



KARTIK MONTH



दामोदर मास



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Glories of Month of Kartik I

1. There is no other month equal to Kartika and there is no other yuga equal to Krta-yuga. There is no other scripture equal to Vedas. There is no other place of pilgrimage equal to Ganges, therefore, the month of Kartika is very dear to the Vaishnavas.- Skanda Purana
2. In the Padma Purana it is said, "The Lord may offer liberation or material happiness to a devotee, but after some devotional service has been executed, particularly in Mathura during the month of Karttika, the devotees want only to attain pure devotional service unto the Lord." The purport is that the Lord does not award devotional service to ordinary persons who are not serious about it. But even such unserious persons who execute devotional service according to the regulative principles during the month of Karttika, and within the jurisdiction of Mathura in India, are very easily awarded the Lord's personal service." (Srila Prabhupada in NOD chap. 12)
3. durlabho bhakti-yogo me mama vasyavidhayakah
karttike mathurayam ca vratenanena labhyate
"Pure devotional service to Me which, because it places Me under My devotee's dominion, is very difficult to attain, is easily attained by following this vow in Mathura during Karttika."
4. "To they who worship Krishna in Vrindavan, the Lord gives them their original spiritual forms. The perfect atonement to purify the sins of a lifetime is to worship Lord Damodara in Vrindavan during Kartik. The month of Kartik spent in Vrindavan brings the supreme destination." Srila Rupa Goswami, Mathura Mahatamayam
5. "Although one can easily reach Mathura [Vraja Mandala] on this earth, and although Kartik month is easily observable, and although in the month of Kartik all of the places of pilgrimage, oceans, rivers, and lakes come to the Mathura area, still, those human beings who are foolish and suffering in the ocean of material existence do not take advantage of it." (Padma Purana)
6. Kartik is the best, the purest of purifiers, and most glorious of all months. Kartik month is particularly dear to Lord Sri Krsna. This month is full of bhakta vatsalya. Any vrata, even the smallest, will yield huge results. The effect of performing a Kartik Vrata lasts for one hundred lifetimes, whereas ordinary vratas only last for one lifetime! Srimati Radhika is the presiding deity of the holy month of Kartik. Rupa Goswami and others refer to Radharani as Kartik Devi; in other words, Radhika is the goddess or presiding Deity of the Kartik Vrata. - Padma Purana : quoted by Srila Sanatana Goswami in his Hari-Bhakti Vilasa

Glories of Month of Kartik II

1. “Among all twelve months, the month of Kartika is dear to Lord Sri Krishna. If somebody performs a little worship of Lord Sri Hari in this month, He offers that devotee His own abode. This statement is true. (Padma Purana)
2. “The result one obtains by giving ten thousand cows in charity can be obtained by offering only one tulasi leaf to the Supreme Lord during the month of Kartika. (Hari Bhakti Vilasa 7.335)
3. “A person who happily reads the Bhagavad Gita in the month of Kartik does not return to the world of birth and death.
4. “The pious result obtained by bathing in all holy places and giving all charities is not equal to one ten-millionth part of the result obtained by following the vow of Kartik.
5. "In the month of Kartik, which is very dear to Sri Hari, one who bathes early in the morning attains the merit of bathing in all places of pilgrimage. Anybody who offers the Lord a ghee lamp in the month of Kartik, o brahmana, becomes free from all kinds of sins, such as killing a brahmana, and he goes to the abode of Lord Hari.” (Brahma Khanda).
6. If there are so many benedictions for even the so called “unserious” people, one can even attain Krishna's personal service simply by "executing devotional service according to the regulative principles during the month of Kārttika", wouldn't then it be a good idea for devotees to get serious?

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Damodar Ashtakam

(1)

namāmīśvaram sac-cid-ānanda-rūpam
lasat-kunḍalam gokule bhrājamaṇam
yaśodā-bhiyolūkhalād dhāvamāṇam
parāmr̥ṣṭam atyantato drutya gopyā

(2)

rudantam muhur netra-yugmam mṛjantam
karāmbhoja-yugmena sātāṅka-netram
muhuḥ śvāsa-kampa-trirekhāṅka-kaṇṭha-
sthita-graivam dāmodaram bhakti-baddham

(3)

itīdṛk sva-līlābhir ānanda-kunḍe
sva-ghoṣam nimajjantam ākhyāpayantam
tadīyeṣita-jñeṣu bhaktair jitatvam
punaḥ prematas tam śatāvṛtti vande

(4)

varam deva mokṣam na mokṣāvadhim vā
na canyam vṛṇe 'ham vareṣād apīha
idam te vapur nātha gopāla-bālam
sadā me manasy āvirāstām kim anyaiḥ

(5)

idam te mukhāmbhojam atyanta-nīlair
vṛtam kuntalaiḥ snigdha-raktaiś ca gopyā
muhuś cumbitam bimba-raktādharam me
manasy āvirāstām alam lakṣa-lābhaiḥ

(6)

namo deva dāmodarānanta viṣṇo
prasīda prabho duḥkha-jālābdhi-magnam
kṛpā-dr̥ṣṭi-vṛṣṭyāti-dīnam batānu
gṛhāṇeṣa mām ajñam edhy akṣi-dr̥śyaḥ

(7)

kuverātmajau baddha-mūrtyaiva yadvat
tvayā mocitau bhakti-bhājau kṛtau ca
tathā prema-bhaktim svakām me prayaccha
na mokṣe graho me 'sti dāmodareha

(8)

namas te 'stu dāmne sphurad-dīpti-dhāmne
tvadīyodarāyātha viśvasya dhāmne
namo rādhikāyai tvadīya-priyāyai
namo 'nanta-līlāya devāya tubhyam

Translation

(Spoken by Satyavrata Muni)

(1)

To the supreme controller, who possesses an eternal form of blissful knowledge, whose glistening earrings swing to and fro, who manifested Himself in Gokula, who stole the butter that the gopis kept hanging from the rafters of their storerooms and who then quickly jumped up and ran in retreat in fear of Mother Yasoda but was ultimately caught - to that Supreme Lord, Sri Damodara, I offer my humble obeisances.

(2)

Upon seeing His mother's whipping stick, He cried and rubbed His eyes again and again with His two lotus hands. His eyes were fearful and His breathing quick, and as Mother Yasoda bound His belly with ropes, He shivered in fright and His pearl necklace shook. To this Supreme Lord, Sri Damodara, I offer my humble obeisances.

(3)

Those superexcellent pastimes of Lord Krishna's babyhood drowned the inhabitants of Gokula in pools of ecstasy. To the devotees who are attracted only to His majestic aspect of Narayana in Vaikuntha, the Lord herein reveals: "I am conquered and overwhelmed by pure loving devotion." To the Supreme Lord, Damodara, my obeisances hundreds and hundreds of times.

(4)

O Lord, although You are able to give all kinds of benedictions, I do not pray to You for liberation, nor eternal life in Vaikuntha, nor any other boon. My only prayer is that Your childhood pastimes may constantly

appear in my mind. O Lord, I do not even want to know your feature of Paramatma. I simply wish that Your childhood pastimes may ever be enacted in my heart.

(5)

O Lord, the cheeks of Your blackish lotus face, which is encircled by locks of curling hair, have become reddened like bimba fruits due to Mother Yasoda's kisses. What more can I describe than this? Millions of opulences are of no use to me, but may this vision constantly remain in my mind.

(6)

O unlimited Vishnu! O master! O Lord! Be pleased upon me! I am drowning in an ocean of sorrow and am almost like a dead man. Please shower the rain of mercy on me; uplift me and protect me with Your nectarean vision.

(7)

O Lord Damodara, in Your form as a baby Mother Yasoda bound You to a grinding stone with a rope for tying cows. You then freed the sons of Kuvera, Manigriva and Nalakuvara, who were cursed to stand as trees and You gave them the chance to become Your devotees. Please bless me in this same way. I have no desire for liberation into Your effulgence.

(8)

O Lord, the entire universe was created by Lord Brahma, who was born from Your abdomen, which was bound with a rope by Mother Yasoda. To this rope I offer my humble obeisances. I offer my obeisances to Your most beloved Srimati Radharani and to Your unlimited pastimes

दामोदरष्टकम्

श्रील सत्य व्रत मुनि द्वारा कृत

(1)

नमामीश्वरं सचिदानन्दरूपं,
लसत्कुण्डलं गोकुले भ्राजमानम्
यशोदाभियोलूखलाद्भावमानं,
परामृष्टमत्यंततो द्रुत्य गोप्या

(5)

इदं ते मुखांभोजमत्यन्तनीलैर्,
वृतं कुन्तलैः स्निग्ध –वक्रैश्च गोप्या
मुहुश्चुम्बितं बिम्बरक्ताधरं मे,
मनस्याविरास्तामलं लक्षलाभैः

(2)

रुदन्तं मुहुर्नेत्रयुग्मं मृजन्तं,
करांभोजयुग्मेन सातङ्कनेत्रम्
मुहुः श्वासकंप – त्रिरेखाङ्ककण्ठ,
स्थितग्रैवदामोदरं भक्तिबद्धम्

(6)

नमो देव दामोदरानन्त विष्णोः!,
प्रसीद प्रभो! दुःखजालाब्धिमग्नम्
कृपादृष्टि वृष्टयातिदीनं बतानु
गृहाणेश! मामज्ञमेध्यक्षिदृश्यः

(3)

इतीदृक्स्वलीलाभिरानन्द कुण्डे,
स्वघोषं निमज्जन्तमाख्यापयन्तम्
तदीयेशितज्ञेषु भक्तैर्जितत्वं,
पुनः प्रेमतस्तं शतावृत्ति वन्दे

(7)

कुबेरात्मजौ बद्धमूर्त्यैव यद्वत्,
त्वया मोचितौ भक्तिभाजौ कृतौ च
तथा प्रेमभक्तिं स्वकां मे प्रयच्छ,
न मोक्षे ग्रहो मेऽस्ति दामोदरेह

(4)

वरं देव! मोक्षं न मोक्षावधिं वा,
न चान्यं वृणेऽहं वरेशादपीह
इदं ते वपुर्नाथ! गोपालबालं,
सदा मे मनस्याविरास्तां किमन्यैः?

(8)

नमस्तेऽस्तु दाम्ने स्फुरद्दीप्तिधाम्ने
त्वदीयोदरायाथ विश्वस्य धाम्ने
नमो राधिकायै त्वदीयाप्रियायै,
नमोऽनन्त लीलाय देवाय तुभ्यम्

अर्थ

- (1) जिनका सर्वेश्वर सच्चिदानंद स्वरूप है, जिनके कपोलों पर मकराकृत कुंडल हिलडुल रहे हैं, जो गोकुल नामक दिव्य धाम में परम शोभायमान हैं, जो (दधिभाण्ड फोड़ने के कारण) माँ यशोदा के डर से ऊखल से दूर दौड़ रहे हैं किन्तु जिन्हें माँ यशोदा ने उनसे भी अधिक वेगपूर्वक दौड़कर पकड़ लिया है- ऐसे भगवान् दामोदर को मैं अपना विनम्र प्रणाम अर्पित करता हूँ।
- (2) (माँ के हाथ में लठिया देखकर) वे रोते-रोते बारम्बार अपनी आँखों को अपने दोनों हस्तकमलों से मसल रहे हैं। उनके नेत्र भय से विह्वल हैं, रूदन के आवेग से सिसकियाँ लेने के कारण उनके त्रिरेखायुक्त कण्ठ में पड़ी हुई मोतियों की माला कम्पित हो रही है। उन परमेश्वर भगवान् दामोदर का, जिनका उदर रस्सियों से नहीं अपितु यशोदा माँ के वात्सल्य-प्रेम से बंधा है, मैं प्रणाम करता हूँ।
- (3) जो ऐसी बाल्य-लीलाओं के द्वारा गोकुलवासियों को आनन्द-सरोवरों में डुबोते रहते हैं, और अपने ऐश्वर्य-ज्ञान में मग्न अपने भावों के प्रति यह तथ्य प्रकाशित करते हैं कि उन्हें भय-आदर की धारणाओं से मुक्त अंतरंग प्रेमी भक्तों द्वारा ही जीता जा सकता है, उन भगवान् दामोदर को मैं कोटि-कोटि प्रणाम करता हूँ।
- (4) हे प्रभु, यद्यपि आप हर प्रकार के वर देने में समर्थ हैं, तथापि मैं आपसे न तो मोक्ष अथवा मोक्ष के चरम सीमारूप वैकुण्ठ में शाश्वत जीवन और ही (नवधा भक्ति द्वारा प्राप्त) कोई अन्य वरदान माँगता हूँ। हे नाथ! मेरी तो बस इतनी ही इच्छा है कि आपका यह वृंदावन का बालगोपाल रूप मेरे हृदय में सदा प्रकाशित रहे, क्योंकि इसके सिवा मुझे किसी अन्य वरदान से प्रयोजन ही क्या है?
- (5) हे प्रभु! लालिमायुक्त कोमल श्यामवर्ण के घुँघराले बालों से घिरा हुआ आपका मुखकमल माँ यशोदा के द्वारा बारंबार चुम्बित हो रहा है और आपके होंठ बिम्बफल की भांति लाल हैं। आपके मुखमंडल का यह सुन्दर दृश्य मेरे हृदय में सदा विराजित रहे। मुझे लाखों प्रकार के दूसरे लाभों की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं।
- (6) हे भगवान्, मैं आपको प्रणाम करता हूँ। मैं आपको प्रणाम करता हूँ। हे दामोदर, हे अनंत, हे विष्णु, हे नाथ, मेरे प्रभु, मुझपर प्रसन्न हो जाइये! मैं दुःखों के सागर में डूबा जा रहा हूँ। मेरे ऊपर अपनी कृपादृष्टि की वर्षा करके मुझ दीन-हीन शरणागत का उद्धार कीजिए और मेरे नेत्रों के समझ प्रकट हो जाइये।
- (7) हे भगवान्! दामोदर, जिस प्रकार आपने दामोदर रूप से नलकूबर और मणिग्रीव नामक कुबेरपुत्रों को नारद जी के शाप से मुक्तकर उन्हें अपना महान भक्त बना लिया था, उसी प्रकार मुझे भी आप अपनी प्रेम भक्ति प्रदान कर दीजिए। यही मेरा एकमात्र आग्रह है मुझे किसी भी प्रकार के मोझ की कोई इच्छा नहीं है।
- (8) हे भगवान् दामोदर, मैं सर्वप्रथम आपके उदर को बाँधने वाली दीप्तिमान रस्सी को प्रणाम करता हूँ। आपकी प्रियतमा श्रीमती राधारानी के चरणों में मेरा सादर प्रणाम है, और अनंत लीलायें करने वाले आप परमेश्वर को मेरा प्रणाम है।

Virtues of Offering Dipa (deep) I

1. When one offers a lamp during the month of Kartika, his sins of many thousands and millions of births perish in half an eye blink.
2. If somebody burns a lamp in the temple of Lord Shri Hari even for a short time (in the month of Kartik), then whatever sins, he has acquired for millions of kalpas (one kalpa equals 1000 yugas) are all destroyed.
3. Of all gifts, the gift of a lamp during the month of Kartik is the best. No gift is its equal.
4. Even if there is no mantras, no pious deeds, and no purity, everything becomes perfect when a person offers a lamp during the month of Kartika.
5. A person who during the month of Kartika offers a lamp to Lord Keshava has already performed all yajnas and bathing in all the holy rivers.
6. To one who either at home or in a temple offers a lamp during the month of Kartika, Lord Vasudeva gives a great result.
7. A person who offer a lamp to Lord Krishna during the month of Damodara (Kartika) becomes very glorious and fortune.
8. No sins exist anywhere in the three worlds that will not be purified by offering a lamp to Lord Keshava during Kartika.
9. A person who offers a lamp to Lord Damodara during Kartika attains the eternal spiritual world where there is no suffering.
10. Sri Sri Damodarastakam is sung during Kartika, also known as month of Damodara. As quoted in the Sri Hari Bhakti Vilasa, "In the month of Kartika one should wprship Lord Damodara and daily recite the prayer known as Damodarastaka, which has been spoken by Sage Satyavratra and which attracts Lord Damodara. (Sri Hari Bhakti Vilasa 2.16.198)"

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Virtues of Offering Dipa (deep) II

(Skanda Purana, dialogue between Brahma and Narada)

1. The sins accumulated in millions of kalpas vanish in an instant when a dipa is offered during Kartika. O great brahmana, listen to this dipa's virtues, which are dear to Kesava. By offering a dipa in this month a person will not take birth on earth again. (99-100)
2. This dipa-dana bestows all the benefits available at Kuruksetra during solar eclipses and at Narmada during lunar eclipses, multiplied by the millions. O great sage, what is the value of Asvamedha sacrifices for someone who in this month lights ghee or sesame oil lamps? By this offering to the Lord, all prescribed activities, even if devoid of mantra, rituals, and cleanliness, are brought to perfection. Anyone who offers dipa to Kesava during Kartika is actually performing all sorts of ablutions and sacrificial ceremonies. (101-104)
3. On the other hand, all the pious deeds of the three worlds are not effective if this Kartika dipa does not burn before Lord Kesava. (105)
4. O brahmana, since time immemorial the ancestors are praying, 'If a scion who can please Lord Kesava by this dipa-dana would appear in our lineage, we would certainly all become liberated by the mercy of the Lord, who has a cakra on His hand.' (106-107)
Moreover, even if the volume of one's sins equals Mount Meru, this dipa-dana can certainly incinerate them. Be it in a temple of Lord Vasudeva or in one's private house, this offering yield amazing results. Indeed, the person who lights this dipa before Madhusudana is fortunate and glorious, because even hundreds of sacrifices and ablutions in holy places cannot match the results instantly acquired by this dipa-dana. (108-111)
6. Even one who never performs religious rituals or even the worst sinner will surely be purified by this offering. O Narada, in the three worlds there is no sin that can stand before this Kartika dipa. In fact, by presenting this dipa before Lord Vasudeva, the eternal abode can be reached without obstruction. (112-114)
7. Now I will tell you about the merits accruing to one who offers a dipa with camphor throughout Kartika, or particularly on the day of Dvadasi. O Narada, all the born or to-be-born members of one's family line, including all the innumerable forefathers, will enjoy in heaven for a long time according to their wishes, and will attain liberation by the grace of Lord Hari, who has a cakra on His hand. (115-117)
8. In this month, O great brahmana, a person who illuminates Lord Kesava's temple even for the sake of gambling purifies his family up to seven generations. And those who kindle this Kartika dipa in a temple of Lord Visnu will prosper with wealth, progeny, good reputation, and fame. Just as friction manifests the fire inherent in any wood, so this dipa-dana undoubtedly manifests dharma (present in any action) . (118-120)
9. O eminent brahmana, the destitute should also arrange for this offering throughout the month, until the full-moon day, even if it is necessary to sell his own person to do so. (121)
10. The fool who does not offer this dipa in Lord Kesava's temple during Kartika, O sage, should never be considered a Vaisnava. (122)

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Virtues of A String of Lamps (Dipa-Mala)

A person who arranges a dipa-mala inside and outside Lord Visnu's temple will attain a form similar to the Lord's, with conch and cakra. Moreover, he is assured that in his family line hundreds of thousands will not go to hell. (138-139)

O sage, he who arranges a dipa-mala inside and outside Lord Visnu's temple will leave for the supreme abode on the path illuminated by those very dipas. (140) (Skanda Purana, dialogue between Brahma and Narada)

A person who arranges a beautiful dipa-mala during Kartika and particularly on the days of Ekadasi, when the Lord awakens, and Dvadasi, illuminates the four directions with his radiance and, situated on a luminous vehicle, brightens the universe with the luster of his body. He will live in Visnuloka for as many thousands years as the number of ghee lamps that he arranged. (141-143) (Bhavisya Purana)

Virtues of dipa elevated to sky (akasa-dipa)

(Padma Purana, dialogue between Sri Krsna and Satyabhama)

A person who in this month elevates a lamp high in the sky delivers his family and reaches the abode of Lord Visnu. (144)

Now listen to the merits of elevating dipas or floating them on water in Lord Visnu's honor during Kartika: these dipas will bring wealth, abundance, prosperity, all sorts of opulence, progeny, a benign glance and wisdom. (145-146)

Moreover, the sages say that anyone who arranges a Kartika dipa for the house of a brahmana will gain the results of an Agnisöoma sacrifice . Dipas placed at crossroads, by the sides of main roads, in brahmanas' houses, at the roots of trees, in cow-pens, in forests, or in caves, all bestow great results. (147-148)

Akasa-dipa-mantra:

damodaraya nabhasi tulayaà lolaya saha
pradipan te prayacchami namo' nantaya vedhase

In this month of Kartika I'm elevating this dipa to the sky for You, O Damodara, Who are accompanied by Laksmi . O Unlimited, O Supreme Creator, I offer my obeisances to You. (149)

Festivals In The Month Of Kartik

1. Sharad Purnima – Lord Krishna expanded Himself 1000s of time and performed Raas Lila
2. Bahulashtami - Appearance of Radha Kunda & Syama Kund
3. Rama Ekadasi - Fast from Grains
4. Dhanteras
5. Naraka Chaturdashi – Krishna kills Narkasura; frees 16000 queens. Queens take shelter of Krishna coz no one will marry them now. Krishna expands Himself 16000 times, marries and lives with each one of the individually.
6. Diwali – Lord Rama returns to Ayodhya
7. Damodar Lila – When mother Yashoda binds Krishna
8. Govardhan Puja – Worship of Cows and Govardhan hill
9. Bhaiya Dooj – When Yamuna met her brother Yamaraj
10. Disappearance day of Srila Prabhupada
11. Gopashtami – Krishna becomes a cowherd boy
12. Kamsa Vadha Lila – Killing of Demon Kamsa and Freeing Devaki & Vasudev
13. Disappearance day of Srila Gaura Kishor Das Babji
14. Utthan Ekadasi
15. Bhimshma Panchak – In the last 5 days of Karthik, Bhimsadev prayed to Lord while preparing to leave his body
16. Tulasi Vivaha – Marriage ceremony of Tulasi and Vishnu
