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Krishna can liberate anyone  
in the universe, but He Himself  
is bound by the ropes  
of love of His devotees.

# The Shining Lamp of Devotion

Welcome to this Kartik Inspiration.

Today is Dipavali [Diwali], the Festival of Light. There are two meanings of this festival. One is that Lord Rama comes home, and the Ayodhyavasis, who are so pleased that the Lord returns to His town after so many years of living in exile, light up their houses. In this way, the Lord will know where to direct His transcendental vimana carrier to land. “Come to my house. I have lit a path for you,” that's the idea of Dipavali.

The second meaning is something entirely different. It is on this day that Mother Yasoda bound Krishna with a rope. There is a particularly amazing detail of this pastime: After Krishna had pulled down the two twin Arjuna trees—with the mortar, to which mother Yasoda had bound Him—two shining devatas emerged and paid their obeisances to Him and offered some prayers. Then, Krishna, after having liberated them, sent them to higher planets. He stood there musing. He said, “I can liberate everyone in the universe, except for Myself. I am bound with this rope which Mother Yasoda put around Me, and I cannot, I will not, I shall not, sever it because I am bound by the love of My devotees.”

Let us ask the question: How will we come to meet that Lord of divine love?

Today, I'd like to remember a particular incident in answer to this question. It's an incident where Srila Prabhupada was asked by one of his disciples, “Will we recognize you in the spiritual world when we arrive there?” Prabhupada's answer deserves our full attention. He said, “Yes, that is my role. The spiritual master will take your hand and put your hand in Krishna's hand and make the introduction.”

Yes, somehow or other, Krishna has made an arrangement for us here in this world to set our foot on the path that leads to Him. He has made a great effort to reveal the Vedic scriptures. He has sent saints who walk this earth and sprinkle the nectar of Krishna-katha on the people who are like a dried field so that the crops of devotional feelings can grow. He has also made arrangements for all of us to move forward.

On this day, where we celebrate in song and in dance the Lord who was bound by the love of His devotees, I request you all to pause for a moment and think of the arrangements which the Lord has made for you. When you look at the arrangements, you might be inspired by these words, “God spoke today in flowers, and I, who was waiting for words, almost missed the conversation.”

Thank you very much, see you for the next Kartik Inspirations.

*Ratnandana Prasad*

SACINANDANA SWAMI