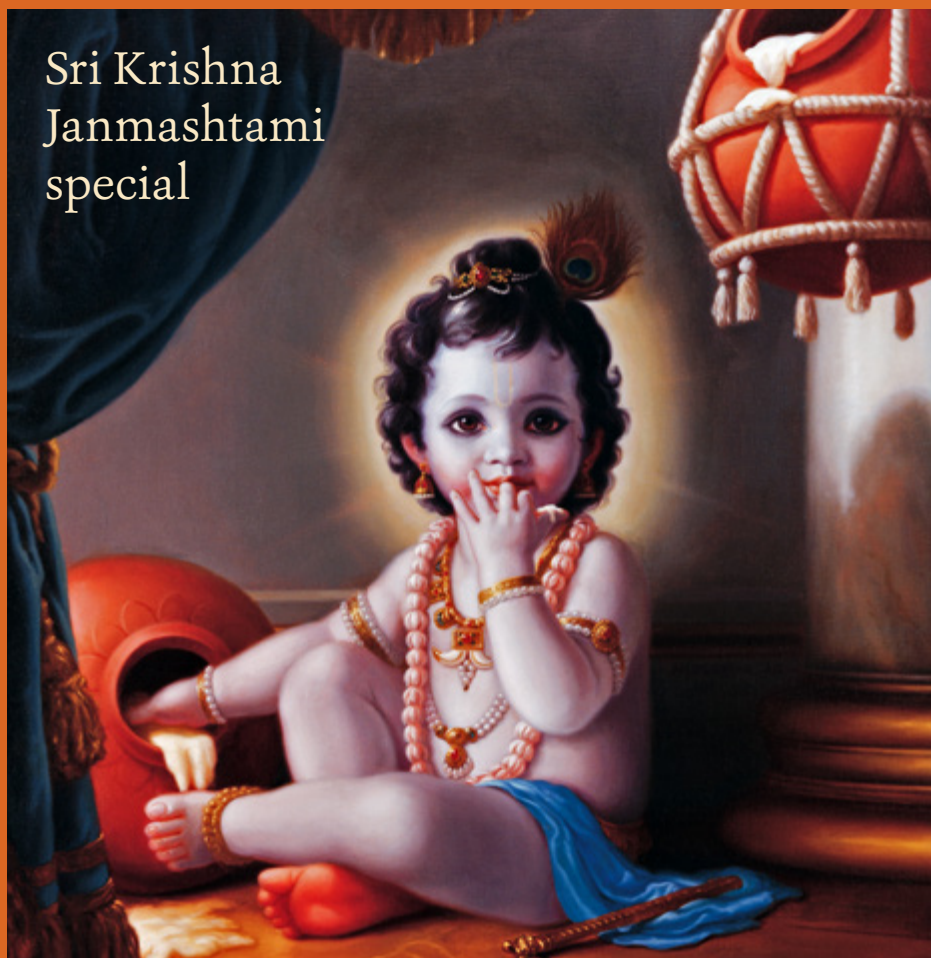


The Manor

Bhaktivedanta Manor Community Newsletter

Summer 2022

Sri Krishna
Janmashtami
special



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



“... one must act in such a way that he will always remember Krishna, and one must refrain from doing things that make him forget Krishna. These two principles form the basic background of Krishna consciousness.”

**CC Madhya 22.113,
Purport**

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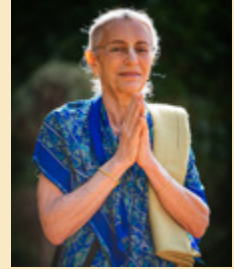
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BHAKTIVEDANTA
MANOR

Message from the Temple President



We at Bhaktivedanta Manor welcome you to a summer of joyous festivals, including: Sri Sri Radha Gokulananda's swing ceremony (Jhulan Yatra), Sri Balarama's appearance day, Srila Prabhupada's Appearance Day and the bathing ceremony of Jagannātha, Subhadra and Balarama (Snana Yatra).

We especially welcome you to Janmashtami, the annual festival honouring the anniversary of the appearance of Sri Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, which we at Bhaktivedanta Manor continue to observe in the most grand style. We don't see this magnificent occasion as a sectarian religious festival. Rather, it's our ongoing effort to fulfil the purpose of human life, namely (as beautifully and succinctly

described in the Bhagavat Purana), "to distinguish reality from illusion for the benefit of all".

Our lofty goal is to rise to the spiritual platform. Great predecessor spiritual teachers have assured us that this is possible, even for us. We're excited about our ambitious attempt and would be delighted to have you to join us on this transcendental adventure!

As our world totters on economic uncertainty and ecological crises, it's natural that we search for solutions and reconsider the best way we human beings can live. All of us have particular viewpoints on these pressing topics, and we also have the option of more fully understanding others' viewpoints. With this in mind, we humbly invite you to enter into the world of Sri Krishna and His unique devotees.

Visakha Dasi

Visakha Dasi

KRISHNA PHILOSOPHY

Who is Krishna? Questions & Answers

by Kripamoya Das



Although the name ‘Krishna’ may sound familiar to many, it is unlikely that most have had the opportunity to really comprehend the vastness that surrounds the term. Krishna is conceived by some as ‘God’ and by others as a ‘mythological’ character from eastern traditions. The ancient literature where Krishna features affirm that Krishna is the

original source of manifestations - both spirit and matter. Understanding why these wisdom books refer to Krishna not merely as ‘God,’ but as the ‘Supreme Personality of Godhead’, can change our outlook greatly. Specifically, one can gain invaluable insight into how the world functions, both outside of us, and within.

Was Krishna human?

No. A human being is a spirit soul inside a material body. Krishna’s body is spiritual, not material. Our body is made of material bones, muscles and blood, but the soul inside is spiritual. Our body and soul are completely different - one is composed of matter and the other is spirit. Krishna’s body is all spirit - all the way through. His body and soul is one and the same thing. Our body is born, lasts for 70-80 years, and then it disintegrates. That’s because every material thing is a temporary combination of molecules

and is in a state of perpetual flux. It comes into being in this specific formation, remains for some time, and then disappears. Krishna’s form always remains the same. It never becomes old and never changes. It is eternal. So Krishna is eternally in that form of Krishna, whether on the Earth 5,000 years ago, today, or 5,000 years in the future. Those who think that He is like them don’t understand Him, He says, because they imagine Him to be a mere human being with a body of flesh like theirs.

But Krishna has a human shape - doesn’t that mean that someone has imagined Him?

It is in fact the other way around. We have a ‘Krishna shape.’ Krishna isn’t a creation of human beings who imagine a God shaped like them. Humans are a creation of a God shaped like Krishna. Imagining God to be like a human being is called

anthropo-morphism; understanding that we are shaped like God is called theo-morphism - two very different ideas. Many people think that humans create God with their imagination, but it’s the other way round - God creates us with His.

How do we really know what Krishna looks like?

So many people saw Krishna while He was on this planet for more than one hundred years. There were millions of eyewitnesses. Images of Him were drawn and painted, and realistic sculptures created. These were later installed in temples. Other than this, there was poetry written and detailed descriptions of the measurements of His divine form. These were compiled and the measurements are still in use by members of the

shilpi community, those who carve images from marble or mould them from bronze. But Krishna Himself has revealed His form and nature to sages and saints even before He appeared in this world. So the main way we know is by studying all of the descriptions that appear in scriptures such as the Srimad Bhagavatam and Brahma Samhita. In the pages of those texts there exist many detailed descriptions.

Why is Krishna blue?

Krishna has no cause. He is the cause of all causes. So there is no 'why' for anything that He is. Everything He is, and everything He does is perfect and complete – and if we

adjust our perception to the reality of Krishna we can directly become attracted to Him and rapidly make progress on our spiritual journey.

There are many different religions in the world. Why do you say they all worship Krishna?

Everyone who acknowledges the existence of God and worships Him actually worships Krishna, but some don't know Him by that name and form. When we say 'God' we mean the origin of creation, the all-pervading, supremely sentient, most powerful, beautiful, all-knowing and attractive

person. By definition there can only be one God because there can only be one origin of everything, one supreme source. Since everyone, by whatever name they call God, is indicating the same person, everyone actually worships Krishna. In the Bhagavad-gita, the Lord says that



everyone is on the same path towards Him, but as they surrender to Him, He reveals Himself accordingly. Knowing that 'God is great' is one thing, knowing Him in truth is more,

and serving Him with devotion is more satisfying to the soul. Those who abandon all selfish interest are able to understand Krishna as He is.

But some religious people think of God as a 'mystery,' or as a 'divine white light.' Are they wrong?

No, they are also right. After all, if beauty, love, compassion, form and personality exist in this world, and if God is the origin of all of these, then surely these attributes must be present within Him. The rays of the Sun are made up of heat and light, and as such the Sun itself must possess heat and light. The closer you get towards the Sun, the more heat and light you encounter. Therefore, the closer you move towards God,

the more you experience the divine attributes. If one proposes that God is a 'mystery,' it indicates that one doesn't know God, and if one sees God as a 'divine white light,' it means that one has begun the journey towards Him. The divine white light is the preliminary stage of God-realisation - the sunshine of the absolute Sun. As you progress towards Krishna, His personality is revealed.

What is Krishna Consciousness?

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) is a worldwide community of devotees practicing bhakti-yoga, the eternal science of loving service to God. The Society was founded in 1966 by His Divine

Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, a pure devotee of God representing an unbroken chain of spiritual masters originating with Lord Krishna Himself. The following eight principles are the basis of the Krishna consciousness movement.



1

By sincerely cultivating a bona fide spiritual science, we can be free from anxiety and come to a state of pure, unending, blissful consciousness in this lifetime.

2

We are not our bodies but eternal spirit souls, parts and parcels of God (Krishna). As such, we are all brothers, and Krishna is ultimately our common father.

3

Krishna is the eternal, all-knowing, omnipresent, all-powerful, and all-attractive Personality of Godhead. He is the seed-giving father of all living beings, and He is the sustaining energy of the entire cosmic creation.

4

The Absolute Truth is contained in all the great scriptures of the world. However, the oldest known revealed scriptures in existence are the Vedic literatures, most notably the Bhagavad-gita, which is the literal record of God's actual words.

5

We should learn the Vedic knowledge from a genuine spiritual master—one who has no selfish motives and whose mind is firmly fixed on Krishna.

6

Before we eat, we should offer to the Lord the food that sustains us. Then Krishna becomes the offering and purifies us.

7

We should perform all our actions as offerings to Krishna and do nothing for our own sense gratification.

8

The recommended means for achieving the mature stage of love of God in this Age of Kali, or quarrel, is to chant the holy names of the Lord. The easiest method for most people is to chant the Hare Krishna mantra: Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare.

God has an unlimited variety of names. Some of them—Jehovah, Adonai, Buddha, and Allah—are familiar to us, while the names Krishna and Rama may be less so. However, whatever name of God we may accept, all scriptures enjoin us to chant it for spiritual purification.

Muhammad counseled, “Glorify the name of your Lord, the most high” (Koran 87.2). Saint Paul said, “Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:13). Lord Buddha declared, “All who sincerely call upon my name will come to me after death, and I will take them to Paradise” (Vows of Amida Buddha 18). King David

preached, “From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised” (Psalms 113:3). And the world’s oldest scriptures, the Vedas of India, emphatically state, “Chant the holy name, chant the holy name, chant the holy name of the Lord. In this age of quarrel there is no other way, no other way, no other way to attain spiritual enlightenment” (Brhan-naradiya Purana).

The special design of the Hare Krishna chant makes it easy to repeat and pleasant to hear. Spoken or sung, by yourself or in a group. Hare Krishna invariably produces a joyful state of spiritual awareness—Krishna consciousness.

“Chant the holy name, chant the holy name, chant the holy name of the Lord. In this age of quarrel there is no other way, no other way, no other way to attain spiritual enlightenment”



Tree of Devotion



The glory of a tree is displayed in its beautiful crown which contributes something unique to the world. Our 'Tree of Life' exists so we can also offer something back. Spiritual life is not simply about stillness and contemplation; our inner transformation should inspire practical, spiritual activities dedicated towards making a positive difference.

The trunk provides shape, support and connects all elements of the tree together. In the same way, the backbone of our 'Tree of Life' is the community, camaraderie and relationships we form. The empowering company of sincere seekers and practitioners is an indispensable ingredient of spiritual success.

Roots perform the invaluable task of absorbing nutrients and water. Our 'Tree of Life' also requires strong roots to nurture powerful growth. Through that supply of inspiration we develop spiritual vision and infuse meaning and purpose into everything we do.

Volunteering

Krishna Food

Manor Farming

Outreach

Manor Mentorship

Spiritual Gatherings

School of Bhakti

Krishna Wisdom

Pandava Sena

Krishna Club

Krishna Education

Roots



School of Bhakti

School of Bhakti share empowering wisdom and impactful spiritual techniques via courses for the modern-day seeker.



Krishna Wisdom

Krishna Wisdom organises events which provide a comfortable atmosphere for newcomers to explore their spirituality.



Pandava Sena

Pandava Sena offers the youth an opportunity to 'live a life less ordinary!' A youth group that is passionate about transforming hearts.



Krishna Club

Spiritual Sundays for kids, where 4-13 year-olds learn spiritual wisdom, life values, and practical skills to help them in their life's journey.



Krishna Education

The Gurukula, the Manor Pre-School, and Avanti Trust all provide spiritual and educational foundations for the youth.

Get involved in a spiritual opportunity.
Visit krishnatemple.com/devotion

Trunk



Manor Mentorship

Mentors are role models who have progressed on their spiritual journey and have volunteered to assist others to do the same.



Spiritual Gatherings

Find a group that suits your needs. Whatever stage your Krishna consciousness is at, friendship and association are vitally important.



Crown

Volunteering

A great way to be part of the community. You will pick up some amazing skills and make life-long friends.



Sacred Food

Offered food, called prasadam, is considered to be 'the mercy of the Lord' that nourishes the body and transforms the consciousness.



Manor Farming

New Gokul Farm is a fresh approach to farming in the modern world. A place where cows are sheltered and protected throughout their lives.



Manor Outreach

There are many ways to spread Krishna consciousness, including harinam, kirtan programs, book distribution, and more.

Inviting you to serve

We humbly request you to assist this magnificent endeavour. Its success over the decades is due to the heartfelt service and support offered by its countless well-wishers. The result of offering service to Sri Sri Radha Gokulananda is direct and tangible improvement in our spiritual life.



Nitya Seva

Annual seva on your behalf. On the day of your choice, the offerings, puja and worship will be performed on your behalf.



Bhoga

Every day six offerings of food are made to the Lord. You can sponsor any of these six offerings on a day of your choice.



Arati

The arati ceremony is part of the public worship of the Deities. You can sponsor any of the seven aratis on a day of your choice.

Visit krishnatemple.com/donate



Prasadam Seva

One of the most important and pleasing forms of giving is annadana, the sharing of food with others. Daily prasadam can be sponsored.



Godan

Contribute to the continued care of the cows and oxen, of which there are over 60 residing on the Farm providing milk and work on the land.



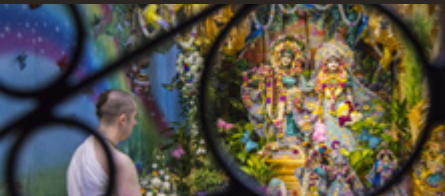
Devotion at home

You can invite the temple residents to your home for their association, spiritual discussions, kirtan, and prasadam.



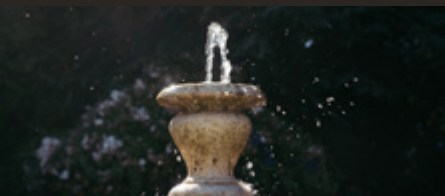
Samskaras

There are many religious ceremonies performed during one's life, and these ceremonies are known as samskaras. Helping make life sacred.



Bereavement

Our priests can conduct funeral ceremonies at the house of the deceased and at the crematorium. Bringing Krishna into the final rites.



Legacy

Your support can continue after your departure. By leaving a gift to Bhaktivedanta Manor in your Will, then your offerings can continue.

An incredible moment for the Manor, a glorious step for a dear monk

In a packed Haveli including a wide range of devotees and well-wishers from across Europe, on 26th June Sutapa Das accepted the holy renounced order of sannyasa. In the presence of Jayadvaita Swami Swami, Indradyumna Swami, Dayananda Swami and other seniors, Sutapa's spiritual master Kadamba Kanana Swami ceremoniously

awarded him the name Svayam Bhagavan Keshav Maharaj. We pray for the onward journey of our home-grown spiritual pioneer, in this new chapter of his life. May he continue to inspire and transform people's lives around the world but also continue to grace the Manor community with his presence.





New ISKCON temple in Stoke-on-Trent

With help from the local community, a deposit was raised to purchase a former 7th Day Adventist Church building for a great new ISKCON Temple in Stoke-on-Trent.

Dignitaries at the official opening of the centre included Joe Gideon MP and Lord Mayor of Stoke, Cllr Chandra Kanneganti. The North ISKCON UK Governing Body Commission representative

was Dayananda Swami.

The community space is for kirtan, vegan and vegetarian cooking, workshops, yoga and of course the Sunday program, which is from 12noon to 2pm.

There is also a food distribution program, which has already served thousands of free meals to hostels and a women's refuge in Newcastle and Stoke-on-Trent.



Gurukula's 'Good' news

At the end of March 2022, OFSTED visited for a full inspection of the Gurukula - The Hare Krishna Primary School. Thanks to all the hard work of all the staff and community the school officially received a 'Good' rating, which affirms a positive transformation has taken place.



"Bow down Mister, Hare Rama Hare Krishna"

Famous singer Boy George, veteran pop group The Rubettes, devotees and others performed their best hits at the Sri Krishna Haveli to raise money for the ISKCON's Inisrath Temple in Northern Ireland.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Devotees in the Communications and Outreach departments at Bhaktivedanta Manor embraced the national mood during the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend 2nd - 5th June. They participated in a variety of local and interfaith events in respect of the Queen's '70 years of

service' as Monarch and the Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

Events included: Lighting the Beacon with VIPs and interfaith representatives, henna, booklet distribution and free cupcakes at community celebrations in Letchmore Heath and Radlett.



Hare Krishna's at Glastonbury Music Festival

After a two year gap, the iconic Glastonbury Music Festival was back in full-swing during the latter half of June. The Hare Krishna Tent was fully operational for the 5 full days as the UK Festival team, in collaboration with Food For All, offered a healthy package of mantra music, tasty veggie

meals, wisdom, books and darshan. The tent received a constant stream of pilgrims, many of whom relaxed within the calming devotional atmosphere. It was like an oasis within the huge festival. Feeling the love of Lord Caitanya's devotees, guests were overwhelmed with gratitude.



Ratha Yatras in Cassiobury Park, Watford

After local devotees gathered en masse along Watford's bustling high street for hari nama chanting, for the first time they made their way to the park's entrance to greet the cart carrying Jagannath, Baladev and Subhadra. After a joyous Ratha Yatra procession around the park, a

feast was served to everyone as they were serenaded with kirtan from a beautifully decorated bandstand.

The community children also held their own Ratha Yatra through the park, spreading more joy amongst the park-goers.



Three new cows on the Farm

Members of the New Gokul Farm team are delighted to have welcomed three new beautiful cows into the herd, arriving to the sanctuary from another farm. At New Gokul Farm they'll live a peaceful life, full of care and love.



First Summerfest at Bhaktivedanta Manor

In July we saw a new and exciting summer festival. The event included devotional market stalls, prasad, a music stage and most notably a Festival of Colours. 4000 guests enjoyed their visit on that particularly warm and sunny day.



Graduates of Bhakti Vaibhava

After attending weekly classes between 2018 and 2021, keen students of the Bhakti Vaibhava course received their graduation certificates from Krishna Ksetra Swami.

The course builds upon the foundation of Bhakti Sastri studies, covering Cantos 1-6 of the Srimad Bhagavatam. It allows students

to explore many aspects of the scripture, with a special focus on applying it in their everyday lives.

Bhakti Vaibhava is held in partnership with ISKCON's Mayapur Institute and Navadvip Chandra Das has been teaching it at Bhaktivedanta Manor and ISKCON London for ten years now.



Running for Krishna

In June, Bhaktivedanta Manor Guest House manager, Deon Moodley, completed no less than three half-marathons to raise funds for the department. He 'ran for Krishna' in St Albans, Derbyshire and Redditch.



The Art of Living

Swami Purnachaitanya and friends made a special visit to Bhaktivedanta Manor as part of his European tour. He is Director of Programs for the Art of Living and is an author, speaker, and spiritual guide.

Want to lend a hand?

Volunteering is a great way to get involved and be part of the community. You will pick up on some amazing skills, it will look great on your resume, and we will get the help we need to make sure that we keep providing the spiritual inspiration that our visitors need. Plus, you will benefit from being part of our spiritual community groups and make lifelong friends.



Below are some examples of volunteering you could do:

- Cleaning
- Computers and geeky stuff
- Distributing and serving food
- Distributing books and placing them in various institutions
- Gardening and helping maintain the grounds
- Greeting guests and helping with queries
- Helping in the car park
- Helping prepare delicious feasts in the kitchen
- Maintenance and DIY
- Office admin tasks
- Organic farming and milking cows
- Serving at the Gift Shop

Find a service for you at
krishnatemple.com/volunteer

Illuminate your journey by taking part in a course



School of Bhakti is here to share with you the ancient wisdom of the Vedas and eastern philosophy with an aim to bring about an internal change. If you are looking for a course to help in your development and understanding of spirituality, wellbeing, and Krishna consciousness, then there are various courses available through School of Bhakti. They including Gita Life, which takes you through the Bhagavad-gita, an Introduction to Ayurveda, to gain better understanding of how to improve or maintain your health, or you could go for an immersive residential experience by taking up the Be a Monk challenge.

50th Anniversary of Bhaktivedanta Manor in 2023



2023 will mark the 50th Anniversary of Bhaktivedanta Manor. A spiritual sanctuary for so many; it has been a home, a place of worship, a place of ceremony, and much more - and it will remain to be so as we also look forward to the next 50 years. There will be many events to mark this special landmark in Bhaktivedanta Manor's history as we reflect on our past, appreciate what has been achieved, and look ahead to our future.