

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2024



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KALYAN HO! MAY THERE BE
AUSPICIOUSNESS FOR YOU.
MAY YOU BE ENDOWED WITH
SPIRITUAL STRENGTH, AND MAY
ANY OBSTACLES OR SHADOWS
BE DISPELLED BY THE LORD'S
MERCIFUL GLANCE.

KALYAN HO!

Welcome to our last *Kartik Inspiration* for this year.

In this inspiration, we will look ahead and see how we can further spiritualize our lives. But first, let us consider what the devotees in Vrindavan do to complete their Kartik vows.

They feed *Vaisnavas*, *brahmanas*, and the cows. They do something for the benefit of others because spiritual practice should always overflow from our own little cup into the world, benefitting others. So, what can you do to complete this month?

One suggestion is to have a small ritual where you express gratitude. You might wave an incense stick before an image of the Lord, then sit down and reflect on the month to identify a moment of truth for yourself—especially the inner gifts you received.

You must know one thing: counting or becoming aware of our gifts and blessings and then building our lives upon them is a very powerful practice that brings light into our lives. One definition of craziness is to keep doing the same thing while expecting different results.

Our life shouldn't be a repetition or chewing of what is already chewed, nor should we stick to the same activities, thoughts, and processes that we have always done. Instead, we should be open to introducing *new* things—*new* thoughts, *new* practices, *new* words, *new* activities— because they will lead us to the next step forward.

As you move forward, keep one foot in the familiar while the other is stepping into new territories. In other words, plant one foot safely in the new place, then bring your other leg forward.

For me, there have been many insights. I was able to view my life from a completely different perspective—one offered from Vrindavan-dhama—which revealed many nice opportunities and possibilities that I will explore in the upcoming year.

It has been an honor to remain connected with you through these *Kartik Inspirations*. It has been a genuine joy to share some deeper reflections.

I wish you all the best. It would be my pleasure to meet you somewhere and exchange words and encouragement. And yes, let's see how we can stay in touch. I have a lot going on in the world of computers, but the most important thing I want to express is:

Kalyan ho! May there be auspiciousness for you. May you find spiritual strength in your life. May any obstacles and shades of darkness be dispelled by the mercy of the Lord.

Wishing you all the best, and see you soon.

Śacīnandana Śraṇis

ŚACINANDANA SWAMI