

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2018

OPENING
YOURSELF TO
DIVINE MERCY IS
MORE IMPORTANT
THAN THOUSANDS
OF YEARS OF
MARCHING
IN PRIDE.

OVERCOMING DRYNESS

Today was my dry phase. I was not able to pierce through the thick clouds of my mind. The inner darkness was just too thick. It had started quite well. One of the local devotees had driven me out into the fields on his motorbike to the cave of Purnamasi, Yogamaya, the great arranger of Krishna's pastimes. I somehow crawled into the cave and was ready to start a day of absorbed chanting, but things turned out differently. There were one million flies; as the sun shone onto the cave intensely, it became very hot and there was distraction from outside – farmers passing by on tractors.

I was dry, so dry. However, I remembered something which I feel is relevant to all of us, in order for us to overcome the dry phases of our spiritual lives. I prayed to Yogamaya. Yogamaya can face us from two different sides: one from which She brings us to Krishna and the external one, Mahamaya, from which She separates us from Krishna. So, I spoke this prayer to Yogamaya, Her inner side:

“O, my dear Mother. Showing Your causeless mercy to Your servant, give me a place in Vrindavan, for You are Sri Yogamaya Herself, the internal energy of Yoga, union. You take all souls averse to Krishna and bind them in the material world. But if You see that someone again becomes favourably disposed towards Sri Krishna, You award him liberation and make him free from all grief and fear.”

Turning to the Lord in prayer is very powerful. Haridas Thakur similarly says that simply by one's own effort no one in this world can overcome distraction: *“The victory over the mind can be accomplished very easily however, o Krishna, if You give Your mercy.”*

Prayer means to open yourself up to divine mercy and that's more important than thousands of years of marching in pride.