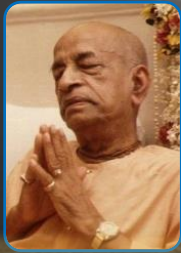


# Freedom Newsletter



Dedicated to His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada  
Founder Acarya of the International Society for Kṛṣṇa Consciousness

## ISKCON Prison Ministry / SEPTEMBER 2021

PO Box 2676  
Alachua, FL 32616

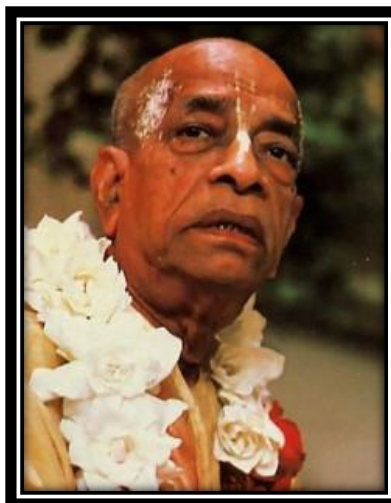
### ON EDUCATION AND THE GOOD LIFE

*The following exchange between His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, the mother of a new devotee, and a Jesuit priest took place in July 1973 at the Radha-Kṛṣṇa temple in London.*

**Srila Prabhupada:** [To the mother] According to our Vedic understanding, there are four pillars of sinful life: illicit sex, unnecessary killing of animals, intoxication, and gambling. Our students have been trained to give these up. And as you can see from your son, they are happy and satisfied by eating nice foods made from vegetables and milk and by chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa, the holy name of God.

**Mother:** I see he's happy. But, you know, he came from a very happy home, so he *should* be happy, shouldn't he?

**Srila Prabhupada:** Yes. But now he's still happier. He was happy, but now he's happier.



**Mother:** I'm happy for Michael's happiness, but I'm very disappointed that he's not continuing his university education.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Our Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is not depriving people of their education.

We say, "Go on with your university education, but side by side become competent to know God and to love Him. Then your life is perfect."

But in any case, what is the purpose of education? Our Vedic culture teaches that the culmination of education is to understand God. That is education. Otherwise, the education for learning how to eat nicely; how to sleep nicely, how to have sex and defend nicely—this education is there even among the

animals. The animals also know how to eat, how to sleep, how to have sex, and how to defend. These four branches of education are not sufficient for human beings. A human being must know how to love God—that is perfection.

**Mother:** Yes. I agree with you completely; I could mention a lot of brilliant men in science who are still very close to God. Where would we be without our scientists, without our doctors—

**Srila Prabhupada:** But simply to become a doctor in medical science will not save one. Unfortunately, most doctors do not believe in the next life.

**Mother:** Oh, yes they do. I know a doctor who comes to church every Sunday—and Michael knows him too. He believes in the next life; he's a *very good* man.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Generally people in the West who believe in the next life do not believe in it very seriously. If they actually believed in the next life, they would be more concerned about what *kind* of next life they were going to have. There are 8,400,000 forms of life. The trees are a form of life, the cats and dogs are also forms of life, and the worm in the stool is also a form of life. So, all together there are 8,400,000 species. Since we are going to have a next life, since we have to leave our present body and take another body, our main concern should be what kind of body we are going to get next. But where is that university which educates its students to prepare for the next life?

**Jesuit Priest:** Catholic universities all over the world are doing that, and that's our main purpose—to teach the young man or the young girl success in this world but, above all, success in the next, which means union with God for eternity. That's top priority.

**Srila Prabhupada:** So, how can we know what kind of body we are going to have in our next life?

**Priest:** All I know is that there's no annihilation. I'm going to be joined with God.

**Mother:** We're going to be joined with Almighty God, that's all. We're going to Almighty God when we die. We don't have to worry.

**Srila Prabhupada:** But what is the qualification for going to God? Does everyone go to God?

**Mother and Priest:** Yes. Yes.

**Priest:** Everybody who believes in God and who leads a good life and does his best in this world—

**Srila Prabhupada:** Then the next question is, What is the good life?

**Priest:** Obeying the commandments of God.

**Srila Prabhupada:** One commandment is, Thou shall not kill. So if somebody kills innocent animals and eats them, is he leading the good life?

**Priest:** Father, you're being a bit unfair, *Thou shall not kill* means "Thou shalt not unnecessarily take away

life." How would we be able to live if we didn't eat meat?

**Srila Prabhupada:** How are we living? We are eating nice foods prepared from vegetables, grains, fruits, and milk. We don't need meat.

**Priest:** Look at it this way. You just said a few minutes ago that there are eight million or so different kinds of life. Would you agree that the potato, the cabbage, and other vegetables also have life?

**Srila Prabhupada:** Yes.

**Priest:** So when you boil those vegetables, you're taking away their life.

**Srila Prabhupada:** What is your philosophy—that killing a potato and killing an innocent animal are equal?

**Priest:** You said, "Thou shalt not kill," but you kill the potato.

**Srila Prabhupada:** We all have to live by eating other living entities: *jivo jivasya jivanam*. But eating a potato and eating some animal are not the same. Do you think they are equal?

**Priest:** Yes.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Then why don't you kill a child and eat it?

**Priest:** I wouldn't for a second think of killing a child.

**Srila Prabhupada:** But animals and children are alike in that they both are helpless and ignorant; Because a child is ignorant, that does not mean we can kill him. Similarly, although animals may be ignorant or unintelligent, we should not kill them unnecessarily. A reasonable man, a religious man, should discriminate. He should think, "If I can get my food from vegetables, fruits, and milk, why should I kill and eat animals?" Besides, when you get a fruit from a tree, there is no killing. Similarly, when we take milk from a cow, we don't kill the cow. So, if we can live in such a way without killing, why should we kill animals?

**Priest:** Would you say that because I eat meat and bacon and so on—does that make me sinful? If I didn't eat those, I would be less sinful?

**Srila Prabhupada:** Yes.

**Priest:** So if I give up eating meat and bacon and sausages, I would become a different person?

**Srila Prabhupada:** You would become purified.

**Priest:** That's very interesting.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Animal killers cannot understand God. I have seen this; it is a fact. They do not have the brain to understand God.



# I WANT KRSNA MORE

By Bhakta Louis, Florida

The following are excerpts from a compilation of many letters written by Bhakta Louis, over a few months.

**H**are Krishna! Bhakti-lata Dasi, I want to thank you again for all you have done to rescue me from suffering in this material existence.

I have ten months left in this solitary confinement, and I am set and determined to learn as much as I can about the Supreme Absolute Truth and His pastimes, because I want to make it my life's mission that others in my situation can experience the peace and happiness of Krishna consciousness, with freedom from fear, stress and anxiety of the world and of prison life. This age-old science answers all of life's mystery while giving freedom, peace, happiness, and showing us how to love God! It is so perfect for all people, especially those men and women who are incarcerated and

bereft of hope, and in need of love and guidance. Prison life would be so much more peaceful and productive with Krsna consciousness available to the inmate population. I have been in the Florida DOC (Department of Corrections) for twenty years and never met a practitioner of Bhakti yoga —a Krishna conscious person. And I have studied religion and the esoteric for those twenty years. The first time I read the *Bhagavad-Gita As It Is*, I knew I had finally found what I've always been searching for, and all the other books of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada that I have read and studied have only reinforced that notion. I've never really wanted to give up intoxicants, gambling, meat, fish, eggs, or sex but I now Hate these things!

I'm studying many books by His Divine Grace Swami Prabhupada and learning a great deal about the science of the soul, love of God, and the Absolute Truth. I pray this will qualify me to inform others of this wonderful science, without being an offender. In this science, God gives the answers to all of life's mysteries with authority and I've never felt such peace, happiness, or the love



and presence of God! I must share this! Chant and be happy; in this Kali Yuga there is no other way, there is no other way, there is no other way! Bhakti Dasi, I've enclosed another approval form for the Japa beads. With the ten months I have left in solitary, just me and the Supreme Lord Krishna, I can chant 16 rounds a day and cleanse the filth from my heart and prepare me for my mission to spread Krsna Consciousness in the Florida prison system. This Krishna consciousness movement has me actually happy to be in prison to spread this science to those who need it most. I'm even blessed to be doing solitary confinement so I can learn Krishna consciousness without distractions, or interference.

All the books [you sent me] reinforced what I've learned from my *Bhagavad-Gita* (I study constantly), and I believe Krishna guides me. I hear through his Divine Grace's purports, I read, I pray, I remember. The book that gave me the newest knowledge is *Teachings of Queen Kunti*.

I've never been so at peace or felt so close to God. I've never felt happier, especially giving up meat, intoxicants, gambling, sex. I want to learn as much as I can so I may spread this peace and happiness to others in my situation. I can only wish someone could have shown me this path years ago. This path that does not require "blind faith". I used to feel sorry for myself, for my imprisonment, for the loss of wealth and support, the loss of my family. But Krishna has shown me I've lost all that so that I may gain Him, because in my arrogance and ignorance I would have never sought the

Absolute Truth. I'm at peace and thank God (Krishna) for my loss because the more I lose, the more I gain! Hare Krishna.

I'm currently in what is called close management (CM). It's a punishment of about two years of complete isolation, which has helped me find myself and Krishna. But I can't help to spread this message till I get off CM. I would

like to use this time to get as much knowledge and



growth in Krishna consciousness as I can to prepare me to help others find peace.

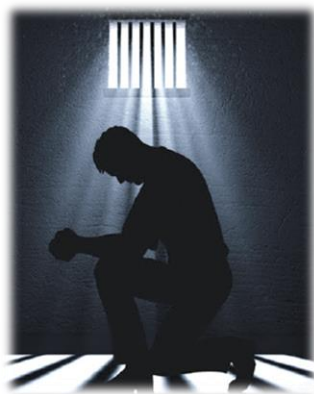
This is the first holiday season in some years that I have not been lonely and depressed. Thank you so much for the *Freedom Newsletter*; it answered a question I had about how to fast, and the calendars show me the Ekadasi days of the month. It was also nice to see part of my letter in this issue. I learned in the letters from other Florida inmates that I can find the audio track of His Divine Grace Swami Prabhupada chanting japa on our [electronic] tablets. Hare Krsna! And the *Back to Godhead* magazines [I received] warmed my heart.

I pray to be able to answer others' questions and be an example of Krsna consciousness. I'm still getting distracted while chanting and I feel that japa beads will assist me greatly, by including the hand [sense of touch] and helping to focus the turbulent mind on the task. I give my respectful obeisances to Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu for prescribing this method in this age of Kali. I give my respectful obeisances to His Divine Grace Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada for bringing this science to the West and by his books being our instructional Guru. All glories to them.

"Supreme Divine Lord Krsna, I am all yours, you are my only refuge and support. Protect me, guide me, have pity on me, my Lord and kindly remove some of the Maya so I may receive guidance from within, or kill me as you see fit or wish, for I am a soul surrendered unto You."

I can't begin to tell you how much I appreciate all the support I've gotten from you and IPM. The most precious gift is the true Knowledge I've gained from the books written by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Sami Prabhupada. For if it was written by His Divine Grace, then it was spoken by Krishna as it is.

I received the wonderful Japa beads; they came right when I really, really needed them most! Krishna is always there for me! I see and sense His hand in my support and advancement always so I'm never alone anymore. Krishna says He will take care of His devotees and it is so! Which is good because I am most fallen and can do nothing independently from Him. Between Krishna always being with me and all of the support from IPM and yourself, I'm never feeling alone and lost or afraid. I've lost all my material family and so the holiday season is usually most lonely and



depressing for me, but my heart has been filled with joy this season, Krsna is with me daily and every time I turn around you are sending me wonderful tools of self-realization. I feel like I'm part of a family, an eternal family, Hare Krsna.

Let me tell you a story that shows how Krsna watches over us and guides us, His hand is in everything and everywhere:

I've been moved about two months early to a less secure, level III wing. It's much more open, there are bars instead of solid doors and we can talk and pass things almost freely. Where I was before you could not hear or communicate with anyone. But with more freedom to communicate there is also more temptation, and more distractions. Firstly, it's so loud I can't hear myself think or study. Then, with us being able to pass things to others, there are illegal drugs, pornography, gang orders, etc. I've been in prison twenty years and been into the prison black market; drugs, electronics, weapons, you name it, as well as being a gang member. So I'm known, I have a name and reputation (not proud of it). So, people know me and right away I was tempted when one guy sent me some dope and when I told him I don't do that anymore, he said;



"no charge, keep it for later or sell it, get some things you need." I told him I can't do that and sent it back. He was a little confused, but he respected my mind. I can't lie, I was not tempted to get high but, because I don't get money, I could have gotten something I really could use, food, stamps etc. with it, but I want Krsna more. Then another guy I know sent me a hard-core pornography book to use free, and I did not even look at it, I sent it back (these things are big money in here). Then a runaround I've known for years gave me an extra hamburger tray along with my religious meal, I only ate the cookie, vegetables and bread, I gave away the meat. Right next door is one of my former gang brothers and he wanted me to help him run a football gambling ticket and tried to involve me in gang politics. Tempted by drugs, meat, sex, gambling in one day! Lord, help me. These things tempt me. But I want Krsna more. So, I got down and prayed to Him and asked, "Why lord have you moved me to this most sinful place? It's loud and I can't study or pray, and I'm tempted with evil things.

Lord, I'm most fallen and for some reason I still desire these things for sense pleasure and material lust. I can't overcome this illusion without you."

Then I realized Krsna wants me to come to Him, to turn to Him. Krsna does not test us so much as He is preparing me for what must come. He let me know that He is forging me like iron, how you temper iron into steel, to go to the open population where all these tests and problems will come. He let me know, "How can you help others if you can't be an example?" "If you turn to me, I will guide you safely." I've been getting used to these most sinful conditions and temptations and then your art calendar arrived, then my beads, just as I was wishing most for them! And they help tremendously. Hari Bol!

## WHO IS SRIMATI RADHARANI?

*Excerpts from two lectures spoken by Srila Prabhupada on Radhastami.*

**Montreal, Canada, August 30, 1968:**

**R**adharani is the pleasure potency of Krishna. Krishna is the Supreme Brahman. Just try to understand. Krishna is the Supreme Brahman. Param brahma param dhama pavitram paramam bhavan [Bg. 10.12]. So when param brahma wants to enjoy... That enjoying spirit is there in the param brahma. Otherwise we cannot have this enjoying spirit. Because we are part and parcel, therefore we have got that enjoying spirit; but that is materially contaminated. But the fact is there, because Krishna, He is enjoying, this enjoying spirit we have got also, but I do not know how to enjoy. We are trying to enjoy in the matter, in the dull matter. (...)

So many yogis, they have given up their family life, their kingdom, and meditating to achieve that Brahman pleasure. Actually, the idea is Brahman pleasure. So many brahmacaris, so many sannyasis, they are trying to achieve that Brahman pleasure, and in order to achieve that Brahman pleasure they are neglecting, they are kicking off all this material pleasure. Do you think that Brahman pleasure is ordinary, this material pleasure? To achieve a portion of Brahman pleasure, if they are kicking off all this material pleasure... Don't talk of ourselves. We are ordinary men. In the history we have got instances, that of Bharata Maharaja. Bharata Maharaja, under whose name this planet is called Bharatavarsa. That Bharata Maharaja was the emperor of the whole world. And as emperor he had his beautiful wife, young children. But at the age of twenty-four years, just young man, he gave up everything. All right. This is very old story, of course,

I know some guys will listen to me and be curious about my newfound happiness and way of life, because I've been there into all that stuff. And I know some of them are secretly desperate to find spiritual happiness and freedom, trust me, I know. If by your mercy you could send me the books by His Divine Grace, "Krsna, The Supreme Personality of Godhead", where his Divine Grace explains the tenth canto of the Srimad-Bhagavatam and Krishna's pastimes. Also *Nectar of Devotion*, His Divine Grace's book on Rupa Goswami's instructions, as I feel these books are very important to my spiritual development at this time. Thank you for all you have done for this most fallen living being. 🌸



but you know Lord Buddha. He was also a prince. He was also prince, not ordinary man, and he was ksatriya, and he was always

enjoying with beautiful women. That is the palace pleasure accustomed in every, in Oriental countries, that in the palace there are many beautiful girls, they're always dancing and giving pleasure to the kings and the prince. So Lord Buddha was also in such pleasure, but he gave up everything and began to meditate. (...)

In the Brahma-samhita you'll find that He [Krishna] expands His ananda-cinmaya-rasa, the mellow of transcendental pleasure potency. And these gopis are expansion of His pleasure potency. And Radharani is the center. Radharani is the center. So Radharani is not... Don't take that Radharani is an ordinary woman like we have our wife or sister or mother. No. She is the pleasure potency. And the birth of Radharani was not from the womb of any human being. She was found by her father in the field. While father was plowing, he saw one little nice child is lying there, and he had no children, so he caught it and presented to the queen, "Oh, here we have got a very nice child." "How you got?" "Oh, in the field." Just see. Radharani's janma is like that. So this janma is today and Radha, this name is sometimes not found in Bhagavata. So the atheistic

class of men protest this Radharani's name is not in the Srimad-Bhagavatam. How this name came, Radharani? But they do not know how to see it. There is anayaradhyate. There are many gopis, but there is mention that by this particular gopi He is served more pleasingly. Krishna accepts this gopi's service more gladly. Anayaradhyate. Aradhyate. This aradhate, this word, aradhyate means worshiping. From this word aradhyate, Radha has come. But Radha's name is there in other Puranas. So this is the origin.

So Radha, so Radha and Krishna. Krishna is the enjoyer and He wants to enjoy. So He's the Supreme Brahman. He cannot enjoy anything, atmarama, He can enjoy it in Himself. Therefore Radharani is the expansion of His pleasure potency. Krishna hasn't got to seek external things for His pleasure. No. He is in Himself full, atmarama. So Radharani is expansion of Krishna. Krishna is the energetic, and Radharani is the energy. Just like energy and energetic, you cannot separate. Fire and the heat you cannot separate. Wherever there is fire there is heat, and wherever there is heat there is fire. Similarly, wherever there is Krishna there is Radha. And wherever there is Radha there is Krishna. They are inseparable. But He is enjoying. (...) So Radha and Krishna is the one Supreme, but in order to enjoy, They have divided into two. Again Lord Chaitanya joined the two into one. Chaitanyakhyam prakatam adhuna. That one means Krishna in the ecstasy of Radha. Sometimes Krishna is in ecstasy of Radha. Sometimes Radha is in ecstasy of Krishna. This is going on. But the whole thing is Radha and Krishna means the one, the Supreme. (...) So Radha-Krishna philosophy is a very great philosophy. It is to be understood in the liberated stage. Radha-Krishna philosophy is not to be understood in the conditioned stage.

But when we worship Radha-Krishna in our conditional stage, actually we worship Laksmi-Narayana. You have seen that picture, this viddhi-marg and raga-marg. Radha-Krishna worship is on the platform of pure love, and Laksmi-Narayana worship is on the regulative principles. So long we do not develop our pure love, we have to worship on the regulative principles. One has to become a brahmachari, one has to become a sannyasi, one has to perform the worship in this way, in the morning he has to rise, he has to offer. So many rules and regulations. There are at least sixty-four rules and regulations. So we shall introduce them gradually as you develop. So in the viddhi-marg, when you have no love for God or Krishna, we have to follow the regulative principles and automatically..., there is practice. When practicing. Just like you practice this mridanga playing. In the beginning it is not in order, but

when you become well versed in the practice, the sound will come so nice. Similarly, when we are engaged by regulative principles in the worship of Radha-Krishna, that is called viddhi-marg. And actually when you are on the love platform, then that is called raga-marg. So without viddhi-marg, if anyone wants to learn the raga-marg immediately, that is foolishness. That is foolishness. Nobody can pass M.A. examination without going through the regulative principles of primary schools and colleges. So therefore I do not, I mean to say, indulge in the discussions of Radha and Krishna so easily. Rather go on with the regulative principle at the present moment. Gradually, as you become purified, as you become on the transcendental platform, you'll understand what is Radha-Krishna. Don't try to understand Radha-Krishna very quickly. It is a very big subject. If we want to understand Radha-Krishna very quickly, then there will be so many prakrita-sahajiyas. In India there are prakrita-sahajiya. Just like Radha-Krishna dancing. Radha-Krishna has become a plaything. The painting Radha-Krishna, Krishna is kissing Radha, Radha is kissing. These are all nonsense. Radha-Krishna philosophy has to be understood by the liberated person, not by the conditioned soul. So we shall await for the fortunate moment when we are liberated, then we shall understand radha-krishna-pranaya-vikrtir. Because Krishna and Radha, They are not on the material field. Try to understand. This is Jiva Gosvami's analysis, that Krishna is the Supreme Brahman. The Supreme Brahman cannot accept anything material. So Radha is not in the material field.

### September 18, 1969, in London

Radharani is *hari-priya*, very dear to Krishna. So if we approach Krishna through the mercy of Radharani, then it becomes very easy. If Radharani recommends that, "This devotee is very nice," then Krishna immediately accepts, however foolish I may be. Because Radharani recommends it, Krishna accepts. Therefore, in Vrndavana you'll find all the devotees chanting Radharani's name more than Krishna's. Wherever you'll go, you'll find the devotees are addressing one another, "Jaya Radhe." They are glorifying Radharani. They're more interested in worshiping Her. This is because, however fallen I may be, if somehow or other I can please Radharani, then it is very easy for me to understand Krishna. If you go by the speculative process to understand Krishna, it will take many, many lives. But if you take to devotional service and you just try to please Radharani, then Krishna will be gotten very easily, because Radharani can deliver Krishna. She is such a great devotee, the emblem of *maha-bhagavata* (topmost level of devotion to Krishna). 🌸

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## Excerpts from inmates' letters

I am cellmate with Krishna Kirtan. We can read/chant about Kṛṣṇa and chant daily, my cell is now a sacred place full of pictures of our dear Lord Gopal. We are hopeful the yard will open us so Kṛṣṇa consciousness can spread to the other units. We are never afraid for our future, we know the appearance of happiness and distress are just time to changing seasons, they are non-0permanent and have no "real" effect on us. Thank you again for all you do for us all here in prison.

**Pryce D. —Petersburg, Virginia**

Hare Krishna Mataji, Gurudev, and my wonderful, transcendental counselor,  
The chapel has turned over a completely new leaf thanks to the mercy of Srila Prabhupada, Lord Chaitanya, and dear, sweet Gopala. For the first time in many years, Chaplain Yousif authorized a substantial liturgical order with oils, chadars, gangajal, tilak, additional murtis, and many other things. They were all wonderful today and our little sanga from our housing unit only did a rousing kirtan with dancing and video of Prabhupada darshan. It was wonderful and transcendental. I just arrived back from the chapel and am ecstatic--almost like the old days.

Hope all is well for all of you. Your servant,  
**Krishna Kirtan das —Petersburg, Virginia**

I like to read about Krishna, his pastimes and miracles, also about reincarnation and the spiritual word. I have faith in him but in my situation I need much faith and miracles, I know I'm a servant from Him but sometimes I get tired of this life (I been down for 10 years) without any kind of support from my family that is in Mexico (Guadalajara, city). Therefore many times I'm frustrated and filled with fear and despair.

**Guillermo R.N. —Indian Springs, Nevada**

I've been taking Jason M.' class on Krsna and Krsna worship. I've finally found what my life has been missing. I read whatever I can get from Jason, on Krsna. I found a pocket size Bhagavad-Gita. I've probably read it 7 or 8 times. I've so many questions.

**Ray W.P —Fairfax, South Carolina**

All is not exactly well in my life. I have waited to write to you because I went through Covid 19 twice. Yikes! And the Department of Corruptions gave me zero medicine. So, I prayed to God and Chanted Hare Krsna through the worst of it and I was able to get through it. It also took some willpower. But I'm alive and A okay. I'm 9 years into my prison bid of life, but I have faith God will help me get out eventually. I do not have enough time to do 16 whole rounds a day but I do 8 and am trying to work up to 16. My worldly and family responsibilities sometimes distract me. I offer up my respectful obeisances unto Srila Prabhupada  
**Jeremy B. —Arcadia, Florida**

Hare Krsna! I'm writing you to ask for a Bhagavad-Gita pocket size. I'm in the shit hole waiting to leave here because the prison is a lockdown prison. Bhagavad-Gita and the BTG magazine are the only devotional service I can do; by reading them and chanting the Maha Mantra. Once leaving prison, it's no doubt in my mind that I'll become a devotee. I only read about Kṛṣṇa; if it's not about Krsna I don't read it!!! All of this is A.C. Bhaktivedanta's mercy on us poor souls.

I'm looking forward to being in the Ratha Yatra festivals going from city to city, and state to state with you devotees, once I'm out of jail.

**Derek A. —Beaumont, Texas**

I am finally trying to give Krishna a chance in my life. It is hard. But I can do "hard". The harder maya fights, the more I chant and read. Everything I have, I owe to you and of course KRSNA! I gave away my last soda pop to get stamps, and I don't mind a bit! Considering getting up every day at 4:30am so I can chant in the dayroom, for two hours, with no interruptions. I don't really want to; but again, how long do I want to be miserable for? As far as being a vegetarian, I am doing my best. Sometimes I still think I am the enjoyer—but then I ask myself, "how long do you want to be miserable for?". Without you, and without Krishna, I am nothing!

**Sean C. —St. Peter, Minnesota**



# FIVE YEARS of RATHA YATRA in BERLIN, at the BRANDENBURG GATE

By: Kalyana Giriraja das, European Correspondent on Aug. 28, 2021

Since 2016, the Berlin ISKCON Jagannatha Temple has been celebrating the traditional Ratha Yatra at the Brandenburg Gate in the middle of the government district of the German capital. The decision to hold the traditional chariot festival at the most famous symbol of German history was a strategic consideration. In a time in which more and more people in Germany get afraid of partly unknown religious communities and their rites, the Berlin ISKCON community wanted to set a sign and stand up for "More tolerance for lived religion in society".

This year the parade was a special challenge because strict COVID-19 precautions are required in the capital. Participating devotees had to wear masks and maintain a distance of 1.5 meters. Temple President Sadasiva Dasa expressed his enthusiasm for the discipline of the participants. He said they wanted to show society that "religion is not fanatical or dangerous, but part of life in German society."



**ABOVE:** Lord Jagannatha's chariot in front of the Brandenburg Gate - the symbol of Germany's past and present.

After failing to celebrate a Ratha Yatra last year, the fifth anniversary at the Brandenburg Gate saw a record turnout. More than 900 participants in the procession and stage program celebrated with Sacinandana Swami, Kadamba Kanana Swami; Jayagaura Prabhu - a pioneer of Krishna



consciousness in Germany, Radhika Ranjana, the Harinama Ruci group as well as the Samadhi Dance Group! In addition, thousands of tourists visited the landmark Brandenburg Gate, often inspired by the chanting and dancing of the Holy Name, to learn about ISKCON and Krishna Consciousness.

"This was our biggest event in recent years - we are very happy that we were able to celebrate a Ratha Yatra under the difficult conditions of the Corona pandemic and thank you that so many devotees attended."

continued Berlin Temple President Sadasiva dasa. In addition to representatives of the various Indian communities of Berlin, devotees of other Vaishnava communities had also gathered in front of the Brandenburg Gate to join in praising Lord Jagannatha. The procession went from the Brandenburg Gate to the newly built palace along the boulevard "Unter den Linden". Lord Jagannatha, the Lord of the Universe, chooses the same route that the last German Emperor Wilhelm II regularly took to get from the Palace to the Hotel. The spiritual ruler of the universe meets the history of the country.





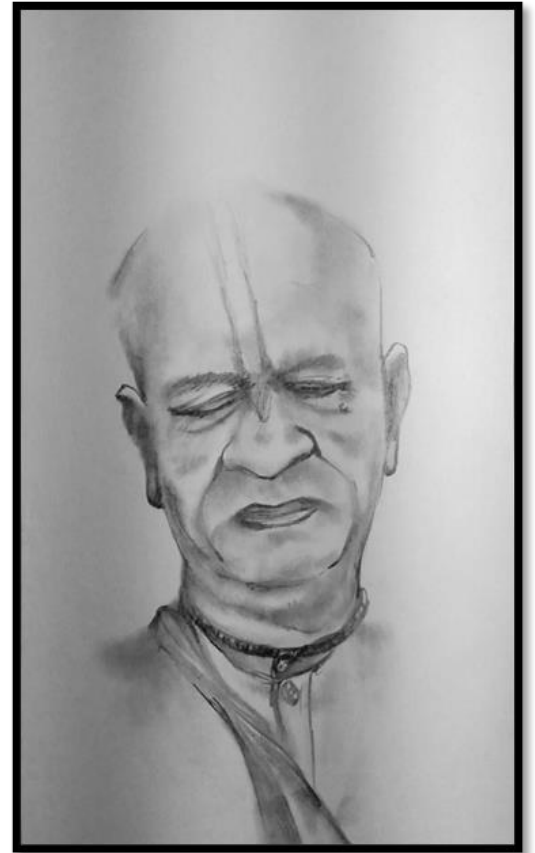


**ABOVE:** Parade in Berlin in front of the "Alte Wache" near the Humboldt University

A stop of the procession is always made in front of the entrance to Humboldt University. There, in a short speech, attention was drawn to the importance of the Bhagavad-Gita for the Germans. Among other things, Wilhelm von Humboldt - the university is named after him and his brother Alexander von Humboldt - in 1825 and 1826 in publications at the Berlin Academy had expressed himself euphorically about the scripture discovered at that time by the German intellectual elite: "... the most beautiful, indeed perhaps the only true philosophical poem that all the literatures known to us have to show". 🌸

## Inmate Artwork!

**RIGHT:** Drawing of Srila Prabhupada  
—by inmate bhakta Matt, Arizona



**LEFT:** Drawing of the Six Goswamis  
—by inmate Brian Babinski, California

# Calendar

## SEPTEMBER 2021

- 03 Sept 2021 - **Annada Ekadashi**  
11 Sept 2021 - Srimati Sita Thakurani Appearance Day  
12 Sept 2021 - Lalita Sasti : Appearance of Sri Lalita Devi  
14 Sept 2021 - **Radhastami : Appearance of Srimati Radharani**  
17 Sept 2021 - **Parsva Ekadashi**  
18 Sept 2021 - **Sri Vamana Dvadashi : Appearance of Sri Vamanadeva**  
18 Sept 2021 - Appearance Day of Sri Jiva Goswami  
19 Sept 2021 - Appearance Day of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura  
20 Sept 2021 - Ananta Caturdasi Vrata : Appearance Day of Padmanabha  
20 Sept 2021 - Disappearance Day of Srila Haridasa Thakura  
21 Sept 2021 - Sri Visvarupa Mahotsava  
21 Sept 2021 - Acceptance of Sannyasa by Srila Prabhupada  
22 Sept 2021 - Third Month of Caturmasya Begins  
28 Sept 2021 - **Srila Prabhupada's arrival in the USA**

## OCTOBER 2021

- 02 Oct 2021 - **Indira Ekadasi**  
15 Oct 2021 - Ramacandra Vijayotsava (Lord Ramacandra's victory over the demon Ravana)  
15 Oct 2021 - Appearance Day of Sri Madhvacharya  
16 Oct 2021 - **Pasankusa Ekadashi**  
17 Oct 2021 - Disappearance Day of Srila Raghunatha Dasa Goswami  
17 Oct 2021 - Disappearance Day of Srila Raghunatha Bhatta Goswami  
17 Oct 2021 - Disappearance Day of Srila Krsnadasa Kaviraja Goswami  
20 Oct 2021 - Sri Krsna Saradiya Rasayatra  
20 Oct 2021 - Laksmi Puja  
20 Oct 2021 - Disappearance Day of Sri Murari Gupta  
21 Oct 2021 - **Fourth Month of Caturmasya Begins (Month of Kartika)**  
26 Oct 2021 - Disappearance Day of Srila Narottama Dasa Thakura  
29 Oct 2021 - Appearance Day of Radha Kunda, Snana Dana  
29 Oct 2021 - Bahulastami  
30 Oct 2021 - Appearance Day of Virabhadra



**ABOVE:** Srimati Radharani and Lord Krishna



To answer the demigods' prayers, the Lord appeared as a dwarf, the extraordinarily beautiful miniature child brahmana Vamanadeva (**LEFT**). In this disguise, the all-powerful Supreme Personality of Godhead approached Bali Maharaja, king of the Danavas (demons)

Bali Maharaja could understand that Vamanadeva was a higher Being, from His uncommon attractiveness and effulgence. The king was prepared to grant Him anything He asked for. On the pretense of begging, Vamanadeva asked Bali for a seemingly insignificant piece of real estate – three paces of land – to which Bali agreed, despite protests from his guru.

Vamanadeva then assumed a gigantic form that covered the universe. With His first step, He reached to the heavenly planets, and with His second, He reached the limit of the universe. It appeared that Bali Maharaja was unable to fulfill his promise, since he had promised Vamanadeva three steps, so he humbly asked the Lord to place His remaining step on his head.