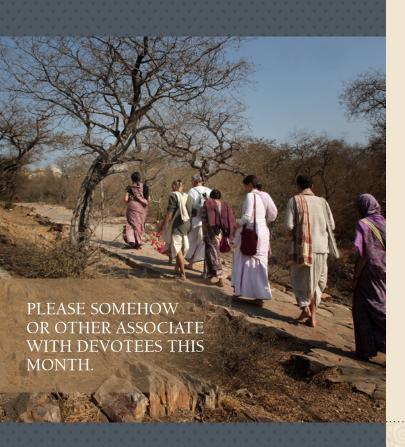
KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2018



IN DESPERATE NEED OF AFFECTION

Today I thought: 'Yes, we are all in a desperate need of affection. But in a different way than we might think.' Everything becomes easy in spiritual practice when we act out of affection for Krishna. It's easy to concentrate on someone you like, something you absolutely appreciate.

Great devotees throughout the times have therefore prayed like queen Kunti: "Oh, my Lord. Please, make my affection flow towards You naturally – just like the Ganga flows towards the ocean."

In our case the water of our heart, our affection, is stagnant. It's like a putrid pond infested with worms. In the same way we are plagued by the worms of our material desires, which don't make us happy.

What can help? *Sadhu-sanga* can help. Association with devotees who appreciate or are really intoxicated with the taste of Krishna. They will make your little pond overflow so that you will join the Ganga, and the river of your *bhajan* (spiritual practice) will flow towards the great nectarean ocean of Krishna.

Please somehow or other associate with devotees in this Kartik month, either by listening to them face to face or by listening to recorded lectures you appreciate. You can also meet them in the *sastras*, but it's best to have a very, very connected relationship so that your little life gets into the flow. This is something we can all experience here in Vrindavan, where there are so many devotees whom we can ask questions, hear from and discuss with about Krishna.

