

# KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2024

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LET US KEEP RADHA AND  
KRISHNA BEFORE OUR EYES.  
LET EVERY STEP WE TAKE BRING  
US CLOSER TO THEM.

## COMING CLOSER

Welcome to our *Kartik Inspiration*.

As the month slowly comes to an end, it's good to ask ourselves, "What will I do afterwards?"

Remember, everything else in life can be done by someone else. But there's one thing that lies entirely in your own hands: your own spiritual practice. If you don't take care of it, no one else can take care of it for you. It's something only you can do. It's not like shopping that can be delegated, or babysitting that someone else can handle, or even constructing a building—anything else can be done by someone else, except your own spiritual practice, which prepares you for eternity.

In one of his works, Raghunatha dasa Goswami describes what he wants to do before he has come to his ultimate realization. He says, *bhajami radham aravinda netram*, "I worship Srimati Radharani, who has lotus eyes." To worship means to hear about Her pastimes, Her qualities, and to offer a flower or something simple.

"I remember Radha who has a sweetly smiling face." How hope-giving! Our Srimati Radharani looks upon us with kindness.

Then, he says, "I speak of Radha, who is melting with compassion."

Raghunatha dasa Goswami concludes by expressing his hope, "She takes compassion on anyone who turns toward Her. Thus, there is no other goal for me."

This is the month of Radha, Krishna's dearest beloved, who has conquered His heart. Anyone who goes through the path of Radha will surely have Krishna's full attention. Krishna will remove all the obstacles and grant one His *shakti*, His spiritual energy, to move forward.

I recently heard a beautiful song here in Vrindavan that the Brijbasis sing. It's a kind of meditation. So, you might like to sit peacefully, take a few deep breaths, and listen.

"Just after sunset, as the darkness gently settles upon the land of Braj, Srimati Radharani walks near the village of Chiksholi. Her body emanates a sweet fragrance, which is a mixture of *aguru* and *chandan*, and thus many bees are attracted. The anklets on Srimati Radharani's feet are making very sweet sounds, calling Krishna's attention. The darkness in the lanes and streets of Varshana vanishes in the brilliant luster of Radhika's form as She walks like a swan toward Vrishabhanu's palace. May this image be engraved upon my heart forever."

Yes, let us keep Radha, and Radha and Krishna, before our eyes. Let us make Them the goal of our life. Let every step we take in this world bring us closer to Them. In this way, the month of Kartik will carry its tremendous blessings into our daily lives.

*Rāṇāndana Prāṇi*  
ŚACINANDANA SWAMI