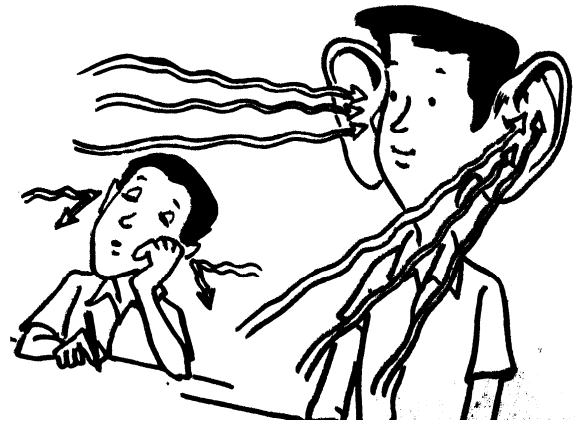


Lesson One

Sravanam (Hearing)



Importance of hearing:

- ☺ Our sense of hearing is very important to us. It can be even more valuable than sight.
- ☺ Eg. If you are asleep in your house at night, you may not notice if a burglar happens to come in. But if he makes some noise, you could hear it and thus become alert.
- ☺ It would be quite difficult to get along in the world without the sense of hearing

Importance of hearing in spiritual life:

- ☺ In spiritual life, hearing is extremely important. But we must know what to hear.
- ☺ Hearing of the holy name of the Lord is the beginning of devotional service. In fact, it is a must.
- ☺ By chanting and hearing the holy name of the Lord, our heart gets cleansed from the effects of our sins. As we become purified, we can gradually understand Krishna.

Different ways of hearing in spiritual life:

- ☺ By chanting the holy name, we use our sense of hearing to listen to the name.
- ☺ We can also hear about Krishna from the scriptures. The Bhagavad Gita, Srimad Bhagavatam, Ramayana and Upanishads are some important scriptures that are full of information about the lord.
- ☺ Hearing of the lord's pastimes will purify us in the same way. It is very enjoyable to hear and tell stories of Krishna and His devotee.
- ☺ We can listen to the melodious Kirtans and bhajans which not only please our heart but purify our consciousness.

Whom should we hear from?

- ☺ It is extremely important to know from whom we are hearing about spiritual life.
- ☺ Eg. A person who has never seen an airplane in his life and he is telling others about an airplane, will his description be perfect? Obviously no. One has to be qualified before he speaks about a topic.
- ☺ Similarly, to hear about Krishna, we must hear from a qualified person. That person should be a pure devotee; someone whose only thoughts and desires are Krishna. Otherwise, we may very well hear the wrong thing.

Who perfected his life by Hearing?

- ☺ Maharaj Parikshit was a great king who took full advantage in hearing the glories of the Lord. He perfected his life and went back to Godhead simply by hearing. Here is the story of King Parikshit.

Parent's Sign: _____ Teacher's Sign: _____