

# The Higher Taste

*For those who want to stay high for ever!*

Don't "fall" in love, but "elevate" in love!!!

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## APPETIZER


Valentine's Day, another excuse for couples, surcharged with love, to get closer to each. It has incessantly gained a lot of attention in the past few years; this day is welcomed with intense fervor by lovers from all around the world. Flowers, cards, gifts are sold profusely; love at its zenith is manifested on the day which has gained popularity at par with Indian festivals. It's a busy day for everyone from lovers to loafers, moralist to radicals and even florists to shopkeepers. Love is a thread that binds humanity as pearls around a string. It's that power which transcends the petty considerations of body caste or color. Love as we see in this world is manifested in relationships viz. master and servant, friendship, parenthood and conjugal relationships. Thus the exchange of love gets more intimate as there is a progression from servitor hood to conjugal relationships. But lately we are seeing situations where the meaning of love is changing constantly.



## MAIN COURSE

Times are changing rapidly as many choose to fall in the booby but beautiful trap of love. Yes, we "fall" in love, but never "elevate" in love. This is not to portray love as a blasphemous emotion, or a taboo but to prove that the consciousness in which an activity is carried put plays a paramount role in its execution. Gradually we have seen that the meaning lo love has deteriorated into lust. That's why there is a plethora of bachelor daddies, spinster mummies, married strangers, friends for "FUN", spouses with paramours Etc in the contemporary society. Love may be blind but marriage is an eye opener. This shows that the satisfaction levels of individuals are going on declining, or the so called love which we look for in a relationship is a farce. Even if it exists, still, it's short lived and fickle. Till the time when the couple is ready to fulfill each other's expectations it prevails otherwise dwindles. So let's first of all discuss what love, in the light of Srimad Bhagvatam, is? Srimad Bhagvatam says *ahaituky apratihataḥ yayātmā suprasīdati*. True Love must be unmotivated and uninterrupted to completely satisfy the self.



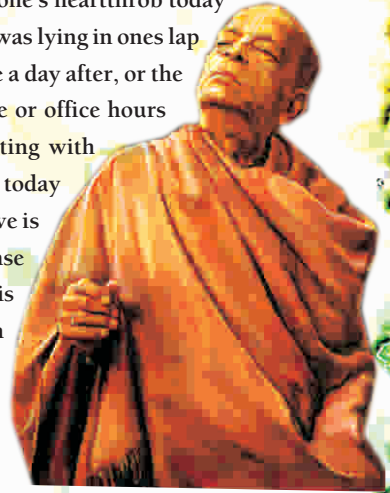


Hence true love is causeless and unmotivated, which is completely satisfying to the self. Love begins when both the subject and object are engaged in loving service to each other and hence accrue pleasure. So love and loving service are synonymous as when we love someone we want to serve that person lovingly. This is manifest when cosmological promises are made (esp. in Hindi movies) that if you say “I can get u a piece of moon or of star or this galaxy or I can give my life for you”. Thus service can't be divorced from loving exchange. But the bhagwatam asserts that this loving service should be causeless and uninterrupted and unmotivated. This is the art of loving. If every one of us try to live up to this definition of love then the world can become heaven but ironically this is not the case.

Let's try to understand everything step by step. If we trace our steps retrograde we'll find that an era 100 years back or before was very peaceful, with the society mostly consisting of joint families, people of responsibility, having love, respect and selfless feelings for all including animals and plants. It was as if the whole world had united under one roof as a family or vāsudhaiv kutumbakam. Obviously, one who keeps Krishna in the centre of his life fosters the vāsudhaiv kutumbakam culture. This indeed was the culture, before the advent of nuclear families and TV-Video culture! Earlier, There was no hankering for personal gratification and pleasures, gradually the metamorphosis to more disintegrated society became well evident and the selfless transformed into selfish, this started surfacing as egocentric clashes between communities or nations or clans, when the old began to be neglected and people became so egocentric as never before. There only concern was bread, butter and pleasure. The source of pleasure also changed radically. From aesthetic adoration to brisk walks to sports to community and political gossips to cinemas to money and finally the present society dwells in carnal pleasures as the only source of pleasure, of which sex being the topmost. The society at present blinded by hedonistic pursuits has embraced nihilism to support its maneuvers. We are so filled with selfish desires that even nuclear families are not sustaining and people are turning to illicit relations or divorce or suicide. Even, a master servant relation is nothing beyond the realm of money and friendship is limited to satisfaction of whims by either party, children have started kicking their parents off as useless oldies. We're now witnessing an intense disintegration where after the division of nuclear families even individuals are getting divided in themselves hence they have become confused and frustrated, leading to an upsurge in the number of schizophrenics who are finding their way to asylums or psychiatrist clinic. In Delhi, even 10-12 years old are starring along with teens in love stories which are ending in psychiatric clinics say doctors. Blame it on unlimited talk time or web or anything, mental health expert's point that the teenage has an unwelcomed complexity of broken relationships. There is nothing official about it but the age of falling in love and nursing broken hearts is getting lower.



Hence perspicacious analysis makes it clear that people are becoming more and more selfish which is manifested in the perverted love of today. The person who is one's heartthrob today may be the cause of a fatal heart attack tomorrow or the one who was lying in one's lap today may be seeking a peaceful haven in the lap of someone else a day after, or the person for whom one might have spent his after school, college or office hours chasing on bike to successfully make a relation, might be sitting with someone else on another bike in postures too intimate. People today want to do all nonsense and when confronted make a plea that love is selfless so they should be loved selflessly and whatever nonsense they are doing must be shrugged, the society as a whole is becoming more and more irresponsible day by day. The situation worsens when in an unnatural fit of philanthropy we tend to love many people at the same time following today's definition of love. Also, the boon in technology and access to pornography is misleading children.



Now we will discuss how to get free of these contaminations, taking lessons from the Vedas. Vedic knowledge is guileless and spotless. It teaches the concept of soul and hence binds all the living entities under the banner of part and parcels of Lord Krishna who is always accompanied by his consort Srimati Radharani, love personified. This knowledge transgresses petty considerations of bodily designations and consolidates the fundamental principles of responsibility, selflessness, love, tolerance, humility as a bed rock of the society.



This is the art of real loving which encompasses everyone along with God, Krishna. This is perfect love for all uncontaminated by selfish motives for enjoyment, we don't have to restrict our enjoyment in any case but we just have to make the centre of our relationship Krishna and thereby making it sublime. It just takes a change in consciousness which can promise long lasting and sweet benefits. In the world we are attracted to a person who is strong, famous, intelligent, wealthy, renounced or beautiful. Krishna is the summum bonum of all these qualities. Srila Shankaracharya sings about Krishna as follows:

*adharam madhuraṁ vadanam madhuraṁ nayanam madhuraṁ hasitam madhuraṁ  
hr̥dayam madhuraṁ gamanam madhuraṁ madhurādhi-pater akhilaṁ madhuraṁ*

“His lips are sweet, His face is sweet His eyes are sweet, His smile is sweet His heart is sweet,  
His gait is, sweet—everything is sweet about the original Lord of Sweetness.”

## DESSERT

As we are Krishna's parts we eternally love him, and so love his creations as well as his other parts or living entities but this love has been obstructed by strong material conditioning. It's said in the Chaitanya Charitamrita Madhya Lila 22.108:

*nitya-siddha kṛṣṇa-prema 'sādhyā' kabhu naya śravaṇādi-śuddha-citte karaye udaya*

“Pure love for Kṛṣṇa is eternally established in the hearts of the living entities. It is not something to be gained from another source. When the heart is purified by hearing and chanting, this love naturally awakens.

So this pure love can be easily awakened by the process of chanting. When we love someone we keep taking his/her names to friends in utopia or in dreams, so the same principal has to be applied here. By chanting *Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare/ Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare*, anywhere and every time. This will fill up the lacuna which is currently prevailing in our dry hearts with torrents of pure love. In this way only, can we “elevate” in pure love and not “fall” in love!!!



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