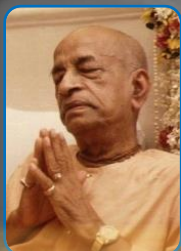


# Freedom Newsletter



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

## ISKCON Prison Ministry / February 2025

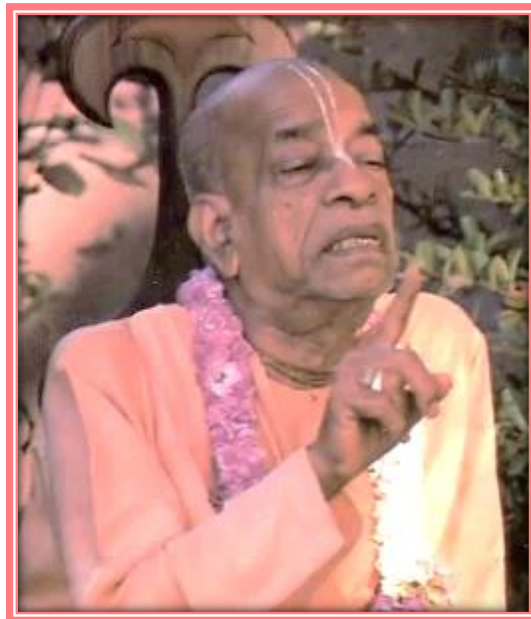
PO Box 2676  
Alachua, FL 32616

### PRABHUPADA SPEAKS OUT —On Brainwashing

*The following conversation between His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada and one of his disciples took place in 1977.*

In October 1977, a Queens, New York, a grand jury leveled charges of extortion and “imprisonment through brainwashing” against New York ISKCON Temple President Adi-Kesava Swami. In mid-February, one month before State Supreme Court Justice John J. Leahy threw the case out of court, Adi-Kesava traveled to ISKCON’s temple in Mayapur, India, to take advice from his spiritual master, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. The following excerpts from their conversations on the subject of “brainwashing” are reproduced from the journal of Srila Prabhupada’s secretary.

**Srila Prabhupada** said, “The whole world is under a misconception, and we are giving them knowledge. And yet they say we are brainwashing. People in general do not know that the body is valuable only as long as the soul is there. Therefore, their brain is



rubbish and must be washed, or human civilization is lost.”

**Srila Prabhupada** gave this argument: “We are not brainwashing, but brain-giving. Where is your brain? You must first *have* a brain; then we can talk of *washing* it. You don’t know who you are. Take a dead man and a living man—what is the difference? Because you do not know, you have no brain, and therefore you misunderstand. We can give evidence in court from the *Bhagavad-gita* to show this. We can prove that you have no brain. You are like the cats and dogs, even if you pose as a philosopher. For centuries this information has been missing: *tatha dehantara praptih*, ‘The soul is changing, one body after another.’ A person who has a brain will understand this simple logic. The body is changing from childhood to youth. When the important thing, the soul, is missing, it is a dead body. Where is your brain to understand it? Arjuna was chastised for this by Krishna, who said, ‘You have no brain, and you are lamenting about the body.’ They don’t know the real thing, despite their big talk. They say life is a combination of chemicals; but then mix them and let life come. You can’t do it. You are cheating people. You have no brain at all.”

**Adi-Kesava Swami [playing the part of an opponent]:** “But I have a brain; therefore, I am able to talk with you.”

**Srila Prabhupada:** What is the difference between that talking and the barking of a dog? A dog is alert to someone coming from a distance, even more than a man. Your talking is not proof of a brain.

**Adi-Kesava Swami:** “But we have art and science.”

**Srila Prabhupada:** Whatever you have, you cannot answer the ultimate question. Within the body is the real power. Because *he* is there, the body is changing. The body is like a dress. You should quote the *Bhagavad-gita*.

**Adi-Kesava Swami:** Another complaint is that they say we make a person lose his identity by brainwashing him.

**Srila Prabhupada:** But who are *they*? They do not know who they *are*. They are identifying the self with the body. *That* is brainwashing.

**Adi-Kesava Swami:** Well, they may say that “all this discussion of the soul is beyond our knowledge.”

**Srila Prabhupada:** “It is beyond our knowledge” means you can’t understand.

February 19, 1977 [journal entry]: This morning **Srila Prabhupada** called for all the *sannyasis* [fully renounced preachers of Krishna consciousness]. “Be

convinced of this,” he said. “I am saying that everyone in the world has no brain, and we only are brain-giving. Why do I say this? Because I challenge the world’s scientists and great thinkers: ‘You just produce a machine like the body.’ But they cannot. This machine is produced by God. Actually, God Himself does not make this machine. His servant, the material energy, makes the machine: Just see His intelligence. ‘The Supreme Lord is seated in everyone’s heart,’ says the *Bhagavad-gita*. I am an ordinary man, and yet I can get things done—not directly, but by asking my disciples. So why can’t God do this? The machine of the body is made by His material nature. How is it made? They don’t know. If I challenge them to produce such a machine, they cannot. How this machine is being made by *maya*, or the material energy, we shall give them the brain to know. We should not be dull and simply accept whatever the scientists say, by noting, ‘Yes, you are right.’ No. At every step we must say, ‘You are wrong. You have no brain.’ “

**Adi-Kesava Swami:** Well, they say they have actually created a machine which is more complex than a man.

**Srila Prabhupada:** But that machine is worked by another man. And who made that man? They cannot even understand God’s material nature, what to speak of the Supreme.

**Adi-Kesava Swami:** When we argue like this, they just change the subject.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Why do you let them? Capture them.

**Adi-Kesava Swami:** Well, they will say, “You are talking of religion...”

**Srila Prabhupada:** We are not talking of religion! You don’t know religion. We are talking of machines. An animal has no religion. Later we can talk of that. Now talk of machines. Religion is far away from you. And even if you could manufacture one living machine, these machines are now being created in such numbers that you are trying to stop their creation by abortion. So, so many are already being produced by nature. If you can create one, what will be your credit?

**Adi-Kesava Swami:** They will say, “We will make a better machine than God has made.”

**Srila Prabhupada:** Oh. You cannot capture a garter snake, and now you are saying you will catch a cobra.

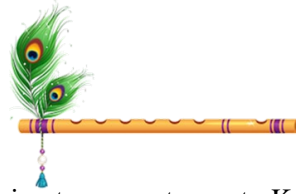
**Adi-Kesava Swami:** “Well, you can’t make a brain either.”

**Srila Prabhupada:** We don’t say that we have a great brain. We are a servant. Our Master will show the brain. But you are a godless rascal. You have the onus of proof on you. 🌸

Note: Related article “Brainwashing Accusations” on page 4.



## Excerpts from inmates' letters



“Yes, you are correct!!! it is not easy practicing in this environment. so many prejudices and obstacles! However it is an honor to serve and I go the extra mile to fight for my right to practice and once I have exhausted all available options I move and let Krsna make a way! I trust in Him to clear the path. He knows our genuine desire to practice and serve and the restrictions of our situation and I believe He will make a way! Krsna has been so good to me!!!! He made this transition from our old facility to this one way easier and placed me in the right dorm/bed/job etc.....so I can't complain. We have a good group of ladies also! They are faithful and patient in everything and yes, everyone does have their own copy of Bhagavad-gita. I pray Krsna makes a way for some god sisters/brothers to be able to come visit with us even if just once, monthly/weekly would be great but whatever Krsna wants. We are allowed to fast and are excused from our work assignments on those two days. I need to have specific instructions to notify the chaplain. I'm trying to make arrangements for fasting bags; since the fast is broken after our cafeteria is closed, we have to give each lady a bag of food she can take to eat once the fast time is complete. Everyone sends their love and I look forward to hearing from you again soon! Much love and respect.”

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

Hello, I wanted to thank everybody working at ISKCON because I have learned a great deal and I owe it to my brother for contacting you guys for me, and to you guys for reaching out and sending me these books and magazines (BTG). Thank you for helping me come to realization and begin my journey for learning the Absolute Truth and awakening my love for Krsna! I am going to be honest; it is extremely hard to stay focused and not deviate from my path to spiritual perfection. I have been on a consistent path when it comes to reading and studying the BTG magazines and Srila Prabhupada's books but I'm finding it hard to control my senses when it comes to eating meat. I am fully aware that I shouldn't be eating it but it's hard to overcome the desire for it. I have been trying to get onto the vegan diet tray but have been denied multiple times... I am currently incarcerated and have a couple

people I am trying to convert over to Krsna consciousness but how can I talk people into joining something that I myself have not 100% committed to? I feel like I need a spiritual master not only to help overcome that but other things as well. I want to become a better servant of Krishna. Being in an environment like this where I'm surrounded by people with sectarian religions and judgmental, hypocrites that try and tell me certain things that are demeaning, and I stand my ground with my faith. I have learned that we are not these bodies but merely the body is the dress for our soul. Our souls are eternal therefore our souls have been here for thousands of years in the material world. The only way to reach Krsna's abode and leave this materialistic world behind is to become a devotee to Krsna 100% and become Krsna conscious and serve the lord 100%. If not, then depending on our sins in this life our karma will decide what we will be in the next life. I know there are levels of realization and I'm only at the beginning stage, but I know I believe that this is the absolute truth and my search for who God is will be no more, I found Him! The books I have now are *The Science of Self-Realization*, *Chant and be Happy*, & *Beyond Birth and Death*. I am forever in you guys' debt! I can't wait to hear back from you all and to visit all temples to give service to Krsna! Much love to you all and Hare Krsna!

**Javaugh S. —Malone, Florida**

Imagine my great joy upon receiving two unsolicited issues of Back to Godhead magazines. I just finished the article, “The Need to Become Detached and Loved it.” Thank you.

**Donny C. —Huntsville, Texas**

I am quite grateful for the outreach and support ISKCON Prison Ministry has provided. Given the trials and tribulations, coupled with my age (68), my memory loses details of what I read but the message as a whole is retained. I would like to receive a copy of the Bhagavad-gita. While it may at the present seem impossible to tear down the fences which separates people, I seek to open gates that allow contact [through Kṛṣṇa consciousness].

**Vinicio J.G. —Amarillo, Texas**





## BRAINWASHING ACCUSATIONS and “DEPROGRAMMING”

The 60s and 70s saw a proliferation of cults in America; the *Moonies*, the *Children of God*, the *Rajneesh Movement*, the *Manson Family*, etc.

Understandably, the American public became weary and suspicious of these imposters who were dangerous and sometimes murderous. Many of these cults left a trail of victims behind them. In response to this wave of charlatans plaguing America, a new phenomenon was created; the “deprogrammers”, who were charlatans themselves. Parents of cult members, desperate to extricate their children from a dangerous situation, would employ such deprogrammers who would kidnap their adult children, hold them against their will, and submit them to the same kind of ill treatment they were accusing the cults to impose; sleep deprivation, brainwashing, intimidation, isolation, and the like.

Indiscriminately, a lot of people threw all “new” religious groups in the same quack pile, without serious inquiry, or without any inquiry at all. So when, in 1966, the newly incorporated International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) —the “Hare Krishnas” —came onto the scene, they were viewed by some as just another new cult plaguing the country and corrupting their youth. However, respected, renowned scholars, upon studying Śrīla Prabhupāda’s books and meeting him in person, developed a great respect for his impressive scholarship/erudition, and deep devotion to the cultural and spiritual movement of Lord Chaitanya. His books were held in such high regard (they still are), that universities all over the country acquired them for their libraries and incorporated them in their course studies.

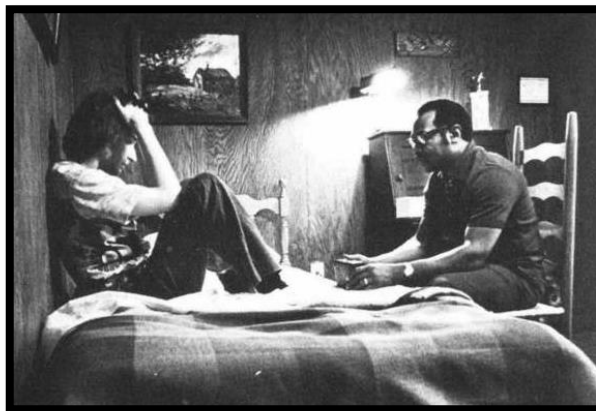
Some of the parents of the early devotees also employed “deprogrammers” to talk some sense into their “lost” sons and daughters. A few devotees, after escaping these deprogrammers, filed lawsuits against the people who had kidnapped them.

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, 1977, the *Washington Post*, published an article by Janis Jonhson entitled “**DEPROGRAM**,” in which it was stated,

“She [Donna Seidenberg Bavis] was kept prisoner for 33 days by “deprogrammers” who sought to rid her of her beliefs by depriving her of sleep and subjecting her to long, ritualized harangues against the sect. Donna Seidenberg Bavis, 24, alleged that her captors, who

were engaged by her mother for the deprogramming, stayed with her constantly throughout the 33 days, even accompanying her to the bathroom on occasion. She said she was kept in locked quarters and compelled to watch them burn Hare Krishna relics [like her prayer beads] during a month of “terror and hysteria.”

Bavis, who returned to the sect in March after



pretending to be successfully deprogrammed, then married another devotee, Edward Bavis [her fiancé]. She had been confined by the deprogrammers under a “conservatorship,” a court-sanctioned form of guardianship usually applied to senile people who cannot manage their own affairs.”

Donna was told repeatedly that she could not escape and that she would be held captive “until she was ‘deprogrammed’ from her religious beliefs and associations ‘however long it takes,’” the suit said.

Eventually, she began to feign acceptance of the “deprogramming” and was subjected to a telephone “stress test” by an unknown man who said he was analyzing her voice to determine whether she was telling the truth. She passed it.”

There was another lawsuit where a New York State Supreme Court judge dismissed “mind control” indictments against the Hare Krishna sect on grounds that the charges were “a direct and blatant violation of the defendants’ First Amendment rights.

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1977, The *New York Times* published an article by Murray Schumach, entitled, “**Judge Rejects Charges of ‘Brainwashing’ Against Hare Krishna Aides.**” The article states,

“The Hare Krishna movement was called a “bona fide religion” yesterday by State Supreme Court justice in Queens who threw out two indictments against officials of the movement. The indictments had charged them with illegal imprisonment of two members and attempted extortion from the father of one of the believers.

‘The entire and basic Issue before this court,’ said Justice John J. Leahy, ‘is whether or not the two alleged victims in this case and the defendants will be allowed

to practice the religion of their choice—and this must be answered with a resounding affirmative.’



The indictments, handed up last year, were the first of their kind against the Hare Krishna movement. They charged that Angus Murphy, the president of the New York temple of the religion, and

Harold Conley, the supervisor of women at the temple, held Edward Shapiro and Merylee Kreshour in the temple illegally, by brainwashing them.

Legal and ethical questions have arisen from intensive efforts to “deprogram” members of Hare Krishna and other movements. The main method is to separate the follower from the group and to subject him to long periods of counter persuasion. Among the controversial and well-known deprogrammers is Ted Patrick, a Californian who was released recently from prison on kidnapping charges resulting from a deprogramming case.

‘The Hare Krishna religion is a bona fide religion with roots in India that go back thousands of years’, Justice Leahy said, ‘It behooved Merylee Kreshour and Edward Shapiro to follow the tenets of that faith and their inalienable right to do so will not be trampled upon.’

‘The separation of church and state must be maintained. We are, and must remain, a nation of laws, not of men. The presentment and indictment by the grand jury was in direct and blatant violation of defendants’ constitutional rights.’

The judge pointed out that the prosecution, during the hearing last month, had conceded that no physical force had been used by the defendants against Miss Kreshour or the younger Mr. Shapiro, adding:

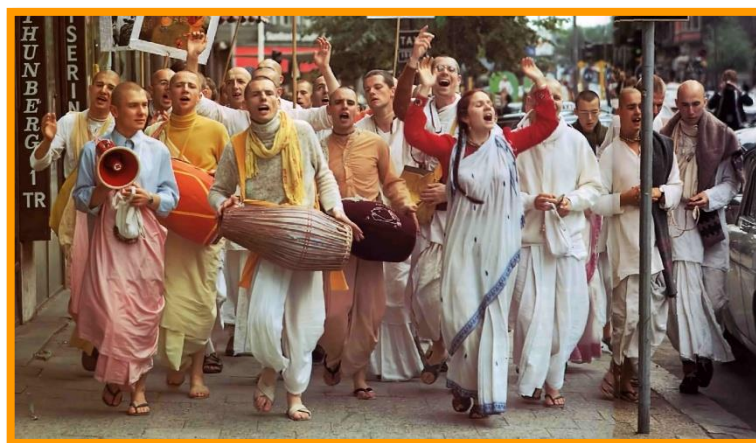
‘The said two individuals entered the Hare Krishna movement voluntarily and’ submitted themselves voluntarily to the regimen, rules and regulations of said so-called Hare Krishna religion, and it is also conceded that the alleged victims were not in any way physically restrained from leaving the defendant organization.’

On the allegation of brainwashing, he said:

“It appears to the court that the people rest their case on an erroneous minor premise to arrive at a fallacious

conclusion. The record is devoid of one specific allegation of a misrepresentation or an act of deception on the part of any defendant.’

Justice Leahy, who stressed that his decision was intended as a “dire caveat to prosecutorial agencies throughout the length and breadth of the land,” cited the constitutional guarantee of freedom of religion said; ‘The freedom of religion is not to be abridged because it is unconventional in its beliefs and practices or because it is approved or disapproved by the mainstream of society or more conventional religion. Without this proliferation and freedom to follow the dictates of one’s own conscience in his search for and approach to God, the freedom of religion will ‘be a meaningless right as provided for in the Constitution.’ 🌸



### INTERESTING TIDBIT:

In the dictionary, the word “cult” doesn’t have a negative connotation. The first definition is, “a system of religious veneration and devotion directed toward a particular figure or object.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda uses the word cult according to that definition. For example, in the purport of SB 2.4.18, he writes,

“Without any reference to the particular custom of a country, one can be accepted to the Vaisnava cult spiritually, and there is no hindrance in the transcendental process. (...) According to the cult of devotion, generally known as the Vaisnava cult, there is no bar against anyone’s advancing in the matter of God realization.”

And in the introduction to Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, Śrīla Prabhupāda writes,

“Therefore all the missionary activities of the Lord are to be understood to be on the spiritual plane, and as such the cult of Çré Caitanya Mahāprabhu, or the cult of Bhāgavata-dharma, has nothing to do with mundane affairs, sociology, politics, economic development or

any such sphere of life. Çrémad-Bhāgavatam is the purely transcendental urge of the soul. (...) The cult of Caitanya philosophy is richer than any other.”

The second dictionary definition of the word “cult” is: “a relatively small group of people having religious beliefs or practices regarded by others as strange or sinister.”

Noteworthy is that this definition, “*regarded by others as sinister*”, doesn’t imply that a group is factually sinister, but that it is *perceived* that way. In some cases,

it is a fact that some groups do mislead and even harm their members, and it is in those cases that the word “cult” has a negative connotation.

Interestingly, the opposite of the word “cult” is “mainstream” or “conventional.” And so, genuine spiritual movements that are “new” to the public, and seemingly unconventional, can be perceived negatively by those who are ignorant of their long, rich, and well documented history. 🌸

## SCHOLARS PRAISE A.C. BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI’S BOOKS

*The books of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta are highly respected by students, scholars and laymen alike. His works are now widely used in college courses and seminars in diverse subjects, including philosophy, religion, world literature, history, and the social sciences. The following reviews, written by scholars renowned in their fields, give graphic testimony to the scholarship and authenticity of the books of A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.*

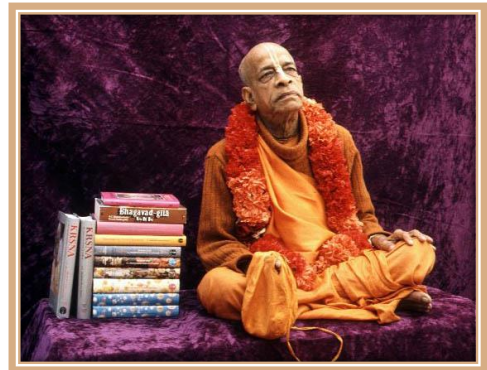
### Scholars Appreciation of [Bhagavad-Gita As It Is](#)

“No work in all Indian literature is more quoted, because none is better loved, in the West, than the Bhagavad-gita. Translation of such a work demands not only knowledge of Sanskrit, but an inward sympathy with the theme and a verbal artistry. For the poem is a symphony in which God is seen in all things. The Swami does a real service for students by investing the beloved Indian epic with fresh meaning. Whatever our outlook may be, we should all be grateful for the labor that has led to this illuminating work.”

—**Dr. Geddes MacGregor Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Philosophy University of Southern California**

“The Gita can be seen as the main literary support for the great religious civilization of India, the oldest surviving culture in the world. The present translation and commentary is another manifestation of the permanent living importance of the Gita.”

—**Thomas Merton Theologian**



“I am most impressed with A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada’s scholarly and authoritative edition of Bhagavad-gita. It is a most valuable work for the scholar as well as the layman and is of great utility as a reference book as well as a textbook. I promptly recommend this edition to my students. It is a beautifully done book.”  
—**Dr. Samuel D. Atkins Professor of Sanskrit Princeton University**

“As a successor in direct line from Caitanya, the author of *Bhagavad-gita As It Is* is entitled, according to Indian custom, to the majestic title of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. The great interest that his reading of the Bhagavad-gita holds for us is that it offers us an authorized interpretation according to the principles of the Caitanya tradition.”  
—**Olivier Lacombe Professor of Sanskrit and Indology Sorbonne University, Paris**

“I have had the opportunity of examining several volumes published by the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust and have found them to be of excellent quality and of great value for use in college classes on Indian



religions. This is particularly true of the BBT edition and translation of the Bhagavad-gita.”

—**Dr. Frederick B. Underwood Professor of Religion Columbia University**

“If truth is what works, as Pierce and the pragmatists insist, there must be a kind of truth in the Bhagavad-gita As It Is, since those who follow its teachings display a joyous serenity usually missing in the bleak and strident lives of contemporary people.”

—**Dr. Elwin H. Powell Professor of Sociology State University of New York, Buffalo**

“There is little question that this edition is one of the best books available on the Gita and devotion. Prabhupada’s translation is an ideal blend of literal accuracy and religious insight.”

—**Dr. Thomas J. Hopkins Professor of Religion Franklin and Marshall College**

“The Bhagavad-gita, one of the great spiritual texts, is not as yet a common part of our cultural milieu. This is probably less because it is alien per se than because we have lacked just the kind of close interpretative commentary upon it that Swami Bhaktivedanta has here provided, a commentary written from not only a scholar’s but a practitioner’s, a dedicated lifelong devotee’s point of view.”

—**Denise Levertov Poet**

“The increasing numbers of Western readers interested in classical Vedic thought have been done a service by Swami Bhaktivedanta. By bringing us a new and living interpretation of a text already known to many, he has increased our understanding manifold.”

—**Dr. Edward C Dimock, Jr. Department of South Asian Languages and Civilization University of Chicago**

“The scholarly world is again indebted to A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. Although Bhagavad-gita has been translated many times, Prabhupada adds a translation of singular importance with his commentary.”

—**Dr. J. Stillson Judah Professor of the History of Religions and Director of Libraries Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California**

“Srla Prabhupada’s edition thus fills a sensitive gap in France, where many hope to become familiar with traditional Indian thought, beyond the commercial East-West hodgepodge that has arisen since the time Europeans first penetrated India. Whether the reader be an adept of Indian spiritualism or not, a reading of the Bhagavad-gita As It Is will be extremely profitable. For many this will be the first contact with the true India, the ancient India, the eternal India.”

—**Francois Chenique Professor of Religious Sciences Institute of Political Studies, Paris, France**

“As a native of India now living in the West, it has given me much grief to see so many of my fellow

countrymen coming to the West in the role of gurus and spiritual leaders. For this reason, I am very excited to see the publication of Bhagavad-gita As It Is by Sri A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. It will help to stop the terrible cheating of false and unauthorized ‘gurus’ and ‘yogis’ and will give an opportunity to all people to understand

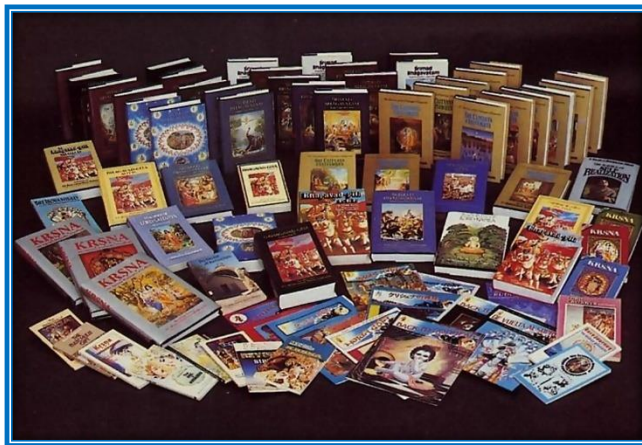
the actual meaning of Oriental culture.”

—**Dr. Kailash Vajpeye Director of Indian Studies, Center for Oriental Studies The University of Mexico**

“It is a deeply felt, powerfully conceived and beautifully explained work. I don’t know whether to praise more this translation of the Bhagavad-gita, its daring method of explanation, or the endless fertility of its ideas. I have never seen any other work on the Gita with such an important voice and style. It will occupy a significant place in the intellectual and ethical life of modern man for a long time to come.”

—**Dr. Shaligram Shukla Professor of Linguistics Georgetown University**

“I can say that in the Bhagavad-gita As It Is I have found explanations and answers to questions I had always posed regarding the interpretations of this sacred work, whose spiritual discipline I greatly admire. If the asceticism and ideal of the apostles which form the message of the Bhagavad-gita As It Is were more widespread and more respected, the



world in which we live would be transformed into a better, more fraternal place.”

—**Dr. Paul Lesourd Author, Professeur Honoraire Catholic University of Paris**

### **Scholars Appreciation of Srimad-Bhagavatam**

"This is a work to be treasured. No one of whatever faith or philosophical persuasion who reads these books with an open mind can fail to be both moved and impressed...."

**Dr. Garry Gelade —Professor of Psychology, Oxford University**

"It has been my great pleasure recently to have read the Srimad-Bhagavatam in the superb edition authorized by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada....I am sure this monumental work will go far to bring the sublime message of the Bhagavatam to numerous Westerners who otherwise would miss this opportunity. "

**Dr. Alex Wayman —Professor of Sanskrit, Columbia University**

"The Srimad-Bhagavatam is extremely useful for all those interested in ancient India, whether their interest be that of the philosopher, the student of religion, the historian, the linguist, the sociologist or the political scientist....I truly hope that Srila Prabhupada will complete his translation of the entire Bhagavata and continue to translate other eminent Sanskrit works as well. Undoubtedly, this work of Swamiji's is a great contribution to the troubled human society of today's world."

**Dr. Sooda L. Bhatt —Professor of Indian Languages, Boston University**

"The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust editions of famous religious classics of India, with new translations and commentaries, are an important addition to our expanding knowledge of spiritual India. The new edition of the Srimad-Bhagavatam is particularly welcome."

**Dr. John L. Mish —Chief, Oriental Division, New York Public Library**

"...A commentary on the Vedanta-sutra by Srila Vyasadeva divided into twelve 'cantos' of which four are presented here in eight beautifully produced volumes. These lavish volumes, obviously the product of devotional effort, contain many lovely full-color illustrations...."

**Choice magazine, June 1975**

"In the diversity of religious approaches offered by the yogis of India, the most significant, of course, is the way of Krsna consciousness. It is amazing to see how Sri Bhaktivedanta Swami has in less than ten years succeeded, by his personal devotion, untiring energy and efficient direction, in organizing the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. Now, he has undertaken the stupendous project of rendering the entire Bhagavata, the great devotional classic of India, into English. His edition is learning blended with devotional feeling and inspired by a definite purpose of communicating the intense lyrical and devotional quality of the Bhagavata. Srila Prabhupada has done an excellent service by his able rendition of 'the abode of divine joy' that the Bhagavata is."

**Dr. Mahesh Mehta, Professor of Asian Studies — University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada**

"It is axiomatic that no book can be expected entirely to satisfy all its potential readers. Here is one, however, which can be said to come remarkably close to that ideal....we have here the ideal of what an edition of a Sanskrit text for a Western audience should be."

**Dr. R. E. Asher —Professor of Linguistics, University of Edinburgh**

"...For those who have no access to the Sanskrit language, these books convey, in superb manner, the message of the Bhagavatam. In addition to being a scholarly work, it directly reflects the spiritual aspirations of a religious community which has gained considerable popularity in modern America."

**Dr. Alaka Hejib —Department of Sanskrit and Indian Studies, Harvard University**

"Srimad-Bhagavatam is a valuable source material and cannot but be attractive to serious students and scholars of religion and philosophy. I recommend this series, to anyone, as an important and useful reference work."

**Dr. C. P. Agrawal, Chairwoman —Department of Humanities, University of Michigan**

### **Scholars Appreciation of Sri Caitanya-Caritāmṛta**

"I am most happy to have these handsomely printed volumes which embody the work of so learned and sincere a believer in the message of the Caritamṛta. I thank you."



**Dr. Daniel H. H. Ingalls, Chairman —Department of Sanskrit and Indian Studies —Harvard University**

"The appearance of an English translation of Krsnadasa Kaviraja Gosvami's Sri Caitanya-caritāmṛta by A.C. Bhaktivedanta [Founder-Acarya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness] is a cause for celebration among both scholars in Indian studies and lay-people seeking to enrich their knowledge of Indian spirituality. It will fill a most serious lacuna in our libraries and in our courses on the religious traditions of India.

"...For the first time we possess a readily accessible edition for this great religious classic that will provide opportunity for scholars in Indian literature and followers of the Krsna consciousness tradition alike to compare the original text with a modern English translation and become acquainted with the deeper spiritual meaning of this work through the learned commentary of Sri Bhaktivedanta.

"...Anyone who gives a close reading to the commentary will sense that here, as in his other works, Sri Bhaktivedanta has combined a healthy mixture of the fervent devotion and aesthetic sensitivity of a devotee and the intellectual rigor of a textual scholar. At no point does the author allow the intended meaning of the text to be eclipsed by the promotion of a particular doctrinal persuasion.

"...These exquisitely wrought volumes will be a welcome addition to the libraries of all persons who are committed to the study of Indian spirituality and religious literature, whether their interests are sparked by the motivations of the scholar, the devotee or the general reader."

**Dr. J. Bruce Long —Department of Asian Studies, Cornell University**

"It is a remarkable document of great historical and sociological importance, giving a picturesque presentation of the socio-religious climate in the India of Sri Caitanya's times and the far-reaching social and religious changes wrought by him. As a literary piece, it is regarded as a work of great merit, having no parallel in the whole of Bengali literature. As a religious text, its sanctity is comparable to that of the Bhagavad-gita.

"This English edition translated by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada is superb. It contains the original Sanskrit and Bengali verses with their English transliteration, synonyms, translation and elaborate purports, easily bearing testimony to the author's profound knowledge of the subject." Dr. **O.B.L. Kapoor, Emeritus Chairman and Professor, Department of Philosophy — Government Postgraduate College, Gyanpur, India**

"It is a genuine joy to have this momentous biographical work on the life of Bengal's great saint Caitanya, prepared by his best-known modern interpreter, A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada."

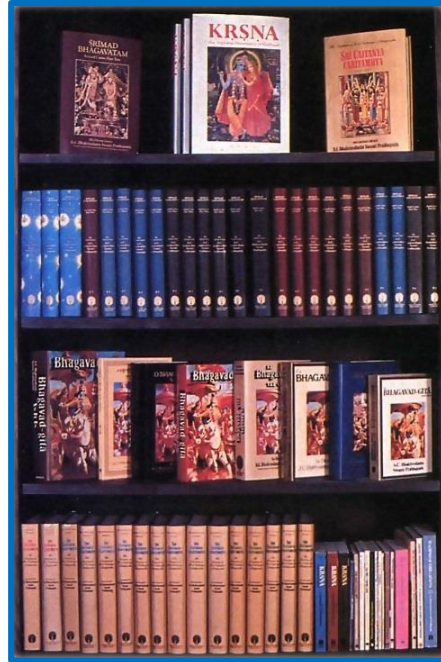
**Dr. Mark Juergensmeyer, Associate Professor of Ethics and the Phenomenology of Religions Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California**

"Year by year, interest in Eastern religious thought and philosophy grows in America. The editing and translating of the important Sri Caitanya-caritāmṛta will make a substantial contribution to those who seek information about Indian concepts...."

**Dr. Gerald A. Larue —Professor of Religion, University of Southern California**

"I can recommend Sri Caitanya-caritāmṛta as a source of rich insights for every serious student of consciousness."

**Dr. Rory O'Day, Department of Human Relations —University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada**



# Calendar

## FEBRUARY 2025

- 03 Feb 2025 - Appearance Day of Srimati Vishnupriya Devi (consort of Lord Caitanya)
- 03 Feb 2025 - Disappearance Day of Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakura
- 03 Feb 2025 - Appearance Day of Sri Pundarika Vidyanidhi
- 03 Feb 2025 - Appearance Day of Sri Raghunandan Thakura
- 03 Feb 2025 - Appearance Day of Srila Raghunatha Dasa Goswami
- 04 Feb 2025 - **Appearance Day of Sri Advaita Acharya**
- 06 Feb 2025 - Disappearance Day of Sri Madhvacharya
- 07 Feb 2025 - Disappearance Day of Sri Ramanujacharya
- 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**
- 17 Feb 2025 - Disappearance Day of Sri Purusottama Dasa Thakura
- 24 Feb 2025 - **Vijaya Ekadasi**
- 25 Feb 2025 - Disappearance Day of Sri Isvara Puri
- 28 Feb 2025 - Disappearance Day of Srila Jagannatha Dasa Babaji
- 28 Feb 2025 - Disappearance Day of Sri Rasikananda

## MARCH 2025

- 03 Mar 2025 - Appearance Day of Sri Purusottama Dasa Thakura
- 10 Mar 2025 - **Amalaki Vrata Ekadasi**
- 11 Mar 2025 - Disappearance of Sri Madhavendra Puri
- 14 Mar 2025 - **Gaura Purnima - Appearance of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu**
- 22 Mar 2025 - Appearance Day of Sri Srivasa Pandita
- 26 Mar 2025 - **Papamochani Ekadasi**
- 26 Mar 2025 - Disappearance Day of Sri Govinda Ghosh

## APRIL 2025

- 02 April 2025 - Appearance Day of Sri Ramanujacharya
- 06 April 2025 - **Appearance of Lord Ramacandra**
- 08 April 2025 - **Kamada Ekadasi**
- 12 April 2025 - Appearance Day of Sri Vamsivadananda Thakura
- 12 April 2025 - Appearance Day of Sri Syamananda Prabhu
- 20 April 2025 - Disappearance Day of Sri Abhirama Thakura
- 23 April 2025 - Disappearance Day of Srila Vrndavana Dasa Thakura
- 24 April 2025 - **Varuthini Ekadasi**
- 27 April 2025 - Appearance Day of Sri Gadadhara Pandita



**RIGHT:** Lord Nityananda Prabhu appeared as Lord Caitanya's principal associate for spreading the congregational chanting of the holy names of the Lord. He especially spread the holy name of the Lord throughout Bengal. He is an incarnation of Lord Balarama.