

***Simplified guide and Important points from the book Perfect questions and perfect answers of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada's conversations with Bob Cohen, a peace corps worker in India.***

*Chapter 1, 3, 4, 5,6,7,8, and 9*

**On God**

1. Relationship with God

We are part and parcel of God. Our life has value only when we cooperate with God. Otherwise it is just like a screw which has fallen from a machine which has no value. If the same screw is again attached to the machine it has value. If we do not cooperate with God our life is baffled. We have to come back to our original position of attachment to God. Then we have value.

2. God is everywhere

God is inside us and outside us. To know where is God the first information is that we have to know from sastras (scriptures), by vedic information. Scriptures like B.Gita (18.61) says Isvarah sarva-bhutanam hrd-dese 'rjuna tisthati-God is in everyone's heart. God is in every atom.

3. Understanding God

We cannot understand God by our own endeavor but only if God reveals himself to us. Just like the sun is out of sight at night. We cannot see sun by using any other light or torch light until it reveals automatically in the morning. One who does not understand who and what is God is an animal. Our proposition is that one must be very, very intelligent, then he can understand Krsna. To understand God one must know these three formulas - God is the supreme proprietor, God is the supreme enjoyer and God is the supreme friend.

4. Pleasing God

We cannot Please God by manufacturing our own ideas or ways. To please God we should serve Him to what He has ordered to us. Ex-just like if someone asks for a glass of water and if we concoct our idea, why not I please him by giving him a glass of milk. That will not please him. To please him we should do what he ordered. Similarly to please Krsna is to become his devotee. Ex- Tulasi plant, Vaisnava.

5. Seeing God

We are seeing God daily and every moment. We cannot see Him with this material eyes. To See God we cannot demand or ask God -"Please come I want to see You."God is not our order carrier. God appears before us in

material body so that we can see Him in the form of paintings pictures stone or wood. Krsna has kindly made Himself just fit for our seeing, that does not mean He has a material body. We should create a situation and put ourselves in that situation in which God will be seen. That situation is called the Bhakti-yoga process, which we should adopt.

#### 6. On God's body

He has no material body.

He has kindly made Himself just fit for our seeing. That does not mean he has a material body. Ex- just like if the president of the country comes to our house it does not mean his position and our position is the same. It is his out of his kindness and love he has come.

We cannot see Krsna's body with these present eyes. Therefore Krsna appears before us as a painting, as made of stone, as made of wood. Krsna is non different from these above.

#### **On Krsna.**

Krsna is the supreme personality of Godhead.

Krsna means all the energies which includes all living entities.

Krsna demanded people to surrender to him but people misunderstood the sloka Sarva-Dharman parityajya. Krsna came as Caitanya representing as a Guru and taught people how to surrender to Krsna.

Krsna says in Bhagavad Gita that he is the original spiritual master.

Krsna was accepted as the original spiritual master by Arjuna. (sisyas to 'ham sadhi mam tvam prapannam). that is why Arjuna became his disciple. Krsna is the original Guru.( Tene brahma hrda ya adi kavaye)-he imparted the first Vedic knowledge unto the heart of Brahma the first created being.

Krsna means His name, His form, His abode, His pastimes- everything all his energies.

Krsna is Krsna, He is apapa-viddha- He cannot be attacked by sinful reactions. Krsna is a big fire. Because whatever we put into it consumes everything. We cannot put some big thing in a small fire then the fire will be extinguished.

Krsna is the central figure(stomach) of the whole cosmic creation material or spiritual. Just like the central figure of our body is the stomach.

Krsna is the supreme proprietor of this manifestation, just like the stomach is the proprietor of the body. The stomach is distributing the energy to all limbs of the body.

Krsna is the supreme enjoyer just like the stomach is the enjoyer of the body. If the stomach cannot digest the food the body and other parts of the body cannot enjoy.

Krsna is the supreme friend. Just like the stomach is the friend of our body. Because the stomach helps in distributing and digesting the energy to all other limbs of the body otherwise they become weak.

Krsna is the maintainer. Just like the king maintains the whole country's citizen because he is the proprietor. Without being a proprietor how can one become everyone's friend? Therefore he is the enjoyer.

Krsna never excuses a devotee who commits sins or bad habits on the strength of his holy name. (Chanting and committing sins) Krsna excuses a devotee who is trying hard to follow his instructions but still fails due to his inexperience, incapability, past habits and Maya's attack.

Krsna controls everything

Krsna is the controller always.

Krsna controls both the devotee and non-devotee. Just like an in the office of a big man, the big man is the controller of his family directly at his home (inside), and also is the controller of his employees indirectly at his office (outside) through his different departmental superintendents.

Krsna controls the devotee directly as Paramatma. Ex- just like we control our beloved child for his benefit. If the child is going to touch fire immediately we tell the child 'Don't touch it'.... Similarly the devotee (krsna conscious person) is never misled because Krsna is guiding him.

Krsna controls the non-devotee indirectly in form of Maya (material nature). Ex- just as the government department controls everything or the kingdom is controlled by the kings departments. Ex- just like in the office of a big man, an executive of a big company, there are many employees, and they are controlled by different departmental superintendents. Therefore a non-devotee is in charge of maya and maya will do the needful.

### **Energy of Krsna**

Because everything is part and parcel of Krsna everything is generated by the energy of Krsna and everything is the energy of Krsna.

Includes the living entity-superior energy.

### **On Radha-Krishna**

Means all energies of Krsna.

Radha represents all the energy of Krsna.

Krsna is the supreme Lord.

Radharani is Krsna's consort.

RadhaRani does not see anyone as nondevotee.

We approach Radharani because she recommends to Krsna 'Here is the best devotee He is better than me' and Krsna cannot refuse him.

### **On Cosmic creation**

The whole creation material and spiritual is called cosmic creation. Also called the body of universe. Just like considering our own body, the body is

also a creation. The body has the same mechanical nature as we find in the whole universe. The same mechanical arrangement will found anywhere we go, even in animals. Therefore the central figure ex just like the central figure of our body is the stomach. Stomach is the proprietor, enjoyed and friend. Because the stomach is the owner of the body. Body is the creation. All other parts if the body simply help the stomach. If the stomach cannot digest it cannot be our friend because all other limbs of the body become weak. Therefore stomach is digesting and distributing the energy to all limbs of the body.

### **On who we are?**

We are animals with two legs according to Darwin's theory (monkeys) but if we understand who and what is God then we know who we are. We must become very, very intelligent to understand who we are. If we become innocent we will know who we are. Ignorant is not a very good qualification to know who we are. Simplicity is all right but one should not be unintelligent. Therefore our actual position is that we are part and parcel of Krsna. Is to serve the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

### **Our position**

One always think I am the master but this is maya.

Our position is actually as a servant but we think 'I am the master.'

We cannot be master in any state of our life. We must remain a servant.

The owner of the dog thinks I am the master of this dog. But when we take the dog in the street the dog controls us. Wherever it stops we have to wait.

Therefore the dog is controlling us.

The family man thinks this is my wife, children, servants etc and I am their master. But actually he is controlled by them.

President thinks I am the master of this country. But actually he is the servant because if the people want they can dismiss him or reelect him. He always advertises elect me I will give you very good service.

We are not willing to perform austerities without good reason.

### **On Life- Its goal, aim, purpose and next.**

Real goal of our life is to go back to Godhead. (Just like the water comes from the sea and ends in the sea). Our aim in life is to perfect our human form of life. Should be to get out of this material life. The purpose of this life is to come to our original condition. We should know the difference between spiritual life and material life. Our next life depends upon our decision and qualification. If our objective in this life is to prepare and educate ourself as an engineer or doctor we will decide on it. Similarly if our objective for next

life is decided that we are going back to Krsna we have to prepare educate and decide on this. If we do not qualify ourself then material nature will decide. Therefore our mentality will create another body, and nature will supply it. We get higher or lower birth according to the association of gunas.

### **On Human life**

Is meant for purification. Tapo divyam putraka yena sattvam Suddhyed yasmad brahma-saukhyam tv anantam Has no meaning if one does not wish to gain more knowledge of God and feel the presence of God. If we miss this human form of life it is a great loss. It is a great chance given to get out of this material existence. The spiritual orders of life are not barriers to human life. One can remain in any position of his order and purify himself. Is meant for tapasya.

### **If human beings do not purify themselves**

Then we will have to change or transmigrate our body from one body to another sometimes higher sometimes lower. It will be just like a disease, if we do not cure it can put us into trouble in so many ways. According to subtle laws of nature there is no guarantee that you will get a very comfortable body. We will hanker for happiness but we will not be happy always.

### **On Human civilization**

Means human life.

Means human intelligence.

Means how to use to human life properly.

Means to know our goal of life and decide in that way.

One can decide for the future. (An animal cannot decide)

We have discriminatory power. Because we know if 'I do this I will be benefited and if do that I will not be benefited'.

### **On Material life**

Means desire to gratify or serve our senses and using every thing to satisfy our senses. We get material pleasure, which is temporary. Just like a drunkard. We are not aware of what is going to happen in the next life. When the living entities forget Krsna we are in this world. We are serving Krsna in the material life indirectly. Ex- just like a prisoner who has come t the prison house on account of his disobedience of the laws of the state. In the prison house we are forced to obey the laws of the state. In the material life we are godless and demoniac either by ignorance or by choice. We do not like to

accept the supremacy of God. Is the abode of miseries-Dukhalayam It is temporary-Asasvatam. We cannot be happy here. do not know our next life.

### **On Material body**

Due to our material contamination we are developing the material body. As many times we accept a material body we have to change it.

### **On Spiritual life**

Means desire to serve and please God. Using everything material but to satisfy Krsna. We get spiritual pleasure. Ex-Just like a mother is pleased by feeding her child. She is not eating but sees that her son is eating very nicely then she becomes pleased. Spiritual life means preparation for next life

### **On Spiritual body**

If we associate with spiritual life then we shall develop a spiritual body. As soon as we get a spiritual body there is no question of changing it. If we always keep ourself spiritually engaged our body will act spiritually or become spiritualized although material. It is just like an iron rod put into fire becomes like fire although iron. It will be red-hot if we touch it anywhere and it will burn. Therefore it takes on the quality of fire. There will be no more material demands. We get this body by following the four regulative principles and chanting the Holy name.

### **On Intelligence**

One who knows what he is, what this world is, what is God.

Means we cannot exist without being controlled. ‘Bahunam janmanam ante jnanavan man prapadyate.’---after many births of travelling or speculation, one surrenders unto me’. Vasudevah sarvam iti—Krsna, you are everything, so I have come accept me, I am fully surrendered unto you, and you control me. For so long I have not controlled by my senses—because of this I have served so many families, societies, countries, and nations, up to serving the dogs. Still there is no benefit and satisfaction.

We should appreciate transcendental knowledge.

### **On Perfect Knowledge**

Only by mode of goodness and honesty we get perfect knowledge by perfect knowledge we know that there is God. One who knows these three things-God is supreme, God is the enjoyer and God is the supreme friend is perfect knowledge. We know that this world was created by him. To know that we are

changing bodies every moment. Perfect knowledge comes when we accept that everything belongs to God who is the proprietor. Just being honest to anyone is not perfect knowledge. (Dogmatism)

### **On Transcendental knowledge**

Knowledge received from Guru through the Disciplic Succession is called Transcendental knowledge.

### **Innocent or ignorant**

Innocence is not a good qualification. Animals are innocent. If we cut the throat it won't protest. Therefore you get the chance to cut their throats. One must be very intelligent then he can understand Krsna.

### **On Mode of goodness**

Means intelligence.

If one has some knowledge (about God) even though it may not be perfect that is goodness.

In mode of goodness one can understand perfect knowledge.

One is always helpful.

### **On Mode of passion**

One identifies with his body.

One satisfies his senses.

### **On Mode of ignorance**

Means animal life or one who is innocent.

Has no knowledge at all—who is God, why I am here, how to become happy etc.

Ex just like a goat if it is taken to a slaughterhouse to be killed does not protest. It is happy eating the morsel of grass and in five minutes it is killed. Because it is ignorant.

A child is also happy and laughs even if we plan to kill him or her because it is innocent.

The person is dishonest ignorant and foolish.

Out of dishonesty he claims he is the proprietor.

Out of foolishness one commit criminality.

Out of ignorance one commit lawbreaking.

Therefore ignorance is not bliss but it is folly to be wise where ignorance is bliss.

## **On Education**

Are two material and spiritual? Modern education means to pass the examination of this life. To become an engineer or doctor etc. Spiritual education means to know what we will become in our next life.

## **On Modern education**

It is not teaching us about our next life. It does tell us why we are changing these bodies. It does not tell us, how and which kind of body we are going to accept after leaving this body. Does not teach us to know what the Supreme Personality of Godhead is, what to speak of satisfying Him. Has made people simply busy with material activities.

Does not know what is liberation and what is entanglement.

## **On Science today**

It is imperfect. Science does not know how the energy is working or diverted. It only knows energy is never destroyed but changed.

## **On Soul**

Is just like the electrical energy. (The electrical energy is the same for producing either heat and cold). Soul (living energy) is the same but it changes bodies. Is the superior energy of Krsna. The soul of every individual is of the same quality. It is only under certain conception of life at the present moment. All souls are equal pure spirit. Only those who are learned can see the soul. Soul is a part of God. It is situated within us. Since soul is a part of God we cannot feel him inside us because we are not qualified.

## **On Bhagavad Gita**

Gives us perfect knowledge. It shows us the goal and real path of life. It teaches us about the soul. Teaches us that God is supreme, God is the supreme enjoyer and God is the supreme friend.

## **On Perfection (siddhi)**

Brahman or Spiritual realization by becoming Krsna conscious is perfection. Engaging twenty four hours in Krsna Consciousness is perfection. To engage in one's original consciousness is perfection.

## **On Complete perfection (samsiddhi)**

Means engaging in devotional service which comes after Brahman realization. One who is capable to go Back to Godhead.

### **On Brahman realization**

Means to understand that we are not this body but spirit soul.

### **On Transcendental position**

One who engages 24 hours a day in Krsna Conscious is in transcendental position.

### **On Bhakti-Yoga**

Means surrender to God. Means chanting Hare Krsna Maha-Mantra. Means serving Gods representative. (Yasya prasada bhagavat-prasada) This is the only method to understand God in this age. By this process we can see God inside and outside. We see how God is working. In this process everything will be revealed.

This process is just like when we are eating we do not require anyone to ask us whether we are feeling strong or satisfied. We know by eating naturally we get strength and satisfaction. Similarly by serving God we will understand that God is there Who is dictating me and we will see Him also. One will start feeling closer to God. Within six months you will realize your progress. By following the regulative principles. You have to be purified. By stopping all anarthas, all unnecessary things.

### **On Bhakti**

Means Krsna consciousness.

Means love for Krsna also called Prema.

Means to satisfy senses of Krsna.

We have to offer what he likes and then we will take prasada.

To give preference to Krsna and for Krsna's sake- Nirbandhah Krsna-sambandhe yuktam vairagyam ucyate. Ex Krsna likes these things therefore we should offer to Krsna what he likes and then we will take prasada. Krsna likes Radharani therefore all the gopis pushed Radharani to Krsna.

### **On Prasada**

Means offered food to Krsna.

We should accept whatever is offered to Krsna.

### **On Honoring prasada**

Devotee should take Krsna prasada whether it is materially tasteful or not. We should accept everything.

One should not discriminate and say that this is not good prasada or I do not like it. Discrimination means that we have not appreciated what prasada is.

No disliking or liking whatever Krsna likes that is all right.

Even if someone has prepared it no so good should be accepted.

Preparation if made sincerely with devotion then Krsna will like it. Ex-Vidu was feeding Krsna bananas but he was so absorbed in thought that he was throwing away the real bananas and he was giving Krsna the skin and Krsna was eating.

### **On Spicy prasada**

A devotee should accept any prasada, even if is spicy because if Krsna has accepted it offered by a devotee. Ex-hiranyakasipu gave his son poison and his son offered it Krsna and drank it as nectar. So even if is spicy to others taste it is very palatable to the devotee.

Putana raksasi offered Krsna poison but Krsna took her like mother and delivered her.

Whatever offered to Krsna is nectar.

Only those who are not perfect devotees may discriminate.

### **On how Does Krsna eat our offering**

Krsna can eat anything provided there is devotion.

It does not matter whether it is materially tasteful or not.

### **On Significance of offering**

Is only devotion for Krsna.

Lord Krsna is not obliged to accept anything costly because it is very tasty.

Krsna has many tasteful dishes in Vaikuntha.

He is not hankering after your food.

He accepts our devotion not the food.

He does not accept any food of this material world.

Patram puspam phalam toyam

### **On Cooking**

One should also not allow anyone to cook who is not a devotee.

Krsna does not accept anything from the hands of a nondevotee. (No devotion)

Krsna wants a devotee not a good cook.  
Devotee means a good cook automatically and good qualification.

### **On Discussion and hearing**

Means loka-mangalam-auspicious for all.

### **On God's Representative**

A living entity who plays the part on behalf of Krsna. God's representative means the Guru.

#### 1. Guru's Instructions

We should follow his orders. We should please him if we want to please God.

#### 2. Guru is not God

The Guru should be accepted as God. He is the external manifestation of Krsna but different from the incarnations of Krsna.

#### 3. Symptoms of a Guru

The general symptoms of a Guru are described in the Vedas. To become a Guru is not an easy task. It is a risky job. A guru comes in a disciplic succession. A guru must have heard about the Vedas from his spiritual master. He is a perfect devotee. He serves Krsna by preaching His message. He has to take all the poisons and absorb them. He has to take the responsibility for all the sinful activities of his disciples.

#### 4. Guru also suffers

Due to the sinful activities of the devotees.

### **On Lord Caitanya**

Lord Caitanya was a Guru and at the same time an incarnation . He is representing the Guru. Has forbidden that "Don't make many sisyas, many disciples." But for preaching work we have to accept many disciples-for expanding preaching-even if we suffer.

### **On Pastimes**

Means everything just like the king the king's government, king's palace, king's queen, king' son, secretaries, military strength is called pastime.

### **On Disciplic succession**

The original Guru is Krsna. Krsna's disciple Brahma is the next Guru. Brahma's disciple Narada is the next Guru. Narada's disciple Vyasadeva is the next Guru. Imp sloka- Evam parampara pratam.

### **Importance of Guru-Parampara**

We cannot receive information directly from Krsna. But we can learn it through the Guru-Parampara otherwise we misunderstand it. We receive Krsna's direct instruction from the books through the Guru Parampara. We cannot get Krsna's mercy directly unless we follow the Guru-Parampara. We can get Krsna's mercy provided it is delivered as it is. There is no difference between Krsna's instructions and Guru parampara's instruction. It is as good as receiving instructions directly from Krsna.

### **On Prayers**

By praying to Him directly is our business Eko bahunam vidadhati kaman. Even by simply thinking or not speaking. He will hear everything from us. Sarvasya caham hrdis sannivah - Krsna is situated in everyone's heart.

### **Difference between Prayers and Serving Krsna**

Prayers means asking something from Krsna. Because Krsna is our Father. He supplies everything to everyone. Serving Krsna means Bhakti-(devotion). Grown up children should not ask but should be prepared to serve.

### **On Welfare of others**

Caitanya Mahaprabhu's instruction is that you can improve the welfare of others when our own life is a success. First we have to be convinced and then convince others. Bharata-bhumite haila manusya-janma yara Janma sarthaka kari' kara para-upakara. First make your life perfect then try to teach others. Engage everyone in the Krsna Consciousness movement.

### **On Religion of Man**

Man worship demigods every day vigorously. When disaster and hardship occurs he gives up religion. After this finds his happiness in trying to develop love among people. He thinks after he dies may be he will become a part of God or not but he can't worry about it now. He always says he has tried these religious experiences but they do not work. It is difficult to convince him finally.

## **Service minus devotion**

That is business. It is just like people advertise “Our customers are our master” because nobody is a qualified customer unless he pays. Here we expect something in return.

## **On Real service**

Caitanya Mahaprabhu says- Yatha tatha va vidadhatu lampato mat-pranathas tu sa eva napara... “You do whatever You like, but still you are my worshipable lord.” “I don’t ask any return from you.” That is service.

## **On how to become pure**

We should do what the other devotees are doing. They were also not pure in the beginning. For example, in our childhood we were not educated but now we are educated. If we are serious we can keep our self-pure anywhere. We must know how to keep ourself pure always. By following the regulative principles strictly.

## **On Distress**

We get sick because of our impious or bad actions in the past. (Karmic influence)

## **On Suffering**

We are all performing only bad karma therefore we are suffering.  
One blind man is leading another blind man.  
If we do something criminal we suffer.

## **On Happiness**

Without consciousness of krsna all the time we cannot be happy. Just like if an animal of the land is thrown into the water, it cannot be happy in water in any condition. Just like a machine without a machine part has no value. Simply by thinking I am Krsna’s, Krsna is mine we can join Krsna immediately by our consciousness and become happy. That is our actual position.

## **On how to become happy**

We think we will become happy in future but this is illusion.Ex- just like if we sit down on the back of the ass and just take a morsel of grass and holding it

front of the ass, the ass thinks let me go a little forward and I shall get the grass.

We are all thinking just the ass let me go forward and I will be happy.

We do not know how to become happy.

We do not take the standard path to become happy.

We manufacture our own way. That is the difficulty.

One has to undergo austerity for permanent happiness.

If we purify our existence and body we become happy.

By associating with devotees one will become happy.

### **On Regulative principles**

There are four regulative principles.

One should follow all the four.

They are meant to give up the process of gratifying our material senses.

### **On Vegetarian**

Vegetarian is no qualification

The pigeon is vegetarian.

The monkey is vegetarian. (Most rubbish and mischievous creature) A naked sannyasi who lives in a forest.

### **On Association**

Is very influential.

If we associate with a drunkard we become drunk and if we associate with a sadhu we become a sadhu.

According to the association of the modes of nature our activities are contaminated.

By association one becomes happy in KC.

### **On ISKCON centers**

There are many centers to give people a chance to associate with devotees.

To think and learn about God.

To become a devotee which is not difficult.

To get spiritual pleasure. (Pleasure of Krsna)

To give up material pleasure. (Pleasure of senses)

To make everyone a devotee of Krsna.

### **Non devotee**

Always has to serve Maya (indirectly controlled by Krsna's energy).

He thinks I am the controller and the master. Just like a man who takes a dog in the street thinks he is master of the dog but actually he is the servant of the dog.

Because the dog stops everywhere passes stool, and his master has to stand and wait for it thinking 'I am the master' but actually the man is being controlled by the dog and has become the servant of the dog.

Because he is controlled by Maya his life is spoiled.

He remains in this material existence one birth after another changing bodies.

He always thinks I am the master not the servant.

He is always controlled by false thoughts.

He does not know his actual position.

He is always in bondage.

He is not willing to perform austerity.

### **On Devotee**

Means a perfected soul.

One becomes a devotee just by engaging himself in the transcendental loving service of the lord.

He is always with Krsna. That is his business.

When one becomes a devotee he is controlled by Krsna. Just like every citizen is controlled by the government. When the citizen is right, the civil department controls him, when is he wrong the criminal department controls him.

The devotee never says 'I am not controlled'

He is sure to go back home, back to Godhead.

His life is successful.

He never thinks he is the master but always a servant. (Constitutional position)

He is never controlled by false thoughts.

He is liberated and does not endeavor for liberation.

He is above goodness –Suddha sattva above this material world. (Spiritual world)

He is beyond accumulating karma. Because he does not fall down in any circumstance and transcends the modes of material nature and thus comes to the level of Brahman.

He does not take any material miseries as miseries but takes them as Krsna's mercy.

Devotee also suffers from material consequences but it is temporary.

He is always engaged twenty-four hours a day in Krsna consciousness.

A devotee works under the direction of spiritual master, not imitate the best devotee.

Devotee is not a beggar but the servant of Krsna. Because everything he collects uses for Krsna's service. Because that is Krsna's money.

He engages everyone in the KC movement so that he may not go to hell.  
Devotees does not want anything from anyone. Because he knows Krsna will provide everything. He only saves others from going to hell.  
Devotee who does something willingly (bad habit) will not be excused by Krsna. It is a greatest offense. Ex-chanting to nullify sins.

### **On Best devotee**

Is called the uttama-adhikari.  
He sees that there is no need of preaching.  
For him everyone is a devotee.  
He sees no more non-devotees.  
To preach he also comes down to the second-class platform of a devotee.  
He sees that 'nobody is envious of God.' 'Everyone is better than me.'  
He always considers himself lower than the worm in the stool.  
Does not imitate that he has become a best devotee.  
He sees that 'Nobody is envious of God.' Everyone is better than me.

### **On Second class devotee**

Has the vision that some are envious of God.

### **On Vision of the best devotee**

He is always feeling that ' I am the lowest, everyone is best, everyone is engaged in Krsna's service I am not engaged.'(Quote Krsnadasa kaviraja)  
He says ' oh I have not a pinch of devotion to Krsna, I cry to make a show. If I had been a devotee of Krsna, I would have died long ago. But I am living. That is the proof that I do not love Krsna.'(Quote Caitanya Mahaprabhu)  
He is always absorbed in Krsna's love and he say 'everything is going on but I am the lowest' therefore I cannot see God.  
Quotes from Krsnadasa Kaviraja  
Said-'I am lower than the worm in the stool.' --cc  
I am the lowest.  
Everyone is best.  
Everyone is engaged in Krsna's service, I am not engaged.

### **On Chanting**

Is a purifying process.  
The ecstasy in chanting is achieved when we are purified.

### **On Our Previous life**

One could have been a Krsna conscious devotee in his previous life.  
If there is a little deficiency then there is a possibility of coming back.  
We come back to a nice family. Sucinam srimatam gehe yoga-bhrasto  
'bhijayate— The unsuccessful yogi takes birth in a religious or aristocratic  
family.

### **On Death**

Means new body.

We get another body immediately after we die. Ex just like we fix up  
apartment first then we leave this and go there.

If we are not prepared or do not know about our next life and accidentally at  
the time death our mentality will create another body and nature will supply it.

Everybody has to die and the time is preset before we are born.

We have a certain span of life.

We cannot change the time and span unless Krsna changes it.

### **On Suicide**

Suicide is not preset.

We commit suicide because we have a little independence.

It is not natural to commit suicide. It is unnatural.

### **On independence as the cause of suffering**

Because of independence we go from natural to unnatural. Ex- just like a  
prisoner who cannot go out of the prison naturally. But somehow he tries to  
go out of the prison by jumping out of the wall is unnatural. Then he will be  
caught again and considered a criminal for further imprisonment and his  
punishment will be increased.

### **On Destiny**

Naturally we cannot violate destiny, if we do then we will suffer.

Destiny can be changed by Krsna when we are Krsna consciousness. Krsna  
say-Aham tvam sarva-papebhyo moksaisyami.. 'I shall give you protection'

### **On Maya**

When one thinks he is the master then it is called maya.

Means conditioned life. (Artificially thinking I am the master)

### **On Mukti**

When one voluntarily surrenders to the Supreme Master or his representative is liberation.

When one thinks I am the servant is mufti (liberation)

When one is not controlled by false thoughts is mufti. (Reality)

When one knows his constitutional position is mukti. (Servant)

Liberation is neither fast nor slow but one should not what is liberation. Ex-if we do not where train is going (destination), then what is the use of asking, understanding whether it is going fast or slow.

One who stops doing all nonsense and situated in his original constitution position, acts properly is liberation.

### **On Bondage**

When one thinks he is the master then that is bondage. (Conditioned life)

### **On Real Christianity**

Is a very good religion.

Jesus Christ died for our sins. He took all the sinful reactions of all the people. Therefore he suffered.

Therefore one should not commit sins again.

Such great life was sacrificed for our sins therefore we should be guided by Him.

One should only follow his orders.

One follows his orders there is liberation.

We should not imitate Jesus Christ.

Jesus took all the sinful reactions of the people and sacrificed His life.

He was a perfect spiritual master.

### **On Christianity Today**

People have taken Jesus Christ as contractor to take up their sins.

They are not following his words. (Thou shall not kill).

They commit all kinds of sins, and poor Jesus Christ will be responsible.

They have no sympathy for Jesus.

One goes to the church and confesses and comes back again to do all nonsense.

That is not good religion, philosophy or intelligence.

There is no question of guidance from Jesus Christ if one does not follow his order.

Have made a law today for Christ to suffer while they do all nonsense.

### **On Jesus Christ ate meat**

He can eat anything even the whole world.

He is powerful.

We cannot compare or imitate Jesus Christ. That is obedience. Ex- the sun is absorbing urine can we drink urine? Lord Shiva drank the whole poison ocean can we drink one cup?

Bhagavata says that one who is empowered can do everything.

We do not know in what condition he ate meat but he advised that we should not kill. He was not contradicting Himself. He cannot do that. That is real faith in him.

We are not Jesus Christ.

He sacrificed his life for God. Can we do that?

Instead of imitating Him we should imitate Jesus Christ and sacrifice our life for spreading God consciousness.

But no one is doing this for God.

### **On Lord Shiva smoked.**

Lord Shiva drank the whole poison of ocean. Can we?

Lord Shiva was an empowered personality.

We should not imitate Him but follow his instructions.

He instructed that best worship is worship of Vishnu. "Vishnor aradhanam param" though there are many demigods.

He also said better than Vishnu worship is worship of Vaisnava. Ex- Tulasi plant.

### **On Tulasi**

Is very dear to Krsna.

She has very intimate connection with Krsna.

### **On Recognition**

We are recognized if we do something good. Just like if we do something benevolent for the state, for the people we are given a title.

### **On Karma**

It is determined by the three modes of nature.

By yajna one earns good karma.

We get good karma by performing yajna as prescribed in vedas.

Good karma we enjoy some material happiness. We get birth in good family.

We get riches, good money, become learned scholar and beautiful also.

Bad karma we suffer from material distress.

## **On Yajna**

Means actions for the satisfaction of Supreme Personality of Godhead.  
Purpose of yajna is to satisfy the Supreme Lord.

## **On Cheating stealing and murder**

Are committed because one wants to obtain something.

Are all mixture of passion and ignorance.

One has to suffer for this action.

One who takes money from others and utilizes it for his own sense gratification goes to hell and is a cheater.

A man who thinks that he is not stealing is also a thief because he does not know that everything belongs to God. Therefore, whatever he is accepting is stealing.

Ex – in the material world if we sometimes find some governments valuable things (used for road repairing, electrical, etc) left on the road and if one takes it without permission is stealing. Similarly if we drink a glass of water from the river- is the river our property? It is stealing.

## **On Charity**

There are three kinds of charity in-goodness, passion and ignorance.

Charity given in spreading God consciousness is charity in goodness.

Charity given for some return is charity in passion.

Charity given in an improper place and time, without respect and to an unworthy person is charity in ignorance. Ex beggars who will purchase wine and drink it.

All that we do, all that we eat, all that we offer and give away, all austerities we perform should be done as an offering to God or his representative and if God takes it is perfection in charity.

## **On giving food to hungry**

Depends on circumstances.

Ex-if the doctor has forbidden his patient to take solid food, if the patient is asking “Give me some solids” and if we give him solid food in charity then we are not doing good to him. That is ignorance.

## **On Four orders of spiritual life**

Brahmacari Grhastha Vanaprastha and Sannyasa.

## **On Tapasya**

Means renunciation or giving up our attachment to material nature.  
By knowledge and appreciating transcendental knowledge tapasya follows.

## **On Austerity**

Two types of austerities-voluntary and involuntary.

### **On Voluntary austerity:**

To undergo some bodily pain to become spiritually disciplined.

We should practice austerity voluntarily under instructions of a spiritual master to please Him. (To accept a spiritual master and to carry out his order)

We require austerity because our mind cannot follow austerities.

By following voluntary austerities Krsna sends us nice things.

We are not losers.

We become Krsna-zed.

We get more comforts and no difficulties.

He does not lose his individuality. But he surrenders his individuality to Krsna.

Ex-suppose a man does not use sex, does not mean that he has become impotent or if he fasts does not mean that he is diseased or I am not hungry or cannot eat.

He keeps his individual taste for different things. Likes and dislikes. But gives preference for Krsna's sake.

This is voluntary austerity Param drstva nivartate-higher taste.

### **On Involuntary austerity.**

We are forced by nature to suffer austerities or calamities or difficulties.

Ex- just like a cow sees nice foodstuff in the confectioner's shop immediately puts it mouths in. It cannot undergo austerity. We may beat her with a stick but still it will tolerate. But if a man goes to a same shop, he can buy the foodstuff if he has money or restrain from buying if he does not have money.

He can undergo austerity. But if he steals it then if beaten he cannot tolerate.

Therefore an animal cannot undergo austerity but a man can. If he cannot then he has to suffer the difficulty. Maya will impose many difficulties but as soon

as you surrender to Krsna no more imposition.

## **On Disciple**

Is one who has voluntarily agreed to be disciplined by the spiritual master.

### **On Duty of discipline**

He should be sympathetic that he should not commit sinful activities. Otherwise His SM will suffer.

One should always be cautious ‘ My SM has saved me I should not put him in suffering again.

### **On Duty of a saintly person**

Is to enlighten everybody and gives one the chance to serve Krsna.

### **On Spiritual Master sufferings**

When Spiritual Master is suffering Krsna saves him. Because Supreme Master has taken the responsibility for delivering a fallen person.

### **On Devotees actions**

If one becomes a devotee it does not means that he should challenge everything.

Living in the material world we cannot neglect physical laws. Suppose we go to a jungle and we know that there is a tiger there and that it will attack us so why should we voluntarily go there and be attacked. That is foolishness.

It is not that a devotee should take physical risk so long as he has a physical body.

He is advised to accept the necessities of life without attachment. Ex-we should take boiled water but if it is not available does not mean he will not drink water.

He should take Krsna prasada but while touring, sometimes we have to take some food in a hotel therefore a devotee should think ‘ I will not take any foodstuffs from the hotel I shall starve. But he will become weak and will not be able to preach.

Devotee does not steal anything from God’s property. He takes everything in His service.

### **On Devotees individuality**

He has full individuality for pleasing Krsna.

He surrenders his individuality to Krsna.

He voluntarily accepts whatever Krsna says, I shall do it.

### **On Honesty**

Real honesty means that one should not encroach upon others another's property.

Honesty does not mean doing what we real feel is right. Ex-a thief's thinks stealing is honesty because he must steal to provide for his children, for him it is right. A butcher thinks it is my life to cut the throat of the animal daily. A hunter says it is my business my father taught me. (Ex mrgari-Narada).

Feeling of honest depends on culture. The culture may be different.

One who is honest is in mode of goodness. Ex-if one knows this does not belong to me therefore why should I take it away is knowledge and honesty.

One who knows and follows the order of God.

Honesty means everything should be utilized for Krsna's service.

Honesty means real knowledge.

Honesty means one who follows the principle that Krsna is the supreme lord, the ultimate purpose of all sacrifices and austerities, the well wisher of all living beings.

By honesty one attains real peace from the pangs of material miseries.

One who is honest knows that everything belongs to Krsna. That is also knowledge. One who does not know this is ignorant.

Some people are very honest who do not take anything from others but they do not know that they are taking so many other things from God without his permission.

### **On Difference between poor and rich**

Everyone is poor because everyone is in need of money and food.

Relatively some may be poorer or hungrier than others may. That does not mean that one does not feel hungry at all.

### **On Foolish soul**

One having no spiritual knowledge.

One who does not know the difference between liberation and entanglement.

One who is ignorant.

One who is honest is also foolish because if he takes anything from God's property without his permission is stealing.

One who does not understand that Krsna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

One who does not know that Krsna is the supreme enjoyer , supreme proprietor and supreme friend.

One who does not the difference between rich or poor.

One who advertises "prevention to cruelty to animals week" but himself maintains thousands of slaughterhouses.

One who kills the animal that is suffering and says better kill it than to starve.

One who celebrates a festival by killing his grandfather (old man) because he is suffering. (African theory)

An army officer who is going overseas kills his dog because he cannot take with him. Therefore a foolish soul's policy is 'Instead of letting suffer just kill it'.

### **On Sinful activities**

One who does not follow the promise and breaks the regulative principles and does nasty things.

### **On Greatest offense**

On the strength that I am devotee and if I think 'because I am chanting I may therefore commit all nonsense and it will be nullified is greatest offense.

### **On Instructions**

There are many other instructions to do apart from regulative principles. Ex-chanting attentively, eating excessively, talking too much etc.

Inspite of our trying to do something we sometimes fail and that is not a fault.

We fail due to our inexperience incapability and past bad habits.

We fail because maya is so strong that it pushes with pitfalls.

### **On Bad habits**

When one does something nonsensical is bad habit.

We have bad habits due to our past or sometimes willingly.

One should try to avoid it as far as possible. By repenting 'I have done this'.

Bad habit is also second nature because inspite of our hard work maya is strong that it pushes with pitfalls.

One who has bad habit is not faulty because it may be due to his past.

But one who does something willingly (devotee) then Krsna does not excuse and it is a greatest offense.

## **Chapter two**

### ***Vedic culture-Varnasrama-dharma***

#### **Important question of this chapter:**

1. Householders should have sex only to conceive a child therefore what kind of sex life can one lead, living in the material world?
2. What is result of attachment between man and woman?

3. What is illusion?
4. What are the stages of reducing attachment?
5. What is the radical concept of education?
6. Why is divorce common?
7. Why do some people feel that marriage is not meaningful?
8. Why prostitution?
9. What is the important role of the Krsna Consciousness movement in Varnasrama dharma?

**Important subjects that HDG Srila Prabhupada quotes in this chapter in short**

1. Vedic principle
2. Attachment
3. Topmost enjoyment
4. Association
5. Fictions novels, dramas, cinema, and ordinary advertisement
6. Liberation
7. Rebirth
8. Our business
9. Varnasrama-dharma
10. Regulative principles
11. Material life
12. Sex life
13. Illusion
14. Karma
15. Unknown science of soul
16. Arjuna surrenders to Krsna
17. Brahmacharya and Marriage
18. predictions of sastras
19. real education
20. divorce
21. Krsna consciousness movement

**1. Vedic Principle**

Is that one should avoid sex life altogether.  
 Is to get liberation from material entanglement.  
 Is to reduce attachment not to increase it.

**2. Attachment**

There are many attachments for material enjoyment in the material life.

Man is attached to woman and woman is attached to man.  
This is not only in human society but in animal society also.  
Attachment is the basic principle of material life.

### **3.Topmost enjoyment**

Sex is the topmost enjoyment.

### **4.Association**

In material life woman is hankering or seeking after the association of man and man is hankering or seeking for the association of a woman.

### **5.Fiction novels, dramas, cinema and ordinary advertisement**

They are simply depicting the attachment between man and woman. Ex- in the tailor's shop we find in the window some woman and some man.

### **6.Liberation**

If we want to get liberation from this material world, the attachment should be reduced to nil.

### **7.Rebirth**

Simply further attachment we have to take birth.

### **8.Our business**

Is not to increase attachment although it is the general tendency. But if one can reduce and stop it that is first class.

### **9. Varnasrama dharma**

This is the Vedic system the four social orders and four spiritual order.  
Spiritual orders are-Brahmacarya-celibate student life, grhastha-married life, vanaprastha-retired life and sannyasa-renounced life.  
Social orders are-Brahmanas-intellectuals, ksatriyas-administrators, vaisyas-merchants and farmers and sudras-ordinary workers.  
The purpose of this Vedic system is to train a boy as a Brahmacarya.  
The Vedic principle of this system is to reduce attachment and not to increase it.

The regulative principles under this system are so nice that even if one has the tendency to enjoy material life, he is nicely molded that at last he achieves liberation and goes back, back to godhead.

### **10. Regulative principles**

Are required because we are attached.

### **11. Material life**

The basic principle of material life is sex life.

### **12. Sex life**

Means attachment for man and woman. When man and woman are united attachment becomes increased and will induce one to accumulate grha- home, ksetra-land, suta- children, apta- friendship or society and vitta-money. This leads to illusion and entanglement.

Everybody is in search of enjoyment. The topmost enjoyment of this material life is sex life. Sex life begins with association of man and woman who are hankering and seeking for each other. The attachment increases due to various advertisements novels dramas and cinemas.

The fundamental concept of this chapter is that one should avoid sex life outside marriage and use sex life within marriage only to beget children. Sex life is the cause of all our attachment. It is the cause of all our bondage. The bondage of home land son friendship and money. This is also the cause of illusion entanglement and divorce. Therefore if we are not trained properly we may not get liberation and go back to Godhead. There is chance of rebirth again.

### **13.Illusion**

Means aham mameti-I am this body, and anything in relationship with this body is mine. I am American, I am Indian, I am German, I am this, and I am that-this body. This is my country. I shall sacrifice everything for this country and society.

Under this illusion one gets another body.

### **14.Karma**

One gets superior body or inferior body according to karma

## **15. Unknown science of soul**

In the next life even if one gets a superior body or goes to heavenly planets is entanglement.

One can also become a cat or dog or tree. Then his life is lost.

How the soul is transmigrating from one body to another.

How he is being entrapped in different types of bodies.

## **16. Arjuna surrenders to Krsna**

Because his problem was “if I kill my brother, if I kill my grandfather on the other side...”

He was simply thinking on the basis of the bodily concept of life.

When his problems could not be solved, he surrendered to Krsna.

He accepted Krsna as his spiritual master.

## **17. Brahmachari and Marriage**

Brahmachari – celibate. A boy is trained as a student up to 25 years restricting sex life.

Some also remain naisthika-brahmachari - celibate for life

This is an education given to become fully conversant with spiritual knowledge.

He cannot have sex life without being married. Therefore in human society there is marriage not in animal society.

## **18. Prediction of sastras**

People are gradually descending from human society to animal society and forgetting marriage. In kali-yuga there will be no marriage performances. There will be relationship between boy and girl on sexual power.

## **19. Real education**

According to Vedic culture sex is only for begetting children. Not to study the psychology of sex life.

Even if one does not read any philosophy he is sexually inclined. Nobody is taught in the schools and colleges and everyone knows it. But real education is how to stop sex life. If one follows the Vedic principles of life according to the Varnasrama dharma then one is sure to reduce this attachment. There is no necessity to learn the psychology of sex life. Real education is how to control this. Therefore this Krsna Consciousness movement is meant to teach us what is sex life and how one should apply.

## **20.Divorce**

Divorce is very easy to get. That is why many people do not desire to marry. They consider marriage is not sacred. They feel that to get married is not meaningful. After marriage things are not proper then divorce is very easy.

## **21.Krsna consciousness movement**

Is to educate people in the essential principles of spiritual life.

It is not a sectarian religious movement. It is a cultural movement for everyone's benefit.

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Please shower you're sincere blessing upon this fallen soul to advance if this guide helps you advance in your Krsna Consciousness.

Thank you very much

Your servant  
Sudha nitai dasa