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Sri Gaura Purnima
Glorious appearance day of Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
Thursday March 21, 2019

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

"O Supreme Personality of Godhead, O protector of the surrendered souls, You are now playing the role of Your own devotee, and Your lotus feet are the only object of perpetual meditation for the pure living entities. They destroy the material existence of the living entity. They are the fulfiller of all desires, the abode of all holy places, worshipable even by Lord Brahma and Lord Shiva, the shelter of all that exists, the destroyer of the troubles of Your devotees and the only boat for crossing over the ocean of material existence. Therefore I offer my obeisances unto Your lotus feet." (Bhagavatam 11.5.33)

Maha sankirtana, pallaki utsava, abhisheka and arati, video presentation, prasadam feast

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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 ashrams, 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

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Today's subject matter is our relationship with God. That is self-realization. The sankirtana movement is the easiest process for self-realization because it cleanses the heart. Our misunderstanding of our identity is due to the dust covering the mirror of the mind. In a mirror which is covered with dust one cannot see himself. But if it is very clear, then one can see himself. So meditation is a process for cleansing the heart. Meditation means to try to understand one's relationship with the Supreme.

With everything with which we come in contact, there is a relationship. Because I am now sitting on this cushion, the relationship is that I shall sit and the cushion will hold me. You have relationships. You are Englishmen or Indians, so there is a relationship with your society, with your family, with your friends. So what is our relationship with God?

If you ask everyone, very few people will be able to explain their relationship with God. They say, "What is God? God is dead. I don't believe in God, not to speak of a relationship." Because these dirty things are covering their hearts, they cannot see. We have a relationship with everything—why do we not try to understand our relationship with God? Is that very intelligent? No. That is ignorance. All the creatures in this material world are covered by the three modes of material nature. Therefore they cannot see God. They cannot understand God, nor do they try to understand Him. But God is there. In England in the morning there is mist, so you cannot see the sun behind the fog. But does this mean that there is no sun?

You cannot see it because your eyes are covered. But if you send a telegram to another part of the world, they will say, "Yes, the sun is here. We can see it. It is very dazzling, full of light." So when you deny the existence of God or you cannot ascertain your relationship with God, that means that you are lacking in knowledge. It is not that there is no God. We are lacking. The sun is not covered. The sun cannot be covered. The fog or the cloud or the mist does not have the power to cover the sun. How big the sun is! It is so many times bigger than this earth. And the clouds can cover at most ten or twenty or a hundred miles. So how can the clouds cover the sun? No. The clouds cannot cover the sun. They cover your eyes. When an enemy comes and a rabbit cannot defend himself, the rabbit closes his eyes and thinks, "My enemy is now gone." Similarly, we are covered by the external energy of God and are thinking, "God is dead."

The Lord has three kinds of energies. In the Vishnu Purana there are descriptions of the energy of the Supreme Lord. And in the Vedas also, in the Upanishads, there are descriptions of the energies of the Supreme Lord. Parasya saktir vividhaiva sruyate. Sakti means energy. The Lord has multi energies. The Vedas say, "God has nothing to do." We have to work because we have no other means to exist—we have to eat, we wish to enjoy this, that—but why should God work? God does not have to work. Then how can we say that God created this universe? Is it not work? No. Then how did it happen? His multifarious energies are so strong that they are acting naturally and are full of knowledge. We can see how a flower blooms and grows and systematically displays multi-colours: one side a little spot, another side a little spot, white on one side, more white on the other side. The butterfly also exhibits such artistic symmetry. So this is all being painted, but in such a perfect way and so swiftly that we cannot see how. We cannot understand how it is being done, but it is being done by the energy of the Lord.

Hare Krishna Cleanses the Heart

It is due to a lack of knowledge that people say that God is dead, that there is no God, and that we have no relationship with God. These thoughts have been compared to the thoughts of a man haunted by a ghost. Just as a haunted man speaks all nonsense, similarly when we become covered by the illusory energy of God, we say that God is dead. But this is not a fact. Therefore, we need this chanting process to cleanse our heart. Take to this simple process of chanting the Hare Krishna mantra. In that way, in your family life, in your club, in your home, on the road—everywhere—chant Hare Krishna, and this darkness covering your heart, covering your real position, will be removed. Then you'll understand your real constitutional position.

Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu recommended: ceto-darpana-marjanam. Marjanam means cleanse, and darpanam means mirror. The heart is a mirror. It is like a camera. Just as a camera takes all kinds of pictures of days and nights, so also our heart takes pictures and keeps them in an unconscious state. Psychologists know this. The heart takes so many pictures, and therefore it becomes covered. We do not know when it has begun, but it is a
fact that because there is material contact, our real identity is covered. Therefore ceto-darpana-marjanam: one has to cleanse his heart. There are different processes to cleanse the heart—the jnana process, the yoga process, the meditation process, pious activities. Karma also cleanses the heart. If one acts very piously, his heart will gradually be cleansed. But although these processes are recommended for cleansing the heart, in this age they are all difficult. To follow the path of philosophical knowledge one must become a very learned scholar, one must read so many books, one must go to learned professors and scholars and speculate. One must search out a person who has seen the light. So these are all philosophical processes. Meditation is also a recommended process. One should question, “What am I?” Just consider: Am I this body? No. Am I this finger? No, this is my finger. If you contemplate your leg, you will see, “Oh, this is my leg.” Similarly, you will find everything to be “mine.” And where is that “I”? Everything is mine, but where is that “I”? When one is searching for that “I,” that is meditation. Real meditation means concentrating all the senses in that way. But that meditation process is very difficult. One must control the senses. The senses are dragging one outward, and one has to bring them inward for introspection. Therefore there are eight processes in the yoga system. The first is controlling the senses by regulative principles. Then sitting postures—that will help to concentrate the mind. If one sits leaning over, that will not help; if one sits up straight, that will help. Then controlling the breathing, then meditation, then samadhi. But today these are very, very difficult processes. No one can immediately perform them. The so-called yoga processes are fragmental—only the sitting postures and a few breathing exercises are practiced. But that cannot bring one to the perfectional stage. The actual yoga process, although a recommended Vedic process, is very difficult in this age. Similarly one can try to get knowledge by the speculative philosophical process: “This is Brahman, this is not Brahman, so what is Brahman? What is spirit soul?” Such empiric philosophical discussion is also recommended, but it is useless in this age.

Therefore Chaitanya Mahaprabhu—not only Chaitanya Mahaprabhu but also the Vedic literature—says, harer nama harer nama harer namaiva kevalam/ kalau nasly eva nasty eva gatir anyatha. Kalau means in this age. Nasty eva, nasty eva, nasty eva—three times nasty eva. Eva means certainly, and nasty means not. “Certainly not, certainly not, certainly not.” What is that certainly not? One cannot realize oneself by karma. That is the first certainly not. One cannot realize oneself by jnana. That is the second certainly not. One cannot realize oneself by yoga. Certainly not. Kalau means in this age. Kalau nasty eva nasty eva gatir anyatha. In this age one certainly cannot achieve success by any of these three methods. Then what is the recommended process? Harer nama harer nama harer namaiva kevalam. Simply chant the Hare Krishna mantra. Kevalam means only. Simply chant Hare Krishna. It is the easiest and most sublime process. This is recommended, practical and authorized. So take it. Accept it in any condition of life. Chant. There is no expenditure, there is no loss. We are not chanting a secret. No. It is open. And by chanting you will cleanse your heart.

The Blazing Fire of Problems

In this material world no one wants misery, but it comes. Unexpectedly, like a forest fire that starts without anyone's striking a match, it comes. No one wants a war, but war is fought. No one wants famine, but famine comes. No one wants pestilence, but it comes. No one wants fighting, but there is fighting. No one wants misunderstanding, but there is. Why? This is like a blazing fire in the forest. And it cannot be extinguished by fire engines. This blazing fire of problems cannot be extinguished by our so-called advancement of knowledge. No. That is not possible. Just as one cannot extinguish a forest fire by sending a fire engine or by bringing some water, similarly the problems of our life cannot be solved by material processes.

There are many examples. Prahlada Maharaja says, “My dear Lord, the father and mother are not actually the protectors of the children.” The father and mother take care of their children; that is their duty. But they are not the ultimate protectors. When nature's law calls the child, the father and mother cannot protect him. Therefore although generally it is considered a fact that the father and mother are the protectors of the child, actually it is not a fact. If someone is drowning in the ocean and he thinks he has a very nice seat, will that protect him? No. Still he may drown. A nice airplane is flying in the sky, everyone is safe, but all of a sudden it crashes. Nothing material can protect us. Suppose someone is diseased. He may engage a good physician who gives good medicine, but that will not guarantee that he will live. Then what is the ultimate guarantee? Prahlada Maharaja says, “My dear Lord, if You neglect someone, nothing can protect him.”

This is our practical experience. We can invent so many methods to solve the problems presented by the laws of material nature, but they are not sufficient. They will never solve all the problems, nor will they give actual relief. This is the fact. Therefore Krishna says in Bhagavad-gita, “Maya, this external energy, is very, very strong. No one can surpass it. It is almost impossible.” Then how can one get free from this material nature? Krishna says, “Simply by surrendering unto Me one can get relief from the onslaught of material nature.” That is a fact. So we have to cleanse the heart to learn what is our relationship with God.
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Krishna and we are Eternal

In the Katha Upanishad it is stated, nityo nityanam, cetanas cetananam. The Supreme Absolute Personality of Godhead or the Absolute Truth, is eternal. God is eternal, and we are also eternal. But the Vedas indicate that He is the supreme living creature. He is not dead. If He is not living, how is this world working? In Bhagavad-gita Krishna says, "Under My supervision things are going on." In the Bible also it is said, "God created." That is a fact. Not that at one time there was a chunk and then this happened and then that. No. The Vedas tell us the actual facts, but we have to open our eyes to see. Ceto-darpana-marjanam. That is the process of cleansing our hearts. When we cleanse our hearts, then we will be able to understand what Krishna and the Vedas say. We need to be purified. If a man is suffering from jaundice and you give him a piece of sugar candy, he will say that it is very bitter. But is sugar candy bitter? No, it is very sweet. And the medicine for jaundice is that sugar. Modern science prescribes this, and it is prescribed in the Vedic literature also. So if we take a great quantity of this sugar candy, then we will be relieved from jaundice. And when there is relief, then one says, "Oh, this is very sweet." So the modern jaundice of a godless civilization can be cured by this chanting of Hare Krishna. In the beginning it may appear bitter, but when one advances, then he will see how pleasing it is.

"I am a Servant of God"

As soon as one understands his identity, his relationship with God, then immediately he becomes happy. We are so full of miseries because we have identified ourselves with the material world. Therefore we are unhappy. Anxieties and fearfulness are due to our misidentifying with the material world. The other day I was explaining that one who identifies with this bag of bones and skin is like an animal. So by chanting Hare Krishna this misunderstanding will be cleansed. Cleansing of the heart means that one will understand that he does not belong to this material world. Aham brahmasmi: I am spirit soul. As long as one identifies oneself with England, with India, or with America, this is ignorance. Today you are an Englishman because you were born in England, but in your next life you may not take your birth in England; it may be in China or Russia or some other country. Or you may not get this human form of body. Today you are a nationalist, you are a very great follower of your country, but tomorrow if you stay in your country you may be a cow being taken to the slaughterhouse.

So we have to thoroughly know our identity. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu says that the actual identity of every living creature is that he is the eternal servant of God. If one thinks like that—"I am no one else's servant: my business is to serve God."—then he is liberated. His heart is immediately cleansed, and he is liberated. And after one has reached that, then all one's cares and anxieties in this world are over because one knows, "I am a servant of God. God will give me protection. Why should I worry about anything?" It is just like a child. A child knows that his mother and father will take care of him. He is free. If he should go to touch fire, his mother will take care of him: "Oh, my dear child, don't touch." The mother is always looking after him. So why don't you put your trust in God? Actually, you are under the protection of God.

God is Supplying

People go to church and say, "God, give us our daily bread." Actually, if He did not give it to us, we would not be able to live. That is a fact. The Vedas also say that the one Supreme Personality supplies all the necessities of every other living creature. God is supplying food for everyone. We human beings have our economic problem, but what economic problem is there in societies other than human society? The bird society has no economic problem. The beasts have no economic problem. There are 8,400,000 species of life, and out of that, human society is very, very small. So they have created problems—what to eat, where to sleep, how to mate, how to defend. These are a problem to us, but the majority of creatures—the aquatics, the fish, the plants, the insects, the birds, the beasts, and the many millions upon millions of other living creatures—do not have such a problem. They are also living creatures. Don't think that they are different from us. It is not true that we human beings are the only living creatures and that all others are dead. No. And who is providing their food and shelter? It is God. The plants and animals are not going to the office. They are not going to the university to get technological education to earn money. So how are they eating? God is supplying. The elephant eats hundreds of pounds of food. Who is supplying? Are you making arrangements for the elephant? There are millions of elephants. Who is supplying?

So the process of acknowledging that God is supplying is better than thinking, "God is dead. Why should we go to church and pray to God for bread." In Bhagavad-gita it is said, "Four kinds of people come to Krishna: the distressed, those who are in need of money, the wise and the inquisitive." One who is inquisitive, one who is wise, one who is distressed and one who is in need of money—these four classes of men approach God. "My dear God, I am very hungry. Give me my daily bread." That's nice. Those who approach God in this way are recommended as sukrtina. Sukrtina means pious. They are pious. Although they are asking for money, for food, they are considered pious because they are approaching God. And others are just the opposite. They are duskrtya, impious. Kriti means very meritorious, but the word duskrty indicates that their energy is being misused to create havoc. Just
like the man who invented atomic weapons. He has a brain, but it has been misused. He has created something which is dreadful. Create something which will insure that man will no longer have to die. What is the use of creating something so that millions of people will immediately die? They will die today or tomorrow or after a hundred years. So what have the scientists done? Create something so that man will not die immediately, so that there will be no more disease, so that there will be no more old age. Then you will have done something. But the duskrtnas never go to God. They never try to understand God. Therefore their energy is misdirected.

The Duty of Human Beings

The gross materialists who ignore their relationship with God are described in Bhagavad-gita as mudhas. Mudha means ass, donkey. Those who are working very, very hard to earn money are compared to the donkey. They will eat the same four chapatis daily, but they are unnecessarily working to earn thousands of dollars. And others are described as naradhama. Naradham means the lowest of mankind. The human form of life is meant for God realization. It is the right of man to try to realize God. One who understands Brahman, God, is a brahmana, not others. So that is the duty of this human form of life. In every human society there is some system which is called religion and by which one may try to understand God. It doesn't matter whether it is the Christian religion, the Mohammedan religion, or the Hindu religion. It doesn't matter. The system is to understand God and our relationship with Him. That's all. This is the duty of the human beings, and if this duty is ignored in human society, then it is animal society. Animals have no power to understand what is God and their relationship with God. Their only interests are eating, sleeping, mating and defending. If we are only concerned with these things, then what are we? We are animals. Therefore Bhagavad-gita says that those who ignore this opportunity are the “lowest of mankind.” They got this human form of life after evolving through 8,400,000 births and yet did not utilize it for God realization but simply for the animal propensities Therefore they are naradhamas, the lowest of mankind.

And there are other persons who are very proud of their knowledge. But what is that knowledge? “There is no God. I am God.” Their actual knowledge has been taken away by maya. If they are God, then how have they become dog? There are so many arguments against them, but they simply defy God. Atheism. Because they have taken to the process of atheism, their actual knowledge is stolen away. Actual knowledge means to know what is God and our relationship with God. If one does not know this, then it is to be understood that his knowledge has been taken away by maya.
So in this way, if we try to understand our relationship with God, there are ways and means. There are books, and there is knowledge, so why not take advantage of them? Everyone should take advantage of this knowledge. Try to understand that in Bhagavad-gita and other Vedas, everywhere, it is said God is great and that although we are qualitatively one with God, we are minute. The ocean and the minute particle of water have the same quality, but the quantity of salt in the drop of water and the quantity of salt in the ocean are different. They are qualitatively one but quantitatively different. Similarly, God is all-powerful, and we have some power. God creates everything, and we can create a small machine to fly, just like the small machines with which children play. But God can create millions of planets flying in the air. That is the qualification of God. You cannot create any planets. Even if you can create a planet, what is the benefit of that? There are millions of planets created by God. But you also have the creative power. God has power, and you have power. But His is so great that you cannot compare to it. If you say, “I am God,” that is foolishness. You can claim that you are God, but what acts have you performed so extraordinary that you can claim that you are God? This is ignorance. The knowledge of one who thinks himself God has been taken away by the spell of maya. So our relationship is that God is great and we are minute. In Bhagavad-gita Krishna clearly says, “All living entities are My parts and parcels. Qualitatively they are one with Me, but quantitatively they are different.” So we are simultaneously one with and different from God. That is our relationship. We are one because we have the same qualities as God. But if we study ourselves minutely we will find that although we have some great qualities, God has them all in greater quantities.

Join with the Supreme Lord

We cannot have anything which is not in God. That is not possible. Therefore in the Vedanta-sutras it is said that everything that we have is also found in God. It is emanating from God. So our relationship is that because we are small, because we are minute, we are the eternal servitors of God. In this material world also, in ordinary behaviour, we see that a man goes to serve another man because the other man is greater than him and can pay him a nice salary. So naturally the conclusion is that if we are small, our duty is to serve God. We have no other business. We are all different parts and parcels of the original entity.

A screw which is connected with a machine is valuable because it is working with the whole machine. And if the screw is taken away from the machine, or if it is faulty, it is worthless. My finger is worth millions of dollars as long as it is attached to this body and is serving the body. And if it is cut off from this body, then what is it worth? Nothing. Similarly, our relationship is that we are very small particles of God; therefore, our duty is to dovetail our energies with Him and cooperate with Him. That is our relationship. Otherwise we are worthless. We are cut off. When the finger becomes useless the doctor says, “Oh, amputate this finger. Otherwise the body will be poisoned.” Similarly, when we become godless we are cut off from our relationship with God and suffer in this material world. If we try to join again with the Supreme Lord, then our relationship is revived.

Sri La 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/srila-prabhupada-lectures

One and Different

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Devotee: Materialists think that everything in nature is meant for man, for his exploitation and enjoyment.

Sri La Prabhupada: But when there is an arrangement there must be some higher supervision. You call it nature, and we accept that. In Bhagavad-gita [3.27] Krishna says, prakrteh kriyamanani gunaih karmani sarvasah: “Everything is being done by the direction of prakrti, nature.” So nature is superior to you. You have to accept this, because you are being directed by nature.

Devotee: The materialists hope to become superior to nature.

Sri La Prabhupada: That is rascaldom, foolishness. Krishna says, prakrteh kriyamanani gunaih karmani sarvasah ahankara-vimudhatma kartaham iti manyate The rascal's actions are all being dictated by nature, but he is thinking, “I am the lord.” By self-conceit, he’s falsely thinking, “I am controlling nature” or “I shall be able to control nature in the future.” This is foolishness. This is rascaldom.

Devotee: The scientists can give so much evidence that they have already achieved partial control over nature. Now we can fly all over the world.

Sri La Prabhupada: Partial control means no control. We are controlled by nature; that you cannot deny. Now, the next question should be. How is nature working? That Krishna also explains in Bhagavad-gita [9.10]:
Choice. But he's so foolish that he thinks, "I am now controlled by the material nature? Yes. He has already made that Srila Prabhupada: controlled by the material nature? It is possible that he will still choose to be between control by Krishna and control by the material Devotee: Why? There is love between us. We have the choice of being controlled either by love or by force. Srila Prabhupada: Yes. When we decide to be controlled by Krishna, it is out of love for Him. Similarly, you are being controlled by me, but there is no force. You serve me voluntarily, out of love. I am not paying you; still, when I ask you to do something you immediately do it. Why? There is love between us. Srila Prabhupada: If a person actually understands the distinction between control by Krishna and control by the material nature, is it possible that he will still choose to be controlled by the material nature? Srila Prabhupada: Yes. He has already made that choice. But he's so foolish that he thinks, "I am now independent of the Supreme Lord." Because he's foolish he cannot understand that he is simply being controlled by an agent of God, the material nature. Although he is controlled at every moment, he is thinking, "I am free." Therefore he is in illusion. Illusion means "believing something that is not a fact." So the materialists and so-called scientists who are thinking, "There is no God; we are independent" are simply foolish, childish rascals. That is why Krishna uses the word *vimudhatma* to describe them. *Vimudhatma* means befooled rascal.

**Devotee:** Most people don't think life in the material nature is so bad. They think it's pleasurable. They think they're having fun.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Yes. That is another illusion. Unless one thinks material life is pleasurable, how could he tolerate it? When we see a pig eating stool, we say, "Ughhh!" But unless the pig thinks, "This is pleasurable," how could he eat stool? He is eating the most abominable thing, but he is thinking, "I am enjoying." This is *maya*, illusion.

**Devotee:** Sometimes when we tell people this life is full of miseries, they say, "What do you mean?"

**Srila Prabhupada:** That is their foolishness. They cannot distinguish misery from happiness. They are being kicked by material nature, the agent of Krishna. Because they are desiring in various ways to become controllers or enjoyers, they are being offered various types of bodies and suffering repeated birth and death. But because people have no sense, they think this material life is pleasurable. Now, as Americans, you may have so many nice facilities, but you cannot enjoy them. By nature's force you have to change your position. What can you do? Today you may be living in a nice apartment on the twenty-fourth floor of a skyscraper, and tomorrow you may become a rat in that apartment. It is not in your power to change the laws of nature.

Actually, everyone is being controlled by the material nature at every moment. So an intelligent person asks how to get out of this material nature, how to end the suffering of repeated birth, old age, disease, and death. And Krishna explains how to end this suffering in *Bhagavad-gita* [7.14]: *mam eva ye prapadyante mayam etam taranti te:* "As soon as the rascal surrenders to Me, he is out of the control of My material nature." Surrendering to Krishna is real intelligence.

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<td>Sri Gaura Poornima: Appearance of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu Fasting till moonrise</td>
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1. The spiritual welfare of the people must be seen as the highest aim of human civilization

That people gather together for mutual benefit is an old schoolbook axiom. Whether it is true, as Rousseau and others have declared, that this is the original basis of human society, it is surely one good reason people stay together. And the concept of the “social contract” is to a large extent the underlying principle of modern civilization.

However, just what it is that does benefit the people may be questioned. Contemporary man has directed his institutions as well as much of his individual life’s energy toward the development of material comforts and luxuries, in what he calls “the conquest of Nature.” To be sure, the laws of Nature—survival of the fittest, the very struggle for existence itself—are cruel, and it is truly in the character of man to attempt to reverse or escape them. In a sense, civilization is the leaguing together of men in order to transcend the bonds of Nature.

But a perpetual warfare to subdue the material world, being warfare after all, must keep us in the very bondage we want to avert. The materialist who assumes on the one hand that matter is all-in-all, and on the other that he can rise above the laws of material Nature by conquest, is labouring under an obvious misconception. If nothing lay outside the boundaries of Nature with her harsh strictures, then all attempts to surpass Nature would be patently impossible. And so, the very fact that we wish to conquer matter indicates an unspoken faith in our existence above and beyond it.

The fact is that man does strive to escape the laws of Nature—to seek a life of eternity and ecstasy which instinct perceives as possible even when reason has rejected its plausibility.

Further, we should face the reality that the gigantic machine complex we now call civilization—being no more than a grotesque, lifeless mockery of the organic world—has not made us content. His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami has likened the accomplishments of technological man to zeroes, which take up space on a page but do not have value. Even a million zeroes all added together amount to nothing. It is only when a number—1, for example—is added to the left that the zeroes become substantial. With a numeral 1 before them, of course, a million zeroes add up to quite a lot.

So, in terms of the Swami’s equation, civilization today is not so much a failure as it is unfulfilled. It lacks that 1, and that 1 is found through the understanding that “man does not live by bread alone,” that there are spiritual values which lie outside the scope of Nature, and which are the true values for humanity to live by. That 1 is Krishna, God, the Supreme Spirit.

Given this center of gravity, human civilization is capable of rising to incalculable heights. It is capable of offering real fulfillment to its members, on the platform of spiritual—that is to say, eternal and blissful—consciousness, in the love of God.

2. Society should be organized to promote spiritual fulfillment in the populace

A civilization which claims to exalt individualism but which tries to blanket everyone with the same laws, customs, responsibilities and rights is clearly self-contradictory. The Vedic writings offer us a science of societal organization which is capable of meeting men’s seemingly contradictory needs for both communal security and individual character development. That this great science once degenerated into the caste-by-birth system and thus served to weaken and corrupt Hindu civilization should not be taken as a final judgment against it. It did, after all, offer a sufficiently strong structure to uphold the most long-lived civilization of which we have any knowledge, one not yet perished from the world stage.

This system, correctly called Varnashrama dharma, gave two sets of outlines for social organization, one vertical and the other horizontal. The four divisions by occupation, or “caste,” offered, originally, not restrictions but opportunities for young students to take up certain types of work at an early age—according to exhibited inclination. This sort of individualized preparation for a life-long career is capable of standing amongst the most progressive concepts in education today.

According to training in the Vedic system, one might take up the career of an administrator or soldier (kshatriya), that of an intellectual or priest (brahmana), that of a businessman or farmer (vaishya), or that of a...
labourer or servant (shudra). These are not divisions of society which have disappeared. They exist today as much as in the past. And it might be seen that a more stable and happy populace could be created by the introduction of specialization at an earlier level than we find in our contemporary school system. The present method of imparting a little dose of everything—and a great dose of nothing—into each student regardless of his personality has been so widely criticized by the eminent educators of this century that it is unnecessary to take up the matter at any greater length here.

The horizontal divisions of society advised in the Vedic writings are likewise four: student life, household life, retired life and the renounced order. The vertical caste system was meant to promote material well-being and security, and it was from this stable platform that man could rise to achieve his true purpose, in the quest for God realization, the ultimate fulfillment. This was done by progressing through the four stages of life:

1. The word for student life in the Vedic context is brahmacharya, and it is significant that the same word means celibacy. For student life in terms of spiritual fulfillment is a time not only of occupational training, but a formative period when it is possible to instill a sense of detachment in the young. This, of course, is in direct contradistinction to our present curriculum, which seeks to stimulate ambition, aggressiveness and competition.

2. Passing from student life, a man who follows the Vedic principles may either enter directly into the renounced order—the complete submission to God in devotional service—or he may marry and take up his career. As a householder, he is expected to support the entirety of the community, for students, the retired and the renounced order are not involved with practical affairs. Such responsibility perhaps helps dim the glamour of householder life, which might otherwise prove too great an entanglement in material existence. It also permits the other members of society to take up the business of spiritual advancement in complete seriousness, for, of course, the benefit of all.

3 & 4. The retired man is a householder who, at late middle age, tries to loosen his attachments by making pilgrimages with his wife, and by leaving all business affairs in the hands of his children. This is a preparation for the final stage—the renounced order of life—when utter detachment from family and home is undertaken. The mendicant in this last stage lives solely at the mercy of God, his mind, activities and words fixed on
transcendence.

In the Bhagavad-gita As It Is, in the Fourth Chapter, Lord Krishna states that these divisions of society were created by Him from the beginning. They are not unnatural or oppressive conditions. They cannot, all the same, be imposed upon mankind by statute or constitution. They will develop naturally as the transcendental consciousness of humanity advances, in accordance with the first of our points. They are mentioned here mainly because they do offer a practical pattern for social organization at a time when the world sorely needs an alternative to such tasteless proposals as capitalism, communism, socialism and other materialistic cages on the one hand, and the sort of narrow religious intolerance and brittleness represented by feudal Europe (and caste-Hindu India) on the other. The principles of varnashrama will be found, in the end, to present far the most adaptable, practical and spiritually wise concept of human civilization ever to have existed.

3. The true aim of education must be seen as the direct realization of Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead

Contemporary education in the West sees learning more or less as a weapon in the national, racial and personal competition which forms the basic world view of materialistic man. But in the Vedic concept, where spiritual welfare is the true standard of success, education has a somewhat different purpose. The brahmana, or intellectual, is one who knows of “Brahman”—the Absolute. He may or may not be versed in worldly affairs—as in our own society, the scholar is here the guardian of practical as well as theoretical wisdom—but he must be in knowledge of God, following the principles of regulated life found in the Vedas. And his foremost duty is to impart this knowledge of God to his fellow man—with or without remuneration.

“Direct realization” is a way of saying that mankind need not dream or speculate or theorize about God. God is not an abstraction. He is a reality, and “realization” means to experience the absolute reality of God directly for oneself. One who can teach this process of personal confrontation with Krishna, the Godhead, is a true intellectual and a true teacher—and a true benefactor of the human race.

The International Society for Krishna consciousness was formed largely with this purpose in mind. A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami, who founded the organization, has written: “As for the administrative class of men, the mercantile class and the labourer class, there are many institutions for training. But to train a first class intellectual in spiritual life there is no institution the world over. So this Krishna consciousness movement is trying to help human society on this point. We have therefore taken a large tract of land in West Virginia, which we’ve named New Vrindavana. We want to train students to become first class intellectuals, and to instruct the whole of human society about the aim of life, which is Krishna consciousness—God consciousness.

4. Centers for the study and practice of love of Krishna should be opened throughout the world

There are six recognized stages for rapid advancement in God realization. These are: 1) faith—the determination to follow the principles of spiritual life in the first place; 2) association—the practice of congregating with people of like determination; 3) following the rules and regulations—specifically, to chant the names of God (the Hare Krishna mantra) and to avoid meat-eating, intoxication, gambling and unmarried or illicit sex; 4) doubts disappear—which is a result of following regulative precepts; 5) attachment to the Lord develops—from which point one is securely fixed in the Absolute Truth; and 6) love of Krishna—the final, sublime perfection—appears within the heart. Of these six, the second is mentioned here as a specific point toward the advancement of world civilization. The association with other devotees of God, and especially with saintly persons who can teach the message of love of Krishna, is extremely important for one who is serious about spiritual advancement. Without the sort of association that such centers of Krishna consciousness will provide, it is very difficult to maintain the high standards required for spiritual perfection in a world given over largely to material sense gratification, garbed occasionally, it is true, in the hypocrite’s cloak of ritualistic or traditional religion.

The foregoing four points, if accepted by even a small percentage of the world’s population, will inevitably lead to a general detachment from the material concept of life. As a result of this detachment, our other points will develop rather naturally.

5. All natural resources must be viewed not as objects for man’s exploitation, but as the exclusive property of God

This point, along with 6, 7 and 8 are developed at considerable length in Sri Ishopanishad, A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami’s translation with commentary. It may be worthwhile only to mention here that, based as these points are on the universal conception of God at the center of existence, they offer the transcendental
viewpoint required to carry through the sweeping programs of reform in the areas of conservation, ecology, poverty, famine, justice and disarmament—as well as political unification—which are essential for the continuance of human life on this planet.

6. The entire world economy must be taken as a single unit

This is an extension of the ideals of the Common Market, the Socialist Commonwealth and even of the American Federal system. It is a solution to innumerable problems within the world, a solution so imperative, so logical and—thanks to modern technology—so practicable that one wonders why it doesn’t make political news. The reason is probably that the spiritual basis for such a concept has long been lacking from our world. And, when it was present in such forms as Islam and Christianity, the God-centered concept became not a goal, but a tool in the hands of the greedy. The proper way to world unification, however, can be found in the science of Krishna consciousness, and must be based on the five points preceding this one. In this way, the process will be effective.

7. False standards of wealth must be abandoned in the world economy

The present writer shudders at the thought of even mentioning the complex system of trade and coinage now plaguing the world. But the fact of its artificiality—and of its continual decline into crisis—ought to bring a good many thinkers to question this system, and to seek a better one, one offered as an outgrowth of the God-centered concept taught in Sri Ishopanishad. By the standards of this concept, men will seek to simplify rather than complicate the physical and material aspects of life, in order to create free time which can be devoted to the practice of God consciousness. The serenity of a civilization so oriented is worth considering.

Oddly enough, the burgeoning of electric technology has not ruled out this concept of society, but has actually made it possible on a scale never before practical. The brilliant success of the capitalist economic system in the West—especially in the U. S. offers a useful contrast to this Vedic system. The industrial development of the West has served the purpose of liberating great quantities of time, but because they cannot make protest, you kill them. But no father permits the intelligent sons to kill the useless sons. The father loves all the children, and if the intelligent ones use their intelligence cruelly against the others, there will be punishment.

8. The personal rights of all life forms must be seen as sacred, to the same extent that man’s rights are sacred

Volumes have been, can be and will be yet written on this subject. But the Vedic directions (again outlined more fully in Sri Ishopanishad) are simple: all living beings are the children of God, and Krishna, God, doesn’t favour one above another. His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami has written: “The foolish idea that plants or animals or other living entities have no life is the basic cause of human sin.” He has further said: “Animals are the less intelligent children of God, and because they cannot make protest, you kill them. But no father permits the intelligent sons to kill the useless sons. The father loves all the children, and if the intelligent ones use their intelligence cruelly against the others, there will be punishment.”

9. The simple, effective structure of village life should be encouraged through decentralization of congested urban areas and the implementation of agricultural life

The overall principle governing human life and civilization, from the spiritual viewpoint, is simplicity. Material needs can be summed up in four categories: eating, sleeping, mating and defending. To satisfy these needs in the most basic fashion, thus liberating time and energy for the quest of spiritual realization, is the goal of Vedic organizational schemes. This is a goal obviously determined by the understanding that it is realization of God—complete absorption in the eternal, transcendental pastimes of love of Krishna—which is the ultimate and actual fulfillment of life.

The brilliant success of the capitalist economic system in the West—especially in the U. S. offers a useful contrast to this Vedic system. The industrial development of the West has served the purpose of liberating great quantities of time, but because of a basically materialistic concept of life, the people of the western nations have so far failed to develop any positive principle or meaning to existence, as the rampant nihilism exhibited in the young seems to demonstrate. What is required now—and quite desperately required—is this positive recognition of the supremacy of God, and of the unrivalled importance of the quest for realization of God as the essential business of human life. And we need quite rationally and pragmatically—words chosen deliberately—to dare to construct a new, far more spiritual world civilization to serve these highest interests of man.
The Honourable Prime Minister of India, Sri Narendra Modi, commemorated The Akshaya Patra Foundation’s serving of cumulative 3 billion meals at an event held at the organisation’s campus in Vrindavan, Mathura District, Uttar Pradesh on 11th February, 2019.

The Prime Minister was joined by the Honourable Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Sri Ram Naik and the Honourable Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Sri Yogi Adityanath.

The event was attended by eminent political figures from Uttar Pradesh including Sri Srikant Sharma, Minister of Power; Sri Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary, Minister – Dairy Development, Religious Affairs, Culture, Minority Welfare, Muslim Waqf and Haj; and Smt Anupma Jaenal, Minister of State – Basic Education, Child Development and Nutrition, Revenue and Finance.

Other dignitaries in attendance were Smt Hema Malini, MP – Mathura; Sri Kaninda Singh, MLA – Govardhan; Sri Shyam Sunder Sharma, MLA – Mant; Sri Pooran Prakash, MLA – Baldev; and Sri Mukesh Arya Bandhu, Mayor – Mathura-Vrindavan Nagar Nigam.

Sri Madhu Pandit Dasa – Chairman, The Akshaya Patra Foundation; Sri Chanchalapathi Dasa – Vice-Chairman, Sri Mohandas Pai – Independent Trustee, Sri Abhay Jain – Independent Trustee, other trustees, officials and Presidents of various Akshaya Patra centres were present on the occasion.

Sri Narendra Modi, Honourable Prime Minister of India

“Under the present circumstances, it is being ensured that adequate and good quality food is available for children. For this, all the people associated with the Akshaya Patra, right from the people who cook food and serve it, everyone is helping the nation.”

“These efforts best illustrate the journey from ‘I’ to ‘we.’ When ‘I’ becomes ‘we,’ then we go beyond ourselves and think about the society. When ‘I’ becomes ‘we,’ we expand the horizons of our thinking. ‘We’ gives more importance to our country, our culture than the individual self.”

“I congratulate you for your remarkable achievements and wish that you will continue with the same attitude of service and dedication.”

The event was also attended by prominent personalities from the corporate sector and other esteemed organisations who have been supporters and well-wishers of the Foundation throughout its journey.

Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi began the ceremony by paying homage to Srila Prabhupada, the inspiration behind Akshaya Patra’s mid-day meal programme. Sri Chanchalapathi Dasa welcomed and felicitated the dignitaries. An invocation was sung by Akshaya Patra beneficiaries from Vrindavan. This was followed by speeches by Sri Yogi Adityanath, Sri Mohandas Pai and Sri Madhu Pandit Dasa.

All the dignitaries congratulated Akshaya Patra on attaining the milestone of cumulatively serving 3 billion meals and pledged their support to the organisation’s endeavour.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the commemorative plaque to mark the serving of 3 billionth meal by Akshaya Patra. He addressed the gathering and showed his support to the Foundation’s initiative by serving the ceremonial 3 billionth meal. The Prime Minister, much to the delight of the children, even shared meals with them.

Sri Madhu Pandit Dasa
Chairman, The Akshaya Patra Foundation

“The mid-day meal programme is one of the best things that has happened to this nation post-independence. Today, after 18 years, the programme has started bearing fruits in the form of a generation of healthy young citizens.”

“We are grateful to our Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi for coming here to serve the 3 billionth meal. In his encouraging words, Akshaya Patra has become a movement for social change.”

“To build Poshit Bharat Shikshit Bharat, a nourished India, educated India, it is essential that every child is provided with a nutritious diet, a fulfilling education and a bright future. Civil society joining hands with the Government to solve the social problems of this country is very essential for (the success of) any Government scheme in line with the vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, the vision of our Prime Minister.” He also thanked the Chief Minister Sri Yogi Adityanath for his continued encouragement and support to the Foundation.
Sri Madhu Pandit Dasa expressed his delight at having reached this milestone and conveyed his gratitude to all the stakeholders, including the Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), State Governments, corporates, donors, partners and the community at large, for their continued support. He also reiterated the commitment of the Akshaya Patra team to serve hot, nutritious, safe and tasty meals to children every school day and further added that the Foundation will strive to enhance the impact of mid-day meals through various innovative initiatives.

In 2012, Akshaya Patra reached its first major milestone of serving 1 billion cumulative meals since the inception of the programme in 2000. By 2016, the organisation had already served a cumulative 2 billion meals. That milestone was commemorated in the presence of Sri Pranab Mukherjee, the then President of India, on 27th August 2016, in Bengaluru.

Akshaya Patra is the world’s first NGO-run school meal programme to achieve the milestone of serving 3 billion cumulative meals. It is a major milestone in the Foundation’s pursuit of the mission to serve meals to 5 million children every school day by 2025. With the support of the Government, donors, and all the other stakeholders, the organisation is poised to realise its vision: ‘No child in India shall be deprived of education because of hunger.’

Sri Yogi Adityanath
Honourable Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh

“Akshaya Patra will be given the responsibility to serve mid-day meals in 10 new districts and to open its kitchens in another 6 new areas.” He also expressed his appreciation for Akshaya Patra for serving safe, hygienic and tasty meals to pilgrims at Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj.
The Lord who bears the moon colour

Nilathingal Thundam Temple

by Sampatkumara Ramanuja Dasan (Adv. Ashwin.S)

This temple of the Supreme Personality of Godhead Sri Narayana is located inside the famous Ekambareswarar temple, the largest temple in the town of Kanchipuram, located in the northern part of the town.

The legend

The legend of this temple has to do with the pastime of Devi Parvati. Parvata is one of the Sanskrit words for “mountain”; Parvati derives her name from being the daughter of King Himavan (also called Himavat, Parvat) and Queen Mena. King Parvat is considered lord of the mountains and the personification of the Himalayas; Parvati implies “she of the mountain.”

The Puranas tell the story of Sati’s marriage to Shiva against her father Prajapathi Daksha’s wishes. Daksha does not accept Shiva for his son-in-law and therefore he does not invite Shiva to his yagna (fire-sacrifice). Sati arrives at the yagna on her own. When Daksha insults Shiva, Sati immolates herself at the ceremony. This shocks Shiva, who is so grief-stricken that he loses interest in worldly affairs, retires and isolates himself in the mountains, in meditation and austerity. Sati is then reborn as Parvati, the daughter of Himavat and Mena, Parvati.

According to different versions of her chronicles, the maiden Parvati resolves to marry Shiva. Her parents learn of her desire and discourage her, but she pursues what she wants. Indra sends the demigod Kama or Cupid to awake Shiva from meditation. Kama reaches Shiva and shoots an arrow of desire. Shiva opens the third eye in his forehead and burns the Kama to ashes. Parvati does not lose her hope or her resolve to win over Shiva.
Goddess Parvati underwent severe penance to attain Lord Shiva as her husband. In order to test her devotion, Shiva originates a massive fire on the mango tree where Parvati is seated, engrossed in meditation. Parvati earnestly prays to Lord Vishnu - Sri Nilathingal Thundam - to cool down the environment. Lord Vishnu instructs Chandra (moon) who resides in the matted locks of Shiva, to shower his breezy air to control the scorching heat. At last, everything comes back to normal and Parvati continues her penance. Thus, Lord Vishnu in this temple is known as Thiru Nilathingal Thundam.
The Temple

Thiru Nilathingal Thundam is one of the 108 divya desam of Lord Vishnu, situated within the precincts of Sri Ekambareshwarar temple; one of the Pancha Boothasthal of Lord Shiva, which represents Earth. Lord Nilathingal Perumal blesses the devotees in a shrine in the first prakara in standing form, under the Purusha Shuktha Vimana. The shrine is in the Easanya (North East) corner of the temple. Pujas to Perumal are performed in accordance with Shaivite codes. To reduce the excessive heat in His body, perfumed oil is applied, instead of abishekam.

Festivals

The Lord bearing the light of moon, every Purnima day (full moon) is a festival in the temple. Purattasi Saturdays of September-October and Vaikuntha Ekadashi in December-January are other festivals observed in the temple.

Thirumanagai Alwar in his Thirunedundandaham has sung in praise of the Supreme Lord in this temple.

Photo courtesy: Santhanakrishnan, Srirangam

To read online visit: www.goo.gl/mKP4K4q
BANGALORE: Alankara (above) and abhisheka (below)
Sri Rama Navami
Sun, 14th April 2019

apadamapahartaram dataram sarvasampadam
lokabhiramam sriramam bhuyo-bhuyo namamyaham

I bow again and again to Lord Shri Rama, Who removes all types of adversity and agony of the living beings; Who bestows all types of benedictions; and by the vision of Whom, the world feel very pleased.

Celebrations: 6:00pm
Pallakki Utsava - Sri Rama Taraka Yajna
Audio Visual Presentation

Connect with us online: www.iskconbangalore.org/sri-rama-navami
Personality Enrichment Workshop 2019

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<td>ISKCON Vaikuntha Hill</td>
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Age eligibility 6-16 years
Workshop timing 8:45am to 12:45pm

Highlights
- Needle work
- Cooking without fire
- Pot culture
- Group book reading
- Akshaya patra kitchen visit
- Jewellery making
- Clay modeling
- Embroidery art
- Flower decoration
- Model making
- Poster collage

For Details Contact
Tel: 93411 24222 / 93412 11119
E-mail: iskcon.ces@hkm-group.org
To register online: www.iskconbangalore.org/personality-enrichment-workshop/
**ISKCON Culture Camp**

*enriching summer vacations*

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**VENUE**

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**MODULES**

- Arts & Crafts
- Dance
- English Theatre
- Vocal Music
- Yakshagana

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Animation Video Shows
- Bhagavad-gita Slokas
- Mantra Meditation
- Life Skills
- Exciting Educational Trip
- Fun Games with Krishna
- Puppet Show
- Temple Darshan

---

**CAMP TIMING**

- 8:45am - 2:45pm

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**FOR DETAILS CONTACT:**

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To register online:  
www.iskiconbangalore.org/culture-camp

---

**Age eligibility 6-16 years**
Prize Distribution Ceremony

The Cultural Education Services (CES) division of ISKCON Bangalore, concluded its spiritually surcharged inter-school competition, Gita Fest 2019, with a grand prize distribution ceremony on Saturday, 9th February 2019. With the enthusiastic turnout of prize winners and their families, the program opened to a packed auditorium. The ceremony was presided over by distinguished Guests Prof. Shri K. J. Rao, the eminent physical chemist and professor emeritus at Indian Institute of Science (IISc Bangalore), debutant sandalwood actor Shri Nihal Rajput and ISKCON Vice President, Shri Vasudev Keshav Dasa. The program commenced with the guests addressing the gathering on the relevance and importance of the teachings of Srimad Bhagavad-gita and the need for parents and educational institutions to avail benefit from such temple programs. The program received over 42,000 entries from students in Class Pre-Nursery to X from across 150 schools in Bangalore. The students had an opportunity to showcase their understanding of the sublime message of the Bhagavad-gita by participating in unique literary, oratory and art events, conducted over a period of 75 days. The popular coloring and painting competition, Goloka Shades conducted under the art stream of the fest, had over 25,000 participants. The fest was organized as a part of the Gita Jayanti festival celebration, which marks the auspicious day on which the confidential transcendental knowledge of the Bhagavad-gita was revealed to Arjuna by the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna. During the course of the prize distribution ceremony, each of the prize winners was accorded a winner's trophy along with a copy of the Bhagavad-gita. It was a befitting conclusion to the Gita Fest 2019 program that aimed at disseminating the timeless culture and glorious heritage of India to school children.

Teachers Conclave 2019

The CES division of ISKCON Bangalore has been conducting cultural programs for children for about 18 years, based on the understanding that knowledge transferred to children in their childhood, holds the key to them developing a practical understanding and deep appreciation of leading a life based on the sublime principles propounded in the Bhagavad-gita. Towards this goal, the division has garnered unconditional support from like-minded educational institutions in Bengaluru. This support has enabled it to reach the benefit of its programs increasingly to children. With the aim of bringing together heads of institutions, coordinators and teachers from schools across the city, for an interactive exchange on the need for systematic value based programs and the positive benefits accruing therefrom to children, the CES division held its maiden Teachers Conclave program at Hare Krishna Hill Temple on 16th February 2019. The program was presided over by senior temple devotee Shri Satya Sankalpa Dasa, who addressed the gathering and gave the teacher delegates a deep and thought provoking insight on the topic of "Vedic Perspective on Teaching Pedagogy."
Udupi-Gokarna, Chaitanya Sambhramotsavam
Pilgrimage
March 22nd 8pm to March 25th 6am

Places of visit
Udupi, Malpe, Saligrama, Gokarna, Murdeshwara, Shri Chaitanya Sambhramotsavam,
Udupi Krishna Rathotsava and many other local temples

Pilgrimage donation: ₹4,500/-
Travel by - AC bus
Accommodation - AC

Tirupati-Kalahasthi Pilgrimage
Fri, Mar 29th 8 pm - Sun 31st 9 pm 2019

Places of visit:
Tirumala special darshan | Alamelu Mangapuram
Sri Padmavati Temple | Sri Kalahasti and many other local temples

Pilgrimage donation: ₹5,500/-
Join us for a spiritual and devotional retreat with ecstatic *kirtans, bhajans*, pastime narrations and delicious Krishna *prasadam*!

For registration contact:  93791 55555
iskcon.pilgrimages@hkm-group.org

Limited seats. First come first served basis
“May the Supreme Personality of Godhead in the form of Lord Sri Chaitanya bestow His causeless mercy upon us. His smiling glance, at once drives away all the bereavements of the world, and His very words enliven the auspicious creepers of devotion by expanding their leaves. Taking shelter of His lotus feet invokes transcendental love of God at once.”

Sri Chaitanya-charitamrita (authorized biography of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu) by Srila Krishnadasa Kaviraja Gosvami

We invite you to participate in the festivities on this auspicious appearance day of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

**Seva Opportunities**

You may offer the following sevas on this day and seek the blessings of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu:

- **Prasada Seva**
- **Pushpalankara Seva**
- **Annadana Seva**
- **Vastra Seva**
- **Vishesha Naivedya Seva**

To offer sevas, please visit: [www.iskconbangalore.org/sri-gaura-purnima/](http://www.iskconbangalore.org/sri-gaura-purnima/)
ISKCON Bangalore’s annual book distribution marathon which commenced on December 2, 2018 came to a close with the prize distribution ceremony on January 27, 2019.

The book distribution marathon is held every year by the temple on the auspicious occasion of Gita Jayanti in order to extensively distribute Srila Prabhupada's books.

This year 58 teams with 429 devotee volunteers participated in the marathon. They distributed 16,963 copies of Bhagavad-gita As-It-Is, 45 sets of Srimad-Bhagavatam, nine sets of Sri Chaitanya-charitamrita and 7,529 other books of Srila Prabhupada in several languages.

Apart from these teams, book counters in the temple, Brihat Mridanga team with book distribution vehicles and temple devotees were also engaged in the marathon. Books were also distributed through external vendors and online sales.

Altogether, 99,528 books of Srila Prabhupada (includes 42,819 Bhagavad-gita As It Is and 173 sets of Srimad-Bhagavatam/ Sri Chaitanya-Charitamrita), were distributed during the marathon period.

His Grace Madhu Pandit Dasa, President, ISKCON Bangalore gave away the prizes to the top participants in the book marathon under different categories. His Grace Vasudev Keshav Dasa, Vice President, coordinated the ceremony.

Read the full article at: https://bit.ly/2BFSmoa

Sri Kirti Krishna Dasa receiving a prize from His Grace Madhu Pandit Dasa
Sri Vrindavan Dham
About 300 devotees took Sri Prabhupada Ashraya in a special ceremony held by Hare Krishna Movement, Jaipur at Sri Sri Krishna Balaram Mandir on January 20, 2019.

Sri Advaita Acharya
Sri Advaita Acharya was a disciple of Sri Madhavendra Puri. It was due to His earnest prayers that Lord Krishna advented as Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu in Kali-yuga.

Controlling the Mind
When one’s mind is conquered, one voluntarily agrees to abide by the guidance of the Paramatma in the heart. Otherwise one has to serve the dictates of his own mind.

Join ISKCON Bangalore on WhatsApp
To receive daily WhatsApp messages*, add our number 9342805178 to your contacts list and send us a WhatsApp message - "SUBSCRIBE" - followed by your name.
*This service is absolutely free and you are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Reviews from tripadvisor
A touch of old traditions in a modern metropolis: ISKCON Bangalore is an interesting place where traditional Indian culture meets the modern metropolis that it has become more recently! You will rub shoulders with Indian devotees of all ages and social groups here, get to taste wonderful South Indian dishes and walk around with bare feet... - sharpiyu
Inner peace: Nowhere will you find such peace and just by looking at the Deity you would be mesmerized. Adding to that the place is very well maintained and super clean with directions and help all around. - eagleboy007
Nice: This I think is my sixth or seventh visit to this spiritual center. I must admit that this place seems as fresh as my first visit. It is easily one of the best maintained temples in Bangalore. The place is well organized, clean and thousands of people simultaneously can visit this temple without any hassle. Anybody who is in Bangalore as a tourist should not return without being here. I think they admit people of every faith or religion. It is well connected by bus and metro... - Kiran N

Top Youtube Picks
Akshaya Patra’s 3 Billionth Meal Commemoration

Sri Sri Krishna Balarama Ratha Yatra 2019
AKSHAYA TRITIYA
Sudama Vaibhavam
A festival of Lord Sri Krishna's blessings for prosperity and devotion
Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Here is a wonderful opportunity for you and your family to observe this auspicious day at the ISKCON Sri Radha Krishna Temple, Bangalore

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- Krishna-Sudama Katha
- Special Offerings of Chipped Rice
- Akshaya Tritiya Suvarna Mudra Bahumana
- Chappan Bhog Maha Prasad - Tastes Of India Prasadam Feast

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