



HARE KRISHNA NEWS

September/October 2023

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How to Contact Us

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Type "subscribe" and <yourname> in the
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Why are we moving from WhatsApp Broadcast to WhatsApp Channels?

1. More protection of your personal information – you do not need to share your cell number and we do not need to save your number on a database.
2. You can respond to posts with emojis.
3. WhatsApp channels comply with local and international privacy laws. One follower cannot view or access another follower's personal information.

SCAN QR CODE



Vaishnava Calendar

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 22 Oct Su | Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Installation Anniversary |
| 24 Oct Tu | Ramachandra Vijayotsava Sri Madhvacharya's Appearance Anniversary |
| 25 Oct We | Ekadasi |
| 26 Oct Th | Break fast 05:07 - 06:16 Disappearance Anniversary of: Srila Raghunatha Das Gosvami Srila Raghunatha Bhatta Gosvami Srila Krishnadasa Kaviraja Gosvami |
| 28 Oct Sa | Purnima Kartik begins with the full moon. Sri Krsna Saradiya Rasayatra Fourth month of Chaturmasya begins. (Fast from urad dhal for one month) |
| 2 Nov Th | Srila Narottama Das Thakur's Disappearance Anniversary |
| 5 Nov Su | Bahulastami |
| 9 Nov Th | Ekadasi |
| 10 Nov Fr | Break fast 04:55 - 09:07 |
| 12 Nov Su | Diwali (Hindu) |
| 13 Nov Mo | Amavasya Diwali |
| 14 Nov Tu | Go Puja. Govardhana Puja. |
| 17 Nov Fr | Disappearance Anniversary of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada (Fast till noon) |
| 20 Nov Mo | Gopastami |
| 23 Nov Th | Ekadasi Srila Gaura Kishor Das Babaji's Disappearance Anniversary (Fast until noon) First day of Bhisma Panchaka |
| 24 Nov Fr | Break fast 04:48 - 09:24 |
| 27 Nov Mo | Purnima Sri Krsna Rasayatra Tulasi-Saligrama Vivaha (marriage) Sri Nimbarkacharya's Appearance Anniversary Last day of Kartik Last day of Bhisma Pancaka |

8 Dec Fr Ekadasi

9 Dec Sa Break fast 09:14 - 09:28

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RAMA RAMA HARE HARE



SRI SRI RADHA RADHANATH TEMPLE

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ISKCON Durban
DurbanKrishna



“Our book distribution is
the **most important task** in our society.
Therefore I am giving so much stress
and **I am working so hard** on this.

Because this is ***my life and soul***
according to the order of my Guru Maharaja.
And by his grace it is to some extent successful.
And I took it seriously. **I take it seriously** still now.
That is my life and soul.”
Srla Prabhupada

Kartik Sankirtan Festival

Share bhakti during the Month of Damodar

Every Kartik Saturday
28th October

4th, 11th, 18th & 25th November
10am – 12:30pm

Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple Prasad Marquee
Book packs, teams and spots to be provided
Lunch prasad will be served.

Contact

sankirtanoffice@iskcondurban.net
Radha Raman Das 076 587 9558

Most Important Task

Living with Srla Prabhupada

Quote from a room conversation on
31 December 1967, Bombay





photos by Shukadev Shanker

108 Mantra Walk



Krishna 360 Photo Booth



Krishna Lila Adventure



Floating Candle Prayers





Soul Poetry By Atma Tattva Das

2*
Such a complex thing,
This moment in time
In this life we're living,
Complex thing.
Such a complex thing,
This moment in time
In this world we're living,
Complex thing.

LISTEN ON BANDCAMP
WWW.HANDSALOOF.BANDCAMP.COM

between the physical and metaphysical realms, and the idea of vibration as a fundamental aspect of reality. It appears to be inspired by both scientific and spiritual themes, particularly the notion that everything in the universe is ultimately a form of vibration or energy.

“COMPLEX THING”

A POEM, BY ARCHANGEL HANDSALOOF READ THEIR PALMS INTRODUCING DIMENSION THE THIRD

Here's an analysis of the poem, focusing on its use of poetic devices and thematic elements:

1. Repetition: The repetition of the phrase “Such a complex thing” in the opening lines emphasizes the intricate and multifaceted nature of life and existence. It creates a rhythmic pattern that sets the tone for the poem.

2. Imagery: The poem employs vivid imagery to convey its ideas. For example, “Stored in a strange little pigeon suite” paints a picture of something enigmatic and hidden away. “Thirsty walnut” and “crystalline fold of time” evoke a sense of mystery and depth.

3. Metaphor: The poem uses metaphors to explore the idea of sound as a fundamental aspect of reality. “The Totality of Sound” is a metaphorical concept that represents the profound and all-encompassing nature of vibrations in the universe - AUM (referencing om purnam adah purnam idam...)

4. Spiritual Theme: The poem touches on spiritual themes by referencing karma and the eternal soul. It suggests that our perception of reality is influenced by the bodies we inhabit and our karmic connections.

5. Personification: The poem personifies sound by suggesting that if it had a name, it would be “Beautiful.” (The Most/ All Attractive - The Holy Name) This personification gives sound a sense of character and importance, emphasizing its significance in the poem's exploration of reality.

6. Sensory Imagery: The poem appeals to the senses by describing sound as a “painfully pretty glow” and as something that “sounds of Dawns' dusk's.” These sensory descriptions engage the reader's imagination and create a more profound connection to the poem's themes.

7. Alliteration: The use of alliteration, such as “painfully pretty,” “perfect syllable,” and “speaks its' voice,” adds musicality and rhythm to the poem,

Would you even be able to begin,
To comprehend The Totality of Sound?

We perceive Me
With the bodies we're in,
Over - look in
That it's by our karma we're bound.

It would seem inconsequential,
Stored in a strange little pigeon suite...
Up there,
As well as in a great, thirsty walnut,
Or trapped in a crystalline fold of time,
In a still... reaping the fruit of all its' actions;
Certainly almost sound-like.

If one actually knew
Its' timeless name,
I think, if it were a word...
It would be Beautiful;

A painfully pretty glow,
That sounds of Dawns' dusk's.
That rides that wind that's come of many whispers.

Cows the ground -
That grew its' being,
That spoke its' voice,
And gave that worth its' meaning.

A poignant sound;
The Perfect Syllable.

“Complex Thing” (a preaching poem) is a thought-provoking poem that delves into the concept of complexity in our existence, the relationship

enhancing its overall flow.

8. **Enjambment:** The poem employs enjambment, where lines continue without a pause or break, which encourages the reader to move smoothly from one thought to the next, mirroring the interconnectedness of the poem's ideas.

9. **Title Significance:** The title, "Complex Thing," succinctly encapsulates the central theme of the poem—complexity in existence, and The Complexity behind it all. It serves as a focal point for understanding the poem's exploration of the intricate nature of reality.

Because Poetry: 10 Reasons Why We Need a Poetry Circuit and Just Don't Know It Yet

Poetry, often seen as the art of weaving words into a tapestry of emotions and ideas, has a profound place within the spiritual and cultural heritage of the Hare Krishna tradition. It's time we recognize the hidden treasure trove of poetic talent within our community and consider the establishment of a Poetry Circuit within ISKCON South Africa. Here are 10 compelling reasons why:

1. **Poetry Speaks to the Soul:** Poetry has a unique ability to touch the deepest recesses of our hearts. It can convey the essence of Krishna consciousness in a way that resonates with the spirit, making it a potent tool for spiritual outreach.

2. **Creative Expression:** A Poetry Circuit provides a platform for devotees to creatively express their realizations. This can lead to a deeper understanding of the philosophy and a stronger connection with Krishna.

3. **Cultural Preservation:** Poetry is an integral part of our rich cultural heritage. By nurturing a poetic tradition, we ensure that our spiritual and cultural legacy is preserved for future generations.

4. **Youth Empowerment:** Engaging the youth in poetry fosters self-expression, creativity, and a deeper connection with spirituality. It empowers them to become ambassadors of Krishna consciousness in their own unique way.

5. **Bridging Communities:** Poetry transcends boundaries. A Poetry Circuit can bridge the gap between the Hare Krishna community and the wider literary world, fostering understanding and appreciation.

6. **Emotional Connection:** Poetry can convey the depths of devotion and love

for Krishna in a way that prose often can't. It evokes emotions that resonate with readers and listeners, drawing them closer to the Divine.

7. **Outreach Potential:** Hosting poetry events and workshops can attract a diverse audience, introducing Krishna consciousness to those who may have never encountered it before.

8. **Community Building:** A Poetry Circuit creates a sense of community among devotees interested in creative expression. It provides a supportive environment for growth and collaboration.

9. **Educational Resource:** Poetry encourages deep study of Srila Prabhupada's books and the songs of Vaishnava Acharyas. It compels poets to delve into the philosophy and extract pearls of wisdom.

10. **Fulfilling Srila Prabhupada's Vision:** Lastly, but most importantly, Srila Prabhupada emphasized the importance of writing books to spread Krishna consciousness. Poetry is a dynamic way to fulfill his vision, as it can convey profound spiritual truths in a condensed, impactful form.

How It Could Work:

Workshops: Regular writers' workshops centered around Srila Prabhupada's teachings and the songs of Vaishnava Acharyas can be organized. These workshops would serve as a nurturing ground for budding poets.

Open Mic Events: Hosting open mic poetry events within ISKCON communities and beyond can attract diverse audiences and foster a sense of inclusivity.

Online Presence: A dedicated website or social media presence can help showcase and share the poetry created within the community, extending its reach globally.

Collaborations: Encourage poets to collaborate on projects, anthologies, or spoken word performances, amplifying the impact of Krishna-conscious poetry.

In conclusion, a Poetry Circuit within ISKCON South Africa has the potential to ignite a cultural-spiritual renaissance, reinvigorating our tradition with the profound beauty of poetry. It's a powerful means to fulfill Srila Prabhupada's vision of spreading Krishna consciousness through the written word. So let us embrace the divine rhythm of poetry and let our words resonate with the melodies of devotion, for truly, "Because Poetry" is a path to discovering the heart of Krishna.





Srimad Bhagavatam Brings Hope!

By the Sankirtan Office Team

We are currently experiencing depression and darkness in different aspects of our life, whether it is economically, physically, mentally or in strained relationships. The state of our society is full of anxiety with no solid direction of purpose or how to overcome challenges. But alas, there is hope! Our hope is *Srimad-Bhagavatam* as it is stated:

"This *Bhagavata Purana* [*Srimad-Bhagavatam*] is as brilliant as the sun, and it has arisen just after the departure of Lord Krishna to His own abode, accompanied by religion, knowledge, and so on. Persons who have lost their vision because of the dense darkness of ignorance in the Age of Kali will get light from this Purana." — *Srimad-Bhagavatam* 1.3.43

The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust has established the Go to Goloka campaign which aims to widely distribute *Srimad-Bhagavatam* as an attempt to fulfil our ISKCON Founder-Acarya, His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada's instruction of every respectable person having a full set of *Srimad-Bhagavatam* and *Sri Caitanya Caritamrta* in their home.

It is also said in *Srimad-Bhagavatam* 12.13.13: "If on the full moon day of the month of Bhadra one places *Srimad-Bhagavatam* on a golden throne and gives it as a gift, he will attain the supreme transcendental destination."

The *Srimad-Bhagavatam* is known as the cream of Vedic knowledge as it covers the transcendental science not only for knowing the ultimate source of everything but also for knowing our relation with Him and our duty toward perfection of the human society on the basis of this perfect knowledge. With this knowledge, society can be correctly guided to live a fulfilling life and ultimately reach the supreme transcendental destination of Goloka! The *Srimad-Bhagavatam* is also the literary incarnation of Krishna so to have a set of *Srimad-Bhagavatam* in one's home brings all auspiciousness, what to speak of reading *Srimad-Bhagavatam*. This is the goal of the Go to Goloka campaign, to spread the auspiciousness of *Srimad-Bhagavatam* with others and create a



deeper interest in studying *Srimad-Bhagavatam* to apply the principles taught in our lives.

The Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple has successfully distributed sets of *Srimad-Bhagavatam* in the past with an astounding 69 sets distributed during 2020, 21 sets in 2021 and 29 sets in 2022. As we started our planning for the 2023 campaign, we set a goal of an ambitious 40 sets to be distributed. We launched the campaign with an event held at the temple. His Grace Swarup Damodar Das and His Grace Ramvijay Das graced the event with the spiritual knowledge and guidance which left the audience feeling inspired and motivated to share *Srimad-Bhagavatam* with others. At the launch event, 8 sets of *Srimad-Bhagavatam* were distributed. As we inched closer to the Sri Bhadra Purnima day, His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya Swami shared the glories of Bhadra Purnima and *Srimad-Bhagavatam* at the Sunday Love Feast. At this event, eight sets of *Srimad-Bhagavatam* were distributed as well.

With a week leading up to Sri Bhadra Purnima, we received an encouraging message from our South African leaders which started a transcendental race and competition to distribute as many sets of *Srimad-Bhagavatam* as possible to reach the Africa goal of 393. Believe it or not, a new record was made this year with 547 *Srimad-Bhagavatam* sets being distributed on the African continent. With the Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple contributing 77 sets towards the final score. That means, we almost doubled our goal! The only way to describe the final hours of the campaign is transcendental. Our phones / emails were "off-the-hook" with devotees and well wishers asking to take a set.

The participants of the campaign had the special opportunity of having their names offered at a *yajna* as well as to Lord Nrsimhadeva's lotus feet in Sridham Mayapur. What a blessing!

During the course of the distribution, we had a *Srimad-Bhagavatam* placed at a North West University library, by Savita devi dasi, for students to have access to this spiritual knowledge as well as to the KwaZulu Natal Air Force Base where Ananda Vrindavana Dasi gifted a *Srimad-Bhagavatam* set in honour of the soldiers who dedicate their lives in protecting the country. On Sri Bhadra Purnima day, there were home programs in and around KZN where the *Srimad-Bhagavatam* was installed with an *arati* ceremony to bring all auspiciousness to their homes. We pray this *Srimad-Bhagavatam* brings hope, peace and love of God to those who serve *Srimad-Bhagavatam* by reading it.

If you would like to know more about the *Srimad-Bhagavatam* and how to get involved in the 2024 Go to Goloka campaign, please reach out to us on Sankirtanoffice@iskcondurban.net



Golden Ticket Winners

photos courtesy of Bhakti Caitanya Swami

Let Faith Be Stronger Than Fear

By Gaura Bhumi Devi Dasi

Is this how the mighty King of the Elephants was going to die? Humiliated by a creature half his size? He had fought for a thousand years, but the crocodile on his leg wouldn't let go. Rather, it felt like the crocodile was gaining strength, and tightening his grip to the point of snapping through Gajendra's bone, tearing through his leg, heart, and spirit simultaneously. A cloying tightness in his chest building up into teary eyes, Gajendra's eyes darted around in panic. His home, the Trikuta mountain range had lost its lustre and safety, his friends and wives watching on with pity. As much as they cared, they couldn't help him when he needed it most. There was only one who could. Gajendra hastily plucked a nearby lotus flower, looked up into the sky, flung his trunk with the lotus into the air, and roared of his surrender from the deepest, and darkest part of his core.

Despite his immense strength and valiant efforts, Gajendra found himself trapped in a life-threatening situation. Gajendra only turned to surrender as an external circumstance pushed him into an extreme crisis, hereby encouraging a reawakening of his spiritual consciousness. Even something as "simple" as surrender requires an endeavour on our part. Contrary to what we may believe, surrendering in faith doesn't mean we wallow in self-pity, while

Bhakti relies on both dependence and diligence.

passively waiting for a higher power to save us. Faith in the bhakti tradition speaks of continued endeavour despite our doubt and fear in ourselves, the world, and sometimes, even Krishna. Bhakti relies on both dependence and diligence. The bhakti-yogi makes an effort to be diligent and deliberate about what is in their control, and to depend on Krishna for what isn't. Up until this point, Gajendra's focus had solely been on his enemy – the crocodile. In varying situations, it's sometimes easier to reduce our world to the situation that is holding us back. But faith requires that we expand our consciousness towards Krishna, despite the conflicts, attachments, and experiences which serve to constrict our consciousness.

This can only happen once we begin to intentionally filter through our experiences of reality. Filtering begins from a place of genuine, foundational heart-sharing and questioning. We have to begin questioning what drives us in life, and how this driving force enhances our faith in Krishna's unknown. The majority of us are not born with a strong foundation of faith. This is a level we aspire to rise to, which sometimes requires a particular life crisis to guide us on the path forward. Gajendra's faith could only bloom after his encounter with the crocodile, but his singular encounter was enough for him to understand the need for dependence upon a higher source of Divinity. Gajendra's faith bloomed, not due to his past actions, but on his present intention in that particular moment to surrender with faith unto Krishna's plan. Despite his very real fear of death, Gajendra stopped trying to control the outcome in an environment that clearly was not created for him, and moved to the current of faith. Srila Prabhupada describes happiness in this material world as the gap between two miseries. But we as the soul are intended for so much more. However, our natural abilities will continue to lie dormant as long as we remain in positions of struggle with our own "crocodiles." But ultimately, our crocodiles are there to push our faith, and to encourage us to take shelter of Krishna's divinity, for what is faith if not trust?

Gajendra's experience is testament to the fact that the hardest, yet most beneficial thing we can do is allow our faith to be stronger than our fear. We will always stand alone in fear, but never in faith.



DurbanKrishna News

Srila Prabhupada's Sri Vyasa-puja



2023 Sri Radhastami



Sing, Colour & Spot the Difference • For the Kids • By Lila Shuka Dasi

Someone has been up to mischief once again. Sing this rhyme while coloring in this pastime of Kaneya. See if you can spot the 6 differences. Note to parents: this is a great way to introduce children to this pastime. You can follow up by reading from Krishna book.

www.radhegondron.com



Sing this rhyme to the tune of the
"Johnny Johnny Eating Sugar" song.

Mother Yasoda: Krishna! Krishna!

Krishna: Yes Mata?

Mother Yasoda: Eating dirt?

Krishna: No Mata!

Mother Yasoda: Are you sure?

Krishna: Yes Mata!

Mother Yasoda: Open your mouth!

Krishna: Ah ah!



Baby Krishna On The Cover By Advaita Maharaj

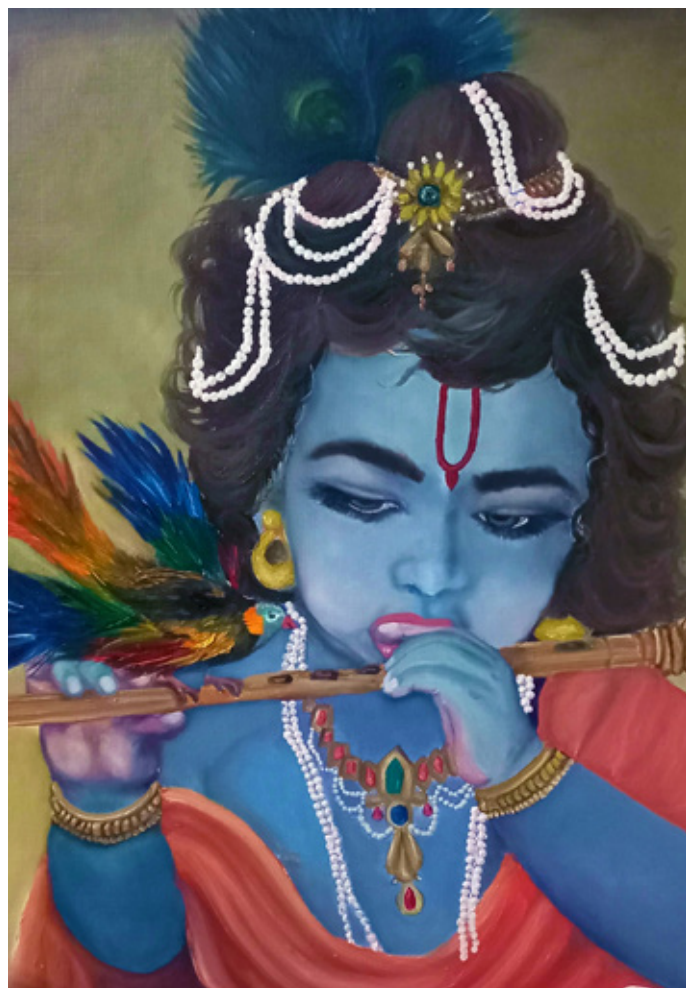
Hare Krishna

I am Advaita Maharaj, aged 21. Being born into a Vaishnava family, I do not know any other way of life apart from Krishna consciousness, which is something that I consider to be a huge blessing. I've had somewhat of a spiritual nature since my childhood. Personally, I feel that my relationship between spirituality and Krishna Consciousness is somewhat unique, in a way that I've always tried to associate myself and the current events of my life with the Lord...so growing up, I pictured Him to be my age, growing with me. I've always had this attitude that the Lord is someone who I can relate to and who can relate to me.

Since my childhood I have always had an artistic/creative streak. I enjoy all forms of visual arts with an emphasis on drawing and painting. Art is something that has always grounded me and is a way to escape the reality of daily life. I find inspiration for my artwork from images that I have seen in temples, colouring books, and on the internet.

The featured painting was created using a combination of acrylic and oil paints, on a wood canvas. Baby Krishna is depicted playing his flute, accompanied by Srimati Radharani's messenger parrot, Shukhadev. It is how I have envisioned Verse 30 of the Brahma-Samita – "I worship Govinda, the primeval Lord, who is adept in playing on His flute, with blooming eyes like lotus petals, with head decked with a peacock's feather, with the figure of beauty tinged with the hue of blue clouds, and His unique loveliness charming millions of Cupids."

I feel like the attitude that society has towards religion is that of a parent of a naughty child. There are so many rules and regulations to follow that it



becomes difficult to love and immerse yourself fully. Due to this if a ritual is not performed in a certain manner, it becomes invalid. People can sometimes take religion so seriously that it becomes a task or a chore to pray.

The message behind this painting is to remind devotees to allow themselves that sense of spiritual vulnerability a child would have when praying to Krishna, 'Hey that's Krishna, He's my friend, I can talk to Him!' Irrespective of one's age, when a devotee sees a picture of baby Krishna there is a mental reset, the Lord instantly becomes more approachable, and one feels more open to loving Him.

Methi Lagan The Vaishnava Chef By Ananga Sundari Dasi

Ingredients

3 bunches chopped Methi herbs
3 green chillies chopped fine
1 Tbsp lemon juice
3/4 cup oil (I use slightly less)
1 tin creamed style sweetcorn
1/2 cup Nestle cream
1 cup chillie bite mix
1/2 cup mielie meal
Pinch of salt
Sesame seeds for sprinkling before baking.



Method

Combine all ingredients together and mix until a thick batter is formed. If you feel the batter is too runny, add more mielie meal. Batter should be pourable but not runny in consistency.

Spread the mixture evenly into a greased 18cm square casserole for baking. Note: Methi Lagan does not rise like a cake so your casserole does not need to be deep.

Sprinkle sesame seeds on top and bake at 180 degrees Celsius until golden brown. A skewer test can be done.

Offer to Krishna with love and devotion and serve.