

Srila Prabhupada on the Position of Parents (*Day three—lesson three*)

“Therefore we require good citizens, good father and mother, good system of government, and pious, virtuous, cooperation between God and nature. Everything will be helpful for my spiritual realization, for my self-realization. If I am full of anxiety, how can I make progress in spiritual realization? It is not possible. Therefore it is the duty of the state, duty of the father, duty of the teacher, duty of the spiritual master to give chance to the small children to develop in such a way that he becomes fully realized spiritual soul at the end and so that his miserable life in the material existence is over.

“That is the responsibility. In Bhagavata you will see that Rsabhadeva says that “One should not become the spiritual master, one should not become the father, one should not become the mother, one should not become the husband, who cannot give relief from these miseries of material existence.” (Srila Prabhupada’s Lectures, Bhagavad-gita 1966, 660729BG.NY)

“From the very beginning, children should be trained up in this line. That is the responsibility actually, father’s mother’s affection. But the father mother do not know what is the aim of life. Neither they are trained up. How they can train up their children?

“But here is the prescription how to train up. So in this age, although it is a very difficult task, at least if we teach our children to chant Hare Krsna mahamantra, then everything is possible. That is the facility of this age. He’ll be gradually trained up to the highest perfection.” (Srila Prabhupada’s Lectures, Srimad-Bhagavatam 1976, 760625SB.NV)

“These are the demands of this body. But they should be so regulated in Krsna consciousness that it will not be disturbing element, but we shall make progress further and further towards spiritual realization of Krsna consciousness. Therefore, not only the new bride and bridegroom, I request every one of my students who are present that this... The aim of married life is to produce nice children, Krsna conscious children. That is the best service to the human society: produce nice children. Don’t produce cats and dogs. That is my request. Otherwise don’t produce. Remain separate. Separate means there is no separation, but don’t produce children. That is my request. Putrarthe... Pita na sa syaj janani sa syat. The Bhagavata says, “One should not become a father, one should not become a mother, unless they are able to protect the children from the imminent danger of death.” What is that? The cycle of birth and death. If you can train your children to Krsna consciousness, then your child will go back to Godhead in this life.

“That should be the aim. As you will try to go back to Godhead in this life, similarly, you shall take charge of your children that he can also go in this life back to Godhead. The mother’s and father’s duty should be that “This child is born out of my womb, and this is the last phase of his life, to come into this womb of any animal or man—no more material body.” That should be the responsibility of father and mother. That is the direction of Bhagavata. So my dear children, boys and girls, I request you that live happily. There is no restriction. We don’t restrict eating, sleeping, or mating, or defending. But do it in relationship with Krsna, pure life, and be happy in this life and next life. Thank you very much.” (Srila Prabhupada’s Lectures, General - 1968, 680722LE.MON)

“No father neglects to look after the comforts of an unmarried girl, of his unmarried girls and boys. According to Hindu system, a father, mother responsibility ceases after he gets the children married, either daughter or son. So much obligation. Then they are free.” (Srila Prabhupada’s Lectures, General - 1968, 681007LE.SEA)

“According to Vedic system, the father and mother’s responsibility is for the child unless they are married. It is the duty of the parents to see that the girl and the boy is married by the supervision of the parents. That is the Vedic way of civilization.” (Prabhupada’s Lectures, General - 1969, 690506WE.BOS)

Srimad-Bhagavatam Canto 2: Chapter Seven, Text 6 purport:

The brahmachari, or a boy from the age of five years,

especially from the higher castes, namely from the scholarly parents (the brahmanas), the administrative parents (the ksatriyas), or the mercantile or productive parents (the vaisyas), is trained until twenty-five years of age under the care of a bona fide guru or teacher, and under strict observance of discipline he comes to understand the values of life along with taking specific training for a livelihood.

Room Conversation Paris, August 3, 1976 139555/173814

But to take care of the children, to educate them, that will depend on their parents. Now our Pradyumna was complaining that in the Gurukula, his child was not educated to count one, two, three, four. So I have told him that "You educate your child. Let the mother educate in English, and you educate him in Sanskrit." Who can take care? So similarly every father, mother should take care that in future they may not be a batch of unwanted children.

Letter to: Satsvarupa : 71-11-25 160877/173814

Now you organize our KC school very nicely on the basis of a kindergarten school and primary school for children up to 15 years old. That is a good proposal, that parents should not accompany their children. Actually that is the gurukula system. The children should take complete protection of the Spiritual Master, and serve him and learn from him nicely.

Prabhupada's Lectures Srimad-Bhagavatam 1970 97155/17381

According to Vedic civilization therefore, a child, he may be a king's son or a poor man's son, must go to gurukula and live for some time under the training of the spiritual master to be very thickly(?) connected with Narayana and Krsna. The asrama. Just like we have got this Krsna conscious asrama, there is rules and regulations that one should rise early in the morning, chant Hare Krsna mantra and so many duties are there. They are all in connection with Krsna. If a child is trained up in that way, then he becomes automatically Krsna conscious. And if a child becomes Krsna conscious up to the age of twenty, twenty-five years, then naturally he becomes a devotee of Krsna. So when he enters life, although he accepts wife and children, he cannot forget Krsna. Therefore his household life also continues Krsna consciousness. Naturally, at the age of fifty he leaves the

family connection and accepts the vanaprastha.