

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2021



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THAT GIVES US STRENGTH
TO ENDURE EVERYTHING,
THAT HELPS US TO STAY BALANCED
IN WHATEVER SITUATION.

SHELTER & PRIDE

Today will be a special episode. It is dedicated exclusively to Giriraja, or Govardhan, because today is Govardhan Puja, the day He is worshipped.

Let me ask you a question: what is it that you absolutely need? In all phases of your life, whether you are young or old, healthy or not, happy or unhappy. What gives your life substance in all situations? *Ashraya*, shelter, is the inner reference point that gives us strength to endure everything, that helps us to stay balanced in whatever situation. And ultimate shelter helps us remain unfazed and undisturbed even in the moment of the greatest disaster, death.

Let us go back in time to the pastime of Krishna lifting Giriraja. At that time there was an apocalyptic situation: the rain came down in thick columns and the clouds of devastation arrived over Vrindavan. There were storms, and Indra threw repeatedly lightning flash after lightning flash. The aim was to erase all life from the surface of Vrindavan—all the Brijbasis, all the cows, all the insects, all were the objects of Indra's anger. And he was ready to wipe them off the surface of the globe.

Krishna came to the help of His devotees. He showed that even in the moment when nothing was protecting them, He did. He lifted a huge Giriraja mountain and used it as an umbrella. Let us think a little bit. Now all the columns of rain and hail, all the storms, all the lightning, this entire apocalypse was on Giriraj, but Giriraj didn't feel any

discomfort. In fact, Srila Visvanath Chakravarti Thakur says He felt all these threats to be as pleasant as the shower of flowers. Why? Because He was touched by Krishna. He was only touched by the little, little top of the nail of Krishna's pinky on His left hand. But that tiny touch was enough that He did not suffer anything. My dear listeners, being in touch with Krishna also gives us this shelter. It will turn miseries into a shower of flowers.

But there is another lesson to be taken. Let's look at Indra. He had everything: He was the ruler of the universe, he had a huge palace with a lot of entertainment, he had all sensual delights you can imagine. But there was one little place in the universe, one little boy—Vrindavan Krishna—who seemed to not honour him, and that destroyed everything for him. Because he was so proud, the clouds of devastation came into his mind and all that he had no longer gave him pleasure.

Pride is dangerous. It stands in our way to Krishna. And when pride somehow appears through a little crack in the personality of a devotee, Krishna destroys it.

Today I request that you reflect a little bit on where you can be more tolerant in your life. Where can you be more humble, forgiving, relenting? And whatever it is that you identify, please pray to Giriraja to supply you with the necessary inner strength to shake off that pride and walk forward quickly in your path of Krishna consciousness.

Sacīnandana Prasādi

SACINANDANA SWAMI