

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2021

RADHA'S EXTRAORDINARY LOVE

Once Srila Prabhupada was watching a play which the devotees had put on in a pandal program in Mumbai. It was entitled “*Krishna’s Headache*”. Krishna had informed Narada Muni that He had a headache, and that it could only be cured if Narada Muni would get the dust from the feet of Krishna’s devotees and put it on His forehead. So, Narada Muni went to various brahmanas, he went to the queens of Krishna, but they all sent him away, they said, “*If we give the dust from our dirty feet to Krishna and He puts it on His head, we will go to hell.*” Finally, Narada Muni went to the gopis. When he explained the situation to them, they were immediately willing.

When Srila Prabhupada saw that part of the play, his shoulders jumped up and tears came forth from his eyes. And when the messenger finally brought the dust from the gopis’ feet to Krishna in Dwaraka and Krishna accepted it, Srila Prabhupada stood up in joy, his mouth wide open and his eyes very big. Srila Prabhupada had told this story many times but since he was seeing it with his eyes as a theatre performance by his disciples, he was so absolutely involved because he is a pure devotee.

Jiva Goswami describes that Srimati Radharani always performs austerities simply to bind Krishna more and more with Her love. It is simply due to Her loving devotional worship that Krishna never ever leaves Vrindavan. Therefore, in the *Hari-bhakti-vilāsa* (16.95) there is a proclamation, “*O learned brahmanas! Lord Damodara becomes very pleased if during the month of Kartik one worships the Deity of Radhika*

solely for Her pleasure.” Krishna is bound by the love of His devotees and Srimati Radhika is only thinking of giving Him loving pleasure.

There is a very nice little pastime I would like to share with you that highlights the compassion of Radhika for us. One morning Srimati Radharani came to Sarupa, friend of Lord Krishna, and ordered him, “*Oh Sarupa, there is a devotee from Mathura, a very dear devotee, and he is coming to my grove today. He needs a little guidance and instruction, so go there alone, enlighten him with good instructions, console him, and help him quickly attain Krishna’s grace.*” So on Her instruction Sarupa went there. The devotee was overjoyed and did not even think that he was missing the enjoyment of Krishna’s personal company, because He felt that carrying out Sri Radha’s order would endear him to Krishna.

So, Srimati Radharani, with all her qualities, is simply giving Krishna pleasure. One quality, Her ninth, is *narma-pandita*, that She is expert in joking. But it’s not ordinary joking, it’s not joking at the cost of someone else, it’s not ordinary humour. It is absolutely *rasika* and full of *bhāva*. I think to understand Srimati Radharani’s jokes, and I have read about a few, we would need to really enter the culture of pure and unalloyed devotional service.

Let us again turn to Srimati Radharani. Maybe you would like to have a photograph or picture of Her on your altar somewhere, maybe you have a deity of Her, and just be mindful of Her and Her example.

Śacīnandana Prasāda

ŚACĪNANDANA SWAMI

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