

JANMASHTAMI

2023

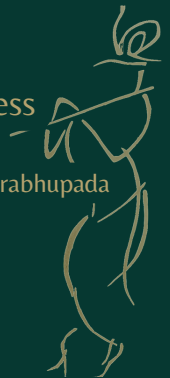
International Society for Krishna Consciousness

Founder-Acarya: His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

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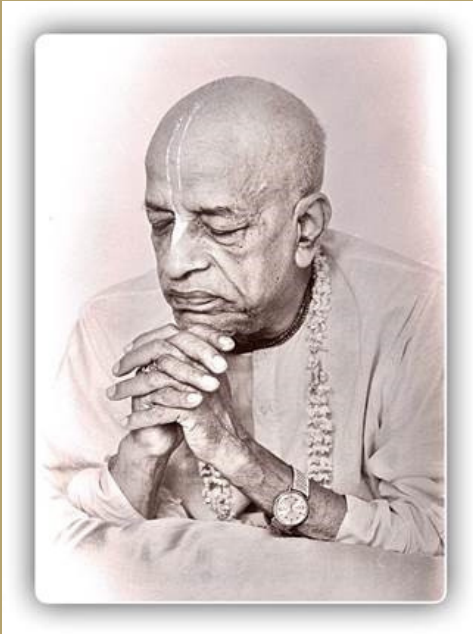
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ALWAYS REMEMBER KRISHNA, NEVER FORGET KRISHNA



Excerpt of the
Mārkinē Bhāgavata-dharma
written by His Divine Grace
A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami,
on board the ship Jaladuta,
Commonwealth Pier,
Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A.
dated 18th of September, 1965

"...All living entities have
come under the control
of the illusory energy by
Your will, and therefore,
if You like, by Your will
they can also be
released from the
clutches of illusion.

I wish that You may
deliver them. Therefore
if You so desire their
deliverance, then only
will they be able to
understand Your
message.

The words of Śrīmad-
Bhāgavatam are Your
incarnation, and if a
sober person repeatedly
receives it with
submissive aural
reception, then he will
be able to understand
Your message..."

JANMASHTAMI
2023



Message from our Temple President

Hare Krishna!

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

On behalf of our presiding deities, Sri Sri Radha Madhava Hari, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Sri Krishna Janmastami!

I pray you all are well and keeping safe and healthy. Perhaps you just picked up this souvenir and are reading these lines as you attend our Sri Krishna Janmashtami festival!

Please walk around our Vrindavan Village where you will have an opportunity to swing Baby Krishna, check out our book stand or even chant a round of japa with us. Do not miss our cultural programs and join our live kirtan. Kids will have fun at the Children's Corner which is set up with henna, face painting and other activities. If you are in the main temple room, you may want to participate in performing Abhishek. We hope you have a pleasant and spiritually uplifting experience.

The temple is now open every day from 9am until 12.30 pm, 5.00pm until 7.15pm and 8.30pm until 8.45 pm. Daily live darshan is offered via Facebook three times a day: 7.00a.m., 6.30 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. The temple programs have also continued via Zoom, Facebook live, conference calls, etc. Devotees connect every morning for group chanting from 5.00a.m. – 5.55a.m. followed by reading of Srimad Bhagavatam until 6.15 a.m. Join us!

We have another class on Srimad Bhagavatam at 7:35am via zoom/FB live from the temple, and, our Vaishnavi group also reads Srimad Bhagavatam Monday to Friday from 4:30pm to 5:15 pm via Zoom. They love their Friday bhajan program. We have continued reading and almost completed reading all of Srila Prabhupada's small books. We have started to read Srila Prabhupada's Lilamrita Monday thru Thursday via Facebook from 7.05 – 7.35 p.m.

This year we introduced some special programs for Vaishnavis as part of our "Women In Krishna Consciousness" initiative. The "Talks & Crafts" program continues once a month at the temple, and a New "Support Group for New Mothers" was recently formed and has been welcomed and much appreciated. Reading of Srimad Bhagavatam has continued non-stop, they are currently reading the 10th Canto and they are looking forward to reading Caitanya Caritamrita next. I am very grateful to Syama Mohini dasi for leading these programs. She is also our Rep for the IPA and this year she became the local Representative for the Vaisnavi Ministry of North America.



Sunday Vedic School and Hindi classes have started after their summer break. The youth group will continue studying Srimad Bhagavatam online; we are so happy to see the way our young leaders are preparing for tomorrow. We will continue to support their efforts and enthusiasm. We also appreciate our Child Protection Ambassadors who have taken their service very seriously and have kept us busy trying to make improvements for the benefit of our younger devotees, like blocking parking spaces, etc.

Bhakti Vriksha groups continue their programs both in person and online. We also have Brahma Samhita Study offered online by HG Raghava Pandit das.

I really appreciate all the volunteers and teachers for their continued enthusiasm and dedication to all these services. My deep appreciation also for all the temple devotees for their continued tireless seva.

We had our first Children's Festival organized by children for children -with a little help from moms, dads and resident devotees. It was amazing to see their enthusiasm and we are looking forward to the next one.

We had our very first Rathayatra Festival event in Chandler this year in April. Thank you to all the devotees who helped with the festival and in acquiring our very own Chariot for future festivals!

As I write these lines, I am reminded of Srila Prabhupada's words: "Your love for me will be shown by how much you cooperate with each other" and also this quote from the Nectar of Devotion: "In the opinion of the karmīs (fruitive workers), offering the results of karma is called servitorship. But according to Vaiṣṇava ācāryas like Rūpa Gosvāmī, servitorship means constant engagement in some kind of service to the Lord."

Your constant support in the service of SriSri Radha-Madhavahari for Their pleasure and for the benefit of all is an example of cooperation and service to Their Lordships.

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for your support.

Your servant in the service of Srila Prabhupada,

Prema dhatri dasi
Temple president

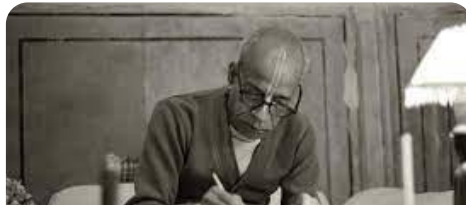


SEVEN PURPOSES OF ISKCON

International Society For Krishna Consciousness

In July of 1966, Srila Prabhupada incorporated the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. The incorporation document states the 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.



**HARE KRISHNA | HARE KRISHNA | KRISHNA KRISHNA | HARE HARE |
HARE RAMA | HARE RAMA | RAMA RAMA | HARE HARE**



HAPPY JANMASHTAMI

Temple Devotees



Premadhatri devi dasi
Temple President



Radha Madhavahari das



Divyashyam das



Dhana-Laxmi devi dasi



Damodar das



Janardana das



Parthasarathi das



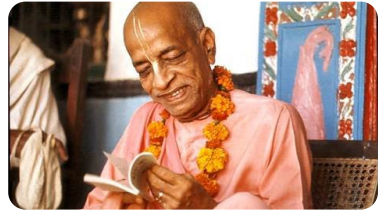
Gopakumar das



Sivananda Sena das



Nadiya Vihari das



Founder Acarya His Divine Grace
AC Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

***“If a devotee at all wants to cleanse his heart,
he must chant and hear the glories
of Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa
(śṛṇvatām sva-kathāḥ kṛṣṇaḥ).
This is a simple process.”
Sri la Prabhupada***



HAPPY JANMASHITAMI

Council Members



Prema Dhatri Devi Dasi
President



Radha Madhava Das



Sri Govinda Das



Syama Mohini Devi Dasi



Ishvara Gauranga Das



Mathura Vallabha
Govinda Das



Nama Priya Devi Dasi



Kevala Bhakti Das



Parul Tailor



Raghava Pandit Das

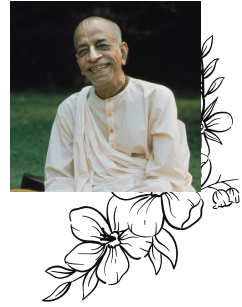


Harihara Narayana Das



Vyasa Puja Offering 2023

nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin iti namine
namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracarine
nirvisea -sunnyavadi-pascaty-a-des-a-tarine



Our dearest Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept our deepest respects as we bow down at your lotus feet.

All glories to you! All glories to your endless inspiration!

Srila Prabhupada, the more we see the the situation of the world around us, the more we realize the importance of having the Holy Name in our lives. At your advanced age, you were determined to accomplish the mission given to you by your spiritual master. Your faith in your Guru and in the Sankirtan Movement of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu and the utmost love for Radha-Krishna were your guiding motor. You always had the proper vision. You saw everything before it manifested because it had already been manifested in your heart.

Your mercy was causeless. You welcomed everyone and were an ideal example of respect, tolerance, and humility; qualities required to relish and surrender to the Holy name. When will we get such an attraction? When will we develop sincere love and attachment to Krishna? When will we really develop full faith in the Holy Name? When will our eyes, ears and mind be focused on the All-Attractive Couple without deviation? When will we surrender our egos and personal ambitions, even in the name of service? Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu inaugurated the sankirtan movement, indicating that we were all in this together. Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu gave this gift to all, not to just a few. When will we understand that it is about us and not about me? When will we understand that it is not about converting but about inspiring?

Srila Prabhupada, we are a relatively young Yatra in an arid place, but the nectar coming from your books is the oasis in the middle of the desert. Your mercy is the blue blanket full of stars that covers us and engulfs the entire earth. You were soft and bold like Prahlad Maharaja when instructing with love and care, but you took no time to be strong and determined like Lord Nrsimhadev to protect those under your care.

Upon your arrival in the USA at the Boston pier you wrote: "How will they understand the mellows of devotional service? O Lord, I am simply praying for Your mercy so that I will be able to convince them about Your message." This was truly your humility speaking. Fifty eight years later, we see how the Krishna Consciousness movement has gone to every corner of the world. Only a special soul could do this job. You are that special personality who was sent to this material world to awaken the souls that were sleeping and by the mercy of Lord Krishna you are still instructing, you are still inspiring, you are still guiding.

Srila Prabhupada, please guide us so that we may be the representatives of those spiritual embassies that you envisioned. A place where devotees of all ages can come together, serve together in an environment of peace and harmony conducive to the advancement of Krishna Consciousness.

Srila Prabhupada, please forgive our shortcomings and once again, we beg for your blessings so that we may inspire others. Please guide our endeavors and protect our right intentions: Serving you for the pleasure of SriSri Radha-Krishna for the benefit of all.

With much love and respect,

Your aspiring servants at
ISKCON Phoenix, Arizona, USA



akhila jagat-guru! bacana se āmār
alañkṛta koribār khamatā tomār

taba kṛpā ha'le mor kathā śuddha habe
śuniyā sabāra śoka duḥkha je ghucibe

"O spiritual master of all the worlds! I can simply repeat Your message, so if You like You can make my power of speaking suitable for their understanding.

Only by Your causeless mercy will my words become pure. I am sure that when this transcendental message penetrates their hearts, they will certainly feel englandened and thus become liberated from all unhappy conditions of life."

***Excerpt: Mārkinē Bhāgavata-dharma (written at
Boston Harbor, September 18, 1965)***

Samskara Services

by HG Damodar das



- Vivah
 - Upanayanam samskara
 - Annaprashana
 - Grih Pravesh pooja
 - Shree Satyanarayan pooja
 - Rudrabhisekam pooja
 - Ganesh pooja hawan,
 - Nava Grah pooja,
 - Vastu pooja
 - Shanti pooja hawan
 - Grah dosa pooja
 - Mangalik dosa
 - Sarpa dosa
 - Moola dosa pooja
 - Shradha pooja
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Hindi vidhi
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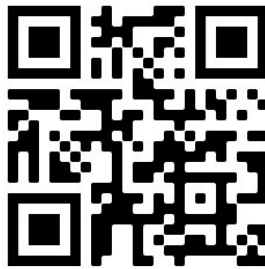
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**Excerpts from a class at Sravana Utsava in
Mayapur on Feb. 14, 2023**

by HH Niranjana Swami

I've been asked to speak on the cleansing of the Gundica temple which is Madhya lila, Chapter 12 of Caitanya-Caritamrita. I picked a well-known verse and I'll read some of the commentary. Then we'll speak a little bit about Sri Gundica-marjana. And the verse I'm speaking from is Chapter 12, text 135.

CC Madhya 12.135
ei-mata puradvāra-āge patha yata
sakala śodhila, tāhā ke varṇibe kata

Translation

Outside the gateway of the temple, all the roads were also cleansed, and no one could tell exactly how this was done.

Purport

In commenting on the cleansing of the Guṇḍicā temple, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura says that Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, as the world leader, was personally giving instructions on how one should receive Lord Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, within one's cleansed and pacified heart. If one wants to see Kṛṣṇa seated in his heart, he must first cleanse the heart, as prescribed by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu in His Śikṣāṣṭaka: ceto-darpaṇa-mārjanam. In this age, everyone's heart is especially unclean, as confirmed in Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam: hṛdy antaḥ-stho hy abhadrāṇi. To wash away all dirty things accumulated within the heart, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu advised everyone to chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra.

The first result will be that the heart is cleansed (ceto-darpaṇa-mārjanam). Similarly, Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam (1.2.17) confirms this statement:

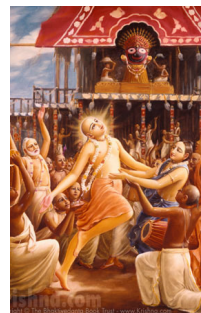
śṛṅvatām sva-kathāḥ kṛṣṇaḥ puṅya-śravaṇa-kīrtanaḥ
hṛdy antaḥ-stho hy abhadrāṇi vidhunoti suhṛt satām

“Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the Personality of Godhead, who is the Paramātmā [Supersoul] in everyone's heart and the benefactor of the truthful devotee, cleanses desire for material enjoyment from the heart of the devotee who relishes His messages, which are in themselves virtuous when properly heard and chanted.”

If a devotee at all wants to cleanse his heart, he must chant and hear the glories of the Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa (śṛṇvatāṁ sva-kathāḥ kṛṣṇaḥ). This is a simple process. Kṛṣṇa Himself will help cleanse the heart because He is already seated there. Kṛṣṇa wants to continue living within the heart, and the Lord wants to give directions, but one has to keep his heart as clean as Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu kept the Guṇḍicā temple. The devotee therefore has to cleanse his heart just as the Lord cleansed the Guṇḍicā temple. In this way one can be pacified and enriched in devotional service. If the heart is filled with straw, grains of sand, weeds or dust (in other words, anyābhilāṣa-pūrṇa), one cannot enthrone the Supreme Personality of Godhead there. The heart must be cleansed of all material motives brought about through fruitive work, speculative knowledge, the mystic yoga system and so many other forms of so-called meditation. The heart must be cleansed without ulterior motive. As Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī says, anyābhilāṣitā-śūnyam jñāna-karmādy-anāvṛtam. In other words, there should not be any external motive. One should not attempt material upliftment, understanding the Supreme by speculative knowledge, fruitive activity, severe austerity and penance, and so on. All these activities are against the natural growth of spontaneous love of Godhead. As soon as these are present within the heart, the heart should be understood to be unclean and therefore unfit to serve as Kṛṣṇa's sitting place. We cannot perceive the Lord's presence in our hearts unless our hearts are cleansed.

Prabhupada says in the beginning of this commentary that in this Gundica-marjana-lila that Lord Caitanya, as the world leader, was personally giving instructions on how one should receive Kṛṣṇa within one's cleansed and pacified heart. We know that Lord Caitanya came to teach by His example what love of Godhead is. Here we see another example how Lord Caitanya was teaching. Not only did He cleanse the Gundica temple, which is also a very exemplary pastime, but by that pastime He was teaching how attentive one should be, confronting the unwanted desires and obstacles that exist within the heart of the aspiring sadhaka. The cleansing of Gundica temple was actually something that Caitanya Mahāprabhu taught during His manifest lila.

As we know, at the Jagannatha ratha-yatra festival when Lord Jagannatha, Baladeva and Subhadra ride on their carts from Jagannatha temple to Gundica temple, it is actually the mood of Lord Caitanya. It is like Kṛṣṇa coming to Vrindavana. Different examples are given how Jagannatha temple is like a place of opulent worship and Gundica temple is compared to be like Vrindavana, known as a place where Kṛṣṇa was very much attracted to the spontaneous attitude of affection which was displayed to Him by the residents of Vrindavana.



And that is one of the characteristics that are displayed because they have clean hearts. When the heart is perfectly clean, then they are far more capable of displaying their spontaneous affection, which captures Krsna and makes Krsna a plaything in the hands of His devotees.

Therefore, in Vrindavana or in these pastimes when the Lord goes to Gundica temple, the Lord stays there for eight days. Actually, it's also described He stays there for some time, and then Laksmi, who is the goddess of fortune, is there. She is wondering why Krsna isn't coming back. And then after some days, four days pass by and Laksmi comes with her maidservants. And they go to take Krsna back to Vrindavana. She is very eager to see the Lord keep His promise (and He assured her He would return). So, this pastime takes place. She goes there with her maidservants.

They stand outside the gate, and then, of course, they arrest the servants of the Lord who are manifested there. And the whole pastime of Hera-pancami takes place.

The point is that the Lord goes there, stays there for some time and then He returns (which is the second Ratha-Yatra, which is Lord Jagannatha returns to His temple). During that time the Gundica temple collects dust and therefore requires to be cleaned. Actually, Prabhupada speaks about it in Caitanya Caritamrita in the commentary. He says that after some time the Gundica temple begins to collect dust and Lord Caitanya before receiving Lord Jagannatha in the Gundica temple wants to teach by His example how to very nicely cleanse the temple. And therefore He approaches Kasi Misra and Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya and the superintendent of the Jagannatha temple and expresses a desire that He wants to clean Gundica temple in order to prepare it to become a very nice place for the Lord to come. The superintendent of the temple, of course, says, "I was told by Maharaja Prataparudra that I should fulfill whatever requests You make, whatever desire You have. And certainly, I am prepared to do so but I cannot understand. You are the Supreme Lord. What is it that You're doing cleansing the temple personally? I can only understand it to be Your remarkable pastime. Therefore, as a display of Your remarkable pastimes I'm waiting to serve You in whatever way You request me. If you want to clean the temple Yourself, then I will bring hundreds of brooms, hundreds of pots. And You can bring Your associates and begin cleansing Gundica temple" (which, of course, was what the Lord was inclined to do). So, the superintendent of the temple provided all of this paraphernalia, and Lord Caitanya personally began the process of cleansing the temple.

One of the points that are being made here in the verse that we just read is that not only did Lord Caitanya clean inside the temple, but the verse says that also outside the temple was cleaned too.

And no one can tell exactly how it was done. Inside the temple Lord Caitanya went in and He personally gave everyone a broom, and they began to collect all the particles of dirt. Everybody collected dust and sand and everything else that they can find and swept it up, put it in the pile. Lord Caitanya as an ideal teacher, which is one of the purposes of displaying His pastime, also collected dust, sand and all kinds of dirt. And, of course, His pile was far greater in size than everybody else's all put together. After He took all the dirt outside the temple, put it very clearly separate from the temple, then He told everybody, "Okay, now that we cleaned the temple, now we return, go into the temple and get the final particles of dust and collect all that to make it perfectly clean." Lord Caitanya wanted to teach the same standard of how important it is to cleanse the temple because cleansing the temple is like cleansing one's heart. When the heart is cleansed, as Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura is explaining, then a cleansed heart can be an appropriate place for the Lord to be inclined to sit in the heart. Of course, He's already there in the heart. But, as Prabhupada said, He'll be inclined to stay there. Of course, He always stays with us as well, but He wants to do more than simply sit in the heart and stay there, then He is acting within the heart as one who gives sanction and the one who bears witness. But too simply to give sanction and bear witness is not so much lila there. Except to give sanction and bear witness He wants to have a reciprocal relationship. This relationship is He gives instruction from within the heart but and He enlightens, He cleanses the heart.

He cleanses from within the heart, but why does He want to help, to assist the devotee in cleansing the heart? Because He wants to bring the devotee up to a more elevated status where there could be a more intimate relationship. So, yes, cleansing the heart means having a nice place for the Lord to sit, but also by cleansing the heart, we become more qualified to understand and be conscious of His presence within the heart. Becoming more conscious about His presence within the heart means ultimately we want to be able to someday to abide by His direction.

Krsna said: "For one who has conquered the mind, the Supersoul is already reached, for he has attained tranquility. To such a man happiness and distress, heat and cold, honor and dishonor are all the same." (B-g. 6.7) This is a result conquering the mind and cleansing the heart. Lord Caitanya came to teach that one of the principles that He wanted to establish in cleansing Gundica temple was getting a nice cleansed heart, the mind will become pacified and cooled.

Prabhupada talks about that in the commentary. Just like marble – when the marble is clean, it is very-very cool. And Prabhupada also explains that when the heart is cleansed, the mind is very pacified and cooled, and the result is no disturbances are there within the mind. This is the result of ceto-darpaṇa-mārjanam.



Lord Caitanya wanted to teach that by cleansing the temple, you clean your heart and make it a nice place to sit. Of course, He taught by His example, as we have already explained. He was very busy cleaning everything and teaching everybody how to clean very nicely, and then after everything was cleaned, He called them and asked to bring pots of water in and began throwing the water up on the ceiling and the

water came down on the walls and began cleaning the floors. Then He would go up to others and personally tell those who were doing exceptionally good cleaning. He would speak to them and say, “Very-very nice the way you were cleaning. This is very ideal.” And then if others weren't keeping up to the standard, Lord Caitanya would immediately make a statement to the effect that “Oh, you're not doing your job. You're not being very attentive.

Look what he's doing.” And then He would say to the person who was teaching by his example, “You should now clean everything so nicely and because you're cleaning so nicely, you should show others also how to clean very nicely.” What does Lord Caitanya actually instructing in this example? He's saying that a devotee should learn how to clean his heart and with a clean heart he can be very effective in helping others to clean their hearts. That is what is actually the point that He's making in this verse here.

“If He saw someone doing nicely, the Lord praised him. But if He saw that someone was not working to His satisfaction, He immediately chastised that person not bearing him any grudge. The Lord would say, “You have done well. Please teach this to others so they may act in the same way. As soon as they heard Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu say this, everyone became ashamed. Thus the devotees began to work with great attention.”

In other words, of course, we may not always expect the same response, especially a spontaneous response. We see somebody's recognized and we're not recognized. When the fault is pointed out in our service, we may even defend ourselves and think, “Why? Why did you recognize him? Can't you at least recognize me? See what I did.” But Lord Caitanya would immediately chastise that person, not bearing any grudge. Of course, this is another point also.

Not bearing any grudge is that when the Lord chastised somebody, His primary motive was for the benefit of the recipient. And because the recipient could understand “The Lord was only thinking of my benefit, He's inspiring me to become more attentive to my service.

How fortunate I am to receive such a chastisement from the Lord.
” Because the Lord's heart was clean, because He was teaching by His own example. He was teaching by His own example because He was cleaning more and better than anybody else present there. By his example He inspired.

I was once doing some reference. Prabhupada speaks about this point quite frequently in many places. He says that example is more important than precept. I did a research in the Veda base. I think it's at least 70-75. Prabhupada says an example is better than precept. We heard it before, but what does actually Prabhupada mean when he says, “This is what Lord Caitanya is teaching. He would point out by His own example, He would be very effective to point out those who were doing very nicely and by His own example He would be very effective to point out those who were not doing as nicely. So effective because the example was there. How could anybody argue? How can anybody complain? Because **example is even more important than precept.**

Therefore, potency is there and therefore the Lord was telling those devotees who were cleaning nicely, “Yes, you clean so very nicely. You've learned how to clean your heart so nicely.

Lord Caitanya is actually preaching by His example how to clean the heart to become an affective instrument for the sankirtana movement. Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura in his commentary also said that siddha-pranali for Gaudia-Vaisnavas is,

**tr̥ṇād api sunīcena
taror api sahiṣṇunā
amāninā mānadena
kīrtanīyaḥ sadā hariḥ
(Śikṣāṣṭaka 3)**

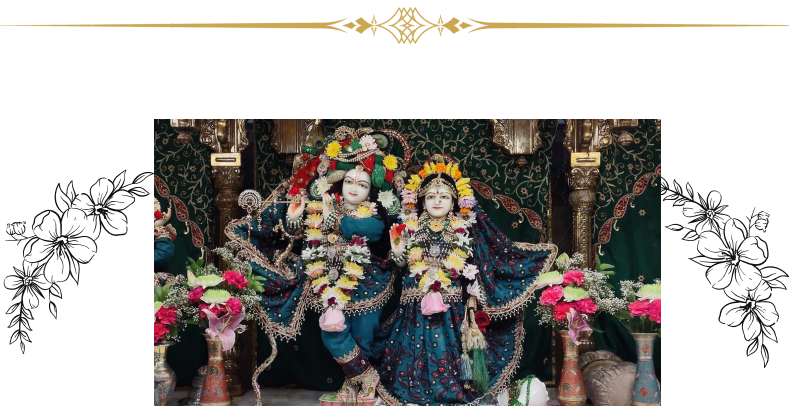


One can chant the holy name of the Lord in a humble state of mind, thinking himself lower than the straw in the street. One should be more tolerant than the tree, devoid of all sense of false prestige and ready to offer all respects to others. In such a state of mind one can chant the holy name of the Lord constantly." (CC Adi 17.31



The means for perfection for all Gaudia Vaisnavas is this verse from Siksastaka prayers: ready to offer all respect to others but never expecting respect for oneself, one should be so tolerant. A tree is so tolerant that Lord Caitanya said, “You break the branch, it will never complain. And even if it's drying up, it will never ask anyone for water.” This is Lord Caitanya’s instruction behind this verse. When the mind is so practiced to tolerance, the mind is so practiced to offering proper respect to others...

A devotee never tries to intentionally cause pain to any living being. Sometimes, as we said before, someone may have to chastise, somebody may have to correct but he's never thinking “I'm doing this because I want to see it in pain. I want to see him suffer. I want to see her suffer. I'm hurling this insult so I can watch them defend themselves, get angry and feel pain.” This not this is not a Vaisnava. **A Vaisnava never wishes to cause pain intentionally to any living being.** Therefore, he can think of others’ welfare. When he instructs, he chastises, when he corrects, he does it because he understands in his heart, “My motive is not to cause pain. My motive is to help this person.”



*"If we are motivated by what is favorable for us,
we are not striving for pure devotion; if we
are motivated by what is favorable for Krishna,
then we are moving toward pure bhakti.
Examining our motives is part of devotional practice. "*
(Niranjana Swami)



Hare Krishna Temple - ISKCON of Phoenix

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

100 S. Weber Dr, Chandler, AZ 85226

480-705-4900, www.iskconphoenix.com



Daily Schedule

- 4:30 AM : Mangala Arati
- 5:00 AM : Tulsi Puja
- 5:15 AM : Japa Meditation
- 7:00 AM : Deity Greeting & Sundara Arati
- 7:05 AM : Guru Puja & Kirtan
- 7:35 AM : **Srimad Bhagavatam Class**
(explicating select verses from this spotless and greatest Purana)
- 8:00 AM : Dhupa Arati
- 12:00 PM : Rajbhoga Arati
- 4:30 PM : Dhupa Arati
- 6:30 PM : Sandhya Arati
- 7:00 PM : Bhagavad Gita Class
- 8:30 PM : Sayana Arati



Darsana Times

- 4:30 AM to 5:00 AM
- 7:00 AM to 11:20 AM
- 12:00 PM to 12:30 PM
- 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM
- 6:30 PM to 7:00 PM
- 8:30 PM to 8:45 PM



Sunday Feast Schedule

- 5:00 PM : Sandhya Arati
- 5:35 PM : Sunday Feast Class
- 6:45 PM : Prasadam Feast
- 7:00 PM : Temple Closed
- 8:30 PM : Sayana Arati



Darsana Times

- 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
- 8:30 PM to 8:45 PM

*** Temple is closed everyday from 12:30 pm to 5:00 pm ***

"One who neither hates nor desires the fruits of his activities is known to be always renounced. Such a person, free from all dualities, easily overcomes material bondage and is completely liberated, O mighty-armed Arjuna". BG 5.3

FROM OUR KITCHEN TO YOURS

mahā-prasāde govinde
nāma-brahmaṇi vaiṣṇave
svalpa-puṇyavatāṁ rājan
viśvāso naiva jāyate



sarira abidya-jal, jodendriya tahe kal,
jibe phele bisaya-sagore
ta'ra madhye jihva ati, lobhamoy sudurmati
ta'ke jeta kathina som sare

krsna baro doyamoy, karibare jihva jay,
swa-prasad-anna dilo bhai
sei annamrta khao, radha-krsna-guna gao,
preme dako caitanya-nitai

Recipes

MAHA- KI JAI PRASADAM



"O King, for those who have amassed very few pious activities, their faith in mahaprasada, in Sri Govinda, in the Holy Name, and in the Vaisnava is never born."

"This material body is a network of ignorance, and the senses are one's deadly enemies, for they throw the soul into the ocean of material sense enjoyment. Among the senses, the tongue is the most voracious and verily wicked; it is very difficult to conquer the tongue in this world."

Lord Krsna is very merciful-just to control the tongue He has given us the remnants of His own food! Now please eat these nectarean grains while singing the glories of Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha and Krsna, and in love call out "Caitanya! Nitai!"

WHOLE MOONG DAL DOSA (PESARATTU)

INGREDIENTS

- Whole Moong Green Dal
- Green Chillies
- Ginger
- Cumin Seeds
- Salt

METHOD

- Soak 1 cup of whole green moong dal overnight
- Next day wash them thoroughly and grind the whole moong dal along with 2-3 green chillies, and ½ inch ginger by adding water.
- Make the batter consistency as dosa batter. Add salt according to the taste and add a tea spoon of cumin seeds.



by Lilavati devi dasi

TO MAKE DOSA

- Take a ladle full of dosa batter and spread on the pan
- Apply oil or ghee along sides of the pan
- Wait until it turns golden brown
- Flip on the other side and wait until it cooks
- Pesarattu is ready and can be served with coconut/peanut/ginger chutney

BARNYARD MILLET PULAO

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup Banyard millet(sama chawal/varai/bhagar)
- 2 tbsp Ghee
- 1 tsp Cumin seeds
- 2 to 3 (or as per taste) green chillies
- 2 tbsp Peanuts
- 2 Potatoes or yams(peeled and cubed)
- 2.5/ 3 cups Water
- 1 tbsp Chopped Coriander leaves for garnishing
- Rock salt as required



by Padmini Naikade

DIRECTIONS

- Rinse the Barnyard millet a couple of times in water, just like we rinse the rice and soak it for 15-20 mins.
- Heat Ghee in a pan.
- Add peanuts and fry them well.
- Add Cumin seeds, green chillies,(ginger-optional) and sauté until the seeds crackles.
- Add potatoes/yams and sauté for 1-2 mins.
- Drain the millets and add to the sautéed mixture, stir it well for 1 min .
- Add water and salt as required ,stir and close the lid.
- Check after few mins if the millets is cooked well .
- Let it stand for 2 mins once the water has been all absorbed by the millets.
- Garnish with the coriander leaves and serve it hot!

Variations- You can add mixed nuts(almonds, cashews, raisins) of your choice. You can also add Paneer(cottage cheese) or tomato puree instead of potatoes/yams.

NEW MOM HIGHLIGHT: ALIV COCONUT ENERGY BALLS

For the new mom who needs that extra "jolt" of coconut energy to keep up with her newest bundle of never-sleeping joy



"The love a mother has for her child is the closest one can get to self-less love (love of god) in the material world." Srila Prabhupada

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup Garden Cress seeds/Aliv / Halim
- 1 cup milk (can use coconut water or plain water instead)
- 3 cups scrapped fresh coconut
- 1 1/2 cup Jaggery powder / grated jaggery
- 1 tablespoon Ghee
- 1/4 cup almond slivers



Note: The garden cress seeds can be soaked in coconut water or normal water instead of milk. Any nut can be used to make these balls. The balls have a shelf life of about 15-20 days on refrigeration.

DIRECTIONS

- Soak the garden cress seeds / Halim / Aliv in milk in a container for at least 1 hour, If time permits soak them for 2-3 hours, On soaking the seed coat swells and gets covered.
- In a large vessel add the scrapped fresh coconut and jaggery powder , mix well , to this mix add the soaked garden cress seeds , mix all the ingredients and place the vessel in a instapot or pressure cooker. Add enough water to the base of the instapot or pressure cooker.
- Pressure cook for 2 whistles and put off the flame , allow the pressure to release on its own, now heat ghee in a non-stick wok, add this cooked mix to it and stir fry very well, keep cooking and stirring the mix until the mix begins to leave the sides of the wok.
- Add the almond slivers to the cooked mixture, mix well, put off the flame, allow the mixture to cool down enough to handle it.
- Make medium sized balls of the mixture using your palms, once the balls cool down completely transfer them to an airtight container and refrigerate. Use as per need.

HOME MADE ICE CREAM

What is more delicious than ice cream to beat the heat of summer? Home made ice cream is not only delicious but also free from any preservatives.

INGREDIENTS

- Heavy whipping cream: 32 oz
- Condensed milk: 2 cans
- Evaporated milk: 2 cans
- Vanilla essence: 1 tsp
- Cardamom powder: 1 tsp

DIRECTIONS

- Beat the whipping cream using electric mixer to get cool whip out of it, mix condensed milk and evaporated milk to it n beat it again.
- Add cardamom powder n vanilla essence to it. This is basic Vanilla ice cream, you can transfer it to a container, cover with lid and keep in freezer for overnight.
- If you want different flavors then add ingredients accordingly to the basic vanilla liquid mixture.

Variations:

For Saffron pistachio aka Kesar-Pista : Soak saffron in warm milk to get a nice color, add this along with chopped pistachio n tutti-frutti. Store it in freezer for overnight n Kesar Pista ice cream is ready.

Mango : add sweetened mango pulp ,tutti-frutti, chopped pistachio to get Mango ice cream.

Rose: add rosé syrup and gulkand to get Rose ice cream.

Once ice cream is ready offer it to the Lord and honor the prasadam.

Jai Jagannath!



By: Madhumayi Shri Lakshmi dd

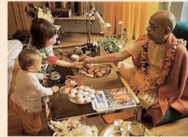


The Power of Prasadam



"A person who honors the prasadam (Mercy of the Lord) and regularly eats it, not exactly in front of the Deity, along with caranamrta [the water offered to the lotus feet of the Lord, which is mixed with seeds of the tulasi tree], immediately can achieve the results of pious activities which are obtained through ten thousand performances of sacrificial rites." Padma Purana

"...We should never waste Krishna prasadam"
Srla Prabhupada



"By regular attendance in classes on the Bhāgavatam and by rendering of service to the pure devotee, all that is troublesome to the heart is almost completely destroyed, and loving service unto the Personality of Godhead, who is praised with transcendental songs, is established as an irrevocable fact."

SB1.2.18

naṣṭa-prāyeṣv abhadreṣu
nityaṁ bhāgavata-sevayā
bhagavaty uttama-śloke
bhaktir bhavati naiṣṭhikī



For anyone who has read or is reading Bhagavad Gita As It Is by HDG A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, reading Srimad Bhagavatam is the natural next step. Krishna-Katha in the form of Srimad Bhagavatam, has been sufficiently glorified as the right remedy for the present age of hypocrisy and quarrel. The names, forms, qualities, pastimes and entourage of Lord Sri Krishna simultaneously serve as a great adventure in Krishna consciousness, an instruction-manual for the sincere devotees and the bestower of pure love of Godhead for all transcendentalists. We invite all sincere souls to join the reading of Srimad Bhagavatam to experience something sublime and discover something new.

- Aspiring devotee Rachna



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MENU

OUR WEEKLY MENUS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:

CHECK OUT OUR SATURDAY AND WEEKDAY LUNCH SPECIALS!

FACEBOOK.COM/ISKCONOPHOENIXAZ

HOW TO PLACE MY ORDER:

Radharani's Kitchen makes it easy for you to enjoy your busy weekend schedule. Simply place your orders by 8PM the day before and pick up is at the temple every weekday and Saturday from 11AM-1PM!

WHERE/WHEN TO PICK UP MY ORDER:

You can pick up your order from Radharani's Kitchen between 11AM-1PM at the Temple:
**100 S Weber Dr
Chandler, AZ 85226**



WHAT IS AYURVEDA

By Padmini Naikade

Ayu means 'life', and, Veda can be translated as to knowledge'. Ayurveda is the philosophy and science of living in harmony with nature, and, understanding our own unique psychosomatic constitution.

It is 5,000-year-old holistic system of health and healing, an ancient Indian medical science . It believes that balance in the body, mind, and spirit can be achieved by living in harmony with nature's cycles, such as solar, lunar and seasonal intervals. Āyurveda analyzes the whole person and considers every human being as a unique constitution, or doṣha. Therefore, diet, herbal medicines, yoga practices, and daily routines must be customized to the individual.

According to Ayurveda, everything is made up of five elements or building blocks of life, the panchamahabhutas (space, air, fire, water and earth)

We are composed of the same elements as the universe, We must keep these in balance, internally and externally through the practice of Ayurveda.

Ayurvedic approach for new moms :

Lifestyle: Make it a priority to take care of the baby and yourself.

Lots of rest immediately following birth, stay in bed/bond with baby.

Others should take care of mom, cooking for the mother at least for the first week will speed up recovery and help with perinatal health.

Take time for self-care: sleep, nurturing, socialization.

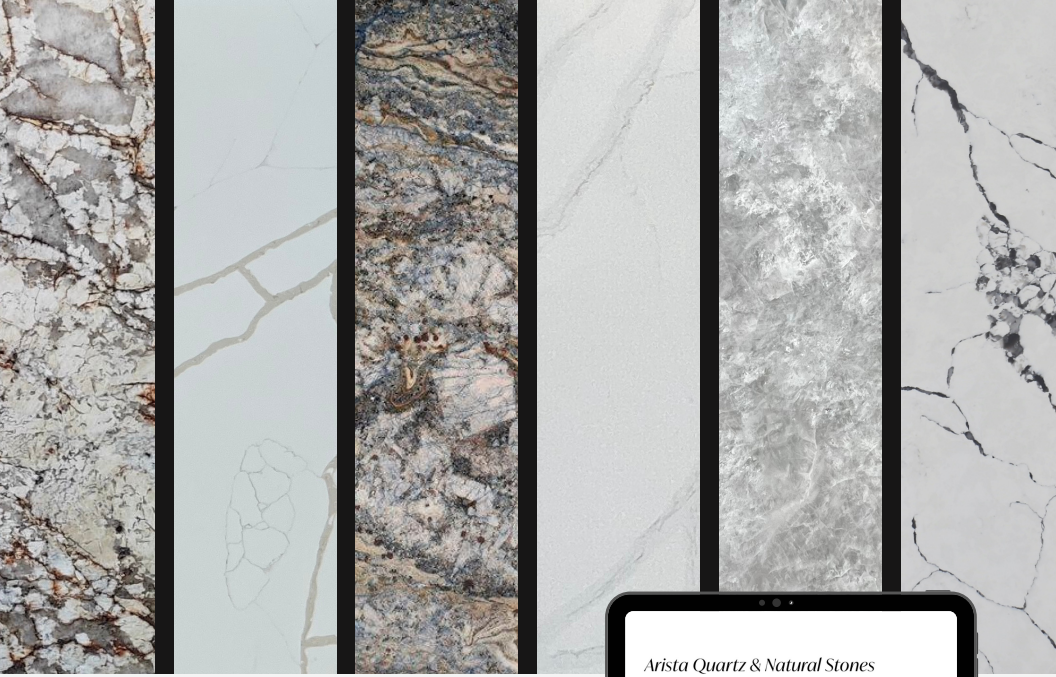
Light movement every day, important to prevent blood clots, specially in the first six weeks postpartum, but do not push it.

Accept help from family and friends.

Diet

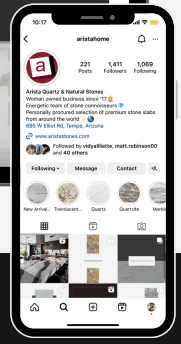
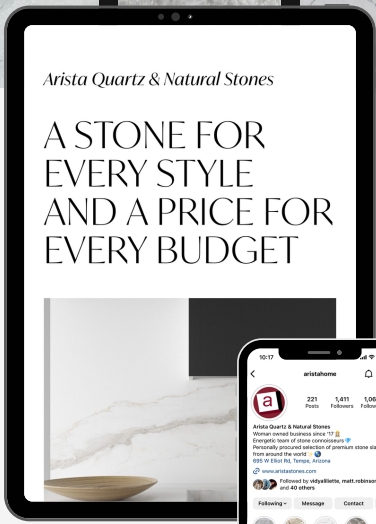
Fresh, Warm, cooked easy to digest foods. Slow cooked spiced molasses congee (great first food after birth). Rice with roasted walnuts and ghee, stewed apples and pears, almond date shake, kitchari, well cooked vegetable curries, spices like ajwain, cumin, hingu, fennel, ginger, turmeric; fenugreek, lemongrass.

Post Partum care- As per Ayurveda new Moms show qualities of Vata Dosha , so we need to nurture the mother with as much heavy, warm, oily, smooth, and stable qualities as possible. The three main pillars to support the vata qualities are diet, herbs, and oil massage for the full forty-two days after delivery. By calming vata and nourishing the mother's body, you enable her mind and being to also heal and take her form as a new mother.



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New Temple Update



As of last week, our team of Architects have been working on the construction drawings and getting the final site plan approval from the city of Phoenix which is expect by October of this year. They anticipate getting approval on the final construction drawings and receive construction permit by February 2024.

And once the construction permit is received, construction can finally start!

***"To erect for the members, and for society at large,
a holy place of transcendental pastimes,
dedicated to the personality of Krishna."
Srila Prabhupada (5th Purpose of ISKCON)***

Keeping Our Faith Strong in Times of Adversity: "Always Remember Krishna, Never Forget Krishna"



*vipadaḥ santu tāḥ śāśvat
tatra tatra jagad-guro
bhavato darśanaṁ yat syād
apunar bhava-darśanam*

I wish that all those calamities would happen again and again so that we could see You again and again, for seeing You means that we will no longer see repeated births and deaths. SB 1.8.25

Except of Purport:

"Generally the distressed, the needy, the intelligent and the inquisitive, who have performed some pious activities, worship or begin to worship the Lord. Others, who are thriving on misdeeds only, regardless of status, cannot approach the Supreme due to being misled by the illusory energy. Therefore, for a pious person, if there is some calamity there is no other alternative than to take shelter of the lotus feet of the Lord. Constantly remembering the lotus feet of the Lord means preparing for liberation from birth and death. Therefore, even though there are so-called calamities, they are welcome because they give us an opportunity to remember the Lord, which means liberation"

Questions that often arise when things do not go our way are: "Why does Krishna allow this to happen? Does God really exist? Why is He not answering my prayers? Why are all these things happening to me? Why, why, why? And the more we try to answer these questions, the more we get entangled in a web of questions with no definite answer.

Then we start creating our own soap opera in our mind and most of the time there is no happy ending, and the one thing that gets affected is our FAITH.

We need to understand that Krishna does exist, He is present in the heart of every living entity in His Paramatma form and He is in every atom of this vast creation. But He has given us a priceless gift: Free Will. He will not interfere in our decisions, we are the only ones who can use it, misuse it or abuse it. We need to understand the laws of karma, and also realize that the more expectations we may have, the more disappointments we may get. Now is the right time to ask WHY?



Only Krishna is the Supreme Controller - ईश्वराहं परमाहं कृष्णाहं- So, when we have expectations, we imply that we can control the results of our activities, that we can control our mind, but this is false. When we can hardly control our mind and senses how are we to control others or the result of everything else that it is impacted by the three miseries of life, adhyātṁika, adhibhautika, adhidaivika? As long as we are in this material world, these 3 will play a role. There will be times when we might feel that we are being tested, and we might be, and at that time we should ask HOW and not WHY. How do I remain strong in faith? How can I develop the taste to chant the Holy Name? How can I develop the right intention to serve? How can I understand that serving Krishna for His pleasure benefits all? "A devotee at times feels hopeless but not helpless" (Niranjana Swami)

When we change the mode of asking, we may start getting the answers, because it is until that moment that we begin to realize that everything happens because of the mercy of the Lord, - we still have to put the effort-, but the dedication is to the Lord, because He is providing us with the appropriate environment to remember Him, to have a personal realization, to begin understanding what is important and what is not, what is eternal and what is not. At times we might be lonely, but we are never alone. We must understand the difference between being God-loving and God-fearing. Love means sacrifice, surrender, give oneself without expectations, no conditions. Fearing, on the contrary is conditional, "if I do not do this, God will be upset"; "if I do not obey I will be punished", so where's the love? Bhakti or Devotional Service is done unconditional, with the right motivation, and when we finally surrender, it will be uninterrupted. But in order to be situated in pure bhakti, we need to transcend the modes of material nature. We will not have any more material hankering, we will not care about the next destination, the only desire will be to be in the service of Krishna and the only goal will be: Krishna Prema. Yes, Kali-Yuga is not making things easier for us, but by the mercy of the most merciful incarnation of Lord Krishna in the mood of Srimati Radharani, we are able to take advantage of the way to connect back home, back to Godhead. Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu has come to share the Holy Name of the Lord and has given eight instructions. If we just try to assimilate the very first three and work on them, we could gradually begin to understand the context in which Queen Kunti was talking her heart out to Krishna.

We remember the Lord in difficult situations, but we should ALWAYS remember Him also when things are going great, if we are able to count our blessings, that means that we have received the mercy of the Lord. The protection of the Lord may be seen in the material realm, but the real protection is to ALWAYS REMEMBER KRISHNA, NEVER FORGET KRISHNA, particularly when we will need it the most.

As we come together to celebrate the Appearance Day of Lord Krishna, let us count our blessings, let us give thanks to the Lord and better yet, let us ask HOW we can share this loving gift with others, for His pleasure and for the benefit of all.

Happy and blessed Janmasthami from all of us at ISKCON Phoenix.

Sri Siksastakam
Verses 1-3

Glory to the Sri-Krsna-Sankirtana, which *cleanses* the heart of all the dust accumulated for years and *extinguishes the fire of conditional life*, of repeated birth and death. This sankirtana 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.

O my Lord, Your holy name alone *can render all benediction to living beings*, and thus You have hundreds and millions of names, like Krsna 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.

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.





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**Giri-Govardhan Class
Smita Papadkar**



Hare Krishna everyone,

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



This year Giri Govardhan class learned various topics. In the first semester, they learned and discussed about the “Life of Srila Prabhupada”. We are very grateful to Srila Prabhupada who came at a very advanced age of 69 years to USA and preached and opened so many temples all over the world. It is because of his mercy that we are able to associate with like-minded people and grow in spiritual Consciousness in Kaliyuga. The children learned about his childhood, his family life and his sanyasa life and finally the trouble and hardships he took upon himself to preach the knowledge of Krishna Consciousness throughout the world.

The children also learned about the “Childhood pastimes of Lord Chaitanya”. Lord Chaitanya is none other than Krishna Himself who has appeared in Kaliyuga 500 years ago to spread the chanting of holy names “Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare, Hare Ram Hare Ram Ram Ram Hare Hare”. Lord Chaitanya told us that chanting of the Hare Krishna Mahamantra is the only yuga dharma for Kali Yuga. His childhood pastimes are also filled with mischief and naughtiness just like the childhood pastimes of Lord Krishna.

We also studied the first three chapters of “Bhagavad Gita as it is” which gives us knowledge of the soul and its eternity. We are not these bodies but spirit souls which is eternal, is a message of Bhagavad Gita. We do not need to suffer in the material world but go back to the spiritual world which is full of Eternity, Bliss and Knowledge. We will continue reading in next semester as well. We also had a children’s Ratha Yatra where kids participated enthusiastically in decorations, aarti, kirtan and dance during the event lead by HG Symba Mohini devi dasi.

Our children did a wonderful Govardhan play which was appreciated by everyone and also they had end of year presentations. We also had a summer camp where kids did yoga, art, chanting, dancing, stories and had delicious prasadam which they all enjoyed a lot.

In this busy and modern life children are suffering from social media addiction, peer pressure etc., and it is very essential for them to have a strong faith, and knowledge about Krishna which acts as a pillar and gives them strength to face the challenges of growing up and taking responsibilities in future.

I would highly recommend for children to get enrolled in our amazing and interactive year round fun filled Sunday School Program.





INVEST IN OUR CHILDREN

If we want to gain, we need to invest.

In this age of Kali, planting the proper seeds and making the right investment is very important. Srila Prabhupada writes in his purport of SB 1.8.5: “The protection of children gives the human form of life its best chance to prepare the way of liberty from material bondage...”

This human form of life is an opportunity to come out of the cycle of birth and death, it is an opportunity to reconnect to the Supreme Lord, and Krishna has given us an amazing gift: “Free Will”. So, it is up to us to use it, misuse it or abuse it.

When we protect our children, we are caring for the next generations to come and for the betterment of our society. “These children are the future of our society”, we need to make sure that they have the right tools and blueprints to navigate this age of kali. In SB 12.2.1 Sri Sukhadeva Goswami tells Pariksit Maharaja: “Then, O King, religion, truthfulness, cleanliness, tolerance, mercy, duration of life, physical strength and memory will all diminish day by day because of the powerful influence of the Age of Kali.” How can we strengthen the pillars of dharma? By protecting our future generations, by being and giving a good example and by investing in our children. We need to support healthy and safe environments for them. We are all in this together. It makes a tremendous difference when Management, CPVs/CPTs, Sunday School teachers and community in general work together.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Child Protection Office, ISKCON Phoenix renewed its commitment and support of the CPO, its Policy and Guidelines. In addition, ISKCON Phoenix recently formed the Child Protection Ambassadors Team. These teens meet with the CPV and Temple President for “Circle Time” and discuss various ways in which they can participate, giving them a space to voice out their ideas. We all can make a difference, one Yatra at the time. It is not about getting an award, it is about doing the right thing for our children, for Krishna's children, for our future leaders.





ISKCON
PHOENIX

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness
Founder-Acarya His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

25th Anniversary of the Child Protection Office (1998-2023)

In celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the ISKCON Child Protection Office, ISKCON of Phoenix reaffirms its commitment to the following:

- a) ISKCON of Phoenix is committed to abide by the ISKCON Child Protection Office Policy and Operational Guidelines.
- b) ISKCON Phoenix is committed to supporting the efforts of the Child Protection Volunteer to create awareness and to create a safe and conducive environment for our children's growth in Krishna Consciousness.
- c) ISKCON of Phoenix is committed to work with the Child Protection Volunteer to ensure that our Yatra is in full compliance with the Child Protection Office.
- d) ISKCON of Phoenix will continue to support any programs that would benefit our children as part of our "Invest in Our Children" initiative.
- e) ISKCON of Phoenix will not entertain anyone (visitors, guest speakers, sankirtan leaders, etc.) who may have an outstanding case or may have not been cleared by the Child Protection Office.
- f) ISKCON of Phoenix acknowledges that no ecclesiastical or managerial authority is above the law.

Temple President
Premadhatri devi dasi

Child Protection Volunteer -ISKCON Phoenix
Syama Mohini devi dasi
Nama Priya devi dasi
Rasa Krida das
Ananda Lila devi dasi
Parul Tailor

***"Please take care of your children and make them perfectly Krishna
Conscious.***

***That is very great service. If by your endeavor one or two souls who
come under your protection become liberated in this life, that is a great
transcendental service to the Lord."***

(Srla Prabhupada Letter, Septemer 30, 1969)

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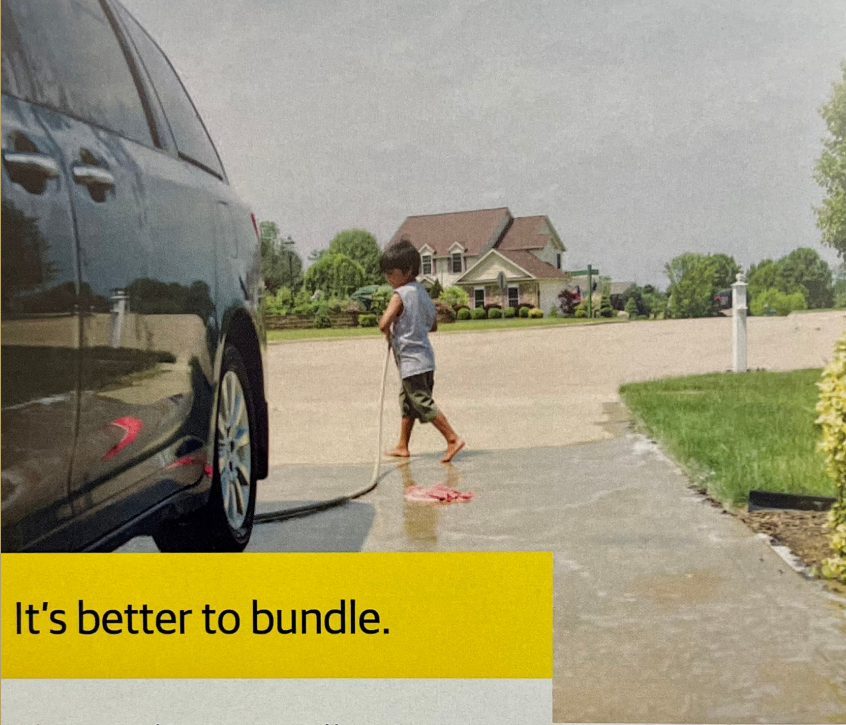
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YOUTH GROUP

By Nikhit Gunturu



Hare Krishna!

Here at ISKCON Phoenix, the Youth Group aims to forge a vibrant future. Meeting online every Sunday, we dive into the Srimad Bhagavatam, chapter by chapter, while engaging in activities that foster leadership and unity. Each week, a different member takes the lead for the discussion, encouraging teamwork and personal growth. This shared responsibility cultivates strong bonds, and a platform for self-expression through helping each other learn.

This year, some of us newly stepped into the role of Child Protection Ambassadors. With hearts full of compassion and a commitment to ensuring the safety of younger devotees, we embrace our responsibilities wholeheartedly. Moreover, our enthusiastic participation in the Ratha Yatra chariot festival brought joy to both us and the wider community. We enjoyed all the various services around the festival this year. Beyond our regular discussions, the Youth Group eagerly volunteers in various service opportunities, including adding lively energy to temple kirtans, and helping run informational tables every so often.

Looking forward, the Youth Group is committed to expanding our impact and strengthening their community. By engaging in these activities, we strive to become exemplary members of the temple and broader society. Building a strong community embodies the transformative power of youth-driven initiatives within ISKCON.

***“...if these young people are instructed about bhakti-yoga,
Kṛṣṇa consciousness, the instructions will certainly be
effective...” Srila Prabhupada***



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Brahma-Samhita

By Abhay H. (Damodar Class)



Text 1

īśvaraḥ paramaḥ kṛṣṇaḥ - sac-cid-ānanda-vigrahaḥ -
anādir ādir govindaḥ - sarva-kāraṇa-kāraṇam

“Kṛṣṇa 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.”

You cannot define God because God is unlimited, but I find this verse has a close definition, let's carefully read these important words. First, isvarah means the Controller and Paramah means the Supreme, so īśvaraḥ paramaḥ kṛṣṇaḥ means that Krishna is the Supreme Controller. Technically, if isvarah means controller, then all of us are isvarahs, we are the isvarahs of our material bodies, we might be the isvarahs of our homes, maybe the isvarahs of our families or maybe even the isvarahs of our jobs but that is why it is not written isvarah kṛṣṇaḥ, it is written “īśvaraḥ paramaḥ”, the Supreme Controller -please do not get these two mixed up-

Then the words, sac means eternal existence, cit meaning absolute knowledge and ananda means absolute bliss. Now, technically everyone is part of this sac-cid-ananda because the soul is in the heart of everyone and so is the Paramatma (Krishna in His Super Soul feature).

So, our soul is also eternal, and we are not this body, but we are spirit souls living temporarily in this material body. Of course, we cannot compare with Krishna because we are tiny entities, and He is the Supreme. Imagine Krishna is the forest fire, and we are a tiny spark. If we see Krishna as the vast ocean, we are only a small drop of water. So, the quality is the same, but the quantity is certainly different.

Now, let's read the first line: “Krishna who is known as Govinda is the Supreme Godhead”, this statement is telling who God is: Govinda, He who gives pleasure to the cows, and this is Krishna, which by the way, Krishna means the All-Attractive.

The next line describes Krishna: He has an eternal blissful spiritual body. Then, who is He? The Origin of ALL.

And the last line states: He is the prime cause of all causes, many times during classes at the temple we have heard this statement, but what does it mean?

If we think about cause and effect, cause and effect, cause and effect, and we go up the chain, then we will see that the place where everything originates is Goloka and Krishna is the Supreme Energetic, and everything comes from Him. Imagine happiness, Krishna may not be the immediate cause of our happiness, but He is the ultimate origin for this happiness because He is ananda and ananda is also in our heart.

I thought about the pastime when Krishna was eating dirt and Mother Yasoda, while checking Krishna's mouth saw all the three worlds inside His mouth. So, if the entire creation is inside of Krishna's mouth, then He can easily control everything, He is isvarah paramah. Now, why would Lord Brahma and other demigods worship Krishna if He was not the Supreme origin of all? They very well know that Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the Supreme Energetic and right next to Him is His Supreme Energy, Srimati Radharani.



So, when we look at the mountains, at the stars, or simply at all form of live, we should remember that all of that is possible due to the mercy of the Supreme Controller, Krishna.



Why am I a serving? by Jiya P.



This is my first time being an ambassador, and so far, it has been an amazing experience. I agreed to become an ambassador since it provides many opportunities to serve, and give back to the community in various ways such as spreading information on how people of all ages can protect the kids, and how the kids can protect themselves from peer pressure, gossip, the internet and more. Furthermore, it reminds us that even the kids add value to us. They add value to us by reminding that simple questions and simple answers are more powerful than we think. This is why I chose to be an ambassador: to serve others, and to be reminded that simplicity can be better than complexity.

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Energizing the environment, one chanting at a time...

By Prana Hari das

When one chants the holy name in kīrtana, the success of such an endeavor is completely independent of such external factors as the melodic sound of the voice, the number of listeners in attendance, or rhythmic instrumentation. Although these factors may be used in service to the chanting, they are not the prime considerations when determining success.

The cleansing of the heart that Mahāprabhu speaks about in His Śikṣāṣṭaka verse 1 is the beginning of success. Such purification can be viewed as a marker on the trail to prema, revealing to the chanter that they are going the right way. The external factors can be distractions on the path, and so it is with care that the devotee uses them in service as much as they assist in making progress in the genuine cleansing of the heart. Therefore, in the case of an extended chanting party, 24-hour kīrtana, etc. one can be sure that the sincere chanting even at an off-hour, with little or no crowd, valuably contributes to the atmosphere of bhakti, which by the end, becomes a palpable substance for all to receive and relish.

**śṛṅvatām sva-kathāḥ kṛṣṇaḥ
puṅya-śravaṇa-kīrtanaḥ
hṛdy antaḥ-stho hy
abhadrāṇi
vidhunoti suhṛt satām**

“Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the Personality of Godhead, who is the Paramātmā [Supersoul] in everyone’s heart and the benefactor of the truthful devotee, cleanses desire for material enjoyment from the heart of the devotee who relishes His messages, which are in themselves virtuous when properly heard and chanted.”

Srimad Bhagavatam 1.2.17



"If a devotee at all wants to cleanse his heart, he must chant and hear the glories of the Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa (śṛṅvatām sva-kathāḥ kṛṣṇaḥ). This is a simple process. Kṛṣṇa Himself will help cleanse the heart because He is already seated there."

Srila Prabhupada - purport



Bhakti Yoga Club at ASU (Arizona State University)

By Bhaktin Fenny

Hare Kṛṣṇa,

College life can be overwhelming with academic pressure, social responsibilities, and other challenges. Engaging in spiritual practices like chanting, meditation, and prayer, which are central to Bhakti yoga, can help students manage stress and find inner peace. The Bhakti Yoga club at ASU (Arizona State University) organizes various sessions on self-discovery courses by inviting special guest speakers and notable Monks.

We were very fortunate to have HH Romapada Swami coming to ASU twice and giving seminars on Pursuit of Happiness, we also had active participation for Harinam Sankirtan on streets and distributing books. We also collaborated with Hindu Yuva club on the auspicious occasion of Ramnavami to do Kirtan. Students coming to the sessions find teachings of Bhagavad Gita very interesting and practical for their life. We try to meet on a regular basis to discuss the philosophy with some prasadam at the end. Apart from these meetings, BYC volunteers for various events held by ISKCON like Rath Yatra, Kṛṣṇa Janmashthmi, Gaur Purnima etc. We have many students showing interest in attending various Home programs.

Bhakti Yoga Club provides students with a supportive and like-minded community. Having a group of friends who share similar values and spiritual interests can create a sense of belonging and foster strong friendships. Bhakti yoga club emphasizes on developing values like compassion, humility, and selflessness. Through the teachings and practices, students can develop virtues that contribute to their personal growth and character development, and ultimately they can develop some taste in rendering devotion to the Lord and making one's life successful.



"Wisdom begins with understanding the spirit self, animating the body and the minds. The basis of authenticity is to understand on who we really are and connect with other people on that basis, while recognizing the differences. All living entities are connected to the same source. Bhakti Yoga: How we act in a relationship with the ultimate connection with Krishna" HH Romapada Swami



Damodar Class Syama Mohini devi dasi



Hare Krishna!

We started the year stating with the tenet of our faith: "Always remember Krishna, Never forget Krishna". We discussed how Lord Krishna is in the heart of every living entity and how our bodies are little temples where the Lord resides and we have to take care of them, including the fact that nobody has the right to hurt us and that we have to be respectful of others as well. We review in this context the life of Prahlad Maharaja and Ambarish Maharaja. We also enjoyed singing the "Tilak Song"

We also covered excerpts of Ramayana and Mahabharata and incorporated a few verses of Bhagavad-Gita As It Is

The children liked reading passages from Srimad Bhagavatam. We will be covering more Bhagavad-Gita and Srimad-Bhagavatam in the next session and we will continue to review and explore a few more verses of Sri Brahma-Samhita.

There was a lot of discussion and practical application on the above and other topics. I appreciate their own words and realizations. I am always amazed at the simplicity of their understanding, their innocence allows them to think and capture things that we, as adults are sometimes not able to capture...



They participated very nicely in the first Children's Festival for Children by Children. They help making decorations for the Mini-RathaYatra (our gratitude to Sivananda Sena das and Partha Sarati das prabhush for their help in building the mini Rath and to the moms and dads who came forward to give a hand). While one of our students performed Aarti to the Deities just like a little trained Pujari, other students

from our class and from the Giri-Govardhan & Gopala classes sang Sri Jagannastakam and kirtan. It was such a beautiful festival, the children -and adults- really enjoyed it, not to mention the pinata!

The children accepted the challenge to present (in their own words) Brahma-Samhita, and they delivered an amazing presentation.

I am looking forward to another wonderful year ahead and I take this opportunity to thank you parents for your trust and support.





Bhakti Vriksha Program

By Sri Govinda Das

ISKCON Phoenix is happy to continue to offer Self-Discovery (Bhakti Vriksha) programs for our community. These are weekly home programs conducted on Fridays from 7 PM to 9 PM or Saturdays from 6 PM to 8 PM.

These informal gatherings are intended to help discover the timeless knowledge of Bhagavad Gita and related scriptures in a warm, welcoming, and peaceful atmosphere with friends and family. The program consists of ice breaker, kirtan, spiritual discussion focusing on it's 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. It's quite amazing to see how kids have grown with solid spiritual foundation over the period of years while being part of these programs.

At these Self-Discovery gatherings you will meet many like-minded, growth-oriented people 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 grows to a sizable number, 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 are currently being conducted in locations including Chandler, Gilbert, North Phoenix, and Scottsdale and continue remain popular in the congregation with extremely positive reviews from all the participants. While most of these programs are offered in-person, some are virtual. In either form, they remain 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.

Contact Information

Please contact any of the following devotees for additional information
on our Bhakti Vriska Programs

Name	Phone	Email	Location
Sri Govinda das	281-799-1777	santoshhanmod@gmail.com	All
Ishvara Gauranga das	480-519-3975	igd.rsm@gmail.com	Chandler/ Gilbert
Nama Priya devi dasi	480-299-4074	nchethikattil@gmail.com	West Chandler/ Gilbert
Vamsigopal das	480-398-5134	vamsheeraj@gmail.com	West Chandler/ Gilbert
Manamohana Sri Jagannatha das	425-324-7556	Manoranjan.swain@gmail.com	North Phoenix/ Scottsdale



*śamo damas tapaḥ śaucaṁ
kṣāntir ārjavam eva ca
jñānaṁ vijñānam āstikyaṁ
brahma-karma svabhāva-jam*

**“Peacefulness, self-control, austerity, purity, tolerance, honesty, knowledge,
wisdom, knowledge and righteousness -
these are the qualities by which the brāhmaṇas work.”**



Bhakti Vriksha Program (Gilbert/West Chandler)

By Nama Prima Devi Dasi

Hare Krsna! We initiated the West Chandler BV group back in February 2018. Within these past five years, our group has seen its members profoundly grow in their spiritual journey. We have had five members receive Harinam initiations and two members complete their second initiations. Importantly, all participants engaged in scriptural discussion and chanting of the holy names. Since 2020, we have offered a hybrid class model with virtual and in-person sessions.

Srimad Bhagavatam 4.22.19:

**sangamah khalu sadhunam
ubhayesam ca sammatah
yat-sambhasana-samprasnah
sarvesam vitanoti sam**

When there is a congregation of devotees, their discussions, questions and answers become conclusive to both the speaker and the audience. Thus such a meeting is beneficial for everyone's real happiness.



The BV gathering is a great opportunity for families of different ages to participate and engage in discussions and devotional service to Krsna. The sessions inspire devotees to progress and learn from each other. Similarly, children enjoy spending time together, and the session encourages them to discuss and consider practical applications of the scripture for their own lives. I personally feel very fortunate to be able to continue this service and be in the association of wonderful devotees.



Bhakti Vriksha Program (Chandler)

Glorious Krishna Conscious Gatherings:

A Journey of Spiritual Progress

By Ishvara Gauranga das

Every week, our vibrant assembly of devotees gathers for an extraordinary journey of spiritual growth. The atmosphere is charged with devotion as we engage in profound discussions on the timeless wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita. Through soul-stirring kirtans, we immerse ourselves in the melodious chanting of the holy names, awakening our hearts to the divine presence.

In this sacred space, we witness the remarkable progress of our members on their spiritual path. Many have experienced profound transformations, deepening their connection with Lord Krishna and His teachings. Through the exchange of insights and realizations, we inspire and uplift one another, fostering a supportive



Our program embraces diversity, welcoming devotees of all ages and backgrounds. Families come together to share their devotion, fostering a sense of unity and spiritual camaraderie. The younger members of our community eagerly participate, reflecting on the practical application of the scriptures in their lives, guided by the wisdom of experienced devotees.

We are grateful for the divine opportunity to continue this service and be part of this enriching spiritual journey. Each gathering nourishes our souls, kindling the flame of devotion within us. Together, we march forward, with Krishna as our eternal guide, illuminating our path towards spiritual enlightenment and eternal bliss.



Bhakti Vriksha Program (North PHX/Scottsdale)
A Personal Realizaation
By Manmohan Sri Jagannatha das

My family and I started attending Bhakti Vriksha program regularly 6 years ago.

Every Friday we would start with kirtan, reading and discussion of Srila Prabhupada's books beginning with Bhagavad Gita and would end with delicious Prasadam.

In the course of these years, we have also studied Sri Isopanisad, Nectar of Instruction, Nectar of Devotion, etc.

This program has helped us to move forward in our Krishna conscious journey to a great extent . We started chanting ,reading Srila Prabhupada books like Bhagavad Gita , Srimad Bhagavatam, Chaitanya Charitamrita and many other spiritual books.

We have celebrated different festivals along with fasting. In addition we were given the opportunity to be engaged in various devotional activities and by Lord Krishna's mercy we found our spiritual master and got our Harinaam initiation.

Srila Prabhupada said if we have to progress in Devotional life then you have to do three things ,Seva (Devotional service), Sadhana(Daily Spiritual practice), and Sadhusanga (Association of devotees).

Bhakti Vriksha program helps us in these three things. The beginning of Krsna consciousness is association of persons who are Krsna conscious. Such association is spiritual and puts one directly in touch with the Supreme Lord, and, by His grace, one can understand Krsna to be the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

***harer nāma harer nāma
harer nāmaiva kevalam
kalau nāsty eva nāsty eva
nāsty eva gatir anyathā***

'In this age of quarrel and hypocrisy, the only means of deliverance is the chanting of the holy names of the Lord. There is no other way. There is no other way. There is no other way.'



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"In every birth one can get father and mother, but to get the spiritual master and Krsna, that is not possible in every birth. That is only possible in this human form. The cats and dogs, they have got their father and mother. Therefore if we become father, mother like cats and dogs, there is no need of such...

Krsna-guru nahi mile bhaja... The father helps the children to achieve Krsna and guru, that is real father. [break] ...they avoid that trap, they avoid association of women. But these women are not ordinary women. They are preachers. They are preachers. They are Vaisnava. By their association, one becomes a Vaisnava."

Srila Prabhupada

Morning walk March 27, 1974
Bombay, India.



NEW
Mother's Support Group



Being a parent can be overwhelming, particularly for new parents, and moms have the added bonus, yes, those hormonal changes, the challenges of balancing day-to-day situations and the list goes on.

If you or someone you know is a new mom and would like to join our ISKCON Phoenix support group, please contact Syama Mohini devi dasi at smdd@cox.net





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DOMESTIC ABUSE IS A SEVERE VIOLATION OF THE ESSENTIAL PRACTICES OF KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS AND VAISHNAVA CULTURE. IF YOU ARE IN AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP AND FEAR FOR YOUR SAFETY, CONTACT THE POLICE.

“Intimate partner abuse is indefensible, illegal in many countries, and never accepted within the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). Any interpretation of Vaishnava religious or social teachings that condones, endorses, or justifies domestic abuse is rejected by the Governing Body Commission.”
– March 2020 GBC Resolution

There is never, ever an excuse for any type of abuse, including emotional and psychological abuse. To disclose that you are in an abusive situation to someone you trust like a close friend, spiritual guide, a Vaishnavi Minister, or a professional, is not acknowledging personal failure or shortcomings, but is a positive step towards healing.

For more support and information, please contact your local temple women's representative. Your local Vaishnavi Representative is:

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Wisdom begins with understanding the spirit self, animating the body and the mind.

The basis of Authenticity is to understand on who we really are and connect with other people on that basis, while recognizing the differences.

All living entities are connected to the same source.

Bhakti Yoga: How we act in a relationship with the ultimate connection with Krsna (Romapada Swami)

The 26 qualities of a devotee are:

- (1) kind to everyone, (2) does not quarrel with anyone, (3) fixed in the Absolute Truth, (4) equal to everyone, (5) faultless, (6) charitable, (7) mild, (8) clean, (9) simple, (10) benevolent, (11) peaceful, (12) completely attached to Kṛṣṇa, (13) has no material hankering, (14) meek, (15) steady, (16) self-controlled, (17) does not eat more than required, (18) sane, (19) respectful, (20) humble, (21) grave, (22) compassionate, (23) friendly, (24) poetic, (25) expert, (26) silent.



RATHA-YATRA 2023



On Saturday, April 15, 2023, we celebrated our annual Ratha-Yatra festival and for the first time, it was held at the A.J. Chandler Park adjacent to Arizona Avenue.

Enthusiastic devotees gathered early in the morning to start decorating Lord Jagannatha's brand-new chariot! Meanwhile, at the festival site, more devotees and well-wishers were working on the finishing touches and setting up the different booths.

With the auspicious blowing of the conch and aarti ceremony, everyone got together to hold the thick ropes and pull the chariot carrying Their Lordships: Lord Jagannath, Lord Baladeva and Devi Subhadra. A special energy was felt as devotees began to chant the Holy Names of the Lord in ecstatic Kirtan "Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare".



Ladies danced beautifully holding colorful as they led the way. Mrdangams, kartals, loud voices could be heard across the street and roads leading to the park. At the festival site, the center stage was graced with the participation of different groups performed in in artistic performances, other devotees sang beautiful bhajans/kirtan. The Festival's grounds were decorated very nicely and various tents were set up with the Festival of India. Arati and chappan bhog (56 items) were offered to Their Lordships while devotees offered continuous kirtan and more food preparations to Their Lordships.

A Disciple's Offering

by Ananda Vrindavan das

By Parent's prayers and Jesus' grace
A devotee was born with a beautiful face
Dressed as a priest this child was precious
A Lord's devotee had come to bless us

One and all would always adore
But they had to answer questions galore
Where is God and how does He look
He looked for the answers in every book

God must be happy and always blissful
To find him one day He was very hopeful
Yoga and vegetarianism He had tried before
But his Heart was aching for more and more

He met the devotees and followed their advice
Sri Isopnishad appeared and opened his eyes
Finally, He could see his Eternal Spiritual master
Srla Prabhupada was saving the world from disaster

He decided to chant and meditate on the Lord
Chanting of mahamantra had hit a chord
Meditating alone He was in a forest
There came Mayadevi to take a test

He didn't succumb to any temptation
So much strong was his determination
I will move to the temple He made up his mind
Leaving a grieving family behind

O Mama and papa why do you cry
To keep your promise, I must try
You promised to God to give me away
It's been too long let's not delay



***"Humility is the secret
to receive the mercy"***

***"La humildad es el
secreto para recibir
la misericordia"***
**HH Bhakti Sundar
Goswami**



**"The beginning of all knowledge
comes from humility"**
Srla Prabhupada



To do sadhana and live a Brahmachari life
He moved to temple and made sacrifice
Finally appeared His Divine Grace
Devotees were purified to see his face

Srila Prabhupada accepted him for initiation
Jagat Chaksu Das was his new identification
His family was happy to see him as a priest
If not of a church, of a temple at least

He dedicated his life to serve his Guru's mission
To serve the devotees was his only intention
His lifelong sadhana was finally rewarded
The order of Sanyaas was then awarded

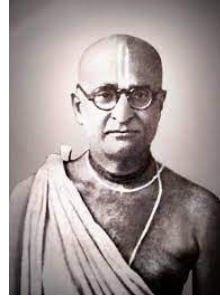
To spread the Hari Naam far & wide
Traveling the world very hard He tried
Every Kartik He would visit Vrindavan
Longing for the darshan of Sri Sri Radha Raman

There He would visit all the temples with devotion
Teaching his disciples, the real appreciation
Coming from a Vaishnav parampara bonafide
Guru Maharaj is simplicity personified

Singing Kirtan with love and dancing with joy
He wakes us up and asks not to be shy
Maharaj's Heart is so full of affection
Providing one and all with care and protection

Maharaj's smile is the one you can't miss
A Krishna Consciousness life is full of bliss
He shows by his example of how to relish
The life of devotion we all must cherish

Always fresh like a new sunshine
Our GuruDev is a soul divine



“Don't criticize devotees.

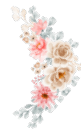
First look at your own condition and try to purify yourself. Is there any lust in you?

Is there any kutinati (deceit) in you, or not?

Be worried about that; don't worry about others. Sri Guru and Lord Sri Krishna are responsible for others.

You cannot do anything to help them, therefore you have no right to criticize”

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta
Saraswati Thakura



Happy Janmashtami



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EKADASI CALENDAR

7	Jan	Fasting for Saphala Ekadasi
8	Jan	Break fast 07:33 - 10:54 (LT)
21	Jan	Fasting for Putrada Ekadasi
22	Jan	Break fast 07:30 - 10:56 (LT)
5	Feb	Fasting for Sat-tila Ekadasi
6	Feb	Break fast 09:07 - 10:55 (LT)
19	Feb	Fasting for Bhaimi Ekadasi
20	Feb	Break fast 07:07 - 10:50 (LT)
6	Mar	Fasting for Vijaya Ekadasi
7	Mar	Break fast 06:48 - 10:42 (LT)
20	Mar	Fasting for Amalaki vrata Ekadasi
21	Mar	Break fast 06:29 - 10:33 (LT)
4	Apr	Fasting for Papamocani Ekadasi
5	Apr	Break fast 06:13 - 10:23 (LT)
19	Apr	Fasting for Kamada Ekadasi
20	Apr	Break fast 05:51 - 10:14 (LT)
4	May	Fasting for Varuthini Ekadasi
5	May	Break fast 05:35 - 10:08 (LT)
18	May	Fasting for Mohini Ekadasi
19	May	Break fast 07:54 - 10:05 (LT)
2	Jun	Fasting for Aparā Ekadasi
3	Jun	Break fast 05:18 - 10:04 (LT)
17	Jun	Fasting for Pandava Nirjala Ekadasi
18	Jun	Break fast 05:18 - 10:05 (LT)

1	Jul	Fasting for Yogini Ekadasi
2	Jul	Break fast 05:22 - 10:09 (LT)
17	Jul	Fasting for Sayana Ekadasi
18	Jul	Break fast 05:31 - 08:16 (LT)
31	Jul	Fasting for Kamika Ekadasi
1	Aug	Break fast 05:41 - 10:16 (LT)
15	Aug	Fasting for Pavitraropana Ekadasi
16	Aug	Break fast 05:51 - 10:18 (LT)
29	Aug	Fasting for Annada Ekadasi
30	Aug	Break fast 06:01 - 10:19 (LT)
14	Sep	Fasting for Parsva Ekadasi
15	Sep	Break fast 06:12 - 10:19 (LT)
27	Sep	Fasting for Indira Ekadasi
28	Sep	Break fast 08:51 - 10:19 (LT)
13	Oct	Fasting for Pasankusa Ekadasi
14	Oct	Break fast 06:32 - 10:20 (LT)
27	Oct	Fasting for Rama Ekadasi
28	Oct	Break fast 06:44 - 10:22 (LT)
12	Nov	Fasting for Utthana Ekadasi
13	Nov	Break fast 06:58 - 10:27 (LT)
26	Nov	Fasting for Utpanna Ekadasi
27	Nov	Break fast 07:11 - 10:34 (LT)
11	Dec	Fasting for Moksada Ekadasi
		Advent of Srimad Bhagavad-gita
12	Dec	Break fast 07:23 - 09:58 (LT)
26	Dec	Fasting for Saphala Ekadasi
27	Dec	Break fast 07:31 - 10:50 (LT)

EKADASI FAST:

- NO GRAINS**
- NO BEANS**
- NO PRAJALPA**

OK TO:

- INCREASE CHANTING**
- READ MORE**
- ENCOURAGE MORE**





Miracles on Mill Avenue

by Kevala Bhakti das



A group of us go on Harinam or Nagar Sankirtan on Mill Ave on a regular basis where we chant Hare Krishna Mahamantra and try to distribute Srila Prabhupada's books. The goal is to take the Holy names and books to people on Mill Ave who may not hear Holy names or see these books otherwise. Almost every month, prior to the event, I personally go through anxious moments thinking about how people will respond or treat us when we loudly chant, and if we would even distribute one book. But I've always been surprised on how others and I feel at the end of the events. There would be at least one inquisitiveness person who one of us would encounter to call the event a success. Every time, we have seen people dancing with us, chanting with us, taking books, and repeating Mahamantra with us. These people who we meet on Mill Ave may not come to temple right away or we may not see them ever again, but the seed of Krishna Consciousness Bhakti has been planted in their hearts which guarantees a human birth in the next life at the least to continue spirituality. The human birth awarded is so rare that it is one out of 8.4 million species and that 2nd consecutive opportunity alone is nothing short of a miracle.



If Lord Jaganath can come out with Baladeva and Subhadra once a year to benefit everyone with Their wide eyes and big smiles, why can't we go out also as a group and be instrumental in benefiting many on the streets with loud kirtan and powerful books? As sastras say, all we need is this desire and Krishna will make miracles happen.





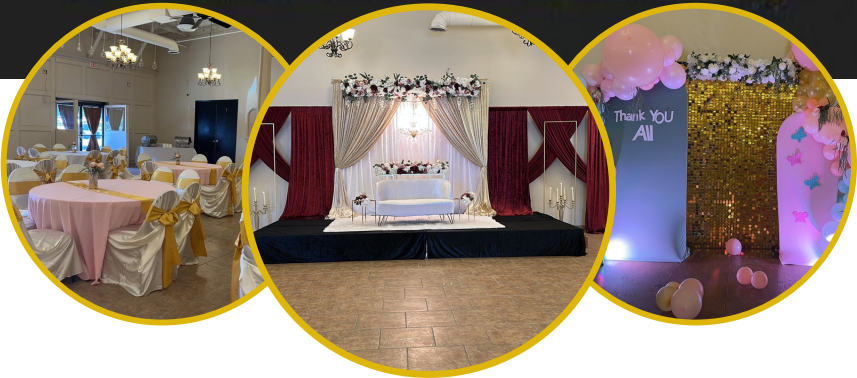
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