

# KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2022



LET'S GET DOWN FROM  
THE MOUNTAIN OF PRIDE!

LET'S HUMBLY BEG FOR MERCY!

IN THAT POSITION, WE WILL  
SOON FEEL A GUSH, A STREAM  
OF MERCY HERE IN VRINDAVAN.

## GURU VRINDAVAN

Welcome to today's Kartik inspiration. Today we will hear about the effect of Vrindavan on one's consciousness. In *The Nectar of Devotion*, it says that even a slight contact with Vrindavan-Dhama will immediately bring out the attraction to Krishna.

There was once a king called Virachandra Bahadur Maharaja, the ruler of Shripura, who often visited Vrindavan. He had a palatial building there. So one day, it happened that after he had arrived, he immediately talked with the Vaisnavas about Krishna. In the meantime, his things were spread out on the veranda. A monkey was in the tree, and he jumped down and took the most precious thing—a shawl embroidered with silver and gold. It was a really, really, super expensive cashmere shawl, and the monkey jumped with it on the top of the tree.

Now the king's assistants gave him fruits and any type of monkey food in exchange, but the monkey didn't even look at it. There was a huge noise, and Maharaja Virachandra Bahadur went onto the veranda and looked at the monkey. The monkey dug his teeth into the shawl and tore it into shreds, which rained down on the Maharaja.

While this was going on, the Maharaja was very silent. Then, some tears came trickling down his cheeks. In the evening his minister, who had seen this, came and very, very humbly asked, "Your Highness, we are very, very ashamed that we lost the shawl and couldn't keep it, but we were also surprised that you didn't chastise us. Quite the opposite: you were experiencing some sentiments in your heart when you saw the monkey tearing your shawl into pieces. What was going on?"

So the Maharaja laughed and said, "Oh, minister, that was not a monkey that tore my shawl. It was a saint who came in the form of a monkey and went away after teaching me a most valuable lesson. This saint had been informed by Krishna that I needed to learn to give up my pride as being a king when coming to Vrindavan."

See, the essence of Vaisnavism is humility. Mahaprabhu Himself came to teach this. People who sit on the mountaintop of pride will remain untouched by the stream of mercy that flows in a lower position. In the same way, only someone who is accomplished in humility will get the mercy of Krishna.

We have heard so often the expression *humility*. True humility is practiced with the heart, mind, speech, and body. The heart feels, "Oh, alas! So many days have gone by, and I have not yet reached Krishna!" The mind will analyze, "Oh, there are so many obstacles in my personality!" And the speech will speak humble words, "Oh Vaisnavas, please explain something about Krishna to me!" And the body, how will the body be engaged in humility? Well, it will bow down, and we will use the hands and the legs in humble service to the Vaisnavas and Krishna.

Yes, so Vrindavan has many, many, many things to teach you! It is Krishna who sends the various saints or various devotees who sometimes come in the disguised form, and they always have the same message: let us get down from the mountain of pride. Let us humbly request for mercy, and in that position, we can soon feel a gush, a stream of mercy here in Vrindavan.

Thank you and see you for the next Kartik inspiration!

*Śacīnandana Prāsāda*

ŚACĪNANDANA SWAMI