

## Adhik-Maas - 18<sup>th</sup> September to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020



Adhik-Maas is the Extra (adhik) Lunar Month (maas) that occurs every 3 years 3 months in the Vedic Calender (Panchang). The Vedic/Hindu lunar calendar adds one extra month approximately every third year. This extra month is known by various names according to one's locality in India viz. Adhik Maas, Mal Maas, Purushottam Maas, and Malimmacha. This is the thirteenth month of the Vedic/Hindu lunar calendar.

**Adhik Maas falls between 18<sup>th</sup> September - 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

This month is considered to be very auspicious (adhika = best or greatest), as Lord Vishnu Himself appears in a Calendrical Form to rectify our astrological and astronomical calculations. Since the Vedic/Hindu calendar is based on the phases of the Moon, the transits take 354 days, 8 hours and 34.28 seconds. This creates a difference of 10 days, 21 hours and 35.16 seconds from the actual solar year (365 days, 6 hours, 9.54 seconds). When the accumulated difference exceeds 29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes and 2.865 seconds, an adjustment is made with an extra month (Adhik Maas). Vasishtha Siddhanta (the treaties of Vasishtha) mentions that Adhik Maas or the extra lunar month occurs after every 32 months, 16 days and 8 Ghadis (a Ghadi is a period of

24 minutes and 60 Ghadis equal 24 hours). This month is considered very auspicious and is especially dear to Lord Krishna's heart. Adhik Maas Vrat is capable of washing away all the sins of people (who observe the Vrat). During this month fasting are observed and donations in the form of food and clothes and the like are distributed to charities. The Srimad Devi Bhagavatam Purana states that charitable and meritorious acts and fasting and so forth carried out during Adhik Maas inevitably produce meritorious results. Just as atomic sized contents within a seed produce a giant and long living Banyan tree, so in the same manner even a little charitable act performed during Adhik Maas produces massive results. According to the Vedic/Hindu lunar year, there were only 12 months. Each of the twelve months was assigned to a Deity. In order for the lunar and the solar years do not get out of step with days and seasons, the far-sighted Rishi's and Muni's calculated and facilitated Adhik Maas (extra month) and showed its importance. But one problem still remained. Each of the 12 months was assigned to 12 different devas. But the 13th extra month was not assigned to any deva. The Personality of this extra month (Adhik Maas) felt sadness and approached and complained to Lord Vishnu that no deva was assigned to her. But to continue with this auspicious Katha (pastime) of Adhik Maas please view the detailed Katha we have kindly provided for you to read later in this article.

### **What's forbidden in Adhik Maas:-**

Any "Kaamyas Rites" (a rite performed for securing some object or result), viz. the below:-

1. Commencement of Studies.
2. Upanayanam Samskara (The Sacred thread/ Jeneo ceremony).
3. Entering a new house (Griha Pravesha) or signing of any papers pertaining to the house.
4. Munda Samskara (Hair cutting ceremony generally performed in the 3rd or 5th year for a boy).
5. Vivah Samskara (Wedding ceremony).
6. Commencement of a Pilgrimage.
7. Commencement of a Graha (planetary) fast or performance of a Graha Shanti Puja/Havan.
8. Commencement of construction of a new building.
9. Purchasing of a vehicle (vahan).
10. Signing of any important papers. (On this matter common sense should prevail)
11. Try to refrain from any meat, alcohol or smoking consumption and partake in simple vegetarian foods.

### **What is acceptable to perform in Adhik Maas:-**

1. Offering of Surya jal, lighting of deeyas, performing aartee and other forms of daily puja which constitute one's nityakarma (daily worship) should continue.
2. Japa (chanting the holy names of God).
3. Performing charity liberally.

4. Reading of shastras (scriptures).
5. Attending satsanghs.
6. Performing ceremonies relating to death and birth (Chatti puja allowed but not shaving of babies hair).

\*\*\* The Puranas sing high praises about Adhik Maas and prescribe performing puja, reading, studying and hearing of scriptures & selfless actions without the expectations of results.

**QUESTION:-** What are the consequences of performing any one of the above mentioned activities stated under “What’s forbidden in Adhik Maas”?

**ANSWER:-** In the Padma Purana the Supreme Lord Krishna states “All human beings should perform some devotional service in this Purushottama month by:

1. Worshipping Me, (Shree Krishna) and by chanting My holy names.
2. Study of Srimad Bhagavatam and Bhagavad-Gita, in particular Chapter Fifteen named Purushottama Yoga.
3. Giving in charity.
4. Offering ghee diya (lamp) daily unto Me.

So we can deduce from the above that the Lord specifically said that only the above is to be performed in this month. Hence very significantly/purposefully Homa (a.k.a Homam/havans) is not mentioned. If Havans are mentioned then weddings and the like can and should be performed. This can be further verified by renowned and respected Sanskrit scholars. According to Acharya Satyam Sharma Shastri-ji (2001:4) “Auspicious actions and other works of great importance are generally avoided in the 13th month (Adhik Maas). In particular the performance of special Vratas like The Shree Satya-Narayana Vrata Puja, Shree Durga Saptashati (Chandi Paath), Lakshmi Vrata, Upanayanam (sacred – Janeo - thread), Vivah Samskara (Weddings), Griha Pravasha Samskara (House entering puja), Commencement of the construction a new building, Mundan Samskara (shaving of hair of a new born baby), etc should be avoided during Adhik Maas. Dharma Sindhu and History of Dharma Shastra also supports these views. Performance of ones Nitya Karma (daily worship), Japa (repetition of the Lord's name), studying and reading of scriptures, attending Satsangs, ceremonies relating to birth (like Chatti) and death (Shraddha) should continue”.

The late Dr. P. V. Kane (the renowned and respected Sanskrit scholar) famous for his magnum opus in English, “History of Dharmashastra” subtitled “Ancient and Medieval Religions and Civil Law in India”, mentioned that one should continue with acts prescribed on certain occasions. Hence one should continue with the performance of funerary rites after a relatives' death. As a general rule one should perform obligatory acts in an intercalary {day or a month inserted in the calendar to harmonize it with the solar year, e.g., February 29<sup>th</sup> in leap years} month and no “Kaamya Rites” (a rite performed for securing some object or result) is to be performed in Adhik Maas.

**Question:-** Why is that South Indian weddings etc are held in this month of Adhik?

**Answer:-** Personally, I feel rather disappointed when this happens as Adhik Maas is not a “Hindi” month rather a Hindu/Vedic month and as we have stated quite clearly above that in Adhik Maas, ”KAAMYA RITES” (which includes weddings) are not to take place in this month. However we at DIPIKA can only advise one, and hence leave it upon the individual to decide.

**Question:-** Why should we perform all these acts of charity?

**Answer:-** In the Garuda Purana Lord Vishnu states to Shree Garuda-ji.

**Garuda Purana Preta Khanda 13.19** “Whatever gifts are made by one during one’s life time, becomes beneficial later”

**Garuda Purana Preta Khanda chapter 14, Verses 4-5** “Anything given to a deserving person flourishes day by day. A gift wipes off the sin of the giver and the acceptance of the same by a person of good wisdom does not affect him.”

**Verse 8** “I affirm that just as seeds and other valuable things invested or sown in the ground offer fruitful results so also things by one’s own hands yield fruitful results.”

**Verse 12** “Therefore life, being as unsteady as it is, is incumbent on everyone to do every thing beforehand. With the food for the journey in the form of gifts offered to the deserving, one is able to travel with comfort on the Great Highway in the journey after death. Otherwise, the wretch undergoes great hardships without food to subsist on, on the way.”

**Garuda Purana Preta Khanda chapter 20, verse 8** “Those who have offered gifts in their lifetime should not entertain any fear from Dharmaraja”

**Verse 10** “Virtue can easily be procured by offering gifts. The path to Yama’s region can easily be traversed by acts of charity. This highway cannot be easily covered otherwise.”

**What should you do on the first day (the 18<sup>th</sup> September) and last day (16<sup>th</sup> October) of Adhik Maas?**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> September when Adhik Maas officially begins, one should wake up early in the morning. After bathing one should offer water in a lota (pot/chumbu) to Surya Narayana as the sun rises. In the lota add a few grains of white rice, black Til seeds, brown till seeds, sindhur or kungoo and flowers petals. Stand in front of the Sun and stretch your arms forward and block the Sun with the lota. Close your eyes and visualize that you are offering Him incense, lamp and flower petals. Now literally offer the water – still with your eyes closed on Suryadevas’ feet chanting “**Om sooryaaya namah**” as many times as you like. Now open your eyes. Pray to the Lord to remove any obstacles on your path. NB:- “**Om sooryaaya namah**” - means “**O Lord Surya-Narayana I offer my respectful obeisances unto Your lotus feet**”. The above procedure can and should be performed for the entire month of Adhik Maas. Daily pray to a framed picture or Murti of either Lakshmi-Narayana or Radha Krishna or Sita-Raam in your home and worship Them with love and devotion by offering Them at least a Ghee Lamp, turning the lamp 7 times (in a clockwise direction) around the murti/picture (add a tulsi twig and few grains of Sesame seeds for more benefits). Offering fruits daily

to the Murti/picture and reading at least a verse from the Bhagavad Gita (esp. Chapter 15), Srimad Bhagavatam, Ramayana, Vishnu Purana or Garuda Purana is also highly advised.

You should (try to the best of your ability to) observe a saltless fast on the first day of Adhik Maas. You can break your saltless fast after sunset of the 18<sup>th</sup> September or after sunrise on the 19<sup>th</sup> September. The performance of Worship is very important on this day. Performance of Charity like donating clothes, vegetarian food and religious scriptures like Ramayana, Bhagavad Gita and so forth on this day brings about very auspicious results. A person who observes a fast, performs worship and charity on this day is immensely blessed by Lord Shree Krishna.

On the concluding day of Adhik Maas (16<sup>th</sup> October), one should reserve for the performance of donations, charities and worship like stated above for the first day of Adhik Maas.

During the entire month of Adhik Maas one should consume Sattvic food (vegetarian meals, milk, fruits, nuts, grains, vegetables). One meal at night is generally recommended. Lord Vishnu said that acquisition of merits during other months through good deeds, japa, austerities etc can be acquired by japa, austerities etc. carried out within this one month. Since then it is known as the Purushottama Maas and acquired greater significance than the other months. It is written in the Bhavishyottar Purana that Shree Krishna Himself has said that the Adhik Maas Vrat is carried out with the sole aim of worshipping Him, through fasting, cleanliness, charity, puja and so forth merits are acquired which produce unfailing results and all sorts of calamities are overcome.

One should worship Lord Purushottam/Vishnu/Krishna/Raam during this month, by reciting the Lord's mantras. You can choose and chant anyone of the mantras below as many times as you like and according to your availability as well.

Hare Rama Krishna  
Om Vishnave Namah  
Om Klim Krishnaya Namah  
Om Shree Raamaya Namah  
Om Namo Naaraa-ya-naa-ya  
Jaya Jaya Shree Nara-simha-ya  
Om Namo Bhagavate Vaasu-devaa-ya  
Om namo vaasu-devaa-ya chakra-dhaaraa-ya vishwa-devaa-ya mahaa-vishno namah  
Hare Krishna Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna Hare Hare, Hare Rama Hare Rama,  
Rama Rama Hare Hare

The recitation of Srimad Bhagavat Purana and of the Bhagavad Gita during this month produces enormous meritorious results - in addition to singing and listening to the praises of Lord Purushottam/Vishnu/Krishna/Raam.

I was asked these following questions in the past:-

**Q:-** Can I still proceed with wedding invites in Adhik Maas?

**A:-** It's a "grey area" to be honest as it does in some way fall under KAAMYA RITES (a rite performed for securing some object or result). It will be best to invite before and after Adhik Maas of course but if circumstances don't allow for it then what can one do?

**Q:-** Can I celebrate my child's birthday with a Birthday Party?

**A:-** Once again this is a "grey area" as it does in some way fall under KAAMYA RITES. But I am going to be very open-minded and practical about this. Try telling a little kid that because it's Adhik Maas we can't celebrate his/her birthday, the poor child may grow up hating Adhik Maas, so maybe common sense should prevail in this regard.

\*\*\* (...More to add as I receive more questions like the above in the coming years)

To end this article we have the following additional information on Adhik Maas.

### **The Glories of Adhik Maas from the Padma Purana.**

Thousands of years ago in the holy dham of Naimisaranya (N.E. India) many great sages congregated to perform a fire sacrifice for the upliftment of the world. To their great fortune the great Maha Muni Srila Suta Goswami Maharaja, who had been traveling to different pilgrimage places, arrived at this holy place along with his disciples. The sages present were very enlivened to see the great sage. They all stood up immediately to pay their respects to the great sage. The sages of Naimisaranya said to Suta Goswami with folded hands, "O Sutaji! We humbly request you to narrate to us about the wonderful activities and pastimes of the Supreme Personality of Godhead - Shree Krsna. We want to hear of a katha in which we all can be delivered from this material world of suffering and return back home to the spiritual world. Hearing the request made by the sages, Suta Goswami, began to narrate, "O sages, please listen to me. I first went to Puskara Tirtha, then after visiting thousands of other holy places, I reached Hastinapura (Delhi, India). There, on the bank of the Ganga river, I saw thousands of sages sitting together with Pariksit Maharaja. Just then the great sage Srila Sukadeva Goswami appeared, and all the sages present paid him proper respect. All the sages unanimously offered the Vyasasana to Srila Sukadeva Goswami, who would narrate Krishna katha's to Pariksit Maharaja.

Suta Goswami said, "O sages, I have just come from Hastinapura where I heard Srimad Bhagavatam from the lotus mouth of Srila Sukadeva Goswami. Now I will narrate to you all about the all-attractive activities and pastimes of the Lord. Many thousands of years ago Narada Muni reached Badrika Ashram, the residence of Shree Nara-Narayan Rishi. The river Alakananda was flowing down from His lotus feet. Narada Muni paid his obeisances to Nara-Narayan Rishi and prayed to the Lord. Hearing the sweet words of Narada Muni, Lord Nara-Narayan smiled. He said, "O Narada, Please listen to the narrations about the supremely pious pastimes of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Shree Krishna, for they will diminish all sinful reactions and karma. You already know

of all the activities of the Supreme Lord, but for the benefit of others, you are asking Me again. So now I will narrate to you about the glories of the sacred Purushottama (adhik) month, which is fully potent to grant not only all material happiness but also qualify one to return back to Godhead at the end of one's life. Narada-ji inquired, "O Lord, I have heard the glories of all months including Kartika, Chaitra, etc., but which month is this Purushottama month? O ocean of Mercy, please tell me all about this sacred month. What is the way to glorify this month? What should I do in this month? How Should I take bath, give in charity, etc. What should I chant? Who should I Worship? Should I observe fasting in this month?" Please tell me everything in detail. Suta Goswami said, "O sages, after hearing all these questions from Narada Muni, Lord Nara-Narayana began to speak from His moon-like lotus mouth, "O Narada, I will tell you something which was previously explained by Lord Shree Krishna to Maharaja Yudhishthira. Once Dharmaraja Yudhishthira lost everything—his empire, his palace and even his chaste wife Draupadi—to Duryodhana in a gambling match. At that time Draupadi was insulted by Dusasana in front of the whole Royal Assembly. But when Dusasana had tried to strip Draupadi naked, she was saved from such a dangerous situation by Lord Shree Krishna. After this incident, Yudhishthira Maharaja along with his brothers and wife left his kingdom and lived in Kamyavan (the wish-fulfilling forest), Vrindavan.

Once Lord Krishna visited His cousins - the Pandavas - in that forest. All the Pandavas, including Draupadi, were very happy to see their Lord, and they forgot all about their painful forest life immediately. They felt enriched just by taking Shree Krishna's darshan. They paid their obeisances at the Lord's lotus feet. Seeing the miserable condition of the Pandavas, Shree Krishna became very upset, and at the same time He became very angry towards Duryodhana. It appeared as if the Lord was going to destroy the whole universe, and so the Pandavas became fearful and all began to pray to the Lord in a humble mood. Listening to the humble prayers of Arjuna, the Lord composed Himself and said, "Oh Arjuna, being very pleased with all of you Pandavas, and being controlled by your devotion and friendship towards Me, I will now tell you about the wonderful katha of the Purushottama month. Once, by the arrangement of providence, an extra month came to this world. Every one took this month to be most inauspicious, and even saw it as a stool-like month. Just as one should not touch stool, this month was also seen as untouchable. It was constantly unprotected and blasphemed, and rejected by everyone as an improper time for any religious and auspicious activities.

Being so rejected by all human beings, and constantly hearing only bad words and blasphemy, the personality of this extra month became very sad. She came to Vaikuntha to explain her sorrowful situation to the Lord. Seeing Lord Vishnu on His simhasana, she fell down at His lotus feet in a mood of sorrow and grief. Tears were falling profusely from her eyes. She prayed to the Lord, "Oh ocean of mercy! I have come to You because I am helpless. I have been rejected and blasphemed by all people

of the world. Please protect me; please show me Your mercy. Please don't be indifferent towards me." Saying these words, the extra month [adhik maas] continued crying in front of Lord Vishnu and sat down before Him in a dejected mood. Seeing the humble and pitiable position of the extra month, Lord Vishnu became very merciful towards her. He told her, "Do not lament, I shall give you protection from all of your miseries. Please stop crying. It is not proper to lament after taking the shelter of My lotus feet." Being so consoled by the Lord, the extra month said, "Oh Lord, You know my painful condition. No one is in a more miserable situation in these three worlds than I. First of all, all other months, years, days, nights, directions etc. are being protected by You, and so they are always moving fearlessly in their unique charming moods. But I [an extra month] don't have any name, nor any protector, nor a husband to give me shelter. All the devas and human beings have rejected me for any auspicious activities. For this reason, oh Lord, I want to die immediately." Oh Narada, this extra month then repeatedly said, "I want to die! I want to die! I want to die!" Then she fainted at the feet of the Lord.

Being requested by Lord Vishnu, Garuda-ji started fanning the extra month. And after sometime she got up and began to speak again, "Oh Lord of the universe, I am in need of Your shelter, please protect me." Lord Vishnu told the extra month, "Oh child, please don't lament, your misery will be over very soon. Get up and come with Me to Goloka Vrindavana, which is even unattainable to great yogis. Goloka is the abode of Lord Krishna. Here Lord Krishna is in His two handed form, surrounded by gopis and is enjoying His eternal pastimes. The Supreme Shree Krishna of Goloka will deliver you from all your miseries, please come with Me." Then Lord Vishnu took Malamasa (the extra month) to Goloka by catching her by the hand. From a distant place Lord Vishnu and Malamasa observed the effulgence of Goloka. This dazzling effulgence automatically forced Malamasa to close her eyes. Therefore, keeping the extra month behind Him, Lord Vishnu proceeded further until they reached the main gate. There the doorkeeper paid his respects to Him. Having reached the Supreme Abode, Lord Vishnu met Lord Krishna. Lord Vishnu paid His obeisances to Lord Krishna. (for more information please read our article called **THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LORD VISHNU AND LORD KRISHNA** here is the link to that article on [www.dipika.org.za](http://www.dipika.org.za) (Ctrl-Click { **HERE** })). Then Lord Vishnu requested the personality of the extra month to also offer her obeisances at the lotus feet of Lord Krishna, even though she was crying loudly. Immediately Shree Krishna asked, "Why is she crying? She is in Goloka Vrindavana, why is she crying?" Hearing these words from Lord Krishna, Lord Vishnu got up from His seat and started explaining the miserable condition of the extra month. Lord Vishnu requested Lord Krishna to please protect His unprotected month. "There is no one except You, Lord Krishna, who can save this extra month from her hellish condition and give her full protection." Having said these words, Lord Vishnu remained standing in front of Lord Krishna with folded hands.



Then Suta Goswami continued to speak, "Oh sages!" Lord Vishnu took His seat, and Lord Krishna spoke to Lord Vishnu. Purushottama Shree Krishna said, "Oh Lord Vishnu, You have done a very great deed by bringing this extra month to Me. You will become even more famous for performing this act. Because You have accepted this Malamasa, I will also accept her. I shall make this poor extra month just like Me in quality, fame, opulence, realization, success, and in giving benediction to the devotees. This month will become equally potent to Me. I am bestowing all of My divine qualities in this abused month. Named after Me, this month will be famous as Purushottama month in this world. "Oh Janardana, now that she has been imbued with My qualities, I Myself will become the husband and protector of this Purushottama month. And being equal to Me, this month will be the master of all other months. Now this month will become worshipable by one and all. Everyone should pay their obeisances to her, everyone should worship her. This month is equally as powerful as Me to give any type of benediction to its observer. The worshiper of this month will be able to burn all this past sinful reactions to ashes, and after enjoying a blissful life in the material realm, he will return back to Godhead. "Oh Garudadhwaaja," Lord Krishna continued, "My Goloka is unattainable to the performers of austerities, mahatmas engaged in pious activities, to those who maintain celibacy, or to those who fast their whole life's duration. But just by observing Purushottama month and becoming a devotee one can easily cross over this material ocean and return back to Godhead. Observance of this Purushottama month is the best of all austerities. Just as a farmer produces a rich harvest by planting seeds in well-cultivated land, so an intelligent man who practices devotional service towards the Supreme Lord in this Purushottama month will enjoy a blissful life while in this world and after leaving his body he will return back to Godhead. "An unfortunate ignorant man, who does not perform any japa, does not give any charity, does not pay respect to the Lord and His devotees, does not behave properly to brahmanas, makes enmity with others and who blasphemes the Purushottama month will go to hell for an unlimited period." Lord Krishna continued, "How can a person make his life successful unless he performs devotional service in this Purushottama month? A person who is fully engaged in sense gratification and who does not give any special importance to this sacred month becomes the best candidate for hell.

**All human beings should perform some devotional service in this Purushottama month by:**

1. Worshipping Me as Lord Vishnu/ Lord Krishna, and chanting My holy name.
2. Study of Bhagavad-gita, particularly Chapter Fifteen, Purushottama Yoga and Vishnu Purana  
Read and study the Garuda Purana for ancestral peace.  
For Family Happiness chant or hear the Vishnu Sahasranama (1000 names of Lord Vishnu).
3. Donating of charity to a Mandir, Brahmin or poor people.
4. Offering ghee diya (lamp) daily and fruit to Lord Vishnu / Lord Krishna.

A fortunate person who follows My instructions and observes this Purushottama month in a proper and faithful manner will attain fame, opulence and a worthy child in this very life. By following My instructions, everyone should worship this sacred month. I have made it the best among all other months. O Lord Vishnu, take this Purushottama month with You to Your Vaikuntha abode. After narrating this brief katha of the Purushottama month, Lord Krishna glanced very mercifully upon Yudhisthira and Draupadi, and then began speaking to Arjuna: "Oh lion amongst men, can you now understand the reason why you Pandavas are suffering? You did not acknowledge nor honor the presence of Purushottama month, which has just recently finished. That month which is most dear to Vrindavan Chandra has passed, but you Pandavas were in the forest and did not worship Purushottama month. So now you are suffering. Unless you worship Purushottama month you cannot perform pure devotional service to Me." This Purushottama month is fully capable of fulfilling all your desires and removing all miseries. Now your fourteen years of forest life is coming to an end. Please worship this Purushottama month sincerely, for it will bestow all good fortune upon you." Giving full consolation to the Pandavas in this way, Lord Krishna then left that place for Dwaraka Dham. After some time, when Purushottama month appeared, Maharaja Yudhisthira reminded his younger brothers and wife Draupadi of the words of Lord Krishna. All of them followed the instructions He had given them. They worshipped Purushottama Krishna in various ways during this sacred month. From the merit they achieved by performing Purushottama vrata, they regained their lost kingdom, and, after enjoying a happy life, they all went back to Godhead by the grace of Lord Krishna. An intelligent person should engage himself in hearing Krishna katha from a pure soul. In this way, one should always meditate on Lord Krishna and discuss His pastimes with other devotees. One should take rest thinking of Lord Krishna within his heart.

Suta Goswami then continued to relate this katha between Lord Narayana and Narada-ji to the sages of Naimisaranya. He said, "O brahmanas, the great sage Narada Muni became very pleased by hearing all about Purushottama month from Lord Narayana. He paid his obeisances again and again to the Lord and began to speak, "Oh this Purushottama month is the best of all months, it is the best of all kinds of vratas and austerities. Even if one just hears the glories of Purushottama month faithfully, he will achieve devotional service to the Supreme Lord Purushottama, and all of his sinful reactions will be immediately nullified. One who performs Purushottama vrata and worships Purushottama month properly will achieve unlimited merit and thus attain Goloka. Narada Muni then told Lord Narayana, "O Lord, now I am fully satisfied and my heart and mind are both completely satisfied. All glories to You!" And so, after explaining these glories of Purushottama month, Srila Suta Goswami asked permission from the assembled sages to take their leave, bathe in the Ganga, and perform his other regular duties. They gratefully agreed, and he then paid them his obeisances and went to the River Ganga. The sages of Naimisaranya then spoke among themselves, "Oh, this sacred Purushottama month is most glorious, and its katha is ancient. It is so merciful that it fulfills all of a devotee's desires just like a wish-fulfilling tree. How

glorious is Purushottama month!"

**DO NOTE:-** We at DIPIKA kindly leave it upon the reader to decide what appropriate action should be taken as in Sanatan Dharma we take our instructions from Shree Krishna who, after presenting the Bhagavad Gita's philosophy to Shree Arjuna, left the final decision to Shree Arjuna himself whether he should fight or not. And we too at DIPIKA will follow in the Lord's footsteps and let the public decide what to do.

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