

Elocution

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Class :- V-VII

Srila Prabhupada: The Acharya Who Changed the World

In every age, the world witnesses great thinkers, leaders, and reformers. But very rarely do we see someone who transforms hearts, lives, and even the destiny of humanity. Srila Prabhupada was such a person, a true acharya, one who teaches by example.

He didn't come to take, he came to give the greatest gift: Krishna consciousness. At the age when most people retire, Srila Prabhupada boarded a cargo ship to America, with no money, no followers, and only the desire to fulfill the order of his spiritual master. What gave him the strength? It was his deep faith in Krishna and his boundless compassion for all of us lost souls in Kali-yuga.

In just 12 years, he circled the globe 14 times, started over a hundred temples, translated and wrote more than 80 volumes of Vedic literature, and inspired thousands to take up a spiritual life. But most importantly, he brought Krishna into the lives of people everywhere; whether in big cities or small villages.

Srila Prabhupada changed the world, not through force, but through truth, love, and purity. He gave us the Hare Krishna Maha-mantra, the path of bhakti-yoga, and the vision of a Krishna conscious society based on simple living and high thinking.

Today, millions chant Krishna's name, honor prasadam, and read his books. All because one acharya had unshakable faith in Lord Krishna and deep compassion for all of us. He showed how one person, surrendered to Krishna, can indeed change the world.

Let us try to follow in his footsteps by chanting, reading his books, and sharing Krishna with others. Because the greatest way to honor such a world-changing acharya is to carry forward his mission.

Tulasi Devi

Tulasi Devi is not an ordinary plant. She is worshipped as a pure devotee of Lord Krishna. Scriptures describe her as a divine goddess who took the form of a sacred plant just to serve Krishna.

Every day in temples around the world, devotees offer arati to Tulasi Devi. Special prayers are sung to request her blessings so we can get the service of Radha and Krishna. The prayer says, "Vrindayai tulasi-devyai priyayai kesavasya cha, vishnu-bhakti-prade devi satyavatyai namo namah." This means, "O Tulasi, beloved of Krishna, you give devotion to Him. I offer you my respectful obeisances again and again."

Srila Prabhupada taught that Krishna does not accept any offering unless a Tulasi leaf is included. That is why tulasi leaves are added to all food items before they are offered to the Lord. Even the water used to bathe Tulasi is considered holy.

Tulasi Devi is known by many beautiful names like Vrinda, Vishnupriya, and Haripriya which mean she is very dear to Lord Krishna.

Tulasi also has another name – Vrinda Devi. In the spiritual world, she helps arrange Krishna's pastimes in a beautiful forest called Vrindavan. So, she is not just a plant but a very important helper of Krishna.

Even if someone is new to spiritual life, just by taking care of Tulasi, offering her water, or chanting near her, they get special blessings. She helps us become peaceful, kind, and more connected to Lord Krishna.

Man is the Architect of his own fortune

Ever wondered why bad things happen to good people? Why we suffer? Why some days are awesome and others morose? If God exists, why does He keep quiet about it? The answer to all the above questions is karma.

Karma is one of those topics that many people know about, but few understand the intricacies of it. In literal terms, “karma” means “activity” and the law of karma regulates the reactions to our activities. If we act in good, or pious ways, we reap good reactions. If we act in impious, sinful, or destructive ways, we reap bad reactions in the future. Christian theology explains, “As ye sow so ye shall ye reap” while in physics karma is expressed by Newton’s Law, “For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.”

Karmic reactions include not only things that happen to us, but determine our health, wealth, intelligence, physical appearance, and social status, as well as our personalities and inclinations. While we have some degree of freedom to choose our current actions, our choices are influenced by our natures, or personalities, which have developed from our previous actions.

Karma thus locks us up in a cycle of action and subsequent reaction. As long as we are in this cycle, we will experience both happiness and distress. Even if we act in a pious way, we destine ourselves to accept another material body at death to enjoy the reactions to our materially good actions. As long as we accept a material body we can not avoid the miseries of disease, old age, and death.

Fortunately karma is temporary. We can break free from its bonds by performing spiritual acts in service to Krishna. Such acts of devotion, or bhakti-yoga, purify the soul and gradually awaken our spiritual knowledge and innate love for Krishna. Thus, both our karma and our long-standing desire to enjoy life within the illusory material world—the root cause of our bondage—are destroyed.

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: The World is One Family

The ancient Vedic ideal Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, meaning “the world is one family,” offers a timeless solution to the problems of division, conflict, and inequality that plague modern society. This philosophy teaches that every living being is a spiritual soul, part and parcel of the same Supreme Being. Just as members of a family care for one another despite differences, this worldview inspires us to treat all with respect, compassion, and dignity regardless of nationality, religion, race, or species.

When we recognize that we are not these temporary bodies, but eternal souls connected to one divine source, the walls of discrimination begin to fall. This understanding brings genuine unity and peace, as we start to see every human, animal, and plant as belonging to one universal family. In such a society, selfishness is replaced by service, hatred by harmony, and exploitation by love. By living a life centered on devotion, self-realization, and service to others, we begin to act not out of ego, but out of care for the greater good. In this way, the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam can become a powerful force for healing the world.

This spiritual perspective also teaches that real peace comes not merely from political agreements or social reforms, but from inner transformation. When individuals cultivate qualities like humility, tolerance, and compassion through spiritual practice, they naturally become instruments of harmony in the world. Conflicts arise when people act out of bodily identification and selfish desires, but when we understand our eternal nature and the presence of the Divine in every heart, our actions become guided by higher values. This shift from material consciousness to spiritual consciousness is the foundation for lasting peace.

Furthermore, this principle encourages ecological balance and respect for all life. If the earth is our mother and all beings are our family, how can we exploit or harm them? The spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam promotes responsible living, where food is shared as sacred prasadam, resources are used with gratitude, and animals are protected rather than exploited. In such a world, there is no hunger, no hatred, and no loneliness - only the warmth of a spiritual family bound by love for the Supreme. By adopting this worldview, humanity can rise above divisions and live in a society that truly reflects the harmony of nature and the will of the Divine.

Transformative Power of the Bhagavad Gita

The Bhagavad Gita, spoken by Lord Krishna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra, is not just a religious scripture; it is a timeless guide for personal transformation and inner awakening. Though it was spoken over 5,000 years ago, its wisdom remains deeply relevant today. Arjuna, the mighty warrior, was overwhelmed with confusion and sorrow, but through Krishna's teachings, he rose above fear and doubt to act with clarity and purpose. This transformation is possible for anyone who sincerely studies and applies the Gita's teachings in daily life.

The Gita empowers individuals by helping them understand their true identity, not as the body or mind, but as eternal spirit souls (atma), part and parcel of the Supreme. This realization brings freedom from anxiety, fear of death, and attachment to temporary outcomes. It shifts one's focus from selfish desires to selfless service, encouraging a life rooted in duty, devotion, and higher consciousness. The Gita's teachings inspire us to act without attachment to results, offering our efforts as a service to God and humanity.

One of the most powerful messages of the Gita is the call to rise above dualities of success and failure, pleasure and pain, and remain steady in one's spiritual path. This balance of mind gives great strength in facing life's challenges. Whether one is a student, leader, parent, or worker, the Gita offers clear principles for ethical living, disciplined action, and inner peace. It teaches how to perform one's responsibilities without being bound by the results, leading to liberation from the cycle of karma.

Beyond philosophy, the Gita offers a path of love and devotion. It reveals that the highest goal of life is to reawaken our forgotten relationship with the Supreme Lord and serve Him with a pure heart. This devotional aspect transforms the soul, bringing lasting joy and purpose. Thousands of people around the world, regardless of their background, have found renewed hope, character, and direction through the message of the Bhagavad Gita. It is truly a divine conversation with the power to transform hearts and heal the world.

Class :- VIII-X

Art of Mind Control

Controlling the mind is one of the greatest challenges in life. The Bhagavad Gita describes the mind as restless, turbulent, and strong like a wild wind. If left uncontrolled, it can become our worst enemy, dragging us into anxiety, anger, and confusion. But when properly guided, the mind becomes our best friend, helping us live a peaceful and purposeful life. The art of mind control begins with understanding that we are not the mind, we are the soul, and the mind is our instrument.

To master the mind, one must first regulate it through discipline and detachment. This involves conscious living: rising early, eating moderately, avoiding harmful influences, and focusing on uplifting thoughts. The mind is shaped by what we hear, see, and associate with. Therefore, surrounding ourselves with positive influences and sacred wisdom greatly helps in redirecting the mind from harmful desires to higher goals. Just as a river finds direction through its banks, the mind finds peace when given the structure of spiritual practice.

A powerful technique recommended in Vedic wisdom is the process of meditation, particularly through mantra chanting. Mantras are not ordinary sounds; they are spiritual vibrations that cleanse the heart and calm the mind. Among all mantras, the most effective is the maha-mantra:

Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare / Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare.

Chanting this mantra regularly helps bring the mind under control, connects us with the Supreme, and fills the heart with joy and clarity. When the mind is purified through chanting, negative thoughts lose their power, and one experiences a higher taste of peace, satisfaction, and a deep connection with the Divine. This is the true art of mind control, not suppression, but elevation through spiritual sound.

Simple Living, High Thinking

“Simple living and high thinking” is a timeless principle that leads to real happiness and peace. In today’s world, many people think that having more things, gadgets, money, and luxury is success. But true success is not in how much we have, but in how pure and purposeful our thoughts are. Living simply does not mean giving up comfort, but choosing a lifestyle that is balanced, peaceful, and free from greed.

When we live simply, we have more time and energy to focus on what really matters—our relationships, our character, and our connection with the Divine. High thinking means keeping our mind on noble goals: being kind to others, seeking spiritual wisdom, and understanding the deeper meaning of life. Instead of chasing temporary pleasures, we learn to find joy in serving others and in growing as a person.

Great saints and leaders followed this principle. They did not have fancy things, but they had powerful thoughts that changed the world. A person who thinks deeply, speaks truthfully, and acts selflessly becomes a light for others. Simple living also teaches us to be grateful, use resources wisely, and avoid waste. This makes life more beautiful and also protects nature.

A spiritual lifestyle encourages this principle through daily discipline, prayer, study of scriptures, and acts of compassion. When we chant sacred names like Hare Krishna, our hearts are purified and our thoughts become elevated. The more we simplify our outer life and deepen our inner life, the more we experience lasting peace and happiness. Truly, simple living and high thinking is the key to a meaningful life.

Protecting Mother Earth

Mother Earth, known in the scriptures as Bhumi Devi, is not just a planet we live on - she is the divine consort of Lord Vishnu. She is a goddess who nourishes and sustains all living beings, patiently providing food, water, and shelter to everyone without discrimination. But today, due to human exploitation and ignorance, she is being wounded by pollution, deforestation, and greed. Protecting her is not just an environmental concern, it is a sacred duty.

A beautiful story from our scriptures explains how she came to be known as Prithvi. Once, when people became lazy and stopped performing their duties, Mother Earth hid all her resources. To restore balance, King Prithu, an empowered ruler and a great devotee, chased her to bring back the abundance she had withdrawn. When she took the form of a cow and explained her pain, King Prithu promised to protect her and guided people to treat her with love and care. Touched by his compassion and responsibility, Mother Earth agreed to provide for humanity again, and since then, she has been called Prithvi - the one protected by King Prithu.

This story teaches us that when humans act responsibly and with devotion, Mother Earth flourishes. But when we act selfishly and ignore our duties, we disturb the harmony of nature. The Vedic culture encourages us to see all elements of nature, air, water, fire, earth, and sky - as sacred. Just as we wouldn't harm a family member, we must not harm our Earth, who is the mother of us all.

Even simple steps like avoiding plastic, saving water, planting trees, and not wasting food are acts of service to her. Festivals that celebrate rivers, cows, and trees are reminders of how deeply connected we are to nature. By honoring and protecting Mother Earth, we not only express gratitude but also ensure a healthy future for generations to come.

Seeing All Beings with Respect

One of the greatest teachings of ancient wisdom is to see all living beings with respect. Every soul, whether human, animal, bird, insect, or plant, is a part of the divine creation and carries the spark of the Supreme within. Just as we respect our family members, we are meant to show kindness and care to all forms of life. True respect means understanding that each being has a purpose and a right to live peacefully.

Our actions reflect our attitude. When we are gentle with animals, do not pluck flowers unnecessarily, or avoid hurting even small insects, we are practicing compassion. Many scriptures tell stories of great saints who treated all beings as equals because they saw the presence of God in everyone. Such behavior brings peace not only to others but also to our own heart.

This mindset also teaches us to control harmful habits like violence, cruelty, or careless behavior toward nature. Instead of thinking only about ourselves, we begin to think about the effect of our actions on others. Respect means speaking kindly, acting with care, and protecting those who are weaker or more dependent.

By living in this way, we create an atmosphere of harmony wherever we go. When our hearts are filled with respect for all beings, our words and actions naturally become purer. A person who lives with this vision becomes peaceful, joyful, and truly wise. Seeing all beings with respect is not just good behavior, it is a reflection of spiritual maturity.

Grateful Eating: Honoring Food as a Blessing

Food is one of the greatest blessings we receive every day. It nourishes our body and gives us the energy to learn, play, and grow. In ancient wisdom, food is not seen simply as a physical necessity but as a sacred gift from nature and the Divine. Eating with gratitude means recognizing the many lives and efforts that have come together to bring that meal to our plate; from the farmers who grew the crops to the animals, soil, and rain that made it possible.

When we eat with awareness, we pay attention to what we are consuming and how it affects our body and mind. Choosing fresh, simple, and pure foods helps keep our body healthy and our mind clear. It also means avoiding waste and respecting the food by eating only what we need. This practice teaches us self-control and appreciation, reminding us that food is meant to support our well-being, not just satisfy cravings.

Many spiritual traditions encourage offering food to God before eating, which is called *prasadam*. This act of offering transforms the food into a sacred gift that nourishes not only the body but also the soul. When we eat *prasadam* with a thankful heart, we feel more connected to the Divine and develop a sense of humility and respect for all life.

By treating food as a blessing and eating with gratitude and awareness, we create harmony within ourselves and with the world around us. This simple practice helps us grow in health, happiness, and spiritual understanding, turning every meal into an opportunity for love and devotion.