

Topic - Vaishnava seva | Radhanath Swami

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Topic - Vaishnava Seva - An effort to emphasize devotee care in ISKCON
By Radhanath Swami

Notes -

Realization with Srila Prabhupada -

I am thinking the association of SP physically in chowpatty mumbai in 1971, SP was sitting on stage with sit with devotees in big park I felt totally outflexed and I am quite different and am living a life of seclusion. But when I was thinking to escape than SP glanced upon me in a such affection and I could practically hear his voice through his glance that its alright and I want to hear and from thereon I felt very comfortable. As he was coming of the stage and I want to touch his lotus feet because I been in india and its an ettiquette of touching feet. And one of his disciple chastised me and that time sp glanced on me such an affection that its alright you can touched my feet and SP said please come every morning and evening. I was listening to philosophy what he was preaching and lot of devotees tries to preaching me but really open my hearts is to want to hear more and more was that he has personal care for me SP had for me as a person. Later on, almost 6 months later I was in vrindavan SP came and that time devotees preaching and chastised me and that I should leave vrindavana and travels with devotees and work on projects and of course I havent become member of ISKCON and not yet accepted SP as my spiritual master. But I was attracted to him as a compassion which he was giving to people which is pure and authentic and cultured teachings of SB. But I was becoming distressed because I was feeling that there was prejudice against me because I wasn't fitting in the way others did. One day In near radha govinddeva, SP given a talk for vrajavasis and I came little late and that time SP was leaving and there was dozens of people and I bow down and I got up he was standing in front of me and he asked me, How long you would be living in vrindavan?

I became afraid because I don't want to displeased him. I told, I been here about 6 months and SP patted me with fatherly love and said, very good, vrindavana is most wonderful place. SP was reaching to my emotion and I will go anywhere if he could have tell me. Because bhakti is reciprocation of love and love of all levels. Later, I would see SP in time to time and in guru puja how SP cooking prasadam children to first and then elders. And how lovingly SP would smile at children. In that loving child we can able to see how SP loves to the soul of that child and very much mean we expressed our love to other soul which mean to interacting with us through the body and mind. SP could thanking devotees by giving flowers and encouraging others in every way. SP travels all around the world when he was sick and sometimes expressing in that way translating holy scriptures and he was travelling to remote places because he wants to encouraging devotees. And because he truly cared for all of us. SP was in New Vrindvana and every evening he gives darshan to devotee lawn and 20 30 devotees comes. Pradhymna pr and pusta krsna pr hari sauri pr would there to read SB and there will be QnA. He expressed so deep care to the devotees and in one incident he saw one girl - she was not famous girl - kripalata devi who were doing simple service was having cold. And SP gravely told to temple president that she needs warm clothes. She is humble devotee and will not tell you and as a leader we must know that we must take care of devotees. SP was really and establishing and reinforcing principles that we must care the devotees whoever comes to iskcon and they are all SP's children and SP care about them and as leaders we should care for devotees for health and love and emotions and encouragement and this is the

inseparable part of the keeping faith in devotees heart and they sees and feels and experiences and our philosophy is loving and caring each other. When maharaja was ill how SP so concerned when that devotee is in hospital. And that little things which are gestures of caring devotees health to keep faith in the process of kc and still 100s of devotees remembers that. Almost everything SP did was compassions. When he estd krsna balram temple he seen people coming from west and it is difficult for them to adjust the standards of living like in india and he builtd guest house so that they cannot become accustomed to the austere life of india and they could be comfortable and so that they can completely focus the mind in KC and keep the mind in chanting and hearing. During mayapur dham in the first festival - he was very concern with mosquito net, prasadam is nutritious and when they are sick gives medical ailments. SP was caring person. All devotees are krsna's children so how SP cared about reaching people in general. SP said Our temples are just that to feel people will become comfortable to hear about krsna. SP was again and again reminding us to become relevant to people's consciousness to keep faith in path of PDS. SP would care vaishnavas and he would said that he had sheds buckets of blood for each devotee has come to KC and how much leaders should take care of those devotees.

Foundational principles -

- Sometimes devotees asked where devotee care coming from and we don't read in SP books. But actually we learn constantly in SP books that about vaishnava seva - the idea of devotee care is the word of vaishnava seva which came GBC want to organize the idea of vaishnava seva. Vaishnava seva is the integral part is the heart of teachings of ISKCON. Gopi bharatur pada kamalayor das das anu das - in how many times SP emphasized to become servant of the servant of the servant. Krsna says service to my devotees is much dear to me than service to me.
- SP through the history of CC, SB and constantly emphasizing that how much lord loves devotees and devotees must be servant of the servant of the servant. LCM is krsna in the mood of supreme lover radharani to exemplify how we should be devotee and lcm gives standard how we become devotees. When lcm was in south india in kurmashetra vasudev sees lcm who has leprosy. Nobody knew him and he was outcast and he came to take shelter lcm and lcm turn around and walked many miles to care for vasudev and not only gives ecstasy to him but also cured leprosy. LCM cared for his devotees physically, emotionally and spiritually.
- Everyday lcm comes to haridas thakur and during mahaprakash lila haridas thakur was beaten in 22 market places and lcm revealed to all of us and took beating mark in his own back to save haridas thakur's lives. LCM cared his body and protected haridas thakur. LCM cared so much to his devotees through the mind and body and soul.
- Krsna comes to this world and saved his devotees like jatayu and gajendra.
- When we care devotees in every level we nourish devotee's faith.
- I seen devotees who have heart attack and I see so many devotees for them, father got healed but he cook for them, and serve them with community came together to serve him and in process seeing this and his son surrendered his life he became prominent empowered brahmachary. And he seen that how devotees cared each other. This is the vaishnava seva.
- In rgm I could see that unless devotees HAVE faith, inspired and encouraged spiritually nourished and care for, then would not really be sustainably empowered. And when Things beyond my capacity which I tries to organized this so this spiritually and emotionally and physically we can express the care for to offer our devotees.
- As leaders we must offer everything we can to encourage devotee's faith and sadhana and service attitude.
- Two things are essential -
 - Leader have to care if you are truly represent SP who have given their lives whether they are congregation or living in temples because they are SP children because SP shed buckets of

blood for them.

- We need to be organized because that is the expression of caring. Things start to grow then we must be assured that we are giving the best of our best to them as we can. This is the heart of LCM pastimes and SP's pastimes in this world.

Particular anecdote of this system of care within the community of chowpatty -

- When Sridhar Maharaja was sick and going to his last days in Mayapur when I was leaving Mayapur to come to Mumbai that time and called me on phone and offered his gratitude to me that he was so much merciful and affectionately grateful offering prayers for them that they care so much. Caring for body, mind and soul of Vaishnava is Vaishnava seva.
- He was emphasizing the principles that how valued it is to SP when we care about each other would any devotee be cared for.

Devotee care only possible is possible to only you have good finance, how would we be able to have proper care in this -

- If mother and father are struggling financially and that doesn't mean that they are not doing anything which is caring for children or themselves. Each one of our projects and temples is spiritual family, SP family. And whatever struggles are and it must be the top priority to care for devotees who are with us because if devotees don't feel care for then they will be discouraged, this material world is a very hard place and will try to beat us down and try to compromise our faith. Because community is the inseparable part of our faith in Krsna.

Top principles in grihastha ashrama -

- During last week of BTM, he revealed our hearts to each other where he told BTG goes to remote location and BTM seen JPS in that place. Sometimes very late light to help to congregational devotees in temple.
- BTG was so much appreciating JPS that how much he cares to congregational devotees.
- JPS gives heart to congregational devotees who gives so much care who are in need.
- Not only I gives honor to JPS but also BTM because he was appreciating these qualities.
- One who is appreciating each other's qualities which is inseparable those people also appreciate it.
- JPS given so much love to each other to individual devotees and that's why he is the one of the most empowered leaders in devotee care and in order to reach everyone we really need to organize in such a way that each and every person should nourish the faith the association of devotees in the way to transform and sustain them.
- Adu sradha - The beginning we must develop faith and through that faith. Through faith Krsna helps us to bring in to association of devotees. Through that association our faith grows deeper to our heart and then we develop faith in sadhana and we inspired to perform our sadhana and seva and gradually we reach to bhava or prema.
- We need to help devotees the day they had enter into family or KC community. They must be appreciated and inspired to love Krsna. And that's what faith is about.
- In congregation, we experience that in giving, we receive.
- When devotees from the congregation not with the desires of leader or control someone but with a very really caring and humble desire to serve.
- More grihasthas take responsibilities to help each other in Vaishnava seva, the more they make spiritual progress.
- SP emphasized in giving KC to others than Krsna manifest in us.
- The more grihasthas take this responsibility to serve other devotees we get Krsna's mercy and we

grow more in KC

- In giving KC to others we get krsna's mercy and we grow more in KC.

Thank you very much
Hare Krishna