

In Support of Varnasrama to Attain the Lord's Lotus Feet

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Volume: 02
Issue: July'10-August'10

Focus on Money



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In God We Trust...

Srila Prabhupada: ...Just like we are now speaking on the slogan, "In God We Trust." Is that the slogan, "In God We Trust"? So this is a slogan, but it is the duty of the government, that "We are using this slogan, but actually what we are doing about people's education that they may know what is God and then trust?" But everyone is godless. And still, as a matter of fashion, we are writing, "In God We Trust." This is another cheating. Nobody trusts in God, and they write, "In God We Trust." And unless I write... unless I cheat you that way, how a man will accept one piece of paper as one thousand dollars? [laughter] You see? It is a grand cheating, that "I am giving one thousand dollars to you." But if I value, it is not even one farthing. This is called maya. It is not, but I accept. I accept. If people become enlightened, "No, we are not going to accept this piece of paper as one thousand dollars. We must have gold," so many things will be solved immediately. So many things. But because we agree to be cheated, the cheaters are cheating and things are going on wrong. This is called Kali-yuga. (Excerpt from Srila Prabhupada's lecture on Srimad-Bhagavatam 1.15.45, Los Angeles, December 23, 1973)

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Srila Prabhupada Speaks on Money

Back to Self-Sufficient Communities & Barter System

Prabhupada: And what is this nonsense, keeping some paper and thinking he has got money? How cheating it is going on, from government's side. And therefore artificial inflation. You can print, so the price is increased. Because you haven't got to pay him real money, you print and pay him, and he will ask, "Give me this money. Then I'll supply." "All right, take." You print and pay.

...**Ramesvar:** They control the amount of interest on loans. It's all standardized from what they call the Federal Reserve System. This was introduced during the Depression by the bankers.

Prabhupada: Whatever they do, when you receive money in the paper it has no value. Bad money. It is bad money. It is not good money.

Ramesvar: Actually most purchasing in America is done on credit now. Even a step beyond paper money is credit, no money, buying on no money, loans... We don't find these things in Vedic culture too much.

Prabhupada: There was never paper money.

Hari-Sauri: No. They used to...

Prabhupada: That barter system. You have got rice; I have got something else. So I give you something; you give me something.

Hari-Sauri: But isn't inflation possible even with coins? Even if you have gold coins, isn't inflation still possible?

Prabhupada: No, gold is acceptable by everyone.

Ramesvar: The main point is the barter system.

Hari-Sauri: Yes, well its value is recognized by its purchasing power.

Prabhupada: Yes.

Hari-Sauri: So you can alter... Say, you have one gold coin. You can alter what it...

Prabhupada: No. If you introduce real metal coin, then there will be no inflation.

Hari-Sauri: There's only a certain amount of metal.

Prabhupada: That's all right. The exchange... The more demand, more price. So suppose here is a spectacle. I am demanding ten rupees. So both of you are customer, and you are asking for this spectacle. Then I am increasing my price. So if you can pay me by printing paper, you'll accept any price. That means artificially price is increased. Is it not?

Ramesvar: Yes.

Hari-Sauri: So the idea is that with coins the man who has the goods, he can't...

Prabhupada: Therefore... Suppose he has got ten coins; you have got ten coins. I am wanting fifteen coins. So there will be no competition. I have to accept either from you or you, ten coins.

Hari-Sauri: Right. Because there's only that much money.

Prabhupada: But if I increase price and if you print... If you have got power to print, "All right. Take fifteen coins, er, fifteen rupees." But you [can] print and pay me. But if the gold, the coin, is there, you cannot increase on that.

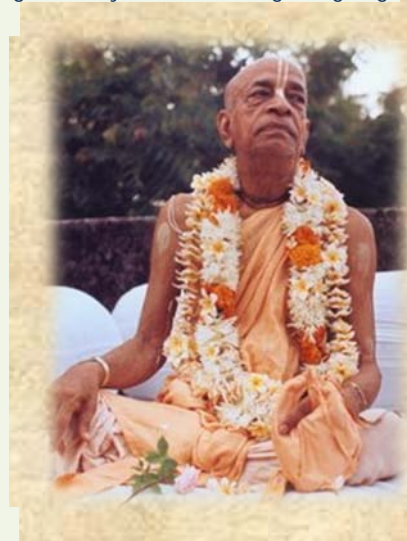
Hari-Sauri: He can't increase the price of the product, and the man who got..., 'cause there's only a certain amount of money there.

Prabhupada: But I can increase the price provided you pay me. But by printing, it is easier. But if you have to collect coins, that will be difficult, so there will be no artificial increase of.... That is wanted. And these rascals, they are artificially printing paper as money. And I am a rascal; I'm demanding more because I have got customer.

Ramesvar: The difference between Vedic culture and..., the Krishna conscious culture and the modern culture is very, very dramatic, very big difference. So the transforming of society...

Prabhupada: And besides that, if we concentrate in farm project there will be no need of exchange, because I'll be satisfied with my products. That's all. There is no need of exchange. Whatever I need, I get in my farm.

[Excerpts from conversations with disciples, Bhubaneswar, January 21, 1977]



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HH Bhakti Raghava Swami Speaks on Money



\$ Money Sweeter Than Honey \$



Money is so dear that one conceives of money as being sweeter than honey. Therefore, who can give up the desire to accumulate money, especially in household life? Thieves, professional servants [soldiers] and merchants try to acquire money even by risking their very dear lives. [SB 7.6.10]

"Money is sweeter than honey" is a common expression which has a special significance for most people living in today's modern era of industrialization. The global politics of governance and diplomacy now place more emphasis on artificial factory-based economic growth than on the traditional natural agriculture-based growth of a country thus forcing people to live in such a way that they will not be able to subsist without receiving a pay check at the end of the month. That is the propaganda being promoted and to a large extent, that is today's "reality of life". The recent article entitled "Need to Migrate Workers from Agriculture to Services for High Growth: RBI", which appeared in the Press Trust of India in Mumbai on June 18, 2010 in no unclear terms give credence to this on-going policy. This trend is a global one which has been in practice now since many decades. That such an article appeared in a public forum simply shows how governments take for granted that economic development through industrialization is meant to be the norm for one and all. [<http://beta.profit.ndtv.com/news/show/need-to-migrate-workers-from-agriculture-to-services-for-high-growth-rbi-75760>]



For most people in today's modern world, if one does not receive a pay check at the end of the month, one cannot survive. Those who cannot join the labour force due to illness, lack of job opportunities, or sometimes due to sheer laziness, will approach government established agencies in order to receive social assistance benefits commonly referred to in the West as "welfare assistance". With rising unemployment in different countries, more and more people are either receiving a monthly "welfare check" or a monthly "unemployment check". Others, who may be disabled due to either natural calamities or due to the tragedies brought about by the modern way we live, may receive a monthly "disability pension check". In some of the more "developed" countries people who reach 60 or 65 years of age qualify to receive an "old age pension check" at the end of every month until they expire. All of this is extremely taxing on governments who can only meet such expenditures by levelling increased taxes upon the few healthy folks who can work.

All of the above has come about due to severe deviations from the standard Vedic norms of life. The Vedic view of life is that one should strive for self-realization and be satisfied with whatever Krishna arranges while working a reasonable number of hours a day, the general norm being not more than eight. The goal of life was not based on economic development as we find in modern day society, but on self-development or self-realization. In the Vedic culture, the medium of exchange was not based on an artificial and fraudulent paper money currency but was based rather on real wealth, gold coins and similar minerals. Actual wealth was measured in how much grains one had in stock, in how many cows one protected and in how much land one cultivated. Before marriage, the criteria for accepting a bridegroom was how many cows and how much land he owned.

Canakya Pandita, one of the well known moralists of his times, stated that real happiness was not having to leave home to make a living and not being a debtor. Srila Prabhupada made a similar statement when he said that intelligence means not leaving the village and going to the cities to engage in hard labour. Canakya Pandita also explained that three things should never be neglected: fire, disease and debts. According to the Vedic teachings,

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"one should own as much as he immediately needs." [SB 7.13.36]. For this reason, Srila Bhaktisiddanta Sarasvati Thakura would instruct his temple leaders to spend all they had received the same day and thus avoid keeping money which could be a source of anxiety.

Dharma, Artha, Kama, and Moksa

The four pillars in the Vedic culture are found in 1) *dharma* (religion), 2) *artha* (money), 3) *kama* (satisfaction of the senses) and 4) *moksa* (liberation). Vaisnavas generally reject these four activities thinking them to be maya and binding one to this material world. However, these four activities can either be a source of bondage or a source of liberation depending on the consciousness in which they are performed.

Religion (*dharma*) practiced for selfish material motivation, money (*artha*) gained through non-traditional occupations and for merely material pursuits, satisfaction of the senses (*kama*) performed merely for unrestricted self-centered sense enjoyment and liberation (*moksa*) pursued for merging into brahman, will certainly bind one more and more to this material world. However, these same activities of dharma, artha, kama and moksa when performed in proper knowledge and understanding of the real goal of life can help one make steady progress in spiritual life. The varnasrama system gives this proper understanding and guidelines as to how such four activities are meant to be performed in life, with a view of satisfying Lord Hari.

Dharma should be performed in the context of devotional service (*param dharma*) which will result is "*yayatma suprasédati*" [SB 12.6], where all things will be satisfied. *Artha* should be in keeping with the standard traditional occupations given within an agrarian based society (production of food and protection of cows, *krishi go raksya* [Bg 18.43], being by far the most prominent activities) where the emphasis on self-sufficiency and the bartering system resulted in most people not having to deal the local currency. *Kama* should be performed in a regulated way for the purpose of keeping body and soul together with the goal and higher purpose of rendering devotional service to the Lord. *Moksa* will then be automatically attained by one who performs the three above activities in such higher consciousness.

Modern Paper Currency Flawed

Within the system of varnasrama, three-fourth of the population does not earn money, namely the brahmacaris, those in the vanaprastha and those in the sannyasa asrama. Grhasthas, in particular the ksatriya householders and the vaisya householders, assisted by the sudra householders, are meant to support the rest of society. The brahmanas and sudra class do not earn money, only the ksatriya class through taxation and the vaisya class, but only one portion of the vaisya class, those engaged in trade, *vanijyam*. Those engaged in both *krishi*, agriculture and *go-raksya*, cow protection, also do not deal with money but rather with goods.

The real currency should be in minerals such as gold or silver, and the real wealth should be in having tangible goods such as land, cows, grains, etc. The artificial paper currency currently in use is both artificial and fraudulent since it does not represent real wealth. Most countries in the world are in severe debts (and increasing every year), including the USA, with only temporary and flawed adjustments being made to salvage the present global economic crisis.

It was only a few decades ago that in most countries of the world, the majority of people were living in rural areas and most people did not even need money. The land is meant to provide for all our necessities of life. Even in a country like Canada, going back to the early part of the 20th century when most Canadians were living in the country, practically speaking all their necessities were met from the land, including clothing and shelter.

The Emerging Politics of Food Scarcity [<http://www.earth-policy.org/>]

"The last century has seen ballooning populations develop impossible economies – all based on a dream of perpetually cheap energy, and based on ignorance of the laws of finiteness in regards to all the natural elements that make our life possible. The cheap energy bubble is bursting, soil and water are in overdraft, and the result is acute vulnerabilities for nations who've exceed their resource base. Industrialized countries amongst these are passing those vulnerabilities along – to nations that still have true wealth (soil, water) but who do not have social



infrastructures sufficient to properly protect them. Many poor [countries] are having their natural capital sold out from under them," said Lester R. Brown, Earth Policy Institute .

Spiritual Economics

The Vedic model of local and global economy is based on simplicity, psychology, logic, and God conscious principles. Sriman Dhanesvara Das is well versed in the basic concepts of varnasrama dharma and has deeply studied the essential teachings of the *Bhagavad-gita* in the context of economy. He has compiled a Krishna conscious thesis in the form of a book entitled "*Spiritual Economics*". A portion of his introduction can help us gain more insight on the topic of money.

"*Spiritual Economics* as a cross-disciplinary study combining psychology, economics and the spiritual science of the *Bhagavad-gita* explains why there is vulture capitalism, cut-throat competition, unending economic hardship, exploitation, inequity, and struggle in this world. "*Spiritual Economics*" explains the origin and solution of our ecological problems. "*Spiritual Economics*" explains why the present economic methods can do nothing to solve these problems, reveals the actual source of our economic problems, and explains the only factual solution that can create an economy that serves everyone. "*Spiritual Economics*" explains the actual source of our economic problems and how to solve them, once and for all."

A Memo From the Past

What Have we Learned in 2064 Years?

The following short message written during the time of the Roman Empire by Cicero (55 BC) gives us a little insight regarding the topic at hand:

"The budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed lest Rome become bankrupt. People must again learn to work, instead of living on public assistance." The answer is: "Nothing."

Conclusion

As widely advised by our acaryas, whatever money comes our way, we should utilize in the service of the Lord. The Vedic norm is that 50% of one's income is meant to be used for helping spread Krishna consciousness. Money, when thus used in the Lord's service, becomes a means of liberation for the living entity. But money used for sense gratification, either self-centered or extended, becomes a source of bondage to this material world.

The varnasrama system is so designed as to help us minimize and ultimately do away with the need for paper money by stressing a lifestyle of simple living and high thinking, in keeping with the principles of self-sufficiency and sustainability, depending on the mercy of the Lord.

- *HH Bhakti Raghava Swami*

This banking, fanking will collapse...

Prabhupada: Everything I get. So I haven't got to go outside for exchange. If you are satisfied in your farm—I am satisfied—then where is question of exchange? There is no need of artificial... So this banking, "fanking," everything will collapse automatically. There is no money, who is going to keep money in the bank?

Hari-Sauri: Who needs it?

Prabhupada: [laughs] So this artificial way of banking, that will be also collapsed.

Hari-Sauri: This is revolutionary.

Ramesvar: It's very hard for the mind to...

Prabhupada: No, simply do this.

Ramesvar: Such a dramatic transformation of society.

Prabhupada: Yes. Whatever it may be... We should be satisfied locally by our food, by our cloth, by our milk. That's all. Let the whole world go to hell. We don't care. If you want to save yourself also, you do this. Here is an example. If you want artificial life, city life, and hellish life, you do. But we shall live like this. This is the ideal life."

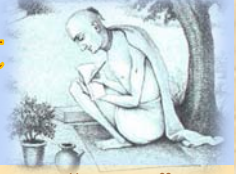
[Excerpts from Srila Prabhupada's conversations with his disciples, Bhuvaneshwar, January 21, 1977]





Soon Gotten, Soon Spent; Ill Gotten, Ill Spent

- Vrindavanlila dd & HG Saci Kumar Das



In order to survive in the material world one needs to work. Srila Prabhupada says, “Karma”, you have to work. You cannot maintain yourself without working. That is material world. Material world is not spiritual world. In the spiritual world you haven't got to work, neither you have to eat. Everything is complete. But in the material world means for your maintenance you have to work.” In order to earn money through the “sweat of their brow”, kaliyuga has introduced radical changes in terms of definition of money and areas in which the sweat is shed and money earned.

Most of the people are engaged in *ugra karma*, which is not advised. Prabhupada defined that inescapable work as being “very simple”, which is to “Grow some food grains and keep some cows, take the milk, and just prepare nice foodstuff and eat.”

The methods employed to earn money can be categorized in any of the 3 ways – sattva guna, rajo guna and tamo guna. Money earned without cheating others or without performing sin may be called as money earned in goodness. Money earned by cheating others or through burglary or through speculation may falls as earned in passion. And money earned by performing sins like slaughtering animals or selling liquor and such may be classified as one in the mode of ignorance.

There is an English proverb - *soon gotten money, soon spent; ill gotten money, ill spent*. We, including the family members and even others who happen to use that money also partake the karma that accrues in earning that money. Their consciousness gets affected by the means. If money is earned through satvic means then it reflects in the behavior or overall condition of the recipient of that money. They are pious, they are helpful to others, they give charity and are generally free of anxiety, peaceful and the family enjoys the opulence over several generations. Such families are called "Garbha shrimant". Whereas, when the money is earned in rajo or tamo gunas or by unfair and sinful ways, the direct or indirect enjoyers of that money generally turn out to be sinful, selfish, mentally and physically diseased, and are constantly in a state of anxiety. Even when they are opulent, it does not last long. Their money goes away on liquor or on disease. They undergo its karmic reaction even in their future lives. Thus, it is extremely important to know and use proper (sattvic) means to earn money. In today's world many methods of earning money are accepted as legal (considered fair) but it is not so spiritually. The Vedic and material yardsticks are different. For e.g., investing in stocks or in commodities. Almost every company is directly or indirectly involved in sinful activities as they release their shares in the market. Livelihood is earned by greedily exploiting the natural resources like oil drilling, mining etc; involvement in violent businesses like running hatcheries, slaughter houses, liquor trade etc; or businesses that pollute the environment like automobile or power generating industries etc. The list is endless. Agriculture, commerce, and cow protection (krsi-vanijya -go-raksha) are regarded as approved activities of vaishyas or of earning livelihood. But all three of them are contaminated and we need to be careful. We have already discussed commerce, but even in agriculture the scene demands caution. With farmers growing cash crops instead of trying to meet food requirements, rampant usage of chemical fertilizers, now GM seeds, mechanized ways of farming through tractors etc has contributed to its deterioration. Sadly it is the dairy industry which is contributing maximum to the exploitation of cows and bulls. The displacement of bulls from the ploughing scene and transport has

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landed them in slaughter houses. The dairy industry views cows useful only as long as she is capable of producing milk and child bearing. Even the calf is considered a big liability in this world of ill defined utilities. The people dependent on those organizations or individuals only earn ugra karma for themselves. This has resulted in forming a vicious circle of means and result. Everything is so precariously placed in Kaliyuga. Everything is just the reverse of what it ought to be [Translation by Srila Prabhupada, BG 16.9: "...the demoniac, who are lost to themselves and who have no intelligence, engage in unbeneficial, horrible works meant to destroy the world."]

Now we face strange problem of global food crisis. India, the citadel of spiritual values and culture has stooped so low that it ranks fourth in exporting beef. Is there any correlation between the two? It is time to ponder that. Yes, there is a deep connection.

etam drstim avastabhya/ nastatmano 'Ipa-buddhayah

prabhavanty ugra-karmanah / ksayaya jagato 'hitah [BG 16.9]

The erstwhile leaders encourage this slaughterhouse civilization in the name of economic progress. There is propagation of usage of GM seeds, hybrid seeds in the name of agricultural development; there is opening of our economy to the point of vulnerability in the name of globalization; there is open cheating in the name of giving paper money which does not exist! Our education system is such that anything Vedic is scorned and everything 'modern'/ 'hep' is revered. This 'modern' system has given unemployment not only to human beings but also to the cows and bulls; it has given us inflation not only in luxuries but even in food prices; it has given us broken families. It has taken away protection from all the people who need it the most- cow, brahmanas, women, child, old, and diseased. In the Vedic age there was no concept of goshalas, child labor, crèches, multi-specialty clinics or global hospital chains; old age homes or bars simply because there was no such problem. The economy which was once so well-structured and was considered as the golden bird, is just a poor skeletal remnant of its old prosperity. When a shudra occupies the leadership position these unwanted developments are bound to happen. Retrospection would reveal that the saving grace was 'daiva-varnasrama' fabric. Cow protection and preservation of brahminical culture are interrelated. When the focus again shifts from material concern to spiritual advancement, slowly these commodities and stock markets that have only profit making as the objective, will give way to more Krsna-centric activities.

"We cannot divert our attention for money making activities. If we direct our attention like others, then it becomes karma. And karma is very dangerous for persons who want to go back to Godhead." [Srila Prabhupada, Letter: June 21, 1968]

"Of all kinds of gifts, the gift of cows is applauded as the highest. Cows are the foremost of all things. Themselves sacred, they are the best of cleansers and sanctifiers. People should cherish cows for obtaining prosperity and even peace. Cows are said to represent the highest energy both in this world and the world that is above. There is nothing that is more sacred or sanctifying than cows." [cf. *Mahabharata*, Anusasana Parva, Sections LXXXIII - LXXVII - LXXVI]

According to Srila Prabhupada an acre of land and a cow hold solution to one's economic problem. He clearly said, "The villagers, they have cows and land. That is sufficient for their economic problem." In order to uphold these value systems, it is important that we have Krsna-centric localized farm communities. It is these communities which uphold the key to spiritual progress through reduced material concerns while ensuring self-sufficiency and sustainability. Hare Krsna!

Henry Ford: "It is well that the people of the nation do not understand our banking and monetary system, for if they did, I believe there would be a revolution before tomorrow morning."

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Spiritual Advice to Businessmen

- By A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada

Today's subject is "Culture and Business." We understand business to mean "occupational duty." According to our Vedic culture, there are different types of business. As described in Bhagavad-gita (4.13), *catur-varnyam mayā sṛstam guṇa-karma-vibhagaśah*. The four divisions of the social system, based on people's qualities and types of work, are the brahmanas [intellectuals and teachers], the ksatriyas [military men and state leaders], the vaiśyas [farmers and merchants], and the sudras [laborers]. Before doing business, one must know what kinds of work there are and who can do what kind of work. People have different capabilities, and there are different types of work, but now we have created a society where everyone takes up everyone else's business. That is not very scientific.

Society has natural cultural divisions, just as there are natural divisions in the human body. The whole body is one unit, but it has different departments, also--for example, the head department, the arm department, the belly department, and the leg department. This is scientific. So in society the head department is represented by the brahmana, the arm department by the ksatriya, the belly department by the vaiśya, and the leg department by the sudra. Business should be divided scientifically in this way.

The head department is the most important department, because without the head the other departments--the arm, the belly, and the leg--cannot function. If the arm department is lacking, business can still go on. If the leg department is lacking, business can go on. But if the head department is not there--if your head is cut off from your body--then even though you have arms, legs, and a belly, they are all useless. The head is meant for culture. Without culture, every type of business creates confusion and chaos. And that is what we have at the present moment, because of jumbling of different types of business. So there must be one section of people, the head department, who give advice to the other departments. These advisors are the intelligent and qualified brahmanas.

samo damas tapah saucam ksantir arjavam eva ca

jñanam vijñanam astikyam brahma-karma svabhava-jam

"Peacefulness, self-control, austerity, purity, tolerance, honesty, knowledge, wisdom, and religiousness--these are the natural qualities by which the brahmanas work." [Bhagavad-gita 18.42]

The brahmanas, the head of the social body, are meant to guide society in culture. Culture means knowing the aim of life. Without understanding the aim of life, a man is a ship without a rudder. But at the present moment we are missing the goal of life because there is no head department in society. The whole human society is now lacking real brahmanas to give advice to the other departments. Arjuna is a good example of how a member of the ksatriya department should take advice. He was a military man; his business was to fight. In the battle of Kuruksetra he engaged in his business, but at the same time he took the advice of the brahmana-deva, Lord Kṛṣṇa. As it is said, *namo brahmanya-devaya go-brahmana-hitaya ca jagad-dhitaya kṛṣṇaya govindaya namo namah*

jagad-dhitaya kṛṣṇaya govindaya namo namah

"Let me offer my respectful obeisances unto Lord Kṛṣṇa, who is the worshipable Deity for all brahminical men, who is the well-wisher of cows and brahmanas, and who is always benefiting the whole world. I offer my repeated obeisances to the Personality of Godhead, known as Kṛṣṇa and Govinda." [Viṣṇu Purana 1.19.65]

In this verse the first things taken into consideration are the cows and the brahmanas (go-brahmana). Why are they stressed? Because a society with no brahminical culture and no cow protection is not a human society but a chaotic, animalistic society. And any business you do in a chaotic condition will never be perfect. Business can be done nicely only in a society following a proper cultural system. Instructions for a perfect cultural system are given in *Srimad-Bhagavatam*. At a meeting in the forest of Naimisaranya, where many learned scholars and brahmanas had assembled and Srila Suta Gosvami was giving instructions, he stressed the varnasrama social system (*atah pumbhir dvija-srestha varnasrama-vibhagaśah*). The Vedic culture organizes society into four varnas [occupational divisions] and four asramas [spiritual stages of life]. As mentioned before, the varnas are the brahmana, ksatriya, vaiśya, and

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sudra. The asramas are the brahmacari-asrama [celibate student life], grhastha-asrama [family life], vanaprastha-asrama [retired life], and sannyasa-asrama [renounced life]. Unless we take to this institution of varnasrama-dharma, the whole society will be chaotic. And the purpose of varnasrama-dharma is to satisfy the Supreme Lord. As stated in the *Visnu Purana* (3.8.9),

*Varnasramacaravata purusena parah puman
visnur aradhyate pantha nanyat tat-tosa-karanam*

According to this verse, one has to satisfy the Supreme Lord by properly performing one's prescribed duties according to the system of varna and asrama. In a state, you have to satisfy your government. If you don't, you are a bad citizen and cause chaos in society. Similarly, in the cosmic state--that is, in this material creation as a whole--if you do not satisfy the Supreme Lord, the proprietor of everything, then there will be a chaotic condition. Our Vedic culture teaches that whatever you do, you must satisfy the Supreme Lord. That is real culture. *Sva-karmana tam abhyarcya siddhim vindati manavah*. You may do any business--the brahmana's business, the ksatriya's business, the vaisya's business, or the sudra's business--but by your business you should satisfy the Supreme Personality of Godhead. You may be a merchant, a professional man, a legal advisor, a medical man--it doesn't matter. But if you want perfection in your business, then you must try to satisfy the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Otherwise you are simply wasting your time. In *Bhagavad-gita* (3.9), Lord Krsna says, *yajnarthat karmanah*. The word *yajna* refers to Visnu, or Krsna, the Supreme Lord. You have to work for Him. Otherwise you become bound by the reactions of your activities (*anyatra loko 'yam karma-bandhanah*). And as long as you are in the bondage of karma, you have to transmigrate from one body to another. Unfortunately, at the present moment people do not know that there is a soul and that the soul transmigrates from one body to another. As stated in *Bhagavad-gita* (2.13), *tatha dehantara-praptih: "When the body dies, the soul transmigrates to another body."* I've talked with big, big scientists and professors who do not know that there is life after death. They do not know. But according to our Vedic information, there is life after death. And we can experience transmigration of the soul in this present life. It is a very common thing: A baby soon gets the body of a boy, the boy then gets the body of a young man, and the young man gets the body of an old man. Similarly, the old man, after the annihilation of his body, will get another body. It is quite natural and logical. Actually, we have two bodies, the gross body and the subtle body. The gross body is made up of our senses and the bodily elements--bones, blood, and so on. When we change our body at death, the present gross body is destroyed, but the subtle body, made of mind, intelligence, and ego, is not. The subtle body carries us to our next gross body. It is just like what happens when we sleep. At night we forget about the gross body, and the subtle body alone works. As we dream we are taken away from our home, from our bed, to some other place, and we completely forget the gross body. When our sleep is over we forget about the dream and become attached again to the gross body. This is going on in our daily experience. So we are the observer, sometimes of the gross body and sometimes of the subtle body. Both bodies are changing, but we are the unchanging observer, the soul within the bodies. Therefore, our inquiry should be, "What is my position? At night I forget my gross body, and during the daytime I forget my subtle body. Then what is my real body?" These are the questions we should ask.

So you may do your business, as Arjuna did his business. He was a fighter, a ksatriya, but he did not forget his culture, hearing Gita from the master. But if you simply do business and do not cultivate your spiritual life, then your business is a useless waste of time (*srama eva hi kevalam*). Our Krsna consciousness movement is being spread so that you do not forget your cultural life. We do not say that you stop your business and become a sannyasi like me and give up everything. We do not say that. Nor did Krsna say that. Krsna never said, "Arjuna, give up your fighting business." No, He said, "Arjuna, you are a ksatriya. You are declining to fight, saying, 'Oh, it is very abominable.' You should not say that. You must fight." That was Krsna's instruction. Similarly, we Krsna conscious people are also advising everyone, "Don't give up your business. Go on with your business, but simply hear about Krsna." Caitanya Mahaprabhu also said this, quoting from *Srimad-Bhagavatam: sthane sthitah sruti-gatam tanu-van-manobhih*. Caitanya Mahaprabhu never said, "Give up your position." Giving up one's position is not very difficult. But to cultivate spiritual knowledge while one stays in his position--that is required. Among the animals there is no cultivation of spiritual life. That is not possible; the animals cannot cultivate this knowledge. Therefore, if human beings do not cultivate spiritual knowledge, they're exactly like animals (*dharmena hinah pasubhih samanah*). So we should be

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very conscious about our eternal existence. We, the spirit soul within the body, are eternal (na hanyate hanyamane sarire). We are not going to die after the annihilation of our body. This is the cultivation of knowledge, or *brahma-jijnasa*, which means inquiry about one's self. Caitanya Mahaprabhu's first disciple, Sanatana Gosvami, was formerly finance minister in the government of Nawab Hussein Shah. Then he retired and approached Caitanya Mahaprabhu and humbly said, "My dear Lord, people call me pandita." (Because he was a brahmana by caste, naturally he was called pandita, meaning "a learned person.") "But I am such a pandita," he said, "that I do not even know who or what I am." This is the position of everyone. You may be a businessman or you may be in another profession, but if you do not know what you are, wherefrom you have come, why you are under the tribulations of the laws of material nature, and where you are going in your next life--if you do not know these things, then whatever you are doing is useless. As stated in *Srimad-Bhagavatam* (1.2.8),

*dharmah svanusthitah pumsam visvaksena-kathasu yah
notpadayed yadi ratim srama eva hi kevalam*

"The occupational activities a man performs according to his own position are only so much useless labor if they do not provoke attraction for the message of the Personality of Godhead." Therefore our request to everyone is that while you engage in your business, in whatever position Krsna has posted you, do your duty nicely, but do not forget to cultivate Krsna knowledge. Krsna knowledge means God consciousness. We must know that we are part and parcel of God (*mamaivamso jiva-loke jiva-bhutah sanatanah*). We are eternally part and parcel of Krsna, or God, but we are now struggling with the mind and senses (manah sasthanindriyani prakrti-sthani karsati). Why this struggle for existence? We must inquire about our eternal life beyond this temporary life. Suppose in this temporary life I become a big businessman for, say, twenty years or fifty years or at the utmost one hundred years. There is no guarantee that in my next life I'm going to be a big businessman. No. There is no such guarantee. But this we do not care about. We are taking care of our present small span of life, but we are not taking care of our eternal life. That is our mistake. In this life I may be a very great businessman, but in my next life, by my karma, I may become something else. There are 8,400,000 forms of life. *Jalaja nava-laksani sthavara laksa-vimsatih*: There are 900,000 forms of life in the water, and 2,000,000 forms of trees and other plants. Then, *krmayo rudra-sankhyakah paksinam dasa-laksanam*: There are 1,100,000 species of insects and reptiles, and 1,000,000 species of birds. Finally, *trimsal-laksani pasavah catur-laksani manusah*: There are 3,000,000 varieties of beasts and 400,000 human species. So we must pass through 8,000,000 different forms of life before we come to the human form of life. Therefore Prahlada Maharaja says, *kaumara acaret prajno dharman bhagavatan iha*

durlabham manusam janma tad apy adhruvam arthadam

"One who is sufficiently intelligent should use the human form of body from the very beginning of life--in other words, from the tender age of childhood--to practice the activities of devotional service. The human body is most rarely achieved, and although temporary like other bodies, it is meaningful because in human life one can perform devotional service. Even a slight amount of sincere devotional service can give one complete perfection." (Bhag. 7.6.1) This human birth is very rare. We should not be satisfied simply with becoming a big businessman. We must know what our next life is, what we are going to be. There are different kinds of men. Some are called karmis, some are called jnanis, some are called yogis, and some are called bhaktas. The karmis are after material happiness. They want the best material comforts in this life, and they want to be elevated to the heavenly planets after death. The jnanis also want happiness, but being fed up with the materialistic way of life, they want to merge into the existence of Brahman, the Absolute. The yogis want mystic power. And the bhaktas, the devotees, simply want the service of the Lord. But unless one understands who the Lord is, how can one render service to Him? So cultivating knowledge of God is the highest culture.

There are different kinds of culture: the culture of the *karmis*, the culture of the *jnanis*, the culture of the *yogis*, and the culture of the *bhaktas*. Actually, all of these people are called yogis if they are doing their duty sincerely. Then they are known as karma-yogis, jnana-yogis, dhyana-yogis, and bhakti-yogis. But in *Bhagavad-gita* (6.47) Krsna says, *yoginam api sarvesam mad-gatenantaratmana*

sraddhavan bhajate yo mam sa me yuktatamo matah



Who is the first-class yogi? Krsna answers, "He who is always thinking of Me." This means the Krsna conscious person is the best yogi. As already mentioned, there are different kinds of yogis (the karma-yogi, the jnana-yogi, the dhyana-yogi, and the bhakti-yogi), but the best yogi is he who always thinks of Krsna within himself with faith and love. One who is rendering service to the Lord--he is the first-class yogi. So we request everyone to try to know what he is, what Krsna is, what his relationship with Krsna is, what his real life is, and what the goal of his life is. Unless we cultivate all this knowledge, we are simply wasting our time, wasting our valuable human form of life. Although everyone will die--that's a fact--one who dies after knowing these things is benefited. His life is successful. The cat will die, the dog will die--everyone will die. But one who dies knowing Krsna--oh, that is a successful death. As Krsna says in *Bhagavad-gita* (4.9),

*janma karma ca me divyam evam yo vetti tattvatah
tyaktva deham punar janma naiti mam eti so 'rjuna*

"One who knows in truth the transcendental nature of My appearance and activities does not, upon leaving the body, take his birth again in this material world, but attains My eternal abode, O Arjuna."

So wherever we go all over the world, our only request is, "Please try to understand Krsna. Then your life is successful." It doesn't matter what your business is. You have to do something to live. Krsna says, *sarira-yatrapī ca te na prasiddhyed akarmanah*: If you stop working, your life will be hampered. One has to do something for his livelihood, but at the same time he has to cultivate knowledge for the perfection of his life. The perfection of life is simple: try to understand Krsna. This is what we are pre-scribing all over the world. It is not very difficult. If you read *Bhagavad-gita As It Is*, you will come to understand Krsna. Krsna explains everything. For the neophytes,



Sri Radha-Syamsundar, Govardhan, Se'bad Krsna says, *raso 'ham apsu kaunteya prabhasmi sasi-suryayoh*: "My dear Kaunteya, I am the taste of water, and I am the light of the sun and the moon." There is no need to say, "I cannot see God." Here is God: the taste of water is God. Everyone drinks water, and when one tastes it he is perceiving God. Then why do you say, "I cannot see God"? Think as God directs, and then gradually you'll see Him. Simply remember this one instruction from *Bhagavad-gita*--*raso 'ham apsu kaunteya prabhasmi sasi-suryayoh*: "I am the taste of water; I am the shining illumination of the sun and moon." Who has not seen the sunlight? Who has not seen the moonlight? Who has not tasted water? Then why do you say, "I have not seen God"? If you simply practice this bhakti-yoga, as soon as you taste water and feel satisfied you will think, "Oh, here is Krsna." Immediately you will remember Krsna. As soon as you see the sunshine, you will remember, "Oh, here is Krsna." As soon as you see the moonshine, you will remember, "Oh, here is Krsna." And *sabdah khe*: As soon as you hear some sound in the sky, you will remember, "Here is Krsna."

In this way, you will remember Krsna at every step of your life. And if you remember Krsna at every step of life, you become the topmost yogi. And above all, if you practice the chanting of *Hare Krsna, Hare Krsna, Krsna Krsna, Hare Hare. Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare*, you will easily remember Krsna. There is no tax. There is no loss to your business. If you chant the Hare Krsna mantra, if you remember Krsna while drinking water, what is your loss? Why don't you try it? This is the real culture of knowledge. If you cultivate this knowledge and at the same time go on doing your business, your life will be successful. Thank you very much.

[Source: www.harekrsna.com/philosophy/acarya/writings/jsd1.htm, SP's lecture at Bharata Chamber of Commerce, January 30, 1973.]

nyayam deho deha-bhajam nr-loke / kastan kaman arhate vid-bhujam ye

tapo divyam putraka yena sattvam / suddhyed yasmad brahma-saukhyam tv anantam

"My dear sons, there is no reason to labor very hard for sense pleasure while in this human form of life; such pleasures are available to the stool-eaters [hogs]. Rather, you should undergo penances in this life by which your existence will be purified, and, as a result, you will be able to enjoy unlimited transcendental bliss."

(SB 5.5.1)

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The Dangers of Kali in Standardized Gold

- HG Nandanandana Das (Stephen Knapp)

In the story of Kali requesting Maharaja Pariksit for places in which he could stay, as related in Srimad-Bhagavatam (1.17.39), Kali begged for one more place to reside, besides the four that have been previously described. So Maharaja Pariksit gave permission for Kali to live where there is gold, because wherever there is the hoarding of gold there is also falsity, intoxication, lust, envy, and enmity. In other words, all of the previous four bad habits of Kali-yuga and their ramifications would culminate in the hoarding of gold. Therefore, the personification of Kali and the evil found in this yuga that we are in became gold standardized. This has led to innumerable problems in this age, and it is simply getting worse as the age of Kali progresses.

Now one thing to remember here is that we have been warned about the dangers of standardized gold in Srimad-Bhagavatam, which was written around 5,000 years ago. But how does this danger manifest? How would a 5,000 year old statement or prophecy about gold apply to us today? Let us explain this further.

Throughout history governments have coined and printed their own money, based on actual supply of whatever commodity was backing the money, such as gold or silver. And even without the issued coins there was also the barter system in which people would exchange an equal value of one thing for something else, or labor in exchange of commodities. This is what standardization is all about. In the area of currency, a five-dollar bill, for example, would be worth five dollars of gold. Of course, they removed that standard years ago and now they can print all kinds of dollar bills that have no standard value. Falsity sets in when actual gold, as in gold coins, is no longer used as a currency and paper money replaces it. The paper money does not fairly represent the value of the actual reserved gold. The result of this is artificial inflation and manipulation because the currency is not real. This inflation can set off multitudes of reactions in the value of goods: changes in the value of your savings and the money you earn, etc.

Then add to this the widespread ignorance and confusion regarding tax laws, and now you have a system designed to keep people under control and enslavement. If people really knew how the money system worked, most people would be astounded. In a letter to Thomas Jefferson in 1787, John Adams wrote, "All perplexities, confusion, and distress in America arise not from defects in the Constitution, nor from want of honor and virtue so much as from downright ignorance of the nature of coin, credit and circulation." In other words, a dishonest money system is the basis of the economic and social problems in America. Money can either build or destroy a nation. If a money system is honest, all people can prosper. A dishonest system, however, enriches a few at the cost of many.

Centuries ago people stored their gold in the goldsmith's vault for a fee, in which case, they would get a receipt for their gold. Afterwards, people would exchange these receipts among themselves as a money substitute for commodities or services. They could redeem the receipts for the gold. However, only a small amount of the gold was ever reclaimed, allowing the goldsmith to issue receipts for more gold than he had. So some receipts did not represent anything. In fact, he could use some receipts himself to make purchases or to lend at interest and yet take title to property as collateral. In this way, the increase in fraudulent receipts decreased the value of legitimate receipts. By manipulating the number of receipts in circulation, the wealth and prosperity of the community were quietly confiscated by the goldsmith without anyone knowing.

By reducing the number of receipts and money in circulation, the goldsmith could cause a depression in which he could increase his wealth at the expense of others and foreclose on property. However, by increasing the number of receipts he could stimulate the economy and bring prosperity into the community. In this way, we can see that any money substitute like paper currency is honest only when it accurately represents real money.

America's economic problems are based on this practice of issuing notes that are not accurately backed by gold. This is standard practice in the banking industry that is based on the modern day goldsmith known as The Federal Reserve and their Federal Reserve Notes. Remember, a Note is an I.O.U., or debt. Paying a debt with another debt is not possible.

[Source:<http://www.dandavats.com/?p=2798>, an adoption from a segment of "The Vedic Prophecies" by Stephen Knapp; *Excerpt from Slavery to Banks: A Vedic Prophecy*]

"Paper money eventually returns to its intrinsic value: zero." – Voltaire

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• Village Out-Reach Program to Veerannapet



Returning to My Rural Roots



- By *Bhakta Srinivas*

U Till sometime ago, I had been totally occupied with the making of documentary movies on Varnasrama. I was new, just 15 days old into Krishna Consciousness, ignorant but as my service gave me more and more opportunity to interact with devotees, especially HH Bhakti Raghava Swami. As I recorded his interviews and heard his lectures, the importance of land, cows, and Krishna made its impact on me. Village and rural life, the unique significance of cows was my latest interest. I had a new found reverence for my Vedic roots.



Now I have been able to buy about 10 acres of land with good water resources and ready for cultivation in Veerannapet village not so far off from Hyderabad city. It is a great experience to be working in the farm and spending time in various activities related to agriculture and farming, especially with bulls. Of course, at the moment I do not have cowshed facility for keeping the cows and bullocks. I have begun by hiring the bulls for work on need basis, however I do plan to have one cow shed down the line. I want the sweet mooing of cows to fill up my house and farm.



Now I have planted paddy in 4 acres and in the rest I have put mixed dal. I wish to keep it totally holistic and organic farming as done traditionally by our ancestors not so long ago. I am new and open to suggestions and research information in this regard by other devotees and workers.

Just three years ago, I was totally entrapped in maya. Just to earn little money and fame I was working in the polluted atmosphere of film industry and never bothered to visit my village even once in year, but now I have not only given up my hellish work but come back to my rural roots. It is a miracle which is not possible without the blessings of vaishnavas.

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• Varnashrama News



Zimbabwe introduces \$100 billion banknotes (*www.cnn.com*)

July 19, 2008. Harare. Zimbabwe's troubled central bank introduced \$100 billion banknotes Saturday in a desperate bid to ease the recurrent cash shortages plaguing the inflation-ravaged economy.

The bills officially come into circulation Monday, although they were on the foreign currency dealers market Saturday. As high as they are, though, the bills still aren't enough to buy a loaf of bread. They can buy only four oranges. The new note is equal to just one U.S. dollar.



Western Union plans unique money transfer with SBI (*Economic Times*)

August 25, 2010. Kolkata. Western Union Services India Pvt Ltd is planning to launch a money transfer service with State Bank of India, the largest lender in the country, in March, a top company official said here on Wednesday. "It will be a new service in India and SBI would be the first to offer...we plan to launch it in March," Anil Kapur, Managing Director, told reporters.

The New York Stock Exchange-listed Western Union does not offer direct transfer to bank accounts at present. Money is physically handed over to customers through a network of agents.

Western Union has tied up with Bandhan Microfinance, which, as Western Union's sub-agent, would activate 800 of its locations by the year-end for the remittance of money from outside.



Rs 28,000cr Games expense sounds like wrong priority: Premji (*Times of India*)

August 26, 2010. Recently, the central government disclosed that its total spend on the Delhi Commonwealth Games is likely to be Rs 11,494 cr. This number is disconcerting for two reasons. One, because it is an order-of-magnitude away from its original estimate of Rs 655 crore. Two, because the real cost of the games will be much higher if we were to include: a. Rs 16,560 cr additionally spent by Delhi government on upgrading the capital's infrastructure — a new airport terminal, wider roads, new flyovers, Metro rail extensions, and so on; b. Real cost of labour — labourers got sub-minimum wages, worked in unsafe conditions, and were housed in sub-human tenements; c. The human

cost of driving the poor out of streets and out of sight.

The term 'commonwealth' originally meant public welfare, things that are for the greater good of society. Do the Commonwealth Games pass this commonwealth test? Is this Rs 28,000-crore drain on public funds for the greater common good? ... At times like these, it will serve our leaders well to recall Gandhiji's talisman: "Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen, and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he gain anything by it? Will it restore him to a control over his own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to Swaraj for the hungry and spiritually starving millions?"



Food inflation at 10.05% y-o-y on Aug 14

(*Reuters*)

August 26, 2010. New Delhi. Food inflation continued to ease in mid-August, while fuel inflation was flat on the week, but concerns over emerging demand-side pressures on prices will likely see a hawkish central bank hike key rates by 25 basis points when it reviews policy next month.

"Food inflation is expected to moderate due to good monsoon rainfall and may stabilise around 6 to 7 percent by March," said N.R. Bhanumurthy, an economist at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy. Data released on Thursday showed the food price index, which has a weightage of over 15 percent in the WPI, rose an annual 10.05 percent in the week to Aug. 14, slower than its 10.35 percent rise in the previous week, as the prices of fruits and pulses eased.

Fuel price index, which make up little over 14 percent in the WPI, rose 12.57 percent, steady from the previous week. On Tuesday, the central bank said in its annual report it may have to give precedence to containing inflation over other policy objectives as it has emerged as a major concern.



Fake currency kingpin held in Bihar (*The Times of India*)

August 24, 2010. Chennai. The prime accused in a fake currency racket, who was arrested by the CB-CID police on August 19 in Bihar, was brought to Chennai on Monday. He was produced before a magistrate's court in Katihar district of



that state and a transit warrant secured to bring him her. The police found that Rs 18 lakh had been deposited by various persons across the country after successfully circulating the fake currency among the public.

Based on the information provided by Afzar Ali, another person already arrested by the police in connection with the circulation of fake currency, CB-CID sleuths nabbed A Samsul Haque (46) of Katihar district. The sleuths verified his bank accounts and found that Rs 18 lakh had flown into his account from Delhi, Mumbai, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Chennai.



Bond traders rake in big profit with money market arbitrage (*Economic Times*)

August 26, 2010. Mumbai. Bond dealers have made a neat profit over the past few days by arbitraging between the money market and the Reserve Bank of India's reverse repo facility.

For a brief spell on Monday and Tuesday, overnight call money rates under the collateralised borrowing and lending obligation (CBLO) fell below 1% to 0.30% and 0.50%. Some banks managed to strike deals and borrow money at such low rates and park it the next day with the RBI, where they receive 4.5% under the reverse repo while some others lent money borrowed from the CBLO facility to others in the call money market the next day.



Our Own Symbol (*The Hindu*)

August 23, 2010 . New Delhi. No longer will we

write INR or Rs to indicate the Indian currency. India now joins the elite club of Dollar, Euro, Pound and Japanese Yen, becoming the fifth in the world, to have its own currency symbol.



First keyboard to integrates the new indian rupee symbol (www.dailylatestnews.com)

August 18, 2010. The new Indian currency Rupee symbol has just come to existence and already there have been prominent talks as to who would be creating the technology to incorporate this new symbol both into software and hardware.

It seems TVS has played very intelligently and put its best foot forward to launch its new keyboard which includes the new Indian currency symbol.

The officials have already made the Rupee available on the internet where the people can download the same but now this new keyboard will facilitate an easy entry through the keyboard while typing.

The new keyboard launched by TVS is the first of its kind and gives you the option to use the new symbol easily and this is called the Gold Bharat. The officials at TVS were smart enough to launch this on the eve of an important day that is the 63rd independence day of India.

The new keyboard has the capability to support numerous strokes which can be roughly up to 50million in number. It also incorporates the 60+15cN magnitude of operating force which is of a very light touch. The keytops are resistant to any wear and tear and have been Cut or impressed into a surface by laser technology. The mean time for Gold Bharat is 200,000 hours and therefore it is highly dependable for the users. It is priced at Rs.1,495.



Credit cards seen losing out as debit gets preferred status (*Economic Times*)

August 18, 2010. Mumbai. The Indian consumer is slowly warming up to spending through debit cards as more point of sale terminals (POS) at merchant establishments are becoming debit card compliant. Besides, debit card is also emerging as a preferred transaction tool for e-commerce payments.



E-Payments constitute 35% in 2009-10 and growing...! (<http://trak.in/tags/business...>)

August 25, 2010. Electronic commerce and finance are growing rapidly - In India, currently only 3% of the transactions out of the \$1 trillion personal consumption expenditure are met by electronic payment mode. Needless to point that remaining dues are met by cash transactions. But, this phenomenon is correcting at a faster clip.



Black money: Ram Jethmalani seeks cross-examination of official (www.dnaindia.com)

August 27, 2010. New Delhi . Eminent jurist Ram Jethmalani and others today sought permission of the Supreme Court to cross-examine a senior revenue officer who filed an affidavit claiming immunity from disclosing some documents relating to the issue of black money stashed in foreign banks.



• **Mails to the Editor**

Dear Vrindavana Lila mataji,

"Land, cows and Krishna make a perfect synthesis." This sentence found in your Madhusudan Mas issue probably answers my original question. From synthesis it became synthetic as an adjective.

Your newsletters are truly excellent. Thank you for sending them.

We were once sitting informally with Prabhupada in his room at Mayapur one morning in September, 1974. Prabhupada began describing how the British destroyed India by constructing the railway system. Previously people lived in the villages, but when the railway lines connected the villages to the cities, then the youth began leaving the villages for factory jobs in the cities. This destroyed the simple village life. Prabhupada next explained that in the village if a person needed a knife he would go to a blacksmith who would make a knife that would last a lifetime. Now with the introduction of mass production, the factory produces thousands of knives that are designed to last only a short time so that people must always buy more. Also, as an incentive to buy the products a label saying 'Made in U.K.' would be printed. In this way the economy was destroyed by factory products.

- *HG Daivisakti dd (Srila Prabhupada's disciple)*

Dear Vrindavanalila,

Please accept my blessings.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada. Hare Krishna.

I received this last issue of *Eight Petals* from Shailesh The theme is a good one, especially since I am often asked by devotees what system of health care we will have in a barter economy or with Spiritual Economics. Nature is certainly the best cure, and Sri Krishna has provided everything we need, if we will only learn what He has given us.

Next issue is about 'Money' - this is an issue that is close to me. I hope that you have read my book in this regard. Several chapters are important - 4, 5, and 6. In Chapter Six, I challenge that our modern economic system is the economics of atheism, and in my lectures I remark that modern money is a tool of Kali, and is fraught with cheating and illusion. I am VERY critical of modern economics and money in particular. ...

For further education on money, please have a look at my www.spiritual-econ.com, the section "your economic tutorial", and watch the videos there. ...

- *HG Dhaneshwar das (Srila Prabhupada's disciple), Ukraine.*

Hare Krishna Mataji,

Please accept my best wishes. I am grateful to you for sending THE EIGHT PETALS. I very much appreciate the article by HH Bhakti Raghava Swami. May Lord Krsna give us the intelligence to follow maharaj's ideas and instructions to move forward the social movement of vaishnava society.

- *HG Pundarikaksha Dasa*

Hare Krishna Mataji.

Please accept my humble obeisance. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Very nice articles mataji. Thanks for sharing very wonderful information.

Excited to see your next edition.

- *HG SriRamaDasa*

Hare Krishna Vrindavanlila mataji,

Thank you so much that you are able to organize it worldwide to inform and assemble, especially young devotees to see the necessity of varnasrama and live it also. That was Jagatguru's vision and last wish in November 1977.

Jai Srila Prabhupada!

- *Bhaktin Subha*

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Hare krishna !

Please accept my humble obeisance.

Thank you very much for this wonderful article. Thanks and God bless. Please keep sending these wonderful articles, because it is really helpful. ...

Srila Prabhupada ki Jai!!!

- *Bhakta Vinay Anam*

Dearest Vrindavanlila Mataji,

Hare Krishna, Mataji. Please accept my humble wishes. Thank you so much for sending me the latest of The Eight Petals newsletter. I was wondering where I can get the past issues. Thank you so much beforehand.

- *Your friend, Bhaktin Sita, Indonesia*

Hare Krishna Mataji.

Please accept my humble obeisance.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

First I would like to thank you for sending across the newsletter for Trivikram month.

It is an amazing collection of articles/thoughts, wonderfully put together by you.

It is always a pleasure to see your enthusiasm, and consistency of service toward your Guru Maharaj, and Srila Prabhupada.

Enthusiasm is infectious, and I pray to Sri Sri Radha Kunjabihari to get a trace of that amrut-anu (drop of nectar ...Meanwhile, we had the good fortune to have HG Madan Gopal Prabhu from Sri Sri Radha Gopinath Temple, Chowpatty, Mumbai, with us in Pune Temple. He was with us to share his insights on the significance of cow-protection and leading a life more attuned to the Vedic style.

He had a tremendous effect on his audience, and suddenly all were scrambling to get their share of cow-blessings (as Madan Gopal puts it) in the form of consumable-products available at the stall which was put-up...

- *HG Amar Gaur das, India.*

Hare Krishna dear readers,

Please accept my humble obeisances,

All Glories to Srila Prabhupada, All Glories to Sri Sri Guru & Gauranga!

With the mercy of Srila Prabhupada, we have been receiving number of mails showing interest in 'Varnasrama'. In addition to the above, there have been several others - encouraging as well as very inspiring - mails from different devotees located in different parts of the world. To name a few: HG Andharupa dd (Srila Prabhupada's disciple), HG Vaishnava Seva Dasa, Bhakta Pavan, Bhakta Srinivas Kumar, Bhakta Manash De, and Bhakta Shom Shaw.

I wish to thank each one of the devotee who took the pains to respond and thus become a part of the inevitable spiritual revolution, envisioned by Srila Prabhupada. Though the space constraint may not allow me to share it with everybody, I however want to say that every mail is very precious. Please keep writing as it helps me improve the quality of my service to Srila Prabhupada.

Before we part to meet with the next issue, I wish you all a very very happy and spiritually invigorative Krsna Janmashtami!

-From the Editor

(Vrindavanlila dd)



The mails/ articles can be posted to eightpetalsnewsletter@gmail.com or vrindavanlila.brs@gmail.com

Focus for the next issue-

Ecology

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