

Tridandisvami Sri Srimad Bhaktivedanta Narayana Maharaja
DEPENDENCE ON KRSNA

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Krsna only hears the prayers of His surrendered devotee:

sad-anga saranagati hoibe jahara
tahara prarthana sune sri nanda-kumara

"One who submits unconditionally to this six-fold surrender has his prayers heard by the divine son of Sri Nanda (Nanda-kumara)." (Sad-anga Saranagati by Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura)

One who has fully surrendered will think, "Krsna is very powerful. He always protects and nourishes me." If we have this faith, Krsna will hear our prayers; otherwise not. In this world there are so many hundreds and hundreds of billions of persons, and they are almost all unhappy. They weep bitterly, "Oh, God! Oh, my God!" He will not hear them, however, because they are not surrendered to Him. If you are weighted down with anarthas and are not surrendered, Krsna will neglect you. If you are chanting harinama and thinking, "What to do? Nowadays all businesses are going down. Now my business has almost stopped and there is not so much income. What to do? Hare Krsna Hare Krsna..." Krsna will not hear. He will neglect you. He knows, "Material possessions are like poison, and this devotee desires that poison. Why should I give him poison?" He will not hear.

On the other hand, when Krsna knows that the devotee only wants to serve Him, then He will hear. For materialists and materialistic devotees, He is like antaryami, the Supersoul. He is saksi, like a witness, and He will be neutral like a judge. A judge hears from both parties, and he, himself, is neutral. On the other hand, if Krsna sees that the devotee desires bhakti, then He can give a favorable judgement. At first Krsna is simply like a witness in our heart, and when a person surrenders himself, He will not be so. He will hear and act accordingly.

An example to illustrate this truth is as follows: The assembly of the Kauravas, like Duryodhana, Karna, Sukuni and others in Duryodhana's party wanted to insult the Pandavas. They defeated them in gambling by cheating methods, and in this way the Pandavas lost their kingdom, all their possessions, and finally Draupadi. Duryodhana then said to Dusasana, "Take her garments and make her naked. Then, while naked, she should sit here on my knee. Do this at once."

Then, being a demon, Dusasana began to do pull on Draupadi's sari, and he pulled with the strength of 10,000 elephants. Draupadi thought, "What shall I do?" She began to look towards the five Pandavas, thinking they would help her. They were going to help, but Yudhisthira Maharaja stopped them, saying "Let's see what will happen." He had full belief in Krsna, and thus considered, "Krsna will surely come; so there is no need for us to do anything." As Dusasana pulled further, Draupadi then looked towards Bhisma

Pitamaha, Drona, and others, hoping, "They will save me." But they could not save her. She then began to pray to Krsna, "O Krsna!" But at the same time she kept the corner of her veil between her teeth. At that time Krsna was in Dvaraka surrounded by His queens, and He looked like He was in a hurry. They asked Him, "Why are You in a hurry?" He replied, "Someone is calling Me." The queens inquired, "Then why aren't You going?" Krsna further replied, "Because that person has not fully surrendered. "After that, Draupadi stopped holding her sari with her teeth and, with both arms up, she called, "O Govinda! I am totally surrendered to You. She closed her eyes and thought, "Whatever will happen, will happen."

Krsna then ran to her so quickly that He even forgot to take his shoes. He arrived on the scene in one second, and He then became the unlimitedly long garment of Draupadi. Dusasana kept pulling, pulling, and pulling, and finally he became so tired that he could not pull any longer. If you are not fully surrendered like Draupadi, Krsna will not hear you.

Krsna is very 'crooked', in the sense that when He will enter your heart you will never be able to get Him out. So try to fully surrender, and then Krsna may come. Otherwise, merely chanting harinama will not suffice. If you are chanting and at the same time you remember worldly things; if you are meditating, "Oh, my husband has left," "My wife has left me. What to do, what to do?" and chanting, Krsna will not hear.

Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura therefore instructs us in his Sri Bhajana Rahasya, "Give up all anarthas, and establish your relationship with Krsna. You have a very beautiful form and all transcendental moods, and you also have a very special relationship with Krsna. These relations are divided into five: santa, dasya, sakhya, vatsalya and madhurya. Among these five relations, the topmost is madhurya. In that relationship the devotee thinks, "I am the beloved of Krsna and Krsna is my beloved. He is my only beloved." These words come at that time.

Srimad Bhagavatam reveals Sukadeva Gosvami's statement to Srila Pariksit Maharaja:

srnvatam sva-kathah krsnah
punya-sravana-kirtanah
hrdy antah stho hy abhadrani
vidhunoti suhrt satam

"Sri Krsna, the Personality of Godhead, who is the Paramatma (Supersoul) in everyone's heart and the benefactor of the truthful devotee, cleanses the desire for material enjoyment from the heart of the devotee who has developed the urge to hear His messages, which are in themselves virtuous when properly heard and chanted.

nasta-prayesv abhadresu
nityam bhagavata-sevaya
bhagavaty uttama-sloke
bhaktir bhavati naisthiki

"By regular attendance in classes on the Bhagavatam and by rendering of service to the pure devotee, all that is troublesome to the heart is almost completely destroyed, and loving service unto the Personality of Godhead, who is praised with transcendental songs, is established as an irrevocable fact.

tada rajas-tamo-bhavah
kama-lobhadayas ca ye
ceta etair anaviddham
sthitam sattve prasidati

"As soon as irrevocable loving service is established in the heart, the effects of nature's modes of passion and ignorance, such as lust, desire and hankering, disappear from the heart. Then the devotee is established in goodness, and he becomes completely happy." (Srimad-Bhagavatam 1.2.17-19)

This is the process. Keep your hands here, on your heart, and then you can decide whether you are following that process or not. If you ask your heart, "Am I following?" your heart will answer, "No, you are not following." I have come, inspired by our guru-varga, to inspire you in this process. If you adopt it, you will at once be very happy. [At that moment the already strong rain just outside the open pavilion under which Srila Maharaja was speaking became still stronger, and he continued:] And your tears will fall like this rainfall.

Gaura Premanande

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