

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2021



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WHEN WE ARE FREE FROM DESIRES
AND STOP MAKING EFFORTS
TO TRY TO ENJOY THIS WORLD,
AT THAT TIME SRIMATI RADHARANI
GIVES US HER FULL SHELTER.

RADHA IS THE CHIEF GOPI

This evening I was at Chandra Sarovara. A group of devotees had invited me for a Damodara puja. We were waving lights, which were reflected in the lake like the stars in the sky. But the most impressive was a meeting with the sadhu.

When I left the kirtan, a small sadhu came to me and said in English, “*Me showing my bhajana kutir.*” He wanted to show me the place where he does his bhajan, his worship, like chanting and so on. It was dark, but I followed him. He opened a little door to a tiny little room, and on the altar there was a Giriraja Shila and a picture of his spiritual master. Except for that, there was really nothing in that little room, which was just big enough for him to stretch out—but in a curved way.

I asked him, “*Is this all you have?*” and he said, “*Yes.*” There was a light in his eyes, so I immediately thought, “*Well I just got a donation. Maybe I should give him at least two hundred rupees to support him, so that he can eat.*” But when I took out the note, he vehemently said, “*No, no, no, no!*” And then in his broken English he said something that touched my heart. He said, “*When you are niskincana (that means you don’t need anything from this world) and niskama (that you are free from desires), then Radharani takes care of all your needs. But the moment you start to busily engage in securing the needs,*” he said in a simple way, “*at that moment you lose that connection to Radharani’s care.*”

That statement moved me very much, that the external forms of living may differ from person to person. I can’t imagine living in the winter in this little unheated room overlooking Chandra Sarovara. But that was not the point. The point was that when you are free from desires to try to enjoy this world and you stop making efforts, at that time Radharani takes over. Let us ask ourselves the question, “*Why it is that these devotees take shelter at*

Radharani and how is it that it works?” It’s because of Radharani’s wonderful qualities, which are so attractive.

She is the reservoir of loving affairs in Gokula; that is our next point. She is the most famous of submissive devotees. She is very affectionate with the elderly and She is very submissive to the love of Her friends.

These are all some of Her qualities, but today we will focus on quality number twenty-four. She is the main gopi or principle gopi who has all of Krishna’s affection. Once Krishna spoke about Srimati Radharani in confidence. He addressed Her directly, “*My dear girl with the fascinating eyes. Even if there are many girls who try to attract Me by throwing glances like arrows from their beautiful eyebrows, how can I find happiness for even a moment without You?*”

Then Krishna gave an example how important Srimati Radharani is. Krishna said, “*I’m like the sky. Even if the sky is embraced by moonlight and all the stars, it can never become bright until it is filled with the morning sun.*” So there may be many star-like other gopis, but only when the morning sun of Radha rises is Krishna is fully and entirely satisfied. That means She has extraordinary qualities, and it is this quality which attracted the sadhu at Chandra Sarovara who could therefore become desire-less and without material possession. He totally surrendered to the care of Srimati Radharani, who has also this quality, that She is very affectionate to Her devotees.

See you again soon. But before we end, please turn to Radharani and become mindful of this quality. She is the main gopi in Krishna’s mind.

Śacīnandana Prasāda

ŚACĪNANDANA SWAMI