

Sri Gaudiya Darshan

(THE DEVOTIONAL OFFERING OF SRI CHAITANYA SARASWAT MATH, NABADWIP)

Founded by Srila B. R. Sridhar Maharaj & edited by Srila B. S. Govinda Maharaj

1995 JAGANNATHDEV RATHAYATRA EDITION

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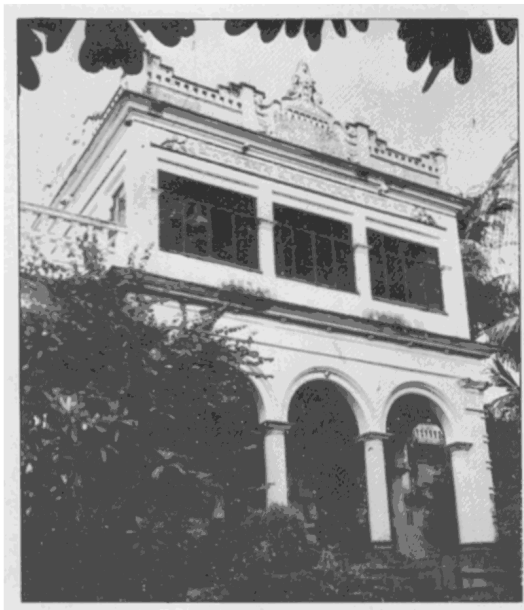
The Devotional Magazine of Śrī Chaitanya Saraswat Math, Nabadwip

Jagannathdev's Rathayatra Edition 1995—Centenary Year of Śrīla Bhakti Raksak Śrīdhar Dev-Goswāmi Mahārāj





**Ananta-Sri-Vibhusita Om Visnupad
Paramahansa-Mukut-Mani-Jagad-Guru
Sri Srimad Bhakti Raksak Sridhar Dev-Goswami Maharaj**



Left: The cover photograph of the
Gaura-purnima Edition 1995:
Front view looking up to
'Sri Sridhar Swami Bhajan Dham'
the residence (upstairs) of
Sri B.R. Sridhar Dev-Goswami Maharaj
for the last years of his manifest pastimes.

**Cover photo of this
Jagannathdev's Rathayatra Edition 1995:
Entrance to Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math.**



Sri Gaudiya Darshan



The Devotional Magazine of Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math, Nabadwip

Jagannathdev's Rathayatra Edition 1995



Walls and pillars grow as the Centenary Hall takes shape.

Centenary Hall goes up

Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaj's dedication to Srila Guru Maharaj, Srila Bhakti Raksak Sridhar Dev-Goswami Maharaj, is manifesting a spiritual Memorial to His Divine Grace in the form of a grand four storey building, the ground floor of which will be the Centenary Memorial Hall.

Under Srila Govinda Maharaj's

watchful eye the construction work is progressing steadily and, despite the recent arrival of the rains, the walls and pillars are growing day by day.

Srila Maharaj is eager for its quick manifestation, and he is hopeful that the Memorial Hall will be ready in time for an official opening at the culmination of Srila Guru Maharaj's Centenary Celebrations on 18th October this year.

Enthusiasm and fresh hearts by broad preaching

It is with joy that the Math has in recent weeks received several new devotees keen to dedicate their energy for the service of Sri Sri Guru-Gaurāṅga-Gandharva-Govindasundarjīu. The way Mahāprabhu selects His servitors and brings them to the Math is practically

unique for each person. The main influx, however, has come through the additional preaching during this Centenary Year.

Srila Govinda Maharaj has laid much stress in India and worldwide on the importance of distributing the mes-

Major Russian inroads

Srila Govinda Maharaj is most pleased to hear from Sripad Bhakti Ananda Sagar Maharaj of the great success of his recent preaching tour in Russia. The response was very enthusiastic. As a result of the tour, the devotees are preparing for Srila Govinda Maharaj himself to go to Russia in the summer of 1996. In the meantime they are hopeful that Sripad Sagar Maharaj may visit them again soon.

See World Diary, report page 32

100 cities for Centenary

Around the world the concentrated effort for increasing service during this Centenary Year is particularly evident. One example is given in a recent letter to Srila Govinda Maharaj from Vraja Mohini Devi Dasi. She mentioned that the U.S. Ladies' preaching party's activities are going on "with the goal of preaching in at least 100 cities, towns and villages and with the hopes of meeting many new people, distributing flyers, pamphlets and books, giving slide shows and showing videos of Your Divine Grace."

The land of the Long White Cloud

A report from our representative visiting New Zealand

BY SRIPAD BHAKTI SVARUP TRIDANDI MAHARAJ

My plane arrived at Auckland airport after a gruelling flight from London of twenty two hours, non-stop except for a three hour wait in Tokyo's Narita airport lounge. At the arrival gate a happy reunion with Godbrother, Namacharya Prabhu, and his good friend and a disciple of Srila Govinda Maharaj, Purnabrahma Prabhu, began our visit.

Travelling from the airport west of the city up to Waimauku in the north took perhaps 40 minutes during which we all caught up on the latest news eagerly given, and sometimes extracted, from each other, with some excitement.

In much of New Zealand the sky is nearly always blue and it contains long white clouds apparently unmoving, like mountains—hence the Maori name for the land, Otea-rua, 'Land of the Long white Cloud.'

Arriving at Namacharya Prabhu's home, a large bungalow set off the road up a drive in gentle rolling hills, we refreshed ourselves and took *Prasadam* with the family. Later that evening ten or fifteen devotees arrived and we had a nice programme of *kirttan*, discussion and *Prasadam* during which we all met each other and it was a happy exchange.

As Srila Sridhar Dev-Goswami Maharaj described it, "One is enquiring and one is explaining, and in this way both are getting some energy." This indeed was the real reason I had come, to serve the good souls here by trying to help them understand and appreciate the sublime thought of our Sri Gurus. Through that I was also being taken somewhere and shown something! Many of the glorious points of the teachings of our *Sri Guru-varga* were thoroughly discussed over the full five weeks of my visit to New Zealand.

A twice weekly programme is held in the house of Namacharya Prabhu which presently serves as the *Sangha's* meeting place, at which during my visit gradually forty to fifty devotees attended. Sometimes we visited devotees in their homes and that was very happy also, because the devotees felt they 'had you to themselves' in a more intimate way than was possible in the bigger programmes.

Many questions came and they were mainly to do with how to adjust and readjust in devotional life within the 'mundane' environment, pressures of daily life, family life, etc. There was no doubt that the grace of Srila Govinda Maharaj was coming to enlighten every place of doubt or confusion, and harmonize everything in a progressive way. Several devotees were previously connected to teachers of other Krsna missions and after the absence of their teacher they had been going on somehow, waiting and hoping. In the last two years or so they had been getting light from the holy association of Namacharya Prabhu after his return to New Zealand.

Intense hankering

By the grace of Srila Govinda Maharaj everything nicely came together at our meetings and there was a great intensity of hankering by many of the devotees for His Divine Grace's connection. They received his Grace at two functions, one on the Ekadasi day of Gaura-purnima week, and the other

larger programme was held on the day of Sri Gaura-purnima itself. All arrangements were very nice, and presently Srila Govinda Maharaj blessed all the devotees and the names they received.

Ideal hosts

All our time was spent in the service of the Lord. During the days we went out for '*bhiksha*' to shops and houses locally and around the city, and during the evenings we were engaged in *kirttan* and discussion. In addition we visited the northern tip of the island to see some devotees who had become disappointed with their previous 'devotional connection' and were living in a remote farmstead in the bush. Travelling south



Sripad Tridandi Maharaj with New Zealanders

we visited several devotees living in the town of Whakatane.

I found all the devotees to be very sincere, and in general I found the New Zealanders to be friendly and uncomplicated. They were ideal hosts and when the time came for me to leave it was an emotional parting, and they bound me with a happy promise that I must return there later in the year!

May Sri Gauranga Mahaprabhu and His divine associates and servitors bless them, and us all.

Warm welcome

It will come as no surprise to those who have read the reflections of Simon Green in the last issue of this newsletter, that he shortly afterwards received the holy connection of Srila Govinda Maharaj. He has been blessed with the name Kesavananda Das.

In this edition of **Sri Gaudiya Darshan**, he has written a further article about his visit to Nabadwip. All the devotees join together to welcome him, as well as the several other recently initiated devotees around the world, within the family of Srila Govinda Maharaj.

See 'Nabadwip Parikrama' page 4

Huge international response

Dispatches and articles bring an extra bonus

The enthusiastic reaction from the devotees around the world to send regular news reports of their local activities has proved a great source of satisfaction for Srila Govinda Maharaj in addition to giving inspiration and strength to many good souls worldwide. Some of the reports are very detailed and include the role of each and every devotee. Although it is not practical to publish everything within these pages, every word is heard directly by Srila Govinda Maharaj and he is greatly pleased to receive these details. So please do keep writing, and know that your endeavours to compile such reports are most worthwhile and appreciated. The satisfaction they bring Srila Gurudev is a great joy to see.

Dispatches pages 27 to 37

Bustling preaching activity

Village to village

Here in India several preaching parties are engaged in a multitude of activities to increase the broadcasting of the glories of Srila Guru Maharaj and his Mission headed by Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Maharaj during this Centenary Year. Of particular note is the special effort of Sripad Bhakti Prasun Aranya Maharaj who despite his advanced age is whole-heartedly preaching from village to village with the devotees of our Math. In this way he is distributing—and receiving—much enthusiasm, and he is very successfully leading *sankirtan* throughout Bengal. Since the time of Srila Guru Maharaj, Sripad B.P. Aranya Maharaj has been engaged every month in this service, and now he is increasing it even more. On his

most recent travels he distributed invitations for Srila Guru Maharaj's Viraha Festival—the Festival of His Divine Grace's Disappearance.

In the area around Calcutta, Sripad Bhakti Prapanna Tirtha Maharaj has similarly increased the activities of our *sankirtan* parties. They have been spreading Krsna consciousness in various areas of the city as well as in nearby towns and villages. He has been engaged in this way in addition to fulfilling his ever-increasing responsibilities entailed in the running of our Dum Dum Park Temple.

Srila Govinda Maharaj has specifically expressed much satisfaction to see all the increased preaching activities during this special year.

Also see *Local Diary* page 18



More travels soon?

Around the whole world the devotees are expressing their ever-increasing thirst for the association, guidance and blessings of His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaj. His Divine Grace is known and respected for his exclusive dedication to the continuation of the preaching Mission of Srila Guru Maharaj, and he is continually giving gracious encouragement to sincere seekers world-wide.

Now that the Memorial Hall is healthily manifesting above ground-level, Srila Maharaj's attention is being more and more drawn to the sincere prayers of the devotees abroad for his association.

It is Srila Govinda Maharaj's own expressed wish to go at least to South Africa and Mauritius soon. He has voiced that he may be accompanied on the tour by the Math Secretary, Prabhu Purnananda. Sripad Bhakti Ananda Sagar Maharaj, Srila Maharaj's constant friend and dedicated servitor, is also to accompany him. Preliminary arrangements are already under way.

Centenary Vyasapuja delight

Joyful enthusiasm emanates from His Divine Grace Srila B.S. Govinda Maharaj whenever he hears of anyone's plans to come to Nabadwip for this year's Sri Vyasapuja Festival of Srila Guru Maharaj in October. Already many groups, families and individuals have communicated with Srila Maharaj confirming their travel arrangements. The expected count from abroad may be upwards of 300 persons, and if Srila Maharaj hears of more, he's delighted!

Above all it is his holy wish that as many as possible can come, so as to make the greatest success of *sankirtan*: the congregational glorification of Srila Guru Maharaj. May Lord Krsna help give everyone that chance... See page 37

Sri Nabadwip Dham Parikrama 1995

Personal reflections on this year's festival

BY PRABHU KESAVANANDA

Thinking to write something of my experiences on this year's Sri Nabadwip Dham *Parikrama*, I came to the conclusion that I could express my realisations better by looking at the event as a whole, rather than a simple list of places visited—first we went here, then we went here, then here, etc.

Two views

I had previously heard from other devotees some views of the *parikrama* and festivities: 'Oh I don't like festival time, it's too busy,' 'I prefer the Math when it's nice and quiet,' 'There are too many people and it's too hectic,' were the sort of remarks I had heard and could sympathise with. The previous year I had taken part in the *parikrama* organized from another Temple. I went along with twelve hundred other devotees from around the world, so I could certainly relate to the word 'hectic.' Just trying to offer *dandavats* at the various Temples and holy places we visited was a major feat of logistical planning, and much of the time I simply didn't have a clue where I was. [And to think Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Prabhupad used to lead even larger numbers around these places is absolutely staggering]. Then of course there's the austerity side of things—hot roads, sore feet and all the rest.

All these things however are completely material considerations, and through the mercy of the Vaisnavas this year I was afforded a blissful glimpse of what lies behind the exhaustion, bleeding feet and crowds, and to taste a drop of the nectar that is Sri Nabadwip Dham Parikrama. Perhaps more than anything it is a vibrant manifestation of *sadhu-sanga*—these are not simply crowds of ordinary mortals, but hosts

of Vaisnavas, servants of the Supreme Lord. It is said in *sastra* that simply to visit holy places, take bath in holy rivers, etc, may be of only limited benefit, but the real purpose should be to take the association of the devotees there. Although many Western devotees were not able to attend, saving their money to come in October for Srila Guru Maharaj's Centenary Celebrations, so many Bengalis were there—ordinary people who slept on the floor, queued up to take their bath under taps, and who were the very essence of humility. For me, so full of pride, they gave real life to the teachings of our Golden Lord: *trinad api suni-cena*.... I can only pray for the infinite mercy of Lord Nityananda, that some of their qualities may have rubbed off on this wretch.

Being moved

I also became aware this year that in fact it is not even necessary to know all the details of a place, good though it is to know something. Everything depends on mood, like the Brahmin who could not read and was studying *Srimad Bhagavad-gita* with the book upside down, yet still it moved him to tears of ecstasy. Although Sripad Janardan Maharaj and Sripad Tirtha Maharaj gave out much nectar in English, still the majority was in Bengali, but if one tried to concentrate in something approaching a devotional mood, then there is no doubt that the sound vibration was purifying, and completely transcendental to mundane language. Actually it is precisely because the purification is so intense on *parikrama* that the hateful mind goes berserk and comes out with so many reasons to be, a) intolerant towards the devotees, and b) want to take tomorrow off for some 'peace and quiet.' Whenever I thought that it was too much to handle, one look

at the beaming lotus face of Sripad Visnu Maharaj of our Puri Math, who I don't think stopped dancing and waving his *danda* in the air for the whole four days, soon got me smiling again. If a man in his seventies can go on like that, obviously in such bliss, then I want to follow in his footsteps. In fact all the senior devotees—Sripad Sagar Maharaj, Sripad Aranya Maharaj, Sripad Damodar Maharaj, Sripad Janardan Maharaj, Sripad Hari Charan Prabhu, and others—were a complete inspiration to us all just by their actions, what to speak of their words of wisdom. It was a glorious example of what is possible when the bodily conception of life is rejected wholesale. There were many others too, men and women who were old, crippled, or otherwise infirm, who just kept on going, shouting 'Nitai Gauranga!' all the way. I began to feel ashamed of my weakmindedness.

Refreshed

Visiting so many sacred places around the Dham was a wonderful experience, but even better was returning each day to Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math. Some material consideration was there no doubt: the chance to shower, take rest, and so on, but actually the feeling was simply the relief and pleasure one feels when returning home after a long journey. Home Sweet Home. Going out every day on *parikrama* certainly reinforces this fact. How special our home is, how soothing, not only to sore feet, but to sore hearts as well. So we must do everything we can to maintain this Math nicely, and to search for and find all our other brothers and sisters who are out there in the wilderness, alone and unhappy. Let us try to bring them all home too.

Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math Ki Jai!
Sri Nabadwip Dham Parikrama Ki Jai!

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Sri Acharyadev at home in California

First-hand report of Srila Govinda Maharaj's latest World Tour

A further excerpt condensed from an essay about the 5th World Tour

BY PRABHU CHIDANANDA BRAHMACHARI

His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaj arrived in San Francisco on the morning of July 28, 1994 from Guadalajara, Mexico. He was taken directly to our new twenty-eight acre country ashram in Soquel where he was given a grand welcome. He was seated on his new *vyasasan* exquisitely decorated with brightly coloured cloth, fragrant fresh flowers from the garden, and eucalyptus leaves from a nearby grove. His *vyasasan* was beneath a new picture of Srila Guru Maharaj. As he sat there the devotees offered him a full *arati* while singing *Sri Guru Charana-padma* with everyone lined up, each with their hands full of flowers which they offered to his lotus feet along with full *dandavat pranams*.

The Temple was completely redecorated with flowers, banners, new pictures, and strings of eucalyptus leaves. As Srila Maharaj sat there he looked so satisfied and happy to be there. The *kirttan* accompanying the *Guru-puja* vibrated from the sky above to the earth below and everyone felt transcendental joy in their heart.

Srila Maharaj had travelled far and he had already had a strenuous schedule throughout Latin America, but he looked so happy and peaceful to be at his country ashram in this small town of Soquel, California. After the grand *Guru-puja* he spoke a little on the importance of Krsna consciousness. He didn't speak much as he was tired, but he showed the devotees that he greatly appreciated all their endeavours in receiving him so nicely.

Sripad Bhakti Ananda Sagar Maharaj, Mohanananda Prabhu, and Rasabdhii Prabhu were also nicely received. Sripad Sagar Maharaj spoke

some nice words about Srila Govinda Maharaj and His Divine Grace's recent preaching in Latin America.

Mohanananda Prabhu saw to every detail, as he always does, of Srila Maharaj's great tour. It is not easy to bring such a great soul as Srila Govinda Maharaj anywhere, but Mohanananda Prabhu is expert in looking after every detail and taking care of all Srila Maharaj's needs. Rasabdhii Prabhu looks after every personal requirement of Srila Maharaj as only an expert and fully dedicated soul as he can do.

After this grand welcome Srila Maharaj was shown to his room where he took *Prasadam* and some much needed rest.

Annual visits

Srila Govinda Maharaj has visited the San Jose and Santa Cruz area each year for the past four years. He considers this area to be very important for the mission of Srila Guru Maharaj. He calls it 'the labour room of his mother' because this is where the conception of Srila Guru Maharaj first manifested in the Western world, primarily by the dedicated enthusiasm of Sripad Bhakti Sudhir Goswami Maharaj.

Sripad Goswami Maharaj came to Srila Guru Maharaj's lotus feet in 1981, and on returning to San Jose he began the first Temple of Srila Guru Maharaj in the Western world. From there he produced five beautiful books of Srila Guru Maharaj. Srila Govinda Maharaj constantly glorifies Sripad Goswami Maharaj for these beautiful books he produced.

In 1991 Srila Govinda Maharaj asked the devotees to select a piece of land suitable to re-manifest a Temple

in the area. The devotees looked in several places but they were having trouble choosing the best one, so they invited Srila Maharaj to come and help them make the final choice. Srila Govinda Maharaj accepted their invitation and returned in 1992. He was shown other properties, but when he saw this one he did not even get out of the car to inspect further. Immediately on seeing it he liked it and this feeling grew more as they drove up the driveway. Srila Maharaj immediately declared, "Buy it!" This was to be the place, and there was never any question within his mind.

When Srila Maharaj did get out of the car and look around, he was amazed to see such a large, beautiful piece of land in an ideal location. Until this day he says how pleased he is to have such a glorious Temple in the West. He is always urging everyone to give care and attention to this 'new baby' and he himself is showing how to do this. Since its purchase, by his inspiration and example many improvements have been made to the buildings and land.

Auspicious and pleasing

The temple is ten minutes drive from downtown Santa Cruz, a town situated in an area considered important by many spiritual seekers. There are many vegetarian restaurants, alternative health practitioners, and different groups of yoga orientated spiritual seekers.

Nearby is a large university which considers itself in the forefront of new ideas and liberal consciousness-awakening practices. The locality geographically is very pleasing and is adjacent to the ocean. Many flowers, fruits and vegetables are grown commercially in the region.

The Temple house itself has solar

heating panels which supply constant hot water. A small but extremely efficient wood burning stove in the Temple room keeps the whole house warm even on the coldest nights, and often no more than one log is necessary. In another room there is a radiant floor heater generously donated by Chinmoyananda Prabhu.

Srila Govinda Maharaj has often commented on the many auspicious signs he has seen at the land, and he says that Krsna has given him everything he needs for preaching Krsna consciousness in the Western world. It is therefore no surprise that every time he goes to the Soquel Seva Ashram he appears to be very happy and relaxed.

Daily meetings

After arriving for this his latest visit to Soquel, resting, bathing and recovering from his arduous journey, Srila Govinda Maharaj happily began meeting with the devotees. Daily he met with devotees in his room from 3.30 or 4 a.m. until lunch time. In the afternoon he met with the devotees either in his room or outside on the pleasant lawn.

In the evenings there would be a programme in the Temple and daily Srila Maharaj would remain up until late, talking with the devotees until 11.00 or 11.30 p.m. Srila Maharaj said he did not mind this at all. He made the example that the devotees are like the sun and he is like a solar battery-charger that receives energy from the sun. The devotees give him energy and enthuse him; in this way he keeps on running.

About two hundred devotees had come from all over America including far away places such as Hawaii, New York and Florida. Many had met Srila Maharaj on some or all of his previous visits, plus there were many new people, including whole families of up to six, desiring to take initiation from Srila Maharaj. Several brought their own accommodation in the form of tents, etc., and special arrangements were made by Hasyapriya Prabhu and



Devotees honour *Prasad* and relax on the lawns of our Seva Ashram, Soquel

Yudhamanyu Prabhu Seva Vikram for outside showers and toilets.

The cooking department was headed by Sureswari Didi, Jivana Didi and Sanatani Didi. By their unceasing devotional energy they provided three meals a day for everyone, and all were happy and well fed! Another group of cooks headed by Srilekha, Lalita, Bimala and Vraja Mohini Didis cooked especially for Srila Govinda Maharaj.

Outside engagements

Three large outside preaching programmes were arranged for Srila Govinda Maharaj for this visit. One was at a community centre in Santa Cruz; another was at a hall in San Jose, and the other was in Concord. Each programme was well attended and large amounts of *Prasadam* were distributed.

In Santa Cruz Srila Govinda Maharaj spoke vigorously on the importance of accepting Krsna consciousness and to be cautious not to be cheated by the many imitationists that have come in this age. The imitationists sometimes even look like devotees, but they say things that vastly differ from the statements of the real devotees. They criticize the real devotees and always try to find fault with them like ants always looking for holes to crawl in. Srila Govinda Maharaj explained that one

must have sufficient *sukriti* to find a real devotee and to accept him as a Spiritual Master.

At that gathering Srila Maharaj also related the story of how he came to the lotus feet of Srila Guru Maharaj.

The second programme was in San Jose. In the auditorium were many older devotees and their friends from all over the San Francisco Bay area. Srila Maharaj spoke on the importance of understanding the relationship between the power and the powerful. The powerful is the source of power. So wherever we see power we must consider the source behind it. He explained that we must try to think of this truth as well as all other truths, and the way to do this is by service to Guru and the Vaisnavas. For this we have to be humble, tolerant and give honour to everyone.

The third programme was hosted by Deva Moyee Didi at Concord, a two hour drive from the Soquel Ashram. Deva Moyee Didi preaches to a large group of the Indian community in the San Francisco area, and Srila Govinda Maharaj always likes to meet with them. Many people came, and Srila Maharaj was very satisfied by the enthusiastic response he received.

In addition to these three programmes Srila Govinda Maharaj spoke frequently at the Soquel Temple.

Children devotees' presentations

One afternoon the children offered presentations to Srila Maharaj. Some had written poems that they recited before him, some drew pictures they showed him, and some had made handicraft goods, gifts and flower arrangements.

One group performed a short play based on the Vrindavan pastimes, and others sang songs. Some displayed their natural Vaisnava humility before Srila Maharaj and gently needed to be coaxed along by their parents. Srila Maharaj sat for the whole two hours with the biggest smile possible upon his face. He did not say very much but he did not need to. Everyone could tell that inside he was very pleased.

Walking the trail

Behind the Temple is a hill. The devotees had spent several months preparing a trail up the hillside and they had erected several benches along the way. One morning Srila Maharaj started to walk up the trail by himself. He walked a little, then stood and rested awhile before continuing. At first he was almost alone and then a few of the young devotees who had worked on the trail joined him. I thought Srila Maharaj would just go a little way, but slowly he worked his way almost to the top.

Just short of the top he sat down on the ground. He didn't say much but just looked at the scenery. He could see many tall redwood trees that line the top of the hills of the valley. Scattered houses tucked into suitable locations on the surrounding hillsides were also visible. Far below, the Temple was full of devotees scurrying around doing many different services.

As the breeze whispered through the surrounding trees, Srila Maharaj sat very peacefully and just looked around.

The four or five young devotees who had joined him also sat quietly without saying much. They told Srila Maharaj

they had worked on the trail, and they pointed out some places of interest. They related with Srila Maharaj in a most natural and pure way. I was amazed to see the natural friendship, companionship and affection they all had for Srila Maharaj, and Srila Maharaj had for them. I don't think they had ever previously had any close contact with Srila Govinda Maharaj, or even had many words with him before, yet here they were all talking and relating in a most natural way as if they had been close friends and a part of Srila Maharaj's group for a long time. I was amazed to see it.

After sitting there for almost an hour Srila Maharaj returned to the temple and declared that he had just had a most wonderful walk and seen the greatest view. Everyone was in great surprise to learn he had walked up that steep hill.

Another morning the devotees took Srila Maharaj for a walk on a pier. At the end of the pier he saw large sea-lions resting on boards between the pilings. Srila Maharaj expressed then, and many times has expressed, that indeed he likes to see some sights when visiting various places in the world.

Memorable events

During Srila Govinda Maharaj's stay at Soquel there were several memorable visits by older devotees who live in the area. Srila Maharaj was pleased to be asked intelligent questions by them, and in turn they expressed their inner fulfillment to have the association of His Divine Grace.

Every day was a special day for all the devotees, and one particular day of this visit was to be extra special: the day of the Disappearance Anniversary Festival of Srila Guru Maharaj. Until now Srila Govinda Maharaj had always chosen to observe this day in Nabadwip, but due to the World Tour it would not be possible this year. For a long time he expressed his great satisfaction that as an alternative this year he would be in Soquel for Srila Guru Maharaj's

Disappearance Festival. Accordingly the devotees arranged a huge celebration at which Srila Guru Maharaj's pastimes were honoured in grand style.

The chosen day

There was another reason that this day would be very special. For some time Srila Govinda Maharaj had been wanting to install a Deity of Sriman Mahaprabhu at the Soquel Ashram. To the joy of all the devotees he chose this day for the auspicious event.

The day broke with fog as is normal for that time of year. A *parikrama* of the land had been planned. Srila Maharaj awoke early and joined the circumambulation. When we started, no one knew which way to go as no *parikrama* had been done there before. Srila Maharaj led the way clockwise, beginning from the Temple, sometimes going down dirt paths, across grassy fields and up steep hills. They went around the barn by the newly dug well, and then past the garden which was full of summer vegetables before returning to the Temple. Srila Maharaj walked the whole way. Sometimes devotees would help him up steep embankments or down slippery trails. Sripad Bhakti Pavan Janardan Maharaj led the *kirtan*, and when we returned to the temple the loud chanting grew more and more.

Mahaprabhu's installation

There was much service to be done that day in preparation for the two festivals. A tremendous feast was planned and prepared. From early morning devotees came to render service, and by afternoon there was a flood of cars parked in the grounds.

Presently the installation of the Deity of Sriman Mahaprabhu began. Half of the Temple room was filled with various dyes, fruits, ghee, honey, milk, and other paraphernalia for the special worship and installation of the Deity. Srila Govinda Maharaj personally came and directed the proceedings. He looked so

splendid directing the activities, and appeared like a General directing a large battle. He instructed Ramai Prabhu which ingredients to use at which time and in what amounts, and Ramai Prabhu perfectly carried out his orders.

Mahaprabhu looked so happy to see all the offerings everyone gave Him. The devotees and guests all stood in the back of the room trying to get a peak at Him. This was followed by a big fire sacrifice outside, presided over by Sripad Sagar Maharaj and Sripad Janardan Maharaj. The whole installation ceremony took over two hours and was so glorious. Afterwards Sriman Mahaprabhu looked so beautiful and resplendent standing glistening golden on His newly built altar wearing fresh hand-made clothing.

Finally Mahaprabhu had arrived in Soquel. A new Temple had come to America and the whole surrounding area was becoming spiritualized. The devotees were all very happy.

Separation

By evening the flood of guests had become a torrent. I don't know how everyone knew that it was the Disappearance Day Festival of Srila Guru Maharaj, but it seemed as if half the town was there. That evening Srila Govinda Maharaj was not feeling well so he asked the *sannyasis*—Sripad Sagar Maharaj, Sripad Janardan Maharaj and Sripad Ashram Maharaj—to lead the evening programme.

After a glorious *arati* and a grand *kirtan* that could be heard for miles, the three *sannyasis* each in turn gloriously chanted the all-attractive glories of Srila Guru Maharaj. Their glorification included the simultaneous glorification of Srila Govinda Maharaj. They highlighted the immediate example of union in separation from the great devotees: the audience had all come to hear from Srila Govinda Maharaj, but His Divine Grace although so near, was confined to his room to recover his health. Their lectures also emphasized the numerous occasions on which Srila

Guru Maharaj himself glorified Srila Govinda Maharaj and appointed him as his full successor, thus Srila Govinda Maharaj does not have to 'prove' he is an Acharyya. The devotees felt fortunate to hear the many glorifications of our *Sri Guru-varga*.

Reflections

After the memorial programme it was to be only a short while more before Srila Govinda Maharaj would leave to continue with his world preaching tour. When I think of all the pastimes and events that took place between Srila Govinda Maharaj and the devotees of California I am reminded of the statements by Krsnadas Kaviraj Goswami expressing that it is impossible to properly glorify the Lord or His pure devotee.

Their pastimes are like an ocean and we are like a drop of water.

Srila Govinda Maharaj is such an infinite devotee that we cannot really glorify him properly. He is always glorifying everyone and everything. If we take a small step towards him, Srila Maharaj will take ten big steps towards us. He makes the most insignificant service we do seem like a big and important service. He is going all over the world at great expense to his health, trying to give everyone a drop of the transcendental wealth that Srila Guru Maharaj gave him.

Fondest memories

On the morning of August 14th, accompanied by hundreds of devotees Srila Maharaj went to the airport where he boarded a Northwest Airlines flight for Detroit, the next step on his world tour.

Before his departure he gave a big hug to each and every devotee. We never see him cry. Even when things

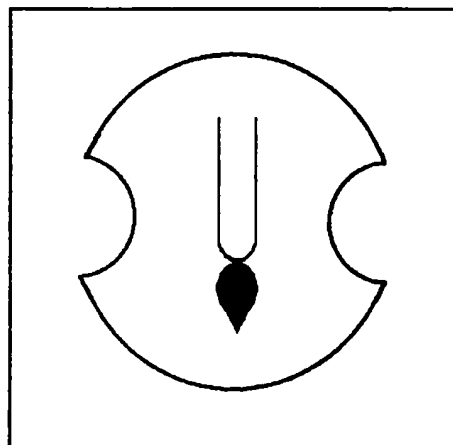


Sriman Mahaprabhu on His day of installation

get really tough he thinks of his service and keeps going. But I think when he gets on the plane to leave, he must be shedding a tear inside.

As the plane left the terminal and positioned for take-off, the devotees kept trying to get a glance of their lost friend, well-wisher and Spiritual Master. When it finally went off into the sky everyone gave a last farewell wave and returned home clutching the fondest memories as their solace.

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Puri Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math, Jagannathdev, & His Dham

A SPECIAL DISCOURSE GIVEN BY

HIS DIVINE GRACE SRILA BHAKTI SUNDAR GOVINDA DEV-GOSWAMI MAHARAJ

FOR THIS SRI JAGANNATHDEV'S RATHAYATRA EDITION OF **Sri Gaudiya Darshan**

Question: During the later pastimes of Srila Guru Maharaj we heard that he wanted to spend his last days in Jagannath Puri. Is this correct?

Srila Govinda Maharaj: Yes, but mentally. In earlier years sometimes Srila Guru Maharaj went to Puri for observing 'Urja-vrata' during Karttik month. He used to stay in the place that is now the 'Aravinda Ashram.'

Actually, in Mahaprabhu's *lila*, Puri is similar to Kuruksetra in Krsna's *lila*. The mood of union in separation and intense service-need is at its greatest there. Mahaprabhu expressed:

*priyah so 'yam kṛṣṇaḥ
sahacari kurukṣetra-militas
tathāham sā rādhā tad idam
ubhayoḥ saṅgama-sukham
tathāpy antaḥ-khelan-madhura-
murali-pañcama-juṣe
mano me kālindī-pulina-
vipināya sprhayati*

(C.c. Madhya 1.76)

This is a verse spoken by Srimati Radharani to Srimati Lalita Devi, and Srila Rupa Goswami expressed it in this way: "Krsna who lived earlier in Vrindavan Dham, that Krsna is now here before me and I am already in union with Him. I am thinking that this Krsna and I, we are the same persons as were living in Vrindavan, and that Krsna has mercifully given us His union here. This is sufficient for anyone, but it is not pleasing my heart so nicely because my heart is hankering to be in Vrindavan with this Krsna. Here also we are playing with Krsna and dancing with Him. All our activities are going

nicely with Him, but still I am not happy with that. My heart always wants the association of Krsna on the banks of the Yamuna where there are many varieties of *kunjas*¹ and He plays His flute.

"Here Krsna is not playing a flute, but in Vrindavan He plays His flute and calls everyone through that sound, and there He plays with us like our boy-friend. We want to meet with Krsna on those banks of the Yamuna, and that will give me full satisfaction, whereas this meeting in Kuruksetra is giving me neither full satisfaction nor peace within my heart." This is the meaning of the Kuruksetra-*lila* with the *Vraja-vasis*². Here we find the most extreme mood of separation.

On a plate there may be your favourite foodstuffs, but if you cannot take that food then what will be your feeling? Similarly if Krsna is in front of you but you cannot play as you like with Him, the mood of separation is very strong.

Mahaprabhu's Separation

In Puri, Mahaprabhu went every day to see Lord Jagannath living in the Temple, and He saw Jagannathdev to be Krsna, but still He was not satisfied with that. He needed to meet Krsna with the Yamuna, flute, etc. Such feelings of separation came to Mahaprabhu and he suffered from that so much. It is that mood of separation that Srila Bhakti-

vinod Thakur worshipped. He did not worship union, but he worshipped the mood of separation of Mahaprabhu. Such mood of separation happened in Kuruksetra, therefore he wrote that in Vrindavan live bogus persons whereas the real devotees of Krsna live in Kuruksetra.

Kuruksetra Ashram

Srila Prabhupad Saraswati Thakur sent Srila Guru Maharaj to Kuruksetra to make a Centre. As Math Commander he lead a small group of devotees and he succeeded in making an Ashram there. I have seen that place.

Question: Is it also the case that when the devotees saw Mahaprabhu in Puri they had the feeling, "This is Mahaprabhu, but we want Him as Nimai in Nabadwip"?

Srila Govinda Maharaj: Yes. Such feeling is shown in the *sloka* by Srila Bhaktivinod Thakur:

āmi cāi gaurachandra laite māyāpure

Here Srila Bhaktivinod Thakur expresses the great mood of separation he felt to see the *sannyas-vesa*³ of Mahaprabhu in Gambhira. "I like to see Sri Chaitanyadev, but I particularly want to worship, remember, see and serve Gaurachandra, Visvambhar Pandit. It is my desire to see the *Mayapur-lila* of young Sri Gaurasundar. As Nimai Pandit He had beautiful hair, He decorated Himself with fine clothing, and He engaged in pastimes like a young

¹*kunjas*: groves

²*Vraja-vasis*: residents of Vrindavan

³*sannyas-vesa*: sannyas clothing

brahmin boy along with His associated devotees in Mayapur, Ishodyan. To see Him in such a way is my worshipable desire." Mahaprabhu used to be Nimai Pandit, and that is a very sweet name for Him.

Even after Mahaprabhu took *sannyas*, many of the Goswamis such as Srila Rupa Goswami many times would say the name of Sri Sachi Mata. Sri Vrindavan Das Thakur said, and it is almost too much for anyone: even if in a dream one will chant the name of Sachi Mata one will get full liberation and transcendental happiness.

Srila Bhaktivinod Thakur expressed his wish to be attached to Mahaprabhu's Nabadwip *lila*. He mentioned very clearly that Mahaprabhu took *sannyas*, and that is alright because it is His pastime, but He has taken so much austerity, and the devotees, such as Sri Jagadananda Pandit and others, cannot tolerate that.

Such chanting and dancing

Srila Bhaktivinod Thakur wants to see Mahaprabhu living in Nabadwip peacefully with the devotees of Nadia. There the Panca-tattva are chanting and dancing in great jubilation.

When I saw hanging behind my chair in Dum Dum Park a picture of Srīman Mahaprabhu chanting in this way, I wanted to compose a *sloka* describing it. Then suddenly I found that already Srila Prabodananda Saraswati has expressed it very nicely

in his book *Sri Radha-rasa-sudhanidhi*.

In his book, *Sri Radha-rasa-sudhanidhi*, he has made *mangalarcanam*¹ with this *sloka*². The general meaning is: "Mahaprabhu is chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa with His *parshad* devotees in the mood of dancing; with arms upraised; with tears constantly flowing from His eyes to the earth making the whole ground wet; and with the hairs of His body standing on end thus appearing like the white and yellow colour of the kadamba flower—I offer my worship to this Mahaprabhu who is chanting with His devotees in Nabadwip Dham."

Another devotee expressed:

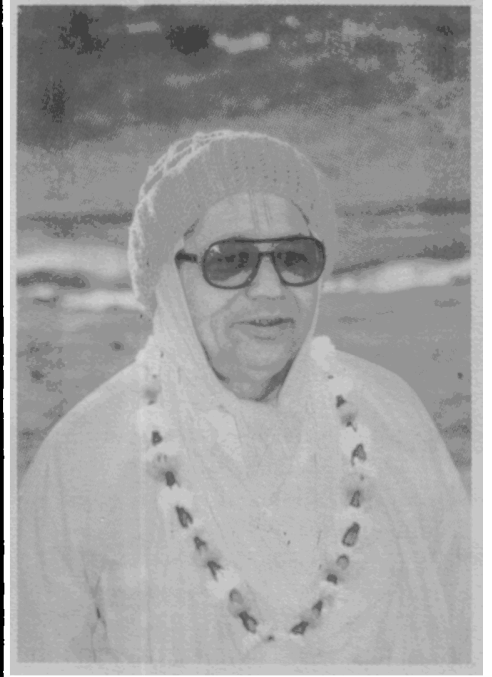
*mane kari node juri' hṛdaya bichāi
tāhāra upare sonār gaurāṅga nācāi*

"That type of Mahaprabhu I want to worship in my heart, and I want to spread my heart like a carpet along the whole of the bank of the Ganges so Mahaprabhu may dance there in my heart." There are many such expressions.

Question: So in Puri we find union in separation twice: the devotees see Mahaprabhu in the mood of separation, also Mahaprabhu sees Jagannathdev in the mood of great separation?

Srila Govinda Maharaj: Yes. It is especially the Nabadwip devotees who feel this mood of union in separation when they see Mahaprabhu. The Nabadwip devotees would sometimes stay in Puri Dham with Srīman Mahaprabhu for four months each year.

¹ *mangalarcanam*: auspicious invocation



His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaj

Service necessity

It is the tradition that each year many of our Nabadwip devotees go to Puri. Our Western devotees are also always eager to go to Puri even when it is not possible for them to see Lord Jagannath. They like to see the area of Jagannath and the places of the pastimes of Mahaprabhu and the devotees. Previously, however, we had no place to stay there, so the devotees would stay in *dharma-shalas*, but sometimes there were be no rooms available, especially at the time of Sri Jagannathdev's Rathayatra. Therefore for the devotees' convenience and service, it was my desire to establish a Centre in Puri.

Srila Guru Maharaj told me not to make many Maths or I may get much trouble to run them. However, it is the will of Kṛṣṇa that lastly Srila Guru Maharaj gave permission, "Yes you can make three: one in Vrindavan, one in Puri Dham and one in Calcutta."

Calcutta is our 'transit station', and Vrindavan is the destination of many devotees, as is Puri Dham. So these three places are for service to the devotees. This is our mood.

² Sapārṣad Śrīman Mahāprabhoḥ prañām-mantram

nindantaṁ pulakotkareṇa bikasannipa-prasūnacchabim
prorddhikṛtyabhujadvayaṁ hariharītyuccairvadantaṁ muhuḥ
nṛtyantaṁ drutamaśrunirjharacayaiḥ siñcantamurbbītaṁ
gāyantaṁ nijapārṣadaiḥ paribritaṁ śrī-gauracandraṁ numah

—Śrila Prabodānanda Sarasvatī Thākura

Finding a place

In Puri the devotees tried for a long time to buy a piece of land but they were repeatedly unsuccessful. Then I promised to Srila Guru Maharaj, "I will take charge of purchasing the land. I will go there and within two months we must certainly get something."

I wanted to follow the example of Srila Rupa Goswami, Srila Sanatan Goswami, Srila Haridas Thakur, etc., which was not to disturb the strict regulations of Jagannathdev's 'pandas'.[†] I therefore looked in the area frequented by the Western travellers and which is a little distance from the Temple. I also wanted to avoid staying near other Missions of the Gaudiya Maths so as to avoid any danger of *aparadha*.

Jagannath's wish

I tried so hard, but each piece of land that seemed suitable was eventually found to be under litigation or otherwise unavailable. Six weeks passed in this search, to no avail. Finally I prayed to Lord Jagannath, "Wherever you will give some land, I will make a Temple there." Within three days news reached me through Sripad Damodar Maharaj that a man wanted to sell some land in the area of Gaur Batsahi. I met the proprietor and within five minutes the sale was settled, and within just fifteen days it was registered.

Our own Puri Centre

Our prayer to Lord Jagannath, Lord Baladeva and Lady Subhadra should be: "Kindly grant us some opportunity to render service at Jagannath Puri." Srila Guru Maharaj gave a clue to *bhajan* life under Pandit Gadadhar. Our Math is near his Temple, the Temple of Tota-Gopinath. Going from our Temple towards Tota-Gopinath Temple, on the right side is Sri Purusottama Math, the Temple established by Srila Bhakti-siddhanta Saraswati Prabhupad.



Puri Sri Chaitanya Sarawat Math

We purchased the land for our temple in 1984 and the Deities were installed in 1990. Service goes on at our Math in Puri daily.

Sripad Purnananda Prabhu is overseeing the management at our Puri Math. Sripad B.S. Niskincan Maharaj heads the service to the Deities and the Math; Sripad B.S. Visnu Maharaj engages in preaching, and Sripad Venu Vilas Adhikari Prabhu looks after our 'Sevak Bhavan,' our devotees' guest-house. Sevak Bhavan is now well-known in Puri, and all the town's rickshaw drivers know its location.

Question: How did the Deities come to our Ashram in Puri?

Srila Govinda Maharaj: Inspiration came from Srila Guru Maharaj that there may be no—or at least very few—*Sri Vighrahas*[†] of Nityananda Prabhu in Puri Dham. At that time several Deities of Mahaprabhu were there but not of Nityananda Prabhu.

In Nabadwip we were already keeping two Deities: Sri Nitai and Sri

Chaitanyadev. It was at first the desire of Srila Guru Maharaj that these Deities of Nityananda Prabhu and Mahaprabhu would play in Govinda Kunda opposite the Temple here in Nabadwip, and still it is in my mind to try to manifest such a project here. I would like to do it this year itself, and I have asked one good carpenter devotee to come. He can do so much *seva* in the Centenary Hall and especially he can make a nice *singhasan*[†] and a boat for Sri Sri Nitai-Gauranga's pastimes in Govinda Kund. It has been my hidden desire to do this, and I have already purchased some teak wood especially for this project.

When I asked Srila Guru Maharaj if I could take these Sri Sri Nitai-Gaura Deities from here to Puri, he agreed, and said that if I wish, I may take them.

So, by the grace and will of Srila Guru Maharaj when our Puri Math manifested, Mahaprabhu accepted the name of Chaitanya and went with Nitai to Puri for Their pastimes. Srila Guru Maharaj honoured these Deities and he touched the feet of Them both. They are very exalted and very heavy.

Nitai-Chaitanyadev's *arati kirttan*

Previously there was no *kirttan* written for the particular *arati* of Sri Sri Nitai-Chaitanya. Srila Bhaktivinod Thakur had previously composed the *Panca-tattva Arati* (*kiba jaya jaya gauracander arotika sobha...*) and he composed *Yugala-arati* (*jaya jaya radha-krsna-yugala-milan...*) for the worship of Sri Sri Radha-Krsna, but no *kirttan* had been composed for Mahaprabhu and Radha-Krsna on one altar. Therefore, Srila Guru Maharaj composed Sri *Saraswat-arati* specifically for the worship of our Nabadwip Math Deities, Sri Sri Guru-Gauranga-Gandharva-Govindasundarjiu. It was following their example and by Srila Guru Maharaj's inspiration that I composed *Nitai-Chaitanyadev Arati* for our Deities in Puri.

[†]*pandas*: servitor worshippers

[†]*Sri Vighraha*: Deity

[†]*singhasan*: ornate throne

The location

The area of our Temple is called 'Gaur Batsahi' which means the way and area of Mahaprabhu. It is the place where Mahaprabhu would regularly pass through, most probably after visiting the Jagannath Temple, going to see Srila Haridas Thakur, or going to bathe in the sea. The area is near the lotus feet of Chatak Parvat, the Govardhan Hill of Purusottama Dham.

Question: You mentioned that our Puri Math is near to Sri Gadadhar Pandit's Ashram. In what way can devotees derive benefit from this proximity?

Srila Govinda Maharaj: You can gain benefit from everywhere. It exists within one's mood of devotion; benefit's nature is like that. But there is some particular opportunity that when seeing Sri Gadadhar Pandit's Ashram you can remember the pastimes of Mahaprabhu.

Gadadhar Pandit lived a little distance from Mahaprabhu's Ashram. Mahaprabhu lived about one kilometre away at Kasi Misra Bhavan, now known as 'Gambhira.' When Mahaprabhu would go to bathe and meet with Srila Haridas Thakur he would sometimes come via the road past Sri Gadadhar Pandit's Ashram and He would meet with him.

Also Sri Gadadhar Pandit sometimes invited Mahaprabhu to take *Prasadam* there. Every day Sri Gadadhar Pandit would offer *bhoga* to the Deities in his Ashram and sometimes he would offer that to Mahaprabhu who would immediately come and accept it. Sri Gadadhar Pandit did not buy anything, but would somehow collect all ingredients. Mahaprabhu especially liked a particular spinach preparation that Sri Gadadhar Pandit made.

Extreme separation

In His later pastimes, almost every day Mahaprabhu would go to the ocean and meet with Sri Gadadhar Pandit, and Sri Gadadhar Pandit would sometimes go to Gambhira and read the *Srimad-*

Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Chaitanya-Ārati

Composed by

Śrīla Bhati Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswāmī Mahārāj
for the worship of Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Chaitanyadev, the Deities in
our Jagannath Puri Temple

jaya guru mahārāja karuṇāsāgara
śrī bhakti rakṣaka deva-goswāmī śrīdhara

prakāṣile nīlācale bhuvanamaṅgala
nitāi-caitanya-deva-sevā samujjvala

gorāpreme mātoyārā nityānandarūpa
rasarāja mahābhāva caitanya-svarūpa

kaṣita-kāñcana jini śrī-aṅga lābani
dūhūgale vanamālā bhāvera dolani

murachita kotikāma rūparāsaraṅge
madhūra narttana-bhāva varābhaya bhaṅge

koti-candra-bhānuśobhā ratna-simhāsane
prema netre dekhe mahābhāgyavāna jane

mṛdaṅga mandirā bāje suśaṅkha-dhvānita
śruti-moli-ratnamālā-dīpa-nirājita

bhuvanamohan dūhū rūpera ārati
gupta-vrindāraṇyavāsī dekhe niravadhi

śrī svarūpa rāmānanda rūpa-sanātana
raghunātha haridāsa gadādhara dhana

sārvvabhauma gopīnātha jīvānugajana
dekkena āratīśobha durllabha-darśana

nadiyā prakāṣe nityānanda-gauranidhi
patita-pāvana-kṣetre milāila vidhi

avicintya nityānanda-caitanya-prakāṣa
śrī guru-prasāde dekhe e adhama dāsa

(śrī guru-prasāde dekhe śrī govinda dāsa)

Bhagavatam to Mahaprabhu. For the last twelve years Mahaprabhu lived in Puri in an extreme mood of separation in Gambhira. When Mahaprabhu was so intoxicated with *Krsna-prema* in Gambhira, and constantly in the mood of separation from Krsna and crying, crying, crying; at that time Gadadhar Pandit would go there and give nourishment through his reading of *Srimad-Bhagavatam*.

Mahaprabhu considered every letter of *Srimad-Bhagavatam* to be a manifestation of Krsna, and when He heard it from Gadadhar Pandit's lotus mouth He felt so much peace and felt Himself to be fully nourished. Sri Gadadhar Pandit served Mahaprabhu in this way.

Pranam composition

Srila Guru Maharaj composed the *pranam mantram* to Sri Gadadhar Pandit, *nīlāmbhoditaṭe sadā....*[†]

"If a friend feels so much separation from his girlfriend or boyfriend, he or she cannot understand what to do and may even act like a madman. At that time a friend may try to make him peaceful by giving a little wine or something similar. The ecstatic recitations of *Srimad-Bhagavatam* by Sri Gadadhar Pandit are likened to this nourishment which he gave to Sriman Mahaprabhu in His extreme mood of separation from Sri Krsna. *Srimad-Bhagavatam* is the non-different form of Krsna Himself, and it is ecstasy in the form of sound vibration. Sriman Mahaprabhu would sit opposite Gadadhar Pandit and He

would receive nourishment from Sri Gadadhar Pandit's reading of *Srimad-Bhagavatam*.

"Sri Gadadhar Pandit himself became intoxicated to chant the *sloka*s from *Srimad-Bhagavatam* and he would cry. With those tears he worshipped his dearest friend, Sriman Mahaprabhu. Such is the mood of Gadadhar Pandit, and that Sri Gadadhar Pandit Goswami is the only shelter of my life."

Mahaprabhu took the whole *bhav* and *kanthi* of Srimati Radharani; that is, all the mood and colour of Srimati Radharani was taken by Mahaprabhu because He wanted to taste Her ecstasy. Sri Gadadhar Pandit is Radharani minus the mood of Herself, that having been taken by Mahaprabhu. Sri Gadadhar Pandit is the incarnation of Srimati Radharani, but he is subdued. However, this is of another plane, and it is all full.

The vow of Sri Gadadhar Pandit

A short while after Mahaprabhu took *sannyas* it was decided by the devotees in Shantipur and agreed by Sachi Mata, that Mahaprabhu would stay in Jagannath Puri. Then Sri Gadadhar Pandit decided, "I shall go there and stay." Sri Gadadhar Pandit took *ksetra-sannyas*, which means that he promised to accept to stay in one place. That place was his Ashram, the Temple of Tota Gopinath.

The Orissan poet Govinda Das Kavi was in Puri at the time of Mahaprabhu's leaving His manifest pastimes, and he

wrote that Mahaprabhu left by entering within the Tota-Gopinath Deity. Srila Prabhupad Saraswati Thakur did not accept all his writings, but he did accept this idea of Sriman Mahaprabhu's disappearance.

Sri Tota Gopinath is also famous for His pastime that one night He sat down so that Sri Gadadhar Pandit in his old age could still reach up to garland Him. He remains seated to this day.

Guidance for going

Question: What guidance would you like to give for the devotees going to the Jagannath Rathayatra Festival this year?

Srila Govinda Maharaj: The first thing is not to break any rules and regulations of the Jagannath Temple. They will humbly try to see the places of the pastimes of Mahaprabhu and His associates such as Srila Haridas Thakur, Sri Ramananda Ray, Sri Svarupa Damodar, Sri Raghunath Das Goswami, Sri Sarvabhauma Battacharya, Sri Gadadhar Pandit, Sri Jagadananda Prabhu, Sri Paramananda Puri Goswami, Maharaj Prataparudra's house, Gundica, Sikhi Mahiti's house, and many others. They will see these places and try to feel in their heart the mood of union in separation shown by Sriman Mahaprabhu, and they will offer prayers to the associates of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. If they cannot go inside any of the places then they can see these places from outside.

Seeing the Dham

Question: We have heard it is recommended that a visitor to Vrindavan should stay just three nights so as to minimize his chances of committing offences. Does this recommendation apply to Sri Puri Dham also?

Srila Govinda Maharaj: In fact this is not actually so. If the devotees will go to Vrindavan and follow the mood of Srila Rupa Goswami, Srila Sanatan Goswami and Srila Raghunath das Goswami they can stay in Vrindavan,

†Śrīla Gadādhara-praṇāṭi

nīlāmbhoditaṭe sadā svavirahākṣepānvitaṁ bāndhavaṁ
śrīmad-bhāgavati-kathā madirayā sañjīvayan bhāti yaḥ
śrīmad-bhāgavataṁ sadā svanayanāśrūpāyaṇaiḥ pūjayan
goswāmipravaro gadādhara vibhurbhūyāt madekāgatiḥ

—Śrīla B.R. Śrīdhara Dev-Goswāmī

but they should not go there for business or for the Loi Bazaar shops.

The Dham is *chinmoy bhumi*—it is made of transcendental substance. Srila Guru Maharaj was questioned many times by the Western devotees as to how one should see Nabadwip Dham, and he clearly explained that it is *chinmoy bhumi*. So we should see the Dham in this way, and not with any mundane view.

The matter is that when we shall go to the Dham we shall try to live and feel where we are going: the feeling should come that it is the transcendental Dham, and Mahaprabhu's pastimes with his devotees are always going on.

Sir, I am here

My own mood is that I do not go every day to the Temple of Lord Jagannath, but I go before Jagannath in His Temple and I say to Him in this way: "My *dandavat pranams* to Your lotus feet. I am present, Sir. I am here."

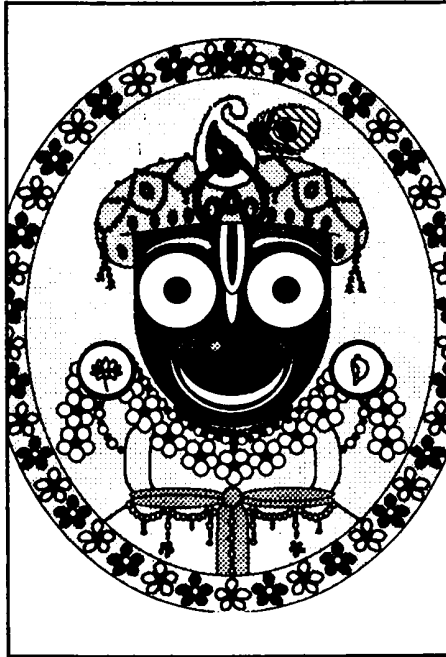
I cannot see Jagannath because I cannot see Him through my mind and vision, therefore I am not trying to approach Him in that way. Instead I am presenting myself in front of Jagannath with the mood and prayer, "I am here at Your lotus feet. Please see me."

"Please see me," means: "My good and my bad—everything is in front of You. You please make me as You like to see me." That is the mood. Then I do *parikrama* and then return to our Ashram by the ocean to stay under the lotus feet of Sri Sri Nitai-Chaitanyadev.

It is my advice to everyone not to behave like a businessman with Sri Jagannathdev. Not to approach Him in the way of, "I am paying my *dandavats*. Give me this, give me that. Make my son good, my wife good..." No. We shall pray like Prahlada Maharaj:

*yadi dāsyasi me kāmān
varāṁs tvam varadarśabha
kāmānāṁ hr̥dyasāṁrohaṇ
bhavatas tu vṛṇe varam
(Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 7.10.7)*

"If You want to give something to



Jagannathdev, the Lord of Puri Dham

me, and You are eager to give, then please give me this: that I shall not be again within the illusion of desiring anything. Please don't permit me to ask You for anything again. Please demolish that type of desire from my heart." This should be our prayer and this is *ananya-bhakti*[†] in *santa-rasa*.

When devotees will go to see Lord Jagannath during the time of Rathayatra they will see His Deity, no doubt, and they will pray: "Jagannathdev, if You want to give anything, please give devotion." We will make this our desire, and not anything of mundane form.

[†]*ananya-bhakti*: exclusive devotion

In the mundane plane, whatever bad or good will come to us will come according to our *karma*. We will not involve our Master and Lord with that.

Future plans

Question: Are there any future plans for our Ashram and guesthouse in Puri?

Srila Govinda Maharaj: We are always making some plans for the future *seva* to Sri Guru-Vaishnava. In Puri the construction of a further storey has already been sanctioned for our Sevak Bhavan devotee guesthouse.

Question: Upstairs in the devotees' quarters adjoining our Temple is a large new room for Your Divine Grace and you occupied it for some time. However last time you were in Puri you returned to your previous quarters downstairs in Sevak Bhavan. Why was that?

Srila Govinda Maharaj: Downstairs in Sevak Bhavan I feel much peace of mind, I am readily accessible to all, I can see all the comings and goings of the people and there is a nice garden outside, but upstairs in the Temple accommodation I cannot see who is coming and going, and I cannot meet with the devotees so readily.

If we invite anyone, they may feel a little trouble to climb the stairs. Also if I stay in Sevak Bhavan it is helpful to make the devotees there conscious of their conduct in the Dham. There is also plenty of space for devotees and guests to sit and meet with me. For these reasons I moved back to Sevak Bhavan, so that I can serve my Srila Guru Maharaj in a better way. • 68 •

Srila Govinda Maharaj's lotus guidance

"If we want to serve Srila Guru Maharaj exclusively and not see anything else, then we will be relieved of all troubles. But we must try to serve Guru very attentively, only then will we get that chance, otherwise we will be cheated."

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— ITALY — NEW ZEALAND — PHILIPPINES — SINGAPORE — SOUTH AFRICA — and OTHERS —

All Glories to Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga

SRI CHAITANYA SARASWAT MATH

Founder-Āchāryya: His Divine Grace Śrī Śrīla Bhakti Rakṣak Śrīdhar Dev-Goswāmī Mahārāj

Swami Bhakti Pundar Govinda

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19 June 1995

My dear Chandrakanti Devi Dasi,

Please accept my well wishes and blessings in remembrance of my Divine Master. I am very happy to receive your letter of 27 May 1995 and have read carefully the contents.

Our material life's root is existing within misconception and through misconception we are now suffering in this material world, within the wave of death and birth.

Actually, everyone's spiritual form as 'atma' is very clean, and in that clean position his only duty is to serve in the Transcendental Service World to his dearest Lord Kṛṣṇa, there the service duties exist in varieties of ways. By the grace of *hladini shakti* and through his earnest, clean desire he gets a specific service as appropriate for his devotional mood. That service comes within five forms of relationship with his dearest beloved Lord. That is the real and normal position and service duty. Through that dutiful mood, his eternal caste and creed automatically manifests within him. Actually all the healthy *jīva*-souls are existing within that transcendental devotional service plane, whereas the *jīva*-souls here are living within the society of misconception and need to take the opportunity to render some service to Guru-Gaurāṅga.

Attachment to Kṛṣṇa cannot grow automatically within us and no one who is bound within misconception can give it to us. Then, your activities must be for increasing your mood of devotion, and to do that you must follow the nine kinds of devotional processes (*śravanam, kīrttanam...*) and also try to engage yourself and mind for the satisfaction of the Vaisnavas.

The nature of the mundane world is: taking birth, suffering

Over...

...Side 2

in so many ways, death; birth, suffering, and death—repeatedly. It is only possible to leave this misconception by getting the good devotees' merciful connection and through that 'electricity' we will get our real beneficial exalted service life. This is the main thing, and all scriptures show this. What more can I say!

The *Srimad-Bhagavatam* said that we cannot be successful through our own endeavour, it is only possible through the *sadhus'* grace and the grace of Sri Gurudeva. For that purpose and by the Lord's grace He appears in the form of *Sadhu-Guru* for uplifting the conditioned souls. For the Lord's connection we will connect with His agent in the form of *Sadhu* and *Guru*.

Here all the duties, like the rivers' flow, must be directed to flow into the ocean of ecstasy to Krsna—this is the main thing.

Srila Rupa Goswami, in his *Bhakti-rasamṛta-sindhu*, gave:

**anāsaktasya viṣayān yathārham-upayujjataḥ,
nirbandhaḥ kṛṣṇa-sambandhe yuktaṁ vairāgyam ucyate.**

(B.r.s. Pūrva-vibhāga 2.125)

Try to detach yourself from mundane affairs and material necessities. Living within this mundane environment some necessities and requirements will come; take them in a harmonising way for the peace and maintenance of your body and mind. To become detached try to see everything in relation to Krsna and use everything for His service. Make the focus of all activities service to Sri Krsna—that is *sadhana*.

Again my blessings with well wishes to you and dandavat pranams and well wishes as appropriate to all the devotees in your association.

Yours Affectionately,

Swami B.S. Govinda

Vaisnava Calendar

Dates and times calculated for Calcutta, India, as referred to at Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math, Sri Nabadwip Dham.

JULY 1995

3. Hera-pancami. Laksmi Vijay at Sri Puri Dham
6. Disappearance of Sripad Ajita Krsna Brahmachari
8. Purna Yatra of Sri Jagannath Dev (Return car festival). Disappearance of Madhusudan Maharaj
9. Sayan Ekadasi. Fast. Sleeping Period of Visnu
10. Paran by 9.28 a.m.
12. Purnima. Disappearance of Srila Sanatana Goswami Prabhu. Beginning of Caturmasya (When started on Purnima—as followed in Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math)
14. Disappearance of Tridandi Swami Srimad Bhakti Hriday Bon Maharaj
17. Disappearance of Srila Gopal Bhatta Goswami Prabhu
20. Disappearance of Srila Lokanath Goswami Prabhu
23. Kamika Ekadasi. Fast
24. Ekadasi paran by 9.30 a.m.
27. Amavasya. **Disappearance of Om Visnupad Paramahansa Parivrajakacharyavaryya Sri Srila Bhakti Raksak Sridhar Dev-Goswami Maharaj**
31. Disappearance of Srila Vamsi das Babaji Maharaj

AUGUST

5. Disappearance of Tridandi Swami Bhakti Prasun Bodhayan Maharaj
7. Pavitraropani Ekadasi. Fast. Beginning of Jhulan Yatra of Sri Radha Govinda. Beginning of month long Festival of Sri Hari Smaran at Nabadwip, Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math
8. Paran by 6.55 a.m. Disappearance of Srila Rupa Goswami and Srila Gauri das Pandit Goswami
10. Purnima. Fast until noon. End of Jhulan Yatra of Sri Sri Radha Govinda. Appearance of Sri Sri Baladeva
18. **Sri Sri Krsna Janmastami**. Fast completely until mid-night. Then no grains
19. Sri Nandostava. Sri Janmastami paran by 9.32 a.m. **Appearance of Visvarenya Tridandi Swami Srimad Bhaktivedanta Swami Maharaj Prabhupada**
21. Annada Ekadasi. No fast
22. Maha-dwadasi. Fast
23. Paran by 6.22 a.m.
26. Amavasya
31. Appearance of Sita Devi, the Consort of Sri Advaita Prabhu

SEPTEMBER

1. Sri Lalita-saptami. Appearance of Sri Lalita Devi
2. **Sri Radhastami** (Srimati Radharani's Appearance at noon. Fast until noon)
5. Parshva Ekadasi. No fast
6. Maha-dwadasi. Appearance of Sri Vamanadeva. Appearance of Sri Jiva Goswami Prabhu. Visnu Srinkol Yoga ((Day of binding Kṛṣṇa with a rope) and Sraban-dwadasi. Fast
7. Paran by 9.30 a.m. Appearance of Srila Saccidananda Bhaktivinod Thakur
8. Disappearance of Srila Haridas Thakur
9. Purnima. Visvarupa Mahotsava. End of month long Festival

at Nabadwip, Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math

11. Disappearance of Tridandi Swami Srimad Bhakti Vilas Tirtha Goswami Maharaj
20. Indira Ekadasi. Fast
21. Paran by 9.29 a.m.
24. Amavasya
28. Appearance of Tridandi Swami Srimad Bhakti Pramod Puri Goswami Maharaj

OCTOBER

1. Sri Sri Durga-puja
4. Pasankosa Ekadasi. Fast. Vijay utsav of Sri Ramachandra (Ramachandra killed Ravana and entered Lanka). Appearance of Sri Madhava Acharyya
5. Paran by 9.27 a.m. Disappearance of Srila Raghunath das Goswami, Srila Raghunath Bhatta Goswami and Srila Krsna das Kaviraj Goswami
8. Purnima. Saradiya Rasa Yatra of Sri Krsna. Disappearance of Srila Murari Gupta. Beginning of Urjja-vrata, Damodara-vrata, Karttika-vrata or Niyamaseva-vrata
11. Disappearance of Tridandi Swami Srimad Bhakti Svarupa Puri Maharaj
13. Disappearance of Srila Narottama das Thakur
14. Disappearance of Srila Bhakti Vicara Jajavar Maharaj
17. Bahul-astami. Manifestation day of Sri Radha-kunda
18. **Appearance of Srila Viracandra Prabhu. Grand Appearance Festival of Om Visnupad Paramahansa Parivrajakacharyya Astottara-sata Sri Srila Bhakti Raksak Sridhar Dev-Goswami Maharaj.**
Grand culmination of the year-long Centenary Festival of **Srila Bhakti Raksak Sridhar Dev-Goswami Maharaj.**
Disappearance of Sripad Sakhicaran das Babaji Maharaj
20. Rama Ekadasi. Fast
21. Paran by 9.27 a.m. Subha Vijoy Festival of Sri Gauranga Mahaprabhu at Sripat Panihati
24. Amavasya. Dipavali. Offering and placing lamps on Visnu Mandirs. Full eclipse of the sun 7:32.12–10:17.54 a.m.
25. Go-puja (cow-whorship) and Go-Krida (Krsna's playing with the cows). Appearance of Srila Rasikananda Prabhu. **Sri Govardhan-puja. Annakut Mahotsava Balidaityaraj-puj. Grand festival at Srila Sridhar Swami Sevashram and other Maths**
26. Disappearance of Srila Vasughosh Thakur and Tridandi Swami Srimad Bhakti Sarvasva Giri Maharaj. Bhratri-dwitia kritum (sisters and brothers honouring each other)
27. **Disappearance of Visvarenya Tridandi Swami Srimad Bhaktivedanta Swami Maharaj Prabhupad**
28. Disappearance of Tridandi Swami Srimad Bhakti Aloka Paramahansa Maharaj
31. Disappearance of Sri Gadadhara das Goswami, Srila Dhananjaya Pandit and Srila Srinivas Acharyya Prabhu. Sri Gopastami. Sri Gosthastami, Go-puja and Go-gras dan (Giving food to cows)

Local Diary

● News and activities of our Centres in India

Each of our Centres in India has been established with the aim of being self-supporting and able to run without depending upon the Central Math.

Dum Dum Park:

The newly constructed *Nat Mandir* at our Calcutta, Dum Dum Park Temple was officially opened by Sri Math Acharyya Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaj in May. The *Nat Mandir* comprises a hall for *kirtan* and discourses, a balcony made up of reverse semi-circular sections and an office. Upstairs are six rooms for guest devotees and a broad corridor where additional programmes are held.

Dum Dum Park is considered in Calcutta to be middle-class, and many respectable persons regularly come to worship and hear the message of Sri Guru and Gauranga.

With the opening of the *Nat Mandir* came the inauguration of a regular Sunday morning preaching programme of *kirtan*, discourses, book distribution, *arati* and *Maha-prasadam* distribution. The first two Sunday programmes were personally lead by Srila Govinda Maharaj before his return to Nabadwip. His Divine Grace is particularly satisfied to see the good response of these new preaching activities.

The Dum Dum Park Temple is headed by Sripad B.P. Tirtha Maharaj who is capably assisted by a handful of devotees headed by Prabhu Amrita Krishna and Prabhu Nanda Dulal.

On 30 May the first anniversary of the installation of the Deities was held. Reminiscent of festivals in Nabadwip, many large pots of *Prasadam* were soon emptied as everyone happily accepted this grace of Sri Sri Guru-Gauranga-Radha-Madanamohan and Giridhariji.

With the completion of two storeys of the *Nat Mandir*, work began in June on the dome of the Deities' Temple. Earlier there were many obstacles to construct the dome, but by Sri Madanamohan's grace all these have now been cleared and the work is going on smoothly. Planning permission has already been granted for a third and fourth storey for the *Nat Mandir* which will be added presently.

Kaikhali:

This Ashram is one of our Indian Centres which is well attended by the local population, but little visited by Western devotees. Quietly located off the main 'V.I.P. Road' and just a rickshaw ride from Calcutta airport, the two-storey building is home to Sriman Mahaprabhu and a handful of servitors.

The house was purchased in April 1988 and Mahaprabhu's Sri Vighraha was installed in June of the same year, during the time of Srila Guru Maharaj. Ever since the devotees moved in, the local population have been particularly favourable to Srila Govinda Maharaj and his mission.

At present Sripad Bhakti Dayita Damodar Maharaj heads the programmes there. Daily approximately fifty people attend the evening *arati* and discourses on the Vaisnava Scriptures.

Hapaniya:

Always dear to the hearts of the devotees of our Math, Sripad Hapaniya is the holy Appearance Place of Srila Guru Maharaj. In order to give inspiration and service opportunity to the devotees, there has been a shuffle around of servitors at some of the Centres in India. Thus Sripad Hari Charan Prabhu Seva Ketan now leads the devotees of the Hapaniya Temple in their service activities. Under his guidance daily around one hundred people come at noon for the *darshan* of Sri Sri Guru-Gauranga-Radha-Gopinathjiu. All who attend receive *Maha-prasadam* in the form of Gopinath's famous *khir*.

Grown from humble beginnings

A FEW WORDS BY SRILA B.S. GOVINDA MAHARAJ ABOUT OUR DUM DUM PARK CENTRE

“When we started the Dum Dum Park Ashram, by the will of Srila Guru Maharaj, it was our desire to make it a devotees' transit station where devotees coming from the West could take rest for one or two days, or three days at the most, and then come to Nabadwip. Devotees passing through Calcutta would be able to take *Prasadam* there before continuing their journey.

Whenever the devotees have some duty with their passport, visa, bank, etc., they may stay in this Centre. In this way they can get some relief in the form of food and accommodation. Previously there was no alternative in Calcutta except to stay in a hotel. It was by the grace of Srila Guru Maharaj that we made this suitable arrangement.

Wherever the devotees will stay there must be some facility for preaching and *Prasad* distribution, and when *Prasad* distribution is necessary, whose *Prasadam* will it be? Therefore, the Deity must be there. In this way the preaching Centre in Dum Dum Park has automatically manifested.”

Govardhan:

With the relocation of devotees, the day to day running of our Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math, Govardhan, is now being looked after by the former *pujari* and *kirtan* leader of Nabadwip, Prabhu Bhudev, along with Prabhu Sundar Krsna and Prabhu Vasudev. In keeping with Srila Govinda Maharaj's emphasis at each of our Centres, the preaching and book distribution in Govardhan has been markedly increased.

There has been a large increase in the number of devotees from all societies, as well as general people, coming to use our Ashram to facilitate their *parikrama* of Govardhan Hill. In particular each *amavasya* (dark moon) and *purnima* (full moon) many pious souls engage in this *parikrama*.

Srila Govinda Maharaj declares his pleasure to see the increasing popularity of our Govardhan Math.

Puri:

As in previous years a group of devotees will go to Puri for the auspicious event of Lord Jagannathdev's Rathayatra Festival. The pilgrims will stay in the Temple and Guesthouse that Srila Govinda Maharaj graciously constructed for the service of the devotees.

See feature article page 9

Hidden service

Not all increases in service are necessarily immediately visible. Unnoticed by many, the cultivation of land for the service of Sri Sri Guru-Gauranga-Gandharva-Govindasundarjiu is a continuous and exerted devotional activity.

Rice needs lots of water to grow, and 'the Lord helps those who help themselves' so to increase the chance of the crops flourishing even when rain is scarce, a good submersible pump has been installed at our Vanapukur fields. It has a high capacity and it runs off the existing electricity supply installed especially for agriculture in the area.

A miracle with Jagannath's Prasad

Sripad Bhakti Sudhanya Niskincan Maharaj of our Jagannath Puri Temple recently travelled to Nabadwip Dham via our Dum Dum Park Temple. At Dum Dum Park he was joined on his journey by Sripad B.P. Tirtha Maharaj and Prabhu Muralidhar from Australia. Presently they reached Nabadwip, and on entering the gates of the Math they all with beaming smiles declared, "A miracle happened on the way. A miracle happened!"

The new arrivals immediately went to offer their obeisances to His Divine Grace Srila Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaj on his verandah. With many others also present they then related their day's adventures.

While travelling by a Shantipur bound train they got down along the way. The train left without them—but upon the luggage rack was still Sripad Niskincan Maharaj's special package containing Lord Jagannath's *Maha-prasadam* and some very special water that had bathed Jagannathdev at the recent *snan-yatra*.

Immediately the devotees went to the Station Master who, seeing their *sadhu's* clothing and nature, resolved to assist. It was a small village station called Kalinarayanpur. The Station Master telephoned to the other stations along the route, but none seemed to be able to help very much.

The devotees, feeling prayerful but a little hopeless, then patiently awaited the arrival of that same train returning to Calcutta. When it eventually arrived the Station Master stopped the whole train and arranged a search of the carriages.

Suddenly one of the railway workers came from a compartment holding high his find of Jagannathdev's package of mercy. The devotees were naturally overjoyed. They expressed their great appreciation to all concerned and generously distributed the mercy of Jagannathdev. The Station Master and several of the staff showed much interest and expressed their desire to come to visit the Math.

Everyone present, headed by Srila Govinda Maharaj, relished hearing these pastimes of Sri Jagannathdev, His *Prasadam* and devotees, and relished even more that *Maha-prasadam*.



The tree that puzzled everyone

Illawarra Flame Tree

A puzzle that has remained unanswered for many years has just been resolved with the arrival of Prabhu Muralidhar from Australia. He has identified the tall tree outside the old Press Room as an Illawarra Flame Tree, the most stunning of the Australian ornamental trees.

Prabhu Muralidhar informed that our tree is still young, but it is almost reaching the age to bloom, and when it does so it must surely live up to its name. A characteristic of this tree is that it loses its leaves, then blooms all over with bright red flowers making it a distinctive sight—and visible for miles around.

Sri Gaudiya Darshan

The theme of this year is service, service, service. There is hardly a place which has not been overtaken by the mood to increase seva in special remembrance of Srila Guru Maharaj during this, his Centenary Year. The holy inspiration and driving force behind this wave sweeping the world is His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaj. It is specifically *his* wish that the world will serve in exclusive remembrance of Srila Guru Maharaj. And it is no secret that it is specifically Srila Guru Maharaj's wish that we all engage in exclusive service to Srila Govinda Maharaj.

The direction is clearly chalked out, and that all are trying with renewed energy is evidenced by the many dispatches and reports arriving here in Nabadwip. May we all receive nourishment to hear of the glorious activities of the devotees worldwide.

I remain praying for the causeless grace of Srila Govinda Maharaj and Srila Guru Maharaj heading the Vaisnava community.

Humbly, Mahananda dasa Bhakti Ranjan

The word is 'kirttan'

Srila Govinda Maharaj explained that the word for all congregational chanting is 'kirttan,' whether it is performed while standing or while seated.

'Bhajan' refers to one's personal cultivation of Krsna consciousness. Therefore, no doubt, for the Gaudiya Vaisnavas *kirttan* is indeed *bhajan*.

A further guidance from Srila Govinda Maharaj is that it is not customary to chant the name of one's Guru at the end of *kirttans*, and it should not be done. It is good to repeatedly chant "Jaya Guru Maharaj, jaya Guru Maharaj..." but not "Jaya Srila Sridhar Maharaj...."

Special requests of His Divine Grace

Approach before reprinting:

If anyone wishes to reproduce any articles, etc., from publications of this Math, please inform Srila Govinda Maharaj first. There may be additions, amendments, etc. that need including in any reprints.

A constantly updated list of details of Main Centres is available on request from Nabadwip Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math. And: please keep the Central Math informed of any changes or amendments needed in the mailing and Main Centres lists.

See current list of Main Centres, rear inside cover

Only this version:

His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaj instructs that as a fuller version of the translation of Srila Guru Maharaj's famous verse about the Math (*śrīmac-caitanya-sāraswata-maṭhavarā...*) is now available, we should not use in any new printing the earlier, shorter version. This longer translation is found on the back cover of this magazine as well as in the recent publication 'Srila Guru Maharaj—His Divine Pastimes & Precepts in Brief.' It is a translation of Srila Maharaj's own Bengali explanation of the verse.

Personal Centenary request for photos:

This time it is the direct request of Srila Govinda Maharaj: if you have any photos which are connected with Srila Guru Maharaj and his mission, please send copies of them to His Divine Grace. This request includes photographs of your local Centre and activities.

In several of his recent letters Srila Govinda Maharaj has personally made the following request:

"Everyone is welcome to send photographs of Srila Guru Maharaj and of our Preaching Mission for displaying in the Centenary Memorial Hall with the minimum size of 12 by 16 inches."

Special appreciation

A special mention is due to everyone who sent articles, news, etc for this edition of **Sri Gaudiya Darshan** magazine. Unfortunately, there were several items that could not be included due to lack of space.

In this regard particular appreciation is expressed to Prabhu Namacharya of New Zealand who sent an informative devotional diary of Sripad B.S. Tridandi Maharaj's recent visit to his country; and to Prabhu Kesavananda of U.K., whose vivid descriptions of the Nabadwip Math's Gaura-purnima pil-

grimages to Bamunpara and Hapaniya were a joy to read.

Fruits galore

Lychees, bael, mangos, jamrul, jack-fruit, palm 'tal' fruits, bananas, star fruit and guava have this year grown abundantly in the trees decorating the grounds of Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math. Mahaprabhu is no doubt greatly satisfied.

On breezy days there has been a constant thud, thud, as fully ripened mangos fall to the ground to be quickly rescued by the fastest hands. Furthermore, these trees have engaged in quiet preaching by attracting devotees to come from

even the opposite side of the world to taste their creations.

The local children find the search for fallen fruit irresistible. While devotees were chasing out some local children who were eager to take Sriman Mahaprabhu's mangos, Srila Govinda Maharaj smilingly said, "The tree will be displeased with you for chasing away the children from collecting its fruits." After a pause he continued, "Still, we must chase them!"

The local 'hanuman' monkey population has also received at least their fair share of tasteful nourishment.

Additional storage

Indicative of the recent success of our rice harvest, an additional grain store has been made between the Ladies' Guesthouse (Ramā Dham) and Guru Dham. Nestled beneath the jamrul tree it makes good use of an area of garden that was hard to cultivate due to its heavily shaded area.

Charitable Dispensary

Unobtrusively located almost opposite and slightly north of our Math compound is our Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Charitable Dispensary. Because it is outside the compound the dispensary is almost unnoticed by many visitors to the Math. But in time of need, when sick or in much pain, the services of the homoeopathic doctor, Dr. Jeeten Chowdhury, are greatly appreciated by devotees as well as the inhabitants of the area. The dispensary is open daily from 1pm to 5 pm and it is free.

Surrounding the Charitable Dispensary is some land which is currently being used for growing 'gama,' a type of seedy grass very much liked by our cows. This crop, along with corn on the cob and bananas, is also growing around our Govinda Kunda.

Excerpts from Sri Math's April '95

A Devotional News Sheet of Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math, Nabadwip

Devotees' own medicine

More joyful news is the much improved health of our dear Sri Acharyadeva, Srila Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaj. He has mentioned that his recovery of health has been due to the pleasing devotional activities of the devotees at home and abroad. He is very keen that the Mission be nicely established — so the preaching and practising activities of the devotees is a particularly potent medicine for him.

Srila Guru Maharaj's room redecorated

The quarters of Srila Guru Maharaj upstairs have just been fully repainted. The window and door frames of the inner verandah are painted pink and the walls are white. The concrete just below the windows has been freshly waxed with red polish as have all the floors and lower sections of the walls.

Within Srila Guru Maharaj's room all the windows, doors and their frames have been freshly painted

green as has the girder spanning the ceiling. As with the verandah, the walls are white and the floor waxed red. All in all, the verandah and room are very clean and devotedly maintained in honour of Srila Guru Maharaj.

Books displayed

On the north facing outer wall of the Samadhi Mandir a large book display cabinet has recently been installed. It has six long shelves for displaying books and these are protected by four sliding glass panels.

Two further book display cases have been fixed upon the walls of Srila Govinda Maharaj's verandah where books in many languages are respectfully displayed.

Calf seva

Attention has recently been given to the new cow shed in the form of a complete brick and cement floor for the outside area occupied by the calves. A permanent raised trough has been made along the right hand wall.

The following article first appeared in:-

The Harmonist

(Sree Saijanatoshani)

VOL. XXXI. }

September 19, 1934

{ No. 2.

The Forgetfulness of the Humanists

By Tridandiswami Srila Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Thakura

The Fountain-head of all eternal and temporary manifestations is confined in Sree Krishna alone. The non-absolute phases are emanations from a particular potency whose analytical distributions are known as gunas or qualities. In the factor of time, they are branded as past, present and future and their material representations have three characteristics viz. evolution, sustenance and dissolution. The Fountain-head is Absolute and His borderland emanations are absolute infinitesimals, though they are recognised in the same qualities. Their quantitative reference is then considered as apart from the Absolute, but swayed by a quality and their special characteristic is that the infinitesimal bearing should not be confused with the Infinitude.

The resources of manifestive nature have their common origin in the absolute existence of the Fountain-head. The delegation of the power of the Absolute Infinity is traced in the spirit and the matter. The family of qualitative temporal representations possesses numerous isolated entities and so the absolute infinitesimals are grouped together in magnitudinal difference from the Fountain-head.

The present human figure or the figure of a member of the Zoo or of one of the family of phytophagic species has got a restrictive and depending position and it is liable to change in the shape of growth and deterioration. The eternal nature of the absolute-infinitesimals is spirit and takes the initiative; whereas the difference of quality cannot show the power of taking initiative, similar to that of living entities.

The two potencies possessed by the Fountain-head are known as spiritual and material. The frame of the living should never be confused with the life itself. So there is a broad distinction of aspects between the two families of spirit and matter. The predominating phase is exercised in the material atmosphere which is liable to be controlled by animation. The animal world differs

from materialistic structure, though it is endowed with a material association in its outward appearance.

We may often distinguish between a living body and a dead one. The generative advent has a smaller beginning to undergo development and growth and the elimination of the life principle from the structure itself has got different denominations.

In the Semitic thought we do not find any metempsychotic speculation; so they are prone to consider the spirit as a composition of chanced incident, and this material combination as the starting point of the souls. So these thoughts are opposed to the theory inculcated by the conception of seelwanderung or metempsychosis. The spiritistic view is quite different from the idea of material congregation which is wrongly considered as the composition of the eternal soul. On the other hand, the non-Semitic thoughts make a departure from the Semitic ideas of non-transmigrating accidental composition.

The explanation of the different methods of the two bearings—the tabernacle and the inner temporal animating entity—can lead us to a differing element in the transcendental entity, beyond our sensuous conception when we bring into consideration the true eternal position of the absolute infinitesimals, by following the analogy of wrapping the entity by two kinds of garments covering the same as incorporations. The covers, though foreign, are amalgamated to create a confusion of their natural isolated position.

Portions of matter, in the factor of time, are liable to change. But the substratum—the spirit—is not obliged to undergo transformation like the foreign parts attached to the same by conventional practices. The very theory is explained in other words by the encountering attitude of a different potentia of the Fountain-head to effect the conver-

sion by means of temporary decorations. The exercising function of the spirit is more or less impeded by the counteracting agency of a different potency of the Absolute. So the susceptibility of being attacked is an inevitable element in the spirit infinitesimal which is different from the spiritual Infinite.

Conversion in or mixing with the temporary material dust should not and cannot disable or disfigure the Spirit Infinity, as the value of spirits infinitesimals should not and could not be identical with the Fountain-head and His emanation, just like a particular pencil of ray should not be misconceived as the glowing disc from which the rays come. The Absolute Fountain-head of spirit should not be considered to slumber like absolute infinitesimals who are subject to the other potentia of the Absolute.

The nature of the spirits of borderland potency of the Fountain-head need not be affirmed with the objective knowledge of the mixed up conception. The nature of the Absolute Infinite should not be standardised in the same line as His infinitesimals. The spirits are observed in two different stages; whereas, the eternal Fountain-head of all spirits has no bifurcation. The Absolute Infinite cannot be expected to be accommodated in the finite reference of phenomena which have limiting merits.

The Fountain-head alone has the reservation of Ubiquity; whereas, all ubiquitous aspects are wanting in infinitesimals. So isolation and association of infinitesimals with the Infinite should not be recognized as two different entities. Pleasure and pain are of the same temporary stay and they are counted differently in their gradatory condition.

The eternal and temporal potencies have got their two realms, and on the border of the two, the border-land potentia can easily be traced. The members of the border-land potency can claim one of the two potencies at a time which are double-winged places of their habitation. The mundane phenomena have got a temporal situation; whereas, the eternal manifestations of the Transcendence are not subject to the atmosphere of inadequacy, limit and imperfection of phenomena.

The border-land potency can be traced to exhibit her neutral position which is normal and does not espouse at that time the cause of temporal or eternal manifestation of the Fountain-head. The members of this potency are apt to be forgetful of their eternal situation, when they have strong

affinity to live in this temporal region as lords and by their inherent free-will want not to submit to their eternal functions of the transcendence.

The forgetful demeanour posed by a member of the border-land potency cannot welcome the guidance of the eternal blissful wisdom of a devotee. The misguiding and tempting objects of phenomena often dictate the necessity, in the heart of a weak, cringing forgetful spirit, of his wonted participation in the enjoyment of this material sphere.

The eternal acquisition of the members of the border-land potency cannot be dissociated from their persons. The impersonalist has got a non-differentiative impression of all spirits into one. If an erroneous argument is offered by a silly person of his having been endowed with the susceptibilities of forgetfulness of his eternal function, and therefore, because the Fountain-head is to be blamed for delegating to him inadequate power, he should not have been held responsible for the incomplete investiture on him along with complete freedom, then this polemic character of the Semitic school can easily be met by an acquaintance of prepossession of spiritual independent element inherent in the border-land potency to entangle themselves in undesirable situation. Free will of an absolute infinitesimal cannot be denied as a limited quality like the material characteristic of phenomenal nature.

The absolute infinitesimal has got his free will, and by his free will he can either pose himself as a forgetful agent or can awaken himself for his original eternal function of remembering his own eternal exploits. The Fountain-head does never wish to delude nor oblige His parts—the infinitesimal spirits by devoiding them of such free will but allows them the freedom inherent in them.

The conditioned souls, out of their own discretion, rush into moods quite apathetic for not serving the Fountain-head when He Himself sends His message of delivering them through His messengers who act as spiritual guides to the wrongdoers. Both the Semitic and non-Semitic people believe in the impersonality of the Absolute; whereas, the clear eyes of the devotees can see the personality of Godhead as the Fountain-head of many conflicting and contending energies that foster the whims of different parties. Proneness to forgetfulness is afforded by the free will of non-devotees who are found to adopt wrong processes as their guiding principles.

Ambition of life

NEWLY TRANSCRIBED FROM DISCOURSES GIVEN BY

HIS DIVINE GRACE

SRILA BHAKTI RAKSAK SRIDHAR DEV-GOSWAMI MAHARAJ

We don't like to live in this material world that is so nasty. We are trying to realise how to live in the land of the soul. We are soul and we should live there.

*yad gatvā na nivartante
tad dhāma paramam mama
(Śrīmad Bhagavad-gītā 15.6)*

(Kṛṣṇa said to Arjuna: "That is My all-illuminating holy abode from which the surrendered souls never return once having reached there.")

and:

*ābrahma-bhuvanāl lokāḥ
punar āvartino 'rjjuna
mām upetya tu kaunteya
punar janma na vidyate
(Śrīmad Bhagavad-gītā 8.16)*

("O Arjuna, beginning from Brahmaloḥka, the highest planet in the universe, downwards, certainly the residents of all planets are naturally subjected to repeated birth and death. But, O Kaunteya, upon reaching Me, there is no rebirth.")

It is coming into being, then again vanishing. It is being created, then destroyed. Creation and destruction is the nature of this plane of life, and we must leave this dress and find our 'soul' person and live in the plane of soul beyond the jurisdiction of this world. This is achieved by the use of our intelligence and mainly by the causeless mercy of the Vaiṣṇava: *sukṛti*. *Sukṛti* when accumulated creates *śraddhā* for the unseen cause. What is seen becomes neglected, and appreciation grows for what is unseen. The unseen is more reliable. The 'unseen' means that which is not under material experience, but it is more reliable than this place of

'concrete' life which is sure to go—and not only mine, but everyone's. So this bogus plane should not be trusted any longer. We must seek somewhere else. If we enter within our heart we shall find that, yes, there is mind, there is intelligence, there is soul, Super Soul and so on in the subtle world. Whereas this seen world is proven to be of change and destruction.

Where insult is absent

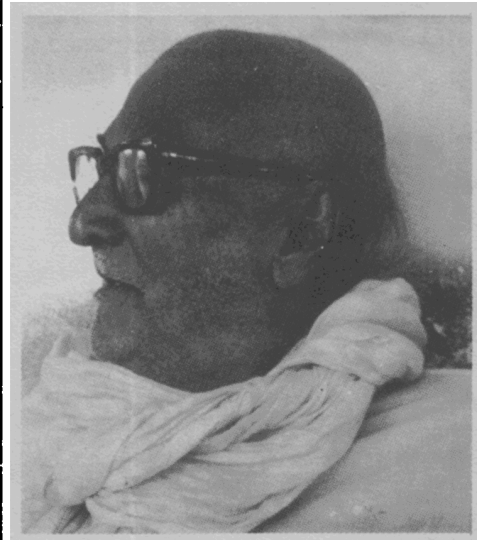
Our ambition of life is the higher plane of Kṛṣṇa. We want to live in a country where the general insult and disregard is absent.

We can live an honourable life there. Whereas this plane is sure to go, and we see it every day and at every moment. Yudhiṣṭhir Mahārāj said, "What is more wonderful than this? Every day we see everything going to the jaws of death, but we are not preparing ourselves for that. Instead our tendency is that as much time as possible we shall stay here."

Making Temples

The whole of our energy we are using almost for nothing. We are using our energy for impossibility. I shall have to leave, and *all* of us we shall have to leave this place, still we want to give so much attention to building houses and this and that.

For this reason we are making Temples, etc., so that in this way so many persons' energy will be used for the purpose of the Lord and they will be saved. Energy should be used for Him, and that is the way in which we can go to His land. All aspects of our life



Śrīla Guru Mahārāj, Śrīla Bhakti Rakṣak Śrīdhara Dev-Goswāmī

should be utilised for His service and that is the royal road to go swiftly to His domain. The whole energy should be used for His purpose.

Everything is for Him. We must realise this truth. Nothing is for us, and I am also for Him. The Infinite, the Absolute is such in His nature and His very existence, that everything is for Him. At present we are separatists thinking, "This is mine, I may be monarch of all I survey." But this is the anti-current that has taken us far away from Him, thus causing us to become prey to death and disease.

Place of solution: Śrī Nabadwīp Dhām

Nabadwīp is considered by the high order devotees to be the highest place of theism of Absolute Love. Śrī Rādhikā and Govinda combined Themselves together, and they are avowed to give their dearest thing to the public. As Sri Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu They came here with this idea.

Both parties have the best wealth, and They have come to distribute that for the benefit of the public: "Come this way, you will get the highest thing that we taste ourselves. The same dish you can have. O people, you can have a taste

of the same dish as we relish. It is the play of the highest order. *Prem. Love.*"

Raso vai sah: the *Upaniṣads* say that sweetness—*rasa*, *ānandam*, *sun-daram*—is really controlling the whole creation. Everyone wants *rasa*, none can say otherwise. From the atheists to the highest order of theists, everyone wants *rasa*.

Enriched life

If we can develop the eye to see, then every atom of Gaura-Dhām will charm us to the utmost. Only the eye is necessary. By charm every atom is sufficient to engage us fully and accommodate us wholesale. One particle of dust can give us fullest engagement because all is infinite and of the most generous type here. All the dust is of

the most generous type and promising for Kṛṣṇa.

Every particle of dust promises to give us Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, so what more do we need? They all promise, and this is the outcome of Gaura-Dhām. No other nature can be traced in them. They are all helping to take us to our highest attainment. Really seeing, it is their nature. Externally according to our *anartha* it may produce so many tests and examinations, but with the least test and least trouble, they are ready to give our highest goal: the connection of Mahāprabhu, and the eye to see who Mahāprabhu is. The angle of vision is the most important thing, the angle of vision to look upon the environment.

In Vṛndāvan there are apparently so many demons such as Aghāsura, Bakāsura, Dhenuka, Vyoma, Ariṣṭa,

Keśi and Kāṁsa, but they are on the surface, whereas Kṛṣṇa is everywhere. There is the superficial vision and the real vision. Similarly there is the internal self, and the necessity of that internal self—soul's necessity—avoiding the superfluous, the surface.

How magnanimous

The surface is for our physical senses, and for the mind there is also a mental layer of different types of religionists including so many other religions. But in the layer of soul, when we come to appreciate assistance from others, then we will come to appreciate how beautiful and how magnanimous is the connection of Gaurāṅga here in Nabadwīp. How it can enrich our soul! Our soul's necessity. •63•

A rarely-read jewel:

Focussed to Śrī Guru

BY HIS DIVINE GRACE

SRILA BHAKTI RAKSAK SRIDHAR DEV-GOSWAMI MAHARAJ

In *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* Nārada Muni gives the following advice as a general recommendation as to how to get free from unwanted desires, *kāma*:

*asaṅkalpāṅ jayet kāmāṁ,
krodhaṁ kāma-vivarjanāt
arthānarthekṣayā lobhaṁ,
bhayaṁ tattvāvarṣanāt*
(Bhā: 7.15.22)

We are not to allow ourselves to contact or enter any plan of life. We are to be always open to deal with the present, not with any plan for the future. If we do not have any *kāma*, any plan, then anger may not come.

When there is some obstruction in fulfilling a plan we become angry in life, but if there is no plan of life then we are always open to serve the present and in that way we are clear—free

from debt and obligation. Whatever comes in the present we do as our duty. But when there is a plan we become angry if any disturbance will come in carrying that out.

See the reaction

Arthānarthekṣayā lobhaṁ—and *lobha*, greed, can be conquered just by seeing the reactions of money. If we collect energy from outside, that money comes with the sin and mentality of the man from whom we collected it. It is contaminated with their particular mentality. If we have this conception we may not have greed for any energy that comes under our command.

Bhayaṁ tattvāvarṣanāt—we apprehend so many good and bad things—we fear. In order to conquer

fear we are to cultivate understanding of the real nature of this plane: it all runs by the Lord's will but we are throwing in our separate interest which comes back to us as reaction. We are to accept that our individual opinion may not be successful here. Everything that comes in clash with the Absolute Will shall have to vanish. With this idea we will be open in the present and free from any future plans.

All these advices are expressed, but in the end it is given:

*etat sarvaṁ gurau bhaktyā,
puruṣo hy añjasā jayet*
(Bhā: 7.15.25)

"There is only one thing by which we can conquer all these abnormalities. What is that? *Guru-bhakti*. 'I am a servant of my Guru. Whatever he shall say, I shall do.' Concentrate on this point."

All to one point

We are to withdraw all plans and put everything just in this one point: "Whatever will come through the Guru, the representation of the Lord, I shall do that." There is no necessity of any

other thinking, planning, designing, etc.: "I want this, I shall do that," is all unnecessary. We are only to concentrate on one point. The representation of the Supreme is there—the Guru—and what is wanted by him, we shall do that. Everything is focussed to that one point without seeing anything else.

Exclusive focus is illustrated in the example of Droṇāchāryya testing his students by asking them to aim their arrows at the eye of a toy bird placed in a tree. Each aimed in turn, and Droṇāchāryya asked, "What do you see?" The first replied, "The bird, the tree, etc."

Dissatisfied, Droṇāchāryya said, "Stand aside."

But when it came to the turn of Arjuna, he replied, "I can see the bird."

"Can you see the whole of the bird?"

"No. Only the head."

"The whole of the head?"

"No. Only the eye of the bird."

"You cannot see anything else?"

"No. I can see only the eye of the bird."

Only then was Droṇāchāryya satisfied.

In this way all should be concentrated to one point, "I have connection with the representation of the Supreme, the Guru, and I am at his disposal. Whatever he shall say, I shall do. I am not a servant of anyone else."

*etat sarvaṁ gurau bhaktyā,
puruṣo hy aṅjasā jayet*

(Bhā: 7.15.25)

In that way there will be no anger, no lust—nothing. If one can do such exclusive *Guru-bhakti* it will strongly keep him in a safe position, and that is the key to very easy and quick success.

*yasya deve parā bhaktir,
yathā deve tathā gurau
tasyaite kathitā hy arthāḥ,
prakāśante mahātmanah*

(Śeṭāsvatara Upaniṣad 6.23)

A person who serves Guru and Kṛṣṇa can understand the real meaning of the Scriptures, otherwise the real meaning will not be revealed and one will not

be able to follow their real purpose. That is the apriori method of studying the *Vedas*.

The meaning revealed

Ācāryyavān puruṣo veda—the meaning of the *Upaniṣads* can be understood only by those who have their Guru. Not everyone can understand the real meaning of the *Upaniṣads*, but only those who are at the disposal of a real Guru can have access there. By intellectualism we cannot understand their real meaning. Only by approaching the Guru with a serving attitude will the meaning be revealed. He will come and express Himself to us, and we are to have the mood, "I am unqualified and low, but He will come and give admission irrespective of any intellect, study or anything else on my part."

Root of falsehood

Research scholarship in the illusory world is all quite a different approach. Scientific research is going from one misconception to another misconception. It is all misconception. It is error and has falsehood at the root. *Acintya-bhedābheda*. The centre is such that everything is at *His* command: "Let there be light," and there was light. "Let there be water," and there was water.

The research scholars try to research the nature and cause of everything, but ultimately it is all His sweet will. Neglecting that, they simply research, research, research, but if His will is withdrawn, everything will be falsified.

We do not want the apparently deep knowledge of the researchers. We have no concern with what is actually this

partial, infinitesimal, surface knowledge which is so attractive to those floating, giving and taking, in that section. It is all false and black-marketeering. Everyone's money is black and they are transacting with that. In this society false notes are being circulated as real currency.

Spiritual courage

Acintya-bhedābheda. Everything is His will, and it is the greatest adventure to search for Kṛṣṇa, to search for the root of the whole infinite. It needs sufficient courage and preparedness to face the risk. To go to discover the North Pole or the highest peak of the Himalayas needs so much courage and involves risk, then what to speak of the courage necessary to find out the Absolute Cause of the Whole. Internal courage—spiritual courage—is necessary. We are to have soul's courage and have the confidence of deep faith. We are to understand the noble character of the faith within us. Without electricity we cannot have connection with the moon and other planets. Our hands and eyes cannot contact there. Faith can connect us with the farthest things. All other methods fail. Faith is substantial, it is not part of an illusion of the mind. The whole mind is a concocted thing: it is a source of forgery. Faith is not to be found there. Faith is a function of the soul.

We cannot even see what is within our own body without the help of some apparatus. Through faith, *śraddhā*, the soul can approach and see the higher world.

By faith we can approach the highest, noblest thing, not by our hand or by the help of any mundane elements. •❧•

From Srila Guru Maharaj's lotus mouth

"Guru means the agent
through whom the transaction
can be made with the invisible."



World Diary

● Keeping in touch with
our Centres around the world
Centenary Year reports & dispatches

California:

In the booming Ashram of Soquel, devotees are engaged in a wide variety of services. From publishing to pruning; ABC to the Internet; construction to *sankirtan*; collecting ingredients, to distributing *Prasad*—all types of services are being undertaken by the enthusiasm of the Ashram's residents and supporters.

Sripad Bhakti Pavan Janardan Maharaj is overseeing the preaching and programmes, and the management team is headed by Prabhu Hasyapriya and Prabhu Yudhamanyu Seva Vikram. Many service activities are going on, and special mention is due to many, not least of which is Kum Kum Devi Dasi whose hard labours heading the gardening team has produced all manner of success. The grounds are not only increasingly attractive day by day, but they also produce many items for offering to Mahaprabhu in the form of fruits, vegetables and flowers.

The regular Soquel Seva Ashram's newsletter *Vaishnava Seva* not only keeps the local devotees in touch with events, but it is a source of news—and

great satisfaction—to His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaj.

Equally satisfying to his Divine Grace is the constant sacrifice of Prabhu Srutasrava to publish the regular magazine, *Sri Vaishnava Tosani*.

Tour report page 5; dispatch page 28

Miami:

In keeping with Srila Maharaj's wish to extend devotional activities during this Centenary year, the Miami Ashram headed by Srimati Vrajavala Devi Dasi is ever busy in various activities. A separate ladies' ashram and gents' ashram have been established. The ladies' section is headed by Rameswari Devi Dasi, and the men's section is headed by Prabhu Narahari. The telephone number of the men's ashram is: 305 - 893 4088.

Recent construction includes the completion of a fence at the end of the driveway and a wall for the altar room to protect the Deities. It was a photograph of this altar that gave Srila Govinda Maharaj ideas for the basic design of Srila Guru Maharaj's Samadhi Mandir.

Dispatch page 30

Hawaii:

Big Island:

At Sri Giridhari Ashram the energetic mood of Prabhu Revatinath to share his enthusiasm to hear and chant the glories of Sri Ramayan-*lila* has led to the establishing of 'Sri Ram Club':

"Every Tuesday (Mangalam day) at 12:00 noon we have *kirtans* and then watch a video of Ram-*lila* and of course *Prasadam* after that. All are welcome."

Maui:

Preaching, practising, and direct service to the Math epitomises the service of this small island of Hawaii. The devotees extend their activities to Honolulu with distribution of leaflets and books at the airport, and other preaching programmes.

Mexico:

As well as overseeing the various Temple activities, Sripad Bhakti Kusum Ashram Maharaj recently held house programmes, and he was interviewed on the television programme 'Pasarela.'

The Mexican devotees at Veracruz kept up their usual thoroughness in keeping Srila Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaj informed of their activities. Sending two folders personally compiled for His Divine Grace, full with invitations, photographs of events, newspaper cuttings, and text descriptions of their festivals and activities. Madhuchanda Devi Dasi headed up the preaching and communications team. Thus in pictures and words, the festivals and feasts were depicted for their programmes for such events as Sri Gaura-purnima and the Appearances of Sri Nityananda Prabhu, Srila Bhakti-siddhanta Saraswat Thakur and Lord Nrsimhadev. Mention is made there of repeated radio coverage, and several newspaper clippings were included in the presentation folders.

Madhuchanda Devi Dasi mentioned: "The success of our many devotional

Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Seva Ashram Soquel, California

Dear Srila Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaj,

Please accept my dandavat pranams at your holy feet. All Glories to our Divine Masters. All Glories to Sri Guru and Sri Gauranga.

The Harinam Sankirtan continues every Saturday, downtown Santa Cruz. Separately, I am mailing many photographs taken by Sanatani Devi. The weather has been sunny and many devotees are joining in the *kirtan*. Sripad Janardan Maharaj, Yudhamanyu Prabhu Seva Vikram, Srutasrava Prabhu and many others, lead us each week in the *kirtan* and all are very enthusiastic about going out of the temple for *kirtan* and preaching. While visiting here, both Sripad Giri Maharaj and Sripad Ashram Maharaj joined in the *Harinam Sankirtan*. Some days Rishabdev Prabhu also joins us, other days Mathuranath Prabhu comes, and as they are able many other devotees come with their children and join in. The transcendental sounds of the Holy Names, with *mrdangas* and *kartals*, are now a normal part of the Saturday afternoon that greets all the visitors to downtown Santa Cruz!

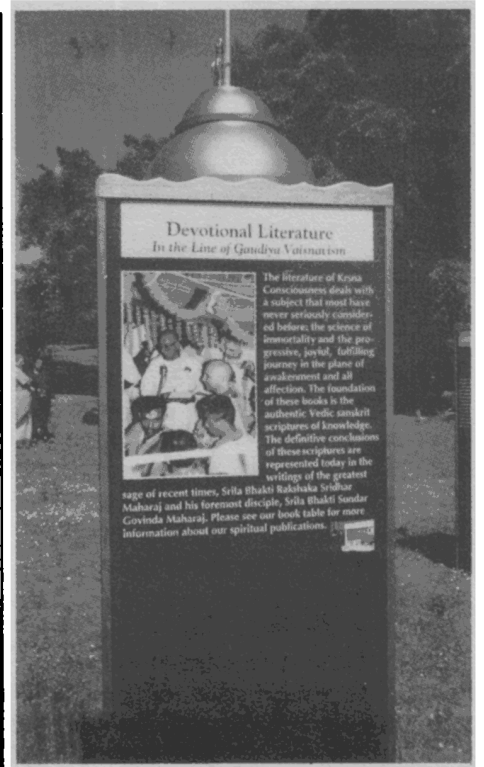
In honour of the Centennial Year of Srila Guru Maharaj we are trying to hold at least one public festival each month. We are happy to report to you that on May 29th we held a festival in a local park in Santa Cruz. This festival was considered by all the devotees to be very successful. We have assembled some photographs of the event in a report, which will be mailed to you soon. A very festive atmosphere was created with pandals, tents, flags, displays, pictures, banners, etc. The *kirtan* went on from 1:30 pm until 5:30 pm. It was accompanied by *Prasadam* distribution, book distribution, and preaching to the guests.

Certainly the displays that were built by Mathuranath Prabhu were like the crowning jewels on an already radiant assembly at the festival. They were constructed with royal blue coloured plastic with white letters. Each of the two displays stood about six feet tall, topped with golden domes and flags. On each of their four sides were photographs and text, which was mostly written by Sripad Janardan Maharaj, on these subjects: Srila Guru Maharaj's Centenary, Your Divine Grace's world tours, the Math in Nabadwip, the Ashram in Soquel, Mahaprabhu's *Sankirtan* movement, the *Maha-Mantra*, the *Guru Parampara*, and the books and literature of Srila Guru Maharaj and yourself. Throughout the day we would see guests and devotees browsing around the displays, reading, and looking at the pictures with great interest.

There is also good news to report on the construction. We have submitted all the plans to the County for permission to start construction on the guest house and for the resolution of a long standing problem. We expect approved permits by the end of June. This month we are finalizing all the details of each part of the construction plan. We are planning a major construction campaign for the month of July. Our work will concentrate on the guest house which will have rooms for yourself, Sripad Janardan Maharaj, guest *sannyasis*, and *brahmacharis*. Already several devotees who are professional carpenters have committed to coming to help, and some plan to spend several weeks of their time. We are asking and hoping that many other talented devotees will also come forward to help at this time.

We are all very happy to hear that your health is better. We are praying to be able to have your holy association very soon as we have heard that you may be travelling soon and desperately hope that these plans include the Soquel Ashram!

Sincerely, — *Hasyapriya das*



One of several informative displays built by Prabhu Mathuranath, Soquel

services has only been possible due to the grace of Sripad Bhakti Kusum Ashram Maharaj who through his exalted example is always giving us encouragement to continue in service."

Venezuela:

Srila Govinda Maharaj's own joyful description of the recent devotional activities in Venezuela is "Grand news!" Prabhu Hari Kirtan has transformed his house into a temple for our Mission. He has donated half of his homestead to Srila Govinda Maharaj, and there "a beautiful temple is coming up over the mountain from deep roots." Americo, the engineer engaged in building the temple, was inspired by the devotees and he recently visited Nabadwip along with Prabhu Hari Kirtan.

Daily six *brahmacharis* are engaged in the service of the Deities, Sri Sri Nitai-Gauranga Radha-Kṛṣṇa. The daily service to the Deities closely follows that of Nabadwip in terms of the regularity, standard and strictness of wor-

Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math

Cherry Hill, New York

BY OUR EAST COAST CORRESPONDENT

The programs in New York have been growing in scope and attendance thanks to the tireless leadership and guidance of Sripad B.K. Giri Maharaj. In addition Prabhu Madhava Priya, a Lieutenant in the New York City fire department, has offered his apartment in Manhattan to hold programs every Sunday. Many devotees, both new and old appear there weekly.

Prabhu Jagannath Vallabha, although resident in New York, went to host Sripad Sagar Maharaj's recent visit to Russia. Whether in Russia or America, he is a continuous source of encouragement to the many newcomers he meets.

Sripad Giri Maharaj was invited as the guest of honour, along with other members of the Math, to the Hindu Milan Mandir to celebrate Dol Yatra. About 100 people, mostly Bengalis, attended the function. Dr. Arvin Ghosh, the president, introduced Sripad Giri Maharaj as the guest speaker. Maharaja's talk, followed by *kirtan* and *Prasadam*, stressed the natural connection of the people of Bengal with the line of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and he introduced Srila Govinda Maharaj as the foremost representative of that line. The talk was deeply appreciated and several more invitations were extended to Sripad Giri Maharaj.

Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Maharaj Prabhupad often stressed the importance of linking the spiritual wisdom of the East with the technology of the West. Taking this to heart Prabhu Gokulananda is opening up a new preaching field: the Internet. Assisted by his cousin Joe Herman, and brother Ben Herman he plans to introduce this rapidly expanding base of over 20 million computer users in every part of the world to the conceptions of Srila Govinda Maharaj. The possibilities are Vaikuntha (unlimited)! What a great step forward in fulfilling Mahaprabhu's desire—*prthivite āche yata nagarādi-grāma*, "In as many towns and villages as there are on the surface of the earth, My Holy Name will be preached." —*Sri Harinama Sankirtan Ki Jaya!*

ship. Srila Govinda Maharaj said, "Their standard of worship may even be more than in Nabadwip."

Each weekend many devotees from the surrounding area congregate for mass *sankirtan*.

In addition, several devotees very enthusiastically engage in direct service to the Nabadwip Temple. In particular Srila Govinda Maharaj is very pleased by the cow-seva of Srimati Vaisnavi Devi Dasi. There are many cows here at the Central Math, and she is attentively engaged in their service.

Srila Maharaj expressed his satisfaction that every month Prabhu Hari Kirtan telephones His Divine Grace with news of their activities. He is constantly inviting Srila Maharaj to return to Venezuela with the assurance that the devotees are ready at any moment to arrange everything for Srila Maharaj's visit along with a full preaching party.

Brazil:

Living in Sao Paulo, Prabhu Palak Krsna is very enthusiastic to make a

place for Mahaprabhu. Along with the other devotees there, he is hopeful that it will come within a short time.

Srila Govinda Maharaj personally wrote to the devotees of Brazil and this was hand delivered by Prabhu Aravinda Locan Seva Sundar. They are very hopeful, and are eager to serve Srila Govinda Maharaj.

Although it is one of the furthest countries from India and economically difficult, several Brazilian devotees are planning to come to Nabadwip for the culmination of the Centenary Celebrations in October.

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Colombia:

Distance is no bar to having a heart connection with Sri Gurudeva. And distance is no bar to having good communication with His Divine Grace. This is clearly shown by the example of Prabhu Premadhama and family of Colombia, and many others. Because of economic and numerous reasons, many may never have the chance to go to Nabadwip; however, in a living way

the devotees can keep personal communication with Srila Govinda Maharaj, express their hearts, receive guidance and have a direct service relationship.

The devotees of Colombia constantly face many difficulties from the particular environment of their country. Despite the several challenges to their preaching and practising life, they have made an informal Centre for regular daily programmes and weekend gatherings of devotees in Las Piñas near the capital. Throughout the country there are several devotees of our Math, and each is endeavouring as much as possible in spiritual life.

United Kingdom:

The seva activities of the Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math, London, have been substantially augmented by the dedicated service of the new arrivals from India: Prabhu Jitendra Krsna, Prabhu Sunil Krsna, and his good wife, Nirupama Devi Dasi. Combining their energies with the locals headed by stalwarts

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Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math

Miami, Florida

Our dearest and beloved Srila Bhakti Raksak Sridhar Dev-Goswami is supremely merciful in giving Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswami to guide us. By his inconceivable mercy he is allowing us here to distribute the Holy Name as 'vartma padarsaka' agents i.e. appointed incompetents in an emergency situation (*kali-yuga*). Anyone wishing to join our *sankirtan* party, come on board for the daily trip to Miami International Airport headed up by our Peruvian Bhakta Angel.

By Divine arrangement, the Highest descends to the lowest. At our tiny Centre in Miami, the Name is going out to sincere spiritual seekers as well as to the materially frustrated.

Srimati Vrajavala is teaching the conditioned souls in an indirect method employing Vedic Astrology and the teachings of the great sages like Parasara, the father of Srila Vyasadev, for the very bewildered may not even grasp their karmmic situation. To get relief from karmmic suffering she recommends yoga and vegetarianism, sometimes gem therapy for the devotees, and occasional compatibility counselling for those entering the *grhasta* ashram. Basically she just uses Vedic Astrology as another preaching 'tool.'

Through her preaching, Rameswari Devi Dasi is always distributing nectarean topics of Krsna consciousness to the conditioned souls, thus drawing them to the Temple. So, whether in an indirect or direct way, *jiva* souls are coming to take *darshan* of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and the *Brahma-Madhyha-Gaudiya Sampradaya*. In this way they are able to benefit in this lifetime from the highest conception of Krsna consciousness—the Rupanuga Sampradaya as transmitted in our line from Srila Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Thakur to Srila Guru Maharaj and Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Maharaj, and on to Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Maharaj.

Last summer under the guidance and well wishes of Srila Govinda Maharaj, Vrajavala Devi Dasi ventured to preach in Fiji Islands where her husband presently resides. Needless to say, the tiny ashram in Miami needed a strong devotee to keep up the program and surprisingly, Srila Govinda Maharaj appointed our Rameswari to head the program with the hope that others might come to assist her in this endeavour. However, as it was, no one could manage to come, so it was to her credit that at the young age of 23 she headed up the program not only in Miami but she went on to assist our fledgling endeavours in Fiji by sending *laxmi* and paraphernalia.

Our preaching was warmly received by the Hindu population in Fiji and especially by four of Srila Swami Maharaj's disciples headed up by Sriman Vasudev Prabhu. They are happily awaiting word of the World Tour in Fiji.

This summer in another attempt to detach herself from the Miami Math, Srimati Vrajavala hopes to travel to Burlington, Vermont, where she hopes to buy land for a countryside ashram and farm.

We hope that our Godbrothers and Godsisters will be tolerant of our feeble attempts to serve our beloved Srila Guru Maharaj who first allowed this Miami Ashram to take on the name of Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math in 1986.

Your fallen servants,

—Jalendra das, Vrajavala d.d. & Rameswari d.d.

Sri Sri Gaura Nitai Ashram

Curitiba, Brazil

Condensed from a letter to Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaj

I am very happy to announce that through Sri Sri Gaura-Nitai's grace we were able to buy a small piece of land on which to build the Ashram. It is an area of roughly 2,000 square metres out in the country, about one hour's driving from downtown Curitiba. It is located in a very green and beautiful area in a place called Campo Largo. Devotees Prabhu Krsna-sakha and Prabhu Manohar made a special effort and managed to collect some money to buy this property.

Now we are preparing to build a small Mandir for the Deities and some small houses for devotees to live in and as accommodation for hosting visitors. By the time you read this, at least one prefabricated wooden house will already be completed. The next step is to open a water-well. With water it will be possible to have a garden with areas for fruit, flowers, vegetables, etc. for the Deities. We are very happy with the programme.

We are hoping to install the foundation stone of the Mandir during the Centenary Festival of Srila Guru Maharaj's Appearance in October. At that time we also intend to hold an official opening of the land by having a nice festival in the company of devotees from all over Brazil.

We pray for your blessings. As you can see we have many plans, and hope to realize them for your satisfaction and through your blessings.

—Hari Govinda Das

SRILA SRIDHAR SWAMI SEVA ASHRAM

Quito, Ecuador

BY PRABHU RAJA RAM AND SRIMATI REVATI DEVI DAS

Un Pequeño Ashram con un Corazon Grande

El Srila Sridhar Swami Seva Ashram en Ecuador fué organizado con el único propósito de servir los pies de loto de Srila Govinda Maharaja.

Es un pequeño de terreno ubicado a cinco minutos fuera de la ciudad; en el hermoso valle de San Rafael, rodeado por montañas y el nevado del Cotopaxi, famoso en Ecuador por su fauna, bello paisaje y muy apreciado por aquellos amantes del andinismo. En este valle se asentado gente que buscan un sitio sano, natural y exclusivo fuera de la contaminación de la ciudad y que además está muy cerca de ella. El Ashram esta ubicado en este medio ambiente.

Primeramente se comenzó con la construcción de tres habitaciones para brahmacharis, una cocina provicional y una casa para Srila Govinda Maharaja; la cual después de su primera visita realizada dentro de su último tour mundial, se ha convertido en un lugar de peregrinaje, y gracias a sus bendiciones, poco a poco gente de todas partes se esta uniendo a esta mision. Por el momento hay cinco devotos brahmacharis de planta viviendo, cuidando y manteniendo los programas diarios, además algunos de devotos casados que han logrado ubicarse en departamentos cercanos al Ashram, los cuales asisten diariamente a prestar su servicio. También vecinos del barrio y gente de la ciudad acude cada sabado a participar en los programas semanales, en los cuales se ejecuta arati, kirttans, conferencias y se distribuye Prasada entre todos los asistentes.

La idea es tratar de hacer un centro devocional que contenga completamente el humor de nuestro Math Central en Nabadwip Dham.

Por la gracia sin causa de Srila Govinda Maharaja, este sueño tan anhelado esta dando su luz aunque por ahora sea tenue.

Se ha planificado para el futuro, la construcción de un Nad-mandir, un templo con cúpulas, una cocina grande con despensa y el lugar para guardar los articulos para el puja, una oficina y vivienda para brahmacharis. Además el deseo de Srila Govinda Maharaja es que se compre un terreno colindante, con el propósito de ampliar el proyecto, esto solamente será posible por sus bendiciones.

Estamos invitando a todos los devotos de cualquier parte del mundo que deseen unirse y colaborar en este programa, a que se acerquen a nuestro centro o nos escriban a la dirección incluída en esta edición.

Además se esta imprimiendo trimestralmente la revista 'Ambrosia,' tambien para esto solicitamos colaboración e

información de aquellos devotos que les gustaría contribuir a la edición de esta revista ya sea en forma personal o enviando articulos, noticias, etc de sus propios programas.

A Little Ashram with a Big Heart

The Srila Sridhar Swami Seva Ashram in Ecuador was organized with the only purpose of serving the lotus feet of Srila Govinda Maharaj. It is a small piece of land located five minutes out of the city in the beautiful valley of San Rafael, surrounded by mountains and the snows of Lotopaki, famous in Ecuador due to its fauna and the beautiful landscape which is well appreciated by climbers. In this valley have settled exclusive people who are looking for a healthful and natural spot out of the pollution of the nearby city. The Ashram is located in this environment.

All this first started with the building of three rooms for brahmacharis, a temporary kitchen, and a house for Srila Govinda Maharaj—which after his first visit in the last world tour has become a place of pilgrimage. Due to his blessings, little by little people from all places are joining this mission. At the moment there are five brahmachari devotees living permanently in the Ashram, taking care and maintaining the daily programmes. In addition some married devotees who live in nearby apartments attend every day to do their service. Also neighbours in the area and people from the city attend each Saturday to participate in the weekly programme, in which is performed: arati, kirttan, lectures, and distribution of Prasadam to everyone. The idea is to try to have a devotional centre which contains completely the mood of our Central Math in Sri Nabadwip Dham. By the causeless grace of Srila Govinda Maharaj this dream so yearned for is giving its steadily increasing light, although still very soft.

It is planned to build in the future a Nat Mandir, a Temple with domes, a big kitchen with a store room to keep the items of puja, an office and a house for brahmacharis. Besides this, the desire of Srila Govinda Maharaj is that an adjacent land will be bought with the purpose of expanding the project. This will only be possible with his blessings.

We are inviting all the devotees from any part of the world who want to join and cooperate with this program, to approach our Centre, or write us at the address given herein.

Furthermore we are printing quarterly the magazine 'Ambrosia' for which also we require collaboration and information from devotees who would like to be a part of this magazine. You may come and personally assist or you may send articles, news, etc, of your own programmes. ◇

...Continued from page 29

Prabhu Uddharan and Prabhu Navasundar the goals for the year are gradually being fulfilled.

During Sripad Bhakti Ananda Sagar Maharaj's recent preaching tours in Russia and Sweden, the London devotees have made a concerted effort to increase their several demanding services of the Math. With the return of Sripad Sagar Maharaj they all joined together and declared in a telephone message to Srila Govinda Maharaj, "We are 99% certain that we shall succeed within this Centenary Year to secure a property in London as Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math's own Centre here. Correction: make that 100%!"

In addition the devotees have been very pleased to receive several guests from around the world including our American and South American devotees in transit while travelling to and from their pilgrimages in India.

Meanwhile around the country steady preaching and cultivation is going on especially amongst the devotees of Sheffield and Bournemouth. In Bournemouth particular mention is due for the untiring service of Chandana Devi Dasi whose dedicated daily preaching, though so humbly and quietly performed, is an example to all.

Ireland:

This year's auspicious festival of Sri Gaura-purnima coincided with Saint Patrick's day—a traditional Irish holiday. This coincidence gave much opportunity for the devotees to make a grand festival for Mahaprabhu with the strong participation of the locals.

With the safe return of Sripad Bhakti Svarup Tridandi Maharaj from his successful New Zealand preaching tour, the Irish devotees have joined together to pool resources to relocate the Dublin Centre so as to be more effective for preaching and association. They have secured rental on a place in a good area, Abercorn Square. Sripad Tridandi Maharaj wrote: "Judging by the way it came, there is no doubt this is the place Sriman Mahaprabhu wanted. It is in a

much better situation for the devotees and already some newcomers are visiting. The house has four bedrooms, and although the high rent is a bit of a worry, it keeps the devotees on their toes."

See addresses rear inside cover

Russia:

During the Sri Gaura-purnima celebrations several devotees from Russia visited our Central Math. Srila Govinda Maharaj was respectfully invited by the Russian devotees headed by Prabhu Jagannath Vallabha to visit their country. His Divine Grace was very pleased by their mood and invitation. In preparation for a visit by His Divine Grace, he sent Sripad B.A. Sagar Maharaj as his representative.

In Russia, Sripad Sagar Maharaj spent most of his time in Moscow where he was well received by Prabhu Jagannath Vallabha and others. Many good souls eagerly heard his presentation of *Krsna-katha* and the line of our *Sri Guru-varga*. By the *ritvik* process, twenty-two new seekers received Hari-nam initiation, of which five received Gayatri initiation.

Srila Govinda Maharaj was very pleased to hear all the news from Russia, and that one of his disciples has given the use of his house as our Centre in Moscow until a more permanent arrangement can be made.

Germany:

Recently our representative, Prabhu Premanidhi, toured Europe accompanied by his family visiting devotees mainly in Switzerland and West Germany. They met with several who received Srila Maharaj's connection during his last tour as well as devotees of many years standing. All were pleased for this chance of association. Many requested books, audio tapes and video tapes, which were happily distributed to them.

Computers are the ABC of life for a vast number of the new generation. In

order to reach many of them Prabhu Premasindhu is busy creating a computer demonstration about *Srimad Bhagavad-gita—The Hidden Treasure of the Sweet Absolute*, Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math and vegetarian life.

Holland:

During recent months our devotees have extended their preaching to a most promising section of society: the expatriate Hindus of The Hague. Generally they follow nicely their traditions, and they are well educated.

The devotees hope to get the opportunity to broadcast some footage of Srila Govinda Maharaj on a local television station. Especially they are hoping to use this facility if Srila Govinda Maharaj will accept their invitation to bless their land with his presence.

Hungary:

Due to a special petition by the devotees of Hungary, Prabhu Ananta Krsna sacrificed his plans to visit Sri Nabadwip Dham last Gaura-purnima so he could lead a programme of glorification in Budapest. In his own words:

"It was so wonderful, and I was so surprised that many people came. Most came from Szeged the town where you (Srila Gurudev) gave a lecture with Sripad Sagar Maharaj. Prabhu Ananda Sundar's preaching is growing very nicely there. Therefore I was very happy at Gaura-purnima time."

Italy:

Everyone was much relieved to hear that Sripad Bhakti Madhur Bon Maharaj has been discharged from hospital. Soon after Gaura-purnima time, news reached the Math by telegram of his suffering a heart attack. However His Holiness has shown his continuous preaching spirit, that although he has been unable to travel he has been giving much nourishment to the devotees

From: PublicsAccess 230-248-8500

To: 91-33-551-8889

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TO: CALCUTTA (033) 551 8889 **ATTENTION: REF: SC-501****Srila Bhakti Sundara Govinda Ashram****Long Mountain, Mauritius**

BY PRABHU ADHOKSAJA

Blessed Mauritius

Mauritius was blessed on January 28, 1993 when His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaj first touched this land with his lotus feet. During his visit here Srila Guru Maharaj (our dear Srila Govinda Maharaj) revealed several divine visions. He considered Mauritius to be like Vrindavan because of its abundance of fruits, its greenness, peacefulness, etc. To the greatest joy of the Mauritius devotees Srila Guru Maharaj said, "Mauritius is an ideal place in this world. I can stay and rest for some two or three months doing *kirtan* and writing books here." This inner feeling of Guru Maharaj captured the heart of everyone, and now through His mercy an ashram is nearing completion so as to shelter Srila Guru Maharaj, who is the shelter of the whole world.

Srila Swami Maharaj Prabhupad on his visit here predicted that Mauritius will be the first Krsna conscious country in the world. We feel that Guru Maharaj, through his divine presence, melodious heart-touching *kirtans* and rapturous *Krsna-katha* will realise this prediction. On his last visit Guru Maharaj made only one request to us: just to construct 'a place to stay' for His Divine Grace. Therefore most of our activities are centred on that project.

At present our Temple is in a hired building, but only for a few days more, for we expect to move to 'Srila Bhakti Sundara Govinda Ashram' when our dearest Gurudev visits us this year. The building is practically complete, with just some final touches being added here and there.

By the grace of Srila Gurudeva two shops—one 'Srila B.S. Govinda Shopping Plaza' dealing in furniture; and the other with soft drinks, cakes, gift items, and luxury goods—are being run. In addition, Dhameswar Prabhu, a very active member, is looking after a plot of hired land which is under full cultivation. The members also prepare cakes for different occasions so as to help maintain our Ashram.

Centenary Celebrations

We are bringing the teachings of Srila Guru Maharaj to the public through the press—by publishing *Hidden Treasure of the Sweet Absolute* in instalments, as well as excerpts from other books. Other pamphlets and magazines are being distributed from door to door in every corner of the country.

After their work the devotees here go to visit people every evening and lay stress on the importance and glories of Sri Guru—the form of Krsna present among us. The glories of our dear Gurudev, Srila Govinda Maharaj, really captures everyone's heart. Other preaching programmes are going on in houses, youth clubs and schools.

Prior to the landing of Srila Guru Maharaj here, few people attended our programmes, but now so many people come that those devotees responsible for welcoming the guests have to pray to the Lord, "O Lord, now stop sending people, there is no more space even for them to stand."

With prostrated obeisances to His Divine Grace we all pray for his continued grace and his return on our shores very soon.

—Adhoksaja dasa

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visiting him. May the concern of all the Vaisnavas help his quick and full recovery.

Sweden:

At the invitation of the Swedish devotees headed by Prabhu Aditi Nandana

and Prabhu Premamoy, their southern town of Malmö was visited in June by Sripad Sagar Maharaj and Sripad Tridandi Maharaj. The two *sannyasis* both commented how pleased they were to see the enthusiasm of their hosts and of the other devotees and aspirants who visited them. Indeed the Swedish devo-

tees felt most fortunate to have such good association.

South Africa:

Arrangements are still to be confirmed, but Srila Maharaj has expressed his clear wish that he will try to fulfil the

invitation of the devotees to visit South Africa as soon as it is at all possible.

On behalf of all the devotees inviting Srila Maharaj to their country Prabhu Rishabdev and Shyamali Devi Dasi have already sent funds in Srila Govinda Maharaj's name for the whole tour party. Knowing the special value of Srila Govinda Maharaj's association, the devotees are engaged in making arrangements so as to serve Srila Maharaj befittingly during his visit.

Prabhu Bhuvan Pavan and his good son met Srila Maharaj recently in Nabadwip and showed their great enthusiasm for preaching. They presented Srila Govinda Maharaj with a scale model of their proposed Temple and Ashram, of which about half is already completed. Prabhu Bhuvan Pavan informed that he will meet Srila Maharaj when he goes to Mauritius, and take him from there to South Africa to officially open the new Temple.

Australia:

One of the most noticeable observations from Australia is that from the many letters and phone calls that arrive, the consistent news is that all are expressing their satisfaction in their devotional service. They unanimously express their feeling of fortune to have the sweet association of each other.

Many devotees have made much sacrifice for the progress of the Mission in Australia. The project of Sri Govinda Dham came about largely by the energy, service and coordination of Prabhu Mohanananda, who simultaneously organised the First World Tour of Srila Govinda Maharaj and who has played an important role in each subsequent tour. Srila Govinda Maharaj constantly expresses his appreciation for the sacrifice and service of Prabhu Mohanananda as well as that of so many of the devotees of Australia.

Prabhu Premdas stayed in a caravan with his whole family of wife and three small children for a year and gave his whole attention to building Govinda Dham. During all this time he did not

make any endeavour for his own family's new home. Only now that the hall is practically completed, is he starting with their own home.

Prabhu Anadi Krsna has done super service with Premdas Prabhu. They have done the bulk of the building work at Sri Govinda Dham over a period of many months. Between them they used much ingenuity and went to much trouble to keep within the limited budget available from time to time.

In particular Prabhu Anadi Krsna is a great inspiration for the devotees because of his hard work, his dedicated attitude to the devotee community and his selflessness. These two devotees spent almost a year working on the building, even while they had no income themselves.

Prabhu Radha Madhava and the devoted Frank have headed the devotees in the grounds doing marvellous work cultivating flowering trees and plants. Neem was earlier planted by Srila Govinda Maharaj himself, and that is a miracle story in itself. Newly planted are kadamba trees, frangipani and many other varieties.

Continuing their sacrifice, a number of devotees are away collecting funds in order to bring Srila Maharaj over to Australia, and to make the final touches to complete the VIP guest room and the kitchen. Srila Govinda Maharaj's own room is virtually completed.

Even with some of the leading devotees away, the *kirttans* have, by Sriman Mahaprabhu's grace, been wonderful. The ceiling is high and the spacious, wooden building has excellent acoustics which miraculously enhances the Holy Name without it being drowned by the sound of 'whompers' and *mrdangas*. Furthermore, although it is currently mid-winter in Australia, the temperature within Sri Govinda Dham remains pleasantly mild.

All the devotees are glad to see Prabhu Hari Bandhu recovering well after micro-surgery following a recent accident. On his first week after putting down his crutches he led a resounding *kirttan* at the Centre.

At Govinda Dham a newly founded regular Wednesday evening *kirttan* programme has been started by Prabhu Parananda. Despite the fact that most devotees are working, they make the special effort and sacrifice to participate as much as possible.

Dispatch opposite ☉☉

Channon victory

A surprise court case was lodged against our rural Channon Centre in Australia. The objection was against the prospect of having a devotional community there. The case drew widespread front page press and television coverage, and a further unexpected bonus from this was the voluntary support for our Mission by local politicians, doctors, lawyers, barristers and other influential people of the community.

In all it took a year of legal battles before it was finally settled. Needless to say, it was the backing of Sri Guru and Gauranga protecting Their servitors that really won the case.

Prabhu Muralidhar has already completed a nice building there, and he is whole-heartedly serving and ensuring the constant progress of the Mission. He engages in preaching in the nearby city of Lismore, and from there and several places people come to join in his *sankirttan* activities. On his first Tour when Srila Govinda Maharaj visited the Channon, Prabhu Muralidhar arranged a very big festival with preaching and *sankirttan*.

Malaysia:

Srila Govinda Maharaj was very pleased to receive news of the expansion of the activities and the committee of our Malaysian Mission. In addition to the regular committee posts, there is now an official Publicity and Information Officer. The post is currently held by Prabhu Vasudev Krsna who is fulfilling his duties most enthusiastically. His dispatches to Srila Govinda Maharaj include the names and glories of all who participate, which brings much joy to Srila Maharaj.

Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Sridhar Sangha

Sri Govinda Dham

Murwillumbah, Australia

Condensed from a letter to Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaj

BY PRABHU RADHA MADHAVA

Sri Govinda Dham is a holy place of pilgrimage and meditation, a place of prayer, a place of holy Nama Sankirtan, a place of our Guru Maharaj—Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaj—and His whole family. The mood of Sri Govinda Dham I am happy to say has been so special, and so many devotees comment on the atmosphere. Many regulars at Sri Govinda Dham feel that the mood there has grown nearer to the Nabadwip mood than the old programmes at the Red Cross hall. I feel it has improved and that we shall steadily evolve, with your mercy. As the facilities have improved more are coming and also guests come.

In just over a year a wonderful chanting hall has been erected with beautifully landscaped grounds, but most of all the mood at Sri Govinda Dham is loving, supportive and Guru-centred. It is actually a miracle happening through Your Divine Grace. The Australian devotees have so much affection for you.

Prabhu Mohanananda is an inspiration to all of us, his dedication in his fund raising service for the Mission takes him away for long periods. We miss him when he is not at the Sunday programmes which he organizes in a way that no one else can do. We all love him dearly. For me it has also been a real honour to serve alongside Prabhu Anadi Krsna and Yamuna Didi who are most wonderful examples and the backbone of our mission. Prabhu Premdas helped to build Sri Govinda Dham before his own house—such a wonderful devotee. His wife, Devaki Didi has cooked *Prasadam* for almost every Sunday programme after your first Australian Tour. Frank has done much of the landscaping and has helped me constantly and he is an example of humble service. He prays to Your Divine Grace for initiation when he comes to Nabadwip later this year. Also our wives are always serving in the background and without any recognition.

Yamuna Didi and Lola Didi are always serving at the Sunday market stall. Prabhu Nalina Nabha has done much of the plumbing and guttering. He is also working on transcriptions of your *darshans* and Sripad Sagar Maharaj's *darshans*.

Slowly we are attracting more service workers as the gardens become more developed. Prabhu Hari Mohan has recently taken over the cutting of the lawns, and Krsna Prema Didi is helping with the gardens when time allows. Her husband, Prabhu Devananda, is making a stained glass window with the Math logo on it. My wife, Jyotirmoy Devi Dasi, now has a bit more time to serve. She has nicely helped with the planting of flowers and bulbs for offering and for landscaping. Janaki Didi is spending a lot of time serving at the Dham and her sister, Sharmila Didi, is hoping to join her in service soon. Prabhu Karuna Sindhu's talents are good and his particular mood has helped to improve our fortnightly newsletter, *Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Sridhar Mission News*.

There are many more who are also engaging in service, and I ask forgiveness to all I have missed out in my attempt to describe something of the devotees' activities at Sri Govinda Dham. Furthermore I pray in my ignorance I have not caused offence to Your Divine Grace or any other Vaisnavas.

Your most fortunate servant,

—Radha Madhava Das

A major commitment for the whole devotee community in Malaysia is the signing of a contract to purchase a suitable property as the Missions own Centre there. Fulfilling the wish of Srila Govinda Maharaj that they have their own Centre from which to grow, the devotees have secured a house in a handy location. In great joy and respect the devotees are calling the Ashram 'Srila Sridhar Govinda Seva Ashram.'

All the dedicated servitors of Malaysia have invited Srila Govinda Maharaj to come and open this new property.

In addition to this commitment the devotees of Malaysia, though of humble means, have joined together to send a substantial donation towards the Centenary Memorial Hall being constructed in Nabadwip. Srila Govinda Maharaj is particularly pleased by all their selfless devotional activities.

Nrsmhadev's Appearance Day coincides with the Appearance Day of Lord Buddha, a personality more readily related to by the large Chinese population in Malaysia. Taking this opportunity to introduce Krsna consciousness to the Chinese, a book stall and a *Prasadam* distribution stall were set up in Kuala Lumpur, and preaching also took place in Kelang, Ipoh and Penang.

Dispatch page 36

Sri Gurudeva Arpanam Astu

Srila Sridhar Govinda Seva Ashram

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

As part of the service of the Malaysian devotees especially for Srila Guru Maharaj's Centenary Celebrations several programmes have been undertaken. One recent event was a large preaching programme at the Sri Rama Temple in Lumut. This programme was arranged with the kind assistance of respected Mrs. Menon who heads the Sri Rama Temple management committee. Mrs Menon has been a constant supporter of our Mission from its very first days in Malaysia.

The devotees from Kuala Lumpur, the capital city, went by hired coach for the four hour drive north to Lumut. The Deities of Sri Sri Nimai-Nitai went with the devotees and headed the preaching tour. Constant Harinam *kirtan* was chanted throughout the journey which reminded several devotees who had visited India of their bus pilgrimages from Nabadwip to Hapaniya and Bamunpara.

The devotees travelled throughout the night and arrived in Lumut in time for *Mangala-arati*, early morning *kirtans*, reading and then breakfast. The caring attention of the local Vaisnavas assured that accommodation was available for each and every visiting devotee.

The gathering was chiefly organized by Prabhu Aprakrita and Prabhu Purnaprajna in Kuala Lumpur, and Prabhu Tribhuvanath and Prabhu Mahavishnu in Sitiawan, near Lumut. Many others also assisted in several ways. This event brought practically all the devotees together from the north and south of the country. Indeed, everyone who could attend, did so.

The main public preaching programme was to be held that evening. Thus the day was spent in many devotional activities headed by the preparations for that event. The cooking team comprised a dozen devotees who made unlimited varieties and quantities of *Prasadam* for distribution at the end of the programme.

Evening Festival

As evening drew near, the devotees all looking nicely dressed and decorated with *tilak*, assembled at the Sri Rama Temple. Beautiful pictures of Srila Govinda Maharaj and Srila Guru Maharaj were placed upon the altar and Sri Ramachandra was seen to smile unlimitedly.

After *arati*, an auspicious invocation, and several seated *kirtans*, the lecture programme began. Prabhu Krsna Labanya gave an introduction of the local Mission, Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Sadhu Sangham; the Central Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math; our branches worldwide and the teachings of Sriman Mahaprabhu. In particular everyone's attention was drawn to the special significance of this Centenary year, and the glorification of Srila Guru Maharaj, Srila Govinda Maharaj and their Mission.

During the lecture a coach full of Singaporean tourists arrived to visit the Temple. They stayed for the remainder of the programme, after which they all happily received *Maha-prasadam*. A book display and distribution table proved a popular attraction to those keen to know more.

Devotees' water sports

The following day was a day for the devotees to gain each other's association—in relaxation on the classically tropical beaches of nearby Pangkor Island.

Everyone took the opportunity to bathe and sport in the clear blue waters, and team sports were arranged on the beach. Reminded of the playful pastimes of Mahaprabhu and His associates sporting in the waters of the Ganga and at Puri, the devotees associated together in great happiness.

The weekend programme as part of our additional Centenary Year activities of preaching and association was a great success. I am sure we all want to thank each other for everyone's participation and kind donations that enabled these activities to be so wonderfully achieved.

Finally, a lot more seva is being planned, so please pray for us.

—Vasudev Krsna Das for the devotees of Malaysia

New Zealand:

Srila Govinda Maharaj is very pleased to have received correspondence from most of the new devotees from New Zealand. Additionally he praised Sripad Bhakti Svarup Tridandi Maharaj and Prabhu Namacharya, saying, "This is the result of their good preaching."

See New Zealand article page 2

Philippines:

Daily aratis, kirtans and readings are held at our Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Mission in Philippines at the home of Srila Govinda Maharaj's dear disciple Prabhu Gokulananda. Assisted by his devoted wife Yasoda Mayi Devi Dasi and children, they hold a small gathering each evening and a larger pro-

gramme on Sundays. Everyone is welcome to attend each programme, and several established spiritual searchers have been amongst their recent guests.

Constantly considering how to increase their service during this Centenary Year, Prabhu Gokulananda and his family have begun a weekly public preaching programme. Along with other devotees they engage in *kirttan*, discussion and *Prasadam* distribution in such places as parks, etc.

Other preaching activities include a lecture at a prominent meditation group attended by yogis, impersonalists, philosophers and occultists. The gathering was described as, "...lively. However at the end of discussions, the supremacy of Bhakti Yoga prevailed."

With the welfare of the public in mind, Prabhu Mura Hari has opened a

small preaching Centre at his new home in Cavite. His Centre is giving an opportunity for people in his area to hear *Krsna-katha* and engage in various devotional services. Prabhu Mura Hari also arranged a very well-received programme at a Temple opposite the university. The devotees were warmly invited to return there soon.

A well known teacher of yoga and healing therapies in Manila recently stayed for some time in Nabadwip at the lotus feet of Srila Govinda Maharaj. She prayed for—and received—his holy connection through initiation. She was blessed with the name of Lavanga Lata Devi Dasi. On returning to Manila she has been a natural magnet for the devotees seeking to hear her first hand account of the Math and Srila Maharaj's exalted association. •❧•

All glories to Sri Guru and Gauranga

His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaj joyfully exclaimed:

“ It is my intention that this year we shall hold a

Grand Ten-day Festival

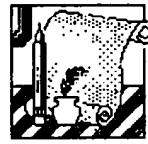
at Nabadwip to celebrate Srila Guru Maharaj's
Centenary Sri Vyasa-puja Day (18 Oct).

As part of this programme Sri Govarddhan-puja (25 Oct) will this year be offered to Sri Giridhariju here at Gupta-Govarddhan (Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math's location: Koladwip)

afterwards our parikrama party will go to our
'Srila Sridhar Swami Seva Ashram' in Govarddhan. ”

More details will be given as they become available.
MORE VOLUNTEERS for many services welcome!

The Book Table



Keeping up to date with news of publications

Abundant availability

With the arrival at the Math of a shipment of books via the Calcutta docks, we are pleased to announce the ready availability of the following publications: *The Golden Staircase*; *Holy Engagement*; *The Benedictine Tree of Divine Aspiration*; *Divine Guidance* and *El Guardián de la Devoción*. These books have all been printed as the valuable service of the devotees' 'Ananta Printing & Publishing' near our Soquel Seva Ashram, California.

English:

Inner Fulfilment

Compiled from Srila Guru Maharaj's published books from the Math, with the addition of newly transcribed material, *Inner Fulfilment* is a manifestation of the direct wish of Srila Govinda Maharaj. By his holy instruction this publication is intended to complement *Home Comfort* as an introductory book suitable for mass distribution.

Published and compiled from the Central Math this is a 48 page booklet printed in Calcutta specifically for this Centenary Year of Srila Guru Maharaj.

Home Comfort

Reprinted almost simultaneously on opposite sides of the world, *Home Comfort* is available singly as well as in bulk for distribution from Ananta Printing, Soquel (Tel: (408) 464-9045, and from here, the central Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math, Nabadwip. It is widely appreciated for its suitability as an introductory publication.

You may wonder why, in the third

printing from the Math, the cover of *Home Comfort* has suddenly changed. The reason is that a political party in India has adopted a similar logo to the lotus formerly depicted on the cover. To keep clear of any possible misidentification, the cover was changed to our unmistakable Math Logo designed by Srila Govinda Maharaj himself.

BEAUTIFUL BOOKLET

As a helpful publication for the preaching of the the ladies' party in America, Srimati Vraja Mohini Didi has made a booklet entitled *Life's Destination*. Produced at the Soquel Ashram it is a lecture by Srila Govinda Maharaj published in *The Benedictine Tree of Divine Aspiration*. Srila Govinda Maharaj was pleased to see this attractive booklet also suitable for mass distribution.

Good news for Guide

One of the most popular books distributed from the Math has been the *Kirtan Guide*. By the special grace and holy wish of Srila Govinda Maharaj it is due to manifest again—in a completely different layout and with added *kirtans* selected personally by Srila Maharaj.

With almost half the book completed, Srila Maharaj gave an extra dispensation that will surely give great satisfaction to many: not only will the layout change, but the contents (transliterations and translations) are to be amended by Sripad Bhakti Ananda Sagar Maharaj. His Holiness, always joyful to receive assignments from His Divine Grace, has already begun this grand service to make this book more closely represent our Math.

The diacritic font family chosen by Srila Govinda Maharaj for this book, has been named 'Centenary.'

Periodicals

Colour Mission News

The Gaura-purnima edition of Australia's periodical, *Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Sridhar Mission News*, took on a particularly bright appearance with colour photographs on the front and back covers. Headed by the dedication of Prabhu Radha Madhava this newsletter continues unabated in its delivery of news and *Krsna-katha* to the Australian devotee community. *Mission News* is, we are pleased to correctly assert, published twice a month and it has proved to be a great catalyst for the service of the Australian devotees and many others too.

Commemorative Issue

The Spring edition of *Counterpoint—a Journal for the Vaishnava Community* has been dedicated by its editor, Prabhu Devashis, as Srila Guru Maharaj's Centenary Year Commemorative Issue.

It contains long articles by our immediate Sri Guru-varga: Srila Bhati Sundar Govinda Maharaj, Srila Guru Maharaj and Srila Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Thakur. The first instalment of Srila Bhaktivinod Thakur's *Jaiva Dharma—Divine Life of the Soul* is given, rendered into English by Sripad B.A. Sagar Maharaj. Furthermore there are articles by Sripad B.S. Tridandi Maharaj and Prabhu Navasundar Brahmachari, accompanied by a full page of publicity for Srila Guru Maharaj's Worldwide Centenary Festival.

100 Years of Nectar

With the grand declaration on the front cover, "Srila Guru Maharaj—100 Years of Nectar 1895–1995," *Sri Vaishnava Toshani* is drawing everyone's devotional attention. The numerous pictures of Srila Guru Maharaj reinforce the feeling that he is actually moving and living there in the pages of the magazine. Included are articles by Srila Guru Maharaj, Srila Govinda Maharaj, Sripad Sagar Maharaj, Sripad Janardan

Maharaj, Sripad Giri Maharaj and several of the leading devotees locally.

Transmission extended

The *Vaisnava Transmission* has successfully begun its second year of publication. Prabhu Gokulananda reports that since its original edition, the *Transmission* now has a Spanish and Russian version. The Spanish edition, translated by Prabhu Dayal Chand, was completed on May 18, the Disappearance Day of Sri Ramananda Raya.

New York Harmonist

From New York City, Prabhu Satya-Hari's hard work has manifest the *New York Harmonist*. In his own words to Srila Govinda Maharaj:

"It is my intention, if this satisfies Your Divine Grace, to write it in a simple and straightforward manner that will provide some inspiration to the newcomers to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. In addition I will include some writings from the literatures of your holy self as well as the previous Acharyas. I hope that this plan meets with your approval and blessing."

The magazine follows the distinctive and clear style of *Vaisnava Transmission* and its Russian and Spanish counterparts.

Launching of Newsletter

Several of the Malaysian devotees contributed articles to their new newsletter compiled by Prabhu Vasudev Kṛṣṇa. With articles by our *Sri Guru-varga* as well as personal insights from the local devotees it is an informative source of inspiration.

Middle sister born

A *Sri Math's Month* four page newsletter made its first appearance in April in order to give an update between issues of *Sri Gaudiya Darshan*. It is a natural complement to its larger magazine sister, and its smaller sister—the *Today's Day* information sheet for Math residents reported on in the Winter Edition of this magazine.

A selection of Publications Available

...By and about Śrīla B.R. Śrīdhara Mahārāj:....

	SPECIAL INDIAN PRICE Rupees	ABROAD U.S.\$
Exclusive Guardianship—Concise Conclusions of Devotional Life	15	1.00
Holy Engagement	40	4.00
Home Comfort—An Introduction to Inner Fulfilment	10	.80
Inner Fulfilment	20	1.00
Loving Search for the Lost Servant	325	15.00
Ocean of Nectar	40	1.30
Search for Śrī Kṛṣṇa—Reality the Beautiful	120	5.00
Sermons of the Guardian of Devotion Vol. I	200	10.00
Sermons of the Guardian of Devotion Vol. II	200	10.00
Sermons of the Guardian of Devotion Vol. III	50	2.00
Sermons of the Guardian of Devotion Vol. IV	25	1.00
Śrī Guru and His Grace	120	5.00
Śrī-Śrī Prapanna-jīvanāmṛtam—(Positive and Progressive Immortality)	325	11.00
Śrī Śrī Prema Dhāma Deva Stotram	5	0.30
Śrīla Guru Mahārāj—His Divine Pastimes & Precepts in Brief	50	3.30
Śrīmad Bhagavad-gītā—(The Hidden Treasure of the Sweet Absolute)	325	17.00
Subjective Evolution—(The Play of the Sweet Absolute)	325	18.00
The Golden Staircase	40	3.00
The Golden Volcano of Divine Love	120	6.00
The Guardian of Devotion	60	5.00

...By and about Śrīla B.S. Govinda Mahārāj:....

Dignity of the Divine Servitor	40	3.50
Divine Guidance	40	3.50
Golden Reflections	40	3.50
The Benedictine Tree of Divine Aspiration	150	14.00
The Divine Servitor	40	3.50

...Various (in English):....

Relative Worlds (by Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Thākura)	40	2.00
Śrī Brahmā-saṁhitā	100	14.00
Śrī Chaitanya Mahāprabhu—His Life and Precepts	60	6.00
Śrī Chaitanya Sarasvatī—(The Voice of Śrī Chaitanyadev) #1	20	1.00
Śrī Chaitanya Sarasvatī—#2 (Full colour)	100	6.00

If ordering books from Śrī Chaitanya Sāraswat Math, Nabadwip

- Please make cheques postal orders (if from abroad: IMO, International Bank Draft, etc, payable in Calcutta or at least India) payable to: "Śrī Chaitanya Saraswat Math".
- Foreign orders: Post and packing please add 30% (by sea mail).
- Air Mail can be more than double the book price. Please enquire.
- Indian inland orders: Post & packing please add 20% + Rs15 per order
- Bulk rates and bulk shipping arrangements by request.

Children in Vaisnava Seva

An excerpt from Soquel's 'Seva Ashram News' in *Vaishnava Seva* is:

"The Guardian of Devotion School produced its first newsletter. The children wrote all the articles, including a transcendental crossword puzzle and did all the computer graphics. They hope to print one every month. A copy was sent, along with pictures of them working in the temple gardens to Srila Govinda Maharaj."

Indeed His Divine Grace was most pleased to receive all their devotional service.

Bengali:

Srila Govinda Maharaj often quotes Srila Guru Maharaj as saying that as a football always goes to the feet of a good football player, service always comes to the good devotee. In this way a multitude of literary and other important preaching services continually are with Sripad B.A. Sagar Maharaj. He is currently concentrating on the final stages of typesetting and proofing *Sri Chaitanya Bhagavat*. This will be a one volume Bengali edition. Sripad Sagar Maharaj is in close consultation with Srila Govinda Maharaj throughout its preparation. His Holiness is aiming for the book to be published within this Centenary Year of Srila Guru Maharaj.

Hindi:

Widespread coverage of our Srila Gurudev's and their Mission was recently given in a half page presentation in the Hindi newspaper *Bihar Observer*. Accompanied by photographs of the Math, Srila Govinda Maharaj and Srila Guru Maharaj the article was inspired by Prabhu Damodar of Dhanbad. The title translates as 'Real transcendental love and beauty is Sri Kṛṣṇa Chaitanya.' It is an assimilation

of the philosophy and information given in our Hindi publications.

Spanish:

Divino Mensaje is translated from the booklet edited by Sripad B.A. Sagar Maharaj, *Divine Message for the Devotees*. Translated into Spanish by Srimati Pranesvari Devi Dasi and edited by Prabhu Sachi Suta Brahmachari it has a mainly purple cover with an attractive colour picture of Srila Maharaj in the centre. This publication is available from our Caracas Centre.

Spanish periodical

Ambrosia, the Spanish magazine and newsletter of Ecuador edited by Prabhu Raja Ram, has proved popular not only in South America but also in Nabadwip. Within a short time of receiving copies in Nabadwip they were sold out, thus necessitating our arranging mass-photocopying to fulfil the demand.

Its twenty-eight pages are full with articles, news items and information for the Spanish speaking devotees. This periodical is readily available from our Quito Centre.

German:

Prabhu Premanidhi has reprinted *Die Würde eines göttlicher Dieners* (Dignity of the Divine Servitor). It has a new colour picture on the cover as a further reminder of Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math.

Service is currently under way on German editions of *Absolute Harmony* and *Golden Staircase*.

Srila Govinda Maharaj was very pleased to receive their nicely printed book *Göttliche Inspiration — Srila Govinda Maharaj in Deutschland*. On the textured cover is a dignified picture of His Divine Grace adorned with garland and *tilak*.

The devotional magazine, **Sri Gaudiya Darshan**, was originally founded by the Founder-President-Āchāryya of Śrī Chaitanya Sāraswat Math, Ananta-Śrī Vibhūṣita Paramahansa-cūḍāmaṇi Om Viṣṇupāda Śrī Śrīla Bhakti Rakṣak Śrīdhara Dev-Goswāmī Mahārāj

The merciful inspiration for its present English form has been given by the Most Magnanimous Sevāite and President-Āchāryya, Om Viṣṇupāda Śrī Śrīla Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswāmī Mahārāj

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Last dispatch date

The next issue of **Sri Gaudiya Darshan** will be the special **Centenary Edition**. As previously expressed in these pages, all dispatches of news from around the world are very much appreciated. For inclusion in this forthcoming Centenary Edition, please allow sufficient time that all dispatches may reach **Nabadwip by September 14, 1995**.

Omissions & additions?

If anything has been missed out, if you would like mention of any particular item, or if you have any suggestions, please write—and help this magazine to manifest in a better way to please the devotees.

"We must be ready to accept slavery to its perfection."

— Srila B.R. Sridhar Dev-Goswami Maharaj

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śrīmac-caitanya-sārasvata-maṭhavara-udgīta-kīrtir jaya-śrīm
bibhrat sambhāti gaṅgā-taṭa-nikaṭa-navadvīpa-kolādri-rāje
yatra śrī-gaura-sārasvata-mata-niratā-gaura-gāthā gṛṇanti
nityam rūpānuga śrī-kṛtamatī-guru-gaurāṅga-rādhā-jitāśā

In the Holy Abode of transcendental touchstone
Śrī Nabadwīp Dhām—the selfsame Śrī Vṛndāvan,
in the land of Koladwīp, whose inner identity
is the King of mountains Śrī Govarddhan,
near the charming shores of the holy River Bhāgīrathī
who delivers all the fallen souls
stands that grand and glorious King of all Temples—
Śrī Chaitanya Sāraswat Maṭh.

In that beautiful retreat, the surrendered devotees
whose lives are the message of Śrī Gaura,
are eternally absorbed in the loving service
of the Divine Master, the Golden Lord Gaurāṅga
and the Loving Lord Śrī Govindasundar
with His consort Śrīmatī Gāndharvā,
accompanied by all Their beloved associates.

With hearts always filled with good hope
to attain the grace of the Lord,
following faithfully in the line
of Śrī Śrī Rūpa and Raghunāth—
the storekeepers of the unlimited treasure
of pure, sweet love divine,
those surrendered souls ever sing the unending glories
of the transcendental name and qualities
of the most magnanimous, original Supreme Lord
Śrī Śrī Gaurāṅgasundar.

Indeed the hearts of all beings, moving and still,
marvel in the glory of Śrī Chaitanya Sāraswat Maṭh
as they take shelter in the soothing, affectionate shade
of the victory flag that flies aloft
and sings wholeheartedly to the world the ever-expanding
renown of Śrī Chaitanya Sāraswat Maṭh;
bearing that banner of all transcendental benedictions,
Śrī Chaitanya Sāraswat Maṭh ever shines resplendent
in all its divine magnificence.

*Composed by Srila B.R. Sridhar Dev-Goswami Maharaj while residing in a hut on the banks of the Ganges in 1941.
Rendered into English by Sripad B.A. Sagar Maharaj from the Bengali translation by Srila B.S. Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaj.*