



"CONFLICTS AMONG GRIHASTHAS" by HG Monimala Mataji, Bensalem PA

We sometime get very angry with our loved ones in our own family and become very unkind to them. We shout at them. We say unkind words towards them. This is because we are so agitated. This is agitation caused by our mind.

Srila Vidyapathi thakur says...

Happiness in family life is compared to a drop of water in desert. No one could be happy in family life.

Vedic civilizations suggest that we cannot leave our responsibilities in family life. But in today's world everyone is divorcing and giving up responsibilities and family life. This is because of all the sufferings one is going through in this family life. This kind of a life is compared to a blazing forest fire. Srila Sukhadev Goswami also says that hunger and thirst what our body feels is not just for gross food and water. So this hunger and thirst cannot be quenched with food and water only. In today's material world the hunger and thirst we are experiencing is the hunger and thirst of our heart for SATISFACTION. The thirst manifests the hunger of mind and senses, for sense gratification. Our mind gets very disturbed as when our heart is devoid of the REAL pleasure. This real pleasure is LOVE OF GOD.

Our senses get very agitated when it cannot get what it desires. And we run after sense gratification. Family Life in material sense is defined as the promise of material energy to fulfill the desires of your mind and senses. Which means that this family life gives us the rosy picture of eternal happiness.

However it is not TRUE. It is not true at all. It never worked for anyone, it will never work for anyone. This is not my word; this is what the scripture says. One devotee enlightened me with an email today which says "WIFE AND HUSBAND IS LIKE TWO SIDES OF A COIN, WHO CANNOT FACE EACH OTHER BUT STAY TOGETHER."

According to the Cincinnati Chronicle, 69% of marriages in America end up in divorce. Divorce rates have gone down recently. The reason is no one is getting married now days. They live together which is called as COHABITATION. Divorces are expensive and it's a legal complication. Its a suffering. Where couple used to see stars and moons in each other's eyes now they see blazing fires of anger and hatred. Americans are pretty smart and logical and scientific, if in marriage there is 69% chances of divorce so better not get married. So they are adopting the process of cohabitation. No formality of marriage, can change mind any day and anytime. That is total freedom. Kaliyuga promises freedom.



No scripture in any religion encourages a man and woman to live together without marriage. Taking up example of our country, according to Times of India now 25 marriages in 1000 is ending up in divorce and especially in IT sectors. Alone in Bangalore's IT SECTOR the divorce rates are very high:

YEAR 2003 - 283

YEAR 2004 - 526

YEAR 2005 - 946

YEAR 2006 - 1,246

Till June 2007 - 828 already and yet 6 months to go.

Total divorce rate including IT SECTOR in Bangalore:

YEAR 2005 - 1,860

YEAR 2006 - 2,493

YEAR 2005 - 1,860

YEAR 2006 - 2,493

Financial freedom, lack of time at home, erratic working hours, work pressure, financial security and stress are being seen as the main reasons for this fiasco.

Marriages are happening now without slightest mention of GOD. We get paper signed by some government officials and some witnesses. It's fast and cheap. The things that are cheap we take cheaply. Anything which comes for free or we do not pay enough money we tend to underestimate that. That's why we had elaborate marriage ceremonies.

A family life is conjunction of two egos. A male ego and female ego. Man comes home after so much work agitated, woman struggling all day taking care of kids, home and now a days woman also works unlike old ages. In America both man and woman do everything. All these lead to no time for appreciation for each other. They are too tired to do that also. No Appreciation, no respect... and that causes conflicts. Family life is full of expectation. Everyone expects from each other. More intimate the relationship is, more you expect the person what you want him/her to be. But there is a problem, no one is what you want him/her to be. May be in the beginning, those rosy days of marriages where you are madly in love. You feel that this is match made in Heaven; we are made for each other. And eventually the karma of being in heaven runs out very fast and then comes the blazing fire. No one can hurt you more than someone you are really attached too.

First point to face here is:

WE ARE NOT MADE FOR EACH OTHER, WE ARE MADE FOR KRISHNA. A relationship becomes Holy, satisfying and peaceful when we take the responsibilities for Krishna. Family becomes Vaikuntha.

After all these I would like to draw two points in attention:

1) First being a devotee do you think that they won't have any agitation in their family life?

Answer is, we all will face problems, Devotee, non-devotee, everyone. Everyone will marry a laddo and will eventually will face karela.

2) So why do we prefer to be a devotee rather than enjoy other things?

The simple answer is...

To the degree our lives are based on sense gratification there won't be any happiness. That means the more we involve our life for fulfilling the desires of our senses like buying a better car, getting a bigger house, going out to eat (which we all do including me, I love to do), won't bring us any satisfaction. On the contrary, to the degree we do all our activity for the service of Krishna we will be happy.

OUR SOUL is longing to reach Krishna. But instead when we try to derive the same happiness with

someone else, we end up getting in anxiety. That is called expectation. We love a gross body and ever-changing mind, which won't give us happiness. It will just give us temporary satisfaction to the mind and this satisfaction is said as putting a drop of oil in burning fire. What happens when we put a drop of oil in fire, it ignites more, never will extinguish. And again Srila Prabhupada says, if wife and husband respect and cooperates with each other, prays and serves Krishna and Radharani together then the home becomes Vaikuntha. "KUNTHA" is anxiety and "VAI" means no. That is no anxiety. Vaikuntha is place with no anxiety, only happiness. Then in this purport Srila Prabhupada again says, Happiness of family life is compared to a drop of water in desert. No one could be happy in family life.

Material aspect of marriage life is suffering. If we put Krishna in center it's meaningful, it doesn't mean that we won't have sufferings. That means that all these sufferings will bring two of us (the husband and wife) closer to Krishna. And that will lead us to happiness that is Spiritual Happiness.
