



**Krishna Das**

**Flow of Grace**

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**with audio CD**

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## Flow of Grace

### About the author: Krishna Das

Krishna Das is an internationally acclaimed recording artist and cofounder of the Triloka world music label. He leads devotional chanting all over the world, and together with Ram Dass introduces people to the path of devotion.

Krishna Das met Ram Dass in 1968, shortly after Ram Dass returned from his first trip to India. Inspired by Ram Dass' many stories about Neem Karoli Baba (Maharaj-ji), Krishna Das traveled to India, where he met and stayed with this extraordinary guru for nearly three years.

Krishna Das' heart was especially drawn to the practice of Bhakti Yoga—the yoga of devotion. Maharaj-ji led him deeper and deeper into the practice of kirtan—chanting the Names of God. As an appointed pujari (priest) for the Durga temple in Maharaj-ji's ashram in the foothills of the Himalayas, Krishna Das immersed himself in the worship of the Divine Goddess.

Early in 1973, Krishna Das was asked by Maharaj-ji to return to America. Krishna Das says, "At what would turn out to be my last darshan of Maharaj-ji's physical body, I was petrified with fear about returning to the U.S. after so many years. I hadn't worn a pair of jeans or shoes for such a long time that I couldn't imagine what it would be like. I didn't want to ask Maharaj-ji what I should do in America, but all of a sudden I blurted out in anguish, 'Maharaj-ji! How can I serve you in America?'"

"He looked at me with mock disgust and said, 'What is this? If you ask how you should serve then it is no longer service. Do what you want.' I couldn't believe my ears. How could doing what I wanted to do be of service to him? I didn't have that kind of faith. I just sat there, stunned. Then after a minute or so he looked over at me, smiling sweetly, and asked, 'So, how will you serve me?' My mind was blank. It was time for me to leave for Delhi, to catch the plane back to the States. He was looking at me and laughing. I bent down and touched his feet for the last time and when I looked up he, he was beaming at me, 'So, how will you serve me in America?' I felt like I was moving in a dream. I floated across the courtyard and bowed to him one more time from a distance. As I did, the words came to me, 'I will sing to you in America.'"

Soon afterwards, during the full moon in September, Neem Karoli Baba left his body. Over the years Krishna Das has made numerous pilgrimages throughout India, meeting teachers and saints of many spiritual traditions on his quest to open and purify his heart. Living in jungles, in ashrams, and in holy places throughout India, he has had an opportunity to absorb the ancient truths that have been held by the Indian culture for thousands of years. Krishna Das has studied Buddhist meditation practices with Anagarika Munindra and S.N. Goenka, and has been initiated into Tibetan Buddhist practices by lamas from various lineages.

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