

Śaranagati

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LIVING WITH HIGH ASPIRATIONS



We as *sādhakas* need to have divine aspirations. *Sādhana* produces a certain energy, but that is not enough. After all, energy can be used for different purposes. *Sādhana* must always be connected with a goal. We must think of this goal during our spiritual practice, otherwise we may never get anywhere. If we don't have a transcendental orientation, we will most probably not reach our goal. We might even run in circles, keeping our attachments to this world alive.

We are in an unfortunate condition: We have been informed about Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa and Their pastimes on the spiritual platform, but we are not absorbed in Their pastimes and Their reality. Instead we remain absorbed in the body. This is something like – as Śrīla Prabhupāda described it – rowing a boat but not lifting the anchor. We make efforts in our *sādhana*, but we keep the anchor of our attachment to the material world buried in the ground. This anchor consists of our previous intoxication with material life, our attachments, our *samskāras*, old desires and so on. This is a problem.

For this misfortune to stop one day, we need to develop high aspirations. Prabhodānanda Sarasvatī Ṭhākura gives us an example of such aspirations.

He says, “When will I live in Vṛndāvana and worry only about the service of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa in my heart? When will

my heart be immersed in love for Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa? When will I practice pure renunciation? And when will I bathe in the tears of love that stream down my face?”

This is how we can live in Vṛndāvana: not absorbed in material consciousness, worries and insecurities or plans, but absorbed in the question, “What service will I do for Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa?” These are high aspirations, high goals. This is what it means to do proper *sādhana* in Vṛndāvana.

How do we come to this level?

Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura tells us how. He says:

*biṣaya bipatti jāñasaṁsāra swapana mana
nara-tanu bhajanera mūla
anurāge bhaja sadāprema-bhābe līlā-kathā
āra jata hṛdayera śūla*

„Know that sense happiness is a calamity. Know that the material world is a dream. Know that this human life is the root from which devotional service may sprout. With love always worship Lord Krishna. With love always hear His pastimes. To do anything else is to plunge a spear in our own heart.“¹

“Sense happiness is a calamity”. Renunciation is important because it reduces the fever of material intoxication. However, because we are sometimes not willing to drink from the cup of renunciation we must remind ourselves that sense objects are a disturbance in life. We must understand that this material existence is only a dream lasting for a few days.

Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura says that the human form of life is a gift meant for performing *bhajan*, not for anything else. *Bhajan* means to search for Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. Don't try to use a violin to hammer a nail into the wall. Don't try to use the human form of life for anything other than *bhajan*. We are meant to play the melody of *bhajan*.

From a lecture by Śacīnandana Swami, Rādhā-kuṇḍa, India, October 10th, 2011.

¹ Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura. *Śrī Prema-bhakti-candrikā*. song 9, verse 6

THE REAL BEAUTY IS UP THERE

Rūpa Gosvāmī praises Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī saying: “Your limbs are more golden than pure gold.” One might ask: “How is this possible, to be more than the original substance? Can something be more golden than pure gold?” Yes, the transcendental complexion of Rādhārāṇī! It is the original ‘goldness’ from which all other gold has borrowed its golden color. The Govinda Lilāmṛta gives us an insight into this truth:

“After the creator had collected the essence of all sweetness and beauty, he took this essence and made Rādhā’s eyes with it. The leftovers from all this beauty and sweetness fell down to this world and took different forms: some became the black bees, some the deer and the cakora birds, and some of it became black and blue lotus flowers.”¹

This is a way of saying that everything in this world which you consider sweet and beautiful is only a leftover! When you see a beautiful woman or a handsome man, so beautiful that you could go mad, please understand: it is only a leftover! The real beauty is up there, in Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. This can help you become a celibate lover. When you see



something beautiful, you appreciate it. But you know the real beauty is somewhere else. Rādhārāṇī is more golden than the gold of this world. The pure gold of what is in this world is just a leftover, not as attractive.

☪ From a lecture by Śācīnandana Swami, Fruska Gora, Serbia, June 27th, 2007.

¹ Śrīla Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja. Śrī Govinda Lilāmṛta. ch. 10, verse 100

MY TEACHER TYPHOID

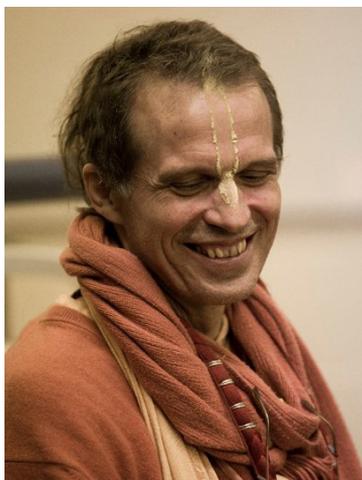


My to-do list falls to the side – my plans are burnt.
All I can do now
Is rest in the arms of the ultimate shelter, Girirāja.

But one sincere cry to You
Is better than millions of years
Marching in pride.

☪ Poem by Śācīnandana Swami (November 2011)

Photo by Micky Shah



MEET ŚĀCĪNANDANA SWAMI

Events over the next two months:

Dec. 28th- Jan. 1st	Saṅga-Melā-festival in Goloka dhāma, Germany
Jan. 27th- Jan.29	Rādhadeśa Mellows, Rādhadeśa, Belgium
Jan. 30th	Annual Kīrtan Convention, Rādhadeśa, Belgium

You can find a more detailed schedule at www.saranagati.net