

# KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2021



BY FOLLOWING THE  
PROCESS OF BHAKTI ONE CAN,  
IN THIS VERY LIFE,  
MAKE USE OF THE TEMPORARY  
AND UNREAL TO ACHIEVE THE  
ETERNAL REALITY.

## RADHA'S ARTISTIC NATURE

**You should see and hear this!** The whole of Vraja is preparing for Diwali. They light up their roofs, the Govardhan parikrama path... Radhakund, Shyamakund, and Govindakund—all will be illuminated by rows and rows of lights. Diwali derives from the Sanskrit word *deepavali*, or rows of lighted lamps. It signals a new beginning, a victory over the forces of darkness. This is the day when Lord Rama came back to His hometown Ayodhya after defeating the evil Ravana. And people of Ayodhya wanted to light His way by putting lamps everywhere so that He would see the town and find His way to each single home. That is the idea of this festival of lights.

It also connects with a very special quality of Srimati Radharani: *vidagdha*, that She is expert in the arts. Radha is described to be a master of all arts of love. She is an authority in painting with minerals, is skilful at cooking a variety of pleasing dishes (these are all things which you need to put together for a nice festival), makes Krishna foolish in word battles, and is master of stringing garlands. She also understands the language of the male and female parrots and defeats Krishna at dice. She has a sharp intelligence in music. This *vidagdha* nature is also playful one, and a dexterous expertness that manifests in various of Radha's pastimes.

Once Radharani turned to one of Her friends, "O, friend, my favourite pearl necklace has broken and now I must search for the scattered pearls." This is what Radha did when She broke Her own pearl garland. What was in Her mind?

Well, She wanted to turn around to pick up the broken pearls or the pearls from the broken pearl necklace and by turning Her head around one more time, She glanced at Krishna in the presence of Jatila.

Yes, Srimati Radharani is very, very *vidagdha*—intelligent in many arrangements. The intelligence engaged in things of the material world entangles us. Another intelligence is required to uplift us. This is the intelligence in *bhakti*.

In the eleventh canto of *Srimad Bhagavatam* we hear, "This process of bhakti is the supreme intelligence of the intelligent and the cleverness of the most clever, for by following it one can, in this very life, make use of the temporary and unreal to achieve Me—the eternal reality."

Yes. We, by using our temporary material bodies, which are only with us for a few days, we can reach that which is eternal. It is almost as like spending a worthless coin and getting a treasury of gold in return. This is a cleverness. This is supreme intelligence—*vidagdha*—and it originates in Srimati Radharani, who is so intelligent to meet Krishna and to make all arrangements to please Him.

Again, let us briefly turn to Radha, stay a little bit in this space, be mindful of Her, perhaps say a prayer, and in this way experience or soak in the atmosphere of Her *kripa*—Her mercy.

*Rādhānanda Prāsāda*

ŚACINANDANA SWAMI