

# KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2018

WHAT CAN HELP  
US WHEN WE  
FEEL DRY AND  
UNINSPIRED?

PRAY FOR THE  
MERCY OF  
DEVOTEES.



DAY 2 · 25 OCTOBER, 2018

## DEDICATION OF THE SELF

*Haribol and greetings from Vrindavan.*

It's very nice to connect like this with all of you and I can see you in my mind's eye.

The second step on the road leading us to our Lord is *atma-nivedanam* or dedication of the self.

There is a beautiful song in this connection by Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakur:

*"O Lord! I offer this humble prayer at Your feet. I gave up the shelter of Your feet, which are soft as newly-grown leaves, and now my mind has become dried up like a desert. Dry, dry, dry – scorched by the fire of absorption in horrible worldliness.*

*I find no strength to rise again, and thus I spend my days bitterly lamenting. There is no soul as forlorn as me."*

What can help us when we feel dry and uninspired? Pray for the mercy of devotees.

Bhaktivinoda Thakur says:

*"By discussing with devotees I shall give up all these disturbances."*

There is another song where he says:

*"Seeing my fallen condition and being merciful to me the devotees came and said: 'O humble soul, please listen to this wonderful message and your heart will rejoice."*

Devotees can give us the message which is always a hopeful inspiration from the Lord: *"Stand up. Move on. I'm always there for you."*

Bhaktivinoda Thakur says:

*"The best message is: Lord Caitanya has appeared and delivered the whole world by distributing the Holy Name. Go and beg for the nectar of the Holy Name from Lord Caitanya."*

This is actually very hopeful. As soon as you turn to the Lord by chanting the Holy Name, the Lord says: *"I'm here for you."* It seems as though He had just been waiting.

This is also what Bhaktivinoda Thakura sings. He says: *"One hope animates my soul: I spend day and night singing your Holy Name while living in your divine abode. This will bring me to the supreme cooling shade of your lotus feet."*

We will continue tomorrow.