

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2019



LOVE MAKES EVEN
DIFFICULT SERVICES EASY.

Is there any stronger pain than criticism?

If you are criticized, fairly or unfairly, you might become discouraged and lose your motivation to move forward with strength. Criticism is like a lance that goes right into the tender soft heart and hurts it tremendously. Especially if it comes from persons who are near to you, that means other spiritualists or *vaishnavas*.

However, if the criticism is expressed with love, it suddenly becomes sweet. Love makes everything easy, like the tough spiritual practices some do during Kartik: getting up early when the body wants to continue to sleep, completing your vow when you want to do something else to entertain yourself or abstaining from certain foods when your tongue and every cell in your body is obsessed with craving. From one perspective all of this is difficult, but it becomes easy if you have love, if you know who you are doing it for.

Once one of the nuns who served with Mother Theresa took an English aristocratic lady on one of her daily rounds through the slums of Calcutta. They washed a dying man, they renewed the bandage of a leper, they dried the tears of children. They served the poorest of the poor. At the end of the day, the aristocratic lady from England said, *“I couldn’t do this another day, even if you gave me one million pounds.”* The nun looked into her eyes and replied, *“Neither could I.”*

But yet, she did it every day. Why? Out of love for the people and for the Lord she hopes to please. So in practical terms this means that our spiritual practice needs to have the objective to please Lord Krishna. Then even difficult practices become very easy.