

## GREED

(02\_Devamrita Swami 30.09.03)

Divonmorsk

Hare Krishna. This is the greed seminar. We're discussing how to develop that special greed which is not ordinary in devotional service. Yesterday we discussed two verses from Rupa Gosvami's *Padyavali*, how when you're hungry and you eat you start to feel satisfaction, similarly when you follow the rules and regulations of *sadhana bhakti* gradually love of Krishna starts to awaken in you. Specifically by following the rules and regulations of *sadhana bhakti* the special *lanbyam* or greed awakens in you. Now those of you who were here yesterday remember that we discussed how we found out that many devotees have this fear that they're going to try to follow the rules of Krishna consciousness and that's all their *bhakti* life is going to be. We heard from many devotees that they have a fear that, "My Krishna conscious life is just going to be year after year of just following the rules."

It's amazing how we think that Krishna is interfering with our Krishna consciousness progress, it's amazing how we may have the feeling that we're nice persons trying to follow the process of Krishna consciousness but Krishna has made it difficult. "So many rules! *Bhakti* is indeed wonderful, the most wonderful thing, but the presence of so many rules makes it unattainable. I like the idea of Krishna consciousness, I like the devotees and the *prasad*, dancing and singing, *japa*--well, you have to do that otherwise everyone thinks you're in *maya*--and then there are the regulative principles. I never was much attracted to gambling; meat, fish and eggs I can do without; intoxication ah not so important and there was one other I can't remember...oh yes, no grains on *ekadasi*!"

This memory lapse reminds me of one of the early initiation *yajnas* that we had in Eastern Europe during the communist days, I think this was 1979 and one Bulgarian man was being initiated. He had come to Hungary for his initiation. So you know then were the days of Soviet socialism and repression. So he went to make his vows and get his name and he couldn't remember the fourth regulative principle; then finally an idea came to him. He said, "No black market."

Immediately we had to tell him, "No no, that's okay." Because that's the only way we could do anything in those days – everything we did was all illegal then. Printing books illegally, selling them illegally, changing money illegally, having

illegal programs. So we said “Black market is okay, think again what number four is.”

Sometimes we think Krishna has made it difficult for us, Krishna is stopping our natural way of life. How many of you sometimes think like that, raise your hand. Ah-huh, as you know, that means at least twice the number who raised their hand think like that. We have to face that reality that many people can think like this about the devotional practise, about the list of things you have to do and a list of things you can't do. What are some of the things that are hard for doing or not doing, who will say?

**Devotee:** *Mangala arati.*

**Devamrita Swami:** *Mangala arati*, how many find *mangala arati* hard? Raise your hand. Those who live in temples know *mangala arati* is easy if you go to sleep early, that's all.

**Devotee:** Discipline.

**Devamrita Swami:** Discipline is easier when you realize you're doing it for Krishna. What else is difficult to do or not to do?

**Devotee:** Surrender.

**Devamrita Swami:** Surrender is difficult?

**Devotee:** Humility.

**Devamrita Swami:** But when material nature beats you down don't you become humble?

Doesn't a cold Ukrainian winter day make you humble? No huh? Maybe, maybe not. When I was in Murmink I asked the people there, I said “Many people from other parts of the world think you all must be suffering so much.” You know where Murmink is yes? Above the Arctic Circle. He also came there, Premavardhana, he had to go there to translate while I was there so he had the experience. So in the winter some days in Murmink the temperature is 45 degrees below zero; it doesn't get *that* cold here in Ukraine, does it? So I asked the people, you must suffer so much on these days. You know what they said? No, we (the general people) just stay inside and at night we party. This is how stubborn the conditioned souls are, they want to enjoy in any circumstance although actually material nature is pushing you down. You should try to understand how material nature is forcing you to surrender to *maya* then you'll see it's not so difficult to surrender to Krishna. Surrender to Krishna begins with your tongue; you just use your tongue to talk about Krishna, that's surrender. Wouldn't you like it if someone just used their tongue just to talk about you, you'd like it very much! So Krishna enjoys it

when you talk about Him, the difference is that Krishna deserves to be talked about and we don't have anything so good about us that people should talk about us all the time. Alright what about the men, what do you find difficult to do or not to do?

**Devotee:** Control the mind.

**Devamrita Swami:** To control the mind, well what does the mind want to do?

**Devotee:** Enjoy.

**Devamrita Swami:** Enjoy what?

**Devotee:** Illicit sex.

**Devamrita Swami:** The mind wants to enjoy that? Well that's very boring, don't you know? Boring. Every animal can do those kinds of things, same old, same thing. There's no satisfaction for the mind in that activity - that's why you get angry afterwards, right? Because such *kali yuga* vices cannot give contentment to the mind; but you see *kali yuga* is an age of hypocrisy therefore the men do not tell the women that their mind is not satisfied and the women don't tell that to the men, everyone lives the lie - pretending that the filth of *kali yuga* will satisfy their mind. Yeah I'm telling you the truth. Okay, anything else men find difficult to do or not to do? The men, they are more guarded about talking than ladies are...

**Devotee:** Difficult to look at all women as mothers.

**Devamrita Swami:** What does one think when one looks?

**Devotee:** It's hard to develop a true loving relationship on a spiritual level.

**Devamrita Swami:** So, what are you saying then? That if she's ugly then she's your mother but if she's nice looking then something else? Right, that's how men think!

“Oh *mataji*” that means one thinks she's not beautiful. That's *mataji*. Well, Prabhupada gives a nice way to look at the situation. He said this is how the *brahmacaris* should think; the *brahmacaris* when they see the ladies they should think these beautiful *gopis* are meant for Krishna's pleasure. You admit they're beautiful; you give credit where credit should be given. But you say all the beauty is meant for Krishna. So you can try like that, oh these beautiful *gopis* are all meant for Krishna. But don't get envious of Krishna, only Krishna can enjoy; okay that's another subject matter.

Alright, so my point is to get you to see *sadhana bhakti* a different way. If you begin to visualise the rules and regulations as a system to develop greed then I think you'll like it better. So we discussed how to look at the rules and

regulations in a very positive way and this way is not just an imaginary way of thinking of the rules favourably. You know how you can try to look at something that you don't like in a nice way, "The rules of *bhakti* why they are wonderful, *ki jaya!* Yes, the *gurus* say we have to like the rules, the *sastra* says that. So, especially when we're preaching to others we say how much we like them: "You all should surrender to Krishna, the rules are very important." But when it comes to ourselves, "Yeah I tried my best, if Krishna wants us to be Krishna conscious why doesn't He just give it to us." How many of you feel like that? Raise your hand. Come on come on. "Krishna should just give it to us, why should we just struggle? Purification? If Krishna is really God and He cares for us, He should just give us the *bhakti* freely." But what is *bhakti* about? *Bhakti* is about reciprocation. How many of you are married? Raise your hands. Okay, alright. How many of you that are not married, want to be married? Raise your hand. Okay, let's see, who should I use as an example? Okay, Layna, now suppose you're married and then after five years your husband tells you, "I want to be truthful, the only reason why I married you is because the temple president forced me to." How would you feel? Someone could say, it's a husband, it's a marriage. Why does it matter how it happened--whether the husband accepted you voluntarily or not? It's a man--isn't that all that counts? Huh? Or what is it that you would have wanted?

Reciprocation, yes. She wants the feeling that he of his own choice has felt this way. Does anyone here want forced love? Raise your hands, who wants forced love? Anyone... not one person, but that's what you want Krishna to have. You see how much nonsense we are - you want to give Krishna what none of you will accept. Do you understand? "Krishna, if you want me to be Krishna conscious then force me to be Krishna conscious" huh? "Krishna, why do I have to choose You? Just snap Your fingers and make me Krishna conscious. Why do I have to struggle following regulative principles? Why do I have to struggle with *sadhana bhakti*? Krishna, if You want me to be greedy for You then make it that way, You're God, You can do anything so make me want You, it's all up to You." You don't want that kind of love so why do you want Krishna to have that? Why do you want Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead to have something that even the tiny living entities don't want? You want to feel that someone has chosen you because of your qualities and activities and your form, right? Just like, lets say an example ...suppose your future husband tells you, "You know, I was just about to take *sannyasa* but then I saw you out of the corner of my eye and my whole life changed. I saw your wonderful devotional qualities, your wonderful activities, wonderful form and I took my name off the *sannyasa* list." How would you feel? Did you see that? She said, she'd be flying in the highest heaven! So what is wrong with Krishna

getting that from us? What is wrong with us saying to Krishna, “I gave up my material attachments by hearing about Your name, form, qualities and pastimes.” That’s the kind of love we want for ourselves, so why do we want Krishna to force us to love Him? Do you think Krishna is supposed to hold a gun to our head and say, “Come here, love Me, be happy.” How would you like your husband or wife, your future husband or wife to hold a gun to your head “You really love me don’t you, you really think I’m beautiful don’t you, I’m full of good qualities, right.” You don’t want that, so why do you want to offer Krishna that kind of feeling?

So, what is Krishna doing for us? Krishna is demonstrating His infallible, spotless pastimes to attract our voluntary attention. The whole purpose in Krishna coming to this material world and bringing *braja-lila* is to show you the real reciprocation that your heart longs for. By the sweet will of the Lord, the *dhamas* are movable, and Krishna can appear in the material world, in Vrindavan *dhama*, without the *dhama* in the spiritual world being disturbed. It’s not that Krishna leaves Goloka Vrindavan and comes to earthly Vrindavan - The original Personality of Godhead is present in both simultaneously.

Now, what is Krishna doing in His private abodes? We discussed this yesterday how many devotees have a little trouble... we discussed yesterday how many devotees have a problem with God. You know how some people become angry when there’s some natural disturbance in this world and many people are killed and they blame God. I remember when there was an earthquake in Chile, South America. I saw a picture of some farmers shaking their fist at the sky, saying “God, how can You do this to us, what kind of God are You?” Maybe you know some relatives who had some disaster in their life and they blame God; anyone have relatives like that? Yes. Maybe even some of you felt like that before, anyone? “God how could You let this happen to me, I am me and You let this happen, what kind of God are You? Okay, disasters can happen to other people, but not me!” So some people blame God for that. Now we found out an interesting point yesterday, that almost three quarters of you here in Russia said that in some part of your Krishna consciousness you had a problem with Krishna having loving affairs with His consorts. Seventy five percent said that yesterday. It was the same when I asked this question in Ukraine - I’ll ask it again today “How many of you are new, you weren’t here yesterday, okay. Of the people who weren’t here yesterday how many of you can remember that in some point in your Krishna consciousness you had a little difficulty accepting that God had girlfriends? Raise your hand. Yes, so this is a very important point because the topmost perfection of Krishna is that He’s surrounded by wonderful devotees in wonderful loving reciprocation.

Krishna is known as Kisora-sekhara, the best of teenagers. Now you remember your teenage years, is there anyone here who's a teenager? When you're a teenager you feel the energy of youth but at the same time you feel bewildered by material nature. Let me ask this question, how many of you did some dumb things when you were teenagers? Raise your hand. Okay, so you know that these teenage years they give this feeling of youth and strength but also you're completely bewildered by your body and mind. When I think of reasons why not to take another birth, I pray to Krishna saying "I don't want to be a teenager again." To go through all those bewildering and embarrassing years as a teenager again... your body embarrasses you, your mind embarrasses you. You don't know who you are and you're trying to have a good image in front of everybody, you do stupid things you didn't plan to do.

What about Krishna? He's kisora-sekhara, the best of the teenagers, the crown jewel of the teenagers. And Krishna never ages beyond a young adult because that's the best time to have enjoyment, but Krishna's enjoyment doesn't come with problems. Now just think - to be a teenager without any problems - that is God. Perfect teenage life, eternally fun, without having a problem. What does Rupa Gosvami say about it?

*kaisoram saphali-karoti kalayan kunjje vibharam harih (CC. Adi 4.117)*

Rupa Gosvami says that Lord Krishna perfects His youth by arranging romance in the groves of Vrindavan. Now, what is the difficulty in our accepting that the Lord has loving affairs with His girlfriends? All of you are either married or almost all of you want to be married, who here doesn't want to be married? Raise your hand. Maybe ten persons - that means everyone else wants. So why do you deny this in the Supreme Absolute Truth? You want to marry, you want reciprocation, you're tired of looking in the mirror and talking to yourself. So why do you deny this reciprocation in the Absolute Truth? What does the first verse in the *Bhagavatam* say? Who knows? Yes. *Janmady asya yatah*. The Absolute Truth is that from which everything emanates. Everything means everything...even loving affairs with girlfriends. Why do you read the first verse of the *Bhagavatam* and then your mind leaves out the pure loving affairs? You have your girlfriends and boyfriends so why can't Krishna have His? Why do you want to deny Krishna what you want so badly? It's like you're saying "Okay, I believe in God and let me tell you what God should do. God should create - He should create the world in 6 days then He should get tired and rest on the seventh day; and God should be the great baker - give us the daily bread and then God, He gets angry and destroys the whole universe - He can do that, as long as I'm already in heaven. So God should create, maintain and destroy and He should fulfill all our desires. How many of you have prayed to God "Please God, let me have this person." Raise your hand. So, you're

praying to God “Let me have this person as my own.” You’re thinking God is just supposed to witness all your loving affairs. You’re praying to God “Make this person mine” and then inevitably you’re going to have so many problems. A few months later you’re going to be begging God, “Get this person out of my life, God I never want to see them again.” How many of you have done like that? Just see. So Krishna is simply supposed to witness your foolish pastimes, your foolish attempts at reciprocation? No, Krishna has His own world of perfect love; He reciprocates with devotees who have perfect bodies - no material bodies, no material qualities. That is the topmost perfection of the Supreme Lord. So please understand this, the glory of Krishna is contained in that song we sing before *Bhagavatam* class, that song by Bhaktivinoda Thakura gives you the perfect picture of the spiritual world Srila Prabhupada said. *Jaya radha madhava kunjā bihari.*

*Gopi jana vallabha girivara dhari.*

Krishna, He’s the lover of the *gopis*, He’s enjoying in the groves of Vrindavan. He’s the darling boy of mother Yasoda. Soon the month of *kartika* will start, what day? October 4 - I will be here for that so we’ll do the *Damodarastaka* prayers, beautiful prayers aren’t they? *Namam isvaram sakṣad ananda rupam.*

Why is that so beautiful? Because it’s glorifying Krishna as the perfect baby boy. Krishna knows how to take your love – mothers love sweet little baby boys. I was my mother’s favourite child; she still can’t get over her attachment. Of course I’m full of imperfections but she’s still attached. But Krishna plays the part of the perfect baby boy because some devotees want to love Him eternally in that way. If in Vrindavan, Krishna, little baby Krishna and Balarama They go into other peoples houses and They don’t find what They want They pass urine and stool onto the floor. And everyone glorifies Them for this! Of course, they go to mother Yasoda and complain “Your Krishna has done this, your Krishna has done that” and then mother Yasoda looks at Krishna, feeling like she should chastise Him and Krishna just smiles at her very innocently and all the other people of Vrindavan say “Oh, don’t bother.” Actually they all just like to talk about Krishna and what Krishna is doing. So just like Krishna can be the perfect baby boy, He can also be the perfect lover. What is a symptom of the perfect lover? You say? Name one thing, what’s a symptom of the perfect lover?

**Devotee:** He makes us suffer.

**Devamrita Swami:** No, Krishna doesn’t make anyone suffer this is a big misunderstanding. No, Krishna has many consorts but He satisfies them one hundred percent. So you have to say that the perfect lover can satisfy all the lovers. That’s another quality of perfect love.

Go on, huh?

**Devotee:** He always thinks about the object of His love.

**Devamrita Swami:** Yes, Krishna is expert at always thinking about His devotee. When Krishna is away from Vrindavan - just like the *vrajabhasi's* are always thinking about Him, Krishna is always thinking about them.

But please remember Krishna does not give anyone suffering, you have to have a deeper spiritual understanding to grasp what is love of Krishna in separation. It seems like suffering but it's not, it's the highest ecstasy. When you get *Caitanya-caritamrita* fully in Russian, you'll read that when Ramananda Raya begins to describe love of Krishna in separation, when he gets to that point Lord Caitanya covers his mouth and tells him to stop, not tell Him anymore. This is the highest spiritual experience. What other qualities does the perfect lover have?

**Devotee:** He's most attentive.

**Devamrita Swami:** Yes, I'm going to tell you a *lila* in which you will see how attentive and understanding Krishna is. Isn't that what everyone wants from the perfect lover? Right? Attention, understanding. What else?

**Devotee:** He's very expert lover.

**Devamrita Swami:** What does that mean?

**Devotee:** He's very expert.

**Devamrita Swami:** In what?

**Devotee:** In love.

**Devamrita Swami:** In bringing out the loving feelings? Yes yes, Krishna does that. He knows how to churn the ocean of *bhava*.

**Devotee:** He's very caring.

**Devamrita Swami:** Yes, Krishna is very caring because He knows "I'm the best thing for you".

**Devotee:** He's always new and fresh.

**Devamrita Swami:** Yes, that's impossible in a material relationship. Material relationships become stale, but Krishna is the unlimited source of freshness.

So, it's interesting how you all have some idea of what the perfect lover should be. I know first of all you want someone who's understanding and who pays you lots of attention. Now we're going to discuss the *vastra-harana lila* - Krishna taking the garments of His girlfriends. Now you have to understand, there's no material bodies in this pastime, there's no material qualities. You're going to

hear about Krishna enjoying *suddha-bhava* - perfect *bhava* or perfect love. The clothes, that is not the important thing because there are no material bodies in Krishna's pastimes, so it's not a question of wearing clothes or not wearing clothes - there's no material contamination, there's no lust. So what you should be focusing on is the devotees' willingness to focus on Krishna and the willingness of Krishna to reciprocate with His devotees. So, the young *gopi* girls wanted Krishna as their husband, so what did they do? Everyday for a month they were worshipping the goddess Katyayani. Now, you could say the Goddess Katyayani is Mahamaya or you could say she's Yogamaya. Mahamaya is a department of Yogamaya; Yogamaya is the pure spiritual potency of the Lord that arranges His pastimes. Yogamaya exists in two places, Goloka Vrindavan and when Krishna comes to this world. No Yogamaya in Vaikuntha. So Yogamaya has a department that covers Krishna from the eyes of nondevotees, but Yogamaya as the pure spiritual potency engages Krishna's pure devotees in His service by preventing the *vrajabhasis*' from seeing that Krishna is God. In fact, Yogamaya influences Krishna Himself to make Him act like He's not God. So every morning at sunrise the young *gopis* would rise and call out to each other and catching each others hands they would go to the Yamuna River to bathe. And while they're going to the Yamuna River they're reciting Krishna's names and then after bathing they make a deity out of earth on the bank of the Yamuna River, they make a deity of Katyayani or Durga and they offer flowers, ornaments and incense. What is the point of their worship? They want Krishna as their husband. So they would sing a beautiful prayer:

*katyayani maha-maye maha-yoginiyadhisvari nanda-gopa-sutam-devi patim me kuru te namah (SB 10.22.4)*

“Katyayani, Oh Goddess, Oh mystical potency of the Lord, Oh possessor of all mystic power, yogini.” It's very wonderful to meditate on these words.

*Mahamaya* - great potency of the Lord, *Mahayogini* - *mahayoginiyadhisvari* - controller of everyone also *devi* - Oh beautiful one. So what is the request? “You know, dear goddess, that Nanda-gopa, Nanda Maharaja, has this *suta*, he has this son. *Patim me kuru te namah* - make Him ours, make Him our husband.” They're praying like that to Durga. Now why did the *gopis* want Krishna as their husband? Who knows?

**Devotee:** Because they love Him very much.

**Devotee:** Because He's perfect.

**Devotee:** Because He's beautiful.

**Devotee:** Because He's the source of love.

**Devamrita Swami:** This sounds a bit like sense gratification motives “I want You for what You can do for me, You’re perfect so I want You for me, You’re beautiful so I want You for me.” For me means for my senses. It’s subtle but do you see it? We’re not going to criticize anyone in ISKCON for having that desire...

**Devotee:** Because they want to satisfy Him.

**Devamrita Swami:** Yes. They wanted Krishna as their husband because they wanted to please His senses, they never thought of their own sense gratification. They thought “It would be the best thing for Krishna’s senses to have us.” Do you see the difference? So that is why Lord Caitanya says nothing can compare to the Krishna consciousness of the *gopis*.

*Ramya kacid upasana vraja-vadhu-vargena ya kalpita* There’s no better way of loving Krishna than that shown by the *gopis* of Vrindavan. So the *gopis* had no material motivation. Usually when people worship the demigods it’s to get something for themselves, but the *gopis* were worshipping Katyayani for a chance to serve Krishna. In this way Srila Prabhupada said that you can do anything and everything if your motive is simply to serve Krishna -So every morning they would do like this. Now, what was Krishna doing? I want you to understand, Krishna understands His devotees. I don’t want you feeling that you’re rendering devotional service and the Lord doesn’t understand. Of course we are not on the platform of the *gopis* but still Krishna is attentive to what you’re doing. I know that some of you think sometimes “Does Krishna really care what I’m doing, does Krishna really care what’s happening to me?” Who’s asked that question? How many of you think like that? Raise your hand. Yes, fifty percent, that means seventy five percent because the rest of you, many of you didn’t raise your hand. “Am I just following these rules and trying to follow Krishna and Krishna doesn’t even know what I’m doing or care?”

I went to one householders home in Australia and I said to the wife “Oh how nice and clean and tidy your house is” and suddenly she burst out crying, “I clean my house three times a day and my husband never notices.” So sometimes we feel Krishna is like that “I’m cleaning my heart, does Krishna notice! I’m pulling out all the *anartas*, does Krishna care?” I know, many of you feel like that sometimes. “I’m trying so hard to follow the regulative principles, does the Lord really notice my great sacrifice, my great sacrifice in not surrendering to *kali yuga*. I’ve given up such wonderful things, intoxication, illicit sex, meat-eating and gambling; does Krishna notice these great jewels I’ve put aside?” I’m trying to give you a feeling for the ridiculous feelings we have in Krishna consciousness, when you hear about it like this then you start to understand, it is ridiculous. So the *gopis* were praying to Katyayani, *nanda suta*

*kurū te namah* Make this son of Nanda Maharaja our husband. Krishna knew – He’s understanding, He’s in everyone’s heart, He knows what’s going on in His devotees. They had prayed that He would become their husband, so Krishna is going to fulfill their desire. Krishna is *yogesvaresvara*, the master of the masters of mystic power so He understands why the *gopis* are going to the Kalindi River early in the morning. So what did Krishna do? He’s the perfect lover, He knows just what to do, He knows how to make the perfect strategy. While the cowherd girls were bathing in the water Krishna and His little cowherd boyfriends come to the scene and Krishna grabs all the clothes of the *gopis* on the bank of the river and goes high into a tree with them. It’s a secluded place and the bodily forms of the *gopis* are fully developed, but there’s not one trace of material contamination because there’s no matter in this pastime. No material bodies, no material qualities - this is Krishna’s world of perfect love. Now, what about those cowherd boys who were with Krishna? You’re thinking “okay, it was alright for Krishna to do this but what about those other boys with Him? The *gopis* didn’t pray to have the other boys as their husband, so what were they doing there, watching the *gopis*’ exposed condition? But the cowherd boys with Krishna were only two or three years old so they didn’t know the difference between male and female. What’s the first thing Krishna did when He got high in the tree with the clothes? What’s the first thing He did? Who knows?

**Devotee:** He told them to get out.

**Devamrita Swami:** No no, who knows?

**Devotee:** He started to glorify them.

**Devamrita Swami:** No no.

**Devotee:** He made a...

**Devamrita Swami:** No no. Krishna knows how to have fun. What is the first thing He did when he climbed high in the *kadamba* tree with all the clothes?

He laughed! And all His little cowherd boys laughed too! That is God!

This is the God whom you’re worshipping. . . but don’t tell your parents. Don’t tell the priests in your city. If you’re on the bodily platform of life, thinking you’re the body you cannot understand Krishna’s pastimes. So, now what does Krishna say? “First of all I’m going to tell you the truth, I’m not going to lie to you, I know you’re tired from your month-long vow of worshipping Katyayani so I would never lie to you, I have no desire to inconvenience you.

Furthermore I have never spoken a lie - you can ask these boys herewith Me.” Krishna knows how to have fun with the cowherd boys too! He’s the perfection, so He said “Okay, here’s the plan oh *sumadhyuma*, oh slender-

waisted girls, here's the plan...I want you to come out of the water, you can come out as a group or come one by one and come get your clothes, very simple. No problem." So then what? What was the *gopis* reaction? They were thinking "Krishna's giving us so much attention by joking with us." So they began looking at each other and laugh and joke amongst themselves even though they were feeling embarrassed, they were so happy, "Krishna's paying us so much attention." Consequently they became even more in love with Krishna. You see how important it is to show attention and love, that's what everyone wants, so Krishna is the most expert at that. So, the *gopis* realised "He's asking us to do an impossible thing but He's giving us so much attention." So Visvanatha Cakravati Thakura gives some further colour into the pastime. The *gopis* they might say to Krishna, "Okay, just leave our clothes on the bank of the river and then You go away." Sounds logical yes? But then what would Krishna say? "But there are so many of you girls, I'm afraid if I leave the clothes on the river bank you might take clothes belonging to someone else, I want to help you, I want to prevent thievery." Then maybe the *gopis* would say "But we're honest, we'd never steal anything, we'll never touch someone else's clothes." Then what would Krishna say? "Okay, if you're honest then what's the problem, just come out and get your clothes from Me." So then the *gopis* saw how Krishna is so determined. This is what makes us feel really confident in love, when we see how determined the lover is. So the *gopis* felt Krishna's great determination, they were embarrassed but they were also overjoyed to get so much attention. Of course, they were still staying in the water up to their necks and the water's getting cold, Krishna knows it. So, the *gopis* started to joke with each other, "You go first and we'll watch and see what happens." "No no, you go first and we'll see what happens to you, lets see if Krishna plays some tricks on you." But no one was getting out. So, their minds were completely captivated by Krishna's joking words. Just think what that could be like, this is an essential part of loving affairs, that the mind is captivated by the jokes of the lover. So Krishna is *manohara*, he steals the minds of his devotees; He does that by playing his flute, he does it by talking, he also does it by joking. So Visvanatha Cakravati Thakura gives some more colours to this pastime. . . Krishna says "Well, if you don't come and get your clothes right away I'll use them to make a hammock and I'll just sleep in the trees. Oh, I'm getting sleepy, I'll just spend the whole night here, I'll make a nice hammock with the clothes." And then what do the *gopis* say? "Oh cowherd boy, what about Your cows? They've gone far away looking for grass, quickly leave here and get Your cows." And what would Krishna reply? "Oh My dear *gopis*, you must quickly go from here! You have to go back to Vraja to do your household duties, your long absence will be a disturbance to your parents and your family." Then the *gopis* say, "Well Krishna, we can stay here the whole month

to execute our *vrata*, our vows of austerities and fasting, we don't have to go back to our families." And what would Krishna say? "Oh, by the strength of seeing you I am also becoming austere too, I think I'll stay here for a month also." So in this way it was clear to the *gopis* that Krishna wasn't going to change His mind. So then they made one last appeal, "Krishna don't be unfair, You're respectable in the community, You have a respectable father and You're honoured by everyone, please give us back our clothes we're getting cold." Maybe you can remember saying something like that to your beloved, you were feeling affection but at the same time you were thinking "It's not fair what you're doing." How many of you remember materially affectionate moments like that? "Its not fair." But actually in your material heart you were relishing. So Krishna knows how to produce this perfect *bhava*, this perfect mood - free from any material contamination. Finally the *gopis* say "Syamsundara, we are Your maidservants we must do whatever You say, but You know what religious principles are. You must give us back our clothes. If You don't give us back our clothes we'll report You to Kamsa and we'll tell Your father." And what was Krishna's answer? "So what if you tell King Kamsa, I don't care for the king. Go tell My father Nanda Maharaja, I don't care - he's too old, he can't do anything." And He says "But if you're actually My maidservants and you're truly surrendered then come here with your innocent smiles and get your clothes." Krishna said, "You've got *suci-smita* very fresh innocent smiles, that's what I want to see. If you don't do what I say then I'm not going to give you back your clothes." So then the determination of the Lord is obvious and the *gopis* were defeated by their own words. They said, "We're Your maidservants, we'll do what ever You want - You know that, so give us back our clothes please." Krishna said, "Okay, you're My maidservants, you do what I say - then I'll give back your clothes." So then the *gopis* assured each other "There's nothing else we can do, Krishna is determined to treat us in this way, He's determined to be our lover, what can be done?" So they came out of the water. Then what happened? What is Krishna interested in? Not matter, not material qualities. The *Bhagavatam* says *suddha-bhava prasad-atabah* Krishna was satisfied by their pure *bhava*, *suddha-bhava*. So then, with their clothes on His shoulder He began to speak to them with affection, *priti*. This is an important point to understand, the Lord was impressed by their pure loving devotion. Krishna wanted to see the power of their love. You've had that feeling sometimes, yes? In a relationship you wanted to see the power of the other person's love--as if we are the supreme enjoyer! But Krishna has the right to see the power of the love because Krishna is the self of the self. He has the right to do this. So in this way the cowherd girls of Vrindavan showed that there was no greater standard of love.

In hearing this pastime, a problem can be that we're thinking "If that was me in that situation I'd become so lusty" and we begin to think about these things in our way. In this way we begin to lose sight of Krishna and His pastimes because we superimpose our mentality on these *lilas* "If that was me, I'd be so lusty, what kind of God is this, what kind of devotees are these." But that is our own fault. There's no material contamination in Krishna's *lilas*. So Krishna told them that, "I see what your desire is and I have fulfilled your desire. You've become My greatest lovers."

*Karuna tena tosita* "Out of compassion I'm satisfied by what you've done." We are discussing this pastime to try to give you a feeling that the Lord has feelings. Krishna's heart was touched by the affection of the *gopis* and their demonstration of pure love, and He said He would reciprocate even more. Now why was Krishna there in the first place, on the bank of the river while they were in the water? He's there because of the *gopis*' desire--He's reciprocating with them. So then Sukadeva Gosvami gives us this verse:

"Although the *gopis* have been thoroughly cheated, deprived of their modesty, ridiculed and made to act just like toy dolls, and although their clothing had been stolen, they did not feel inimical toward Sri Krishna. Rather they were simply joyful to have this opportunity to associate with their beloved." SB 10.22.22

This is the attitude that Lord Caitanya presents in the last verse of the *sisastakam*, "Do with me what you like, but always You are my worshipful Lord unconditionally."

The *gopis* are demonstrating this prayer in action. So after they put on their clothes what did they do? They just stood there, they couldn't move. Why? What were they thinking? "Krishna must be attached to us, otherwise why would He have gone through all these intricacies with us? He must be attached to us, He must like us." So they began to look at Krishna very shyly, trying not to let Him see that they're looking at Him. "He must be attached." In this way you can see their perfect, simple devotion: "This incident is proof that Krishna is attached to us." You can just imagine how happy they felt "He's attached, He's attached to us that's why He did all this." So then what did Krishna say? Krishna promised them "There'll come a time, there'll come a night when you can have more of Me, I understand your real motive in worshipping Katyayani, your motivation is approved by Me and you will achieve your goal. Krishna is letting them know "There'll be a night where you'll get what you want even more, in My company you'll enjoy the coming nights. So go now, return to Vrindavan, *O sati*, O pure-hearted ones, but remember the special nights are coming soon." You see how Krishna's always giving more and more? With

such feeling, such sensitivity; this is why there's no other way to live except to be attracted to Krishna. So please remember this. Work hard in Krishna consciousness so that the greed, the rare greed in Krishna consciousness develops. From *sadhana bhakti* will come this stage of rare greed which is the only price to purchase Krishna. Just make a lifetime plan to practise Krishna consciousness, work with your spiritual master and your guides so that you can have this lifetime goal. It can happen, it's up to you. But He wants to give this; He's come as Lord Caitanya because He wants to give this so please take advantage.

Hare Krishna.

Glories to Srila Prabhupada.