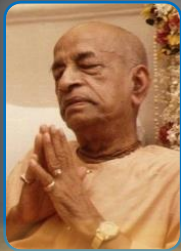


Freedom Newsletter



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

ISKCON Prison Ministry / January 2025

PO Box 2676
Alachua, FL 32616

ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY

The following conversation between His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada and one of his disciples took place in Bhuvanesvara, India.

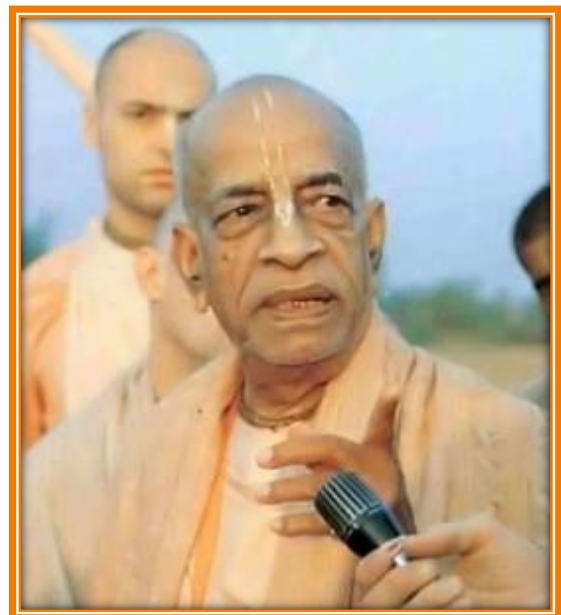
Devotee: Srila Prabhupada, one criticism against our Krishna consciousness movement is that we are following absolute authority. People are critical because we rigidly adhere to your authority and to the authority of the scriptures. They say this is not a healthy psychology.

Srila Prabhupada; Their criticism is a contradiction. If they say authority is not good, then why are they criticizing us? They are trying to impose their own authority on us.

Devotee [in the role of an antagonist]: I don't say you have to accept me as an authority.

Srila Prabhupada: Then you are talking nonsense. You are like a merchant selling his wares, but telling the customer, "You don't have to buy from me." What is the use of his selling? And what is the use of your instruction, if I don't have to accept you as an authority?

Devotee: Well, everyone has his own life to live, so each person should take the best from many authorities.



I might accept some ideas from your philosophy and some from various other philosophies as well. I can take whatever I think is best for me.

Srila Prabhupada: But if you find the best of everything all in one place, then why should you run here and there?

Devotee: Well, history teaches us that whenever there is absolute authority, it isn't healthy—like Hitler's Germany, for example.

Srila Prabhupada: Absolute authority is bad when the authority is wrong. But if the authority is right, then it is good—because you can submit to one authority and receive all knowledge. It's like going to a supermarket; we can get everything there in one place.

Devotee: But people often confuse our allegiance to scriptural authority with totalitarianism. One professor told me that if the Krishna consciousness movement ever became powerful, we would probably be intolerant towards all other religions.

Srila Prabhupada: That means he does not understand us.

Devotee: Suppose someone didn't want to be a devotee in a society with a Krishna-conscious king or president. What would happen to him?

Srila Prabhupada: The king must chastise him—he has that power. For example, if a child says, "Father, I don't believe in education; let me play," the father will never allow it. The king's duty is to guide the citizens like that.

Devotee: But if someone wanted to be a Christian in a society governed by a Krishna-conscious leader, would that person be chastised?

Srila Prabhupada: The father does not chastise always, but only when his son does something wrong. To practice the Christian religion means to believe in God and abide by His orders. A faithful Christian would not be persecuted in a society with Krishna-conscious leadership.

Devotee: So the Christians would be allowed to follow the Bible?

Srila Prabhupada: Yes. To follow the Bible is certainly religion. But the Christians today do not follow their scripture. The Bible says, "Thou shall not kill," but they are killing millions of cows and eating their flesh. What kind of Christianity is that?

Devotee: So they should be chastised.

Srila Prabhupada: Yes, they should be punished. That is the duty of the king. You may follow any bona fide religion and receive all protection by the Krishna-conscious government. But if you don't follow your

own religion faithfully, then you must be corrected. That is the king's duty. A king cannot dictate that you must follow one particular religious faith, but he can order that you follow some religion. If you have no religion, then you're an animal, and you must be chastised. Religion means the instruction given by God (*dharmam tu saksad bhagavat-pranitam*). And to be religious means to obey God and to love Him. So it doesn't matter through what religious process you have understood God. The important thing is that you love God and abide by His orders. Then you are religious. But if you do not know God—or if you have some imaginary god—then you must learn who God actually is. And if you refuse to learn, then you must be punished.

Devotee: If someone says, "I know God," what is the test to see if he really does?

Srila Prabhupada: The test is that he must be able to explain about God to others. Ask him, "Can you say what God is?"

Devotee: "God is the force moving the universe."

Srila Prabhupada: So that means you do not know God. Who is *behind* the force?

Whenever there is force, there must be a person who is forceful—who is forcing. Who is that?

Devotee: I don't have such vision.

Srila Prabhupada: Then learn about God from me. And if you refuse, then you must be punished. You see, the king has to see that the citizens are God conscious. That is his duty.

Devotee: Then a Krishna-conscious leader has to be like a father.

Srila Prabhupada: Yes. That quality was personally exhibited by Lord Ramacandra. He treated His

subjects like His own sons, and they treated Lord Rama as their father. The relationship between the king and the citizens should be like that between a father and his sons.

Devotee: The chastisement that the king gives...

Srila Prabhupada: That is out of love, not enviousness. Chastisement means correction. If a citizen is acting wrongly, he has to be corrected. This is actually Krishna's business in human society: to chastise the miscreants, to give protection to the godly persons, and to establish the true principles of religion. This is the mission of the Supreme Personality of Godhead in the world, and we have to execute His mission. Gradually Krishna-conscious devotees have to take the posts of leadership and correct the whole human society. 🌸



LIFE of PURE DEVOTEES

Gopal Bhatta Goswami —(appearance day, this year: January 18th)

A brief synopsis of Gopal Bhatta Goswami (1503-1578) and the appearance of the Radha Raman deity.

In the summer of 1510, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu began a walking journey throughout Southern India.

After many days He came to a small city called Shri Rangam. The main temple here is the largest Vishnu temple in all of India and pilgrims come from 100's of miles to see the Deity, Ranganatha.

Here Lord Chaitanya met Vyankata Bhatta and his two brothers. They were brahmanas looking after the deity. Vyankata's seven-year-old son was Gopal Bhatta.

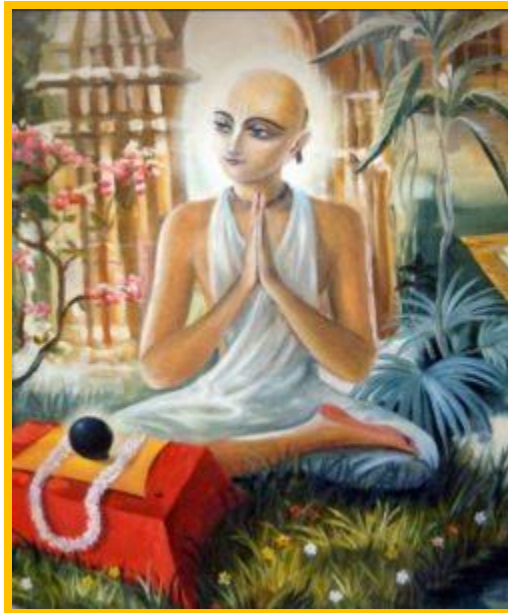
Lord Chaitanya stayed for four months of the rainy season and using logical and scriptural foundations, He induced Vyankata to worship Krsna. Meanwhile Lord Chaitanya had been allowing young Gopal Bhatta to serve Him the whole time He was there.

When it was time for Lord Chaitanya to leave, Vyankata Bhatta fainted out of separation and young Gopal cried with tears of love. Just to pacify them Lord Chaitanya agreed to stay a few more days. During this time Gopal Bhatta had a dream of Lord Chaitanya. He appeared to Gopal Bhatta as Krsna and then transformed Himself back into His form as Sri Chaitanya.

In this dream Gopal Bhatta was instructed by Lord Chaitanya, *"You will meet two jewel-like persons, Rupa and Sanatan. I have given them my mentality in order to publish my teachings. But by your own disciple, especially, these teachings will spread to every town and village."*

Upon awakening, Gopal Bhatta went directly to Lord Chaitanya to serve Him. Lord Chaitanya instructed him, *"For now, stay here and serve your mother and father. After they have departed this world you may go to Vrindavan and join Rupa and Sanatan. Always engage yourself in hearing and chanting the glories of Krsna."*

When he grew up Gopal Bhatta accepted his uncle Prabodhananda as his spiritual master. He studied scripture and became renowned throughout the lands as a great scholar. Eventually after the death of his parents, Gopal Bhatta proceeded to Vrindavan where he was greeted with great love by Srila Rupa Goswami and Srila Sanatan Goswami.



On hearing of his arrival in Vrindavan Lord Chaitanya sent a letter to Rupa and Sanatan. Along with this letter He sent a package for Gopal Bhatta which included some of his personal articles (for worship). One item in particular, a small black wooden seat, used by Lord Chaitanya Himself, is still worshiped in a temple in Vrindavan. Upon the arrival of the letter all the devotees became ecstatic and started chanting the holy Names of God.

Gopal Bhatta was deeply grateful that Sri Chaitanya had sent some of His personal articles and he treasured the sacred paraphernalia for the remaining years of his life.

Living his life as an embodiment of the scriptures, Gopal Bhatta's fame spread throughout India and he became known as the younger brother of Rupa and Sanatan.

Once he travelled by foot to the Gandaki River in Nepal, a long and arduous journey. There he found twelve *shilas* (sacred stones) and brought them back to Vrindavan.

Upon arriving back in Vrindavan, he felt unqualified to worship his sacred stones, so he again journeyed back to Nepal to replace them in the Gandaki River. While chanting he carefully placed the *shilas* in the holy river. But they spontaneously jumped back into his hands. Trying three or four times to leave them in the river, he found he was unable to do so. He took them back to Vrindavan to worship. He carried them at all times in a cloth bag that hung from his neck. Eight years after Lord Chaitanya's disappearance, Gopal Bhatta felt the need to worship Krishna's deity in

his personal form. This was intensified after a wealthy merchant gave him jewelry and fine cloth for the worship of Kṛṣṇa.

Gopal Bhatta placed these items before his *shilas* and fervently prayed for proper direction. The next morning he found that one of the *shilas* known as the Damodar *shila* had transformed into a Deity of Kṛṣṇa. Gopal Bhatta fell to the ground immediately and offered beautiful prayers.

Hearing of this miraculous event, Rupa Goswami, Sanatan Goswami and many other Vaishnavas hurried to the spot. They were there when Gopal Bhatta named the deity Shri Radha Raman.

NOTES: Sri Gopal Bhatta Goswami was one of the Six Goswamis of Vrindavan, a prominent Vaishnava saint and a direct disciple of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. He was known for his humility, devotion, and scholarly contributions to the Gaudiya Vaishnavism tradition. He was also known for his exceptional cooking, sweet singing of the Bhagavatam, and his strict adherence to devotional practices.

Despite his significant contributions, Gopal Bhatta Goswami remained humble and requested not to be prominently mentioned in the Chaitanya-charitamrita, showcasing his self-effacing nature.

He played a crucial role in the establishment of the Bhakti cult in Vrindavan and left behind a rich legacy of spiritual literature. He contributed to Gaudiya Vaishnavism through his service and writings.

He was responsible for writing treatises that exposed aberrant philosophies and practices adulterating the teachings of spontaneous pure devotion, while emphasizing the importance of *vaidhi-bhakti* (devotional service following the prescribed rules and regulations before the heart is pure). His contributions are significant in the development and preservation of Gaudiya Vaishnavism.



The self-manifested Radha Raman Deity

Gopal Bhatta Goswami's life exemplifies the essence of devotion and surrender to the Supreme Lord. His dedication to spreading the message of

love and devotion continues to inspire generations of spiritual seekers. 🌸

Drops of Nectar

Prabhupāda: So here Kṛṣṇa says, *kaunteya pratijānēhi*: "Please declare in the world that anyone who has taken to this Kṛṣṇa consciousness will never be destroyed. He will never go back again to that material life of sense gratification and pull on this material existence full of miseries. He will be taken out. He will be taken out sooner or later. As he has taken to this Kṛṣṇa consciousness, he will be never destroyed." Our destruction is... You always remember: our destruction means material existence is the destruction of our spiritual existence. Because destroyed does not mean that as spiritual being, I will be nowhere, no. This is my position, nowhere. I do not know. Just like I am being kicked like a football. I have no place. You have seen football playing. The football has no place. As soon as comes, somebody's feet, he kicks. He goes to another body. He kicks. He's another body—kicking. His only situation is being kicked, football. So we are just like football. We are being kicked up. Now I am American. Next time I shall be kicked up to China. Maybe. And from China, I will be kicked up to India. And from India, I shall be kicked up to Burma or kicked up to another place. This is going on. We do not know how we are being kicked up like a football from one place to another, one place to another. This is all false notion. How long I shall remain here?

Excerpt from a lecture by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, Founder-Acarya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, on *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, chapter 9, texts 29-32 — December 20, 1966, given in New York.

Excerpts from inmates' letters

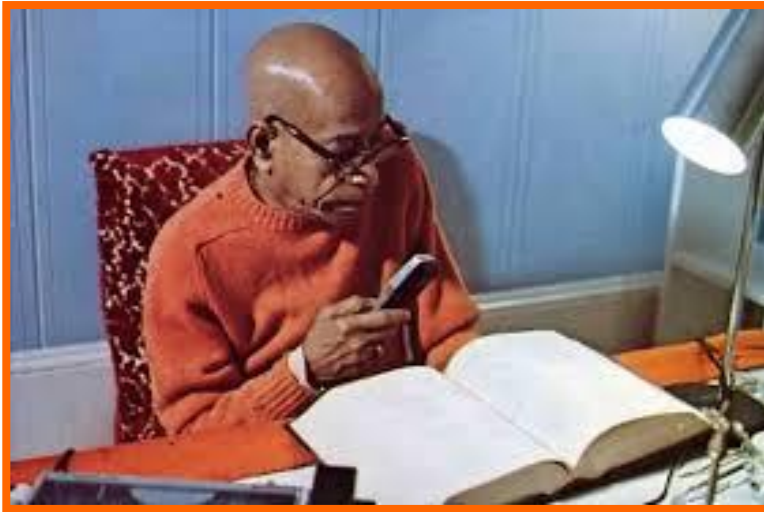
Along with the chanting of the mantra comes the study of Srila Prabhupada's books. These books convey the knowledge that allows an understanding of both the material and spiritual worlds. One who has absorbed this knowledge can rise above the dualities of the material nature and remain fixed in his focus on spiritual life. Although I have begun this journey, I still feel the knowledge affecting me in positive ways each day. Were it not for Srila

Prabhupada taking the time to write these books, and the Krishna Consciousness movement printing and distributing them, I know I would still be lost in the forest of illusion and the darkness of ignorance. However, now that I have begun to absorb and apply some of this knowledge I feel aided in the struggles of life. I am eternally indebted to Srila Prabhupada and the Krishna Conscious movement for having delivered both the wisdom of the sastras and the mercy of the Maha mantra to me.

Carl S. —Raiford Florida

What truly blows me away though, is how this man from India, whom I never met, could become so very special and necessary to me. He is my air and I cannot do without his association. I have a picture of him (taken from a magazine) which I always carry with me. It gives me the strength and inspiration to try to live and act properly.

Srila Prabhupada left behind everything he knew to bring Krishna Consciousness here. He dedicated his life to producing literature we now have to study. We can never repay this. Were it not for his compassion for us, we should never have had the opportunity to know Lord Krishna. In addition to this, not only did he give us the chance, Prabhupada also set for us an example of what we must do in return.



Śrīla Prabhupāda translating scriptures from Sanskrit to English, and speaking his Bhaktivedanta Purports.

His seva [service] was done for us, but also as repayment to his own spiritual master for giving him Krishna consciousness. He gave his entire life over to obeying the order of his Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati, and then he instructed us to serve God and teach others to serve God. I can only hope and pray that I shall one day be afforded the chance to serve him at the feet of his devotees.

The letter of the volunteer from IPM [ISKCON

Prison Ministry] states that "It is our duty to Srila Prabhupāda, and those who come before and after him, to develop Krishna Consciousness, and to help others to do the same." I can't, in fact, think of any other way to serve him. His Divine grace gave up everything—his family, home, security, everything—to come here under direction of his

spiritual master, and lead us, who are so unworthy, back home back to Godhead. Nothing anyone could ever do can compare to this, no amount of wealth or power will ever give us so much happiness. This is one of the greatest lessons I have been led to recognize coming here.

The blessing bestowed upon us by my beloved Prabhupada are endless and unearned, and I have found myself so unworthy of receiving them, yet they never cease. Through his books, devotees, and glorious Krishna Conscious movement, which he single-handedly brought to the West, my life has been completely transformed; peace and joy have filled my heart, and I have found the love which can only come from blessed Govinda. Through his divine grace's sacrifice [Prabhupāda], I have been allowed to know IPM, which has given me so much by allowing me association with those IPM volunteers who serve him so faithfully.

Joseph P. —Galesburg, IL

The books that I got brought me out the mode of ignorance with the torch of knowledge. It helps me to respect people more and to get in control of my senses. When I came to Krishna Consciousness. I didn't know what to expect from the religion but after reading Srila Prabhupada's books and chanting the Maha mantra, these books put me in control of my life; I was in the mode of ignorance and it made me humble and look at life differently. Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON movement has changed my life in many ways. I have tried other religious but it didn't work. I was born in darkness, but the books that IPM sends opened my eyes with the torch of knowledge. I reach out to others. Some listen and some don't; they don't know what they are missing. I



surrendered my mind, body and soul to Krishna; He will take care of my every need. I get up every morning chant the Hare Krishna Maha mantra and read or reread books on Krishna Consciousness; and my eyes open wider and wider. I follow the four regulative principles and keep Ekadashi fast. I work in the vegan kitchen and before I eat I offer my food to Krishna first and eat the remnants after. The books sent by IPM gives me Krishna Consciousness; I appreciate the kindness and friendship of IPM, and I am thankful to IPM for bringing me from darkness to the light of Krishna Consciousness. I would not have found Krishna if IPM hadn't sent me books or had not written to me.
Lamar W. —Helena, MT



Book Distribution Stories!

Divyanga Dasa's Daily Book Distribution

Divyanga dasa is a true warrior in Lord Caitanya's army. Almost every day, for over thirty years, he goes out in the streets (in USA), in parking lots, in stores, anywhere there are people, and, guided by the Supersoul within, he meets people who are ready to learn about Krishna. There are those who are deeply inquisitive, and others who are just mildly curious—and everything else in between—but they are open enough to purchase one of Śrīla Prabhupāda's books. Below, Divyanga recounts tidbits of some of his exchanges with these fortunate souls.

→ I'd been in a store a couple times and they liked the books. This time when I walked in, Tyler, the manager comes out



of the office and says, "Man I've been waiting for you to come back."

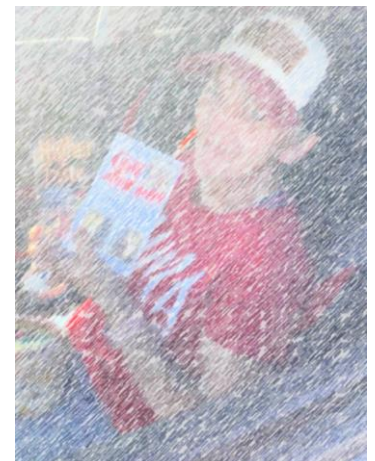
He said he found three of our books on the shelf in the office. The employees had put them there. They told him 'some guy came in and gave them to us.' "No one was reading them so I took them home. I love them Got any more?" He took a few more and I thanked him and said, 'Merry Christmas!' to which he enthusiastically replied, "Hare Kṛṣṇa!"

→A high school kid loved the Gita and looked at every picture in it.

→A young woman loved the Gita and a book about other planets and said, "I know there's others out there; this can't possibly ALL there is!"



ABOVE: Divyanga (left). Even Santa Clauss gets a book!



→ An old hippie loves the Beatles. When I handed him the Gita he said “Woah, that’s a big book”. I respond, “Yeah, it’s about a thousand pages. I read a chapter a day.” He says, “Here’s another donation to cover the printing.”

→ “Thank you thank you I’ll be reading this.”

→ “Mantra meditation?!?! Ok. we need some peace.”

→ Nice kid says, “Free from stress?!? I’ll take it. Thank you for being out here.”
I reply, “Hare Kṛṣṇa. My pleasure.”

→ A young man says, “All I have is three bucks. But here, it’s all yours.”
I reply, “We’re not in this for the money.”
“Good damn thing.”
“Read it and share with your peeps.”



→ An older woman says, “I’m going to through some tough times but I’m not givin up. Thanks for being out here.”



→ A gas station employee, “Oh, sweetie, you made my day. I have teenagers. I’ll be pushin back on the stress factor.”
Push on, dear sister.

→ A man says, “I’ll definitely be reading this. Thank you.”
“Don’t mention it. This is what we do.
Sharing spiritual knowledge is the highest welfare activity. Read and share.”



→ A super cool employee at Walmart took a Gita and a *Beyond Birth and Death*. He loves anything spiritual.

→ Funny “cat lady” (that’s what she calls herself).
Has nine cats. She said she’s been vegetarian most of her life. “I just don’t want to hurt any of our animals.”
She’s 86 and has a really great sense of humor.



Gold Nugget!

Prabhupada: There is no question of becoming perfect. Try to become perfect. That is perfect. Remain always student and try to become perfect. That is wanted.

Morning Walk – April 26, 1976, Melbourne, Australia

Inmate Artwork



LEFT: Drawing of Śrīla Prabhupāda by inmate David B. —Danbury, Connecticut



ABOVE: Crochet : Indra’s elephant, Airavata -by inmate Rakesh P. —Danbury, Connecticut



THE BBT ART CALENDARS ARE IN!

If you would like to receive an Art Calendar, please write to:

**Upendra Dasa
PO BOX 9116
BOISE ID 83707-9116**

Before doing so, however, make sure you are allowed to receive one. It is expensive to send them so we want to prevent them being returned.

Size: 9”x12” (when closed).



PRABHUPĀDA MEMORIES

By Bhargava Dasa —excerpt

The first time I saw Prabhupada was in Boston in 1972. It was at the airport and he got off the plane onto an open, outdoor ramp. It was magical and dramatic. It was the end of the day, and there was a beautiful, golden sun on Prabhupada. The devotees gave him a huge, heavy lotus garland, and Prabhupada turned to the bunch of reporters there. Being a photographer, I know how much people enjoy being photographed and being the center of attention, but when Prabhupada turned to face the photographers and pose, I saw that there wasn't ego in it. He was like a diplomat for Krishna. That impressed me.

The devotees had rented a room for Prabhupada at the Sheraton, but he decided that he didn't want to go there. He said, "These hotels are like brothels." Instead he went to the temple even though it was small, noisy, and crowded (devotees had come from New York and Montreal). Prabhupada's room was bare. It only had a thick foam pad and a little dais for him to sit. But he was happy. For him it was much more than a fancy hotel suite at the Sheraton. He wanted to be with Krishna and the devotees. That impressed me too.

Every now and then I would get a little depressed. Once, while kirtan was going on in the Manor, I drifted into depression. I was moping, moving back and forth slowly while everybody else was dancing in ecstasy. Prabhupada looked at me and motioned for me to dance too. I suddenly felt a wave go through me, and I started dancing like a wild man. Prabhupada reached out to his disciples. There were 150 other devotees in the room, but he reached out to me in that way and to every other devotee in some way or other. Everyone had a personal, special connection with Prabhupada.

Another time I was lamenting and feeling depressed while I was in Prabhupada's room. I thought, "Prabhupada is going to chastise me or feel that he's wasting his time on me." But in fact, Prabhupada was sweet to me. He could see how fragile I was, and he talked to me just like he'd preach to a new devotee. He told me to be patient and to follow the four regulative principles. He said that everything would work out. I was impressed that someone so learned and educated could also be so sensitive toward others.

Prabhupada said that there are two kinds of *siddhis*, or perfections, namely *sadhana* siddhi and *kripa* siddhi. One attains *sadhana* siddhi when one follows the rules and regulations of devotional service with the aim of pleasing Krishna and, by the mercy of Krishna,

becomes perfect. Prabhupada said, "Sometimes someone is not able to follow all the rules and regulations but has an overwhelming desire to perform some great service for Krishna. That person may also become perfect by the mercy of Krishna." Prabhupada gave the example of a ship's cabin boy who went to India for the British East India Company, but later on, because of his political and military exploits, was influential in bringing large parts of India into the British Empire. Due to that service, the British Empire made him a Lord.



One time, in Bury Place (England) I said, "Prabhupada, I am leaving to go back to America to work on your books." Prabhupada didn't really know me. He just saw me photographing, and we had exchanged a few words. I expected Prabhupada would be gentlemanly and distant. Instead Prabhupada recognized me. He said, "You are leaving, ohhh," as if he was really disappointed. It was like I was part of his family. That shocked me. Then Prabhupada got up, walked across the room and put his garland on me. That shocked me too. Prabhupada had an ability to look through you and see your subtle body, your mind. He could see many aspects of you that you couldn't see, or that you could see but wouldn't want anybody else to see. Psychically you stand bare before him. He sees it all, and he still loves you. Beyond that, he sees you as you can't even see yourself. That was the feeling I had, that he was seeing the impurities of my mind but it was okay. He saw me not as my body or mind but on a deeper level, and he loved me. That really touched me.

Once I asked, "Prabhupada, sometimes I fight with my God-brothers. Is that bad?" He said, "No, not necessarily." I also asked, "Prabhupada, sometimes I have problems, and the spiritual master isn't there, and it's too detailed for the scriptures. What should I do?" And he said, "If you chant Hare Krishna very nicely, all the answers will come from within." That was a timeless answer.

A devotee, Nitai, asked Prabhupada about preaching. Prabhupada explained that you find that little spark of interest that somebody has in Krishna, and you fan that spark. You help that spark grow. Prabhupada was

teaching personalism. He was teaching us to deal with each person as an individual. We should know and respect where they are starting from and try to bring them to a deeper level.

Before he was a devotee, Maharati had been a butcher and a boxer. Maharati didn't speak English. When he was initiated in the temple in Paris, he went to take his beads from Prabhupada, but Prabhupada pulled the beads back and said, "So, you will not kill any more animals?" Somebody translated. Maharati was a big guy, and Prabhupada, sitting on the vyasasan (elevated seat), was externally small, but Maharati was nervous. When he understood what Prabhupada had said, he gasped. Prabhupada gave him his beads and said, "Your name is Maharati, one who can fight with many thousands of warriors." Prabhupada could shake people up, but he did it with love. For him the basis of Krishna consciousness was love. We rationalize our illusions and are blind to our imperfections. We tend to think that what we do is perfect. But the spiritual master sees through our illusion and lovingly makes us aware of it.

I remember in Bombay, Prabhupada was speaking with an Indian gentleman. Prabhupada mentioned that he had a son that was mentally unbalanced. I had never heard that before. Prabhupada said that when this boy was a teenager he wandered off one day and was never seen again. Prabhupada knew well the suffering of the material world.

When Prabhupada was in South Africa, the first editions of the Fourth and Fifth Cantos of the Srimad-Bhagavatam arrived. Prabhupada was very pleased. It was beautiful to watch him open the books and

delicately handle them. The Bhagavatam was Krishna, they weren't "his" books. He had such respect for them. It was like he was dealing with a Deity. That impressed me.

I had come into South Africa in disguise. They would allow South African devotees to preach, but they didn't like foreign devotees coming in because they saw them as potential agitators against the apartheid program. I had a shaved head, and I had to wear a short woman's wig and a safari suit that was two sizes too big. That's all I could put together before I left from Mauritius. So I came in this way, and somehow or another I got through Immigration. It was a great miracle. Afterwards, when we were leaving South Africa, wore the same disguise. We again went through Immigration but they didn't care so much as we were leaving the country. I went through ahead of Prabhupada; he hadn't seen me in this outfit. As I was waiting in the waiting room, Prabhupada finally came in. When I turned around, he looked at me and he saw me in this ridiculous outfit and he bent over in a belly laugh, laughing. I had never seen Prabhupada laugh like that. Then his laugh turned into a chuckle. I could feel that his laughter was on two levels. The first level was how ridiculous I looked in that outfit. The other was that he knew who I was spiritually, he could see my spiritual identity, and he was laughing at the material predicament I had gotten myself into, in the material world, getting a material body. But it was done with affection, and it was a very touching moment. Anyway, I got Prabhupada to laugh, and that was nice.

Calendar

JANUARY 2025

02 Jan 2025 - Disappearance Day of Sri Jiva Goswami
02 Jan 2025 - Disappearance Day of Sri Jagadisa Pandita
10 Jan 2025 - **Putrada Ekadasi**
11 Jan 2025 - Appearance Day of Sri Jagadisa Pandita
18 Jan 2025 - Appearance Day of Srila Gopala Bhatta Goswami
18 Jan 2025 - Disappearance Day of Sri Ramchandra Kaviraja
20 Jan 2025 - Disappearance Day of Sri Jayadev Goswami
21 Jan 2025 - Disappearance Day of Sri Locana Dasa Thakura
25 Jan 2025 - **Sat-tila Ekadasi**

FEBRUARY 2025

03 Feb 2025 – Disapp. Day of Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakura
03 Feb 2025 – App. Day of Srila Raghunatha Dasa Goswami
04 Feb 2025 - **Appearance Day of Sri Advaita Acharya**
08 Feb 2025 - **Bhaimi Ekadasi**
09 Feb 2025 - Appearance of Lord Varaha
10 Feb 2025 - **Appearance Day of Nityananda**
12 Feb 2025 - Appearance Day of Srila Narottama Dasa Thakura
17 Feb 2025 - **Appearance Day of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura**
24 Feb 2025 - **Vijaya Ekadasi**