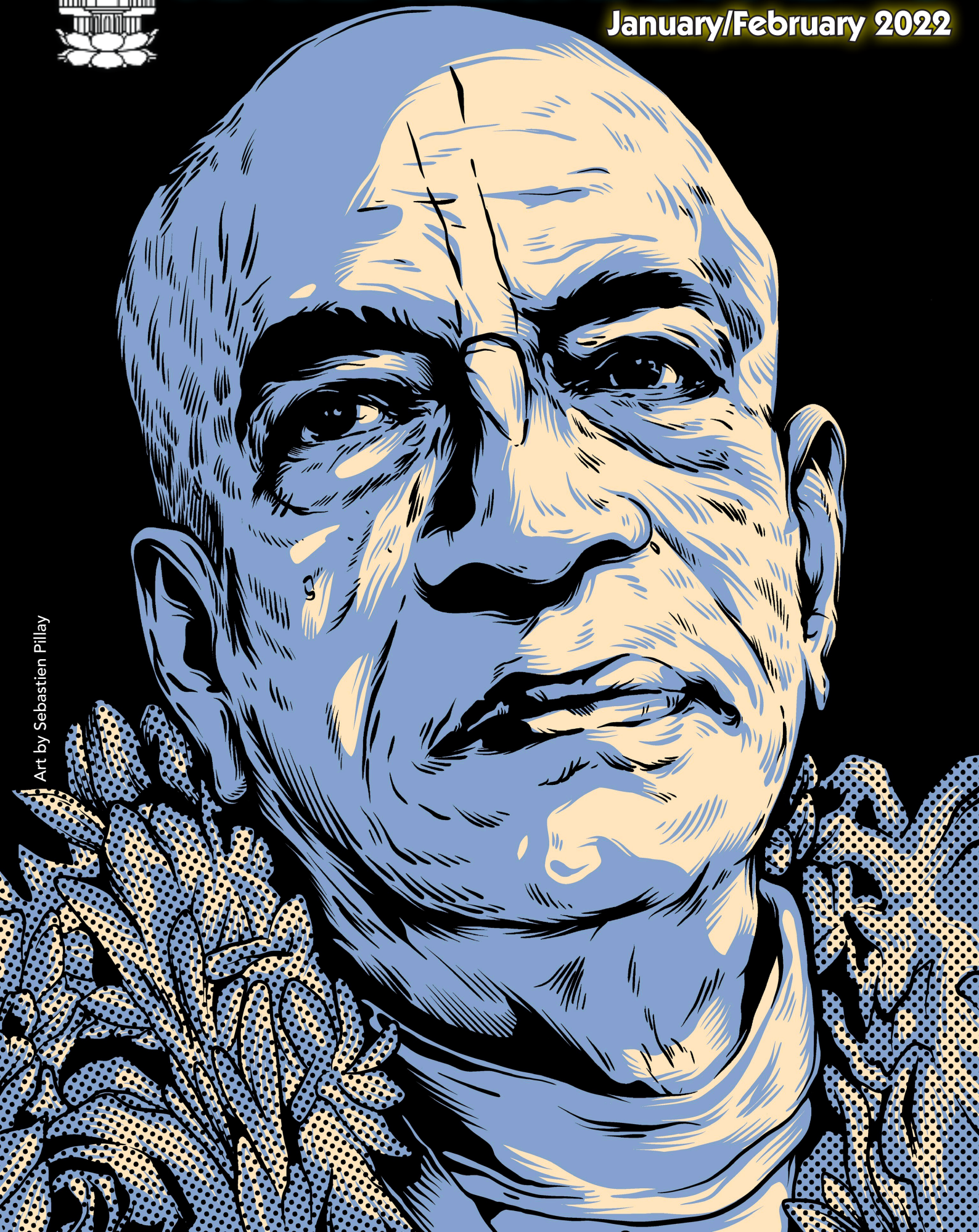




INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS
Founder Acharya: His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

HARE KRISHNA NEWS

January/February 2022



Art by Sebastian Pillay

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How to Contact Us

Call 031 403 3328 or
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temple@iskcondurban.net

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5. You MUST save the number to your contacts and
MUST subscribe personally in order to receive the
broadcasts.

Child Protection Office:
durbancpt@gmail.com
076 719 6461
www.childprotectionoffice.org

Vaishnava Calendar

5 Feb Sa	Appearance of Srimati Vishnupriya Devi (Consort of Lord Chaitanya) Vasanth Panchami
7 Feb Mo	Sri Advaita Acharya's Appearance (Fast until noon)
12 Feb Sa	Ekadasi (Fast until noon for Lord Varahadeva)
13 Feb Su	Break fast 05:34 - 09:58 Lord Varahadeva's Appearance (Fast on Sa 12 Feb)
14 Feb Mo	Sri Nityananda Trayodasi: Sri Nityananda Prabhu's Appearance (Fast until noon)
21 Feb Mo	Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur's Appearance (Fast until noon)
27 Feb Su	Ekadasi
28 Feb Mo	Break fast 05:46 - 10:00 Maha Shivaratri
3 Mar Th	Srila Jagannath Das Babaji's Disappearance
14 Mar Mo	Ekadasi
15 Mar Tu	Break fast 05:56 - 09:44
18 Mar Fr	Sri Gaura Purnima: Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's Appearance (Fast until moonrise)
19 Mar Sa	Festival of Jagannath Misra
28 Mar Mo	Ekadasi
29 Mar Tu	Break fast 06:04 - 10:01
2-9 Apr	Ramayana Week
10 Apr Su	Sri Rama Naumi: Lord Ramachandra's Appearance (Fast until sunset)
12 Apr Tu	Ekadasi
13 Apr We	Break fast 07:31-10:02

Calling All Writers & Artists

Are you an artist or writer? Would you like to see
your art or article published in Hare Krishna News?
We love to publish local talent.

Write to the editor, Rasa-sthali Dasi:
rasasthali@iskcondurban.net

Hare Krishna News layout & design by Rasa-sthali Dasi.

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SRI SRI RADHA RADHANATH TEMPLE

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ISKCON Durban
DurbanKrishna



Message from The Temple President

By Ramvijay Das

ISKCON has been impacted by the unprecedented challenge the world has had to endure over the last two years and has had to adapt. Our greatest challenge undoubtedly is association, which is a key element in devotional practice. Devotees have missed the wonderful programs, festivals, *kirtans*, and classes, which were integral in our lives. Fortunately, we were not bereft of association as many devotees, continued to provide inspiration, guidance, and nourishment via various virtual events. Yet we still yearn for the days of being able to come together in joyful union at the lotus feet of Sri Sri Radha Radhanath. With the 4th wave passing its peak, the Sri Sri Radha Radhanath temple has reverted to in-person programs, extended *darshans*, and more service opportunities.

I invite you to take full advantage and wholeheartedly participate in every opportunity Sri Sri Radha Radhanath allows us. It's time for all that pent up devotion to burst forth into active service in association. Do not take the occasions of direct interaction for granted. We have seen how the complex and intricate arrangements of this world are hanging by a thread and how they quickly unravel. Now that we have gained first-hand experience, let's be wiser and not place our faith in the temporal nature of this world. Rather, invest in the one thing that is of eternal benefit, devotional service.

Let us invest in restoring our hearts and minds back to our original Krishna conscious state. Let us take full advantage of the events and services that lie before us to help us get there. We don't know how long we have left and for how long these treasures will be available. So, take advantage of every opportunity with urgency.

Our temple, the home of Sri Sri Radha Radhanath, is the pivot for Krishna consciousness, offering the community numerous opportunities for close to 40 years. We are deeply grateful to the devotees who worked tirelessly to build Sri Sri Radha Radhanath temple and those who have worked hard to look after it over these decades. However, time has taken its toll on the temple and it is in need of a lot of work to restore it to its original state. I request you to commit yourself to restoring Sri Sri

Radha Radhanath's home to its former glory. Let us reignite the enthusiasm and thrill of the "early" days, that strong pioneering spirit, where each devotee felt the need to do something for Srila Prabhupada in gratitude for what he had given us. Let us all become fully involved in whatever ways we can, to be part of something bigger.

Swarup Damodar Prabhu and I thank the thousands of devotees, friends and well-wishers for their loyal support, encouragement, and service to Sri Sri Radha Radhanath over the decades. During the pandemic, we have witnessed a number of unsung heroes come forward to offer support and service to ensure that Sri Sri Radha Radhanath and their devotees were properly taken care of. A special thank you to all who risked so much to render services during these trying times. We would love to see more devotees actively engage in serving Sri Sri Radha Radhanath, both at the temple and in expanding Their mission, wherever you may be situated. I invite you to write to me your ideas, suggestions, and offers of participation in service: temple@iskcondurban.net.



Temple Schedule
Darshan 9am – 7:30pm Daily
Mangal Arati 4:30am Daily
(until Guru-Puja)
Weekend Morning Program
4:30am until class
(packed breakfast)
Love Feast
Every Sunday 11am

Photo courtesy of Adi Purush Das

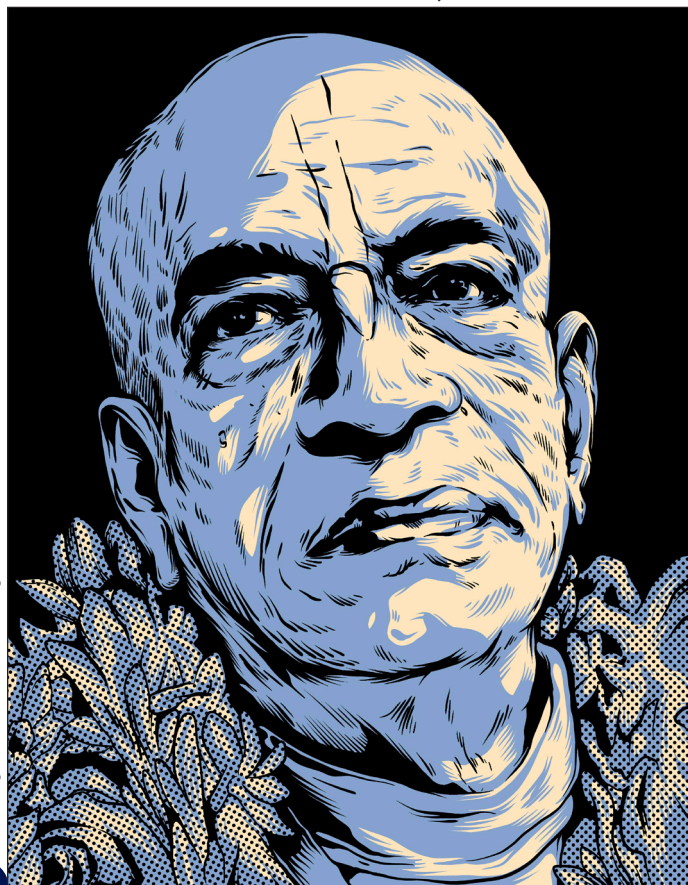
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Like A Grandfather

Living With Srila Prabhupada

Srila Prabhupada was like a grandfather to the children of Juhu, affectionate and tolerant. A couple of days after he completed his translation [of the Sri Caitanya Charitamrita], on Diwali, there were fireworks—both literal and figurative—at Hare Krishna Land. As Smriti Warriar recalled, “On Diwali evening Mother Kanta was in the women’s ashram above our flat and we were outside setting off fireworks. It was around nine, and I guess she wanted to rest, but we weren’t finished playing. So, she started throwing buckets of water down on us. My brothers and I marched up to Srila Prabhupada’s room. Caitya-guru caught us and said, ‘You can’t go in there—he’s resting.’ We must have made a lot of noise, because Prabhupada called, ‘Let them in.’ My brothers went in and pleaded that we wanted to do fireworks, but Prabhupada said, ‘No, it’s too noisy.’ So my brothers gave up and walked out. But I, the youngest, stood there and said, ‘But it’s Diwali—we’ve got to break some firecrackers.’ Then Prabhupada said, ‘All right, until 10:00—but after that, no more.’ So, we got permission and broke firecrackers. And the next morning, Mother Kanta came with a plate of *maha-prasada* and apologised for throwing water on us. Being so close to Srila Prabhupada, at Hare Krishna Land, we got to associate with him in a different light.”

(Excerpt from *I’ll Build You A Temple – The Juhu Story, Chapter 2 Facing Challenges* by Girirja Swami. You can get a copy of this book from the temple or from our online store. Cost R150)



Soul Poetry

Meditations on Time

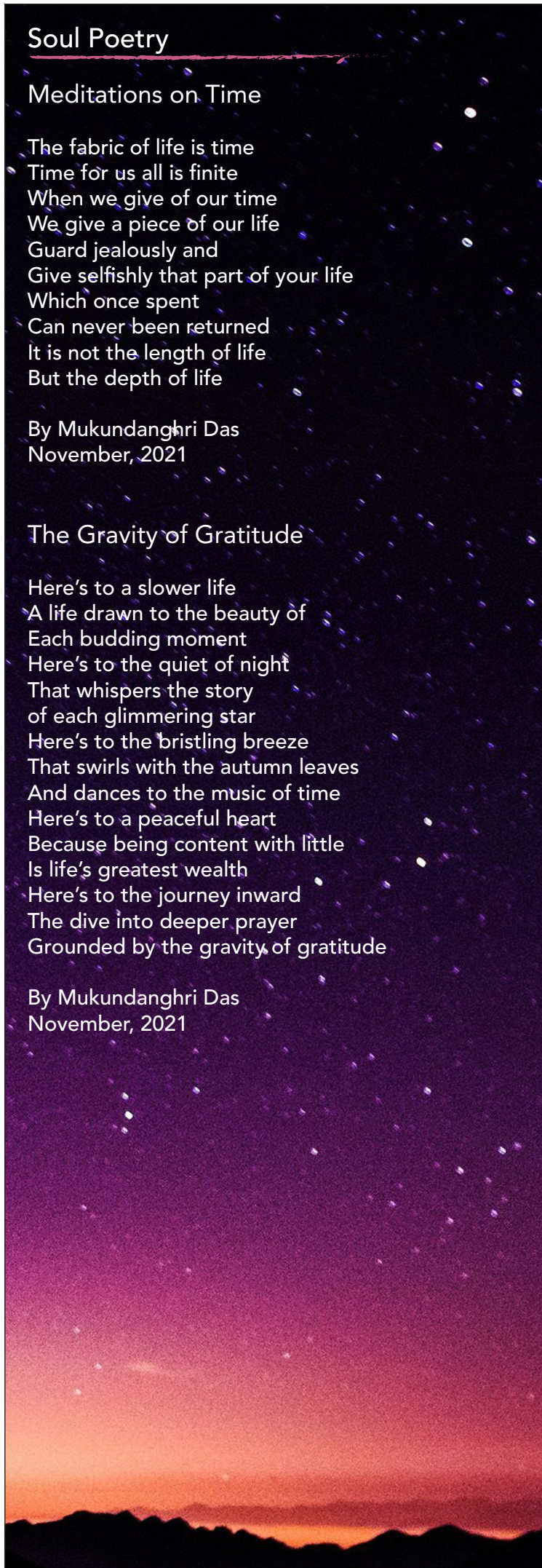
The fabric of life is time
Time for us all is finite
When we give of our time
We give a piece of our life
Guard jealously and
Give selfishly that part of your life
Which once spent
Can never be returned
It is not the length of life
But the depth of life

By Mukundanghri Das
November, 2021

The Gravity of Gratitude

Here’s to a slower life
A life drawn to the beauty of
Each budding moment
Here’s to the quiet of night
That whispers the story
of each glimmering star
Here’s to the bristling breeze
That swirls with the autumn leaves
And dances to the music of time
Here’s to a peaceful heart
Because being content with little
Is life’s greatest wealth
Here’s to the journey inward
The dive into deeper prayer
Grounded by the gravity of gratitude

By Mukundanghri Das
November, 2021



Prabhupada Marathon 2021

Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple Report



TOTAL Books 13867

Back To Godhead Mags. 2429

Small Books 5947

Medium Books 162

Big Books 3123

Maha Big Books 2188

Chaitanya Charitamrita 4

Srimad Bhagavatam Set 5

Srila Prabhupada Lilamrita 1

LIVE TO GIVE

FUN Facts

5 Heroes

(New Book Distributors)

6 New Markets

(Book Stalls)

2 Telethons

TOP 5 Individuals

- 1 Sukumari Dasi
- 2 Bilvamangal Das
- 3 Nikunja Seva Dasi
- 4 Vibhu Caitanya Das
- 5 Patita Pavana Nitai Das

TOP 5 Teams

- 1 IIHE
- 2 Krishna Prema Namahatta
- 3 Nitai Pada Kamalam
- 4 The Brhat Mrdanga Team
- 5 Food For Life South Africa

Love in the Dark Matter of the Universe

Pranada Dasi

Holding a book in my hands, the author beckons me, "Imagine feeling more love from someone than you have ever known." Yes! I muse and settle in for a journey with the 300-page book. The line on the back cover "love is a state of being" had garnered my full attention.

I read on, "This lover doesn't need anything from you . . . only wants your complete fulfillment." Two paragraphs later, I'm introduced to the lover, "It's the subatomic texture of the universe, the dark matter that connects everything."

Whoa, can we back up a second? The "someone" on the first page just became an "it." Then onto the next sentence, "When you tune into that flow you will feel it in your own heart . . ." Well, now I have love as a vague flow; a lover that is an it.

Maybe the author needed a better editor, I think, and I brave my way forward. After several chapters I set the book down disappointed.

When did our experience of love and loving manifest as an amorphous mass? Have we ever loved a nondescript, indeterminate, shapeless something/nothing? Can we talk or share our heart with dark matter? How might we sculpt subatomic texture so we can embrace it? Will the unnamed flow receive our gifts and send a thank you note?

To confirm I'm not asking more from the author than ought to be expected, I turn to the dictionary: "Love; a profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person."

This reassures me. Love is what I thought it was: an exchange between two people. When love is used colloquially in a statement like, "I love sunsets," we use love loosely—imprecisely—to mean a liking. We're not talking about the nuanced relationship we can experience with another person.

Even love of oneself, though genuine love, is not a full expression of love. What give and take of thoughts, emotions, and gifts take place with oneself? The exchange is one-sided and thus limited. The full face of love involves two sentient beings.

A "state of being" refers to a condition of the self that exists eternally. Such a state isn't modified by time or space, what to speak of lesser influences like moods or shifts of opinion.

When we go inward we can make contact with the eternal self, whose nature is described by Krishna in the *Bhagavad Gita* (2.16):

Those who are seers of the truth have concluded that of the nonexistent [the material body] there is no endurance and of the eternal [the soul] there is no change. This they have concluded by studying the nature of both.

The self, or the soul, is a unit of consciousness, a spiritual substance, comprised of Being (*sat*), Knowing (*chit*), and Loving (*ananda*). In short, the self exists, knows, and loves. In her original condition—in her eternal state of being—she is a knowing, joyful lover. That original state is called wise-love.

Since we are not experiencing wise-love as a state of being now, how can we achieve it? The Bhakti texts describe that when the self connects with her Source, the Supreme Person (from whom she

garners her characteristics of Being, Knowing, and Loving) in love and service through a practice of Bhakti, she can wake from that current dream that has her believing she

is the male or female mind-body instrument she is currently inhabiting.

Waking from the dream of the false ego to the real self through a Bhakti yoga practice of hearing and chanting about the Supreme's name, personality, and activities, she finds wise-love as a state of being. Such pure love flows ever-fresh and ceaselessly from her heart toward other souls and her Significant Other.

In that illumined dance of love she can hold her Supreme Beloved – who is infinite gorgeousness itself – in her real arms and gaze upon the unmatched beauty of her Beloved's face with the soul's real eyes.

Pranada Comtois is a devoted pilgrim and award-winning author of Wise-Love: Bhakti and the Search for the Soul of Consciousness (Available at the Temple @R90). Her writing sheds light on bhakti's wisdom school of heartfulness. At sixteen she met her teacher A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami and began her lifelong study and practice of bhakti. Her writing has appeared in numerous online and print publications and she is a featured speaker in the film Women of Bhakti. Her second book, Bhakti-Shakti: The Goddess of Divine Love has just been released and can be ordered online from Amazon. Connect with Pranada here: <https://www.pranadacomtois.com>

**Even love of oneself,
though genuine love, is
not a full expression of love.**

Breaking Bonds

Gaura Bhumi Devi Dasi

The Cracks

Thoughts turned to whispers and whispers turned to murmurs.

"...And then Nimai Pandit wanted to beat me up, so He chased me with a stick! Can you believe it? All I did was offer Him some philosophical advice. If He's such a great Vaishnava, as He claims to be, shouldn't He be chanting the names of Krishna instead of something arbitrary like the word '*gopi, gopi?*' Nimai is a scholar, He of all people should know what the Vedas say. True advancement can only be made in one way!"

"Oh? What type of Vaishnava refuses to speak the name of Krishna and tries to hurt a Brahmin like you? He must be a pretender!"

"Nimai is very proud because His father was a renowned scholar. We are no less knowledgeable! The next time He tries to intimidate any of us, we'll show Him!"

Misconceptions hurt when based on externals. Assumptions break ties, and speculations can ruin a reputation. Although, sometimes these experiences may just be the much-needed catalyst we've been waiting for to push us down a rabbit hole of realignment and commitment to a higher purpose.

Caught up in His thoughts, Nimai sat pensively along the river bank. He had come for a purpose – to share the highest form of love that anyone could experience, given the chance. And Nimai was all about chances. He would overcome any and every external obstruction to His mission, even if it meant breaking social ties with the past. He knew that darkness would shroud the world soon. It was up to Him to shine even one beam of light through all the ignorance. He had no other choice then, He would have to break some of His external bonds with the world and become a renunciate. The world still had some regard for saints, so He would become the most kind-hearted of saints. He was going into the future convinced of a better life. That night, while his mother and wife were asleep, Nimai left, leaving nothing but the fragrance of His memories.

The Town

The lives of Navadvipa's residents went from bold technicolour to stark gray in that one night. How was it that the happiness of many was tied to a singular person? Nimai had swept through everyone's life in a wave of boundless adventure and love with his antics. His absence made it hard to breathe. Would this be the future? To live in the past?

A Wife

Gazing upon the golden colored face of her husband, how was Vishnupriya to know that one moment would be her last? There was no farewell or closure of any kind. One day the sun shone bright, and she could no longer see her husband. The welcomed heartache of a wife who understood the urgency of the divine.

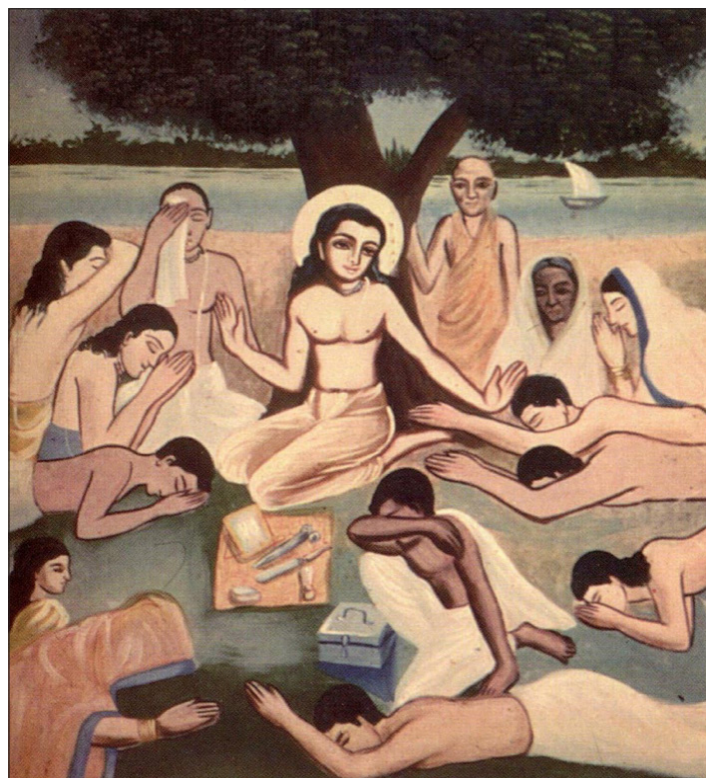
A Mother

A mother is one who holds such a wealth of love and compassion deep within her heart, that it creates a whole other being. What comfort can be offered to a mother whose child maintains the entire universe? Nothing in the world would ease her grief, as every atom is imbued with Nimai.

The Barber

More tears rolled from the barber's eyes than shaved hair from Nimai's head. Each stroke against Nimai's scalp left a scar in his own heart. Here he was, cutting the most soft, luscious and valued possession in the whole universe. After this he decided, he would cut hair no more. The wise consider hair to be one of the markers of material ego and honor. It is the practice of aspiring renunciates to break the bond they have with their own body by shaving their hair off. Even though He was above them, Nimai would abide by the regulations of conduct. He would break temporary bonds to create an eternal one.

There comes a moment where we must resolutely move towards inner openness, to divine will and arrangement. We must go into life convinced of a better life, spurred on by the urgency of sharing Krishna with one and all – Nimai Pandit became Sri Krishna Chaitanya.





Roasted Butternut, Olive, Avo, & Rocket Salad with Lemon/Herb Polenta Chips

The Vaishnava Chef
By Chandrashekara Das

A wonderfully simple salad to balance off the heavy festive season feasting. This recipe serves 4.

Polenta Chips

400ml vegetable stock
150 grams fine yellow polenta
Pinch sea salt and pepper
1 Tbls dried Italian mixed herbs
Zest of one lemon
2 Tbls olive oil

Method

Bring the vegetable stock to a rolling boil in a sauce pan. Whisk in the polenta and keep whisking until the mixture thickens. Once thickened remove from the heat and stir in the herbs, lemon zest, salt and pepper.

Spoon the mixture into a lined 20cm square baking tray. Chill the mixture in the fridge for at least 2 hours. Preheat the oven to 180°C. Remove the polenta from the fridge and slice the firm block into chunky strips. Brush with olive oil and bake on a lined baking tray for 20-25 minutes until golden. Season with more salt and pepper.

Salad

1 large butternut (about 900grams)
Olive oil
Salt and pepper
1 Tbls paprika
1 Tbls dried mixed herbs
Handful of rocket leaves
1 cup pitted olives
2 avocados
Salad Dressing ingredients
1 Tbls tamari (use soy sauce if you don't have tamari)
2 Tbls apple cider vinegar
2 Tbls olive oil
Salt and pepper

Method

Preheat the oven to 180°C. Peel the butternut and then cut into bite size pieces. Place the butternut on a baking sheet and drizzle with olive oil. Toss the butternut well with salt and pepper, paprika and dried herbs. Bake for 40 minutes or until tender.

In the meantime make the salad dressing by whisking all the ingredients together. Mix the rocket with the dressing and olives. Add in the cubed avos with the cooled butternut.

Offer to Krishna and then serve the salad with a side serving of polenta chips.

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								

