

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2021

RADHA'S INTOXICATING FRAGRANCE



SRIMATI RADHARANI IS THE
HEART OF VRINDAVAN.

Today is a special day in Vrindavan. Many, many local people are in the streets shouting “*Jai Sri Radhe!*” exuberantly because they are preparing themselves mentally for the midnight bath at Radhakund. It is on this day, where many in the local tradition say that Radhakund appeared. Why do they make so much out of it? Because they feel that Radhakund is the liquid manifestation of Srimati Radharani. It is Radha who welcomes everyone to come and visit Her.

This quality of Srimati Radharani, to be welcoming, is very much prevalent in Vrindavan. You see all the trees are decorated with Her names. You see people greeting each other by uttering Her name because Radha is the heart of Vrindavan. It is said that every leaf on every single tree chants Her name.

One of Srimati Radharani’s qualities is *gandha-unmadita-madhava*—that She makes Krishna happy by Her bodily aroma.

It is said that once Radha wanted to know directly how much Krishna really loved Her. So when you want to know what someone thinks about you, you must look at what they say in your absence, when you are not there. How do they speak about you when you are not really in front of them? That shows you what they really think about you.

So the occasion came. Radha and Krishna had a certain meeting place. Krishna had come early and was waiting for

Her. So Srimati Radharani tiptoed outside of the kunj, She stood there and She sent her gopi inside with the news, “*O Krishna! Today Radharani will not be able to come. She is held up with something.*” But we know Radha was just outside. Krishna caught Her fragrance. So Krishna said “*But I can smell Her, She must be really close by here.*” The gopis were hard-pressed, until one found the answer. “*No no no no, what you smell is the fragrance of Srimati Radharani, which is attached to our cloth. Because we associate so frequently and closely with Radha, our clothes carry Her bodily aroma. But Radha herself is very far.*” Krishna looked at the gopis, “*Is it really true what they said?*”, he wondered, because Srimati Radharani really cannot hide from Krishna, even if She is physically hidden behind trees.

There is a verse which Rupa Goswami composed about Radha’s fragrance which frenzies Krishna. “*Oh Radha! Do not uselessly try to hide Yourself by the leaves of the creepers. Oh friend, Krishna detects You by Your fragrance. That fragrance betrays You and wanders about to incite Him to madness.*”

It is because of Srimati Radharani’s extraordinary fragrance that She is known as *gandha-unmadita-govinda*, or She who by Her fragrance makes Govinda mad with love.

I request you to turn to Srimati Radharani in prayer or to just think of Her. The idea is, in this month, to get the blessings of Radha.

Sacīnandana Prasādi

SACINANDANA SWAMI