

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2024



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IN VRINDAVAN, EVEN A JACKAL'S MISERY DOES NOT GO UNNOTICED. RADHARANI'S COMPASSIONATE HEART WILL NOT TOLERATE SUFFERING OF OTHERS FOR LONG.

THE LOST JACKAL

Welcome to this *Kartik inspiration!*

As we drove back to where I'm staying during this month, it was getting dark, and I saw someone I'll never forget. He looked pale, the hair on his body almost all fallen out, and his eyes were red.

It was a jackal.

He looked so miserable, so absolutely lost, and so... you know, I've never seen a living being that first invoked so much disgust and then so much compassion.

There is a story about a jackal in the *Padma Purana*. It was a she-jackal who, after a long journey, arrived at Radha-kund. But when the children there saw her, they attacked her with sticks and drove her into a foxhole, putting fire outside the foxhole to smoke her to death.

The jackal cried, "Oooooo," or however jackals cry, and Srimati Radharani became aware of this miserable creature. She sent Lalita-sakhi, who came in the form of an old lady and told the children to leave. Lalita then took the crying jackal to Radha.

Radha saw her and thought, 'Oh, it's a jackal who has cried. But this is Vrindavan—I will not tolerate any being here to experience misery for long. Yes, some suffering may come for purification, but not for long. I will not tolerate it.'

So, Radha took Her blue lotus, touched the head of the miserable jackal, and the creature immediately turned into a beautiful personality, fully equipped with a spiritual form, and with everything needed to serve the Divine Couple in Their Vrindavan pastimes.

So, yes, when the jackal crossed the road tonight, I remembered this pastime. I hope that soon something happens to this creature so that, like the jackal who was once transformed by Radharani's mercy, this jackal too may one day dance in ecstasy.

Isn't that a story that, in some ways, relates to all of us who suffer in material existence?

Haribol.

Radhadevi Pranis

ŚACINANDANA SWAMI