

WHEN WILL THAT DAY BE MINE?! (1)

When will Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu show His causeless mercy to me by allowing me to attain the shade of the lotus feet of all the Vaiṣṇavas?

When will I be able to give up this false ego which is so deeply engrossed in sense gratification? And when will I be able to properly honor the associates of the Lord?

I will stand before the Vaiṣṇavas with folded hands, a cloth binding my neck, and a straw between my teeth, sincerely awaiting their order.

Weeping and weeping, I will understand the real nature of this abode of misery, and I will beg for relief from the blazing fire of this material world.

Hearing about all of my miserable sufferings, the Vaiṣṇava Ṭhākuras will submit an appeal unto Lord Kṛṣṇa on my behalf.

By the prayer of the Vaiṣṇavas, the all-merciful Lord Kṛṣṇa will then become compassionate towards such a sinner as me.

Bhaktivinoda prays unto the lotus feet of the Vaiṣṇavas, “Please be merciful and take this worthless person into your association”.

— Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, *Kalyāṇa-kalpataru*, (Vaiṣṇavas can give Kṛṣṇa)

WHEN WILL THAT DAY BE MINE?! (2)

Oh my Lord Hari, will I ever be able to realize who is actually a real Vaiṣṇava, the lotus feet of whom are like a mine of all-auspiciousness? When will I become madly overwhelmed by holding those lotus feet within the core of my heart?

Such a revered devotee is always transcendental, free from all faults, and fully joyful in spiritual bliss. Being lovingly attached to the holy name of the Lord, and always disinterested and callous towards worldly interests, he is always melted with compassion for all souls.

Devoid of any trace of false ego, fully experienced and expert in *bhajana*, the pure devotee is completely detached from all types of sense objects. He is always straightforward both internally and externally, and he is completely attracted to relishing the eternal pastimes of the Lord.

I discriminate between the three types of Vaiṣṇavas, namely the *kaniṣṭha* (beginning neophyte), the *madhyama* (middle class), and the *uttama* (highest pure devotee). I respect the *kaniṣṭha*, I offer my respectful obeisances unto the *madhyama*, and I fully submit myself to hearing from the *uttama*.

At that time when I learn to properly honor such a pure devotee, recognizing his real quality, then I will certainly achieve all spiritual perfection by his mercy.

Bhaktivinoda always keeps a vow to abstain from speaking any type of envious blasphemy about such a spotless devotee, whose life and characteristics are in all ways pure.

— Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, *Kalyāṇa-kalpataru*, (The Pure Devotee)