

The Role of Humility in Attaining *Kṛṣṇa Prema*

Loving devotional service is far different from disciplines such as *karma*, *jñāna*, and *yoga*. At every stage it is decorated by indifference to them, and its root is *dainya*, utter humility. When one allows secondary means and goals to become prominent, one deviates from *bhakti*. The most essential support—and a candidate for pure *bhakti* must always take help from it—is utter humility.

An intelligent person should carefully cultivate speech, behavior, and thinking that fix him in utter humility, and anything that stands in the way of it he should avoid.

Dainya at its most exalted comes forth when *prema*, pure love of God, reaches full maturity, as it did in the women of Gokula when they were separated from Kṛṣṇa.

When *dainya* fully matures, *prema* unfolds without limit. And so we see *dainya* and *prema* acting in a relationship in which each is both cause and effect. Yes, *prema* is the final goal, but *dainya* is not altogether different from *prema*. *Dainya* is an integral component of *prema*, and both foster one another.

Without utter humility, the pure love that leads to entrance into Goloka will never arise. And until you attain that world, you will never be at peace.

Dainya, transcendental unconditional humility, is the most important prerequisite for gaining eternal residence in Goloka.

— Śrīla Sanātana Gosvāmī's *Śrī Brhad-bhāgavatāmṛta*, Vol 3. Ch 5 Verses 221, 223, 224, 225, 240, Ch 6 Verse 29