

[Devotee]: Why are we not allowed to pick Tulasi leaves on Dvadasi (the day after ekadasi)?

[Srila Narayana Gosvami Maharaja:] It is written in the Vedic scriptures that, on dvadasi, Tulasi devi feels extreme pain when anyone takes her leaves. Moreover, on the full moon day, on sankranti day, or when we have put oil on our body or not yet taken bath or if we are dressed in night clothes, or during midday, or in evening and during night – under all these circumstances we should refrain from picking tulasi leaves. If we do not follow this, it is like cutting the head of Hari. It is very offensive.

For the service of Hari, Sri Krsna, we may pick tulasi leaves on the full moon day and sankranti; these are the only exceptions to that which is mentioned above. On dvadasi day and all other above-mentioned days and times, we must avoid picking her leaves.