

# KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2021

## A PRAYER GUIDE

One of my fondest memories from Vrindavan is when I visited the Sriji Mandir. It was towards the evening and many devotees had come and assembled before the altar. They all sang this very beautiful prayer to Srimati Radharani, “*munīndra-vṛnda-vandite triloka-śoka-hāriṇi...*” It means, “*O divine Goddess, you are worshipped by the greatest of saints and you are dispelling the misery of the three worlds.*”

Being a little up on the hill, these devotion-filled prayers made their way deep, deep down inside. They passed through the rational mind and intelligence, lighting my own devotion aflame.

There’s a saying, “*As the social self can only be developed by contact with society, so the spiritual self can only be developed by contact with people who are walking in spiritual life.*” So meeting these devotees did something unerasable.

Of all of Krishna’s devotees, Srimati Radharani is supremely exalted. You cannot think of the sun without the rays, nor can you think of musk without fragrance—they are both one and different. In the same way Krishna, is unimaginable without Radha. She is *Prema rupa*, the form of all transcendental love, and *Premananda-tarangini*, an ocean filled with bliss of the waves of transcendental love. She is also *Prema-hara* and *Prema-datri*, the giver of transcendental love.

There is a very nice prayer to Srimati Radharani, written by Rupa Goswami and known as *Sri Prarthana Paddhatih*, which shows us a little bit how to approach Her. It is a guideline for appealing to divine personalities. And I would like to share a few verses from this prayer, because, as I said, it’s a key. It’s a guideline, and it is very, very important. The first verse, actually the first four verses, are composed of praises.

*“O Queen, whose limbs are more splendid than pure gold, whose eyes are charming like the doe’s eyes, whose face defeats millions of moons, and who is dressed in garments as dark as the monsoon cloud.”*

This is how Radha is addressed. She is very effulgent and charming as She looks through Her eyes, and the brilliance of millions upon millions of full moons pales when compared to the brilliance of the nails of Radha’s lotus feet. And Her face is even more effulgent. The last lines say “*She is dressed in garments as dark as the monsoon cloud.*” While the monsoon cloud only gives ordinary water, because Radha is Krishna-mayi, She who always thinks of Krishna, Her beauty brings forth the rasa of prema which sprinkles Her devotees.

Tomorrow, I welcome you back to hear the next few verses of this beautiful prayer.

*Śacīnandana Prasādi*

ŚACĪNANDANA SWAMI

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