

Śrī Manah-śikṣā

Splendid Instructions to the
Mind

by Śrī Raghunātha dāsa Gosvāmī

Verse-7

Notes on the Commentary

by

Śrīla ŚIVARĀMA SWAMI

Verse-7

pratiṣṭhāśā dhr̥ṣṭā śvapaca-ramaṇī me hr̥di naṭet
katham sādhu-premā spr̥śati śucir etan nanu manaḥ
sadā tvaṁ sevasva prabhu-dayita-sāmantam atulam
yathā tām niṣkāsyā tvaritam iha taṁ veṣayati saḥ

As long as the unchaste (dhr̥ṣṭā), dog-eating woman (śvapaca-ramaṇī) of desire for prestige (pratiṣṭhāśā) dances in my heart (me hr̥di naṭet), how can (katham) the chaste and pure (śucir) lady of love for Kṛṣṇa (sādhu-premā) touch it (spr̥śati etad)? Therefore, O mind (nanu manaḥ), you should always serve (sadā tvaṁ sevasva) the incomparable (atulam), beloved devotee commander of Kṛṣṇa's army (prabhu-dayita-sāmantam), who will immediately (yathā saḥ tvaritam) throw out the unchaste woman (tām niṣkāsyā) and establish the pure lady of love (taṁ veṣayati) in the heart (iha).

Verse-7 Commentary by Śrīla ŚĪVARĀMA SWAMI

Now, we refer once again to these three sādhakas.

Sva-nistha, pariniṣṭhā, nirapekṣa.

What will happen to them if they also continue to harbor this deceit within their hearts and this desire for honor and distinction?

This is subsequent to what we read in the previous verse.

Verse-7 Commentary by Srīla SIVARAMA SWAMI

This sva-niṣṭha bhakta, or the householder who is trying to be fully surrendered, who is fully engaged in preaching activities, starts to yearn for honor and manifests the hope for being seen as being a great religious leader, a very generous personality, and sinless.

He wants recognition for his position.

The pariniṣṭhā, or devotees nicely following the rules of bhakti, worshiping the Deity in their home, and working in whatever particular way, they want to become recognized also as great devotees, to be seen as very detached and very knowledgeable.

Verse-7 Commentary by Śrīla ŚIVARĀMA SWAMI

And the nirapekṣas are the same—everyone should recognize that they have become pure devotees, being completely detached, understanding the purport of all the śāstras, and being the masters of all aspects of bhakti.

For all types of devotees, the problem is mainly always wanting recognition.

An important point is that Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura says this honor is one of the elements of deceit.

Verse-7 Commentary by Srīla SIVARAMA SWAMI

→ kāpatya upati

He says (deceit) can be rooted out to the proportion that one is free from this desire for (honor).

So to the degree we are actually free from this honor, to that degree the deceit will actually leave the heart.

And the heart is like a cup.

You have a cup of ink, and if you just keep pouring in milk then ultimately all the ink will be out.

Verse-7 Commentary by Śrīla ŚIVARĀMA SWAMI

Therefore, what we want to fill the heart's cup up with is pure devotional service rendered with real humility.

Here specifically, what is being stated is that one should serve the pure devotees.

So he says, katham̐ sādhu-premā sprśati.

Sprśati means touch.

Verse-7 Commentary by Śrīla ŚIVARĀMA SWAMI

He says this sādhu-premā, love of Godhead, will not even touch us.

Not to mention we will not get it, we won't even be able to touch it.

We won't touch it, and it will not touch us, as long as our consciousness is contaminated by this desire for honor.

What to do?

Verse-7 Commentary by Śrīla ŚIVARĀMA SWAMI

Solution?

The verse says sadā tvaṁ sevasva, always serve prabhu-dayita-sāmantam, pure devotees of the Lord who are atula (pure).

Then, niskāśya tvaritam, they will very quickly kick out all these impurities and veśayati, they will establish sādhu-premā, that pure love.

So, sadā sevasva, we should always serve the devotees, because serving Vaiṣṇavas induces humility.

Verse-7 Commentary by Śrīla ŚIVARĀMA SWAMI

Even if you don't have humility now, if you serve devotees you will become humble.

The serving mood, the mood of humility, is the antithesis of pride and desire for honor.

It neutralizes and destroys them.

Serve those who are very dear to the Lord.

Verse-7 Commentary by Śrīla ŚIVARĀMA SWAMI

Bhaktivinoda Thākura says that the heart of pure devotees are saturated with hlādinī-śakti, and when we serve them, they become compassionate.

The result of that compassion is they bestow their mercy on us.

Bestowing mercy means that they transfer hlādinī-śakti from their hearts—a ray of that potency becomes transferred to the hearts of others and the hlādinī-śakti purifies all the contaminations present in one's heart.

Verse-7 Commentary by Śrīla ŚIVARĀMA SWAMI

It not only purifies but also generates love (sādhu-premā).

The verse says this process happens immediately (tvaritam).

It will happen quickly, but we must do it.

So, niṣkāśya tvaritam iha taṁ veśayati saḥ, the association of devotees in a proper mood will expel all these unwanted qualities and will simultaneously give us access to love.

Verse-7 Commentary by Śrīla ŚIVARĀMA SWAMI

We can only get love of God from devotees.

Maybe we can get it from Kṛṣṇa, but that is very rare.

The conclusion is that one should serve the Vaiṣṇavas.

One should serve the dust of their lotus feet, take the remnants of their foodstuff, and take their instructions, because all of these things possess that same hlādinī-śakti.

Verse-7 Commentary by Śrīla ŚIVARĀMA SWAMI

Then we will become free of all of these impediments to our spiritual life.

We can also remember to read and study pastimes concerning the particular demons which are representative of these disturbing elements, specifically deceit, which is Bakāsura.

Don't forget to call out, "O servants of the killer of Baka," read that story in Kṛṣṇa Book, and hear that particular pastime.

Verse-7 Commentary by Śrīla ŚIVARĀMA SWAMI

The other three qualities which we read about happening to the pariniṣṭhā, nirapekṣa, and sva-niṣṭha devotees—speculation, fault-finding and argumentation—those anarthas are represented by Tr̥nāvarta, Aghāsura, and Tr̥nāvarta again.

Also, this quote from the Padma Purāṇa which everyone should
know:

Verse-7 Commentary by Śrīla ŚIVARĀMA SWAMI

Thus, Lord Śiva says in the Padma-purāṇa:

ārādhānām sarveṣām
viṣṇor ārādhanaṁ param
tasmāt parataram devī
tadīyānām samarcanam

Of all kinds of worship (**ārādhānām sarveṣām**), worship of Lord Viṣṇu is the best (**viṣṇor ārādhanaṁ param**). Recommended more than worship of Viṣṇu (**tasmāt parataram devī**) is worship of the Vaiṣṇava (**tadīyānām samarcanam**).

Verse-7 Commentary by Śrīla ŚIVARĀMA SWAMI

|| 3.7.19 ||

yat-sevayā bhagavataḥ
kūṭa-sthasya madhu-dviṣaḥ
rati-rāso bhavet tīvraḥ
pādayor vyasanārdanaḥ

By service to the devotees (**yat-sevayā**), intense rasa of bhāva-bhakti (**tīvraḥ rati-rāsaḥ**) to the Lord (**bhagavataḥ**) who is fixed in one form (**kūṭa-sthasya**) and destroys obstacles for the devotee (**madhu-dviṣaḥ**) appears (**bhavet**), and destruction of material suffering then takes place (**pādayor vyasana ardanaḥ**).

Verse-7 Commentary by Srīla SIVARAMA SWAMI

In this connection, Rūpa Gosvāmī makes a very important point in the conclusion of Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhuḥ, where he says, “All the different aspects of devotional service which are stated in Nectar of Devotion all pertain to Kṛṣṇa.”

In other words, he’s explained how to make advancement by one way or another in relationship to the Lord.

Then he also says, “All the different aspects of devotional service to the Supreme Lord which have been discussed in Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhuḥ also relate to serving the Vaiṣṇavās.”

Verse-7 Commentary by Śrīla ŚIVARĀMA SWAMI

In other words, whatever is described in Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhuḥ in relationship to Kṛṣṇa, you can do the exact same thing in relationship to Vaiṣṇavas.

He continues, “This is the opinion of the paṇḍitas.”

To conclude our commentary on this verse, here is the quote from Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhuḥ 1.2.241, which Bhaktivinoda quotes at the end of his commentary to verse seven, describing a pure devotee. This is the nature of the real Vaiṣṇava.

Verse-7 Commentary by Śrīla ŚIVARĀMA SWAMI

dr̥g-ambhobhir dhautah pulaka-patalī maṇḍita-tanuḥ
skhalann antaḥ-phullo dadhad atiprthum vepathum api |
dr̥śoḥ kaksām yāvan mama sa puruṣaḥ ko 'py upayayau
na jāne kim tāvan matir iha gr̥he nābhiramate ||

Ever since I saw (yāvad dr̥śoḥ) a certain person whose body was washed with his own tears (dr̥g-ambhobhir dhautah), whose hairs were standing on end (pulaka-patalī maṇḍita-tanuḥ), and who stumbled around with a joyous heart (skhalann antaḥ-phullo), while quivering to the extreme (atiprthum vepathum api), my mind (mama matih) has for some reason (na jāne kim) become so attached to the form of Kṛṣṇa (sah puruṣaḥ upayayau) that I have no attachment to my family (matir iha gr̥he nābhiramate).

Verse-7

Notes on the Commentary

by

Śrīla Sacinandana Swami

Maharaj

Verse-7 Commentary by Srīla Sacinandana Swami Maharaj

We find it so difficult to renounce the desire for distinction.

Never touch this stool-like desire if you want to develop love for Kṛṣṇa.

It may seem strange that this desire for name, fame and glory is the root of all problems.

We may feel that some self-esteem needs to be there, otherwise we may feel depressed and insecure, and the world will trample on us.

Verse-7 Commentary by Srīla Sacinandana Swami Maharaj

But this self-centered desire is a big problem.

From the desire “I must be glorified”—and not Kṛṣṇa—arises envy,
an aggressive mentality, and an inclination to criticize.

The moment we don't surrender to Kṛṣṇa, having a “my way” style
of thought, we will become envious of others, we will be violent,
aggressive, and we will criticize.

So many anarthas come from this.

Verse-7 Commentary by Śrīla Sacinandana Swami Maharaj

Raghunātha Dāsa Gosvāmī uses the example of an outcast woman, who lives by selling her body and devours dog meat.

This woman is shamelessly dancing in our hearts.

The desire for fame supersedes all other desires.

People can be manipulated even out of their money if you flatter them for fame!

Verse-7 Commentary by Śrīla Sacinandana Swami Maharaj

If this desire for fame is allowed to stay in our hearts, she will not stay alone; she will invite envy.

The desire for fame will always be united with envy, and they will mate and produce children of aggressiveness and criticism.

When they dance in our hearts, they will start a dance of destruction and destroy all our Vaiṣṇava qualities.

Verse-7 Commentary by Srīla Sacinandana Swami Maharaj

We need to be vigilant and alert to quickly recognize this weed of pratiṣṭhā.

If we allow this to stay on, all our chanting and hearing will not serve our spiritual advancement, but it will only help to grow pratiṣṭhā and her family.

We do not perform our bhakti for the recognition of others

It is not that we should be recognized, but that Kṛṣṇa is recognized.

Verse-7 Commentary by Śrīla Sacinandana Swami Maharaj

Pratiṣṭhā is like poison. If we swallow it, it will poison us.

If fame comes to us, be aware that it is by the mercy of our guru.

What is the cure for this desire for fame?

Raghunātha Dāsa Gosvāmī says, “sevasva prabhu-dayita-sāmantam”—serve the leader of those who are dear to the Lord. He compares such a devotee to a powerful general.

Verse-7 Commentary by Śrīla Sacinandana Swami Maharaj

The desire for fame is strong, so we need some force to remove it, a
pure devotee.

Military action is required for this!

If we want this desire to be removed, we need a special squad—a
real devotee whom we should serve.

He will bring love into our hearts.

Verse-7 Commentary by Śrīla Sacinandana Swami Maharaj

There are two effects when we meet such devotees:

1. love will come into our heart; and
2. material attachments, fear of material existence, and other obstacles are destroyed.

Please serve a pure devotee, ^① giving your best and ^② forgetting your own concern.

Then we will feel, 'I'm so different, so enlivened.'