

Am I Above the Clouds?

*The Four Clouds of Anarthas Prohibiting
the Heart from Purely Chanting the Holy Name*

4 Weaknesses of Heart

(*hṛdaya - daurbalya*)

- * Attachment to things not related to Kṛṣṇa;
- * Propensity to cheat and find fault;
- * Envy;
- * Desire for recognition.

4 Kinds of Illusion

(*tattva - vibhrama*)

- * about one's own identity;
- * about position of Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead,
- * about the process and goal of *bhakti*;
- * about what opposes devotional progress.

4 Types of Offense

- * Nāma - aparādha (10);
- * Seva - aparādha (32-50);
- * Vaiṣṇava - aparādha (6);
- * Jīva - aparādha.

4 Thirsts for the Impermanent

(*asat - tṛṣṇā*)

- * for worldly pleasures
- * for heavenly pleasures
- * for mystic powers
- * for liberation

These *anarthas* give birth to six enemies :-

(1) lust, (2) anger, (3) greed, (4) illusion, (5) pride and (6) envy.

These *anarthas* also beget six waves:-

(1) distress, (2) illusion, (3) hunger, (4) thirst, (5) old age and (6) death

All these are the source of our entanglement, and this entanglement is the source of our miseries.

The creeper of devotion cannot grow for as long as these *anarthas* dominate the heart. **However, all *anarthas* go far away by the performance of nāma - saṅkīrtana.**

— Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Thākura, *Śrī Bhajana-rahasya*