

Hare Krishna! I am very excited to share with you Transcendence, our monthly newsletter. This newsletter is for you! It is for you to keep abreast of all the festivities and celebrations at ISKCON Chicago and to periodically highlight some of the stories from our outreach services to the community of the greater Chicago land area and its neighboring areas. You will get more insights from our thematic articles each month and learn about Krishna consciousness in general. Our goal is to make our newsletter your doorway into ISKCON Chicago. We welcome to you step in and explore with us. Thank you!

Nityananda Pran das, President

The timeless relevance of JANMĀṢṬAMĪ

HH Romapada Swami, GBC

Apart from His līlā, there is no question of Krishna entering into the womb of Devakī, or of Krishna being born. Krishna is all-pervading throughout time! As the soul is never created nor destroyed, Krishna is never created nor destroyed. His abode is never created nor destroyed. His pastimes are never created nor destroyed. There is some period of time when His pastimes are manifest, and then again not manifest.

We may speak about the appearance of Krishna that took place 5,000 years ago in a tract of land known as Mathurā or Vṛndāvana, but although this event took place 5,000 years ago, there's no question of it being outdated or something unfashionable. Our modern way of life may distance us from that reality - from absolute reality - but that's a matter of consciousness, not a matter of time. The relevance of observing Janmāṣṭamī, an event that took place 5,000 years ago, is something one may try to narrowly restrict as having taken place once-upon-a-time at some distant date - thus, not His nitya-līlā only when one is in the bodily concept of life.

The features of time and space are relevant only in this material world. Here is a nice example to illustrate this fact.

"The features of time and space are relevant only in this material world."



When you visit Vṛndāvana you may see Nanda-grāma, the home from which Krishna departed every morning. Nanda-grāma is a long distance from Rāmaṇareti, where Krishna and His cowherd friends would often herd Nanda Maharaja's calves during the daytime. Nanda-grāma is also distant from the places where they would go swimming, like at Kāliya Ghāṭ in the village of Vṛndāvana. Then after lunch the cowherd boys would go to Govardhan Hill, and then some further distance to Varsana, where Krishna would tease the gopis as they were carrying pots of butter on their heads. To travel all these distances by automobile or bus takes practically a whole day, yet we read that Krishna would cover these vast distances in such a short time. Marveling at this, his disciples once asked Śrīla Prabhupāda how was it possible for Krishna to travel these great distances. Prabhupāda first jokingly said, "Maybe His stride was very long." After the devotees appreciated Śrīla Prabhupāda's humor, he added, "Maybe He ran very fast." Then he explained that Vṛndāvana is just like a lotus flower which

opens in the daytime and closes in the evening. To travel from one distant place to another is not very difficult as the lotus of Vṛndāvana is opening and closing, according to Krishna's will. Krishna's will is like the sun, and Vṛndāvana is like the lotus. By this method distances can be diminished or expanded, according to His will.

"Krishna is all-pervading throughout time! As the soul is never created nor destroyed, Krishna is never created nor destroyed... His pastimes are never created nor destroyed."

With mundane eyes, we are not observing the opening and closing of the lotus of Vṛndāvana, nor are we able to perceive the pastimes of Krishna as they are being performed eternally in the land of Vṛndāvana. Someone with ordinary vision will only see dust and rocks, trees and forests, roads and houses. They will not see anything special about



the land of Vṛndāvana. Similarly, they will not see the appearance of Krishna as something very wonderful, in fact something timeless, and although it truly is.

Upcoming ...

2 Sept., 2010

Śrīla Prabhupāda Vyāsa Pūjā

Reading of Offerings

Guru Puja

Pushapanjali

Lunch (break fast)

4 Sept., 2010

Annada Ekadasi

5 Sept., 2010

Break fast: 5:21 - 9:40 am

15 Sept., 2010

Rādhāṣṭamī

Maha abhishek

Lecture

Maha aartika

Lunch (break fast)

18 Sept., 2010

Parsva Ekadasi

19 Sept., 2010

Break fast: 5:35 - 9:42 am



Prabhupāda's Corner

*Excerpt from Śrīla Prabhupāda Lilāmṛta
Chapter Nineteen, Planting the Seed
September 8, 1966, New York*

Janmāṣṭamī day, the appearance day of Lord Kṛṣṇa. One year before, Prabhupāda had observed Kṛṣṇa's birthday at sea aboard the *Jaladuta*, just out of Colombo. Now, exactly one year later, he had a small crew of Hare Kṛṣṇa chanters. He would gather them all together, have them observe a day of chanting, reading scripture, fasting, and feasting—and the next day would be initiation.

For observing Janmāṣṭamī there were special rules; there should be no eating, and the day was to be spent chanting, reading, and discussing Kṛṣṇa Consciousness.

At six o'clock, Prabhupāda came down and was about to give his morning class as usual, when one of the boys asked if he would read from his own manuscript. Prabhupāda appeared shy, yet he did not hide his pleasure at having been asked to read his own Bhagavad-gītā commentary. Usually he would read a verse from Dr. Radhakrishnan's Oxford edition of the Gītā. Although the commentary presented impersonalist philosophy, the translations, Prabhupāda said, were ninety-percent accurate. But this morning he sent Roy up to fetch his manuscript, and for an hour he read from its typewritten pages.

For observing Janmāṣṭamī there were special rules; there should be no eating, and the day was to be spent chanting, reading, and discussing Kṛṣṇa Consciousness. If anyone became too weak, he said, there was fruit in the kitchen. But better that they fast until the feast at midnight, just like the devotees in India. He said that in India, millions of people—Hindus, Muslims, or whatever—observed the birthday of Lord Kṛṣṇa. And in every temple there were festivities and celebrations of the pastimes of Kṛṣṇa.

Bhagavad - gita for Children

Naperville
Nirantara dasa & Premananda dasi
(630) 753 9676
Sunday - 9:30 to 11:30 am

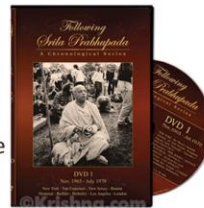
Harinaam Sankirtan

Devotees meet every Saturday at 1:30pm outside the temple's entrance to go on harinaam. For further details, please contact
Jaya Jagannatha das: (773) 829 1936.



Prabhupāda Nights

Local devotees meet every Saturday from 7:15pm-8:00pm to watch *Following Śrīla Prabhupāda*. For further details, please contact
Nityananda Pran das
(847) 452 7753.



Bhakti Vriksha

Palatine
Vibhu Caitanya Das & Radha Priya dasi
(847) 818 8193
Friday - 7:00 to 9:30 pm

Arlington Heights
Gajendra & Renu Shekhawat
(847) 797 1858
Friday - 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Skokie
Bhailal Patel Prabhu
(224) 522 2666

IIT, Chicago
Nityananda Pran das & Hemangi dasi
(847) 452 7753
Friday - 12:30 to 2:30 pm

South-side, Chicago
Gaura Mani das & Syama Priya dasi
(773) 978 4590
Saturday - 6:30 to 8:30 pm

DePaul University, Chicago
Jaya Jagannatha das
(773) 829 1936
Monday - 4:30 to 6:30 pm

Northwestern University,
Evanston:
Jaya Jagannatha das
(773) 829 1936

Milwaukee
Ramesh and Sailaja Bhatt
(262) 923 1393

Naperville
Sri Vallabha das and Rucira dasi
(630) 995 3039
Sunday - 9:30 to 11:30 am

Ratha-Yātrā 2010....



Iskcon Chicago celebrated Ratha-Yātrā on July 25th. Approximately 1,000 people from different parts of the United States participated in the event. Devotees are excited at the possibility of taking the parade along Loyola Park beach in 2011!

For more pictures, visit
www.iskconchicago.com

Do you have a story or suggestion for the next issue? Please contact: transcendence@iskconchicago.com

We request you to update your contact information with us at www.iskconchicago.com/contact.aspx.