

MOTHERHOOD — PART 2

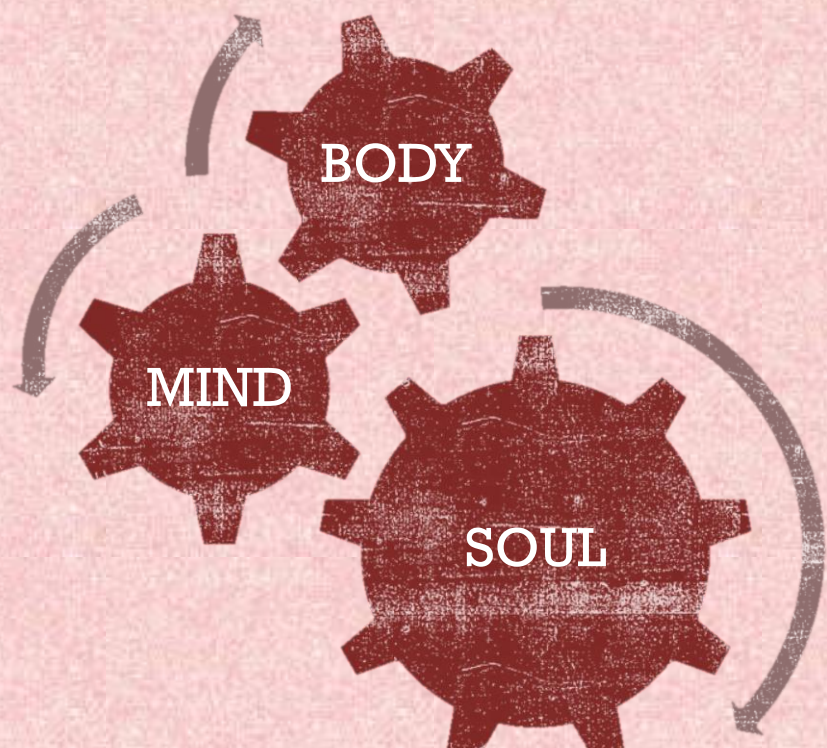
Motherhood Examples and How a Mother's Consciousness Impacts the Child;s
Consciousness

Session 5: Bhakti Womanhood and Home Making Series

Dec 29th, Tuesday, 12/29/2015, 11:30am to 12:30pm PST



CARE OF THE BODY, MIND AND SOUL KEEPING IN MIND THE ULTIMATE WELFARE OF THE CHILD



- Body and mind are the temporary dresses, but real need is of the soul- longing for real love.
- Child should never have to suffer birth and death again
- Constantly praying for her son's welfare (Suniti, Yashoda Mayi)
- Approaching the Lord for His mercy on her son



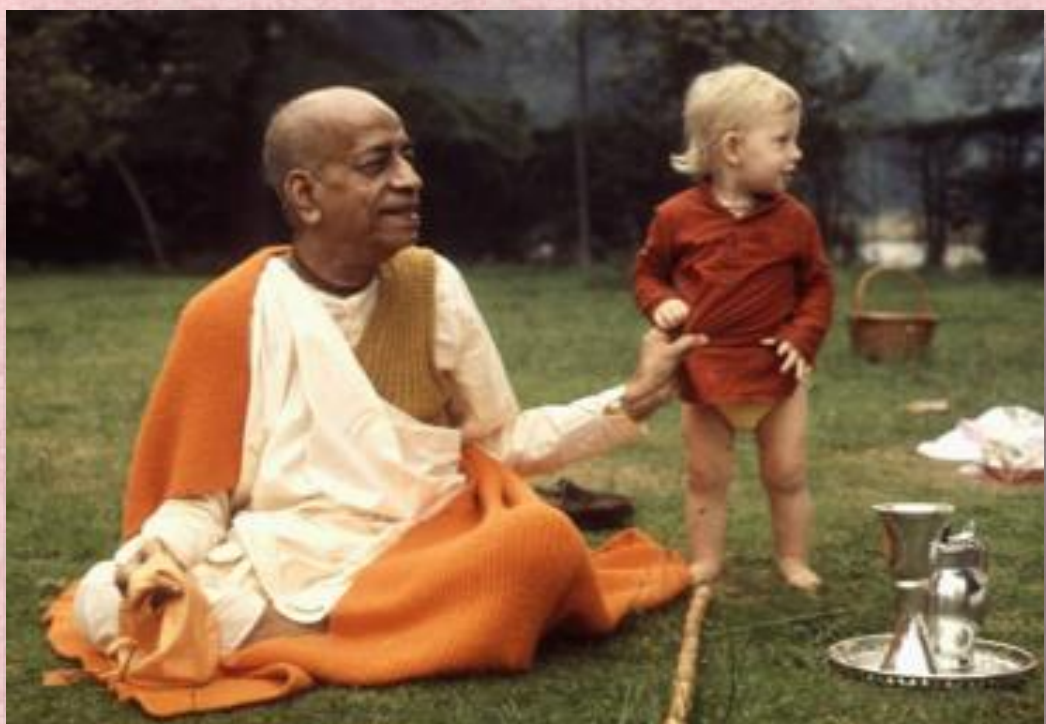
YASHODA MAYI- PERFECT CARE AND MOTHERHOOD

MOTHER KEEPS THE CHILD SATISFIED



Yashoda Mayi personally took care of the special cows who were fed the special padmagandha grass . She personally churned the butter and made various preparations for Krsna

SRILA PRABHUPADA'S LETTER



- Anyway, I have seen Malati is nursing her child so nicely that she attended my meeting every day and the child was playing and she never cried. Similarly, Lilavati's child also never cries or disturbs the meeting. Lilavati was always present with her child, so it depends on the mother. How to keep the child comfortable, so that it will not cry. The child cries only when it feels uncomfortable. The child's comfort and discomfort depends on the mother's attention. So the best solution is that we should train our all first-day small babies in such a way that they are always satisfied and there will be no disturbance in the meeting, and there will be no complaint.

- *Srila Prabhupada Letter- Aug 1968 to Krishnadevi in Montreal*

PHYSICAL PRESENCE AND ATTENTION IS IMPORTANT



SB 10.7.5 “After completing the bathing ceremony for the child, mother Yaśodā received the brāhmaṇas by worshiping them with proper respect and giving them ample food grains and other eatables, clothing, desirable cows, and garlands. The brāhmaṇas properly chanted Vedic hymns to observe the auspicious ceremony, and when they finished and mother Yaśodā saw that the child felt sleepy, she lay down on the bed with the child until He was peacefully asleep.”

SPIRITUAL & PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF HAVING AN ABSENT MOTHER

LOW SELF ESTEEM

GUILT

FEARFUL OF
DEVELOPING BONDS
WITH OTHER ADULTS

REDUCED ABILITY
TO NURTURE AND
CARE FOR
THEMSELVES

NOT KNOWING HOW
TO RECEIVE LOVE

VERY DIFFICULT FOR
THEM TO DEVELOP
RELATIONSHIP WITH
GURU AND KRISHNA

Srila Prabhupada's purport SB 10.7.5: "An affectionate mother takes great care of her child and is always anxious to see that the child is not disturbed even for a moment. As long as the child wants to remain with the mother, the mother stays with the child, and the child feels very comfortable. Mother Yaśodā saw that her child felt sleepy, and to give Him all facilities for sleep, she lay down with the child, and when He was peaceful, she got up to attend to her other household affairs."

SECURING OURSELVES IN CONFUSING SITUATIONS



SB [10.8.41](#): "Therefore let me surrender unto the Supreme Personality of Godhead and offer my obeisances unto Him, who is beyond the conception of human speculation, the mind, activities, words and arguments, who is the original cause of this cosmic manifestation, by whom the entire cosmos is maintained, and by whom we can conceive of its existence. Let me simply offer my obeisances, for He is beyond my contemplation, speculation and meditation. is beyond all of my material activities. "

SECURING OURSELVES IN CONFUSING SITUATIONS



For the moment, she was rather disappointed, thinking, "My endeavors to protect my son by charity and other auspicious activities are useless. **The Supreme Lord has given me many things, but unless He takes charge of everything, there is no assurance of protection.** I must therefore ultimately seek shelter of the Supreme Personality of Godhead."

FROM SRILA PRABHUPADA'S PURPORT TO SB 10.8.42



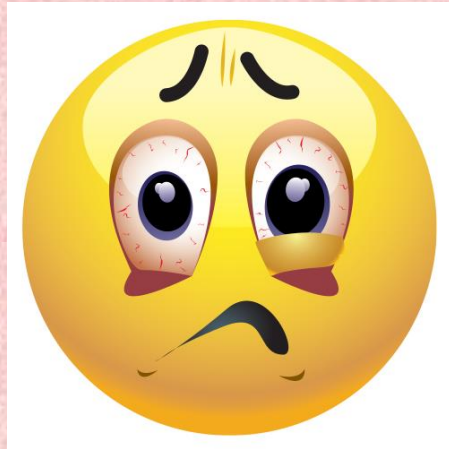
[SB 10.8.42](#) — It is by the influence of the Supreme Lord's *māyā* that I am wrongly thinking that Nanda Mahārāja is my husband, that Kṛṣṇa is my son, and that because I am the queen of Nanda Mahārāja, all the wealth of cows and calves are my possessions and all the cowherd men and their wives are my subjects. Actually, I also am eternally subordinate to the Supreme Lord. **He is my ultimate shelter.**

Problem for which
we find no reason

Remedy is to
Surrender to
the Lord

Offer Him
your
obeisances

Then your
position will
be secure



Willingly allow Krsna to be in charge,
protection is guaranteed

FROM SRILA PRABHUPADA'S PURPORT TO SB 10.8.41-42

www.bhaktivision.org www.facebook.com/sakthisanaga

USE ANGER DO NOT BECOME CONSUMED BY ANGER



From Krsna Book By Srila Prabhupada:

"Mother Yashoda could understand that Krsna was unnecessarily afraid, and for His benefit she wanted to allay His fears. Being the topmost well-wisher of her child, Mother Yashoda thought, "If the child is too fearful of me, I don't know what will happen to Him." Mother Yashoda then threw away her stick. In order to punish Him, she thought to bind His hands with some ropes."

PUNISHMENT TO PROTECT NOT OUT OF ANGER



From Srila Prabhupada's purport 10.9.12:

"Mother Yasoda wanted to bind Krsna not in order to chastise Him but because she thought that the child was so restless that He might leave the house in fear. That would be another disturbance.

Therefore, because of full affection, to stop Krsna from leaving the house, she wanted to bind Him with rope. Mother Yasoda wanted to impress upon Krsna that since He was afraid merely to see her stick, He should not perform such disturbing activities as breaking the container of yogurt and butter and distributing its contents to the monkeys. Mother Yasoda did not care to understand who Krsna was and how His power spreads everywhere. This is an example of pure love for Krsna."

LESSONS FROM YASHODA MAYI

ALWAYS
PRESENT WITH
THE BABY
KRSNA

USE ANGER DO
NOT BECOME
CONSUMED BY
ANGER

PUNISHMENT
TO PROTECT
NOT OUT OF
ANGER

MOTHER KEEPS
THE CHILD
SATISFIED

THE SUPREME
LORD IS MY
ULTIMATE
SHELTER



NARADA MUNI'S MOTHER

Simple woman but she was engaged in the service of bhaktivedantas. He was also attracted to their service. She thus provided him the right spiritual atmosphere in which he could grow



SPIRITUAL ATMOSPHERE

Spiritual
Atmosphere

Surcharged with
Pure Devotion

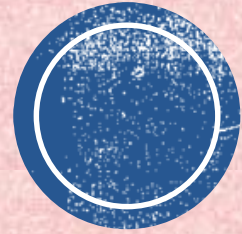
Association of
Bhaktivedantists

Opportunity to
serve them

Opportunity to
hear from them

Accept their
remnants with
permission

He was self controlled not playful
and did not speak more than
required



HOW A MOTHER'S CONSCIOUSNESS INFLUENCES THE CHILD'S CONSCIOUSNESS

DITI'S PREGNANCY IN THE EVENING





KUNTI DEVI



KUNTI DEVI

Single Mother

Raises step sons with equal love. In fact special attention to them

Respect for in laws in spite of their unfair behavior

Constantly prayed to the Lord for protection dealing with so many anxieties related to her children

Raises her sons to follow principles of dharma

Raises her sons to offer deepest respect to all elders even if they were unfair

Treats her sister in law with great respect

Unalloyed devotion to the Lord

Since she was grateful to the Lord in all situations so were her children



SITA MAHARANI

Maintained
respect for the
father

Her sons were
trained spiritual
topics and
culture

She remained
chaste to Lord
Rama

Respect for Parents Enables Respect for All Spiritual Authorities and
For the Lord Himself

What a mother sings
to the cradle goes
all the way down to
the coffin.-H.W
Beecher

What the Daughter
does, the mother
did- Jewish proverb

“A Mother’s Consciousness shapes the Child’s
Consciousness”

RAISING BOYS AND RAISING GIRLS

Girls are raised to be
chaste wives and skilled in
home arts

Boys are raised as
disciplined
Brahmacaris/Celibates,
follow the Guru, Respect all
women as mothers and be
sensitive to the feelings of
others

**EARLIER SOCIETY MEASURED
ONE'S WORTH BY THEIR SPIRITUAL
VALUE, TODAY ONE IS
CONSIDERED WORTHY BASED ON
THEIR MATERIAL POTENTIAL – A
*DEDICATED MOTHER IS NOT
VALUED AS MUCH AS BEFORE***

HOW MUCH DO YOU VALUE YOUR ROLE AS A MOTHER?



WHAT DOES LORD KRSNA HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THIS?

- [Bg 18.45](#) — By following his qualities of work, every man can become perfect. Now please hear from Me how this can be done.
- [Bg 18.46](#) — By worship of the Lord, who is the source of all beings and who is all-pervading, a man can attain perfection through performing his own work.
- [Bg 18.47](#) — It is better to engage in one's own occupation, even though one may perform it imperfectly, than to accept another's occupation and perform it perfectly. Duties prescribed according to one's nature are never affected by sinful reactions.
- [Bg 18.48](#) — Every endeavor is covered by some fault, just as fire is covered by smoke. Therefore one should not give up the work born of his nature, O son of Kuntī, even if such work is full of fault.

DEALING WITH MY “GOOD ENOUGH” MOTHERHOOD

There is no way to
be a perfect

mother...

but a million ways
to be a good one.

-Jill Churchill

DEALING WITH MY GOOD ENOUGH MOTHERHOOD

- The Myth of Perfection
 - Focus on personal effort
 - We seek power from within ourselves
 - Narcissistic individualism
 - It becomes about the parent wanting to be a perfect!
 - The parent does not attempt to mold according to the child's individuality
 - The parent does not see parenting as service to Krsna but rather about achieving their own perfection
- "Triumphalism"
 - No space for suffering, imperfections, vulnerability

We Leave Krsna out. We see no need to seek Krsna's shelter in the parenting journey

DEALING WITH MY GOOD ENOUGH MOTHERHOOD

- Krsna's Shelter
 - E.g of Yashoda Mayi
- Self Acceptance
- Willingness to understand your child
- Sincere Chanting of the HolyNames,
- Hearing Srimad Bhagavatam
- Association with Devotees
- Bhakti Lifestyle



WHAT IS MY MOTHERHOOD THEME?





THANK YOU

Future Sessions Back on Thursdays:

- Session 6:Wifehood
- Session 7: Family and Community Relationships & Service to Other Ashramas
- Session 8: The Science of Prasadam, Meal Planning, storage and Preservation
- Session 9: System, Order, Cleanliness and Organization, Beauty and its impact on one's mental abilities and spiritual growth