

**ALL GLORY TO SRI GURU AND GAURANGA**

# **THE ASTROLOGICAL NEWSLETTER**

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



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

**Above: Sri Sri Guru Maharaja exits Sri Radha-Damodar Mandir attended by Sriman Gurudas Prabhu. “I eternally reside in my rooms at the Radha-Damodar Temple.” -Srla Prabhupada**

*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*

***In this issue:***

**Understanding Planet Earth  
...through the eyes of shastra**

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

Patita Pavana das Adhikary, Ed.  
Abhaya Mudra Dasi  
Jyotish Shastris, &tc.  
Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria

**23 Dec. 2012 (#33) 526 Gaurabda Era Gita Jayanti and Mokshada Ekadashi.**  
The 11th day of the waxing Moon of the Vaishnava month of Keshava  
(Margashirsha *shukla ekadashi*).

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***Dear Prabhus,***

*Dandavats* to the Vaishnavas and welcome to the issue.

**Star of the Deer's Head** (written 23 Dec.): Sri Krishna tells Arjuna (BG 10.35) that among months He is Margashirsha. The months of the Vedic lunar calendar are named for the *nakshatra* that the Moon conjoins when full (or nearly full). Therefore in this month of **Margarshirsha**, the Moon becomes full in the **Mrigashirsha** (lit. "deer's head") *nakshatra*. It is interesting to note that Srila Prabhupada appeared under this Mrigashirsha *nakshatra* because, at least for us disciples, it gives some clue as to why Sri Krishna exalts this month above all others. Those born under this star are said to enjoy roaming here and there like deer gazing in all directions. And Srila Prabhupada certainly looked in all directions of the whole world just to plant the seeds of Krishna consciousness.

Regarding **Gita Jayanti** which falls on Mokshada Ekadashi of each year, our next issue of **The Astrological Newsletter** will look into dating the Battle of Kurukshetra via astrological clues given in *Mahabharata* itself. There are many theories, but the accurate calculation must consider that Lord Krishna's *Gita* began on this sacred day of Mokshada Ekadashi, insuring that the war would become a stage for the liberation of millions of brave warriors.

**End of the World?** (Written a few days back):  
Today is 21 Dec. 2012 and it is the last day of the world (not!). No rumbling of immanent



disaster has echoed from the distance. Not today anyway.

Actually, no Vaishnava thought for a moment that the media hype surrounding the Mayan calendar had a shred of evidence or validity. Using the powerful media to spread scary scenarios on a worldwide scale are mental games of social control that Kali plays through his minions. But as we devotees all learned from Srila Prabhupada on the very first day we entered his world of Hare Krishna, fear (including fear of death) is one of the propensities of animal life. The world is controlled by fear and that includes the *dwi-pada pasus* or two-legged animals for whom life means simply mating, eating and sleeping, and then fearing. Karmis fear that their so-called enjoyments will be taken away. And, in the final analysis, devotees who are firmly sheltered at the lotus feet of the Supreme Personality of Godhead Sri Krishna are—like the Founder-Acharya himself—*abhaya* or “fearless.”

As far as the world not ending today, there are certain astrological combinations for mass death and destruction that go under the general heading of *sanghataka marana yogas*. These ill-boding *yogas* are not pleasant to see in a horoscope and are less so to interpret. Such combinations are rarely present in the charts of devotees. Technically *sanghataka marana yogas* occur when there are many malefic planets sitting in the 8th house or *mrityustan* (the house of birth and death). This should be a sign ruled by violent Mars or the planets should slip into a Mars-ruled *navamsa* (or be otherwise connected to a distraught Mars). Next the planets in the 8th should be further afflicted in the *varga* or sub-divisional charts. *Sanghataka marana yoga* can also manifest when the house lord of the 8th house aspects or associates with fighting planets (*graha-yudha*) which should include Sun, Saturn and Rahu (who also join in afflicted *amsas*). Fortunately we do not see these ill planetary omens very often—if at all—among our clients who are protected devotees of the Supreme Lord. As a result any mass hysteria about the end of the world on 21 December was long ago dismissed as ill-motivated media hogwash by our entire devotee community.

Our Godbrother Sriman Bahushiras das Adhikary of California tells a story that he heard on his *brahmachari* pilgrimages around Bharat, an event that was written up in Indian newspapers during the 1920's. As he tells it, there was a palmist on a train who, in order to pass his time, examined the hand of the person next to him. What he saw was shocking. His coachmate's lifeline ended right on that very day !

Jumping to his feet, the excited palmist went from passenger to passenger, from palm to palm, all the while noticing the same pattern: All who were riding in that car would die before the sun would rise the next day. As the train neared the next station, the palmist came across a hand of a passenger that boasted a sound and long lifeline. As the train eased to halt at the platform, the palmist grappled with that passenger, forcibly shoving the surprised rider out the door. As the two

unlikely combatants wrestled there on the platform, the train pulled out of the station. Naturally, the indignant passenger was shocked at what had transpired. But his anger subsided soon when word came that a railroad bridge a few miles up the track had been swept away by the river in flood, and all the passengers on the train had perished. And that, dear readers, is an instance of *sanghataka marana yoga*. Karma brings people together for enjoyment, and then brings them together for destruction. Which is why karma whether good or bad is ultimately bad, except for Krishna karma !

We once examined the chart of an Indian businessman in Nagpur who was blessed with a strong Jupiter in his *lagna*. I noted that such a Jupiter is a mark of protection, one that is very commonly seen in devotees' charts. Jupiter rising goes by the name of *bhagya yoga* for "good luck and fortune." This man told me of his recent trip to Switzerland wherein he booked a ride on a helicopter for sightseeing. As his turn to board the chopper came up, the waiting passenger behind him asked if he would be so kind as to take the next ride since this fellow had family on board. "Certainly," he replied, and the man behind him boarded the last empty seat. The Indian gentleman stood there and watched as the helicopter took off, circled and suddenly fell to earth killing everybody on board.

As we know, death is a concomitant factor of material life. But as far as our experience is concerned, devotees of ISKCON are protected right up till the end of this life when, by the grace of the pure devotee who is always with us, they are transported to the eternal kingdom. And in the here and now devotees are mostly given long and full lives for the sake of "spreading the holy life around" and expanding the Hare Krishna Movement of Srila Prabhupada.

**Mother Earth:** This issue of **The Astrological Newsletter** deals not so much with the nine planets that the astrologer reads in each horoscope but with the planet that we live upon, Mother Earth. From understanding this Bhu-loka through the eyes of the *shastras*, it is evident that modern science has hardly scratched her surface, literally. This world is far more vast than the non-devotee, those who have not lent submissive intelligence to the *shastras*, can imagine. Earth science from a shastric perspective is a fascinating study. But it becomes all the more intriguing when we realize that the Earth is but one planet in a bubble-like universe that is compared to a mustard seed in a gigantic bag of mustard seeds. Each world is filled to the brim with countless spirit souls seeking liberation. And we devotees are the few fortunate ones who have come into contact with a pure devotee in this lifetime. If we can remain true to his instructions, each of us can become eligible to cross this great ocean of *jagat* and return back to home back to Godhead in this very lifetime. Thanks for reading, and enjoy the issue.

Always wishing you the very best in Krishna consciousness,

*Patita Pavana das Adhikary, Ed.*

# Our Beloved Earth Mother

**Patita Pavana das Adhikary**

In *Mahabharata*, the learned Sanjaya instructs King Dhritarashtra:

“Having listened to this charming *Bhumi Parva*, O Chief of the Bharatas, a *kshatriya* becomes enriched with prosperity, he obtains the fruit of all his desires and he becomes righteous. The king who while observing sacred vows listens to this description on either the days of *puṇnima* or *amavashya* extends his life span and increases his fame and energy. Such hearing satisfies all his ancestors. And so it is that you have now listened to the merits that flow from this *varsha* of Bharata where we now are!”

For the devotee who follows Bhagavat Jyotish, devotional astrology based upon the standard of *Srimad Bhagavatam*, understanding the science of the stars also means understanding the very Earth planet that sustains us. Which means living within her natural laws. While the movements of Saturn, Mars, Jupiter and the others echo the influences of residual *karma* from our previous lives, it is our Mother Earth who compassionately feeds, washes and cares for each one of us without ever considering our past activities.

Although we are taught in school to believe that this Earth is a lifeless and impersonal lump somehow encircling the Sun by cosmic chance, those atheistic modern concepts of an accidental universe cannot satisfy even the most rudimentary observations regarding natural law. For all their telescopes and satellites, something appears to be sorely amiss with the modern scientists’ concepts of the Earth and the universe we are a part of. It would appear that having factored out intelligent design, modern science has succeeded in factoring out its own intelligence. Mother Earth is the symbol of forbearance, compassion and tolerance. She is therefore like a cow who gives milk even to those savages of any religion who are intent upon slaughtering her. In *Srimad Bhagavatam* 10.1.17-18 we find that the Earth Mother, goddess Bhumi, actually assumed the form of a cow. She approached Lord Brahma who took her to Lord Vishnu Himself. Arousing the Lord’s compassionate nature, she obtained His promise that He would appear in His original Form as Sri Krishna and set the matter aright:

*bhumir dripta-nripa-vyaja-daityanika-shatayutaih  
akranta bhuri-bharena brahmanam sharanam yayau*

*urga bhutvashru-mukhi khinna krandanti karunam vibhoh  
upasthitantike tasmai vyasanam samavocata*

“Once when Mother Earth was overburdened by hundreds of thousands of military phalanxes of various conceited demons dressed like kings, she approached Lord Brahma for relief. Mother Earth assumed the form of a cow. Very much distressed, with tears in her eyes, she appeared before Lord Brahma and told him about her misfortune.”



The *shastras* call this world Bhu-mandala, which obviously means that our Earth, Mother Bhumi, is a *mandala*. *Mandala* means that from a geographical standpoint the Earth planet is a sort of roundish disc. After all, the *shastras* do not refer to the Earth as Bhu-gola, which would mean “spherical or globe-shaped” (as science declares). In fact, the *Puranas* do refer to astronomy, the study of the Universe (the study of this vast Brahmanda or “egg of Lord Brahma”) as *gola-shastra*. Therefore the universe—and not the earth or Bhu-mandala—is described as a *gola* or “globe” because the universe which contains all the planets is itself a round bubble. The *gola* of the universe emerged as a floating bubble from the all-transcendental

body of Lord Garbhodakashayi Vishnu, the worshipful Personality of Godhead. But the *mandala* of the Earth is more like a dish situated midway within this great *gola*. This is the important difference between *gola* and *mandala*.

The extent of this Bhu-mandala upon which we live out our numbered breaths is described in the first chapter of *Srimad Bhagavatam*'s fifth canto. There we learn of the bedazzling activities of King Priyavrata who carved out the seven islands of Bharata-varsha with his wonderful chariot (5.1.39, 5.16.2, etc.) Though the Puranic chronicles might appear fantastic to the modern mind steeped as it is in deluding empiricism of its own manufacture, these accounts have been accepted as they are by each and every previous *acharya*. And for more clarity on the subject of Srila Prabhupada's explanation of the true state of the universe, see this: <http://prabhupadabooks.com/?g=163511>.

It is evident that modern science's concept of the Earth planet as a round ball does not answer some very basic questions. For example, if the Earth is a *gola* or globe, then how is it that the waters of the great oceans and lakes adhere to the surface without running off? Right, the spinning of the earth. Spin a wet ball on the table in front of you and see if the water magically sticks to its surface. In

fact, the *shastras* do declare that the bottom half of the universal bubble is filled with water.

Our experience of the laws of Mother Nature shows that her stringent forces apply equally whether unto that which is great or unto that which is minute. For example, the fact that a child's ball cannot support a body of water upon it should also apply to a larger ball-shaped earth. For all those dwelling here within *martya-loka*, the world of death and rebirth, the governance of Nature equally applies to insects and to *devatas*. Even from our limited experience, the overriding edicts that control all sentient beings do not become suspended simply because of relative greatness. The laws of the world apply to King Indra as well as to the germ called *indra-gopa*. We are all subjects of Durga's Citadel and are bound to follow her laws.

Again, if the earth is a grand ball spinning in space like a child's top then how could there be oceans sloshing on all side of this presumed *gola*? Water adopts the shape of the vessel that contains it. Does it not make sense that since a dish holds water therefore the oceans must be contained like the water in a large dish? For this reason pre-Copernicus concepts (which incidentally are linked to the original Vedic tradition of a flat earth) are much more satisfying to common sense. The explanations of modern science, which try to convince us that a force they cannot see, touch or explain (but have named "gravity") magically keeps the oceans glued to the ball-shaped planet do not hold water. Some scientists may be surprised to learn that they are not gods who can manufacture laws of nature at their whim. Natural laws cannot be produced in laboratory test tubes or in the imaginations of the conceited. The scientists and not us devotees are suffering from an acutely poor fund of knowledge because their science is more fiction than fact. We have yet to meet the scientist who can introduce us to a Mrs. Monkey who has given birth to a human, though today's Darwinists believe apes morphed into men just before the Bible was written down. Demonic science which has advanced itself for the purpose of barbaric killings via drone attacks or for plundering the earth of its natural resources (and thereby rendering it almost unliveable like the oil fields of Baku) can therefore be considered neither believable nor trustworthy.

Consider for example that the computer you are using now, whether it is American, European or Japanese, was probably manufactured in China. Have a look at the back side of the age of information here <http://www.vice.com/toxic/toxic-linfen-china>. (and think what it is like to live in the most polluted city on earth to satisfy the



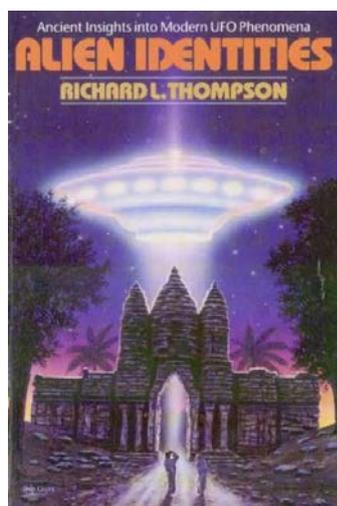
other half of the world's needs for temporary technological development). Through abject ignorance of the laws of Nature that science seeks to conquer, modern erudition has applied its crooked intelligence towards warfare, abortion, animal slaughter, sexual exploitation, banal movies, childish video games and mindless sports for the overall dumbing down of the population and creating a world of conformist slaves. Modern science, like the governments that support it, has become merely a system of victimizing its believers.

As a result of so-called science; the air, food, water and soil of Mother Bhumi have become polluted to levels that soon will no longer sustain us Earthlings. For the enlightened devotee, it is a safer bet to accept the dictums of Vedic culture even if that means we must expand our horizons a little bit. The people of the world need to have a fresh look at our situation in relationship to God and our Earth Mother through the eyes of the scriptures. In essence, this means living gratefully on her soil according to the codes of *dharmā—sanatan dharmā*—and by the performance of *yagna*, which in Kali Yuga means *sankirtan yagna*.

Modern speculations of the world's creation (like their atheistic Big Bang Theory) can never explain how one tiny fruit seed contains the potency to feed everyone in the universe—and that too many times over. Although science can only bluff with the most muddled responses to such pesky questions, it is a fact that one apple seed creates a tree from which innumerable seeds are generated—each of which has the potency to create countless more fruit trees practically *ad infinitum*. Indeed, when no scientific theory can explain the potency of a tiny seed that is imbued with the power of the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna, how then can modern science explain the workings of Earth and the cosmos?

In 1969 Srila Prabhupada spoke at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston's top flight engineering school. Your Editor had the good fortune to be there when His Divine Grace challenged the learned audience to explain the difference between a dead body and a living body. "When someone dies," His Divine Grace prodded, "something is missing." Ignorant modern scientists cannot tell us the very origin of our own heartbeat and neither do they have a clue from whence springs life itself. Modern science bluffs that all we see before us is the result of chance, but how can such phantasmagorical speculations regarding the universe be accepted as true by anyone who is privvy to owning more than a teaspoon of intelligence? When even their leading rocket scientists do not mind using fraudulent means to hoax the public with a Hollywood Moon landing stunt <http://krishnatube.com/video/490/A-Funny-Thing-Happened-on-the-way-to-the-Moon> how can they claim any credibility? They may accuse us followers of Bhagavat Dharma as purveyors of fantasy, but what then are they whose very foundations are based upon ever-changing, fallible and unproven theories?

Modern folks are welcome to believe as they like about the shape and size of the Earth but as far as we are concerned, we will lend our ear to the message of the *Bhagavata*, the spotless *Purana*. The great sages who compiled and spoke the *Puranas* were all scientists because their knowledge was (and is) neither speculative guesswork nor is it theoretical. Our past *acharyas* headed by Srila Vyasadeva are true scientists because whatever they learned was realized knowledge. To the *sadhu* learning means experiencing, unlike to the modern scientist whose destructive fantasies he calls education are speculative and concocted.



We learn from the *Bhagavata* that there are huge tracts of land right here on Earth that are protected from the intrusion of our race, eager as our race is to further defile the world that supports us. Therefore, we must ask ourselves whether beings from those portions of the Earth that we do not know about have ever made contact with our compatriots. Our late lamented friend, Godbrother and brilliant scientist Sriman Sadaputa das Prabhu (Dr. Richard L Thompson) gives actual examples of alien encounters in his writings. Though modern versions of extraterrestrials may at first sound like works of Jules Verne or HG Wells, we can read of Sadaputa das's stunning evidence of so-called extraterrestrials here

[http://www.holloworbs.com/underground\\_abductions.htm](http://www.holloworbs.com/underground_abductions.htm). And while perusing his testimony, we are reminded of the old adage that truth is indeed stranger than fiction. Popular concepts of a hollow earth [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hollow\\_Earth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hollow_Earth) are a mixture of fact and fantasy and to get to the bottom of the controversy we must consult the *Puranas*. Indeed, in the final analysis there is an abundance of exacting shastric evidence for so-called alien life forms on this very planet.

In his Bhaktivedanta Purport to SB 1.12.21 Srila Prabhupada tells of the meeting between Arjuna and Ulupi, a *naga* princess from the underworld <http://prabhupadabooks.com/?g=10308>. For the devotee who submissively accepts the higher intelligence of revealed *shastra*, ample evidence abounds of so-called “alien abductions.” Given below are further details of Arjuna’s abduction as told in *Mahabharata*’s “Arjuna Vanavasa Parva” <http://www.sacred-texts.com/hin/m01/m01217.htm>:

After his sacred bath and offering his oblations of water for his deceased ancestors, (Arjuna) was about to leave the Ganges to perform his sacrificial rites before the fire. Then, O King, that mighty-armed hero was dragged to the bottom of the water by Ulupi, the daughter of the king of the *nagas*, impelled as she was by



the demigod of lust Kamadeva. Thus the son of Pandu was carried into the beautiful mansion of Kauravya, the *naga* king. Arjuna saw there a sacrificial fire which had been lit for him. Beholding that fire Dhananjaya, the son of Kunti, performed his sacrificial rites with devotion. And the demigod of fire Agni was pleased with Arjuna for the fearlessness with which that hero poured libations into his manifest form. After he had thus performed his rites, the son of Kunti, beholding the daughter of the *naga* king, smiled and said, ‘O lovely lady, why have you performed this rash act? O timid one! To who belongs this beautiful region? Who are you and who is your father?’

“Hearing these words of Arjuna, Ulupi answered, ‘There is a *naga* of the name of Kauravya, born in the line of Airavata. O prince, I am his daughter and my name is Ulupi. O tiger among men, seeing you descend into the stream to perform your ablutions, I found myself deprived of reason by the action of Cupid. O sinless one, I am still unmarried. O scion of Kuru, afflicted as I am by the god of desire by seeing you, please gratify me today by giving yourself to me.’”

And elsewhere in *Mahabharata* Sanjaya narrates the structure of the Earth planet to King Dhritarashtra in the Bhumi Parva. He tells the king “O wise one, I will explain to you the qualities of the Earth according to my own realization. Behold my explanations with your eye of wisdom.” <http://www.sacred-texts.com/hin/m06/m06004.htm> To which the King Dhritarashtra answers, “O Sanjaya, you who are acquainted with the measurement of the Earth and its forests in its entirety, please explain everything to me in detail.” <http://www.sacred-texts.com/hin/m06/m06005.htm> Thereupon Sanjaya proceeds to tell of the abodes of *siddhas* and *charanas*. Of Jambudwip or Bharata, and the lands lying beyond Jambudwip—the “Greater Bharata” (the Mahabharata). Of the spaces called *varshas* lying between the various great mountains of the earth measuring 8000 miles. Of mountains 84000 *yojanas* or 672,000 miles in height. Of the golden Mount Meru. Of the *jambu* fruit tree 8,800 miles tall whose gigantic fruits fall to the earth and produce a veritable river of *rasa*. Of the lands of the mystical *nagas*. Of places where the inhabitants live blissfully for tens of thousands of years enjoying radiant health. Of *brahmacharis* with golden complexions who freely travel on the rays of the Sun to the Sun planet itself.

We are urged by disciplic succession to accept Sanjaya’s other words—the *Bhagavad Gita*—as the essence of *dharma*. Therefore, as disciples we must accept these shastric discussions including his descriptions of the “greater Earth.” And through such a compliant attitude the secrets of not only this Bhumandala, where we are now, but the mysteries of the transcendental world will be revealed in our hearts by the grace of Srila Prabhupada and the *parampara*.

Regarding other examples of alien encounters, there are some surprising incidents from recent times that are credible. Several of these are described in the next essay for the benefit of the readers of **The Astrological Newsletter**. 

*Is there any hard scientific evidence for the Mahabharata's and Bhagavata's versions of parallel worlds? Yes there is, according to accounts of Olaf Jansen and US Admiral Richard Byrd...*

## **Inside the North Pole**

### **...Alien Encounters**

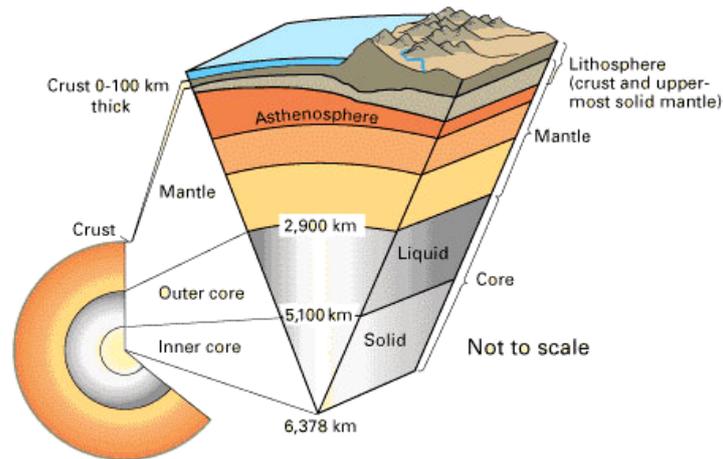
**Abhaya Mudra Dasi**

It is said that there are many unseen passages from Earth which lead to different regions of our universe. Some lead up and some lead down. There are fourteen planetary systems in our universe. At night we see Svargaloka as a chandelier of stars over our heads and if we are observant we can distinguish that the movement of this plane is similar to the twisting of a diving dolphin, the Shishumara:

This great machine, consisting of the stars and planets, resembles the form of a *shishumara* (dolphin) in the water. It is sometimes considered an incarnation of Krishna, Vasudeva. Great *yogis* meditate upon Vasudeva in this form because it is actually visible. (SB 5.23.4)

By turning our eyes skyward we recognize many of the constellations though our knowledge of of the very planet we live on remains scant. According to Puranic sources including *Srimad Bhagavatam*, the Earth plane is flat as are all of the 14 planetary planes. Beneath the surface of the Earth there are other planetary systems of which the first one is of the subterranean heavenly region. Some who understand the existence of this *loka* may conclude that we can access this plane through openings in the crust of the Earth plane. Still not many believers have actually dared to venture into these unknown worlds. And it is conjectured that a few who have reportedly gone have not come back to report about their experience.

Here we can see an illustration of the popular so-called scientific theory about the structure of the Earth plane:



The validity of the above theory has never been factually ascertained and therefore the structure of the earth remains speculations. The Kola Superdeep Borehole (in Murmansk, Russia near Finland) is 12,262 m deep and the project has been abandoned. The Al Shaheen oil well in Qatar is 12,289 m deep while the the Sakhalin-I Odoptu OP-11 well on Sakhalin Island at 12,345 m deep are the deepest drilled holes in the world. Scientists encountered some surprises when drilling which they openly admit in their findings. They report finding water and unchanged rock structure in depths which, according to scientific theory, should have been changing from granite to basalt. According to scientists, the upper crust should be just about 25 kilometers thick and then a solid rock should continue down for another 2,900 km.

Earthquakes are another misunderstood phenomenon. Quakes usually appear at depths of 30 to 70 km. But earthquakes that originate at depths of 300 to 700 km remain unexplained by scientists who admit that they do not know why the lithosphere crust exhibits brittle behavior. More on seismological data findings, etc, are found here: <http://davidpratt.info/inner1.htm#> (p1)

Space expeditions have likewise failed to confirm scientific theories in relationship to the actual nature of the earth and the cosmos. Even with their modern telescopes, empirical scientists are like bullfrogs croaking in a well. Their instruments cannot grant them the vast and multi-dimensional vision that is the gift of *shastric* knowledge. In *Srimad Bhagavatam* there is an extensive description of the subterranean planetary systems. We give this excerpt from chapter 24 verses 7 through 15 of the 5<sup>th</sup> canto “The Subterranean Planetary Systems”:

**Srila Shukadeva Goswami said to Maharaja Parikshit:** “My dear King, beneath this earth are seven other planets, known as Atala, Vitala, Sutala, Talatala, Mahatala, Rasatala and Patala. I have already explained the situation of the planetary systems of earth. *The width and length of the seven lower planetary systems are calculated to be exactly the same as those of earth.* (7)

In these seven planetary systems, which are also known as the subterranean heavens (*bila-svarga*), there are very beautiful houses, gardens and places of sense enjoyment, which are even more opulent than those in the higher planets because the demons have a very high standard of sensual pleasure, wealth and influence. Most of the residents of these planets, who are known as Daityas, Danavas and Nagas, live as householders. Their wives, children, friends and society are all fully engaged in illusory, material happiness. The sense enjoyment of the demigods is sometimes disturbed, but the residents of these planets enjoy life without disturbances. Thus they are understood to be very attached to illusory happiness. (8)

My dear King, in the imitation heavens known as *bila-svarga* there is a great demon named Maya Danava, who is an expert artist and architect. He has constructed many brilliantly decorated cities. There are many wonderful houses, walls, gates, assembly houses, temples, yards and temple compounds, as well as many hotels serving as residential quarters for foreigners. The houses for the leaders of these planets are constructed with the most valuable jewels, and they are always crowded with living entities known as Nagas and Asuras, as well as many pigeons, parrots and similar birds. All in all, these imitation heavenly cities are most beautifully situated and attractively decorated. (9)

The parks and gardens in the artificial heavens surpass in beauty those of the upper heavenly planets. The trees in those gardens, embraced by creepers, bend with a heavy burden of twigs with fruits and flowers, and therefore they appear extraordinarily beautiful. That beauty could attract anyone and make his mind fully blossom in the pleasure of sense gratification. There are many lakes and reservoirs with clear, transparent water, agitated by jumping fish and decorated with many flowers such as lilies, *kuvalayas*, *kahlaras* and blue and red lotuses. Pairs of *chakravakas* and many other water birds nest in the lakes and always enjoy in a happy mood, making sweet, pleasing vibrations that are very satisfying and conducive to enjoyment of the senses. (10)

Since there is no sunshine in those subterranean planets, time is not divided into days and nights, and consequently fear produced by time does not exist. (11)

Many great serpents reside there with gems on their hoods, and the effulgence of these gems dissipates the darkness in all directions. (12)

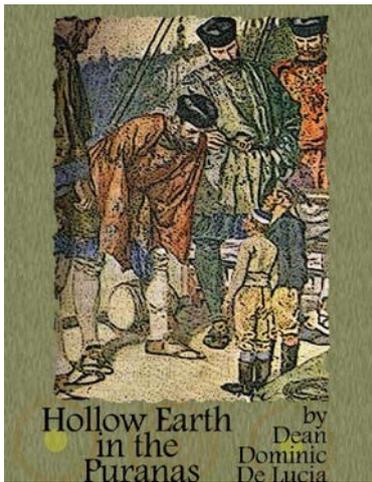
Since the residents of these planets drink and bathe in juices and elixirs made from wonderful herbs, they are freed from all anxieties and physical diseases. They have no experience of grey hair, wrinkles or invalidity, their bodily luster does not fade, their perspiration does not cause a bad smell,

and they are not troubled by fatigue or by lack of energy or enthusiasm due to old age. (13)

They live very auspiciously and do not fear death from anything but death's established time, which is the effulgence of the Sudarshana chakra of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. (14)

When the Sudarshana disc enters those provinces, the pregnant wives of the demons all have miscarriages due to fear of its effulgence. (15)

There is plenty of *shastric* reference regarding the subterranean regions. Srīman Dharmapada das Prabhu, the author of *Hollow Earth in the Puranas*, offers the benefit of his research here: [http://www.holloworbs.com/HE\\_Puranas\\_Article.htm](http://www.holloworbs.com/HE_Puranas_Article.htm)

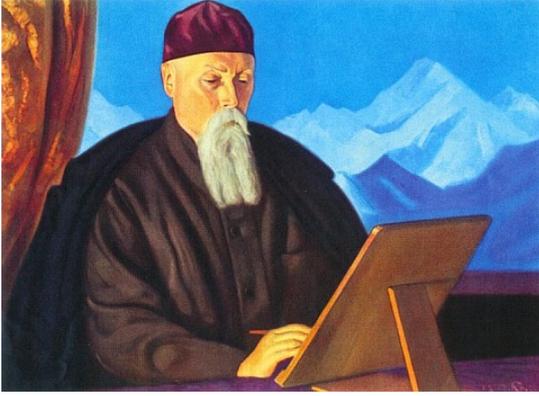


The subterranean heavens are inhabited mainly by demonic entities. The demons may appear somewhat pious in the sense that their society is organized and they understand how to apply Vedic knowledge for their own good. But because they are blinded by the prospect of material enjoyment they do not seek ultimate liberation from material existence, which is only obtained by worshiping the Supreme Personality of Godhead Sri Krishna. *Srimad Bhagavatam* admonishes that the inhabitants of the subterranean regions, although very happy with their material opulence, also die in due course of time.

Today on Earth there are many adherents of the hollow earth theory who have never been exposed to *shastra* and whose ideas about other worlds come mostly from hearsay and guesswork. As a result, any mention of other worlds becomes an invitation for speculation that divine wisdom about whatever exists within the universe can be found in these regions. But from the *Bhagavatam's* descriptions we can understand that the inhabitants of the lower regions are also conditioned souls who are ultimately subject to the same laws of Nature as ourselves.

## **Shambhala or Sambalpur**

Over the last few centuries an increasing interest has arisen in the Polar Regions as doorways to these mystical worlds and many adventurous souls have embarked on quests there in search of a doorway to the underworld. Here we present an excerpt from a conversation between the Russian artist, scientist, Himalayan explorer, philosopher and three-time Nobel Prize nominee Nicholas Roerich and a Tibetan Lama as recorded in his book *Shambala*, about a sacred hidden city in the Himalayas:



**Roerich:** Lama, tell me of Shambala.

**Lama:** You Westerners know nothing about Shambala—you wish to know nothing. Probably you ask out of curiosity; and you pronounce this sacred word in vain.

After some cajoling and studying his querist, **the Lama said:** Great Shambala is far beyond the ocean.

How and why do you people take interest in it? Only in some places, in the far North, can you discern the resplendent rays of Shambala (aurora?)... The secrets of Shambala are well guarded.

**Roerich:** Lama, I have heard of the reality of this indescribable place. I've been told that some high lamas have visited Shambala. I've heard of the Buryat Lama and how he was taken through a narrow, secret passageway. So please don't tell me of only the heavenly Shambala because I know that a real one exists on Earth ... How does it happen that Shambala on Earth is still undiscovered by travelers? On maps you may see so many routes of expeditions. It appears that all heights are already marked and all valleys and rivers explored.

**Lama:** But as yet ... people have not found all things so, let a man try to reach Shambala without a call! You have heard about the poisonous streams which encircle the uplands. Perhaps you have even seen people dying from these gasses when they come near them ... Many people try to reach Shambala, uncalled. Some of them disappear forever. Only a few of them reach the holy place and only if their *karma* is ready.”



The interested reader can learn more about the pioneer Roerich from these sites: <http://www.roerich.org/nr.html?mid=wrtgs> & [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicholas\\_Roerich](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicholas_Roerich) . Shambala—according to *Srimad Bhagavatam* 12.2.18—is the place where Lord Kalki will take birth.

*shambhala-grama-mukhyasya brahmanasya mahatmanah  
bhavane vishnuyasha sahmkalkih mahatmanah*

Lord Kalki will appear in the home of the most eminent *brahmana* of Shambhala village, the great soul Vishnuyasha.

Many assume that Lord Kalki will appear in the mystical other-worldly city of Shambhala, though others point to the town (*grama*) of Sambalpur in Orissa <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sambalpur>. Some who believe that Shambhala is located in the subterranean regions assume that the coming Golden Age will soon be initiated from within the Earth. But according to *Srimad Bhagavatam*, Kalki will come at the end of Kali Yuga or after another 427,000 years. However, it is a fact that a 10,000-year Golden Age that has been promised by Sri Krishna Himself will soon arise. This age offers the possibility for self realization within the limits of Kali Yuga, or via widespread *sankirtan*, the chanting of the *mahamantra*.

It is obvious that some modern theories regarding a hollow earth are not based on scripture. Rather they appear to be a mixture of science fiction of novelists like Jules Verne, of hearsay or of Himalayan folklore. Thus Hollow Earth theories without the benefit of *shastra* are prone to mix fact with fiction. Indeed, most “Hollow Earthers” still think of the world as globe-shaped which contradicts *shastra*. Only through recourse to the *Puranas* via disciplic succession can the shape of the Earth be understood. As quoted above, *Srimad Bhagavatam* clearly states that the seven planetary systems beneath the Earth are of the same shape and size as the Earth plane. Even so, for whatever its flaws, the Hollow Earth theory is closer to truth than longstanding scientific theories of a earth globe circling the Sun in space.

### Modern Voyages to Inner Worlds

There are narrations of Northern cap explorers who claim to have reached the heavenly regions within the Earth. In fact such descriptions do bear some resemblance to those from the *shastras* and for this reason we also accept them as valid. One of these is the curious case of the Norwegian Olaf Jansen.

While on a fishing expedition in the 1820's, Olaf Jansen and his father stopped at the northern side of Spitsbergen Island to take on supplies. Then setting sail for points north, Olaf's father became possessed of a desire to head into far northern seas, to the warm lands described in the Norse legends. He assured the boy that they would be protected by gods Thor (Jupiter) and Odin. Somehow Olaf Jansen and his father strayed into an opening near the Northern polar region and found their way into an underground kingdom.



Olaf would recall years later that they met people who spoke what sounded like Sanskrit and who were friendly and very tall. They wore fine clothes and lots of gold. The society of these giants was organized and cheerful. They saw mammoth sized elephants and other huge animals. Grapes were the size of apples while apples grew to the size of pumpkins. The life span was up to 800 years and people were highly educated. The inner regions were illuminated by what appeared to be an inner Sun. It appears as though the reflections of this Sun are seen as Aurora Borealis around the North and South Poles where the main openings to the unexplored regions are concealed.

On their return journey the boy lost his father at sea. He was saved by a fishing boat and successfully returned to Norway. There he confided his adventures to his disbelieving uncle who treacherously had him imprisoned where he remained for twenty years. Olaf Jansen would later recount his adventures to Californian Willis George Emerson who believed him and who wrote his amazing story down (which can be read in full here: <http://www.ourhollowearth.com/PartOne.htm>)

There is another curious instance from 1947 which comes from a most credible source, that of US Navy Admiral Richard Byrd, who spent much of his life exploring the arctic regions. His fascinating account of his meeting with super beings at the top of the world can be accessed here: <http://www.v-jenterprises.com/byrdiar.html>

The contemporary map below (on which the inner Earth is called Agarta) is found on many Hollow Earth websites. Admiral Byrd's flight is duly marked. This map shows the continents of the inner earth as well and indicates other places on the surface of the Earth from which Atala and the other sub-planes can be accessed. The map is somewhat confusing because it shows that the inner earth can be accessed also through several large caves. But Agarta and the cave regions are actually two different places. The caves lead to sub-planes located within the Earth, and which are inhabited by demoniac species, while the poles are the doorways to the missing islands (like Plakshadvipa) which are described in the 5<sup>th</sup> canto of *Srimad Bhagavatam*. These islands are inhabited by godly living entities.



the limited perception of the round eye. By adhering to the limited perceptions caused by our round eyes we will never be able to understand other planes, neither of the Earth nor of heavens.



1. The Arctic Region, Mercator 1569



2. Map of a flat earth from the pre-Copernicus era

Compare what is seen in figure 2 above to the structure of the universe according to *Srimad Bhagavatam*: <http://srimadbhagavatam.org/canto5/c5-contents.html>

In his *Arctic Voyages* Nils Nordenskjold describes trafficking in mammoth tusks along the Yenisei River that runs from Mongolia through Russia and drains into the Arctic Ocean. He notes: “In the Siberian Polar Sea, the animal and vegetable types, so far as we can judge beforehand, exclusively consist of survivals from the Glacial period which next preceded the present, which is not the case in the Polar Sea where the Gulf Stream distributes its waters and whither it thus carries types from more southerly regions.”

In his *Phantom of the Poles* William Reed writes, “When it can be shown that conditions are such that no Arctic icebergs (composed of fresh water) can be formed in the far north on the earth’s outer surface, they must be formed in the interior. If the material that produces colored snow is a vegetable matter (which the analysis shows), and is supposed to be a blossom or the pollen of a plant, when none such grows in the vicinity of the Arctic Ocean, then it must grow in the interior of the earth.”

Nicholas Roerich writes: “I remembered how during our crossing of the Karkaroum Pass, (my guide) the Ladhaki, asked me: ‘Do you know why there is such a peculiar upland up here? Do you know that in the subterranean caves here many treasures are hidden, and that in them lives a wonderful tribe which abhors the sins of the Earth?’ And again when we approached Khotan the hooves of our horses sounded hollow as though we rode above caves or hollows. Our caravan people called our attention to this... When we saw entrances of caves, our caravaners told us, ‘Long ago people lived there; now they have gone inside; they have found a subterranean passage to that subterranean kingdom.’”

Sriman Dharmapada das writes on his website <http://www.holloworbs.com>, “The documented experiences of the Arctic explorers Peary and Cook bear out the fact that the Arctic basin is a depression. As they approached the North Pole, they both reported exaggerated sledding speeds (Siberian husky dogs). The terrain not only flattened, but was curving inwards rather sharply. So a little distance covered made for an apparent more-than-normal upwards progress, rather than along the orthodox concept of curvature of the Earth. This is something that affected their celestial latitude calculations, and something which was symptomatic of change from an outer to an inward slope. The abnormal sledding speeds increased as Peary approached and departed from the immediate proximity of the Pole. Right as he left, he covered 153 miles in 48 hours, over Arctic ice, on a sled, running over rough ice terrain and such. This is hardly believable—one could hardly imagine dogs covering such distances even on nature trails in a warm climate.”

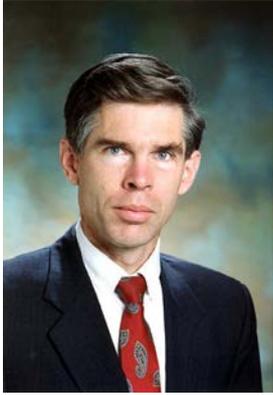
Our world is often visited by demonic inhabitants from these nether regions who have speedy ships that can overcome the pull of gravity by their round shape. We call their *vimanas* “flying saucers.” People who have interacted with the demons know that they possess mystic powers and can abduct unsuspecting humans and take them to their realms, later erasing their conscious memory.

But through hypnosis many such encounters have been uncovered. Some victims of abductions said that many of these beings expressed their concern about the condition of the Earth and warned humans to stop playing with energies that are going to destroy the Earth. Generally, the “aliens” that visit this plane live beneath the Earth. Because they are naturally concerned about their safety, some gullible humans interpret the message that they are well-wishers of humanity. As we see from the description of *Srimad Bhagavatam*, they are sense gratifiers and they do not want their enjoyment interrupted. It is known that they conduct scientific experiments on humans and are interested in human behavior which indicates that in the area of emotions the human race is more evolved because there is greater facility to become God-conscious in this human form of life.

The flying saucers reported in the media do not come from the higher celestial systems of the universe. The demigods are not interested in coming to Earth in Kali Yuga when *yagnas* are hardly performed. In Kali Yuga human beings interact with the demoniac races much more than one might suspect. Just as in our modern culture technological advancements are held as supreme, so it is in the realms of the Danavas.

### **The Sacred Northern Direction**

Nonetheless, the North Pole may play a key role in understanding the structure of the Universe or the Universal Form of Sri Krishna. The north is the direction that points above. It is the direction of the Pole Star that is essentially a spiritual planet. In this sense, the north is the direction pointing to the Spiritual Sky where birth and death cease to exist. When the Sun changes his course from south to north around December 15th each year, it is time for celebration. On this day called Makara Sankranti (when the Sun enters Makara or Capricorn) people offer presents to one another. Nowadays, due to modern changes in the calendar people celebrate New Year 15 days earlier although it does not coincide with the astronomical New Year. One who is spiritually advanced prays for spiritual liberation on this day. One of the great heroes of *Mahabharata* Bhishma Pitamaha waited till Makara Sankranti to leave his body. Lord Sri Krishna also confirms in *Bhagavad Gita* (8.24) the importance of *uttarayana* or the northern course of the Sun as a time for liberation.



Sri Krishna desires only a reciprocal and loving relationship with His devotees. For the devotees of the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna, no benefit is gained through the association of mystical beings—whether demons or demigods—since they, like us, are mere mortals. The devotees take interest only in the transcendental name, fame, paraphernalia, associates and qualities of the Supreme Lord. In the following fascinating lecture entitled “UFO’s and Krishna Consciousness” Sriman Sadaputa das, ISKCON’s leading sadhu-scientist and co-author of *Forbidden Archaeology*, brilliantly discusses the existence of extra-terrestrials from a strictly Puranic perspective: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LyAcTZ0ViWo> Readers of **The Astrological Newsletter** are urged to give this scientific presentation their valued attention.

Only by understanding Krishna consciousness, and not by elaborate excursions, can this Universe be understood. Sri Krishna is within every atom and simply by understanding the nature of His appearances and disappearances the devotee can learn whatever is worth knowing. One does not need to go to the other side of the world in order to realize the existence of those who inhabit the place.

*We do not need to travel far to reach a distant star,  
But close is far for the kind who leave their souls behind. R*



## Letters to the Editor

*(Edited for brevity)*

### “Nothing Remotely Close”

Dear Patita Pavana Prabhu,  
Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.  
Thanks much for the reading. I can confidently say I have never got any other horoscope reading that is even remotely close in terms of detail. I sincerely appreciate your diligence.  
Your servant, A (USA)

### **“Enlightening”**

Dear Prabhus,

Please accept my humble and respectful obeissances. Srila Prabhupada kee jay! Thank you for your enlightening newsletters regarding eclipses. They are very necessary for us ISKCON devotees. Kindly keep on sending them.

Your grateful servant,

LM (USA)

### **“E-letters Give Enlightenment and Insight”**

Dear Patit Pavana ji,

Please accept our humble obeissances all glories to Sri Guru and Gauranga. We both had been visiting the holy dhams of Mayapur, Vrindavan and Jagannathpuri and my hometown Haridwar during the Damodar month. It has been a blissful experience which we hope will continue as more journeys to various temples and association of Vaishnavas. Your e-letters give us so much guidance and insight we really appreciate the hard work of both you Vaishnavas. We hope that we always get light of your association,

Yours at the lotus feet of Srila Prabhupada,

R (UK)

### **“Best and Most Comprehensive”**

Dear Prabhu,

Your description of my Purvashada *nakshatra* is simply phenomenal! It is truly the best and most comprehensive one I have ever come across. The positives, as well as the negatives, that describe the Purvashada personality are so spot on! I loved it! It is not an easy personality to have for sure...

RP (USA)

### **“Simply Amazed”**

Hare Krsna....

Dear PPd Prabhu,

I read thru the report abt my chart and I am simply amazed at how some of my deep secrets could be learnt about myself thru Vedic Astrology.

Hari Hari, NM (Mumbai)

### **“Mail Me TAN”**

Dear Patita Pavana Prabhu,

Kindly put me on your Astrological Newsletter mailing list. I have been receiving most as forwards but would like to be sure of receiving each issue while the internet remains up.

ys AD (USA)

### **“Incredible”**

Prabhu,

The client I sent you is quite enlivened. Her word to me was 'incredible.' I'm happy that so many of my friends have found guidance through you.

Danke

HV (Australia)