



Spiritual Perspectives

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

December 2020

Who Belongs?

By Radha devi dasi

Last month, Pope Francis called for the passage of civil union laws for same-sex couples in a documentary that aired in Rome. His statement represents a major departure from the position held by the Vatican's doctrinal office.

"Homosexuals have a right to be part of the family," the pontiff said in "Francesco," a documentary about his life. "They're children of God and have a right to a family. Nobody should be thrown out, or be made miserable because of it."

Catholic teaching on the issue is similar to our own Vaishnava philosophy. Catholicism holds that gays must be treated with dignity and respect but that homosexual acts are "intrinsically disordered." Previous Catholic position statements have explicitly rejected any legal recognition of homosexual unions.

There is a larger consideration at issue, however, and this larger consideration drives Pope Francis' statement on homosexual unions. According to Prof. Bruce Morrill, the Chair in Roman Catholic Studies at Nashville's Vanderbilt University, Francis is touching on an aspect of natural law, that all human beings need family and loving relationships. The elephant in the room, he says, is obviously homosexual activity which the church very explicitly teaches against. But Morrill points out, one of Francis' prominent characteristics is his dedication to the principle of *mercy*. While not changing Catholic doctrine on homosexuality, he is reminding us that we need to be kind and compassionate to every individual. Similarly, our own Vaishnava philosophy is based on this concept of causeless *mercy*, which Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu descended to distribute to everyone.

In our Vaishnava society, we have examples of how members who fail to live up to spiritual standards can be rejected. Chota Haridas was rejected by Sri Chaitanya for merely thinking of a

woman and for begging rice from a woman. Srila Prabhupada explains that this pastime demonstrates the importance of chastity for those in the renunciant ashrams. Sometimes, however, we want to apply this kind of strict standard to everyone in our communities, rejecting those who can't live up to our expectations.

There will always be those who, despite a sincere desire to practice *bhakti-yoga*, struggle with issues involving intoxication, illicit sex, and gambling. It is important to remember that these members remain part of our spiritual family and are worthy of both inclusion and spiritual support. Without the association of devotees, even very advanced *bhaktas* will have difficulty progressing in spiritual life. As Pope Francis calls for compassion and inclusion for those who do not follow the Catholic teachings on sexual purity, we have to find ways to support and include everyone who aspires to make spiritual advancement. The biggest threat to our communities is not those who admit to their own limitations. The real threat is those of us who become hard-hearted, believing it is up to us to decide who qualifies for *mercy*.



<https://bit.ly/33t71Bc>

Krsnanandini Devi Dasi, Pioneer for Vaishnava Families, Passes Away

By: Madhava Smullen, *ISKCON NEWS*, November 13, 2020
<https://bit.ly/37oVSCD>

Her Grace Krsnanandini Devi Dasi, a beloved and inspirational pioneer for Vaishnava families, passed away on November 13, 2020 after a long struggle with cancer. She was in the company of her children and her husband Tariq Saleem Ziyad, at their home in North Carolina.

Krsnanandini Devi Dasi was a Srila Prabhupada disciple, Certified Family Life Educator, a member of the ISKCON Grihastha Vision Team, and the co-director of the Dasi-Ziyad Family Institute with her husband Tariq. Through this institute, the couple designed and implemented several curricula relating to marriage, family, and youth. They provided pre-marital counseling and worked with families, teaching many how to build healthy relationship skills based on a solid spiritual foundation.

In a June article for ISKCON News, Sri Radhika Devi Dasi wrote, “Krsnanandini Devi Dasi managed to be such an exemplary mother for her children while at the same time, also providing life-giving services within the community of ISKCON and beyond.”

During the final stages of her life while in hospice care, Krsnanandini continued to serve the community through Zoom talks. This past spring, she spoke on the ISKCON of New Jersey Towaco Zoom Sanga, about how to develop fearlessness and take shelter of Krishna now, before death comes to us all. After her talk, devotees on the Zoom call took time to share their memories and appreciation of her from their hearts.



Krsnanandini Devi Dasi

In recent days, fellow Srila Prabhupada disciple Rukmini Devi Dasi spoke to Krsnanandini on the phone and asked her for some instructions. “She closed her eyes, thought for a little while, and then told my husband Anuttama and I to just be joyful, happy devotees!” Rukmini recalls. “She said we should be joyful in Srila Prabhupada’s service, be happy, and celebrate the gifts he gave us. It was a beautiful instruction for us all.”

Meanwhile, many devotees from around the world have been sharing their offerings to Her Grace Krsnanandini Devi Dasi on social media, demonstrating her inspirational, far-reaching impact.

“Grieving the loss of our Godsister,” wrote ISKCON Education Minister Sesa Das, “thanking her for her invaluable service to Srila Prabhupada’s mission. Praying for her swift return home, back to Godhead!”

Nimai Dasi, communications manager from ISKCON Leicester, UK, wrote, “In gratitude, we bid farewell to another wonderful leader in our community. Krsnanandini Dasi touched the hearts, and healed so many people, of so many faiths and backgrounds. Her influence, example, and her teachings will live on.”

Speaking to ISKCON News, ISKCON Communications Director Anuttama Das said: “Krsnanandini was a very beloved godsister, and a pioneer in many ways for the Krishna consciousness movement.

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Krsnanandini with her ten children

She and her husband Tariq, who is Muslim, were instrumental in their home town in promoting stronger marriages for people of all faiths. She was a founding member of the Grihastha Vision team, which has created training seminars and educated devotees how to be better marriage partners, and better parents, across the world.

“Today, the work that she started continues, and all ISKCON devotees, whether they know her or not, are in debt to her for her contributions. We can see from the very beginning of her life in Krishna consciousness, she was the recipient of special mercy from Srila Prabhupada, and she kept Prabhupada first and foremost in her heart her entire life.

“Devotees that were fortunate enough to see some of the interviews with her during her last days saw a woman who was deeply spiritual, deeply Krishna conscious, deeply caring about her children, her family, and Srila Prabhupada’s family; and one who was wishing all of us continued success in our Krishna consciousness and the success of ISKCON after her passing away. We will miss her terribly, but we all should try to remember what wonderful contributions she gave to us and to the world, and pray to Krishna that we can carry her spirit forward.”

Remembering Her Grace Krsnanandini Devi Dasi’s life, we include here her biography, written by her son Syama Vallabha Das, and reprinted from the ISKCON Alachua temple newsletter:

“Mother Krsnanandini Devi Dasi was brought to Krishna Consciousness by her mother as a young teenager along with her other siblings. Her mother received a “Back to Godhead” magazine from her oldest son Jasper. He received the magazine while out of the house one day.

Her mother was a simple woman and devout Christian who deeply resonated with the Bhakti perspectives given by His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada in his writings. But when she came to the local temple in Cleveland, Ohio, along with her children, ready to join the community there, she faced bigotry and racism. She was treated as a troublemaker and was turned away.

She took her children and put them in the car. She didn’t know where to turn, but somehow by the grace of Lord Krishna, she was given intuition to drive all the way to Dallas, Texas. When they arrived in Dallas, the devotees did not want to let them into the temple at first, and they called the Cleveland temple and asked about them. The devotees in Cleveland told the devotees in Dallas not to let them in because they were troublemakers. Her mother asked to at least let them stay overnight since it was late and they had children with them. The dev-



Krsnanandini’s mother, Bhumata Devi Dasi, receiving initiation from Srila Prabhupada. The little boy is Krsnanandini’s brother Chaitanya

otees in Dallas allowed them to stay overnight but told them they had to leave the next day because Srila Prabhupada was coming! When they heard this, they were amazed.

The next day, when Srila Prabhupada had arrived, Krsnanandini’s mother insisted and pushed her way in to see Srila Prabhupada. When she was before Srila Prabhupada, she explained the situation and how she wanted to devote her life to the Lord. Srila Prabhupada asked her, “How many do you want to be initiated?”

The initiation took place on Radhastami in 1972, in Dallas, Texas, the same day the beautiful deities of Radha Kalachandji were being installed! Krsnanandini’s mother was initiated as Bhumata Devi Dasi. Her Stepfather was initiated as Rupchand. Her brother Arthor was initiated as Ashutosh. Another brother, Solomon, was initiated as Subhanu. And from Clarissa Jones she became Krsnanandini Devi Dasi.

Krsnanandini, along with her husband Tariq Prabhu, is one of the members of the Grihastha Vision Team. The mission of this team is “to support, strengthen, educate and enliven individuals, couples and families.” Hundreds, maybe even thousands, of families have been helped because of this organization. They also started the Dasi/Ziyad Family institute (DZFI.org) whose mission is to promote healthy families and relationships.

She has home schooled 10 biological children, and a number of other children in a devotional atmosphere. Two of her children are initiated disciples. Her children are in a range of different fields today: a couple of doctors, an engineer, teachers, etc.

Mother Krsnanandini has dedicated her life in service to her spiritual master. She started a festival called “The Lord Have Mercy Festival” that went on for many years in Cleveland, Ohio. The purpose of the festival was to invite different religious groups to come together and celebrate God consciousness.

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Krsnanandini Devi Dasi continues to serve her spiritual master as she enters into the stage of hospice home care and prepares for life's final exam."

To hear a conversation on "How I Prepare for Life's Final Exam" with Krsnanandini Devi Dasi, members of her family, and Anuttama Das, hosted by the GBC SPT, please click here:

<https://www.facebook.com/gbcspt/videos/3623958104298937>

Visit the Dasi-Ziyad Family Institute website here:

<http://dasiziyadfamilyinstitute.org/>

Visit the Grihastha Vision Team website here:

<https://vaisnavafamilyresources.org/en/>



Top Left: Krsnanandini with her brother Subhanu , Bottom Left: Krsnanandini's mother, Bhumata Devi Dasi, Right: Krsnanandini with her mother Bhumata Devi Dasi and Parvati Devi Dasi

A Devotee-Researcher's Perspective on COVID-19: Cures and Cautions

By: Shyama Sakhi Devi Dasi (Shivani Agarwal, PhD), *ISKCON NEWS*, October 30, 2020

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

Shyama Sakhi Devi Dasi (Shivani Agarwal, PhD Biotechnology, MSc Biochemistry) She is a Research Assistant Professor at the Department of Pharmacology and Regenerative Medicine, University of Illinois (UIC), Chicago, Illinois.

277 days ago, none of us had heard of coronavirus and everything we did was not shrouded with the specter of COVID-19. We welcomed the new decade, filled calendars, planned events and trips centered around serving Krishna, celebrating festivals together, visiting the holy places and much more. Who could believe that offering prostrated respects to the deities, or greeting each other with hugs would become a health hazard; and that walking past someone in a temple or store would induce so much anxiety? How the world has changed! Will this continue for a long time? Is there light at the end of the tunnel? From my perspective as a medical researcher, here is what we know.

Current scenario and a brief background

As of October 3, 2020, COVID-19 has infected 34,666,560 people and killed 1,029,394 people worldwide, according to the Johns Hopkins University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering.

With the global pandemic in full swing, pharmaceutical companies, government researchers, and others are working to accelerate the development process for COVID-19 treatment. There are over 200 vaccine programs and treatments that are

underway. This is an unprecedented effort. Whilst they are all striving for an effective vaccine or treatment, researchers all around the globe are still struggling to get there and to know what "effective" really means. In the field of allopathic medical research, there are currently no approved drugs specifically for the treatment of COVID-19. Researchers are exploring and studying either new drugs, or drugs that are already approved for other health conditions (called as drug repurposing), as potential antidotes for COVID-19. Because COVID-19 is a multi-armed virus, which attacks several organs thereby hijacking many different systems in the body, it is unlikely that any single drug will be fully effective. As per the leading virologists working in the field, the best treatment to combat the novel coronavirus is predicted to be a combination of different drugs.

The treatments aimed to disarm COVID-19 are of two kinds based on their target.

1. Targeting the virus

Antiviral drugs target either the viral entry into the cells or prevent replication of the virus within the host after its entry.

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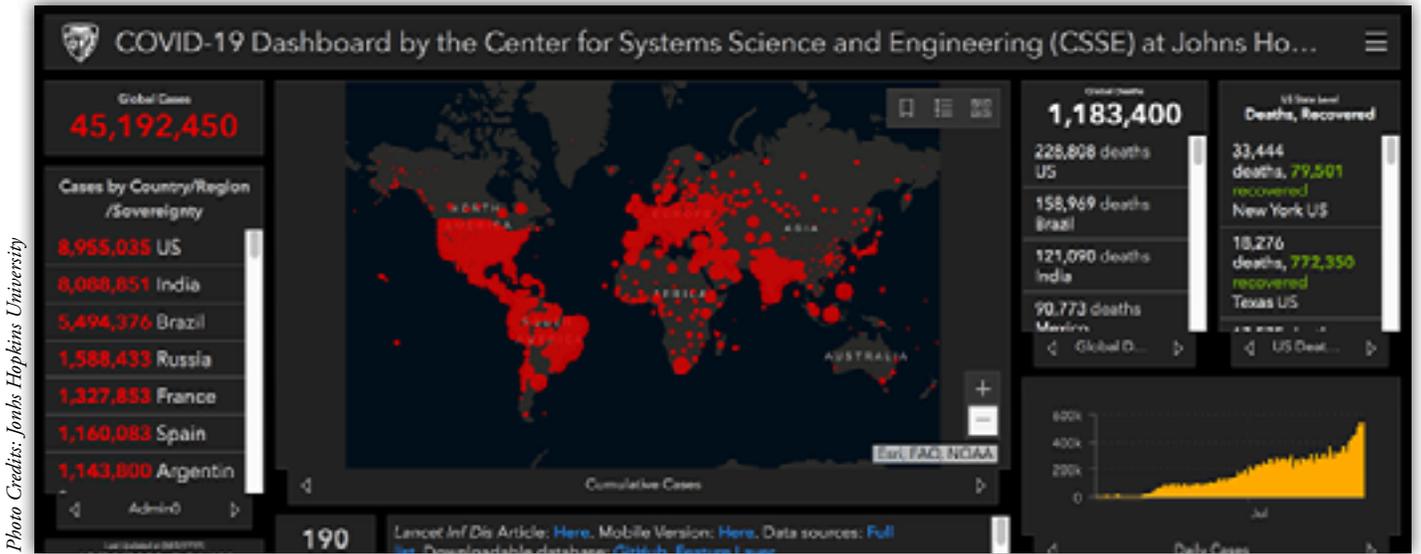


Photo Credits: Johns Hopkins University

Diagnosed Covid-19 cases and deaths as of October 30, 2020

Antiviral drugs include but are not limited to the use of “monoclonal antibodies.” The monoclonal antibodies are synthetic antibodies, which are designed based on the antibodies found in the patients who have recovered from COVID-19.

2. Treating the symptoms

Drugs that have immunomodulatory properties are presently in use to tackle the symptoms. Immunomodulators function by calming the immune system’s overreaction to the virus (a process known as “cytokine storm”), which is one of the leading causes of severe illness in some patients and many deaths reported so far.

Challenges in COVID-19 Research: Clinical trials and the Drug Approval Process

Vaccine makers are focusing on the best vaccine design that is able to induce high amounts of neutralizing antibodies that are sufficient to either prevent the virus from entering the body or killing the virus post its entry. However, at present it is not clear as to how much neutralization is good enough and for how long the effect would last. If antibody levels aren’t high enough, the recipient might only be partially immune, which could benefit a person to some extent by preventing development of severe symptoms but still leave the person with the ability to infect others. Questions about safety, efficacy and longevity still loom. Though pharmaceutical companies want to take the easiest, least-complicated path towards drug approval, for most drugs and vaccines, real world applications are limited. This is because many trials exclude people with underlying health conditions and ironically the patients excluded are often those most at risk and most in need of treatments. This includes many who have comorbidities or complicated variables that confound most of the results. It is unfortunate but true that it is almost always the case that the people who will ultimately use the drug are quite different from the people on whom the drug was tested. This is the reason why any drug used to treat COVID-19 is still considered investigational, and the true risks

or effectiveness of these drugs will not be known until they are tested in the general population.

Use of immunosuppressants might seem to be a quite promising method, as they can calm the hyperactive immune system in COVID-19 patients, however, over-suppression raises the risk for other secondary infections. Figuring out when to give the drugs to patients is like “Goldilocks’ conundrum”: The timing must be just right. Anti-inflammatory drugs should not be given to patients too soon because most people may not need the intervention. Given too soon, the drug would suppress or compromise the body’s natural immune system to respond effectively to the virus. Given too late, the drugs may not be effective anymore because the immunomodulators are better at preventing the cytokine storm, rather than reversing it.

The gold standard to determine whether a drug would work requires trials to be placebo-controlled, double-blinded and randomized. That means some patients will be randomized to receive a placebo instead of the treatment drug and neither researchers nor patients know who gets what. Typically, every drug to be approved by government agencies, like the US FDA, must go through rigorous trials (Phase I, II and III). Hydroxychloroquine was initially approved for an emergency use authorization based on early studies, but those studies were small and not randomized or blinded. The FDA has now retracted the drug’s emergency authorization and multiple studies, including large, randomized ones, have shown no proven benefit from the drug in COVID-19 patients.

Thus, without any available effective treatment so far, this disease demands us to be cautious moving forward. It seems that practicing excellent hygiene, physical distancing and wearing our masks rather than cutting corners, are still considered the best approved ways to prevent contact-based infection.

Efficacy of herbs, dietary supplements, or home remedies as an alternative or complementary to allopathic medicine

There is an active discussion about the potential of many dietary supplements like vitamins (B, C and D), minerals

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(Zinc, Selenium, etc.), antioxidants and anti-inflammatory compounds (berries, curcumin, licorice, turmeric, etc.) in boosting one's immune health and thus preventing coronavirus infection or helping in recovery.

So far government health organizations have not approved any herbal medicine for the treatment of COVID-19 despite the many claims about certain products being potentially used as immune boosters and anti-infectives to relieve one from COVID-19 symptoms. This is simply attributed to the fact that there have been no rigorous clinical trials for any of the products to prove their claim of efficacy even though some of them have shown to possess antiviral properties.

Some dietary supplements or herbs may help boost one's immune system in a way that one can build a good immune system to fight the infection, but until there is sufficient proof one should not depend on them completely for their ability to reduce the burden of infection and disease. As with all medicines, any decision on switching to dietary supplements should be strictly in compliance with a healthcare provider first (dosage and regimen), as some supplements may interact with certain medications or are inappropriate for some people due to their underlying condition.

Suggested safe and universal approaches to deal with the Pandemic

Rapid changes in recommendations, controversial news reports, information from unknown sources, or conspiracy theories can create uncertainty, panic and confusion. In general, COVID-19 control measures till date are limited to non-pharmaceutical methods. No specific treatments for COVID-19 exist right now. While health organizations say no medicines are yet available to prevent or cure the coronavirus, some simple remedies may alleviate mild symptoms and some precautions can protect one from contracting the disease. The most effective ways to protect yourself and others are:

- Get tested immediately if you have symptoms before virus takes over your immune system

- Isolation and quarantine if you are sick or have symptoms.
- Good personal hygiene--wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap or wipe with hand sanitizer
- Use disinfectants to clean the surfaces
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose
- Wear a mask or face covering in public places
- Cover your mouth when you cough by using the bend of your elbow or a tissue
- Limit public gatherings and if it is unavoidable, maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others
- Avoid indoor spaces with crowds
- Healthy lifestyle--daily physical exercise strengthens the upper respiratory system
- Healthy eating

If you do contract COVID-19 and are advised to stay home or in the monastery (due to less severity of infection), here are some simple suggestions that might aid in quicker recovery. They are solely experiential not experimental. Information below is derived from the personal experiences of several patients who have recovered at home/monastery:

- Get enough rest
- Stay well hydrated
- Allopathic medicines that relieve fever and aches
- Nasal decongestants, gargle and steam/vapor (reduces mucus, phlegm and clears sinuses)
- Yoga, and breathing exercises (combats anxiety and calms the nervous system)
- Stay in isolation

Patients with more serious symptoms such as trouble breathing, shortness of breath, restlessness, chest pain, or bluish lips or face should seek emergency medical care without any delay. If you have any underlying condition, please note that even these simple home remedies can lead to fatal complications.

The lives of our devotees are too precious, and we must not adapt to any relaxed approaches to this serious health risk.

This Is How The *Bhagavad-gita* Influenced These Famous Personalities From Around The World

By:Administrator, www.dandavats.com, November 19, 2020

<https://bit.ly/3nX31R1>

The *Bhagavad-gita* is one of the most widely respected Hindu scriptures in existence and has been a source of inspiration for many, many people. Written in Sanskrit, its 700 verses are often quoted by many great personalities who believe that the *Gita* has been a guiding force in their lives. The scripture, which is often referred to as a way of life, is way more than just

a religious text. It has been translated into more than 80 different languages, with its influence spanning across boundaries and countries and has become a staple in philosophical discussions and the like.

Here are 8 great personalities and here's how the *Bhagavad-gita* influenced them:

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1. Henry David Thoreau

The noted American poet, author, and philosopher, was deeply influenced by Indian philosophy and spiritual thought. In his noted book titled *Walden*, he referenced the *Bhagavad-gita* in many instances. In the very first chapter of the book he writes:

“How much more admirable is the *Bhagavad-gita* than all the ruins of the East.”

2. J. Robert Oppenheimer

The American theoretical physicist, Oppenheimer is known as the father of the atomic bomb and was involved in the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in Japan, during the second World War. He had read the *Bhagavad-gita* in Sanskrit and remarked that while witnessing the first atomic bombing, he was reminded of the words from the *Bhagavad-gita*, where Krishna persuades Arjuna to do his duty. He said:

“Now I have become Death, the destroyer of worlds.”

3. T. S. Eliot

Indian philosophy had a huge influence on this American poet, who had studied Indian philosophy and Sanskrit during his days in Harvard, from 1911 to 1914. In his poem titled “The Dry Salvages,” Eliot mentions the conversation between Krishna and Arjuna, from the *Bhagavad-gita*, to depict a connection between the past and the future, and to emphasize that one needs to follow divine will, rather than seek personal gains. The famous lines from his poem read:

You who came to port, and you whose bodies
Will suffer the trial and judgement of the sea,
Or whatever event, this is your real destination.
So Krishna, as when he admonished Arjuna
On the field of battle.
Not fare well, But fare forward, voyagers.

4. Sunita Williams

The American astronaut, with Indian roots, holds the record for the longest spacewalk time for a woman. When she was heading out on her expedition as a member of the International Space Station (ISS), she carried a Ganesha deity and a copy of the *Bhagavad-gita* with her into space. In her words:

“Those are spiritual things to reflect upon yourself, life, the world

around you and see things the other way. I thought it was quite appropriate.”

5. Philip Glass

The American composer who’s often referred to as one of the most influential musicians of the late 20th century cited the *Bhagavad-gita* in one of his works. He composed an Opera, titled “Satyagrah,” which is loosely based on the life of Mahatma Gandhi and contains text from the *Bhagavad-gita* that is sung in Sanskrit during the performance.

6. Annie Besant

The Irish socialist, Theosophist, and women’s rights activist, who supported Indian home-rule during the struggle for independence was also interested in reading about Indian philosophy. Her translated work of the *Bhagavad-gita* is titled “The Lord’s Song.” The text

“ So Krishna, as when he admonished Arjuna
On the field of battle.
Not fare well, But fare forward, voyagers.
~ T. S. Eliot ”

from her book reads:

“That the spiritual man need not be a recluse, that union with the divine life may be achieved and maintained in the midst of worldly affairs, that the obstacles to that union lie not outside us but within us—such is the central lesson of the *Bhagavad-gita*.”

7. Warren Hastings

The first governor of Bengal and the first Governor-General of India strongly supported Charles Wilkins, the English typographer and orientalist who translated the *Bhagavad-gita* into English. It is said that Warren Hastings handed over a copy of the *Bhagavad-gita*, translated by Wilkins, to the chairman of the East India Company, and said that it was:

“A performance of great originality, of a sublimity of conception, reasoning and diction almost unequalled, and single exception among all the known religions of mankind.”

8. Ralph Waldo Emerson

The popular American essayist, lecturer, and poet of the mid-19th century was introduced to Indian philosophy while reading the works of French philosopher Victor Cousin. His words about the scripture are:

“I owed a magnificent day to the *Bhagavad-gita*. It was as if an empire spoke to us, nothing small or unworthy, but large, serene, consistent, the voice of an old intelligence which in another age and climate had pondered and thus disposed of the same questions which exercise us.”

Please Send Your Feedback To:
feedback@mukundagoswami.org

While the world slept – Srila Prabhupada Disappearance Day Offering

By: Chaitanya Charan, www.dandavats.com, November 19, 2020
<https://bit.ly/3lgMqpv>

Late into the night, while the world slept
A light was being lit by a spiritual adept,
That light would illuminate humanity for generations
Showing a spiritual pathway to people from many nations.
After just a few hours of sleep, Prabhupada arose and contemplated,
Working tirelessly at an age when most people vegetated,
Blessing us with a wisdom that we didn't know we were missing
Explaining what a world with technology and prosperity was still lacking.
With a dictaphone in hand, pausing, deliberating, recording,
He exposed the meaningless materialism in which we were residing.
He spoke of a God whose love could make our empty heart full,
Of a devotion that could make life's challenges meaningful.
On this sacred day, on a sublime evening of nineteen seventy-seven,
He departed to be with his Lord in the supreme heaven.
Leaving as he had been living, in divine absorption,
He showed how we all can pass life's final examination.
When desires crowd our heart, may his teachings be our vision
When doubts cloud our head, may his example be our beacon
May remembering his dedication become our driving inspiration
May sharing his message become our unifying aspiration

SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVES

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*While the world slept
by
Chaitanya Charan*

<https://bit.ly/3lgMqpv>

Personal Message



Dear Friends,

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

Srila Prabhupada's Disappearance Day is observed in New Govardhana (Australia) on November 16, 2020. In deference to this occasion, I am excerpting a section of my book, *Miracle on Second Avenue* that explains my experience on hearing of the departure from this world of Srila Prabhupada. The excerpt has been edited somewhat to fit into this section of "Spiritual Perspectives." Please bear in mind that this passage is the thought of only one of Srila Prabhupada's direct disciples. It may differ from the experience of others.

"Inevitably, my conviction in Srila Prabhupada's *vani* was tested. On Monday, November 14, 1977, an announcement was made for all the Los Angeles devotees to gather in the temple room at 6:45 a.m. for an important meeting. It was on that morning that Ramesvara, the devotee in charge of the Los Angeles temple, told the three-hundred-strong audience the unthinkable news that Srila Prabhupada had passed away owing to the devastating illness that had ravaged his body for several months. Later, devotees who had been at Prabhupada's bedside told us that he had continued translating *Srimad-Bhagavatam* into a dictation machine until just minutes before his departure. His lips barely moving, Prabhupada had defied the pain that his doctors said a person of his condition would be in and, speaking softly into the microphone, he had dictated the translations and explanations of the verses of Chapter Thirteen, Canto Ten of his *Srimad-Bhagavatam*. At one point he had turned to the devotees close to him and said, "Don't think this won't happen to you." Mentally active and philosophically astute, Prabhupada had spoken and interacted with his disciples up until the moment when, suddenly rising into a half-sitting position, he had uttered "Hare K..." – and sunk backwards as he died. The sound of the devotees' chanting and crying had filled the room. "I will go back to the temple to be with Prabhupada's disciples," I thought. "I will greet the deities that he installed because that's what he would want."

From the street I could hear that the Deity greeting had already started. Yamuna's amplified voice rang out from the open doors:

"*Govindam adi-purusam, tam aham bhajami*. I remembered the happy moments making the record with her in London and how Prabhupada loved the way she sang about his Lord Govinda. It was then that I realized there would be life after Srila Prabhupada."

Your servant,

Mukunda Goswami

