

Śrī Caitanya-Śikṣāmṛta

Nectarean Teachings of Lord Śrī
Caitanya

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Thākura

Chapter – 3
Vaidhi Bhakti

Part – 3

**Avoiding obstacles in devotional
service**

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The practitioner of vaidhi bhakti must perform all the five types of cultivation explained in the previous section.

In performing these activities, there are certain forbidden actions that create obstacles for the devotee's progress.

These must be avoided.

There are ten types of forbidden activity: (Proof Below)

॥ 7.13.7 ॥

nāsac-chāstreṣu sajjeta
nopajiveta jīvikām
vāda-vādāms tyajet tarkān
pakṣam kaṁca na saṁśrayet

Not be attached to [material]
which discuss about
conclusions different
from stated Bhagavadan.

One should not be attached to material literature (na sajjeta asat-
śāstreṣu) or maintain oneself by an occupation (na upajiveta
jīvikām). One should give up controversial arguments (tyajet vāda-
vādāms tarkān) and not take either side in an argument (pakṣam
kaṁca na saṁśrayet).

|| 7.13.8 ||

na śiṣyān anubadhñīta
granthān naivābhyased bahūn
na vyākhyām upayuñjīta
nārambhān ārabhet kvacit

One should not seek disciples (na śiṣyān anubadhñīta) or study books (bahūn granthān na eva abhyaset), nor partake in many discourses (na vyākhyām upayuñjīta), nor attempt huge projects at any time (na ārambhān ārabhet kvacit).

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1. association with the materialist ;
2. establishing unfavorable relationships;
3. attempting huge projects;
4. spending time studying different works and various philosophies;
5. meanness ;
6. subjection to lamentation and other afflictions ;
7. disrespect to devatas ;
8. giving trouble to other living entities;
9. seva and nama aparadha;
10. tolerating criticism of the Lord and His devotee.

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Association with materialist

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Materialists are of six types:

1. people devoid of faith in the Lord and without moral standards;
 atheistic immoral
2. people with morals but no faith in God; → ~~at~~ *atheistic moral*
3. people with morals and faith in God, but whose concept of God is subservient to morality;
 Karmavēdis
4. pretenders and their followers ;
5. impersonalists;
6. polytheists. → *Demigod worshippers*

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① atheistic immoral

Those who have no respect for God or morality perform sinful activities.

Without moral conduct they simply do whatever they please.

Such people, for sense pleasure and personal gain, create havoc in the world.

② atheistic moral

Those who accept morality but do not accept God, argue that moral conduct should be followed out of duty, without fear of God.

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They forget that faith in God is a significant element in moral conduct.



It will be seen, however, that if there is no respect for God, moral codes cannot be followed properly.

Won't such people sacrifice moral conduct for their own benefit if an opportunity arises?

By examining their characters you can discover the impractical nature of their philosophy.

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Where self-interest arises, the moral codes will be violated.

③ Heretic moralist who considers morality superior to God.

The third type of materialist has belief in God, but that belief is subservient to morality.

There are two sub-types.

a) → God is non-existent.

One type maintains that worship of God is important, but does not believe in His actual existence.

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Such people believe there is no harm in imagining a God and worshipping Him with faith, but they then abandon the worship when good conduct is achieved.

The second type believes that by performing activities of worship of the Lord such as sandhya vandana, the heart will become purified and Brahman realization will be achieved.

At that point there are no more duties to anyone.

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This relationship with God is like a temporary meeting of travelers at an inn.

Both these types are averse to devotion.

④ Pretender.

The fourth type of materialist, also adverse to devotion, is the pretender.

The pretenders may be classified as cheaters and cheated.

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They do not accept the eternal nature of bhakti, yet they wear the dress and markings of a believer.

They have their own motives, which any honest person would decry.

✓
Cheating everyone, they pave the way for a world of sin.

cheated Undiscerning people, allured by their external appearance, take up the same path, and end up rejecting God.

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They have beautiful tilaka and dress, chant the name of Krsna, appear detached from the world and give attractive speeches, but secretly they harbor desire for wealth and women.

Many such groups are seen.

⑤ Impersonalist

The fifth type is the impersonalist.

According to these people, when the heart becomes purified by bhakti, the truth will be revealed.

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The highest truth is liberation, destruction of the soul.

As the distinction of soul is destroyed, everything becomes one undifferentiated state.

Bhakti and God are temporary.

Acting as the servant of Lord is an only practice, not the goal.

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If devotees do not avoid them, considering them the same as materialists, their faith in the ontology of bhakti will become weak.

⑥ Polytheists

Those who accept many gods (polytheists) have no dedication to one God.

By association with such people, the devotee will also lose his faith in bhakti.
(Proof Below)

|| 4.31.14 ||

yathā taror mūla-niṣecanena
tr̥pyanti tat-skandha-bhujopaśākhāḥ
prāṇopahārāc ca yathendriyāṇām
tathaiiva sarvārhaṇam acyutejyā

Just as the branches and twigs are satisfied (yathā tr̥pyanti tat-skandha-bhujopashakhah) by watering the root (taror mūla-niṣecanena), and just as the senses are satisfied (yathā indriyāṇām) by nourishing the life air (prāṇa upahārāt), by worshipping the Supreme Lord (tathā eva acyuta ijyā) all are worship is accomplished (sarva arhaṇam).

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The devotee must avoid the association of these six types of people.

What is association?

Association does not refer to being present in the same meeting, riding in the same boat, bathing at the same place in the river or buying goods in the same store.

Association means dealing with them in an intimate mood. (dadāti pratigrhṇāti)

That type of association has to be avoided.

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Unfavorable relationships

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Unhealthy relationships are also forbidden for the vaidha bhakta.

There are four types of unhealthy relations: with disciples, with associates, with servants and with friends.

③

④

① Unqualified disciples

By taking unqualified people as disciples for wealth and power, great disturbance is created in the sampradaya.

The Vaisnava will not initiate disciples if there are no qualified persons.

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② Associations

By taking association of those who are not devotees, many types of sinful habits will appear.

Therefore such association should be given up.

③ Servants

It is not beneficial to take servants unless they are devotees.

④ Friends

In making friendships as well, the devotee should first consider if that person is a Vaisnava.

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~~Giving Up Unnecessary Endeavors~~

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Devotees should give up enthusiasm for big endeavors in three situations.

①

If there are no funds for a project in the beginning, the work should not be attempted.

②

If a person's life is nearly over, they should not start a big project.

③

If the work requires a lot of help, and there is no way of getting assistance, then the work should not be attempted.

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Such things create an obstacle in devotion.



If huge projects for temples, halls, or asramas are difficult to execute, then they should not be considered.

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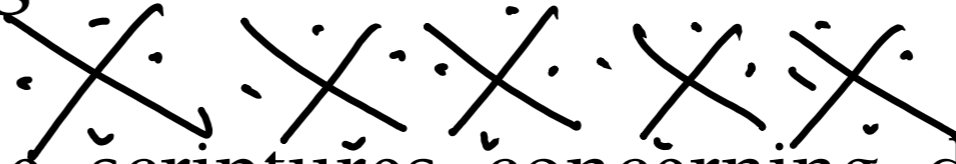
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Studying many scriptures

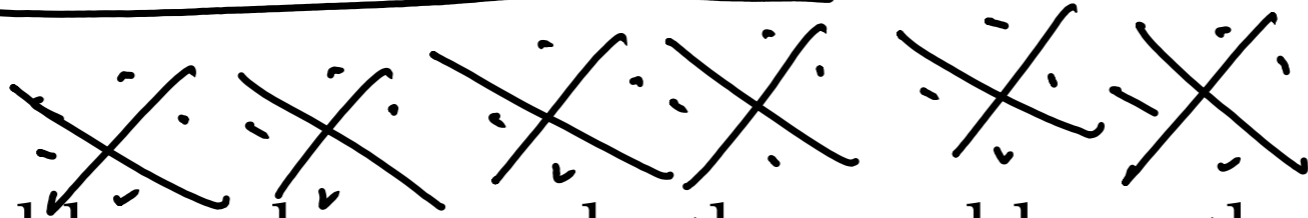
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The devotees should learn the scriptures concerning devotion and those works that conform to the conclusions.

However, because of lack of time, to read small parts of large works without completing a full study is not advised.



Devotees should read a work thoroughly, otherwise they will become uselessly opinionated, professional debaters.

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There are some people who take pleasure in arguing with any statement they hear, whether good or bad.

This is forbidden for devotees.

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Miserliness

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Miserliness is very contaminating for devotees.

There is miserliness of ^①behavior, of ^②wealth, and of ^③effort.

① behavior

With the Vaisnava, devotees should stand up when he approaches and care for him attentively.

Devotees should give general respect and gifts to the brahmanas.

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They should properly clothe and shelter their dependents.

They should take items from others for a suitable price.

They should pay taxes to the king.

Devotees should show gratitude to benefactors, give food to the poor, medicine to the sick, and cloth to those suffering from cold weather.

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If devotees treat anyone in the world properly, then the fault of miserliness will not arise.

It is even enough if, having nothing else, devotees simply speak nicely.

By proper speech, by wealth, by their own labor, they should behave generously with others. Lack of proper behavior is forbidden for devotees.