

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2022

THE RIVER OF TRANSFORMATION

Welcome to this Kartik inspiration! Today I wish to talk about the miracle that is Vrindavan.

Vrindavan transforms hearts. It is because there are two energies roaming around: *taraka-shakti*, the energy that liberates you from your old stuff, and *paraka-shakti*, the energy that pulls you to Krishna. And these energies affect a total self-transformation.

Someone who goes on pilgrimage leaves behind ones social roles, statuses, and position in this world and enters or crosses a threshold. In the beginning, that might mean there is some disorientation, but the result is “*reorientation*.”

Let me share with you a very ancient story that I heard once from a scholar, David L. Haberman. It concerns a very, very sensual actor who once after he had performed, saw a beautiful lady and followed her with eyes full of lust and greed.

The lady felt highly uncomfortable and quickly walked toward her house. She told her husband, and together they left the house to avoid a confrontation with this lusty, pan-chewing womanizing actor. They left the house through a back entrance, but they saw after some time, when they turned around, that the man was following them. They came to the river Yamuna and the husband told the boatmen, “*None of you should take this person over—he is after my wife!*” The boatmen said, “*Okay, we won’t take him over, but give us a little lakshmi!*”

So the husband of this woman paid them, and then he went to the other side of the Yamuna and immediately visited the house of his guru. After some discussion the guru went to the window

and said, “*Okay, I will now serve you prasadam. We will have prasadam for three.*”

“*Who is the third person?*” said the husband, and the wife wondered also, “*Who is the third person?*” And the guru pointed out of the window and said, “*Do you see him coming?*” And there he was. The same actor. He was dripping wet because he had swum through the river, but he was transformed. He chanted, “*Krishna! Krishna! Govinda! Govinda! Pahi mam! Pahi mam! Save me! Save me!*”

He became a God-intoxicated person because of contact with the Yamuna. The two energies in Braja had worked on him. He was a transformed person.

This you will also see when you go through Vrindavan. You may see everything with the ordinary eyes. Oh, and you will see a dusty village, then you will see the monkey gangsters running over the rooftops. You will smell the drainages full of the human waste water, and so on. And you will think, “*What is special about this place?*”

But then, when by Krishna’s mercy—the divine shaktis of Vrindavan—enter your heart with a “*tat boom*” you will look with other eyes at Vrindavan. It’s all the same, it has physically not changed, at the same time everything has changed because your vision has changed. You have been touched by the Vrindavan miracle.

Thank you very much for listening! I hope to see all of you tomorrow with another Vrindavan miracle! Hare Krishna!

Raviandana Pravis

ŚACINANDANA SWAMI

VRINDAVAN
TRANSFORMS HEARTS!

THERE THE TARAKA-SHAKTI
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SAMSKARAS, AND PARAKA-SHAKTI
PULLS US TO KRISHNA.