

Protecting the Lord

Welcome to this Kartik Inspiration. Today, I want to ask you a question: Does God need our protection?

In Vrindavan, the Lord, who gives fearlessness to everyone, sometimes pretends that He needs protection by making Himself dependent on His devotees.

There is one girlfriend of Mother Yasoda, Krishna's mother—Ambika—who grew up next to the Queen of Vrindavan (Yasoda). Later, when Yasoda became the mother of Krishna, Ambika became the wet nurse who helped to nurse Krishna. She was so attached to little Krishna, so charmed by Him, that she became very concerned for His safety. This is one of the symptoms of love: you think that no harm should befall the beloved. So, she prayed for a son, and as a result, Durga Devi, whom she prayed to, gave her a son, whom she called Vijaya.

Vijaya is so strong that if he gets intense and roars—for instance, when there is a demon—it's so loud that it seems that the shell of the universe is pierced. He is always by Krishna's side and protects Him because his mother has requested it. In this way, there is a great sense of protectiveness of Krishna amongst His friends.

Srila Rupa Goswami describes this mood by saying that they cannot tolerate even a mosquito coming too close, so they address each other, "O, Mandalibhadra! O Vijaya! O Badhravan! Don't be agitated for nothing! Don't pick up your heavy mace! Don't throw your shakti

for no reason; these are just some clouds rumbling above Govardhan Hill. This is not a large bull demon like Aristasura."

From this, we can see that they are so devoted to protecting Krishna. Mother Yasoda tells these boys to always be around Krishna. They should walk before Krishna and ahead of Him. They should be on His sides and in the back. By the way, it's not such a military protocol—by doing so, they will play their flutes and throw fruits; they will take a palmful of dust and throw it in the air; they will joke and crack various humorous statements, and so on. But their mood is: we need to take care of Krishna.

During this Kartik, we can actually try to relate to Krishna in a way that is practical for us. Certainly not to protect Him—we are not in that very, very close circle of friends of the same age. But we should take some 'time alone with Krishna' where we can actually focus on Him. Rumi said something very beautiful about this alone time with Krishna: "Whenever you are alone, remind yourself that God has sent everyone else away so that now it is only you and Him."

This alone time with Krishna will stabilize our relationship. It will establish our close relationship and bring us many sweet realizations.

See you for the next Kartik inspiration.

Ramanandana Brahm
SACINANDANA SWAMI

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