

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2021

RADHA'S CHARMING SPEECH



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THE SPIRITUAL WORLD IS THAT
PLACE WHERE WORDS RETURN
WITHOUT OBTAINING IT
AND IT IS THAT PLACE WHERE
THOUGHTS CAN'T REACH.

In Vrindavan, three personalities or beings are unchanged: the dust of Vrindavan, Giriraj Govardhan, and Yamuna. I especially like to be at the banks of the Yamuna, but there is one ashram I go to where I have to cross the Yamuna by boat. And whenever I am in the middle and there is only the boatman and myself, I feel this river is not a river of this world, especially when the birds of Vrindavan are telling their stories and singing their songs. Staying at the Yamuna or being in contact with her transports us to the eternal world.

Srimati Radharani is the mistress, the ruler of Vrindavan's forest, but She does this in a pleasing way. One of Her qualities is *ramya-vāk*, that Her speech is especially charming.

Once Krishna spoke about this to Radha. He said, "O Radha, with such a beautiful face. O friend, what is this sweetness of syllables that appear in Your mouth? By Your speech the cuckoo becomes voiceless and nectar becomes useless." In other words, Her speaking is sweeter than that of the cuckoo and more relishable than nectar.

As we hear these descriptions, it is sometimes good to pause and note that the spiritual world really is beyond our words. There is an Upanishadic statement that says, "It is that place where words return without obtaining it and it is that place where thoughts can't reach."

Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti once gave a little dictionary for the extraordinary, transcendental, and beyond speech of

the Brijbasis. He writes, "When the Brijbasis say 'adi' which means 'headache' in this world, they do not speak of headache, but about ecstatic meditation on the Supreme Personality of Godhead. In this way they never say anything that is unpleasant, but always speak pleasingly and with words full of auspiciousness. When they similarly say 'raja' they do not mean material passion; they mean the pollen of flowers. And when they talk about 'tamas' which means "ignorance, nescience" they do not mean ignorance, but the darkness of the night. In this way their speech is beyond the dualities of this world."

How then if the world of the spirit is beyond our words and beyond our thoughts, can we have any connection to it? It is through the words of the sadhus. "The learned say," says one text, "the learned say that nectar resides in the ocean." They also say, "Nectar is in the moon, the lips of a young lady, the abodes of serpents and in heaven." But the ocean is salty, the moon wanes, the husband who drinks nectar from the lips of his wife dies, snakes provide poison, and in heaven there is no real nectar because one falls from heaven when the fruits of one's virtues deeds are exhausted. So, nectar cannot be found really in the ocean and the moon and heavens, but it can indeed be found in the voice of realised saints whose sweet words and instructions lead one to immortality.

It is with this idea that we hear from Rupa Goswami about the wonderful qualities of Srimati Radharani. Again, let us turn to Her and become peaceful in our mind. Connect to Her, pray to Her!

Rāṅgānandana Śrīvaṅṣī

ŚACINANDANA SWAMI