

# The Sequence of the Development of Bhakti

Translated into English from a typed single piece of paper,

“Reihenfolge der Entwicklung”,

by Kishordas 24 September 2017

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- 1) By great fortune, an encounter with a genuine bhakta has occurred – in a previous life or in the present.
- 2) By being together with him [serving him] and most of all by listening to the lila from his lips, the adept receives shraddha, firm conviction that seva, the service of God, is the sole purpose of life (to believe in God is not enough).
- 3) Through shraddha in seva, eligibility for bhakti in general develops.
- 4) When the adept – now under the guidance of the Guru – practises the different limbs of bhakti, i.e. when he listens to the lila [shravanam] with rapt attention, repeats what he has heard [kirtanam] and continually keeps this in his mind [smaranam], etc., and furthermore is so fortunate that he obtains greed for the inner life [bhava] of a sakhi or manjari of Radha, whose only desire is to please Krishna and unite Radha and Her female friends with Krishna, then he is competent to practise raganuga-bhakti in a particular bhava.
- 5) When he has obtained this qualification, his practice of bhakti becomes more and more focused on listening to the sweetness of the bhava of the sakhis and manjaris (mentioned above), and in a spiritual [cit] body he now practises his service in loving subordination to *the* sakhi or manjari he is following in particular.
- 6) During the course of this practice it may happen that bhava-bhakti = rati manifests in him and that samvit-shakti – now working in his mind – makes it possible for him to perceive what he hears of the lila in a much clearer way.
- (7) If he continues this practice of raganuga-bhakti, it may rarely happen that the actual rise of the sun of prema follows bhava-bhakti, which is called the dawn of prema.
- (8) When this bhakta, now on the stage of prema, listens to the plays of Krishna and His Own co-players, sancari-bhavas, sattvika-bhavas and anubhavas may manifest in him during his visualization of the lila, and he can become qualified for rasa, realised, direct service in the lila.