



JANMASHTAMI MAHOTSAV 2021

125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY!



HIS DIVINE GRACE A. C.  
BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI PRABHUPADA



100 Weber Drive, Chandler, AZ 85226







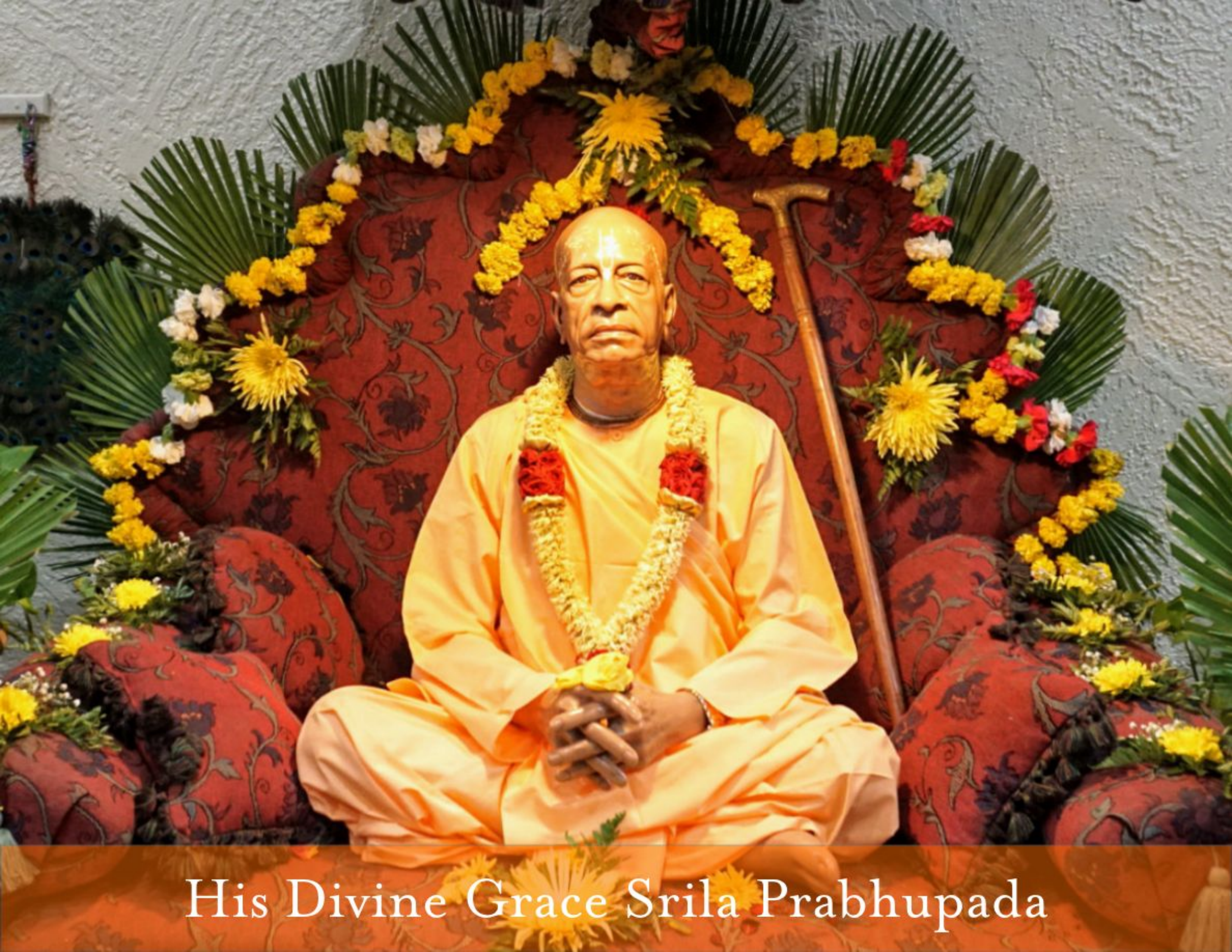
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His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada



# Temple Devotees



Prema Dhatri Devi  
Dasi



Radha Madhava Das



Divya Shyam Das



Dhana Laxmi Devi  
Dasi



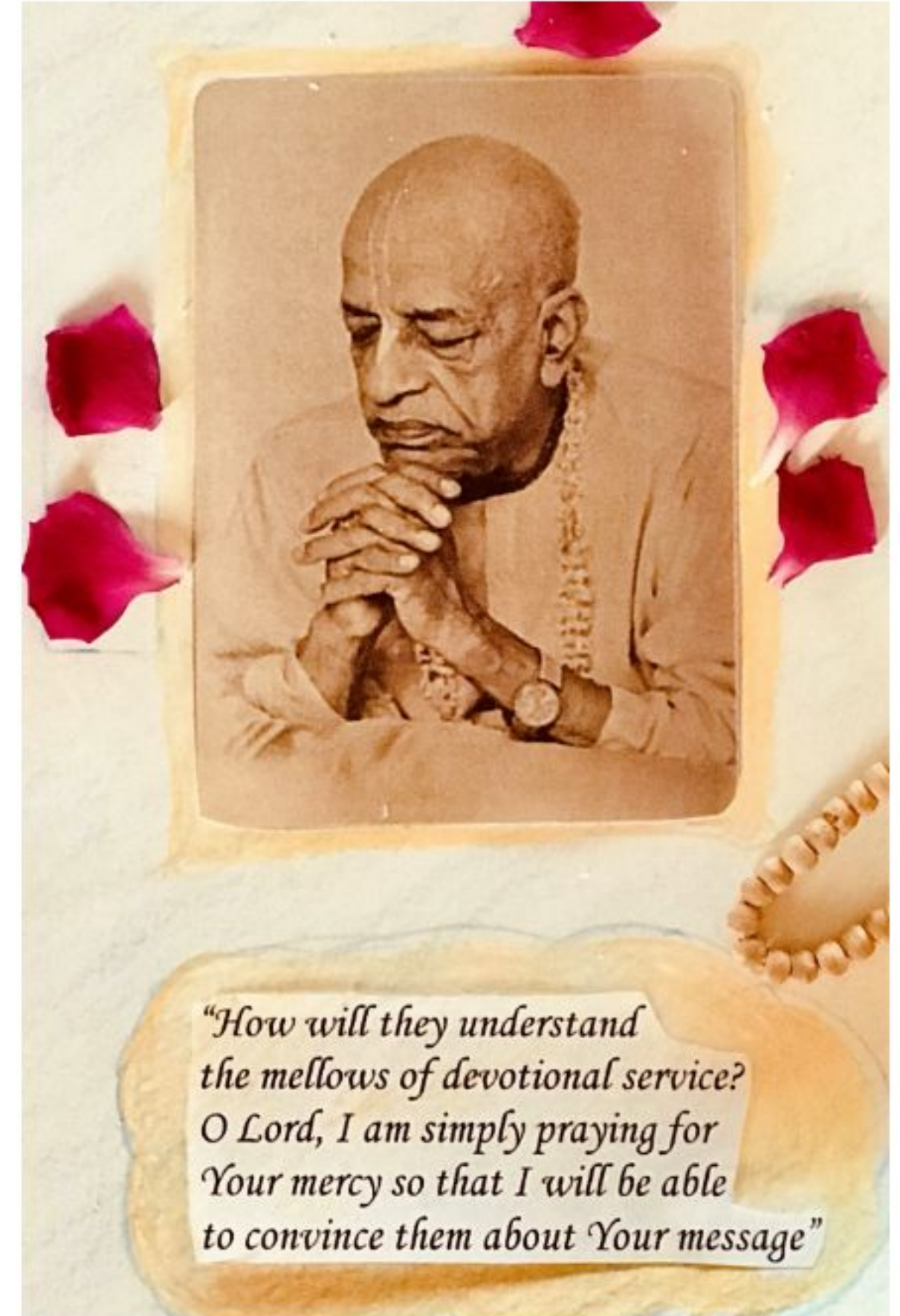
Damodar Das



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**





STATE OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

August 2021

Welcome!

As Governor of the State of Arizona, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone to the 2021 ISKCON of Phoenix annual observance of Sri Krishna Janmashtami. Sri Krishna Janmashtami is a worldwide festival, celebrated to observe Sri Krishna and to promote peace, love and joy among communities, nations and people.

Sri Krishna, is known by many as the Supreme Personality of Godhead by Hindus, who appeared 5,000 years ago and spoke the Bhagavad Gita, which is recognized as a renowned treatise on spirituality by religious clergies and philosophers all around the world.

Once again, welcome, and all the best for a successful celebration!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Douglas A. Ducey".

Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor  
State of Arizona





प्रधान मंत्री  
Prime Minister  
MESSAGE

It is a pleasure to learn about Janmashtami celebrations being organised by International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON).

The Society has been striving steadfastly to propagate the universal message of Lord Krishna far and wide. Be it the publication of books on the teachings and values of Shri Krishna for larger good, or tireless efforts towards helping the poor and needy, the Society's spirit of service, care and compassion is appreciable.

The auspicious occasion of Janmashtami fills us with joy and festivity. The occasion also presents before us an opportunity to take guidance from Bhagwan Shri Krishna's profound teachings and follow the path shown by Him.

His life is an inspiration for not giving into injustice. May Lord Krishna bless our lives with peace, prosperity and wellness and the ability to continue serving the poorest of the poor.

Greetings and best wishes to every member of ISKCON fraternity for Janmashtami festivities.

Jai Shri Krishna!

(Narendra Modi)

New Delhi  
श्रावण 28, शक संवत् 1943  
August 19, 2021

**Shri Vrajendra Nandan Das**  
Director-ISKCON Communication India  
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 our presiding deities, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Sri Krishna Janmastami!

We are fortunate that amid such difficult times, we will be able to celebrate the Sri Krishna Janmastami festival, although on a much lower scale than pre pandemic times, but with the same or even renewed spirits and enthusiasm.

The past year brought upon the whole world a catastrophic situation, we had to witness the departure of many dear and near ones. Our heartfelt condolences and prayers go out to all the people who lost loved ones; and we continue to pray for the situation to improve, but we can only request. Nothing is in our control, but we can try our best to stay healthy and safe.

ISKCON of Phoenix continued serving the deities as per normal high standards and were able to offer daily live darshan via Facebook three times a day: 7.00 a.m./ 6.30 p.m./ 8.30 p.m. and continue to do so. We are very grateful to all the temple devotees who have managed their services so nicely. Other temple programs also have continued online via Zoom, Facebook live, conference calls, skype, etc. I am extremely grateful to all the devotees who are so enthusiastically participating in serving Srimad Bhagavatam in our different schedules/venues. Whether is at 5:55am via teleconference right after japa group chanting, or the 7:35am via zoom/FB live from the temple or reading with the Vaisnavi group Monday – Friday from 4:30pm to 5:15m, they are always ready and motivated. We also read the complete Bhagavad Gita last year and to celebrate Srila Prabhupada's 125th Appearance Day, on January 1, 2021 we started reading

Srila Prabhupada books via zoom and Facebook live from Monday to Thursday. Several volunteers, including our youth, have already covered some of the books and others continue with this important service, which is a combined offering in honor of our founder acarya, Srila Prabhupada. He said that our love for him will be shown by how nicely we cooperate with each other. Therefore, we decided to bring back our campaign of "cooperation". It is this very value that has helped us stay afloat. Would you join in our campaign?

With the Lord's mercy, we have continued to conduct Vedic School and Hindi classes via zoom for various age groups. We also had a successful online summer camp where children had a variety of programs according to the different age groups. My heartfelt gratitude to all the teachers and volunteers for their dedication to such an important service. Special thanks to the youth group who managed one of the programs.

The Bhakti Vriksha groups also continue to meet weekly via Zoom or Skype, and we all pray that we can resume the in-person programs soon. I am happy to announce that we added a new BV group this year. We recently started the Discover Yourself series and now have Gita Life series of classes to introduce BG to newcomers. And soon, we will be starting Bhagavad-Gita in Spanish as well as an in-depth study of Caitanya-Caritamrta. Yes, we have more things to come, so stay tuned, stay connected.

We were fortunate to have on-line association of Senior devotees via zoom and Facebook for the Sunday Feast lectures at the new time 4:00pm to 5:00pm every Sunday and after long, long gap, four weeks ago we resumed our live kirtan at the temple on Sundays from 5:00pm to 6:30 p.m.



# A Message from Temple President

On April 21, we had a very auspicious event, and although it was done via Zoom, it was auspicious nonetheless, as on this day, Aparna Pandya received Harinam initiation from HH Giriraj Swami, giving her the beautiful name of Ananda Radhika devi dasi

On a different note, Samskara and catering services also continue from the temple by the devotees; and our temple boutique is also open, we have added new books, puja paraphernalia, clothing and many more items, come and check it out or simply give us a call.

All the above activities have been possible by the cooperation of wonderful volunteers who spend endless time behind the scenes to present all the programs in a timely fashion. My heartfelt appreciation to them and their families.

Srila Prabhupada wrote in a letter on September 16, 1967:

*“Krishna is always with us, within our hearts and He is always ready to give us direction but because everyone is independent Krishna responds cooperatively. Anyone who voluntarily cooperates with Krishna’s desire He responds to his call very eagerly. Krishna descends to teach us Bhagavad-gita begging for our cooperation and anyone who cooperates with Him becomes blessed.”*

Looking to the future, we will endeavor to do our best to open the temple at the earliest practical time possible. We continue our prayers for one and all to stay safe and healthy.

Your servant in the service of Srila Prabhupada,

Premadhatri devi dasi

Temple President.



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**Life lessons from the Bhagavad Gita  
by Raghupathi Prabhu**

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**Register here:**



For more information, please contact:  
Nama Priya devi dasi at 480-299-4074,  
Raghupathi Prabhu at 714-724-6666

**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](http://www.iskconphoenix.com)








## Bhakti Vriksha Programs



# Bhakti Vriksha



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 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 7 groups in various locations in Chandler, Gilbert, Ahwatukee and North Phoenix and Tempe with addition of 1 group during this challenging COVID-19 pandemic this year.

With COVID-19 restrictions in place, most of these programs were being offered on virtual platform and continued remain highly sought after by the participants. Currently, some of these programs are slowly being re-opened on in-person basis.

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# Bhakti Vriksha

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 following devotees for additional information:

## Bhakti Vriksha Contacts

Name	Phone & Email	Location
Sri Govinda das	281-799-1777 srigovinddas.rns@gmail.com	All
Ishvara Gauranga das	480-519-3975 igd.rnsm@gmail.com	Chandler/Gilbert
Nama Priya devi dasi	480-299-4074 nchethikattil@gmail.com	Chandler/Gilbert
Kevala Bhakti das	201-312-5987 krithi.7@gmail.com	Chandler/Ahwatukee/Tempe
Ashish Khurchania	203-546-0673 ashorcl@gmail.com	Chandler
Umesh Papadkar	408-219-7925 umeshnp@gmail.com	Chandler
Prawin Sahu	602-363-4424 prawinsahu@gmail.com	Chandler
Vamshee	480-398-5134 vamsheeraj@gmail.com	Chandler
Raghupathi Puncha	714-724-6666 raghupathirao@hotmail.com	Chandler
Bharadhwaj Balasubramaniam	585-520-3261 mailbharadhwaj@gmail.com	Chandler/Ahwatukee
Manoranjan Swain	425-324-7556 Manoranjan.swain@gmail.com	North Phoenix/Scottsdale
Ananta Chaitanya das	480-410-2491 abpharande@gmail.com	Tempe




**Donation Payments**

**Donations accepted for**

- Janmashtami Sponsorships*
- Nitya Seva*
- New Temple*
- Fund Book Distribution*
- Sunday Feast*
- Sunday School*
- One Time Donation*

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# Report to Srila Prabhupada



ISKCON  
PHOENIX

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

August 2021

Our dearest Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept our most respectful obeisances at your lotus feet.  
All glories to you! All glories to your mission! All glories to your continued inspiration!

It is with endless gratitude that your aspiring servants at ISKCON Phoenix write this report on the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of your appearance day.

Our Yatra has faced numerous ups and downs, but by your guidance, the mercy of our presiding Deities, Sri Sri Radha-Madhavahari, and the blessings of many well-wishers, this spiritual embassy of yours is blossoming.

In the last 10 years, we have been able to reach new goals and maintain important programs, which will be described below; however, the most important milestone that we were able to reach, is the ability to offer an opportunity for devotees to take shelter of a bona fine spiritual master in our disciplic succession. Sincere devotees, understanding the importance of Guru-Disciple relationship and the guidance & discipline required in their endeavor in Krishna Consciousness, have come forward to take initiation, even amid the pandemic.

As a special offering to your Holiness, a few months ago, members of our congregation, youth included, began to read your books 4 days a week. It's been an inspiration. Other programs that we have been able to maintain are:

- ❖ Daily Srimad Bhagavatam Class (3 different times)
- ❖ Bhakti-Vrksa
- ❖ Children and Youth Programs
- ❖ Women's Program
- ❖ In depth study of Bhagavad-Gita
- ❖ Daily Japa Group Chanting
- ❖ Sunday Feast Programs / Harinam Sankirtan / Special events
- ❖ Able to maintain our programs with no interruption via Zoom/FB/YouTube

We still have so many other things to offer and some that, with your blessings, will become a reality in the near future. Please bless us so that we may continue to serve you always for the pleasure of Their Lordships and for the benefit of all.

Your aspiring servants at Sri Sri Radha-Madhavahari Dham,

Premadhatri devi dasi, Sri Govinda das, NamaPriya devi dasi,  
SyamaMohini devi dasi, RadhaMadhava das



125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY!  
HIS DIVINE GRACE SRILA PRABHUPADA



## Srila Prabhupada 125th Anniversary



Hare Krishna!

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. I started to read Srila Prabhupada's books after Kana Priya Prabhu finished Bhagavad Gita readings. It was very joyful to read Srila Prabhupada's writings for everyone because of the powerful messages all the books contain for the audience. I read Bhakti Yoga- The Art of Eternal Love, Easy Journey to other planets, The Laws of Nature- An infallible Justice, Science of Self Realization, Path to Perfection, Coming Back and Part of Civilization & Transcendence.

I feel blessed to have had an opportunity to participate in this reading program. During this challenging time of social seclusion, reading Srila Prabhupada's books helps us maintain association with the Lord and teachings of our acharyas. Srila Prabhupada's writings are very clear and can help anyone understand the philosophy to progress spiritually. Srila Prabhupada emphasizes the importance of the Vedic system of civilization for realization of the self and realization of God. I am happy that the temple is celebrating the 125th anniversary of Srila Prabhupada's Appearance by reading his books. Many people have taken shelter of Srila Prabhupada's books and transformed their lives.

Prabhupada used to say: "Books are the basis; purity is the force; preaching is the essence; utility is the principle."

All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

Your servant,  
Radha Madhava das





# 2021 Vyasa Puja Offering - Iskcon Phoenix



HIS DIVINE GRACE  
A.C. BHAKTIVEDANTA  
SWAMI PRABHUPADA

Dear Srila Prabhupada,

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

Please accept our most respectful obeisances at your lotus feet.

All glories to you! All glories to your mission! All glories to your continued inspiration!

Srila Prabhupada, another year has gone by, a year like no other in current times. A year where we had to learn to live a new normal.

We lost many of your dear sons, daughters, grandchildren and well-wishers, and the fight continues. It has not been easy, but we have remained afloat thanks to your mercy. When you decided that it was time to come to the West following the instructions of your Guru Maharaja, you had a mission to fulfill, an order to execute, amidst adversity, you succeeded. At a fragile age, you took a huge risk for us; you left India and came to a place filled with kali's favorite elements. But empowered souls like you, special envoys of the Lord, have only one mission: to rescue the fallen souls and guide them back home, back to Godhead.

For months, the world came to a halt, a tiny little virus resulted deadly for humanity, but it was during these tough times, that we have learnt to appreciate more the Holy Name, the association of devotees and for some, to understand the meaning of surrender.

Srila Prabhupada, we understand how important your mission, the mission of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu is; kindly bless us so that we can focus on it. Bless us so that we can share with others the most wonderful gift you entrusted us with, the Holy Name of the Lord.

Please forgive our shortcomings and we pray that you may accept our service. We have a lot to learn, to appreciate; but as we have said before, you gave us the blueprints, now it is up to us to follow the instructions and one day, when our hearts are cleared from anarthas, when we awake the sincere desire to engage in devotional service; then we will meet you at the pier, where the boat captained by you will be waiting for all those surrendered souls you have rescued and will take them back home, where they will forever serve by your side.

In the meantime, please allow us to serve you for the pleasure of SriSri Radha-Madhavahari, and for the benefit of all, always, with your mission in mind.

Your aspiring servants at ISKCON PHOENIX



# 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  
 nirvisesha-sunyavadi-paschatya-desatarine

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

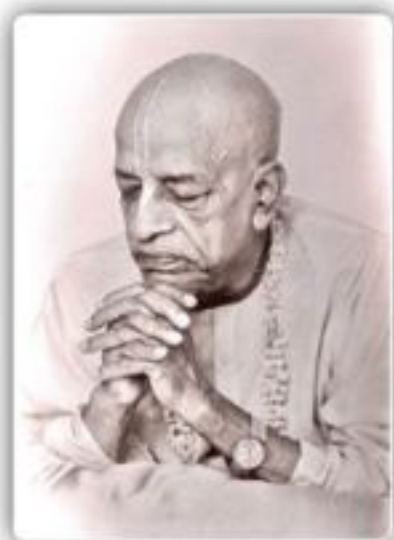
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**I worship Govinda, the primeval Lord, whose transcendental form is full of bliss, truth, substantiality and is thus full of the most dazzling splendor. Each of the limbs of that transcendental figure possesses in Himself, the full-fledged functions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





# Mārkinē Bhāgavata-Dharma



By His Divine Grace  
A.C. Bhaktivedanta  
Swami Prabhupāda at  
the Boston Harbor,  
September 18, 1965

baro-kṛpā kaile kṛṣṇa adhamer prati  
ki lāgiyānile hethā koro ebe gati

āche kichu kārja taba ei anumāne  
nahe keno āniben ei ugra-sthāne

rajas tamo guṇe erā sabāi ācchanna  
bāsudeb-kathā ruci nahe se Prasanna

tabe jadi taba kṛpā hoy ahaitukī  
sakal-i sambhava hoy tumi se kautukī

ki bhāve bujhāle tārā bujhe sei rasa  
eta kṛpā koro prabhu kori nija-baśa

tomāra icchāya saba hoy māyā-baśa  
tomāra icchāya nāśa māyār paraśa

taba icchā hoy jadi tādera uddhār  
bujhibe niścai tabe kathā se tomār

bhāgavater kathā se taba avatār  
dhīra haiyā śune jadi kāne bār bār

*My dear Lord Kṛṣṇa, You are so kind upon this useless soul, but I do not know why You have brought me here. Now You can do whatever You like with me.*

*But I guess You have some business here, otherwise why would You bring me to this terrible place?*

*Most of the population here is covered by the material modes of ignorance and passion. Absorbed in material life, they think themselves very happy and satisfied, and therefore they have no taste for the transcendental message of Vāsudeva. I do not know how they will be able to understand it.*

*But I know Your causeless mercy can make everything possible because You are the most expert mystic.*

*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.*

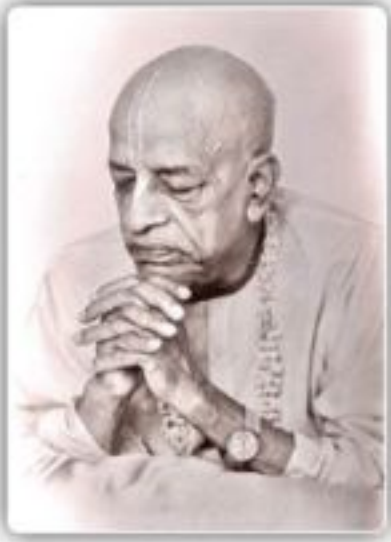
*All living entities have become under the control of the illusory energy by Your will, and therefore, if You like, by Your will they can also be released from the clutches of illusion.*

*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.*



# Mārkinē Bhāgavata-Dharma



By His Divine Grace  
A.C. Bhaktivedanta  
Swami Prabhupāda at  
the Boston Harbor,  
September 18, 1965

It is said in the Sṛīmad-Bhāgavatam  
(1.2.17-21):

śṛṇvatām sva-kathāḥ kṛṣṇaḥ  
punya-śravaṇa-kīrtanaḥ  
hṛdy antaḥ-stho hy abhadraṇi  
vidhunoti suhṛt satām

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

Tadā rajas-tamo-bhāvāḥ  
kāma-lobhādayaś ca ye  
ceta etair anāviddham  
sthitam sattve prasīdati

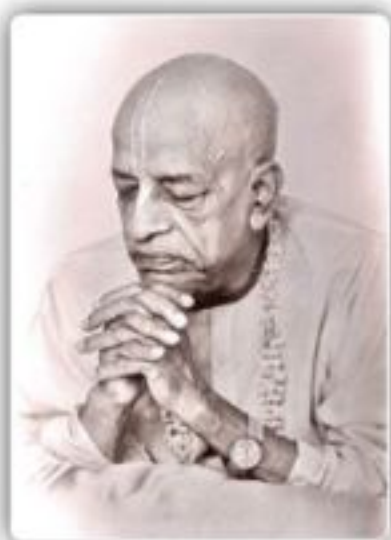
evam prasanna-manaso  
bhagavad-bhakti-yogataḥ  
bhagavat-tattva-vijñānam  
mukta-saṅgasya jāyate

bhidyate hṛdaya-granthiś  
chidyante sarva-saṁśayāḥ  
kṣīyante cāsyā karmāṇi  
dṛṣṭa evātmanīśvare

“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 has developed the urge to hear His messages, which are in themselves virtuous when properly heard and chanted. 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. As soon as irrevocable loving service is established in the heart, the effects of nature’s modes of passion and ignorance, such as lust, desire, and hankering, disappear from the heart. Then the devotee is established in goodness, and he becomes completely happy. Thus, established in the mode of unalloyed goodness, the man whose mind has been enlivened by contact with devotional service to the Lord gains positive scientific knowledge of the Personality of Godhead in the stage of liberation from all material association. Thus, the knot in the heart is pierced, and all misgivings are cut to pieces. The chain of fruitive actions is terminated when one sees the self as master.”



# Mārkine Bhāgavata-Dharma



By His Divine Grace  
A.C. Bhaktivedanta  
Swami Prabhupāda at  
the Boston Harbor,  
September 18, 1965

rajas tamo hate tabe pāibe nistār  
hṛdayer abhadra sate ghucibe tāhār

ki ko're bujhābo kathā baro sei cāhi  
khudra āmi dīna hīna kono śakti nāhi

athaca enecho prabhu kathā bolibāre  
je tomār icchā prabhu koro ei bare

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

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

āniyācho jadi prabhu āmāre nācāte  
nācāo nācāo prabhu nācāo se-mate  
kāṣṭhera puttali jathā nācāo se-mate

bhakti nāi beda nāi nāme khub daro  
“bhaktivedānta” nām ebe sārthak kor

*He will become liberated from the influence of the modes of ignorance and passion and thus all inauspicious things accumulated in the core of the heart will disappear.*

*How will I make them understand this message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness? I am very unfortunate, unqualified and the most fallen. Therefore, I am seeking Your benediction so that I can convince them, for I am powerless to do so on my own.*

*Somehow or other, O Lord, You have brought me here to speak about You. Now, my Lord, it is up to You to make me a success or failure as You like.*

*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.*

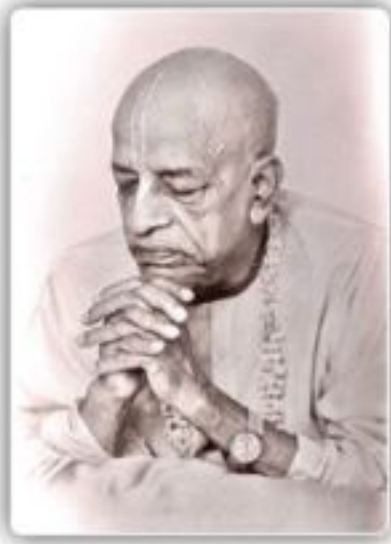
*Only by Your causeless mercy will my words become pure. I am sure that when this transcendental message penetrates their hearts, they will certainly feel engaddened and thus become liberated from all unhappy conditions of life.*

*O Lord, I am just like a puppet in Your hands. So, if You have brought me here to dance, then make me dance, make me dance, O Lord, make me dance as You like.*

*I have no devotion, nor do I have any knowledge, but I have strong faith in the holy name of Kṛṣṇa. I have been designated as Bhaktivedānta, and now, if You like, You can fulfill the real purport of Bhaktivedānta.*



# *Mārkine Bhāgavata-Dharma*



By His Divine Grace  
A.C. Bhaktivedanta  
Swami Prabhupāda at  
the Boston Harbor,  
September 18, 1965

Signed-the most unfortunate, insignificant beggar

A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami,

on board the ship Jaladuta, Commonwealth Pier, Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A. dated 18th of September, 1965





# 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  
tatrat-dakshyad 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  
hiranyakaśipor vakṣaḥ-śilā-ṭaṅka-nakhālaye

ito nṛsimhaḥ parato nṛsimho yato yato yāmi tato nṛsimhaḥ  
bahir nṛsimho hṛdaye nṛsimho nṛsimham ādim śaraṇaṁ 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 Hiranyakaśipu. 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-śṛṅgaṁ  
dalita-hiranyakaśipu-tanu-bhrṅgam  
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 Hiranyakaśipu. 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-viśākhānviṭaṁś 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  
tatārpitā 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

tṛṇād 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 kāmaya  
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-sadṛśaṁ 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 nicitaṁ 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-virahaṇa 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-ratām 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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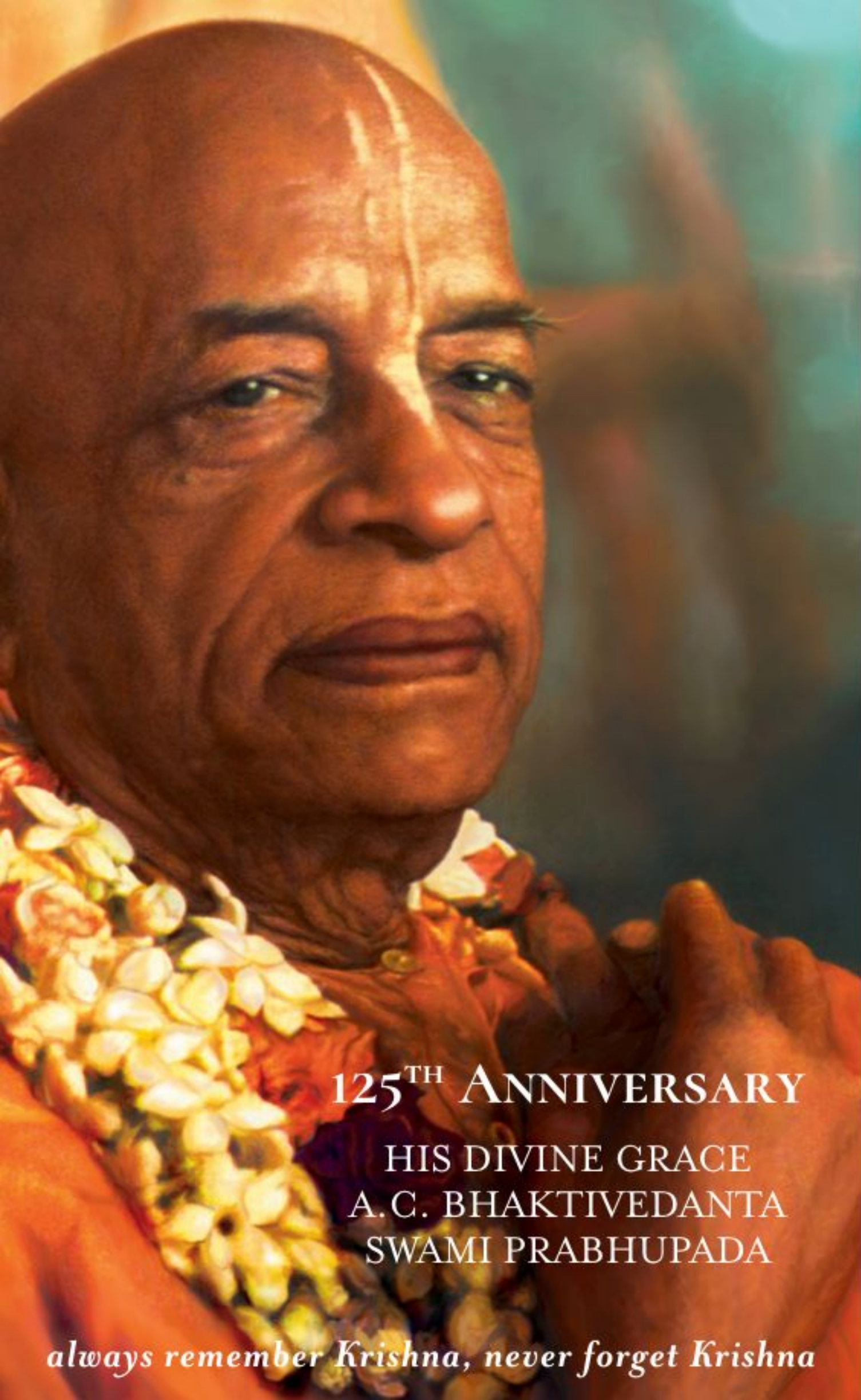
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**HIS DIVINE GRACE  
A.C. BHAKTIVEDANTA  
SWAMI PRABHUPADA**

*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)



# 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.



# Damodarashtakam



namāmīśvaram' sac-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

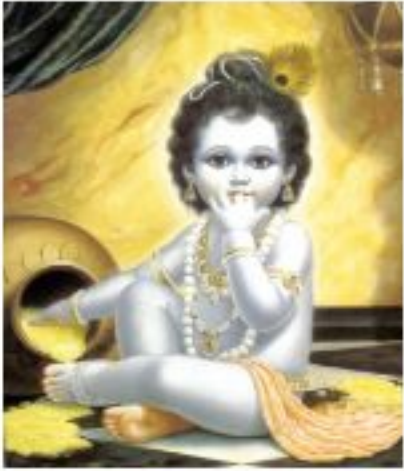
*With these superexcellent childhood pastimes Lord Krishna drowned the residents of Gokula in pools of ecstasy, In this way He declared to those absorbed in knowledge of His majesty and opulence: "I am conquered only by My pure loving devotees". With great love I again offer my obeisances to Lord Damodar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

varam' deva moksam' na moks āvadhīm' 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?*



# Damodarashtakam



idam' te mukhāmbhojam atyanta-nīlair  
vrtam' kuntalaih, snigdha-raktaiś ca gopyā  
muhuś cumbitam' bimba-raktādharam' me  
manasy āvirāstām alam' lakṣa-lābhaih,

namo deva dāmodarānanta visno  
prasīda prabho duhkha-jālābdhi-magmam  
krpā-drsti-vrstyāti-dīnam' batānu  
grhāṇes a mām ajñam edhy aksi-drśyah,

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

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

*O Lord, again and again mother Yasoda kisses Your lotus face, which is framed by locks of soft black hair tinged with red and beautified by Your lips colored red like the bimba fruit. May this vision of Your lotus face be ever manifest in my heart. Thousands and thousands of other benedictions are of no use to me.*

*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!*



# 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.



# 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



# The Genuine Spiritual Master



His Holiness Giriraj  
Swami

“Instant Problem Solving—Guru Inside.” We pass this sign every day as we Boston devotees chant the holy names in Harvard Square. The sign hangs on a local shop window, and it is sold in quantity inside. This week at the neighboring movie theatre a new movie is showing —The Guru. So, who is the guru?

The true guru is the person who says that Krishna, God, is our true friend. He does not pose himself as God or tell us that we can become God. The bona fide guru has various qualifications, and someone who is looking for a spiritual master must know the standards that the true guru must meet.

Today everyone is posing as a spiritual master, or guru, and so we have that facetious sign. One group of foolish persons thinks that they can become gurus by their own concoction, simply by proclaiming themselves spiritual masters. And a corresponding group of foolish persons accepts such phonies because the formula is so easy, offers so much sense gratification, and supposedly permits the practitioner to become God. They like to think that their problems will vanish in an instant, and thus they are cheated.

Despite such foolishness, there is such a thing as a bona fide guru, or spiritual master, and the sincere student of spiritual science should know how to recognize him. One should understand who the spiritual master is, what his position is, how he can be identified, and how we relate to him. And one should know the ultimate goal in accepting a spiritual master.

Simply stated, the ultimate goal of spiritual life is to develop love of God, and the duty of the spiritual master is to awaken this dormant love of God in the hearts of his students. The spiritual master is a servant of the Supreme Lord. Thus, the student becomes the indirect servant of God, and if a student serves God sincerely, God will ultimately reveal Himself to the student in a pure loving exchange. This process is described in the Bhagavad-gita and is recommended as the highest yoga by the Supreme Lord Himself, Sri Krishna, the original spiritual master.

So, in real spiritual life the spiritual master acts as the medium between us, so minute, and Krishna, so great. We are so limited that we cannot approach the unlimited God, but the spiritual master, out of his causeless mercy, makes himself available to help us approach the Supreme Lord.

The spiritual master has completely surrendered to God, and God has revealed Himself fully to such a pure devotee. The spiritual master acts as a medium between ourselves, who are contaminated by our association with matter, and Krishna, God. In this sense the spiritual master is even more merciful than God, since he comes and reveals himself to the conditioned soul, who is still contaminated by material association. But since the spiritual master is pure in his surrender to God and the will of God, he is, in a sense, one with God. Thus, the student who comes to hear and love the spiritual master also comes to develop knowledge and love of God.



# The Genuine Spiritual Master

Of course, it is the mercy of God to send the spiritual master, and then it is the grace of the spiritual master to deliver God. As stated in the Bhagavad-gita, the process for going back to Godhead is simply to engage in devotional service to God. But how can we, who are so minute and actually helpless, do anything for God, who controls and owns everything? The answer is to serve the spiritual master. It is like this: Suppose one knows a very rich man. What can one do to please him? Nothing. He has everything, and, in comparison, we have nothing. But suppose the man has a son. Then simply by giving a small piece of fruit to the son, one can please the son, and when the son is pleased, then automatically the father becomes pleased. So, in this way one can please a very rich man.

The spiritual master is very dear to Krishna, just as a son is dear to the loving father, and by pleasing the spiritual master, one can please God Himself. In the Bhagavad-gita, the Supreme Lord states, “There is no servant in this world more dear to Me than he, nor will there ever be one more dear.” (Gita 18.69) So, Krishna has feelings, and He dearly loves the spiritual master. In fact, as stated in Srimad-Bhagavatam, Third Canto, the Supreme Personality of Godhead is thinking, “There is no way I can ever repay My pure devotees.” When a man walks barefoot in the blazing sun, his feet are scorched but his head feels no pain. Similarly, although He may tolerate offenses to Himself, Krishna tolerates no abuse to His pure devotee. As He states in Srimad-Bhagavatam, Third Canto, “They captivate My heart who are gladdened in heart; they look upon the brahmanas [holy men] as My own Self and pacify them by praising them in loving

words, even as a son would appease an angry father or as I am pacifying you.” So, by serving the spiritual master, we can please the Supreme Lord and thus go back to Him, by His divine grace.

Another example may help. Suppose you know of a very rich, famous, or distinguished person and want to gain entrance into his house. You cannot go to his home and say, “I make \$200 a week, so let me in.” No. \$200 a week or \$500 a week or \$1000 a week is nothing to him. You have no qualification of your own. But if you have the favor of one of his associates or servants, then by that person’s desire you may enter the rich man’s home. Similarly, the intimate associate of the Lord is the spiritual master, and the Lord is anxious to please His pure devotees. The relationship between the Lord and His devotee is transcendently beautiful. As a devotee is elevated in all good qualities due to his being a devotee of the Lord, so the transcendental glories of the Lord are increased due to His being devoted to His servitor. In other words, as the devotee is always anxious to render service to the Lord, similarly the Lord is very anxious to render service to the devotee, the bona fide spiritual master.

With confidence in this relationship, the student, out of love, agrees to serve the spiritual master. There is no question of force. Where there is force, there is no love. Our spiritual master, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, once said, “If a father calls his son, ‘Come here!’ and there is no love, the son will either refuse to come, or he will come reluctantly, thinking secretly, ‘How can I get back at my father?’ But if I say, ‘Satsvarupa [one of Srila Prabhupada’s students],

come here!’ you will come immediately, out of excess of love. Is that not right?” Satsvarupa immediately nodded his head: “Yes!” Thus the service rendered by the student to the bona fide spiritual master is performed out of love. Anyone who sees His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada with his disciples is seeing the perfection of family life.

The mother, the Vedas, directs the child to the father, the bona fide spiritual master, as illustrated so personally in the Gita. Arjuna, who had very great spiritual as well as material qualifications, still confessed to Krishna, the supreme spiritual master, “Now I am confused about my duty and have lost all composure because of weakness. In this condition I am asking You to tell me clearly what is best for me. Now I am Your disciple, a soul surrendered unto You. Please instruct me.” (Gita 2.7) By nature’s own way, the complete system of material activities is a source of perplexity for everyone. Vedic wisdom therefore advises us that in order to solve the perplexities of life and to understand the science of the solution, one must approach a spiritual master, for a bona fide spiritual master is supposed to know everything.

Furthermore, the Vedas set forth the qualifications of the bona fide spiritual master. The first requirement for the bona fide spiritual master is that he be in the line of disciplic succession from the Supreme Lord Himself. Not just anyone can qualify as a spiritual master, nor should the student accept anyone to be a spiritual master simply on sentiment. Sri Krishna is the original spiritual master, as stated in Srimad-Bhagavatam: dharmam tu saksad bhagavat-pranitam: “The path of religion is directly enunciated by the Lord.” The bona fide spiritual



# The Genuine Spiritual Master

master teaches the transcendental science, as first enunciated by the Lord, as it is, without concoction or alteration. He is able to do so because he understands the purport of the Lord's teaching from the disciplic succession descending directly from the Lord.

The knowledge mercifully given by the Lord is like a perfect fruit passed down from the top of a tree. The fruit must be passed delicately. If someone drops the fruit, or lets it fall, or in any way mishandles it, then the whole fruit is spoiled. If the bona fide spiritual master is in the line of disciplic succession from the Supreme Lord, he is careful to pass the fruit of Vedic wisdom to us without personally motivated interpretation. The conclusion of all Vedic knowledge is that Sri Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead and the goal of all yoga, knowledge, and sacrifice. All the great saints and sages in our line of disciplic succession—the Brahma-Madhva-Gaudiya Sampradaya, beginning with Sri Krishna and including Brahma, Narada, Vyasa, Lord Chaitanya, Srila Narottama Dasa Thakura, Srila Bhaktivinoda, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Gosvami Maharaja Prabhupada, and finally His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada—have personally realized and taught Krishna consciousness. If the result of a process is good, then the process itself must be good. These great saints and acharyas are unmatched in spiritual realization, so the process of God realization first spoken by Krishna and passed on through the disciplic succession is also matchless.

The second requirement for the bona fide spiritual master is that he speak only on the authority of the Vedas or his spiritual master, so that the disciplic succession may be kept rigidly in line with the original teachings. The spiritual master never invents ideas or processes for self-realization; he always goes to the higher authorities. He is aware of the limitations of the minute living entity and his small mind and imperfect senses, so he similarly teaches his students to speak only from the higher authority.

Even the Supreme Lord Himself does this. In the Bhagavad-gita, Chapter Thirteen, Verse 4, Krishna states, "That knowledge of the field of activities and of the knower of activities is described by various sages in various Vedic writings, especially in the Vedanta-sutra." Of course, Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the ultimate source of all the Vedas, and the supreme authority on all matters, but still He cites the accepted spiritual literature. Lord Krishna teaches by example how the bona fide spiritual master always gives evidence from previous authorities. That is the process. Similarly, Lord Chaitanya, who was also the Supreme Personality of Godhead, accepted a bona fide spiritual master in the line of disciplic succession, and He always quoted His spiritual master.

The spiritual master and student alike strictly follow the line of disciplic succession and the Vedic authorities, so others who are interested in spiritual life should follow this process, too. People are prone to indulge in transitory speculation, even when they are to educate themselves on areas beyond their empiric jurisdiction.

They often mistake these illusory experiences, especially when influenced by a drug or a "meditative" process, for genuine spiritual realization, and often have "inspirations," "visions," "experiences," and "revelations," which are merely the concoctions of a limited and deluded mind. A person interested in spiritual life should therefore be wary of his own personal messages. God, Krishna, is in our hearts as Paramatma, Supersoul, and thus He can speak to us. But there are parallel tracks—God on the inside and the spiritual master on the outside—so a religious seeker must confirm his inner realizations by the authority of the spiritual master. This dual confirmation is very important; one must go to the spiritual master.

The third requirement of a bona fide spiritual master is that his knowledge must be realized. He must be a pure devotee of God, teaching by example, practicing what he is preaching—not that he teaches dry theory or philosophy. In the Bhagavad-gita, Sri Krishna describes the characteristics of His pure devotees, and by these characteristics one can recognize a bona fide spiritual master: "He who knows in truth this glory and power of Mine engages in unalloyed devotional service; of this there is no doubt. I am the source of everything; from Me the entire creation flows. Knowing this, the wise worship Me with all their hearts. Their thoughts dwell in Me, their lives are surrendered unto Me, and they receive great satisfaction and bliss, enlightening one another and conversing about Me." (Gita 10.7–9) "They are always engaged in chanting My glories. Endeavoring with great determination, offering homage unto Me, they worship Me with devotion." (Gita 9.14) These are the characteristics of pure devotees.



# The Genuine Spiritual Master

A bona fide spiritual master is always in ecstasy of love of God, having realized who God is, who the self is, and what is actually the relation between the Lord and the living entity. He is in a direct relationship of loving reciprocation with the Lord, and he fully accepts the Lord in His personal form. As stated above, the mahatma, or great soul, is always engaged in chanting the glories of the Supreme Lord Krishna, the Personality of Godhead, with no other engagement. That means he must glorify the Supreme Lord, praising His holy name, His eternal form, His transcendental qualities, and His uncommon pastimes, and he must pass on such information to his students. A bona fide spiritual master does not dwell on the impersonal Brahman feature of the Supreme Lord, in which the ananda, or blissful aspect of loving exchange, with the Supreme Person is missing.

A spiritual master, being completely attached to the Supreme Person, is not attracted to material or bodily affairs. He understands that he is not this body but is a pure spirit soul, part and parcel of the Supreme Person Krishna, and that his position is of loving service to Krishna. Therefore he is always joyful and free of anxieties, neither hankering nor lamenting about material affairs. He is self-satisfied, atmarama, and transcendental to the dualities of material life. His eyes are always wet with tears of love for Krishna, in fully realized knowledge of the Bhagavad-gita. And, as stated in the Gita itself, such a great soul is very rare.

A student of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada once said to Srila Prabhupada, “Prabhupada, you look so sad in this picture.” And Srila Prabhupada replied, “No, that was a moment of ecstasy.” Who can imagine the ecstasy of one who is in direct contact with Sri Krishna? His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada has all the qualifications of a bona fide spiritual master, and he is always in contact with Krishna, the all-attractive person, the supreme friend. His Divine Grace needs nothing but engagement in transcendental loving service to Lord Krishna, and that he has all the time. So, what need has he of us? He has no desire to accumulate wealth, nor any desire to enjoy beautiful women, nor does he want any number of followers. He wants only the Lord’s causeless devotional service. He has come to the West to spread this divine message only out of his causeless mercy upon us, in service to Krishna and to his guru maharaja, pouring the shower of his mercy on all the dried-up souls of the universe.

The fourth requirement of a bona fide spiritual master is that, realizing Krishna to be everything, he never poses himself as God, nor does he ever promise his students that they can become God. God is God, and we are His servants eternally. God is infinite, and we are infinitesimal parts of God, inconceivably, simultaneously one and different from God, but we are never God Himself. Actually, a spiritual master, having approached God and having realized how inconceivably great He is, always feels meek and lowly, completely dependent on the Lord for protection. Thus the sage is humble; he is

ready to pay his respects even to the ant, and he considers himself the most fallen. This is humility. When the Lord was on earth five hundred years ago, He was known as Patita Pavana, the deliverer of the most fallen. When the great saint Narottama Dasa Thakura approached Him, the Thakura said, “You are the deliverer of the most fallen, so kindly save me first.”

Once Srila Prabhupada was in his room in Los Angeles with a few devotees surrounding him, and at one point in the discussions he began to cry, saying, “All I ask of you is to be humble. All we can do is be humble toward everyone and in everything that we do. That is all I ask.” Another time Srila Prabhupada went to the temple, and, seeing the throne that the devotees had just made for him, said, “Oh, I cannot accept this. I am the most fallen, and you have made this for me.” He was crying. A devotee replied, “Oh, please, Srila Prabhupada, please accept this as our offering to you.” And His Divine Grace said, “I have no qualification of my own, but I shall accept it for Krishna.”

Another time, a boy made some prasadam (spiritual food) for Srila Prabhupada and was waiting at Srila Prabhupada’s door to give it to him. When His Divine Grace appeared, he looked at the prasadam and opened his eyes wide and said, “For me?” After that, the boy smiled so hard that he got a headache, and he danced down the street all the way home. Later he said, “Up until that moment I had only theoretically known what humility meant. Now I have practical experience; now I understand humility.”



# The Genuine Spiritual Master

Even Lord Chaitanya, although He was actually the Supreme Personality of Godhead, never claimed to be God, because He wanted to demonstrate the proper behavior for a bona fide spiritual master. When people said that they recognized Him as God, He would cover His ears with His hands and say, “No, don’t say that!” He further said that one should chant the holy name of the Lord constantly “in a humble state of mind, thinking oneself 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.” A true spiritual master is always humble. He sees on an equal level a learned and gentle brahman, a cow, an elephant, a dog, and a dog-eater, and he offers his services to all. He always points to Krishna, saying, “God is great, and we are very small. Therefore, we are not God, so we should surrender to God.”

Fake spiritualists are puffed up with notions of their own power, and they often think that they are God. “I am God, a dog is God, everyone is God.” Or they say, “All is one. We are actually God, but we are now under illusion.” If God is under illusion, then illusion is greater than God. And if everything is God, then our everyday meditation on dog—or anyone in our life—should be sufficient to give us liberation. Clearly, these pretenders are not God, and His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada urges everyone not to accept cheap gods and fake spiritual masters.

The story is told of one so-called spiritual master who was on the stage in an auditorium, sitting in so-called yoga and saying, “I am moving the sun, I am moving the moon.” But he had to leave the stage because he got a toothache. So was he God? He claimed to be moving the sun and the moon, but he could not stop a toothache. Another charlatan spiritual master was once going to give a lecture on the secret of eternal youth, but on the way to deliver the lecture he died. Still another yoga instructor, after giving a lecture, met with one of Srila Prabhupada’s students. The so-called yogi was sitting on a chair smoking a cigarette, and he said, “You know, I have been having a terrible problem. I just can’t give up smoking. Do you have any suggestions?” He was teaching yoga, but he could not give up smoking. Yoga means to control the senses, to renounce sense gratification, but although this rascal could not even control his tongue, he claimed to teach yoga. Is yoga such nonsense? “Surrender to Krishna. That is yoga. That is all,” says His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada.

He who teaches surrender to Krishna is a bona fide spiritual master, and such a spiritual master is the only refuge for one who wishes to end his material bondage and live in spiritual ecstasy.

Lord Sri Krishna Himself states this in the Bhagavad-gita: “Just try to learn the truth by approaching a spiritual master. Inquire from him submissively and render service unto him. The self-realized soul can impart knowledge unto you because he has seen the truth.” (Gita 4.34) In other words, only someone whose hands are free can free someone whose hands are tied.

The parampara purport to this verse is as follows: “One has to approach a bona fide spiritual master to receive the knowledge. Such a teacher should be accepted in full surrender, and one should serve the spiritual master like a menial servant, without false prestige. Satisfaction of the spiritual master is the secret of advancement in spiritual life. Inquiries and submission constitute the proper combination for spiritual understanding. Unless there is submission and service, inquiries from the learned spiritual master will not be effective. One must pass the test of the spiritual master, and when the spiritual master sees the genuine desire of the disciple, he automatically blesses the disciple with genuine spiritual understanding. In this verse, both blind following and absurd inquiries are condemned. One should not only hear submissively from the spiritual master, but one must also get a clear understanding from him, in submission and service and inquiries. The spiritual master is by nature very kind toward the disciple, and therefore when the student is submissive and is always ready to render service, the reciprocation of knowledge and inquiries becomes perfect.”

For Krishna consciousness to act, therefore, there must be a bona fide source of information and a sincere soul desiring to know, just as in order for there to be conception, there must be a potent male and a fertile female. If a man is potent and a woman is fertile, then by their combination there can be conception. Otherwise, if there is no reciprocation, conception is impossible. One should ask questions and learn from a person to whom one can surrender. If one has any doubts about the person, then one should not waste



# The Genuine Spiritual Master

one's time, since one will not accept his instructions anyway. At the same time, a person who approaches a bona fide spiritual master with a challenging attitude will never understand the transcendental message. One who is fortunate enough to have found a bona fide spiritual master must hear submissively in order to understand and benefit.

In Srimad-Bhagavatam, Canto Three, verses 40–41, Krishna describes the qualifications for hearing in relation to a spiritual master: “This instruction should be imparted by the spiritual master to persons who have taken Me, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, as more dear than anything, and who are not envious of anyone, are perfectly cleansed and have developed detachment from everything outside the purview of Krishna consciousness. Instruction in Krishna consciousness should be given to the faithful devotee who is respectful to the spiritual master, non-envious, friendly to all kinds of living entities, and ready to render service with faith and sincerity.” This attitude is demonstrated by Arjuna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra in the beginning of Bhagavad-gita. He understands that he has no facility to know the Truth by his own endeavors, and that he must surrender at the lotus feet of the authority, in this case the Supreme Personality of Godhead Sri Krishna. Therefore he says, “Now I am Your disciple and a soul surrendered to You. Please instruct me.”

Bhagavad-gita demonstrates the transcendental relationship between Krishna, the supreme authority, and Arjuna, the ideal listener. This relationship is established out of respect and love, and only from this personal relationship is God realization possible. The student takes the spiritual master as his spiritual father and follows the teachings of the spiritual master to his full capacity. Lord Jesus Christ said, “Unless you change and become like little children, you cannot enter the kingdom of God.” Only to one who has full faith in the spiritual master will all knowledge be revealed. The word of the spiritual master is the life of the student, and everything else is secondary. Then there is contact. If one touches electricity, even if the source is thousands of miles away, the current is there, and one who touches it can always feel the blissful association of the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Everyone now has all facility to become happy by the mercy of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, our spiritual master. He wants everyone to be happy in Krishna consciousness, and he is offering all transcendental opportunities. He gives us Back to Godhead magazine, Bhagavad-gita As It Is, Teachings of Lord Chaitanya, Srimad-Bhagavatam, the many temples of Krishna consciousness, and himself wherever he appears. Greatest of all, he is offering Krishna Himself directly, in His holy name: **Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare/Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare.** These names form the maha-mantra, the great chanting for deliverance and the greatest benediction for the conditioned living entities.

Finally, His Divine Grace is giving everyone the opportunity to become a spiritual master. The greatest spiritual master, Lord Chaitanya, the Supreme Personality Himself, said, “Whoever tells people, ‘Chant Hare Krishna,’ he is My spiritual master.”

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# Serving Srimad Bhagavatam



Syama Mohini Devi  
Dasi

We often hear devotees before giving Srimad Bhagavatam class being thankful for the opportunity to “serve” Srimad Bhagavatam along with “for my own purification”. So, what does this mean? How do we serve a book?

First, we must understand that Srimad Bhagavatam is not just a regular mundane book, Srimad Bhagavatam is non-different from the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Krishna. It is His literary incarnation, so if we are ready to embark in our spiritual journey, in Krishna consciousness, then, we must certainly serve Srimad Bhagavatam.

SB 4.24.59 states:

“The devotee whose heart has been completely cleansed by the process of devotional service and who is favored by Bhaktidevī does not become bewildered by the external energy, which is just like a dark well. Being completely cleansed of all material contamination in this way, a devotee is able to understand very happily Your name, fame, form, activities, etc.”

Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu has instructed in Text 1 of Siksastakam

ceto-darpaṇa-mārjanam bhava-mahā-dāvāgni-nirvāṇam  
śreyah-kairava-candrikā-vitaranam vidyā-vadhū-jīvanam  
ānandāmbudhi-varḍhanam prati-padam pūrṇāmṛtāsvādanam  
sarvātma-snapanam param vijayate śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtanam

” 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.”

The Lord and His different names, forms and activities are non-different. The holy name of the Lord is so powerful that just by chanting, our anarthas can be removed, we will be able to understand and receive the message of Srimad Bhagavatam and we will be able to realize the purpose behind it. Sila Prabhupada said that “By the process of hearing Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam one can attain the highest perfection of life, namely going back home, back to Godhead, without failure.” (SB 1.15.51 Purport)

Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura writes in his Krishna-Samhita: “Those who have eyes should see, those who have ears should hear and those who have minds should meditate on the topics of Srimad Bhagavatam. People who are infected by blindness of partiality are deprived of the sweet taste of Srimad Bhagavatam. Let the supremely conscious Lord be merciful by destroying their blindness”.

These are powerful statements by our acaryas and the nectar of Srimad Bhagavatam should be received with utmost humility, it should be embraced, and shared with those who are ready to receive the message of Srimad Bhagavatam, for the pleasure of Krishna and for the benefit of all. Why for “those who are ready to receive the message?” because we do not want to make an offense, “to instruct a faithless person about the glories of the holy name.”

Bhagavad-Gita is a book of instructions given to us directly by the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Krishna. The Lord Himself is giving us the blueprint to start our journey in Krishna Consciousness, to awaken the desire to engage in devotional service, to connect with Him by Bhakti-Yoga.



# Serving Srimad Bhagavatam

Srimad Bhagavatam is the means to get to know the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and by getting to know Him, we will get to love Him, and once we have sincere love, Maya will not be able to stop us because by the mercy of the Lord, we will be able to transcend the material realm and establish ourselves in sincere, uninterrupted, unmotivated, unconditional devotional service. By reading and hearing with attention Srimad Bhagavatam, we will ensure that we always remember Krishna, and that we never forget Krishna; and this, is the real protection, to remember the Lord when we face the ultimate test.

Our faith in God should be guided in the proper way, and what is that proper way? The compassionate sages and the merciful Lord already described this for us: "By submissive inquiry, by being ready to receive the message from the authorized authority and to appreciate and derive benefit from it by means of devotional service." Arjuna was a ksatriya, a warrior, that was his occupational duty, he had love and faith in Krishna; he did not just surrender his Gandiva and retreated to the forest to perform austerities, he actually performed his duty with faith in Krishna, he picked up his Gandiva and fought. Eventually, he went back to Godhead.

How are we connecting the dots from the scriptures into our day-to-day activities? We are not realized sages, but as inquiring human beings, devotees of Lord Krishna, aspiring Vaisnavas, are we also inquiring submissively? Are we using our free will to accept spiritual authority and to try to establish ourselves in goodness? How are our envy and false ego levels? Are we developing any respect for others? Have we come to the realization that the Lord is in our heart and in the heart of every single living entity regardless of the type, shape, species, color, culture, etc.? What is our intent? Are we God-loving or God-fearing? Time for introspection.



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*veṇum kvaṇantam aravinda-dalāyatākṣam-  
barhāvataṁsam asitāmbuda-sundarāṅgam  
kandarpa-koṭi-kamanīya-viśeṣa-śobham  
govindam ādi-puruṣam tam aham 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**







**Invest in our children**  
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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.



# 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.



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Arizona Managing Partner  
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Rashi Garg, CPA - Manager  
rashi.garg@atlasfirms.com

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# Summer Camp

## SUMMER CAMP



Hare Krishna!

This year's online summer camp was very successful. I (Presta) was hosting along with Divya, Hrithik, Nikhit, and Deb. Our aim was for the kids of age 5-7 years to learn about moral stories, craft, and overall have a fun devotional experience! Not only did the kids seem to enjoy reading and listening to the stories (pastimes) such as Govardhan Lila, Khirachora Gopinath, pastimes of Lord Nimal, and the story of King Bali, but they understood and learned valuable lessons from them. Everyone's favorite activity seemed to be coloring. I was amazed to see how creative everyone is with their artistic skills. Altogether, this year's camp was an incredible time for both the teachers and students, we all had an unforgettable experience, and we look forward to more memories in the future!

# Arts Crafts

**By Youth Group**



## VAISNAVA BHAJANS

**BY BHAKTIN MITA**

Hare Krishna dear devotees, All glories to Guru and Gauranga.

I feel very fortunate whenever I get a chance to serve Sri Sri Radha-Madhavahari and the devotees. Every year, Iskcon Phoenix organizes Summer Camp for kids and this year, by Lord Jagannath's mercy, I got the opportunity to volunteer for the Vaishnava Bhajan Class. My special thanks to Mother Nama Priya devi dasi, Mother Premadhatri devi dasi and Mother SyamaMohini devi dasi who gave me this opportunity. During the almost 7 weeks, the children ages 6-12 years learnt Vaishnava bhajans like Invocation prayers, Jagannathastakam, Madhurastakam, Narasimha Prayer, Gaura Aarti, Sri Guruastakam, Tulasi Kirtan, Jai Radha Madhava, Radha Krishna Prana Mora, Yasomati Nandana, Radhe Jai jai, Jai Jai Jagannath. We started each class with 7-8 minutes of Kirtan and then learning bhajans. I loved how kids were ready for each class with the printouts, different musical instruments and always enthusiastic to learn new bhajans. All the kids were respectful during the class.

Thanks to all the parents for their kind support throughout these weeks.





# Summer Camp



## BHAGAVAD GITA

BY BHAKTA ASHISH

Bhagavad Gita Course was attended by over twenty five kids for a period of eight weeks. We started by covering the concept of "Soul and our Real Identity". We also talked more about "What is mind and how it is related to body and soul". Then we discussed how "God: The Ultimate Genius" is the father of all living beings.

With the understanding of soul, mind, body and our relationship to God, we moved on to the "Game of Life" and dived deep into the different modes of material nature and how they affect our personality. We also discussed the importance of time management and how modes of goodness can lead to success in life.

Lastly, we covered "Bhagavad Gita and art of work". In the final session, kids shared their understanding of the Bhagavad Gita principles and what they learnt during the seven- week course.



## HIDDEN GLORY OF INDIA

BY SYAMAMOHINI DEVI DAS

Hare Krishnal

What a delight it was to read & discuss this very informative and illustrative book with children ages 9 to 13.

They were amazed to see how much the land of Bharat has changed throughout the years and the events that led to it.

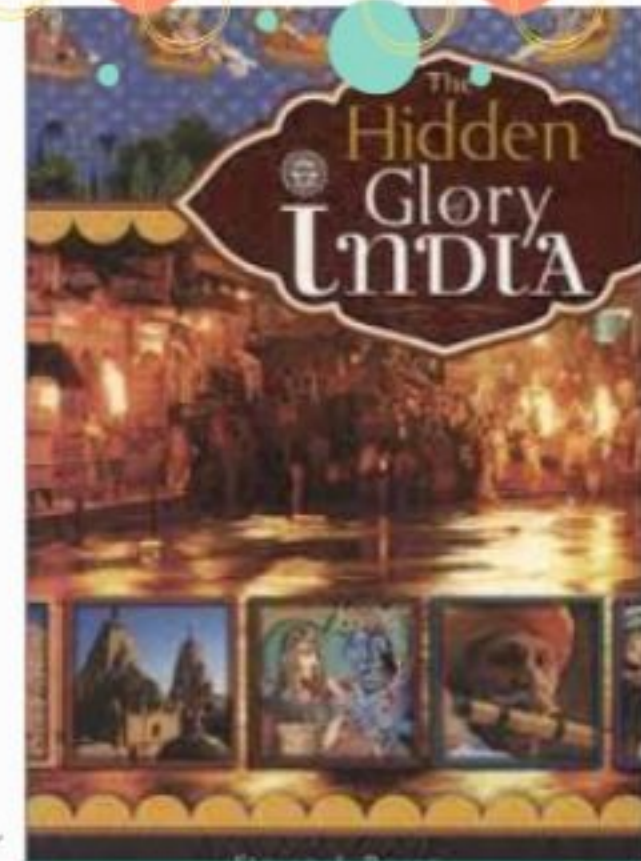
The children were encouraged to use their dictionaries and find out the meanings of the many new words they encountered so that they could better comprehend the reading.

We discussed India's geography, history, religions, important Vedic texts and yes, even the monkeys in Vrindavan! We also crafted our own bookmarks.



By the end of the course, they all have become our "little philosophers"

This is a good book to read and discuss with the family, many interesting conversations may arise at dinner time. Reading and learning together not only cultivates good habits and appreciation for reading, it also creates wonderful memories..



"Twenty-five centuries ago, at least, it (India) was famous. When Babylon was struggling with Nineveh for supremacy, when Tyre was planting her colonies, when Athens was growing in strength, before Rome had become known, or Greece had contended with Persia, or Cyrus had added luster to the Persian monarchy, or Nebuchadnezzar had captured Jerusalem...she had already risen to greatness, if not glory"

M.Sherring (1868)  
pg. 8 Hidden Glory of India  
by Steven J. Rosen  
(Satyaraja Das)



# Summer Camp

## More from Summer Camp

By: Nikhit -Youth Group

Hare Krishna!



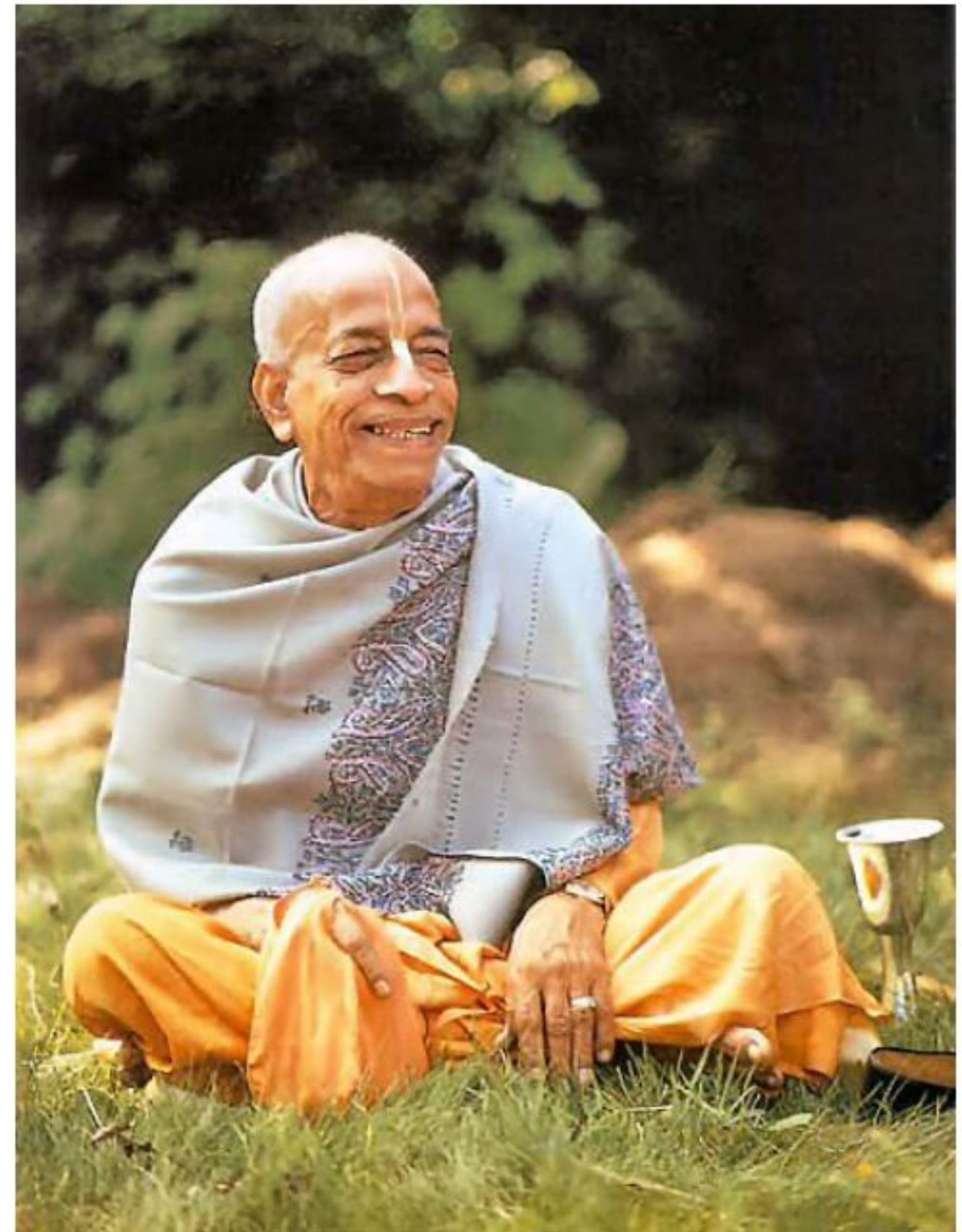
This summer started off the ISKCON Phoenix Youth Group wonderfully!

For most students, this was a very different group led program after many years in Sunday School, where we learned beautiful core lessons. Now it was time to apply them. We immediately dived into the Srimad Bhagvatam, and enjoyed reviewing summaries of each chapter together. Each week, one of us would enthusiastically facilitate the chapter reading that day, and even lead an activity afterwards. From making puppets to acting out pastimes, we had loads of fun while continuing to learn important lessons from the Bhagvatam. One of our goals is to apply what we have learned -and are still learning- in our lives, now and in the future.

We were very motivated to discuss the many events to come and ways that we could help the temple, like doing fundraisers, and different charity events.

We began this summer by doing many wonderful kirtans during the Sunday program. We had a great time and plan to grow and learn far into the future by helping each other and contributing to the outside with what we learned over the years. As youth, we have lots of responsibility to build the foundation of the future.

The Youth Group is an amazing way to do this while practicing what we have learned. This summer was a great start to our Youth Group, and we look forward to continuing our journey.



125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY!

HIS DIVINE GRACE SRILA PRABHUPADA



# Sunday School



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## Sunday School



### To our students

It was a pleasure serving you during our Sunday School session 2020-2021!

We pray that the topics covered during our classes were of interest to you and most importantly, that you will be able to remember them and maybe, put them into practice.

Your life is like a book, you have numerous chapters and numerous characters; some of them are permanent, others are only in certain chapters or certain moments of your life. Take the best of each chapter, learn from the mistakes in other chapters but always keep a positive outlook, and think that Krishna is ALWAYS in your heart.

Remember what a special person you are and be thankful for all the things that God has given you. We should also be thankful for things that we do not have, for the Lord always has a reason for everything. Also remember that it is ok to ask for help, it is always available.

Our gratitude to your parents for their support, they are your best and always well-wishers (yes, even when you are naughty 😊)

We pray to the most merciful Sri Sri Radha-Madhavahari to bless you all and to guide your every step.

**ALWAYS REMEMBER KRISHNA - NEVER FORGET KRISHNA**



**HAPPY**  
*Janmashtami*



# Classes for Kids



## Damodar Class

Teacher: SyamaMohini devi dasi

Hare Krishna

It was a pleasure serving the children in the Damodar class. My gratitude to their parents for their trust, to the children for their enthusiasm and participation, to my Guru Maharaja and various siksa Gurus who have shared with me what today I am able to share with the children.

Some of the 2020-21 topics discussed in class included:

- Who made us all
- Abridge Ramayana
- Various Krishna's Lilas
- 9 Processes of Devotional Service
- The importance of vegetarianism & cow protection
- Some key slokas of Bhagavad Gita - comprehension & application -
- Who is Srila Prabhupada
- Sri Pancha-tattva
- 4 pillars of Dharma



I look forward to the next Sunday School year, and hope once the situation improves, we can leave the virtual classes and come together to learn, chant and continue to water the seeds of devotion. Srila Prabhupada said: **Take care of these children, they are the future of our society**



## Giri-Govardhan Class

Teacher: Bhaktin Smitha

Last year the children in the Giri-Govardhan class studied the various incarnations emanating from the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Sri Krishna. The children enjoyed hearing stories of Kurma Avatar, Vamana Avatar, Matsya Avatar, Narsimhadev and many others. They understood that the Lord appears in various incarnations in the different Yugas to attract the suffering souls and take them back to Godhead.

Krishna also appears mainly to protect his devotees and to have wonderful pastimes with them and to annihilate the miscreants and demons. The children also got the opportunity to showcase their talents through various Vaishnava Bhajans and Bhagavad Gita slokas on Facebook at the Iskcon Phoenix Kirtan Group page, which helped to develop their confidence.

During summer we had a wonderful summer camp where more than 20 kids participated. They learned about Vaishnava Behavior and Etiquettes. They understood that Lord Krishna is the Supersoul in everyone's heart and how we should behave with everyone.

The children also learned how to respect everyone and how to treat guests, family and friends visiting us. They learned how to offer prasadam to Lord Krishna and understood that by chanting the Hare Krishna mahamantra, our hearts can be cleansed and when the pollutants in our heart are gone, then, our desire to serve Krishna will help us go back to Vaikuntha/Goloka, where we no longer have to deal with birth, death, diseases and old age. The children had a wonderful time doing art work, open discussions and watching videos on stories related to the topics.

Overall it was a wonderful year with the blessings of Sri Sri Radha Madhavihari and senior devotees and we are looking forward to another wonderful year with the wonderful children at the Iskcon of Phoenix Sunday School.





# Classes for Kids



## Gopala Class

Teacher: Bhakta Suresh

Hare Krishna!

Our Gopala class is designed for children 4 to 6 years old. As one of the twelve Mahajanas, Prahlāda Mahārāja said: *kaumāra ācāret prājña dharmān bhāgavatān* (SB 7.6.1), "One who is sufficiently intelligent should use the human form of body from the very beginning of life – in other words, from the tender age of childhood." These children are blessed to get the spiritual education so early in life. Although it was a tough year not having the temple open for weekly Sunday Feast program, children had no problem connecting for online classes via Zoom.

Srimad Bhagavatam is the mature fruit of the desire tree of Vedic literature narrated by Sukadeva Goswami, son of Krishna Dvaipayana Veda Vyasa. Children were taught nectarian pastimes of Sri Krishna from 10th Canto. Kids eagerly participated in fun-filled crafts. They also learned slokas from Bhagavad Gita and a song about God and Srimad Bhagavatam with meanings and practical applications. Children learned Maha-Mantra and Pancha-Tattva Matras; and they also practiced dancing rhymes of various past times of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Krishna. Kids were taught the importance of "service", which is a symptom of love. We also discussed why it is important to have "faith in Krishna" and remember Krishna at all times, not only in times of need.

For the 2020-21 closing exercises, students of the Gopala Class performed amazing presentations! ISKCON of Phoenix temple president Prema-dhatri devi dasi presented the children with certificates and blessings.

For the upcoming 2021-22 curriculum, we are looking forward to enlighten the children with teachings of Lord Ramacandra. As the proverb says "Well begun is half done" (Aristotle). If children start to have a spiritual understanding at an early age, they may nicely make spiritual progress in this life and ultimately have a chance to go back home, back to Godhead.



## Madhava Class

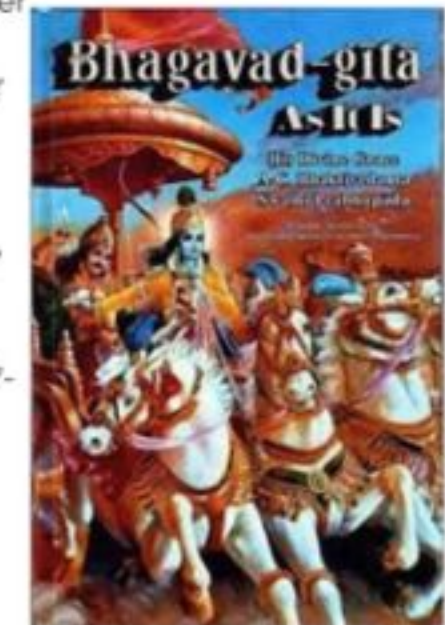
Teacher: Nama Priya devi dasi

### A year in review

Madhava class followed a systematic study of Bhagavad Gita last year. We did a high level review of every chapter paying special attention to the theme and significant practical life applications. The students showcased their learning and understanding of Bhagavad Gita study during Gita Jayanti celebrations. Following that, the students also enthusiastically presented valuable nuggets from Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's pastimes. The students did a wonderful job of learning different pastimes and sharing it with everyone during the auspicious occasion of Sri Gaur Purnima. This was a self-guided exercise, requiring students to research the different topics through various scriptures.

Although COVID situation limited us from in person association, the Madhava students remained enthusiastic in learning all year long through virtual platforms as demonstrated by their active engagement in classes and services. The students continue to be a great inspiration for the congregation.

Sri Sri Radha Madhava Hari ki Jai!!







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

The advertisement for Cloves Indian Groceries and Kitchen features a background of various food-related icons like a banana, coffee cup, ice cream, and shopping cart. At the top, an orange banner says "VISIT US". Below it, the word "CLOVES" is written in large, stylized orange letters, with a shopping cart icon integrated into the letter 'O'. Underneath, a red banner contains the text "Indian Groceries and Kitchen" in white script. At the bottom, a yellow banner provides the address "1825 W Chandler Blvd, Suite 2, Chandler Az - 85224" and the phone number "480 454 1106" next to a telephone icon.

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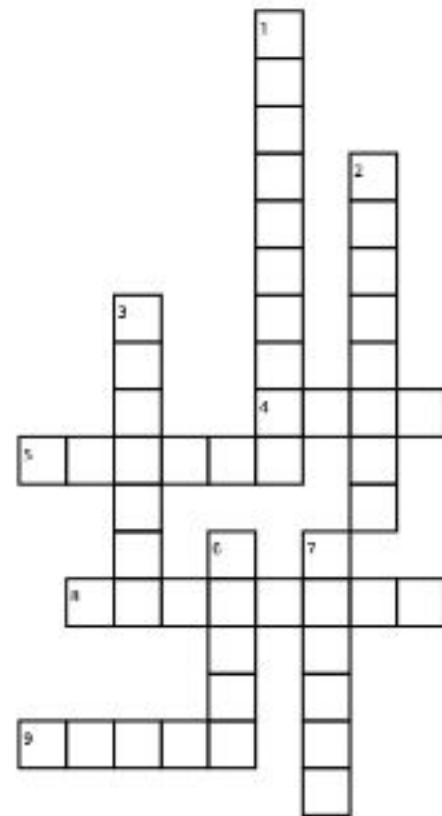
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# Janmashtami



## Down:

1. Devotional service
2. father of Krishna
3. the All Attractive One
6. asuric king
7. traveling sage

## Across:

4. Krishna loves to eat it
5. mother of Krishna
8. Krishna's older brother
9. Krishna's energy



Question: What does Rama mean in Hare Rama? Is this Balarama or Lord Ramacandra?



Prabhupada: You can take it both ways, because there is no difference between Ramacandra and Balarama. Generally it means Krishna, because Rama means enjoyer. So either Ramacandra, Balarama or Krishna are all Visnu Tattvas and are always enjoying. The sakti tattva, or jiva tattva is always enjoyed. Our position is always predominated. If we remain in that position and properly use our small independence, then we remain happily eternally. But artificially, if we want to be independent and imitate the Supreme Enjoyer, then it is delusion. Material life means trying to imitate the Enjoyer, and spiritual life means to remain in one's eternal position as enjoyed. This Hare Krishna Mantra is addressed to the energy of the Lord and the Lord Himself to keep the chanter in his eternal position of being enjoyed. The prayer is "My Lord, Oh the Spiritual Energy of the Lord, kindly keep me engaged in Your service."

**Hare Krishna  
Hare Krishna  
Krishna Krishna  
Hare Hare  
Hare Rama  
Hare Rama  
Rama Rama  
Hare Hare**

Letter to: Arundhati-- Hamburg 9 September, 1969



# 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.

- 2 My desire is to obtain the service of Sri Sri Radha-Krsna.

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





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.

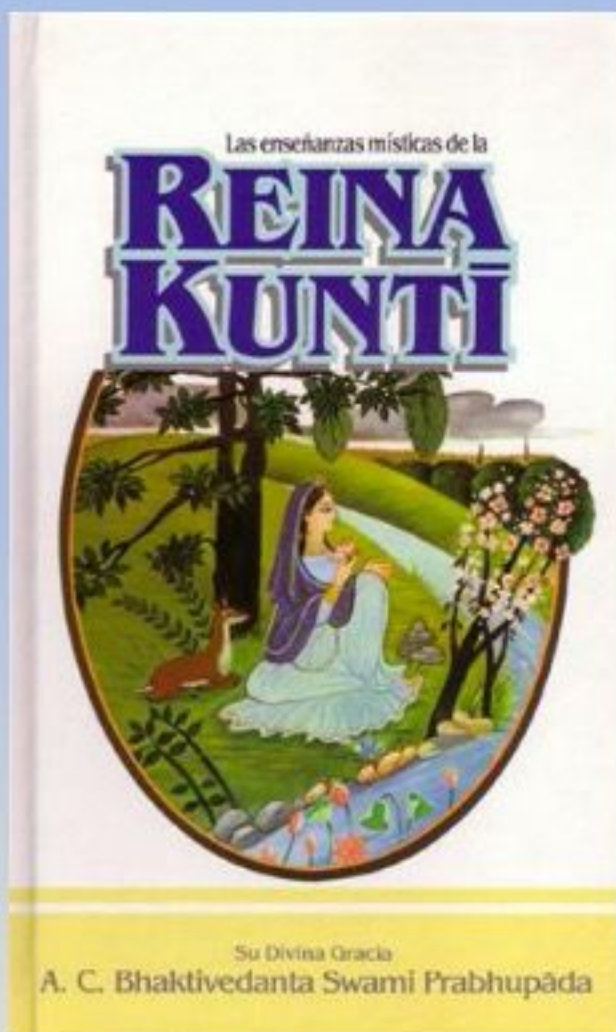
**Krishna-jivani:** She is the life and soul of Lord Krishna.





## Lectura en Español

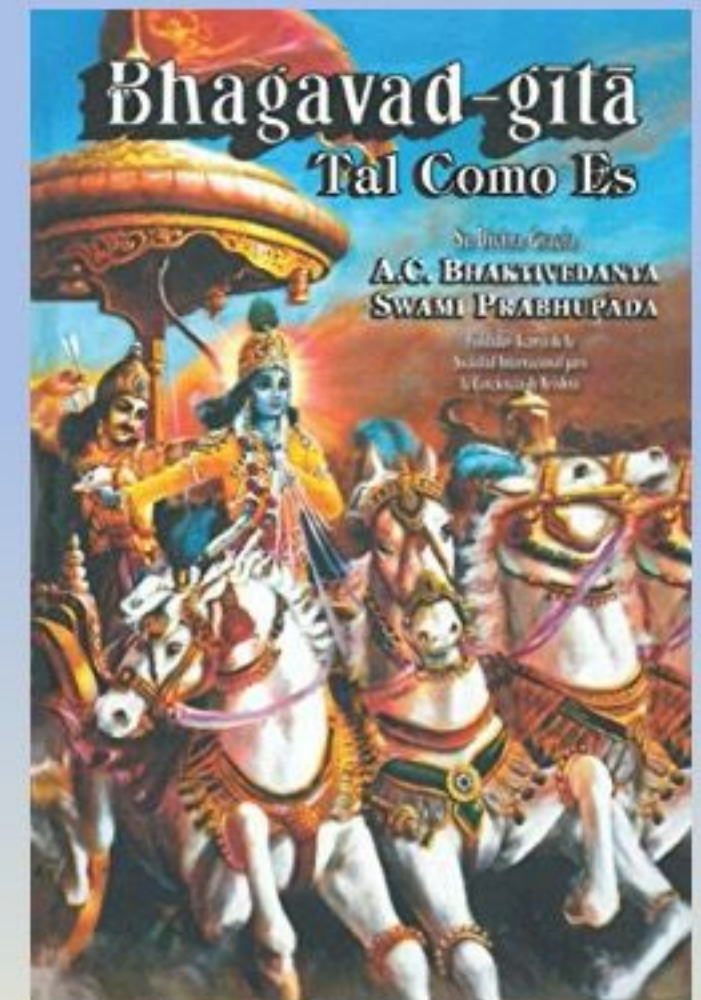
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# Vaishnava Calendar - 2022

13	Jan	2022	Th	Fasting for Putrada Ekadasi
14	Jan	2022	Fr	Break fast 07:48 (end of nakshatra) - 09:52 (end of tithi) LT
28	Jan	2022	Fr	Fasting for Sat-tila Ekadasi
29	Jan	2022	Sa	Break fast 07:26 (sunrise) - 08:10 (end of tithi) LT
7	Feb	2022	Mo	Sri Advaita Acarya -- Appearance (Fast till noon)
11	Feb	2022	Fr	Fasting for Bhaimi Ekadasi (Fast till noon for Varahadeva, with feast tomorrow)
12	Feb	2022	Sa	Break fast 10:33 (1/4 of tithi) - 10:53 (1/3 of daylight) LT Varaha Dvadasi: Appearance of Lord Varahadeva (Fasting is done yesterday, today is feast)
13	Feb	2022	Su	Nityananda Trayodasi: Appearance of Sri Nityananda Prabhu (Fast till noon)
21	Feb	2022	Mo	Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura -- Appearance (Fast till noon)
26	Feb	2022	Sa	Fasting for Vijaya Ekadasi
27	Feb	2022	Su	Break fast 06:58 (sunrise) - 10:47 (1/3 of daylight) LT
1	Mar	2022	Tu	Siva Ratri
13	Mar	2022	Su	Fasting for Amalaki vrata Ekadasi
14	Mar	2022	Mo	Break fast 06:39 (sunrise) - 10:38 (1/3 of daylight) LT
17	Mar	2022	Th	Gaura Purnima: Appearance of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu (Fast till moonrise)
25	Mar	2022	Fr	Sri Srivasa Pandita — Appearance
28	Mar	2022	Mo	Fasting for Papamocani Ekadasi
29	Mar	2022	Tu	Break fast 06:19 (sunrise) - 10:28 (1/3 of daylight) LT
10	Apr	2022	Su	Rama Navami: Appearance of Lord Sri Ramacandra (Fast till sunset)
12	Apr	2022	Tu	Fasting for Kamada Ekadasi
13	Apr	2022	We	Break fast 06:00 (sunrise) - 10:19 (1/3 of daylight) LT
26	Apr	2022	Tu	Fasting for Varuthini Ekadasi
27	Apr	2022	We	Break fast 05:44 (sunrise) - 10:12 (1/3 of daylight) LT
30	Apr	2022	Sa	Sri Gadadhara Pandita — Appearance

10	May	2022	Tu	Srimati Sita Devi (consort of Lord Sri Rama) — Appearance
12	May	2022	Th	Fasting for Mohini Ekadasi
13	May	2022	Fr	Break fast 05:29 (sunrise) - 10:06 (1/3 of daylight) LT
14	May	2022	Sa	Nrsimha Caturdasi: Appearance of Lord Nrsimhadeva (Fast till dusk)
25	May	2022	We	Fasting for Aparā Ekadasi
26	May	2022	Th	Break fast 05:21 (sunrise) - 10:04 (1/3 of daylight) LT
10	Jun	2022	Fr	Fasting for Pandava Nirjala Ekadasi
11	Jun	2022	Sa	Break fast 05:17 (sunrise) - 10:04 (1/3 of daylight) LT
23	Jun	2022	Th	Sri Srivasa Pandita — Disappearance
24	Jun	2022	Fr	Fasting for Yogini Ekadasi
25	Jun	2022	Sa	Break fast 05:20 (sunrise) - 10:07 (1/3 of daylight) LT
28	Jun	2022	Tu	Sri Gadadhara Pandita — Disappearance Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura — Disappearance (Fast till noon)
10	Jul	2022	Su	Fasting for Sayana Ekadasi
11	Jul	2022	Mo	Break fast 05:27 (sunrise) - 10:11 (1/3 of daylight) LT
13	Jul	2022	We	Guru (Vyasa) Purnima First month of Caturmasya begins [PURNIMA SYSTEM] (green leafy vegetable fast for one month)
23	Jul	2022	Sa	Fasting for Kamika Ekadasi
24	Jul	2022	Su	Break fast 07:54 (1/4 of tithi) - 10:14 (1/3 of daylight) LT
8	Aug	2022	Mo	Fasting for Pavitaropana Ekadasi
9	Aug	2022	Tu	Break fast 05:46 (sunrise) - 10:17 (1/3 of daylight) LT
11	Aug	2022	Th	Lord Balarama — Appearance (Fast till noon) Second month of Caturmasya begins [PURNIMA SYSTEM] (yogurt fast for one month)
19	Aug	2022	Fr	Sri Krsna Janmastami: Appearance of Lord Sri Krsna (Fast till midnight)
20	Aug	2022	Sa	Srila Prabhupada — Appearance (Fast till noon)



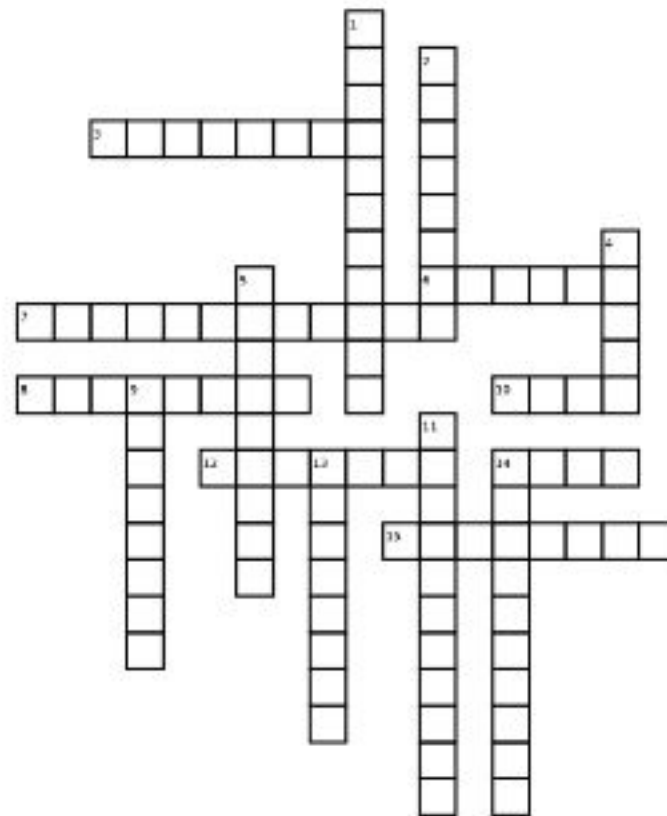
# Vaishnava Calendar - 2022

22 Aug 2022	Mo	Fasting for Annada Ekadasi
23 Aug 2022	Tu	Break fast 05:56 (sunrise) - 10:19 (1/3 of daylight) LT
3 Sep 2022	Sa	Radhastami: Appearance of Srimati Radharani (Fast till noon)
6 Sep 2022	Tu	Fasting for Parsva Ekadasi (Fast till noon for Vamanadeva, with feast tomorrow)
7 Sep 2022	We	Break fast 06:06 (sunrise) - 10:19 (1/3 of daylight) LT Sri Vamana Dvadasi: Appearance of Lord Vamanadeva (Fasting is done yesterday, today is feast)
8 Sep 2022	Th	Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura — Appearance (Fast till noon)
9 Sep 2022	Fr	Bhadra Purnima Third month of Caturmasya begins [PURNIMA SYSTEM] (milk fast for one month) Srila Haridasa Thakura — Disappearance Acceptance of sannyasa by Srila Prabhupada
21 Sep 2022	We	Fasting for Indira Ekadasi
22 Sep 2022	Th	Break fast 06:16 (sunrise) - 10:19 (1/3 of daylight) LT
4 Oct 2022	Tu	Ramacandra Vijayotsava Sri Madhvacarya — Appearance
5 Oct 2022	We	Fasting for Pasankusa Ekadasi
6 Oct 2022	Th	Break fast 06:26 (sunrise) - 10:19 (1/3 of daylight) LT
9 Oct 2022	Su	Fourth month of Caturmasya begins [PURNIMA SYSTEM] (urad dal fast for one month) Damodara Masa
20 Oct 2022	Th	Fasting for Rama Ekadasi
21 Oct 2022	Fr	Break fast after 11:05 (1/4 of tithi) LT
24 Oct 2022	Mo	Dipa dana, Dipavali, (Kali Puja)
25 Oct 2022	Tu	Go Puja. Go Krda. Govardhana Puja.
28 Oct 2022	Fr	Srila Prabhupada — Disappearance (Fast till noon)

4 Nov 2022	Fr	Fasting for Utthana Ekadasi Srila Gaura Kisora Dasa Babaji — Disappearance (Fasting till noon, with feast tomorrow)
5 Nov 2022	Sa	Break fast 06:50 (sunrise) - 10:24 (1/3 of daylight) LT
7 Nov 2022	Mo	Tulasi-Saligrama Vivaha (marriage)
19 Nov 2022	Sa	Fasting for Utpanna Ekadasi
20 Nov 2022	Su	Break fast 07:04 (sunrise) - 10:30 (1/3 of daylight) LT
3 Dec 2022	Sa	Fasting for Moksada Ekadasi Advent of Srimad Bhagavad-gita
4 Dec 2022	Su	Break fast 07:16 (sunrise) - 10:37 (1/3 of daylight) LT
11 Dec 2022	Su	Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura — Disappearance (Fast till noon)
19 Dec 2022	Mo	Fasting for Saphala Ekadasi
20 Dec 2022	Tu	Break fast 07:27 (sunrise) - 10:46 (1/3 of daylight) LT



# Who Wants to be a Vaisnava



## Down:

1. a pillar of dharma
2. Krishna's cousins
4. Krishna's energy
5. a pillar of dharma
9. a pillar of dharma
11. Great India
13. Krishna's sister
14. Incarnation of Adi Guru (Lord Balarama)

## Across:

3. Krishna's older brother
6. Krishna's friend and later on disciple
7. a pillar of dharma
8. Material Nature
10. book of instructions spoken by Krishna
12. The All Attractive
14. Number of processes for devotional service
15. Golden Avatar



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**Mon-Fri via Zoom 4:30pm to 5:10pm**

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# Hari Naam Sankirtan

JĪV JĀGO, JĪV JĀGO, GAURACĀNDA BOLE

## HARINAM SANKIRTAN

By Kevala Bhakti Das



Harinama Sankirtana, or congregational chanting of the Holy Name in public, is a practice where we distribute the Holy Name to one and all, without reservation. This transcendental vibration of Harinam-sankirtan is imported from the spiritual world and purifies the heart of anyone who hears it. The transcendental names of the Lord, even if heard or chanted by accident, gives one immense benefit. A group of very enthusiastic devotees have been going out to chant Krishna's Holy Names and to distribute spiritual books to the people of Phoenix.

We also try to engage as many people in the streets to chant and dance with us through our 'Gauranga bombing' sprints. Many devotees who have participated in our Harinam events have shared how fulfilling the experience is. We'd like to share here Harinam realizations from three devotees who have experienced first-hand the power of the Holy Name.

WAKE UP, SLEEPING SOULS! WAKE UP, SLEEPING SOULS

### Devotee Experiences

1) Although our Harinam was mostly on the roads and public area, towards the end we noticed a lot of people in the mall, and so we decided to spend a few minutes chanting in the mall area, and we happened to have a big banner of Mahamantra held by 2 devotees. After a few minutes, we were confronted by 2 police officers and they asked if we were a protest group (possibly because we were holding a banner and making some sound in unison 😊). One of us very calmly responded: "We're not a protest group – although we are, against maya! – and that we are practicing our faith of group chanting of God's names for the welfare of everyone." The officers then read the Mahamantra, looked at all of us (some smiling, some tensed) and realized we are not what they may have thought. All along, one of the officers kept talking on the phone giving updates of the situation, he was probably talking to a superior. Finally we were told: "It is okay". As they were leaving, one of the officers took Srila Prabhupada's 'Easy Journey To Other Planets' with a smile on his face. Jai Prabhupada!



2) While the Harinam group was going up the street, there were 2 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints missionaries, or "Mormon elders." The elders were trying to engage a homeless man sitting on a bench. The homeless man was visibly not interested, nor wanting to interact with the 2 missionaries. When our Harinam party got about 50 feet from him, the homeless man turned around with the biggest smile on his face. Completely entranced, his eyes glistened and started yelling, "HARE KRISHNA! HARE KRISHNA! KRISHNA KRISHNA! HARE HARE!"

The elders had a smiling look on their face as if saying, "How did you do that?" I just nodded to the homeless man, the elders, and we all continued serving Sri Harinam.

There was all of Mill Avenue left to serve. A thousand mouths can't explain the mystery of Sankirtan. What made this homeless man smile the way he did when he had a frown not even a minute before he heard the Maha-Mantra? I appreciate you all for helping create that moment. PHOENIX SANKIRTAN KI JAI!!!



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



# Hari Naam Sankirtan

HARER NĀMA HARER NĀMA - HARER NĀMAIVA KEVALAM  
KALAU NĀSTY EVA NĀSTY EVA - NĀSTY EVA GATIR ANYATHĀ

3) As I was looking around to approach people to distribute Srila Prabhupada's books, I came across 2 Mexican women who were smiling and dancing to our Hare Krishna kirtan. Thinking them to be slightly favorable, I approached them with some books. They were welcoming and were very interested in looking at the pictures in the books. As I started communicating with them, I realized that they couldn't communicate in English and conveyed to me in broken English that they preferred Spanish books. I knew we had a few Spanish books in the book bag, unfortunately, I noticed that the book bag was with another devotee who had gone way past me. I asked if they could wait and I could come back to them, but they both said they were window shopping and had to get going. I insisted on the English books but they said they only preferred Spanish ones. With a heavy heart I apologized and moved on; internally wishing they would get some Spanish books. Soon after, I caught up with our Harinam group and took some Spanish books with me. After 45 minutes or so, we were returning on a different route and suddenly the same two Mexican ladies appeared in front of me and waved hands at me with a smile. I immediately went up to them and showed them the Spanish books I had with me, and with a smile, they took a few Spanish books making a nice donation. One of them also said that her brother can read English and that she would like to give him one, so she took an English book as well. I was glad I had an opportunity to meet them again, at the same time, I was wondering how this had happened. I thought to myself, "how did I get the chance to meet them again and make eye contact after 45 minutes in an area where thousands of people pass by? They could've gone on a different route than us, or they could've left Mill Ave, or they could've been eating inside a restaurant on Mill Ave, etc."

Although all these are possibilities, what finally won is their slightest interest in books about Krishna that made our meeting happen again.

To best please Srila Prabhupada and Lord Caitanya, and to experience the magic of Harinam Sankirtan please join us!



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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)





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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  
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- Srimad Bhagavatam reading: 5:55am to 6:15am
- Group Chanting (Japa) 6:30pm to 7:30pm

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# Share the Vision - Join our Mission



His Divine Grace  
Srila Prabhupada

**“This is Krishna conscious vision: ‘Oh! There are so many skyscrapers. Why not construct a nice skyscraper temple of Krishna? This is Krishna consciousness.’”**

This is what Srila Prabhupada said during a lecture in Bombay (Mumbai) on February 25, 1974, and like this, he quoted several times. As children and grandchildren of Srila Prabhupada, we would like to continue with this vision – Krishna conscious vision- and the time has come for the Phoenix Yatra to make the next move, to give the next step and to invest in the most precious treasure: Our children, our future.

Our current temple is no longer suitable for our programs or services. We have 4 groups in Sunday school and just one classroom, so the teachers work wonders improvising to accommodate the other groups. The Deities do not have proper facilities for Their paraphernalia or even a dedicated kitchen. We do not have enough space for festivals or proper cultural or prasadam halls.

But this is about to change, and you can be a part of this positive change! The project for the construction of a new facility is on its way. Will you help us give our most merciful SriSri Radha-Madhavahari, Gaura-Nitai, Sri Nathji a new and improved home?

A large property has been secured in central Phoenix with easy access and the plan will include a much bigger temple, classrooms, cultural hall, prasadam hall, Deity kitchen and restaurant. And that’s not all, we will have an additional 5-acre farm plot less than a block away.

Srila Prabhupada wanted to “construct a temple for Krishna where everyone will benefit from ongoing and future programs designed to help us all to connect to Krishna, to be immersed in Krishna Consciousness.”

Please help us in our mission and make this temple a reality. We hope to break ground this year and for that, we need your support, will you join us?

No contributions are too small, even the squirrel carried small stones to help Lord Ramacandra build the bridge to connect Lanka and the Lord was very pleased with him by seeing his love, his dedication.

**For more information on this project or how you can contribute, please visit [www.iskconphoenix.com](http://www.iskconphoenix.com) or contact Premadhatri devi dasi at 480.720.2030**

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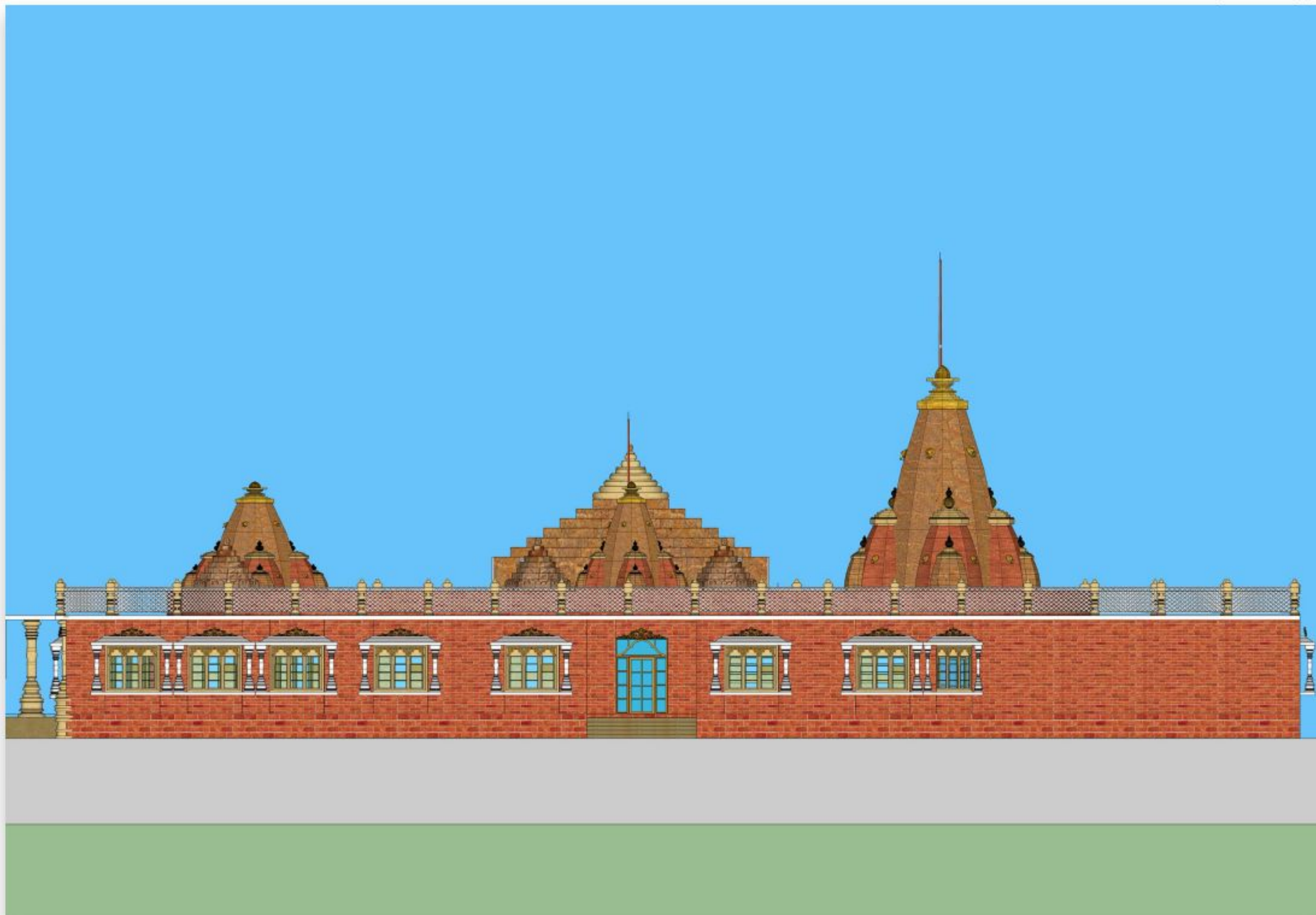
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*New Temple Rendering*







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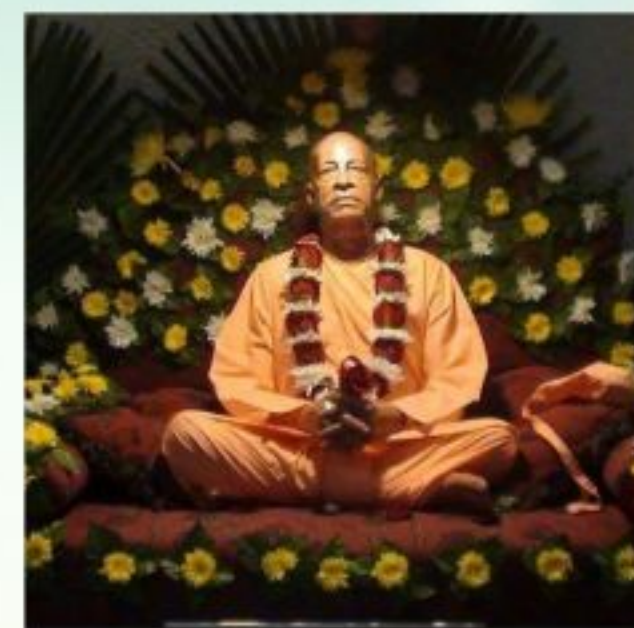
**The laws of nature - an infallible justice**

**Raja Vidya: The King of Knowledge**

**Coming back**

**Krishna Consciousness:**

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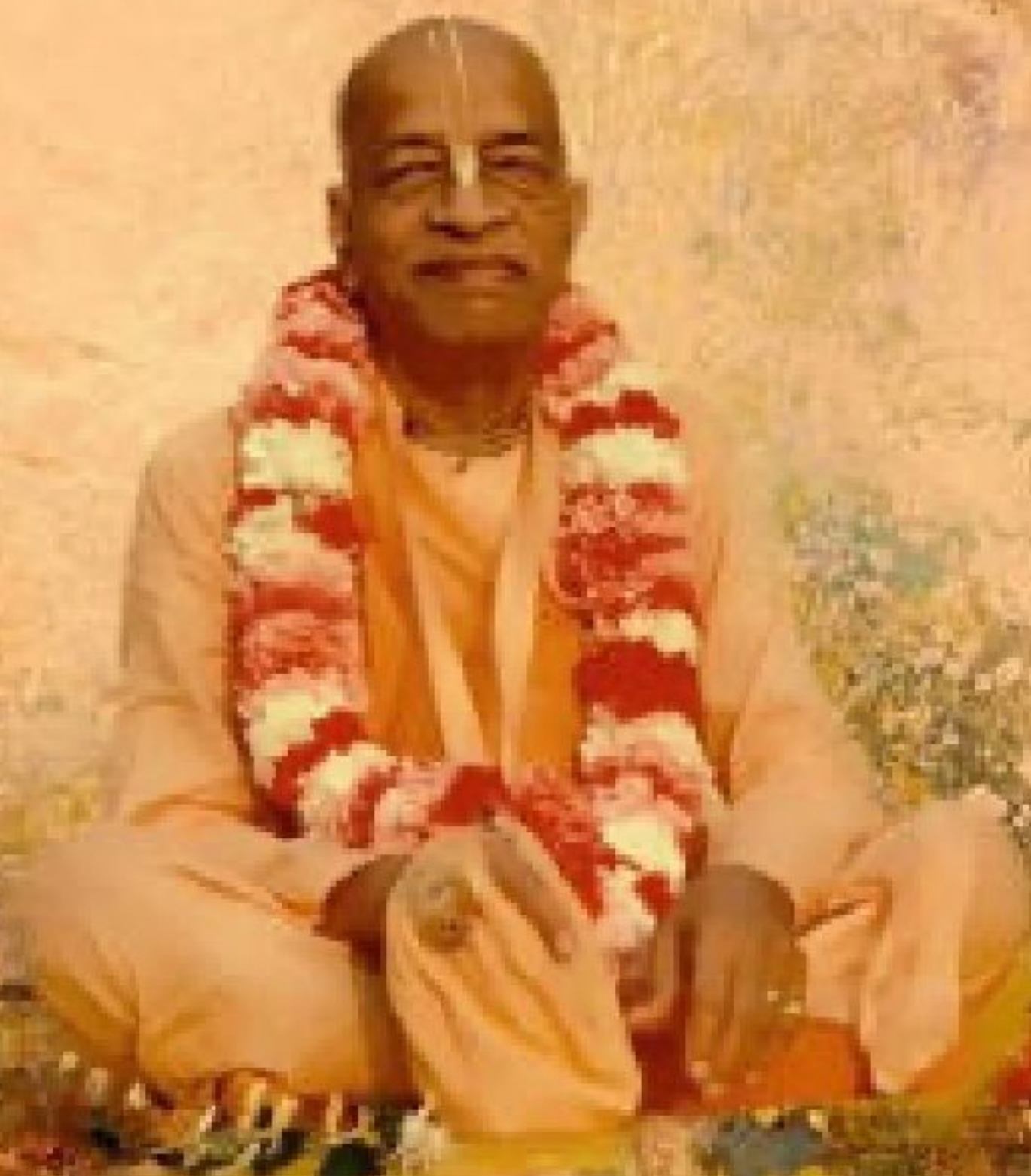
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