

THE TOUCHSTONE OF THE HOLY NAME



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5) THE PROCESS OF REVELATION

Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura describes what happens in the heart, by the mercy of the Lord, when one chants constantly:

—❖❖❖ GĪTĀVALĪ, ❖❖❖— SONGS ON THE ŚIKṢĀṢṬAKAM, SONG 7

*gāite gāite nāma ki daśā haila
kṛṣṇa-nitya-dāsa mui hṛdaye sphurila*

What a wonderful state I have attained while chanting the holy name of the Lord. The realization that I am an eternal servant of Kṛṣṇa has become manifest within my heart.

*jānilāma māyā-pāṣe e-jaḍa-jagate
govinda-virahe duḥkha pāi nānā-mate*

I have realized that, due to separation from Govinda, I am entangled in the network of māyā in this material world, and thus I am suffering material miseries in various ways.

*āra ye saṁsāra mora nāhi lāge bhāla
kānhā yāi kṛṣṇa heri-e cintā viśāla*

I no longer relish material life, now my only thought is: "Where should I go to find Kṛṣṇa?"



kāndite kāndite more ānkhi-variśaya
varṣā-dhārā hena cakṣe haila udaya

While crying in ecstasy, tears flow from my eyes like an incessant shower of rain.

nimeṣe haila mora śata-yuga-sama
govinda-viraha āra sahite akṣama

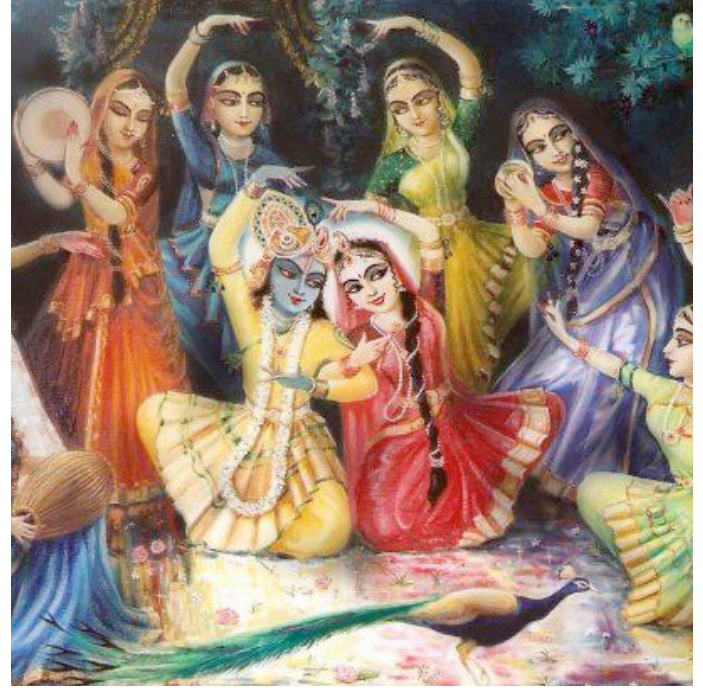
Now, even a moment appears to be like one hundred yugas. I find it very difficult to tolerate separation from Govinda.

śūnya dharā-tala caudike dekhiye
parāṇa udāsa haya
ki kari ki kari sthira nāhi haya
jivana nāhika raya

I look in the four directions, but find everything void. I have become very morose, due to intense separation from Kṛṣṇa. I cannot decide what to do and as such, it is extremely difficult for me to remain in this condition.

braja-bāsi-gaṇa mora prāna rākha
dekhāo śrī-rādhā-nāthe
bhaktivinoda minati māniyā
laohe tāhāre sāthe

O, inhabitants of Braja! Please, save my life by showing me the beloved Lord of Śrī Rādhā. Accept this request of Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura and give him your association.



The process of revelation has three steps: purification, longing and revelation. Purification of the heart awakens a longing, which then brings forth revelation.

Most of us are on the stage of purification. This means we hear about Kṛṣṇa and chant his names and thus purify our hearts. At the present stage, hearing is our only way to obtain information about Kṛṣṇa, to get to know him, so that it becomes easier for us to feel connected to him. By hearing about Kṛṣṇa, we attract Kṛṣṇa's attention – when he sees that we have developed an urge to hear about him, he cleanses material contamination from our heart (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, 1.2.17). Kṛṣṇa will then remove all obstacles that lie on our path back to Godhead. This shows the special nature of the path of *bhakti*. In *bhakti* we are actually connecting to the greatest source of solutions – that is the power of the Lord who rushes to the aid of his devotees.

In our endeavors to chant properly, it is essential that we avoid the *aparādhas*. We have to work very seriously on our understanding of the *aparādhas* and then remove them one by one. This will make us expert in *bhajan*.

After our hearts have become more and more purified we will first be able to understand who we are. It will be clear to us that we are a spirit soul inhabiting a material body. Then we begin to feel a longing, an urge for Kṛṣṇa, something which is often called “*separation*”. Only when we have this strong feeling “*I need Kṛṣṇa,*” will he come. At this stage Kṛṣṇa's form will frequently appear in our mind, and then, when chanting without any offences, we will see that Kṛṣṇa's name, form and qualities are one! Suddenly Kṛṣṇa's full form appears in our mind. And then he starts to move, to dance. The chanting becomes so enlivening, that we feel, as Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura says (*Śrī Nāma-Māhātmya*), “*My throat becomes choked up, my body shivers again and again, and my feet cannot remain still.*”