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Monsoon Showers of Affection

Welcome to this special Kartik Inspiration. I call it Monsoon Showers of Affection.

Once, Keshava Swami asked us at the beginning of his lecture, “What do you constantly think about? What, when you have it, will take care of all your anxieties?”

We had different answers. Someone said, “I constantly think of money and if I have enough, my anxieties are taken care of.” Others talked about their partners and so on. Then, our Maharaja smiled at us and said, “See, the people in Vrindavan constantly think of Krishna. And when you can also constantly think of Krishna, all your anxieties will be taken care of.”

There are also wonderful examples amongst the associates of Krishna, and hearing about them from the great devotees is like receiving showers of nectar. These saints are like clouds that always pour nectar over the garden of the world. And as a result, prema sprouts.

When there is good rain, the seeds that were buried in the earth get nourishment, start growing, and turn into crops like wheat and sugarcane. Similarly, in all our hearts, there is a deep, natural love for Krishna. He is the one closest to our hearts. Krishna is the one who knew our face, even the one which we had before this birth. However, our love for Him gets covered over by layer upon layer of earth. That’s why we need monsoon showers of Krishna-katha. And as a result, these seeds begin to sprout and produce the fruits of love.

A very inspiring example of being focused on Krishna is Variyasi. Variyasi is Krishna’s paternal grandmother. She is so happy with her beloved grandson that, as Raghunatha Dasa Gosvami describes it, her feet no longer touch the ground. She seems to float. And just like her husband, Parjanya, she always jokes around with Krishna.

This closeness arises when the heart of a devotee is linked with strong feelings of possessiveness, “You’re my Lord. You belong to me. You’re not a distant God. You’re not the God of the scholars, not the God of the yogis. You are the God who makes efforts to save all the devotees and all souls who have fallen away from You, and who struggle for existence in the complex web of material life.” With this feeling (You are my Lord, You are mine!), prema, or divine love, can come very naturally.

This is what we can learn from Variyasi. Variyasi constantly calls out to Krishna with a joking and humorous voice. Again and again, she says, “Oh, nati chand, moonlike grandson, come here!”

And she always feels so filled with the thought of Krishna that this is so enlivening to her; it uplifts her. It really lifts her above the ground. So, let us pay our obeisances or admire the paternal grandmother of Krishna.

See you for next Kartik Inspiration.

Ratnandana Pravin

SACINANDANA SWAMI