



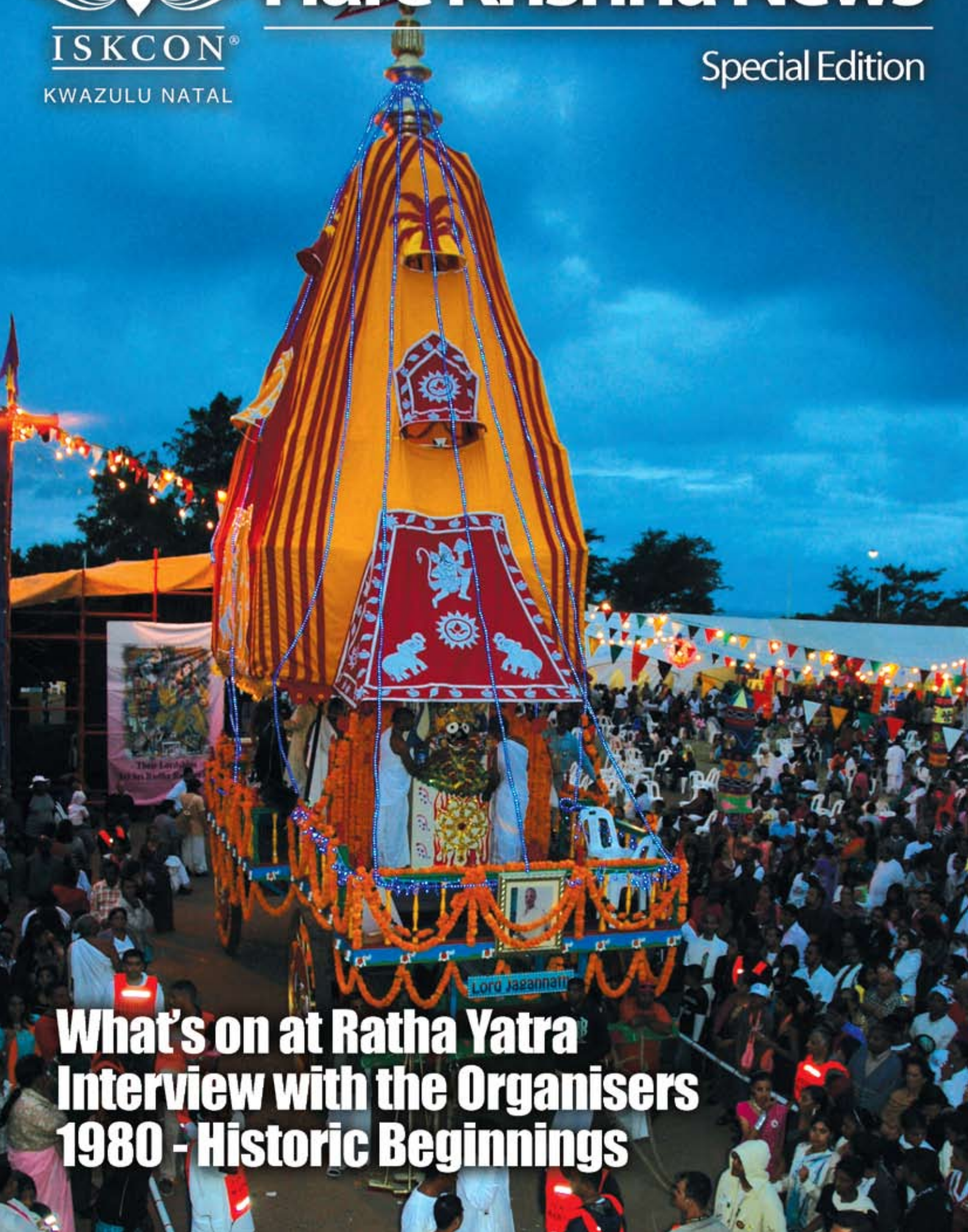
ISKCON®

KWAZULU NATAL

International Society For Krishna Consciousness Founder Acarya: His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Hare Krishna News

Special Edition



**What's on at Ratha Yatra
Interview with the Organisers
1980 - Historic Beginnings**

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Editor's Note

Hare Krishna and Welcome
All Glories to Lord Jagannath!

For many people, local and international, the Easter weekend is synonymous with the ancient and much celebrated Festival of Chariots. Also known as the Ratha-yatra, Durban is among hundreds of cities around the world that celebrate this festival annually. Preparations generally begin six months before and go to full speed two months prior to the festival. This year promises to live up to the high expectations of the guests. Highlights are too many to mention here but are detailed in our special "What's on" section.

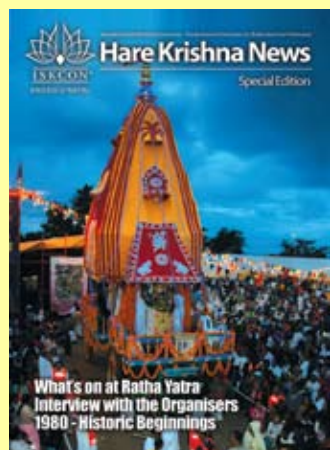
This issue of the Hare Krishna Newsletter is dedicated to Lord Jagannath and His beautiful Festival of Chariots. Approximately fourteen leading devotees from around the globe will be at our festival this year. We would like to extend a warm Durban welcome to Bhakti Dhira Damodara Swami who visits South Africa for the first time, Bhakti Vasudeva Swami and Rama Govinda Swami. It is our pleasure to welcome other senior followers of Srila Prabhupada: Umapati Das, Isvara Das and Srivasa Das, who also grace our stages for the first time. Look out for our exciting children's competition which promises tasty and inspiring prizes; interesting festival statistics along with a first-time personal interview with the dedicated and committed festival organizers; the reason for Lord Jagannath's appearance and a review of the much awaited documentary, "The Lost Village," inspired by HH Lokanath Swami and produced by the makers of "Ganga," and much more.

We look forward to seeing you and your family at Ratha-yatra 2010 at our new venue, the old Durban Drive In, situated at the corner of Brickhill and Argyle Roads. The chariot procession commences on Saturday at 10:30am from the Addington Beach area. A bus will be available to shuttle guests from the festival site to the start of the procession. See you there!

Haripriya Devi Dasi
haripriya@nitai.co.za

Did you Know?

The deities of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balaram and Srimati Subadra Devi who reside at the New Jagannath Puri Temple in Phoenix, are the original deities that Srila Prabhupada sent to South Africa. These are the same deities who will be pulled on our chariots.



Cover: Evening Chariot Procession 2009
Photography: Sri Nathji Das

Visit us at the Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple of Understanding



50 Bhaktivedanta Swami Circle, Chatsworth
Tel: (031) 403 3328



Message from the President

I recently returned from a short and inspiring pilgrimage to Mayapur, Jagannath Puri and Vrindavan. In a future article, I hope to share some of the experiences and important lessons learned while away.

Even though thousands of kilometres away, I was in constant anxiety about the Ratha-yatra festival venue confirmation. For months Balaram Prabhu, Umesh Prabhu, and Jatipur Prabhu have been negotiating with the Durban City officials for a suitable spot since the venue we had for over ten years is no longer available. And financially things were not very favourable – Mother Nikunja Seva, one of our key collectors reported that due to the current economic climate, collections were quite slow.

Eventually last week (second week in March) permission for a venue was granted to us. While this delay has set our preparation back in many ways, we are thankful to Lord Jagannath for another opportunity to serve Him by the Durban Festival of Chariots, the trademark festival of ISKCON in South Africa. For over twenty years, devotees in ISKCON KZN have hosted this event which affords us an unprecedented yearly opportunity to share the message of Krishna consciousness, and to facilitate a spiritual inspiring experience for devotees from all over South Africa. Now devotees from all over the world are attending yearly. This is spiritual life: chanting Hare Krishna, spreading Krishna consciousness, and serving the devotees. These are the three key ingredients of a successful festival.

I reflected on why Lord Jagannath allowed so many obstacles in our attempt to serve Him this year. Obstacles in our spiritual endeavours could be borne out of our lack of faith and our motivated practice of spiritual life. This can inspire us to look deeper within and identify and correct more and more anarthas or shortcomings in our consciousness. Or obstacles are opportunities to surrender more to Krishna or become more dependent on His mercy. Sometimes we develop a doer mentality in our service; that “by my ability my endeavours are successful.” This is actually one of the greatest obstacles in spiritual life. Krishna is always the doer and it is by His mercy that we are able to serve Him. Our position is to be used as an instrument by Krishna and the spiritual master.

Obstacles are not reasons for us to blame others for our difficulties. No, our higher consciousness should prevail and make us look deeper into ourselves personally and collectively as a society to see how we can improve ourselves and attract more mercy from Krishna by becoming more dependent on Him.

And if we conscientiously always include the three key ingredients in our service running up to and during the festival – chanting Hare Krishna, spreading Krishna consciousness and serving the devotees – we can be confident that Krishna will lift the obstacles from our path and bring us closer to Him.

Srila Prabhupada was a perfect servant of Lord Jagannath and the Ratha-yatra festival. By his kindness he gave us these festivals as a means to serve Krishna with all our faculties: our words,



our money, our time, our very life. So personally and collectively let us endeavour together to host this festival in a spirit pleasing to Lord Jagannath.

There are many services that you can latch on to. Currently devotees are putting up posters and distributing pamphlets. Money collections are essential now to pay for large expenditure items like tents, site deposits etc. If you are able to collect, please help in this regard. Else, please try to make time to come to the temple and help prepare the chariots, clean and cut vegetables. During the festival, you may help with services in one of the preaching tents or food outlets or at the free food serving area. If you would like to engage in service to Lord Jagannath, please contact Raghunath Bhatta Das – 0727180444, Ramvijay Das – 0845504101 or Krsna Baladev das – 0825518047.

While Lord Jagannath is smiling at everyone who sees Him, that smile will mean so much more to those who have selflessly increased their service in an improved consciousness.

Swarup Damodar Das



Lord Jagannath's Love

As we pull the ropes of Lord Jagannath's chariot, let us meditate on the true meaning of Ratha-yatra – the Festival of Chariots.

When Lord Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, appeared five thousand years ago in the village of Vrindavan as an ordinary cowherd boy, He performed wonderful activities and displayed sweet exchanges with the Brajabasis (the residents of Vrindavan). He was the life and soul of these pure devotees. The Brajabasis were constantly absorbed in thoughts of Krishna and their only happiness was to serve Him and give Him pleasure.

But alas, He had to leave Vrindavan and go to Mathura to destroy the evil king Kamsa, who was causing havoc in the world. The Brajabasis' hearts were torn in unparalleled grief, lamentation and separation from Krishna. They simply wept day and night in agony and only sustained their lives by the thought that Krishna would return soon. After Krishna killed Kamsa, He was bound by other responsibilities. He became the king of Dwaraka, conquered many other enemies and cruel leaders and married 16 108 queens.

He lived with each queen in 16 108 palaces simultaneously in great wealth and opulence. However, Krishna's heart remained in Vrindavan. He yearned to be with Srimati Radharani again, the most devoted of the gopis (cowherd girls). Even in His sleep, He would utter Her name constantly with tears flowing from His eyes.

Krishna's queens became anxious seeing His condition and could not understand the cause of His deep anguish, thus they approached Mother Rohini, Balaram's mother. She knew everything about Krishna's earlier life in Vrindavan because she had witnessed the Brajabasis' love for Krishna when she lived there. She also knew that Krishna's heart belonged only to them. She was hesitant to comply with the queens' request because she understood that Krishna would be attracted to that place where Vrindavan was glorified and thus he would feel great sorrow and hankering to be there again.

However, their curiosity and earnestness to know more convinced Mother Rohini to tell them everything. She told Subhadra, Krishna's sister, to stand guard at the door to make sure that Krishna and Balaram do not hear anything. While Rohini related Krishna's Vrindavan pastimes, Subhadra stood at the door with rapt attention, confident that she would be able to keep Krishna and Balaram away.

Mother Rohini described Krishna's life with the Brajabasis and how their love for each other was like nothing in this world. She described Krishna as the butter thief, Krishna as the flute player, Krishna as the demon slayer, Krishna as the lifter of Govardhan Hill, Krishna as the rasa dancer, Krishna as the protector of the cows, Krishna as the beloved of Nanda Maharaj and Mother Yasoda, Krishna as the best friend of the cowherd boys, Krishna as the life and soul of the gopis and Krishna who was the centre of everything and everyone's lives in Vrindavan. She recalled how sweet and wonderful those days were and how attracted Krishna was to their love, especially to Srimati Radharani's love, which was selfless and more powerful than anything He experienced.

The queens had not heard anything of this nature before. They were shocked. They had thought that their love for Krishna was unmatched and thus they became humbled by the sweet narration of Krishna's loving affairs with the Brajabasis.



In the meantime, Subhadra, who was standing at the door keeping a watchful eye, was also attracted to hearing about Krishna's pastimes. She became so engrossed by the sweet stories that she completely forgot her whereabouts. Her eyes grew wide in wonder, her

Krishna and Balaram became attracted, feeling a cloud-burst of nectar emanating from that place. They rushed to where Subhadra stood speechless and motionless and heard Mother Rohini's narrations. They too became stunned and speechless. Remembering Vrindavan their minds were transported to the home they missed so much.

They became stunned in ecstasy as if they were reunited with the devotees in Vrindavan. Like Subhadra, their eyes grew wider and wider in wonder and broad smiles decorated their faces. Feeling intense bliss thinking of Vrindavan and everything they loved there, their limbs retracted within their bodies like tortoises and they appeared like statues, rooted to the spot. Krishna, afflicted with pangs of separation from Radharani and absorbed in thoughts of her, appeared in this rapturous form.

So, their Lordships Jagannath, Baladeva and Subhadra appeared as these ecstatic Deity forms, to give us their divine audience, love and mercy. With their wide eyes, broad smiles and captivating faces, they exhibit the highest kind of love, in separation from their dear devotees. They give us a glimpse of the glories of Sri Vrindavan dhama, where the Supreme Lord becomes subordinate to His devotees' love.

Lord Jagannath goes into the streets to give His audience and love freely to every living entity, irrespective of qualification. He wants to attract our hearts to Him for He misses us dearly. We may also look at the Lord's attractive smiling face with a deeper sense of joy and appreciation, knowing that He smiles at our efforts to turn to Him. When we chant Krishna's holy names with sincere feeling and enthusiasm, we reawaken our love for Lord Jagannath, our true friend and eternal shelter. In this way, we too, can enter the glorious pastimes of the Lord.

By Nikunja Vilasini Dasi



lips grew into a big smile that touched her ears, and filled with ecstasy, her limbs withdrew into her body. She was rooted to the spot in this blissful ecstatic form.

Dance of Divine Love

Excerpt from Sri Caitanya-caritamrita Madhya-lila (Chapter 13)

by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Lord Caitanya appeared for three principal purposes. The first purpose was to relish the position of Srimati Radharani, who is the prime reciprocator of transcendental love of Sri Krishna. The second reason was to understand the transcendental mellow of Himself and to experience that attraction and understand the transcendental sweetness of Himself, He accepted the mentality of Radharani. The third reason was to enjoy the bliss tasted by Radharani. For Sri Krishna to enjoy in the position of Srimati Radharani was impossible because that position was completely foreign to Him. Therefore, to know the transcendental pleasure of loving Krishna, Lord Krishna Himself appeared as Lord Caitanya, accepting Srimati Radharani's emotions and complexion. Lord Caitanya appeared in order to fulfill these confidential desires.

During the Ratha-yatra Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu arranged seven parties of sankirtana. Lord Caitanya wandered through all seven groups, chanting the holy name, "Hari, Hari!" Raising His arms, He shouted, "All glories to Lord Jagannath!" In this way Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu danced in great jubilation and inundated all the people with waves of ecstatic love. Seeing the dancing and the ecstatic love of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, everyone became astonished. In their hearts they became filled with love of Krishna. Everyone danced and chanted in ecstatic love, and a great noise resulted. When Caitanya Mahaprabhu danced, He displayed various blissful transcendental changes in His body. Sometimes He appeared as though stunned. Sometimes the hairs of His body stood on end. Sometimes He perspired, cried, trembled and changed color, and sometimes He exhibited symptoms of helplessness, pride, exuberance and humility. Absorbed in the gopi's ecstasy, Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu wished to see Lord Jagannath in His original form as Krishna in Vrindavan. Understanding Lord Caitanya's mood Swarup Damodara sang, "Now I have gained the Lord of My life, in the absence of whom I was being burned by Cupid and was withering away." This song refers to Srimati Radharani's meeting with Krishna at the holy place of Kurukshetra, where Lord Krishna and His brother and sister came to visit when there was a solar eclipse. It is a song of separation from Krishna. When Radharani met Krishna at Kurukshetra, She remembered His intimate association in Vrindavana.

Lord Caitanya is Krishna Himself assuming the part of Srimati Radharani in order to understand Krishna. Lord Jagannath-deva is Krishna, and Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu is Srimati Radharani. Caitanya Mahaprabhu's leading Lord Jagannath toward the Gundica temple corresponded to Srimati Radharani's leading Krishna toward Vrindavan. Jagannath Puri was taken as the kingdom of Dvaraka, the place where Krishna enjoys supreme opulence. But He was being led by Caitanya Mahaprabhu to Vrindavan, the simple village where all the inhabitants are filled with ecstatic love for Krishna. In the role of Srimati Radharani, Caitanya Mahaprabhu was examining whether the Lord still re-

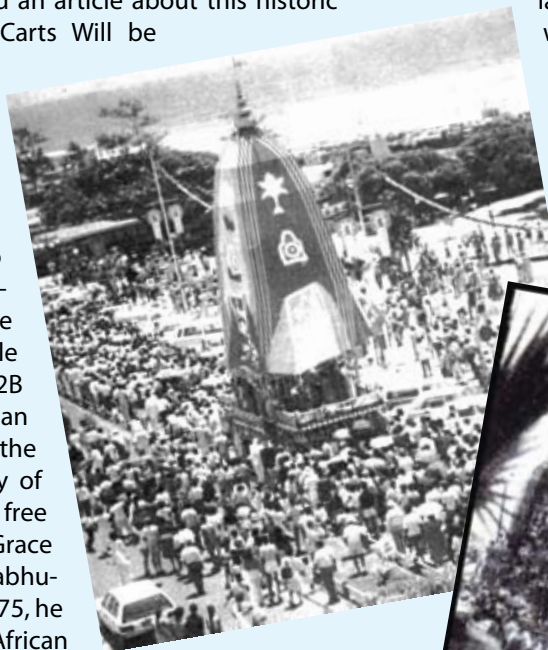


membered the inhabitants of Vrindavan. Therefore, Jagannath sometimes fell behind Caitanya Mahaprabhu's dancing to indicate to Srimati Radharani that He had not forgotten. Thus Lord Jagannath would stop the forward march of the ratha and wait at a standstill. In this way Lord Jagannath agreed that without Srimati Radharani's ecstasy He could not feel satisfied. While Jagannath was thus waiting, Caitanya Mahaprabhu, in Srimati Radharani's ecstasy, immediately came forward to Krishna. At such times, Lord Jagannath would proceed ahead very slowly. These competitive exchanges were all part of the love affair between Krishna and Srimati Radharani. In that competition between Lord Caitanya's ecstasy for Jagannath and Jagannath's ecstasy for Srimati Radharani, Caitanya Mahaprabhu emerged successful.

1980: Historic Beginnings of Ratha-yatra in South Africa

On Sunday May 18th 1980, the Hare Krishna Movement launched its first Ratha-yatra festival in Chatsworth Durban. A Durban newspaper, The Graphic, titled an article about this historic event as "Two-Storey High Carts Will be Pulled Through Chatsworth."

Each of the three hand-crafted, elaborate chariots stood over 12 meters high, resembling the original chariots used at Jagannath Puri in India, took over two months to construct. The procession began at the proposed site for the Sri Sri Radha Radhanath temple and continued to the Unit 2B sports ground. The more than 10 000 people who attended the festival were treated to a day of philosophy, song, drama and free prasada. When His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada visited South Africa in 1975, he had two desires for the South African preaching program; one was to build a beautiful temple in Chatsworth and second was to celebrate Lord Jagannath's Ratha-yatra festival. Both of Srila Prabhupada's desires have been fulfilled in a most glorious way.



The festival was put on hold for a few years during the construction of the Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple. A few years later, in 1988, this beautiful and elaborate festival was revived. His Holiness Indradyumna Swami inspired the construction of a 15 meter high chariot which carried Lord Jagannath, Srimati Subhadra Devi and Lord Balaram. Since then the Ratha-yatra festival has become an annual event on the city's calendar during the peak holiday season. From its early beginnings, the festival has now expanded to four days with three chariots and now enjoys its 22nd successful

year. Outside of India, Durban boasts the largest Festival of Chariots in the world!

By Haripriya Devi Dasi



Jayananda Prabhu, an ISKCON Saint

In 1967, Jayananda met the devotees in San Francisco. Though he had two college degrees, Jayananda drove a taxi. After joining the temple, he continued driving to pay the centre's rent and was the temple's sole support at the time. He gave his life's saving of \$5000 to Srila Prabhupada to help print Bhagavad-gita As it Is. Jayananda's special project was Ratha-yatra. In 1967 he worked hard to organize the first ever Ratha-yatra festival in the West. It was mostly Jayananda's efforts which established it as a spiritual celebration in San Francisco and across America. Jayananda's spirit of humility and his commitment to always be engaged in some practical service left an indelible impression on all who met him. Service to Srila Prabhupada was the core of Jayananda's life. Srila Prabhupada always appreciated Jayananda's sincere service. He wrote him a letter, "I was very happy to hear from you. I am always thinking of you and praying to Krishna for your advancement in Krishna Consciousness...You continue with your program there in San Francisco, always strictly keeping our principles and Krishna will bless you with greater and greater realization of the importance of this movement. I am dependent upon you, my older disciples, to carry it on." Another great quality Jayananda possessed was fearlessness. The ultimate expression of that fearlessness came at the end

of his life when he contacted leukemia. He wrote while in hospital, "...the whole thing was a real blessing as it made me realize that death is right at hand...for the time I was in the temple I was appreciating Krishna consciousness so much more than ever before, so it's a real blessing."

After Jayananda's passing Srila Prabhupada wrote, "Jayananda's death is glorious...everyone should follow the example of Jayananda. I am very proud to have such a nice disciple. If possible Jayananda's picture should be hung on the Ratha of Lord Jagannath and in all our temples a day may be set aside for holding a festival in his honour."

So, while we enjoy the festival, let us take a moment to remember Jayananda Prabhu, who, by his tireless efforts, assisted Srila Prabhupada in starting the Ratha-yatra festival in the Western world.





Durban Ratha-yatra 2010

Special Guests Attending Ratha-yatra 2010

WHAT'S

Soul Stiring Music

Devotional items

Eastern Fashions

Non-stop Culture

Dance and Dramas – HH Bhakti Marg Swami produced

“The three lives of Bharat” and “Lonely People ”

Quest



10

Art Tent

Cooking demos

Take Care of Krishna for a day

Bhakti Lata Tent

Chariot Procession

Mantra meditations

Books and Back To Godhead Magazine

or Life Display and Free Meals throughout the day

Children's Entertainment

ultural entertainment on our main Stage

tions:

tions and Answers by international Spiritual Leaders

tanya Mahaprabhu on Friday

arian Food

temple of Lord Jagannath



Special Interview with Ratha-yatra Organising Committee

Did you know:

The festival feeding program consumes 6 tons of rice, 4000l of oil, 1200 pockets of potatoes & 2.5 tons of tomatoes.

Some of you may be wondering who is the core team behind this huge Ratha-yatra festival. For those of you who don't know, our main organizers are Balaram Das, Bhakta Umesh, Champakalata Dasi, Bhakta Upendra, Swarup Damodar Das and Vibhu Caitanya Das. I felt really privileged to have met them as a team during their preparations for this festival. They previously assisted HH Indraduymna Swami during the first festivals and have taken on the entire responsibility for more than a decade. When questioned about how they manage to take on such a daunting task, they reply that there is no room for ego—just hard work, co-operation and good communication. I planned my questions so that we could get an insight into them as people and devotees but they simply wanted

all the focus on the festival itself. I could feel their drive and commitment to the service. Many of us may start planning our service for Ratha-yatra a month before but Balaram Prabhu tells me that they start planning in October the previous year; he adds jovially that even that was late for them! They shared interesting details about the chariot;

for example, it takes approximately 3 months to revamp. From having just one chariot which was built 22 years ago (and is still used for the Cape Town Ratha-yatra festival) we were fortunate to get the other three new chariots sponsored over the last three years. The chariot dimensions are 7m long, 3.5m wide and 18m high. The canopy is made with almost 100m² parachute type materials.

They enthusiastically shared information about what goes into the cooking. The menu has evolved over the years to include traditional Durban favourites like breyani, dhal, beans and soji. Last year approximately 200 000 plates of free vegetarian food were distributed at the festival and to the community around the festival site, including shelters. Many of us look forward to the delicious wood fire breyani but do we really know what goes into the preparation? Large portions of the ingredients are sponsored by vegetable markets, businesses and individuals. These sponsors are diverse in their religious beliefs. The vegetable cleaning begins the Sunday before the festival. They are cut, cleaned and stored in 40 m³ coolers set at 20 degrees below freezing. A total of 250 large pots are hired, purified and used daily to cook the 130 pots of breyani, 50 pots of dhal and 20 pots of soji. Approximately 100 dedicated and motivated people make up the cooking team. A total of 100 fires are lit simultaneously and manually managed. Here are some statistics:

- The cooking areas are cleaned and set up in the afternoon
- Cooking begins at 11pm until 6am the next morning
- Between 6am and 8am insulated 12m long and 90m² containers are loaded with the pots. They keep the food warm until 9pm
- From 8am to 9am trucks transport these containers to the festival site
- At 9am food is off-loaded
- At 9:30am serving commences

There are usually 6 serving teams of 50 people who take turns



at serving during the 4 day festival. Many volunteers from other organizations assist in this process.

"I wondered how they find the time to organize and largest Ratha-yatra festival outside of India?" They are all fortunate to have very supportive families and use up their annual leave from their employers for this purpose. They are inspired by HH Indradyumna Swami and share the view of Maharaj to see the festival grow. This year the recession is felt in every sector including fund raising efforts to host the festival. Securing the new site was also a challenge. They have come to realize over the years that the Lord sanctions everything. Despite their best efforts to organize and plan, still many seemingly insurmountable challenges appear every year and still the festival ends up being a wonder-



A few members of the cooking team

fully successful. Their concluding words were, "It is definitely a devotee success, team success and not individual success. The success and the anxiety are shared among all. No one person can take credit for the success of the festival."

Vaisnava Kitchen

Lord Jagannath's Cuisine

It is time of great excitement again as we approach Lord Jagannath's Ratha-yatra in April. We can meditate upon how Srila Prabhupada performed this great chariot festival when he was a little boy, and how it was only through his mercy that Lord Jagannath came to the West. Since Jagannath Puri is the home of Lord Jagannath, I thought we could try an original Oriyan (from the state of Orissa) recipe: Bhat Payasa (Rice Pudding).

By Hemangi Devi Dasi

Bhat Payasa (Rice pudding)

Ingredients

2 tablespoons ghee or unsalted butter
3/4 cup long grained rice, washed and dried
1/2 bay leaf
2 litres milk
1/2 cup ground rock sugar, or raw sugar
1/4 cup currants
1/2 teaspoon ground cardamom seeds
one pin-head quantity of pure cooking camphor (optional)
1 tablespoon toasted nuts for garnish

Preparation

Heat the ghee or butter in a heavy pot over medium heat, and toast the rice for a minute. Add the bay leaf and milk. Bring to boil then reduce the heat and simmer, stirring occasionally, until reduced to half its original volume.

Add the sweetener, currants, and cardamom, and simmer the mixture until it reaches one fourth of its original volume, and is thick and creamy. Stir in the optional camphor, and cool to room temperature, or refrigerate until chilled. Serve garnished with the toasted nuts.

Recipe adapted from Adiraj Das and Kurma Das





Whose Worship is Idol Worship?

Extracted from Back To Godhead 2003- By HH Jayadvaita Swami

Are the Hare Krishna devotees idol worshipers? It's natural for us to want to know what God looks like. We may speculate about what God must be like. Perhaps all of us have at one time or another formed at least some mental picture of God from whatever little we knew of Him. The soul hankers to see the beautiful form of God, and if he cannot do so, he is likely to try to satisfy himself with the beautiful but temporary things to be seen in the material world. Or worse still, in frustration he may conclude that there is no such thing as God or that God really has no form at all. However, actually seeing the form of God in the Rathayatra festival can rescue the soul from the perils of materialism and the hopelessness that comes from thinking that God is void or dead.

Sometimes people unfamiliar with the meaning of the Rathayatra festival think that the devotees singing and dancing with their arms in the air are offering homage to a statue.

To understand what is actually going on in the Hare Krishna temples and the Rathayatra parade, first we must think about Krishna, as a real person. We must overcome false notions that God is impersonal or void, for such ideas arise only from a poor fund of knowledge. The cosmos, with its seemingly unlimited wonders, could not have just hatched from some void or impersonal force. "Force" implies that ultimately a person must be applying the force. We may not know who that person is, but that is no excuse for denying that He exists.

If God is the Supreme Person, He must have all the qualities of a person. Otherwise, how could personal qualities appear in His sons? Just as an ocean of water has the same chemical makeup as its individual drops, the Supreme Living Being must have all the personal qualities found in the innumerable living beings that are part and parcel of Him. Therefore, God must also have a name, form and senses.

So if God has a personal form, what is it? Our limited, imperfect mind and senses cannot tell us, for He is beyond them. If we want to know about the personal qualities of God, we must receive this information from God Himself, through the revealed scriptures. We may also learn from a spiritual teacher. The qualification of such saintly teachers is that they always speak on the basis of the scriptures. They never invent anything new. If we want detailed information about God, we must turn to the Vedic scriptures like Bhagavad-gita, Srimad-Bhagavatam and other scientific scriptures.

This is the call of the Krishna consciousness movement: if you indeed want to understand God in His full glory as the Supreme

Personality of Godhead, then you must turn to these scriptures, for nowhere else will you find the details of His spiritual name, form, qualities, pastimes and abode. The Vedic scriptures tell us God's name—Krishna—and they describe in minute detail His qualities, pastimes, entourage and abode. And most important for resolving the question of idol worship, they describe in detail His form.

The forms of Krishna on the Rathayatra car are not imaginary creations. They are fashioned exactly according to the descriptions of the Vedic literature. The Deity is not a whimsical icon. When we see the form of the Deity of Krishna, what we are seeing is the actual form of God.

There is no difference between the form of the Lord and the Lord Himself. On the material platform, seeing a picture of a friend may remind us of that friend, but the picture is only a representation, not the friend himself. But God is free from all such dualities. The Supreme Personality of Godhead and His transcendental form are the same spiritual identity. The Vedic literatures describe that each part of His transcendental body can perform any of the functions of any other part. Thus although with our eyes we can only see, the Lord cannot only see with His eyes, but also taste, smell or hear with them. Thus the transcendental form of the Supreme Lord is unlimited and all-powerful.

We may object that God cannot have a form made of ordinary matter like wood or stone. But we should consider that for the Lord there is no difference between matter and spirit, for the Lord can change spirit into matter and matter into spirit. The Lord, the master of all energies, can turn matter into spirit at His will. Who can stop Him? So even if we accept the Deity as being stone or wood, we must admit that the Supreme Lord has the power to change stone or wood into spirit at any moment.

Therefore the Lord, by His causeless mercy, appears as the Deity in the temple so that even in this world of material forgetfulness we can see Him and revive our eternal relationship with Him.

The worship of the Lord as the Deity—and specifically the worship of Lord Jagannath in the Rathayatra festival—is an opportunity for us to purify our senses. When the Lord appears before us as the Deity, we can purify our minds simply by thinking about Him, we can purify our eyes simply by seeing Him, our ears and tongues just by hearing and chanting His holy names, our nostrils by smelling the incense and flowers offered to Him, and our bodies by standing up to see Him, dancing before Him or bowing down to offer Him our obeisances.

Deity Festival Sponsorships for 2010

Ratha-yatra

(Sat 3 April)

Deity Outfit:	R8000
Garlands each day:	R708

Nrsimha-caturdasi

(Wed 26 May)

Deity Outfit:	R13000
Devotee Feast:	R8000
Annadan:	R258
Deity garlands:	R1008
Mangal arati garlands:	R708
Main bhoga offering:	R1008
Altar decorations:	R1508

Balaram Purnima

(Tue 24 August)

Devotee Feast:	R8000
Annadan:	R258
Deity garlands:	R1008
Mangal arati garlands:	R508
Main bhoga offering:	R1008
Altar decorations:	R1008

Sri Krishna Janmastami

(Thu 2 September)

Main Day Deity Outfit:	R15000
Midnight Deity Outfit:	R15000
Prasadam (Midnight):	R10000
Annadan:	R258
Abhisek:	R1508
Mangal arati garlands:	R708
Day outfit garlands:	R2008
Midnight outfit garlands:	R2008
Main bhoga offering:	R1508
Altar decorations:	R3008

Srila Prabhupada Vyasa-puja

(Fri 2 September)

Deity Outfit:	R13000
Prabhupada deity outfit:	R1000
Feast:	R12000
Annadan:	R258
Abhisek:	R1008
Deity garlands:	R1508
Mangal arati garlands:	R708
Srila Prabhupada garlands (each):	R208
Main bhoga offering:	R1008

Sri Radhastami

(Wed 15 September)

Main Day Outfit:	R15000
Night Outfit:	R9000
Midday Feast:	R10000
Night Prasadam:	R8000
Annadan:	R258
Abhisek:	R1508
Mangal arati outfit garlands:	R708
Main Day outfit garlands:	R2008
Night outfit garlands:	R1008
Main bhoga offering:	R1508
Altar decorations:	R3008

Sarad Purnima – Kartik first night

(Fri 22 October)

Deity Outfit:	R13000
Devotee Feast:	R10000
Annadan:	R258
Deity garlands:	R1508
Main bhoga offering:	R1008
Kheer Offering for deities:	R508
Altar decorations:	R2008

Radha Radhanath Installation Anniversary

(Sun 24 October)

Deity Outfit:	R13000
Devotee Feast:	R8000
Annadan:	R258
Deity garlands:	R1008
Mangal arati garlands:	R708
Main bhoga offering:	R1008
Altar decorations:	R1508

Diwali

(Sat 6 November)

Devotee Feast:	R8000
Annadan:	R258
Deity garlands:	R1508
Mangal arati garlands:	R708
Main bhoga offering:	R1008
Temple decorations:	R2008
Altar decorations:	R1008

Govardhan Puja

(Sun 7 November)

Outfit:	R13000
Devotee Feast:	R10000
Annadan:	R258
Abhisek for Sri Giriraj:	R1008
Deity garlands:	R1508
Mangal arati garlands:	R708
Main bhoga offering:	R1008
Hill and decorations:	R4008

Srila Prabhupada Disappearance Day

(Tues 9 November)

Midday Feast:	R9000
Night Prasadam:	R7000
Annadan:	R258
Abhisek:	R1008
Deity garlands:	R1008
Mangal arati garlands:	R708
Srila Prabhupada garlands (each):	R208
Main bhoga offering:	R1008

Kartika Purnima

(Sun 21 November)

Feast:	R9000
Annadan:	R258
Deity garlands:	R1508
Mangal arati garlands:	R708
Main bhoga offering:	R1008

Contact: Sukumari Dasi on 031-403 3328



Notice Board

Ombudsman

ISKCON KZN Ombudsman is Balaram Das PSDG. His contact details are: 082 877 0753 or bio-success@absamail.co.za

Notifications

Would you like to receive authorized SMS and email notifications of happenings and updates at the Radha Radhanath Temple and ISKCON KZN? Send us an email: kzn@pamho.net

Letters to the Editor

We would love to hear from you. So please send in your thoughts, queries, questions and insights to haripriya@nitai.co.za

Summer Book Marathon Scores

The temple management would like to thank and congratulate all the devotees who participated in the summer book marathon. The total number of books sold is 9440. The top 10 devotees are as follows:

1. Bilvamangal Das
2. Sandir Sarmah
3. Nikunja Seva Dasi
4. Myna Hurdeyal
5. Harchandan Das
6. Isvara Puri Das
7. Madhumangal Das
8. Pravina Raghubar
9. Book Counter
10. Nitai Das

Message from Kellogg's

Kellogg's South Africa has confirmed that their products are vegetarian and they do not use any animal products or by-products in the manufacture of their cereals

Kodri on Ekadasi

After extensive research it has been found that Kodri is a grain, millet. Therefore, it cannot be consumed on Ekadasi

BBT Africa

The newly formed BBT Africa division is hosting a Book Distribution Conference on 10th April to facilitate organized book distribution across Africa. This event will be presided over by the BBT Trustee, HH Jayadvaita Swami Maharaja. This conference will include representatives from South Africa, East Africa, West Africa and Mauritius.

Want to be a healthy parent and role model-physically, mentally & emotionally?

Parenting seminars and workshops will be held in April and May in KZN. Keep track of the e-mail notifications for the schedule. Qualified professional presenters include: Ananda Vrindavan Dasi (Headmistress of Bhaktivedanta Gurukula in Vrindavan) and Anuradha Dasi (certified Waldorf teacher).

This workshop is a celebration of conscious, enlightened, committed parenting within a Krishna conscious context. It will enable parents to transform their parenting style, their family relationships, and their attitude towards the important and sacred role of parenting.

Book Review

Sri Jagannath by His Holiness Bhakti Purusottama Swami

It is appropriate that HH Bhakti Purusottama Swami wrote a book about Lord Jagannath as he was born in Jagannath Puri in 1957. Maharaja dedicated "Sri Jagannath" to his own spiritual master, HH Jayapataka Swami and ISKCON's Founder Acharya, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

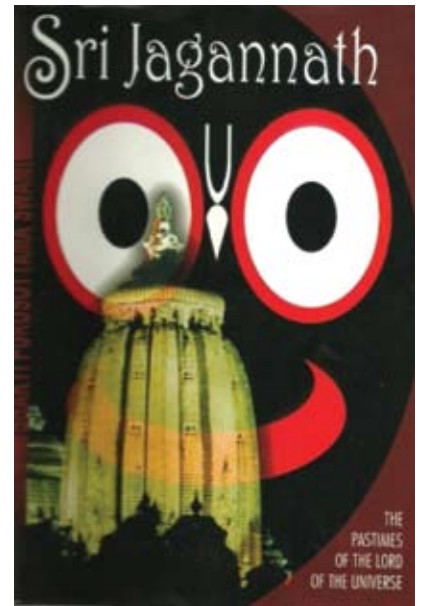
"Sri Jagannath" has two main parts: the first part is based on the Skanda Purana describing King Indradyuma's search for Lord Jagannath and His

appearance; an elaborate description of how Lord Krishna displayed his form as Lord Jagannath in Dwaraka; a pastime from the Caitanya Mangala about the glories of the Lord's maha-prasada and there is also a chapter from the Purushottama Ksetra Mahatmya describing the glories of the Lord's holy abode. The second part describes intimate pastimes of Lord Jagannath with His devotees. It reveals how Lord Jagannath provided prasada for his starving devotees, fought as a soldier for His devotee king and other playful pastimes like His stealing jackfruit and arranging that His devotee takes the blame!

We may sometimes feel that we cannot have a personal relationship with Lord Jagannath because of his unusual features but these pastimes touch the heart and give us understanding of Lord Jagannath's love for his devotees and the extent to which He would go to protect His devotees.

After reading "Sri Jagannath" I cannot see Him in the same way again and I am sure this will be true for you too.

By Ramvijay Das



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Latest Media Release: Reclaiming The Lost Village

Releasing at the
Durban Ratha-yatra
at a Special Festival
Price

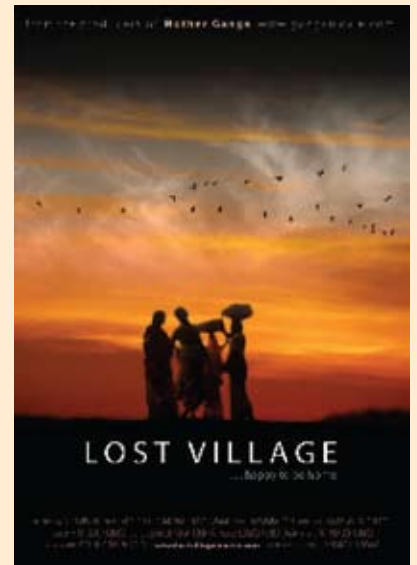
Lost Village is a story of human endeavour in simplicity against the odds of increasing industrialization – a village forgotten. Driven by his forthcoming book *God made this Land*, the lead character, His Holiness Lokanath Swami Maharaj, invites his audience to share with him a sense of serenity as he joyfully returns to his birthplace. He invokes us to walk with him through the lush terraced fields and loamy soils of what once was a remote unspoilt village, an ordinary village that time forgot along with its villagers, their time-honored customs and seasonal rhythms. Set against the backdrop of a seemingly timeless village, Aravade demonstrates that even the most beautiful rural outpost cannot avoid the powerful thrust of modernisation. The Lost Village resurrects to life again, enchanting a world gone horribly wrong.

HH Lokanath Swami tells a story that captures spectacular childhood days immersed in an ancient culture. Maharaj is portrayed as a village child huddled around his parents in the evening insisting on bedtime stories that have cascaded over the many generations; stories of happiness and delight, woe and misery, of heroism and their awesome characters, of suspense and intrigue, of customs and folklore and most importantly of love and God consciousness. He recollects drifting into a lazy sleep, his head swimming with rich textured detail, knowing that this

is what makes him complete, makes him human at the end of a long day of earth, sun and sky. This is an intimate, revealing extended sojourn of a deeply spiritual way of life.

Depicting the majesty and splendor of untouched nature, this documentary reveals the simplicity and beauty of village life. It portrays the joys and hardships of villagers and focuses on their values, which invoke deep sympathy and respect. The purity of their songs and voices, the enchanting sounds of nature and the unique music soundtrack, make this film an unforgettable experience

By Radha Prema Devi Dasi



Little Vaishnava's Column Your Chance To Win With Lord Jagannath!

As the Ratha-yatra festival is fast approaching we are all enthusiastic to participate in the festive mood and take the special mercy of Their Lordships, Lord Jagannath, Srimati Subadra Devi and Lord Balaram. Upon the close of the 4 day Ratha-yatra we certainly feel a sense of sadness but this column allows you to enjoy the benefits of the festival and the mercy of Their Lordships far beyond the festival days. There are two exciting transcendental competitions and we look forward to your participation!

CATEGORY 1 for 4-8 year olds. Colour in the picture of Lord Jagannath – be artistic, creative and original.

CATEGORY 2 for 9-13 year olds. Write a 50 - 70 word description of what the Ratha-yatra festival means to you highlighting your experiences

FIRST PRIZE:

- One Annadan (maha prasadam offered on your behalf to Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Radhanath) on a date of your choice.
- A set of spiritual books for children

SECOND PRIZE:

- One Annadan

THIRD PRIZE:

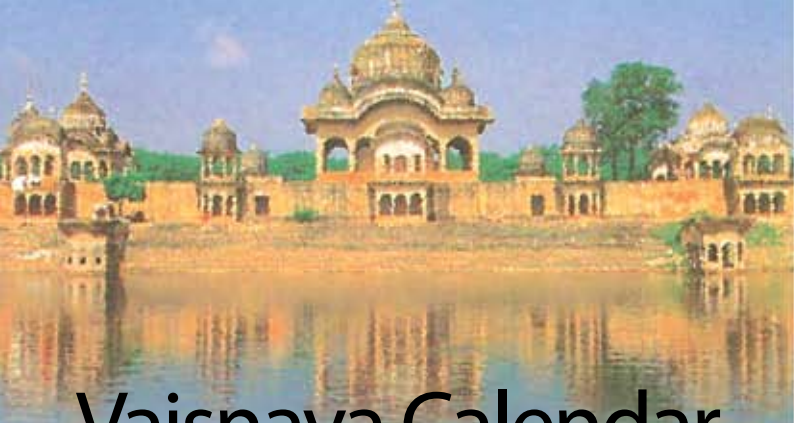
- A set of spiritual books for children

Every essay and artwork will be offered to Lord Jagannath at the festival therefore, take this opportunity to engage in the transcendental competition! The winning art-work and essay will be published in the next issue of the HARE KRISHNA NEWS! Entries close on Saturday 03 April 2010.

There will be a competition entry box at Lord Jagannath's tent at the festival. Please include your name and surname, age, address and contact telephone number. Also, essays can be emailed to prabashnee@mweb.co.za

By Kribashne
Good luck!





Vaisnava Calendar

24 March Wednesday Ram Navami

In the month of Chaitra on the ninth day of the growing moon in the Treta-yuga, the incarnation of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Sri Ramachandra appeared as the son of Maharaja Dasharatha, the King of Ayodhya. He has a greenish hue and carries a bow. Lord Ram's consort is Sita Devi and His most dedicated devotee is Sri Hanuman. The Lord appears to establish the principles of religion and to annihilate the disturbing elements. Ram Navami therefore commemorates the appearance of Lord Rama. Devotees observe this occasion with fasting and great festivities. Do not miss the special whole day festival at the Radha Radhanath temple!

(Fast till sunset)

26 March Friday Kamada Ekadasi

(Break fast 6:01am - 10:01am)

2 April Friday Ratha-yatra begins

5 April Monday Ratha-yatra ends

10 April Saturday Varuthini Ekadasi

(Break fast 06:12am - 10:01am)

24 April Saturday Padmini Ekadasi

(Break fast 06:20am - 10:02am)

09 May Sunday Parama Ekadasi

(Break fast 08:13am - 10:04am)

24 May Monday Mohini Ekadasi

(Break fast 06:39am - 10:08am)

26 May Wednesday Appearance of Lord Nrsimhadev

(Fast till sunset)

Govindas RESTAURANT



BOTTOMLESS THALI

R50

Menu includes rice, roti, dhal, three curries, savoury, sweet & drink. Eat as much as you like!

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