

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2021

RADHA'S RESTLESS EYES

We are into our seventh day of the Kartik vrata. Perhaps you can already feel how the atmosphere is becoming warm and more full of spiritual thoughts. Here in Vrindavan it's very easy to remember Krishna. For instance, when we sit in the evening before the Govardhan mountain, the sun is golden and begins to sink, the parrots come home, and the air is full of the callings of the peacocks, who want to dance or meet their friends or get ready for the night.

Everything is very much a stimulant here for remembering Krishna. And it is easy to think of Srimati Radharani. Different, however, from these peaceful scenes which we just heard about is today's quality: *chala-apanga*. Radharani's eyes are very restless, and these restless eyes fascinate Krishna like anything.

There is a prayer by Prabhodananda Sarasvati Thakur which expresses, *"When will I delight in the service of Srimati Radharani, whose arrow-like sidelong glances cause the son of the king of Braja to faint, making the flute fall from his hand, the peacock feather crown come down, and the yellow cloth slip from His waist?"*

What a wonderful image! When on a battlefield the hero is struck by an arrow, then he falls. On the battlefield of love Krishna is struck by the arrow-like glance of Srimati Radhika. And thus the flute falls from His hand, the peacock feather crown falls from His head, the yellow cloth from His

shoulders falls all around Him, and then finally He faints. How will He rise again? He will rise again when a specially-trained servant of Radha sings a particular melody.

Yes, the hero of Braja, the hero of the whole world, the source of everything, is becoming overwhelmed by the restless loving glance of Srimati Radharani. And thus He stumbles and finally falls after losing all His weapons, first and foremost His celebrated flute.

Devotees in this world have always prayed for the glance of Srimati Radharani. And they pray, *"May this glance rest for some time on me!"*

There is a beautiful prayer in the Vrindavan Mahimamrita, *"May Sri Radha, the Queen of Vrindavan, mercifully glance upon me with Her eyes filled with tears of love. May the kripa of Her compassion bear a fruit and allow me to live forever in Her dear land of Vrindavan."*

My dear everyone, this is the land of miracles. The land of the Divine play, the land of the most extraordinary Supreme Goddess Srimati Radharani.

Let us turn to Her also today, like always, and pray to have Her sidelong glance upon us!

Prabhodananda Sarasvati

ŚACINANDANA SWAMI

"WHEN WILL I DELIGHT IN THE SERVICE OF SRIMATI RADHARANI, WHOSE ARROW-LIKE SIDELONG GLANCES CAUSE THE SON OF THE KING OF BRAJA TO FAINT?"