



SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVES

*Seeing the World through Spiritual Eyes
For Friends and Followers of Mukunda Goswami*

Perspectives Matter

By Radha devi dasi

If you are not a fan of social media, you may have missed the international outcry over the killing of a lion in Zimbabwe. A trophy-hunting American killed a beloved lion that was lured off protected land. Minnesota dentist Walter Palmer paid \$55,000 to a pair of local guides for the lion hunt.

Authorities charge the safari was more like a mob hit, with the unwitting 13-year-old king of the jungle known as Cecil enticed to his death outside a national park. After Palmer shot the lion with a bow and arrow, the wounded beast attempted to escape for 40 hours before he was shot, skinned and beheaded, with his carcass dumped near the park's border.

Not only is Palmer facing extradition over poaching charges, he is currently in hiding after an onslaught of criticism that threatened his life and his business. If the outcry over the killing of Cecil shows anything, it is that we are capable of moral outrage at the killing of animals. A huge contradiction remains in that society seems to have no moral outrage over the killing of millions of animals that fill the collective dinner plate.

Animals, like humans, are *jiva* souls sharing an eternal relationship with the Supreme. They are conscious beings capable of feeling pleasure and pain. Mundane compassion alone would dictate that we

<http://usm.ag/1NGkqDM>



protect them. In any given year, however, a typical first world consumer will contribute to the deaths of 300-400 land animals alone by eating meat. These farm animals live lives of constant torture and suffering before they are slain.

Srila Prabhupada noted the importance of changing societal views on animals. "If people are to be educated to the path of Godhead, they must be taught first and foremost to stop the process of animal-killing.... It is nonsensical to say that animal-killing has nothing to do with spiritual realization." [Srimad Bhagavatam 1.3.24 purport]

In fact, the scriptures describe and condemn the "duality of vision" that allows us to make artificial distinctions between those we love and those we kill. Even so, animal welfare activists in the west have lobbied for better treatment of animals. Their efforts have paid off for some species, and not as well for others.

One aspect of this struggle that receives little attention is the effect of personalism on perceptions of animals. When we identify with an animal, understanding that it suffers in the same way we do, we become more likely to protect that animal.

Anna Seward's classic novel, *Black Beauty*, greatly improved the treatment of horses by using this technique. In a recent review of the book, American author Jane Smiley notes that "*Black Beauty* helped people see animals in a new way. As soon as you say that an animal has a point of view, then it's very difficult to just go and be cruel to that animal." In writing from *Black Beauty*'s point of view and sharing his struggles, Seward helped an entire nation change their views on the treatment of horses.

We draw the same understanding from the *Gita*'s teaching that every soul, regardless of its current body, is of the same quality and has the same value. Yet, we frequently ignore that realization in favor of sweeping, impersonal characterizations of the suffering of cows and other animals. Animals in factory farms are traumatized and rarely given any opportunity to show love and affection. It is easy to see them as impersonal agricultural units.

At our Vaisnava farms, on the other hand, we see intimate, loving relationships cows (and other animals) have with each other and with their caretakers. Perhaps if we share these relationships with the larger society, we can awaken their compassion for all animals.

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ISKCON 50th Anniversary Philately Stamps to be Launched During Temple Opening in Penang

By Simheswara Dasa, August 9, 2015
<http://bit.ly/1UUcuEL>

Kuala Lumpur — On July 11, 1966, Srila Prabhupada officially registered his International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) in New York City. At that time, he had one small storefront on New York's Lower East-Side, and a handful of students. Today, there are nearly four hundred ISKCON centers all over the world, and thousands of ISKCON devotees. ISKCON is now gearing up for its 50th Anniversary, with plans for celebratory events all over the world throughout 2016.

To mark the significance of His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada's maiden visit to the USA in 1965, ISKCON Malaysia will be launching the ISKCON 50th anniversary 60 sen philately stamps by the Malaysian postal office, Pos Malaysia on August 29, 2015 at the Sri-Sri Radha-Krishna temple opening in Seberang Prai, Penang.



<http://bit.ly/1UUcuEL>



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Pictured Above and Left: ISKCON 50th anniversary 60 sen philately stamps by the Malaysian postal office

New Jersey Church-Turned Temple to Get Three Day Grand Opening

By Madhava Smullen, ISKCON News, August 14, 2015

<http://bit.ly/1E6KREj>

ISKCON of Central New Jersey (ICNJ) will celebrate the grand opening of its new 18,000 square foot temple in Plainfield—a converted church—with a three-day weekend festival from August 28th to 30th.

Close to 10,000 people, including devotees, members of the Indian community, and other locals are expected to attend at the height of the festivities. Plainfield Mayor Adrian Mapp has confirmed his attendance, while ISKCON has also invited local pastors, rabbis and mullahs in an attempt to develop good interfaith relationships.

Senior ISKCON leaders including Romapada Swami, Jayadvaita Swami, Bhaktimarga Swami, Ambarisa Das, and Radha Jivan Das are also set to join the celebrations.

An immersive six-hour “Reverberating Kirtan” will kick off proceedings on Friday, with the Mayapuris, New York’s own Acyuta Gopi, and Amala Kirtan from Texas leading the chanting.

During this time, Sri Sri Radha-Shyamasundara—who will be the temple’s presiding Deities—will be carried into the main prayer hall in a procession, and their eyes unveiled for the first time in a ceremony called *Netra Unmilanam*.

On Saturday, the auspicious occasion of Lord Balarama’s Appearance, festivities will begin at 7am with a *Prana Pratistha* fire sacrifice and a *Maha Abhisekha*, or bathing ceremony for the Deities. A *Sudarshana chakra* will also be installed on the altar’s inside dome.

In the evening, participants will get to view Sri-Sri Radha-Shyamasundara in a beautiful outfit for their first “*Sringara Darshan*.” Bhaktimarga Swami, known for his theatrical tour-de-force productions, will then present “The Bluish Boy,” followed by traditional *Bharatanatyam* dance, more kirtan and a sumptuous dinner.

“Sunday will be our first morning program, starting from *mangal-arati*, for the Deities,” says



<http://bit.ly/1E6KREj>

temple president Madhupati Das. “We’ll then swing our small Deities in a ‘Julan Yatra,’ and have a grand finale kirtan and feast at 1pm.”

It’s a thrilling conclusion to a long journey for ISKCON Central New Jersey, which started in 2004 with just twenty devotees holding home programs. The new temple, purchased in August 2014 for \$1.4 million, will serve a congregation of 400 on an average Sunday Feast day and more on festival days.

It sits on a leafy two acre lot and consists of two buildings, divided by a pretty courtyard. Devotees have spent seven months and half a million dollars on renovations, including a gift shop, a new lobby reception desk, an office for meetings, and an Audiovisual room to control projection screens and webcams for live broadcasts.

They did some of the hard work themselves, including installing bamboo and tile flooring. “For the last few months, our congregation would come to work every night from 7pm until midnight,” Madhupati says.

The new temple includes a prayer hall, with seating space for 600 people, and a community hall with space for 400. The prayer hall features a 26 feet wide by 13 feet tall teak wood altar with goldleafing. Made in Ujjain, India it has three spaces for not only Sri-Sri Radha-Shyamasundara, but also Jagannath, Baladeva, and Subhadra,

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whom devotees plan to install next spring, and Sri-Sri Gaura-Nitai, who will come later.

Meanwhile, the community hall will be partitioned for children's Sunday School classes, as well as classes on *Bharatanatyam* dance, music, and yoga. "We'll also host Laxmimoni Mataji's teacher training course and the ISKCON Disciples Course, as well as the Bhakti Sastri study course on Srila Prabhupada's books," Madhupati says.

A major focus of ISKCON Central New Jersey's new temple will be education – the community's youth will continue to do outreach through Rutgers University's Bhakti Club, and Madhupati wants to eventually expand to be able to accommodate and cultivate brahmacharis (celibate students) as well as householders.

The temple also features a commercial kitchen, from which devotees will cater prasadam lunches and dinners to nearby offices, as well as lunch programs at nearby colleges like Rutgers and the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

ISKCON Central New Jersey currently organizes three Ratha-yatra festivals – one at the India Independence Day in Edison in August; one at the ISKCON property itself on the same day as the Jagannath Puri Ratha-yatra in June/July; and one in Atlantic City also in June/July, which draws 2,000 Western tourist participants new to Lord Jagannath.

"Right now, our congregation is 95% Indian," says Madhupati Das, who hails from India himself. "But we plan to reach out and gradually grow our Western audience."

Madhupati is feeling grateful for where ICNJ is today. "From just 20 people, we've grown so much, and from having to rent a facility for festivals, we now have a temple that will be open for worship seven days a week," he says. "Now many of the congregation members who were coming and serving on Saturdays and Sundays will take the opportunity to come every day. It's really bringing the community together."

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ISKCON Celebration Held

By Mridula Chattopadhyay, www.Dandavats.com, August 14, 2015
<http://bit.ly/1I8ATnw>

Kolkata, India

ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness), an organization engaged in spreading the message of love and camaraderie in society, today celebrated the golden jubilee of its founder A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada's journey to the United States, where he created the organization. Among the dignitaries present for the celebration were West Bengal Governor Keshrinath Tripathy and retired Indian Police Service officer Kiran Bedi, to name just two.

While eminent danseuse, Dona Ganguly, and her troupe performed a dance program, there was also a yoga session, in which representatives from

over 109 countries took part. "On the World Yoga Day in Delhi, delegates from 86 countries took part in a yoga session which was led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. But here we have broken the record and I believe we snagged a place in the Guinness Book of Records in so far as participation in a yoga session is concerned," Radharaman Das, spokesperson for ISKCON, said.

It was on this day 50 years ago that A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada set out for the United States at the age of 69 and once there, despite tremendous odds, set up the mission which has now over 600 branches spread across the world.



Early Warning Signs of a Heart Attack you Shouldn't Ignore

By Sandeep Godiyal, www.naturalnews.com, August 16, 2015
<http://bit.ly/1Nwzhod>

(NaturalNews) Most people who are health-conscious—even if they are living a fit lifestyle—worry at least a little bit about the possibility of a heart attack. Heart disease in general is a big problem. As a matter of fact, it is the number one killer in America and in several other developed nations as well. There are also many risk factors to

worry about: diet, lack of exercise, family history, being overweight or obese and having a high level of stress have all been linked to a greater chance of a heart attack.

The good news is that there are ways a heart attack can be prevented. Eating a balanced diet,

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http://bit.ly/1e4MG8d



maintaining a healthy weight, staying fit and managing stress all reduce the chance of this kind of incident. And beyond this, it is also good to be knowledgeable about the early warning signs of a heart attack, so that action can be taken before it is too late.

Warning signs

Irregular or rapid heartbeat. If the heart feels like it is beating too fast, beating irregularly or pounding against the chest, it is sign that a heart attack could be on the way. It is particularly serious if this happens after some sort of exertion and if the heart rate feels as though it is both rapid and irregular together.

Digestive upset. Not all signs of a heart attack are considered to be “classic.” Feelings of nausea, heartburn or indigestion that seem worse than normal or do not go away with antacids or

similar medications could be a sign of a heart attack especially in women over 60.

Fatigue. Many people have problems with fatigue for a number of reasons that have nothing to do with heart health. However, if the fatigue is severe, does not go away with rest or even appears to be getting worse, it is best to call the doctor, as this could be part of a buildup to a heart attack.

Anxiety. Anxiety that seems to come on suddenly especially if a person does not have a history of this problem can be a sign of low oxygen levels in the brain. This, in turn, can be a sign that the heart is not able to pump enough blood to keep the body oxygenated due to an incipient heart attack. Not everyone will get all of these signs and symptoms since every individual is different.

However, knowing what potential signs to look for—and when to get help—is a good thing to get educated about. Those who get early treatment for this kind of incident have a much better chance of survival than those who wait to seek help until the attack is well advanced.

Sources:

<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov>

<http://circ.ahajournals.org>

<http://www.healthline.com>

About the author:

Sandeep has written many health field articles for both Internet and print publication. He currently writing for insurancetips4u.co.

Ancient Statue Of Hindu God Hanuman Returned To Cambodia

By Sopheng Cheang, *The Huffington Post*, May 12, 2015
<http://huff.to/1PAVRLn>

Phnom Penh, Cambodia (AP) — Cambodia welcomed home a 10th century stone statue of a Hindu god that was looted from a temple during the country’s civil war and spent the past three decades at an American museum.

The sculpture of monkey god Hanuman was formally handed over Tuesday at a ceremony in Phnom Penh attended by government officials and the director of the Cleveland Museum of Art, which acquired the sculpture in 1982.

“If Hanuman were alive, we would see a smile on his face showing his joy at being here among us where he belongs,” Deputy Prime Minister

Sok An said at the ceremony in the Office of the Council of Ministers.

The statue was stolen from the Prasat Chen Temple in the Koh Ker temple complex in Siem Reap province, which is also home to the famed Angkor Wat temples, said Sok An, adding that it was shipped to Europe and then the United States.

“Now, after his long journey, he is finally back home,” said Sok An, who praised the museum’s initiative in returning the statue and called on others “to follow the example of returning plundered treasures to their rightful owners.”

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Officials at the Cleveland museum found last year that the statue's head and body were sold separately in 1968 and 1972 during the Vietnam War and the Cambodian civil war. An excavation showed the sculpture's base matched a pedestal at the ancient temple.

"As more and more information came to light, we became firmly convinced that the sculpture belongs here," said William Griswold, the director of the Cleveland museum. He said that when the museum acquired the piece its connection with the Koh Ker temple was "far from certain."

The Hanuman is the sixth "blood antiquity" returned to Cambodia in recent years. The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York returned two, and one antique has been returned each from Sotheby's auction house, Christie's auction house and the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena, California.

Their returns mark steps to bringing back together nine figures that once formed a tableau in a tower of the temple. The scene captured a famous duel in Hindu mythology in which the warrior Duryodhana is struck down by his cousin Bhima at the end of a bloody war of succession while seven attendants look on.

"We in Cleveland have been fortunate to benefit from the presence of Hanuman for more than 30 years," Griswold said. The sculpture was displayed constantly at the museum since its acquisition, and was a favorite among schoolchildren who imitated its kneeling pose during tours. "He has taught visitors to our museum about the glories of Khmer civilization," Griswold said. "While he will be sorely missed in the United States, we rejoice in his return."

Please send us your feedback
feedback@mukundagoswami.org

Personal Message...



Dear Friends,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

This is similar to the message of last month.

An apparent clash stems from the *Bhagavad-gita As It Is* statement in 18.67 that says: “This confidential knowledge may never be explained to those who are not austere, or devoted, or engaged in devotional service, nor to one who is envious of Me.” The following verse says, “For one who explains this supreme secret to the devotees, pure devotional service is guaranteed, and at the end he will come back to Me.” In this verse, the Sanskrit word for devotees is *bhaktesu*.

Nonetheless, there are many teachings that say we have to spread Krishna consciousness. There are many “outreach” teachings.

For example, Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu says, “Whomever you meet, simply talk with him about the instructions given by Krishna or tell him of narrations about Krishna.” (*Chaitanya-caritamrta Madhya-lila 7.128*).

Then there is the famous story of Ramanujacarya that Srila Prabhupada related in a lecture delivered in Ahmedabad in December of 1972.

Sri Ramanujacarya’s spiritual master said, “My dear son, the mantra which I am giving you, you should silently chant and you’ll be delivered. It is so powerful. Don’t chant this mantra loudly so that others can hear you.” So Ramanujacarya thought, “If this mantra is so powerful that whoever hears it will be delivered, why should I not share it?” He immediately went to the market and began to chant the mantra. His spiritual master became very angry at this, “I told you not to chant loudly enough for others to hear.” Ramanujacarya said, “My Lordship, I have offended you. But that’s all right. For this I am prepared to go to hell. If this mantra is so powerful, I must share it with everyone.”

How can we reconcile the two *Gita* verses in chapter 18 with other positions that say we have to preach to all people?

A possible scriptural solution contradiction is this verse: “Pure love for Krishna is eternally established in the hearts of the living entities. It is not something to be gained from another source. When the heart is purified by hearing and chanting, this love naturally awakens.” (*Chaitanya-caritamrta Madhya-lila 22.107*). This intimates that everyone is a devotee.

Another answer is this: “How many devotees do you have?” a reporter asked Srila Prabhupada on June 27, 1971.

“Unlimited,” Prabhupada said. “Some admit and some don’t admit.” (*Srila Prabhupada Lilamrta*).

Your servant,

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For lectures go to: <http://mukundagoswami.org/lectures>

