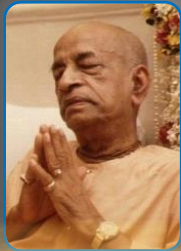


Freedom Newsletter



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

ISKCON Prison Ministry / **October 2024**

PO Box 2676
Alachua, FL 32616

MIGHT MAKES RIGHT

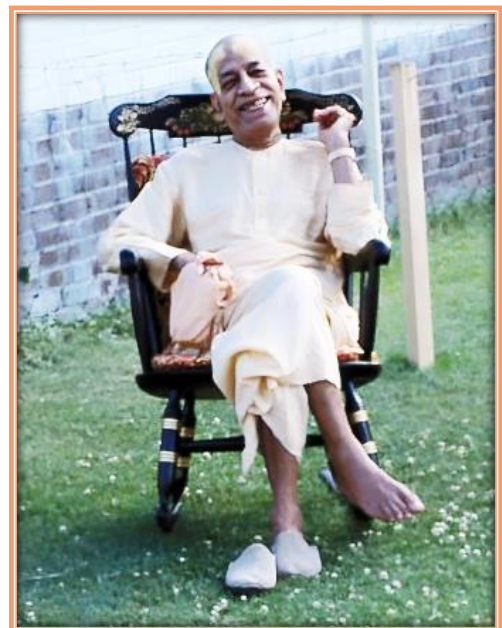
This conversation between His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada and one of his disciples took place in Paris during the summer of 1974.

Disciple: Last night in your lecture you made the analogy that if people don't follow God's laws, they'll be punished by God, just as they're punished for disobeying the state laws. So the young people thought you must be a fascist.

Srila Prabhupada: But this is actually happening all over the world. How can they deny it? Government today means, "Might makes right." Somehow you take power, and then you are right. It is a question of which group gets the power.

Disciple: But they want to give the power to the people.

Srila Prabhupada: How will it be possible? There are so many people and so many different opinions—you have your people, and someone else has his people. As soon as you want to give the power to your people, the others will oppose. This is human nature; you cannot change it. They're thinking that the power should be given to the people, but there are many other people who will disagree. This is the nature of the material



world: everyone is envious of everyone else. But these rascals don't have the intelligence to understand this. In India there was Gandhi—a gentleman, a very nice politician—but he was killed. So you cannot stop this. It is the nature of the material world—everyone is envious of others. You'll never be able to find a group of materialistic men who are perfect. So why do they say, "Give the power to the people"? They are simply rascals. Therefore, the *Srimad-Bhagavatam* says, *paramo nirmatsaranam satam*: Krsna consciousness is for the perfect, non-envious person. Those who are not Krsna conscious must be envious.

Everywhere you'll find competition, Krsna had enemies. Jesus Christ had enemies, or else why was he crucified? He had no fault, he was preaching God consciousness. Yet he was crucified. This is the material world. Even though one is perfect, still he'll have enemies. How can you stop it? They say, "Give the power to the people," but as soon as there is one good group of people governing, another group will stand against it. They will say, "Give the power to us." So where is your perfection? This is not perfection. Therefore, we have to give up all connection with this material world—that is perfection.

Disciple: But how can you avoid anarchy and have good government if you give up all connection with this world?

Srila Prabhupada: Yes, this is the point—you have to follow the perfect authority.

Disciple: And this was their contention—you advocate following a superior authority,

Srila Prabhupada: If you want a perfect society, you must follow the perfect authority. You cannot find perfection through mundane politics. You have to follow the real, recognized authorities—the perfect, liberated souls. This was the system in the Vedic culture. The authority was Lord Krsna and the Vedic literature, and society was directed by Manu [the forefather and lawgiver of mankind] and the *Manu-samhita*. *Mahajano yena gatah sa panthah*: to attain perfection, we must follow the *mahajanas*—perfect, self-realized authorities.

Disciple: But these young people said even spiritual authorities are imperfect.

Srila Prabhupada: They may say that, but why should we accept their opinion—the opinion of imperfect



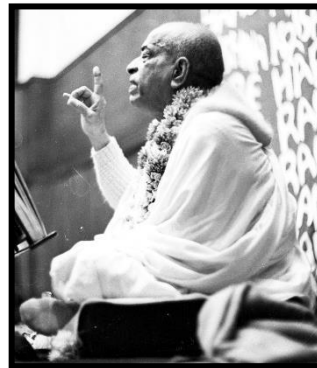
rascals? Their only idea of authority is, "Might makes right." For instance, that group yesterday was advocating "Power to the people." So they have got some might, and they are pressuring, "You must accept this idea." And this is going on all over the world—"Might makes right." All the rascals are fighting with one another, and the one who is a little mightier becomes prominent, that's all.

Disciple: They say this is always the case—with any authority, it's just some leader who's pushed himself forward. So they've rejected all authorities.

Srila Prabhupada: Yes, because all their so-called authorities have been imperfect. But there is a perfect authority also: Krsna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. And any authority who follows and teaches according to the instructions of Krsna is also perfect. That is authority. We Krsna conscious devotees are exactly following the authority of Krsna. In presenting Krsna consciousness, we are simply presenting the words of Krsna and trying to convince people, "Here is the real authority; if you follow you'll be happy." Krsna says, "You surrender unto Me." And we are saying, "Surrender to Krsna." We know that Krsna is perfect and that to surrender unto Him is perfection. And whenever we speak, we always quote Krsna and Krsna's representatives.

Disciple: But in order for someone to surrender, doesn't he have to have faith in whoever is asking him to surrender?

Srila Prabhupada: Yes, faith must be there. Therefore, in the *Bhagavad-gita* Krsna first of all proves that He is the Absolute Truth; then He asks for you to surrender. But you need to have the intelligence to understand—"This is Krsna"—then you surrender. In *Bhagavad-gita* Krsna does not say in the beginning, "You must surrender." First He explains everything—the body, the soul, all forms of *yoga*, all different kinds of knowledge. Then He gives the most confidential knowledge: "Give up everything else, and just surrender



unto Me."

Everyone in this material world is imperfect. Without voluntary submission to a perfect person, everyone is imperfect. But one who has completely surrendered to Krsna or His representative—he is perfect. But if you do not surrender to the perfect authority, then you remain an imperfect rascal. You may be Napoleon, or you may be a small ant, but we want to see whether you have surrendered to Krsna or not. If not, then you're a rascal, that's all. 🌸



KRSNA WILL ALWAYS OUTLAST US

By inmate David B. —Danbury, Connecticut (in 2023)

Prabhupada said a good cook should be able to cook anywhere with anything and make delicious food to offer to Krishna. I grew up with this same belief and I enjoy doing so [in the prison kitchen] and grateful Krishna has given me this gift to benefit others while providing service to Him as well. It certainly opens many doors/hearts in here.

I really always have loved sharing cultures/beliefs/faith/ideas with others and find in doing so wounds begin to heal, rifts are bridged and misunderstandings are cleared. It must be done with an open mind and an open heart but I believe no matter their relationship with our Father, we are all still siblings and while we will at times argue over this or that, we still can love and respect each other as well and recognize our similarities while honoring our differences that are part of being individuals. I find many people state they believe in a higher power.

Our inherent categorizing of religions also leads to a stereotyping that I come across a lot and have worked hard with my own mind to overcome. I find it enjoyable to shock someone out of such notions in kind, compassionate ways. Take for example, two Indian-Canadian brothers in here. Their family was once Hindus but “converted” a few generations ago to Muslim and moved to Canada where the brothers were born and raised with trips to see family in India. Then they meet me. A 6’2” white guy who not only knows their culture better than they do but is also a follower of the Vaisnava traditions. You should have heard the conversations of telling their wives about my making Indian dishes —especially making paneer— and even laddus (or, as they called them, those egg-shaped thingies). They even borrowed my MP3 player and, while they don’t understand Sanskrit, they listened to some of the many bhajans I have on there and they were really shocked. I have met other Muslims here as well and some are Pakistani, which also are shocked to find a Vaisnava their midst, and one who they get along with great.

Their reactions remind me a lot of the experiences when Prabhupada brought devotees from America and Europe to India for the first time. It is just interesting to us that such is also happening now in the BOP as well. It certainly is entertaining as much as it is enlightening to them. I like to think our talks also help

heal the wounds I see in them that happened and continue to happen between our faiths.

There is an Orthodox Jewish man here who I also spoke to at length on topics of the Torah, Talmud and even the Kabbalah, as he is a scholar of it as well. A few days ago he asked me if I could secretly get him a copy of the Bhagavad-gita, because he saw it referenced in a Wayne Dyer book he was reading and thought it very interesting. Needless to say, I got one of the chapel clerks to check out one of the ones you donated to the chapel, in my name, and gave it to the Jewish man to read. We have had some interesting conversations since. I find that this is the case with many I have spoken to who pick up the Bhagavad-gita.

One staunch Catholic even proceeded afterwards to read the Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam [which is in the chapel library] because of how the Bhagavad-gita deepened his faith as a Catholic. An ex-cop who is also Catholic has also befriended me and we have long discussions on how all the faiths are different ways of acknowledging the Supreme Personality of Godhead with different results for different faiths depending on where one is at in their spiritual development. Being in here is tough for him for many reasons but his mental health has greatly improved since we started associating and discussing topics of a higher plane. Srita Prabhupāda, through his books, most definitely gave this world a great gift and gave me that ability to have such interactions. Jaya Srita Prabhupada!

By the way, we did indeed have to move. This time it was to the auditorium where at first they did not have enough cots for all eighty-two of us. They had to go out and buy some that day, then everyone less than three feet from each other, two showers, two bathrooms/toilets and one telephone. No television to babysit the inmates and a lot of complaining. Personally I didn’t mind but I did get COVID a second time while over there and testing positive put me (and many others who were close to the original persons that were the vectors) in a lockdown in the cell with another inmate for at least twenty-three hours a day for two weeks. Again, I didn’t mind at all as it let me do things like read and write after my roommate went to sleep. I find that if I let go of expectations (attached to the outcome) and ride the flow instead of trying to swim upstream I am not stressed and things work out as long as I take shelter of Krishna. Of course, me

being the stubborn soul I am, I will go for the challenge of swimming upstream just to see if it is another option (and sometimes it is) but now know when to turn around when the current is too much. I see it is Krishna's way of saying "no." Of course, if I don't heed Him I will eventually tire as Krishna certainly will outlast us.

There are times when I get comfortable because things are, by my perception, going well. My chanting is not as focused, my prayers not as sincere, my monkey-mind running all over. Then by Krishna's mercy, the illusion is ripped away and I am thrown into a situation where I can only place my faith in Krishna as all the rest is not in my meager means of control. These upheavals give me the chance to remember who is really in control and instead of completely acting out against the stimulus, I turn to Krishna and Narasimha to weather the storm, increase my faith and surrender unto Him. I can be stubborn, but Krishna is kind to keep helping me find the path again and again to make it back home to Him.

When you offer yourself in the service of Krishna, you better have your armor at the ready and be prepared for anything. You may be sent into the most hellish places to fight numerous demonic forces, but this does not mean you will be overwhelmed, so long as you have faith in and devotion to Krishna.

When you are forced to deal with other people 24/7 and cannot get away from them, I find that no matter how demonic their behaviors and actions are, there is also another side to everyone. I cannot help but develop compassion for every person even if I don't like their behavior and actions. Outward appearances are also rarely accurate and some of the toughest looking and acting persons are the hungriest for Krishna and have a kind soul hidden and protected by the exterior. This prison sentence is really helping me to be less judgmental and be more compassionate toward even the "worst of the worst" and see they are all really just God's lost children, looking for love and acceptance but not knowing how to get it.

I shared my books with an aspiring devotee here. He read every one of the books I shared with him. He is getting out of here in eleven months and through him, his adopted teenage son is also very interested [in KC] and so they say they will be visiting at least the Boston temple once out of here. There is also a new aspiring devotee I am helping and he seems very hungry for knowledge. I gave him some of the mantra cards you sent and he says he is going to write to you as he'd like to be put on the newsletter mailing list, if possible, and would also like to have a Bhagavad-gita, as I don't

have any more to give out. So far his actions seem to say he is seriously searching and very interested in it all. I'll let him speak for himself in his letter.

I am doing well, continue to keep up on my 35 rounds daily of japa, but find my mind wandering at times when I offer aratik. I am working on doing better at this now after such a lapse in concentration due mainly, I believe, from the chaotic surroundings. I mainly keep to myself in my cell when not out working on a project, and read at least three to four hours every day. It is, therefore, always shocking when I hear the news or catch a glimpse of the television, magazines, etc. around here. I see all of it with eyes that are unused to such droll and worse sensory input. I have learned to be detached from such and just put my faith in Krishna no matter what the outcome of everything comes to be. People ask me all the time when I am going to do this or do that, or what do I have planned daily, weekly, etc. They don't get how I manage to get so much done in this environment without the usual issues and "drama" they encounter/have themselves. Krishna talks if we listen and I am but a young child who is just beginning to learn the language and wow! So, I am doing just fine. :)

I had a good-ole-boy Christian ask me what I thought of Jesus. At the beginning of my answer I could see he was dismissive but, as I explained the transcendental truth, he re-engaged, eyes lit up, and he became involved. He disclosed to me that he had spoken to another "Hindu" once and he had thought that "Hindus" were "a little off." I told him that everything I told him was not my speculation but scripture I was merely repeating. I can tell that our conversation certainly got him thinking. In here, inmates are constantly concerned about hierarchy and what job, and level in said job, they hold is very important to who they see themselves as — a very materialistic way of viewing everything. I occasionally find myself getting swept up in this but I also find that with a little reflection and effort I can stand apart from the mad scrambling and drama involved and yet still be just as well respected if not actually more so.

I am finally learning that I don't need to comment or get involved in mundane conversations because I realized that when I do so, all I am doing is trying to show off instead of reining in my ego and being humble as a devotee should be. Such behavior otherwise is damaging and hurtful and does not further us spiritually. 🌸

BECOMING A VEGETARIAN

By inmate Carl Sheppard —Florida

The day I became a vegetarian is indelibly etched into me. For this I have to thank my bighearted older brother Jerry, who convinced me, in very short order, to take the leap.

Meat Was Everywhere

I was raised in the South, in a meat-and-potatoes home where nearly every dish, from navy bean with ham hocks to collard greens with fat back, had some kind of animal product in it. As a boy, not knowing any better, I had feasted with delight on all those dishes, with no regrets at all. However, my brother Jerry, who was the hippie-minded, counter-culture, black sheep member of the family, began at some point to question our diet, much to our parents' dismay. He stopped eating some of our thrice-daily fare. Unfortunately, before I came to know the reasons behind his rebellion, he ran away from home, both to escape the repressive parents-always-know-best atmosphere in our home, and to find his own way. I was only ten then, Jerry was sixteen: it was to be many years before he was heard from again.

I went on in my carnivorous ways. Right up to and into the Air Force, I went on eating meat whether it was served by my parents or obtained on my own. My first Air Force duty station was in Texas where the motto is "cattle is king" (although cattle are of course the slaves); so a night at the steak house was a regular affair.

Then, at the age of twenty, I received a hardship discharge to go home and help my family through some rough waters.

A Life-Changing Phone Call

So I was back in my hometown, living with my younger brother just a few blocks from the house I'd grown up in, when the phone rang one day. To my great surprise, I heard the voice of long-lost brother Jerry. He had been living in Puerto Rico, and now, on his way to Hawaii, was on layover at the local airport. I talked him into extending his layover for several days and was soon on my way to the airport.

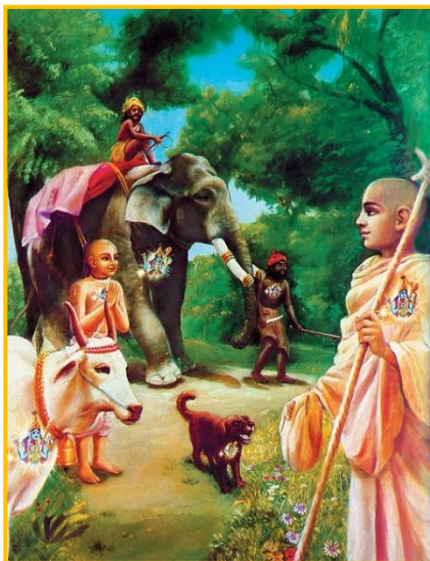
The person I saw at curbside did not look like the crewcut kid that I had known; he looked like traditional

pictures of Jesus, but with wire rimmed glasses, yoga pants, and a white cotton pullover shirt. He looked very mellow—and believe me, he was just that.

Back at my house, after we'd caught up on some family news, he began to tell me of his adventures after leaving home. He had made his way to Montreal, Canada, where he had met up with and spent considerable time with Hare Krishna devotees. He had not become a full-fledged follower, but had read some Vedic texts and had become a vegetarian.

A New World Opens up

He then began what I thought of as preaching at me (though now I see it as teaching me) about the bad karma of a meat-based diet. These ideas were all so new, and involved so huge a change, that I hesitated. He told me I needed to read the *Bhagavad-gita As It Is*. I found it at the local library, and spent the next two days absorbing what it had to say about the pitfalls of the only style of diet I knew. It told me that "*The humble sage, by virtue of true knowledge, sees with equal vision a learned and gentle brāhmaṇa [a priest], a cow, an elephant, a dog and a dog-eater [outcaste].*" (BG 5:18), in that they are all eternal souls trapped in different, temporary bodies. [see picture on the left] "Wow! What a concept," I thought. "I'm no better than a cow--what right do I have to kill and eat one?"



Now, I had been raised a Christian, and there is an expression of this concept in the Bible--"*For the fate of humans and of animals is the same. (...) They all have the same breath, and humans have no advantage over the animals.*" (Eccl. 3:19) Yet the nuns and priests who gave me twelve years of education, and who also dined on the beasts, had never pointed out the significance of this verse to me. My brother (and the Gita) also spoke of the law of karma. This idea of receiving the consequences of our acts also appears in the Bible--"*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.*" (Gal. 6:7) But I had failed to get that picture too. Jerry taught me about the cruelty inherent in a meat-based diet, which certainly made my karmic debt seem like one I

wouldn't be very eager to pay off! But he also explained about the great nutritional value of a meat-free, plant-based diet.

Buying the Past

So, after a good deal of soul-searching, on a day now twenty-eight years past, I made the leap: no more eating of flesh. My brother congratulated me on my decision with a heartfelt hug, and then told me it was time to get all the "dead bodies" out of my house. First, he said, all "flesh products" would come out of the refrigerator and onto the kitchen table.

Some were obvious: pork chops, hamburger. Other items surprised me: the yellow rice had chicken powder; the chili had beef powder; they too had to go. On and on we went, until most of my groceries were in the pile.

Just when I thought we were done, Jerry opened the fridge for one last look. Out came the mayonnaise and the eggs. "Eggs?" I said, "They're not meat." "They're liquid chickens," said my brother, which ended the debate.

"Now", I said "what are we gonna do with all this food? Shall we call Dad and give it to him?"

"No, we don't want the bad karma... Well, what do most people do with dead bodies?" The answer was obvious, but I didn't get it. He continued, "What are graveyards for?"

That one I couldn't miss, flabbergasted though I was. We carried all the corpses into my back yard, got a shovel, and began to dig a deep grave. Everything culled from my fridge went in, and as we covered it all up, Jerry told me that if I prayed to Lord Krishna for

forgiveness, and if I did not kill to eat again, I would also have buried my accumulation of meat-related karma as well. I had a great sense of cleansing, and felt so happy. The burial seemed like a most appropriate ritual to seal the occasion. The teaching was indelibly etched on my heart.



Gratitude

I feel a debt of gratitude I cannot repay to my brother, to the Bhagavad-gita, and most importantly, to the Lord, for He is ultimately the cause of all causes. 🌸



Real thing is bhakti, feeling

Prabhupāda: ...any language, you should submit, and you should feel that, that "I am worthless. My Guru Mahārāja has given this chance to serve Kṛṣṇa, to offer Kṛṣṇa... My Lord, I am worthless. I have no capacity to serve You. But on the order of my Guru Mahārāja, I am trying to serve You. Please do not take any offense. Accept whatever I can do. That's all. That is my request."

That mantra is sufficient. Kṛṣṇa says in the Bhagavad-gītā, *yo me bhaktyā prayacchati* [9.26]. Kṛṣṇa never said that "One who offers Me with Sanskrit mantra." *Yo me bhaktyā prayacchati*. Real thing is bhakti, feeling: "How to serve Kṛṣṇa? How to please Him?" That is wanted. Not to see that you are a very good scholar in speaking in Sanskrit or English or... That is not... Always feel that "I am worthless, but I have been, by the grace of my Guru Mahārāja, I have been given the chance. So kindly accept whatever little service I can give. I am offensive. So kindly excuse me." In this way be humble, meek, and offer your feeling, and Kṛṣṇa will be satisfied. Not that you have to show how you can speak in Sanskrit language. 🌸

Conversation on April, 1975 —Hyderabad, India



DISSAPPEARANCE DAY OF ŚRĪLA PRABHUPĀDA

—This year on November 5th, 2024—

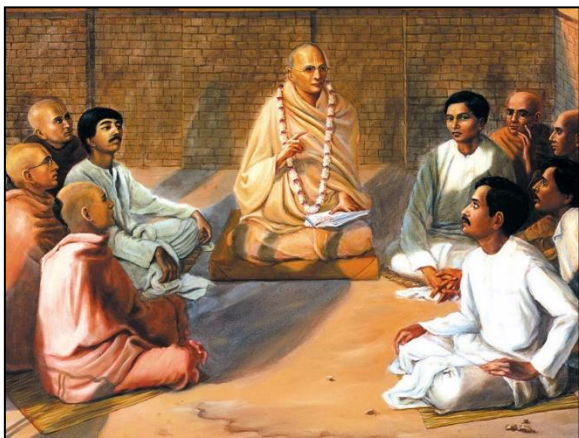
His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada appeared in a family of pure Gaudiya Vaisnavas in 1896 in Calcutta. From early childhood he showed signs of pure devotion to Lord Sri Krishna. At the tender age of five, he organized a neighborhood Ratha-yatra festival to glorify Lord Jagannatha. He authentically decorated a small cart to resemble the Lord's colossal chariot in Puri. Besides leading the kirtan party, he organized cooking and prasadam



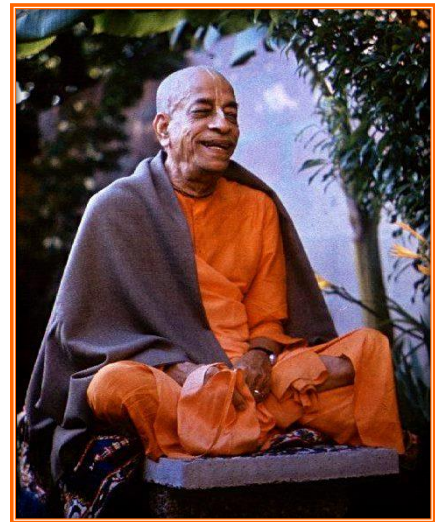
distribution. With his enthusiasm and ecstatic love for Lord Krishna he engaged the community in chanting the holy name:

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna
Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama
Rama Rama Hare Hare

Unlike other children his age who would waste their time playing, Srila Prabhupada preferred to visit the local Radha-Krishna temple. For hours together, he would lovingly gaze upon the transcendental forms of Radha-Govindaji, absorbing Their divine blessings and beautiful *darshan* [an opportunity of seeing the deity]. From his childhood, Srila Prabhupada began worshiping small Deities of Radha and Krishna. He quickly mastered the traditional beats and ragas on mrdanga [drum] and harmonium. With pure devotion, Srila Prabhupada would sing sweet devotional bhajans [devotional songs] to please Radha-Govinda.



At twenty-six, he met his eternal spiritual master Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura (picture on the right). At their first meeting, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati



Thakura gave Srila Prabhupada a divine command: "Go to the West and spread Krishna Consciousness in the English language." In full faith Srila Prabhupada embraced the order as his life and soul. After realizing his guru's teachings, he started writing and distributing the *Back to Godhead* magazine, an English language magazine on the science of Krishna consciousness. Although begun in 1944 in a small way, *Back to Godhead* now circulates worldwide in over fifty languages.

Srila Prabhupada, like all pure Vaisnavas, showed immense compassion for the suffering conditioned souls. Although they are rotting in the materialistic life of ignorance, the stubborn conditioned souls insist that they "have no time for spiritual life." Neither their indifference, nor the sizzling summer heat of Delhi, India, could keep Srila Prabhupada from distributing the cooling balm of Krishna consciousness. Once, while selling *Back to Godhead*, he collapsed on the street from heat stroke. Yet he remained fixed in his determination to please his spiritual master.

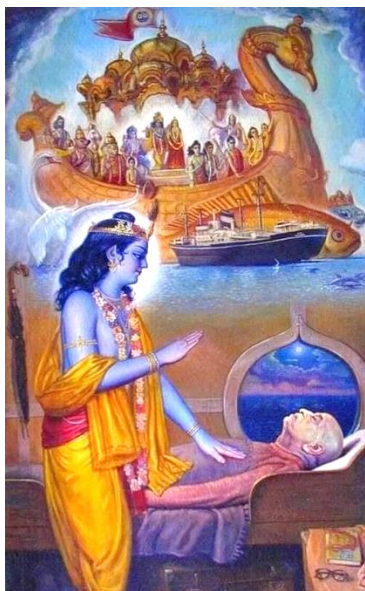
Prabhupāda took sannyasa [the renounced order of life] in 1959, after retiring from household life. Taking shelter of Vrindavan, he rented a bhajan kutir [small apartment] in the Radha-Damodara temple. There, Srila Prabhupada spent the next six years performing intensive Krishna chanting, writing, and printing²⁰. At this time, he began his life's main literary work, an English translation (with commentary) of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, which contains 18,000 verses. For Srila Prabhupāda, it was out of a devotional outpouring, more than a mere translation from esoteric Sanskrit to understandable English. He once said that his Srimad-Bhagavatam commentaries are actually expressions of his "devotional ecstasies." Working alone, Srila

Prabhupada wrote, begged money to print, and personally hauled the paper to publish the first three volumes of Srimad-Bhagavatam. Recollecting these times, he once said humbly to his disciples:

"I did not know anything about writing. But my spiritual master told me to spread Lord Krishna's glories in English. So this is what I tried to do, following in the steps of my Guru Maharaja. He was such a transcendental aristocrat. I had no great personal qualifications. I just tried to follow his instructions."

Other disciples of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura tried unsuccessfully to preach Krishna consciousness in English-speaking Europe. Srila Prabhupada, however, had full faith in his guru and Krishna's name. Fearless, he brought Krishna Consciousness to the world's most powerful country, America. Besides speaking English and being a "superpower," America was leading the world in the sinful activities of meat eating, illicit sex, gambling, and intoxication. If Americans would take up Krishna consciousness, thought Srila Prabhupada, then surely it would spread to "every town and village," as Lord Chaitanya predicted five-hundred years ago. After all, "What's a glorious victory without a glorious fight," which Srila Prabhupada would sometimes say.

At the age of seventy, armed with a pair of kartals [hand cymbals] and a crate of his translated Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam volumes, Srila Prabhupada set off to America in 1965 on the steamship "Jaladuta." During

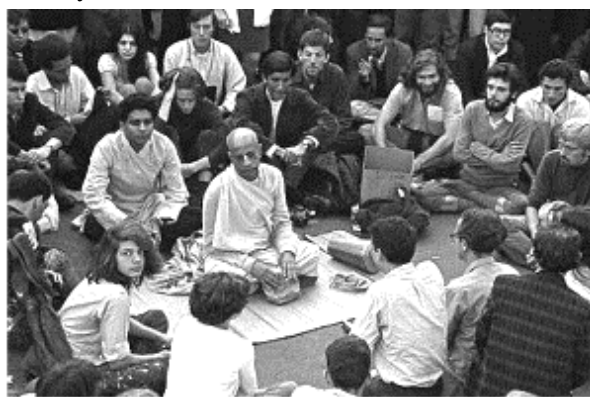


this prayer upon reaching New York City:

the arduous forty-day sea journey, the ship met heavy storms. For two consecutive nights, he had severe heart attacks, which almost killed him. On the third night, Lord Krishna appeared to Srila Prabhupada in a dream. The Supreme Lord Himself was pulling the ship to America, encouraging Srila Prabhupada and giving him all protection. Srila Prabhupada penned

"My dear Lord Krishna, You are so kind upon this useless soul, but I do not know why You have brought me here. Now You can do whatever You like with me. How shall I make them understand the message of Krishna consciousness? I am very unfortunate, unqualified, and most fallen. Therefore, I am seeking Your benediction so I can convince them. For I am powerless to do so on my own. O Lord, I am like a puppet in Your hands. So if You have brought me here to dance, then make me dance, make me dance, O Lord, make me dance as You like."

In Manhattan, Srila Prabhupada struggled through the icy cold snowbound winter of 1965. He continued writing and occasionally selling a few volumes of his Bhagavatam . But for one year nothing really happened. Gradually, a few yoga students began attending his classes on Bhagavad-gita. The word spread that an "Indian swami was in town teaching a unique yoga method: chanting Hare Krishna." After his room was robbed, he moved into a small storefront apartment at 26 Second Avenue in the Lower East Side.



In nearby Tompkins Square Park [picture on left], Srila Prabhupada led the first public chanting of Hare Krishna in the Western world. On July 13, 1966, he founded ISKCON (The International Society for Krishna

Consciousness) and initiated a dozen disciples. To receive initiation disciples must promise to give up all forms of illicit sex, meat eating, intoxication, and gambling. Srila Prabhupada was well on his way to realizing his mission.

Under Srila Prabhupada's pure guidance the Krishna consciousness movement quickly flourished. Within months ISKCON Radha-Krishna temples opened in New York, San Francisco, Boston, Los Angeles, Montreal and London. In the 1970's, he traveled around the world fourteen times, establishing 108 Radha-Krishna temples in all the major cities of the Americas, Europe, Africa, India, Asia, and Australia. He also initiated a total of five thousand sincere disciples from different nationalities. He opened ashrams and pure vegetarian "Govinda's" restaurants. On every continent he started Vedic gurukulas [schools] and goshalas [protective shelters for cows].

Srila Prabhupada was the first spiritual master to introduce both elegant Deity worship of Radha and Krishna and the annual Ratha-yatra festival of Lord



Jagannatha [a form of Krishna] in the western countries. ISKCON's Jagannatha Ratha-yatra festivals, complete with three beautiful wooden carts carrying Lord Jagannatha, Lord Baladeva, and Lady Subhadra, a thunderous sankirtan procession, and massive prasadam distribution, take place every year in over two-hundred cities worldwide.

Though constantly traveling and preaching to priests, princes, politicians, philosophers, scientists, and his disciples, Srila Prabhupada kept translating the Srimad-Bhagavatam. He wrote over eighty books about Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. The *Teachings of Lord Chaitanya*, *Nectar of Devotion*, *The Science of Self-Realization*, and English translations with commentaries on *Srimad-Bhagavatam*, *Bhagavad-gita As It Is*, *Śrī Isopanisad*, *Nectar of Devotion*, and *Caitanya Caritāmṛta* are some of his works. Prabhupada's books have been translated into fifty languages such as French, German, Italian, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Japanese, Swahili, Hindi, Bengali, etc. Almost a billion copies have been distributed worldwide.

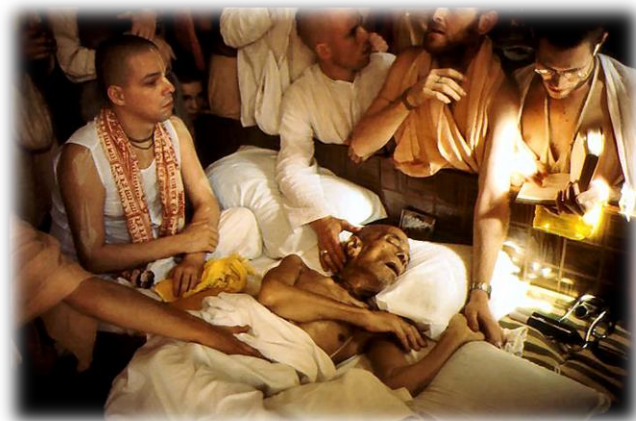


In only eleven years, between the ages of seventy and eighty-one, Srila Prabhupada accomplished his mission. He credited his phenomenal success to an unshakeable faith in his spiritual master and the Holy Names of Lord Sri Krishna. He was not an ordinary person. Srila Prabhupada was personally chosen and empowered by the Supreme Lord to spread Krishna consciousness and chanting of the Hare Krishna mantra all over the world.

In his last days, on his deathbed, Śrīla Prabhupāda continue to translate and comment on the Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam (10th Canto). He was lucid till the end.



On November 14, 1977, in Vrindavan [India], during the auspicious month of Kartika, Srila Prabhupada chanted Hare Krishna one last time and went back to Godhead. He was surrounded by loving disciples



singing their hearts out in kirtan and shedding tears of separation. Srila Prabhupada's samadhi [resting place] is in Vrindavan, at the ISKCON Krishna-Balarama temple. 🌸

How do I observe the Disappearance day of Śrīla Prabhupāda?

Devotees observe this day with personal remembrances of Srila Prabhupada, and by readings from his books and his biography, and by extra japa and kirtan.

The day of a great devotee's appearance and disappearance are auspicious times to pray for service and mercy.

Calendar

OCTOBER 2024

- 13 Oct 2024 - Ramacandra Vijayotsava (Lord Ramacandra's victory over the demon Ravana)
- 13 Oct 2024 - Appearance Day of Sri Madhvacharya
- 14 Oct 2024 - **Pasankusa Ekadasi**
- 15 Oct 2024 - Disappearance Day of Srila Raghunatha Dasa Goswami
- 15 Oct 2024 - Disappearance Day of Srila Raghunatha Bhatta Goswami
- 15 Oct 2024 - Disappearance Day of Srila Krsnadasa Kaviraja Goswami
- 17 Oct 2024 - Disappearance Day of Sri Murari Gupta
- 18 Oct 2024 - Fourth Month of Caturmasya Begins -fast from urad dahl
- 21 Oct 2024 - Disappearance Day of Srila Narottama Dasa Thakura
- 28 Oct 2024 - **Rama Ekadasi**

NOVEMBER 2024

- 02 Nov 2024 - Appearance Day of Rasikananda
- 02 Nov 2024 - Govardhana Puja
- 03 Nov 2024 - Disappearance Day of Sri Vasudeva Ghosh
- 05 Nov 2024 - **Disappearance Day of Srila Prabhupada**
- 09 Nov 2024 - Disappearance Day of Sri Gadadhara Dasa Goswami
- 09 Nov 2024 - Disappearance Day of Sri Dhananjaya Pandita
- 09 Nov 2024 - Disappearance Day of Sri Srinivasa Acharya
- 12 Nov 2024 - **Utthana Ekadasi**
- 12 Nov 2024 - Disappearance Day of Srila Gaura Kisora Dasa Babaji Maharaja
- 15 Nov 2024 - Disappearance Day of Sri Bhugarbha Goswami
- 15 Nov 2024 - Disappearance Day of Sri Kasisvara Pandita
- 15 Nov 2024 - Appearance Day of Sri Nimbarkacharya
- 15 Nov 2024 - Last Day of Caturmasya
- 26 Nov 2024 - **Utpanna Ekadasi**
- 26 Nov 2024 - Disappearance Day of Sri Narahari Sarakara Thakura
- 27 Nov 2024 - Disappearance Day of Sri Kaliya Krsnadasa
- 27 Nov 2024 - Disappearance Day of Sri Saranga Thakura

DECEMBER 2024

- 11 Dec 2024 - Advent of Srimad Bhagavad-gita
- 11 Dec 2024 - **Moksada Mahadvadashi**
- 19 Dec 2024 - **Disappearance Day of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura**
- 26 Dec 2024 - **Saphala Ekadasi**

