

**Chapter 2
Part - 2
Punya karma, Meritorious
Action**

Ten kinds of Punyas

1. **assistance to others**
2. **service to elders**
3. **charity**
4. **serving guests**
5. **cultivation of cleanliness**
6. **celebration of festivals**
7. **performance of vows**
8. **protection of animals**
9. **increase of population**
10. **proper conduct**

One of the purposes of writing this chapter is to attract karma adhikaris to bhakti. Hence Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura writes about activities which will generate punya for karma adhikaris but he also inserts principles of bhakti in between.

Charity (dana)

Giving money or materials to a suitable person (giving to an undeserving person is a worthless expense)

giving water by digging wells

giving food

giving materials

planting trees to give shade and air

giving education

building houses

supplying lights

giving the first portion of a meal

building roads

dispensing medicines

giving a daughter in marriage

building bathing places on rivers or lakes

Serving guests

A person should show hospitality towards his guests and society as a whole.

Whenever the food is ready, the householder should call out for the hungry and feed that person who comes.

This does not refer to feeding professional beggars.

Cleanliness

1. Personal cleanliness
2. Cleaning roads, ghats, shops, cowsheds, temples, and house
3. Cleaning forests
4. Going on pilgrimage

Personal cleanliness

Internal cleanliness/ Purity of mind

sinless actions and punyas

seeing the Deity of the Lord

remembrance of Vishnu

regulated amount of food that is sinless and easy to digest

bathing in sacred rivers such as the Ganga

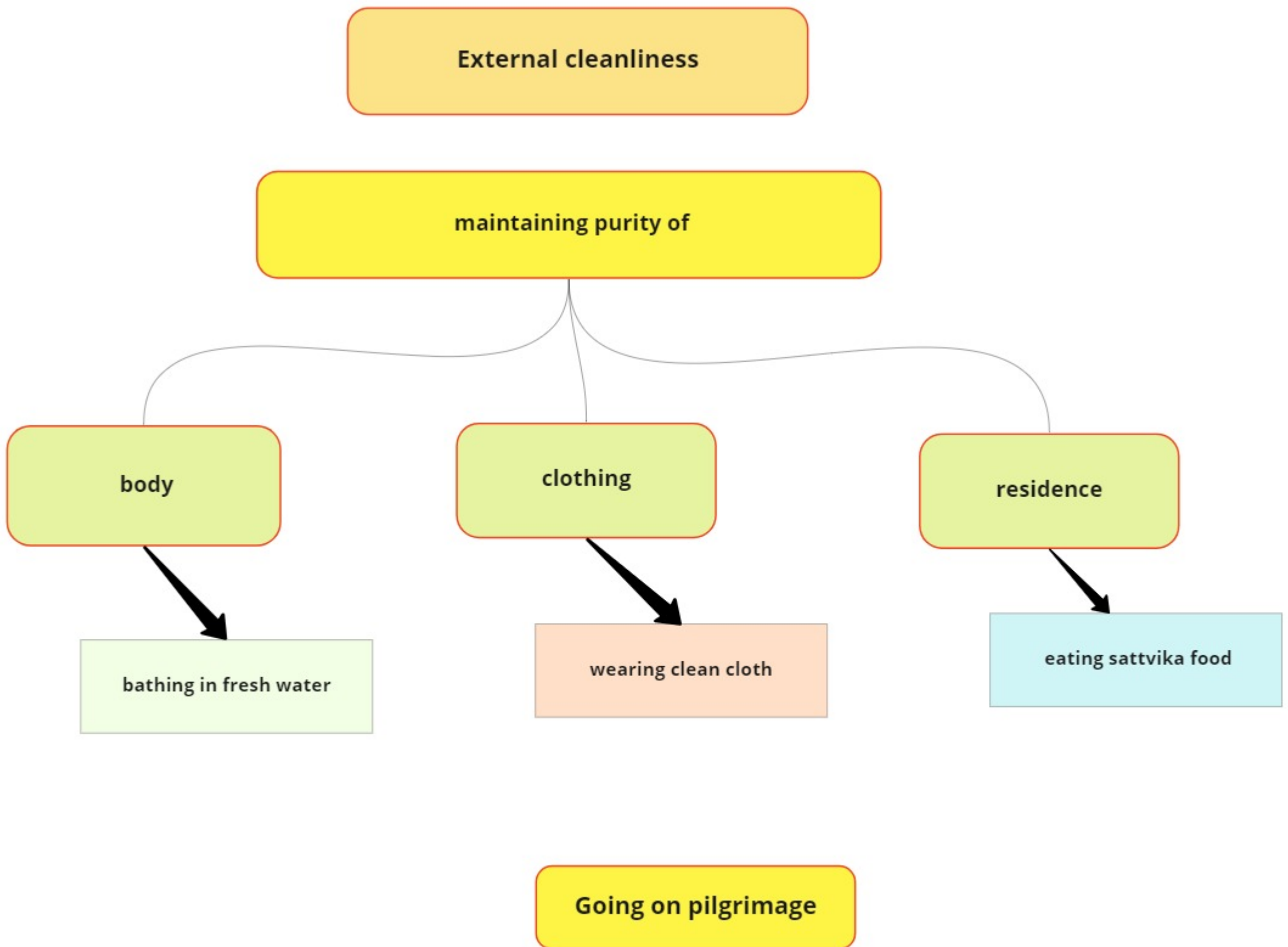
Role of atonement (prayascitta)

Sinful reaction leaves the person but sinful desire may not

If a person performs atonement with genuine remorse, the sinful desire will be removed, but the seed of all sin - hostility to the Lord - can be removed only by bhakti.

Although one may neutralize the reactions of sinful life through austerity, charity, vows and other such methods, these pious activities cannot uproot the material desires in one's heart. However, if one serves the lotus feet of the Personality of Godhead, he is immediately freed from all such contaminations.

SB 6.2.17



Although association with saintly people is the final goal of pilgrimage, by the act of pilgrimage itself, sinful desire is greatly reduced, and therefore all people feel purified.

Festivals

those centered on Deity
worship

Especially when these festivals are permeated with devotion to the Lord, they must not be avoided (and celebrated according to one's capacity).

those centered on family
affairs

birthdays, distribution of
grains, marriage, and
sradha rites

those for public rejoicing

sponsor fairs

There are also many social festivals such worship of brothers by sisters, worship of the brother-in-law, arandhanotsava, navannotsava, pisthakotsava, and sitalotsava.

Vratas

bodily

Early morning bath

parikrama

offering obeisances

fasting on the new and full moon days or Mondays

social

samskara rites

Marriage rites

vow of taking only one wife is essential

spiritual

24 Ekadasi fasts

fasting on the six visnu tattva appearance days

By fasting and refraining from normal activities on the prescribed days and controlling the senses, a person is made to concentrate on the Lord.

Protection of animals

Cows should be protected and nourished with proper food and housing.

Care should be taken to improve the form, strength and nature of animals.

By selective breeding this can be accomplished.

strong and well-formed bulls must be selected for mating