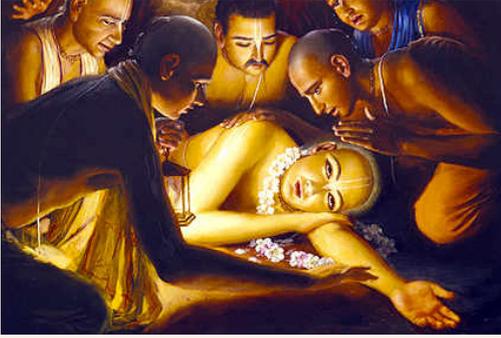


## NĀMA RUCI - CHANTING WITH TASTE



Amṛta Vāṇī 1 Śraddhā

Amṛta Vāṇī 2 Removing Anarthas through the Association with Devotees

Amṛta Vāṇī 3 Practicing on the Level of Steadfastness

Amṛta Vāṇī 4 Practicing on the Level of Taste

Amṛta Vāṇī 5 Chanting in the Mood of Separation

Amṛta Vāṇī 6 Taking the Retreat Home

### DISCOVERIES

*ayi nanda-tanuja kiṅkaram  
patitam mām viṣame bhavāmbudhau  
kṛpayā tava pāda-paṅkaja-  
sthita-dhūli-saḍṣam vicintaya*

O my Lord, O Kṛṣṇa, son of Mahārāja Nanda, I am your eternal servant, but because of my own fruitive acts I have fallen into this horrible ocean of nescience. Now please be causelessly merciful to me. Consider me a particle of dust at your lotus feet.

The image of a soul drowning in the ocean of material life is repeatedly presented in our tradition. We are destined to die while we are in the material body. Where is the solution to death except in Kṛṣṇa? This verse expresses the deep mood of longing for Kṛṣṇa. Thus, Mahāprabhu says that longing for Kṛṣṇa in separation is the way to come into Kṛṣṇa's presence.

Śrīla Prabhupāda said: "Those under the shelter of the lotus feet of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu can understand that this mood of worship of the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa in separation is the real worship of the Lord. When the feelings of separation becomes very intense one attains the stage of meeting Śrī Kṛṣṇa."

(Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta Ādi 4.108)

Mahāprabhu's kīrtanas would start very slow and Mahāprabhu would get into the mood of calling out to Kṛṣṇa in a long drawn-out voice. This mood of kīrtana was then developed further by Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura.

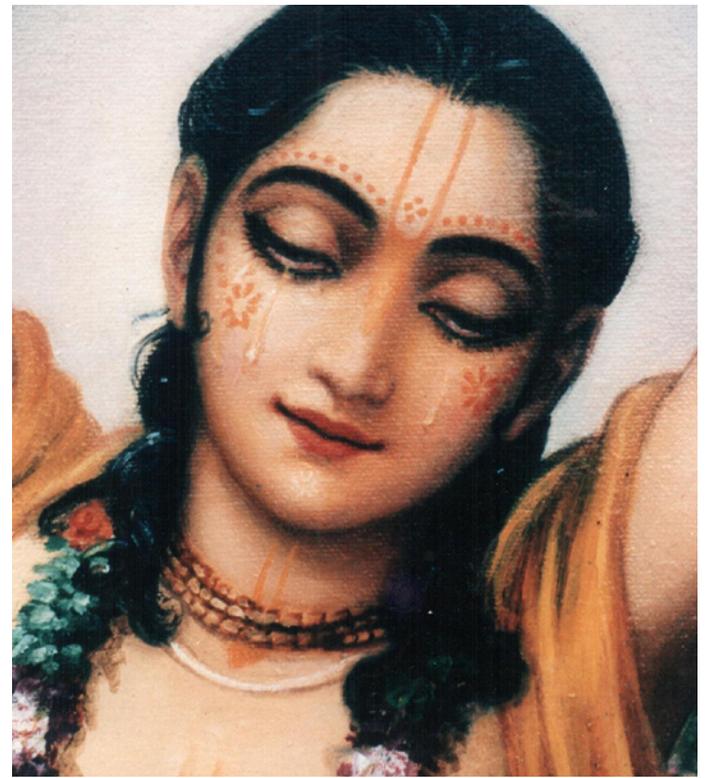


*Vipralambha*, or the mood of separation, means to attain that which is situated far in the distance. This is the way to attain Kṛṣṇa. And this is how the *kīrtana* should be sung: position yourself in the mood of understanding that you are physically and emotionally far from Kṛṣṇa because in this way you will come spiritually close to him. When we are able to chant with such feelings for Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa will come into our presence. Therefore, unless we come to the stage of *vipralambha* - feeling separation from Kṛṣṇa - we will remain eternal neophytes and will continuously have mixed material and spiritual emotions.

Become real and get out of your mentally constructed universe and understand that you are separated from Kṛṣṇa. It is not natural to be under the control of material energy! Only if you arrive at the spiritual point of feeling *vipralambha* will you be able to chant with the heart, and your sound will be carried beyond this world to reach Kṛṣṇa.

It is good to let the noise of the world die if you wish to connect with the Lord. For this reason, sages have entered *mauna-vrata*, or the vow of silence. This means that we should become materially silent and communicate only with Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda writes in his purport to *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam* 3.24.42, “Mauna means ‘silence.’ Unless one becomes silent, he cannot think completely about the pastimes and activities of the Lord. [...] One is called a muni when he remains grave and does not talk nonsense. Mahārāja Ambarīṣa set a very good



example; whenever he spoke, he spoke about the pastimes of the Lord. Mauna necessitates refraining from nonsensical talking, and engaging the talking facility in the pastimes of the Lord. In that way one can chant and hear about the Lord in order to perfect his life.”

