



Home Deity Worship Course

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 6.8.17



ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry

ŚB 6.8.17

*sanat-kumāro 'vatu kāmadevād
dhayaśīrṣā mām pathi deva-helanāt
devarṣi-varyaḥ puruṣārcanāntarāt
kūrmo harir mām nirayād aśeṣāt*

sanat-kumāraḥ — the great *brahmacārī* named Sanat-kumāra; *avatu* — may he protect; *kāma-devāt* — from the hands of Cupid or lusty desire; *haya-śīrṣā* — Lord Hayagrīva, the incarnation of the Lord whose head is like that of a horse; *mām* — me; *pathi* — on the path; *deva-helanāt* — from neglecting to offer respectful obeisances to *brāhmaṇas*, Vaiṣṇavas and the Supreme Lord; *devarṣi-varyaḥ* — the best of the saintly sages, Nārada; *puruṣa-arcana-antarāt* — from the offenses in worshiping the Deity; *kūrmaḥ* — Lord Kūrma, the tortoise; *hariḥ* — the Supreme Personality of Godhead; *mām* — me; *nirayāt* — from hell; *aśeṣāt* — unlimited.

May Sanat-kumāra protect me from lusty desires. As I begin some auspicious activity, may Lord Hayagrīva protect me from being an offender by neglecting to offer respectful obeisances to the Supreme Lord. May Devarṣi Nārada protect me from committing offenses in worshiping the Deity, and may Lord Kūrma, the tortoise, protect me from falling to the unlimited hellish planets.

Purport

Lusty desires are very strong in everyone, and they are the greatest impediment to the discharge of devotional service. Therefore those who are very much influenced by lusty desires are advised to take shelter of Sanat-kumāra, the great *brahmacārī* devotee. Nārada Muni, who is the guide for *arcana*, is the author of the *Nārada-pañcarātra*, which prescribes the regulative principles for worshiping the Deity. Everyone engaged in Deity worship, whether at home or in the temple, should always seek the mercy of Devarṣi Nārada in order to avoid the



thirty-two offenses while worshiping the Deity. These offenses in Deity worship are mentioned in *The Nectar of Devotion*.