

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2022



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VRINDAVANA INTERACTS
WITH YOU.

IN VRINDAVAN, SRIMATI RADHIKA
ARRANGES JUST THE THINGS
YOU NEED TO EXPERIENCE.

GUIDED BY A PARROT

Welcome to this Kartik inspiration.

Today I would like to share with you a miracle that was shown to me in Vrindavan. Several years ago, I was on Braja-mandala parikrama (when I circumambulated the land of Braja with a group of devotees.) On one particular day, I decided to stay back while the rest of the group went to Vrindavana town. I was in a forest called Bandiravana, just opposite Vrindavana on the other side of the Yamuna river. In the afternoon, I decided to look for the place where Lakshmi Devi sat to perform long austerities in order to gain entrance into Vrindavana-dhama, the eternal Vrindavana, and get the darshan of Sri Krishna. There is a temple there.

So, I set out. First, I came to a temple where Sudhama, the friend of Krishna, is still waiting for Krishna to fulfill His promise. When Krishna left Vrindavana, He said, “*I shall return, Sudhama!*” Sudhama is waiting there for Krishna to return to this day.

So, I chanted a few rounds when all of a sudden, something changed in the atmosphere. I noticed a parrot, who had looked at me from a distance, had come and flown on my shoulder. I continued to chant. Then he started to walk all over me. I thought, *How nice.* And the parrot then sat on my knees and somehow accompanied me with the chanting. Not that he chanted himself, he just sat there in a meditative pose.

Some sadhus came to me and looked at this because parrots never do this! I seem to have something with parrots, by the way.

So they then asked me, “*Tantra?*” meaning they asked if I did some magic on the parrot. And I said, “*Not tantra! Mantra!*” indicating that the power of the Holy Name binds a red thread through the hearts of all who are listening to the sound of the chanting.

After some time, my parrot friend became restless. He hopped on my shoulder and began to pull my earlobe. I thought, *Well, why not? He seems to want to bring me somewhere, pulling me by the ear.*

So, I got up, went to the gate, and then took a left turn, but my parrot friend pulled my right earlobe as if to say, “*Go right!*” Then he jumped over to my left shoulder, and when there was another path, he pulled me on that path.

We walked together, and I followed his guidance willingly—his obvious direction—and then arrived in front of a temple. When I went through the gate and approached the temple, I saw that’s where Lakshmi Devi was. The parrot was clearly sent to bring me to Lakshmi Devi and let me see this very holy place.

That is the Braja experience. Vrindavana interacts with you. Vrindavana sees and answers your desires because there is someone in Vrindavana known as Vrindavesvari, the controller of all the movements which take place there; Srimati Radhika, Who is arranging just the things which you need to experience.

Wishing you all the best, and see you tomorrow with more Vrindavana miracles!

Raviandana Pravis

ŚACINANDANA SWAMI