

Bhaktyaloka

- Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura

Commentaries on Upadeshamrta

1. Srila Radha Raman Goswami (a disciple of Srila Gopal Bhatta Goswami) - Sri upadesha prakashika

2. Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura - Piyusha varshini vrtti

3. Srila Bhaktisiddhanta saraswati Thakura - Anu vrtti

4. Srila Prabhupada, Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhar Maharaja

Understanding the relevance of Bhaktyaloka

Flow of Sri Upadeshamrita

NOI- 1

Qualification of being a Jagat Guru

one who can tolerate the six urges is eligible to become a Guru.

vāco vegam manasaḥ krodha-vegam
jihvā-vegam udaropastha-vegam
etān vegān yo viśaheta dhīraḥ
sarvām apīmām pṛthivīm sa śiṣyāt

How do I tolerate?

If one follows a favourable lifestyle, one gradually learns to tolerate

These 6 urges are conditional urges. These urges are like battle. But if one is properly trained then one is ready to face the battle.

That training means to

Develop the internal wiring

1) Conscious choice of lifestyle.

NOI 2 and NOI 3

Dos and Don'ts of a favourable lifestyle

atyāhāraḥ prayāsaś ca
prajalpo niyamāgrahaḥ
jana-saṅgaś ca laulyaṁ ca
ṣaḍbhir bhaktir vinaśyati

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

2) Association- The key

NOI 4
NOI 5
NOI 6

This lifestyle can not be followed alone. So we need association of like-minded people!

How do we connect with those like minded people?
How do we gain association?

By following the six exchanges. (NOI 4)

dadāti pratigṛhṇāti
guhyam ākhyāti pṛcchati
bhunkte bhojayate caiva
ṣaḍ-vidhaṁ pṛīti-lakṣaṇam

Whom should I have these six exchanges with?

NOI 5

mentally honour a kanistha adhikari (and then have six exchanges), offer respectful obeisances to a madhyama adhikari (and then have six exchanges) and serve and associate with an uttama adhikari (and have six exchanges)

kṛṣṇeti yasya giri taṁ manasādriyeta
dīkṣāsti cet praṇatibhiś ca bhajantam īsam
śuśrūṣayā bhajana-vijñam ananyam anya-
nindādi-śūnya-hṛdam īpsita-saṅga-labdhyā

How to retain the association?

In associating with vaishnavas, the main problem that we might face is their conditionings or their imperfections (svabhav janit dosha or bodily imperfections). How to deal with them?

NOI 6

Ignore the conditionings and the bodily imperfections. Learn to see beyond them. See their faith and neglect the imperfections.

dṛṣṭaiḥ svabhāva-janitair vapuṣaś ca doṣair
na prākṛtatvam iha bhakta-janasya paśyet
gaṅgāmbhasām na khalu budbuda-phena-paṅkair
brahma-dravatvam apagacchati nīra-dharmaiḥ

Now , we are ready to practice bhakti and follow the favourable lifestyle, in the association of devotees.

But there is a stumbling block. What?

Our own conditioning, that does not allow us to experience the taste of Krishna consciousness.

We expect ruchi before nistha.

We think we will practice nicely after getting taste.

Solution: NOI 7

Practice bhakti with regularity, regulation and respect. Ruchi is rewarded when we steadily practice bhakti.

syāt kṛṣṇa-nāma-caritādi-sitāpy avidyā-
pittopatapta-rasanasya na rocikā nu
kintv ādarād anudinaṁ khalu saiva juṣṭā
svādvī kramād bhavati tad-gada-mūla-hantrī

By doing so ,the taste comes. What should one do after one gets taste?

NOI 8

Reside in vraja and utilize all one's time in chanting, hearing, remembering Lord's nama, rupa, guna, lila.

Absorb oneself in following the footsteps of the vrajavasis.
(Raganuga bhakti)

tan-nāma-rūpa-caritādi-sukīrtanānu-
smṛtyoḥ krameṇa rasanā-manasī niyojya
tiṣṭhan vraje tad-anurāgi-janānugāmī
kālaṁ nayed akhilam ity upadeśa-sāram



At this stage, we are so absorbed in Lord's devotional service that we are battle ready and can easily tolerate these urges (if they at all come).

We are also ready to become a jagad guru and make many followers. But we are no more interested in that!

Because we ourselves are busy following the footsteps of vrajavasis...

Now that we have come to reside in Vraja. What should we look for in Vraja? What is loved by Krishna and what is loved by Vrajavasis?

NOI 9 ,10,11

Glories of Radha Kunda

The holy place known as Mathurā is superior to Vaikuṅṭha. Superior to Mathurā-purī is Vṛndāvana. And superior to the forest of Vṛndāvana is Govardhana Hill. And, above all, the superexcellent Śrī Rādhā-kuṅḍa stands supreme.

The gopīs are exalted above all the advanced devotees. Among the gopīs, Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī is the most dear to Kṛṣṇa. Her kuṅḍa is as profoundly dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa as this most beloved of the gopīs.

Of all the lovable damsels of Vraja-bhūmi, Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī is certainly the most treasured object of Kṛṣṇa's love. And, in every respect, Her divine kuṅḍa is described by great sages as similarly dear to Him.

Relevance of Bhaktyaloka


Bhatyaloka talks about

Lifestyle and value system of a devotee

What constitutes a Krishna conscious lifestyle?

What are the various elements of that lifestyle and how do I cultivate that lifestyle?

What is the value system that I need to cultivate and how do I cultivate it?



After hearing this book, we will get the inspiration to engage in the six loving exchanges with devotees and look beyond their conditionings.

Upadesamrta and Anartha Nivrtti

The four kinds of anarthas

Asat trsna
thirst for impermanent

Desire for material objects

Desire for heavenly comforts

Desire for mystic powers

Desire for liberation

Follow NOI-2

Hrdaya daurbalyam
weakness of heart

Envy

Desire for fame

Deceitfulness or fault finding

Attachment to objects unrelated to Krishna

Follow NOI-4

Tattva vibhrama
Misunderstanding of spiritual truths

Misunderstanding one's identity

Misunderstanding the Supreme Lord

Misunderstandings about the process of devotional service

Misunderstandings related to subjects un-favourable to Krishna consciousness

Surrender and chastity to Guru, sadhu and shastra

Aparadha
offenses

Offenses to the holy name

Offenses to the Lord's deity form

Offenses to devotees

Offenses to other living entities

Follow NOI-1

Solution to the four anarthas

