

Srimad Bhagavatam Reading Plan

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Intro verses

*sAdhu-saGga, nAma-kIrtana, bhAgavata-zravaNa
mathurA-vAsa, zrI-mUrtira zraddhAya sevana*

One should associate with devotees, chant the holy name of the Lord, hear Srimad-Bhagavatam, reside at Mathura and worship the Deity with faith and veneration.

*sakala-sAdhana-zreSTha ei paJca aGga
kRSNa-prema janmAya ei pAGcera alpa saGga*

These five limbs of devotional service are the best of all. Even a slight performance of these five awakens love for Krsna. (CC 2.22.128-129)

*tAGra sthAne rUpa-gosAJi zunena bhAgavata
prabhura kRpAya teGho kRSNa-preme matta*

While he [Raghunatha Bhatta] stayed with Srila Rupa Gosvami, his engagement was to recite Srimad-Bhagavatam for him to hear. As a result of this Bhagavatam recitation, he attained perfectional love of Krsna, by which he remained always maddened. (CC 1.10.158)

*rUpa-gosAJira sabhAya karena bhAgavata-paThana
bhAgavata paDite preme AulAya tAGra mana*

When reciting Srimad-Bhagavatam in the company of Rupa and Sanatana, Raghunatha Bhatta would be overwhelmed with ecstatic love for Krsna. (CC 3.13.126)

Reading sastras: what does it mean?

Reading sastras primarily refers to their Sanskrit verses, as far as their phala srutis (results) are concerned. Sastra editions without Sanskrit (the majority available in the West) are therefore incomplete.

Listening and reading are usually considered on the same level as various phala srutis suggest by words *zRNvanti ca paThanti ca*. Examples:

mat-kRtam tvat-param stotraM zRNvanti ca paThanti ca |

sarvAn kAMAn pUrayethAH tezAM tvaM loka-bhAvana || 13 ||

Sri Sanideva replied: O Lord Nrsimha, O reservoir of compassion, please be kind to me. O Lord of all gods, let my week-day (Saturday) be Your favorite day. O Purifier of all the worlds, may You fulfill the desires of all those who listen to or read this great prayer to You composed by me.

(ZrI Zanaizcara-kRta ZrI NarasiMha Stuti, RakSobhuvana mahAtmya, BhaviSya PurANa Uttara)

yathA skAnde --

*vaiSNavAni tu zAstrANI ye zRNvanti paThanti ca |
dhanyAs te mAnavA loka tesAM kRSNaH prasIdati || 207 ||*

From Skanda Purana: Blessed are they in this world who study and listen to Vaisnava literature and Lord Sri Krsna is pleased with them. (RUpa GosvAmI – Bhakti rasAmRta sindhu 1.2.207)

*ye paThanti mahA-bhAge zRnvanti ca samAhitaH
mathurAyAz ca mahAtmyaM te yAnti paramAM gatim*

O fortunate one, they who read or hear of the glories of Mathura go to the supreme destination. (RUpa GosvAmI – MathurA MahAtmya 440)

Srimad Bhagavatam length

The BBT edition consists of 14 094* verses and prose texts in 335 chapters:
Canto/# Chapters/# Verses: 1/19/808, 2/10/393, 3/33/1416, 4/31/1449, 5/26/668,
6/19/851, 7/15/750, 8/24/931, 9/24/960, 10/90/3936, 11/31/1367 12/13/565

)* According to Matsya, Visnu and Skanda Puranas as well as Narada Pancaratra, Srimad Bhagavatam should have 18,000 verses. Gangasahaya, the writer of Anvitartha Prakasa, counted all the words of Srimad Bhagavatam including the uvaca and chapter endings, added them up and divided it by 32 to convert the whole Srimad Bhagavatam into anustup verses. This is the standard way to count the number of verses. He did this thrice and his calculation was short by one and half verses. The loss of the 1 1/2 verses is due to different editions of the SBh.

Sacisuta das: If you count all the uvacas and take them as whole anustup (1332 pieces) and add the chapter endings taking as upendra vajra (460,6) then you get 17999,6 "slokas".

Four ways of reading Srimad Bhagavatam

- *tamasika*, following Siva (Skanda Purana 2.6.3.42, 2.6.4.27): one year (approximately 39 verses daily)
- *rajasika*, following Brahma (Skanda Purana 2.6.4.25): one week

(the well-known saptaha, approximately 2013 verses / under 7 hours daily)

- *sattvika*, following Visnu (Skanda Purana 2.6.3.35): one month

(28 days, approximately 500 verses daily)

- *sattvika*, following Laksmi (a better one according to Skanda Purana 2.6.3.36, 2.6.4.26): two months (approximately 250 verses daily)

This last way is described in a detailed plan below. It contains in average 200-300 verses/texts per day (with the speed of 5 verses per minute it means 40–60 min), so the whole text takes 56 days (two lunar months) to finish.

It's easier to read from a verse-only text file in a computer, an ebook reader or a cell phone. In a group setting the text can be projected on a wall.

Two versions:

- a plain one: <https://www.srimadbhagavatam.org/pdf/SB-Sanskrit.pdf>

- another one, with an elaboration on SBh phala srutis:

http://veda.harekrsna.cz/library/SB_phala_srutis.zip

Canto 1 / 808 verses / 3 days

1.1-7: $23+34+44+33+40+38+58=270$

1.8-13: $52+49+36+39+36+60=272$

1.14-19: $44+51+36+45+50+40=266$

Canto 2 / 393 verses / 1 day

2.1-10: $39+37+25+25+42+46+53+29+46+51=393$

Canto 3 / 1416 verses / 6 days

3.1-6: $45+34+28+36+51+40=234$

3.7-12: $42+33+44+30+42+57=248$

3.13-18: $50+51+50+37+31+28=247$

3.19-23: $38+53+56+39+57=243$

3.24-28: $47+44+72+30+44=237$

3.29-33: $45+34+48+43+37=207$

Canto 4 / 1449 verses / 6 days

4.1-6: $66+35+25+34+26+53=239$

4.7-10: $61+82+67+30=240$

4.11-16: $35+52+49+46+26+27=235$

4.17-22: $36+32+42+38+52+63=263$

4.23-27: $39+79+62+26+30=236$

4.28-31: $65+89+51+31=236$

Canto 5 / 668 verses / 3 days

5.1-10: $41+23+20+19+35+19+14+31+20+25=247$

5.11-19: $17+16+26+46+16+29+24+39+31=244$

5.20-26: $46+19+17+9+31+15+40=177$

Canto 6 / 851(783) verses / 3 days

6.1-6: $68+49+35+54+44+45=295$

6.7-13: $40+42+55+33+27+35+23=255$

6.14-19: $61+28+65+41+78+28=301$

Canto 7 / 750 verses / 3 days

7.1-5: $48+61+38+46+57=250$

7.6-10: $30+55+56+55+70=266$

7.11-15: $35+31+46+42+80=234$

Canto 8 / 931 verses / 4 days

8.1-7: $33+33+33+26+50+39+46=260$

8.8-12: $46+29+57+48+47=227$

8.13-19: $36+11+36+62+28+32+43=248$

8.20-24: $34+34+36+31+61=196$

Canto 9 / 960 verses / 4 days

9.1-6: $42+36+36+71+28+55=268$

9.7-13: $26+30+49+55+36+16+27=239$

9.14-19: $49+41+37+17+51+29=224$

9.20-24: $39+36+49+38+67=229$

Canto 10 / 3936 verses / 16 days

10.1-5: $69+42+53+46+32=242$

10.6-11: $44+37+52+23+43+59=258$

10.12-15: $44+64+61+52=221$

10.16-22: $67+25+32+16+49+20+38=247$

10.23-29: $52+38+33+25+28+17+48=241$

10.30-37: $44+19+22+39+32+26+40+33=255$

10.38-43: $43+57+30+52+38+40=260$

10.44-48: $51+50+49+69+36=255$

10.49-53: $31+57+63+44+57=252$

10.54-58: $60+40+45+42+58=245$

10.59-64: $45+59+40+33+53+44=274$

10.65-70: $34+43+28+54+45+47=251$

10.71-76: $45+46+35+54+40+33=253$

10.77-82: $37+40+34+45+41+48=245$

10.83-86: $43+71+59+59=232$

10.87-90: $50+40+65+50=205$

Canto 11 / 1367 verses / 5 days

11.1-6: $24+55+55+23+52+50=259$

11.7-12: $74+44+33+37+49+24=261$

11.13-18: $42+46+36+44+58+48=274$

11.19-24: $45+37+43+61+61+29=276$

11.25-31: $36+35+55+44+49+50+28=297$

Canto 12 / 565 verses / 2 days

12.1-6: $41+44+52+43+13+80=273$

12.7-13: $25+49+34+42+50+69+23=292$