KARTIK INSPIRATIONS

BHAKTI IS GIVEN INTO THE HEART OF A DEVOTEE BY SRIMATI RADHARANI. Who is Radha

As you all know, this month is dedicated to the Goddess of the month: Urjeshvari, the Goddess of *urja*, strength, also known as Srimati Radharani.

Who is Srimati Radharani actually? On one level you can understand Srimati Radharani as the energy that manifests from Krishna. When the *hladini-shakti*, the spiritual pleasure potency rests in the heart of God, it is formless. But when it comes out of His heart, it takes the form of Radha. And Srimati Radharani again expands into many other expansions, *gopis*, who give pleasure to Krishna.

There is a second aspect of Radharani that is experienced when someone in this world starts walking the path of *bhakti* and engaging in devotional service: from Radha, the Goddess of *bhakti*, *bhakti* comes into the heart of a devotee. She empowers the devotee in many wonderful ways, for example to have spiritual aspirations to serve Krishna, or to engage with a superior happiness which is better than anything to be found in the mundane world. Those who practice *bhakti* in this world come under the shelter of Srimati Radharani, Who then supplies them with the *bhakti-shakti*. Srimati Radharani is so wonderful and so great that even Krishna, the Supreme Godhead, comes under Her control and says, "Radha, I am only here, in this land of Vrindavan, and enjoy being here because of You."

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Anyone who wants to please Krishna, who wants to come close to Krishna, approaches Him through Srimati Radharani. Practically this means that here in this world they will engage in the processes of *bhakti*, which are expansions of Radharani, and in this way feel Radha's presence, Her empowering, encouraging and loving presence. And then they are suddenly blessed with divine insights in Krishna's nature and the ability to easily let go of the obstacles or anchors of spiritual life.

Here in Vrindavan, people don't greet each other that much by saying, "Jay Sri Krishna!" They say, "Jay Sri Radhe!"

Śacinangana.