

## A New Heart

Welcome to this episode of Kartik Inspirations.

This month, I intend to read Raghunatha Dasa Goswami's book on the associates of Krishna and the spiritual world. There is a reason for this. It is said that our social self—the way we carry ourselves through life—is built up in association with mundane society. We learn our language, the way we dress, and the way we behave by interacting with our social environment.

If we want to develop our spiritual identity, we need to acquaint ourselves with the spiritual environment—the associates of Krishna, how they interact with Him, and how Krishna reciprocates with their loving devotional service. We need to learn about sacred places, sacred rivers, and sacred mountains. In this way, we gradually develop our spiritual awareness and ultimately our spiritual persona.

The book I will quote from was written by Raghunatha Dasa Goswami. His life is vividly described in the Bhakti Ratnakara, where we gain a clear picture of him. The Bhakti Ratnaka says, "Raghunatha's heart was always burning in the fire of separation. He would say, 'Where are You, Radha and Krishna? Where are you, my exalted spiritual masters, Swarupa Damodara, Rupa, and Sanatana?'"

He rolled in the dust, and because he constantly cried, he floated in his own tears. At every moment, his body became weaker—but although it became so fragile that the wind could blow it away, he would still perform all his duties. For instance, whenever he would see a Vaishnava, he would fall on the ground and offer his obeisances, although the other devotees forbade him to do so. He would forget himself when he worshiped his Govardhana Shila and the gunja beads that

Mahaprabhu had given him. And because he was so absorbed in Radha and Krishna, day and night, he could not distinguish any longer whether it was day or night in this world. In his ecstatic trance of Krishna consciousness, he would always see Radha and Krishna along with Their associates. And so he wrote about Them.

This is an ecstatic book, written in the language of tears, or the ink of tears. It is written by a person whose spiritual vision was so exalted and awakened that he could actually paint a perfect picture of the spiritual reality before our eyes. By listening and hearing about this picture, we will gradually become transformed. And just like a little child who learns to speak from others, we will also learn to think, speak, and act by looking at the exalted examples of the Vaishnavas.

This was a long introduction. Please come back for the following episodes, where we will hear some of the most amazing pastimes of Radha and Krishna, and how we might approach Them.

Let me put a little postscript here. It's good if we tune ourselves into the amazing visions of Raghunatha Dasa Goswami which we will hear about. So, when you offer your light today or have your Krishna-moment, please see this great soul sitting at the banks of the sacred Radha-kunda, envisioning the pastimes of the Lord. And then pray that some of the realizations that Raghunatha Dasa Goswami has written down on palm leaves will come into your heart and transform it.

What we want to do in these Kartik Inspirations is to listen to something new; we want to develop a new set of eyes and a new heart, so that we can relish the spiritual reality.

See you soon!

*Raghunatha Dasa Goswami*  
SACINANDANA SWAMI

To develop our spiritual identity,  
we must learn to think, speak,  
and act by following the examples  
of the exalted Vaishnavas.