

Six Qualities that Enhance Bhakti

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

Topic - 12

Angas of Devotional Service

53. tadiyānām sevānam – Service to things related to the Lord

(yā ^{see} dr̥ṣṭā) (nikhilā ^{all} ^{Sins → colleague} gha-saṅga-śamanī ^{destroys}) (spr̥ṣṭā vapuḥ-
pāvānī)
(rogānām abhivanditā nirasanī) (siktāntaka-trāsinī) |
(pratyāsatti-vidhāyini) (bhagavataḥ kṛṣṇasya)
(sāmropitā)
(nyastā tac-carane) (vimukti-phaladā) (tasyai tulasyai
namah)

- ① seeing
- ② touching
- ③ offering

6 items

- ④ offering water
- ⑤ planting
- ⑥ offering legs to P's lotus feet.

53. tadīyānām sevanam – Service to things related to the Lord

Seeing tulasī destroys all sins (**yā dr̥ṣṭā nikhilāgha-saṅga-śamanī**). Touching her purifies the body (**spr̥ṣṭā vapuḥ-pāvanī**). Bowing to her destroys all sufferings (**abhivanditā rogāṇām nirasani**). Sprinkling her with water delivers one from death (**sikta antaka-trāsini**). Planting her (**samropitā**) bestows attachment of the mind to Lord Kṛṣṇa (**bhagavataḥ kṛṣṇasya pratyāsatti-vidhāyini**). Offering her to Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet bestows special liberation in the form of prema (**nyastā tac-carane vimukti-phaladā**). I offer my respects to tulasī (**tasyai tulasyai namaḥ**). (**Skanda Purāṇa**)

54. śāstrasya – Service to the scriptures

śraddhā bhāgavate śāstre
chintā anyatra Gāṇī hi

sarva-vedānta-sāram hi
śrī-bhāgavatam iṣyate |
tad-rasāmṛta-tr̥ptasya
nānyatra syād ratiḥ kvacit

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam is declared (**śrī-bhāgavatam iṣyate**) as the essence of all Vedānta philosophy (**sarva-vedānta-sāram**). One who has felt satisfaction from its nectarean mellow (**tad-rasāmṛta-tr̥ptasya**) will never be attracted to any other literature (**nānyatra syād ratiḥ kvacit**). (**SB 12.13.15**)

55. mathurāyāḥ – Serving Mathurā and other
holy places

mathurām ca parityajya
yo 'nyatra kurute ratim |
mūḍho bhramati saṁsāre
mohitā mama māyayā

The fool (mūḍhah) who gives up Mathurā (yah mathurām parityajya) and develops attraction for some other place (anyatra kurute ratim) wanders in the material world birth after birth (bhramati saṁsāre), bewildered by My māyā (mohitā mama māyayā). (Varāha Purāṇa)

55. mathurāyāḥ – Serving Mathurā and other holy places

trailokya-varti-tīrthānām
sevanād durlabhā hi yā |
parānanda-mayī siddhir
mathurā-sparṣa-mātrataḥ

The bliss at the stage of prema (parānanda-mayī siddhiḥ), which is rarely obtained (durlabhā hi yā) even by serving all the holy places in the three worlds (trailokya-varti-tīrthānām sevanād), is available just by touching Mathurā (mathurā-sparṣa-mātrataḥ). (Brahmāṇḍa Purāṇa)

56. vaiṣṇavānām sevanaṁ – Service to Vaiṣṇavas

ārādhanaṁ sarveṣāṁ
viṣṇor ārādhanaṁ param |
tasmāt parataram devi
tadīyānām samarcanam

Of all types of worship (**ārādhanaṁ sarveṣāṁ**), worship of Viṣṇu is supreme (**viṣṇor ārādhanaṁ param**). O Devī (**devi**), worship of His devotees (**tadīyānām samarcanam**), however, is even superior to that (**tasmāt parataram**). (**Padma Purāṇa**)

56. vaiṣṇavānām sevanaṁ – Service to Vaiṣṇavas

yat-sevayā bhagavataḥ
kūṭa-sthasya madhu-dviṣaḥ |
rati-rāso bhavet tīvraḥ
pādayor vyasanārdanaḥ

(By service to the devotees) (yat-sevayā), (intense rasa of bhāva-bhakti) (tīvraḥ rati-rāsaḥ) (to the Lord (bhagavataḥ) who is fixed in one form (kūṭa-sthasya) and destroys obstacles for the devotee (madhu-dviṣaḥ) (appears) (bhavet), and (destruction of material suffering then takes place) (pādayor vyasana ardanaḥ). (SB 3.7.19)

56. vaiṣṇavānām sevanaṁ – Service to Vaiṣṇavas

yeṣāṁ saṁsmaraṇāt puṁsāṁ
sadyaḥ śuddhyanti vai gṛhāḥ |
kiṁ punar darśana-sparśa-
pāda-śaucāsanādibhiḥ

Simply by our remembering You (**yeṣāṁ saṁsmaraṇāt**), our houses become instantly sanctified (**sadyaḥ śuddhyanti vai gṛhāḥ**). And what to speak of seeing You, touching You (**kiṁ punar darśana-sparśa**), washing Your holy feet and offering You a seat in our home (**pāda-śauca āsanādibhiḥ**)? (**SB 1.19.33**)

56. vaiṣṇavānām sevanaṁ – Service to Vaiṣṇavas

ye me bhakta-janāḥ pārtha
na me bhaktās ca te janāḥ |
mad-bhaktānām ca ye bhaktās
te me bhaktatamā matāḥ

Those who claim to be My devotees (ye me bhakta-janāḥ pārtha) are not My devotees (na me bhaktās ca te janāḥ). Those who are the devotees of My devotees (mad-bhaktānām ca ye bhaktās), I consider them to be My best devotees (te me bhaktatamā matāḥ). (Ādī-purāna)

56. vaiṣṇavānām sevanam – Service to Vaiṣṇavas

yāvanti bhagavad-bhakter
aṅgāni kathitāniha |
prāyas tāvanti tad-bhakta-
bhakter api budhā viduḥ

All the aṅgas of bhakti described in relation to the
Lord (yāvanti bhagavad-bhakter aṅgāni kathitāni)
are also aṅgas in relation to the devotees of the
Lord (prāyas tāvanti tad-bhakta-bhakter api). This
is the conclusion of the wise (budhāh viduḥ).
(BRS)

57. yathā-vaibhava-mahotsavah – Observing
festivals according to ones wealth

yaḥ karoti mahīpāla
harer gehe mahotsavam |
tasyāpi bhavati nityam
hari-loke mahotsavaḥ

O king (mahīpāla), he who performs a festival for
the temple of the Lord (yaḥ karoti harer gehe
mahotsavam) experiences for eternity (tasyāpi
bhavati nityam) a festival in the planet of the Lord
(hari-loke mahotsavaḥ). (Padma Purāṇa)

58. Ūrjādarah – Observing Ūrja-vrata

yathā dāmodaro bhakta-
vatsalo vidito janaiḥ |
tasyāyam tādrśo māsaḥ
svalpam apy uru-kāraḥ

Just as men know (yathā janaiḥ viditah) that Dāmodara is affectionate to His devotee (dāmodaro bhakta-vatsalah), the Dāmodara month is also affectionate to the devotee (tasya ayam). Even a little service performed during that month yields great results (tādrśo māsaḥ svalpam apy uru-kāraḥ). (Padma Purāṇa)

58. Ūrjādarah – Observing Ūrja-vrata

- The month is affectionate just as Dāmodara is affectionate.
- Thus, a little service to Dāmodara becomes multiplied if performed during that month.
- Uru-kāraka means a person (in this case the month) who accepts something very small and makes it big, like a person who feels extremely indebted and performs great actions for another person.

58. Ūrjādarah – Observing Ūrja-vrata

- Similarly, His month, called Kārtika month, gives great benefit.
- It takes what is meager and makes it significant.
- Svalpam uru-kārah means “The month of Dāmodara is a future giver of huge results for a little service.”

58. Ūrjādarah – Observing Ūrja-vrata

bhuktim muktim harir dadyād
arcito 'nyatra sevinām |
bhaktim tu na dadāty eva
yato vaśyakarī hareḥ ||

sā tv añjasā harer bhaktir
labhyate kārttike naraiḥ |
mathurāyām sakṛd api
śrī-dāmodara-sevanāt ||

58. Ūrjādarah – Observing Ūrja-vrata

The Lord (**hariḥ**), being worshipped elsewhere (**anyatra arcitah**), awards material enjoyment and liberation to those worshippers (**sevinām bhuktim muktim dadyād**). He does not give bhakti (**bhaktim tu na dadāty eva**) because bhakti controls the Lord (**yato vaśyakarī hareḥ**). However, men can achieve bhakti to the Lord (**naraiḥ tu sā harer bhaktiḥ labhyate**) very easily (**añjasā**) by serving Dāmodara (**śrī-dāmodara-sevanāt**) during Kārtika month (**kārttike**) in Mathurā just once (**mathurāyām sakṛd api**).
(Padma Purāṇa)