

**SB 1.2.6: The supreme occupation [dharma] for all humanity is that by which men can attain to loving devotional service unto the transcendent Lord. Such devotional service must be unmotivated and uninterrupted to completely satisfy the self.**

1. In this statement, Śrī Sūta Gosvāmī answers the first question of the sages.
2. The Vedas prescribe two different types of occupation for the human being.

<b>pravṛtti-mārga</b>	<b>nivṛtti-mārga</b>
Path of sense enjoyment	Path of renunciation (sacrifice for the supreme cause)
Inferior	Superior
Diseased condition of actual life	Actual life is spiritual existence or brahma-bhūta existence
Temporary, illusory and full of miseries	Eternal, blissful and full of knowledge
There is no happiness at all	Eternal happiness
Aggravates the disease and increases its duration	Cures the disease

3. Only pure devotional service can give one complete satisfaction:
  1. Performing devotional service for material gain obstructs one’s progress.
  2. Should be without any tinge of unnecessary desire, fruitive action and philosophical speculation.
    - Definition of Pure Devotional Service – “One should render transcendental loving service to the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa favorably and without desire for material profit or gain through fruitive activities or philosophical speculation. That is called pure devotional service.” (*anyabhilasita-sunyam*, [CC Madhya 19.167](#))
  3. Can be done even in the present conditional state of material existence.
    - “Anyone who, by his actions, mind and words, lives only for the transcendental loving service of the Lord, is certainly a liberated soul, even though he may appear to be in a condition of material existence.” (*ihā yasya harer dāsye*, [Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu 1.2.187](#))
  4. This alone can lead one to perpetual solace in His service.
4. Why should one serve the Lord to be satisfied?
  1. A living being’s dharma is to coordinate his activities with his eternal relation with the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa.
    - Dharma is defined as “that which sustains one’s existence.”
    - Kṛṣṇa is the central pivot of living beings, and He is the all-attractive living entity or eternal form amongst all other living beings or eternal forms. (*nityo nityanam cetanas cetananam*, [Katha Upanishad 2.2.13](#))
    - Kṛṣṇa is the complete whole, and everything else is His part and parcel. The relation is one of the servant and the served.
      - If we water the root of the tree, rest of the tree is also nourished.
      - All the parts of the body serve the stomach and in turn get nourished.
      - **Example:** Story of how senses go on strike without serving the stomach and starve. ([If Kṛṣṇa is not satisfied we starve](#))
      - If we serve and satisfy Kṛṣṇa everyone else is satisfied.
      - **Example:** ([Durvasa muni visits the Pandavas](#))

2. This relationship between the servant and the served is transcendental and the most congenial form of intimacy. One is able to realize this as one progresses in devotional service.
  - Completely distinct from our experience in material existence.
  - Our prayer while chanting should be to engage oneself in service.
  - **Examples:** South African baby care-takers
3. The Lord being fully satisfied, the offering of service only benefits the devotee. Just like if one's face is decorated, the reflection of one's face in a mirror is also seen to be decorated. ([SB 7.9.11](#))

**[SB 1.2.7:](#) By rendering devotional service unto the Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, one immediately acquires causeless knowledge and detachment from the world.**

1. The Bhakti Cult is the topmost of all transcendental activities
  1. It is both sublime and easy.
    - It is sublime for the pure devotees
    - It is easy for the neophytes
    - It gives direct perception of the self by realization, and it is joyfully performed. ([BG 9.2](#))
  2. This great science is open to all living beings (*mām hi pārtha vyapāsṛitya*, [BG 9.32-33](#)):
    - The śūdras, vaiśyas, women and even those lower than the lowborn śūdras
    - The high-class men like the qualified brāhmaṇas and
    - The great self-realized kings.
  3. The other high-grade activities such as sacrifice, charity, austerity, etc., are all corollary factors following the pure and scientific bhakti cult.
2. The two important factors on the path of transcendental realization - knowledge and detachment
  1. One gains perfect knowledge of everything material and spiritual
    - Kṛṣṇa gives the knowledge from within. (*tesam satata-yuktanam*, [BG 10.10](#))
    - **My incident:** During our initiation, our Guru Maharaja blessed us: "I wish you both material and spiritual progress".
  2. One becomes detached from material affection and becomes attached to spiritual activities. What is this detachment?
    - It does not mean becoming inert altogether
    - It means not undertaking activities that will produce good or bad effects.
    - It does not make one callous to suffering; rather being fixed in the spiritual conception, he never falters in his service to Kṛṣṇa. (*Real Tolerance - Being dutiful in all circumstances*)
  3. How does practice of bhakti result in detachment?
    - Bhakti path leads to realization of the positive form; as a result the negative forms are automatically eliminated.
    - With the application of positive service to the positive form, one naturally becomes detached from inferior things, and becomes attached to superior things.
      - Owing to the higher taste in bhakti, inferior taste in material sense enjoyment pales. (*viśayā vinivartante*, [BG 2.59](#))
    - The bhakti cult, being the supermost occupation of the living being, leads him out of material sense enjoyment.

- Bhakti is bonafide sense enjoyment, which will never lead to frustration.
  - It actually happens by the grace of the Almighty.
  - Why don't we often see us making progress?
    - One should pull out the anchor first. (***At least lift your anchor***)
    - Advancement in Kṛṣṇa consciousness depends on the attitude of the follower. (***Preface to Nectar of Instruction***)
    - Advancement slows down due to offenses.
    - Radha Krishna Prabhu once said, "Your flight is in the air, it is just matter of time when it will reach the destination".
3. In conclusion, one who is a pure devotee has all other good qualities, namely knowledge, detachment, etc., but one who has only knowledge or detachment is not necessarily well acquainted with the principles of the bhakti cult. Bhakti is the supermost occupation of the human being.