

You are Master, I am Servant

— The Prayer —

*hari he
tumi jagatera pitā tumi jagatera mātā
doyita tanoya hari tumi
tumi suhṛn mitra guru tumi gati kalpa-taru
twadiya-sambandha-mātra āmi*

O Lord Kṛṣṇa, You are the father of the universe. You are the mother of the universe. O Lord Kṛṣṇa, You are the beloved son. You are the spiritual master, the well-wisher, and the friend. You are the shelter and the *kalpa-vṛkṣa* tree. In these ways I have a relationship with You.

*taba bhṛtya parijana gati-prārthi akiñcana
prapanna tomāra śrī-carāṇe
taba sattwa taba dhana tomāra pālita jana
āmāra mamatā taba jane*

I am Your servant, Your follower, a poor person who begs You for shelter, a soul surrendered at Your graceful feet. I am Your property, Your creation, Your dependent, protected by You. I am Yours.

*e bhaktibinoda koya ahantā-mamatā noya
śrī-kṛṣṇa-sambandha-abhimāne
sebāra sambandha dhorī’ ahantā-mamatā kori’
tad-itare prākṛta bidhāne*

Bhaktivinoda says: I do not proudly think “I” and “mine” in my relationship with Lord Kṛṣṇa. Still, as I serve Him, I do think in terms of “I” and “mine”. Outside of serving Him, these would be only material thoughts.

— Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, *Gītā-mālā*, (*Yamunā-bhāvāvalī*)

— The Practice —

I am by nature the eternal servant of Kṛṣṇa. But because of my bad fortune, I have been inimical toward Kṛṣṇa from time immemorial. Identifying with my body, I have been continuously wandering in the cycle of birth and death in the material world, suffering the burning three-fold miseries. As a result of some unimaginable good fortune I have attained the mercy of my spiritual master, and now I know that I am Kṛṣṇa’s eternal servant. I am an infinitesimal spiritual being completely apart from the gross and subtle body. I have obtained the good fortune of serving the lotus feet of Śrī Guru. Under his shelter, I am following in his footsteps to serve the lotus feet of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and Śrī Śrī Rādhā Kṛṣṇa.

— Pañcarātra Pradīpa