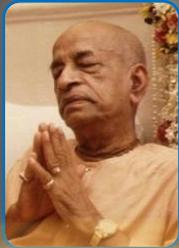


# Freedom Newsletter



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

## ISKCON Prison Ministry / February 2024

PO Box 2676  
Alachua, FL 32616

### THE ABSURD DIALECTIC

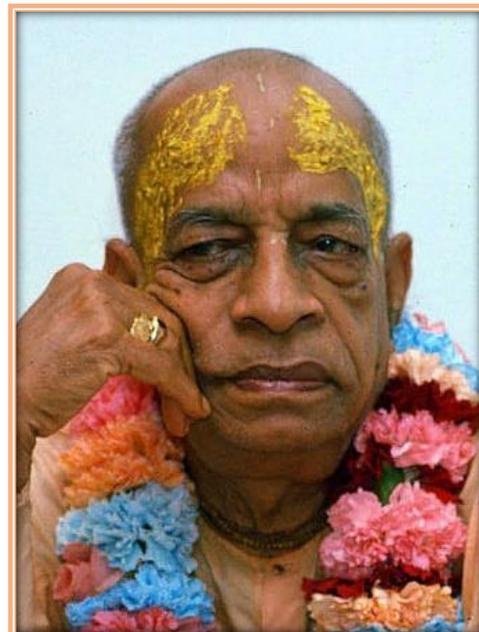
*This exchange between His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada and an existentialist-socialist priest took place in Los Angeles during December of 1973.*

**Priest:** Now, finally, we're beginning to grasp the real, inner meaning of Christianity and of religion generally: God sharing in the sufferings of man; man learning to live with the inevitability of his pain.

**Srila Prabhupada:** That is rascaldom—why should God have to share the sufferings of man?

**Priest:** That way man can more readily accept suffering as an inseparable part of reality.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Very good priest. People are trying to become happy, and your theory is that they should accept suffering. The very proposition is rascaldom. As spirit souls, part and parcel of the Supreme Spirit, we are naturally trying to minimize suffering and reach His spiritual abode, where suffering is nil. Everyone is trying to be perfectly happy. That is our struggle; that is the meaning of human civilization. We are not submitting to suffering. *We don't want suffering.* So if you actually believe in God, if you are actually a theist, then why are you talking like a rascal and saying that



**ABOVE:** Śrīla Prabhupāda (the yellow substance on his forehead is sandalwood pulp, a common practice in India to cool oneself during the heat of summer)

we must suffer—that even God must suffer?

**Priest:** Well, I'm what you might call an "atheist-theist."

**Srila Prabhupada:** Hmmm?

**Priest:** An atheist-theist.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Atheist-theist? What is this?

**Priest:** My thinking is that God is essentially our own invention ... an idea.

**Srila Prabhupada:** You think God is an "idea"?

**Priest:** Yes, though quite a necessary one. The idea of a supreme being or a supreme authority is something we have imposed upon ourselves, apparently because we find it consoling, comforting. Most people are ignorant. And so they need God, like Marx said, as their opiate ... their assurance of a happy ending, their cure-all and cover-up for hopelessness and frustration.

**Srila Prabhupada:** You say God is just an idea. I say God is *not* just an idea—God is a fact. Can you prove otherwise?

**Priest:** Well, as I see it there's no absolute necessity for a supreme being.

**Srila Prabhupada:** But even your Lenin accepted the necessity of a supreme authority. The only thing was, *he* wanted to become that supreme authority. Lenin wanted to become God.

**Priest:** Yes, and he was. For a time he was.

**Srila Prabhupada:** No, he could not become God. He was under the laws of God—he died. *He died*. He could not save himself from death. Therefore, he was not the supreme authority. Lenin was forced to die, so that means there must be some other supreme authority.

**Priest:** Well, everything is ultimately meaningless, anyway. So ultimately death is meaningless.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Why do you say "meaningless"? If death is meaningless, then why are you so afraid of it? If right now I were coming to kill you, you would be afraid. Why?

**Priest:** Well, that it's meaningless doesn't mean I can't place some value on it at any given point.

**Srila Prabhupada:** But still, why do you say "meaningless"? Earlier you said you are fighting for "the revolution" and "social change." Why are you fighting so hard to spread your meaning if ultimately everything has no meaning?

**Priest:** Take numbers. They can be useful, but they have no meaning except what we put into them. Actually they're meaningless.

**Srila Prabhupada:** If everything is actually meaningless, then what you are doing is meaningless.

**Priest:** Yes, because ultimately everything is meaningless.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Then you are less than a rascal. If I called you a rascal I would be giving you some honor. You are working for meaningless things.

**Priest:** I'm saying everyone can introduce their own meaning ... whatever they want.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Then why are you trying to recruit so many followers? Why not let people do whatever they want?

**Priest:** Well, doing whatever you want may include proliferating your own meaning.

**Srila Prabhupada:** No, no, no. You've got your own meaning—be *satisfied* with your own meaning. Don't bother me.

**Priest:** Part of my meaning may be to bother you.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Then my meaning may be to beat you over the head with my shoes!

**Priest:** But take Lenin. No one ever beat him. He simply was not beaten.

**Srila Prabhupada:** No, no. Lenin was also beaten. By death. He was beaten, but he would not admit it. He was such a rascal that even though he was being beaten at every moment—even though he was becoming old and diseased, even though he was dying—still he felt, "I am not being beaten." That means he was Rascal Number One. A sane man admits, "Yes, I am being beaten." And a rascal will not admit it.

**Priest:** Well, we have to look at things existentially. As long as something exists, we can place value on it, but when it ceases to exist there is no remorse, nothing to lament.

**Srila Prabhupada:** If there is nothing to lament, why are you struggling so hard to live a long life and exist as long as possible? Why not simply let yourself die?

**Priest:** It's like ... if you have some money in your hand, then as long as you have it you can utilize it, but if you lose it, don't worry. Nothing to worry about. That's how I feel about death.

**Srila Prabhupada:** You may talk big words like that, but in practice you worry. You cry.

**Priest:** Well, I may just fall short of my philosophy. But the philosophy is ideal.

**Srila Prabhupada:** These are no arguments. No sane man will accept this philosophy. It is *not* philosophy—it is simply frustration. But frustration is not life. Frustration is frustration.

**Priest:** Perhaps frustration is the only reality. That's what Albert Camus felt. He made it one of the main themes in his writings. Frustration, no meaning. And one night he was driving along in his car and reportedly just drove over a cliff. He may have been thinking that if life has no meaning, why not just drive my car over a cliff. Finished himself off.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Madman. He had to be mad, because he did not know who he is—an eternal soul, part and parcel of God. He went mad because he didn't know what is to be known.

**Priest:** Well, millions and millions of people accept his books as practically gospel!

**Srila Prabhupada:** What is the subject matter?

**Priest:** The subject matter of his books is that life is ultimately absurd. There is no real meaning to it. We place our own meanings on it.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Then why was he trying to make sense out of the absurdity? If everything is absurd, why write books?

**Priest:** Yes, that's what Camus seems to have realized ... that if everything's absurd, there is no use speaking or writing or even living.

**Srila Prabhupada:** The thing is, you are saying that life is absurd, and I am saying that life is not absurd. Who will settle this? Who will settle it—whether you are right or I am right?

**Priest:** I don't think it can ever be settled.

**Srila Prabhupada:** It will be settled at death. That's all. A rascal may think foolishly that life is absurd—but death will not be absurd. *Mrtyuh sarva-haras caham:* Lord Krsna says, "Everyone must finally accept Me—as death." Both of us will have to accept death. You don't want to die, and I don't want to die; but both of us have to accept that supreme authority. That is God.

**Priest:** But speaking of Camus ... he didn't care. He died willingly. He wanted to die.

**Srila Prabhupada:** He did not want to die, but he may have let himself die in that way just to keep his prestige, that's all.

**Priest:** I think he wanted to die.

**Srila Prabhupada:** If you also want to die, then let me kill you now and you'll be happy. 🌸

### **We are not vegetarian nor non-vegetarian. We are transcendental.**

We are not meant for moving anyone's sentiment against animal slaughter; we are neither Buddhists nor Jains, whose main propaganda is against animal slaughter. Even the so-called vegetarians who do not take Krishna prasadam are as much sinful as the non-vegetarians. Our propaganda is different, to make people Krishna Conscious, which automatically makes them sympathetic against any kind of animal slaughter. According to *Srimad-Bhāgavatam*, one living entity subsists on the life of other living entities, either vegetarian or non-vegetarian. But we are neither of them. We are not vegetarian nor non-vegetarian. We are transcendental. We are concerned with Krishna Prasadam. Try to popularize Krishna Prasadam as you have already done. People will naturally become vegetarian without any ghastly propaganda. We may make propaganda against animal slaughter, but that will not advance our real cause. Krishna consciousness is based on pure understanding, not by any sentimental provocation. People must be intelligent enough to catch up this Krishna consciousness movement without being carried away by any sentimental wave. We should always remember that we do not belong to any group like the karmis, jnanis, or yogis. We belong to pure devotional service group, following the footprints of great mahajanas [liberated souls]. Our purpose should be that we are in one side and all others, they are on the other side. We deprecate everyone [their practice], even one who is against animal slaughter.

**Śrīla Prabhupāda's letter to Rayarama Dasa —Los Angeles, November 19, 1968**

Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna  
Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare  
Hare Rama, Hare Rama  
Rama Rama, Hare Hare

# Book Distribution Stories!

## She prayed to find a book to understand God —Athens, Greece

Continuing our sankirtana, we opened our table with Srila Prabhupada's books, especially the *Bhagavad-gita* in Greek, English, Arabic, French and Russian. A young girl with a boy approached, pointing to the English *Gita* and asking if the book helps in "self-realization." In his simple English, Aleandro Prabhu happily answered "Yes" and enthusiastically introduced her to me.

Traveling from London, on vacation with some friends, she sincerely wanted to understand God. She told me when she woke up this morning, she prayed intensely to find a book that could help her understand God. So she took the *Gita*, gave a donation, and happily left, waving the *Gita* in her hands. It must have been love at first reading, because the next day she showed up at the temple, chanted with us, listened to me speaking about the *Gita*, and happily took prasadam. Another sincere soul rescued!

*"Actually, in every town and city there are many, many devotees of Krishna; now it is our business to go around the world wherever people are congregating and pick up these sincere souls. The world is suffering for want of this knowledge of Krishna consciousness, and we experience practically that many people will take to this spiritual line simply if we make this information available to them. So continue to develop your Sankirtana Party activities..."*

**Letter to Bhagavan, London, 22 September, 1969**

## Afraid of extremists —by Rasananda Dasa, France

The last *Gita* I distributed today was meant for Matilda. She was reserved at first. She appeared as a typical French girl with blushy cheeks and nice clothes. I told her my latest line: "This is a book on the journey of life, a contemplation on the Soul." To which she replied that she was interested in spirituality. As we continued our talk, unlocking new information, she said that she grew up in Sarcelles. As her younger self (now 28 years old), she always wondered about the house in 230 Av. De la division Leclerc, the Hare Krishna temple. She used to see people going inside and think "This is a sect." Truth is, she was always afraid of extremists and couldn't understand why people would dress weirdly and give up their families. In a metaphorical way, Krishna took her by the hand, and we went through all her misconceptions.

Krishna consciousness is not an extremist movement, it is an all-inclusive movement. We don't ask everyone to be like us, we ask everyone to be God conscious. Monks choose to dress the way they do because they have dedicated their life to the study of this spiritual science, and they preserve their sexual energy in order to understand higher spiritual truths. Somehow or other she understood there was no reason for her to be afraid (*mā śucah*). Therefore she took the *Bhagavad-gita* (Krishna), who cleared up all her misconceptions, like the sudden appearance of the sun dissipates the dangerous fog of ignorance.

*"Darkness or fog still covers the whole universe, and the sun is the only counteracting principle. One who takes shelter of the Lord, the perpetual light, has no fear of being annihilated in the darkness of fog or ignorance."*

**SB 3.12.33, purport**

## A Hare Krishna in a past life

Celia was in a big hurry, but she smiled when Manohara Saciputra Prabhu joked, "Look! We have matching clothes!" Followed by, "You're going to like these books. Please, take a quick look!" Celia stopped and then became very interested when she remembered something her husband had told her: that the first time he saw her (in a past life) she was a Hare Krishna who approached him on the street. Dumbfounded, Celia had denied she had ever been a devotee, but her husband insisted it was true, describing how she had tied her hair and dressed like a Hare Krishna. And to this day he insisted, "Yes, you were a Hare Krishna!" And now, here she was, speaking with a real Hare Krishna. Intrigued, Celia asked Manohara to arrange a photo to show her husband her encounter with a Hare Krishna. And then Celia took a whole book set! 🌸

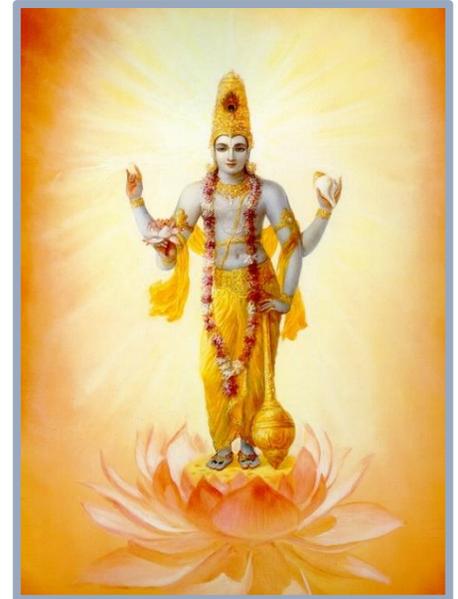


## THE PARAMATMA IN EVERYONE'S HEART



Scientists have discovered that ants, after collecting the grains and seeds that they need for winter, break those seeds down into halves before storing in their nests, because breaking them in half keeps them from germinating even through rain and the most perfect germinating conditions. But scientists were stunned when they discovered that

coriander seeds stored in the ant nest were broken down into four pieces instead of two. After lab research, scientists discovered that a coriander seed will still germinate after being divided into two, but it won't germinate after it's divided into four parts. So how do these tiny, tiny creatures know all this? Lord Krishna, in his form of Paramatma (picture on the right). 🌸



“Paramātmā means the Supersoul, who is sitting by the side of the conditioned soul [who is situated within everyone's heart] just to sanction his activities. The conditioned soul comes to this material world in order to lord it over material nature. Since one cannot do anything without the sanction of the Supreme Lord, He lives with the jīva soul as witness and sanction-giver. He is also *bhoktā*; He gives maintenance and sustenance to the conditioned soul.”

**SB 3.28.18, purport**



## JACUZZI FOR THE MIND —by Dhira Govinda Dasa (edited article)

**O**ne morning in Brooklyn, I met a devotee who was eager to share an experience with me. She had taken a vow to chant daily a prescribed number of mantras on her beads. She exclaimed, “This morning I realized that I don't *have* to chant my rounds!” Her exhilaration filled the air with a sense of liberation. Seeing me puzzled as to why she was happy to give up her vow, she went on, “I *get* to chant my rounds!” She then explained how that morning she had begun to chant a few mantras on her beads. For the first time in her decades of experience, tears flowed from her eyes while chanting. For the first time her attitude wasn't “I *have* to chant my rounds.” It wasn't an obligation, but an opportunity.

A genuine mantra is a potent transformational vibration. “Mantra” means spiritual sound vibration that extricates the mind from material entanglement. Jill Bormann has conducted research on mantra meditation with various populations, including military veterans. She describes meditative time with a mantra as a “jacuzzi for the mind. It's something you can use to focus and calm yourself at a moment's notice...it doesn't require money, and it's non-toxic...a person just needs to make it a part of their lives.” My personal favorite mantra for meditation is the *Maha Mantra*:

**Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna — Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare  
Hare Rama, Hare Rama — Rama Rama, Hare Hare**

Studies have shown that this 16-word mantra reduces stress and depression and increases qualities such as balance, fulfillment, and sense of life purpose. In the beginning was the word. Just as the divine creates with sound, we can productively examine what we generate in our life with our sounds. 🌸



## Prabhupāda tells a story

There was one clergyman lecturing in a Sheffield coalmine (England) that “If you don't worship Jesus Christ, then you will go to hell.” First of all, the clergyman inquired, “Do you know Jesus Christ?” So they were silent. So one of them inquired, “What is his number?”

They thought that “Jesus Christ must be one of us workers in the mine. So he must have got a number.” So “What is his number?” Then the clergyman could understand that “To whom I am speaking.”

So then he explained, “Oh, Jesus Christ is not one of you. He is son of God. He has come to deliver you. If you don't worship Him, then you will go to hell.”

Then one of them [miners] said, “What is hell?”

Then he [the clergyman] described, “It is very dark, moist, and so on.””

So they were silent, because they work in the mine (which is dark and moist). (laughter) They were silent. “What is this hell? It is all right.”

Then the clergyman thought how to impress them. Then, after a few minutes, he said, “No. The hell is very dangerous.” “How?” “There is no newspaper.”

“Oh, horrible.” [laughter] Because in your Western countries everyone is fond of newspaper. So he stressed, he hit the point, that “There is no newspaper.”

**Room Conversation – March 25, 1968, San Francisco**



## Inmate Artwork



**Above:** Lord Jagannatha with Radharani  
**Left:** Lord Jagannatha, Baladeva, and Subhadra

—From inmate Janardana Dasa—

## Excerpts from inmates letters

It has been very interesting reading *Srimad-Bhagavatam* and all the Cantos you sent. I have just started canto two, and this is such a transcendental literature that it will take many lifetimes to read it and comprehend it. I pray to Lord Kṛṣṇa to give me understanding and purify my existence. Every day I do japa and through the names of God I have slowly made progress in my ways and have also, through the mercy of Srila Prabhupada and Gauranga, developed faith in the names. Of course I'm still a fallen soul and do not deserve the love of Kṛṣṇa or devotees, but you have showed me that even a convicted felon is still a child of God and worth something.

I truly appreciate your devotion in Kṛṣṇa consciousness and your ministry through IPM (ISKCON Prison Ministry). I hope to one day to serve in devotional service the ministry. Thank you for your service and making us prisoners feel like we are in Vaikuntha while in this predicament. I'm in receipt of the BTG (*Back to Godhead* magazine) for this month as well as the *Freedom Newsletter* newsletter, thank you.

My sister lives in Texas and went to the Dallas temple; she loved the architecture and the Deities. I begged her to go on Sunday so she can enjoy the prasadam (food offered to Kṛṣṇa), but she doesn't grasp its meaning. So I'm just letting Kṛṣṇa do the work; just her attending the temple will clean so much of her past karma as well as sins.

Thank you again for your time and attention. I feel very honored to be in association of Mother Ramaniya through email, and to receive through mail and book donation. Hare Krishna. Humbly,

**Bhakta Jose A. —Fairton, New Jersey**

Hare Krishna all glory to his Grace Prabhupāda. I'm kind of down and out lately but I'll be alright. I just want you to know that I will never let Krishna go. He is the main reason why I'm still alive and giving me hope for my future, how can I let go of my Paramatma mother? I will drop dead if I do, and yes, I chant japa every day. My

mind and my heart are with you guys. I can't wait to be in Krishna temple mother because I'm really tired of this place plus I'm the only one who worship Krishna in here so whenever I'm down, there is nobody to pick me up but me by Krishna grace, so please continue to send me newsletter and *Back to Godhead* magazine. Thank you mother for everything, you changed my life by sending me all his Grace's (Prabhupāda's) books. Again thank you for everything. Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare, Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare. May Krishna bless you mother.

**Myo N.S. —Tennessee Colony, Texas**

With much love and respect I write this letter. Thank you so much for your support! I received books and even an art calendar! Everything was great! We were able to request fasting, bags and vegetarian food items for the appearance of Lord Ramacandra (Rama). We have an observance schedule that's approved through the Florida Dept of Corrections (It does not approve of them all but I will send you the ones they allow us to observe). We were given a time (at sunset) to meet and chant and perform prasadam. I was provided a small battery-operated candle and a cloth and I used a small picture of Swami Prabhupada and Lord Krishna and set up an altar. We did not have special utensils or dishes so we used paper plates and flowers. We did our best and it was beautiful. I have my own library now of books and magazines. I give and exchange with all the ladies. We have a 30-minute study time each week as well as an hour of service every Wednesday. We chant for most of the hour. Yes, I do understand about the prejudice with some chaplains. Ours does not exactly like it but it is her responsibility to allow us to practice our faith and character compound. Now they are used to me and the Holy days ISKCON provided to FLDOC are all on the approved calendar are mandatory so we are here : ). Hare Krishna! Again I am so grateful to you for all your help, guidance and direction. We all send our love! I look forward to hearing from you. Till then. Hare Krishna.

**Bhaktin Kimberly S. —Brooksville, Florida**

### **IMPORTANT: IF YOU TRANSFER to a new unit/address:**

If you have a change of address, please inform IPM (NOT the BTG Office), at the address below. And 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 applies to the *Freedom Newsletter*, if you want to make sure you continue to receive it.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Question:** If we were with Krsna originally, why did Krsna allow us to go away from Him?

**Prabhupāda:** You wanted; Krsna has given you the chance. You wanted to come here in this material world and enjoy material, so Krsna has given you the chance. Now you are suffering, you are implicated. You have come from Krsna; now you have to go back to Krsna.

**Question:** If we go to Krsna there is no coming back?

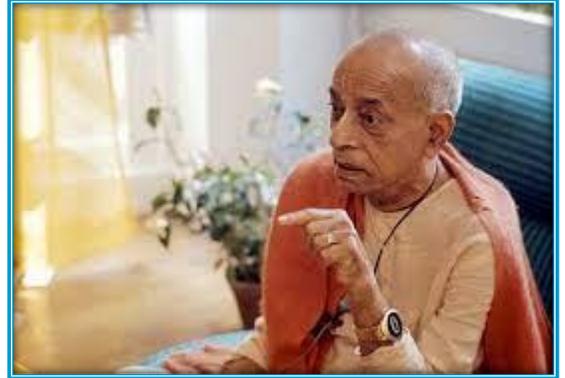
**Prabhupāda:** No, you can come back. You are free. If you are intelligent, you are getting these experiences, perhaps you will not come back again. [laughter] Because you have got good experience if you are intelligent. The constant repetition of birth and death is not very good experience. So if you go back to Krsna and if you get permanent life, most probably you will not come back again. That's natural. Just like a person left his home, and throughout the whole life he's loitering, wandering from country to country, country to country. After being fatigued, if he comes back home again, he doesn't go again. That is natural.

**Prabhupāda Lecture on *Bhagavad-gita* 2.13 – February 22, 1973, Auckland, New Zealand**

**Question:** Why are we suffering?

**Prabhupāda:** So it is not God's creation that somebody is suffering from some painful condition and somebody is enjoying. No. We infect ourselves with some contamination because this world, this material world, is full of contamination. Full of contamination. So anyone who has come to this material world must know that he has come in a place which is a place of epidemic.

**Prabhupāda Lecture on *Srimad-Bhagavatam* 7.9.41 – March 19, 1976, Mayapur**



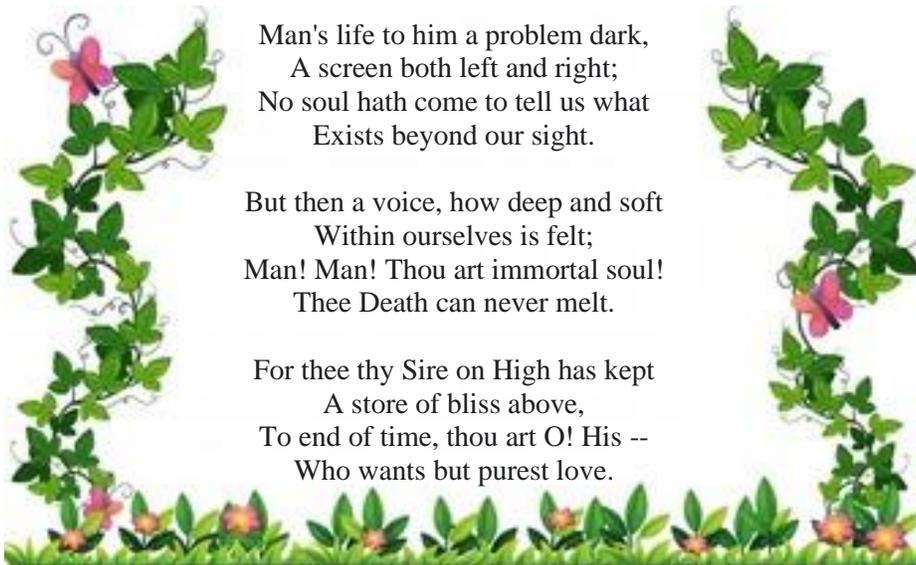
### The Jīva Soul

by Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Thakur

Man's life to him a problem dark,  
A screen both left and right;  
No soul hath come to tell us what  
Exists beyond our sight.

But then a voice, how deep and soft  
Within ourselves is felt;  
Man! Man! Thou art immortal soul!  
Thee Death can never melt.

For thee thy Sire on High has kept  
A store of bliss above,  
To end of time, thou art O! His --  
Who wants but purest love.



## IT WAS A MIRACLE THAT I MET PRABHUPADA

by Jayasri Devi Dasi

I was a hippie girl from a well-to-do family from Hawaii who, at eighteen, had left home on a spiritual quest. I meditated daily and tried to understand the meaning of life. In Hawaii, many of my friends after high school were on similar spiritual quests. One of my friends had a closet-sized temple, and I would sit in it and read the *mahā-mantra* she had posted on the wall.

This was before Srila Prabhupada's followers had arrived in Hawaii, but somehow or other, I was already following the four regulative principles and reading a *Bhagavad-gita* translated by an Indian Swami, the Bible, and various Buddhist teachings. I was trying to find God, but was becoming more and more confused. Each of these texts said something different, so I became bewildered.

One day, I lay down in my room and prayed, "Dear God, I don't know if You are here, but if You are, please send me to someone who knows You."

The next week I saw a handwritten poster on a small bakery window at Sunset Beach that said, "Chant while you can: Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare, Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare —A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami." And there was an address that would take me only a few miles up the coast.

I asked a friend to take me there. It was an old Hawaiian house on a hill with a big yard and cows and a windmill. We drove up the driveway, and when we parked, I turned to look up at the top of the outside staircase, and there was an older gentleman in orange robes who waved to invite us in. So we went up the stairs, through the enclosed porch, through the temple room, with its Brijbasi prints thumb-tacked to the wall and a string across the room holding a simple curtain that hid the altar, and up the stairs.

Srila Prabhupada was alone in the house; the devotees had gone out on harinam (public chanting of the holy names).

We entered his room, and Srila Prabhupada sat down on an old Hawaiian cushion behind a desk made of a piece of plywood supported by cinderblocks. He immediately started talking about God. It was very simple, what he said, but at the same time it was very deep, and in the course of the discussion, I

could see him looking into my mind and heart and seeing what I needed to hear. He answered all my spiritual questions without me asking anything. It was a profound experience. He was dynamic, effulgent, sweet, and seemed so familiar to me. He was the person I was looking for. For me, God had answered my prayer and, through Srila Prabhupada, all of my questions. It was a miracle that I met Prabhupada.

Then devotees returned from their engagement and one of them came in and offered him a plate of fresh-cut sugarcane. He asked me if I would like some, but I said, "No, thank you, I don't eat sugar." He took a piece of sugarcane, tilted his head back and popped it into his mouth, and said, "Oh? In India, we eat sugar." When he said that, volumes of knowledge went racing through my mind—of course, sugar is natural. What's wrong with sugar? And when I left the room and saw the plate of sugarcane sitting on the floor in the next

room, I bent down and put some in my mouth.

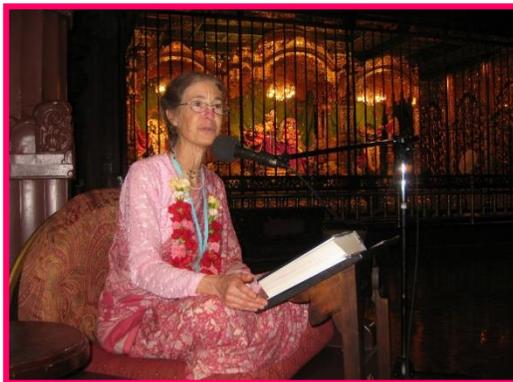
I came back to that house almost daily for the next week, and Prabhupada asked me to bring the *Bhagavad-gita* I had been reading. He had me sit next to him as he opened my book to 6.33, where Arjuna says, "O Madhusudana, the system of yoga which you have summarized appears impractical and unendurable to me, for the mind is restless and unsteady." In the purport this Swami wrote, "Astanga-yoga is for this age, and everyone should do it."

Prabhupada said, "Do you see what he's doing? He's taking Krishna's words and saying they mean exactly the opposite of what Krishna actually said. He's inserting his own philosophy."

He closed the book and pulled out the purple paperback *Bhagavad-gita* he had translated and said, "This is *Bhagavad-gita As It Is*. Would you like one?" I said, "Oh, yes!" I thought that he was going to give it to me because I thought all things connected with God were free. Prabhupada gave it to me, sat back, and said, "That will be \$2.95."

I thought, "Yes, of course, \$2.95. It costs money to print a book. It's God's work."

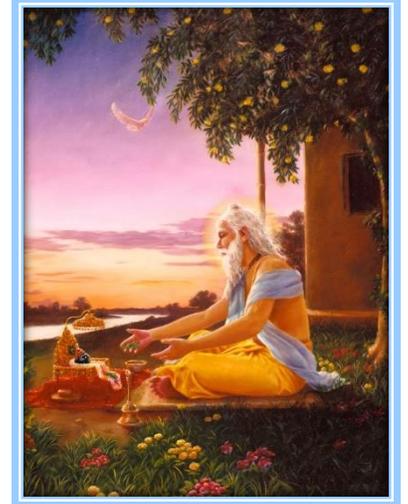
I bought four books and gave three of them to my neighbors. Prabhupada smiled. 🌸



# Calendar

## FEBRUARY 2024

- 02 Feb 2024 - Disappearance Day of Sri Locana Dasa Thakura  
06 Feb 2024 - **Sat-tila Ekadashi**  
14 Feb 2024 - Appearance Day of Srimati Vishnupriya Devi  
14 Feb 2024 - Disappearance Day of Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakura  
14 Feb 2024 - Appearance Day of Sri Pundarika Vidyanidhi  
14 Feb 2024 - Appearance Day of Sri Raghunandan Thakura  
14 Feb 2024 - Appearance Day of Srila Raghunatha Dasa Goswami  
16 Feb 2024 - **Appearance Day of Sri Advaita Acharya**  
18 Feb 2024 - Disappearance Day of Sri Madhvacharya  
19 Feb 2024 - Disappearance Day of Sri Ramanujacharya  
20 Feb 2024 - **Bhaimi Ekadashi**  
21 Feb 2024 - Varaha Dvadasi  
22 Feb 2024 - Nityananda Triyodasi – Appearance Day of Lord Nityananda  
24 Feb 2024 - Appearance Day of Srila Narottama Dasa Thakura  
29 Feb 2024 - **Appearance Day of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura**  
29 Feb 2024 - Disappearance Day of Sri Purusottama Dasa Thakura



## MARCH 2024

- 07 Mar 2024 - **Vijaya Ekadashi**  
07 Mar 2024 - Disappearance Day of Sri Isvara Puri  
11 Mar 2024 - Disappearance Day of Srila Jagannatha Dasa Babaji  
11 Mar 2024 - Disappearance Day of Sri Rasikananda  
13 Mar 2024 - Appearance Day of Sri Purusottama Dasa Thakura  
20 Mar 2024 - **Amalaki Vrata Ekadashi**  
21 Mar 2024 - Disappearance of Sri Madhavendra Puri  
25 Mar 2024 - **GAURA PURNIMA - Appearance of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu**

## APRIL 2024

- 02 April 2024 - Appearance Day of Sri Srivasa Pandita  
05 April 2024 - **Papamochani Ekadashi**  
06 April 2024 - Disappearance Day of Sri Govinda Ghosh  
13 April 2024 - Appearance Day of Sri Ramanujacharya  
17 April 2024 - **Rama Navami (Appearance day of Lord Rama)**  
19 April 2024 - **Kamada Ekadashi**  
23 April 2024 - Appearance Day of Sri Vamsivadananda Thakura  
23 April 2024 - Appearance Day of Sri Syamananda Prabhu

Advaita Acharya, an intimate associate of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, is considered an incarnation of Sadasiva and Maha-Visnu. It was in response to His calls that Lord Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu descended to this world.

## MAY 2024

- 01 May 2024 - Disappearance Day of Sri Abhirama Thakura  
03 May 2024 - Disappearance Day of Srila Vrndavana Dasa Thakura  
04 May 2024 - **Varuthini Ekadashi**  
08 May 2024 - Appearance Day of Sri Gadadhara Pandita  
12 May 2024 - Appearance Day of Sri Sankaracharya  
17 May 2024 - Appearance Day of Srimati Sita Devi  
17 May 2024 - Disappearance Day of Sri Madhu Pandita  
17 May 2024 - Appearance Day of Srimati Jahnava Devi  
19 May 2024 - **Mohini Ekadashi**  
21 May 2024 - **Disappearance Day of Jayananda Prabhu**  
22 May 2024 - **Appearance of Lord Narasimhadeva**