

DIVINE MADNESS: Sitting at the Feet of the Master – PART 1

From the Nārada Bhakti Sūtra ~ Translated by Venerable Sumati Marut

1 01 athāto bhaktim vyākhyāsyāmaḥ | 1

We will now explain devotion.

1 02 sā tvasmin paramapremarūpā | 2

Its nature is the highest love for That One.

1 03 amṛtasvarūpā ca | 3

And its essence is the nectar of immortality.

1 04 yalabdhvā pumān siddho bhavati amṛto bhavati tṛpto bhavati | 4

When one obtains this, a person becomes perfect, immortal, and content.

1 05 yatprāpya na kiñcid vāñcati na śocati na dveṣṭi na ramate notsāhi
bhavati | 5

**Upon attaining this, one desires nothing more at all. One does not grieve
nor hate nor lust, nor does one strive for anything else.**

1 06 yajjñātvā matto bhavati stabdho bhavati ātmārāmo bhavati | 6

**When one truly realizes this, one becomes intoxicated, stunned; their joy
is self-contained.**

From the Bhāgavad Gītā ~ Translated by Venerable Sumati Marut

na mām duṣkṛtino muḍhāḥ prapadyante narādhamāḥ |

māyayāpahṛtajñānā āsuram bhāvamāśritāḥ ||

**Deluded wrong-doers, the lowest of people, do not take themselves to me.
Deprived of wisdom by the illusion, they adhere to a demonic way of life.**

(7.15)

idamadya mayā labdhamimam prāpsyē manoratham |
idamastīdamapi me bhaviṣyati punardhanam ||
asau mayā hataḥ śatrurhaniṣyē cāparānapi |
īśvaro'hamaham bhogī siddho'ham balavānsukhī ||

[Those deluded by ignorance say things like:]

”Today I’ve acquired this thing, and I now will obtain that thing – whatever I fancy. All this money is mine, and there will be plenty more coming in soon.

It was I who single-handedly killed that enemy, and I’ll kill lots of others in the future. I am the master of my destiny. I am the enjoyer. I am successful, strong, and happy” (16.13-14)

sīdanti mama gātrāṇi mukham ca pariśuṣyati |
vepathuśca śarīre me romaharṣaśca jāyate ||
gāṇḍīvaṁ sramsate hastāttvakcaiva paridahyate |
naca śaknomyavasthātuṁ bhramatīva ca me manaḥ ||
nimittāni ca paśyāmi viparītāni keśava |

My limbs sink in despair and my mouth is parched. My body is trembling and my hair stands on end. The magic bow slips from my hand and my skin burns. I am unable to stand still; my mind reels. Everything seems like it’s been turned on its head, Krishna. (1.29-32ab)

kārpaṇyadoṣopahatasvabhāvaḥ pṛcchāmi tvām dharmasammūḍcetā |
yacchreyaḥ syānniścitaṁ brūhi tanme śiṣyaste'ham śādhi mām tvām
prapannam ||

I am afflicted to my core by the flaw of deep depression; my mind is totally confused about what is the right thing to do. I beg you to tell me clearly what is best. I am your student; please teach me. I surrender myself to you. (2.7)

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2 09 tasmāt saiva grāhyā mumukśubhiḥ | 33

So it (devotion) alone is to be practiced by those wishing liberation.

3 01 tasyāḥ sādhanāni gāyantyācāryāḥ | 34

The religious teachers sing about the methods for cultivating it.

3 02 tattv viṣayatyāgāt saṅgatyāgāt ca | 35

But it comes from renouncing objects of the senses and attachment.

3 03 avyāvṛttabhajanāt | 36

And from unrelenting worship.

3 04 loke'pi bhagavadguṇaśravaṇakīrtanāt | 37

And from chanting and listening to the praises of the Lord's qualities all day long.

3 05 mukhyatastu mahatkr̥payaiva bhagavatkṛpāleśād vā | 38

But it is mainly through just the compassion of a Great One, or from just a fragment of the compassion of the Lord.

3 06 mahatsaṅgastu durlabho'gamyo'moghaśca | 39

And a connection with a Great One is hard to obtain – difficult to come by and infallible.

3 07 labhyate'pi tatkr̥payaiva | 40

It's only through the compassion of That One (the Lord) that even it (this connection with a Great One) is obtained.

3 08 tasmimstajjane bhedābhāvāt | 41

It's because there is no difference between That One (the Lord) and That Person (the Great One).

3 09 tadeva sādhyatām tadeva sādhyatām | 42

Just practice that! Just practice that!

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tasmātpraṇamya praṇidhāya kāyaṁ prasādaye tvāmahaṁśamīḍyam |
piteva putrasya sakheva sakhyuḥ priyaḥ priyāyārhasi deva soḍhum ||
**I prostrate to You; I lay down my body before You, my Lord, and ask You
to be gracious. As a father with his son, as friend with a friend, as a lover to
a beloved, bear with me, my Angel. (11.44)**

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manuṣyāṇāṁ sahasreṣu kaścidyatati siddhaye |
yatatāmapī siddhānāṁ kaścīnmāṁ vetti tattvataḥ ||
**There is barely one man among thousands who strives for
perfection. And of those few who do try to achieve the goal, only
the rare one recognizes me for who I really am. (7.3)**

IV. From the Nārada Bhakti Sūtra

2 01 sā tu karmajñānayogebhyo'pyadhikatarā | 25
**And it (the yoga of devotion) is superior to the yogas of action and
wisdom.**

2 02 phalarūpatvāt | 26
(It is superior) due to the form the effect takes.

2 03 īśvarasyāpyabhimānadveṣitvāt dainyapriyatvāt ca | 27
And because The Lord dislikes pride and loves humility.

2 04 tasyāḥ jñānameva sādhanamityeke | 28
Some say it can be practiced by wisdom alone.

2 05 anyonyāśrayatvamityanye | 29
Others regard the two as mutually dependent.

2 06 svayaṁ phalarūpateti brahmakumāraḥ | 30
According to Narada, it (devotion) is its own reward.

2 07 rājagr̥habhojanādiṣu tathaiva dr̥ṣṭatvāt | 31
It's like a king who sees his palace, food, etc.

2 08 na tena rājā paritoṣaḥ k̄succāntirvā | 32
It's not by just seeing those things that a king is pleased or appeases his hunger.