

Sincerity is the Only Qualification - Part 1

Date: February 27, 2014
Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Author: Svayam Prakash Krsna Das and
Krsna Rati Devi Dasi

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

On 22nd Feb 2014 we had a gathering of god-siblings in Singapore for a mangal-arati programme where in we heard another nectarean lecture of Maharaj that was delivered in Minneapolis on 29th May 2003 on the first verse of Upadeshamrta (Nectar of Instruction). The lecture was even more nectarean as Maharaj is a personification of this verse.

*vaaco vegam manasah krodha-vegam
jihvaa-vegam udaropastha-vegam
etaan vegaan yo vishaheta dheerah
sarvaam apeemaam prthivim sa shishyaat*

"A sober person who can tolerate the urge to speak, the mind's demands, the actions of anger and the urges of the tongue, belly and genitals is qualified to make disciples all over the world."

For the pleasure of devotees and our own purification, we would like to share the points that Maharaj made in the lecture.

Before Maharaj started the lecture, he was talking to couple of devotees who came to Minneapolis from Nepal (HG Sevanand Prabhu was one of them) and was inquiring from them how they came in contact with devotees in Minneapolis (they had never been to the ISKCON temple in Nepal before coming to US). One of the devotees said, "It is Krishna's mercy.". Maharaj said, "That is ok, but how did you come in contact with the devotees?"

This very simple exchange demonstrates how practical Krishna consciousness is and how practical Maharaj is in his dealings with everyone. It also shows that although Krishna's mercy is there but our personal endeavour is also necessary. This theme runs through the whole lecture that Maharaj delivered.

Maharaj then chanted the verse very lovingly and taught everyone how to chant the verse, especially the new devotees and encouraged them so much. Maharaj asked another devotee to chant the verse and as the devotee didn't hear clearly, he went straight to the translation. Maharaj said that we should not have any short cuts in the process and that we have to go step-by-step from the verse to the word-to-word equivalent to the translation and finally to the purport.

One of the devotees then read the translation and part of the purport as Maharaj asked the devotee to stop at a particular point in the purport that says – "**A sinful activity cannot be counteracted by a pious activity.**"

The main points that Maharaj spoke are:

1. The Art of doing work: This is a general tendency that we want to strike-off the sin by performing a pious activity. Maharaj gave the analogy of division in mathematics where we strike-off the numerator with the denominator to reduce the number. In the same way, we counteract sinful activity with a pious activity. But from the pages of Srimad Bhagavatam, we know that one has to suffer the reactions of his sins and after that one may reap the rewards of his pious activity.

Maharaj quoted a very important verse from Srimad Bhagavad Gita (2.50) - *buddhi-yukto jahaatiha, ubhe sukrta-dushkrte, tasmaad yogaaya yujyasva, yogah karmasu kaushalam*. Maharaj mentioned that Krishna orders us to get rid of both pious and impious acts in this life. It is an order and not a request. And how to give up? By higher intelligence, that is devotional service. Therefore we have to become a devotee and act in this world and this is the art of doing work (*yogah karmasu kaushalam*). There should be no lethargy in our work and it has to be performed immaculately well. Love your job and don't look to the results. The result is that we are in demand at the workplace, our health improves, our consciousness improves and then we become devoted to Krishna.

Krishna willing, we will continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj in the next posting.

Thank you very much.

In the service of Srila Gurudev and Srila Prabhupada,

Your servants,
Svayam Prakash Krsna Das and Krsna Rati Devi Dasi
Singapore

Sincerity is the Only Qualification - Part 2

Date: March 1, 2014
Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Author: Svayam Prakash Krishna Das and
Krishna Rati Devi Dasi

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

Let us continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj's class on verse 1 of Upadeshaamrta delivered in Minneapolis on 29th May 2003. In previous offering, we heard Maharaj speak about the art of doing the work.

2. **Do not be pretentious:** Every work in this material world produces reactions but by stopping the work we cannot get rid of the reactions. In Srimad Bhagavad Gita verse 3.6, Krishna says - *karmendriyaani samyamyā, ya aaste manasā smarān, indriyārthān vimoodhaatmā, mithyācaarah sa ucyate*. We may ask our hands to stop working, but in the mind we are deliberating on it. This is called pretending (*mithyācaarah*). There are many people who go to Himalayas to sit silently and meditate but because their minds are still not controlled, they create the same things there which they left at the first place. This pretending process must stop. ***And unless we revive our dormant Krishna consciousness, it is impossible to improve the quality of our life.*** In order not to pretend, we should have a genuine and sincere search in our life. Sincerity is very important. And as soon as we realize that we are not sincere, we should increase our sincerity because all the forces in this world are anti-sincere.

3. **Sincerely endeavour by acknowledging the supremacy of Krishna:** Sincere endeavour is a must. There is a nice analogy given by Srila Prabhupada in his purport to Srimad Bhagavatam verse 1.15.50 about air planes. When the air planes are on the ground, the pilot has access to all help he needs but the moment the plane is air-borne, the pilot has to rely on his own endeavour. In the same way, as long as we are in this world, we have access to our spiritual master, devotees and the scriptures to help us in our spiritual progress but once we are air-borne (dead), we have to rely on whatever dharma we are carrying on our own, that is, our own devotional service. No one is going to help us in our last hour. Otherwise on the strength of the name, we commit so many offenses. But as soon as the sincerity is there, there is no worry at all. Srimad Bhagavatam verse 10.22.26 says

*na mayy aaveshita-dhiyaam / kaamah kaamaaya kalpate
bharjitaa kvathitaa dhaanaah / praayo beejaaya neshate*

"The desire of those who fix their minds on Me does not lead to material desire for sense gratification, just as barleycorns burned by the sun and then cooked can no longer grow into new sprouts."

Those who are fully devoted to Krishna, material desires in the form of sprouts don't trouble them. How long are we going to have the sprouts? Unless we invest our intelligence in Krishna, we cannot get rid of the sprouts. And we can do this only if we understand that Krishna is in full control of everything (SB 1.13.41), *yad ishvara-vasham jagat*. So we chant our rounds nicely and leave the rest to Krishna. Only when we come under the control of Krishna, we are at ease and there is no disease. If the whole universe is under His control then how can we be free from His control? If we forget about Him, then He will also forget us.

Krishna willing, we will continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj in the next offering.

Thank you very much.

Your servants in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,
Svayam Prakash Krishna Das and Krishna Rati Devi Dasi
Singapore

Sincerity is the Only Qualification - Part 3

Date: March 3, 2014
Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Author: Svayam Prakash Krishna Das and
Krishna Rati Devi Dasi

Please accept our humble obesiances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

Let us continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj on the lecture delivered in Minneapolis on 29th May 2003 on the first verse of Upadeshaamrta. In the last two offerings, we heard Maharaj speak about following points:

- 1) The art of doing work
- 2) Do not be pretentious
- 3) Sincerely endeavour by acknowledging the supremacy of Krishna

4. **Improve the quality of our lives:** The problem in modern society is all due to unregulated freedom. In Africa, 75% of the population is suffering from AIDS because of this. Whereas, if we have regulated freedom, we can have our enjoyment also and spiritual life is also there. With unregulated freedom, we lose the vitality of our existence. This vitality is very much required for our spiritual progress and without that no matter how hard we try, we cannot progress spiritually. People not only hear us but they also see us. So we should be careful to practise what we preach and austerity must be there in our life. Otherwise what is the use lecturing on austerity and we ourselves are not austere? We have to spend time on our maintenance work and it is a must. So in our free time, we should just learn one verse and propagate this one verse only. This small book (Nectar of Instruction) has only 60-70 pages and it contains everything. So we should be sincere about our own upliftment by studying Srila Prabhupada's books. This way we use our intelligence constructively otherwise definitely it will be used destructively.

We have to improve our own quality of life and that is where the failure lies because we don't digest what we read. Suppose the plate of prasadam is in front of us, if we just look at it and don't eat, how can we satisfy our hunger? And after eating also, the food has to be digested otherwise we have to go to the doctor to get digestion pills. In the same way, whatever we read, we have to digest it otherwise there is no potency in our preaching. ***If we improve the quality of our life in this way, then only our mind can be consumed by the descriptions of Krishna and then these six urges spoken in this verse can be very easily controlled***. The modes are very powerful so we have to come out of these modes by filling our mind with Krishna and for this sincerity is the only qualification we need. That is why Krishna says in Bhagavad Gita that *sarva-dharmaan parityajya, maam ekam sharanam vraja*. It is an order and not a request. There is no word, "please" in Bhagavad Gita. Just like we are sitting here and if some dacoit comes with a gun to shoot us, we have to surrender to him. Krishna is the Supreme Dacoit so we have to definitely surrender to Him. And what is the result? *aham tvaam sarva-paapebhyo, mokshayishyaami maa shucah*. He will protect us from all the sins we have committed. Otherwise we cannot control these urges, especially the urge to speak. ***If we sincerely get attracted to Krishna and His devotional service then there is no separate endeavour required to control these urges.***

5. **Foresee your last day:** Then one may ask, how to become sincere? (At this point Maharaj posed this question to the devotees. One devotee said that by remembering our death and Maharaj really liked this answer). If we remember our last hour in this world, only then we will be sincere otherwise our false ego is always there. There is a Mataji in Singapore who was working in a prison and in the cell meant for those who are sentenced to death. I asked her how does she manage to work in that cell since these people who are sentenced to death can do anything because there is no punishment worse than death. Surprisingly the Mataji said that after these people know they are going to be sentenced on a particular day, immediately their behaviour changes and they become very good. This is how we should remember our death always so that our hearts can become wide open. Otherwise the exploiting and grabbing tendency are there because we think we are going to be here permanently.

Krishna willing, we will continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj in the next offering.

Thank you very much.

Your servants in the service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev,
Svayam Prakash Krishna Das and Krishna Rati Devi Dasi
Singapore

Sincerity is the Only Qualification - Part 4

Date: March 4, 2014
Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Author: Svayam Prakash Krishna Das and
Krishna Rati Devi Dasi

Please accept our humble obsequies. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev.

Let us continue to hear the concluding part of the nectar from Maharaj on the lecture delivered in Minneapolis on 29th May 2003 on the first verse of Upadeshaamrta. In the previous offerings, we heard Maharaj speak about following points:

- 1) The art of doing work.
- 2) Do not be pretentious.
- 3) Sincerely endeavour by acknowledging the supremacy of Krishna.

4) Improve the quality of our lives.

5) Foresee your last day.

6. **Spread the ease and not the disease:** "We should remember that we cannot take anything with us. We forget that *ishaavasyam idam sarvam, yat kincha jagatyaam jagat*, everything belongs to Krishna. *tena tyaktena bhunjeethaa, maa grdhah kasya svid dhanam*, therefore we should stick to the quota allotted to us and we should not run after others' things. And if we do this, actually we will please others also. And in this way, we become fully satisfied in our situation (*tushta-manaah*) and become free from material desires (*gata-sprhah*). In Hindi there is a very famous saying, *sahaj mila so doodh baraabar, maang liya so paani, woh hai rakth baraabar jisme kheecha taani*. Whatever we get out of its own accord or naturally is like milk, whatever we get by asking is like water and whatever we get by grabbing and fighting is like blood.

If we grab and exploit, we become diseased and we distribute the same disease. If we have to spread the ease, first we have to be at ease. And for this we should never forsake the preliminary steps. These must be followed always. Just like we take the stairs to come to the top. At no time can we skip the steps thinking that we have been taking the steps for so long and now we can just jump and reach the top. If we do that, we will only break our bones or we may even die. ***There are no shortcuts in devotional service, the preliminary steps must be followed everytime.***"

At the end of the lecture when devotees were sharing the points from the lecture, HG Devakinandan prabhuji highlighted a very important verse from Srimad Bhagavatam (1.3.38) that Maharaj liked a lot and which is related to the points made by Maharaj on improving the quality of our life by sincere endeavour in devotional service.

sa veda dhaatu padaveem parasya
duranta-veeryasya rathaanga-paaneh
yo 'maayayaa santatayaanuvrttyaa
bhajeta tat-paada-saroja-gandham

"Only those who render unreserved, uninterrupted, favourable service unto the lotus feet of Lord Krishna, who carries the wheel of the chariot in His hand, can know the creator of the universe in His full glory, power and transcendence."

This verse talks about the qualifications to **know the Lord in His full glory, power and transcendence**. The qualifications are unmotivated, uninterrupted and favourable devotional service. HG Devakinandan Prabhujī also emphasized on the word-to-word meaning of *santatayaa* which is "**without any gap**". Prabhujī mentioned that if there is any gap in our devotional service, we will fall down through the gap just like a person alighting from the train onto the platform can fall through the gap between the train and the platform and destroy himself.

We are grateful to Maharaj for giving such wonderful instructions simply by following which we can improve the polluted aim of our existence and purify our life. We are also grateful to all the devotees for always inspiring us in devotional service. We pray at the lotus feet of Srila Gurudev, Srila Prabhupada and all the Vaishnavas that we sincerely endeavour to put these sublime instructions in practice.

Thank you very much.

Your servants in the service of Srila Gurudev and Srila Prabhupada,
Svayam Prakash Krishna Das and Krishna Rati Devi Dasi,
Singapore