

Śrī Caitanya-caritāṃpa. Mādhyama-līlā, Chapter 7

The Lord Begins His Tour of South India



STUDY NOTES OF H.G. GAURĀNGA DĀSA

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*jaya jaya gauracandra jaya nityānanda
jayādvaita-candra jaya gaura-bhakta-vṛnda*

All glories to Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu!
All glories to Lord Nityānanda!
All glories to Advaitacandra!
And all glories to all the devotees of the Lord!

THE LORD BEGINS HIS TOUR OF SOUTH INDIA



Text 1: Invocation

TEXT 1

*dhanyaṁ taṁ naumi caitanyaṁ
vāsudevaṁ dayārdra-dhī
naṣṭa-kuṣṭhaṁ rūpa-puṣṭaṁ
bhakti-tuṣṭaṁ cakāra yaḥ*

Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, being very compassionate toward a brāhmaṇa named Vāsudeva, cured him of leprosy. He transformed him into a beautiful man satisfied with devotional service. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the glorious Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

1

Lesson 1: Bhakti is purifying and satisfying

2

Lesson 2: A devotee is constantly meditating on doing Lord's service in different ways (TEXTS 4-6)

NOTES: TEXTS 4-6

- ✓ Māgha (January) – sannyāsa
- ✓ Phālguna (February) - Dola-yātrā
- ✓ Caitra (March) - Delivered Sārvabhauma Bhaṭṭācārya
- ✓ Vaiśākha (April) – Decide to go to South India

TEXTS 7-8

*nija-gaṇa āni' kahe vinaya kariyā
āliṅgana kari' sabāya śrī-haste dhariyā
tomā-sabā jāni āmi prāṇādhika kari'
prāṇa chāḍā yāya, tomā-sabā chāḍite nā pāri*

Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu called all His devotees together and, holding them by the hand, humbly informed them, “You are all more dear to Me than My life. I can give up My life, but to give you up is difficult for Me.

3

Lesson 3: One must be humble and affectionate in dealings

PURPORT: TEXTS 7-8

Important point: Affection is expressed through proper words and actions (embrace, hold hands)

Texts 9-92: Mahaprabhu’s preparation for South India

1. Mahaprabhu seeking permission from all His devotees (TEXTS 9-14)

TEXT 9

*tumi-saba bandhu mora bandhu-kṛtya kaile
ihān āni’ more jagannātha dekhāile*

“You are all My friends, and you have properly executed the duties of friends by bringing Me here to Jagannātha Purī and giving Me the chance to see Lord Jagannātha in the temple.

4

Lesson 4: Real friend is one who brings us closer to Krishna

TEXT 13

*viśvarūpa-siddhi-prāpti jānena sakala
dakṣiṇa-deśa uddhārite karena ei chala*

Knowing everything, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu was aware that Viśvarūpa had already passed away. A pretense of ignorance was necessary, however, so that He could go to South India and liberate the people there.

5

Lesson 5: Great souls cheat for a great cause

2. Mahaprabhu preventing devotees to accompany Him (TEXTS 15-33)

- ❖ Dāmodara Paṇḍita & others - advanced in receiving Kṛṣṇa's mercy - independent of public opinion - want Me to enjoy -even though unethical - I am a poor sannyāsī - cannot abandon the duties of the renounced order (TEXT 27)

6

Lesson 6: A brahmacārī should not try to instruct a sannyāsī.

PURPORT: TEXT 27

- ✓ A brahmacārī is supposed to assist a sannyāsī
- ✓ Dāmodara should not have advised Lord Caitanya of His duty.

TEXT 29

*inhā-sabāra vaśa prabhu haye ye ye guṇe
doṣāropa-cchale kare guṇa āsvādane*

Actually the Lord was controlled by the good qualities of all His devotees. On the pretense of attributing faults, He tasted all these qualities.

7

Lesson 7: Lord Caitanya had great appreciation for His associates' intense affection

NOTES: TEXTS 19-27

List of accusations made by Lord Caitanya against His associates

- ✓ Nityānanda Prabhu – In place of Vṛndāvana, took to Advaita Prabhu, daṇḍa-bhaṅga-līlā (TEXTS 19-20)
- ✓ Jagadānanda – Bodily sense gratification, not talk for 3 days (TEXTS 21-22)
- ✓ Mukunda – Unhappy to see my austerities (TEXTS 23-24)
- ✓ Dāmodara - Stick in his hand to educate Me, neophyte in social etiquette and does not like My independent nature (TEXTS 25-27)

8

Lesson 8: Devotees place more importance on love of Krishna then on social etiquette

PURPORT: TEXT 29

- ✓ Personal associates of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu sometimes behaved contrary to regulative principles out of intense love for the Lord
- ✓ Because of their love Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu Himself sometimes violated the regulative principles of a sannyāsī.
- ✓ In the eyes of the public, such violations are not good, but Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu was so controlled by His devotees' love that He was obliged to break some of the rules.
- ✓ Although accusing them, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu was indirectly indicating that He was very satisfied with their behavior in pure love of Godhead.
- ✓ There are many instances of devotional service rendered by previous ācāryas who did not care about social behavior when intensely absorbed in love for Kṛṣṇa

9

Lesson 9: Lord Caitanya desires observing social customs to avoid criticisms

TEXT 31

*sei duḥkha dekhi' yei bhakta duḥkha pāya
sei duḥkha tānra śaktye sahana nā yāya*

The regulative principles observed by Caitanya Mahāprabhu were sometimes intolerable, and all the devotees became greatly affected by them. Although strictly observing the regulative principles, Caitanya Mahāprabhu could not tolerate the unhappiness felt by His devotees.

TEXT 32

*guṇe doṣodgāra-cchale sabā niṣedhiyā
ekākī bhramibena tīrtha vairāgya kariyā*

Therefore, to prevent them from accompanying Him and becoming unhappy, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu declared their good qualities to be faults.

10

Lesson 10: Devotee's unhappiness is more intolerable than personal unhappiness.

11

Lesson 11: In private, loving reciprocation takes precedence. In public, social regulation takes precedence.

3. Nityānanda Prabhu submitting a petition (TEXTS 34 - 41)

- ❖ Nityānanda Prabhu – “Yet submit one petition Please consider - if You think it proper, please accept it.” (TEXT 35)

12

Lesson 12: Chastisement must not block discrimination. A genuine servant must try to offer service inspite of refusal

TEXT 37

*tomāra dui hasta baddha nāma-gaṇane
jala-pātra-bahirvāsa vahibe kemane*

“Since Your two hands will always be engaged in chanting and counting the holy names, how will You be able to carry the waterpot and external garments?”

13

Lesson 13: Devotees in the line of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu must chant at least sixteen rounds daily

14

Lesson 14: There is no need to imitate Haridāsa Ṭhākura or the other Gosvāmīs

PURPORT: TEXT 37

- ✓ Chanting the holy name a fixed number of times daily is essential for every devotee.
1. Caitanya Mahāprabhu was chanting the holy names a fixed number of times daily.
 2. The Gosvāmīs used to follow (saṅkhyā-pūrvaka-nāma-gāna-natibhiḥ)
 3. Haridāsa Ṭhākura Haridāsa Ṭhākura daily chanted 300,000 names

TEXT 40

*jala-pātra-vastra vahi' tomā-saṅge yābe
ye tomāra icchā, kara, kichu nā balibe*

“He will carry Your waterpot and garments. You may do whatever You like; he will not say a word.”

15

Lesson 15: Service is important, not that I must do it.

4. Lord seeking permission of Bhaṭṭācārya (TEXTS 42-55)

TEXT 47

*'bahu-janmera puṇya-phale pāinu tomāra saṅga
hena-saṅga vidhi mora karileka bhāṅga*

“After many births, due to some pious activity I got Your association. Now providence is breaking this invaluable association.

16

Lesson 16: After many births, due to some pious activity one gets association of devotees

TEXT 48

*śire vajra paḍe yadi, putra mari' yāya
tāhā sahi, tomāra viccheda sahana nā yāya*

“If a thunderbolt falls on my head or if my son dies, I can tolerate it. But I cannot endure the unhappiness of separation from You.

17

Lesson 17: Association of devotees is more valuable than one’s own life or family relations

5. Mahāprabhu seeking permission of Lord Jagannātha (TEXTS 56-58)

TEXT 57

*ājñā-mālā pāñā harṣe namaskāra kari’
ānande dakṣiṇa-deṣe cale gaurahari*

Thus receiving Lord Jagannātha’s permission in the form of a garland, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu offered obeisances, and then in great jubilation He prepared to depart for South India.

18

Lesson 18: One should seek the blessings of the Lord and His devotees (junior, equal and seniors) before doing any devotional activity

NOTES:

- ✓ Lord Caitanya took permission of Sārvabhauma Bhaṭṭācārya (who was junior to Lord Caitanya) (TEXT 45), all His associates (Nityānanda Prabhu and others) (TEXT 10) and Lord Jagannātha (TEXT 57) before leaving for South India

6. Sārvabhauma Bhaṭṭācārya serving Lord Caitanya (TEXTS 59 – 67)

TEXT 62

*‘rāmānanda rāya’ āche godāvārī-tīre
adhikārī hayena teṅho vidyānagare*

“In the town of Vidyānagara, on the bank of the Godāvārī, there is a responsible government officer named Rāmānanda Rāya.

TEXT 63

*sūdra viṣayi-jñāne upekṣā nā karibe
āmāra vacane tānre avāśya milibe*

“Please do not neglect him, thinking he belongs to a sūdra family engaged in material activities. It is my request that You meet him without fail.”

19

Lesson 19: As far as spiritual advancement is concerned, materialists, politicians and sūdras are generally disqualified.

20

Lesson 20: A householder engaged in mundane things is in a transcendental position if he knows the science of Kṛṣṇa and is engaged in His service

PURPORT: TEXT 63

The senses can be engaged either in worldly enjoyment or in the service of the Lord:

- ✓ **Viṣayī:** One who is attached to family life and is interested only in wife, children and worldly sense gratification.
- ✓ **Adhikārī:** One who knows the transcendental science of Kṛṣṇa and is engaged in His service
- ✓ Before becoming Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s disciple, Sārvabhauma Bhaṭṭācārya considered Rāmānanda Rāya an ordinary viṣayī because he was a householder engaged in government service.
- ✓ However, when the Bhaṭṭācārya was actually enlightened in Vaiṣṇava philosophy, he could understand the exalted transcendental position of Śrī Rāmānanda Rāya; therefore he referred to him as adhikārī.

TEXT 66

*alaukika vākya ceṣṭā tānra nā bujhiyā
parihāsa kariyāchi tānre ‘vaiṣṇava’ baliyā*

“I could not realize when I first spoke with Rāmānanda Rāya that his topics and endeavors were all transcendentially uncommon. I made fun of him simply because he was a Vaiṣṇava.”

21

Lesson 21: A Vaiṣṇava living according to Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's injunctions is certainly not on the materialistic platform.

PURPORT: TEXT 66

- ✓ Anyone who is not a Vaiṣṇava, or an unalloyed devotee of the Supreme Lord, must be a materialist.

22

Lesson 22: Materialistic persons (karmīs or jñānīs) cannot understand the activities of Lord Caitanya

PURPORT: TEXT 66

- ✓ Only those who are on the spiritual platform are able to understand the activities of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.
- ✓ Jñānīs and karmīs get knowledge (imperfect) → direct sense perception - karmīs accept only what is directly perceived - jñānīs put forth only hypotheses.
- ✓ Vaiṣṇavas get knowledge – 1. Directly from Krishna in Bhagavad Gita 2. From within as caitya-guru (teṣāṁ satata-yuktānām ...) 3. By disciplic succession → Perfect knowledge

23

Lesson 23: Neither karmīs nor jñānīs can understand the activities of a Vaiṣṇava.

PURPORT: TEXT 66

- ✓ *vaiṣṇavera kriyā-mudrā vijñeha nā bujhaya*
- ✓ Even the most learned man depending on direct perception of knowledge cannot understand the activities of a Vaiṣṇava.

7. Lord's dealings with Sārvabhauma Bhaṭṭācārya (TEXTS 68 – 74)

TEXT 69

*“ghare kṛṣṇa bhaji’ more kariha āśīrvāde
nīlācale āśi’ yena tomāra prasāde”*

Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu asked the Bhaṭṭācārya to bless Him while he engaged in the devotional service of Lord Kṛṣṇa at home, so that by Sārvabhauma’s mercy the Lord could return to Jagannātha Purī.

24

Lesson 24: One should expect blessings from a Vaiṣṇava regardless of his social position.

PURPORT: TEXT 69

- ✓ A sannyāsī is supposed to offer blessings to a gṛhastha, yet now, by His practical behavior, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu requested the blessings of a gṛhastha.
- ✓ Perfect householder - Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura

Important point:

- ✓ A gṛhastha householder who acts strictly in the line of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu is competent to offer blessings to sannyāsīs

25

Lesson 25: Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s preaching gave equal status to everyone, regardless of material considerations

PURPORT: TEXT 69

- ✓ Lord Caitanya’s movement is thoroughly spiritual. This particular incident shows that.

26

Lesson 26: Whenever glorification of Supreme Lord takes place, those activities are immediately transformed into the activities of Goloka Vrndāvana

PURPORT: TEXT 69

- ✓ Activities exhibited by Kṛṣṇa Himself at Bhauma Vṛndāvana - nondifferent Goloka Vṛndāvana -> Proper realization of Vṛndāvana anywhere.
- ✓ ye-dina gr̥he, bhajana dekhi', gr̥hete goloka bhāya (Śaraṅāgati 31.6) - Whenever a householder glorifies the Supreme Lord in his home, his activities are immediately transformed into the activities of Goloka Vṛndāvana.
- ✓ New Vṛndāvana activities - Devotees are always engaged in the transcendental loving service of the Lord -> Non-different from Goloka Vṛndāvana.

TEXT 71

*tānre upekṣiyā kaila śīghra egamana
ke bujhite pāre mahāprabhura citta-mana*

Although Sārvabhauma Bhaṭṭācārya fainted, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu did not take notice of him. Rather, He left quickly. Who can understand the mind and intention of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu?

27

Lesson 27: Activities of a transcendental person are very difficult to understand. Sometimes they may seem rather odd, but a transcendental personality remains in his position, unaffected by material considerations.

PURPORT: TEXT 71

- ✓ It was naturally expected that when Sārvabhauma Bhaṭṭācārya fainted, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu would have taken care of him and waited for him to regain consciousness, but He did not do so.
- ✓ Rather, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu immediately started on His tour.

TEXT 72

*mahānubhāvera cittera svabhāva ei haya
puṣpa-sama komala, kaṭhina vajra-maya*

This is the nature of the mind of an uncommon personality. Sometimes it is soft like a flower, but sometimes it is as hard as a thunderbolt.

28

Lesson 28: Great souls could be hard like a thunderbolt or soft like a flower.

PURPORT: TEXT 72

- ✓ The softness of a flower and the hardness of a thunderbolt are reconciled in the behavior of a great personality.

8. Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu at Ālālanātha (TEXTS 75 - 92)

TEXT 78

*caudikete saba loka bale 'hari' 'hari'
premāveśe madhye nṛtya kare gaurahari*

All around Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, who is also known as Gaurahari, people began to shout the holy name of Hari. Lord Caitanya, immersed in His usual ecstasy of love, danced in the midst of them.

TEXT 79

*kāñcana-sadṛśa deha, aruṇa vasana
pula-kāśru-kampa-sveda tāhāte bhūṣaṇa*

The body of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu was naturally very beautiful. It was like molten gold dressed in saffron cloth. Indeed, He was most beautiful for being ornamented with the ecstatic symptoms, which caused His bodily hair to stand on end, tears to well up in His eyes, and His body to tremble and perspire all over.

TEXT 80

*dekhiyā lokera mane haila camatkāra
yata loka āise, keha nāhi yāya ghara*

Everyone present was astonished to see Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's dancing and His bodily transformations. Whoever came did not want to return home.

TEXT 81

*keha nāce, keha gāya, 'śrī-kṛṣṇa' 'gopāla'
premete bhāsila loka,—strī-vṛddha-ābāla*

Everyone—including children, old men and women—began to dance and to chant the holy names of Śrī Kṛṣṇa and Gopāla. In this way they all floated in the ocean of love of Godhead.

TEXT 82

*dekhi' nityānanda prabhu kahe bhakta-gaṇe
ei-rūpe nṛtya āge habe grāme-grāme*

Upon seeing the chanting and dancing of Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, Lord Nityānanda predicted that later there would be dancing and chanting in every village.

29

Lesson 29: Devotees should follow the rules and regulations and chant sixteen rounds daily, then their endeavor to preach will certainly be successful

PURPORT: TEXT 82

- ✓ Prediction is applicable to the whole world.
- ✓ Devotees are now traveling from one village to another in the Western countries and are even carrying the Deity with them.
- ✓ They distribute various literatures all over the world.
- ✓ We hope that these devotees who are preaching the message of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu will very seriously follow strictly in His footsteps.

Texts 93-112: Mahāprabhu's preaching and kīrtana

TEXT 95

*matta-simha-prāya prabhu karilā gamana
premāveśe yāya kari' nāma-saṅkīrtana*

Almost like a mad lion, Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu went on His tour filled with ecstatic love and performing saṅkīrtana, chanting Kṛṣṇa's names as follows.

TEXT 99

*kata-kṣaṇe rahi' prabhu tāre āliṅgiyā
vidāya karila tāre śakti saṅcāriyā*

After some time the Lord would embrace these people and bid them return home, having invested each of them with spiritual potency.

30

Lesson 30: Lord Kṛṣṇa Himself or His unalloyed devotee, can mercifully bestow *spiritual potency* upon any man and make him an unalloyed devotee of the Lord

PURPORT: TEXT 99

- ✓ This *spiritual potency* is the essence of the pleasure potency and the knowledge potency. By these two potencies, one is empowered with devotional service.
- ✓ Anyone favored by Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu was empowered with this bhakti-śakti. Thus the Lord's followers were able to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness by divine grace.

TEXT 100

*sei-jana nija-grāme kariyā gamana
'kṛṣṇa' bali' hāse, kānde, nāce anukṣaṇa*

Each of these empowered persons would return to his own village, always chanting the holy name of Kṛṣṇa and sometimes laughing, crying and dancing.

TEXT 101

*yāre dekhe, tāre kahe,—kaha kṛṣṇa-nāma
ei-mata ‘vaiṣṇava’ kaila saba nija-grāma*

Such an empowered person would request everyone and anyone—whomever he saw—to chant the holy name of Kṛṣṇa. In this way all the villagers would also become devotees of the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

31

Lesson 31: To be an empowered preacher, 1) One must be favored by Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu or His devotee, the spiritual master and 2) must request everyone to chant

TEXT 102

*grāmāntara haite dekhite āila yata jana
tānra darśana-krpāya haya tānra sama*

People from different villages who came to see such an empowered individual would become like him simply by seeing him and receiving the mercy of his glance.

TEXT 103

*sei yāi’ grāmera loka vaiṣṇava karaya
anya-grāmī āsi’ tānre dekhi’ vaiṣṇava haya*

When each of these newly empowered individuals returned to his own village, he also converted the villagers into devotees. And when others came from different villages to see him, they were also converted.

TEXT 104

*sei yāi’ āra grāme kare upadeśa
ei-mata ‘vaiṣṇava’ haila saba dakṣiṇa-deśa*

In this way, as empowered men went from one village to another, all the people of South India became devotees.

TEXT 105

*ei-mata pathe yāite śata śata jana
'vaiṣṇava' karena tānre kari' ālīngana*

Thus many hundreds of people became Vaiṣṇavas when they passed the Lord on the way and were embraced by Him

TEXT 107

*prabhura kṛpāya haya mahābhāgavata
sei saba ācārya hañā tārila jagat*

By the mercy of the Supreme Lord, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, everyone became a first-class devotee. Later they became teachers or spiritual masters and liberated the entire world.

TEXT 109

*navadvīpe yei śakti nā kailā prakāśe
se śakti prakāśi' nistārila dakṣiṇa-deśe*

Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu did not manifest His spiritual potencies at Navadvīpa, but He did manifest them in South India and liberated all the people there.

32

Lesson 32: A preacher should spread Krishna Consciousness in a place which is favorable

PURPORT: TEXT 109

- ✓ Smārtas in Navadvīpa – Non-devotees - main business is to follow brahminical principles strictly
- ✓ If the candidates for conversion are too disturbing, a preacher may not attempt to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness amongst them

PURPORT: TEXT 109

- ✓ This Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement was first attempted in India, but the people of India, being absorbed in political thoughts, did not take to it.
- ✓ We preferred, therefore, to come to the West, following the order of our spiritual master, and by the grace of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu this movement is becoming successful

TEXT 110

*prabhuke ye bhaje, tāre tānra kṛpā haya
sei se e-saba līlā satya kari' laya*

Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's empowering of others can be understood by one who is actually a devotee of the Lord and who has received His mercy.

TEXT 111

*alaukika-līlāya yāra nā haya viśvāsa
iha-loka, para-loka tāra haya nāśa*

If one does not believe in the uncommon transcendental pastimes of the Lord, he is vanquished both in this world and in the next.

Texts 113-135: Mahāprabhu visits Kūrma Kshetra and preaches Kūrma brāhmaṇa

TEXT 116

*darśane 'vaiṣṇava' haila, bale 'kṛṣṇa' 'hari'
premāveśe nāce loka ūrdhva bāhu kari'*

Just by seeing Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, everyone became a devotee. They began to chant “Kṛṣṇa” and “Hari” and all the holy names. They all were merged in a great ecstasy of love, and they began to dance, raising their arms.

TEXT 117

*kṛṣṇa-nāma loka-mukhe suni' avirāma
sei loka 'vaiṣṇava' kaila anya saba grāma*

Always hearing them chant the holy names of Lord Kṛṣṇa, the residents of all the other villages also became Vaiṣṇavas.

TEXT 118

*ei-mata paramparāya deśa 'vaiṣṇava' haila
kṛṣṇa-nāmāmṛta-vanyāya deśa bhāsāila*

By hearing the holy name of Kṛṣṇa, the entire country became Vaiṣṇava. It was as if the nectar of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa overflowed the entire country.

TEXT 125

*mora bhāgyera sīmā nā yāya kahana
āji mora ślāghya haila janma-kula-dhana*

“My dear Lord, there is no limit to my great fortune. It cannot be described. Today my family, birth and riches have all been glorified.”

TEXT 126

*kṛpā kara, prabhu, more, yāñ tomā-saṅge
sahite nā pāri duḥkha viṣaya-taraṅge'*

The brāhmaṇa begged Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, “My dear Lord, kindly show me favor and let me go with You. I can no longer tolerate the waves of misery caused by materialistic life.”

33

Lesson 33: Materialistic way of life causes a burning in the heart of anyone regardless of how rich or prosperous one may be

PURPORT: TEXT 126

- ✓ Saṁsāra-viṣānāle, divā-niśi hiyā jvale
- ✓ One cannot make any provisions for the troublesome life of the material world
- ✓ One may be very happy as far as riches are concerned and one may be very opulent in every respect, yet one has to manage the viṣayas to meet the demands of the body and of so many family members and subordinates.
- ✓ One has to take so much trouble to minister to others.
- ✓ viṣaya chāḍiyā kabe śuddha ha'be mana. Thus one must become freed from the materialistic way of life.

34

Lesson 34: One cannot relish transcendental bliss without being freed from the materialistic way of life.

35

Lesson 35: One should leave his family after attaining fifty years of age and go to the forest of Vṛndāvana to devote the rest of his life to the service of the Lord.

TEXT 127

*prabhu kahe,—“aiche bāt kabhu nā kahibā
gṛhe rahi' kṛṣṇa-nāma nirantara laibā*

Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu replied, “Don't speak like that again. Better to remain at home and chant the holy name of Kṛṣṇa always.

36

Lesson 36: It is not advisable in this Age of Kali to leave one's family suddenly, for people are not trained as proper brahmacārīs and grhasthas.

PURPORT: TEXT 127

- ✓ Lord Caitanya advised the brāhmaṇa not to be too eager to give up family life.
- ✓ It would be better to remain with his family and try to become purified by chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa mahā-mantra regularly under the direction of a spiritual master. This is the instruction of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.
- ✓ If this principle is followed by everyone, there is no need to accept sannyāsa.

TEXT 128

*yāre dekha, tāre kaha 'kṛṣṇa'-upadeśa
āmāra ājñāya guru hañā tāra' ei deśa*

“Instruct everyone to follow the orders of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa as they are given in the Bhagavad-gītā and Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam. In this way become a spiritual master and try to liberate everyone in this land.”

37

Lesson 37: Become an ideal householder by 1. Offenselessly chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra and 2. Preach the instructions of Kṛṣṇa and to everyone he meets.

PURPORT: TEXT 128

One can remain comfortably in his residence:

- 1) We simply request everyone to chant the mahā-mantra
- 2) If one is a little literate and can read Bhagavad-gītā As It Is and Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, that is so much the better.
- 3) Refrain from sinful activities—illicit sex, meat-eating, gambling and intoxication.
 1. **No Illicit Sex** – most sinful.
 - a. Every person must get married.
 - b. Every woman especially must get married.

PURPORT: TEXT 128

- c. No prostitution: If the women outnumber the men, some men can accept more than one wife. In that way there will be no prostitution in society.
- d. No illicit sex: If men marry more than 1 wife, illicit sex will be stopped.
2. No meat eating: One can also produce many nice preparations to offer Kṛṣṇa—grain, fruit, flowers and milk.
3. No intoxication: smoking, drinking tea and coffee - People are already intoxicated by material enjoyment, and if they indulge in further intoxication, what chance is there for self-realization?
4. No gambling: It agitates the mind.

TEXT 129

*kabhū nā bādhibe tomāra viṣaya-taraṅga
punarapi ei ṭhāṇi pābe mora saṅga”*

Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu further advised the brāhmaṇa Kūrma, “If you follow this instruction, your materialistic life at home will not obstruct your spiritual advancement. Indeed, if you follow these regulative principles, we will again meet here, or, rather, you will never lose My company.”

38

Lesson 38: If one simply follows instructions of Lord Caitanya under the guidance of His representative, chants and preach, materialistic contamination will not touch him

PURPORT: TEXT 129

- ✓ It does not matter whether one lives in a holy place like Vṛndāvana, Navadvīpa or Jagannātha Purī or in the midst of European cities, where the materialistic way of life is very prominent. If a devotee follows the instructions of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, he lives in the company of the Lord.

PURPORT: TEXT 129

- ✓ Wherever he lives, he converts that place into Vṛndāvana and Navadvīpa.
- ✓ This means that materialism cannot touch him.
- ✓ This is the secret of success for one advancing in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

- ❖ At whosever house Śrī Caitanya accepted His alms by taking prasādam-convert dwellers to His sankīrtana movement - advise them – as Kūrma brāhmaṇa (TEXT 130)

39

Lesson 39: One should refrain from criticizing the followers of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu who engage in preaching and try to become humble and meek

PURPORT: TEXT 130

- ✓ There are many sahaḥjīyās who decry the activities of
 1. six Gosvāmīs – wrote books on devotional service
 2. Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura, Madhvācārya, Rāmānujācārya - Accepted many thousands of disciples to induce them to render devotional service
- ✓ They think - these activities are opposed to the principles of devotional service.
- ✓ Consider such activities simply another phase of materialism.
- ✓ Thus opposing Lord Caitanya's principles, they commit offenses at His lotus feet.

40

Lesson 40: Other lessons from the pastime of Kūrma brāhmaṇa

LESSONS FROM PURPORT: TEXT 130

1. One who surrenders to Lord Caitanya and is ready to follow Him with heart and soul does not need to change his location. Nor is it necessary for one to change his status. One may remain a householder, a medical practitioner, an engineer or whatever.
2. One has to learn humility and meekness at home, following the instructions of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, and in that way one's life will be spiritually successful.
3. One should not try to be an artificially advanced devotee, thinking, "I am a first-class devotee." Such thinking should be avoided.
4. It is best not to accept any disciples.
5. One has to become purified at home by chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa mahā-mantra and preaching the principles enunciated by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.
6. Thus one can become a spiritual master and be freed from the contamination of material life

Texts 136-155: Story of Vāsudeva suffering from leprosy

- ❖ Brāhmaṇa Vāsudeva - great person - suffering leprosy - body filled with living worms. (TEXT 136)
- ❖ Suffering from leprosy - Vāsudeva was enlightened - one worm fell pick it up and place it back again. (TEXT 137)
- ❖ Mahāprabhu touched - leprosy and distress went away - Vāsudeva's body beautiful (TEXT 141)

TEXT 143

*kvāhaṁ daridraḥ pāpiyān
kva kṛṣṇaḥ śrī-niketaṇaḥ
brahma-bandhur iti smāhaṁ
bāhubhyāṁ parirambhitaḥ*

He said, "Who am I? A sinful, poor friend of a brāhmaṇa. And who is Kṛṣṇa? The Supreme Personality of Godhead, full in six opulences. Nonetheless, He has embraced me with His two arms." (SMB 10.81.16)

- ❖ Being meek and humble - brāhmaṇa Vāsudeva worried -proud after being cured (TEXT 146)



TEXT 147

*prabhu kahe,—“kabhu tomāra nā habe abhimāna
nirantara kaha tumi ‘kṛṣṇa’ ‘kṛṣṇa’ nāma*

To protect the brāhmaṇa, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu advised him to chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra incessantly. By doing so, he would never become unnecessarily proud.

41

Lesson 41: To overcome pride one must chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra incessantly

TEXT 148

*kṛṣṇa upadeśi' kara jīvera nistāra
acirāte kṛṣṇa tomā karibena aṅgikāra”*

Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu also advised Vāsudeva to preach about Kṛṣṇa and thus liberate living entities. As a result, Kṛṣṇa would very soon accept him as His devotee.

42

Lesson 42: If one wants to be recognized as a devotee by Kṛṣṇa, he should take to preaching work

PURPORT: TEXT 148

- ✓ Although Vāsudeva Vipra was a leper and had suffered greatly, still, after Lord Caitanya cured him He instructed him to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness.
- ✓ Indeed, the only return the Lord wanted was that Vāsudeva preach the instructions of Kṛṣṇa and liberate all human beings.

ISKCON:

1. Each member of this Society was rescued from a very abominable condition.
2. Now they are engaged in preaching the cult of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.
3. They are cured of the disease called materialism
4. They are also living a very happy life.
5. Everyone accepts them as great devotees of Kṛṣṇa
6. Their qualities are manifest in their very faces.

Important Point:

By preaching, one will undoubtedly attain the lotus feet of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya, Lord Kṛṣṇa Himself, without delay.

- ❖ One who hears these pastimes - with great faith - surely very soon attain the lotus feet of Lord Śrī Caitanya (TEXT 152)

43

Lesson 43: A devotee of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu must engage in preaching in order to increase the followers of the Lord.

PURPORT: TEXT 152

- ✓ Ācārya: When a person actually revives his consciousness with thoughts of Kṛṣṇa by the mercy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, he revives his spiritual life and becomes addicted to the service of the Lord.
- ✓ In other words, everyone should engage in preaching, following in the footsteps of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.
- ✓ By thus preaching actual Vedic knowledge all over the world, one will benefit all mankind.

