

KARTIK INSPIRATIONS 2018

START WITH THE EASY
STEPS OF RENOUNCING
EVERYTHING
UNFAVORABLE YOU
RECOGNIZE AS SUCH.

DAY 5 · 28 OCTOBER, 2018

RENUNCIATION OF CONDUCT UNFAVORABLE TO PURE DEVOTION

Greetings from the joyful land of Vrindavan!

We are discussing the road of *sharanagati* or taking shelter. In Vrindavan we see many people who have actually given up all conduct and everything else which is unfavorable to developing *bhakti* to Radha and Krishna. Externally, they may appear poor, but internally they have great spiritual wealth. This brings us to our next step on the road of *sharanagati*: renunciation of conduct unfavorable to *bhakti*.

Bhaktivinoda offers us a list of behaviors to give up, but first I would like to tune you in. If you want to carve out a beautiful image from a stone, you need to chip away everything covering the stone. You need to become a mason, someone who carves deities. This is our life in Krishna consciousness: out of this material world, we want to carve the beautiful image of Radha and Krishna. For that we will need to learn to renounce things that are unfavorable and in the way.

Bhaktivinoda Thakur now sings:

“I will not have association with persons opposed to Your bhakti. I will never reside at places unfavorable to devotional service. I will never take pleasure in non-devotional activities. I will not read books opposed to

pure devotion, nor listen to any scriptural explanation which counters devotional principles.”

And he goes on and on, and he says:

“With great care I will reject everything unfavorable to devotional service.”

This is a most definite proclamation. I would like to encourage you: dare to examine your life and find hindrances harmful to your development. Start with the easy steps of renouncing everything unfavorable you recognize as such. This will give you confidence, strength and also spiritual experiences that help you move forward.

Yes, there is this spiritual law:

“I reveal Myself in accordance to how someone surrenders to Me.”

I wish you all the best on this path. Take courage and let's be together again tomorrow.