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## GIVE UP NONSENSE TALKS

*His Divine Grace A. C.  
Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada*

The installing of telex communications for our main temples is not required. Then they will gossip more through the telex. (Letter to Gurudasa, 5 February 1977.)

Never waste your time in any other talks. I think our students have already developed this attitude and they are not interested in idle talks. Ambarish Maharaja set a nice example by engaging his mind always on the lotus feet of Krishna and talking always about him. We should follow the same example." (Letter to Upendra, 4 July 1968.)

Another impediment is *prajalpa*, unnecessary talking. When we mix with a few friends, we immediately begin unnecessary talking, sounding just like croaking toads. If we must talk, we should talk about the Krishna consciousness movement. Those outside of the Krishna consciousness movement are interested in reading heaps of newspapers, magazines, and novels, solving crossword puzzles and doing many other nonsensical things. In this fashion people simply waste their valuable time and energy. In the Western countries old men, retired from active life, play cards, fish, watch television and debate about useless socio-political schemes. All



*His Divine Grace A. C.  
Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada*

these and other frivolous activities are included in the *prajalpa* category. Intelligent persons interested in Krishna consciousness should never take part in such activities. (From the purport to verse 2 of *Nectar of Instruction*.)

The next impediment to devotional service is *prajalpa*, talking of mundane subject matters. Many people unnecessarily talk of the daily happenings in the newspapers and pass the time without any profit. A devotee, however, does not indulge in unnecessary talks of politics or economics. (From the purport to text 5 of *Narada-bhakti-sutras*.)

*Prajalpa* means talking all nonsense. Some speak about politics, “What did Mr. Nixon do yesterday? What did he say?” What interest do we have in Mr. Nixon? We should not waste our time talking about politics, sociology, and cinema affairs. We have nothing to do with that. That is called *prajalpa*, unnecessary talking. Talking means decreasing your duration of life. Why should you decrease your life unnecessarily? You have to utilize every moment, thinking, “Was it used for Krishna?” This is *sādhana*, practice. Unnecessary talking creates unnecessary enemies, “You are my subordinate; I am your master.” Who is master? Everyone is subordinate to Krishna. No one is master. Why do you talk unnecessarily? (Lecture on 3 January 1974.)

Unnecessary talking all nonsense — politics, rascaldom, speculation, this and that. No. Be grave. Don’t talk nonsense and waste time. (Arrival address in New Zealand, 27 April 1976.)

Your suggestion that the devotees visiting Vrindavan engage in preaching and chanting and not in gossiping is very good. We have sacrificed our life for Krishna’s service, so where is there scope for sleeping and gossiping? You can see in my example that not a single moment is wasted. (Letter to Gurudas, 5 February 1977.)

## PROSTITUTE-LIKE TOPICS

***Srila Bhaktisiddhanta  
Saraswati Thakur Prabhupada***

When out of aversion to the service of the Supreme Lord the living entities become conditioned, sense gratification then becomes their only goal of life. Conditioned souls are fully absorbed in gratifying their senses. The speech of conditioned souls is confined to material names, forms, qualities, and activities suitable to their sense gratification. Therefore, since the living entities have no opportunity to hear topics of Krishna’s names, forms, qualities, and pastimes, they become entangled in scrutinizing other subject matters.

Desiring eternal benefit for the living entities, Sri Gaurasundar blessed them with the words, “May the propensity for serving Krishna awaken in you.” He further prohibited them from engaging in the *prajalpa* of discussing names, forms, qualities, and activities not related to Krishna. In other words, he instructed them to always engage in congregational glorification of Hari. As soon as discussion of topics related to Hari diminishes, discussion of sense gratification becomes prominent. This results in inauspiciousness. (Purport to *Caitanya-bhāgavata, madhya* 23.74.)

Devotees consider all objects to be ingredients of the Lord’s service. If we see things with a service attitude rather than a spirit of enjoyment, then everything is worshipable. If there is a gap in our hearing, chanting, or remembering the Lord, then we will be swallowed by the idea that we are the enjoyer. If we become absorbed in gossip we will lose the opportunity to associate with *sādhus* and therefore lose the serving mentality.

Hearing and chanting about Hari is both *sādhana*, the process of attaining the goal of life, and *sādhya*, the ultimate goal. By good fortune we have received a human body. By good fortune and the grace of guru and Krishna, we have been given an opportunity to serve the Supreme Lord. If we waste our time in idle talk then we are misusing that gift. It is our duty to always discuss *hari-kathā* and to cultivate Krishna consciousness. By doing so we can become the Lord’s devotees, become free from the material concept of life, and attain perpetual happiness. (From *Amṛta Vāṇī*, “A Devotee’s Vision”, anecdote 18.)

Hearing worldly topics is more harmful to us than eating palatable foods. Similarly, speaking *prajalpa* is more harmful to others than our dressing opulently. When we gossip or indulge in worldly topics, we become like prostitutes. Gossip contaminates and disturbs people’s hearts. The more taste one has for useless talks, the less natural taste one has for *hari-kathā*. Srila Raghunath Das Goswami said, *asad vārtā veśyā visāja mati sarvasya hārinīḥ* — “Worldly topics are like prostitutes. They contaminate and disturb one’s mind.” Whenever a few people gather there is



Sri Sri Radha Govinda

bound to be idle talk. That is why devotees always glorify *hari-kathā*. If we discuss *kṛṣṇa-kathā*, no one will have the opportunity to gossip. Those who are serious about worshiping Hari should neither hear nor speak worldly topics, nor should they pay attention to palatable foods or opulent dress. The desire to eat and dress opulently will certainly take us away from our worship of Hari. We cannot worship Hari as long as we desire to eat voraciously and dress attractively. Moreover, if we maintain a taste for hearing and speaking worldly topics, we will become distracted from the path of worshiping Hari. Such talks will misguide us and force us to forever relinquish our worship. Therefore persons who are interested in Lord Hari's service must be careful about such things. Otherwise they will inevitably fall down. (From *Amṛta Vāṇī*, "Devotional Service", anecdote 3.)

Don't gossip. Gossip benefits no one. Understand carefully what is good for you. And don't blaspheme.

The *mahājanas* have said that blasphemers never achieve anything good. Let the materialists engage in whatever activities they choose — we need not bother about them. But think about yourself. We often say that while others are bad, we are worse. It is imperative that we keep our sinful minds engaged constantly in worshiping the Lord. To spend time attacking others, trying to dissuade them from this or that, is not the preacher's course but the act of a cheater. We have become busy in various activities and have forgotten our original constitutional duty. Make a sincere endeavor to clean out the filth accumulated in your heart. Although this appears to be self-interest, it is essential and should be done immediately, because preaching without following has no value. Unless one constantly engages in *hari-bhajana*, it will be impossible for him to induce others to worship Hari. (From *Amṛta Vāṇī*, "Preaching", anecdote 9.) ❀

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## "FAVORABLE" PRAJALPA

### Srila Bhaktivinode Thakur

#### How can conversations, songs or poetries, be favorable to devotional service?

If one can relate ordinary talks, songs and poetries with Krishna then one will achieve perfection in converting them as favorable to devotional service. (*Sajjana-toṣaṇī* 4.9.)

#### Is discussing about others at the time of giving instruction regarding devotional service to Hari unfavorable for devotional service?

When a guru enlightens his disciple on some topic, then unless he occasionally talks about others his instruction may not be clear. When previous *mahājanas* talked about others in this way then there was merit in such talk, not fault. (*Sajjana-toṣaṇī* 10.10.)

### Is *prajalpa* that is favorable to devotional service harmful?

All the *mahājanas* have respected the *prajalpa* that enhances one's devotional service to Hari. (*Sajjana-toṣaṇī* 10.10.)

### When is discussing about others not faulty?

Discussing about other's faults with a good purpose has not been condemned in the scripture. There are three kinds of good purposes. If by talking about the sinful activities of a person one benefits that person then such a discussion is auspicious. If such a discussion benefits the world then it is counted amongst pious activities. And if such a discussion gives benefit to oneself then it is also auspicious and not a fault. (*Sajjana-toṣaṇī* 5.5.)

— *Śrī Bhaktivinoda Vāṇī Vaibhava*, chapter 30. Compiled by and with questions from Sri Sundarananda Vidyavinode. Translated by Bhumiapati Das, Published by Iswara Das and Touchstone Media. 2002.

## SEE GOOD IN OTHERS, FAULTS IN YOURSELF

### *Sri Srimad Gour Govinda Swami Maharaja*

Those who have come to the *maṭha*, to the guru's *āśrama*, should not develop bodily consciousness. Don't talk about anything but Krishna. If you speak



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things like, "Oh, this is nutritious food, if you eat it then your health will be nice," that is *prajalpa*. Give up all *prajalpa*. Only speak *kṛṣṇa-kathā*. There should be no *prajalpa* in the *maṭha*. One should be very, very careful.

Don't be a fault-finder. Don't see fault in others. "See good in others and see faults in yourself." That is the saying. The proportion varies, but everyone has some good and some bad in them. You should see the good in others and not see the bad. Then you will make advancement on this path of devotional service. Otherwise you will not make advancement.

It's not your work to see other's faults. That is Gurudeva's duty. He has accepted that responsibility. If there is some fault in another, he will slap that person and correct him. That is Gurudeva's duty to see fault, to see what is wrong with others. It is not your duty. Don't become fault-finders. You should think, "He is engaged in doing nice service. I cannot do what he is doing. Just see how he is making advancement, how he has developed good qualities. I do not have such qualities." See all good things in others; don't see any wrong in them. Then you'll make advancement.

Take a vow: "I will never see anything bad in others. I will see all good in others and I'll see bad in myself." Practice this and see what good result comes. ॐ

— From a lecture in Bhubaneswar, 30 December 1995.

## THE GOSSIP OF VRAJA

### *Srila Raghunath Das Goswami's Śrī Vraja-vilāsa-stava, text 105*

*anyatra kṣaṇa-mātram acyuta-pure premāmṛtāmbho-nidhi  
snāto 'py acutya-sajjanair api samāṇi nāhaṇi vasāmi kvacit  
kintv atra vraja-vāsinām api samāṇi yenāpi kenāpy alani  
sailāpāir mama nirbharaḥ prati mulhur vāso 'stu nityam mama*

Even if I have the opportunity to bathe in the nectarean ocean of pure love for Krishna, and even if I have the pure devotees of the infallible Supreme Personality of Godhead as my associates, I will not consent to live even for a single moment in any sacred place other than Vrajabhumi. Even if the residents of Vraja appear ordinary, and even if they fill my ears with useless gossip. I pray that I remain amongst them, eternally residing here in Vraja. ॐ

— Quoted in *Bhakti-ratnākara* 5.3767. English translation by Kusakratha Das. Published by Krishna Library. Alachua, Florida.