



Spiritual Perspectives

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

February 2021

When Intelligence Is Lost

By Radha devi dasi

Visual images of Americans rioting at the nation's capital shocked the world and especially Americans who thought it couldn't happen here. But people everywhere are becoming more and more polarized - unwilling to compromise on their points of view. In the recent U.S. riot, we saw the results of years of politicians stoking the anger of their constituents with false allegations and calls for violence.

On January 6, 2021, rioters reacted to President Trump's provocation at a political rally by violently attacking the Capitol Building where America's lawmakers were certifying President-elect Joe Biden's win. Mr. Trump demanded that his followers, "stop the steal" by marching to the Capitol and putting a stop to the proceedings. Six people have died so far as a result of the riot.

Trump and others who have riled up their followers may have thought that their provocative words were harmless. But anger is easily provoked and hard to eliminate once roused. Anger is seductive because it is emotionally rewarding. Psychologists note that virtually all anger can be understood as a reaction to what feels threatening or unfair. Anger arises when we feel unjustifiably attacked, taken advantage of, betrayed, violated, or powerless. And anger, essentially retaliatory in nature, agreeably serves the function of restoring a sense of righteousness and control, even dignity and respect. Added to this, the energizing surge of adrenaline accompanying an emotional eruption further accentuates the sense of being wronged. Anger, thus, allows us to be morally superior to whoever provoked us in the first place.

Krishna warns us about the dangers of anger in the *Bhagavad-gita*. We know that anger brings on a loss of intelligence that causes us to become more and more entangled with the material energy. The events that took place at the U.S. Capitol drive Krishna's message home.

At the riot prompted by Mr. Trump's instruction to march on the Capitol Building, a surprising number of average Americans committed violent acts which they shared on social media. Arrests have included teachers, elected officials, members of America's



"Supporters of U.S. President Donald Trump climb a wall during a protest against the certification of the 2020 presidential election results by the Congress, at the Capitol in Washington, DC, January 6, 2021." - Reuters

armed forces, law enforcement officers and many other educated, experienced and intelligent people. Despite their intelligence, however, these rioters violently assaulted Capitol Police officers and confessed to their crimes on social media.

Similarly, Southern California has seen violent protests against mandatory mask wearing even as hospitals turn away ambulances due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases. Logic tells us that wearing a mask is only a small inconvenience, even if one believes they are not necessary. Yet people are willing to risk criminal prosecution in order to avoid wearing a mask while shopping for groceries.

What these events have in common is that they involve people who have been exposed to angry rhetoric coming from sources they trust. Letting themselves be swept up in that anger, normally law abiding, reasonable people have committed serious crimes in broad daylight. Anger is a powerful tool for those who seek to manipulate others. We indulge in it at our own risk.

Prayers are Effective

By: Administrator, www.dandavats.com, January 2, 2021
<https://bit.ly/2NzGSLQ>

Upon learning that His Holiness Jayapataka Swami has tested positive for Covid-19 I posted this reaction:

“Hare Krsna. Pamho. AGTSP!

I have just recovered myself from COVID-19, although many symptoms take months to get rid of. During my illness Maharaja cared for me, sending me messages, prayers and having doctors he knew contact me. His love and concern for all souls is boundless. He is truly Srila Prabhupada's Ambassador here on earth! We can't imagine how to repay our debt to him.

One thing I learned from my experience with Covid is this: Prayers from all Vaisnavas work! They reach up to Srila Prabhupada and Sri Śrī PancaTattva. I believe I'm alive because of the devotees' prayers.

Please, everyone, offer the most fervent sincere prayers for His Holiness Jayapataka Swami to recover. The souls of this world desperately need him, as do we all.

I beg to remain his eternal aspiring servant,
Ramesvara dasa

His Holiness Jaypataka Swami update via Facebook
January 20, 2021

By Prahlada Nrsimha and Krsna's mercy and all the devotees, last Friday I tested negative for the Corona virus. But the secretary who was doing my physiotherapy and chest therapy, he tested positive. Although he was negative before. Before that he was positive. Then he had been quarantined and then he tested negative, and he got back to his service. But then he tested positive. So, I am feeling a bit tired. I hope that I didn't get reinfected by him.



HG Ramesvara Prabhu



As of Feb 4th, Maharaja is giving live classes on Facebook

Alachua's Hare Krishna Community Radio Soft Launches on Christmas Day

By: Madhava Smullen, *ISKCON News*, January 8, 2021
<https://bit.ly/3qULRF1>

A Hare Krishna Community Radio station based in Alachua, Florida had a soft launch on Christmas Day, broadcasting a series of devotional programs on the holiday as well as over four days at New Year's. The project, run by Sudharma Dasi, aims to grow into a full-time digital radio station and eventually to reach out to listeners beyond the ISKCON community with devotional music, interviews, discussions, meditations and more.

Sudharma Dasi, a Srila Prabhupada disciple, previously founded and headed up the ISKCON Vaishnavi Ministry, and served as a North American GBC and Temple Presidents' Executive Officer. She was inspired to establish the radio station in conjunction with the New Raman Reti temple after she had to step back from her services due to health issues. An Alachua resident for approximately the past thirty years,

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<https://bit.ly/3qULRF1>



Sudharma Devi Dasi of Hare Krishna Community Radio

Sudharma has long been a unifier and communicator, so the move made sense.

Setting up the digital station at <http://krishna108.airtime.pro/>, she had to learn what equipment to purchase, how to use it, and how to present radio, all on her own. “Every single little component, from the vision all the way through to the practicalities, I worked on over time,” she says.

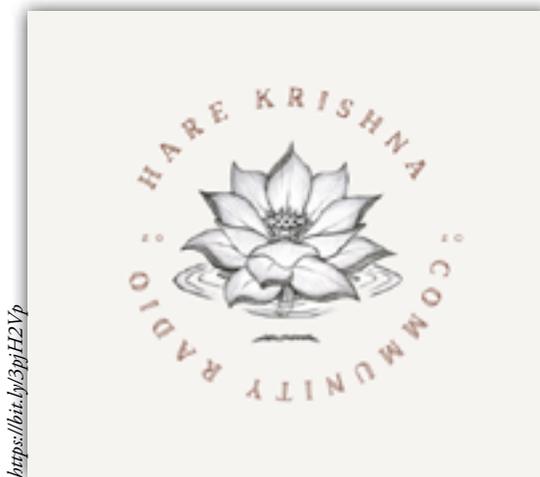
Prior to the launch on Christmas Day, Sudharma had been posting practice podcasts on <https://www.alachuatemple.com/radio/> since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Among the twenty or so episodes, there are specials for various Vaishnava festivals with music, readings and talks; an “East Meets West in Devotional Song” episode featuring music by Jahnvi Harrison, Ananda Monet, the Mayapuris and Dhanya; and an interview with Akhandadhi Das on the Atma Paradigm. There’s also a narration of the story of Narada Muni, The Transcendental Musician by Madhumati Dasi and her daughter Syama Darshini, set to music.

On Christmas Day, four main programs were aired. In “Srla Prabhupada on Christ, Christianity, and Peace on Earth,” listeners could hear the ISKCON Founder-Acharya’s essay “The Peace Formula,” as well as his talk at St. Pascal’s Franciscan Seminary in Melbourne, Australia on June 28, 1974.

“God’s name is Christ or Kristo or Kṛṣṇa. So we can chant combinedly. Where is the difficulty?” Srla Prabhupada said during the talk. When a guest asked, “How would His Grace see Jesus Christ?” Prabhupada replied, “Lord Jesus Christ, is... He is son of God, the best son of God, so we have all respect for him.”

The radio program also played a clip from Srla Prabhupada’s room conversation with poet Allen Ginsberg in Columbus, Ohio on May 12, 1969, in which he said, “If one loves Krishna, he must love Lord Jesus also. And if one perfectly loves Jesus he must love Krishna too. If he says, ‘Why shall I love Krishna? I shall love Jesus,’ then he has no knowledge. And if he says, ‘Why shall I love Jesus? I shall love Krishna,’ then he has no knowledge either. If one understands Krishna, then he will understand Jesus. If one understands Jesus, he’ll understand Krishna too.”



<https://bit.ly/3pjH2Vp>

The Hare Krishna Community Radio logo

Czech Devotees Livestream Reading of Entire Bhagavad-gita For Gita Jayanti

By: Madhava Smullen, *ISKCON News*, January 1, 2021
<https://bit.ly/3caMXZ1>

Devotees in the Czech Republic read Srla Prabhupada’s entire *Bhagavad-gita* As It Is online during a nonstop 27-hour live broadcast on the sacred occasion of Gita Jayanti, December 25th.

The idea was originated by Loka Saranga Das and moderated by Madhu Pandit Das, while Priya-kirti Das advertised the livestream. The reading, conducted via Zoom and broadcast on Youtube, was also inspired by Vaisesika Das’s Live to Give Campaign.

More than thirty devotees read from their homes around the Czech Republic on the day which also commemorated Moksada Ekadasi, with shifts divided into thirty minutes or one hour, while some read for several hours.

Devotees read all eighteen chapters of the *Bhagavad-gita*, including translations, purports, and Sanskrit verses for those who were comfortable reading Sanskrit.

“During the reading, the *Bhagavad-gita* text was scrolling on the screen so that viewers could follow along, while the

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

Gita Jayanti marks the historic recitation of Bhagavad-gita by Lord Krishna to His friend and disciple Arjuna

reader was shown in the corner window,” says Priya-kirti Das, who lives near the Czech farm “Krsnuv Dvur” for which he serves as communications director. “It was very nice.”

Priya-kirti was one of the readers, along with devotees all over the country, including Loka Saranga Das’s teenage daughter Sarasvati, other young devotees, and Nama Hatta congregation members. Meanwhile, Czech devotees living abroad in the U.S. and Mayapur, such as Hamsa Avatar Das and his family, covered the late night or early morning hours, as the time difference in their locations allowed.

“We were surprised at how quickly the time table filled up,” says Priya-kirti. “We were encouraged to see that devotees liked the idea.”

Devotees in the Czech Republic also distributed 500 *Bhagavad-gitas* during the Gita Jayanti Live to Give Campaign. Notably, the edition distributed was a brand new Czech edition of *Bhagavad-gita As It Is* from the BBT, with a beautifully designed new cover and improved translation.

The *Bhagavad-gita* livestreamed reading drew enthusiastic feedback from Czech devotees, who now wish to do similar on-line readings every Ekadasi. Other books by Srila Prabhupada, such as *Sri Isopanisad* and *Nectar of Devotion*, are next on the list.

“Readers said it was very nice for them because they were conscious that ‘Not only am I reading in my room, but everybody can listen,’” Priya-kirti says. “So they were praying to Krishna to ‘please help me read nicely, so that others can benefit.’”

“It was like a *yajna* for the appearance day of *Bhagavad-gita*,” he adds. “It worked out so nicely, and we all felt so connected.”



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

The new Czech edition of Bhagavad-gita makes a nice Christmas present

As well as those reading from their homes, the Harinama Mandir in Prague was assigned several hours, and some devotees at the Krsnuv Dvur farm read only the Sanskrit as a separate endeavor. Devotees were compliant with the local Czech requirements for social distancing during the event.

At Krsnuv Dvur, the altar featured a backdrop painted by a local devotee depicting a shelf of Srila Prabhupada’s books, while above Prabhupada’s murti hung a large *Bhagavad-gita*.



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

Devotees at the Krsnuv Dvur farm read the Bhagavad-gita on Gita Jayanti day (following Czech Republic requirements for social distancing)

BBT to Release Giriraj Swami’s New Book, “I’ll Build You a Temple: The Juhu Story”

By: Correspondent, *ISKCON News*, January 14, 2021
<https://bit.ly/2MnlAjQ>

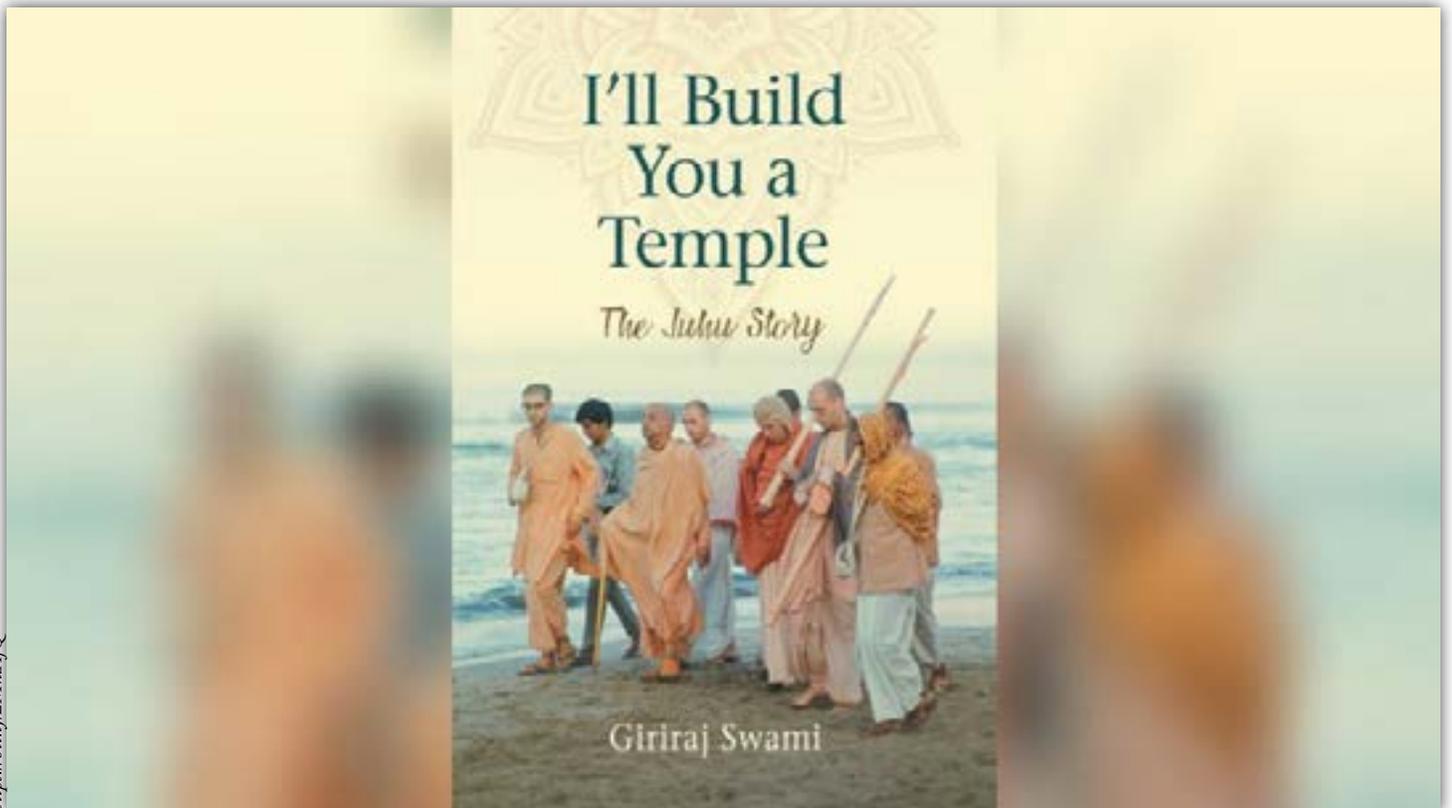
Giriraj Swami’s new book, “I’ll Build You a Temple: The Juhu Story,” has been published by the BBT and is set to be released on January 14, 2021, the anniversary of the grand opening of the Juhu temple.

In August 1965, a few weeks before Srila Prabhupada left for America, on his way to see Srimati Sumati Morarji, the shipping magnate who secured him passage to the US, he passed a neglected four-acre plot of land near her residence on Juhu Beach, outside Bombay, and thought it would be a nice location for a Radha-Krishna temple.

It took thirteen years—including six years of battling the crooked landlord, his agents, and corrupt municipal officials, all the while enduring terrible hardships, facing a score of obstacles, and responding with tremendous sacrifice and perseverance—for Srila Prabhupada’s vision to be realized. On January 14, 1978, Makara Sankranti, two months after Srila Prabhupada departed from this world, the Sri Sri Radha-Rasabihari temple was finally inaugurated by his dedicated disciples.

In the seven years leading up to the grand opening, Srila Prabhupada spent 554 days in Bombay, more than anywhere else in the world. In 1972 he appointed his disciple Giriraj das Brahmachari, who had met him in Boston in 1969 and had been selected as part of the group to accompany him back to India in 1970, to lead the Juhu effort. “He has not trembled in any circumstance,” Prabhupada later commended Giriraj. “That is his qualification.” As temple president and later as Governing Body Commissioner from 1972 to 1999, Giriraj Swami raised funds and oversaw every aspect of the project—the only devotee to be closely involved throughout that period.

After the conveyance of the Juhu land was signed, Srila Prabhupada leaned back behind his desk in triumph and declared, “It was a good fight. Someone should write a book about it.” In 1971, he had told Giriraj, “You should write. This is your first business,” and had repeated this instruction over the years. “So despite my limitations and disqualifications but with the encouragement and assistance of many well-wishers,” Giriraj Swami said, “I took up writing about him and Juhu.” As noted by His Holiness Radhanath Swami, “No one else could



The cover of “I’ll Build You A Temple: The Juhu Story” by Giriraj Swami

write this book like His Holiness Giriraj Swami Maharaja, because he was there from the beginning to the culmination.”

Writing the book was itself a monumental task and took even longer than building the temple, but devotees from all over the world came forward to help. One began conducting interviews and organizing the material, another designed a “Juhubase” reference tool, and a team of devotees contributed to the book’s editing, indexing, layout, and other areas of production.

“[In] this book, *I’ll Build You a Temple*,” writes His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami, “Giriraj Maharaja has translated his long years of commendable involvement in the leadership of ISKCON Juhu as well as his intense desire to serve Srila Prabhupada’s instruction to him to write into a riveting, thoughtful, and inspiring piece of writing.” “*I’ll Build You a Temple* transports us into one of the greatest events of our time,” Radhanath Swami agrees. “Giriraj Swami gives us personal witness into the life of Srila Prabhupada at a time when Prabhupada faced insurmountable odds at every step. The story reveals Prabhupada’s unwavering faith, indomitable courage, and profound humility . . . *I’ll Build You a Temple* is a contemporary narration that shares the emotions, excitement, and message of sacred texts such as the *Ramayana*, *Mahabharata*, *Srimad-Bhagavatam*, and *Bhagavad-gita*, whose conclusive teachings are revealed through the lives of great souls, such as Srila Prabhupada, who battle and ultimately vanquish powerful enemies against seemingly insurmountable odds . . . Srila Prabhupada said that his project in Bombay was his heart.”

“*I’ll Build You a Temple: The Juhu Story*” is set to be released on January 14, 2021.

For more information about the book and its availability, visit <https://thejuhustory.com/>

Join the virtual book launch and inauguration via:

Facebook:

Hindi Translation

<https://m.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100001156845865>

ISKCON Juhu Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/ISKCONjuhumedia/videos/160358148868914>

YouTube:

<https://youtube.com/c/ISKCONJuhuTemple>

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Please Send Your Feedback To:
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Personal Message



Dear Friends,

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

Srila Prabhupada himself was something of a poet. He taught us that each *sloka* is a poem. He was deeply attached to the poetic writings of Bhaktivinoda Thakur and of Jayadeva and Vidyapati. He even cited British proverbs and poetic excerpts, such as “To err is human” (Alexander Pope) and “The lunatic, the lover, and the poet, are of imagination all compact.” (Shakespeare).

Srila Prabhupada’s October/November 1977 recorded conversations reveal him speaking with Prabhavisnu Prabhu and others (Prabhavisnu had an Irish passport, and Ireland was considered part of the United Kingdom). He advised Prabhavisnu to preach in Bangladesh with “the courage of an Englishman and heart of a Bengali mother.” Even in a debilitated state, in August of 1977 in Vrindavana, he named the poet who said this, a Bengali named Michael Madhusudan Dutta. “So, he [Dutta] was in difficulty. He begged some money from his countrymen, help him. But nobody [Indian residents of Bengal] gave him. Only there was a big pandit, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar [living at that time in England]. He gave him the money. He thought that ‘Such a big man [Dutta] is in need of money. Let me ... He may pay or not.’ So, after receiving that money, he thanked Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, that ‘You have got courage of an Englishman and the heart of a Bengali mother.’ He was poet, so he gave these two examples: the courage of an Englishman and the heart of a Bengali mother. So you [Prabhavisnu Prabhu] are Englishman. You are famous for your forefathers’ courage to expand British Empire. The America is also your creation. But everything in this material world deteriorates. That is not fault. But Englishmen were, at least formerly, famous for courage, enthusiasm, expansion of prestige. This Lord Clive was a crewman in a ship, and he established British Empire. So, you have to show that Englishman courage. So, you have done something which has proved Englishman courage. And go on doing it. That is your heritage. And two nice fields, Bangladesh and Nepal.”

That phrase, “The courage of an Englishman and the heart of Bengali mother,” had stuck in Prabhupada’s mind and it became deeply etched in the memory not only of Prabhavisnu, but of all the people in the room because of its strikingly poetic dimension.

Your servant,

Mukunda Goswami

Mukunda Goswami

