

# KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2024



## I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU

Welcome to this *Kartik inspiration*.

I'm by now well on the road of my own *vrata*, which I wish to offer to the Lord—that is to chant many, many, many names. In these Kartik Inspirations, I would like to share what I see, or the jewels I discover as I dive deeper and deeper into the nectarean ocean of the holy name.

Bhaktivinoda Thakura outlines three steps that a chanter can take to chant with genuine devotional feelings.

**THE FIRST STEP:** Become aware that “I am Krishna’s eternal servant. That’s my identity. That’s who I am.”

**THE SECOND STEP:** “Krishna is my eternal master. I address Him as my maintainer, caretaker, and the only Lord of my heart.

**THIRD STEP:** “This world has a purpose. It is a house of correction where I can correct my absent-minded nature and behavior.”

When someone chants like this, Krishna immediately responds, “This person is chanting My name. He or she is Mine!” This understanding—that Krishna is mine and our relationship is eternal—infuses love into our tired hearts.

Today, I heard a touching story. There was a priest of Lord Jagannatha who unfortunately became attached to a prostitute. The other priests found out, and the high priest told him,

“We are sorry, but if you continue this illicit association, we can’t keep you as a priest. You have to choose.”

With a heavy heart, the priest replied, “I have to go with my new friend.”

“But she will leave you at one stage!”

“I cannot control my senses and my mind.”

For a long time, nobody heard about this *pujari*, but then, after some time, it was found out that he had died. A day later, the main priest had a dream. Lord Jagannatha appeared to him and said, “I want you to perform the same funeral rights for this priest who has left Me as you would perform for all other priests who die. Because someone who serves Me may sometimes, due to various influences, leave Me. But what kind of Lord would I be if I left My servant who has gone astray?”

After this dream, the main priest clearly understood that this unconditional love of the Lord is one of His distinguishing features. It’s His strength, and it’s an encouragement to all the devotees that, yes, the Lord is interested in us.

So when we chant with the understanding that “I am the servant of this wonderful master and this world has one purpose—to reestablish my connection, even though I have gone astray”—the Lord immediately rushes to His devotee. He never gives up on anyone.

See you for the next *Kartik inspiration!*

CHANT WITH THE  
UNDERSTANDING THAT  
“I AM A SERVANT OF A MOST  
WONDERFUL, LOVING MASTER,  
WHO NEVER GIVES UP ON HIS  
SERVANTS.”

*Śacīnandana Prāsāda*  
ŚACĪNANDANA SWAMI