

## THE TOUCHSTONE OF THE HOLY NAME



Amṛta Vāṇī 1 *Chanting Attentively*

Amṛta Vāṇī 2 *Chanting with Sambandha*

Amṛta Vāṇī 3 *Faith – the Only Qualification*

Amṛta Vāṇī 4 *The One Thing to Avoid: Vaiṣṇava-Aparādhā*

Amṛta Vāṇī 5 *The Process of Revelation*

### 4) THE ONE THING TO AVOID: VAIṢṆAVA-APARĀDHA

Whenever you notice that you are not going deeper into your love for God, you must conclude that this is due to some offence. Remember that committing an offence means to displease Kṛṣṇa. When we displease Kṛṣṇa, he will keep himself at a distance, he will not reveal his beauty and wonderful qualities to us. He will still maintain us, but he will not bestow his special mercy upon us. Of all the offences that we may commit, offences against Kṛṣṇa's devotees are the worst. Other offences may harm the leaves on the plant of our devotion, but *vaiṣṇava-aparādhā* completely uproots the whole plant!

Kṛṣṇa is intimately connected to his devotees, as he expresses in *Sṛīmad-Bhāgavatam* (9.4.68): “The pure devotee is always within the core of my heart, and I am always in the heart of the

pure devotee. My devotees do not know anyone else but me, and I do not know anyone else but them.” It is a very intimate bond. Kṛṣṇa thinks, “I will not just give someone who loves me the official treatment of maintaining them – I will move out of this neutral position and become *bhakta-vatsala*, the friend of my devotees.” Kṛṣṇa has a soft heart, he is the God of love. So naturally, because of the closeness of such a relationship, Kṛṣṇa personally becomes disturbed when his devotee is attacked. He is ready to do anything to protect his devotee if someone offends him or her. It is even stated that Kṛṣṇa may not forgive someone for offending his devotee, “A characteristic of a pure devotee is that he excuses any offense by an ignorant rascal. A characteristic of Kṛṣṇa, however, is that he cannot tolerate blasphemy against his devotees.” (Caitanya-caritāmṛta Antya, 3.213)



