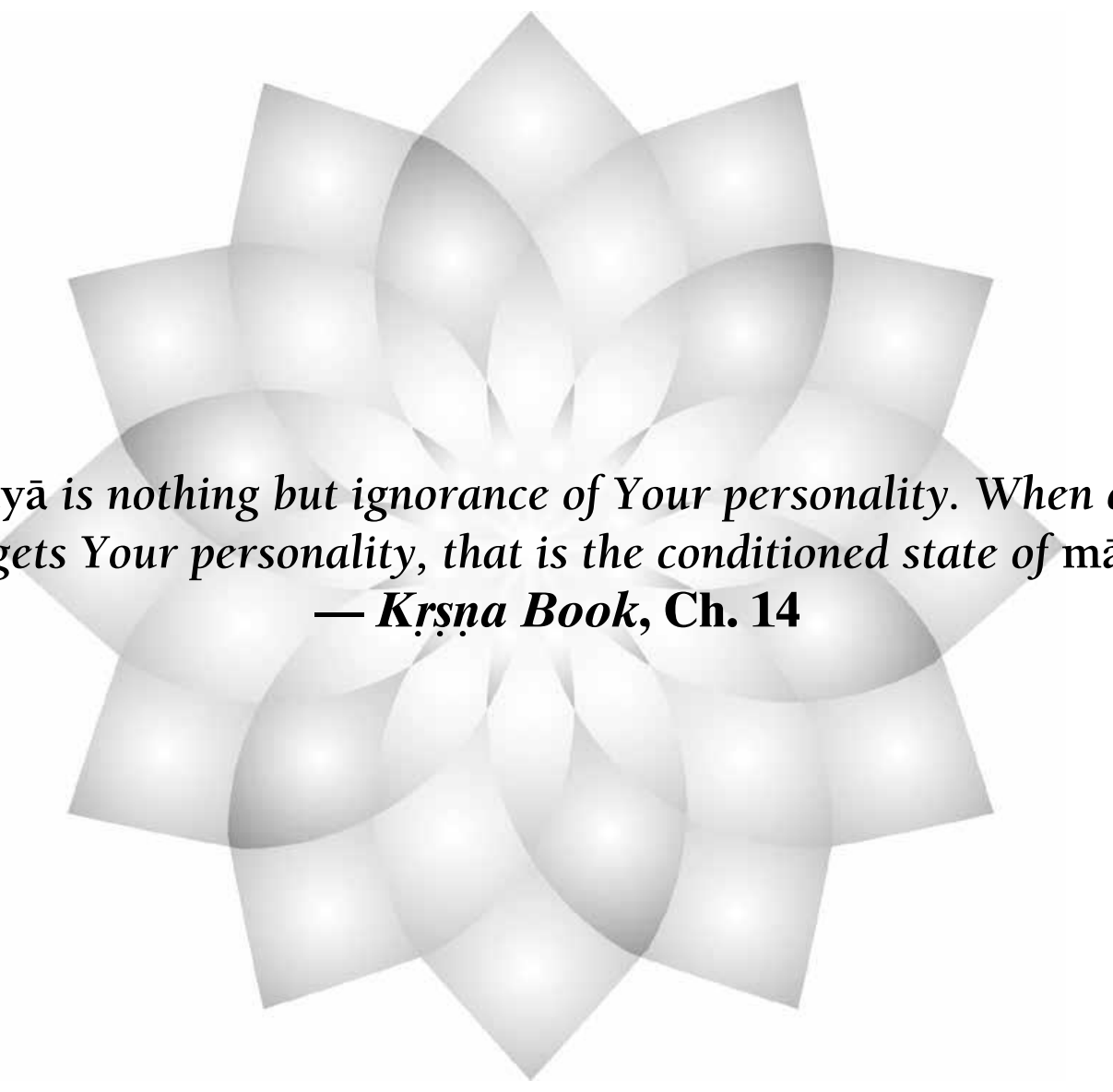




**Good Morning, Kṛṣṇa!**

— Presented by Śrīmatī Dāsī and team  
ISKCON, Śrī Vṛndāvana Dhāma



*Māyā is nothing but ignorance of Your personality. When one forgets Your personality, that is the conditioned state of māyā.*  
— *Kṛṣṇa Book, Ch. 14*

# A Real Wake-up Call!

His words hit me like Indra's thunderbolt and sent my mind and heart reeling. They haunted me throughout the week and into a new month. So powerful! **A not so gentle reminder that *dīkṣā* is bound by space and time, but *śikṣā* is not!**

Śrīla Prabhupāda said,

***Real thing is bhakti. What you can offer to Kṛṣṇa? Everything belongs to Kṛṣṇa. What you have got? What is your value? And what is the value of your things? It is nothing. Therefore real thing is bhaktyā; real thing is your FEELING. "Kṛṣṇa, kindly take it. I have no qualification. I am most rotten, fallen, but [weeps] I have brought this thing for you. Please take." This will be accepted. Don't be puffed up. Always be careful. You are dealing with Kṛṣṇa. That is my request.***

***Thank you very... [weeps] [end]***

These words were spoken during his Śrī Śrī Rukmiṇī Dvārakānātha Deity Installation lecture on July 16, 1969 at Los Angeles. Spoken so long ago — but still so much potency to impact my heart. They were definitely a well-wishing and very timely wake-up call from His Divine Grace!

**But that wasn't the end of the story!**

I often remember Bg 15.15 — especially the first two lines

***sarvasya cāhaṁ hr̥di sanniviṣṭo  
mattaḥ smṛtir jñānam apohanam ca***

*I am seated in everyone's heart, and from Me come **remembrance**, knowledge and forgetfulness.*

But now I was tangibly living these words — experiencing them as my Reality. Three verses from *Bhagavad-gītā* seered across the sky of my mind. All sharp and very present. One of them was a favorite verse and so I thought about it fondly.

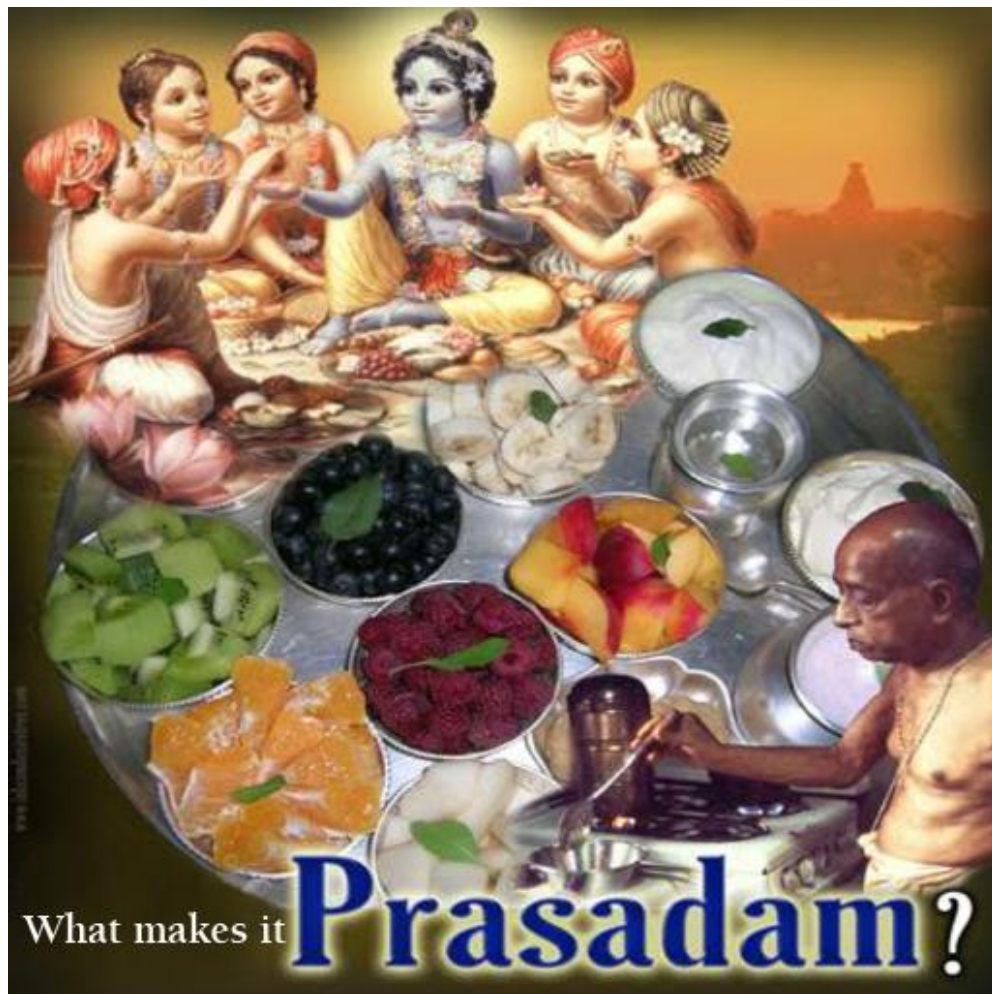
***patraṁ puṣpaṁ phalaṁ toyam  
yo me bhaktyā prayacchati  
tad ahaṁ bhakty-upahṛtam  
aśnāmi prayatātmanaḥ  
(Bg 9.26)***

*If one offers Me with love and devotion a leaf, a flower, a fruit or water, I will accept it.*

Yes, this was one of the first Kṛṣṇa Conscious principles that I accepted with strong faith. And it was Śrīla Prabhupāda's Bg 3.14 purport that empowered me to do that.

There he says,

*The devotees of the Lord, who are in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, offer food to Kṛṣṇa and then eat — a process which nourishes the body spiritually. By such action not only are past sinful reactions in the body vanquished, but the body becomes immunized to all contamination of material nature. When there is an epidemic disease, an antiseptic vaccine protects a person from the attack of such an epidemic. Similarly, food offered to Lord Viṣṇu and then taken by us makes us sufficiently resistant to material affection, and one who is accustomed to this practice is called a devotee of the Lord. Therefore, a person in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, who eats only food offered to Kṛṣṇa, can counteract all reactions of past material infections, which are impediments to the progress of self-realization. On the other hand, one who does not do so continues to increase the volume of sinful action, and this prepares the next body to resemble hogs and dogs, to suffer the resultant reactions of all sins. The material world is full of contaminations, and one who is immunized by accepting prasadam of the Lord (food offered to Viṣṇu) is saved from the attack, whereas one who does not do so becomes subjected to contamination.*



# I Offered It, But Did He Accept It?

*Yes, I thought smugly, only prasādam.*

But then, from nowhere, three piercing questions challenged my mind. ***But are you offering the bhoga with love and devotion? Are you offering food to Kṛṣṇa because you're hungry and you don't want to eat sin? Or are you offering it because you want to please Kṛṣṇa and make sure He's satisfied?*** Hmm! These questions shook me out of my complacency and alerted me to my tendency to fall into habit and mindless routine. Embarrassing!

I carefully and with renewed interest read Śrīla Prabhupāda's Bg 9.26 purport. **And another thunderbolt struck!** I've been reading *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* for more than forty years but I'd missed the essence of this purport. It's in black and white, clearly there for all to see — but I missed it!

***Above all, the offering should be made with an attitude of love. Kṛṣṇa has no need of food, since He already possesses everything that be, yet He will accept the offering of one who desires to please Him in that way. The important element, in preparation, in serving and in offering, is to act with love for Kṛṣṇa.***

Oops! I really need to seriously work on the ***love and devotion*** aspect of this amazing verse!



I then spontaneously remembered another of the three *Bhagavad-gītā* verses that had so powerfully pervaded my mind and heart.

*samo 'haṁ sarva-bhūteṣu  
na me dveṣyo 'sti na priyaḥ  
ye bhajanti tu mām bhaktyā  
mayi te teṣu cāpy aham  
(Bg 9.29)*

*I envy no one, nor am I partial to anyone. I am equal to all. But whoever renders service unto Me **in devotion** is a friend, is in Me, and I am also a friend to him.*

Hmm! It's the same message — serve Kṛṣṇa with love and devotion! Don't continue wasting your time — or His. It's time to wake up and do things for Real! **Sheepishly, and with a sense of new found guilt, I begin to analyze my day according to a new barometer — am I serving Kṛṣṇa with love and devotion?**

I begin each new day by waking up Kṛṣṇa. Do I wish Him a good morning when I first see Him? Or do I just offer Him a routine of obeisances, *mantras* and favorite prayers? Do I tell Him I'm going to take His glass to clean it and fill it with fresh water and a Tulasī leaf — or do I just swipe it from Him and leave Him wondering what His insensitive and very impersonal servant is up to now?

Hmm! What would I say when I saw Kṛṣṇa first thing in the morning if I had a little love and devotion for Him? Let's do a little heart awakening exercise and jot down a few thoughts.....



**Good Morning, Kṛṣṇa!**

**Good morning, Kṛṣṇa! — it's so wonderful to see You.  
Your playful eyes and laughing smile  
Are the mercy giving sunrise that  
Illumines, enlivens and nourishes my heart.**

**Thank You for today.  
It's another chance to love and serve You.  
Today is called the present because it's a gift from You.  
And I am so grateful — but I need Your help to use it wisely.**

**I don't know what's going to happen today.  
Or how much of my plan I'll get done  
— But You do!  
And so I now gift this day back to You.**

**Today I'm also entrusting myself to You.  
My body is Yours. My mind is Yours.  
Everything I am is Yours.  
May we all work together to bring You joy!**

**Kṛṣṇa, please increase my unflinching faith in You.  
Help me experience Your active presence in my day.  
Please deepen my desire to consciously cooperate with You.  
— I really do want to love and serve You!**



I continued scanning through an average day and occasionally checked the *love and devotion* pulse of my activities. The results were not impressive — **I AM AN IMPERSONALIST!** — despite my external Kṛṣṇa conscious appearance and activities. What was it Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura said about all this?

**Real *nāma-bhajana* begins when our inside and outside match!**

**Hmm! It seems I have yet to begin REAL *Bhajana*!**

Humbled by this very personalized and powerful wake-up call, I continued my painful self-assessment of the internal dynamics so sadly lacking in my daily dealings with Kṛṣṇa. So much of my daily struggle with life is self-imposed, because I'm not in dialogue with Him. I say I'm feeling weak and uninspired. But the Reality is that I'm not connected — **I AM NOT CONNECTED TO KṚṢṆA** — the source of all strength and inspiration. Suddenly words from Śrīla Prabhupāda's *Bhagavad-gītā* Introduction stormed into my mind .....

*We work not with our body, actually, but with our mind and intelligence. So if the intelligence and the mind are always engaged in the thought of the Supreme Lord, then naturally the senses are also engaged in His service. Superficially, at least, the activities of the senses remain the same, but the consciousness is changed. The Bhagavad-gītā teaches one how to absorb the mind and intelligence in the thought of the Lord. Such absorption will enable one to transfer himself to the kingdom of the Lord. **If the mind is engaged in Kṛṣṇa's service, then the senses are automatically engaged in His service. This is the art, and this is also the secret of Bhagavad-gītā: total absorption in the thought of Śrī Kṛṣṇa.***

Yes, this is the essence of my problem — I'm doing Kṛṣṇa conscious things, but my mind and heart are not present — I'm not connecting with Kṛṣṇa. I'm not revealing my mind to Him, I'm not in dialogue with Him. Hmm! When do I most need to do that? Many times in a day — but let's take a good first step by offering Him an honest prayer before I go to work .....



## **Kṛṣṇa, It's Time for Me to Go to Work!**

**Kṛṣṇa, it's time for me to go to work.  
In the quiet of *bhajana*, I often feel Your presence.  
But when out in the world, I forget You.  
Why do I so easily lose connection with You?**



**Please don't let me forget You, Kṛṣṇa.  
So many things will demand my attention today.  
I need Your help — please give me focus and clarity.  
Protect me from careless thoughts, words and deeds.**

**May the work I do today, and the way I do it,  
Bring faith, joy and smile to everyone.  
Don't let me lose my way in the dark.  
Use me as beacon of Your loving kindness and care.**

**Today, throughout the day, please help me remember  
I belong to You — I am Your eternal servant.  
I know Your love for me is not based on my achievements.  
But still, may all I do truly serve You and Your purpose.**

**— And most of all, may it please You! —**

## **A Good Day Or a Bad Day — I Want to Tell You about It, Kṛṣṇa! —**

Working hours in Kali-yuga are not only ridiculous — they are inhuman and soul destroying. And of course there's also the long journey home. No wonder then that all I want to do when I finally reach home is CRASH! But is that a good idea? Maybe I should touch base with Kṛṣṇa before I close down for the night. **Sometimes I have fabulously good days — and sometimes I have hellishly bad days. Either way, it's best if Kṛṣṇa knows about it — after all, He IS my Boss! So what would I say to Him if I had a bad day?.....**



**Kṛṣṇa, I feel exhausted and stressed.  
It's been a very long and tough day for me.  
So many trials and challenges — no success today!  
— I found it so hard even to take shelter of You.**

**But right now I'm in Your presence.  
It's just You and me — and I can breathe again.  
I place my troubled mind and heart before You.  
— Please calm my anxiety, and free me from all fear.**

**Kṛṣṇa, when my plan fails, let me trust Yours.  
And let me see the opportunities, not the inconveniences.  
When I'm confused and indecisive, please guide me.  
— And let me see why I failed, and how I can best succeed.**

**Kṛṣṇa, please forgive my foolishness today.  
So often I acted and spoke without taking Your shelter.  
These are moments I'd rather forget — but still they are special.  
— They opened my eyes to Your very forgiving and loving nature.**

**Kṛṣṇa, thank You for the way You led me through today.  
You have convinced me that You are my only strength and solace.  
Tomorrow I'll have another chance to serve You.  
Please lovingly guide me — for I am Your eternal servant.**

**— Thank You —**

And what if I've had a good day? If I'm feeling satisfied, in control and successful why should I bother to tell Kṛṣṇa about it? **Many reasons!** Top of the list is that tomorrow is another work day — do I want Kṛṣṇa on my side, or not? Hmm! — **So what would I say to Him if I had a good day?**



**Kṛṣṇa, this morning I entrusted myself and my day to You.  
You took my words as real — and accepted them.  
And what an incredibly blissful and busy day it's been.  
— You showed me what it really means to be Your servant – AMAZING!**

**Thank You for being with me through the day.  
And for keeping me completely in tune with Your plan.  
This has really strengthened my faith in You — and in me!  
— And increased my desire to be forever Your servant.**

**Kṛṣṇa, how can I come closer to You?  
How can I best see Your plan for me in my daily life?  
Please help me — I really do want to serve You.  
— Please draw me ever closer to You in love.**

**Yes, the world goes on, and I still have many things to do.  
But right now it's just You and me – and that's wonderful!  
I am feeling so grateful and satisfied to be Your servant  
— Please empower me to live every day just for You!**

**— Thank You —**

## **And Thank You, Śrīla Prabhupāda!**

This feels all so fresh and new to me, Śrīla Prabhupāda — and it feels so right. **YES!** — **Life can be joyous, sane and safe — despite all seemingly opposing externals! — if I just connect with honest feelings to You, Kṛṣṇa.** Thank you for this very precious gift, Śrīla Prabhupāda — It's a life-saver! May I regularly hear — and never forget — the words that you so kindly spoke to awaken my heart to the essence of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in a nutshell.....

*Real thing is bhakti. What you can offer to Kṛṣṇa? Everything belongs to Kṛṣṇa. What you have got? What is your value? And what is the value of your things? It is nothing. Therefore real thing is bhaktyā; real thing is your feeling. "Kṛṣṇa, kindly take it. I have no qualification. I am most rotten, fallen, but [weeps] I have brought this thing for you. Please take." This will be accepted. Don't be puffed up. Always be careful. You are dealing with Kṛṣṇa. That is my request. Thank you very (much).*



*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe  
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

*(jaya) śrī-kṛṣṇa-caitanya prabhu nityānanda  
śrī-advaita gadādhara śrīvāsādi-gaura-bhakta-vṛnda*

*Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare  
Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare*