

# BEGGING FOR SERVICE

*āmi ati dina-mati braja-kuñje nibasati  
rādhā-kṛṣṇa-jugala-carāṇe  
kāndiyā kāndiyā aja chāḍi' saba loka laja  
nibedibo jata āche mane*

Weeping and weeping, and turning away from all shyness, I, a very poor-hearted person who lives in Vraja's forests, now speaks the prayers that are in my heart.

*āmi ati manda-mati kori he kākuti nati  
nikhapaṭe e prārthana kori  
bṛndāvana-adhīśwara tumi kṛṣṇa prāṇeśwara  
tumi rādhe braja-baneśwarī*

O Kṛṣṇa of Vṛndāvana, O Queen of Vraja's forests, O rulers of my life, with words choked with emotion, I, a great fool, place this honest request before You both.

*tomādera kṛpā pāi e-rūpa jogyatā nāi  
jadi āmāra braja-bane  
duñhe mama kṛpā-moya jāni' kainu padāsroya  
kṛpā koro e adhama jane*

If You think I am not worthy to receive Your mercy in this forest of Vraja, please be merciful anyway to this fallen person. O merciful king and queen, I take shelter of Your feet.

*kebala ajogya nahi aparādhī āmi hoi  
tathāpi koroho kṛpā dāna  
loke kṛpābiṣṭa jana khame aparādha-gaṇa  
tumi duñhe mahā-kṛpābān*

Although I am unworthy, and although I am an offender, please be merciful to me. You two are very merciful. You forgive a host of offenses.

*adhame uttama maṇi mūḍha bijña abhimānī  
duṣṭa hana siṣṭa-abhimāna  
ei doṣe doṣi hana gelo ciro-dina bana  
nā korinu bhajana-bidhāna*

Although I am lowly, I proudly think myself exalted. Although I am a fool, I proudly think myself wise. Although I am wicked, I proudly think myself a saint. These are my faults. Many days have passed, and still I do not worship You.

*tathāpi e dīna-jane jadi nāma-uccaraṇe  
nāmābhāse korilo jībane  
sarba-doṣa-nibaraṇa duñhu nāma-sañjalpana  
prasāde prasīda dui jane*

Still, if in this lifetime this poor person somehow chants the dim light (*nāmābhāsa*) of the Holy Name, then please, O Divine Couple, be merciful to him, free him of his faults, and allow him to chant Your Holy Names.

*bhakti-laba-mātre khoya sarba-aparādhā hoya  
khama-śīla duñhera kṛpāya  
e āśā mane dhorī' caraṇe prārthana kori'  
śodha doṣa khamiyā amāya*

Even a small fragment of devotional service destroys all offenses. O merciful Divine Couple, please forgive me and purify me of my faults. That is the desire in my heart. That is the prayer I place before Your feet.

*anātha-batsala tumi adhama anātha āmi  
twadiya sākḥāt-dāsyā māgi  
e prasāda koro dāna rākho anātheraprāṇa  
chāḍi' saba taba dāsyā māgi*

You are kind and affectionate to persons who have no master or shelter. I am very low and fallen. I have no master. I have no shelter. I beg to serve You directly. Please give me the gift of Your mercy. Please save the life of this person without master or shelter. Turning away from all else I beg to serve You.

—Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, *Gītā-mālā*, Second Chapter.