

# Mercy Is My Only Hope!

Whatever my level of *adhikāra*, mercy is my only hope. It is not my endeavors that give the desired result. If my mood is right, my endeavors will attract Kṛṣṇa's mercy, and He will give the result. Let's face it, I'm a mercy case! And so it's crucial that my mood is favourable, and pleasing to Kṛṣṇa. And best I learn that mood from someone who has it.

Let's take a look at a very beautiful — and instructive — prayer by Śrīla Sanātana Gosvāmī:

*dātuṁ śaknoti me 'jasraṁ  
prema-smaraṇa-kīrtanam  
tava prema-kaṭākṣaṁ ca  
mayi prāpayituṁ kṣamaḥ*

*go-gopa-gopikāsaktaṁ  
tvāṁ ca darśayituṁ prabhuḥ  
evaṁ yo mama hīnasya  
sarvāśālbhānam param*

*mahā-kāruṇya-mahimā  
purāṇo nitya-nūtanah  
tvadīyah sac-cid-ānandas  
tasmai nityaṁ namo namaḥ*

Your mercy is a great wonder, nondifferent from You. It is pure eternity, knowledge, and bliss. It can empower me to always remember and glorify You in pure love. It can obtain for me Your loving sidelong glance. It can enable me to see You absorbed in the company of the cows and the *gopas* and *gopīs*. Thus for a helpless person like me it is the ultimate resort of all hopes. Your wonderful mercy is ancient and eternal but also ever new and fresh. To Your mercy, again and again, I offer my obeisances forever.

It is the duty of the intelligent to follow the *mahājanas*. To think one can attain perfection by one's own endeavor is a material conception. To think this leads only toward material existence and not to Vraja.

— Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura,  
*Amṛta Vāṇī, Attaining Perfection, 25.*