

Five Sūtras for

A Socio-Economic Solution To Environmental Problems

Overconsumption
Greedy Destruction
Harmless Enjoyment
Vedic Celebration
Devotee Association



The root cause is **overconsumption**.

It is **greedily** destroying nature.

Harmless **enjoyment** controls greed
through **nama, leela, and rupa** celebrations.

And **sadhu-sanga** is the inspiration.

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1. Overconsumption

- Overconsumption--the root of environmental problems.
- The planet uses more than nature produces.
- That results in depletion, degradation, and pollution.
- Globally each person, on average, uses 75% too much.
- The U.S. uses 400% more than the world.

(Ref: Global Footprint Network)

- That is greed.

2. Greedy Destruction

- “Hunger, thirst, and anger can be satisfied, but greed can never be satiated even by conquering the world and enjoying everything in it.” *Bhagavatam* 7.15.20
- Greed (*kāma*) leads to loss of discrimination and destruction (*praṇaśyati*). *Gītā* 2.62-63
- The *asuras*, who have no discrimination, act to do harm and aim to destroy the world. *Gītā* 16.9

3. Higher Taste—Harmless Enjoyment

- Laws and restrictions cannot prevent overconsumption.
- It is a global addiction.
- One must develop a higher taste. *Gītā* 2.59
- Harmful, destructive enjoyment must be replaced.
- *Nāmas*, *līlās*, and *rūpas* (*mūrtis*) are harmless enjoyment.
- The **economy** must be changed from consumption to *saṅkīrtana*—celebration of *nāmas*, *līlās*, and *rūpas*.

4. Nāma, Līlā, and Rūpa Celebrations

- Devotees derive great satisfaction and enjoyment from Kṛṣṇa *kathā*. *Gītā* 10.10
- Śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtanam, celebration of *nāma*, *līlā*, etc., is *ānandāmbudhi-varḍhanam*, an increasing ocean of enjoyment. (*Śikṣāṣṭaka* 1)
- The **economy** of Vedic culture is based on *nāma/līlā/rūpa* drama, dance, festivals, temple and home worship, processions, sculpture, art, music, literature, science, and more.
- All are enjoyable and absorbing for the mind and the **economy**.

5. Devotee Association—Sādhū-saṅga

- Just a moment's association with a pure devotee awards all success. (*sādhū-saṅga*—CC Madhya 22.54)
- In the beginning, one develops enough conviction to associate with devotees, who engage him/her in service. (CC Madhya 23.14)
- One should give up the association of worldly-minded persons and associate with devotees. (*Nectar of Instruction*)
- By association (*saṅga*), one can become either purified or contaminated. (CC Madhya 24.97 and BG 2.62)