

# KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2021

## THE KARTIK EXCITEMENT

Today is the first day of the month of Kartik.

In Vrindavan, devotees and pilgrims flock into the temples. They are very enthusiastic, and you can feel the joy in the air. It's not yet so cold, so they also visit the Yamuna river or sacred lakes like Radhakund, Shyamakund, Kusum Sarovara, and Manasi Ganga.

While they take vows, what spiritual activities they will perform during this month to please Lord Damodara and His beloved Srimati Radharani, they offer palmfuls of water. This month of Kartik is known as the best month, because even a little or humble offering during this month pleases the Lord so much that He is willing to make such a person, one who worships Him in this month, an associate in the spiritual world.

Why is this month so special? All the twelve months have presiding deities who rule it. This month was given by Lord Hari to Srimati Radhika. Radhika rules this month with Her compassion. Each day during this month, the devotees celebrate a central theme of bhakti, and that is that Krishna is conquered only by love. Therefore they remember the pastime of Lord Damodara or binding Lord Damodara, each day, mostly in the evening. They offer

their lamp and they sing the beautiful Damodarastakam every day, because of this motto: Krishna is not pleased by great qualifications, by great austerities, or by great amounts of sadhana; He is pleased by sincere loving devotion. It is so nice and inspiring, therefore it is celebrated each day.

It is said, *“By worshipping Lord Damodara and meditating about Him during the month of Kartik, even the child Druva Maharaja quickly attained the Lord and saw Him eye to eye, which is extremely rare, even for the great mystic yogis.”*

However, let us not forget who holds the key for the spiritual blessings for the month of Kartik: Srimati Radharani. In order to help all of us to connect each day with Radha, who is known as Kartika Devi—the Devi of this month of Kartik—we will first hear information about Her qualities, and also inspirations for how we can best take advantage of this sacred month.

I hope to see you regularly in these Kartik inspirations. All the best for this observance of this month of Kartik! Haribol.

*Sacīnandana Prasādi*

SACINANDANA SWAMI

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A CENTRAL THEME OF BHAKTI,  
AND THAT IS THAT KRISHNA IS  
CONQUERED ONLY BY LOVE.