



Sri Sri Nimai Nitai Mandir Newsletter

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS, INC.
FOUNDER & ACHARYA: HIS DIVINE GRACE A. C. BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI PRABHUPADA

August 2009

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Krishna Janmashtami

Thursday August 13th - 7 pm



*****Latest Temple News*****

Vaishnava Calendar

Wednesday August 5th -

Appearance of Lord Balarama

Thursday August 13th -

Shri Krishna Janmashtami

Friday August 14th -

Appearance of Shрила Prabhupada

Sunday August 16th - Ekadashi

Thursday August 27th - Radhashtami

**Vegetarian Feast
and Festival -
Every Sunday 5:00 pm**

**Pictures from the Snana-yatra
Celebration- Sunday June 7th**



Shri Krishna Janmashtami

Janmashtami is the birthday celebration of Lord Shri Krishna. The following excerpt from the book Krsna, The Supreme Personality of Godhead, describes the circumstances relating to the Lord's birth as told by His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

As stated in the Bhagavad-gētā, the Lord says that His appearance, birth, and activities, are all transcendental, and one who understands them factually becomes immediately eligible to be transferred to the spiritual world. The Lord's appearance or birth is not like that of an ordinary man who is forced to accept a material body according to his past deeds. The Lord's appearance is explained in the Second Chapter: He appears out of His own sweet pleasure. When the time was mature for the appearance of the Lord, the constellations became very auspicious. The astrological influence of the star known as Rohiṇī was also predominant because this star is considered to be very auspicious. Rohiṇī is under the direct supervision of Brahmā. According to the astrological conclusion, besides the proper situation of the stars, there are auspicious and inauspicious moments due to the different situations of the different planetary systems. At the time of Kāṇēa's birth, the planetary systems were automatically adjusted so that everything became auspicious.

At that time, in all directions, east, west, south, north, everywhere, there was an atmosphere of peace and prosperity. There were auspicious stars visible in the sky, and on the surface in all towns and villages or pasturing grounds and within the minds of everyone there were signs of good fortune. The rivers were flowing full of waters, and lakes were beautifully decorated with lotus flowers. The forests were full with beautiful birds and peacocks. All the birds within the forests began to sing with sweet voices, and the peacocks began to dance along with their consorts. The wind blew very pleasantly, carrying the aroma of different

flowers, and the sensation of bodily touch was very pleasing. At home, the brāhmaēas, who were accustomed to offer sacrifices in the fire, found their homes very pleasant for offerings. Due to disturbances created by the demoniac kings, the sacrificial fire alter had been almost stopped in the houses of brāhmaēas, but now they could find the opportunity to start the fire peacefully. Being forbidden to offer sacrifices, the brāhmaēas were very distressed in mind, intelligence and activities, but just on the point of Kāṇēa's appearance, automatically their minds became full of joy because they could hear loud vibrations in the sky of transcendental sounds proclaiming the appearance of the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

The denizens of the Gandharva and Kinara planets began to sing, and the denizens of Siddhaloka and the planets of the Cāraēas began to offer prayers in the service of the Personality of Godhead. In the heavenly planets, the angels along with their wives, accompanied by the Apsaras, began to dance.

The great sages and the demigods, being pleased, began to shower flowers. At the seashore, there was the sound of mild waves, and above the sea there were clouds in the sky which began to thunder very pleasingly.

When things were adjusted like this, Lord Viñēu, who is residing within the heart of every living entity, appeared in the darkness of night as the Supreme Personality of Godhead before Devakē, who also appeared as one of the demigoddesses. The appearance of Lord Viñēu at that time could be compared with the full moon in



the sky as it rises on the eastern horizon. The objection may be raised that, since Lord Kāṇēa appeared on the eighth day of the waning moon, there could be no rising of the full moon. In answer to this it may be said that Lord Kāṇēa appeared in the dynasty which is in the hierarchy of the moon; therefore, although the moon was incomplete on that night, because of the Lord's appearance in the dynasty wherein the moon is himself the original person, the moon was in an overjoyous condition, so by the grace of Kāṇēa he could appear just as a full moon.

In an astronomical treatise by the name Khamāēikya, the constellations at the time of the appearance of Lord Kāṇēa are very nicely described. It is confirmed that the child born at that auspicious moment was the Supreme Brahman or the Absolute Truth.

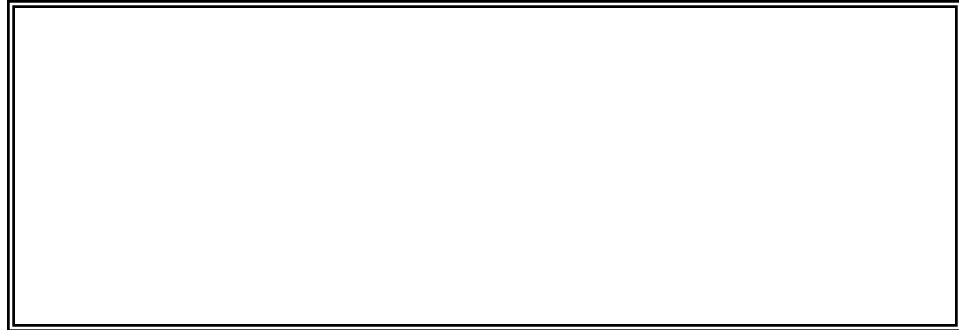
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Vasudeva saw that wonderful child born as a baby with four hands, holding conchshell, club, disc, and lotus flower, decorated with the mark of Çrévatsa, wearing the jeweled necklace of kaustubha stone, dressed in yellow silk, appearing dazzling like a bright blackish cloud, wearing a helmet bedecked with the vaidürya stone, valuable bracelets, earrings and similar other ornaments all over His body and an abundance of hair on His head. Due to the extraordinary features of the child, Vasudeva was struck with wonder. How could a newly born child be so decorated? He could therefore understand that Lord Kāñëa had now appeared, and he became overpowered by the occasion. Vasudeva very humbly wondered that although he was an ordinary living entity conditioned by material nature and was externally imprisoned by Kaàsa, the all-pervading Personality of Godhead, Viñëu or Kāñëa, was appearing as a child in his home, exactly in His original position. No earthly child is born with four hands decorated with ornaments and nice clothing, fully equipped with all the signs of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Over and over again, Vasudeva glanced at his child, and he considered how to celebrate this auspicious moment: "Generally, when a male child is born," he thought, "people observe the

occasion with jubilant celebrations, and in my home, although I am imprisoned, the Supreme Personality of Godhead has taken birth. How many millions of millions of times should I be prepared to observe this auspicious ceremony!"

When Vasudeva, who is also called Ānaka-
dundubhi, was looking at his newborn baby, he was so happy that he wanted to give many thousands of cows in charity to the brāhmaëas. According to the Vedic system, whenever there is an auspicious ceremony in the kīatriya king's palace, the king gives many things in charity. Cows decorated with golden ornaments are delivered to the brāhmaëas and sages. Vasudeva wanted to perform a charitable ceremony to celebrate Kāñëa's appearance, but because he was shackled within the walls of Kaàsa's prison, this was not possible. Instead, within his mind he gave thousands of cows to the brāhmaëas.

When Vasudeva was convinced that the newborn child was the Supreme Personality of Godhead Himself, he bowed down with folded hands and began to offer Him prayers. At that time Vasudeva was in the transcendental position, and he became completely free from all fear of Kaàsa. The newborn baby was also flashing His efful-



gence within the room in which He appeared.

Vasudeva then began to offer his prayers. "My dear Lord, I can understand who You are. You are the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the Supersoul of all living entities and the Absolute Truth. You have appeared in Your own eternal form which is directly perceived by us. I understand that because I am afraid of Kaàsa, You have appeared just to deliver me from that fear. You do not belong to this material world; You are the same person who brings about the cosmic manifestation simply by glancing over material nature."