

ŚRĪ MAHĀNET

Since the beginning of the Millennium

July 2019



Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta
Swami Prabhupada

Human society is divided into four social orders of life and four spiritual divisions, applying to each and every individual person. This system is called *varṇāśrama-dharma* and has already been discussed in many places in this great literature. The sages, or persons who completely devoted themselves to the spiritual upliftment of the entire human society, were known as *dvija-deva*, the best amongst the twice-born. The denizens of superior planets, from the moon planet and upwards, were known as *devas*. Both the *dvija-devas* and the *devas* always establish temples of Lord Viṣṇu in His various forms, such as *Govinda*, *Madhusūdana*, *Nṛsimha*, *Mādhava*, *Keśava*, *Nārāyaṇa*, *Padmanābha*, *Pārtha-sārathi* and many others. The Lord expands Himself in innumerable forms, but all of them are nondifferent from one another.

(Prabhupada Purport SB 3:1:23)

ŚRĪ ŚRĪ PRAPANNA-JIVANAMRTAM

by Śrīla Bhakti Rakṣhaka Śrīdhara

Deva Goswāmī Mahārāja

Verse 2.20

tad upeksitanam duhkha-pratikarah ksanika eva –

*balasya neha saranam pitarau nrsimha
nartasya cagadam udanvati majjato nauh
taptasya tat-pratividhir ya ihanjasestas
tavad vibho tanu-bhrtam tvad-upeksitanam*

Bhagavatam, 7.9.19

For persons devoid of a relationship with the Supreme Lord Hari,
prevention of suffering cannot but be transitory –

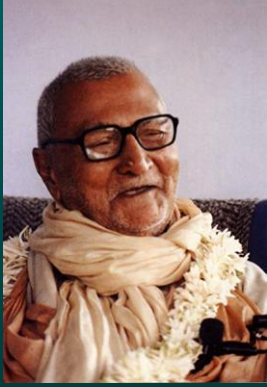
"O Nrsimha, O Almighty Lord, precautions and remedies are only short-lived when attempted by the suffering embodied souls who are not favored by You. Parents are not the guardians of their child, medicine is not the cure for the diseased, and a boat is not the savior of a man drowning in the ocean."



Sri Visnoh Smaranam

WORDS OF OUR GUARDIANS

Śrīla Bhakti Rakṣaka Śrīdhara Deva Goswāmī Mahārāja
from *The Loving Search For The Lost Servant*



**Śrīla Bhakti Rakṣak
Sridhar Deva Goswami
Maharaj**

*“The holy name of
Krishna is most
important; it is no
less than Krishna
Himself. It fully
represents the
whole.”*

Progress means eliminating one thing and accepting another. Yet we should be able to see that there are so many others who can help us in our progress in the line of dedication; we must go forward with our eyes open. And the scriptures describe many levels that we shall have to cross beyond in our progress. By elimination, the path of progress is shown from Brahma to Śiva to Lakṣmi. At last Uddhava is shown to be superior to all. But it is his opinion that the gopis are the highest devotees. This is confirmed by Rupa Goswami:

*karmibhyah parito hareh priyataya
vyaktim yayur jnaninas
tebhyo jnana-vimukta-bhakti-*

from knowledge, not by knowledge, having achieved divine love. They have gained entrance into the land of dedication and are engaged there spontaneously in the Lord's loving service. Among all devotees, however, the gopis are the highest, for they have forsaken everyone, including their families, and every thing, including the strictures of the Vedas, and have taken complete shelter at the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa, accepting Him as their only protection. But among all the gopis, Srimati Radharani reigns supreme. For Kṛṣṇa left the company of millions of gopis during the rasa dance to search for Her alone. She is so dear to Sri Kṛṣṇa that the pond in which She bathes is His very favorite place. Who but a madman would not aspire to render service, under the shelter of superior devotees, in that most exalted of all holy places?"

Go Deeper, Go Higher

*paramah premaika-nisthas tatah
tebhyas tah pasu-pala-pankaja-drsas
tabhyo 'pi sa radhika
prestha tadvad iyam tadiya-sarasi
tam nasrayet kah kṛti
Sri Upadesamṛta (10)*

"There are those in the world who regulate their tendency for exploitation in accordance with the scriptural rules and thereby seek gradual elevation to the spiritual domain. However, superior to them are those wise men who, having given up the tendency to lord over others, attempt to dive deep into the realm of consciousness. But far superior to them are the pure devotees who are free from any mundane ambitions and are liberated

In His talks with Ramananda Raya, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu repeatedly says, *eho bahya, age kaha ara*. Go further, go deeper, go higher! There are so many who consider their position to be the highest, who, achieving a particular stage, stop there. But we find in Sanatana Goswami's *Bṛhad-Bhagavatamṛtam* how *Gopa-kumara*, beginning from the lowest stage of devotion, gradually makes progress through different levels, and at last comes to the Kṛṣṇa conception in the mellow of friendship - *sakhya rasa*. There it is described how he gradually eliminates one stage and makes further progress to the highest stages of devotion.

As he progresses from one level to the next, everyone seems to be very helpful to him, but gradually, their company seems to him to be stale. At that time, a higher chance is given to him through an agent of

divinity, and, leaving that plane behind, he goes to a new and higher plane. In this way, the progress of dedication is shown in *Bṛhad-Bhagavatamṛtam*.

Higher Light

Just as in the tangible world there is the sun, the moon, and so many other planets, in the world of faith there is a gradation of planetary systems. We have to scrutinize the scriptures, take advantage of the guidance given by saints, and understand how the progress of faith to the highest plane is achieved by eliminating the lower planes. And whenever there is any doubt, we should consult with some higher agent in order to make progress. Spiritual reality is eternal existence, complete consciousness, and ecstasy. Mere existence cannot fulfill us. Even our inner hankering and feeling, consciousness, is not sufficient. We require *rasa* and

ananda, ecstasy, to give us fulfillment. Spiritual realization is also of different types. We have to distinguish between different spiritual conceptions, and our choices improve as we dive deeper and deeper into reality. We must die to live. And the consideration of death is also deep, deeper, and deepest. The gradation of higher and lower is always there. If we are to progress, there must be elimination and new acceptance. The duties that we find ourselves in the midst of may be left for higher duties. In this way we must progress, while always consulting the saints and scriptures. They will guide us in the ocean of faith. Otherwise the spiritual world is unknown and unknowable. The Absolute Truth is known and knowable to a particular section, and they have given us direction. If we take advantage of that, then by the guidance of saints and scriptures we shall gradually

eliminate our faults.

First we must eliminate this mortal existence. Then, we must satisfy our reason, our consciousness. And finally, we must satisfy our heart. Sri Caitanya Mahāprabhu says that the heart is the most important thing within us. We should follow the direction of the heart. The highest fulfillment is fulfillment of the heart, not the fulfillment of consciousness, or the attainment of eternal existence. Eternal existence has no meaning if it is not conscious, and consciousness has no meaning if it does not give any fulfillment. So *sat*, eternal existence, *cit*, consciousness, and *ananda* fulfillment, ecstasy, are the three principles of our ultimate destination.

DIVINE INSTRUCTION

Srila Bhakti Sundara Govinda Deva Goswami Maharaja
from "Revealed Truth"

THE NECESSITY OF AVOIDING OFFENCE

*namaikam yasya vachi
smarana-patha-gatam
srotra-mulam gatam va
suddham vasuddha-
varnam vyavahita-
rahitam
tarayaty eva satyam
tach ched deha-dravina-
janata-
lobha-pasanda-madhye
niksiptam syan na phala-
janakam
sighram evatra vipra
(Padma Purana)*

The Scriptures explain:
"If anyone once hears,
chants or remembers the

Lord's divine Name without any offence he will be delivered from material existence immediately. But if someone maintains their material connections and pursues mundane ends while they chant the Lord's Holy Name then the result of his chanting does not bear fruit quickly but gradually comes to him."

This *sloka* gives us necessary consciousness about our practicing life by showing us that our offensive mentality is

our only obstacle in our chanting of the Holy Name and that until we can avoid all offences we will not get the proper result of chanting the Lord's Holy Name. But no one should be hopeless to hear this caution. We can also see that in this *sloka* it is indirectly expressed that even if we chant with offences we will eventually get a good result from our chanting.

*namaparadha-yuktanam
namany eva haranty
agham
(Padma Purana: Svarga-
khanda, 48.49)*



Srila Bhakti Sundara
Govinda Deva Goswami
Maharaja

“If we are chanting *Nama-aparadha*, chanting the Holy Name with offence, we should never stop our chanting, because the Holy Name Himself will remove our offences by His divine influence.”

It is necessary to eagerly chant the Lord’s Holy Name and always be hopeful. And we can always be hopeful because the Lord’s Holy Name is always joyful and merciful like Krsna Himself.

In this way we can understand that Mahaprabhu specifically taught that if you want to chant the Holy Name of Lord purely and fully satisfy the Lord through your chanting then you will have to chant the Lord’s Holy Name constantly without making any offences. Krsna will be happy with us if we will practice Krsna consciousness and chant His Holy Name without offence. If we have love for Krsna then we must try to satisfy Him by practicing and chanting without offence.

In the *Padma Purana* the ten kinds of offences which must be avoided to chant the Lord’s Holy

“Constantly chant the divine Name of the Lord in a mood of humility, tolerance and giving honor to others without desiring honor for yourself, and you will become qualified to chant the Lord’s Holy Name without offence.”

Here Mahaprabhu expresses His conception that a real, positive practitioner of Krsna consciousness must have the qualities of humility, tolerance and giving honor to others without desiring honor for himself. These are the essential qualities of a Vaisnava and anyone who truly has these qualities is qualified to chant the Lord’s Holy Name purely.

It is very simple advice and by following it sincerely we will easily avoid all offensiveness; no offence will be able to touch us. The formula of humility, tolerance and giving honors to others that Mahaprabhu gives in His third sloka (*trnad api sunichena*) is the perfect remedy for our misfortune of offensiveness to Hari-Nama which He explains in His second sloka (*namnam akari bahudha nija-sarva-saktis*).

Name purely are explained. We have already published these offences with the original *slokas* and whenever anyone has taken initiation we have given them that book and requested them, “Read these offences, memorize them and avoid them.”* That is necessary for everyone.

[*Note: Here a footnote can be added saying: “Srla Govinda Maharaj’s poem explaining the ten offenses to the Holy Name, *Dasa-Vidha-Namaparadha*, is included at the conclusion of his book *Revealed Truth*.]

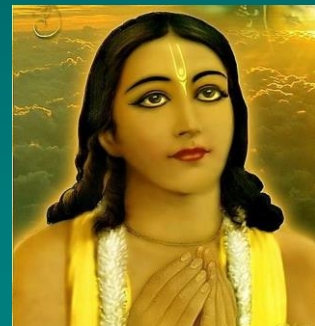
MAHAPRABHU’S FORMULA FOR CURING OUR OFFENSIVE MENTALITY

In the third *sloka* of His *Siksastakam* Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu has explained the qualifications needed to avoid the ten offences in chanting the Lord’s Holy Name and attract the Lord’s divine Name to reveal Himself in our heart with His full power.

*trnad api sunichena tarora iva sahisnuna
amanina manadena kirttaniyah sada harih*

SMASHING THE MUNDANE EGO

Mahaprabhu gave us this very nice and best formula because everyone has some ego and all our offences to Hari-Nama are actually coming from that ego. Mahaprabhu’s teaching is that it is first of all necessary to oust the ego from our mind, *cheto-darpana-marjanam*. Mahaprabhu teaches us we must try to completely remove all mundane egotism from ourselves. But He also explains that we must keep some type of ego - *jivera svarupa haya Krsnera nitya-dasa*; that we will always consider our self to be an eternal servant of Krsna and maintain our transcendental connection with Him.



SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

Srila Bhakti Nirmal Acharya Maharaja
from "Guidance" – Volume 1

Varṇāśrama and Practising Life

7 September 2010

Here in India Hindu people say they follow the Veda. When you ask any Hindu, they say, "Oh, we are under this kind of Veda," but they do not follow the rules and regulations of the Vedas. No Veda gives the direction, "Kill a *jīva* soul." Vedas do not tell this, but people say, "We follow the *Veda*." There are four Vedas: *Ṛg Veda*, *Sāma Veda*, *Yajur Veda*, *Atharva Veda*.

There are also four *āśrams*. It is said in *Śrī Chaitanya-charitāmṛta*,

*chāri varṇāśramī yadī kṛṣṇa nāhi bhaje
svakarma karileo se raurave paḍi maje*

(*Śrī Chaitanya-charitāmṛta*, *Madhya-līlā*, 22.26)

Mahāprabhu said, "Somebody may strictly follow *brahmacharya*



Srila Bhakti Nirmal Acharya Maharaja

āśram from the age of 1 to 25, then *gṛhastha āśram* from 25 to 50, *vānaprastha āśram* from 50 to 75, and *sannyās āśram* from 75 to 100, but if they do not follow Kṛṣṇa consciousness, they still have no hope: they have to go to hell." *Raurav* means hell. "They are sinners (*pāpī*), and they will go to hell." Mahāprabhu says it very nicely.

Even when Śrī Chaitanya Mahāprabhu came to Katwa to take *sannyās*, Keśav Bhāratī told Him many times, "How will You take *sannyās*?"

Before that, when Keśav Bhāratī came to Jagannāth Miśra's house, he saw Nimāi as a *sannyāsī*, and Nimāi also thought, "I will take *sannyās* for preaching because people do not listen to Me. What have I come here for? I cannot rescue all of them because they are not following Me. I am a *gṛhastha*, householder. If I tell them something, they tell the opposite, 'Oh, You take Your wife's food, You sleep on a good cushioned bed, and then You give some good

advice—who will listen to You?'" He thought, "To rescue the whole universe, I must take *sannyās*."

Mahāprabhu asked Keśav Bhāratī something, and Keśav Bhāratī said, "What are You thinking about? Do You want to take *sannyās*? Do not do that. Do not even think about it because Your wife is here, and Your mother is also here. If, however, You get the permission from Your mother and wife, then only take *sannyās*." He left. When Mahāprabhu came to Keśav Bhāratī later, they spent the whole night speaking *Kṛṣṇa-kathā*. Keśav Bhāratī spoke like this:

"You are only twenty-four years old, how will You take *sannyās*? You have not even finished Your *brahmachārya* life! Even when You become fifty, You still cannot control Your senses (*rūpa*, *rasa*, *gandha*, *śabda*, *sparśa*—the senses of sight, taste, smell, hearing, touch), then how will You take *sannyās*? Even at fifty You still cannot take *sannyās*."

To be continued in August 2019 issue....

VAISNAVA CALENDAR for New York, New Jersey Area

July 2019

2. (Tue) Amavasya. Disappearance of **Srila Gadadhar Pandit Goswami**. Disappearance of **Srila Sachchidananda Bhakti Vinod Thakur**.
3. (Wed) Gaura Pratipad. **Gundicha Marjan**: cleaning at the Gundicha Temple at Sri Puri Dham, and cleaning of all Temples of the Lord.
4. (Thu) Gaura Dvitiya. **Ratha Yatra of Sri Jagannathdev**. Disappearance of Srila Svarup Damodar Goswami Prabhu.
7. (Sun) Gaura Shashthi. Hera Panchami. Sri Sri Laksmi Vijay (observed the following day in Sri Puri Dham).
10. (Wed) Gaura Navami. Disappearance of Sripad Ajita Krishna Brahmachari.
12. (Fri) Gaura Ekadashi. Shayan Ekadashi. **Fast**. Punar Yatra of Sri Jagannathdev (Return car festival). Disappearance of Sriyukta Krishnamayi Devi (because the Dashami tithi of previous day was viddha at sunrise). Disappearance of Tridandi Swami Bhakti Kamal Madhusudan Maharaj.
13. (Sat) Gaura Dvadashi. Paran between 05:37 and 10:33.
16. (Tue) Purnima. Sri Guru Purnima. Appearance of Srila Vyasadev. Beginning of Chaturmasya (when started on Purnima as followed in Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math). Disappearance of Srila Sanatan Goswami Prabhu. Appearance of Srila Bhakti Bimal Avadhut Maharaj.

SRIDHAR

18. (Thu) Krishna Dvitiya. Disappearance of Tridandi Swami Srimad Bhakti Hriday Bon Maharaj.
22. (Mon) Krishna Shashthi. Disappearance of Srila Gopal Bhatta Goswami Prabhu.
25. (Thu) Krishna Navami. Disappearance of Srila Lokanath Goswami Prabhu.
27. (Sat) Krishna Dashami. No fast today (because of Dashami *viddha* at dawn).
28. (Sun) Krishna Dvadashi. Kamika Ekadashi. **Fast**.
29. (Mon) Krishna Trayodashi. Paran between 05:50 and 10:38.

MBC TV

Mahaprabhu Broadcasting Channel

<http://mahaprabhu.net/MBC>

Please Join Sri Mahanet Mailing list

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mahanet/join>