

# KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2019

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FOR THE  
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OF US.

As I sit here in Vrindavan, I sometimes ask myself, “Does Krishna see my efforts? Does He care for such an insignificant and useless person?” I’ve seen many sincere practitioners of *bhakti* ask this question.

The answer is: yes, Krishna is very eager for the company of each and every one of us. The *Brihad-bhagavatamrita* describes this in the instance when Lord Narayana welcomes Gopa Kumar after a long journey to the Lord’s divine abode. Narayana says, “I looked down the path, observing whether or not you were coming. A long time passed and I saw you didn’t even show interest in chanting the Holy Names. There was not a single sign that you would ever look in My direction and want to come to Me. So finally I did something. I couldn’t break my timeless laws of not interfering with the spiritual progress and desires of anyone, but I sent a great soul. I actually became your spiritual master. And then you took the mantra and started your journey. Now I’m very happy. You have come! You have come! Please, stay here with Me.”

We know that Gopa Kupaar stayed for some time, but the yearning of his heart was not fully satisfied in Vaikuntha, Lord Narayana’s abode. He wanted to go to Vraja, where playful Krishna engages in sublime relationships of love with His many devotees.

After visiting other places, at some point he reaches Vrindavan. The book describes his first meeting with Krishna. In the distance, he sees Krishna coming with

the cows. He hears the happy laughter and flutes of Krishna’s many friends. Krishna is surrounded by a cloud of dust raised by the cow hooves and some powerful demigods dive down to catch the dust that has touched Krishna’s lotus feet. Suddenly, Krishna becomes aware of Gopa Kumara approaching from the distance. As soon as He sees him, Krishna breaks free from the cows and cowherd boys and runs towards Gopa Kumara! Finally, He can embrace Gopa Kumar and overcome with feelings of excitement and love, He falls to the ground and muddies it with His tears of ecstasy caused by the arrival of His dear friend.

This expression of overwhelmed joy is a sign of Krishna’s character. It shows that He cares very much for everyone and is most happy about the tiniest sign of spiritual life in someone. And when a soul becomes mature and ready for meeting, Krishna is full of joy. It is described that the first meetings with Krishna or experiences of Him are very brief, feeling like a dream. The devotee doesn’t know, “Was it a dream? This was better than anything I have ever seen or experienced so far.” Then, the meetings and experiences become longer and words and embraces are exchanged. And then, the soul finally enters into the eternal pastimes.

So yes, Krishna does care.