

Wisdom

There is no human quality more admired than wisdom. Wisdom is a combination of knowledge and experience, and it can be seen in all fields. For example, there is what we could call scriptural wisdom—someone who has a thorough knowledge of the principles expounded by the scriptures. More than that, they have put these principles into practice in their own lives and thus they have developed a deep understanding of the teachings and are considered to be wise.

There is also what we could call statecraft wisdom—a person who understands the principles of governance, who has studied them deeply, both internal governance and handling external relations. But not only do they have the knowledge, they have actually been in the field, have done the work, have themselves governed. So ultimately they have developed statecraft wisdom.

And there is also such as thing as business wisdom, someone who understands the principles of business, but more than that, they have been successful in the field, they have proven themselves and so are considered to be in that field wise. And there is even such a thing as labour wisdom, understanding how to give good value for your pay, who is a good employer and who is not, and how to rectify wrongs when they are there. More than that, they have been in the field for many years, have been through the mill, and understand what will work and what will not work. They too have a certain wisdom.

But all these forms of wisdom, desirable and admirable as they may be, cannot compare to what we could call intuitive wisdom. Intuitive wisdom is what we see in the saints. Intuitive wisdom will break all rules. Indeed a saint can frequently be accused of being inconsistent. Someone will ask a question one day; the saint will give a certain answer. The exact same question may be asked by someone else the next day, and an entirely different answer will be given. The saint is meeting their individual circumstances, free of any past knowledge or wisdom. He is intuitively meeting the needs of the person who asks the question.

Of course, we should never confuse intuitive wisdom with what some people call “my intuition.” As Pūjya Swāmī Chidānandajī once said, “That’s not intuition. That’s just a hunch.” That hunch is coming not from God, not

from true intuition, it is just a play of the mind. The other thing we must understand is that we can't suddenly jump to intuitive wisdom. In a sense it is the flowering of human wisdom. We come to a point where, admirable as human wisdom is, it lacks total understanding. Total understanding is only in God, in intuitive wisdom. And that is our goal.

No matter how wise we are in the field that we are in, whether it is scriptural, statecraft, business, labor, or any other field, it is limited by the knowledge of our mind and our understanding. To be truly wise we have to go beyond. There is something beyond all our human wisdom. And *that* is our goal.

Lord Kṛṣṇa told us, abandoning all *dharmas*, meaning abandoning all your wisdom, take refuge in Me alone. Surrendering to God, taking refuge, is the doorway to intuitive wisdom.