

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2021

RADHA'S SWEETNESS

We will now start our description of Srimati Radharani's qualities, but before anything else, remember that hearing about Srimati Radharani in the month of Kartik will bring us to another world, the world of Vrindavan.

Srimati Radharani is known in the Puranas as “*radha vrindavane vane*”: Radha, who rules the forest of Vrindavan. Her main quality is *madhurya*, sweetness—just like Krishna. Krishna das Kaviraj Goswami says, “*mādhurya bhagavatā-sāra—the essence of the Supreme Personality of Godhead is sweetness.*”

Sukadeva Goswami has described these pastimes of Krishna throughout the *Srimad Bhagavatam*. Hearing these descriptions, the devotees become mad with love of God. So, at the beginning of the list of twenty-four or twenty-five qualities of Srimati Radharani is Her sweetness. The first six of these qualities are qualities that are related to Her transcendental body. Purnamasi once observed Radha and then came up with this description,

“Her eyes are more beautiful than the fresh blue lotus flowers. The splendour of Her face surpasses the forest of blooming lotus flowers, and the lustre of Her body defeats molten gold.” All these descriptions of Radha's sweetness are descriptions of splendour, of effulgence.

Why is this so? It is because in Her heart there is love for Krishna to a superlative degree. It is love in the heart which makes a person's effulgence shiny, inspiring. It is Her *maha bhava* for Krishna that brings out all these symptoms. It is only by love that Krishna is attracted.

Once Krishna came to the rescue of His most beautiful queen Rukmini. We remember that all the kings who were there became so thunderstruck by seeing Rukmini's beauty that they fell from the back of their horses and elephants. At that time Krishna said to Garuda, “*O, Garuda, please know that I am not attracted by beauty, not even the beauty of Rukmini. I am attracted by bhakti, by devotion.*”

And this is what we find in Srimati Radharani. Therefore, from Her beautiful form emanates Bhakti Devi, the Goddess of devotion. She is in the heart of Radha, she is the Supreme of blessings, which all devotees want. We want devotion.

Thank you very much. I request you to turn to Srimati Radharani and pray for the blessings of bhakti so that this month of Kartik won't be just rituals and formalities, but a softening of the heart in Krishna consciousness.

Śacīnandana Prasāda

ŚACĪNANDANA SWAMI

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IS SWEETNESS.