

A Socio-Economic Solution

To Society's Imbalance with Nature

Vedic Culture = **Balance With Nature**

Overconsumption = Imbalance

The Cultural Solution:

Harmless Enjoyment

Vedic Celebration

Devotee Association

Vedic **Culture** = Balance With **Nature**

Desire for excess consumption
causes imbalance with nature.

Redirect that desire with harmless enjoyment
of *nama*, *leela*, and *rupa* celebration.

And *sadhu-sanga* is the inspiration.

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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.
- Americans use 400% more than nature's global allotment.

(Ref: Global Footprint Network)

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*.

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**.

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