

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2022

KRISHNA GIVES HIS DARSHAN

Welcome to today's Kartik inspirations. It's so nice to have a feeling that people are there on the other side and listening to these recordings. Today I would like to talk about Krishna's pastimes in Vrindavan that are ongoing and sometimes come through.

Rupa Goswami wrote in *Lalita Madhava*, "The dust from cows and calves on the road creates a kind of darkness, indicating that Krishna is returning home from the pasture. Also, the darkness of the evening induces the gopis to meet Krishna. Thus the pastimes of Krishna and the gopis are covered by a kind of transcendental darkness and are therefore impossible for ordinary scholars of the Vedas to see." Yes, we can only see through the eyes of devotion. Otherwise, we cannot see the spiritual reality.

There is a Bhaktamala narration about one little boy called Bandhu who was orphaned at an early age. He went to Navadwip town, and there he heard from a sadhu that the only way, the only person who could help him was Krishna. So the boy had only one desire in his heart left: to find Krishna. He asked everyone on the road, "Where is Krishna?"

Somehow he was directed to a party of pilgrims who went to Vrindavan from Navadwip and took him along. In Vrindavan, he continued asking, "Where is Krishna? Where is Krishna?" Finally, one other sadhu he asked on the street said, "It's not so easy to see Krishna. You must be trained by a spiritual master."

"Can you show me a guru?" So the sadhu directed the young boy, Bandhu, to a very nice elderly gentleman who lived with his wife and, I believe, seven cows in Sringarvat, and he accepted Bandhu. Bandhu became the cowherd, and every morning he listened to the elderly sadhu explain the *Bhagavatam*. Then in the morning, later, he would go and bring the cows out.

One day, late in the afternoon, Bandhu was with his cows on the bank of the Yamuna when he saw a dust cloud on the other side that created a kind of darkness, indicating that Krishna was returning home from the pasture. I'm repeating Rupa Goswami's words. Then the dust cloud disappeared. The next day, he again saw this

phenomenon. Only this time, he heard flutes coming from the dust clouds. And on subsequent days, he was allowed to see the cows and the cowherd boys. He ran over the Yamuna, and day by day, he went a little closer so that one day, he met Krishna and Balarama, who asked him, "Do you have something to eat? We are so hungry from cow herding." Bandhu shared the remaining portion of what he had left in his tiffin, where he kept his food.

The guru and his wife noticed a transformation going on in little Bandhu. So one day, the guru asked his disciple what was going on. And Bandhu told him, "I'm meeting Krishna and Balarama, and I'm giving them chapatis!" So the guru said, "May I come along and also see?" And Bandhu said, "Of course!"

And at the late afternoon, Bandhu again saw the herd of cows, and he ran over the Yamuna to join Krishna and Balarama. This time, the guru, although he didn't see anything, also ran after Bandhu seeing the ecstatic transformations in his disciple. And he ran through the Yamuna, but he didn't see anything! He continued running after his disciple until he stumbled over a stone, a type of rock he had not seen.

So when Krishna saw this old man was going to fall, and going to fall hard, He for a moment broke His rules. He immediately came forward to catch the guru and caught him in His arms. And for a moment, this old man was allowed to see Krishna's beautiful face. Then again, the kind of darkness, or the veil of yogamaya, was drawn, and he did not see anything. But this one little darshan was enough. When he was brought on a bullock cart home, because he was so overwhelmed with feeling, his life changed forever.

So in Vrindavan, Krishna is still there, up to this time. But as Rupa Goswami says, these pastimes with Krishna and also the gopis are covered by a kind of transcendental darkness. The devotees in Vrindavan don't mind that. They know that Krishna is everywhere. They know He hears their prayers; they know He receives their service. And when He thinks that the devotee is sufficiently purified, He might reveal Himself.

Thank you so much, and all the best. See you tomorrow.

Rācīnāndana Śrīvāṣī

ŚACINANDANA SWAMI



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