

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2021

THE DIVINE TOUCH

The month of Kartik is almost coming to the end. What is the essence of this month?

Well, we try to come in touch. In touch with the divine Other, the couple Radha and Krishna, who are always in an ocean of love. And it is this touch—even if it is brief—that will make us grow like seeds planted in the ground grow when there is good monsoon rain. In the same way we grow by the Divine touch.

Srila Prabhupada once talked about this divine touch. He said, “*Somehow or other we should come in contact with Krishna, then we will be purified.*” And he told a story. “*One professional reciter,*” he said in Los Angeles, “*was reciting the Bhagavatam and describing that Krishna was very highly decorated with jewels. He described how Krishna was sent to tend the cows in the forest. There was a thief in the meeting and he thought, ‘Why not go to Vrindavana and plunder this boy? He is in the forest with so many valuable jewels, alone. I can go there, catch the child, and take all the jewels.’ He was serious. The thief thought, ‘I must find out that boy. Then in one night I shall become a millionaire.’” Prabhupada said, “So he went there. His qualification was ‘I must see Krishna. I must see Krishna.’ That anxiety, that eagerness made it possible that in Vrindavana he saw Krishna. Yes, he saw Krishna, the same way as he was informed by the Bhagavatam reader. Then he saw, ‘O, Krishna is such a nice boy.’ He began to flatter. He thought ‘I*

will flatter and then I shall take all the jewels.” Prabhupada started laughing.

So when he proposed his real business, “*Sir may I take some of your ornaments? You are so rich,*” Krishna responded, “*No, no, no! My mother will be angry. I cannot.*” Krishna spoke as a child, so the thief became more and more eager for Krishna. By Krishna’s association he had already become purified. Then at last Krishna said, “*Alright, you can take some.*” And in this way the thief immediately became a devotee.

So somehow or other we should come in contact with Krishna. Then we will be purified. Yes, we heard in this month of Kartik a lot about Kartika Devi, Srimati Radharani, the presiding goddess. But you must know Radha and Krishna are one in two forms. One divine entity in two forms.

I had this situation yesterday. I gave a donation of hundred rupees at a holy place and the pujari quickly said, “*Two hundred, one for Radha, one for Krishna.*” And then I said, to save my portmone “*No, they are one,*” in a joking way. He laughed and was satisfied.

Let us again turn to Srimati Radharani or Krishna if you so want. Let us focus our and fill our minds with good thoughts about Radha or Krishna or Radha Krishna.

Śaṅkara

ŚACINANDANA SWAMI

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WITH RADHA AND KRISHNA—
EVEN IF IT IS BRIEF—
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