

Krishnaashtami.

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Krishnaashtami is the auspicious day when Lord SriKrishna was born. He was born to Devaki Devi and Vasudeva. He was born with a Divine purpose. By the time he was born the population of the non-followers of Dharma was huge. It was time for a Divine intervention to set things right and to reestablish Dharma. The Divine force had taken the form of Lord SriKrishna to annihilate the bad and to protect the good. There is always a balance maintained between Good and Bad. When this balance is upset according to the Yuga Dharma it is reset by the Divine force. Dharma doesn't change from one Yuga to another. However, the followers of Dharma are influenced differently in different Yugas. Strict followers of Dharma are always safe. Those who err are those who cause concern. When such erring persons increase in numbers and when followers of Dharma become less and less a crisis arises. In such situations Nature corrects it by appropriate devastations, if need be. The days when Lord SriKrishna was born were such that indiscriminate devastation wouldn't help but a selective elimination was required.

Elimination of bad elements is as important as developing the good ones. Weeding out practice is very familiar to a farmer to protect main crop from weeds. Weeds deprive main plant of taking nutrients. Any farmer weeds out and ensures proper growth of main plant. At times when weeds outgrow a crop, the whole field is ploughed off without caring for the crop. The crop is sown again. This is how good suffers the influence of bad. Bad spreads and grows faster (like a weed) than good. In the cycle of Yugas, each Yuga creates a history and leaves behind some memories to the following Yugas. Values keep changing with each Yuga though Dharma doesn't change. However, when the cycle of Yugas is traversed once, there would be no time for further corrections. At that stage total annihilation occurs through Maha Pralaya.

Yugas are epochs in time. Timescale is infinite. Beginning and end of a Yuga is a period fixed on the time scale. It is so well designed that every event is fixed in time. No one can ever change this master plan. Sometimes there is a warning or a caution which foretells the occurrence of future events. Man becomes too wise to detect his follies and limitations. He thinks that he can avert the occurrence of such events which he dislikes and proves to the world that his thinking was only a myth. While not taking lessons from their Elders or Seniors, the younger folk would attempt to change history but prove it by the method of *reduxio ad absurdum* (assuming that the theory is wrong and prove it to be right with one's own experience, at the end).

Lord SriKrishna's birth was foretold a few years earlier cautioning Kamsa that he would be killed by the eighth child of his sister DevakiDevi. This caution came out loudly and openly to him soon after the wedding of Devaki Devi was celebrated with Vasudeva. Till then Kamsa was a loving brother of DevakiDevi. When he heard of his death by the eighth son of his sister, he

became cruel to her. He wanted to kill her so that he can prove the announcement a myth and that he can change his future. Kamsa taught to the present and future generations that such a thinking was wrong and that no one can ever change any of the events in life however much he thinks he can change or avert it with his might.

Every individual's life is well designed and properly programmed to the minutest detail both at macro level and at micro / nano level. This can be understood by studying Lord SriKrishna's Leelas, the Divine Plans. After taking a human form the various stages of growth and limitations at each stage are fixed in time, irrespective of the person in the body.

Kamsa couldn't kill his sister though he thought he would save himself by killing her. Life is most important for any living being, though it doesn't know why! All rakshasas like Hiranya Kasipa or Ravana, performed long penance with a wish to get a boon for living for ever. What would they do for so many years on this earth? This Rakshasik tendency to avoid death has not died in the present day modern man even today though such Rakshasas proved that everyone has to die on the day fixed for him. Otherwise how would the modern medicine survive on dying persons? People crave for eternal happiness while sticking to their limited thinking and falling a prey to sensual pleasures. They experience bad side-effects of such pleasures but they still stick to them and refuse to seek eternal happiness which they want. This is real Maya, living in an imaginary world refusing to see the facts.

Man refuses to renuntiate his bad thoughts and wrong attitudes. It is only by renunciation one can get happiness, if one experiences. It is necessary to understand that every human being is moulded in a particular fashion even before he is born. He cannot be changed, come what may. Those who think they can influence others to change them would learn at the end that it is beyond them. Though this is proven beyond doubt in history and is also a personal experience to every individual, he still feels unhappy if his own children don't listen to good advice.

As the strength of a chain lies in its weakest link, strength of a man is limited by his weakness for something or the other. Kamsa couldn't kill his sister because of his love for her and so he was looking for an alternative that would save him and his sister too. So the suggestion given by Vasudeva that Kamsa may better kill the eighth child in his infancy than to wait for his adulthood was acceptable to Kamsa. The innate love for his sister or for Dharma (not to kill a lady- that too his own sister) was the weak point that caused him to follow the Divine plan, unwittingly! Man always looks for an alternative that would match his urge than to face facts. Thus Kamsa changed his mind to fall in line with the Divine plan!! Thus every one of us is driven by our own unknown internal divine force, to fall in line with the Divine Design.

Every individual is born to serve the Divine with a purpose, though he may not be aware of the purpose. The cow grazes to fill its belly to satisfy its hunger. It is unaware that its grazing is to give milk to feed the mankind!

Each being including the human, fall into the divine Maya and rotate like a speck on an ever rotating wheel of Maya. Lord SriKrishna explained the basics of this phenomenon in Srimad Bhagavad Gita (sloka 61, Chapter 18). The all pervading Divine Force present in each being in the creation makes all of them play their roles as are designed for them. He drives them who are

in their respective vehicles of their apparent choice! Thus no one is independent. One should thus understand that he is totally dependent on the Divine only.

Exceptions are those who come out of Maya by cleansing their minds through consistent prayer understanding the effects of Maya, of course with the blessings of the Lord. Such persons are called Panditas (the realized souls) by Lord SriKrishna.

The Divine purpose of Lord SriKrishna's birth is well specified in a sloka:

JAtah Kamsa vadhArhAya, BhObhAroattAranAyaca,
PAndavAnAm hitArhAya,dharmasamsthapanAyaca,
KauravAnAm vinAsAya, vasudeva kulodbhava,
DevakIgarbhasambhOta, bhaktAnAmabhayaprada.
(A-aa,O-oo,I-ee)

Means that he is born to: 1. Kill Kamsa, 2. Reduce the heaviness to mother earth (like a bad son is a heavy weight to the mother), 3. Do good to PAndavAs and to establish dharma, 4. Annihilate KauravAs, while taking birth in Vasudeva's family to Devaki and to guard the bhaktas. In short, to weed out bad and to protect good were his purposes. We will prove to be his bhaktas if we can become, by his choice, instrumental in avoiding bad deeds and in doing good to the deserving while we are alive.

Om
Devaki nandanAya vidmahe vAsudevAya DhEmahi
Tannokrishnah pracodayAt.
(E-ee)
MOKam karoti vAchAlam pangum langhayate girim,
Yatkrupa tamaham vande paramAnanda mAdhavam.

Jai SriKrishna!