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A SHORT LESSON FOR ALL DISCIPLES, OLD AND NEW  
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We should try to always obey Srimad Bhagavatam, Caitanya-caritamṛta and all of Srila Rupa Gosvami's books. They are not actually books, neither are they mythologies. They are Kṛṣṇa Himself, and in some cases they are more than Kṛṣṇa. Just as Kṛṣṇa's name is more powerful than He Himself because He has invested all His power in it, He has also invested all His power in Srimad Bhagavatam.

When the associates of Sri Caitanya Mahāprabhu tried to convince Him to meet with King Prataparudra, He rejected their proposal:

niskincanasya bhagavad-bhajanonmukhasya  
param param jigamisor bhava-sagarasya  
sandarsanam visayiḥam atha yositam ca  
ha hanta hanta visa-bhaksanato' py asadhu

"Greatly lamenting, the Lord then informed Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya, 'Alas, for a person who is seriously desiring to cross the material ocean and engage in the transcendental loving service of the Lord without material motives, seeing a materialist engaged in sense gratification or seeing a woman who is similarly interested is more abominable than drinking poison willingly.'"

This verse is meant for one who is niskincana, one who has given up material possessions and already has a taste for harinama and harikatha. If such a person who has an ambition to cross over the material ocean sees any materialistic person or a woman in the mood of enjoyment, this is more dangerous than deadly poison. That aspiring devotee has promised, "I must leave sense gratification," and therefore this verse and this instruction has been given for his benefit.

If one says, "I make no distinction between ladies and men," such a person is foolish. If one is sensitive to pain when a needle is stuck into his skin, then how, at that stage, can he feel that someone else is neither a lady nor a man? Such a person simply cheats himself or herself.

This instruction has also been given in relation to Narada Rsi and Sri Caitanya Mahāprabhu's own associate, Chota Haridasa. [Narada and Chota Haridasa are associates and therefore can never come under the influence of lust; but they did so apparently in order to show us that even if we think we are advanced we should be careful.] Therefore you should not take it lightly. If you want to cross over the ocean of birth and death, take this verse seriously.

Guru is he who can take all the moods of the disciple, change them, and offer them unto the lotus feet of Radha and Kṛṣṇa. He'll take away all worldly attachments and transform them into attachment for Radha-Kṛṣṇa. A bona fide guru does not think, "I'm the

enjoyer." He thinks, "Radha and Krsna are the enjoyers." A guru can change the disciple's material moods into the moods of service of Radha and Krsna, and he himself has no enjoying mood.

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