



Śrī Devashayani Ekādaśī

Issue no:165

20th July 2021

## THE SUPREME SPIRITUAL MASTER

MATSYA, THE LORD'S FISH INCARNATION  
*Srila Sukadeva Goswami*

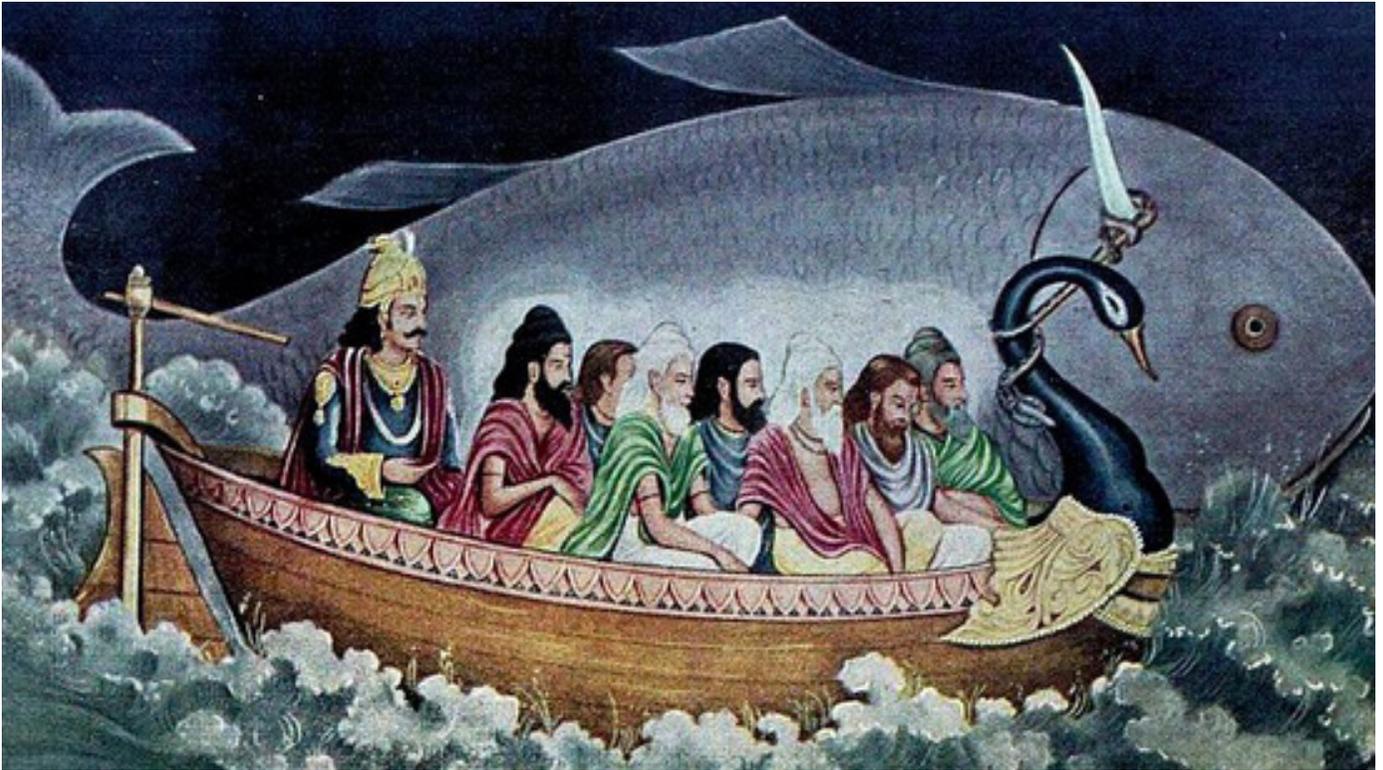
THE SUPREME SPIRITUAL MASTER  
*His Divine Grace*  
*A.C.Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada*

SERVING SPIRITUAL MASTER'S LOTUS FEET  
*Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakura*

ORDINARILY THE INITIATING SPIRITUAL MASTER  
CANNOT BE REJECTED  
*Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura*

DISRESPECTING THE SPIRITUAL MASTER  
*Srila Vrindavan Das Thakura*

Circulaton 31,745



MATSYA, THE LORD'S FISH INCARNATION  
*Srila Sukadeva Goswami*

**Maharaja Pariksit said:** The Supreme Personality of Godhead, Hari, is eternally situated in His transcendental position, yet He descends to this material world and manifests Himself in various incarnations. His first incarnation was that of a great fish. O most powerful Sukadeva Goswami, I wish to hear from you the pastimes of that fish incarnation. What was the purpose for which the Supreme Personality of Godhead accepted the abominable form of a fish, exactly as an ordinary living being accepts different forms under the laws of karma? The form of a fish is certainly condemned and full of terrible pain. O my lord, what then was the reason behind His accepting this incarnation? Kindly explain this to us, for hearing about the pastimes of the Lord is auspicious for everyone.

**Suta Goswami said:** When Pariksit Maharaja thus inquired from Sukadeva Goswami, that most powerful saintly person began describing the pastimes of the Lord's incarnation as a fish.

**Sri Sukadeva Goswami said:** O King, for the sake of protecting the cows, *brāhmaṇas*, demigods, devotees, the *Vedic* literature, religious principles, and general principles aimed at fulfilling the purpose of life, the Supreme Personality of

Godhead accepts various forms of incarnations. Like the air passing through different types of atmospheres, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, although appearing sometimes as a human being and sometimes as a lower animal, is always transcendental. Because He is above the material modes of nature, He is unaffected by manifesting in higher and lower forms. O King Pariksit, at the end of Brahma's day, with the closure of the past millennium, annihilation took place, and the three worlds were covered by the water of the causal ocean. At that time, when Brahma felt sleepy and desired to lie down, the *Vedas* were emanating from his mouth, and the great demon named Hayagriva stole all that *Vedic* knowledge. Understanding the acts of the great demon Hayagriva, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Hari, who is full of all plenitudes, assumed the form of a fish and rescued the *Vedas* by killing the demon.

During the *Cākṣuṣa-manvantara* there was a great king named Satyavrata who was an exalted devotee of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Satyavrata performed austerities by subsisting only on water. In the subsequent millennium King Satyavrata became the son of Vivasvan, the king of the sun planet, and was known as Sradhdhadeva. By the mercy of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, he was given the post of Manu. One day while King Satyavrata was performing aus-

terities by offering water on the bank of the river Krtamala, a small fish appeared in the water held in his palms. Satyavrata, the King of Dravidadesa, promptly threw the fish into the water of the river along with the water in his palms. O King Pariksit, descendant of Bharata, with an appealing voice, the small fish said to King Satyavrata, who was very merciful: My dear King, protector of the vulnerable, why are you throwing Me in the water of the river, where there are other aquatics who can kill Me? I am very afraid of them. King Satyavrata, not knowing that the fish was the Supreme Personality of Godhead, decided with great pleasure to give the small fish protection. Being moved by the pitiable words of the fish, the merciful King placed the fish in a water jug and brought Him to his personal residence. However, in a single night that fish grew so much that He could not easily move His body in the water of the pot. He then spoke to the King as follows. O My dear King, I do not like living in this cramped waterpot. Therefore, please find some better reservoir of water where I can live comfortably. Taking the fish out of the waterpot, the King then placed Him in a large well. But within a moment the fish developed to the length of three cubits. The fish then said: My dear King, this insignificant reservoir of water is not fit for My residence. Please give Me, who have taken shelter of you, a more extensive pool of water.

O Maharaja Pariksit, the King took the fish from the well and put Him in a lake, but the fish then assumed a gigantic form exceeding the extent of that body of water. The fish then said: O King, I am a large aquatic and this water is not even slightly suitable for Me. Kindly find some way to save Me. It would be better to put Me in the water of a lake that will never diminish in size. When thus requested, King Satyavrata took the fish to the largest inland reservoir of water he could find. But when that also proved insufficient, the King at last placed the gigantic fish into the ocean. While being thrown in the ocean, the fish said to King Satyavrata: O hero, in this water there are very powerful and dangerous sharks that will eat Me. Therefore, you should not throw Me in this place.

After hearing these sweet words from the Supreme Personality of Godhead in the form of a fish, the King, being bewildered, asked Him: Who are You, sir? You simply bewilder me. My Lord, in one day You have expanded Yourself for hundreds

of miles, covering the water of the river and the ocean. Before this I had never seen or heard of such an aquatic animal. My Lord, You are certainly the inexhaustible Supreme Personality of Godhead, Narayana, Sri Hari. It is to show Your mercy to the living entities that You have now assumed the form of an aquatic. O my Lord, master of creation, maintenance and annihilation, O best of the enjoyers of sacrifice, Lord Visnu, You are the leader and destination of surrendered devotees like us. Therefore, let me offer my respectful obeisance unto You. All Your pastimes and incarnations certainly appear for the welfare of all living entities. Therefore, my Lord, I wish to know the purpose for which You have assumed this form of a fish. O my Lord, possessing eyes like the petals of a lotus, the worship of the demigods, who are in the bodily concept of life, is fruitless in all respects. But because You are the supreme friend and dearest Supersoul of everyone, worship of Your lotus feet is never useless. You have therefore manifested Your form as a fish.

**Sukadeva Goswami said:** When King Satyavrata spoke in this way, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who at the end of the *yuga* had assumed the form of a fish to benefit His devotee and enjoy His pastimes in the water of inundation, responded as follows. The Supreme Personality of Godhead said: O King, who can subdue your enemies, on the seventh day from today the three worlds — *Bhūh*, *Bhuvah* and *Svah* — will all merge into the water of inundation. When the three worlds merge into the water, a large boat sent by Me will appear before you. Thereafter, O King, you shall collect all types of herbs and seeds and load them on that great boat. Then, accompanied by the seven *ṛṣis* and surrounded by all kinds of living entities, you shall board that boat, and without moroseness you shall easily travel with your companions on the ocean of inundation, the only illumination being the effulgence of the great *ṛṣis*. Then, as the boat is tossed about by the powerful winds, attach the vessel to My horn by means of the great serpent Vasuki, for I shall be present by your side. Pulling the boat, with you and all the *ṛṣis* in it, O King, I shall travel in the water of devastation until the night of Lord Brahma's slumber is over. You will be perfectly advised and thoroughly favoured by Me, and because of your current inquiries, everything

about My glories, which are known as *param brahma*, will be manifest within your heart. Thus, you will know everything about Me.

After thus instructing the King, the Supreme Personality of Godhead immediately disappeared. Then King Satyavrata began to wait for that time of which the Lord had instructed. After spreading *kuśa* grass with its tips pointing east, the saintly King, facing the northeast, sat down on the grass and began to patiently meditate upon the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Visnu, who had assumed the form of a fish. Thereafter, gigantic clouds pouring incessant water caused the ocean to expand more and more. Thus, the ocean began to overflow onto the land and inundate the entire world. As Satyavrata remembered the order of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, he saw a boat coming near him. Thus, he collected herbs and creepers, and, accompanied by saintly *brāhmaṇas*, he got aboard the boat. The saintly *brāhmaṇas*, being pleased with the King, said to him: O King, please meditate upon the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Kesava. He will save us from this impending danger and arrange for our well-being. Then, while the King constantly meditated upon the Supreme Personality of Godhead, a large golden fish appeared in the ocean of inundation. The fish had one horn and was eight million miles long. Following the instructions formerly given by the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the King anchored the boat to the fish's horn, using the serpent Vasuki as a rope. Thus, feeling content at heart, he began offering prayers to the Lord.

**The King said:** By the grace of the Lord, those who have lost their self-knowledge since time immemorial, and who because of this ignorance are involved in a material, conditional life full of miseries, obtain the chance to meet the Lord's devotee. I accept that very Supreme Personality of Godhead as the supreme spiritual master. In hopes of becoming happy in this material world, the foolish conditioned soul performs fruitive activities that result only in suffering. However, by rendering service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, one becomes free from such false desires for happiness. May that Lord, my supreme spiritual master, cut the knot of false desires from the core of my heart. One who wants to be free of material entanglement should take to the service

of the Supreme Personality of Godhead and give up the contamination of ignorance, concerning the duality of supposedly pious and impious activities. Thus, one regains his original identity, just as a block of gold or silver sheds all dirt and becomes purified when treated with fire. May that inexhaustible Supreme Personality of Godhead become our spiritual master, for He is the original spiritual master of all other spiritual masters. Neither all the demigods, nor the so-called *gurus* nor all other people, either independently or together, can offer mercy that equals even one ten-thousandth of Your mercy O Lord. Therefore, I wish to take complete shelter of Your lotus feet. As a blind man, being unable to see, accepts another blind man as his leader, people who do not know the goal of life accept someone as a *guru* who is a rascal and a fool. But we are interested in self-realization. Therefore, we accept You, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, as our spiritual master, for You are able to see in all directions and are omniscient like the sun. A materialistic pseudo *guru* instructs his disciples about economic development and sense gratification, and because of such instructions the foolish disciples continue in the materialistic existence of ignorance. However, Your Lordship gives knowledge that is eternal, and the intelligent person receiving such knowledge is quickly situated in his original constitutional position. My Lord, You are the supreme well-wishing friend of everyone, the dearest friend, the controller, the Supersoul, the supreme instructor and the giver of supreme knowledge and the fulfiller of all desires. Although You are within their heart, the foolish, because of sense gratificatory desires, cannot understand You. O Supreme Lord, for self-realization I surrender unto You, who are worshiped by the demigods as the supreme controller of everything. By Your instructions, exposing life's purpose, kindly cut the knot from the core of my heart and let me know the destination of my life.

**Sukadeva Goswami continued:** When Satyavrata had thus prayed to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who had assumed the form of a fish, the Lord, while moving in the water of inundation, explained to him all aspects of the Absolute Truth. The Supreme Personality of Godhead thus explained to King Satyavrata the



spiritual science known as *sāṅkhya-yoga*, the science by which one distinguishes between matter and spirit, along with the instructions contained in the *Purāṇas* and the *samhitās*. The Lord explained Himself in all these literatures. While sitting in the boat, King Satyavrata, accompanied by the great saintly persons, listened to the instructions of the Supreme Personality of Godhead in regard to self-realisation. These instructions were all from the eternal *Vedic* literature. Thus, the King and sages harboured no doubt about the Absolute Truth. Similarly, at the end of the last inundation, during the period of Svayambhuva Manu, the Supreme Personality of Godhead killed the demon named Hayagriva and delivered the complete *Vedic* literature to Lord Brahma as he awakened from sleeping. King Satyavrata was illuminated with all *Vedic* knowledge by the mercy of Lord Visnu, and in this period he has now taken birth as Vaivasvata Manu, the son of the sun god. This story concerning the great King Satyavrata and the fish incarnation of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Visnu, is a great transcendental narration. Anyone who hears it with proper attention is certainly delivered from the reactions of sinful life. One who narrates this description of the Matsya incarnation and King Satyavrata will certainly have all his ambitions fulfilled, and he will undoubtedly return home, back to Godhead. I offer my respectful obeisance

unto the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who pretended to be a gigantic fish, who restored the *Vedic* literature to Lord Brahma when Lord Brahma awakened from sleep, and who explained the essence of *Vedic* literature to King Satyavrata and the great saintly persons.

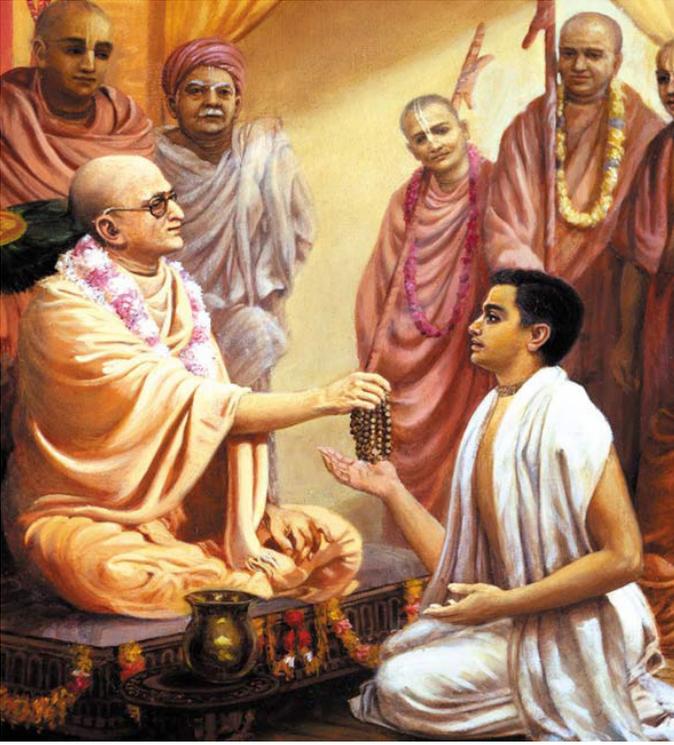
- *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (Bhāgavata Purāṇa) > Canto 8: Withdrawal of the Cosmic Creation > Chapter: Twenty Four: Matsya, The Lord's Fish Incarnation, Verse: 1-61.

## THE SUPREME SPIRITUAL MASTER

*His Divine Grace*

A.C.Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

The Supreme Personality of Godhead Himself is actually the supreme spiritual master. The Supreme Lord knows everything about the suffering of the conditioned soul, and therefore He appears in this material world, sometimes personally, sometimes by an incarnation and sometimes by empowering a particular living being to act on His behalf. In all cases, however, He Himself is the original spiritual master who enlightens the conditioned souls who are suffering in the material world. The Lord is always actively helping the conditioned souls in many ways. Therefore, He is addressed here as *paramo gurur bhavān*, the supreme spiritual master. The representative of the Supreme Personality of Godhead who acts to disseminate Krishna con-



sciousness is personally guided by the Supreme Lord to act perfectly in executing His order. Such a person may appear to be an ordinary human being, but because he acts on behalf of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the supreme spiritual master, he is not to be considered an ordinary person and thus inadequately respected. It is therefore said, *ācāryam mām vijānīyāt* [SB 11.17.27]: an *ācārya* who acts on behalf of the Supreme Personality of Godhead should be understood to be as good as the Supreme Lord Himself.

*sākṣād dharitvena samasta-sāstrair  
uktas tathā bhāvya eva sadbhiḥ  
kintu prabhor yaḥ priya eva tasya  
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakura has advised that the spiritual master acting on the Supreme Lord's behalf must be worshiped as being as good as the Supreme Lord, for he is the Lord's most confidential servant, always actively broadcasting the Lord's message for the benefit of the conditioned souls entangled here in the material world.

- *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (Bhāgavata Purāṇa) > Canto 8: Withdrawal of the Cosmic Creation > Chapter: Twenty Four: Matsya, The Lord's Fish Incarnation, Verse: 46, Purport

nityam bhāgavata-sevayā

SERVING THE SPIRITUAL MASTER'S LOTUS FEET  
*Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakura*

A real disciple accepts his spiritual master as the servitor form of God, and hence most dear to Krishna. He never considers his spiritual master inferior to the Lord in any way. A sincere disciple serves and worships his spiritual master as if he were God. Those who do not follow this principle fall down from their position as disciples. Until we see the spiritual master as a manifestation of and non-different from the Supreme Lord, we will not be able to chant the Lord's name purely. A genuine disciple must possess firm determination and faith in his spiritual master, thinking, "I will serve my spiritual master and Lord Gauranga with utmost simplicity. I will follow my spiritual master's instructions, which have descended here from the Supreme Lord. I will never disobey my spiritual master's orders despite the influence of anyone in this world. If following my spiritual master means I must become proud or become an animal or go to hell forever, I will still never hesitate. I will not follow anyone other than my spiritual master. I will destroy the current of mundane thought by the strength of his instructions. If my spiritual master showers even a particle of pollen from his lotus feet upon the world, then millions of people will be delivered. There is no knowledge or proper code of conduct in the fourteen worlds that weighs more than a particle of dust from the lotus feet of my spiritual master."

- *Amṛta Vāṇī: Nectar of Instructions of Immortality of His Divine Grace Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakura Prabhupada; Compiled by Sripada Bhakti Mayukha Bhagavat Maharaja; Adapted and Published by Isvara dasa; Touchstone Media.*

ORDINARILY THE INITIATING SPIRITUAL MASTER  
CANNOT BE REJECTED

*Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura*

It is true that the initiating spiritual master generally cannot be rejected. However, due to two reasons, he should be rejected. The first reason is that if a disciple did not test his spiritual master's credentials at the time of accepting him as his spiritual master, and thus he realises that he cannot obtain any benefit from his teachings. In such a case the disciple should reject his spiritual master. The second reason is that at the time of accepting a

spiritual master the spiritual master was a *Vaiṣṇava*, and the knower of the truth, but later on due to bad association he may become a *māyāvādī*, (impersonalist) or envious of the *Vaiṣṇavas*. In such a case also one should reject his spiritual master.”

- (Jaiva Dharma Chapter 20)

### DISRESPECTING THE SPIRITUAL MASTER

Srila Vrindavan Das Thakura

*nityānande yāhāra tileka dveṣa rahe  
bhakta haile o se kṛṣṇera priya nahe*

“If one has the slightest envy for Nityananda, he is never favored by Krishna even if he appears to be a devotee.”

It is to be understood that those who disrespect the spiritual master, who is non-different from the Supreme Lord, by considering him a mortal being and addressing him as “my spiritual master,” “his spiritual master,” and so on, have not actually accepted the spiritual master as the very dear associate of Krishna. Due to material considerations, people in this world accept the spiritual master, who is a direct manifestation of the Supreme Lord, as an object of enjoyment. It is impossible for members of these pseudo spiritual communities (*sampradāya*) to come to the same platform as, or cooperate with the pure devotees. It is the nature of persons who are envious of the *Vaiṣṇavas* to consider the spiritual master as an object of enjoyment because any consideration other than, *āmāra prabhura prabhu Gaurāṅga-sundara/ e baḍa bharasā citte dhari nirantara*—“Sri Gaurāṅga-sundara is the Lord of my Lord. I always keep this conviction in my heart,” creates thirteen pseudo *sampradāyas* like *āula, bāula, kartābhajā, prākṛta-sahajiyā, sakhī-bhekī, jāti-gosāi, and gaurānāgarī*. Actually if one rejects the concept of *guru* or disrespects the eternally worshipable Supreme Personality of Godhead’s supreme servitor and attributes abominable, insignificant, mundane considerations on him, then according to the *ardha-kukkuti-nyāya*, the logic of accepting half of a hen, his atheistic nature is clearly demonstrated. Whenever the so-called spiritual masters of the pseudo *sampradāyas* display their envy against the pure *Vaiṣṇavas*, one should abandon those *apa-sampradāya* so-called *gurus*, who are actually *laghu* (useless), understanding them to be envious

of the *Vaiṣṇavas*. One should then search for and take shelter of a pure *Vaiṣṇava*, who is spiritual master of the entire world and knower of the science of Krishna.

Besides members of the *Rūpānuga-sampradāya*, members of the other thirteen *apa-sampradāyas* are envious of the devotees who follow Sri Rupa, therefore Lord Krishna never considers them as dear. That is why people who maintain animosity towards the pure devotee followers of Sri Rupa actually become *laghu* (worthless). The spiritual masters who are dear to Krishna, are always attached to the *Vaiṣṇava* spiritual masters who follow Sri Rupa. On the pretext of devotional service, the members of the *apa-sampradāyas* appoint someone who is envious of the Supreme Lord as *guru* and thus maintain their pride. Knowing them to be bad association, the pure devotees give up their company and remain firmly fixed at the feet of their spiritual master under the subordination of Sri Rupa. While analysing the answer to the question, “Which person who is accepted as *guru* is actually a pure *Vaiṣṇava*, and very dear to Krishna?” if we find that a person does not accept the followers of Sri Rupa as his intimate friends, but rather envies them, then such a person should be known as a bogus *guru* and should be completely rejected without delay.

- Śrī Caitanya-bhāgavata - Srila Vrindavana dasa Thakura, With English Translation of the Gauḍīya-bhāṣya Commentary and Chapter Summaries of His Divine Grace Sri Srimad Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Goswami Maharaja

!! Sri Sri Nitai Gaurechandra Jayati !!

**ISKCON**

**Bhagavata Mahāvidyalaya**

is a branch of

International Society for Krishna Consciousness

Founder-Acarya: His Divine Grace

A.C. BhaktiVedanta Swami Prabhupada

**Editor**

Brajsunder Das

**Copy Editor**

Isha Prakash Das

**Sanskrit Editor,**

Vrajsevika Devī Dasi

**Assistance**

Vamsidhari Gauri Devī Dasi

Quotations from the books, letters, and lectures of His Divine Grace A.C. BhaktiVedanta Swami Prabhupada

©Bhaktivedanta Book Trust International.

©All the paintings are copyrights of their respective artists.