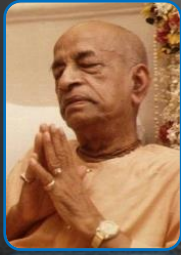


# Freedom Newsletter



Dedicated to His *Divine* Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada  
Founder Acarya of ISKCON

## ISKCON Prison Ministry / May 2020

PO Box 2676  
Alachua, FL 32615

### RESEARCH HONESTLY

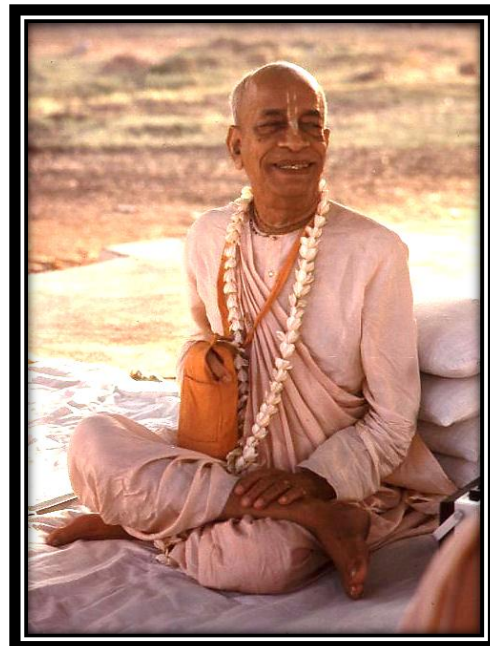
*This conversation between His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada and biochemist Thoudam Singh, PhD, took place in Bhubaneswar, India, on February 3, 1977.*

**Dr. Singh:** What you're saying about the scientists' simply bluffing and taking people's money – this is actually true. They are getting a lot of money from the government. The politicians tax the people very heavily and then funnel much of their money to the scientists. So the people have to work very hard, while the scientists enjoy "the good life."

**Srila Prabhupada:** Yes. Fat salaries. Especially in America.

**Dr. Singh:** In America, research is one of the top industries.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Then let them research honestly. When they become failures in their research, they must study the information in the Vedic literature. Let them study the information given by Lord Krishna and His authorized representatives – all about the nature of the self, the universe, and the Supreme Self. The scientists can test this information experimentally. Put it to the test and put it to practical use. Let this be their research. Then they will be successful.



But first, the scientists must admit their failure, and you have to prove that they are a failure. Help them see that, on balance, their research is not a success; it is a failure. They know nothing of the soul. They do not know who they are or, when this life ends, where they shall go. Simply wasting time. How can they say their research is anything but a failure?

**Dr. Singh:** Unfortunately, everything you're saying is true. It can all be proved just from their own results, or lack of results. Any levelheaded scientist, anyone who is aware of the spiritual dimension, can use the modern scientists' own findings to prove that their understanding of reality is quite . . . fragmented at best. Dwarfed, shriveled. And wrong.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Yes, there is no doubt. They are a failure.

**Dr. Singh:** There are many genuine scientific facts they don't even report. Whatever things they cannot explain – they just keep those hidden. There are many facts like that. Honest scientists have written whole volumes on the errors and defects in modern science. Whole books on all the errors and cheating.

**Srila Prabhupada:** All this can alert the people. We want people to look critically at all this nonsense: "Life comes from matter . . . Matter evolves from lower forms to higher forms . . . No need for an intelligent Supreme Spirit . . . Matter has intelligence . . ." Rubbish.

**Dr. Singh:** As Dr. Richard Thompson, a mathematics PhD from Cornell, has discovered, even Sir Isaac Newton cheated in his scientific work. Newton himself cheated.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Any materially conditioned soul must cheat. He must cheat, because he's not perfect. So to keep his prestige, he must cheat.

After all, the conditioned soul is under the sway of the material modes, especially ignorance and passion, and he is burdened by the four material defects: *bhrama*, *pramada*, *karanapatava*, and *vipralipsa* – mistakes, illusion, imperfect senses, and this propensity to cheat.

With his imperfect senses and mind he must make mistakes – and fall prey to illusion, based on his many mistakes. Then, to hide his mistakes and illusion, he must cheat. "Oh, yes, I'm a very accomplished and knowledgeable scientist. You should heed me and pay me a fat salary."

**Dr. Singh:** Yes. And when someone brings out these defects – these hidden defects that usually go unexposed – these scientists become practically dumbfounded. They become very quiet.

**Srila Prabhupada:** They know they are cheating, so they must become quiet. *Maunam sammati lakshanam:*

as soon as they become quiet, that means they admit, "Yes, I cheated." Otherwise, they would immediately make a refutation. But they know, "Yes, on this point I have cheated." So when somebody catches them – "Here you have cheated" – then if they keep quiet, that means they admit, "Yes, I cheated."

So you are performing a great public service simply by exposing the scientists' defects. Imperfect senses, mistakes, illusion, and cheating – these are the property of every materially conditioned soul. Then what is he going to learn? And what is he going to teach? His position is imperfection, mistakes, illusion. He knows it. So if he presents himself as learned and tries to teach, he is not teaching. He is cheating.

Anyone in this material world is like this. A cheater. Only one who is a devotee of the Lord – he will hesitate: "With these imperfect senses and mind and this propensity to make mistakes and become illusioned and cheat, what can I teach?"

But one who is not a devotee – he'll go on with these four assets – rascal assets – imperfect senses, mistakes, illusion, and cheating. This is the modern scientists' position. Falsely they want to pose themselves as very learned scholars. But a sensible person will ask, "You may want to keep up your false prestige, but what right have you to mislead others?"

**Dr. Singh:** That is so true. Someone has to step forward and poke them. "You are extrapolating much, much more than you should. You are saying much, much more than you really know."

**Srila Prabhupada:** Oh, yes. "You are going beyond your capacity." It is like the old saying – "a dwarf grasping for the moon."

**Dr. Singh:** Yes. As you have pointed out, for instance, there is no foundation to these scientists' claim that life can come out of chemicals. No one has ever seen such a bizarre thing actually happening. And if we analyze from a purely scientific and logical angle, there is no way anyone can make such a silly claim.

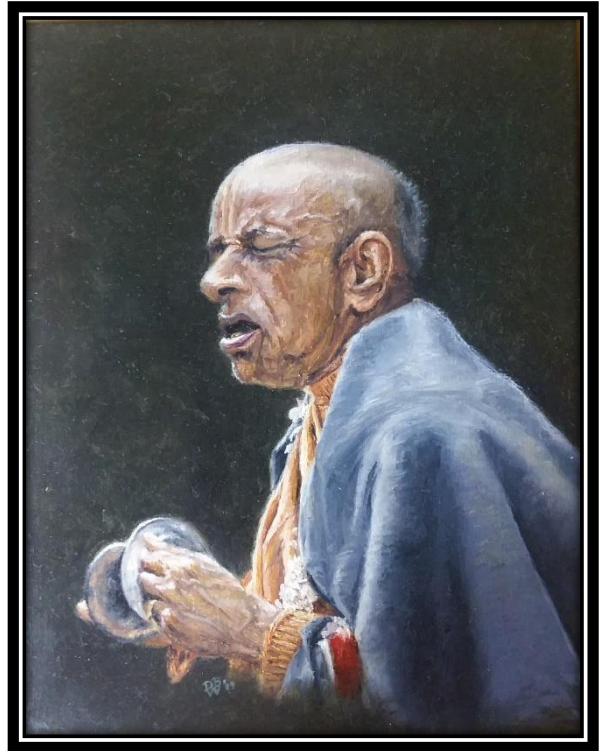
But within their tiny little spoonful of knowledge, they are hoping to find the vast sea of reality. They know just a tiny bit, but they extrapolate very widely and draw grandiose – and false – conclusions.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Simply speculation.

**Dr. Singh:** So I think what we're saying is, "As we study reality, let's be humble and honest. First let's be honest."

**Srila Prabhupada:** Certainly. "How can you be dishonest and at the same time call yourself a scientist? How is that?" 🌸

**Artwork**  
from inmates



Above: oil painting-Srila Prabhupada, by David B.—Danbury, Connecticut



Brahmārṇā bhramite kona bhāṅṡwān Jiva  
Juru-Kṛṣṇa-Prasāde Pāta bhakti-lata-bija  
Caitanya-Caritamṛta, Madhva Lila, Ch.19 Text 151

Pencil drawing by Dale D.—Oglethorpe, Georgia

Would you like to see your story  
and/or artwork in the *Freedom*  
*Newsletter*?

If, yes, write the **story** of how you came to Kṛṣṇa, using simple language. Stories should be only about 2 to 3 handwritten pages (or 1 to 2 typed pages).

We also 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.

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

And **please** write “MY STORY”, or “ARTWORK” on the back of the envelope. Please be patient: due to the high volume of mail, it may take a few months before you see your submission in the newsletter.

## Need Books or Prayer Beads?

Requests for books, beads or other material should be sent to your devotee pen pal. If you do not have a pen pal, you can send your requests to: ISKCON Prison Ministry, PO Box 2676, Alachua, FL 32616

- 1) Tell us if you can receive hardbound books and how many at a time.
- 2) Please make sure that you are allowed to receive any of the material you request.
- 3) Please let us know if material need to be sent directly to you or through your chaplain and if you need an authorization form.

## HOW I CAME TO KR̥ṢṆA CONSCIOUSNESS

### From Gangster to Servant

By Benjamin B., now Balavan Nitai dasa

I was born in 1974. My father was a second generation seventh-day Adventist (SDA), but really just in name, as his actions betrayed his true beliefs. My mother was a fourth generation SDA; she was quite active in the church. We always seemed to be moving; the only real constant was my mother's love. She tried to overcompensate for my father's violence by spoiling me. Because of my mother, I grew up with a strong attraction to God. I understood that God is great, but not really why He was great.



When I was five years old, my elder brother began to get me high on various illegal drugs and drank liquor and beer. That introduction to chemical abuse at young age led to a life-long journey of doing drugs in whatever form I was able to come across.

When I was teenager, I was drinking whatever alcoholic beverages I could get my hands on, and I was doing as many drugs as I could speed. I was self medicating myself to try to ease my pain, but when I sobered up I felt even worse. I was at war with myself and with the world. That is pretty much how my teens went.



At the age of eighteen I was given a maximum sentence of ten years for being involved in an accidental shooting, and I started running a violent prison gang. After release from prison I had a rough time in finding a job due to my criminal past. I started making more money in the criminal world selling drugs in quantity and dealing weapons. I know; another bad decision in the midst of a lifetime of bad decisions. I did lot of bad things, and none of them am I proud of; actually I am ashamed of my sins. I again got in to prison and this time I got death penalty.



In 2006, somehow, I managed to come across a group called ISKCON Prison Ministry. I didn't know what it was all about, but the name caught my attention. I felt a strong urge to write to them. I put it off for a bit, but actually I got down and wrote to them. Chandrasekhar wrote back to me. I started corresponding with him to pass my time and to learn more about the Hare Krishna movement. What Chandrasekhar shared with me literally blew me away; it all made so much sense. He kicked down any and all of my foolish thoughts that I had. I began to read *The Science of self Realization* and the *Bhagavad-gita*. The more I read, the more I wanted to know. Krishna just kept right on attracting me.



Eventually I was convicted of first degree murder and kidnapping. I was sentenced to natural life for the murder and twenty years for kidnapping. But along the way, my life was drastically changed. For the first time in my adult life I am drug free, and I have left the gang. The writings of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada had a profound effect on my life. The verse BG.10.11 stood out for me:

*“Out of compassion for them, I dwelling in their hearts destroy with the shining lamp of knowledge, the darkness born of ignorance.”*

That is so true; Krishna continues to kick away whatever ignorance I am standing on. He has mercifully taken away all things which I used to surrender myself to, which lead us to next verse Bg. 18.66:

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

Here Krishna tells us to fearlessly surrender at His lotus feet. He tell us that we have no need to worry about all of sinful things we have done, as long as we surrender unto Him fully, trusting in Him. He says that He will take care of everything. So there I was, in deep despair, wallowing in my ignorance, when Krishna shined the bright light of knowledge into my pitiful life, cutting through the utter darkness of all my ignorance. He did this with the potent words of His pure devotee Srila Prabhupada, the guru of Kali-yuga, this age of lies and hypocrisy.

Srila Prabhupada's auspicious words pierced through the fog that covered my eyes. Now for the first time in my life I can see things as they really are. I am no longer doing drugs, nor am I involved with the gang. I now have a rather nice relationship with Krishna (God). I am trying to become the servant of His servants. Daily I chant a minimum of nice sixteen rounds of Hare Krishna maha mantra. I read and re-read Srila Prabhupada's books, pass out prasadam to my fellow inmates in the form of hard candies. There is great deal of seva to do for the inmates in here. I aspire to become a devotee of Lord Sri Krishna and to receive initiation. If not in this lifetime, there is always the next.

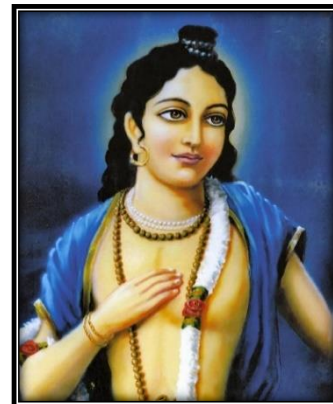
This is my humble story; I have gone from a gangster to a servant.

The following are some excerpts from my correspondence with IPM volunteers:

[At one point, in prison] things were too rough where I was, so I was moved to new cell by the mercy of Lord Nrsimhadeva. I prayed to Him for protection and next morning I was moved. Ha! The Sergeant, who didn't know that with the Lord, all things are possible, had told me that move was not possible.

I feel a very strong attraction to Lord Nityananda Rama; I have surrendered myself to His lotus feet; I surrender myself to Him daily.

Oh, yes, Lord Nityananda's mercy is what has changed me from a pride-filled, hateful gangster to a person who aspires to be a bona fide devotee of Sri Sri Radha and Krishna! I have no desire to return to my past sordid lifestyle again! The taste for such debauchery is no longer part of me.



I do know that Lord Nityananda Rama is in full control of all! If I am ever initiated in this life or the next is all up to His desire. Rather than worry about it, I will just press forward as I continue now—doing my seva. I

am but a lowly gardener here in this prison village, planting the seeds of Krishna Consciousness wherever I can, indiscriminately. Race plays no role at all! We are all just spirit souls in different vehicles. It is not up to me to choose who is and who is not worthy of the seeds. It is all up to Lord Nityananda! Jaya!

I found the path of Krishna Consciousness [while I was] in distress. If I had not gone to prison, I would have still been a drug dealing gangster, but Krishna kicked me down and took all of that foolishness away from me. Now He tells me to fearlessly surrender unto Him, and that He will take care of it all. *Ma Sucha* - There is no room or need of my worries - do it fearlessly! Maya is very thick! Krishna has mercifully bestowed upon me a great boon. And now it is my duty to preach and teach to any inmates I come across who is interested in Truth. Haribol! My daily needs are taken

care of. In reality I am quite free behind these walls. Now I have plenty of time to chant and read Srila Prabhupada's books! So all is well.

At the moment I do not have anyone to preach to in here, as the few inmates who were interested have been moved. So although I do not verbally preach, I am preaching by example. After all, I have to show others that I follow what I teach. I am in the middle of a struggle with the Chaplain here. *Ma sucha* is what I say. Krishna will handle it all. I think that Krishna is teaching me a lesson in patience, tolerance and I am placing my full trust in him. So rather than becoming disturbed I just continue on with my *seva, ma sucha*. Jaya! 🙏

### **Important - if you TRANSFER to a new unit/address:**

Subscriptions to the *Back to Godhead* magazine (BTG) are sponsored by the Prison Ministry (IPM), NOT by the BTG Office. So if you have a change of address, please write to IPM, at the address below, to inform us. Please write "*CHANGE OF ADDRESS*" on the outside of the envelope so we can process it immediately. Thank you.

**ISKCON Prison Ministry, PO Box 2676, Alachua, FL 32616**

The same is goes for the *Freedom Newsletter* (FN). When newsletters are returned we can only assume that the inmate has been released from prison and his/her name is deleted from our mailing list. To make sure you continue receiving the newsletter be sure to notify us of your change of address at the above address.

### **Excerpts from inmates' letters**

Thank you for all your help. I study the BTG daily, I chant and listen to the CDs almost daily. It is the only good association I have. I am stuck here with bad association and also, downright "asuras". Please pray for me. If I make it to Kṛṣṇaloka when I die, I am "blaming" you. 😊 Honestly, each day I feel better and better. All thanks to you, Prabhupada and ISKCON, and also, IPM.

**Sean M.C., St. Peter, MN**

I fell "head over heels" for this belief system and keep an open mind even when things seem "weird", foolish, and not in line with what I thought I knew of the material world around me. Yet, most of it just clicked, like someone flipping on the light switch in a darkened room. It all mostly makes sense to me and even being as fallen as I am, I wonder if I was once again seeing more clearly, as if new wipers on a windshield finally being flipped on in the rain and wiping away the grime and

dirt that had accumulated. I am realizing though that everyone's experience to being reintroduced to the Absolute Truth is different. Each one of us approaches and walks the path differently. It can be saddening when I see other aspiring devotees slip and fall and I can do little but be there for support and perhaps a gentle nudge, but otherwise I can only beg the mercy of Kṛṣṇa to help them. I live with one such aspiring devotee and I acutely feel his struggles and slips with the old behaviors, and see the material world beckoning him. I also have to remind myself that he is not me and to be there to help him as best as a fallen soul like myself can be. I feel I let him down sometimes as I am not that strong to hold us both up, so when he pulls me down too far I feel I have to step back. I can only beg forgiveness and hope Nrsimhadeva can give us both strength.

**David B., Danville, Connecticut**

It's been approximately a decade since I was in last contact with you. Anyway, I'm back and Sri Sri Radha-Kṛṣṇa won't let me get away. They always draw me back to acknowledgement of my real constitutional position as their eternal servant- Haribol! I am not nearly four months into my 39th year in prison (Arrived in 1980 at age 24 and I'll be 63 on 3/15/19.) I will be out in five years with Lord Kṛṣṇa's mercy! My first memorable encounters with ISKCON devotees was in 1971 on Bourbon Street in New Orleans. I was attracted to bhakti at first sight and I still am.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada  
**Jerry R., Crestview, Florida**

Last night Andrew received the package you sent him. He said THANKS! He reads the Bhagavad-Gita and Srila Prabhupada's other books every day. I told him that he should tell you how the books you sent him have helped him. So far I've seen, you are the only person in the free world who has shown him any kindness. I also received the books you sent me. I keep Kṛṣṇa consciousness books on display on my bunk for anyone who's interested. Thank you.

**Gerald N., Lake Butler, Florida**

I found the answer to my caffeine addiction and my food compulsion—chanting! The more I chant, the better I get. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I listen to my Kṛṣṇa CDs every day. Pray for me.

**Sean C., St. Peter, Minnesota**

I sit here contemplating what should I say about Kṛṣṇa Consciousness. I want to share the impact that these teachings are having upon my life. I have been incarcerated the majority of my life. Being in search of a better life, I came upon the teachings of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness in the year of 2013 and my journey began. Since that time I have been studying and trying to practice Kṛṣṇa Consciousness. To some degree I have developed a passion for the teachings. It hasn't been easy for me to search for the truth and to try to understand these teachings. I believe that Kṛṣṇa is the Supreme Personality of Godhead and I totally accept as Truth all that He says in the Bhagavad-Gita.

There are many things that I don't understand at this stage of my development in Kṛṣṇa Consciousness but I know that Kṛṣṇa is always in control and that He has my best interest at heart. All I have to do is surrender unto Him. What I know I try to share with others. In due course of time, everything will become clear to us. Children have complete trust in their mother and so it will be when we come to learn of Kṛṣṇa, we develop complete trust in Him. Get to know Kṛṣṇa, become His devotee, worship Him, offer your homage unto Him, thus you will always be in a state of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness, a surrendered soul.

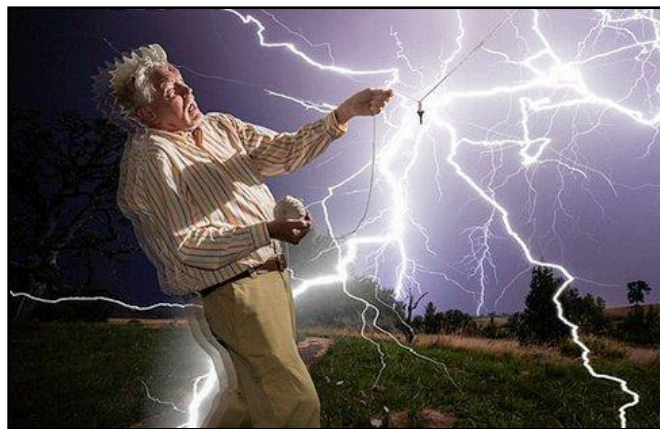
**Walter W., Raiford, Florida**

## Book Distribution Stories!

*Below are some of the experiences and realizations of devotees (unknown) who give Kṛṣṇa consciousness to others by giving them Srila Prabhupada's books.*

### Struck by Lightning

One day while distributing books in a parking lot in Oslo, Norway, I noticed a man who seemed strange. As he walked across the lot, he was leaning over and almost losing his balance. He stopped, took a few steps forward, a few steps back, a few steps to the side, and then went on walking. I went up to him and showed him the books. He was a big, tall man. I could understand from his speech that despite his size he was a softhearted man and a man of discrimination.



He took two books but had only a very small amount of money. He gave me that and said, "That's all I have. I can give you that. But I'll go to the bank now, and when I come back I'll give you some more."

I said, "All right. That's OK." I gave him the two books. He came back later and waited patiently while I sold books to someone else. Then he came up to me and handed me more money.

I asked him, "Perhaps you already know about this subject matter?"

He said, yes, he had been reading esoteric books for a long time. Fourteen years earlier he had been struck by lightning in the mountains. He had been paralyzed and in a coma for a long time. For about twelve years he was in a wheelchair, and now he sometimes loses part of his memory and has problems with his balance.

Since the accident he has been interested only in spiritual subjects. His family and friends left him. He still has his old job, driving trucks, but he said he does the job out of habit, to earn money, and then the rest of the time he studies spiritual life and spiritual literature.

I told him that Prabhupada's books are the real spiritual literature. I took him to the car, and he took all the books I had and gave me all the money he had.

He said, "I went to the bank today to get some money. Somehow you came to give me all these wonderful books, and I gave you all the money. I think this is the will of Providence, God's arrangement, because otherwise we would not have met here."

He was very enthusiastic to receive Srila Prabhupada's books.

### **Junkie in Bern**

I was distributing books in Bern, the capital of Switzerland, and a young junkie, drug addict, walked by me. He looked very, very down and out. I was thinking to let him go by, because drug addicts are usually not so interested in books and are sometimes very aggressive. There were so many other people around, so I tried to avoid him. But he walked by me, turned his head, and smiled with the most incredible bright smile.

I said, "Why are you smiling? Do we know each other? Do you know these books?"

He came up to me and said, "I read those books for years when I was in a psychiatric hospital. My parents bought me the books. I have AIDS, and I'm going to die within a couple of months. I simply read Srila Prabhupada's books, and therefore I'm actually very happy. I know I have

nothing else to do in my life but read Srila Prabhupada's books. That's all I have to do."

We had an interesting talk, and then he left with his three new books.

### **Louis and His Problem**

I was traveling in the U.S. with Kaustubha dasa from KrishnaFest. One evening we were filling up at a gas station, and the gas station attendant, named Louis, started talking about his life. He was depressed because his mother had died. He couldn't understand why she had died, because she was such a nice person and she never did anything wrong, never did any harm to anyone. But somehow she had died and he couldn't understand the world anymore. Life seemed so empty and bleak.

Louis said he had gone to a psychiatrist because of his depression and lack of interest in life.

"Do you know what the psychiatrist told me? He told me I should go out and feed the birds. So I went to the park and fed the birds. I felt so stupid, like a little kid. And it didn't help."



He had become more and more depressed and frustrated and tired of life. He didn't know what to do should he kill himself? He didn't know what he was living for.

Kaustubha told him, "Well, first of all you should understand that your mother didn't die."

Louis became shocked, and his eyes opened wide. "What? She didn't die? Then where is she now?"

"Your mother just changed her body. She is a spirit soul, like you and me, and she just changed her body. Just as a person can move from one car to another, your mother has simply moved on to another body. She is still alive.

"And second of all you should understand that your psychiatrist is simply a cheater, taking your money but not helping you a bit to understand the real facts of life. You should read this book, The Journey to Self-Discovery, and the story of Ajamila, who had a near-death experience." Louis became excited. "Wow, my mom didn't die? That's wonderful."

He took two books and happily gave a donation.





# Food for All UK Distributing 4,100 Meals Daily, Expects to Increase to 20,000

By: Madhava Smullen for ISKCON News on April 13, 2020



**ABOVE LEFT:** *Parasurama cooks prasadam in his famous 'biggest pot in the Western World'*  
**ABOVE RIGHT:** *Staff at Gokula Cafe in Watford make prasadam and deliver it to nearby towns and cities*

**W**ith the UK now about to go into its fourth week of lockdown, people who would be struggling from one week to the next during normal times are now running out of money. Many are also sick or completely isolated in their homes without any family members. In this environment, more and more community groups are calling for free meals to help those in need.

Enter devotee-run charity Food for All, which has now increased its daily distribution from 2,200 prasadam meals to 4,100 a day. Six hundred of these go out from the Gokula Café in Watford to nearby towns and cities.

The rest is distributed by Food for All's main kitchen in Holborn, London – nicknamed Krishna's Castle – which has turned its entire car park into a giant factory for mass producing containers of prasadam.

“We have the capacity to make 20,000 meals,” says Director Parasurama Das. “And we expect to gradually reach that number. Every day, community groups and councils are phoning me up, giving me lists of hungry people.”

The massive operation at Krishna's Castle starts at 4:30am every morning when kitchen manager Sofia turns on the gas hobs, and Parasurama goes out to pick up fresh food from various markets.

“We have stocked up on fifteen tons of dahl and tons of rice,” Parasurama says. “And every day, food companies and closed-down restaurants are donating vegetables and huge pallets of ingredients like tofu and canned tomatoes.”

About forty volunteers arrive at 6 in the morning, including devotees, young activists, and out-of-work chefs, to make the meals of rice, subji and pakoras.

The volunteers have already “peeled and chopped 200 kilos of potatoes and 100 kilos of carrots the night before and they get added in first,” Sofia said in an interview with the Evening Standard.

They cook in several large pots including one Parasurama bought in a factory in Agra next to the Taj Mahal, which he calls “the biggest in the western world.” “You can put five of us in it and sail down the Thames,” he told the Evening Standard. Once it's cooked, Parasurama spices the food and offers it to Krishna.



**ABOVE LEFT:** *Food for All volunteers load groceries into one of their vans -- fresh produce is also sent out to distribution hubs along with the prasadam*

**ABOVE RIGHT:** *Parasurama Das makes a prasadam deliver to one of London's new food distribution hubs - Tottenham Hotspur Football Stadium*

By 9am it is ready to serve out, and the piping hot prasadam is divided into thousands of Tupperware-size portions and shipped out in six vans.

Food for All is part of a citywide humanitarian effort to help vulnerable Londoners that includes many other charities. These all transport their free food to the more than 40 food distribution hubs that have been established in 31 London boroughs.

The hubs include the now empty Tottenham Hotspur football Stadium in Haringey, entertainment venue Alexandra Palace, and the Sobell Leisure Centre in Islington.

Other charities like Age UK, who deliver to elderly people, as well as representatives from various communities, then come to pick up the prasadam and other food like bread, fruits, dry goods, and canned items, and deliver it to people in need.

“Our own volunteers also deliver meals,” says Parasurama. “We have a small team of young guys on bicycles with trailers, and they’re distributing individual containers to houses where sick people are.”

In addition, Food for All is also delivering little hampers called “Bhakti Boxes” to sick or elderly devotees, which include rice, subji and pakoras, as well as other gifts like fruit, ginger, and lemons.

The charity doesn’t intend to stop at its Holborn kitchen’s full capacity of 20,000 meals a day, either. They are currently waiting for the local council to give the go-ahead on a mobile kitchen in Watford which will be able to produce a further 5,000 meals.

They are also in negotiations with the London Government and Council Chief Executives for a massive expansion to 100,000 meals a day if demand increases enough, which would see Food For All temporarily move its kitchen into the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium or Alexandra Palace.

The special thing about all of this, according to Parasurama, is that no one working with Food For All is getting paid a single penny – they are only doing it out of a sincere desire to serve.

“Even the non-devotee volunteers call our kitchen ‘Krishna’s Castle,’ and they’re always asking me, ‘Have you offered the food yet?’ he says. “They really like that idea. And they’re not asking for anything, they just love doing it. So this is real bhakti.”

## Calendar

### June 2020

18 May 2020 - **Apara Ekadashi**

19 May 2020 - Appearance Day of Srila Vrndavana Dasa Thakura

### JUNE 2020

01 June 2020 - Disappearance Day of Sri Baladeva Vidyabhusana

01 June 2020 - Appearance Day of Srimati Gangamata Goswami

02 June 2020 - **Pandava Nirjala Ekadasi**

05 June 2020 - Snana Yatra (bathing of Lord Jagannatha)

05 June 2020 - Disappearance Day of Sri Mukunda Datta

05 June 2020 - Disappearance Day of Sri Sridhara Pandita

06 June 2020 - Disappearance Day of Sri Syamananda Prabhu

10 June 2020 - Appearance Day of Sri Vakresvara Pandita

15 June 2020 - Disappearance Day of Sri Srivasa Pandita

17 June 2020 - **Yogini ekadashi**

21 June 2020 - Disappearance Day of Sri Gadadhara Pandita

21 June 2020 - **Disappearance Day of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura**

22 June 2020 - Gundica Marjana

23 June 2020 - Ratha Yatra Starts

23 June 2020 - Disappearance Day of Sri Svarupa Damodara Gosvami

23 June 2020 - Disappearance Day of Sri Sivananda Sena

27 June 2020 - Disappearance Day of Sri Vakresvara Pandita

