

# *Śaraṇāgati*

by Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura

## **Bhajana-Lālasā: Hankering for Divine Service**

### Song 6

*hari he!  
nīra-dharma-gata, jāhnavī-salile,  
paṅka-phena dr̥ṣṭa hoyā  
tathāpi kakhona, brahma-drava-dharma,  
se salila nā chāḍoya*

O my Lord Hari! Mud and foam are seen in the waters of the Gaṅgā, for that is the inherent nature of river water. Yet the water of the sacred Gaṅgā never loses its purely spiritual nature.

*vaiṣṇava-śarīra, aprākṛta sadā,  
swabhāva-vapura dharme  
kabhu nāhe jaḍa, tathāpi ye ninde,  
poḍe se viṣamādharme*

One may likewise find natural defects in the body of a Vaiṣṇava, yet his body is always spiritual. It is never to be considered material. That person who criticizes the body of a Vaiṣṇava falls into deadly irreligion.

*sei aparādhe, yamera jātānā,  
pāya jīva avirata  
he nanda-nandana! sei aparādhe,  
yeno nāhi hoi hata*

For such an offense, the fallen soul ceaselessly suffers the tortures of Yamarāja, lord of death. O youthful son of Nanda! I pray that I will not be destroyed by committing such an offense.

*tomāra vaiṣṇava, vaibhava tomāra,  
āmāre korunā doyā  
tabe mora gati, ha'be tava prati,  
pā'bo tava pada-chāyā*

The Vaiṣṇava is Your own, representing Your glorious divine potency. May he be merciful to me. Then my life's journey will turn toward You, and I will attain shelter in the shade of Your lotus feet.

## Song 7

*ohe!*

*vaiṣṇava ṭhākura, doyāra sāgara,  
e dāse korunā kori'  
diyā pada-chāyā, śodho he āmāya,  
tomāra caraṇa dhorī*

O revered Vaiṣṇava Ṭhākura! O ocean of mercy! Please be merciful to me, your humble servant. Purify me by giving the shade of your lotus feet. Your feet I clasp submissively.

*chaya vega domi', chaya doṣa śodhi',  
chaya guna deho' dāse  
chaya sat-saṅga, deho' he āmāre,  
bosechi saṅgera āśe*

Please help me to control the six urges, purify me of the six faults, and please instill in your servant the six good qualities. Oh, bestow upon me the six kinds of holy association! I am seated here in the hope of having your company.

*ekakī āmāra, nāhi pāya bala,  
hari-nāma-saṅkīrtane  
tumi kṛpā kori', śraddhā-bindu diyā,  
deho' kṛṣṇa-nāma-dhane*

On my own, I find I have no strength to chant the holy name of Lord Hari. Please be merciful by awarding me with a particle of faith and giving me the great treasure of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa.

*kṛṣṇa se tomāra, kṛṣṇa dite pāro,  
tomāra śakati āche  
āmi to' kāṅgāla, 'kṛṣṇa' 'kṛṣṇa' boli',  
dhāi tava pāche pāche*

Kṛṣṇa is yours, therefore you are able to give Him to others. This is certainly within your power. I am indeed wretched and fallen, simply running after you crying “Kṛṣṇa! Kṛṣṇa!”

## Song 8

*hari he!  
tomāre bhuliyā, avidyā-pīḍāya,  
pīḍita rasanā mora  
kṛṣṇa-nāma-sudhā, bhālo nāhi lāge,  
viṣaya-sukhate bhora*

O my Lord Hari! Because of forgetting You, my tongue has become embittered with the disease of ignorance. I cannot relish the sweet nectar of Your holy name of Kṛṣṇa, for I have become addicted to the taste of worldly pleasures.

*prati-dina jadi, ādara koriyā,  
se nāma kīrtana kori  
sitapala jeno, nāsi' roga-mūla,  
krame swādu hoyā, hari!*

If I sing that holy name of Yours aloud every day with warm affection, then as sugar candy taken medicinally destroys the very disease which makes it taste bitter (jaundice), so Your holy name, O Lord Hari, will cure my spiritual disease and allow me to gradually taste Your sweetness.

*durdaiva āmāra, se nāme ādara,  
nā hoilo, doyāmoya!  
daśa aparādha, āmāra durdaiva,  
kemone hoibe kṣoya*

How great is my misfortune that I feel no appreciation for Your holy name, O merciful Lord! In such a lamentable state, how will I be freed from committing the ten offenses to the holy name?

*anudina jeno, tava nāma gāi,  
kramete kṛpāya tava  
aparādha jā'be, nāme ruci ha'be,  
āswādibo nāmāsava*

If I sing Your name every day, then gradually by Your mercy the ten offenses will disappear, taste for Your holy name will grow within me, and then I shall relish the intoxicating wine of that name.

## Song 9

*hari he!*

*śrī-rūpa-gosāi, śrī-guru-rūpete,  
śikṣā dila mora kāne  
“jāno mora kathā, nāmera kāṅgāla!  
rati pā’be nāma-gāne*

O my Lord Hari! Śrī Rūpa Goswāmī, in the form of the spiritual master, spoke these instructions into my ears: “Try to understand my words, O you who beg for the gift of the holy name! You will then develop attraction for singing the holy name.

*kṛṣṇa-nāma-rūpa- guna-sucarita,  
parama jatane kori’  
rasanā-mānase, koraho niyoga,  
krama-vidhi anusari’*

Following the scriptural rules and regulations, engage your tongue and your mind in carefully cultivating Lord Kṛṣṇa’s *nāma* (holy names), *rūpa* (divine forms), *guna* (transcendental qualities), and *sucarita* (wonderful pastimes). This should be done according to the recommended order of ascending progression.

*braje kori’ bāsa, rāgānugā hoiyā,  
smaraṇa kīrtana koro  
e nikhila kāla, koraho jāpana,  
upadeśa-sāra dharo’*

Always dwelling in the holy land of Vraja, become a practitioner of *rāgānugā-bhakti* (spontaneous loving devotion) while engaging in *smaraṇa* (remembrance) and *kīrtana* (glorification). Spend every moment of your time in these ways. Just accept this as the essence of all instructions.

*hā! rūpa-gosāi, doyā kori’ kabe,  
dibe dine braja-bāsa  
rāgātmika tumi, tava padānuga,  
hoite dāsera āśā*

O Rūpa Goswāmī! When will you, out of your causeless mercy, enable this poor wretched soul to reside in Vraja? You are a *rāgātmika* devotee—an eternally liberated, intimate associate of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. This humble servant of yours desires to become a loyal follower of your lotus feet.

## Song 10

*gurudev!  
boḍo kṛpā kori', gauḍa-vana mājhe,  
godrume diyācho sthāna  
ājñā dila more, ei braje bosī',  
hari-nāma koro gāna*

O Gurudeva! Because you are so merciful, you gave me a place to live in Godruma amid the woodlands of Gauḍa-deśa, with this order to fulfill: “Dwell here in this sacred place of Vraja and sing the holy name of Hari.”

*kintu kabe prabhu, योग्यतां अर्पिते,  
ए दासरे दोग्यां करी'  
चित्ता स्थिरा हबे, सकला सोहिबो,  
एकान्ते भजिबो हरी*

But when, O master, out of your great mercy, will you bestow upon this servant the spiritual qualification to fulfill that order? My mind will then become tranquil, I will endure all hardships, and I will serve Lord Hari with undivided attention.

*śaiśava-yauvane, jaḍa-sukha-saṅge,  
abhyāsa hoilo manda  
nija-karma-doṣe, e deho hoilo,  
bhajanera pratibandha*

Due to attachment to worldly pleasures in childhood and youth, I have developed many bad habits. Due to the reaction of these sinful acts my body itself has become an impediment to the service of the Supreme Lord.

*vārdhakyē ekhona, pañca-roge hata,  
kemone bhajibo bolo'  
kāṅḍiyā kāṅḍiyā, tomāra caraṇe,  
poḍiyāchi suvihvala*

Now, in old age, afflicted by the five-fold illnesses, how will I serve the Lord? O master, please tell me! Weeping and weeping, I have fallen at your feet, overwhelmed with anxiety.

## Song 11

*gurudev!  
kṛpā-bindu diyā, koro' ei dāse,  
tṛṇāpekṣā ati hīna  
sakala sahanē, bala diyā koro',  
nija-māne sprhā-hīna*

O Gurudeva! By administering a drop of your mercy make this servant of yours infinitely more humble than a blade of grass. Giving me the strength to bear all trials and troubles, free me from desires for personal honor.

*sakale sammāna, korite śakati,  
deho' nātha! jathājatha  
tabe to' gāibo, hari-nāma-sukhe,  
aparādha ha'be hata*

O lord and master! Inspire me with the power to befittingly honor all living beings. Only then will I sing the holy name of the Lord in great ecstasy, and my offensive activities will cease.

*kabe heno kṛpā, labhiyā e jana,  
kṛtārtha hoibe, nātha!  
śakti-buddhi-hīna, āmi ati dīna,  
koro' more ātma-sātha*

When will this person be indeed blessed by receiving your mercy, O lord and master? Devoid of all strength and intelligence, I am very low and fallen. Please make me your own.

*yogyatā-vicāre, kichu nāhi pāi,  
tomāra karuṇā-sāra  
karuṇā nā hoile, kāndiyā kāndiyā,  
prāṇa nā rākhibo āra*

When I examine myself for worthiness, I find nothing of value. Therefore your mercy is the essence of life. If you are not merciful to me, then I will constantly weep and weep, no longer being able to maintain my life.

## Song 12

*gurudev!  
kabe mora sei din ha'be  
mana sthira kori', nirjane bosiyā,  
kṛṣṇa-nāma gā'bo jabe  
saṁsāra-phukāra, kāne nā poṣibe,  
deho-roga dūre ro'be*

O Gurudeva! When will that day be mine? With a steady mind, sitting in a secluded place, I will sing the name of Śrī Kṛṣṇa. The tumultuous pandemonium of worldly existence will no longer echo in my ears, and the diseases of the body will remain far away.

*'hare kṛṣṇa' boli', gāhite gāhite,  
nayane bohibe lora  
dehete pulaka, udita hoibe,  
premete koribe bhora*

When I chant “Hare Kṛṣṇa” tears of love will flow and flow from my eyes. Ecstatic rapture will arise within my body, causing my hair to stand on end and my entire being to become overwhelmed with divine love.

*gada-gada vānī, mukhe bāhiribe,  
kāṅpibe śarīra mama  
gharma muhur muhuḥ, vivarṇa hoibe,  
stambhita pralaya sama*

Faltering words choked with emotion will issue from my mouth. My body will tremble, constantly perspire, turn pale and discolored, and become stunned. All of this will be like a devastation of ecstatic love and cause me to fall unconscious.

*niṣkaṭe heno, daśā kabe ha'be,  
nirantara nāma gā'bo  
āveśe rohiyā, deha-yātrā kori',  
tomāra karunā pā'bo*

When will such a genuine ecstatic condition be mine? I will constantly sing the holy name and remain absorbed in profound devotion while traveling in the material body. In this way I will receive your mercy.

## Song 13

*gurudev!  
kabe tava karunā-prakāśe  
śrī-gaurāṅga-līlā, hoyā nitya-tattwa,  
ei dṛḍha viśvāse  
'hari hari' bolī', godruma-kānane,  
bhromibo darśana-āśe*

O Gurudeva! When will it be, as a manifestation of your mercy? I will become fixed in the firm faith that Lord Gaurāṅga's pastimes are eternal realities. Chanting "Hari! Hari!" I will wander throughout the groves of Godruma, hoping to catch a glimpse of those pastimes.

*nitāi, gaurāṅga, advaita, śrīvāsa,  
gadādhara, -pañca-jana  
kṛṣṇa-nāma-rase, bhāsā'be jagat,  
kori' mahā-saṅkīrtana*

The five personalities-Nitāi, Gaurāṅga, Advaita, Śrīvāsa, and Gadādhara-will flood the entire universe with the intoxicating nectar of the holy name of Śrī Kṛṣṇa by performing a *mahā-saṅkīrtan*.

*nartana-vilāsa, mṛdaṅga-vādana,  
śunibo āpana-kāne  
dekhiyā dekhiyā, se līlā-mādhurī,  
bhāsibo premera bāne*

With my own ears I will hear the sounds of playful dancing and the rhythmic pulsations of the *mṛdaṅga* drums. By constantly looking and looking upon the sweetness and beauty of that pastime, I will float in the floodtide of divine love.

*nā dekhi' ābāra, se līlā-ratana,  
kāṅdi hā gaurāṅga! bolī'  
āmāre viṣayī, pāgala boliyā,  
aṅgete dībeka dhūli*

The next moment losing sight of the jewel of that pastime, I shall weep and cry out, "O my Lord Gaurāṅga!" Materialists will then proclaim me thoroughly mad and will throw dust upon my body.