

Bhaktyaloka

Essay 7

Utsāha- Enthusiasm

The solution to overcoming mechanical devotional service is persistent mechanical devotional service.

Spontaneous devotional service



Mechanical diligent engagement of senses in KC activities



Devotional service filled with apathy, laziness and inattention



Spontaneous sense gratification



Symptom of vibrant faith is enthusiasm.



Enthusiasm is the life of sraddha.

Srila Prabhupada on Utsāha

Bhakti is 'practical activity'

Devotional service is not a matter of sentimental speculation or imaginative ecstasy.

Its substance is practical activity.

Uttamā bhakti, involves the rendering of devotional service in a way that is favorable to the Lord.

Engagement in meaningful devotional activity
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Favourable engagement of senses is very critical

It is very critical that in the beginning of our devotional service, we engage in likeable devotional engagements.

We must have a devotional solution for boredom.

In early stage, the mind is running towards likeable material things. So it is better that we engage in likeable devotional activities.

The nine processes of devotional service

1. hearing the name and glories of the Lord
2. chanting His glories
3. remembering the Lord
4. serving the Lord's feet
5. worshiping the Deity
6. offering obeisances unto the Lord
7. acting as the Lord's servant
8. making friends with the Lord
9. surrendering oneself fully to the Lord

Hearing is the first step in acquiring transcendental knowledge

One should not give aural reception to unauthorized persons.

One must hear from a bonafide spiritual master who is a tattva-darśī.

tad viddhi praṇipātena
paripraśnena sevayā
upadekṣyanti te jñānaṁ
jñāninas tattva-darśinaḥ

Bg. 4.34

tad-vijñānārthaṁ sa gurum
evābhigacchet

Muṇḍaka
Upaniṣad
1.2.12

ISKCON is giving an opportunity to hear
from people connected to bonafide
sampradaya

brahmāṇḍa bhramite kona bhāgyavān jīva
guru-kṛṣṇa-prasāde pāya bhakti-latā-bīja

CC Madhya
19.151

The material world is a place of confinement for the living entities who are by nature ānandamaya, pleasure-seeking.

They actually want to be free from the confinement of this world of conditional happiness.

But not knowing the process of liberation, they are bound to transmigrate from one species of life to another and from one planet to another.

When by good fortune one comes in contact with a pure devotee and hears from him patiently, one begins to follow the path of devotional service.

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness is giving such a chance to humanity at large.

One must accept this rare opportunity with great enthusiasm

Without enthusiasm, one cannot be successful

How does enthusiasm come?

Enthusiasm comes when we understand the value of what we are getting.

Enthusiasm means action, but action for whom?

The answer is that one should always act for kṛṣṇārthe akhila-ceṣṭā (Cc Madhya 22.126).

Enthusiasm should be to follow the instructions of the spiritual master.

Under the direction of the bona fide spiritual master, one has to make everything favorable for Kṛṣṇa's service.

How one can make everything favourable for devotional service?

For example, at present we are using a dictaphone.

We are using this dictaphone to write Kṛṣṇa conscious literature.

Since nothing is independent of Kṛṣṇa's energy, everything should be dovetailed in His service.

The devotees find the correct means by which everything can be utilized in the service of the Lord.

Endeavor executed with intelligence in Kṛṣṇa consciousness is called utsāha, or enthusiasm.

Intelligence generates enthusiasm.

When we have the intelligence to understand how a particular thing is going to help me in KC then that creates enthusiasm to accept that thing.

Endeavour born out of proper krishna conscious understanding - what is favourable for my devotional service and what is not.

Endeavour born out of that knowledge is called enthusiasm.