

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2024

JOIN THE WORLD OF SONG

Welcome to this *Kartik inspiration*.

If there is one feature of the spiritual world that we want to emphasize as the main activity, it is, of course, service. But an essential aspect of that service is singing for Krishna. The spiritual world is a place where singing and dancing are ever-present, and Krishna's flute is heard every morning, noon, evening, and night. In temples, this idea of singing for Krishna is very much at the heart of devotional practice.

There is a very nice song *Vibhavari sesa*, which starts like this, "The night is over and the light of dawn is coming. Arise, o sleeping soul, and give up your sleep. Chant the names of Hari, Mukunda, Murari, Rama, Krishna, and Hayagriva." Let us listen to this song. (*Acyuta Gopi's recording of singing Vibhavari sesa is playing*).

It's important to remember that singing Krishna's glories, and singing His holy names is not just something we do in temples of this world. Chanting and singing His name is also done in the spiritual world—it is an eternal feature of the soul. It's the voice of the soul, the deep desire of the liberated soul to glorify Radha and Madhava.

Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakur has written a song that is one of my personal favorites. It's a prayerful entreaty that says: *siddha deha diya vrindavana maje sevamrita karo dan*. "Please, give me my eternal spiritual body within the transcendental abode of Vrindavan and bestow upon me in charity the nectar of service to You. After making me drink *prema*, or divine love, and thus becoming spiritually intoxicated, hear me sing Your glories."

Yes, this is what we do in the spiritual world—we sing.

You might think, 'Well, I'm not a singer; is there a place for me in the spiritual world?' Remember, you are not this body or mind. When you go to the spiritual world, you will unzip the onesie of your material body and mind, and you will leave behind that overheated contraction. You will move in your spiritual body, joining the world of song and dance, where the nectar of *sevamrita*— the nectar drink of service to the Divine Couple—will make you totally enlivened.

CHANTING AND SINGING
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IT IS THE ETERNAL VOICE
OF THE SOUL, GLORIFYING
THE SUPREME LORD.

Śacīnandana Prāsādi
ŚACĪNANDANA SWAMI