

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2022

THE ATTACHED KING SNAKE

The other day we inaugurated our kirtan hall in the Govardhana Retreat Center. I took some Godbrothers around the property, and we came by one particular place where there is a very, very miraculous story amongst the people of Jatipura. It is here where a king from a previous century lives as a snake who has wings.

I know it sounds really crazy, but when the workers were clearing that spot, all of a sudden, a snake—a big snake—came flying with wings, went three times over their heads, flew away towards Giriraja Govardhana, and then disappeared.

Now people know when snakes have wings, it means they are very old, and they are most probably very, very attached rich people who are guarding a treasure. So when I went with my Godbrothers over the property, one of them said, *“I heard the people talking about this snake-bird guarding a treasure here, and I would like to dig for it.”* I said, *“You can have it, I will not enter, or you know, entangle myself with these mystical beings.”*

But I also remembered a verse from the *Bhagavatam*. It is possible that you are born again and again and again in order to try to fulfill your attachments. Up to the moment when people don't accept the safe lotus feet of Krishna, which remove fear, lamentations, and this greed for possessions, they will continue to take the impermanent material world as the only and real place, and they will not be able to solve the root of all sufferings.

Attachment always brings suffering. And detachment, although sometimes difficult in the beginning, brings freedom from misery.

Thank you very much, and see you at the next Kartik inspiration!

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Śācīnandana Śrīvāsī
ŚACINANDANA SWAMI