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 Mahäprabhu told Raghunätha däsa, "I have already appointed Svarüpa Dämodara Gosvämi as your instructor."

CC Antya 6.233



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 janaṁ cāsya preṣṭhaṁ nija-samīhitam tat-tat-kathā-rataś cāsau kuryād vāsaṁ vraje sadā The mentality during vaidhi bhakti--exclusive cultivation of devotion with the <u>aim of achieving bhava bhakti</u>, and the mentality during bhava bhakti-- intense cultivation with the <u>aim of achieving prema</u>, is called nirbandhini mati or undivided attention.

Concentration on the goal

(nirbandhinī mati)

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 exits, then very quickly the devotees attain perfection.

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



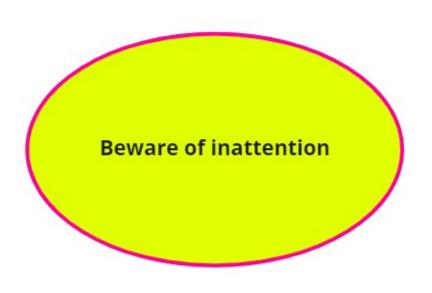
sad-dharmasyāvabodhāya yeṣāṁ nirbandhinī matiḥ acirād eva sarvārthaḥ sidhyaty eṣām abhīpsitaḥ

"'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.



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.