

The Spiritual Scientist

An ezine for those who think!

God Is Great - and Sweet

Most faith-traditions declare God's greatness and the Vedic tradition demonstrates that divine greatness in the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Sri Krishna. In the eleventh chapter of the Bhagavad-gita Krishna gives Arjuna a glimpse of His awe-inspiring greatness by displaying His universal form, one of the greatest mystical visions in world literature. Arjuna saw within the universal form—within Krishna—everything and everyone in existence. He saw all the planets, stars, and universes as well as all living beings, whether celestial, terrestrial, or subterranean.



Moreover, the quintessential Vedic text, the Srimad Bhagavatam (1.2.11), gives a profound tripartite ontology of God's existential greatness. God exists as three simultaneous, non-dual manifestations:



1. Brahman: A dazzling white effulgence that pervades all existence
2. Paramatma: The localized personal expansion of God who resides in the heart of all living beings and in every atom
3. Bhagavan: The all-attractive Supreme Person who resides in His own abode in the spiritual world, reciprocating eternal love with His unlimited devotees.



The conventional idea of God is primarily as a judge who rewards the pious and penalizes the impious. If that's all God had to do eternally, even by earthly standards, His life would be quite boring. But devotional scriptures like Srimad Bhagavatam explain that being a judge is only a tiny part of God's multifaceted, nay omni-faceted, personality.

To facilitate the reciprocation of pure love unimpeded by reverence, Krishna, in His supreme abode of love, plays, for example, the role of a mischievous child and engages other devotees to play the role of being His parents, relatives and friends. Krishna's butter-stealing pastimes are relished by millions of devotees. This play is not false like a drama enacted on a stage, but is



the eternal, topmost reality, for therein is fulfilled our innermost need and purest longing: to love and to be loved.



Skeptics who ask how God can become anyone's child miss the essence of God's godhood: love.

To mistake a counterfeit note as genuine is unfortunate, but to mistake a genuine note as counterfeit is even more unfortunate. Similarly, to mistake illusory cartoons and movies to be depicting real love is unfortunate, but to mistake Krishna's supramundane pastimes to be mundane, or worse still, immoral, is to mistake the genuine note – the selfless exchanges of divine love – to be counterfeit – the self-seeking dealings of mundane love.

The Vedic scriptures contain vivid descriptions of many, many pastimes of Krishna. Meditating on these pastimes makes awakening our love for Him easy and joyful – and thus permeates our whole life with the sweet flavor of divine love.

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