

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2024

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KRISHNA DOESN'T COUNT EVEN
HUNDREDS OF OFFENSES—
NO MATTER HOW SERIOUS—
WHEN HE SEES SOMEONE
CHANTING THE GLORIOUS NAME
OF RADHARANI, WHO IS THE
QUEEN OF VRINDAVANA'S FOREST.

A VERY AMAZING NAME

Welcome to our *Kartik Inspiration*.

Two days before the month of Kartik started, I went to Varsana to take *darshan*. There, I met a *sadhu* friend whom I've known for twenty years. He was sitting in a very, very tiny, cramped little room with a harmonium, singing the name of Radha.

When he saw me, he jumped up and embraced me. I asked, "Can I sit for a moment with you?" He continued singing, "Radha, Radha, Radha." Just singing.

I inquired, "We're usually chanting both names, Hare and Krishna—Hare meaning Radha and then Krishna. And you sing only Radha's name? What is in your mind?"

Then he pointed out a wonderful verse from the *Sri Sri Radha Rasa Sudha Nidhi*, a work by Prabhodananda Sarasvati Thakur. All these verses are written in marble and decorate a sacred forest, Seva Kunj, in Vrindavan.

My *sadhu* friend pointed out one particular verse—verse 155, which is very noteworthy.

"Oh Srimati Radharani, Madhupati Krishna cancels innumerable offenses committed to saints of anyone who even once relishes the nectarean flavor of Your holy name, and in great ecstasy he considers bestowing Your highest gift, that is Your personal service, on such a soul. Who can then even start to imagine the greatness of anyone whose mind is fixed only to obtain Your service?"

Very interesting! Here, no offenses are considered when chanting the name of Radha. We have heard something like this in the name of Gaura Nitai. When chanting these names, offenses are also forgiven. Gauranga, as you know, is Krishna in the mood of Radha. Srimati Radharani is so forgiving, so accepting, and so loving that She does like this.

So, I remembered this conversation as I returned to the place where I'm staying. Then, a good friend and godbrother gave me the name of Radha, beautifully engraved on a wooden plate. And I keep it in my room together with a peacock feather that represents Krishna.

This is something to think about—the name of Radha is mentioned eight times in the Hare Krishna *maha mantra*. It is very much represented in our chanting. And we now know that Krishna doesn't count even hundreds of offenses—even if done towards a great devotee—when He sees someone chanting the glorious name of the one He has made the Queen of Vrindavan's forest.

I wish you all the best in your chanting. Please, sometimes, remember the meaning, "O Radha, O Krishna, please accept me."

And, you will see that your chanting becomes much more imbued with ecstatic, or shall we say, devotional feelings.

Wishing you all the best.

See you for the next *Kartik Inspiration*.

Prabhodananda Sarasvati
ŚACINANDANA SWAMI