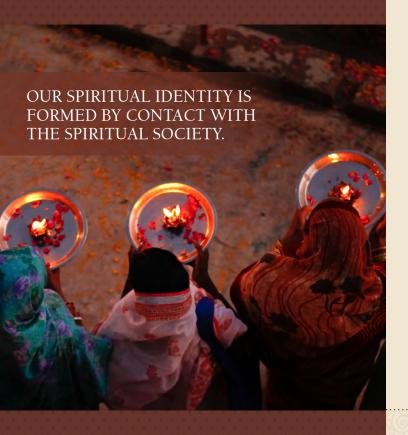
KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2018



FORMING YOUR SPIRITUAL IDENTITY

The month of Kartik offers us a unique opportunity for coming to the next level in our spiritual life. I would like to give you a helpful insight into how we form our identity: our social self is formed by interacting with the society, people, friends, news we hear etc. Similarly, our spiritual self is formed by contact with the spiritual world, the society of Krishna's devotees in the spiritual world and in this world.

I suggest that during the month of Kartik we all find good devotee sanga, in which we can ask confidential questions, listen to their realized answers and do what is so necessary in order to grow – that is reveal our inner heart, our desires, and reflect, explore them.

Jiva Goswami wrote a verse which speaks very much to me. He said:

"O, Krishna. My stone-like heart could not become transformed by You. Nor could it be transformed by hearing about Your devotees. However, when I heard about the exchange of love between You and Your devotees and between the devotees and You, even my stone-like heart became transformed."

My dear devotees, there is no force in the universe more effective in transforming a materially bound heart into a free heart that runs to Krishna out of taste, than hearing about the love that is exchanged in the spiritual society, in the spiritual world.

That will help you to form your spiritual self.