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MONEY IS NOT THE HONEY

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I want to mention something about Sri Bhajana Rahasya, written by Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura. We will do well to understand the Thakura's process of bhajana. He was a magistrate officer. During the daytime he was in court, and after court he had to write his judgments. It was at night, therefore, that he wrote so many books. Taking some very light prasadam and going to sleep at about nine or ten p.m., he would wake up early, at around twelve or one in the morning. In his siddha-deha, Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura is known as Kamala Manjari, and therefore, very early in the morning, he would perform bhajana as a parakiya gopi, always remembering asta-kaliya-lila and totally absorbed in that. Then, later in the morning, he would again write judgments.

During his householder life, Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura wrote more than one hundred books in many languages, including English. His Jaiva Dharma grantha (scripture) contains the highest exposition of tattva, and he has written it just for us. It is a treasure for us. In Bhajana Rahasya, which will now be under discussion, Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura has divided our bhajana into eight sections. As Krsna's pastimes are divided into eight parts, asta-kaliya-lila, similarly, the Thakura divided our bhajana into eight parts: nisanta (end of night), dawn, morning, and midday (madyana), then afternoon, dusk (sayana), evening, and midnight.

Our bhajana also develops in this way. The first part of our bhajana is sadhu-sanga. One should have sraddha (faith) in sadhu-sanga. Faith begins in sadhu-sanga. Elevated sadhus will explain that we are eternal servants of Krsna. We must serve Krsna and chant. He will say, "Don't have any worldly desires, don't engage yourself in any worldly sense gratification. Krsna is almighty. He has invested all His power in His holy name. Sravanam, kirtanam, and all the other nine or 64 limbs of bhakti are very powerful. You will be happy if you engage in these processes of bhakti. You cannot be happy by collecting so many things for your sense gratification, especially money, money, money, and more money.

Money will give you only danger; so don't go there. Money cannot give you peace and happiness. If you have money, somehow make it favorable for bhakti. But don't desire money. If money disappears, then pray to Krsna, "Oh, You are very merciful. You have kindly taken away everything and made me a street beggar."

Be like Srivasa Pandita. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu asked him, "What are you doing? You are doing nothing to earn money. How will you maintain your life and your family?" Srivasa Thakura clapped his hands – one, two three. Mahaprabhu asked, "What is this

'one two three'?" Srivasa Thakura replied, "My brothers and I are chanting and performing kirtana. If we cannot get anything for maintenance, we will fast for one day. The second day we will also fast, and also on the third day. If nothing comes on the fourth day, we will jump in the Ganges." Mahaprabhu replied, "Laksmi may have to beg something; you will never have to beg. I will personally carry your paraphernalia." And He did so.

By hearing hari-katha, one immediately develops a strong belief in Krsna and thus gives up everything else. This is called sraddha. If you have actually attained sraddha, if sraddha is actually in your heart, but you are not in sadhu-sanga, that sraddha will disappear very soon. Even your sannyasa will not save you if you are not in the association of self-realized souls. So many sannyasis have already fallen.

When you come in our stage, then bhakti may save you. Srila Haridasa Thakura had pure sraddha. He pledged, "Even if someone kills me, I will not stop chanting Krsna's name." So many devotees, even those who have taken diksa, second initiation, have asked me, "Gurudeva, I have so many problems. I have no money. Should I stop chanting and serving the Deities? I cannot maintain these practices. Please allow me to stop chanting and serving the Deities."

I have always replied, "I can never allow this. If you die, there is no harm in that; but I cannot allow you to stop chanting. At least you should chant one round. Even if you can't chant on your mala, still you should chant. Also, you should serve your Deities. I will not allow you to stop."

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