



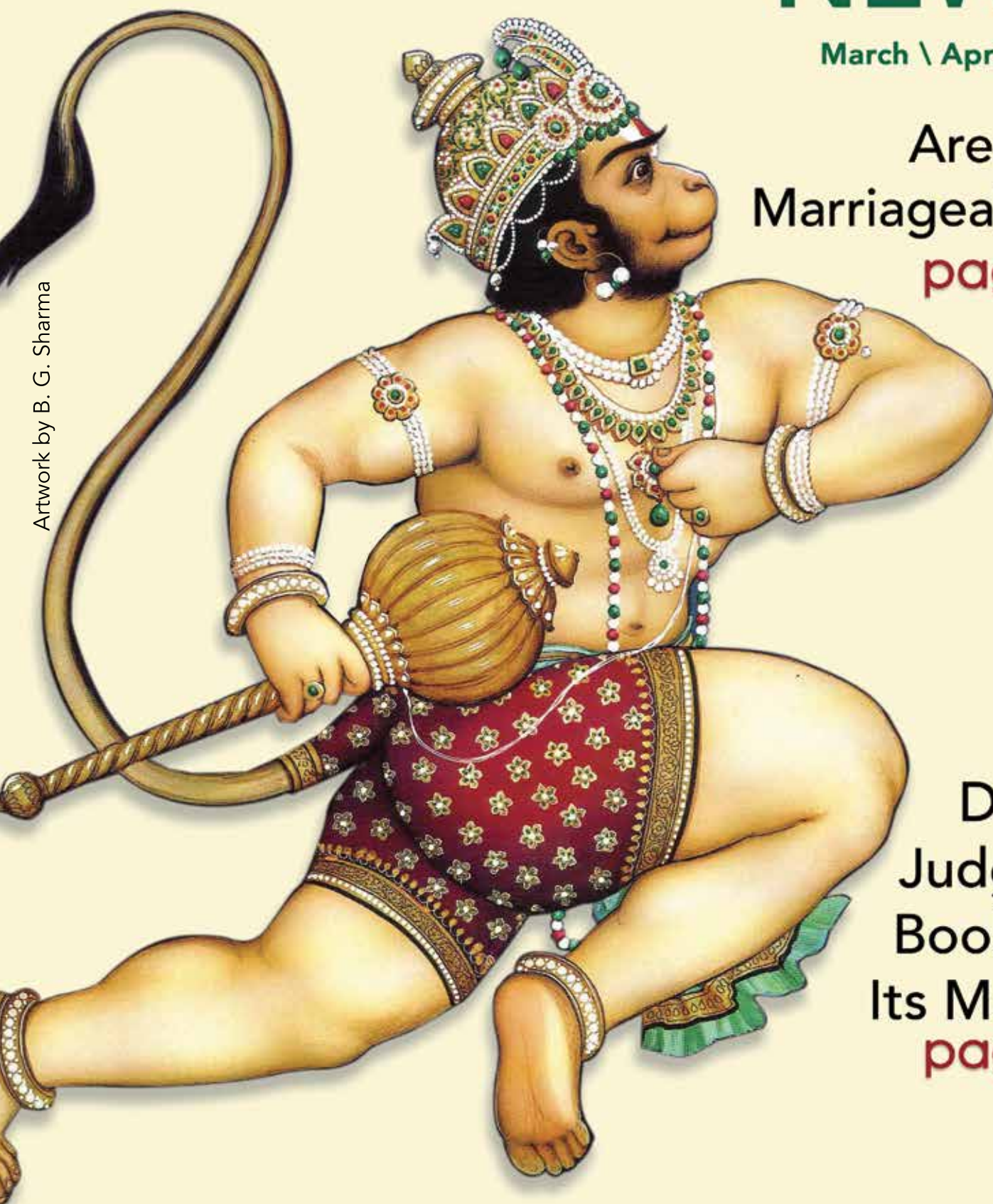
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS
Founder Acharya: His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

HARE KRISHNA NEWS

March \ April 2016

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Editor's Note

Without intention or design, this issue of Hare Krishna News focuses on what we allow to influence us consciously or unconsciously. I like to call it white noise. Well, not white noise in the traditional sense but the white noise of media, social networking, news, entertainment, lifestyle and our own environment. This constant noise, set on "shuffle," fills us with desire and anxiety. And frankly, I've had enough.

Bhakti-yoga (the path of devotion and sometimes even called the path of lovers) is practical - do this, do that, watch out for this. Hare Krishna News presents options for those who choose spiritual sound over the drone of the above mentioned invasive noise. With the uproar about the "Krishna" in the soon to be released X-men movie, we give some perspective. Knowledge gives illumination and for us to be in the knowing, the X-men "Krishna," or "Rama" from the graphic novel "Sita Sings the Blues," have little impact on our understanding and acceptance of the Supreme Lord. Our point of reference is and always shall be the *sastra*, divine knowledge coming from perfected souls. If Google is your reference library - it's time to take a second look - it is one source of unlimited information without discrimination. And a lot of it is "wolf in sheepskin".

So, we encourage hearing (which includes listening and reading) from a good source, referenced and authenticated. Srila Prabhupada's books contain knowledge from the beginning of time. It has been passed down through a line of perfected souls free from greed and illusion and filled with compassion for humanity. Srila Prabhupada, in line with the masters before him, desired more than anything else that all people of this world make a divine, tangible connection with God. He was not driven by power or money or any other motivation that would cause pain or exploit another. He was a pure servant of Krishna, the embodiment of love. Prabhupada and wanted everyone - you, the person next to you, a loved one, a long lost friend, a complete stranger or an enemy - to bask in Krishna's divine love.

We encourage you to join the path of lovers of God. After all, we are at our best when we are in love.

Warmest wishes

Rasa-sthali Dasi

PS. I would love to hear from you.

Write to me at rasasthali@iskcondurban.net

Hanuman Sets the Example

Message from ISKCON Co-National Secretary

Sundara-khanda, or the 'beautiful book' is the story of Hanuman. Each book of the *Ramayana* is titled such to describe the events in that book — *Aranya-khanda* describes the forest pastimes and *Yuddha-khanda* gives an account of the war in Lanka. *Sundara-khanda* describes that what is most beautiful is the manner in which the devotee gives everything in the service of the Lord. Since time immemorial and amongst all devotees, it has been acknowledged that a sterling example of the Supreme Lord's pure servant is Hanuman. Hanumanji is a devotee who lives only for the pleasure of his master, Lord Ramachandra. Thus he is the benchmark and a hero for all aspiring devotees of Lord Krishna.

The pure devotees' experience of service is so pleasing and satisfying that the Lord Himself, as Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, came to taste the nectar experienced in serving Lord Krishna. Service is thus the highest experience.

To fully experience that pleasure and satisfaction, which is found in only service, we have to approach service with the correct spirit. Srila Rupa Gosvami guides our understanding of *bhakti*, or pure devotional service: It must be free of all material conceptions of ourselves and it must be performed without motivation other than to please Krishna. Attachment to our material designation means we are afflicted with pride. When there is pride in our hearts, although Krishna may accept our service, He will not take pleasure in what we do. Although a monkey's nature is to be whimsical and irresponsible, Hanuman was not an ordinary monkey and performed his service conscientiously and unyieldingly.

Hanuman's service was pure because he maintained the appropriate mood and spirit in service. He constantly yearned to be in the Lord's service and never demanded it. Although

Hanuman was extensively empowered to execute the will of the Lord, he was humble in his approach, and always waited to be empowered to execute a particular service.

Every morning we pray to Tulasi Devi, who is dear to Lord Krishna, to please bestow upon us the privilege of devotional service. What does this prayer mean? By engaging in service we become privileged to approach the spiritual world. Devotional service is an honour that is awarded to us and it creates a sort of immunity from the pangs of material existence.

Which thoughtful person would not want this privilege?

Devotional service is an honour that is awarded to us...



Hearing about Krishna and His devotees is often cited as the best and most easily available service. There is no external qualification involved in hearing; we just have to be present. When we hear from sources like the revealed scriptures such as, *Bhagavad-gita* or *Srimad Bhagavatam*, and the bona fide spiritual master and saints who strictly follow the tradition taught by the scriptures, a deep appreciation for devotional service is awakened. We are able

to distinguish devotional service from personal sense enjoyment, or from the humanitarians' erroneous claim that service to man is service to God. The natural progression of high quality hearing is that we will find ourselves eager to accept any service, be blessed to execute that service in the correct spirit and view it as a privilege. However, when the quality of our hearing is weak, we tend to make up excuses to avoid service or we may even fall into the precarious condition of thinking that Krishna and the devotees are privileged to have us do the service.

Dear reader, I encourage you to place yourself in situations where you can hear from qualified devotees and take to heart the opportunities of service that Srila Prabhupada and his followers offer.

Hare Krishna.

Your well wisher and aspiring servant,
Swarup Damodar Das

Don't Judge a Book by Its Movie

Myth Buster

By Ananta Gauranga Das

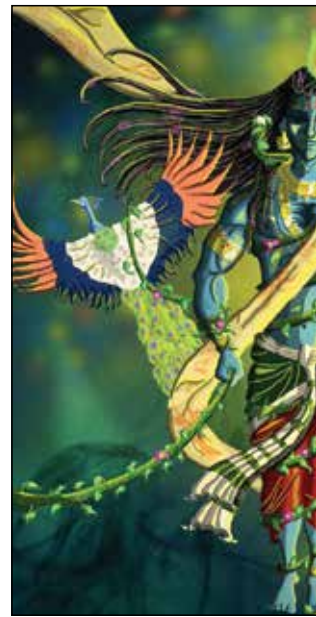
Would you let a stranger into your home? If you live in South Africa and have some semblance of sanity, you would sooner let your kids be tutored in math by Jacob Zuma than let randoms into your sanctuary. Yet daily, billions of people knowingly allow their families and loved ones to interact with strangers. These unknowns mould our concepts of reality, and influence mood, behaviour and lifestyle. We see the world not as it is but in relation to our paradigm thus one man's freedom fighter is another's terrorist. Via the medium, of mass media aliens are invading our minds and plundering our hearts as ideas and world views are interjected subtly and overtly into our unsuspecting psyche.

Rajinikanth (the Chuck Norris of Indian cinema), with only one bullet remaining in his revolver, has to apprehend two villains. He fires his weapon in the general direction of the assailants and throws a knife at the bullet, splitting the bullet in midair. The subsequent ricochet fatally wounds both perpetrators. It is said that outer space exists because it's afraid to be on the same planet as Rajinikanth. Up until a few weeks ago I was unacquainted with Rajinikanth, after watching clips of his antics I was left with two thoughts.

Some times these knights in shining armour are nothing but morons in foil.

One, where has he been all my life and two, pretty please go back! In India he is worshiped as a god by some. When his movie posters are plastered on billboards the local Indian newspapers report people in their hundreds congregate to worship the image of this mere mortal. Is such a thing really so diabolical, you may ask? Lusting over Gods position is the cause of our descent and imprisonment in earthly existence. Once upon a time, not so long ago, society had wholesome heroes, of the likes of Hanuman and Lord Rama. These super heroes were self controlled, renounced, peaceful and had conquered the three gates to hell (lust, anger and greed).

Today cult figures like James Bond are idolised by men who want to be like him and woman who want to be with him. He has a license to kill (violence is his means of communication), consumes copious amounts of alcohol ("shaken, not stirred" - a catch phrase of a glorified drunk), gambles frivolously and engages in illicit sex as he exploits as many women as possible. These are the types of personalities society have come to worship. Sometimes these knights in shining armour are nothing but morons in foil. It's ludicrous for a man to assume God's position with the disposition of selfish enjoyment. In 2010, Sex and the City 2 grossed 288 million US Dollars. In that same year, according to the World Food



Will the REAL Supreme Lord

Program, approximately 795 million people in the world did not have enough food to lead a healthy active life and 66 million primary school-age children across the developing world attend classes hungry. Are you surprised, considering the manner by which our collective consciousness is raped by the degrading half truths and whole lies of mainstream media? Not only has the film industry idolised mortals on pedestals of godly proportions, they also loot sacred texts and spin their intricate web of lies to suit their whims.

They ensnare the unsuspecting minds of the masses with an assortment of hocus pocus alchemy hatched from the egg of speculation. The

Vedas explains the numerous expansions and incarnations of the Lord according to specific junctures in history, geographic locations and the need of the populous at that time. For example, at the beginning of Kali Yuga the Lord appeared as Buddha, the son of Anjana, in the province of Gaya, for the purpose of deluding those envious of the faithful (SB. 1.3.24). Nowhere in the Vedas does it state Krishna will make His much awaited sequel to the *Bhagavad-gita* in the latest Hollywood block buster based on the popular animated series the X-men. Don't be bamboozled by these charlatans, history is tainted with earthlings masquerading in the

costume of God yet cloaked in the mentality of demons. From time immemorial individuals have used knowledge from the Vedas to superficially replace God and selfishly attempt to fulfil their desires. It's a known fact that Hitler secretly scoured ancient Vedic texts for knowledge of aeronautics. Scriptural science is like a knife; in the hands of a villain it has potential for harm yet when wielded by a surgeon is an instrument of healing.

...plunder scared spiritual texts and concoct deviant interpretations of eternal truths all for the sake of fake amusement.

When the blind lead the blind everyone falls in a ditch. Living in this world is likened to lying in the gutter; we are all downtrodden, however, those that are seeking

spiritual salvation are fixated on the stars. Not the starlets of the entertainment industry whose glitter clouds up our already foggy gaze of the all attractive Absolute Truth. They plunder sacred spiritual texts and concoct deviant interpretations of eternal truths all for the sake of fake amusement. God is the Supreme Superman and the kryptonite to our lunacy. Albert Einstein felt that there are two things that are infinite, the universe and human stupidity. However, he was not so sure about the universe. So don't be misled by the science fiction of our times. Meditate on spiritual facts as it bequeaths real knowledge.



and Krishna, please stand up!

Power Does Not Corrupt the Divine

By Rukmini Devi Dasi

"The throne is yours, Bharatha. All yours." The words dripped from Kaikeyi's lips like sweet poison, enchanting yet deadly. She held the world in her hands and was handing it to him, gift-wrapped. Only a fool would walk away. Did it matter that her delicate fingers were steeped in blood and tears? His father's blood and the tears of all of Ayodhya?

Power, such a seductive thing. It begins when we are infants and learn that a shrill cry can get you immediate attention. First we cry because we need something. Then we cry because we want something. Soon we cry just because we know we can. A younger, weaker sibling has to do what we tell them to - we borrow power from our strength. When the skinny girl finds her curves she realises that a look in the right direction and a casual flick of her hair can turn the biggest chunks of muscle into putty - she borrows power from her beauty. A frustrated father, worked to the grind by a condescending boss, lashes out at his wife and kids. Although he feels impotent at work, he claims power in the fact that he provides. Power games rule our lives.

There were credible reasons as to why the throne was Bharatha's for the taking. He was completely ignorant of his mother, Queen Kaikeyi's diabolical plan of using the old boons that her husband had given her in gratitude. She demanded that he banish his eldest son, Rama, and install her own son on the throne. And King Dasaratha, bound by his own words in duty and honour, consented and instructed his ministers to enthrone Bharatha. It was a helpless and painful decision for Dasaratha that drove him to his grave, but it was never Bharatha's doing. Now the kingdom was vulnerable without a leader. It would be dishonourable to desert his people. For the good of all, not for his own selfish pleasure, Bharatha needed to assume power.

Like the scent of blood in shark infested waters, power incites an almost irresistible hunger.



Often it is under the guise of good intentions, like a political activist that flaunts promises of free education and a better life for all as long as you help lift the crown unto his (or her) head. Can someone genuinely use power for the greater good without succumbing to the magnetic pull of selfishness?

Bharatha did what few would have the guts to do. Rama, who was the rightful heir, was robbed of the opportunity to rule. The glory of his dignified acceptance of fate and unhesitating execution of his father's wishes has lived millennia. Yet it is "easier to forsake a delicious prep that's forcibly taken of your plate than to resist the temptation of one that is within your legal reach" (Game of Life, Shattered Dreams). Bharatha's glory is, in this regard, even greater than Rama's. He not only resisted the sovereignty of the planet but was appalled by it. Not for a heartbeat would Bharatha sit on that throne. Bharatha saw only Rama as the rightful King and he led all of Ayodhya to the forest to bring Rama back. Yet upon finding Rama, he was in an even greater predicament. Rama was adamant not to return. Nothing would convince him. And worse still, Rama wanted him to rule!

And rule he did but dressed in tree bark and the matted locks of a mendicant. He ate only roots and fruits, lived in a hut on the edge of the city and ruled. Every day he would go to the shoes of Lord Rama that he had placed on the throne and report the affairs of the state. It's said that power corrupts. And absolute power corrupts absolutely. But Bharatha was an incorruptible king. The power never became him. His fixation was the Absolute Truth, Lord Rama, and the throne was merely the instrument for Bharatha to serve Him.

To Change or Not To Change

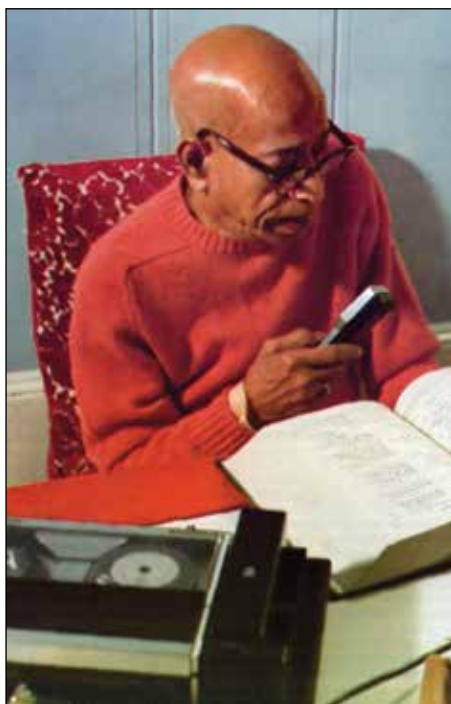
ISKCON 50

By Nashvin Gangaram

Who would you regard as a prolific best-selling author? William Shakespeare? J. R. R. Tolkien? George R. R. Martin? We may not immediately consider Srila Prabhupada amongst such literary heavyweights. However, since the inception of ISKCON, over 500 million of his books in over 80 languages have been sold. He considered his writings his most important legacy. Readers of his books have found their lives transformed by his spiritual potency. Srila Prabhupada's followers base their entire lives on the instructions in his books. Therefore, changes made to his books can be a subject of controversy.

"What? Have Srila Prabhupada's books been changed?" I hear you exclaim. "Is this appropriate?" Srila Prabhupada purely presented the teachings of God and wanted this fidelity to be maintained. Therefore, he instructed his disciples many times: "Don't add anything. Don't subtract anything. Don't change anything." However, he also engaged some of his disciples in the service of editing his words for publication, because he wanted his books to be professionally presented: "If the books are printed with spelling mistakes and other mistakes, that will be a discredit for our publication." (Letter to Brahmananda, 22 April 1970)

Why were there mistakes? Srila Prabhupada "wrote" most of his books by recording tapes using a dictating machine. His disciples would then transcribe, edit and publish. Unfortunately, especially in their early years, they made numerous mistakes because they were not yet familiar with the philosophy, Sanskrit, quotes, and Srila Prabhupada's heavy Bengali accent and English usage. The starting and stopping of the dictating machine also caused some words to be deleted. Therefore, the transcribers sometimes left things out, approximated or even guessed what was said.



Despite this, Srila Prabhupada had full faith that this literature would be effective because of the statement of *Srimad Bhagavatam* 1.5.11: "...transcendental literatures, even though imperfectly composed, are heard, sung and accepted by purified men who are thoroughly honest." He mentions in the purport: "Our presenting this matter in adequate language, especially a foreign language, will certainly fail, and there will be so many literary discrepancies despite our honest attempt to present it in the proper way... When there is fire in a house, the inmates of the house go out to get help from the neighbours who may be foreigners, and yet, without knowing the language,

the victims of the fire express themselves, and the neighbours understand the need, even though not expressed in the same language... After all, it is a technical science of spiritual values, and thus we are concerned with the techniques and not with the language. If the techniques of this great literature are understood by the people of the world, there will be success."

"What? Have Srila Prabhupada's books been changed?"

Nevertheless, Srila Prabhupada desired that errors in his books be corrected in subsequent printings: "It is not our philosophy to print errors... if you know the correct order, then you must make it perfect. That is our philosophy: everything perfect for Krishna." (Letter to Mandali Bhadra, 20 January 1972) Therefore, errors were fixed and lost material was restored from original manuscripts so that the text is clear and faithful to the letter and intention of Srila Prabhupada.

Although editing Srila Prabhupada's books may seem controversial, it is standard publishing practice to not allow mistakes to be perpetuated, especially when it is not the author's fault. Early editions of Srila Prabhupada's books were successful in drawing many people to spiritual life, and this is still true of current editions, because they remain faithful to Srila Prabhupada.

For more information about the editing of Srila Prabhupada's books, see: BBTedit.com

Are You Marriageable?

By Visakha Dasi

"When a young boy or girl sees a member of the opposite sex there is a natural attraction without the need for any introduction..." (Nectar of Devotion, Chapter 9) Prior to marriage, this natural attraction for the company of the opposite sex may lead to flirting, dating, and dallying in coyness and sexual innuendos. But such casual premarital relationships deny a young man or woman the fortitude that celibacy in mind, word and deed creates. It denies the magnificence of carefree sailing over choppy waves of unnecessary indulgences, and denies a sense of completion to one's formative years.

*If we would be married,
we must make ourselves
marriageable by becoming
disciplined human beings.*

By indulgence, material tendencies expand, one's neediness expands, and one hankers and laments.

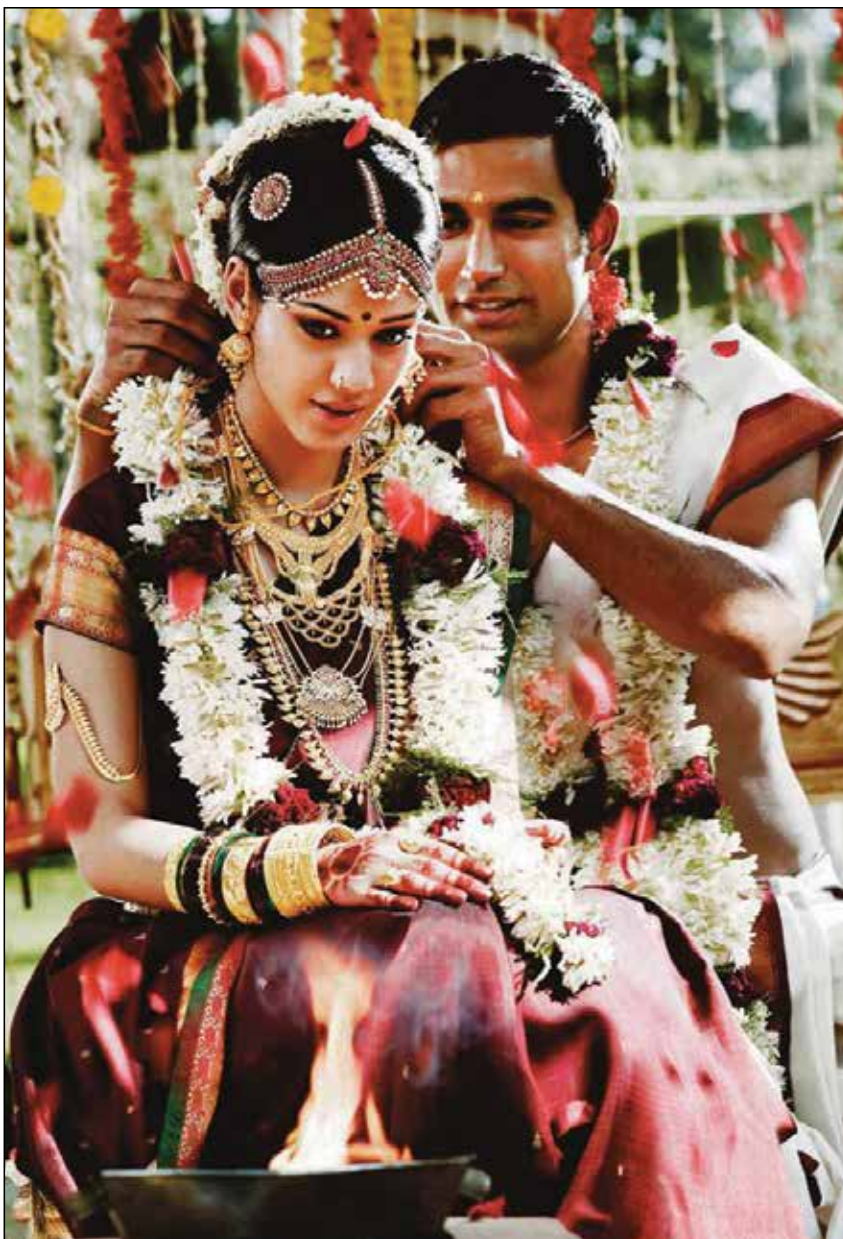
Young persons, who avoid the gifts that come from voluntary self-discipline, may later find themselves handicapped householders; that is householders who have difficulty controlling their senses, who are dissatisfied and frustrated. Why? Because they have not taken the time to find the quiet confidence of emotional fulfilment and happiness within themselves,

so they crave that from their partner. But fulfilment and happiness are not to be found there. Srila Prabhupada explains: "Unfortunately, in this present

civilisation both men and women are allowed to be attracted to one another from the very beginning of life, and because of this they are completely unable to come to the platform of self-realization. They do not know that without self-realization they suffer the greatest loss in the human form of life... The span of youth expires very quickly." (SB 4.27.4-5)

Our goal is to reestablish our relationship with God and we cannot expect to do that by defying His social standards. Moreover, when one is thinking of a qualified companion for a qualified young devotee, one is attracted to a person with inspired devotion, a kind heart and spiritual wisdom, not one who is needy and intemperate and who defies God's directives. If we would be married, we must make ourselves marriageable by becoming disciplined human beings.

We find this description in the *Srimad Bhagavatam* (4.21.4): "As the King entered the gate of the city...he was received by many beautiful unmarried girls whose bodies were bedecked with various ornaments." In his purport, Srila Prabhupada explains, "A welcome offered by unmarried girls who are internally and externally clean and are dressed in nice garments and ornaments is auspicious. *Kumaris*, or



unmarried girls untouched by the hand of any member of the opposite sex, are auspicious members of society." The *kumaris* and the *brahmacharis* (male students), separately learn to serve God, to worship Him, to become absorbed in enriching, spiritual arts and to explore their unique gifts. By developing their inner and outer lives with same-sex peers, these young people discover their personal mettle, thrive in that discovery, and have a strong sense of self worth. Their noble and godlike character is not a thing of favour or chance, but is the natural result of continued effort, self-control and good association, and their presence is always auspicious. Those who would achieve much must also sacrifice much. When young people with a solid personal foundation in self-discipline later enter household life, they also make it auspicious. "Before entering household life, a student is fully trained to become *jitendriya*, a conqueror of the senses. Such a mature student is allowed to become a householder..." (SB 5.1.18) By Krishna's grace, the future husband and the future wife find fullness and beauty first within themselves and then in each other.

After several decades, when the challenging journey of householder life finally ends, the singular strength one found in youth and maintained in mid-life can fortify one at life's closure. Srila Prabhupada writes, "...at the end of life, when one has to go back home, back to Godhead, everyone has to take care of himself without help rendered by another...Draupadi had five husbands, and no one asked Draupadi to come; Draupadi had to take care of herself without waiting for her great husbands. And because she was already trained, she at once took to concentration upon the lotus feet of Lord Vasudeva, Krishna, the Personality of Godhead." (SB 1.15.50) The ultimate goal of life is the spiritual growth of the individual; it is our personal journey to the lotus feet of the Lord. Successful training and a successful marriage nurture this most significant journey. In fact, training and marriage exists for nurturing that journey.

Visakha Dasi is a disciple of Srila Prabhupada. Srila Prabhupada bore witness to her wedding to Yadubara Das in Vrindavan. They live with their children and grandchildren in Sharanagati Village, a rural community in British Columbia, Canada, where Visakha is writing a memoir, Bhagavad-gita and One Life Transformed.



EKADASI

Fast from all grains, beans and legumes.

This fast awards spiritual benefits and detoxifies the body and mind.

Ekadasi

3 April | Sunday

Break fast

4 April | Monday

07:31 - 10:01

Ekadasi

18 April | Monday

Break fast

19 April | Tuesday

06:17 - 10:02

Ekadasi

3 May | Tuesday

Break fast

4 May | Wednesday

06:26 - 08:27

Ekadasi

17 May | Tuesday

Break fast

18 May | Wednesday

06:35 - 10:06

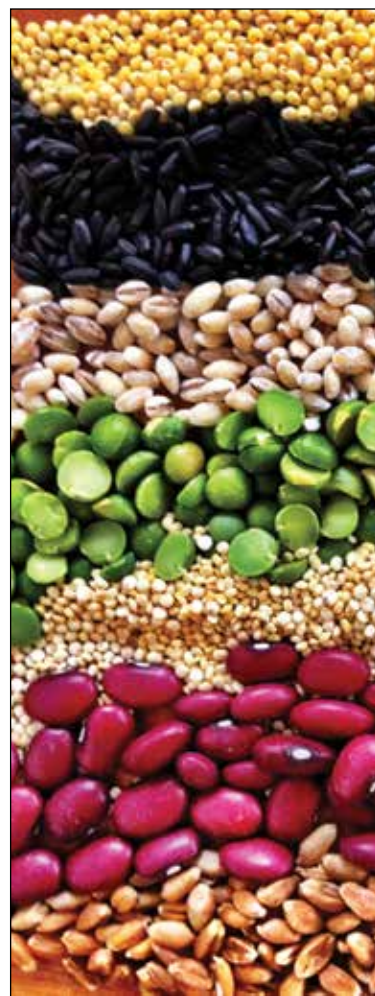
Ekadasi

1 June | Wednesday

Break fast

2 June | Thursday

06:43 - 10:10



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Inside A Good Book

By Shaunaka Muni Das

Reading is more than teasing one's consciousness about scandals and news; more than startling one's imagination with speculative thrillers and more than squandering time on following other people's (famous or not) private lives.

What's funny is that this information barely stimulates our intelligence. As intelligent life forms, we have a profound inherent nature consisting of three aspects: bliss, cognisance and eternity. We are constantly seeking after jubilation due to that inherent nature of bliss. Our facility of questioning (often improperly used) is due to that inherent nature of cognisance (to know truth). And we seek to remain young, vibrant and actively current due to our inherent nature of eternity. It's our primordial state that's been lingering throughout many generations. So it's important that we read the right material.

The intelligence needs enlightenment. If a story or an episode in any book is just entertaining and not enlightening, it will just be a passing phase for the insatiable mind. I know a lot of people who have read countless novels or other modish reading material and rarely do they remember what the novels were about, the characters, or the plots. At that point they admit they were undeniably entertained but over time it just didn't make sense to remember all those characters, sketches and plots. It does not hold value. But the Vedic scriptures and stories are not like that.

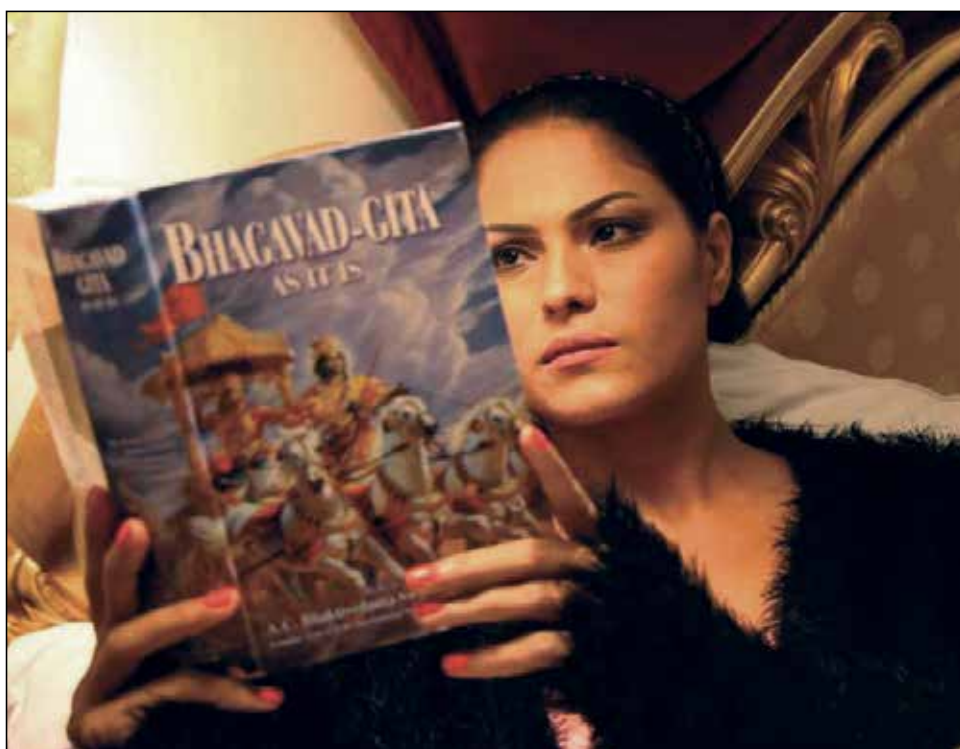
They are designed to entertain and enlighten. Therefore those stories, like Ramayana and Mahabharata, can be heard again and again. When we read these stories we gain confidence in our own lives and we gain uncommon wisdom of how to go about our lives. Think about it, how will remembering the scandal between John's daughter and Pastor Patrick's son help me during a life crisis? Or how will remembering the story of Jennifer, who got demon possessed in the middle of a lecture in high school, help me?

Or how will that big celebrity, who underwent a sex change, help me understand who God is? Divine literature invokes higher understanding, which spiritually enriches our intelligence and successfully leads us to God and our inherent state of bliss, cognisance and eternity.

Unfortunately reading has lost its initial cause. When a person is seen holding a book, two motives are most likely: entertainment or the power of knowing more. We love to be entertained. Naturally, the heart needs entertainment - remember bliss. Therefore Vedic scriptures are filled with quality intellectual stimulation and literary entertainment as well as enlightenment.

There are far more divinely amorous and sweeter relationships awaiting us in the spiritual world and the Vedas are described as portals to the spiritual world. And there are far more heart-stopping horrors also awaiting us in this material world. The Vedas are said to be our caring mother who warns and guards her young from all potential dangers.

And the reading of devotional literature is action in devotion. It opens us to the mysteries of the cosmos, tells us about the science of God; what He looks like, His character, and what He does. It also explains how we are more than the figure we see in the mirror. An unknown author once said that anyone who says they have only one life to live must not know how to read a book.





BHAKTI THEATRE



Bhakti Theatre is devotion in motion with mantra mellows that soothe the soul, hip hopping to divine rhythm and beat, enchanting poetry, and spine tingling drama that will keep you riveted. Laugh. Cry. Sing and dance along with us. Come see divinity with creative flare. It's lights, camera, and active devotion amongst good friends and great food.

This creative arts platform harnesses the energy of our youth to produce an action packed line up that is thought provoking and fun. Bhakti Theatre is a vibrant family show hosted at the Hare Krishna Temple Amphitheatre bimonthly on a Saturday. It's a family afternoon of sacred entertainment.



Admission: R10 per person, under 5s enter free and snacks are available at the BYS cafe at a nominal cost. Proceeds go to the Temple's university initiatives and the theatre itself.

Or if you're a budding musician, actor, poet or comedian with a taste for devotion and would like a spot in the lime light, contact us for an audition by emailing temple@iskcondurban.net

Bearer Of The Copper Kettle

By Shaunaka Muni Das

This piece is inspired by the misconceptions of those who condescendingly label individuals who have fully dedicated their lives to the path of God consciousness.

They call me the greatest joke of
Mankind,

Nature's loafer
An ancient omen
A procreated problem
A self-chosen escapist
What more will they call me?
I can't wait to hear their petty attempts at
defaming my Divine ancestry,

They call me a disturbance,

A party-pooper
A wet-blanket
A frustrating subject matter to society
A menace to imbalanced mindsets
An enigma to the impersonalist logician
A mystery to the hollow notepads of the
idealist poet
A supposed madman amidst all of these
Bedlam fugitives
A far-out replica of the Abstract
A crime to thought-assemblies
An improbable votary to dull
consciousness
They call me the longest standing
adversary to Monsoon clouds

Oh Sun
Oh Sun
OH SUN!!

They're so quick to over cast,
They're more concerned with chasing after
reign
Meanwhile they're judgment is completely
clouded

But!
Like the staunch nomad with his entire familial
retinue on his back, I'll walk this path,



Thus!

If you do your research you'll discover that the
annals of humankind regarding this descent,
Are still dumbfounded..

Some found it in the midst of hallucination,
When acid trips report to work then suddenly
sound becomes a sight for sore eyes and
colour becomes an enticing melody

Some found it in the ephemeral climaxes,
From senselessly engaging in coitus

A word to the enthusiasts:
If you're an aspiring butterfly, please avoid this

Funny..
So much labour for a five second High,

Event Guide

Funny..

So much frustration after that five second High,

Funny..

So much humiliation when so called 'love' turns sour because due to bad habits partners were only capable of rendering five second Highs,
Till a stranger steps in the scene

And gives more attention to the doubtful better-half
With a simple five second "Hi"

I may look a tad dishevelled with a radiant cranium embarrassed by a bad figure

Oh theatre of the mind here's another sad picture

Their laughs are filled with uncertainty
Extended with secret dialects
not knowing I was bred to read between the lines

Envy is the slave master of many,
And misery is the host of many block parties,

She loves company,
And my assumption as the Bearer Of the Copper Kettle is my resignation from her association,
Simplicity

See. .

A man came with his left brain confined

But before this destination,
he left brains behind

And cosigned,
That if you ever let the brain decide
You'll find,

The most popular outcome is no different from one who perceives with his brain left behind,
Duplicity



Appearance of Sri Ramanujacharya
11 April | Monday



Tulasi Jala Dan
Begins 14 April | Thursday
Ends 14 May | Saturday



Rama Naumi
15 April | Friday | Fast until sunset



Sri Krishna Vasanta Rasa
Hanuman Jayanti
21 April | Thursday



Appearance of
Sri Gadadhara Pandita
6 May | Friday



Appearance of Srimati Sita Devi
Consort of Lord Rama
15 May | Sunday



Appearance of
Srimati Jahnava Devi
Consort of Lord Nityananda
15 May | Sunday



Appearance of Lord Nrsimhadeva
20 May | Friday
Fast until dusk



Appearance of
Sri Madhavendra Puri
21 May | Saturday



Appearance of Sri Sri Radha-Raman
21 May | Saturday



Blueberry Lemon Cupcakes

The Vedic Chef

By Chandrashekara Das

Lemon Cupcake

- 1 cup milk
- 1 tsp apple cider vinegar
- 1¼ cups cake flour
- 2 Tbls corn flour
- ¾ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp salt
- ⅓ cup sunflower oil
- ¾ cup castor sugar
- 2 tsp vanilla essence
- 1½ tsp lemon essence
- 1 Tbls finely grated lemon zest

Preheat oven to 180 Degrees Celsius and line muffin pan with cupcake liners. Whisk milk and apple cider vinegar and set aside for 10 minutes to curdle. Sift dry ingredients (excluding sugar) into a large bowl and mix. In a separate bowl beat together milk/apple cider vinegar mixture, oil, sugar, vanilla and other extracts. Sift in the dry ingredients and stir to combine until no large lumps remain. Pour batter two-thirds full into each cupcake case and bake for 15 minutes or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Cool completely.

Blueberry Compote

- 125g blueberries (fresh or frozen)
- 2 teaspoons arrowroot powder
- 2 Tbls lemon juice
- 2 Tbls castor sugar

Combine all ingredients in a saucepan and cook over medium heat. Stir continuously for 4 to 5 minutes until mixture thickens. Cool completely.

Lemon Butter Cream Frosting

- 1 cup butter softened
- 2 cups icing sugar
- 5 Tbls fresh lemon juice
- 2 tsp finely grated lemon zest
- 1 tsp vanilla essence

Cream butter and sugar until well combined. Add lemon juice, vanilla essence and lemon zest and beat for about 7 minutes until smooth, light and fluffy.

To Assemble

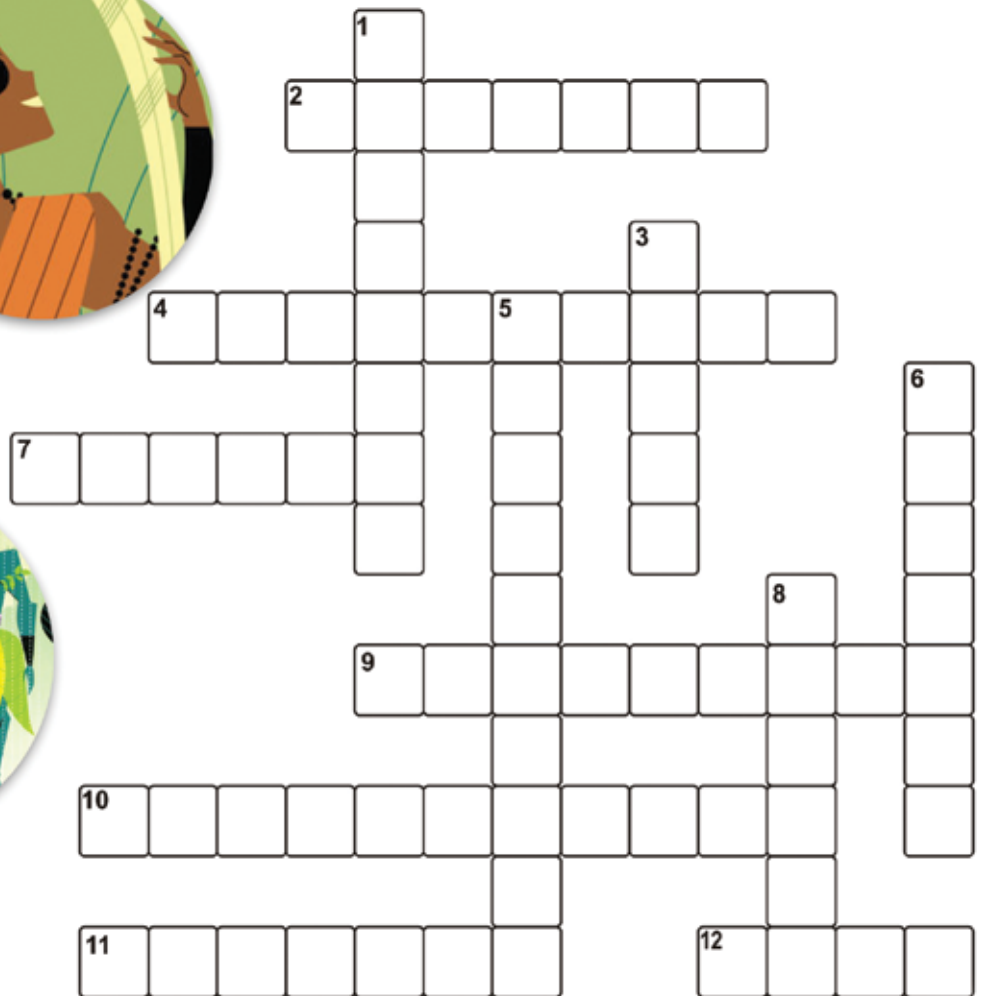
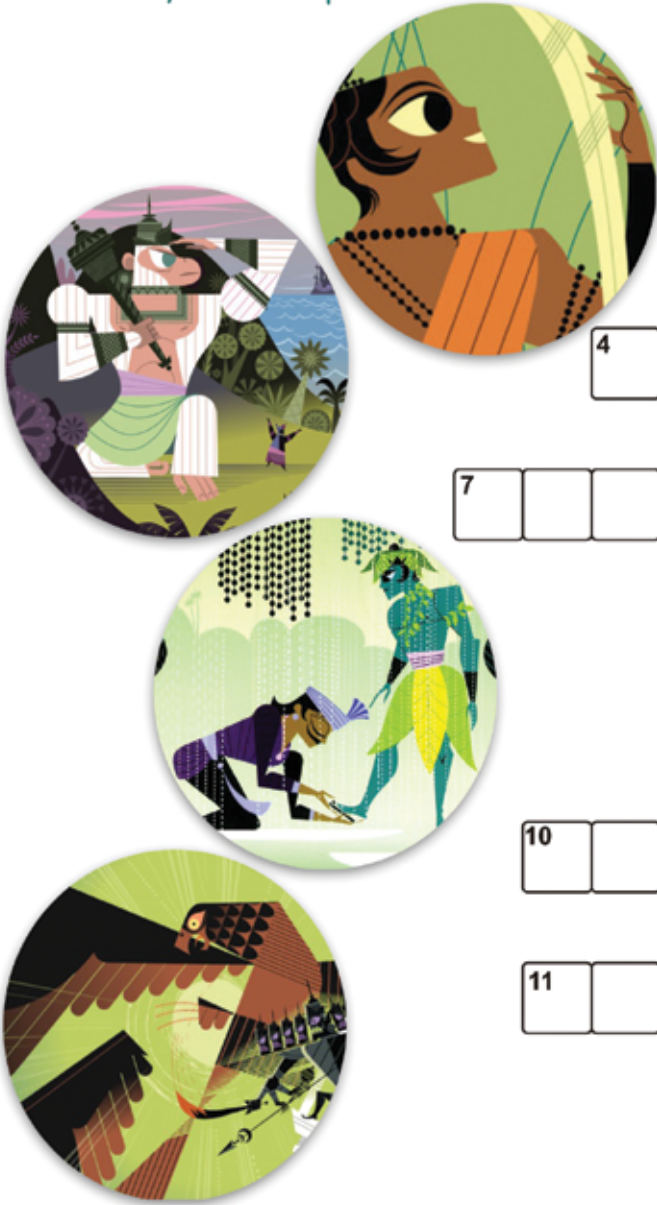
With a knife dig a neat cone out of the top of each cupcake. Set aside the cones. Spoon a heaped tablespoon of blueberry compote into the cavity of each cupcake. Pipe a ring of lemon butter cream frosting around the cavity. Gently but firmly place the cone tops onto the cupcakes. Pipe another dollop of icing onto the cupcake tops. Sprinkle with lemon zest. Offer to Krishna with love and devotion and enjoy.

Rama Crossword

For the Kids

By Yamuna Devi Dasi

Lord Rama is truthful, courageous and righteous. His pastimes in the Ramayana teach us many wonderful qualities that we can learn and try to follow. Do you know the activities and characters of Ramayana? Complete the crossword below and see how well you do.



Down

1. He went to the forest with Rama
3. Ravana's island kingdom
5. Lakshman cut off this woman's nose and ears
6. Author of Ramayana
8. The vulture king who tried to save Sita Devi

Across

2. A great devotee of Lord Rama and he has a tail
4. Ravana's saintly brother
7. Sita Devi's father
9. Ravana's wife
10. Ravana's giant brother
11. Dasaratha's wife and mother of Lakshman
12. Lord Rama's son, named after a sacred grass

RAMAYANA

THE GAME OF LIFE

**From Stress to Bliss
– The Easy Road**

By Subha Vilas Das

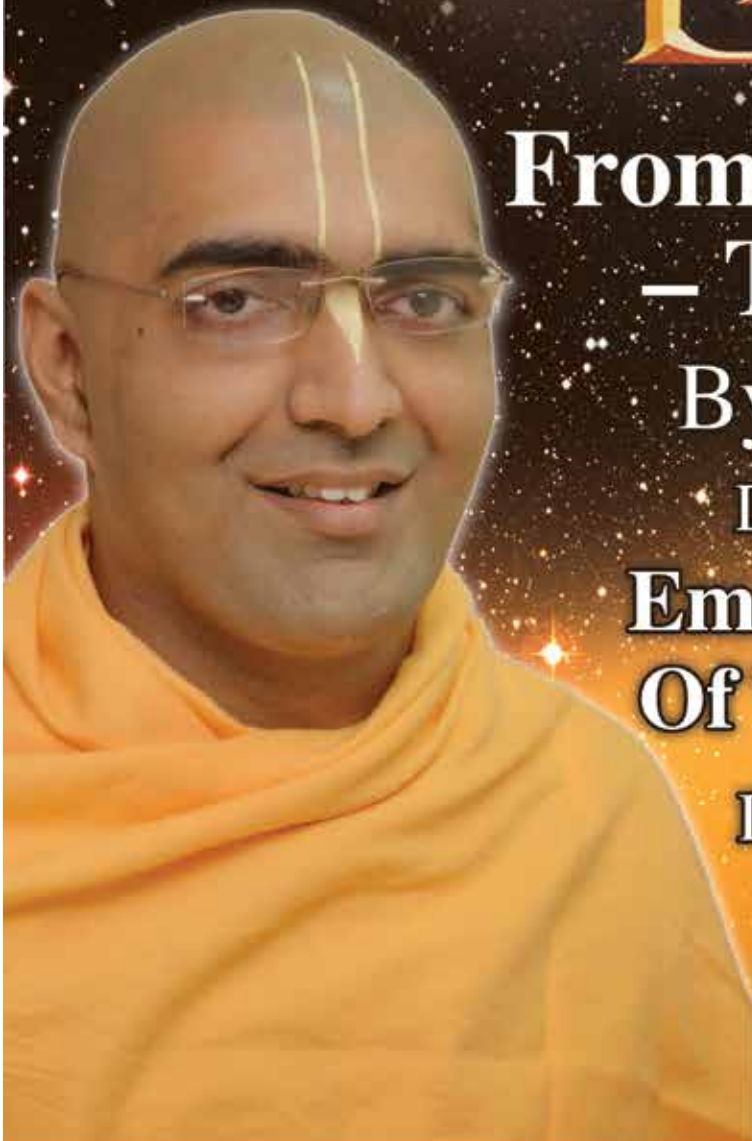
Day 1 | Saturday, 9 April

**Emotional Challenges
Of The Human Heart**

Day 2 | Sunday, 10 April

**Blessings
Of Bad Luck**

Times & Venue TBA



Seminar Fee: R200 (includes course material & meals)

Booking Essential: Alanath Das alanathdaspsdg@gmail.com | 0837752760