

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2018

BE COMPASSIONATE
TO SOMEONE TODAY.



DAY 28 · 20 NOVEMBER, 2018

SOMETHING PERSONAL

Affectionate greetings from Vrindavan! I'm trying to take all of you along on my Kartik-*vrata*. I write these inspirations because I sincerely pray that by sharing some of these jewels with you, you will feel inspired. At the moment I live like a hermit – I don't interact with others and don't read my e-mails. Still, I often think about sharing. Why? If there are a few things I have realized throughout the years, one of them is: it is good to share with others and see how you can benefit them.

Once I passed two pilgrims speaking in Bengali. The older one explained the principles of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu to the younger one. He said: "*Namaruci, Vaisnava-seva...*" (taste for the Holy Name, serving Vaisnavas). Just as I walked by, he stood still and tried to remember the third principle. I turned

around and said: "*Jiva-daya!*" (mercy towards other living entities). Grateful he replied, "*Tike. Jiva-daya.*" We went our ways and after a while I turned around and saw that the two Bengali pilgrims had stopped at the side of the road. The older one opened his bag, took a *capati* out of it and fed it to a dog. He was practicing *jiva-daya*, compassion towards others.

Ask yourself today what you can do to apply the powerful principle of compassion. Maybe someone near you is in need of help or encouragement. Maybe a devotee you haven't contacted since a long time would be happy if you share some inspiration, or a *capati* – whatever you can offer. Practice *jiva-daya*, either in terms of inspiration or physical gifts, and watch how your circle will widen and new things will happen in your life.

ŚACĪNANDANA
Swami