

Chapter Seven

KNOWLEDGE OF THE ABSOLUTE

Lesson 30: Knowing Krsna in Full (7.1-7)

1. What is the result of hearing about (and from) Krsna?
2. Why is it impossible for the non-devotees to understand Krsna?
3. In 7.2 Srila Prabhupada says: "Complete knowledge includes knowledge of the phenomenal (material) world, the spirit behind it (the soul), and the source of both." Explain the relationship of these three based on 7.4-7.
4. Using these first seven verses, give evidence that the Absolute Truth is the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Krsna.

Lesson 31: Knowing Krsna and Surrendering to Him (7.8-14)

1. Explain the first sentence of 7.8 purport: "This verse explains how the Lord is all pervasive by His diverse material and spiritual energies."
2. Write a paragraph on any special appreciation you have for one of the items in 7.8-11.
3. Summarize the relationship between the jiva, the three modes of material nature, and Krsna.
4. Krsna says that those who have surrendered to Him can easily cross beyond the modes of material nature (7.14). Based on the purport, what does surrender entail? Why is this the only way to achieve liberation?

*Lesson 32: The Impious Lack Knowledge and Never Surrender,
The Pious Surrender
(7.15-19)*

1. Briefly describe the four types of miscreants who do not surrender to Krsna.
2. Why are the four kinds of pious men not considered pure devotees?
3. How does having knowledge of Krsna help one to approach and become dear to Krsna?
4. Explain Srila Prabhupada's statement in 7.19: "In the beginning of spiritual realization, while one is trying to give up one's attachment to materialism, there is some leaning towards impersonalism ..."

*Lesson 33: Others Who Have No Knowledge
(7.20-25)*

1. In the process of worshiping demigods for material results, what two things does Krsna say He supplies?
2. In the first sentence to 7.21 Srila Prabhupada writes: "God has given independence to everyone" and in the last sentence he writes, ". . . [the living entities and demigods] are not independent." Explain how we are simultaneously independent of and dependent on the Supreme Lord.
3. People surrender to demigods due to worldly desires and thus cannot understand Krsna (7.20-23). Impersonalists, however, are not cultivating worldly desires, why then are they not able to understand Krsna (7.24-25)?

*Lesson 34: The Bewilderment of the Living Entity and
His Freedom Through Knowledge of Krsna
(7.26-30)*

1. Explain the example of the sun being covered by clouds (7.26).
2. Compare 7.27 to 7.28, verse and purports, and explain the qualification to take up devotional service.
3. This Seventh Chapter gives knowledge of Krsna and how to approach Him. Reread the thirty verses and write a paragraph entitled "Knowing and Surrendering to Krsna."

Chapter Eight

ATTAINING THE SUPREME

Lesson 35: Remembering Krsna (8.1-8)

1. Summarize Srila Prabhupada's comments on karma and yajna (8.2-4).
2. Why is it necessary to practice remembering Krsna in order to be able to fix our mind on Him at death?
3. What does Krsna tell Arjuna to do along with remembering Him? Based on your knowledge of the first six chapters, why is this necessary?

Lesson 36: Returning to Krsna (8.9-16)

1. Explain Srila Prabhupada's statement in 8.9 that it is very difficult to meditate upon something that is impersonal, void, or without qualities.
2. List the elements of the sat-cakra-yoga practice as described in 8.10-13. What is the purpose of this practice? How do we fulfill this same purpose in this Kali-yuga?
3. Krsna says (8.14) that for one who always remembers Him without deviation, He is easy to obtain. Why can Krsna be obtained easily by bhakti but not by other processes (jnana, hatha, karma etc.)?
4. By Krsna's mercy, a devotee goes to Krsna and does not come back to this temporary world. What induces others to want to stay in this world?

Lesson 37: Comparing the Material and Spiritual Worlds, and the Supremacy of Bhakti-Yoga (8.17-28)

1. Describe the material world - what feature of the material world is being emphasized? Describe the spiritual world in contrast.
2. How should a devotee prepare for death?
3. In one sentence, what is the main point of Chapter 8?

Chapter Nine

THE MOST CONFIDENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

Lesson 38: Hearing about Krsna (9.1-3)

1. What is the confidential, more confidential, and most confidential knowledge?
2. Srila Prabhupada discusses the various elements to 9.2 in his purport. Give brief explanations of the following: pavitram (the purest), uttamam (transcendental), pratyaksavagamam (directly perceived), dharmyam (the principle of religion), su-sukham (happily performed), avyayam (everlasting).
3. "Faith is the complete conviction that simply by serving the Supreme Lord, Sri Krsna, one can achieve all perfection." (9.3) Expand this idea into a paragraph.

Lesson 39: Krsna's Relationship to the Material World (9.4-10)

1. Explain the yogam aisvaram (mystic potency) of the Supreme Lord using at least two of the following analogies: The sun and sunshine, the king and his departments, Atlas holding the earth planet, or the wind and the sky (9.4-6).
2. Krsna says that although the cosmic manifestation is operating under His will, He is detached. Why then does He create these universes?
3. Use the examples of the high court judge (9.9) and of the fragrant flower (9.10) to explain Krsna's simultaneous involvement in this world and detachment from it.

Lesson 40: Non-worshippers and Worshipers (9.11-15)

1. Use 9.11, 17 purports to defeat the following: The only difference between Krsna and myself is that Krsna, having attained Brahman realization, understands that He is God, while I have not yet advanced this much.
2. Who is actually a Mahatma (great soul)? What are his activities? How can we come to this position?

Lesson 41: Krsna is the Supreme Object of Worship
(9.16-25)

1. After reading and understanding 9.16-19, what conclusion should one come to?
2. What result is achieved by those who follow the Vedic injunctions with the purpose of seeking sense enjoyment?
3. In 4.11 Krsna says: "As all surrender unto Me, I reward them accordingly." Elaborate further on Krsna's reciprocation with His devotees (9.22).

Lesson 42: The Glories of Directly Worshipping Krsna
(9.26-34)

1. Krsna is atma-rama, not in need of anything. Furthermore, in the spiritual world Srimati Radharani is cooking for Him and undoubtedly Her cooking is better than ours. Why, then, does Krsna say He will accept a leaf, flower, fruit, or water from us?
2. Explain the principle of yukta-vairagya discussed in 9.27-28.
3. Is Krsna partial to His devotee? Explain.
4. How can a person who has just finished committing sinful activity possibly be considered saintly?
5. In the first two verses of this chapter, Krsna promised to speak "the most confidential knowledge." Analyze 9.14, 22, 26, 29, 31, 34 and discuss how this most confidential knowledge refers to the relationship between Krsna and His devotee.

Chapter Ten

THE OPULENCES OF THE ABSOLUTE

Lesson 43: Krsna's Position as the Origin of Everything (10.1-7)

1. Demigods, sages, and great scholars cannot understand Krsna. What is our process to understand Him?
2. Briefly summarize Srila Prabhupada's comments on intelligence, truthfulness, non-violence, and charity (10.5).
3. Why is hearing of Krsna's greatness necessary for advancing in devotional service?

Lesson 44: The Catur-Sloki (10.8-11)

1. These four verses (Catur-sloki) are considered to be the essence of the *Bhagavad-gita*. Write them out and state the main point of each purport (one or two sentences at most).
2. Describe the relationship between Krsna, the material energy, and the living entity.
3. Knowing the relationship between Krsna, the material energy, and the living entity, what should we do? What is the essence of the process of re-establishing our relationship with Krsna?
4. From where does the process of devotional service get its unique power, not found in any other process?

Lesson 45: Krsna's Opulences (10.12-42)

1. Arjuna wants Krsna to speak of His opulence so that others may be benefitted. Why specifically does he ask about Krsna's all-pervasiveness?
2. Pick one or more of the items that Krsna identifies Himself with in 10.20-39 and write a paragraph on how it helps you to better appreciate Krsna.
3. In one sentence, what is the main point of this chapter?

Chapter Eleven

THE UNIVERSAL FORM

Lesson 46: Krsna shows Arjuna His Universal Form
(11.1-31)

1. How can the finite living entity understand the infinite Supreme Lord?
2. Why did Arjuna ask to see the universal form? Why in general are devotees not so interested in it?
3. How was Arjuna's relationship with Krsna affected by seeing the universal form?

Lesson 47: "Become My Instrument" and Arjuna's Prayers
(11.32-46)

1. What is the purpose of this cosmic manifestation?
2. How can we apply Krsna's injunction "just become an instrument" in our own lives?
3. Why does Arjuna apologize to Krsna?

Lesson 48: Only Devotees Can See
Krsna's Two Armed, Supreme Form
(11.47-55)

1. Explain the relationship of a devotee to each of the following:
 - a. the universal form
 - b. four handed Narayana
 - c. the original form of Sri Krsna
2. Give evidence from this chapter that the Absolute Truth is the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Sri Krsna.
3. Briefly explain the following elements of 11.55: Krsna-karma (mat-karma-krt - "doing My work"), mat paramah, mad-bhaktah, sanga-varjitah, and nirvairah.
4. In one sentence, what is the conclusion of the eleventh chapter?

Chapter Twelve

DEVOTIONAL SERVICE

Lesson 49: Bhakti over Impersonalism (12.1-7)

1. Why is the path of jnana-yoga (impersonalism) difficult?
2. How can something apparently made of stone or wood be worshipable? Why is Deity worship particularly beneficial to those of us who have attachment to the "bodily conception?" (12.5)
3. Explain the examples of the parents caring for their child and of a drowning man being rescued (12.6-7).

Lesson 50: Progressive Stages of Devotion (12.8-12)

1. If we cannot fix our mind upon Krsna without deviation, then we are instructed to practice the process of bhakti-yoga. What does this entail, and what is the purpose of such practice?
2. Summarize the instructions given in 12.10-11. If we are not able to undergo the internal process of purification mentioned in 8.9, then what should we do?
3. In 12.12 Srila Prabhupada discusses the importance of giving up the fruits of ones work (karma-phala-tyagas). This of course, was one of the themes of the first six chapters. How does work lead to knowledge? When can it lead directly to devotional service?

Lesson 51: Qualities that Endear One to Krsna (12.13-20)

1. If I understand that currently I am in ignorance, identifying myself with this temporary body, and if I actually understand that the purpose of life is to purify myself of this ignorance, then how will I react when distressful situations arise in my life (12.13)?
2. In 12.18-19 Srila Prabhupada says: "One who is not a devotee has no good qualification." But don't we sometimes see non-devotees with good qualities? Explain.
3. Srila Prabhupada says in 12.18-19 that a devotee, "does not extraneously endeavor to acquire these qualifications, but engagement in Krsna consciousness . . . automatically helps him develop them." Explain.