

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2022



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„O, MOST REVERED JAHNAVA DEVI!
PLEASE, SHOW MERCY TO THIS
SERVANT TODAY BY VIRTUE
OF YOUR OWN GOOD QUALITIES
AND KINDLY RELIEVE ME
FROM ALL AFFLICTIONS.”

BHAKTIVINODA THAKURA

RADHAKUND MIRACLES

Welcome to today's Kartik inspiration. Today there is a great festival in Vrindavan. Most Brijbasis and sadhus celebrate the divine appearance day of Radhakund. There is also another date much earlier in the year when according to Jiva Gosvami and the Gopala Champu, Radhakund appeared. Yes, two dates, but it is not a problem because we cannot put a date—which is the measurement of time—on eternity and spiritual reality. So, it is good. Two festivals are wonderful.

Today, I would like to share with you another miracle: once, Srimati Jahnava Devi, the exalted consort of Nityananda Prabhu, decided to go to Radhakund to take darshan and see Raghunatha Dasa Gosvami. Raghunatha was so weak at that time. He was old and had only drunk a little buttermilk over many years, but when he heard that Jahnava Ishvari had come, he walked toward her with tearful eyes. He was shining like the sun. When Jahnava Devi saw him, she also could not stop the streams of tears coming from her eyes. She stayed four days on that visit in Radhakund.

One day around noon, Jahnava Devi heard the sound of a flute on the northern shore of the kund. When she came and looked there, she saw Krishna standing under a Kabamba tree in a threefold bending form playing His flute. Only Jahnava could hear that flute because Krishna was playing just for her. By his side, she saw the most merciful Srimati Radharani. Lalita and Vishaka were there as well, and various manjaris and gopis.

As she was observing this unearthly darshan, she suddenly fell to the ground unconscious. Today the place where Jahnava saw Krishna is known as Jahnava ghat. There is a sitting place and a

little staircase that is protected from others' views, which leads directly into the kund, where she is supposed to take her bath even to the present day.

As we know, Srila Raghunatha Dasa Gosvami worshipped the Lord as Gopinath, the Lord of the gopis. During this time, Jahnava took darshan, and the same Krishna who had called her with His flute said to her, “*Look to my left side; Radharani is much too small. Please, go to Bengal and bring a proper size Radharani so I can engage in transcendental lila with Her.*” And Jahnava did this—the present Radharani, which you see on Gopinath's left side, is the deity she brought there.

Jahnava's life is full of miracles: divine goddesses appear to her, thieves who want to steal from her party are all of a sudden chastised and corrected by Chandi, the goddess with the chopper in her hand, and Srimati Jahnava was present with her Lord Nityananda.

We pray to her a prayer that Bhaktivinoda Thakur has composed. He says, “*I have no strength, nor do I have any help from virtues that may have come from sacrifices, yoga practices, or austerities. I do not know how to cross over this horrible ocean of birth and death. O, most revered Jahnava Devi! Please, show mercy to this servant today by virtue of your own good qualities and kindly relieve me from all afflictions.*”

Wishing you a wonderful celebration of Bahulastami. Remember Raghunatha Dasa Gosvami and his interactions with Jahnava Devi, the personal consort of Lord Nityananda, and make your life blissful. Hare Krishna!

Racīnandana Prasāda

ŚACINANDANA SWAMI