

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2024

GOD LOSES CONTROL

Welcome to this *Kartik Inspiration*.

When you look up the word ‘God’ in a Western dictionary, you will find definitions like: the supreme controller, omnipotent, omnipresent, powerful, omniscient, and so on.

But in Vrindavan, the understanding of who Krishna is, is a little different. There are very interesting customs in the Vrindavan theater plays, which are performed before temples, inside specially constructed theater pandals, and similar places. Before anything starts, while the musicians are ready to play and the actors wait behind the curtain, the Krishna character steps forward and sings a song that usually brings showers of ‘ah!’ and ‘oh!’ from the audience. This is what Krishna sings:

“I am under the control of My dear devotees.” See, He is not the supreme controller; He is controlled.

“Throughout the day and night, I keep those devotees in My heart. Not for a moment, or for the duration of the blinking of an eye, do I ever forget them. I find no peace by staying in the Vaikuntha planets, nor in the meditation of the yogis. I find pleasure only where My devotees stay and sing about Me. I disguise Myself according to the desire of My devotees and appear in particular forms to be with them.”

Yes, the supreme Lord comes under the control of the devotees. This also explains why, when we try to come close to Him, we must be careful not to hurt any living entity. Particularly—and especially—we must be careful regarding the devotees.

There was a great mystic in the past, Durvasa Muni, who made a terrible offense against a great devotee. He understood his mistake and prayed to the Lord—this prayer may also be a solution for those who have no taste in their spiritual life due to the reactions of offenses. This is what he said:

“O my Lord, O Supreme Controller, without knowledge of Your unlimited prowess, I have offended Your most dear devotee. Kindly save me from the reactions to this offense. You can do everything. For even if a person is fit for going to hell, You can deliver them simply by awakening within their heart the holy name of Your Lordship.”

Yes, he addressed the Lord as the Supreme Controller. And what did the Lord say? He replied, “It is not within My control to pardon Your offense against My devotee. You must go to them only and ask them for forgiveness. Then, My forgiveness will follow their forgiveness.”

So, I am thinking, Krishna likes His devotees so much that we hesitate to hurt even a mosquito while we are in Vrindavan. If it happens, the most effective solution is to address the matter by speaking with a devotee and sincerely regretting that one’s vision has fallen from the spiritual to the material level, which made one see things wrongly.

Wishing you all the best, lots of spiritual strength, and see you for more.

Śācinandana Swami

ŚACINANDANA SWAMI

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