

# — Humility Means —

## Learning to Cry Out to Kṛṣṇa for Help

Śrī Gaurasundara explained that to genuinely call out for Bhagavān, one has to be more humble than a blade of grass (*trṇād api sunīcena*). We cannot cry out for someone until we have accepted our own insignificance in relation to that person. We beg for assistance when we are forced to acknowledge our helplessness. Whenever we find ourselves incapable of completing a task on our own, we are left with no choice but to seek another's help. Alone I cannot complete a task that requires five people to accomplish.

Śrī Gaurasundara has instructed us to genuinely cry out for Bhagavān, which means He has urged us to solicit Śrī Bhagavān for help. This we have heard from Śrīla Gurudeva. However if I cry out to Him with the intention of involving Him in service to me, or if I petition Him for the purpose of accomplishing any task, my cries lack the real humility of *trṇād api sunīcena*. Real humility is never found in an external show of humility, which is actually mere duplicity. Calling out to Bhagavān in the mood of being His master, expecting Him to obey like a servant, is ineffective. He does not hear such a call because He is supremely independent and fully conscious. Consequently, He is not controlled by anyone. Until a person's egoism establishes roots in sincere, non-duplicitous humility, his prayers will not reach Bhagavān, who is fully independent.

A person who is more humble than a blade of grass may cry out to Bhagavān, but unless he is endowed with the qualities of patience and tolerance, his calling out will still not bear fruit. If we show impatience by hankering after our own interests, our behaviour is in direct opposition to the mood of *trṇād api sunīcena*. If we are fully confident that Bhagavān is the Complete Being, and that our calling out to Him will never result in scarcity, we will not experience any dearth of patience. But if I become greedy, intolerant and restless, and if I remain adamant that I will accomplish my task on the strength of my own ability and competence, I will not be able to call out to Bhagavān in the true sense.

If we are excessively vain, we cannot properly call out to Him. And also if we try to annihilate our real self-interest, then we will not be able to cry out to Bhagavān properly. Often, I think that I am obliging Him by my prayers, and therefore I engage in other activities in which I don't need to ask for His help. This mentality also indicates the absence of tolerance.

We therefore require a guardian to save us from such tendencies until we become qualified to sincerely pray in the mood of *trṇād api sunīcena*. His shelter and support are necessary to shield us from such unfavourable inclinations. Śrīla Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura says: “*āśraya laiya bhaje, kṛṣṇa nāhi tāre tyaje, āra saba mare akāraṇa* — one who performs *bhajana* under the shelter of personalities who are the abode of love for Kṛṣṇa, is not neglected by Kṛṣṇa; everyone else lives in vain.”

— Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, *Harikathāmṛta*