

# Kartik Inspirations 2016

Kartik Inspiration Day 4 . 19 OCTOBER, 2016

Hare Krishna. This is our fourth day of the month of Kartik.

We are trying to please Srimati Radharani, we are trying to connect with her beloved Lord Damodara, but what should we do, if we feel disconnected? What if we feel we have not really entered the palace of *bhakti* yet? What if we feel our devotional life is not really alive? Most probably we have not gone through the entrance gate.

Srila Rupa Goswami describes *bhakti* to be like a palace or temple that has a door which we need to walk through. Just like any building – a temple or a palace – needs to have a front door, so it can be accessed, *bhakti* also has an entrance gate.

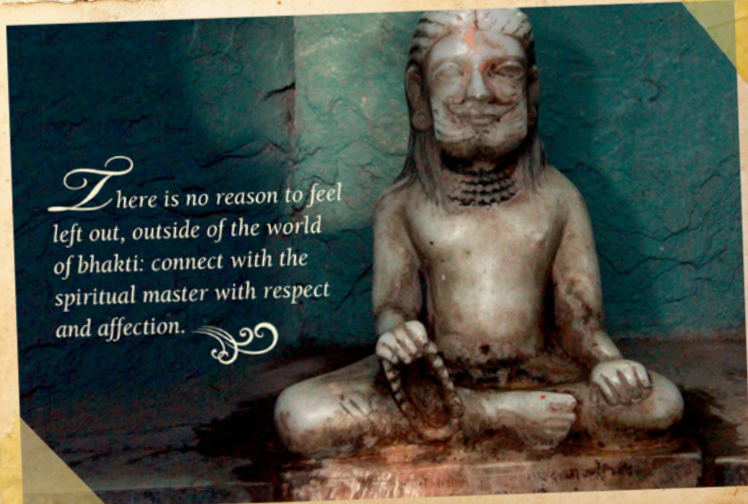
Now, there are many processes which lead through this gateway, but the principle ones, which serve as the main door into to the palace of *bhakti*, are three:

- taking shelter at the feet of the spiritual master
- receiving teachings after initiation
- serving the guru with respect

These are said to be the principle doors, the entrance gate to the palace of *bhakti*. So, there is no reason to feel left out, outside of the world of *bhakti*: connect with the spiritual master with respect and affection. Pray to him. Maybe start your day with an *arati*.

The way I do this, personally, during the month of Kartik, is very simple. In my mind I go to the place where I feel Srila Prabhupada is most present and that's his Samadhi Mandir in Vrindavan. And then, when I'm there, I pray to him and then many, many things happen by his blessings.

Tomorrow I would like to offer a short guided meditation, in which I bring you through the entrance gate of *bhakti* by visiting the Samadhi Mandir of Srila Prabhupada in Vrindavan. There, we will pray to him as he sits there on his *vyasasan*, eternally present for all of us.



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ŚACĪNANDANA  
Swami