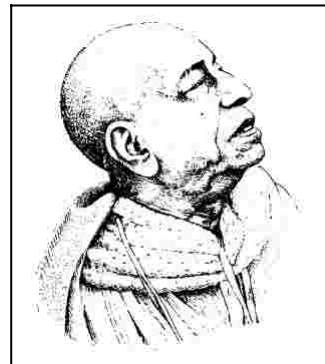


Secrets: Reading Srila Prabhupada's Books

By Tribhangananda das

I've been asked to share some secrets of reading Srila Prabhupada's books with you. Actually I don't know anything, but from what I've learned so far, below are some reasons why it's such a good idea to read them. I'm sure you can add to this list. These are compiled from both my own and others' realisations at recent discussions with various congregational devotees, some of which came out at our Buckland Hall sessions.

1. They put our existence as jivas and human beings in perspective.
2. They help us motivate ourselves in Spiritual life.
3. They give us real understanding of the material world and tangible insights into the spiritual world in a very touching way.
4. They debunk the myths, material conceptions and propaganda of what this world is about and who and what we are and why we exist.
5. They reveal the all-attractive Krsna, His pastimes and who He is and attract us to Him.
6. They awaken our dormant appreciation, love and devotion for Krsna.
7. They give us real knowledge of God, Krsna, knowing which Lord Krsna says will never take birth again.
8. Books are the basis, so we read them to keep on track and not be misguided.
9. We can understand from them what is this Krsna Consciousness Movement and how it was established.
10. They eradicate the darkness of ignorance which keeps us suffering in this material world.
11. They engage us in *śravaṇa* (hearing), practical service to Krsna.
12. This leads us to improve our *kīrtana* (explaining, discussing or chanting), more practical service.
13. This improves our *smaraṇa* (meditation or remembering) service so we can keep our minds on Krsna more, as Krsna advises we should always think him.
14. They encourage the mind to become a devotee.
15. They purify our consciousness so we can clear the rubbish and see clearly.
16. They train us to defend Krsna, others and ourselves from the onslaught of atheists, impersonalists, mayavadis, fools and rogues.
17. They give us really appropriate topics to discuss when we have sadhu sangha, association of other devotees.
18. They help us appreciate the value of devotees and learn how to associate with them.
19. They enable us to practically express our gratitude / appreciation / obligation to Srila Prabhupada after he made so much effort to give us these books.
20. They enable us to associate with Srila Prabhupada, the previous *ācāryas* and Krsna directly.
21. If we want to serve Srila Prabhupada, just reading these books is practical factual glorification of him.
22. They enable us to appreciate the actual positions of Krsna, the Spiritual Masters and ourselves.
23. They give us proper understanding what to do and not do and why in our lives.
24. They teach us what it means to be Krsna Conscious and look for opportunities to apply this in our daily lives.
25. They train us to understand and so preach and thus serve Srila Prabhupada's and Krsna's mission.
26. They're a cleansing and refreshing shower of nectar!
27. They're immediately pertinent and relevant to our lives.
28. It's very pleasing activity to us, Srila Prabhupada and Krsna.
29. They teach us scientifically how to serve and associate with Krsna and His devotees.
30. They teach us how to pray to Krsna.
31. They help us lose our enthusiasm for materialistic activities of the mind and senses, and become eager to serve Krsna.
32. They're a brilliantly illuminating reading experience and always fresh.
33. They are uplifting and give us hope when the chips are down.
34. They make sense of a crazy world.
35. They are a wake-up call.
36. They are a lifeline for survival.
37. Make us happy and give us Bhakti.
38. They are Krsna speaking directly to us.
39. They are so beautiful.
40. They are so wonderful.
41. They're full of the most amazing wisdom.
42. Reading them changes our lives very tangibly for the better.
43. They reveal and take us on the path back to Godhead.



You can meditate on these points, or expand on some points for a lecture, or simply hang this page on your wall. If anyone would like to add to these points, please share it with us. As far as I'm concerned, the biggest secret of all in reading Srila Prabhupada's books is just in eight letters.... *just do it!*