

ALL GLORY TO SRI GURU AND GAURANGA

THE ASTROLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

Mithuna Twins Astrological Services
“Home of the Bhrigu Project”



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

Above: Srila Prabhupada at the airport, his suitcase by his side. The *brahmachari* beaming like an angel from Vaikuntha above Krishna’s personal messenger is none other than the legendary Sri Tribhuvanath das Brahmachary, ever faithful to the orders of Sri Guru and Gauanga. See “Tribhuvanath Prabhu becomes ‘The ‘Head of the Hare Krishna Movement’” here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPWFdQacP4>

Chant this mantra:

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

...and your life will be sublime

In this issue:

Three Eclipses on the Horizon!

**Also: Our Home in the Universe
Omens from Sri Valmiki Ramayana**

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

Patita Pavana das Adhikary, Ed.

Abhaya Mudra Dasi

Jyotish Shastris, &tc.

Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria

13April 2013 (#34) 527 Gaurabda Era. Mesha Sankranti, the day the Sun enters into in Aries, Sri Surya-Narayana's sign of exaltation—a day which also marks the beginning of the new solar year. Today is the 3rd day of the waxing Moon of the Vaishnava month of Vishnu corresponding to Chaitra *shukla tritiya*.

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Dear Prabhus,

Dandavats to the Vaishnavas and welcome to the issue. These days with so many inauspicious omens on the horizon (and in the daily news!), I am watching the sky carefully. Who remembers that on 25 January 1938, as a precursor to the 2nd World War, the sky turned blood red all over Europe?

Our readers must have noticed the huge meteor, or whatever it was, that slammed into Russia injuring hundreds in mid-February of this year. If you missed the video and news reports, see it again here:

<http://www.smh.com.au/world/meteor-shower-over-russia-sees-meteorites-hit-earth-20130215-2ei2j.html>. Please note that three eclipses are on the horizon, and these are

especially inauspicious, considering the amount of *graha-yuddha* (planetary fighting) that surrounds the Aries-Libra axis in which these eclipses occur.

Such omens as these, as told in *Sri Ramayana* of Valmiki, are discussed in this issue. Abhaya Mudra Dasi, who explains the coming eclipses, also describes the order of the Universe according to the Puranic version. It is important to understand this universe in order to realize that whatever even our so-called expert scientists tell us is minute indeed. There is so much more out there to learn, and from the *Puranas* we can find answers that modern science has not yet even thought to consider. Thanks for reading, and enjoy the issue.

Always wishing you the very best in Krishna consciousness,

Patita Pavana das Adhikary, Ed.

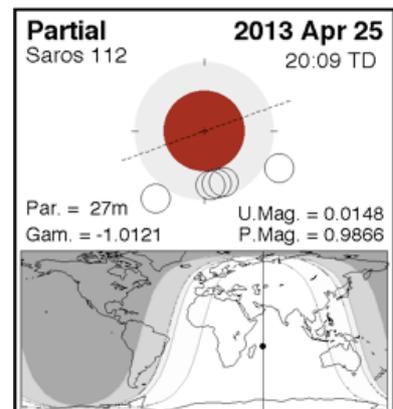
An “eclipse cluster” of three will begin darkening the skies above us ... and for two fortnights following the first one of the series. Abhaya Mudra Dasi explains about the coming eclipses and their potential for widespread danger. Images courtesy NASA: <http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/OH/OH2013.html>

Three Eclipses on the Horizon!

Abhaya Mudra Dasi

Readers of The Astrological Newsletter should be prepared for a series of three eclipses beginning on the 25th of April. The first one is a partial lunar eclipse that promises its greatest visibility in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Western Australia. The greatest eclipse occurs over the islands of Mauritius and Madagascar.

Eclipse # 1: The first eclipse starts at 6:03 pm GMT or 18:03 Universal time on 25 April which places Virgo on the rising sign and Moon in Libra. The eclipsed *nakshatra* of the Moon's will be the Rahu-ruled Swati. It is therefore may be potentially detrimental for anyone who is born under Libra Moon, especially that part of Libra ruled by Swati (6°40' to 20°00').



The results for particular individuals will be visible before or after the eclipse depending upon whether the individual's natal Moon has a greater degree of the point of eclipse, or less. The eclipse begins at 09°58' and ends at 12°29' Libra. If the degree of the natal Moon lies at a point lower than the 9th degree, then results may show before the eclipse. If the natal Moon's degree of longitude is greater than the 12th degree, then effects could be felt after

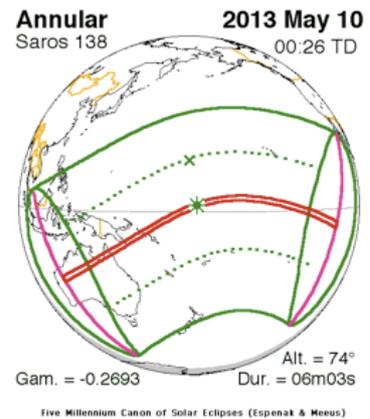
the date of the eclipse. Since the first eclipse in the threesome is a lunar (and not solar) eclipse, this softens the effects of the consecutive two eclipses and can actually make the event auspicious for spiritual advancement.

Some more bad news: the chart of the eclipse shows extreme action in the signs of Aries and Libra with seven planets of the *nava-grahas* posited in these two signs. With Virgo rising at the point of eclipse, Libra becomes the 2nd house which is a *maraka-stan* or death-inflicting house. Therein we find Rahu attacking the Moon with Saturn standing by to assure that the malefic effects will be long term. Facing off with just as much hostility on the other side of the axis in fiery Aries, the 8th house of death or *mrityustan* for Kanya *lagna*, we find the beleaguered Sun, Ketu, Mars and Venus. Both Venus and Mars are “burnt” by the Sun, or combust. Each planet is in *graha-yudha* with all others in the axis. In short, not only is the planet of universal nourishment, Moon—the Jiva of the world—eclipsed, but the other planets are tortured and at war each with all others locked in the Mesha / Tula axis. This is the worst case scenario for *graha-yudha*, planetary fight. Here on earth the picture is as though the demons of a fiery hell, many of whom hold powerful positions all over the world, have a *carte blanche* to do carry on as they like with the blessings of Kali.

Since both Libra and Aries are movable signs, they can “cause” people to act on impulse. And since a *maraka* (death-inflicting) house and the actual 8th house of death (the *mrityustan*) itself are involved, the news will carry many reports of strange deaths individually as well as en masse. Countries that are influenced by Libra and Aries will attract attention with fearful headlines. Some of these countries are China and the Orient (Libra) as well as Britain, Germany and Serbia (Aries).

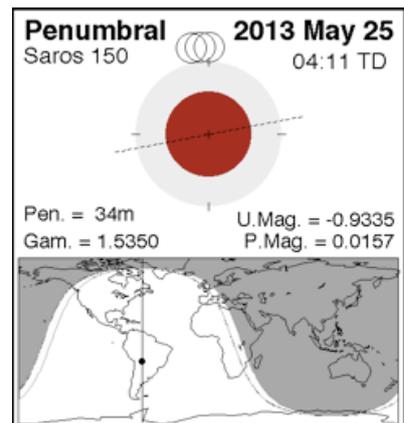
Mass shootings will become popular again as well as explosions at military, gasoline or chemical facilities. Some volcanic eruptions and earthquakes throughout the world will hit the headlines. Wars will break out with new ferocity in Africa and the Middle East with the possibility of heretofore peaceful countries becoming drawn into the vicious cycle by the world’s shadow government ruled by the shadowy Rahu. Tension will continue to hang over North Korea for several months as saber rattling finds new crescendo. The international war machine continues to eye Iran with pointed scrutiny and real dangers lie there though an actual nuclear engagement seems remote. There are likely to be several major air disasters in the coming weeks. Devotees should travel with extreme care and must avoid dangerous journeys. No journeys should be scheduled around the eclipse dates. I do not like to remind the Prabhus that the last eclipse cluster which involved Scorpio, so sensitive to ISKCON saw three instances of devotee mass death via air, road and water.

Eclipse # 2: The second eclipse is an annular Solar event occurring on May 10th 2013. Greatest visibility of this eclipse lies over the Pacific Ocean. Some of Rahu's handiwork will be visible in Indonesia, Eastern Australia and New Guinea. The eclipse begins at 22:33 pm Universal time. This puts the rising sign at Scorpio, sensitive to ISKCON.



Anyone born under Sun sign Mesha the ram may be subject to problems in the months prior and following the eclipse. Since the chart at the time of the eclipse shows Scorpio rising, therefore the eclipsed axis of Libra / Aries is thus positioned in the 6th and 12th houses, two of the three *dustans* or “evil houses.” Aries occupies the 6th house of disease where we find Sun, Mars and Ketu. This position indicates mass epidemics or poisonings and some of them will be carried via the wind. The world government plans to continue creating a dependency of GMO's and dangerous chemical pesticides, vaccination programs in the name of humanitarian progress and other means of mass torture even as public outcries against them rise.

An eclipse of this magnitude in the axis of Libra / Aries heralds trouble in the regions of northern Europe, and in particular the Scandinavian region. Problems in Iceland will also surface. The problems in the Middle East will escalate. India is also under scrutiny; while Indonesia, West and South Australia will also suffer some untoward results. Eastern Canada, Florida, Cuba and Central America will also suffer various sorts of setbacks. Russia and its capital Moscow will come under verbal attacks. Some popular themes of this eclipse are guns ruled and war by Aries and gay and sexual issues ruled by Libra, as well as mass deaths due to poisons.



Eclipse # 3: The third eclipse of the vehement cluster is a penumbral lunar eclipse occurring on May 25th. The greatest portion of the eclipse occurs over Central and South America. The death of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez recently is a precursor of events to come in the region. The effects of the eclipse will continue to affect the region in the months to follow. The eclipse will also be visible in North America, West Africa and Western Europe.

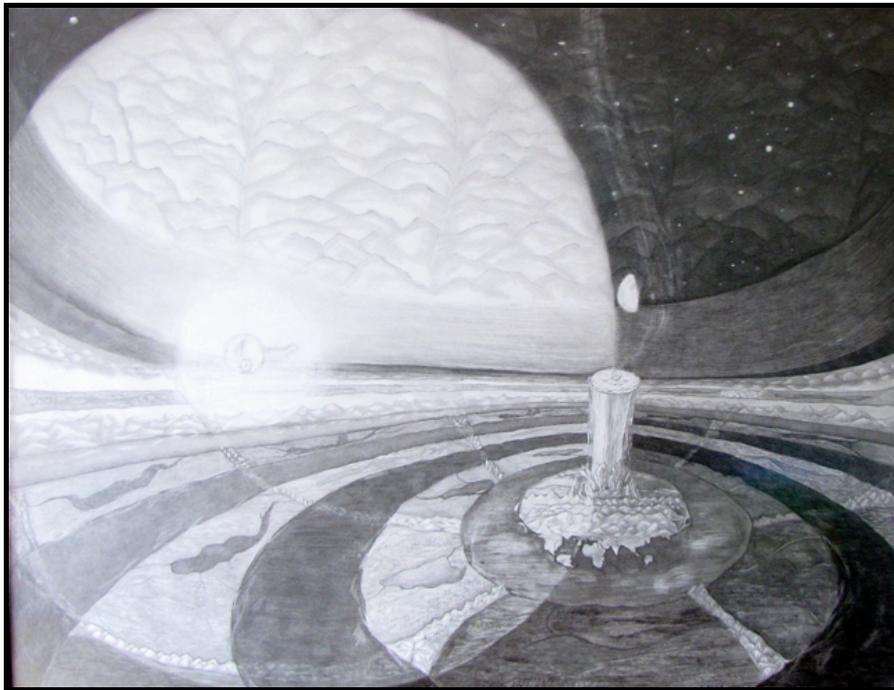
The eclipse of the Moon occurs in Scorpio and specifically in the *nakshatra* of Anuradha. Those persons born under Anuradha should be particularly carefully during the weeks around the eclipse. You Scorpions recently entered into your 7½

year *sade sati* cycle (which began in November of 2013) and with this eclipse you must be especially guarded. You must adopt a circumspective tact.

Pisces rises at the time of the eclipse. This means that the debilitated Moon becomes eclipsed in the 9th house of *dharma*, fortune and spirituality in general. This could be a warning to all spiritual practitioners, including the devotees of Sri Sri Radha-Krishna. Again, there were several instances of mass devotee deaths in avoidable accidents during the eclipse twosome of last summer involving Scorpio, and this series is even worse than that. The spiritual practices of our Society could be attacked in many possible ways by the demons both within and without. This last eclipse will draw the world's attention to Australia. Some violent headlines will rock central Africa and Eastern Europe.

As we have reminded our readers so many times, it is never advisable to become exposed to the poisonous rays of the Sun or Moon while the eclipse is in force. Rather, it is best to remain indoors and take shelter of the *mahamantra*. ♪

The very world which sustains us for now remains as big a mystery as the distant planets in the night sky. Only through the light of the Bhagavatam can we hope to "see" even the very place we inhabit. Abhaya Mudra Dasi explains..



Our Temporary Home: Sri Bhū-māṇḍala by Abhaya Mudra Dasi ©: Note the comparatively tiny continents we consider to be the sum and substance of the Earth at the base of Mount Sumeru.

Our Home in the Universe **According to the Puranas**

Abhaya Mudra Dasi

Although a picture is worth a thousand words, sometimes an illustration requires clarification. The drawing above represents my graphic understanding of the *Srimad Bhagavatam's* concept of the Bhu-Mandala, upon which we reside.

Mount Sumeru: In the middle we see Mount Sumeru. This great mountain is wider at the top, yet it is also flat. Mount Sumeru stands as the center (or stigma, a flower's reproductive organ) of the lotus that is Bhu-Mandala. Further, the petals of the lotus can be seen dividing the different regions into the seven islands of Bhu-Mandala. Mount Sumeru is surrounded by other mountains that have very sharp peaks. As the *Bhagavatam* explains:



There are other mountains beautifully arranged around the foot of Mount Meru like the filaments around the whorl of a lotus flower. Their names are Kuranga, Kurara, Kusumbha, Vaikanka, Trikuta, Shishira, Patanga, Ruchaka, Nishadha, Sinivasa, Kapila, Shankha, Vaidurya, Jarudhi, Hamsa, Rishabha, Naga, Kalanjara and Narada. (5.16.26):

The flat peak of Mount Sumeru is the sitting place of Lord Brahma, the creator of this Universe. Nearby are also the sitting places for each one of the *dig-palas* or deities of the eight directions, namely:

Indra (east)	Varuna (west)	Kuber (north)	Yamaraja (south)
Ishana (northeast)	Agni (southeast)	Alakshmi (southwest)	Vayu (northwest)

Each one of these demi-godly *dig-palas* are masters of opulent cities that lie in the eight directions. The directions of each of their cities are the basis of the *kalachakra* or the adjunct horoscope called the “Wheel of Time” in *jyotish shastra*. Additionally, each one of these eight directions, like the eight petals of the lotus, underscores the principles of *vastu-shastra* or Vedic architecture based upon knowledge of directions. In this way we can understand how the demi-gods who control the directions influence our lives. *Jyotish* is therefore a means of living in harmony with the elements that surround us. Mount Sumeru is golden in color and reflects everything around it—and for this reason it is not

easily seen. Traveling there is impossible for us because of the severe winds blowing on all sides.

The description of Mount Meru is given in many *Puranas* including the *Devi Purana* (8.7.1-12) wherein the cities atop the golden mountain are identified by name:

The Personality of Godhead Lord Narayana said: Jathara and Devakuta are the two mountains situated on the east of Sumeru; their dimensions towards the north are eighteen thousand *yojanas* wide and two thousand *yojanas* high. On the west of Meru, are situated the two famous lofty mountains Pavamana and Pariyatra; their length and height are well known. On the south of Meru are situated the two lofty mountains Kailasha and Karavira. On the north, again, of the Sumeru mountain, are situated the mountains Sringa-giri and Makara-giri. Thus the golden Sumeru Mountain surrounded by these eight mountains shines like the Sun.

In the centre of the Sumeru there is a divine city built by the creator demi-god Lord Brahma, ten thousand *yojanas* in dimensions. The learned sages who know everything from the highest to the lowest describe that as square in dimensions and all made of gold. On the top of Sumeru are situated the eight golden cities, one for each of the eight *lokapalas* (*digpalas*), which are all subservient to Brahmपुरi. The demi-gods of the four directions; namely east, west, north and south, and of the four corners; namely north-east, north-west, south-west, south-east, occupy these cities. The dimensions of each of these eight cities are two thousand *yojanas* and a half. In fact, there are nine cities there including the Brahmपुरi. Now hear the names of these nine cities in due order. The first is Manovati, the second is Amaravati, the third is Tejovati, and next come in order Samyamani, Krishnangana, Shradhdhavati, Gandhavati, and Mahodaya, the ninth is Yashovati. The demi-gods of the *puris* are Brahma, Indra, Agni and the other *digpalas* in due order.

In *Srimad Bhagavatam* (Bhaktivedanta Purport to 1.12.5) Srila Prabhupada discusses how the fame of King Yudhisthira reached the upper planets, although these *lokas* are inaccessible to ordinary mortals.

“Only a rich and great man's name and fame are known all over the world, and the name and fame of Maharaja Yudhisthira reached the higher planets because of his good administration, worldly possessions, glorious wife Draupadi, the strength of his brothers Bhima and Arjuna, and his solid sovereign power over the world, known as Jambudvipa. Here the word *loka* is significant. There are different *lokas* or higher planets scattered all over the sky, both material and spiritual. A person can reach them by dint of his work in the present life, as stated in *Bhagavad-gita* (9.25). No forceful entrance is allowed there. The tiny material scientists and engineers who have discovered vehicles to travel over a few thousand miles in outer space will not be allowed entrance. That is not the way to reach the better planets. One must qualify himself to enter into such happy planets by sacrifice and service. Those who are sinful in every step of life can expect only to be degraded into animal life to suffer more and more the pangs of material existence, and this is also stated in *Bhagavad-gita* (16.19). Maharaja Yudhisthira's good sacrifices and qualifications were so lofty and virtuous that even the residents of the higher celestial planets were already prepared to receive him as one of them.”

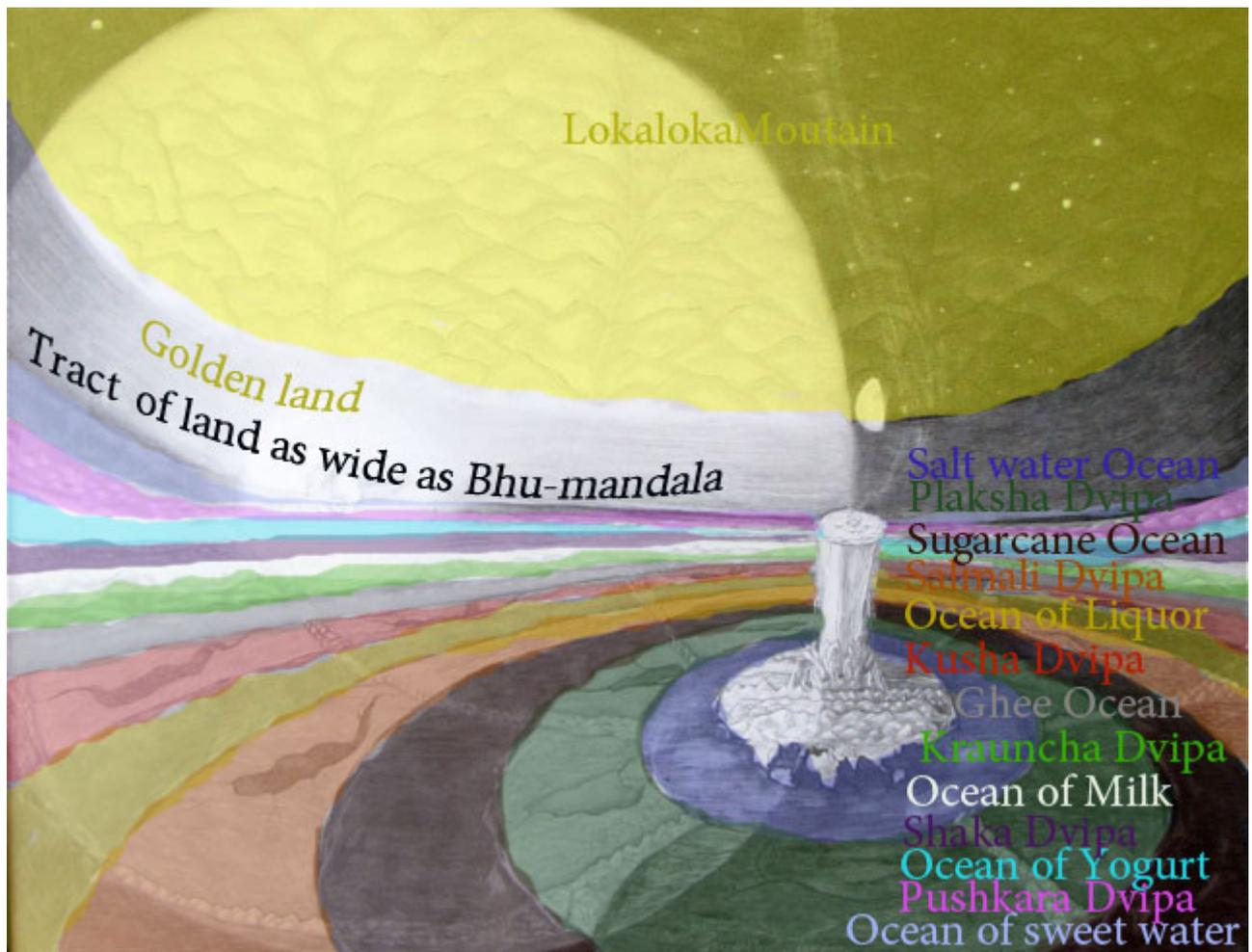
Illavrita-varsha: At the bottom of Mount Meru is Illavrita-varsha, one of the residences of Lord Shiva. The scorching rays of the Sun do not reach here, and thus it remains always very cool and pleasant and surrounded by lush greenery. Naturally, the inhabitants of Illavrita-varsha are always very blissful and content.



Jambu-dvipa: In the illustration above there are another nine tracts of land on the main island of Jambu-dvipa divided by great mountains. These islands surrounding Mount Sumeru are circular in shape and form the middle of the lotus flower of Bhū-maṇḍala or the Earthly plane. Bharata-varsha or the Earth as we know it today is located on the very southern side of Jambu-dvipa. For the sake of distinguishing their exact location, the continents have been drawn a bit exaggerated in size so the observer can distinguish their exact location. Today's India is located in the exact middle of the Bharata-varsha region of Jambu-dvipa. Thus, by locating India we can easily obtain map projections of the upper celestial regions as well as to the lower regions of the Universe. Note that Jambu-dvipa is surrounded by ocean of salt water.

Plaksha-dvipa: The second island surrounding the ocean of salt is Plaksha-dvipa, which is named for the fig trees growing there. On this island there seven minor islands. In the illustration we see them as divided by mountains that start the formation of the petals of the analogous lotus flower of the Universe. The inhabitants of Plaksha-dvipa live one thousand years and they are in no way less than demigods. The climate of this region is quite hot in comparison to the atmosphere on Jambu-dvipa. For this reason the inhabitants worship the Sun god there as their main deity. The Sun is well visible on this island. Plaksha-dvipa is surrounded by an ocean of sugarcane juice that is darker in appearance than the salt water ocean. Sweet taste is produced due to the influence of Jupiter and his orbit is quite visible in this region.

Salmali-dvipa: The next island is Salmali-dvipa, the residence of Garuda. There are seven continents on Salmali-dvipa. Here the inhabitants worship Chandra the demi-god of the Moon as his orbit is prominent over this island. The island is surrounded by an ocean of liquor that is similar in appearance to the salt water ocean, but which has different characteristics or movements.



Kusha-dvipa: The fourth consecutive island has the ocean of liquor on one side and an ocean of liquid ghee on the other. This island is called Kusha-dvipa for the *kusha* grass that grows there. This island is very hot and from a distance it appears as though the whole island is red and as if the *kusha* grass is ablaze. The island of Kusha-dvipa is divided by seven continents. The inhabitants there worship Agni the demi-god of fire as they are always engaged in fire *yagnas*. The ocean of clarified butter is used to expand the offerings to Agni. Ghee remains in its liquid form only at higher temperatures which shows that the atmosphere here is not suitable for the bodies of the human inhabitants of Jambu-dvipa. Only with proper yogic practices can someone approach these planes that are situated nearer to the Sun.

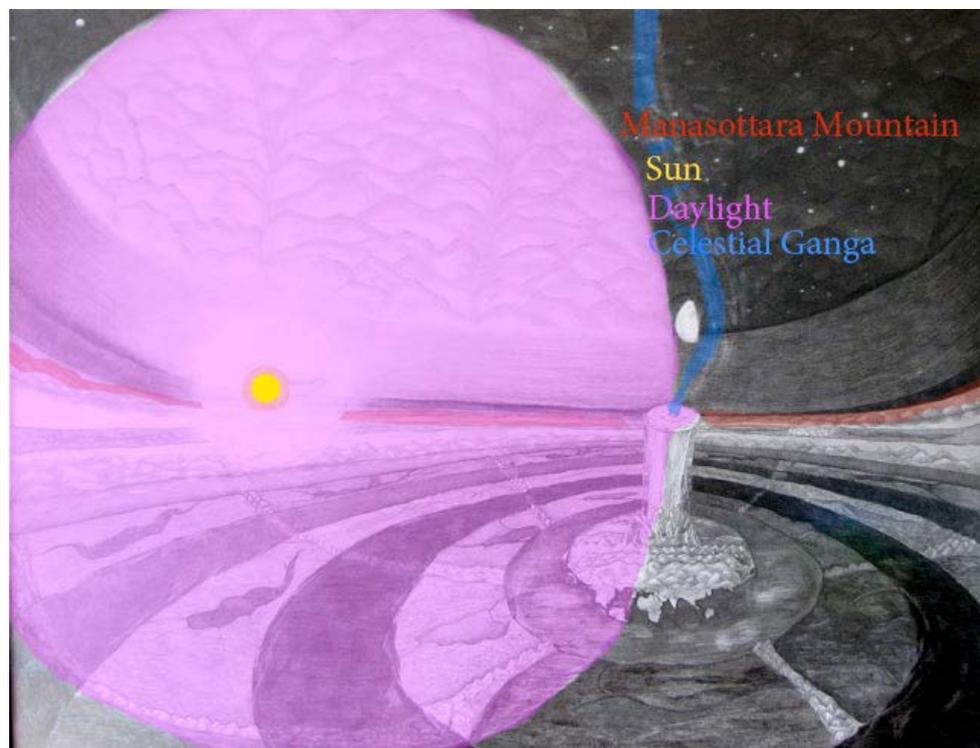
Krauncha-dvipa: The next island, Krauncha-dvipa, is surrounded by an ocean of milk which is very pleasant in appearance. The island is named after the great mountain Krauncha that forms most of the surface of this island. We easily see the mountain in the distance on the illustration that forms a rim all around the other previously mentioned islands. This mountain is full of different gems since great pressure is needed for their creation. The inhabitants of the seven continents of this island worship the demigod of water Varunadeva. This island

is very close to the Sun and is bathed in watery condensation that is the fuel of the Sun God.

Shaka-dvipa: The sixth consecutive island is called Shaka-dvipa, so-named for the fragrant oak trees that grow in abundance on the island. This island is surrounded by an ocean of churned yogurt which reflects the rays of the Sun. The inhabitants on Shaka-dvipa worship the demigod of air Vayu. They are aware of the rapid and incessant movements of the Sun whose great force is felt through the agent of touch or the element air as he races across the sky.

Pushkara-dvipa: The seventh island is called Pushkara-dvipa. The petals of the lotus of the Universe start here as testified to by the many lotus blossoms for which this island is famous. Although the seven islands of the previously mentioned *dvipas* only gave indications of the lotus petals, these petals actually become distinct here on the island of Pushkara-dvipa. The petals are one hundred million in number and they are beautifully stacked one on top of the other. We can observe the extensions of the petals at the upper portion of the illustration.

The lotus flower is the sitting place of Lord Brahma. Thus the entire Bhu-mandala is his sitting place but his capital Brahma-pura is in the very center of the earthy plane on mount Sumeru. The demigods live



in the region which is situated above Bhu-mandala called Svarga-loka. Many of the main demigods live atop high mountains like Sumeru and Manasottara.

Manasottara: In the middle of Pushkara-dvipa there is a mountain called Manasottara. The demi-god of the Sun travels on top of this mountain which he uses as a base for creating the seasons. Since Mount Sumeru is aligned with the height of the Sun's orbit, when the Sun travels on the very top of the Manasottara Mountain his movement creates the day for the demigods. And when he slides down on the mountain's slope it becomes their night. The

alignment of the height of the Sun with Mount Meru along with the Moon and Rahu creates the eclipses.

Movements of the Sun: Surya Narayana in his chariot travels from east to west although in the illustration he seems to travel from west to east. This illusion is created due to the circular shape of Bhu-Mandal:

Although the Sun moves counterclockwise, facing the constellations, with Sumeru Mountain on its left, it also moves clockwise and appears to have the mountain on its right because it is influenced by the *dakshinavarta* wind. (SB 5.25.8-9)

We can observe that as he travels in his direction his light definitely travels from east to west thus creating day and night for the inhabitants of Bhu-Mandala. The size of the Moon is twice the size of the Sun. His orbit is higher than that of the Sun as seen in the illustration. Yet, the Moon's orbit travels in an angle of 5 degrees. Thus, not on all *amavashyas* (moonless days) there is an eclipse but only on those *amavashyas* when the orbit of the Moon has the same height as the orbit of the Sun.

Movements of the Moon: The Moon moves at a slower speed in comparison to the speed of the Sun. But when the Moon's speed is compared to the movement of the stars he is quicker than the Sun. This is because the Moon travels from west to east just like the *nakshatras*. The Moon is traveling quicker through the zodiac but his speed is minute when compared to the speed of the Sun. This difference in speed in comparison to the Sun is the cause for the Moon's different phases. When he is in front of the Sun he is growing (*shukla paksha*) and when he is behind he is diminishing (*krishna paksha*). The reflection of the Sun's light on the surface of the Moon depending on the distance between the two creates the full, the crescent or the moonless nights. In our illustration, the Moon is waning. Although the Moon appears to be in front of the sunshine he is dimensionally closer to the viewer than the Sun. The illustration shows how the sunshine reflection on the Moon's surface has created its *tithis* or phases. In the case of the illustration it is 8th day of the waning Moon, near the mid-point between *purnima* and *amavashya*.

The Celestial Ganga: Close to the Moon we observe streaks of light moving upwards. This is the Milky Way or the celestial Ganga. Known as the Mandakini in the upper regions, her sacred waters are carried in billions of golden pots through space by countless demigods in their spaceships. While descending down into this plane, Ganga first lands upon Mount Meru and is carried down to Jambu-dvipa by the mercy of Lord Shiva.

On the level of Mount Meru (and moving in the distance beyond the orbit of the Sun) is the ocean of sweet water. Still, even beyond that is an area which is as wide as middle portion of Bhu-mandala. It is inhabited by varieties of living entities that are not of a high order. There is a portion of land in that area that is

of the same perimeter and is made of gold. Its purpose is to contain and distribute the sunshine throughout the universe. Whoever has gone there has not returned because the senses lose their abilities to perceive. In the illustration the golden tract of land is represented in a shape inverted upwards which clearly depicts how the Universe is shaped as a globe. As seen in the illustration we perceive the globe from inside.

Beyond this golden land is the Loka-loka Mountain. This mountain is as tall as the Universe. In the illustration we can see the Loka-loka Mountain representing the enormous lotus petals of the universe and extending beyond the *nakshatras* or the stars. The Loka-loka Mountain divides those areas that are illuminated by sunshine and those places that are not. The lands that are not illuminated by sunshine are not visible in the illustration. The planes beyond the *nakshatras* are also not visible and for this reason other planets like Mercury Mars, Venus, Jupiter and Saturn are not illustrated. The configuration of the stars visible is the sky in the sign of Pisces or Meena-rashi. On our plane we interact with Svarga-loka and the planes that are located under the Earth's crust (which comprise altogether eight planes). The planes of the great *rishis* and yogis like Tapaloka, Maharloka and others, are not accessible to our senses.

From understanding the illustration above we can clearly see how the Universe is shaped like a lotus flower. Although at first the illustration may seem to be merely a technical drawing, it helps in contemplating the structure of the Universe as it was created by Lord Brahma through the inspiration the lotus-like Supreme Personality of Godhead Sri Krishna. ♪



The science of omens or nimitta-shastra is described in the Puranas and the Itihasas. Lord Ramachandra, the Personality of Godhead, explains this science in his conversation with Lakshman at the start of the war against Lanka.

Science of Omens

From Sri Valmiki Ramayana

Patita Pavana das Adhikary

The *shastras* tell that when hard times appear imminent, inauspicious omens forcefully appear from out of the sky and from the lands around us. In regards to the birth of the twin sons of Kashyapa and Aditi, namely Hiranyakashipu and Hiranyaksha, we find this in *Srimad Bhagavatam* (3.17.4):

*sahachala bhuvah chelur dishah sarva prajajvaluh
solkash chashayah petuh ketavah charti-hetavah*

sa--along with; *achalah*—the mountains; *bhuvah*—of the earth; *cheluh*—shook; *dishah*—directions; *sarvah*—all; *prajajvaluh*—blazed like fire; *sa*—with; *ulkah*—meteors; *cha*—and; *ashanayah*—thunderbolts; *petuh*—fell; *ketavah*—(of Ketu)) comets; *cha*—and; *arti-hetavah*—the cause of all inauspiciousnes

“Earthquakes shook even the earth’s mountains, and fire appeared in all directions. Many inauspicious planets (like Saturn) appeared, along with the influence of Ketu, namely comets, meteors and thunderbolts.”

Of such events, Srila Prabhupada writes in his Bhaktivedanta Purport to (SB 3.17.4): “When natural disturbances occur on a planet, one should understand that a demon must have taken birth there. In the present age the number of demoniac people is increasing; therefore natural disturbances are also increasing. There is no doubt about this, as we can understand from the statements of the *Bhagavata*.”

The well-known Sanskrit scholar, Professor Ralf T.H. Griffith, who served as the Principal of Banaras College in Kashi translated Ramayana into chaste English verse in 1870. From his lovely rendition, we find Lord Rama explaining the omens at the start of the war against the army of Sri Lanka. What follows is from canto 23, “The Omens.” (Some paintings by talented ISKCON artists, ©BBT).

Then Rama, peerless in the skill
That marks each sign of good and ill,
Strained his dear brother to his breast,
And thus with prudent words addressed:
'Now, Lakshman, by the water's side
In fruitful groves the host divide,
That warriors of each woodland race
May keep their own appointed place.
Dire is the danger: loss of friends,
Of Vanars and of bears, impends.



Distained with dust the breezes blow,
 And earth is shaken from below.
 The tall hills rock from foot to crown,
 And stately trees come toppling down.
 In threatening shape, with voice of fear,
 The clouds like cannibals appear,
 And rain in fitful torrents, red



With sanguinary drops, is shed.
 Long streaks of lurid light invest
 The evening skies from east to west.
 And from the sun at times a ball
 Of angry fire is seen to fall.
 From every glen and brake is heard
 The boding voice of beast and bird:
 From den and lair night-prowlers run
 And Sreek against the falling sun.
 Up springs the moon, but hot and red
 Kills the sad night with woe and
 dread;

No gentle lustre, but the gloom.
 That heralds universal doom.
 A cloud of dust and vapour mars
 The beauty of the evening stars,
 And wild and fearful is the sky
 As though the wreck of worlds were nigh.
 Around our heads in boding flight
 Wheel hawk and vulture, crow and kite;
 And every bird of happy note
 Srieaks terror from his altered throat.
 Sword, spear and shaft shall strew the plain
 Dyed red with torrents of the slain.
 To-day the Vanar troops shall close
 Around the city of our foes. ♪



Needed: suckers, fools and human guinea pigs to colonize Mars. America's space program has grown silent about going to the Moon and prefers a "been there, done that" attitude about lunar landings to bluff the beleaguered tax payers. Since the Moon trip was a flop, why not a repeat performance for Mars? After all, there's no business like space business.

Spaceship to Mars

The photo on the right shows America's latest space folly, the Mars Desert Research Station



outside Hanksville in the Utah desert. In their vast wisdom, expertise and learning, our intrepid American scientists have concluded that Utah reflects Mars' desert terrain and that their research there mimics future working conditions on the red planet. Scientists even traipse about wearing simulated spacesuits in preparation for their proposed journey.

As we learn from the following conversation with Srila Prabhupada, the astronauts' chronic comparisons of the Moon or Mars to different American deserts are actually tacit admissions of scientific waste, guilt and fraud.

A talk with His Divine Grace recorded July 6, 1976 at Washington, D.C.

Srila Prabhupada: ...There are gold mountains also.

Svarupa Damodara: Mount Sumeru?

Srila Prabhupada: There are gold mountains, silver mountains, iron mountains, copper road, everything is there. What is that?

Prabhu: This is a new picture of Mars, just came in the *Washington Post* today. Here is what the scientists say the mountains are on Mars. Big crater they are talking about. This is a recent photo.

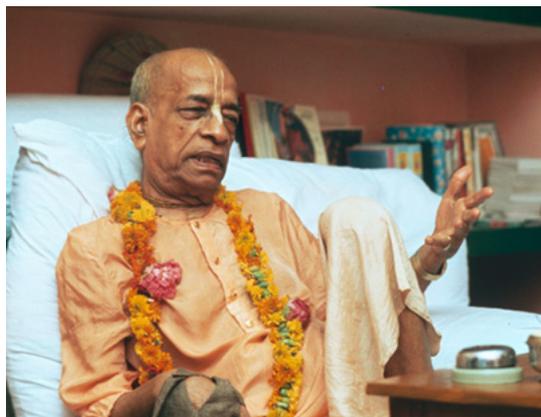
Srila Prabhupada: So? What do they say?

Svarupa Damodara: Says it's a Grand Canyon. Just like in Arizona there's a canyon called Grand Canyon.

Srila Prabhupada: So might be from Arizona? (laughter) Like Arizona, that means Arizona.

Rupanuga: Just like Arizona, the same rocks you find in Arizona.

Prabhupada: Just see.



Svarūpa Dāmodara: This is called Martian Grand Canyon, and an ocean meandering gorge ten times the size of Arizona's Grand Canyon.

Srila Prabhupada: That we can photograph it and make ten times, hundred times. Their business is in Arizona.

Rupanuga: I think so.

Srila Prabhupada: And this is only the propaganda.

Rupanuga: I agree. I think it was all like a movie set.

Srila Prabhupada: That's all. They are not going. Arizona is there, only accept. Why they are taking Arizona? That means they are in Arizona. Just like one man was stealing from the room, and there were some sounds, and the master of the house said "Who is there? What is that sound?" The man said, "No, I am not stealing. No, no I am not stealing." It is like that. (laughter)

Rupanuga: Throughout this article they make comparisons to earth ...

Srila Prabhupada: And there is no man. Just see the foolishness. The same logic, "No, no, I am not stealing." Who asked that you are stealing? He asked for the sound, but he disclosed. It is like that. Why they are bringing Arizona?

Rupanuga: **Srila Prabhupada**, you catch them red-handed.

Srila Prabhupada: Oh, yes, that I can do. It is like that. Who asked them to speak of Arizona? You are speaking of Arizona. "No, no, I am not stealing." (laughter) It is like that. They could have mentioned other places

Rupanuga: Arizona is convenient.

Srila Prabhupada: That means they are working in Arizona. The mind is there. Arizona-minded because they are working in Arizona, so they are disclosing mind

Svarupa Damodara: But they are claiming that this photograph was taken two hundred million miles away from the earth.

Srila Prabhupada: That, they can say anything, but they are doing everything in Arizona....

Srila Prabhupada: Why do they speak about seeing? What is the value of your seeing? I have seen the Atlantic Ocean, that means I have seen everything? This is ludicrous.

Rupanuga: They may simply speculate from a distance, that "Here is the surface," like here...

Srila Prabhupada: That's all. Real business is speculation.

Rupanuga: Here it says, here, this is some great, here...

Srila Prabhupada: Oh, that is "I am not stealing."

Rupanuga: Twelve hundred miles above the surface. Now they want to speculate what is there.

Srila Prabhupada: Who asked him that who is stealing? But he said "I am not stealing."

Rupanuga: That is perfect, Srila Prabhupada!

Srila Prabhupada: Why he brings Arizona? Who asked him? That means that their business in Arizona

Rupanuga: They have exposed themselves.

Srila Prabhupada: Rascals, how they are cheating people

Rupanuga: Such a big hoax. They have spent billions of dollars for such a hoax

Srila Prabhupada: Now you consider whether I am right or wrong. The moon planet is also Arizona. (Laughs) All their business asset is there. 



Diet and health: When I first met the devotees, Mother Balai dasi explained to me the principles regarding diet: "No meat, fish, eggs, onions, garlic or yeast."

For some, the importance of avoiding yeast has been forgotten. Abhaya Mudra Dasi tells how to make bread without yeast, and explains why it shouldn't be eaten. –Ed.

Homemade Yeast-free Baked Bread

Abhaya Mudra Dasi

Do a web search on active yeast and you you'll find yourself wondering how anybody can eat it. I found articles claiming that types of active yeast that were found living on dead bodies somehow became ingredients for food preparation. Types of active yeast were developed in the chemical laboratories of Germany as an undetectable weapon for mass poisoning of the citizens of enemy nations. Yet today active yeast is used against the whole humanity. Today there are more obese people in the world than ever before and the main culprit is the active yeast.

Active yeast thrives in hot conditions which makes the stomach an ideal place for its rapid growth. Fed by sugar (which people today consume in massive quantities) active yeast chokes the good bacteria in the stomach that promotes fire and slows the metabolism. It destroys the immunity of the body and is the key factor for all sorts of diseases since it creates *ayurveda* calls *ama* or mucus.

As devotees we are advised not to consume foods that are cooked by *karmis*, a stipulation that keeps us safe from having anything to do with active yeast. But all too often, many devotees have found themselves with jobs and no time to prepare their own food. Those who have become aware of the dangers of yeast have returned to the simple diet of chapattis, flat bread, that Srila Prabhupada recommended.

However for those of us who wish to offer bread that looks and tastes like fresh-baked loaves from your local bakery, I am sharing an age-old recipe from Eastern Europe for bread that contains no active yeast or even baking soda. Such yeast-free breads have been a staple on the table for generations. So here is the recipe:

Boil up a cup of saturated hop tea and mix it with an equal amount of rye flour. Or mix equally rye flour and water and add 1 tablespoon of honey.

The mixture should be put in nice big jar and covered with



a cloth so it can breathe. Store at 95°F or 30°C overnight. Next day, feed the mixture with equal amounts of dark wheat flour and water (as much as you put the previous day), keeping the dough at the same temperature. On the third day you may notice that natural yeast has developed in the form of bubbles in the mixture. If not, you will have to feed the mixture until the natural yeast appears.

The second part of making the bread also takes some time but it is not difficult. Mix together 500mg flour of choice, 150 grams of the natural yeast that you have just created, 200 mg water, 2 teaspoons of brown sugar and one teaspoon of Himalayan salt. It is better not use regular salt because it might kill the yeast. Make dough and knead it for about 10 minutes. Leave for half an hour, then knead again and leave for another half an hour. In this way the dough becomes elastic and can rise easily. After the third kneading, leave the dough to rise in a warm oven set to around 105°F or 50°C for about 2 hours. Now you are ready to bake at 420°F or 220°C. Baking should continue until you see some brown spots forming on the crust of the bread. Remove from oven, sprinkle with a little water and cover with towel to soften. Offer to your Deities and serve *prasadam*. 🌀



Letters to the Editor

(Edited for brevity)

“Humbled”

Dear Mithuna Twiins,

All glories to Srila Prabhupada! I am humbled by your extraordinary skills and dedication in service to the devotees and aspiring devotees such as myself.

After spending some time attempting to grasp in the least the big picture of my life as you have presented, I find myself a little stunned as to my obvious accommodations and assistance in achieving the supreme goal of this life. In closing I again thank you both for my having the opportunity to associate with you, for this or any reason. I am grateful and truly respect your exemplary seva to Srila Prabhupada and the devotees. Nityananda Prabhu ki jaya!

HB (USA)

Dandavats to you. We are touched most deeply by the kindness of your words and your appreciation of our work. Thank you. Hare Krishna. –Ed.

“Precious Knowledge”

Dear Prabhus,

The file of charts was well received. Thanks, I have not been through so many charts for a long time. Very inspiring way of appreciating your expertise. I sincerely hope these children and their parents will take advantage of such precious knowledge.

Your servant,

VD (Canada)

“Great Newsletter”

Dear Prabhus,

Great newsletter! Every article was very practical. I sent it out to many folks. Helpful to understand about the karmic crocodiles that are constantly after us and that it was US and our past behavior that invoked them. The planets don't really have anything against us at all, they are just "carrying out orders" based on our previous activities. We all like to forget this aspect and blame others—I do it myself all the time!!! That is how my partner preached to people. Not everyone appreciated it, but it is the fact, and you can't really dispute it. Thanks!

Your humble servant,

KK (India)

“Super Excellent”

Dear Prabhus,

The Astrological Newsletter is super excellent! Kudos to you both. First class, all of your Newsletters should be put together and bound in book form. Great preaching and insight. Jai.

AD (USA)

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