



# Home Deity Worship Course

Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā 24.336



ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry

## CC Madhya 24.336

*nāma-mahimā, nāmāparādhā dūre varjana  
vaiṣṇava-lakṣaṇa, sevāparādhā-khaṇḍana*

*nāma-mahimā* — the glories of the holy name; *nāma-aparādhā* — offenses in chanting the holy name; *dūre varjana* — giving up very carefully; *vaiṣṇava-lakṣaṇa* — the symptoms of a Vaiṣṇava; *sevā-aparādhā-khaṇḍana* — rejecting offenses in worshipping the Deity.

**“You should glorify the holy name and explain that one must carefully give up offenses when chanting the holy name. You should also describe the symptoms of a Vaiṣṇava and explain that one must give up or nullify all kinds of sevā-aparādhā, offenses in Deity worship.**

### Purport

The devotee should always be very careful not to commit the ten offenses when chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mantra*. If a devotee very strictly follows the methods of Deity worship, he will naturally and quickly become a pure Vaiṣṇava. A pure Vaiṣṇava has unflinching faith in the Lord, and he does not deviate at all. He is always engaged in perfect Deity worship.

One should also note the specific offenses against Deity worship. These are mentioned in the *Skanda Purāṇa* (*Avantī-khaṇḍa*), spoken by Vyāsadeva himself. One should liquidate all kinds of offenses.

The *śālagrāma-śilā* should be worshiped with *tulasī* where a sufficient quantity of *tulasī* leaves are available. Worship of *śālagrāma-śilā* should be introduced in all ISKCON temples. *Śālagrāma-śilā* is the form of the Lord’s mercy. To worship the Deity with the sixty-four items mentioned may be a difficult job, but the Lord has become so small that anyone in any temple can carefully handle Deity worship simply by performing the same activities with the *śālagrāma-śilā*.



There are thirty-two offenses to the Deity that should be avoided. (1) One should not enter the temple in a vehicle. Shoes and slippers should be removed before entering the temple. (2) One should offer obeisances as soon as he sees the Deity. (3) One should enter the temple after taking a bath. In other words, one should be very clean. (4) One should not offer obeisances to the Lord with one hand. (5) One should not circumambulate demigods before the Deities. (6) One should not spread his legs before the Deity. (7) One should not sit down before the Deity with his legs crossed, nor should one touch his legs with his hands. (8) One should not lie down before the Deity. (9) One should not eat before the Deity. (10) One should not speak lies before the Deity. (11) One should not speak very loudly before the Deity. (12) One should not talk nonsense before the Deity. (13) One should not cry before the Deity. (14) One should not deal with others before the Deity. (15) One should not utter harsh words before the Deity. (16) One should not cover himself with a blanket. (17) One should not talk enviously of others before the Deity. (18) One should not praise others before the Deity. (19) One should not use slang before the Deity. (20) One should not pass air before the Deity. (21) One should not neglect the sixty-four items of Deity worship. (22) One should not eat anything not offered to the Deity. (23) One should not neglect offering seasonal fruits as soon as they are available. (24) One should always offer fresh, untouched fruit to the Deity. (25) One should not sit with his back toward the Deity. (26) One should not offer obeisances to others before the Deity. (27) One should not sit near the Deity without taking the spiritual master's permission. (28) One should not be proud to hear himself praised before the Deity. (29) One should not blaspheme the demigods. (30) One should not be unkind to others before the Deities. (31) One should observe all festivals in the temple. (32) One should not fight or quarrel before the Deity.