

Freedom Newsletter



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

ISKCON Prison Ministry / JUNE 2021

PO Box 2676
Alachua, FL 32616

WORSHIPING BONES

The following conversation between His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada and some of his disciples took place in June 1974 during an early-morning walk in the Tuileries Gardens in Paris.

Srila Prabhupada: What do you understand the word *maya* to mean?

Devotee: Placing value on something without seeing its relation to Kṛṣṇa.

Srila Prabhupada: Yes. *Maya* is explained very nicely in the *Srimad-Bhagavatam* [2.9.34]:

*rte 'rtham yat pratiyeta
na pratiyeta catmani
tad vidyad atmano mayam
yathabhaso yatha tamah*

Seeing something to be disconnected from Kṛṣṇa is *maya*, or illusion, because we are forgetting the original reality while taking the reflection to be very important. For example, suppose the sun is reflected in the water and then shines on the wall. If we take the light on the wall to be very important and forget the sun, the original reality, that is *maya*.



[*Srila Prabhupada points to some nearby buildings*] These buildings were constructed without any thought of Krsna. but people regarded them with great enthusiasm. Now all that remains are relics. So, the energy expended for manufacturing these buildings is *maya*, and the enthusiasm people now have for visiting these relics—that is also *maya*. All these things are expansions of *maya*, illusion.

Devotee: Parisians might complain that you don't appreciate the architectural skill that went into—

Srila Prabhupada: No, we appreciate very much the intelligence of the architect, but if you forget Krsna while constructing a big building, then it is *maya*. Otherwise, it is reality. If the people of Paris would have installed the Deity of Krsna in these buildings, how nice that would have been! People chanting, dancing, and taking *prasadam* [food offered to Krsna] every day. Then there would have been no *maya*. These big buildings should have been places for people to worship Krsna, but instead they're worshipping bones, some dead bones.

Devotee: People must be taught that everything belongs to Krsna.

Srila Prabhupada: It is a fact that everything belongs to Krsna. Why do they not understand?

Devotee: When we say, "Everything belongs to Krsna," they say, "We don't know Krsna."

Srila Prabhupada: That is nonsense. You may not know that everything belongs to Krsna. but you know that it belongs to somebody besides you. He may be called Krsna or something else—that doesn't matter—but nothing belongs to you. How can you deny it? Suppose I come here to Paris and stay for one week. Does that mean Paris is mine? Similarly, you come from the womb of your mother and stay in the world for, say, eighty years. Does that mean the world belongs to you?

So why are you claiming, "This is France," "This is Europe," "This is America," "This is my country"? Before your birth the land was here, and when you go it will remain here. So how can you claim that it is yours? What is the answer?

Devotee: The land belongs to the person who created it.

Srila Prabhupada: And who created it?

Devotee: Nature.

Srila Prabhupada: What is that nature?

Devotee: The life force working behind—

Srila Prabhupada: Nature is Krsna's energy (*mayadhyaksena prakrtih suyate sa-caracaram*). So everything is created by Krsna, and everything belongs to Krsna.

Devotee: Srila Prabhupada, the scriptures teach that we are actually tiny spirit souls—one ten-thousandth the tip

of a hair—and yet we become so puffed up that we think, "I am God" or "I am the controller of the material nature." How is this illusion possible?

Srila Prabhupada: Because you are in the bodily concept of life. You do not know that you are a tiny spirit soul, a particle of consciousness. You are thinking, "I am this big fatty body," just as a dog is thinking, "I am a strong bulldog." It is the same illusion.

Devotee: But the materialist will insist that he is acting independently of God.

Srila Prabhupada: How is he independent of God? Napoleon wanted to finish his task, to conquer Europe, but he was kicked out of his position. Such a strong person, but he was not allowed to finish the task. How could he think that he was independent of God? That is foolishness. He was subject to being kicked out of his body at any moment, yet he was still thinking, "I am independent." Where was his independence? He was simply falsely puffed up. And now, after being kicked out, if he has taken the body of a cat or dog, what was the benefit of all his previous activities? In the *Bhagavad-gita* [3.27] Krsna says, *prakrteh kriyamanani gunaih karmani sarvasah*: "Everything is going on under the stringent laws of nature." But we are such fools that we think we are independent.

Devotee: Srila Prabhupada, in *Bhagavad-gita* Krsna says that whatever we think of when we die will determine our next birth. So is it true that a materialist's accumulated mental impressions force him to take another body?

Srila Prabhupada: Yes.

Devotee: And a devotee doesn't accumulate any mental impressions?

Srila Prabhupada: No. He has mental impressions; his mental impressions are of Krsna. He's always thinking of Krsna. For example, we may have some propensity to create a beautiful place like this park. We have creative energies. Therefore it is advised, *nirbandhah krsna-sambandhe*: create for Krsna. In India people have also created big fortlike buildings, but they are temples for worshipping Krsna. If the people who built this park had spent their energy for creating it in relationship to Krsna. they would have been purified. But because this park is simply meant for sense gratification, we know that the people who built it were under the laws of nature. So they increased their material contamination. You may create so many things, but if you become contaminated by the modes of material nature and have to accept the body of a cat or dog, then what is your benefit? 🙏



Excerpts from inmates' letters

I have definitely had my obstacles in life. I am sure it gets frustrating seeing someone start the development of Krishna Consciousness, then they get released, get consumed by "Maya," for whatever reason it may be, and then that person returns back into the jail and prison lifestyle once again. When I say this, I'm of course referring to myself. I just wanted to tell you despite all of this, the ISKCON Prison Ministry you have been providing for me has strengthened and purified my consciousness in so many ways. I couldn't begin to fit it all in this letter, nor would [even try]. I don't know where to even start! I just know you do a lot for IKSCON and it's important for me that you know it is totally working and the teachings of Srila Prabhupada has strengthened my beliefs in God, and perhaps it is just a slower process for me, as I strive for success in Bhakti-Yoga and to dedicate myself more and more to Lord Sri Krsna. It is honestly my dream to live in a temple and worship Krishna 24 hours a day and I believe you are slowly, but surely making that reality possible through IPM. I've come to really grow and mature and appreciate Śrutadeva helping me and in dedicating so much time and dedication for my Krishna Consciousness. He's honestly become my spiritual father on this material platform and I'm truly grateful for him. And the reason I write this letter is you to feel like my spiritual mother on this material platform. So thank you truly, Bhakti-Lata for your service and time. You always send me the exact devotional books I need when I feel so spiritually empty and lost, and it brings me back into my Krishna Consciousness where I left off.

Jeffery B. —Rhineland, Wisconsin

Thank you so much for the back Issues of Back To Godhead magazines that you've sent me. I have been devouring the ones I haven't read already. I am very grateful for you all the ISKCON. there aren't many places that offer the amount of Vedic knowledge that ya'all offer. In fact, ISKCON is the only place that I know of. I want to share something with you all 😊 Recently one morning I was chanting the maha-mantra and meditating, as clear as day Sri Kṛṣṇa appeared to me. [in my mind's eye] I will never forget what He asked of me. He said, "Will you give me your heart?" I hesitated and asked, "Why do you want my heart?" but he only repeated "Will you give me your heart?" Tears started welling up in my eyes as I said, "Of course you can have my heart". Krsna reached inside my chest and

grabbed my heart. A seed appeared in His hands and He placed the seed inside my heart. He placed my heart back inside my chest and said: "Through this seed of mine the most beautiful trees grow". I felt stunned, yet immensely joyful, more at peace than I ever have. When I came to I was lying prostrate on the ground inside my cell tears falling from my eyes. What a wonderful gift to be given from Kṛṣṇa!!

Dale S. D. —Oglethorpe, Georgia

I have had to learn to periodically reflect on my current actions, commitments, and path I am walking and whether it is all in line with my true nature and goals. In the past I failed to do such and got swept away down paths I did not see were ultimately leading me away from Kṛṣṇa. Chanting my rounds daily certainly helps but also sometimes more is required too.

I have seen so much death and suffering in this life and finally a few years back made peace with death that I have come to embrace my own mortality and that of the material world as not something to be feared but to motivate me into doing all I can to learn, walk the path back to Kṛṣṇa's embrace and help others to do the same. We are all dying but it should not be feared, but motivate and not waste our time in the mundane.

My friend was pretty shaken by his father's death, due to attachments and that illusion that they have plenty of time to live and enjoy—that death only happens to others not close to them. I think it is this reason so much aggrievement and pain is further caused by such a natural thing as death. Indeed, what Srila Prabhupada gave us can never be repaid but we can try to "pay it forward" and perhaps help others be freed from the samsara we have all placed ourselves in.

David B. —Danbury, Connecticut

Krishna said to me

How much longer ae you going to struggle?
You should turn to Me, on the double!
Do you really think you are God?
Can you lift Govardhan hill, and walk where I've trod?
If you turn to Me, this I promise
I will give you bliss, in the highest.
So turn to Me, without waiting
I will make you happy, you suffering being
So turn to Me, turn to Me.
THE MAN SAID TO ME
He said to me, "when are you going to give ISKCON a chance?"

If you come home to Krishna, though covered in sin,
pray to Him and He will take you in!

Unknown

LIFE of PURE DEVOTEES

SUMMARY OF VRINDAVANA DAS THAKUR'S LIFE

The mother of Srila Vrindavana dasa Thakura (*pronounced Vrin-da-van das takur*) was Sri Narayani Devi, the niece of Srivasa pandita. In his Sri Caitanya Bhagavata, Vrindavana dasa has described how his mother attained the affectionate fervor of Sri Gaurasundara.

"Narayani devi received the entire remnants of Mahaprabhu's meal. Though she was only a small child, Lord Caitanya bestowed His mercy on her in this way."

Also as a result of this mercy, Srila Vrindavana dasa Thakura, whose life and soul were Sri Gaura-Nityananda, took his birth from her womb.



He hasn't mentioned the name of his father. It is believed that Narayani devi was married to someone at Kumarhatta. However, while she was still carrying the child in her womb, she was widowed. Being reduced to a condition of poverty by the loss of her husband, she finally accepted shelter in the house of Sri Vasudeva Datta Thakura, at Mamgachi, where she helped with the housework. Here Vrindavan dasa began his studies.

In the preface to Sri Caitanya Bhagavata, Sri Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati has written, "Narayani devi raised her child in the home of the father of Sri Malini devi where she had accepted shelter." Vrindavana dasa was born four years after Mahaprabhu took sannyasa. When Mahaprabhu disappeared

Vrindavana dasa couldn't have been more than twenty years old. He was initiated by Sri Nityananda Prabhu and was apparently the last disciple whom Sri Nityananda accepted. He accompanied Sri Jahnava Mata (Lord Nityananda's wife) to the Kheturi maha-mahotsava. Sri Krsna dasa Kaviraja Gosvami has glorified Vrindavana dasa Thakuraas in the book Sri Caitanya-caritamrta.

"The pastimes of Krsna have been described in the Srimad-Bhagavatam by Veda Vyasa. Vrindavana dasa is the Veda Vyasa of the pastimes of Sri Caitanya. He has composed *Caitanya Mangala* which destroys any inauspiciousness for those who hear it. So that we can understand the glories of

Caitanya-Nitai, the essence of the conclusions regarding devotional service as expanded in Srimad-Bhagavatam and the limits of the conclusions regarding Kṛṣṇa bhakti, he has composed this great literature to uplift mankind. To compose such a work is not conceivable for a human being therefore we can understand that Sri Caitanya Himself is speaking through him. I offer my obeisances tens of millions of times at the lotus feet of that person who has given us such a scripture which can deliver the whole world." (Excerpt from Caitanya-caritamrta)

Vrindavana dasa Thakura's Sripat, where his worshippable Deities of Sri Sri Gaura-Nitai are still residing, is at Denur. Denur can be reached by bus from Navadvipa. 🌸

ANNOUNCEMENT

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE YOUR STORY AND/OR ARTWORK IN THE FREEDOM NEWSLETTER?

Send your story and/or artwork to: **ISKCON Prison Ministry, PO Box 2676, Alachua, FL 32616**

IMPORTANT: IF YOU TRANSFER to a new unit or institution:

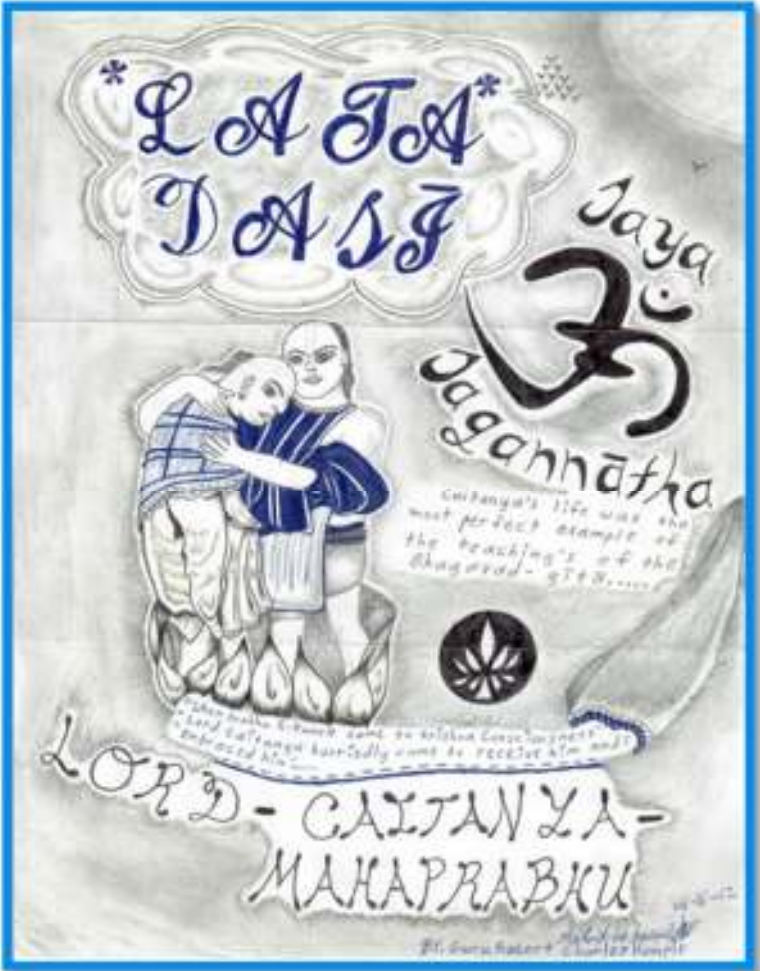
If you have a change of address, please inform IPM at the address above. And please write "**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**" on the **outside** of the envelope so we can process it immediately. Thank you.

The same goes for the **Back to Godhead (BTG)**, magazine: please inform the **IPM office**, **NOT** BTG office.

Inmate Artwork!



ABOVE: Lord Caitanya, by inmate Krishna Kirtan dasa —Petersburg, Virginia



ABOVE: Lord Caitanya embracing Sanatana Goswami, by inmate Robert H. —West Virginia



RIGT: Rupa and Sanatana Goswamis, by inmate Brian B. —California

Your Ever Well-Wisher: stories of Srila Prabhupada's care for all

By: Madhava Smullen for ISKCON NEWS

This year, we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the appearance of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, Founder-Acharya of ISKCON, born in 1896 in Calcutta. Leading up to his Appearance Day or Vyasa-Puja on August 31st, ISKCON News is commemorating the occasion with a series of articles glorifying his achievements, contributions and qualities.



Srila Prabhupada carried out his entire mission out of care for all

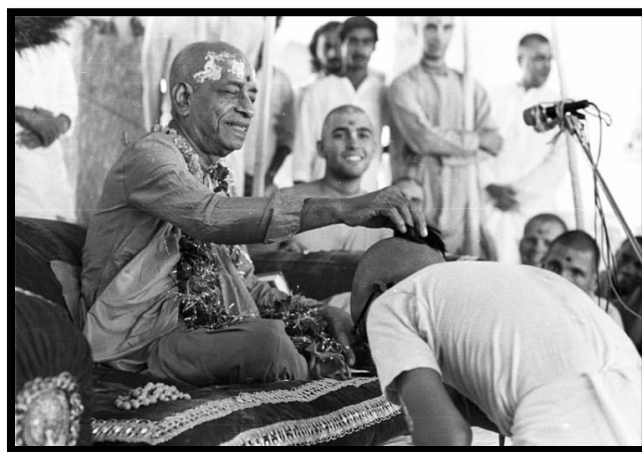
A MISSION OF CARE

One of Srila Prabhupada's prominent qualities, embodied in his entire mission, was care for all living beings. Out of a desire to alleviate humanity's suffering and introduce "India's message of peace and goodwill" to the Western world, he left his home in the sacred village of Vrindavana on a cargo steamship in 1965 at the age of sixty-nine, enduring stormy seas and two heart-attacks along the way.

Carrying only forty rupees and a trunk of his Bhagavatam commentaries, the early days as he worked to establish ISKCON were in extremely adverse conditions. In New York City, he lived in a windowless room with no kitchen, and had to walk to the home of his only contact, Dr. Ramamurti Mishra, to cook during the frigid winter months. His typewriter and reel-to-reel tape recorder were stolen; and later, while he lived in the Bowery, he was threatened by a young man in an LSD-induced rage. But he persisted in his mission to give people the spiritual knowledge he knew could rescue them from the struggle of material existence, until followers like Mukunda Goswami (Michael Grant) joined him, and he incorporated ISKCON in July 1966.

CARING FOR DEVOTEES' SPIRITUAL WELLBEING

"In the Nectar of Devotion, Chapter 21, the Qualities of Sri Krishna are listed, and Srila Prabhupada writes, 'As parts and parcels of the Supreme Lord, the individual living entities can also possess all of these qualities in minute quantities, provided they become pure devotees of the Lord,'" quotes Sangita Devi Dasi, Srila Prabhupada disciple and president and co-founder of Vaishnavas CARE. "Among others, three of the qualities of Lord Krishna that Srila Prabhupada exhibited so much were that he was 1) a well-wisher of the devotees, 2) merciful, and 3) kind-hearted." Sangita recalls her personal experience of these qualities. One occasion, showing Prabhupada's care and how much he knew the mind of his disciples, occurred in 1972, when she had just come to Krishna consciousness, and was told by devotees that she could not live in her own place – she had to live in the temple to be a devotee. Writing to Srila Prabhupada, she asked him two questions: "How can I serve you?" and "Is it true that I have to live in the temple?" However she held back on a third question that concerned her, about the difficulty of following so many rules and regulations.



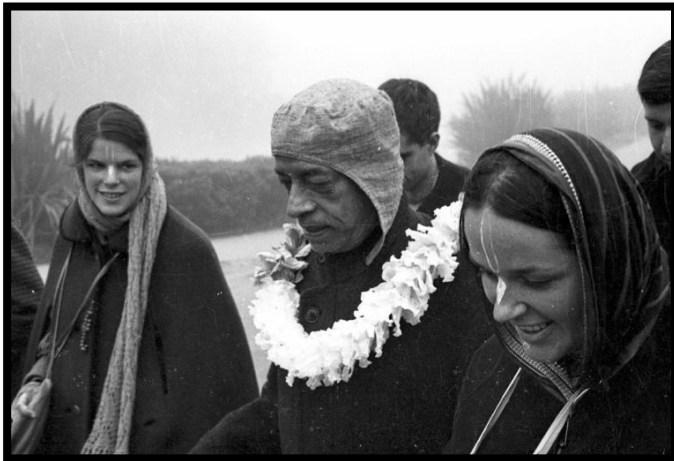
A playful, affectionate exchange between Srila Prabhupada and a newly initiated disciple

Srila Prabhupada sent back a letter dated September 29th, 1972, that Sangita felt was "very personal, and very sweet," saying: "Actually there is no difference between devotees living inside the temple and devotees living outside the temple. You are right that the important thing is to remember Krsna, whatever is your

activity.” He then directed her in how to remember Krishna through various devotional practices. Incredibly, considering she hadn’t included her third question, he also wrote, “You are anxious about the rules and regulations, but without rules and regulations there is more frustration. So it may be a little difficult at first, but if you are sincere to achieve the highest result of your lifetime, then you can be assured that by your efforts in Krsna Consciousness that you will very quickly become happy more and more. The difficulties of this material world will shrink to no more than the size of a hoofprint left by the calf.”

CARING FOR DEVOTEES’ PHYSICAL HEALTH

As well as caring for their spiritual health, Prabhupada also cared for his disciple’s physical health. When Sangita had a blood clot which became a pulmonary embolism, and wrote to Srila Prabhupada, he dictated a letter to his Sanskrit editor at the time, Nitai Das, which gave step-by-step directions on how to make a poultice from the sap of a particular tree and apply it to the clot. “For him to take the time to dictate this to Nitai Das, and have him send it to me, was just the kindest thing anybody had ever done for me,” Sangita says. “And I just felt so loved and cared about.”



Srila Prabhupada with Malati Devi Dasi (left) and Yamuna Devi Dasi (right)

Meanwhile in the book *Yamuna Devi: A Life of Unalloyed Devotion*, the late Yamuna Devi recalls the time in 1971 after the first famous Delhi pandal program when she fell sick with jaundice while staying in a crowded room with many devotees. The one place free where she could stay on her own was the floor of a walk-in closet.

“Srila Prabhupada noticed I was missing,” she says, “And I was later told that he had inquired many times where I was. One day I became aware of the door being opened, and I turned to see Srila Prabhupada’s lotus feet walking into that closet room. . . . He placed his

hand on my head and inquired, ‘Yamuna? How are you doing?’ Firstly I said, ‘I am always thinking of you, Srila Prabhupada.’ Then I explained my symptoms, and he said, ‘I think this is jaundice . . . Now I will take charge of your recovery. You will never get well in these conditions on the floor.’

“Srila Prabhupada had a hospital bed brought in for me and moved me into a room right next to his, with floor-to-ceiling windows, neem trees outside, and a fan. And I remember being propped up in this bed, and he came in every day to check on my progress.”

In a 2020 interview with the ISKCON Strategic Planning Office, Giriraja Swami remembers his own experience in Mumbai in the 1970s. “We were in Juhu, and I used to go to the city all day long and come back at night and report to Srila Prabhupada,” he says. “One evening after a long day in the city, having, as usual, traveled there and back in the crowded trains and to and from the train station in a crowded bus and not having had anything to eat since morning, I staggered up to Prabhupada’s room, exhausted. Prabhupada looked at me and asked, ‘How are you feeling?’ Only then did I notice how weak and sick I was. ‘Well, frankly speaking, Srila Prabhupada,’ I replied, ‘I feel a little tired.’

“He already knew, and he immediately ordered grapes for me. He said that they were good for strength and energy. Then he insisted that I eat the grapes in his presence, and after a minute or two he asked if I was feeling stronger. And yes, I was. “To work very hard for Krishna for two days,” he concluded, “And then to recuperate for three days -- that is not a very good proposal.”

CARING FOR HIS DISCIPLES’ COMFORT, WELFARE AND SAFETY

Srila Prabhupada was also always tuned into the comfort, welfare and safety of his disciples, making sure they had their needs met.

“A couple of times he stopped his own vyasa-puja to inquire about the health and welfare of particular devotees whom he noticed,” says Malati Devi Dasi, a GBC member and one of Srila Prabhupada’s earliest disciples. “In one case, he asked a devotee who hadn’t been there for some time what happened, and the devotee explained he wasn’t well. Prabhupada said, ‘Are you getting what you need? Are you being taken care of? If you need anything, ask me.’”

Another disciple, Gopalasapriya Devi Dasi, recalls a July 1974 visit to New Vrindaban she’ll never forget. As Srila Prabhupada was talking to a group of devotees outside on a chilly evening, he stopped, looked at her and asked, “Are you alright? Such a thin cloth. Haven’t you got a cloth?” He then told one of the leaders, “You must find out if they have everything they need... the

women need to be protected. They will not ask. You must ask them once a month and make sure that they are having everything they need.”

“I remember afterwards a few of the devotees were crying and feeling like he was so observant and concerned and he really does care about all of us,” she says.



Srila Prabhupada with Mukunda and Janaki

Meanwhile in the book *A Bond of Love: Srila Prabhupada and His Daughters*, Sudamani Devi Dasi reminisces: “I was on the Vrindavana Parikrama when the women’s bus got caught in the sand in Varshana. It got later and later, and there was this huge argument between our bus driver and another bus driver. Our bus driver was afraid he wouldn’t get paid if we went on the other bus. So we took shelter at a nearby Durga temple, waiting until we were found. We were stranded and didn’t get back to the temple until close to midnight, where we found out Srila Prabhupada was in great anxiety. He had hired many taxis to go looking for us. He yelled at the leaders, ‘Why did you send the ladies off by themselves with no one to protect them?’ He said the men hadn’t taken proper care of his daughters.”

SRILA PRABHUPADA’S KINDNESS TO CHILDREN

Malati Devi Dasi remembers that Srila Prabhupada was also always “so incredibly kind to the children.”

In 1969, when her daughter Saraswati was a little over two years old, Malati and other pioneers of ISKCON in the UK were staying at John Lennon’s Tittenhurst Park estate in a former horse stables that had been converted into small apartments. While cooking breakfast for the devotees, Malati would open the top half of the stable doors, while the bottom remained closed, so that she could see and hear Srila Prabhupada as he walked past on his morning walk.

“One morning, little Saraswati was jumping up and down, trying to see over the top of the door,” she

recalls. “Somehow, she must have grabbed onto the handle in such a way that the door opened, and she ran out just when Prabhupada was going by, and grabbed his hand.”

It was a cold morning, and Srila Prabhupada wore a heavy wool coat and rubber boots. Concerned about Saraswati, who didn’t have a jacket or boots on, he said, “Saraswati, you’re not properly dressed.” “She wouldn’t let go of his hand, so I brought her boots and coat,” Malati says. “I was trying to put them on her, but she would only extend one arm, while holding on to Prabhupada’s hand with the other. And when the coat sleeve was on one arm, then she would grab his hand and let go with the other so I could put the coat on the other arm. She was determined not to let go of him. Then off she went with him on the morning walk, holding his hand.”



Srila Prabhupada with two-year-old Saraswati (Malati in background) - Photo by Gurudas. Copyright The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust International, Inc

CARING FOR ANIMALS

Prabhupada also exhibited care for animals. During his first visit to New Vrindaban in May 1969, Prabhupada was introduced to the community’s first cow, a black jersey with a white mark on her forehead where Vaishnavas wear their tilak. Prabhupada himself named her Kaliya, and drank her fresh milk with delight, saying, “I haven’t tasted milk like this in fifty years.” Over the next seven years, Prabhupada taught the devotees at New Vrindaban to maintain cows and bulls comfortably throughout their natural lives, respecting

and caring for them as their proverbial mothers and fathers.

During his last visit to the community, in 1976, Prabhupada was walking with a large group of devotees to visit the farmhouse temple at the old Vrindaban farm, where Kaliya resided. Pointing to a small herd of cows far up at the top of a hill, Advaitacharya Das said, "Srila Prabhupada, look! There's Kaliya. She's our first cow. You used to drink her milk."



Srila Prabhupada and Kaliya the cow

Suddenly, as Prabhupada looked up at her, Kaliya, now the fourteen-year-old retired matriarch of New Vrindaban's herd, broke away from the herd and made her way alone down the steep bank. Matching the devotees' pace, she stepped out right in front of Srila Prabhupada, and began walking with him as if she were his pet calf. "Ah," Srila Prabhupada said simply. "My dear old friend Kaliya."

CARING FOR PLANTS

Srila Prabhupada even showed care for plants. Giriraja Swami recalls that in order to get permission to build the Juhu temple in Mumbai, the local municipality required the devotees to have an internal access road of a certain width, among other conditions.

"It just so happened that right where the access road was supposed to go, there were some palm trees," says Giriraja Swami. "Once, when Srila Prabhupada came to

Juhu after being away for some time, he noticed that one or two of the trees had been cut, and he was very concerned -- I would say upset -- and he asked, 'Why did you cut down the trees?' We thought we had the perfect answer: We had to build the temple, and to get the permission for the temple, we had to cut the trees in the way of the road. Srila Prabhupada said, 'No, you go to the municipality and tell them it's against our religion to cut down trees.' So we had no choice, and we did it... On Srila Prabhupada's order, we held our ground with the municipality, and in the end they gave us the permission to keep the tree. And even today we can see that tree that Srila Prabhupada protected, still standing there with asphalt all around it.

"So I am thinking that if Srila Prabhupada has so much concern and care and even love, I would say, for a tree, then what to speak of us -- how much care and love he must have for us."

FOLLOWING SRILA PRABHUPADA'S EXAMPLE

Looking to the future of ISKCON, Rukmini Devi Dasi, a disciple of Srila Prabhupada initiated in 1968, says, "I think we have to create a culture that really imbibes and follows the mood of Prabhupada's care, Krishna's care, for all living beings. And then people will be so overwhelmed by this culture of care, these beautiful, shining, luminous people who care so much. The ISKCON society should be celebrated in the world as the most caring culture. Because that's our philosophy, that the sacred spirit is there in every living being. So how do we act? How do we treat the environment? How do we treat other people? How do we treat people who look different from me, or act different from the way I act? It has to go from the book into the heart -- otherwise, it's just lip service."

Malati Devi Dasi adds: "If we don't care for each other, we can't claim to care for or love Krishna. Because all living entities are His parts and parcels. So if we don't care for His parts and parcels, in effect, we're not caring for Krishna. And then how will we develop love for Him?" 🌸

Gold Nugget!

Like that, as Caitanya Mahāprabhu taught us. The time is very dangerous. And still, in this dangerous time... Just like in epidemic condition where every people is being contaminated and dying, still, the doctors appointed by the government, they have to go into the epidemic area and try to treat the person and save them. Our duty is like that. The whole atmosphere is epidemic, whole atmosphere, this Kali-yuga. And still, by the superior orders we have to preach this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. Therefore our only shelter is Kṛṣṇa. *Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa, rakṣa mām*. Very dangerous position. The foolish people, they are thinking that "We are very happy and we are very safe." But nobody is safe. Nobody is safe. So we have to deal with persons very carefully, and at the same time, we have to push our missionary activities.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 6.2.1-5 – January 6, 1971, Calcutta

Calendar

June 2021

- 06 June 2021 - **Apara Mahadvadasi (Ekadasi)**
- 07 June 2021 - Appearance Day of Srila Vrndavana Dasa Thakura
- 20 June 2021 - Ganga Puja
- 20 June 2021 - Disappearance Day of Sri Baladeva Vidyabhusana
- 20 June 2021 - Appearance Day of Srimati Gangamata Goswami
- 21 June 2021 - **Pandava Nirjala Ekadasi**
- 23 June 2021 - Panihati Cida Dahi Utsava (the Chipped Rice Festival of Panihati)
- 24 June 2021 - Snana Yatra (a special bath of Lord Jagannatha to commemorate His appearance)
- 24 June 2021 - Disappearance Day of Sri Mukunda Datta
- 24 June 2021 - Disappearance Day of Sri Sridhara Pandita
- 25 June 2021 - Disappearance Day of Sri Syamananda Prabhu
- 29 June 2021 - Appearance Day of Sri Vakresvara Pandita



JULY 2021

- 04 July 2021 - Disappearance Day of Sri Srivasa Pandita
- 05 July 2021 - **Yogini Mahadvadasi (Ekadasi)**
- 10 July 2021 - Disappearance Day of Sri Gadadhara Pandita
- 10 July 2021 - **Disappearance Day of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura**
- 11 July 2021 - Gundica Marjana (cleaning of Gundica Temple before Lord Jagannatha arrives)
- 12 July 2021 - Ratha Yatra Starts (Lord Jagannatha's Festival of the Chariots)
- 12 July 2021 - Disappearance Day of Sri Svarupa Damodara Gosvami
- 12 July 2021 - Disappearance Day of Sri Sivananda Sena
- 15 July 2021 - Hera Pancami (the coming of the goddess of fortune to the Gundica temple)
- 16 July 2021 - Disappearance Day of Sri Vakresvara Pandita
- 20 July 2021 - **Sayana Ekadasi**
- 20 July 2021 - Return of Ratha Yatra
- 24 July 2021 - Guru (Vyasa) Purnima (the day when the guru is worshipped)
- 24 July 2021 - Disappearance Day of Sanatana Goswami
- 25 July 2021 - First Month of Caturmasya Begins
- 28 July 2021 - Disappearance Day of Srila Gopala Bhatta Goswami



ABOVE Left: The Snana Yatra of Lord Jagannatha

ABOVE Right: Ratha-Yatra: Festival of the Chariots