

# KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2021

## AN EARNEST REQUEST

Welcome to the second part of this prayer guide.

In old times kings would plunder their jewellery for the biggest jewel and place it on top of their crown. That jewel would become the crown jewel. Now, Srimati Radharani is also the crest, the topmost jewel. But rather than using a metaphor that refers to royal opulence like jewels, Rupa Goswami uses a beautiful metaphor from Vrindavan. Srimati Radharani is the crowning garland full of *malika* flowers on the decorated braided hair of the young gopis. It means that She is the top of all of the young gopis.

The next verse, number three, glorifies Radha as the teacher of all the other gopis, and describes how she is always surrounded by the eight gopis. Verse four describes Radha's Supreme attractiveness by which She brings even the Supremely attractive Krishna under Her control. So, the first four verses are all about glorifying Srimati Radharani. Listen what happens in verse five.

*“tvām asau yācate natvā”* prays Rupa Goswami. He reveals his heart. The heart of a beggar, of someone who desperately needs something. He says *“Oh, Queen of Vrindavan, bowing down and rolling about on the Yamuna's shore, this person with an agitated heart and choked voice appeals to You.”* Let us imagine Rupa Goswami: he bows down, he calls out in a stammering and pitiable voice.

Something is troubling his heart. He says *“Oh, Queen of Vrindavan”* and while he speaks, he rolls on the ground on the bank of the Yamuna River. This is an image of eagerness.

Humility brings *bhakti*. Someone who cannot cry or cannot be moved in his heart with devotional feelings of *laulyam* or great eagerness, will not really move out of his present zone into a much more beautiful life.

So, Rupa Goswami has something to ask. He says in text six *“Though I may be an unfit offender with a crooked mind, please bestow a small fragment of the valuable gift of Your service to this person.”* He addresses himself in the third person. Though he may be an unfit offender, he says, this person requests You for something. So, this is really the tone of this prayer guide. I may be unfit, I may have offended thousands of times and then again, I may not even be very straightforward in my mind because sometimes I want this and the next moment, I want something else apparently. But still, I have a request to You. Please ignore my innumerable bad qualities and give me a small fragment of the valuable gift of devotional service.

The prayer comes to its full fruition in text number seven. And that is what we will hear tomorrow.

*Rācīnandana Śraṇi*

ŚACĪNANDANA SWAMI

“OH, QUEEN OF VRINDAVAN,  
PLEASE IGNORE MY  
INNUMERABLE BAD QUALITIES  
AND GIVE ME A SMALL  
FRAGMENT OF THE VALUABLE  
GIFT OF DEVOTIONAL SERVICE.”