

Śaranagati

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—❖❖❖ A BIRD ❖❖❖— FROM PARADISE

In the night I woke up and asked myself:
Who am I and how did I come to be here?

And my heart answered:
You are a bird from paradise -
You fell asleep during the sweet storm of love
And you have since been stranded here
With your wings broken.

Oh, long for that day
When you joyfully break open
The cage and fly back home.

And then I asked again:
Tell me when will that be?
And my heart answered once more:
When you have grown back
Your wings of love
Then the One who awaits us all
Will send you the strongest winds to lift you up.
Know that although you fell down by yourself
You cannot leave here on your own strength.
You need the strong winds of His loving mercy.
Yes, it is the wind of mercy
That will carry you back to where you have come from.

And then my heart fell silent.

☪☪☪ Poem by Śacinandana Swami. September, 2014.



THE LORD NEVER GIVES YOU UP



The Lord never gives anyone up. He even didn't give up Brahma after he had kidnapped Kṛṣṇa's cowherd-friends. In fact, Kṛṣṇa reacted in such a way to Brahma's *aparādha* as to give Brahma the highest benefit. This is one of the Lord's qualities. Once someone has taken shelter at his lotus feet and said, "My Lord I surrender unto you," then the Lord always keeps this devotee under his personal care. Kṛṣṇa hints at this by keeping the rice from lunch in his hand even after he abruptly leaves to go to the forest in search of his missing friends. Śrīla Prabhupāda would always say, "If Lord Kṛṣṇa protects a person, who can kill him?"

On the other hand, when you worship a person of this world – like a demigod or a human being, they sometimes reject you.

There's a nice example of this truth: when Rāma fought Rāvaṇa, he shot thirty arrows at Rāvaṇa. It was the final combat, the ultimate fight. He pierced Rāvaṇa with thirty arrows and then put the

thirty-first arrow on the string of his bow and began to pronounce mystical incantations that would empower that arrow to kill Rāvaṇa.

At that moment Pārvatī, who is very loyal to Lord Śiva, approached Lord Śiva who was meditating. *“Your devotee is in great difficulty! Why don’t you save him? You have to keep your śivatva, your quality of auspiciousness, intact. Why don’t you protect him? You need to exemplify now that this Rāvaṇa is a paṇḍita and that he is a very, very loyal devotee. You need to protect him to show that one can count on us,”* she said.

Śiva remained sitting. He was fully aware of the thirty-first arrow on the bowstring that was being drawn more and more by Lord Rāma. He said, *“Please be quiet.”*

Pārvatī persisted, *“Why don’t you save him? You have saved him always. Why not now? There have been so many combats. Rāvaṇa always won by your grace. Why not now?”*

Śiva said, *“Previously, the one who was meant to take his prāṇa had not yet appeared. But now the Lord has come and wishes to take his life. Who can save him? Please don’t disturb me any longer and let me chant. That’s the best thing I can do for him.”*

Devatās might give you up. Your government might give you up. Other people might give you up. Your wife or husband might give you up. Kṛṣṇa, however, never gives up anyone whom he has once accepted, as he had accepted Lord Brahma. Therefore, although Brahma did something even more terrible than Lord Indra did, Kṛṣṇa wanted to give him *bhakti*, just as he did with Indra. Indra, by attacking Vraja, had at least brought all the devotees of Kṛṣṇa together under the shelter of Girirāja where they had a festival of Kṛṣṇa’s *darśana* for seven days. But Brahma had made the terrible mistake of separating the devotees from Kṛṣṇa. This did not please Kṛṣṇa but because Brahma had surrendered unto him, Kṛṣṇa did not give him up.

This gives hope to us my dear devotees. Please surrender to Kṛṣṇa without fail. Please also know that if Kṛṣṇa does a little work on you at the present moment, greet that work. Don’t remain dumb. Don’t press your lips together in ignorance and in self-pity. Open them. Open your heart and pray to the Lord who wants to play something wonderful in all of our hearts.

☪ From a lecture by Śācinandana Swami at Govardhana Hill, India, December 3, 2013.

JEWELS FROM ŚRĪLA PRABHUPĀDA

When listening to a great soul we always find points that particularly catch our attention. Here are three quotes that touched me in such a special way when I listened to Śrīla Prabhupāda on Kṛṣṇa’s appearance day:



Quote 1

About Kṛṣṇa’s kindness:

„As soon as we accept Kṛṣṇa, he is immediately there.“

Quote 2

How to connect with Kṛṣṇa:

„As soon as my tongue touches the name of Kṛṣṇa, I immediately associate with Kṛṣṇa“

Quote 3

Do not take material disturbances seriously:

„As long you are perturbed by material disturbances, you should know that your devotional life has not begun – this is confirmed everywhere.“

☪ All three quotes can be found in the lecture given by Śrīla Prabhupāda on Śrī Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī in Hamburg, in 1969.

Photo by Mickey Shah



MEET ŚACĪNANDANA SWAMI

upcoming seminars & events:

Sep. 18-21	Holy Name Retreat, New Govardhana, Australia
Sep. 25-28	Tree of Life Retreat, New Govardhana, Australia
Oct. 8 - Nov 7	Kārtika, personal retreat, Vṛndāvana, India
Nov. 15-25	Holy Name & Govardhana Retreats, Govardhana, India

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