

*All glories to Sri Guru and Sri Gauranga*

# **The Standard to Measure Human Life**

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Everything has its standard, by which it is to be measured. If you want to measure space or distance, a standard unit of measure is required. But what is that standard? And by what unit can that standard be measured? Of course, the standard itself cannot be measured by any other unit or that would become the standard. So the standard must be absolute. It cannot be measured by anything else — rather everything is measured by it. This is the nature of the Absolute — God, the Ideal, against which all Reality is measured.

It is in that existence, which is measured by that Ideal, that Reality is to be found. And where do we find such an existence? It cannot be found in any natural thing, or ordinary person. It is only in the personality of the Vaisnava, whose life, movement and being is measured by that standard. Such a Vaisnava is the standard by which all human life is to be measured.

But modern society does not know this standard, and therefore there is so much fighting and bewilderment. They have standards for everything else — a standard for the dollar, a standard for measuring space, weight, time, etc., but where is the standard by which we are to measure human life? That is given by the Vaisnava. His behaviour, his life, his characteristics — *Vaisnavata* — that is the standard for everyone.

Once this is realised, then one must know where to look for such a standard bearer — a Vaisnava. By his/her standard we can measure the quality of our own lives. We feel we have found such standard in the followers of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, like Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Maharaj Prabhupada and Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaj who are in the line coming from Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakur, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur, and Srila Bhakti Raksak Sridhar Dev-Goswami Maharaj.

Srila Sridhar Maharaj, the Founder-Acharya of Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math, better expresses his own qualifications than we could in this regard:

"The nature of my expressions, of my presentation — that was appreciated by my Guru Maharaj (Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur), and also mostly by all the scholars in our Math, because it is an ontological conception based on pure *chit-vilasa*. That is, whatever I see — I have in view, that it must cross the level of Brahmaloaka — not of this world, but of other world: *chit-vilasa*. That what the smallest thing that we mention here, every word, every syllable that I give out, it is from

the plane of *visuddha-sattva*. That is the special characteristic of my sayings. So, our so many stalwart Acharyyas, they appreciate my talks very much. They say it is ever new — not a stereotyped thing. Whenever I give explanation to a particular *sloka*, every time some new thing is coming, not any time any mere repetition. Whatever I say must have some touch with the infinite — that is the peculiarity. So, to increase the faith — *sraddha* — the basis, always of that, so that the foundation, the faith, that will be more consolidated. In this way I am not partial or inimical to any person — not an enemy to anyone. In a general way, not referring to any particular section, in a most generalised way, I deal with things."

And what is the standard of the Absolute Person, by which the person of the Vaisnava is measured? Here again, in the words of Srila Sridhar Maharaj we find this most perfectly expressed:

"Only the full-fledged conception will be able to give full engagement of our inner tendency. It will provide the corresponding fare according to the need within us — our heart. All *rasa*, all forms of ecstatic enjoyment must be within Him — the Centre. The creation is not a very important function, but the corresponding engagement with the natural thirst of every atom is the highest. He is the highest principle who can adjust everything in Him, where all sorts of innate hankerings must be satisfied. That Centre should be perfect and the highest — Who will be able to give satisfaction to all sorts of subtle demands within our nature. All corresponding relation-

ships in every variegated way — all aspirations are accommodated there. That should be the prime cause. Reality is for itself — everything is for Him. It must have some utility in Him. He is the all accommodating, all pervading, all comprehensive, all fulfilling Centre. This should be the qualification of the Absolute standard."

We invite you to enquire further, read further, associate further — and thus nourish your soul for the joyful goal of human life: a life of love with the Lord of the heart, through the Search for Sri Krishna, Reality the Beautiful.

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