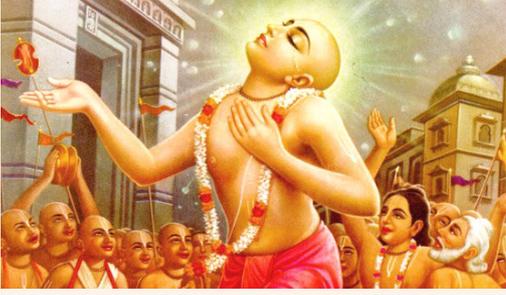


KṚṢṆA SAMĀDHI



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THE GLORIES OF BHAKTI

In the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (9.4.64) Śrī Kṛṣṇa says, “Without saintly persons for whom I am the only destination, I do not desire to enjoy My transcendental bliss and My supreme opulences.” One may ask: but is Kṛṣṇa not self-sufficient? Why does he have to say, “I don’t want to be without my devotees and without our exchange of love?” And how is it that Kṛṣṇa feels so much pleasure when his devotees love him?

Śrīla Jīva Gosvāmī explains it as follows: The Lord experiences a pleasure called *svarūp ānanda*, that is a pleasure (*ānanda*) which lies in his own form or personality (*svarūp*). The moment this pleasure flows out of his heart it is called *svarūp-śakti-ānanda*. It has now become a *śakti*, an energy, also called the *hlādinī śakti*.

Kṛṣṇa invests this energy into the heart of his devotee and then the devotee feels *bhagavat-prīti*, love for the supreme Lord. Witnessing the ecstatic love the devotee feels for him, the Lord becomes extremely pleased and overwhelmed. Thus, the love flows in a circle. You can only experience *bhakti*, when you are connected to this circle. *Bhakti* is something divine, something that does not originate from the human psychology.

Śrīla Jīva Gosvāmī gives us an example: A musician carries music inside of himself and this gives him some pleasure. As soon as he starts playing his instrument, the music comes out of him and he can hear it and relish it even more. Kṛṣṇa is this musician. He gives what is inside of him to his devo-

tees. Then his own sound or love comes back to him and he enjoys it very much. In the words of the *Caitanya-caritāmṛita* (Antya 18.18):

“Ecstatic love makes Kṛṣṇa dance, ecstatic love makes the devotee dance, ecstatic love dances itself. All three dance together in one place.” That is *bhakti*.



