

# Throw Out Envy

Welcome to this Kartik inspiration!

Actually, I am beginning to really see all of you in front of me, and I feel great gratitude that we are spending time together, although it's happening through the computer this month of Kartik.

Today, we will focus on what could be the most significant task for all of us on the spiritual path. See, there is one obstacle, one reason why we are here in the material world, that needs to be confronted and then solved. It's envy. Envy of the success of others and ultimately towards the Lord, which manifests in not wanting to give Him the position in our life that He has, that is being the center of all our existence, the source of our very life.

There is a beautiful story, or a wonderful personality, that is the older brother of Nanda Maharaja, who teaches us how to overcome envy.

Nanda Maharaja had two older and two younger brothers. He was exactly the middle one. His oldest brother's name was Upananda. He was the son of Parjanya Maharaja, who founded the Braja settlement. As Parjanya Maharaja grew older, he felt that he would like to devote all his time to worshipping Lord Hari, and retire from managing his small kingdom.

One day, he called a large assembly of cowherd men together and, before everyone, crowned his oldest son, Upananda, as the new king. Upananda accepted this, but there was something in his heart. There was also something in the heart of Parjanya Maharaja; in fact, the same feeling was in the heart of everyone present, namely, "What's about Nanda? He possesses such wonderful qualities, and just looking at him and his example is so supremely inspiring."

So, Upananda then did something extraordinary. He called Nanda, who was not there, into the assembly, embraced him lovingly,

and gave him the entire kingdom of Gokula, which he had just received from his own father, by putting on the royal tilaka on the forehead of Nanda. He placed his thumb into a red sindura and made an upward line on his forehead. Everyone gasped in astonishment. Parjanya Maharaja looked on, and his eyes widened with bliss, because all this time he had been desirous to give the kingdom to Nanda, because of the countless attributes which Nanda had. Still, he thought it was perhaps better to follow the social etiquette and give it to the oldest son.

When Upananda saw the deep emotions that went through the assembly, he began to speak, "Don't think that this is a thoughtless action of mine! Don't think, I just acted out of affection! No, this is not a whimsical action on my behalf, because I have seen the great superior qualities of Nanda, which have an overwhelming, all-controlling effect. I also feel that it is the desire of the Lord that it is Nanda who rules over us all. I will serve him as a sub-Nanda, a little under him as a minister, and will see that all the affairs are taken care of."

Now, as Upananda spoke, everyone just shouted, "Jay-ho, jay-ho, jay-ho!", and the devatas showered flowers, because Upananda had thrown out envy so totally, so completely, and with a heart so soft and free, he could act upon the desire of the Lord, the secret desire of everyone, and he enjoyed doing it.

When you become free from the chains of envy, you are actually able to walk with confidence and happiness in your heart. Please consider the areas of your life where you might reconsider your attitude toward someone. Instead of envying, become empowering, and you will see that the doors to the world will open widely and invitingly for you.

See you for the next Kartik inspiration!

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Free yourself from the chains of envy!  
Choose to empower instead, and you  
will walk with confidence and joy.