of SP books all over the World.

Following are some of the things can be done to execute the proposed solutions:

Proposed Solution	Execution Mechanism
Initiatives for creating Awareness & Inspiration	Can be released as Guidelines in form of a GBC Resolution
System of Rewards for reading SP books	Would necessitate an ISKCON Law
Counseling & Facilitation Services	1. Islands of Excellence can be created 2. GBC can encourage making it part of Bhakti Vrksa & Counselor Systems by passing a GBC Resolution
Courses & Training Programs	1. Certificate courses like IDC can be created on Study Skills, study of small books etc. 2. Islands of Excellence in Training can be created in each Region/ Zone and such successful models can then be replicated
Association- Study Circles & Clubs	1. Islands of Excellence can be created and advertised like the one in Singapore led by Devakinandan P 2. GBC can encourage making it part of Bhakti Vrksa & Counselor Systems by passing a GBC Resolution
Q&A Forums	A Shastra QA Cell can be created consisting of learned and mature devotees who can help answer queries of devotees through a QA portal
Resources & Aids like Study Guides, Web Apps	Funding can be earmarked to produce more resoruces and aids for devotees to read SP books

## APPENDIX I- HH MAHAVISHNU SWAMI MAHARAJ

### PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

HH Mahavishnu Maharaj employed the following principles and practices for promoting study of Srila Prabhupada's books

1. **Awareness & Inspiration:** Created awareness about the importance of being attached to Srila Prabhupada books-
  - a. Gave a lot of lectures and spent personal time with disciples emphasizing the importance of reading
  - b. Used to extensively quote Prabhupada's quotes, references from Bhagavatam emphasizing importance of reading
2. **Fundamental Instruction for disciples:** Emphasized reading of SP books as the fundamental instruction to his disciples. He reiterated that we have to set aside specific time to study.
3. **Time Management Counselling:** Urged and personally taught disciples to be very expert at time management:
  - a. Even went into knitty-gritties of how his disciples could spare or create time for reading as most of them were Grahasthas. He addressed Qs on how they could find time for reading.
  - b. Asked disciples to simplify their lives- eliminate all the unnecessary unwanted engagements and necessities.
  - c. Time steals everything. But devotees need to steal time from everywhere to engage in reading SP books. Find pockets of time here and there and engage in reading.
4. **Activities & Systems:** A number of inspiring activities were innovated that revolve around studying.
  - a. Regular programs for disciples to gather and study SP books were started and thus it became a culture to read.
  - b. Maharaj acknowledged that not everyone will be philosophically inclined. He presented study of SP books as not merely philosophical endeavor but primarily in terms of:
    - i. Being in touch with Krsna which is the only solution to all problems of life which is a great incentive for Grhastha life.
    - ii. Being in direct touch with Srila Prabhupada
  - c. Maharaj encouraged devotees to study in groups. If one is not getting taste in studying alone, a pair of devotees or a group of devotees can come together to study SP books cover to cover. Eventually everyone develops taste in association.
  - d. Maharaj gave ideas about how children can also appreciate SP books. A family- parents and children all sit together and read from SB everyday and

everyone, including children under guidance of parents, contribute their understanding/ purport to the verse.

- e. Maharaj defined floor and ceiling in terms of reading SP books:
  - i. Floor: There should be a bare minimum reading per day for every individual. For beginners in KC, they can start with baby steps-reading small books for a fixed duration. The floor can increase as one grows in KC.
  - ii. Ceiling: Sky is the limit.
5. **Reading Styles:** Maharaj taught that reading Srila Prabhupada's books means:
  - a. : Reciting the verse; breaking down the verse by studying the word to word; studying the translation and purport; memorizing noteworthy verses; taking notes. Maharaj's disciples conduct a small course on how to break down and memorize a verse.
  - b. **Maintaining Reading Notes Diaries:**
    - i. **Daily Reading Diary:** Note down the important striking points in translation and purport of each verse, leave space for more notes in next reading of the book
    - ii. **Striking Verses Diary:** Note down essential verses which strike you during your study. These are the verses where you find the Bhagvatam personally speaking to you. Connecting to Bhagavatam in this way will take you from knowledge to realization.
  - c. **Reading a book cover to cover:** Maharaj always said that there is much value to how Srila Prabhupada designed his books. He felt that Prabhupada had a brilliant plan in mind to sequentially evolve the understanding of the reader as he goes through the flow of topics in his books cover to cover.

## SOME NOTEWORTHY POINTS

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### READING CULTURE CATCHES UP

Communities where Mahavishnu Maharaj's disciples are active have also keenly taken up to the culture of reading SP books. This can be prominently seen in Abu Dhabi and Singapore.

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### ROLE OF CERTIFICATION

Mahavishnu Maharaj never emphasized on any formal certification. Out of 500 disciples, only 5-6 have ever taken Bhakti Shastri course but devotees find them to be deeply learned and realized in study of SP books.

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### SYNERGY OF PRABHUPADA BOOK READING AND PREACHING

- The study circles or groups are generally not mixed with the Bhakti Vriksha and other preaching programs. These groups are meant for focused study of books verse by verse and cover to cover.
- However when devotees get taste in reading and become mature, they naturally want to share what they have read by preaching to new people.

Whatever has been promoted as an official criteria for initiations has always become a norm in our society eg. Chanting 16 rounds, following reg principles, taking disciple course etc. So probably if a bare minimum standard for reading Prabhupada's books was set then probably that may boost.

## APPENDIX II- CHAD: HG VAISHESHKA PRABHU

CHAD is a worldwide alliance of devotees who chant at least one chapter of Bhagavad-gita As It Is every day

How to join CHAD

- Make a vow to chant at least one chapter of Bhagavad-gita As It Is every day.
- Register your name at the CHAD Yahoo group: [Chapter\\_a\\_day@yahoo.com](mailto:Chapter_a_day@yahoo.com) (Optional).
- Join the Daily CHAD calls
  - a. Date and Time:
  - b. Everyday @ 05:45 AM US/Pacific (GMT-0700)
  - c. Online Meeting Link:
  - d. <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/sanatanagandharvika>
  - e. Dial-In Number (United States): (563) 999-2090, Access Code: 123936
  - f. International Dial-In Numbers:
  - g. <https://www.freeconferencecall.com/wall/sanatanagandharvika#international>

## BENEFITS OF JOINING CHAD

You'll:

- Feel impetus to chant Bhagavad-gita everyday knowing that others are doing it with you.
- Gain superior strength and knowledge in devotional service by reciting and hearing the divine conversation between Krsna and Arjuna.

- Be cleared of offences you've committed in worshiping the Deity.
- Automatically learn multiple Bhagavad-gita verses through repetition. ("Repetition is the mother of learning.")
- Develop skill in citing important slokas as evidence from Bhagavad-gita.
- Awaken a sweet relationship with Krsna Who reveals Himself to those who daily chant the Bhagavad-gita.

#### TIPS BY CHAD:

- Try chanting the same chapter of Bhagavad-gita everyday for one month. Doing this, you'll become familiar with the slokas and will remember them. This helps to develop a taste for chanting.
- Bring your Bhagavad-gita with you wherever you go. You never know when you'll get a chance to chant your chapter. (Waiting for a software program to download? Chant your chapter!)
- Record your chanting and listen to it at other times during the day.
- Get others to join CHAD with you and chant your daily chapters together.
- If you miss a day, simply continue the next day with a determined vow.

### APPENDIX III- BHAKTIVEDANTA VIDYAPITHA (BVVP)

Started in the year 2012, the Bhaktivedanta Vidyapitha, based at the Govardhan Ecovillage, is a school dedicated to the systematic study of Srila Prabhupada's books. Currently the BVVP is running 8 batches simultaneously across 5 cities in India.

#### VISION

Inspiring and inculcating Vaishnava qualities and a mood of selfless service in the followers of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, by creating a strong sastric foundation for their spiritual lives.

#### MISSION

Assisting the devotees in understanding the glorious contribution of Srila Prabhupada's books, by systematically studying them and contemplating practical ways for application of their teachings through an effective educational framework as envisaged by the Gaudiya Vaishnava parampara.

#### BVVP INTENSIVE RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM @ GEV

**Course duration:** 2 years

### **Qualification for admission:**

- Completion of Bhakti-sastri course
- A sincere desire to study Srila Prabhupada's books & willingness to follow the rigorous schedule of BVVP.

**Courses:** Srimad Bhagavatam and Sri Caitanya Caritamrita

### **Special seminars/ Short courses:**

- Conducted once in every 2 months
- Combined for both 1st & 2nd year students

### **1st Year:**

- Srimad Bhagavatam Cantos 1 to 9
- Requirements for Bhakti vaibhava degree
- Weekly 5 classes (each 2 hr 45 min)

### **2nd Year:**

- Srimad Bhagavatam Cantos 10 to 12
- Sri Caitanya Caritamrita
- Weekly 4 classes (each 2 hr 45 min)
- 2 projects

**Degrees awarded:** Bhakti vaibhava (after completion of 6 cantos of Srimad Bhagavatam)

**Study groups:** with 2-3 students in a group.

2

### **Assessment procedure:**

- Closed book exams [40%]
- Open book exams & Assignments [25%]
- Presentations [25%]
- Attendance & Sadhana [10%]

**Projects:** Two SB/ CC based projects in 2nd year.

### **Monthly Get-togethers:**

- Combined for both 1st & 2nd year students.
- Games, kirtans & sharing experiences

**Yatras:** 2 annual Kartik yatras

### **Services:**

- Weekly 2 days in different GEV depts.
- BVVP specific services & festival services

**Schedule:** (on class days)

- 4.10 am to 9.00 am: **Morning sadhana**
- 9.30 am to 10.00 am: **SB/CC Closed book Exam**

- 10.00 am to 10.15 am: **Arati for Srimad Bhagavatam + Sloka recitation**
- 10.15 am to 1.00 pm: **SB/CC class**
- Rest of the day: **Study time**

## OTHER PROGRAMS OFFERED BY BVVP

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### MONTHLY 8 DAYS (2+1)

- Day 1 -
  - 8.30 am: Sloka recitation
  - 8.45 – 9.45 am: Class 1a
  - 9.45 am: Prasadam
  - 10.15-12.00: Class 1b
  - 2.00: Test
  - 2.30-4.30: Class 2b
  - 4.30: Prasadam
  - 5.00-6.00pm: Class 2b
- Day 2 -
  - 9.30: Test
  - 10.00: Sloka recitation
  - 10.15am - 1.00 pm: class
- Rest of the day: Study

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### MONTHLY 4 DAYS

- 8.30: Sloka recitation
- 8.45-10am: Class 1a
- 10 am: Prasad
- 10.30-12 pm: Class 1b
- 2.30 pm: Test
- 3.00-4.30 pm: Class 2a

- 4.30 pm: Prasad
- 5.00-6.30 pm: Class 2b
- 8.30pm: Test
- 4<sup>th</sup> DAY – Presentations, Overviews

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## WEEKLY ONCE

A class of 3 hour is held everyday