


Six Faults that Destroy Bhakti

3. Prajalpa – Idle Talking

Prajalpa – Idle Talking

Talking with one another is called jalpana or prajalpa.

Nowadays in this world godlessness is so prominent that conversing with others means godless talk.



Therefore it is not profitable for a practicing devotee to engage in jalpana.

Prajalpa – Idle Talking

There can, however, be many kinds of jalpana in the cultivation of devotional service.

They are all auspicious for the devotees.

Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī has written in his Kārpaṇya-pañjikā-stotra:

tathāpy asmin kadācid vāmadhīśau nāma-jalpini
avadya-vṛnda-nistāri nāmābhāsau prasīdatām

Prajalpa – Idle Talking

Devotees recite the purport of this verse in the following words:

Example of
one kind of
Positive Prajalpa
(by) Jalpa

tathāpi e dīna-jane, yadi nāma-uccāraṇe
nāmābhāsa karila jīvane

sarva-doṣa-nivāraṇa, duḥkṛt-nāma-sañjalpana
prasāde prasīda dui jane

"While chanting the holy name of the Lord, if a wretched person in his lifetime achieves nāmābhāsa, or a glimpse of offenseless chanting, then all his faults are destroyed and Their Lordships become pleased with him."

Prajalpa – Idle Talking

ways of favourably engaging the speaking capacity

① Kīrtana, ② offering prayers, and ③ reciting the scriptures are all jalpana; but when these are performed with a favorable mood and devoid of material desire, then they are all cultivation of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Therefore the conclusion is this: All prajalpas that are unfavorable to Kṛṣṇa's service are adverse to devotional service.

Prajalpa – Idle Talking

The practitioner should carefully give up prajalpa.

There is no fault in the activities of the mahājanas.

The mahājanas have respectfully engaged in prajalpa (favorable to devotional service), and this is our only duty.

Prajalpa – Idle Talking

Sometimes puffed-up devotees advise that all types of (prajalpa) should be given up.

↓
Specific.

Following Mahājan is very critical to understand the practical application of śāstras

But we are followers of Śrīla Rūpa Gōsvāmī; being followers of Rūpa Gosvāmī we will always stick to the path shown by the sadhus who are following his instructions.

In the Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu, as quoted from the Skanda Purāna, it is said:

Prajalpa – Idle Talking

sa mṛgyaḥ śreyasām hetuḥ
panthāḥ santāpa-varjitaḥ
anavāpta-śramam pūrve
yena santaḥ pratisthire

One should follow (sah mṛgyaḥ) the scriptural rules (panthāḥ) which give the highest benefit (śreyasām hetuḥ) and are devoid of hardship (santāpa-varjitaḥ), by which the previous devotees easily progressed (yena pūrve santaḥ anavapta śramam pratasthire). (Skandha Purana)

① Follow the Scriptural rules
② highest benefit
③ devoid of hardship?
④ malle jano you seton sa pentre

Prajalpa – Idle Talking

Our mahājana's path is that which was shown by Śrīla Vyāsadeva,
Śukadeva Gosvāmī, Prahlāda Mahārāja, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu,
and His associates.

⑤

We are not to leave aside that path to follow the instructions of new
puffed-up devotees.

All the mahājanas have respected that prajalpa which nourishes
devotion to Hari.

↑ Conversation
(or) speaking - (or) vibrating the
tongue to produce
sound.

Prajalpa – Idle Talking

We will discuss this in the appropriate place.

Godless prajalpas are impediments to devotional service.

They are of many types.

Prajalpa – Idle Talking

1. Useless talks
2. Arguments
3. Gossip
4. Debates
5. Fault-finding in others
6. Speaking falsehoods
7. Blaspheming devotees
8. Worldly talk

Prajalpa – Idle Talking

1. Useless Talk

Useless talk is extremely detrimental.

Practicing devotees should discuss topics of Lord Hari in the association of other devotees and remember Hari's name, form, qualities, and pastimes in a secluded place without uselessly wasting time.

In the Bhagavad-gītā (10.8-9) it is said:

|| 10.8 ||

aham sarvasya prabhavo
mattaḥ sarvaṁ pravartate
iti matvā bhajante mām
budhā bhāva-samanvitāḥ

I am the source of everything (aham sarvasya prabhavaḥ).
Due to Me everything operates (mattaḥ sarvaṁ pravartate).
Convinced by this knowledge (iti matvā), the intelligent
persons (budhāḥ), endowed with love (bhāva-samanvitāḥ),
worship Me (mām bhajante).

|| 10.9 ||

mac-cittā mad-gata-prāṇā
bodhayantaḥ parasparam
kathayantaś ca mām nityam
tuṣyanti ca ramanti ca

highlight

With minds greedy for Me (mac-cittā), being completely dependent on Me (mad-gata-prāṇā), mutually hearing about Me (bodhayantaḥ parasparam), and singing about Me (kathayantaś ca mām), they continuously experience satisfaction and enjoyment (nityam tuṣyanti ca ramanti ca).

Also in the Gītā (9.14) it says:

सततम् किरतयन्तो माम्
यतन्ताश्च द्रढा-व्रताह
नामस्यन्ताश्च माम् भक्त्या
नित्य-युक्ता उपसते

They worship Me at all times (satataṁ mām upāsate) with devotion (bhaktiā), in the form of singing about Me (kīrtayanto), having strict vows (dr̥ḍha-vratāḥ), desiring to be My associates (nitya-yuktā), wandering about to gain association (yatantah), and offering unto Me respects as well as other devotional acts (namasyantaś ca mām bhaktiā).

Prajalpa – Idle Talking

In this way the practicing devotee should cultivate unalloyed devotion.

If they spend their days and nights uselessly talking with materialists, then the Lord's instruction, "always chanting My glories," will not be followed.

In newspapers there is so much useless talk.

Prajalpa – Idle Talking

For the practicing devotee to read newspapers is a great loss.

But if there are topics about pure devotees described in the newspaper, then that can be read.

After finishing their meal, mundane people normally smoke and engage in useless talk with other godless people.

Prajalpa – Idle Talking

It is certainly difficult for them to become followers of Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī.

Reading novels is the same.

But if one gets a novel with a story like that of Purañjana in the Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, then reading that is not an impediment, rather it is beneficial.