

Kartik Inspirations 2016

Kartik Inspiration Day 1 . 16 OCTOBER, 2016

Now it has come: the most special month of the year, the month of Kartik, during which even a little devotional service yields extraordinary results.

I think we always have to ask ourselves whether we are under the influence of the material energy, that is in material consciousness, or whether we are in spiritual consciousness, or under the shelter of the spiritual energy. The month of Kartik gives us a unique opportunity to leave material consciousness behind, to exit the material atmosphere and enter deeply into spiritual consciousness and the spiritual atmosphere. How? Simply by the blessings of Srimati Radharani, who is the presiding deity of this wonderful month.

Now, how do you please Srimati Radharani? Let me ask the question in a slightly different way: how do you please anyone? You have to know the heart of the person. What he really wants, what she really prefers over other things – then pleasing your friend is possible. So, pleasing Srimati Radharani is possible if you know her heart and we know that the Lord, Krishna, is in her heart. To be more precise, it is Damodara Krishna, the Lord who is bound by love. So, the two are always together.

In *Prarthana* Narottama dasa Thakura says that there are only two things which we know and need to know: by chanting the name of Krishna, Srimati Radharani is pleased and by chanting the name of Radha, Krishna is pleased. Bas – that's it.

So, during this month of Kartik it is very good if you increase your attention on the holy names. Come closer to the mantra. Sit before deities or before your altar when you chant, or if you don't have deities, a picture of your guru and Radha and Krishna . And while you chant, pray to them sincerely: »Please, I know this month has come, during which you open the doors to the palace of bhakti widely. Please, open these doors for me! Please, don't keep them closed. Please, accept me in my sincere effort to please you.«

To be continued...



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ŚACĪNANDANA Swami