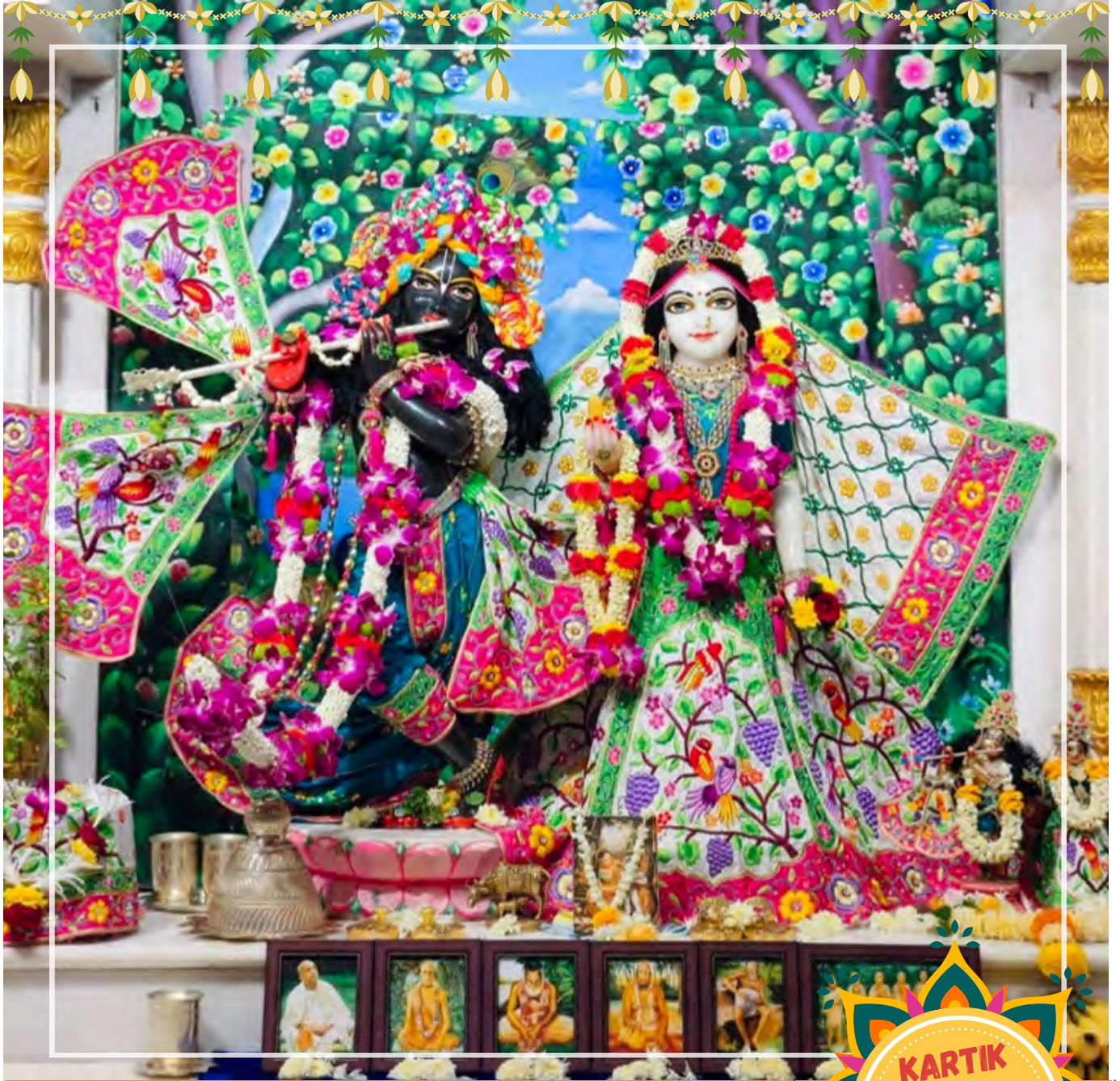


NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025



CONTENT

- Annual Kartik Yatra
- Verse of the month
- Analogy Arena
- Kids corner
- Words of Wisdom
- Upcoming Events & Self-Help

KARTIK
YATRA
SPECIAL

Annual Kartik Yatra— Vrindavan (17–25 October)



The devotees of ISKCON Bhiwandi successfully completed the annual Parikrama of Vrindavan in the auspicious month of Kartik.

We would like to take all our readers on Parikrama with us through a detailed day wise description of all the places that we visited during the Yatra.

17 October — Arrival at Vrindavan (Rama Ekadashi).

Devotees first reached Mathura, the holy appearance place of Lord Krishna, and from there proceeded to Vrindavan by bus. Upon arrival, a Ekadashi breakfast was served. After breakfast, devotees checked into their rooms. Soon after, proceeded to Krishna Balaram temple for taking darshan of Sri Sri Radha Shyamsundar, Sri Sri Krishna Balaram, and Sri Sri Gaura Nitai. Thereafter, devotees honoured prasadam lunch.

Evening — Deep Daan & Hari-katha by Sitaram Prabhuji.

In the evening, devotees performed Deep Daan at Krishna Balaram temple then gathered to hear Hari-katha by Sitaram Prabhuji at Radheshyam.

Highlights of Hari Katha:

He spoke on the glories of Kārtik—how the Lord's mercy fills creation and scripture leads modern minds to devotion. Vrindavan, he said, reveals itself only to a sincere heart.

He narrated Krishna's childhood lilas—Makhan Chor, the marble calf, and the gopīs' playful complaints—and described His mercy upon the brāhmaṇas' wives, showing divine love's tender inclusiveness. Concluding with Vraja-bhakti, he reminded that true devotion is simple, affectionate, and centered on pleasing Krishna.

18 October — Seshashayi, Nandanvan & Chamelivan

After Mangal Aarti at Krishna Balaram Mandir, devotees boarded buses to visit Seshashayi Mandir — darshan of Sri Lakshmi Narayan. Kirtan then Hari Katha by Deena Bandu Baba followed by breakfast.

- Seshashayi Temple: Krishna resting on Ananta Śeṣa



Pastimes narrated:

He narrated how Krishna rests on Ananta Śeṣa —Lord Balarāma's divine serpent form—and how the brothers visited this sacred place, revealing Their eternal bond. These pastimes emphasize Krishna's supreme position, Balarāma's role as His constant support and servitor, and teach devotees to honor the Lord's energies and seek shelter in Their eternal companionship.

- **Nandanvan:** A place where Nanda Mahārāja Performed Bhajan.



Pastimes narrated by Deena Bandhu Baba:

He described Nanda Mahārāja's sacred bhajan place and the deep vatsalya-rasa of Vraja, where parental love for Krishna is supreme. He shared how Nanda Mahārāja lovingly worried for Krishna's safety and the sweet pastime of Krishna returning from cowherding, greeted with affection and joy. These narrations highlighted teachings on pure, selfless love for the Lord, rooted in the tender mood of Vraja.



Chamelivan: A place where Krishna Appeared as Hanuman



Pastimes narrated by Deena Bandhu Baba:

He narrated beautiful pastimes, including Krishna revealing His form as Hanuman and fulfilling the deep desires of His devotees, showing the intimate link between Rama-lila and Krishna-lila. He explained the meaning of "Chamelivan" and shared key teachings highlighting the Lord's compassion and the sweetness of devotional service. Lunch at Chamelivan.

Evening:

Deep Daan at Krishna Balaram Mandir followed by Hari Katha at Radheshyam by Mukund Prabhuji (Disciple of HDG Srila Prabhupada).

Highlights of Hari Katha:

The katha opened with the kirtan Kabe ha'bo bolo sedina amar, glorifying Vṛndāvan as the holiest abode and the heart of Krishna's pastimes. It highlighted the unmatched love of the Vrajavāsīs and Vṛndāvan's boundless mercy, available even to the unqualified. Every part of Vraja was described as conscious and devoted to serving Krishna, who responds only to pure love.

The essence: life's goal is to cultivate such devotion, value devotee association, and see Vṛndāvan as sacred—not ordinary—while aspiring to serve and eternally live with Krishna in Vṛndāvan.

19 October — Raval



The day began with Mangal Aarti, followed by visit to Raval, the appearance place of Srimati Radharani. After reaching Raval, breakfast was served followed by Hari Katha by Sitaram Prabhuji.

Pastimes narrated:

Prabhuji beautifully narrated Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī's pastimes—flower-plucking at Kusum-sarovar, visits to Pawan Sarovar, Sankhari Khor, and Khelanvan, and the appearance of Rādhā-kuṇḍa and Śyāma-kuṇḍa after Aṣṭāsura's slaying. He described Her divine appearance, childhood lilas, and meetings with Krishna.

Rādhārāṇī, Krishna's hlādinī-śakti—the source of all beauty, wisdom, and devotion—rules Him through pure love, assisted by Her sakhīs like Lalitā.

Barsana and Vṛndāvan were highlighted as Her abodes, and Krishna's appearance as Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu was explained as His desire to taste Her love.

The essence: true bhakti means serving Krishna in Rādhārāṇī's mood, seeking Her mercy to reach Him.

Evening:

Deep Dan at Krishna Balaram Mandir then Hari Katha by HH Nava Yogendra Swami Maharaj (Disciple of HDG Srila Prabhupada) at Radheshyam - "The Importance of Śrī Vṛndāvan Dhām".

Highlights of Hari Katha

Vṛndāvan is special because it overflows with spontaneous divine love (prema). One should visit not as a tourist but to experience bhakti-rasa and inner transformation. True benefit comes from hearing Krishna's pastimes, associating with devotees, and honoring the simple faith of Vrajavāsīs—not from sightseeing or photography. Mercy flows through hearing, chanting, remembering Krishna, and walking the sacred land where even the dust and cows glorify Him.

The lecture concluded by urging the application of Krishna-conscious principles in daily life.

20th October — Adi Badrinath



Day starts with Mangal Aarti. Later, devotees proceeded to board the buses to Adi Badrinath. After reaching, devotees took darshan and offered deep daan. Then breakfast Prasadam was served followed by Hari Katha by Deena Bandu Baba.

Highlights of Hari Katha at Adi Badrinath:

HG Deena Bandhu Prabhu explained that Adi Badrinath is not merely a pilgrimage site but an eternal realm where Lord Krishna once revealed His original Vrajendra-nandana form. He mentioned Tapta Kund located there, describing the dhām as a gateway to deepen one's connection with Krishna.

True benefit, comes through sincere devotion—each step taken in remembrance purifies the heart. Devotees should visit with humility, absorb the divine atmosphere, and return imbued with loving service, letting the sweetness of Vraja transform their lives.

- **Laxman Mandir:**



Devotees then proceeded to Laxman Mandir, which is located a miles away on top of Adi Badrinath Dham.

At Laxman Mandir, Deena Bandhu Baba explained the area's deep spiritual significance—surrounded by Narayan, Nar-Narayan, and Gand Madhana Parvats, whose waters flow into Tapta Kund, sanctifying the land. Nearby Neelkanth Mahadev and fragrant yellow-leafed trees add to its sanctity, along with deities of Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati. Prem Sarovar and the Gajendra-moksha pastime further glorify this divine region.

Devotees then visited Manasa Devi Mandir, Gajendra Moksha Sthal, and Yogmaya Mandir.

In the evening, devotees went for deep daan at Krishna Balaram mandir then assembled at Radheshyam for Hari Katha by Janardhan Prabhuji.

Highlights of Hari Katha:

He explained that human life is meant for liberation from the cycle of birth and death, and our real problem is forgetting Krishna. Vrindavan—an expansion of Lord Balaram's energy—is especially potent during Kartik, where even a brief stay awakens devotion. He urged firm determination in bhakti, resolving in this very life to return to Godhead despite Maya's distractions. Like a fish without water, the soul finds peace only in Krishna through service, chanting, and reading Srila Prabhupada's books.

True Vrajavasis always remember Krishna; by staying humble, steady, and focused, one gains spiritual strength.

Maharaj concluded that sincere effort and constant remembrance lead us back to Krishna's lotus feet.

21 October — Gokul (Diwali Day)

On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, devotees attended Mangal Aarti and travelled to Gokul.

- **Chinta Haran Ghat**



The first halt was at Chinta Haran Ghat, followed by breakfast and Hari Katha by HG Deena Bandhu Baba.

He described the sweet pastimes of Gokul and Chintaharan Ghat, explaining how Krishna appeared in Gokul for the Vrajavāsīs and in Mathura for the Mathuravāsīs. Following Paurṇamāsī's advice, Nanda Mahārāj and Yashoda observed Ekadashi for a year, after which Yashoda conceived. During Vasudev's journey through the flooded Yamuna, baby Krishna touched the river with His tiny toe, calming her waves. Upon reaching Gokul, Vasudev exchanged the babies, and Nanda and Yashoda rejoiced to behold their beautiful, dark-blue child.

The Vrajavāsīs celebrated Krishna's divine appearance with ecstatic kirtan and boundless joy. At Chintaharan Ghat, Mother Yashoda would share her motherly anxieties about Krishna with Chinteshwar Mahadev, who would gently remove all her worries, filling her heart with peace and assurance.

- **Brahmand Ghat:**



Baby Krishna's enchanting childhood pastimes include the Brahmāṇḍa-līlā, where He ate dirt and revealed His cosmic form at Brahmāṇḍa Ghāt; playful moments with calves who dragged Him around in joy; the deliverance of Pūtānā, whose attempt to harm Him ended in her spiritual liberation; His loving exchange with the fruit seller, showing how devotion outweighs material wealth; and sweet teasing by the cowherd boys, who joked that although Yaśodā Māiyā and Nanda Bābā are fair, "You are black," capturing the intimate, playful mood of Vraja.

- **Ukhal Bandan - Deep Daan and Hari Katha by Deena Bandu Prabhu**



At Ukhal Bandhan Sthali, Gokul, he narrated the Damodara-līlā—Mother Yaśodā lovingly churning butter as Krishna sat beside her. When she left to tend boiling milk, Krishna, in playful anger, broke the butter pots and fed the monkeys. Though the Supreme Lord, He ran in fear as Yaśodā chased Him, delighting Vraja with His innocence.

22nd October — Ter Kadamba



The Vrajavasis celebrated Krishna's appearance with ecstatic kirtan. At Chintaharan Ghat, Yashoda would express her motherly worries about Krishna to Chinteshwar Mahadev, finding peace in her heart afterward.

After Maṅgal Ārati, devotees travelled to Ter Kadamba. After darshan and breakfast, they gathered at Asheshwar Mahadev for kathā by Sitaram Prabhuji.

Highlights of Hari Kathā:

He narrated how Lord Shiva performed tapasya here to gain the blessing of witnessing Krishna's intimate Vraja-līlās—a wish the Lord compassionately fulfilled. Prabhuji highlighted that Krishna spent much of His youth in the Nandagaon region, performing countless pastimes and establishing many sacred kundas.



He described Krishna's Govardhan-līlā—lifting the sacred hill for seven days and nourishing all five rasas—and the pearl-planting pastime at Moti Kund, where He joyfully tended His cows. Rādhārāṇī's deep love shone through Her daily walk from Ter Kadamba to Nandagaon and Her confidential meetings with Krishna in Jāvat. Uddhava's visit revealed the unmatched devotion of the Vrajavāsīs, whose constant remembrance of Krishna is the highest perfection.

The lecture concluded by glorifying Lord Chaitanya Mahāprabhu's gift of harināma—the supreme path for Kali-yuga.

23rd October – Barsana



Following Maṅgal Ārati, devotees travelled to Barsana for Hari Kathā by HG Deena Bandhu Prabhu at Sankhari Khor and Gehvar Van.

Highlights of Hari Kathā:

He described Barsana—the divine home of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī—filled with mahā-bhāva, the highest form of love. The four hills represent Brahmā's four heads, surrendered to serve Her. Krishna joyfully came from Nandgaon to meet Her, with the Ladli-Lal Temple marking the heart of Their loving exchanges.

He shared intimate pastimes at Mor-Kutir (Radha-Krishna dancing like peacocks), Sankhari Khor (playful meetings), Gehvar Van (Rādhārāṇī's confidential grove), Lathmar Lila, and the joyful swing pastimes. Through these lilas of sweet quarrels and affection, Barsana reveals Rādhārāṇī's boundless compassion—only by Her mercy can one attain Krishna.

The visit concluded with darshan at Daan Gad, Shri Kushal Bihari Ji, and Barsana Temple.

Evening :

Deep Daan at Krishna Balaram mandir followed by concluding lecture of Vrindavan Yatra at Radheshyam by Sitaram Prabhuji.

The concluding lecture marked the Vrindavan Yatra's completion with the special blessing of Govardhan Parikrama, urging devotees to remain with the kirtan party.

Prabhuji narrated the Aghasura pastime, revealing Vraja's eagerness to serve Krishna, and explained that anxiety in Krishna's service purifies the heart, as taught by Srila Prabhupada.

He emphasized that chanting cleanses the heart, and Krishna's name is even more merciful than Krishna Himself. The lecture glorified Srila Prabhupada's pure preaching, deity worship, sacrifices in the West, and his return to leave his body in Vrindavan.

Prabhuji concluded by stressing book distribution and sankirtan as vital for self-purification and service, reminding that material relations are temporary—true perfection lies in serving devotees and centering life on Krishna consciousness.



24th October — Govardhan Parikrama



The day began with Maṅgalā-ārati, followed by a bus ride to begin the Govardhan-parikramā, covering sacred sites like Kusum-sarovar, Mānasī-Gaṅgā, Haridev Mandir, ISKCON Govardhan, Govind-kuṇḍ, Narasimha-deva Temple, Puñcarī-kā-Loṭā, Uddhava-kuṇḍ, and concluding at Rādhā-kuṇḍ.



At Govind-kuṇḍ, Nitai Madhav Prabhu delivered hari-kathā, glorifying Giriraj Govardhan—Haridāsa-varya, the topmost servant of Krishna—who manifested from Goloka at Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī's request. He narrated Krishna's Govardhan-līlās—flower gathering, boating at Mānasī-Gaṅgā, the Govardhan-pūjā, and lifting the hill for seven days to protect the Vrajavāsīs, after which Indra worshipped Him as Govinda.

The kathā concluded with reflections on Govardhan's causeless mercy, the immense spiritual benefit of parikramā in Kārttika, Krishna's lesson of humility, and prayers for lifelong service and loving connection with Vraja.

25 October — Srila Prabhupada Disappearance Day



The final day was dedicated in attending the glorification of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada by his disciples at Sri Krishna-Balaram Mandir, followed by a grand feast prasadam.

With humility in their hearts, devotees concluded the yatra.

Takeaways

The Kartik Yatra offered deep spiritual nourishment through darshan, katha, kirtan, and the sweet service of Deep Daan across the sacred land of Braj. Under the association of exalted Vaishnavas, devotees experienced a deeper connection with Sri Sri Radha-Shyamsundar, returning with renewed devotion and cherished memories.



Bhagavad Gita - 8.5:

At the end of life, remembrance of the Lord Krishna leads to liberation.

Translation -

And whoever, at the end of his life, quits his body remembering Me alone at once attains My nature. Of this there is no doubt.

Purport:

In this verse the importance of Kṛṣṇa consciousness is stressed. Anyone who quits his body in Kṛṣṇa consciousness is at once transferred to the transcendental nature of the Supreme Lord. The Supreme Lord is the purest of the pure. Therefore anyone who is constantly Kṛṣṇa conscious is also the purest of the pure. The word smaran ("remembering") is important. Remembrance of Kṛṣṇa is not possible for the impure soul who has not practiced Kṛṣṇa consciousness in devotional service. Therefore one should practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness from the very beginning of life. If one wants to achieve success at the end of his life, the process of remembering Kṛṣṇa is essential. Therefore one should constantly, incessantly chant the mahā-mantra – Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare.

Lord Caitanya has advised that one be as tolerant as a tree (taror api sahiṣṇunā). There may be so many impediments for a person who is chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa. Nonetheless, tolerating all these impediments, one should continue to chant Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare, so that at the end of one's life one can have the full benefit of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.



SB 6.2.18

If a field of straw or dry grass is set afire, either by an elderly man who knows the power of fire or by a child who does not, the grass will be burned to ashes.

Similarly, one may or may not know the power of chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra, but if one chants the holy name he will become free from all sinful reactions.

SB 6.2.19

If a person unaware of the effective potency of a certain medicine takes that medicine or is forced to take it, it will act even without his knowledge because its potency does not depend on the patient's understanding.

Similarly, even though one does not know the value of chanting the holy name of the Lord, if one chants knowingly or unknowingly, the chanting will be very effective.

Kids Corner:



Story Time (Taken from the Srimad Bhagavatam).

Prahlada Maharaja - Unflinching Faith in Krishna



Long ago, there was a demon king named Hiraṇyakaśipu, who ruled with pride and arrogance. He believed that only he should be worshiped. His young son, Prahlāda, was very different. While still in his mother Kayādhū's womb, he attentively listened as Nārada Muni imparted spiritual instructions. From a very early age, Prahlāda displayed unwavering devotion to Lord Viṣṇu, constantly remembering and chanting the Lord's holy name.



Hiraṇyakaśipu became angry when he realized that his son did not follow him but remained devoted to Viṣṇu.



Determined to change him, the king subjected Prahlāda to many punishments. He had Prahlāda tied to heavy pillars, beaten, and thrown from high mountain. He even subjected him to scorching fires. Despite all this, Prahlāda never wavered in his faith. He remained calm, courageous, and devoted, knowing that Lord Viṣṇu was always protecting him. He locked him in a chamber filled with venomous snakes.

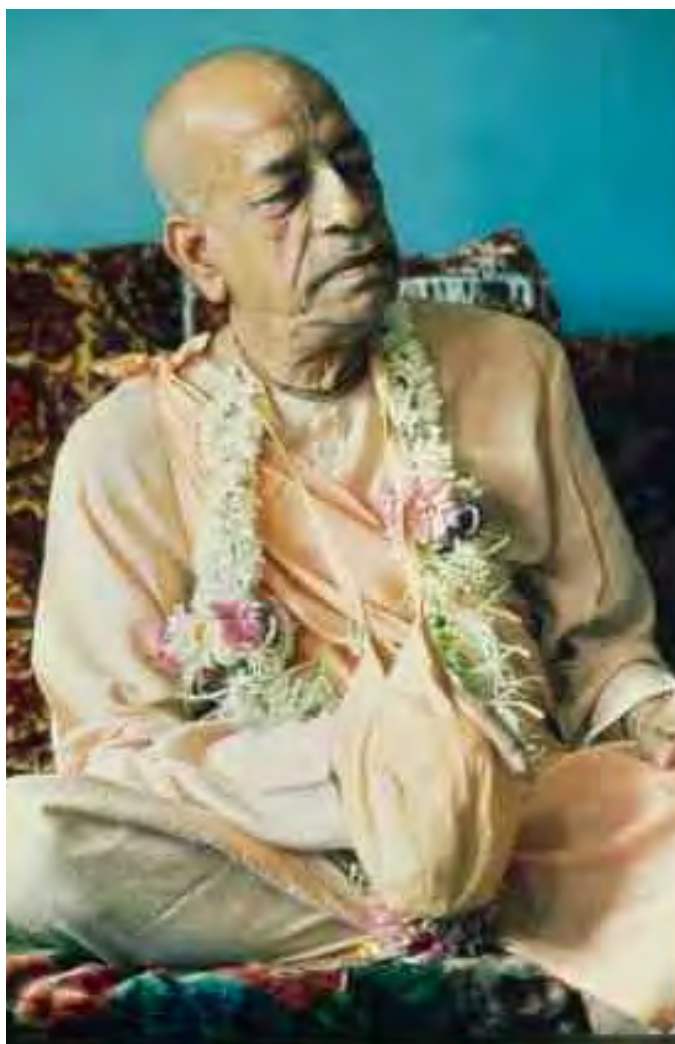


In his last act of rage, Hiraṇyakaśipu struck a pillar of the palace. From the pillar emerged Lord Nṛsiṃhadeva, the fierce man-lion incarnation of Viṣṇu, who appeared to save Prahlāda and destroy the tyrant king. The Lord defeated Hiraṇyakaśipu and restored peace, showing that Prahlāda's pure devotion and steadfast faith had triumphed.

What we learn:

True strength comes from unflinching faith in Krishna. Devotees who surrender wholeheartedly, no matter their age or circumstances, are always guided and protected by the Lord.

The story of Prahlāda Mahārāja teaches us that fearless devotion and unwavering faith in Krishna can protect us from any danger. Even the smallest or youngest devotee can receive the Lord's mercy and guidance through pure love and surrender.



[Of these, the wise one who is in full knowledge in union with Me through pure devotional service is the best. For I am very dear to him, and he is dear to Me.]

The... "For a person who is Kṛṣṇa conscious, at the same time philosophically trying to understand what is the nature of God, so he is very dear to Me," Kṛṣṇa says. "He is very dear to Me because he has no other business than to understand what is God."

Others, just like a distressed man, he is in distress, but because he's pious, therefore he believes in God, he goes to the churches or to the temple or to the mosque and prays, "My dear Lord, I am very much distressed. Kindly help me."

But the difficulty of this person is that God does not require to be prayed for, asking anything. He is... He is pious, he is distressed, but at the same time, he is foolish. Who is foolish? Because he does not know that "God is with me, within my heart. He's sitting along with me."

The soul and the Supersoul, both of them are sitting together. And God knows everything about me. So I did not require to pray from God to get me out of this distress. He knows everything. Why shall I pray?" He leaves everything to God. He does not pray. He prays..., he prays to glorify the God, "How great You are," not for his personal interest—"O God, give me my bread. Give me my dress. Give me my shelter."

That is also good. He is better than the person, that mūḍha, the foolish, the atheist and the lowest of the mankind. He's far better.

Even he is going and asking in the church, "O God, give me my daily bread," but at the same time, he is less intelligent because he does not know that "God is with me, and He knows everything about me."



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Date	Event
15 th November	Utpanna Ekadashi
16 th November	Paran Time - 09:11 am to 10:31 am

HELPING



HANDS

ISKCON Bhiwandi offers below various devotional services to enhance your spiritual journey:



Attend daily and weekly Bhagavad Gita Classes



Volunteer : Offer your time and talent



Join us on Yatras to Holy places



Celebrate festivals with us

Connect with us and share your experiences. We are happy to serve you.
To know more about our activities, please visit www.iskconbhiwandi.org
You can contact us at +91 9175263178
or write to us at support@iskconbhiwandi.org