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Sri Rajadhiraja Govinda, Vaikuntha Hill



KRISHNA VOICE

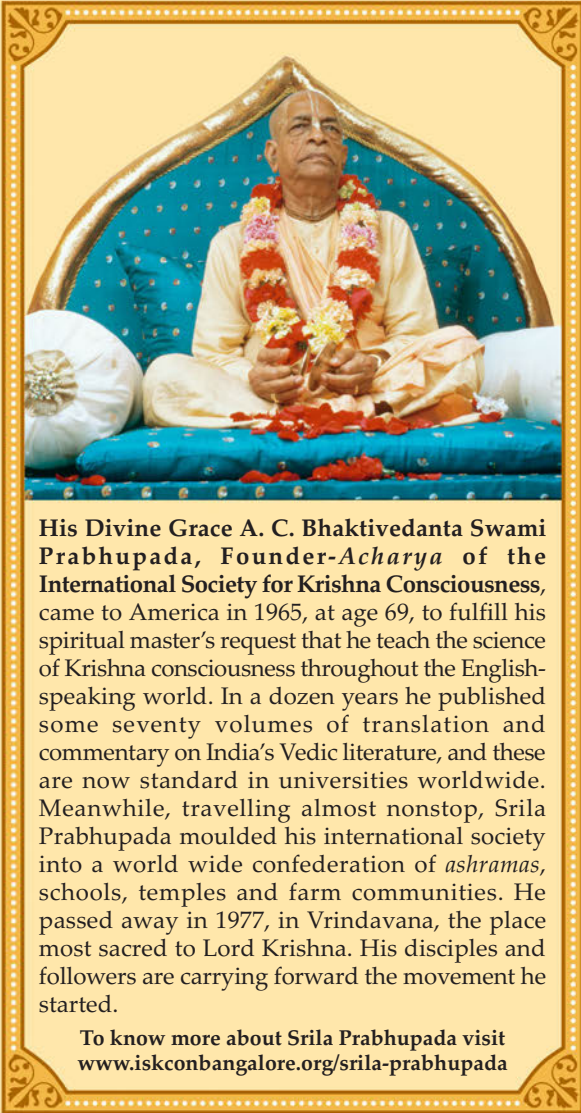


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His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, Founder-Acharya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, came to America in 1965, at age 69, to fulfill his spiritual master's request that he teach the science of Krishna consciousness 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 *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

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The Yoga of Attachment

To know Krishna we must learn the secret that will inspire Him to reveal Himself.

A lecture given in San Francisco, March 26, 1968

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

sri-bhagavan uvaca

*mayy asakta-manah partha yogam yunjan mad-asrayah
asamsayam samagram mam yatha jnasyasi tac chrnu*

The Supreme Personality of Godhead said: Now hear, O son of Prtha, how by practicing yoga in full consciousness of Me, with mind attached to Me, you can know Me in full, free from doubt. (*Bhagavad-gita* 7.1)

Krishna Himself is speaking about yoga. One of Krishna's names is Yogeshvara, "the supreme master of all yoga systems." Yoga means "the link between the soul and the Supersoul," and *ishvara* means "master." The ultimate object of yoga is Krishna. For that reason, also, Krishna's name is Yogeshvara.

At the conclusion of the *Bhagavad-gita*, Sanjaya says, *yatra yogeshvarah krsno yatra partho dhanur-dharah...* "Wherever there is Yogeshvara, Krishna, and wherever there is Arjuna, the greatest fighter, there will undoubtedly be victory."

The *Bhagavad-gita* was spoken as a narration by Sanjaya to Maharaja Dhritarashtra. Sanjaya was Dhritarashtra's secretary. By spiritual vision Sanjaya could see what was going on in the battlefield—just as one sees something on television—and he narrated to Maharaja Dhritarashtra, who was blind. Sanjaya's conclusion was that the side that has Yogeshvara, Krishna, must be victorious.

Attachment to Krishna

There are different systems of yoga, and there are many kinds of yogis. Yoga refers to the system, and the yogi is the person who practices the system. The object of yoga, the ultimate goal of yoga, is to understand Krishna. Therefore Krishna consciousness means to practice the topmost yoga system. That yoga system is being described by Krishna Himself. Why? Because He is teaching His most intimate friend, Arjuna.

In the beginning of His explanation, the Lord says, "This system of yoga can be practiced by persons who have developed attachment for Me." The topmost yoga system cannot be practiced by an ordinary man who has no attachment for Krishna. A yogi who has no attachment for Krishna is practicing a different yoga system.

There are five kinds of direct attachment, or *asakti*. And there are seven kinds of indirect attachment. Direct attachment is called *bhakti*, but indirect attachment is not *bhakti*. If you are attached to Krishna by the direct method, that is called devotional service. And if you are attached to Krishna by the indirect method, that is not devotional service, but that is also attachment. For example, Kamsa had indirect attachment. Kamsa was the maternal uncle of Krishna, and it was foretold that Kamsa would be killed by his sister's eighth son. So Kamsa



became very anxious, and he wanted to kill his younger sister, Devaki, Krishna's mother. She was saved by her husband, Krishna's father, Vasudeva, by some compromises. That's a great, long story. The last compromise was that Vasudeva told his brother-in-law Kamsa, "You are afraid of the son of your sister. Your sister is not going to kill you. So I request, don't kill your sister. Save her. And I promise that all the sons born of your sister will be brought to you, and if you like you can kill them."

Vasudeva was a king. He was thinking, "For the time being, this poor girl may be saved, and it may be that time will change the mind of Kamsa. When her sons will be born, he might change his mind."

But Kamsa was such a great demon that he killed all the sons of Devaki. So when Krishna was in the womb of His mother, Kamsa was always thinking of Krishna. Now, you see, Kamsa was also Krishna conscious, but he was Krishna conscious not directly—not for love's sake—but as an enemy. That is not devotional service. When one is Krishna conscious and Krishna's friend, Krishna's parent, Krishna's servant, Krishna's lover—that is devotion.

Relationships with God

Here it is clearly said, *mad-asrayah*: "one who wants Krishna." You may want Krishna as your lover. You may want Krishna as your son. You may want Krishna as your friend. You may want Krishna as your master. You may want Krishna as the supreme sublime. These five kinds of direct relationship with Krishna are called devotion, *bhakti*. Devotees in these relationships are without any desire for material profit.

The concept of accepting God as one's son is superior to the concept of accepting God as one's father. In the relationship between father and son, the son wants to get something from the father. But the father always wants to give something to the son. Therefore the relationship in which one treats God, or Krishna, as son is better than the relationship in which one treats Krishna as father. If I accept God as my father, then I am the son and my only business will be to ask my necessities from the father. But if I become the father of Krishna, then from the beginning of Krishna's childhood my business will be to serve Him. The parents serve the child from his birth.

Therefore the ideal of Krishna's parents and foster parents—Vasudeva and Devaki, and Nanda and Yashoda—is very sublime. Yashoda is thinking, "If I do not feed Krishna sumptuously, He will die." She forgets that Krishna, the Supreme Lord, is sustaining the three worlds. *Nityo nityanam cetanas cetananam eko bahunam yo vidadhati kaman*. Only one God is supplying the necessities of all other living entities. That very same Personality of Godhead has become the son of Yashoda, and she is thinking, "If I do not feed Krishna nicely, He will die." That is love. She has forgotten that the person who has appeared before her as her little child is the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

So the relationship of *asakti*—attachment—is very sublime. It requires time to understand. But there is a position in which instead of asking, "O God, give us our daily bread," you think that God will die if you do not supply Him bread. That is the ecstasy of extreme love, and there is such a relationship between Krishna and His devotees.

Radharani, the greatest devotee, the greatest lover of Krishna, loves Him as a paramour. Nanda and Yashoda love Him as parents. Sudama and Arjuna love Him as friends. Similarly, there are millions and trillions of different kinds of devotees of Krishna. They are directly playing with Krishna.

The yoga system described herein—*bhakti-yoga*—can be practiced by persons who have developed such attachment for Krishna. Others cannot practice it. And if anyone is able to develop such attachment, he will understand God, or Krishna, perfectly.

How Much Do We Know?

To understand God by our theories or speculation is very difficult. We may say that we have understood God, but it is not possible to understand God as He



is, because we have limited senses and He is unlimited. How can you capture the Unlimited with your limited senses?

The *shastras*, scriptures, explain how we can understand God: *atah sri-krishna-namadi na bhaved grahyam indriyaih*. Our senses are always imperfect. We cannot even understand the material world perfectly. We see so many planets and stars in the sky at night, but we do not know what they are. We do not even know about the moon—one planet. We do not even know about all the varieties on earth.

Our knowledge is always imperfect. That we must admit. To be proud that we have acquired all sorts of knowledge and have advanced in science is foolishness. When it is not possible to understand even the material things we see daily, what can we understand of the spiritual? And Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, is the supreme spiritual form. So it is not possible for us to understand Krishna by our limited senses.

Then why we are bothering so much for Krishna consciousness if it is not possible? The *shastra* explains:

*atah sri-krishna-namadi na bhaved grahyam indriyaih
sevonmukhe hi jihvadau svayam eva sphuraty adhah*

Your imperfect senses cannot realize Krishna as He is. But if you become submissive, if you develop the spirit of service to Krishna, either as servant or as friend or as parent or as lover, if you begin to give service to the Supreme Lord, then He will reveal Himself.

Serving Krishna with Love

The beginning of service is chanting. Therefore it is said, *jihvadau*. *Jihva* means “tongue.” Your service begins by the tongue. How? By the tongue you can chant Hare Krishna, and by the tongue you can taste Krishna’s *prasadam*.

So the beginning process is very nice. You chant Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, and whatever little *prasadam* is offered to you by Krishna by His kindness, you accept it. If you become submissive, and if you begin the service of chanting and eating *prasadam*, then *svayam eva sphuraty adah*—simply by these two practices, Krishna will reveal Himself before you: “I am like this.”

Krishna is revealing Himself to Arjuna in the *Bhagavad-gita* because Arjuna is a devotee, he is submissive, and he is Krishna’s friend.

The *Bhagavad-gita* was spoken to Arjuna, not to any Vedantist or speculator. In the beginning of the fourth chapter, Krishna says, “I’ll speak to you the old system of yoga, *bhakti-yoga*.” He says, “to you.” Why? Arjuna was not a Vedantist or a great philosopher or a *brahmana*. He was a *kshatriya*. He was a fighter and a householder, not even a *sannyasi*.

One’s position is not the qualification to understand Krishna. I have become a *sannyasi*, a mendicant, but this is not the qualification for understanding Krishna. Even in your white dress, as a householder, you can understand better than me.

Then what is the qualification? *Sevonmukhe hi jihvadau*: One who has developed the service spirit with love and devotion can understand Krishna. No one else. A child can understand Krishna if he has full faith in Him.

Faith and devotion make one qualified to understand God. To have those qualifications is called *mad-asrayah*. We are preaching Krishna consciousness. We are not wasting your time or our time. We have full faith—theoretically and practically—that Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

No One Is Greater Than Krishna

If you ask, “How do you know that Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead?” we can answer that we know theoretically from the revealed scriptures—the Vedic literature—and from great authorities in the past and in the present. For example, Lord Chaitanya is a recognized great authority. Oh, He is mad after Krishna. Then after Him, His six disciples, the six Gosvamis—especially Jiva Gosvami—have written volumes of literature on Krishna. Then by disciplic succession we have come to the point of accepting Krishna as God.

And long, long ago, Vyasadeva, also known as Vedavyasa, wrote the *Srimad-Bhagavatam* about Krishna. The *Srimad-Bhagavatam* is nothing but a description of Krishna. Vyasadeva is also the author of *Bhagavad-gita*. *Bhagavad-gita* was spoken by Krishna and noted down by Vyasadeva. And Vyasadeva has put the *Bhagavad-gita* in the *Mahabharata*.

Vyasadeva accepts Krishna as the Supreme Personality. In the *Bhagavatam* he has specifically mentioned, *krishnas tu bhagavan svayam*. He has given descriptions of about twenty-five incarnations of God. In conclusion he writes,

ete camsa-kalah pumsah krishnas tu bhagavan svayam: “All the incarnations are part of the partial representation of God, but Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead Himself.” Krishna is not part. He is cent percent God. So the evidence of authority establishes theoretically that Krishna is God.

Now, if we believe the scriptures and the authorities, then we’ll see that no one can be more powerful than Krishna, more beautiful than Krishna, more famous than Krishna. That seeing is the practical understanding of Krishna as God. Krishna appeared five thousand years ago, but His knowledge, which He gave us in the shape of *Bhagavad-gita*, is still worshiped. It is worshiped not only by the Hindus or the Indians; it is read all over the world. In your country there are at least fifty editions of *Bhagavad-gita*, written by different American thoughtful men. Similarly, in England, in Germany, in France—in many countries—you’ll find hundreds of editions of *Bhagavad-gita*.

So who can be more famous or more wise than Krishna? There are many other evidences about Krishna if we believe *shastra*. Krishna married 16,108 wives, and He provided each one of them with big palaces. Each one of them had ten children, and from those ten children there were many other children.

So these are the evidences from revealed scripture. And in the *Brahma-samhita*, Krishna is accepted as the Supreme Personality of Godhead. This is a very old book, written by Brahma. In the *Brahma-samhita* it is said, *ishvarah paramah krishnah*. *Ishvarah* means God. There are many gods—demigods—and there is one Supreme God. The *Brahma-samhita* says, “Krishna is the Supreme God. He is the God of gods.” *Sac-cid-ananda-vigraha*: “And His body is eternal and full of bliss and knowledge.” *Anadir adir govindah*: “He has no beginning, but He is the beginning of everyone. And His name is Govinda.”

Go means “senses,” *go* means “cow,” and *go* means “land.” So Krishna is the proprietor of all land, He is the proprietor of all cows, and He is the pleasure for all senses. We are after sense pleasure, but our perfection of sense pleasure can be achieved when we reciprocate our pleasure with Krishna. Therefore His name is Govinda. *Govindam adi-purusam tam aham bhajami*: “Govinda is the supreme, original Personality of Godhead.”

The Perfection of Life

That same Personality of Godhead is personally speaking about Himself to Arjuna. How can someone simply by speculation speak something about God more important than what is being spoken by Krishna Himself? No one can speak better than Krishna about God, because God Himself is speaking about Himself. If you speak about yourself, who can speak more than you?

If we have faith, if we believe theoretically and practically that Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead, then by Krishna’s speeches in this chapter we can understand God. There is no difficulty. We can understand how He is working, how His energies are acting, how He is manifested, what is the material world, what is the spiritual world, what are the living creatures, what is their relationship with God—so many things in God’s creation.

The whole Vedic literature is dealing in three things: understanding our relationship with God, acting in that relationship, and attaining the goal of life—love of God.

The first thing is our relationship with God. Then, when we understand our relationship with God, the second thing is to act in that relationship. For example, as soon as a relationship is established between a man and woman—that one is husband and the other is wife—then reciprocal dealings begin.

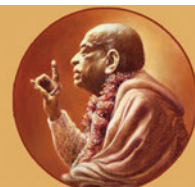
So first you must understand your relationship with God. That relationship will be revealed when you are perfectly liberated. Every living creature has a particular relationship with God. We have forgotten that. When that relationship is revealed in the process of devotional activities, Krishna consciousness, you should know that you have attained the perfection of your life.

Krishna consciousness is a great science. It is not sentiment or mental speculation or a bluff. It is scientific, as described in the *Bhagavad-gita*, in the *Vedas*, in the *Samhitas*, and as accepted by authorities like Lord Chaitanya, Ramanujacharya, Madhvacharya, Narada, Asita, Vyasa—so many authorities.

Krishna consciousness is not a bluff-making or a money-making business. It is reality. If you take to it seriously, your life will be successful.

Thank you very much. 🌸

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/srila-prabhupada-lectures



SRILA PRABHUPADA SPEAKS OUT

Increasing Population: No Problem

This conversation between Srila Prabhupada and some journalists took place in London, England, on August 18, 1971.

Srila Prabhupada: Now India is faced with so many problems on account of imitating Western civilization.

Guest: Not simply because of the increased population?

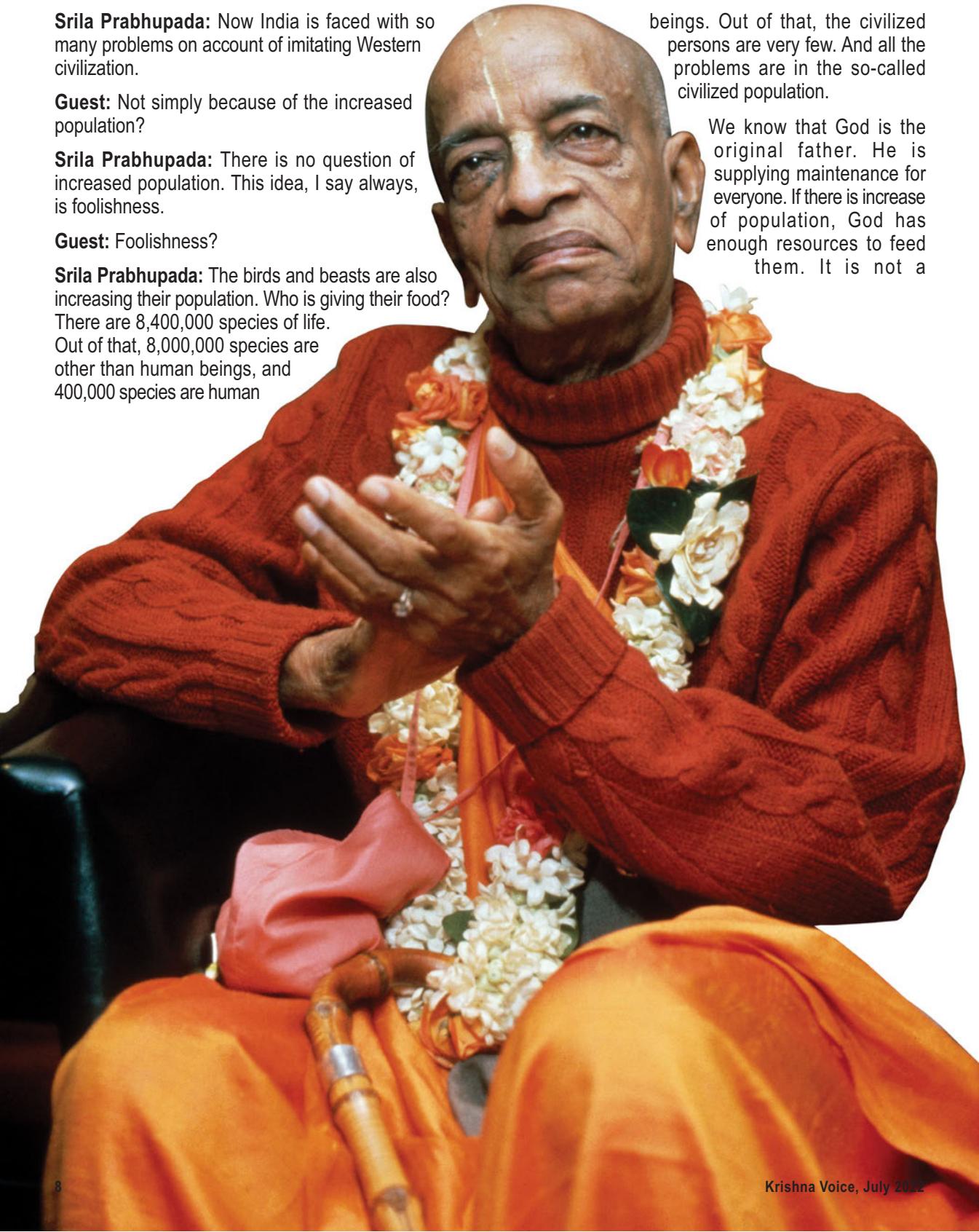
Srila Prabhupada: There is no question of increased population. This idea, I say always, is foolishness.

Guest: Foolishness?

Srila Prabhupada: The birds and beasts are also increasing their population. Who is giving their food? There are 8,400,000 species of life. Out of that, 8,000,000 species are other than human beings, and 400,000 species are human

beings. Out of that, the civilized persons are very few. And all the problems are in the so-called civilized population.

We know that God is the original father. He is supplying maintenance for everyone. If there is increase of population, God has enough resources to feed them. It is not a



problem of increasing population but of demonic civilization.

Journalist: I was going to ask you about that—civilization.

Srila Prabhupada: The demonic civilization—not increasing population—is creating the problem. So far as I have studied, in America, in Africa, and in Australia there is so much vacant space that if the present population of the world were increased ten times there would still be enough food.

Journalist: You think there's enough food?

Srila Prabhupada: There are enough provisions. But we have made artificial divisions. "This is America." The Americans went from Europe and illegally occupied America. Now they won't allow anyone to come there. Similarly, the Australians won't allow anyone to come there. The same with New Zealand, Africa. Why? Our philosophy is that everything belongs to God and we are all sons of God. Everyone has got the right to live at the cost of God.

Journalist: But the values of Western civilization have ...

Srila Prabhupada: Western civilization created the artificial idea that "this is Africa, this is America, this is Europe."

Journalist: Therefore that has made living as children of God impossible.

Srila Prabhupada: Yes. Because the one son of God is not allowing the other son to come in. He hasn't got the right to forbid. Say your father has ten sons. So all the ten sons have the right to use the property of the father. That is the law. Similarly, all the living entities—not only human beings but birds, animals—all of them have the right to use the property of God. This is called spiritual, or transcendental, communism.

According to Vedic civilization, a householder has to see that even a lizard in the room has his food. A householder would stand on the street, and before taking his food, he would say loudly, "If anyone is hungry, please come. I have food." And if there is no response, then he takes.

Journalist: That's a very difficult doctrine for many people in civilization.

Srila Prabhupada: But that is real civilization. In animal civilization, as soon as one dog comes, another dog barks, "Yow! Yow! Yow! Why are you coming?" Just like here, and everywhere, the immigration department is asking, "Oh, how long will you stay?" Why should they ask that? A human being is coming. In Vedic civilization, even if an enemy comes to your home you receive him with such friendliness that he forgets that you are his enemy.

Journalist: But it must be very difficult for you to preach these values.

Srila Prabhupada: It is difficult because this civilization is demonic. India welcomed everyone, but the result was they were occupied. Your English people were welcomed. Lord Clive was welcomed, but he intrigued to occupy India. And his statue is worshiped here in London. But what was his credit? He made an intrigue—he illegally entered India and made an occupation. That is Western civilization.

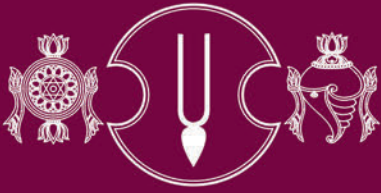
Journalist: That's really what I was going to ask. You must find life very difficult preaching values of brotherhood in present-day society.

Srila Prabhupada: Brotherhood is natural. In a family of ten sons, naturally they are brothers. But one son is intriguing how to take the whole property. That is going on. That is demonic.

Journalist: How do you stop that?

Srila Prabhupada: By Krishna consciousness. As soon as you are educated that God is one—the Father is one—and we are all sons, then the whole solution is made. 🙏

Fasting		Festivals	
July 10	Ekadashi	July 1	Jagannatha Puri Ratha Yatra
July 11	<i>break fast</i>	July 8	Sudarshana Jayanti (in ISKCON Bangalore)
July 24	Ekadashi	July 9	Jagannatha Puri Bahuda Ratha Yatra
July 25	<i>break fast</i>	July 13	First month of Chaturmasya begins <i>fasting from shak (green leafy vegetables) for one month</i>
		Aug 2	Garuda Panchami (in ISKCON Bangalore)



ISKCON ŚRĪ RĀJĀDHIRĀJA GOVINDA TEMPLE

In 1974, Srila Prabhupada made a pilgrimage to Thirupati along with his disciples. He had the *darshan* of the Lord with intense love and devotion. He offered his heartfelt salutations to Balaji and continuously sang the prayer from the Brahma Samhita - *Govindam Adi-Purusham tam aham bhajami*.

During this visit, he expressed the wish that his followers should build a temple similar to Tirumala, which has a golden dome and wonderful facilities for visiting pilgrims. We are happy to say that this temple is the manifestation of Srila Prabhupada's *sankalpa*. This year marks the 125th birth anniversary of Srila Prabhupada, and Sri Rajadhiraja Govinda Temple is our humble offering to fulfil his great desire.

The temple's architectural design and aesthetics are inspired by the famous Sri Venkateshwara Swamy temple in Thirumala. We have constructed this stone temple as per traditional *shilpa shastras* in the Dravidian style of

Sri Rajadhiraja Govinda Temple at Vaikuntha Hill





architecture. There are seven doors to the sanctum, which are also similar. The revealed scriptures say that this feature resembles the structure of Vaikuntha, the spiritual abode of Lord Vishnu.

The Rajadhiraja Govinda Temple is surrounded by the shrines of Sri Sudarshana Narasimha, Smt. Rajalakshmi Padmavathi, Sri Lakshmi Narasimha, Bhakta Hanuman and Garuda deva. A separate shrine has been constructed for our Acharya, Srila Prabhupada, where his *Achala Shila Murti*, a black stone deity, is installed. This has been done for the first time in the history of ISKCON.

In the Srimad Bhagavatam, it is said:

yais tattva-bhedair adhiloka-natho lokan alokan saha lokapalan

Lord Krishna or Vishnu is described there as *Adhiloka-natha*, the Supreme King of all kings. In fact, it is He who has created other kings and rulers. Srinivasa is known as the '*Akhilandakoti Brahmanda Nayaka*', the Lord of the entire creation. Therefore, devotees have named the deity as Sri Rajadhiraja Govinda.

The *prana prathishta* pujas were conducted yesterday, and the elaborate Vedic ceremonies will continue till the end of July.

According to *sthalapurana*, the city of Bangalore was called *Kalyanapuri*, and this sacred land of Vasanthapura is a site where holy sages meditated. This locality derives its name from the ancient temple of Vasantha Vallabha Swamy, a form of Lord Srinivasa. We offer our prayers of gratitude to Sri Vasantha Vallabha Raya for blessing our endeavour and making the project a reality.

ISKCON Sri Rajadhiraja Temple and cultural complex will attract devotees and pilgrims from different parts of the country. There will be amenities for about 5,000 people to have comfortable *darshan*. A large Nitya Annadana hall will serve meals to the visitors. The campus will also provide spiritual and cultural education for children, youth and families. This temple is a unique amalgamation of tradition and innovation, poised to become a prominent spiritual landmark in Karnataka.



Birds-eye view of the temple



ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND, ON THE OCCASION OF LOKARPANA CEREMONY OF THE NEW ISKCON TEMPLE

Bengaluru : 14.06.2022

Namaskar! Hare Krishna!

The ambience here is truly divine, and I feel blessed to be here with you on the occasion of the Lokarpana ceremony of Sri Rajadhiraja Govinda Temple. It is indeed a beautiful temple, a befitting expression of the faith of the devotees. Like many of our temples, this is located at a height, taking us, as if, closer to God. At any rate, visiting this holy place is bound to be an uplifting experience.

Temples have been among the most important symbols of Hinduism. At one level, they are sacred sites. Worshippers feel the presence of the divine, be it in the form of vibrations or energy or a rush of the intense devotional feelings. Coming to a spot like this, one can leave the world and its noise behind and feel enveloped in peace. At another level, temples are often much more than places of worship. They are like the *sangam sthal*, or the point of holy confluence, of art, architecture, language and knowledge traditions.

This is no surprise, considering the fact that the religious impulse is at the heart of India's culture. The quest of the *rishi-munis* of this land in ancient times has also inspired our society along with its kings and scholars, poets and architects. If there is a single defining feature of this quest, it is plurality. All competing world-views, from Advaita Vad to Vishishtadvait Vad, all have flourished under one umbrella. There are different sects, such as Vaishnavism, Shaivism and Shakta *sampradaya*. Just as there can be many ways to reach the top of the hill, there are different paths to realise the Supreme, such as Jnana Marga, Karma Marga and Bhakti Marga. Yet, in Hinduism, you never know where one ends and another begins, as if they are all interlinked by their common faith in the divine.

Our great spiritual leaders such as Shankaracharya, Ramanujacharya, Madhvacharya and Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu showed us a variety of ways. In recent times, Ramakrishna Paramahans and Swami Vivekananda,



Honourable President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurates the temple



ISKCON
ŚRĪ RĀJĀDHIRĀJA
GOVINDA
TEMPLE

Srila Prabhupada's
ISKCON
BANGALORE



Honourable President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, takes darshan of the Lord

among so many others, reiterated the same attitude. It is no wonder that the *Bhagavad-gita*, the scripture that is held most important by all Hindus, also offers different lessons to different people, depending on their qualification.

Dear Friends,

You cannot mention the *Bhagavad-gita* and not think of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, the Founder-Acharya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. His commentary on the *Gita* has, without doubt, guided more seekers

around the world to the mysteries of Lord Krishna's discourse to Arjuna, than any other book. Millions of copies of this work have been distributed in more than 70 languages, bringing the eternal message to countless people. Indeed, it would be no exaggeration to say that he was the greatest ambassador of India's spiritual culture, philosophy and heritage in our times.

It is pertinent to note here that his spiritual journey began with the moral discipline inspired by Gandhiji. In his younger days, he was impressed by the campaigns the Father of the Nation led against the British rule, and the Mahatma's insistence of practising spiritual values in daily life deeply influenced him.

I was surprised to learn that Srila Prabhupada was 69 when he went on a journey to carry India's message of peace and goodwill to the West. For those seeking spiritual help in troubled times, his words must have felt like first drops of rain feel to the thirsty. The chanting of 'Hare Krishna' on city streets became a cultural phenomenon. Within only 12 years, he had succeeded in establishing an international confederation of more than a hundred Krishna temples, a publishing house, educational institutions and farm communities.

According to Srila Prabhupada, service to the needy is also a form of worship, and hence ISKCON has come to be known equally for humanitarian interventions. He wanted



Book release of Dr Hindol Sengupta's Sing, Dance & Pray, a biography of Srila Prabhupada



to offer everyone – no matter of what caste, gender, religion or nationality – an opportunity to live a life of joy, peace of mind and God-consciousness. Temples, for him, were the entry points to the path leading to that life.

In pursuance of his vision, ISKCON Bengaluru has constructed this marvellous temple, which is being dedicated today in this auspicious Lokarpana ceremony. As this year marks Srila Prabhupada's 125th birth anniversary, Sri Rajadhiraja Govinda Temple is a fitting tribute to him. I am also happy to receive a copy of the book, titled *Sing, Dance and Pray: The inspirational story of Srila Prabhupada* by Dr. Hindol Sengupta, commemorating this momentous year.

Dear Friends,

Earlier this morning, I was fortunate to be able to offer homage to the unique idol of Srila Prabhupada. It was a blissful experience to have the divine darshan of Sri Rajadhiraja Govinda and other Deities amidst the chanting of the Vedic mantras.

During my *darshan*, I noticed that the architectural features of this temple resemble those of the Tirupati Tirumala temple. The exquisite idol of Sri Rajadhiraja Govinda is also a replica of Lord Balaji. Many saint-poets like Annamacharya have sung *kirtanas* in praise of Lord Venkateshwara of Thirumala. The same Lord has now descended on this Vaikuntha Hill to receive our worship and bestow His blessings.

I am confident that this temple will emerge as a modern-day pilgrimage point, and will attract a large number of devotees. It is good to see that arrangements have been made to accommodate about 5,000 visitors to comfortably wait for their turn. Moreover, there will be an Annadaan hall where free meals will be served to all the devotees. All the donors should be thanked for their generous contribution to this project.

Dear Friends,

All this has been made possible by the blessings of Srila Prabhupada, and efforts of Sri Madhu Pandit Dasa. With his spiritual strength and exemplary leadership, he is giving shape to many of Srila Prabhupada's dreams.

ISKCON Bengaluru has made a positive difference in the lives of lakhs of people for the last 25 years. A barren hillock has been transformed into the magnificent ISKCON Sri Radha Krishna Mandir at Hare Krishna Hill due to the hard work and determination of the devotees. It was there that The Akshaya Patra Foundation, the world's largest NGO-run school lunch programme, was born. This movement was inspired by Srila Prabhupada's wish that nobody, especially no child, should go hungry within a ten-mile radius of a Krishna temple. This initiative feeds fresh, nutritious mid-day meals to over 18 lakh children in government schools across the country every day. During the pandemic, I am told Akshaya Patra and its supporting organisations also provided over 25 crore meals to the distressed people. Such humanitarian assistance interventions have benefitted all sections of society.

My best wishes to Sri Madhu Pandit Dasa and the dedicated members of ISKCON Bengaluru for their religious and humanitarian initiatives in the coming years. I also wish them success with the upcoming Vrindavan Chandrodaya Mandir project in Vrindavan.

In conclusion, let me quote what Arjuna says in conclusion of the *Gita*:

arjuna uvaca
nasto mohah smrtir labdha tvat-prasadan mayacyuta
sthito 'smi gata-sandehah karisye vacanam tava

It means, in Srila Prabhupada's words, that "my illusion is now gone. I have regained my memory by Your mercy, and I am now firm and free from doubt and am prepared to act according to Your instructions."

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let us all strive to become firm and free from doubt and prepared to act according to His instructions. May Sri Rajadhiraja Govinda shower His blessings upon all of us!

Thank you,

Jai Hind!



Shila vigraha of ISKCON Founder-Acharya, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, installed at Vaikuntha Hill

Address by Sri Madhu Pandit Dasa, President, ISKCON Bangalore

Honourable Rashtrapati, Shri Ram Nath Kovind

Honourable First Lady

Governor of Karnataka, Honourable Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot

Honourable Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri Basavaraj S Bommai

Respected MLA Shri M Krishnappa, my dear godbrothers on the dais, ladies and gentlemen.

Yesterday was a momentous occasion. The Lord of the Universe descended from Vaikuntha into the Deity as Sri Rajadhiraja Govinda, to shower His mercy on countless souls, for centuries to come. This stone temple will last for centuries, serving humanity's aspirations to evolve itself into spiritually enlightened beings, to free themselves from all the sufferings of this world.

India is the spiritual leader of the world. This is because of its cultural richness designed by our great sages for a progressive human society. The foundation of such a Sanatana culture is that we are born not to die, but to realize



our eternal life before our body reaches the point of death. The powerful force of *kala* spares no one from death. Life is a school of spiritual learning, to be lived to fulfil our deepest instinct which is to seek eternal happiness and always resist sufferings.

If we want India to lead the world spiritually, every educated person of this great country should apply his mind to understand the great Indian texts like the *Bhagavad-gita*. This one book is enough to guide one's life to happiness, while living in this world and thereafter.

His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada, the illustrious Founder and *acharya* of the ISKCON movement, demonstrated how India could lead the world spiritually. At an advanced age of 70 years, His Divine Grace set foot in the United States, armed with the knowledge of the *Bhagavad-gita* and *Srimad Bhagavatam*. In twelve years, he attracted lakhs of people of all nationalities to understand the essence of *Gita*, which is to surrender to the practice of that universal Krishna consciousness.

Modern science, despite its tremendous contributions to understanding of the world around us, has little contribution towards the art and science of inner peace and happiness. We should know the limitations of science, but extend the modern scientific temperament to spiritual life. Scientific temperament is the universal temperament to seek the truth. Just as scientific temperament has led to material progress in the last few centuries, the very same temperament can be applied to seek the spiritual truth of the soul in this body, for the world to make spiritual progress.

Spiritual revolutionaries like His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada are the greatest contributors to humanity, to develop this world spiritually. Just as each one of us is a microcosm of existence, in the same way the universe is a macrocosm which can progress spiritually, bringing higher intelligence to handle properly the material progress. Progress in material science is a double-edged sword. It can either benefit the entire humanity by using it properly or harm and destroy humanity like what the atom bombs can do. Only universal spiritual knowledge can give humanity the maturity to handle the fruits of material progress. Without parallel efforts to educate people in the art of leading a life of peace and happiness, one-sided material progress will be counterproductive to the cause of humanity.

Spiritual education means to educate people about the universal consciousness which is also called Krishna consciousness, in contrast with self-centred consciousness. Krishna consciousness is soul-centred consciousness, and self-centred consciousness means body-centred consciousness.

Traditionally, temples in India were not just places of religious worship, but centres of community service. This cultural complex, which has been dedicated to humanity by *Rashtrapatiji*, is beyond just being a place of worship. It is a centre from where the universal message of peace, happiness and service to humanity will spread. Here, there will be no discrimination of materially rich or poor because we see the materially rich are also spiritually poor, if they do not live their lives as per the dharma, the laws of God.

The first ISKCON temple of Bangalore North in Rajajinagar inspired the mission of Akshaya Patra, acting as a bridge to take resources from the materially rich and reach the basic needs of the poor. The Akshaya Patra mission has since then expanded today all over India to feed 1.8 million children every day to support their education.

Rajadhiraja means King of all Kings. Today we pray to the Deity of Sri Rajadhiraja Govinda to inspire us with many new initiatives to serve the society with a touch of spiritualism in the coming years from this grand temple. Today's economic progress everywhere is lopsided. Many in this country are becoming richer by the day, while the poor are becoming poorer. God is the supreme proprietor and the supreme father of all beings who provides for everyone. God considers the persons who share with others what God has given him, as a great step for the soul to attain peace and happiness.

May this temple attract such *punyatmas* to enable the temple to expand its services to the society at large, spreading the concept of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*, the entire earth as one family to live in love and trust.

We are deeply obliged to His Excellency Shri Ram Nath Kovind and the First Lady for gracing the Dedication Ceremony of this temple and cultural centre, dedicating it to the world at large.

Thank you very much.



Smt. Rajalakshmi Padmavathi, consort of Sri Rajadhiraja Govinda



Sri Lakshmi Narasimha



Sri Sudarshana Narasimha



Vimana Kalasha and Dhvaja Stambha prathishta pujas





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GOVINDA
TEMPLE

Srila Prabhupada's
ISKCON
BANGALORE



Srila Prabhupada shila vigraha prathishta abhisheka and homa





ISKCON
ŚRĪ RĀJĀDHIRĀJA
GOVINDA
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Srila Prabhupada's
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BANGALORE



Sri Rajadhiraja Govinda prathishta abhisheka



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Utsava vigraha: Sri Rajagopala, Smt. Rukmini and Smt. Satyabhama





Kalyanotsava of Sri Rajagopala, Smt. Rukmini and Smt. Satyabhama



Young dancers glorify Lord Rajagopala during His first pallakhi utsava

Panihati cida-dahi-mahotsava



Abhisheka (above) and Theppotsava (below)





GURUVAYUR Pilgrimage

Amount:
₹7,500/-

Travel date:
July 15 (6 pm) - 18, (6 am), 2022

Places of visit:
Guruvayur,
Thrissur & more



Tirupathi Pilgrimage

Amount:
₹7,500/-

Travel dates:
August 12 (8pm) to August 15 (6am)

Places of visit:
Tirupathi-Tirumala, Alamelu Mangapuram, Sri Kalahasti

Tamilnadu Divyadesam Part 1

(Pandyanadu, Kanyakumari,
Rameshwaram & more)

Travel Dates:
Sep 1 (8 pm)
to
Sep 8, (5 am)

Places of visit:

Madurai, Thirukoodalazhgar, Thirumogur, Thirukkoshtiyur,
Thirumeyam and Meenakshi amman, Srivilliputtur,
Thiruthangal, Thirupullani, Rameshwaram Dhanushkodi,
Kanyakumari, Nagarkoil, Tirunelveli, Navratrapi temples
Nanguneri and more

Special Features:

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Delicious Krishna Prasadam, Facing Challenges – The Bhagavad Gita
Way, Optional – Personal Care Taker

Amount: ₹25,000/-
(All inclusive)

Tamilnadu Divyadesam Part 2

(Cholanadu, Srirangam,
Kumbhakonam & more)

Travel Dates:
Aug 23 (7 pm)
to
Aug 28, (5 am)

Places of visit:

Srirangam, Kaveri snan, Thiruvellarai,
Thiru Anbil, Koviladi, Uraliyur, Thirukarambur,
Thirukandiyur, Thiru Tanjai, Kumbakonam, Sarangapani,
Uppiliappan, Nachiyar koi, Nandipuram, Thirucherai, Thirukanamangai,
Soundaryaraja Perumal, Thirukanangudi, Thirukanappuram, Sirupuliyur, Govindaraja Perumal,
Seerkazhi, Thiruvellakulam, Thiruvalli, Thirunagai, Thirudevanaar, Thirunagur, Thiruvannamalai, Thiru
vaikuntanagaram, Thirutterambalam, Thiru arimeyavinagar, Thiru manikudam, Thiru paarangali, Thiru
thalachangudi, Thiru manimada koi, Thirunagur, Thiruvazhundur, Tiruindhalu, Mangalamatt, Sirkazhi, Thirukkadalor,
Kapisthalam, Thirupullamboothangudi, Tiruadanoor, Tiruvelliyankudi

Special Features:

Ecstatic Kirtans & Bhajans, Spiritual Talks & Association, Delicious Krishna Prasadam,
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Amount: ₹25,000/-
(All inclusive)

Tamilnadu Divyadesam Part 3

(Tondainadu, Kanchipuram,
Sholingur, Sriperumbudur & more)

Travel Dates:
Nov 22 (7 pm)
to
Nov 26, (10 pm)

Places of visit:

Kanchipuram, Sholingur,
Sriperumbudur, Thiruneermalai, Mahabalipuram, Nitya
Kalyan Perumal, Thirukadalmalai, Singa Perumal, Sthala shayana Perumal
temple, Thiruvahindrapuram

Special Features:

Ecstatic Kirtans & Bhajans, Spiritual Talks & Association, Delicious Krishna Prasadam,
Facing Challenges – The Bhagavad Gita Way, Optional – Personal Care Taker

Amount: ₹18,000/-
(All inclusive)

Sri Lanka Ramayana Pilgrimage

Places of visit:

Colombo, Jaffna,
Mannar Rama Setu,
Ashoka Vatika
Trincomalee Trikoneshwara &
Shaktipeeth, Sita Kotuwa,
Ramboda, Nuwareliya,
Kataragrama,
Ella Ravana cave,
Ussangoda Ravana Airport,
Rummasala Sanjeevani mountain,
Sripada & more

Travel dates:
Dec 1 - 10, 2022

Amount:
₹60,000/-

*flight charges: ₹10,000 extra
for Sripada Trek & Darshan





Navadweep Mayapur Pilgrimage

Kartika month

Travel dates:

Oct 6 - 12, 2022

Amount:

₹25,000/-

(+flight charges;

₹10,000/- extra for Ganga Sagar)

Places of visit:

Kolkata,

Srila Prabhupada birthplace,
Ambika Kalna, Mayapur 9 islands,
Shantipur, Panihati, Ekachakra,
Ganga Sagar



VRINDAVAN KURUKSHETRA PILGRIMAGE

(KARTHIK MONTH)

Travel dates:

Oct 14 - 21, 2022

Amount

₹33,000/-

(+flight charges;

₹10,000/- extra for Kurukshetra)

Places of visit:

Mathura, Vrindavan, Yamuna,
Gokul, Raval, Nandagaon,
Barsana, Govardhan Parikrama,
Bhandirvan & more..



Dwaraka Gujarat Pilgrimage

Travel dates:

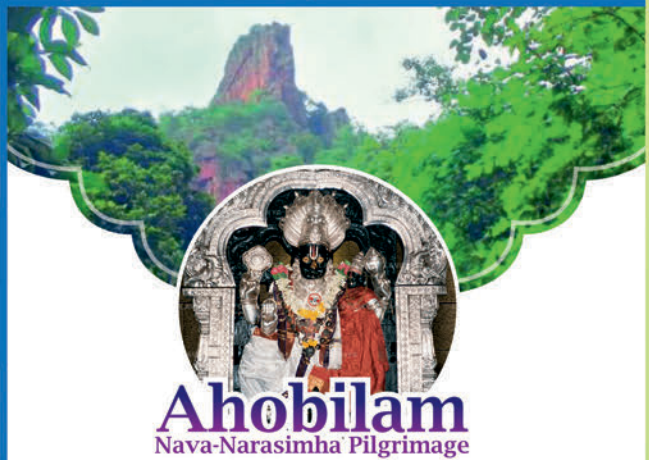
Batch 1 - Oct 30 to Nov 7

Batch 2- Jan 21 to Jan 29

Places of visit:

Matrugaya, Ambaji, Modhera, Kutch, Narayan Sarovar,
Dwaraka, Bet Dwaraka, Mula Dwaraka, Somnath,
Porbandar, Nageshwar Jyotirlinga, Jambavan cave,
Rukmini-Krishna Vivahakshetra, Junagadh, Girnar,
Bhavnagar, Dakor

Amount: Rs. 25,000/-
onwards



Ahobilam Nava-Narasimha Pilgrimage

Travel Dates:

Batch 1: July 22, 7pm to July 24, 10pm

Batch 2: August 5, 7pm to August 7, 10pm

Batch 3: September 2, 7pm to September 4, 10pm

Batch 4: September 30, 7pm to October 2, 10pm

Batch 5: November 11, 7pm to November 13, 10pm

Batch 6: December 16, 7pm to December 18, 10pm

Batch 7: January 6, 7pm to January 8, 10pm

Batch 8: February 10, 7pm to February 12, 10pm

Places of visit:

Nava Narasimha Temples,
Bhavanasini river, Prahlada school

Amount:

₹6,500/- onwards



Puri Chari Kshetra Pilgrimage

Kartika Month

Travel dates:

Oct 25 - 29, 2022

Amount:

Rs. 25,000/-

(+flight charges)

Places of visit:

Jagannath Puri, Bhubaneswar, Jaajpur, Konark,
Alarnath, Chilka lake & more

Thank you so much ISKCON....for a wonderful and memorable trip to Muktinath.. A heavenly experience Lovely Keertans..Great devotional knowledge shared by devotees...Great leadership..All these made it a very pleasurable & heavenly trip. JAI Srila Prabhupada

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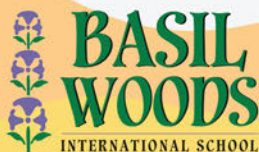
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