Voyage of Compassion
Aug 13 - Sep 19, 1965
50th Anniversary of Srila Prabhupada's crossing to the West
Sri Radhashtami
The auspicious appearance day of Srīmatī Radharani

Monday, Sep 21, 2015

Celebrations 6:00pm onwards
at ISKCON Hare Krishna Hill, Bangalore

munīndra-vṛnda-vandite triloka-śoka-hārīṁi
prasanna-vaktra-pāṅkaje nikuñja-bhū-vilāsini
vrajendra-bhānu-nandini vrajendra-sūnu-saṅgate
kadā kariṣyasīha māṁ kṛpā-kaṭākṣa-bhājanam

O goddess worshiped by the kings of sages, O goddess who remove the sufferings of the three worlds, O goddess whose face is a blossoming lotus, O goddess who enjoy pastimes in the forest, O daughter of Vṛṣṭḥabhanu, O companion of Vraja's prince, when will You cast Your merciful sidelong glance upon me?

For more details of the festival visit: http://www.iskconbangalore.org/radhashtami
His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, Founder-Acharya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, came to America in 1965, at age 69, to fulfill his spiritual master’s request that he teach the science of Krishna consciousness throughout the English-speaking world. In a dozen years he published some seventy volumes of translation and commentary on India’s Vedic literature, and these are now standard in universities worldwide. Meanwhile, travelling almost nonstop, Srila Prabhupada moulded his international society into a world wide confederation of ashramas, schools, temples and farm communities. He passed away in 1977, in Vrindavana, the place most sacred to Lord Krishna. His disciples and followers are carrying forward the movement he started.

To know more about Srila Prabhupada visit www.iskconbangalore.org/srila-prabhupada
Perfect Knowledge from the Perfect Source

Why Lord Krishna is the authority we must turn to for faultless answers to the questions of life.

by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
Founder-Acharya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness

The Personality of Godhead, Lord Sri Krishna, said: I instructed this imperishable science of yoga to the sun-god, Vivashvan, and Vivashvan instructed it to Manu, the father of mankind, and Manu in turn instructed it to Ikshvaku.—*Bhagavad-gita* 4.1

*Bhagavad-gita* is the preliminary study of the science of Godhead. The word *bhagavan*, from which the name *Bhagavad-gita* comes, means the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Generally, a fortunate or opulent man is called *bhagyavan*, which comes from the word *bhaga*. *Bhaga* means six kinds of opulence: wealth, strength, influence, wisdom, beauty, and renunciation. These are opulences. If a man is wealthy, he’s attractive. Similarly, he’s attractive if he’s very strong, very influential, very learned, wise, or beautiful. He or she—it doesn’t matter. Or if he’s a great renouncer. Naturally we become attracted to one who has renounced everything for the benefit of the public.

In the material world we find some wealthy man, some rich man, some strong man, some beautiful man, some wise man, some renounced man, but they possess only a very small quantity of the total of these opulences. Take a rich man. He may be very rich, but he cannot claim, “I am the richest man.” Nobody can claim, “I am the wisest man.” Nobody can claim, “I am the strongest man.” However strong one may be, he is under the rules and regulations of material nature. He cannot go beyond that.

Therefore, in this world you cannot find a Bhagavan, a supreme person possessing all these opulences. That is not possible. But here it is said, *bhagavan uvacha*. That means Krishna is the richest, the strongest, the most beautiful, the wisest, and the most renounced. He proved that by His actions when He was present in the material world, on this globe.

In this age, at the present moment, if a person can provide for his family nicely—nice apartment or nice house, good dress, good food—he’s considered to be a very successful man. That is mentioned in the *shastra* [scripture]: *daksyam kutumba-bharanam*. *Kutumba* means “family.” If one can provide for his family very comfortably, he is considered very expert. But family maintenance is done by cats and dogs. They also maintain their family, their wife and children, very nicely, according to their standard. But this age is so fallen that one is considered expert if he can obtain the preliminary necessities of life: eating, sleeping, sex, and protection from fear.

The age is so fallen that people have no food even. We all know how things are going on. People are hungry. No food. They have difficulty sleeping. Nobody’s married timely, either boys or girls. And nobody’s secure. Nobody knows what will happen at the next moment. These are symptoms of the current age, Kali-yuga.

Kali-yuga means:

prayenalpayusah sabhya
kalav asmin yuge janah
mandah sumanda-matayo
manda-bhagya hy upadrutah

“O learned one, in this iron age of Kali men have but short lives. They are quarrelsome, lazy, misguided, unlucky, and, above all, always disturbed.” *Alpa ayusah*: people live a very short time. The duration of life is reducing. Anyone can see that. His forefather, his grandfather, lived for, say, a hundred years. His father lived for eighty years. And he’s going to live for sixty years. In this way, the duration of life will be reduced to twenty years. That has been foretold. If a man lives for twenty to thirty years, he will be considered a very old man.

That day is coming. Because how will they live? There is no eating, there is no sleeping. These are required.
Annad bhavanti bhutani. Simply by hearing dry lectures, how will people feel happy? There must be sufficient food grains so that people may live happily and the animals may live happily. Especially in India you will see. No animal is fatty, either cat, dog, or cow. They have no food.

Annad bhavanti bhutani. Everyone must be given sufficient food. Krishna does not say, "Fast and chant Hare Krishna." Krishna is not so impractical. He says, "Eat very nicely, maintain yourself very nicely, and chant Hare Krishna. Make your life successful." That is the programme of the Krishna consciousness movement. The Krishna consciousness movement is not one-sided—it is all-embracing. Sarve sukhino bhavantu. The Krishna consciousness movement wants to see everyone happy. Without being happy, how you can remain peaceful? That is not possible.

Therefore: bhagavan uvaca. Take lessons from Bhagavan, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the all-perfect. What will you gain by hearing this rascal or that rascal? Try to hear from the Supreme Personality without any fault, without any deviation. There are four kinds of defects in conditional life: we have imperfect senses, and we have the tendency to commit mistakes, to be in illusion, and to cheat. We are all infected with these four deficiencies of life, or material conditions of life.

One who is free from these defects is called mukta, liberated. Those infected with these defects cannot give you perfect knowledge. That is not possible. How can anyone gather perfect knowledge with imperfect senses? They can simply say, "Perhaps," "It may be," "Most probably." That's all. Theories. Nobody can say, "It is like this."

On the other hand, in the Vedas it is said, exactly how many varieties of life there are. Jalaja navalaksani sthavara laksana-vimsati, krmary rudra-sankhyaakah . . . Exact numbers: 900,000 species of life in the water, 2,000,000 varieties of trees and plants, 1,100,000 varieties of insects, 1,000,000 types of birds, 3,000,000 types of animals, and 400,000 types of humans. Everything is exactly calculated. That is Vedic knowledge. How does this perfect knowledge come? Here Krishna says, imam vivasvate yogam proktavan aham avyayam. Avyayam means "that which does not deviate, that which is perfect." If you want to know perfect knowledge, you have to hear from Krishna.

Therefore: bhagavan uvacha. Bhagavan means the supreme wise, the most powerful, the most influential, the most beautiful, the most learned, the most renounced. Just see Bhagavan's renunciation. If we construct a building, how attached we become to that building! But Krishna has constructed the whole universe. We have no idea what the universe is. We have no idea what this planet is. We are trying to go to the moon, but we have no exact idea even of the moon. And there are innumerable planets. Yasya prabha prabhavato jagad-anda-koti-kotisu vasudhadi-vibhuti-bhinnam. Each planet is of a different type, a different climate, a different standard of life, different facilities. And there are innumerable planets. You cannot even count them all. This is only one universe, and there are millions of universes.

So Krishna, or the Supreme Lord, is the creator of all these universes. Still, He does not come here. Or, rather, He comes occasionally. But He does not claim this place. You utilize. He has given it to you. "You living entities, you wanted to enjoy this material world. All right, I give it to you. Enjoy."

Beginning from Brahma, down to the ant, all living entities are enjoying, and they're creating their own karma-phala, karmic reactions. And because the soul is creating his karma-phala, he's getting another body: sometimes an ant's body, sometimes Brahma's body, sometimes a cat's body, sometimes an American body, sometimes an Indian body, sometimes a monkey's body. In this way we are wandering all over the universes. This is called the material disease.

One who is wise, learned, should try to understand how to get out of the cycle of birth and death. Now you have got this American body, a body from a very nice, rich nation. And we have got an Indian body. That's all right. But what is the next life? People do not know. You prepare for the future by education, but how are you preparing for the next life? People do not know whether or not there is life after death. Such fools we are that we do not know.

Therefore we have to hear from the perfect person, Krishna. Krishna says, dehino 'smin yatha dehe. That is the first instruction. Dehino 'smin yatha dehe kaumaram yauvanam jara, tathadehantara-praptih. That is the beginning of spiritual education. Dehantara-praptih. We have to change this body, transmigrate from this body to another body. Transmigration is subtle, but no university teaches how the soul transfers from one body to another or what kind of body you are going to get next. There is no such science being taught. But the change of body is our real problem.

Therefore we have to hear from Krishna, Bhagavan, the Supreme, the person who can give us perfect knowledge. That is the process. If we really want knowledge, we have to hear from Krishna. And Krishna is so...
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kind, He came personally.

yada yada hi dharmasya
glanir bhavati bharata
abhyyuthanam adharmasya
tadatmanam srjamy aham

"Whenever and wherever there is a decline in religious practice, O descendant of Bharata, and a predominant rise of irreligion—at that time I descend Myself." Krishna comes. He's so kind. He comes, He personally gives instruction, and He leaves the instruction recorded. Bhagavad-gita was spoken by Krishna to Arjuna, and it was recorded by Sanjaya, by the grace of Vyasa. And then Vyasa put the conversation in the Mahabharata. Mahabharata means "The History of Greater India." The whole planet is called Bharata, or Bharata-varsa. And the history of the whole planet is called Mahabharata.

Gita is for Everyone

The Bhagavad-gita is set in the Mahabharata for the enlightenment of all human beings. It is not meant for the Hindus, for the Indians, for the brahmans. No. It is meant for everyone, so that they can take perfect knowledge from Krishna and be happy. If you actually want to become happy, then accept Krishna's instructions. If you want to save yourself from this fallen condition, take instruction from Krishna. Do not deviate. Do not try to interpret Krishna's instructions in your own whimsical way. Simply try to understand what Krishna says. That's all. Then your life will be perfect.

Therefore Krishna says, "Try to understand Bhagavad-gita by this process." What is that process? Imam vivasvate yogam proktavan aham avyayam: "I first of all spoke to the sun-god, Vivashvan." The sun is there, but nobody knows what is in the sun. The so-called scientists and philosophers don't know. But it is possible to talk with the sun-god personally, provided you become qualified by Krishna's grace. Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead. He can go anywhere. The sun is a fiery planet. The bodies there are made of fire, just as here the bodies are made of earth. There are also planets where the bodies are made of water. These are the material elements.

Bhumir apo 'nalo vayuh. Earth, water, fire, air—they are all material. I may have a suitable body to live on this earthly planet. The fish has a certain body to live in the water. The fish cannot live on the land. You cannot live in the water. That does not mean it is impossible to live in the water. Similarly, because you cannot live in the fire, that does not mean it is impossible for others. To think it is impossible is foolishness. The sun planet is made of fire. Those who have a suitable body can live there.

The atmosphere is different on every planet. The atmosphere in the water is different from that of the land, but we know there are living entities within the water, on the land, in the air, within the earth, within the ether. Therefore the living entity is called sarva-ga, "present everywhere." The body is differently made for different atmospheres, but the spirit soul is the same. Your spirit soul and my spirit soul are the same. But your body is called an American body, and my body is called an Indian body. That is the difference. Similarly, you and I are dressed differently. The body is just like a dress for the soul.

The first point of spiritual knowledge is this: "I am not this body." Then spiritual knowledge begins. Otherwise there is no possibility of spiritual knowledge. One who is thinking, "I am this body; this body is my self," is a rascal, an animal. That's all. This rascal animalism is going on all over the world. "I am American," "I am Indian," "I am a brahmana," "I am kshatriya." This is rascaldom. You have to go above this. Then there is spiritual knowledge. That is bhakti-yoga.

mam ca yo 'vyabhicarena
bhakti-yogena sevate
sa gunan samatityaitan
brahma-bhuyaya kalpate

"One who engages in full devotional service, unfailing in all circumstances, at once transcends the modes of material nature and thus comes to the level of Brahman." Only by bhakti-yoga can you come to the spiritual platform. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu said, "I am not this brahmana, I am not a kshatriya, I am not a shudra, I am not a brahmachari, I am not a ghastra, I am not a vanaprastha . . ." Our Vedic civilization is based on varna [occupation] and ashrama [spiritual order]. So Chaitanya Mahaprabhu denied all these things: "I do not belong to any one of these." Then what is Your position? Gopi-bhartuh pada-kamalayor dasa-dasanudasah: "I am eternally the servant of Krishna, the maintainer of the gopis [cowherd girls]." And Chaitanya Mahaprabhu preached: jivera svarupa haya krsnera nitya-dasa. That is our identity: We are eternal servants of Krishna.

The servants who have rebelled against Krishna have come to the material world. To reclaim these servants,
Srila Prabhupada, the founder-acharya of ISKCON, has delivered more than 1500 lectures on Vedic scriptures like Bhagavad-gita, Srimad-Bhagavatam and Sri Chaitanya-charitamrita. The audio recording of his lectures are available in ISKCON centers. You can also hear some of these lectures in www.iskconbangalore.org/lectures-and-conversations

Krishna comes. And Krishna says,

paritranaya sadhunam
vinasaya ca duskrtam
dharma-samsthapanarthaya
sambhavami yuge yuge

"To deliver the pious and to annihilate the miscreants, as well as to reestablish the principles of religion, I Myself appear, millennium after millennium."

Krishna comes. He’s so kind.

Let us take advantage of Krishna's coming here, leaving behind the Gita. Read it perfectly, and make your life perfect. That is the purpose of the Krishna consciousness movement. It is not a bogus movement. It is a most scientific movement. Outside India, the Europeans and Americans are taking advantage of it. Why not the Indian youth? What is wrong? That is not good. Let us join together, start the Krishna consciousness movement very seriously, and deliver suffering humanity. That is our purpose.

People are suffering for want of knowledge. All necessities of life are available, but they are being mismanaged by the rogues and thieves. Become perfect in Krishna consciousness, take the management, and make your life successful.

Thank you very much. 😊
Create Ideal Men

This exchange between His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada and Australia’s director of research for the Department of Social Welfare took place at the Melbourne ISKCON center, on May 21, 1975.

Srila Prabhupada: The defect of the Western countries is that practically there is no social structure. The father and mother divorce, and the children become aimless. In most cases this is the defect.

Director: That happens. Yes.

Srila Prabhupada: I have seen this pattern with many of my students. Their whole family becomes disrupted, because the father and mother—even in old age—divorce. I have seen the mother of one of my students. His father was a very good businessman. Very nice family, with a good income. All of a sudden, the father and mother disagreed about something and got a divorce. The sons were thrown into confusion; the daughters were thrown into confusion.

Director: That’s the kind of cases we deal with.

Srila Prabhupada: The father married again, and the mother married again. They were not happy, and also, the business closed. So by this one instance I can understand how, in the Western countries, people have broken away from the traditional social structure. Of course, the root cause is godlessness. That is the root cause.

Director: And now divorce is getting easier, too. Isn’t it?

Srila Prabhupada: That is a very dangerous law—to allow divorce. Divorce should not be allowed. Even if there is some disagreement between husband and wife, it should be ignored. The great political strategist Chanakya Pandita says, dampatye kalahe caiva bahvarambhe laghu kriya: “The husband and wife’s quarrel should not be taken very seriously.” Further, aja yuddhe: “A marital fight is just like a fight between two goats.” The goats may be fighting very spiritedly, but if you say “Hut!” they will go away. Similarly, the fight between husband and wife should not be taken very seriously. Let them fight for some time; they will stop automatically. But now when the husband and wife fight, each goes to a lawyer, and the lawyers give encouragement. “Yes, let us go to the divorce court.” This is going on.

So the first defect of modern society is the law allowing divorce. Another defect: there is no method for training a man to become first-class. That method is there in the Vedic civilization. Now, of course, that method is also abolished, due to the degradation of this modern age.

Formerly, though, society was divided into four classes—brahmanas, kshatriyas, vaishyas, shudras: advisors, administrators, merchants, and workers. The brahmanas were first-class men—ideal. But in today’s society there is no ideal man. Society should have some living example, so that people can see, “Oh, here is an ideal man.” And the ideal man is described here in our Bhagavad-gita. Any man can be trained. And if even just one percent of the people become ideal, the remaining ninety-nine percent will see and follow. But now there are no ideal men. That is the defect.

So we are training people to become ideal men. That is the purpose of this movement. And in practical terms, you can see what our students were in their previous life and what they are now. Therefore, the government...
should establish an institution to create ideal men. We can help.

**Director:** But becoming an ideal man would be very difficult for the grown men who come to us, although it would be possible for the kids who come.

**Srila Prabhupada:** No, even the grown men can live according to these spiritual principles, just as my disciples are living. My disciples have not been with me since childhood; when they met me, they were already grown men. They are coming from the same group. But they are now saintly. It is simply a matter of training them.

The thing is, at present I have no facility. Whatever I have done has been by personal endeavour and their cooperation. None of your Western governments has helped me, nor did my government help me, although we are struggling to make a class of ideal men. Of course, they appreciate, but they do not give us any practical support.

For instance, we have purchased this house by our endeavour, with great difficulty, because we have no income. I write my books; then we sell and get some income. So somehow or other, we expand, but no government is helping us. Rather, they are facilitating brothels and liquor shops.

At least, formerly in India there was no drinking propaganda. Now the government is even making that. They are opening wine shops. In India, even in the British period, drinking was very, very restricted. Very, very restricted. First of all, in Indian society if anyone drank, he was rejected; he was not regarded as a gentleman. A drunkard was never respected.

Similarly, meat-eaters. A meat-eater was considered a third-class man. In our childhood we saw that when people learned to eat meat, they did it very secretly, not within their own home. Instead, they ate meat far away from home, with someone else doing the cooking. It was considered very abominable to eat meat or to drink.

As for illicit sex, that also was very rare. Young women were kept strictly under the supervision of parents. The father would see that his daughter did not mix with any boy. If a girl were to go out at night and not come back, then her life would be finished—nobody would marry her. So the father had to keep his daughter with great care. And he was very, very anxious to find a suitable boy to whom he could hand his daughter over for marriage. We saw all this in our childhood. But now these nice social customs are slackened. Jawaharlal Nehru, our late prime minister, introduced the divorce law, and now Indian society is in a chaotic condition.

**Director:** What can you do if society wants divorce? Society wants it that way.

**Srila Prabhupada:** “Society wants it.” That’s like your child wants to go to hell—but it is not your duty as his father to allow him to go to hell.

“Society wants it.” Society does not know the proper standard of spiritual behaviour, nor does the government know how to uplift people. The government does not know. For all the government knows, the animals and we human beings are the same. Simply, the animals loiter naked, and we are nicely dressed—that’s all. Civilization finished. I remain an animal, but my advancement is that I am very nicely dressed. That is the standard now.

But our Vedic civilization is not like that. The two-legged animal must change his consciousness. He must be trained up as a human being.

[To a disciple:] Bhagavad-gita lists the qualities of the first-class man. You can read them.

**Disciple:** Samo damas tapah saucam ksantir arjavam eva ca / jnanam vijnanam astikyam brahma-karma svabhava-jam: “Peacefulness, self-control, austerity, purity, tolerance, honesty, knowledge, wisdom, and religiousness—these are the natural qualities by which the brahmans work.”

**Srila Prabhupada:** So people should be trained according to these spiritual principles. The way to immediately solve all society’s problems is to start an institution for training the four natural classes of men. Begin it. If there is no training, how can you expect nice citizens? If you allow a child to smoke from the very beginning and to commit all kinds of other sinful activities, how can you expect him to be a nice gentleman when he is grown up? It is not possible.

Creating ideal men is possible through this Krishna consciousness movement. As you have said, older men may not be so much inclined to come and join. But if we train men from their childhood, then everything is possible. It is not that all men can be trained up spiritually. But if even a small percentage of ideal men are in society, at least people will think, “Oh, here is the ideal.”

But now there is no such facility. We are training our students, but sometimes people laugh: “What is this nonsense?” They criticize. These leaders of society do not encourage us. Yesterday I was talking with a priest, and about illicit sex he said, “What is the wrong there? It is a great pleasure.”

We are training our students according to actual spiritual principles, and so we are proclaiming that illicit sex is sinful. In fact, our first condition is that one must give up these four things: illicit sex, meat-eating, intoxication, and gambling. This is my first condition before accepting people as my students. So they agree and they follow.

**Director:** But not all the people we encounter will do that.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Yes, they will do that, if a regular institution runs on in this way—with all facility.
Vasishta’s Own Lord
Thiru Thevanar Thogai Madhava Perumal Kovil
by Sampatkumara Ramanuja Dasan (Adv. Ashwin.S)

Located 10 kilometers from the town of Sirkali in the pristine village of Keezhachaalai is the temple of Lord Madhava- Thiru Thevanar Thogai Madhava Perumal Kovil.

History
The great Sage Vasishta wanted to have darshana of the Supreme Lord Sriman Narayana and settled down near the banks of the river Mannar to perform penance. The Supreme Lord granted him His personal darshana at the temple of Thevanar Thogai. The Lord who appeared for Sage Vasishta is Lord Madhava of Thevanar Thogai.

Sage Vasishta
Sage Vasishta is one of the saptarishis, the seven great sages created by Lord Brahma who were personifications of kindness. Vasishta is the most famous of these saptarishis as he was the royal priest to great kings and guided them to rule righteously. Even the devatas sought Sage Vasishtas advice and guidance.

His name, Vasishta, means one who shines with unparalleled brightness, and who has conquered desire, anger, miserliness, jealousy and pride. As soon as he was born, the knowledge of the Vedas, shastras, music and arts was revealed to him. He also mastered the most secret knowledge of the self. He was considered the most sacred person and worshippable by all. As a brahmarishi, he was interested in the welfare of all and although he moved with kings, he led a very simple life.

Arundhati is the name of the wife of Vasishta. Vasishta is credited as the chief author of Mandala 7 of the Rigveda. Vasishta and his family are glorified in Rig Veda, extolling their role in the Battle of the Ten Kings, making him the only mortal besides Bhavayavya to have a Rig Vedic hymn dedicated to him. Another treatise attributed by him is Vasishta Samhita - a book on Vedic system of electional astrology.

Vasishta had in his ashrama, the sacred cow Kamadhenu and her daughter, Nandini, who provided everything for the ashrama members. The king Kaushika (later called as Vishwamitra), who visited Vasishta’s hermitage, was very impressed with the cow and tried to take it away from Vasishta by force, but Kamadhenu’s spiritual power was too great for him. After being unable to conquer Kamadhenu, Vishwamitra decided to acquire power himself through penance like Vasishta. He gained much power and many divine weapons from Lord Shiva. And once again he attempted to conquer Kamadhenu/Nandini. But even the divine weapons he acquired could not defeat the power of Kamadhenu/Nandini.

The Temple
The temple is situated in the pristine village of Thevanar Thogai. Green fields, temple ponds add to the serenity of the temple.

The simple three tiered rajagopuram welcomes the devotees with colossal figures of Jaya and Vijaya guarding the shrine. sanctorum the Deity is of Lord Deivanayaka with His consorts Sridevi and Bhooodevi. This festival Deity of the Lord is called as Lord
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Madhava. The enchanting face of the Supreme Lord captivates the minds of the devotees. Just one glance of Him would be enough to destroy material desires. Above the main Deity is the vimana, called Shobhana Vimana.

There is a beautiful pond in the temple complex named Shobhana Pushkarani. Sage Vashista is very prominent in this temple.

Festivals

The annual Garuda Seva in the month of February is the most important function of this temple. During this festival Thirumangai Alwar comes and invites the Lord to participate in the Garuda Seva. Thirumangai Alwar sang 11 beautiful poems for Lord Madhava:

On the southern bank of Manniyaru lies the divya desam called Thevanar Thogai where there are forests with honey laden flowers, irrigated by the waters of the river. The force of the water causes the pollen grains to fall on the ground. The bees hum, often drinking the honey from the flowers and sing ‘Hari! Hari! Here lives Supreme Personality of Godhead.

All the chit and achit are His body—so say all the shastras. He Himself is the Brahma, Vishnu and Rudra respectively. He resides in Thevanar Thogai where live priests who defeated the king at war; where residents of Vaikuntha come and worship.

The Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Madhava, possesses great qualities. He is the Lord of all beings. He resides in Thevanar...
**Fasting**

- **Sep 24**  Ekadashi  
  *Fasting till noon for*  
  *Vamana Jayanthi*

- **Sep 25**  break fast

- **Oct 8**  Ekadashi

- **Oct 9**  break fast

**Festivals**

- **Sep 21**  Radhashtami: Appearance of Srimati Radharani  
  *Fasting till noon*

- **Sep 25**  Vamana Jayanthi:  
  *Appearance of Lord Vamanadeva*  
  *Fasting observed previous day*

- **Sep 26**  Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura - Appearance  
  *Fasting till noon*

- **Sep 28**  Third month of Chaturmasya begins  
  *Fasting from milk for one month*
Thogai—which is fortunate to possess both Vedic and earthly prosperity. The brahmanas always chant the Vedic scriptures and practice dharma. The forests in the city are full of flowers whose honey attracts bees.

All the devas including Indra, rishis, Lakshmi, Brahma, the sun god and the moon god pray to Him, ‘Oh! Lord! Please bless us.’ So saying, they stand there worshipping Him who is in Thevanar Thogai. The Supreme Personality of Godhead Lord Madhava replies, ‘I shall certainly do so,’ and does so in order to please them.

The Supreme Personality of Godhead Lord Madhava swallowed all the planets, the roaring oceans, the islands and mountains during pralaya in order to save them from getting destroyed. He resides in Thevanar Thogai—where the river Mannar (on whose southern bank is the city) brings sandal trees, ahil trees, precious gems, gold etc as if to offer them at His lotus feet. Here reside the brahmanas who fought with the Pandiya king and defeated him.

The Supreme Personality of Godhead Lord Madhava lies on a small banyan leaf as a small child after swallowing all the worlds. This is beyond the conception of even the Vedic scriptures which prides itself as the main proof of His existence. He resides in this divya desam Thevanar Thogai—where the Mannar irrigates the fields of red paddy which grow unhindered and where the fish jump and play.

The Supreme Personality of Godhead Lord Madhava split open the chest of Hiranya with His sharp strong nails and dipped His hand in the blood. This unique form of Narasimha is worshipped by the brahmanas of Thevanar Thogai who practice dharma so well that therein life can be written in books like Ramacharitha or Krishnacharita. The divya desam is beautiful with thick forests and flowering trees.

Sri Rama, who broke the huge bow to marry Sita, resides in Thevanar Thogai, a divya desam in Thirunangoor, where there are brahmanas whose wealth is Veda and charm is dharma.

The Supreme Personality of Godhead Lord Madhava’s actions are divine and unimaginable. In His lila, He killed both Kuvalayapeeda and its mahout, pulling the tusks easily. This Lord resides in Thevanar Thogai where the shenbaga trees shed their fragrance everywhere and where there are golden forts and fresh green trees everywhere.

Photo courtesy:
Santhanakrishnan, Srirangam

Lord Madhava and Mahalakshmi

Lord Madhava in Garuda vahana

To read online visit: www.goo.gl/Z8KFQU

Krishna Voice, September 2015
Introduction

Srila Prabhupada was instructed by his spiritual master, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvathi Thakura, to preach Krishna consciousness to the English-speaking world. Toward this end, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami published the first English Back to Godhead magazine in 1944. He also began to write English translations and commentaries on Bhagavad-gita, Srimad-Bhagavatam, Chaitanya-charitamrita, and other Vedic literatures. In 1965, after publishing three volumes of Srimad-Bhagavatam, he approached the owner of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, Sumati Morarji, for a complimentary passage to the United States, to fulfill the order of his Guru. After considering his request for some time, she finally agreed and issued him the ticket.

In the port of Calcutta on August 13, 1965, carrying only a small suitcase of his manuscripts, an umbrella, and a bag of dry cereal, A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami, as he was known at the time, climbed up the steep gangway onto a cargo ship named the Jaladuta. The ensuing journey presented considerable hardship. Srila Prabhupada wrote of some sea-sickness, and on the thirteenth day of the voyage, during the passage through the Arabian Sea, he suffered a massive heart attack. He was concerned that he might pass away, but in his uneasy sleep that night he had a dream, a vision in which Lord Krishna appeared. The Lord was in an open boat, along with His other incarnations. Krishna was rowing the boat, and the boat was pulling Srila Prabhupada’s ship with a rope. Krishna was smiling at Srila Prabhupada and was pulling the ship all the way to America! Srila Prabhupada did not write about this occurrence in his diary but simply stated that he had passed over a great crisis in the struggle between life and death at this time. Years later he related these events to his followers.

After the crisis, Srila Prabhupada regained his strength. Then, after crossing the Mediterranean Sea, the Jaladuta passed through the Straits of Gibraltar and into the Atlantic Ocean. Uncharacteristically, the ocean appeared like a placid lake. The Atlantic crossing was so effortless that the ship’s captain remarked that he had never seen anything like it. After a total of thirty-five days the ship at last berthed in Boston, at Commonwealth Pier, on September 17 at 5:30 a.m. The next day the Jaladuta continued to New York, where Srila Prabhupada disembarked onto a lonely Brooklyn pier to begin his mission in the West.

Srila Prabhupada is the pre-eminent acharya of the Gaudiya Vaishnava sampradaya of our time. His voyage on the Jaladuta fifty years ago marked the beginning of a spiritual revival, and the twelve years after his arrival in America saw the Hare Krishna movement spread to major cities worldwide. For millennia, the Vedic tradition had been hidden behind the boundaries of India and within Sanskrit and the vernacular languages. To a world immersed in a materialistic ethos, Srila Prabhupada revealed the wisdom of this timeless philosophy.

Some of Srila Prabhupada’s descriptions of the Jaladuta journey from his conversations and letters are reproduced here.
Krishna Voice, September 2015

I emphatically say to you, O brothers, you will obtain your good fortune from the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa only when Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī becomes pleased with you. She is the daughter of mother Śacī, is unparalleled in her service to the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa, the son of mother Śacī, is unparalleled in her service to the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa at different places throughout the world.

Although my Guru Mahārāja ordered me to accomplish this mission, I am not worthy or fit to do it. I am very fallen and insignificant. Therefore, O Lord, You have brought me here to speak about You. Now, my Lord, it is up to You to make me a most expert mystic.

If You bestow Your power, by serving the spiritual master one attains the Absolute Truth—one's life becomes successful. If that service is obtained, then one becomes happy and gets Your association due to good fortune.

My dear Lord Kṛṣṇa, You are my eternal companion. Forgetting You, I have suffered the locks of mayā birth after birth. If today the chance to meet You occurs again, then I will surely be able to rejoin You.

O Lord Kṛṣṇa, You are my eternal companion. Forgeting You, I have suffered the locks of mayā birth after birth. If today the chance to meet You occurs again, then I will surely be able to rejoin You.

O Lord, Your transcendental message is unparalleled in the history of living entities. When all the sinful, miserable living entities become happy, ecstasy will certainly cover the land. When all the sinful, miserable living entities become happy, there will be no taste for the transcendental message of Vaisvadeva. I do not know how they will be able to understand it.

Today that remembrance of You came to me in a very nice way. Because I have a great longing I called to You. I am Your eternal servant and therefore I desire Your association so much. O Lord Kṛṣṇa, except for You there is no other means of success.

O Lord, You are my eternal companion. Forgetting You, I have suffered the locks of mayā birth after birth. If today the chance to meet You occurs again, then I will surely be able to rejoin You.

Prayer unto the Lotus Feet of Kṛṣṇa

My dear Lord Kṛṣṇa, You are so kind upon this useless soul, but I do not know why You have brought me here. Now You can do whatever You like with me. You can make me a most expert mystic, You can make me dance as You like.

O My dear Lord Kṛṣṇa, You are so kind upon this useless soul, but I do not know why You have brought me here. Now You can do whatever You like with me. You can make me a most expert mystic, You can make me dance as You like.

Märkine Bhāgavatā-dharme

by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda

on board the ship J aladuta, September 13, 1965

baro-kṛṣṇa kaløa kṛṣṇa adhānare pratī / ki ṭajjāvēn hēthā koro ebe āgni

My dear Lord Kṛṣṇa, You are so kind upon this useless soul, but I do not know why You have brought me here. Now You can do whatever You like with me. You can make me a most expert mystic, You can make me dance as You like.

I wish that You may deliver them. Therefore if You so desire, then only will they be able to understand Your message. Bhāgavatā kṛṣṇa se taba avatari / dhārā hāyā saine jādī kāne bārī.

If You bestow Your power, by serving the spiritual master one attains the Absolute Truth—one's life becomes successful. If that service is obtained, then one becomes happy and gets Your association due to good fortune.
12 TUESDAY
To start for U.S.A. by
MV. Jaladuta from Calcutta port
(K. George’s Dockyard)

13 FRIDAY
Today at 9 a.m. embarked on M.V. Jaladuta. Came with me Bhagwati, the Dwarwan of Scindia Sansir(?)
Mr. Sen Gupta, Mr. Ali and Vrindaban. The cabinet is quite comfortable. It is owner’s residence and therefore the sitting room, the bedroom and the bath and privy all equipped with first class materials. Everything is nice in the 1st class compartment and thanks to Lord Sri Krishna for His enlightening Smti. Sumati Moraji for all these arrangements. I am quite comfortable.

The ship started at 1/30 p.m. very slowly from the dock (and) reached near Botanical Garden and stopped at mid-stream of the Ganges till 11 p.m. and then turned towards the front and started. It is quite steady. I cannot understand in my cabin if it is at all moving. I am so comfortable. The voyage was again stopped at 3/30 a.m. at Kalpi(?) near Diamond Harbour & Ganokhali(?) width(?), and detained for about 8 hours. The delta of the Ganges quite wide with shallow water.

SATURDAY 14
The ship started at about 11 o’clock in the morning majestically. I do not feel any jerking whatsoever. But on reaching the Bay of Bengal, there is tilting of the ship and little rolling also. The roughness increased gradually on the upper Bay of Bengal and I felt sea sickness. There was vomiting tendency and dizziness and I felt uncomfortable the whole day and night. The sea was foamy all through. It appeared like a big plate of water extending to 40

Sraila Prabhupada’s passport, 1965
square miles but factually it was endless so, today. It is a vivid example of God’s Maya because it appears like something but factually it is something else.

**FRIDAY 20**

Today at (20/8/65) the captain arranged for a meeting on board the M/V Jaladuta on account of Janmastami day and I spoke for an hour on the philosophy and teachings of Lord Sri Krishna. All the officers attended the meeting and there was distribution of Prasadam. The matter was radiographed to Smt. Sumati Moraji in Bombay. The ship is stranded on the Arabian Sea about 4 miles away from the coast. We are in this position from 3/20 p.m. 20/8/65 to 9/30 a.m. on 22/8/65.

**23 MONDAY**

Today Annada Ekadashi

We started towards Red sea on the western front at about 12/30 noon. The sky was almost clear and there was sunshine since the starting of the trip from Cochin port. We are floating now on the Arabian sea. My sea sickness again began. Headache vomiting tendency no hunger dizziness and no energy to work. It is continuing. There are sometimes showers of rain but for a short time. There was a fellow passenger in my cabin. He is also attacked with sea sickness. The whole night passed

**24 TUESDAY**

Today at about 1/30 p.m. I enquired from wheel-room that we have come only 400 miles off the Indian coast. My sea-sickness is still continuing. I take my meals once only but today I could not take my full meals also although I was fasting yesterday. I (am) feeling uncomfortable.

**25 WEDNESDAY**

Beginning from today down

26 THURSDAY
27 FRIDAY
28 SATURDAY
29 SUNDAY
30 MONDAY
31 TUESDAY

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Sriila Prabhupada at 26, 2nd Avenue, New York City

News report about Sriila Prabhupada, New York, 1966
Passed over a great crisis on the struggle for life and death.

A separate statement has to be written on this crisis area.

SEPTEMBER 1965

1 WEDNESDAY
Port Suez

2 THURSDAY
Suez Canal & Port Said

3 FRIDAY
We started from Port Said today at about 1 p.m. The Port Said city is nice. It has long narrow neat and clean roads with lofty buildings. The city is not at all congested. While passing the rear point of Suez towards Mediterranean sea, the city is clearly seen. But it is a small city with some industrial factories. Although in the desert in the city all varieties of vegetables available. There is also a Marine drive like Bombay Chowpatty beach. I could see a good park in the city.

4 SATURDAY
There was a rehearsal for emergency. We all prepared with belt on the body and the life boat was tested whether they were in order. There were two boats with capacity to load 120 persons. But we were all about fifty five on the board.

THURSDAY 9
Till 4 o'clock afternoon we have crossed over the Atlantic Ocean for twenty four hours. The whole day was clear and almost smooth. I am taking my food regularly and got some strength to struggle. There is slight lurching(?) of the ship and I am feeling slight headache also. But I am struggling and the nectarine of life is Sri Chaitanya Charitamrita the source of my all vitality.

10 FRIDAY
Today the ship is plying very smoothly. I feel today better. But I am feeling separation from Sri Vrindaban and my Lords Sri Govinda, Gopinath, Radha Damodar. The only solace is Sri Chaitanya Charitamrita in which I am tasting the nectarine of Lord Chaitanya’s Leela. I have left Bharat Bhumi just to execute the order of Sri Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati in pursuance of Lord Chaitanya’s order. I have no qualification, but I have taken up the risk just to carry out the order of His Divine Grace. I depend fully on Their mercy so far away from Vrindaban.
11 SATURDAY

Today the ship ran on very smoothly. The sky was clear and there was sunshine all the day. At about 7/30 in the morning we passed on the Azore group islands under the Portugal Republic. There was again rehearsal for life boat saving at 4/30 p.m. There was rehearsal of the fire brigadiers also. At night there was profuse moonlight on the ocean and considerable lurching also. But did not affect me very much as it used to do in the Arabian sea. The Atlantic Ocean is more kind to me than all other seas so far we have crossed over. It is all Lord Krishna’s Grace.

MONDAY 13

Today is the 32nd day of our journey from Calcutta. After midnight yesterday the lurching decreased and I felt relief. In the morning also I could not take my breakfast properly. Then I cooked ‘Bati-chachari(?)’. It appeared to be delicious and I was able to take some food. Today I have disclosed my mind to my companion Lord Sri Krishna. There is a Bengali poem made by me today in this connection. At about eleven there is a little lurching. The captain tells that they had never such calmness of the Atlantic. I said it is Lord Krishna’s mercy. His wife asked me to come back again with them so that they may have again a calm Atlantic Ocean. If Atlantic would have shown its usual face perhaps I would have died. But Lord Krishna has taken charge of the ship.

TUESDAY 14

Today is the 33rd day of our journey and at 3 o’clock in the morning I saw the sky cloudy with dim moonlight. From morning till 1 o’clock the sky remained cloudy and at 1/30 p.m. there was a shower of rain. The sky is still cloudy and the wind is blowing from south-east corner and raining at intervals. The whole day passed in that way and the wind assumed a para-cyclonic face with dense cloud resulting in rain till 9/30 p.m. with regular lightening etc. At ten o’clock when I was talking in the captain’s room the chief engineer Mr. Travers told me that he had never such experience of calm & quietness of the Atlantic Ocean. There was always typhoon, cyclone, fog, etc. at least for days in every trip in the past(?). I said it is Lord Krishna’s Grace. If such things as usual in Atlantic would have taken place, I would die.

Srila Prabhupada arrives at Boston Harbor

Excerpts from The Jaladuta Diary, published by Bhaktivedanta Book Trust
Lord Chaitanya's Teachings to Sanatana Gosvami

An elaborate description of Lord Krishna, His expansions, and the spiritual world.

by Mathuresha Dasa
The brothers Dabhir Kas and Sakara Mallik were trusted ministers in the government of Nawab Hussain Shah, the ruler of Bengal in the early sixteenth century. After meeting Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, they resigned their lucrative posts to join the Lord’s Hare Krishna movement, shaving their heads and changing their names to Rupa Gosvami and Sanatana Gosvami. The Nawab as well as many Hindu leaders were astounded. What had caused the brothers to resign, and why were so many other Hare Krishna devotees appearing in nearly every town and village of Bengal with their chanting and dancing? What was Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu teaching?

The Viraja river marks the border between the material and spiritual worlds. Vast and beautiful, its spiritual waters ornamented with brilliant waves churned by mighty storms of transcendental effulgence, it is also known as the Viraja Ocean or the Causal Ocean. On one shore the countless universes of the material nature, with all their planets and solar systems, arise and dissolve in the moments granted them within the jurisdiction of devastating time. On the other shore, time presides without its devastating feature, invigorating the spiritual planets and their denizens, cities, and civilizations with eternal, blissful life in the ever-expanding service of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Krishna.

Lord Krishna said little of His spiritual kingdom when He spoke the Bhagavad-gita to Arjuna at Kurukshetra. He said that His abode beyond the material creation is self-effulgent, with no need of sunlight, moonlight, or electricity. And He offered the clue that all beautiful and glorious features of this temporary world spring from only a spark of His splendour. With a single fragment of Himself, He proclaimed, He pervades and supports the entire creation. These hints help us begin to comprehend the spiritual world, where Krishna displays His full opulences, but we have few details. Nor would details necessarily help us, since to the untrained, accounts of the spiritual world sound like so much mythology.

Lord Krishna’s Gita instead details our predicament in the material creation and the means for extricating ourselves from the stranglehold of material time. Krishna explains that the living beings in the material world are eternal fragments of Him. These eternal souls inhabit temporary bodies, struggling hard against material nature. Because we are minute parts of Krishna, our eternal constitution is to surrender to Him and serve Him. Surrender to Krishna frees us from the lethal grip of material time and sets us on our return journey to the spiritual world. At the end of the Gita, therefore, after describing various systems of religion and philosophy, Krishna demands surrender.
To those who are constantly surrendered and worship Krishna with love, He gives knowledge of Himself, of the spiritual world, and of how to return to Him there. To show special mercy to His devotees, He enlightens them from within their hearts, and from without also. Just as we acquire knowledge of a distant land by hearing from travelers, the devotees realize Krishna and His spiritual world by hearing with love from Him and His representatives.

Sanatana's Inquiry

In the spring of 1514, Sanatana Gosvami arrived at Varanasi to surrender to Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and join the Lord's Hare Krishna movement. Sanatana had renounced his affluent position as prime minister of Bengal, escaped from the prison of his former employer, the Nawab Hussain Shah, and completed a dangerous trek through the jungles and hills of Bihar province.

Like Arjuna at Kurukshetra, Sanatana presented himself to the Lord as a man in distress, uncertain of his duty and identity despite wealth, fame, and learning. Like Arjuna, in other words, Sanatana portrayed the plight of the materialist. The greatest leaders and intellects of the material world cannot say with any scientific certainty what the living energy in their bodies is. So while introducing themselves as Ms. this or Mr. that, Senator this or Professor that, they in fact do not know who they are.

Illustrating this discrepancy, Sanatana confessed to the Lord, “People believe that I am a great learned man, and I am so foolish that I believe it myself. But what to speak of being learned, I don't even know who I am. Who am I? And why do I suffer in material life?”

“The living entity's constitutional position,” the Lord replied, “is to be an eternal servant of Krishna, because he is the energy of Krishna, like a molecular particle of sunshine or fire.”

With this concise and eloquent statement Lord Chaitanya effectively summarized the Gita’s final message of surrender, while forgoing the Gita’s elaborate analysis of the spiritual living entity. Lord Chaitanya is Krishna Himself playing the part of His own devotee. From the point where He ended His instructions to Arjuna at Kurukshetra, He began His teachings to Sanatana Gosvami at Varanasi. While Lord Chaitanya’s teachings and Lord Krishna’s teachings in the Gita are the same, Lord Chaitanya did not demand surrender. Instead He demonstrated the life of surrender to Krishna in His own activities and freely distributed knowledge of Krishna and love of Krishna.

With the Gita’s message affirmed, Lord Chaitanya broke new ground, describing for Sanatana Gosvami the transcendental form of Krishna, who is the origin of both material and spiritual worlds, and whose body is made not of perishable blood and bones, but of eternity, bliss, and knowledge. The ordinary living entity in the material world is different from his body, which is a covering of the real self. But Krishna’s transcendental form and Krishna Himself are the same, whether He is in His eternal abode or visiting His material creation. The Brahma-samhita states:

| isvarah paramah krishnah |
| sac-cid-ananda-vigrahah |
| anadir adir govindah |
| sarva-karana-karanam |

“Krishna, who is known as Govinda, is the supreme controller. He has a spiritual body of eternity, knowledge, and bliss. He is the origin of all. He has no other origin, for He is the prime cause of all causes.”

Krishna’s Expansions

Although Krishna is the original person and therefore the oldest of all, He appears as a youth, the son of Maharaja Nanda, never more than sixteen years of age. And although Krishna is one, He expands Himself into innumerable forms. Krishna’s expansion is inconceivable, but within our current experience we know that an individual person exhibits many features. When someone is especially happy or especially angry in a particular situation, we may even say, as a manner of speaking, that he or she is a “different person.” In our own minds, too, we may think of ourselves in various ways according to our roles as, say, parent, child, spouse, employee, or student, and in each of these roles we further show ourselves in various aspects to different people in the course of our activities and occupations. We may also create imaginary or aspirational roles, dreaming of being a conquering hero or a celebrated actress. In all these ways, while we each remain one person, we expand and discover and enjoy ourselves.

We possess the tendency to expand and enjoy and discover because these tendencies are present in Krishna, the original person. The difference is that since Krishna is the Supreme, His expansions are unique and all-powerful. Krishna’s personal expansions, though one and the same personality, are different individuals, not as a manner of speaking but in fact. They are individuals fully endowed with independent action, character, and thought.

Krishna’s innumerable forms are known as plenary expansions because they all have the full power of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Though each of these expansions has activities, bodily features, and other attributes slightly different from the original form of Krishna, they are all identical with Krishna. They are one and the same supreme personality. The Brahma-samhita explains that as one candle can light many other candles, each with the same power of illumination, so Lord Krishna expands Himself into unlimited forms of Godhead.
Lord Chaitanya explained to Sanatana that describing Krishna's forms is like describing the moon by saying it is in the branches of a tree. To point out the moon in the night sky, we might use the branches of a tree as a reference point, though we understand that the moon is far away. Similarly, descriptions of the Lord provide an indication of Him, although He is otherwise far beyond our experience and powers to fully comprehend.

Krishna’s transcendental form is not compartmentalized like our material bodies. Our mental and physical activities are different. We can think of being a hero or an actress, but our dreams may not come true. For Krishna, however, thinking and doing are the same. When the Lord thinks of Himself as a cowherd boy or as a warrior prince, these “thoughts” of Krishna’s are pastimes performed by His plenary expansions, who also have the power to expand. Thus one transcendental expansion embodies Lord Krishna’s anger, another His abilities as a perfect king, another His literary abilities, and still another His omnipotent capacity for material creation.

While Krishna’s plenary expansions possess His full power and opulence, Krishna’s own attributes are nevertheless more pleasant, so much so that as an ultimate expression of Their individuality, the plenary expansions are attracted to and worship Krishna. When Krishna appeared as Lord Chaitanya, two of His plenary expansions appeared with Him as Advaita Acharya and Nityananda Prabhu and lived as His devotees, rendering loving service.

Krishna’s Home and His Kingdom

Lord Chaitanya informed Sanatana Gosvami that a plenary expansion of Krishna presides over each of the innumerable planets in the spiritual sky. These expansions, which have four arms, are called Narayana expansions, and the spiritual sky is known as Narayanaloka.

“The breadth of each spiritual planet,” Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu explained, “is eight miles multiplied by one hundred, by one thousand, by ten thousand, by one hundred thousand, and by ten million. In other words each spiritual planet is beyond our ability to measure.”

Despite their infinite size and number, the planets of Narayanaloka surround Krishna’s personal abode, Krishnaloka, as petals surround the whorl of a lotus. Devotees of the Lord in Narayanaloka worship the majestic, omnipotent Narayana forms with the ceremony and personal distance mandated by their mood of awe and reverence, while on Krishnaloka Krishna enjoys the loving devotion and familiarity of His most intimate devotees and friends. At work, a high-court judge wears the garb and receives the respect appropriate to his or
her office, while at home the same judge’s rank and prestige take a back seat or are completely forgotten in the atmospheres of comraderie, affection, and romance created by the presence of friends, lovers, and children. Krishnaloka is Krishna’s home, while Narayanaloka is His kingdom, where in His official capacity as the Supreme Lord He prominently displays His opulences and powers.

All the expansions of Lord Krishna have their residences eternally in the spiritual sky, but when They descend into the material world they are called avatars, or incarnations. Avatar means “one who descends.” The incarnations of Godhead are either expansions of Krishna or expansions of His expansions, but Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead Himself.

“O learned scholars,” the Bhagavatam declares, “just as hundreds and thousands of small ponds issue from great reservoirs of water, innumerable incarnations flow from Sri Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead and the reservoir of all power.”

Lord Krishna’s primary motivation for both His expansion and His descent is to please His devotees. Devotees long to see and serve Krishna in particular ways according to their individual preferences and moods, and the Lord obliges. Krishna sends His expansions to the material creation, and He comes Himself as well, bringing Krishnaloka and its residents with Him.

**Eternal Pastimes**

Although the pastimes of Krishna and His expansions in the material creation are historical events recorded in Vedic literature, with historical beginnings and ends, these pastimes are eternal. When Lord Krishna Himself appeared on earth five thousand years ago, He stayed for 125 years, performing pastimes beginning with His birth, or appearance, and proceeding through His childhood pastimes, up to the battle of Kurukshetra, and finally to His disappearance. These pastimes are no longer visible here, yet they continue eternally.

To explain, Lord Chaitanya gave the example of the sun, which to our eyes appears and disappears each day, though it is always shining somewhere on earth. Using the regular movements of the sun, we divide the day and night into hours, minutes, seconds, and fractions of seconds, and each of these divisions occurs continuously. That is, it is exactly noon somewhere on earth at any given moment, exactly noon plus a nanosecond somewhere else, and so on. Like the sun, Krishna’s pastimes have an orbit through the material universes, with each pastime in the sequence appearing somewhere at any given moment, and with His pastimes gradually returning to every universe just as the sun returns to noon at each point on earth. The sun of Krishna’s eternal pastimes is continuously visible in Krishnaloka. In the material creation these same pastimes, as well as the pastimes of Krishna’s uncountable incarnations, though still eternal, manifest and disappear in each universe at regular intervals.

Krishna and His plenary expansions display Their pastimes in the material creation to attract us back to the spiritual world, back to Godhead. Their purpose here is transcendental. It is impossible for Them to come under the control of the material nature, because the material nature is Their energy. Though we too are expansions of Krishna, we are not plenary expansions. We are eternally minute individual particles of the Lord, endowed by Him with minute powers. We do fall under the control of matter. Or we can. We are free to either live as servants of the Lord and His expansions on the eternal, blissful spiritual planets or to transfer across the Viraja River into the service of this miserable material creation, thus creating our own suffering.

Whether we reside in the material or spiritual world, however, our unalterable nature as minute souls is service. Just as sugar is unalterably sweet, water unalterably wet, we are by nature servants. To serve our current rebellious desires to expand our lives without Krishna, we use our minute powers to build temporary homes, communities, and civilizations from the elements of material nature provided by the Lord. The same intensity of service, when employed to reawaken our devotion and love for Krishna, lifts us to the spiritual nature, where the opportunities and inspiration for service to the Lord expand eternally in an exhilaration of transcendental bliss and knowledge.

Using an earlier example for emphasis, Lord Chaitanya again asserted that it is not possible to adequately describe Krishna’s transcendental forms and pastimes. “Whatever I have explained is simply a little glimpse,” He told Sanatana Gosvami. “It is like showing the moon through the branches of a tree.”

The Lord’s instructions to Sanatana in Varnasi continued for two months, covering the many categories of avatars, the spiritual planets, devotional behaviour, and other spiritual topics almost too numerous to list. Srila Krishnadasa Kaviraja Gosvami, a contemporary of Lord Chaitanya, devotes several chapters of his Sri Chaitanya-charitamrita to the Lord’s teachings to Sanatana. His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada’s remarkable multi-volume translation of Chaitanya-caritamrita, along with the additional intimate insights of his earlier summary study, Teachings of Lord Chaitanya, awaits readers eager to absorb themselves in the life and precepts of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

At the end of two months, Lord Chaitanya sent Sanatana on to Vrindavana and returned to Jagannatha Puri on the Bay of Bengal, following His previous route through the forests of Madhya Pradesh. Before long both Sanatana and his younger brother Rupa Gosvami were themselves traveling to Puri to meet again with the Lord.
Vijaya Bank donated a food distribution vehicle to the Akshaya Patra Foundation.

Sri Kishore Kumar Sansi, Managing Director and CEO, Vijaya Bank and Sri B S Rama Rao, Executive Director, Vijaya Bank handed over the keys of the food distribution vehicle to Sri Chanchalapathi Dasa, Vice-Chairman, The Akshaya Patra Foundation.

Vijaya Bank donated a food distribution vehicle to the Akshaya Patra Foundation.

Sri P. S. Somasunder, Managing Director, FABS and Smt S. Dharini, Director, flagging off a vehicle donated to the Akshaya Patra Foundation’s mid-day meal programme.

Ricky Kej visited the ISKCON Sri Radha Krishna Temple, Bangalore. He is a well-known composer and music producer and he won the Grammy at the 57th Annual Grammy Awards for his album Winds of Samsara.
Secrets of attaining the highest perfection
Chinmaya Ashram Daily Devotional - Aug 18, 2015
Lecture by Sri Chinmaya Ashram Daily Devotional - Aug 18, 2015

A pujari recounts Abhoy Charan chanting in Advaita Acharya’s house
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Lecture by Sri Shukdeva Dasas at 10.30 am on the auspicious occasion of the anniversary of his first name day.

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Gopinath R Dusad - Jul 6, 2015
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Narayan N - Jul 6, 2015
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Featured Article: Secrets of attaining the highest perfection

One of the things that Prabhupada elaborates here is that the highest perfectional stage of life can be attained by everyone who is willing to discharge the act of devotional service to the Lord as enjoined in the revealed scriptures that are standard and accepted by the bona fide acharyas. In the Bhagavad-gita, the Personality of Godhead Sri Krishna asks that one should always be mindful of Him, man mana, always be His devotee, bhava mad-hakoto, always worship Him only, mad-yaji and always bow down before the Lord, mam namaskuru and by doing so one is sure to go back home, back to Godhead without any doubt.

Read More: https://goo.gl/UMN00k

Hare Krishna World

Jagannatha Ratha Yatra celebrated on Vaikuntha Hill

The third annual Ratha Yatra of Lord Jagannatha was celebrated at ISKCON temple atop the Vaikuntha Hill on Kanakapura Road, Bangalore on July 18, 2015.

Read More: https://goo.gl/HrQFC3

Hare Krishna World

Reminiscing on Dr. Kalam’s visit to ISKCON Bangalore

Devotees at ISKCON Bangalore have fond memories of Dr. Kalam’s visit to the temple complex on June 7, 2003, when he was the President of India.

Read More: https://goo.gl/Po7aa7

Krishna Katha

Archavatara

This story is about Madhavendra Puri, a great devotee of the Lord. It shows how Archavatara or the Deity form of the Lord reciprocates one’s service offered with love and devotion.

Read More: https://goo.gl/eQUpqT

Pilgrimage

Chidambaram Govindaraja Perumal Temple

Located in the historic temple town of Chidambaram in Cuddalore district is the magnificent temple of Govindaraja Perumal.

Read More: https://goo.gl/jPUtph

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Reviews from Trip Advisor

Vasudev A

Nice place for a half day tour

It is maintained well and clean place. Connected well in terms of transport. Good 1/2 day weekend destination.

Ravi Bandari

Very peaceful place and well organized temple

I’ve visited the temple few times in past, with family, friends separately. The temple is very much organized in the manner the devotees are handled. Right from the moment we enter the temple, to the time we leave the premises, the temple is very clean and you feel pleasant.

Hitesh R

hare name hare Krishna

With its huge and grand premises the entire temple complex is beautifully done and the enchanting mantras all over will take you to a different world when you step inside the temple.

To write a review visit: www.tripadvisor.in

Top YouTube Picks

https://goo.gl/567rmX
Ricky Rej visits ISKCON Bangalore

https://goo.gl/5AEWth
Sri Krishna appears as Lord Jagannatha - A story

For more videos visit:
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– Srla Prabhupada

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Mahabharata, Ashwamedha Parva

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