Hari-Nāma-Cintāmaṇi

The Touchstone of the Holy-Name

by Śrīla Saccidānanda Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura

Chapter – 10

Giving the Name to the Unfaithful

Chapter – 10 Giving the Name to the Unfaithful

gadāi gaurāṅga jaya jāhnavā-jīvana
sītādvaita jaya śrīvāsādi bhakta-gaṇa

- Haridāsa, with folded hands, spoke on the next aparādha:

- "Because he has not developed any faith in Kṛṣṇa or the name, the materialist cannot even hear the name.

- To take up the name, one must have qualification.

- That qualification is faith and faith alone.

- Good caste by birth, good family, knowledge, social influence or strength, and educational qualifications are not the cause for qualification to the holy name.

Chapter – 10 Giving the Name to the Unfaithful

- The only qualification is faith, and faith means to have unflinching conviction in the glories and powers of the name.

- That is the statement of the scriptures.

- "If one does not have faith, a real Vaiṣṇava will not give him instruction on the name.

- That is the behavior of a Vaiṣṇava, for if the faithless man takes the name, he will simply offend it.

- For instance, if one casts pearls to the swine, they will simply grīnd them to dust, or if one gives fine cloth to a monkey, he will tear it to pieces.

Chapter – 10 Giving the Name to the Unfaithful

- If the faithless take the name they will kill themselves from their offenses and, simultaneously, he who gives the name to the faithless will lose all his devotional credits very quickly.

- "Sometimes a faithless man, being envious, will beg the name from the Vaiṣṇavas, but the Vaiṣṇava should understand that he is a cheater and refuse to give him the name.

- To take faith in the name one must give up the cheating mentality and the desire for position and fame.

- The cheater is thinking: 'By taking the name I no longer have to fear committing sinful activities; by becoming a Vaiṣṇava everyone will pay dandavats to me and I can get all sorts of service from others; whatever position I lost by my previous activities, I can retrieve by chanting japa; by this process I can become very happy in this world.'

Chapter – 10 Giving the Name to the Unfaithful

- This is the cheater's mentality.

- For qualification to the name one must give up this attitude.

- "When one has come to have faith in the name, without effort he will receive the name, and by the name's influence he will cross the ocean of material existence.

- But as long as one does not have faith, one has no qualification or capability.

- One should give up desire for position in the material world and become humble, listening to the glories of the name from scripture and Vaiṣṇavas.

Chapter – 10 Giving the Name to the Unfaithful

- "If the guru gives the name to a faithless man because of desire for wealth or material possessions, by that offense to the name the guru will go to hell.

- If by misfortune or accident a guru gives the name and instructions to a faithless person, he should have great fear.

- He should confess in front of a Vaiṣṇava assembly and give up that disciple.

- If the guru does not do this, by that offense he himself will become devoid of bhakti and will wander in illusion.

- Lord Caitanya gave the order to give instruction in the name everywhere, but that means to give it to the faithful men, and by that, perfection will be reached.

Chapter – 10 Giving the Name to the Unfaithful

- One can produce faith by loud saṅkīrtana, and when the jīva attains faith, he will seek out a bona fide guru.

- From the guru, the faithful man will take the holy name and then easily achieve prema.

- When thieves, prostitutes and rogues are made to give up their sinful mentality, one can give them instructions on the holy name. In this way, the name can be spread everywhere.

- "If one does not take these precautions, being guilty of aparādha, one will go to hell.

- If the disciple commits offense, the guru has to suffer in his devotional progress. In this circumstance both the guru and the disciple go to hell."

Chapter – 10 Giving the Name to the Unfaithful

- "O Lord Caitanya, being so merciful, You first gave faith to Jagāi and Mādhāi, then You gave them the name.

- So wonderful was Your personality that You created faith in all men. The Vaiṣṇava should try to follow in Your footsteps."

- Whoever takes pleasure in devotion to the feet of devotees will be decorated with this touchstone jewel of the holy name.