

ALL GLORY TO SRI GURU AND SRI GAURANGA



**-His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
Founder Acharya: International Society for Krishna Consciousness**

“Although the sun is described as bhagavān, the most powerful, and although it is actually the most powerful planet within the universe, it nevertheless has to carry out the order of Govinda, Krishna. The sun-god cannot deviate even an inch from the orbit designated to him. Therefore in every sphere of life, the supreme order of the Supreme Personality of Godhead is carried out. The entire material nature carries out His orders. However, we foolishly see the activities of material nature without understanding the supreme order and Supreme Person behind them.” (SB 5.1.3, Purport)

THE ASTROLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

**Mithuna Twins Astrological Services
“Home of the Bhrigu Project”**

In this issue: Vedic Concept of the New Year

Chant this mantra:

**Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare**

...and your life will be sublime

4 Jan. 2012 (#26) Paush shukla ekadashi, 525 Gaurabda Era. Putrada Ekadashi of the Gaudiya month of Narayana

(http://nitaaveda.com/Other_Scriptures_by_Acharyas/Ekadashi_Glories/Ekadashi_Vratas_Part_One/Putrada.htm)

The Astrological Newsletter (Please e-share it with your friends).

Patita Pavana das Adhikary, Ed.

Abhaya Mudra Dasi

Jyotish Shastris, &c.

Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria

Visit us at: www.vedicastrologers.org

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Dear Prabhus,

Dandavats to the Vaishnavas. Welcome to the issue.

ARE YOU A SINGLE DEVOTEE WHO WISHES TO MARRY IN KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS? Srila Prabhupada recommends astrological marriage, but more importantly, His Divine Grace stressed that only devotees should marry one another. Therefore, the first order of business is to be a devotee, then marry astrologically. If you are a devotee who follows the four regulative principles, chants 16 rounds daily of the *mahamantra*, you accept the teachings of His Divine Grace AC Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada and you would like to enter into the *grihasta ashram*, then you are welcome write to us. Especially here in Europe there are many single devotees who wish to marry. We will only recommend those whose charts are astrologically compatible so as to insure a bright future together in the service of the Supreme Lord. As a service we will arrange introductions of qualified candidates. We are **100%** confidential. Enjoy the issue.

Always wishing you the very best,

Patita Pavana das Adhikary, Ed.

Though once the origins of Christmas and New Year were lost to the mists of time, Smt. Abhaya Mudra Dasi uncovers their Vedic, astronomical origins.

Vedic Concept of the New Year

Abhaya Mudra Dasi

“Now these Christmas holidays you have begun in your country. Throughout the whole month of December you'll observe nice festivals, festivities. Why? Where it began? God consciousness. Lord Christ he came to give you God consciousness, and in his relationship these festivities are going on. It may be degraded in another form. The beginning is God consciousness, but we have lost it. So people cannot be happy without reviving God consciousness. It may be named in a different way—“Krishna consciousness.” -Lecture by Srila Prabhupada, SB 2.2.5 - Los Angeles, December 2, 1968

In Vedic India, the New Year is celebrated on two occasions, on the solar and lunar new years. It is significant that both of these New Years are celebrated in the spring season or *vasant ritu*. The solar month begins when the Sun enters the first sign of the zodiac or Aries the Ram (which begins in 2012 on 13 April). The lunar year begins with the first day of Chaitra-*masa* and corresponds to the Gaudiya lunar month of Vishnu. (In 2012 the first day of Chaitra or Vishnu begins on 9 March). Vedic India has a system of six seasons of two months each, and Chaitra is also the first month of Vasant-*ritu* or springtime.



It is quite natural that cyclic new beginnings should be recognized when fresh green leaves appear and flowers are starting to bloom. Here in Bulgaria to welcome the earth's rebirth in spring, the people tie *martenitsas* (from “Mart” which means “March”) on each others' wrists. *Martenitsas* are woven white and red threads symbolizing *ida* and *pingala* (the two *pranas* in the body which are male and female in nature.) These two threads are woven into each other and symbolize the rise of the *kundalini* or the life-giving force. This thread in Bulgaria often has a male or female figure attached on both ends called Pizho (*pingala*) and Penda (*ida*).



Today all over the world, a time that should be reserved for the rebirth of life is celebrated in the dead of winter on one of the years' bleakest days, the 1st of January. This is an example of a worldwide misconception

of the importance of the meaning of earthly renewal. How did this mistaken belief come to pass? To find out we must look to another ancient Vedic tradition, that of Makara Sankranti.

Makara Sankranti (which occurs in 2012 on 15th January) is the day when the demi-god of the Sun, Lord Surya Narayana, turns and embarks upon his northern course. This day is very important because without this change of the sidereal ecliptic the lushness of spring will not be possible. On this day the Sun enters into his northern route as gradually the days grow longer in the Earth's northern hemisphere.



Although Makara Sankranti falls on 15th of January for most of the world this year, it was not the case some 400 years ago when Makara *sankranti* occurred on the 6th of January. The stars are moving ahead of our clock every year by 50". Every year our clock should be adjusted to the Universal clock in order to

keep up with time. Unfortunately, the West has not kept track of this *ayanamsha* and there is an increasing gap between tropical (Western) and sidereal (*jyotish*) calculations. The difference or *ayanamsha* correction between tropical and sidereal measurements of planetary positions is now nearly 24 degrees making for a great difference in dates.

According to Western astrology the change of planetary positions occurs 24 days later than it actually happens in the heavens. Many people have been turned away from astrology for this simple reason: western astrology reads an unlikely position of stars while Vedic astronomy or *gola shastra* reads them as they are observed in the heavens. Modern astrology does not keep track with astronomy and for this reason it has been excluded from the pantheon of sciences. Over time with the decline of the once-universally popular science of astrology in the Western world, the symbols and significant dates have been quietly absorbed and re-adapted by the Christian church and others. Christianity's popularity gained momentum about 500 years after the crucifixion of Lord Jesus Christ. Around the year 500 AD Makara Sankranti occurred on December 25th. This is not a mere coincidence but a historic fact.

In 380, the Roman Emperor Flavius Theodosius accepted Christianity as an official religion. In 410 Rome collapsed while leaving the Eastern Roman Empire to continue its legacy. There were many tribes who came under the rule of the Roman Empire bringing with them their various forms of demi-god worship. Rome had



been much influenced by the system of worship in Greece and adopted their demi-gods by only slightly changing the names. But the name of the demi-god of the Sun, Apollo was not changed. Not only were the ancient residents of Bharatvarsha devoted to Lord Surya-Narayana, but the Greeks, Romans, Thracians, Germans, Slavs, Arabs, Egyptians and many others had cults devoted to the solar deity. When Christianity was accepted by way of compromise, many of the current celebrations and traditions were incorporated into the new religion with royal support. The leaders of the Christian church simply compromised the Biblical teachings by tailoring the shape of old traditions to fit the concepts of the new religion of the cross. Thus the very important day of Makara *sankranti* was kept as a day for celebration but was artificially given a new meaning as the birthday of Christ. Gradually the day of Makara *sankranti* was celebrated on this fixed day of 25th December as its astronomical significance was forgotten. The modern conception of the European connection to the winter solstice, which was called the yuletide season, is well known including how it has been absorbed into Christianity <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yule>.

Let us examine that Christian symbol of generosity, the mythological Santa Claus, who is said to live on the North Pole. The concept of North is another significant pointer to the worship of the Sun god Vivasvan and his change of course to the northern route on the day of Makara Sankranti. It is an ancient tradition that Makara *sankranti* is a favorable day for *dana*, distribution of gifts and charity. Therefore Santa comes down from the North Pole to distribute gifts.

As we all know, today there is practically no *sampradaya* or disciplic succession anywhere in the world. Society has based its traditions on the

blind following of meaningless customs most of which eventually are turned into superstitions because no clue remains as to their origins. Christmas is one such example of a superstitious belief whose origins lie in some supernatural causality. To be understood, the origin of Christmas, as well as the festivals associated with its saints, the teachings of Jesus Christ and all other aspects of the religion should be seen through the eyeglass of Krishna consciousness. Thus Christmas is not entirely a Christian celebration. We have seen that in fact the day is not even the birthday of Jesus Christ but is rather a complex concoction of cultural views.

In the predominantly Christian world of the West, Christmas and the New Year celebrations are officially pushed as the most important days for the entire world. Of course the basis of this is sheer consumerism and has really nothing to do with the sacred memory of the Son of God, *shaktyavesh avatara* Lord Jesus Christ. Christmas and the New Year day are basically part of the same yuletide festival as indicated by old sayings like “Christmas season” or “twelve days of Christmas.” How can a birth have a season or last twelve days? New Year’s Day simply fits better the modern calendar and allows for a longer holiday. And for the big corporations and chain stores Christmas means profits, up to 30% for the entire year.

But getting back to the situation of the Sun god, over time his name was changed from Ra in Egypt to Apollo and then incorporated into the legend of Saint Nicholas or later Santa Claus. It was the Cola Cola company that really took the image of the old man to extremes and made him into a commercial star.

Red is associated with the color of the Sun in astrology. Santa is depicted as an old man who wears red clothes. Sri Krishna is actually the oldest of all living entities. Thus the concept of an old man dressed in red is a reflection of the demi-god of the Sun, who was mistakenly considered as the Supreme Lord in ancient demi-god worshipping societies. In fact, the Sun in his obedience to Lord Krishna is a representation of the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna in the material world and hence he is sometimes called Lord Surya-Narayana.

When Coca Cola adopted red as the color of their trademark logo, it was a sign of the approaching rule of the giant corporation. This modern demon-crazy society exploits everything, not only the Sun god but



mother Earth, the Moon as giver of different tastes and electricity as power coming from Mars. Ultimately, the modern materialistic society seeks even to exploit God Who provides so generously for His parts and parcels.

As far as gift giving on Christmas is concerned, offering presents is a natural emotion found in each of us as infinitesimal expansions of the all-giving Lord. But the actual day meant for giving is Makara *sankranti*. Even the Sun god gives more of himself on that day. On that day two Suns can be observed in the sky. According to Vedic principles it is auspicious to present gifts on auspicious occasions, especially to the worthy members of the family and society.

The importance of the Sun in ancient times of worship was not exaggerated. The Sun predominates over the facility of sight and he creates space and time in the Universe. He is the direct manifestation of Lord Narayana in the material world. During the presence of Lord Sri Krishna on Earth about 5000 years ago even Srimati Radharani worshiped the Sun god. This worship was favored by all of the inhabitants of Vrindavana. Sri Krishna did not stop this practice as he did with the worship of Indra, the king of heaven. The reason was that the worship of the Sun god was facilitating many of His intimate pastimes. Srimati Radharani used the excuse of making *puja* to the Sun god for arranging private meetings with Sri Krishna and pilgrims still visit her place of *puja* called Surya Kund.

The demi-god of the Sun planet Lord Vivasvan should be remembered on Makara *sankranti* celebrations. Gifts which would have been given at Christmas should be offered at that time because proper charity performed at the correct moment is fruitful and is never wasted. Even Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu accepted *sannyasa* on this day of Makara *sankranti* signifying a major step towards a new age, the Golden Age of Kali Yuga. •

written 23 Dec. 2011



Celebrated WWII hero General George Smith Patton was known for being tough, outspoken and opinionated. He was also a jati-smara, one who clearly remembered his past lives.

The Past Lives of Gen. George S. Patton

DOB 11 Nov 1885, 6:38 pm, San Marino, CA

Patita Pavana das Adhikary, Ed.

“I wonder if I could have been here before as I drive up the Roman road. The theater seems familiar—perhaps I headed a legion up that same white road... I passed a chateau in ruins which I possibly helped escalate in the middle ages. There is no proof nor yet any denial. We were, we are, and we will be.”

(Letter to his mom from Chamliou, France during World War I, revealing some of the then-32-year-old Patton’s realizations about reincarnation. -20 November 1917)

“Captain George S. Patton had never before visited Langres, a small town in northeastern France. But in December 1917, having just arrived to operate a tank school, the American newcomer declined the offer of a local liaison officer to show him around the town, once the site of a Roman military camp. ‘You don't have to,’ Patton told the surprised young man, “I know it well.” A staunch believer in reincarnation, Patton felt sure that he had been to France before – as a Roman legionnaire. As he led the way through the area, he pointed out the sites of the ancient Roman temples and amphitheater, the drill ground, and the forum, even

showing a spot where Julius Caesar had made his camp. It was, Patton later told his nephew, ‘As if someone were at my ear whispering the directions...’” (from: *The Many Incarnations of George S. Patton*--courtesy <http://www.reversespins.com/patton.html>)

Remember that before Prabhupada brought *Bhagavad Gita As It Is* to the West, reincarnation was broadly dismissed. General Patton, who fought in both World War I & II, described his remarkable recollections of past lives in a poem entitled “Through A Glass, Darkly.” The title, taken from a Biblical passage, alludes to gazing into an allegorical looking glass of time and recalling the dim and cloudy reflections of past experiences:

*“When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see **through a glass, darkly**; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. 13 And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” **The Bible, 1 Corinthians 11-13***

Through A Glass, Darkly

General George Smith Patton, Jr.
(Editor’s comments appear on the right)

Through the travail of the ages, For a soldier life is dull without the joy of battle.
Midst the pomp and toil of war, He was the 20th century’s most pompous high ranking officer.
I have fought and strove and perished, Now describes memories of battles and dying in them.
Countless times upon this star. A reference to astrology, or his born destiny to fight.

In the form of many people, Many different births of the eternal soul.
In all panoplies of time, Panoply: a pun comparing the dress of battle to an officer in full dress.
Have I seen the luring vision, A realization of reincarnation that calls to him.
Of the Victory Maid, sublime. Refers to the Goddess of Fortune, who inspires victory.

I have battled for fresh mammoth, Hannibal used elephants (mammoths?) for invading Italy.
I have warred for pastures new, Pastures refers to taking away kingdoms of other rulers.
I have listened to the whispers Patton “heard” encouraging voices of his warrior ancestors.
When the race trek instinct grew. An inner instinct to compete (he also competed in Olympics).

I have known the call to battle, He will show that the body changes, the soul does not...
In each changeless, changing shape, and the means of warfare changes, but the purpose is one.
From the high-souled voice of conscience, Fighting for noble reasons, or...
To the beastly lust for rape. He admits his guilt for waging war for pillage.

I have sinned and I have suffered, A reference to karmic suffering as a reaction to warfare.
Played the hero and the knave; Knave: a dishonest rascal.
Fought for belly, shame, or country, For either directly personal reasons or nationalism.
And for each have found a grave. But the result was the same, dying for sense gratification.

I cannot name my battles Fought in so many battles that many are forgotten.
For the visions are not clear, Remembers some, cannot recall others.
Yet, I see the twisted faces, Recalls the agonized expressions of the wounded.
And I feel the rending spear. Recalls his fatal wounds.

Perhaps I stabbed our Savior, Though he is now a Christian, he may have once been like Judas.
In His sacred helpless side. ...And regrets his sins for which he suffers now.
Yet, I've called His name in blessing, He remembered Jesus at the times of death.
When after times I died. In the next verse he refers to himself as a heathen in pre-Christian births.

In the dimness of the shadows "Through a glass, darkly"
Where we hairy heathens warred, As a heathen he was earlier a demi-god worshipper.
I can taste in thought the lifeblood; Memory of war so vivid he can taste it.
We used teeth before the sword. Entering battle with clenched teeth.

While in later clearer vision, When psychic vision manifests.
I can sense the coppery sweat, The perspiration of sun tanned warriors.
Feel the pikes grow wet and slippery, Javelins slippery with sweat.
When our Phalanx, Cyrus met. Refers to fighting King Cyrus II (Kurus) of Persia.

Hear the rattle of the harness, Horse-mounted warriors.
Where the Persian darts bounced clear, Here he is a Greek soldier fighting the Persians.
See their chariots wheel in panic Repelling the Persians.
From the Hoplite's leveled spear. Hoplites are Greek spear-carriers, foot soldiers.

See the goal grow monthly longer, He was conquering new fields every month moving East.
Reaching for the walls of Tyre. The walled city of Tyrius, Phoenicia (modern Tyre, Lebanon).
Hear the crash of tons of granite, As the walls came tumbling down.
Smell the quenchless eastern fire. Phoenicia lies east of Greece, (the city set aflame?)

Still more clearly as a Roman, From a Grecian soldier, he is reborn as a Roman.
Can I see the Legion close, "Close": closing in on the enemy.
As our third rank moved in forward, Refers to the *vyuha* or battle formation
And the short sword found our foes. Short sword: man to man combat.

Once again I feel the anguish Memories of a lost battle...
Of that blistering treeless plain In the desert of what is now Iran, (Greek-Persian conflict)
When the Parthian showered death bolts, Probably in the Seleucid-Parthian Wars.
And our discipline was in vain. When the Seleucids, followers of Alexander, were expelled.

I remember all the suffering, Recalls several serious...
Of those arrows in my neck. Fatal wounds to the neck.
Yet, I stabbed a grinning savage, The enemy was grinning in victory, though short-lived.
As I died upon my back. Wounds were fatal, but he took the grinning enemy with him.

Once again I smell the heat sparks, Heat of battle, sparks of metal against metal.
When my Flemish plate gave way, Fighting on the side of the French in French Flanders.
And the lance ripped through my entrails, The English longbow rendered armor ineffective.
As on Crecy's field I lay. The Battle of Cressy (Crecy in France) of the Hundred Year's War.

In the windless, blinding stillness, Blinding: Sun upon still water. This and the next two...
Of the glittering tropic sea; Describe his memories as a naval officer.
I can see the bubbles rising, Bubbles rising: refers to throwing bound captives overboard...
Where we set the captives free. To see them drown ("set free" is sailor's sarcasm).

Midst the spume of half a tempest, Spume: "sea foam." This section refers to a naval battle.
I have heard the bulwarks go, Bulwarks here refer to fortified walls on a battleship.
When the crashing, point blank round shot, "Round shot": round cannon balls hitting the ship.
Sent destruction to our foe. He won the battle at sea.

I have fought with gun and cutlass, Cutlass, 16th century short sword used by sailors.
On the red and slippery deck. The deck of the ship is red and slippery from blood.
With all Hell aflame within me, The internal fire of the warrior.
And a rope around my neck. Refers literally or figuratively to the rope of Yama?

And still later as a General, Fighting for France, alongside...
Have I galloped with Murat, Marshal of France Joachim-Napoléon Murat (1767-1815).
When we laughed at death and numbers, Confident of surviving all odds, even if outnumbered.
Trusting in the Emperor's Star. Trust in the horoscope (destiny) of the ruler to bring victory.

Till at last our star faded, Luck ran out.
And we shouted to our doom Soldiers yelling in the din of battle and defeat.
Where the sunken road of Ohein Ohain: Belgium town, battle site during the Napoleonic Wars.
Closed us in it's quivering gloom. Patton as a French General lost to the Duke of Wellington.

So but now with Tanks a'clatter Tanks were used extensively in WW2. "A'clatter refers to...
Have I waddled on the foe The rattling sound of the tracks of the tanks which were capable of...
Belching death at twenty paces, Engaging the Germans at close range ("twenty paces").
By the star shell's ghastly glow. Compares the explosions of artillery shells to "ghastly stars."

So as through a glass, and darkly The warrior-poet reveals the reason for the poem's title.
The age long strife I see, He is seeing through a dim looking glass of time.
Where I fought in many guises, Many different births, "Guises": We are not this body.
Many names, but always me. But always the same eternally distinct spiritual particle.

And I see not in my blindness, He claims to be detached from or “blind” to, the fruits...
What the objects were I wrought, Of victory. Claims to fight for the will of God.
But as God rules o'er our bickerings, The idea is good, but practically speaking none of the...
It was through His will I fought. Wars described were *dharma-yuddhas* by any stretch.

So forever in the future, Apparently he feels he is too drawn by his love of battle...
Shall I battle as of yore, To become liberated.
Dying to be born a fighter, He sees himself as an eternal soldier meant for killing ...
But to die again, once more. And dying. He needs to discover *Bhagavad Gita As It Is*.

* * *

Books written about Patton can fill a library shelf. In the introduction to this article, there is a quote from one such book about his recollections when in 1917 in France he recalled being there with Julius Caesar. Such incidents of past life recollections are replayed in the movie *Patton* <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0066206/>, the 7-Oscar winning blockbuster written by acclaimed Director Francis Ford Coppola. The film is excellent and it is more or less faithful to the life of the General, hence I am recommending it for its historical accuracy. Knowing Patton's understanding of reincarnation can a good segue for preachers of *Bhagavad Gita As It Is* to broach the subject of rebirth of the eternal spirit soul when approaching skeptics.

Here is how the film presented Patton's recollections of a past life as a general in the army of Napoleon:

The Past Life of Patton as a General in Napoleon's Army

From the film *Patton*: After Patton finishes speaking to an aide in French, the scene shifts to an elegant dinner. Patton is surrounded by senior British officers. A few American officers are at the far end of the table. The British officer to his left compliments Patton on the cuisine. Patton's culture and knowledge of history is apparent. The ambience is set for an unusual revelation. Patton turns to Sir Harold on his right, the highest ranking British officer there and says:



Patton: “I think it was Alcibiades in the Peloponnesian War, ah-h, 415 B.C., he said, ‘if Siracusa falls, all Sicily falls, and then Italy.’ He knew,

you see, that Syracuse was the jugular of the island, and old Alcibiades always went for the throat. I propose to take Sicily in the same way..."

SCENE: Patton gives a short explanation of the plan using a map. The British are impressed. Patton raises his glass in a toast and says:

Patton: "To the conquest of Sicily."

Sir Harold: "You know George, you'd have made a great Marshal for Napoleon, if you had lived in the 18th century."

Patton: "But I did, Sir Harold, I did."

Everyone laughs, no one harder than Sir Harold and Patton. The toast is finished and the scene ends.

End of Scene

The Past Life of Patton as a Carthaginian General

The Editor of reversespins.com makes a good case for Patton being the rebirth of Hannibal (and other famous generals in history). The following scene is taken from the film *Patton*:

SCENE: Four-star General Patton and Five-star General Omar Bradley are traveling in an open Jeep down a dusty North Africa road with their driver.

General George S. Patton: Hold it! Turn right here.

Driver: But sir, the battlefield is straight ahead.

Patton: Please don't argue with me Sergeant. I can smell a battlefield.

General Omar Bradley: He was out here just yesterday George.

Patton: (points with his riding crop) It's over there, turn right, damn it!

SCENE: The jeep veers to the right into the desert, passing some turbaned North Africans on donkeys. It comes to a halt near some Romanesque ruins. Patton exits the vehicle, followed by General Bradley. A haunting echo of horns plays in the background as if stirring a memory of some ancient charge of a long forgotten battle.

Patton: It was here. The battlefield was here. The Carthaginians defending the city were attacked by three Roman Legions. Carthaginians

were proud and brave but they couldn't hold. They were massacred. Arab women stripped them of their tunics and their swords and lances. The soldiers lay naked in the sun, two thousand years ago; and I was here.

SCENE: Patton, on one knee as if in prayer, pauses. Ruminating, he smiles knowingly and turns to a bemused Bradley and says:

Patton: You don't believe me, do you Brad? You know what the poet said,

“Through the travail of ages,
midst the pomp and toils of war,
have I fought and strove and perished,
countless times among the stars.
As if through a glass and darkly,
the age old strife I see,
when I fought in many guises and many names,
but always me.”

Patton: Do you know who the poet was?

Bradley [Smiles slightly and shakes his head. No.]

Patton: Me.

End of Scene



As a footnote, General Patton was too much of a rebel and a maverick to be tolerated even by the grand machine that he fought for. After World War Two the emergence of Superpower domination would now overtake the world. His death in a slow moving vehicle crash just at the close of the war was mysterious, and is filled with speculation. Many felt he was assassinated and today new information reveals that there is much plausibility to this theory as discussed in an Alex Jones interview with a historical writer here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GkQqMafg3UY>. Or in

the following mainstream media article from the *London Telegraph*: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/3869117/General-George-S.-Patton-was-assassinated-to-silence-his-criticism-of-allied-war-leaders-claims-new-book.html>

If Patton was indeed murdered by the very people he served, then it should be a turning point for this searching soul. We can only pray that such a unique personality will turn away from serving fruitless empire expansionism and will turn to the teachings of *Bhagavad Gita As It Is* in some future birth. He must discover Lord Krishna's order to Arjuna to know what it actually means to fight for the pleasure of the Supreme Lord. After all, what greater war is there than the war on Maya waged by the soldiers of *sankirtan*?

A disciple once asked Srila Prabhupada if the American soldiers who fought in WWII would achieve the destination of noble *kshatriyas*, the Sun planet. No, Srila Prabhupada replied. How was it possible when they were fighting for sense gratification? As we can see from the poetic revelations of Gen. Patton, dying on the battlefield for non-religious reasons only leads to further misery in the repeated cycle of birth and death. • *written 31 Dec. 2011*



[The Supreme Lord spoke:] “Do thou fight for the sake of fighting, without considering happiness or distress, loss or gain, victory or defeat-and, by so doing, you shall never incur sin.” *Bhagavad Gita As It Is* 2.38

Sign of the Times



*sri bhagavan uvacha
bahuni me vyavtitani janmani tava carjuna
tany aham veda sarvani na tvam vettha parantapa*

“The Blessed Lord said: Many, many births both you and I have passed. I can remember all of them, but you cannot, O subduer of the enemy!” (Bg 4.5)

Letters to the Editor

(Edited for brevity)

“Servant of Srila Prabhupada”



Dear Patita Pavana Prabhuji,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada!!! Thank you very much for your encouraging words. I must acknowledge that I would have continued to live like a sinful rascal if I would not have read *Bhagavad Gita As It Is*. If I have become a devotee it is all thanks to the mercy of Srila Prabhupada and Krishna. I have personal experience that people become devotees after reading Srila Prabhupada's books. That's why when I preach I always encourage people to read his books because I know I don't have any potency but his books

have immense potency especially *Bhagavad Gita As It Is*. As far as I am concerned, I never going to stop following Srila Prabhupada and Krishna. Once again, thank you very much for encouragement and showing us the right direction.

Servant of Srila Prabhupada and Krishna,
N P (India)

“Valuable Guidance”

Hare Krishna Patit Pavanaji and Abhaya Mudraji,

Our humble obeisances to you both. Thanks for your kind words. Your valuable guidance in Krishna consciousness has kept us (safe) and Krishna is surely taking care of us by providing senior devotees as umbrellas to protect us. All glories to Sri Guru and Gauranga.

R S (UK)

“Need to Serve the Spiritual Master”

Dear Patita Pavana Prabhu,
Hare Krishna! Please accept my humble obeisances. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada!

The most important essence of spiritual life is to have a spiritual master and to serve him. Yes, we do all accept Srila Prabhupada as a *guru* but from now on how do you suggest me to proceed about having a spiritual master in this life time of mine?

In Krishna's service,
IM (Italy)

We have no doubt that Srila Prabhupada's spiritual potency has manifested in the persons of some very dedicated disciples who will be pleased to serve as qualified links to the great Brahma-Madhva-Gaudiya sampradaya for you. -Ed.

“Have Found a Qualified Spiritual Master”

Dear Prabhus,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada! I can only say this on a personal note, that in order to advance in spiritual life, one still needs to be initiated by a proper Guru to be plugged into the *parampara* in order to go back home, back to Godhead.

I have found such a sincere Guru in ISKCON who is not interested in politics at all (and makes a conscious effort to stay away from it) but is merely interested in the spiritual lives of his disciples and anyone that comes into contact with him and provides a personal example of utter humility by begging for his own subsistence during street Harinams. He immediately donates all of it to the local ISKCON temple where he does his Harinams so that he keeps nothing for himself. He is constantly glorifying the Lord and staying true to Srila Prabhupada's teachings in spreading pure devotional service to the Lord.

I pray that this Guru never gets tainted by ill-minded disciples who could spoil his name and that he will always remain under the protection of Srila Prabhupada and the Guru Parampara so that he can spread pure devotional service un-interrupted. I hope to be initiated by him some day when Krishna sees me fit enough to perform meaningful service to such a Guru.

Best regards, Hare Krishna,
V K (SE Asia)

“Queries”

Dear Prabhu,

Thank you for the chart and the advice. I just read it very quickly but I'll take more time to study it carefully. If I have question about can I ask you questions? I think I'll require a reading for my marriage.

At soon. Hare Krishna

K K (Italy)

Of course, we welcome your questions and look forward to them. -Ed.

“International Yagna”

Hare Krishna Patita Pavana prabhu,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and his mission on Earth. I sometimes reflect that there are now, by the influence of Srila Prabhupada, devotees all over this planet - throughout every twenty four hours, somewhere chanting their *japa*. But taking the planet as a whole, it can be understood as congregational chanting - *sankirtana yajna*, the most empowered type of *yajna* in this otherwise most corrupted age. I have studied a little about the quantum physics and Reiki healing at a distance - if it works though subtle inferior energy, how much more so it must be effective by directed intention of the superior sound vibration Hare Krishna?

If I didn't have to drag this dead body around with me, if I didn't have the burden of having to eat and sleep, I would have liked to go to New Gauda Mandala Bhumi to help fix the "fixer-upper" and help establish the self-sufficiency gardens.

Hari Bol, Hare Krishna,

SD (USA)

You are always welcome and there is no place on Earth like this. -Ed.

**Hare Krishna Hare Krishna
Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama
Rama Rama Hare Hare**