

Śrī Brhad-bhāgavatāmṛta

by Śrīla Sanātana Gosvāmī

//

'

'

-

Volume-2

Śrī-goloka-māhātmya

The Glories of Goloka

Chapter-3

Bhajana: Worship

2.3.170

What about Bhakta Malerei?

kaishava-kraya
mudra vijñāna
bhūjāt

Such great souls → fear to reveal the vast treasure of

They behave in peculiar ways to show their own faults & unhappiness

He seemed to suffer his reactions even till bhakta

mahāśayā ye hari-nāma-sevakāḥ
su-gopya-tad-bhakti-mahā-nidheḥ svayam
prakāśa-bhītya vyavahāra-bhaṅgibhiḥ
sva-doṣa-duḥkhāny anudarśayanti te

The great souls (mahāśayā) who spontaneously serve the names of Lord Hari (svayam ye hari-nāma-sevakāḥ) fear to reveal (prakāśa-bhītyā) the vast treasure (mahā-nidheḥ) of His confidential devotional service (su-gopya-tad-bhakti). So they behave in peculiar ways (te vyavahāra-bhaṅgibhiḥ) to show (anudarśayanti) their own faults and unhappiness (sva-doṣa-duḥkhāny).

What about advanced worshipers like Bharata Mahārāja whose impending sinful reactions apparently kept going on?

We should understand that when saintly devotees like Bharata, deeply absorbed in the moods of loving service to the Lord, seem to exhibit material attachment (as when Bharata became obsessed with the care of an infant deer) and when they seem to fall into bad association and miserable conditions (as when Bharata took his next birth as an animal), they are only pretending to be materially affected, in order to keep the confidential moods of devotional service hidden from public view.

Such devotees would rather be treated with undeserved contempt than honored and worshiped.

2.3.171

tan-nāma-saṅkīrtana-mātrato 'khilā

bhaktā hareḥ syur hata-duḥkha-dūṣaṇāḥ

kecit tathāpi prabhu-vat kṛpākulā

lokān sad-ācāram imaṁ praśāsati

All the devotees of the Lord (akhilā hareḥ bhaktā) are freed (hata syuh) from contamination and misery (duḥkha-dūṣaṇāḥ) simply by the saṅkīrtana of His names (tan-nāma-saṅkīrtana-mātrato). Yet (tathāpi) some devotees (kecit), as disturbed by compassion as the Lord Himself (prabhu-vat kṛpākulā), act in these ways (imaṁ) to teach people (praśāsati lokān) civilized behavior (sad-ācāram).

Even though all devotees are freed from contamination & misery just by śaṅkīrtana.
Yet, some devotees of P
very much overcome by
compassion & -- act
in ways to teach
people civilized
behavior

Shouldn't advanced devotees, in order to deliver the world from ignorance, let everyone see their greatness?

Yes, but the so-called anomalous behavior of Vaiṣṇavas like Bharata Mahārāja is in fact their way of teaching sad-ācāra, civilized human behavior.

By the examples of their own lives they show the consequences of violating the laws of God and material nature, for if people fail to learn how to act according to civilized standards their hearts will remain contaminated by sinful desires and they will never become inclined toward the Lord's devotional service.