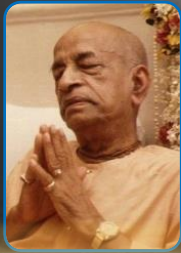


Freedom Newsletter



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

ISKCON Prison Ministry / August 2023

PO Box 2676
Alachua, FL 32616

MAD SCIENTISTS

This is a continuation of a conversation that took place between His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada and biochemist Thoudam Singh, Ph.D., in Bhubanesvara, India, on February 3, 1977.

Srila Prabhupada: Just try to understand. Anyone who is not a devotee of the Lord—his whole life is a drawback. He has no value. And he is condemned so much. In *Bhagavad-gita* Lord Kṛṣṇa calls him *duskṛtinah*, *mudhah*, *naradhamah*, *mayayapahrta-jnanah*: “rascal, ass, lowest of mankind, knowledge stolen by illusion.”

What can be done? A scientist who does not pursue the real science, the science of God, is condemned.

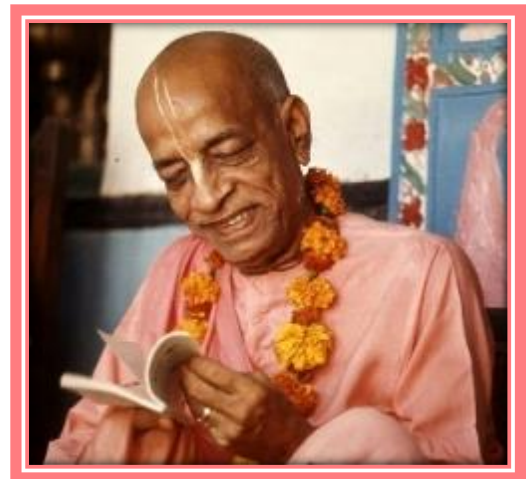
“Oh? But he has earned so many big degrees.”

No. *Mayayapahrta-jnanah*—without knowledge of God, his knowledge is not knowledge but illusion. Finished.

Anyone who has no knowledge about this Kṛṣṇa consciousness—he’s so condemned. You can’t give him any position. It is not possible. *Pisaci paille*: when a man becomes mad, what is his position?

Even someone who has become a high-court judge—if he has also become mad, he has no position. He’s useless.

“Now, wait just a moment. He is a high-court judge!”
That’s all right. But his present position—because he is mad—has no value.



I have seen all this with my own eyes. Some fifty years ago, near my father-in-law’s house, there lived a very famous scientist. A great scholar—he’d gotten all sorts of degrees, including Ph.D., and he used to study like anything. Later, he became so mad that he would run on the street in front of my father-in-law’s house, naked.

So, what was his value? Just consider. This same man was so educated in so many fields of knowledge. But when he became mad and went running naked, who paid him any respect?

Now, anyone who is under the deluding influence of this material energy—he is like that. Although actually he is part and parcel of God, he has now forgotten God and his own soul. So he's mad.

And *pisaci paile yena mati-channa haya, maya grasta jivera haya sei bhava udaya*: When a man becomes mad, he is finished. Whatever he may speak, it is all madness. It has no importance. His words may seem important on the relative platform, but on the absolute platform they must be mad. Because the basic principle behind the words—the man himself—is mad.

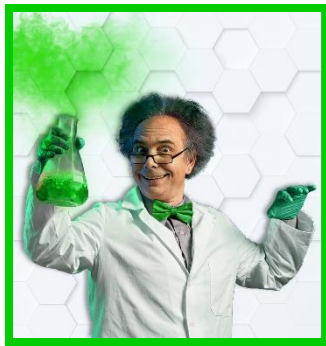
Dr. Singh: The madness of the scientists may be a little different. They are mad or illusioned in that they know little of God's natural law, but they extrapolate vastly.

Srila Prabhupada: You can explain their madness in so many ways, but first try to understand the main idea: a very educated man—when he becomes mad, then he and his words have no value.

In everyday life it is like that. If a high-court judge has become mad, you cannot give him the same high position. You cannot say, "Sir, you are now mad, but that's no matter. You just come and take your exalted seat, and everything will be all right." No, that is not possible.

Of course, if by treatment you restore the man to sanity, that is another thing. Then he can work as before. You see, the person's inner potency is not finished, but as long as he shall remain mad, then his practical qualification will be finished.

Dr. Singh: That was my idea also. For example, a scientist might, let's say, decide to write an equation that describes a spherical object's shape. But if he were to take only two points, his equation would be one for a straight line. And he would delude himself and others into thinking the object not spherical but flat or straight. In other words, in this example, although the scientist may not be running naked, he would still be mad—because he would be basing his conclusion on insufficient knowledge.

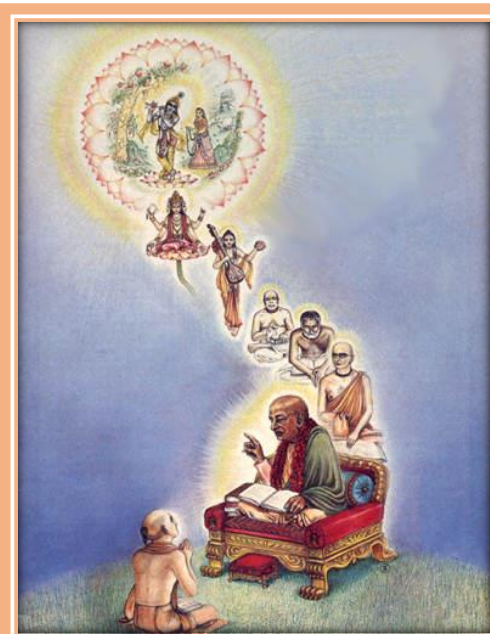


Or to put it another way, sanity means understanding that our knowledge of things is very limited. And so, we have to understand, if we extrapolate from our limited knowledge to draw sweeping conclusions—conclusions beyond our knowledge—then it all becomes . . . just becomes false.

Srila Prabhupada: Yes. If we go beyond our knowledge, it is false. When we have gone beyond our knowledge, our conclusions have to be false. Our conclusions must be false—unless they come from someone whose knowledge goes beyond our own. In other words, from someone who is a bona fide authority. We can return to a familiar example. If I am a small baby and I want to determine who is my father, that is simply beyond my knowledge. But if I receive knowledge from my mother—"Here is your father"—then my knowledge is sure to be correct. This subject matter is beyond my knowledge, but if I receive the knowledge from the right person, then my knowledge is correct.

Aroha-pantha and *avaroha-pantha*. To obtain knowledge, you have two paths: the ascending and descending. On the one hand you have the ascending path, on which you try to rise out of your ignorance through experience, trial and error, deduction. On the

other hand, you have the descending path, which means the knowledge comes down to you from persons with higher experience. The knowledge descends from higher authorities. In this conditioned state of life—encased as we are by this material body, with its severely limited senses—there are many, many things beyond our knowledge. Therefore, we have to take shelter of the descending path. This is our process. We have to take shelter of the *Vedas*, the scriptures. They are *sruti*, knowledge heard from higher authorities. This knowledge is perfect; coming from God by the system of *parampara*, or disciplic succession. This knowledge comes from Lord Krsna to




ABOVE: Parampara; the disciplic succession.

Brahma, from Brahma to Narada, from Narada to Vyasa, and so forth. This knowledge is perfect.

With our limited senses, deductive knowledge has to be imperfect. But with bona fide authorities—starting from the Lord Himself—descending knowledge is perfect. The other way is all imperfect, but this way is perfect.

Dr. Singh: Descending knowledge.

Srila Prabhupada: Hmm. This is perfect. 

Excerpts from inmates' letters

I finally got our group time changed to Saturday afternoon which increased the size of attendance significantly. Prior, at 7 AM on Saturday morning, I was often the only one there. Now at our last kirtan there were twelve in attendance, almost like it used to be. Petersburg has turned into a VERY suppressive prison. The warden is a first rate *mleccha* [ignorant man]. But with Lord Gopala on our side, we are supremely protected. November 26 looks like my month [for release]. I'll volunteer for IPM and find a [temple]. Can't wait to dress in kurta and dhoti and do harinam! I can't wait to repay all the kindness and give back to the community. Time is winding down. It's been a long, strange trip but I'm so grateful I found Krishna.

Richard C. (aka Krishna Kirtan das) —Petersburg, Virginia

I appreciate all you do for those of us who are currently incarcerated. Your newsletters and the BTGs are great tools for us along with the Bhagavad-gita As It Is and I greatly enjoy reading each of them. Thank you for everything.

Michael C —Charleston, South Carolina

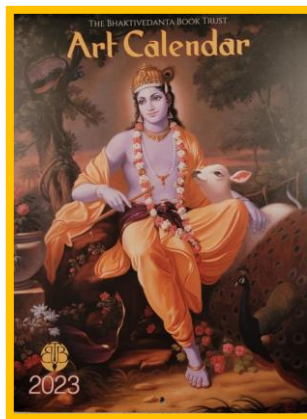
I am fine, thanks to our Lord who has been so compassionate towards this fallen soul. I understand now why it is so hard to [remain Kṛṣṇa conscious] as MAYA is so strong that it has trapped me under her spell of family, lusty feelings, monetary issues, and a plethora of things that have happened to me. But Lord Govinda has kept me afloat even though I do not deserve His mercy. I have been doing Japa, reading, studying, praying, and trying to stay Kṛṣṇa Conscious all day, every day. I humbly pray for you and all Vaisnavas every day.

I have been receiving the BTG, the *Freedom Newsletter*, and correspondence from my devotee pen pal, who also sent me a beautiful art calendar for 2023.

Hare Kṛṣṇa! Haribol! Humbly, the servant of the servant of the servant of Sri Kṛṣṇa. Bhakta Jose.

Jose A. — Fairton, New Jersey

Hello, I wanted to thank everybody working at ISKCON because I have learned a great deal and I owe it to my brother for contacting you guys for me, and to you guys for reaching out and sending me these books and magazines (BTG). Thank you for helping me come to realization and begin my journey for



learning the Absolute Truth and awakening my love for Kṛṣṇa! I am going to be honest; it is extremely hard to stay focused and not deviate from my path to spiritual perfection. I have been on a consistent path when it comes to reading and studying the BTG magazines and Srila Prabhupada's books but I'm finding it hard to control my senses when it comes to eating meat. I am fully aware that I shouldn't be eating it but it's hard to overcome the desire for it. I have been trying to get onto the vegan diet tray but have been denied multiple times... I am currently incarcerated and have a couple people I am trying to convert over to Kṛṣṇa consciousness but how can I talk people into joining something that I myself have not 100% committed to? I feel like I need a spiritual master not only to help overcome that but other things as well. I want to become a better servant of Krishna. Being in an environment like this where I'm surrounded by people with sectarian religions and judgmental, hypocrites that try and tell me certain things that are demeaning, and I stand my ground with my faith. I have learned that we are not these bodies but merely the body is the dress for our soul. Our souls are eternal therefore our souls have been here for thousands of years in the material world. The only way to reach Kṛṣṇa's abode and leave this materialistic world behind is to become a devotee to Kṛṣṇa 100% and become Kṛṣṇa conscious and serve the lord 100%. If not, then depending on our sins in this life our karma will decide what we will be in the next life. I know there are levels of realization and I'm only at the beginning stage, but I know I believe that this is the absolute truth and my search for who God is will be no more, I found Him! The books I have now are *The Science of Self-Realization*, *Chant and be Happy*, & *Beyond Birth and Death*. I am forever in you guys' debt! I can't wait to hear back from you all and to visit all temples to give service to Kṛṣṇa!

Much love to you all and Hare Kṛṣṇa!

Javaugh S. —Malone, Florida

ANSWERS TO TWO POINTS from Javaugh's letter (see excerpt above):

"I'm finding it hard to control my senses when it comes to eating meat. I am fully aware that I shouldn't be eating it but it's hard to overcome the desire for it."

As Lord Kṛṣṇa says in the Bhagavad-Gita, Chapter 2, verse 59:

“The embodied soul may be restricted from sense enjoyment, though the taste for sense objects remains. But, ceasing such engagements by experiencing a higher taste, he is fixed in consciousness.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda repeatedly explains that Kṛṣṇa consciousness is a *gradual* process, and one must practice it with patience, determination, and enthusiasm. The chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa maha-mantra gradually cleanses the heart of all dirty things (desires and habits), and we gradually develop a higher taste. As we develop this higher taste, the lower taste for material enjoyment diminishes. So don't get discouraged and, no matter what, keep chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa and reading Śrīla Prabhupāda's books. In this way, your future will be very bright!

“How can I talk people into joining something that I myself have not 100% committed to? I feel like I need a spiritual master.”

We all fall short of pure devotion to Lord Kṛṣṇa, but we cannot wait to be 100% pure before giving this great gift to others. We, the messengers, are greatly flawed, but the *message* is pure. By preaching, both ourselves and others get purified.

As far as needing a spiritual master; if you read Śrīla Prabhupāda's books and *apply* his teachings in your life, you are already under his shelter. *Disciple* means *discipline*. Formal initiation may come later, but you already have the guidance and refuge you need. 🙏

Gold Nugget !

THE AWAKENED SOUL

By Śrīla Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura

The awakened soul says in effect, to the mind and body, “I am not identical with you. I do not want what you require. I have so long believed that I was identical with yourselves and that our interests were the same. But I now find that I am really and categorically different from you.

I am made wholly of the principle of self-consciousness while both of you are made of dead matter. Being matter you can act and be acted upon by matter under the Laws of Nature. Nature makes and unmakes you, but she has no power over me. I am not benefitted by your growth or harmed by your decay. You grow and decay by the laws that govern your relationships with this physical universe. Falsely identifying myself with you I find myself compelled to suffer pain and pleasure due to the physical problems that overtake you. I find myself unnaturally yoked to your functions such as eating, drinking, producing thought, etc., etc., and am forced to believe them to be my own functions by which I am benefitted. Of course, I shall have to stay with you as long as it is intended by providence that I should suffer the consequences of this unnatural alliance with you. But I shall from this time do nothing to please you. I shall permit you to do only what I consider to be necessary for my well-being — regaining my natural position of free conscious existence unhampered by an unnatural domination caused by longing for material enjoyment. I refuse to be any more a slave of the sensuous inclinations of the mind and body.”

("Sri Caitanya's Teachings" part 2, p.78)

POEM CORNER

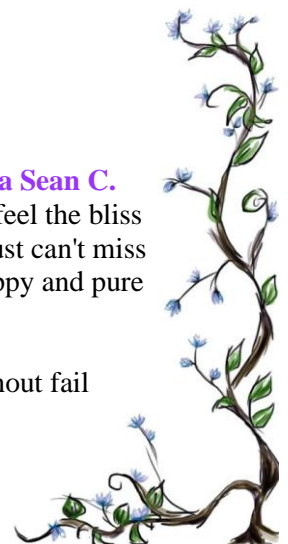
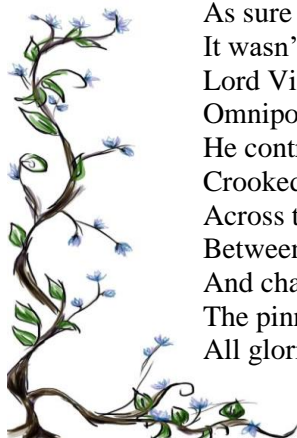
WORD RAGA —by Ujjal das

Who made the jungle mountains?
Who built the riverbanks?
As sure as sexy ladies
It wasn't northern yanks.
Lord Vishnu is a person:
Omnipotent and great.
He controls the cosmos:
Crooked bent and straight.
Across the blue-green waters.
Between the voidist tricks
And chanting Hare Krishna
The pinnacle of kicks.
All glories to Sri guru and Gauranga!

WHEN YOU CHANT

—by Bhakta Sean C.

When you chant, you'll feel the bliss
This is something you just can't miss
Chanting makes you happy and pure
Maya's the sickness
Krishna is the cure.
So chant every day, without fail
Krishna is the freedom
Material world's the jail.



THE ART OF HARIDAS THAKUR DAS

By Kamala Radha devi dasi (from ISKCON NEWS, March 2022)

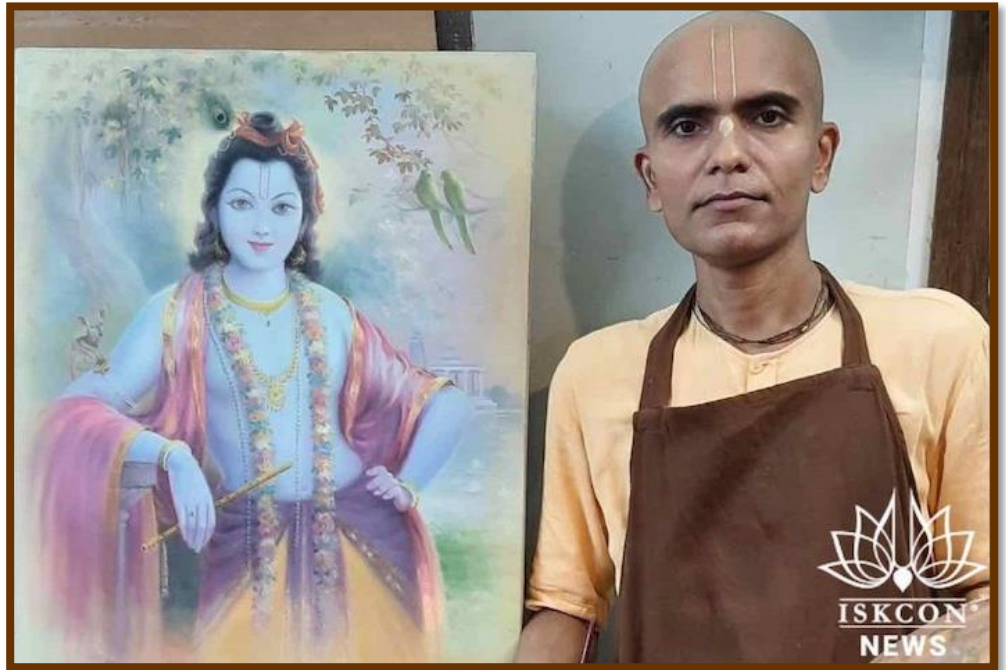
In his stunning paintings, Haridas Thakur das is able to capture life in his subjects in such a vivid way, they almost come across as photography. He captures realism in his paintings so true to life, one feels that they are in the presence of Srila Prabhupada himself.

Haridas Thakur das is a monk, artist, art teacher, and inspirational speaker. He had studied mechanical engineering at Karnataka University and after a short stint in the industry, he chose to live as a monk in a monastery at ISKCON Chowpatty in downtown Mumbai to fully immerse himself in spiritual life. He has a keen interest in the field of Fine Art and painting and conducts art seminars for youths and art enthusiasts.

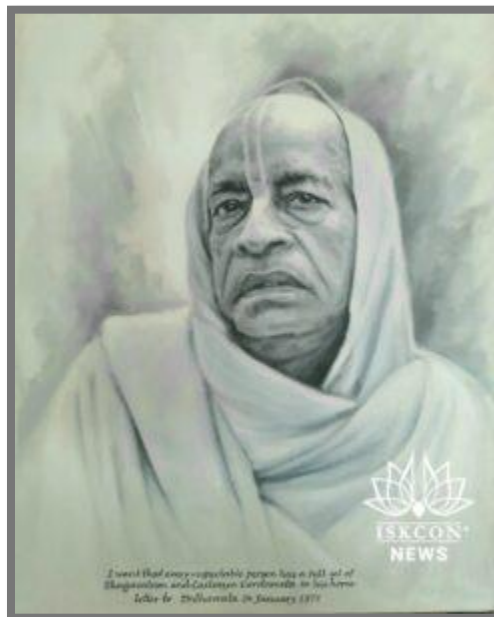
Illustrations with illuminations

The following is a portion of the preface for the upcoming book: Illustrations with Illuminations, An Artistic Glorification of Srila Prabhupāda.

Srila Prabhupada explained that on the spiritual platform both the painting of a person and the person himself are real, whereas on the material platform both the person and the painting are illusory. For Absolute beauty to be properly conveyed, one must actually be in touch with the source of this beauty: Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Ultimately, He is the original artist. Srila Prabhupada elaborates on Krishna's unique position as the premier artist: "Suppose you are an artist. To paint a picture of a very



nice rose, you have to take your brush, mix your colors on the palette, and tax your brain to make the picture beautiful. But in a garden, you can see not only one rose but many thousands of roses blooming. They have been very artistically painted by nature.... Anyone who performs his work for the satisfaction of Krishna, who knows his relationship with Krishna, is a true artist, and he can depict genuine, absolute beauty as it exists in the spiritual world. For he is seeing the Truth."

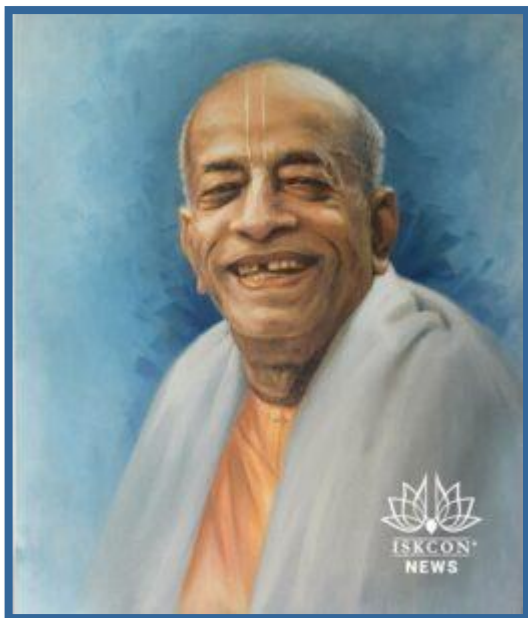


Thus, Srila Prabhupada said these Krishna paintings are "windows to the spiritual world."

"So, the greatest art," Srila Prabhupada explained, "is to understand Krishna. That is the greatest art". If we actually want to be an artist, we should try to understand, or try to be intimately associated with, the greatest artist, Krishna. For this purpose, we have established the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. The members of this society are trained to see in everything the

display of Krishna’s artistic sense. That is Krishna consciousness to see the artistic hand of Krishna everywhere.

As Lord Krishna says in Shrimad Bhagavatam that mad-bhakta-pujabhyadhika (SB 11.19.21), meaning “Worship of my devotee is better than worshipping Me.” Srila Prabhupada is an Acharya (teacher) who glorified Lord Krishna and made Him famous with his teachings and holy names all over the globe. Since his departure, devotees all over the world have gone the extra mile to glorify Srila Prabhupada and show their gratitude at every opportunity, and the year 2022 is glorious because it marks the 125th appearance anniversary of Srila Prabhupada. Many programs and celebrations are organized all over the world.

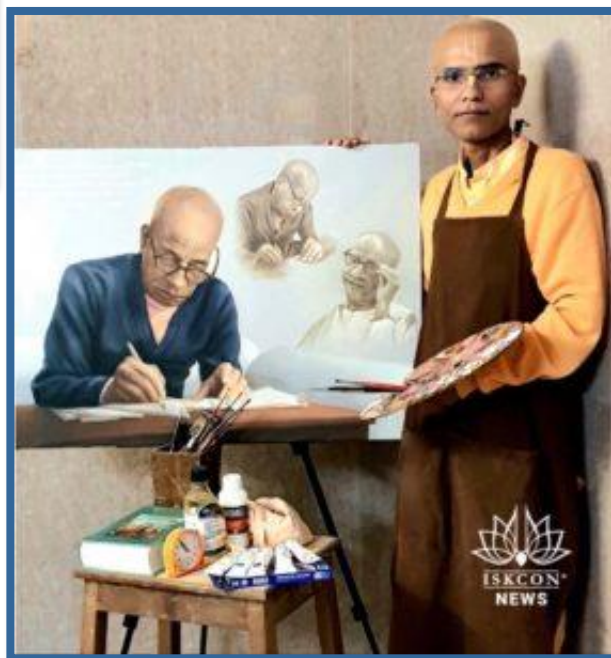


Coming from the background of fine art, I thought of depicting His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada with his spiritual emotions, moods, meditations, and ecstasies. Thanks to BBT and other devotees for capturing the illustrious photographs on all different occasions, which I have used for my artworks with creativity and

innovation. Also, extra care has been taken to make sure to get the likeness of Srila Prabhupada

Now I am taking advantage of my turn to sing the glories of Srila Prabhupada with paint and brush on canvas, who painted the hearts of his followers, devotees, and the masses with illustrations of Lord Krishna and His sweet pastimes.

Haridas Thakur had an art exhibition event that was held in March 2022, at the Jehangir Art Gallery, in Mumbai, India. 🌸



GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT ME

Lecture excerpt — His Divine Grace AC Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, October 7, 1966, New York

Because he [the neophyte] does not know that "God is with me, within my heart. He's sitting along with me. The soul and the Supersoul, both of them are sitting together. And God knows everything about me. So I did not require to pray from God to get me out of this distress. He knows everything. Why shall I pray?" He leaves everything to God. He does not pray. He prays... he prays to glorify the God, "How great You are," not for his personal interest, "O God, give me my bread. Give me my dress. Give me my shelter." That is also good. He is better than the person, that mūḍha, the foolish, the atheist and the lowest of the mankind. He's far better. Even he is going and asking in

the church, "O God, give me my daily bread," but at the same time, he is less intelligent because he does not know that "God is with me, and He knows everything about me."

Therefore one who is pure devotee, he does not pray to God for any personal interest. Even if he is distressed, he says: "O Lord, it is Your kindness. You have put me in distress just to rectify me. I would have been put into more and more, thousand times in distress, but You are giving me little. That's all. That is Your great mercy." That is his vision. He does not . . . he's not disturbed. 🌸

Book Distribution Stories!

INTENSE SUFFERING FOLLOWED BY NEW HOPE —By Damodara Krsna Dasa.

As I was walking around the center city of Hamilton (Waikato, New Zealand), I came across a man sitting alone on a bench. I said hello and introduced myself as a volunteer for the



Mantra Lounge, our meditation center on Hood Street.

He then asked me something like, “What does life mean to you?”

I sat down next to him, and we started talking. Turns out that Jean had just finished a night shift. And instead of going home to bed, he

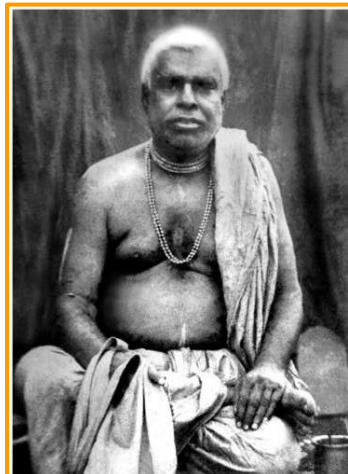
had come into town, had two coffees, and was sitting there trying to make sense of his life.

His heart was broken by a girl he had asked to marry him. She had been unfaithful. He was searching for spiritual answers to life. He said, “I don’t even know you, but I guess I just need someone to talk to.”

We talked about many things, and at one point I said, “You know I’ve also had this experience of a girl being unfaithful, and I know how it breaks your heart. It is probably one of the worst things a girl can do to a guy’s ego. Some guys even try to commit suicide.”

At this point Jean revealed to me that he tried just that. But it failed. He got home one day and went to the garage. He had tied a rope to a high beam in the garage, determined to end his life. He woke up in hospital. The beam broke, and his brother had found him unconscious on the garage floor.

Jean cried as he told me, “This is very hard for me to talk about. Besides my brother, you’re the only other person who knows.”



If one sincerely takes shelter of the holy names of Krishna by chanting Hare Krishna, he will achieve spiritual perfection within the compass of his normal daily activities.

—Srila Bhaktivinod Thakura

In the end he walked to the ATM and happily gave me a donation for a set of books. He hoped the books would give him some answers to his questions. My hope is in the future Jean makes his way to Mantra Lounge and the *sanga* (association) of Vaisnavas.

We hear about how people are suffering intensely, but nonetheless, there is nothing like a first-hand example to really drive the reality home.

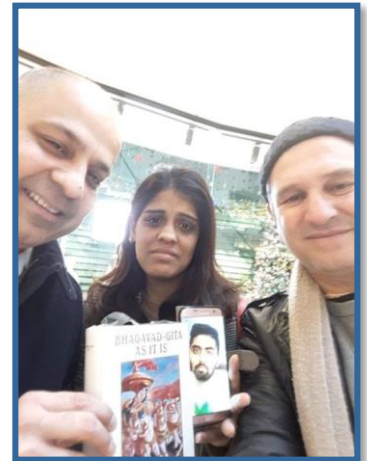
Thank you, Srila Prabhupāda, for giving us devotional service and the *sanga* of Vaisnavas. 🙏

“OUR SON DIED WITH YOUR GITA ON HIS CHEST” —By Visvambhara Dasa

Some time ago I met a couple in Uxbridge, London. After they received a Bhagavad-gita from me, they said, “Our son Keshava received the same book three months ago, from an Italian priest called Raffaele, from the Watford mandir. Keshava was on a wheelchair. When he came home, he was reading it every day”.

When I asked, “Where is Keshava now?” they replied, “He passed away last month in hospital, with the Gita on his chest. He was 18 years old and suffering from MS muscular dystrophy.” They had just come back from India, from placing his ashes in the Ganga. I asked, “Do

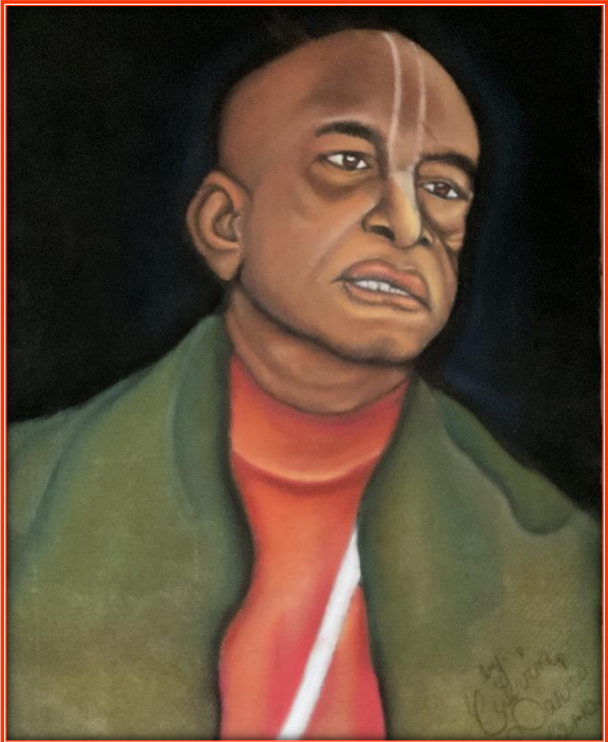
you have a picture of your son?” They showed me his picture and I recognized him. I said, “The Italian priest was me”. They burst into tears and hugged me. They were very grateful. 🙏



Inmate Artwork



ABOVE: Drawing by inmate Andre Jones — Wisconsin



ABOVE: Painting by inmate Calvin Davis — Umatilla, Oregon

BELOW: Painting by inmate Brian Babinski (California), depicting Śrī Rupa and Sanātana Goswāmī offering their respect to Lord Chaitanya.



How I Met A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami —By Damodara Dasa Adhikari

One evening in the summer of 1966 a friend and I were waiting for a downtown bus on Second Avenue between First and Second Streets. We were going to a Fulton Street loft to rehearse music for a mixed-media show. My friend had gone into a luncheonette for a moment when I noticed, through the window of a storefront across the avenue, an orange-robed Indian man with a shaved head lecturing to a small group of young people. I remembered reading a short article in the *Village Voice* a few weeks before about Swami Bhaktivedanta, who had come to the United States to spread the devotional practice of chanting mantras of God's name. So I guessed this must be the same Swami. When I saw him, I imagined myself walking across the street, going into the storefront, sitting down, chanting, and renouncing all worldly connections. But it was only my imagination I told myself; after all, I was married, I was in the process of going to a rehearsal, and I didn't know anything about the Swami anyway. So my friend and I got on a bus. "Imagine!" I said to him. "A holy man in a Second Avenue storefront!"

It was a very intriguing situation for me. I had been involved in various impersonal philosophies, and especially Buddhism, for a few years. And by this time a little psychedelic seasoning had been added. My interest had always been with the traditional forms, and not "new" organizations. So I knew how important it was to have a good guru, and how important it was to obey him strictly. Of course, I considered myself an impersonalist, and the Swami taught that God's highest aspect is as a person. So I lost interest.

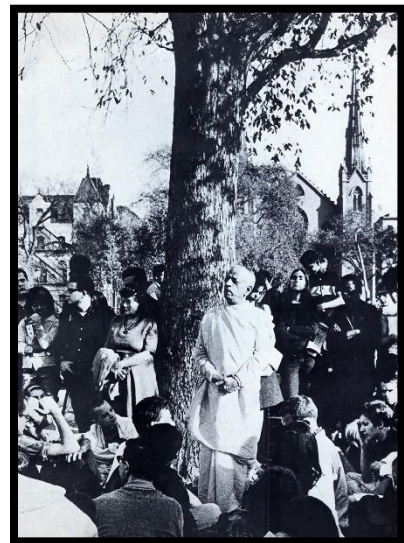
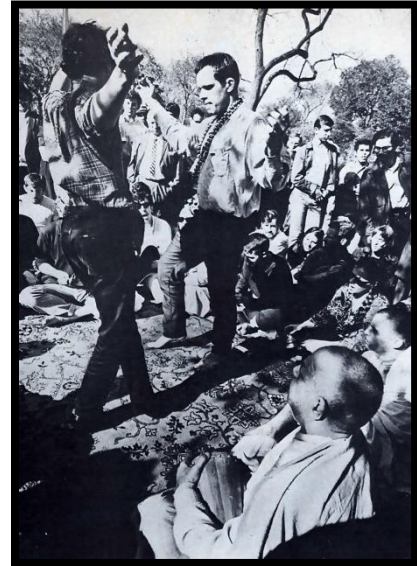


However, Krishna has a big bag of tricks and, by His grace, I began to tire of chemical wonderlands, rigid discriminatory eliminations, and material analyses. For such a long time I had been saying, "Not this, not that," just as Lord Buddha had suggested, and had arrived at a potpourri system of my own speculations, gleaned from various books I had read, all culminating in *Nothing*, that big impersonalist Void, the source of many a searcher's "wipe-out." God, I thought, was on the third or fourth level down (depending on what day it was). Now,

how is anybody to get out of such a jailhouse of intellectualization?

As for myself, I started to think that, psychologically speaking, I needed a devotional tonic. This was an ignorant way of putting it. Simply, impersonalism didn't satisfy my desire to know the Absolute. But for myself at that time, I felt that all that eliminating was getting stale, and what I needed was some group chanting.

So, on a mid-October Sunday afternoon, my wife and I went over to Tompkins Park to find out what this Krishna Consciousness was all about. By this time, I had read an article in the *East Village Other* newspaper about Swami and his followers and knew they would be chanting in the park. I expected to hear "Hare Krishna" droned out in a low, single-toned way, like most Buddhist chants. But then I heard the cymbals: one-two-three, one-two-three: a kind of intoxicating flamboyance, considering what I was used to, and very magnetic. I walked a little faster, and saw heads bobbing up and down, arms waving. What was this? No black-robed Zens here! Then I heard it. A song! A beautiful, endless song! Hare Krishna! Hare Krishna! I had to get closer to it, so I pushed through the onlookers. And there he was, Swami, the center of all this whirling-dervish ecstasy, surrounded by every kind of



outlandish hippie and frustrated office worker imaginable, scrutinized by solid neighborhood Ukrainians and ragged Puerto Rican kids; Swami, banging on a drum, seventy-odd years old, in complete control of this transcendental songfest. How could I keep from chanting at once? It was impossible. And even though I'm pretty shy, I even found myself dancing a little. Hare Krishna!

From that point on the fire of devotional service began to melt my icy Buddhist intellect. I found it hard to accept most of the philosophy at first, but the plain fact of the matter was that Swami gave better answers and better explanations than anyone else. After two or three months, there was only one possibility: he was right! So it took me a long time to "meet" Swami. I guess the first time I really met him was one morning the next April just after he had returned from opening the San Francisco temple. He had been away from New York for some time, and I had been very anxious to ask him to initiate me. And that morning I finally asked him. And just when I asked him, I realized that Swami Bhaktivedanta was indeed my true Spiritual Master. 🌸

Calendar

AUGUST 2023

- 20 Aug - Disappearance Day of Sri Raghunandan Thakura
- 20 Aug - Disappearance Day of Sri Vamsidasa Babaji
- 27 Aug - **Pavitropana Ekadashi**
- 28 Aug - Disappearance Day of Srila Rupa Goswami
- 28 Aug - Disappearance Day of Sri Gauridasa Pandita
- 31 Aug - **Appearance Day of Lord Balarama**

SEPTEMBER 2023

- 01 Sept - Second Month of Caturmasya Begins
- 01 Sept - Srila Prabhupada's Departure for the USA
- 07 Sept - **Sri Krsna Janmastami - Appearance of Lord Krishna**
- 08 Sept - **Appearance Day of Srila Prabhupada**
- 20 Sept - Srimati Sita Thakurani Appearance Day
- 23 Sept - **Radhastami : Appearance of Srimati Radharani**
- 26 Sept - **Parsva Ekadashi**
- 26 Sept - **Appearance of Sri Vamana Deva**
- 26 Sept - Appearance Day of Sri Jiva Goswami
- 27 Sept - Appearance Day of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura (fast till noon)
- 28 Sept - Disappearance Day of Srila Haridasa Thakura
- 29 Sept - Acceptance of Sannyasa by Srila Prabhupada
- 30 Sept - Third Month of Caturmasya Begins

OCTOBER 2023

- 05 Oct - Srila Prabhupada's arrival in the USA
- 10 Oct - **Indira Ekadasi**
- 24 Oct - Rama Vijayotsava (Lord Rama's victory over demon Ravana)
- 24 Oct - Appearance Day of Sri Madhvacharya
- 25 Oct - **Pasankusa Ekadashi**
- 26 Oct - Disappearance Day of Srila Raghunatha Dasa Goswami
- 26 Oct - Disappearance Day of Srila Raghunatha Bhatta Goswami
- 26 Oct - Disappearance Day of Srila Krsnadasa Kaviraja Goswami
- 28 Oct - Disappearance Day of Sri Murari Gupta
- 29 Oct - Fourth Month of Caturmasya Begins



ABOVE: Radha-Krishna in the forest of Vrindavan



ABOVE: Krishna, Balaram, and the cowherd boys in the forest of Vrindavan