

Q: What is the scriptural authority for the statement found in the purport below, which compares the relative effect of chanting the names Visnu, Rama and Krsna?

SB 1.19.6 purport

According to the Varaha Purana, as quoted by Srila Jiva Goswami, there is no difference between the water of the Ganges and the Yamuna, but when the water of the Ganges is sanctified one hundred times, it is called the Yamuna. Similarly, it is said in the scriptures that one thousand names of Visnu are equal to one name of Rama, and three names of Lord Rama are equal to one name of Krsna.

Ans:

1.

The Padma Purana is quoted in the Hari-bhakti-vilasa (11.183) as follows [Çata-nama-stotra states the same]:

viñëor ekaika-nämäpi sarva-vedädhikaà matam

tädäk nämā-sahasreëa rāma-nāma-samaà smātam

“One name of Lord Visnu is superior to all the Vedas, and one name of Lord Rama is equal to a thousand names of Visnu.”

2.

The Brahmanda Purana states:

sahasra-nāmnāà puëyānāà

trir ävāttyä tu yat phalam

ekävāttyä tu kãñëasya

nāmaikaà tat prayacchati

“When the thousand transcendental names of Sri Visnu are chanted three times, they are equivalent to chanting one name of Krsna.’

3.

Thus: a thousand names of Visnu equals one name of Rama, and three thousand names of Visnu – that is to say, three names of Rama – equals one name of Krsna. Chanting Krsna’s name once gives the same result as chanting Rama’s name three times.