KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2018

LET US TAKE THIS MONTH AS A SCHOOL OF ABSORPTION.

A SHOCKING LETTER

Just before Kartik started, I got a letter.

I must say, it was a shocking letter and I cannot forget it even here in Vrindavan – sitting and chanting, praying and hearing about Krishna from our scriptures.

It is a letter Shrila Praphupada wrote in 1972 (to Satsvarupa on April 10th), in which he says: *"Now I have given you everything, but I do not see that even the basic principles of advancement in spiritual life are always there, and sometimes there is tendency to neglect what is our real purpose of life, namely, to become mad after Krishna, and instead we become carried away by big big talk. So I am still thinking how things will go on."*

Praphupada sees that the basic principles of advancement in spiritual life are not always present in his young movement. Amongst others, these basic principles are things such as detachment from illusory worldly things and attachment to Krishna. Instead, these basic principles are replaced. We have the tendency to neglect the real purpose of life.

The purpose, he says, is to become mad after Krishna. Becoming mad after Krishna means to become absorbed in Krishna. And that is possible if the mind is purified.

In Vrindavan the Goswamis went around with only one project:
"Where are you now, Krishna? Where are you now, Radha? Where are you, Lalita and Vishakha? Are you maybe near the Govardhan hill or are you maybe near the Yamuna?"

And Praphupada said: if we are not absorbed in Krishna, we become carried away by *"big, big talk"*. Other things, that are just talk and not of spiritual substance.

The month of Kartik is a wonderful school to correct all this, to learn to absorb ourselves, to actually step into the classroom of absorption.

And that happens mostly by concentrated chanting with the understanding: *'Krishna is here in my chanting. I should make sure it's good.'*

And also studying about Krishna: Who is He? What does He like? What are His favourite activities? And so on.

Let us take this month as a school of absorption.

Śacīnandana *Swami*