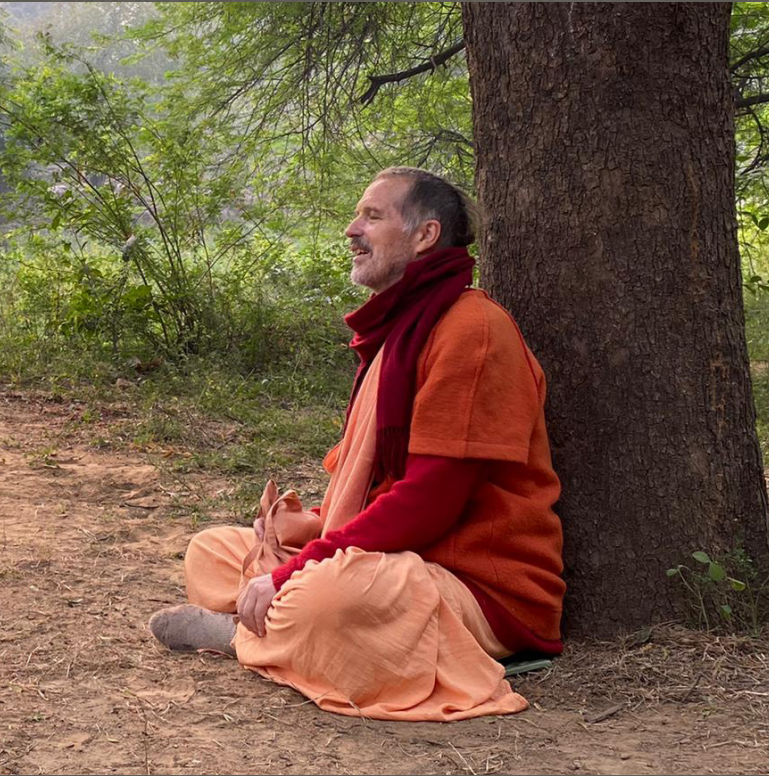


KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2022



WHEN ON A PILGRIMAGE,
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WILL LEAD YOU TO.

SEARCH FOR THE FRAGRANCE

Welcome to this Kartik Inspiration.

Today I'm sharing with you an observation that almost every pilgrim who comes to Vrindavan makes: here, you see both the material and the spiritual very close to each other, and you have to constantly make the choice to which one you will give predominance, which will be having more of your attention.

Once Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura went with his disciple through Mayapur, and they passed a place where the villagers go early in the morning to evacuate. There was this stench of stool in different phases of drying, and it really smelled very aggressive. The disciple said, *"Oh, Guru Maharaja, this really stinks."* And Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur looked at him and said, *"I can only perceive the fragrance of Divinity that smells like campaka flowers."*

Yesterday night I went to a program, and it was dark. It was around 7 o'clock. And the first thing I passed was an amazingly sweet smell. It was so compelling that I had to stop with the two devotees who were accompanying me, and we were just smelling this sweet fragrance of the queen of the night—ratrika rani—it's a kind of jasmine. It was so strong that you went like, wow.

After some time, we went on, and we saw on our right side a huge garbage field with water and different stages of rotting away. And I turned around and told the devotees, *"This is the common experience of pilgrims who come to Braj—you can see both, and you better decide which impression you want to go with."*

When you are on a pilgrimage, try to catch the fragrance of Krishna. Try to see the footprints in the dust of Braj and follow them. Try to hear the words of truth pronounced by the real saintly people and, in this way, move by following the divine fragrance. You will not be able to even imagine where this fragrance will lead you to.

Wishing you all the best, and see you very soon for the next Kartik inspiration.

Raviandana Pravis
ŚACINANDANA SWAMI