

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2021

RADHA'S SIDELONG GLANCES

This is the month of Kartik, a time for absorption. Once Srila Prabhupada was asked by a devotee, “Prabhupada,” the devotee said, “today is the beginning of urja-vrata, the Kartik-vrata. Can you please describe what that is, the urja-vrata, and how it should be observed?” And Prabhupada laughed and said, “Urja-vrata, the Kartik-vrata, you chant Hare Krishna twenty-four hours, one month long, that’s all.” So the disciple says, “Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna...” Prabhupada answers, “Yes, don’t sleep, don’t eat, this is urja-vrata. Can you execute this?” And of course the disciple says, with a laughter, “I don’t know.”

I think we should do as much as possible and as we increase our absorption, our spiritual muscle will become strengthened. And this is mostly done by hearing about Radha and Krishna. Radha and Krishna are very greatly attracted to each other and that happens mostly through each others’ eyes.

Rupa Goswami has seen this attraction and he said, “O Krishna, Radha’s heart is like a swan. Swans like to play amongst lotus flowers. Your eyes are like blue lotuses and they have captured the swan of Radha’s heart. In this way Radha lives always in Your eyes. ”

Yes, Radha’s eyes have also captured Krishna, especially as Radha has this one ability or nature of looking from the side. These are sidelong glances and these quick glances built a network of glances that captured Krishna. Who can capture and control Krishna? The answer is Radha, through Her glances. Just like it is possible to catch a big fish by a net, so Srimati Radharani’s glances have built a net, that Krishna cannot and will not escape. In this way Krishna lives always in the eyes and heart of Radha.

Let us now again become mindful. Let us for a moment forget the thoughts of the world and let us just focus our attention on the network of Radha’s glances. Maybe She will be merciful and glance at us, and attract us by Her potencies!

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Śacīnandana Prāsāda
ŚACĪNANDANA SWAMI