

— A Transcendental Blessing —

*utsāhān niścayād dhairyāt
tat-tat-karma-pravartanāt
saṅga-tyāgāt sato vṛtteḥ
ṣaḍbhir bhaktiḥ prasidhyati*

There are six principles favorable to the execution of pure devotional service: (1) being enthusiastic, (2) endeavoring with confidence, (3) being patient, (4) acting according to regulative principles [such as *śravaṇam kīrtanam viṣṇoḥ smaraṇam* [SB 7.5.23] — hearing, chanting and remembering Kṛṣṇa], (5) abandoning the association of nondevotees, and (6) following in the footsteps of the previous *ācāryas*. These six principles undoubtedly assure the complete success of pure devotional service.

— Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī's *Śrī Upadesāmṛta* text 3

Determination means *utsāhā*, “I must.” That is necessary. Not that “When Kṛṣṇa is merciful, then I shall do.” Kṛṣṇa is already merciful. But if we do not take it, then what Kṛṣṇa will do? Kṛṣṇa does not touch on your little individuality or little independence. So therefore we have... Just like when we earn money, we are very enthusiastic, similarly, if we want Kṛṣṇa consciousness, if we want to earn that position, go back to home, back to Godhead, we must be very much enthusiastic, *utsāhān*.

— Lecture, Bombay, 10th Apr, 1971

Endeavor executed with intelligence in Kṛṣṇa consciousness is called utsāha, or enthusiasm.

— NOI 3p



Those who are saintly simply depend on Kṛṣṇa. Why? If Kṛṣṇa is supplying to the elephant down to the ant, why not to me? I am engaged in His service. Is He so ungrateful? If you render some service somewhere, you are given some wages. So if you are engaged in Kṛṣṇa's service do you think you will starve? Why? You cannot starve. He is the well-wisher of all living entities. Why not for you? This confidence must be there. If He is the well-wisher of everyone and I am engaged in His service, is He not my well-wisher? **So we should simply depend on Kṛṣṇa. We should simply exert all our energies for the service of Kṛṣṇa, then everything will be all right. This is called surrender, this is called confidence.**

— Lecture, Los Angeles, 12th Feb, 1969



“Immediately I become fully Kṛṣṇa consciousness and perfect.” No. There may be so many imperfections. Because we are in the imperfect atmosphere. **But patiently, if you go on executing your duties in devotional service as it is directed in the *śāstras* and confirmed by the spiritual master, then rest assured that your success is guaranteed. This is the way.**

— Lecture, Vṛndāvana, 20th Oct, 1972



You must follow the rules and regulation as it is enjoined in the *śāstra*. Not that “Kṛṣṇa will give me protection and I may do whatever I like. I can eat anything I like, I can do anything I like.” Just some rascal advises that “There is no such thing, restriction, in the self realization. You can eat anything, you can do anything.” People like that program. And as soon as there is restriction, they do not like. Because we put so many restriction, I am called in the western world, “Swamiji, you are very conservative.” So we have to become conservative, follow the rules. Not that we give liberty, that “Whatever you like, you do, and at the same time you make progress, spiritual life.” That is not possible.

— Lecture, Bombay, 10th April, 1974



“A Vaiṣṇava’s behavior should be that he should give up the company of *asat*, nondevotee.” That is his first business. **He should give up the company of nondevotee. This is first business. Because he will be infected.**

— Lecture, Los Angeles, 12th Dec, 1973

Don’t associate with nondevotee. If you want to make progress, don’t associate. Associate does not mean to talk with a nondevotee is association. No. That we have to do. As gentlemen, as devotee, we can. But not intimately. Associate means *dadāti pratigrhṇāti bhunkte bhojayate caiva, guhyam ākhyāti pṛcchati ca*. These are intimate relationship, dealing: giving something to your friend, accepting something from your friend, feeding your friend, accept food from him, and disclose your mind to your friend, and understand his mind.

— Lecture, Vṛndāvana, 15th Nov, 1976



We cannot deviate from the path of the previous *ācāryas*. We must strictly follow. That is the qualification. We must follow their instruction. Therefore **I repeatedly say to my students that “You chant Hare Kṛṣṇa *mantra* sixteen rounds, and follow the regulative principles. Your strength is there... Don’t deviate from the instruction. Then you will stand as strong as the Himalayan mountain. Very simple thing. Anyone can do...** If you stick to the principle of following the footsteps of previous predecessor, *evam paramparā-prāptam* [Bg. 4.2], don’t add anything, don’t subtract anything, present as it is and keep your spiritual strength intact, then the preaching will go on. Nobody can disturb you.

— Lecture, Bombay, 9th Jan, 1973



Enthusiasm, patience, firm conviction, following the rules and regulations, dealing straightforward, no duplicity, and in association of devotees. If you can keep these six principles always in front then your progress in Kṛṣṇa consciousness is sure. There is no doubt about it.

— Lecture, Los Angeles, 2nd Aug, 1970