

Sri Caitanya-Sikñämåta
Nectarean Teachings of Lord Sri Caitanya
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Chapter - 3
Vaidhi Bhakti
Part - 3
Avoiding obstacles in devotional
service

Lamentation

Devotees should not be controlled by
lamentation, grief, anger, fear, greed and
illusion

- These emotions**
- o weaken the mind**
 - o obstruct the cultivation of bhakti.**
 - o gives rise to many faults,**

Bad habits

- o sleeping during the day,
- o sleeping during the early morning,
 - o chewing betel,
- o untimely eating and drinking,
 - o untimely cleaning the body,
 - o sleeping on a luxurious bed,
 - o eating luxurious items

By intoxicants

**Alcohol, marijuana, opium, tobacco.
Takes to sinful company to enjoy the habit.**

By superstition

Arises prejudice - there is no respect for truth.

To think signs of the Vaisnavas is the distinguishing characteristic of a Vaisnava

They will not venture to find good association

Bound to the varnasrama system

Disrespect to Devatas

- None of the Lord's servants should be disrespected.
- Pray to them for the boon of devotion to Krsna.
- Respect all the forms of the devatas who are worshipped in various places,
- By disrespecting them, pride will grow, and humility will decrease.

Violence to other entities

- Kill other living beings for food.
- Talking about others' misdeeds,
- criticizing others,
- quarrelling,
- scolding,
- bearing false witness,
- taking advantage at other's expense,
- violence,
- theft,
- spending others' money,
- beating others,
- lusting after others' wives—

Bhakti towards Lord manifest as friendship, compassion and indifference towards other living beings.

In the conditioned state this compassion is extremely stunted manifest as

- affection for the individual body,**
- attachment to household,**
- then to varna, then to countrymen.**
- human beings of the whole world.**

Compassion becomes complete when it is directed towards all living entities.

Vaisnavas should not be limited by the sentiments of Patriotism and Philanthropy

Avoiding Offenses

Seva and Nama aparadhas.

Seva aparadhas

- 1. negligence in spite of ability;**
- 2. disrespect;**
- 3. impurity;**
- 4. lack of determination**
- 5. pride.**

Negligence in spite of ability;

- 1. not holding regular festivals for the Deity,**
- 2. worshiping the Lord with inferior items,**
- 3. not offering the seasonal fruits to the Lord;**
- 4. coming before the Lord without offerings obeisances,**
- 5. entering the Lord's temple without lighting any lamp.**

Disrespectful

- 1. entering the Deity room with shoes /vehicle;**
- 2. not paying respects to the Deity;**
- 3. paying respects to the Deity using one hand;**
- 4. pointing at the Deity with a finger;**
- 5. circumambulating someone in front of the Deity;**
- 6. spreading the feet before the Deity;**
- 7. reciting prayers while sitting on a bed;**
- 8. sleeping or eating before the Deity;**
- 9. speaking loudly before the deity;**
- 10.gossiping with someone in front of the Deity;**
- 11.crying because of material affairs, quarrelling,**
- 12.passing air before the Lord;**
- 13.giving part of an item to someone before offering it to the Lord;**
- 14.sitting with ones back to the Deity;**
- 15.addressing or greeting others before the Deity;**
- 16.seeing the Deity at the wrong time.**

Impurity

- 1. going to the temple with an unclean body;**
- 2. to serve the Deity with clothing made of animal hair;**
- 3. spitting while serving the Deity;**
- 4. thinking of material things while serving the Deity.**

Lack of Determination

- 1. to drink water before worshipping the Lord;**
- 2. to eat unoffered food or water;**
- 3. not daily seeing the Lord and His worship;**
- 4. not offering your favorite items, foods, and fruit to the Lord;**
- 5. not observing Ekadasi vows.**

Pride

Praising themselves

Think that they are the best worshippers.

To think oneself great,

offering many items with great pomp,