

Chapter 1 part 6 Sadhana bhakti

Vaidhi sadhana bhakti

Accept scriptures as authority.

Perform activities according to what is forbidden and what is prescribed

Stimulus for performing devotional service: bhakti shastra
vishwashmayi sraddha

Faith turns from komala to madhyama to uttama. (tender to firm to deep)

Sadhaka progresses from sraddha to nistha
,ruchi,asakti,bhava.

Rules also undergo a remarkable transformation.

Sadhaka's conviction gradually becomes stronger and he understands that the essence is:

*smartavyah satatam visnur
vismartavyo na jaticit
sarve vidhi nisedhah syur
etayor eva kinkarah*

With that conviction, at this stage, the devotee, according to his qualification, gives up some of the injunctions, and begin to practice some of the prohibitions.

Niyamagraha:

Niyam+agraha= prematurely giving up rules thinking oneself more qualified

Niyam+ aagraha= Not giving up rules of lower qualification even after attaining higher qualification

Vidhi and nishedha are dynamic. What is vidhi at one stage can become nishedha at other stage and vice versa.

Ex: Using mudras in deity worship is vidhi for vaidhi sadhakas but nishedha for raganuga sadhakas.

At the stage of raganuga, devotional activities are divided into 5 parts:

Bhava mayi: absolutely essential
Bhava sambandhi : very favourable
Bhava anukul : somewhat favourable
Bhava apratikul : neutral
Bhava pratikul : not favourable

sve sve adhikare ya nistha... SB 11.20.26

Good quality:

Engage in those activities which are according to your adhikara and give up those activities which are not according to your adhikara

Door to Devotional Service - The first 20 Angas

The Do's

1. **guru-pādashraya** - Taking shelter of a guru
2. **krishna dikshadi sikshanam** - Taking Diksha and acquiring knowledge from him
3. **visrambhena guroh sevā** - Service to guru with respect
4. **sādhu-vartma anuvartanam** - Following the rules of the scriptures as approved by the acaryas (bhakti shastras given by our sampradaya acharyas)
5. **sad-dharma-prcchā** - Inquiry about the real duties of life (ask relevant questions to spiritual authorities)
6. **bhogādi-tyāgaù krsnasya hetave** - Renunciation of enjoyment to gain Krishna's mercy
7. **nivāso dvārakā ādau vā gangāder api sannidhau** - Residing in Dvārakā or other holy places, or near the Gangā
8. **vyāvahāreshu sarveshu yāvad-arthānuvartitā** - Accepting only what is necessary in dealing with the body
9. **hari-vāsara-sammāno** - Observing the Ekādashi vrata, appearance days and other days of Lord Hari
10. **dhātry-asvatthādi-gauravam** - giving respect to the āmalaki, asvattha and other items (whatever is connected to Krishna, we give respect to that)

These 20 limbs are non-negotiable limbs. What does it mean that they are non-negotiable?

One should be **convinced** that they are non-negotiable. One may not have the ability to follow that particular limb but there should be a desire to follow that limb.

Don't philosophise and dilute the standards. Don't be averse to that limb. Don't think it is not necessary to follow that limb.

For example: Someone may not be initiated but if he has a desire to accept a guru and is convinced about the need of accepting a guru, he is following the first three limbs.

nivāso dvārakā ādau vā gangāder api sannidhau - Residing in Dvārakā or other holy places, or near the Gangā

4 steps in executing this anga:

1. one should be convinced that it is favourable for my devotional service.
2. One should dream to live in a dhaam.
3. One should actively start planning for it.
4. One should actually go and live there.

