

Śaranagati

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THE TURNING POINT

Photo by Mickey Shah



We have made the decision to join the devotees, but have we really joined? The moment you really become a devotee is when you accept your own helplessness in bringing your life where you wish to bring it and turn to the Lord - and now comes the important word: *sambandha* - start a sincere relationship!

MORE MERCIFUL THAN KṚṢṆA

The *śāstras* (Vedic scriptures) unanimously declare that there is not the least difference between Kṛṣṇa and *kṛṣṇa-nāma* because the real nature of the name is entirely spiritual. The name becomes manifest as the *caitanya-rasa-vigrahaḥ*, an eternally conscious form full of transcendental mellows (*rāsas*). But just as we cannot hear and see God with our materially conditioned ears and eyes, so we cannot hear and see the true form of the name with our materially diseased ears and eyes. Our spiritual senses need to first be awakened by the mercy of the holy name.

Kṛṣṇa as the holy name is even more merciful than Kṛṣṇa in His transcendental form. This is because Kṛṣṇa in His divine form will only take His seat in a heart that has been totally purified. Kṛṣṇa's name, however, is so merciful that He is willing to appear even to an unpurified soul

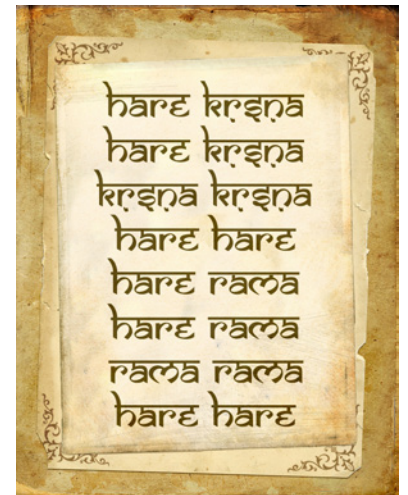
The life of a conditioned soul doesn't stop by joining a movement. The life of a conditioned soul doesn't stop by somehow starting to chant and taking to the process of *sādhana*. The life of a conditioned soul only stops the moment he or she becomes extremely sincere about his or her relationship to Kṛṣṇa. In the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* it is expressed like this:

*"Oh Kṛṣṇa, although I have forgotten You for so many long years in the material world, today I am surrendering unto You. I am Your sincere and serious servant. Please accept me."*¹

This isn't something we have to do only once. We need to live in this consciousness: "I have forgotten you - and as a result I have gone far, far away from you." Today is the 10th of December 2010. Don't wait for 2020, do it now! "My dear Lord, I surrender unto you."

from a Lecture by Śacīnandana Swami on SB 4.11.28 in Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandir, Vṛndāvana, 10th of December 2010
¹Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya 22.33

and then purify that soul's heart. In this "name-form" Kṛṣṇa accepts the dress, so to speak, of a "street sweeper" and cleanses the heart of the many contaminations to be found there, along with the soul's beginningless ignorance, strong material desires, and karmic reactions. As the heart becomes purer, the auspicious hour announces itself when the chanter feels



MORE MERCIFUL THAN KṚṢṆA (CONTINUED)

sincere spiritual joy while pronouncing the name. Tears of ecstasy begin to tickle down such chanters' cheeks, and they chant, hear, and remember Kṛṣṇa's name with affection. This chanting attracts Kṛṣṇa like nothing else. Appearing in their hearts, Kṛṣṇa reveals Himself and removes the last spots of material contamination. He then sits down, dressed in His wonderfully brilliant *dhotī* and decorated with His shining ornaments.[...]

Kṛṣṇa's holy name is thus the first contact the soul can have with Kṛṣṇa. The *Agni Purāṇa* therefore praises the holy name in a voice thundering with enthusiasm:

„The name of Kṛṣṇa is purely spiritual. There is no knowledge as great as that of the name, and no practice of austerity or meditation, no result of spiritual activity, no form of renunciation, no act of sense control, no pious act,

and no goal that can match it. The name is the supreme liberation, the supreme destination, and the supreme peace. The name is eternal life itself. The name is the supreme devotion and the supreme intelligence. The name is the supreme love and the supreme remembrance. The name is the soul's reason for existence. The name is the lord of the soul, the most worshipful object, and the supreme guru.“

These high praises are verified by the realizations awakening devotees gain as they practice chanting, and so they come to have deep conviction in the holy name.

☪ Śācīnandana Swami (2008). *Nama Rahasya*, p. 17-18, Śaraṇāgati Publishing.

KṚṢṆA'S WELCOMING WORDS

Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura ecstatically describes Kṛṣṇa's welcoming words to the soul when it arrives in Vṛndāvana:

“O friend, I have been carefully holding this storehouse of *rāsa* for you. You alone have rights to it. Rejecting Me, you fell under the spell of My energy of illusion. Continuously I have shown great regard for you. As you have attained this by your own efforts, I am extremely pleased. Serve My ever-fresh pleasurable form and play with Me in the endless ocean of bliss. For My sake, you have cut all chains of material attachment. I will never be able to repay the depths of the love you have shown. Be naturally satisfied in your service.”

☪ Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, Śrī Caitanya-śikṣāmṛta, concluding words

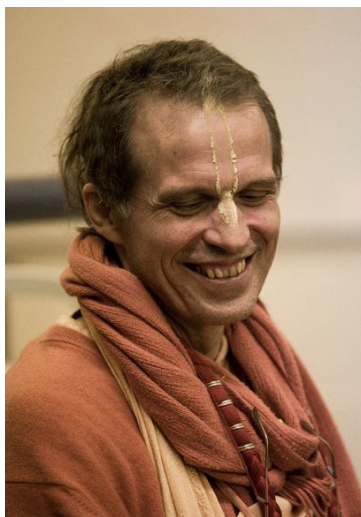


Photo by Mickey Shah

☪ MEET ŚĀCĪNANDANA SWAMI

Important events over the next two months:

July 23th	Ratha-Yātrā, Berlin, Germany
Aug. 6th	Ratha-Yātrā, Cologne, Germany
Aug. 9th-13th	Śrī Balarāma Jayantī Festival, New Māyāpur Dhāma, Fr.
Aug. 22th-23th	Janmāṣṭamī Festival, Goloka Dhāma, Germany
Aug. 29th-Sep. 4th	First Worldwide Kīrtana Mela, near Chemnitz, Germany
Sep. 4th- Sep. 26	USA Tour (New York, California, New Vṛndāvana, Alachua)

You can find a more detailed schedule at www.saranagati.net