

Learn and Teach

The VIHE Newsletter

ISSUE No. 9

MAY - JUL '18

As I get closer to the VIHE building, I hear with increasing clarity the sound of *mṛdaṅgas* and *karatālas* mixed with voices singing softly. A thrill runs through my heart. "The angels have returned!" says my inner self, and I run up the stairs. I still remember the first time I had this impression, many years ago, as I rushed, late as usual, for the opening of the summer semester.

After three months off, the VIHE courses are about to begin again. In *Śrī Īsopaniṣad*, Śrīla Prabhupāda writes that as the *paramātmā* is the root of the universe, the individual soul is the root of the body. He condemns heavily mundane service to humanity rendered by pseudo religionists for the sake of name and fame or material opulence. "The *uttama-adhikārī* sees the spirit soul within the material body and serves him as spirit." [*Īsopaniṣad* 6] For us, the soul of the VIHE is the combined presence of the students. With their arrival, the entire building and its staff become alive with movement and enthusiasm. Pouring water on the root of our own existence means serving them with all efficiency and dedication. "No one can buy a ticket to Vṛndāvana!" is another saying by Śrīla Prabhupāda. We know the students have reached here on the strength of blessings. And they have come to receive yet more blessings in the association of Śrīla Prabhupāda through the study of his books.

This time, we were fortunate to have the association of Her Grace Yaśomati Devī Dāsī, Śrīla Prabhupāda's disciple from Canada, and of His Holiness Bhakti Dhīra Dāmodara Svāmī for the

Highlights

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| ◆ The Purpose of Our Study | 4 |
| ◆ The Attitude of Gratitude | 8 |
| ◆ The VIHE is Expanding | 9 |
| ◆ The Arrival of a Library | 14 |



The VIHE - a building with a soul

opening. Both spoke encouraging words, pointing out the students' good fortune and the necessity for seriousness, determination and dependence on the Lord in order to meet the challenge of the upcoming four months of study. Dharmātmā Prabhu, ISKCON Vṛndāvana Temple Secretary, had also come, representing the good will of the President, Pañca-gauḍa Prabhu. Students introduced themselves, shy, not knowing what to expect, meeting each other and all of us for the first time. Admissions had been going on for

months. Some had to secure permission from their ISKCON authorities or from their parents, others leaves from their jobs, and blessings from their spiritual masters. They had to gather recommendation letters, complete the reading of the *Bhakti-śāstrī* books and answer the queries of our screening team. A few had to overcome their fear of living alone in Vṛndāvana for such an extended period of time. At last, they are here. For some it seems like a dream. For us, it is a recurring dream and a welcome one.

How to drive in introspection and practical application of the philosophy is always a meditation. Twice a week we will gather to churn the ocean of Vaiṣṇava qualities and values, the outcome of a shift to the Kṛṣṇa conscious paradigm, and will endeavor to practice them. We will chant *japa* together in the undisturbed atmosphere of the morning hours, while the cows are just awakening and the occasional plaintive call of peacocks can be heard. Every Monday we will sing our hearts out in *kīrtana*. We will celebrate the Vaiṣṇava tithis and serve each other daily. Service to Vaiṣṇavas is a privilege rarely obtained. For the students there is *prasāda* service,

cleaning, assisting the teachers, and helping out in the temple, especially during festival times.

This issue is brief. We need to catch up with time. It carries a pleasing news—although marked with a pinch of the pain of separation: the arrival at the VIHE of His Grace Gopīparāṇadhana Prabhu's library, which had been kept preciously by his able student Nityānanda Prabhu since his departure from this world. We feel honored to have received yet another opportunity to serve the *bhakti-śāstrās*.

- Praśāntā Devī Dāśī

Learn and Teach

To subscribe to the VIHE Newsletter, send your email address to,

meena@vihe.org

To read the previous issues, go to,

www.vihe.org

or follow the links below,

Newsletter 7 (Nov '17 - Jan '18):

<http://vihe.org/newsletter7.pdf>

Newsletter 8 (Feb '17 - Apr '18):

<http://vihe.org/ml81.pdf>

VIHE Calendar (2018 - 2019)

Jul 5 – Nov 6	: Bhakti-śāstrī
Jul 18 – Nov 6	: Bhakti-vaibhava – Canto 3
Nov 2 – 4	: Editing Course, Photography Seminar
Nov 9 – 15	: Teacher Training Course 1
Nov 17 – 22	: Teacher Training Course 2
Nov 17 – 22	: Teacher Training Course 1 (Hindi)
Nov 27 – Dec 2	: Holy Name Retreat
Dec 6 – Dec 13	: Govardhana Retreat
Dec 3 – Apr 3 '19	: Bhakti-śāstrī (Russian)
Dec 24 – Apr 3 '19	: Bhakti-vaibhava – Cantos 1&2
Dec 24 – Apr 3 '19	: Bhakti-vaibhava – Canto 4
Jan 22 – Apr 3 '19	: Bhakti-sadācāra
Mar 28 – Apr 2 '19	: International Vaiṣṇavi Retreat
Jul – Nov '19	: Bhakti-śāstrī (English & Hindi)

The Direct Path

From Śrīla Prabhupāda's "Teachings of Lord Caitanya"

The method by which the transcendental message is received is the method of submissive hearing. A challenging attitude cannot help one receive or realize the transcendental message; therefore in the second verse of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam the word *śuśrūṣu* is used. This word indicates that one should be anxious to hear the transcendental message. The desire to hear with interest is the primary qualification for assimilating transcendental knowledge. Unfortunately many people are not interested in patiently hearing the message of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam. The process is simple but the application difficult. Those who are unfortunate will find time to hear ordinary social and political topics, but when they are invited to attend an assembly to hear Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, they are reluctant to attend. Sometimes people indulge in hearing portions of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam which they are not prepared to hear. Professional readers of the Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam indulge in reading the confidential portions dealing with the pastimes of the Supreme Lord. These portions appear to read

THE VRINDAVAN INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION PRESENTS

bhakti-VAIBHAVA

ISKCON'S 2ND LEVEL OF SHASTRIC STUDY



ŚRĪMAD BHĀGAVATAM

CANTO 1 & 2

DECEMBER 24, 2018 - APRIL 3, 2019

SEMINARS

Invocation to Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam
The Ten Topics of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam
The Six Vedic Philosophies
Sanskṛt meters

TEACHERS

Bhakti Dhīra Dāmodara Svāmī
Sārvabhauma Dāsa
Kamalalocana Dāsa
Ādi Puruṣa Dāsa
Aruṇa Carāṇa Dāsa
Praśāntā Devī Dāsī

Admissions are open
vihe.courses.admissions@pamho.net



Please visit us -
facebook.com/vihe.vrindavan
www.vihe.org



like sex literature. However, Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam is meant to be heard from the beginning, and those who are fit to assimilate the messages of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam are mentioned in the very beginning (SB 1.1.2): A bona fide audience fit to hear Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam is generated after many pious deeds. An intellectual person can believe in the assurances of the great sage Vyāsadeva and patiently hear the messages of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam in order to realize the Supreme Personality of Godhead directly. One need not struggle through the different Vedic stages of realization, for one can be lifted to the position of *paramahansa* simply by agreeing to hear the message of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam with patience.

The Purpose of Our Study

Excerpts from the Bhakti-śāstrī orientation classes by Praśānta Devī Dāsī

Śrīla Prabhupāda often quotes the first aphorism of the *Vedānta-sūtra*, Śrīla Vyāsadeva's summary presentation of the philosophical teachings of the *Vedās*: *athāto brahma jijñāsā*, 'Now is the time for inquiring about the *brahman*.' *Brahman* refers to the transcendence, that which exists beyond the material elements.

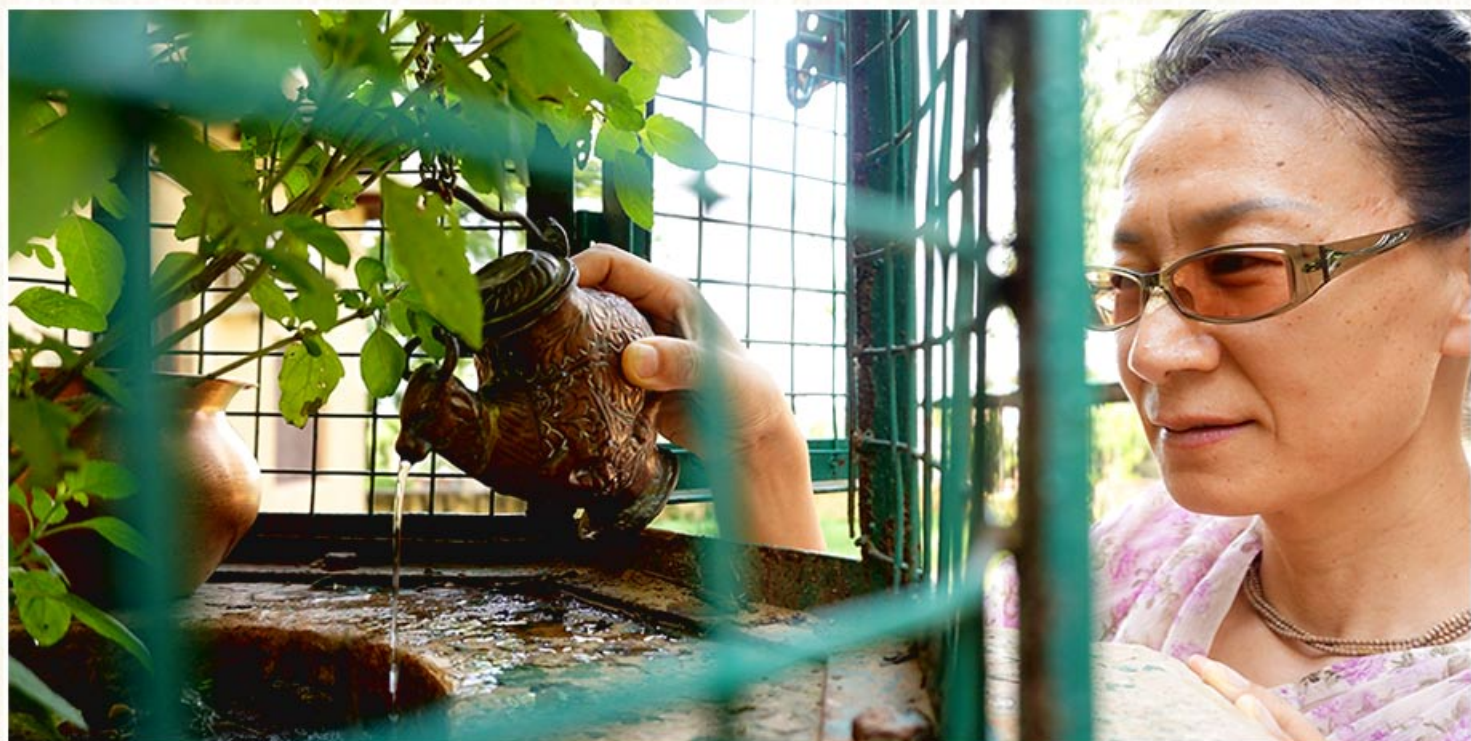
Material endeavors never bring satisfaction. Displeasures certainly don't, but even pleasures do not either. We all are well versed in this truth and are preaching it all over the world. Satisfaction is not there because the nature of our body and the nature of the world are different from the nature of our true self, which is *brahman* or spirit, the soul. And beyond that *brahman* is the *para-brahman*, the Supreme Person, Adhokṣaja, the ultimate source of all individual souls, who too lies past the mind and the senses.

Understanding oneself as the soul is the first step in spiritual life. This is expressed as '*ahaṁ brahmāsmi*'. When we understand that, we want to know more. *Jijñāsā* indicates the urge to know about this element which is at the root of all activity. That *brahman* is not visible; it is not

perceivable by our senses, but we can infer its existence through the mind and intelligence and we can directly experience its reality through yoga practice. The characteristic of the soul is consciousness. Consciousness refers to awareness or the ability to perceive or know. The soul is an active element that has the capacity to know things outside of itself as well as things intrinsic to itself. Knowing the *brahman* is the purpose of human life.

Śrīla Vyāsadeva says, 'NOW is the time to inquire into the nature of the Absolute!' One meaning of the word 'now' is, 'having obtained the human body'. In the animal kingdom, finer intelligence is not awakened. There is no possibility for animals to reflect on the mysteries of the universe, let alone on their own existence. When animals see the moon, they become afraid, whereas even the most primitive man in the jungle can perceive and appreciate its greatness. Perception of the sublime is the prerogative of the soul in the human form.

Not all human beings however are ready to embark on the spiritual path, therefore Śrīla



Watering the tree of devotion

Vyāsadeva structured the *Vedās* in divisions tackling their various stages of awakening. The *karma-kāṇḍa* directs those who are in gross materialistic consciousness and want to enjoy, gradually bringing them to the practice of detachment in *karma-yoga*; the *Upaniṣads* instruct those who are in knowledge of the soul; the *yoga* sections guide those who are ready to stop all material activities and meditate on the *brahman* within; and then there are the *bhakti-śāstras* for those who are done with all of that. Each and every soul travels through these successive phases of transformation of the consciousness. For those who have gotten over the fruitive mentality, now is the time to take up the cultivation of spiritual knowledge. And for those who are done with mental speculation and self aggrandizement, and have realized that the nature of the moon may only be known from its creator, now is the blessed time to accept the descending path and hear *Bhagavad-gītā—tac-chṛṇu*.

Spiritual cultivation is better adopted from childhood. As soon as the child begins to grow he should be instructed in practical spiritual science, but most of us were not so fortunate. We came in touch with Kṛṣṇa consciousness late. Some of us joined in our 20s, some in our 30s, 40s or even later. It does not matter. Now is the time—we have been selected and extracted from the entanglement of our routine activities and brought here under the shelter of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī to acquire knowledge, refine our understanding and tune our consciousness to a higher goal.

The term *śāstric* study refers to the study of the Vedic scriptures and specifically the books of His

Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Svāmī Śrīla Prabhupāda. We are here to learn from Śrīla Prabhupāda about our spiritual nature. We have not come here to get a degree so we could get brahminical initiation, *sannyāsa* initiation, some post in ISKCON or a title on our visiting card. Nor have we come here to compete with each other once more for supremacy in this world. You shall get what you desire.

Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī, in his *Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu*, encourages the mental or internal cultivation of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. While working for Kṛṣṇa, we should be thinking of Him with a proper attitude. *mām anusmara yudhya ca*, says Kṛṣṇa on the battlefield—“Fight and remember Me!” *Ānukūlyena Kṛṣṇa-anuśīlanam*—service to Kṛṣṇa must be performed with a favorable mood—a mood of loving service. Hearing will help us cultivate our intelligence so it may guide our mind in the direction of Kṛṣṇa. After reading, if we have absorbed the knowledge, we will want to serve. Usually our problem is not excessive hearing, reading and chanting. Rather it is the opposite: serving with no end and neglecting the internal cultivation. We need to serve with knowledge of the goal, with remembrance of Kṛṣṇa. If we serve without knowledge, there will be an accident after some time, for both the individual and the society.

Being impressed with the determination and fervor with which Muslim devotees pray, I once asked a preacher of Islam about the meaning of the prayers they offer without fail five times per day along with prostrated obeisances whatever the situation around them may be. It was interesting to hear that the prayers are to be sung in the



When you study very carefully all of the literature which is available, especially *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, you will have in your grasp answers to all questions that may be put to you. Please encourage the others to read this *Bhagavad-gītā* at least one chapter every day.

— Letter to Upendra, 6th January, 1969

original language of the Koran, an ancient type of Arabic. In countries where people do not know Arabic, they might not know the meaning of the prayers, unless they have received some explanatory books. Then I thought of the songs we sing daily during the morning and evening programs. Surely some devotees have never made the effort to actually study their meaning. Some even learned them by hearing and sing a version that has little to do with the original. The *Bhagavad-gītā* is there, not everyone reads it. Prabhupāda's books are there, but not all devotees are proficient in them.

In today's world many people are atheists. They do not know anything about God. And then there are those who know about the existence of God, but have no clear knowledge, be they Christians, Muslims, Vaiṣṇavas or Hindus. There is a need for unity among all devotees of God, but without knowledge, we cannot perceive our unity in faith. Only those who have knowledge can sit together without enmity. In the *Śrī Īsopaniṣad* Śrīla Prabhupāda says there are neophytes amongst the members of all faiths. The joke goes like this: Neo means new and phyte means fight—a new fight every day. Without hearing and studying we do not deepen our understanding and knowledge and the only thing we are left with is a sentiment, and the risk of drifting into fanaticism or losing one's faith and enthusiasm. Study is not an option, it is a must, a sacred duty.

Without reading Śrīla Prabhupāda's books we will just become another bunch of blind spiritual followers, who have faith in their leader but do not understand his teachings. Śrīla Prabhupāda said we do not want any blind followers. We have the right and the duty to learn and question. Besides fighting with other groups, neophytes even fight within their own society due to lack of depth of understanding of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and the mission at hand.

What did Śrīla Prabhupāda want? The *pūjārīs* say Prabhupāda wanted to build temples everywhere and install Deities. The advocates of self-sufficiency say Prabhupāda wanted to establish farm communities. Others think that the

transformation of the society must start from the head and scientific preaching is the priority. Prabhupāda also said that children are the future, so his desire for *gurukulas* is foremost. Some sit on the side and chant, “*param vijayate śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtanam*,” while yet others repeat the motto, “Double it! Double!” and profess that book distribution is the only way to please him. But the spiritual master is most pleased when the disciple becomes Kṛṣṇa conscious.

We must catch the essence. Reading Śrīla Prabhupāda's books is the basis for both our individual growth and the unity among us. It gives us a full overview of what Prabhupāda came for—*viplava*, a revolution in consciousness. Our original nature is that of a loving servant of Kṛṣṇa, Adhokṣaja, eternally. The goal of our study is ultimately to become a better servant, endowed with transcendental qualities, and join in together to execute Kṛṣṇa's mission.

Admissions are open

To register for

**Bhakti-Vaibhava
Cantos 1&2**

Please visit VIHE,

or write to

vihe.courses.admissions@pamho.net,

or call

Bārajī-priyā Devī Dāsī +91 9821 205 738,

Dāmodarāṣṭaka Dāsa +91 7060 690 226

VIHE Audio Page

Seminars since 1987

http://vihe.org/audio_lectures.html

Vrindavan Institute for Higher Education

Jan 22 – Apr 3, 2019
Bhakti-sadācāra

A Pre Bhakti-śāstrī Study

*To cultivate Vaisnava qualities, instill devotional values
& impart foundational knowledge*

CONTENTS OF THE COURSE

Overview of Nava-vidhā Bhakti
Vaiṣṇava Etiquette

Brahminical Qualities & Lifestyle

Śrīla Prabhupāda Līlāmṛta

The Essence of Bhagavad-gītā

Our Daily Prayers—Their Meaning & Purpose

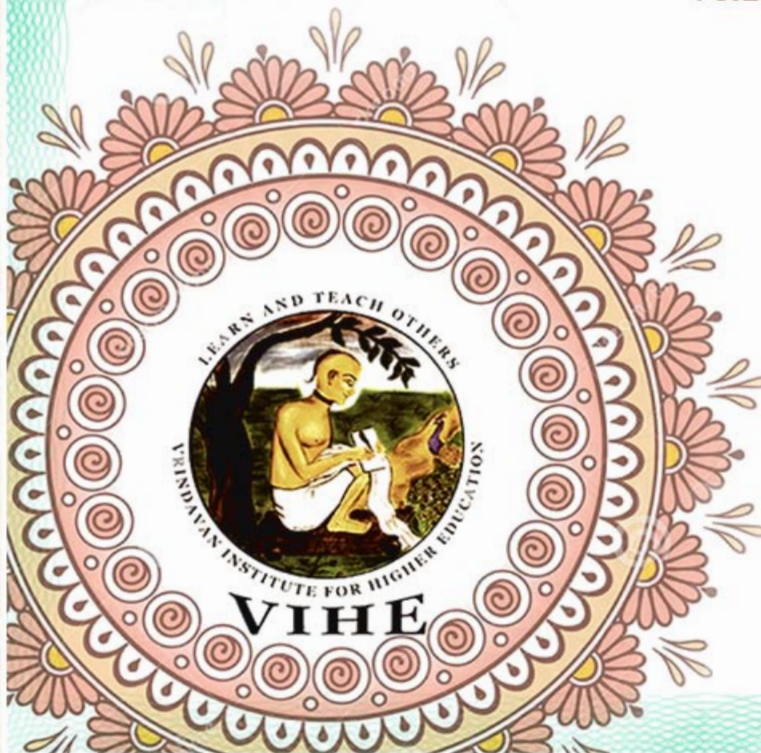
Vaiṣṇava Ācāryas &

Observance of Tithis

Tadīya Sevas

Memorization Skills

Ayurvedic Self-healing



Admissions -
vihe.courses.admissions@pamho.net

Please visit us -
facebook.com/vihe.vrindavan
www.vihe.org

The Attitude of Gratitude

By H.H. Bhakti Dhīra Dāmodara Svāmī

Kṛṣṇa is very kind. Is it not important, then, for each and every devotee, to thank Him every day after waking up in the morning? Is it difficult? How many of us do that? Now our hand is working, our leg is working. But should the day come when it stops working, will anyone be able to change the situation? Billions of people are lying in the hospitals. Some of them are not going to make it, but we are sitting here comfortably under the ceiling fan. We are not in the hospital. Is it not important for us to thank Kṛṣṇa? To tell Kṛṣṇa “thank you” is gratitude.

Many devotees have left the movement. Many want to leave. Why? They did not feel appreciated. Are we appreciating Kṛṣṇa? Is He not maintaining us every single day. Although we are so ungrateful, still, Kṛṣṇa is grateful. When we do not feel appreciated, we are ready to give up Kṛṣṇa consciousness; we stop giving donations to the temple if our contribution is not properly used. We have not appreciated Kṛṣṇa from time immemorial, but He

never gave up on us. Kṛṣṇa is grateful, we are not. Lacking the attitude of gratitude is very dangerous. Why? When the least amount of mercy of Kṛṣṇa or some pure devotees is available, we can miss it. Most of us are moving slow, because we are not appreciating what is available. For example, we complain about each other. Is it a mistake on Kṛṣṇa’s part to have brought all of us together? Why do we complain? We do not appreciate what is available. Therefore we cannot take full advantage of the opportunities to make advancement in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Many devotees feel bored, lonely, insecure, depressed — why? No gratitude! It is due to selfishness. If we look at all the pure devotees, we will see that none of them feel insecure or depressed. Why? Because they live their life for others. True devotees see that any given situation is a chance for him or her to show appreciation. Thus the soul becomes nourished. Depression means the soul is suffocating due to too much attachment for the body.



Śrīla Prabhupāda offering obeisances

We should go and visit the hospitals and the cemeteries. It will help us to become grateful to Kṛṣṇa. Then instead of looking outside, we will be looking inside, to see what we can do to help humanity. Compassion develops by being grateful to Kṛṣṇa. Even something we may consider inauspicious is a wonderful chance for a devotee who is grateful.

Look at the number of people who'd like to speak but cannot. Look at so many refugees, who lost all their material facilities. Some people may have many degrees, better than ours, but they have no job. Some have a better family than ours, but no pleasing occupation. The position we are in is not necessarily because of our qualifications. It is due to the mercy of Kṛṣṇa.

The duty of a pure devotee is to take care of the conditioned souls. There is not a single pure devotee who did not suffer - Christians, Muslims, Vaiṣṇavas or Buddhists: all of them have suffered. But we are complaining about everything, because we are ungrateful.

We complain about suffering. Look at Śrīla Prabhupāda's suffering. In Delhi, a sunstroke knocked him down on the street. What is our appreciation for that? What is our appreciation for the sacrifice he made to give us this society? On a *Vyāsa-pūjā*

day we may describe the wonderful qualities of Śrīla Prabhupāda and speak very powerful words, but after we drop our paper, how do we behave towards each other? Śrīla Prabhupāda spent sleepless nights to write the Scriptures he gave to us. We can show our gratitude to him by reading his books every day. How many are doing it? Kṛṣṇa has given us everything. Look at all the facilities we have. Are we using them for Him?

If we are grateful, we lack nothing. Kṛṣṇa is Mādhava, the husband of the Goddess of Fortune. He is taking care of us constantly. He cares for everyone. That is His nature. Even when we criticize Him, deny Him, run away from Him, He accompanies us, everyone of us, as the Supersoul. Our wife would not follow, our husband would not follow, our friend would not follow, but Kṛṣṇa will follow us all the way to hell. He will follow us to prison. Everywhere we go, Kṛṣṇa follows us.

Kṛṣṇa consciousness is beautiful because of its practical side. It's not just philosophy. Please, let us visit the hospitals, the crematoriums and the cemeteries. It will help us to heartily say: "Kṛṣṇa, thank you for what you have given me! Whatever I have complained about, was actually out of foolishness. Whatever complaint I have ever had was born of my lack of gratitude. Had I been grateful, I would have appreciated everything!"

The VIHE is expanding...



Be Part of the Growth

- Prasadam Hall
- Kitchen Expansion
- Roof over the staircase
- Residential Quarters
- Chapati-making station
- Puja laundry area

We are appealing to all VIHE students, teachers, friends and well-wishers.

To donate, please write to balaji@vihe.org

DEVOTIONAL EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



Singing prayers to the ācāryas



Disappearance day of Śrīla Gopāla Bhaṭṭa Gosvāmī



Monday kīrtana - two and a half hours with the Holy Name



Prasādam time



Dancing during kīrtana

LIFE IN THE CLASSROOM



Bliss of hearing



Bhakti Dhira Dāmodara Svāmī teaching



Invoking a devotional attitude before hearing



Exam



Presentation by student

Śrīla Prabhupāda's Program for the Four Degrees

Excerpts from Tamāla Kṛṣṇa Gosvāmī's letter to All Governing Body Commissioners, Nellore, 6 January, 1976



“Here in India many persons often criticize our *sannyāsīs* and *brāhmaṇas* as being unqualified due to insufficient knowledge of the scriptures. Factually, there are numerous instances when our *sannyāsīs* and *brāhmaṇas* have fallen down often due to insufficient understanding of the philosophy. This should not be a point of criticism nor a reason for falldown, since Śrīla Prabhupāda has mercifully made the most essential scriptures available to us in his books. The problem is that not all the devotees are carefully studying the books, the result being a fall down or at least unsteadiness.

His Divine Grace therefore wishes to institute examinations to be given to all prospective candidates for *sannyāsa* and *brāhmaṇa* initiation. In addition he wishes that all present *sannyāsīs* and *brāhmaṇas* also pass the examination. Awarding of these titles will be based upon the following books:

Bhakti-śāstrī - *Bhagavad-gītā*, Nectar of Devotion, Nectar of Instruction, *Īsopaniṣad*, Easy

Journey To Other Planets, and all other small paperbacks, as well as *Arcanā-paddhati*...

Bhakti-vaibhava - All of the above plus the first six cantos of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*

Bhakti-vedānta - All of the above plus cantos 7 through 12 of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*

Bhakti-sārvabhauma - All the above plus the entire *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*

Anyone wishing to be initiated as a *brāhmaṇa* will have to pass the *Bhakti-śāstrī* exam and anyone wishing to take *sannyāsa* will have to pass the *Bhakti-vaibhava* examination as well. This will prevent our Society from degrading to the level of so many other institutions where, in order to maintain the Temple, they accept all third class men as *brāhmaṇas*...

Answers will be in essay form and authoritative quotations will be given a bigger score. During the exams books may not be consulted...”



Upcoming Courses

Teacher Training Courses 1&2

Nov 9-15, 2018

TTC1

(English Medium)

Basic teaching skills and values
Facilitator - Vamśi Vadana dāsa

Nov 17-22, 2018

TTC2

Advanced teaching skills and values
Facilitator - Aniruddha dāsa (Melbourne TP)

अध्यापक प्रशिक्षण पाठ्यक्रम एक (TTC1)
(हिन्दी में, Hindi Medium)
अध्यापक : वंशी वदन दास



For further information and registrations please contact :
Dāmodarāṣṭaka dāsa
at the VIHE Office, ISKCON Goshala Land.
From 2.30pm till 4:30pm

+91 706069 0226

vihe.courses.admissions@pamho.net

Вриндаванский Институт Высшего Образования (VIHE) приглашает Вас на курс

БХАКТИ-ШАСТРИ

на русском языке

2018 3.12-3.04 2019

Обучение в малых группах!

Старейшее учебное заведение ИСККОН

Преподаватели:
Бхакти Расаяна Сагара Свами
Мукунда Датта Дас
Сурдас Дас
Ади-пуруша Дас
Гаурасундара Дас
Нитьянанда Дас
Нагапатни Деви Даси
Радха Према Деви Даси

Авторизовано Министерством Образования ИСККОН

Также ведется набор на курс по изучению Шримад Бхагаватам

БХАКТИ-ВАЙБХАВА

Мы в контакте: www.vk.com/russian.vihe
Мы на фэйсбук: www.fb.com/russian.vihe
Пишите: vihe.russian.admissions@pamho.net
тел. и ватсап: +79292121898 (Парампара дас)

Международное Общество Сознания Кришны
ачарья-основатель А.Ч.Бхактиведанта Свами Прабхупада

THE VRINDAVAN INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION PRESENTS

bhakti-VAIBHAVA

ISKCON'S 2nd LEVEL OF SHASTRIC STUDY

THE STUDY OF
ŚRĪMAD BHĀGAVATAM

CANTO 1&2 DECEMBER 24, 2018 - MARCH 3, 2019
CANTO 4 DECEMBER 24, 2018 - MARCH 3, 2019
CANTO 5&6 JULY 2019 - NOVEMBER 2019

SEMINARS
Sanskrit Meters
Invocation to Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam
The Ten Topics of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam
Defeating the Six Vedic Philosophies
Nectar of Devotion - Southern Ocean
Dāsa-mūla

TEACHERS
Yadunandana Svāmī
Bhakti Dhira Dāmodara Svāmī
Bhakti Prabhāva Svāmī
Sārvabhauma Dāsa
Kamalocana Dāsa
Śrīvāsa Dāsa
Ādi Puruṣa Dāsa
Prāṇesvara Dāsa
Urmilā Devī Dāsī
Praśāntā Devī Dāsī

Admissions - vihe.courses.admissions@pamho.net
Please visit us - facebook.com/vihe.vrindavan www.vihe.org

Bhakti-śāstrī

VRINDAVAN INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

JULY-NOVEMBER 2019

Bhagavad-gīta
Śrī Īsopaniṣad
Nectar of Instruction
Nectar of Devotion
Introduction to Deity Worship
Sanskrit Pronunciation

write to
vihe.courses.admissions@pamho.net

English Medium
Hindi Medium
हिन्दी में

The Arrival of a Library

By Mādhurya Gaurāṅgi Devī Dāsī

Writings play an irreplaceable role in human life. From the mundane perspective, books, pamphlets, brochures, and booklets—any kind of written words—even have the capacity to create a revolution in the world. And on the transcendental plane, not one school of thought or disciplic succession is deemed authorized without being able to present its teachings in writing. Therefore, Śrīla Prabhupāda says: "I am stressing on this point: Where is book? Where is book? Where is book?" A book is the face and the heart of a *sampradāya*. In order to hear its heart-beats we honor the book by reading, studying, teaching and preserving it.

One Wednesday morning, while the VIHE devotees had gathered in the Institute's temple room for the morning *japa*, a truck pulled in. It carried over a thousand books—the lifetime's collection of H.G. Gopīparāṇadhana Prabhu. Since his departure in 2010 the books had been under the care of one of his students, H.G. Nityānanda Dāsa. These jewels have now been transferred to the shelter of the VIHE.

Nityānanda Prabhu speaks with affection about the library:

"Some of the books are more than a hundred years old. When you unpack, you will see, some are eaten a bit by insects. Some were published in 1905 or 1903. There is a copy of the *Stava Mālā* which is more than one hundred years old.

Then there is a precious set of books by Ananta Vāsudeva, the disciple of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta who later became a Rādhā-kuṇḍa *bābājī*. He did the invaluable service of producing critical editions of most of the Gauḍīya-Vaiṣṇava literature. It's in *Sanskṛt*, but he used a Bengali script. These books are from 1940, 1941. He went around, comparing many manuscripts, before producing the critical edition. These sets were printed by



him. It was not for sale, but he distributed them to the main libraries and scholars of India. We also got a set as a donation. Among other books there are the *Ṣaḍ-darśana*, some *Kāvya*, *Dharma-śāstras*, *Bhāgavatam*, *Ṣaṭ-sandarbhās*—many editions of each. Once, Mukunda Datta Prabhu, Śrīla Prabhupāda's disciple, said, 'when a scholar passes away, his legacy is his library.'

After the *Sanskṛt* school had closed, there was no one else to take care of the books, therefore the responsibility kind of naturally fell in my hands. Later on, when I went to Māyāpur with the hope of settling there with my family, I took the library with me—four almirahs full of books. When we returned two years ago, I brought it all back to Vṛndāvana. It appears that this library doesn't want to leave Vraja. But I am now alone. There is no more *Sanskṛt* school, and no *brahmacārīs* around to help. It has become a bit more difficult for me to take care of it, so I decided it was time to hand over the library to trusted hands. I thought, 'What could a be better place than the VIHE!'

It is a great privilege to have been entrusted with the important service of safeguarding these sacred texts. In the near future, all the books will be placed in order and made available to the devotees for their studies and further advancement in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Knowing our duty

Excerpts from a lecture by Śrīla Prabhupāda on Bhagavad-gītā 9.34

We identify, everyone identifies with some party, either politically, socially or religiously, economically. We have got so many fields of activity. But, in each and every field, we have got a party feeling. You cannot avoid that. In political field, oh, we have got so many parties. All ladies and gentlemen who are present here, I ask you, do you not belong to any party? Can you deny that "I don't belong to any party?"

Now spiritualism means that we should identify ourselves as God's party. That's all. That is spiritualism. They ask, "Why the materialists are called crazy by the spiritualists?" That is also partyism. And the materialists say that the spiritualists are crazy. Just like we have formed some Society for Kṛṣṇa Consciousness, and, and those who do not like it, they say that we are an assembly of crazy fellows. Similarly, we call others who do not associate with us crazy fellows. We have written a pamphlet, "Who is Crazy?" Now how to decide?

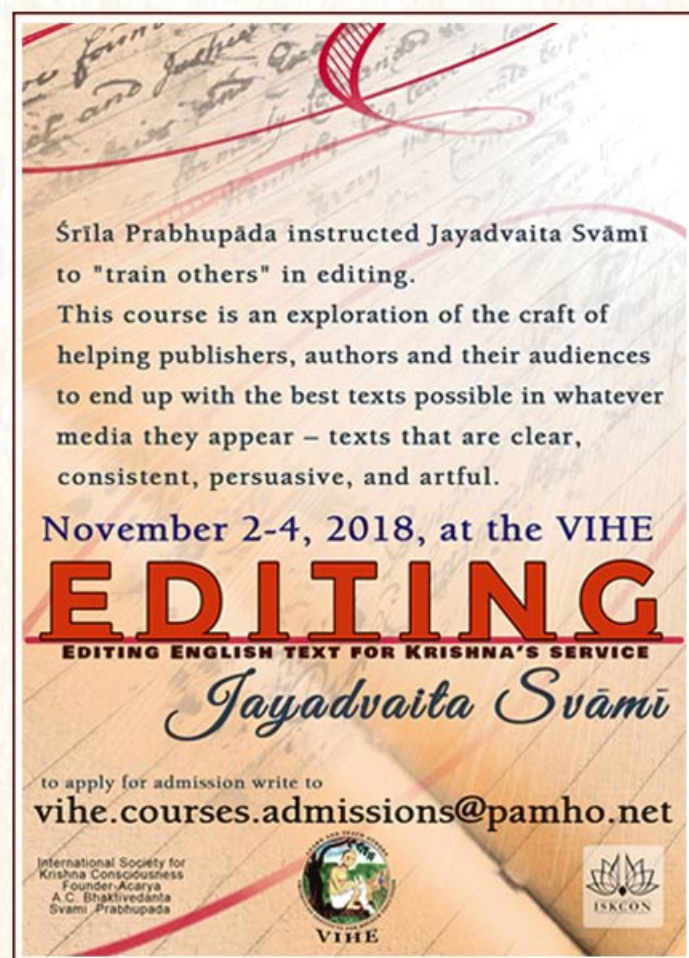
If you ask any common man, "What you are?" he'll give you some description that, "I am Christian." "I am Hindu." "I am Mr. Such and Such." "I am Mrs. Such and Such." Everything, whatever he or she will say, that is all due to this body identification. "I am Hindu." "I am Mr. Such and Such." "I am Mrs. Such and Such." Everything, whatever he or she will say, that is all due to this body identification.

Suppose you are now in the land of America. So next life you may be in China. Who can say? Because we are changing our bodies. Can you say that you are not changing your body? Yes, we are changing. When I was born from the mother's womb, my body was so little. Now how I have changed? Where is that body? Where is that body when I was a child? Where is that body when I was a boy? Where is that body when I was a young man? I have got my photograph, my studentship. Oh, Swamiji, you were like this? Where is that body? Where it has gone? So we are changing, but I am the same man. I am thinking, "Oh, in my

childhood, I was doing like this. Oh, in my youthhood, I was thinking like this. In my boyhood, I did so many things." Now where have those days gone? If my body, everything has gone away? It is simply remembrance.

But still we are sticking to this body, and, when I ask you or when you ask me, "What you are?" I say something in relationship with this body. Are you not crazy? Can you tell, any of you, that you are not crazy? If you identify with something which you are not, then are you not crazy? Are you not crazy? So everyone who identifies with this body, he's a crazy man. It is a challenge to the world. Anyone who claims God's property, God's land, God's earth, as own property, he's a crazy man. This is a challenge.

Everyone is being pulled by the ear, just like a teacher pulls the ear of a student. Similarly, we, every one of us are under the complete clutches of the material nature, and we are being put, sometimes in this body, sometimes in that body. Now, fortunately, you have got human form of body. Oh, but, don't you see there are so many bodies?



Śrīla Prabhupāda instructed Jayadvaita Svāmī to "train others" in editing.

This course is an exploration of the craft of helping publishers, authors and their audiences to end up with the best texts possible in whatever media they appear – texts that are clear, consistent, persuasive, and artful.

November 2-4, 2018, at the VIHE



EDITING

EDITING ENGLISH TEXT FOR KRISHNA'S SERVICE

Jayadvaita Svāmī

to apply for admission write to
vihe.courses.admissions@pamho.net

International Society for Krishna Consciousness
Founder-Acarya
A.C. Bhaktivedanta
Svāmī Prabhupāda





The transcendental party spirit

There are eight million, four hundred thousands of bodies, and, by the laws of nature, by the tricks of nature, you can be put into any kind of body according to your work. You are completely under the grip of nature. Therefore Śaṅkarācārya preached that you are not this body; you are spirit soul—*aham brahmāsmi*.

Now, still, even while trying to realize ourselves, self-realization, there also foolishness, or the dictation of *māyā*, the illusory energy, continues. What is that? Somebody's trying to realize his self. He understands that I am not this body; I am spirit soul. Then? If you are spirit soul, what is your position? Oh, void. Impersonal. Spirit soul, that means voidness? There is nothing after finishing this body? Only voidness? There are philosophers who preach voidness. After this, finishing this body, there is nothing. And other philosophers, impersonalists, they say that, as soon as this body is finished, my personal identity is finished. Do you think like that? Is it possible?

This body is just like a vehicle. Just like when you are sitting in a car, the car is moving according to your desire, not independently. You are moving the car according to your desire, right or left, or this road or that road. Suppose, if you are out of the car, do you think that your personality is gone? So this body is just like a car.

There is no void. There is spirit. Now, if one is further advanced in spiritual knowledge, then he'll seek what is his spiritual duty. That is sanity. What is my spiritual work? I cannot be void. I cannot lose my individuality and personality.

At the time of your death, as per your mentality, as your thoughts will develop, you'll get the next birth. So the intelligent man, who is not crazy, he should first understand that I am not this body and then what his duty is as spirit soul.

That duty is stated in the *Bhagavad-gītā*, in the last verse of the Ninth Chapter, as *man-manā bhava*—think of Kṛṣṇa. Everyone of us, embodied, we think. Without thinking, for a moment, you cannot stay. That is not possible. So this is the duty. You think of Kṛṣṇa. Kṛṣṇa has got so many activities, so many literatures, and so many things. Kṛṣṇa comes here. We have got volumes and volumes of books. If you want to think of Kṛṣṇa, we can supply you so many literatures that you cannot finish with your whole life if you read twenty-four hours. And *mad-bhaktaḥ*. Devotion means service. *Mad-yājī*. You render some service to the Lord.

Therefore our Society's name is Society for Kṛṣṇa Consciousness. We have got so many literatures. (Continued on page 18)

Upcoming Retreats

Vrindavan Institute for Higher Education

**Kirtana
Guided Japa
Classes**

with
HH Śacīnandana Svāmī

Title: *The Living Name*
Subtitle: *Learning to chant
with absorption*

Nov 27 - Dec 2
2018

**Holy Name
Retreat**

HG Bhūrijana Dāsa
"Glorious Kṛṣṇa-kathā"

vihe.retreats.registrations@pamho.net
facebook.com/vihe.vrindavan www.vihe.org
Bhaktin Meena +91 9068045375

International Society
for Krishna Consciousness
Founder-Acarya
A.C. Bhaktivedānta
Svāmī Prabhupada

Registrations for
the VIHE
Winter Retreats
are open

vihe.retreats.registrations@pamho.net

Vrindavan Institute for Higher Education

Govardhana Retreat 2018

HH Śacīnandana Svāmī
HG Bhūrijana Dāsa
HG Jagattārīṇī Devī Dāsī
HG Mādhavānanda Dāsa
HG Ādi-puruṣa Dāsa

Dec 6 - Dec 13

8 days of Kṛṣṇa-kathā
at the foot of
Girirāja Govardhana

designed to awaken attraction to Kṛṣṇa in the heart

vihe.retreats.registrations@pamho.net
facebook.com/vihe.vrindavan www.vihe.org
+91 9632360247 - Nareśvartī Padmīnī devī dāsī

International Society
for Krishna Consciousness
Founder-Acarya A.C. Bhaktivedānta
Svāmī Prabhupada

GOVARDHANA RETREAT TOPICS

- ~ By H.H. Śacīnandana Svāmī ~
Nectar for Kṛṣṇa's ears
*The Amazing life and works of
Śrīla Bilvamaṅgala Ṭhākura*
- ~ By H.G. Bhūrijana Dāsa ~
The Path to Vṛīndavana Part 2
- ~ By H.G. Mādhavānanda Dāsa ~
Śrīla Raghunātha Dāsa
Gosvāmī's
Govardhana-vāsa-prārt-
hanā-daśakam Part 3

9th International
Vaiṣṇavī retreat
at Govardhana

March 28 - April 2, 2019

Celebrating
Śrīla Prabhūpada's
Mercy

Avaśya Rakṣibe Kṛṣṇa
The Art of
Accepting and Giving
Protection

Yaśomatī Devī Dāsī
Kuśā Devī Dāsī
Praśāntā Devī Dāsī
Priyā Gopikā Devī Dāsī

VRINDAVAN INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

vihe.retreats.registrations@pamho.net
facebook.com/vaisnaviretreatinternational www.vihe.org/vaisnavi_retreat.html

International Society
for Krishna Consciousness
Founder-Acarya A.C. Bhaktivedānta
Svāmī Prabhupada

WANTED

Retreats Staff

- Electrician
- Babysitter

balaji@vihe.org
+91 9821205738

Knowing our duty

(continued from page 16)

Each and every boy is engaged. Somebody's printing, somebody's writing, somebody's type-writing, somebody's dispatching, somebody's attending a letter, somebody's cooking. Twenty-four hours, we are thinking of Kṛṣṇa. How? Because we are engaged in the duties of Kṛṣṇa. And what is that duty if you have no obedience? You have to obey. Therefore it is said *namaskuru*. You offer your respect. *Bhakti* minus respect, that is not *bhakti*. With love, with respect, with designated duties, if you are engaged in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, then your life will be successful. Do not identify falsely with this material body and engage yourself with all sorts of nonsense. That will never make you happy.

Therefore what is the difference between materialism and spiritualism? The same typewriter is there. The same dictaphone is there. The same mimeograph machine is there. The same paper is there. The same ink is there. The same hand is there. Everything is same, but everything is done for Kṛṣṇa's account. That's all, Kṛṣṇa's account. This is spiritualism. Don't think spiritualism to be something uncommon. You can turn the whole material world into spiritualism, if you simply become Kṛṣṇa conscious. This is spiritualism. Thank you very much.

Serve at the VIHE

Please note the following staff vacancies. If you are interested, please write to balaji@vihe.org

- Translators
(English to Hindi; English to Russian)
- Fund Raising Coordinator
- Day to day Activities Coordinator
- Transcribers
- Database Manager
- Website Designer

PRASADA SPONSORSHIP

For Bhakti-sastri & Bhakti-vaibhava Students

covers lunch prasada served to 65 devotees

1 month lunch prasada	- 84,500.00 Rs.
1 day regular lunch prasada (rice, dal or curry, 2 sabjis, salad or raita or savory or chutney, chapati, drink)	- 3,250.00 Rs.
1 day Ekadashi prasada	- 4,500.00 Rs.
Feast (special rice, special dal or curry, 3 sabjis (including paneer sabji), savory, chutney, chapati or puri or paratha, 2 sweets)	- 10,000.00 Rs.
Paneer sabji	- 2,500.00 Rs.
Sweet	- 2,000.00 Rs.
1 day breakfast prasada	- 2,000.00 Rs.

To donate, please write to balaji@vihe.org or
call +91 9821205738

Editorial Team - Praśāntā Devī Dāsī, Viśākhā
Priyā Devī Dāsī, Mādhurya Gaurāṅgī Devī Dāsī,
Madhusūdāna Viṣṇu Dāsa, Prema Sindhu
Gaurāṅga Dāsa



International Society for Krishna Consciousness
Founder-Ācārya: His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swami Prabhupāda

