

Śaraṇāgati

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SPIRITUAL LIFE IS A DIFFERENT TYPE OF LIFE



a way that it is peaceful and favorable for my spiritual development.” We should stand up and make a strong statement in our life, “I’m not going to be cheated. I have taken initiation in an old spiritual school, I will live differently.”

It is very important for devotees to understand that spiritual life is a different type of life. It is not like the fast materialistic way of life. Therefore it is important to give priority time to our sacred vows in which we are initiated. That is sixteen rounds each day – and good quality rounds, in a good time, in the morning time, when the day and its activities have not yet caught up with us. This way we can lay the foundation for eternity, for our going back to Godhead.

☪ from a lecture by Śacīnandana Swami, Zagreb, February 5, 2012

Initiation is the beginning of a committed spiritual life in which we learn the knowledge of our exalted spiritual lineage, our *paramparā*. The idea of first initiation is to obtain the Holy Name together with a firm intention to chant it a minimum of sixteen rounds each day. I know from my experience in *japa* retreats that it is sometimes difficult for devotees to keep this vow of chanting a minimum of sixteen rounds.

Somehow with the technological development people have less time, not more time – we were cheated by this technological advancement. With mobile phones we wanted to make things easier by always being able to reach everyone, but now the problem is that people are much more on the phone than in the past. We wanted to save time, but instead *maya* has stolen our time. Yes – we are cheated. Our life has become so busy, so stressed out. The internet is another example: the promise was that life will become easier, but now we have new addictions, internet addictions. Nowadays people spend six hours daily before the computer in average, did you know that? This is all *mayas* trick which takes people away from their spiritual roots.

So when we take initiation we might have to change a few things in our life so that we have the peaceful time necessary to chant, the time to have a genuine spiritual life. We have to revolt against constantly being cheated by the time thieves. Modern civilization is a big time thief. We don’t have genuine time in life for genuine spiritual things. We should say, “No! I will not be one of the cheated. I will arrange my life in such



WORDS OF OUR ĀCĀRYAS: USE YOUR TIME



Always chant, hear; don't waste time. Cāṅkya Paṇḍita, he is a moral instructor. He says about wasting time, he says, *āyusaḥ kṣaṇa eko .pi na labhya svarṇa-koṭibhiḥ*, "Even one moment of your life cannot be returned, even if you are prepared to pay millions of dollars." It is so valuable, time. One moment past. What is this month? April, now seven of April, 1975, past. If you ask one to return seven of April 1975, it is not possible even if you are prepared to pay millions of dollars. So just imagine what is the value of our time. So this time should not be wasted. We should always remain... You Western people, you know the value of time from material point of view. Material point of view. That is also good. Don't waste your time; engage always yourself in some good activities. But for spiritual advancement also, we should be more accurate and strict, *avyartha-kālatvam* [Cc. Madhya 23.18-19]. Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī has recommended that one who is always anxious to see that not a moment is spoiled, that is advancement of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, *avyartha-kālatvam nāma-gāṇe sadā ruciḥ, vivikta deva deśa sevitam*, like that. *Upadeśāmṛta*, you will find: "A devotee should always think, 'Whether my time is passed uselessly?'" Then he will make advancement.

from a lecture by Śrīla Prabhupāda, Māyāpur, April 8, 1975, Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi-līlā 1.15

Instead of thinking that life or time is what gives us our temporary material benefits, we should spiritualize time by engaging whatever time we have in the Lord's service. Even while busy with our various worldly activities, we must pay attention to our spiritual advancement.

Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, Amṛta Vāṇī, Material & Spiritual Topics, 42

Without wasting more time, one should try to achieve Kṛṣṇa's mercy. This applies to everyone – child, old man, young man, or woman. There is no guarantee that we will live for any particular amount of time; life could end at any moment. Therefore we should immediately begin to worship Lord Hari.

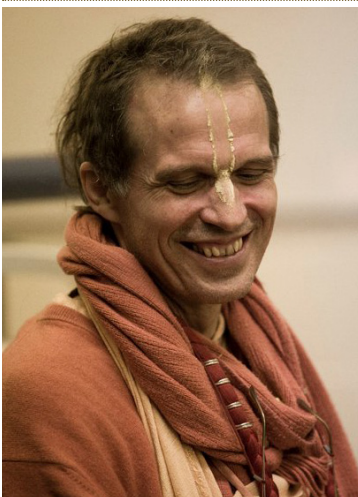
Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, Amṛta Vāṇī, Spiritual Life, 26

I repeat, this human life is short. Therefore, like the wayfarer at the inn, the *jīva* must diligently prepare for spiritual realization during the travels of his limited life span. It is foolish to waste time trying to improve arrangements at the inn during one's short visit, without concern for one's destination.

Śrīla Bhaktivinode Ṭhākura, Jaiva-dharma, chapter 9



Photo by Mickey Shah



MEET ŚĀCĪNANDANA SWAMI

Important events over the next months:

April 6th-12th Japa and Kīrtana Retreat, Bhaktivedanta College, Belgium

April 14th-15th YogaExpo (as a part of the spring expositions), Stuttgart

May 11th-13th Sacred Space Weekend Seminar Part 2, Switzerland

May 20th-27th Kṛṣṇa Samādhi Seminar, Goloka Dhāma, Germany

June 2nd-3rd 24h Kīrtana, Birmingham, UK

You can find a more detailed schedule at www.sacinandanaswami.com