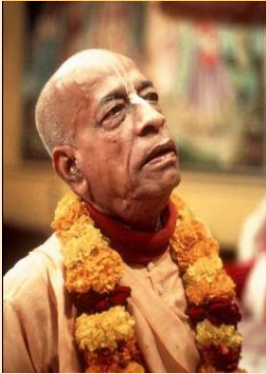


# Devasadan Mandir Monthly

*Difficulties of life may come as seasonal changes but we should not be disturbed by all those difficulties. Our process is to chant and that process will gradually clear everything in due course.*

-Sri Prabhupada



Nityananda Trayodashi

By: Gopi

Age: 12

Nityananda Trayodashi is the day of Nityananda's birthday. Nityananda Prabhu was born in the village of Ekachakra located in West Bengal around 1474. He was the son of Hadai Pandita and Padmavati. As a child Nityananda was called Nitai. Little Nitai had a close circle of friends. Together Nitai and his friends imitated pastimes of Lord Krishna and his associates. All the adults of Ekachakra were amazed by the way little Nitai acted and knew he was gifted this talent. Seeing Nitai being totally absorbed in Krishna and the avatars of Vishnu, they suspected that He might be some sort of incarnation himself. Every year the people of Ekachakra celebrated Nitai's birthday very grand. Like the people of Ekachakra many people in the world celebrate his birthday. On January 28 2010 we celebrated Nityananda Trayodashi in our Detroit temple Devasadan Mandir.

It was around 6:00 when people started to come in. The atmosphere of the temple became convivial and exited. At 7:00p.m the conchshell blew and everyone scurried into the temple room. The curtains slowly opened revealing the beautiful deities. Everyone prayed obeisance and stood up. Tirthapada Prabhu, one of our great singers, started to sing. Everyone then started dancing to the beat of the melodious mridanga and kartal. The temple room was soon packed by joyful dancing devotees. At 7:30p.m Tirthapada Prabhu ended the kirthan.

Right after arati there was pushpa abhishekam to Lord Nityananda. All of the devotees in the room got a hand full of flowers as Gokulchandra Prabhu recited mantras and instructed the devotees when to offer the flower petals to his lordship Nityananda Prabhu. The devotees excitedly went up close to the deity so the flower petals would land on his lotus feet. The little kids enjoyed doing this. This went on till around 8:00p.m.

Exhausted and hungry the devotees went into the Sri Nathji hall and formed a line. The prasadam was made very circumspect by many devotees. Once they got their food they sat down in rows. The devotees devoured their food. After the devotees filled their tummies some devotees left as some stayed behind for the 9:00p.m arati.

The 9:00p.m arati was much dispassionate than the 7:00 arati. The singing was calm and soothing. The deities had changed into comfy night dress but they still looked fabulous. The arati ended at 9:30 and everyone who was still their bundled up to leave. No one will ever forget this day. If you did not come this year I highly recommend you should come next year.



**Upcoming Events:**

Gaura Purnima on February 28th at 4:15pm. For more info please visit [www.detroitiskconlive.com](http://www.detroitiskconlive.com)

### Durga Program

The kids from Devasadan Mandir Sunday school were invited to perform onstage at the Durga temple in Detroit on Saraswathi Puja Day. Under the guidance of Neha Mataji, the little ones had fun practicing bhajans such as Sikshastakam, Radhe Jaya Jaya and Namaste Narasimhaya at her house the previous day. When it comes to fun for kids, parents and teachers work double shifts. But at the end of the day, everyone had a smile on their face, kids had their share of fun practicing together and parents knew that their kids learnt & experienced something new.



On the day of the performance the children were very excited to dress up in different costumes from great epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata. When we got to the temple, the hall was packed and performances were going on as we slowly made our way to the front of the audience awaiting our turn. As the other performances were going on, our dedicated and sincere Prabhu's went around distributing our Sunday Feast Invitations. Then when we were called onstage to perform, the older kids took turns in leading each of the bhajans and the younger kids followed their lead. All the kids did really well and the performance came to an end with the audience cheering loudly.

The best part of the program was the climax when our kids exchanged greeting cards that they had made the previous day, with the kids from the Durga temple. As the children embraced each other and opened their hearts, many had commented as to how this part was so special and sweet. At the end, the President of the temple thanked us for coming and announced that it will also be a wonderful opportunity for the kids from the Durga temple to participate in our Little Vaisnava Winter camp this year.

On behalf of all the parents I would like to thank Neha Mataji for coordinating the program and making it a memorable one for the parents and the kids.

### Advaita Acarya

By: Shravan Morisetty

Advaita Acarya appeared in Bengal some sixty years before Lord Caitanya's appearance. He was the foremost of all the Vaishnavas who resided at Navadwip, whose virtuous presence has made all the worlds blessed. He was the first among the associates of Lord Caitanya to appear within the material world to deliver the conditioned souls.

On the seventh day of the bright fortnight of the month of Magh, the great ocean of ecstasy swelled to its limits, being forcibly attracted by the moon of Advaita, Who appeared from the womb of Sri Nabhadevi. His father, Sri Kuvera Pandit, in great happiness, gave many gifts in charity to the brahmanas (who voluntarily accept vows of poverty). The residents of Nabagram came running to see the child. Everyone remarked that they had never seen such a beautiful baby. The child was named Mangal and his other name was Kamalaksa. The child was later known as Advaita Acarya.

Advaita Acarya's name indicates that He is advaita(nondifferent) from Lord Hari (Krishna), and He is called Acarya (one who teaches by example) because He taught bhakti in all directions, Advaita Acarya lived in Santipura and Maypura, in what is now West Bengal, and was the head of the Vaisnava community of Nadia.



Advaita Acarya is the finest teacher in all fields including knowledge, renunciation, and devotion. He is considered a combined incarnation (avatar) of both Maha Vishnu and Shiva (collectively named Harihara) within the Gaudiya tradition

When Advaita Prabhu saw that the total human society was full of materialistic activities and lacking devotional service, which alone could save mankind from the miseries of material existence, he prayed enthusiastically for the incarnation of the Lord. It was Advaita Acarya who asked Lord Caitanya to descend.

With the intense eagerness he continually worshipped the Shalagram of Sri Krsna with Tulasi manjaris and Ganges water. By the power of his spiritual force, his loud shouts pierce the coverings of this universe and, resounding throughout Vaikuntha, reach the ears of Sri Krsna. Hearing this loving summons saturated with devotion, Sri Krsna adverts Himself.

In one of his pastimes, when Advaita Acarya performed worship, whatever gods and demigods He used to meditate upon He saw all gathered at Lord Caitanya's lotus feet, offering prayers. Raising up his two hands, Advaita exclaimed in great ecstasy, "Today all the days of my life have produced a successful result, as all my desires have been fulfilled. My birth

and activities have finally born fruit. I have directly perceived Your two lotus feet, which are proclaimed throughout the four Vedas but are unattainable thereby. Now, by Your causeless mercy, You have revealed Yourself to Me."

Mahaprabhu replied, "Acarya, now you should perform My worship." First Advaita Acarya washed the Lord's two lotus feet with water scented by flower petals and then with water scented with sandalwood. Then He placed on His lotus feet Tulasi manjari dipped in sandalwood paste along with arghya - an auspicious offering of rice, durbagrass, yogurt, etc. His eyes brimming with tears, as he offered incense, ghee lamps, flowers, sandalwood paste, and some foodstuffs.

After offering various prayers he loudly proclaimed the Lord's glories with auspicious shouts. "All glories to the Lord and maintainer of the universe, the Lord of all that lives. All glories to Gaurcandra, the ocean of mercy. All glories to the most munificent incarnation of Sri Krsna Caitanya Mahaprabhu, whose form is all-enchanting. All glories to He who is decorated with the ornaments of Sri Vatsa and Kaustubha. All glories to He who has revealed the Hare Krsna Mahamantra. All glories to He who enjoys the pastimes of accepting devotion unto Himself. All glories to Mahaprabhu who reclines on the bed of Ananta Sesa. All glories to the refuge of all living entities."

Hearing Advaita's prayer's Mahaprabhu replied, "My dear Acarya, I am very pleased by your prayers. Now you can ask from me any benediction you like." Then Advaita requested that, "My only request is that you distribute krishna prema to women, laborers and the ignorant fools as well."

The Nrsimha sila and Deities that Advaita Acarya worshipped, fashioned after a picture of Sri Sri Madan-Gopal, are still residing at Santipur in Madan-Gopal Para. The place on the banks of the Ganga where Advaita Acarya worshipped shalagram and called out to the Lord is known today as Babla. A temple has been built in memory of Advaita Acarya's pastimes there.

## Devotee Profile : Mother Mrgaksi.

"The Supreme Lord is more pleased with the glorification of His devotee than that of Himself directly." We are honoured to have Mother Mrgaksi for our Devotee profile of the month.

Mother Mrgaksi was introduced to Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) by our very own Detroit devotee - Jusya Prabhu, He was Mother Mrgaksi's friend from high school. For the first time She received Tulasi and Japa beads at Penn State University. With all submission she started wearing Tulasi beads everyday. Along with Tulasi beads Mother Mrgaksi received a card which had a valuable text saying 'Tulasi Devi is very special to Lord Vishnu and if one remembers Lord Vishnu at the time of death, he will return back home, back to Godhead'. These words invoked a desire in her to know who Lord Vishnu is?

Very soon she got a chance to visit an ISKCON temple and surprisingly she felt as if she had been there before. She instinctively knew what to do, she knew exactly what to do during Aartik and she knew in her heart and soul that Lord Krishna is God. Affirming Krsna's words in Bhagvad Gita 2.40 "( nehābhikrama-nāso 'sti.....)" Her devotional service from her past lives became alive. Shortly after sometime She moved to the Cleveland temple She carried on her services there which included taking care of Tulasi Devi and cooking offerings for the Deities. She being a very humble devotee, for her all the services were same and cleaning the bathrooms was just the same as dressing the Deities. Mother Mrgaksi shares since the Temple is Krishna's body, all services should be completed with love and devotion.

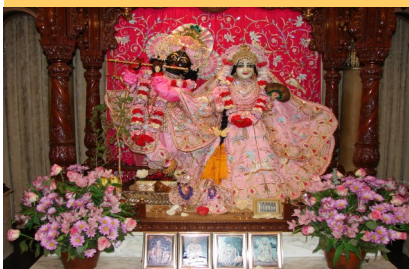
Mother Mrgaksi got first initiation by Srila Prabhupada in July 1973 at Cleveland that time she was 21 years. It was in same year October She entered in Grhastha Ashram. She received her second initiation in 1974



where Srila Prabhupada personally instructed her that if she chanted her rounds and followed the four regulative principles, she would go back to godhead. Srila Prabhupada through her eyes looked deep into her soul and asked if that was alright? She saw that Srila Prabhupada was grave, at the same time He was full of love with this exchange her desire to serve Srila Prabhupada movement strengthened much more. After her second initiation she also took up the service of being a pujari.

With all this, one of her most important contribution to our movement are the vaisnava songs that she has compiled and penned for all the devotee children. Mother Mrgaksi's songs and recordings can be accessible to us at webpage [www.littlevaisnava.com](http://www.littlevaisnava.com). Currently she is also recording more songs with her four children, who are also practising devotional service and are actively involved in ISKCON, there precious services are making a positive difference in the movement. Mother Mrgaksi strongly believes that children are the future of ISKCON and we need to help them in seeing Krishna in everything and make Krishna Consciousness enjoyable for them, It will help them in becoming strong devotees of Krsna. She trusts that Children need to be engaged at all time so that they don't slip through. She is an exemplary mother in ISKCON. With her love and training her four children and six grandchildren are raised up as wonderful devotees and are serving Srila Prabhupada's movement significantly.

Mother Mrgaksi kindly shares her insights that through her many years of services in ISKCON, she has deeply realized that, in life things happen same way, but now she has Lord Krishna to turn to and that makes all the difference. She also shares that she has realized - Things coming from being in the material world do not affect her in the same way because Krishna's love colors her eyes. Difficult things become easier through the spiritual master's mercy. Krishna Consciousness is the greatest gift in her life that keeps on giving, especially when she gives it to others. We all have so much to learn from her example. It's a great fortune to have her exhilarating association in the Detroit temple.



*Please come and attend our Sunday feasts!*

The Bhaktivedanta Cultural Centre

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