

Guru Niṣṭhā

— The Very Heart of *Anukūla Bhakti* —

*śrī-guru-carāṇa-padma, kevala-bhakati-sadma,
bando mui sāvadhāna mate
jāhāra prasāde bhāi, e bhava toriyā jāi,
kṛṣṇa-prāpti hoy jāhā ha'te*

The lotus feet of my spiritual master are the abode of pure devotional service. I bow down to his lotus feet with great care and attention. By his grace I can cross over this material existence and attain Kṛṣṇa.

*guru-mukha-padma-vākya, cittete koriyā aikya,
ār nā koriho mane āśā
śrī-guru-carāṇe rati, ei se uttama-gati,
je prasāde pūre sarva āśā*

Oh mind, make the teachings emanating from the lotus mouth of my spiritual master one with my heart, and do not desire anything else. Attachment to his lotus feet is the best way to make spiritual advancement. His mercy fulfills all desires for spiritual perfection.

*cakhu-dān dilo jei, janme janme prabhu sei,
divya jñān hrde prokāsito
prema-bhakti jāhā hoite, avidyā vināśa jāte,
vede gāy jāhāra carito*

He who has given me the gift of transcendental vision is my lord, birth after birth. It is by his mercy that divine knowledge is revealed within my heart, bestowing pure love for Kṛṣṇa and destroying ignorance. The Vedic scriptures sing of his character.

*śrī-guru karuṇā-sindhu, adhama janāra bandhu,
lokanāth lokera jīvana
hā hā prabhu koro doyā, deho more pada-chāyā,
ebe jaśa ghuṣuk tribhuvana*

O my beloved spiritual master, ocean of mercy and friend of all fallen souls, you are the teacher of everyone and the life of all people. O master! Be merciful unto **me** and give **me** the full shade of your divine lotus feet. May your glories now be proclaimed throughout the three worlds.

— Śrīla Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura's *Śrī Prema-bhakti-candrikā*