

**A PRAYER TO THE PURE DEVOTEE**  
— from Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura’s *Kalyāṇa-kalpataru*

Oh! Vaiṣṇava Ṭhākura! Please give me your mercy now. Then only will my false ego go far away....

If I think “I am a Vaiṣṇava”, then I shall look forward to receiving respect from others. And if the desire for fame and reputation pollutes my heart, then certainly I shall go to hell.

Renouncing the false conception that “I am a *guru*”, I will understand myself to be your humble servant. I will sincerely worship the remnants of your food, oh pure devotee, as well as the water that has washed the sacred dust from your lotus feet.

By giving others the remnants of my food, I will consider myself “superior” and will be burdened by the weight of false pride. Therefore, always remaining your surrendered disciple, I shall not accept worship from anyone else.

If you bestow upon me the right to chant the holy name, I will then give all honor to others without expecting any for myself. And I will sincerely weep in ecstasy while rolling on the ground at your lotus feet.

Oh! Vaiṣṇava Ṭhākura! Please give me your mercy now. Then only will my false ego go far away....