

Bhaktyaloka Essay 4

Niyamāgraha

sve sve 'dhikāre yā niṣṭhā
sa guṇaḥ parikīrtitaḥ
viparyayas tu doṣaḥ syād
ubhayor eṣa niścayaḥ

ŚB
11.21.2

Same objects (Material things) but 3 different instructions for 3 different sets of people:
(Because people of each of the three categories have different adhikaras)

Prescription

This is good . That is bad.

Stop seeing good and bad with respect to material things.

Start seeing everything in connection to Krishna and start utilising everything in Krishna's service.

Adhikara

prescription for people who have karma adhikara and are inclined towards material enjoyment

prescription for people who want to transcend this material world and their hearts are purified of tendency to enjoy matter (jnana yogis)

prescription for devotees

An authorised ayurvedic doctor:

-prescribes sugarcane juice and sugarcane candy to a jaundice patient.

-and he prescribes a very bitter medicine for a patient with fever.



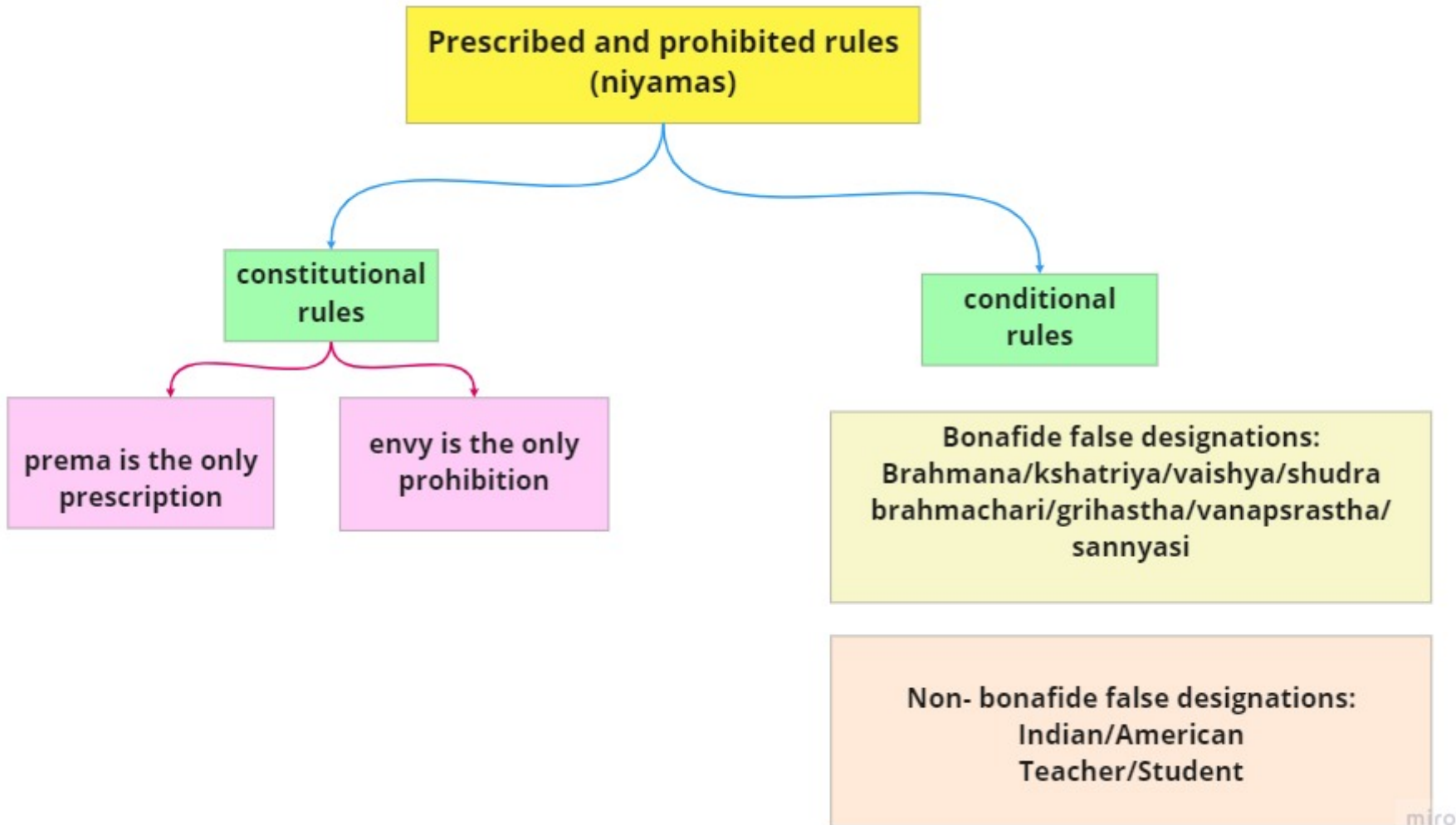
**Authorised doctor, authorised prescriptions but
different prescriptions for different patients.**

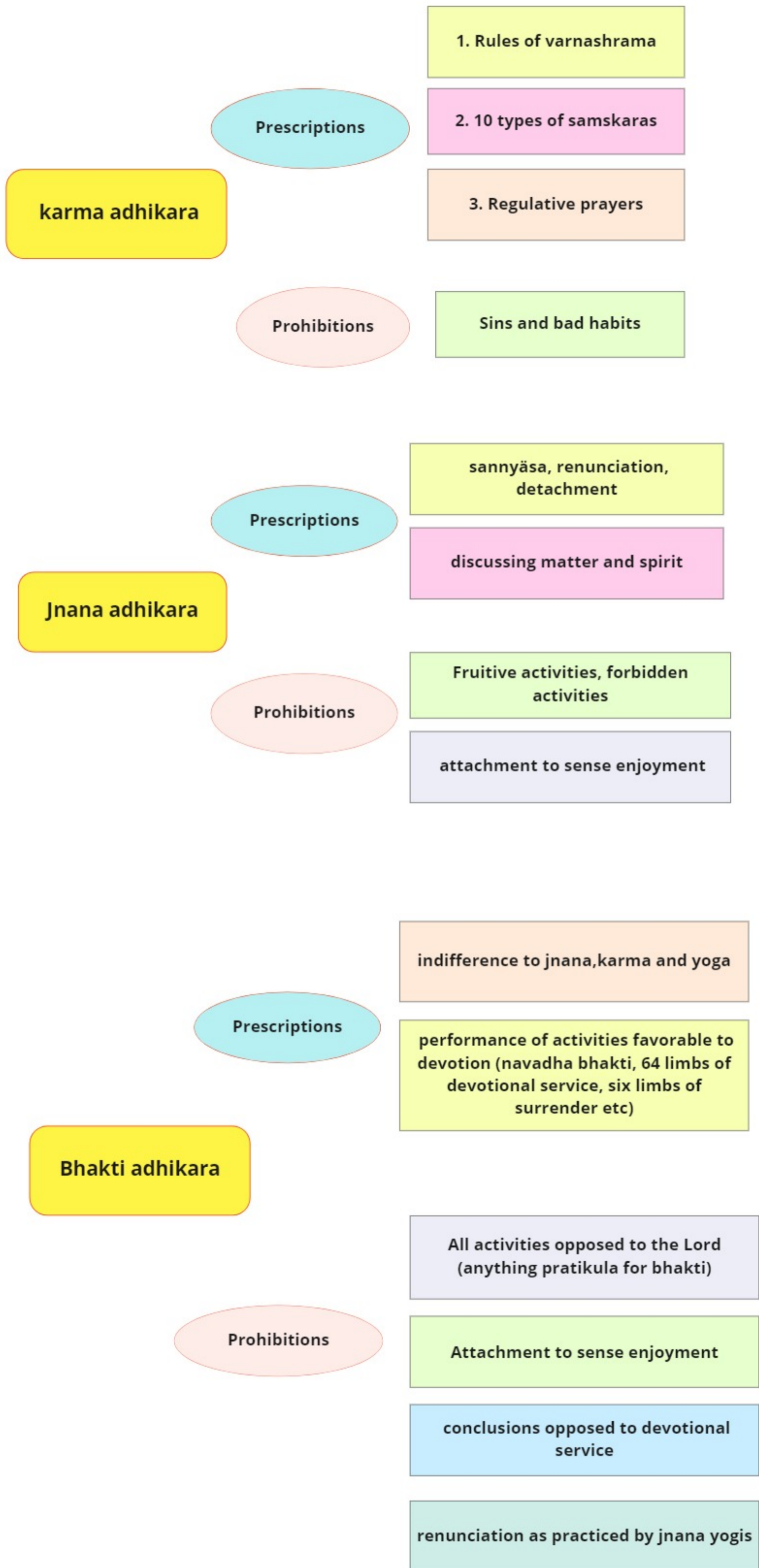


Therefore, devotees should accept the rules of bhakti and not the rules of karma or jnana.



**A devotee who has not qualified himself for raganuga bhakti should continue to follow the
rules of vaidhi sadhana bhakti.**





1. Rules of varnashrama

2. 10 types of samskaras

3. Regulative prayers

Prescriptions

karma adhikara

Prohibitions

Sins and bad habits

sannyāsa, renunciation, detachment

Prescriptions

Jnana adhikara

discussing matter and spirit

Fruitive activities, forbidden activities

Prohibitions

attachment to sense enjoyment

indifference to jnana, karma and yoga

Prescriptions

Bhakti adhikara

performance of activities favorable to devotion (navadha bhakti, 64 limbs of devotional service, six limbs of surrender etc)

All activities opposed to the Lord (anything pratikula for bhakti)

Prohibitions

Attachment to sense enjoyment

conclusions opposed to devotional service

renunciation as practiced by jnana yogis

Are samskaras not relevant for sadhakas?

Path of karma:

Samskaras are mandatory because they fix the false ego of the person. Once the false ego is fixed, a person starts identifying himself with that designation and starts following the prescriptions and prohibitions of that designation.

For ex : identifying oneself as a brahmana, he follows the rules and regulations for a brahmana.

so fixing the false ego is making the living entity subservient to some rules and following those rules he can transcend the false ego and come to the level of jnana yogi where he understands he is a soul and not this body.

Path of bhakti:

Devotional activities---> fix the true ego of the jiva directly

Samskaras are not mandatory for sadhakas. But we can do basic samskaras for the child because we will not know if the child is a devotee or not.

Some of the samskaras can be adapted in a devotional way like garbadhan samskar- in garbhadhana samskar, we chant extra rounds, read Srimad Bhagavatam, Bhagavad Gita etc: these activities directly aim at fixing the true ego of the child.