

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2021

RADHA'S MOONLIKE MIND

During the month of Kartik I keep an ancient notebook—it looks as if it came directly from a market in Morocco—and make entries into it. Today I made this entry. It's about the mind of Radha.

The mind of Radha is like a moon, and She turns Krishna into a deer that builds a mark on the moon of Her mind. Maybe you know that the moon is called *shashanka* in Sanskrit—marked with the form of the deer. When the moon is fully shining, a full moon, this shape can be seen. You see a distinct deer with its raised ears. This is the image which Rupa Goswami has about Radha's mind. Her mind is like a moon and Krishna is always in there. This Krishna has raised His attention to Radha, and Radha is always so absorbed in Him.

There is an ancient verse that Purnamasi speaks to Nandimukhi, *"Oh look, how amazing! The great sages and yogis try to withdraw their minds from the sense objects of this world, and they are happy if they are successful for even a moment, just so that they can think of Krishna. But this girl Radha thinks so much of Krishna that there is nothing and no one else in Her mind at any moment of the day. And She sometimes performs great austerities to have a little space for other things. In this way She tries to forget Krishna whom the yogis always want to remember."*

This is the beauty of the month of Kartik as we experience it here in Vrindavan. Everyone is remembering Krishna, everyone is thinking of Krishna. Even if we go on the vegetable market everyone joyfully greets us, *"Hare Krishna."* Of course, sometimes they want to get an extra good price when they say, *"Hare Krishna,"* but at least there is Krishna in all the dealings. When we go to places like Vrindakund for instance, we see devotees coming from villages to sit down at this sacred space to have darshan of the deities, chant mantras and then eat prasadam, and everyone is welcome. I saw a scene where two men were just discussing two villages as they were eating. Four dogs came around them, so they threw some chapatis so that even the dogs could celebrate and be joyous and free of anxiety in the month of Kartik.

The mind, the mind, the mind needs to be freed. The mind needs to be clear and transparent so that also one day Radha and Krishna can appear there like the rising sun and the rising moon.

Let us now again become mindful. For a moment let us take few deep breaths and focus our attention on Srimati Radharani, who has a mind like the moon, who is marked totally with the form of Krishna.

LET OUR MIND BE CLEAR AND
TRANSPARENT SO THAT RADHA
AND KRISHNA WILL APPEAR THERE
LIKE THE RISING SUN
AND THE RISING MOON.

Pāruāṇḍana Śraṇis

ŚACINANDANA SWAMI