

Śrī Caitanya-Śikṣāmṛta

Nectarean Teachings of Lord Śrī
Caitanya

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Thākura

Chapter – 6

Prema Bhakti

Part-5

The goal of the devotee
aspiring for Prema

When devotees, by the mercy of guru and Krsna, obtain the (seed) of the
devotional creeper, or ~~faith in the principles of bhakti,~~ they should with great
care see that the creeper of devotion bears fruit.

Mahaprabhu used one simile to teach this to Rupa Goswami at Prayaga.

CC Madhya 151

brahmāṇḍa bhramite kona bhāgyavān jīva
guru-kṛṣṇa-prasāde pāya bhakti-latā-bīja

“According to their karma, all living entities are wandering
throughout the entire universe. Some of them are being elevated to
the upper planetary systems, and some are going down into the
lower planetary systems. Out of many millions of wandering living
entities, one who is very fortunate gets an opportunity to associate
with a bona fide spiritual master by the grace of Kṛṣṇa. By the mercy
of both Kṛṣṇa and the spiritual master, such a person receives the
seed of the creeper of devotional service.”

CC Madhya 152

mālī hañā kare sei bīja āropaṇa

śravaṇa-kīrtana-jale karaye secana

“When a person receives the seed of devotional service, he should take care of it by becoming a gardener and sowing the seed in his heart. If he waters the seed gradually by the process of śravaṇa and kīrtana [hearing and chanting], the seed will begin to sprout.”

CC Madhya 153

upajiyā bāḍe latā 'brahmāṇḍa' bhedi yāya
'virajā', 'brahma-loka' bhedi' 'para-vyoma' pāya

“As one waters the bhakti-latā-bīja, the seed sprouts, and the creeper
gradually grows to the point where it penetrates the walls of this
universe and goes beyond the Virajā River, lying between the
spiritual world and the material world. It attains brahma-loka, the
Brahman effulgence, and penetrating through that stratum, it
reaches the spiritual sky and the spiritual planet Goloka Vṛndāvana.”

CC Madhya 154

tabe yāya tad-upari ‘goloka-vṛndāvana’
‘kṛṣṇa-carāṇa’-kalpa-vṛkṣe kare ārohaṇa

“Being situated in one’s heart and being watered by śravaṇa-kīrtana,
the bhakti creeper grows more and more. In this way it attains the
shelter of the desire tree of the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa, who is eternally
situated in the planet known as Goloka Vṛndāvana, in the topmost
region of the spiritual sky.”

CC Madhya 155

tāhān vistārita hañā phale prema-phala
ihān māli sece nitya śravaṇādi jala

“The creeper greatly expands in the Goloka Vṛndāvana planet, and
there it produces the fruit of love for Kṛṣṇa. Although remaining in
the material world, the gardener regularly sprinkles the creeper with
the water of hearing and chanting.”

CC Madhya 156

yadi vaiṣṇava-aparādha uṭhe hātī mātā
upāḍe vā chinḍe, tāra śukhi' yāya pātā

“If the devotee commits an offense at the feet of a Vaiṣṇava while cultivating the creeper of devotional service in the material world, his offense is compared to a mad elephant that uproots the creeper and breaks it. In this way the leaves of the creeper are dried up.”

CC Madhya 157

tāte māli yatna kari' kare āvaraṇa
aparādha-hastira yaiche nā haya udgama

“The gardener must defend the creeper by fencing it all around so
that the powerful elephant of offenses may not enter.”

CC Madhya 158

kintu yadi latāra saṅge uṭhe ‘upaśākhā’
bhukti-mukti-vāñchā, yata asaṅkhya tāra lekḥā

“Sometimes unwanted creepers, such as the creepers of desires for
material enjoyment and liberation from the material world, grow
along with the creeper of devotional service. The varieties of such
unwanted creepers are unlimited.”

CC Madhya 159

‘niṣiddhācāra’, ‘kuṭināṭī’, ‘jīva-himsana’
‘lābha’, ‘pūjā’, ‘pratiṣṭhādi’ yata upaśākhā-gaṇa

“Some unnecessary creepers growing with the bhakti creeper are the
creepers of behavior unacceptable for those trying to attain
perfection, diplomatic behavior, animal-killing, mundane
profiteering, mundane adoration and mundane importance. All these
are unwanted creepers.”

CC Madhya 160

seka-jala pāñā upaśākhā bādi' yāya
stabdha hañā mūla-śākhā bādite nā pāya

“If one does not distinguish between the bhakti creeper and the
other creepers, the sprinkling of water is misused because the other
creepers are nourished while the bhakti creeper is curtailed.”

CC Madhya 161

prathamei upaśākhāra karaye chedana
tabe mūla-śākhā bāḍi' yāya vṛndāvana

“As soon as an intelligent devotee sees an unwanted creeper growing
beside the original creeper, he must cut it down instantly. Then the
real creeper, the bhakti-latā, grows nicely, returns home, back to
Godhead, and seeks shelter under the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa.”

CC Madhya 162

‘prema-phala’ pāki’ paḍe, māli āsvādaya
latā avalambi’ māli ‘kalpa-vṛkṣa’ pāya

“When the fruit of devotional service becomes ripe and falls down,
the gardener tastes the fruit and thus takes advantage of the creeper
and reaches the desire tree of the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa in Goloka
Vṛndāvana.”

CC Madhya 163

tāhān sei kalpa-vṛkṣera karaye sevana
sukhe prema-phala-rasa kare āsvādana

“There the devotee serves the lotus feet of the Lord, which are
compared to a wish-fulfilling tree. With great bliss he tastes the juice
of the fruit of love and becomes eternally happy.”

CC Madhya 164

eita parama-phala 'parama-puruṣārtha'
yānra āge tṛṇa-tulya cāri puruṣārtha

“To taste the fruit of devotional service in Goloka Vṛndāvana is the
highest perfection of life, and in the presence of such perfection, the
four material perfections—religion, economic development, ~~sense~~
gratification and liberation—are very insignificant achievements.

CC Madhya 165

ṛddhā siddhi-vraja-vijayitā satya-dharmā samādhir
brahmānando gurur api camatkārayaty eva tāvat
yāvat premṇām madhu-ripu-vaśī-kāra-siddhausadhīnām
gandho 'py antaḥ-karaṇa-saraṇī-pānthatām na prayāti

“As long as there is not the slightest fragrance of pure love of Kṛṣṇa, which is the perfect medicinal herb for controlling Lord Kṛṣṇa within the heart, the opulences of the material perfections known as the siddhis, the brahminical perfections [satya, śama, titikṣā and so on], the trance of the yogīs and the monistic bliss of Brahman all ~~seem wonderful for men.~~”

CC Madhya 166

‘śuddha-bhakti’ haite haya ‘premā’ utpanna
ataeva śuddha-bhaktira kahiye ‘lakṣaṇa’

“When one is situated in pure devotional service, he develops love
of Godhead; therefore let me describe some of the symptoms of pure
devotional service.”

CC Madhya 167

anyābhilāṣitā-śūnyam ①

→ Purity of soul

jñāna-karmādy-anāvṛtam ②

→ Purity of practice

③ ānukūlyena kṛṣṇānu-

śīlanam bhaktir uttamā ④

③ & ④ → 1^o Characteristics

① & ② → 2^o

“When first-class devotional service develops, one must be devoid of all material desires, knowledge obtained by monistic philosophy, and fruitive action. The devotee must constantly serve Kṛṣṇa favorably, as Kṛṣṇa desires.”

CC Madhya 168

anya-vāñchā, anya-pūjā chāḍi 'jñāna', 'karma'
ānukūlye sarvendriye kṛṣṇānuśīlana

“A pure devotee must not cherish any desire other than to serve Kṛṣṇa. He should not offer worship to the demigods or to mundane personalities. He should not cultivate artificial knowledge, which is devoid of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and he should not engage himself in anything other than Kṛṣṇa conscious activities. One must engage all one’s purified senses in the service of the Lord. This is the favorable execution of Kṛṣṇa conscious activities.