

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2022



“BHAKTI SIMPLY REQUIRES YOUR HEART. OH KRISHNA, YOU ARE MY LORD, YOU ARE MY MASTER ETERNALLY, AND I AM YOUR SERVANT ETERNALLY. LET ME BE ENGAGED IN YOUR SERVICE.”

SRILA PRABHUPADA

IN HIS FOOT-DUST

Welcome to this very special Kartik inspiration on Srila Prabhupada's disappearance day.

The dust of Srila Prabhupada's lotus feet and service to him is my greatest wealth. Prabhupada makes it very clear how important the shelter at the feet of a great devotee is. He talks about the fight between the elephant Gajendra and the crocodile.

The crocodile became more and more victorious because he was fighting in the water, its natural element. So although the elephant was so powerful, he became more and more helpless. But then, at last he began to chant the Holy Name of the Lord and prayed, and in this way, Krishna saved him.

Prabhupada comments, *“He was saved and because the crocodile caught up the leg of the elephant, he was also saved, because the elephant was a Vaishnava. And this crocodile, he was under the feet of a Vaishnava, so he was also saved. This is the story, you know. Therefore, chadiya vaisnava-seva, he indirectly gave service to the Vaishnava and he also became delivered.”*

Then Prabhupada makes a very moving point. He says, *“Bhakti simply requires your heart. Oh Krishna, You are my Lord, You are my master eternally, and I am Your servant eternally. Let me be engaged in Your service. That is, Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare. This is the meaning of the Hare Krishna mantra. Oh Krishna, oh energy of Krishna, I am Your servant. Somehow or other I have now fallen in this material condition. Kindly pick me up and engage me in service.”*

I very much feel today, on the disappearance day of Srila Prabhupada, that he was the one who picked me up first. In fact, Krishna made an arrangement that I meet him in London, and on our first meeting he indicated to me, *“Welcome, welcome back.”*

When we can be seen by a great devotee, when a great devotee takes personally care of us, when a great devotee is happy with us, when he sees us or hears about us, we can know that there is a divine arrangement made by Krishna and that arrangement is that we are picked up.

Thank you so much Srila Prabhupada! And thank you so much to all of you out there, listening to these Kartik Inspirations. See you very soon for the next one.

Śaṅkara
ŚACINANDANA SWAMI