



# Spiritual Perspectives

February 2018

Seeing the World through Spiritual Eyes  
For Friends and Followers of Mukunda Goswami

## The Cause of All Causes

By Radha devi dasi

From the dawn of time, humans have been striving to discover our own origins. Human culture contains a wealth of creation stories which all posit the existence of a creator. As the industrial age took root in the West, however, a more mechanistic view of the universe became prominent. The universe, it was assumed, is like a machine that we can understand by breaking down and studying its component parts.

Srila Prabhupada, of course, emphatically rejected this point of view. According to Vedanta Sutra, the source of everything is Krishna. Krishna, in *Bhagavad-gita*, describes Himself as the source of everything. This fundamental difference in worldview is sometimes cited as proof that Krishna consciousness cannot be true. After all, science “proves” that life emerged after the universe formed in a big bang and mechanistic processes such as evolution led to the world we live in today.

In fact, reality is more complicated. On the one hand, prominent physicists including Stephen Hawking and Leonard Mlodinow claimed to have solved the riddle of creation and promised that science will inevitably solve all other mysteries as well. On the other hand, science’s limits have never been more glaringly apparent. In their desperation for a “theory of everything”—which unifies quantum mechanics and relativity and explains the origin and structure of our cosmos—physicists have embraced pseudo-scientific speculation, such as multi-universe theories and the anthropic principle (which says that the universe must be as we observe it to be because otherwise we wouldn’t be here to observe it). To the layman these theories are “scientific” because they are propounded by scientists. However, these theories are just that – working hypotheses that have yet to be proven.

Some scholars, notably philosopher Thomas Nagel, are so unimpressed with science that they are challenging its fundamental assumptions. In his new book *Mind and Cosmos: Why the Materialist Neo-Darwinian Conception of Nature Is Almost Certainly False*, Nagel contends that current scientific theories and methods cannot account for the emergence of life in general and human beings in particular. While

many religious believers make similar arguments, Nagel is an atheist. Yet he echoes some theological critiques of science. “Physic-chemical reductionism,” he writes, cannot tell us how matter became animate on Earth more than three billion years ago; nor can it account for the emergence in our ancestors of consciousness, reason and morality.

Srila Prabhupada gives us the answer to Nagel’s question. The origin of everything is a person, with consciousness, morality and all the other characteristics that cannot be explained in a mechanistic world view. The universe gives rise to consciousness because the source of the universe is the Supreme Consciousness. In fact, science alone will never answer all of humanity’s questions. Fortunately, science is not all we have.



*Nagel's new book Mind and Cosmos: Why the Materialist Neo-Darwinian Conception of Nature Is Almost Certainly False*



*Thomas Nagel, trained in philosophy, first at Cornell (B.A. 1958), then at Oxford, where he went on a Fulbright Scholarship (B. Phil. 1960), and then at Harvard (Ph.D. 1963). Bio from NYU Law*

# ISKCON UK to Celebrate Its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary With Packed Month of Events

By: Madhava Smullen, ISKCON News, January 21, 2018  
<https://bit.ly/2MWs7hS>



*Srila Prabhupada walks with Yamuna Devi, one of the pioneers of ISKCON UK*

In 2016, ISKCON centers all around the world celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the society's incorporation on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 1966 by Founder-Acharya Srila Prabhupada. Now, ISKCON UK is set to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its own incorporation, a story which has itself long been ISKCON legend.

Throughout 2019, already-scheduled festivals like London Ratha-yatra, Janmastami, and 24-Hour Kirtan will be given a UK 50 flavor. But to avoid the internal "50<sup>th</sup> ennui" that occurred during 2016, most of the energy will be focused on just one discrete month packed with events.

The month will run from August 15<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup>, the actual date of ISKCON's incorporation in the UK. Events will all be tied together with a "pioneer" theme.

"Our message to our congregation and to the media is that ISKCON is a movement built by

pioneers," says UK National Communications Director Mina Sharma. "If you look back 500 years, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was a pioneer, trying to bring the Holy Name to every town and village. And after Him the Six Goswamis, Bhaktivinoda Thakura, and Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati, were all pioneers in their own right – as of course was Srila Prabhupada, who started ISKCON."



*Gurudas with Srila Prabhupada*

*Continued on page 3*

ISKCON in the UK was also started by six pioneers, sent by Srila Prabhupada: Mukunda and Janaki, Shyamasundara and Malati (with their baby Sarasvati), and Gurudasa and Yamuna.

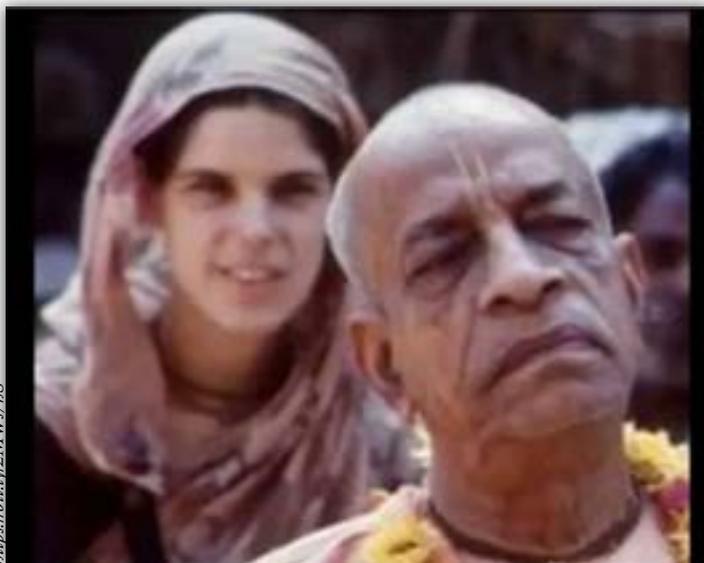
The group of friends came to the UK in 1968 with faith in their guru and the Lord, and pulled off the seemingly impossible. In December 1968 they befriended The Beatles, the biggest band at the time and still the best-selling band of all time today.

Within a year, John Lennon opened up his home, Tittenhurst Estate, to Srila Prabhupada and the devotees. George Harrison helped them open a center and produced the Radha Krishna Temple album on the Beatles' Apple Records. Two singles from the album, Govinda and Hare Krishna Mantra, quickly rose to the top of the British charts, leading to devotees appearing on Top of the Pops and turning Hare Krishna into a household phrase.

George Harrison also donated money to pay for the printing of the book "Krishna: The Supreme Personality of Godhead," and in 1973 he donated Bhaktivedanta Manor to ISKCON.

"As devotees, we've heard the story so many times," says Mina. "But the general public hasn't been told. So telling that story in the media is another element of our focus."

Along with the story, Mina is also in talks with the "Times" newspaper to feature previously unseen photos of George Harrison and the devotees.



*Malati Devi with Srila Prabhupada*

And she will release to the media a re-creation of The Beatles' iconic Abbey Road album cover, with celibate monks – *brahmacharis* – in saffron crossing the road instead of The Beatles.

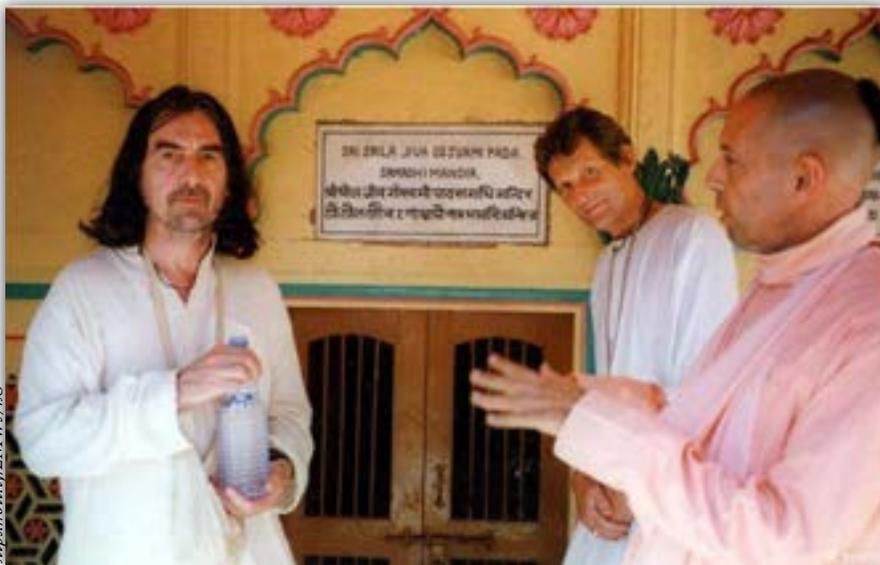
This will also all tie in to the month of events planned from August 15<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup>. For instance, ISKCON will partner with the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London to host a keynote event. At the event, aimed at a Western audience, some of the original pioneers will share the story of how they brought Krishna consciousness to the UK and befriended the Beatles. In addition an academic lecturer will give an anthropological view of this history, how ISKCON has changed over the years, and the contribution that ISKCON has made to the UK.

During the event a UK 50 photobook will also be launched, depicting the past fifty years of history, but also going back 500 years to Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, and 5,000 years to Lord Krishna to show that ISKCON is not just a new movement but is rooted in ancient history. The photos from the book will be featured in a pop-up exhibition that will tour the UK.

UK 50 organizers also hope that bringing new focus to the pioneering mindset of Srila Prabhupada and his early disciples will inspire devotees to take on a similar mindset today.

"Our tagline is 'Be a Pioneer: Do Something Extraordinary,'"

*Continued on page 4*



*George Harrison with Shyamasundar Das and Mukunda Goswami in Vrindavan*

Mina says. “So this year we’re inviting every devotee in the UK to become a pioneer and take ISKCON UK forward for the next fifty years. To think, ‘What can I do in my own temple or my own city as an offering to Srila Prabhupada?’ If there’s a project you’ve always wanted to do, this is the year to do it!”

In addition, during one day dubbed “The Hare Krishna Experience,” all ISKCON centers in the UK will be encouraged to host an event showcasing their speciality. ISKCON Birmingham, for instance, could showcase the kirtans it is especially known for; Leicester its historic building and outreach work with the College of Vedic Studies; and London its presiding Deities of Sri Sri Radha Londonisvara, installed by Srila Prabhupada himself.

All these events will happen simultaneously across the UK, along with simultaneous *Harinama* and cupcake distribution.

“We’re going to try to create a buzz on social media, with photos,” Mina says. “There will also be an opportunity to ‘Meet a Monk.’ We just want to showcase everything that we’re really good at as a movement, and give people a chance to immerse themselves in Hare Krishna culture.”

Also tying in with the fact that three of the pioneers Srila Prabhupada sent to the UK were women – he chose *grihasta* couples instead of

*brahmacharis* – will be the launch of a new initiative called Devi, focused on the empowerment and protection of women.

The project will empower and encourage women to be part of management teams in ISKCON centers across the UK. It will also provide legal advice and help for women in dangerous situations such as abusive relationships.

Devi will be launched at another event at SOAS, where a diverse group of Vaishnavis of different backgrounds, ethnicities, ages, and professions will each give a ten-minute presentation sharing their own experiences within ISKCON and offering their thoughts and suggestions.

“ISKCON is a movement built by pioneers - from Lord Chaitanya to Srila Prabhupada himself, our very foundations are crafted from that pioneering spirit and desire to do something extraordinary for Krishna,” reflects Mina Sharma. “We are celebrating ISKCON’s 50<sup>th</sup> UK anniversary this year, and are looking back at the incredible achievements of the past years as well as forward to setting a new legacy for the next fifty years. I’m really inspired about the year ahead and the exciting things to come - our pioneering days are now.”

\*\*\*

For more information, please contact Mina Sharma at [mina@krishnatemple.com](mailto:mina@krishnatemple.com)

## Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard Announces She’s Running For President In 2020

By: Jessica Taylor, *NPR*, January 12, 2019  
<https://bit.ly/2RJid3y>



facing the American people that I’m concerned about and that I want to help solve,” Gabbard said in an interview set to air Saturday on the network’s *The Van Jones Show*.

“There is one main issue that is central to the rest, and that is the issue of war and peace. I look forward to being able to get into this and to talk about it in depth when we make our announcement,” which will come within the next week, Gabbard said.

\*\*\*

Read more:

<https://www.npr.org/2019/01/11/684716135/hawaii-rep-tulsi-gabbard-announces-shes-running-for-president-in-2020?fbclid=IwAR1fE8KCsRPIuj5hBmrnTsD0jL7w-1YCjejNksxw2kBeOZhZrRVMSm02pSc>

Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard will seek the Democratic nomination for president in 2020, she told CNN in an interview.

“There are a lot of reasons for me to make this decision. There are a lot of challenges that are

# Quotes from Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura

Published in Articles, [www.dandavats.com](http://www.dandavats.com), January 25, 2019

<https://bit.ly/2TF11zL>



<https://bit.ly/2TF11zL>

1. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's instructions in *Siksastakam*, "*param vijayate Sri-Krishna-Sankirtanam*" is the only motto of the Gaudiya math.
2. The Supreme Personality of Godhead Sri Krishna is the only enjoyer. Everyone and everything else is the object of his enjoyment.
3. Anyone who does not serve Hari, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, is ignorant and a killer himself.
4. To learn to tolerate is one of the most important responsibilities of those living in the math.
5. Rupanuga devotees offer all glory to the original source instead of depending on their own strength.
6. Those who perform assorted religious activities can not serve the Supreme Personality of Godhead.
7. Become united with one purpose and serve Hari.
8. Where there is discussion about Hari, that is a place of pilgrimage.
9. We are not pious, sinful or learned or ignorant, we are the carriers of the dust of the feet of the Supreme Lord Sri Hari and we are initiated by the mantra "*kirtaniyah sada harih.*"
10. My advice is, do not criticize others. Try to rectify yourself.
11. Our supreme duty is to serve the residents of Vraja who are afflicted by Krishna's departure to Mathura.
12. A pure devotee knows that everyone is the spiritual master. Therefore, a pure devotee can be *jagad-guru*.
13. If we want to follow the path of true auspiciousness, we should give up the countless opinions of people and only hear the words of the *Vedas*.
14. Whatever is auspicious should be desired.
15. An intimate devotee does not have any other desire besides serving the followers of Sri Rupa Goswami.
16. There is no other way of associating with transcendence besides hearing.

*Continued on page 6*

17. As soon as we lose the shelter of a protector, everything around us will become our enemy and attack us. Topics about Krishna spoken by a genuine saint are our only protector.

18. A flatterer can never become a guru or a preacher.

19. It is better to remain in millions of species like birds, beasts, insects and worms than become deceitful. One who is free from deceit receives auspiciousness.

20. Vaisnavism is the other name of simplicity. The servants of the *paramahansa* Vaishnavas are simple; therefore they are the best *brahmanas*.

21. The only duty of the most merciful persons is to transform the degraded taste of people. If you can save even one person from the great force of *MahaMaya*, then that will be a greater act of philanthropy than opening millions of hospitals.

22. Those who have not learned to develop their propensity to serve the Supreme Lord from self realized souls, no matter how pleasing their association may be, it should never be desired.

23. Preaching without practicing is nothing but a ritual of *karma-kanda*.

24. If one just serves the Supreme Personality of Godhead and his devotees, his attachment to his household will diminish.

25. Our main disease is to collect objects that are not related to Krishna.

26. We have not come to this world to become an artisan of wood or stone, we are only peons of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's mercy.

27. We will not stay in this world for a long time. Only if this body falls singing of the glory of Lord Sri Hari will our birth in this body be successful.

28. The only desired object in our life is to collect the dust from the Lotus feet of Sri Rupa



*Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati during his vow to chant one billion names of Krishna. Mayapur, ca.1905*

Goswami, who fulfilled the desire of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

29. This material nature, which is averse to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, is an examination hall. Tolerance, humbleness, appreciation of others, etc., are favorable to develop our devotion to Hari.

30. In every birth one gets a father and a mother. But one may not get instructions for his ultimate benefit.

31. Although the activities of a devotee and the misdemeanor of a pseudo-devotee appear to be alike,

there is a heaven and hell difference – like milk and limewater.

32. Those who mistake dishonesty to be honesty (or a crook to be saint) will fall into great difficulty, as a person who tries to cheat an ironsmith by supplying him bad steel.

33. As soon as we get to know the absolute truth, we should become fixed in it. Instead of wasting a single moment of time left, we should be engaged in serving Sri Hari.

34. Many people mistake 'imitation' to be 'following.' These two words are not the same. To play the role of Narada in a play is 'imitation' but to follow the path of devotion according to Narada Muni is 'following.'

35. He who is constantly absorbed in discussing about Sri Hari is a saint. One who is constantly engaged in serving the Supreme Personality of Godhead is a saint. One who in all his endeavors tries to serve Krishna is a saint.

36. If the Supreme Personality of Godhead Narayana offers Himself, something remains unoffered, but a devotee can offer the Lord completely.

37. Do not try to become a guru to become envious. Do not try to become a guru in order to become absorbed in material attachments. But

*Continued on page 7*

if you become my unalloyed servant, if you have acquired my potency, there is nothing to fear.

38. A bonafide spiritual master is non-different from Supreme Personality of Godhead. If one cannot say that the spiritual master is the personal manifestation of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, one will not be able to utter the holy name of the Lord.

39. In order to teach us how to serve Him, the Supreme Personality of Godhead Himself appears as the spiritual master.

40. A living entity can not derive real benefit by reading hundreds of books or pretending to render devotional service according to his own ideas.

41. Being cheated by those who mislead people in the name of *hari-katha* has become a sort of religion in this age.

42. Someone will be able to understand the profound meaning of the impartial truth that is being spoken fearlessly after hundreds of lives or hundreds of *yugas*. Unless hundreds of gallons of hard-earned blood is spent, we will not be able to make people understand the truth.

43. The Lord does not accept anything offered by those who do not chant one hundred thousand names of the Lord each day.

44. Association is the principle impetus in human life to serve Sri Hari. Due to association of non-devotees, one gets material prosperity. Due to the association of devotees, the spirit soul gradually becomes absorbed in serving Sri Hari. This is the greatest shelter for a human being. Never become averse to that.

45. Whenever there are material difficulties, the Supreme Personality of Godhead becomes the shelter and allows one to serve him.

46. As long as one has *anarthas*, one does not receive the good fortune of becoming a servant of Srimati Radharani. Those who discuss the transcendental pastimes of Srimati Radharani, the dearest servitor of Sri Krishna, are sense gratifiers, covered enjoyers and *prakṛta-sahajiyas*.

47. When *anarthas* will be removed due to chanting the Holy Name, then Krishna's form, qualities and pastimes will automatically manifest from the name. There is no need to make an endeavor to artificially remember His form, qualities and pastimes.

48. All of you preach the message of Rupa Goswami and Raghunatha Dasa Goswami with great enthusiasm. Our supreme desire is to become the dust at the lotus feet of the followers of Sri Rupa Goswami.

49. Do not give up devotional service even if there are innumerable dangers, countless insults and endless harassment. Do not become disheartened that most people in this world do not accept the message of unalloyed devotional service. Never give up your devotional service and hearing and chanting about Krishna which is your everything. Always chant the Holy Name becoming more humble than a blade of grass and more tolerant than a tree.

50. We do not want to become great fruitive workers or religious leaders; all we want is to become the dust at the lotus feet of Sri Rupa Prabhu. That is our original identity.

51. We should never display any kind of aversion towards *sankirtana-yajna* which is perfect sacrifice, complete with the seven forms of sacrifice. If we have gradually increasing love for that, then everything will be accomplished and we will attain ultimate perfection. Just preach the words of Rupa and Raghunatha with enthusiasm and courage, with complete dedication to the followers of Sri Rupa.

52. If I stop preaching the unbiased truth due to fear that people will not like it, I am accepting the non-Vedic way, rejecting the Vedic way. Then I become an atheist and I lose my faith in the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who is the personification of truth.

53. In this material world there are only two representatives of the Supreme Personality of Godhead; the transcendental sound vibration of the Holy Name, and his eternally transcendental deity incarnation.

54. The deity is worshipped by the Holy Name – sentient is served through sentient.

55. For the pleasure of the Lord, His devotees call Him by His Holy Name to render service unto Him, not to fulfill their own desires.

56. The deity is the merciful incarnation of the eternal form of the transcendental Supreme Personality of Godhead of the spiritual sky (Vaikuntha). It is direct proof of the personal form of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Vaishnavas do not imagine whether God is a person or impersonal. They are not idol worshippers.

57. Just as the purports of the Vedas have been briefly described in the *Brahma-sutra* and the *Vedanta-bhasya*, the conclusion and purport of the *Srimad-Bhagavatam* has been similarly described in a brief and accurate way.

58. Unless one studies *Srimad-Bhagavatam* under the guidance of a bonafide Vaishnava *acharya*, he will not be able to understand the real purport

*Continued on page 8*

## SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVES

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Mukunda Goswami

### PRODUCTION MANAGER

Hari-kirtan das

### EDITORS

Mukunda Goswami  
Radha devi dasi

### PROOFREADING & EDITING

Haridasa das  
Padma malini devi dasi

### GENERAL CONSULTANT

Devaprastha das

### DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Raj Dutia

Articles published in this newsletter  
are not necessarily the opinion of  
*Spiritual Perspectives* or ISKCON.

of the *Brahma-sutra*. *Srimad-Bhagavatam* is the original commentary of *Vedanta-sutra*.

59. Sri Jiva Goswami specifically explained that *Srimad-Bhagavatam* is the original commentary of *Vedanta-sutra*.

60. The word “devotion” cannot be applied to anything besides “Krishna.” “Krishna” is the only subject of devotion. *Brahman* is the object of knowledge, *Paramatma* is the object of nearness, but Krishna is the only object of service.

61. Every word has a two-fold aspect; conveying a meaning based on knowledge and a meaning based on ignorance. The aspects of words that indicate something other than Krishna, Vishnu or Sri Caitanya, conveys the meaning based on ignorance. In knowledge everything indicates Krishna and signifies Krishna.

62. What the ignorant masses understand about the “Krishna” is not the real object of the word Krishna. In other words, “God,” “Allah” and even the Sanskrit words

“*Ishvara*,” “*Paramatma*,” etc. only indicate a great energy coming out of Krishna. They do not indicate the total aspect of the word “Krishna.”

63. There is no work as auspicious as serving the spiritual master. Of all worship, the worship of the Supreme Personality of Godhead is the greatest. But the worship of the lotus feet of the spiritual master is even greater than the worship of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Unless this is firmly realized we cannot understand what saintly association means; we cannot understand what the shelter of a spiritual master means; we cannot understand that we are dependent and he is our maintainer.

64. If we take shelter of the lotus feet of the spiritual master, we can become free from illusion, fear and distress. If we wholeheartedly beg for his mercy without any deceit then the spiritual master bestows all auspiciousness upon us.

We Would Appreciate Your Feedback  
Please Send Your Response To :

[feedback@mukundagoswami.org](mailto:feedback@mukundagoswami.org)

# Personal

## Message...



Dear Friends,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Srila Prabhupada was a fighter.

Devotees are not pacifists. Generally, they avoid fighting, but this is not always possible.

There are occasions when tolerance cannot be practiced. Fight provoking incidents, although there weren't many, occurred early in ISKCON. These occurrences show that His Divine Grace was, among many other things, a fighter par excellence.

A 1966 event occurred in Monroe [upstate] New York. Srila Prabhupada was preaching in a "Hindu" asrama when two people in the audience, during the question period, advanced the theory of *Mayavadism*. They asserted that the living entity ultimately should merge with "oneness," saying, "I am a bubble; make me the sea."

When Srila Prabhupada heard this, he answered in a suddenly, plaintive tone, his eyes widening, his face reddening. He insisted that his questioners answer HIS question, "Do you think there is any qualitative difference between the gold in a ring and gold in the mine?" The questioners sheepishly read from a book, which advocated their impersonalist position. However, Srila Prabhupada insisted that they first answer his question, "Yes" or "No." They finally had to say "No." Srila Prabhupada then in somewhat calmer tones explained the meaning of simultaneous oneness and difference. This was the first time I ever saw Srila Prabhupada in a furious mood.

Another show of anger occurred in 1974, when the UK central government told us the *Ratha-yatra* festival in Trafalgar Square would be officially banned. Srila Prabhupada was in Los Angeles at that time. When he heard about the official prohibition, he made a recording and sent it to us [I was there and heard the tape] in England. He was livid, and all of us felt we had to do something.

As a result of our dutiful compliance, we obtained front-page coverage in an Indian newspaper, the purport of which was that the British government was attempting to stop the most important Hindu festival. We involved many supporters who advocated that the celebration must continue, and as a result we met top Scotland Yard officials face-to-face.

We DID enact the *Ratha-yatra* the following year IN Trafalgar Square, and brought the three Jagannatha Deities there in colorful silk palanquins, acting on the compromise that Srila Prabhupada had told us was OK. On the strength of Srila Prabhupada's angry mood the powerful government of Great Britain was defeated.

Your servant,

Mukunda Goswami

