

**Bhaktyaloka
Essay 2 by SBVT**

Prayāsa

Srila Prabhupada on Prayasa

Simple living

Atyahara (collecting and eating more than required) leads to prayasa.

**Don't collect too many goods.
Don't eat too much.
Don't work unnecessarily to possess artificial amenities.**

High Thinking

Higher intelligence must be utilised to understand God and to understand the ultimate goal of life.

Misuse of intelligence leads to opening of unnecessary things like factories, brothels, liquor shops, etc.

Accept a favourable occupation to maintain your body and family

Accept a favourable occupation which one can easily perform and which gives a person sufficient time to practice Krishna consciousness.

Proper Human dharma

All occupational engagements (dharma) should be performed for liberation. They should never be performed for material gain.

Furthermore, one should never use material gain to cultivate sense gratification.

Without dharma, human society is no better than animal society

In human society there are various religious conceptions, characterized as Hindu, Christian, Hebrew, Mohammedan, Buddhist and so on.

True religion

True religion instructs people to be satisfied with the bare necessities of life while cultivating Krishna consciousness.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

How much to
endeavour?

It is all a question of
personal capacity.

Bhakti-rasamrta-sindhu:

One should not be attached to making disciples.
One should not be enthusiastic for huge undertakings.

But Srila Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Thakur was doing the same thing. He was spending lot of money to construct temple and other things.

SBSST said, "Cut your coat according to your cloth."

It is a point of personal capacity- a person can easily manage an empire whereas the other may find it hard to manage a small family

**Undesirable
prayas**

Visaya prayasa- endeavouring for undesirable things is forbidden.

To become 'big' at the cost of others is undesirable prayas.

Real greatness is to accept we are nothing in the face of the
absolute.

Devas vs Asura

Asura means struggling for closer bondage.

Deva means struggling towards the right direction

Essential Prayas

We have to struggle to be reinstated in our constitutional position.

We have to struggle to control our senses and to perform devotional service.

Real struggle starts at the stage of madhyama adhikari

No struggle for kanistha or uttama adhikaris.

Madhyama adhikaris have to struggle for anartha nivrtti and artha pravrtti.

This struggle is a little bitter - not only that, it is tasteless and painful sometimes.

Transcendental struggle

Struggle in the spiritual world-

Yashoda, gopis, gopas

Prem bhakti is dynamic- so there is struggle.

But that is sweet struggle.