

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2021



SRIMATI RADHARANI LIVES
FOR THE SERVICE OF KRISHNA,
AND EVERYONE IN VRINDAVAN
WHERE KRISHNA IS CENTRE LOVES
HER, ESPECIALLY THE ELDERS.

THE ELDER'S AFFECTION FOR RADHA

In Vrindavan we have many, many very good experiences. For me, one was when I was invited by Krishna Murari Goswami to take prasadam in the ancient temple in Nandagram on the top of the mountain. We took prasadan in a room just next to the kitchen and one of the cooks said, “You know, on the altar Krishna is in charge, but in the kitchen Radharani is in charge.”

Every morning Srimati Radharani goes to Nandagram and cooks for Krishna and mother Yashoda greets Her. She speaks to Radha with great affection, “You are not the daughter of Kirtida—You are my daughter. Seeing Your face, I come to life as I do when I see Krishna’s face. Why are You ashamed?”

Radha was overwhelmed with the affection of Krishna’s mother Yashoda. She remained speechless and covered Her face. This quality of Srimati Radharani is the next quality, *gurv-arpita-guru-snehā*—the object of great affection by the elders. This quality reminds me of a very special devotee in Vrindavan, Vibhu Caitanya prabhu. When he came to Vrindavan, Srila Prabhupada asked him to become the first cook for the deities Radha Shyamasundara. So every morning at two o’clock this very wonderful devotee went into the kitchen, broke the coal for the fires of the day and then prepared six offerings for all these nine deities, day after day for twenty long years.

On the day when he was so old that he could not continue with his service and the new cook needed to be installed, Vibhu Caitanya somehow made his way up the staircase to the room where the new cook was living. When he met a devotee there, he told him with a smile on his face, “Six men, six men.”

By this he wanted to indicate that it would take six people to replace him in his service.

I remember his next seva very fondly: he would sit near the altar and hand out the *carinamrita*, the bathing water of the deities. With his left hand he would take our right hand and then very carefully and consciously put the carinamrita drops for us to drink. He somehow even managed in the hot season to get a small refrigerator so that the bathing water was a little chilled. When that was no longer possible, he retired to a room which he would never leave. He was there with six bramacharis and had pictures of nine deities of the Krishna Balarama temple and he would worship them every morning with good flowers, which he took from the maha prasadam garlands that came to him. On the day when he went into coma and went directly back home back to the service of Radha and Krishna, the doctor found a hand-written message next to him.

The message read, “No medicine or medical treatment should be given. Do not take me out of my room. No one should serve me.” Vibhu Caitanya lived for the service of others and therefore others, especially the elders, were so affectionate. This is the quality of Srimati Radharani in large, large, large degrees. She lives for the service of Krishna, and everyone in Vrindavan where Krishna is centre loves Her, especially the elders.

Let us please go before a picture of Radha or just sit and become mindful of Radha and pray. And in this way, we can become close to Radha!

Śacīnandana Prasādi

ŚACĪNANDANA SWAMI