

# *Śaraṇāgati*

by Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura

## **Fourth Principle of Surrender: 'Avaśya Rakṣibe Kṛṣṇa'-Viśvāsa, Pālana Faith in Kṛṣṇa as Protector**

### **Song 1**

*ekhona bujhinu prabhu! tomāra caraṇa  
aśokābhoyāmṛta-pūrṇa sarva-khana*

Now I have understood, O Lord, that Your feet are eternally full of sweet nectar that dispels all sorrow and fear.

*sakala chāḍiyā tuwā caraṇa-kamale  
poḍiyāchi āmi nātha! tava pada-tale*

Surrendering myself and all I possess unto those lotus feet, I have laid myself down submissively under their shelter.

*tava pāda-padma nāth! rokhibe āmāre  
ār rakhā-kartā nāhi e bhava-saṁsāre*

Your lotus feet, O Lord, will certainly shelter me. There are no other protectors in this world of birth and death.

*āmi tava nitya-dāsa-jāninu e-bāra  
āmāra pālana-bhāra ekhona tomāra*

At last I know myself to be Your eternal servant. Now the burden of my maintenance is exclusively Yours.

*baḍo duḥkha pāiyāchi swatantra jīvane  
duḥkha dūre gelo o pada-varaṇe*

In my life of independence from You, I have experienced nothing but misery. But now, upon accepting those feet of Yours, all my miseries have been cast far away.

*je-pada lāgiyā ramā tapasya korilā  
je-pada pāiyā śiva śivatva lobhilā*

Desiring a place at Your lotus feet the goddess of fortune performed difficult austerities. Only after receiving Your feet did Lord Śiva attain his śivatva, or quality of auspiciousness.

*je-pada labhiyā brahmā kṛtārtha hoilā  
je-pada nārada muni hṛdoye dhorilā*

Upon obtaining Your feet Lord Brahmā had his desires fulfilled. Your feet are always held by the great sage Nārada Muni within his heart.

*sei se abhoya pada śirete dhoriyā  
parama-ānande nāci pada-guna gāiyā*

I now hold on my head those very same lotus feet, which drive away all fear, while I dance in great ecstasy, singing their glories.

*saṁsāra-vipada ho'te avaśya uddhār  
bhaktivinoda, o-pada koribe tomār*

Your lotus feet will surely deliver Bhaktivinoda from the dangerous perils of this worldly journey.

## Song 2

*tumi to' mārībe jāre, ke tāre rākhite pāre,  
icchā-bāsa tribhuvan  
brahmā-ādi deva-gaṇa, tava dāsa aganaṇa,  
kore tava ājñāra pālan*

If You wish to slay someone, then who could possibly protect them? The three worlds are subservient to Your will. The demigods headed by Lord Brahmā are Your countless servants who stand ready to execute Your command.

*tava icchā-mate jata, graha-gaṇa avirata,  
śubhāśubha phala kore dān  
roga-śoka-mṛti-bhoy, tava icchā-mate hoy,  
tava ājñā sadā balavān*

By Your will the planets incessantly exercise their auspicious or inauspicious influences. Illness, grief, death, and fear occur by Your will. Your command is all-powerful.

*tava bhoye vāyu boy, candra sūrya samudoy,  
swa-swa niyamita karya kore  
tumi to' paramēśwar, para-brahma parātpar,  
tava bāsa bhakata-antare*

In fear of You the wind blows, the sun and moon rise and set, all performing their regulated tasks. You are the Supreme Lord, the ultimate spirit, transcendently situated beyond even the beyond. Your residence is in the heart of Your loving devotee.

*sadā-śuddha siddha-kāma, 'bhakata-vatsala' nāma,  
bhakata-janera nitya-swāmī  
tumi to' rākhibe jāre, ke tāre mārīte pāre,  
sakala vidhira vidhi tumi*

You are eternally pure. All Your desires are already fulfilled. Your name is Bhaktavatsala, for You are the eternally affectionate Lord of Your dear devotees. If You wish to protect someone, then who could possibly slay them? You are the law of all laws.

*tomāra caraṇe nātha! koriyāche pranipāta,  
bhaktivinoda tava dās  
vipada hoite swāmī! avaśya tāhāre tumi,  
rakṣibe,-tāhāra e viśvās*

Your servant Bhaktivinoda has bowed down submissively at Your lotus feet, O Lord! He cherishes the faith, O master, that You will surely protect him from all dangers.

### Song 3

*ātma-samarpane gelā abhimān  
nāhi korobuñ nija rakhā-vidhān*

Surrendering my soul unto You has lifted from me the burden of false pride. No longer will I try to provide for my own safety.

*tuwā dhana jāni' tuhuñ rākhobi, nāth!  
pālya godhana jñāna kori' tuwā sāth*

I know that You will give protection to Your treasured possessions, O Lord. I now understand the mentality of Your treasured cows safely maintained by Your side.

*carāobi mādhava! jāmuna-tīre  
bañśī bājāoto dākobi dhīre*

When You lead Your herds to pasture, O Mādhava, on the banks of the Yamunā river, You will call to them by softly playing on Your flute.

*agha-baka mārato rakhā-vidhān  
korobi sadā tuhuñ gokula-kān!*

By slaying great demons such as Aghāsura and Bakāsura You will always provide full protection, O Kān of the cowherd settlement!

*rakhā korobi tuhuñ niścoy jāni  
pāna korobuñ hāma jāmuna-pāni*

Fearless and confident of Your protection, I will drink the water of the Yamunā.

*kāliya-dokha korobi vināśā  
śodhobi nadī-jala, bāḍāobi āśā*

The Kāliya serpent's venom poisoned the Yamunā's waters, yet that poison will be vanquished. You will purify the Yamunā, and by such heroic deeds enhance our faith.

*piyato dāvānala rākhobi mo'y  
'gopāla', 'govinda' nāma tava hoy*

You will surely protect me by swallowing the forest fire. Thus You are called Gopāla (protector of the cows) and Govinda (pleaser of the cows).

*sura-pati-durmati-nāśa vicāri'  
rākhobi varṣane, giri-vara-dhāri!*

In order to curb the malice of Indra, king of the demigods, You will protect me from his torrents of rain, O lifter of the mighty Govardhana Hill!

*catur-ānana korabo jab cori  
rakhā korobi mujhe, gokula-hari!*

When the four-headed Brahmā abducts me along with Your cowherd boyfriends and calves, then also You will surely protect me, O Gokula Hari!

*bhaktivinoda-tuwā gokula-dhan  
rākhobi keśava! korato jatan*

Bhaktivinoda is now the property of Gokula, Your holy abode. O Keśava! Kindly protect him with gentle loving care.

#### Song 4

*chodato puruṣa-abhimān  
kiṅkorī hoiluṅ āji, kān!*

I give up the vanity of the error that I am a male. Today I have become Your faithful maidservant, O Kāna!

*baraja-bipine sakhī-sāth  
sevana korobuṅ, rādhā-nāth!*

In the groves of Vraja I will render personal service as a follower of one of the confidential sakhīs, O Lord of Rādhā!

*kusume gānthobuṅ hār  
tulasī-maṇi-mañjarī tār*

I will string together a garland of forest flowers, in which tulasī buds shall be the jewelled pendants.

*jatane deobuñ sakhī-kare  
hāte laobo sakhī ādare*

With utmost care I will place the garland in the hands of my superior sakhī, and she will take it out of my hands with loving regard.

*sakhī dibo tuwā duhuk gale  
dūrato herobuñ kutūhale*

Then she will place the garland around both of Your necks, while from afar I watch in wonder.

*sakhī kahabo,- "śuno sundarī!  
rahobi kuñje mama kiñkorī*

The confidante will then say to me, "Listen, O beautiful one, you shall remain in this grove as my attendant.

*gānthobi mālā mano-hārinī  
niti rādhā-kṛṣṇa-vimohinī*

Daily you will string together beautiful flower garlands that will enchant Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

*tuwā rakhana-bhāra hāmārā  
mama kuñja-kuṭīra tohārā*

The responsibility for your maintenance is mine. My cottage in this grove is yours.

*rādhā-mādhava-sevana-kāle  
rahobi hāmāra antarāle*

When the time comes for me to go and serve Rādhā and Mādhava, you will stay close to me while remaining hidden.

*tāmbula sāji' karpūra āni'  
deobi moe āpana jāni' "*

After dressing packets of betel nuts and fetching the camphor, you will hand them to me, knowing me to be your very own."

*bhaktivinoda śuni' bāt  
sakhī-pade kare pranipāt*

Bhaktivinoda, having heard all these instructions, bows down at the lotus feet of that confidential sakhī.