

Scriptures about Nama

Vishnu dharma says,

Living in sacred places like Varanasi, Studying Vedas, Performing Ashwamedha yaga and other yagas, Gifting away thousands of cows as dhana... -the fruit of all the above deeds is consciously or unconsciously getting into Bhagwan Nama Keerthanam

It is also told in Bhagawan Nama Rasodhayam (siddhantha grandha for Bhagawan Nama), that "Developing a thought that other dharmas and Nama Keerthanam are equal is one of the Nama Abachara"

It is only after performing other dharmas with perfection in 4, 00,000 crore births, and one is blessed with Nama Keerthanam.

So, other than Nama no other dharma can help us in this Kali age.

Harer Nama harer Nama Harer namaiva kevalam
Kalau nasty eva nasty eva Nasty eva gatih anyatha

- *Brhan-naradiya Purana, 38.97*

'In this Age of Kali there is no other means, no other means, no other means for self-realization than chanting the holy name, chanting the holy name, chanting the holy name of Lord Hari.'

In Pandava gita, Vidhura says,

Harer Namaiva Namaiva Namaiva Mama Jeevanam,
Kalou Nastyeva Nastyeva Nastyeva Gather Anyatha

- Pandava Gita : Verse 53 (Vidhura Uvacha)

'The name of Hari, the name of Hari and the name of Hari, Is the only support to my life, for in Kali Yuga, There is no other way, no other way and no other way than that'.

"Whatever benefits human beings received in Satya-yuga by meditation (Dhyana), in Treta-yuga by sacrifice (yagna) and in Dvapara-yuga by Deity worship, they can receive in Kali-yuga by the chanting of the Holy Name."

Krte Yad Dhyayato Visnum
Tretayam Yajato Makhaih
Dvapara Paricaryayam
Kalau tad Dhari-kirtanat

- Srimad Bhagavatam, 12.3.52

God Krishna preaches in the Holy Gita

Maharseenaam Bhraguraham Giraamasyekamaksaram |
Yagnanaam japayagnosmi Sthaavaraanaam Himaalayam ||

- Gita

"Among the great risis, I (God Krishna) am Bhragu; among the apparent powers of Sabda, I am Oamkaara; among the Yagnaas, I am the **Japa Yagna** and among the great mountains, I am the Himalayas".

The devotees of Lord Panduranga in Pandarpur have sung crores and crores of abhangas. One abhang stands out and is like this: "Namacha Bazaara Pandari Namaacha Bazaar". Unlike a fruit or a vegetable bazaar (market) where one pays moneys to get something, people give only one thing and get the same thing in return. And it is verily Nama ad this bazaar is called "**Nama Bazaar**".

So what is the benefit we get out of this bazaar? The abhang says "Koti kulavudar". It says, 'It is not just you but crores of your generations will be benefited by the simply chanting of Nama.

All the great devotees of the Lord have lucidly shown the path of Bhakti. The term Bhakti comes from the root "Bhaj" which means attached to god. It is pure and unconditional love for the Lord. How should one perform Bhakti. Sadhana Bhakti is the first step in the path of Bhakti.

In the eleventh canto of Srimad Bhagavatam, talks about supreme Vedantic Truths. Uddava Geetha - The Lord gave Upadesha to Uddhav, a Prema Bhakta. The eleventh canto starts with the Nava Yogi Charitra, in which the yogis expound on the Bhagavata Dharama, and the Yuga Dharmas. Then comes the dialogue between Lord Krishna and Uddhava. When Uddava questioned him on the easiest way to attain the Lord, Sri Krishna replied that the easiest means is the **path of Bhakti**. In order to cultivate Bhakti, the spiritual aspirant needs to be in the divine association of a Jivan Mukta.

The Lord replied that he resides in the heart of these realized souls. Lord Sri Krishna revealed a secret to Uddhava.

Na Rodayati Maam Yogo Na Saankhyam Dharma Eva Cha
Na Svaadyaayastapas Tyaago Neshtapoortham Na Dakshinaa
Vrataani Yagnaschandaamsi Thirthaani Niyamaayama:
Yatavarunde Satsanga: Sarvasangaapaho Hi Maam ||

“Oh Uddhava! It is only satsang that entices me. Yoga, Svadhyaya, Penance, Meditation, Renunciation, Sacrifices, Charity, Recitation of the Vedas and Undertaking pilgrimages, Observing strict austerities - none of these allure me as does satsang”

The full potency of the Lord is present within His holy name,

Namnam Akari Bahudha Nija Sarva Shaktih

"In the names of the Lord exist all of the Lord's energies."

Seeing our very fallen condition in the age of Kali, the Lord blesses us with the simplest and most powerful of religious processes, **Nama Sankirtana**. It is for this reason that Suka Bhramam describes the Kali yuga as,

Kaler Dosha-Nidhe Rajan
Asti Hy Eko Mahan Gunah
Kirtanad Eva Krishnasya
Mukta-Sangah Param Vrajat

My dear king, although Kali-yuga is an ocean of faults, there is still one great quality about this age: simply by chanting the names of Krishna, one can become free from material bondage and be promoted his kingdom."

In the Srimad Bhagavatam we even find that the age of Kali is actually considered the best of all ages. Though the age is full of sins and faults, it remains the best of all ages by virtue of the yuga-dharma being so powerful:

Kalim Sabhajayanty Arya
Guna Jnah Sara-Bhaginah
Yatra Sankirtanenaiva
Sarva-Svartho 'Bhilabhyate

"Those who are actually advanced in knowledge are able to appreciate the essential value of this age of Kali. Such enlightened persons worship Kali-yuga because in this fallen age all perfection of life can easily be achieved by the performance of **Sankirtana** (chanting of the Lord's names).

(Still to come...)

RadheKrishna!!!