

Śrī-Upadeśāmata

With

Commentaries by

1. Srila Prabhupada
2. Srila Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati
Thakura
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4. Srila Bhakti Rakshaka Sridhara Deva
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5. Śrī Rādhā-Ramaṇa Dāsa Gosvāmī

Verse – 4

Upadeśa-prakāśikā

By

Śrīla Rādhā-ramaṇa dāsa
Gosvāmī

**dadāti pratigrhṇāti
guhyam ākhyāti pṛcchati
bhunkte bhojayate caiva
ṣaḍ-vidham prīti-lakṣaṇam**

Offering gifts in charity, accepting charitable gifts, revealing one's mind in confidence, inquiring confidentially, accepting prasāda and offering prasāda are the six symptoms of love shared by one devotee and another.

Upadeśa-prakāśikā-ṭikā

In this fourth verse, the extrinsic symptoms of loving exchanges with pure devotees are described.

As the meaning of this verse is perfectly clear, it does not require elaboration.

Pīyūṣa-varṣiṇī-vṛtti

By

Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura

Pīyūṣa-varṣiṇī-vṛtti

Bad association is unfavourable to bhakti; therefore it is imperative to abandon such association.

Those who are intent on progressing in bhakti should associate with pure devotees, who possess the power to free one from the tendency to fall into bad association.

A description of the loving exchanges shared between devotees, which nourish one's bhakti, is found in this fourth verse.

Pīyūṣa-varṣiṇī-vṛtti

Lovingly giving another devotee that which he requires and lovingly accepting those items that are mercifully given by other devotees, revealing one's confidential realisations to devotees and hearing descriptions of confidential tenets (tattva) from pure devotees, lovingly serving devotees prasāda and accepting prasāda offered by devotees – these six kinds of exchanges constitute association with saintly persons (sādhu-saṅga) in its pure form. These six activities are the symptoms of love.

One should serve sādhus by the performance of these activities.

Anuvrtti

By

**Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta
Sarasvatī Gosvāmī
Prabhupāda**

Anuvrtti

Bhakti appears by the association of Bhagavān's devotees, but since one may not know how to associate with Vaiṣṇavas, this topic is explained in this verse.

By the negative effect of maintaining affectionate relationships with the jñānīs, who desire liberation from material existence, with the karmīs, who desire to enjoy the fruits of their actions, and with gross sense enjoyers, one's bhakti is harmed.

One should not give these three types of persons any advice or any item.

Anuvrtti

To do so would be offensive, because describing the glories of harināma to those devoid of faith is included within the category of nāma-aparādha.

Also one should never accept any advice regarding the attainment of liberation or material enjoyment from such persons, because it will lead one to develop affectionate attachment for them.

One should not instruct them on how to perform kṛṣṇa-bhajana.

Anuvrtti

One should not hear from them anything concerning the confidential aspects of bhakti.

One should also not accept food that has been touched by them.

By eating food prepared by them, their predilection for either material enjoyment or liberation will be transmitted within one's heart.

Anuvṛtti

viṣayāra anna khāile malina haya mana
malina mana haile nahe kṛṣṇera smaraṇa
Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Antya-līlā 6.279)

When one eats food offered by a materialist, one's mind becomes contaminated. When the mind is contaminated, one is unable to remember Kṛṣṇa.

Anuvrtti

Also, one should not feed these three types of persons who possess an enjoying spirit.

Eating food prepared by them or feeding them increases one's affection for them.

Exchanging love with devotees who are of the same aspiration as oneself and who are affectionate to oneself enhances one's bhakti.

Anuvrtti

Offering and accepting items, revealing confidential realisations to one another, and serving and accepting food are all activities that increase affection.

One should not perform these activities with those of different aspirations in life than one's own.

Translation and
Purport by Srila
Prabhupada

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

In this verse Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī explains how to perform devotional activities in the association of other devotees. There are six kinds of activities: (1) giving charity to the devotees, (2) accepting from the devotees whatever they may offer in return, (3) opening one's mind to the devotees, (4) inquiring from them about the confidential service of the Lord, (5) honoring prasāda, or spiritual food, given by the devotees, and (6) feeding the devotees with prasāda.

An experienced devotee explains, and an inexperienced devotee learns from him.

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

This is guhyam ākhyāti pṛcchati.

When a devotee distributes prasāda, remnants of food offered to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, in order to maintain our spirit of devotional service we must accept this prasāda as the Lord's grace received through the pure devotees.

We should also invite pure devotees to our home, offer them prasāda and be prepared to please them in all respects.

This is called bhunkte bhojayate caiva.

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

Even in ordinary social activities, these six types of dealings between two loving friends are absolutely necessary.

For instance, when one businessman wishes to contact another businessman he arranges a feast in a hotel, and over the feast he openly expresses what he wishes to do.

He then inquires from his business friend how he should act, and sometimes presents are exchanged.

Thus whenever there is a dealing of *prīti*, or love in intimate dealings, these six activities are executed.

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

In the previous verse, Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī advised that one should renounce worldly association and keep company with the devotees (saṅga-tyāgāt sato vṛtteḥ).

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness has been established to facilitate these six kinds of loving exchanges between devotees.

This Society was started single-handedly, but because people are coming forward and dealing with the give-and-take policy, the Society is now expanding all over the world.

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

We are glad that people are donating very liberally to the development of the Society's activities, and people are also eagerly accepting whatever humble contribution we are giving them in the shape of books and magazines dealing strictly with the subject matter of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

We sometimes hold Hare Kṛṣṇa festivals and invite life members and friends to participate in the feasting by accepting prasāda.

Although most of our members come from the higher rungs of society, they nonetheless come and take whatever little prasāda we are able to offer them.

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

Sometimes the members and supporters inquire very confidentially about the methods of performing devotional service, and we try to explain this.

In this way our Society is successfully spreading all over the world, and the intelligentsia of all countries is gradually appreciating our Kṛṣṇa conscious activities.

The life of the Kṛṣṇa conscious society is nourished by these six types of loving exchange among the members; therefore people must be given the chance to associate with the devotees of ISKCON because simply by reciprocating in the six ways mentioned above an ordinary man can fully revive his dormant Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

In the Bhagavad-gītā (2.62) it is stated, saṅgāt sañjāyate kāmahaḥ: one's desires and ambitions develop according to the company one keeps.

It is often said that a man is known by his company, and if an ordinary man associates with devotees, he will certainly develop his dormant Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

The understanding of Kṛṣṇa consciousness is innate in every living entity, and it is already developed to some extent when the living entity takes a human body.

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

It is said in Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Madhya 22.107):

**nitya-siddha kṛṣṇa-prema 'sādhya' kabhu naya
śravaṇādi-śuddha-citte karaye udaya**

"Pure love for Kṛṣṇa is eternally established in the hearts of living entities. It is not something to be gained from another source. When the heart is purified by hearing and chanting, that love naturally awakens."

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

Since Kṛṣṇa consciousness is inherent in every living entity, everyone should be given a chance to hear about Kṛṣṇa.

Simply by hearing and chanting—śravaṇam kīrtanam [SB 7.5.23]—one's heart is directly purified, and one's original Kṛṣṇa consciousness is immediately awakened.

Kṛṣṇa consciousness is not artificially imposed upon the heart; it is already there.

When one chants the holy name of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the heart is cleansed of all mundane contamination.

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

In the first stanza of His Śrī Śikṣāṣṭaka, Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu says:

**ceto-darpaṇa-mārjanam bhava-mahā-dāvāgni-nirvāpaṇam
śreyaḥ-kairava-candrikā-vitarāṇam vidyā-vadhū-jīvanam
ānandāmbudhi-vardhanam prati-padam pūrṇāmṛtāsvādanam
sarvātma-snapanam param vijayate śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtanam**

"All glories to the Śrī Kṛṣṇa saṅkīrtana, which cleanses the heart of all the dust accumulated for years and extinguishes the fire of conditional life, of repeated birth and death. This saṅkīrtana movement is the prime benediction for humanity at large because it spreads the rays of the benediction moon. It is the life of all transcendental knowledge. It increases the ocean of transcendental bliss, and it enables us to fully taste the nectar for which we are always anxious."

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

Not only is the chanter of the mahā-mantra purified, but the heart of anyone who happens to hear the transcendental vibration of Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare is also cleansed.

Even the souls embodied in lower animals, insects, trees and other species of life also become purified and prepared to become fully Kṛṣṇa conscious simply by hearing the transcendental vibration.

This was explained by Ṭhākura Haridāsa when Caitanya Mahāprabhu inquired from him how living entities lower than human beings can be delivered from material bondage.

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

Haridāsa Ṭhākura said that the chanting of the holy names is so powerful that even if one chants in the remotest parts of the jungle, the trees and animals will advance in Kṛṣṇa consciousness simply by hearing the vibration.

This was actually proved by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu Himself when He passed through the forest of Jhārikhaṇḍa.

At that time the tigers, snakes, deer and all other animals abandoned their natural animosity and began chanting and dancing in saṅkīrtana.

Of course, we cannot imitate the activities of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, but we should follow in His footsteps.

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

We are not powerful enough to enchant the lower animals such as tigers, snakes, cats and dogs or entice them to dance, but by chanting the holy names of the Lord we can actually convert many people throughout the world to Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Contributing or distributing the holy name of the Lord is a sublime example of contributing or giving charity (the dadāti principle).

By the same token, one must also follow the pratigrhṇāti principle and be willing and ready to receive the transcendental gift.

One should inquire about the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement and open his mind in order to understand the situation of this material world.

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

Thus the guhyam ākhyāti pṛcchati principles can be served.

The members of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness invite the Society's members and supporters to dine with them when they hold love feasts in all their branches every Sunday.

Many interested people come to honor prasāda, and whenever possible they invite members of the Society to their homes and feed them sumptuously with prasāda.

In this way both the members of the Society and the general public are benefited.

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

People should give up the company of so-called yogīs, jñānīs, karmīs and philanthropists because their association can benefit no one.

If one really wants to attain the goal of human life, he should associate with devotees of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement because it is the only movement that teaches one how to develop love of God.

Religion is the special function of human society, and it constitutes the distinction between human society and animal society.

Animal society has no church, mosque or religious system.

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

In all parts of the world, however downtrodden human society may be, there is some system of religion.

Even tribal aborigines in the jungles also have a system of religion.

When a religious system develops and turns into love of God, it is successful.

As stated in the First Canto of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam (1.2.6):

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

**sa vai puṁsāṁ paro dharmo
yato bhaktir adhokṣaje
ahaituky apratihatā
yayātmā suprasīdati**

"The supreme occupation [dharma] for all humanity is that by which men can attain to loving devotional service unto the transcendent Lord. Such devotional service must be unmotivated and uninterrupted in order to completely satisfy the self."

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

If the members of human society actually want peace of mind, tranquillity and friendly relations between men and between nations, they must follow the Kṛṣṇa conscious system of religion, by which they can develop their dormant love for Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

As soon as people do so, their minds will immediately be filled with peace and tranquillity.

In this regard, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura warns all devotees engaged in broadcasting the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement not to speak to the impersonalists, or Māyāvādīs, who are always determined to oppose such theistic movements.

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

The world is full of Māyāvādīs and atheists, and the political parties of the world take advantage of Māyāvāda and other atheistic philosophies to promote materialism.

Sometimes they even back a strong party to oppose the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement.

The Māyāvādīs and other atheists do not want the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement to develop because it educates people in God consciousness.

Such is the policy of the atheists.

There is no benefit in feeding a snake milk and bananas because the snake will never be satisfied.

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

On the contrary, by taking milk and bananas the snake simply becomes more poisonous (kevalam viṣa-varadhanam).

If a snake is given milk to drink, its poison simply increases.

For a similar reason, we should not disclose our minds to the serpent Māyāvādīs and karmīs.

Such disclosures will never help.

It is best to completely avoid associating with them and never ask them about anything confidential because they cannot give good advice.

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

Nor should we extend invitations to Māyāvādīs and atheists or accept their invitations, for by such intimate intermingling we may become affected by their atheistic mentality (saṅgāt sañjāyate kāmahaḥ).

It is the negative injunction of this verse that we should refrain from giving anything to or accepting anything from the Māyāvādīs and atheists.

Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu has also warned, viṣayīra anna khāile duṣṭa haya mana: [Cc. Adi 12.50] "When one eats food prepared by worldly people, one's mind becomes wicked."

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

Unless one is very advanced, he is unable to utilize everyone's contribution to further the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement; therefore on principle one should not accept charity from the Māyāvādīs or atheists.

Indeed, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu has forbidden devotees to associate even with ordinary men who are too addicted to material sense gratification.

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

The conclusion is that we should always keep company with devotees, observe the regulative devotional principles, follow in the footsteps of the ācāryas and in full obedience carry out the orders of the spiritual master.

In this way we shall be able to develop our devotional service and dormant Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

The devotee who is neither a neophyte nor a mahā-bhāgavata (a greatly advanced devotee) but is within the middle status of devotional service is expected to love the Supreme Personality of Godhead, make friends with the devotees, show favor to the ignorant and reject the jealous and demoniac.

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

In this verse there is brief mention of the process of making loving transactions with the Supreme Personality of Godhead and making friends with the devotees.

According to the *dadāti* principle, an advanced devotee is supposed to spend at least fifty percent of his income on the service of the Lord and His devotees.

Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī has set such an example in his life.

When he decided to retire, he distributed fifty percent of his life's earnings to Kṛṣṇa's service and twenty-five percent to his relatives and kept twenty-five percent for personal emergencies.

Translation and Purport by Srila Prabhupada

This example should be followed by all devotees.

Whatever one's income, fifty percent should be spent on behalf of Kṛṣṇa and His devotees, and this will fulfill the demands of dadāti.

In the next verse, Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī informs us what kind of Vaiṣṇava should be selected as a friend and how Vaiṣṇavas should be served.

**Commentary by
Srila Bhakti
Rakshak Sridhara
Maharaj**

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

These are the six kinds of association with a sadhu.

Higher association is only possible with a serving attitude, otherwise there is no Sanga.

Lower association means exploitation and enjoyment, but higher association can only be achieved through service.

By proper association the quality of your service will increase.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Sadhu-Sanga and sadhu-seva is of the utmost importance.

The Gaudiya Matha stresses the importance of sadhu-seva – serving the sadhu.

Whatever you do by the command of the higher devotee will, through him, surely connect you with a higher conception of the Absolute.

Whatever you do, do it with that connection from above and carry out his order.

Offering Gifts and Accepting Gifts

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Dadati pratigrhnati – we shall come to present new things to the sadhus and try to live by the old remnants left by them.

Giving something for the service of a sadhu and taking his prasadam – whatever he gives, we accept that.

We can increase our attraction and love for a person in such a way by giving him raw items and by accepting his prasadam.

To give items to be utilized by him, and whatever is necessary for ourselves.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

I won't try to take anything new, but only that which has been rejected by the Vaisnava or guru, whether it is a garland, clothes, different decorations, or whatever.

We shall try to live by the remnants of the Vaisnavas.

We shall present new things to the sadhus, and we shall try to live by their remnants – tena tyaktena bhunjitha.

Give and take.

Give and take eternally – internally and externally, whatever my position.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

In taking we get a higher thing from him.

Raw materials we supply, and we get remnants from him.

In this way I can improve my position.

If we accept the energy of worldly men then generally our minds will become polluted and impure.

And if the mind is impure, then the remembrance of Krsna will not be very clear.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

**visayira anna khaile malina haya mana
malina mana haile nahe krsnera smarana**

If one eats the food of a materialist, one's mind becomes polluted. When the mind becomes polluted one cannot remember Krsna. (Cc. Antya 6.278)

When I accept the elaborate energy of a materialist, then the poison of his mind comes with his energy, with his money and all these things.

The energy comes carrying the mentality of the owner.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

To accept that means to digest that.

But one who is able to digest it can utilize it.

Visasya visam-ausadham – poison is medicine to poison.
Poison can also be utilized as medicine.

The divine agent can utilize poison as nectar, otherwise it will kill the person who is taking the energy of the materialist.

Only madhukari-bhiksa, collecting from a particular person, will take away his sin or virtue.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Anything that comes with his energy is transmitted.

We are feeding on him, exploiting him and that exploitation must have a reaction.

Madhukara – just as bees collect every particle of honey from here and there.

They do not care so much, they do not look to get any return for that – a small particle perhaps, it does not matter.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

If we collect our food in that way then there is no possibility of some reaction coming.

Madhukari-bhiksa has been recommended for the tyagis.

But we Gaudiya Matha people collect their energy as much as we can utilize.

Our aim is a little different – we want to help them and we do not collect it for our personal purpose.

It is for the general service of the Lord and His devotees. In an organic way we help them.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

We will use the energy from impure sources and, by hook or by crook, utilize that in the fire sacrifice that is lit in a grand way for the satisfaction of Krsna and His activity.

What is that activity?

The chanting of His Name on a big scale.

Sankirtana yajna – a great sacrificial organic attempt has been accepted and we are to collect things for that.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

And because I am also rendering some service, as remuneration I may take something.

For the purpose of service I am to maintain my health and I shall take only what is necessary.

This is yukta-vairagya.

We are not taking anything for our personal utilization so we do not feel any contamination.

One will suffer if he collects another's energy for his own selfish purpose.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

But if he can utilize the energy of someone for the service of Krsna in the congregational chanting of His Name to purify the whole world, then there is no apprehension of being contaminated by that energy.

Whatever we receive we should think it is from our guru.

I am eating the remnants of my Gurudeva.

I am doing some service and as a servant I am entitled to take some remains.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Tena tyaktena bhunjitha ma grdhaḥ kasya svid dhanam – we have no greed for others property, but it is all being utilized for their benefit in the sankirtana-yajna.

And as a servant I have some duty to discharge, therefore I am to keep my body fit and for that purpose I am taking the avasesa (remnants).

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara
Maharaj

tvayopabhukta-srag-gandhavasos-
'lankara-carcitah
ucchista-bhojino dasas
tava mayam jayema hi

By decorating ourselves with the garlands, scents, clothes and ornaments that You have already enjoyed, and by eating the remnants of Your food, we, Your servants, will certainly conquer Your illusory potency. (Bhag. 11.6.46)

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Uddhava says that there are ways of getting out of this mayika entanglement.

“Only by honoring Your remains can we conquer maya.

I am grateful to You and none else in this world.

I am Your servant and must live on the remains after You have taken.

Thereby, by this single attempt, we can conquer the whole world.

**Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara
Maharaj**

There is no glamour for anything in this world for us.”

That is the nature of the attempt of this organized preaching of the Gaudiya Matha.

You can even accept a kingdom, but not for yourself but for God.

And from whomever they take, he is benefited.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

With this angle of vision we will be individually responsible for our transaction with the outside parties.

When something is dedicated for the service of Krsna it is a conscious unit.

Will a man allow his wife to serve another gentleman?

Will she allow?

Everything is meant for Krsna consciousness, and not for any other consciousness. Only for Him.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Everything here is exclusively meant for Krsna and no other god.

We are not materialists.

Everything is conscious and fresh.

And no other spirit is allowed except to fully dedicate oneself to the Lord.

It is such.

Every flower born here is only to satisfy Krsna.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Radharani will curse us if we try to utilize it for the service of others.

They are all meant for this. They will curse us.

Here in the temple also – trespassers may pluck flowers, for medicinal purposes they will take some things, but it pains my heart.

They are all meant for the service of Krsna.

For medical purposes some people may take a root or something.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

I ask them, “Go to Mahaprabhu, take His permission, then take it.”

If it is necessary and it cannot be avoided then I tell them, “Go, you get His permission first.”

Once I heard at the Yogapitha, the appearance place of Mahaprabhu, there was one kadamba tree.

At that time Prabhupada was coming out to go to Calcutta and one devotee said, “A new flower has come on the kadamba tree, it has not been given to Prabhupada.”

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

He took a flower and ran towards the car of Prabhupada. Prabhupada asked, “What is this?”

“A new flower from the Yogapitha temple tree.”

“A new flower?”

“We have come to show you, Prabhupada, and we shall give to Mahaprabhu.”

“Then go and show it to Mahaprabhu. Take His permission and then bring to me. I am going away now. If I was staying, you could put it in my hand and I could show Him. But I am going away, now go and show Him and then bring it to me. You have got to take His permission.”

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

That is prasada. Anugraha – dedicated.

To show to Him is to dedicate.

Then we can take the prasada.

He is our shelter.

This is the key to our life – tena tyaktena.

After offering to Him, then you use it.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara
Maharaj

yajna-sistasinah santo
mucyante sarva-kilbisaih
bhunjate te tv agham papa
ye pacanty atma-karanat

Saintly persons are liberated from all types of sins by accepting the remnants of foodstuffs offered in sacrifice. However, those who cook for themselves eat only sin. (Gita 3.13)

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Whenever you dedicate anything to your own self, you create sin.

You create disharmony in the environment.

But if you offer it to the Center, Yajna – to Visnu, and then you use, harmony is maintained.

Everything is created to serve Krsna – everything.

You must dedicate anything and everything to Him and then you can take the prasada remaining.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

isavasyam idam sarvam – everywhere, everything is in the possession of the Supreme Entity, everything belongs to Him.

There should be no disturbance to the law and order.

The law and order of the Whole should be kept intact.

You live here as a loyal subject.

You all live as loyal subjects, not illegal – physically or even mentally.

**Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara
Maharaj**

Thought, word and deed – you must be a loyal subject in this kingdom of the Lord.

That is what is required from us.

Then there is peace and harmony and no reaction.

Otherwise there will be reaction and you will have to suffer for that.

Revealing One's
Mind and Inquiring
Confidentially

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Guhyam akhyati – I should reveal my innermost feelings to the sadhu.

“From my innermost heart I feel these many particular things within myself.

Are these feelings good or bad?

And if bad, what is the remedy?”

We shall place our inner heart before him so that he may examine us and proceed accordingly.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Whatever the innermost feeling is, that should be divulged to a sadhu.

I must reveal everything of my entire heart to him and also hear what is conceived within his heart.

The private things within my heart must be disclosed, and I must acquire the private things within his heart.

I shall inquire about the inner wealth within his heart.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Prcchati – inquiry.

We will ask his advice and put questions which are necessary for me at this stage.

“What is the secret of your holy life?

Please tell me and I shall try to follow that example in order to get out of my present circumstances.

In your case how did you gain relief?”

We shall try to collect the secrets for success in life from a sadhu.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara
Maharaj

**tad viddhi pranipatena
pariprasnena sevaya
upadeksyanti te jnanam
jnaninas tattva-darsinah**

Such knowledge should be achieved through submission, inquiry and service to those who are wise and have seen the Supreme Truth. (Gita 4.34)

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Pariprasna. Honest, sincere inquiry is always allowed, but not with the tendency towards tarka, argument.

Not with argument – all our efforts should be concentrated to understand in a positive line without leaving a state of doubt or suspicion.

With all attention you shall try to understand, because it is coming from a higher source where I am not known.

Pariprasna will be the outcome of surrender.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

“I am hopeless, I can’t ascertain the truth, it is a dire necessity for me but I can’t help myself.”

With this hankering and with no hope of any remedy, I shall most humbly try and start to inquire modestly.

I shall try to know, “What is this? What is that? What is the meaning?”

The mood should not be that, “I shall finish knowing about this matter.”

That sort of attitude will not allow us to enter into the real domain.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Nor should we inquire simply out of curiosity or a desire for philosophical mastership or anything of that kind.

Its only necessity is for the satisfaction of the Lord.

Reality is by Itself and for Itself.

It must be for Himself.

For His interest this prasna (inquiry) is necessary.

Inquiry should be made only to satisfy Krsna and the devotees of Krsna – for His cause, not for my cause if it is independent of His satisfaction.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Another most important thing is that it is also necessary for service.

Service is the only important thing.

“What is necessary? What will be necessary to render proper service?” – that sort of pariprasna is required.

A dire necessity for service, for discharging my duty.

I want to serve the cause, not to lord it over.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

If the spirit within is to lord it over, everything will be spoiled.

It is not a plane of us being masters.

It is not something that we can use according to our whim.

We are putting ourselves into the fire – what I am, that will vanish and from within my higher, divine self will come out.

What I am presently is a nasty thing, but what is within me, that is divine and noble.

With this hope we shall go.

Giving and Accepting Prasadam

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Bhunkte – to feed the sadhu and supply what is necessary to keep up his life, and bhojayate – receiving prasadam from him.

What is prasadam?

Prasadam is the grace of Krsna, the will of Krsna.

Whatever comes from the Infinite should be considered as grace.

And whatever we do should be with the spirit of service.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Not with the result of trade – na sa bhrtyah sa vai vanik.

We shall do anything and everything with the aim of serving the Infinite.

With clean hands we shall do His work.

With clean hands – not contaminated by any consequence.

Service and prasada are corresponding.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Whatever comes from the infinite environment, that is prasada, grace.

Once Professor Sanyal, who wrote the English book Sri Krsna Caitanya, was challenged by his younger brother, who was perhaps a graduate.

He told him, “What do you do there in your matha? What we do, you also do in the matha.”

“No, no, we don’t do what you do.”

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

“You do not eat?”

“No, we don’t eat.”

“I have seen you with my own eyes – you are eating.”

“No, we don’t eat like you – devouring solid things,
putting into the stomach.

We don’t do that.

We serve maha-prasadam.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

It is beyond your understanding what we do.

We don't eat like you.

There is no spirit of consumption.

We don't consume anything.

We honor the remnants of the Lord. That is what we do.”

Such will be the difference of all the activities of the true Vaisnava and the worldly man.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

For self-preservation, we create havoc in the environment. Exploitation.

The first principle of exploitation begins with self-preservation.

That means eating.

If we can solve that problem, we can almost solve everything.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

**prasada seva, karite haya
sakala prapanca jaya**

By honoring the Lord's prasadam I conquer all worldly illusions. (Saranagati 3.5)

Bhaktivinoda Thakura says that the key to the solution to this mundane life is in prasada.

It is in our attitude in dealing with the environment – in the most primitive necessity that we can't avoid maintaining and keeping this body and soul together.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

The first necessity in life is this.

And if I can solve that problem, I have solved the whole thing.

Prasada karite haya sakala prapanca jaya – the most important problem is to learn how we should take prasadam, to maintain our own self.

Our life depends mainly on prapanca jaya (conquering over worldly illusion).

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

We cannot but consume, we cannot but create devastation in the environment by eating whatever – either creeper or grass or seed or anything.

Microscopic worms are being killed. How to get rid of this karmika reaction?

**yajnarthat karmano yatra
loko 'yam karma bandhanah**

All activities are meant for the sake of sacrifice to Visnu. Other than that, all other activities bind one to this material world. (Gita 3.9)

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

We must successfully connect our activities with the Supreme satisfaction, for which everything is meant.

All existence is meant to fulfill His pleasure, and if one does so, then his life will be fulfilled.

If I offer something, really I am to collect something for His satisfaction, and cook and offer it to Him.

That should be the real purpose.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

And then, because I am to serve Him, I must take something out of that.

The main thing will be to collect things, to cook and to offer them to Him according to the scriptures where He has expressed His will.

That is the process. And then to take.

When He takes then the reaction, the poison, has already gone to Him and like Mahadeva, He can digest anything.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Not only that, but whatever has gone to His connection gets promotion.

There is no himsa (violence).

Himsa is not himsa because, that which is apparently violently treated gets higher promotion through my actions.

I get some reward also for that.

And then what shall I take?

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

And then what shall I take?

I won't take from this world, but I shall take from my Master, as His free Grace to me.

The word prasada means anugraha, kindness or grace.

Whatever service I do, I expect nothing in return.

And what I get is His Grace – a free transaction.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

I shall take prasada then I shall be out of all entanglement, although I am in the midst of it.

In every action I disturb the environment, but it is meant for Him.

Then there is no reaction, but the opposite reaction occurs, and it will save others also.

Through me, such waves will emanate outside.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Those waves will help others also to be purified.

Everyone must be a purifying agent through the godliness that is in their hearts.

God is on the throne of the heart and thereby He will emanate a ray – such a fine ray that will purify the environment.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

The most sacred, desirable and helpful policy is everywhere.

It will increase our faith in the Supreme.

The supreme command of all environments may come now or in the future.

This policy of a devotee will be most suitable and helpful.

Tat te'nukampam susamiksamano – the undesirable things have not come suddenly to punish me, but it is necessarily self-acquired and it will get its fulfillment and then vanish, and then I shall get another chance.

Self Surrender to the Prime Cause

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Sad vidham priti-laksanam – these are six ways that we generally attain the association of a sadhu.

If we follow these guidelines we shall come closer to a person.

If we deal in these ways with a bad man we shall become bad, and with a good man we shall become good.

There are two types of water: filtered and filthy.

Filthy water can be purified.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

The higher sadhus can take evil thoughts from others without becoming contaminated.

In their hearts resides Govinda.

Govinda is infinite and He can consume any quantity of filthy things, therefore their hearts cannot be contaminated.

If we get the association of a real sadhu even for a moment, then that may turn the direction of our life.

A sadhu is like a very valuable gem.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

What he gives is far more valuable than anything in this world.

One may have gems, diamonds, money or a kingdom but they are not valuable to all.

This is all mortal even though they may be valuable to a particular class of human thought.

There are so many things in creation that are nothing to the sadhu.

But anandam, sweetness, has a general value.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

It is necessary even for the tree, the creeper and even the stone.

In whatever position the seeker may be in, he will be highly satisfied.

Yasmin prapti sarvam idam praptam bhavati – if we get a little of that, we think that, “No other thing but this can satisfy me. This is the thing for which I have been striving for after so many lives together. Now I have found the object of my search.”

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

We can find higher things only through the connection of service.

If we want the association of things of a higher type then we must offer ourselves to their service.

We must keep this broad thought always in mind.

I cannot utilize it as if it is my servant.

But I shall offer to be a servant of Him, if I really want His association.

Only through service can I be connected with Him.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

I shall work for His interest.

His interest will be more valuable than that of mine.

**jivera svarupa haya krsnera nitya dasa
krsnera tatastha-cakti bhedabheda prakaca**

The constitutional position of the living entity is as an eternal servant of Krsna. Because the living entity is of the marginal potency of Krsna, his manifestation is simultaneously one with and different from Him. (Cc. Madhya 20.108)

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

It is our fortune that we, in our constitutional position, have the position of a slave to Krsna.

Slavery.

Those who are free would be astounded to hear this word 'slavery'.

The Gaudiya Matha is preaching slavery!

The Ramakrishna Mission and others preached against Gaudiya Matha,

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

“They are preaching slavery!

This Gaudiya Matha promotes slave mentality – that I am Krsna dasa, a servant of the servant of the servant of the Lord.

That means they are preaching slave mentality.

And we are preaching so-ham – we are the big Brahman!

We are the biggest.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

We are the greatest.

Instead of that the Gaudiya Matha says you are a slave to Krsna.

The Gaudiya Matha is creating a bad impression in society, discouraging people.”

Prabhupada told, “Gaudiya Matha stands for the dignity of the human race!

The whole human race wants immortality.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

Gaudiya Matha stands for the most dignified position.

Slavery, surrender – surrender to what?

To the Absolute Good, to the Absolute Center.

To become the slave of Krsna is not a joke.

That impossible thought that, “I am Brahman!”

That is the greatest disease.

“I am the biggest and I want to be the monarch of all I survey” means. “I am the most heinous exploiting agent.”

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

We are so eager to get imperial service, we are so eager to get a higher service in the administration, but to get service in the highest management of the Supreme Lord – that is the most dignified thing.

The Gaudiya Matha stands for the dignity of the human race!

What is the human race?

They are like the mist, like the trees, creepers, and worms – the prey of death.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara Maharaj

The king will also have to die helplessly, the big general, the politician – all will have to go and face death for eternity.

But the Gaudiya Matha stands for the eternal dignified position – friendly service to the Supreme Entity.

The Gaudiya Matha says complete selfabnegation, self-surrender to the prime cause.

To give is divine and the aspiration that, “I can get,” that is devilish.

Commentary by Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhara
Maharaj

“I want to lord it over everything” – that is a devilish spirit.

But Krsna is such that slavery to Him is the highest attainment for us in His relationship.

That is not easily achieved.

Commentary by
Srila Bhakti
Siddhanta Saraswati
Thakura
(Upadesamrta
Bhasa)

Upadesamrta Bhasa

Verse – 1-2

dravyera pradana ara adana karile
gopaniya vakyavyaya ara jijnasile

bhojana karila ara bhojya khauyachale
pritira laksana haya jabe dui mile

Giving gifts and receiving gifts; speaking confidentially and inquiring from others; accepting prasadam and feeding others prasada – these are the symptoms of love when two devotees meet.

Upadesamrta Bhasa

Verse – 3

**bhakta-jana se priti sanga chaya ei
abhakte apriti kare bhagyavan yei**

These are the six loving exchanges amongst devotees. Such fortunate souls find no attraction in associating with non-devotees.