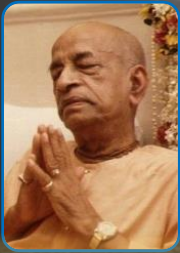


Freedom Newsletter



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

ISKCON Prison Ministry / **September 2022**

PO Box 2676
Alachua, FL 32616

THE VISION TO SEE LIFE IN STONE

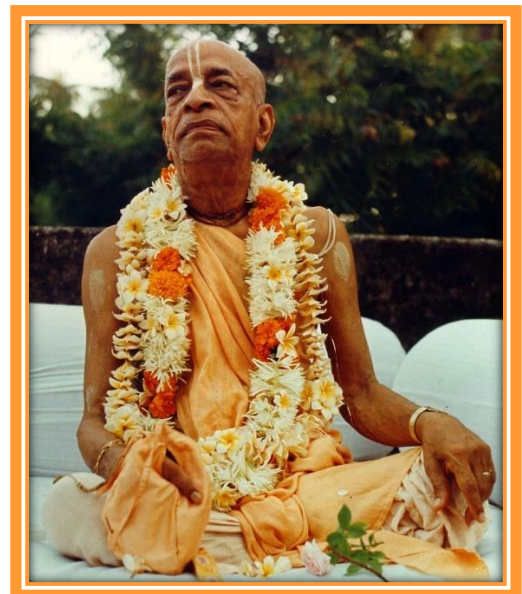
The following conversation between His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada and several of his disciples took place in June 1974 in Paris.

Devotees: A man came to the temple a couple of days ago and argued that we really can't say for sure that there's life after death, so why worry about it? Better to build a more prosperous society. At least this we can understand, and it would be a meaningful accomplishment.

Srila Prabhupada: He may not understand that the soul takes another body after death, but he can understand that he'll be kicked out of his present body. Didn't he understand this?

Devotee: He thought it was more important to engage in economic development.

Srila Prabhupada: Therefore he's a fool. Suppose I am visiting here in Paris, and you say, "As soon as your visa expires you'll be kicked out." Shall I be interested in creating anything elaborate? I shall be



kicked out after two months, so why should I construct a big building? Only a foolish rascal would do that. The rascal knows that he will be kicked out, but still he works day and night to collect bricks and stones, and he becomes a “big man.” A foolish rascal is considered a big man. Therefore *Srimad-Bhagavatam* [2.3.19] says, *sva-vid-vara-hostrakharaih samstutah purusah pasuh*: “Men who are like dogs, hogs, camels, and asses praise foolish rascals, the non-devotees.”

Devotee: Sometimes people argue that God has given us our senses, so we should enjoy them.

Srila Prabhupada: The dog is also enjoying his senses. I say to such people, What are you enjoying that the dog doesn't enjoy? You eat; the dog also eats. You sleep; the dog also sleeps. You enjoy sex; the dog also enjoys sex. You are afraid of your enemy; the dog is also afraid of its enemy. So what is the difference between the dog's mentality and your mentality?

God has given you the intelligence to understand that you are nothing and He is everything. Just realize it—that is intelligence. When you understand, “God is great; I am His servant,” that is real intelligence. Otherwise, you'll be exactly like the dogs.

Devotee: People today have reasoned that God is dead.

Srila Prabhupada: To them I reply, God is not dead; your intelligence is dead. You have a dead body, and you're proud of it. The body is just like a motorcar. A motor car is dead, and if there is no driver it does not work. Similarly, the body is dead, and as soon as you, the soul, leave the body, it stops working. That means you are occupying a dead body. It is working only as long as you are there, but actually the body is dead. And you are decorating a dead body. All your acquisitions are simply decorations on a dead body. *Apranasya hi dehasya mandanam loka-ranjanam*. Some rascal may applaud, “Oh, you are so intelligent; you are decorating your body so nicely.” But an intelligent man will say, “What a fool he is, that he's decorating a dead body.”

Devotee: Someone might ask why we decorate the Deity in the temple.

Srila Prabhupada: Because it is not dead. It is living. One who puts forward this argument does not know that we are decorating the real, living body.

Devotee: You say the Deity is the real body, but it appears to be stone. There are no symptoms of life in the Deity.



Srila Prabhupada: There is life—the supreme life—but you have no eyes to see it. *Premanjana-cchurita-bhakti-vilocanena*. A devotee—he can see that the Deity is alive. Are we fools, rascals, that we are worshiping a dead body? You think that after reading so many scriptures we are worshiping stone? You have no eyes to see the truth. You have to purify your vision to see that Krsna is personally present in the Deity.

Devotee: Most people can't even understand the existence of the soul. So how can they understand the Deity?

Srila Prabhupada: Therefore they have to become our students, our disciples, to understand this science. Then they will see that the stone Deity is also Krsna.

Devotee: Is my body also Krsna, since it is made of earth, like the Deity?

Srila Prabhupada: No, but it is Krsna's energy. Therefore the body should be engaged in Krsna's service. That is Krsna consciousness. As soon as you understand the body is Krsna's energy, you will not employ it for any purpose other than His vice. But people do not have this realization. They think the body is theirs, or that they are the body. This is illusion.

Devotee: When impersonalistic philosophers read in *Bhagavad-gita* [18.61] that Supreme Lord is situated in everyone's heart,” they argue that since Krsna is in heart of every living entity, every living entity is Krsna.

Srila Prabhupada: Why? If I am in a room have I become the room? Is that argument very sound? Krsna is within my body, and I am also within my body, but does that mean I am the body or that Krsna is the body? Krsna is everything, and yet, Krsna is apart from everything. In *Bhagavad-gita* [9.4] Krsna says, *maya tatam idam sarvam jagad avyakta-murtina*: “I am spread all over the universe in My impersonal feature.” *Mat-sthani sarva-bhutani*: “Everything is in Me.” *Nacaham tesv avasthitah*: “But I separate from everything.” This is the philosophy of simultaneous oneness and difference (*acintya-bhedabheda-tattva*).

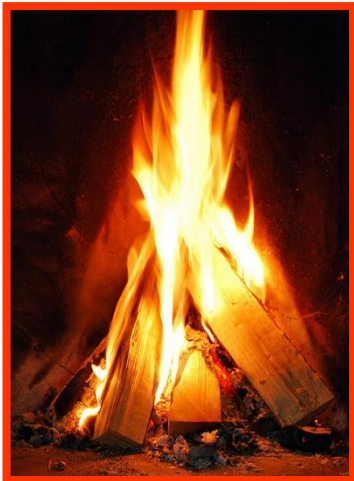
Devotee: Other religions do not give information—

Srila Prabhupada: We are not talking religion; we are talking of science. Don't bring in “religion.” There are so many religions where people are doing things blindly. Such “religion” is not our concern; We are talking of science.

Devotee: The science of how God's energies are working ?

Srila Prabhupada: Yes. For example, say that heat is fire, is that wrong?

Devotee: No, because it comes from fire.



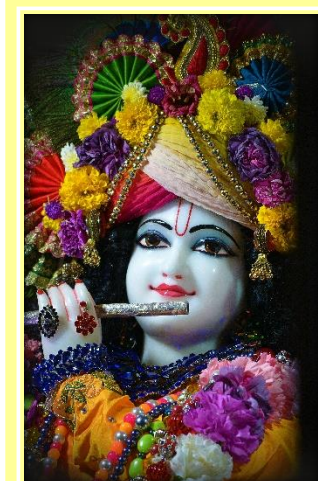
Srila Prabhupada:

Yes. Heat is the *energy of fire*. Therefore one can say that heat is fire, but at the same time it is not fire. It is simultaneously one with fire and different from fire.

Devotee: Someone might say, "If stone is also Kṛṣṇa, then why aren't you worship all stones?"

Srila Prabhupada:

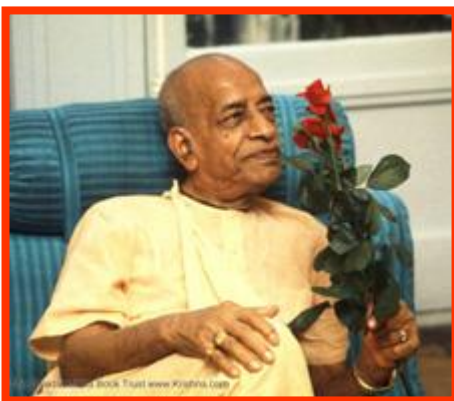
When we make the form of Kṛṣṇa in stone, then we worship stone. Not that we worship *any* stone. Because Kṛṣṇa is everything by the expansion of His energies, that does not mean we have to worship the dog. No. Our business is to worship the form of Kṛṣṇa. 🌸



Synopsis of Srila Prabhupāda's Life

Srila Prabhupāda is the Founder Ācārya of the International Society for Kṛṣṇa Consciousness.

Srila Prabhupada was born Abhay Charan De on September 1, 1896, to a pious Hindu family in Calcutta, India. He first met his spiritual master, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Gosvami, in Calcutta in 1922. Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati, a prominent



devotional scholar and the founder of sixty-four branches of Gaudiya Mathas (Vedic institutes), liked this educated young man, and, at their first meeting, in 1922, he requested Srila Prabhupada to

broadcast Vedic knowledge through the English language. Srila Prabhupada became his student, and eleven years later (1933) at Allahabad, he became his formally initiated disciple.

In the years that followed, Srila Prabhupada wrote a commentary on the Bhagavad-gita and in 1944, without assistance, started an English fortnightly

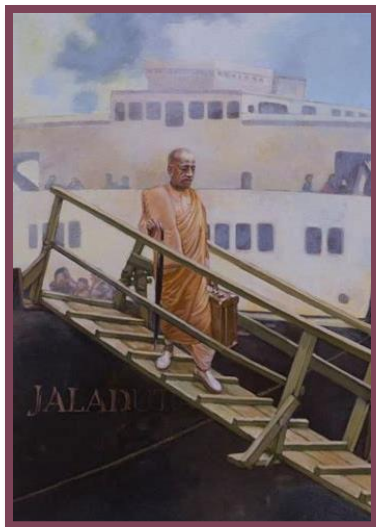
magazine. Recognizing Srila Prabhupada's philosophical learning and devotion, the Gaudiya Vaisnava Society honored him in 1947 with the title "Bhaktivedanta." In 1950, at the age of fifty-four, Srila Prabhupada retired from married life, and four years later he adopted the vanaprastha (retired) order to devote more time to his studies and writing. Srila Prabhupada traveled to the holy city of Vrndavana, where he lived in very humble circumstances in the historic medieval temple of Radha-Damodara (picture below). There he engaged for several years in deep study and writing. He accepted the renounced order of life (sannyasa) in 1959. At Radha-Damodara, Srila Prabhupada began work on his life's masterpiece: a multivolume translation and commentary on the



18,000-verse Srimad-Bhagavatam (Bhagavata Purana). He also wrote Easy Journey to Other Planets.

In 1965, after publishing three volumes of Bhagavatam, Srila

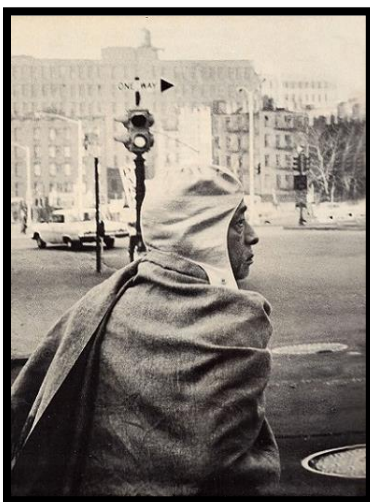
Prabhupada came to the United States at the age of sixty-nine, just to fulfill the mission of his spiritual master. With just seven dollars in Indian rupees and his translations of sacred Sanskrit texts, Srila Prabhupada



traveled to New York City aboard a cargo ship, the *Jaladuta*. The journey was treacherous, and Prabhupāda suffered two heart attacks aboard ship. When he entered the port of New York City on September 17, 1965, few

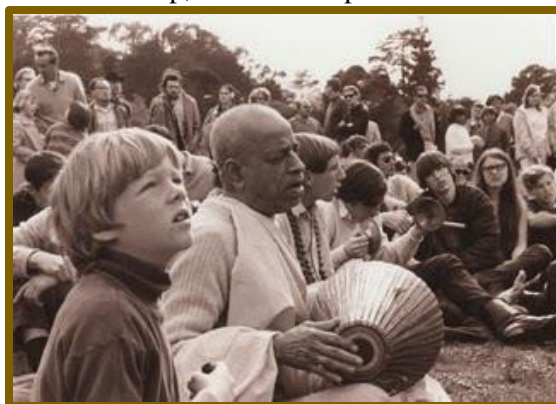
Americans took notice — but he was not merely another immigrant. He was on a mission to introduce the ancient teachings of Vedic India into mainstream America.

Once in the United States, Srila Prabhupāda began to share the timeless wisdom of Krishna consciousness. The first year was fraught with difficulties, what with the lack of money and the record cold of an exceptional New York winter, to which Prabhupāda wasn't accustomed. Despite all obstacles, Prabhupāda's message of peace and goodwill resonated with many young



people, some of whom came forward to become serious students of the Krishna tradition. With the help of these students, Srila Prabhupada rented a small storefront on New York's Lower East Side to use as a temple (the name of that storefront was "*Matchless Gifts*", a name so fitting that the devotees kept it on the building). On July 11, 1966, Prabhupāda officially registered his organization in the state of New York, formally founding the *International Society for Krishna Consciousness* (ISKCON).

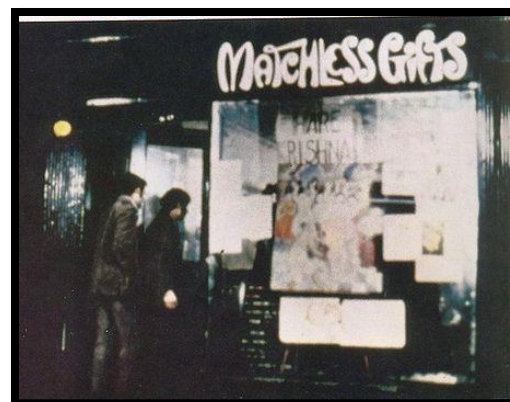
Srila Prabhupada circled the globe 14 times on lecture tours, bringing the teachings of Lord Krishna to thousands of people on six continents. In spite of such a vigorous schedule, Srila Prabhupada continued to write prolifically. His writings constitute a veritable library of Vedic philosophy, religion, literature, and culture. Men and women from all backgrounds and walks of life came forward to accept his message, and with their help, Srila Prabhupada established ISKCON centers



and projects throughout the world. Under his inspiration, Krishna devotees established temples, rural communities, educational institutions, and started what would become

the world's largest vegetarian food relief program. With the desire to nourish the roots of Krishna consciousness in its home, Srila Prabhupada returned to India several times, where he sparked a revival in the Vaishnava tradition.

In India, he opened dozens of temples, including large centers in the holy towns of Vrindavan and Mayapur.



Srila Prabhupada's most significant contribution, however, is his books. His Divine Grace has written over sixty volumes of authoritative translations, commentaries, and summary studies of the philosophical and religious classics of India. Highly respected by the academic community for their authoritativeness, depth, and clarity, they are used as standard textbooks in numerous college courses. His writings have been translated into eleven languages. The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, established in 1972 exclusively to publish the works of His Divine Grace, has thus become the world's largest publisher of books in the field of Indian religion and philosophy.



In the last ten years of his life, in spite of his

books are used at colleges and universities around the world and are published in over fifty languages.

Even on his deathbed, Srila Prabhupāda continued to translate the Srimad-Bhagavatam, from Sanskrit to English, and speak his commentaries to each verse. And with his last breath, he chanted Krishna’s name. As a



pure devotee, Prabhupāda gave us the example on how to live a perfect life, and how to die a perfect death—fixed on Lord Krishna’s service. 🌸

advanced age, Srila Prabhupada circled the globe twelve times on lecture tours that took him to six continents. In spite of such a vigorous schedule, Srila Prabhupada continued to write prolifically. His writings constitute a veritable library of Vedic philosophy, religion, literature, and culture. Highly respected by scholars for their authority, depth, and clarity, his



“I will remain your personal guidance, physically present or not physically present, as I am getting guidance from my Guru Maharaja.”

Srila Prabhupada Conversation, Vrindavan, July 7, 1977

“There is no difference between the spiritual master’s instructions and the spiritual master himself.” Further assuring us all, Prabhupada spoke the following words prior to his departure in 1977: “If I depart, there is no cause for lamentation. I will always be with you through my books and my orders. I will always remain with you in that way.”

Caitanya-caritamṛta (Adi 1.35, Purport)

“In the spiritual world, separation is more relishable than meeting. In other words, in spiritual life, there is no separation. Separation is eternal, and meeting is also eternal. The separation is simply another feature of meeting.”

Srila Prabhupada Letter, April 3, 1969

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT for Florida inmates

Although most Florida prisons now only allow electronic mail, some institutions will let you receive spiritual books as long as the envelopes are stamped “**RELIGIOUS MATERIAL**”.

So please inquire from your institution. If it is applicable to you, let us know ASAP so we can add your name back to the BTG magazine mailing list and resume sending you books when you request them.

If your institution doesn’t make this concession, please inquire where you can order books from and let us know what you find out so we explore if we can place our books in that system.

We count on you for this information so we can better assist you in Krishna’s service. Thank you! Hare Krishna! 🙏

Reaching Out to Women's Prisons

By Bhakti-lata Dasi

Two weeks ago I finally worked on a project I wanted to tackle for the last three years. Because there are far more men's prisons than women's prisons, for the last thirty-five years or so, the majority of books have been sent to men's prisons and, consequently, most inmates who write us are male. I have been desiring to give more women the gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Having a skeleton crew, I never found the time or help necessary for this major undertaking. But recently I felt that this project couldn't be delayed anymore, even if it meant that something else has to be temporarily delayed (that's pretty much the name of the game, with so many aspects of IPM asking for attention).

I am very, very glad to announce that letters have been sent to all of the 125 women's prisons to which IPM had never sent books previously. And one week later, **seven** chaplains have already requested material: books (including a full set of Srimad-Bhagavatam), BTGs, DVDs, and CDs. To make sure that all chaplains who agree to take a set of Srimad-Bhagavatam can receive one, Jitarati prabhu generously sponsored sixty full sets! And Premvilasa prabhu sponsored 2,000 back issues of the Back to Godhead magazine!

The following are excerpts of letters from Bhaktin Kimberly —Ocala, Florida

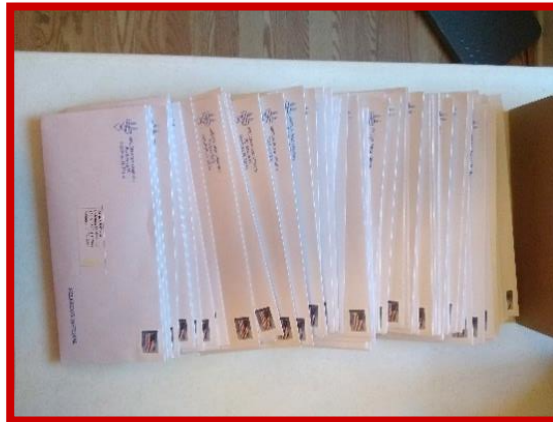
8/1/22

Hare Krsna Bhakti Lata Dasi.....I am so grateful that I received another email from u today! Stephanie said she would like to write to a devotee. She is actually an exceptional student and she reads her Gita everyday she recites the books well and memorizes all the events and who's who she even ran to me because she found some secular book that had Krsna in it.....she is coming along quickly.

Thank you for sending the info on the two holy days we will do our best and follow the directions you gave us....Krsna knows our heart and our situation and that we are doing the best we can considering our circumstances.....our love and devotion is pure



What gave me the final push to see this project through is that recently a very special and sincere soul, Bhaktin Kimberly, wrote to me for books. She's been so enthused and dynamic after reading Srila Prabhupāda's books that she inspired other ladies to join in. There is now a core group of six women who chant, read, and discuss Kṛṣṇa consciousness every day. And they have



a once-a-week, two-hour program at their chapel library, which is attended not only by them but by other women they invite and also curious souls who come just to check things out. Recently twenty women attended the program! It is this fired up group of six women who inspired me to push beyond my limits to finally reach out to all the USA women's prisons I found on the internet. Kṛṣṇa is so kind!

I am so very touched by these women's budding spirit for devotional service. I thank Srila Prabhupāda for keeping the prison ministry going through all our supporters and well-wishers and for using me as one of his instruments to reach out to his daughters. Following are excerpts from bhaktin Kimberly's letters. 🌸

and our desire is genuine.....Yes there are always questions smile!!! However I think we understand the philosophy and we find most of our answers during our study time and we read everything!!!!Ha-ha! We do our chant daily and do kirtan when we get together.

Remember you sent most of us beads; the only two who do not have them are Elizabeth and Chelsey everyone else received beads/bag. Everyone does their rounds that is a must. Some have problems avoiding meat mainly because of our cafeteria the only option is vegan and we do not get milk with that meal they don't have just vegetarian? We mostly self-select from the regular tray which is not easy because they use some type of animal product in most things.....we do our best. I always tell the

ladies Krsna knows our situation. I gave everyone the instructions and they are busy doing their writings for Prabhupāda [for Vyasa-puja]....we are excited! Please keep me informed as to what the chaplain says and I will let you know when we receive the books.....thank you for all your support as always! Much love and respect.....Hare Krsna!!!!

I wanted to drop you a quick note to let you know that I just received the August newsletter and the July/August BTG magazine in the mail.....smile! They were addressed perfectly and stamped plus I received them fast! Thank you so much.....I will share them both with the others.....we had our service today and we spent about thirty minutes going over what you sent me concerning both holy days.....everyone is writing for Srila Prabhupada.....you would be proud! We spent the remaining time doing kirtan.....I just wanted to let you know that I received the mailwith much love and respect.....Hare Krsna.....

8/7/22

I feel this type of service is definitely for me so I will continue once I am released. I already assist here so I will just continue doing what I do now if it is in Krsna's will..... I am grateful to Krsna for everything and for every experience!!! I understand the ins and outs of the system and feel I can be of great service to Krsna!! There are so many searching for meaning to their lives....and others who are just lost and feel alone! I understand the importance of having a support system and serving! I love serving Krsna and if this is where I need to be to serve right now then I am all too happy to be here.....I explain Krsna loves us and wants us to love him.....as we study together I see the love growing.....

Sometimes it is difficult for some of us to understand why we show so much respect for Srila Prabhupada.....as one lady explained—she feels as if she is cheating on Krsna.....smile! We read to get a better understanding of his purpose and why the respect should be shown. It is truly Krsna's mercy that I am able to serve! I am grateful for you and all your support! Thank you!!!! Before I forget... I wanted to let you know that I received the books! Thank you! Receiving them is so much faster here!!! You mailed them on the first of August and I picked them up on the third!!! Krsna is so wonderful!!!! Also.....we had over twenty people come to study and chant with us last week!!! Some were curious as this is new to them and

the others were invited.....let's see if they come back this week? I will keep you updated..... Hare Krsna.....

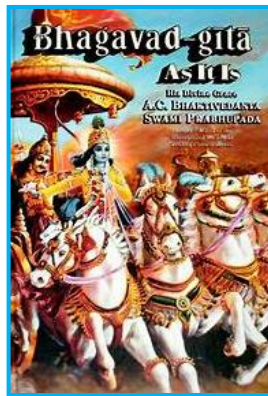
8/8/22

We have much to be grateful for.....we are blessed to have you and we appreciate all u do! You can try to send one CD/DVD and a few books to the Chapel and let me know so I can let my supervisor know and we will be expecting it. I'm not sure how open he is going to be towards our faith I do know he is Christian but there are other religions represented here and he is familiar with their traditions so we are hopeful he will respect our chosen faith...

I am happy to know you are contacting other women's facilities that is an excellent idea!. I know there are other ladies who will benefit from the books being available. It's funny because this facility was closed down a year and a half ago and when we got here we were unpacking books that had been stored prior to closing and sure enough there was three books here!!! One Gita and three others..... I smiled when I saw them and proudly placed them on the shelf! See Krsna knew we would be here and since nothing is by chance we all know this is His will!

I would like to send you some artwork.....we have sketch pads and colored pencils and we each are making something for Prabhupada and will display it at our service on the two holy days this month but after that I would like to send the work to you. It is a gift from their heart and made with love and devotion (for Srila Prabhupāda).

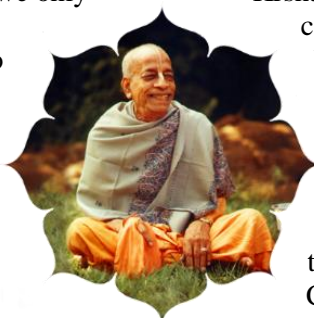
We have an excellent level of respect and love for each other. I almost forgot.....yes I received both pictures just fine and they are in my photo gallery on my tablet. I will share them with the others this week...it's funny because as I mentioned we currently have a two-hour service time on the calendar each week and we were scheduled to Thursdaysthis week we did meet on Thursdays however due to scheduling and available space we are now meeting on Saturday afternoons from two pm till four PM, which is even better for most of us.....so it turns out that we were blessed with two services this past week!!!! It was great for us to have the space twice even if it was just for this week. We are a very tight knit group and we share everything and yes we each have our own paths and every experience is individual, however we are one unit and encourage each other and study together and we share everything and are kind to one another and have the up most respect and love (warts and all ha-ha!) Thank you for



reminding us; it only confirms that we are on the right path! ..hope your project is going well and that you are near completion for the list of women's facilities. Again we thank you for your support and love.....till next time, Hare Krsna!

8/10/22

Good morning.....I received your email.....thank you. First, yes you have my permission to use my letters/emails I trust you. Second, thank you for clarifying prasadam I think I made a typo....smile! What I meant to say was no matter if we only have one or two apples.....we offer whatever we have to krsna first then we split it evenly amongst us.....sometimes we have nuts or milk we purchase ourselves from canteen and we offer it then we eat them.....sometimes we only have water..... I did receive the one package of books....I am on the list to go to property today so I am sure it's the second package. Next, smile! You can send Chelsey and Elizabeth their beads directly to them here at any time.



Thank you for the guidance on explaining Srila Prabhupada to the ladies. I applaud them because this is not an easy path to follow especially in prison here in the Bible belt.....That's the main reason I came to a faith and character-based facility because this program allows you to practice whatever faith you choose freely. I'm not going to say it's easy but it is way better!!! I can't or don't try to control what people think about my beliefs as long as they are allowing me my right to practice my faith I can deal with the rest.....for now! Smile! This happens even out in society so it's nothing new.

I'm glad you are having fun with your project. You should be getting close to the end if you are now on Texas ha-ha! We sincerely appreciate your love and support.....till next time.....Hare Krsna...

8/15/22

Hare Krsna. Things are good here.....we had service on Saturday afternoon! It was beautiful! We had four new people visit and they expressed their desire to come back.

We are working on our projects [Vyasa-puja offerings]. I will forward the work of those who wish to share as soon as they are complete. We will be having service on both holy days the 19th (Janmastami) and 20th (Vyasa-puja).

I lent one of the women the Krsna book from our little "library"...It's beautiful. I have one whole shelf labeled Krsna..I placed two of the pictures you sent me with a cloth and a battery-operated candle..it's all we have but we love it!

You may not be aware of this but on our tablets we can watch movies/videos/music etc.....we have a free video section and we choose from the various religious videos and can download them to our tablet.....there are Christian, Jewish, Catholic ,Jehovah's witness, etc.....this is just an idea for you but a lot of States now have tablets and use JPay.....so you could reach a whole lot of people if there were videos placed on the free video section ? I'm not sure how you would do it exactly? But I think you just have to have a technical person.....smile!!! Contact JPay.com about placing videos/talks/etc., on tablets.

They also have a free book option on our tablet but that's a whole other subject.....ha-ha! I always see other religious organizations' videos and think to myself how I wish our Kṛṣṇa videos were on the tabletslet me know your thoughts.....smile!
Have a great day and thank you again for all your support and love.....Hare Krsna 🙏



ABOVE: Crocheted bookmark by inmate Rakesh P. —Alden, New York



LEFT: Drawing by inmate Chandra K. —Chicago, Illinois

Narottama Dasa Thakur —disappearance on October 14th

Appearing as the son of a king, Shri Narottama Dasa Thakura showed all the bodily symptoms of a *mahapurusha* (an exalted divine person). He had long arms, a deep navel, golden-complexion, and beautiful eyes shaped like the lotus petals. In school, he was a *sruti dhara* (able to memorize whatever he hears) Although he quickly mastered Sanskrit and the Vedas, he hankered to serve Krishna. He was a lifelong brahmachari (celibate). By the mercy of the Holy Name, Narottama became detached, left his opulent family, and ran to Vrindavana. He took *diksha* (formal initiation) from Shri Lokanatha Goswami and *siksha* (instructions) in Gaudiya philosophy from Shri Jiva Goswami.

After visiting all of Gauranga's pastime places in Gaura Mandala, Narottama Dasa did the same in Shri Kshetra Dhama (Jagannatha Puri). Then he went to see the Devotees and Shri Chaitanya's pastime spots in Shantipura, Shri Khanda, Kanthak Nagar, Ekachakra, and Kheturi Gram.

In Kheturi, Shri Narottama Dasa Thakura arranged the famous Kheturi Mahotsava. This was the first "Gaura-Purnima" festival to honor the divine appearance day of Shri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. During the festival six Deities were installed: Shri Gauranga Deva, Shri Vallabhi Kanta, Shri Vraja Mohana, Shri Krishna, Shri Radha Kanta, Shri Radha Ramana.

With his sweet voice, Narottama Dasa began a wonderful kirtan. His chanting filled the heavens and brought down tears of *prema* (divine love) from the eyes of the devotees. "In the midst of their kirtan, the munificent Shri Chaitanya Himself and all His personal associates appeared and joined in the sankirtan. Like a flash of lightning in the midst of a mass of beautiful blue clouds, Shri Chaitanya Himself appeared in the crowd of devotees through a divine manifestation." (from Bhakti-ratnakar)


"At that time, although Mahaprabhu had left this world years before, many different devotees saw Him in

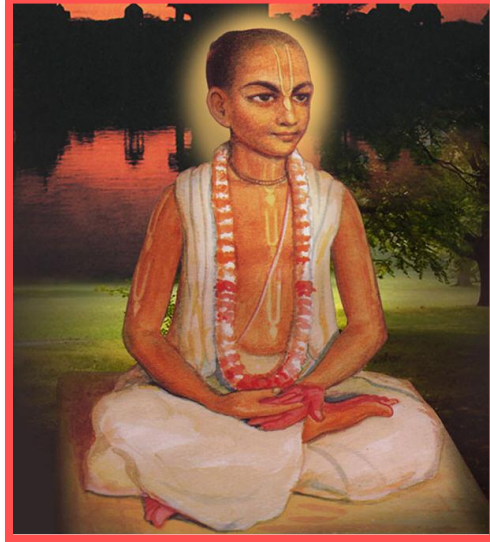
different ways. Those of Sri Navadvipa dhama saw Him more intimately as Nimaicandra or Visvambhara, as they knew Him during His youth. The followers of the six Gosvamis, who only knew Mahaprabhu as a sannyasi, related to Him in the mood of *dasya rasa* (servitude). And hundreds of devotees also worshiped Lord Caitanya in an *aishvarya* mood of awe and reverence.

"This festival is considered a major achievement in Gaudiya Vaishnavism. Hundreds and hundreds of devotees were invited, including direct disciples of Mahaprabhu, Nityananda Prabhu, and Advaita Acharya. At this time, many differences existed in the interpretation of Gaudiya Vaishnavism. Acharyarani Jahnava Devi (Lord Nityananda's wife) came from Kardaha with her entourage. As the leader of the devotees, she presided over all the Vaishnavas. She resolved their diverse conclusions into one consistent Gaudiya Vaishnava philosophy.

"For the first time, the festival featured many kirtan styles which integrated the glorification of Lord Chaitanya with the glorification of Lord Krishna and His pastimes. And because so many Vaishnavas were present at one place, it automatically made the Kheturi festival extraordinary. It also acted as an important step toward unifying all the Gaudiya Vaishnavas." (from Shri Navadvipa-dhama parikrama)

Narottama Dasa Thakura wrote many devotional songs about the spiritual master, the devotees, devotional service, the six Goswamis, Gaura-Nityananda and Radha-Krishna. Although composed with sweet melodies in simple Bengali language, Narottama Dasa's songs give shastric siddhanta (scriptural proof) and devotional inspiration. Shрила Prabhupada often sang these bhajans. Considering them non-different from Vedic shastra, He quoted them in his Bhagavatam lectures. Prarthana and Prema-bhakti-chandrika are Narottama's most famous works.

In the spiritual world, Narottama Dasa Thakur serves Srimati Radhika as Chamaka-manjari. His samadhi is in Radha Gokulananda's temple courtyard. 



Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2022

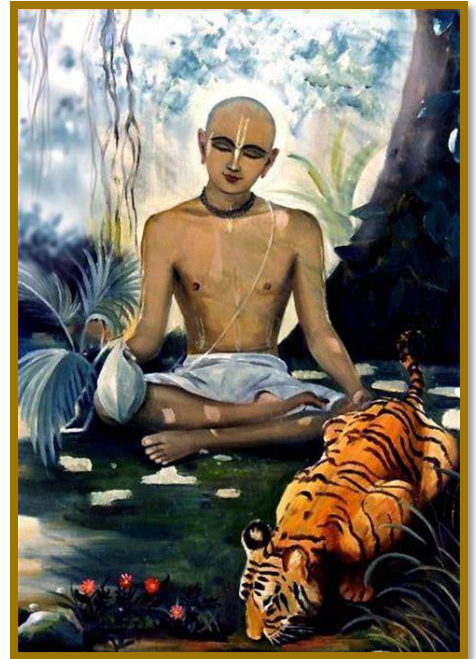
- 01 Sept 2022 - Srimati Sita Thakurani Appearance Day
04 Sept 2022 - **Radhastami : Appearance of Srimati Radharani**
07 Sept 2022 - **Parsva Ekadashi**
07 Sept 2022 - Sri Vamana Dwadashi : Appearance of Sri Vamana Deva
07 Sept 2022 - Appearance Day of Sri Jiva Goswami
08 Sept 2022 - Appearance Day 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**

OCTOBER 2022

- 02 Oct 2022 - Durga Puja
05 Oct 2022 - Ramacandra Vijayotsava
05 Oct 2022 - Appearance Day of Sri Madhvacharya
06 Oct 2022 - **Pasankusa Ekadashi**
07 Oct 2022 - Disappearance Day of Srila Raghunatha Dasa Goswami
07 Oct 2022 - Disappearance Day of Srila Raghunatha Bhatta Goswami
07 Oct 2022 - Disappearance Day of Srila Krsnadasa Kaviraja Goswami
09 Oct 2022 - Sri Krsna Saradiya Rasayatra
09 Oct 2022 - Laksmi Puja
09 Oct 2022 - Disappearance Day of Sri Murari Gupta
10 Oct 2022 - Fourth Month of Caturmasya Begins
14 Oct 2022 - Disappearance Day of Srila Narottama Dasa Thakura
18 Oct 2020 - Appearance Day of Radha Kunda, Snana Dana
18 Oct 2020 - Bahulastami
19 Oct 2022 - Appearance Day of Virabhadra
21 Oct 2022 - **Rama Ekadashi**
25 Oct 2022 - Dipa Dana, Dipavali, (Kali Puja)
26 Oct 2022 - Bali Daityaraja Puja
26 Oct 2022 - Appearance Day of Rasikananda
26 Oct 2022 - **Govardhana Puja** (full story in the Kṛṣṇa Book, chapter 24)
27 Oct 2022 - Disappearance Day of Sri Vasudeva Ghosh
29 Oct 2022 - **Disappearance Day of Srila Prabhupada**



ABOVE: Shri-Shri Radha-Krishna, the Divine Couple



ABOVE: Shri Haridas Thakur was chanting 300,000 names daily, which is about 174 rounds. He was chanting day and night, eating and sleeping very little. He was therefore given the name "Namāchārya", the āchārya (teacher) of the holy name.



LEFT: Lord Krishna lifting Govardhana hill on the little finger of His left hand, to protect the inhabitants of Vrindavan.