



MAYAPUR TIMES

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE ŚRĪ MĀYĀPUR CANDRODAYA MANDIR
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRṢṂA CONSCIOUSNESS
FOUNDER-ĀCĀRYA HIS DIVINE GRACE A. C. BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI PRABHUPĀDA

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GOVARDHANA
PUJA



SRILA
PRABHUPADA
DISAPPEARANCE



STORY
PAGE



Sweet Reminiscence of Janmastami and Radhastami

“Today we are observing the Sri Krishna janmasahtami adhivas because lord Krishna Janmastami is one of the most holy days in the universe. Krishna says in Bhagavad Gita My birth and My work is transcendental. We will offer about 26 sacred items to the deities. We will offer that with various prayers. We have here the gurukula students who will chant the mantras and different pujaris, brahmanas and sanyasis will offer the sacred items. See the deities have come forward in their utsav murti and you can offer your prayers to the deities what seva you want to do. And tomorrow we will observe the janmastami the whole day till midnight.”

—His Holiness Jayapataka Swami on
Janmastami adhivas ceremony speech 2019

The auspicious Janmastami

day in Mayapur was stocked with spiritual events like samskaras, aratis and abhishek. Melodious kirtan went on for the whole day. The day started with stunning mangal arati darshan. The Bhagavatam class focused on the transcendental janma, tattva and karma of Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

The festival events in Mayapur consisted of day darshan, samskaras, abhisekh and night darshan.



The entire temple room was decorated amazingly for sringar arati. Sri Sri Radha Madhav and Asta Sakhis were adorned with a new colorful dress. They were marvelously dressed with a variety of flowers, jewels and ornaments. The crowded temple full of devotees stood astounded taking darshan and singing to their lordships.

Devotees from the Gurukula then began preparations for the performance of Krishna's samskaras.

Devotees played different roles like Krishna, Nanda, Yashoda, and Garga muni. A large number of samskaras were performed, beginning from Jata Karma (Birth), Niskramanam (first outing), Nama karana (name giving), Paustika karma (nourishment), Anna prasana (first grains), Cuda karanam (hair cutting), Upanayanam (sacred thread), and finally Samavartana (graduation from Gurukula).

Little boy Krishna then went out to everyone present in the temple room to collect Gurudakshina which was a

wonderful sight to witness. The abhisekh started two hours before midnight. They were bathed with Panca-gavya – the five sacred items from cow – and are then bathed with milk, yogurt, ghee, honey and sugar water, which are known as the five nectars. They were also bathed with seasonal and colourful juices from fruits such as mangoes, grapes,

pomegranates, oranges, watermelons, and papayas. Water scented with saffron, rose, aguru, musk and kusha grass were also used to bathe Their Lordships, and fragrant flower waters made with flowers such as rose, bakul, lotus, jasmine, and gandharaj. Radha Madhava are also bathed in coconut water and are given two kinds of showers: Sarva Aushadi and Maha Aushadi, which uses natural medicinal and herbal substances to bathe the Lord.

A maha-arati was performed and Radha Madhava gave darshan in another new outfit. This was the grand Night darshan that devotees eagerly waited for after the curtains closed. Mean time there was charanamrta distributed to all the devotees in the panchataty courtyard. Sumptuous anukalpa maha prasadam was then served to everyone who attended and fasted on this auspicious day.

Just 12 days after celebrating Janmastami there was a buzz all over Mayapur. The 4th of September was Lalita sasti and the devotees of Mayapur were getting set for yet another celebration, the

Appearance day of Mayapur's most beloved Srimati Radharani.

Pilgrims from local villages and abroad gathered in huge

numbers to attend this grand festival. The Radha Premdan Kirtan Utsav commenced the day before the festival, an ecstatic kirtan was performed all day with devotees both residents of Mayapur and visiting devotees, getting to chant the maha mantra singing radhe! radhe! Preparations carried on for the adhivas ceremony and Radahastami.

Radhastami the next day.

We often pray to Radharani because She is the pleasure potency of Krsna. The very word Krsna means all-attractive, but Radharani is so great that She attracts Krsna. If Krsna is always attractive to everyone, and Radharani is attractive to Krsna, how can we imagine the position of Srimati Radharani? We should try humbly to

obesances unto You. Radharani is very dear to Krsna, and if we approach Krsna through the mercy of Radharani we can easily attain Him. If Radharani recommends a devotee, Krsna immediately accepts him, however foolish he may be— Srila Prabhupad on Elevation to Krishna Consciousness. On the Radhastami day srimati



In the evening, during adhivas the utsav murti Sri Sri Radha Madahv came forward and were honored with 26 auspicious items. The devotees were encouraged to prepare their consciousness for Sri

understand and offer Her our obesances, saying, Radharani, You are so dear to Krsna. You are the daughter of King Vrsabhanu, and You are Krsna beloved. We offer our respectful

Radharani gave her first darshan during mangal arati. Srimati Radhika dazzled wearing a yellow saree, her hair braided on both sides, glancing mercy to all devotees assembled, holding a bouquet

of flowers in her hands. The bhagavatam classes started from 6AM discussing her glories, activities and birth narrated by various exalted vaishnavas. Srimati Radharani's glorious birth occurred on the eighth day of the bright moon in the month of Bhadra.

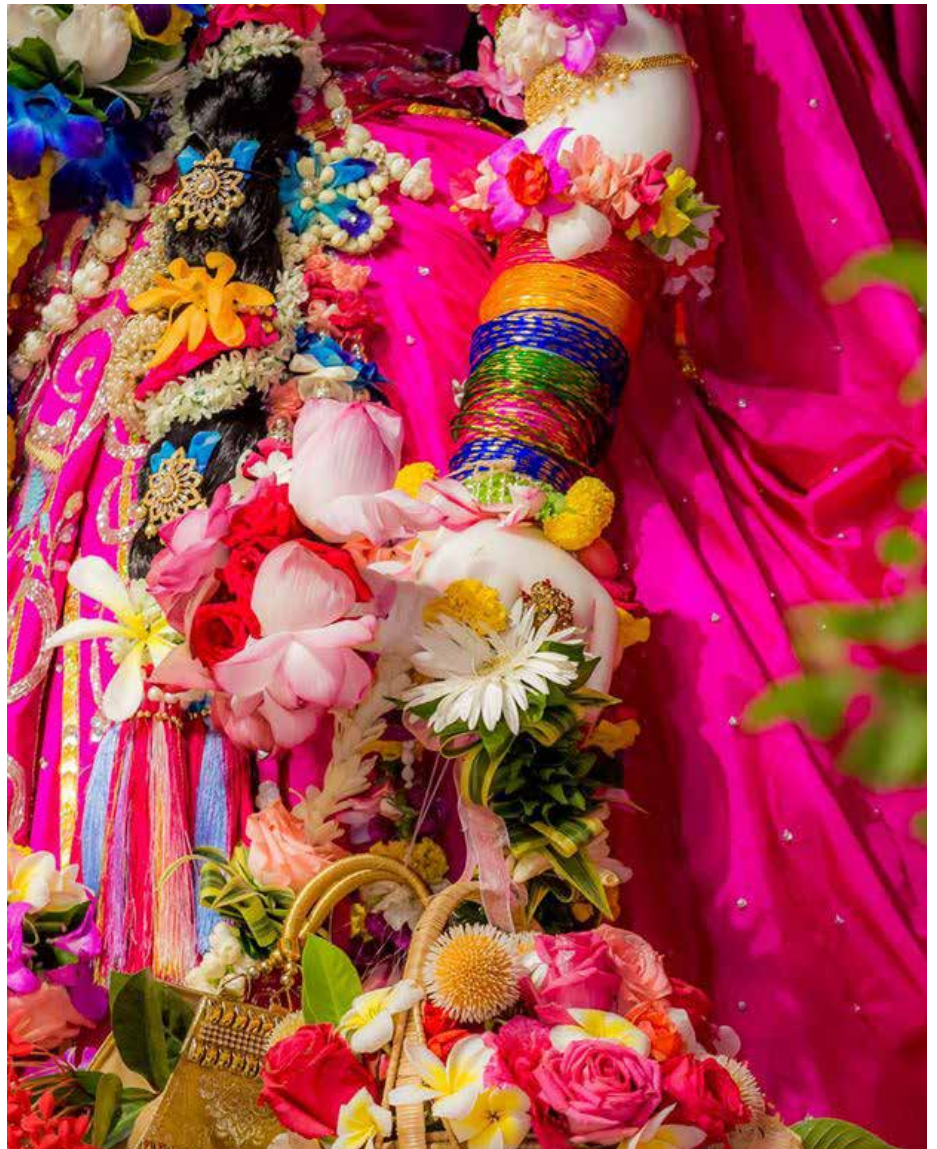
S r i m a t i Vishakha Devi

was also born on the same day. The entire temple altar was exquisitely decorated by various selfless hard working devotees. During darshan arti Her Divine Grace took your breath away. Srimati Radharani was dressed in new clothes, ornaments, flower garlands and anklets. She was wearing a garden of all varieties of blooming flowers which attract even the maddened bumblebee Sri Krishna. Her bodily complexion snatched away the pride of a golden lotus flower and her fragrance spread all over the temple room. During that time the devotees chanted govindam adi purusham and nothing else mattered only our beloved Queen Srimati Radharani.

The devotees offered various gifts during the gift offering session and soon after the Radha Premdan Kirtan Utsav resumed from 10 Am which would go on till 10 Pm. The Maha Abhisekh started an hour before noon and this was the climax of the festival. The Radha Madhav utsav deities were bathed with various colors of auspicious items as the chanting mantras and the kirtan continued in the background. Bhoga offering, puspanjali and

Maha arti followed. There was a feast prasadam served in all the kitchens for everybody who attended this glorious festival. In the evening, devotees chanted sri Radhikastakam for the pleasure of Srimati Radharani with every line ending with one request - to always bestow upon me the service of Her lotus feet. Lamps were distributed for devotees to offer and sing at the same time. This day was all about Radharani!

Thank you to all the sponcerers and selfless servitude mentality of devotees who made this festival a grand success. All glories to Radharani - always bestow upon me the service of Your lotus feet!





GOVARDHANA

The King who could devour Mountains

*hantāyam adrir abalā hari-dāsa-varyo
yad rāma-kṛṣṇa-caraṇa-sparaśa-pramodaḥ
mānaṁ tanoti saha-go-gaṇayos tayor yat
Pānīya-sūyavasa-kandara-kanda-mūlaiḥ*

Of all the devotees, this Govardhana Hill is the best! O My friends, this hill supplies Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma, as well as Their calves, cows and cowherd friends, with all kinds of necessities-water for drinking, very soft grass, caves, fruits, flowers and vegetables. In this way the hill offers respect to the Lord. Being touched by the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma, Govardhana Hill appears very jubilant - CC Anta lila - 14.86

Mount Govardhana is best amongst the vaishnavas, facilitating Krishna and the cows to perform their wonderful pastimes. He is also called Giriraj because he is the best of the mountains.

The residents of Vrindavan were simple, their duty was agriculture. They had numerous of cows and bulls who would graze upon the grass provided by the fertile soils of the hill, their agricultural farms spanning over many acres would depend on Giriraj as a source of nourishment, just like a devotee depends on Krishna for mercy.

In *Chaitanya Charitamrita* it is found that Chaitanya Mahaprabhu referred to Govardhan as Haridev. So he never rose above Govardhana and did not visit Gopal Deva, little Krishna. That Gopal Deva is still living in the village of Annakut, installed by Madhavendra Puri on the mountain of Govardhana. Srila Rupa and Sanat Goswami following the footsteps of Mahaprabhu, also never went on top.

On this day, the cowherd men were gearing up for a big yagna, it was for Indra, the demigod responsible for providing the rains essential for a successful harvest. So much was getting offered, fruits, milk, varieties of food preparations all in abundance to please Lord Indra. Little boy Krishna however, convinced the residents of Vrindavan to transform their

festival and celebrate Govardhana Hill instead, arguing that it was the hill that provide the grass upon which the cows and bulls grazed; and the cows and bulls who provide milk and plough the lands, should be worshiped. So when Krishna spoke he had so much potency that no devotee could refuse. He had a charming way of presenting ideas and he was so logical.



In ISKCON Mayapur, on this occasion lots of food items are prepared. All the major kitchens such as Gada Kitchen, Sulab Kitchen and Gita Kitchen cook massive amounts of bhoga. Many of the community devotees also contribute and bring the bhoga to the temple. Devotees bring more and

more bhoga as the day goes on, right up until the massive maha bhoga offering which takes place at midday after the abhisek of Giriraj. The mountain of offerings measures approximately eighteen feet in length, eight feet in width and about four feet in height. And more offerings in pots containing laddu, sandesh, rasagulla, halawa, rice, chapatis, sweet rice, kheer and gulab jamuns.



Since Govardhana Puja is the celebration of the King of Mountains, not only is he given a huge mountain of food, he is also given a gigantic cake which measures around twenty-one square feet. This cake is also distributed along with the prasadam. Once everyone has had enough, they retire for the day, and prepare for a shower of bliss in the evening.

Srila Prabhupada on Govardhana Puja:

“The sacrifice known as



Govardhana Puja is observed in the Krishna consciousness movement. Lord Chaitanya has recommended that since Krishna is worshipable, His land, Vrindavana and Govardhana Hill, are also worshipable. To confirm this statement, Lord Krishna said that Govardhana Puja is as good as worship of Him. From that day, the Govardhana Puja has been still going on and is known as Annakuṣa. In all the temples of Vrindavana or outside of Vrindavana, huge quantities of food are prepared in this ceremony and are very sumptuously distributed to the general population. Sometimes the food is thrown to the crowds, and they enjoy collecting it off the ground. From these instances, we can understand that prasadam offered to Krishna never becomes polluted or contaminated, even if it is thrown on the ground. The people, therefore, collect it and eat with great satisfaction.” - Krishna, The Supreme Personality of Godhead –

1970 Edition: Volume 1: KB 1-24 / Worshipping Govardhana Hill.

Applying the principle “If you circumambulate the Govardhana Sila, you circumambulate Govardhana hill”. In the evening, the devotees of Mayapur do parikrama around Giriraja who is present on Sri Sri Radha Madhava’s altar, and most do dandavat parikrama. Some even do dandavat parikrama around each altar – Radha Madhava, Panca-tattva and Lord Nrsimhadeva. An ecstatic Kirtan brings the event to an end and everyone goes home in sweet reminiscence of the wonderful festival.



SRILA PRABHUPADA

THE COMMANDER OF THE SANKIRTANA MOVEMENT

*mukam karoti vacalam
pangum langhayate girim
yat-krpa tam aham vande
sri-gurum dina-taranam*

“By the mercy of the guru, even a dumb man can become the greatest orator, and even a lame man can cross mountains.”

- Sri Caitanya Caritamrta,
Madhya Lila, chapter 17
text 80

At Srila Prabhupada’s birth, it was predicted that when he reached the age of seventy, he would cross the ocean and become a great exponent of religion, and open one-hundred and eight temples.

Sure enough, sixty-nine years later, on the 13th of August, 1965, Srila Prabhupada boarded the cargo ship Jaladuta with only a few possessions and a trunk of books, and embarked on his mission to spread the teachings of Sri Krishna Caitanya all over the world, as instructed by his spiritual master.

On the 17th of September, 1965, A.C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada arrived in Boston’s Commonwealth Pier, after thirty-five dreadful long days at sea. He went to a place where most of the population was covered by the material modes of ignorance and passion. Absorbed in material life, only thinking themselves very happy and satisfied, and therefore with no taste for the transcendental message of Vasudeva.

After such a difficult journey and after seeing the degraded condition of the Western civilization, Srila Prabhupada had every reason to want to go back to Vrindavan. But he pushed on. Despite having just endured two heart attacks, having minimal possessions, and being virtually alone in an unknown country with no one to help or support him, he never gave up. He was practically alone. Only the instructions of his spiritual master, and faith in Sri Krishna allowed him to continue on his long journey.

His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada departed from this world on November 14, 1977, in Vrindavan, India. However, his miraculous efforts gave birth to an organization, The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), to become the orthodox core of Hinduism.

In the twelve years since his arrival in Boston until his final days, Srila Prabhupada:

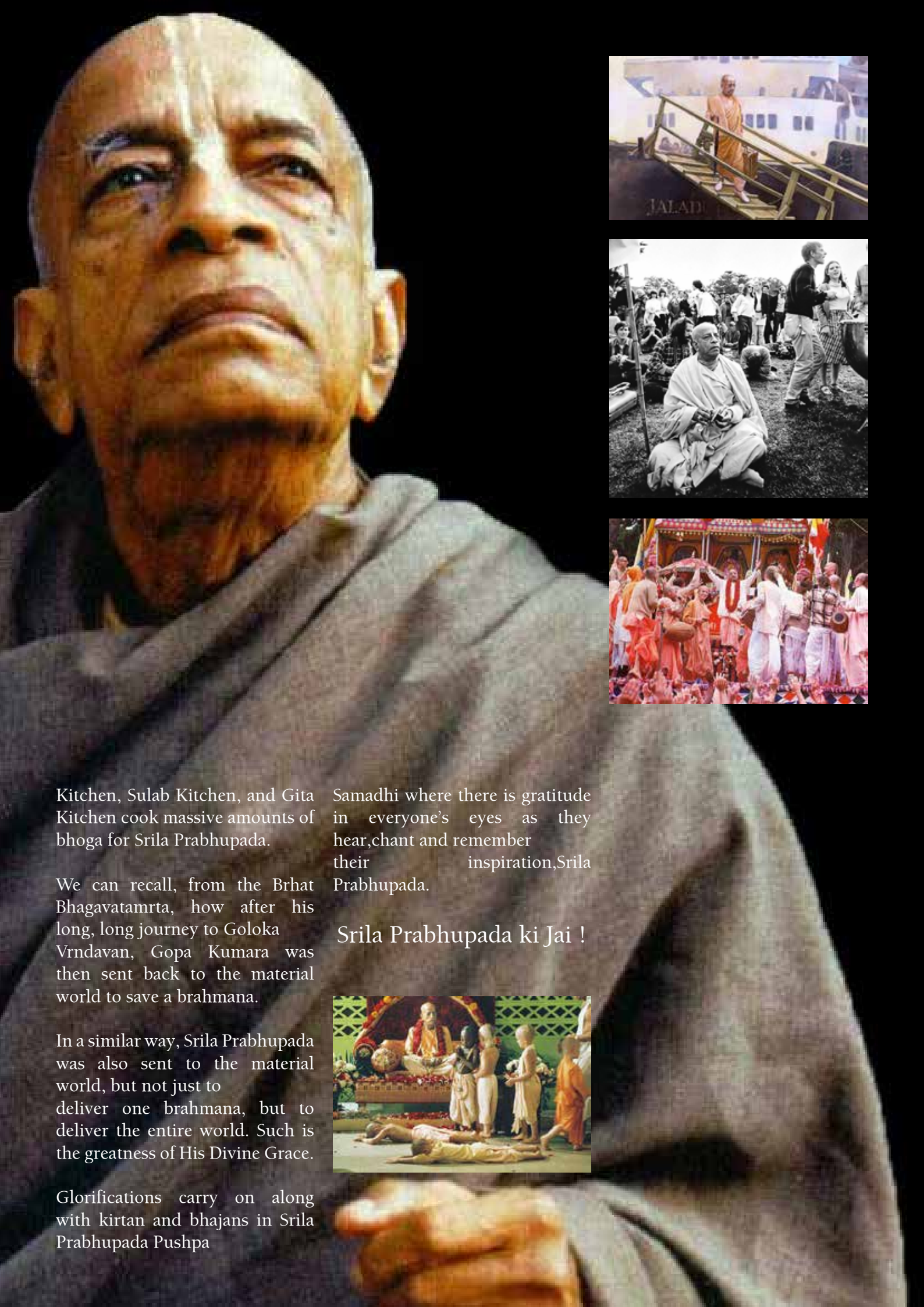
- *Circled the globe fourteen times on lecture tours that took him to six continents.*
- *Initiated many disciples and award sannyasa initiations.*
- *Introduced Vedic Gurukul education to a Western audience.*
- *Directed the founding of the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust now to be the world largest publisher of ancient and classical*

Vaishnava religious texts.

- *Founded the religious colony New Vrindavan in West Virginia.*
- *Authored more than eighty books on Vedantic philosophy, religion, literature and culture, including four published originally in Bengali.*
- *Introduced international celebrations such as Jagannatha Rathayatra.*
- *Watched ISKCON grow to more than 108 temples, various institutes, and farm communities.*

In Sri Dham Mayapur, the devotees enthusiastically begin Srila Prabhupada vaysa puja celebration. From 10am, all gathered senior devotees starts glorifying Srila Prabhupada to their heart contents in Srila Prabhupada’s Samadhi. Srila Prabhupada’s abhishek is then performed with various paraphernalia like milk, honey, yogurt, ghee, ganga water, etc. All devotees get together and beautifully sing Guruashatakam prayer and offer their homage at the lotus feet of Srila Prabhupada.

The community devotees prepare many delicious bhoga cooked from home like Chachori, one of Srila Prabhupada’s favorite dish, shukta, lemon rice, yogurt rice, puri, sweet dal, laddu, sandesh, rasagulla, halawa, fried rice, pakoras, chapatis, sweet rice, kheer, and many more. All the major kitchens such as Gada



Kitchen, Sulab Kitchen, and Gita Kitchen cook massive amounts of bhoga for Srila Prabhupada.

We can recall, from the Brhat Bhagavatamrta, how after his long, long journey to Goloka Vrndavan, Gopa Kumara was then sent back to the material world to save a brahmana.

In a similar way, Srila Prabhupada was also sent to the material world, but not just to deliver one brahmana, but to deliver the entire world. Such is the greatness of His Divine Grace.

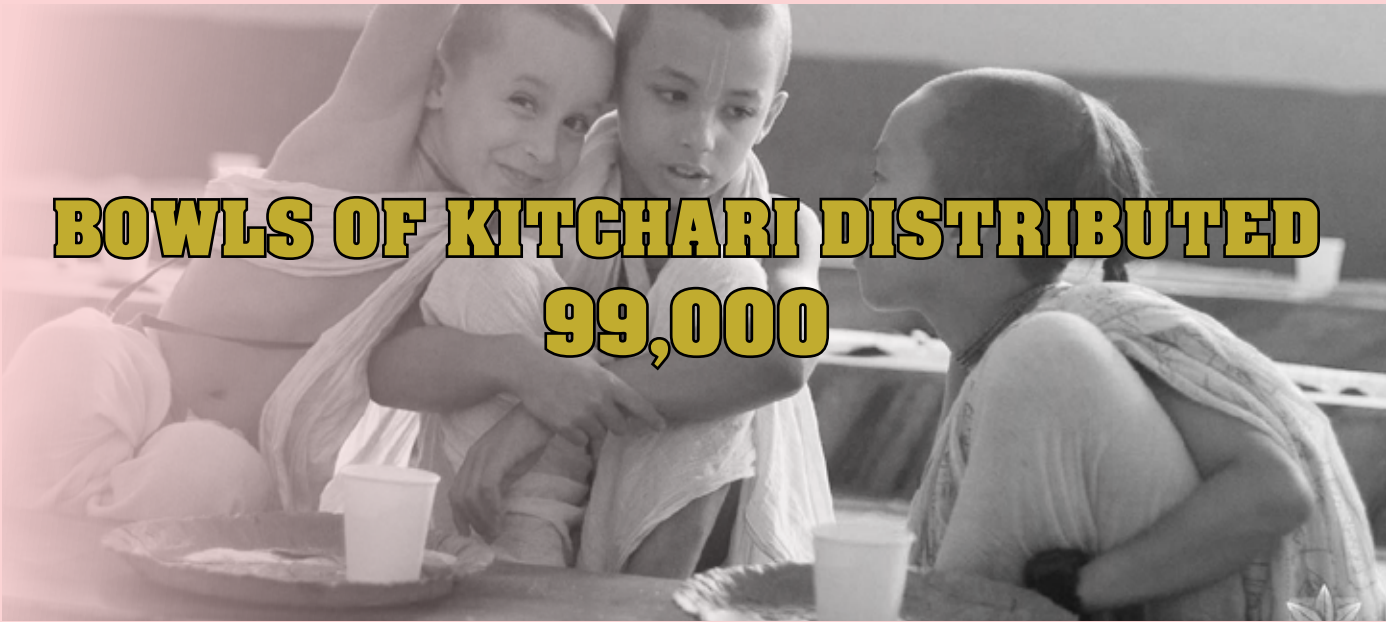
Glorifications carry on along with kirtan and bhajans in Srila Prabhupada Pushpa

Samadhi where there is gratitude in everyone's eyes as they hear,chant and remember their inspiration,Srila Prabhupada.

Srila Prabhupada ki Jai !



FACTS & FIGURES



**BOWLS OF KITCHARI DISTRIBUTED
99,000**



**NUMBER OF VISITORS STAYING IN
MAYAPUR GUESTHOUSES
37,578**



**PUJA OFFERING
32,725**

Story Page

I'M COMING INTO THE TEMPLE TOMORROW

Once God decided to go to a temple, which He rarely does. So He gave a dream to the priest. He said, "I'm coming into the temple tomorrow." So the priest, for a change, started cleaning the temple. The temple, it was a



little messier than other temples. There was water everywhere, prasad everywhere, and flowers lying down. So he kept cleaning. And he told all the people, "Today God is going to come to the temple." Even the people who come to the temple did not believe. Say, "Oh, what has happened to the priest?" They felt sorry for him. "He may need a psychiatrist. Today he's saying something very weird, like 'God is going to come to the temple.'"

They also had no faith. Some people had compassion for him. Some people phoned a psychiatrist but somehow the priest made all the arrangements. He brought flowers. He arranged

the temple. And then he waited, waited, waited. After evening, five o'clock, six o'clock, seven o'clock.... There was another co-priest. He said, "Oh, you are crazy." He started discouraging him. "What? What do you think?

Has something gone wrong with you?" The first few moments people have some hope and then as time went by, everyone, even those one or two other crazy people who could accept his idea, also started discouraging him. And since everybody was so discouraging, he thought, "Maybe." He started doubting himself. "Maybe I had a hallucination or an illusion. It's not true." So he waited up till eleven o'clock. Somehow tried hard to keep awake, drank some Indian tea. So he kept awake up 'til twelve o'clock, then he fell asleep. And then in the middle of the night, he heard somebody knock on the door. And the priest wanted to get up and say, "See, I hear a knock. Maybe God has come." The co-

priest who was with him there, sleeping in the same room, he just scolded him and made him go to bed again. Sleepy he said, "Just drop these funny ideas and go to sleep. If not, I'm going to call the mental hospital now. This is too much." So hearing this, the man slept. And in the morning when he opened the door of the temple, he finds the footprint and finds the wheel of the chariot. He was so sorry. God had really come and had really knocked and here he had missed. He felt so sorry, so miserable.

MORAL OF THE STORY:

In whatever way people surrender unto me, I reciprocate with them accordingly. Everyone follows my path, knowingly or unknowingly, O son of Pritha. BG - 4.11

Lord Krishna states that he reciprocates with everyone as they surrender to him. For those who deny the existence of God, he meets them in the form of the law of karma—he sits inside their hearts, notes their actions, and dispenses the results.

- Srila Prabhupada

Management Notification

As Reported by Mayapur Communication Office

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

THE GITA COURSE AND NAMAHATTA DIVISIONS TO SUBMIT THEIR PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL FOR SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS WITHIN ONE MONTH.

PERFECT QUESTION & PERFECT ANSWER BOOK STALL

MAC GIVES PRINCIPLE APPROVAL FOR OPENING "PERFECT QUESTIONS PERFECT ANSWERS" BOOK STALL & MURAL IN THE VICINITY OF BHAJAN KUTIR.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES UPDATE

Mac continues efforts to establish public transport using electric vehicles.

Community Cards

Community cards – 1600 community cards were issued since last year, more will be issued in the coming period.





“He Built a House in Which the Whole World Can Live”

“I have just now come to Mayapur and am very hopeful to regain my strength and health on account of being in this transcendental atmosphere. Every moment we are passing here in great delight”

- Letter to Mrs. Nirmala Singhal written from Calcutta June 01, 1973

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