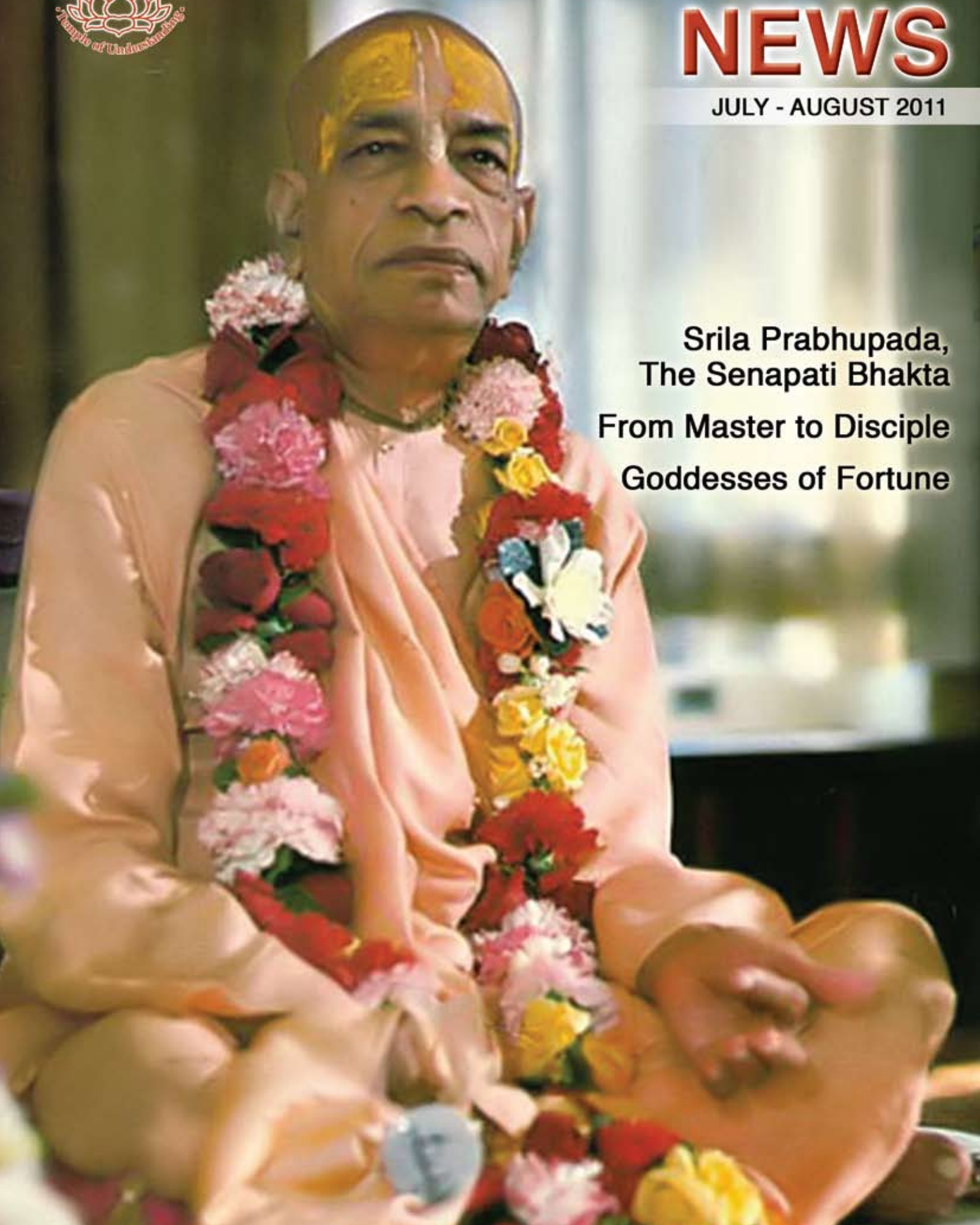




INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS  
FOUNDER ACHARYA: HIS DIVINE GRACE A. C. BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI PRABHUPADA

# HARE KRISHNA NEWS

JULY - AUGUST 2011



**Srila Prabhupada,  
The Senapati Bhakta**  
**From Master to Disciple**  
**Goddesses of Fortune**



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## FASTING FESTIVALS!

### Editor's Note

As winter draws to a welcoming close, we embrace the beginning of "festival season". It's a bumper few months with celebrations commencing on August 3rd with Jhulan Yatra (the glorious swing festival of Sri Radha and Krishna). In this issue our writers share insight into these festivals.

On August 22nd we celebrate the appearance anniversary of Lord Krishna. For many Hindus, this is the final day of a 7 day Gita Week. Devout followers fast until midnight on this day to commemorate the Lord's appearance at that hour.

The next day we gather again for the Vyasa Puja celebration of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, the founder acharya of ISKCON. On this day we reflect on the impact Srila Prabhupada has had on our lives. Many of us have come to know Lord Krishna as the Supreme Personality of Godhead because Srila Prabhupada gave us Srimad Bhagavatam and Bhagavad Gita As It Is. Our children have relished the Lord's sweet pastimes by reading Krsna Book. Lord Caitanya has become a household name because of Srila Prabhupada. We can honour Srila Prabhupada by appreciating the hardships he endured to spread the holy name around.

On 5th September we celebrate the appearance day of Srimati Radharani. This is my favourite festival of the year, so I try to spend the entire day at the temple being absorbed in devotional service, whilst relishing the nectar of hearing Srimati Radharani's sweet pastimes. There are tons of service opportunities for everyone, so feel free to drop by to offer your time as a service to Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Radhanath. Contact the temple reception for further enquiries on how you may assist.

So ladies it's time to take out those saris you've been saving for special occasions—we promise a flood of spiritually enlivening and fun-filled evenings!

Haripriya Devi Dasi

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# Sri Krishna Janmasthan



## THE IMPORT OF “SRILA PRABHUPADA”

### Message from the President of ISKCON KWaZulu Natal

Numerous times daily, we speak of “Prabhupada”, we pray to “Prabhupada” and we glorify “Prabhupada”. We know that Srila Prabhupada (His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada) is the founder *acharya* of ISKCON, but is the extensive significance of the honourific title, “Prabhupada” deeply understood and appreciated? “What’s in a name?” In the case of Srila Prabhupada, access to the spiritual world is in that name.

In May 1968 “Swamiji”, as Srila A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami was then addressed, was requested by his first disciples to allow them to address him by the honourific title, “Prabhupada”. He graciously acceded to this request. A short while later one of the disciples inquired further from Srila Prabhupada about the meaning of the word and had published a statement in Back to Godhead magazine:

*The word Prabhupada is a term of the utmost reverence in Vedic religious circles, and it signifies a great saint even among saints. The word actually has two meanings: first, one at whose feet (pada) there are many prabhus (a term meaning “master,” which the disciples of a guru use in addressing each other). The second meaning is one who is always found at the lotus feet of Krishna (the Supreme Master). In the line of disciplic succession through which Krishna consciousness is conveyed to mankind, there have been a number of figures of such spiritual importance as to be called Prabhupada: Srila Rupa Goswami Prabhupada executed the will of his master, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, and therefore he and his associate goswamis are called Prabhupada. Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur executed the will of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakur, and therefore he is also addressed as Prabhupada. Our spiritual master, Om Visnupada 108 Sri Srimad Bhaktivedanta Swami Maharaj has, in the same way, executed the will of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Goswami Prabhupada in carrying the message of love of Krishna to the Western world, and therefore we American and European humble servants of His Divine Grace, from all the different centers of the sankirtan movement, have followed in the footsteps of Srila Rupa Goswami Prabhupada, and prefer to address His Grace our Spiritual Master as Prabhupada, and he has kindly said “Yes”. (Back to Godhead Issue #23, 1969)*

In the Gaudiya (of Lord Caitanya) lineage, “Prabhupada” is a term of utmost reverence and is only conferred upon divine personalities who have brilliantly illuminated the Gaudiya *sampradaya* (disciplic succession starting from the Supreme Lord, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu) by their unparalleled contribution by way of establishing and spreading the Gaudiya teachings and by their deep understanding of the Lord’s desires. The Prabhupadas in the line of Lord Caitanya include Srila Rupa Goswami, Srila Jiva Goswami, and Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur. Learning of their service and activities, we realise that these personalities were divinely empowered and eternal associates of the Lord.

Similarly, leaving aside any partial sentimentality and then objectively assessing the glorious service rendered by His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada we can easily appreciate his eminence alongside the previous Prabhupadas or eternal associates of the Lord.

Imbibing the essence of the contribution of the predecessor *acharyas*, especially those of the previous Prabhupadas, Srila Prabhupada presented intact, the process of Krishna consciousness that is most effective for this current day and age. The scientific process taught by Srila Prabhupada is not something new, rather the vast teachings of the *parampara* is tailored to perfectly suit our needs and *phalena pariciyate*—an action is judged by its results—millions all over the world have been raised from a suffering and sinful platform and placed securely on the path of devotional service.

The next time we speak of “Prabhupada”, let us do so with renewed appreciation of this foremost servant of the Lord. Appearing in this material world by his infinite compassion Srila Prabhupada gifted us with entrance into the spiritual world by blessing us with Krishna consciousness in the form of chanting Hare Krishna, honouring Krishna *prasada*, the association of devotees—which are all found in his divine movement—the International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

May we always be situated with appreciation and gratitude at the lotus feet of that person who is always found at the Lord’s lotus feet.

All glories to Prabhupada!

Hare Krishna.

Your servant,  
Swarup Damodar Das

ni • 19 - 23 August 2011







## SRILA PRABHUPADA, THE SENAPATI BHAKTA

Compiled by Rasa-sthali Dasi

In the *Brahma-vaivarta Purana*, Lord Krishna describes that after 5,000 years of Kali-yuga have passed, His *mantra upasaka* (a great sage and worshiper of Krishna's holy names) will appear and spread the chanting of the Hare Krishna mantra not only in India but throughout the world. Lord Krishna explains that by the chanting of His holy names the world will become spiritualized and everyone will be *hari-bhaktas*, engaged in the process of devotion to the Supreme. Thus, Sri Krishna predicted the appearance of a powerful devotee who would spread the chanting of His names worldwide.

The most recent incarnation of Lord Krishna, Lord Caitanya foretold the coming of an empowered devotee who would take the *sankirtana* process everywhere: "I want to flood the whole world with the chanting of the holy names. I will personally preach and flood India with *harinama sankirtana*, chanting of the holy names. And My *senapati bhakta* (great devotee commander) will come, preach in different countries and flood the world with the chanting of Hare Krishna."

In 1875 Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura also predicted: "A personality will soon appear to preach the teachings of Lord Caitanya and move unrestrictedly over the whole world with His message." In the year 1896, on Nandotsava, the day after Krishna's birth, Abhay Charan, who later became known as His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, was born in Calcutta, India. It was Srila Prabhupada, a pure devotee of Krishna, who took the chanting of Hare Krishna around the world and made it a household name.

In 1922 Abhay Charan met Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur, the son of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura and the great *acharya* in the Gaudiya line, for the first time. Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati was a highly regarded spiritual authority. Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati told Abhay, "You are a nice young man, you know English; therefore, you should preach this mission of Lord Caitanya specifically to the English-speaking countries in the Western world."

Eleven years later Abhay Charan received formal initiation from Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati, accepting him as his spiritual master and in 1936 he wrote a beautiful poem as an offering to Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati, who then bestowed him the title "kavi" meaning poet. Just two weeks before Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati left this world, he sent a letter to Srila Prabhupada instructing him again to take the message of Krishna and spread it to the Western countries. In the years that followed,

Srila Prabhupada wrote a commentary on the *Bhagavad-gita* and in 1944, without assistance, started a fortnightly English magazine. Recognizing Srila Prabhupada's philosophical learning and devotion, the Gaudiya Vaisnava society honoured him with the title "Bhaktivedanta".

At the age of 54, Srila Prabhupada retired from married life to devote more time to his studies and writing and travelled to the holy city of Vrindavana, where he lived in humble circumstances in the historic medieval temple, Radha-Damodara. There he engaged for several years in deep study and writing. He accepted the renounced order of life (*sannyasa*) in 1959. At Radha-Damodara Temple, Srila Prabhupada began work on his life's masterpiece: a multivolume translation and commentary on the 18,000-verse *Srimad-Bhagavatam* (*Bhagavata Purana*). He also wrote *Easy Journey to Other Planets*.

By 1965 Srila Prabhupada had raised enough funds to publish the first three volumes of the *Bhagavatam*. Armed with this, Prabhupada finally felt ready to carry out the instructions his spiritual master had given him nearly forty years earlier and decided to travel to the United States to fulfil his spiritual master's mission.

Srila Prabhupada came to America on the steamship *Jaladuta* with little money, a pair of hand cymbals, and a small trunk of his books, without knowing anyone. Facing enormous odds, Srila Prabhupada wrote, "How will they understand the mellows of devotional service? O Lord, I am simply praying for Your mercy so that I will be able to convince them about Your message." With humility and considering himself to be

### WIKIPEDIA'S TODAY'S FEATURED ARTICLE

The Mantra-Rock Dance poster  
The Mantra-Rock Dance was a musical countercultural event held on January 29, 1967, at the Avalon Ballroom in San Francisco. It was organized by followers of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) as an opportunity for its founder, A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, to address a wider public, and as a promotional and fundraising effort for their first centre on the West Coast of the United States.

The Mantra-Rock Dance featured leading American rock groups of the time, such as the Grateful Dead and Janis Joplin with Big Brother and the Holding Company, as well as the then relatively unknown Moby Grape. The bands agreed to appear with Prabhupada and to perform for free; the proceeds were donated to the local Hare Krishna temple. The participation of countercultural leaders considerably boosted the event's popularity; among them were the poet Allen Ginsberg, who led the singing of the Hare Krishna mantra onstage along with Prabhupada, and LSD promoters Timothy Leary and Stanley Augustus Owsley III.

the most insignificant servant of his spiritual master, Prabhupada pushed on with great determination. He maintained himself by selling just enough books to get by. In July of 1966, Prabhupada secured a storefront with an adjoining apartment at 26 Second Avenue. During those times almost anyone could come and spend practically the whole day with Srila Prabhupada. Gradually the American devotees began to live with Prabhupada and thus the first Krishna temple was established in the West. Late in 1966, Prabhupada officially founded The International Society for Krishna

Consciousness (ISKCON). Some devotees argued using 'God Consciousness' instead, so that Westerners would not be frightened off. But Prabhupada replied, "God has a name—Krishna. So why not use it?"

Srila Prabhupada and the devotees would go to the park to chant, sometimes for up to three hours. Four principles formed the foundation of Prabhupada's preaching movement: chanting, dancing, feasting, and philosophy, and in this way Srila Prabhupada and his disciples had opened over 100 Krishna temples in the ten years of Prabhupada preaching in the West.

Prabhupada's potency began spreading to those who associated with him. His disciples were going out and opening more new branches of ISKCON. Temples were opened in San Francisco, Montreal, Los Angeles, Detroit, Boston, Philadelphia and Columbus. All the while Srila Prabhupada was going on with his translating work. First he published *Bhagavad-gita As It Is*, followed by *Teachings of Lord Caitanya*, *Krsna*, *The Supreme Personality of Godhead*, and *Nectar of Devotion*. In addition, the work on the *Srimad-Bhagavatam* continued and the original three volumes Prabhupada had published

in 1965 grew to thirty by 1977. The work on *Srimad-Bhagavatam* was set aside for eighteen months during 1974-5 while Srila Prabhupada translated *Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, the history and teachings of Lord Caitanya, a seventeen volume work considered, "the post graduate course in Vedic study." In this way, Prabhupada's preaching work went on incessantly, opening numerous centres, publishing many books. Srila Prabhupada formed the The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust for publishing his books and is now the world's largest publisher of books in the field of Indian religion and philosophy.

In 1968 Srila Prabhupada established the New Vrindaban Community in West Virginia, introducing self-sufficient Vedic style living with Krishna in the centre, as the only positive alternative to the chaos of modern urban life. [Note our global energy and resource crisis today.] Since that time dozens of similar communities have sprung up on all continents of the globe.

Srila Prabhupada had a great vision for Sridham Mayapur, India, ISKCON's world headquarters: rising from the plains of this holy land, on the banks of the sacred Ganges River, the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium will be a shining beacon to all aspiring spiritualists. The temple is being designed according to the sacred architecture that has facilitated spiritual-realisation for millions throughout the ages. The centrepiece of the complex will be the Vedic Planetarium which will provide visitors with an enlivening tour of the various regions of the cosmic creation and feature a giant rotating model that demonstrates the movements of the planetary systems as described in sacred texts such as the *Srimad-Bhagavatam*.

Thus, Srila Prabhupada tirelessly expanded his Krishna Consciousness Movement. This is the meaning of a Vaishnava. A Vaishnava's business is not for himself, but for others. Even though Srila Prabhupada left this world in 1977, he wrote 51 volumes of books with translations in 28 languages. He established 108 temples in most major cities around the world, and touched many people with genuine spiritual knowledge.

Srila Prabhupada's wisdom, his determination, his strength, his example and his love are available to anyone who simply desires them above everything else. Giving up all attachment to material things, the devotee takes the instructions of his spiritual master to be his life and soul. Srila Prabhupada wrote, "Although my Guru Maharaja ordered me to accomplish this mission, I am not worthy or fit to do it. I am very fallen and insignificant. Therefore, O Lord, now I am begging for Your Mercy. Let me become worthy, for You are the wisest and most experienced of all."



The Mantra-Rock Dance concert was later called "the ultimate high" and "the major spiritual event of the San Francisco hippie era." It led to favourable media exposures for Prabhupada and his followers, and brought the Hare Krishna movement to the wider attention of the American public. The 40th anniversary of the Mantra-Rock Dance was commemorated in 2007 in Berkeley, California.

[Wikipedia promoted this article on Srila Prabhupada and the Mantra-Rock Dance, along with the famous poster by Harvey W. Cohen (created December 1966) depicting Srila Prabhupada on its main page. This is the highest level of prominence an article can gain on the world's 7th most popular site, being highlighted on its main page that gets 4-5 million visitors a day.]



## FROM MASTER TO DISCIPLE

By Jayadvaita Swami

The parampara is the chain of spiritual masters and disciples through which Krishna consciousness is taught and received. In *Bhagavad-gita* Lord Krishna says, "I taught this ancient science of yoga to the sun-god, Vivasvan. Vivasvan taught it to his son Manu. And Manu taught it to his son Ikshvaku. In this way, through the system of parampara, disciplic succession, the science was understood by the saintly kings."

In the *parampara* system, then, the original teacher, the original spiritual master, is Lord Krishna, God Himself. The Lord gives perfect knowledge, and that knowledge is handed down from master to disciple. It's like a ripe fruit handed down from person to person, from the top of the tree to the ground.

In the chain of *parampara*, each spiritual master has the duty to transmit the knowledge of Krishna consciousness as it is. He is not to add anything, subtract anything, or change anything. He simply has to deliver the message, just as a postman delivers a letter, contents fully intact.



According to the Vedic scriptures, one who is serious about attaining self-realization or God realization or the ultimate goal in life must approach such a bona fide spiritual master. It is not optional; accepting a bona fide spiritual master is essential.

The method of accepting the spiritual master is explained in *Bhagavad-gita*: one must surrender to him, inquire from him, and serve him. Inquiry alone is not enough. One must humbly submit oneself before the spiritual master, accepting him as a representative of God.

The spiritual master is not God, and any so-called master who claims to be God should at once be rejected as bogus. But the spiritual master is honoured as much as God because he intimately serves God through the disciplic chain. Because each spiritual master serves his own spiritual master, all the members of the chain are ultimately servants of God and therefore very dear to God. More precisely, the bona fide spiritual master is the servant of the servant of the servant of God, or Krishna.

This is one of the secrets of the *parampara* system: to be a genuine master, one must be a genuine servant. The student, therefore, surrenders to the spiritual master as a disciple and serves him, and the master responds by answering the disciple's questions, enlightening him with transcendental knowledge. For the sincere disciple who has full faith in Krishna and equal faith in the bona fide spiritual master, all the truths of spiritual realisation are factually revealed.

The genuine disciple feels everlastingly indebted to the spiritual master and continues to serve him forever. In this way, even when the spiritual master leaves this world, the master and disciple are connected. The disciple continues to serve the spiritual master by following what the master has taught him, and by teaching it to others. Thus the bona fide disciple becomes a bona fide spiritual master, and the chain of succession continues.

(from Back to Godhead Magazine, #29-04,1995)

For more about this topic or other related topics go to [www.jswami.info/](http://www.jswami.info/)

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# THE HEART AND SOUL OF BHAKTI CAITANYA SWAMI

By Haridev Das

There are philanthropists who pretend to be spiritualists. There are populists who pretend to be leaders. There are leaders who pretend to be divine. But never has there been, of recent times, a head, a heart and a soul so perfectly matched as in His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya Swami. It's an unimaginable equilibrium, yet, so real and only possible in the spiritually powerful, naturally divine and much loved Vaishnava, Bhakti Caitanya Maharaj. On August 14th, 2011, we celebrate the Vyasa-puja of Bhakti Caitanya Maharaj, who turns 60!

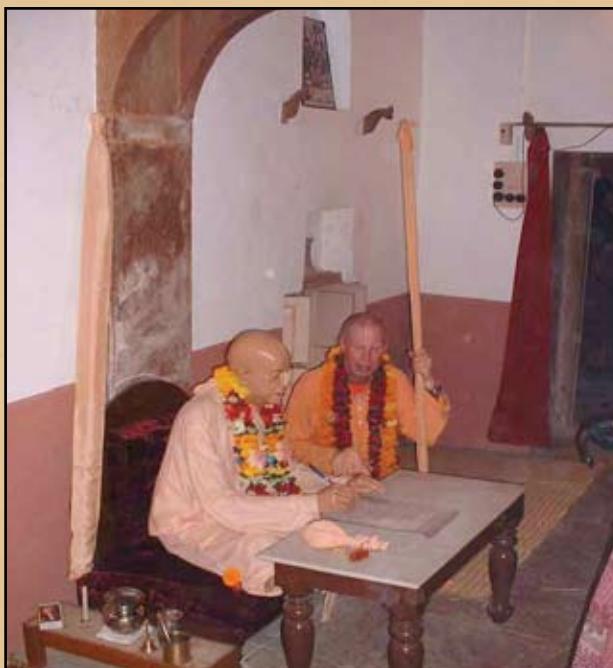
"The spiritual master is to be honored as much as the Supreme Lord, because he is the most confidential servitor of the Lord. This is acknowledged in all revealed scriptures and followed by all authorities. Therefore I offer my humble obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master, who is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

ISKCON has produced many spiritual leaders for the modern world and Bhakti Caitanya Maharaj is certainly one. When looking at the life history of Srila Bhakti Caitanya Swami, it is easy to recognise a significant part of ISKCON's history in South Africa as Maharaj has been a key element in the growth and development of ISKCON South Africa since his arrival here in 1980.

From the early days, Maharaj was connected to nearly every town in South Africa, from Durban to remote towns like Springbok. He was personally involved in the development of the iconic Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple in Chatsworth, New Jagannath Puri Temple in Phoenix, and the temples in Lenasia, Pretoria, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Ladysmith. He always leads in seeking new frontiers for Srila Prabhupada's mission. His preaching and dedicated service now extends over many countries around the world including Russia, the Baltic States and India.

Bhakti Caitanya Maharaj has been a steady and leading figure in our Society for so long, that it is easy to take his accomplishments and contributions for granted and to underestimate his central quality: courage—courage in his life-long surrender and service to his illustrious spiritual master, Srila A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada; courage in his

dedicated service to ISKCON; courage in his unflinching personal practices and exemplary life; courage in selflessly making available his love and care to anyone who comes in contact with him. As we celebrate sixty years of his extraordinary life, we also count our blessings for the good fortune in having Bhakti Caitanya Maharaj as part of the South African Hare Krishna Movement.



**Bhakti Caitanya Swami with the deity of Srila Prabhupada in his rooms at Radha Damodar Temple, Vrindavan, India**

Born in Auckland, New Zealand, in 1951, Maharaj first met Srila Prabhupada at Auckland University where he studied journalism. In 1973 he joined ISKCON in London and received initiation from Srila Prabhupada, who awarded him the name Raghubhir Das.

In 1994, during the Gaura Purnima Festival in Mayapur, India, he accepted the renounced order (*sannyasa*) and received the name Bhakti Caitanya Swami and also received the title and responsibilities of a Guru.

In the last decade Maharaj, a self taught and talented director and producer in the field of audio and visual media, has produced several documentaries titles that take us into the heart of the holy places and Hare Krishna festivals.

Maharaj is well known for his deep knowledge and profound realisations of Vedic teachings regularly presenting courses at Vrindvan Institute for Higher Education, Mayapur Institute for Higher Education and Bhaktivedanta College of Education and Culture. He is famous worldwide for his dynamic *parikramas* (guided pilgrimage of holy places) as well as his writings. This year will see the launch of Maharaj's new publication, *Vrindavan, The Playground of God*, a full colour coffee-table book with award worthy photography. Other titles include the annual publication, *Travelling in the Service of Srila Prabhupada*.

Bhakti Caitanya Maharaj's whole life is about service to Srila Prabhupada, dedicating his being to attracting new people to Krishna consciousness and developing the already connected individuals in their spiritual endeavours. The personal care for any person who comes into the sunshine of Maharaj's love is the essence of Maharaj's character, heart and soul.

To follow Bhakti Caitanya Swami go to [www.caitanya.org](http://www.caitanya.org)






## GOD AND DEMIGODS GODDESSES OF FORTUNE

by Nikunja Vilasini Dasi


In most Hindu homes, the lamp is the central focus of the sacred shrine or altar. Radiating light, goodness, fortune and happiness, the lamp represents Mother Lakshmi, the bestowal of wealth and prosperity and the embodiment of divinity, purity, generosity and beauty. Many of us simply worship her to fulfil our material needs but do not understand her position. Is she the supreme goddess, a demigoddess within the jurisdiction of the material world, another highly elevated being or a figment of Hindu mythology and culture?

### The Supreme Godhead



To understand better we have to go back to the cause of all causes, the supreme source of everything that exists—the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Sri Krishna. Lord Krishna is described in the holy Vedic texts as the *adi purusam* – the primeval Lord, the source of all expansions and incarnations of God as well as the master of the demigods and all living beings. Caitanya Caritamrta explains that for the sake of enjoying loving pastimes, He expands as Srimati Radharani, the supreme goddess and the feminine aspect of God. Thus, God is both male and female and although He is one, he expands into two – Himself and Radharani.

### The Supreme Goddess



“The transcendental goddess Srimati Radharani is the direct counterpart of Lord Sri Krishna. She is the central figure for all the goddesses of fortune. She possesses all the attractiveness to attract the all-attractive Personality of Godhead. She is the primeval internal potency of the Lord.” (*Brihad Gautamiya Tantra*). To explain further, Radha’s attractiveness is her exceptional unalloyed love for Krishna, which gives

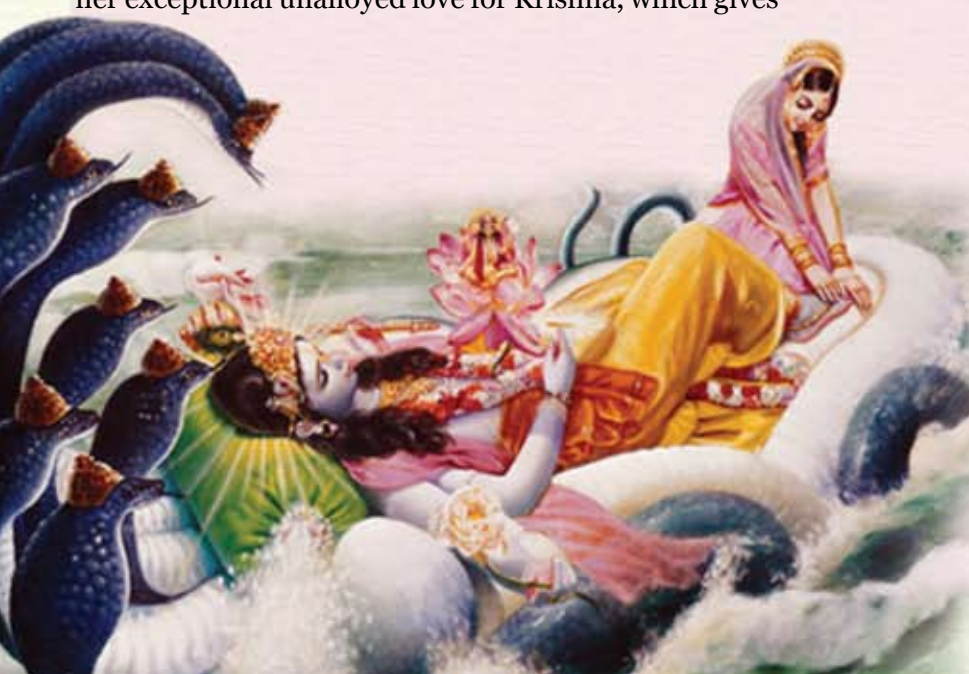
Him the greatest pleasure. In this way, she controls Krishna with Her love. “Lord Krishna enchants the world, but Sri Radha enchants even Him. Therefore She is the supreme goddess of all.” (Cc. *Adi*.4.95)

### Lakshmi Devi, The Goddess of Fortune

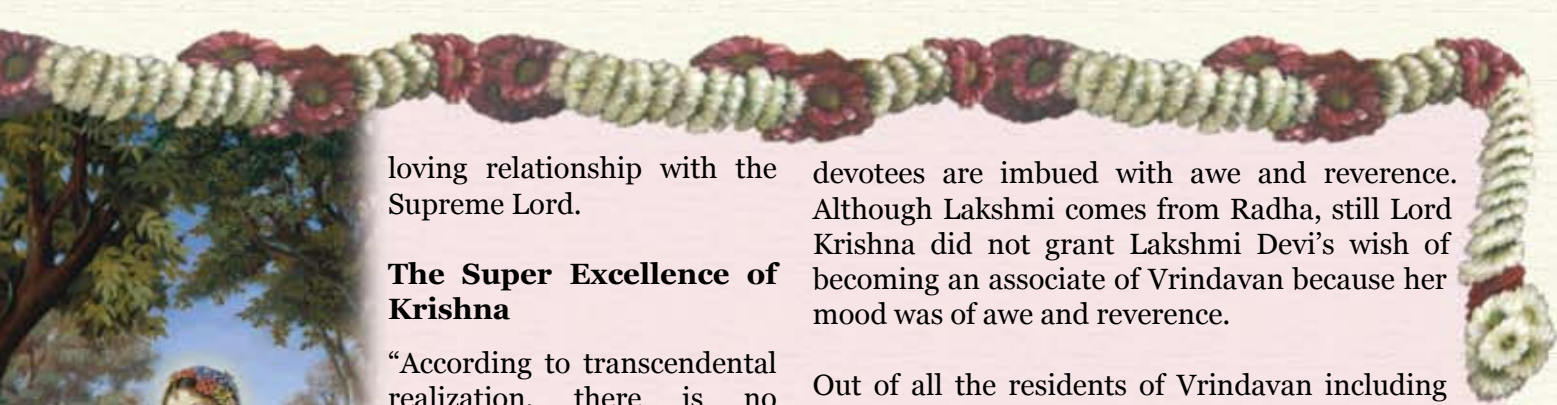
Krishna expands Himself as Lord Vishnu (Narayana) for the creation and maintenance of the countless material universes. Radha expands Herself as Lakshmi Devi, the consort of Lord Narayana. Although Lakshmi appears seated on a lotus flower, her true place is at Lord Vishnu’s side or at His lotus feet. Goddess Lakshmi is perfect

and satisfied by *pada-sevanam*, massaging the lotus feet of the Lord with great love and affection. The *Srimad Bhagavatam* 1.11.33 explains, “The goddess of fortune, although by nature very restless and moving, could not quit the Lord’s feet.” Yet we make the mistake of alienating her from the Lord by worshiping and serving her independently of Him. Worshiping her with some material motive is like bargaining for some reward. Think of the difference between someone who is kind to you out of love and someone who is kind out of hope for a reward. Nothing in our hearts is hidden from God. So *pada-sevanam* as exemplified by Lakshmi Devi, offers a valuable spiritual lesson: It means approaching the Lord from a humble position

of unconditional pure service and love as the goddess of fortune does. All wealth, all honour and all fortune are but His servants. Therefore, the wealth that Lakshmi Devi bestows upon us should be used in the service of the Lord. “Everyone is seeking the favour of the goddess of fortune,” Srila Prabhupada writes, “but people do not know that Lord Sri Krishna is the beloved husband of all goddesses of fortune.” (*Srimad Bhagavatam* 2.4.20, purport). When we try to engage the goddess of fortune in Krishna’s service, we gradually realize Him in every sphere of life and thus our happiness will no longer depend on how much money we have but on our pure







loving relationship with the Supreme Lord.

### The Super Excellence of Krishna

“According to transcendental realization, there is no difference between the forms of Krishna and Narayana. Yet in Krishna there is a special transcendental attraction due to the conjugal mellow, and consequently He surpasses Narayana.” (Cc. *Madhya* 9.146) Even Lakshmi Devi desired to participate in Krishna’s intimate pastimes.

“When she hears the vibration of Krishna’s flute, even the goddess of fortune comes to Him, greatly hoping for His association, but nevertheless she does not get it. When the waves of thirst for His

association increase, she performs austerities, but still she cannot meet Him.” (Cc. *Antya* 17.47) The Padma Purana mentions the time when Lakshmi Devi was so attracted to Krishna’s sweetness that she performed severe austerities to become an associate of Him. When Lord Krishna told her that this was not possible, she asked Him to become a golden line on His chest and He agreed to her request.

“The Supreme Personality of Godhead, Krishna, attracts the mind of the goddess of fortune, but Lord Narayana cannot attract the minds of the gopis. This proves the super excellence of Krishna.” (Cc. *Madhya* 9.147)

### The Super Excellence of Radha

To heighten Lord Krishna’s pleasure, Srimati Radharani expands Herself into innumerable gopis with different moods and qualities to assist in Their loving pastimes. Once when Radharani and the gopis were separated from Krishna, they approached the residents of Vraja to ask of Krishna’s whereabouts. In great anguish they even asked the animals, trees, flowers and creepers. Lord Krishna, seeing their sorrow, appeared to them disguised in the form of Narayana with four arms. The gopis offered their respects and prayed to Him to bring Krishna back to them. Due to their ecstatic love for Krishna, they did not recognize Lord Narayana to be their Lord. The gopis’ sweet intimate love for Krishna does not depend on whether He is God or not. Therefore, they were not attracted to Narayana, whose

devotees are imbued with awe and reverence. Although Lakshmi comes from Radha, still Lord Krishna did not grant Lakshmi Devi’s wish of becoming an associate of Vrindavan because her mood was of awe and reverence.

Out of all the residents of Vrindavan including the gopis, Radharani’s love shines radiant and supreme. “Among the gopis of Vrindavana, Srimati Radharani and another gopi are considered chief. However, when we compare the gopis, it appears that Srimati Radharani is most important because Her real feature expresses the highest ecstasy of love. The ecstasy of love experienced by the other gopis cannot be compared to that of Srimati Radharani.” (*Ujjvala-nilamani* 4.3 of Srila Rupa Goswami)

Once a devotee asked Srila Prabhupada, “Who is greater – Radha, Krishna or Caitanya?” Srila Prabhupada answered, “Radharani is greater.” Then he pointed to a picture on the wall, where Radharani was sitting on a raised platform and Krishna was kneeling at Her feet, trying to please Her. And Srila Prabhupada affirmed, “Srimati Radharani is the greatest.”

### The Supreme Goddess of Fortune

The beloved consorts of Lord Krishna, namely the goddesses of fortune or Lakshmis, His queens, and the milkmaids of Vraja called the gopis emanate from Radha. This makes her famous as Sarvalakshmi, the original source of all the goddesses of fortune and the supreme energy of Lord Krishna. She is also known as Sarva-kanti, which indicates that all her beauty and lustre rest in Her body and all the Lakshmis derive their beauty from Her.

### Goddesses of Spiritual Fortune

One of Radharani’s great divine qualities is her compassion for all of us. Her desire is to reclaim the conditioned souls in the material world and unite them with Krishna. In other words, one can more easily attain Krishna’s shelter through the mercy of Radha. When we chant the Hare Krishna mantra, we first approach the Lord’s internal potency, Hara, which is Radharani, to engage us in the service of Krishna. So if we approach her or Lakshmi Devi with the desire of attaining love for God, they will bestow spiritual fortune, the treasure of Lord Krishna’s lotus feet.







## Young Vaishnavas' Column

To celebrate Sri Radha's birthday, the gopis baked some cakes for Her. Find the cakes hidden in the newsletter, cut out the cakes and stick them in the correct spot to make an offering to Srimati Radharani.

## Sri Vyasa Puja Celebrations



His Holiness

*Bhakti Caitanya Swami*

14 August 2011

His Holiness

*Giriraj Swami*

27 August 2011

His Holiness

*Bhakti Charu Swami*

17 September 2011

for details contact the temple on 031 403 3328





## SWEET SERVICE TO RADHA AND KRISHNA

By Bhaktin Kribashne Naidoo

Amidst the dark clouds, fine mist and sounds of thunder, the atmosphere is beautiful and pleasant after the harsh summer months have passed. For the first time the forests of Vraja are in full bloom and once again gaiety and splendour resume. The entire land of Vraja is alive with various flowers on both sides of the Yamuna River, bumblebees and peacocks calling out Srimati Radharani's names. The peacocks and peahens call out, "Keka keka" which describe and glorify the beautiful and intimate pastimes of Srimati Radharani and Sri Krishna.

During the month of Shravana (July/August), young brides are taken from their husbands' homes, back to their paternal home. At this time Radharani was heartbroken as her brother, Sridama did not arrive timeously to fetch her from Yavat. As the days of Shravana were fast ending, Radharani waited anxiously to return to her parents' home. Finally, on the day of the full moon Sridama arrived, he embraced Radharani and took Her back to Her parents' home in Varsana. Radharani once again met Her parents and other family members and Her *sakhis* (intimate girl friends) and had a wonderful reunion.

During the monsoon season, even though heavy rains drench the surface, the temperatures remain at an unbearable high. The greatest relief is a refreshing

breeze of cool air—this inspired Radharani's *sakhis* to create a beautiful *jhulan* (swing) from a *kadamba* tree for Her and Her beloved Sri Krishna.

Srila Rupa Goswami expertly established the principle of *yukta vairagya*, or engaging everything in Krishna's service. It is with this mood that the Jhulan Yatra (swing festival) is observed at various temples around the world. Elaborate swings beautifully adorned with beads, flowers and embellishment are created to offer pleasure to Sri Sri Radha-Krishna *utsav-vigraha* (festival deities). The deities are taken from the altar and lovingly placed on the swing. The festival atmosphere of Jhulan Yatra is especially sweet as everyone present are offered an opportunity to affectionately swing Their Lordships, thereby providing intimate service. The pastimes enacted by Their Lordships are pleasurable and here Lord Sri Krishna has included His devotees in this personal service by allowing devotees to pull the *jhulan*.

In the various temples of Vraja, the *jhulan* is pulled to the *bhajan* (song), *Jhula Jhule Radha Damodara*, where a clear description of the swing, green *kunja* (grove) and the moods of Radha and Krishna are described. Devotees await this opportunity to enter the pastimes of Their Lordships in the mood of service.

Jhulana Yatra begins on 3rd August 2011. You are invited to come and swing Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Radhanath in the evenings.

## SRI BALARAM PURNIMA

By Bhaktin Kribashne Naidoo

The festival of Jhulan Yatra ends on Sri Balaram Purnima (Appearance Day of Lord Balaram, 13th August 2011). Lord Balaram is the first personal expansion of Lord Krishna. He is light in complexion, carries a plough and club and He is always at Lord Krishna's side. These two brothers spent Their childhood frolicking in the forest of Vraja whilst tending the cows with Their cowherd boyfriends.

There are many encounters with demons and wrestlers amongst the various pastimes of Krishna and Balaram. The residents of Vraja were very attached to Them. Once whilst Lord Balarama performed His own *rasa* dance on the bank of the River Yamuna, the demigod Varuna sent his daughter Varuni in the form of oozing honey from the holes of the trees. Lord Balaram greatly enjoyed the sweet Varuni juice which is now especially prepared and offered to Him on His appearance.



Once again the festival of the appearance of Lord Balaram is observed with great grandeur and provides further special ways to connect and offer service to Their Lordships.



## MALVA PUDDING

### Vaishnava Kitchen

This Malva Pudding has a crunchy top with a delicately soft inside and is delicious with cream to enjoy both in winter and summer as it can be served hot or cold.



### Fudge Sauce

100g butter  
½ cup condensed milk  
¼ cup sugar  
1Tbsp apricot jam  
½ cup evaporated milk

Melt butter, gently stir in the rest of the ingredients and cook while stirring until boiling point. Use as required

### Cake

50g butter  
½ cup sugar  
1Tbsp apricot jam  
½ cup sour milk  
1 cup cake flour  
¼ tsp salt  
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda  
Flaked almonds  
(for sprinkling)

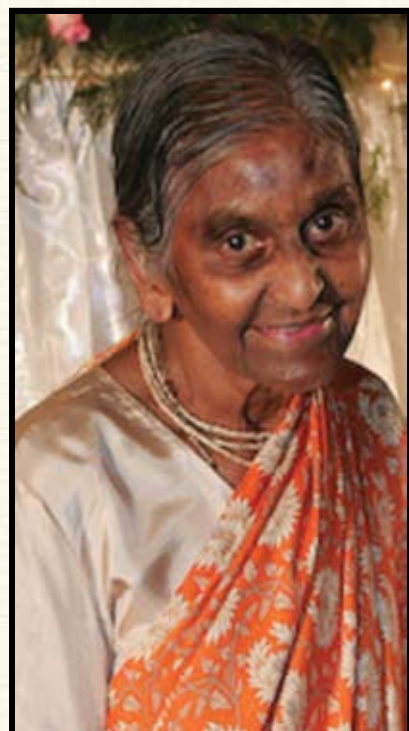


Preheat oven to 180 degrees.  
Prepare a 23cm cake tin.  
Cream butter and sugar well.  
Add jam and sour milk and beat until blended.  
Sift dry ingredients and fold in.  
Transfer batter to cake tin.  
Pour half the fudge sauce over and bake covered for 20 minutes.  
Pour remaining sauce, sprinkle flaked almonds and continue baking for 10-12 minutes.  
Serve hot or cold with cream.

## A GENUINE LOVER OF KRISHNA

By Yadurani Devi Dasi

Her Grace Sita Caran Devi Dasi was born on April 23, 1922 in Durban. She was the mother of four children (her two sons are Tribhanga Sundar Das and Candrakantha Das), grandmother of eleven, great grandmother of eight and the sister of our dear Mother Manjari Dasi. From the time I knew my grandmother, she was a genuine lover of Krishna. She taught everyone she knew about Krishna and also about



Sita Caran Dasi

cultivating real human values. She was kind hearted by nature and very pious. Daily she would write down the prayer *om namo bhagavate vasudevaya* 108 times as part of her meditation. She had the good fortune of meeting Srila Prabhupada at the Durban City Hall, which became the turning point in her life. My Gran would daily spend hours in front of the altar reciting prayers and chanting Hare Krishna before she ate her first meal. Austerity was a part of her and she never complained about anything accepting it as Krishna's plan. At the mature age of eighty she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Despite that challenge, she received initiation from His Holiness Partha Sarathi Das Goswami Maharaj and chanted fifty rounds every day. Being his eldest disciple, Maharaj had a lot of affection for her. She would write letters to him and these letters were special to Maharaj and he kept them with him. She enthusiastically attended the *nama-hatta* programme and would happily sing. She would also come every weekend to the temple. Over the last few years her memory almost completely faded, her health deteriorated, she became very child-like but still she remembered Krishna. She loved singing the *maha-mantra* till her final days. Although the Alzheimer's disease overpowered her brain, nothing could block her from remembering Krishna. She would be in pain but as soon as she heard the *maha-mantra* she clapped her hands and smiled innocently and purely. Being the pure devotee that she was, the Lord made special arrangements for her to leave her body in the association of devotees while hearing the holy name.





## VEDIC OBSERVER

### Lessons from The King of the Demons

By Indulekha Sakhi Devi Dasi

Bali Maharaj: Grandson of Prahlada Maharaj. Great grandson of Hiranyakasipu. Defeated by demigods. Died. Resurrected by Sukracharya. Conquers demigods. Rules heavenly planets. Demon. Pure devotee. The mind boggles at Bali Maharaj's veritable paradox of accomplishments.

Bali Maharaj and the interesting history of his interaction with Lord Vamanadev is discussed in detail in the Eighth Canto of *Srimad-Bhagavatam*. The demon king Bali Maharaj became the most powerful and unconquerable by performing various sacrifices. Launching an attack on Lord Indra he quashed the heavenly rulers. Aditi, wife of Kashyapa Muni and mother of the demigods (who were driven away from heaven) prayed to Lord Krishna. Lord Krishna told her that the demons led by Bali Maharaj were now unconquerable but he would incarnate as her son and protect her other sons from the demons. Eventually the Lord was born to Aditi in the form of Vamana, a dwarf-*brahmana*. The Lord then went to the arena where Bali Maharaj was performing horse sacrifices. Bali Maharaj welcomed him and offered him anything he desired. Lord Vamana asked for only three paces of land, to the measurement of his steps. Bali Maharaj smiled at this and said that he was willing to gift an entire planet to him. But the boy, Lord Vamana wanted only three paces of land. Bali Maharaj's spiritual master Sukracharya cautioned him against agreeing to this, as he knew the boy was an incarnation of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Disobeying his spiritual master's instruction, Bali Maharaj granted the gift to Lord Vamana.

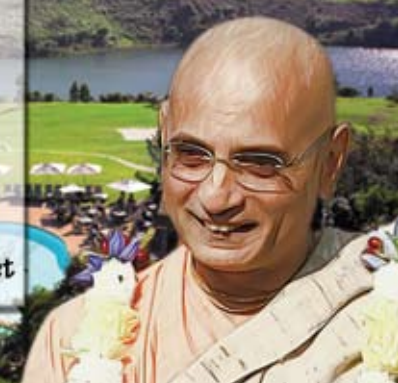
Ordinarily disobeying ones' spiritual master is frowned upon but in this instance, Bali Maharaj's actions were valid. The word guru, according to the *Bhagavatam* refers to one who gives proper direction under the authority of the Vedic injunctions and according to the examples of the lives of great personalities. Sukracharya had previously taught Bali that everything should be offered to Vishnu. But when Vishnu appeared before Bali in the form of Lord Vamana, he warned Bali Maharaj that Vishnu would trick him and therefore he should not promise to give Lord Vamana anything in charity. This advice was contrary to Sukracharya's former recommendations and Bali Maharaj balked at this suggestion. Sukracharya was dependant on Bali and if Bali lost everything he would consequently be affected. Hence he did not give proper direction and had thus digressed from the duty of a spiritual master. Thus Bali Maharaj rejected his instruction.

*Srimad-Bhagavatam* clearly states that anyone who is supposed to be a guru but who goes against the principles of *vishnu-bhakti* cannot be accepted as a guru and if one has falsely accepted such a guru one should reject him. False gurus abound in Kali Yuga. In this age of quarrel and hypocrisy it is easy for these self-styled gurus to crawl out of the woodwork and flourish because the blind conditioned souls who do not know the goal of life, accept them. Some even claim to be God. Srila Prabhupada explains in *Srimad-Bhagavatam* 5.14.13, purport: "One should approach a guru who can extinguish the blazing fire of this material world, the struggle for existence. People want to be cheated so they go to yogis and swamis who play tricks but tricks do not mitigate the miseries of human life."

So how would one recognise an authentic guru? This is well explained in *Srimad-Bhagavatam* 5.14.14, purport: "Such a guru does not manufacture gold or juggle words. He is well versed in the conclusions of Vedic knowledge. He is freed from all material contamination and is fully engaged in Krishna's service. If one is able to obtain the dust of the lotus feet of such a guru his life becomes successful. Otherwise he is baffled both in this life and the next."

**Drakensburg Retreat**  
**with His Holiness Bhakti Charu Swami**  
Enjoy a relaxing and spiritually rejuvenating family getaway.  
Intimate discussions on Krishna's Pastimes; japa walks;  
sports and recreation for the whole family  
Includes three meals per day  
Date: 2-6 January 2012  
Venue: Champagne Sports Resort (\*\*\*\*)  
For more details: <http://www.champagnesportsresort.com/>

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haripriya@nitai.co.za  
Ramvijay Das  
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rajiv@nitai.co.za  
Hemanga Caitanya Das  
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divinefoods@telkomsa.net





## DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO SRILA PRABHUPADA

An interview by Bhaktin Kribashne Naidoo

As I enter the home of His Grace Giri Govardhan Dhari Prabhu he immediately presents a diary that was sent to him by his spiritual master, His Holiness Giriraj Swami:

*My dear Giri Govardhan Dhari*

*You have been blessed by the association of devotees and devotional service and you yourself are a blessing to the devotees and the temple. You are very dear to me and I pray that Srila Prabhupada and Radha Radhanatha will bless you and engage you more...*

*Hare Krishna.*

*Giriraj Swami  
12/06/2011*

Giri Govardhan Dhari Prabhu then hands me a neatly packed envelope of letters (he had received of over the past thirty-four years) from senior devotees and spiritual masters. He explains that he first met devotees in 1974 at the Victoria Street Market where he purchased a copy of the *Bhagavad-gita As It Is*. He showed me that *Bhagavad-gita As It Is* which now has a faded cover and is bound by cellophane tape. This he says is his prized possession which he studies from daily.

"I had many services during the early days in ISKCON. Devotees were very young at that time and I would drive them around on *sankirtan*. At Cato Ridge Sarvakanti Dasi and I would serve *prasada* on a Sunday." He earnestly expresses his desire to continue serving ISKCON but due to health reasons can only visit the temple once a week.

Visitors on a Sunday will not miss Giri Govardhan Dhari Prabhu at the temple foyer as he lovingly serves the *caranamrita* (water that bathed the deities). He recollects the twenty-two years of service at Ratha Yatra festivals as well as assisting in building the first chariot.

"Whatever you do, never leave ISKCON", were the

instructions of His Holiness Partha Sarathi Das Goswami. Prabhu beams with joy when he expresses that he has kept these words dear to his heart and has remained loyal to Srila Prabhupada.

Giri Govardhan Dhari Prabhu received initiation from Giriraj Swami in 1993 and travelled to Zimbabwe accompanying Giriraj Swami for the temple opening there. In 1995 he went on pilgrimage to the holy places in India and in 1996 assisted the Mauritian devotees prepare for Maharaja's Vyasa-puja celebration there.

Currently aged 81, Giri Govardhan Dhari Prabhu still speaks of his service with great passion and enthusiasm. His memory has not failed him as he provides details of the 1980's when he served at Govindas restaurant and assisted in the construction of the Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple. Prabhu speaks with such clarity of his time working with the construction team. His memory is vivid as he recollects assisting Sri Hari Das in placing the gold-plating on the temple dome as well as painting the devotee quarters.

Steadfastly chanting twenty rounds a day and reading Srila Prabhupada's books, Giri Govardhan Dhari Prabhu spreads the spiritual tenets to his eight grandchildren by discussing Vedic practices and regularly offering them *maha-prasada*.

It is indeed an inspiration to hear from Giri Govardhan Dhari Prabhu, who so fondly and clearly speaks of Krishna consciousness. It is evident that even at a mature age his desire to serve Srila Prabhupada is unflinching and remains the goal of his life. Giri Govardhan Dhari Prabhu is exemplary as the perfect servant of a servant!



Giri Govardhan Dhari Das

### Cook Wanted for Govinda's Restuarant

Contact:  
Krishna Chandra Das - 074 1027 675  
or  
Rasleeka Dasi - 031 403 4600

- Minimum 5 years experience
- Own transport essentail
- Must be prepared to work evenings



## NOTICE BOARD

Congratulations to the following couples on their recent nuptials:

Arisha and Tattva Dharsi Das,  
Komeshnee and Akash,  
Reshana and Mithesh,  
Tanika and Mogashan, and  
Syamarani Dasi and Asim Krishna Das

Ombudsman Balaram Das PSDG can be contacted on 0828770753 or balaram@absamail.co.za

If you would like to receive SMS or e-mail notifications about various happenings and updates, e-mail us at: kzn@pamho.net

For general queries call the temple at 031-4033328 between 9am-5pm.

We like to hear from you! If you would like to share your temple experience, spiritual or service related realisations then write to Haripriya Dasi at haripriya@nitai.co.za or Rasa-sthali Dasi at rasasthali@nitai.co.za

His Grace Rama-ghat Das, a disciple of HH Partha Sarathi Das Goswami passed away on Wednesday, 20 July 2011 at 8.55pm. We will miss his joyous association and offer our deepest condolences to Gopi-ghat Devi Dasi and family.

**Blissful Nicol Square**  
By Pralambhari Das

The blissful Nicol Square...  
The beautiful and blissful Nicol Square,  
Whether cold or scorching heat  
Every Saturday that's where *sankirtan bhaktas* meet  
With one mission, to bring souls to  
Srla Prabhupada's lotus feet  
Giving them the true happiness  
they always hankering for:  
Harer nama is the only way that's for sure!  
The reservoir of unlimited bliss!  
We dance till we can't feel our knees  
We chant out loud till our voice hiss  
We derive joy when the people sing along,  
When street vendors leave their businesses and tag along  
Being pulled by the waves of *kirtana-rasa*  
Hooking up famous dance moves like *kwasa-kwasa*  
Please come visit our blissful street next Saturday  
With your association it's surely going to be a happy day!  
**Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krsna Hare Hare**  
**Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare**

For a Simply Wonderful Experience!  
Join us in chanting, handing out sweets and book distribution  
10:30 am every Saturday starting at Nicol Square, Durban Central

## VAISHNAVA CALENDAR

- 9 August 2011 Pavitropana Ekadasi  
Fast from all grain, beans and legumes.  
Jhulana Yatra Begins
- 10 August 2011 Break fast time: 06:34-10:12  
Srla Rupa Goswami—  
Disappearance
- 13 August 2011 Lord Balaram—Appearance  
(Fast till noon)
- Second month of Caturmasya (Fast from yoghurt)
- 22 August 2011 Sri Krishna Janmastami  
(Fast till midnight)
- 23 August 2011 Srla Prabhupada—Appearance  
(Fast till noon)
- 25 August 2011 Yogini Ekadasi  
Fast from all grain, beans and legumes.
- 26 August 2011 Break fast time: 06:18-10:04
- 5 September 2011 Appearance of Srimati  
Radharani (Fast till noon)
- 8 September 2011 Parsva Ekadasi  
Fast from all grain, beans and legumes. (Fast till noon for Vamanadeva)
- 9 September 2011 Break fast time: 06:02-07:07  
Sri Vamanadeva Appearance  
Srla Jiva Goswami—Appearance
- 10 September 2011 Srla Bhaktivinoda Thakura—  
Appearance (Fast till noon)
- Third month of Caturmasya (Fast from milk)
- 23 September 2011 Indira Ekadasi  
Fast from all grain, beans and legumes.
- 24 September 2011 Break fast time: 07:10-09:46

**Deity  
Festival  
Sponsorships**

Contact: Sukumari 031 403 3328  
Email: Sukumari.PSDG@pamho.net



# Krishna Janmastami Celebrations 2011

Program Date	Area	Venue
02 August 2011	Reservoir Hills	Battersea Hall
06 August 2011	Glencoe	Glencoe Civic Hall
06 August 2011	Sarnia	Pinetown Civic Hall
12 August 2011	Clare Estate	Saligram Hall
12 August 2011	Stanger	Sabha Hall, Mahatme Gandhi St.
14 August 2011	Estcourt	Sahajananda Community Centre
17 August 2011	Chatsworth, Unit 9/11	Moorton Community Hall, Unit 9
18 August 2011	Asherville	NPS Hall
18 August 2011	Lotus Park	Lotus Park Community Hall
19 August 2011	Northdene	Sant Hall, Northdene
19 August 2011	Pietermaritzburg	Aryan Hall, Khan Road
19 August 2011	Tongaat	Gokul Hall, Visvarup
20 August 2011	Ladysmith	Ladysmith Temple
20 August 2011	Shallcross	Shallcross Community Hall
20 August 2011	Verulam	Verulam Day Care Centre
22 August 2011	Chatsworth	Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple
22 August 2011	Phoenix	New Jagannath Puri Temple
23 August 2011	Chatsworth	Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple
23 August 2011	Phoenix	New Jagannath Puri Temple
30 August 2011	Chatsworth, Havenside	Camper Hall
Tentative 19 August 2011	Durban Central	Somtseu Road Temple

Programmes begin around 6:30pm

For more  
information please  
contact the temple:  
031 403 3328  
email: [kzn@pamho.net](mailto:kzn@pamho.net)

