

Tridandisvami Sri Srimad Bhaktivedanta Narayana Maharaja

## **The Highest Objective: PART TWO**

# **Try To Follow Haridasa Thakura**

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You can know the power of the name by reading 'Harinama Cintamani,' written by Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura, and something more is given in his 'Bhajana Rahasaya'. If you are not chanting and remembering the pastimes of Krsna, especially while chanting the name, then your all practices are like zero. Chanting nama-aparadha will deliver some wealth and worldly reputation only; these are all results of nama-aparadha. We should therefore try to chant the pure name. Daily you should try. If you try, it may be that sometimes nama-abhasa will come, and after some time it may be that one, two, or three nama-abhasa will come daily. Later, when you will be madhyama-adhikari, that is, madhyama-madhyama or madhyama-uttama, then it may be that almost all your names will be nama-abhasa. And, by good luck, one name can be the pure name. If the pure name comes, that means that love and affection (prema) for Krsna is coming.

The symptoms of the sprout of prema, called rati, have been described. What are they?

ksantir avyarthakalatvam viraktir mana-sunyata  
asa-bandhah samutkantha nama-gane sada rucih  
asaktis tad-gunakhyane pritis tad-vasati-sthale  
ity-adayo 'nubhava' syur jata-bhavankure jane  
(Cc. Mad.18-19)

["When the seed of rati for Krsna fructifies, the following nine symptoms manifest in one's behavior: forgiveness, concern that time should not be wasted, detachment, absence of false prestige, hope, eagerness, a taste for chanting the holy name of the Lord, attachment to descriptions of the transcendental qualities of the Lord, and affection for those places where the Lord resides—that is, a temple or a holy place like Vrndavana. These are all called anubhava, subordinate signs of ecstatic emotion. They are visible in a person in whose heart the seed of love of God has begun to fructify."]

We should try to know all these topics, and we should first enter them by reading, beginning with the life of Srila Haridasa Thakura. We should learn from him how he practiced chanting the holy name. He was a Mohammedan by birth. Why did he come? Previously he was Brahma, and, as Brahma, he had created some disturbance. He wanted to see some pastimes of Krsna, but he used his intelligence to try to make Krsna perform those pastimes. That is why he took away the all the cowherd boys and calves.

After this incident, Brahma prayed to Krsna. He saw that Krsna had done something wonderful, but Krsna never looked towards him at that time. Brahma was rolling down on the earth, but Krsna neglected him. All the cowherd boys called to

Krsna, "O Cauma, Cauma! That four-faced one. Who is he?" But Krsna never even looked at him.

After that, in Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's lila, Brahma became a Mohammedan, and he was very, very humble. If there is a very poor man, and an aristocratic and wealthy person will give him a slap, what will that poor man do? If he demands, "Why are you slapping me?" that wealthy person may give him more and more slaps. Therefore, there is nothing for the poor person to do except tolerate. For this reason Krsna wanted Brahma to come as an ignorant Muslim boy who did not even go to school.

We should therefore learn tolerance from Haridasa Thakura. He was beaten in twenty-two market places, and yet he was praying, "O Krsna, save them. Be merciful to them." Why did he pray in that way? He was thinking, "They are not beating me; my karma is beating me. They have not done anything wrong."

We think that another person is our enemy because he is giving us so many problems. We think, "I should cut his head", but this is very, very bad. Those kinds of persons who want revenge can never do bhajana.

Why are problems coming? They are due to the conceptions of 'I' and 'mine'. We have the false ego that, "I am the president of America." "I can manage the whole world." "I am so wealthy." "I am so beautiful." "I know so many things. I am more intelligent than my wife, children, and all my relatives." "I can control all." What is this? In the words of Srila Swami Maharaja it is nonsense. We should not be like this.

If you want to chant harinama, first try to be like Haridasa Thakura. When he was a boy, he would meet with Advaita Acarya and always chant Krsna's name. The Zamindar (landowner), who was like the king, became envious of him. This zamindar thus sent a very beautiful, teen-aged prostitute to deviate him. But what happened? Although he was seeing a half-naked, very beautiful teenaged girl who was begging him, "You should fulfill my lust," he was unmoved.

Can you control your lust like Haridasa Thakura? I think that you would not be able to control yourselves. Only Haridasa Thakura could do so. Not even Visvamitra or Brahma could control themselves, and once Narada was also deviated. He was not actually deviated, but he posed like that. He was showing us, "A person like me, who is liberated, can be controlled by lust, so what to say of you." In other words he is saying, "Even if you think you are advanced, you should be so careful." Brahma and Siva also posed in this way. Brahma, our first guru, could not control himself when he became attracted to his daughter, and Sankara became naked and ran towards Mohini (the incarnation of Krsna as a woman) to embrace Her. Parvati was running behind Sankara and calling out, "Oh, what are you doing?" but he was at that time shameless.

On the other hand, even the second time, when Maya herself came to Haridasa Thakura, he passed that examination. We cannot do so, whether we are ladies or males. In a moment all our practices will leave. Syamarani should explain something in brief.

Syamarani dasi: Srila Gurudeva has asked me to summarize the story of the prostitute who came to Srila Haridasa Thakura. The political leader of that time, Ramacandra Khan, was very envious of Haridasa Thakura's popularity, as all pure devotees are very popular. Therefore he sent the best prostitute of the society to deviate him. Because Srila Haridasa Thakura had taken a vow to chant three lakhs of names of the Hare Krsna mantra daily, which is about one hundred ninety-four rounds, he told her, "Just sit down. I will surely

fulfill your desires, but just wait until I have finished my vows." In this way the night passed, and the next night and the following night also passed.

After three days of hearing suddha-nama, the pure name, from the lotus lips of Srila Haridasa Thakura, that prostitute fell at his feet and begged pardon. She told him that Ramacandra Khan had sent her to deviate him. She begged for his mercy, and Haridasa told her, "I already knew that you would be coming."

All pure devotees are sarva-jna or tri-kala-jna. They know everything of the past, present, and future, and they know the hearts of all. They can enter into the hearts of all, and thus he said, "I knew you would come. I would have left before you came, but I wanted to purify and rectify you. Now you should go home and distribute all of your possessions. There are so many greedy brahmanas who will be very happy to take your possessions. Distribute them and then come back to my courtyard. I am leaving Tulasi here, and Ganges is also here. You should sit and continuously chant. You should keep only one worn and torn white sari, and shave your head. Give everything else away.

The prostitute did that, and soon she also became very honored and popular. So many great Vaisnavas came to take her darsana and hear her hari-katha. They brought her many gifts, but she refused them and would only accept what she required to keep body and soul together. She had come to change the heart of Srila Haridasa Thakura, but as Srila Gurudeva told one young man about an hour ago, "I have a magic wand and I can change you. I can change all of your ideas and make you pure a bhakta." Similarly, Haridasa Thakura changed the heart of that prostitute.

Srila Narayana Maharaja: You know that Brahma and Prahlada have come together as Haridasa Thakura. He was not only Brahma. He was also Prahlad Maharaja, who was also his source of tolerance. Why did he come? Because all the devotees of all the avatars were associates of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. They were all there with Him. Thus, wherever there was a need to give any siksa, teachings, they taught us.

If you want to chant harinama, you should think that there are two very powerful enemies of bhajana. What are they? Lust and intolerance. If you become angry, you cannot do bhajana. You will have to give up your anger forever. If you have anger, your bhajana will be ruined forever. This is the root of all sins and all evil, and this is present in everyone including aspiring devotees. They will tell others, "Oh, you should be tolerant", but they themselves are not tolerant.

Secondly, all have some lust in their hearts. We should try to give it up. We cannot destroy it because it is the gift of Krsna, but we can change it into love and affection for Krsna. Bilvamangala. Thakura was previously such a lusty person, and he could not control himself. In the end, however, he changed. He transformed his lust into krsna-prema, which is the highest position. We should try to take a lesson from him.

Gaura premanande!

