

Our Love for Kṛṣṇa Naturally Awakens — But There Is a Process —

When transcendental devotional service, by which love for Kṛṣṇa is attained, is executed by the senses, it is called *sādhana-bhakti*, or the regulative discharge of devotional service. **Such devotion eternally exists within the heart of every living entity. The awakening of this eternal devotion is the potentiality of devotional service in practice.**

The spiritual activities of hearing, chanting, remembering and so forth are the natural characteristics of devotional service. The marginal characteristic is that it awakens pure love for Kṛṣṇa.

Pure love for Kṛṣṇa is eternally established in the hearts of the living entities. It is not something to be gained from another source. When the heart is purified by hearing and chanting, this love naturally awakens.

— CC Madhya 22.105-107

How Does It Naturally Awaken?

When an advanced, realized devotee hears about the affairs of the devotees of Vṛndāvana — in the mellows of *śānta*, *dāsyā*, *sakhya*, *vātsalya* and *mādhurya* — he becomes inclined in one of these ways, and his intelligence becomes attracted. Indeed, he begins to covet that particular type of devotion. When such covetousness is awakened, one's intelligence no longer depends on the instructions of *śāstra* [revealed scripture] or on logic and argument.

Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura says that **a devotee is attracted by the service of the inhabitants of Vṛndāvana** — namely the cowherd men, Mahārāja Nanda, mother Yaśodā, Rādhārāṇī, the gopīs and the cows and calves. **An advanced devotee is attracted by the service rendered by an eternal servitor of the Lord.** This attraction is called spontaneous attraction. Technically it is called svarūpa-upalabdhi.

This stage is not achieved in the beginning. In the beginning one has to render service strictly according to the regulative principles set forth by the revealed scriptures and the spiritual master. **By continuously rendering service through the process of vaidhī bhakti, one's natural inclination is gradually awakened.** That is called spontaneous attraction, or rāgānugā bhakti.

An advanced devotee situated on the platform of spontaneity is already very expert in śāstric instruction, logic and argument. When he comes to the point of eternal love for Kṛṣṇa, no one can deviate him from that position, neither by argument nor by śāstric

evidence. An advanced devotee has realized his eternal relationship with the Lord, and consequently he does not accept the logic and arguments of others.

— CC Madhya 22.155, 153p

*virājantīm abhivyaktām
vraja-vāsi-janādiṣu
rāgātmikām anusrtā
yā sā rāgānugocyate*

Devotional service in spontaneous love is vividly expressed and manifested by the inhabitants of Vṛndāvana. Devotional service that accords with their devotional service is called *rāgānugā bhakti*, or devotional service following in the wake of spontaneous loving service.

— CC Madhya 22.154 (Brs 1.2.270)