

SB 1.2.8: The occupational activities a man performs according to his own position are only so much useless labor if they do not provoke attraction for the message of the Personality of Godhead.

1. There are different occupational activities in terms of man's different conceptions of life:
 1. The gross materialist cannot see anything beyond the gross material body and the senses. Therefore his occupational activities are:
 - Concentrated Selfishness - Centers around the personal body.
 - Generally seen amongst the lower animals.
 - Extended Selfishness - Centers around the family, society, community, nation and world with a view to gross bodily comfort.
 - Is manifested in human society.
 2. The mental speculators hover aloft in the mental spheres. Their occupational duties involve:
 - Making poetry and philosophy or propagating some -ism with the same aim of selfishness, limited to the body and the mind.
 3. Above the body and mind, is the dormant spirit soul, whose absence from the body makes the whole range of bodily and mental selfishness completely null and void. The spirit soul is:
 - Beyond the purview of the body and mind.
 - Beyond the gross body and subtle mind.
 - The potent active principle of the body and mind, which are, but its superfluous outer coverings.
 - The working senses are superior to dull matter; mind is higher than the senses; intelligence is still higher than the mind; and he [the soul] is even higher than the intelligence. (*indriyāṇi parāṇy āhur*, [BG 3.42](#))
 - Goal of one's life should be to give up subtle body as well, at the moment of death. This can be accomplished only when one attains love for the Supreme Lord.
2. Less intelligent people have no information on the needs of the spirit soul. Hence, they are not satisfied in the performance of their occupational duties.
 1. Real dharma means constitutional duty. So real dharma, real religion is to become servant of God, or to render service to God.
 - When a Bum serves Srila Prabhupada by placing bathroom tissue, Srila Prabhupada says, "It is a natural tendency to give some service." ([It is natural to serve](#))
 - Story of the ([Scorpion and the Sage](#))
 - Story of Karna being tested by his Guru whether he is a Brahmin. ([Karna deceives his Guru Parshurama](#))
 - Radha Krishna Prabhu wrote to me, "We are, by nature, servants not masters. So we thank for the service granted to us."
 2. **Analogy:** Simply by cleansing the cage of the bird, one does not satisfy the bird. One must actually know the needs of the bird too. ([Bird in the cage](#))
 3. What are the needs of the spirit soul?
 - He wants to get out of the limited sphere of material bondage and fulfill his desire for complete freedom.
 - He wants to get out of the covered walls of the greater universe.
 - He wants to see the free light and the spirit.
 - He wants to love and be loved.

4. How to achieve the soul's desire for complete freedom?
 - It is achieved when he meets the complete spirit, the Personality of Godhead for whom he has dormant affection.
 - Spiritual existence is manifested through the gross body and mind in the form of perverted affection for gross and subtle matter.
 - Krishna Consciousness is not an artificial imposition on the mind. This consciousness is the original energy of the living entity. ([Purport to the Hare Krsna mantra](#))
 - Our eternal love for Krsna is transformed into lust in this world under the influence of material mode of passion. (*kāma eṣa krodha eṣa*, [BG 3.37](#))
 - We have to engage ourselves in occupational activities that will evoke our divine consciousness.
 - By hearing and chanting the divine activities of the Supreme Lord
 - Any occupational activity which does not help one to achieve attachment for hearing and chanting about Krsna is simply a waste of time. Why?
 - It cannot give liberation to the soul.
 - **Example:** The activities of the salvationists are useless because of their failure to pick up the fountainhead of all liberties.
 - **Example:** The material gain of a gross materialist is limited only to time and space, either in this world or in the other. He will find no permanent abode for his hankering soul.
 - **Practical application:** We should deal with each other in such a way that our attachment for hearing and chanting increases; else it is a waste of time.
 - **Example:** When Dasaratha maharaja meets Vishwamitra muni he asks how his effort to conquer over the cycle of birth is going on.
 - The hankering soul must be satisfied by the perfect scientific process of perfect devotional service.

SB 1.2.9: All occupational engagements are certainly meant for ultimate liberation. They should never be performed for material gain. Furthermore, according to sages, one who is engaged in the ultimate occupational service should never use material gain to cultivate sense gratification.

1. The general tendency of any ordinary man, anywhere, is to gain some material profit in exchange for religious or any other occupational service.
 1. Even in the Vedic literatures, for all sorts of religious performances, an allurements of material gain is offered.
 2. This is kaitava dharma - cheating religion. (*dharmah projjhita-kaitavo 'tra paramo nirmatsarāṇām satām*, [SB 1.1.2](#))
 3. Pure devotional service to the Lord is actually followed by perfect knowledge and detachment from material existence. (*vāsudeve bhagavati*, [SB 1.2.7](#))
2. Why are such, so-called men of religion allured by material gain?
 1. Dharma -> Artha -> Kama
 2. Sense gratification is the general way for all sorts of fully occupied men.
3. One should not engage himself in any sort of occupational service for material gain only. Nor should material gain be utilized for sense gratification.
 1. It should be utilized for "Apavarga" or ultimate liberation. ([Pavarga – material conditional life](#))

4. How material gain should be utilized is described in the next verse.

SB 1.2.10: Life's desires should never be directed toward sense gratification. One should desire only a healthy life, or self-preservation, since a human being is meant for inquiry about the Absolute Truth. Nothing else should be the goal of one's works.

1. In a completely bewildered material civilization, in all spheres of life, the ultimate goal is to indulge in sense gratification.
 1. In politics, social service, altruism, philanthropy and also, in any religious activity or even in salvation, the tint of sense gratification is ever-increasingly predominant.
 2. Even those, who are on the path of salvation, desire to become one with the Absolute Truth and desire to commit spiritual suicide for sense gratification.
 3. No one is serious about the problems of life.
2. The Bhagavatam says that one should not live for sense gratification. Rather one should seek the Absolute truth.
 1. One should satisfy the senses only so much as required for self-preservation, and not for sense gratification.
 - Devotional service provides bonafide sense enjoyment where one is never met with frustration.
 - Devotees are most intelligent - they know how to really enjoy.
 2. One should follow regulative directions for satisfaction of senses but not indulge in unrestricted enjoyment.
 - **Example:** Marriage or the combination of a man with a woman is necessary for progeny, but it is not meant for sense enjoyment.
 3. The ultimate end must be to seek the Absolute Truth, and that sort of engagement will:
 - Protect one from being allured by unnecessary engagements in sense gratification
 - The sincere students are always overwhelmed with the work of researching the Truth.
 - Because of higher taste (*viṣayā vinivartante*, [BG 2.59](#))
 - **Example:** Family planning is automatically executed as soon as there is search for the Absolute Truth.
 - **Example:** My experience of working on the website.
 - **Example:** Srila Prabhupada makes halwa for a disciple who has a taste for eating chocolate. (*Higher taste*)
 - Make one happy because he will be less engaged in varieties of sense gratification.
 4. What that Absolute Truth is, is explained in the next verse.