

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2024

THE LOVE STONE

Welcome to our daily *Kartik Inspirations*.

Today I want to share something with you that is typical for Vrindavan, and that is that Radha and Krishna love us. They are always with us. They are always willing to give us Their affection, care, attention, and love. Why am I so sure? Let me give you two examples:

Today, I visited a friend of mine and noticed a stone on his altar that I had not seen before. I asked him, “What is the significance of this stone?” He became silent for a moment and then said, “This is a love stone—a promise stone.” He then explained, “At the edge of Vrindavan, there is actually a place,” (I forgot the name), “where Krishna gave a solemn vow to all His devotees.”

Krishna was about to leave Vrindavan, and Sudama asked Him, “Are you really going to leave us?” Krishna looked at His dear friend with tears of love in His eyes. He turned to a nearby rock, touched it with His right hand, and said, “I declare on the fact that I am the son of Nanda Maharaj and the Lord of Vrindavan, that I will never ever leave My devotees. Never.”

So, my friend picked a small stone from this rock formation where Krishna touched the land of Vrindavan, and where on the strength of His being the son of Nanda Maharaj and being the herder of His cows—yes, He mentioned His cows also—He declared this promise: “I will always be with My dear devotees; I will never ever leave them.”

When we chant Hare Krishna, there are two ways to do it: *kevala nāma*, that is simply chanting, and *sneha samyukta nāma*, that is chanting with affection.

It is this affectionate or affection-enhanced chanting that is of interest to Krishna. Krishna, as we know, wants our love, but it’s so difficult to love someone who is so far away, someone we don’t realize we have a relationship with. When we, however, meditate on Krishna’s solemn promise, “I will always remain with My devotees and never ever leave them,” we begin to feel His affection. This melts our heart, and we become confident in Krishna’s love for us. It’s then that we can chant with affection—*sneha samyukta nāma*—which reaches the Lord and is reciprocated immediately.

Tomorrow, we will hear more on this subject.

I wish you all the best! See you for the next Kartik Inspiration.

Śacīnandana Śraṇi
ŚACĪNANDANA SWAMI

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