

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur



Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati was born to Bhaktivinoda Thakura and Bhagavati Devi on Friday, February 6, 1874 at Jagannath Puri. Six months after the child was born, Bhaktivinoda arranged for his son to undergo the annaprasana ceremony with the prasada of Vimala Devi, and thereafter named the boy Bimala prasada.

When the child was six months old, Lord Jagannatha's Rathayatra Festival was in procession, and the cart stopped in front of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura's house for three days. Following the instructions of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura, Bhagavati Devi brought the child before the cart and an offered garland fell from the neck of the Lord, encircling the boy. This was taken as a sign of special favor

by all present.

When Siddhanta Sarasvati was twenty-six his father, understanding the mind of his son, guided him to take initiation from a renounced Vaisnava saint, Gaurakishora dasa Babaji. He tested Bhakti Siddhanta Sarasvati but after seeing his commitment Gaurakishora Das Babaji was impressed and gave him diksa in the blissful grove of Godruma and told him, "to preach the Absolute Truth and keep aside all other works."

In 1905 Siddhanta Sarasvati took a vow to chant the Hare Krishna mantra a billion times. Residing in Mayapur in a grass hut near the birthplace of Lord Caitanya, he chanted the mantra day and night. Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur published Sajjanatosani - a Bengali fortnightly, The Harmonist - an English fortnightly, Gaudiya - a Bengali weekly, etc. He also earned the title Nrisimha Guru for his fearless and powerful delivery of the Vaisnava siddhanta.

In Goloka Vrndavana, he resides eternally as Nayanimani Manjari. In the early hours of the day on January 1, 1937 Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Goswami passed away. Besides his phenomenal preaching success in India, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura's greatest contribution was Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada - the Founder Acharya of ISKCON, whom he initiated and inspired to distribute Krishna consciousness all over the world.