

Varnasrama training required – or be an animal

According to religious life, society is divided into four social divisions – *brahmana*, *ksatriya*, *vaisya* and *sudra* – and four spiritual divisions – *brahmacarya*, *grhastha*, *vanaprastha* and *sannyasa*. One needs to be trained to become a *brahmana*, *ksatriya*, *vaisya* or *sudra*, just as one is trained to become an engineer, doctor or lawyer. Those who are properly trained can be considered human beings; if one is not trained socially and spiritually – that is, if one is uneducated and unregulated – his life is on the animal platform. Among animals there is no question of spiritual advancement. Spiritual life can be attained by proper training-either by following the principles of *varna* and *asrama* or by being directly trained in the *bhakti* school by the methods of *sravanam kirtanam visnoh smaranam pada-sevanam/ arcanam vandanam dasyam sakhyam atma-nivedanam* [SB 7.5.23].

From Srila Prabhupada's purport to Madhya 24.94