

# KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2019

BECOME A MEMBER OF  
THE CULTURE OF VRAJA:  
BECOME A GIVER.



## Become a Giver

DAY 26 · 7 NOVEMBER, 2019

On that long walk I wrote about, under the baking sun yesterday, something else happened: my assistant and I passed a house and people waved at us to come inside. I turned to my assistant, he was tired and just nodded. So, why not? Let's go inside. We met such hospitable people and I don't really know what made them act like this.

They noticed that we were tired, so they offered us their open air beds, the simple cots they have in Vrindavan. While we slept a dog barked, children came and looked at us respectfully and an old man sat close by - you know, they live with the whole creation inside their houses.

When we got up, they smiled at us and said, "Now, *kana*.", meaning they wanted to offer us something to eat. That was just what we needed. One of the Vrajavasi ladies ignited a healthy and natural bio fire with cow dung patties. Then she made the famous Vrajarotis from flour. Soon we sat in another corner of the courtyard and they offered us one *roti* after the other, then ghee, and very spicy *sabji* (vegetables). We were moved by their hospitality and later wanted to give them something, but they didn't want to accept it. And I could then understand them, they live the culture of Vraja - the culture of giving.

Think about it. People are often trained to take as much as possible from life. In Vrindavan people are taught to give back to life as much as possible. They share everything they have. And in return they receive love amongst each other. I'm not saying that there are no bad people in Vrindavan, of course, sometimes people who live here break the laws of Vrindavan. But by and large, especially in the villages, it's a culture of giving. A culture that gives forth the rare experience of love.

It is said that when you have a loving relationship, you don't have to think about money, medicine or food. Everything is taken care of. And if you have many good relationships, you walk through life as if you're not touching the ground any longer.

I would like to encourage you to become a member of the Vraja culture, even if you don't live here. Try to give more: your time, an open ear, assistance and most importantly, your vulnerable, skeptical heart. You will enter an unending cosmic supply system directed by Krishna Himself, Who is satisfied when we serve all living entities and do not do, speak or wish harm to anyone.