

CHAPTER 10

THE OPULENCE OF THE ABSOLUTE

Krsna's position as the origin of everything (10.1-7)

Lord Krsna ends the Ninth Chapter with an imperative to fix the mind on Him (*man-mana bhava mad-bhaktō*). The Tenth Chapter describes the Lord's opulence, upon which the devotee can fix his mind. The conclusion of the Ninth Chapter is that one should become a pure devotee of the Lord. The Tenth Chapter will increase our devotion by elaborating about Krsna's opulence.

Main theme:

Knowledge of Krsna's supreme position is an inspiration for one to take to the process of devotional service.

Sub Points:

- A. Discussions about the Lord only take place in the association of serious devotees (10.1).
- B. One can understand Krsna by His mercy, not by material qualifications (10.2-3).
- C. Fully understanding Krsna frees one from all sins (10.3).
- D. Appreciating Krsna's position naturally leads one to surrender (10.4-7).
 1. Here, Lord Krsna shows Himself to be the original cause of the various qualities of human beings as well as the genealogical origin of mankind. Appreciating this, one will take shelter of Him, the cause of all causes.

The catuh-sloki (10.8-11)

In the previous section, the Lord explained that one who is convinced of the His position will engage in unalloyed devotional service. In this section, the Lord describes the nature of the pure devotees. He also explains His intimate relationship with them, where He gives them the proper understanding to attain Him.

This section is the *catch-sloki-bhagavad-gita* - the "*Bhagavad-gita* in four verses."

Main theme:

Lord Krsna is the source of everything. Those who understand this become His devotees and enjoy fixing their minds and hearts in Him. The Lord gives them the knowledge to come to Him.

Sub Points:

- A. Lord Sri Krsna is the original source of everything. He personally created all worlds. All persons come from Him (10.8).
 1. One can understand this truth about Krsna by hearing the sastra through bona fide authorities.
 2. Understanding this truth leads one to surrender to Krsna in determination.
- C. The Lord describes the behavior of such devotees and the very nature of *bhakti* (10.9).
 1. Krsna's pure devotee's relish topics of Him amongst themselves.
 2. The process of hearing and chanting acts for one's devotional life just like the process of watering acts for a seed. Hearing and chanting let the inherent love of God in one's heart sprout and grow until it reaches Lord Krsna's lotus feet in the spiritual world.
- D. Krsna specially reciprocates with these devotees (10.10-11).
 1. Krsna gives them the guidance by which they can return to Him.
 2. He personally dispels any ignorance that may remain in their hearts

Arjuna's acceptance and his request (10.12-18)

After hearing the *catuh-sloki* of *Bhagavad-gita*, Arjuna accepts Lord Krsna in full faith. He then recites prayers that glorify the Lord and requests Krsna to describe how He can be appreciated in His all-pervasive aspect.

Main Theme:

Lord Sri Krsna is confirmed to be Supreme.

Sub Points:

- A. Lord Krsna can be understood to be Supreme by one who follows the spiritual authorities and who cultivates devotion (10.13-15).
- B. In declaring his realization of Krsna's true nature, Arjuna names highly respected Vedic sages who share the same realization. He does this to prove that his own realizations of Krsna's position are not mere sentiments.

Krsna's opulence (10.19-42)

Arjuna asked to hear of the divine opulence by which Krsna pervades the worlds, knowing which, one can always remember Krsna in the world.

Main Point:

Lord Krsna's opulence is visible through the manifestations of His energies in the world.

Sub Points:

- A. It is interesting to see how Krsna presents His glories. In general, he presents a group within the world, and then shows how He is the prominent aspect.
- B. Arjuna does not need to hear how Krsna pervades the material world; he is already meditating on Krsna's transcendental form. He asks for the sake of the common man, who can only appreciate things in reference to material nature.
- C. Devotees do not hear narratives of the Lord's opulence in an attempt to know Krsna fully. That is impossible, as Krsna is unlimited in all respects. The devotees discuss the Lord's opulence because topics of Krsna are like nectar, and the devotees take great pleasure in hearing them (19).
- D. Krsna's expansion, the Supersoul, is pervading the material (10.20, 41-42).
- E. This is an important consideration while meditating on the Lord's vibhuti (opulence). The Lord can be appreciated in great material phenomena because as the Supersoul, He is pervading these things.
 - 1. It is the Supersoul who gives great men their strength. It is the Supersoul who arranges for spectacular natural wonders to occur through the material energy.
 - 2. For this reason Srila Prabhupada explains that, "there is no point in understanding how things exist in their separate opulence and grandeur. [One] should know that all things are existing due to Krsna's entering into them as the Supersoul" Understanding the presence of the Supersoul, one can appreciate Lord Krsna by meditating on His creation.