

Why Hear and Chant About 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 22.107



Hearing is an opportunity to associate with the Lord; to hear His activities is to evolve to the transcendental nature—simply by hearing... If someone takes advantage of hearing the pastimes of the Lord, the material contamination of dust, accumulated in the heart due to long association with material nature, can be immediately cleansed. Lord Caitanya also instructed that simply by hearing the transcendental name of Lord Kṛṣṇa one can cleanse the heart of all material contamination. There are different processes for self-realization, but this process of devotional service—of which hearing is the most important function—when adopted by any conditioned soul, will automatically cleanse him of the material contamination and enable him to realize his real constitutional position.

– Kṛṣṇa Book (The Salvation of Tṛṇāvarta)



One should always keep himself near You by the process of hearing and chanting Your transcendental glories. Simply by being attached to hearing and chanting Your glories, one can attain the highest perfectional stage of entering into Your kingdom. If a person, therefore, always keeps in touch with You by hearing and chanting Your glories and offers the results of his work for Your satisfaction only, he very easily and happily attains entrance into Your supreme abode. You are realizable by persons who have cleansed their hearts of all contamination. This cleansing of the heart is made possible by chanting and hearing the glories of Your Lordship.

– Kṛṣṇa Book (Prayers Offered by Lord Brahmā to Lord Kṛṣṇa)



Persons advanced in spiritual knowledge always hear and chant about Your transcendental pastimes because this process has the specific potency of nullifying the accumulated results of sinful life. Intelligent persons factually dip into the ocean of Your nectarean activities and very patiently hear about them. Thus they are immediately freed from the contamination of the material qualities; they do not have to undergo severe penances and austerities for advancement in spiritual life. **This chanting and hearing of Your transcendental pastimes is the easiest process for self-realization...**the devotee who wants to elevate himself simply by the process of devotional activities, especially by hearing and chanting, very soon comes out of the clutches of the dualities of material existence. **By this simple process of penance and austerity, the Supersoul within the devotee's heart is very much pleased and gives the devotee directions so that he may go back home, back to Godhead.**

– Kṛṣṇa Book (Prayers by the Personified Vedas)



By hearing the pastimes of Lord Kṛṣṇa, one is sure and certain to get salvation and be transferred back home, back to Godhead...Regardless of what one is, if one wants the association of Lord Kṛṣṇa in the transcendental kingdom of God for eternity in blissful existence, one must hear about the pastimes of Lord Kṛṣṇa and chant the *mahā-mantra*, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare / Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare...the more we study the pastimes of the Lord, the more we become attached to Him. This very attachment to Kṛṣṇa makes one eligible to be transferred to His abode, Goloka Vṛndāvana.

– Kṛṣṇa Book (Summary Description of Lord Kṛṣṇa’s Pastimes)



All the cowherd men, including Nanda Mahārāja, used to talk of the wonderful activities of Lord Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma, and they were always so much absorbed in those talks that they forgot the threefold miseries of this material existence. This is the effect of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. What was enjoyed five thousand years ago by Nanda Mahārāja can still be enjoyed by Kṛṣṇa conscious persons simply by talking about the transcendental pastimes of Kṛṣṇa and His associates.

– Kṛṣṇa Book (Killing the Demons Vatsāsura and Bakāsura)



Our material existence is caused by our forgetfulness of Your personality, but fortunately the darkness of forgetfulness is immediately dissipated if one is privileged to hear about Your glories. Therefore, my dear Lord, where is the possibility of ill fortune for one who is constantly engaged in hearing Your glorious activities?

– Kṛṣṇa Book (Draupadī Meets the Queens of Kṛṣṇa)

Katha-rasa acts like an intoxicating liquor. It makes those who drink it forget the pain of material life by immersing them in complete satisfaction and happiness.

– Śrī Brhad-bhāgavatāmṛta 1.4.80



The devotees give up all endeavors for knowledge. They simply spend their time hearing Your glories spoken by You and Your pure devotees. Staying in their social positions, they do not travel around to holy *tīrthas*. Without doing anything else, devotees pass their lives hearing topics about Your name, qualities and pastimes, and they offer all respects to these narrations with their bodies, minds and words. They use their intelligence to grasp meaning of the subjects heard. In this way, the pure devotees conquer You, although You are otherwise unconquerable by anyone within the three worlds.

– Sārārtha-darśinī (Brahma’s Prayers to Lord Kṛṣṇa – Text 3 p)



Being fully absorbed in *bhakti* with faith, and disregarding *varṇāśrama*, (Your devotees) engage in hearing and chanting only about You. By the *prema-bhakti* which arises from hearing and chanting, they realize Your form, qualities and pastimes, and thus attain Your eternal association in the spiritual world.

– *Sārārtha-darśinī* (Brahma’s Prayers to Lord Kṛṣṇa – Text 5 p)