

# How Chaitanya Mahaprabhu fulfilled Prabhupadas desire

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The Lord's senapati-bhakta Srila Prabhupada blessed us by saying: This preaching on Padayatra is a very noble attempt and if you sincerely preach, Krishna will give you intelligence.

In 1976 we were travelling with German buses, which had to leave the country and Srila Prabhupada conceived a novel mode of transportation, travelling with the bullock cart.

Srila Prabhupada inaugurated the Bullock Cart Sankirtana Padayatra in Vrndavan and then by the grace of Guru and Gauranga we had an easy journey from Vrndavan to Mayapur planet.

Srila Prabhupada in his last days in Vrndavan expressed a desire to undertake a bullock cart pilgrimage and asked me to organize this travelling with the bullock cart to Govardhan as an experiment. However, this was cancelled due to Prabhupada's failing health.

Prabhupada next proposed travelling with the buses and he asked me again to take the leadership role here. As we were in the middle of organizing the pilgrimage with the buses, suddenly Prabhupada departed.

For the next six years Prabhupada's desire remained unfulfilled.

The 500th Anniversary of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu gave us a chance to take Srila Prabhupada and Gaur Nitai on pilgrimage from Dwarka to Mayapur.

This Caitanya Mahaprabhu 5th centennial Padayatra lasted for 18 months and Iskcon padayatris walked for 8000 Km through the

states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and finally reaching Mayapur in West Bengal.

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# Gauranga is Krishna is Jagannatha

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Prayers of Vausdeva Ghosh,

13 June 2018

New Vraj Dham Hungary

You know Nilacala? Everyone knows Nilacala?

How many of you know about Nilacala? How many of you know Nilacala? Some do.

So Nilacala is Jagannatha Puri, but to understand more 'Nila', 'Nila' means blue, and 'acal' means: not moving, so "acal" means immovable, and there is a mountain. So Nila-cala is a bluish mountain and Jagannatha Puri is on the top of that bluish mountain, hence the name Nilacala – Jagannatha Puri.

So, in Nilacala, in Jagannatha Puri, the Lord holds symbols of shankha, chakra, gada, padma. Well, normally we see two hands of Jagannath, but also He could have four hands, holding all the 4 symbols. And then same Jagannatha in 'nadiya nagare danda kamandalu kara' When He appears in Nadia, then He is Sachinandana, then he takes sannyasa, and holds symbols kamandalu and danda, He is holding ekdand, "ekdhand", not three dhand, and kamandalu.

keha bale purabete rabana badhila

golokera vaibhava lila prakasa korila

Translation:

Some wise souls say that in ancient times he killed Ravana.  
Some say in Goloka he enjoys glorious pastimes.

So Lord Jagannatha, when He appeared in treta-yuga, “ravana vadhila” -He killed Ravana, Jay Sri Ram! Jay Sri Ram!

Golokera vaibhava lila prakasa korila-And then the same Jagannatha appeared in Dwapara-yuga. In Dwapara-yuga He appeared in Gokul and He displayed and manifested Goloka pastimes in Gokul, or He exhibited the appearance of Golok in Gokul.

Sri-radhar bhava ebe gora avatar  
hare krsna nam gaura korila pracaR

Translation:

To taste the ecstasy that Radha feels in Her love for Him, He has now incarnated here in the form of Lord Gaura. As Lord Gaura He preaches the chanting of the holy names of the Hare Krsn a mantra.”

And then, the next stage, the age of Kali appeared, and in this age “Sri Radhar-bhave”, Lord assumed the mood, bhava of Radharani and He appeared as Gaura Avatar, gora or gaura same things, Golden avatar Gauranga.

Gauranga!

hare krsna n?m gaura korila pracar

And then, in that advent He propagated Hare Krishna Mahamantra and while He was propagating, spreading the Holy name all over Indian continent we could say, He also predicted that this names will be chanted in every town, every village, including in Hungarian villages and there will be one village or valley called “Krishna Valley”. There also my name should be chanted. This prediction of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu has come true and we have Srila Prabhupada, he is doing that and now on behalf of Srila Prabhupada you are taking it far and wide.

hare krsna nam gaura korila pracar  
jei gaura sei krsna sei jagannath

Translation:

Vasudeva Ghosa says: Folding my hands, I declare: Gauranga is Krsna and He is Jagannatha.

You see this name Vasudeva Ghosh. He was one of the very close associate of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu,

kiba nara hari adi kori camara dhulaya”

And then “sajaya mukhunda vasu, gosa adi gaya” those names “vasu ghosh, adi gaya”, they were singing, some are offering camara. This is during the arti of Gauranga.

arati korena brahma adi deva gane

Brahma is offering arti, Nara Hari is offering camara and Vasudeva Ghosh is singing, “vasudeva ghoaa bole kori joda hat”. So this song that we are about to sing is 500 years old and compiled by Vasudev Ghosh. During the arati of Gauranga he used to sing, so he is in this song in the end, “kori joda hat”. He said that with my folded hands I want to submit something and what is this submission? Which is also his realization?

Jei Gaura, sei Krishna, sei Jagannatha

Jei Gaura means one who is Gauranga, sei Krishna is Krishna and sei Jagannatha is also Jagannatha. So one who is Gauranga is Krishna is Jagannatha.

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# 71st Vyasa Puja offering to Jayapataka Maharaja

71st Vyasa Puja offering to Jayapataka Maharaja

4 April 2020

Today we are celebrating Srila Jayapataka Swami Maharaja's appearance day, birthday, Vyasa puja day. Vyasa puja which is being celebrated today in Mayapur and it is not as big it is in previous years. It will be celebrated in a low profile. Every year Srila Jayapataka Swami Maharaja's vyasa puja is a huge celebration but due to this corona virus issues this Vyasa puja is taking place with very few devotees. Of course his disciples and other devotees are also celebrating this Vyasa puja in their respective homes as well as temples. Srila Jayapataka Swami Maharaja has thousands, thirty to forty thousands of disciples, so they must be celebrating and also my disciples, I would encourage them to celebrate Srila Jayapataka Swami Maharaja's vyasa puja.

You must have noted that Srila Jayapataka Swami Maharaja's appearance day is on ekadashi also Srila Gopal Krishna Goswami Maharaja appearance day is on ekadashi and also I was born on ekadashi. Srila Jayapataka Swami Maharaja and I, both were born in 1949, he is just a few months older than me. Age wise he is a few months older but when it comes to knowledge, experience, maturity he is much more mature and experienced. Srila Prabhupada and Gauranga Mahaprabhu have their special mercy on Jayapataka Swami Maharaja. He joined Srila Prabhupada's Hare Krsna Movement many years ago, way before me. I guess he joined in 1968 in Canada and I joined in 1971.

There is one important thing which is being talked about him. When he was newly initiated devotee, whenever there was kirtan he would sing and shout the Hare Krsna maha-mantra very

loudly. He would create a commotion while doing kirtan, singing the Hare Krsna maha-mantra loudly. He not only shouted the maha-mantras in the temples and asram but whenever he was – on streets, lanes. He would forget where he was and would loudly chant Hare Krsna. That was his way. Neighbors and passersby would get annoyed. They would go to the police and lay a complaint that some individual from the Hare Krsna movement was being a nuisance. “He is disturbing us and disturbing our peace”. When Srila Prabhupada came to know about this behaviour. Srila Prabhupada decided to send Jayapataka Swami Maharaja to somewhere. Srila Prabhupada decided to send him to Bharat, India. “In India we will send Jayapataka Swami Maharaja to Mayapur”. On reaching Mayapur he can do whatever loud chanting he wants to. He is welcome. No one is going to complain about this behavior in relation to this shouting and chanting the maha-mantra loudly.

Jayapataka Swami Maharaja was not a swami then, but he was the oldest among the ones at that time. Then Srila Prabhupada sent him to Mayapur. Amongst the disciples whom Srila Prabhupada had sent to India Jayapataka Swami Maharaja was the first one. Acyutananda Swami was also sent to Mayapur, but Jayapataka Swami Maharaja was one of the first ones or possibly the first one whom Srila Prabhupada sent to Mayapur. He was given responsibilities of the temple. He was also handling the Calcutta temple activities. Gradually he also became a Governing Body Commission (GBC). There was a time when Gopal Krishna Maharaja and Jayapataka Maharaja were the only two GBCs in India. After the steadily the number increased. Srila Prabhupada gave Maharaja the very big responsibility of building the Mayapur temple project. The responsibility of constructing the TOVP project was also given to Jayapataka Swami Maharaja with some other devotees.

Srila Jayapataka Swami Maharaja ki jai!!

I love Srila Jayapataka Swami Maharaja. I was thinking when we were little younger we felt both love and hate. Sometimes he

had love and other times there was envy because of our anarthas. But now not only I like him, I love him. May my love towards him always increase. My love of brotherhood, love among my god brothers and love for Jayapataka Maharaja must increase day by day. This is what I want to pray today.

Jayapataka Maharaj has become a miracle. Even in his present health condition, operations, diseases, he is always active. He is always busy, thinking about how to increase preaching. He attends each and every meeting. Some of the members may miss some of the meetings but Jayapataka Maharaja is very dutiful. He never misses a meeting. He is a miracle. Jayapataka Maharaja is a miracle, just miraculous. And whenever there is a magic there has to be a namaskar.

So dandavat pranam from all of us.

vancha-kalpatarubhyash cha  
kripa-sindhubhya eva cha  
patitanam pavanebhyo  
vaishnavebhyo namo namaha

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# **Vyasa Puja offering to Jayapataka Maharaja by Lokanath Swami**

**Vyasa Puja offering to Jayapataka Maharaja by Lokanath Swami**

**23 April 2021**

**Online**

Jayapataka Swami Maharaj, on the occasion of your 72 birthday and Vyasa Puja day, please accept my greetings and my humble

obeisances. I was thinking,

“vipada? santu t?? ?a?vat”

You had been seeing calamities after calamity mostly health related, but the way you handle those calamities I do not see no one sees you getting panicked.

“dhiras tatra na muhyati ”

We are reminded, you remain undisturbed under all those circumstances. You even had an experience of near death out of this body experience. Of course you appreciate the care of the doctors but you have so much faith in the prayers of the devotees, I say doctor's care but you are more into the prayer of devotees.

You are supposed to be handicapped as a result of these calamities, but now we are amazed to see how you are carrying on with your devotional services, your obligations towards TOVP or zonal responsibilities or making devotees and maintaining devotees or writing books. All these projects are going on undisturbed and your contributions are exceptional for anyone and everyone to take note of. Its amazing. You are like a miracle of ISKCON. I'm very proud of you Maharaja and I pray to Srila Prabhupada and entire parampara, and especially to your dear Gauranga, to give you long, healthy life of active devotional service and I pray that you please keep me in your prayers.

Your dear brother and servant Lokanath Swami here.

Jayapataka Swami Maharaja Appearance day, Birthday, Vyasapuja day ki Jaya!

Gaur premanande, Hari Hari bol.



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# Rama Katha

**Rama Katha**

**18th April 2021**

You are all okay? We hope and pray that you are all okay and well, and also that you stay that way. So the whole world is in a problem due to the Corona virus. There are so many other problems anyway but the coronavirus is dominating the scene. So be careful and be alert of all dangers.

Also remember, I was thinking that Kunti Maharani also prayed and actually Kunti Maharani is known for her prayers, this you all know. The first prayers in Srimad Bhagavatam are Kunti Maharani's prayers and in those prayers she says:

vipadah santu tah sasvat  
tatra tatra jagad guro  
bhavato darsanam yat syad  
apunar bhava darsanam (SB 1.8.25)

Translation

I wish that all those calamities would happen again and again so that we could see You again and again, for seeing You means that we will no longer see repeated births and deaths.

You can all remember this prayer and so Kunti Maharani is very clever and cunning. She is saying 'Oh Lord what you should do is that you should continue sending calamities and problems again and again.' In both situations, vipadah and sampad. Sampad you know what that means, sampati is success. Vipadah means problems and calamities.

So let all the calamities come and sasvat means again and again. So let the calamities come again and again is what is meant by tatra tatra. Bhavato darsanam yat syad. So when the

problems come then what shall we do? We will run towards you and we shall call you.'

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna  
Krishna Krishna Hare Hare  
Hare Rama Hare Rama  
Rama Rama Hare Hare

My Lord, Krishna. When problems arise then Krishna's name naturally comes out of our mouths and we run towards the Lord. 'So I will run as well' Kuntidevi says. I don't if we will all run as well but Kunti Maharani is saying that she will certainly run. So during this coronavirus we don't know whether we will run towards Krishna or towards the hospital.

Actually we should run towards both. First remember Krishna and then afterwards remember the doctor or the hospital. So one must remember prayers to the Lord and the care of the doctor. With the help of both we will become well.

bhavato darsanam yat syad

'Whenever problems arise I will take your darshan and I will go to your temple and pray. Wherever that temple may be because you are all pervading, being everywhere.'

So it may not be possible to go to the temple so from wherever we are- Nowadays in Kali Yuga one should call the Lord from wherever he is stationed.

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna  
Krishna Krishna Hare Hare  
Hare Rama Hare Rama  
Rama Rama Hare Hare

By our chanting like this the Lord says 'I become present there.'

Naham vasami vaikunthe  
Yoginam hrdayena ca

Mad bhakta yatra gayanti

Tatra tisthami Narada (Padma Purana)

Translation

Oh Narada! I do not reside in vaikuntha nor am I in the hearts of the yogis. I reside where my devotees glorify my name, form, qualities and my transcendental pastimes.

So Kunti Maharani had already said 'tatra tatra' so wherever we may call the Lord, in that very place the Lord will appear for us and come there. Apunar bhava darsanam. So we may understand what Kunti Maharani is saying by learning sanskrit. This will make the meaning of the words easy to understand.

But the bhava, feelings of love of Kunti Maharani in this prayer of her's, her Krishna bhavana, if we can know and understand that, which we can do if we are serious, is the real success. Otherwise

vaishnavera kriya mudra vijneha na bujhaya (SB 9.5.20 purport)

Translation:

Even the most learned man cannot understand the activities of a Vaishnava.

This has also been said to illustrate that to know the activities of the Vaishnava or Vaishnavi through any other means but devotional service is very difficult. So we must try more and more so that we can attain the bhakti bhava, feelings of love and devotion that Kunti Maharani has. So she is saying that problems will keep coming whether we pray to keep them away or not. It is not our choice. So Kunti Maharani is saying that 'if the problems come we will approach you and come closer to you by calling you.

We will then want an interview and meeting with you so that guhyam akhyati prcchati can happen. (Revealing one's mind in confidence, inquiring confidentially from NOI text 4). We will be able to discuss heart touching talks with you.' The talk

could be about some joyful matter that we may speak to you about.' And then what will be the outcome or fruit of such talks?

Apunar bhava darsanam. This is the smartness of Kunti Maharani. So what will be gained at the end? Na punar bhava darshanam.

Translation

'I wish that all those calamities would happen again and again so that we could see You again and again, for seeing You means that we will no longer see repeated births and deaths.'

So first she said 'bhavato darsanam yat syad. Seeing you means that we will no longer see repeated births and deaths.' So in these difficult times all of you should remember this prayer as these times are especially hard. Also this is also not a new thing, these problems keep appearing in this material world.

punarapi jananam punarapi maranam Punarapi janani jathare shayanam

Iha sansare khali dustare?krupaya pare pahi murare (Shankaracharya)

Translation: This ocean of sansara is really difficult to cross oh Lord, kindly save me and help me cross it.

Repeated births and repeated deaths And repeatedly sleeping in the womb of mother.

So this is obvious and therefore I thought to remind you of this. Anyway this is the time to remember Lord Rama. This does not mean that during the time of saying what we said, we had forgotten Lord Rama or that we said something against the principles set by the Lord. Rather whatever we said or what the Lord made us say, that was also connected to Lord Rama or Rama lila.

So Ramanavami Mahotsava ki jai! So if Rama Rama happens

(death) we need to be saved from this 'mara mara' happened again. Mara means to die and so we have to be saved from this repeated death. This is what we are doing – Karo (perform activities) and then Maro, dying. Then again we take birth and perform activities and again we die.

So we have to call out Lord Rama's name and Rama's lila. These pastimes you are about to recite or you may have already recited Rama lila today. So mother Yashoda also used to tell Krishna pastimes of Lord Rama. Sukadeva Goswami also narrated Rama lila to king Parikshit. Ramayana and also Mahabharata are in skanda purana and there the Ramayana mahatmya is written.

Mother Yashoda used to narrate the pastimes of Lord Rama to baby Krishna. We did mention to mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters that they should always tell the story of Lord Rama to their children and younger siblings. In this way they will become noble and principled. At the moment the whole world is becoming degraded, characterless.

So just think that even mother Yashoda used to narrate the tale of Lord Rama to her child Krishna. That is the tradition of this bharat bhumi, India. Everyone has always heard and told the story of Lord Rama. When we were young our mother used to also tell us the story of Lord Rama or otherwise our older brother or father or school teachers would tell the story.

But now the telling of Lord Rama katha is not even allowed in schools. Krishna katha cannot be told. So as this has become a secular state, this situation has arisen and all religions have become so-called equal. This was called demon-crazy by Srila Prabhupada. This kind of democracy was called demon-crazy. So crazy people have made this constitution and have made this country a secular state.

The Lord has been told to get out! So Rama out, Krishna out. Maya is in and Krishna is out. Hari Hari. Ravana has been told

to come in and Rama has been told to get out. So in this way Yashoda used to tell Krishna Rama katha. 'Darling son there was once a king, king Rama, and there was a queen, Sita. And when they became forest dwellers, they reached Panchavati from Chitrakoot.

'My son,' she would say. And Lord Krishna would answer 'hmm hmm' and she would continue. So she must have told him the story in this way and then she continued, 'I have come to beg alms. Then Marichi came in the form of a golden deer. He was able to change his form into anything he wanted.' So Yashoda must have told Krishna this as well.

Then Sita really liked a deer, 'I want that deer. Oh dear Rama, bring that deer near me.' So the Rama went to chase that deer and bring it back. Then There was a cry 'Lakshman!' So then Sita sent Lakshman, 'go go.' Then Ravana appeared begging alms as Sita Maharani came forward and the evil Ravana had taken the form of a brahmana and he had come to make her cry. He had put on all his make up in the form of a brahmana and was carrying a stick and begging pot and he cried 'I come begging alms.'

'As Sita came forward that demon kidnapped her!' In this way Yashoda is telling the story and as she spoke about how Sita Maharani had been kidnapped by a demon, the supreme Lord was lying on his mother's lap and was drinking cow's milk. He would say 'I will not drink my milk and sleep till you tell me a story. Tell me a story, tell me a story.'

So Yashoda is telling him the story and giving him his milk as she speaks. The Lord is drinking his milk and is also tasting the nectar of the story, katha. Then suddenly as the demon came and kidnapped Sita, as soon as Krishna heard this, he jumped up from Yashoda's lap and stood up shouting 'Lakshman! Where is my bow and where is my arrow? Now I will show my strength and I will vanquish this demon! Vinashaya cha dushkritam. I will do this so hey Lakshman, let's go!'

So child Krishna was listening to the tale of Rama, Lakshman and Sita and so he took on the mood of Rama. Child Krishna became Rama by taking on the mood of Lord Rama the mood of the Lord's anger. So just like in the bhajan, the Lord comes as Rama or sometimes as Shyam. He doesn't come as Sai Baba so you should always be careful and alert of this fact.

I am supposed to speak on Rama lila but look what I am speaking of instead. So when I was thinking of reciting this Rama lila after the japa talk was over, I was wondering what lila of Rama's I should speak on. So there are so many pastimes that come to mind. So baby Krishna would say 'tell me about Rama or Sita.' And then there is Lakshman lila so the Lord would say 'tell me about these things.'

Then there are so many other lilas of the devotees of the Lord. 'You have not spoken to me anything about Hanuman yet. Tell me about Hanuman and narrate to me Hanuman lila.' There are so many lilas, so how many you know? In the sastra it is said that just like the waves of the ocean cannot be counted, can they be? No, not even a computer could not count these waves.

They are asankhya, innumerable and there are so many new waves being formed. One set and another set, then another. In the same way there are so many pastimes or we could say that there are innumerable pastimes of each incarnation of the Lord. And how many incarnations are there? So sastra says this also, that the incarnations in themselves are innumerable just like the waves of the ocean.

Just like these waves in the ocean cannot be counted, it is impossible – so in the same way the incarnations of the Lord cannot be counted. How many incarnations are there? Nanavataram akarod bhuvanesu kintu. The Lord incarnates in various incarnations, nanavatara. So we cannot say 'okay, there are one thousand or one hundred thousand or a million incarnations of the Lord.'

No, the incarnations are innumerable and countless and as such, the Lord's lila's, pastimes are likewise innumerable. Then there is one personality who is actually the supreme Lord himself, and he becomes satisfied by reciting the Lord's pastimes and that is Ananta Sesa. He is also called Sahasra Vadan and he has one thousand mouths.

And through his thousand mouths he constantly speaks the glories of Sri Hari. And from his one thousand mouths there are one thousand different pastimes being vibrated, not that from his one thousand mouths he is speaking the same lila. When there is a function, many times the speaker, when he is speaking they put a speaker, a loud speaker as they call India or a box speaker.

The purpose for this is that the sound can be heard from some distance away, however it is the same thing being said, just one thing. If you go to any corner of the place the same thing will be heard which is being spoken through different speakers. But when Sahasra Vadan Ananta Sesa speaks the pastimes of the Lord, then a thousand different pastimes of a thousand different incarnations is being recited at one time.

At the beginning of creation, the planets need to be supported in their orbits by some source of energy or some personality. So who does this in supporting the planets? Each planet has it's own set place in which it moves about but that planet is being held in it's place.

This Ananta Sesa is the one who maintains the planets upon his hoods which recline with the planet's held on them. So in this way the whole world is placed upon the Lord's hoods. Hari Hari. So the Lord himself who is maintaining the whole creation with all it's planets was saying, 'till when will I have to support this burden and hold all these planets and the whole creation?'

Actually for the Lord it is not at all a burden and actually the whole creation is just like mustard seeds upon his hoods.



So he is holding them all like mustard seeds, one mustard seed on one hood so maybe he will not even remember that he has put a planet which is like a mustard seed upon his hood. It is just like a small fly which sometimes sits upon our heads (laughter).

So for the Lord this is like child's play, which it is. It is not a big deal for the Lord to maintain all these planets or the creation but he was still asking that 'till when will I have to carry them on my hoods?' So he was told to do two things at one time. One was to carry the creation upon his hoods, so that's one thing.

The other thing he was told to do is constantly speak the glories of the Lord's name, form, pastimes, qualities and abode. And he was told 'just as soon as you finish speaking about these and everything has been spoken, covered, then you do not need to hold the planets upon your heads anymore.'

So Lord Ananta Sesa, Sahasra Vadba started to think 'okay, I have a thousand mouths and so with these thousand mouths I will run a marathon. This mean all day and all night I will continue speaking of the Lord's name, form, pastimes, qualities and abode. Then it will all be finished quickly and then I will not have to do this work of holding the creation on my heads.'

So then he started speaking the Lord's pastimes and so he went on speaking and speaking and still he is speaking but this lila narration is not ever going to end. We have become a little tired hearing the pastimes of the Lord, we are finding it a little bit burdensome 'since when is Maharaja speaking on this katha and when will Maharaja become tired so we can have some rest?'

So this Sahasra Vadan is certainly not tired but his intention was that he would finish all the pastime narrations quickly so he would not have to carry the creation on his heads. But this is not happening even up till this day. Rama's pastimes are so

vast and also Lord Rama is always performing his pastimes. Rama's lila is eternal and also he does not repeat the same pastimes again and so every time there is some new innovation in the pastimes.

So the pastimes therefore become eternal and go from one universe to another universe. So Rama lila and the Lord's other lila's are always happening and the Lord comes as Rama and then as Krishna and then Nrsimha or Varaha. So there is no end to the incarnations and nor their pastimes. So there is an ocean of pastimes, unlimited.

So we are tiny souls and therefore just one drop of the ocean of these pastimes is enough for us. We as the soul are so small, and therefore a drop of this ocean of pastimes, within that we can bathe. Just as Chaitanya Mahaprabhu says 'sarvatma snapanam.' We have a whole bath, Abhishek in this ocean and we can dive into this one drop of the ocean of the Lord's pastimes. So we keep flicking drops from this ocean of nectarean pastimes towards you through narration of the Lord's pastimes and that is enough. So listen to these pastimes carefully and drown in them, dive and bathe in them as well, the Lord's pastimes, his name and his dham, abode and in prashad. In this way become Rama devotees.

Are the devotees of Noida listening? Is my voice reaching you all? So look, my voice is even reaching Noida, this is how much influence I have (laughter). Hari Hari. This is the influence of being online. So the internet should also get credit for this, including the scientists and whoever else is involved is arranging the internet for us to be online. This is actually the best use and otherwise all else is abuse of the internet and whatever other facility, which most people do. But Hare Krishna devotees use the internet in the proper way. So working from home is happening at the moment, and so sit at home and perform your business from there online, E-commerce. The Hare Krishna devotees are doing the same at the moment and for them, working from home means working from

within the temple.

Sitting in the temple, in the ashram, whatever work they have to do to aid preaching, they are doing.

Yare dekha, tare kaha 'krsna' upadesa (CC Madhya lila 07.128)

Translation

Instruct everyone you see to follow the orders of Lord Sri Krsna

So with Rama Navami coming up, it is time to hear and chant the lila's, katha of the Lord. We are sitting here in the temple and preaching and there they are sitting in Russia, the mataji's, and they are listening. Are you listening Nandini? You understand a little Hindi, yes? And in Ukraine Arjuna is listening.

In Mauritius Chintamani Dham Mataji is listening and like that someone is in Solapura and then somebody else is in Pandharpura or in Noida. So do bhajan of Lord Rama.

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# Understanding the Super Excellence of Gaudiya Vaishnavism

**Understanding the Super Excellence of Gaudiya Vaishnavism.**

So that is the theme, understanding the super excellence of Gaudiya Vaishnavism.

Srila Prabhupada ki jay!

He was and he is Gaudiya Vaishnava, coming in the line of disciplic succession and we are getting connected. So we are

making this presentation, I won't say this is complete presentation but some introductory presentation to make the point that Gaudiya Vaishnavism is super excellent like,

**mattah parataram nanyat  
kincid asti dhananjaya  
mayi sarvam idam protam  
sutre mani-gana iva [Bg 7.7]**

Translation:

O conqueror of wealth [Arjuna], there is no Truth superior to Me. Everything rests upon Me, as pearls are strung on a thread.

Krishna said no one is equal to me and no one is superior to me. So Krishna is super excellent personality of godhead. So like that there are different features of Gaudiya Vaishnavism, so we have picked up a few items which are listed here. Achintya-Bheda-Abheda tattva or philosophy or the commentary on vedanta sutra is of Gaudiya Vaishnavas is super excellent, so that one. And Gaudiya sampradaya is super excellent and raganuga sadhana bhakti.

And Goloka dhama, amongst all the dhamas and there are many of them, is the topmost realm, super excellent and that is Gaudiya Vaishnavas preference, they don't settle on any other level they go all the way to the top, topmost abode, super excellent abode Goloka. Mellows of bhakti, Gaudiya Vaishnavas only settle for the topmost rasa, madhurya rasa. That is what Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu relished and shared.

Super excellence of Srimad Bhagavatam ki jay!

And Chaitanya Charitamrita amongst all the scriptures, there are plenty of them. Srimad Bhagvatam is super excellent. And of all the personalities of godhead Krishna and Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu are the topmost. Gaudiya Vaishnavism is Krishna consciousness.

Our presentation is based on the statements of Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu from Caitanya-matta-manjusa by Srila Viswanatha Cakravarti Thakura.

**aradhyo bhagavan vrajesa-tanayas tad-dhama vrndavanam  
ramya kacid upasana vraja-vadhu-vargena va kalpita  
srimad bhagavatam pramanam amalam prema pum-artho mahan  
sri-caitanya mahaprabhor matam idam tatradaarah na parah  
[Caitanya-matta-manjusa]**

Translation

The Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Krishna, the son of Nanda Maharaja, is worshipped along with His transcendental abode Vrndavana. The most pleasing form of worship for the Lord is that which was performed by the gopis of Vrndavana. Srimad Bhagavatam is the spotless authority on everything and pure love of Godhead is the ultimate goal of life for all men. These statements, for which we have the highest regard, are the opinion of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

So the last line says, sri-caitanya mahaprabhor matam idam, this is the mat or opinion of Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. What is his opinion? It is listed in the previous three lines and then tatradaarah na parah, there is nothing superior or better than this opinion. Aradhyo bhagavan, when it comes to aradhana,

**aradhananam sarvesam  
visnor aradhanam param  
tasmad parataram devi  
tadiyanam samarcanam [Padma Purana]**

Translation

Although in the Vedas there are recommendations for worshiping many demigods, Lord Visnu is the Supreme Person, and worship of Visnu is the ultimate goal of life. The Vedic principles of the varnasrama institution are meant to organize society to

prepare everyone to worship Lord Visnu.

The topmost worshipable deity is vrajesa-tanayas, son of Nanda Maharaj. His dham, tad-dhama vrndavanam, that is the topmost dham and this is the opinion of Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Then talking of the mode of worship, Sri Krishna is to be worshipped but the way you worship, which way? Radha's way or Gopi's way. Gopi's mood and bhava, this is the best bhava, super excellent and Chaitanya Mahaprabhu recommends you to try to imbibe that spirit, that bhava and follow that mode of worship. Vraja-vadhu-vargena va kalpita, then talking of scripture srimad bhagavatam pramanam, Srimad Bhagavatam is the authority, why? Because Srimad Bhagavatam is spotless puram which other scriptures are not, there are some spots. Some puranas are in mode of goodness, some in passion or some in ignorance but Srimad Bhagavatam is spotless puran and prema pum-artho mahan. The popular purusharthas are dharma, arth, kama and moksha but according to Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu prema pum-artho. You should be striving for prem and not some economic development or ending in moksha. So this opinion of Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is the topmost, matchless and super excellent. So we are taking the basis of this statement of Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

So we will be presenting you starting from zero. There are different vaad or isms siddhantas. Buddha presented voidism, ultimately we have to become nothing, do not even exist, zero.

**namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracharine  
nirvishesha-shunyavadi-pashchatya-desha-tarine**

Translation

Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, servant of Sarasvati Gosvami. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Chaitanya deva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.

We always not only hear, say, sing this Prabhupada pranam mantra and that time we say shunyavad and this is shunyavad. Nirvisheshavad, that is one vad that is coming, the next one. The other one is shunyavad, shunya means zero. So what did Prabhupada do? Nirvishesha-shunyavadi-pashchatya-desha-tarine, western country was saved by Srila Prabhupada and how did he do this? Gaura-vani-pracharine, he propagated Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's message and by doing so he saved the population of the west from the onslaught of shunyavad and nirvisheshavad.

So 2500 years ago, Lord Buddha was on the planet and he preached voidism for some reason. Then Shankaracharya appeared, Shiva appeared as Shankaracharya and before he appeared he spoke to Parvati,

**mayavadam asac chastram  
pracchannam bauddham uchyate  
mayaiva kalpitam devi  
kalau brahmana rupina [Padma Purana 6.236.7]**

Translation

Mayavada or Advaita philosophy is an impious, wicked belief and against all the conclusions of the Vedas. It is only covered Buddhism. My dear Parvati, in Kali-Yoga I assume the form of a brahmana (Adi Shankara) and teach this imagined philosophy.

Kalau brahmana-rupina, I will be appearing in the form of a brahmin, I will appear in Kerala in the town called Kalady. Mayaiva kalpitam devi, my concoction, my speculation, my speculative theory I am going to present and name of that is Mayavad. This Mayavad is shastras for sure but what kind of shastra? Asac chastram, it's a false. Pracchannam bauddham uchyate, this is covered Buddhism or voidism. I am gonna make little progress and going to elevate everyone, stop them from getting into voidism. I will lift them and I will be making

presentation of the philosophy, nirvisheshavaad which is also called Mayavad and it is asac chastram.

Here we go, we had a zero before and now we have one, that's progress right? Zero to one. So what is this one? Advaitvaad. Aa means no and dvait means two, no two entities or personalities, everything is ultimately one. So what are these two parties which are one according to Shankaracharya? Living entity and supreme personality, so they become one or becoming one is the goal, merging into brahman. Buddha dev said don't even exist, zero and Shankaracharya said don't become void but just exist and don't do anything. Doing is maya, seeing is maya, everything is maya, the form is maya, Brahman Satyam Jagat Mithya. So some progress was made from zero to one but still higher to go.

Then 1200 years ago Ramanujacharya appeared and then Madhvacharya, Nimbarkacharya and Vishnuswami. They appeared in four authorised sampradayas, Brahma, Sri, Rudra and Kumar sampradaya. They wrote commentaries on vedanta sutra and their philosophy has become known as dvaita siddhanta of Madhvacharya, visista siddhanta of Ramanujacharya, shudha dvaita siddhanta of Sri Vishnuswami and dvaita advait siddhanta of Sri Nimbarkacharya. Basically they are all talking of two now. It doesn't sound like that they are, the siddhanta that we just read, they are talking of two. Living entity and Lord, two, eternally they are two.

mamaivamso jiva-loke  
jiva-bhutah sanatanah

Statement of Sri Krishna where he says, "Okay we are part and parcels of Lord". Living entity is the part and parcel of the lord and how long do they remain parts and parcels? How long? Sanatana. "mamaivamso jiva-loke jiva-bhutah". Jiva loke- in this lokas, jiva bhutah-living entities they are mama-my parts and parcels, for how long? Sanatana-all the time. Eternally they are parts and parcels. So this is vaisnava siddhanta.



Especially, this two, two was emphasized by Madhvacharya. So when you see photograph of Madhvacharya, he shows like a victory. Victory over this mayavada. Defeat it and vaisnavism became victorious.

So, he was very much fought, all of his childs fought against shunyavada. Specially against this advaita impersonal presentation. So advaita advaita advaita. Okay from zero to one to two. For that was not everything, still some more progress has to be made or while emphasizing, making the point two two two two. Living entity and the Lord are two. Okay understand two. Not one, two. So this two was too much emphasized.

The Gaudiya vaisnavism did more a balancing act. Separated too much. Too much distance from each other. Stay away, stay away. You are two, you are separated. You are a living entity, you just tiny creature, stay away. so , Brahma, Madhva and then Madhva was already there. So the Gaudiya Vaisnava, Vaisnavism added a dimension and there was a evolution from zero to one to two to two and one. Simultaneously two and one, simultaneously one and simultaeneusly one and different. So it was our Baladev Vidya Bhushan ki .

He also wrote a commentary. At one point we did not have, Gaudiyas did not have our own commentary on vedanta sutra. Gaudiyas were thinking, there's no need to write another commentary on vedanta sutra. Srimalad Bhagvatam is a natural commentary on vedanta sutra. This understanding of Gaudiya Vaisnavas, so they were not writing. But as a result, the others were not taking as seriously, the Gaudiya vaisnavas. Where is your commentary on vedanta sutra? So there were challenges in Jaipur. Whole history and then Vishawanath Chakraborty Thakur. He was the guardian of the Gaudiya Vaishnavism, gaudiya parampara. So he dispatched his disciples Baladev Vidya Bhushan, you Go and then whole debate and then he compiled Gaudiya Vaisnavas commentary on vedanta sutra or he did not write, did not take credit for writing.

It was written by or dictation was given by Govind dev. Jaipur's or Rupa Goswami's Govind dev. And he was just writing and Govind was speaking. Radha Madan Mohan ki. And then, so when compilation was completed, he gave the title, they say Govind Bhashya. This Bhashya, this commentary, whose commentary is this? Govind. Govind gave commentary. Govind made the commentary. So that's how Gaudiya Vaisnavas commentary is known as Govind Bhashya, which was compiled. Baladev Vidya Bhushan became instrument and the philosophy now was "Achintyabhedabhed". Achintya- Inconceivable, also fact, bhedabhed-bhed and what , abhed. Bhed is what difference, abheda means no difference. There is difference, there is no difference. So qualitatively, living entity and the Lord, Supreme Personality and living entity are quantitatively same and quantitatively they are different. So this way abhed and bhed was established and it took some. How long did it take? Some 2000 years. From zero to one to two, one and two simultaneously. One and difference.

What I meant was style now, there's no more evolution or any further progress to be made. Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu sealed the deal. This is it.

So what we see, you are seeing. This is Mayapur dham. Nawadwip dham ki. And the personality in blue, bluish garments is Nityananda Prabhu and the other one in white robes, that is Jiva Goswami and Nityananda Prabhu gave tour to Jiva Goswami of Nawadwip, Nawadwip Parikrama. But before that happened 500 years ago, all these four acharyas, Vaishnava acharyas that we mentioned to you. Even we showed you how they looked like. They all one by one, during whenever they were on the planet, they were visiting Mayapur Nawadwip and each one of them had darshan of Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

Srila Bhaktivinod Thakur talks about this is in Nawadwip Mandal, Nawadwip dham Mahatmya. Scripture that we used as a guide book when we go on Nawadwip Mandal parikrama. So in there, he talks about these acharyas visiting and take a note

Ramananujacharya visited some 1000 years ago. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu only appeared 500 years ago. So how come he managed to get darshan. So understanding is Nawadwip is the Lord's eternal abode and is always there. His ...either manifest or unmanifest, prakat or aprakat. So during aprakat lila when lord had not officially appeared or come, not remove the curtain. So before lord making an appearance. So these acharyas were encounters with the lord, darshans.

So Srila Bhaktivinod Thakur talks that when he met Nimbarkacharya, once they were going so Nimbarkacharya visited Nawadwip and had darshan encountered dialogue with Gauranga Mahaprabhu. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu said, "You know what I'm gonna do is, I'm gonna accept two of the best qualities from each of these four Vaisnava Sampradaya. They are authorised sampradayas."

"Sampradaya-vihina ye mantras te nisphala matah"

You have to be connected with authorised parampara so these are the four authorised paramparas. So, that is not only Mahaprabhu said, but he also did that and what are the two qualities from 4 of those sampradayas Chaitanya Mahaprabhu accepted within his sampradaya. This is a list based on, information based on Nawadwip dham Mahatmya.

So from Sri sampradaya, he accepted this two qualities, Ananya Bhakti and Bhaktjan seva.

From Madhvacharya Keval Advaitcharya niraas. Means he was a crusader, he really fought for the khandan. Mayavada khandan, mandan, mundan. So that spirit of Madhavacharya, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu accepted within his sampradaya. And then he also said saying,

"mayavad bhashya sunile, hoile sarvanash, mayavad bhashya sunile, hoile sarvanash "

If you here mayavad bhashya, you are doomed, you are finished.

So this was Madhvacharya's. He was into this. So that became a part of Gaudiya Vaisnava spirit and fought. So that was from Madhva, keval advaita nirasaan. And nitrya mutri krishna seva. Deity worship. Madhvacharya's deity worship standards are excellent. So Mahaprabhu accepted that.

From Rudra sampradaya, tadiya-sarvasva-bhava, surrendering, raga marg. A path or process or raga marg. From Kumar sampradaya, ekanta-radhikasraya and gopi-bhava.

So Gaudiya sampradaya become enriched, but then Mahaprabhu took 2 good qualities from other sampradayas making his own sampradaya richer or excellent and matchless. That is a speciality of Gaudiya Vaisnava parampara, Gaudiya Vaishnavism. Sadhana bhakti has two parts, Vaidhi sadhana and Raganug sadhan. We go behind. Anu -to follow, to go right behind, what raga, we follow raag. Raag- attachment. Attachment with the Lord. Raganuga. We are Rupanuga, like that.

So, Krishna's contemplation before his descent as Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. So in Goloka, Krishna is still there and he wants to come down to the earth. So before appearance, thinking, who is thinking? He could think right. He is a thinker .God is thinking . Contemplating. Stop, Think, Proceed. Right. Before proceeding to come down here, he has stopped and he is thinking. Okay what are his thoughts. So this is based on Chaitanya Charitamrita (Adi lila 4.15) .

r?ga-m?rga bhakti loke karite prac?ra?a  
prema-rasa-niry?sa karite ?sv?dana

Shri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is contemplating on 'I want to relish this raga marga', bhava bhakti marga, gopi bhava, radha bhava, 'I want to relish and propagate and share this.' Love weakened by sense of majesty doesn't satisfy me. I don't become subservient to such Love. Some other process called aishwarya mishrit or jnana mishra bhakti, there's understanding that the God is Great and all people in bhakti

and all in reverence.

So Lord is thinking, the Love weakens by the sense of majesty. The God is Great. I don't become subservient to such love. On the contrary, if someone thinks me as his son, if someone thinks me as his friend, if a devotee or someone thinks me as his beloved, he's equal or inferior then I'm satisfied with him. So this is the Lords thought.

OK, so Sri Prabhupada ki Jay !!!

Srila Prabhupadas Radha Damodar Temple and Srila Prabhupadas lifetime Preparation to come to west, to establish Krishna Consciousness, do foundation registration, do propagation, so prior doing that in Radha Damodar Temple in Vrindavan, Sri Prabhupada all his superexcellent, Gaudiya Vaishnavism, he's contemplating upon and he's realizing and as that revealed onto him. So there's a Srila Prabhupadas Kitchen, doesn't look like but there's a kitchen where Prabhupada used to sit and there's a window and Prabhupada could see through Rupa Goswamis Samadhi, Bhajan Kutir and Srila Prabhupad's preparing and want to establish the super excellence of Gaudiya Vaishnavism, propagate that and all lot of these things which we are presenting. Srila Prabhupad presented the best.

And then talking about Dhama, topmost Dhama is Golok dhama and Nija Dhama. Golok Dhama and at the bottom where we are? Where Washington DC is? Which part of dhama is this? Devi Dhama. Durga Devis Dhama.

(Hari Hari)

The President is Lord and other guys see as a strings you know as puppeteer. And all of us, each one are puppets. Whether President or citizens, etc, everyone is controlled by Lords energy Durga. So the Devi Dhama here and above this devi Dhama, above the Brahmanda is Mahesh Dhama. Half part of Mahesh Dhama is Devi Dham, the lower half. The upper Half is part of Vaikuntha, it's as good as Vaikunth, and lower half is

part of Devi Dham. So there's Mahesh Dham, Sadashiv functions in different way being in upper part, and the other half lower part which is dark side or ignorant part or the destructive part (Kal bhairava) of Shiva functions in different way. So Mahesh Dham and Hari Dham and above that is Ayodhya Dham (Sri Ram Dham) and above that is Golok Dham. In Golok comes Dwarka where Krishna is Complete and there's Mathura where Krishna is Purnatar (more Complete) and there's Vrindavan where Lord is Purnatam (most Complete) and that Vrindavan realm has two compartments, one is Vrindavan and other one is Nawadwip. So in Vrindavan, one part is Radha Krishna their personalities, they perform their pastimes and the other division of Golok, they combine forms, sri Krishna Chaitanya, Radha Krishna, so that is another part. And Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, gave up Golok, one of the puranas mentions this, that Gaurang Mahaprabhu left Golok behind and entered this world to relieve us. So Golok Dham ki Jay ! assert at top and then the Vichar (Consideration) means to Consider, to analyze, to understand Rasa. Lord is made up of Rasa. He's full of Ras vigraha.

(Hari Hari)

You see 5 rasa there. This all Chaitanya Mahaprabhu talking to Sanatan Goswami in Varanasi for 2 months the dialogue was on. So it's based on the Chaitanya Charitamrit, 19 Chapter, the verses are mentioned. Shanta Rasa has Krishna Nishtha and Trishna त्याग (giving up thirst or attachment). Then he becomes Shanta i.e Shanta Rasa Bhakt. You could say the other two items are there, what is added is Seva Bhav. Shanta Ras is not into Seva, he just sits and appreciate or doesn't have service attitude. But as soon as one is blessed with Dasya Rasa he gets up and he begins acting serving the Lord. Moving forward or going upward Sakhya Ras, what is additional is Vishrambha sakhya. Vishrambha means equality or becoming Samaras. The same Rasa or no distinction level, merging thoughts and same feelings and like that is called Vishrambha. And then Vatsalya has additional aspect called Palak gyan. One

who is dealing with Lord in Vatsalya Ras, Vatsalya Parenthood of Nanda Baba and Yashoda, they become palaka, they become protectors and maintainers of the Lord. We're the maintainers, they think like this. The palak and palya. Palya is Child, and one who does palan is Palak. And there's a devotee. Devotee becomes Palak. And Madhurya Ras as Nijanga Dan. In one's body there's no reservation, there's no holding back or full surrender. All that they do is only for Lord. Their mind, Body, Soul, everything for the pleasure of the Lord. And that is Madhurya which is the most sweetest Rasa. You could see this Prabhus, one time they were in Shant Ras, but then they made progress and they achieved the status of Dasya Ras. So in Vaikuntha there is predominance of Dasya (service attitude). So there's a praise for Laxmi Narayan

yam brahma varuNendra rudra maruta: stuvanti divyai: stavai:  
The demigods and others are there for the Dasya Ras. Now this is something interesting that Aishwarya means Sakhya. So Krishna even Declared that you are my friend. So Sakhya Ras between Arjuna and Krishna, but this is Aishwarya mishrit. Then Lord showed universal form to Arjuna and he realized and said sorry to Krishna and to accept his Apologies as he was to lie down on krishnas bed and eat with Krishna in one plate. And realized and said that this is not proper. You are so great and I'm nobody. So this is Aishwarya mishrit Sakhya. We could say Vishrambha Sakhya Ras.

The coward boys would say to Krishna that Who do you think you are? So Lord used to say we're friends. So this is Vishrambha Sakhya. They never pray to Krishna. After seeing lords universal form Arjuna started crying, and begging for forgiveness. He said I was thinking that I was friend and no no this is not true. But the friends, they will never apologize, because they're friends. That's all. And here is Aishwarya mishrit vatsalya.

So in Mathura, Krishna and Vasudev, Devki and Krishna appeared on Janmashtami night, the parents started offering prayers to

the baby Krishna. So this is Aishwarya. But does Yashoda offers prayers ? No, she was strict. Punished him softly when needed. So this is Vishrambha Vatsalya. On this Aishwarya mishrit Madhurya Ras aand Vaikuntha Lokas. But in Vrindavan there's Vishrambha Madhurya Rasa. So this Vishrambha Vatsalya, Vishrambha Madhurya Rasa, Vishrambha Sakhya Rasa.

So what I am thinking is to stop it here. There are also more aspects than which have been discussed here.

Say something about Bhagavatam or Bhadra purnima. Bhadra is the name of the month, sravan, vaishakh, chaitra then bhadrapad. Lord Krishna also appeared in bhadrapad. So something else also happened 500 years ago in the month of bhadra. So bhadra purnima, full moon night of the month bhadrapada, Srimad Bhagavatam recitation by Sukdev Goswami was completed. The first ever official Bhagavatam was recited in Hastinapur on the bank of Ganga, now it is known as Sukhtal. So there Sukdev Goswami, he started his Bhagavatam recitation in navmi, ninth day of Bhadrapad and seventh day was purnima when completion of Bhagavatam took place. 12th canto of Bhagavatam was recited on the last day and he did more than 12 cantos.

The last chapter of Bhagwatam, pages must be, 335th chapter Bhagwatam has, so this is the last chapter and the title is Glories of Srimad Bhagwatam. 13 th Chapter's 13th Text, if on the full moon day on the month of Bhadra one places Srimad Bhagwatam on Golden Throne, and gives it as a gift, he will attain the supreme transcendental destination. Hari Bol ! Not a big deal. So Iskcon for some years now have been celebrating, observing Bhadra poornima festival. This day Bhagwatam was completed and was ready to go and was being offered to the whole world. So, Iskcon around the world is appealing to take part in this festival campaign of distribution of Whole Bhagwatam sets. So, this year the poornima is on 13th September if I remember. So this is august now, so next month it is. So, day and night, I would also like



if you joined this campaign and get a set of bhagwatam for yourself or if you have one, so get one or many for others to give that as a gift.

prausthapadyam purnamasyam  
hema-simha-samanvitam  
dadati yo bhagavatam  
[SB 12.13.13]?sa yati paramam gatim

Translation:

If on the full moon day of the month of Bhadra one places Srimad-Bhagavatam on a golden throne and gives it as a gift, he will attain the supreme transcendental destination.

One who gives Srimad –Bhagavatam as gift attains supreme destination, Jai Golok dhama ki jai.

Just introduced you to Golok dhama. Last year thousands of sets were distributed , I was last night at Baltimore, they distributed 7000 sets. Baltimore is number 4 in the world. Baltimore ki jai. In India also some temples did hundreds and some temple did thousands of Srimad –Bhagavatam sets distribution. We would like to see that happening in Washington DC also.

Radha Madan Mohan ki...jai  
Srimad Bhagavatam ki jai

This super excellent scripture. Srila Prabhupada carried to West his japa mala, he had his personal copy of Caitanya Caritamrita and he was carrying 200 sets of Srimad –Bhagavatam. Mahabhagavat Srila Prabhupada ki jai.

Mahabhagavat Srila Prabhupada travelled with Srimad- Bhagavat. Books are the basis. Bhagavatam is the basis of Krsna Consciousness. So we all have to spread Krsna consciousness all over. So we will do it. If you want to change the world the person you have to change is your own self. As I reached I was said to speak few words in support of this campaign.

Bhadra Pornima Bhagavatam distribution campaign ki jai  
Srila Prabhupada ki jai

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# Initiation Class

Initiation Class

Leicester

Live streaming

4th April 2021

All those getting initiated today, for your information, if you did not know that all of them were inspired and most casual to receive initiation from His Holiness Bhakti Caru Swami Maharaja but Lord had different plan. Maharaja suddenly left us behind and he has moved on to wherever Srila Prabhupada is or Radha Madhava is. Then it is our duty or his God brothers' duty to do the needful.

We miss His Holiness very much. I do not know where we could feel in the gaps or be the substitute. But here you go. This is the best we could do or Pradyumna could do, that he has approached me and recommended these eligible and qualified candidates to be accepted as second initiates four of them and one receiving the first initiation.

Srimati Priya mataji, Rakshita Radhika mataji, Priya Darshan prabhu, Vrajaraja Krsna prabhu are the candidates receiving second initiation today. Sheetal mataji, the good wife of Priya Darshan prabhu, receiving first initiation. Thank you for that reminder, Pradyumna prabhu, all this is happening on appearance day of Srivasa Thakura.

The sankirtana movement kind of practically began there in the courtyard of Srivasa Pandit, who was non than Narada Muni who

himself appeared. Why is he called Narada? Srivasa Pandit was Narada. They simultaneously exist like that. He was giver of Narayana so he is called Narada. Da means giver so Narada, as Srivasa Pandit was giving out Supreme Narayana. Supreme Narayana is Sri Krsna or Sri Krsna Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

How was he giving Narayana or Supreme Narayana, Sri Krsna, to others? In the form of the holy name.

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare  
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

It is certainly a very auspicious appearance of Srivasa Thakura. There are so much could be said about Srivasa Thakura, Srivasa Pandit, one of the members of the Panca Tattva. We could certainly say that by his merciful arrangement or merciful glance upon all of us, including those initiates.

They are receiving or I could say that are getting promoted today and they will be receiving yet another mantra which is Gayatri mantra. So they would be becoming brahmins, officially.

janmana jayete sudrah samskarad bhaved dvijah

When we are born we are sudras. In India we call manusya prani. Manusya is one of the pranis, or one of the creatures. As sudra we are in ignorance, as children also when we are born, we do not know what is what and our whereabouts. So in that sense also. Sudra by birth and as one undergoes samskaras, purificatory process, then one becomes dvijah, twice born or second birth. First birth parents give then spiritual master on behalf of parampara and the Supreme Lord gives the second birth we are birth within the birth.

veda pathad bhaved viprah

It also says as one studies veda patha, studies the Sastras,

the Vedas, the Puranas, for us Gita, Bhagavat, then one becomes vipraha, means learned or learned brahmin or dwijah the second birth. First initiation is also kind of second birth. Then further promotion you are getting brahminical initiation. So that is you will also have to, I do not know when you will be arranging that, formalise finally with the fire sacrifice. The mantras, the fire, yajna and svaha and stamp of approval finally happens with that. I leave that up to Pradyumna prabhu to organise.

It may or may not happen today but we are initiating this second initiation process by, first of all, talking about brahminical initiation and second initiation. What us a brahmin will have to be also stated or job description of the brahmin. Which are the qualifications of the brahmins? pathan paathan, yajan yaajan, studying and teaching and accepting dakshina and giving charities and performing yajnas and teaching others or getting others involved with the yajna. Of course, the yajna that we performed is mostly sankirtana yajna. We do swaha swaha from time to time, we are not against, it is part. But the main yajna that we do perform is sankirtana yajna. This are the six activities or qualities of a brahmin.

In 18th chapter of Bhagavad Gita, Krsna is talking about the qualities of all the members of the varana. Brahmins, ksatriya, vaisyas, sudras. Beginning with the qualities of the brahmanas in the 18th chapter, text 42,

samo damas tapah saucam  
ksantir arjavam eva ca  
jnanam vijnanam astikyam  
brahma-karma svabhava-jam [BG 18.42]

You could go back if you have not already visited that verse or not familiar or no memorized. Not just memorization but cultivated that spirit and developed sense control and mind control, the austerities. I would just wind up saying this the

knowledge and how to, practically, apply that knowledge that is called vidyan. Brahmin is quite a post and position and responsibility. He is considered as the head of the society.

In sastras, the brahmins are called the uttama anga. Uttama means the best of the topmost. Anga means the limb or part of the body. So brahmin is uttama angah, so the best. You could also say the top. The head is at the top. Another parts on the side. The arms division, they are ksatriyas, they are administrators. Then belly are vaishyas and the leg are assisting all divisions of the society. So brahmin is the head. He gives the direction to all of the parts the body or components of the society.

So, its quite a responsibility. Prabhupada would say that, "The present society is a headless society, headless society. There is no head, there is no brahmin." Like a headless chicken. The head has to be there. It was Prabhupada's idea that he wanted to put head on the top of the society. The society is considered the body, then the brahmin as the head. He was cultivating brahminical culture within his International Society for Krsna Consciousness. His ideas was to provide what the society was lacking. The society was lacking brahmin, knowledge.

This is the of Kali so there is a dominance of "kalau sudra sambhavah." In Kali Yuga we find mostly the sudras and what are sudras known for? They are known for their ignorance. As brahmins are known for their knowledge, the sudras are known for their ignorance. "Kalau satva haram pumsam." Satva means the essence and also means goodness. So, in the age of Kali, the goodness is taken away. Society is deprived goodness. Society minus goodness is ignorance. A society minus brahmanas is full of sudras.

Srila Prabhupada wanted brahmins to guide the society, to guide the human race. Qualified brahmins, not born brahmins. Krsna has different idea. Krsna says,

catur-varnyam maya srstam guna-karma-vibhagasah [BG. 4.13]

“Maya srstam”, by Me created catur, four varanas. What are those? Brahmins, ksatriyas, vaisya, sudras are the varanas. How would they be classified or distinguished or categorised, who is who, who belongs to which varanas? “Guna karma,” according to gunas, their activities and their qualities. What gunas, what qualities Lord is talking about? Basically, our foundational qualities are 3 in number: sattwa guna, rajo guna, tamo guna – goodness, passion and ignorance.

When there is predominance of goodness in our life – the goodness predominating brahmins – then goodness is minimised, it becomes ksatriya and some passion is also mixed with that. Goodness is further minimised, it become vaisya and some passion and ignorance is also there. And the most minimal amount of goodness, then you are sudra, you are ignorant. Mostly full of ignorance and passion and tiny bit of goodness, occasionally some good thing they may think or do.

So, we are happy that two matajis and two prabhus, or sometimes, two prabhus and two prabhuvis. This is a technical or official way that they could be called prabhuvi. Two prabhuvi and two prabhus. They had been cultivating Krsna consciousness and practicing Krsna consciousness for quite sometime now. So, they are found to be or authorities have found potential in them of being a brahmin, full fledged brahmins. Not that they are already full fledged brahmins but this is the meaning of initiation also: we initiate, we begin. Then we revive and finally, we thrive. Then all the qualities are fully manifested.

The potential is there so they are being awarded this brahminical initiation or the Gayatri mantras. We are happily will be offering this Gayatri mantra which is confidential. Hence, we will not say that publicly. Everybody is here, whole public is here. Of course, in India, you get to hear the public chanting or they would even write the Gayatri mantra on

the wall and anybody and everybody could read. But this is supposed to be confidential.

Now on the turn to Sheetal mataji, the candidate for first initiation. After we have dealt with that, then privately, on a separate forum we will share the Gayatri mantra to those four candidates for the second initiation. Becoming brahmins, so go on studying and teaching, “pathan paathan.” Read books, read books. Then distribute books, distribute books; or distribute the knowledge in those books.

Gayatri mantras are pancaratrici vidhi mantras. This will make you eligible and qualified to worship the deities and we understand there is a demand of brahmins. Pradyumna prabhu, “brahmins wanted! Brahmins wanted!” So, as you become brahmin, qualified and duly initiated, equipped with the Gayatri mantras, you could worship the deities.

sruti-smṛti-purāṇādi-  
pancaratrici-vidhiṁ vina  
aikāntiki harer bhaktiḥ  
utpatayaiva kalpate [Brs. 1.2.101]

Pancaratrici vidhi is essential for worshipping the deities.

Right, I was asking Sheetal mataji, “you are chanting, right? You have been chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa maha mantra?”

– Yes, Hare Kṛṣṇa.

– Okay, good. Because I am signing up for life here (laughter). Otherwise, there is a one way traffic going on here which is I am the one. So, you will be formally receiving this Hare Kṛṣṇa maha mantra as part of your first initiation. Initiated chanting of Hare Kṛṣṇa maha mantra. And you will be also taking vows. Hari bol.

The four regulative principles, you will be taking vows very soon and also on the occasion of first initiation, the ten

offences against the holy name are to be remembered or recited as a reminder to the candidate that the offences are to be avoided to get a full benefit of chanting the Hare Krsna maha mantra.

This is the age of Kali. The process of Krsna realisation, I would not say God realisation because we know the name of God, so why we should we call Him God? We call Him Krsna. Krsna realisation. So the process of Krsna realisation is chanting of the holy name of the Lord.

Lord personally appeared just few days ago, on Gaura Purnima day, 5035 years ago. And what did He do? He appeared and He had come with a gift of the Holy name. Lord was personally chanting that Holy name and He declared that this is the only way.

harer nama harer nama harer namaiva kevalam kalau  
nasty eva nasty eva nasty eva gatih anyata

There is no other way, there is no other way. The holy name is the way to go forward or go back to Godhead or to realise Sri Krsna. Kali Santarana Upanisad says something similar, om. This is a vedic mantra so, it begins with,

“hare krishna hare krishna  
?krishna krishna hare hare  
?hare rama hare rama  
?rama rama hare hare  
iti sodasakam namnam?kali-kalmasa-nasanam?natah  
parataropayah?sarva-vedesu drsyate

‘After searching through all the Vedic literature, one cannot find a method of religion more sublime for this age than the chanting of Hare Krishna.’”

This is Brahma talked and Narada heard. Same Narada again, who has appeared as Srivasa Thakur. In the beginning of the age of Kali, he goes to Bramha Loka, goes to his father and his



spiritual master. He says, “now what to do? What should the people of this age of Kali do, so that they could realise Krsna, realise God. I am a preacher and as I go around I have to give them the right mantra, right process. So, please, dear father, dear spiritual master, please, tell me what should I tell others?”

So, in response to his query, Bramha said what I said earlier, (the verse om hare krsna...) These 16 names will do what? Kali kalamasa nasanam. All the kalamas, all the faults, flaws, defects of this age of Kali will be rectified or destroyed by the chanting of these 16 names.

The sastras are full of such recommendations. This Hare Krsna maha mantra is kind of custom made just for the people of the age of Kali. This is dharma, in fact. The chanting of Hare Krsna maha mantra is the dharma of this age of Kali. We, human beings, are expected to be dharmic or spiritual-religious people, accept religion. So which religion to accept? Caitanya Caritamrta says,

avatari' caitanya kaila dharma-pracarana  
kali-kale dharma – krsna-nama-sankirtana [CC Madhya 11.98]

Harinama is Kali's dharma. Dharma in the age of Kali is chanting of Hare Krsna. I think it becomes so very easy, of course, we have to accept Sri Krsna Caitanya Mahaprabhu as the original and Supreme Personality of Godhead. Okay, we do as He said or, we do as He did. And He is the supreme authority, Supreme Lord personally has come. He has taken up the role as a devotee, He has become Gaura bhakta or He has become bhakta. He is all the time just chanting and dancing. This way,

apane acari jagate siksah  
siksartham ekah purusah puranah

Siksastmakan, in order to teach. The oldest and original person, Sri Krsna Caitanya Mahaprabhu, He, Himself chanted and danced. And He also did japa and kirtan. He has set an example

and He is also guru.

krsnam vande jagad guru

Original guru is Krsna. He had also predicted that this holy name will reach every town and every village, all over the world. Kindly, Srila Prabhupada had made that arrangement. He founded the International Society for Krsna Consciousness. He was travelling all over. He was doing global trotting and he set a team of his senior disciple to England and this is how the propagation began in England. Then spreading in London, and everywhere and had reached Leicester.

I do not know where Sheetal mataji came in contact with the holy name but it has reached you (Sheetal mataji). Just see the long journey. Holy name has been travelling and travelling and the holy name is Lord. That is something we also have to realise. This Hare Krsna mahamantra that you will be receiving is Lord Himself. During initiation as we give this mahamantra, we are giving you Lord. How Lord? In form of the holy name. "Abhinatvat namanaminau." There is no difference between nama and nami.

So, Sheetal should be saying, "thank God for catching up with me. I had been going up and down and, round and round. But Lord has finally caught up with me with you." And I should say the same thing as Pradyumna prabhu, as part of the introduction, was saying, "50 years ago, the holy name caught up with me also."

Srila Prabhupada was in Mumbai, there was Hare Krsna Festival which I had joined and Prabhupada had come there with American and European sadhus. I had gone to attend that Hare Krsna Festival and that is where I came in contact or, the holy name caught up with me, 50 years ago.

Today is, in fact, the grand finale of the festival, just in few hours. At 7 PM IST, we will have a celebration. We will be sharing our memories. We will have Giriraja Maharaja and

Radhanath Maharaja, Visakha mataji and Yadhuvara prabhu and Ksudhi prabhu. From Sweden we will have Vegvan prabhu and his good wife, Padmavati. In fact, Padmavati and Vegavan were married 50 years ago, on stage as I was just in the audience there.

The holy name was very kind and so now we are formalizing that communication, that connection with the Supreme Lord, in the form of the holy name. Communicating and relating with the soul, Sheetal's soul. Sheetal is body and there is a soul. Two souls, one is anu atma and the other one is vibhu atma – the Supersoul or the holy name and then atma, the soul. They are united as one chants the holy name with devotion and this is called bhakti yoga.

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# **10th Birthday of Sri Sri Radha Madan Mohan**

**10th Birthday of Sri Sri Radha Madan Mohan**

ISKCON Nashik

10 March 2021

Srila Bhakti Siddhanta Swami Maharaja Ki jaya

Srila Prabhupada ki jaya

As I said I would be present in this program, so here I am. We got the calendar of Radha Madan Gopal 2021 is already here, beautiful darsana and so many beautiful pictures. Hari Hari!!! Today, the devotees of Nasik and so many devotees from different locations, I am not in Nasik but today I have become a devotee of Nasik on the 10th anniversary of Sri Sri Radha Madan Mohan. Hari Hari!!

I do remember, in Nigdi Sri Sri Radha Govind was installed, and the next day there was the installation of Radha Madan Mohan in Nasik. We were all there, the program in Nigdi was not over, so Radhanath Swami left me there and I could not be in Nasik that year. So, one after another, one day for Radha Govind and two or three days later for Radha Madan Mohan. Radha Madan Mohan ki Jaya!!

The deities were installed or there was the appearance of the deities. There is no difference, the Lord's form is God Himself. We pointed fingers to show that, look over there is God. There is no difference between the form and God Himself, and also the name of the God and God Himself. It is difficult to understand this.

### **Abhinatvat nama namino**

Means God is non-different from His name. 'Krishna jinka nama hain'. There is no difference between the name of God and God Himself; this is easy to understand. So, I pay obeisance to the Lord that appears in the form of deities.

**sri-vigraharadhana-nitya-nanashringara-  
tan-mandira-marjanadau  
yuktasya bhaktams cha niyunjato pi  
vande guroh sri-charanaravindam [Sri Gurvedashtakam 3 verse]**

Translation:

The spiritual master is always engaged in the temple worship of Sri Sri Radha and Krishna. He also engages his disciples in such worship. They dress the Deities in beautiful clothes and ornaments, clean Their temple, and perform other similar worship of the Lord. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.

So Lord appears in the form of deities, Sri Vighra. So, 10 years ago in Nasik Radha Madan Gopal appeared. It became a birth place, like Krishna's birth place is known as Mathura.

But where the Lord appears it is said to be His birth place. Iskcon Nasik and this 'brahma utsav' mean Lord's birthday. Happy birthday to you Radha Madan Gopal.

So, today is Radha Madan Gopal 10th birthday. So, would we ask 'oh Krishna how old are you'? Like the western says; they do not ask how young you are rather they ask how old are you? So, I was about to say our Radha Madan Gopal is now 10 years old. But some time earlier some devotees were singing,

**govindam adi-puru?am tam aham bhajami**

Our Mahatma prabhu, my god brother sung it melodiously and devotees were trying to follow the same tune. Only he can sing in this way.

So, how old is Govind or Radha Madan Gopal but before that they are 'purusam'. There is no time that Govind or Radha Madan Gopal was not 'adi-purusam'. It is also called 'adyam purana-purusam nava-yauvanam ca'. He is the oldest, Krishna is 'adi-purusam' 'nav yavanam ca'. Today's youth have to become old one day they have no choice but Krishna never becomes old. He remains young .

So, Their Lordships are 10 years old and slowly they will be 100 years and more 500 years. And their Lordships will always be there. The generation will come and go in Nasik but Radha Madan Gopal will stay the same. We are all engaged in the service of their Lordship Radha Madan Gopal. By singing also we render service either govindam adi-puru?am or

**Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare  
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare**

Bhakti is when we engage our senses to be pure in the service of the Lord. God who is the Lord of our senses 'Rishikesh', we engage our body and senses

**'kayena vaca manasa vaca'**

When we serve the Lord or 'Pranair arthair dhiya vaca.' So, God is pleased when we render service. So, we can serve the Lord in different ways. So, The Lord is in Goloka dhama, there are many lives serving the Lord along with the Gopi, Nanada baba, Sudhama and friends and many servants. Likewise in Goloka Vrndavana, the Lord appears and the service goes on and He gives souls like us the opportunity to serve Him. How merciful and generous Radha Madan Gopal is. By singing also we render service.

There are some foolish people who speak rubbish, they say that God doesn't have form. These are Mayavadis, impersonalists. They say, "Yes, God exists but He doesn't have any form". Srila Prabhupada used to say, "You have form but God doesn't, how is it possible". Srila Prabhupada wrote,

**om purnam adah purnam idam  
purnat purnam udacyate  
purnasya purnam adaya  
purnam evavasisyate [Isopanisd Invocation]**

Translation

The Personality of Godhead is perfect and complete, and because He is completely perfect, all emanations from Him, such as this phenomenal world, are perfectly equipped as complete wholes. Whatever is produced of the Complete Whole is also complete in itself. Because He is the Complete Whole, even though so many complete units emanate from Him, He remains the complete balance.

Here Prabhupada wrote that God is complete but if you say that God doesn't have form then God becomes incomplete. So God definitely has a form. Christians always say that Man is made in the image of God. So God made humans as He is, as His form is. They also say that Jesus is sitting next to God's right hand in heaven or spiritual world. So this shows that God is there then only Jesus can sit next to His hand.

God or Radha Madan mohan appears as it is or as they are in this world. Lord incarnates, avatari, comes down. It means as God incarnates in this material world as He is in the spiritual world. It's like when a person living on the 10th floor comes down by stairs or lifts, he seems to be the same as he is on the 10th floor. So when he comes down you can shake hands with him, talk to him or can also take a selfie with him, similar is the case when God incarnates in this world.

**ramadi-murtishu kala-niyamena tishthan  
nanavataram akarod bhuvaneshu kintu  
krishnah svayam samabhavat paramaha puman yo  
govindam adi-purusham tam aham bhajami [BS 5.39]**

Translation

I worship Govinda, the primeval Lord, who manifested Himself personally as Krishna and the different avatars in the world in the forms of Rama, Nrisimha, Vamana, etc., as His subjective portions.

Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu ki jai!

In some days we will celebrate Gaura Purnima. On this day God appeared as Nimai or Gauranga. Before Him Krishna was there at the end of Dwapara yuga. So God appears in different forms in this world and this is His mercy.

**kali-kale nama-rupe krsna-avatara  
nama haite haya sarva-jagat-nistara [CC Adi 17.22]**

Translation

In this Age of Kali, the holy name of the Lord, the Hare Krsna maha-mantra, is the incarnation of Lord Krsna.

In Kaliyuga, Krishna appears in the form of His name, which is also a form. So God appears as name, form, lila or deity.

**naham tisthami vaikunthe  
yoginam hrdayesu va  
tatra tisthami narada**

## **yatra gayanti mad-bhaktah**

### Translation

I am not in Vaikuntha nor in the hearts of the yogis. I remain where My devotees engage in glorifying my activities.

Language is Sanskrit but you can understand. The Lord says that I appear at that place where My devotees glorify Me. This happened when the Gopis lost their Krishna, they came at the bank of Yamuna and sang Gopi geet.

Gopis sang a song called Gopi Geet. So Lord Krishna appeared in between them. Wherever Lords kirtans and kathas take place, which are form of Lord, He himself appears there. We can experience Lord. Lila is also form of Lord Himself. The Sastra is full of sentences, lila kathas. When we read, say or listen to some sentences, so as through this, Lord takes a form (Vangmay), or the lila and kathas are a form of Lord.

## **ajanu-lambita-bhujau kanakavadatau**

As we say this, the Lord is taking a form. How is Lord? Whose arms extend down to Their knees, who has golden yellow complexions. So as we describe, this is how the appearance of Lord is being made.

Sankirtanaikapitarauas we do sankirtana, so the Lords sankirtana form takes place.

Kamalayataksau -The Lords Eyes are like Lotus.

When will I see the face of Nanda Maharajas child (Lord Krishna), who has wore a Kadam flower mala in this neck, who has Kasturi tilak on his head. So as we will read, say or listen to the description of Lords beauty, the Vangmay form of Lord will keep taking place as per the description. Same as some artist draw an art piece as per his imagination. It is also believed that from sound comes the form. In Bible it says, in the beginning there was a word, now the word is Lord. There's no difference between the words and the Lord. So the



Lord exists and His name exists.

If we want someone's introduction or if someone introduces themselves, they say the Mr and Miss followed by name, etc. If you want to see them then they show you a photograph. If you want to know where they live, then they state their address. If you want to know their lila (activities) then know where they work or what profession they have. But if you say, the person is very Idiot or good, this is the introduction to their quality. So in this way to get a person introduced we need to know his name, profession, activities, address, qualities etc. So this is the same case in relation with Lord.

Description of Lords pastime, qualities, name, beauty give introduction about Lord Krishna. We can get this introduction from listening to kathas and sankirtans. The sadhus keep singing and listening to this Lords descriptions. It's said in Gurushtak that, at every instance, at every moment, the sadhus keep tasting and drowning in joy of the Lords descriptions. So with this descriptions, we can identify Krishna, and also Lord takes the form as described by us devotees and appears in between us.

At your home there's a chair and a table. When someone asks what is this You say that's a chair and a table. You won't say that's a wood. Once upon a time it was wood, but now it has took a different form and is introduced differently. So Shri Bhagvan tells Uddhav in Srimad Bhagavatams Eleventh Canto that Vigraha is made from eight types of different metals. There's one chapter in which Uddhav and Sri Krishna are discussing about Vigrahas Aradhana. Uddhav is very curious to know and this is also Uddhav Geet. Bhagvad Geet of Kurukshetra and Uddhav Geet which is told by Bhagvan to Uddhav in Dwarka. So in this discussions about Vigraha, it's said that from eight types of different metals, we can make Lords Idol.

It is also said that we can also make Lords idol in our heart, because heart is also a type of element. It is very subtle. So

when we do meditate about Lords Vighraha with our whole Heart, the Lord appears in our Heart, as we set Lords Vighraha in our mind. It is also a form of God.

So before it was stone, but now it's stone no more. Before it was Sangemarmar stone, the Jaipur's artists made an idol of it. Then we bring those idol and then we do Pranpratishtha in them. The idol look is made similarly as look of Lord actually is. The imagination of actual Lords look is not just any fake imagination. The artists try their best to make Lord look like how the Lord actually is. Description of Lords look is there in sastras. The artists make idols accordingly.

When the idol reaches Nashik, so the devotees and acaryas gather, and the mantras are chanted, homa is done, abhishekam and all these rituals are done. Then Pranpratishtha is done in Bhagvans vighraha.

### **Radha Krishna Pran Mora Jugal Kishor**

Our Naath, Radhas Prannaths Pranpratishthais done with all the sacred and holy rituals. All acaryas and Gurus pray to Lord to stay there in the idol form and accept the idol as His look. The Lord listens to their prayer and becomes Radha Madan Gopal and stays in the idol.

As Yashoda Ma used to say to Lord 'Uthi Uthi Gopala' in Vrndavan, so as the same we do. We wake up Lord in the morning and pray him to bring peace and joy in the world. Then we do Lords praising -stuti and then Bhagvan is offered BalvBhoga (sweet breakfast). Bhagvan accepts it. Then it's time for Lord to bathe. In Pandharpur during kakda arati and bathing time, the Lord Panduranga (Krishna) is in the form of Bal Krishna (Baby Krishna), so the sweet breakfast called as Bal Bhog is offered to Lord. Then in the noon the Lord grows up a bit, so then He's offered RajBhog (Lunch as offered to King). So in Pandharpur, in between Lords abhishek, the Lord is offered the makkhan (Butter). After abhishek Lords sringar (Makeup) is

done. Then sringar darsana arati is done and so Lords daily routine goes on.

Sri Vighraha means Lord Himself. Always remember. This is called Krishna consciousness, to be Krishna conscious. To understand that the vighraha is Lord Himself. Srila Prabhupada trained us to do sastang pranam as soon as we enter into the temple and do Lords stuti and Lord hears it. There are very eminent stories of sri vighraha with which the devotee can understand and experience the Lords existence there.

Saint Surdas from Vrndavan who was blind, but still used to go for Lords Vighraha darsana. People used to think why he come for vighraha darsana everyday even if he is blind. But Surdas used to do see and do darsana from his heart. Someone asked him what do you see? He replied, "Today my Lord is naked". As they were the summer days, so Lord only wore underpants that day.

So everyone was astonished, saying "'wow you can see, you can have darsana?"

And Radha Madhana Gopal which was previously known in Vrndavana by Sanatana Goswami's Madana Mohana. Radha Madana Gopal or we may say Madana Mohana also, there are so many pastimes, so many conversations and sometimes discussions.

Krishna would say "Hey you will only feed me with these dry breads, at least add some salt. Don't you know I am the son of Nanda Baba. He possesses thousands of cows and so much milk yogurt, butter and I am the only one to eat all. You are not feeding me properly, you giving only plain bread and curry without any spices"

Sanatana Goswami replied "hey keep quiet and don't be fussy. Can't you see that I'm old, so whatever I have I offer you accept it"

So, Lord Gopal went to Orissa from Vrndavana walking and became Sakshi Gopal.

So when the young brahmin came and wanted to take Lord Gopal to Orissa, he prayed to Him "Dear Lord please come with me and be my witness".

Then Lord replied: "What? We need to go to Orissa? But I am in deity form and I cannot walk". The young Brahmin said "Oh you're able to talk but you would not be capable to walk?" Lord Gopal then replied "Okay, you defeated me, let's go".

So in this way the deity form of the Lord Gopal walked to Orisa. When Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu took renunciation (sannyasa) and was going to Jagannatha Puri peacefully. In Cuttack Nityananda Prabhu narrated the pastime of Sakshi Gopal to everyone. Before Cuttack He was in Remuna and there, Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu narrated the pastimes of Ksheerachor Gopinatha and Madhavendra Puri. And Gopinatha stole milk (ksheera) for Madhavendra Puri. There's a difference between kheer and Ksheera ; Ksheera means condensed milk and kheer is rice cooked with milk. So, what we prepare for mangal arati is kheera that is sweet rice. Rice and sweet and milk, but when there's no rice but only milk by boiling the milk it becomes thick and slurry this is called ksheera.

Ksheerachor Gopinatha stole ksheera (condensed milk). So, the Lord woke up the brahmin who slept after eating Ksheera and said "Wake up ,you have not given Madhavendra Puri condensed milk (Ksheera), go now. Come with me, I will give you a cup of ksheera take it to him". When the Pujari went there, he saw the cup full of ksheera which Lord stole and hidden it behind Him. The pujari took it and went away. There are some kinds of Pujaris that do not share the mahaprasad, they eat all themselves. Maybe he might be similar. So the pujari took the cup and called out loud in search of Madhavendra Puri. He met Madhavendra Puri, gave him the cup of ksheera that Gopinatha stole for him. He honored the ksheera and thanked the Brahmin and God.

This is the pastime narrated by Sri Krishna Chaitanya

Mahaprabhu Himself to the devotees in Remuna. Like this, there are so many pastimes. Madhavendra puri is the first spiritual master (adi guru) of our gaudiya lineage (sampradaya). Our lineage starts from him. During his lifetime there have been a lot of pastimes related to the deities.

In Vrndavana, God once came in his dream and said "Go to Jagannath Puri, bring sandalwood (chandan) for me because I'm feeling too hot, I can wrap them and feel better". This is a whole chapter to narrate.

So, Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu narrated the pastime of Ksheerachor Gopinatha. The deity form of the Lord is not less than an incarnation. The deity form of the Lord is God Himself. And He gives us a chance to serve Him. When I joined ISKCON in 1971, it was blissful with a lot of cleansing of the heart process (ceto darpana marjanam) by worshiping the deity form of the Lord.

Prabhupada explained that by worshiping the deity, our bodily conception of life is decreased and we become more favorable to God's form and our mind becomes more steady, we become more attracted to God's form and be detached from our body. We can say that it's an immediate effect of worshiping the deity form of God (vigraha aradhana). Then we dress up Radha Rasabihari and finally at the last we place His hair and crown. Then finally we offer God garland then we show the mirror ; sometimes behind the curtain or sometimes even while the curtains opens. During those days, Prabhupada used to come during the Sringara darsana. I got the opportunity to do sringara for Radha Rasabihari and Prabhupada used to come for that sringara darsana on time around 07hr15. Anyways, I wanted to say that when we show the mirror to the Lord and when He looks into it then the pujari can see God's expression. His joy, His happiness that is the aim of life – to please God.

When God is looking at Himself in the mirror, He's very Happy – "hmm I'm very nice, thank you head pujari". Then we gave

Srila Prabhupada caranamrita.

Radha Madana Gopal has blessed you all by appearing in Nasik. Now serve Him as much as you can. Worship God, His deity form. So keep Radha Madana Gopala in the center of all the activities – Krishna centered, vigraha centered. Keep doing.

So thank you by giving me a chance to serve and to express what I had. Thank you Radha Madana Gopala. Thank you Radha Madana Gopala. And thanks to all of you, servants of Radha Madana Gopala, the pujaris as well. I'm thankful to all of you.

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# Spiritually and Youth

**Spiritually and Youth**  
**Birmingham Pandava Sena**  
**14th March 2021**

Jagannatha Kirtanananda Das: Hare Krishna Maharaja. How are you?

Lokanath Swami: A standard answer is that I'm fine (laughter). It's very difficult to say when it started. It starts and stops and starts and stops. But then it starts and then never stops. Why we say that it is starting then never stopping is because during my childhood days, I don't know. There is the whole, I don't know, in the previous births I'm sure I was into this. I was born in srimatam gehe. The Lord says you take birth into a pious family or wealthy family.

If you did not wind up your business then you get to continue. So I don't know- I'm just philosophizing and so when I was a boy, born in a village and my parents are pious and devotees of Panduranga. Vitthala Panduranga. So my parents, uncles and

others, they were doing bhajans and kirtans and I used to listen to those and sit in the bhajans and kirtans and that's how it started.

We used to get prasadam coming from Pandharpura. We were waiting and my father would walk a hundred kilometres to take darsana of Vitthal and he would have darsana and then he would buy some prasadam for us who were left behind. He would walk one hundred kilometres back and so we would be eagerly waiting.

The villagers used to wait in fact for the pilgrims to return from Pandharpur. The idea was- they used to think that 'this pilgrim or this person from my village went for Darshan of Panduranga.' The speciality there, the special way of getting Darshan of Panduranga is that you could touch the lotus feet of the deity or you could even put your head to the feet of the lord.

So such person when he returns, the villagers think 'if we touch that devotee who has touched the Lord then we have also touched the Lord.' So we used to enjoy prasadam and like that things started in early childhood days.

Jagannatha Kirtanananda Das: One hundred kilometres! Nowadays just walking for one kilometre- you just want to get in the car and even to go to the temple we hear 'oh that's too far. I have to drive for thirty minutes.' So here we are talking about a hundred kilometres so the mindset was different back in those days to today's youth.

Lokanath Swami: Five hundred years ago Chaitanya Mahaprabhu walked every single day for six years and not just walking but he was dancing in fact. So those were the days and that is the tradition. At least some people are still following that tradition, my father did. (A picture of Maharaja in his younger days is shown). Here I was nineteen years old. This is during my college days.

Jagannatha Kirtanananda Das: So it's not that all his life Maharaja has been- he went to Aravade, he went to Sangli and then he went to Mumbai, to Kirti college where he did his pre-graduate studies. And I hear you were a very bright student, you were coming at the top of your class so we can see we have an academic scholar going on here, Lokanath Maharaja.

So when you are at university you are meeting- you are out of the village which is Padharpura where right now Lokanath Maharaja is residing. They have a beautiful temple in Pandharpura and so you were coming from Pandharpura and were now in Mumbai as a youth, a young gentleman. How was that transition for you, coming from this lovely village and then coming to this metropolis which is Mumbai?

Lokanath Swami:

brahmamda bhramite kona bhagyavan jiva  
guru krsna prasade paya bhakti lata bija (C.C Madhya 19.251)

That's the answer I could give you. There could be so many causes but the main cause is the mercy of Sri Krishna. I could have continued my college education in Sangli which is a district town but I had an urge from within. 'No I must go to Bombay to continue my studies.' And later on I found out why I was bought to Bombay.

In 1971 Srila Prabhupada was coming there with American Sadhu's, European Sadhu's. English Sadhu's were coming there and so as I was studying in Mumbai, Bombay in those days, I went and in fact in two months the 50th anniversary of my first ever meeting with Srila Prabhupada would be celebrated. Only two months to go and then 50th anniversary and so Krishna brought me to Bombay so that I could meet Srila Prabhupada and come in contact with the Hare Krishna's and then things revolutionised for me.

So whatever was there revived and there was a full blown manifestation of whatever, devotion for Krishna and service to



Krishna.

Jagannatha Kirtanananda Das: Maharaja were there any particular instructions when you met Srila Prabhupada that really struck out to you?

Lokanath Swami: Tons of them. Instruction after instruction, but I would say that in the very first meeting in Mumbai, Hare Krishna festival, Prabhupada was talking every night and one day as he talked, I thought he was talking to me. Prabhupada was explaining how just by pouring water on the root of the tree or putting fertiliser on the root of the tree then the trunk and branches, the leaves and flowers and fruit—everything is nourished.

So Prabhupada was explaining that likewise, Krishna is the root cause of all of us. Aham bija pradah pita. I am the seed giving father of all of creation and all the living entities. So by serving Krishna you serve everybody in the whole creation. So I had this urge to serve, I wanted to serve my Indian folks or humanity. I wanted to serve but I did not know where to start and I had no resources.

So I think I got the clue very clearly and I took that as instruction from Srila Prabhupada that you serve Krishna and you will end up serving everybody. You serve your parents also, keeping Krishna in the centre and that's how you serve others. If the right hand wants to serve the left hand he cannot spoon feed the fingers and the palm. He has to feed the belly, the stomach and the stomach will feed all other parts.

So the stomach is in the centre of the body, so feed the stomach and so I got the idea there and that's what I'm doing for the past fifty years now, following that instruction and that guideline given by Srila Prabhupada. Some devotees say, even at the time of marriage there is a talk, inspiration or blessings so they say 'you have Krishna,' they say he is the marriage partner. 'It's not just an affair between you and the

wife.

That's fine but no no. There's another person in your life, a marriage partner and that is Krishna.' So Krishna in the centre between wife and the husband and then it is complete. Otherwise there is Maya, an illusion or you are detached or kind of abandoned even by the lord. So keeping Krishna in the centre is not just for the Sannyasi or Brahmachari but it's for the Grihastha or for every single person serving Krishna.

So this was my favourite pastime and I was singing and chanting and dancing the and that's all that I have done since. I keep doing this till this day and I wish to do this till my last breath. This is like a Prahlad Maharaja program, as Prahlad used to get his friends together and get them to..

kaumaram acaret prajno dharman bhagavatan iha (S.B 7.6.1)

And he would instruct 'this is the time friends, to take to Krishna consciousness.' So I am doing something like this following the footsteps of Prahlad Maharaja and getting these kids to chant and dance and sing. So this is Juhu beach, or not far from Juhu beach, a famous beach in Mumbai.

Jagannatha Kirtanananda Das: So you are showing by example how we should encourage the youth and how we should try to make it fun for them so they can feel like joining. Is there advise you can give to the twenty five year olds, how they can connect with the fifteen year olds who can then connect more with the ten year olds to try and bring this Krishna consciousness mood and lovingness?

That picture depicts so much love and as you said it's something you enjoy doing and you want to do it till your last breath. How can we take on that mood to help youngsters Maharaja?

Lokanath Swami: Well our Pandava Seniks- there's Sena and there is the Senik. Sena is the army and the Senik is the

soldier. I think in general our Pandava Seniks I would call again, are into Kirtan and they have come this far. Krishna is very kind to them. Is it okay if Krishna is kind to you Prabhu's and Mataji's? Krishna is kind to you? Maya is not kind to you- it's good that Maya is not kind to you.

It's better if Krishna is kind to you. Yes and so it's never too late, it's never too early . So grab the opportunity whenever that happens to you, go for it. I am very happy to see you connecting yourselves to Krishna, the Hare Krishna's and the Hare Krishna movement and yes, this is the right thing to do.

I was also thinking, do not postpone- while we were young, during my college days the standard response was 'this is, this Hare Krishna Hare Rama, when we get old.. We should be offering Krishna something that is fresh and energetic. Something that is blooming and flowery and fragrant and that is what you are as youths. Not that when we are rotten and invalid, what could you do for Krishna? Krishna has to do so much for you then.

So folks this is the time. Get into this and you will love it, you will be greatly benefitted and everyone else around you will be benefitted. When Prabhupada asked me to do Padayatra he said 'this will do good to you and this will do good to everybody,' he was saying. So Krishna conscious activities are like that.

They are good for you and they are good for your family, for your parents, for your children, for your neighbours. You will not be a trouble maker for anybody. That is the Hare Krishna devotee, that's a devotee.

Jagannatha Kirtanananda Das: Maharaja when we go out on the streets to do Harinam, sometimes the youngsters can feel image conscious. So there is this aspect of 'what will my friends think if they see me. What am I doing with these people. They

look all in orange and look a bit.. Even though I like this Krishna consciousness, I cannot go out and be seen just in case somebody comes.'

This is why some people may not go out to do Harinam or they are feeling image conscious, not wanting people to see them. So how can they get over this type of feeling? We are saying 'you are a devotee so do it' but these type of aspects come into their mind that stops them going out into the streets and doing this. So is there any type of advise you could give on this?

Lokanath Swami: So much advise I can give. We would like to advertise, mundane people advertise doing this nonsense, doing that nonsense. Killing, beating, drinking, smoking, sex mongering and gambling. Whilst doing all that they want to be photographed or they take a selfie with someone holding a whiskey bottle in his hand.

So shamelessly they pose like that or they want to be photographed or they want to have an image like that. So why not for Krishna or while doing a Krishna conscious activity, why not let the world know you? Let others know or rather, be proud of association with Hare Krishna devotees or of Krishna. One day you have to be next to Krishna and somebody's going to take a photograph in Vaikuntha or Goloka and so we have to practice and be prepared for that moment.

Otherwise in that devotee photograph we photograph the spirit and not so much the body. The Krishna conscious spirit is caught in the picture or photographed. And worldly people, when they take photographs their bodies are captured. But the body is like a prison uniform. When you are admitted into a prison the first thing they do is they give you the prison uniform.

So there are eight thousand four hundred million varieties of uniforms and so who would like to have their photo taken like

this? 'My photograph in a prison uniform?! No no no don't do this don't do this.' But we are this body and we wear this body which is vasamsi jirnani yatha vihaya. Krishna says this is a cloth, a uniform in this world which is Durga's fort and we are prisoners.

So you don't mind those photographs so this is not fair. You should be associated with the supersoul or the supreme spirit and let your spirit also get across and get captured in the photograph. Why not? Be proud and get over this.

Jagannatha Kirtanananda Das: So Maharaja the next aspect is family. There are youngsters here who might want to do spiritual chanting but they keep it under cover because maybe their parents are not so favourable. Sometimes they may be like 'what are you doing? You should be going out with your friends eating and drinking and socializing. What is this vegetarianism? Do this when you are older.'

All these questions come in and so how was it for you and your family when they realized? Because I remember that you said that you went for studies and they were expecting you to come back maybe in a car but you came back in a bullock cart and you were speaking to the villagers. So how was your family when you came in this way?

Because remember they sent you away to do material studies because the subject of material studies just came and I think a lot of the children will benefit from hearing this if you don't mind.

Lokanath Swami: When I went back for the first time as a Hare Krishna with a shaved head with Tilak, Dhoti and Kurta, the villagers and family members were commenting, 'oh he used to be such a nice boy! Used to be a nice boy but see what has happened to him. He has gone mad.' So I had gone back just to visit the family because my brother had come running, well running or driving or on the train or on the bus with the news

that if I did not return, my mother, you see her in the photograph, she loved me so much and I also loved her.

I think no one has loved me as much as my mother did and I also had love for her of course. So the news my brother brought was that if I did not return then my mother may not survive. I better return and at least show my face to her and then whatever happens happens. So I had gone and then at that time my sister and everybody were not very happy, they wanted me to be a modern man.

As you said they thought I may be back one day riding on a motorbike. The motorbike was more affordable, the car a four wheeler was very rare and only very rich people would have a car. We are talking about fifty, sixty or seventy years ago. So then I think as you mentioned, in '84 we had started this Padayatra program, Dwarka to Mayapur via Kamyakumari for forty eight thousand kilometres with a couple hundred Hare Krishna devotees from twenty countries.

Walking and walking we also came to Pandharpur and my home village is not far from there and so we made a route so that we can go through my village. So the whole circus- it's a big party and we even had elephants and lorries and the deity cart with Gaura Nitai and Prabhupada in the front sitting as I was driving. So their dreams were shattered and they were expecting me to come back one day riding on a motorbike, but I came back riding on a bullock cart.

So it takes some time, the parents or even friends, initially they are anti then they turn neutral and then they become favourable. So by now I have a whole Hare Krishna temple, Radha Gopala ki jai! In my home village and probably this was the first village in the world- the Hare Krishna temples were in big cities around the world but in a small village this was the first Iskcon temple of a good size-Radha Gopala temple.

Some ten years ago we opened the temple and I had thirty,

forty if my god brothers, GBC's, Sannyasi's and we had thousands in attendance from nearby villages as a grand.. So finally I brought Krishna to my village and put Krishna in the centre of my village including putting him in the centre of my family or my blood relations. And by now all my brothers, my three brothers and my sister, that's everybody – are initiated disciples.

And many other relatives and friends, my friends, we went to school and college together and now they are my disciples. So one time they were not so favourable or happy but Krishna has made them happy and they are happily chanting Hare Krishna and practicing Krishna consciousness. They are still Grihastha's and some are Vanaprashtha's but Krishna consciousness is for everybody, fits all the age groups.

I say that whether you are a Kisan (farmer) or Jawan (a youth), Jai Jawan Jai Kisan. Lal Bahadur Sastri, the one time prime minister, he came up with this slogan 'all glories to the farmers and all glories to the army men Seniks.' So I say that whether you are Jawan or Kisan, Krishna is for you. Whether you are a Grihastha or a Sannyasi, Krishna is for you.

You are young or old, Krishna is for you! Whether you are easterner or westerner, he is for you. Whether you are a lady or gentleman, Krishna is for you. Whether rich or poor.. Anyway Krishna is for the soul and everybody is a soul. First there is the soul and then comes the body, right?

But Krishna consciousness is not for the body, Krishna consciousness is for the soul and in every body there is a soul so Krishna is for the soul. So go for Krishna. He is so nice, Krishna is so nice, so wonderful!

Jagannatha Kirtanananda Das: Maharaja we have talked about Pandharpura and your village but Maharaja now I would like to ask, did you have any struggles in that time?

HH Lokanath Swami: So there is a lot to do in Krishna

consciousness and we are struggling to keep up with all that what needs to be done. I was struggling, in some ways it could be called a struggle. I was thinking all my god brothers and god sisters were doing so much. 'So much they are doing. I'm not doing enough.' So others are struggling but I'm struggling for Krishna.

We struggle for Krishna or we struggle to survive, right? Not only to survive but to revive and thrive and so yes, what is the saying? Survival of the fittest. So you have to struggle to survive or to stay fit or become fit to serve Krishna. So one time I was just remembering that 'other's were doing so much but I'm not doing that much so oh lord please give me something more to do.'

And then Krishna, the lord gave me so much to do that I couldn't even handle. In fact I was in south India that time on Padayatra and we reached a town called Kanchipuram and this Kanchipuram has a Shiva Kanchi and Vishnu Kanchi. There is one Kanchi town for the Vaishnavas and another for the Shaivites and so of course we went to both places but while I was in Vishnu Kanchi, there is a deity called Varadharaj. Vara means benediction and Varada means the one who gives benediction.

Varadharaj, the king of benedictors and that was the deity himself. So I had prayed to lord that 'please give me something more to do. Please engage me in your service and make me eligible to serve you.' This was my prayer at that time and so then the lord gave me so much to do that I had to go back to the same deity Kanchipuram and say 'my dear lord, enough is enough. Stop stop!'

I had to beg because I was the struggling to catch up and do this and do that. So yes, this is the kingdom of Maya and to practice Krishna consciousness and to establish Krishna consciousness in Maya's kingdom is always a struggle of various natures, fighting with so many anti Krishna parties. Even your mind could be that one or the senses could be that



one also.

It it could be neighbours, Hare Krishna devotees have some neighbours and then we struggle and they say 'oh you are wicked! You are chanting and my wife is here having a heart attack!'

Jagannatha Kirtanananda Das: Is there any advise or steps we can take in our youth that will help us grow in our relationship with Krishna?

HH Lokanath Swami: Your relationship with Krishna or your finally getting or cultivating devotion, you get this from a devotee. You get Krishna from a devotee. So the Satsang, the association is the number one factor.

sadhu sanga, sadhu sanga sarva sastre kaya  
lava matra sadhu sange sarva siddhi haya (c.c Madhya 22.54)

All perfection is possible by association with the devotees. Prabhupada also wrote one time to one of his disciples..

'Let me find it let me find it!' But if he did end up in the moon as a dream.. Colony on Mars and.. So if you go there then soon we are going to be spoiling that planet. Then the scientists are going to say 'sorry folks, another planet. So wherever we go we are spoiling and we are going to be making rounds up and down and round and round. And this journey has no end so we better get out of here.'

Anyway I wasn't going to say that. The blind man and lame man. So Prabhupada did not denounce that we are Sannyasi's so we don't say – it could be Krishn-ised. So we could use everything in the service of the lord, even the phone or whatever.

Jagannatha Kirtanananda Das: Sometimes as being part of the youth we struggle with not being taken seriously in our community and we are also criticised for not doing enough. How

can we overcome this?

HH Lokanath Swami: Someone is criticizing you for not doing enough? Is this what it is? Well, why not do more? I mean it's possible that you are not doing enough or otherwise someone is misunderstanding you. You are doing a lot but they are understanding that you are not doing enough. So maybe that misunderstanding can be cleared first of all, one on one with some talk, some communication.

From communication comes co-operation. I heard this from Mukunda Goswami Maharaja when he was the all global communications minister. He said 'from communication comes co-operation.' So communicate, communicate and co-operation should come through or there will be more co-operation with more communication. So leaders should appreciate the followers contributions, whatever they are-small or big.

And they should also understand that initially the ups and downs are also expected. One may do a lot and sometimes one may do less. In Nectar of devotion this is described as Ghana or Taral. Sometimes we may be spaced out, Taral meaning we are doing less or taking it easy and then at other times we are very serious, dead serious about Krishna consciousness.

So one goes through this, Ghana Taral, Ghana Taral, Ghana Taral. So far I would point out that you start and you go up but then you will be going down also. Then you go up and you are going down also. Go up and the you're going down. So far you are ending up not going up only. There may be times when you are going up and up and up but initially or so far it is not like that. So up and down, going more down and less up, more down, less up.

So I think the mature leader, whether councillor or Siksa Guru or Diksa Guru, spiritual master, they should be understanding or maybe do some.. Doctors, what do they do? Diagnosis. Diagnose your case, do your study and then come up with the

prescription. Food for someone is poison for others and different folks, different Slokas. So we are different- each one is different.

Why we are different? Because our bodies are different, our past is different and that is why our present is different. And depending on our present, our future is going to be also different.

Jagannatha Kirtanananda Das: I have just had a question come in that as youth we are working towards building our careers which is a materialistic desire. How do we balance this with spiritual practice?

HH Lokanath Swami: I would say, I have just had a thought come into my mind. Okay you get married, you are not an Akhanda Brahmachari, lifelong Brahmachari so you get married and lead a Krishna conscious life, wife and husband and have children. So I think that's the act of balancing but the imbalance is that Krishna is out of the centre. In the Sastra we find two terms. One is Grihamedhi and other is Grihastha.

And Sukadeva Goswami started his Pravachan in the second canto of Bhagavatam. Om Namoh Bhagavate Vasudevaya. Then immediately he is getting on the case of these Grihamedhis, their totally materialistic families and their lifestyle. So Sukadeva Goswami says

nidraya hriyate naktam  
vyavayena ca va vayah  
diva carthehaya rajan  
kutumba bharanena va  
(S.B 2.1.3)

So these folks they spend their nights uselessly doing what? Nidraya, sleeping and then of course before sleeping is eating and when you eat too much the urge for sex is there. So these are the business of sleeping, sex and eating. And you are

eating all abominable things. It's not that we say 'don't eat' but we say 'eat Krishna Prashad.' So that's the act of balancing.

Then as they get up, Sukadeva Goswami says 'diva carthehaya rajan kutumba bharanena va.' They think 'where is money? Where is money?' Artha means economic development. Kutumba bharanena va. You have to feed the bellies of your family, family maintenance. This is all that they do, this is night's business then you get up and then this it's day's business.

So this is imbalance. The act of balancing is done in Grihastha Ashram and you cannot go for Brahmachari, Sannyas so okay, middle path is Grihastha Ashram. So one extreme is the Grihamedhi, totally materialistic fellow who is like a follower of Charvaka. House by the beach and coloured television and they make that the goal of their lives. So lead an ideal Grihastha life, Krishna centered Grihastha life.

Early to bed, early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise. So go to bed early! God turns off the light at night time, right? The moon is like a night lamp, like you have in the house. So right now here in India the light has been turned off 'so come on folks, time to go to sleep.' So this is nature's arrangement, this is Krishna's arrangement. Take it easy! Don't work for fourteen hours.

So go to bed early and get up and that makes you healthy, wealthy and wise. Who wouldn't like to be healthy or wealthy or wise? I said wise and so it is said any fool can make money but it takes a wise man to spend it. It takes wisdom to spend the money. Any fool could make money. So lot's of fools are making lot's of money but they are fools and they remain fools, they are not wise and so they don't know how to spend money. Or spend their lives, spend their time. And so

Grihe thako, vane thako, sada 'hari' bole' dako.

Chant Hare Krishna or a lot of people like to sing so they can

sing for Krishna. It's nice and it's good for Krishna prasad. And not only is it good for your body but it's good also for your mind and the soul. The soul's food is prasad. The soul does not eat and that is why the soul is thirsty and hungry.

Then it gets angry sometimes, because we are not feeding the soul. The soul is starving so when there is cinema singing the soul does not take pleasure but the soul spits at it. And the food stuff which is whatever, the soul does not even look at it. So the prasadam is also good for the mind. The food not only nourishes your body but also nourishes your mind.

The mind's business is thinking, feeling and willing so the kind of food that you consume accordingly is going to be thinking feeling and willing. If you take Krishna prasadam you are going to be thinking of Krishna also and if you take other foodstuffs you will be killing others.

Jagannatha Kirtanananda Das: Maharaja you have taken on many responsibilities for the movement since you were in your youth and we heard the story that so much was coming your way and you were like 'please that's it, enough is enough.' But you've done it.

You've been carrying on and so how did you make sure you didn't get overwhelmed by the amount of services and the responsibilities you took and how did you remain grounded?

HH Lokanath Swami: I think you are giving me the lead now by using the word 'grounded.' So yes, I suppose I remain grounded in chanting

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna  
Krishna Krishna Hare Hare  
Hare Rama Hare Rama  
Rama Rama Hare Hare

So I get grounded and so I haven't missed chanting of Hare Krishna. I missed two or three days in the last fifty years in

the late seventies, maybe seventy eight or something. So I remember three days that I was not well and something happened and I couldn't.. Otherwise that's one thing that I have done every single day. I chanted Hare Krishna which is a prayer to Krishna for his mercy or even to give me intelligence.

That's also part of the prayer or lot's of prayers. Hare Krishna Hare Krishna is also a prayer to Krishna but there are varieties of prayers. So I have chanted and I have prayed to Krishna, reading Srila Prabhupada's books. This is one of my favourite pastimes. Even during my early childhood or early days I was into reading and reading and reading.

I liked to read and so whatever I was reading before was not all Krishna conscious but I was reading. And I have continued that habit of reading. Either reading or also hearing, I like to hear as much as I can while walking and talking. While even eating I like to – I was hearing Sivaram Maharaja's talks, these days I have been hearing.

Like that I always have heard Prabhupada's talks or I hear my god brothers. Even sometimes I hear disciples' points so yes, chanting and reading and so like that I was thinking that the banyan tree that we see growing tall and spreading it's huge branches like Visvarupa (universal form), the Viratrupa. Some trees are so gigantic but as much as we see them up there, that much they are within the ground also, spreading their roots and network and so they are grounded.

The trees are grounded into the ground and that is the support system. If they did not have that kind of support of the roots, spreading everywhere, it's not possible that what you see outwardly would be existing, no. So I think every devotee who is doing so much service or with so much on their plate and they still manage to accomplish so many services..

Devotees and global leaders around the world are.. Well, the Hare Krishna's are the busiest people on the planet. We begin

making money even at four thirty in the morning. Chanting Hare Krishna that is wealth and so we have wealth. Everyone else is relaxed and at eleven o'clock or ten o'clock they begin making money but we get up early. So like this healthy, wealthy, wise. So that wealth we begin acquiring early in the morning.

So I remember that one devotee said that the morning Sadhana is like sandwich which has the lower loaf of bread and there's the whole tomato and cheese and this and that stuffed. So all that is devotional service. And then another loaf at the top, more Sadhana, more hearing and chanting before you go to sleep.

So that combination is so sweet and nourishing. So I think that's what we need to do, go deeper. If we wish to go higher more then we have to go deeper and be more grounded and then there's the support system..

Jagannatha Kirtanananda Das: So I want to go on to two of your projects since we do not have long left. One is, you talked a little bit about Padayatra and some of the people and especially the Seniks may not know about this. What is the purpose and mission of this program of Padayatra?

HH Lokanath Swami: Well Chaitanya Mahaprabhu predicted that his name, 'Mora Nama, my name' that is

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna  
Krishna Krishna Hare Hare  
Hare Rama Hare Rama  
Rama Rama Hare Hare

His name would spread in every town and in every village of this planet. So I would say that Srila Prabhupada made a strategy of the walking festival so that we could go to more towns and more villages and bring the holy name there. So the GBC also has, when we had formerly established the Padayatra ministry, this is the mission of Padayatra. To bring the holy name to every town and every village of this planet.

This started by Prabhupada's instruction in seventy six and there was a little interruption and then we started in nineteen eighty four and then we haven't stopped. So every single day the Padayatri's are walking on this planet and we have ended up doing Padayatra in over a hundred countries and close to three hundred thousand kilometres, the Hare Krishna devotees have walked.

Including one Padayatra we had during Prabhupada's centennial, that is during the nineties and we started in Glasgow and after five years, going through all the European countries and Eastern Europe and Moscow- from Glasgow to Moscow for five years the Hare Krishna devotees walked. And like that we had America Padayatra, South Africa Padayatra.

Here, there and in Hungary and Parasurama does Padayatra all the time in England and so I would say we did Padayatra and Prabhupada sent us from Vrindavana to Mayapur. We walked and Prabhupada was so much pleased with this program that when we arrived we met Prabhupada in his quarters in Mayapur on the second floor in the lotus building.

We were greeted and garlanded. Lotus flowers garlands were waiting, they were Maha garlands, Prabhupada's garlands and Prabhupada asked 'how was the journey?' The whole party was there and Prabhupada asked me and I said 'it was an easy journey to Mayapur planet, Prabhupada.' You know the book easy journey so I said 'the easy journey to Mayapur planet.'

So Srila Prabhupada was pleased and after we had just one cart going in India and then Prabhupada wrote a letter to one Nityananda Prabhu from America, he was in charge of one farm. Prabhupada was talking about our bullock cart Sankirtan party in India and Prabhupada said 'we could have millions of such carts all over the world.'

So this is Prabhupada's big thinking and so there's big scope and potential and I would like you to sometimes join. Everyone



loves Padayatra and especially youths, they enjoy Padayatra. Families, kids ..

Jagannatha Kirtanananda Das: So Padayatra is one and the other project is your Kirtan. Everybody on the globe knows you for your Kirtans to the extent that you are the Kirtan minister for us. Iskcon Kirtan minister and so I would like if you could Maharaja, just here we are doing some events as the Iskcon Kirtan ministry and right now there is an amazing festival going on as you all know.

Please Maharaja can you explain about this and we are going to soon finish on that. Finally as Lokanath Maharaja has explained on this, I really want everyone to check out his books. He has done different books on different topics and honestly it's a wealth of knowledge.

HH Lokanath Swami: Jagannatha Kirtanananda, you are also a big part of our Kirtan ministry. You are our right hand man and I think we have had lots of accomplishments in our last one year. The world holy name festival and every Ekadasi we have Sravan Kirtan Utsava, just a few days we had one. And on every Ekadasi- we don't miss one of those. We have a monthly newsletter bringing news to you of global Kirtan.

What's the name? Kirtan world news comes to you and so we are busy with lot's of things and right now we are busy organising Kirtan Mela. Mayapur festival is on and normally they would have Kirtan on ground in front of Pancha Tattva temple. Those who gather, they get together and something will happen online but only this year we have doubled it, number of hours wise and we have one hundred and eight hours of non-stop Kirtan.

Right now Kirtan is happening. It was happening before, happened now and will happen tonight. For India it's tonight and for you day and night. So take advantage and join in those Kirtans, dive deeper into Kirtan. This is our life, right? We come back to life in fact. We revive.

Prananti punanti shubhanti

This is what Akrura said to himself in fact. He was on the way to Vrindavan from Mathura and so this gives us life this Hare Krishna chanting, Harer nama kevalam. There is no other way, only chanting of Hare Krishna. So it's happening during this Mayapur Kirtan Mela and this is a very special year also. The hundred and twenty fifth anniversary of Prabhupada this year Iskcon is celebrating.

So the Kirtan ministry is going to be encouraging the whole world to do more and more Kirtan. I already got the news that England, Soho street are also going to do one zero eight hours of Kirtan, not non-stop but I think every weekend they will be.. I think starting on Gaura Purnima they will go for many months and every weekend they will be doing these Kirtans and so this is happening.

You are not all from England here but many of you are so take part in that Kirtan and I remember Nagar Kirtans every Saturday. These were very famous starting from Soho Street and I had been participating in those Kirtans. So many, many Saturdays I have done those Kirtans and that's a world famous Kirtan.

And Padayatra's go around England with Kirtans and like that, Kirtan Kirtan.

nachite gaite soite hari nama.

Chaitanya Mahaprabhu said while eating or sleeping chant Hare Krishna.

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna  
Krishna Krishna Hare Hare  
Hare Rama Hare Rama  
Rama Rama Hare Hare

So just do this more this year, especially this year. More chanting and more Kirtan either with Mridangas and Kartals or

take your beads and chant after a meditative Kirtan or meditative Japa and make your life perfect. Chant Hare Krishna and be happy. Happy happy we shall be when we learn our ABC.

Jagannatha Kirtanananda Das: Association, books and chanting. So ABC. Thank you so much Lokanath Swami Maharaja. It's been so great to have you today and just to have that association has been such nectar. I am just going to say from my side thank you so much for your time. It's always a pleasure and an honour just to get your association and to get this knowledge that you are imparting to us.

We feel much more spiritually enlivened every time after just speaking to you so thank you.

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# Meet the Monk: A journey of Transformation

Meet the Monk: A journey of Transformation  
21st February 2021

Nandini [The program host]: Krishna consciousness is from the east and we take you to the eastern scripture eastern wisdom. And today, we have the opportunity to hear from, in fact some banker or publishers or editors how much of you have got the opportunity to hear from a monk and today we provide you with the opportunity very very fortunate to announce we have His Holiness Lokanath Maharaj. Lokanath Maharaj is in India right now and he has been a monk in the Krishna consciousness movement for over forty five years he travelled to Europe he travel to Asia he travelled to Africa and India hosting too all about this with them. We are so very fortunate have him here with us today and Jagannath Kirtananda Iskcon north

project manager as profession but he undergoes a lot of help in many projects and help care well-being. So, please have your cameras on interact with you and if you have any question please post it in the chat or to me or also directly he will answer your question so you will enjoy this session today, Thank for coming with us today, for a Sunday now I will pass to Lokanth Swami, Jagannath Kirtananada thank you so much.

Jagannath Kirtanananda: Hare Krishna everyone. Thank you so much for joining and wow we speak into His Holiness Lokanath Swami Maharaj. How are you doing today Maharaja and how is everything in India?

LNS [Lokanath Swami Maharaja]: I am happy.

JK [Jagannath Kirtanananda]: It is so nice to have you and today the group we have got. We have got university students I can see some other members coming joining so enthusiastically. So, we want to talk about some of the members that have not met a monk before and you are a living breathing monk as well.

LNS: Am surprised that make me a Monk as at be.

Jagannath Kirtanananda: It's so nice to have you in life as for me it's so nice to talk to you again. And before we start, because we got lot of university students on, like I love yourself and I would love to hear about your youth, your upbringing. So, I wanted to talk about if I can, please tell us about your academic side. You moved from Aravada to Sangali, and then in Mumbai. You went to Kirti College as they we call it what know as university here where you studied chemistry and it would be so nice to hear what your thoughts were of all this type of age and what you were doing and so, please love to hear your thoughts about your early life in education.

LNS: That a big question and lot to talk about. I was born and brought up in a village in Maharashtra and born in a devotee family where they still sing bhajans.

'Jay Jay Ram Krishna Hari ...Jay Jay Ram Krishna Hari'

Not exactly Hare Krishna Hare Krishna but similar mantra and I used to sit and enjoy participate and that my father used to go on pilgrimage walking to, walking hundred kilometers to take darsana of Pandhurang Vithala in Pandharpur and we used to wait back in the village eagerly awaiting specially for my parents, father would bring some prasadam from Pandharpur Vithala prasad. So like that, then I moved for education from village to Tasagaon bigger town high school and in a college education in Sangli the district town and moved to then it was a Bombay now is Mumbai for my university education then I was studying chemistry and physics.

Of course, I wanted to be Engineer, I wanted to be Doctor, I thought of being Lawyer. All those days, I was thinking of how I could serve the society, people, the nation, the humanity and so throughout my upbringing I was thinking. These thoughts was always on my mind. There are different things I've heard, I used to read biographies of great leaders Mahatma Gandhi or Vivekananda swami or Jesus Christ, Abraham Lincoln and so I always thought of being useful to the society to the country to humanity though this is how far.

Jagannath Kirtanananda: I heard that you were very bright student. You were top of your class, so academically and quite naturally to you and of course right now from academia you utilizing it in the spiritual movement as we call Krishna Consciousness. So, how did that swap happened? Was it like utopian moment like some mess me not, some type of thought that will help serve what you were saying. So, how that transition happened?

LNS: Well, as I said in our, I went Sangli for my higher education and I had a access to the library and I was studying and I was reading all these books about the leaders and social welfare workers of how they serve. So, although I always top notched the top students in primary school in high school but in the college, then I was getting diverted and even at one time I became a dropped out. I wanted to join Mahatma Gandhi's

only disciple called Vinoba Bhave. He was in some town some thousand kilometers from Sangli so I went there to join him. But I was almost there but then Krishna saved me. Later I realized, Krishna saved me because Krishna did not want me to join this Vinoba Bhave but Krishna wanted me to join Bhaktivendanta Swami Srila Prabhupada.

So I was brought back and then I decided to go to Mumbai for higher education and then I was losing my interest in higher education I was realizing that there is something higher than what I am being educated in something higher something beyond this and I was looking for that. And then, the Hare Krishnas came to the town Mumbai. They were organizing Hare Krishna festival in Mumbai and they advertised that the American Sadhus are in the town!! European Sadhus are here!! So this, can't imagine of folks in Bombay including myself American and Sadhus forget it, you know American scientists is okay, European's scientists but American Sadhus, no!! no!! This was unheard of. So, everybody was coming to check out, I also went there and I realized that there they are the monks, I saw the monks. I saw the Sadhus HARE KRSNA Sadhus.

Jagannath Kirtanananda: The rest is history like they say isn't it like the way. So, you know, in your youth itself; you mentioned about this aspect of wanting to serve humanity what came out you know you wanted this aspect of serving what were any other factors in your life that help you come to this spiritual path that you are on so many years when you were a young if I may ask

LNS: As I said, during early days of my life, childhood days. I was exposed to this bhajans and kirtans, so that was in me. And as I was, I had that urge to serve humanity and I was reading. One of my hobby, it became a hobby of reading, study the lives of the great leaders and that was pushing me inspiring me to something similar to what they had done in the past and what they were still doing till around so that got me going and as I said the Hare Krishna festival I joined in

Mumbai Srila Prabhupada was very much there of course he was this center of that festivity.

The Cross Maidan Festival 1971, March April. One of the top that Prabhupada, well he was in everyday and one day Prabhupada talked about serving the people serving humanity and I thought he has the answers to my question. I wanted to serve but I did not know where to begin, I had no resources I did not know how to proceed. So Prabhupada said,

yatha taror mula nisechanena

He said an example from Srimad Bhagvatam he said by pouring the water and the root of the tree or putting fertilizer at the root of tree then the trunk ,the branches ,sub branches ,the leaves ,flowers ,fruits everything is nourishes. And here Prabhupada was explaining how, the Lord his name is Krishna they are other names also beautiful name by serving Him he is the root he is the source of all of us we are all connected with Him. So, by serving Him then simultaneously and automatically everybody everyone get served. So I got it and I thought that this is what I was looking for and I decided to join Hare Krishnas and I became Hare Krishnas monk.

Jagannath Kirtanananda: It seems like that was there. That was another question there were so many paths so you knew the path like the Cross Maidan festival 1971 when we heard this from Srila Prabhupada who is the founder acarya for those who may not know, it was like turning out point for yourself. I would like to ask you if I may Now, you coming to the Hare Krishna movement and how did you come from a lovely village in India, your parents are there and how did they take the news that suddenly now you are joining this Krishna conscious movement ,going in a spiritual path way, studies are one side now how did they take the news it would be love to here as am sure who are on this call that might be thinking about spirituality try to put their lives or might have the similar type of question coming up. How do I deal with this or how do I make them understand how was it for yourself if I may ask for your

parents.

LNS: They were very shocked. And from village my brothers came looking for me because I used to reside with the villagers from my village they were staying in Bombay I was sharing room. They were my roommates, they sent the news that Raghunath, my name was Raghunath. Raghunath is not around, we have not seen him for days, so news went back to village and my brother came running because they came to know I had told them in fact that I have gone to join the Vinoba bhave Mahatma Gandhi disciple and renounce and be part of his organization. So, they were anticipating something like this, what Raghunath may do and now I was no more to be seen in my room by room mates. So my bother came looking for me and looking here and there. They got a clue that I have been going to some Hare Krishna Festival that the second festival 1972 and there was some advertisement, little ad that I left behind. I had left behind something in which there was Hare Krishna festival Juhu from such and such date. So, my brother came running and news I had received you have to come back!! You have to come back!! Otherwise mother may leave her body. You have to come back!! So, I, what to do, I did go back. I took permission from my president Giriraj Dasa brahmachari now Giriraj Swami Maharaja, temple president, he allowed me and I went back. But I had promised my temple president I'll be back!! I'll be back!! So, while I was back in my village a lot of things happened. They used to think, they were talking. Such a nice boy. He used to be such a nice boy. So that not nice he used to be nice but now he is mahatma, not nice. They were not even happy I was wearing dhoti and kurta. Although my parents and my brothers that was their attire. They wore it all lifelong but they wanted me to be the modern man be an Engineer this and that. Instead I became a Sadhu. So, they were not happy.

Jagannath Kirtanananda: So they were not happy. And am wondering those that join in, we have got over hundreds of you that are online right now on zoom chat I know through the



other; Facebook channels we have got quite a few more had joined . and I just want to hear from the students if you agree when you do the spiritual pathway and your feeling what my parents going to think am going to renounce everything of course spiritual life you got two ways of renunciation and also dove tailed it into your life as well. So, the two path so does anybody else have this though that how do I explain it to my parents to this type of spiritual activity.

So, this question Maharaja, I would say it's quite important and is something is nice that they hear it. It's not just to say everybody when it comes to it because at the end of the day people do not know what it is about. So, can I ask you Maharaja was there a turning point for your parents at some points where they started to accept it and they were more okay about it?

LNS: Well this is what happens parents turn anti and against and as more time passes on and then they become neutral, some more time passes on and they become favorable and as a result you know, now all my three brothers have become devotees they became my disciples and my sister and my whole village so many of my friends are my disciples. My parents, they were not again me practicing the Krishna Consciousness or going to the temple and then they say do this at home we will build a temple for you in the village why you are. This is a foreign organization they did not know what this international society is, who are these people these are some westerners you have join them. They have no knowledge of they all wanting me to become a normal person. You practice Krishna consciousness, this and that, be Hindu so that was fine but Krishna consciousness was though beyond that.

Jagannath Kirtanananda: Actually one comment came through from Vrindavani. My parent freaked out, I had to practice secretly for long time. Well done for your dedication, you know that saying, "You can take the village out of the boy but we cannot take the boy out of village." Here I've got a nice picture of

yourself and wanted to share with everyone. You are doing Hari Nama Sankirtan, youthful age with all these children, can you explain a little bit here Lokanath Maharaja.

LNS: This is Hare Krishna land Juhu Bombay and the first thing I was most impressed with Hare Krishna movement or Hare Krishnas was this Kirtana. That festival that I joined the American sadhus some European sadhus some English sadhus and chanting and dancing. And, they are doing all that with all their heart with all the strength and they are perspiring and they are totally oblivious to the surrounding and thousands of people watching but they do not care they were in their own world, so that impressed me the most. And so this is what I took away from this festival and this has become my life chanting and dancing and drumming and am serving those little children they are souls. So, Prabhupada taught me how to serve humanity. So, those children I am serving chanting, getting them to chant and dance. As I was even new devotee there.

JK: So one thing what's nice you told by Srila Prabhupada just want to come into it as I see some questions that Srila Prabhupada coming up. I would like to ask if I may is when it comes to Srila Prabhupada what it that struck you the most about Srila Prabhupada.

LNS: I think I already said one thing that, he showed me the way I wanted to serve I did not know how to serve and where to start all that. So, Prabhupada gave me the clue or the answer of my question, this was a big question and Prabhupada had answered or Krishna delivered that answer through Prabhupada. And the whole world including myself was impressed with Prabhupada's achievements that Prabhupada had gone to America and then all over and he had made Krishna devotee in 14 land and this is amazing thing. Even Prabhupada once said, Narada muni was amazed, Narada muni appeared in New York and as devotees was doing street kirtanA and Prabhupada was laughing. And why this smiling Prabhupada. So, Narada muni was amazed to see this westerners taking to Krishna consciousness and

practicing Krishna consciousness now Prabhupada had come with them. So India, imitating and following blindly the western lifestyle and the westerners and western values and here you go the westerners they are going for. They are going for, they are grabbing ancient India's culture I would say not the modern presently India culture is even worse than English culture or European American, am talking ancient culture Prabhupada got to practice that and they have become sadhus and no intoxication so these folks drink whatever instead of water drinking wine whisky or vodka for breakfast for lunch for dinner and they are only drinking charnamrita or only eating,

patram pushpam phalam toyam

No more matanam chikanam and this was amazing this so Prabhupada was revolutionary, he brought about revolutionary in consciousness the way people was thinking so, the whole display demonstration. So, that was very impressive what Prabhupada have achieved so, I was impressed now, then I decided right there that am going to follow this Swamiji. He is my guru he is my guide.

JK: The nice thing is that even here in the UK and different parts of Europe we have the Krishna consciousness society. So following Krishna Consciousness. So I would like to ask you what do you think Srila Prabhupada would say to this university group if he would speak to them right now?

LNS: You could have also say, you know, you English man you came to India and you have ruled India and while ruling you thought this is the wealth of India, these are some valuable items of India whatever you are viceroys, the ruler in India would think this is valuable you are grabbing bringing transporting that back to England you are looting India but Prabhupada would say, you know while doing that you know you English man or youth of England you viceroys you rulers. They are left behind with the most valuable items of India. There

are left behind and I have come to do the home delivery or use of, Europe England please accept those gifts. And they may ask what are those gifts what is such a valuable thing that our viceroys could not acknowledge or recognized and then Prabhupada would say again the ancient culture of India I have brought here. I have the knowledge. The wealth of knowledge of Gita, Bhagavatam, Vedas , Puranas this is the most ancient and not just revealed revelation to some sages, this was spoken directly by the Lord to Arjuna there is no revelation there is no instruction the knowledge that is in Bhagavad Gita, like Bhagavatam like Puranas like Vedas like. So I have come with that and I also have a this Maha Mantra for you.

‘Golokera Prema Dhan Hari Naam Sankirtanam’

500 years ago Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu came down from spiritual sky down to the earth and he chanted and he propagated the holy name and he also predicted that one day this holy name is going to reach every town every village of the world so I also have come with that gift of the holy name for you English man, English folk, English youth so please accepts these gift from India or Bharatvarsha I should say.

India is not one gentleman's getting the mike, he going to address the audience when he said I want to introduce myself I am not Indian I am Bharatiya I belong to Bharat Varsha not to India like any other country now. But Bharat is different.

Question: What is so good about ancient scripture why one study should or accept them?

Answer: That is the original source of knowledge there are different authorities, pramans and the Vedas is the praman and there is also pratiyeksha praman ; all that you got to see ,hear and how you get to know things that is called pratyaksha praman empiric knowledge, there is inference also ; pratyaksha anuman, and the Shashtra prahman , Vedas praman or shruti pramans so all evidences, the best one is Shruti praman you know by hearing by reading this is puruso vedas, one become

knowledgeable by reading those scriptures but Krishna says, god spoke. So, there is mundane knowledge vidya and avidya that kind of discrimination or distinction is made, but here knowledge and spiritual knowledge so what you are studying we all study I also learnt, learnt the matter, the knowledge of the matter, you study in college the physics chemistry would teach you cosmology or biology or all this is mundane material inferior but there is something spiritual superior knowledge and that source of knowledge is the scriptures, the Sastras.

Question: People practicing different faiths. So, if somebody is practicing Christianity, practicing Jewdesum, Islam, can we still connect to Krishna consciousness or is it that you have to practice Krishna Consciousness and that's it.

LNS : Well, again going back to 1971 pandal program the Hare Krishan festival, there were question answer sessions also going on there. And one Indian gentleman, he has to question to European sadhu and that Indian Hindu said 'oh these Hare Krishnas have converted you, you were Christian before now he have become a Hindu, and they have made you a Hindu'. And I remembered that European Sadhu very smart very impressive answer 'no no no I have become better Christian and he explained by practicing Krsna consciousness.

JK: So, Maharaj we've covered a bit about your life. We also talk about your upbringing and talked about this place to cross maidan festival which was of Pemital in your Krishna conscious life and your time with Srila Prabhupada and we are talking about just now different places. They if you belong to another faith guru then how can you utilize Krishna consciousness in those space and I think you were talking about that regardless our faith, you can utilize this process to help you go stronger in your own faith. So, your faith is being amazing you have been a spiritual leader for 45 years

LNS: I want to say is that there is nothing like your faith my faith or anyone else faith. Now this world have made your

faith my faith Christian faith Hindu faith we are all spirit souls we are all part and parcel and children of same god one god and there are different names and that we are born under different cultures and so called different religions these are external and temporary designations . So, Krishna consciousness other faith also will revive when you are involving revolving and Krishna consciousness is the goal of all faith that's why they have to get there is 100% others Prabhupada is to say reading other scriptures, we have bible if there is a trust is the science of God explained there that is for everybody, everybody on earth, so is Bhagavad Gita Science for everybody. There is physics chemistry biology, this is English chemistry you know, and the Indian chemistry and this is European, no, like mundane science is the same H<sub>2</sub>O oxygen this is everywhere so similarly if there is a science of God explain science of soul explain whatever this is explained.

It has to be the same, at some point the one God, we are all children of that one god and I guess as it going to say Prabhupada said some scripture are like a pocket dictionary and the Gita Bhagavatam Vedas Puranas are complete. Large volume, big dictionary. So all that is find in Bible or Khuran and all those scriptures that is in Vedas but also planned that is something in Vedas only and you cannot find them anywhere else. So there is some additional things more elaborate things. God is great, God is great!! Everyone says and Prabhupada would say somehow to find out how god is great and how great, why is he great, then he had to turn to Gita Bhagavad Puran there is a lot more information knowledge in depth you could find. So, the entrance, you enter through Bible, Khuran and keep going and you've reached Gita Bhagavad and keep moving.

JN: So please keep that faith and keep going make sure you do that with love and devotion. And talking about devotion, yourself Lokanath Maharaj, you've been a spiritual leader for

45 years you've been like a renunciate for that time what is this secret, what is any tips for all of us out there that can help us in our spiritual life to keep going that would be very great to hear from yourself.

LNS: Well, as I met my spiritual master His Divine Grace Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada ki jay. And I was around him for 6 – 7 years. He gave me lots of instructions, lot of services, lot of homework to do. So I had good site list, and I am just trying to follow his command, his wish is my command. So, he ask me to chant minimum 16 rounds daily and I keep doing that, I love to do that as he asked me to follow four regulative principles, am happily following those. Prabhupada gave me sanyasa made me monk and he asked me to travel and preach so sky is the limit when it comes to travelling and preaching I am doing the global chating, I do this because Prabhupada instructed me to do this or Lord wanted, the holy name of Lord spreads all over, I am pushing, I am playing my role to bring the holy name to more town to more village more countries. That's keeping me busy, Prabhupada wanted me to be exemplary and those who are under your care and ill set example before them and take care of them , look after them, see to their welfare. So, the hare Krishna movement is a big family so I have many of them to take care of. And I have thousands of disciples also more than 40 countries spread and taking care of them.

Srila Prabhupada wanted his disciples to write books so I keep doing that as Prabhupada asked me to do this padayatra festival and then we had padayatra going within India and once Prabhupada wrote to his disciple – my god brother Nityananda Prabhu from one farm in America he said Lokanath swami is travelling with a bullock cart sankirtana all over India very successfully we could have we could have millions of such carts all over the world.

Prabhupada was a big thinker. so that is keeping me busy to organize this bullock cart sankirtanan padayatra festival and

one time during 1996 when we were celebrating 100th birth anniversary of Srila Prabhupada my spiritual master, we did organize padayatra over 100 countries so like than on and on there was so much to do. So I think this what is keeping me busy and maybe this is a secret if you want to call it and that is keeping me on and on busy for us for 45 close to 50 now and counting.

JK: Yes its truly spectacular and such an inspiration for those that are starting their spiritual life or have been in spiritual life for some time and and I have a few really nice questions coming on...apology we can't get through all the questions but we are trying to get through as many as possible so please do keep them coming in. And this is from Parikshit das and he says and I can see him right now, I can see you right now there and he says: he says as many people are mentally struggling now with loneliness and social isolation during this lockdown, he says something that can help us deal with this?

LNS: We Hare Krishna are looking for opportunity to communicate with all those specially those who are feeling lonely, why be lonely. Be with Hare Krishna devotees or be with Krishna in fact be with god. So we Hare Krishna are just a click away a telephone call away. The world is like that in fact. Even if you are in the midst of lots of people you still feel lonely because you are missing something to something vacancy you are feeling vacancy feeling so, if you could fill in that gap and add Krishna in your life are and add some Hare Krishna devotees association to their lives. One could get rid of such loneliness and in the spiritual sky, kingdom of god we are surrounded or we are bombarded with association with the devotees with the souls. We are souls. So what we are really missing is that lifestyle. Be in the midst of other devotees of Krishna. Have Krishna consciousness that would be happier.

Souls that are missing and thirsty hungry for that but stop getting the right drink and right food we end up getting



something else and. I was in Bombay several years ago and I saw holding big billboard and I just looked at it and there was a young man-youth and what was he doing? He was. When he opened his chest and I looked inside, there was a limca bottle not Ram Lakshman Hanuman. Hanuman opened his heart there was Ram there. So we are missing Ram we are missing Krishna, we are Jehovah we are missing Allah. Devotees we are missing and not having met we feel lonely we feel vacancy and that has to be filled in and we are at service of such folks.

JK: I think it's been really great recently because of this pandemic is here but firstly I felt the world has come closer together because of zoom and all this internet activity- like how often everybody on this course would you get the chance to speak to a living breathing saintly person like Lokanatha Maharaj. This is for us this is the absolute real opportunity and maybe that is still the silver lining in the cloud right now. And so on this point that we are talking about. Association is key and so nice to have and a very auspicious number here Lokanatha Maharaj we've got on our zoom call a 108.

So we have 108 amazing individuals on this course so thank you to all of you for joining and if anything is resonating with you. Lokanath Maharaj is out there. Srila Prabhupada you'll have the padayatra and you'll have the kirtana ministry which we'll go on a bit afterward. I want to share a beautiful picture to you all. I just want to make sure before i do that because of the lovely wonders of technology. Keep on changing screen. Right ok here we go. Here we have you mentioned padayatra so just when going to someone initiative as you mentioned about Srila Prabhupada reaction to you doing padayatra – you were talking about that a bit as well. What is padayatra? I know it's happening in India but is there anywhere else in the world it's happening and what does it mean padayatra?

LNS: So, pad is feet and yatra is a festival so that is a

walking festival and we make it a festival and we chant and dance, not just walk. It's not a parade. We sing and chant and dance and as we meet people on the way we encourage them to chant and dance so we share this

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna  
Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

This maha mantra for deliverance. Well we want to make people wealthy by giving them this holy name. This is Prabhupada project. As Prabhupada grandchild, was thinking ways to propagate the holy name of the lord but how could Chaitanya Mahaprabhu prediction could come true.

Krishna appeared 500years ago as Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and he established this practice and propagated the dharma the religion for this age of kali which chanting the holy name of the Lord and all scriptures will say the same thing also. So Chaitanya Mahaprabhu want this to go to every towns and every villages all over the world on this planet we are talking. So, Srila Prabhupada came out with this project of padayatra walking festival. Here you see. Only vehicle I could drive is a bullock cart (laugh). My parents were also looking forward to you know. One day our son will become engineer he will ride a motorbike and he will come back riding on a motorbike and come back to the village but then you know one fine morning or one day, I came with so many hare Krishna devotees drove back in to my village on a bullock cart and so this is what I've been doing. My parents, I was kind of disappointed them when I came back in a bullock cart but this is Mahaprabhu this is god's program and that's the best program this the best means also transportation also-oxcart bullock cart ox power.

There is no pollution as a result. The global warming you know what's not happening. So this is padayatra-walking festival.

JK: How many kilometers since the birth of the padayatra festival-I talking about India you've been doing kilometers.

How many kilometers do you think the padayatra walking festival has covered so far to date.

LNS: Close to 300000 kms

JN: Wow that's a lot of walking. You know you have got those devices we people can track their movement – how many steps they've done. I tell all people doing padayatra walk could break the world recorded.

LNS: people would loves. Parsurama in England and in 1992 we started one walk. We started from Glasgow you know where that one is, we have to go to Moscow. One large group of European devotees-that padayatra was for European padayatra so 5 years to walk. I was there in the beginning I also was joining in the middle from time to time I was there to receive them in Moscow and that was one padayatra then we are the American padayatra and like all 100 countries padayatra and everyone loves padayatra. And this is the monks lifestyle so they'll like hare krishna style. They are impressed with hare krishna.

JK: I think one point was it that some devotees thinking "oh we'll have Volkswagen buses going around and Srila Prabhupada said no bullock cart" something like that came about.

LNS: We had 2 German buses we were already travelling with those buses but then those buses have to go back to Germany. They expired the car visa. So we were left with no other alternatives and our means of transportation that Prabhupada has. Bullock cart

LNS: Padayatra and sankirtana, I happily got down from the luxurious buses. I was back to where I belonged bullock cart. I was very happy and I am happy

JK: Simple living high thinking as the philosophy goes and you're practicing that even with then padayatra right now. And i may come on to. There's many questions coming through and really loving the questions, ok Maharaj there's a question

coming here- you joined Hare Krishna of your prime youth. How the same can be done today with the youth specially the current generation of Hare Krishna. Because talking about delusion or doing other things.. How can they have that kind of focus to do something great for the world or great for spiritual life or for themselves? So you say your motivation was humanity if I'm correct

LNS: Well you know we are GOD's we are Krishna's we are all souls. We should be giving ourselves back to Krishna. And don't foreseen it when i get old when, well when you get old you became rotten. And is that what you want to make rotten mango rotten things all things like that I will enjoy then. No give prime youth. Prahlada maharaja advise was you should be beginning from childhood .the whole social system social order of life. And life begins, practicing begins, at early age, as a youth, everyone but begin earlier. You cannot become monk like me, you could become grihasta you could become married man and still practice Krishna Consciousness. We are thousands and thousands of married youth couples that are practicing Krishna Consciousness and they are leading happy life. Hari Hari

JN: we have covered some points here. Maharaj, some people can be thinking okay signs me up that sounds great, let's do it but it's the Krishna conscious process is a hard process.

LNS: You want to listen to Krishna consciousness, 'su sukham kartamam gayam' happily perform Krishna consciousness Srila Prabhupada said 'nacho gao khao'. Dance, Sit down and listen to some Hari katha or Krishna Katha and enjoy Krishna Prasad. and for souls, soul enjoys and Krishna consciousness is for the soul not the body. There inconvenience but you know in Maharashtra the padayatra are very popular. So many groups they come five hundred thousand million people walk to Pandharpur. So, one of the devotee was interviewing he said: Asked the question how are the facilities for the question on this walk that you are doing and what is the facilities and

the gentleman said no facilities very minor facilities but I am happy. He said back in Pune lots of facilities but I was not happy. Happiness doesn't depend on the facilities. He performs some tapasya voluntary some inconvenience that would purify you and then unlimited joy happiness waiting for you. To remind you folks and friends If you want not suffer then do not go for enjoyment if you enjoy be prepared for suffering it's a complete package. You cannot get only enjoyment the tag goes along with sufferings. Sooner or later you will be suffering, the source of suffering is enjoying spirits. But that doesn't mean we don't want you to enjoy, yeah, the call is to enjoy but that enjoyment is Krishna Consciousness that makes you joyful, the joy process. We are happy, we make you happy and always happy. That's the beauty of this Krishna consciousness god consciousness. In the world happy unhappy sukha dukha this that ups downs but Krishna consciousness is only up you're happy forever. Stay high forever. That is your goal and that is every soul's goal to be happy forever.

JN: just for the university students, saying stay high doesn't mean we are not talking about the illegal substances just make it that clear. We are talking about chanting mantra meditation so stay high forever and in that point what you made about enjoyment means suffering has really touched many individuals. This is so great to have someone like yourself to speak about this spiritual life.

Question: when you meditate Lokanath Swami Maharaj how do you feel and what do you feel

LNS: I feel good waken up. And we talk of meditation. So, when I meditate when the Krishna devotees meditate we meditate on Krishna or we meditate on Radha Krishna. And who doesn't meditate, every individual in the world is meditating. Only choice is, whether you are meditating on Krishna or Maya. That's is the only difference otherwise you cannot, every single person must meditate. There is a whole list of as you do meditation on object or senses the worldly objects. Then

you develop attachment and the lust arises and then when you cannot fulfill that lust and never it could never be fulfilled. The fire become blazing fire and you cannot fulfill then you become angry and then you are lost and bewildered and lining down instead if you are meditation on Krishna then you are influenced by Krishna. Krishna's qualities. He is peace He is source of peace, so everyone meditate on him he is peaceful most peaceful person you also become peaceful. So that, during meditation there is a flow there is an energy there is a reciprocation between the meditator and the object of meditation and this is also called yoga or bhakti yoga. When you are meditating upon Lord form. So the whole influence the Lord is Sad Cit Ananda Vighraha He is personification of Ananda happiness the source of joy. So as you meditate even if you get few drops that is good enough we could get drown in those drops of nectar or joy or happiness. We may not also have that kind of reunion or complete fully absorbed or perfection of meditation but whenever or whatever degree we are able to focus communicate reciprocate. So that degree, then we develop that qualities of god we are children of god like father like son or like father like daughter also. And you experienced life that is experienced by those eternally liberated souls on the spiritual sky , high thinking also there and you got happy with that, you don't look for anything beyond that , there is nothing beyond.

JN: Thank you so much

LNS: So if you are feeling lonely, get in touch, if doesn't get in touch with me for your information there are lots of monks around you and your country by god' grace, or around the corner from you or just across the street find out. And that's what you need. And your soul is looking for that. And try chanting the Hare Krishna Maha Mantra, there are Bhagavad Gita for you check out, you'll see the difference of the depth and the details you'll find in the Gita and honor Krishna prasada you ll love it and devotee association monk association or hare Krishna devotees sadhus, or householders ladies and

gentleman they could also guide you and inspire you. You must need guidance. We are Hare Krishna there that can counsel you or guide you excels some helping hands. Remember whenever you are.