



*Janmashtami
Mahotsav 2020*



ISKCON
PHOENIX

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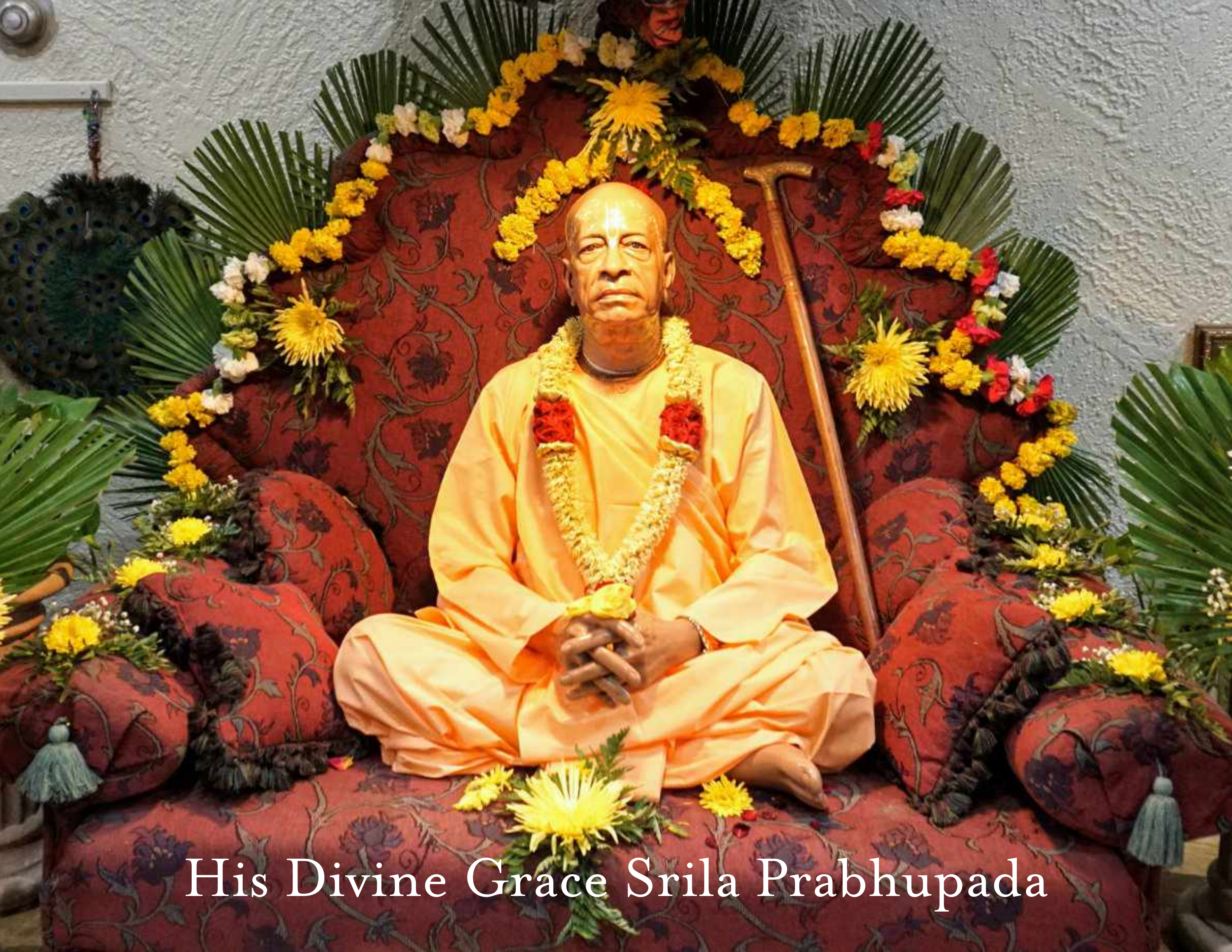
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His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada

Temple Devotees



Prema Dhatri Devi
Dasi



Radha Madhava
Das



Divya Shyam Das



Dhana Laxmi Devi
Dasi



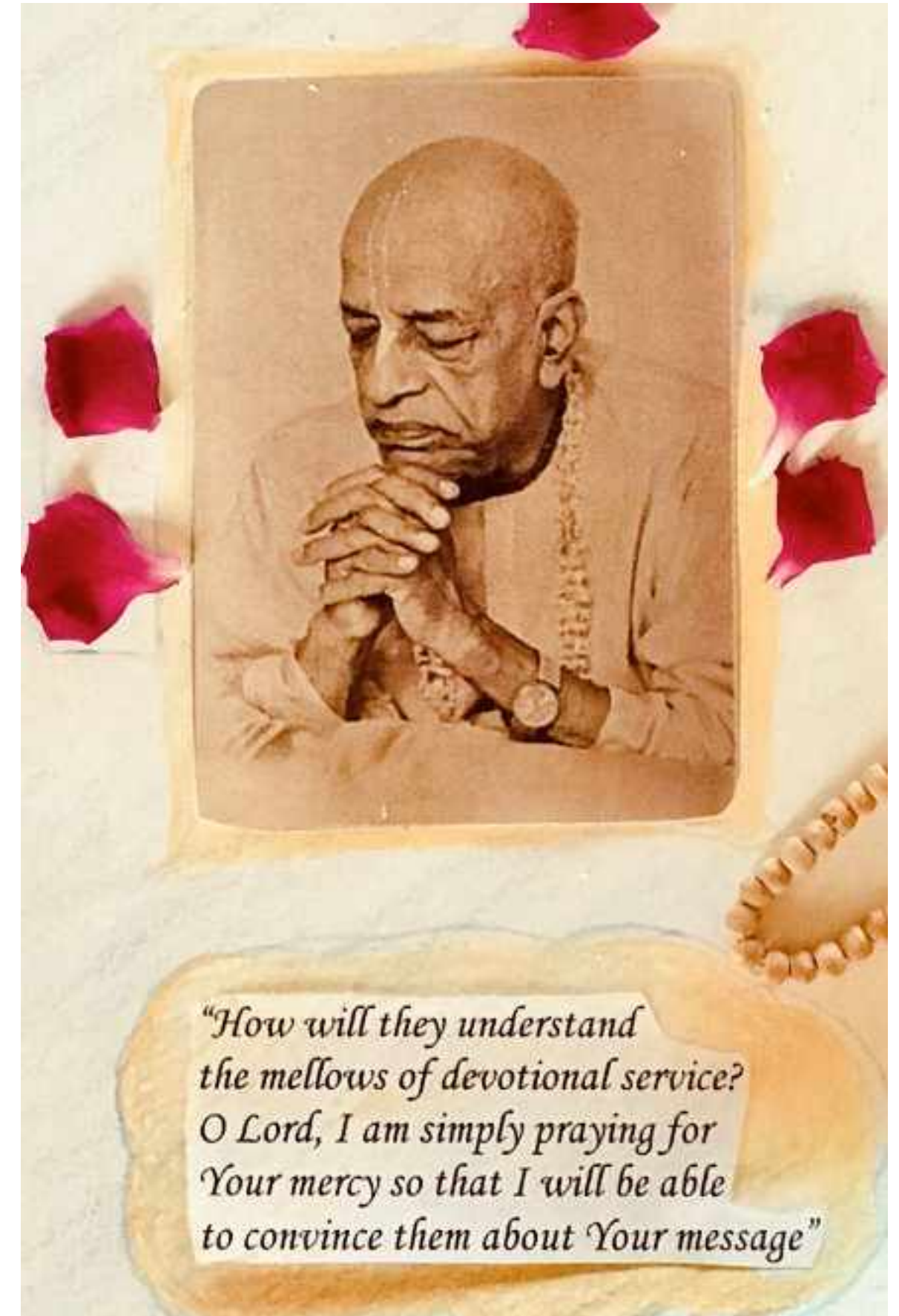
Damodar Das



Parthasarathi Das



Gopa Kumar Das



Temple Council Members



**Prema Dhatri Devi
Dasi**



**Radha Madhava
Das**



Sri Govinda Das



**Syama Mohini Devi
Dasi**



**Nama Priya Devi
Dasi**



Parul Tailor



**Ishvara Gauranga
Das**



Raghupathi Puncha



**Mathura Vallabha
Govinda Das**



Kevala Bhakti Das



**Bharadwaj
Balasubramaniam**



yadā yadā hi dharmasya
glānir bhavati bhārata
abhyutthānam adharmasya
tadātmānaṁ sṛjāmy aham

Whenever and wherever there is a
decline in religious practice, O
descendant of Bharata, and a
predominant rise of irreligion – at that
time I descend Myself. (BG 4.7)

paritrāṇāya sādḥūnāṁ
vināśāya ca duṣkṛtām
dharma-saṁsthāpanārthāya
sambhavāmi yuge yuge

To deliver the pious and to annihilate
the miscreants, as well as to reestablish
the principles of religion, I Myself
appear, millennium after millennium.
(BG 4.8)



सत्यमेव जयते

प्रधान मंत्री
Prime Minister
MESSAGE

The organization of Janmashtami celebrations by International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) is a blissful occasion for the devotees of Lord Krishna across the world. I am pleased to learn about the Janmashtami Souvenir 2020 being brought out on the occasion.

The auspicious festival marks the rekindling of love for Lord Krishna and continues to be the fulcrum of our socio-cultural ethos. People from all sections of society participate in the celebrations with gaiety and fervour.

ISKCON has been spreading the divine message of Lord Krishna enshrined in Srimad Bhagavad Gita. As the foundation stone of Indian culture, wisdom and philosophy, Gita is widely acclaimed as a spiritual treatise, but is nothing short of an encyclopedia of life. It offers practical solutions to everyday challenges and inspires one to service of the people and society. The increasing popularity of Bhagavad Gita throughout the world reflects its universal appeal.

As the ISKCON family celebrates Janmashtami, may Lord Krishna continue to shower His blessings upon humanity. Lord Krishna had satiated His hunger with a single grain of food. Inspired by the 'Leela', ISKCON continues to distribute meals to the poor and the needy as a part of its 'Food for Life Programme'. May this spirit of selfless service secure the grace of the Lord on all the devotees and members of the ISKCON family.

My best wishes to the ISKCON and every devotee of Lord Krishna for soulful Janmashtami celebrations. May the publication of Janmashtami Souvenir 2020 be a huge success.

(Narendra Modi)

New Delhi

श्रावण 08, शक संवत् 1942

30th July, 2020

Shri Vrajendranandan Das

Director-National Communication (ISKCON - India)

ISKCON, Hare Krishna Hill, Sant Nagar

Main Road, East of Kailash

New Delhi – 110065

A Message from Temple President



**Prema Dhatri Devi
Dasi**

Hare Krishna Dear Devotees,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

On behalf of Their Lordships, Sri Sri Radha-Madhava Hari, Sri Shreenathji Gopal and Sri Sri Gaura-Nitai, we wish everyone a very joyful Sri Krishna Janmastami!

We are going through bizarre and challenging times due the Covid 19 pandemic. I am incredibly grateful to all the devotees, contributors of the articles and a special thank you to all the advertisers for participating in this year's first ever e-souvenir. Sri Krishna Janmastami festival celebration will be celebrated mostly via Facebook-Live and other online venues. We thank all the participants of the various programs and everyone who is working in the background to coordinate the various aspects of this year's virtual celebration of the appearance of Lord Sri Krishna.

We had a seamless transitioning to online programs as soon as the temple had to close due to the lockdown. I would like to thank all the Sunday School teachers and Hindi class teachers who kept all the classes going via the internet. We had a successful Summer camp also. The children learnt from the scriptures, Bhagavad Gita sloka class, story time, craft activities, Vaishnava bhajans, older children had Vaishnava etiquette class, Book of life, Journal keeping, etc. The team of schedulers and Bhakti Vriksha leaders continued their weekly programs going on via various means also. We managed to have association of various senior devotees via Zoom for the Sunday Feast classes.

The year began with a Japa retreat with HH Romapada Swami and HG Syamasundara Prabhu. It was nice to have HG Bhadra das and HG Anangamanjari devi dasi for their annual springtime visit. HG Amarendra das visited Phoenix for the first time also. I take this opportunity to introduce our new GBC, HH Badrinarayan Swami, who plans to visit us in the near future.

We were fortunate to have the Chandler Police department come and participate in our child safety initiative. It was very well received by the children and the parents. We have managed to celebrate all the major festivals successfully including another Rathayatra Festival in Phoenix, just before the pandemic.

But this pandemic has not stopped the senior devotees from visiting our Yatra, so taking advantage of technology in the service of Krishna we were blessed to have the association of HH Bhaktisundar Swami, HH Giriraj Swami, HG Anangamanjari devi dasi, HG Urmila devi dasi, HG Gauranga das, HH Romapada Swami and HG Bhadra das. Our gratitude to all of them for the wonderful online programs and we are looking forward to more. We were truly fortunate to have HH Romapada Swami visit us for always inspiring programs and this time, two blessed bhaktas received Harinama initiations during that visit!

My heartfelt gratitude to HG Anangamanjari devi dasi and HG Bhadra das for participating in our morning Srimad Bhagavatam classes. It is such a treat!!

HG Syama Mohini dd resumed producing our newsletter, - "At the Pier" – a big thank you to mataji's enormous contribution to this and many other sevas.

A Message from Temple President

The temple is offering live darshan and Aratis three times a day so all the congregation members can get darshan of Their Lordships every day.

New programs were added to the already ongoing programs. We continue with morning Japa chanting followed by reading and explanation of one verse from Srimad Bhagavatam every day 5.00 am – 6.15 am. via teleconference and then we have daily Srimad Bhagavatam class from 7.35 am to 8:15am. via zoom/Facebook Live. We added reading and discussion of Bhagavad Gita Monday-Thursday 7.05 pm Bhagavad Gita also via zoom/Facebook Live. We appreciate Kanah Priya prabhu's help with the BG readings.

Vaishnavi Sanga group has been created for the ladies. They read Srimad Bhagavatam every day in the afternoon and they meet every Saturday to share and to learn. From time to time, they have various guests and sessions to learn and support one another to stay strong in faith and in service.

Vedic school participation has increased, and Bhakti Vriksha program also added another group in Tempe. I very much appreciate the support of HG Sri Govinda das and HG Namapriya devi dasi for their tireless seva in so many areas. A huge thank you to all the Bhakti Vriksha servant leaders for their perseverance in these challenging circumstances to maintain their groups with enthusiasm.

There were property improvements also. The ashram windows were replaced, classroom had AC added, back Deity room was remodeled to add more storage space, outside walls got a fresh coat of paint and the south parking lot was repaired and a fence and gates were added to the south side.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone for their devotion, selfless efforts, and their continued service, in many ways. An organization like ours depends on dedicated volunteers. We pray to Their Lordships to bless each and every one of you and your family.

Lord Krishna tells Arjuna in BG 2.51:

karma-jam buddhi-yuktā hi
phalam tyaktvā manīṣiṇaḥ
janma-bandha-vinirmuktāḥ
padam gacchanty anāmayam

“By thus engaging in devotional service to the Lord, great sages or devotees free themselves from the results of work in the material world. In this way they become free from the cycle of birth and death and attain the state beyond all miseries [by going back to Godhead]”

In his purport, Srila Prabhupada explains: “Owing to ignorance, one does not know that this material world is a miserable place where there are dangers at every step. Out of ignorance only, less intelligent persons try to adjust to the situation by fruitive activities, thinking that the resultant actions will make them happy...But one who, understanding that his position is to serve, transfers himself to the service of the Lord, at once becomes eligible for Vaikuṇṭha-loka...”

The Janmastami celebration is a golden opportunity to hear about, chant the glories and serve the Lord with like-minded devotees. The greatest blessing is to always remember Krishna and thus remain forever in the service of the Lord with enthusiasm and faith.

Once again, thank you very much for all your support.

Your humble servant,

Prema dhatri dasi

Temple President.

From all of us



Under a “new normal”, we are trying to the best of our abilities and possibilities to celebrate the appearance day of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Krishna.

Lord Brahma states in Bramha-Samhita,

iśvarah paramah krsnah
sac-cid-ānanda-vigrahah
anādir ādir govindah
sarva-kāraṇa-kāraṇam

Krsna who is known as Govinda is the Supreme Godhead. He has an eternal blissful spiritual body.

He is the origin of all. He has no other origin and He is the prime cause of all causes.

This is a major cause for celebration, and one that no one can take away, because the essence of the appearance of the Supreme Lord goes beyond any material matters, and what is that essence? Love. Out of His causeless mercy, Lord Krishna appeared in His original form over 5000 years ago “To deliver the pious and to annihilate the miscreants, as well as to reestablish the principles of religion” (BG 4.8)

In this Iron Age (Kali), where the values are in decline, where society is so much busy and engrossed with instant gratification and attention to the real self is ignored, we are getting a golden opportunity in the midst of a global calamity. We are getting the chance to connect to the Lord in our heart, to sit back and appreciate the wonders of His

vast creation and to try to understand the meaning of what real life is all about. Janmastami is not just a yearly celebration, and although many will miss the personal darshan of Their Lordships, think that the Lord is always with us in our heart as the Paramatma (Supersoul) and maybe, just maybe, this year, our celebration will be a permanent one, a celebration that will take place in our heart.

May the blessings of Sri Sri Radha-Madhavahari be with you and your loved ones.

From all of us at ISKCON PHOENIX



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Message from HH Badrinarayan Swami



**Badrinarayan
Swami**

Hare Krishna and Happy Janmastami. There is definitely worth in respecting Janmastami simply out of tradition. But the deeper benefit is if we also use the opportunity for introspection. Events like this are a time to take stock of where we are and where we are going in our life. This is especially true in the time of Covid, when so many things are up-in-the-air and uncertain.

In this spirit, let me share with you some thoughts.

I often meet people who say quite contentedly: “I pray to God”. OK. All well and good. Very pious of them. At least they are recognizing that we are all dependent on the Supreme. But for many, the relationship with Krishna / God stops at that point.

Suppose you had someone in your life who only contacted you when they needed something. They phoned you only when they needed money, only when they wanted a favor, or only when they had a problem they wanted you to solve. You certainly would not consider such a person a good and intimate friend. You would certainly not look forward to their next call or e-mail.

If we are honest with ourselves, is our relationship with Krishna / God much different? The Christians pray: “God give us this day our daily bread”. Is that prayer an expression of love for God or really motivated primarily by love of bread? The same mood is also there in Hindu tradition. Many pray: “Om jaya Jagadisha Hare” while within their heart they are thinking: “Give me a new car and a house by the sea”. The fact is that many people think of God as some kind of cosmic ATM or that prayer is like ordering from a divine Amazon.com.

Let me stitch the above mood to a misunderstanding of the Bhagavad Gita’s message. People often tell me: “I know the meaning of the Gita. It is to do your worldly duty”. But the truth is that the conclusion of the Gita is to put aside our calculations of worldly dharma and instead sync our desires and plans with those of Krishna. The Gita is not meant to pat us on the back and encourage us to carry on as we are. Rather, it is a call to action to shift from focusing on striving to fulfill our never-ceasing desires to instead serving Krishna’s purposes,

Krishna concludes His instruction to Arjuna in the Gita with the following verse:

sarva-dharmān parityajya
mām ekaṁ śaraṇaṁ vraja
ahaṁ tvāṁ sarva-pāpebhyo
mokṣayiṣyāmi mā śucaḥ

“Abandon all varieties of religion and just surrender unto Me. I shall deliver you from all sinful reactions. Do not fear.” (BG 18.66)

Arjuna then replies:

arjuna uvāca
naṣṭo mohaḥ smṛtir labdhā
tvat-prasādān mayācyuta
sthito ’smi gata-sandehaḥ
kariṣye vacanaṁ tava

“My dear Krishna, O infallible one, my illusion is now gone. I have regained my memory by Your mercy. I am now firm and free from doubt and am prepared to act according to Your instructions.” (BG 18.73)

Message from HH Badrinarayan Swami

So, all well and good that we pray to God, but the real question is “What are we doing for God?” Praying to God is the beginning—serving Him with tangible action is the conclusive fruit. Action in His service is the on-going state of perfection.

Krishna confirms this in the Gita:

yoginām api sarveṣāṁ
mad-gatenāntar-ātmanā
śraddhāvān bhajate yo mān
sa me yukta-tamo mataḥ

"Of all yogis, the one with great faith who always abides in Me, thinks of Me within himself, and renders transcendental loving service to Me is the most intimately united with Me in yoga and is the highest of all. That is My opinion." (Bg. 6.47)

To put this another way, is the highest state of spiritual life to give up everything and live in silent meditation in a cave in the Himalayan mountains?

Many years ago, when I was a young student just starting out in spiritual life, I asked my spiritual master, Srila Prabhupada (the founder-acharya of the Hare Krishna mission) a question. I was wrestling with the conundrum: “Is this world to be enjoyed or renounced? Do we dive head long into sense satisfaction or avoid the things of the world, seeing them as mundane and corruptive?”

At the time I asked the question, Srila Prabhupad was cutting some fruit. He held up the knife he was using and asked me “Is this knife material or spiritual?” He went on to explain that the knife in the hand of a surgeon can save my life while in the hand of a murderer, it can take my life. The knife itself is neutral. It is the purpose for which it is used that determines its benefit or risk.

In truth, what is the meaning of our renunciation? Suppose I walk into the Bank of America and announce: “I renounce all the money in this bank”. People will laugh. It was not my money in the first place. What is the meaning of renouncing what I never owned? The

fact is that we come into this world empty-handed and we leave this world empty-handed. In the ultimate issue, nothing is ours. True spiritual vision is to see that the things of this world belong to Krishna and should thus be used in His service.

Let me conclude with a quick thought exercise. Stop for a moment, clear your mind, and then try the following: Do not think of the color red.

How did that work out for you? We all experience that the opposite is the result—all we can think of is the color red. The point is that it is not possible to make the mind void. Rather, the symptom of life, the very nature of the soul, is to be active. The existential question is not whether or not to be active but rather “How” / “For what purpose” should we be active?”

The answer is as mentioned above—we should be active in service, according to what pleases the purposes of Krishna.

So, while we may pray to God, and that is all well and good, the question we should all be asking ourselves is: “What are we doing in service for Krishna?”

Thank you for lending me your attention for a few minutes to consider the above.

Happy Janmastami.

Yours in the service of Lord Krishna,

Badrinarayan Swami.



Bhakti Vriksha Programs

Bhakti Vriksha



Sri Govinda Das

ISKCON Phoenix is happy to introduce Bhakti Vriksha (Self-Discovery) programs for our community. These are weekly home programs conducted on Fridays from 7 PM to 9 PM or on Saturdays from 6 PM to 8 PM. These informal gatherings are intended to help discover the timeless knowledge of Bhagavad Gita and learn the art of Bhakti Yoga in a warm, welcoming, and peaceful atmosphere with friends and family. The program consists of ice breaker, kirtan, spiritual discussion focusing on its practical application in our day-to-day life, mantra meditation and delicious dinner prasadam. We also conduct a simultaneous session for children where they are engaged in creative games, stories, singing and lots of fun filled devotional activities while the parents are participating in the program.

At these Self-Discovery gatherings you will meet many like-minded, growth-oriented people like yourself, and likely make many new friends and contacts. This will not only bond you socially, but also enriches you on a deeper level culturally and spiritually. The small casual get-togethers help you to get answers to your questions without feeling shy or intimidated. Members attend program based on their geographic location. Each group consists of about 5-6 families (approximately 15 members) and is facilitated by a servant leader and an associate servant leader. The group members meet once a week at home and stay connected through out the week to inspire each other in their spiritual journey as well as encourage new participants to join and explore Krishna Consciousness. Once the group exceeds 15 members, it multiplies into two and each group continues to grow independently thus harboring a culture of caring for people, empowerment and expansion. The members come together at the temple on Sundays and various festivals and serve Their Lordships together as a family.

These programs have become very popular in the congregation and we have extremely positive reviews from all the participants. With a humble beginning in June 2017 and we have currently grown to 6 groups in various locations in Chandler, Gilbert, Ahwatukee and North Phoenix and Tempe.

With COVID-19 restrictions in place, this year these programs are being conducted on virtual platform and continue to be highly sought after by the participants.

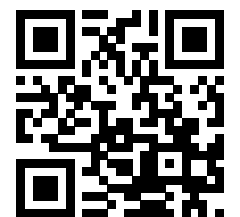
Please do not miss this wonderful opportunity to grow spiritually by connecting yourself with one of the groups closest to your location. You may contact devotees for additional information displayed on the next page.

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Bhakti Vriksha

Bhakti Vriksha Contacts

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Testimonials from the Bhakti Vriksha Group Leaders

In February 2018, with the blessings of Sri Sri Radha Madhava Hari and Sri Nityananda Prabhu, West Chandler Bhakti Vriksha group was started with the objective of creating an open learning environment for spiritual growth. This was done under the expert guidance of HG Sri Govinda das and HG Prema Dhatri devi dasi. Originally drawing from a small group of devotees across Chandler, Gilbert, and Ahwatukee, the BV group has embraced more members throughout the years. The team infuses both adolescent and adult participation and engagement to host an inclusive space for all spiritual students alike. Currently, Vamshee Prabhu and Raghupathi Prabhu have taken over the servant leader role, and the group is studying the Bhagavad Gita edifications, having already completed the Introductory edifications. As a response to the COVID-19 crisis, the group has transitioned to an online platform to ensure a continued commitment to their studies. Members have seen remarkable spiritual progress by engaging in chanting, shastric study, and other temple services with their fellow devotees. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu Sankirtan Yagya Ki Jai!

-NamaPriya devi dasi (West chandler group)

Bhakti Vriksha group is a small number of congregational devotees who meet every week to practice teachings from Holy Bhagavad Gita and live life according to Krishna consciousness principles. In these Bhakti Vriksha groups, the devotees learn how to nourish their spiritual creeper and to cultivate their service attitude in cooperation with others. Every group member is also active in preaching and in bringing new people into the group. The members help each other under the supervision of a servant-leader and a trainee servant-leader. The trainee servant-leader is being trained and groomed to become the future group leader.

-Isvara-Gauranga das (East Chandler- Gauranga Sankirtan & Nitai Sankirtan group)

Bhakti Vriksha

This program and our association with the devotees has strengthened our bond with Krishna and has set us on a spiritual path. I very much look forward to Bhakti Vriksha sessions every week where we hear and discuss passages from scriptures, talking about what one's primary duty is and how one can easily go about achieving it in this time and age. These sessions have cleared many of my misconceptions and taught me techniques to spiritualize everything in life. I welcome others to join us in this journey of blissful transformation.

-Kevala Bhakti das (Ahwatukee, Tempe group)

Hare Krishna, I feel myself blessed as I am part of Bhakti Vriksha North Phoenix group. It is Shri Shri RadhaMadhavHari's mercy that I am getting such a wonderful association of devotees. Due to this program I have realized how bhakti (devotion) is essential for the nourishment of our mind and body. We are in this material world which is full of miseries, anxieties and there is danger in every step. When problems are materialistic, solution should be transcendental, this is what I have learnt from the devotees. Chanting the holy name, hearing about the Lord, reading Bhagavad Gita and Shrimad Bhagavatam, cooking for the Lord with love and devotion, honoring prasadam on daily basis is helping me to cultivate Bhakti. Taking shelter at the lotus feet of The Supreme Personality of Godhead helps me to keep my mind free from stress and anxiety and particularly during this pandemic devotional practice is helping me a lot to remain calm.

-Mita & Manoranjan (North Phoenix group)

Bhakti Vriksha has helped our family dovetail material identity with the spiritual self, overall increased our spiritual awareness and reinforced belief in the supreme lord. The knowledge from the Bhakti Vriksha program helps appreciate our vedic knowledge, gain devotee association, be grateful, develop an attitude of service, raise kids in a Krishna conscious environment, and added purpose to life.

-Prawin Sahu (East Chandler- Gauranga Sankirtan group)

Bhakti Vriksha programs provide a platform for devotees to meet regularly and discuss the Bhagavat Gita verses and other spiritual topics in an open and informal way. Unlike a formal lecture, these sessions are meant to foster discussion among devotees and brainstorm the key ideas of a verse. While adults are having the discussion, kids are divided into age groups and taken care by volunteers. Volunteers read them Vedic stories and teach them Krishna conscious art and craft. These meetings provide a great opportunity for devotees to bond while providing meaningful socializing opportunities. Also, kids get the opportunity to play with other devotee kids, while learning about scriptures. Lastly, the volunteers from these Bhakti Vriksha groups do wonderful service in temple during regular programs and special festivals, thus promoting a familial spiritual culture.

-Ashish Kurchania (East Chandler- Nitai Sankirtan group)

Testimonials from the Bhakti Vriksha Members

Bhakti Vriksha provides a scintillating environment to people and enables people to learn about the richness in Bhagavad Gita and Hindu philosophy. The kirtans, and chanting at these gatherings are unprecedented experiences to one's peace of mind.

-Desh Pande

Originally, I asked for a referral to the Tempe-area Bhakti Vriksha group because I was moving to Arizona for school and wanted to meet some people in the local Vaishnava community before I arrived. Oh, what a pleasant surprise it was once I started attending Bhakti Vriksha meetings in Tempe! Quickly, I saw that I had so many spiritual questions in common with other people, and that we could discuss it and find self-realization together. I highly recommend tuning into Bhakti Vriksha meetings if you can. It will be worth it! Sri-Sri Radha Madhava Hari ki jai!

-William



Bhakti Vriksha

The Bhakti Vriksha program has helped build a strong association with the devotees and in turn with Krishna Consciousness. The openness of the forum is the highlight as it provides room for thoughts and perspectives related to the path of Bhakti. The weekly discussions on the simplified learnings from the scriptures has refined our understanding and also has given us clarity on so many day-to-day aspects of life. We hope the Bhakti Vriksha can shelter many, many, neophyte devotees under the loving guidance of advanced devotees by the Grace of Sri Krishna.

-Shamini

My wife and I have been attending the Bhakti vriksha program regularly and it has provided us with an excellent platform for interaction with like-minded Krishna Devotees. The topics discussed in the program are excerpts from vedic literature and are spiritual in nature. The discussions are very engaging and have invoked an interest in us to read/hear/understand Bhagavad Gita and Srimad Bhagavatam and chant everyday.

-Santosh Nishtala

Bhakti Vriksha program has been a life-changing event for my family. Kids have a much better upbringing. I and my wife have a much better understanding of our partnership and respect for each other since we have a better appreciation of this human life.

-Anil Kedia

In the weekly meeting, instead of having a formal lecture, the group discusses a particular aspect of the philosophy is very good. Everyone participates and is encouraged to share his understanding of the subject, his realizations, and how to apply that particular knowledge in one's life. This helps to involve everyone and to make the meeting highly interactive and engaging.

-Naresh

Bhakti Vriksha has provided us association of like-minded devotees who are enthusiastic to help each other to progress in spiritual life. The biggest beneficiaries are our kids who have learned about rich our Vedic culture and good etiquette.

-Rasa Krida das

Before writing about Bhakti Vriksha, I pay me respectful obeisances unto Lord Krishna (Supreme Personality of Godhead), Srila Prabhupad, all the acharyas and to all the devotees. When I think of Bhakti Vriksha, my heart fills with joy, peace and happiness, like the one we get by sitting under the shadow of a tree in the hot summer afternoon. Trees are playing a vital role in our life by providing oxygen, giving shelter, providing fruits, flowers, grains etc. Trees are used for medical purposes also. Similarly, Bhakti Vriksha is also very important to us. We are in this material world age and cannot escape from the miseries of birth, death, old age and disease. Our scriptures like Bhagavat Gita have all the solutions to the miseries of life. But we need the guidance of a spiritual guru or senior devotee to understand it properly. In the Bhakti Vriksha program we read from scriptures and discuss the meaning of the verse with the guidance of senior devotees. This is an open discussion where we can get our doubts clarified also. We do Kirtan and chant the Hare Krishna Mantra which are highly recommended by Chaitanya Mahaprabhu in the present age of Kaliyuga. Children also enjoy it very much as they also learn about the pastimes of Lord Krishna and do other fun activities. In the end we all enjoy Prasadam prepared by all the devotees with great love and devotion. It is like a feast for us. We are also fortunate to have the association of visiting sanyasis and senior devotees from out of town. Devotees are also ready to help each other in any difficulty. I always look forward to our online meeting, but in the lockdown period we do our meeting online which is equally fulfilling. I always remember to follow the ABCD program suggested by HG Ishvara Gauranga Prabhu, which gives me strength and moral support in this difficult time. A: Association of devotees, B: Books (Scriptures), C: Chanting, D: Diet (Prasadam). I am very grateful to all the devotees and founders of the Bhakti Vriksha Program. Hare Krishna.

-Kashmira Kothari

Bhakti Vriksha

Bhakti Vriksha is the devotional tree which is nourished by the spiritual discussion about our beloved Lord Sri Krishna by the devotees. It helped especially for me to progress in my spirituality. The 2 hour program increased my love for Lord Sri Krishna. We can learn many new things with deep philosophy included. I strongly recommend to join.

-Bala

Bhakti Vriksha program is useful in following ways for me: A - Association of devotees, B - Reading Prabhupada's Transcendental Books, C - Chanting the holy names of the Lord D - Having a complete vegetarian prasadam Diet 1. Give a chance to read the scripture every week so that devotion that I am doing is not very dry and sentimental. 2. Associating with Devotees, thereby you constantly get inspired by them 3. Sanctified food or Prasadam being served after being offered to the Lord. It's a kind of weekly treat with Karma Free food being fed. Gives me a chance to taste the best variety of homemade food and thereby purifying my thoughts & also get inspired from the devotees who make a lot of effort to make it happen inspite of their daily routine.

-Gautam

Bhakti Vriksha program along with devotees has provided persistent enthusiasm in exploring the words spoken by Lord Krishna in Bhagavad Gita, and thus, the opportunity for ongoing spiritual progress

-Ram Chaturvedi

I started attending Bhakti Vriksha earlier this year, as I realized I needed a Sangha to understand the Bhagavad Gita. I am a novice amongst the deeply knowledgeable and tenured devotee in my Chandler group, but they encourage me to share my ideas and thoughts. I find the everyone in the group very inspiring, especially the charming youth and children who join enthusiastically with their parents and contribute unique insights. This group is for all ages and levels, so don't hesitate to come and experience!

- Abha Gupta Ellis



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Poem: Initiation in the times of Corona



Ashish Kurchania

*The world is trembling with Corona's fear
Lockdown is everywhere far & near*

*Will we survive in this time of tribulation
Couldn't enjoy enough is the only lamentation*

*To rescue & protect the fallen souls of kali
Serving his Guru's mission, comes a Vaishnava Bahubali*

*Empowered with Lord Chaitanya's love & compassion
He is ready to help the whole civilization*

*Jeevas are trapped in the cycle of birth & death
Like an insect in the cobweb without any faith*

*Millions of lifetimes later they get fortunate
A bonafide spiritual master comes to associate*

*Showering the mercy of pure Krsna bhakti
Awakening the jeevas to Lord's shakti*

*Once upon a time there was a great deliberation
Bhakti Siddhanta proved Vaishnava's reputation*

*Today there is no need to deliberate
As we watch two Brahmanas initiate*

*Initiate to a life of Bhakti with service attitude
Forever indebted to Acaryas gratitude*

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HIS DIVINE GRACE
A.C. BHAKTIVEDANTA
SWAMI PRABHUPADA

always remember Krishna, never forget Krishna

nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine

*I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A.C.
Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is very dear to Lord Krishna,
having taken shelter at His lotus feet.*

namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe

*Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master,
servant of Sarasvatī Gosvāmī. You are kindly preaching the
message of Lord Caitanyadeva and delivering the Western countries, which
are filled with impersonalism and voidism.*

“As Founder-Acarya Srila Prabhupada holds a unique position in
ISKCON. We need to understand it deeply.

As ācārya, his exemplary personal behavior is the model and norm for
all ISKCON devotees. As founder, his personal standards and principles
of action, his particular spirit or “mood,” take on a societal shape and
form in the organization he created. Each individual member
internalizes that spirit, incorporating it into the core of his or her
identity.

His spirit pervades the institution as the essence of its culture, and the
members become its visible embodiment in the world”

(Srila Prabhupada, The Founder Acarya of ISKCON – Ravindra Svarupa
Dasa)



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Sandhya Arati - Daily 6:30pm to 7:00pm

*Bhagavad-Gita Class** – Mon-Thur. 7:05pm to 7:35pm

Shayana Arati – Daily 8:30pm to 8:45pm

Sunday Feast Program

Gaura Arati: 5:00pm to 5:30pm

Discourse: 5:35pm to 6:20pm

**Zoom: Meeting ID 84686190647 p/w: Krishna also
On Facebook Live*

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nama om vishnu-padaya krishna-preshthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin iti namine
namas te saraswate deve gaura-vani-pracarine
nirvishesha-shunyavadi-pashchatya-desha-tarine

Dear Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you! All glories to the Sankirtan Movement of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu! With gratitude, love, and respect; we present you with this humble offering:

Pleased is the most merciful Lord as He
Relishes the wonders of your service
Awaken the sleeping souls was your
Bona fide plan and with love and care the
Herculean task began; and like a spiritual warrior you
Upheld the precious instructions of your Guru Maharaja
Preaching loud and clear, preaching bold and mild
Always with Sri Caitanya at your side, with Radha-Krishna in your heart
Day and night, you gave yourself to rescue from near and far
All the fallen souls that came right on your path.

Please forgive our shortcomings and bless us so that we will develop sincere, unmotivated, unconditional devotional service; that we always remember Krishna and never forget Him. Bless us so that we, with all humility, respect and tolerance may be able to work with each other, to understand the meaning of cooperation. You have given us the blueprints and a strong foundation to build upon. Please guide us, so that we can work together and at the end of our journey, join you at the pier, where we will be able to board the boat captained by you, and by your mercy, go back home to Godhead.

Your aspiring servants at ISKCON PHOENIX.



International Society for Krishna Consciousness

Founder Acharya, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

A Big Thank You!!

A special message to

Our warriors in scrubs,

It is with deep gratitude that we write these lines, praying that you and your loved ones are keeping well, keeping safe.

The battle is tough, because the enemy is unknown and treacherous. In war, sometimes we lose battles, but it is important to remain stable, to stay the course, to remain in faith to ultimately, win the war.

You are not only helping patients with your medical expertise, but you are also giving them the compassion & understanding needed at this time. You yourselves are putting your lives at risk, without even thinking for a moment that you have loved ones waiting for you at home.

Whatever your faith might be, get a hold of it and keep God at the center of your lives and stay strong, know that millions of people are thinking and praying for you, and are most thankful for what you do.

With gratitude, your well-wishers at ISKCON PHOENIX.

Damodarashtakam



namāmīśvaram śac-cid-ānanda-rūpaṁ
lasat-kuṇḍalam gokule bhrājamanam
yaśodā-bhiyolūkhalād dhāvamānam
parāmṛṣṭam atyantato drutya gopyā

To the Supreme Lord, whose form embodies eternity, knowledge, and bliss, whose earrings swing to and fro, who shines beautifully in Gokula, who quickly ran from the grinding mortar in fear of mother Yasoda, and who was caught from behind by her, who ran faster than He – to that Supreme Lord, Sri Damodara, I offer my humble obeisances.

rudantam' muhur netra-yugmam' mrjantam
karāmbhoja-yugmena sātaṅka-netram
muhuh, śvāsa-kampa-trirekhāṅka-kantha-
sthita-graivam' dāmodaram' bhakti-baddham

[Upon seeing His mother's whipping stick] He cried and rubbed His eyes again and again with His two lotus hands. His eyes were fearful, and His quick breathing shook the strand of pearls on His neck, which bore three lines like those on a conchshell. To that Supreme Lord, Sri Damodara, whose belly is bound with the ropes of His mother's pure love, I offer my humble obeisances.

itīdrk sva-līlābhir ānanda-kunde
sva-ghosam' nimajjantam ākhyāpayantam
tadīyesita-jñesu bhaktair jitatvam'
punah, prematas tam' śatāvr, tti vande

With these superexcellent childhood pastimes Lord Krishna drowned the residents of Gokula in pools of ecstasy, In this way He declared to those absorbed in knowledge of His majesty and opulence: "I am conquered only by My pure loving devotees". With great love I again offer my obeisances to Lord Damodar hundreds and hundreds of times.

varam' deva moksam' na moks āvadhim' vā
na canyam' vrne'ham' varesād apīha
idam' te vapur nātha gopāla-bālam'
sadā me manasy āvirāstām' kim anyaih,

O Lord, though You can award all kinds of benedictions, I pray to You neither for the boon of impersonal liberation, nor for the highest liberation of eternal life in Vaikuntha, nor for any other such boon. O Lord, I simply wish that this form of Yours as Bala Gopala in Vrndavan may ever be manifest in my heart, for what use do I have for any other boon besides this?

A painting of a young Krishna sitting cross-legged, playing a flute, with a peacock feather in his hand. He is adorned with a crown, jewelry, and a peacock feather in his hair. The background is a warm, golden-yellow color.

namo deva dāmodarānanta visno
 prasīda prabho duhkha-jālābdhi-magnam
 krpā-drsti-vrstyāti-dīnam' batānu
 grhānes a mām ajñam edhy aksi-drśyah.

kuverātmajau baddha-mūrtyaiva yadvat
tvayā mocitau bhakti-bhājau krtau ca
tathā prema-bhaktim' svakām' me prayaccha
na mokse graho me'sti dāmodareha

namas te 'stu dāmne sphurad-dīpti-dhāmne
tvadīyodarāyātha viśvasya dhāmne
namo rādhikāyai tvadīya-priyāyai
namo 'nanta-līlāya devāya tubhyam

O Supreme Godhead, I offer my respectful obeisances unto You. O
 Damodara! O Ananta! O Visnu! O Master! O Lord! Be pleased upon me.
 Shower me with Your merciful glances and deliver this poor ignorant fool
 immersed in an ocean of worldly sorrows and become visible to my eyes.

O Lord Damodara, as a baby tied to a grinding mortar, You delivered Kuvera's two sons from the curse of Narada and made them into great devotees. In the same way, please give me pure loving devotion for You. I long for this alone and have no desire for any kind of liberation.

O Lord Damodara, obeisances unto the brilliantly effulgent rope binding
Your belly! Obeisances unto Your belly, the abode of the entire universe!
Obeisances unto Your dear-most beloved Srimati Radharani! And
obeisances unto You, O Lord, who display unlimited pastimes!



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The 7 Purposes of ISKCON



In July 1966, Srila Prabhupada incorporated the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). The incorporation document states following seven purposes of ISKCON:

1. To systematically propagate spiritual knowledge to society at large and to educate all peoples in the techniques of spiritual life in order to check the imbalance of values in life and to achieve real unity and peace in the world.
2. To propagate a consciousness of Krishna as it is revealed in the Bhagavad-gita and Srimad Bhagavatam.
3. To bring the members of the Society together with each other and nearer to Krishna, the prime entity, and thus to develop the idea, within the members, and humanity, at large, that each soul is part and parcel of the quality of Godhead (Krishna).
4. To teach and encourage the Sankirtan movement of congregational chanting of the holy name of God as revealed in the teachings of Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.
5. To erect for the members, and for society at large, a holy place of transcendental pastimes, dedicated to the personality of Krishna.
6. To bring the members closer together for the purpose of teaching a simpler and more natural way of life.
7. With a view towards achieving the aforementioned purposes, to publish and distribute periodicals, magazines, books and other writings.

Prayers for offering food to Krishna



nama om vishnu-padaya krishna-preshtaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin iti namine
namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracarine
nirvishesha-sunyavadi-paschatya-desa-tarine

I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, who is very dear to Lord Krishna, having taken shelter at His lotus feet. Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, servant of Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Chaitanyadeva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.

namo maha-vadanyaya
krishna-prema-pradaya te
krishnaya krishna-chaitanya-
namne gaura-tvishe namah

O most munificent incarnation! You are Krishna Himself appearing as Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. You have assumed the golden color of Srimati Radharani, and You are widely distributing pure love of Krishna. We offer our respectful obeisances unto You.

namo brahmanya-devaya
go-brahmana-hitaya ca
jagad-dhitaya krishnaya
govindaya namo namah

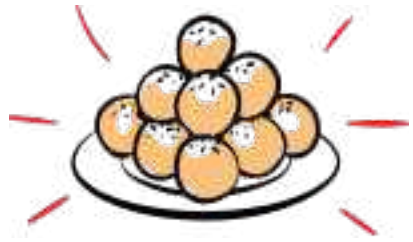
My Lord, You are the well-wisher of the cows and the brahmanas, and You are the well-wisher of the entire human society and world.

sri-krishna-chaitanya prabhu-nityananda
sri-advaita gadadhara srivasadi-gaura-bhakta-vrinda

“I offer my obeisances to Sri Krishna Chaitanya, Prabhu Nityananda, Sri Advaita, Gadadhara, Srivasa and all others in the line of devotion”

Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare
Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare

Prayers for honoring Prasadam



maha-prasade govinde
nama-brahmani vaisnave
svalpa-punya-vatam rajan
visvaso naiva jayate

For those who have amassed very few pious activities, their faith in maha-prasad, in Sri Govinda, in the Holy Name and in the Vaishnavas is never born.

sarira avidya-jal, jodendriya tahe kal,
jive phele visaya-sagore
tar' madhye jihva ati, lobhamoy sudurmati,
ta 'ke jeta kathina samsare

O Lord, this material body is a place of ignorance, and the senses are a network of paths leading to death. Somehow, we have fallen into this ocean of material sense enjoyment, and of all the senses the tongue is most voracious and uncontrollable. It is very difficult to conquer the tongue in this world.

krishna baro doyamoy, koribare jihva jay,
sva-prasad-anna dilo bhai
sei annamrita pao, radha-krishna-guna gao,
preme dako chaitanya-nitai

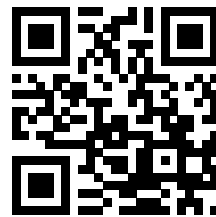
But You, dear Krishna, are very kind to us and have given us such nice prasadam, just to control the tongue. Now we take this prasadam to our full satisfaction and glorify Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Krishna, and in love call for the help of Lord Chaitanya and Lord Nityananda.

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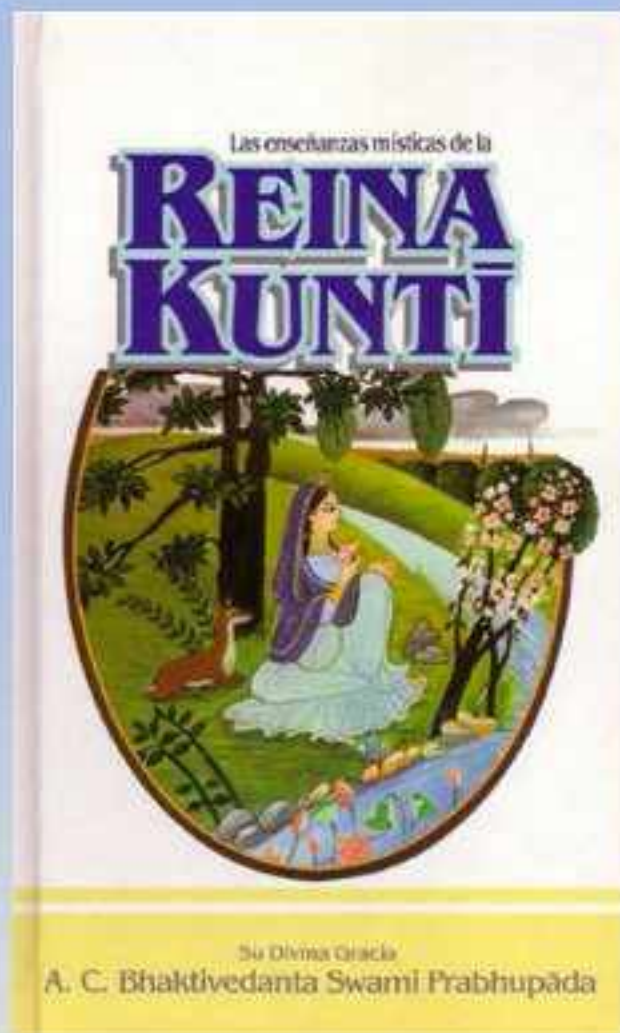
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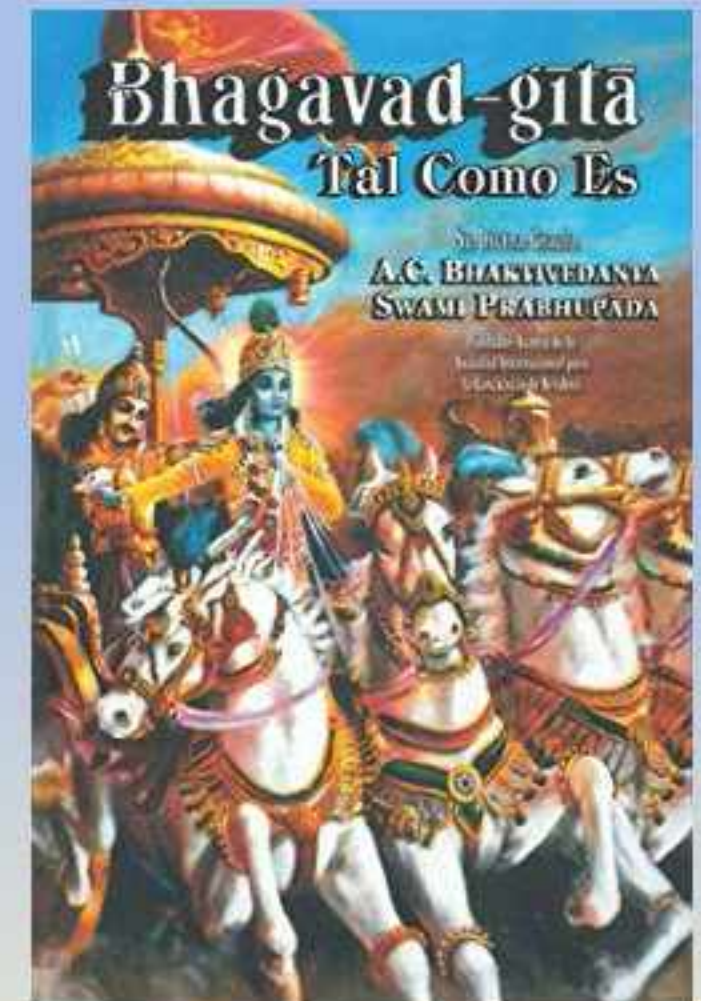
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Gaura Aarti

(kiba) jaya jaya gorachander aratiko sobha
jahnavi-tata-vane jaga-mana-lobha
dakine nitaichand bame gadadhara
nikate adwaita shrinivasa chhatra dhara
bosiyachhe gorachand ratna-simhasane
arati korena brahma-adi deva-gane
narahari-adi kori chamara dhulaya
sanjaya-mukunda-basu-ghosh-adi gaya
sankha baje ghanta baje baje karatala
madhur mridanga baje parama rasala
bahu-koti chandra jini vadana ujjwala
gala-deshe bana-mala kore jhalamala
siva-shuka-narada preme gada-gada
bhaktivinoda dehke gorara sampada

(Refrain 1)

gauranger arotik sobha
jaga-jana-mana-lobha

(Refrain 2)

sankha baje ghanta baje
madhur madhur madhur baje

All glories, all glories to the beautiful arati ceremony of Lord Caitanya. This Gaura-arati is taking place in a grove on the banks of the Jahnavi (Ganges) and is attracting the minds of all living entities in the universe.

On Lord Caitanya's right side is Lord Nityananda and on His left is Sri Gadadhara. Nearby stands Sri Advaita, and Srivasa Thakura is holding an umbrella over Lord Caitanya's head.

Lord Caitanya has sat down on a jeweled throne, and the demigods, headed by Lord Brahma perform the arati ceremony.

Narahari Sarakara and other associates of Lord Caitanya fan Him with camaras, and devotees headed by Sanjaya Pandita, Mukunda Datta, and Vasu ghosa sing sweet kirtana.

Conchshells, bells, and karatalas resound, and the mrdangas play very sweetly. This kirtana music is supremely sweet and relishable to hear.

The brilliance of Lord Caitanya's face conquers millions upon millions of moons, and the garland of forest flowers around His neck shines.

Lord Siva, Sukadeva Gosvami, and Narada Muni are all there, and their voices are choked with the ecstasy of transcendental love. Thus Thakura Bhaktivinoda envisions the glory of Lord Caitanya.

*aṅgāni yasya sakalendriya-vṛtti-manti
paśyanti pānti kalayanti ciraṁ jaganti
ānanda-cinmaya-sad-ujjvala-vigrahasya
govindam ādi-puruṣaṁ tam ahaṁ bhajāmi*

I worship Govinda, the primeval Lord, whose transcendental form is full of bliss, truth, substantiality and is thus full of the most dazzling splendor. Each of the limbs of that transcendental figure possesses in Himself, the full-fledged functions of all the organs, and eternally sees, maintains and manifests the infinite universes, both spiritual and mundane





10 offences against holy name

1. To blaspheme the devotees who have dedicated their lives for propagating the holy name of the Lord.
2. To consider the names of demigods like Lord Siva or Lord Brahma to be equal or independent to the holy name of Lord Vishnu.
3. To disobey the orders of the spiritual master.
4. To blaspheme the Vedic literature or literature in pursuance of the Vedic version.
5. To consider the glories of chanting Hare Krishna as imagination.
6. To give some interpretation on the holy name of the Lord.
7. To commit sinful activities on the strength of chanting the holy name of the Lord.
8. To consider the chanting of Hare Krishna as one of the auspicious ritualistic activities which are offered in the Vedas as fruitive activities (karma-kanda).
9. To instruct a faithless person about the glories of the holy name.
10. To not have complete faith in the chanting of the holy names and to maintain material attachments, even after understanding so many instructions on this matter. It is also an offense to be inattentive while chanting.

Every devotee who claims to be a Vaisnava must carefully guard against these 10 offenses in order to achieve Krishna Prema

Happy Janmastami
from



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Standard Prayers

Prayer to Vaisnavas

vāñchā-kalpatarubhyaś ca
kṛpā-sindhubhya eva ca
patitānām pāvanebhyo
vaiṣṇavebhyo namo namaḥ

I offer my respectful obeisances unto all the
Vaiṣṇava devotees of the Lord. They are like desire
trees who can fulfill the desires of everyone, and
they are full of compassion for the fallen
conditioned souls

Obeisance to Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine

I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine
Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda,
who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken
shelter at His lotus feet.

namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe

Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual
master, servant of Sarasvatī Gosvāmī. You are
kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanyadeva
and delivering the Western countries, which are
filled with impersonalism and voidism.

Standard Prayers

Sri Sri Gurv-ashtaka Eight Prayers to the Guru by Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakura

(1)

samsara-davanala-lidha-loka
tranaya karunya-ghanaghanatvam
praptasya kalyana-gunarnavasya
vande guroh sri-caranaravindam

The spiritual master is receiving benediction from the ocean of mercy. Just as a cloud pours water on a forest fire to extinguish it, so the spiritual master delivers the materially afflicted world by extinguishing the blazing fire of material existence. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master, who is an ocean of auspicious qualities.

(2)

mahaprabhoh kirtana-nritya-gita
vaditra-madyan-manaso rasena
romanca -kampasru-taranga-bhajo
vande guroh sri-caranaravindam

Chanting the holy name, dancing in ecstasy, singing, and playing musical instruments, the spiritual master is always gladdened by the sankirtana movement of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Because he is relishing the

mellows of pure devotion within his mind, sometimes his hair stands on end, he feels quivering in his body, and tears flow from his eyes like waves. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.

(3)

sri-vigraharadhana-nitya-nana
sringara-tan-mandira-marjanadau
yuktasya bhaktams ca niyunjato 'pi
vande guroh sri-caranaravindam

The spiritual master is always engaged in the temple worship of Sri Sri Radha and Krishna. He also engages his disciples in such worship. They dress the Deities in beautiful clothes and ornaments, clean Their temple, and perform other similar worship of the Lord. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.

(4)

catur-vidha-sri-bhagavat-prasada
svadv-anna-triptan hari-bhakta-sanghan
kritvaiva triptim bhajatah sadaiva
vande guroh sri-caranaravindam

The spiritual master is always offering Krishna four kinds of delicious food [analyzed as that which is licked, chewed, drunk, and sucked]. When the spiritual master sees that the devotees are satisfied by eating bhagavat-prasada, he is satisfied. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.

(5)

sri-radhika-madhavayor apara
madhurya-lila guna-rupa-namnam
prati-kshanasvadana-lolupasya
vande guroh sri-caranaravindam

The spiritual master is always eager to hear and chant about the unlimited conjugal pastimes of Radhika and Madhava, and Their qualities, names, and forms. The spiritual master aspires to relish these at every moment. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.

Standard Prayers

Sri Sri Gurv-ashtaka Eight Prayers to the Guru by Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakura

(6)

nikunja-yuno rati-keli-siddhyai
ya yalibhir yuktir apekshaniya
tatratidakshyad ati-vallabhasya
vande guroh sri-caranaravindam

The spiritual master is very dear, because he is expert in assisting the gopis, who at different times make different tasteful arrangements for the perfection of Radha and Krishna's conjugal loving affairs within the groves of Vrindavana. I offer my most humble obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.

(7)

sakshad-dharitvena samasta-sastrair
uktas tatha bhavyata eva sadbhih
kintu prabhor yah priya eva tasya
vande guroh sri-caranaravindam

The spiritual master is to be honored as much as the Supreme Lord, because he is the most confidential servitor of the Lord. This is acknowledged in all revealed scriptures and followed by all authorities. Therefore I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master, who is a bona fide representative of Sri Hari [Krishna].

(8)

yasya prasadam bhagavat-prasado
yasyaprasadan na gatih kuto 'pi
dhyayan stuvams tasya yasas tri-sandhyam
vande guroh sri-caranaravindam

By the mercy of the spiritual master one receives the benediction of Krishna. Without the grace of the spiritual master, one cannot make any advancement. Therefore, I should always remember and praise the spiritual master. At least three times a day I should offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master.

Standard Prayers

Śrī Nṛsimha Praṇāma

namas te narasimhāya prahlādāhlāda-dāyine
hiraṇyakaśipor vakṣaḥ-śilā-ṭaṅka-nakhālaye

ito nṛsimhaḥ parato nṛsimho yato yato yāmi tato nṛsimhaḥ
bahir nṛsimho hṛdaye nṛsimho nṛsimham ādim śaraṇam prapadye

“I offer my obeisances to Lord Nṛsimha -deva, who is always giving bliss to His devotees like Prahlada Maharaja and chiseling at the hearts of demons like Hiraṇyakaśipu. The devotee always sees Lord Nṛsimha everywhere. Lord Nṛsimha is within and without. Therefore let us take shelter of Lord Nrsimha.”

tava kara-kamala-vare nakham adbhuta-śṛṅgam
dalita-hiraṇyakaśipu-tanu-bhṛṅgam
keśava dhṛta-narahari-rūpa jaya jagadīśa hare

“O my lord Nṛsimha-deva, Your hands are very beautiful, like the lotus flower, but with Your long nails You have ripped apart the wasp Hiraṇyakaśipu. Unto You, Lord of the Universe, I offer my humble obeisances.”

Sri Kṛṣṇa-pranama

he kṛṣṇa karuṇā-sindho dīna-bandho jagat-pate
gopeśa gopikā-kānta rādhā-kānta namo ‘stu te

“O my dear Kṛṣṇa, You are the friend of the distressed and the source of creation. You are the master of the cowherdsmen and the lover of the gopīs, especially Rādhārāṇī. I offer my respectful obeisances unto You.”

Sri Radha Pranam

tapta kanchana gaurangi
radhe vrindavaneshvari
vrishabhanu sute devi
pranamamai hari priye

I offer my respects to Radharani, whose bodily complexion is like molten gold and who is the Queen of Vrindavan. You are the daughter of King Vrishabhanu, and you are very dear to Lord Krishna.

Panca-tattva Mantra

jaya sri-krishna-chaitanya
prabhu nityananda
sri-adwaita gadadhara
shrivasadi-gaura-bhakta-vrinda

I offer my respectful obeisances unto Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Lord Nityananda, Sri Advaita, Gadadhara Pandit, Srivas Thakur, and all the devotees of Lord Caitanya.

Standard Prayers

Maṅgalācaraṇa Prayers

vande 'haṁ śrī-guroḥ śrī-yuta-pada-kamalaṁ śrī-gurun vaiṣṇavāṁś ca
śrī-rūpaṁ sāgrajātaṁ saha-gaṇa-raghunāthānviṭaṁ taṁ sa-jīvaṁ
sādvaitaṁ sāvadhūtaṁ parijana-sahitaṁ kṛṣṇa-caitanya-devaṁ
śrī-rādhā-kṛṣṇa-pādān saha-gaṇa-lalitā-śrī-viśākhānviṭāṁś ca

I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master and unto the feet of all Vaiṣṇavas. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī along with his elder brother Sanātana Gosvāmī, as well as Raghunātha Dāsa and Raghunātha Bhaṭṭa, Gopāla Bhaṭṭa, and Śrīla Jīva Gosvāmī. I offer my respectful obeisances to Lord Kṛṣṇa Caitanya and Lord Nityānanda along with Advaita Ācārya, Gadādhara, Śrīvāsa, and other associates. I offer my respectful obeisances to Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī and Śrī Kṛṣṇa along with Their associates, Śrī Lalitā and Viśākhā.

Śrī Śrī Śikṣāṣṭaka

ceto-darpaṇa-mārjanaṁ bhava-mahā-dāvāgni-nirvāpaṇaṁ
śreyah-kairava-candrikā-vitarāṇaṁ vidyā-vadhū-jīvanam
ānandāmbudhi-varḍhanaṁ prati-padaṁ pūrṇāmṛtāsvādanaṁ
sarvātma-snapanam param vijayate śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtanam

1) Glory to the śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtana, which cleanses the heart of all the dust accumulated for years and extinguishes the fire of conditional life, of repeated birth and death. This saṅkīrtana movement is the prime benediction for humanity at large because it spreads the rays of the benediction moon. It is the life of all transcendental knowledge. It increases the ocean of transcendental bliss, and it enables us to fully taste the nectar for which we are always anxious.

nāmnām akāri bahudhā nija-sarva-śaktis
tatrārpitā niyamitaḥ smaraṇe na kālaḥ
etādṛśī tava kṛpā bhagavan mamāpi
durdaivam īdṛśam ihājani nānurāgaḥ

2) O my Lord, Your holy name alone can render all benediction to living beings, and thus You have hundreds and millions of names, like Kṛṣṇa and Govinda. In these transcendental names You have invested all Your transcendental energies. There are not even hard and fast rules for chanting these names. O my Lord, out of kindness You enable us to easily approach You by Your holy names, but I am so unfortunate that I have no attraction for them.

Standard Prayers

Śrī Śrī Śikṣāṣṭaka

tr̥ṇād api sunīcena
taror api sahiṣṇunā
amāninā mānadena
kīrtanīyaḥ sadā hariḥ

3) One should chant the holy name of the Lord in a humble state of mind, thinking oneself lower than the straw in the street; one should be more tolerant than a tree, devoid of all sense of false prestige, and should be ready to offer all respect to others. In such a state of mind one can chant the holy name of the Lord constantly.

na dhanam na janam na sundarīm
kavitām vā jagad-īśa kāmaye
mama janmani janmanīśvare
bhavatād bhaktir ahaitukī tvayi

4) O almighty Lord, I have no desire to accumulate wealth, nor do I desire beautiful women, nor do I want any number of followers. I only want Your causeless devotional service, birth after birth.

ayi nanda-tanuja kiṅkaram
patitaṁ mām viṣame bhavāmbudhau
kṛpayā tava pāda-paṅkaja-
sthita-dhūli-saḍṛśaṁ vicintaya

5) O son of Mahārāja Nanda [Kṛṣṇa], I am Your eternal servitor, yet somehow or other I have fallen into the ocean of birth and death. Please pick me up from this ocean of death and place me as one of the atoms at Your lotus feet.

nayanaṁ galad-aśru-dhārayā
vadanam gadgada-ruddhayā girā
pulakair nīcitaṁ vapuḥ kadā
tava-nāma-grahaṇe bhaviṣyati

6) O my Lord, when will my eyes be decorated with tears of love flowing constantly when I chant Your holy name? When will my voice choke up, and when will the hairs of my body stand on end at the recitation of Your name?

yugāyitaṁ nimeṣeṇa
cakṣuṣā prāvṛṣāyitaṁ
śūnyāyitaṁ jagat sarvaṁ
govinda-viraheṇa me

7) O Govinda! Feeling Your separation, I am considering a moment to be like twelve years or more. Tears are flowing from my eyes like torrents of rain, and I am feeling all vacant in the world in Your absence.

āśliṣya vā pāda-ratāṁ pinaṣtu mām
adarśanān marma-hatām-hatām karotu vā
yathā tathā vā vidadhātu lampaṭo
mat-prāṇa-nāthas tu sa eva nāparaḥ

8) I know no one but Krishna as my Lord, and He shall remain so even if He handles me roughly by His embrace or makes me brokenhearted by not being present before me. He is completely free to do anything and everything, for He is always my worshipful Lord, unconditionally.

Hare Krishna Mahamantra

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare



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Are we ready?



**Syama Mohini Devi
Dasi**

This year's Janmashtami celebration will be an extraordinary one in form and essence. Extraordinary because it will be unusual. In form because the festivities will be totally different. No thousands of devotees visiting the temple to take darshan, no assembling at one place to sing, dance, chant or have prasadam. No long lines at the door or looking for a parking space within a mile from the temple. Everything now will be done via "Live Media". On the plus side, we will be making a good use of such media in the service of Krishna.

Although we will not be celebrating the "usual" way, we can celebrate by understanding more the reasons for the Lord's appearance and by doing so, we can have a bigger celebration in our heart. In other words, we can try to get the essence of the message given by Lord Krishna in Bhagavad Gita. However, in order to receive these precious instructions, we need to be ready to receive them.

In Srimad Bhagavatam 1.1.22, the sages at Naimisaranya say:

tvam naḥ sandarśito dhātṛ

dustaram nistitīṣatām

kaliṁ sattva-haram puṁsām

karṇa-dhāra ivārṇavam

"We think that we have met Your Goodness by the will of providence, just so that we may accept you as captain of the ship for those who desire to cross the difficult ocean of Kali, which deteriorates all the good qualities of a human being"

Srila Prabhupada begins his purport by stating that "the age of Kali is very dangerous for the human being. Human life is simply meant for self-realization, but due to this dangerous age, men have completely forgotten the aim of life..."

What is the aim of life? To get out of the cycle of birth, death, old age, and disease; in other words, to go back home to Godhead. By self-realization or God realization (Krishna consciousness) this is possible. But as long as we are influenced by the modes of material nature in this iron age, this is very difficult because people are more engaged in sense gratification; now a days, instant gratification is right at our fingertips, literally. People are so busy trying to lord over the Lord's creation, that in the interim we are forgetting that we are just a part and parcel of the Lord. We get carried away by so many temporary situations, by wealth, degrees, position, status, and material education, that unfortunately with the rise of modernization, civilization as such is declining. Modern society thinks that technological advancement, modernization or westernization are signs of civilization, but without the cultivation of real education, meaning, the education that will ultimately connect us to the Supreme Lord, the Supreme Controller (Isvara), we will just be running in circles around the material sphere. No, education is not bad, we can dedicate that to Krishna as well, but when we do not have Krishna at the center, then that just becomes sense gratification. We do not use but abuse the natural resources given by the Lord, thinking that we have a right over them or that we can control them just because we have a human body, because we are on "top of the food chain". We may have a human body, but unless we use this human form of life to connect to Krishna, to find who we really are, then we are no different than animals.

The sages surrendered their questions to the spiritual authority, Suta Goswami very submissively and requested an easily understandable way to be the absolute and ultimate good for the people in general. And in this verse, they are accepting him

Are we ready?

as the captain of their ship. Srila Prabhupada states “The ship being the message of Lord Krishna in the shape of Bhagavad-Gita or the Srimad Bhagavatam”

If we think we can swim across the ocean of material existence on our own, we are going to drown. To cross this ocean of material existence, we need a strong and reliable boat, but we also need an authorized captain, someone who will be able to keep the ship afloat amidst huge waves trying to bring it down. A knowledgeable captain that can navigate and knows how to read the instruments to reach the desired destination.

Once at the pier, getting on the boat will be easier, because it means that if we were able to make it to the pier, we were able to get a ticket to board and that we were able to reach in spite of many road blocks that may have prevented us from reaching in the first place.

Now, let us pause for a moment, on our way to the pier, we may find others trying to reach as well. Would we stop and help? Or would we just continue, thinking that they would somehow or other reach, eventually. “I must make it”, “I cannot take anyone along because I want to go faster”, “I cannot be distracted”. If we think like this, then, where is our caring disposition? The sages are being so caring, they are surrendering their questions and sincerely requesting a solution for humanity at large.

So, in our spiritual journey, are we willing to take the time to help others or do we just want to be first in line when it is time to board? Imagine 3 runners

about to cross the finish line, the first runner suddenly gets a cramp and falls, the second runner sees him, stops, and helps him. The third runner continues to the finish line taking advantage of the situation. There are some judges at the finish line and although the third runner finished first and gets his medal, the second runner is the one getting the attention, why? Because he cared.

At the end, it is not who we know, what we are or how great our Sanskrit pronunciation is. It is accepting that we are spirit souls, realizing our eternal position and to prepare for that test; we need to take the essence, the nectar given to us in the form of Bhagavad Gita and Srimad Bhagavatam, the instructions from Lord Caitanya that will help us in our spiritual journey. We should remember the caring disposition of the sages of Naimisaranya every time we read Bhagavad Gita or Srimad Bhagavatam and listen with rapt attention. There is nothing more purifying than the pastimes of the Lord, and even if we are not proficient in Sanskrit and have a terrible memory, if we take the essence of the message, we apply the teachings and live by them, at the time when we are about to be tested, it will be the power of the Holy name that will keep us connected.

Srila Prabhupada said “This human form of life should be used for sreyas (ultimate goal) and not Preyas (Instant sense gratification)”

Because of material contamination, sometimes we may be navigating in passion and sometimes even in ignorance, particularly if we associate with those who are heavily in Maya or material contamination. If there is no material contamination, that is goodness.

When we help others, when we genuinely care for others, that makes our spiritual master happy, and if he is happy, Radharani will be happy and if She is happy, then Krishna is happy. The summum bonum of everything comes to Love. Pure love that needs to be awakened. We see so much love in the pastimes of the Lord, they are meant to melt our heart, to give us a message, to instruct us. To love means sacrifice, care and it should not be confused with LIKE, because one day we may like something, but that same thing can be discarded when we no longer need it or “like” it. Krishna is so merciful, and out of His love for us, He makes arrangements for the fallen souls to get a chance reconnect and to go back home, back to Him.

The essence of all, is love. We can see this example in the Lord’s Damodara Lila, the two inches represent the Lord’s mercy (love) and the perseverance from the devotee (Mother Yasoda). What a beautiful display of loving exchange between the Lord and His devotee! The Lord is bhaktaih jitatvam, conquered by His pure loving devotees.

So, are we on the road to the pier? Are we there yet? Are we ready to board? Did we come alone, or did we come with a big Harinam party? Are we getting the essence of the instructions in the examples of the sages by observing the qualities of humility, cooperation for the benefit of humanity, surrendering & caring disposition?

The boat is there, the captain is ready to receive us, he has provided the tools and the instructions. Now it is up to us to take the next step.

Are we ready?



Rathayatra Festival







Rathyatra Festival

Lord Jagannatha is the Lord of the Universe, so we can all welcome the Lord in our heart, love Him, serve Him, and share His greatness with others, that's why Rathayatra festival is so important. Jai Jagannatha!

On Sunday, March 1, 2020, ISKCON Phoenix celebrated Lord Jagannatha's Ratha-Yatra festival at the Steele Indian School Park in Phoenix.

Everyone had the opportunity to take darshan of Their Lordships in a spiritually charged environment that included live performances, book distribution, children's activities, japa chanting, kirtan, arati, bhoga offerings as well as various booths with information on Srila Prabhupada, Krishna Consciousness, cow protection/vegetarianism, questions & answers, and of course, vegetarian feast!

The first time that the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) celebrated this important festival, was in 1967 in San Francisco, under the supervision and blessings of our founder acarya, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

The Lord is known by His various different names according to His different Lilas (pastimes), Lord Jagannatha is the Lord of the Universe and has a very particular form, some people think that this form is "incomplete" but, is it?

The Lord IS complete, He is Purusottama, He is sac-cid-ananda (full of eternity, knowledge and bliss), He is the Absolute Truth.

So, why this form? Well, this is another pastime of The Lord! Another arca-vigraha to help us remember Him and worship Him.

Once, the Queens of Dwarka requested mother Rohini to share the pastimes of Krishna in Vrindavan, they wanted to relish those Nectarian stories. She agreed with the condition that Krishna and Balaram would not be in attendance, so she asked Devi Subhadra to guard the door and inform if her brothers would come.

But when mother Rohini was describing the wonderful pastimes of Lord Krishna, Devi Subhadra got so absorbed in the narration, that she did not notice that Krishna and Balaram were standing right next to her. The three of Them were in such ecstatic frame, that Their lotus eyes widen, Their smile reflected Their unparalleled happiness and Their arms retracted just as a person experiences an instant shock.

So, this pastime was forever carved in His Daru-Brahma form.

On Ratha-Yatra day, the Lord of the Universe comes out of His temple accompanied by His brother Lord Balaram and His sister, Devi Subhadra. They ride on chariots pulled by devotees and anyone who would want to participate. The merciful Lord gives His darshan and the opportunity to serve to everyone. The Lord is pleased when He sees His devotees sharing the good fortune with others.

Jai Jagannatha, Jai Baladeva, Jai Subhadra!



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How to keep myself safe?



- I must not talk to strangers.
- If someone bothers me at school, I must tell my teacher and my parents.
- If someone older than me asks me to keep a secret, I must tell my parents or grandparents.
- I must share with my parents, things that happens at the school.
- If the person who picks me up from the school is late, I must stay close to the teacher and never leave with anyone.
- If someone tries to take me away, I should shout as loud as I can for all to hear.
- If I am lost in a public place, I must remain in that place and if I see a police officer or a family with children, I should go to them and ask for a help.
- I must know my parents full name, my home address, and their telephone numbers.
- I must not answer the phone or open the door.
- Nobody has the right to touch me.
- If a stranger wants to give me a present, I should not accept it and I should tell my parents immediately.
- I must always be close to my parents.



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Keep the children safe



- Children are not to be kept alone in the car at any time.
- Children need to be watched by parents or guardians while playing outside.
- Although they may be a good help, older siblings are not responsible for younger siblings.
- Children should avoid places where alcohol and other intoxicants may be freely and easily available.
- Children should not be close to unstable people.
- Children should not be sleeping in different homes and in strange environments.
- Children do not have to mingle with all their parent's friends.
- Polite to people but do not force the children to be in an environment they do not feel comfortable in or to give hugs and kisses if they do not feel like it.

Children do not understand the dangers in our modern society, they do not carry malice in their hearts. Therefore, it is the duty of the parents, teachers, and responsible adults to take care of them and to provide a safe & friendly environment conducive to their development and well-being.

Recipe: Vegan Biscuits



What you'll need:

- 1 Large bowl
- 2 Cups unbleached all-purpose flour
- 4 Tablespoons non-dairy unsalted butter
- 3/4 Teaspoon sea salt
- 1/2 Teaspoon baking soda
- 1 Tablespoon baking powder
- 1 Cup unsweetened plain almond milk
- 1 Tablespoon fresh lemon juice

Instructions

- Preheat oven to 450°, mix lemon juice & almond milk together for “buttermilk” and set aside
- In large mixing bowl, whisk together all dry ingredients
- Add cold butter and mix in using fingers until you get a sand-like consistency
- Slowly add in the “buttermilk” mixture (1/4 cup at a time so you end up with a moldable dough) and mix with a wooden spoon
- Place dough on a lightly floured surface and dust the top with a little bit of flour, turning the dough over 5-6 times
- Break off as little or as much dough as you would like for the size of your biscuit, roll into a ball and slightly flatten it, using 2 fingers to make a slight divot in the top of the dough
- Place dough on a baking sheet and brush them with melted non-dairy butter
- Bake for 10-15 minutes or until the biscuits look slightly golden brown
- Serve and eat immediately with some vegan butter and jam and a glass of cold almond milk! (If you need to store them, make sure the biscuits are completely cooled then placed in an airtight container)

For more easy and yummy vegan recipes, check out www.minimalistbaker.com

Radharani's Kitchen is open!

-Pick up only- from 12:15pm to 1:00 pm

We are offering lunch plates (Prasadam) everyday!

Lunch plate will include Vegetable, Lentil, Rice, Chapatis and a Sweet for only \$7.00/plate

Samosas and chutney \$1.50 each

Catering is also available, call for details

Please call or text the day before your desired pick-up date at
480 208 2037 or 480 720 2030 to place your order



Thank you for your support!

ISKCON PHOENIX

100 S Weber Dr., Chandler, AZ 85226

Recipe: Indian Squash Roti



By Lakshmi Potta

Ingredients

- Indian Squash – Grate it
- Rice flour/ Bajra flour/Jowar flour
- Ginger, Salt and green chili – grind coarsely

Preperation and Cooking

- Take the 2 or 3 cups grated squash in a mixing bowl, add the coarsely grinded ingredients and add 2 cups of flour and mix it. No need to add water as the squash oozes water. This will form as a dough.
- Heat the pan/tawa and place potato sized dough on the tawa and pat the dough with hand like a roti.
- Add little or no oil on the top and fry it on both the sides.
- Enjoy with plain yogurt or Indian pickle 🍋

Recipe: Chhenapoda



Lord Jagannath's favorite bhog

Lord Jagannath loves to eat and one of his favorite bhog is Chhenapoda(Cheese Cake)

By Mita Nayak

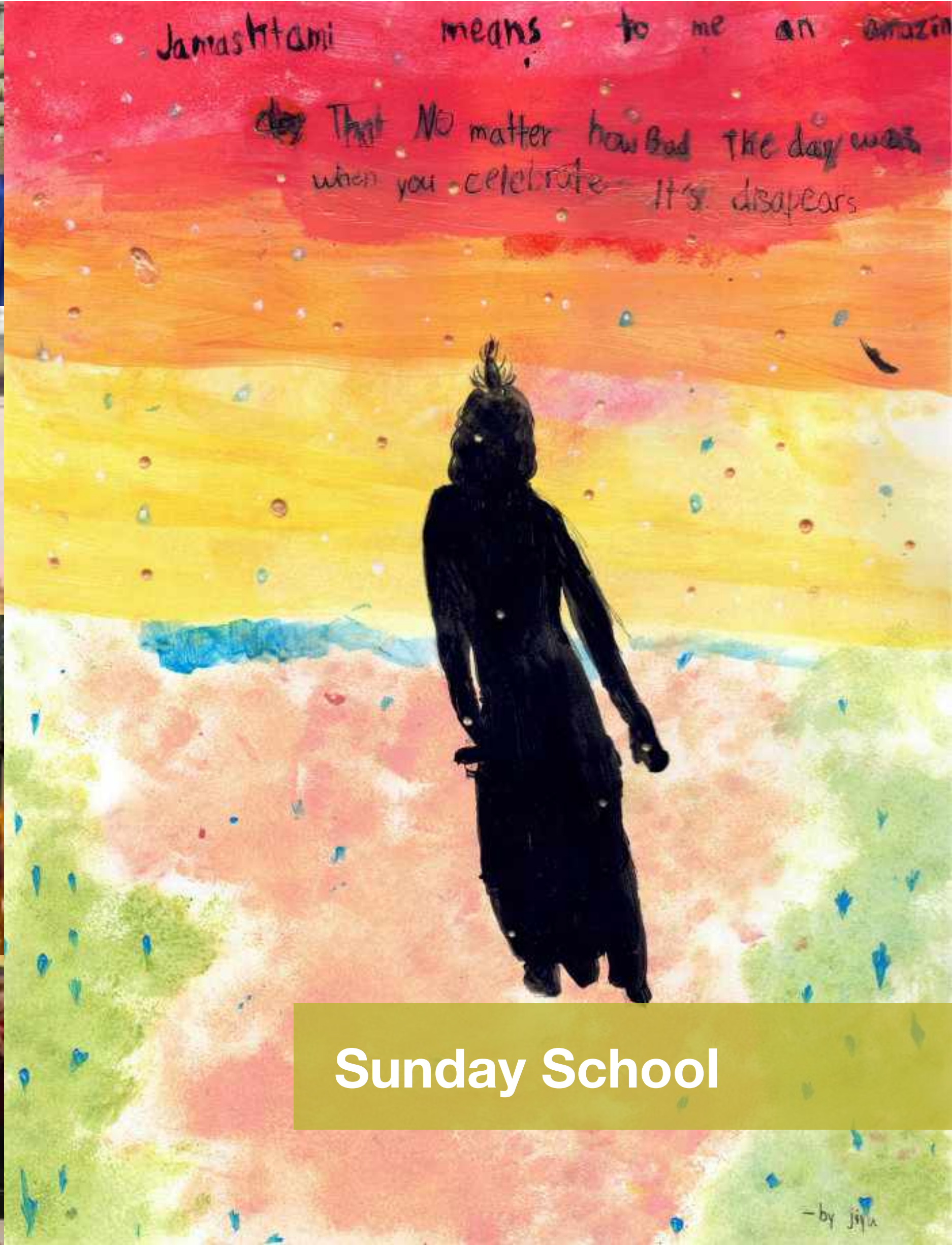
Ingredients

- Ricotta cheese – 3-4 cups
- Semolina – 3 tbsp
- Butter/Ghee – 1 tbsp
- Baking powder – 1/2 tspn
- Sugar – 2 cups
- Cardamom Powder – 1 tspn

Preperation and Cooking

Mix all the ingredients in a container and set aside for 15-20 minutes. Preheat the oven to 420° Fahrenheit. Grease the baking pan with butter and pour the mixture in it. I prefer aluminum foil containers. Once the oven is heated to required temperature put the container in it and set cook time to about 90 -100 minutes. If required, it can be put for more time. It should be cooked till the outside of Chhenapoda becomes nice brownish color.

Once Chhenapoda is ready allow it to cool down and then cut into pieces. Offer it to the Lord.



Sunday School

Sunday School

2020-2021 Session begins Sunday August 16!
Online schedules and enrolling information coming soon

Core Value

- Humility
- Tolerance
- Compassion
- Respect

Mission Statement

To educate children in the Gaudiya-Vaishnava tradition as per the teachings of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and precepts given by our Founder Acharya, His Divine Grace, A.C.

Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada in a happy, peaceful, and respectful environment, assisting the children's parents in watering the seed of Krishna Consciousness.

Our Groups

- Gopala: Ages 4 to 6 years
- Giri-Govardhan: Ages 7 to 9 years
- Damodar: Ages 10 to 12 years
- Madhava: Ages 13 years and above

Curriculum Includes

- Radha-Krishna
- Bhagavad-Gita & other important Vedic literature
- Srila Prabhupada
- Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and Pancha-Tattva
- Ramayana
- Mahabharata
- Krishna's Pastimes
- Lord Jagannatha, Lord Baladeva and Subhadra Devi
- Tulasi Devi
- Standard Prayers (and their meaning)
- Vaishnava Etiquette
- Devotional Service
- Importance of hearing & chanting
- Plays/Skits

Teachers plan and prepare classes according to the age of the children and understanding of the topics. If you have any questions about the curriculum or Sunday School program in general, please contact **SyamaMohini devi dasi** at **smdd@cox.net** or **NamaPriya devi dasi** at **nchethikattil@gmail.com**



These children are the future hope of our society, so it is a very important matter how we are training them in Krishna Consciousness from the very childhood.

...If we simply train them (children) properly they will come out just to the highest standard of Vaisnava devotee. And what is that training? Simply they should be engaged in such a way that they are somehow or other remembering Krishna at every moment, that's all. It's not some mechanical process, if we force in such a way they will come out like this, no. We are persons, and Krishna is a Person... Forcing will not make me agree, but if there is love, oh, I shall gladly do it. That is Bhakti, that is Krishna Consciousness..." **Srila Prabhupada**

Sunday school at a glance

Another school year came to an end, but this year was particularly special. While it is true that the current situation with COVID-19 pandemic has been a stressful one, it is also true that we have been able to spend more time with our families and are learning to adapt to a “new” normal. We have also been able to reconnect with family and friends and reach out to those in need. Maybe we discovered hidden talents, maybe we learned to make better choices; to take the positives and discard the negatives, to work together.

ISKCON Phoenix recognizes the great efforts made by our enthusiastic, amazing Sunday School teachers, Mother Nama-Priya devi dasi (Madhava Class), Mother Smita Papadkar (Giri-Govardhan Class) and Mother Sujatha Samynathan (Gopala class). Their efforts went above and beyond to ensure the continuity of the program, and they did a wonderful job!

Our appreciation to the parents who so graciously assisted and continue to help: Mother Rupavilasini devi dasi, Mother Jayshree Dixit, Mother Laxmi Potta and Suresh Laxmanan Prabhu.

And of course, our gratitude to all the parents who made sure their children were attending and connecting on time :)

Here's a little summary of our 2019-2020 Sunday School activities.

Madhava Class

Madhava class followed a systematic study of Bhagavad Gita this year. We started this year with Chapter 5 and have completed till Chapter 11. The study includes not just review of the verses, rather having a deeper understanding of the content and practical application. The students are also learning presentation skills, where they get selected verses for the week and they prepare for the presentation. We implemented Google classroom earlier in the year that allowed us to have interactive discussion and ongoing participation. The chapter studies were also followed by quizzes to assess the students' understanding. Through provoking questions were posed to understand the deeper realization of the students.

Along with this, we also reviewed the initial sections of Vaishnava etiquettes. We also reviewed some of the common prayers like Narsimha Prayers, Damodarastakam, Jagannathastakam, Tulsi prayers. The students enthusiastically participated in festivals and performed in the band during the annual Ratha Yatra. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the students quickly transitioned to the Zoom platform and continued to remain engaged. The students have shown great demonstration of taking responsibility and being accountable for their assignment tasks.

In spite of all the challenges, it was still a very rewarding year for Madhava class because of Sri Sri Radha Madha Hari's mercy.



Nama Priya devi dasi,
Teacher.

Sunday school at a glance

Giri-Govardhan Class

Giri Govardhan class studied the Brahma Samhita Prayers in this session which describes the beautiful features and qualities of Lord Sri Krishna.

We read stories related to those qualities. Some of the stories were Lord Narsimhadev story, Sakshi Gopal story, killing of demon Banasura, Jada Bharata story and many more. Through these stories they understood the omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent nature of Krishna. They also learnt that Krishna is the lover of cows, brahmanas and His devotees and how He is eager to save His devotees from the material miseries of this impermanent world. We also read about His loving reciprocation and wonderful pastimes with His devotees.



The students enthusiastically participated in various festivals through Vaishnava drama, bhajans, and dance and shloka recitations at the temple and during the Ratha Yatra. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic situation, our learning has shifted from personal to virtual classes on Zoom without any difficulties and students are enthusiastically participating in the classes and taking quizzes on kahoot.it which is keeping them excited. We have started the introduction to 'Bhagavad Gita as it is' where they are learning stories from the Mahabharata. We will continue with an in-depth study of Bhagavad Gita in the coming sessions.

Overall, it has been a very wonderful year with the blessings of Sri Sri Radha Madhav Hari and senior devotees in the spiritual, intellectual and all rounded development of the students.



Smita Papadkar,
Teacher.

Gopala Class

Srila Prabhupad says, "Sow the seed of Krishna Consciousness at an early age".

Gopala class consisted of children of age 3 to 7 years. This developmental stage is described by Psychologists as the growth of cognitive, social and physical development - the magic years that involve the "why" questions. There is no better age to start instilling values and morals from our scriptures as children begin to explore the world with all the "why" and "what".

Gopala class aims at imparting holistic education to aid the development of long-lasting Krishna consciousness on a shared desire to love and serve Krishna by creating a fun learning environment. A two part curriculum was followed.



Sunday school at a glance

Part 1

The curriculum was covered over a 14-week period, with the final week being the presentation week. The curriculum focused on The Stories from 'KRSNA - The Supreme Personality of Godhead' Volume 1, slokas from Bhagavad Gita As It Is, vaishnava bhajans, rhymes, and craft activities. We all love listening to KRSNA book pastimes, so did the students. Hearing the narration of Lord Krishna's pastimes gave the students an opportunity to tap into their imagination, gain the right perspective about the pastimes and nurture the faith deeper. They enjoyed the narrations on the Birth of Krishna, Damodar lila, Pralambasura, Whirlwind Demon and much more. Students would eagerly wait to recite slokas, rhymes to follow along with the stories and craft activities.



Part 2

The curriculum was covered over a 9-week period, covering the 9 processes of devotional service instructed by Prahlad Maharaj. In addition to learning the actual process, the personalities and stories related to each of the processes were also covered. Students enjoyed exploring one process a week, followed by rhymes, stories and fun craft activities. Spiritual homework and quizzes were incorporated. Spiritual homework gave students an opportunity to practice the devotional processes at home in fun and engaging ways. Students had a platform to create and share with others what they have learned. They created wonderful offerings such as, designing their own creative prasadam/ bhoga offering plates, crafting pushpam, archana plates, bookmarks, gratitude cards for Sri Sri Radha- Madhav Hari and much more!!

The students had opportunities throughout the year to share their learning during various festivals by presenting slokas, vaishanava bhajans/rhymes and celebrated Krishnaween as well!!



Since the COVID-19 pandemic, vedic classes have been pivoted virtually on Zoom and students are learning the Dasavataras.

The “Seed of Krishna Consciousness” is sprouting and being nourished with the guidance, support and blessings of Sri Sri Radha-Madhav Hari and the senior devotees!



Sujatha Samynathan,
Teacher.

“We should not take credit for the service that we render. We should consider it a privilege to have the opportunity to be given some service”

(HH Niranjana Swami)

**ONLINE &
ON THE GO**



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Ekadashi

2020

Date	Day	Name of Ekadashi	Next Day Breakfast Time
14-Aug-20	Friday	Annada	07:45 - 10:18
28-Aug-20	Friday	Parsva	06:00 - 10:19
13-Sep-20	Sunday	Indira	06:11 - 10:19
27-Sep-20	Sunday	Padmini	06:20 - 08:31
12-Oct-20	Monday	Parama	07:27 - 10:20
27-Oct-20	Monday	Pasankusa	06:44 - 10:22
11-Nov-20	Wednesday	Rama	06:57 - 09:02
25-Nov-20	Wednesday	Utthana	07:10 - 10:33
10-Dec-20	Thursday	Utpanna	07:22 - 10:42
25-Dec-20	Friday	Moksada	07:30 - 10:49

2021

Date	Day	Name of Ekadashi	Next Day Breakfast Time
9-Jan-21	Saturday	Saphala	07:32 - 10:55
24-Jan-21	Sunday	Putrada	07:28 - 10:56
7-Feb-21	Sunday	Sat-tila	07:18 - 10:54
22-Feb-21	Monday	Bhaimi	After 11:37
8-Mar-21	Monday	Vijaya	08:29 - 10:41
24-Mar-21	Wednesday	Amalaki vrata	06:24 - 10:31
7-Apr-21	Wednesday	Papamocani	06:06 - 10:22
23-Apr-21	Friday	Kamada	05:47 - 06:49
6-May-21	Thursday	Varuthini	09:32 - 10:08
22-May-21	Saturday	Mohini	05:22 - 10:04
5-Jun-21	Saturday	Apara	05:18 - 10:04
21-Jun-21	Monday	Pandava Nirjala	05:19 - 10:06
5-Jul-21	Monday	Yogini	05:24 - 10:10
20-Jul-21	Tuesday	Sayana	05:33 - 10:14
3-Aug-21	Tuesday	Kamika	09:18 - 10:17
18-Aug-21	Wednesday	Pavitraropana	05:53 - 10:18

TULASI KIRTAN

- 1 namo namaha tulasi! krishna-preyasi
radha-krishna-seva pabo ei abhilashi
- 2 je tomara sharana loy, tara vanchha purna hoy
kripa kori' koro tare brindavana-basi
- 3 mor ei abhilash, bilas kunje dio vas
nayane heribo sada jugala-rupa-rashi
- 4 ei nivedana dharo, sakhir anugata koro
seva-adhikara diye koro nija dasi
- 5 dina krishna-dase koy, ei jena mora hoy
sri-radha-govinda-preme sada jena bhasi

- 1 O Tulasi, beloved of Krsna, I bow before you again and again.
My desire is to obtain the service of Sri Sri Radha-Krsna.
- 2 Whoever takes shelter of you has his wishes fulfilled. Bestowing
your mercy on him, you make him a resident of Vrndavana.
- 3 My desire is that you will also grant me a residence in the
pleasure groves of Sri Vrndavana-dhama. Thus, within my vision
I will always behold the beautiful pastimes of Radha and Krsna.
- 4 I beg you to make me a follower of the cowherd damsels of
Vraja. Please give me the privilege of devotional service and
make me your own maidservant.
- 5 This very fallen and lowly servant of Krsna prays, "May I always
swim in the love of Sri Radha and Govinda.



yāni kāni ca pāpāni brahma-hatyādikāni ca
tāni tāni praṇaśyanti pradakṣiṇaḥ pade pade

By the circumambulation of Srimati
Tulasi Devi all the sins one may have
committed are destroyed at every step,
even the sin of killing a brahmana



vṛndāyai tulasī-devyai priyāyai keśavasya ca
kṛṣṇa-bhakti-prade devī satya vatyai namo namaḥ

I offer my repeated obeisances unto
Vrinda, Srimati Tulasi Devi, who is
very dear to Lord Keshava [Krishna].
O goddess, you bestow devotional
service to Lord Krishna and possess
the highest truth



Eight Names of Srimati Tulasi Devi

Vrinda Devi: She has thousands and thousands of sakhis (associate maidservants).

Vrindavani: She never leaves Vrindavana.

Vishvapujita: The whole world worships her.

Vishvapavani: She is the sanctifier of the whole world.

Pushpasara: She is the essence of all flowers.

Nandini: She gives happiness to everyone.

Tulasi Devi: She has an incomparable form.

Krishna-jivani: She is the life and soul of Lord Krishna.

*veṇuṁ kvaṇantam aravinda-dalāyatākṣam-
barhāvataṁsam asitāmbuda-sundarāṅgam
kandarpa-koṭi-kamanīya-viśeṣa-śobhaṁ
govindam ādi-puruṣaṁ tam ahaṁ bhajāmi*

**I worship Govinda, the primeval
Lord, who is adept in playing on
His flute, with blooming eyes like
lotus petals with head decked
with peacock's feather, with the
figure of beauty tinged with the
hue of blue clouds, and His
unique loveliness charming
millions of Cupids**



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