

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2019

LET US BREAK DOWN
THE WALLS THAT
SEPARATE ONE PERSON
FROM ANOTHER.



A few days ago, I was in a small village called Suryakund. Srimati Radharani regularly came here to worship the deity of Surya Narayan, the sun god. Krishna then came disguised as a priest and lead Her in the worship, right before the eyes of Jatila, Her mother-in-law. One time, Srimati Radharani placed Her crown and ornaments on a stone beside the lake before She took Her auspicious bath in preparation for the *puja* (ceremony). Her crown actually left an imprint in the stone that can still be seen today. It is very beautiful to look at.

In absolute solitude, I chanted on the flat roof of the temple. A pleasant breeze surrounded me and I had a good view of the lake in front of me. When I was finished, a friend drove me back to where I stay. We drove through the village and what I saw was an instruction on personalism. People stood at the side of the road, discussing the day's events. Our car passed about five elderly men, who I think were smoking ganja. My window was open and quite the cloud came inside. Of course, the elderly men in Vrindavan do this just to be old men, in our tradition we don't do it. We stopped a few times for children who played on the road. Cows mingled amongst the people participating in the spontaneous evening programs. Through the open doors of some homes I saw people sitting on the floor, singing. Everyone in the village seemed to have a personal interaction.

In the West we need to become better at connecting with others like this. Because of our focus on external values, we have built invisible walls around ourselves. We often find it hard to break down our walls, even in spiritual circles, and communicate person to person, self to self, in a space of absolute sharing. However, sharing is so important. Nothing can energize, inspire, empower and give us confidence like personal relationships do.

A devotee doesn't build walls between him- or herself and others, but sees an eternal relative part of the Supreme Lord in all beings. A devotee sees how the Lord is present in everyone and in this way doesn't perceive barriers. I've always seen these deep connections in Vrindavan and I encourage all my readers to practice this. Open up in your relationships. Perhaps first pick those in which you feel more confident and then you can expand to others. Let us break down the walls that separate one person from another.