

Cry

Welcome to this Kartik Inspiration.

Today, I have a question for you. How can you realistically attain Krishna?

I know it's a big question. The same question was asked to Vamsidasa Babaji, a renounced saint who worshiped his Deities with pure love, who talked to Them and who always remembered Their pastimes.

Once, a man came to him, gave a gift of vegetables, and then asked, "How can I obtain God?"

Vamsidasa Babaji looked at him but didn't really see him; he saw Krishna everywhere, so he couldn't answer.

On the second day, the same man came; he again gave a gift and repeated the question. And again, Vamsidasa Babaji, who was so much immersed in his transcendental darshan of Krishna, was not able to perceive him.

Then came the third day. This time, Vamsidasa Babaji looked at the man and said, "Did you have a question?" "Yes!" said the man, "How can I obtain God?"

Vamsidasa went deep inside and after a moment answered with one single word, "Cry!"

Crying in great desire for the Lord's service is really a way in which we can focus all our emotions and thoughts—and that's necessary. Our desire, our love, which is so much diverted and distracted, has to become like a ray of light that goes directly to its goal. It does not make circles, it does not circumvent, it doesn't take this or that into account. The ray of light is singly focused. This type of longing has to be learned.

Ask yourself a question, "Where can my soul find rest?" What is the shelter, that when I have obtained it, I do not require any other

fulfillments of any other needs?" Ask yourself such questions that will bring your attention to Krishna.

In the eternal world, we have an example of single-minded focus. It is Mother Yasoda. There is a prayer to her,

"May Sri Yasoda, the queen of Vraja, protect me. From her breasts flows an unbroken stream of milk out of her motherly love, and she tries to protect Krishna. Even when she sees only a mere sweat drop, she feels, 'I must protect Him from overexertion.'"

Mother Yasoda's attachment to Krishna is compared by Raghunatha Dasa Gosvami to the attachment of a cow to her newly born calf. She always looks, 'Where is my calf? I want to take care of my calf and lick him,' or whatever cows do with their calves.

This becomes especially visible in Mother Yasoda in the evening. In great anxiety, she walks out of her house onto the courtyard and then back. She looks for Krishna. I think you know when you look very much for something—for the key, for instance, for your car or so on, you will go multiple times to the same place and then away, and back to another place, and then return. In the same way, Mother Yasoda walks quickly out of her house and back into it. Her face is dried up from the different worries about her son's delay in returning home. Then, suddenly, when she sees her beloved boy, her eyes overflow with a Yamuna stream of tears, and her breasts with a Ganga stream of milk.

This is single-minded focus. This is the best example of Krishna conscious meditation. And, I would like to add that, while anxiety and other feelings of great upset in the heart are things we really don't want in this world, when they become directed toward Krishna, they pull us away from our false concept of who we are and draw us directly into closeness with Him.

Thank you so much, see you for the next Kartik inspiration.

Raghunatha Dasa Gosvami
SACINANDANA SWAMI

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