



तवकथामृतं तप्तजीवनम्
tava kathāmṛtaṁ tapta-jīvanam

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His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

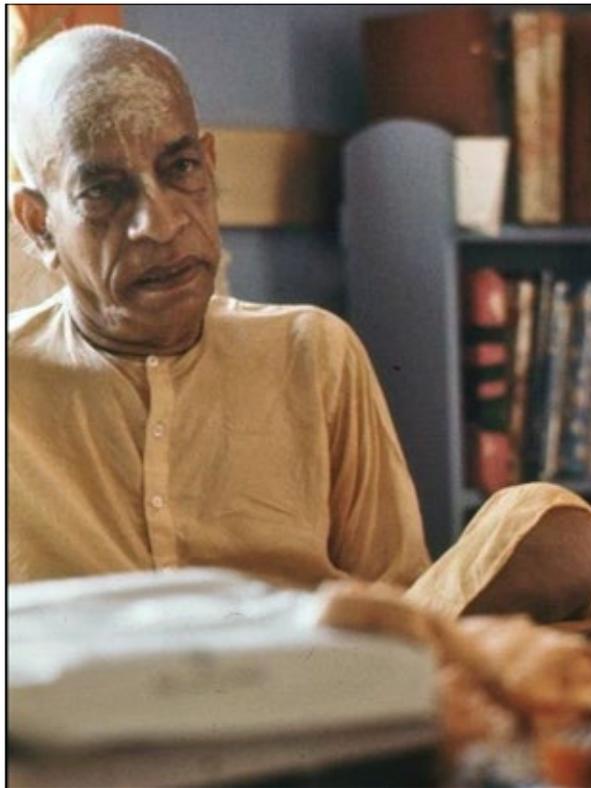
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ASSOCIATION, READING, AND HEARING 3

*Comments from His Divine Grace
A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada*

Reading

It is sometimes misunderstood that if one has to associate with persons engaged in devotional service, he will not be able to solve the economic problem.

To answer this argument, it is described here that one has to associate with liberated persons not directly, physically, but by understanding, through philosophy and logic, the problems of life. (Purport to *Bhāg.* 3.31.48.)

Paramahansa Das: “My question is, a pure devotee, when he comments on *Bhagavad-gītā*, someone who never sees him physically, but he just comes in contact with the commentary, explanation, is this the same thing?”

Srila Prabhupada: “Yes. You can associate with Krishna by reading *Bhagavad-gītā*. And these saintly persons, they have given their explanations, comments. So where is the difficulty?” (Morning Walk in Paris. 11 June 1974.)

Hearing

A businessman is always very eager to go to a place where business is transacted. Similarly, a devotee is very eager to hear from the lips of liberated devotees. As soon as one hears the glories of the Lord from the liberated devotees, he immediately becomes impregnated with Krishna consciousness. (Purport to *Bhāg.* 4.29.39-40.)

We have to hear not from a telephone but from an authorized person, for it is he who has real knowledge. (Purport to *Cc. ādi* 7.107.)

The separated energy can be understood from a practical example. I compose books by speaking into a dictaphone, and when the dictaphone is replayed, it appears that I am speaking personally, but actually I am not. (Purport to *Cc. ādi* 7.119.)

According to the Vedic injunction, *yasya deve parā bhaktir yathā deve tathā gurau* [Śvetāśvatara Upaniṣad 6.23], all Vedic literatures maintain that Śrīmad Bhāgavatam has to be learned from the person *bhāgavata*, and to understand it one has to engage in pure devotional service. Śrīmad Bhāgavatam cannot be understood by so-called erudite scholars or grammarians. One who has developed pure Krishna consciousness and has served the pure devotee, the spiritual master, can understand Śrīmad Bhāgavatam. Others cannot. (Purport to Cc. madhya 24.313.) 🍌

ENTERING RADHA'S HEART

Sri Srimad Gour Govinda Swami Maharaja

In *gaura-līlā* you will find immeasurable mercifulness. The most astounding, special characteristic of *gaura-līlā* is Mahāprabhu's wonderful loving attitude, *mahābhāva*, toward his followers.

If you accumulate all material and spiritual opulences in one place, still it cannot be equal to one particle of that *mahābhāva*. That *dhana*, asset, *mahābhāva*, is solely possessed by Radharani. It is not available with anyone else. Even Krishna has no such asset. Krishna is devoid of it. So Krishna thought of what he should do. Krishna is the supreme thief, very expert in stealing. He thought, "I will steal it." So entering into the heart of Radharani, Krishna stole it and kept it in his heart. Thereby he also stole the complexion of Radharani and became golden. Krishna is *śṛṅgāra-rasarāja*, king of the conjugal mellow, but that remains inside. Outside he is Gaura, with the complexion of Radharani. Thereby he fulfilled his three types of desires. He relished the mellow of his own beauty and distributed it indiscriminately, *mahā-vadānyāya*. 🍌

— From *Embankment of Separation*, p. 42-43 of pocket edition.

HEARING FROM THE LIPS PART 4

Approach Sastra through Guru

The *Chāndogya Upaniṣad* (6.14.2) describes the process of approaching *sāstra*: *ācāryavān puruṣo veda* — "Only one who has a guru can know the Vedas." This point is further elucidated in the *Padma Purāṇa* (*bhūmi-khaṇḍa* 67.43), which states:

guru pūjām akṛtvaiṣa yaḥ sāstraṁ śrotum icchati na karoti ca śuśrūṣām ājñā-bhaṅgaṅca bhāvataḥ

Without worshiping the spiritual master, those who try to listen to the scriptures are not following scriptural injunctions. Rather, they are consciously breaking them.

Similar statements are also made in the *Devī-rahasya* (1.22-24), where it speaks of accepting teachings from a book in the absence of a qualified guru:

*adikṣita upādhyāya-vihīnaḥ śakti-bhaktimān
guror abhāve deveśi pustakaṁ gurum ācaret* (22)

[Lord Shiva said:] "O Parvati! A non-initiated person in the absence of a real guru should accept the book as guru."

Lord Shiva clarifies that statement in the next verses:

*yadi kaścid bhaved devī gurus tantra-vicakṣaṇaḥ
dikṣitaḥ śiva-mantreṇa vaiṣṇavaḥ śubha-lakṣaṇaḥ
taṁ parityajya yo devī parā-bhaktō 'pi bhaktimān
pustakaṁ tu guruṁ kuryāt sa bhaved chiva-ghātakaḥ*

"O Devi! However, if there exists a bona-fide *vaiṣṇava* guru expert in the *tantras*, endowed with all auspicious qualities and initiated through an auspicious mantra, and if one renounces such a supremely devoted *vaiṣṇava* guru and accepts a book as guru, then he becomes an offender to Lord Shiva."

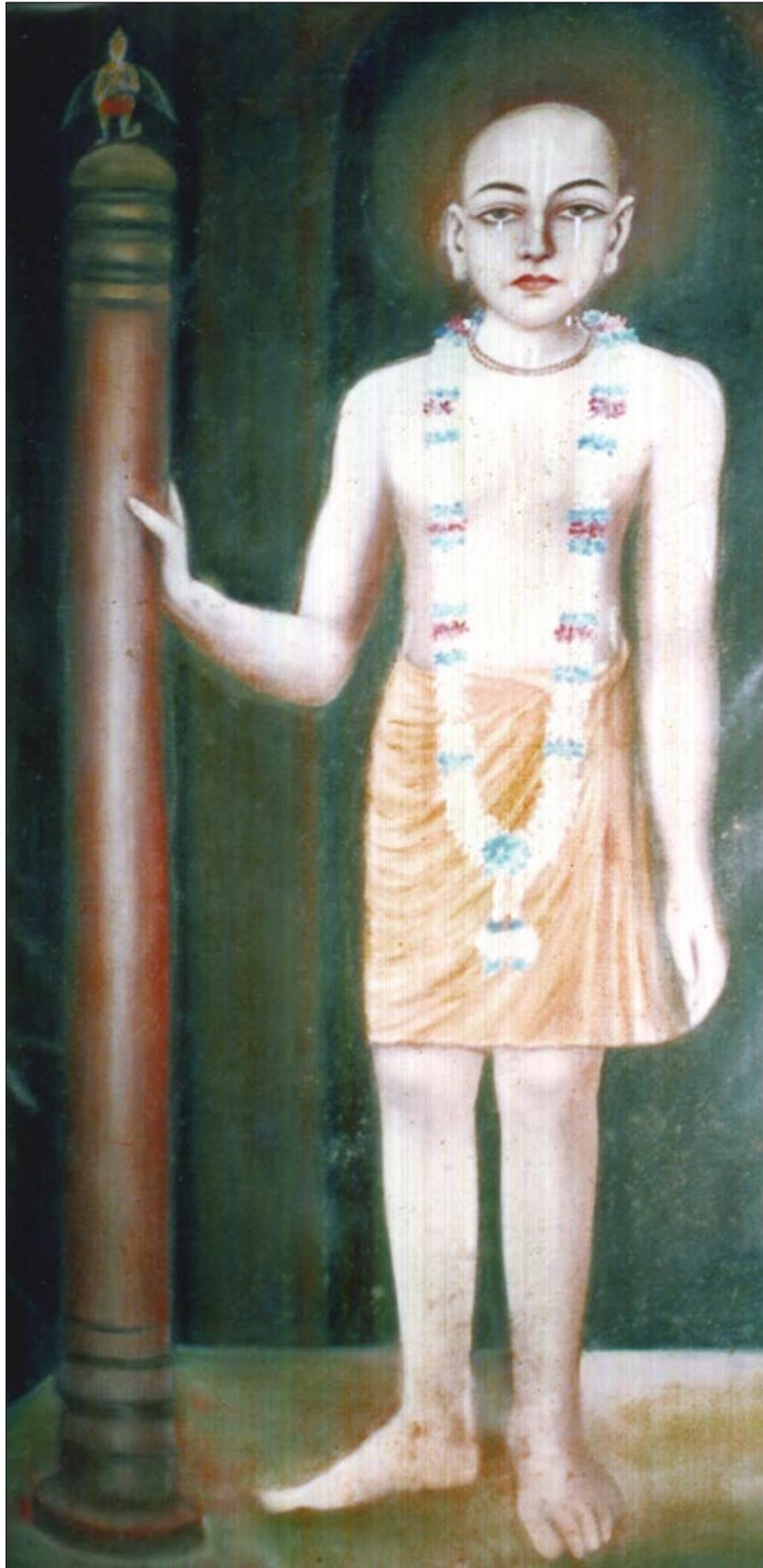
Both Hearing and Reading

For his followers, the books of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada are their life and soul. Srila Prabhupada comments in his purport to *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*madhya* 25.278):

All the devotees connected with the Krishna consciousness movement must read all the books that have been translated (the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Bhagavad-gītā* and others); otherwise, after some time, they will simply eat, sleep and fall down from their position. Thus they will miss the opportunity to attain an eternal, blissful life of transcendental pleasure.

Srila Prabhupada is always present in his books. Srila Prabhupada's disciple, Caru Das, recounts a personal memory:

"A reporter asked, 'What will happen to your movement when you die?' Before the words were out of his mouth, it was so lightning quick, Prabhupada was saying, 'I will never die', right back at the guy. And then Prabhupada explained himself, 'I will live forever in my books.'" (Srila Prabhupada Remembrances. Volume 3 chapter 43.)



Unknown artist

Devotees should always associate with Srila Prabhupada through the form of his books, and also through the form of his devotees and followers. Bona fide books say that we should hear from a bona fide person, while bona fide persons instruct their followers to read bona fide books. — MD (This concludes the article.) 🍌

WITHOUT THE SON OF SACHI

The Poet Premananda Das

The scholar Sukumar Sen in A History of Brajabuli Literature writes that Premananda Das, also known as Prema Das, lived in the early 1700s and was a disciple of Hari Goswami, a devotee in the line of Lord Nityananda Prabhu's wife, Jahnava Devi. He was born in the village Kuliya, near Nabadwip. When he was 16 years old he left home and went to Vraja where he became a cook for Govindaji, the deity of Srila Rupa Goswami. Amongst other writings, Prema Das was the author of Vamśī-śikṣā, a poem dealing with the life and teachings of Mahaprabhu's associate Vamsi Vadananda. He also wrote Caitanya-candrodaya-kaumudī, a Bengali metrical version of the Caitanya-candrodaya-nāṭakam of Srila Kavi Karnapur. See Bindus 122, 169, and 173 for other songs written by Premananda Das.

e mana! śacira nandana vine
prema bali nāma ati adbhūta
śruta haita kāra kāṇe



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Without the son of Sachi, whose ears would have heard the most wonderful holy name, which is renowned as *prema*?

[Note: Premananda Das is describing that there is no difference between *prema* and the holy names given by Chaitanya.]

śrī-kṛṣṇa-nāmera sa-guṇa-mahimā
keba jānāita āra
vṛṇḍa-vipinera mahā-madhurimā
praveṣa ha-ita kāra

Who would have informed us of the glories of the names of Lord Krishna? Who would be able to enter the greatest sweetness of the Vrindavan forest?

kebā jānāita rādhāra mādhyura
rasa yaśa camatkāra
tāra anubhava sāttvika vikāra
gocara chila va kāra

Who would have informed us of the splendid nectar, fame, and sweetness of Sri Radha? Who would have understood her *sāttvika vikāra*, transcendental ecstasies?

vraje ye vilāsa rāsa mahā-rāsa
prema parakiyā tattva
gopīra mahimā vyabhicārī simā
kāra gati chila eta

Who would have understood the pastimes in Vraja, the *rāsa* and *mahā-rāsa*, the nature of *prema* and *parakiyā-rasa* (paramour love), the glories of the *gopīs* and the topmost limit of the *vyabhicārī-bhāvas*?

dhanya kali dhanya nitāi caitanya
parama karunā kari
vidhi-agocara ye prema-vikāra
prakāśe jagata bhari

So glorious and fortunate is the age of Kali! Lord Nitai and Lord Chaitanya, being absolutely merciful, have revealed the great ecstasy of pure transcendental love and filled the entire universe with it. An attainment which is beyond the reach of even Lord Brahma.

uttama adhama kichu nā bāchila
yāciye dileka kola
kahe premānanda emana gaurāṅga
antare dhariyā dola

Without considering who was exalted and who was degraded, they (Chaitanya and Nityananda) offered their loving embrace to one and all. Premananda says, “Please embrace such munificent Lord Sri Gauranga within your heart.” 🍌

— Translated by Mani Gopal Das from Premananda Das' *Manah-śikṣā* published by Haridas Sastri. Vrindavan. Śrī Caitanyābda 484 (1970). Bengali.