



## ISKCON Philadelphia Newsletter - 12/4/15

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### A Message from the Temple President

Hare Krsna!

His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada Ki Jai!

As we enter the last month of the 50th anniversary of Srila Prabhupada's arrival in America, we are indebted to His Divine Grace for engaging us in the nitya lila of pure devotion to Lord Sri Krsna. That lila's main rasa in this age of Kali is Sankirtan yajna.

Srila Prabhupada's Guru Maharaja ordered him at their first meeting, "You preach in the English language worldwide this Krsna consciousness." At their last meeting before Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saravasati Thakur Prabhupada passed away, he instructed our Srila Prabhupada further, "If you get money, print books and distribute all over the world."

It took Srila Prabhupada until the advance aged of 70 to fulfill this order of His Guru Maharaja. We, the followers of His Divine Grace, have the mercy of being able to continue and grow this book publication and distribution service.

By distributing Krsna conscious literature in Philadelphia, we can reverse the destructive course of modern society. Imagine every home in the area having one of Srila Prabhupada's books in their library. This is our main mission, to print and present the Vedic knowledge to the Western world.

It has become an annual tradition in ISKCON, since 1973, that every temple minimize all other services and increase book distribution efforts during the month of December. It would be a great offering to Srila Prabhupada on the 50th anniversary of his arrival to America that we perform the December Book Marathon. Our goal is to have 108 cases of *Bhagavad-gītā*s sponsored, have the congregation make gifts to friends and colleagues of *Bhagavad-gītā*, and distribute books everyday from November 29th - December 27th, with special parties manning book tables on the weekends. We began last Saturday, November 29th with the participation of a few congregational members and our temple residents. 108 books were sold around center city Philadelphia.

The shortest path to pure love of Godhead is to please the Spiritual Master.

"As soon as He sees, Krsna, that "Here is a sincere person who wants Me," He'll give you nice guru. Guru-krsna kṛpa. Yasya prasada bhagavat-prasada. And if you have really a bona fide guru, then by pleasing him you will get the favor of Krsna." (Srimad-Bhagavatam 5.5.18 --

November 6, 1976, Vrndavana)

And what pleases His Divine Grace the most?

"There is no doubt about it, to distribute books is our most important activity. The temple is a place not for eating and sleeping, but as a base from which we send out our soldiers to fight with maya. Fight with maya means to drop thousands and millions of books into the laps of the conditioned souls. Just like during the war time, the bombs are raining from the sky like anything....

"I like also your program of sending out your best men to teach others. That is the actual progress of Krishna consciousness, to train others. Continue this program so that in the future every devotee in our movement will know the art of distributing books. This is approved by me."  
(Srla Prabhupada letter to Ramesvara das, New Dvaraka, August 3, 1973)

We all want the mercy of Srila Prabhupada, please support this December Book Marathon by going out, giving books to friends, and sponsoring cases of *Bhagavad-gītā*.

your servant,  
Sikhi Mahiti das  
Temple President

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## Calendar

Friday 12/4 - 7pm

First Firday Kirtan at Govinda's - 1408 South St.

Sunday 12/6

***Utpanna Ekadasi - fast from beans and grains***

4pm - Sunday Feast Program

Thursday 12/10 - 7pm

*Miracle on Second Avenue* Reading

Sunday 12/13 - 4pm

Sunday Feast Program



Thursday 12/17 - 7pm

Miracle on Second Avenue Reading

Sunday 12/20 - 2pm

Gita Jayanti Fire Yajna and Sanskrit Reading

Sunday Feast Program

Monday 12/21 - 6pm

Advent of *Srimad Bhagavad-gītā*

English Reading

Monday 12/28 - 10:30am

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur Prabhupada Disappearance Day

Fast Until Noon

Guru puja and pushpanjali program

Thursday 12/31 - 8pm

New Years Eve Kirtan and Celebration at the Temple

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## Weekly Sastra

bhaktiyā tv ananyayā śakya  
aham evaṁ-vidho 'rjuna  
jñātuṁ draṣṭuṁ ca tattvena  
praveṣṭuṁ ca parantapa

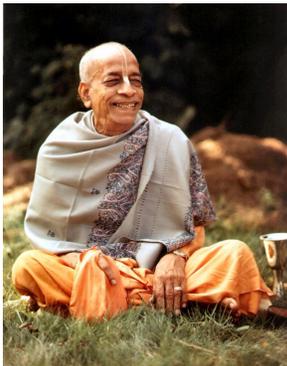


"My dear Arjuna, only by undivided devotional service can I be understood as I am, standing before you, and can thus be seen directly. Only in this way can you enter into the mysteries of My understanding." *Bhagavad-gītā* 11.54

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## The Spiritual Master and The Disciple

By: His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



**To set an example, God Himself accepts a spiritual master:**

Although formally Śrīla Nārada Ṛṣi is his spiritual master, Śrīla Vyāsadeva is not at all dependent on a spiritual master because in essence he is the spiritual master of everyone else. But because he is doing the work of ācārya, he has taught us by his own conduct that one must have a spiritual master, even though he be God Himself.

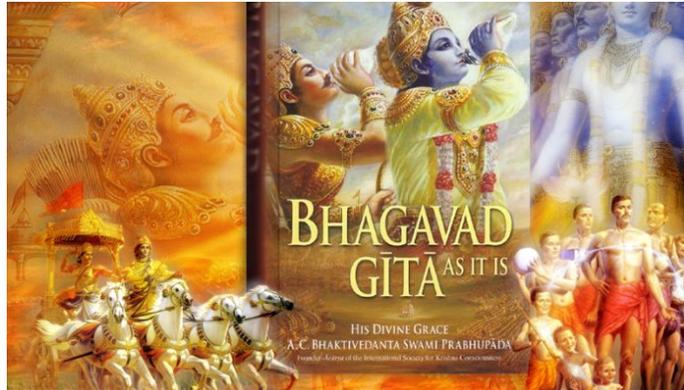
Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, Lord Śrī Rāma and Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, all incarnations of Godhead, accepted formal spiritual masters, although by Their transcendental nature They were cognizant of all knowledge. *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.5.21

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# December Book Marathon - We're Aiming BIG and Need Your Help!

**Our Goal:  
Sponsorship of  
108 Cases of Bg  
at \$108 per case**

## **Bhagavad-gītā Marathon**



"To distribute the supreme knowledge of *Bhagavad-gītā* to people thus enabling them to live a meaningful life is the theme of the month of December."

December 21st is Gita Jayanti, a celebration of the holy appearance of Srimad Bhagavad Gita, the Vedic wisdom spoken by Lord Krishna 5,000 years ago. Srila Prabhupada encouraged devotees to distribute the *Bhagavad-gītā* all over the world and set in motion the Gita Book Marathon. In honor of the 50th Anniversary of Srila Prabhupada's arrival in the US, ISKCON Philadelphia has organized a grand book distribution marathon for Gita Jayanti.

Lord Krishna says in *Bhagavad-gītā*:

*ya idam paramam guhyam  
mad-bhaktesv abhidhāsyati  
bhaktim mayi param kṛtvā  
mām evaiśyaty asamśayaḥ*

"For one who explains this supreme secret to the devotees, pure devotional service is guaranteed, and at the end he will come back to Me." (Bg 18.68)

## **Donate a Case of Bhagavad-gītās**

During the Book Marathon month, "Shastra Daan" (donation of spiritual knowledge) is also increased, which enables people to sponsor cases of *Bhagavad-gītā*'s for ISKCON Philadelphia devotees to distribute to university students, people and families who cannot afford it, libraries, hospitals, yoga studios and public places in and around the Philadelphia area.

**All those who sponsor a case of *Bhagavad-gītās* can participate in the Gita Jayanti fire yajna on Sunday 12/21. Please help us reach our goal of 108 cases for the Marathon.**

## **How Can You Participate?**

- By personally distributing the books
- By contributing creative ideas for distributing books

- By telling others about the Gita Jayanti Marathon
- By sponsoring cases of *Bhagavad-gītā* books (\$108 per case)

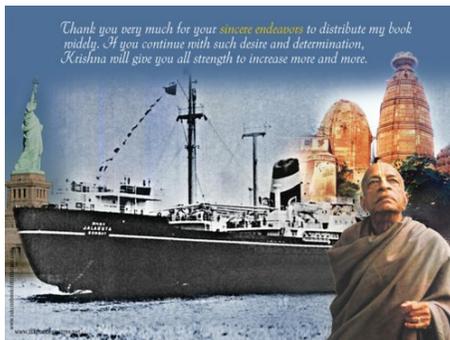
### What are the Benefits?

Everyone benefits!!! People in general benefit by having the opportunity to read about Krishna, and you directly participate in the preaching mission of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Srila Prabhupada. Your help increases book distribution, which is the highest welfare work for all of humanity.

If you would like to donate a case of *Bhagavad-gītā*s please contact Ramacharan at 267-978-3807 (Revatibalaram108@gmail.com) or contact the congregational office (215-247-4600).

Donations to Gita Jayanti Marathon are fully tax deductible. Receipts are available upon request.

## Book Marathon Weekend Warriors Needed



If you have a deep desire to spread the word of Krishna far and wide, here is your chance to participate in this year's December Book Marathon with the Weekend Warriors team. They will be out on the streets of Philadelphia distributing transcendental knowledge every Saturday during the month of December from 11:30am-2:30pm.

If you are interesting in joining the team for one of these events, please contact Mangal-arati dd at [mangalarati@iskconphiladelphia.com](mailto:mangalarati@iskconphiladelphia.com) or call 484-273-9700.

## Tree Removal Makes Space for New Temple

Last week, in an effort to prepare the grounds for the new temple, work crews removed the large cherry tree in the back yard between the temple building and grhastha house. They also removed several older trees on the grounds to clear space and reduce the amount of fallen limbs. As plans move forward and permits are acquired, progress is being made to build a new home for Lord Jagannatha and Sri Sri Radha Krsna. Stay tuned for continued updates.



[Make a donation to the New Temple Construction Project](#) and be a part of this auspicious undertaking.

## Temple Financial Report

Each month, we post the temple's financial status on the bulletin board outside of the temple office. For October Operations and Construction financials, please click below:

[October Temple Financials](#)

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## Quick Links

[Construction Donations](#)

[ISKCON Desire Tree - For Downloadable Lectures](#)

[Krishna.com](#)