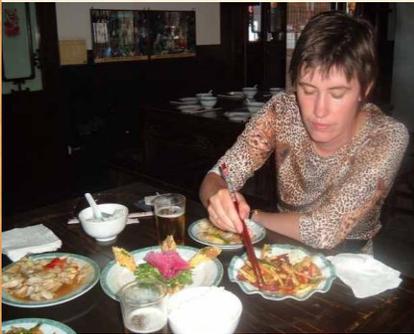


Fill the Empty Heart

Almost everyone feels that there is something missing, something empty in life. Different people try to fill this emptiness in different ways:

- At the grossest level, people try to fill their stomachs with varieties of foods and try to get rid of the emptiness within them.



- Others try to fill their houses with various gadgets and luxuries.
- Still others try to fill their bank accounts with big, big figures.
- Some intellectuals try to fill their brains with numerous facts and figures and their name-plates with a string of degrees.



- Still others, who have some special talents, try to fill their showcases with varieties of medals and trophies.

But all these people miss the point. It is the heart that is empty. And the heart can be filled only with love – not just mundane love, but divine love. Only when we direct our love not to any ordinary, or even extraordinary, person, but to the Supreme Person will we find everlasting fulfillment. All other relationships will be destroyed by time.



Krishna Consciousness is precisely the method of filling the void in the heart. We are all attracted to the things and people that have the opulence of wealth, beauty, strength, fame, knowledge and renunciation. Krishna is the all-attractive Supreme Person who has all these opulences in full eternally. Therefore, when we chant Hare Krishna, the chanting invokes the divine presence of Krishna in our hearts. Krishna appears on our tongue, enters through our ears into our hearts and fills the void there. That is why attentive chanting of the Hare Krishna mahamantra is the most

satisfying activity in the entire creation. The devotee who regularly and attentively chants the holy names finds tremendous, incomparable inner fulfillment. And when we love Krishna, we will also love all His children holistically and do our part in connecting them with His eternal love.

Well-known theologian Michael Novak expresses the need for divine love well, "*Filling the empty shrine which lies at the heart of modern civilization is the greatest of all intellectual and human adventures.*" Are we ready for this adventure?

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