

# Bhaktivedanta Gurukula & International School

Monthly Newsletter

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## Seminar on “Parental Duties” at Coal India Ltd by Patron of Education team

On July 1st, 2011, Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and International School's (BGIS) Patron of Education Director Rohit Gupta, accompanied by Nitya Mukunda Dasa, demonstrated the necessities of values, culture, and ethics in family relations at Coal India Ltd, Gevra Project, Campa, Chattisgarh. A well-organized, informative, and thought-provoking seminar was conducted by Rohit Gupta for parents and children was held as a part of the many convention activities of the BGIS .

The seminar commenced with harinaam sankirtan and the famous Jai Radha Madhava by Thakur Bhaktivinod. The talk then began with the life history of Srila Prabhupada, the founder-acharya of ISKCON. Plenty of questions were inspired by the speech, and the presenters answered queries in an elaborate way. Some of the discussion points were: What is real education for a child, and as parents, what should our duties be? How are we performing them, and what are the outcomes? Are those outcomes beneficial in our current situation? Is education everything for

## Srila Prabhupada on Gurukula

SB 4.12.23 P Dhruva Maharaja Goes  
Back to Godhead

What was possible for Dhruva Maharaja is possible for anyone. Any five-year-old child can be trained, and within a very short time his life will become successful by realization of Krsna consciousness. Unfortunately, this training is lacking all over the world. It is necessary for the leaders of the Krsna consciousness movement to start educational institutions in different parts of the world to train children, starting at the age of five years. Thus such children will not become hippies or spoiled children of society; rather, they can all become devotees of the Lord. The face of the world will then change automatically.

a child? If not, what about the religious values? How much do children know about their values and duties? Participants were encouraged to contemplate these issues, and to examine their inner responses. Scripturally-researched answers added to the depth of the exchange. The presenters referred heavily to evidence provided in the 18th verse of the 5th Chapter of Canto Five in Srila Prabhupada's Srimad Bhagavatam:



*gurur na sa syat sva-jano na sa syat  
pita na sa syaj janani na sa syat  
daivam' na tat syan na patis ca sa syan  
na mocayed yah samupeta-mrityum*

Translation: One who cannot deliver his dependents from the path of repeated birth and death should never become a spiritual master, a father, a husband, a mother, or a worship able demigod.

Purport: There are many spiritual masters, but Rishabhadeva advises that one should not become a spiritual master if he is unable to save his disciple from the path of birth and death. Unless one is a pure devotee of Krsna, he cannot save himself from the path of repeated birth and death. Tyaktva deham' punar janma naiti mam eti so'rjuna (BG. 4.9). One can stop birth and death only by returning home, back to Godhead. However, who can go back to Godhead unless he understands the Supreme Lord in truth? Janma karma ca me divyam evam' yo vetti tattvatah? (BG. 4.9).

We have many instances in history illustrating Rishabhadeva's instructions. Sukracarya was rejected by Bali Maharaja due to his inability to save Bali Maharaja from the path of repeated birth and death. Sukracarya was not a pure devotee, he was more or less inclined to fruitive activity, and he objected when Bali Maharaja promised to give everything to Lord Vishnu. Actually, one is supposed to give everything to the Lord because everything belongs to the Lord. Consequently, the Supreme Lord advises in Bhagavad-gita (9.27):

*yat karoshi yad asnasi  
yaj juhoshi dadasi yat  
yat tapasyasi kaunteya  
tat kurushva mad-arpanam*

"O son of Kunti, all that you do, all that you eat, all that you offer and give away, as well as all austerities that you may perform, should be done as an offering unto Me." This is bhakti. Unless one is devoted, he cannot give everything to the Supreme Lord. Unless one can do so, he cannot become a spiritual master, husband, father, or mother. Similarly, the wives of the brahmanas who were performing sacrifices gave up their relatives just to satisfy Krishna. This is an example of a wife rejecting a husband who cannot deliver her from the impending dangers of birth and death. Similarly, Prahlada Maharaja rejected his father, and Bharata Maharaja rejected his mother (janani na sa syat). The word daivam indicates a demigod or one who accepts worship from a dependent. Ordinarily, the spiritual master, husband, father, mother, or superior relative accepts worship from an inferior relative, but here Rishabhadeva forbids this. First the father, spiritual master, or husband must be able to release the dependent from repeated birth and death. If he cannot do this, he plunges himself into the ocean of reproachment for his unlawful activities. Everyone should be very responsible and take charge of his dependents just as a

spiritual master takes charge of his disciple or a father takes charge of his son. All these responsibilities cannot be discharged honestly unless one can save the dependent from repeated birth and death.

The panel discussion was excellent in that it dealt with the divergent perspectives parents and children have at different stages in their lives. It was obvious how the development of a positive attitude toward our Vedic culture could help both parent and child as children grow from infants to adults.

The presenter then went on to talk about the duties of parents. Connecting good-parenting qualities to the 26 qualities of a Vaishnava, Gupta warned parents of the consequences of not giving proper ethics to their offspring right from the start. Some well-known historical tales and real-life experiences contributed to the talk, making it more genuine and personal.

The seminar listed the following as qualities of a good parent:

- A good parent should be very kind to his/her children
- S/he should not make enemies of his/her children.
- S/he should be truthful to his/her children.
- S/he should be equal to all the children in the family.
- S/he should never let his/her children see personal defects.
- S/he should be magnanimous.
- S/he should be mild.
- S/he should keep both self and environment clean.
- S/he should be without possession.
- S/he should work for everyone's benefits.
- S/he should be peaceful.
- S/he should be surrender to Krsna.
- S/he should not have any desire other than serving his/her children.
- S/he should be meek.
- S/he should be steady.
- S/he should have controlled senses.
- S/he should not eat unethical food
- S/he should not be in Maya (in another words, should be fixed in his/her duties)
- S/he should respect everyone (friends, relatives, and children's friends as well)
- S/he should command respect.
- S/he should be grave.
- S/he should be merciful.
- S/he should be friendly.
- S/he should be expert
- S/he should be silent.





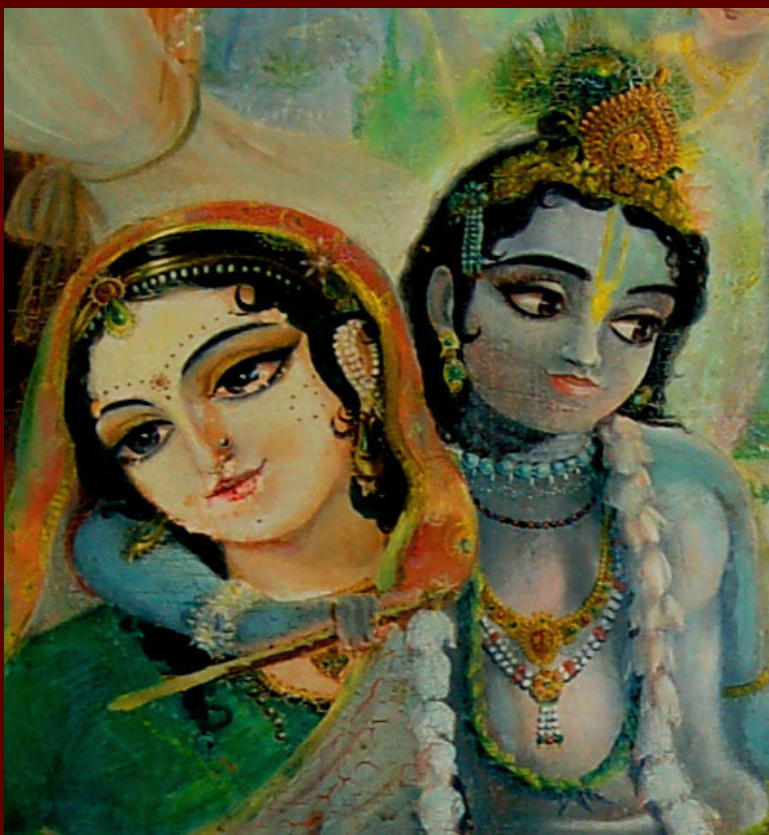
In his concluding remarks, Rohit Gupta (the speaker) described some exciting ventures of BGIS in the near future which include teaching in the villages of Braj, the area 84 acres area around Vrindavan town, and providing full scholarships to bright students. BGIS has also launched a new domain to educate parents about their duties, and share ways in which the unique pedagogy of BGIS can be beneficial for their children for the future.

The seminar ended appropriately in an open discussion of future plans for parent support groups and other cooperative ideas.

The official staff member of Coal India Ltd., R.B Shukla, Chief General Manager, J.G Singh, General manager, and S.K Mohanti, Dept. General Manager, were also appreciative of the seminar. Mr. R.B Shukla in fact spoke of his positive reactions to the

presentation for about ten minutes. He also shared some of his own experiences with his own children. The audience was satisfied with the sessions, and many parents approached the speaker afterwards with personal questions. Most of the parents were senior-level engineers whose clear vision of the value of education and the ethics which they had learned in their childhood from their parents in their lives was reason enough to be convinced of the importance of the points raised by the presentation.

Most parents lamented their inability to teach such ethics to their children, and felt there was a real need for these kind of seminars because, as one parent put it, "We are so scattered all over the country with no one to talk to who has the same problems we do." Many repeatedly commented on how just talking with others in similar situations about their duties can be so helpful, and some even inquired about enrolling their own children in Bhaktivedanta Gurukula.





**Beginning Krishna**

**Semester 2011**

**with a small procession of  
Sri Sri Gaur Nitai**



## Gurukula— A very different move



The Educational Trip to Agra and Fatehpur Sikri

The students of Gurukula visited Agra to see the Tajmahal and Fatehpur Sikri. It was a nice experience for all of them as they got to know more about the cultural and artistic work of the Mughals.

### Learning with Fun



From top to bottom : - Students ready to start planting, planting the trees, instructing by Vice Principal H.G Radhakanta Das and two happy faces after the activity.



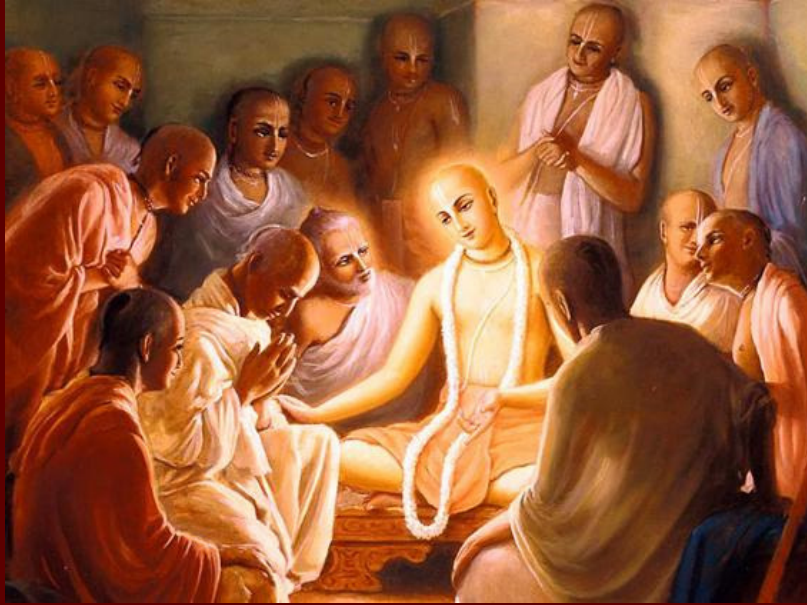
### HAVE A NICE AND GREEN GURUKULA FOR US

Students of The Gurukula (ashram boys), have taken the responsibility of making their Gurukula green. Thus they have planted plenty of small plants within the premises. This move is not limited to the internal Gurukula property but later boys want to make all of Vrindavan the same green Vrindavan as at the time of Lord Krishna.

# Glories of Lord Shiva

In the Hindu Vedic calendar the month started on July 15 is known as Shravan Maas is famous as the beginning of Chaturmasya (four months of the rainy season) and four auspicious Mondays. In ancient times, all the devotees used to stay at one place and worship The Lord. There is a belief as well that if someone at any time of the year worships Lord Shiva and observe fasting on these four Mondays, gets the benefit of fasting on 16 Mondays . For a Vaishnav, worship of Lord Shiva is recommended because Lord Shiva is considered as the topmost devotee of Lord Krishna (Vaishnava naam yatha shambhu).

The following prayers were recited by Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu in front of Lord Siva in Sri Jagannath Puri. Let's offer prayers to the topmost devotee of the Lord.



## Sivastakam

*Namo namasthe tridaseshwaraya,  
Bhoothadhinathaya mridaya nithyam,  
Ganga tharangothida bala Chandra,  
Choodaya Gauri nayanotsavaya (1)*

Salutations and salutations to him who is the lord of the thirty gods, who is the Lord of all beings, who is perpetually gracious, from whose head the waves of Ganges are born, who wears the crescent of moon, and who is the feast to the eyes of Gauri.

*Sutaptha chamikara Chandra neela,  
Padma pravalambudha kanti vasthrai,  
Sa nrutya rangetha vara pradhaya,  
Kaivalya nadhaya, vrusha dwajaya. (2)*

Salutations and salutations to him, who is like the moon resembling the molten gold, who wears dress of the



colour of blue lotus and rich cloud, who gives boons while he is dancing, who is the Lord of salvation, and who has a bull in his flag.

*Sudhamsu suryagni vilochanaya,  
Tamo bhidhe they jagatha shivaya,  
Sahasra shubramsu sahasra rasmi,  
Sahasra sanjittwara thejasesthu (3)*

Salutations and salutations to him, who has moon, sun and fire as his eyes, Who is the universal Shiva who dispels darkness and who by his thousand beamed power, Defeats thousands of moons and suns.

*Nagesa rathnojjwala vigrahaya,  
Shardula charmasuka divya thejase,  
Sahasra pathropari samasthithaya,  
Varangadha muktha bhuja dwayaya. (4)*

Salutations and salutations to him, whose form shines like the gem, In the head of the king of snakes Who wears the skin of tiger, Who has an effulgent form, who stands amidst a lotus With one thousand petals, And who wears lustrous Amulets in his two hands.

*Sunoopura ranjitha pada padma,  
Ksharath sudha bhrutya sukha pradaya,  
Vichithra ratnogha vibhushithasya,  
Premanam eva adya harau videhi. (5)*

Salutations and salutations to Him, who has anklets with bells tied to his lotus feet, Who gives flowing nectar from his hands, To his servant like devotees and make them happy, And who dresses himself in rare gems, With a request Please grant me your love lord Hari.

*Sri Rama Govinda Mukunda Shaure,  
Sri Krishna Narayana Vasudeva,  
Ithyadi namamritha pana mathra,  
Bringadhipay akhila dukha hantre, (6)*

Salutations and salutations to him, who is the Lord of his bee like devotees, Who chant of the names like Rama, Govinda, Mukunda, Shauri, Krishna, Narayana, Vasudeva and others like them, which would completely destroy all sorrows.

*Sri Naradadhya satata sugopya,  
Jignanasitaya asu vara pradaya,  
Thebhyo harer bhakthi sukha pradaya  
Shivaya sarvaya Gurave Nama. (7)*

Salutations and salutations to him, who raises confidential curiosity, in the minds of Sage Narada and others, who grants boons fast, who blesses his devotees with devotion to Hari, and who is the teacher of every one.



*Sri Gauri nethothesava mangalaya,  
Thath prana nadhaya rasa pradhaya,  
Sada samuthkantha Govinda Leela,  
Gana pravinya namosthu thubhyam. (8)*

My salutations to you who is an expert at singing, who is the feast to the eyes of his consort Gauri, who is the Lord of the soul and is interesting and always interested in the playful acts of Govinda.

*Ethath Shivashtakam adbhutam mahat,  
Shrunvan hari prema labhathe sheegram,  
Jnanam cha vijnanam, apoorva vaibhavam,  
Yo bhava purna paramam samadharam. (9)*

He who filled with loving feelings hears this greatly wonderful octet on Shiva would soon get the grace and love of Hari, knowledge, and divine realization.



## Let's learn from the story



### The Real Peace

There once was a king who offered a prize to the artist who would paint the best picture of peace. Many artists tried and submitted their work. The king looked at all the pictures. There were only two he really liked, and he had to choose between them.

One picture was of a calm lake, perfectly mirroring the peaceful, towering mountains all around it. Overhead was blue sky with fluffy, white clouds. It was the favorite of all who saw it. Truly, they thought, it was the perfect picture of peace.

The other picture had mountains, too, but these were rugged and bare. Above was an angry sky from which rain fell and in which lightening played. Down the side of one mountain tumbled a foaming waterfall. A less peaceful picture would be difficult to imagine. But when the king looked closely, he saw beside the waterfall a tiny bush growing in a crack in the rock. In the bush a mother bird had built her nest. There, in the midst of the rush of angry water, sat the mother bird on her nest in perfect peace.

Which picture would you have selected? The king chose the second picture. Do you know why?

"Because," explained the king, "peace does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble, or hard work. Peace means to be in the midst of all these things and still be calm in your heart. This is the real meaning of peace."

**LESSON :** Real peace is in your heart



## Upcoming Events

The Jhullan Yatra _____	9th August 2011
Sri Balram Jayanti _____	13th August 2011
Sri Krsna Janmastami _____	22nd August 2011
Srila Prabhupada Appearance Day _____	23rd August 2011

Be a Patron of education and help us to  
make a new future !!!

### **Thanks and Regards**

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