

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2022

DON'T PURCHASE A DEITY

Welcome to today's Kartik Inspiration. One of the greatest miracles in bhakti is that Krishna responds to His devotees. He reciprocates with them. He exchanges with them. He is not a faraway God; He is very close.

Rupa Goswami had heard that Govindaji, the deity of the Lord, was somewhere in Vrindavan. He searched in all the villages of Braj, as he had received an instruction from Chaitanya Mahaprabhu to find Govindadev. The instruction was, "Go, Rupa to Vrindavan, and reveal the enchanting service of Govinda. By the mere sight and perception of the Lord, wrapped now in the state of silence, people and all living beings will attain pure love of God."

Yes, there are many, many statements in the Purana that say that just having once the darshan of Govindaji, you will not see Yamaraja, but you will go to the Kingdom of God and stay by the Lord's side. So Rupa Goswami grew impatient.

Where is Govindadev? Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was led by a spiritual vision and discovered Radhakund, but Rupa Goswami didn't have a spiritual vision of Govindadev. According to one book, Sadhana Dipika, once Rupa Goswami was sitting at the banks of the Yamuna and lamenting the absence of Govindaji. He became absorbed in meditation, and then the image of a beautifully shining Brajavasi silhouette appeared before Him. The boy's presence, who seemed to have come from another dimension, consoled Rupa Goswami, and at the boy's request, Sri Rupa explained why he was grieving.

The boy said, "I know where Govindaji is hiding, come with me." He brought him to a hill, and there on the top of the hill, Rupa Goswami saw what the boy wanted to show him. There was a

cow who poured the milk of her udder down into a hole as if she was feeding someone hidden underneath the earth. Rupa Goswami had the feeling, "I found Him, I found Him!" and he immediately lost consciousness.

When he regained consciousness, it was clear that the young Brajavasi was the Lord of Vrindavan, Krishna, Himself! He informed the local villagers about the whereabouts of this deity, and they began to dig five stories deep in the marked place. And then indeed, they found the beautiful deity of Lord Govinda.

There is a famous verse in Chaitanya Caritamrita, "In a temple of jewels in Vrindavan, underneath a desire tree, Sri Sri Radha Govinda, served by their most confidential associates, sit upon an effulgent throne. I offer my most humble obeisances."

And this is how it came to pass. Govindaji was found, and He was first installed in a little cottage made from bamboo and leaves. He got forest decorations, forest fruits, a meal from forest roots, and a crown made from forest flowers, and in this way, the Lord of Vrindavan's forest was discovered by Rupa Goswami and worshipped.

Now this theme, that Krishna responds when we are really eager to find Him, and gives us indication and makes arrangements, is very important. Don't go to the market in Vrindavan and buy a deity. Go there and see if a deity purchases you and your heart. And then you know this is the Lord I should worship.

Thank you very much. See you for the next Kartik Inspiration. Haribol.

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Śācīnandana Prāsāda

ŚACINANDANA SWAMI