

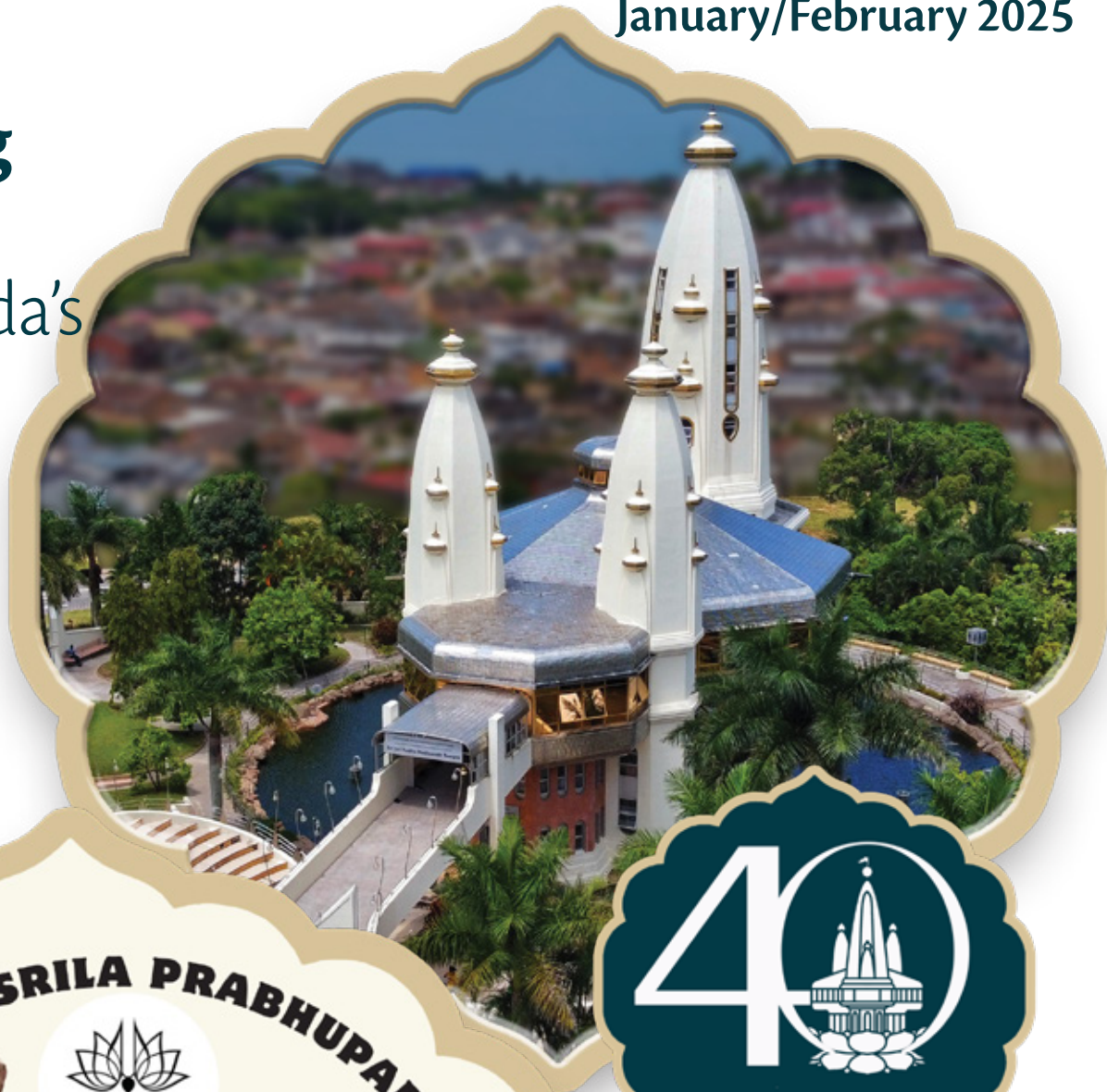


INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS
Founder Acharya: His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

HARE KRISHNA NEWS

January/February 2025

**Preparing
for Srila
Prabhupada's
Visit**
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SRILA PRABHUPADA'S LANDMARK VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA



**50th
ANNIVERSARY**

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

Vaishnava Calendar

| | | |
|-------------|----|---|
| 17 Feb | Mo | Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur's Appearance Fast until noon. |
| 24 Feb | Mo | Ekadasi |
| 25 Feb | Tu | Break fast 05:44 - 09:20 Sri Isvara Puri's Disappearance |
| 28 Feb | Fr | Srila Jagannath Das Babaji's Disappearance |
| 10 Mar | Mo | Ekadasi Sri Madhavendra Puri's Disappearance |
| 11 Mar | Tu | Break fast 05:53 - 10:01 |
| 14 Mar | Fr | Sri Gaura Purnima: Appearance of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu (Fast until moonrise) |
| 15 Mar | Sa | Festival of Jagannatha Misra |
| 22 Mar | Sa | Sri Srivas Pandit's Appearance |
| 25 Mar | Tu | Ekadasi |
| 26 Mar | We | Break fast 06:03 - 10:01 |
| 2 Apr | We | Sri Ramanujacharya's Appearance |
| 6 Apr | Su | Rama Navami: Appearance of Lord Sri Ramacandra (Fast until noon) |
| 8 Apr | Tu | Ekadasi |
| 9 Apr | We | Break fast 06:11 - 10:01 |
| 12 Apr | Sa | Sri Balaram Rasayatra Sri Krishna Vasanta Rasa Appearance of Radha Kunda |
| 18-21 April | | Durban Festival of Chariots |

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



www.iskcondurban.net | temple@iskcondurban.net



Srila Prabhupada giving darshan in the Westville house. (That is the Vyasasana Partha Sarathi Das made). Inset photo: Riddha Das with Srila Prabhupada at the airport.

Preparing for Srila Prabhupada's Visit

Living with Srila Prabhupada

Excerpt from Encounters with A Great Soul – My Fond Remembrances of Srila Prabhupada by Partha Sarathi Das Goswami

A few months later, Prabhupada's secretary informed us that Prabhupada would be coming to South Africa in October. You can imagine the excitement! Finally I was going to meet my spiritual master again.

Prabhupada's arrival in apartheid South Africa was going to be unusual, to say the least. An article in the Star newspaper had just reported that The Supremes, an African-American pop group, had held their first performance in Durban:

Blacks Hear Supremes

The first Durban performance of The Supremes last night was in front of a multiracial audience consisting of approximately one thousand Whites and a smattering of Blacks. Permission was granted for a small number of Blacks to attend the show, which was to have been for Whites only. The Supremes said that they would not perform unless there were Blacks in the audience.

Since Prabhupada was scheduled to first arrive in Durban the devotees had arranged a single-story bungalow in Westville, a high-class suburb, to become their temple. The owner, Mr Naik, was a pious man, and a member of the Gujarati community. The single-

story house was medium-sized, with three bedrooms, a courtyard, and a large lounge, which made an ideal temple room.

The altar was makeshift, consisting of a two-foot square table covered with saris and surrounded by a curtain. On the wall above Their Lordships I hung more saris, which were donated by Popatlal Kara. There were also two flower stands on either side of the altar. At the opposite end of the temple room was a huge *vyasasana*. It was six feet long, four feet wide, and seven feet high. The temple president had asked me to build a seat for Prabhupada, and without any idea of how to do it, I built this huge *vyasasana*. I had no plan, no sense of direction—just raw enthusiasm. Krishna must have directed me, because the end result was impressive—at least I was impressed by it. No one else complained, so I thought the seat must be passable. The backrest was attached to the seat by two bolts. There was one problem, however: the seat was too high for Prabhupada to climb up on, so I had to make a step too. The step was long and thin, and when stepped on, it sagged. Being innovative, I built a wooden support in the middle to prevent the step from sagging.

The white-bodied devotees didn't go to the airport to greet Srila Prabhupada because we were afraid of causing too much of a stir—imagine white people offering respect to an Indian swami in apartheid South Africa! Riddha was the only full-time temple devotee to go to the airport. I was waiting nervously in the garden.



Resolutions to Evolutions Gaura Bhumi Devi Dasi

The New Year never fails to bring a whiff of something in the air, a strange mix of nostalgia and hope wrapped into one. Welcome or not, the new year brings a sense of closure or finality to certain aspects in life. But the thing with closure is that it often means the beginning of something else. It's a common practice to think of resolutions for the year ahead. We're encouraged to reevaluate our sphere of life and make improvements wherever possible. The nature of my resolutions in the past have often taken the tone of what I need or want to do with my life for the year ahead.

My 2024 resolution list had six items on it. Not a single one was crossed off. Have I been so focused on doing, that I've forgotten about being? My 2025 resolution list is made up of one question. Who do I want to be on a day-to-day basis?

I want to be someone who Krishna sees. Bhakti yogis are familiar with a concept called *darshan*. In its simplest form, it refers to coming to the temple and seeing the deity form of the Lord. Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati, the guru of our beloved Founder-Acharya Srila Prabhupada speaks about *darshan* in a different light. *Darshan* can also refer to coming before the Lord so that He may see you as

you are, for who you are.

How do I become someone who Krishna sees? One way to do this is to become a prayerful person. Prayer can be extremely difficult at times. How do I start? What do I say? Am I saying the right thing? Where do I find the time? Ultimately, prayer is about stretching my heart in whatever way I know how.

But why do I pray? I want to know I'm not alone. I want a friend, someone to see me, love me, and accept me. In the *Bhagavad-gita* Krishna says that we are dear to him. Prayer is the heart's journey to finding out what this means.

**I want to be someone
Krishna sees...
How do I become
someone Krishna sees?**

We can plan as much as we can for the year ahead, but ultimately we have no way of knowing what lies ahead. Prayer brings a reassurance which says that no matter what, there is one place we can come to, and that is Krishna, through every upcoming experience. We can pray through every instance of life, whether reaching out for help, when prayers and wishes are answered, or even reaching out from a space of guilt, because we may not come to Krishna as much as we should.

Unfortunately, the hardest part of spiritual life is that so much of life is un-spiritual. Life is full of distractions. Life's responsibilities seem to drag us away from prayer. But prayer can help us understand



how every boundary, constraint, and reality comes from Krishna. We decide how we see what is in our lives. My weakness in prayer won't change if the distractions in my life go away. As a human being, I will always find something else to be angry about, I'd find another excuse to be lazy, and a new aspect of life to blame for my lack of time. But I need to find Krishna in every distraction, and prayer can help me with this.

Prayer also holds space for the tired. When I come to Krishna I can find rest, and relief from restlessness. My issues and problems may not completely be solved, but coming to Krishna should settle my heart.

And despite everything the year ahead may bring, there will always be much to be grateful for. Krishna has been, and always will be good to us. Joy will always feature in the life of a *bhakti yogi*, and prayer helps us find gratitude and deeper experiences of joy.

There is no doubt that prayer also brings layers of disappointment. It's not very pleasant or easy to open our hearts, expose ourselves before the Lord and hear absolutely nothing in return. And we're expected to keep trusting Krishna through all this? We may often go years without reciprocation. But

through all the worry, silence, and pain, Krishna sits with us within the core of our heart. He sees us, knows us, accepts us, and always wants the best for us.

Consider your fingerprints for a moment. Each of us has a completely unique print. Krishna's space and impact in our life is exactly like this – His impact on our life is entirely different, unique, and special to each of us.

Ultimately, becoming someone who Krishna sees requires us to explore our own heart-space. Krishna sits in our heart and we can find Him there at any

moment. Our heart-space may be a little crowded and dirty. There may be weeds of doubt, and we may often trip over them. My heart-space is prone to flies of confusion, and boulders of stubbornness. But despite this, through prayer I hope to make this upcoming year a time of becoming someone who Krishna sees with love.

If anything for the upcoming year, may we remember the Lord within our heart, who shares each moment with us. Also, let us not forget to pray for each other. My prayer for you all – through every moment, may you anchor your heart in remembrance of Krishna and see His hand in everything.

Joy will always feature in the life of a bhakti yogi, and prayer helps us find gratitude and deeper experiences of joy.



My Radha Radhanath

is a new column in honour of the Temple's 40th anniversary. You are invited to share a memory, a life-changing experience, a direct reciprocation – any indelible impression you have of Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple. We will include at least one article in each edition of Hare Krishna News. A compilation of all written offerings will be offered to the Lord and made available online. To kick-off this initiative Vibhu Caitanya Das, our former Temple President shares his experience.

Submit your experience here: temple@iskcondurban.net

A Glimpse Beyond My Radha Radhanath By Vibhu Caitanya Das

I stepped into the temple room at Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Mandir, the familiar scent of incense lingering in the cool air. From this vantage point, the altar looked like a gateway to another world. The Deities stood gracefully, Their forms radiant and serene, as if inviting us to glimpse into the spiritual world beyond our mundane lives. The gentle hum of devotees chanting filled the space, and for a moment, everything felt timeless.

But it wasn't until I stepped inside the altar room itself that the experience truly shifted.

As I crossed the threshold, the atmosphere changed instantly. The world outside faded away, replaced by an overwhelming sense of presence. The first thing I noticed was the light—a brilliant, almost ethereal spotlight illuminating Krishna. It wasn't just any light; the Swarovski crystals embedded in the altar caught and reflected it in a way that made the entire scene shimmer. The jewels sparkled with an intensity that seemed almost otherworldly, their reflections dancing on the golden backdrop.

I paused, my eyes drawn to Krishna's form. His deep blue hue stood out strikingly against the glow, as if He was emerging from the light itself. I felt like He was about to turn His gaze directly toward me, His lotus eyes ready to pierce through my heart. To His side, Radharani seemed to move—not literally, but



in that mysterious way the mind plays with devotion. It was as if She was dancing before Him, Her form alive with grace and love. Krishna's face, bright like a full moon, was adorned with saffron *tilaka*, and Tulasi garlands rested against His chest, their green leaves vibrant against His divine complexion.

I raised my phone to capture this perfect moment, standing in the same spot where the *arati* is usually offered. But as soon as I looked through the screen, it was impossible to get the shot. The camera couldn't handle it—the effulgence was too strong, too overwhelming. The light that made the jewels sparkle so beautifully blinded the lens, leaving only a glare.

Lowering my phone, I chuckled softly to myself.

Of course, I thought. Some things aren't meant to be captured. Some moments are meant to be felt, absorbed, and carried in the heart.

As I stood there, still, a quiet emotion welled up inside me—gratitude. Gratitude for this glimpse of divinity, for the chance to stand so close to Krishna and Radharani, even if just for a fleeting moment. And maybe, just maybe, Krishna had glanced at me after all.

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TRANSFORM HABITS

**BHAKTIYOGA
SOCIETY/DURBAN**

UNLOCK INNER CALM



SLAY PROCRASTINATION

HOWARD COLLEGE

TUES FEB

**18TH 12:20
PM**

WESTVILLE CAMPUS

WED FEB

**19TH 12:20
PM**

Krishna & Agha: The Hero & The Demon

For the Kids

By Lila Suka Devi Dasi

Aghasura was a demon sent by King Kamsa,
to kill his darling nephew, Krishna.
Off to Vrindavan he went in the form
of a giant snake,
The earth rattled and the hearts of
the Devas quaked!
He lay amongst the mountains
pretending to be one.
Opening up his mouth wide, a cave
he had become.
Krishna knew it right away but his
friends they wanted to play,
"What an interesting spot let's go
see!" They said.
Cows and boys and calves they went,
Surely this was the end and
soon they would be dead.

But never fear when Krishna is near, He
jumped right in and Aghasura's mouth
shut!
Big big big Krishna grew!
Tore him up from inside out!

Aghasura's eyes bulged and grew wide!
As his life left his body he felt some love
for the cowherds and cows.
He thought about how excited they
were to play inside his mouth.
How happy and how they all shouted
"Wow!"
Lost his life but content was he,
for bringing Krishna's friends some joy.
All those sweet cows and lovely boys.

But how could this be?
Krishna was just a boy?
5 years old crushing Aghasura like a toy!
Krishna is our friend.
He's mysterious.



Just sing His names!
Remember His games!
And you'll be forever joyous!

For Young readers: Read the rhyme and
answer the questions.

1. How old was Krishna when He destroyed Aghasura?
2. Who called on Aghasura to attack Krishna?
3. Where did Krishna and His friends live?
4. Was it a real cave that the boys and cows entered?
5. How did Krishna destroy the demon?
6. Why was Aghasura happy at the end of his life?

Ages 0-4:
Have fun re-enacting the rhyme using
toys and/or props.



Vegetable Potjiekos

The Vaishnava Chef

By Ananga Sundari Dasi

There's no denying a meal cooked outdoors, either on a campfire or just a fire-cooked meal at home during the summer nights, is most enjoyable. Here's a traditional South African meal, cooked on an open fire and completely meat-free!

Ingredients

2 large tomatoes, grated or blended
 2 sprigs of curry leaves
 1 tsp ground ginger
 1 large bay leaf
 ½ tsp of fennel seeds
 1 aniseed
 1½ Tbsp red Kashmiri masala
 1½ tsp ground coriander powder
 1½ tsp ground cumin powder
 ½ tsp turmeric
 1 tsp paprika
 ½ tsp hing
 ½ bunch or fresh thyme (or dried)
 ½ bunch of fresh parsley chopped
 A good amount of mixed dried herbs
 Salt and pepper to taste
 1 punnet of baby marrows or patty pans (or both)
 Baby potatoes, as many as you desire
 2 carrots, roughly chopped

3 kernels of sweet corn
 Soya pieces (I used soya julienne)
 Oil

Method

1. Steam potatoes, corn and carrots and set aside (optional).
2. In a caste iron pot or potjie, heat oil, throw in all whole spices and ground ginger and sauté for three minutes.
3. Add in the powdered spices, salt and fresh herbs stirring continuously.
4. Gradually add in the tomatoes and allow the water to dry out a little.
5. Add in the chopped patty pans and/or baby marrows and allow to simmer for around 10 minutes. Check if there is water needed in between.
6. Add in the soya (frozen) of your choice, stir and cover with lid for about five minutes.
7. Add in the remainder steamed vegetables and allow to simmer, allowing the vegetables to soak up the gravy.
8. Once the meal is fully cooked, garnish with more fresh parsley or coriander, offer to Krishna with love and serve with freshly baked rolls or rice.

Note: Any choice of vegetables can be used for this dish, the variety is endless. Avoid cooking this dish on high heat especially if cooking outdoors.



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS

Founder Acharya: His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Festival of Chariots DURBAN

FEAST FOR THE SOUL

FRIDAY
18TH
APRIL

TO
MONDAY
21ST
APRIL

2025

*Save
the Date*



Venue:

Bay of Plenty, Durban Beach Front (Opposite Elangeni Hotel)