

Inspire

Local updates and spiritual articles



*mahabhava-svarupa tvam krishna-priya-variya
prema-bhakti-prade devi radhike tvam nammamy aham*

Oh Radha, I have fallen into the horrible ocean of birth and death and am frightened but I am seeking Your shelter.
Oh queen of the demigods, please free me from all fears.

ISKCON Belfast



September/October 2024



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Pictures of Belfast
Ratha Yatra on 3rd
August



16th September
Appearance day of
Srila Bhaktivinoda
Thakura



Which Body Am I?
An essay by
Bhagavati dasi



International Society for Krishna
Consciousness. Founder Acarya, His
Divine Grace, AC Bhaktivedanta Swami
Prabhupada.

Srimati Radharani's appearance day

11th September 2024



tapta kanchana
gaurangi
radhe vrndavanesvari
vrsabhanu-sute devi
pranamami hari-priye

Translation

O Radharani, I offer my respects to you, whose complexion is like molten gold. Oh Goddess, You are the queen of Vrndavana, the daughter of King Vrsabhanu and You are very dear to Lord Krishna.

Radharani is *hari-priya*, very dear to Krishna. So if we approach Krishna through Radharani, through the mercy of Radharani, then it becomes very easy. If Radharani recommends that, "This devotee is very nice," then Krishna immediately accepts, however fool I may be. Because it is recommended by Radharani, Krishna accepts.

Therefore in Vrndavana you'll find that the devotees are chanting more Radharani's name than Krishna's. Wherever you'll go, you'll find the devotees are addressing, "Jaya Radhe." You'll find still in Vrndavana, they are glorifying Radha. They're more interested, worshiping Radharani because however fallen I may be, if some way or other I can please Radharani, then it is very easy for me to understand Krishna.

Don't try to understand Radha-Krishna very quickly. It's a very big subject. Radha-Krishna philosophy has to be understood by the liberated person, not by the conditioned soul. So we will wait for the fortunate moment when we are liberated. Then we will understand Radha-Krishna. Just try to understand the greatness of Radharani. She is so great and we have to offer our respect. She is the only lovable object of Krishna.

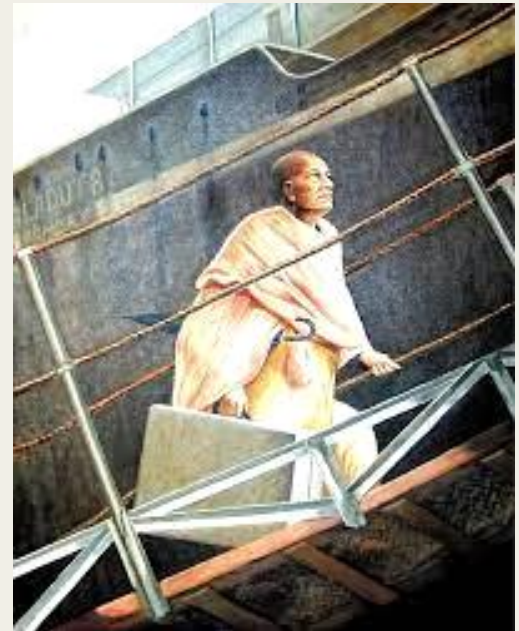
All the devotees of Vrndavan are worshipers of Radharani. Rupa Goswami is praying; "Oh my worshipable Radharani. You are full of mercy so I am begging for Your mercy. Very easily You offer so I am begging Your mercy."

The above is an excerpt from a class given by Srila Prabhupada in London on Radhamastami, 18th September 1969.

24th September is the anniversary of
Srila Prabhupada's
arrival in America



The Jaladuta steamship that brought Srila Prabhupada from India to Boston harbour on 13th September 1965. The voyage took six weeks.



Srila Prabhupada boarding the Jaladuta.



The first picture of Srila Prabhupada in America, taken by his hosts, Gopal and Sally Agarwal. He lived with the Agarwals in Butler, Pennsylvania before moving to New York in 1966 where he attracted people by chanting the Hare Krishna maha-mantra.

The glories of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura

16th September marks the appearance day of this *Vaisnava* saint who was the most influential Gaudiya Vaisnava leader of his time. Born in the Nadiya district of West Bengal in 1838, he started writing books at the age of twelve. Before his departure from this world in 1914, he had written hundreds of books, songs and poems which express his deep, transcendental emotions and which have irresistible conviction and devotion. He was a tireless preacher of Lord Caitanya's message and he founded and conducted *nama-hata* programmes throughout Bengal.

Lord Caitanya wound up his pastimes in this world in 1534 and two centuries later His *sankirtana* movement was on the wane. To revive it Krishna's eternally perfect devotee, Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura, descended. In 1887 he found and established the birthplace of Caitanya Mahaprabhu. He and Jagannatha Babaji Maharaja often prayed there and



Bhaktivinoda Thakura personally went door-to-door asking for donations to establish a temple on that spot (see picture left). He studied the books of the six Goswamis and wrote commentaries on *Bhagavad-gita*, *Srimad-Bhagavatam*, *Sri Caitanya-caritamrta* and many other books.

It was his great wish that Krishna Consciousness could be brought to the Western countries. In 1896 he sent his book, "*Sri Caitanya Mahprabhu, His Life and Precepts*" to scholars and academic libraries in, among

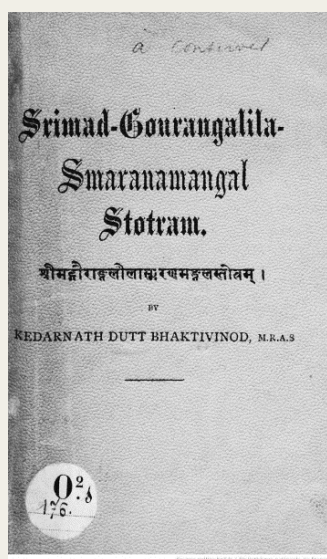
other cities, Montreal, Sydney, London and Oxford. It received many favourable reviews. (See photo of original copy, left). The Thakura prayed to Lord Krishna, asking Him to send someone to help him re-establish Lord Caitanya's Movement. As a result, Bimala Prasad, who later became Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Goswami, was born as his son in 1874. This *paramahansa* was the spiritual master of our guru, Srila Prabhupada. Srila Prabhupada went on to fulfill the wishes of these saints by establishing Krishna Consciousness in the West and world-wide until he departed from this world in 1914.



Above: *Svananda sukada-kunja*.

In Goloka Vrndavan in the spiritual world, Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura is known as *Kamala manjari*. There he resides in a small cottage which shines beautifully in a most enchanting garden called *Svananda sukada-kunja*". He named his cottage in Mayapur after it and wrote of it: "It is non-different from the grove of Lalita sakhi, located on the bank of *Radha-kund* in Vrndavan. Living there I will sing Lord Krishna's holy name and greedily hanker for the time when I will be able to serve Him and His associates." (*Gitamala*)

On 4th October 1894, at the age of fifty-six, Bhaktivinoda Thakura retired and moved with his family to Mayapur in order to write and preach. In 1908 he formally adopted the lifestyle and practice of a *babaji* at *Surabhi-kunj* and was absorbed in chanting the *Hare Krishna* mantra until his death in 1914.



The wisdom of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura.

Guidance for those wanting to progress in spiritual life. From *Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. His life and Precepts.*
(Written in 1896 and aimed at western scholars)

Give up prejudices which you have acquired from the so-called rational thinkers who deny the existence of spirit. Be humble in yourself and learn to respect those who work towards spiritual attainments. Do these with your heart, mind and strength in the company of spiritual people alone and you will see Krishna in no time.

While located in the *mayic* world, man must live peacefully with the object of cultivating the spirit. In his society, he must lead a pure life, avoid sins and do as much good as he can to his brother man. He must be humble, bearing difficulties of life with heroism, must not brag of any goodness or grandeur he has and must treat everyone with (the) respect due to him.

Marriage, with a view to peaceful and virtuous life and with a view to procreate servants of the Lord, is a good institution for a *Vaisnava*. Spiritual cultivation is the main object of life. Do everything that helps it and abstain from doing anything which thwarts the cultivation of the spirit.

Have a strong faith that **Krishna alone protects you and no one else**. Admit Him as your only guardian. Do everything which you know Krishna wishes you to do and never think that you do a thing independent of the holy wish of Krishna. Do all that you do with humility. Always remember that you are a sojourner in this world and you must be prepared for your own home.

Do your duties and cultivate *bhakti* as a means to obtain the great end of life, *Krishna-priti*. Employ your body, mind and actions in the service of the deity. In all your actions, worship your great Lord.

A poem by Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura

Lord Gaurasundara sings in a very sweet voice
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna, Krsna Krsna Hare Hare,
Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare

Whether you are a family person living at home or a sannyasi living in the forest, constantly chant and call out 'Hare, Hare'. Whether you are in a position of happiness or distress, do not forget this chanting. Just fill your lips with *harinama*.

You are bound up in the entangling network of *maya* and you are forced to toil uselessly. Now that you have obtained full consciousness in the human form of life, please chant the names of Radha-Madhava. Your life may end at any moment and you have not served the Lord of the senses, Hrsikesa. Take this advice from Bhaktivinoda; Just once relish the nectar of the holy name.
(Gitavali)

On Chanting Hare Krsna

As He left His family and friends to take sannyasa, Lord Caitanya told them:

"Go and praise the Supreme Lord, Sri Krishna, chant His holy name, worship Him and sing His glories. Do not think of anything other than Krishna. If you have any love for Me, then show it by chanting and singing no other name – only the names of Krishna at all times. Remember and chant His holy name, whether asleep, awake or eating." (*Sri Caitanya-Bhagavata* by Sri Vrndavana Dasa Thakura.)

There is indeed a way to escape the steely clutches of *namaparadha*. One must recognize and isolate the offenses conscientiously. Then one must chant continuously.

Wear the "*trnad api sunicena*" mantra around one's neck. This means always be aware of these four things while chanting and serving in this world. (Be very humble, more tolerant than a tree, devoid of false prestige and offer proper respect to all). *Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati. Siksastakam Introduction.*

We are always fearful due to our ignorance of the next problem. The whole material existence is full of problems, and thus the fear problem is always prominent. This is due to our association with the illusory energy of the Lord, known as *māyā* or external energy. Yet all fear is vanished as soon as there is the sound of the Lord, represented by His holy name, as it was sounded by Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu in the following sixteen words:

*Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa,
Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare
Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma,
Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare
Srimad Bhagavatam 1.11.3 purport.*



Which Body Am I?

An essay by Bhagavati dasi

Head transplants? People have been shocked to read the recent news of a company called Brain Bridge who are seriously planning and working towards conducting head transplants.

There was a time when heart transplants were an imagination, but in 1967 the first one was successfully performed and since then it has become a regular occurrence along with other major organ transplants namely, livers, kidneys, lungs, pancreas, thymus, stomach and intestines. Tissues from the cornea of the eye, bone, tendon, skin, pancreas-islets, heart valves, nerves and veins are transplanted. Cells from the bone marrow and stem cells are also moved from one body to another. Skin is regularly taken from one part of a patient's body and grafted to another in the case of serious burns.

XENOTRANSPLANTS – transplants from other species.

In 1984 a child with a congenital heart problem was given the heart of a baboon. She died three weeks after the operation.

In January 2022 an American man received a genetically modified pig heart. He died two months later.

In March 2024 an American man was given a genetically modified pig's kidney in a transplant operation. He died after two months although the operation was hailed as giving a ray of hope amid the ongoing organ shortage crisis because the pig's kidney continued to function in the man's body, at least for some time.

EGENESIS is a company that researches and grows human organs in genetically modified pig embryos. The embryos have some of the pig DNA replaced with human DNA. Pigs, although they are not primates have a similar structure and metabolism to humans. Xenotransplants are seen to be the answer to organ shortage but the technology for this is only at the experimental stage.

ARE HEAD TRANSPLANTS POSSIBLE?

Yes and no. Head transplants are far from reality for modern medicine as it is not possible to sever the spinal cord and re-attach it even within the native owner's body what to speak of reconnecting it to another person's head. However, the use of AI driven technology and research is making the idea seem more of a potential reality. Commercial interests are the powerful driving force behind the research. As is usually the case, it will benefit (or compromise) only the wealthy; those with more money than good sense.

HISTORICAL PRECEDENTS of HEAD TRANSPLANTS

Head transplants have been successfully performed in previous eras. There are documented cases to be found in the Sanskrit texts of the Vedic literature of India.

One case is as follows:

The great saint Dadhici had perfect knowledge of how to perform fruitive (lucrative) activities and he had advanced spiritual knowledge as well. Knowing this, the Asvini-kumaras once approached him and begged him to instruct them in spiritual science (brahma-vidya). Dadhici Muni replied, "I am now engaged in arranging sacrifices for fruitive activities. Come back some time later." When the Asvini-kumaras left, Indra, the king of heaven, approached Dadhici and said, "My dear Muni, the Asvini-kumaras are only physicians. Please do not instruct them in spiritual science. If you impart the spiritual science to them despite my warning, I shall punish you by cutting off your head." After warning Dadhici in this way, Indra returned to heaven. The Asvini-kumaras, who understood Indra's desires, returned and begged Dadhici for brahma-vidya. When the great saint informed them of Indra's threat the Asvini-kumaras replied, "Let us first cut off your head and replace it with the horse's head, and when Indra returns and cuts off that head, we shall reward and restore your original head." Since Dadhici had promised to impart brahma-vidya to the Asvini-kumaras, he agreed to their proposal. SB 6.9.52 purport.

The second example is of Daksa, a great ruler of the universe.

Daksa was involved in a great fight and his head was guillotined. Soon thereafter Lord Siva came to resolve the conflict and arranged for Daksa to be given the head of a goat. Daksa lived for the rest of his life with the goat's head and was able to continue functioning as normal despite the apparent handicap. Srila Prabhupada comments on this case,

"It appears from the exchange of Daksa's head that the theory that the brain substance is the cause of all intelligent work is not valid. The brain substance of Daksa and that of a goat are different, but Daksa still acted like himself, even though his head was replaced by that of a goat. The conclusion is that it is the particular consciousness of an individual soul which acts. The brain substance is only an instrument which has nothing to do with real intelligence. The real intelligence, mind and consciousness are part of the particular soul. ...After Daksa's head was replaced by the goat's head, he was as intelligent as he had previously been. He prayed very nicely to satisfy Lord Siva and Lord Visnu, which is not possible for a goat to do. Therefore it is definitely concluded that the brain substance is not the center of intelligence; it is the consciousness of a particular soul that works intelligently." SB 4.7.4 ppt

These accounts show that in previous ages more advanced medical technology was available and was far more effective and efficient than today. Not only did we were they able to transplant heads but there are many instances of persons being revived from the dead and wizened old bodies being rejuvenated. Sex changes were also performed and done so effectively that a female transformed to a male could inseminate his wife giving rise to pregnancy; a male transformed to a female could give birth to children.

WHERE IS THE CONSCIOUS BEING?

The stories of Dadhici and Daksa both raise the question of where the memory, personality, intelligence of an individual being are stored? These three aspects of consciousness are person specific. Dadhici instructed his students through the head of a horse. He retained his identity as Dadhici and his ability to share his spiritual wisdom. His previous consciousness with its associated memory personality and intelligence was obviously still intact.

Daksa continued as a governor of the universe despite having the head of a goat on his human body. He was still for all intents and purposes the same Daksa as he had always been. As pointed out in the commentary by Srila Prabhupada, the brain within the skull of a human being is not the seat of the consciousness.

This very important point is substantiated to some degree by numerous modern reports of personality changes after organ transplants. An article in Psychology Today, 28 Feb 2024, discusses the case of a forty-five year old woman, Claire Sylvia, who received the heart and lungs of an eighteen year old man. Three days after the operation she was asked what she would like to do - she wanted to drink beer! This was a completely uncharacteristic response for Claire; it shocked her as much as others as she had never liked beer. She went on to discover she had developed a great desire to eat green peppers and chicken nuggets neither of which were items on her menu previously. And she also dreamed of a person called Tim who would be with her forever. Later she met the parents of the deceased eighteen year old donor of her new heart and lungs. Their son, Tim, had been very fond of chicken nuggets and green peppers.

Another case was a five year old boy who received the heart of a three year old boy. The five year old, not knowing the identity of the donor, was interviewed and said that he called the donor of his new heart Tom. He thought he was younger than himself and that he liked Power Ranger toys. It was later revealed that the donor was actually called Tom and had died falling out of a window when trying to reach his Power Ranger toy.

A research neuropsychologist called Paul Pearsall published a paper with many such anecdotes of recipients of transplanted organs having memories or personality traits belonging to the previous owners of their donated organs. There is speculation in the scientific community about how the memories of the deceased donor persist within the recipients' bodies.

Vedic science has the clear-cut explanation; it is the conscious being, the soul, who is different and distinct from the body, who has carried the memories in the form of the subtle body, with it to the 'new' body. Especially since the deaths of organ donors are circumstantially premature, the body has died yet the 'previous owner' clings on to the part remains in the form of a transplanted organ.

As the embodied soul continuously passes in this body from boyhood to youth to old age, the soul similarly passes into another body at death. A sober person is not bewildered by such a change. Bg 2.13

So it is arguable that the soul that has transferred, from the prematurely deceased body, along with the organ into the recipient's body. Therefore the recipient is aware of the consciousness of the former owner of the organ.

Vedic science explains that if someone dies prematurely then it is likely he will take the form of a ghost or disembodied consciousness. This is another point in favor of the argument. The ghost has a subtle body made of mind, intelligence and false ego but no gross visible body. The ghost may not be malefic or antagonistic but he is attached the remaining portion of his body and therefore 'hangs around' the body of the recipient.

The living entity in the material world carries his different conceptions of life from one body to another, as the air carries aromas. Thus he takes one kind of body and again quits it to take another. Bg 15.8

This explanation, although perhaps not acceptable to modern materialistic doctors, makes complete sense of the evidence. Consciousness is never obliterated, it persists after the death of the body. Where and why and under whose control the consciousness or soul moves on after leaving the present body takes in the topic of reincarnation This science of the soul is clearly explained in the Sanskrit classic, *Bhagavad-gita* and in more depth in *Srimad Bhagavatam: Earth, air, water, fire, ether, mind, intelligence and false ego - all these eight together comprise My separated material energies. Besides these, O mighty armed Arjuna, there is another superior energy of Mine which comprises the living entities who are exploiting the resources of this material inferior nature. Bg 7.4-5*

So someone may pay a huge sum of money for a head transplant in the hope of being able to enjoy a new younger, better looking, healthy body, but since the brain in the head is not the source of the individual sense of conscious self, things may not turn out as expected.

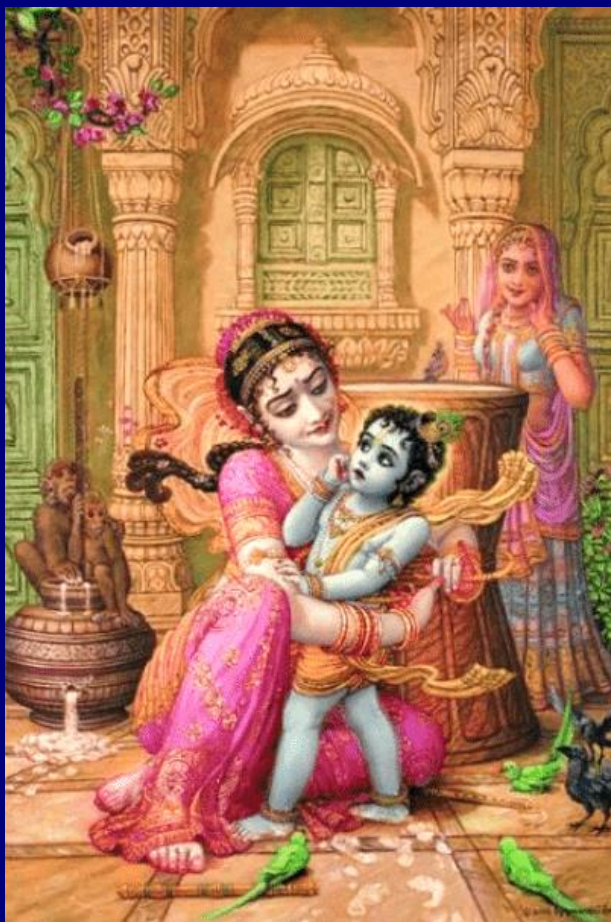
To undergo a head transplant, the patient would have his head reattached to a young healthy body. The young body, despite being no longer workable for the brain it previously had, is likely to be still inhabited by the soul or consciousness who energised it. So on moving the disembodied 'old head' to the new body, the soul who energised the old body may well be left behind in the old diseased body, being attached to it having lived in it for so many years.

The new body onto which the head is to be transplanted, may well remain dominated by the previous owner. In short, it is not clear who will be the dominant soul or the consciousness in the new body, especially since the brain is not the source of consciousness, memory, personality or intelligence. The brain is the 'software' used by the consciousness but the soul, or the consciousness is traditionally considered to be seated in the heart. Ultimately the soul is aloof from the body being eternal whereas the body is temporary.

Those who are seers of the truth have concluded that of the non-existent (the material body) there is no endurance and of the eternal (the soul) there is no change. This they have concluded by studying the nature of both. That which pervades the entire body you should know to be indestructible. No one is able to destroy that imperishable soul. Bg 2.16-17

It is currently an accepted 'fact' that the brain is the source of consciousness. Although this is a misconception it is a tenaciously held core belief of mainstream science. However, making a huge endeavor to move the brain from one body to another may inadvertently result in this misconception being exposed as such. If you are considering a head transplant there may be more to it than described in the brochure.

Month of Kartika 2024 16th October - 15th November



Because the month of *Kartika* is so dear to Srimati Radharani, we get extra benefit from our devotional service at this time.

During *Kartika* we worship Krishna as Damodara, the three-year-old boy who was bound at the waist by mother Yasoda as punishment for His mischievous pastimes of stealing butter.

This *lila* is a favourite of Krishna's devotees and it can give rise to a flood of spiritual emotions. It is celebrated daily by singing the *Sri Damodarastakam* prayer while offering a ghee lamp or a candle to a deity or a picture of Lord Damodara. During this month we can chant more rounds of the Hare Krishna mantra, read about this pastime in Krishna book and think about Krishna more, remembering the image of him fleeing from His mother in fear of punishment for His naughty behaviour of breaking the butter-pot, eating the butter and feeding the rest to the monkeys. By virtue of her uninterrupted and unmotivated maternal love for Him, Krishna allows Mother Yasoda to punish Him by binding Him with a rope meant for tying cows.

By hearing about this *lila*, we are reminded that Krishna is conquered only by love expressed through service.

By performing bhakti yoga during Kartika, we can quickly mature in devotional life.

What can we do?

Recite the *Sri Damodarastakam* prayer each morning or evening while offering a ghee lamp or candle to a picture of the *Damodara lila*.



Since Srimati Radharani is the predominating deity of this month, we can offer Her our heartfelt prayers, beg for Her mercy and glorify Her name, fame, form and qualities.

Remember Krishna by continually chanting the *maha-mantra*.

Read about Krishna's pastimes in Krishna book and Srila Prabhupada's other books daily, especially *Bhagavad-gita* and *Srimad-Bhagavatam*.

Hear the transcendental sound vibration of Srila Prabhupada's classes as often as possible.

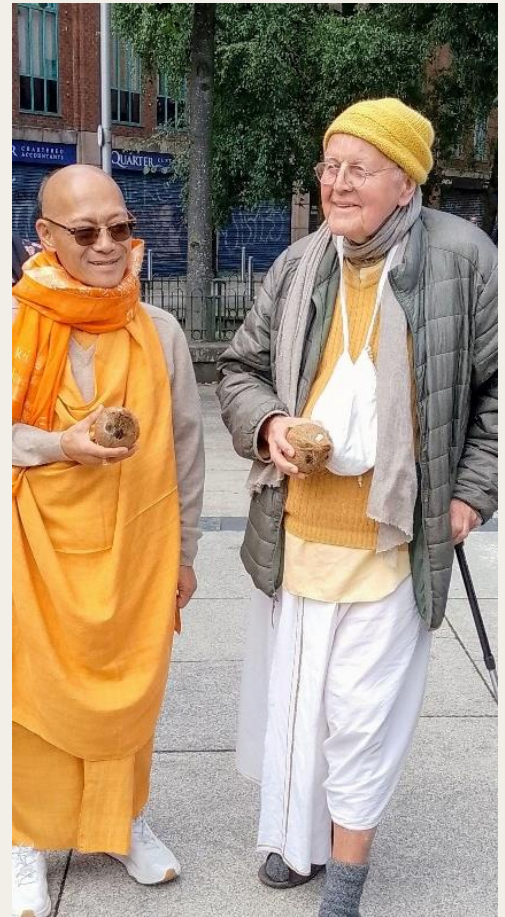
Perform service in the holy *dhama*, especially Vrndavan or Mayapur. Or do service at the local temple to garner one thousand times more benefit than at any other time of year.

Celebrate *Govardhana Puja* (2nd Nov), when Krishna lifted Govardhana Hill to protect His devotees.



Their Lordships, Lord Jagannatha, Lord Balarama and Lady Subhadra with Srila Prabhupada and the pujaris on the chariot.

Belfast Ratha Yatra 3rd August



Residents of Vrindavan, Bhakti Janardhana Maharaja and Prithu prabhu, smashed coconuts before the chariot moved off. This symbolises breaking open our hardened hearts and asking the Lord to enter there.
Below: happy kirtaneers



Srila Prabhupada with pujaris, Lalita devi dasi and Pavani devi dasi





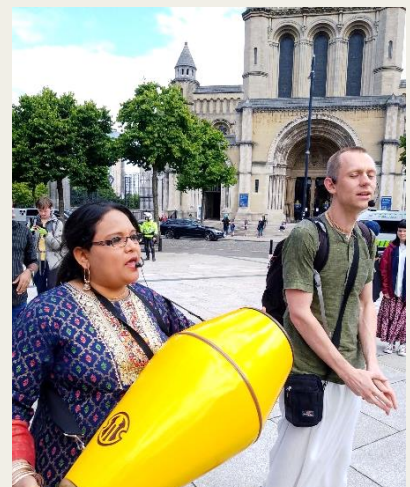
Above: Manu, Praghosa prabhush and other devotees came from Dublin to lead kirtan and organise operations.



When Their Lordships stopped along the way, the crowd enjoyed an ecstatic kirtan.



Above left: Arushi Samal from Galway did a traditional Orissan dance in front of the chariot. Left: Bhakta Scott on marshal service. Top right: Lalita dasi and Mary. Below right: Ameyatma das and Amekhala dasi.





Above left: Pujari from Inish Rath temple Lalita dasi with Rima and Vijayalaxmi.



Above right: Nitya Sankirtana das who stayed with us for some days, dancing through the city streets on harinama, delighting onlookers.



Above: Vijayalaxmi, Sree and Kishori dasi.

Going for Krishna.

A poem by Peter Goodall

Krishna is the one true Lord – above and below, holding my heart on a cord.

I want to give up bad association so must I live in the Indian nation or live in the Krishna temple? With no mundane news, would I go mental?

My friends are *karmis* and their forbidden food is *maya's* ruse. It doesn't sooth the troubled mind but offered out of "brotherly love" I feel I can't refuse.

My friends and neighbours I can't give up, so must I live in a Himalayan hut? Do I give up Krishna consciousness, give my mind a rest and end this indecisiveness or go for Krishna with Iskcon's help and stand strong against the darkness?

Ok, the mind is restless, going about helter-skelter but I'll give it the sound vibration of Krishna's name and there it'll find such nice shelter.

I'm giving up the struggle and resting in the holy name. That's the real shelter Krishna, then Your *maya* will give me no pain.

Chant



and be happy



15th September is the appearance day of Srila Jiva Goswami (1513-1598), one of the most important *acharyas* in the *Gaudiya Vaishnava sampradaya*. Srila Prabhupada has commented that “The *Vaisnavas* are by far the greatest philosophers in the world and the greatest among them was Srila Jiva Goswami.” (CC Adi 2.7.102 purport). Left: Jiva Goswami’s *bhajan kutir* in Vrindavan

Srila Jiva Goswami, is an incarnation of Vilas Manjari, an eternal servant of Srimati Radharani in the spiritual world. In his earthly pastimes he was the nephew of Srila Rupa and Srila Sanatana goswamis. As a young scholar, he quickly mastered *Sanskrit* grammar, poetry and philosophy. He was the youngest of the six goswamis of Vrindavan and the most prolific writer among them. He compiled not less than 400,000 Sanskrit verses.

Srila Jiva had all the symptoms of a *Maha-purusa*, including elongated lotus-like eyes, a high nose and forehead, large shoulders and chest, hands reaching to his knees, an effulgence that appeared like molten gold and other specific features.

When Jiva Goswami met Lord Nityananda in Navadvipa, he immediately recognised Nityananda Prabhu as being non-other than the Balarama deity whom he had worshipped since his childhood. He said to the Lord; **“You are the form of the universe. You are Balarama. In fact, You are so infinite that I cannot properly describe Your qualities. One thing I know for certain is that You are my eternal master and I am Your servant. My only aspiration is the shade of Your lotus feet. That person to whom You give mercy, easily gets the lotus feet of Sri Caitanya and drowns in the water of love of God. Without Your mercy, no one can get Sri Caitanya, even if one worships Him for one hundred lifetimes. I therefore pray for Your merciful glance.”** *Navadvip Dham Mahatmya*, p8.

After glorifying Lord Nityananda, Srila Jiva was taken by Nityananda Prabhu on a tour of the nine holy places in Navadvipa that are related to Lord Caitanya’s pastimes. Then Lord Nityananda told Srila Jiva to go to Vrindavana. Upon reaching there, Jiva Goswami met his uncle, Sanatana Goswami and asked him for initiation. Out of humility, Sanatana Goswami deferred the responsibility to his brother, Rupa Goswami. Rupa Goswami gave Sri Jiva menial services such as massaging his feet, begging alms, prepare articles and foods for deity worship, researching texts and preparing palm leaves for his writing. Srila Rupa Goswami observed Srila Jiva’s service attitude and gave him initiation.

Once a Vaisnava called Rupanarayana challenged Rupa and Sanatana to a philosophical debate. The brothers refused to deal with him but instead agreed to sign a statement that Rupanarayana had defeated them in debate. They were unattached to honour and dishonour which was so dear to Rupanarayana who then went to Jiva Goswami and showed him the statement. Although much younger than him, Sri Jiva brazenly spoke out and debated with Rupanarayana and defeated him thus indirectly glorifying his guru Srila Rupa and proving Rupanarayana to be a materialist. Srila Rupa Goswami berated Jiva for his pride in debating with and defeating Rupanarayana and told him to leave Vrindavana. Severely humbled, Srila Jiva left and in order to atone for his supposed misconduct, he underwent many austerities. Seeing his humility and strict self-denial, Srila Sanatana persuaded Srila Rupa to manifest the most important quality of a *Vaisnava*, *jiva daya*, and bring Jiva Goswami back into his service.

Srila Prabhupada has commented on this guru-disciple pastime: “Sri Rupa Goswami cast out Jiva Goswami to teach us, the devotees of today, a lesson. It was not done to teach or punish Srila Jiva Goswami, who is a perfectly liberated, eternal associate of Lord Krishna. Rupa Goswami sent Jiva Goswami out of Vrindavana to teach all *jivas* what he wrote in *Upadesamrta*: *vaco vegam mansah krodah vegam jihva-vegam...* At all times, a devotee should control his tongue, his speech and always remain humble, *trinad api sunicena*.” Jiva Goswami left this world around 1598. His samadhi is located at in the grounds of Radha-Damodara temple in Vrindavan, the temple he had established in 1542.

Buying and Sponsoring books

Devotees are distributing books and pamphlets on a weekly basis. If you can't get to the temple but would like to purchase a book, please send a text or WhatsApp message to telephone number 07555281792 and we will post them to you.

If you would like to sponsor some books, please use the links below and devotees will distribute them for you.

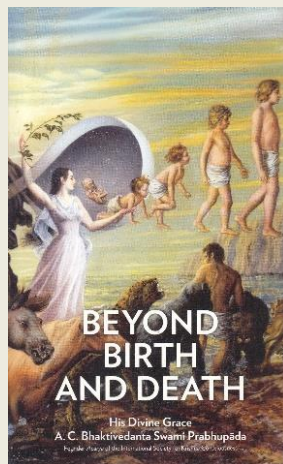
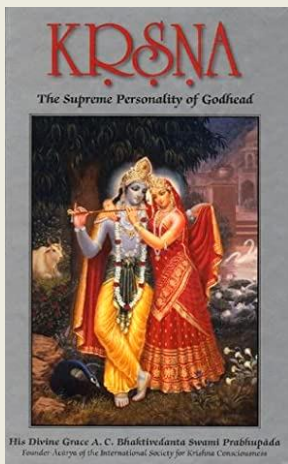
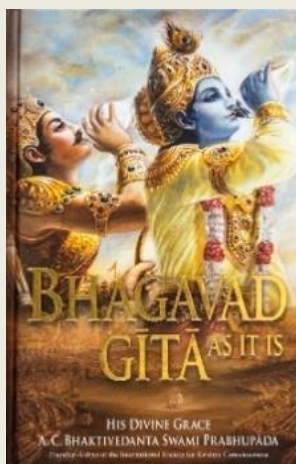
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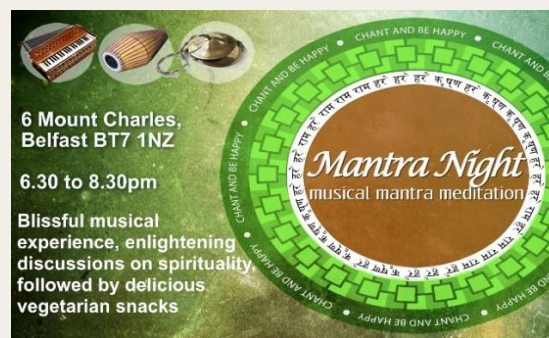
Join us on the third and fourth Saturday of each month for

Harinama

in Belfast city centre,
on Ann Street at 1.30pm

Mantra night

at Women's Resource Centre,
Lower Crescent Belfast at 6.30pm



For details call our mobile no:
07424483907

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To view previous newsletters, please
ctrl & click on website icon above.



Vaisnava Calendar September/October 2024

September

08 Sept 2024 - **Srimati Sita Thakurani Appearance Day**
11 Sept 2024 - **Radhastami: Appearance of Srimati Radharani**
14 Sept 2024 - **Parsva Ekadashi**
15 Sept 2024 - **Sri Vamana Dwadashi: Appearance of Sri Vamana Deva**
15 Sept 2024 - **Appearance Day of Sri Jiva Goswami**
16 Sept 2024 - **Appearance Day of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura**
17 Sept 2024 - **Ananta Caturdasi Vrata: Appearance Day of Padmanabha**
17 Sept 2024 - **Disappearance Day of Srila Haridasa Thakura**
18 Sept 2024 - **Sri Visvarupa Mahotsava**
18 Sept 2024 - **Acceptance of Sannyasa by Srila Prabhupada**
19 Sept 2024 - **Third Month of Caturmasya Begins**
24 Sept 2024 - **Srila Prabhupada's arrival in the USA**
28 Sept 2024 - **Indira Ekadasi**

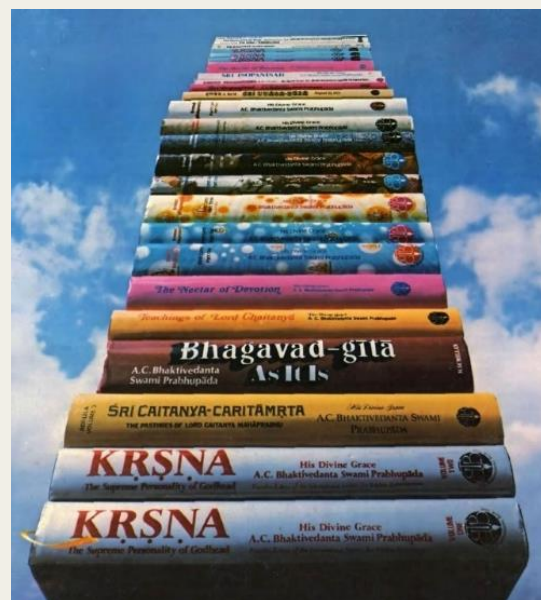
October

10 Oct 2024 - **Durga Puja**
13 Oct 2024 - **Ramacandra Vijayotsava**
13 Oct 2024 - **Appearance Day of Sri Madhvacharya**
14 Oct 2024 - **Pasankusa Mahadvadashi**
15 Oct 2024 - **Disappearance Day of Srila Raghunatha Dasa Goswami**
15 Oct 2024 - **Disappearance Day of Srila Raghunatha Bhatta Goswami**
15 Oct 2024 - **Disappearance Day of Srila Krsnadasa Kaviraja Goswami**
17 Oct 2024 - **Sri Krsna Saradiya Rasayatra**
17 Oct 2024 - **Laksmi Puja**
17 Oct 2024 - **Disappearance Day of Sri Murari Gupta**
18 Oct 2024 - **Fourth Month of Caturmasya Begins**
21 Oct 2024 - **Disappearance Day of Srila Narottama Dasa Thakura**
24 Oct 2024 - **Appearance Day of Radha Kunda, Snana Dana**
24 Oct 2024 - **Bahulastami**
25 Oct 2024 - **Appearance Day of Virabhadra**
28 Oct 2024 - **Rama Mahadvadashi**

Sunday Temple Programme

Enhance your spiritual life by joining the temple activities

Everyone is welcome to join us for Mangala-arati each morning 5.00am
(Please call in advance 07424483907)
and
Sundays from 3.00pm to 5.30pm



3.00pm – *Kirtan* and
Bhagavad-gita class

4.00pm – *Arati*

4.45pm – Sunday *prasadam* feast

Address:

2A Brooklands Grange,
Belfast
BT17 0SA

Email:

Ctrl & click below
info@iskconbelfast.co.uk

Recipe for Milk-Powder Burfi



Ingredients

$\frac{3}{4}$ of a small block of butter

1 $\frac{1}{3}$ cup sugar

1 $\frac{1}{3}$ cup milk (not skimmed milk)

Handful of slivered almonds and pistachios or nuts and raisins

2 tsp vanilla extract

3 cups milk powder

Method

Melt butter and add sugar and milk.

Bring to the boil and add milk powder.

Stir constantly for about ten minutes and add nuts and raisins.

Spread on a tray and let it cool in the fridge.

Cut into squares and offer to Krishna.



In Vrndavan, Krsna keeps a variety of animals including pet oxen, deer, dogs, parrots, a peacock, a swan and a pet monkey named Dadhilobha (greedy for yogurt).

Srimati Radharani also has her favourite animals which include pet Surabhu cows, an old monkey named Kakkhati, a doe, an elephant, a cakori bird, a chubby calf named Tungi and a swan called Tundikeri, who is fond of swimming in Radha-kund.

Radharani's pet parrots, Suksmadhi and Subha, can perfectly imitate the playful jokes that Lalita devi tells to the divine couple. By this wonderful repetition, the parrots astonish the gopis. (RKG)

