

在灵道上，投机取巧派得上用场吗？

今天，凡是人所做的无不基于他个人的私心私利。如果你很诚心地要找份职业，那你就得对你的雇主忠诚而不是对神忠诚。如果你诚心地要维系你的婚姻，你就得忠于你的妻子或丈夫而不是神。

如果你仔细观察，你会发现这世界的财富是足够的。身居要职的人很多，有名望、有影响力的人也不少。你应该向神祈求在这世上并不匮乏的金钱、地位、名望和影响力吗？你应该向神祈求世上找不到的、只有神才拥有的东西才对呀！那是什么呢？是至福与平和。真正的虔诚就是那促使你祈求这两样神圣瑰宝者。

非常不幸地，今天，人们甚至把欺诈的手段和不正当的理论也用在灵性领域上。他们决不能取得良好的成果。这样的人决不会成功。最终，他们自作自受，一切反效果都回报在他们身上。神决不与财富挂钩、结伴。你不能购买神或出售神。商业与神决不相伴而行。神不要你的 **dhana**，金钱或财富，祂要观察你的 **dharma**，行为。

呜呼！在灵性的名义下，人们尔虞我诈、涉及金融交易、政治化、浪费时间于闲聊以及极尽中伤诋毁之能事等等都是不当的。对神而言，你的技巧、计谋、诀窍绝对派不上用场。靠这些策略你决不能明心见性。

举个小例子。一个有钱人养有一只玩赏狗。一天，有人路过，这只狗便追着他来咬。在无可奈何的情况下，那路人就用一支木棒把狗打死。这使到那有钱人怒不可遏，于是告上法庭，控诉路人。开庭时，法官问路人，为何用木棒打狗而置它于死地。路人答辩说，“法官大人，那只狗向我扑来并且要咬我，我不知如何是好，所以，我只好用手上的木棒来打它，不料却把它打死了。”然后，法官问狗主人有什么要说。他说，“法官大人，我可以理解他所处的那种情况，但是，他为什么要打狗的头呢？如果他不打头，狗是不会死的。”法官又转向路人，要他作出解释。路人说，“大人！当时狗正要用它锐利的牙齿咬我，我别无选择，非打它的头不可。如果它用尾巴咬我，我一定打它的尾巴。”你瞧！这不就是脱困的辩解或诀窍！在灵道上是不派上用场的。

另一个例子。一个商人要到邻近市镇去做生意。他吩咐儿子说，“儿子啊！在我离开的时候，你要代我照顾和执行一切事务。凡事要小心慎重。你知道我每天都执行礼拜，**puja**，你也看到我执行 **Astottara Puja**，念诵一百零八遍神的圣号。在我离开时，你要照做，不可有误也不可中断。”儿子说，“父亲，你放心好了，我一定照你的话去做。”回来时，商人问他的儿子是否按照他的交待去做，包括一百零八圣号。儿子出示一张记录来证明他照做不误。他在纸上写上一个圣号，其余以‘同上’，‘同上’以代替重复念诵一百零八遍。这可是真正地念诵圣号（**Astottara Puja**）？你能从这样的策略中得到正面的效果吗？

有一次，一个商人拜访一个大师并谦恭地祈求他赐予一则 **mantra upadesa**，开窍真言，以获得超脱。商人说，“我可以叫我的助手为我重复念诵这则真言一千遍（**sahasranama**）吗？”大师回答，“你在说什么？没用的。你怎么能期望你的助手代你执行祭礼而你从中得益呢？当你饥饿时，你会叫他人代你吃饭吗？当你口渴时，你会叫他人代你喝水吗？当你生病时，你会叫他人去看医生而代你吃药吗？你简直在说梦话！”这似乎是现代求道者的通病，这不是虔诚。

以你彻底的舍离（**virakti**）、你所有的力量（**sakti**）以及你对神的爱（**anurat**）来步上灵道，才是虔诚（**bhakti**）。

## 问题:

1. 在灵修道上，为什么人们总喜欢走捷径呢？【公开讨论】
2. 你认为什么是灵修的捷径和旁门左道？【公开讨论】
3. 投机取巧在灵修上会有成果吗？为什么？【脑激荡】
4. 在神眼中，怎样的信徒才是虔诚的？【公开讨论】
5. 你认为自己够虔诚吗？为什么？【顺序讲述】

### **February 2018: SCA Study Circle**

#### **Are cunning and craft fruitful in devotion?**

Today, whatever one does and says is all out of selfishness only. If you develop devotion for getting a job, you are devoted to your employer and not to God. If you are a devotee with a view to get married, you are devoted to your wife or husband as the case may be, but not to God.

If you notice clearly, you will know there is enough money in this world. There are many in good positions. There are many influential and reputed people. Should you pray to God for money, positions, popularity, and influence which are already available in this world plentifully? You should pray to God for those which are not available here and are present in and with Him only. Two things are with God only and are not present elsewhere. What are they? They are Bliss and Peace. True devotion is what urges you to pray to God for these two divine assets.

Most unfortunately, today people employ even tricks, backdoor methods and logic in spiritual fields. Alas! They will never yield good results. Such people will never succeed. Further they boomerang. God and Mammon can't go together. You can't buy or sell God. Business on commercial principles and God never go together. God doesn't want your dhana, money or wealth. He looks into your dharma, conduct.

Alas! In the name of spirituality, it is very unfortunate that people deceive each other, involve in financial transactions, politicise, manipulate, cheat, scheme, plot, spend time in gossip and mudslinging activities. Your knacks, tricks and gimmicks will never work with God. You will never realise God through these tactics.

Here is a small story. A very rich man had a pet dog. One day when a person was passing along the road, this dog chased him and was about to bite him. Then the person being totally helpless hit the dog with his stick. The dog died. This made the rich man very furious and he took the matter to court to sue this person. There in the court the judge asked the passer-by as to why he had hit the dog resulting in its death. The person said, "Sir! It fell upon me and was about to bite me. I couldn't do anything. So, I had to hit it with the stick in my hand and unfortunately the dog died". Then the judge asked the rich man what he would say in the matter. He said, "Sir! I can understand the situation. But, why should he hit it on the head? Had he not done so, the dog wouldn't have died". The judge turned to this person, wanting him to give the explanation.

He said, "Sir! It was about to bite me with its teeth. So I had to hit it on the head. Had it tried to bite me with the tail, I would have certainly beaten its tail". So this is a knack or a trick to escape from the situation. These things are of no use in the spiritual path.

Another example, a businessman had to go to a neighbouring town on some business. He called his son and said, "My dear son! You please look after my work carefully until I return. Be vigilant. Son! You know I do daily puja. You also see me doing Astottara Puja, repeat 108 precious names of God. You do it without fail during my absence. I don't want you to discontinue." The son said, "O.K. father! I will scrupulously follow your instructions." On his return the businessman enquired of his son if he had done all the things assigned to him including Astottara Puja. The son had shown him a paper as proof of his compliance. There, on the paper his son wrote God's holy name and marked 'ditto, ditto' so that he did not have to repeat 108 times. Would this make a genuine Astottara Puja? Do you expect any positive results out of such tactics?

Once a merchant went to Guru and reverentially prayed to him to give him mantra upadesa, to attain moksha. Then, the merchant said, "Sir! Can I ask my assistant to repeat and chant the mantra a thousand times (Sahasranama) on my behalf?" The Guru said, "It is useless. What are you talking about? How do you expect to be benefited when your assistant does the puja on your behalf? Do you ever ask him to eat when you are hungry? Do you ever ask him to drink water when you are thirsty? Do you ever ask him to go to a doctor and take medicine when you are sick? What nonsense are you talking?" This seems to be the trend in the thinking among modern seekers and aspirants, this is not bhakti.

A path followed with your total virakti, detachment, your sakti, total capacity and your anurakti, total love for God is bhakti, and not yukti, the tricks you adopt.

Source: Satyopanisad Q182

### **Questions:**

1. Why do people employ shortcut or backdoor methods in spiritual fields? 【Open discussion】
2. What do you consider as tricks and gimmicks in spiritual practice? 【Open discussion】
3. Are cunning and craft fruitful in devotion? Explain. 【Brainstorm】
4. Who is a devoted aspirant in the eyes of God? 【Open discussion】
5. Do you have enough devotion (bhakti)? Explain. 【Sequential narration】