

# KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2024



DURING THE MONTH OF KARTIK,  
YOUR EVERY EFFORT IS SEEN,  
HEARD, AND NOTED  
BY SRIMATI RADHARANI.

DAY 1

## KARTIK TUNE IN

Welcome to this year's *Kartik Inspirations*!

Like every year, I will be sharing inspirations directly from Vrindavan for the next thirty days, to help you make the best use of the month of Kartik.

In the *Padma Purana*, Narada Muni describes the month of Kartik as being like the legendary *Cintamani* gem, which grants all wishes to those who possess it. But if you pass the month of Kartik without observing any vow, it's like throwing the *cintamani* into a lake of mud.

Srila Rupa Goswami describes that just as Lord Damodara is very kind to His devotees, His month—the Damodara month—is especially kind and rewards even the tiniest amount of service many, many, many times over. This is because this month has been given to Srimati Radharani and is imbued with Her special *sakti* to grant *bhakti*.

What are the regular observances that should be done each day in the month of Kartik? Well, it's really the smallest and simplest thing you can think of: offering a ghee lamp before the Lord while singing the *Damodarastakam*, the eight verses glorifying Lord Damodara, His pastimes, and His names.

It is said in the *Hari-bhakti-vilasa* that if you do this simple act—taking a ghee wick, a little cotton, dipping it

in ghee, offering it before the picture of Lord Damodara, and chanting “*namamisvaram-sac-cid-ananda-rupam*”—you can be sure that the Lord will take you from this world of birth and death and make you an associate in the spiritual world. It may take some time, but this will happen for sure.

There is something special I've decided to focus on in these *Kartik Inspirations*. I will talk about the experiences, skills, and ways that can help you to dive deep into the nectarean ocean of the holy name.

So please stay with us! But for now, tune yourself in to this month. Think about what you can offer as devotional service. Perhaps you'd like to upgrade your regular practices, like japa and kirtan. Others might choose to read sacred scriptures or recite verses like the *Radhikastakam* by Krishnadas Kaviraja Goswami.

Whatever it is, make up your mind today and see what you can do this month. You will see, your efforts will be seen, heard, and noticed, and there will be a rain of mercy coming down upon you directly from Srimati Radharani's hand.

I wish you the best Kartik you've ever experienced!  
Haribol!

*Śacīnandana Prasaśi*  
ŚACINANDANA SWAMI