

Chapter 1 part 7

Prayojana- the goal of life
(Bhava and Prema)

The Way to Prema: Chanting



The devotee is careful to associate with the guru and others of the same category (sajātīyāśaye) at the appropriate time.

Importance of
Guru

Smiling, Sri Caitanya Mahāprabhu told Raghunātha dāsa, "I have already appointed Svarūpa Dāmodara Gosvāmi as your instructor."

CC Antya
6.233

Guru of the same category

1. In the parampara

2. Same varna, same ashrama

3. same country, same cultural background

4. Appreciating the same aspects of devotional service.

It is better if the guru is not inferior to the disciple in any way (ex material education).

Otherwise the disciple's mind will create issues and the disciple may find it difficult to offer respect to the guru.

Application of the above principle in today's scenario

We have to identify what we value the most (from material point of view)

and we must see that,

that quality is also present in the guru we are accepting (apart from being a pure devotee);

otherwise, in future, we may end up disrespecting our guru.

ex: if we value the ability to speak very coherently then we should accept such a guru who has this quality.

Lord Chaitanya
Mahaprabhu's
instruction to vaidhi
sadhakas

grāmya-kathā nā śunibe, grāmya-vārtā nā kahibe
bhāla nā khāibe āra bhāla nā paribe

CC Antya
6.237

Lord Chaitanya
Mahaprabhu's
instruction to practice
raganuga sadhana after
nistha

Do not expect honor, but offer all respect to others.
Always chant the holy name of Lord Kṛṣṇa, and within
your mind render service to Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa in
Vṛndāvana.

CC Antya
6.237

Raganuga
sadhana

kṛṣṇaṁ smaran janam cāsya
preṣṭham nija-samīhitam
tat-tat-kathā-rataś cāsau
kuryād vāsam vraje sadā

Concentration on the
goal
(nirbandhinī mati)

The mentality during vaidhi bhakti--exclusive cultivation of devotion with the aim of achieving bhava bhakti, and the mentality during bhava bhakti-- intense cultivation with the aim of achieving prema, is called nirbandhini mati or undivided attention.

Purpose of practice must be revisited consistently.

Why am I practicing what I am practicing?

The aim should be to achieve bhava bhakti and to achieve prema.

If such concentration exists, then very quickly the devotees attain perfection.

In other words, the devotees must make an effort corresponding to the goal they wish to achieve.

Eagerness to achieve
the goal

sad-dharmasyāvabodhāya
yeṣāṃ nirbandhinī matiḥ
acirād eva sarvārthaḥ
sidhyaty eṣāṃ abhīpsitaḥ

“Those who are eager to awaken their spiritual consciousness and who thus have unflinching, undeviated intelligence (nirbandhinī matiḥ) certainly attain the desired goal of life very soon.”

CC Madhya
24.170



Eagerness to achieve the goal and concentration on the goal are two important parameters to achieve prema.




Beware of inattention

One must endeavour to adopt concentrated attention since the beginning.

One should not make inattentive practice a habit.

Inattention can be habitual and addictive.

Strive to be mindful and attentive in our practice of bhakti.



Right association is very important to remain focused on the goal and to be attentive in our spiritual practices : association of those devotees who have great appreciation of prayojana and who are attentive in their practices.

Eagerness and appreciation for such an association is more important than that association itself.