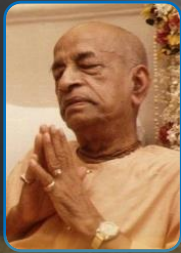


# Freedom Newsletter



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

## ISKCON Prison Ministry / January 2023

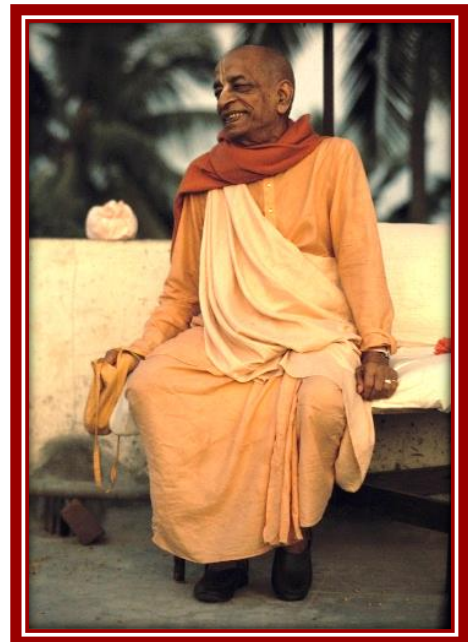
PO Box 2676  
Alachua, FL 32616

### ESCAPING THE DREAM

*The following conversation between His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada and Dr. Christian Hauser, a psychiatrist—took place in Stockholm on September 10, 1973.*

**Dr. Hauser:** You know, I met your student James before he was your student. And I must say he was a very aimless person—a person who hadn't found anything very specific in life. He floated about very much. But when I met him yesterday, he was very happy; he felt happy about himself and his new life as a devotee, and that made me very happy. I liked James very much.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Yes, Kṛṣṇa consciousness is the original status of the living entity. For instance, a young child is always conscious that "I am the son of such-and-such person." This consciousness is natural. A person may go mad. But when he's cured, he immediately understands, "I belong to such-and-such family, and I am such-and-such gentleman's son." Similarly, once in contact with this material nature, the spiritual spark, the living entity—he's in madness. Even though we are all part and parcel of Kṛṣṇa and our



original consciousness of Kṛṣṇa cannot be broken, somehow here in this world we have forgotten our relationship with Kṛṣṇa. This is madness.

You are a psychiatrist. You know very well—every man in this material world is more or less a madman.

**Dr. Hauser:** Or he has the germ within himself.

**Srila Prabhupada:** There is a Bengali poem that says, *pisace paille jana mote channa haya/ mayara grasta jivera sei dasa upajaya*: “Anyone who is living within this material energy—he is as if haunted by a ghost.” Do you have any experience of a man haunted by a ghost, or possessed?

**Dr. Hauser:** Oh, yes. That’s very often a symptom of a psychosis. They feel that they are persecuted by foreign powers.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Yes. Foreign powers. That is the idea. Our material conception of life—it is as if we are haunted by a foreign power. It is madness. “I am Christian.” “I am Hindu.” “I am Muslim.” “I am English.” “I am German.” These conceptions are all haunted. Mad. Because the soul is pure. *Asango ‘yam purusah*: the pure spirit soul has no connection with any designations of the body.

For instance, in a dream we see so many things that have nothing to do with us. This is our nighttime dream, and we recognize it when we wake up.

Unfortunately, when we wake up, generally we go back into our daytime dream. “I am this.” “I am that.” “I am white.” “I am black.” “I am American.” And so forth.

At night, when we dream, we are in a different situation and we forget everything from the daytime. And again, in the daytime we forget everything from the nighttime. But actually we are entering another dream.

When we leave our nighttime dream, we forget all about it, and we see it for what it was—a temporary situation, a dream. But our daytime situation is also temporary; it is also a dream. We have got to know the permanent reality: I am the permanent spiritual observer within this temporary material situation, nighttime and daytime.

The difficulty is, most of us see these two dreams and recognize only one as a dream; we take the daytime dream as the permanent reality. When someone takes a dream state as reality, you treat him, do you not?

**Dr. Hauser:** *Hmm.* Yes.

**Srila Prabhupada:** So for practical purposes, everyone who is in contact with this temporary material energy is

mad. And we are trying to take him out of this mad, dreaming condition. That is the sum and substance of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

**Dr. Hauser:** But does he stop dreaming? I mean, substantially, does he stop . . . does one stop dreaming?

**Srila Prabhupada:** Yes, in the sense we are using the word: the soul no longer identifies with what is not his eternal self or with what is not his eternal duty. He knows, “I am separate from this dreaming condition.” So when one knows himself to be simply the observer and not actually a part of the dream, then he’s cured.

**Dr. Hauser:** But the dreaming of the night also has another function.

**Srila Prabhupada:** No, that is not the idea. Dreaming at night and dreaming during the day are the same thing. Superficial, illusory. Simply their durations are different—at night you dream for a number of minutes, and during the day you dream for a number of hours. But in the daytime if you think that you are English or you are Swedish, or that you are Hindu or Muslim, that is also a dream. You are none of these, any more than you are part of your nighttime dream. Because of madness, sometimes we take it, “This daytime dream is a fact,” or “That daytime dream is a fact.” But none of them are facts. Under their sway, we may accept them as facts, but none of them are facts.

So, once again, sanity means *sarvopadhi-vinirmuktam tat-paratvena nirmalam*: I have to become completely free from all dreamlike designations. For instance, during a nighttime dream I may think, “I have now become a king,” or “I am the proprietor of a factory.” But none of these are reality. They are only dreams. Similarly, in the daytime I may think, “I am Russian,” “I am African,” “I am this,” or “I am that.” But that, too, is all a dream.

In reality, I am a spirit soul, part and parcel of the Supreme Spirit, and my duty, my nature, is to serve Him. It is all very simple. So sanity requires that I become free from this dreaming condition, liberated from all kinds of false designations.

**Dr. Hauser:** But some of these false . . . false designations also are the necessary machinery of our society.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Yes. That society is also false. We are taking away a person from the illusionary stage to the real stage of Kṛṣṇa consciousness." 🌸

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna Hare Hare

Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare

## Excerpts from inmates' letters

Dear ISKCON devotees, my name is Justin and I am an inmate in a minimum-security prison in Ontario Canada. About two years ago I came across the incredible teachings of Krishna Consciousness, and it has absolutely changed my life. Over the past two years, I have been corresponding with a devotee from ISKCON Toronto, Hari Vallabha Das, who has been so incredibly helpful in my journey with these transcendental teachings. He has given me advice as well as teachings and has helped me to set up my own altar in my room, which acts more like an ashram now. My altar takes up my whole desk, which really is the focal point of my rather small room. I wake up every day now and start to chant my rounds. I spend about two hours of deep meditative chanting in the early hours of the morning, and then I finish my sixteen rounds throughout the day. For me, my rounds are like a guidance rail, like a train track that begins in the morning and travels throughout my day, always guiding me in the right direction, giving me strength and motivation to give my all to Krishna. My pen pal from Toronto sent me a set of two-strand Tulasi beads, which I wear proudly, along with my japa beads in my bead bag, as well as a sikha [tuft of hair in the back of the head] on my otherwise shaved head. I consider myself a devotee, although I am not yet initiated.

**Justin M. —Ontario, Canada**

I have made a wearable counting bracelet out of knotted shoelace that is working well for me. And I have a friend that is considering helping me out by making a full 108 bead mala out of cut pencils as per Bhakti-lata's instructions for alternatives. Yes, my spiritual journey has been full of much reflection and comparative research over the course of 2 years. Your gift of the "Parallel Sayings" book was the impetus for my research into alternative faiths, especially Eastern ones. When I began reading a copy of the Bhagavad-Gita As It Is from the library, I had no idea it had any connection with ISKCON until I checked the listings of temples in the back pages! I then realized that I had written the same organization that had published the copy of the Gita I was reading! The fact that most of the scriptural text lined up with Christian ideology made me realize the truth of "Truth is One, Paths are Many"



"We find our way home at some point in our lives, and for me, it has always centered on Eastern philosophy/religion. It's interesting to note that there have been several individuals that through sharing their beliefs with me have solidified my adherence and continued research into Eastern faiths. I did come into

the prison system as a Christian believer, and to a sense I still am. It was through my comparative religious studies that I discovered ISKCON and decided to explore further. When reading the Bhagavad-Gita As It Is, I discovered many slokas (verses) that mirrored biblical precepts. It was then that I decided to embrace the Krishna Consciousness practice/faith more fully. Although I am just

starting out on this revelatory journey, I'm already experiencing a deep sense of belonging as if finally at my spiritual home.

**Victor R. —Kingman, Arizona**

Thank you for sending the info on the two holy days we will do our best and follow your direction....Krsna knows our heart and our situation and that we are doing the best we can considering our circumstances.....our love and devotion is pure and our desire is genuine.....Yes there are always questions smile!!! however I think we understand the philosophy and we find most of our answers during our study time and we read everything!!!! Haha! He do our chant daily and do kirtan when we get together. Everyone does their rounds that is a must. Some have problems avoiding meat mainly because of our cafeteria the only option is vegan and we do not get milk with that meal they don't have just vegetarian? we mostly self-select from the regular tray which is not easy because they use some type of animal product in most things.....we do our best. I always tell the ladies Krsna knows our situation. I gave everyone the instructions and they are busy doing their writings for Prabhupada....they are excited! Please keep me informed as to what the chaplain says and I will let you know when we receive the books.....thank you for all your support as always! much love and respect.....hare krsna!!!!

I wanted to drop you a quick note to let you know that I just received the august newsletter and the July/august BTG magazine in the mail.....smile! They were addressed perfectly and stamped plus I received them

fast! Thank you so much.....I will share them both with the others.....we had our service today and we spent about thirty minutes going over what you sent me concerning both holy days.....everyone is writing for Srila Prabhupada.....you would be proud! we spent the

remaining time doing kirtan.....I just wanted to let you know that I received the mail .....with much love and respect.....Hare Krsna.....Bhaktin Kimberly  
**Bhaktin Kimberly S. —Ocala, Florida**



## LIFE of PURE DEVOTEES

### Shri Advaita Acharya

**A**dvaita (pronounced ad-vey-tah) Acharya, an intimate associate of Sri Caitanya (pronounced chai-ta-nya) Mahaprabhu, appeared in 1434, some fifty years before Lord Caitanya. He is not an ordinary person like you and me who are forced to take birth in this material world. He is a resident of the spiritual world who, out of compassion, appeared in this world to assist Lord Krishna (in His incarnation of Lord Chaitanya) in His mission to save us, the conditioned souls. He is a disciple of Madhavendra Puri, and guru of Sri Haridasa Thakur. He constitutes one of the figures amongst the Pancatattva:

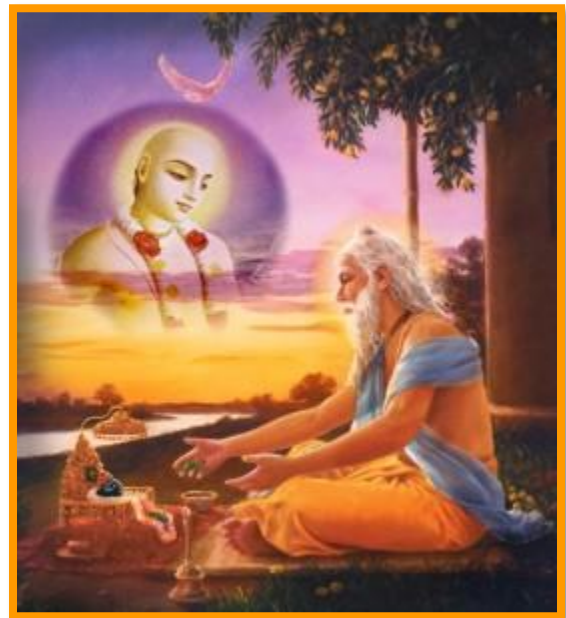
jaya sri-krishna-chaitanya  
prabhu nityananda  
sri-advaita gadadhara  
shrivasadi-gaura-bhakta-vrinda

**I offer my respectful obeisances unto Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Lord Nityananda, Sri Advaita, Gadadhara Pandit, Srivas Thakur, and all the devotees of Lord Caitanya.**

Advaita Acharya is considered an incarnation of Sadasiva and Maha-Visnu.

“Mahavishnu is the master of the universe, which he creates through his power of Maya. Advaita Acharya is the incarnation of this form of the Supreme Lord. He is known as Advaita because he is none other than Hari, as Acharya [teacher] because he is the preceptor of devotion. I take shelter of the supreme Lord Advaita Acharya who is the incarnation of a devotee.”

**C.C. 1.1.12-13**



Before the advent of Lord Caitanya, Advaita Acharya observed the growing tendency for people to abandon their spiritual practices for the pursuit of wealth and short-lived materialistic gains. He saw that the sinfulness of the age of Kali had reached a disturbing limit and that the world was entirely devoid of devotion to Krishna. Being deeply compassionate, he felt greatly pained.

Advaita Acharya wondered how the masses would ever be liberated. He thought that a partial incarnation of the lord would not be sufficient to completely bring about the welfare of the earth in this state. He thought, “The world will only benefit if the Supreme Personality of Godhead Himself descends to the earth.” So for several months he fervently worshipped Lord Krishna’s lotus feet with Ganges water and Tulasi leaves, calling out aloud to the Lord to manifest and show a way to the

worldly people to reach the eternal spiritual abode. With roars of love Advaita showed his desire for the Lord to descend to the earth.

By the momentum of his spiritual fervor, his loud cries pierced the coverings of the material universe and, echoing through the transcendental spiritual planets, reached the ears of Sri Krishna in Goloka. Hearing this urgent cry saturated with devotion, Sri Krishna appeared Himself as Sri Krishna Caitanya in Mayapur, Bengal as the son of Sri Jagannath Mishra and Saci Devi. It was thus in response to Advaita Acharya's calls that Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu descended to this world.

jaya jaya advaita isvara avatara  
krsna avatari kaila jagat-nistara

"All glories to Advaita Prabhu, the incarnation of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. He induced Krsna to descend and thus delivered the entire world."

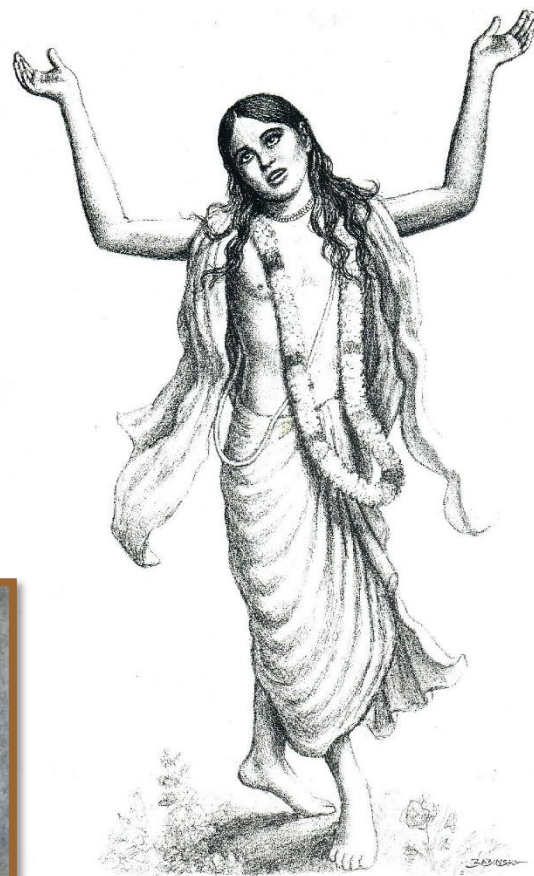
C.C., Antya 8.4

Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakur has written, "Maya has two functions, and Maha Vishnu appears in two ways according to those functions. When he is within the material world as creator, he is the universe's effective cause (nimitta-karana) in his form as Vishnu. In the unmanifest material energy (pradhana), appearing in the form of Rudra, he has a second identity as Advaita."

Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Goswami Thakur has also written about Advaita Acharya in his Anubhashya to Chaitanya Charitamrita 1.6.12: "Lord Advaita Acharya is Maha Vishnu. He is the supreme preceptor. Vishnu's activities are auspicious because of his existence as the owner or master of the universe. He is the root source of all auspiciousness.... Anyone who cannot understand that the complications which are ever present in the material universe are beneficial in a way which is pure, eternal, complete and free is deprived of his true spiritual activity, devotion to Krishna." 🌸

**Inmate Artwork!**

**RIGHT:** Drawing of Lord Caitanya by inmate Brian Babinski -California



**LEFT:** Drawing of Lord Nrsimha by inmate Burl Dees -Florida

# Book Distribution in Ukraine

## Ekantita Dasa Shares His Thoughts About Book Distribution

I took the minibus brought me to the town center, but there were very few people there at 11:30. Maybe many were afraid of being bombed and stayed away. I didn't know where to go next. So I decided to stay in this place and read Prabhupada's books while waiting for people.



Eventually, some people took a few. Then more and more people came out and took a few books. Nice sunny day, despite the obstacles. People stood and photographed the places that were bombed, and at that time I offered them books.

One woman said that she often avoided us with such books. I said, "Now you seem to have matured and are ready for new knowledge. She responded, "OK, now I'll take some of your books."

Another guy said that his coach died in the war and that he was confused. And it looks like he will also go to the war soon. He said, "I'll take the books for myself and my friend. Who knows what his fate has in store for us? I need some wisdom to help me through all this madness."

\*\*\*\*\*

Another day began with no electricity and communication in the temple. Not a single toilet worked in the center. Also, it was slippery outside and heavily raining.

When I got out on the street, there were Christians who wanted to save the fallen souls, but in spite of this and everything else, people still took books. They are very worried about what further awaits us in this world.

One of the first men, as soon as he saw me, was very happy and said that he has been waiting for this knowledge for a long time. God sent it to him, and he was ready for it.



Later, a girl had a fight with her boyfriend, and while he was walking on, she took a book to tease him.

Another guy said, "I already took a book in Chernivtsi."

A man who was eating prasadam at *Food for Life* took a book.

We will continue to distribute. There is nothing to do anyway. There is no light in the temple. Today is no ordinary day. Although I did not plan to go outside, Krsna had His plan. I couldn't sit still, something inside was pushing me, convincing me to continue after lunch, albeit later than usual. Surprisingly, the books were going out even faster than usual in such a short time!

The first guy is studying philosophy, the second is a military man, age 18. They both take books. A girl, Daria, is interested in yoga and self-development. She was interested in the books, though at first she refused. But then Krsna inspired her to take some. Dmitry took the books with pleasure. Just an hour before, he had talked with a friend who told him about this knowledge. Then he saw me with the books. It's amazing what is happening. Two other people, Serezha and Gleb, at first refused, and then something happened. They came running after me and took the books. This is Krishna's mercy. It is such a beautiful day, out of the blue. Who would think that during a war there would be so much nectar of book distribution. 🌸

# The Conclusion of the Bhagavad-gita

by Karnamrita Dasa

In Krishna's final chapter of the Bhagavad-gita there are a number of places where Vaishnava commentators consider the book could have ended. After the first of his possible endings in verse 63 of the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter where he tells Arjuna to deliberate on his instructions and decide for himself upon his course of action, Krishna wants to make sure Arjuna—and we readers—have understood his hope for all souls to choose the path of pure devotion. Thus, he summarizes in subsequent verses his ultimate instruction, as the powerful conclusion.

The idea that His book—it is Krishna's book after all!—of perennial wisdom has a conclusion is often surprising to the casual reader looking for generic spiritual wisdom to add to their lives or personal agenda. We conditioned souls have a very ego-centric view of the world and any information or knowledge we come into contact with. Sometimes people like the Gita because they think it recommends many paths and one can choose one that appeals to them according to their personal criterion.

Jiva Goswami (one of the famous six Goswami disciples of Shri Chaitanya) also speaks of the thought current even during his time (over 500 years ago) that the Gita was a book recommending many paths. He refutes this theory by stating that Krishna brings up many paths as a way to contrast them to his ultimate recommendation of bhakti or pure devotion.

At the end of the sixth chapter we are told to be a yogi, who is better than a person of knowledge or an ordinary worker, yet the best yogi is one who is devoted to Krishna and always remembers him. This point is continually revisited. However, we can only hear the Gita's consistent voice when we don't have preconceived ideas or tinted lenses through which we "hear" its message.

Being an Indologist or academic scholar won't qualify us for entering into the mystery of the Bhagavad-gita. Only by following the path of Arjuna can we understand Krishna's direct message. Arjuna, who surrendered to Krishna as a disciple, was his friend and not envious, and understood Krishna's divinity. One doesn't learn this in universities, but through the practice of bhakti.

The feeling of love and devotion for Krishna epitomized by bhakti is gained primarily from those who have it.

Thus, it is often said in the bhakti tradition, that bhakti only comes from bhakti—and not from jnana (knowledge), austerities (tapa) or fruitive work (karma).

Without bhakti, scholars and many other people like to make spiritual knowledge obtuse and incomprehensible. This mentality of overthinking causes them to miss Krishna's straightforward, simple, and yet profound recommendations and conclusion. We are advised to use our intelligence for understanding Krishna, but not to be overly intelligent and explain away Krishna as do some commentators. This is why the Gita recommends that all sincere students follow the instructions of qualified guru, like Śrīla Prabhupāda, who lives and teaches by the tenets of this great scripture.

When Śrīla Prabhupāda would hear that a guest had read the Bhagavad Gita, he would often ask them, "What was the conclusion?" The guest's inevitable response was that he or she didn't know it had a conclusion.

One of the teachings of the Gita and other Vedic texts is that the Absolute Truth—and we are on it. Although in this world we think we are the subject and all things and other people are objects for us to use as we please, from the spiritual perspective Krishna is the super-subject and we are His "objects". He is the center, and we are points on the circle surrounding him, meant to give our energy and love to Him. This is our real self-interest. Many miss this point of the Gita.

So after Prabhupāda asked the guest what the conclusion of the Gita was, and received his vague answer, he would refer to the concluding verses which provide us the secret to understanding the whole book and to our life. These are verses 65 and 66 of the eighteenth and last chapter.

In **verse 65** are told four things; we are reminded that we should become His devotee or bhakta, which entails always remembering Krishna, worshiping him, and offering Him our praise—it really means to give Him our love and very self.

man-manā bhava mad-bhakto  
mad-yājī mām namaskuru  
mām evaiśyasi satyaṁ te  
pratijāne priyo 'si me

## TRANSLATION

Always think of Me, become My devotee, worship Me and offer your homage unto Me. Thus you will come to Me without fail. I promise you this because you are My very dear friend.

Then in **verse 66**, which is one of most frequently quoted of the Gita's out of 700 verses, we are informed that we should give up any materially motivated religions or dharma, and we should surrender to or take full shelter of Krishna.

sarva-dharmān parityajya  
mām ekaṁ śaraṇaṁ vraja  
ahaṁ tvām sarva-pāpebhyo  
mokṣayiṣyāmi mā śucaḥ

## TRANSLATION

Abandon all varieties of religion and just surrender unto Me. I shall deliver you from all sinful reactions. Do not fear.

Interestingly, the conclusion to surrender to Krishna is really the *beginning* of spiritual life, not its ending. The beginning of the great scripture *Srimad-Bhagavatam* begins from this concluding verse of the Gita. That is why it is said that the *Srimad-Bhagavatam* is the graduate study, after one has studied the Bhagavad-Gita.

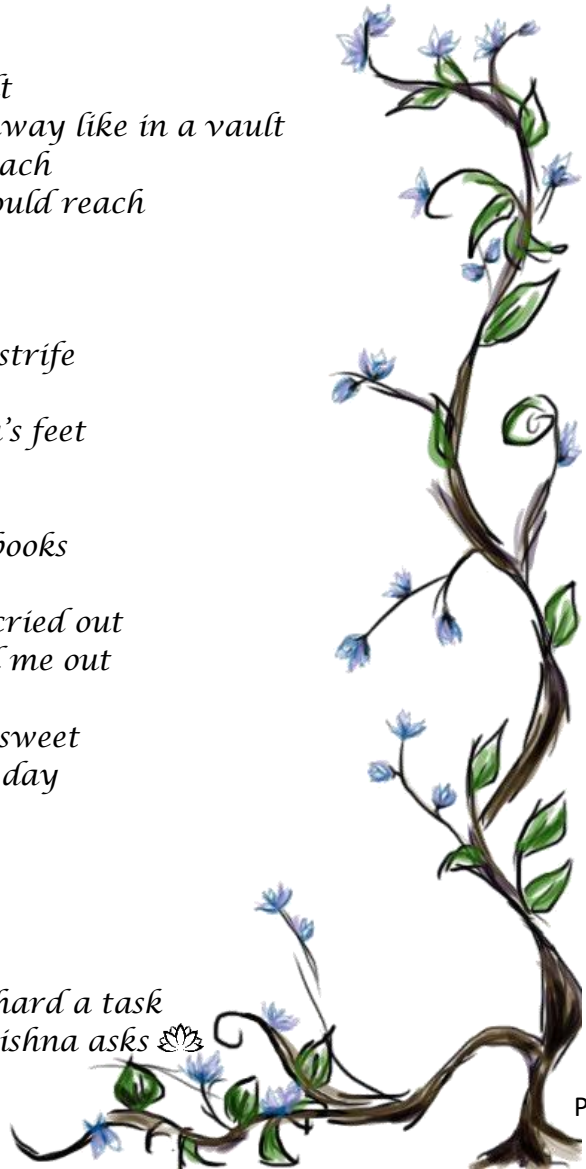


## POEM CORNER

### LOCKED AWAY TOO

By *Bhakta Scott G. —Beeville, Texas*

*Though I came to prison, through my own fault  
Here I discovered something precious, locked away like in a vault  
There was no other way, this lesson to me to teach  
Krishna directed me to come here, so me He could reach  
Through many a test and travail  
His grace and mercy did prevail  
He introduced Vaishnavas into my life  
To show me how to get out of the struggle and strife  
Through IPM U. Dasa I did meet  
Who told me I should surrender at Sri Krishna's feet  
Follow Prabhupada he instructed me  
For he has the knowledge that will set you free  
Chanting Maha Mantra as Swami said in his books  
I gave it my all, until I trembled and shook  
With goosebumps and hair standing on end, I cried out  
From this ocean of birth and death, please pull me out  
Now every day I fall at Sri Guru's lotus feet  
To drink the nectar so nourishing and so very sweet  
Chanting 16 rounds and praying three times a day  
Prabhupada told us that this is the way  
Also this is the path that was meant for me  
Don't be blinded, don't fail to see  
Don't let Maya, take you for a fool  
In Martyaloka you are locked away too  
Escape from the big prison house, it's not that hard a task  
If we only follow Prabhupada and do what Krishna asks*



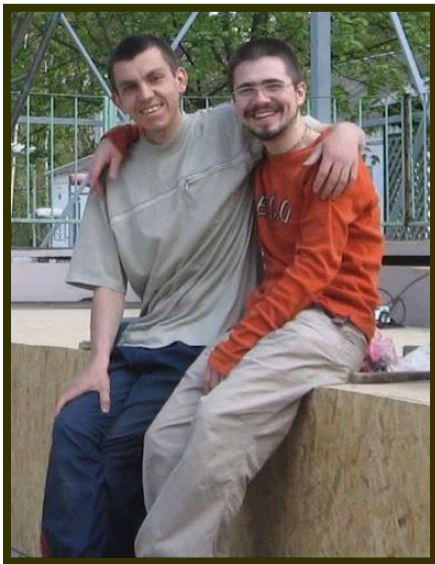


# Two Devotees Fall Victims of Missile Attack

by Anuttama Dasa, ISKCON NEWS

On July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022, a Memorial Service for Krishna Tattva das and Madana Gopal das took place. The devotees died as a result of a missile attack in Alchevsk, Donbass region of Ukraine.

The survivor of the attack, Arjuna das, is recovering in the hospital. He spoke on social networks about what had happened. According to Arjuna das, on the evening of July 16<sup>th</sup>, they had just returned from Severodonetsk. There were three of them in the car. As soon as they entered the territory of the Food For Life kitchen, the shelling began, and everyone scattered. Arjuna hid under a wall to hide from the shards. He fell to the ground, and bricks rained down on him. He understood that the building was hit. There was no way to breathe or move, there was no light, no air. He could not even push the rocks from over him. After about five minutes he blacked out and woke up only when they were pulling him out from under the rubble. He was put in an ambulance and brought to the hospital.



Krishna Tattva das was born in 1982. He joined ISKCON in 1998 and was one of the active leaders of the Alchevsk yatra, always doing a lot of service for the devotees. He began to engage in the service of *Food of Life* (FFL) in 2000, making it his life's mission. He organized "FFL Donbass" in Alchevsk, formed a group of dedicated leaders who cooked in several cities of the Lugansk region with volunteers of up to one hundred people who were feeding about 3,000 people in the region, mostly elderly people in need.

Madana Gopal das was born in 1982. He was a wonderful devotee, a good kirtan leader, and was very sincere with deep spiritual realizations. He had been practicing Krishna Consciousness since 2004.

On the day of the bombing, Krishna Tattva das invited Madana Gopal to participate in the distribution of food in the city of Severodonetsk, Donbass region. They were good friends and often served together. 🌸



**RIGHT:** Madana Gopal das (left) and Krishna Tattva das

# Calendar

## JANUARY 2023

- 02 Jan 2023 – **Putrada Ekadashi**  
Appearance of Jagadisa Pandita
- 11 Jan 2023 – Disappearance of Ramachandra Kaviraja  
Appearance of Gopal Bhatta Goswami
- 12 Jan 2023 – Disappearance of Jayadeva Goswami
- 13 Jan 2023 – Disappearance of Locana Dasa Thakura
- 17 Jan 2023 – **Sat-tila Ekadashi**
- 25 Jan 2023 – Appearance of Pundarika Vidyandhi, Raghunandana Thakura,  
Raghunatha Dasa Goswami, Visnupriya Devi.  
Disappearance of Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakur.
- 27 Jan 2023 – **Appearance of Advaita Acharya**
- 29 Jan 2023 – Disappearance of Madhvacarya
- 30 Jan 2023 – Disappearance of Ramanujacarya
- 31 Jan 2023 – **Bhaimi Ekadashi** (Fast till noon for the appearance of  
Lord Varaha)

## FEBRUARY 023

- 01 Feb 2023 - **Bhaimi Ekadashi**
- 02 Feb 2023 - Varaha Dvadasi
- 03 Feb 2023 - **Nityananda Triyodasi – Appearance Day of Nityananda**
- 05 Feb 2023 - Appearance Day of Srila Narottama Dasa Thakura
- 11 Feb 2023 - **Appearance Day of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura**
- 11 Feb 2023 - Disappearance Day of Sri Purusottama Dasa Thakura
- 17 Feb 2023 - **Vijaya Ekadashi**
- 17 Feb 2023 - Disappearance Day of Sri Isvara Puri.
- 21 Feb 2023 - Disappearance Day of Srila Jagannatha Dasa Babaji
- 21 Feb 2023 - Disappearance Day of Sri Rasikananda
- 23 Feb 2023 - Appearance Day of Sri Purusottama Dasa Thakura



LEFT: Lord Nityananda

## WHO'S WHO?

### Lord Nityananda

Lord Nityananda Prabhu appeared as Lord Caitanya's principal associate for spreading the congregational chanting of the holy names of the Lord. He especially spread the holy name of the Lord throughout Bengal. He is an incarnation of Lord Balarama.

### Sri Isvara Puri

Isvara Puri was the spiritual master of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Even though Lord Caitanya, being the Supreme Godhead, did not need a spiritual master, He accepted Śrīla Isvara Puri as His guru to establish the importance of accepting a spiritual master.

### Sri Rasikananda

Rasikananda Prabhu preached Kṛṣṇa consciousness in northern Orissa after the disappearance of Lord Caitanya. He was the principal disciple of Syamananda Gosvami. Rasikananda preached the message of Sri Gaurasundara (Lord Caitanya) in the world for approximately 16 years.