

KARTIK
INSPIRATIONS
2025

To gain spiritual entrance into the holy dhama, we require an invitation.

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The Permission to Enter

Welcome to the Kartik inspirations!

Yes! I have bought a ticket to Vrindavan. Yes, the airplane brought me to Delhi, and the car took me first to Haridwar and then to Vrindavan. No doubt, I have physically entered Vrindavan. I saw the sign on the road: “Vrindavan—one kilometer.” But to gain spiritual entrance into the holy dhama, we require an invitation.

No one can enter the spiritual world on their own strength. There are no gate crushers there. Therefore, a devotee is encouraged to first take permission from his spiritual master and from Lord Nityananda, who can free us from material desires, so that we can actually see with pure eyes – a new set of eyes – Sri Vrindavan-dham.

Vrindavan-dham is also under the shelter of Vrinda Devi, who is approached through the famous Tulsi arati: “My desire is Vrinda-devi, that you will also grant me a residence in the pleasure groves of Sri Vrindavan-dham.”

Therefore, I always start my days here in Vrindavan with the Tulasi aratik to Vrinda-devi, asking permission. However, the One who is most important to grant us entry into Vrindavan-dham is none other than Srimati Radharani, Vrindavan-svari Radha.

Who will be able to enter the ocean of beautiful rasa of Krishna, who has not taken shelter under the lotus feet of Radharani? Who will be able to go there who has not walked through the forest of Vrindavan, which is marked with Her lotus footprints? Who can relish Vrindavan who has not talked with Radharani's deep devotees? All these give us permission and invitations to enter Vrindavan-dham.

What can you do when you are at home? See, there is a border between the material and the spiritual world. And this border

runs right through your own heart. It is in the heart where the soul resides; it is in the heart where the Supreme Lord resides. But they are behind the border, which is drawn by the false ego.

Once we want to enter the spiritual realm, we must therefore know how to leave this border behind. And there are very, very simple spiritual practices that are especially efficient in the month of Kartik, where you can leave the border to the material world behind. These practices put the Lord in the center. In a way, they dethrone the ego that has assumed the center of our lives and has created the material world with “my garden,” “my house,” “my money,” “my car,” “my endless worries,” “my anxieties,” and so on. To place Krishna at the center means to cross the border from the material world to the spiritual world. And in this month of Kartik, there are a few simple practices which will help you to cross that border:

First of all, offer a ghee lamp daily. It is this lamp that will light up your path back to Krishna.

Second, sing the Damodarastakam prayers, where each verse reminds you of the Lord's sweetness. You can find the links to the text and the melody here:

Text: <https://kksongs.org/songs/n/namamisvaram.html>

Melody: <http://soundcloud.com/sacinandanaswami/sri-damodarastakam-an?>

Then serve Tulasi Devi, who is the gatekeeper to Vrindavan.

And all this will be easy for you if you rise a bit earlier during this month. If you use the quiet morning hours for your spiritual practices - to chant, read, pray, and remember Krishna.

Good! This was a whole lot for today. I wish you all the best, and I look forward to seeing you tomorrow for the next Kartik inspiration! All the best!

Sacinandana Swami

SACINANDANA SWAMI