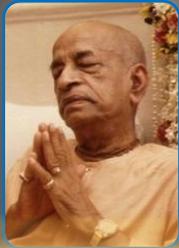


Freedom Newsletter



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

ISKCON Prison Ministry / June 2025

PO Box 2676
Alachua, FL 32616

PRABHUPADA SPEAKS OUT —Getting a Permanent Body

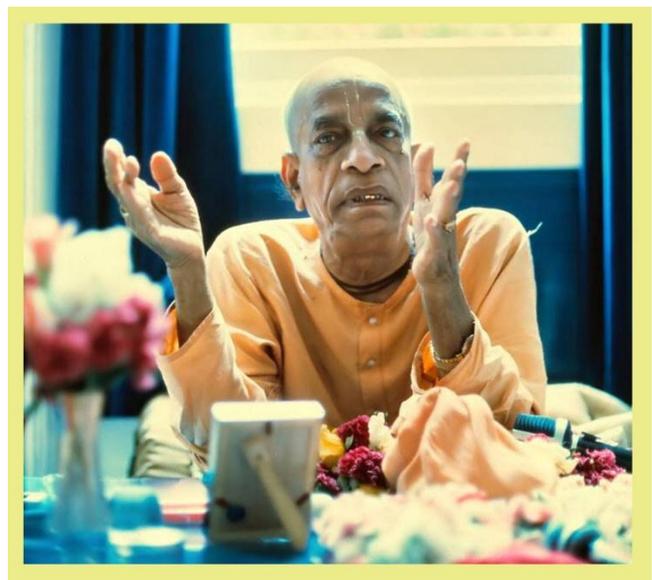
The following conversation—between His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda and a guest—took place in Gorakhpur, India, on February 17, 1971.

Guest: If the soul is always changing from one body to another, how is the soul liberated?

Srila Prabhupada: In this material world the soul is accepting material bodies. And when he becomes a bona fide servant of Krishna, he'll be offered a spiritual body. As long as a person is not a soldier, he will not be awarded a uniform. But as soon as he accepts service as a soldier, he is given the uniform. So you are accepting different bodies in the material world. That is *bhutva bhutva praliyate*: You accept one type of body, it is vanquished, and again you have to accept another. But as soon as you become perfectly Krishna conscious, after leaving this body you do not come to the material world – *tyaktva deham punar janma naiti*. You are immediately transferred [to the spiritual world], and you accept a spiritual body.

Is that clear or not? You are accepting material bodies now, birth after birth. That is transmigration.

Sometimes you accept a human body, sometimes a



dog's body, sometimes a king's body, and sometimes some other kind of body.

Now when you are Krishna conscious, you haven't got to accept a material body. You go directly to Krishna and accept a spiritual body. Then your life is eternal.

Guest: You will not again get a material body?

Srila Prabhupada: No. *Tyaktva deham punar janma*

naiti. When you are Krishna conscious, you no longer accept a material body. Krishna says, *mam eti*: "The soul comes to Me." And *mam eti* means that whoever goes to Krishna has as good a body as Krishna. That is oneness.

Guest: Then what does it mean when Krishna tells Arjuna on the battlefield, "Never was there a time when you and I were not existing."

Srila Prabhupada: Krishna and Arjuna are existing, and you are existing. You are eternal. You are simply changing bodies. What is the difficulty in understanding this fact? But Krishna is not changing His body. That is the difference.

Guest: The soul will not merge into Krishna's light?

Srila Prabhupada: The soul is changing bodies. Why are you talking of merging? You are changing your body, I am changing my body, but we are individuals. I may change to a dog's body; you may change to a demigod's body. That is going on. According to one's karma one is changing bodies.

Now, when you are fully Krishna conscious, a change of body will also take place. But that new body will be spiritual. As long as you get material bodies, you have

to change – one after another, one after another, one after another.

For example, if you purchase something cheap, it goes wrong and you have to purchase a new thing. But if you purchase a real, nice thing, it will continue for good. Similarly, as long as you are getting a cheap body, a material body, you have to change. And as soon as you

get the most valuable body, a spiritual body, there will be no more change. One who does not know what is Krishna thinks that someone is greater than Krishna. But anyone who knows Krishna as He is gets that permanent body immediately—



simply by knowing Krishna.

*janma karma cha me divyam
evam yo vetti tattvatah
tyaktva deham punar janma
naiti mam eti so 'rjuna*

["One who knows the transcendental nature of My appearance and activities does not, upon leaving the body, take his birth again in this material world, but attains My eternal abode, O Arjuna." (*Gita* 4.9)] So you simply have to understand Krishna. Then the whole problem is solved.

Try to understand Krishna. Krishna can be understood simply by devotional service. Krishna says, *bhaktiya mam abhijanati*. And that begins with surrender to Krishna. *Sarva-dharman parityajya*: Whatever nonsense you have known, throw it away. Simply surrender to Krishna. That is the beginning of *Bhagavad-gita*. 🌸

Nectar of the Holy Name

Living beings who are entangled in the complicated meshes of birth and death can be freed immediately by even unconsciously chanting the holy name of Krishna, which is feared by fear personified.

Srimad Bhagavatam, 1.1.15

"If you have got some time, the best thing would be to chant Hare Krishna more and more. Because our life is very short, and we have to finish our Krishna Consciousness this life very quickly. We do not know when we shall meet our next death, our next exit from this platform. But before going out of this platform, we may try to finish Krishna Consciousness. That is our main business. "

Śrīla Prabhupāda's letter to Jayapataka Dasa —Seattle, October 6th, 1968

THE POWER OF PRASADAM —The Story of Sivananda Sena and the Dog

Pronunciation:

Caitanya = *Chay-tah-nyah*
Caturmasya = *cha-toor-ma-sya*
Sivananda = *Shee-va-nanda*
Kṛṣṇa = *Krishna*

The Journey to Jagannatha Puri

Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu was living in Puri during His later days, and every year, during Caturmasya—the four months of the rainy season—there would be a big gathering in Puri with a large group of devotees traveling from Bengal to take darshan of the Lord. Sivananda Sena, an exalted devotee, would lead a party of two hundred devotees from Bengal to Jagannatha Puri to attend the annual Ratha-Yatra (festival of the chariots). He would pay for everyone's food, tolls, ferries, and lodging. He personally arranged for their comfort.

A Dog Joins the Group

Sivananda Sena showed compassion for all living entities, be they man or beast. While going to Jagannatha Puri, when a stray dog joined the group, Sivananda Sena allowed it to travel with them and he fed it. One day, when they needed to cross a river, a boatman would not allow the dog to get in the boat. Sivananda Sena, unhappy that the dog would have to stay behind, paid the boatman ten *pana* of conchshells (money at the time) to take the dog across the river.

One day, while Sivananda was detained by a toll man, his servant forgot to give the dog its food. At night, when Sivananda Sena returned he inquired from the servant whether the dog had gotten its meals. When he learned that the dog had not been supplied with food in his absence, he was very unhappy. He then immediately sent ten men to find the dog. When the men returned without success, Sivananda Sena became fasted for the night. Sivananda Sena considered the dog one of his guests, and if even one of his guest didn't have his meal, he wouldn't either. He treated all living entities with respect, seeing everyone as a servant of the Lord.

The Dog's Miraculous Encounter with Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu

In the morning, they looked for the dog, but it still could not be found anywhere. Thus in great anxiety, Sivananda Sena walked with everyone to Jagannatha Puri, where Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu met them as usual.

The next morning, all the devotees came to see the Lord. When all the devotees came to the place of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, they saw the same dog sitting a little apart from the Lord. Furthermore, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu was throwing remnants of green coconut pulp to the dog. Smiling, He was saying to the dog, "Chant the holy names 'Rama,' 'Kṛṣṇa,' and 'Hari.'" Seeing the dog eating the green coconut pulp and miraculously chanting "Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa" again and again,

all the devotees present were astonished. When he saw the dog chanting the name of Kṛṣṇa, Sivananda, because of his natural humility, immediately offered his obeisances to the dog just to counteract his offenses to it. The next day, no one saw that dog. Having had the remnants of food of the Lord, it had obtained its spiritual body and departed for Vaikuntha, the spiritual kingdom.



The Power of Prasadam

This story illustrates the transformative power of prasadam (food offered to the Lord) and the mercy of Vaishnavas (devotees of the Lord). Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's transcendental pastimes show that even a dog can achieve spiritual liberation by chanting the holy names and taking prasadam. By engaging in devotional service and distributing prasadam, we can help others attain spiritual liberation, and this attract Lord Caitanya's sublime mercy.

Reflection from Srila Prabhupada

In his purport to Caitanya Caritamrita, Antya 1.32, Srila Prabhupada emphasizes the importance of prasadam distribution and the association of devotees:

“This is the result of sadhu-sanga [association with devotees]; consequent association with Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and promotion back home, back to Godhead. This result is possible even for a dog, by the mercy of the Vaishnavas (devotees). Therefore, everyone in the human form of life should be induced

to associate with devotees. By rendering a little service, even by eating prasadam, what to speak of chanting and dancing, everyone can be promoted to Vaikunta [the spiritual world]. It is therefore requested that all our devotees in the ISKCON community become pure Vaishnavas, so that by their mercy all the people of the world will be transferred to Vaikunta, even without their knowledge.” 🌸

Note: this year, Sivananda Sena's disappearance day is Friday June 27.



Excerpts from inmates' letters

There are about four ladies now I'm studying with.....and I have been quite busy with Edovo [electronic tablet]!!! It is wonderful.....I get to hear everything and read all the books from one place!!! There are several devotional songs, kirtans, japa by example, etc..... It is truly wonderful to be able to hear His Divine Grace's voice!!!!

Kimberly S. —Ocala, Florida

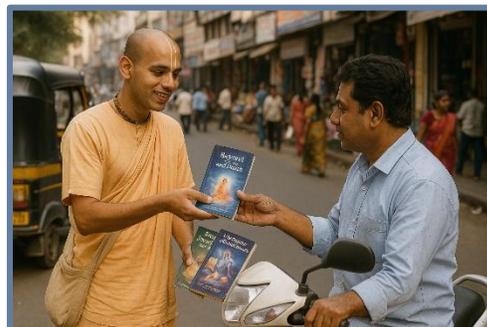
I found an old YouTube video about IPM on the Hare Krishna TV channel. I saw your email there, and felt an urge to write an email of gratitude.

I myself was an inmate in the USA. I am an Indian citizen, and got involved in all the wrong kind of things which lead me to be incarcerated. I received Krishna's mercy in the last 6 months of my sentence when I was transferred to Petersburg, Virginia, and that too in the same block as a devotee, Bhakta Richard [now Krishna Kirtan Dasa]. He gave me Prabhupada's Gita, and I really took it as a sign, as an arrangement of Krishna.

not understanding almost anything, but somehow feeling a joy at reading those words.

By Krishna's mercy, I was released and deported back to India and was able to find a job very easily (I still cannot believe how that happened). And Krishna arranged for me to be connected to a great congregation, where I am now able to do services for the pleasure of Gaura-Nitai. I regularly go on book distribution, and also got initiated in April of 2024.

I just wanted to express my gratitude at the wonderful service you are doing. You have saved me from a hellish existence, and even now it feels surreal how full of joy my life is now.



All Glories to Srila Prabhupada. Thank you, ISKCON Prison Ministry.

Please keep on doing the good work of spreading this glorious sankirtan movement of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

I pray for the well-being and Krishna conscious progress of Krishna Kirtan prabhu and all other struggling souls in the prison system.

An ex-inmate who wishes to remain anonymous



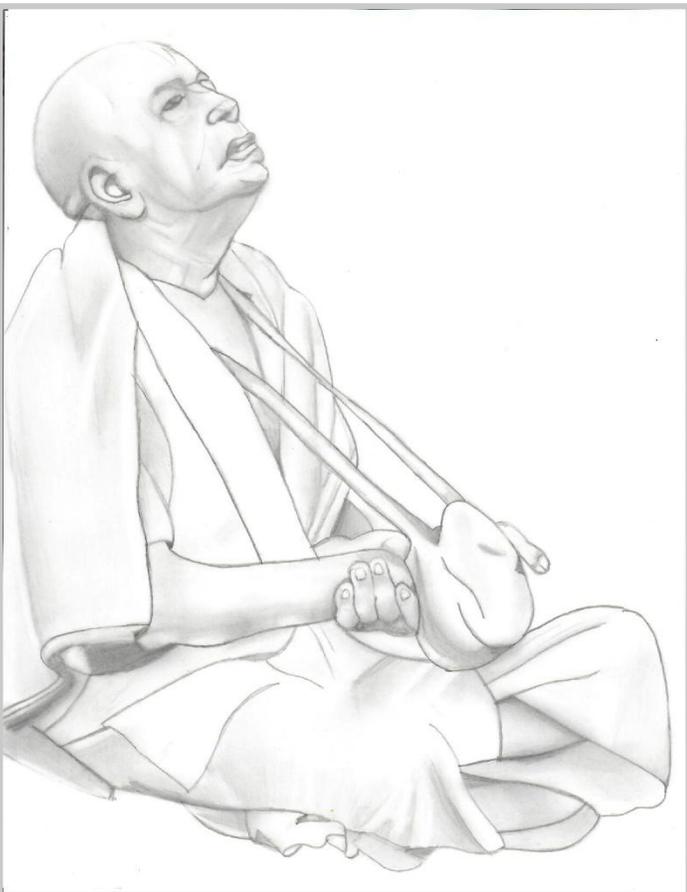
Before that, I was not a believer, but atheistic, and arrogant. I seriously read Bhavagad-gita there, and I was so happy to find the full Srimad-

Bhagavatam and Caitanya Caritāmṛta set there. I am a voracious reader, and I read them all within 2 months,



Inmate Artwork

RIGHT: drawing of Lord Krishna with a cow, by Krishna Kirtan Dasa—Petersburg, Virginia



LEFT: Drawing of Śrīla Prabhupāda by Brian Babinski —California

Book Distribution Stories!

A Book for a Body Builder —by Vijaya Dasa

I was distributing books at a university when I motioned for a student to come to my table. He came over, and I began explaining some of Kṛṣṇa's teachings in the Bhagavad-gīta. He didn't show much interest. From his bulging muscles, I could tell he lifted weights and worked out a lot. I said, "It's good that you're taking care of your body, but did you know that while we're talking right now your body is dying? Every second you're getting closer to death, and in a relatively short time your body will be dead. But you, the soul, will never die."

He said, "So you say I'm wasting my time trying to stay physically fit?"

"No, it's good to be physically fit. I go on power walks and do yoga to stay physically fit. But I know that although this body is going to die eventually, I, the soul, will never die. So I'm also trying to become spiritually fit so I can become self-realized. If you read the book I've shown you, it will help you become spiritually fit."

I told him the story of the woman with the bird in a cage. She was so enamored by the beautiful and valuable birdcage that she forgot to feed the bird inside and it died. So I told him, "Don't be like this foolish lady who forgot about the bird and thus caused its death. The body is like a cage for the soul. If you forget the soul and become enamored by the body, that would be very unfortunate."

"I like what you're saying. Very interesting. I'd like to read the book."

He gave a nice donation, and hopefully, by the mercy of Kṛṣṇa and Srīla Prabhupada, he will become spiritually fit.

Conversations with Krishna —by Gurushakti Dasi

Today, outside Tottenham Court Road Station (London), I met Carl, originally from Paris. I asked him what his proudest achievement in life is. He smiled and said it was arriving in London some years ago, learning English from scratch, completing his MBA and now serving as Head of Sales at a Finance Technology company.

I offered him a copy of the Bhagavad-gītā As It Is. However, Carl declined to take it. He explained that he had already read *Conversations with God* by Neale Donald Walsch and that book had answered all his life's questions. He then emphasized that he never stops

for street vendors and would never give money on London's pavements.

Carl then handed me his phone and asked me to read a few of his favorite transcripts from *Conversations with God*. As I spoke the words aloud, I simultaneously cross-referenced them with verses from the Bhagavad-Gīta, offering Srīla Prabhupada's deeper and transcendental insights on duty, consciousness, love, surrender, selfless action and divine devotion.

Carl's posture shifted. The rush of commuters blurred around us as we spoke for 15 minutes, discussing Srīla Prabhupada's powerful words. To my astonishment, Carl not only accepted the Bhagavad-Gīta with genuine enthusiasm, but also donated double the amount I had suggested. In that instant, I witnessed Srīla Prabhupada's teaching come to life. Genuine enthusiasm opens the door to mercy. Carl's unexpected receptivity and generosity proved that when the heart is

truly open and enthused, miracles unfold.

Flabbergasted that he had not only accepted the book but also spontaneously donated double, Carl immediately offered me a position in his sales team. I politely declined and instead presented him with an even more compelling opportunity: to join us on the streets, distributing Srīla Prabhupada's books!

In a matter of minutes outside Tottenham Court Road Station, a single conversation introducing Srīla Prabhupada had transformed a passerby's mind, touched his heart and even redirected his career ambitions. Srīla Prabhupada, you continue to enthuse and blow us away, moment by moment! 🌸



WHO IS KRISHNA?

Krishna is the Supreme Person, the Godhead and the speaker of the *Bhagavad-gita*, which is recognized throughout the world as one of mankind's greatest books of wisdom. In the *Gita*, as it is also known, Krishna says repeatedly that He is God Himself, the source of everything. Arjuna, to whom Krishna is speaking, accepts Krishna's words as true, adding that the greatest spiritual authorities throughout history have also confirmed that Krishna is God. Brahma, Narada, Asita, Devala, Vyasadeva—who compiled the Vedas—and Arjuna, to whom Krishna spoke the *Bhagavad-gita*, all accept Krishna to be the Supreme Person, the Absolute Truth, the ultimate Source of all energies, and the One ultimately responsible for the creation, maintenance, and annihilation of everything in this material world.



In each of the great cosmic ages (*yugas*) God appears as a *yuga-avatar* to teach the prescribed religious principles (*dharma*) of the particular age. *Avatar*, “one who descends,” refers to one of the Supreme Person's many incarnations or expansions who periodically visit the material world. God also empowers His representatives—prophets, saints, and messiahs—for this purpose. Such empowered personalities, called *shaktyaveshas*, are not God Himself but have the divine ability to influence others to become God conscious. Avatars either fully or partially possess God's omnipotence, and they act in extraordinary ways to attract the interest of the residents of this world.

Krishna's Avatars

The Supreme Person appears many times, in many places, and in many forms throughout history. He is known by many names in many languages, and teaches religious principles according to time, place, and circumstances. The most recent avatar of Krishna is Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Who appeared in Bengal, India 500 years ago and taught that congregational chanting of God's names is the prescribed spiritual practice for the present age. The Hare Krishna mahamantra—consisting of Krishna's names—is the avatar for this fallen

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

age of Kali (the age of quarrel and hypocrisy) in which we are now living.

Krishna is the name of the original, unique Supreme Person, the source of all that exists. God has many names (such as Allah, Vishnu, and Jehovah), and each describes a different aspect of His personality. The word “God” is a title and refers to His greatness and His role as creator, maintainer of the universe, and Lord of all. The name Krishna, meaning “the all-attractive one”, indicates the unequalled charm and beauty of the Supreme Person, as He appears to His most dear devotees.

Although Krishna appears in different forms—avatars—to create and maintain the universe, He simultaneously enjoys loving relationships with His countless associates in the spiritual world. He visits this material world from time to time to free His devotees from

material existence and to vanquish the demons. Being all-powerful, He performs superhuman pastimes—lifting mountains, swallowing forest fires, and killing numerous extraordinarily powerful demons—as easily as a child playing with toys.

Krishna talks about Himself in the *Bhagavad-gita*, explaining how anyone can know Him through Krishna consciousness, *bhakti-yoga* (devotional service). The *Srimad-Bhagavatam* further describes Krishna's uncommon and fascinating personality and activities as well as those of His devotees.

God, A Transcendental Person

The personhood of Krishna is not an idea invented by human beings, naively creating a God in their own image. Nor is personhood a limiting concept when applied to God, or the Absolute Truth. As the source of everything, Krishna naturally has His own personal identity, just as each of us does. The Vedas define God as the one supreme conscious being among all other conscious beings. He is infinite, we are finite, and He alone maintains us all.

Naturally, the best way to understand God is to learn from Him. In the *Bhagavad-gita* (“the song of God”) Lord Krishna—a real person—tells us that He is God and reveals many confidential things about Himself.

A Complete Conception of God

Krishna is the source of *brahman*, the all-pervading spiritual energy which includes everything and everyone. We are all tiny parts of His energy. He is also present in every atom and in the hearts of all living beings as *Paramatma*, the Supersoul. But ultimately, Krishna is *Bhagavan*, the Supreme Person who possesses the six opulences to the fullest degree; wealth, strength, fame, knowledge, beauty, and renunciation.

Realization of Krishna thus progresses in three stages; first comes an understanding of His all-pervading *brahman* feature, then one realizes His presence within oneself and others as *Paramatma*, and finally one comes to appreciate Krishna as He is, as *Bhagavan*, the all-attractive Supreme Person, the ultimate cause of all causes, the source of everything and everyone.

Many people have a hard time conceiving that God can be an actual person. But the Vedas tell us that God's unique personal identity is His *highest* aspect. Here's an analogy to show how God has three main features.

- 1) Looking at a mountain from a distance, we can only make out its size and shape. This is compared to comprehending God only as *Brahman*, His impersonal energy, which emanates from Him just as light shines out from its source.
- 2) As we move closer, we start to make out more of the mountain's characteristics—the varieties and colors of the trees and their foliage, for example. This is compared to understanding that God is within our hearts as *Paramatma*, or the Supersoul.
- 3) Finally, when we arrive at the mountain we can see its inhabitants, its soil, vegetation, animals, insects, rivers, etc. This is compared to understanding God the person, or *Bhagavan*.

Bhagavan is the source of Brahman, Paramatma, and Bhagavan which are called the three phases of the Absolute Truth.

What is God Like?

As with anyone in our experience, God is unique and complex. He's the transcendental Supreme Person, so

there's infinitely more to know about Him than anyone else. The Vedas supply detailed information about Him. Everything about God is fully transcendental, or spiritual. Because God is absolute, there is no difference between Him and His name, form, activities, qualities, and so on. Contact with any of these elements gives the same spiritual benefit, namely purification of our consciousness.

Krishna's Transcendental Form

The Vedas tell us that spirit is composed of *sat-cit-ananda*; eternity, knowledge, and bliss. Both God and us, souls, possess spiritual forms, which are free of the limitations of our temporary material form.



Krishna's body never changes; He is an eternal youth.

Unlike us, ordinary fallen souls, who possess a material body, Krishna and His body are identical and spiritual. Although He is the oldest Being, He is eternally youthful and never looks older than 16 years of age.

A Description of Krishna

The Vedas describe Krishna in this way: He is a beautiful youth eternally, with a glowing complexion the color of dark rain clouds. He plays a flute, attracting the hearts of all. His cheeks are brilliant, His smile

enchancing. He always wears a peacock feather in His curly black hair and a flower garland around His neck. His beautiful garments are the color of lightning. His toenails resemble the light of the moon. Krishna is surrounded by loving devotees and He engages in loving exchanges with them by playing various roles and creating an infinite number of delightful and surprising pastimes. In His pastime as a small child, He captivates the minds of the residents of Vrindavan with His charming, naughty behavior, such as stealing butter. He sports in the forest as a small cowherd boy, herding His dearest cows with other *gopas* (cowherd boys). As a youth, he captures the hearts of the *gopis* (cowherd girls), with His irresistible beauty, charm, and flute playing. And as a friend and mentor, He instructs Arjuna, Uddhava and other saintly persons.

Not only do the Vedas tell us what Krishna looks like, but pure souls who have received His audience face to face have written of their encounters. And five thousand years ago, Krishna revealed His transcendental form to the residents of India, on this Earth planet, when He lived there for 120 years,

sometimes revealing and sometimes hiding His divinity.

Krishna's Nature

Krishna is loving by nature. In our original pure state, we all love Him fully. In the spiritual world He is always with His devotees, and in this world He resides in the heart of everyone as the Supersoul, our best Friend. He wants His children in the material world to return to Him to enjoy with Him eternally. Krishna is completely independent, and we cannot comprehend Him completely. He cannot be conquered by knowledge, beauty, or money. He can only be conquered by pure love. God has feelings and is easily pleased; He is satisfied when someone offers Him a nice prayer, or a little water, flower, or fruit. Even though He is great and supremely self-sufficient, He is moved by our love. He responds to us according to how we approach Him.

“The pure devotee is always within the core of My heart, and I am always in the heart of the pure devotee. My devotees do not know anything else but Me, and I do not know anyone else but them.”

Srimad-Bhagavatam 9.4.68

Krishna's Qualities

Sometimes people think that because God is spiritual, He has no qualities. But although Krishna has no *material* qualities, He is full of unlimited *transcendental* qualities, that attract us to Him. Even great sages who have renounced everything cannot give up attraction to Krishna, and they dedicate their lives to finding Him. The following qualities are considered especially attractive, and Krishna possesses them in full: beauty, strength, knowledge, wealth, fame and renunciation.

“Even if it were possible to count the atoms after smashing the earth into powder, still it would not be possible to estimate the unfathomable transcendental qualities of the Lord.”

Srila Prabhupada, SB Purport, 1.16.26-30

Krishna's Activities

While Krishna's expansions and incarnations perform duties in the material and spiritual worlds, He Himself simply enjoys with His most intimate devotees in His

transcendental home, known as Goloka. Krishna's life is filled with unending bliss in the company of His associates. Krishna enjoys Himself with abandon, frolicking as a youth in expansive fields and forests with His friends and cows. He dances, He plays His flute, He relishes whatever fun activity strikes His fancy. To entice souls in the material world to join Him in Goloka, Krishna periodically comes to this world, as He did five thousand years ago, and displays His confidential, intimate loving exchanges with His ever-liberated devotees.

Krishna's Energies

Although Krishna is invisible to us in our present state, we can perceive His presence through His energies, which are everywhere. We can perceive Him in the taste of water, or the beauty of a sunrise, for example (see Bhagavad-gītā 7.8). His innumerable, His energies fall into three primary categories:

Internal Energy – Krishna's internal energy expands as the spiritual world in all its variety, It is eternal and full of knowledge and happiness. Presently beyond our perception, the spiritual world makes up most of reality.

External Energy – Krishna's external energy consists of all that is matter: the material world, the laws of

material nature, material bodies, and so on. The external energy is temporary and full of ignorance and suffering. It is inert by nature and must be moved by spirit. The material world is a tiny fraction of God's creation.

Marginal Energy – We finite spirit souls are expansions of Krishna's marginal energy. We can

choose to live in the spiritual world or the material world, according to our desires. Or, to put it another way, we can be deluded by matter or illuminated by spirit.

Both the external energy (matter) and the marginal energy (we souls) can become fully spiritualized by contact with the internal energy (spiritual energy) through acts of devotion to Krishna (bhakti-yoga).

Krishna's Home

God owns everything, so in a sense His home is everywhere. But He Himself resides in the spiritual world where there is no need of electricity and everyone there is liberated, shining with pure love for Krishna. Because Krishna is the center of everyone's



heart, there is complete unity and peace. Goloka is built of transcendental cows, gems and trees that yield whatever one wants. The natural surroundings are beautiful, full of diversity and opulence. In Goloka, every word is a song, every step a dance, every moment new, fresh, and exciting. Reaching Krishna there is the highest achievement of human life.

Krishna's Names

Just as we may have different names according to our various roles—Mom, Dr. Jones, Professor, Your Honor, etc.—so does God. And since God is unlimited, He has innumerable names. The names can be generic terms, such as “God” or “the Absolute Truth.” They can be in Sanskrit, such as *Govinda*, *Gopal*, or *Shyamasundar*. They can be in other languages, such as Yahweh and Allah. The name Krishna, which means “the all-attractive” implies that each of us is naturally attracted to Him. God and His names are identical, so by reciting them we enter His blissful and purifying company. Regularly reciting, singing, or chanting His names

awakens our innate love for Him and frees us from bondage to matter and its related pains and anxieties.

Srimad-Bhagavatam, A Major Contribution to the Understanding of God

The Vedas deal with many subjects. They are the books of a highly developed civilization and cover all departments of knowledge; advanced mathematics, astrology, medicine, building, warfare, etc. Among them, *Srimad-Bhagavatam* deals exclusively with subjects about God. *Srimad* means “beautiful” or “opulent,” and *Bhagavatam* means “related to God.” Hence, *Srimad-Bhagavatam* can be translated as “The Beautiful Story of God.” *Srimad-Bhagavatam* describes God, our relationship with Him, and the process for realizing that relationship. Its 18,000 verses give detailed accounts of God’s names, forms, nature, personality, devotees, activities, residences, and much more. *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* is considered the ripe fruit of the tree of the Vedas. 🌸

Calendar

JUNE 2025

- 05 June 2025 - Disappearance Day of Sri Baladeva Vidyabhusana
- 05 June 2025 - Appearance Day of Srimati Gangamata Goswami
- 07 June 2025 - **Pandava Nirjala Ekadasi**
- 11 June 2025 - Disappearance Day of Sri Mukunda Datta
- 11 June 2025 - Disappearance Day of Sri Sridhara Pandita
- 12 June 2025 - Disappearance Day of Sri Syamananda Prabhu
- 16 June 2025 - Appearance Day of Sri Vakresvara Pandita
- 21 June 2025 - Disappearance Day of Sri Srivasa Pandita
- 22 June 2025 - **Yogini Ekadasi**
- 25 June 2025 - Disappearance Day of Sri Gadadhara Pandita
- 25 June 2025 - **Disappearance Day of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura**
- 26 June 2025 - Gundica Marjana (Lord Caitanya’s festival of cleaning the Gundica temple)
- 27 June 2025 - Disappearance Day of Sri Svarupa Damodara Gosvami
- 27 June 2025 - Disappearance Day of Sri Sivananda Sena

JULY 2025

- 01 July 2025 - Disappearance Day of Sri Vakresvara Pandita
- 06 July 2025 - **Sayana Ekadasi**
- 10 July 2025 - Disappearance Day of Sanatana Goswami
- 11 July 2025 - **First Month of Caturmasya Begins**
- 15 July 2025 - Disappearance Day of Srila Gopala Bhatta Goswami
- 18 July 2025 - Disappearance Day of Srila Lokanatha Goswami
- 19 July 2025 - The Incorporation of ISKCON in New York
- 21 July 2025 - **Kamika Ekadasi**
- 28 July 2025 - Disappearance Day of Sri Raghunandan Thakura
- 28 July 2025 - Disappearance Day of Sri Vamsidasa Babaji

