

Kartik Inspirations 2016

Kartik Inspiration Day 29 . 13 NOVEMBER, 2016

CHANTING WITH AFFECTION

Jiva Goswami explains that the Holy Name can be chanted in two ways: ordinarily or with affection. He says that the ordinary offenseless chanter will reach the Lord's divine abode, but the Lord only comes close to an affectionate chanter. So, an affectionate chanter attains the Lord's personal service.

I think the point is clear: without affection there is no proximity, without affection there is always an unsurmountable distance. Now, it's difficult for a conditioned soul to develop attachment or affection for Sri Sri Radha and Krishna quickly or artificially. It is something that has to grow with the growth of one's *bhakti*. But it is said that if we don't have feelings of affection in our heart, we can pray for them by uttering the prayers of great souls who experience them.

A favorite verse of Srila Rupa Goswami is known as a prayer for chanting with affection:
*agha-damana-yasoda-nandanau nanda-suno kamala-nayana-gopi-candra-vrndavanendrah
pranata-karuna-krishnav ity aneka-svarupe tvayi mama ratir uccair vardhatam nama-dheya*

»O Sri Harinama,« says Rupa Goswami, »You manifest in many forms, like Aghadamana (the subduer of the Agha demon [this demon represents sin]), Yashodanandana (the son of Yasoda), Nandasuna (the son of Nanda Maharaja), Kamalanayana (the lotus-eyed) and Gopichandra (the moon of the gopis), another name of yours is Vrindavanendra (the Lord of Vrindavana), Pranatakaruna (the compassionate master of the surrendered souls) and Krishna.«

And then he pauses and says with all his heart: »O Holy Name, let my attachment to You increase more and more.«

The six Goswamis always prayed and because of this prayerful mood they were actually full of attachment and affection. It comes to those who pray.



*Affection for Sri Sri Radha Krishna
comes to those who pray.*

ŚACĪNANDANA
Swami