



ISKCON Durban • Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple's

HARE KRISHNA NEWS

January/February 2024

Durban Krishna News – 2024 Plans

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Durban Festival of Chariots

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How to Contact Us

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Vaishnava Calendar

1 Feb Th	Sri Jayadeva Gosvami's Disappearance
2 Feb Fr	Sri Locana Das Thakur's Disappearance
6 Feb Tu	Ekadasi
7 Feb We	Break fast 05:29 - 09:56
14 Feb We	Vasanta Pancami Srimati Visnupriya Devi's Appearance Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakur's Disappearance Srila Raghunath Das Gosvami's Appearance
16 Feb Fr	Sri Advaita Acharya's Appearance (Fast until midday)
17 Feb Sa	Sri Madhvacarya's Disappearance
18 Feb Su	Sri Ramanujacarya's Disappearance
20 Feb Tu	Ekadasi (Fast until midday for Lord Varahadeva)
21 Feb We	Break fast 05:40 - 07:59 Varaha Dvadasi: Appearance of Lord Varahadev (Fast was done on Tu 20 Feb)
22 Feb Th	Nityananda Trayodasi: Appearance of Sri Nityananda Prabhu (Fast until midday)
24 Feb Sa	Srila Narottam Das Thakur's Appearance
29 Feb Th	Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur's Appearance (Fast until midday)
6 Mar We	Ekadasi
7 Mar Th	Break fast 06:02 - 10:01 Sri Isvara Puri's Disappearance
9 Mar Sa	Siva Ratri
11 Mar Mo	Srila Jagannath Das Babaji's Disappearance
20 Mar We	Ekadasi
21 Mar Th	Break fast 06:00 - 10:01 Sri Madhavendra Puri's Disappearance
25 Mar Mo	Sri Gaura Purnima: Appearance of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu (Fast until moonrise)

**HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA
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HARE RAMA HARE RAMA
RAMA RAMA HARE HARE**

SRI SRI RADHA RADHANATH TEMPLE

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About Ratha-yatra

Living with Srila Prabhupada

So at least I'll request you to come and see this car festival. There is no expenditure, but it is simply joyful. You haven't got to pay anything. You simply come, chant Hare Krishna mantra, dance with us, and when you are tired we shall give you nice prasada. So on behalf of Krishna conscious society I invite you, all boys, girls, ladies, and gentlemen, to take part in this car festival, and I thank you very much.
Ratha-yatra and Press Conference — San Francisco, July 4, 1970

But in the modern age this Krishna consciousness movement, Hare Krishna movement, was started by Lord Chaitanya, and this Ratha-yatra is part of this movement. Therefore we have introduced this Ratha-yatra festival in our society. And the boys and the girls, they are taking it very nicely, and it will go on.

Gundica Marjanam Cleansing of the Gundica Temple Lecture — San Francisco, July 4, 1970

So this Ratha-yatra festival is very nice, feelings festival for the Vaishnava. And anyone who is participating in this festival, he'll gradually develop his dormant love for Krishna.

Ratha-yatra — London, July 13, 1972



DurbanKrishna News – 2024 Plans

The various departments at Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple are always looking at ways to improve the quality and quantity of service. Some departments share their plans for 2024. Please reach out if you are able to assist.

Bhakti Yoga Society 2023

- To give our existing students more opportunity for devotional service, to inspire them to go deeper into their practice of chanting and reading and to give them the space to share Krishna consciousness with others.
- To have more structured programs and topics for discussions.
- To explore a more effective way of advertising our events on campus.
- More opportunity for students to do service for the temple.
- Explore accommodation options at the temple for students who are eager to experience the temple.
- A reliable car service.
- Eco-friendly packaging and containers for our *prasada* distribution on campus.

Bhakti Theatre

- Travel with Bhaktimarg Swami to India and perform in Mayapur and Delhi.
- Perform at the Durban Festival Of Chariots.
- Apply to the Community Arts Festival.
- Stage two shows in 2024.

Book Distribution

- Increase retail distribution opportunities (Expand the supply of books to more Exclusive Books branches and other Online bookstores.)
- Increase collaboration and partnership with other departments like Nama-hattas, FFL SA branches, etc.
- Dedicated office hours to ensure efficient operation
- Book Distribution training programs
- Cultivation of *sankirtan* devotees (Sankirtan Stories program)
- Increase attendance at the Monthly Sankirtan Festivals.

Deity Department

- New festival kitchen
- Implement a rotational system for outfits and jewellery
- Provide a training course

Devotee Kitchen

- A kitchen renovation along with a cooler installation.

Food for Life Durban South

- Youth engagement as a pipeline for Food for Life succession planning.
- Better integration with temple outreach program.

Love Feast & Nama-hattas

- Love Feast serve out to move away from the buffet style serve out to Srila Prabhupada's standard of guests being seated while being served *prasad*.
- To expand and start phase 2 of Srila Prabhupada's kitchen.
- Invest in utensils and machinery to facilitate feasts.
- To invite the various Temple departments to join the Love Feast cooking roster.
- To identify devotees to lead and host small regular cell meetings in their area with the intention of expanding into a Nama-hatta.

Mentorship & Initiation

- Increase advocacy around initiation with congregation.
- Add two more members to the initiation interview committee.
- Constitute a team to develop and run initiation seminars.
- Constitute a team to compose and run initiation exams.
- Form a mentorship committee.
- Identify a mentorship administrator.
- Develop and run a mentorship program.

Public Relations & Communications

- Work with a year-plan to maximise department initiatives and get communication around this broadcast on different platforms.
- Engage with more devotees to assist in this area of service.
- A training workshop for public speaking.
- Workshop to train anyone at the temple on mannerism and etiquette when guests visit the Temple.

Radhanath's Gifts

- Upgrade the shop area, possible increasing area space and more display facilities.

Reception

- Create a space to facilitate devotees' use of a computer.
- Train all department heads how to print wireless to the new canon printer.
- Explore an Online booking system for departments to request and schedule tasks.
- Create a waiting area.

Stores

- Implement monthly financial reporting for departments.

The Humble Heart

By Gaura Bhumi Devi Dasi

Sleepy eyes blinked curiously through the foliage. The tiger's afternoon nap had been abruptly cut by a strange sight. An old man sped past – faster than one would expect, muttering fervently as if being chased by some invisible force. The old man sped through the forest faster than his joints appreciated, but all he could focus on was that melodious, honey-laden voice from his dream. "Go to Vrindavan Krishnadas, go to Vrindavan!"

Krishnadas was bewildered. Hadn't he just lay down to sleep? Yet standing before him was a personality of magnanimous beauty. Krishnadas scrambled and fell flat at the Personality's soft, pinkish feet. A thundering voice rumbled, "Arise! Get up!" Krishnadas stood, his dry, desert-like eyes settled on the oasis of peace in front of him. Swaying from side to side as if intoxicated, Lord Nitai's tall heroic stature put Cupid to shame. Wrapped in glossy silk, His darkish complexion shimmered effulgently along with His golden armlets, bangles, and earrings. His anklets tinkled as He swayed too and fro, specks of cooling sandalwood pulp clung to His perspiring forehead in jubilation. Bumblebees swarmed around His honey-scented lotus feet and buzzed in harmony to His exclamations of "Krishna! Krishna!" Accompanied by many devotees who sang, danced, and waved chamaras, Lord Nitai outshone the



moon. Waving His hand, Nitai spoke, "O my dear Krishnadas, do not be afraid. Go to Vrindavan, for there you will attain all things." [CC Adi 5.195] Overwhelmed by this vision, Krishnadas fell to the ground. Startling back into the waking world, he was alone. Yet his path was set.

Some time had passed, Krishnadas had reached Vrindavan and become a kavi-raj – a king among poets. Yet the Vaishnavas had but one request: "Please Krishnadas! Please, write about the later life of Sri Gauranga. Many have written about His earlier life, but none after He chose a life of renunciation nor His life in Jagannath Puri, and subsequent travels." But why him? Saints lined every corner of Vrindavan. What made them ask him? Despite being known as *kavi-raj*, Krishnadas felt wholly unprepared and undeserving of the task the saints wanted to bestow upon him. He was past his prime – an old man. Did he even have enough time to complete the work?

Krishnadas strolled along the dusty pathways, his troubled thoughts trailing behind. To write about Sri Gauranga was not simple. Only a truly unique and faithful soul could do this, someone very dear to the Vaishnavas. An undertaking of this nature required someone who could write with no error, a clear sense perception, and would not cheat anyone. To write about Sri Gauranga would be a privilege beyond Krishnadas's capabilities. A shadow loomed overhead, the Madan Mohan Temple – Vrindavan's crowing jewel. He entered, eager to speak to the One who would clear his doubt and confusion. As he bowed his head in fervent appeal requesting for mercy to fulfil an impossible task, the Deity's beautiful fragrant flower garland snapped and fell. The saints present loudly cheered at their Lord's reciprocation with Krishnadas and placed the garland around his neck, for wherever the Lord and His followers are, there can only be good fortune. The Lord and the saints had made their choice. Krishnadas's genuine heart had won them.

Up to the very end, Krishnadas adamantly stated that his work was not his own words, but a direct dictation of Madan Mohan's words, and that his writing could be likened to a repetitive parrot. Krishnadas Kaviraj Gosvami composed the Sri Chaitanya Charitamrita keeping a singular thought at the forefront of his mind:

*caitanyera dasa muni, caitanyera dasa
caitanyera dasa muni, tanra dasera dasa*

"I am a servant of Lord Chaitanya, a servant of Lord Chaitanya. I am a servant of Lord Chaitanya, and a servant of His servants." [CC Adi 6.86]

Digital Butterflies

Soul Poetry

By Atma Tattva Das

How we become;
Absorbing the realities we create through actions
bound;
Moving along with time,
As persons who always want and go wild when they
get.

Digital fireflies
Unregistered but highly qualified... to eat;
All as though dignified.
Riding a regal frame that helps create your near
concepts of factual reality,
And fade into fearsome phantom fevers that devour
the mind with the nonsense it delivers;
As it begins to relate to such gossip.

In a room filled with donkeys
watching lions being fed them
hoping to learn that art
and maybe
one day
become exactly what they're not;
zonked in a hypnotised trot
towards the thickest part,
where the common plot's to knock each other out
of the system and get to the top of such a cheating
food chain hence the abundance of quality rot.

We have not been promised the next moment here;
temporality is the nature of material entanglement.

Covered as Askaris
absorbed in the feverish want of things,
ignoring the needs of the soul.
Floating helplessly into the aimless emptiness
because of the lack of an ultimate goal.

Senses so attached to their objects
in this state that you'd fight to protect the thing.
Fight to remain in this state
with all intelligence smothered in the build of that
fall apart dream.

Poem Summary

The poem intricately weaves a tapestry of human existence, exploring the dynamic interplay between actions, desires, and the illusions individuals create. It mirrors the contemporary ethos by metaphorically portraying people as "digital fireflies," emphasising their unregistered qualifications in a world driven by material pursuits; a whole counterfeit effort at being the Enjoyer. The regal frame symbolises corrupt societal constructs shaping individual perceptions. The donkeys watching lions being fed allegorically depict the misguided pursuit of success



through flawed role models. The poem delves into the ephemeral nature of life, the entanglement in materialism, and the consequences of deviating from spiritual principles.

Analysis of Poetic Devices

Extended Metaphor: The digital fireflies symbolise the paradoxical nature of modern individuals—qualified in material pursuits masked as spiritual understanding so they may gain access. The metaphor is extended to evoke a sense of contradiction and complexity in their existence.

Irony and Satire

The poem employs irony to underscore the irony of

individuals aspiring to become what they are not, as seen in the hypnotised trot towards misguided goals. The satire on a room filled with donkeys watching lions being fed carcasses of their own kind critiques materially confused societal values and role models.

Imagery and Symbolism

The imagery of absorbed Askaris in feverish material pursuits reflects the powerful allure of the zombified warrior who feeds on his own so as to realise his materialistic desires. Symbolism, such as the regal frame, conveys the societal structures shaping perceptions, and the donkeys symbolise individuals aspiring for success without understanding its true essence.

Analysis of Themes

Materialism and Spiritual Void: The poem deeply delves into the spiritual void created by relentless material pursuits, echoing themes from the *Srimad Bhagavatam* (SB) Canto 11, Chapter 5 summary about the consequences of neglecting worship of Lord Hari and being absorbed in mundane gossip.

Temporal Nature and Transcendence

Reflecting on the above summary, the poem contemplates the temporality of life and the ephemeral nature of material entanglement. The exploration of transcendence aligns with the summary's emphasis on devotional service as the ultimate shelter.

Ignorance and Deviation

The poem critiques ignorance and deviation from spiritual teachings, drawing parallels with the SB 11.5 summary's warnings against concocted interpretations of the Vedas, ridicule of devotees, and attachment to family life.

Sourcing from *Srimad Bhagavatam* 11.5 Summary:

The poem draws profound inspiration from the SB 11.5 summary. It reflects on Srila Prabhupada's purports as he dissects the consequences of material attachment, misguided pursuits, and the temporal nature of life. The extended metaphor of digital fireflies resonates with the summary's emphasis on worshiping Lord Hari. The imagery of absorbed Askaris aligns with the summary's caution against ignoring the needs of the soul.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the analysis of the poem delves deeper into the nuanced layers of the piece, exploring themes of materialism, spirituality, and the consequences of deviating from higher principles. The intricate interplay of poetic devices and imagery serves to capture the profound essence of both the poem and the spiritual teachings found in the SB 11.5 summary.



Sing & Play for Krishna

For the Kids

By Mrigaksi Devi Dasi

Sing and play for Krishna. Gather with a large group of friends. Make a hand bridge and sing the song below while going under the 'bridge' together. Making memories thinking of Krishna opens our hearts. Have fun!

Sing and play your life away,
Only do it for Krishna,
And I say, chant Hare
Krishna Hare Krishna.

What else is there I ask you?
Never bored and never blue.
Serve Him with your life and soul.

Hari Hari Hari Bol!

Note: Parents you can get your little Vaishnavas and Vaishnavis to listen to "Sing and Play for Krishna" on YouTube follow this link:

https://youtu.be/c69P_qxw2bY?feature=shared

Song activity sourced from Krishna.com
Mrigaski Devi Dasi's Kids song and story collection
C.Ds can be found on the Krishna.com store.



International Society for Krishna Consciousness • Founder Acharya His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



29 MARCH – 1 APRIL

DURBAN BAY OF PLENTY LAWNS & AMPHITHEATRE

SUNSHINE PARADE • SUNSET PARADE
THE SOUL QUEST • Q&A • KIDS ZONE
DRAMA • MUSIC & DANCE
GOVINDA'S DELI • FREE MEALS
SOUL ENTERTAINMENT
FIREWORKS DISPLAY



FESTIVAL OF CHARIOTS DURBAN



CHARIOTFESTDBN

#Feastforthesoul #ChariotFestDBN



Durban Festival of Chariots – Feast for the Soul

Easter Weekend 29 March – 1 April

Bay of Plenty Lawns and Amphitheatre

Join the Festival of Chariots 2024 Team

This festival offers connection beyond racial, cultural, and social borders with content that resonates universally. It will showcase the transformative power of *bhakti* and offer a joyous convergence of diversity. It promises to be a *Feast for the Soul*!

“Devotional service in Krishna consciousness is so sublime that even a little service rendered to Krishna, knowingly or unknowingly, gives one the greatest transcendental benefit.” Krishna Book, Chapter 6

Become a part of this soulful festival by volunteering your time, energy and skills to make the festival a grand success. Scan the QR code, fill in your details and preferences and we will get back to you.



An Appeal for Funding

Dearest Friend of the Festival of Chariots,

We extend a warm invitation to you to join us on a soul-stirring journey – the Durban Festival of Chariots: Feast for the Soul, over the Easter weekend 29 March – 1 April 2024, at the Durban Bay of Plenty Lawns and Amphitheatre. The Festival is a tapestry woven with devotion, community, and the undeniable magic of spiritual awakening.



to roll, each one a testament to the dedication and artistry of our community.

- An inclusive celebration: Your generosity helps us keep the festival free and open to all, ensuring everyone can experience its transformative magic.

- A legacy of inspiration: Your support contributes to building a lasting legacy of cultural heritage and spiritual connection for generations to come.

In this grand tapestry, each thread plays a crucial role. Just like the artisans who meticulously craft the chariots, the musicians who fill the air with joyous rhythms, and the volunteers who tirelessly dedicate their time, your support becomes the invisible yet vital cord that binds the festival together.

As a non-profit organisation, we rely on the kindness of individuals like you to keep the festival accessible and free for all. Your contribution, ensures that the festival remains a beacon of hope, harmony, and shared experience. It requires the support of individuals like you, who believe in the transformative power of this event. Your contributions, no matter the size, become the fuel that propels the Festival forward.

Here's how your donation will make a difference:

- Empowering workshops: Your contribution helps sustain the workshops that guide souls on journeys of self-discovery and inner peace.
- Magnificent chariots: Your support ensures that these vibrant symbols of faith continue

We understand that every contribution comes from a place of personal sacrifice. Therefore, we pledge to be responsible stewards of your trust, ensuring that every cent goes towards realising the magic of the festival.

So, we invite you to join us in this noble endeavour. Donate today and become a co-architect of this soul-stirring celebration. Together, we can make the festival a beacon of light, reaching hearts and igniting the spark of joy and inner peace within each of us. Bank Details:

Account Holder	ISKCON
Bank	Nedbank
Branch	Chatsworth
Branch Code	132226
Account No.	1322113971
Reference	<DFOCYOUR NAME>

Please send a proof of payment to dfoc@iskcondurban.net

With immense gratitude,
The Durban Festival of Chariots Team



Vegetarian Lasagne

The Vaishnava Chef

By Ananga Sundari Dasi

Ingredients:

1 sachet tomato paste
 4 tbsp. oil
 Hing
 Pinch of sugar
 3 large tomatoes, blended.
 1 sprig of curry leaf
 Few sprigs of chopped basil (or use dry)
 Fresh thyme (or use dry)
 Dried oregano
 1 tsp of coriander and cumin powder
 1 tbsp. of red chilli powder
 Small piece of ginger, ground
 2 green chillies (or use a bona fide hot sauce)
 Half a punnet of baby marrow (chopped)
 Half a punnet of patty pans (cut in quarters)
 Half a head of broccoli (cut in medium sized florets)
 (Use any veggie of your choice, the variety is endless)
 Milk
 Butter
 Flour
 Ground black/white pepper
 Salt
 Ground Nutmeg
 Grated cheese.
 Spinach lasagne sheets (vegan)

Method:

For the white sauce: melt butter, add in the flour and once a *roux* has developed, add in the salt, pepper, and the ground nutmeg. Add in the milk whisking continuously over low heat, once the sauce thickens, add the grated cheese. Turn off the heat and set aside. (Bay leaf can be added to the milk which is optional).

For the veggie sauce: in a heated pan add in oil, curry leaves, ground ginger, and tomato paste, (add chilli if using fresh), allow this to fry for a few seconds. Then add all powdered spices and allow this to fry on low heat until the spices have fine bubbles on the side. Add in the blended tomatoes, pinch of sugar, fresh thyme, and basil leaves with salt. At this point if you are using a hot sauce, you can pour some in, or alternatively the fresh green chilli in the oil.

I usually add in raw chopped vegetables to the tomato sauce, but you can flash fry or oven roast them before hand and add them to the red sauce, roasted vegetables are the best option if you have time and if you are using butternut squash.

Allow the vegetables to cook in the red sauce until slightly softened, not fully cooked as the remainder cooking time will be in the oven.

Once the vegetables are half cooked through, remove from heat, and set aside. Don't allow the red sauce to dry out too much. To start layering the lasagne sheets, use a suitable deep casserole, spoon in some cheese sauce at the bottom of the casserole, before adding your first layer of spinach lasagne sheets. Layer with veggie sauce, cheese sauce, and another layer of lasagne sheets. (You can add cheese in between each layer). Repeat this process until sauce is finished and casserole has reached its maximum.

The last layer should be cheese sauce, cover with foil and bake for about 40 minutes or upon inserting a knife, the lasagne sheets should be *al dante*. Once cooked, remove foil, add grated cheese and a sprinkle of herbs (I also sprinkle crumbled feta cheese), and bake until the cheese is melted or if you like, grilled. Offer to Krishna and serve.