

# Kartik Inspirations 2016

Kartik Inspiration Day 9 . 24 OCTOBER, 2016

## AN OFFERING OF BHAKTI

I have to tell you about the amazing apple tree here in Gaura Bhavan. It is not very big, but its offering is amazing. When we moved here, it only gave a few small and sour apples, but now it has developed some *bhakti* for Radha-Kanayalal and the devotees and therefore gives an abundant amount of apples. We call it the *kalpavriksha*-tree of the Gaura Bhavan. Really, the whole lawn is full with its apples and they are good apples, full of *prana* (life-energy).

What caused the change? The apple tree felt something, so he increased his production. We also need to come to a place of *bhakti*, devotion, in our lives. Then we can offer our *seva* (service) from that place and it will always satisfy Krishna.

Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura informs us how we can develop this *bhakti*, how it can come into the heart. He mentions the dust of the feet of pure devotees and holy days, not holidays – holy days. These days in the month of Kartik are all holy days. He says: »*Observing these days gives birth to bhakti because they are the mother of devotion.*« Then he writes: »*With great adoration I embrace the abode of Krishna as my home.*«. Yes, we can think of Vrindavan as our home. Finally, he requests for the opportunity to hear the sound of the *mridanga*-drum, so he can ecstatically dance in *kirtan*.

It is important for us to be aware that somehow or other we need to bring *bhakti* into our dry heart. Then all the activities in spiritual life become abundant offerings of love. This is the lesson of our *kalpavriksha*-tree. It was a dried out, East-German tree, but somehow it got something and now it is a miracle tree.

I wish all of us that in this month of Kartik we can somehow go to the sources of *bhakti* and then receive *bhakti* in our hearts and live our life from there. Hare Krishna.



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ŚACĪNANDANA  
Swami