

# KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2021

## RADHA'S COMPASSION

Amongst the many qualities of Srimati Radharani, one is especially relevant for us here in the material world. She is *karuṇā-pūrṇā*, always full of mercy.

Vrinda devi once met Paurṇamāsī and spoke about this quality of Srimati Radharani. She said, “*Srimati Radharani once saw a calf whose mouth was pierced by a sharp piece of straw. Radha, full of compassion and grief, began to weep. She then got some kumkum and applied it to the wound.*”

Jiva Goswami comments on this pastime and said that this calf belonged to a milking cow that was to be offered to Krishna. So, Srimati Radharani saw the calf in relationship to Krishna and therefore was especially compassionate. Now, the wonderful thing is that Srimati Radharani sees everything and everyone in relationship to Krishna and therefore, although She is so single-mindedly focused on Krishna that She is *kṛṣṇa-mayī*, full of thoughts of Krishna, She also is compassionate to the fallen souls, especially those who turn to Her.

Compassion is the sign of greatness. When Krishna visited Bhīsmadeva, who was lying on the bed of arrows waiting for his departure from this world, He was moved to tears upon seeing his pitiable condition. Not only was He shedding tears, but He also forgot Himself in His compassion. Srila Prabhupada draws a very interesting conclusion from this little pastime. He says, “*Therefore instead of offering obeisances to Krishna directly, devotees offer obeisances to His compassionate nature. Actually, because Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead, it is very difficult to approach Him but the devotees, taking advantage of His compassionate nature, which is represented by Radharani, always pray to Radharani for Krishna's compassion.*”

By now I think you have a good picture of Radha and Krishna or of Their Deities. Please turn to this image of Srimati Radharani and just be in Her presence. It's almost like sunbathing, with the exception that these are rays of mercy. Be mindful of Srimati Radharani's compassion.

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COMPASSION.

*Śacīnandana Prasāda*

ŚACĪNANDANA SWAMI