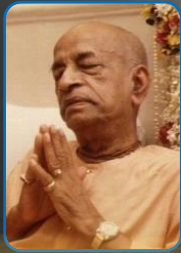


Freedom Newsletter



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

ISKCON Prison Ministry / August 2022

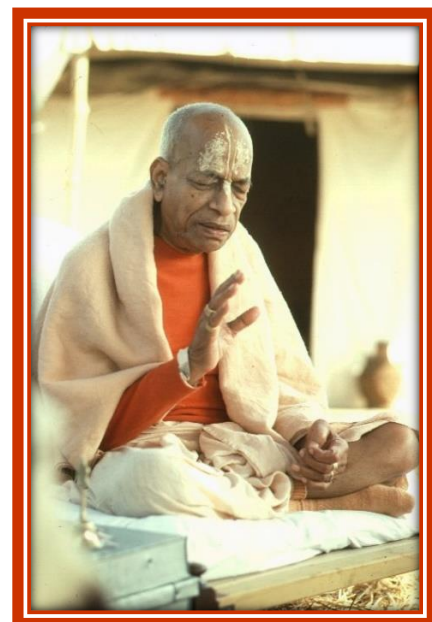
PO Box 2676
Alachua, FL 32616

ON TECHNOLOGY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

This exchange between His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada and one of his disciples took place some seven years ago in Geneva.

Devotee: In a recent speech a politician in India said that eighty percent of the Indian people live in rural villages. His proposal was to increase the technology on the farms. Instead of people having to harvest the wheat by hand, they would have motorized harvesters, and instead of having to use bullocks to pull the plow, they'd use a tractor.

Srila Prabhupada: In India many men are already unemployed, so to introduce more machinery there is a not a very good proposal. One hundred men's work can be done by one man working a machine. But why should there be so many men unemployed? Why not engage one hundred men instead of engaging one? Here in the West, also, there is much unemployment. Because in your Western countries everything is done by machine, you are creating many hippies, frustrated young people with nothing to do. That is another kind



of unemployment. So in many cases machines create unemployment. Everyone should be employed; otherwise there will be trouble. “An idle brain is a devil’s workshop.” When there are so many people without any engagement, why should we introduce machinery to create more unemployment? The best policy is that nobody should be unemployed; everyone should be busy.

Devotee: But someone might argue, “The machine is freeing us from so much time-consuming labor.”

Srila Prabhupada: Free for what? For drinking and doing all kinds of nonsense.

What is the meaning of this freedom? If you make people free to cultivate Krsna consciousness, that is another thing. Of course, when someone comes to our Krsna consciousness movement, he should also be fully engaged. This movement is not meant for eating and sleeping, but for working for Krsna. So whether here in Krsna consciousness or there in the outer society, the policy should be that everyone should be employed and busy. Then there will be a good civilization.

In the Vedic civilization, it was the duty of the head of society to see that everyone was working, either as a *brahmana* [an intellectual or teacher], a *ksatriya* [a military or political leader], a *vaisya* [a farmer or merchant], or a *sudra* [a laborer]. Everyone must work; then there will be peace. At the present moment we can see that on account of so much technology, there are unemployment and many lazy fellows. The hippies are lazy, that’s all. They don’t want to do anything.

Devotee: Another argument might be that with technology we can work so much better, so much more efficiently, so the productivity of those who *do* work goes way up.

Srila Prabhupada: Better that more men be employed doing the work less efficiently. In *Bhagavad-gita* [18.48] Krsna says,

*saha-jam karma kaunteya
sa-dosam api na tyajet
sarvarambha hi dosena
dhumenagnir ivavrtah*

“Every endeavor is covered by some sort of fault, just as fire is covered by smoke. Therefore one should not give up the work which is born of his nature, O son of

Kunti, even if such work is full of fault.” And a Hindi proverb says, “*Bekari se begari acchi hai.*” *Bekari* means “without employment.” And *begari* means “to work without salary.” In India, we have seen many villagers come and request a shopkeeper, or any



gentleman, “Please give me some work. I don’t want a salary. If you like, you can give me something to eat. Otherwise, I don’t even want that.” So, what gentleman, if you work at his place, will not give you something to eat? Immediately the worker gets some occupation, along with food and shelter. Then, when he’s working, if the gentleman sees that he’s working very

nicely, he will say, “All right, take some salary.” Therefore it is better to work without any remuneration than to remain lazy, without any work. That is a very dangerous position. But in the modern civilization, on account of too many machines, there are so many unemployed people, and so many lazies also. It is not good.

Devotee: Most people would say these ideas are very old-fashioned. They’d rather have their technology, even if it creates a high unemployment rate, because they see it as a means of freedom from drudgery, and also as a means of freedom to enjoy television, movies, automobiles—

Srila Prabhupada: Technology is not freedom. Rather, it is a free way to hell. It is not freedom. Everyone should be engaged in work according to his ability. If you have good intelligence, you may do the work of a *brahmana*—studying scriptures and writing books, giving knowledge to others. That is the *brahmana*’s work. You don’t have to bother about your subsistence. The society will supply it. In the Vedic civilization *brahmanas* did not work for a salary. They were busy studying the Vedic literature and teaching others, and the society gave them food.

As for the *ksatriyas*, they must give protection to the other members of society. There will be danger, there will be attack, and the *ksatriyas* should protect the people. For that purpose, they may levy taxes. Then, those who are less intelligent than the *ksatriyas* are the *vaisyas*, the mercantile community, who engage in producing food and giving protection to the cows.

These things are required. And finally there are the *sudras*, who help the three higher classes.

This is the natural division of society, and it is very good, because it was created by Kṛṣṇa Himself (*catur-varnyam maya srstam*). Everyone is employed. The intelligent class is employed, the martial class is employed, the mercantile class is employed, and the rest, the *sudras*, are also employed. There is no need to form political parties and fight. In Vedic times there

Excerpts from inmates' letters

I am so, so thankful to you for sending us reading materials and teaching us Krishna consciousness. It's brought such peace into my life. Two other inmates have joined me on this path and we are all so, so thirsty for more knowledge. I'm a very new to this. Can you please send me a Bhagavad-Gita and any other Srila Prabhupada books you can?

I am starting a small shelf library and a study group with discussion amongst the three of us (for now!). Trying to petition the chaplain and chapel library to open its own section of Krishna consciousness in the library too. This is what I needed to fill my voids inside, and my belief and faith in it all was instantaneous; unlike all other religious/spiritual endeavors. With this overwhelming peace, I'm no longer anxious and am off psych meds. It feels great. "I'm home" is the feeling closest to what it feels like. Thank you, thank you, thank you... A very thirsty devotee,


Brindel S. —Florida City, Florida

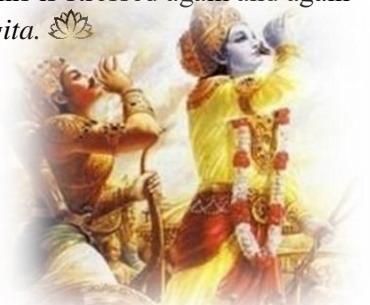
I received the soft cover Spanish Bhagavad-Gita you sent, as well as the Spanish edition of the Science of Self-Realization and a copy of Spanish Upadeshamṛta. Thank you, Didi! All will be distributed nicely. I've already given a native Spanish speaker from Honduras the Bhagavad-Gita as it is.

Janardan Dasa —Coleman, Florida

This one is to tell you a bit about myself and how I came to be enchanted by Lord Krishna's beauty. I grew up in Columbia, South America on a farm. My mom had bought some art where Krishna, Arjuna and some other Vedic characters were displayed. I remember observing these beautiful faces in awe! I studied in my elementary years in Catholic schools (Columbia is probably 95% Catholic) but wasn't too enthusiastic about the whole religious thing.

was no such thing. The king was the supervisor who saw that everyone was engaged in his respective duty. So people had no time to form false political parties and make agitation and fight one another. There was no such chance.

But the beginning of everything is to understand, "I am not this body," and this is stressed again and again by Kṛṣṇa in *Bhagavad-gita*. 



Fast forwarding to my coming to the USA and growing up without parents or my sister (as everyone was incarcerated). I promised to myself never to participate in any criminal activity. Yet I joined a gang and ended up participating in crimes throughout my teenage years. Of course I went to jail but just County jail and was always bailed out (it had to be God showing me the way and what not to do). I held jobs and provided a living for my girlfriend, her children and I, but Maya was stronger and had its hooks in me.

I thought I'd get control of my life and felt semi-okay selling drugs (I developed anxiety, depression, stress) but ended up in prison for 27 years.

In prison I had to find myself and still joined a gang, got into trouble, and decided to drop out. My spirit was nearly destroyed and I tried finding a path. I practiced Christianity, Native American and finally found Krishna, the Bhagavad-Gita, and a movie on Krishna's people.

These things brought me back to the years I spent looking at those pictures my mom had of Lord Krishna, those eyes looking at me with love and compassion and welcoming me to leave everything.

Practicing Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Federal prison is not easy as the most known religions are Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Sometimes there isn't any literature, DVDs or anything relating to Krishna consciousness or even Hinduism, which is confused with Buddhism. But at the end, with Krishna's blessing, I always found a way to praise and offer obeisances to our Lord.

I still fight my old ways and that's why I'm in the SHU (special housing unit) waiting for the approval of the region on my disassociation from the gang I belonged to years ago. It's a process that takes time, but the only gang I belong to now is Krishna's.

Anonymous —New York



STORY FROM THE MAHABHARATA

Dronacharya Tests His Students, Duryodhana and Yudhishthira

One day, Drona called for Yudhishthira and Duryodhana, and ordered them, “My dear Yudhishthira, please follow my instructions. Go among the citizens and find someone who has some faults. When you have found that person, bring him to me.”

Drona then requested Duryodhana, “Go among the citizens and find someone who is superior in quality to you. When you find that person, bring him to me.”

Both the students then left, and Drona returned to his quarters.

At the end of the day Duryodhana returned to his teacher and informed him, “O my teacher, I have searched the kingdom for a person who is superior in quality to me, but I have not found anyone. Having concluded my inspection, I have returned to your presence.”

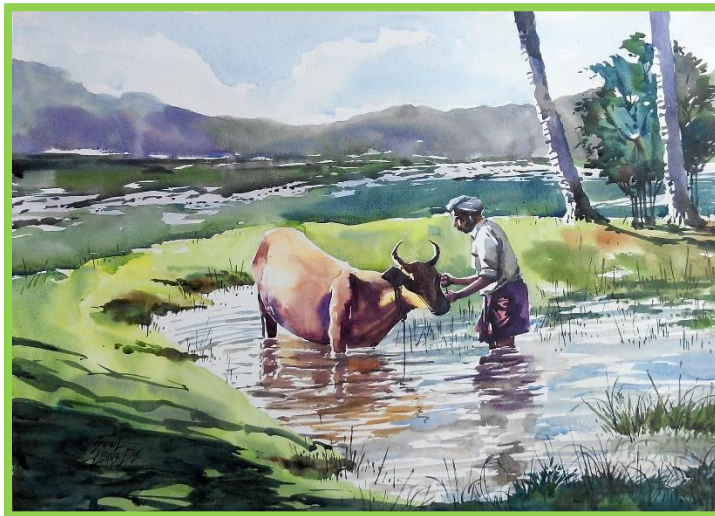
Drona then dismissed Duryodhana.

When the sun had well set on the horizon, Yudhishthira arrived and offered obeisances to his martial teacher. Drona then inquired, “Have you found someone of inferior quality?” Yudhishthira replied, “I have searched all day, but I could not find anyone. However, toward the end of the day, I saw a Vaishya (farmer) drawing water from a well, and since it was ekadasi [during which everyone used to fast from both food and water],

so I thought to bring him to you. Just as I was about to approach him however, I saw that he fed the water to his animals. Therefore, I have not found anyone with inferior qualities, but I have brought myself for fault-finding with others.”

Drona then dismissed Yudhishthira and reflected on the qualities

of the two princes. He concluded that Yudhishthira was the personification of humility and fit to rule the people, whereas Duryodhana was too proud to be a pious king and would ultimately ruin the Kuru dynasty. 🌸



Would you like to see your STORY and/or ARTWORK in the Freedom Newsletter?

- 1) Write the story of how you came to Kṛṣṇa, using everyday language, in your own words. Stories should be only about 2 to 3 handwritten pages (or 1 to 2 typed pages).
- 2) We encourage all of you to **draw** topics about Kṛṣṇa, whether you are known as an “artist” or not. With Kṛṣṇa artwork, the most important is your *desire* to please Kṛṣṇa.
- 3) Send your story and/or your artwork to:
ISKCON Prison Ministry, PO Box 2676, Alachua, FL 32616
- 4) Please write “**MY STORY**”, or “**ARTWORK**” on the back of the envelope.
- 5) please be patient: due to the high volume of mail, it may take a few months before you see your submission in the newsletter.

Book Distribution Stories!

By Karuna Dharini Devi Dasi

There are bumper stickers that say, “I’d rather be hang-gliding”. For devotees of Krishna it could read, “I’d rather be distributing books”. Book distribution is that beautiful experience that melts the heart and is not easily forgotten.

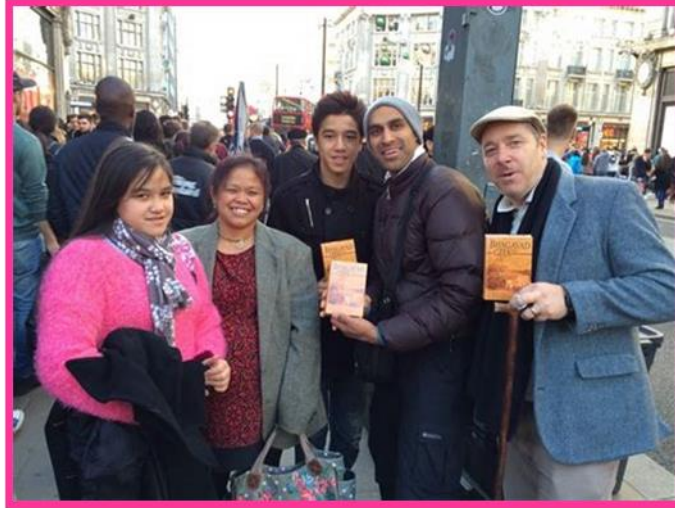
However, sometimes we neglect to distribute books, so Krishna sends reminders. Here are several reminders I have experienced:

Once I was standing outside the Los Angeles temple when a couple approached me. “Don’t you remember us? You gave us a calendar.” I vaguely remembered meeting them at a book table at Cal State LA. I had given them an old Krishna calendar because they had not wanted Prabhupada’s books.

They were two students from India. They had told me that they were dating, having met by accident on campus. I had then told them they must go to the temple. I said at least you take this calendar. Anyway, two years later they came to tell me they were initiated by Vaisesika prabhu and they themselves now distribute books and live as a married couple in the Bay area!

Another time I went on a nature hike with temple devotee friends to “get away” for the day and, what do you know, we heard someone chanting in the distance. The sound was loud and strong. We looked all around until we found that there was someone above the hiking trail chanting Srimad-Bhagavatam slokas. The sound vibration was coming down to us. Later

we looked more closely and indeed there was one hermit-like looking man sitting with his Srimad-Bhagavatam, first Canto, on a book stand, on a remote cliff.



Once, when I was pregnant with my daughter and not distributing books, I got an aerogram in the mail. It was from an American locked up in a foreign jail on drug charges. On his way to this horrible fate in Thailand he had received the sixth canto of Srimad-Bhagavatam from me in the airport. I had signed my name in it. So he wrote me a letter from the jail cell. He said it was helpful to read the

book and expressed his gratitude for it.

One time when I was shopping for the Deities in downtown Los Angeles, I stood on a corner waiting to cross at an intersection. There was a poor looking man standing nearby reading a dog-eared copy of Sri Isopanisad. I said, “Oh, you like Sri Isopanisad?” He muttered, “I’ve been reading this for twenty years.”

People’s lives are permanently impacted by getting Srila Prabhupada’s books, and it serves the purpose of Srila Prabhupada so well. It unites devotees with new devotees.

Krishna sends us reminders. 🌸

Gold Nugget!

SUBCONSCIOUS WE REMEMBER ALL THIS TROUBLE

“We are all individual souls, and we are eternal, but because our body is changing we are suffering birth, death, old age, and disease. The Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is meant to get us out of this changing condition. “Since I am eternal, how can I come to the permanent position?” That should be our question. Everyone wants to live eternally; nobody wants to die. If I come before you with a revolver and say, “I am going to kill you,” you will immediately cry out, because you do not want to die. This is not a very good business—to die and take birth again. It is very troublesome. This we all know subconsciously. We know that when we die we’ll have to enter again into the womb of a mother—and nowadays mothers are killing the children within the womb. Then again another mother... The process of accepting another body again and again is very long and very troublesome. In our subconscious we remember all this trouble, and therefore we do not want to die.” —**Journey Of Self-Discovery, 1.14**

JANMASTAMI! —Lord Krishna's Appearance Day (this year on August 19)

Janmashtami is the yearly observance of Krishna's appearance on earth. It is one of the world's most widely observed spiritual festivals. Krishna's "birth," *janma*, occurred at midnight on *ashtami*, the eighth day after the full moon in the Vedic calendar.

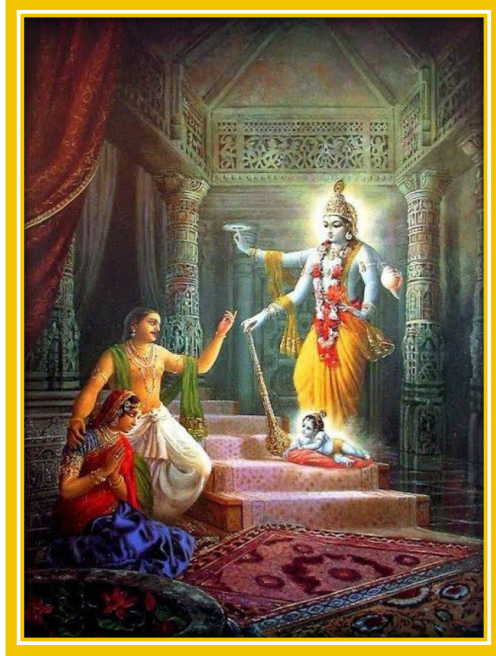
Krishna's appearance is significant on many levels and is something of a paradox; He's the beginningless Supreme Person, eternally existing everywhere at all times. He isn't "born" like we are—forced by *karma* into a succession of material bodies. Krishna appears in His same permanent, spiritual form whenever and wherever He likes. When He does appear, He chooses His devotees to play the roles of His father and mother. He Himself plays the role of their child, and acts like a human being, while also performing superhuman activities that are impossible for anyone else to imitate. From the very beginning, Krishna's activities on earth were extraordinary.

*“To deliver the pious and to annihilate the miscreants, as well as to reestablish the principles of religion, I Myself appear, millennium after millennium.”—
Bhagavad-Gita 4.8*

Krishna chose to make His appearance in a prison, of all places, in the middle of the night. The only human witnesses were Devaki and Vasudeva—the extraordinarily devoted husband and wife who had prayed for many lifetimes to have Krishna as their son. At the time of His so-called birth, He appeared before His parents as the majestic four-armed form of Lord Narayana. He then requested Vasudeva to smuggle Him, still under cover of night, to the remote cowherd village of Gokula, Vrindavan. Lord Kṛṣṇa then took the form of a beautiful baby boy and Vasudeva brought Him to the house of Nanda Maharaja and Mother Yasoda.

Throughout His 125 years on earth, Lord Krishna performed many wonderful superhuman activities. He fully exhibited the unlimited strength, beauty, wealth, fame, knowledge, and renunciation of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. He also imparted sublime spiritual knowledge to His friend and devotee Arjuna, knowledge that endures to this day in the sacred text *Bhagavad-gita*.

According to *Bhagavad-gita*, we can achieve freedom from the pangs of material suffering and return to the kingdom of God simply by understanding the transcendental birth and activities Lord Krishna enacts when He appears in this material world.



*“One who knows the transcendental nature of My appearance and activities does not, upon leaving the body, take his birth again in this material world, but attains My eternal abode, O Arjuna.”
—Bhagavad-gita 4.9*

The Supreme Lord is not formless or impersonal. When we speak of Krishna, we speak of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. What this means, essentially, is that the Godhead, the Supreme Truth, the source of everything, is ultimately the Supreme individual Person.

According to the Vedic literatures,

God has three features:

- 1) First, He has His all-pervading, impersonal aspect, *Brahman*. In this feature, He is the great light from which everything shines forth, the great primordial truth from which all other truths arise.
- 2) Beyond this, however, He also has His aspect of *Paramatma*, the Supreme knower who lives within the heart of everyone and gives everyone knowledge, memory, and forgetfulness.
- 3) Ultimately, God also has an independent *personal* aspect, His original eternal form of bliss and knowledge, Lord Krishna. In this personal aspect, the Lord has not only a form but also a Name, an abode, personal qualities, an eternal entourage, and spiritual activities. But all these features are beyond our direct sensory perception. Through sensory perception we can neither confirm nor deny God's existence; all we can

say is that He is not within the reach of our senses. Nor can we know God merely by speculation. The mind and

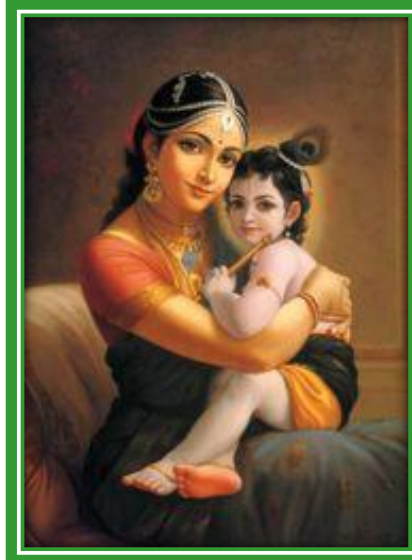
intelligence are limited. God being unlimited, our minds and intelligence will prove too small to grasp Him. But the unlimited, if He is *truly* unlimited, can reveal Himself and His unlimited nature, even in this material world. This is the purpose of Krishna's appearance. Krishna is the Supreme Absolute, the ultimate existence, the Supreme Lord of all creation, and He also appears within this mundane world as a visible, historical person. When He does so, He enlightens us by showing us His eternal nature and His eternal transcendental form.

From a historical point of view, Krishna appeared within this material world for 125 years and then left. But from a broader philosophical viewpoint we can understand that Krishna is *always* present everywhere, although sometimes He is visible and sometimes not. Even when Krishna was present on this planet, less intelligent men, unable to appreciate His transcendental superexcellence, thought Him an ordinary person of this material world. Similarly, unintelligent men in the present age think Krishna nothing more than a mythological hero. Yet great saints and sages throughout history have consistently accepted Lord Krishna as the Supreme Godhead. The sage Vyasadeva was the compiler of the Vedic literature and the author of Vedanta-sutra, perhaps the most demanding logical treatise on spiritual inquiry ever written. Yet, after completing Vedanta-sutra, Vyasadeva felt that his life's work would be incomplete if he failed to write one book devoted exclusively to describing the transcendental form, qualities, and pastimes of Lord Krishna. Would this most knowledgeable sage have suddenly abandoned his rigorous pursuit of truth to indulge in spinning whimsical mythological tales?

From the Vedic literature it is understood that those whose eyes have been anointed with the ointment of pure devotion can see Lord Krishna in their hearts perpetually. Such exalted souls, however, are very rare.

"I worship Govinda, the primeval Lord, who is Śyāmasundara, Kṛṣṇa Himself with inconceivable innumerable attributes, whom the pure devotees see in their heart of hearts with the eye of devotion tinged with the salve of love."

—**Brahmā-sambhita 5.38**



How can we know God and develop our love for Him? The Vedic authorities have conclusively decided that in the present age the most effective means for developing our love for God is to chant His holy names, especially as found in the Hare Krishna mantra:

**Hare Krsna Hare Krsna
Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama
Rama Rama Hare Hare**

Because God is absolute, there is *no difference* between God and God's name. So when we chant the holy name of the Lord, the Lord Himself is dancing on our tongue. As we continue to chant sincerely, we associate *directly* with the Lord, and thus we advance in spiritual life.

Krishna reserves the right to not be manifest to everyone. He reciprocates with our level of interest in him, and our purity of purpose in our spiritual search. In addition no one can really take to Bhakti without the blessings of a devotee. Krishna says in the Adi Purana that, "*My dear Partha, one who claims to be My devotee is not so. Only a person who claims to be the devotee of My devotee is actually My devotee.*" So we can begin to

understand who Krishna is by hearing from his devotees, particularly by reading Srila Prabhupāda's books. Krishna consciousness or Bhakti-yoga is the science of understanding Krishna and developing our dormant love for him.

How do I celebrate Janmastami?

- 1) You can increase your chanting of the Hare Krishna mantra; *japa* (to yourself; with or without beads), or *kirtan* (on a musical tune of your choice; alone or with others). Chanting Hare Krishna will make you feel much closer to the Lord.
- 2) You can also read more that day, especially from the Kṛṣṇa Book, if you have access to it.
- 3) Offer heartfelt prayers to the Lord.
- 4) If you have the capacity, offer some food and distribute it to others.
- 5) Lend or give a book to someone.
- 6) If you are able to fast from food, fasting until midnight is recommended. If fasting is too difficult, then try to eat more lightly during the day. By putting our own needs aside and concentrating more on Krishna's, we show our love for Him. 🌸



ATTENTION FLORIDA INMATES

All **State Florida Correctional Institutions** have transitioned to an electronic mail delivery format. Florida inmates are no longer allowed to receive any snail mail (letters, books, magazines).

Inmates who, as a result of their housing designation or status, are not permitted to access kiosks, kiosk services, or tablet services, will have their scanned mail printed and delivered at no cost to the inmate.

In theory, all routine inmate mail for **Florida** can be addressed to the central processing facility (address below) for scanning and electronic distribution: **PO Box 23608, Tampa FL 33623-3608**

HOWEVER, many letters have been returned to us anyway. So if you don't receive the letters you were expecting, that is the reason.

Please inquire from your institution through which company you will be able to buy books. Let us know what you find out and we will research if there's a way to get our books in that new system.

If you **do** have access to a tablet or kiosk, please reach out to us at: IskconPrisonMinistry@gmail.com so you can continue to have email support from our devotee volunteers. 🙏

We cannot begin to tell you how sorry we are by this situation. It is truly deplorable and we know that you will suffer from it. Know that Kṛṣṇa is still in your heart, and that devotional service is always available under *any* circumstances. Kṛṣṇa will make the necessary arrangements for you to be able to continue on your spiritual journey, no matter what. Keep chanting the holy name and reading whatever Kṛṣṇa conscious material available to you and Kṛṣṇa will protect you.

“As all surrender unto Me, I reward them accordingly. Everyone follows My path in all respects, O son of Pṛthā.”
—**Bhagavad-Gita 4.11**

Kṛṣṇa is fully aware of the difficulties you are facing (internally and externally). He sees when you do your best in the circumstances you find yourself in and He responds accordingly. So just keep doing the best you can; that's all Kṛṣṇa is really asking of you. He will accept your service and you will surely experience His reciprocation.



POEM CORNER

DOING OUR TIME

Kṛṣṇa has His transcendental world
and also all that is under the material sky
All worlds are His, His only
We are only meant to do our time
and be reinstated in full consciousness to
Gokula

Jackie S. —Miami, Florida

GOD IS A PERSON

God is a Person
I once thought I was Him
But I am in an ocean of nescience
I am drowning
And I can't swim

Sean C. —St. Peter, Minnesota



TWO FOOD FOR LIFE DEVOTEES KILLED IN DONBASS, UKRAINE

—By ISKCON News Staff, Jul 17, 2022

On July 16, two *Food For Life* (FFL) devotees in Alchevsk (Donbass) — Krsna-tattva Prabhu, director of the program, and Madana-gopal Prabhu — were killed in a missile strike that hit the Food For Life kitchen. They had just returned from prasadam distribution to the FFL base when a missile attack destroyed the building, and they were buried under the rubble. Another devotee, Arjuna Prabhu was injured and has been taken to hospital.

The Donbass FFL program provided over 1000 hot prasadam meals weekly to civilians in the war-affected areas in Donbass since 2014 and increased its efforts throughout the ongoing Russia-Ukraine military conflict. They carried out charity programs in orphanages, and rehabilitation centers for people with disabilities, organized hot meals at sports and social events and helped elderly and disabled people in their homes. They spread the culture of being merciful and uniting everyone who wants to bring kindness and love to people.

As of today, the Food for Life in Lugansk mission has not only lost its leader, but also the building from which the mission was operating. Both devotees who passed away were also pujaris (priests) in the local temple. Krishna Tattva Prabhu was born in 1982. He joined ISKCON in 1998. Madan Gopal Prabhu was also born in 1982 and joined ISKCON in 2004.



Krishna-tattva Das (right) and Madana-Gopal Das (left) killed in missile attack in Donbass

“No doubt Lord Krishna, Lord Caitanya and Srila Prabhupada will fully bless them for the sacrifices they made.”-
Anuttama dasa —GBC Global Communications Minister, USA

“May the selfless service of these two great souls be recognized by Lord Krishna. May He extend His unlimited mercy upon them, their families, and all who will be impacted by their sudden departure from this world.”
Malati devi dasi, GBC Member, North America

“These devotees every day they worked hard and fed thousands of people who were left without homes and food. May Srila Prabhupada shower His causeless mercv on these devotees and allow them to continue their devotional service!”
Acyutatma das, GBC Russia



Calendar

AUGUST 2022

- 01 Aug 2022 - Disappearance Day of Sri Raghunandan Thakura
01 Aug 2022 - Disappearance Day of Sri Vamsidasa Babaji
08 Aug 2022 - **Pavitropana Ekadashi**
08 Aug 2022 – Radha-Govinda Jhulan Yatra Begins (swing festival)
09 Aug 2022 - Disappearance Day of Srila Rupa Goswami
09 Aug 2022 - Disappearance Day of Sri Gauridasa Pandita
12 Aug 2022 - Jhulan Yatra Ends
12 Aug 2022 - **Appearance Day of Lord Balarama**
13 Aug 2022 - Second Month of Caturmasya Begins
13 Aug 2022 - Srila Prabhupada's Departure for the USA
19 Aug 2022 - **Sri Krsna Janmastami**
20 Aug 2022 - **Appearance Day of Srila Prabhupada**
23 Aug 2022 - **Annada Ekadashi**

SEPTEMBER 2022

- 01 Sept 2022 - Srimati Sita Thakurani Appearance Day
04 Sept 2022 - **Radhastami : Appearance of Srimati Radharani**
07 Sept 2022 - **Parsva Ekadashi**
07 Sept 2022 - Sri Vamana Dwadashi : Appearance of Sri Vamana Deva
07 Sept 2022 - Appearance Day of Sri Jiva Goswami
08 Sept 2022 - Appearance Day of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura
09 Sept 2022 - Ananta Caturdasi Vrata : Appearance Day of Padmanabha
09 Sept 2022 - Disappearance Day of Srila Haridasa Thakura
10 Sept 2022 - Sri Visvarupa Mahotsava
10 Sept 2022 - Acceptance of Sannyasa by Srila Prabhupada
11 Sept 2022 - Third Month of Caturmasya Begins
17 Sept 2022 - Srila Prabhupada's arrival in the USA
21 Sept 2022 - **Indira Ekadasi**



RADHASTAMI: Appearance of Srimati Radharani (Sept. 4 this year)

Everyone naturally wants to enjoy, and we enjoy ourselves most in the company of others. Krishna, however, being the source of everything, is fully independent and needs no one. When He wants to enjoy, He expands His own internal, pleasure potency. This potency is a person. Her name is Srimati Radharani.

Radharani is both one with and different from Him. How could two people be one person or one person be two? A simple example is that the sun cannot exist without the sunshine, nor the sunshine without the sun.

The highest truth has both male and female aspects. The male and female aspects of the Supreme Being appear together as Vishnu and Laksmi, Rama and Sita, and Krishna and Radharani. During Krishna's childhood pastimes in Vrindavan, Radharani is His feminine counterpart. They eternally enjoy each other's company and are always making plans to meet.

Srila Prabhupada cautions that although Krishna and Radharani's relationship may appear like romantic dealings between young boys and girls, it is entirely different, purely transcendental. An aspiring devotee of Krishna should thoroughly study the Bhagavatam's first nine cantos - which stress the greatness of God and His divine energy - before delving into the more intimate, confidential pastimes found in the Tenth canto.

Radharani also appears in the Hare Krishna mantra as "Hare" (ha-RAY), the vocative form of "Hara." Hara is the feminine form of Hari (another name of Krishna). Radharani's name appears before Krishna's in the maha mantra because She is known for Her compassionate nature; devotees of Krishna approach Her before approaching Him. When Radharani sees a devotee's sincerity, she recommends him to Krishna. 🌸