Jaiva Dharma

by Śrīla Saccidānanda Bhaktivinoda Thākura

Chapter Five

Vaidhī-bhakti Is Nityadharma not Naimittikadharma

<u>Devīdāsa Vidyāratna and Śambhu returned to their lodging and came back to Lāhirī Mahāśaya later in the evening.</u>

No further discussions were possible at that time because everyone was simply engrossed in the joy of singing and chanting harināma.

The next day, in the afternoon, Devīdāsa and Śambhu came and joined the other Vaiṣṇavas assembled in the courtyard of Paramahamsa Premadāsa Bābājī.

Devīdāsa and Śambhu sat close to Lāhirī Mahāśaya.

Just then, the Kāzī) a head of the Muslim religion and the magistrate of the Muslim and Puṣkariṇī) village, arrived.

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Standing up courteously, the Vaiṣṇavas welcomed the Kāzī heartily.

In turn, the Kāzī exchanged warm greetings with the Vaiṣṇavas and joined them.

Everyone sat together, expectantly waiting to hear Paramahamsa Premadāsa Bābājī speak.

Paramahamsa Premadāsa Bābājī addressed the Kazi, "You are truly fortunate, being a descendant of Śrī Chand Kazi, who was personally favoured by our Lord, Śrīman Mahāprabhu. So please be merciful upon us."

The Kāzī replied, "By Śrī Caitanya's mercy we are also the recipients of the Vaisnavas' mercy. Śrī Gaurānga is the Lord of our hearts. We begin everything by first offering our humble obeisances to Him."

Lāhirī Mahāśaya was proficient in both Urdu and Arabic, the languages used by the Muslims.

He had deeply studied the holy Koran-sharif, having read all the thirty sephāras, corollaries.

In addition, he was well acquainted with the Sufi philosophy and had studied many of their literatures.

Taking the opportunity of the Kāzī's presence, he asked him, "What is the Islamic concept of mukti?"

The Kāzī replied, "Our equivalent of the Sanskrit term (jīva) is (rūh.) Rūh is found in two conditions of existence: rūh-mujarrad, the liberated soul; and Jism -) marter conditional JTK -> 80h tarkibi rūh-tarkībī, the conditioned soul.

Our term for cit, spirit, is mujarrad, and for acit, matter, we use the term jism.

Mujarrad-rūh, the pure souls, reside in the spiritual realm of alam-misal, which is transcendental to material time and space.

The tarakībi-rūh, the conditioned souls, reside in jisam, which is bound by time and space.

The tarakībi-rūh, conditioned souls, are endowed with a material mind, which is full of desire and malaphut, ignorance.

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However, the mujarrad-rūh, pure souls, are pure and aloof from the contaminations of jisam, the impure existence, and reside in the spiritual region known as ālam al-maśhāl.

The rule is purified by the flowering of ishqh, spiritual love.

The place to where Payagambara Saheb, the prophet, was taken by Khodā, the Supreme Lord, is not influenced by jisam, but even there the rūh is bandā, servitor, and Khodā is the master.

Therefore, the relationship between bandā and Khodā is eternal.

To attain this status by burification is known as mukti.

The Koran-sharīf and the books of the Sufis have recorded all these points, but not everyone can comprehend the meanings.

Since Śrī Gaurāṅga instructed Chānd Kāzī on these esoteric subjects, we have been able to pursue the pure devotional path and become pure devotees."

Lāhirī Mahāśaya, "What is the essential lesson of the Koran-sharīf?"

Kāzī, "The Koran has described behesht, the personal abode of Khodā, but has not greatly detailed ebādat, liberated spiritual life. However, we understand that life there is ebādata, eternal, and in the presence of Khodā the mujarrad-rūh are engrossed in sublime joy by His sight. All this has been confirmed by the teachings of Śrī Gaurānga Deva."

Lāhirī Mahāśaya, "Does Khodā have a form?"

Kāzī, "The Koran-sharīf denies that Khodā has form. However, Śrī Caitanya elucidated to Chānd Kāzī that this indicates that the Koran forbids a jisamani, material form of Khodā, but does not forbid the pure mujar-radi, transcendental form.

The Payagambara Saheb, the prophet, saw the ecstatic form of Khodā to the degree of his particular elevation and eligibility.

However, the rasas, spiritual mellows, were veiled to him."

Lāhirī Mahāśaya, "What is the Sufi philosophy?"

Kazi, "In their philosophy the main concept is anā al-ḥaqq: 'I am Khodā.'

Your monistic advaitavāda philosophy and the Sufi aswaph philosophy are very similar."

Lāhirī Mahāśaya, "Are you a Sufi?"

Kazi, "No, we follow the pure devotional path; we are surrendered to Śrī Gaurānga."

The discussion continued for some time, the Kazī finally taking leave of the Vaiṣṇavas, offering them his respects.

The evening concluded with congregational chanting of harinama.

Thus ends the Fifth Chapter of the Jaiva-dharma, entitled: Vaidhī-bhakti is Nitya-dharma not Naimittika-dharma