Six Qualities that Enhance Bhakti

10. Tat-tat-karma-pravartana - Various activities favorable for devotional service

<u>Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī has enjoined the system of tat-tat-karma-</u> pravartanat, acting according to the regulative principles, for those aspiring to perform devotional service.

In the Upadeśāmṛta, activities by which pure devotional service is cultivated are called tat-tat-karma, prescribed duties.

|| 11.19.20-24 ||

<u>śraddhāmṛta-kathāyām me śaśvan mad-anukīrtanam</u> pariniṣṭhā ca pūjāyām stutibhiḥ stavanam mama

<u>ādarah paricaryāyām sarvāngair abhivandanam</u> mad-bhakta-pūjābhyadhikā sarva-bhūteṣu man-matiḥ

<u>mad-arthesv anga-ceșțā ca vacasā mad-guņeraņam</u> mayy arpaņam ca manasah sarva-kāma-vivarjanam

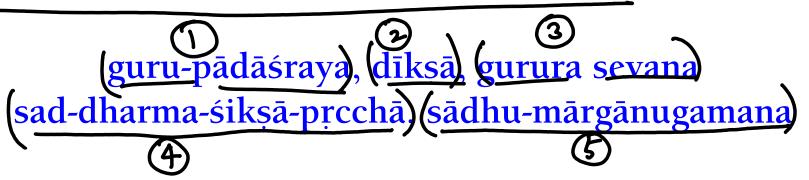
<u>mad-arthe 'rtha-parityāgo</u> bh<u>ogasya ca sukhasya ca</u> istam dattam hutam japtam mad-artham yad vratam tapah

e<u>vam dharmair manusyāņām</u> ud<u>dhavātma-nivedinām</u> mayi sañjāyate bhaktih ko 'nyo 'rtho 'syāvaśişya

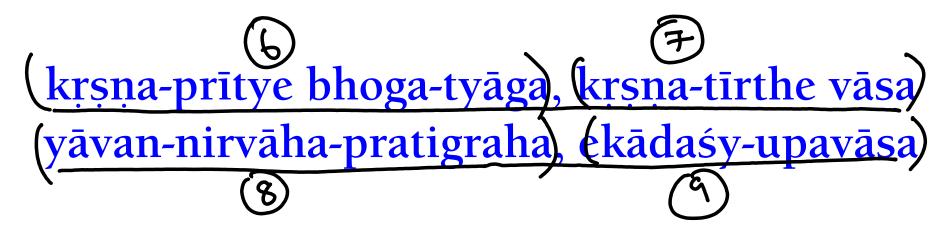
Firm faith in the narration of my sweet pastimes (sraddhāmrta-kathāyām me), constant chanting of my glories (*śaśvad mad-anukīrtanam*), unwavering attachment to my worship (parinișțhā ca pūjāyām), praising me through verses (stutibhih mama stavanam), great respect for serving the deity (adarah paricaryayam), offering obeisances with the entire body (sarvāngair abhivandanam), performing extensive worship of my devotees (mad-bhaktapūjābhyadhikā), consciousness of me in all living entities (sarva-bhūteșu man-matih), offering of ordinary bodily activities in my service (mad-arthesv anga-cesta), use of words to describe my qualities (vacasā mad-guņa īraņam), offering the mind to me (manasah mayy arpanam ca), rejection of all material desires (sarva-kāma-vivarjanam), giving up wealth for my sake (mad-arthe_artha-parityāgo), renouncing material sense gratification and happiness (bhogasya ca sukhasya ca), performing acts of charity, offering homa, and chanting japa (istam dattam hutam japtam), performing vows like Ekādaśī as austerity with the purpose of achieving me (mad-artham yad vratam tapah)—by these (evam dharmair) those human beings who have surrendered themselves to me (atma-nivedinam manusyanam) develop bhakti for me (mayi bhaktih sañjāyate). What other result could remain for my devotee (kah anyo arthah asya avaśisyate)?

Based on these instructions of the Lord, Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī has divided these activities into sixty-four items in his Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu.

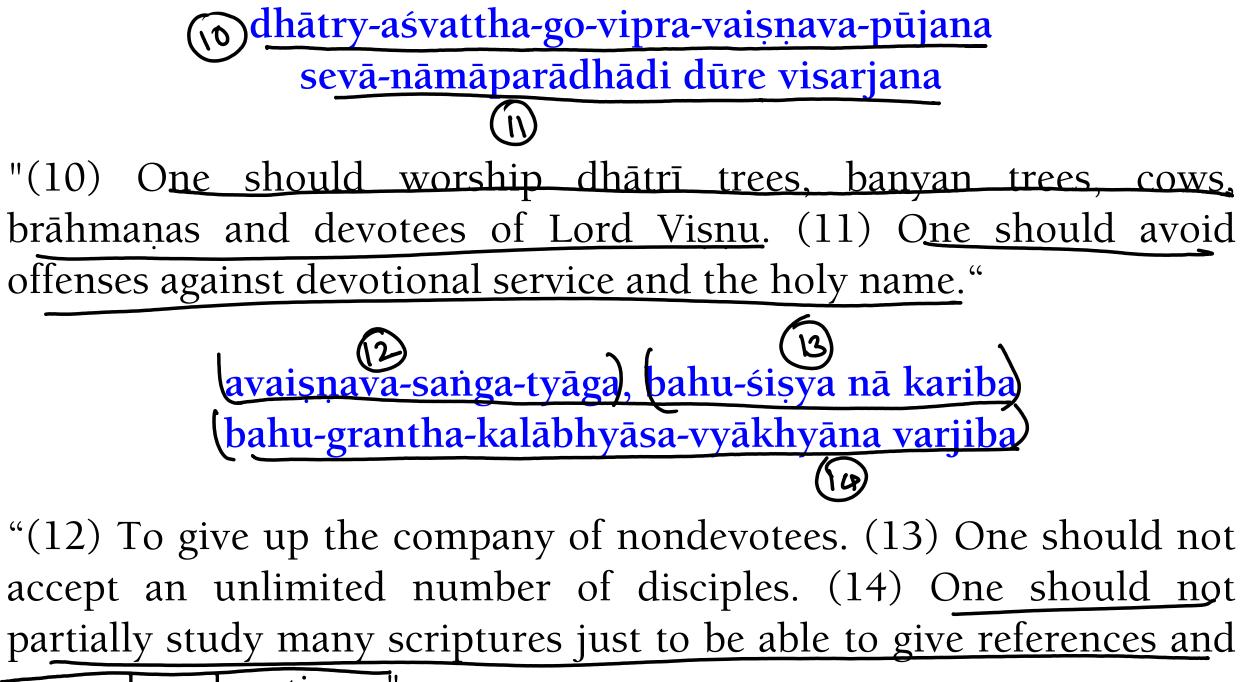
Śrīla Krsnadāsa Kavirāja Gosvāmī has written about those activities in the Caitanya-caritāmrta (Madhya 22.115-129) as follows:



"On the path of regulative devotional service, one must observe the following items: (1) One must accept a bona fide spiritual master. (2) One must accept initiation from him. (3) One must serve him. (4) One must receive instructions from the spiritual master and make inquiries in order to learn devotional service. (5) One must follow in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas and follow the directions given by the spiritual master.



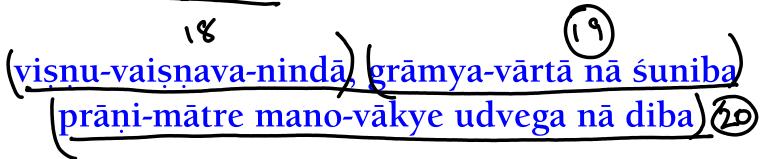
"The next steps are as follows: (6) One should be prepared to give up everything for Kṛṣṇa's satisfaction, and one should also accept everything for Kṛṣṇa's satisfaction. (7) One must live in a place where Kṛṣṇa is present-a city like Vṛndāvana or Mathurā or a Kṛṣṇa temple. (8) One should acquire a livelihood that is just sufficient to keep body and soul together. (9) One must fast on the Ekādaśī day."



expand explanations."

(bani-lābhe sama), (sokādira vasa nā ha-iba)
(banya-deva, anya-sāstra nindā nā Kariba)

"(15) The devotee should treat loss and gain equally. (16) The devotee should not be overwhelmed by lamentation. (17) The devotee should not worship demigods, nor should he disrespect them. Similarly, the devotee should not study or criticize other scriptures."



"(18) The devotee should not hear Lord Visnu or His devotees blasphemed. (19) The devotee should avoid reading or hearing newspapers or mundane books that contain stories of love affairs between men and women or subjects palatable to the senses. (20) Neither by mind nor words should the devotee cause anxiety to any living entity, regardless how insignificant he may be." śr<u>avaņa, kīrtana, smarana, pūjana, vandana</u> paricaryā, dāsya, sakhya, ātma-nivedana

"After one is established in devotional service, the positive actions are (1) hearing, (2) chanting, (3) remembering, (4) worshiping, (5) praying, (6) serving, (7) accepting servitorship, (8) becoming a friend and (9) surrendering fully."

agre nrtya, gīta, vijñapti, dandavan-nati abhyutthāna, anuvrajyā, tīrtha-gṛhe gati

"<u>One should also (10) dance before the Deity</u>, (11) sing before the Deity, (12) open one's mind to the Deity, (13) offer obeisances to the Deity, (14) stand up before the Deity and the spiritual master just to show them respect, (15) follow the Deity or the spiritual master and (16) visit different places of pilgrimage or go see the Deity in the temple."

parikramā, stava-pāṭha, japa, saṅkīrtana dhūpa-mālya-gandha-mahāprasāda-bhojana

"Qne should (17) cir<u>cumambulate the temple</u>, (18) recite various prayers, (19) chant softly, (20) chant congregationally, (21) smell the incense and flower garlands offered to the Deity, and (22) eat the remnants of food offered to the Deity."

<u>ārātrika-mahotsava-śrīmūrti-darśana</u> nija-priya-dāna, dhyāna, tadīya-sevana

"One should (23) attend ārati and festivals, (24) see the Deity, (25) present what is very dear to oneself to the Deity, (26) meditate on the Deity, and (27-30) serve those related to the Lord."

'<u>tadīya'—tulasī, vaiṣṇava, mathurā, bhāgavata</u> ei cārira sevā haya kṛṣṇera abhimata

"<u>Tadīya means the tulasī leaves, the devotees of Kṛṣṇa, the birthplace of Kṛṣṇa</u> (<u>Mathurā</u>), and the Vedic literature Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam. Kṛṣna is very eager to see His devotee serve tulasī, Vaiṣṇavas, Mathurā and Bhāgavatam."

> kṛṣṇārthe akhila-ceṣṭā, tat-kṛpāvalokana janma-dinādi-mahotsava lañā bhakta-gaṇa

"(31) One should perform all endeavors for Kṛṣṇa. (32) One should look forward to His mercy. (33) <u>One should partake of various ceremonies with</u> devotees-ceremonies like Lord Kṛṣṇa's birthday or Rāmacandra's birthday." sarvathā śaraņāpatti, kārtikādi-vrata 'catuḥ-ṣaṣṭi aṅga' ei parama-mahattva

"(34) One should surrender to Krsna in all respects. (35) One should observe particular vows like Kārttika-vrata. Th<u>ese are some of the</u> sixty-four important items of devotional service."

> sādhu-sanga, nāma-kīrtana, bhāgavata-śravana mathurā-vāsa, śrī-mūrtira śraddhāya sevana

"<u>One should associate with devotees</u>, chant the holy name of the Lord, hear Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, reside at Mathurā and worship the Deity with faith and veneration."

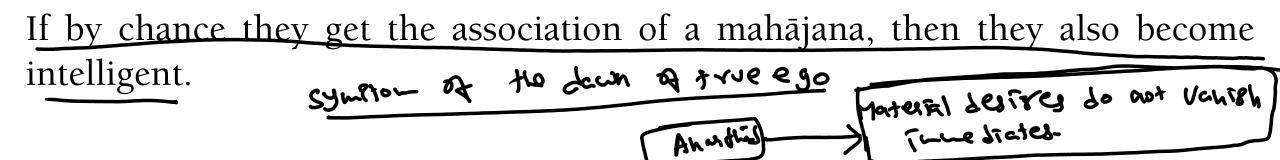
sakala-sādhana-śrestha ei pañca aṅga kṛṣṇa-prema janmāya ei pāṅcera alpa saṅga

"These five limbs of devotional service are the best of all. Even a slight performance of these five awakens love for Kṛṣṇa." Aspiring devotees should first take shelter of the lotus feet of a bona fide guru.

Without taking shelter of a guru, one cannot achieve anything auspicious.

There are two types of people-one has developed intelligence and one has undeveloped intelligence.

<u>Those whose intelligence is undeveloped are absorbed in the so-</u> called happiness of this world.



Then they consider, "How unfortunate I am! I'm always engaged in sense gratification. I'm passing my days hankering for material enjoyment."

Then it is essential for one to take shelter of the lotus feet of a guru.

In this way by good fortune persons with undeveloped intelligence become intelligent and take shelter of the lotus feet of a guru.

What type of guru one should take shelter of is explained in the sastras.