



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

# HARE KRISHNA NEWS

March/April 2017

**Durban  
Festival of Chariots  
14–17 April**





## In this Issue

Durban Festival of Chariots Event Highlights	3
Fashion for the Soul	6
Living with Srila Prabhupada The Moving World	7
Principles of Freedom Forever High	8
Book Review Chant And Be Happy	9
Stories from the Bhagavatam A Dance of Mercy	10
An Act for Love	11
The Spirituality of Money	12
Myth Buster Zombie	13
For the Kids Jagannath Parade Flag	14
The Vaishnava Chef Viennese Whirls	15

## Temple Directory

Communications	Krishangi Radhe 083 254 8339
Facilities Manager	Akrura 072 463 8119
Festival Manager	Balaram 082 881 4521
Finance	Ramvijay 084 550 4101
Youth Officer	Sudhir 079 144 0003
<b>General Queries</b>	031 403 3328 o/h 9am – 5pm
Contact the Temple directly for the following departments:	
Back to Godhead Queries (Wednesdays only 9am – 2pm)	
Book Table (10am – 8pm)	
Devotee Breakfast/Lunch Sponsorships – Rasalika 031 403 4600	
Govinda's Restaurant (10:30am – 7pm) Direct line 031 403 4600	
Radhanath's Gifts (10:30am – 6:30pm)	
Take Care of Krishna – Bhakti Devi (Radhanath's Gifts Manager)	

## Departments

Book Distribution	Krishna Caitanya Das 081 088 2493
Deity Department	Deva Deva 076 178 6850
Funerals	Ananta Ses 084 686 2618
Guest Accommodation	reception@iskcondurban.net 031 403 3328
House Programmes	Radha Giridhari 076 190 8485 Patita Pavan Nitai 078 455 7594
Outreach Programmes	Alanath 083 775 2760
Street Chanting	Virabhadra 071 870 0588
Temple Room Coordinator	Arjun Acharya 031 403 3328
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## Editor's Note

In the 17th century the British first saw the Ratha-yatra festival and the colossal Jagannath Deity and were astounded. They were impressed by the locals' devotion and saw Lord Jagannath as a force to be reckoned with. From the Lord's name, they coined the now English word: juggernaut – a huge, powerful, and overwhelming force.

The Ratha-yatra or Festival of Chariots certainly is an ancient force to be reckoned with. It is the oldest Vedic/spiritual festival in the history of the world. We generally have to go to a church, temple, or mosque to commune with God but at this festival, the Lord comes out of His temple to meet you and I. There is something heartwarmingly personal about this particular act of the Supreme. I guess a shadow reflection would be a world leader coming downtown to shake hands with the ordinary people and just spend time with them.

ISKCON brought this festival to the Northern, Southern, Far Eastern and Western parts of the world and has been hosting the Festival of Chariots in Durban since 1988. That is almost 30 years! Of course the venue has moved around a bit but the essence of this festival has remained the same – to unite in Divine love.

Now, if you have been to our festival and feel you don't have to come again, that is your prerogative. But let me impress upon you that seeing the great crimson smile of the Supreme is never the same. Each time you look upon Him there are blessings and awakenings. Your life is never the same, even if you don't feel it.

I recall the first Ratha-yatra that I attended. One Saturday afternoon, my parents had taken my siblings and me to the festival, which was on the beach at the time. We stayed until the evening. I recall the festive atmosphere and particularly, a talk by His Holiness Giriraj Swami. I was quite some distance away but I recall his words as clearly as if he had spoken them yesterday. He was relating the story of how his father tried to get him to come back home after he had joined the temple. I have forgotten many talks since then but not that talk. In those few moments my perspective of what I considered important in life changed forever. Anyone can have a life changing moment at Lord Jagannath's festival. Who knows what His great big eyes see and what He wants us to see.

Warm Regards

Rasa-sthali Dasi

P.S. I would love to hear from you.

Write to me at [rasasthali@iskcondurban.net](mailto:rasasthali@iskcondurban.net)

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Design and Layout by Lashika Ravjee - 082 309 2396

# Highlights at our Festival

Dear Friends

Please accept my warmest wishes. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Lord Jagannath.

2017 marks 50 years of the Ratha-yatra in the West. The Durban Festival of Chariots will be hosted over the Easter weekend (14 – 17 April) at the old Durban Drive In. This is the largest festival hosted by ISKCON in the country and arguably, the largest Vedic festival in South Africa.

This year, we endeavour to showcase Krishna consciousness from a fresh perspective thereby attracting thousands of loyal supporters and new folk also. Of course, the festival will include firm favourites such as the Chariot Parades, the mass distribution of *prasad*, world-class dramas, the Jagannath Mandir, and the chanting of the holy names.

Please accept my personal invitation to attend and participate in the 29th Durban Festival of Chariots.

Your servant  
Vibhu Chaitanya Das  
Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple President



## Festival of Chariots

14–17 April

Old Durban Drive In

### On the Cover

Sabastien Pillay, an illustrator, graphic designer and fine artist, did the cover illustration especially for this issue of Hare Krishna News. Thank you, Sabastien. He shares his inspiration, "It is human nature to invest our deepest thoughts in the turmoils or disorder of our minds and we often forget that the Lord does not dwell only in clouded skies but can reside in clouded minds. Thus we should take advantage of the Lord's presence."





# Highlights at our Festival

## Chariot Parade Routes

**Friday, 14 April, 10:30am**

Starting opposite Tropicana Hotel on OR Tambo Parade (Upper Marine Parade) at the car park, proceeding north towards Blue Waters Hotel. At Blue Waters Hotel, turning left going down Sandile Thusi Road and then turning left into Sylvester Ntuli Road and finally entering the festival site. This route is 2.8km.

**Monday, 17 April, 5pm**

Starting at the festival site, turning right into Sylvester Ntuli Road, turning left at the robots into Somtseu Road, then left into Snell Parade, heading towards Blue Waters Hotel, then turning left going down Sandile Thusi Road and then left into Sylvester Ntuli Road and finally entering the festival site. This route is 1.5km.

## International Guest Speakers/Performers

Bhakti Bringa Govinda Swami  
Bhakti Chaitanya Swami  
Bhaktimarg Swami  
Lokanath Swami  
Partha Sarathi Das Goswami  
Parividha Das  
Bhakti Brihat Bhagavata Swami  
Kadamba Kanana Swami  
Ram Govinda Swami  
Amala Kirtan Das

## Jewels of the Ramayana

By Shubha Vilas Das

## Bhagavat Katha

By Lokanath Swami

Every Afternoon

## Gift Store

Wide selection of stylish devotional apparel and paraphernalia. Don't miss the preview opening on Thursday, 13 April @5pm

## Vedic Lifestyle

Yoga  
Ayurveda  
Vaastu  
Meditation

## Body Art

Henna Art  
Gopi Dots  
Face Painting  
Temporary Tattoos



## Jagannath Mandir

Come greet Lord Jagannath  
Offerings of fruit & flowers  
Melodious Kirtan  
Vedic Initiation Ceremony

## Food Court

If you want to skip the "wood-fire" breyani, then the food court offers cuisines from around the world. And if you are into fine dining, then come to the Govinda's sit down restaurant, which offers delectable lunch and supper menus.



## Radhanath's Gifts

Network with Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple  
Loads of maha-prasad from the Deities:  
Bracelets, rings, brooches & sirbandis  
Fruit & Nut packs, and Maha Water  
Sri Sri Radha Radhanath memorabilia

### Take Care of Krishna (TCK) Bookings

The first 30 people to book a TCK will receive a copy of *A Journey Within* signed by the author, His Holiness Radhanath Swami.



## The Blue Mountain Children's Village

Entertainment

Arts

Play

Crafts

Treats

Games

**Mom & Baby**

Change & Feed Area

## Cultural Entertainment Stage

### Dramas

By acclaimed Canadian playwright & director  
Bhaktimarg Swami

The Gita

(A movement drama on the famous dialogue)

Many Mothers Many Fathers

(Based on the story of Emperor Chitraketu from the Bhagavata Purana)

### Musicals

By International artist Parividha Das

Hare Krishna

Ratha-yatra

When I'm Down

Because of You

### Music

Karnataka Musicians Karthigesan and Kirtan

North Indian Singer Keeran Eshwarlall

North Indian Vocalist & Musician Sanjay Tiluk

Classical Musicians Dr. Narahari & Veeshen

Kemraj

### Dance

Hindi Shiksha Sang

Garbha Kendra

Bharatanatyam by Kumarie Merilyn Mannikum

Theatre personality and Kathak dancer, Rory

Booth, dancing to his own musical compositions

## Festival Management

Aravinda Das 082 653 6846

Balaram Das (KDS) 082 881 4521

Prabhanu Das (Chairperson) 082 924 3009

Raghunath Das 072 565 2467

Srinivas Acharya Das 082 885 8873

Umesh Prakash 082 897 1382

Upendra Ramlakan 082 899 2923

Vibhu Caitanya Das

Vinod Inder 083 303 7148

### Main Events

Bhakti Cloud (Youth)

Rukmini Devi Dasi 084 579 1080

### Cultural Entertainment

Anuradha Devi Dasi (BCS) 082 728 5154

### Jagannath Mandhir

Priya Darshini Devi Dasi 082 072 0797

### Q&A (Discussions)

Balaram Das 082 877 0753

### Retail

Ramvijay Das 084 550 4101

### Vedic Lifestyle Expo

Sakshi Gopal Das 083 537 2108

Kindly note the following facilities at the site:  
parking, toilets, security, first aid & ATM. Mom  
& Baby feeding and change area in the Blue  
Mountain Children's Village.



## Float away with us @ the Bhakti Cloud

Poetry

Hip-Hop

Dance Master

Mantra

Yoga

Live Music

Drum Circle

12pm - 8pm

Kindly Note: Information subject to change. All information correct at print.



# Fashion for the Soul

By Gaura-bhumi Devi Dasi

Desires are intense. They burn, fester and override our consciousness. They have the ability to devour the mind, influence our consciousness, and create our identity. Desires can either impede or advance our spiritual lives. Every evening for months on end I watched my mother, Bhakti Devi Dasi, clasping her hands together before her picture of Lord Nrsimhadeva. With her eyes closed in intense concentration, she fervently prayed for one thing only. To go back to Sri Vrindavan Dham. One unassuming evening, we were asked to travel to India to shop for the Gift Store at the 2017 Durban Festival of Chariots. The trip consisted of a week in Delhi, less than three weeks in Vrindavan, and a day trip to Jaipur.

The markets of Delhi are a perfect stereotype of India, a mixed *masala* of people, animals and motor vehicles. An unlimited number of bazaars, stalls, and shops with more alleyways than you could explore in one lifetime. We searched high and low for earrings; bangles; handbags and other accessories. The choices have no limit and a single shop could require more than a full day to explore. No one can give variety like India can. Sometimes it drove me to the point of insanity.

On New Year's Eve we arrived in Sri Vrindavan Dham. In Vrindavan, it is well known that a border separates its material and spiritual dimensions. To exit one dimension and enter the other, permission should always be sought. A humble prayer helps one enter. Day after day was spent in the bazaars of Vrindavan.



*When you browse through the gift store at the Durban Festival of Chariots this year, please know that each item was handpicked with love and care.*

Browsing and choosing outfits, fabrics and paraphernalia. We spent six to seven hours a day handpicking items to be used in devotional service. The shop-keepers and business men exude culture. We were greeted, given comfortable seats, and cooldrinks. We were able to shop at our leisure. The atmosphere was light-hearted and friendly.

We spent our evenings in the Krishna-Balaram Temple courtyard and Srila Prabhupada's house absorbed in hearing enchanting devotional singing. The singing, which was accompanied by intricate *mridanga* rhythms, entered through my ears and into

my heart. This type of prayer, electrified with *bhakti*, is only heard in the land of Raman Reti.

On one bitingly cold morning we drove to Jaipur. The highway was lined with sandstone sculptors. They represent centuries of their family trade passed

down from generation to generation. Each piece was exquisite and hand-crafted to perfection. Jaipur is a city of artistic perfection and beauty. A small slice of the world can be found walking along the streets. There was an abundance of trade in every direction and we purchased few select items.

In the evening we were fortunate to visit the Govindaji Temple, which is situated within the City Palace complex. The evening *arati* is bursting with swarms of souls. The devoted, the curious, and even the non-believers. We stood at the back of the temple and watched. Nearby, a small group of elderly gentlemen were standing and singing hymns to Govindaji. They could not be heard over the throngs of devotees, but they didn't sing to be heard. They sang only to the Lord, Who watched them from the altar.

When you browse through the gift store at the Durban Festival of Chariots this year, please know that each item was handpicked with love and care. When you open the packaging, the smell that wafts out is the scent of Sri Vrindavan Dham. Swirls of *masala* incense, mixed with golden speckled dust and the earthiness of the cows. May this scent carry you back to Sri Vrindavan Dham. May you desire nothing but *bhakti*.





## The Moving World

Living With Srila Prabhupada

The following is an address by Srila Prabhupada on 5 July, 1970 at the San Francisco Ratha-yatra.

My dear boys and girls, those who have come here, I welcome you on behalf of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu appeared five hundred years ago, and He introduced this Krishna consciousness movement. This Rathayatra is one of the items of this Krishna consciousness movement. Jagannath, just try to understand Jagannath. Jagat means the moving world. *Gacchati iti jagat*, [the] Sanskrit word, *gacchati* means "which is moving". So all these planets, this universe, even the sun, everything is moving, as we are moving. We are, of course, animate. Even inanimate things are moving. Your motorcar [is] moving, your machine is moving, but they are moving under the control of some animate object...

Some of the animate objects are standing still, just like trees, but ultimately they are also moving in this sense: that one species of life is being transmigrated to another species of life. Therefore it is called *jagat*. *Jagat* means moving. And *Jagat-nath*, *nath* means the proprietor [or] master. So Jagannath means the proprietor or the master of all these movements, He is Jagannath. And Balabhadra, Balaram, *bala* means strength and *rama* means enjoyment. So Balaram means who gives you spiritual strength for enjoying eternal blissful life. He is Balaram. And Subhadra,

*su* means auspicious and *bhadra* means well-being. Subhadra, Jagannatha and Balaram combined together are present before you to reclaim you all from your miserable condition of life. That is the purport of this Rathayatra Festival. If anyone sees on the cart [of] Jagannatha, Subhadra, and Baladeva, then he does not take birth again in this material world.

*Jagannath means the proprietor or the master of all these movements...*

So I shall not take much of your time, you are tired. This Krishna consciousness movement is not a religious type. It is a great culture for spiritual emancipation. Try to understand that we are in this world. Not only we, everything is combination of matter and spirit. This body is matter; but within this body, you, the spirit soul, is encaged or embodied. There are so many species of life. Every species, every individual living entity is a combination of spirit and matter. When the spirit leaves this body, then the body is matter only.

Just like in your Bible also it is said, "Dust thou art, dust thou be-est." That dust is this body but not this spirit soul. So in this material world we are part and parcel of God, Jagannath. We are under the auspicious protection of Subhadra, and we have implicit spiritual strength. In the Vedic literature you will find, *nayam atma bala-hinena labhyo*. *Bala*, *bala* means this Balaram, the spiritual strength. The spiritual realization can be achieved by the grace of Lord Balaram.



# Forever High

Principles of Freedom

By Rukmini Devi Dasi

Those who bothered with clothes adorned themselves with orange clown wigs, scarfs, bow ties, and bikinis, and had cans of beer in their hands. Kings Day in Amsterdam means orange and white. It's a national street party. You can get high purely on passively inhaled marijuana smoke. Then entered a stream of twirling orange *gopi* skirts and flowing saffron and white *dhotis*. Glowing faces leaped effortlessly into the air to the beat of the Djembe. The Hare Krishna mantra rose like a tidal wave drowning out the mayhem. The crowd naturally parted. Some were swept up in the current. Others clung to the pavement. "Drugs!" I heard a guy shout out to his girlfriend, "They're definitely on drugs."

The irony was laughable. If only he knew the truth. Practising Hare Krishnas not only vow to avoid intoxicants like drugs and alcohol, but even milder stimulants like caffeinated drinks. Adopting a lifestyle free from chemical stimulants is one of the principles of freedom. Yes, it may mark you as the "square" in a work function, or the eternally designated driver, but this is a small reputational slur to bear in light of serious consequences. I hear the liberalist protest, "What's wrong with an occasional glass of wine?" Do spiritualists have to condemn every drop of worldly pleasure? No. The fact remains, however, that when we choose chemical "highs" to lift us above our "lows," the elation is temporary. The "high" often leaves you on a lower "low" than you were on before, breeding chemical dependance – The exact opposite of freedom.

I will not insult your intelligence. We are well aware that drugs destroy our mental and physical wellbeing and have the power to tear apart families. Research shows that 75% of crimes and 60% of divorces are alcohol or drug related. Why then would we knowingly play with fire? The designer bottle is a status symbol promoted on billboards, in movies and by celebrities. The economy, that subsequently rakes in the cash, sits pretty. Corporate giants lazily slap age restrictions on intoxicants, claiming that adults can consume them responsibly. How strange. We first restrict minors by advocating that such substances cause grievous harm and then allow them to watch adults willfully consume the same products. It is as if a liver over the age of eighteen earns immunity. Our message to the youth, "You'll get your chance when your older". Their response, "I can't wait".

What about well-mannered, moderate usage? Can't some people handle their poison if their consumption is deliberate and slow? Pure illusion. A fish sees a piece of bait dangling from a hook and knowingly decides to nibble around the edges. Human beings also possess such a mentality, owing either to the over confidence of "there's no way I can get addicted" or the desperation of "I can't see any other solution". Either way, before we know it, we are hooked.

But to spend a lifetime in sobering reality doesn't sound like fun, does it? Abstaining from intoxicants upholds self discipline. How I loathe the word. It

*Do spiritualists  
condemn every  
worldly pleasure?*





conjures the image of my grade two teacher and the wooden chalk-board duster she would knock on our heads with if we stepped out of line. I cringe in the expectation of pain. It is just so much easier to accept the well trodden path of lazy indulgence. Why deprive ourselves?

*lists have to  
every drop of  
pleasure?*

We have to look further than the tips of our noses. The *Bhagavad-gita* fires a warning shot: "for the temporary there is no endurance and for the eternal there is no demise." We can choose short term, mindless pleasure, but only at the cost of losing deep and enduring satisfaction. Self discipline awards us with control over our rampant senses and the ability to harness and sharpen our minds. It is only then that we truly have the power to choose. Is that not freedom in its essence? Yes, it requires sacrifice, which tastes bitter in the beginning, but in time transforms to nectar and awakens self realisation. Krishna classifies this type of happiness as in the mode of goodness.

And it showed on the faces of the devotees, as they danced through the streets of Amsterdam from morning till sunset. All around us people were trying to party in the only they knew how; some friends, music, lots of booze, and joints. But, once the mood-enhancing, chemical toxins waned, only empty faces remained. Yet the chanting party grew from strength to strength. The holy name entered my ears, mind, and heart with gracious vigour, and reverberated internally throughout the night. Years later, I still can't forget it.



## Chant And Be Happy

By His Divine Grace  
A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami  
Prabhupada

Published by The  
Bhaktivedanta Book Trust

Review by Byron Kyle  
R15 (soft cover)

Chanting is a process that must be experienced to realise its benefits. I used to think chanting was some kind of hocus pocus, occult worship. Those gullible enough to chant weren't having any profound spiritual experience but were just caught up in a kind of mass psychosis and hysteria causing their states of bliss.

It took a great amount of humility to set aside my personal bias and give the chanting of the Hare Krishna *maha-mantra* a try. Amazingly, I took to it quite naturally. I still felt mighty uncomfortable singing in a group but embarrassment quickly transmuted into that fabled joy and elation.

I decided I needed to educate myself further. With the help of adept volunteers at the Bhakti Yoga Society and Srila Prahbupada's book *Chant and Be Happy*, I laid to rest my bias in favour of knowledge that was logical and founded on spiritual and scientific truths. This short but eloquently written book will give a quick overview of the mechanics, benefits and science behind chanting. It also draws the reader's attention through interviews with celebrities and chanters like John Lennon and George Harrison of the famous Beatles.

*Chant and Be Happy* is ideal for those who are just discovering Krishna consciousness. If you bump into a devotee in the street, and he offers you this book, take it!

What I cannot over stress is that more than reading about chanting is to try it yourself. If that's not comfortable, seek out a devotee, a seasoned one if you can. In my personal experience, they (and I) will tell you that the benefits lie in what they've lost; their anger, ego, jealousy, stress, anxiety, and for one devotee I know, even 40kgs.

So please everyone chant:

*Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare, Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare and be happy!*



# A Dance of Mercy

Stories from the Bhagavatam  
By Shaunaka Muni Das

A long time ago, on a dreamy summer's day in the forests of Vrindavan, Krishna and His friends were tending the cows, and came to the bank of the Yamuna River. Feeling hot and thirsty, the boys and cows drank the water. They immediately fell unconscious, as if dead.

The Yamuna had become polluted with the venom of the great hundred-hooded serpent, Kaliya. Due to Kaliya's presence in the Yamuna, the waters completely changed colour and fumed of poisonous vapours, and the organisms within its proximity, including the flora around the banks, died. Krishna, seeing His friends unconscious, decided to investigate the situation. He first revived the boys and cows by His supremely powerful glance and then climbed a big *kadamba* tree and jumped into the water. The Lord's tumultuous entrance agitated all the serpents that resided there. Kaliya surfaced and with blistering anger, bit the Lord on the chest and entangled Him with his coils. No activity within the material energy can bind the Lord (*Bhagavad-gita* 9.9), but for the sweet purpose of His pastimes He acted as if He was helplessly trapped. By this time, all the residents of Vrindavan came to see the

*Krishna's dancing on Kaliya's hoods was indeed an expression of inconceivable grace and charity.*

commotion. Seeing their darling Krishna in harm's way, they became paralyzed with anxiety. But Krishna's older brother, Balaram, stood there simply smiling. He knew Krishna could easily defeat the serpent and could tell that Krishna was just allowing the motion of arrest. For the residents of Vrindavan, it was a sight too distressing to bear.

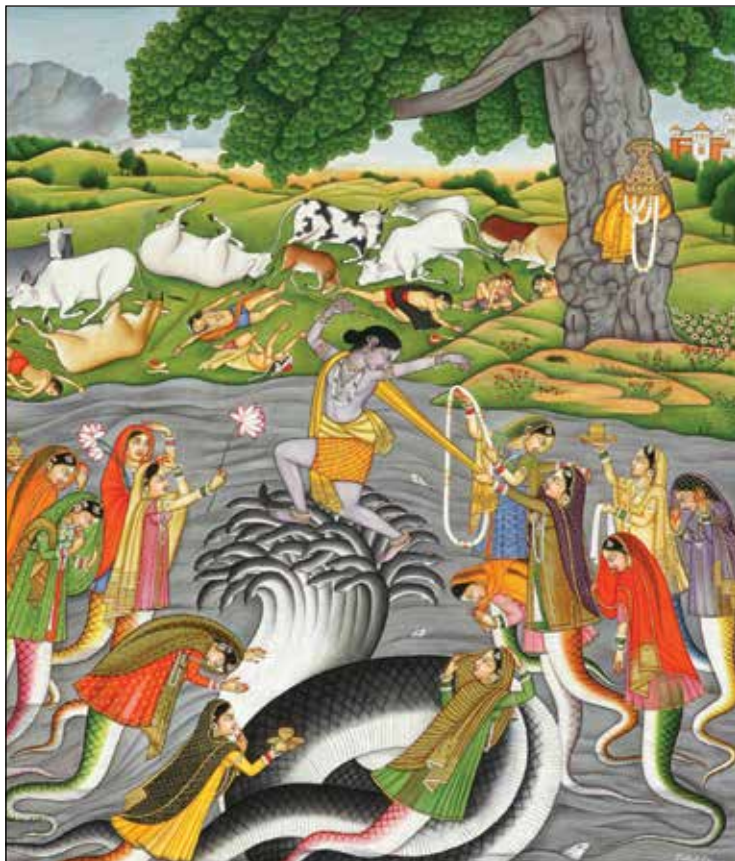
After two hours of being coiled by Kaliya and seeing how the residents of Vrindavan were overwhelmed with intense anxiety, Krishna broke free, jumped on top of the serpent's hoods, and began to dance on them. The Lord's footwork was indeed captivating. For Kaliya it was agonizing but for the residents of

Vrindavan, it was a delightful spectacle. The serpent tried to topple Krishna with his hundred hoods but the Lord skillfully evaded them and continued to dance with poise, kicking his hoods harder and harder. Kaliya soon began expelling poison, and was slowly losing his life.

Kaliya's wives, who were devout Krishna devotees, intervened with heartfelt prayers, imploring the Lord to spare their husband's life. Nectar can be spoken even by someone born with serpentine inclinations. No matter how greatly one offends, the prayers of pure Vaishnavas can earn the offender Krishna's mercy. Our predecessor spiritual master, Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakur explained that the devotee has Krishna and can therefore give Him to others.

Krishna's dancing on Kaliya's hoods was indeed an expression of inconceivable grace and charity. Krishna's expelling Kaliya's poison through His dance steps made me reflect on our own poisonous traits. They shade the natural effulgence of the soul that is meant to shine throughout the body. A clear sky is indeed beautiful due to the sun's resplendence but when a dust storm covers it, it loses its attractiveness. Similarly, the brewing dust of our unwanted qualities overcasts the brilliant soul. I'm reminded that Krishna dances on our tongues when we chant His names and just as with Kaliya, the hidden poisonous qualities in our hearts are eliminated.

Kaliya was spared by the Lord, who sympathized with the wives' prayers. The condition for his pardon was that Kaliya and his retinue had to leave the Yamuna. Kaliya, remorseful of his offenses, offered his obeisances to Krishna and left for his new home. With his fortunate hoods imprinted with Krishna's lotus feet, Kaliya was protected from all dangers.





# An Act of Love

By Taralakshi Devi Dasi

"His head pounded. Waves of anger flushed through his body. Evil flowed through his veins as he charged to strike Lord Nityananda..." I gave myself completely to the moment. I was playing the part of Madhai – the gravest sinner. But I have also played Srimati Lalita Devi (Srimati Radharani's boisterous best friend), a show host, an army lieutenant and even the personification of greed. But in day-to-day life I am a reserved girl.

I used to watch my friends on stage with admiration. Drama is something I thought I would like to do, but never envisioned that I would actually do it. It's the adventure of getting into a character and being someone else completely that's tantalizing. I was a bit insecure in my first attempt as I found it difficult to let go and perform.

I have done other services, but drama has given me the most realizations and hair raising experiences. It's because each character demanded that I study him or her from Vedic literature and I was able to tangibly feel that character through prayer. My experience is that an actor can attract the mercy of the personality she is portraying through prayer.

It was when I was awarded the role of Lalita Devi that drama opened my heart. I spent days reading up on Lalita's qualities, nature, and the way she dressed. I was eating, sleeping, and breathing Lalita Devi. The *gopis* are truly free in their love for Krishna. Lalita Devi can be bossy at times but only to sweeten the pastimes of Radha and Krishna.

From the outside, the drama crew appears like a bunch of teenagers having a good time. That is true, but I assure you that each cast member goes through some spiritual transformation. I remember praying with Shukadeva (who played Madhai's brother, Jagai) so that we could portray evil only to make the glory of the holy name shine more brightly. I also remember walking off stage with Girisha and holding each other so tightly, in tears immersed in emotion that there is hope for everyone. Even though undeserving.

Everyone can be involved in devotional service.

Drama can be gravely purifying and loads of hard work. I once had to act to the words of the prayer Gurudeva, by Bhaktivonda Thakur. One line stood out to me, "Oh Lord, please remove all desire for personal honor". Whilst preparing, I felt that the only way to be able to convey the words of the song to the audience was to first genuinely feel every word. I sat a few hours, meditating on the prayer. It's easy to sometimes feel deserving of honor, so this prayer



Left to right: Yukta, Taralaskshi, Mersha, and Shukadev.

was something I knew that I wanted to deeply work on. At the final dress rehearsal, as I danced to these words, a gush of wind blew my skirt up. Chills ran down my spine and I suddenly found myself in an ego shattering and embarrassing situation. It was one of those moments, when you beat yourself up by reliving it countless times in disbelief and horror. "Oh Lord, please remove all desire for personal honor".

*...acting in a devotional drama is not dependent on our own ability.*

I can see that I do not act, rather acting in a devotional drama is not dependent on our own ability. It is a descending process of mercy. After

ten shows, there is now a little theatre family, growing spiritually and in acting ability; and best of all we are having fun together in Krishna consciousness. I'd like to always be a part of this adventure of spiritual theatre, losing myself to personalities and surrendering to my deepest emotions.

We have only four shows left this year. Please keep an eye out on our social media for updates. I hope to see you in the audience.



# The Spirituality of Money

By Sutapa Das

I recently connected with a childhood friend who also became a monk. As you can imagine, we had lots to talk about, and lots in common. In his tradition, one of the monastic vows is to never touch money; and if he does, even by accident, he observes complete fasting for a day. Serious detachment. Admittedly, if I had adopted that vow I'd be dead and cremated by now – financial transactions seem a staple part of my daily life! But money is dangerous, and time and time again we see how it can attack the integrity of life. It's so easy to sell out on principles and purpose, in return for profit and pleasure.

The Biblical reminders of money and evil, then, still stands strong today. Its destructive influence is all pervading. In the pursuance of profit, lawyers have destroyed justice, and the media has destroyed information. Money has caused the medical Industry to destroy health, and triggered educational establishments to destroy real education. The pursuance of wealth has even attacked spiritual institutions. It seems that where financial gain is involved, all other rationale goes out of the window! If the price is right, people will sell out on just about anything, oblivious to the long-term ramifications of their acts.

But clearly we need money – to buy groceries, to pay rent, to travel... and to do good. Money is useful, and without it, you can't get much done in today's world. The famous mendicants in the Bhakti tradition, therefore, mastered the art of utilising 'material' in the pursuance of 'spiritual.' In Sanskrit, they called it *yukta-vairagya* – embracing worldly things, and connecting them to a higher purpose and noble cause. After all, it's not money that's the root of all evil, but the love of it, and the subsequent greed and materialism that surfaces. Thus, when we

selflessly utilise such assets in a spirit of detachment, without misappropriating a rand, not only do we remain unaffected, but we can create powerful positive change in the world.

Yet it must be exercised with thoughtfulness. In the 1800's, Karl Marx described money as the "universal agent of separation" – an enchanting elixir, which could unpredictably and instantaneously divorce us from our good intelligence, cherished principles and higher nature. Nowadays I'm more cautious. After all, nobody is rich enough to buy back that which is lost through greed, mundane desire and selfishness.

<https://sutapamonk.wordpress.com/2017/01/21/the-dangers-of-dough/>



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



# Brand Zombie

Myth Buster

By Ananta Gauranga Das

The wasp injects her larvae unbeknown into the frightened ladybug host. The larvae, once incubated, eat their way out of the abdomen of the poor black and red bug, who survives this ordeal. Then they weave a cocoon around the lady bug, as if transforming the ladybug into a zombie. I watched this sequence of carnage on what I like to call Superbrands: A Blu-ray DVD played from a Sony PS3 onto a Samsung curved screen with Bose surround sound.



Advertising operates on a premise similar to the wasp's. Advertisers introject their messages into peoples' psyche. The messages gnaw at our needs to horde unnecessary "necessities". Brands are so adept at it that we even pay them to advertise. We find famous logos not only on tiny labels but in large letters on the clothes we wear. This enterprise offers champagne desires on a beer budget.

How we adore the Superbrands! Expert camouflaging has made us embrace brandnames as part of our family. Their surge is overwhelming, yet we are apathetic to their subterfuge. Branding conditions us into thinking of our happiness as relative to others. Estimation of worth is determined in the looking glass of apparel and possessions. Superbrands assume personal attributes — vibrant, sophisticated, hip, or suave. Users live vicariously through their purchases. Superbrands give customers a sense of superiority and thrive on selling hope through hype.

Another point to consider is our primal need to be at the top. This drive is epitomised by the syndrome of "I, Me & Mine". We may long to be powerful, rich, famous, wealthy, intelligent or renounced. Only Bhagavan, the Supreme Being, is the possessor of all these opulences in full. Yearning to be the Supreme Commander, we buy into the media hype and try to purchase status. Branding does not reinforce an individual's self-worth. It gauges the value of people on a scale of externals. People who abandon their inner sense of self-worth in pursuance of the facade set by the media are afflicted by covert depression.

One is depressed but cannot yet see it because of the pursuit of false goals. Branding is pregnant with hope spawned by false promises of temporal happiness. It is like incubating a dull stone with the expectancy of it becoming a chick.

"They lived happily ever after" is the message engraved by brand empires in the psyche of the masses. As time surges on, covert depression transforms to overt depression in lieu of frustrated fantasies. The dark chasm of mundane life cannot be filled by the scents of Hugo Boss or the tastes of a super-sized Big Mac. When energy is misspent on an illusion, sorrow and despair ensue.

*This enterprise offers champagne desires on a beer budget.*

Don't "just do it". Don't buy into catchy slogans. Don't be duped. We're hooked on self indulgence. Why waste energy obsessing over superficialities? Let's focus on what's truly important. Then the mundane won't matter any more.

Jesus says, "Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there your heart will also be." (Luke 12:33-34)

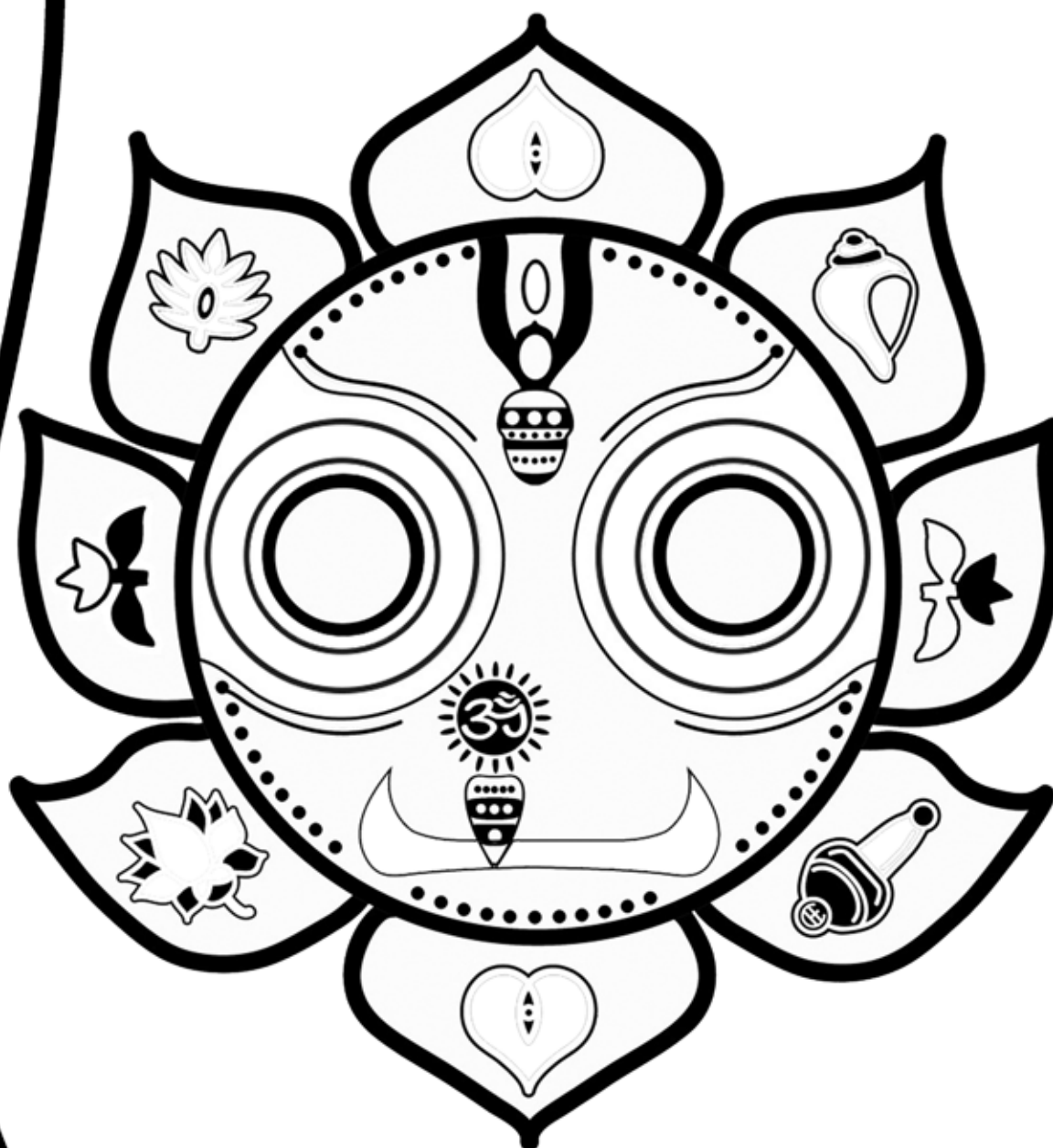
Spiritual devotion equips us with a deeper perception and ability to see things as they are. We will be able see the hand of the Supreme providing opportunities for growth even in dire circumstances. When our spiritual understanding is deepened, we won't be strangled by the noose of consumerism. Then we will truly be free.

# Jagannath Parade Flag

For the Kids

Get ready for the Jagannath Chariot Parade. You will need: colouring pens, pencils or paints, a blunt nosed scissors, a wooden dowel. Colour the Jagannath flag and cut it out. Ask a parent to laminate your flag to make it last longer. Staple the flag onto one end of the dowel and wave your flag during your walk along the Chariot Parade.

## Jagannath Festival of Chariots







## Viennese Whirls

The Vaishnava Chef  
By Chandrasekhara Das

These sandwiched biscuits are "Oh so heavenly". The trick to getting this biscuit dough to pipe perfectly is to cream the butter and sugar mixture until very pale and fluffy. For this purpose an electric beater works best. And for an uncompromising taste, use pure butter.

### Biscuit Ingredients

250g very soft butter  
50g icing sugar  
225g plain flour  
25g cornflour

### For the Filling

100g butter, softened  
200g icing sugar, plus extra for dusting  
½ tsp vanilla extract

Strawberry jam for sandwiching

### Method

Preheat the oven to 190 degrees Celsius. Line three baking sheets with non-stick baking parchment and using a four centimetre round cutter as a guide, draw eight circles on each sheet of paper, spaced well

apart. Turn the paper over so the pencil marks are underneath.

In a bowl, beat the butter and icing sugar until pale and fluffy (no less than five minutes). Sieve in the flour and cornflour and beat until thoroughly mixed (no less than five minutes).

Spoon the mixture into a piping bag fitted with a medium star nozzle. Pipe 24 swirled rounds (not rosettes), inside the circles on the baking sheets.

Bake in the centre of the oven for 13-15 minutes, until a pale golden-brown colour. Cool on the baking tray for five minutes then transfer onto a cooling rack to cool and harden.

### For the Filling

Measure the butter into a bowl and sift the icing sugar on top. Add the vanilla extract and beat with an electric whisk/beater until very light and smooth. Spoon into a piping bag fitted with a large star nozzle.

Spoon a little jam onto the flat side of twelve of the biscuits and place jam-side up on a cooling rack. Pipe the butter cream over the jam and sandwich with the remaining biscuits. Dust with icing sugar to decorate.

Offer to Krishna with love and devotion.





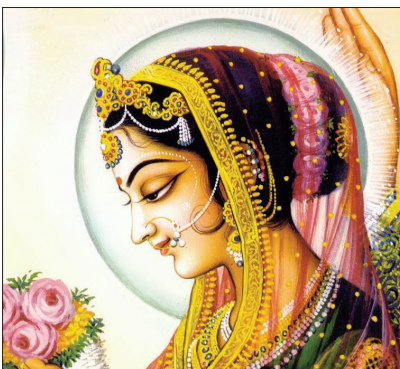
# Event Guide



Rama Naumi: Appearance of Lord Rama (Fast until sunset)  
5 April | Wednesday  
(Hindu Calendar: 4 April)



29th Durban Festival of Chariots  
14–17 April 2015



Appearance of Srimati Sita Devi & Srimati Jahnava Devi  
4 May | Thursday



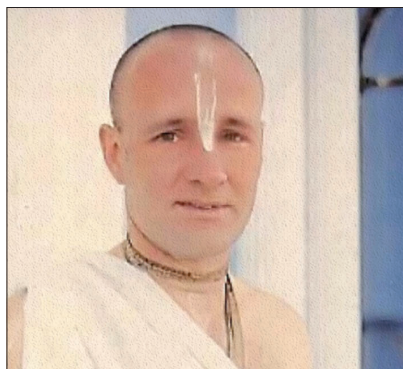
Nrsimha Caturdasi: Appearance of Lord Nrsimhadeva  
9 May | Tuesday (Fast until dusk)



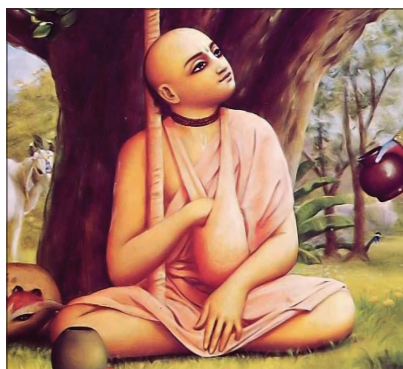
Sri Hanuman Jayanti  
Sri Krishna Vasanta Rasa  
11 April | Tuesday



Sri Gadadhara Pandit's Appearance  
26 April | Wednesday



Sri Jayananda Prabhu's Disappearance  
8 May | Monday



Appearance of Sri Madhavendra Puri & Sri Srinivasa Acarya  
10 May | Wednesday

## EKADASI

Fast from all grains, beans and legumes. This fast awards spiritual benefits and detoxifies the body and mind.

### Ekadasi

7 April | Friday

Break fast

8 April | Saturday | 06:10 – 10:01

### Ekadasi

22 April | Saturday

Break fast

23 April | Sunday | 06:19 – 10:02

### Ekadasi

6 May | Saturday

Break fast

7 May | Sunday | 06:28 – 10:04

### Ekadasi

22 May | Monday

Break fast

23 May | Tuesday | 06:38 – 08:35



## BHAKTI THEATRE

20 May | Saturday | 4pm



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