

ENTERING THE SACRED SPACE

1. *Becoming conscious of the self*
2. *Observing from your position as soul*
3. *Connecting with the Divine*



CONNECTING WITH THE DIVINE:

Seeing Kṛṣṇa Everywhere and Seeing Everything in Him

The third step in entering the sacred space is to connect with the Divine, God, who is present there in the form to which His devotee personally relates. He resides in the sacred space as the friend and helper of His devotees. If you want to reside in the sacred space permanently, you must learn to see Kṛṣṇa everywhere and see everything in Him. As Kṛṣṇa Himself says,

*For one who sees Me everywhere and sees everything in Me,
I am never lost, nor is he ever lost to Me.*

(Bhagavad-gītā, 6.30)

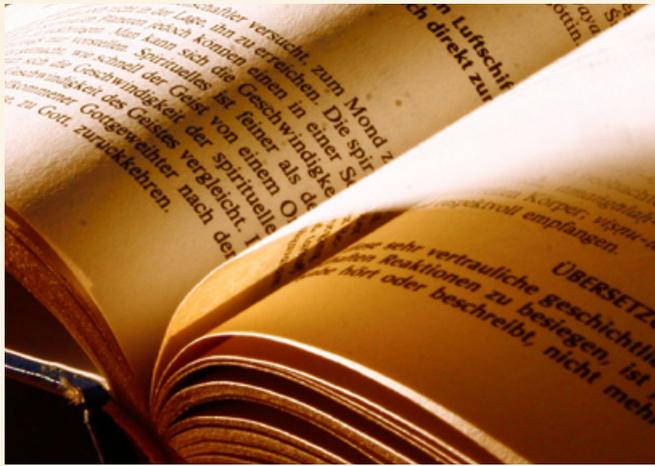
However, you can only see Kṛṣṇa if you have the proper eyes. We develop these eyes by learning transcendental knowledge through sacred scriptures and devotees.

SEEING THROUGH THE EYES OF SCRIPTURE

Seeing through the eyes of scripture is a powerful way to connect with Kṛṣṇa. It is good to read scripture regularly. Try reading according to the old method of attentive hearing Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura prescribes:

1. *hear (or read)*
2. *reflect on what you have read*
3. *apply what you have heard and reflected on in your life*

When you are ready to read scripture, sit comfortably in a place where you will not be disturbed. Attune your mind to what you will be reading by chanting a few prayers.



Then begin to read the text (*śravaṇa*). As soon as a point touches your heart, stop reading and reflect on it (*manāḥ*).

When your reading session is over you might like to review what you read, particularly the points that struck you. Finally, try to single out the point that you found most relevant to you in the moment (choose only one or two) and apply it (*nididhyāsana*). For ultimate success, pray to Kṛṣṇa that He help you realize and apply the knowledge you have received.

An effective way to practice *manāḥ* is to share what you have read with others. Speaking what we read helps us remember it.

SEE THE LORD THROUGH THE EYES OF HIS DEVOTEES

You will quickly find yourself in the sacred space if you see the Lord through the eyes of His devotees. To do this, you can read descriptions of Kṛṣṇa given to us by our exalted *ācāryas* like Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī.

This also holds true when you pray in the words of great devotees. Try reciting the prayers of Queen Kuntī or the *Śaraṇāgati* prayers of Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura. For example:



You, O Lord, are the fountainhead of all mercy. I surrender myself at Your lotus feet; kindly show me Your compassion. You promise that one who takes refuge in You will come to no harm. For a sinner like me I see no other shelter; therefore I beg You now for Your grace. O when will I know freedom from incessant material desires and thus become exclusively Yours? This is the sum of Bhaktivinoda's musings: You are eternally to be served, and I am Your eternal servant.

(Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, Śaraṇāgati, Ātma-nivedana, song 1)