



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

HARE KRISHNA NEWS

November/December 2024

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Vaishnava Calendar

19 Dec Th	Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur's Disappearance Fast until noon.
26 Dec Th	Ekadasi Sri Devananda Pandit's Disappearance
27 Dec Fr	Break fast 04:55 - 09:36
28 Dec Sa	Sri Mahesa Pandit's Disappearance Sri Uddharana Datta Thakur's Disappearance
31 Dec Tu	Sri Locana Das Thakur's Appearance
2025	
2 Jan Th	Srila Jiva Gosvami's Disappearance Sri Jagadisa Pandit's Disappearance
10 Jan Fr	Ekadasi
11 Jan Sa	Break fast 05:06 - 09:44 Sri Jagadisa Pandit's Appearance
13 Jan Mo	Sri Krsna Pusya Abhishek
14 Jan Tu	Ganga Sagara Mela
18 Jan Sa	Sri Ramachandra Kaviraj's Disappearance Srila Gopala Bhatta Gosvami's Appearance
19 Jan Su	Sri Jayadeva Gosvami's Disappearance
21 Jan Tu	Sri Locana Dasa Thakur's Disappearance
25 Jan Sa	Ekadasi
26 Jan Su	Break fast 05:19 - 09:52
3 Feb Mo	Vasanta Pancami Srimati Visnupriya Devi's Appearance Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakur's Disappearance Sri Pundarika Vidyanidhi's Appearance Sri Raghunandana Thakur's Appearance Srila Raghunatha Das Gosvami's Appearance
4 Feb Tu	Sri Advaita Acharya's Appearance Fast until noon
5 Feb We	Bhismastami
6 Feb Th	Sri Madhvacharya's Disappearance
7 Feb Fr	Sri Ramanujacharya's Disappearance
8 Feb Sa	Ekadasi (Fast until noon for Lord Varahadeva)
9 Feb Su	Break fast 05:31 - 09:57 Varaha Dvadasa: Appearance of Lord Varahadeva (Fast on Sa 8 Feb)
10 Feb Mo	Nityananda Trayodasi: Appearance of Sri Nityananda Prabhu (Fast until noon)
12 Feb We	Sri Krishna Madhura Utsava Srila Narottam Das Thakur's Appearance

HARE KRISHNA
HARE KRISHNA
KRISHNA KRISHNA
HARE HARE
HARE RAMA
HARE RAMA
RAMA RAMA
HARE HARE

Love Feast | EVERY SUNDAY @ 11am

Discussion on philosophy, chanting & dancing, and a sumptuous vegetarian feast.

Follow us on...
Durban Krishna



Hare Krishna Temple
ISKCON Durban
50 Bhaktivedanta Swami
Circle, Chatsworth

GPS co ordinates: -29° 54' 35.07" S, +30° 52' 59.66" E
+27 (0)31 403 3328 (Monday - Friday 8am - 4pm)

Govinda's Restaurant & Radhanath Gifts
Monday - Saturday 9:30am - 4pm
Sundays & Public Holidays 9:30am - 3pm
Govinda's WhatsApp
+27 (0)78 849 4291

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Quotes from the Srimad Bhagavatam and Srila Prabhupada lecture are

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"I Simply Tried to Satisfy My Guru..."

Living with Srila Prabhupada
Prabhupada Arrival Address – Los Angeles
20 June 1975

We have no new discovery. We don't manufacture. This is our process. We simply follow the predecessor's instruction, that's all. Our movement is very easy because we haven't got to manufacture something. We simply repeat the words and the instruction given by the predecessor. Krishna instructed Brahma, Brahma instructed Narada, Narada instructed Vyasadeva, Vyasadeva instructed Madhvacharya, and in this way, then Madhavendra Puri, Isvara Puri, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, then the Six Gosvamis, then the Srinivas Acharya, Kaviraja Gosvami, Narottam Das Thakur, Visvanath Cakravarti, Jagannath Das Babaji, Bhaktivinoda Thakur, Gaurakishora Das Babaji, Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati, and then we are doing the same thing. There is no difference. That is the specific procedure of the Krishna consciousness movement.

You are singing daily, *guru-mukha-padma-vakya*, *cittete koriya aikya*, *ar na koriho mane asa*. Very simple thing. We are receiving the transcendental knowledge through *guru-parampara* succession. So we have to simply take instruction from guru, and if we execute that to our heart and soul, that is success. That is practical.

I have no personal qualification, but I simply tried to satisfy my guru, that's all. My Guru Maharaja asked me that "If you get some money, you print books." So there was a private meeting, talking, some of my important Godbrothers also there. It was in Radha-kunda. So Guru Maharaja was speaking to me that "Since we have got this Baghbazar marble temple, there has been so many dissensions, and everyone is thinking who will occupy this room or that room, that room. I wish, therefore, to sell this temple and the marble and print some book." Yes. So I took up this from his mouth, that he is very fond of books. And he told me personally that "If you get some money, print books." Therefore I am stressing on this point: "Where is book? Where is book? Where is book?" So kindly help me. This is my request. Print as many books in as many languages and distribute throughout the whole world. Then Krishna consciousness movement will automatically increase.

2025 Prabhupada Marathon!

Until 7 January 2025

Goal: 16108 Books

Different ways to participate:

1. Include a book in your festive gifts.
2. Have a pre-arranged spot at a local mall or market.
3. Join the Harinam Party by sharing the holy name and handing out invitations.
4. Distribute books door-to-door in your area.
5. Ask friends and family to purchase a book
6. Use your social media to advertise books you have on hand.
7. Support book distributors by driving them to different locations, make lunch packs, or even help carry their book bags.
8. Sponsor towards book distribution initiatives or encourage others to contribute towards spiritual learning.

How to get involved:

Step 1: Contact the Book Office Team on sankirtanoffice@iskcondurban.net / 076 587 9558

Step 2: Select your books, you may top-up as you need.

Step 3: Join a Team or Go Solo. Make it a fun day out!

Step 4: Share the wisdom with others. Plant the seed of bhakti.

Step 5: Tally up your scores.

Step 6: Pay your book account based on the books distributed



Govardhan Puja

Kartik Purnima



Youth Year-end Festival



Writers Workshop

Lord Krishna's Love Through The Bhagavad-gita

by Gaura Bhumi Devi Dasi

The *Bhagavad-gita* is a prime example of our spiritual and cultural tradition. It was spoken by Lord Krishna to His friend Arjuna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra. On one level, the *Bhagavad-gita* was spoken to comfort Arjuna, but it has a deeper purpose. The *Bhagavad-gita* covers five main themes – *atma* (who am I?), *prakriti* (the material world, or where am I?), *karma* (activities, or what am I doing here?), *kala* (time), and *Isvara* (God). As we work our way through understanding these themes, we learn how the essence of yoga means forming a link or connection with Someone beyond the material sphere we exist in. The knowledge of the *Bhagavad-gita* is the link to connecting with the beyond.

But, to summarise even further, if the essence of the *Bhagavad-gita* could be condensed even further, it could be summarised in one word – love. Just as the above five themes are covered, the *Bhagavad-gita* covers numerous topics ranging from leadership and emotions to relationships and families.

A simple search of the word love reveals that love has many qualities. Selfless love is that experience which is the underlying essence of what truly captures us. On its deepest level, the *Bhagavad-gita* explores Krishna's selfless love for us, and how it shows up in our lives.

The *Bhagavad-gita* opens on a fratricidal war between cousins, the Pandavas and Kauravas. These initial moments on the battlefield are the most intense of Arjuna's life. In front of him stand seven generations of his family. Doubt strikes. His mouth dries up, his body trembles and perspires, and his mind reels. Arjuna has a panic attack. His family is going to die, and he is the one who will kill them.

Arjuna's ability has a palpable lack of stability. Love should be stable. In the 10th chapter, Krishna states that He is the beginning, middle, and end of all things. What could be more stable and reassuring than that? Krishna's wisdom reveals His presence as the rock in our lives, the calm before the storm, and the ultimate shelter for all.

Arjuna takes Krishna through his many doubts. Every reason he presents is logical and well

thought out. Arjuna truly believes that he has to reject everything he has stood for in the past. Through all of his doubt, confusion, and pain Krishna offers him the warmest comfort.

When we are in a stable position in life, we are in a better sphere to receive comfort. In the 9th chapter, Krishna shares how He carries what the devotee lacks, and preserves what they have. Is there truly anything more comforting than knowing Krishna keeps us secure in the palm of His grace, providing anything and everything we need?

When Arjuna experienced the comfort and stability Krishna's love provided, he found it natural to open his heart, share his mind, and be vulnerable with Him. Krishna's love provided all the safety Arjuna needed to surrender, and not just to anyone, but to a spiritual guide. Krishna began to share His wisdom only when Arjuna asked for it, up until then He simply listened with love. But once asked for His opinion, He didn't hold anything back.

A mature relationship rooted in love holds space for hard knocks as well. After hearing Arjuna's reasons for not wanting to fight, one of the first things Krishna tells Arjuna in the 2nd chapter is to give up his petty weakness of heart. A loved one calling us out on our behaviour is also love. If I truly loved someone why would I want them to suffer and wallow? Krishna knows who we truly are and what we are capable of, why would He want us to lament for what is not worthy of grief?

Krishna acknowledges Arjuna's affection for his family, but requests him to see them for who they are – spirit souls. The body is simply a dress for the soul. If someone came to my house and all I did was fixate on their clothing without checking in on them, the exchange of love would be incomplete and lacking. Real love means loving the complete individual. Krishna expands Arjuna's conception of life to move beyond death towards an understanding of the deeper transitions which await all of us.

As Arjuna listens intently, he begins to feel bravely motivated by Krishna's loving philosophy. Krishna presents a side to the nature of Arjuna as the spirit soul which is eternal and indestructible. Truly understanding who we are is an amazing thing to perceive. We have an identity and purpose



beyond the material realm. As Arjuna feels more rooted in Krishna's love, He can be more straightforward in His approach. Arjuna's bewilderment stems from a lack of self-knowledge. Though he intellectually understands the situation on the battlefield and recognizes the opposing forces, seeing them as family creates emotional turmoil and illusion. This internal conflict reveals a relatable struggle between roles and duties, particularly Arjuna's role as a *kshatriya*. When overwhelmed, he turns to Krishna, not to ask whether to fight, but to seek clarity about his duty. Krishna, without sugar-coating, responds with wisdom, urging Arjuna to see beyond personal attachments and align his actions with higher spiritual principles. Krishna's love opens Arjuna's mindset to new possibilities.

Krishna introduces the balance between *sva-dharma* (worldly duty) and *sanatana-dharma* (eternal spiritual duty). While functional identities, like professions, are necessary, they are subordinate to the fundamental identity of being a spirit soul, an eternal servant of Krishna. Balancing these roles brings determination and enthusiasm. True freedom, Krishna explains, is not just freedom from distractions but freedom for higher purposes, rooted in spiritual knowledge.

Krishna's love is the most freeing experience in the world. He never tries to tie Arjuna down to anything. Rather He requests Arjuna to be independently thoughtful, to deliberate on everything He has shared and do what he wishes to do.

Even if someone wins the rat race, they are still a rat. The forces dragging us down within the material world will never stop. Satisfaction will never be found, and desires can never be cut off. Krishna tells Arjuna to rather shift his focus towards building a connection with Him. One who does this, He states, will never perish.

Through everything, Krishna always supports Arjuna with his doubts, illustrating real love that is consistent, loyal, and enduring. He is never impatient or annoyed with anything Arjuna brings to Him, rather offering patience and guidance. Arjuna never has to catch Krishna at a good time. And through His support, we see His flexibility. Krishna's love is for everyone, at whatever stage of life we're in, Krishna will always accommodate us, individually and uniquely.

And by the end, we see how both Arjuna and Krishna's love for each other is a choice. Krishna patiently guides Arjuna from confusion to clarity, disillusionment to enlightenment, and defeat to confidence, simply out of selfless love. Arjuna chooses Krishna over everything as he finally understands that his relationship with Krishna is the most fulfilling and satisfying experience he will ever have, because no matter what, Krishna will always choose his devotee.

The Musician Soul Poetry By Krishnapriya Naidoo

Where the shadows play
And the trees and leaves sway
He lifts his eyebrows and smiles
He plays the flute in the night
Weaving a melody with all might

Notes that sparkle and shine
Our Musician is divine
Echoes of the forests
And heavy breaths of the creatures
Rush to hear

The flute sways along the Musician's lips
And the wind hushes to touch His hips
With every breath, He pours His heart and soul
Making every spirit whole

The Musician causes the flowers to dance
And the trees to change their stance
The flute, an extension of His divine hand
Creates a harmony that is simply grand!

With the creatures of the wild listening up close
Our Musician playing, standing in His pose
His fingers dance
His moist lips blow
A maelstrom of delight
All the hearts of Vrindavan bloom
Like lotuses in the night

Krishna!
Our Musician!
Whose music enchants those
Even simply by admiring His pose
Are pulled by the notes that He creates
And allows us to always meditate

Those notes that caused others
To be lost and found
To forever look up and never down
His music reaches to our heart
Heals the scars
A way of His love telling us
That we will never be apart

Take it, Krishna
Here's my heart
Use it as your instrument
Let my heart beat according to your drum
Instruct my soul to however it should hum
Cause "You are The Lord of the Universe
Soul of the universe
Personality of the form of the universe" (SB 1.8.41)
You are The Musician!

Salt Dough Craft

For the Kids

By Lila Suka Devi Dasi

Dearest Parents & Little Friends!

As the holiday season approaches, I'm sure you are all very excited to spend time with your loved ones. Make this holiday one to remember with this creative and fun craft. You can make items to give as gifts, make holiday or altar decorations, the list is endless!

Air Dry Salt Dough

For all ages.

You will need

1/4 cup of water

1/4 cup of salt

1/2 cup of flour

a bowl

spoon

Optional

cookie cutters

rolling pin

Method

1. Combine the water and salt in a bowl, mix until the salt dissolves.



2. Gradually add the flour until the consistently resembles mashed potatoes.

If the mixture looks too dry, add a little water

If the mixture looks too wet, add a little flour

3. You will know it's ready when it looks like the image below. A soft dough that holds together and can easily roll into balls.

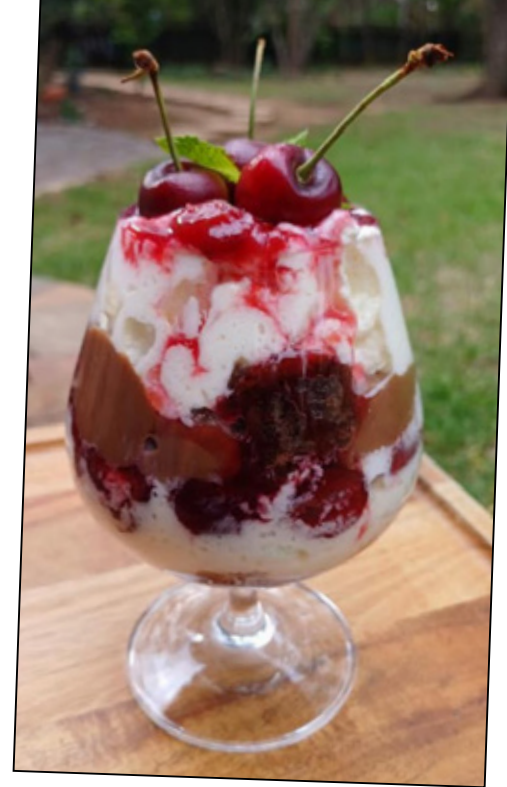


4. Now the fun begins! Shape and mold your creations with tools or using just your hands. Note: Left over salt dough can be stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to five days.



5. Air dry your creations over a few days and once completely dry you can paint and decorate according to your taste. We made a little diya holder, Gajendra the Elephant, and a pretty heart pendant. Happy Holidays Everyone! This beautiful Krishna salt dough art below was made by Candrika Dasi.





Festive Trifle

The Vaishnava Chef

By Ananga Sundari Dasi

Looking for an easy, show-stopping dessert for festive season, this trifle is the best option. It is made with dark chocolate or carob cake, soaked in a homemade cherry syrup, and decadently layered with cream and custard.

Eggless Chocolate/Carob Cake Ingredients:

1½ cups of self-raising flour
¾ cup sugar (or less)
½ tsp salt
1 tsp baking soda
¼ cup cocoa powder or carob powder
1 tsp vanilla essence
1/3 cup cooking oil
1 Tbsp white vinegar
1 cup decaf coffee or cold water

Method

Preheat oven to 180°C. Grease a cake pan, or muffin pan and set aside. Sift all dry ingredients, make a well in the centre and add in all wet ingredients. Fold batter until all ingredients are combined. Bake until cooked by doing a skewer test.

Chocolate Custard Ingredients:

2 cups of milk
Sugar to taste
90g chopped dark chocolate/cocoa or carob powder
3 Tbsp custard powder (dissolve in a little milk)

Method

Heat milk in saucepan, leaving a little behind to dissolve the custard powder. Add in the chopped chocolate/cocoa or carob powder. Once fully

dissolved add the sugar and the dissolved custard powder. Stir well until well combined, with a thick pouring consistency, switch off heat and set aside.

Cherry Sauce Ingredients:

2 punnets of fresh cherries, halved and pitted.
Sugar to taste
Few Tbsp of water to create a sauce

Method

In a saucepan, add in the sugar, chopped cherries and water. Allow to cook down until a medium thick consistency. Switch off heat and set aside.

For the whipped cream:

500ml chilled fresh cream, 6 Tbsp icing sugar (or less). Whip cream until soft peaks, add icing sugar and whip until firm peaks are formed or until pipeable.

Assembly & Garnish:

Fresh cherries, chopped chocolate, chopped pecans, fresh mint, or rosemary sprigs.

Cut up pieces of cake and drizzle with the juice from the cherry sauce and set aside. Using a large trifle bowl (double the quantity of this recipe), or small individual trifle bowls (as in the pictures), layer the cut-up pieces of cake, custard, whipped cream, and cherry sauce. Make as many layers as possible that the dessert bowls can take, garnish with chocolate, pecans, cherries, and some greens for freshness.

This recipe can be made with Swiss-roll instead of a tray baked cake and the recipe can be done with a vanilla sponge and normal custard.

Makes 4 dessert bowl size servings.