

Bhakti Vriksha Modules - Krishna Sadhaka
Week 24 – Members’ Section

Sri Namamrta - The Nectar of the Holy Name

Of the nine processes of devotional service, chanting the holy name is the most important

[Lord Caitanya to Sanātana Gosvāmī]: “Among the ways of executing devotional service, the nine prescribed methods are the best, for these processes have great potency to deliver Kṛṣṇa and ecstatic love for Him. Of the nine processes of devotional service, the most important is to always chant the holy name of the Lord. If one does so, avoiding the ten kinds of offenses, one very easily obtains the most valuable love of Godhead.”

Śrīla Jīva Gosvāmī Prabhu gives the following directions in his Bhakti-sandarbha (270)

*iyam ca kīrtanākhyā bhaktir bhagavato dravya-jāti-guṇa-kriyābhir dīna-janaika-viṣayāpāra-
karuṇā-mayīti śruti-purāṇadi-viśrutiḥ. ata eva kalau svabhāvata evātidīneṣu lokeṣv āvirbhūya
tān anāyāsenaiḥ tat-tad-yuga-gata-mahā-sādhanānām sarvam eva phalaṁ dadānā sā
kṛtārthayati. yata eva tayaiva kalau bhagavato viśeṣataś ca santoṣo bhavati.*

“Chanting the holy name is the chief means of attaining love of Godhead. This chanting or devotional service does not depend on any paraphernalia, nor on one’s having taken birth in a good family. By humility and meekness one attracts the attention of Kṛṣṇa. That is the verdict of all the Vedas. Therefore if one becomes very humble and meek, he can easily attain the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa in this age of Kali. That is the fulfillment of all great sacrifices, penances and austerities because when one achieves ecstatic love of Godhead, he attains the complete perfection of life. Therefore whatever one does in executing devotional service must be accompanied with the chanting of the holy name of the Lord.”

Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta Antya-līlā 4.70-71

Passage for Discussion

Mould your Life around Krishna

*yat karoṣi yad aśnāsi/ yaj juhoṣi dadāsi yat
yat tapasyasi kaunteya/ tat kuruṣva mad-arpaṇam*

TRANSLATION

O son of Kuntī, all that you do, all that you eat, all that you offer and give away, as well as all austerities that you may perform, should be done as an offering unto Me.

PURPORT

Thus, it is the duty of everyone to mold his life in such a way that he will not forget Kṛṣṇa in any circumstance. Everyone has to work for maintenance of his body and soul together, and Kṛṣṇa recommends herein that one should work for Him. Everyone has to eat something to live; therefore he should accept the remnants of foodstuffs offered to Kṛṣṇa. Any civilized

man has to perform some religious ritualistic ceremonies; therefore Kṛiṣṇa recommends, “Do it for Me,” and this is called arcanā. Everyone has a tendency to give something in charity; Kṛiṣṇa says, “Give it to Me,” and this means that all surplus money accumulated should be utilized in furthering the Kṛiṣṇa consciousness movement. Nowadays people are very much inclined to the meditational process, which is not practical in this age, but if anyone practices meditating on Kṛiṣṇa twenty-four hours by chanting the Hare Kṛiṣṇa mantra round his beads, he is surely the greatest yogī, as substantiated by the Sixth Chapter of Bhagavad-gītā.

Discovery:

1. List some of the daily activities which Kṛiṣṇa is asking us to do as an offering to Him?

Understanding:

1. Is it possible to think of Krishna throughout the day? How can we do that?
2. How can we start to become the greatest yogi?

Application:

1. Discuss some of the obstacles you face in thinking of Kṛiṣṇa throughout the day. How do you think you can overcome them?

Preaching is the Essence

If preachers of Kṛiṣṇa consciousness are sincere devotees of Kṛiṣṇa, the Kṛiṣṇa consciousness movement will spread by Kṛiṣṇa’s grace

The Kṛiṣṇa consciousness movement has spread all over the world within a very short time (within five years), and mundane people are very astonished at this. However, by the grace of Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, we understand that everything is possible by the grace of Kṛiṣṇa. Why does Kṛiṣṇa have to take five years? In five days He can spread His name and fame all over the world like wildfire. Those who have faith and devotion to Kṛiṣṇa can understand that these things happen so wonderfully by the grace of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. We are simply the instruments. In the fierce Battle of Kurukṣetra, Arjuna was victorious within eighteen days simply because Kṛiṣṇa’s grace was on his side....

If the preachers in our Kṛiṣṇa consciousness movement are sincere devotees of Kṛiṣṇa, Kṛiṣṇa will always be with them because He is very kind and favorable to all His devotees. Just as Arjuna and Kṛiṣṇa were victorious in the Battle of Kurukṣetra, this Kṛiṣṇa consciousness movement will surely emerge victorious if we but remain sincere devotees of the Lord and serve the Lord according to the advice of predecessors (the six Gosvāmīs and other devotees of the Lord)... Within the Society we must try to serve the predecessors by preaching Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s cult and spreading His name and fame all over the world. If we attempt this seriously within the Society, it will be successfully done. There is no question of estimating how this will happen in the mundane sense. But without a doubt, it happens by the grace of Kṛiṣṇa.

Cc. Madhya 4.79