

Who Am I?

Śrīla Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Gosvāmī's Self-Assessment

All glory, all glory to Lord Nityānanda Balarāma, by whose mercy I have attained shelter in the transcendental abode of Vṛndāvana!

All glory, all glory to the merciful Lord Nityānanda, by whose mercy I have attained shelter at the lotus feet of Śrī Rūpa and Śrī Sanātana!

By His mercy I have attained the shelter of the great personality Śrī Raghunātha dāsa Gosvāmī, and by His mercy I have found the refuge of Śrī Svarūpa Dāmodara.

By the mercy of Sanātana Gosvāmī I have learned the final conclusions of devotional service, and by the grace of Śrī Rūpa Gosvāmī I have tasted the highest nectar of devotional service.

All glory, all glory to the lotus feet of Lord Nityānanda, by whose mercy I have attained Śrī Rādhā-Govinda!

I am more sinful than Jagāi and Mādhāi and even lower than the worms in the stool. Anyone who hears my name loses the results of his pious activities. Anyone who utters my name becomes sinful.

Who in this world but Nityānanda could show His mercy to such an abominable person as me?

Because He is intoxicated by ecstatic love and is an incarnation of mercy, He does not distinguish between the good and the bad.

He delivers all those who fall down before Him. Therefore He has delivered such a sinful and fallen person as me.

Although I am sinful and I am the most fallen, He has conferred upon me the lotus feet of Śrī Rūpa Gosvāmī.

Who Is He?

Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura’s Assessment of Śrīla Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Gosvāmī and his *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*

Once Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura was glorifying the supremacy of Śrīla Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Gosvāmī’s *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* to his disciples. He instructed them as follows: “If all the books in the world were destroyed, leaving only *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, then people would still be able to achieve the ultimate goal of life. And even if the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* was lost, leaving only the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, there would still be no loss to humanity, for even that which has not been revealed in the *Bhāgavatam* is found in *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*. The supreme Absolute Truth is Sri Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the combined form of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. The *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* is His sound incarnation. The divine mystery of Rādhārāṇī’s divine status and glories are found therein. Can there be any doubt, therefore, of the supreme status of this piece of transcendental literature?”

Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī’s Assessment of Śrīla Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Gosvāmī and his *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*

While Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura was writing his commentary on the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya-līlā* 21.125, he was unable to understand why Śrīla Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Gosvāmī had written that the Kāma-gāyatrī *mantra* consists of 24 ½ syllables rather than 25. He became so distraught by his inability to comprehend this that he finally took a vow to starve to death on the banks of Rādhā-kuṇḍa. As he dozed off in the middle of the night, the daughter of Vṛṣabhānu appeared to him in a dream and said, “O Viśvanātha! Get up! Kṛṣṇa dāsa has indeed written correctly. He is My dear *sakhī*, who brings Me much pleasure. I have blessed him so that he can understand the most intimate things about Me. Do not doubt anything he has written. In the book named *Varṇāgama-bhāsvat*, it is written that whenever the syllable *ya* is followed by the syllable *vi*, it is considered to be only half a syllable.”