

Śrī Caitanya-Śikṣāmṛta

Nectarean Teachings of Lord Śrī
Caitanya

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Thākura

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Vaidhi Bhakti

Part – 3

Avoiding obstacles in devotional
service

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⑦ Commit Sin on the Strength of the HN

If a person dares to commit sin thinking that the power of the Name will nullify the reactions, they commit grave offence.

Vivakti

(Sin and attraction to material pleasure) are (extinguished) (along with the development of attraction for the Lord)

Bhakti

When devotees take shelter of the Name, naturally they will not have a taste for sinful activities.

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But if someone always chants the Name and secretly commits sins, it is cheating of the worst type.

Such a person, while committing sin, will think that by later chanting the Name they will cancel the effect of the sin.

The devotee should take shelter of the Name, being free from this offence.

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8th offense → consider the HN as a pious activity

There are many pious activities such as sacrifices, austerities, yoga, and study of the Vedas, following the rules of varnasrama dharma, and serving guests.

Those engrossed in materialism will think that the chanting of the Name is on the same level as these pious activities. This is a great offence.

There is a great difference between pious actions that yield temporary material results and the chanting of the Name that brings eternal bliss.

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9th offense → Instruct a faithless person about the glories of the HN

Those who are atheistic or extremely entangled with moral rules or duties of karma cannot take up chanting the Name unless they first purify their hearts.

To give such unqualified and faithless people the teachings of the Name is as useless as sowing seeds on barren ground.

Those who give out the Name motivated by receiving substantial donations are selling the Name.

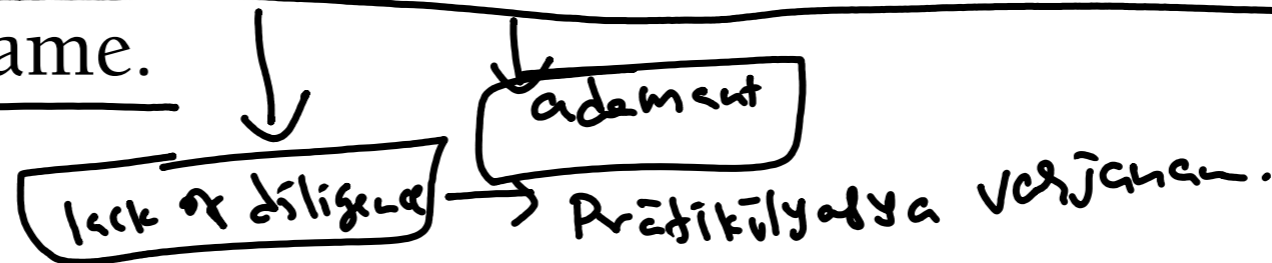
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They reduce the priceless jewel to nothing in exchange for insignificant trinkets, and fall from the path of devotion.

10. Maintain material attachments even after understanding so many instructions on this letter

Persons are unfortunate if, even after hearing the glories of the Name, the sense of possessiveness and attachment is so strong that they do not develop an attachment for the Name.



Such a person is in a hopeless position and is considered an offender.

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Being free from these ten offences, devotees should perform their worship.

They should not consent to or assist in criticism of the Lord or His devotee.

If devotees hear such words, they should, if possible, counter them.

If they hear such words from their own guru, then they should humbly warn him.

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If the guru becomes a hater of Vaisnavas, they should reject him and take shelter of a real guru (Bhakti Sandharba).

Giving up the ten detrimental activities, the vaidha bhaktas carefully tend to their development of their devotion through the five types of cultivation.
(through body, mind, soul, matter and society)