

Life's Amazing Secrets: 10 Golden Keys by Gaur Gopal Das (Transcript)

Here is the full transcript of life coach Gaur Gopal Das on Life's Amazing Secrets: 10 Golden Keys at ISKCON Youth Services. For more details about the speaker, [read the bio here](#).

YouTube Video: (Slideshow + Golden Quotes)

Gaur Gopal Das – Life coach

Hare Krishna!

Once [Sir Winston Churchill](#) was invited to give a talk, and when he came in the stage, the person who was meant to introduce him, introduced him. And after the introduction, then Winston Churchill said after hearing that introduction, even I'm interested in what I have to say. After all of that, now I think I have to look at what I have to say.

Thank you all very much for being here.

So it's my great privilege, pleasure, and honor to be here, this evening, with the youth Mumbai for this monthly Prerana festival, for which I would like to first of all place on record my sincerest gratitude to the IYS admin – ISKCON Youth Services admin for having given me this opportunity to discuss something with all of you this evening. My sincerest gratitude to all our guests who are here this evening. I sincerely welcome all dignitaries, VIP guests, for the Prerana festival. And, of course, I would like to welcome each and every single one of you, the energetic, restless youth of Mumbai. I believe there is youngsters come from Pune, Nigris, Sangamner, Nasik, some of the devotees are here. So I would like to welcome all of you for this evening's Prerana festival.

Recently, just about four weeks back, I was in Madrid, Spain for a retreat. And while speaking there, I was talking about Indians. And I was talking about this country called India. And I was talking about the youth of India. And I was saying how Indians are very smart people. All over the world, if there's someone who is really minting money, that's Indians. If you go to Silicon Valley, all the software engineers practically are Indians – doctors, engineers, lawyers, everyone, flooded all over. You travel, it's quite amazing to see all the Indian people. And I must tell you smart men and ladies, you know –

I usually say, once [Albert Einstein](#) was on a flight and right next to Albert

Einstein was sitting an Indian. So it was a long-haul flight and Albert Einstein was extremely bored. So he turned towards the Indian and said, "Shall we play a game?" He said, "What's the game all about."

So Albert Einstein said, "Look, I'll ask you a question. And if you cannot answer the question – you should pay me 50 rupees, if you cannot answer the question. And then you ask me a question and I as a renowned scientist from Great Britain, if I cannot answer the question I'll pay you 5000 rupees – in pounds, he said, I'm converting. 5000 rupees." So he said OK. The Indian man said, 'Your turn first, sir'.

So Albert Einstein said, "What is the distance between the Sun and planet Earth?" Very coolly, the Indian man pulled out 50 rupees, said 'I don't know' and take it. What difference would it make anyways, you know?

So Albert Einstein said, 'Now your turn sir'. So the Indian man asked Albert Einstein: "What is that animal which walks up a mountain with three legs and comes down with four?" So the scientist was totally taken aback by a shock: What do you mean? You know, he pulled his laptop out, so he called for the steward, 'give me internet access, asked for a pay phone on the flight, called up to all of the scientists and no answer; frustrated. He pulled out 5000 rupees, slammed it in the hands of the Indian man and said, 'I don't know.' The Indian man coolly put the money in his pocket, went back to sleep.

So Albert Einstein was so annoyed, he woke him up, said 'Idiot, I gave you 5000 rupees. Now tell me what is that goes up a mountain with three legs and comes down with four?' The Indian man pulled out 50 rupees, said 'I don't know'.

I must tell you when it comes to the smartness of you guys, including myself, not you guys – when it comes to making money, gosh, people are so smart in this country to make money. I don't think Indians are just smart, they are very sparing as well.

I met a guy in Great Britain, I was in London walking on the streets. And this man, British man comes up to me and says, "Hey, are you a monk? I said, "Yes, of course".

He said, "Would you like to know the secret to be rich?"

"Why not?"

He said, "The secret to be rich is not about earning money."

I said, "Really?"

He said, "The secret to the rich is not about earning money; it's about not spending money".

I said, "I am an Indian; you don't have to tell me about that".

And therefore, as usually tell people, if you want to know what an Indian is like, who is an Indian, then Indian person is a person who after the shampoo is over puts water on it and still finishes it, you know. An Indian person is a person who when the toothpaste is over will use the bail-in to squeeze the last drop out and then throw it in the bin. You know, an Indian guy is a guy who will go to a shopping mall and buy broccoli which is 300 rupees a kilo, will buy Turkish cherries which are 1423 rupees a kilo, and will come to the counter while paying the money, he'll say, "Will you give a little bit of dhania patta for free?" So you know, an Indian! He goes to eat the *pani puri*, and even the richest man waits for the shookha puri.

An Indian person – how do you know an Indian? When the T-shirt is torn and has holes in it, then an Indian will use it in the night. When it's now not even usable in the night, then he'll use it for holy. And when it's not even usable for holy, then he will use it for his poor child. I must tell you – I must tell you we are sparing. We're sparing. We are smart, but not just smart, we're sparing. Therefore people earn a lot of money, they make a lot of saving. Others, most people squander all they have, you know – smart to earn and very prudent and intelligent to save. But I don't think that's just all.

Indians are just so patient. God, just so patient; they don't have a choice. If you're living in a city like Mumbai, you don't have a choice. If you're driving on the road, a place where you would probably reach in about 20 minutes, you would take about an hour and a half.

And standing in a queue! God, it seems like eternal life, it's like eternity standing in a queue. One of our American friends came, American body, and we took him on a second class three-tier to Kolkata to go to Mayapur, some of us. And the fan wasn't working – Indian railways – and as the fan wasn't working, this guy was getting restless – it's hot! I said 'Welcome to Indian Railways'. 'It's hot; it's hot', he's shouting.

So then the fan wasn't starting. So one guy, he's like a regular man, he asks me, "Do you have a comb with you?" I said, how do I have a comb? India is what it is, how do I have a comb? So then this guy he turns – like a normal man, then when he asked for a comb, got the comb, stood up on the seat, and started pushing the fan, you know. And the fan started! This American man was amused. He said, "How did it start?" I said, "Electrostatic energy". People in this country can be so patient to solve problems; isn't it? Don't you think so?

If something gets spoiled, do you throw it? Jab tak screwdriver pura hoke pura gone case hogaya na, mein toh nahin fekunga. I wouldn't throw; therefore it's not surprising that all software engineers, successful ones are Indians, because problem-solving requires a lot of patience – requires a lot of patience. When you deal with everything in this country, don't think it's useless, even if it's forced upon us, gives us a very powerful virtue called patience. And to problems, not just software issues, even life issues and life problem needs a lot of patience. Therefore marriages do not easily break; nowadays they are. But they didn't easily break here because there was

a lot of patience to deal with it, keep solving it. Kuch toh hoga, kush toh nikalega, sudaregi, sudarega, keeps going, you know. Keep trying, keep trying to solve the problem. And if it doesn't work, abhi kya hain, ji lenge abhi. And then we'll just pull along and that's this –

So I always felt that this country made people very patient, didn't it? And Bollywood – you know what it is. What shall I say, but Bollywood is what it is, isn't it? I was again in Madrid with a group of youth and I was – I just learned someone sent me a *bhajan* on the phone. Just a bhajan on the phone on Whatsapp, I didn't even know what it meant with the song. And because it was just buzzing in my head, while I was giving the talk in Spain, I started humming it in a Hare Krishna melody, so I started singing – [*singing Bhajan*] It was just a melody that came from a song that's bhajan someone sent me, I didn't even know what it was. And this one guy, British fellow, comes and says, 'Tu hi he, tu hi he' and I thought he's telling me 'tu hi he'. Then I realized it seems like, you know, it's a very popular Bollywood melody, he told me. I said God, I won't sing it again.

But I must tell you all of you youngsters: Smart, sparing, patient, colorful in Bollywood, yet then there is – see, how many people come? Isn't it? When we are trying to discuss life's amazing secrets, see how many people come. Congratulations to all of you and my deepest gratitude to all of you for being with us here this evening to unveil life's amazing secrets.

The pitcher, one guy comes and asks me while on the way here, 'Pandit ji, tota kidar hain?' Always looking at, you know, kuch hamara hoga kya uske saath? Admission milega kya?

Astrology, jyotishaashtra, palmistry, parrot cards, tarot cards, everyone is wanting to know the secret that life holds for future. How many of you would like to take a journey into the future? Thank you. How many of you would be interested to know how long you would live? There are some courageous souls. How many of you would like to know who your life partner would be?

Oh my God, astrology is such a big thing. I was coming from some country, only Air India International flight I ever took, I don't go on Air India now, never – just once, and it was a free flight, only 75 of us. And one Indian man was totally drunk. Matalab, he had thought *itna paisa diya, aakhri bun khali karke hi utarunga*. And then he was kind of lying down there and he comes – I was sitting there; he comes up to me and says, 'Pandit ji, haath dekhte hain?' I said, jarur dekhte, laao.

He stuck his palm out, I said *liver cirrhosis hone wala hain*.

He said, *barabar bola, doctor ne bhi yahi bola tha*.

I said it doesn't require astrology to see the way you're drunk that you will get liver cirrhosis, you know.

One guy came up to an astrologer, and said, *bahut problem chal raha hain sir*,

bahut problem chal raha hain. He said, looked at his kundli, said, *sanni ka sare saath di hain tere ko.*

‘Bolo to, kya karega, saab bolo?’

‘Tum do so rupaya do, ham puja kar dega.’

So this guy said, *do so rupaya nahin hain saab?*

So he said, ‘so rupaya de do’.

He said, ‘so bhi nahin hain’.

He said, ‘Mere bhai, pachas de de – das de, das de, das me puja karta’

‘Das bhi nahi hain’.

He said, ‘ek de de yaar, ek rupaya mein puja kar dega tera’.

He said, ‘ek rupaya bhi nahin hain’.

He said, ‘tu ja, tu ja, ek rupaya bhi nahin hain, sanni kya begarega tera, tu ja’. What will Sanni do to you, you know? You get lost. You don’t have anything, what will Sanni anyways do to you? But this place seems to be a place where astrology is so strong. My God, so strong and people just get into it all. It’s quite amazing.

I am sure all of us are looking for answers of what would happen with us; isn’t it?

Prediction is not hard to make [*Sanskriti*] One who was born will die, with no exceptions; isn’t it? One who was dead will be reborn, with no exceptions, isn’t it? One who is born will be dead, one who is dead will be born. And ladies and gentlemen, we have no control. I don’t have any control over how I was born and where I was born. I don’t have any control over what my looks look, what family I was born, in what country I was born, what social economic class I was born in, I had no control over it. And I must say that we truly have no control over when life ends and how we die. Just cardinal facts of life.

But there is something that we have control over, which can make life beautiful. Therefore I generally say life is a journey between two alphabets: B and D, where B stands for birth and D stands for death, as simple as that. What is life? A journey between these two points: B.D. segment – BD. You know geometry? Draw segment BD of length, you decide. *Sabka segment BD alag, alag fixed hoke aya hain, geometry teacher wahang bethke sab fixed kar diya hain.* Both are out of control.

What is in control is between the alphabets ‘B’ and ‘D’ is an alphabet called ‘C’. Between B and D is a C, and that C is *Choice*. We can all learn to choose. As we live our lives, we can all learn to choose, not to prove, but

to improve. We can all learn to choose, not to react but to respond. We can all learn to choose how not to get affected by what's happening in our lives all around us and it does, we fail our exams despite all the good we do, I do have control over how I choose to take it. And therefore I generally say what is life? They say, it's from B to D, birth to death, but what's between B and D is a C, and what's the C, it's a choice. Our life is a matter of choices lived well, it won't easily go wrong. You can't change your situations, you can change your response, ladies and gentlemen.

How many of you want to be happy in life? Happy. I'm sure you all want to, isn't it? How many would like to know the 10 golden keys? We're all driven by a strong urge for pleasure; aren't we? All of us; all of us. Why do we all want to eat fancy foods? You can eat *daal roti*, no? Daal roti, daily? Khao, dhal roti daily, bhai peth bharega, shakti milega; pizza kyong chahiye? Pizza? Berger kyong chahiye? Samosa! Rosa Goola! Kyong chahiye? Why you want it? Aare saab, maja aata hain.

Why do you want? Because you want to have pleasure. Pleasure is something that we are all driven by. Why do you want to earn money? Just because you want money? Because money can buy you the fanciest gadgets, money can buy you a plush home; money can take you for a vacation to Zurich; money can buy you the best designer diamonds; money can buy you the best brands and you think that all of the stuff I have – we're all driven by a strong urge for pleasure. We want to eat nice food to get pleasure; we want to earn money to get pleasure; we want to make relationships for what? For pleasure. We are all pleasure seeking – [*Sanskriti*] we're all looking for *anand* – pleasure. We are all looking for it in all of these different avenues to see if we can squeeze out a little drop out of that little rosa goola, if we can squeeze out a little drop with that girl sitting under the tree at Peddar Road or Hanging Garden, wherever, somewhere; and squeeze out a little drop out of the cake when I watch. We're all looking under strong drive for pleasure. That key I will find; where will I find the key to that? Sense of pleasure that I have, we all want that secret. How many of you want to know the secrets of everything?

A successful professional businessman – “Sir, what's your secret? How did you do it?” You know, people keep asking that question. One guy goes to a very successful millionaire, and says, “Sir, what is the secret of your being a millionaire?” What is behind it – the secret of success? He says “My wife”.

“Great! What were you before being a millionaire? Is it a billionaire?”

The secret of success is she's made me a billionaire to a millionaire. We are all looking for secrets.

I love to cook. One of my passions is to cook. Nowadays for the last two or five years I have kind of not been cooking and I love to cook complicated things.

We are all looking for secrets this evening. I shall be talking on 10 secrets how to be happy – 10 Golden Keys which will keep your mind peaceful, happy

and satisfied. Some are do's and some are don'ts. Some of those keys will be the do's; some of those keys will be don'ts and these are 10 keywords, and I'm going to keep asking you what this word is and you have to guess the word. If you can't, I will anyways tell it.

The Word 'I' = Expectations

So I want to begin by asking you: **What is the most selfish one lettered word?** Wow. What a audience that is to tell me. The most selfish one-lettered word: 'I'. Isn't it? Everything revolves around 'I'. iPhone, iPad, iPod and the man says 'I Paid'. Everything revolves around the 'I'. And what does 'I' stand for? 'I' stands for expectations. My expectations – I should be treated like this; I should be loved like this; I should be dealt with like this; I should be respected like this; I should be given these many marks; I should not be given this; I should not get a tough question in viva – all expectation.

We are all living a life of super high expectations, not just high. We're all leading a life of super high expectations. We're constantly like this only – everything revolves around my opinions, my desires, my likes, my dislikes; I like this, I don't like this; I hate this, I love this; I want this, I don't want this, I have this opinion, I don't have this opinion. I, I, I, I, – do you think life will be a very happy life when it revolves around 'I'? From our childhood, we've grown up like this. We've only learned to take and everyone has to fulfill my expectations. Everything has to be up to my expectations.

When I was a child, I usually wouldn't even eat if my mom did not cook what I'd asked for. Everything has to revolve around my expectations. One boy comes to mother and says, 'Mama, I love you'. Five year old, 'Mama, I love you'.

Mother said, 'I love you too, beta.'

The guy grew up to be 16, goes to the mother: 'Mama, I love you.'

'Kitna peisa chahiye, bol?'

He grows up to be 25, 'Mama, I love you'.

'Kaun hain, kidar raheti hain, bata de, ham arrange kar denge, bata de'.

He turns to be 40, 'Mama, I love you.'

'Bola tha na, shadi mat karo'.

He turns 60, 'Mama, I love you.'

'Mein kishi bhi paper pe sign nahin karungi, tu ja'.

Everything is for me only. 16 years old, my money; 25-year old, my girl; 40

years old, my wife; 60 years old, my property. And when you grow up, between a girlfriend, boyfriend, what's happening? 'I' is the center. A boyfriend and a girlfriend are sitting in a restaurant and the guy is asking the girl, 'Tu aakhri bar bata de, aage barna hain ke nahin? Tu bol de, nahin to aaj, aaj cut – you tell me, aakhri bar puccha raha hung, bol? To bole, cut matalab, cut, tu ja!'

So the guy said, 'Waiter, bill alag, alag lana.'

The girl said, 'Pagle, majaak bhi nahin samajhte tum.'

It's all about my expectations, how it goes – and marriage? You think all children, girlfriends, boyfriends, what's marriage? The lady is thinking he should treat me like the angel from heavens, and the guy is thinking she should treat me like pati Parmeshwar. He's reacting like Ravan and expecting to be like Ram.

And you think religion is fair? If youngsters are not spared, girlfriends and boyfriends are not spared, married people are not spared, you think religious men and religious people coming to a temple are spared from the 'I'? I don't think so. Therefore when people come to God, people come to a temple also they are only asking: 'Give me what I want'. No one comes to say 'I love you. I want to give you'.

When the President of the United States John F. Kennedy came up to a stage for his first presidential speech, his voice rumbled into the public address system when he said, "Ask not what the country can do for you. Ask what you can do for the country." And so we are saying: Ask not what God can do for you; ask what you can do for God but no one asks that, because the 'I' is so big, my expectations, my desires, my things are so powerful that even when I come to a temple and ring a bell, all I'm doing is asking. I go to Ganpati and I'm praying the same thing.

During this Ganesh Utsav, one guy, Marwadi fellow, he's singing, "Ganpati Bapa Morya; Danda nahin horiya; Maal nahin jariya; Paisa nahin Ariya; Kharcha keisa chalega, samaj nahin ariya; He Bapa moriya; tharo bhakta roriya." This is what he is singing. And I am thinking: the more we lead a life of 'I', our 'I' will be always be frustrated, because people don't exist in this world to just fulfill your expectations. What do you think? People are all existing in the world just to fulfill your expectations? That's what you think? Sorry to say, wait for a while, you will learn. No, they don't. Friends don't; family doesn't.

I remember when my father died four years back. He died by Parkinson's disease. And I had hadn't told the story for a long time; in the recent past, I started telling the story. I remember taking my father's dead body to the crematorium for cremation. It was raining very heavily, cats and dogs literally, and we decided to go for electric incineration, because it'd hard to have wood fired cremation. The body was kept on the stage, family – some family friends, couple of people from the community; I was born a Marwadi Jain. So some families community people were there. And one of the leaders of

the community who also happened to be distance family comes up to stage and starts speaking good things about my father. And in the middle of it all, as he was talking some good things about my father, he says, and people are all standing and hearing this, none of you will ever go through this and I pray that none of you go through this; my experience was horrible. This man in the middle of the talk says, "that actually his father would have lived longer but his son is the cause of his early death". I felt like whacking this guy.

Of course, he was an elder family distant family, leader of the community, the occasion was such I couldn't see anything, my mind was agitated, disturbed – completely disturbed. I came back that night trying to sleep – how to sleep, everyone in the communities insulted like this in public, saying that, you know, he is the cause of his father's death. I remembered a statement that I read, which gave a liberated feeling to me: "Do not ever, ever, give the control of how you feel to someone else". Do not allow anyone to remote control you. Control your television's remote control; no problem. Cars can be remote controlled. Don't allow anyone to control your emotions from their –

Therefore ladies and gentlemen, the most selfish one lettered word is 'I', which stands for expectations, and therefore avoid this word. How do you avoid this word? Be realistic in your expectations. Expectation in itself is not a bad thing. But understand that not everyone will fulfill your expectation.

And secondly, avoid this word 'I' by trying to serve others. You know why? Because when you want to be served, you are dependent on people; they may not serve you. When you want to serve, who can stop you? When you want respect, people may not respect you. But when you want to give respect, who can stop you? When you want to be loved, you may not be loved, but when you want to give love, who can stop you? When you want in charity, people may not give you in charity, but when you want to give charity, who can stop you? And therefore learn to begin your journey from 'I' to 'you'.

The more you want for yourself, you will remain frustrated. The more you want to give, you will remain happy. Therefore learn how to avoid this one lettered word, and may I request you to take a keen attention to this beautiful video that I thought I wanted to show all of you.

[Video clip]

How many of you would like to be handsome? Not one! What an illusion, they all think they are handsome already. If you ever want to know what you look like really, look at the Aadhaar card picture. And therefore I generally say *if you want to be handsome, give your hand to some*. That is how you will be handsome. Not just by good looks. And therefore one who serves God, one follows *dharma*, one who follows spirituality slowly starts moving from 'I' to 'You'. As we serve God we're not just a bunch of religious sentimentalists and fanatics who come and serve God and forget about the world. As we serve God, our service also extends to people of this world and you know what, when people see the men of God offer service to them, their faith in God is

enhanced. Faith in God doesn't here come by hearing a sermon. Faith in God doesn't come by reading a book. Faith in God doesn't come by coming to a temple. Faith in God comes by seeing a man who is worshipping God, serving God as a devotee of Krishna who truly extends a helping hand to someone and says, 'I am there for you.' And people to yes, this is a Krishna's devotee, who is not just living in his own shell thinking 'Hare Krishna, hare bole, hare bole', but he's there to help others and serve others.

Two-Lettered Word – 'We': Relationship means more than one

May I now ask you: **What is the most satisfying two lettered-word, ladies and gentlemen?** Thank you. No, as it gets further I know it's going to get tougher. Now it's fine. The most satisfying two-lettered word: 'We'.

Therefore, they say if you want to know how rich you are, drop a tear, and see how many hands come forward to wipe it. That is how rich you are. Otherwise you may keep counting your wealth and no one there to really give you a companion. But I know such people. Just live in their house like a *bhoot*, no one there to share their relationships; what a satisfying word that is: 'We'. Even for enjoyment it has to be more than one, right? Even if we have to have a great time, it has to be more than one. Imagine going for the party alone!

Even to enjoy life properly, you have to have more than one – not 'I' but 'We'. And therefore Arjuna says in the Gita, [*Sanskriti*] Chapter 1 of the Gita – What is the use of the battle? What is the use of gaining victory? What is the use of gaining the throne, and what is the use of gaining consequent opulence, if all those whom it is meant for, are present here on the battlefield, and all shall be slain – with whom to live.

Even to enjoy life you need more than one person – even people who drink. People have a great time only when they're together. Imagine our devotees coming to a temple and we have kirt and you will experience it after, when all these wild guys start dancing and start singing. Enjoyment means more than one.

Ladies and gentlemen, these days when I travel overseas, when I go to England, I don't carry money any longer. I've stopped carrying money. I just carry magazine clippings, you know, it's as simple as that, you know. See, all of these are just plain magazine clipping – green, yellow. This is all I carry; no money, not pounds at all; why carry pounds? Why carry pounds, you know? There's no need to carry pounds, because if you can change these magazine clippings into pounds, why? If you can change the magazine clippings I showed you right.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have a half-sleeve kurta, haven't hidden anything. I showed you the magazine clippings right in front of you – 20, 20, 20, 20, 20 – 100 pounds, 10,000 rupees.

You know what I say generally – all of you have a very colorful life, just

like these – yellow, blue, green, magazine clippings. Your life seems to be very colorful. My question is: Is Your Life useful? Your life may be very colorful, having a *gala* time with your friends, movies, chilling out. *Is your life useful?* We must make our colorful life a useful life. We must add value to people.

Imagine I've just changed paper to valuable currency notes – they're real, if you want to check it out, come to me later, they're all real currency notes, British sterling pounds, GBP. All GBP! Wouldn't it be a value? Add value to people and make people valuable. But the point is add value to your already colorful life, make your life useful. Be with people who add value to your life; don't just hang out with people who take value out of your life by making you forcefully choose wrong things in your life. And as we add those valuable things in our lives, that association, that company, that 'we', with those people we will all struggle together and have a great time. And may I invite all of you to see another video, a beautiful one. Can we have the lights off and sound on please?

[Video clip: (Narrator) – “Once upon a time, a turtle and a rabbit had an argument about who was faster. They decided to settle the argument with a race. The turtle and the rabbit, both agreed on a route and started off the race. The rabbit shot ahead and ran briskly for some time. Then seeing he was far ahead of the turtle, he thought he'd sit under a tree for some time and relax before continuing the race. He sat under the tree and soon fell asleep.

The turtle plodding on overtook him and soon finished the race, emerging as the undisputed champ. The rabbit woke up and realized that he'd lost the race. The moral of the story is that slow and steady wins the race. This is the version of the story that we've all grown up with.

Our version of the story continues. The rabbit was disappointed at losing the race and he did some thinking – he realized that he'd lost the race only because he had been overconfident, careless and lax. If he had not taken things for granted, there's no way the turtle could have beaten him. So he challenged the turtle to another race; the turtle agreed.

This time, the rabbit went all out and ran without stopping from start to finish. He won by several miles. The moral of the story: fast and consistent will always beat the slow and steady. It's good to be slow and steady but it's better to be fast and reliable.

But the story doesn't end here. The turtle did some thinking this time and realized that there's no way he can beat the rabbit in a race the way it was currently formatted. He thought for a while and then challenged the rabbit to another race, but on a slightly different route. The rabbit agreed.

The turtle and rabbit started off. In keeping with his self-made commitment to be consistently fast, the rabbit took off and ran at top speed. Until he came to a broad river. The finishing line was a couple of kilometers on the other side of the river. The rabbit sat there wondering what to do. In the meantime, the turtle trundled along, got into the river, swam to the opposite

bank, continued walking and finished the race.

The moral of the story: first identify your core competency and then change the playing field to suit your core competency. The story still hasn't ended.

The turtle and rabbit, by this time, had become pretty good friends. And they did some thinking together. Both realized that the last race could have been run much better. So the turtle and rabbit decided to do the last race again, but to run as a team this time. They started off, and this time the rabbit carried the turtle till the riverbank. There, the turtle took over and swam across with the rabbit on his back. On the opposite bank, the rabbit again carried the turtle and they reached the finishing line together. Both the turtle and rabbit felt a greater sense of satisfaction than they felt earlier.

The moral of the story: it's good to be individually brilliant and to have strong core competencies, but unless you're able to work in a team and harness each other's core competencies, you'll always perform below par, because there will always be situations at which you'll do poorly and someone else does well. Teamwork is mainly about situational leadership, letting the person with the relevant core competency for a situation take leadership. And that is the end of the story. – **Video concludes]**

We shall overcome. We shall overcome. We shall overcome someday. Oh deep in my heart, I do believe we shall overcome someday. – **Martin Luther King.**

We will all overcome together – our habits, our challenges. As youngsters we deal with so much. We fail in our exams, we are depressed, we have bad habits which we are dealing with; we want to quit it, we can't. We are all dealing with so much in our heads and when we are trying to do it alone, it's very difficult.

Therefore the most satisfying word is 'We' and what should you do with the most satisfying word 'We', always use it in your life, keep the 'We' together, cooperation, good company, good association of devotees and in that association we will be able to deal with a lot.

The most poisonous three-lettered word: EGO

Now, shall I ask you the third question, ladies and gentlemen: **the most poisonous three-lettered word which challenges the 'We'**. The three lettered poisonous word which becomes such a challenge to cooperation and being 'We' relationships is a big ego and what big **EGO**. God, what a big ego people have! Such an air around the head for what they do.

Married life also – all relationships have problem because of *ego*, with spouses, with friends, with parents, with colleagues. All relationships issues the 'We' – 'We' is threatened by this three lettered word called EGO.

Religion is not spared of ego. One religious man is thinking 'I'm better than you', the other religious man is thinking, 'I am better than you' – what the heck! What the hell is going on here in this world! Where every other field, if ego is shown, we understand – understand that people are not yet glorified, people have not yet learned those higher things. In the field of religion, have people become a victim of ego and have communal conflicts? God! How shallow! How if we only understood that we're dealing with the same Father, the same God, and would be able to resolve these communal riots and these communal conflicts which are caused by nothing but a massive ego. God doesn't teach any of those things. We get blown up because of our practice and we start thinking this is the best. And goodness the world has witnessed so many conflicts.

Relationships fall apart only because of these – EGO. Why? Can't say *sorry*. S-O-R-R-Y – this is a magic word. When genuinely spoken from the heart, this word is a magic word. When it comes from the deepest cores of the heart with meaning, Krishna makes the person understand that we genuinely feel sorry, not just say sorry. I have learned the very beautiful *sutra* for my life. Maybe you will like it. Maybe you will save a relationship out of it. I have saved many in the last 18 years. Many – because of using this one *sutra*. Jot it down if you like.

When you say a *sorry* to someone, that doesn't mean you are wrong. That just means you value the person more than being right. It doesn't mean you're wrong. You prefer to save the person than being right. You prefer the relationship more than being right. You are willing to keep the *ego* aside and transform that *ego* into humility.

You know, when a man who says *sorry* when he's wrong, it's called *honest*. A man who says *sorry* when he's not sure is called *wise*. And a man who says *sorry* even when his right is called *husband*.

I must tell you Srila Prabhupada, the founder of ISKCON would always say: we have to transform ego into real ego to learn that we are servants to God. And we're servants to the servants of God. When we learn to be a servant in our attitude and serve others, transforming into humility, a lot of relationships are saved.

One lady – husband was traveling, so she called up her husband saying 'Hello'. He says 'hello'.

'How are you?'

He said, 'How are you?'

'You are teasing me?'

He said, 'You're teasing me?'

'Had your meal?'

He said, 'Had your meal?'

The lady said, it's a good opportunity. She said 'I Love You'.

Husband said, 'I have had meal'.

A lot of conflicting situations come only because of the ego. And therefore the most poisonous three-lettered word which threatens the 'We' is EGO. What should we do? We should transform it – transform it into real ego where we're willing to bend down. Till the time we do not learn how to bend down and say take away, sorry – doesn't matter. And therefore transfer ego into humility.

Four-lettered word: 'LOVE'

You know what is the most used four-lettered word? The most used four-lettered word is 'LOVE'. And the need of everyone is to love and to be loved.

You know something, there is no meaning to life without love. Our Gauranga Prabhu – he tells a story. He went to America – interesting story – and in America he went to university. And one American man, blue eyes, blonded haired, golden hair, American man, proper American, has nothing to do with Hinduism. After the talk, he comes to him and says, 'You talk was great!' [Hindi]

So he said, 'You speak Hindi like an Indian. Where did you learn this Hindi?'

So he said, 'My father. When I was about two years old, my mother got divorced from my father. So I never got the love of a mother. Then my father married another lady and my stepmother gave me whatever treatment and I never got that love. So after I grew up, I asked my father: "Dad, you gave me everything but I have not experienced the love of a mother." The father said "Go to India". I'm not saying in America there's no love of mothers, I know so many people who have amazing loving mothers. But this man told him 'you go to India'.

This guy comes to India, goes all around the country finding 'where to find the mother who will love me'. So he went to somewhere near Varanasi and in Varanasi, he saw a lady, 'This is the lady'. *She was giving so much affection, she should be my mother.* So he went to the guy in the home and said, 'Can your wife be my mother?'

This guy was just stunned: 'What are you talking?' And this guy doesn't even know much English, Varanasi guy.

And this American man said, 'I can pay you \$20,000 a month'.

So this guy stayed in Varanasi for several years and decided to learn Hindi just to get that emotion of what the love of a mother means. You guys here got it like this. There are many in the world who haven't seen what that love is. Got to strive for that love. Striving for that emotion. So much so that there's a guy in Japan who got married to a pillow, officially. This guy

officially got married to a pillow in a Christian church. And he carries around that pillow with a face on this pillow – ‘my wife’.

I’m probably showing you extreme examples, isn’t it? But what does it say? The need for love. And emotional fulfillment is so strong that when you don’t get through human beings, we want to relate to animals. When we don’t even get it through animals, we want to relate to things. What is it all going to show? We are in need of that love. To be loved and to express that love is the need of the soul. Can I draw your attention to another beautiful video? Very touching – pleased to see, this is a very beautiful one, you will love it.

[Video clip]

You know something – I have always thought: When will our crying end? We are all crying. Are you listening? We’re all crying.

And Srila Prabhupada gives the analogy. Srila Prabhupada was such a genius. How he would connect Krishna consciousness, examples from the world, and Srila Prabhupada said, “We’re all crying for that love.” Why do we want things? Because we’re crying for that love, looking for that fulfillment there. Why do we want to have power and control? It is nothing but the frustrated desire for love. Why do we want control? People who get loved are not power-freaks. People who get loved are not after things. And as my guru Srila Radhanath Maharaj says, “Things are meant to be used and people are meant to be loved”. Very much in this world of chaos today, we love things and use people to get those things, you know.

Therefore when we come to a state where our search for love ends, when our Father picks us up, and Srila Prabhupada said, when our Supreme Father picks us up, nothing will satisfy you till that day – but till the time that love of Krishna flows in our hearts, no love of this world will satisfy us; you know why because the love of this world has two problems. One, the love of this world is ridden with expectations and frustrations. People love us for what they expect us to be, not who we are. Like a father – when son tells the father, ‘Papa, papa, if I would stay with you, what will you give me?’ Two-wheeler.

‘Papa, papa, if I come first in the exam, what will you give me?’ Four-wheeler – car.

‘Papa, papa, but if I fail the exam?’ Three-wheeler, rickshaw.

I must tell you, people in this world like us only when we meet up with their expectations. I am a monk, right? At least, people should like me or love me selflessly, no. Even in my life here, I’ve experienced as a monk, people always have expectations. And one little thing somewhere here and there, they pass such like comments, which can cause you so much hurt, so much hurt even to monks. I’m telling you people in this world can disappoint us, because they only like us for not who we are, they like us and they make their relationship based on whether we’ve fulfilled their expectations. And if

there is – I'm not saying all relationships are like that. If there is a relationship which is selfless and there is nothing like that stuff, then time takes one of the other away. And that person is left high and dry.

My friend, Gaur Krishna Prabhu, very closely known to me, so close to my heart, I remember so much affection had for us. And one fine day I come from my overseas trip, and three days after my overseas – just arrived in Bombay, and I hear that we had an air crash in Nepal, eight of our devotees were on that air crash and all eight of them left, one was Gaur Krishan Prabhu, my most dear friend. Only about 31, 32 years old. Gone in an air crash. Ladies and gentlemen, can you afford to wake up with the regret tomorrow? Can we afford to carry any grudges in our hearts? Can we afford to go around with what we have, some feelings for people in our heart, negative feelings?

And therefore relationships of this world, sometimes just people disappoint us for who they are. And sometimes time disappoints by taking one away.

To connect to Krishna in such a way that Krishna's love comes in our hearts and we experience that love, that love is a love where we can never make an appointment with dis-appointment. It will never make an appointment with disappointment. And when that love flows in the heart, we share that love with everyone. that love is selfless love. God's love is self-less love, and when that self-less love comes in our heart, Srila Bhakti Vinod Thakur, one of our great acharyas, in the gaurya line – he said when you experience love of God in your heart, that love of God manifests as compassion and concern for people of this world. It's not just I love God. Jesus Christ said "Love thy God with all thy heart, with all thy might and with all thy soul". And "love thy neighbor as thyself". What a beautiful world it would be if we experienced the love of Krishna and we try and share that love of Krishna, people are thirsty, yearning for that love, down in their lives, depressed, negative, lonely – they need hope, people need hope and love is is the hope – selfless love of Krishna that comes in our heart is the hope for the people of this world.

Ladies and gentlemen, therefore the most used four-lettered word is LOVE. What should we do with it? Value it. Value that four-lettered word.

Five-lettered word: SMILE

Can I ask you the next question? Are you ready? Thank you. The most pleasing five-lettered word. The most pleasing five-lettered word: **SMILE**. Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, the most pleasing five-lettered word: *Smile*. They say, smile – it increases your face value. It's not that only stocks have face value. Even your material face has a face value. Smile – it increases your face value.

How many of you smile? I'll tell you a nice one, of a one guy, vernacular Maharashtrian student, he was in school and teacher's teaching English, and the teacher is teaching how to count numbers – he wrote numbers on the blackboard – sorry, I shouldn't say black – chalkboard, and on the chalkboard after writing the numbers, he said 'Read'

So this guy says, '70 to 80, 89...

So the teacher said, 'What did I say?'

The student wrote, '70 to 80, 89, 99'

There was a Maharashtrian student studying in a vernacular school, so the teacher was teaching numbers, and he wrote on the board numbers and he said 'Read'.

He said, '70, 82, 89, 99'

There was a teacher in a Marathi medium school and he was teaching numbers. The student was reading the numbers – 70, 82, 89, 99.

I'm telling you the same joke again, isn't it? Do you laugh on the same joke again? No. After a while if I tell you, you'll say there is something wrong with him.

We don't laugh on the same joke again. Why do we cry on the same problem again? We keep crying on that same issue, and that same problem, again and again and again. Problems will come; issues will come; difficulties will come, whoever you are, doesn't matter. It comes to me. I gave the Titanic lecture. You know, last time, two years back I gave Prerna, lessons from the sinking of the Titanic. Some gentlemen, God knows who, God knows who, took one joke out of the whole talk out of context, and circulated it on WhatsApp and it became viral – absolutely viral! In fact, some of the Brahmachari friends of mine were looking at me and despised. I saw a few people staying with me, looking at me with disgust – what kind of a guy are you? You speak this kind of stuff. There will always be a reason to cry. It depends on you whether you want to smile or cry tears.

God has a plan, an amazing plan with all the challenges, with all the difficulties, with all the troubles that he sends out our way, he has an incredible plan. None of us know what, none of us can see how; now of us can understand why, and therefore at that point of time, all we do is cry. We can't understand why. If only we understood what the plan of God is, even while going through that crisis, we would probably smile. That's why I said please don't record any talks of mine, none of you – if you record this around, please do turn them off. If any of you have been recording me on your phone as a video, please do turn it off and my humble request, please do delete it, because people can take any damned thing out of context and circulate it. And you know how people would take it, I don't know how people would take what I say.

I'm speaking to you all; you're my audience. I know you, many of you. I have a connection with all of you. So I can take a privilege to crack a joke, I can take a privilege to raise my voice, I can take the privilege to hammer a point on you by speaking strong words, because I have a relationship with all of you. But people all over the world don't, you know.

I remember following one slide that someone sent me. It gave me so much relief. There was not one night that I didn't sleep. In the day I got that clip, all through the day I had a massive anxiety in my head, if it spreads like this what will I do? It will bring ill repute to Srila Prabhupada, it will bring ill repute to ISKCON, it will bring ill repute to my guru. You can imagine, if you don't know you don't know; if you see that clip, you will know. And while thinking like that, I tried dealing with that internally.

Ladies and gentlemen, it's a beautiful slide. When followed in life, I guarantee you, life will be different. I guarantee you, if this is applied in life, we can have peaceful night's sleep. Here it is. Do you have a problem in life? No? Then why worry? Do you have a problem in life? Yes. Can you do something about it? Yes. Then why worry?

Do you have a problem in life? Yes. Can you do something about it? No? Then why worry? Isn't it? Why worry? Why are we constantly bogging our minds down with anxiety – anxiety that is just absolutely not allowing us to have peace of mind? *Chinta* kills our life, kills our present. We cannot experience fulfillment, ladies and gentlemen. And therefore I thought to myself: What's the use of crying? Can I do something about it? Yes. I'll call a lawyer, ask him what the repercussions would be; we had an in-house lawyer. I asked him, we had an one hour meeting: what could we do about it? Done!

Then we have had – can I do anything about the circulation? No. What can I do? People are circulating it; can I do anything about it? Nothing; relax. It's beyond me. There will be many things that are beyond your control. While you're sitting here, someone may be plotting against you; you don't know. While you're sitting here, someone may be back-biting and sending a wrong email against you. We have control over it? Control over one thing – to smile. Easier said than done. This is only possible when we see God's hand behind. I can't practice this just like that, it looks very good and simple. We can only practice this when we see God's hand behind and have trust – have trust that he has a plan.

He has a plan. If A plan fails, there is plan B. If plan B fails, there is plan C. Don't worry; there are 26 alphabets in the English language. Some plan will work.

I was standing at the Bangalore airport, flying from somewhere to somewhere and at the baggage belt, I was standing to pick my bag up. And one guy comes up, very modern hip-dressed up like, you know, sophisticated standing right next to me. Five minutes, he is looking like that, and after five minutes, 'Are you that WhatsApp guy?'

I said, 'What WhatsApp guy?'

He said, 'That clip – career –'

I said, 'Yes'.

He said, 'Can I invite you to my company for a talk?' At an airport. I'm not

saying it doesn't have any negative repercussions; they do. There's always a reason to *Smile*. Have a smile on the face. And with a smile on the face, face life like that, knowing that God is in control.

When I was a child, four years old, we had a dog at home. One day it bit me. And I had to take 14 injections in the navel. Now anti-rabies has probably become two, three injections, but then it would be 14 in the navel. And then of course we didn't have a dog till I turned 18 or 19 or whatever.

But I remember Shyamananda Prabhu who was a temple president here, he was giving an analogy. Beautiful one. That the guy who is receiving the injection cries and smiles both. So he was explaining that when the first injection is given, the pain in a pain makes him cry. Second day, the tears go down, the 12 remaining, 10 remaining, smile and the grin goes wilder and wilder when the 14th comes, khatam, done.

This is how a devotee of Krishna looks at life. All the injections that are coming beyond my control is my *karma* from a previous life. And when they come, we will have tears in our eyes, we will be affected by the situations. We will be affected by misunderstandings, conflicts, problems. But if you know the philosophy of Krishna consciousness, there will be a simultaneous smile. Ladies and gentlemen, there is always a reason to smile, when you see how Krishna is finishing the karma one after another, and therefore it is important to smile.

There was a little girl once sitting in a flight – on a flight and suddenly there was tremendous turbulence on the flight. I have had that experience. I was flying from Hanover, Germany to Munich on Lufthansa, and suddenly me and my colleague Shiksastakam Prabhu, we were both on that flight – and whilst just as the flight was about to land, the wheels wouldn't come out. So from mid-air they had to take off. Now if you've not had that experience, I pray that you don't. From mid-air it took off, and when it takes off from mid-air, the speed, God, I can't explain – and our flight was practically – we got a free 180 reclining bed without business class tickets, both of us were like this. And then my friend, colleague Shiksastakam Prabhu was right next to me and he says, 'Prabhu ji, your time has come! Malaa nikalo!'

So there was so much turbulence on this flight, shaky wobbly, and everyone was panicked, screaming, howling, shrieking, some were praying and the pilot announced an emergency landing. Big massive disaster. There was a girl, tiny tot or five years old sitting in the window. And she was reading a little book and looked at the book, read it, closed it, closed her eyes and moved her legs, smiled. Again read the book, closed her eyes, moved her hand and leg, smiled a little bit. This is what she was doing.

And then somehow by God's grace, the plane landed. No goofups, no hiccups, things were fine – everyone, celebrations, celebrations; all excited. This girl was just – So the guy who was sitting right next to the girl in the aisle seat asked her, 'Daughter, I have a question for you. I mean, everyone was panicky. Such a massive disaster, everyone was panicky. How did you smile? How did you keep your cool?

She said, 'That's very simple, uncle'.

He said, 'You weren't scared?'

She said, 'No'.

'You weren't afraid?'

She said no.

'So how were you smiling?'

'Very simple, uncle. The pilot of this plane is my father. And he wants me to live more than anyone else on the flight.'

When we have that faith and trust that Krishna is with us, we can smile and therefore we must value this. My guru Radhanath Swami, he said, 'Do not take this material world so seriously. Why? Because it's always changing'. Something that you take so seriously today is going to change tomorrow. Smile.

And therefore the most pleasing five-lettered word: SMILE. Keep it.

Six-letter word: GOSSIP

The fastest spreading six-letter word – Google? The fastest spreading six-letter word. That's right: RUMOUR, or I put here, GOSSIP.

Two Gujarati ladies were talking to each other. And these two Gujarati ladies were slandering a third one. Criticizing her behind her back. For one hour they are gossiping about her and after one hour, this one lady turns to the other and says, [indiscernible] – spreads like anything. "This is a secret, yaar. I am telling you, only because you are my friend. Don't tell anyone."

And if you want it to go faster, "Hey, you are my friend. I am telling the secret to you, just because you are my friend. Don't tell anyone, huh." And 'don't tell anyone' is a catalyst.

Why? Why do you make opinions about a person based on someone else's speaking to you? Someone comes to you and goes away after telling some gossips about a third person, and you form an opinion about that person. You didn't check whether it's right, you didn't check whether it's wrong, you didn't bother to verify it. To form opinions about people just based on the gossip you hear from someone about someone else. I don't think so.

Therefore when Socrates was once sitting in Athens, Greece, when man comes up to him and says, 'Hey Socrates, I want to tell you something about your friend.'

Socrates said, 'Yes, you can definitely tell me something whatever about my friend, but if only if it passes the three-filter tests.'

'So what is the three-filter test?'

'So, first, whatever you're going to tell me about my friend, is it good or bad?

He said, 'Sorry, it's bad'.

'Well I don't want to listen, but anyway I'll give you a second filter chance. Whatever you're going to tell me about my friend, is it true or false?'

'I haven't verified it.'

'And you don't say. OK, whatever you're going to tell me about my friend, is it beneficial or not beneficial to me and him?'

'Sorry, it's not beneficial.'

'I don't want to hear.'

Ladies and gentlemen, use this 3-filter test. First one, is it good about him or bad? If it's bad, don't bother to give your ears, unless you can help that person. Second, is it real or false? And third, is it beneficial or not. If it is beneficial, listen; if it is not, it is sheer gossip. And therefore the six-letter word, what should we do, GOSSIP, we should ignore it.

Seven-letter word: SUCCESS

What is the seven-lettered word, most hardworking seven-letter word? Most hard working seven-letter word. You are right. The most hard working seven-letter word is: SUCCESS. To get success tremendous hard work is needed, tremendous determination is needed, tremendous patience is needed, tremendous knowledge is needed.

You need to have a lot of patience and we will fail. When you want to achieve success in your career, in your academics, in your business, in your profession, we will fail, and that's the example of the giraffes. The giraffe – when the baby giraffe is born, falls from such a high distance straight on the ground and as the mother comes and positions the giraffe, positions herself right above the baby giraffe. And guess what she does first – gives it a hard kick. So it's just coming out of the impact, the mother gives a second harder kick. 'Now that I understand, if I don't do anything, this will continue to go on'. So this little baby giraffe starts getting up on its wobbly legs – on its wobbly legs. And as the baby giraffe gets up on the wobbly leg – as the baby giraffe learns to stand up, the mother giraffe give a kick one more time. The baby giraffe falls down, and gets up, and starts running. And then the mother giraffe goes, hugs the baby and starts kissing the baby. You know why? Because the baby giraffe's flesh is very soft and supple, and hyenas and lions love it. The mother knows that I can't be with the baby giraffe all the time, have to go and get food for the baby: how

would I protect it?

Life is like the mother giraffe, kicks us several times, we fail, we should get up. And we will fail again; we should get up. Like I always say, don't just go through life; grow through life. And when we learn to practice Krishna consciousness, we will definitely grow through life. And may I ask you to watch this little video on, very interesting one, again.

[Video clip]

This was a very successful experiment conducted in the United States of America in the early 1960s, where they had students – kindergarten students – if you don't know what a marshmallow is, it's a sweet; most people in India don't have much idea of what a marshmallow is, but in the world outside, marshmallow is like kids beans, like candy floss, that is like marshmallow people are – kids are crazy after marshmallow. So they kept this marshmallow and told them, if you wait till you get a second one, you can eat it but then you don't get the second one. Those students who waited were successful directors of multinational companies today. Those students who didn't wait, they're like mediocre employees in most places today. And this is a very popular research called marshmallow research where they found people who have patience to wait achieve success. It's not just determination in failures, but one who is patient to endure and endeavor, then one can be successful in life.

But I must tell you something ladies and gentlemen, the best part of the story is achieving it all, still there is no happiness. And the worst part of the story is – worst part of the story: my first flight to London, British Airways, BA197. I go to the airport, my friend, his grace, Radha Vallabh Prabhu, made first-class aloo-parathas for me, for my lunch pack, because I don't eat the flight food, and he made a bottle of mango milkshake, one liter, and he put it in that steel bottles you get these days and I went – carried that little bag and went through the X ray machine security, put it through the security, the other side it came, the parathas went through the bottle, the security guy said, 'You can't take this, sir'.

I said 'Why?'

'Sir, this is liquid'.

I said, 'This is not liquid; this is sublime.' This is mango milkshake.

'Sir, this is liquid for us. You're only allowed 100 ml; you can't take one liter fluid – liquids on the plane.'

I said, 'Sir, this is mango milkshake. You can't do this!'

He said, 'I don't understand anything'. Now as he heard that it is mango milkshake, he had expectation on his face. So I went to look for a beggar, and got one. And then I said, 'Will you drink mango milkshake, brother?' So he had expression on his face. Then I purchased the Bisleri bottle, emptied

the bottle, transferred the contents, gave it back, came back to the X ray machine, put it through the machine and it went through and the guy was frustrated, that 'I didn't get the mango milkshake'.

As I got on to BA197, I pulled my laptop out and the first line I typed on a Microsoft Word file was: when you take a flight off, you must know what you can carry along. If you don't, at the X-ray machine, things will be left behind. When the flight of life takes off – When you take a flight, you know what you can take along and what you cannot. And therefore when life ends, we must know what will go with us and what will not. What is success? Success in this world is achieve, earn, gain and serve, enchant. And what is success in that life? As the flight takes off and nothing of this world can be taken away, the chanting of the holy name of Krishna, the devotional service that we have rendered to Krishna will go with us and YMC – Yamraj Municipal Corporation.

Therefore, last three words remaining and I shall conclude soon.

Eight-lettered word: JEALOUSY

The most burning eight-lettered word? Thank you. The most burning eight-lettered word: **Jealousy**. And why does jealousy or envy come? Because we compare. You know, we always compare. One of my friends was only frolicking. Constantly comparing. And comparing and contrasting gives rise to envy and jealousy, which takes the happiness away; therefore distance yourself from this thing called as JEALOUSY.

Nine-lettered word: KNOWLEDGE

The most powerful nine-lettered word is – but I'm using a different one here – **KNOWLEDGE**. The most powerful nine-lettered word is KNOWLEDGE. And there are two kinds of knowledge; one is called *Paravidya*. Second is called *Aparavidya*. *Aparavidya* is what you all study in your universities; that knowledge helps you make a living. And *Paravidya* or spiritual knowledge helps you make a life and the difference between making a living and making a life. Even our *batata vada* seller makes a living, you don't have to be an engineer to make so much money. I know one of my friends who sells batata vadas at Fort – I have friends from all ranges – so he sells batata vada at Fort and this guy makes 80,000 rupees a month, out of which his profit is 60,000 rupees. Making a living, even a batata vada wala makes. So making a living, that knowledge you must have and our universities give us that knowledge, please pursue it. But along with that, if you don't come here, if you don't learn the knowledge of the Gita, if you don't learn the knowledge of the Srimad Bhagavatam, if you don't understand the philosophy of Krishna consciousness, you made a living but not a life.

Ghatotkacha was killed on the battlefield; Abhimanyu was killed on the battlefield. So many of the – five sons of Draupadi were killed on the battlefield, all of their near and dear ones were killed; what a challenge? The only way the Pandavas could face it, because Krishna had given them plans and knowledge, that is The Bhagavad Gita. The Bhagavad Gita as it is, such an

amazing book; please read it. Come here, attend our programs, go to the different places where our ISKCON youth services preachers, learn the philosophy of the Gita, understand this *Paravidya* as you also pursue your *Aparavidya*. When you have a combination of the two, your life will be great. Don't make excuses like this Indian people many times.

Don't allow any excuses in life to stop you from pursuing *Paravidya*. This is not a temple, this is a university. As you have a university which teaches you *Aparavidya*, this is a university which teaches you *Paravidya*. Come to this university and get this knowledge.

10-lettered word: CONNECTION

The last word – the most divine 10-lettered word is CONNECTION. I was sitting at the Vienna International Airport, waiting to board a flight to go to Florence. And my flight was delayed, so I had call the people in Florence, I'm coming little later. And I wanted to call this gentleman in Florence, guess what. No network. And I saw an elderly lady, 40 years old – some 60, 65 five years old, aristocratic, dressed very well, and she had a Nokia – run-down Nokia, and she used to like – you have to be a wrestler, *pahelwan* to type a message, you know, and she was sitting there but she had full range, and for 45 minutes she's talking on the phone.

What is important on a phone? Apps or connectivity? Connectivity. Whether it's a smartphone or not so smartphone, stay connected. You know that's what the phone is meant for. Call duration summary: boy to bom = 50 seconds; boy to dad = 30 seconds; boy to girl = 1 hour 23 minutes 59 seconds; girl to girl = 5 hours 29 minutes 59 seconds; girl to boy = missed call; wife to husband = disconnected; husband to wife = call waiting still.

I'll tell you some of us are smart, some of us are not so smart. Some of us are iPhones – charismatic, good looking, successful; and some of us are Nokia – we're not so charismatic. Don't worry, smart or not so smart doesn't matter. Stay connected, and the way to stay connected is yoga. The Bhagavad Gita speaks about yoga. Yoga means the process of connection, like use a phone to connect to someone, Krishna mentions the path of yoga in the Gita and the path of Bhakti yoga is the means to connect to Krishna. This phone – full range everywhere, full network everywhere, no call jamming, no charges, they connect, because all nine will only be possible if the 10th is in place.

Pursue that connection, ladies and gentlemen, and therefore it was His Divine Grace, A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada, the founder of ISKCON who went overseas and made the Krishna consciousness movement a local word for everyone. People knew the process to connect, people knew this philosophy, people knew these Golden Keys of how to remain happy in their lives.

I wish to thank you all very very much for your kind attention.