



JANMASHTAMI

2024

International Society for Krishna Consciousness

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

100 S Weber Dr | Chandler, AZ | 85226

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“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. In order to deliver the pious and to annihilate the miscreants, as well as to reestablish the principles of religion, I advent Myself millennium after millennium”
Bhagavad-Gita 4.7-8

This is a statement made by Lord Krishna to Arjuna at the battlefield of Kuruksetra over 5000 years ago. The Lord incarnates to restore dharma (righteousness) and reassures devotees that they are never alone, and that divine help is always available to guide and protect them.

The abode of the Lord is eternal & blissful, the Lord Himself is Sac-Cid-Ananda, full of eternity, knowledge and bliss; He is omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient. When we connect to the Lord, when we love the Lord, then we also love, care and protect His creation.

As we celebrate the appearance of Lord Krishna, we are remembered of His love, His mercy. We should always be God-loving and not God-fearing. Fear comes out of guilt or ignorance; but when we love, we automatically care, respect, protect, give ourselves and connect to the cause of all causes, the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

May the Lord bless you and your dear ones always!

“Always remember Krishna, never forget Krishna”



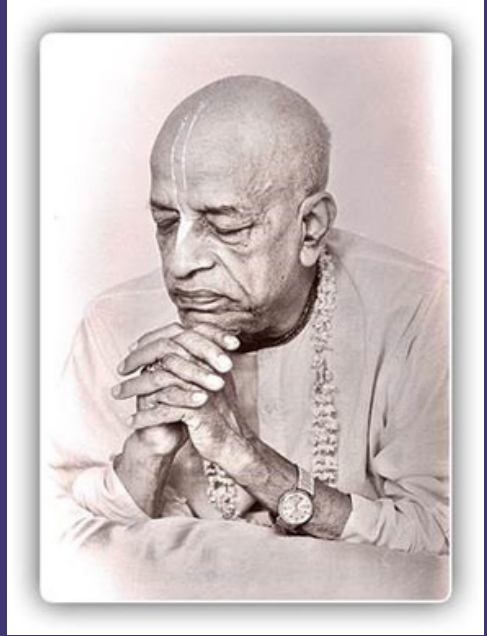
ALWAYS REMEMBER KRISHNA, NEVER FORGET KRISHNA



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

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

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



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

JANMASHTAMI
2024

Happy Janmashtami from



Chandler, Arizona

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Message from our Temple President



Hare Krishna!

Dear all,

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

On behalf of our presiding Deities, Sri Sri Radha Madhavahari, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Sri Krishna Janmashtami!

I pray all of you and your loved ones are keeping well.

We are very grateful that we are not only back to our pre Covid schedules, but we have been able to add more activities for the benefit of our congregation and for anyone who would want to discover or rediscover what Krishna Consciousness is all about.

For instance, we have a new morning sadhana program. Devotees connect via zoom from 5:00am to 6:00am where we have an opportunity to read, chant and dive into Srimad Bhagavatam.

Our Vaishnavis are about to finish reading and discussing Srimad Bhagavatam and are looking forward to have a review on Bhagavad-Gita and Srimad Bhagavatam before embarking on Caitanya-Caritamrita!

Our Youth group continues to thrive with their overall participation. Whether it is taking lead on bhajan/kirtan, giving class, helping at home programs or around the temple, these youngsters are demonstrating that they are getting ready to be our future leaders.

Bhakti Vrksa programs have resumed in person meetings, please contact us if you are interested in attending and participating. We have groups throughout the valley.

Our Sunday school program has been running very nicely and I am thankful to the amazing teachers leading our 3 classes.

I am happy to inform you that once again, ISKCON Phoenix received the "Safe Temple Award" by the North America Child Protection Office.

We had several guest speakers and japa retreat, all of them well received and we are looking forward to the next japa retreat coming up soon as well as more programs for the benefit of the whole community, whether it is children's programs, women's programs or all family programs, we continue to invest in our children and in our society.

Our Vedic Theatre Ensemble continues to delight with their wonderful plays.

This year's Ratha-Yatra was a success by the mercy of Lord Jagannatha Himself. Due to weather conditions, the festival was almost cancelled, but to our surprise, while the rain kept falling all around, the rain stopped at the festival grounds just as Their Lordships made Their way into the festival grounds! Jai Jagannatha!

Our Vaishnavis continue their monthly meetings and other programs. I am specially happy to see our young Vaishnavis participating so nicely not only at the temple but they have been representing our Yatra so nicely at the ISKCON Vaishnavi Ministry and Vaishnavi Ministry North America. One of our Youth represented ISKCON's youth at the United Nations earlier this year.

I am happy to inform you that we are working on getting new programs and workshops for the whole family by our local devotees, stay tuned!

Srila Prabhupada wrote in a letter to Jayananda prabhu on 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 our cooperation and anyone who cooperates with Him becomes blessed.”

I thank everyone who has in one way or another come forward to serve this Yatra, serve SriSri Radha-Madhavahari, for Their pleasure and for the benefit of all. May the blessings of Their Lordships be with all of you!

Sincerely,

Your servant in the service of Srila Prabhupada,
Premadhatri devi dasi, Temple President



SEVEN PURPOSES OF ISKCON

International Society For Krishna Consciousness

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

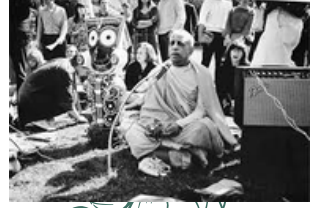
- (1) To systematically propagate spiritual knowledge to society at large and to educate all peoples in the techniques of spiritual life in order to check the imbalance of values in life and to achieve real unity and peace in the world.
- (2) To propagate a consciousness of Krishna as it is revealed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

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



Vyasa Puja Offering 2024

nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin iti namine
namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracarine
nirviseṣa -sunyavadi-pascatya-ḍeṣa-tarine



Our dearest Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept our deepest respects as we bow down at your lotus feet.
All glories to you! All glories to your endless inspiration!

We are grateful for the opportunity to express our love and gratitude once again to you in celebration of your Vyasa Puja. However, it is not only during your Vyasa Puja that we need to express such love and gratitude, but every day of our lives, because your inspiration is key in our daily endeavor in Krishna Consciousness. Srila Prabhupada, we are not Sanskrit scholars, nor advance devotees, we are simply aspiring devotees who beg for your mercy and guidance.

It is stated in the purport of the Narada Bhati Sutra 3.50: “Great souls sometimes begin movements or societies in which devotees can live and practice bhakti. And sometimes they construct temples where the public can come to see the Deity form of Lord Kṛṣṇa and taste His prasādam, the remnants of food offered to Him. Thus, both by personal example and by precept, and even after their disappearance from the mortal world, the great souls help the conditioned souls who have forgotten their love for Kṛṣṇa...”

You established a society for the whole world to live in, to come together and to cooperate with each other to reconnect with Krishna. But we are so unfortunate that we fail in this endeavor many times due to our false ego, missing the opportunity to serve you.

It is your example and inspiration that motivates us to invest in our youth, in our leaders of tomorrow. You are the guiding force in our society, please bless us so that we may understand the true meaning of cooperation, of being true well-wishers.

Please forgive our shortcomings, we are not perfect, we still have a long way to go to clean our heart from the anarthas accumulated for eons. We pray that you will bestow your mercy upon us so that we may develop the desire and the right intention to serve, to develop faith and to remember that you are always with us in your instructions and in your example.

With much love and respect,

Your aspiring servants at
ISKCON Phoenix, Arizona, USA



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

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

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

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

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

Samskara Services by HG Damodar Das



- Vivah
 - Civil ceremonies
 - Upanayanam
samskara
 - Annaprashana
 - Grih Pravesh pooja
 - Shree Satyanarayan
pooja
 - Rudrabhisekam
pooja
 - Ganesh pooja hawan,
 - Nava Grah pooja,
 - Vastu pooja
 - Shanti pooja hawan
 - Grah dosa pooja
 - Mangalik dosa
 - Sarpa dosa
 - Moola dosa pooja
 - Shradha pooja
-
- Bengali vidhi
 - Hindi vidhi
 - Nepali vidhi
 - English vidhi
 - And more

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“Only hope is Hare Kṛṣṇa. The whole Vedic system is to make human being correct. Being incorrect, they are suffering in this material world repetition of birth, death. Sometimes man, sometimes dog. So to correct him so that he comes to his original position, Kṛṣṇa conscious, and go back to home. This is the whole Vedic civilization, to correct him. Therefore it is called saṁskāra”

Srila Prabhupada - morning walk - January 1976



Reflecting on Janmashtami

By Lilavati Devi das



Lord Krsna was born to Devaki and Vasudev. To protect Krsna from King Kansa, Vasudev carried baby Krsna to Gokul where Ananta-Sesha assisted him in crossing the Yamuna River.

In Vrindavan so many pastimes happened between Krsna, Radharani, Gopis and Gopa's.

Krsna spoke Bhagavad Gita to Arjuna in the battlefield of Kurukshetra, when Arjuna was in distress. "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)

Again, in Kaliyuga, Lord Krsna descended as Lord Chaitanya Maha Prabhu in Navadvip. Mahaprabhu preached to chant Hare Krishna Maha mantra to free our mind from material consciousness and connect to Krsna consciousness.

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna
Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama
Rama Rama Hare Hare



By the Mercy of His Guru and Gauranga, HDG A.C Bhaktivedanta SwamiPrabhupada, traveled to West, translated Bhagavad Gita to English and further this got translated to so many other languages which is helpful for the mankind. Srila Prabhupada spread the message of Bhagavad Gita all around the world and established 108 ISKCON temples worldwide before his physical departure . Srila Prabhupada taught the world how to engage in Krsna consciousness and go back home back to Godhead.



You are very intelligent and nice boy and girl, and trying to understand Krishna Consciousness, and I can simply pray that you shall try to understand more and more about this transcendental science, and whenever possible, try to talk about Krishna Consciousness to your friends or whomever you may meet. Simply by this attempt you will get superior strength and knowledge sbouy Krishna Consciousness. Srila Prabhupada, letter 1967



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Excerpt from a class on Janmashtami

by HDG A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada,
Montreal, August 1968



So today is that auspicious day, Janmāṣṭamī, when Lord Kṛṣṇa appeared five thousand years ago in India, Mathurā. Those who are Indian ladies and gentlemen present, they know very well where is Mathurā. It is about ninety miles south of New Delhi. Mathurā is still existing, and it is eternally existing. Kṛṣṇa appeared in Mathurā in His maternal uncle's house in a very precarious condition. That birthplace, Lord Kṛṣṇa's birthplace, is now maintained very nicely. One who goes to India, they see. So anyway, Lord Kṛṣṇa appeared on this planet five thousand years ago.

Now Kṛṣṇa says, janma karma me divyam ([BG 4.9](#)). Divyam means "not ordinary." It should not be understood just like we take our birth. Kṛṣṇa does not take His birth like us. That is also explained in the Bhagavad-gītā. When Arjuna inquired from Kṛṣṇa, "My dear Kṛṣṇa, You are speaking that formerly You spoke this yoga system of Bhagavad-gītā to the sun-god. That means it is millions and trillions years ago You spoke. How can I believe it?"

Because Kṛṣṇa was contemporary to Arjuna, so he was thinking that "Kṛṣṇa is my friend, is my cousin-brother. How it is possible that He spoke this Bhagavad-gītā yoga to sun-god?" So what was the reply? The reply was this, that "You also appear many, many times; I also appear many, many times. The difference is that I can remember; you cannot remember."

That is the difference between God and ordinary living creature, that we are also taking birth after birth. There are 8,400,000 species of life, and so long we are in this material world, we are cycling round this birth after birth. So Kṛṣṇa's birth is not like that. Therefore Kṛṣṇa says, janma karma me divyam yo jānāti tattvataḥ ([BG 4.9](#)). Tattvataḥ means "in truth," not superficially. Scientifically, one who knows, he can get immediately liberation. And how one can understand the same truths? That is also explained in the Bhagavad-gītā: bhaktyā māṁ abhijānāti yāvan yaś cāsmi tattvataḥ ([BG 18.55](#)). Again the same thing, tattvataḥ, in truth. If anyone wants to know God, or Kṛṣṇa, in truth, not superficially, then he has to undertake the process of devotional service, bhaktyā.

In another place Kṛṣṇa says, patraṁ puṣpaṁ phalaṁ toyam yo me bhaktyā prayacchati ([BG 9.26](#)): "Any person who gives Me a little fruit, little flower, little water, but with devotion, bhaktyā . . ." that is the only qualification. So Kṛṣṇa says, tayā bhaktyā upāhṛtam aśnāmi: "Because he brings it with devotion and faith and love, I eat." Kṛṣṇa eats.

We are offering in the temple prasādam. So He eats, because He says "I eat."
How you can say that He does not eat?

Some gentleman asked me that, "Swāmījī, you offer prasādam in the temple, but do you think Kṛṣṇa or God eats?" I answered, "Yes, why not? He says, 'I eat.' How you can say He does not eat? But you do not know how He eats." Due to poor fund of knowledge, you think that God does not eat. But eat . . . His eating process is different. That is answered in the Brahma-saṁhitā. Brahma-saṁhitā, it is said, aṅgāni yasya sakalendriya-vṛtti-manti (Bs. 5.32). God's senses, Kṛṣṇa's senses, are as powerful as other senses. Just like I can see with my eyes, but Kṛṣṇa can eat also with His eyes. That is . . . aṅgāni yasya sakalendriya-vṛtti-manti.

Just like . . . there is many examples. Kṛṣṇa, or Viṣṇu, the first creation is that Garbhodakaśāyī Viṣṇu lying on the ocean, and Brahmā was created from His navel. There was a lotus stem grown from the abdomen of the Lord, and Brahmā was born. Now Lakṣmī, the goddess of fortune, was just sitting. But as we understand that if we beget child, we require the cooperation of wife, but here we see that wife was sitting, but He begot Brahmā from the navel. This is called sarva-śaktimān. He does not require anyone's help. He can beget child, not exactly as we beget child. Therefore janma karma me divyam (BG 4.9). He is within your heart, He is everywhere, so He can appear from everywhere. Just like sun rises from the eastern side. It does not mean that eastern side is the mother of sun. We simply see that sun is rising from the eastern side. In this way, if we try to understand in truth, then we can understand what is God. Superficially, if we try to understand by our experimental knowledge, then it is not possible to understand God.

panthāstu koṭi-śata-vatsara-sampragamyo
vāyor athāpi manaso muni-puṅgavānām
so 'pyasti yat prapada-sīṁny-avicintya-tattve
govindam Adi-puruṣaṁ tam ahaṁ bhajāmi
(Bs. 5.34)

The Brahma-saṁhitā said that if one starts on the chariot of air and makes progress on the speed of mind, still one cannot understand what is God. Vedeṣu durlabham adurlabham ātma-bhaktau (Bs. 5.33). He cannot be understood simply by studying Vedas. Traiguṇya viśayā vedaḥ nistraiguṇyo bhavārjuna (BG 2.45).

One has to transcend the position of Vedas also. Then one can understand what is God, or what is Kṛṣṇa. So that process is explained in the Bhagavad-gītā, that bhaktyā māṃ abhijānāti yāvan yaś cāsmi tattvataḥ (BG 18.55).

So this bhakti, devotional service of Kṛṣṇa, is so nice. And under that bhakti category, this Janmāṣṭamī . . . of course, this Janmāṣṭamī ceremony is observed by all Hindus. Irrespective of becoming Vaiṣṇava or not, this ceremony is observed in India, every home. Just like in your Western countries the Christmas is observed in every home, similarly, Janmāṣṭamī is observed in every home. Today is a great ceremonial day...



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.

Damodarastakam verse 1





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

The basis of authenticity is to understand on who we really are and connect with other people on that basis, while recognizing the differences. All living entities are connected to the same source.

Bhakti Yoga: How we act in a relationship with the ultimate connection with Krsna”

(Romapada Swami)



“If we are motivated by what is favorable for us, we are not striving for pure devotion; if we are motivated by what is favorable for Krishna, then we are moving toward pure bhakti. Examining our motives is part of devotional practice. ”

(Niranjana Swami)



Hare Krishna Temple - ISKCON of Phoenix

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

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Daily Schedule

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



Darsana Times

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



Sunday Feast Schedule

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



Darsana Times

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

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

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

PRASADAM PRAYERS

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

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

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

MAHA-
KI JAI



PRASADAM

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

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

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

WHOLE MOONG DAL DOSA (PESARATTU)

INGREDIENTS

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

METHOD

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



by Lilavati devi dasi

TO MAKE DOSA

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



HOME MADE ICE CREAM

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



INGREDIENTS

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



By: Madhumayi Shri Lakshmi dd

DIRECTIONS

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

Variations:

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

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

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

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

Jai Jagannath!



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MENU

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The Power of Prasadam



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

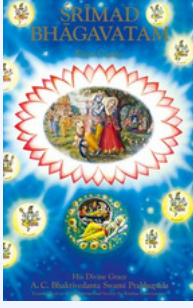
"...We should never waste Krishna prasadam"
Srila Prabhupada



yajña-śiṣṭāśinaḥ santo
mucyante sarva-kilbiṣaiḥ
bhuñjate te tv agham pāpā
ye pacanty ātma-kāraṇāt



The devotees of the Lord are released from all kinds of sins because they eat food which is offered first for sacrifice. Others, who prepare food for personal sense enjoyment, verily eat only sin. BG 3.13



naṣṭa-prāyeṣv abhadreṣu
nityaṁ bhāgavata-sevayā
bhagavaty uttama-śloke
bhaktir bhavati naiṣṭhikī
SB1.2.18

"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."



In the glorious days, or before the advent of the Age of Kali, the brāhmaṇas, the cows, the women, the children and the old men were properly given protection.

1. The protection of the brāhmaṇas maintains the institution of varṇa and āśrama, the most scientific culture for attainment of spiritual life.
2. The protection of cows maintains the most miraculous form of food, i.e., milk, for maintaining the finer tissues of the brain for understanding higher aims of life.
3. The protection of women maintains the chastity of society, by which we can get a good generation for peace, tranquility and progress of life.
4. The protection of children gives the human form of life its best chance to prepare the way of liberty from material bondage. Such protection of children begins from the very day of begetting a child by the purificatory process of garbhādhāna-saṁskāra, the beginning of pure life.
5. The protection of the old men gives them a chance to prepare themselves for better life after death.

Happy Janmashtami!



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The Hare Krishna Movement

By His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

-Published by the Back to Godhead Magazine, May 2013-



Lord Sri Krishna Caitanya Mahaprabhu, the great apostle of love of God and the father of the sankirtan movement (congregational chanting), advented Himself in the city of Nabadwipa in Bengal, India in 1486 as per Gregorian calendar under a lunar eclipse.

By the will of the Lord there was a lunar eclipse on that evening. It is the custom of the Hindu public to bathe in the Ganges of any other sacred river during the hours of eclipse, and to chant the Vedic mantras for purification. When Lord Chaitanya was born during the eclipse, then, the whole India was roaring with the holy sound of Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare/ Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare.

These sixteen Names of the Lord are mentioned in many Puranas and Upanishads, and they are described as “Tarak Brahman,” the Names for this age. It is stated in the “Shashtras,” the accepted Scriptures, that offensesless chanting of the Holy Names of the Lord can deliver a fallen soul from material bondage. There are innumerable Names for the Lord both in India and elsewhere, and all of them are equally good because all of them indicate the Supreme Personality of Godhead. But because these sixteen Names are especially recommended for this Age, called Kali Yuga, it is better for people to take the path of the great Acharyas, the saintly teachers who attained success by practice of this system.

This coincidence of the Lord’s Appearance and the lunar eclipse make it clear what the mission of the Lord was to be. That mission was to preach the importance of chanting the Holy Names of God in this Age of Kali, or Quarrel. The present age witnesses quarrel even over trifling things, and therefore the Shastras have recommended that a common platform can be found in the performance of Kirtan, also called Sankirtan, the congregational chanting of the Holy Names of the Lord. Accompanied by melodious music and dancing, people can hold meetings, Kirtans, for glorifying the Lord in their respective languages.

And if such performances are executed in an offenseless manner, it is sure and certain that such persons will gradually attain spiritual perfection without any of the effort of undergoing rigid methods of Yoga or asceticism.

During Sankirtan the learned and the fool, the rich and the poor, the Hindu and the Moslem, the Englishman and the Indian, the common man and the priest—all can give aural reception to the transcendental sound vibration of Hare Krishna, and thereby cleanse the dust from the mirror of the mind.

In the Srimad Bhagavatam it is stated that, “in this Age of Kali, people who are endowed with sufficient brain substance will worship the Lord and His associates by performance of Sankirtan Yajna (sacrifice).” So Lord Chaitanya and His inauguration of the Sankirtan Movement were not concoctions, but present the fulfillment of what is stated in revealed Scripture, just as the Appearance of Lord Buddha, Shankara Acharya and all such Avatars are foretold in Vedic literature. And to confirm the Lord’s mission, all the people of the world will accept the Holy Name of God as the common platform for the Universal Religion of Mankind.

The Advent of the Holy Name thus took place along with the Advent of Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. When the Lord was on the lap of His mother, the Child would at once stop crying as soon as the ladies surrounding Him chanted the Holy Name, clapping their hands. This peculiarity was observed by the neighbors of the Lord with awe and veneration. Sometimes the young ladies took pleasure in making Him cry, so that they could stop Him by chanting Hare Krishna, Hare Rama. From His very childhood, then, the Lord began to preach the importance of the Holy Name.

At the age of 16 He became the greatest scholar in all India, known as Nimai Pandit. He was then married with great pomp, and began to preach the Hare Krishna Movement at Nabadwipa. Some of the Brahmins there soon became envious and put many hindrances in His path, at length complaining to the Moslem magistrate about Him. The Kazi, as the official was called, took these complaints seriously, and he at first warned the followers of Lord Chaitanya not to chant the Name of Krishna loudly. But Lord Chaitanya asked His followers to disobey the orders of the Kazi, and they went on with their Sankirtan parties as usual.

The Kazi then sent constables who broke some of the mrdangas (drums) while Sankirtan was taking place. When Lord Chaitanya heard of this, He organized a civil disobedience movement at Nabadwipa. He was the pioneer of civil disobedience in India—and for the right cause. He organized a procession of a hundred thousand men, with thousands of mridangas and khartals (hand cymbals), and the procession passed over the roads of Nabadwipa without any fear of the Kazi.

At length the party reached the house of the Kazi, who fled upstairs in fear of the masses. The men assembled there showed hot tempers, but the Lord asked them to be peaceful. At this the Kazi came down, and a very nice discussion was held, concerning the Koran and the Hindu Shastras.

The Kazi questioned the Lord about cow sacrifice, which is prescribed in the Vedas, and the Lord replied that the method mentioned in the Vedas is not cow killing. In that sacrifice an old bull or cow is killed to give it fresh, younger life by the power of the Vedic mantras. In the Kali Yuga, however, such cow sacrifice is forbidden on account of the absence of learned brahmins who can conduct the ceremony. In the Kali Yuga all sacrifices are forbidden because they are useless attempts when undertaken by the unlearned. In the Kali Yuga only the Sankirtan form of sacrifice is recommended for all practical purposes. The Kazi was convinced by the authority of Lord Chaitanya, and at once became a follower of the Lord. He declared that, thenceforward, nobody might hinder in the way of the Hare Krishna Movement.

Following this incident, the Lord began to preach and propagate Sankirtan more vigorously than ever. In the course of His preaching work, He used to send out all His followers every day, including Srila Nityananda Prabhu and Thakur Haridas, two chief figures of His party. They would go from door to door and preach the cult of Srimad Bhagavatam, the science of love of Krishna. One day, as they were out on the road, these two came upon two brothers named Jagai and Madhai. Born the sons of a respectable brahmin, the brothers had fallen to the most despicable position through low association. They were debauchees of the first order, meat eaters, woman hunters, and dacoits.

At once, upon learning of these two, Thakur Haridas and Nityananda Prabhu decided that, if they could be delivered by the Holy Name, Lord Chaitanya would be all the more glorified. With this in mind they at once approached the two brothers, requesting them to chant the Holy Name of Krishna. The drunk brothers became enraged at this, however, and attacked Nityananda Prabhu. Both Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur hurriedly left the place, with the drunkards chasing them for a considerable distance.

The next day Nityananda Prabhu again came to see the brothers, but as soon as he approached them he was struck on the head with a piece of earthen pot, and blood spilled forth. Srila Nityananda Prabhu was so kind toward them that instead of protesting against their heinous act, he said, "It doesn't matter that you have thrown things at me. Still I request you to chant the Holy Name of the Lord."

One of the brothers was astonished at this behavior of Nityananda Prabhu, and he at once fell down at his feet, asking pardon for his sinful brother. The other was again attempting to hurt him, but Jagai checked him and implored him to also fall down at the feet of Nityananda Prabhu.

Meanwhile the Lord, having heard of His devotee's injury, at once rushed to the spot determined to kill the pair, but Nityananda Prabhu reminded Him of His mission—namely, to deliver the hopelessly fallen souls of the Kali Yuga. The brothers Jagai and Madhai were, after all, typical examples of the present day population. Because of Nityananda's intervention, and due to their own sincere surrender at that pure devotee's feet, Lord Chaitanya at length was pacified, and the brothers became welcome devotees of God.

For this purpose of delivering the debased population of the Kali Yuga, Lord Chaitanya appeared, and out of His causeless mercy He gave us the simple method of self realization: chanting the Holy Name of God: Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare/ Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare. And, He said, there is no other way in this era...

For the complete article visit
<https://back2godhead.com/origin-hare-krishna-movement/>

harer nāma harer nāma
harer nāmaiva kevalam
kalau nāsty eva nāsty eva
nāsty eva gatiṁ anyathā

CC Madhya 6.242



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

Happy Janmashtami!



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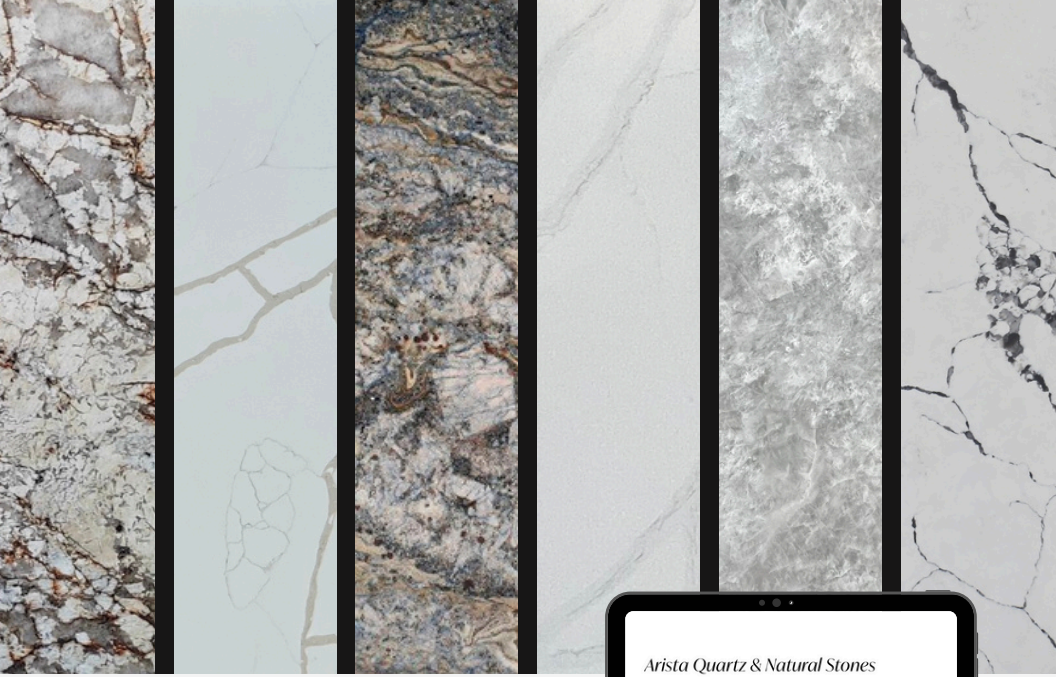
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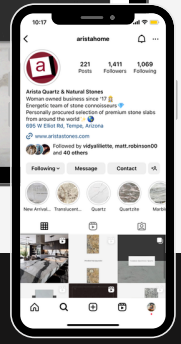
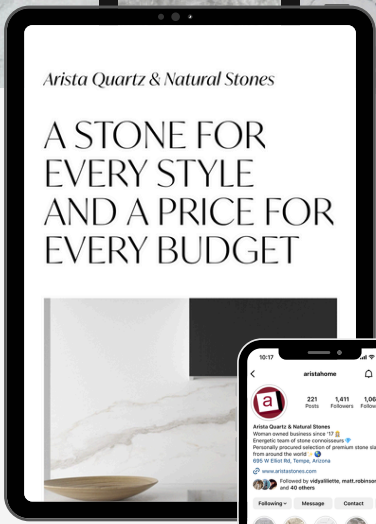
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The Unique Position of Our Founder-Acarya

A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



By Karuna-Sakti devi dasi

This title “Founder-Acarya” prefaces Srila Prabhupada’s name everywhere in ISKCON. It is on our buildings, on his books, on our letterheads. Everywhere! Yet have you ever stopped to think about what this title actually means? Not Founder. Not Acarya. But Founder-Acarya. There was an incident where Srila Prabhupada’s name was printed as “Founder of ISKCON”, without his full title, “Founder-Acarya”.

Upon seeing this, he became furious and demanded that it be corrected immediately. The devotees who were present recall that Srila Prabhupada would not even look at them until the error was corrected. This passionate response from Srila Prabhupada shocked and confused devotees. It appeared to be out of alignment with Srila Prabhupada’s character and intrinsic humility. Throughout his entire life, all his teachings, and his personal lived example, Srila Prabhupada never chased personal name, fame or glory. What is so significant about the title “Founder-Acarya” that the oversight illicit such a strong response from Srila Prabhupada?

As vaisnavas, we understand that there are 4 bona fide Vaisnava sampradayas, i.e. Brahma Sampradaya, headed by Lord Brahma; Sri Sampradaya headed by Laxmi Devi; Rudra Sampradaya headed by Lord Siva; and the Kumara Sampradaya which is headed by the Four Kumaras. As members of ISKCON, we acknowledge that we are in the Brahma-Madhava-Gaudiya Sampradaya. But what is the significance of the term, “Founder-Acarya”?

In the “Prapannamrita Tapana”, a text from the Visnu-purana and a scripture from the Sri Sampradaya, that discusses the “Founder-Acarya” system. This title “Founder-Acarya” is used to signify a transcendental system that has been employed by exalted personalities such as Sri Ramanuja Acharya and Sri Madhava Acarya to facilitate the mass liberation of conditioned souls in Kali-Yuga.



Srila Prabhupada with Yamuna Devi dasi

The five characteristics of a Bona Fide Founder-Acarya:

The “Prapannamrita Tapana”, details the characteristics of a bona fide Founder-Acarya. By close examination of these characteristics in the context of Srila Prabhupada’s life and teachings, there can be no doubt of his exalted position and first-class qualifications.

Based on the 5 characteristics of a Founder-Acarya,

- 1) He is udharika – the saviour of everyone. Those who come after him are called upakarika – i.e., his helpers. The upakarika (helpers) are never to be equated to the Founder-Acarya.
- 2) He is dinabhaya – (dina- very fallen; abhaya – to remove, become fearless) he removes the fear of all fallen souls by his teachings. Anyone taking shelter of them will become fearless.
- 3) He gives purports to those scriptures containing Vaishnava siddhanta e.g., Bhagavad Gita and Srimad Bhagavatam, and he makes such purports available to the whole world. Such books are called maha-granthatas.
- 4) He gives purports to the songs of the Vaisnava Acaryas.
- 5) His very name becomes identified with the philosophy of Lord Visnu Himself, for such is his transparency and his potency.

Srila Prabhupada, our “Founder-Acarya” and Lord Caitanya’s senapati-bhakta fulfilled Lord Caitanya’s prophecy that the Holy Names will be chanted in every town and village in the world. As Bhaktivedanta, he understands the true purport of the Vedas, and Lord Caitanya’s mission, which is to deliver the most fallen and elevate them to the highest level of prema-bhakti.



“...Srila Prabhupada, as the Founder-Acharya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, is the preeminent siksa guru for all members of ISKCON. All members of ISKCON, for all generations, are encouraged to seek shelter of Srila Prabhupada. All members of ISKCON are entitled and encouraged to have a personal relationship with Srila Prabhupada through his books, teachings, service, and his ISKCON society...”

Srila Prabhupada understood the difference between details and principles, which enabled him to make adjustments according to time place and circumstances. When asked by Sruta-kirti das, “How does one understand the difference between a principle and a detail?” Prabhupada’s response was simple: “That requires a little intelligence.” How do we get this intelligence? Again, Prabhupada has given us everything. The title “acarya” in itself means one who teaches by example. “It is vital that we study Prabhupada’s life because, through his actions, Prabhupada showed us how to apply his instructions. Everything that Prabhupada did was a lesson for us.” – HG Sruta Kirti das (ACBSP)

Recalling the definition of Founder-Acarya, i.e., this title is used to signify a transcendental system that has been employed by exalted personalities to facilitate the mass liberation of conditioned souls in Kali-Yuga,” Srila Prabhupada made several changes that were unheard of in India and Vedic culture, such as introducing the brahmacarini asrama, awarding Brahmin initiation to women, and giving girls and women equal facilities and opportunities to serve and advance in Bhakti. When Srila Prabhupada was criticised for these changes, he responded with the following statement in Caitanya Caritamritam Adi Lila Chapter 7 verse 32 Purport, “However, since both boys and girls are being trained to become preachers, these girls are not ordinary girls, but are as good as their brothers who are preaching Krishna consciousness. Therefore, to engage both boys and girls in fully transcendental activities is a policy intended to spread the Krishna consciousness movement” Srila Prabhupada expertly preserved the highest principles while at the same time adjusting details to achieve mass liberation of conditioned souls in Kali-Yuga. It is clear that Srila Prabhupada is not just a pure devotee or any other acarya in the disciplic succession. He is our Founder-Acarya, and he adopted the title “Founder-Acarya” as an instruction to us about the potency of his instructions and to give us conviction in the process as he has presented it.

As the fifth characteristic of a bona fide acarya states, “His very name becomes identified with the philosophy of Lord Visnu Himself, for such is his transparency and his potency,” the life and teachings of HG A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada should not be taken lightly or whimsically. We should humbly surrender to his lotus feet, and with sincerity, beg for the intelligence and wisdom to follow his instructions.





Happy Janmashtami!



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REGISTRATION



Sunday, 11 AM

May Lord Krishna continue to bless you and your family!



With Gratitude



Thank you for the contributions for this year's Janmashtami festival.

Your continued support and service to SriSri Radha-Madhavahari and to the community at large is noticed and truly appreciated!



Orange Tommy
Lee Lee



Patel Brothers
Four Sisters



Jai Hind Restaurant



Sri Siksastakam
Verses 1-3

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

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

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



Sunday Vedic School



ISKCON Phoenix offers a Sunday School program designed for children to learn about Krishna consciousness in an engaging and age-appropriate manner. The program typically includes a variety of activities such as storytelling, arts and crafts, devotional singing (kirtan), and lessons from the scriptures like the Bhagavad Gita and Srimad Bhagavatam. These sessions aim to impart spiritual knowledge, values, and practices in a fun and interactive way.

The Sunday School usually runs in parallel with the temple's regular Sunday Feast program, allowing parents to participate in the main temple activities while their children are engaged in the classes.

The Sunday School at ISKCON Phoenix typically follows a structured curriculum that focuses on building a strong foundation in Krishna consciousness for children.

Children are introduced to stories from the Bhagavad Gita, Srimad Bhagavatam, and other Vedic texts. Lessons are designed to be age-appropriate, helping children understand moral, spiritual principles and practical application.

Kids learn devotional songs and participate in kirtan, which helps them connect with the spiritual atmosphere through music.

Activities like drawing, painting, and crafting are often linked to themes from Krishna's pastimes or festivals. This allows children to express their creativity while reinforcing spiritual lessons. Older children may focus on memorizing important verses (slokas) from the scriptures, which aids in their spiritual development.

Children are often involved in role-playing and enacting stories from Krishna's pastimes, helping them internalize the lessons and are encouraged to participate in temple festivals.

The Sunday School program is divided into different age groups, with activities tailored to the specific developmental stages of the children

Teachers:

Suresh Prabhu: Gopala Class (4-6 yrs old)



Smita Mataji: Giri-Govardhan Class (7-9 yrs old)



SyamaMohini devi dasi: Damodar Class (10 -13 yrs old)



NamaPriya devi dasi: Youth Group (14 yrs and older)



Core Values:

- *Humility
- * Tolerance
- * Respect
- * Compassion
- *Cooperation



"These children are given to us by Krishna, they are Vaisnavas and we must be very careful to protect them. These are not ordinary children, they are Vaikuntha children, and we are very fortunate we can give them chance to advance further in Krishna Consciousness. That is very great responsibility, do not neglect it or be confused. Your duty is very clear." Srila Prabhupada



INVEST IN OUR CHILDREN

If we want to gain, we need to invest.

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

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

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

Last year to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Child Protection Office, ISKCON Phoenix renewed its commitment and support of the CPO, its Policy and Guidelines.

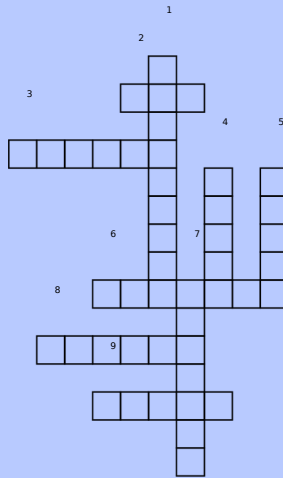
We all can make a difference, one Yatra at the time. It is not about getting an award, or just have something because it is required. It is about doing the right thing for our children, for Krishna's children, for our future leaders, for the future of our society.

Have you read the child safety policy and guidelines?
If not, please take a moment to read them. The policy is posted at the bulletin board located in the temple hallway. Following these guidelines will help ensure a pleasant time for everyone. If you have any questions, please contact:
SyamaMohini devi dasi at smd@cox.net



GAMETIME

Janmastami



Down:

1. Hill lifted by Krishna
4. Krishna loves to play this instrument
5. love to serve Radha & Krishna,
7. the all attractive,

Across:

2. one of our seven mothers,
3. Krishna's foster mother,
6. love to eat butter with Krishna,
8. Krishna's birth mother,
9. Krishna's energy,



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

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

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

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

Temple President
Premadhatri devi dasi

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

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

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

(Srla Prabhupada Letter, Septemer 30, 1969)



Child Protection Office

ISKCON NORTH AMERICA

www.SafeTemple.org · (352) 575-0780 · Info@SafeTemple.org

"The protection of children gives the human form of life its best chance to prepare the way of liberty from material bondage."

Srimad Bhagavatam 1.8.5

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PROTECTING CHILDREN IN NORTH AMERICA

We prevent and stop child abuse by empowering individuals through education, responding to concerns of child maltreatment in the US and Canada, and helping management implement ISKCON child protection policies. We support Child Protection Volunteers in service to their local community as well as the work of the International CPO.



Hare Krishna Dear Devotes,



All glories to Srila Prabhupada,

The ISKCON movement has been going on for 58 years and is continually expanding, but we would not be here without the hard work of one man. That one man is His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, motivated by his love of Krishna and the wish to fulfill his Guru Maharaj's wishes of bringing Krishna consciousness to the western world.

The effect of Srila Prabhupada's teachings and influence has changed millions of peoples' lives. He turned hippies to happies and showed everyone how to love and serve Krishna. Think of how many people he fed by teaching us to serve prasada and how millions of people's lives have changed after reading the Bhagavad Gita. Think of how many sleepless nights and hours were spent translating the Srimad Bhagavatam and giving his commentaries just for us to have the opportunity to hear and learn about Krishna. This Sankirtan movement has been preached through every continent and country. We owe so much to Prabhupada so please have gratitude and love for him. Listen to his lectures, read Bhagavad Gita, chant the holy name to your last breath and always love Krishna and put Him at the center of your life.

I am a student of ISKCON Phoenix Youth Group and we have been reading Srila Prabhupada Lilamrita every Monday. While reading his Lilamrita it brings me through so many emotions. His life was filled with many tragedies, but at the end he still pulled through and pushed on by the mercy of Krishna. Prabhupada had a sense of humor and had great speaking, talking, and debating skills. While Prabhupada was on walks he connected things and situations he saw to the lessons from the Bhagavatam. His disciples and friends have spread Krishna consciousness further and further. You name a country, there is an ISKCON temple there. But one thing Srila Prabhupada showed was humility, even though he had thousands of disciples, books, brand deals, songs, he always used whatever money he had to print books, build temples and give out prasada. He was close with the Beatles - a very popular music band at that time-, particularly George Harrison, who became a Hare Krishna devotee and donated a huge real estate property in London, known by all as the Bhaktivedanta Manor. Despite having access to money, riches and fame, he used all of these resources in the service of Krishna.

As we celebrate the appearance of Lord Krishna, I invite you to think of the amazing service and guidance that we have received through the disciplic succession, and we have now received this treasure by the mercy by one exemplary devotee, Srila Prabhupada.

Bhaktivinoda Thakura, a great Vaisnava acarya (father of Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur, Spiritual Master of Srila Prabhupada), who appeared in the 19th century, predicted that a great personality would appear and he would spread Krishna consciousness all over the world. This has come true, Srila Prabhupada's love and faith in Krishna and his Spiritual Master has changed the history of this whole world. He endured a lot so that we could take to Krishna consciousness and be free from material bondage, giving us the opportunity to reconnect to Krishna

Your humble servant,
Shubhangam B.



YOUTH GROUP

By Nikhit Gunturu



Hare Krishna!

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

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

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

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



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Our Treasure



Distributing Srila Prabhupada's gems is the way to help others get the real vision and by hearing the Holy Name of Krishna, a connection might be made. A seed can be planted, and we want to ensure that we continue to water that seed.

Payal Harlalka, CPA

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Bhakti Vriksha Program

By Sri Govinda Das

ISKCON Phoenix is happy to continue to offer Self-Discovery (Bhakti Vriksha) programs for our community. These are weekly home programs conducted on Fridays from 7 PM to 9 PM or Saturdays from 6 PM to 8 PM. These informal gatherings are intended to help discover the timeless knowledge of Bhagavad Gita and related scriptures in a warm, welcoming, and peaceful atmosphere with friends and family. The program consists of ice breaker, kirtan, spiritual discussion focusing on 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. It's quite amazing to see how kids have grown with solid spiritual foundation over the period of years while being part of these programs.

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

These programs are currently being conducted in locations including Chandler, Gilbert, North Phoenix, and Scottsdale and continue remain popular in the congregation with extremely positive reviews from all the participants. While most of these programs are offered in-person, some are virtual. In either form, they remain highly sought after by the participants.

Please do not miss this wonderful opportunity to grow spiritually by connecting yourself with one of the groups closest to your location.

Contact Information

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

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



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

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

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Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Hare Hare
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Women In Krishna Consciousness

Women play an integral role in spiritual life and community activities. ISKCON of Phoenix emphasizes the equality of all souls, and encourages women to fully participate in devotional activities.

Women actively participate in temple services, including leading kirtans, giving lectures, and performing Deity worship. They are encouraged to develop their spiritual practices through chanting, studying scriptures, and engaging in devotional service. ISKCON Phoenix strives to support and empower women in their spiritual journey, recognizing the importance of their contributions to the community and encourages the development of women as leaders, teachers, and practitioners of bhakti-yoga.



For more information contact:

Lilavati devi dasi -
Local Rep Vaishnavi Ministry NA
kandapm@gmail.com



SyamaMohini devi dasi -
Local IPA Representative
smdd@cox.net



"... These women are not ordinary women. They are preachers. They are preachers. They are Vaisnava. By their association, one becomes a Vaisnava."

Srila Prabhupada

Morning walk March 27, 1974 Bombay, India.

Talks & Crafts

Srimad Bhagavatam
Reading & Discussion

New Moms Support Group

Cooking Classes

Spiritual Counseling

IPA

Special Programs





Good relationships begin with respectful relationships

INTIMATE PARTNER ABUSE

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

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

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

For more support and information, please contact your local temple rep.

brought to you by
Vaishnavi Ministry NA



SyamaMohini Devi dasi
smdd@cox.net

Intimate Partner Abuse Prevention Program

Investing in our society



Investing in our society is an integral part of spiritual practice, reflecting the principles of seva (selfless service) and community care.

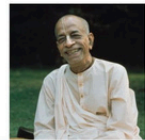
Investing in the community involves financial contributions, volunteering, educational support, community building, and sustainable development. Devotees and well-wishers contribute through donations, sponsorships, and fundraising to sustain temple activities. Volunteering in services, festival preparation, and outreach programs strengthens the community.

Educational investment includes supporting Sunday School, Youth Group and adult education, while community building happens through Bhakti Vriksha groups, social support networks and special events/workshops.

Sustainable initiatives and local outreach also reflect the community's commitment to spiritual and societal well-being.



Investing in our Society



Bhakti Vrksa Programs

Groups meet every Friday or Saturday
7:00 to 9:00pm in person or via Zoom
Please contact us for more information

AZ Food for Life

Serving the needy one community at a time

Workshops & Special Sessions

Japa Retreat
Vaishnava Sadachar - coming soon
Child Protection Awareness
Parenting 101 - coming soon



Reading Groups

Connect to one or all reading groups



Bhagavad Gita As It Is
Srimad Bhagavatam
Caitanya Caritamrta
Sria Prabhupada Lilamrta
And more..

Contact us for more information

Festivals



Ratha-Yatra
Children's owned festival
Retreat - coming soon



Music & Drama Program



Yoga classes - in person

Wednesday Evenings: 7:05pm to 8:15pm
Saturday mornings: 8:15am to 9:30am



Special Guests & Programs

Special inspiring and educational programs at the temple and at home.

For mor information, email us at iskconphx@gmail.com



RATHA-YATRA 2024



On February 10th, hundreds gathered in Phoenix, Arizona, for the annual Jagannatha Ratha-Yatra parade hosted by ISKCON of Phoenix. In addition to the procession, a festival was held at the Steele Indian School Park, which included book distribution, yoga and meditation, henna and face painting, children's activities, cultural programs, dance presentations, and the distribution of 1,000 plates of prasadam.

Though inclement weather threatened the event, it was marked by a special divine touch. As we got closer to the event, the weather conditions were not suitable at all for holding the festival, as strong winds and heavy rain were expected. Some devotees in the congregation started keeping a close tab on the rain prediction for that day. Others decided to wait for the Lord's action and encouraged others to do the same. Nevertheless, the organizers had to be ready with a "Plan B."

Since rain continued pouring throughout the night, last-minute changes were made. But at the break of dawn, as the team of devotees was finishing the assembly of the chariot, we received the message, "The rain has stopped!" Indeed, it stopped just as the Deities had arrived; the cold breeze was the prelude to the shining sun waiting for the master to take His place on His chariot. What was most interesting was that the rain stopped just in the area of the festival and continued to pour in the surrounding area. The cold morning began to warm up as devotees were arriving at the festival grounds to get the various booths ready. We were very grateful to Ratna Bhushan Das for his help and guidance in teaching our devotees how to assemble our chariot.



By midmorning, devotees assembled in front of the chariot to welcome The Lord of the Universe, Lord Jagannatha, along with His sister Subhadra Devi and His brother, Lord Balarama. The Deities looked beautiful in Their new outfits and flower garlands, or rather, the Lord enhanced the beauty of the garments and garlands. Flowers and flags decorated the chariot as well, and the atmosphere was charged with a special energy. Everyone was talking about the miracle that we were all experiencing. Lord Jagannatha had made the arrangements to clean and purify the venue, followed by beautiful sunshine and the rays falling right on Their Lordships.

From Damodar lila we learn, “Although He is beyond the reach of all senses, His mother endeavored to bind Him to a wooden grinding mortar. But when she tried to tie Him up, she found that the rope was too short- by two inches.” The two inches represent the devotee’s endeavor and Krsna’s mercy. The Lord is bhakti-buddha (conquered by bhakti); we feel that on Ratha-Yatra day, the Lord reciprocated and blessed all the devotees.

Krishna responds when we call Him with our sincere heart, with the right intention, when we pray for others, “My Lord, these devotees have been working so hard; please help them.”

When we are placed in such challenging circumstances, it promotes humility and surrender to the Divine will. We were not looking at our convenience or inconvenience; we all had one purpose in mind – to serve the Lord for His pleasure and for the benefit of all. Thus, there is a beautiful reciprocation between the Lord and His devotees. This was the most memorable Ratha-Yatra event ever!

“Always remember Krishna. Never forget Krishna.”





Suggested Donation
\$25 / per family / month

YOGA Classes

Every Saturday Morning

8:30 AM - 9:45 AM

All ages welcome. Classes are Hatha Yoga style and are beginner to intermediate level and are held at **Iskcon of Phoenix**. please bring your own mat



Classes are directed by certified instructors with a program curated for all ages. However, in the rare possibility of injury to person caused by misinterpretation and/or due to improper execution, the instructors or the Temple Management are not responsible.

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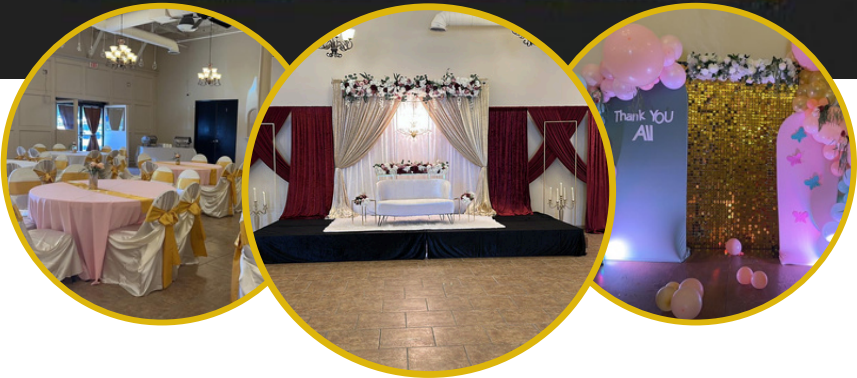
Sunday, 11 AM

May Lord Krishna continue to bless you and your family

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