

By Your Side

Welcome to this episode of the Kartik Inspirations.

We have come to Vrindavan to respond to the Lord's call, "Come closer." And we have come to also call the Lord.

The mahā-mantra, which we chant most of the time here, is an ahvanātmaka-nāma. It is a name where one calls out to the Lord. There is a verse that says, "nāma-saṅkīrtanam proktam... Śrī Kṛṣṇa-nāma is the most powerful means to attain the treasure of love of God. It's like the most attractive mantra. The Lord appears personally before all of those who chant His name."

This is one of the ongoing miracles of chanting Hare Krishna. Prabhupāda expressed it in very, very direct terms. He said, "Instead of approaching God, if you chant His names, God approaches you."

Look at this miracle. Stop everything. Let the world go on pause, and acknowledge that there is a way in which the Lord becomes present.

It was in October 1968, in Seattle. Prabhupāda sat before those who received the sacred initiation. He had just given them, or he was about to give them, the mahā-mantra, and he said, "As soon as you

chant Hare Krishna, that means Krishna is dancing on your tongue. You should be careful. As you offer so much respect to your spiritual master as soon as he's present, so if Krishna is present on your tongue, how much more careful you should be. You should always know that Krishna is there."

From this little phrase in the lecture, "you should always know that Krishna is there," I have coined an affirmation, or a way to set the mind in a certain way. When I chant, I tell myself, "Be present and know 'I, Krishna, am right by your side.'"

With this little perspective, you could say, my chanting becomes more that type of chanting which really attracts Krishna. Krishna will not come if we call for Him in a, let us say, demanding way. "Hey, hey, come now, be present." No. He comes when the bhava, when the mood is right. It's the loving mood of a child who calls for his mother.

So, you be present and know that Krishna is right there. Or at least, He is just now coming.

Wishing you all the best. And see you next Kartik Inspiration.

When you chant, be present,
and know that Krishna is right there.

Rāmanandana Brahmī
RACINANDANA SWAMI