

**LIFE OF LORD KRISHNA IN SREEMAD BHAGAVATHAM : A SERMON TO LIVE IN HARMONY
WITH NATURE**

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Sreemad Bhagavatham highlighted the power of nature in its various forms. Trees were depicted as symbols of abundance and veneration. Rivers were worshipped as embodiments of goddesses. Naturally all forms of nature have spirits to be respected.

Today the world is facing certain greatest environmental Problems such as ecological imbalance, climate change, global warming and pollution. The belief that human beings are separate from and superior to nature and man's indiscriminate exploitation of nature unmindful of the consequences of his actions are the two important factors which cause environmental crisis. Vedas lay bare the structure of the world that is nature oriented. Many verses of Bhagavatham reflect the earnest wish of Lord Krishna to live in harmony with nature. The existence and welfare of human society depend upon maintaining a balance with nature .

The life of Sree Krishna unshrouds the necessity of afforestation to enjoy the fruits and happiness of life for several years. Bhagavatham reminds us that the ecological balance of the earth would be jeopardised,if nature had to face any harm or injury. It teaches that trees should not be uprooted. It will cause soil erosion. On account of this man has to experience the wrath of flood. The tree symbolises life and fertility in many Hindu cultures.

Lord Krishna convinces us that air, water and plants are indispensable for the existence of the earth. Plants are capable of purifying the atmosphere. Some plants have the power to heal diseases. Filthy and poisonous substances should not be poured into lakes, ponds or rivers. It is exemplified through *Kaliyamardhanam* by Krishna. With regard to the environment, the Peepal tree is being given great importance. It has been identified that trees and plants are pollution fighters. They can interrupt poisonous gases and dust. These trees and plants cause the atmosphere to be brimmed with a lot of oxygen .

The slokam in Bhagavatha Mahatmyam, Padmapuranam Utharakhandam, Chapter 1, slokam 50 discloses the power of Vrindavan forest to make changes in one's life. Here is a story that Bhakti Devi reached the place Urjwaram and experienced a lot of sufferings. She has travelled across the world to make changes in her poor condition of old age. But she couldn't. But once as soon as Bhakti Devi entered the north to Vrindavan, she was rejuvenated and reinstated in her original bliss form. The Bhagavatha Mahatmya mentioned her renewal, especially noting that she began to dance. Bhagavatham tells that this blessed Vrindavanam forest has a special feature and a capacity to change even man's old age condition and to sustain his beauty and youth.

The famous woodland Vrindavana has virgin pastures for cows, abound in sacred hills, grasslands, trees, creepers and other vegetation. This Vrindavana was pleasant to live in all seasons. It will not be affected by any seasonal changes. SreeKrishna protected this beautiful forest with its Govardhana mountain and sand dunes on the Yamuna banks from all kinds of destruction.

A stanza in Bhagavatham highlighted that Yamuna river of Vrindavan gives us pure and healthy water to sustain our life. Lord SreeKrishna with cowherds and cattle walked

towards the Yamuna river through the groves of trees to drink the pure, cool and healthy waters of the Yamuna river. Krishna told cowherds that the noble beings, the trees and rivers in the forest lived entirely for the sake of others suffering wind, rain and heat. They have protected us from these disturbances. Actually they have provided sustenance to all creatures in all ways. They have fulfilled the needs of man and all other creatures with their leaves, flowers, fruits, shadows, roots, barks, timbers, ashes, wood and water. This shows that man's life in this world becomes meaningful, fruitful and peaceful when his energy, wealth, intelligence and speech are utilised for the welfare of others.

To get better health people are advised to take strolls in the forest. It is believed that stress can be decreased. Beneficial changes can be seen in the body if one finds time to spend in nature. It is said that if people can live in the midst of a forest, they will feel changes in their body. Changes that are associated with protection against cancer, immunity power and lower blood pressure. Nature is a relief for health issues like heart disease, depression, cancer, anxiety and attention disorders.

Ancient scriptures ranging from vedas, Sreemad Bhagavatham etc provide a systematic code of conduct which make Earth a better place and which inculcate a sense of respect, protection and preservation of Mother Earth. It can be seen in Bhagavatham that Lord SreeKrishna give undue importance to the protection and preservation of environment and purity of environment. Teachings of Bhagavatham forbade man from exploiting nature. The life of Lord SreeKrishna itself taught man to live in harmony with nature and to recognize the Divinity prevailed in all living and non-living things in the world.

Sreemad Bhagavatham envisages the world as God's cosmic body. Protect nature, its environment and sustain its natural resources are the ways to express devotion for God.

One can experience real happiness only when he lives a devout life in harmony with nature.

The world is taught an important fact that nature and human being form an inseparable part of life support system. Man cannot survive alone. He can't separate himself from his environment and nature. Bhagavatham can induce spiritual awareness which is the only solution for the current deplorable condition. It taught us that in all the animate and inanimate objects of the universe there is the presence of Lord SreeKrishna. If this knowledge dawns in one's mind, he will try to love and help others. Thereby he makes his mind pure. Purity of mind is a prominent factor to sustain ecological balance.

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