

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2022



VRINDAVAN AND ITS RESIDENTS
ARE NOT ORDINARY.

WHEN YOU SEE A PARROT
OR WHEN YOU SEE A NILGAI,
KEEP IN MIND:
THIS MAY BE A SADHU.

THE SADHU-DEER

Welcome to our Kartik inspirations: Vrndavan miracles!

As always, try to find some peace to enter a receptive mood because I will speak about a very astonishing miracle.

Prabhodananda Sarasvati Thakura writes about the residence of Vrndavana, *“Oh, dear-most, supremely blissful Vrndavana! If I could see the splendor of your moving and non-moving residence even with millions of transcendental eyes, I would still not be satisfied.”*

This was seen in the 19th century by an English officer who had come to hunt in the area of Kusum-Sarovar despite the repeated request from the residents not to hunt there because they said that all the animals were great sadhus. Despite the repeated request, he insisted.

However, when he went with his hunting party, he could not find any animal: no nilgai, no deer, nothing, and he was amazed. Finally, he saw a large deer before him crossing the road. And he fired his gun and shot the deer in the ankle.

The deer stopped, turned around, gave the officer a stern glance, and then returned to the shelter of Giriraja, leaving behind a trail of blood. The soldiers ran after the deer. They crossed the Uddhava latas and came near Gvala pukur, a forested area where there was a kutir inside. Cautiously the officer entered this forest, expecting to confront the large deer face-to-face, but instead he was welcomed by a holy man who was tending to a wound on his ankle.

“What is this?” said the officer.

“A thorn. A simple thorn.” said the sadhu.

“We have doctors who can tend to the wound,” said the officer, seeing the seriousness of the wound. And finally, he brought a doctor, and upon examinations, the doctor exclaimed, *“This wound doesn’t come from a thorn—it comes from a bullet!”*

When the officer heard this, he remembered the words of the local pujaris, *“The animals in this forest are sages, living here incognito.”* By the mercy of this saint, the officer realized his terrible mistake. When the local authority heard that there was a sadhu who had taken the form of a deer to inform all the other animals to flee that area, they requested the British government stop hunting at Govardhana. Remembering the seriousness of what had happened, there was an official decree in English, Urdu, and Hindi, dated 1866. It was placed at the entrance to Kusum Sarovara and is still here today.

As far as the sage, his name was Muni Baba. He expired in the early 20th century and his samadhi, which is now ruined, can be found at Gwal Pokhar (Gvala pukur).

Yes! Vrndavana and its residents are not ordinary. When you see a parrot or a nilgai, remember this story: it may be a sadhu who is there.

See you for the next Vrndavana inspiration!

Prabhodananda Sarasvati

ŚACINANDANA SWAMI