

Yamuna: It is a long story but I will try to make it short. Day two, I meet Srila Prabhupada at lunch, then he cooked for my sister's wedding, the first wedding in Iskcon. His assistant in the kitchen at that time was Kirtanananda, and his parents had put him in a mental hospital because he had become a devotee. They were fundamentalist Christian family.

So he didn't have a helper, so when he met me, he asked if I could help. So again, the next morning, ten o'clock in the morning, I was wearing a miniskirt and a little top, I was 26 years old. Prabhupada gave me some chores to do, I had to go shopping. When I came back he gave me one job. He sat me down on the floor, with a five pound bag of flour, two pounds of butter, and a pitcher of water. So he said, "You can make a medium hard dough." I said, "Well, do you mean a patte brisse, or .. is that what you mean?" He said, "How old are you?" "Twenty six years old." You are twenty six years old and you can't make a medium hard dough?"

So I was immediately put off. (laughter) So then he said, "In India, any girl, five years old, can make a medium soft dough" So I am definitely put off, I am thinking, "I came here to help you..." So he said, "That is alright, I will show you."

He makes this dough. So all of you know, who make pastry. This is pastry, puff pastry. So you know in the west, when we make a pastry, we don't handle the dough so much, it is called a light touch. What to speak of knead a pastry dough. So Prabhupada proceeds to make a kneaded pastry dough.

I said, "Absolutely, I don't know how to make a medium hard dough." I have never seen anything like this in the kitchen. Then it turned out,

that for the next six hours, I single handedly assembled, made dough, and stuffed kachoris for six hours.

So in the course of that, the very first , I guess about one o'clock, it must be maybe 105 in Prabhupada's room. And I was much thinner than I was now, so I say, "Swamiji, can I have a glass of water?" I called to the kitchen. And he peeks his head around the door, and says, "Go wash your hands." "My, that's odd." So I go and wash my hands. And he says, (this is day two)"This is different cooking than any cooking you have ever done before. This cooking is for Krsna. And when we cook for Krsna, we don't eat or drink in the kitchen. We don't feed our senses with anything, We use all of our senses to serve Krsna."

"Okay Swamiji." Then sometime later, maybe two thirty, "Swamiji, may I have a cigarette?" "Go wash your hands." "No, you are cooking for Krsna. Different cooking. We follow four rules. Prohibitions that we don't do." So he tells me the four prohibitions. So that is the second hand washing. Naturally, "Swamiji, may I go to the bathroom?" "Go wash your hands."

I this way, on the first time that I served Srila Prabhupada in the kitchen, he had this hand washing thing. Three times, on the first day cooking.

So this is symptomatic of an entire mentality that washing is included in cooking. So a part of cooking is cleaning. We want to avoid, Prabhupada wanted the kitchen clean when you are ready to offer. Not that the kitchen counters are covered with a stack of pots, and dishes, dirty dishes.

So that is another power of cleaning, that he tried to impart to us.
Washing our hands, washing up is another step.