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Brijbasi Spirit

Weekly Journal of

New Vrindaban

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INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS INC.

FOUNDER — ACARYA, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

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HARE KRSNA, HARE KRSNA, KRSNA KRSNA, HARE HARE / HARE RAMA, HARE RAMA, RAMA RAMA, HARE HARE

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DEAR GODBROTHERS,

Please accept our most humble obeisances again and again. All Glories to His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada, without whose mercy we would be no better than worms in stool. Srila Prabhupada is lifting the shroud of maya from around our heads and calling for us to chant the holy name of the Lord--thus cleansing the dust from our hearts and minds by allowing us to engage in dev-

otional service.

Because of a somewhat splayed-out week, what with Govardhana Puja and all, this issue of The Brijbasi Spirit is smaller than usual. The highlights of this issue are a taped lecture by Kirtanananda Maharaj at Parkersburg Community College and a nice article on Govardhana Puja, plus a number of smaller articles and stories.

We hope this issue meets all the residents of New Vrindabandhama in the highest of devotional spirits and brimming over with transcendental Krsna Consciousness.

Your eternal servants,
the staff

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VAISNAVA CALENDAR

Nov. 22, Fri.: Gopastami and Gosthastami.
Dis. of Srila Gadadhara dasa Goswami, Srila Dhananjaya Pandita and Srila Srinivasa Acarya Prabhu.

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KIRTANANANDA SWAMI LECTURES

The following is a lecture given recently by Kirtanananda Maharaj for the eternal benefit of classes taught by Mr. Dick Dezio and for other interested students at Parkersburg Community College, West Virginia

It's very nice to be back in Parkersburg once again. We always enjoy coming down here; we feel very close to Dick as friends and now I feel I know many of you as I've seen you so many times here. So it's very nice and we're glad that you're chanting Hare Krsna, and we're glad to have you take Krsna prasadam with us, these nice foodstuffs offered to Krsna.

This process of Krsna Consciousness is not a sectarian thing; it is not that it's meant for some people and not others, that it's in somebody's bag and not others. Actually Krsna Consciousness is for everyone--man, woman, child, young, old; actually it is even meant for the animals. It is universal because the Supreme Lord is also universal. Krsna says in the Bhagavad-gita, "I am the seed-giving father of every living entity." He does not leave anyone out. He claims that every living entity is His offspring. So nothing could be more universal. The Supreme Lord, He is the father of everyone. That means that we are also brothers. Sometimes we hear people talking about brotherhood--if we could only have a little more brotherhood in the world. Yes, that would be very nice, but actually you won't have brotherhood until there is at first fatherhood. First we have to realize the father, then automatically you will realize brother, sister, or mother. Unfortunately in the modern world that which is lacking is the understanding that God is the father of everyone. He is the father of everyone, He is the proprietor of everything. He is the creator of everything--He is the cause of all causes. Sat-cit-ananda-vigraha, it is a Vedic statement, that Krsna or God is the cause of all causes. That He is the original person asserts Lord Brahma the creator of this universe. Govindam adi purusam tam aham baja me. I worship Govinda, or Krsna, the Primeval Lord, the original person. If we could search out the creator of this material world then certainly we would think he is very great. Just see how great we consider the scientists to be when they can put a little football in the sky for some days. But they couldn't put that football in the sky without making huge, huge arrangements, spending millions and billions of dollars, so many hundreds of thousands of people cooperating together, just to put a little Sputnik up for some time. But we see these big, big planets, they are floating so nicely in space. Who has put them there? The scientist cannot tell you. They will say, "Oh, it is nature." What kind of answer is that? As soon as you say nature, what is the logical question? Who's nature. If you say nature, then the next question is who's nature. So if all of these planets and suns and stars and everything are revolving in space according to natural law, who's natural law? This is a logical question.

The scientist will say, "We do not know." Then if you do not know then you must approach someone who knows. If you want information then you must at first approach someone who knows. Therefore Krsna says in the Bhagavad-gita that everyone should approach a bona fide spiritual master who is in knowledge. One who knows what is what. What is what means what is matter and what is spirit. One who can distinguish between what is temporary and what is eternal. That is knowledge. Knowledge doesn't mean simply how to add 2 and 2, or be able to distinguish this chemical from that chemical. This may be called relative knowledge, or factual knowledge, but it is not real knowledge. When we speak of real knowledge we speak of reality.

Lord Krsna again in the Bhagavad-gita gives a definition of what is reality: The unreal never was and the real never ceases to be. So this ephemeral reality, this mundane reality, this is not actual reality. It is changing. The unreal never was, the real never ceases to be. What is ceasing to be is not real. The real means the eternal. Therefore real knowledge means being able to distinguish between what is temporary and what is eternal.

So we look at this material body and we can obviously say, "Well, this is not eternal." No one can say this body is eternal. We come into existence with a little body. First the size of

a pea, then it grows within the womb of the mother. At a certain stage it comes out, then it develops to youth, adulthood, then it begins to disintegrate to old age and finally back into the earth, dust again. Dust thou art and dust thou returneth. So this process of becoming and then unbecoming, this is not reality. Not the real reality because it is temporary. This material body is temporary.

But there is something that is causing the material body to develop. If you say the material body is simply a lump of chemicals, so let's put all these chemicals here in a pile and watch it develop into a body. Will it happen? No, it will never happen. If you put your laboratory up and you seal it, you put all the chemicals known inside, and you say, "Now we will wait for life to develop."--will it ever develop? No, there's no movement. There is no life. Life must come from life. For there to be any chemical change at all there has to be movement, someone has to put chemicals together. The scientist can effect so many wonderful things. Why? Because he is a living being. It is not that the chemicals are working.

So unless there is first the spirit soul, the spirit soul means the life force, the power of movement, unless that is first present there is no possibility of development of the material body. That life force, that spirit soul, that is of a different nature than this matter. This matter is temporary, it is going through certain stages of becoming and then disintegration. The spirit soul, that is eternal. This is all clearly explained in the Bhagavad-gita by Krsna, this is the beginning of knowledge. To be able to distinguish matter from spirit.

Now I am a combination, you see? I am spirit soul but because I am in contact with this material nature I have a material body. So while I am in contact with this material body I have to learn how to come into that consciousness of spirit soul. I have to learn how to distinguish between what is matter and what is spirit. This is my chance. Specifically now in this human form of life. In the Vedanta Sutra it says: Now in this human form of life one should learn what is Brahman. Brahman means spirit. Brahman means the greatest. One should learn what is the greatest. Why in this human form of life? Because in this human form of life we have developed consciousness. A tree cannot inquire--who am I, why am I standing here? Why do I have to stand in the cold and the rain so many hundreds of years. The tree is standing, but it cannot inquire. The man can inquire if he is intelligent.

So it is said that in this human form of life one should inquire as to why I am suffering. If you think you are not suffering your intelligence is not very good. Actually every living entity in this material world is suffering. Krsna says in the 8th chapter of Bhagavad-gita that from the highest planet to the lowest planet everything in the material universe is suffering. Why are they suffering? Because they're suffering repeated birth and death. No one wants to be born, no one wants to grow old, no one wants to suffer disease and no one wants to die. Simply we cannot remember this pain. When we are healthy we forget the pain of sickness. And in youth we do not remember the pain of old age. But factually no one wants to grow old. Just study the statistics and see how many millions and millions of dollars are spent every year just for cosmetics to cover the fact that we're growing old. Or how much millions of dollars simply for a little thing like aspirin to cover the pain of daily existence, what to speak of drugs for other purposes, intoxication. Why? Because we are not happy. Our existence is painful, but we all want to be happy. That is our nature to want to be happy. So the human form of life is meant for inquiry why do I want to be happy and why am I not happy? Why this discrepancy--I want to be happy but I'm not happy. Why is this?

(Here the tape was turned over while Kirtanananda Swami explains that we are spiritual beings but are currently covered over by this gross, unnatural material nature and we are suffering due to our forgetfulness of God.)

You are now actually sat-cit-ananda. Eternal, full of knowledge and bliss. That is the nature of spirit soul. That cannot be changed. The soul cannot be killed, it cannot be cut into pieces. All these things are said by Krsna in the Bhagavad-gita. But the problem is that the spirit soul who is by nature blissful, he is in contact with matter now. He is thinking, "I am this body."--I am this man, I am this woman, I am this American, I am this Indian, I am this, I am that. There are so many designations which are all artificial. Artificial because they're not eternal. Even if you think you have a very nice body--"Oh, I am a very handsome young man," or "I am a very beautiful young woman," or I am very healthy, I am very wealthy, I am very powerful." Whatever you think you are enjoying, in one instant it can be changed. Your beauty can be finished

in one instant. Your health can be finished in one instant. Your wealth, your position, your security, everything in connection with this body can be finished in one instant. Then what? Where's your happiness?

Therefore it is concluded by the sages, by those who can see, that there is no such thing as happiness in connection with this material body. It is called intoxication. You think you are very happy by your beauty, you think you are very happy by your wealth or your position. That is intoxication. Why? Because it is temporary. It is just like the Bowry bum. He is lying in the gutter, he is bleeding, all sorts of things, he is suffering from malnutrition, he has lost his family, his position, everything. But if you ask him, "How are you feeling? Are you happy?"-- if he has sufficient intoxication he will say, "Yes, I am very happy." But as soon as the intoxication has worn off what is his position? He is miserable.

So similarly all the so-called pleasures of this material body, they're just like intoxication. So long as you are good-looking, you have your wealth, etc., you may feel happy, but it is only temporary, it must go. You cannot have it very long. Then what will be your condition? Until we come to the platform of spirit soul, that which is eternal, sat--this material body is asat--until we come to the platform of this sat, the eternal, there can be no happiness.

Therefore this process of Krsna Consciousness is meant for every living entity to re-establish the sat, the eternal platform. We are by nature spirit souls, eternal living entities. But we have forgotten due to contact with this material body. But by chanting this transcendental sound vibration, Hare Krsna, Hare Krsna, Krsna Krsna, Hare Hare, Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare, you can at once feel that I am spirit soul. I am distinct from this body. I am not of this world, but I am eternal fragment of Krsna or God. This is Krsna Consciousness.

This chanting was brought especially from this modern age by Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Who is none other than Krsna Himself, in the guise of a devotee, just to give us an example of how to chant Hare Krsna, how to offer everything to Krsna, how to develop love for Krsna.

Love of God is the goal of life. Why? Because we're all parts and parcels of Krsna. You may deny it, but it will not change the fact. In this life you may be son or daughter of such and such, you may deny it, but still you remain that person's son or daughter. The relationship is there whether you deny it or not. The relationship with God is there for every living entity whether you deny it or not. But there is no satisfactory relationship until it is in the consciousness of love. Just like two individuals, if they want to have a satisfactory relationship, it must be based on friendship or love. You may have a relationship with someone in enmity, or hostility, but it is not satisfactory. Similarly you may have a relationship with God in enmity, in hostility, in ghastliness, but it is not satisfactory. It will not revive your eternal blissful nature. Actually there is no such thing as athiest. Everyone believes in God. The question is how we believe in God. The atheist believes in God as death. Who is there who does not believe in death? No one wants to die but there is a power called death that comes along at a certain time and says, "Now, come with me." And everyone goes. That means that this death is superior power. So for one who does not know God as friends, he knows God only as death, as superior power; therefore Krsna says in the Bhagavad-gita, "I am death personified." But that is not satisfactory relationship. That is not living relationship therefore it is not blissful relationship.

But the same God, Krsna, if we develop our love of Krsna, we will not know Him as death but we will know Him as friend. God is there for everyone. But He does not interfere with our freedom, our choice. We may approach Him however we want. If we want to approach God in love, He is waiting. And if we want to approach God in enmity, He is there also.

There is one very nice story in the Srimad Bhagavatam of a father and his son. The father's name was Hiranyakasipu and he was a very sinful man, very demoniac. He was a very, very great athiest. He performed very great austerities to get great power. He stood on his tip-toes for 125 years, at the end of which the creator of this universe, Lord Brahma, came to him and said, "What do you want for all this austerity? I am obliged to you." He said, "I want to become immortal." Everyone wants to become immortal. However Lord Brahma explained, "That I cannot give you because even I myself am not immortal." So the athiest Hiranyakasipu would not accept that from Lord Brahma so he thought that he would trick Lord Brahma into giving himself immortality.

The materialist, the atheist, they are all envious by nature therefore they think that one does not tell truth, that they are being cheated and tricked, so Hiranyakasipu thought Lord Brahma was trying to cheat him out of his immortality and he said, "Okay, then promise me that I will not be killed during the day or during the night." Brahma said, "All right." "And promise

me that I will not be killed on the land or on the sea." "Yes, all right." "And promise that I will not be killed by either man nor beast, or by any weapons." "Yes." And so he made so many conditions so that he could not think of any more ways in which he could be killed and Brahma agreed to all of them. And then the athiest thought, "Now I am immortal."

Now this athiest Hiranyakasipu, he had a little boy by the name of Prahlad, and even though he had such a demoniac father, he was a great devotee of the Lord. And even at 5 years old he used to gather his school mates together and ask them, please come chant Hare Krsna with me. Sometimes his schoolmates objected, saying, "Oh Prahlad, we are only little children, when we get old we'll chant Hare Krsna, then we'll be ready to die." And Prahlad, he was so intelligent that he said, "My dear friends, you do not know when you are old." Old means just before you die. So you may be old now. You cannot say for certain you have 5 minutes more. "Therefore we should all chant Hare Krsna now, and become Krsna Conscious."

So Hiranyakasipu heard about Prahlad's teaching and chanting Hare Krsna, love of God, and he was furious. He called him and he said, "Who has taught you this nonsense?" Then Prahlad explained, "Your teachers have not taught me this. They have not taught me anything useful." Actually this material knowledge in the end is not at all useful. The body is soon dead and then of what use is this knowledge. But he told his father that if he would simply chant Hare Krsna then he would also know. His father asked him, "Where from do you get this power to chant Hare Krsna," and Prahlad said, "I get this power from the same place you get your power to deny God."

It is a fact you see. God is giving one man power to praise God, and God is giving another man power to deny God. The whole power is coming from God. But according to our desire, according to the use of our independence one is using it in the service of God and one is using it to deny God.

So Hiranyakasipu became so furious that he tried to kill his son. He threw him off a cliff, he threw him in a snake pit, he threw him in a pot of boiling oil--so many ways, but in every case the Lord saved him. Lord Krsna says, "My devotee will never be vanguarded." Death cannot touch the devotee of Krsna. Because death is reserved only for those who are in enmity with God. The devotee always knows that he is not this body, therefore how can he die? Death refers to this body. But the athiests do not know. Therefore in the end the Lord Himself appeared before the child Prahlad and the father Hiranyakasipu and he tore the athiest to pieces, simply with the nails of his hands. He did not break one of the promises made to Hiranyakasipu by Lord Brahma. He did not kill him in the day or the night, but at twilight. He did not kill him on the land or in the sea, but on the lap of the wonderful Lord. He killed him neither indoors nor outdoors but on the threshold, and so on, He kept intact all of the conditions but still He killed him. The athiest may think that with their tiny brain they can outwit God. But actually God is unlimited. He is not subject to our tiny brain.

Now the little boy Prahlad, even though he was witnessing this horrific scene of his father being torn to pieces by the Lord in the form of half man, half beast, he was not at all afraid. The demigods were watching, they thought that it was extremely wonderful. How is it that this little boy he is not afraid, but we ourselves we are terrified. And Prahlad confessed, "Ah, this is my father." The devotee can see God as father in any condition because his eyes are smeared with the ointment of love. That divine vision is available to everyone, if you simply develop this chanting, this love of Krsna, by this process of chanting Hare Krsna. It is given specifically for that purpose by the Lord Himself. Caitanya Mahaprabhu has come and He has said, "Come on, sing, dance, chant Hare Krsna." And similarly our spiritual master, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, he has come at an old age simply for that purpose. We have not come to you seeking anything else. But we have come to give you something.

The Lord wants that every one of his sons and daughters, every living entity, should come back home, back to Godhead. He doesn't want that any living being should rot in this material world. It is not our natural place. Just as a fish can never be happy out of water, similarly the spirit soul can never be happy in this material world. We require the sanatana atmosphere, the eternal atmosphere. And that eternal atmosphere can be immediately re-established by this service to God, chanting Hare Krsna, offering everything to Krsna, bowing down to Krsna.

So, we invite you please chant with us, dance with us, eat with us, in all these ways, it is not difficult. Singing, dancing, feasting, they are not difficult activities. It is not meant to be difficult. It is meant to develop our love of God. Thank you very much.

(Unfortunately, the question and answer period was not recorded.)

GOVARDHANA PUJA AFTERMATH

The inhabitants of Vrndavana, having performed the Govardhana Puja sacrifice, thus incurred the wrath of Indra, the demigod in charge of the heavens. Because of his puffed-up nature, forgetting his position of being the servant of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, he made the following statement: "The men of Vrndavana have become too puffed up over their material opulence and their confidence in the presence of their tiny friend, Krsna. He is simply talkative, childish, and unaware of the complete cosmic situation, although He is thinking Himself very advanced in knowledge. Because they have taken Krsna so seriously, they must be punished, and so I have ordered the samvartaka cloud to go there and inundate the place. They should be destroyed with their cows."

So in this way King Indra ordered his most dangerous samvartaka and associate clouds to appear over Vrndavana. The clouds poured water as thick as pillars and there was constant lightning, thunder and incessant severe winds. Soon the land of Vrndavana became inundated with water and it was a most dangerous situation. In this way all the inhabitants of Vrndavana, especially the cows with bowed heads and their calves underneath their bodies, approached Govinda, or Krsna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead to take shelter at His Lotus Feet.

Thus being approached He could perfectly understand the whole situation and decided to teach King Indra a lesson to take away Indra's false prestige and to protect His pure devotees.

And so Krsna immediately picked up Govardhana Hill, holding up the mountain with the little finger of His left hand. Indra became thunderstruck, bewildered in his determination at seeing such an exhibition of Krsna's mystic power, and immediately called for the clouds to desist.

The danger being passed, and Govardhana Hill being replaced exactly as before, all the inhabitants of Vrndavana approached Krsna and embraced Him with great ecstasy.

Now Indra appeared before Krsna, his false puffed up prestige having been destroyed. Being conscious of his actual subordinate position, he began to offer beautiful prayers to the Lord in all humbleness. In these pray-

ers Indra presents himself as a puffed up fool maddened by the influence of material nature, and thanks the Lord for showing him His causeless mercy by removing such an obstacle from his path of spiritual realization.

It is described that after Indra's prayers Krsna was bathed in the milk of the Surabhi cows and Indra and all other demigods worshipped Krsna by bathing Him with Ganges water. They all combined to glorify the Lord by chanting His holy name and dancing with great joy. Flowers poured incessantly from the sky. Krsna thus became very pleased and the cows overflowed the surface of the earth with their milk. The water of the rivers began to flow and give nourishment to the trees, producing fruits and flowers of different colors and taste. The trees began to pour drops of honey. The hills and mountains began to produce potent medicinal plants and valuable stones. Because of Krsna's presence all these things happened very nicely. This great incident is a powerful example of how Krsna Consciousness can benefit the whole world.

The devotees of New Vrindaban strived to make this Govardhana Puja sacrifice one of the best ever. The activities were multifarious. All the devotees could be seen scurrying around in a transcendental frenzy making last minute preparations. Kirtanananda Maharaj breezed along, keeping a steady hand on every situation.

Finally, after re-scheduling the time twice the fire sacrifice and ceremonies began at 11:00 am. The temple became the center of attention as these rites were held before Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Vrndavana Candra. There were first and second initiations; Kirtanananda Swami lectured on the importance and responsibility of taking second initiation, and also chanted on beads and presented the first initiates their names given by Srila Prabhupada. After this there was a Vedic marriage ceremony for 2 couples, having been married for at least 1 year in Krsna Consciousness. Then Kuladri das Prabhu performed the fire sacrifice for the purification of these souls, offering wonderful quantities of ghee, grains, fruits and vegetables to please the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Upon the end of the sacrifice all the participants placed

(GOVARDHANA PUJA AFTERMATH) Continued--

their bananas in the fire. An ecstatic kirtan was held for the pleasure of Radha Vrndavana Candra. Kirtan continued until the time for aratrika at 2:00, the offering having been made at 1:00. At 2:00 the curtains were once again pulled and there before the eyes of the devotees were Their Lordships dressed in Their scintillating new outfit. And there upon the altar were the remnants of the many wonderful foodstuffs offered to Their Lordships. Mountains and oceans filling the altar, Krsna prasadam, the mercy of the Lord for the residents of Vraja.

Included in the preparations offered for this Govardhana Puja sacrifice were sandesh, 2 kinds of koah, pera, burfi, laddus, huge Lugdoos, half moons samoses, sangoses, pap-addams, fruit-filled pastries, Indian orange halavah, plain halavah, apple chutney, condensed milk with furd, sweet rice, yellow rice, barates, french fried potato slices in ghee, a dry potatoe & cauliflower vegetable, and a wet potato vegetable. Profuse amounts of this prasadam was distributed to the Brijabasis and the most fortunate guests who came to participate in this most glorious occassion.

After the aratrika, for the transcendental pleasure of Radha Vrndavana Candra, the Brijabasis and Kirtanananda Maharaj, the Madhuban Players presented a wonderful play depicting Krsna's pastime of lifting Govardhana Hill. Kirtanananda Maharaj and the attendant devotees were all very much enlivened by the play.

More activities had been tentatively scheduled for this day, but due to the unpredictable nature of the weather--freezing winds, alternating rain, snow and sunshine--they had to be called off.

However the Lord became very pleased with our Govardhana Puja sacrifice. The following day the skies cleared, after a long period of such miserable weather. The forest air became freshened and warmed by soft breezes, and all of New Vrindaban became enhanced with auspicious transcendental feelings.

All Glories to Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Vrndavana Candra, for whose pleasure we are always endeavoring, and to Srila Prabhupada, by whose mercy we are being able to perfect our lives by engaging in such transcendental activities as Govardhana Puja!

FLOUR MILL

Parambrahma dasa Brahmacari as treasurer of our community noted the rising costs of food and, thrifty devotee that he is, began considering how to cut costs for bhoga. In his investigations he found that at the current market prices whole wheat flour is \$12 per 100 lbs. ground, In the form of wheat berries, ready to be ground, it costs only \$6 for the same quantity.

Now it just so happened (by Krsna's arrangement) that a miller came to visit our transcendental community at about this time and somehow met up with Parambrahma. They had a good talk and Parambrahma convinced him to write to Meadows Mill Co, the best in the nation, asking for information on their mills. The company sent us the information and we immediately ordered a mill.

The next day Kirtanananda Swami came across an add in the paper, someone selling an old grist mill. So we looked it over, it was an old (1910) Meadows Mill, and bought it right away. The other order was cancelled.

Parambrahma Prabhu overhauled it and put it together; and the first time he tried it it worked like a charm. On our first grinding job, on Govardhana Puja day, Parambrahma ground 7 cups of flour, which was grown right here in New Vrindaban soil, and these were used in preparing certain foodstuffs on the special Govardhana Puja offering.

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AT DAVID ELKINS COLLEGE (Continued--)

Served out was sweet rice, potato vegetable, peanut butter burfi and chapuris (made with our own home-grown and ground whole wheat flour).

Many BTGs were distributed and several students expressed a keen interest in visiting New Vrindaban.

On the way back our crew gallantly finished off the remnants of the prasadam. They arrived back in New Vrindaban very late, around 2:00 the next morning. All Glories to their service of propagating Lord Caitanya's Samkirtan movement!

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SURABHI NECTAR

This season the ghee business is booming like Wall Street in 1929. In just a little over a month, cream production is down from 257 to 130 lbs. a week. Unfortunately, this trend will most likely continue on until the middle of January, when a bunch of cows are due fresh.

Milk production is always at its low point this time of the year. The pastures are now depleted and the haylage we are feeding out has not been able to make up the deficiency in the cows' diet. This is understandable since they only have a couple hours a day to eat haylage, instead of all day in the pastures. Changes in weather are not so beneficial either. Whenever there is a sudden drop in temperature, the milk is down.

Also, a large number of the cows came fresh early in the spring and summer, so the herd as a whole is drying up. Nonetheless, compared to last year we are getting at least three times as much milk as last fall.

I remember when Sudanu and I were slaving out at the cooking pits turning about 40 gallons of milk into curd every day because we just couldn't use it all as milk. So in our contaminated state we are always experiencing increase and decline. Actually, there is only increasing in Krsna Conscious activity. But it sure is nice in the middle of summer when all the butter comes rolling in and it's real, real yellow. Can't wait until 6 months pass and the mother cows hit the tall stuff in the backlands.

— Taru dasa

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IN THE WOODS

This has been a big week for logging. Samba pulled in the biggest log this side of the Mississippi for us. It is 4 feet high and 50 feet long. It's sitting down at the wood shed now. This one log is enough wood to supply the furnice for 3 weeks. We also pulled some big logs from the old reservoir log stack in the back-up to the top of the pavilian. This will provide furnice

and boiller wood for the winter. We made 3 runs to Snyder's pastures for elms this week. Monday there going to pick up some lumber at the saw mill so I'll go with them and see how there set up so we can set up our saw mill first-class. Maharaj told me that we are going to saw a lot of logs, so do it good.

We finally got the boiller running good at the new barn. Everybody can take off their coats now. Bliss, you can have dry cloths now fellas. And if your attached to dry shoes like I am in the morning you'll like that too. So for all ya prabhus who live inside this year can feel secure from the cold and wet mud outdoors, for the rough and tough wood crue will take care of your inner worms. No need to feer the tears of love of Radha and Krsna, will freeze on you this year. We have made ample arangements for all your terable fears (The Cold Bath).

Your servant in the woods,
Romharsan Das

(Printed as written by Romharsan Das)

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AT DAVID ELKINS COLLEGE

Almost a week ago, Kirtanananda Swami had another scheduled college engagement--this time at David Elkins College. Maharaj took with him Vahna dasa (who chauffeured them), Advaitacarya dasa and Arjit dasa.

There were 3 separate lectures, 2 in the afternoon and 1 in the evening. The students listened attentively. A number of them tried to entangle Maharaj, but not one question could phase him. In general though they were polite and considerate and a number were quite responsive. Members of the party commented strongly on the clarity and purity of Kirtanananda Swami's preaching--how very intense it was and how it carried incredible potency. Every statement was direct and to the point and every answer was concise and left no doubts.

The program included kirtan, with Arjit Prabhu leading, Maharaj's lecture, and sumptuous prasadam distribution, of which a large number of the students partook, thus making some eternal spiritual advancement.

(Continued on page 7)

FROM SKP

Please accept our most worthless obeisances at your most surrendered feet. All Glories to our dearmost spiritual master Srila Prabhupada, whose only desire is that we all become Krsna Conscious and go back home, back to Godhead in this lifetime so there will be no more suffering of repeated birth and death for us.

By Krsna's causeless mercy we have all been able to reside in His eternal dhama--New Vrindaban--where every activity, every word, every sound is meant to remind us of the lotus-feet of Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Vrndavana Candra.

Devoid of all good qualities we have been rescued from this material ocean of suffering by Srila Prabhupada and delicately placed in the most competent hands of Kirtanananda Maharaj, who has given up everything except those things which please his spiritual master. No amount of material wealth can compare to our fortune. Just think about it--who else can come before Their most beautiful Lordships Radha Vrndavana Candra every day and be personally engaged in Their intimate service? Who else is relishing daily association with Kirtanananda Maharaj, whose purity and steady determination is a constant source of inspiration for us in our service? Who else can see New Vrindaban (the first community where Krsna is the center, in the western world) being built by the pure bhakti of its wonderful devotees? We are so fortunate to associate with such wonderful godbrothers and godsisters who are daily accepting bodily discomforts that would make others run and who are becoming more and more joyful and freed in their determination to carry out their devotional service.

Somehow or other if we can just stay here and fully engage in service to Radha Vrndavana Candra and never lose sight of the goal of New Vrindaban, then we can be assured that our lives will become perfect and without a doubt we will see Krsna behind every tree and hill of New Vrindaban. If only this fool could in some small way appreciate the causeless mercy Krsna has bestowed upon us all by allowing us to live with Him, His devotees, and His cows in New Vrindaban.

-- Dharmatma dasa

All Glories to Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Vrndavana Candra. We offer our respectful obeisances unto Kirtanananda Swami and the blissful residents of New Vrindaban.

It is most wonderful to be a part of this transcendental community. We deserve nothing yet we have everything. After being on Sankirtan for weeks and months at a time nothing could be more enlivening than coming back to Radha Vrndavana Candra, even though they are always present--dancing, chanting and clapping right before Radharani and Vrndavana Candra is pure ecstasy.

This New Vrindaban Sankirtan party is making gradual progress in distribution, collecting donations, developing greater facility and desire. We are praying to Srila Prabhupada to never let us fall down, to let us constantly engage in service and to let us remain inmates of New Vrindaban. We are constantly reminded to pray like this when out on Sankirtan because we are seeing the craziness in the material world and are face to face with karmis who are almost all demoniac. Some are a little more pious than others but if they are not devotees we have to see them as having no good qualities. Even though it is very difficult we must look on them with compassion and even more difficult than that we have to be humble and pleasing in our dealings with these souls; we are practicing this in our distribution and it is proving to be beneficial. After associating with karmis day after day, association with devotees is very relishable. We must realize that all devotees of Krsna are very rare souls and should be treated kindly and with respect. We sometimes have a tendency to disrespect devotees, which is one of the greatest offenses.

All Glories to Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu!! In the past month Krsna has allowed us to distribute 8700 pieces of literature, collecting laxsmi for Kirtanananda Maharaj's use in Radha Vrndavana Candra's service.

-- Mother Nirmala

The inmates of New Vrindaban, during the most auspicious occasion of Govardhana Puja, had the opportunity to associate with our dear Godbrothers & sisters engaged in travelling Sankirtan.

AT VRINDABAN

The Deity program at the Vrindaban brahmachari ashram, as far as the personnel are concerned, is presently going through a constant state of flux. The program itself is remaining intact due to the strong influence of Mangalananda and Radhanath Prabhus, but times are getting tight. With the advent of the austere November winds, a number of our pujaris have breezed away, including Krsnamurti dasa and Somadas dasa, who have both headed for the warmth of the Florida sun. However, a silver lining in this storm cloud has appeared in the form of newly initiated brahmanas. Krsnasravana dasa is the prime example in this case, as he is being trained up in Deity worship in record time and is now doing many of the arotrikas for Radha Vrindavana Nath.

Even with all these changes, the service to the Deities is ever-increasing, due to the steadiness of the kitchen crew who include Mangalananda dasa, Radhanath dasa and Hunkara dasa. The puja room is undergoing a complete re-organization under the direction of Radhanath. As for offerings, right now Mangala offerings are undeviating: burfi, sweet rice, cream drink, sweetened whole milk and sandesh. The noon offerings are also very tight: milk sweet, dahl, capatis, vegetable, white rice, kitri, chutney and sweetmeats. Radhanath, under the guidance of Mangalananda, is becoming very regulated in making milk sweets for the Deities.

* * *

THE GREAT BHOGA JOURNEY

Madhava Gosha dasa, along with Arjit dasa, left right after the Govardhana Puja feast last Friday afternoon for the North Dakota plains. Taking with them the ready-haul trailer, they plan to bring around 8 tons of bhoga back to New Vrindaban. Tentative items included whole wheat flour, potatoes, honey and barley. Hopefully they will be back by the middle of this week.

* * *

The following is a list of those devotees receiving 1st and 2nd initiation and those couples having their Vedic wedding ceremony.

1st initiation

Terry Sheldon - Tapapunja dasa
Alfred Tarantino - Ajeya dasa
Tony Riccardi - Tajomaya dasa
Mike Hoare - Manonatha dasa

2nd initiation

Cirantana dasa
Krsnasravana dasa
Gopinath dasa
Candramauli dasa
Vahna dasa
Krpacarya dasa
Gomata devi dasi
Vidya devi dasi
Vrajeswari devi dasi
Visvadhika devi dasi
Bhaktiniddhi devi dasi

Marriages

Sudanu dasa - Lajjavati devi dasi
Cirantana dasa - Gomata devi dasi
Purandhar Pandita dasa - Gandhari devi dasi

All Glories to the mercy of Srila Prabhupada!

* * *

KIRTANANANDA MAHARAJ TO ATLANTA

Last Saturday on the 16th Kirtanananda Maharaj left with Balavanta Prabhu and his party for Atlanta temple. Balavanta, who has a private airplane, arrived with his crew the day before to join in our joyous celebration and sacrifice for Govardhana Puja. Maharaj travelled back to Atlanta with them in the aircraft. Report was received that they almost didn't make it, having to land at a number of places trying to purchase fuel, but by Krsna's mercy finally found proper refueling facilities. After a short stay at Atlanta Kirtanananda Swami is travelling to New York on G.B.C. business. He is expected back on Monday.

MADHUBAN DIARY

In accordance with the instructions of the Supreme Personality of Godhead Lord Sri Krsna the residents of Madhuban arranged for the worship of Govardhana Hill. They prepared a nice play illustrating the pastime of Krsna lifting Govardhana Hill and planned to pilgrimage to Bahulaban temple to offer their presentation to Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Vrndavana Candra, His Holiness Kirtanananda Maharaj and all the assembled devotees.

The day was bitterly cold. Lord Indra had already become angry, he wanted the residents of Vrindaban to worship him not that talkative Boy.

Nevertheless being faithful and determined the Madhubaners dressed nicely, decorated with kumkum and many deity remnants and assembled themselves in the back of the old red pick-up truck.

Lord Indra became still more angry and he vented his anger upon the inhabitants of Madhuban, who were headed by Bhagavatananda das.

The severe cold had frozen some of the mechanisms of their vehicle--but Bhakta Bill had been by earlier to give it a push and get it started. Now the motor was warm and all the devotees, children and babies had collected in the back. Despite the bitter cold and biting wind the residents of Madhuban thought that the back of the pick-up rather resembled a bull-driven cart--and they meditated on the gopis and cowherd men riding to worship Govardhana Hill.

Bhagavatananda das released the brake and pushed the throttle--the truck lurched forward, choked and sputtered to a stop and refused to restart. Without hesitation Krpacarya das, Mother Ellie and Mother Dharmakala began to push the truck. "Govardhana Puja or bust!"

After several unsuccessful attempts and having pushed the truck quite a distance down the road, the Madhubaners sat patiently and waited. Krpacarya das went back to find help and the rest of the devotees began to pray thusly: "My dear Krsna, we are completely dependent on Your mercy--the children are cold and crying but we must worship Govardhana Hill. Dear Krsna, You are all-powerful and You are very affectionate to Your devotees. Now please protect us who have been much harassed by angry Indra."

Just then Sriman Daivata das came down the road in his little samkirtan car. He and Krpacarya tied a rope from the back of the little car to the front of the red pick-up. Then Daivata drove his car to Bahulaban--and the red pick-up, full of devotees, followed behind. They were simply astonished to see how Krsna was holding the trucks together with one small rope.

Upon arrival at Bahulaban they all became englanded. With bright pink cheeks and stiff cold hands they carried their paraphernalia and children into the temple. The worship of Govardhana Hill was very successful--Radha Vrndavana Candra wore a new outfit, the most beautiful one yet, the devotees were very much absorbed in the thoughts of this wonderful pastime and they remained one week without hunger or thirst--due to the vast amounts of prasadam distributed there.

"After this incident the Supreme Personality of Godhead, surrounded by His dear friends and animals, returned to His home. As usual, the gopis began to chant the glorious pastimes of Lord Krsna with great feeling, for they were chanting from the heart."

-- Mother Kunti

* * *

COWS

"The transcendental abode of Lord Krsna is the land of touchstones, of which the houses are built, shaded by desire trees. The Lord is engaged there in herding the surabhi cows, and is always served and surrounded by thousands of Goddesses of Fortune, who wait upon Him with all respect."

— Brahma Samhita

Last week three more souls were saved from the onslaught of the Age of Kali as Kirtanananda Maharaj picked out three of the best jersey cows at a recent sale. Thus they were eternally benedicted. At the sale, after purchasing our cows, Maharaj said to one of them while I was milking her, "Now you can learn to chant Hare Krsna instead of slaughterhouse, slaughterhouse, slaughterhouse." #9 is Pankaja (means Lotus) and #61 is Gopi Priya. They are both milking right now while #13 is Vrajabhumi, who is now at Nandagram and expecting to calve on Feb. 2. They all are good quality jersey cows with higher milking predictions than any of our present milking jerseys. The barn is packed tight again. Just this week Draupadi, Dvapara, Syama, Vrajabhumi, Purusottama, Bala and Dayal all were taken to Nandagram in one shot in the Redi-Haul. It was really muddy and slippery that day, so much help was needed from Kasyapa and the tractor but all arrived there safely.

Mother Mallika was scheduled to go to Nandagram also this week but she didn't make it. She was here from Vrindaban since Sunday. On Tuesday about 1:00 pm she had a miscarriage. Out came a 7 month old bull, fully formed but having no hair. He was stillborn. The closest reason found for this miscarriage may be that she was pushed around by the other cows after arriving and became too much upset. Mallika is like that. She is gentle herself and very easily upset and excited so that could have been enough anxiety for her to abort.

Four cows were bred this week of Govardhana Puja: Satyabhama, GopiPriya, Cintamani and Treta. Satyabhama bred by Es. Jester Ray, Gopi Priya by Sugar Boy and Cintamani by Sanatan for the 2nd time. Treta was bred by Rupa. Mother Surabhi is due this week on

Friday, which is also Gopastami the 2nd big day of the year of Go-Puja.

Arrangements are now being started to provide for increased and more improved maintenance and comfort of our cows. The pavilion between the barns will be set up as a loafing area, where the cows can also eat whenever they desire. Keeping cows there and in the barn, letting them rotate inside to outside, will increase the number of cows we can maintain.

Kirtanananda Maharaj is negotiating now for a herd of 13 Brown Swiss cows in Wisconsin. Kali Yuga is forcing the establishment out of business so we can get the herd for reduced prices. There are two cows in the herd that have 7.2% and 6% butterfat!

There is a new revised list of calving dates for the cows this week. On the list all the cows have been pronounced in calf for sure except from Kalindi on down, and even these ones have not returned in heat so by Krsna's grace there are 27 new calves in store. Milk production:

Iravati	271.9 pounds
Pritha	264.6
Cintamani	250.7
Parvati	242.8
Satyabhama	241.6
Rati	237.5
Bhadra	196.8
Rohini	195.1
Basya	161.9
GopiPriya	145.8
Laxsmi	145.6
Dvaraka	134.7
Rukmini	125.3
Goloka	124.8
Ambika	123.8
Kaliya	115.1
Sati	112.4
Yasoda	110.6
Pankaja	97.7
Bhumi	88.5
Rocana	80.1
Rabbri	70.3
TOTAL	3,781.2 pounds

Nov. 9 - 509.3 Nov.12 - 576.0 Nov.15-538.6
 Nov.10 - 519.0 Nov.13 - 535.9
 Nov.11 - 565.2 Nov.14 - 537.2 (Cont. p.13)

NEW VRINDABAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Minutes for 11/17/74

Attendance: Kuladri dasa, Bhagavatananda dasa, Amburish dasa, Gajendra dasa, Parambrahma dasa, Kasyapa dasa, . Absent: Kirtanananda Swami, Adi Pati dasa, Urdhareta dasa, Daivata dasa, Madhava Gosha dasa.

DEPARTMENTS: Kasyapa dasa

- Lime is being spread on the pastures of Govindaji Hill.
- Equipment has been greased with oil and put away.
- Raghunath dasa is binding corn.
- The animals at Shaffer's were collected and the horses have been shod.
- All the grains that have been planted are up and growing.

Bhagavatananda dasa

- Marble shop building: Roof completed & tarred, 1 section of floor poured with concrete, the plumbing was installed, and doors are now being installed.
- Sudanu dasa is insulating at the new barn, esp. the brahmacarini asrama.
- Premarupa dasa is putting in plumbing at the new building.
- Madhuban: Mother Manakumari went on TSK and Mother Kutila is to move to Madhuban to do full pujari work.

Gajendra dasa

- The boiler and pipes at the new barn have been insulated. The Boiler grates are posing a problem with breakage but should not be too hard to fix; Romharsan dasa is in charge of firing the new barn boiler.
- Doors will be put on individuals' rooms at new barn this week.
- The flatbed truck starter was overhauled.

Amburish dasa

- Four cows were bred this week and Mallika had a miscarriage.
- The Harvestore silage level dropped 8 feet.

Tapopunja dasa

- A new system has been started for rat-proofing in the bhoga room; plans and preparations are being made on the new bhoga room beneath the pujari room at Bahulaban temple.

Meeting adjourned.

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cow	due date	bull used			Kaliya	6-8-75	Prajapati
Surabhi	11-22-74	Sugar Boy			Sukla	6-14-75	Sanatan
Sita	12-14-74	Senator			Bhumi	6-23-75	Rupa
Isani	no information given				Kalindi	7-12-75	Rupa
Sati	1-16-75	Sugar Boy			Yasoda	7-24-75	Sanatan
Ambika	3-7-75	Sugar Boy			Gandhari	7-14-75	Rupa
Vrajabhumi	2-2-75	?			Rathadasi	7-17-75	Rupa
Kamadhuk	2-3-75	Prajapati			Goloka	7-20-75	Prajapati
Kukmini	4-26-75	Red Brae Monarch			Devahuti	7-22-75	Mehru
Laxsmi	5-2-75	?			Bela	7-24-75	Sanatan
Draupadi	4-25-75	Supreme Virg.			Pritha	7-27-75	Sanatan
Parvati	4-27-75	Criss Tony			Sachi	7-28-75	Meredith Harr
Dvapara	5-1-75	Pompey Parson			Dudya	8-3-75	Sanatan
Dvarakadhama	5-15-75	Sugar Boy					
Sarasvati	5-27-75	Ivanhoe Leaper					Amburish dasa
Pankaja	5-29-75	?					