

# KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2024

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WHEN WE CHANT WITH A  
HUMBLE MOOD, KRISHNA QUICKLY  
RESPONDS. HE GRANTS US TASTE  
AND LIFTS US TO A PLACE WHERE  
WE CAN FEEL HIS PRESENCE.

## HUMBLED!

Welcome to our *Kartik inspiration!*

Today, we will discuss one of the main obstacles to spiritual advancement. Generally, people don't experience spiritual growth because of the following three reasons:

1. They are too complacent.
2. They are too busy with everyday life.
3. They are proud. Pride gives us a certain perspective in which we identify with our achievements.

In Vrindavan, just a week ago something quite funny happened that illustrates this. The district magistrate came to take *darsana* of Banke Bihari. Perhaps it was a political move to be seen as a pious candidate and collect more votes. As he moved about with a lot of cameras on him, high security and a police escort, he must have felt admired like King Indra.

But then something unexpected happened: out of nowhere, a monkey appeared and grabbed his glasses! The magistrate lost his composure and started shouting as his security and police frantically chased after the monkey through the streets of Vrindavan to retrieve the glasses. But the monkey, knowing the streets better than they did, escaped with ease.

Finally, a local resident stepped in with a solution: he offered the monkey a Coca-Cola! The monkey took it, opened it, drank it, and threw the glasses back. Yes, the monkeys of Vrindavan are quite advanced—when they steal something, they expect a bribe, either Coca-Cola or Frooti, a fruit drink which is popular here.

The next morning, the newspaper ran a story about the incident, showing the district magistrate losing it and shouting, while his entourage ran as fast as they could after the monkey. Yes, in that moment, the magistrate's pride was interrupted; this is what Vrindavan does to any visitor. If one arrives with a personal mission, Vrindavan finds a way to humble them.

When it comes to chanting the holy name, there is really one quality that helps us get the best out of our chanting session: chanting in a humble mood, where we call out to Krishna from the heart. When Krishna hears this quality in our chanting, He responds. He reaches out to the lost soul and bestows taste. He thus maintains our spiritual level and increases it, bringing us quickly to a place of Krishna consciousness, where we can feel His actual presence.

But first, the obstacle of pride must be removed. And Vrindavan constantly does just that.

*Śacīnandana Prāsa*

ŚACINANDANA SWAMI