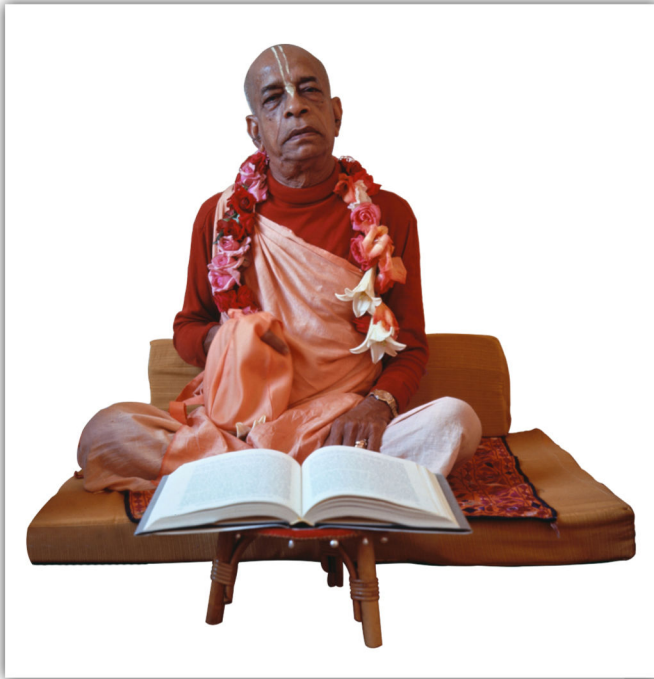


Name: _____ Date: _____

❀ Srila Prabhupada ❀



His Divine Grace A. C. Bhakti Vedanta Swami Prabhupada appeared in this world in 1896 in Calcutta, India on the day of Nandotsav – the day after Janmashtami. His mother was Rajani and his father was Gaurmohan De. During his childhood, he was named Abhayacaran.



He first met his spiritual master, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur, in Calcutta in 1922. Bhakti Siddhanta Sarasvati, a prominent religious scholar and the founder of sixty-four Gaudiya Mathas, liked this educated young man and convinced him to dedicate his life to teaching Vedic knowledge.

Srila Prabhupada became his formally initiated disciple at Allahabad in 1933.

At their first meeting, in 1922, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura requested Srila Prabhupada to broadcast Vedic knowledge through the English language. In the years that followed, Srila Prabhupada wrote a commentary on the Bhagavad-gita, assisted the Gaudiya Matha in its work and, in 1944, started Back to Godhead, an English fortnightly magazine. Maintaining the publication was a struggle. Single-handedly, Srila Prabhupada edited it, typed the manuscripts, checked the galley proofs, and even distributed the individual copies. Once begun, the magazine never stopped; it is now being continued by his disciples in the West and is published in over thirty languages.

Recognizing Srila Prabhupada's philosophical learning and devotion, the Gaudiya Vaisnava Society honored him in 1947 with the title "Bhaktivedanta." In 1950, at the age of fifty-four, Srila Prabhupada retired from married life, adopting the vanaprastha order to devote more time to his studies and writing.

Srila Prabhupada traveled to the holy city of Vrndavana, where he lived in very humble circumstances in the temple of Radha-Damodara. There he engaged for several years in deep study and writing. He accepted the renounced order of life (sannyasa) in 1959. At Radha-Damodara, Srila Prabhupada began work on his life's masterpiece:

a multivolume translation of the eighteen-thousand-verse Srimad-Bhagavatam (Bhagavata Purana). He also wrote Easy Journey to Other Planets.

After publishing three volumes of the Bhagavatam, Srila Prabhupada came to the United States, in September 1965, to fulfill the mission of his spiritual master. Subsequently, His Divine Grace wrote more than sixty volumes of authoritative translations and summary studies of the philosophical and religious classics of India.

When he first arrived by freighter in New York City, Srila Prabhupada was practically penniless. Only after almost a year of great difficulty did he establish ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness), in July of 1966. Before his passing away on November 14, 1977, he guided the Society and saw it grow to a worldwide confederation of more than 108 asramas, schools, temples, institutes and farm communities.

In just twelve years, in spite of his advanced age, Srila Prabhupada circled the globe fourteen times on lecture tours that took him to six continents. In spite of such a vigorous schedule, Srila Prabhupada continued to write prolifically.