

# Kartik Inspirations 2016

Kartik Inspiration Day 2 . 17 OCTOBER, 2016

One of the most important factors in our devotional service, something which really drives us on, which gives us the strength to move forward, is hope.

Hope is very, very important, and Prabhupada writes about this: *»Because I'm trying my best to follow the routine principles of devotional service, I'm sure that I will go back to Godhead, back home.«*

We should rest our hope on something real, and at the moment what is real is that we are disqualified, disqualified to reach such a high and sublime goal. We have problems – little and bigger ones. This is expressed in a prayer which Srila Rupa Goswami cites in *Bhakti-Rasamrita-Sindhu*. The prayer is about hopefulness:

*»I have neither love for Krishna, nor for the causes of developing love for Krishna, namely hearing and chanting. And the process of bhakti yoga, by which one always thinks of Krishna and fixes his lotus feet in one's heart, is also lacking in me. As far as philosophical knowledge or pious work are concerned, I'm also hopeless,«* he says. And he mentions many other things, but after being so humble and honest as to admit his disqualifications, he ends his prayer with great hope. Hope, because Krishna is merciful. He says:

*»Therefore, I must simply pray to you, Gopijanavallabha (this is a name of Krishna). I simply wish and hope that some way or other I may be able to approach your lotus feet. And this hope gives me pain because I think myself quite incompetent to approach the transcendental goal of life.«*

So, here you can see a healthy mixture for *bhajan*. On the one hand, an honest estimation of one's own disqualification, this causes a little pain. But then, on the other hand, a justified hope. It's justified because Krishna's main quality in regard to his devotees in this world is that Krishna is merciful.

One of the most important factors in our devotional service is hope.



ŚACĪNANDANA  
Swami