

Chapter 1 The First Step in God Realization

CLOSED BOOK SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. How is the First Canto specifically helpful to the neophyte devotees? (Invocation)
2. What makes a question glorious? (1)
3. What was Maharaja Pariknit's question in the previous chapter? Why is it herein described as loka-hitam? (1)
4. What does the word *medhī*, in *grhamedhīs*, indicate? (3)
5. Describe at least 4 symptoms of grhamedhis. (2-4)
6. Who are referred to as fallible soldiers? (4)
7. Explain the meaning of "*ante nārāyaṇa-smṛtiḥ*". (6)
8. In what activity do topmost transcendentalists take pleasure? (7)
9. What is the meaning of brahma-sammitam? (8)
10. What helps a impersonalist become attracted to the personal activities of the Lord? (9)
11. How did Maharaja Pariksit and Sukadeva Gosvami, respectively, attain salvation? (10)
12. What does Srila Jiva Gosvami instruct about the chanting of the holy name of the Lord?(11)
13. How are Srimad Bhagavatam and Bhagavad Gita interdependent? (29)

CLOSED BOOK QUESTIONS

1. Why does Srila Prabhupada entitle the First Canto "Creation", and the Second Canto "The Cosmic Manifestation"? (Invocation)
2. What comparison is made between the topics of Lord Krishna with the Ganges water?(1)
3. Explain the analogy of the "great ocean of material nature." (4)
4. Explain Srila Prabhupada's statement in 2.1.10 purport, "Śrīla Vyāsadeva explained *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* unto Śukadeva Gosvāmī from the very beginning of the *janmādy asya* verse, and so Śukadeva Gosvāmī also explained it to the King.
5. Briefly Describe the incident of Maharaja Khatvanga. (12-13)
6. Why is one recommended to quit home just to get rid of material attachment? (16)
7. What is recommended for a neophyte who is unable to realize the transcendental personal form or name of the Lord on account of their imperfect senses ? (17)
8. Explain the reason that even samadhi stage fails to control the materially absorbed mind. (18)
9. Explain why worship of the Visnu forms in great temples of India is not idol worship, with reference to 2.1.19 verse and purport and relevant verses from Bhagavad-gita.
10. Why did Maharaja Parikit inquire from Śukadeva Gosvāmī about the impersonal *virāt-rūpa* of the Lord considering that he was already directly connected with the personal feature of the Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa? (22)
11. List 5 features of the virat-rupa as described in 2.1.25-37.
12. In how many planetary systems is the universe divided into? Why are they described from the bottom to the top? (26)
13. Explain how the exhibition of the Lord's virat feature demonstrates His kindness? (38)

OPEN BOOK ESSAYS

1. Briefly describe the incidents leading to Srila Sukadeva Gosvami reciting Srimad Bhagavatam to Maharaja Pariksit with reference to appropriate verse and purports.
2. Srila Prabhupada writes in the purport to 2.1.1, "...any question about Him (Krsna) is original and perfect." Discuss the statement, with reference to 2.1.1 verse and purport and the Bhakti-sastras.
3. Describe the symptoms of a grhamedhi, as mentioned in the beginning of this chapter, and discuss the significance of Srila Sukadeva Gosvami beginning his narration with this topic. Give reference to 2.1.2-4, and the Bhakti-sastras in your response
4. Srila Prabhupada writes in the purport to 2.1.8, "So the complete text of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, beginning with the janmādy asya verse up to the last one in the Twelfth Canto, was spoken by Śukadeva Gosvāmī for the attainment of salvation by Mahārāja Parīkṣit." Explain this statement and discuss its significance with reference to this section of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam
5. Srila Prabhupada writes in the purport to 2.1.8, "Although Śukadeva Gosvāmī was a liberated soul from the very day of his birth, he still had to take lessons of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam from his great father, Vyāsadeva, who compiled the Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam under the instruction of another great soul, Śrī Nārada Muni. Discuss the significance of this statement for the practice of Krsna consciousness. Give reference to this section of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam and the Bhakti-sastras in your response.
6. Srila Prabhupada writes in the purport to 2.1.8, "The bona fide spiritual master reasonably explains everything to the disciple on the authorities of Vedic wisdom. The disciple can receive such teachings not exactly intellectually, but by submissive inquiries and a service attitude." Discuss the significance of this statement for the practice of Krsna consciousness. Give reference to the meeting of Srila Sukadeva Gosvami and Maharaja Pariksit and the Bhakti-sastras in your response.
7. "One can deliver himself from the effects of all sins by surrendering himself unto the Lord. One can deliver himself from all offenses at the feet of the Lord by taking shelter of His holy name. But one cannot protect himself if one commits an offense at the feet of the holy name of the Lord. (Srila Prabhupada Purport 2.1.11). Discuss the significance of these principles, with detailed reference to the Ten Offenses.
8. Srila Prabhupada writes in the purport to 2.1.8, "Any nomenclature which is meant for the Supreme Lord is as holy as the others because they are all meant for the Lord. Such holy names are as powerful as the Lord, and there is no bar for anyone in any part of the creation to chant and glorify the Lord by the particular name of the Lord as it is locally understood." Discuss the significance of these principles for the practice and spreading of Krsna

conspicuousness. Give reference to this section of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, and the Bhakti-sastras, in your response.

9. Srila Prabhupada writes in the 2.1.12, “The powerful holy name of the Lord can certainly deliver one from sinful effects, but one who desires to utilize this transcendental potency of the holy name of the Lord in one’s sinister activities is the most degraded person in the world. Such persons are never excused by the Lord or by any agent of the Lord.” Discuss the relevance to practitioners of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Discuss with reference to First Canto and Bhakti-sāstri verses and purports.
10. Describe the incident of Maharaj Khatvanga. as mentioned in the purport to 2.1.13, and discuss its relevance for the practice and spreading of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Give reference to Bhakti-sāstri texts in your response.
11. Srila Prabhupada writes in the 2.1.21, “Pantheism, or the system of feeling the presence of the Almighty everywhere, is a sort of training of the mind to become accustomed to the devotional conception, and it is this devotional attitude of the mystic that makes possible the successful termination of such mystic attempts.” Explain how the process of meditation on the virāṭ-rūpa, as described in this chapter, is related to the practice of devotional service. Include in your response an explanation of the *acintya-bhedābheda-tattva* philosophy of Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, as mentioned in Srila Prabhupada’s concluding purport to this chapter. Give reference to this section of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, and the Bhakti-sastras, in your response.
12. Srila Prabhupada writes in the 2.1.20, “Everything created by the material energy can be dovetailed with the Absolute by an attitude of service, which is the essential part of living energy. The pure devotee of the Lord knows the art of converting everything into its spiritual existence by this service attitude, and only in that devotional way can the theory of pantheism be perfected.” Explain how the process of meditation on the virāṭ-rūpa, as described in this chapter prepares one for practice of devotional service. Give reference to this chapter of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, and the Bhakti-sastras, in your response.

Chapter 2 The Lord in the Heart

CLOSED BOOK SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What is the paravyoma? (Purport 2.2.8)
2. List 4 aspects of the beautiful form of the Lord, as described in verses 2.2.8 to 11
3. List the three headings sex life is summarized in as described in the purport to 2.2.12.
4. Who is recommended to meditate on the gigantic virat-rupa? (2.2.13-14)
5. How does the pure devotee stop creating perplexities? (Verse 2.2.18)
6. What is the prime inclination of the materialistic mind? (Purport 2.2.22)
7. List 3 of the mystic siddhis, in English or Sanskrit, possessed by the residents of Brahmaloaka and Dhruvaloka (22)

8. What is Sisumara? (Verse 2.2.25)
9. What is the duration of life in Satyaloka? (Verse 2.2.26)
10. Why can no sane man can ignore the statements of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*? (26)
11. What is Lord Brahma study the vedas three times? (34)

CLOSED BOOK QUESTIONS

1. What is the forgetfulness of Lord Brahma compared to? (Purport 2.2.1)
2. How can one counteract forgetfulness? Discuss how this chance is only available to one in the human form of life with reference to Srimad Bhagavatam 2.2.1.
3. How can Brahma's service be distinguished from the altruistic services performed by humans? (2.2.1)
4. Explain the analogy of children on a merry-go round? (Purport 2.2.2)
5. Why is the material world compared to a "jugglery of names"? (Purport 2.2.3)
6. Why is a voluntary life of renunciation advised? (Purport 2.2.4)
7. Explain the analogy of the mirage in a desert. (Purport 2.2.6)
8. Describe the process of meditation on the paramatma given in 2.2.8-12.
9. For whom is the meditation upon His impersonal feature, the virat-rupa, or universal form recommended and why? (Purport 2.2.14)
10. List 4 of the six circles of movement of the life air in English or Sanskrit (20)
11. Explain the two types of transcendentalists and their destinations? (Purport 2.2.17)
12. Briefly describe the (19-21)
13. Explain the difference between the travel of materialists and that of the transcendentalists? (Purport 2.2.23)
14. What qualities is a person who meditates on the virat-rupa endowed with? (2.2.23)
15. What are the two different ways of reaching the spiritual sky? (Purport 2.2.32)
16. In Satyaloka there is no pain nor anxieties of any kind except what? (27)
17. What is the calculated extent of the cosmic phenomenon diametrically? (28)
18. List the 9 methods of devotional service. And explain why hearing is considered most important. (Purport 2.2.36)
19. What is the verdict of Lord Brahma in regards to the most auspicious path for those suffering in the material world? 2.2.33-34

OPEN BOOK ESSAYS

1. Describe the recommendations of Sukadeva Gosvami for the renounced order with reference to verses and purports of 2.2.3-5. Discuss the relevance if these recommendations for contemporary ISKCON preachers.
2. Srila Prabhupada writes in the purport to 2.2.12, "The conclusion is that those who are still entrapped by sex indulgence should never progress to meditation above the feet of the Lord; therefore recital of Srimad-Bhagavatam by them should be restricted to the first and second cantos of the great literature." Discuss the relevance of this conclusion for practicing and preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness with reference this chapter of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and the Bhakti-sastras.

3. Briefly, describe with reference to 2.2.19-23 verses and purports and the Bhakti-sastras, the process of mystic yoga recommended Sukadeva Gosvami. Discuss the relevance of these instructions for practitioners of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.
4. Explain the process of the yogi's elevation to the spiritual world as described by Sukadeva Gosvami in 2.2.24-31. Discuss the relevance of this process, for the modern age, with reference this chapter of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam and appropriate verses from Bhagavad-gīta.
5. Briefly explain the creeper of devotion, and unwanted weeds, with reference to 2.2.30 verse and purport.
6. Srila Prabhupada writes in the purport of 2.2.37, "By sufficient hearing of Srimad-Bhagavatam, the polluted aim of life, namely lording it over matter, will subside, and the people in general in all parts of the world will be able to live a peaceful life of knowledge and bliss." Discuss the relevance of this statement for the mission of Srila Prabhupada with reference to 2.2.37 verse and purport and relevant statement from the Srimad Bhagavatam, first canto verse and purports.

Chapter 3 Pure Devotional Service: The Change in Heart

CLOSED BOOK SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What is the duty of a man especially when he is preparing for death?(2.3.1)
2. Why are the leaders of nonsensical persons still more nonsensical? (2.3.9)
3. What result does a person get if he fails in the discharge of yoga practice? (2.3.15)
4. Briefly describe aspects of the life of Parikshit Maharaj as mentioned in the purport of 2.3.15.
5. Explain the terms nitya-siddha and sadhana-siddha. (2.3.15.)
6. List 4 of the analogies, spoken by Sukdev goswami, describing materialistic life. (2.3.20-24)

CLOSED BOOK QUESTIONS

1. Give the English meaning of the term manisi. Explain why Pariksit Maharaja has been addressed by the Gosvami as the "manisi." (2.3.2)
2. How has Jīva Gosvāmī has explained this desirelessness in his *Sandarbhā*? (2.3.10)
3. Explain how thoughts of becoming one with the Lord, or being merged in the *brahmajyoti*, can also be exhibitions of *kāma* spirit. (2.3.10)
4. Srila Sukadeva Gosvami is described by Srila Prabhupada as "a poet amongst the sages." Discuss the significance of both Saunaka Rsi and Srila Prabhupada appreciating this quality. (2.3.13).
5. List any 10 of the 26 qualities of a Vaisnava. (2.3.13)
6. How can we accept Mahabharata as the fifth Veda? (2.3.14)
7. Explain the analogy of the pure devotees compared to swans. (2.3.14)
8. Explain how literatures like Mahabharata, the Puranas and similar other literatures are also transcendental and how these should be discussed. (2.3.14)
9. What happens to those persons who have failed in the proper discharge of yoga practices? (2.3.15)

10. According to the Smṛiti Sastras, as quoted by Srīla Viṣvanath Cakravartī Thakura, what is the results of money is given in charity to a fully qualified *brāhmaṇa* and to one who has factually realized the path of the *Vedas*? (2.3.17.)
11. Who is compared to a prostitute in the verse 2.3.20?
12. List 4 are the eight transcendental symptoms manifested in bhava stage? (2.3.24)
13. Briefly explain *pañca-upāsanā*. (2.3.24)

OPEN BOOK ESSAYS

1. Summarize the conceptual flow of Chapters 1 to 3 of the Second Canto and discuss their significance in relation to the first two Cantos.
2. “As the unmixed sun ray is very forceful and is therefore called *tīvra*, similarly unmixed bhakti-yoga of hearing, chanting, etc., may be performed by one and all regardless of inner motive.” (Purport, 2.3.10). Explain this statement with reference to Sukadeva Gosvami proposing worship of different demigods, 2.3.1-10, giving specific reference to the verse *akamah, sarva-kamah moksa-kamah* etc. (2.3.10), in your response.
3. In the purport of 2.3.11, Srīla Prabhupada writes, “Only a pure devotee...” Explain the significance of this statement in relation to the mission of SB, with reference to 2.3.11 verse and purport and relevant verses from the Bhakti-sastras.
4. Srīla Prabhupada writes in the 2.3.14, “Thus He plays exactly like the social, political or religious leaders. Because such roles ultimately culminate in the discussion of topics of the Lord, all such preliminary topics are also transcendental. That is the way of spiritualizing the civic activities of human society.” Discuss this statement in regard the relevance of the epic histories of *Rāmāyaṇa* and *Mahābhārata* in the Sankīrtan movement. Give reference to 2.3.14 verse and purport and relevant verses from the Bhakti-sastras.
5. Srīla Prabhupada writes in the 2.3.15, “Our father encouraged us in all respects to observe all functions such as the Ratha-yātrā and Dola-yātrā ceremonies, and he used to spend money liberally for distributing prasāda to us children and our friends. Our spiritual master, who also took his birth in a Vaiṣṇava family, got all inspirations from his great Vaiṣṇava father, Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda. That is the way of all lucky Vaiṣṇava families.” Discuss the significance of this statement for development of grhastha life in ISKCON. Include in your response the examples of Mahārāja Parīkṣit, Srīla Bhaktisiddhanta Thakura and Srīla Prabhupada. Give reference to 2.3.15 verse and purport and relevant verses from the Bhakti-sastras.
6. “Superficially, Maharaja Parikṣit and Sukadeva Gosvami might seem to be opposites...” Explain this statement with reference to 2.3.15-16 verses and purports.
7. “Similarly, a moment passed in the association of a pure devotee by hearing and chanting the transcendental messages of the Lord is a perfect guarantee for eternal life, for returning home, back to Godhead.” Discuss the significance of this statement in relation to Srīla

Prabhupada's mission with reference to 2.3.17 verse and purport and relevant verses from the First Canto of Srimad Bhagavatam.

8. Srila Prabhupada writes in Srimad Bhagavatam 2.3.18 purport, "Prolonged life without spiritual value is not very important." Explain this statement, with reference to 2.3.18 verse and purport, and appropriate verses from Bhagavad-gita.
9. Explain, with examples from contemporary society, Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam's categorization of the common man into the society of dogs, hogs, camels and asses. (2.3.19). Give reference to 2.3.19 verse and purport, and appropriate verses from Bhagavad-gita, in your response.
10. Srila Prabhupada writes in Srimad Bhagavatam 2.3.22 purport, "Book knowledge is theoretical, whereas the arcana process is practical." Discuss the relevance of this statement with reference to 2.3.22 verse and purport, and appropriate verses from Bhagavad-gita, in your response.
11. "Lord Sri Krsna is the property of His pure, unconditional devotees, and as such only the devotees can deliver Krsna to another devotee; Krsna is never obtainable directly." Discuss the significance of this statement with reference to 2.3.23 verse and purport, and appropriate verses from Canto 1, in your response.
12. Present Sukadeva Gosvami's description of materialistic life to a modern audience, with reference to the verses and purports of Srimad Bhagavatam 2.3.20-24 and appropriate verses from Bhagavad-gita.
13. "Advancement of material science without God consciousness is a heavy load on the head of human society, and so one must take heed of this great warning." (2.3.21) Explain this statement and Saunak Rsi's other analogies describing those who do not utilize their time by discussing topics of the all-good Personality of Godhead.
14. Srila Sukdeva Goswami expounds in 2.3.24, "Certainly that heart is steel-framed which, in spite of one's chanting the holy name of the Lord with concentration, does not change when ecstasy takes place, tears fill the eyes and the hairs stand on end." Discuss this statement in relation to the so called ecstasy of the *sahajiyas* and the eight symptoms of real, steady *bhava*. Give reference to 2.3.24 verse and purport, and appropriate verses from Canto 1, in your response.

Chapter 4 The Process of Creation

CLOSED BOOK SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Explain the meaning of *satim*. 2.4.1
2. In what two ways was Maharaja Pariksit blessed by Krsna as explained by Srila Prabhupada in the purport of 2.4.1?

3. Define the term *dehatma-buddhi* (SB 2.4.2 purport)
4. What is the grossest type of *namaparadha* offense? (SB 2.4.2 purport)
5. List 3 examples each of detachment and renouncement done by Maharaj Parikshit (2.4.2-4)
6. What is the crucial test of hearing Srimad-Bhagavatam ? (SB 2.4.5 purport)
7. How is the Lord's internal and external potencies displayed? (SB purport 2.4.10)
8. What is the meaning of "*veda-garbhah*"? (SB 2.4.25 purport)

CLOSED BOOK QUESTIONS

1. Summarize the questions asked by Maharaj Parikshit in 2.4.6-9.
2. List the three principal energies. (7)
3. How does the Vedic phrase *acintya-bhedābheda-tattva* describe the Lord in terms of His diversities? (7)
4. Explain the term *vibhūti-bhinnam* as quoted by Srila Prabhupada from Brahma-samhita. (8)
5. Give two examples, listed in the purport to text 10, which show how a powerful devotee of the Lord is, by the grace of the Lord, more than the Lord Himself.
6. By whom are the Lord's "external works" directed? (10)

OPEN BOOK ESSAYS

1. Srila Prabhupada writes in Srimad Bhagavatam 2.4.1 purport, "Fortunately Maharaja Parikshit had already been attracted to the Lord from the very beginning of his body, in the womb of his mother." Considering that Maharaja Parikshit was already attracted to Lord Krsna, why did he accept Srila Sukdeva Goswami as his spiritual master? Respond with reference to 2.4.1, verse and purport, relevant statements from Canto 1.
2. Srila Prabhupada quotes from a news release from Moscow dated 2/21/60 in the purport of 2.4.8. Discuss the significance of Srila Prabhupada's approach in this regard in terms of presenting the teachings of Srimad Bhagavatam.
3. With reference to SB 2.4.23 verse and purport, describe the mood of Sukadeva Goswami in offering his prayers to Lord Krishna. Select and discuss statements from this purport which you found particularly inspirational.
4. Srila Prabhupada writes in Srimad Bhagavatam 2.4.15 "One may worship the form of the Lord in a temple, or one may impersonally offer the Lord devotional prayers in a mosque or a church." Discuss the significance of Srila Prabhupada's statement here in relation to preaching Krsna consciousness to the general public.
5. Srila Prabhupada writes in Srimad Bhagavatam 2.4.18 purport, "...if the leadership of world affairs is entrusted to the devotees of the Lord, for which a worldwide organization under the name and style of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness has already been started, then by the grace of the Almighty Lord there can be a thorough change of heart in human beings all over the world..." Discuss the role the Srimad Bhagavatam can play in ISKCON's mission to change the heart of human beings all over the world with reference to 2.4.18, verse and purport, and other statements from Chapters 1-4, in your response.

6. Explain why Mahārāja Parīkṣit asked Śukadeva Gosvāmī for information about the creation. Give references from Srimad Bhagavatam 2.4.8 verse and purport and the Bhakti-sastras in your response.
7. Srila Prabhupada writes in Srimad Bhagavatam 2.4.24 purport, “One should therefore try to understand the Vedic scriptures, or the nectar transferred by the Lord to His consorts in the conjugal humor, from the lotuslike mouth of Vyāsadeva or Śukadeva.” Explain this statement with reference to Srimad Bhagavatam 2.4.24 verse and purport and appropriate verses from Srimad Bhagavatam Canto 1.
8. Select and discuss statements from Srila Sukadeva Gosvami prayers in 2.4.12-24, which are useful for preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Give reference to 2.4.12-24, verses and purports in your response.
9. Explain how can we accept that the statements of creation explained by Śukadeva Gosvāmī are not at all, as the mundaners suggest, theoretical, but are perfectly correct? Give reference to Srimad Bhagavatam 2.4.25, verse and purport and appropriate verses from the Bhaktisastras, in your response.

Chapter 5 The Cause of All Causes

CLOSED BOOK SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What is the regulation of the disciplic succession? (2.5.1)
2. List the three things observed by the intelligent man in the phenomenal world as mentioned in the purport of 2.5.2.
3. Explain the analogy of the walnut that Narada Muni. (2.5.3)
4. Why could Narada Muni understand that there was someone else superior to Brahmājī who invested Brahmā with the power of creation? (4)
5. What is the best example of self-sufficiency? (2.5.5)
6. Explain the analogy of the spider given in 2.5.5.
7. Give the meaning of the word *aṅgrahopasita*. (2.5.7)
8. What is the basic principle of missionary activities. (9)
9. What is the meaning of *devā nārāyaṇāṅgajāḥ* (2.5.15)

CLOSED BOOK QUESTIONS

1. Summarize the 6 questions asked by Narada Muni to lord Brahma. 2.5.1-2
2. What doubts arose in Nārada Muni regarding the position of Brahmājī? (7)

OPEN BOOK ESSAYS

1. Srila Prabhupada writes in his purport to Srimad Bhagavatam 2.5.1, “Knowledge received by submissive inquiries and service is more effective than knowledge received in exchange for money.” Discuss the significance of this statement in regards to systematic training and education in ISKCON. Give reference to SB 2.5.1 verse and purport, and relevant statements from the Bhakti-sastras, in your response.
2. Srila Prabhupada writes in the purport of 2.5.2 “The symmetry of creation and its regulative actions and reactions suggests the plan of an intelligent brain behind them, and by genuine inquiry one may find out the ultimate cause with the help of one who knows them factually.” Discuss the significance of this statement in regard to presenting the message of Srimad Bhagavatam to materialistic philosophers. Give reference from appropriate verses from Canto 1 and Bhakti-sastras.
3. Srila Prabhupada writes in the purport of 2.5.10, “The doubt arising in the mind of Nārada about Brahmājī’s becoming all-powerful is a lesson for the frogs in the well..” Explain the doubt arising in the mind of Nārada and discuss “The frog in the well” logic with reference to this section of Srimad Bhagavatam and relevant statements from the Bhakti-sastras in your response.
4. Discuss the significance of Sri Narada Muni statements and questions in 2.5.1-7, in relation to guru padasraya in ISKCON. Give reference to SB 2.5.1-7 verses and purports, and relevant statements from the Bhakti-sastras, in your response.
5. Srila Prabhupada writes in the purport of 2.5.21, “The impersonal expansion is a manifestation of His energy, and He is always in His personal feature despite His innumerable unlimited expansions of impersonal energies (Bg. 9.5-7). Briefly summarize the creation of the cosmic manifestation as described in verses 21-35 of this chapter.
6. Srila Prabhupada writes in the purport of 2.5.30, “When one comes to see the disadvantage of aggravating the sense activities, one is called a jñānī, and when one tries to stop the activities of the senses by the practice of yogic principles, he is called a yogī, but when one is fully aware of the transcendental senses of the Lord and tries to satisfy His senses, one is called a devotee of the Lord.” Explain this statement with reference to this section of Srimad Bhagavatam and relevant verses from the Bhagavad giita, in your response.
7. Briefly summarize, with reference to the verses and purports, key aspects of the virat-rupa, as described texts 2.5.36-42.

Chapter 6 Puruṣa-sūkta Confirmed

CLOSED BOOK SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Which mantra is the beginning of all Vedic Mantras ? (2.6.1)
2. According to the purport of 2.6.1, how can our sensual activities be purified ? (2.6.1)
3. What represents the back of the Lord in the universal form of the Lord? (2.6.10)
4. What is the duration of one day of Lord Brahma, according to human calculation? (2.6.11)
5. Give the Sanskrit name of the philosophy propounded by Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu? (2.6.16)
6. In the Caitanya-caritamṛta, what are “the total universes in the external potency of the Lord” compared to? (2.6.18)
7. Name the three spheres into which the planetary systems are divided into in the material world (2.6.19)
8. What is “the highest benefit that can be awarded to a human being”? (2.6.20)
9. Explain the analogy of the sun as used by Srila Prabhupada in 2.6.22.
10. Who is the first incarnation of the Supreme Lord(2.6.42)

CLOSED BOOK QUESTIONS

1. Explain why this chapter is entitled, “*Puruṣa-sūkta Confirmed.*”
2. Explain the analogy of father and obedient son used in Srila Prabhupada’s purport to 2.6.6?
3. Differentiate between liberated souls and conditioned souls as discussed in 2.6.17 purport.
4. In the Caitanya-caritamṛta, what are the total universes compared to? (2.6.18)
5. Describe some qualities of the planets in the spiritual sky and their inhabitants. (2.6.18)
6. State any three differences between pada vibuti and tripada Vibuti. (SB2.6.19)
7. Describe the viewpoints of the impersonalist and the personalist in respect of their worship of the Lord. (2.6.23)

OPEN BOOK ESSAYS

1. Srila Prabhupada writes in the beginning of this chapter, “The opulences of the universal form of the Lord are described herein.” List aspects of the Lord’s universal form which are the source of facilities for the living entities and discuss the relevance of seeing these opulence in the practice of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.
2. Srila Prabhupada writes in 2.5.20, “The climax of the system of varṇāśrama-dharma, or sanātana-dharma, is clearly expressed here in this particular verse of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam. Describe with reference to 2.5.20 & purport, how application of the system of varṇāśrama-dharma described in this purport can contribute to the expansion of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement.

Chapter 7 Scheduled Incarnations with Specific Functions

CLOSED BOOK SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What will be the effect of the “modernized drilling of the earth” as explained by Srila Prabhupada in SB 2.7.1, purport?
2. What are the criteria for accepting an incarnation of the Lord as being authorized? [SB 2.7.2]
3. What is the meaning of the word *ātma-gatim*. (2.7.3)
4. List three characteristics of the Dhruva planet. [SB 2.7.8]
5. According to the system of varnasrama-dharma, what are the guiding principles for ruling the subjects? [SB 2.7.9]
6. How many Manus appear in one month of Brahma? [SB 2.7.20]
7. What are the "decorations of dead bodies" as stated in the purport to SB 2.7.38.

CLOSED BOOK QUESTIONS

1. Explain the example, given in the purport to 2.7.7, of how the Lord is *apta-kama*. [SB 2.7.7]
2. Compare and contrast jada-yoga with Bhakti-yoga. [SB 2.7.10]
3. Describe any two superhuman activities of the Lord, and discuss how they distinguish Him from the ordinary living beings. [SB 2.7.27-30]
4. Why did the inhabitants of Vrindavan have no fear of the miseries of material existence? [SB 2.7.31]
5. Describe why Lord Krsna advised the inhabitants of Vrajabhumi, not to offer any sacrifices to the heavenly King Indra? [SB 2.7.32]
6. What benefits were obtained by the persons inimically fighting with the Lord or His expansions and associates, in the Battlefield of Kurukshetra? [2.7.34-35]
7. How was the son of Satyavati compassionate unto the people of Kali-yuga, who are described as equal to asses and bulls? [SB 2.7.36]
8. Explain the analogy of the ripened fruit in 2.7.51 purport.
9. Discuss the significance, for you personally, of the phrase "Srimad-Bhagavatam is the torchlight to see things in proper perspective", from the purport of 2.7.52
10. What is the difference between a pure devotee and a pseudo devotee, with respect to hearing the Lord's activities? [SB 2.7.53]

OPEN BOOK ESSAYS

1. Discuss the consequences of “womanly attraction” with reference to 2.7.6 verse and purport and appropriate verses from the Bhakti-sastras.
2. Discuss the significance, for preaching Krsna consciousness, of the response of Lord Siva to Cupid with reference to SB 2.7.7 and relevant Bhakti-sastri verses.
3. Discuss the statement, "Materialistic plans of godless demons are always frustrated by the all-powerful Lord." with reference to SB 2.7.14 and relevant statements from the Bhakti-sastras.
4. Discuss the appropriate mood with which to pray to the Lord with reference to SB 2.7.15-16 verses and purports.

5. Refute the statement, "The impersonal Brahman appears in this material world by accepting a material body", with reference to SB 2.7.26 and appropriate Bhakti-sastri verses.
6. Refute the argument that a living entity can become God, with reference to SB 2.7.27, verse and purport, and at least three Bhakti-sastri verses.
7. "No one can expect any peace and prosperity in a human society full of uncultured lower classes of men." Discuss this statement in relation to Srila Prabhupada's mission, with reference to SB 2.7.38, verse and purport.

Chapter 8 Questions by King Parīkṣit

CLOSED BOOK SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What is the significance of the word aguna? (2.8.1)
2. What is the test of a bonafide spiritual master in disciplic succession? (2.8.1)
3. What does Maharaja Pariksit recommend "to help one see Lord Krsna manifest within one's heart in no time"? (2.8.4)
4. Explain why Brahma is called as ajah? (2.8.9)
5. Explain the analogies of "American government's restrictions" and "sitting on the chair of the high court judge" as given in 2.8.14.
6. List the 4 of the 8 mystic powers. (2.8.20)

CLOSED BOOK QUESTIONS

1. Explain how Srimad Bhagavatam is "auspicious even for the non-devotees"? (2.8.2)
2. Discuss the difference between the hearing of Srimad-Bhagavatam performed by professional men and the transcendental hearing of Maharaja Pariksit. (2.8.3)
3. Explain the analogy of "the autumnal rain that falls on muddy reservoirs of water." (2.8.5)
4. Explain the analogy of the traveler who is satisfied at home after a troubled journey. (2.8.6)
5. Why is Brahma, although called ajah, completely dependent on the mercy of the Lord. (2.8.9)
6. Explain the analogy of cleansing of a small quantity of water by chemical processes. (2.8.5)
7. Explain the two criteria for the acceptance of an incarnation of the Lord as shown by Pariksit Maharaja. (2.8.17)

OPEN BOOK ESSAYS

1. Discuss the significance, for ISKCON's future, of the parampara system as explained by Srila Prabhupada in 2.8.1 purport. Include in your response, suitable references to relevant verses from the Bhakti-sastras.
2. Discuss the relevance of Srila Prabhupada's comment, "the power of absorbing one's mind in Hari katha" in your own life. Give references from Prabhupada's comments in Srimad Bhagavatam 2.8.1-6. And also use appropriate quotes from the relevant Bhakti-sastras.

3. Srila Prabhupada writes in the purport of Srimad Bhagavatam 2.8.18, "...even the aborigines and cannibals can also be engaged in the devotional service of the Lord if they happen to be under the guidance of a genuine devotee of the Lord. " Discuss how this statement reflects Srila Prabhupada's mood and mission with reference to this verse and appropriate reference to Srimad Bhagavatam Canto One verses and purports.
4. Srila Prabhupada writes in the purport of Srimad Bhagavatam 2.8.5, "Thus one who is actually in the confidence of a pure devotee like Nārada or Śukadeva Gosvāmī and thus is empowered by one's spiritual master, as Nārada was by Brahmājī, can not only deliver himself from the clutches of māyā, or illusion, but can deliver the whole world by his pure and empowered devotional strength. Describe how Sri Nārada is empowered by Brahmā to deliver the whole world with reference to this section of Srimad Bhagavatam.
5. Srila Prabhupada writes in the purport to Srimad Bhagavatam 2.8.26, "The message of the Lord, especially from a personality like Śukadeva Gosvāmī, can never be tiring, even though one may be exhausted from other causes." Comment on your experience of hearing Srimad Bhagavatam in relation to this statement with appropriate reference to at least 3 verses of the Bhakti-sastras in your response.

Chapter 9 Answers by Citing the Lord's Version

CLOSED BOOK SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What was Pariksit Maharaja's question and how was it answered by Sukadeva Goswami in Srimad Bhagavatam 2.9.1?
2. Explain the analogy of the child who cries to have the moon from the mother. (2.9.1)
3. List the varieties of species and their respective numbers. (SB 2.9.2)
4. The two misconceptions of "I" and "mine," are manifested in which two classes of men? (3)
5. What analogy does Srila Prabhupada use to reconcile wrong conceptions by the general people about the Paramatma and the jivatmas? (2.9.4)
6. How did Brahmaji achieved his power of creation? (2.9.5)
7. What is considered as the wealth of the brahmanas? (2.9.6)
8. For how long did Lord Brahma meditate in celestial and earthly years? (2.9.8)
9. Why is Lord Brahma called the best among all the tapasvis? (2.9.8)
10. What is the yoga-pitha? (2.9.16)
11. List 3 aspects of the yoga-pitha as described in the Padma Purāṇa. (2.9.16)
12. What do the terms "yoga-maya" and "maha-maya" mean? (2.9.34)
13. Lord Brahmā is related to the Personality of Godhead in which transcendental humor? (2.9.30)
14. Who is the greatest scholar of Srimad Bhagavatam? (2.9.32)
15. List 3 exemplary qualities that Narada Muni exhibited towards his father, Brahmaji. (2.9.41)

CLOSED BOOK QUESTIONS

1. Explain the analogy of dreaming of a golden mountain. (2.9.2)
2. Explain the term atma-tattva with reference to the Paramatma and the jivatma. (2.9.4)
3. What did Lord Brahma do after initiation? (2.9.7)

4. Explain the analogy, “There is no profit in beating husks without grains.” (2.9.9)
5. Explain the analogy of the snake and the rope. (2.9.10)
6. Explain the analogy of the spider as given in the purport of 2.9.28.
7. List Lord Brahma’s 4 questions, which are answered in the catur-sloki Bhagavatam. (2.9.31).
8. After rendering the catuh sloki, what was the Lord’s instruction to Brahmaji? (2.9.37)
9. Describe Vyasadeva’s object of meditation, on the bank of the Sarasvati river? (SB 2.9.45)

OPEN BOOK ESSAYS

1. With reference to Srimad Bhagavatam 2.9.1-3 verses and purport, explain the misconceptions of life, namely “I and mine”, in relation how a living entity began his material life. Give reference to this section of Srimad Bhagavatam and relevant verses from the Bhakti-sastras your response.
2. Srila Prabhupada writes in the purport to 2.9.8, “The Lord’s order descends in disciplic succession through the bona fide spiritual master, and thus execution of the order of the bona fide spiritual master is factual control of the senses. Such execution of penance in full faith and sincerity made Brahmājī so powerful that he became the creator of the universe.” Discuss the significance of this principle in regard your own practice of Krsna consciousness. Give reference to this section of Srimad Bhagavatam and relevant verses from the Bhakti-sastras your response.
3. Summarize Lord Brahmā’s penance, as described in this chapter and discuss the importance of practicing penance in Krsna consciousness. Give reference to Srimad Bhagavatam 2.9.23-24 and appropriate verses from the Bhakti-sastras in your response.
4. Draw points of philosophical significance from catur-sloki Bhagavatam and discuss their relevance for preaching Krsna consciousness. Give reference from 2.9.33-36 and appropriate verse from Bhagavad-gita in your response.
5. Select aspects of the description of the Vaikuntha planets, as described in this chapter, which you find particularly attractive. Give reference to 2.9.11-17 verses and purports in your response.
6. In 2.9.42 purport, Srila Prabhupada describes Narada Muni as “the dearest son of Brahmaji.” Comment on the significance of this statement for your own practice of Krsna consciousness with reference to 2.9.42 verse and purport, and other relevant sections of Second Canto describing Narada Muni.
7. Brahmājī had also advised Nārada previously that he should expand the idea he had heard from Brahmājī. Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu instructed this to Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī in a nutshell, but the disciple Rūpa Gosvāmī expanded this very elaborately, and the same subject was further expanded by Jīva Gosvāmī and even further by Śrī Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura. We are just trying to follow in the footsteps of all these authorities.”(Purport 2.9.44). Explain, with examples, how Srila Prabhupada’s preaching follows in the footsteps of all these authorities and how you can personally follow in their footsteps.

Chapter 10 Bhāgavatam Is the Answer to All Questions

CLOSED BOOK SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What are the 10 divisions of the Bhagavatam? (2.10.1)
2. Briefly explain the terms “sarga” and “visarga”. (2.10.3)
3. Give Sukadeva Gosvami’s definition of liberation (mukti) (2.10.6)
4. Briefly explain the terms “adhyatmic”, “adhidaivic” and “adhibautic”. (2.10.8)
5. What example does Srila Prabhupada use in the purport of Srimad Bhagavatam 2.10.8 to explain “the senses are controlled by superior controlling deities.”? (2.10.8)
6. Explain the term “*svāśrayāśrayaḥ*”. (2.10.9)
7. What examples does Srila Prabhupada use to emphasize the complete dependence of the individual living entities on the total energy of the Lord? (2.10.16)
8. Briefly describe what is meant by maha-kalpa, vikalpa and kalpa (46)
9. Explain the analogy of the lawyer who gives evidence from the past judgment of the court. (2.10.51)

CLOSED BOOK QUESTIONS

1. Explain the example of the sun as given in the purport of Srimad Bhagavatam 2.10.9.
2. What does Srila explain is the “difference between the devotee and the non-devotee.”? (2.10.10)
3. Explain the concept of the *anna-rasamaya* body. (2.10.8)
4. Explain the “last snare of the illusory energy”.(2.10.12)
5. Explain Srila Prabhupada’s statement in Srimad Bhagavatam 2.10.17, “...supreme cause of all generation is not impersonal or without desire”, with reference to appropriate verses and purports from Srimad Bhagavatam Cantos 1 and 2, Sri Isopanisad and Bhagavad-gita.
6. Srila Prabhupada writes in Srimad Bhagavatam 2.10.19, “If a man gets the body of a swine it must be considered the grace of the Lord because the Lord awards the facility.” Explain this statement with reference to appropriate verses from the Bhakti-sastras.
7. Explain the arrangement in the system of creation in relation to the living entity, the senses the demigods and the Supreme Lord. (2.10.24)
8. What is “aja-gala-stana-nyaya”. (2.10.45)

OPEN BOOK ESSAYS

1. “In the four verses it is first said that the Lord existed before the creation, and thus the beginning of the Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam includes the *Vedānta* aphorism *janmādy asya. Janmādy asya* is the beginning, yet the four verses in which it is said that the Lord is the root of everything that be, beginning from the creation up to the supreme abode of the Lord, naturally explain the ten characteristics.”(Purport 2.9.44). Explain how the catur-sloki Bhagavatam, 2.9.33-36, naturally explain the ten characteristics of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam as enumerated in Canto 2 Chapter 10.

2. Discuss the significance of the term sad-dharma, for preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness, as mentioned in Srimad Bhagavatam 2.10.4. Give reference to Srimad Bhagavatam 2.10.4 verse and purport and relevant verses from the Bhakti-sastras.
3. Srila Prabhupada writes in Srimad Bhagavatam 2.10.6, purport, “Everyone is after some pleasure of humor for enjoyment, but does not know the supreme source of all attraction (raso vai sah rasam hy evayam labdhvanandi bhavati).” Discuss general principles drawn from this statement, relevant for your practice and preaching of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, with reference to Srimad Bhagavatam 2.10.6 verse and purport and relevant verses from Bhakta-sastras.
4. Srila Prabhupada writes in Srimad Bahgavatam 2.10.7 “Thus it is concluded by studying the complete *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* that Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa is the ultimate *summum bonum*, or the ultimate source of all energy.” Explain how the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* establishes Krishna as the Supreme Personality of Godhead with reference to 2.10.7 and the Bhagavad gita.
5. Srila Prabhupada writes in Srimad Bahgavatam 2.10.9, “The individual living entity, the jīva, is always dependent on the Supersoul, Paramātmā, because the individual soul forgets his spiritual identity whereas the Supersoul, Paramātmā, does not forget His transcendental position.” Discuss the significance of this statement for preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness with reference to Srimad Bhagavatam 2.10.9 verse and purport and appropriate verses from the Bhakta-sastras.

Canto 2 Thematic Questions

1. Select appropriate statements from Canto 2 which you find especially inspirational. Discuss how these statements are helping you overcome challenges in your spiritual development.
2. Discuss the all-attractive nature of Kṛṣṇa, as presented in Canto 2, Chapter 1 and Chapter 7, with reference to appropriate verses and statements from Srila Prabhupada’s purports in your response.
3. Why are there multiple descriptions of the virat-rupa? Give a brief analysis of each of the three descriptions and the purpose of each description. (2.1, 2.6 and 2.10)