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SHIKSHAPATRI BHASHYA SHLOK 28

|| One shall never associate with those people who under the pretext of preaching religion or devotion to God, seek wealth, women or worldly pleasures and commit sin ||

Link this to shlok 27 (association).

In Kaliyug (***what is this?***) we are very susceptible to fake bhaktas and so called gyanis. Maharaj has warned his devotees on a number of occasions that they should be careful of these sorts of people. But how do we tell the fakes from the real ones? Maharaj has answered this question for us in the Vachanamrut and in other Shastras also. He emphasises the need of testing people and assessing whether they are worthy or not. The test need not be like a conventional test (timed exam paper!!) but should be done by associating with that particular person for a while in order to get a true picture of their personality, bhakti and love for God before making a decision.

Those who act as God (even if they do not make a statement as such), hanker after women and wealth, or use their gyan for sinful acts can never be trusted. Maharaj also emphasises that association with these people is just as bad as committing the sin. Many people do bhakti for personal gain e.g. if I come to mandir everyday Maharaj will make me wealthy. Shatanand Swami says those who act in such a way are insulting the Gods.

Also some people may have great knowledge but they should never act as though they are God. There can be great muktas who have qualities like God but they can never be God. They should never impersonate God as these people are made to suffer in hell. Association with such people can never attain moksha.