

Six Qualities that Enhance Bhakti

7. Utsāha - Enthusiasm

**Srila Bhakti Rakshak
Sridhara Maharaj
on Utsāha**

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Eagerness should always be to serve the wishes of the highest plane of Krsna-bhakti.

That is very, very rarely to be found in this mundane world.

We shall be eager to catch the telegraphic language of the highest plane.
→ Entusias

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

We must try to catch that and be subservient to that.

That should be the nature of our quest and the utilization of our energy.

How to change the paradigm of our endeavor?

How to develop that?

Sādhu & śāstra

With the contact of the sadhu and with the help of the scriptures we can try to increase that inner feeling, that inner demand.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

That inner demand can only be satisfied by Krsna consciousness.

The source of eagerness is only from a real sadhu.

We will find some interest to hear about the Lord from him.

The proper beginning is there.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

The bhakti school is independent of varnasrama or jnana etc.

One may not be a wise man, one may not be a very energetic man,
one may not be master of opulence and other powers.

Only the minimum is demanded from him – that he has very earnest
hunger.

→ Straddhā → Enthusiasm.

He must have the smallest taste for the Lord.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

He must find some sweetness, some taste in His words, in His affairs when it is coming from a proper source through a genuine sadhu, a proper agent.

That taste will take him farther and gradually into the highest domain.

Laulyam api mulyam ekalam – the only passage-money is our sincere inclination.

The hearts natural flow – that is the passage-money, nothing else.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Our sincere earnestness to get that is the only price we have to pay in advance.

No other price but earnest desire.

It is not to be purchased by any money or anything else which is acquired by so many formal practices in millions of births.



Substance is necessary and not form.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Form may be adopted only as much as it may connect me with that higher thing.

Sarva dharman parityaja – “Give up all phases of duty that you perceive as perfect. At once try to jump into the ocean of nectar. I am the ocean of nectar. Try to jump.”

That is the direct teaching. Our addiction to this or that, to vanaprastha-dharma, sannyasa-dharma, or grhastha-dharma has a very negligent value.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

But earnest desire – that is to be acquired by any means. That is bhakti proper.

tatra laulyam api mulyam ekalam
janma-koti-sukrtair na labhyate

The only price to pay is intense eagerness for that is not obtained even after millions of births. (Cc. Madhya 8.70)

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Not by your good deeds that you have acquired in your previous innumerable paths – that is not taken in to account, only the recognition of the sincere earnestness within you.

The very gist of your ego they want.

That is their demand and that plane is built up with that material.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

The most sincere part of the heart – that is the material by which that domain has been created.

It is eternal but it is with that substance.

Back to home, back to the home of your eternal inner self.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Externally, by so many of our demands for the senses, we are being carried forcibly in this direction and that direction, dragging us here and there.

We have to find out our innermost existence.

That is to be a member of Vrndavana.

Six Qualities that Enhance Bhakti

8. Niścaya - Confidence

Section-I

**Kill the Demon of Doubt to gain
Confidence**

In his Upadeśāmṛta, Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī has instructed the practitioners of devotional service to be ~~confident~~

Until this confidence is achieved, one will remain doubtful.

Doubtful persons never have auspiciousness.

How then will they have faith in unalloyed devotional service when they are doubtful at heart?

It is said in Bhagavad-gītā (4.40):

① ajñāś cāśraddadhānaś ca
 ②
 ③ saṁśayātmā vinaśyati
nāyaṁ loko 'sti na paro
na sukhaṁ saṁśayātmanaḥ

The person ignorant of scripture (ajñāś), or one who knows scripture but has no faith in it (aśraddadhānaś), or one who is doubtful of attaining the goal even with faith (saṁśayātmā), perishes (vinaśyati). One who is afflicted with doubt (saṁśayātmanaḥ) attains nothing in this life (nāyaṁ loko 'sti), nothing in the next (na paro), and no happiness (na sukhaṁ).

Doubts

Lacks otherworld faith
 Lacks superior faith
 (in bhakti)

Points from Commentaries and Purports

Baladeva

Having described those qualified for knowledge and the results, the Lord now describes the unqualified person and the result for that person.

① aiśā

② aśradhā

The ignorant person, like an animal, with no knowledge of scriptures; or the person who, in spite of having knowledge of scriptures, has no faith, since he has a quarrelsome nature; or the person who, in spite of having faith, doubts if he can attain the perfection—this person is destroyed.

③ samskṛā

Points from Commentaries and Purports
Baladeva

This means he deviates from his own interest.

③ → ↓

Among these persons, the one with doubts is especially criticized.

This doubtful person does not have happiness from the gross world or the next world.

Points from Commentaries and Purports
Baladeva

Happiness is generated from actions prescribed by scriptures.

That action is accompanied by knowledge of the individual ātmā.

Where is that happiness for one who has doubts about attaining the goal?

Points from Commentaries and Purports

SP

Out of many standard and authoritative revealed scriptures, the Bhagavad-gītā is the best.

① अज्ञान

Persons who are almost like animals have no faith in, or knowledge of, the standard revealed scriptures; and some, even though they have knowledge of, or can cite passages from, the revealed scriptures, have actually no faith in these words.

② असिद्धबुद्धिः

③ सामान्यज्ञाने

And even though others may have faith in scriptures like Bhagavad-gītā, they do not believe in or worship the Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Such persons cannot have any standing in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Points from Commentaries and Purports

SP

They fall down.

Out of all the above-mentioned persons, those who have no faith and are always doubtful make no progress at all.

Men without faith in God and His revealed word find no good in this world, nor in the next.

Points from Commentaries and Purports

SP

For them there is no happiness whatsoever.

One should therefore follow the principles of revealed scriptures with faith and thereby be raised to the platform of knowledge.

Only this knowledge will help one become promoted to the transcendental platform of spiritual understanding.

Points from Commentaries and Purports

SP

In other words, doubtful persons have no status whatsoever in spiritual emancipation.

One should therefore follow in the footsteps of great ācāryas who are in the disciplic succession and thereby attain success.