

LUST IS NOT LOVE

— from Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura's *Kalyāṇa-kalpataru*

1. Tell me why, my dear mind? Why are you forced to dance by lust, and why do you think that such dancing is Kṛṣṇa conscious? Your lust is simply abounding in skin and meat, and you are addicted to non-stop material sense gratification. Thus you spend your time in running here and there, chasing after worldly sense objects.
2. The soul's original eternal nature is pure love within the innermost core of its spiritually conscious form, and the sole object of that pure love is Lord Hari. Alas, how lamentable it is that this inherent ecstatic love is now lying in a dormant state due to the artificial covering of this temporary lust. My dear mind, banishing this lust to a distant place, just rouse and reawaken your sleeping *prema*.
3. Only in the following sequence does pure love for Kṛṣṇa awaken: First one develops *śraddhā* (faith) in the process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness; then, due to that faith one becomes enthusiastic for *sādhū-saṅga* (the association of devotees); then, by performance of *bhajana-kriyā* (devotional worship) in the company of the devotees there awakens *niṣṭhā* (steadiness in service), then *ruci* (taste), then *āśakti* (attachment to the Lord); this attachment then gives rise to *bhāva* (genuine ecstatic emotions), from which *prema* (pure love for Kṛṣṇa) manifests its re-awakening. Only in this sequence does *prema* come into being.
4. One who endeavors in this process gets the essence of pure ecstatic love for Kṛṣṇa. One who neglects the proper order of this procedure does not experience the reawakening of true *prema*. My dear mind, why are you maintaining the wicked mentality of apprehension and fear of this method of devotional practice? By cultivation of your lust in this mundane sphere, you will never be able to touch upon genuine ecstatic love for Kṛṣṇa.
5. So by your dramatic performance of dancing in lust, you think that this is indicative of your *prema*, but it is actually a deceptive, feigned imitation of spiritual love. Thus your whole process is simply gross sense gratification. My dear brother, always refrain from such degraded, contemptible activities and cast far away this grave offense to the Lord.

THE DELUSION OF SENSE GRATIFICATION

— from Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura's *Kalyāṇa-kalpataru*

1. The delusion rooted deeply in my heart has taken the shape of desires for sense gratification. Thus in my heart I am constantly trying to enjoy.
2. Alas! How much endeavor have I made for such enjoyment? My delusions have not gone away, and I understand that now in the end my life is departing.
3. This ghastly delusion has made me extremely restless. I have not achieved any peace, and I am most disturbed at heart.
4. When will Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī bestow his mercy upon me? When will he deliver me by imparting knowledge of *yukta-vairāgya* (the science of renunciation which dovetails all favorable things in devotional service)?
5. When will Śrīla Sanātana Gosvāmī cause me to give up this materialistic sense gratification? Being gracious to me, he will offer me in devotion to Lord Nityānanda Prabhu.
6. When will Śrīla Jīva Gosvāmī pour the waters of his strong conclusive truths and thereby extinguish the fire of false arguments that burns my heart?
7. My jubilation will arise when I hear the chanting of the holy name of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya, and by drinking the nectar of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, I will become free from all of my lamentations.
8. This rogue is not only the most wicked amongst the wicked, but is the most wretched amongst the wretched. Therefore he now begs for the shelter of the lotus feet of all the Vaiṣṇavas.