

QUOTES ON DĀMODARA MONTH

1)O great brāhmaṇa, if the opportunity to perform vratas during Kārtika is neglected all pious merits amassed in the past are reduced to ashes, the study of Vedas and Purāṇas becomes futile, charity, japa, and penances become fruitless, and reaching svarga, becomes impossible, despite the performance of countless sacrifices and hundreds of Śraddhā ceremonies.

Padma Purāṇa.

2)As Satya-yuga is the best of yugas (ages), as the Vedas are the best among scriptures, as Gaṅgā is best of rivers, so Kārtika is the best of months, the most dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa.

All holy places reside in the month of Kārtika, which is eternally dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa. Whatever pious deeds one performs to please Lord Viṣṇu during the month of Kārtika brings benefit that is eternal. O Nārada, I speak to you the truth.

Skanda Purāṇa

3)Of the twelve months, this month is particularly dear to Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Śrī Vishnu certainly rewards the devotee who worships Him during Kārtika with residence in His own abode, even if worshipped with minimum items. Dāmodara is famous as bhakta-vatsala, and His month imbibes His characteristics: it rewards even a tiny effort with huge results.

Text 41, Kartika-mahatmya, Hari-bhakti-vilāsa

4)During the month of Kārtika, they who with love hear the topics of Lord Viṣṇu, even if they hear only half a verse or a fourth of a verse, attain the pious result of giving a hundred cows in charity.

Text 75, Kartika-mahatmya, Hari-bhakti-vilāsa

5)O tiger of sages, a person who during the month of Kārtika eagerly hears the topics of Lord Krishna delivers a hundred generations of his family.

Text 75, Kartika-mahatmya, Hari-bhakti-vilāsa

6)O tiger of sages, a person who during the month of Kārtika hears the topics of Lord Hari becomes free from the sufferings of hundreds and millions of births.

Text 80, Kartika-mahatmya, Hari-bhakti-vilāsa

GLORIES OF WORSHIPING ŚRĪ DĀMODARA DURING KĀRTIKA MONTH

7)When one offers a lamp during the month of Kārtika, his sins in many thousands and millions of births perish in half an eye blink.

Text 77, Kartika-mahatmya, Hari-bhakti-vilāsa

8)Lord Krishna is pleased by the offering of a single lamp during the month of Kārtika. Lord Krishna glorifies anyone who lights a lamp for someone else to offer.

Text 44, Kartika-mahatmya, Hari-bhakti-vilāsa

9)Please hear the glories of offering a lamp during the month of Kārtika, an offering that is very pleasing to Lord Keśava. O king of brāhmaṇas, a person who offers a lamp in this way will not take birth again in this world.

Text 100, Kartika-mahatmya, Hari-bhakti-vilāsa

10)Even one who never performs religious rituals or even the worst sinner will surely be purified by this offering. O Nārada, in the three worlds there is no sin that can stand before this Kārtika dīpa. In fact, by presenting this dīpa before Lord Vāsudeva, the eternal abode can be reached without obstruction.

Text 113 Kartika-mahatmya, Hari-bhakti-vilāsa

11)A person who offers a lamp to Lord Kṛṣṇa during Kārtika attains the eternal spiritual world where there is no suffering.

Text 114, Kartika-mahatmya, Hari-bhakti-vilāsa

12)O king of brāhmaṇas, when someone offers Him a lamp on the full-moon day of the month of Kārtika, Lord Kṛṣṇa, finding that He does not have sufficient money to repay that gift, gives Himself in exchange for that lamp.

Text 121, Kartika-mahatmya, Hari-bhakti-vilāsa

13)In this month, O great brāhmaṇa, a person who illuminates Lord Keśava's temple even for the sake of gambling purifies his family up to seven generations. And those who kindle this Kārtika dīpa in a temple of Lord Viṣṇu will prosper with wealth, progeny, good reputation, and fame. Just as friction manifests the fire inherent in any wood, so this dīpa-dana undoubtedly manifests dharma (present in any action).

Text 139, Kartika-mahatmya, Hari-bhakti-vilāsa

14) One should regularly recite the prayer called Damodarastakam, which was spoken by Satyavrata, which attracts Lord Dāmodara, and which describes the worship of Lord Dāmodara.

Tex 198, Kartika-mahatmya, Hari-bhakti-vilāsa

15) Anyone who recites or even hears this prayer (Damodarastakam), especially in Kārtika, will attract the eternal shelter of devotional service at the lotus feet of Śrī Dāmodara.

(Hari bhakti vilāsa 16.1.198)

16) The perfect atonement to purify the sins of a lifetime is to worship Lord Dāmodara in Vṛndāvana during Kārtika. Kārtika month spent in Vṛndāvana brings the supreme destination.”

(Mathurā Māhātmyam).

17) “During this month, in Vṛndāvana it is the regulative principle to pray daily to Lord Kṛṣṇa in His Dāmodara form. The Dāmodara form refers to Kṛṣṇa in His childhood when He was tied up with rope by His mother, Yaśodā. Dama means ‘ropes,’ and udara means ‘the abdomen.’ So mother Yaśodā, being very disturbed by naughty Kṛṣṇa, bound Him round the abdomen with a rope, and thus Krishna is named Dāmodara.”

(NOD, Chapter 5, page 42)

18) *tasmād vrata tra yam hy etān mama tīva priyankaram
māgha kartikayos tad vat tat hai vaikadasi vratam
van aspatinam tulasī māsānām kartikah priyaḥ*

*ekādaśī tithi nam ca ksetranam dvārakā mama
ete sam sevanam yastu karoti ca jitendriyaḥ
same vallabhatam yati na tat ha yajanadi bhīḥ*

Of all plants, the sacred Tulasī is most dear to Me, of all months, Kārtika is most dear, of all places of pilgrimage, My beloved Dvārakā is most dear, and of all days, Ekādaśī is most dear. One who offers a steady ghee lamp to Lord Hari during the month of Kārtika enjoys pastimes in Lord Hari’s splendid spiritual world.

When one offers a lamp during the month of Kārtika, his sins in many thousands and millions of births perish in half an eye-blink

(Padma purāṇa, Uttarā Kāṇḍa 112.3.)

19) A person who happily reads the Bhagavad Gītā in the month of Kārtika does not return to the world of birth and death.” **(Purāṇas)**

20) “Of all gifts, the gift of a lamp during the month of Kārtika is the best. No gift is its equal.” **(Purāṇas)**

21) 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 Kārtika.” **(Purāṇas)**

22) 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 Mathurā during Kārtika.

(Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa)

23) “In the month of Kārtika, which is very dear to Śrī 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 Kārtika, O brāhmaṇa, becomes free from all kinds of sins, such as killing a brāhmaṇa, and he goes to the abode of Lord Hari.”

(Brahmā Khaṇḍa).

24) Śrīla Prabhupāda says: “The execution of devotional service during Ūrjā-vrata in the month of Kārtika is especially recommended to be performed at Mathurā. This system is still followed by many devotees. They go to Mathurā or Vṛndāvana and stay there during the month of Kārtika specifically to perform devotional services during this period. In the Padma Purāṇa it is said, “The Lord may offer liberation or material happiness to a devotee, but after some devotional service has been executed, particularly in Mathurā during the month of Kārtika, 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 Kārtika, and within the jurisdiction of Mathurā in India, are very easily awarded the Lord’s personal service.” **(Nectar of Devotion, Chapter 12)**

25) “O best of the followers of religion, a person who does not follow the vow of Kārtika-vrata is a sinner. He is like a person who murders. A person who gives ten million cows, all filled with milk and all the mothers of young calves, in charity to the brāhmaṇas does not earn even one sixteenth of the pious merit earned by one who places a lamp on the roof of Lord Kṛṣṇa’s temple.”

Skanda Purāṇa

26) “The chief aim of observing this Urjja-vrata is to please Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara. Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī is called Urjjesvari (the Queen of the Urjja-vrata). Only because of this, in order to establish the pleasure of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara, the sage Satyavrata Muni uttered (in the eight verse of Dāmodarāṣṭaka) the words namo rādhikāyai tvadīya priyāyai – “My obeisances unto Rādhikā, Your most beloved.” By this statement, he indicated that the sole activity to be done during the observance of Dāmodara-vrata is the worship of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara.”

27. *kārtike smin viśeṣeṇa nityam kurvīta vaiṣṇavaḥ
Dāmodara arcanam prātaḥ snāna dana vrata ādikam*

Specifically in the month of Dāmodara, one should daily worship Dāmodara and take bath early in the morning, give charity and follow a fasting vow. This is the duty of Vaiṣṇavas. **(Skanda Purāṇa)**

28) *Niyamena vinā viprāḥ kartikam yaḥ ksipen naraḥ’
Kṛṣṇa paran-mukhas tasya yasmād urjo’sya vallabhah*

Oh brāhmaṇas, any person who tries to observe Kārtika month without following rules and regulations properly, Lord Krishna remains against them because this month (Kārtika) is very pleasing to Him. **(Padma Purāṇa, conversation between Nārada Muni and Śaunaka Ṛṣi)**

The Glories of the month of Kārtika

29. *kārtika khalu vai masam sarva masesu ca uttamam
puṇyānām paramaṁ puṇyam pāvanānām ca pāvanam*
(SKANDA PURĀṆA)

The month of Kārtika is the topmost of all other months. It is the most meritorious and purified of all other pure months.

30. *na kārtika śamo maso na kṛtena samaṁ yugam
na veda sadṛśaṁ śāstraṁ na tīrtha gaṅgāya samaṁ
kartikah pravaro maso vaiṣṇavānām priyaḥ sadā
kartikam skalam yastu bhaktyā sevate vaiṣṇavaḥ*
(SKANDA PURĀṆA)

There is no other month equal to Kārtika and there is no other yuga equal to Kṛta-yuga. There is no other scripture equal to Vedas. There is no other place of pilgrimage equal to Ganges, therefore, the month of Kārtika is very dear to the Vaiṣṇavas (people dedicated *Viṣṇu*).

31. *dvadasu api masesu kartikah kṛṣṇa vallabhah
tasmin sampujito viṣṇur alpakair apy upayanaih
dadāti vaiṣṇavaṁ lokam iti evaṁ niścitaṁ māyā*
(PADMA PURĀṆA)

Among all twelve months, the month of Kārtika is dear to Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. If somebody performs a little worship of Lord Śrī Hari in this month, He offers that devotee His own abode. This statement is true.

32. *pravrttanam ca bhaksanam kārtike niyame kṛte
āvāsyam kṛṣṇa rupatvam prāpyate muktidaṁ śubham*
(SKANDA PURĀṆA)

Whatever one usually eats, if he gives up some of the ingredients of it in the month of Kārtika, then he achieves the same auspicious form as Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa undoubtedly.

33. *sarva dharmān parityajya kārtike keśava agrataḥ
śāstra avatārāṇām puṇyam srotavyaṁ ca mahāmune*
(SKANDA PURĀṆA Lord Brahmā speaks to Nārada Muni)

Oh great sage, after giving up all varieties of religious functions, one should follow Kārtika fast and listen to the narrations of Lord Śrī Hari before His Deity form.

34. *palāśa patra bhoji ca kārtike puruṣo naraḥ
nispapah syāt tu naivedyam harer bhuktvā vimucyate
madhyastham īśvaram patraṁ varjayed brāhmaṇe taraḥ*
(PADMA PURĀṆA)

Any person in the month of Kārtika, who eats on the leaf plate of Palāśa the remnants of the Lord, becomes free from all sins and achieves liberation. Besides brāhmaṇas (twice born persons), others are not advised to eat from this leaf because this leaf is said to be the leaf of the Supreme Lord.

35. *snānam jāgaraṇaṁ dīpam tulasī vana pālanam
kārtike ye prakurvanti te nara viṣṇu mūrtayaḥ*
(PADMA PURĀṆA Lord Kṛṣṇa speaks to Satyabhāmā)

Any person who performs bathing in the month of Kārtika, remaining awake, offering lamps, giving charity or planting and transplanting Tulasī, he achieves the same form as Lord Śrī Viṣṇu.

36. *kalpa koṭi sahasrāṇi patkani bahūny api
nimeṣa ardhenā dipasya vilayam yānti kārtike*
(SKANDA PURĀṆA)

If even for a short time somebody burns a lamp in the temple of Lord Śrī Hari, then whatever sins he has acquired for millions of kalpas (one kalpa equals 1000 yugas) are all destroyed.

37. *yathā ca mathamad vahniḥ sarva kastesu dṛśyate*
tathā ca dṛśyate dharmo dipadane na saṁśayaḥ
(PADMA PURĀṆA)

Just as by rubbing of two sticks of wood one can see fire, so by offering a burning ghee wick to the Lord in the month of Kārtika, one can see his merits without a doubt.

38. *ekadasyam parer dattam dīpam prajvalya mūṣika*
mānuṣyam durlabhaṁ prāpya param gatim avāpa sa
(SKANDA PURĀṆA)

One rat (female mouse) had once burnt a ghee lamp which was offered by someone else Ekādaśī day. By doing so, she achieved a rarely achievable human form and at last attained the topmost destination.

Śrīla Sanātana Gosvāmī writes in his Digdarsini-tika, "In this verse it is found that it is possible to attain the results of directly offering a lamp on Ekādaśī. This history of the mouse is very famous in the Padma Purāṇa, Kārtika Māhātmya. (In a temple of Lord Viṣṇu, there was a mouse living who was eating the ghee from the extinguished ghee lamps which had been offered by others to Him. One day when she felt hungry to eat ghee, she tried to eat the ghee from a lamp which was not yet extinguished. While eating ghee from the lamp, the cotton wick got stuck in her teeth. Since the ghee wick had a flame, the mouse started jumping in front of the Lord's Deity form and thus died due to fire. But Lord Śrī Viṣṇu accepted the jumping of that mouse with a lit ghee wick in her mouth as His āraṭi. In the end He gave her liberation, the topmost destination.)

39. *mathurāyām narair ūrje snātvā dāmodaro'rcitāḥ*
kṛṣṇa rūpa hi te jñeya na atra kārya vicāraṇa
(PADMA PURĀṆA)

Any person who worships Lord Dāmodara in the month of Kārtika in the Mathurā area, certainly achieves the same form as Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Himself.

40. *kārtike mathurāyām vai pujanad darśanād dhruvaḥ
śīghram sampraptavan bālo durlabhaṁ yoga tatparaiḥ*
(PADMA PURĀṆA)

Although a child, Dhruva Mahārāja during the month of Kārtika in the area of Mathurā worshiped Lord Śrī Dāmodara and immediately became fixed in his devotion, became worshipable by Śaunaka and the other sages and saw the Supreme Personality of Godhead face to face.

41. *sulabha mathurā bhūmau praty abdam kartikas tathā
tathāpi samsarantiha nara mūḍha bhava ambudhau
yāni sarvāṇi tīrthāni nada nadyaḥ saransi ca
kārtike nivasanty atra mathure sarva maṇḍale*
(PADMA PURĀṆA)

Although Mathurā (Vraja area) is easily available on the earth and Kārtika is easily attainable in the year, but oh, what a great misfortune in the side of human beings who are still suffering in the ocean of material existence. In the month of Kārtika, all of the places of pilgrimage, oceans, rivers and lakes come to Mathurā area [but they do not take advantage of it.]

42. *asvinasya tu masasya ya sukla ekādaśī bhavet
kartikasya vrata anīha tasyām kuryād atandritaḥ*
(PADMA PURĀṆA conversation between Lord Kṛṣṇa and Satyabhāmā)

One should take a fasting vow for the month of Kārtika without any laziness on the Ekādaśī which falls in the light part of the month of Āśvina (September-October).

43. *tataḥ priyatama viṣṇo rādhikā gopikasu ca
kārtike pujaniya ca śrī dāmodara sannidhau*
(PADMA PURĀṆA)

Among all other gopīs, Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī is the most dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa. Therefore in the month of Kārtika, one should worship Lord Dāmodara with Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī near Him.

44. *kārtike'smin viśeṣeṇa nityaṁ kurvīta vaiṣṇavaḥ
dāmodara arcanāṁ prātaḥ snama dana vrata ādikam*
(SKANDA PURĀṆA)

Specifically in the month of Dāmodara (Kārtika), one should daily worship Lord Dāmodara (Kṛṣṇa) and take bath early in the morning, give charity and follow a fasting vow. This is the duty of Vaiṣṇavas.

45. *dāmodara aṣṭakam nāma stotram dāmodara arcanāṁ
nityaṁ dāmodara ākarṣī paṭhet satya vrata uditam*
(HARI BHAKTI VILĀSA)

In the month of Kārttika, one should daily worship Lord Dāmodara and sing the Dāmodarāṣṭaka (the eight prayers of Lord Dāmodara) which pleases Lord Dāmodara, written by the sage named Satyavrata.

46. *śrī kṛṣṇa dāsa varyo'yaṁ śrī govardhana bhudharah
sukla pratipadi prātaḥ kārtike'rcyu 'tra vaisnavaih*
(SKANDA PURĀṆA)

On the first day of the light part of the month of Kārtika, a Vaiṣṇava should certainly worship the topmost servant of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, Śrī Govardhana Hill, early in the morning as it is found in the Śrīmad Bhāgavatam, 10th Canto, 21 chapter, verse 18.

47. *mālatī malaya viṣṇuḥ pūjito yena kārtike
papaksara kṛtam malam hathat śauriḥ pramarjati*
(SKANDA PURĀṆA conversation between Lord Brahmā and Nārada Muni)

In the month of Kārtika (October-November), any person, if he worships Lord Viṣṇu with Mālatī (white Jasmine) flowers, whatever sinful activities are registered for him by Yamarāja, death personified, are removed.

48. *kamalaiḥ kamalakantah pūjitaḥ kārtike tu yaiḥ
kamala anuga teṣāṁ janmantara satesu api*
(PADMA PURĀṆA, UTTARĀ KHAṆḌA)

Any person who offers lotus flowers to Lord Nārāyaṇa, the dearest personality of Lakṣmīdevī in the month of Kārtika, Lakṣmīdevī resides with him for hundreds of births.

The Way to Worship Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara

In the Padma Purāṇa it is said:

49. "Because She is the gopī most dear to Lord Hari, Śrī Rādhā' should be worshiped along with Lord Dāmodara during the month of Kārtika.

50. "Dressing Lord Dāmodara as a brāhmaṇa and Śrī Rādhā' as His wife, one should worship them with nice garments, ornaments, and foods during the month of Kārtika.

51. "O brāhmaṇas, during the month of Kārtika one should worship the Deity of Śrī Rādhā. To please Śrī Rādhā, Lord Dāmodara, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, will be pleased with that worshiper."

52. One should regularly recite the prayer called Dāmodarāṣṭaka, which was spoken by Satyavrata, which attracts Lord Dāmodara, and which describes the worship of Lord Dāmodara.

