



SECRETS FROM THE BHAJANA-RAHASYA



Amṛta Vāṇī 1	Strengthening Our Faith: Śrī Nāma-Māhātmya
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RENDERING SERVICE

Kṛṣṇa's holy name is the first contact a conditioned soul can have with Kṛṣṇa. The *Padma Purāṇa* states that "... the name of Kṛṣṇa and Kṛṣṇa Himself are identical."

(quoted in *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya* 17.133)

The holy name can be recognized on three levels:

- 1) **The ādhibhautika level:** one sees the alphabetic form of the name, written down in letters.
- 2) **The ādhidaivika level:** one sees the name as a mantra, as divine energy.
- 3) **The ādhyātmika level:** one sees the name as a person.

How can we reach this third level of pure chanting? Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī writes that it happens gradually (*kramāt*), in steps. He states,

*syāt kṛṣṇa-nāma-caritādi-sitāpy avidyā-
pittopatapta-rasanasya na rocikā nu
kintv ādarād anudinaṁ khalu saiva juṣṭā
svādvī kramād bhavati tad-gada-mūla-hantrī*

"The holy name, character, pastimes, and activities of Kṛṣṇa are all transcendently sweet like sugar candy. Although the tongue of one afflicted by the jaundice of avidyā [ignorance] cannot taste anything sweet, it is wonderful that simply by carefully chanting these sweet names every day, a natural relish awakens within his tongue, and his disease is gradually destroyed at the root."

(*The Nectar of Instruction*, verse 7)

So although we cannot taste the name yet, he is so merciful that he becomes the remedy for our disease of separateness from Kṛṣṇa. The more we chant, especially in *sankīrtana*, the more our ignorance will leave us and Kṛṣṇa's name will gradually reveal itself.



Kṛṣṇa can choose to appear on our tongue and he does so when we chant in a mood of service. In the twelfth chapter of *The Nectar of Devotion* Śrīla Prabhupāda writes, "For persons who are not inclined to clean the dust from their hearts and who want to keep things as they are, it is not possible to derive the transcendental result of chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra. One should, therefore, be encouraged to develop his service attitude toward the Lord, because this will help him to chant without any offense."

How to Chant in a Service Mood

- Chant while being aware of the mantra's meaning: My dear Rādhā, my dear Kṛṣṇa, please engage me in your service.
- Avoid offenses while you chant and become a servant of the Vaiṣṇavas.
- Pronounce the mantra clearly, hear it attentively, and finish your daily quota of rounds every day.
- Offer your body, mind, heart, and time to Kṛṣṇa.
- Pass the border of the mind – chant from your heart.