

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2022

DIVINE RECIPROCATION

Welcome to today's Kartik Inspiration. Sometimes when we make a special effort to come closer to Krishna, He does not immediately reciprocate because He wants to see that our effort has the right motivation, that it is formed not by passionate immaturity but that it is a devotional effort with a devotional longing.

So today in the morning, I felt I was trying to chant more rounds, read more, and be more attentive to Him, but where was His answer? Where was His reciprocation? Where was the sign that He cares? And I almost felt a little bit despondent, so I decided, 'Let me leave my bhajan kutir and just wander without limits here and there.' I did so until I found a peaceful place and started to chant.

As I chanted, I came into the state where I was no longer aware of my surroundings. Then all of a sudden, in that receptive state, I remembered a verse that Srila Prabhupada said is the most important verse of the entire Vedic scriptures. This verse was something like a hint, a hint of which way I should go in order to reach Krishna. Here is the verse:

***yasya deve parā bhaktir yathā deve tathā gurau
tasyaite kathitā hy arthāḥ prakāśante mahātmanah***

"Only unto those souls who have implicit faith in the Lord and the spiritual master are all the imports of the Vedic knowledge automatically revealed."

Prakāśante means "it becomes manifest like a light of a candle that is lit." Wow!

The next thing I noticed was some sound before me, so I opened my eyes and I saw a pilgrim who spread a nice decorative cloth before me on the ground and then firmly implanted on that cloth—which was something like an altar cloth—the picture of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura, the guru of my own spiritual master. And some other Vaishnava luminaries or great spiritual masters in my lineage or sampradaya. And then, this devotee also firmly put a flower pot with Tulasi Devi inside. Now, this has significance.

I understood that, yes, if you want to go to Krishna, go the path that has been walked by the enlightened souls, follow them, and have faith that by following in their footsteps, you will reach your desired goal. And secondly, Tulasi is one of the five gatekeepers. It says *ye tomara sharana loy, tara vancha purna hoy*, that if anyone takes shelter in Tulasi Devi, then all their spiritual desires will be fulfilled. Wow! That was reciprocation or divine reciprocation.

Thank you very much, and may Krishna again send people into our lives who spell out or show us that which is necessary in order to go the path and reach the goal.

Hare Krishna. See you very soon for the next Kartik Inspiration.

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Śaṅkara
ŚACINANDANA SWAMI