

## CHAPTER TWELVE

# Devotional Service

### TEXT 1

*arjuna uvāca  
evaṁ satata-yuktā ye  
bhaktās tvāṁ paryupāsate  
ye cāpy akṣaram avyaktaṁ  
teṣāṁ ke yoga-vittamāḥ*

**Arjuna inquired: Which are considered to be more perfect, those who are always properly engaged in Your devotional service or those who worship the impersonal Brahman, the unmanifested?**

### TEXT 2

*śrī-bhagavān uvāca  
mayy āveśya mano ye mām  
nitya-yuktā upāsate  
śraddhayā parayopetās  
te me yukta-tamā matāḥ*

**The Supreme Personality of Godhead said: Those who fix their minds on My personal form and are always engaged in worshiping Me with great and transcendental faith are considered by Me to be most perfect.**

### TEXTS 3-4

*ye tv akṣaram anirdeśyam  
avyaktaṁ paryupāsate  
sarvatra-gam acintyaṁ ca  
kūṭa-stham acalaṁ dhruvam  
sanniyamyendriya-grāmaṁ  
sarvatra sama-buddhayaḥ*

*te prāpnuvanti mām eva  
sarva-bhūta-hite ratāḥ*

**But those who fully worship the unmanifested, that which lies beyond the perception of the senses, the all-pervading, inconceivable, unchanging, fixed and immovable – the impersonal conception of the Absolute Truth – by controlling the various senses and being equally disposed to everyone, such persons, engaged in the welfare of all, at last achieve Me.**

### **TEXT 5**

*kleśo 'dhika-taras teṣām  
avyaktāsakta-cetasām  
avyaktā hi gatiḥ duḥkham  
dehavadbhir avāpyate*

**For those whose minds are attached to the unmanifested, impersonal feature of the Supreme, advancement is very troublesome. To make progress in that discipline is always difficult for those who are embodied.**

### **TEXTS 6-7**

*ye tu sarvāṇi karmāṇi  
mayi sannyasya mat-parāḥ  
ananyenaiva yogena  
mām dhyāyanta upāsate  
teṣām ahaṁ samuddhartā  
mṛtyu-saṁsāra-sāgarāt  
bhavāmi na cirāt pārtha  
mayy āveśita-cetasām*

**But those who worship Me, giving up all their activities unto Me and being devoted to Me without deviation, engaged in devotional service and always meditating upon Me, having fixed their minds upon Me, O son of Pṛthā – for them I am the swift deliverer from the ocean of birth and death.**

### TEXT 8

*mayy eva mana ādhatsva  
mayi buddhiṁ niveśaya  
nivasīṣyasi mayy eva  
ata ūrdhvaṁ na saṁśayaḥ*

**Just fix your mind upon Me, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and engage all your intelligence in Me. Thus you will live in Me always, without a doubt.**

### TEXT 9

*atha cittaṁ samādhātum  
na śaknoṣi mayi sthiram  
abhyāsa-yogena tato  
mām icchāptum dhanañ-jaya*

**My dear Arjuna, O winner of wealth, if you cannot fix your mind upon Me without deviation, then follow the regulative principles of bhakti-yoga. In this way develop a desire to attain Me.**

### TEXT 10

*abhyāse 'py asamartho 'si  
mat-karma-paramo bhava  
mad-artham api karmāṇi  
kurvan siddhim avāpsyasi*

**If you cannot practice the regulations of bhakti-yoga, then just try to work for Me, because by working for Me you will come to the perfect stage.**

### TEXT 11

*athaitad apy aśakto 'si  
kartum mad-yogam āśritaḥ  
sarva-karma-phala-tyāgaṁ  
tataḥ kuru yatātmavān*

If, however, you are unable to work in this consciousness of Me, then try to act giving up all results of your work and try to be self-situated.

### TEXT 12

*śreya hi jñānam abhyāsāj  
jñānād dhyānaṁ viśiṣyate  
dhyānāt karma-phala-tyāgas  
tyāgāc chāntir anantaram*

If you cannot take to this practice, then engage yourself in the cultivation of knowledge. Better than knowledge, however, is meditation, and better than meditation is renunciation of the fruits of action, for by such renunciation one can attain peace of mind.

### TEXTS 13-14

*adveṣṭā sarva-bhūtānāṁ  
maitraḥ karuṇa eva ca  
nirmamo nirahaṅkāraḥ  
sama-duḥkha-sukhaḥ kṣamī  
santuṣṭaḥ satataṁ yogī  
yatātmā dṛḍha-niścayaḥ  
mayy arpita-mano-buddhir  
yo mad-bhaktaḥ sa me priyaḥ*

One who is not envious but is a kind friend to all living entities, who does not think himself a proprietor and is free from false ego, who is equal in both happiness and distress, who is tolerant, always satisfied, self-controlled, and engaged in devotional service with determination, his mind and intelligence fixed on Me – such a devotee of Mine is very dear to Me.

### TEXT 15

*yasmān nodvijate loko  
lokān nodvijate ca yaḥ  
harṣāmarṣa-bhayodvegair  
mukto yaḥ sa ca me priyaḥ*

**He by whom no one is put into difficulty and who is not disturbed by anyone, who is equipoised in happiness and distress, fear and anxiety, is very dear to Me.**

### **TEXT 16**

*anapekṣaḥ śucir dakṣa  
udāsīno gata-vyathaḥ  
sarvārambha-parityāgī  
yo mad-bhaktaḥ sa me priyaḥ*

**My devotee who is not dependent on the ordinary course of activities, who is pure, expert, without cares, free from all pains, and not striving for some result, is very dear to Me.**

### **TEXT 17**

*yo na hr̥ṣyati na dveṣṭi  
na śocati na kāṅkṣati  
śubhāśubha-parityāgī  
bhaktimān yaḥ sa me priyaḥ*

**One who neither rejoices nor grieves, who neither laments nor desires, and who renounces both auspicious and inauspicious things – such a devotee is very dear to Me.**

### **TEXTS 18-19**

*samaḥ śatrau ca mitre ca  
tathā mānāpamānayoḥ  
śītoṣṇa-sukha-duḥkheṣu  
samaḥ saṅga-vivarjitaḥ  
tulya-nindā-stutir maunī  
santuṣṭo yena kenacit*

*aniketaḥ sthira-matir*  
*bhaktimān me priyo naraḥ*

**One who is equal to friends and enemies, who is equipoised in honor and dishonor, heat and cold, happiness and distress, fame and infamy, who is always free from contaminating association, always silent and satisfied with anything, who doesn't care for any residence, who is fixed in knowledge and who is engaged in devotional service – such a person is very dear to Me.**

### **TEXT 20**

*ye tu dharmāmṛtam idaṁ*  
*yathoktaṁ paryupāsate*  
*śraddadhānā mat-paramā*  
*bhaktās te 'tīva me priyāḥ*

**Those who follow this imperishable path of devotional service and who completely engage themselves with faith, making Me the supreme goal, are very, very dear to Me.**