

**SB 1.2.24:** Firewood is a transformation of earth, but smoke is better than the raw wood. And fire is still better, for by fire we can derive the benefits of superior knowledge [through Vedic sacrifices]. Similarly, passion [rajas] is better than ignorance [tamas], but goodness [sattva] is best because by goodness one can come to realize the Absolute Truth.

1. "Brahma-darsanam" means realizing the impersonal Brahman (first understanding of the Absolute Truth).
  1. Especially in human form of life one has to inquire about the Absolute truth else by nature's way one gets a cat body or a dog body. (***You take the body you want***)
2. One has to rise to the platform of the mode of goodness (sattva) so that one can be eligible for the devotional service of the Lord. (***Necessity is fire***)
  1. A person in the mode of goodness knows how to eat, how to sleep, how to have sex life, how to defend, he does not act like animals without any discrimination.
  2. The so-called scientists, they cannot see God because, they're not on the platform of goodness.
  3. **Analogy:** Just like we cannot see the sunshine sitting in the dark room, we cannot realize God if we are situated in the lower modes. (***Come out to see the light***)
  4. **Analogy:** Just like a high court judge is paid very lump sum money for just sitting on his chair and simply thinking, mode of goodness has real value. Being foolishly active in the mode of passion and ignorance has no value. (***Sober activity is required***)
3. Anyone, even from the platform of tamas, can gradually rise to the sattva platform by the expert direction of the spiritual master.
  1. The bona fide, expert spiritual master is competent to direct a disciple from any stage of life: tamas, rajas or sattva.
  2. Srila Sanatana Gosvami says – "As one can transform kamsa, or bell metal, into gold by treating it with mercury, one can also turn a lowborn man into a brahmana by initiating him properly into Vaisnava activities." (***Transforming bell metal into gold***)
  3. Prabhupada was asked "What is our qualification to do all these things and to have all these things?" Prabhupada said very humbly that, "You have no qualifications; I've made your qualifications". (***I have made your qualifications***)
    - We should not worry about our conditionings or limitations; mercy of Guru parampara is delivering us. Our effort is not all in all.
    - We should have faith in the instructions and simply follow them - "Along with the instructions of the spiritual master comes the ability to execute it".
4. Except Viṣṇu, all separated forms are manifested under the conditions of material energy, and therefore cannot help anyone to rise to the platform of sattva.
  1. There is a qualitative difference between the different kinds of worshiping methods as well as the respective results derived.
    - The uncivilized state of life, or the life of the lower animals, is controlled by the mode of tamas.
    - The civilized life of man, with a passion for various types of material benefits, is the stage of rajas.
      - There is a slight clue to the realization of the Absolute Truth in the forms of fine sentiments in philosophy, art and culture with moral and ethical principles.
    - The mode of sattva is a still higher stage, which actually helps one in realizing the Absolute Truth.

2. When Lord Brahma was asked for the boon of immortality by Hiranyakasipu, he says, "Even I am not immortal, how can I grant you immortality". ([I cannot grant you immortality](#))

**SB 1.2.25:** Previously all the great sages rendered service unto the Personality of Godhead due to His existence above the three modes of material nature. They worshiped Him to become free from material conditions and thus derive the ultimate benefit. Whoever follows such great authorities is also eligible for liberation from the material world.

1. The ultimate aim of religious performances is to release oneself from material bondage. It is neither -
  1. To profit by material gain nor
    - **Example:** Christians pray God give us daily bread. Communist ask to pray to them and give bread and proclaim there is no God. But actually bread is given by God through them. ([Approach God for wealth and get cheated](#))
  2. To get the simple knowledge of discerning matter from spirit.
2. Laws of religion are directly enacted by the Personality of Godhead. (*dharmam tu sākṣād bhagavat-praṇītam*, [SB 6.3.19](#))
  1. Except for the mahājanas, or the authorized agents of the Lord, no one knows the purpose of religion.
    - Impersonalists mentally concoct that the Supreme is impersonal.
    - Vedantists say they have become Kṛṣṇa. We should challenge them to prove their supremacy.
      - **Analogy:** Simply by saying one is rich; one is not accepted as a rich person one has to prove he is rich. ([Show you are rich](#))
  2. There are twelve particular agents of the Lord who know the purpose of religion, and all of them render transcendental service unto Him. They are -
    - Lord Brahmā, Nārada, Lord Śiva, the four Kumāras, Lord Kapila [the son of Devahūti], Svāyambhuva Manu, Prahlāda Mahārāja, Janaka Mahārāja, Grandfather Bhīṣma, Bali Mahārāja, Śukadeva Gosvāmī and Yamaraja. (*svayambhūr nāradaḥ śambhuḥ*, [SB 6.3.20](#))
  3. Persons who desire their own good may follow these mahājanas and attain the supreme benefit.
3. "Agra" means in the beginning of creation. The great sages beginning with brahma worshipped the Supreme Lord.
  1. They did not worship Brahman or Paramatma, they worshiped directly the supreme Lord.
  2. There were no impersonalists or voidists. These are later additions.
  3. As the ages are going on, people are becoming degraded in their standard of spiritual understanding.
  4. They have manufactured many things.
  5. There is no necessity to worship demigods.
    - **Example:** Kṛṣṇa stopped his father from worshiping Indra.
    - **Example:** Brahma reveals to Narada that the Lord is the ultimate supreme and he also worships him. ([Supreme is Supreme](#))
4. Visuddham - He is never touched by the material contamination.
  1. Therefore the Lord is called "Parah". Parah means above this material world, transcendental.

5. Another name of the Supreme Personality of Godhead is "Adhoksajam".
  1. Aksaja, aksaja means direct sense perception. Adhah, you cannot reach there by direct perception. Adhoksajam means one who is beyond direct perception.
  2. He is above creation, before creation, His existence is not within this creation, therefore cannot reach by experimental science.
  3. We have to know Krsna from Krsna, not by our speculation.
    - If we speculate it is frog philosophy. (***We cannot speculate***)
    - We have to take to this process of devotional service, rendering service unto Him. (***bhaktya mam abhijanati, BG 18.55***)
  4. We do not have any capacity to find out Krsna by research work.
  5. Krsna says that "I am the supreme." We have to accept that. We cannot interpret in a different way.
    - **Analogy:** Just like sun is self-effulgent, one can see one need not search the sun with a lamp. Similarly, Krsna is self-effulgent by sastra, by authority, by action. We don't need to research to find him. (***Krsna is self-effulgent***)
6. Then, how can we worship Him?
  - Take shelter of the spiritual master who has seen Him. Adu gurvasrayam. (***tad viddhi pranipatena pariprasnena sevaya, BG 4.34***)
  - Approach the Lord by surrender.
  - The spiritual master's duty is to engage us in devotional service, especially engage our tongues, in chanting Hare Krsna and in tasting Krsna prasadam. (***sevonmukhe hi jihvadau, CC Madhya 17.136***)
  - So simply engage our tongue, he'll give you Krsna. The things have been made so easy, actually, but unfortunate class of men, they cannot take to it.