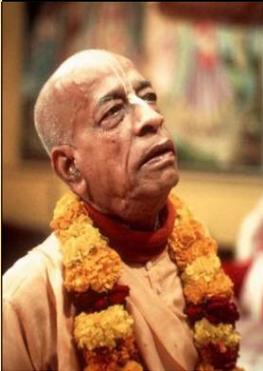


Devasadan Mandir Monthly

“Only a pure devotee of the Lord can show one the right way of progressive life”

-Srila Prabhupada



Srila Narottama Dasa Thakura

By: Ishi Nalamolu Age 13

Srila Narottama Dasa Thakura was born in the month of Magha as the son of King Krsnananda Datta. When Narottama was born, Brahmanas saw hopeful signs around the birth of that child. The Brahmanas predicted that the boy was a great soul and would influence the minds of many people. He had body features of a mahapurusa, which is a great personality.

Narottama Dasa Thakura was initiated by Lokanatha Gosvami. He was spiritually named Campakamanjari. Narottama is widely believed to be the incarnation of Nityananda prabhu. After his return from Vrindavan, Narottama installed 6 deities; Lord Gauranga, Vallabhikanta, Lord Krishna, Lord Vrajamohan, Lord Radhamohan and Lord Rodhakanta. This installation ceremony was a grand festival at Kheturi.

One pastime of Srila Narottama Dasa Thakura that was inspiring to me happened when he was a young boy. Krishnananda, his father, planned for a rice offering ceremony for his son. During the main event, where Narottama was fed the rice, he did not want to eat it. Everyone watching was worried and confused about what to do next. Finally, someone said not to worry and that Narottama simply would not eat the rice because it was not offered to Lord Vishnu. Only after the rice was offered, Narottama ate it.

That pastime stresses the importance of Prasadam and that you should not eat anything without offering it to the lord. I will surely apply this to my own life by offering everything I eat to Lord Krishna.

Narottama was known for writing many devotional songs. Srila Narottama Dasa Thakura was a great inspiration to me and to all Vaishnavas with his exemplary devotional service.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 28th 2009 --24 Hour kirtan at the temple

December 6th 2009 -- Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur Disapp day

Dec 21,22,23 -- Little Vaishnava Winter Camp

Devotee Profile: Caitanya Rupa Das.

This month we would like to present to you, Radha Kunjabihari's most loving pujari, Caitanya Rupa Prabhu. Caitanya Rupa Prabhu has taken the time to tell us how he became a devotee and what impact of being a devotee has affected his life.

In Chicago, in 1975 in he went to a dentist appointment, In the loop. And after the appointment he got out to go to the subway and he heard kartals, mrdanga. He followed the sound that reawakened something from the past life. Our Lord Jagannath was coming on the cart on State street. (Continued on page 2)

Devotee Profile: Caitanya Rupa Das. (Continued from page 1)

He followed it to Civic Center Plaza. Caitanya Rupa Prabhu bought a Krishna Book, A hard bound and a big volume. Five weeks later, he moved into the temple.

Krishna says in Bhagvad Gita, “The spiritual life tasted like poison, and then it tasted like nectar. First he didn’t like it and then. Where material life is tastes like nectar and in the end is poison.”

Caitanya Rupa Prabhu is Srila Prabhupad’s disciple, he was initiated in a very special way. The temple president asked why he wanted to get initiated and he had to write a letter. He said he wanted to dress the Deities and make clothes for them. So, he got the wonderful mercy of Srila Prabhupad and was initiated by His Grace Srila Prabhupada. His second initiation was in Honolulu, Hawaii, 1977, one month before Srila Prabhupada passed away.

Caitanya Rupa Prabhu says, “Becoming a devotee is a gradual process the progression you make in life you start in the next life.” And he started off from his last life, kartalas is transcendental sound so is mrdanga that it let him continue being a devotee in this life too. He came to Detroit in 1980 with all the artists from LA to install multimedia exhibit in the theatre. The samassara,, rasa dance, and Krishna and the cowherd boys, his job was to design all the costumes. Many of those artists left Detroit, but Caitanya Rupa Prabhu had fallen in love with Radha Kunjabhahari, so he stayed and now he is in Detroit till this day!

The Appearance of Radha Kund

When the people of Vrindavan heard that Krishna had killed the terrible Aristasura demon (who appeared in the form of a bull) they all rushed to the spot. Along with them Srimati Radharani and the gopis also went when they heard that their beloved Krishna had killed a bull. Srimati Radharani was very upset and angry with Krishna and refused to associate with him because the cows were sacred to them (a bull is said to be a cow). Krishna told Srimati Radharani that the bull was not a real bull but a demon in the form of a bull. Srimati Radharani told Krishna that since the demon came in the form of a bull, Krishna still can’t kill the bull because bulls are sacred to us. Krishna not knowing what to say asked what he has to do to be freed from the sin. Srimati Radharani in reply told that he would have to travel all over the universe and take a bath in all the holy rivers.

Krishna laughed and told Srimati Radharani that he would bring all the holy rivers here to Vrindavan. With the heel of his left foot he kicked the ground forming a kund. Krishna then called all the holy rivers of the universe to pour their sacred water into his kund. Then one by one all the holy rivers came in their personified forms (human form). After all the holy rivers took blessings of Krishna they poured their sacred waters into the kund and filled it. Krishna then took his bath in the kund. This then became to know as Syama-kunda. (Continued on page 3)

The Appearance of Radha Kund (Continued from page 2)



After taking a bath Krishna informed Srimati Radharani and the gopis since they sided with the demon Aristasura, in the form of a bull, they would have to share the sin of cow-killing, and must also take bath to purify themselves. Krishna told Srimati Radharani and the gopis that they could take their bath in the kund Krishna had made but they refused.

Srimati Radharani then broke a piece of her bangle and started digging in the soft mud. Seeing Srimati Radharani the gopis also broke a piece of their bangle and also started to dig in the soft mud to. In a short time Srimati Radharani

and the gopis had formed a kund.

Krishna told Srimati Radharani and the gopis that they had a nice hole but there was no water. To that Srimati Radharani replied with my many gopis we will form a line and bring pure waters of the in golden pots to fill her kund. Upon hearing the words of Srimati Radharani, the holy places personified approached her with folded hands and while chanting beautiful prayers in glorification, humbly asked her to grant them a boon. Radharani inquired what kind of boon they desired. The holy places personified informed her that their lives could only be successful if they were allowed to pour their sacred waters into her kund also. While glancing at Krishna through the corner of her eyes she happily agreed. Srimati Radharani and the gopis took a bath in the kund along with Krishna. Thus Radha Kund was formed.

H.H.Bhakti Vasudeva Maharaj's Inspirational Words

By: Bhakta Peter

As most of you know Bhakti Vasudeva Swami spent a couple of weeks visiting our Detroit temple. I was fortunate enough to get some association with him. During this association he said "true spirituality is controlling the senses". This was one of his topics he spoke about at a "home" program on Sat. Oct. 31st.

He began speaking from the Bhagavad-Gita As it is (chapter 12 verses 12-20). In verses 12-19 Krsna states all of the qualities it takes to be a pure devotee, and at the end of each verse Krsna says such a devotee "is very dear to me". Essentially all of these verses can be summed up by verses 13/14 which say "One who is not envious but is a kind friend to all living entities, who does not think himself a proprietor and is free from false ego, who is equal in both happiness and distress, who is tolerant, always satisfied, self-controlled and engaged in devotional service with determination, his mind and intelligence fixed on me- such a devotee of mine is very dear to me".

H.H.Bhakti Vasudeva Maharaj's Inspirational Words (Continued from page 3)

Maharaja stressed how important it is to be working toward initiation, or becoming a disciple. Which he then said means "to be disciplined". But his entire talk wasn't about controlling the senses. In the previous stated verse (chapter 12 verse 13/14) it says "One who is not envious but is a kind friend to all living entities..." So Maharaj expanded on this, he brought it right back to our temple in Detroit and Prabhupada's vision for Iskcon. He went on to say that the devotees at our temple should remember to treat the original or "older" devotees with respect. Many of these people are disciples of Prabhupada and are no longer attending temple regularly. He felt this was because sometimes temples can turn into a "social gathering", which was not Prabhupada's vision. This is Krsna's home. Maharaja explained how difficult it was and how hard Prabhupada worked to obtain the "Fisher Mansion". He said "it should be as welcoming as our homes, but we should treat it better than our homes".



As Maharaja continued to talk about our temple he said "when someone comes to your home you greet them with kindness, and then you offer to show them around". He then asked us to repeat "cleanliness is next to Godliness". At this point he gave us his humble advice, "we should as a group, organize a scheduled time to clean our temple, on a regular basis".

It is very difficult to put into words how much love and compassion this was spoken with. Maharaja gave us this advice because it was Prabhupada's vision for Iskcon that all devotees be engaged in devotional service. After this he asked us "what do you do for service and how can you expand this"? He said it was very important that we are conscience of the service we are doing because "devotional service helps yourself, you receive purification for it". He continued by giving us an acronym to follow S.W.O.T. Strength, Weakness, Opportunities, Threats. What are your strengths and weakness and what opportunities for devotional service to you have? What might threaten this? We talked about devotional service with his loving humble advice for us to restore the temple in such detail because in chapter 12 verse 20 it says "Those who follow this imperishable path of devotional service and who completely engage themselves with faith, making Me the supreme goal, are very, very dear to Me.

As you see, Bhakti Vasudeva Swami is trying to assure that we are all very, Very dear to Krsna.

Maharaja truly lives his life by Chapter 18 verse 65 in the Bhagavad-Gita As it is "Always think of me, become my devotee, worship me and offer your homage unto me. Thus you will come to me without fail. I promise you this because you are my very dear friend"



Please come and attend our Sunday feasts!

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