



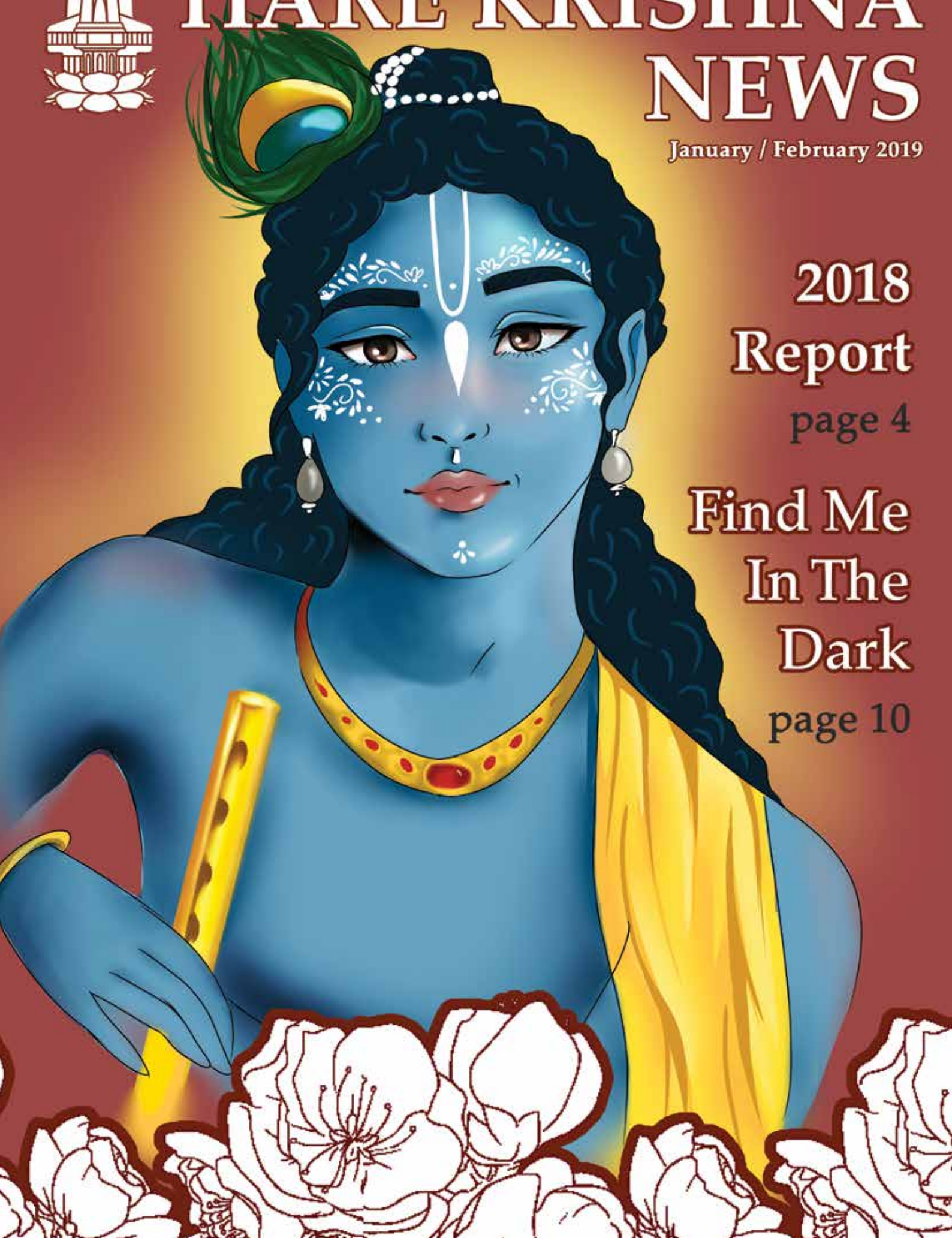
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS  
Founder Acharya: His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

# HARE KRISHNA NEWS

January / February 2019

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In The  
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## Temple Directory

Communications	Krishangi Radhe 083 254 8339
Facilities Manager	Deepak 076 541 6661
Festival Manager	Balaram 082 881 4521
Finance	Nityananda 083 557 9140
Youth Officer	Sudhir 079 144 0003
General Queries	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)	
Breakfast/Lunch Sponsorships – Bhakti Devi 031 403 4600	
Govinda's Restaurant (9:30am – 6:30pm. Direct line 031 403 4600)	
Radhanath's Gifts (10am – 6pm)	
Take Care of Krishna – Bhakti Devi (Retail Manager)	

## Departments

Book Distribution	Krishna Baladev 082 551 8047
Deity Department	Deva Deva 076 178 6850
Funerals	Ananta Sesh 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	Arjuna Acharya 031 403 3328
University Programmes	Rukmini 084 579 1080
Smart Box Queries	Vrajanath 081 5405176
Men's Ashram	Radhika Jivan 064 851 6282
Ladies' Ashram	Radha Radhanath 071 473 3355

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Dear Devotees, Friends & Well-wishers

I recently heard that the Sri Rangam Temple in South India has over 322 festivals a year. While we may not have as many festivals, we certainly have as many if not more, activities and events in the year. 2018 has been fantastic at the Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple.

It is indeed an honour for me to be serving Sri Sri Radha Radhanath, and I am especially grateful to Their amazing devotees, whom I have the pleasure to serve with. I am in total awe to their dedication, commitment, and talents. On pages 4 & 5 you will find quick stats of different aspects of the Temple and a short report from most of the Temple departments. My hope is that the report will inspire you in your service and maybe you will consider joining one of those departments too.

2019 will include most of the aspects covered last year but we have changed things a bit, starting with our new Super Sunday Love Feast, which now begins at 11am. There were extensive discussions before deciding to change the time of the Love Feast. Over the years we have found a steady decline in attendance and we noticed that the Temple was notably busy during the midday arati. We did a test run over December and January and found that the attendance was up and we received numerous positive feedback. You can expect a more power packed program, more interaction, some drama, and mostly spiritual enrichment.

There is a Bengali saying, "how much sugar you add, that much sweetness you get." We are committed to improving our services and working harder to create a sweeter experience at the temple.

May you have a spiritually enlivening 2019.

Your servant

Vibhu Chaitanya Das

Quotes from the *Srimad Bhagavatam*, *Bhagavad-gita* and pictures on pages 7, 12, & 16 are © The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust International, Inc.  
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What to Look Forward to in

# 2019



**Community Picnic** Enjoy a leisurely afternoon in the company of devotees.

## Pilgrimage to India

Join Vibhu Caitanya Das on a journey to Govardhan Eco Village, Vrindavan/Govardhan, and Tirupati (January 2020).



## Service Bundles

Invest your time wisely! Spend an hour or two in seva (service). We are making a wide variety of services available. Contact Radhika Jivan on 064 851 6282 if you would like to make a time investment. Certificates will be issued to anyone completing 60 hours of seva.



## Caring for Our Building

Amphitheatre - repairs and facelift  
Govinda's - extension and renovations  
Govinda's Express - New! Let us surprise you!  
Men's Ashram - extension and renovations  
Pathways - restoration  
Temple Foyer - renovate and facelift







# Department Report 2018

## Bhakti Theatre

- Selected to be part of 2018 Community Arts Festival at The Natal Playhouse
- 4 Shows at the Temple including the 1st Little Bhakti Theatre (under 12s)
- Performances at Clare Estate Nama-hatta Janmashtami Festival and in the amphitheatre on Janmashtami night at the Temple
- Rukmini and Rasa-sthali were recipients of the Congregational Development Award for Youth Development in Drama (Mayapur 2018)
- Facilitated devotees to offer birthday cards to Srimati Radharani on Radhashtami
- 3 family/team building days

## Branding

- Unique artwork used for 2019 calendars.
- Winner of Trip Expert Best of Durban and Expert's Choice Award 2018
- Intrepid Explorer featured the Temple in a double page spread as a "spiritual hotspot"

## Bhakti Yoga Society (BYS)

- Attention focussed on Howard and Westville campuses only
- 96 Programs across both campuses
- 2 retreats at the temple
- 2nd semester introduced alternating kirtan and yoga session
- Hosted a Bhakti Cloud Festival Tour on both Campuses and Durban Central
- Road Trip to Soweto Festival of Chariots (6 students)

## Deity Worship

- 270 bookings for Take Care of Krishna for a Day
- 84 donors and their families sponsored the 14 Major Deity Festivals
- 14 New outfits were offered to Sri Sri Radha Radhanath
- For the first time Sri Sri Radha Radhanath were offered a hand-painted outfit (on Radhashtami)

- Flower Bathing Ceremony on Radhashtami, with 700kgs of marigold and rose petals
- To Celebrate Sri Sri Radha Radhanath's 33rd Anniversary, They were taken on a boat ride in the Temple moat.
- Chadani Yatra (sandalwood pulp applied to the Deities bodies to cool Them) was celebrated in January when it was the hottest in Durban
- 200 Devotees serve in this department

	Finance
Income	11 465 066,08
• Donations	8 671 169,10
• Books & BTG	2 004 456,50 (gross)
• Retail	5 452 696,84 (gross)
Expenses	10 909 076,72
Profit	555 989,36

#### Garden & Maintenance

- In an effort to correct the Vaastu, a new garden was developed on the Higginson Highway side of the Temple.
- The devotee kitchen was extended.
- An alfresco area was created for Govinda's Pizzeria. There was a security upgrade in 2018 and there were no security issues over Janmashtami.
- Erected a information sign of all the sacred trees at the Temple

#### Govinda's

- You can now find Govinda's on Facebook and Instagram #Govindasurban
- Introduced an Ekadasi Platter
- The curry prices were decreased
- Traditional *thali* & *katori* service for sit-down patrons

#### Greater Community

- Mini Ratha-yatra from Sri Hanuman Temple to Hare Krishna Temple over Janmastami Festival
- During Kartik the Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Festival Truck toured Chatsworth every evening giving residents the opportunity to offer a lamp to Lord Damodara from their doorstep.
- Kirtan every third month in Hillcrest @The Castle
- Introduced Bhagavad-gita discussion every evening at 6pm

#### Investing in Our Future

- Ahimsa – This initiative is a move towards happy cows giving happy milk. The temple has set aside 25% (R13850 since October 2018) of their dairy expense. Details on our website:
- Legacy – This initiative is to ensure that Sri Sri Radha Radhanath will be taken care of even

when we are no longer here. Thus far 30 people have signed on. For details contact Noleen: [noleendurgapersadh@gmail.com](mailto:noleendurgapersadh@gmail.com)

#### Kirtanuity

- An Academic Paper was presented at National Hindu Youth Conference hosted by Shree Sanathan Dharma Sabha of South Africa
- Lotus FM (Chanting for Love and Peace on National radio)
- Youth Day celebration - Social Cohesion event held by the Ethekwini Municipality
- Durban Youth Radio - Interview on the Breakfast show
- The Durban Street Food Festival & Street Food Festival in PMB
- 4 Youth events based on self development and spiritual practice.
- Friday Night Bhajans and Japa night
- Preparation of the Sunday Love Feast in February and December

#### Public Relations

- Hosted new Director of Cultural Affairs from the Indian Consulate at the Temple.
- His Royal Highness Prince Manosuthu Buthelezi visited the Temple and inspired the temple residents to continue with their good work in spreading peace and love within the community.
- Janmashtami Festival featured in the Sunday Tribune front page, Mercury, POST and Saturday Independent.
- Vibhu Chaitanya Das was invited to the 90th Birthday celebration of His Royal Highness Prince Manosuthu Buthelezi

#### Radhanath's Gifts

- Exclusive stockists of the Cowpatty Range
- Stockists of exclusive Radha Radhanath merchandise
- 4 Sales in 2018

#### Women's Forum

- Hosted 6 programs which focussed on personal development, building strong families, spiritual practice for the modern woman, vegan and vegetarian cooking.
- The Women's Forum also hosted a Sunday Love Feast during the 16 Days of Activism Against Women and Child Abuse to bring awareness to the community.



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 DurbanKrishna





# The Fault with Finding Fault

Devotional Psychology

By Ananta Gauranga Das

Ever “sweetened” a cup of tea with salt or mistaken a chocolate laxative for the real thing? At times, the company of people can be like that — distasteful and crappy. Negative and overly critical people can be the human equivalent of diarrhoea, the shadow in the sunshine of existence. Let’s be honest, often we are our own worst best friend, the fly in the soup of our life. We can become a cocktail of self loathing — shaken not stirred — served with the depression of the daily grind. I believe it to be a human beverage, a brew gone horribly wrong. In the Vaishnava tradition, hypercritical fault finding is equivalent to committing spiritual suicide; thus we can apply this psychology to our devotion. Kahlil Gibran writes, “Our worst fault is the preoccupation with the faults of others.”

Let us expose the root of fault finding and provide practical remedies to overcome these maladies. Unnecessarily finding fault is a detour on our spiritual progression, one that strangles the devotional seedlings within our heart. Perhaps this rings a bell, “I don’t mean to speak negatively about Mr. Jones but...” Once we have exposed our critical thoughts and observations we may justify them by concluding, “I’m only pointing out these defects as an attempt to help”. Really? Are we honestly trying to assist or gorging at the teat of gossip slander and hypocrisy? Its been said that hypocrisy is the homage vice offers to virtue.

A colossal chasm exists between constructive critique and damaging feedback. If we are

honourably wishing to aid an individual then our mindset needs to be one of positive affirmation and sincerity — being that persons’ ever well-wisher. “A critic is someone who never actually goes to the battle yet who afterwards comes out shooting the wounded” (Tyne Daly).

## *Criticism can be deceptive, a form of internal espionage.*

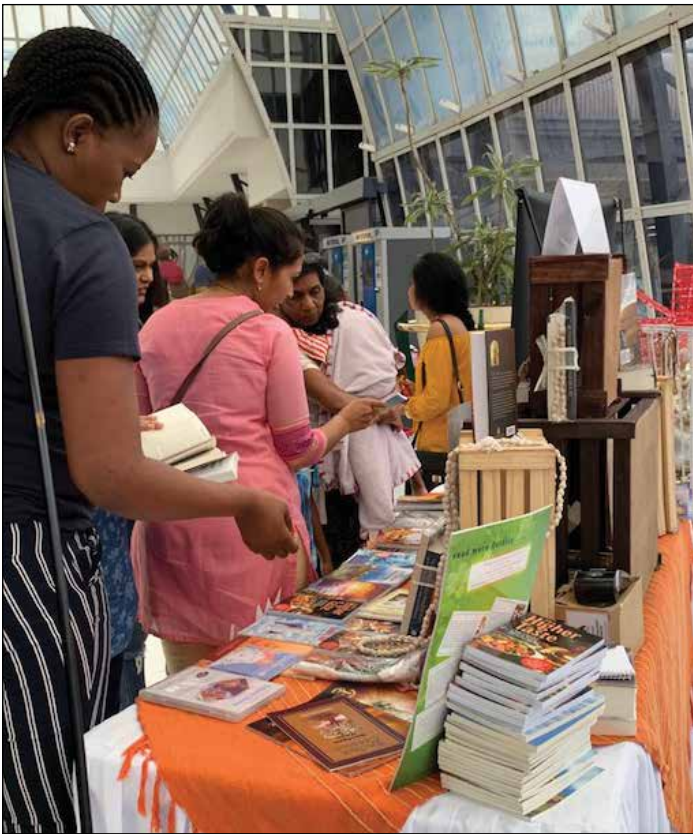
We should analyse our motives when being critical. People find it difficult to

tolerate the shortcomings of others that they themselves possess. Do you wish to help a friend or family member with an issue they struggle with? Splendid! First, begin with yourself. Criticism can be deceptive, a form of internal espionage. It can be an attempt at self aggrandisement at the expense of the faults and frailties of another. If I can point out the perceived blazing forest fire in your life then my burning curtains are not such a catastrophe. This is known as displacement, an unhealthy psychological release of energy by projecting your shortcomings onto the other. One should be honest and sensitive to the needs of others. Alice Duer Miller points out that if its painful to critique your friends — you’re safe in doing it. However, if you take the slightest pleasure in it — then bite your tongue.

If you truly have the persons best interests at heart then offer assistance. Don’t just cut them down, rather build them up. Administer caring advice and informed suggestions. For the most part encourage people to try their best. We all have our strengths and limitations. Accept people for who they are, with imperfections and blemishes. Let them be the person that they are and not the one you want them to be. In so doing you can go from fault finder to love finder. Abraham Lincoln advocated, “He has a right to criticise who has a heart to help.”

Who ever said *sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me* was possibly never pierced by the arrows of harsh words. Abrasive words cut, resulting in emotional and psychological trauma that scars more than just flesh. The human spirit is fragile. Be gentle, kind and empathetic when feelings and emotions of others are at stake. Insensitivity can break a heart, belittle an individual and foster resentment within relationships. If someone throws a stone at you — you should kill them, with kindness — throw at them a flower, but do remember to remove the flower pot.





## “I want this man only...”

Living with Srila Prabhupada

By Nashvin Gangaram

Does “Living with Srila Prabhupada” imply this column shares only personal experiences with Srila Prabhupada when he was present over 40 years ago? Or, does Srila Prabhupada still live with us in some way, right now?

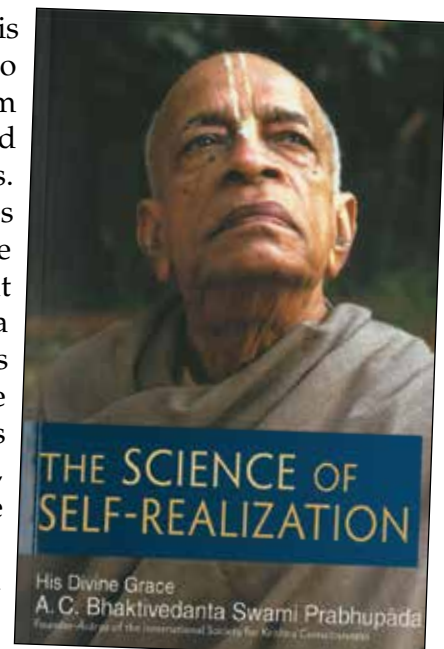
“Another feature of a devotee is that he lives forever because of his infallible devotion to the Lord. It is said, *kirtir yasya sa jivati*: “One who leaves a good reputation behind him lives forever. Specifically, one who is reputed as a devotee of the Lord undoubtedly lives forever. When Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was talking with Ramananda Raya, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu inquired, “What is the greatest reputation?” Ramananda Raya replied that a person who is reputed as a great devotee has the greatest reputation, for a devotee not only lives forever in the Vaikuntha planets, but by his reputation he also lives forever within this material world.” *Srimad Bhagavatam* 4.21.48, purport.

And Srila Prabhupada is not just any devotee. He is the perfect example for all future devotees to follow. In an interview on 16 July 1975 in San Francisco, a reporter asked Srila Prabhupada what would happen to his movement after he died. Srila Prabhupada boldly responded, “I will never die.” He then explained that he will live forever in his books. His books comprise of the knowledge of

who we are, who God is, what our relationship with Him is, and how we can develop that relationship. His instructions are for all generations to come. This ensures that his presence will always be felt. Face to face association with Srila Prabhupada was not always possible even when he was physically present. Therefore, even from that early stage, his sincere followers have made a point to absorb themselves in his books. However, Srila Prabhupada’s books are not the only way to feel his presence.

Here is my experience while distributing Srila Prabhupada’s books at The Pavilion in December. We had a display of books at an exit. I would greet all the passers-by, hoping to catch the slightest hint of interest in self-discovery or our books. I spotted a man’s sidelong glance in the direction of our book table. He was hurriedly ushered off by his wife, who seemed exhausted after a day of shopping. The man seemed eager to leave too, and had just paid for his parking, but I took a chance. I approached him, asking whether he would like to have a look at our books. “No,” he replied, with a dismissive look on his face. Trying my luck, I persisted and offered him a R5 isiZulu book. His face suddenly lit up, and he excitedly remarked, “I want this book! With this man (pointing to Srila Prabhupada) on the cover, but do you have it in English?” Surprised, I walked him over to the book table, and showed him the book’s English equivalent, which has a different front cover. His dismissive expression returned. “No, I want this man only,” he says. I then show him “The Science of Self-Realization” with a bold photograph of Srila Prabhupada covering most of the front cover. The man, brightened and renewed, gratefully bought the copy.

I described this phenomenon to others on my team and they too had similar interactions. Such occurrences provide a tangible understanding that Srila Prabhupada lives with us even today. He undoubtedly guides his loyal followers, and arranges for the people in general to find their way back to eternal happiness in spiritual life.





# We Are Known By Our Scars

## The Great Vedic Tradition of Storytelling

"I feel incomplete. I am fully equipped with all the knowledge of the Vedas, yet I feel empty." This was the sorrowful sentiment that plagued the mind of Vyasadeva. It was a sentiment that served little purpose in filling the gaping space that occupied his heart.

A more contemporary philosopher, Renè Descartes, echoed Sri Vyasadeva's painful reflection of his lack of fulfilment, after completing his life's work. Descartes was famous for many things including creating the coordinate plane system, or the "Cartesian Plane." As a post-renaissance philosopher, Descartes' life of scientific and philosophical discovery was steeped in the pursuit of God. In fact, Descartes was inspired by Pythagorean thinkers from ancient Greece who postulated that numbers were the language of divinity. Descartes went so far as to pronounce, "God gave us reason so that we may know him".

Despite Descartes' deep and meticulous philosophical and scientific inquisition into the nature of God, he too felt a cavernous hole of emptiness within his heart. Just like Vyasadeva, something was missing. And it wasn't something

small and insignificant. It was something critical, poignant, and essential for their understanding of God. Sri Narada Muni described the veil of ignorance that prevented them from having a fulfilling revelation of God:

You have not actually broadcast the sublime and spotless glories of the Personality of Godhead. That philosophy which does not satisfy the transcendental senses of the Lord is considered

*Reason and logic do not appeal to our sense of humanity, our hearts, or our spiritual inclination and desire.*

worthless. — *Srimad Bhagavatam* 1.5.8

Reason and logic do not appeal to our sense of humanity, our hearts, or our spiritual inclination and desire. Logic and the force of reason only appeal to a certain part of our being, but not the essential part, the spiritual part.

In his instruction to his student, Vyasadeva, Sri Narada explains that the only tool that can be used to engage the Truth is narrative. It is only through narrative, or storytelling, that the shallow, two-dimensional limitations of logic can be overcome. Through telling the stories that reveal the character of God, we access the deep and nuanced third dimension of spiritual experience.

This was the root cause of Vyasadeva's lamentation. He had perfectly explained the Vedas but fell short of describing the stories of love, adversity, happiness and sorrow that breathe life and meaning into the cold and clinical observations of philosophical reasoning.

Sometimes it is thought that reading *Bhagavatam* [*Bhagavata Purana*] is meant for those who are philosophically inclined. But this could not be further from the truth. The *Bhagavatam* is the ripened fruit of Vedic knowledge because it gives us a taste of loving relationships with God as it wraps us in the fabric of the multitude of enthralling and heart-rending devotional narratives. Every word is transformed into a powerful arrow





that pierces the heart of the reader causing them to fall more in love with Krishna. The *Bhagavatam* is a love story about Krishna and His devotees.

The stories of the devotees in *Bhagavatam* reveal to us what it means to love Krishna (God). A person's character, or in other words: who they are, can only be seen by knowing their story. Hence the proverb, "We are known by our scars".

Whether it's Queen Kunti's compelling prayers; Arjuna's despair at the departure of his friend, Krishna; or Draupadi's sweetness of surrender; Vitrasura's faith amidst adversity; Prahlad's pure innocence in the face of evil; Sita's heartbreaking distress; or the Gopis' sadness in separation, all the stories of these devotees are absorbing to us. It is not just because we can relate to them in a human sense, but also because they evoke a sense of spiritual empathy. It is through the scars of these devotees that we learn about devotion.

We come from a great tradition of Vaishnava storytellers. In the words of one of our prominent Vaishnava storytellers, Sri Narada:

That literature which is full of descriptions of the transcendental glories of the name, fame, forms, pastimes, etc., of the unlimited Supreme Lord is a different creation, full of transcendental words directed toward bringing about a revolution in the impious lives of this world's misdirected civilization. Such transcendental literatures, even though imperfectly composed, are heard, sung and accepted by purified [persons] who are thoroughly honest. — *Srimad Bhagavatam*: 1.5.11

By Mukundanghri Das  
Monday, 14 January 2019

*This piece was inspired by a precious conversation I had with dear friends Rukmini, Radha Priya, Krishna-Kripa, and Prem Vikas on New Years Day 2019, in Durban. Thank you for filling my heart with this mediation. The seed of this meditation came from the phenomenal Bhakti Theatre production I had the pleasure of witnessing on new years eve, entitled; "The God Who Dances". The production captured the essence of how the liberal arts play such an important role in showing how storytelling can be an instrument of education, entertainment and conveying spiritual realization in our bhakti tradition. Most importantly the arts continue the work of great storytellers that start from Lord Brahma all the way to Srila Prabhupada.*





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# Find Me in the Dark

Oh Govinda...

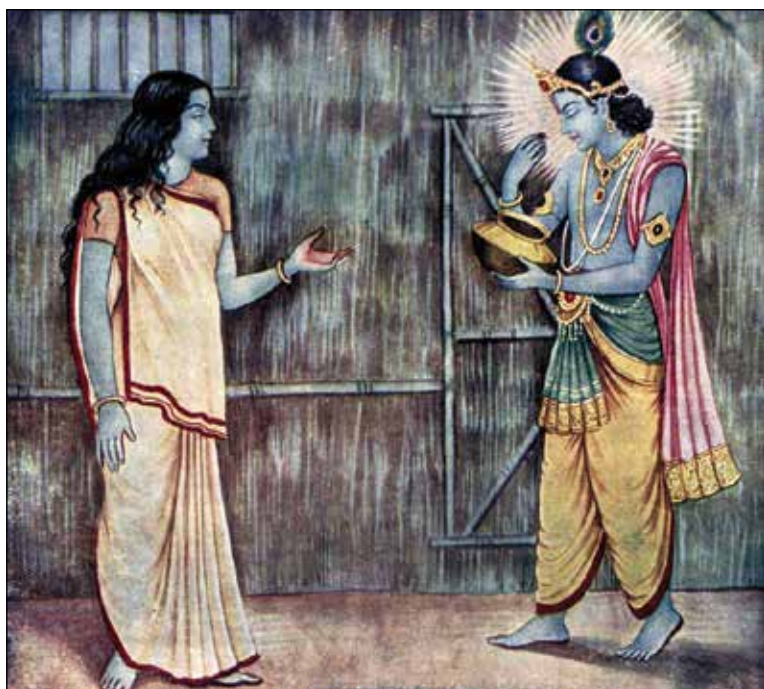
By Acyuta Gopi Dasi

All eyes were on her, and suddenly, she was having trouble breathing. She was an empress. The undisputed sovereign queen of the whole world. And she was afraid. Of guests. A few guests! How was this happening? Draupadi, Panchali, Yajnaseni, the great fire-born daughter of the heroic king Drupad, was afraid of hosting guests.

Durvasa Muni, the great ascetic had shown up unannounced with his ten thousand followers and declared they were all hungry. He requested that a meal be ready upon his return from his bath at the river. He then turned on his heel and strode away, great streams of power rippling off of him, tangible enough to feel.

A request from Durvasa Muni was a demand. There was no way around it. He was famous for his temper. And for testing those who attempted to serve him. If they passed his tests, fortune was on their side. If they failed, they faced his wrath and the consequences were dire.

But now, Durvasa Muni had come. And everyone was looking at her. Draupadi sucked in a laboured breath feeling as though she were trying to breathe under water. They had been living in the forest for years. Exiled from their prosperous empire. Food... had never been a problem before. Even the great voracious eater, Vrikodara [Bhima] never complained about the amount of food. She had received a sacred vessel from Surya, which would produce as much food as they could ever need in one day, until she herself ate. Then it's magic would be done for the day, only to start up again the next day.



It was nightfall and the Pandavas, and Draupadi had already eaten their evening meal. Her vessel was useless. Her hands shook and a weight settled firmly over her chest. This was a disaster. The sons of Dhritarastra had tried every tactic they could think of in order to destroy the Pandavas. Draupadi was afraid that, although they had survived several attempts on their lives, there was no surviving the curse of this one sage.

Her husbands looked to her. What else could they do? What else could she do? Tearing around their humble abode was useless. She knew what she would find. Nothing. Absolutely nothing. She hadn't felt this powerless since she had been dragged through the court of the Kurus and had ultimately called out to—

"Govinda!" Her outburst shocked her husbands to be sure, but she couldn't help herself. A nervous jitter had her pacing and wringing her hands. "We are drowning again. How can we escape our fate without you? What will become of us? What do we do? Govinda, Govinda!" she was very much aware that she was mumbling to herself now. But she knew her friend always had the best ideas and if she could somehow just try to think of what He would do then maybe they could—sandalwood.

Her senses were assailed by the unmistakable scent of sandalwood and..."You were calling me?" A deep voice with just a hint of a smile was just behind her. But it couldn't be. It was impossible. Draupadi shut her eyes tight and spun around. She didn't want to open them just to be disappointed but she would know that voice anywhere. She peeked. Opened just one eye. Just a tiny bit. And there, standing in the middle of their hut, where He definitely had not been before, was, "Krishna!"

There was a collective murmuring from everyone involved. Arjuna hugged his friend, Yudhisthira breathed a sigh of relief. Nakula and Sahadev rushed to pay their respects, Bhima chuckled at his uncanny timing and Draupadi's eyes filled with sweet tears of relief. After a moment of commotion, Govinda placed His hands on His hips and faced her squarely. "What seems to be the problem, my dear?"

Draupadi quickly relayed the events of the past few moments and tried to convey the incredible sense of urgency she felt. Krishna stroked His chin, deep in thought as He listened. "This is indeed a grave problem but I can't solve these kinds of problems on an empty stomach. The sage is hungry...but so am I. Feed me first. You're my friend after all!" Govinda was gazing at her, His two eyes going large and a pout tugging at His entire face. In that moment she understood how entire villages



and cities did whatever it was He wished. Even she couldn't do the impossible.

"That's just the thing! We have no food, Krishna! None at all!" She must have sounded hysterical but she hardly cared. She thought He would understand but His frown and it's resulting pout only deepened. "Tch! Sakhi, this is no time for jokes. I'm so hungry I can barely think! You must have something, bring me that mystical vessel from Surya. I want to see for myself." Draupadi wanted to argue. But there was a strange gleam in His eye. So she did as He asked. He took the copper vessel in His hands, the copper reflecting hues of dark blue and red as He peered across the surface of the clearly empty—"Ah! There!" Krishna sounded so pleased with Himself, but everyone around him snapped to attention. "Where??" The response was unanimous.

Krishna lifted His finger and on it there was what looked to be a pitiful speck of rice and vegetable. It looked more like evidence of a bad cleaning job than anything that someone would eat. Let alone Krishna. Draupadi took a step forward to stop her stubborn friend, but before she could utter a single word, Krishna said, "May the Lord of sacrifice be pleased with this offering!" Krishna stuck His finger into His mouth!

And the morsel was gone, along with all of Draupadi's warnings. Krishna made an exaggerated show of chewing, humming all the while as though it were the best meal He had ever had.

When He was finished, and Draupadi was sure she would faint from holding her breath so long, He sat back and sighed with satisfaction. His eyes slightly heavy from His "full" belly, Krishna looked languidly over at Bhima. "Brother, would you kindly tell the Rishis that their meal is ready?" Krishna's smile left no room for argument. Trusting Him absolutely, Bhima left immediately to go and speak with the sages.

Time never moved so slowly as it did in those moments while the Pandavas and Draupadi waited for Bhima to return with the sages. When his hulking frame filled the doorway again Draupadi gasped, awaiting something terrible...but nothing happened. Nothing at all.

"Well?" Yudhisthira urged his brother. "They were gone. I couldn't find them anywhere." Bhima looked as confounded as they all felt. All heads whipped back to where Krishna sat, still looking content, His hands resting on His stomach.

"What if they return? Durvasa Muni might—" Yudhisthira was saying,

"They won't return." Krishna's voice cut through all arguments. They waited for a long moment while Govinda roused Himself from His post meal haze of contentment.

"Understanding my dearest's very grave dilemma, I came as quickly as I was called...and fixed it. They won't dare return." Krishna smiled and shrugged as though the solution was as easy as a snap of His fingers.

Draupadi sighed and smiled. Yudhisthira folded his palms before him, his respect for Krishna, overwhelming. Bhima began to laugh, the sound of relief bellowing out and filling up their humble home while Krishna smiled and looked over each of them for a long while. Finally He spoke.

*"You were calling me?" A deep voice with just a hint of a smile was just behind her.*

"Now that you are sufficiently out of danger, and can rest at ease, with your permission, I will return to Dwaraka." At the word rest it seemed

that Krishna was also reminded of how late it was and He gave a great yawn that had Draupadi looking on in awe again. How did He do it? One moment He was their saviour, the next their mischievous friend. She knew she would never understand Him. She stopped trying and instead revelled in the unique feeling that overcame her each time they were visited by their friend.

Reflections from the author, Acyuta Gopi

Oh Govinda...

My love is insignificant. Barely there. And often lost in the dark. But if anyone can find just a speck of my love and turn it into everything and more, it's You. I know it. So in the dark, in the hard times, through every millennium or birth or planetary system, please come find me. Come get me. Make sense of my existence by linking me with You.

No matter what

Come find me

And no matter where I go

No matter what I do

let me always

See You.

*Acyuta Gopi is a disciple of His Holiness Radhanath Swami. She serves at the ISKCON Brooklyn Temple as a Pujari, Sunday School Teacher, and Kirtaniya. She has recently published a book, Prema Mala. You can follow her on Facebook (Acyuta Gopi), Instagram (lowercase.gopi) and acyutagopi.me*

# A Bear's Devotion

Creatures in Bhakti

By Shaunaka Muni Das

Man has been duty-bound to act for the sustenance for himself and his loved ones, motivated to enjoy the fruits of his labour. In the *Bhagavad-gita* (2.66), Krishna explains to His friend Arjuna that one who executes their duties and desires, but isn't connected with the Supreme, cannot have transcendental intelligence nor a steady mind. Without steadiness there is no possibility of peace and how can there be happiness without peace? The catch is to be at peace with oneself by detaching from the results of our actions. But how many of us can truly claim such, knowing the pressures of life? We can learn from Jambavan, the bear, who acted dutifully but separately from God:

King Satrajit was a king in the Dwaraka province and a great devotee of the Sun-god. The Sun-god awarded him the mystical Shyamantaka jewel. This jewel would create auspiciousness and produce 77,11kgs of pure gold every day. When Satrajit visited Dwaraka City, Krishna requested him to give the jewel to King Ugrasena but he refused. Shortly thereafter Satrajit's younger brother, Prasena, adorned with the jewel left the city on horseback to hunt.

On the road, a lion killed Prasena and took the jewel to a mountain cave, where the king of the bears, Jambavan, happened to reside. Jambavan

killed the lion and gave the jewel to his son to play with. When Satrajit's brother did not return, Satrajit presumed that Krishna had killed him for the jewel. Hearing these rumours Krishna decided to clear His name and went with some of the citizens to find Prasena, only to discover his dead body and the dead bodies of his horse and the lion. The trail led Lord Krishna to Jambavan's cave, which He decided to investigate alone. When inside, He saw the Shyamantaka jewel cast aside next to a child. Krishna reached for the jewel, and the child's caretaker cried out in alarm, bringing Jambavan quickly to the scene. Jambavan, who was a dear devotee of Krishna, mistook Him to be an ordinary man, and a fight ensued.

*It is important to understand the personal liberty in the path of devotional yoga.*

Jambavan, feeling his survival threatened and deluded by material attachment, acted out of fear to protect his own. For twenty-eight days the two fought, until Jambavan grew weak from the Lord's

blows. And it finally dawned on him that his opponent was Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Jambavan then began to praise the Lord and by the touch of Krishna's lotus hand, all his fear was dispelled. With great devotion Jambavan gladly surrendered the jewel, together with his daughter, Jambavati, knowing that nothing should obstruct our surrender to God.

Jambavan behaved contrary to his eternal position as God's devotee, all on the grounds of being a father and a provider. Many a time, we find ourselves fearful and protective of our acquisitions, especially if they satisfy or protect our loved ones. But Krishna advises us (BG 18.66) that if our duties or morals obstruct our service to Him, then we should work on discarding them. We may act according to our natures but only as servants of God. Offering the outcomes of our work to Him will bring us to perfection, even as members of society.

It is important to understand the personal liberty in the path of devotional yoga. It is not rocket science — rather it is a science of offering and intimacy. When we direct our love towards God through this particular process, the result becomes *para-isha anubhava*: we experience God, who is the transcendental Supreme Controller. This experience is so fulfilling that it grants one detachment. When a starved man is replete, he will no longer crave delectable food.





# Before You Set Sail

Marriage Matters

By Sri Radha Govinda Dasi

## Things to Consider Before Marriage

Our years from early adulthood to maturity can be compared to an ocean. It can be the most productive yet most dangerous part of life because the pull of our senses is strong and we may be driven by our emotions and sexual attraction without the experience or wisdom of elders. Married life is compared to a boat that helps us safely cross the ocean of youth. As a single man or woman, thinking about marriage places you “on the shore” — facing the expanse of water in front of you, looking at your future years and considering boarding the ship. You therefore need to learn how to sail. Starting your journey with no preparation, nor clear idea of the sea nor the art of sailing, would be dangerous. Your ship may capsize or your journey might be super-slow. It would be a bad idea to board the ship without training — to get married without preparing yourself.

## Look at Yourself

Before you start looking for a partner — or before you make a serious commitment to the person you may have in mind — you need to take a deep look at yourself and assess your level of preparation: spiritual, emotional, economic, social, etc. Please don't think you are ready to get married just because you feel lonely, desire companionship or are trying to assuage sexual urges. Neither should you marry because celibate life is difficult or relatives are pushing you into it. These may be legitimate factors, but by themselves they do not guarantee a peaceful and successful marriage. There is much more to learn and consider. Instincts and hormonal changes might be sufficient for the mating of animals, but they are not enough for civilised human beings.

## Marriage Requires Training

Whilst a career choice usually requires three to four years of your life in study, people seldom consider that being married requires training. In traditional Vedic culture a boy was groomed in a Gurukula where he would receive such training and a girl would within her family environment. Who can claim to have received such a childhood and preparation for life and its challenges? In the absence of such a system it behooves the individual to open their minds and hearts, be



willing to introspect and deeply consider what it takes to make a marriage spiritually grounded. A mechanical approach will not work.

## The Five Sections

Over the next five issues of Hare Krishna News we will approach the idea of embarking the ship of marriage in five sections. Each section contains various lessons. The sections' themes connect with the overall allegory of sailing across the ocean:

*Please don't think you are ready to get married just because you feel lonely.*

*Art of Sailing:* Broad and general principles of married life based on spiritual principles.

*Sailor's Fitness:* Aspects of your outlook and

personal circumstances that needs to be developed to have a successful marriage.

*Mapping Your Journey:* Elements of preparation and orientation.

*Storms, Sharks & Other Dangers:* Threats to smooth, progressive sailing and things that can badly effect or even destroy your marriage.

*Choosing Your Shipmate:* Guidelines to consider in looking for a life-partner.

I hope we grow together in this series of articles, and that it leaves you enriched and educated for the seas ahead. If you are already married consider this an enrichment course to charter!

*Sri Radha Govinda is the Director of Bhakti Marriage System and is Amazon's best-selling author of Awaken Your Spiritual Destiny. Follow her on Youtube and Facebook.*

# Savory Scones

The Vaishnava Chef

By Chandrashekara Das

This is great for lunch boxes and are easy to freeze and reheat for an on-the-go snack.

## Ingredients

3 cups self-raising flour

½ tsp baking powder

½ tsp sugar

1 tsp hing

1 tsp Spanish smoked paprika (optional)

1 tsp mustard powder

½ tsp sea salt

Pinch white pepper

¼ cup butter; room temperature

1 cup milk

½ cup sour cream

½ cup grated cheddar cheese

1 Tbsp chopped fresh rosemary

## Method

Sift all the dry ingredients together.

Rub butter into dry ingredients until the mixture resembles bread crumbs.

Add the milk and ¼ cup of the sour cream blending the mixture with a knife or your fingertips until the mixture just comes together.

Add the cheese and rosemary and mix through until well incorporated.

Pat or roll out dough to 3cm thickness and punch out scones using a biscuit cutter.

Place onto a greased baking tray and brush the scones with the remaining sour cream.

Bake at 180° for about 20 minutes or until well puffed and golden.

Offer to Krishna with love and devotion.

Serving suggestion: Serve with basil pesto and cheese. You can also serve with cream cheese and cucumber or fill with your favourite salad.



## On The Cover

Krishna

By Sudevi Sundari Sabadyr

17 year-old Sudevi was born and raised in the holy land of Sri Mayapur (the birthplace of Lord Chaitanya). She is fluent in Russian, Bengali, and English. She has been an eager art student since she was a child. Her artistic inclinations are not reserved to drawing only but to theatre as well.

Sudevi shares her inspiration behind her digital drawing of Krishna: "Being raised in a holy place, I am surrounded by devotees and reminded of Krishna constantly. I feel it is important to acquire a taste for Krishna from a young age as it trains the mind to become steadfast in devotional service, which will be beneficial throughout one's life. I was recently involved in a drama about Usha & Aniruddha (Lord Krishna's grandson). When Aniruddha was defeated by Usha's father, King Banasura, he remained confident that Sri Krishna would come for him and protect him. Krishna did come and a battle ensued. Banasura was a descendant of the great devotee, Prahlad Maharaj and devoted to Lord Shiva. Krishna spared Banasura, keeping his promise to Prahlad Maharaj that he would not kill any of his descendants. Instead Krishna made him one of Lord Shiva's principal attendants. By observing the movements of Sri Krishna in this drama I realised that He is always here for His devotees and how merciful He is. This gave me the inspiration for this drawing. I have been practicing digital art for about two years now. It is more challenging than it looks but no medium is hard with enough practice and inspiration."



# My School Time Table

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	Period 7	Period 8
Day 1								
Day 2								
Day 3								
Day 4								
Day 5								
Day 6								
Day 7								

art by Bhakti Yogini of Saragrahi Art





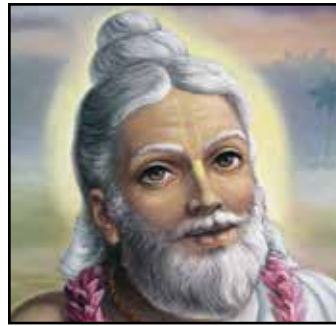
# Event Guide



Vasant Pancami &  
Srimati Visnupriya  
Devi's Appearance  
Sunday 10 February



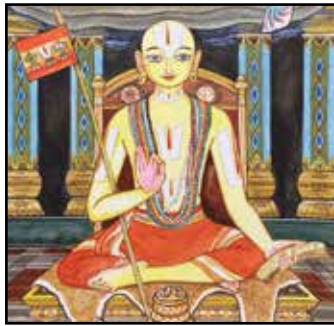
Sri Raghunath Das  
Gosvami's Appearance  
Sunday 10 February



Sri Advaita Acharya's  
Appearance  
Fast until midday  
Tuesday 12 February



Sri Madhvacharya's  
Disappearance  
Thursday 14 February



Sri Ramanujacharya's  
Disappearance  
Friday 15 February



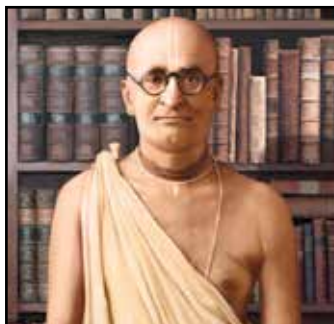
Sri Nityananda Prabhu's  
Appearance (Fast until  
midday on 16 Feb)  
Sunday 17 February



Lord Varahadeva's  
Appearance (Fast until  
midday on 16 Feb)  
Sunday 17 February



Sri Narottam Das  
Thakur's Appearance  
Tuesday 19 February



Sri Bhaktisiddhanta  
Sarasvati Thakura's  
Appearance (Fast until midday)  
Saturday 23 February



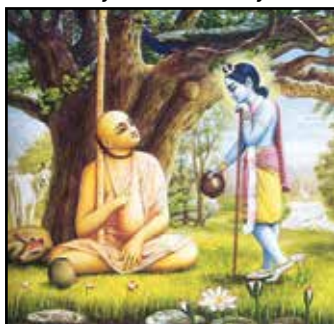
Shiva Ratri  
Tuesday 4 March



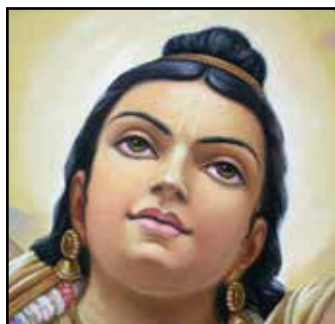
Sri Jagannath Das  
Babaji's Disappearance  
Thursday 7 March



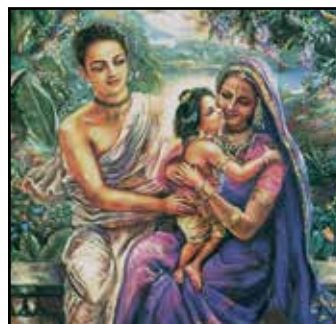
Bhakti Theatre  
Saturday 9 March @4pm



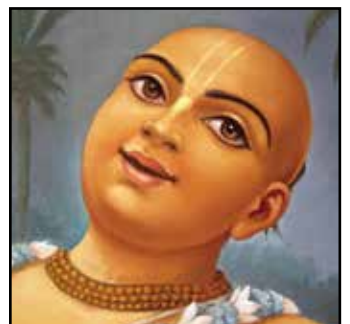
Sri Madhavendra Puri's  
Disappearance  
Monday 18 March



Gaura Purnima: Sri  
Caitanya Mahaprabhu's  
Appearance (Fast until  
moonrise) Thurs 21 March



Festival of  
Jagannath Misra  
Friday 22 March



Sri Srivas Pandit's  
Appearance  
Thursday 28 March

## Ekadasi

16 Feb | Saturday  
Break fast  
17 Feb | Sunday  
05:37 - 09:59

## Ekadasi

2 March | Saturday  
Break fast  
3 March | Sunday  
05:48 - 10:01

## Ekadasi

17 March | Sunday  
Break fast  
18 March | Monday  
05:57 - 10:01

## Ekadasi

31 March | Sunday  
Break fast  
1 April | Monday  
09:14 - 10:01

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