

Bhajana-Lālasā:
Hankering for Divine Service
- Thirteen Songs –
(by Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura from Śaraṇāgati)

Song 3

(1)

hari he!

bhajane utsāha, bhaktite viśvāsa,
prema-labhe dhairya-dhana
bhakti-anukūla, karma-pravartana,
asat-saṅga-visarjana

1) O my Lord Hari! Enthusiasm in devotional service, faith in the process of devotional service, the treasure of patience in the attainment of love of God, performing activities favorable to pure devotion, abandoning the company of worldly people...

(2)

bhakti-sadācāra, ei chaya guna,
nāhilo āmāra nātha!
kemone bhojibo, tomāra caraṇa,
chāḍiyā māyāra sātha

2) ...performing approved devotional practices-I have never possessed these six devotional qualities, O Lord. How, then, shall I give up my affinity for Māyā and worship Your lotus feet?

(3)

garhita ācāre, rohilāma moji',
nā korinu sādhu-saṅga
lo'ye sādhu-veśa, āne upadeśi,
e boḍo māyāra raṅga

3) Remaining absorbed in abominable activities, I never kept company with sādhus. Now I adopt the garb of a sādhu and act out the role of instructing others. This is Māyā's big joke.

(4)

e heno daśāya, ahaitukī kṛpā,
tomāra pāibo, hari!
śrī-guru-āsroye, ḍākibo tomāya,
kabe vā minati kori'

4) O Lord Hari, in such a helpless condition surely I will receive Your causeless mercy. O when, under the shelter of my spiritual master, will I call out to You with my humble entreaty?

Song 8

(1)

hari he!

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

1) 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.

(2)

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

2) 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.

(3)

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

3) 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?

(4)

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

4) 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.