

ISKCON



desire tree

HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA  
KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE

HARE RAMA HARE RAMA  
RAMA RAMA HARE HARE

OH MAN! THESE BALD GUYS KNOW  
HOW TO MAKE A LOT OF RACKET.

I THINK I'LL MOVE ON BEFORE  
I'LL GET A HEADACHE...

OH NO! ONE OF  
THEM IS COMING  
RIGHT TOWARDS ME!

PARDON ME SIR...

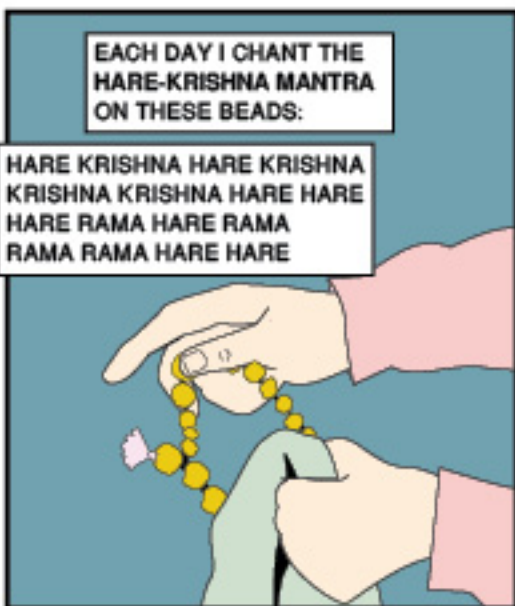
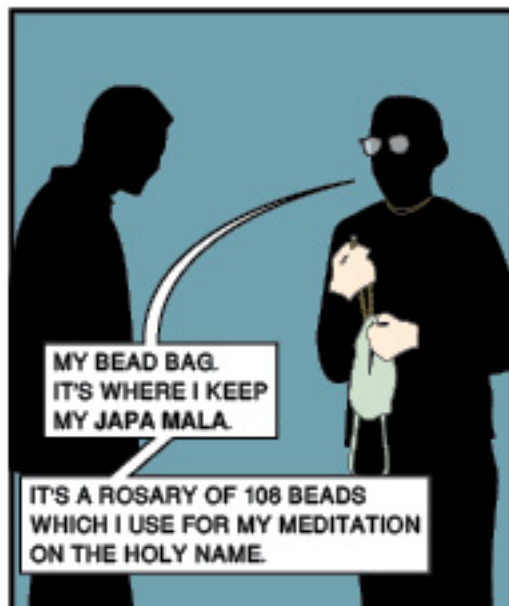
HARE KRISHNA SIR!  
MAY I INTEREST YOU  
IN SOME READING  
MATERIAL?

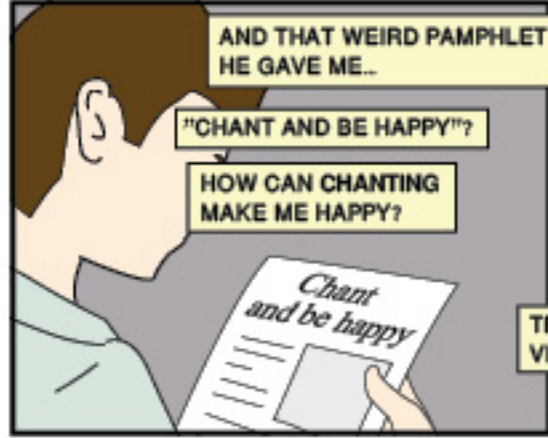
AH.. NO THANKS.  
I'M IN A HURRY...

SAY! WHERE DID  
YOU GET THAT  
FUNNY LOOKING  
BAG?

O, THIS?  
THAT WOULD BE  
MY BEAD BAG.

YOUR WHAT BAG?





AND THAT WEIRD PAMPHLET  
HE GAVE ME...

"CHANT AND BE HAPPY"?

HOW CAN CHANTING  
MAKE ME HAPPY?

*Chant  
and be happy*

"The transcendental vibration of  
chanting the Hare-Krishna Maha-  
Mantra has the power to revive our  
spiritual consciousness."

TRANSCENDENTAL  
VIBRATION?

"Our spiritual consciousness  
is our original state of being.  
Right now it is covered by the  
material illusion."

MATERIAL ILLUSION? WOULDN'T THAT BE  
MY WHOLE EVERYDAY LIFE? DOES THIS  
MEANS THEY WANT ME TO SHAVE MY  
HEAD AND BECOME A MONK TO GET RID  
OF ALL THAT?

SOUNDS LIKE RUNNING AWAY TO ME...

ISN'T CONSCIOUSNESS ABOUT  
GETTING IN TUCH WITH REALITY?

HOW REALISTIC CAN THEY GET  
DANCING IN THE STREETS WITH  
THESE CLOTHES?

AND HOW DO I KNOW IF  
THIS "CHANTING" THING  
REALLY WORKS?





HEY MAN! WHY DON'T YOU WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING?

OH! SORRY!

LOOKS LIKE I GOT A LITTLE SPACED OUT MYSELF...

THIS STUFF KINDA GOT INTO ME, HA?

*Chant  
and be happy*



WELL...

JUST A LITTLE...

*Chant  
and be happy*



I DON'T BELIEVE IT!  
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE HIGHSCHOOL!  
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO?

WELL, I'VE BEEN AROUND. TRAVELED A LOT  
AFTER COLLEGE. I'M NOW A DEVELOPER AT  
A BIG SOFTWARE COMPANY.

WOW!  
GOOD FOR YOU, MAN!  
REALLY!

SAY, WHAT'S UP WITH  
THESE KRISHNA'S, HA?  
PRETTY TALENTED LITTLE  
BAND THEY GOT THERE...

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!  
I KNOW WHAT IT IS YOU'RE  
HOLDING THERE!

YEP. IT  
SURE IS.

IT'S ONE OF THOSE  
"BEAD BAGS"!

BUT THAT..  
THAT WOULD MEAN YOU'RE  
**ONE OF THEM!!!**

BUT HOW COULD  
THIS BE?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WELL...

YOUR HEAD IS NOT SHAVED,

YOUR NOT WEARING FUNNY CLOTHES,

AND YOU'VE JUST TOLD ME YOU WORK  
FOR A BIG SOFTWARE COMPANY...



I'VE STARTED TO SHOW INTEREST IN SPIRITUALITY BACK IN COLLEGE. I TRIED YOGA, MEDITATION, READ ALL SORT OF NEW-AGE LITERATURE, EASTERN PHILOSOPHY...

IT MADE ME NICE AND RELAX, I MIGHT EVEN SAY TAUGHT ME SOME VERY IMPORTANT LESSONS, BUT YOU CAN'T SAY IT'S WHERE I FOUND WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR.

THEN I CAME ACROSS THIS BOOK CALLED "THE BHAGAVAD-GITA AS IT IS". IT SEEMED TO PROPAGATE THE BENEFITS OF HARE-KRISHNA CHANTING ALL ALONG THE WAY.

SO AFTER READING A FEW CHAPTERS I DECIDED TO JUST TRY IT.

I KNOW ALL ABOUT MANTRA MEDITATION ALREADY AND I COULDN'T SEE WHY THIS WOULD BE ANY DIFFERENT. BUT IT WAS.



SO I STARTED CHANTING EVERY DAY AND AFTER A WHILE GOT SOME BEADS AND MADE ME A ROSARY TO KEEP TRACK.

SOMETIMES, AT WORK, I JUST CLOSE THE DOOR TO MY OFFICE AND CHANT FOR A FEW MINUTS...

SO IT'S A MEDITATION? THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT?

WELL, YEA. THAT WOULD BE THE BASIC PRACTICE.





AND THE GUYS ON THE STREET,  
SINGING AND DANCING?

DOING THEIR SERVICE, SPREADING  
THE HOLLY NAME. THEY ARE  
SERVING AT A TEMPLE.

AND THESE CLOTHES?  
THE SHAVED HEADS?

THESE ARE THE TRADITIONAL CLOTHES  
OF ASCETICS IN INDIA.

WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF HARE-KRISHNA?  
IS IT INDIA? IS IT SOME SORT OF A 20TH  
CENTURY "NEW-AGE" MOVEMENT?

THE SPREADING OF THE HARE-KRISHNA MANTRA  
BY CONGREGATIONAL CHANTING STARTED IN  
NAVADWIP INDIA IN THE 16TH CENTURY BY THE  
VEDIC SCHOLAR CHAITANYA MAHAPRABHU.

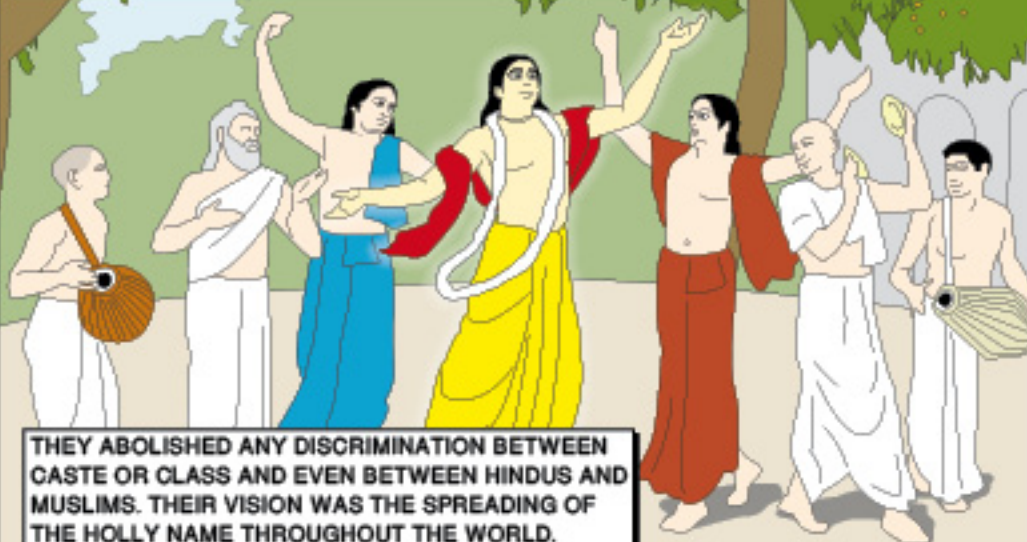
NAVADWIP

INDIA

CHAITANYA WAS A SCHOLAR FROM  
THE VEDIC BRANCH OF VAISHNAVISM.  
AT THE AGE OF 24 HE TOOK THE VOW  
OF SANYAS, A LIFE LONG VOW OF  
RENUNCIATION, IN A GOAL TO SPREAD  
THE HOLLY NAME.

HIS IDEA WAS TO TAKE THE SPIRITUAL PROCESS  
FROM THE TEMPLES AND OUT ON THE STREETS  
AND DISTRIBUTE THE HOLLY NAME OUT LOUD, SO  
THAT ANYONE COULD HEAR AND CHANT IT.

LORD CHAITANYA AND HIS DEVOTEES TRAVELED THROUGH TOWNS AND VILLAGES, SPREADING THE HOLLY NAME BY CONGREGATIONAL CHANTING.



THEY ABOLISHED ANY DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN CASTE OR CLASS AND EVEN BETWEEN HINDUS AND MUSLIMS. THEIR VISION WAS THE SPREADING OF THE HOLLY NAME THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

LIKE THOSE DEVOTEES IN THE STREET! I SEE! BUT WHAT IS THIS HOLLY NAME?

A MANTRA IS A TRANSCENDENTAL SOUND WHICH HAS THE POWER TO ELEVATE US TO THE PLATFORM OF SPIRITUAL CONSCIOUSNESS. RE ESTABLISH OUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SUPREME OR GOD, THE ALL PRESIDING ESSENCE WHICH IS ALSO PRESENT IN OUR HART.

KRISHNA MEANS GOD, ALL ATTRACTIVE. OUR ATTRACTION TOWARDS SPIRITUALITY IS NATURAL.

HARE IS THE DIVINE ENERGY OF GODS LOVE.

RAMA IS THE DIVINE ALL PROVIDING EXPANSION OF GOD.

SO GOD IS SOME BIG AND ALL PERVADING FORCE AND AT THE SAME TIME GOD IS LOVE. I GUESS I CAN AGREE WITH THAT.

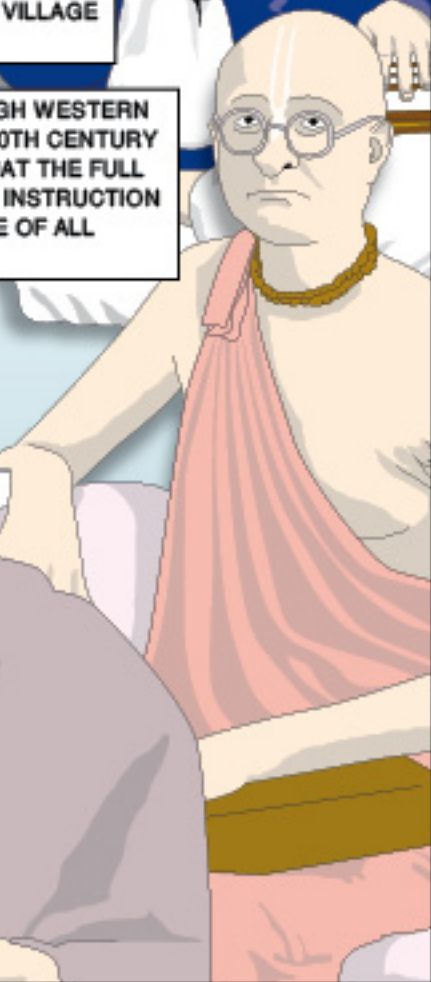




RECENTLY, WESTERNERS BEGAN TO SHOW INTEREST IN THE PHILOSOPHY OF LORD CHAITANYA. IT WAS IN FACT LORD CHAITANYAS WISH THAT THE HOLLY NAME WILL BE HEARD THROUGH EVERY TOWN AND VILLAGE IN THE WORLD.

PROPAGATING THE HOLLY NAME THROUGH WESTERN COUNTRIES STARTED IN THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY BY INDIAN SCHOLARS WHO REALIZED THAT THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF LORD CHAITANYAS INSTRUCTION IS TO SPREAD HIS TEACHINGS TO PEOPLE OF ALL CREEDS AND NATIONALITIES.

SO IT'S NOT A PRACTICE DEPENDED ON A CERTAIN RELIGION. IT'S UNIVERSAL!





SO HOW DO I TO IT?



WELL, SIMPLE! REPEATEDLY CHANT  
THE HARE-KRISHNA MAHA MANTRA:

*HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA  
KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE  
HARE RAMA HARE RAMA  
RAMA RAMA HARE HARE*

TRY TO CONCENTRATE ON THE SOUND WHEN YOU DO  
THIS MEDITATION. THE LORD AND HIS NAME ARE SAID  
TO BE ONE AND THE SAME. SO WHEN YOU ATTENTIVELY  
CHANT THE HOLLY NAME, YOU'RE ACTUALLY MAKING A  
CONNECTION WITH GOD, THAT SPIRITUAL BEING THAT IS  
IN ALL THINGS AND YET ALSO MANIFEST ITSELF WITHIN  
OUR HEART TO HAVE A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH.



THERE ARE ALSO SOME RULES AND REGULATIONS THAT  
CAN HELP YOU FOCUS IF YOU CHOOSE TO PRACTICE ON  
REGULAR BASIS.

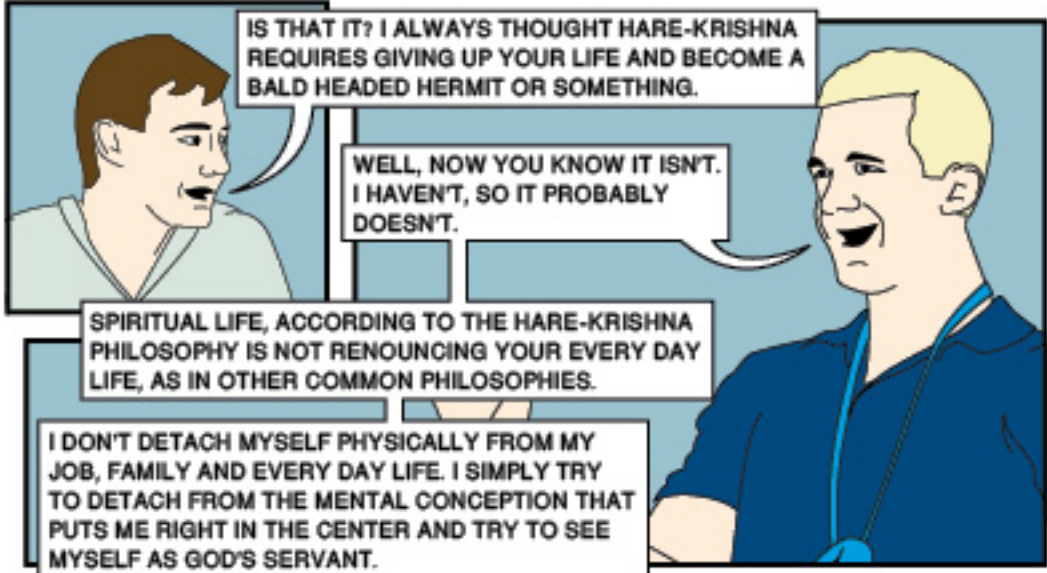
NO DRUGS, INCLUDING TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL,  
SO THAT YOUR MIND WON'T BE DISTURBED.

NO MEAT EATING, SINCE IT'S INVOLVED WITH  
VIOLENCE TOWARDS LIVING CREATURES.

NO GAMBLING. NO PROMISCUOUS SEX.

IN OTHER WORDS, TRY TO LIVE A SUBTLE LIFESTYLE.  
THIS CAN HELP YOU CONFRONT YOUR EVERY DAY LIFE  
AND STILL BE FOCUSED.





IS THAT IT? I ALWAYS THOUGHT HARE-KRISHNA REQUIRES GIVING UP YOUR LIFE AND BECOME A BALD HEADED HERMIT OR SOMETHING.

WELL, NOW YOU KNOW IT ISN'T. I HAVEN'T, SO IT PROBABLY DOESN'T.

SPIRITUAL LIFE, ACCORDING TO THE HARE-KRISHNA PHILOSOPHY IS NOT RENOUNCING YOUR EVERY DAY LIFE, AS IN OTHER COMMON PHILOSOPHIES.

I DON'T DETACH MYSELF PHYSICALLY FROM MY JOB, FAMILY AND EVERY DAY LIFE. I SIMPLY TRY TO DETACH FROM THE MENTAL CONCEPTION THAT PUTS ME RIGHT IN THE CENTER AND TRY TO SEE MYSELF AS GOD'S SERVANT.

THE TEACHINGS OF LORD KRISNA INSTRUCT YOU TO DO YOUR DUTY PRESCRIBED BY FAMILY AND SOCIETY WHILE SHOWING YOU HOW TO DEDICATE YOUR ACTIONS TO A HIGHER PURPOSE.

"Perform your prescribed duty, for doing so is better than not working. One cannot even maintain one's physical body without work."  
*(Bhagavad-Gita 3.8)*

"The yogīs, abandoning attachment, act with body, mind, intelligence and even with the senses, only for the purpose of purification."  
*(Bhagavad-Gita 5.11)*



WHAT IF I PREFER A DIFFERENT  
NAME OF GOD?

THEN CHANT IT!  
CHANT WHATEVER NAME  
YOU PREFER. GOD IS ONE  
AND HIS NAMES ARE MANY.

YOU KNOW, I ALWAYS THOUGHT ALL  
THESE FEUDS BETWEEN DIFFERENT  
RELIGIONS ARE SIMPLY OVER A NAME.  
I MEAN, IT'S SILLY...

SPIRITUALITY IS ABOVE SECTARIANISM, RELIGION  
AND NATIONALITY. I THINK TRUE RELIGION SHOULD  
BE ABOUT JUST BEING AWARE OF GOD IN ALL AND  
ACCEPTING THAT GOD IS IN OUR HART AS WELL AS  
IN THE HARTS OF EVERYONE.

I MEAN, IF YOU ARE AWARE OF GOD'S  
PRESENCE IN SOMEONE'S HART,  
HOW CAN THERE BE A FEUD?





THERE'S JUST ONE THING:  
HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS IS ALL TRUE? THAT  
IT REALLY WORKS? THAT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN  
DEFRAUDED?

WELL, I PRACTICE IT AND I  
EXPERIENCE THE EFFECT MYSELF.  
IT WORKS!

WELL, I HAVEN'T.. SO  
HOW DO I KNOW?

WELL, WHAT'S STOPPING YOU  
FROM JUST TRYING?



I DON'T KNOW. I GUESS AT SOME LEVEL I'M  
AFRAID THAT IF I'LL TRY IT OUT SOMEONE  
WILL KIDNAP AND... LIKE... BRAINWASH ME  
OR SOMETHING. IT'S SILLY, I KNOW...

WHAT, LIKE A SCIENCE-FICTION,  
"CLOCKWORK ORANGE" KIND OF  
THING? WHAT EVER GAVE YOU  
THAT IDEA?

I GUESS I'VE HEARD SOMEBODY  
SAYING IT SOMETIME.





HEY, LISTEN, I GOTTA GET BACK TO WORK. E-MAIL ME OR SOMETHING, OK?



OK DUDE! SEE YOU AROUND!





HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA  
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HARE RAMA HARE RAMA  
RAMA RAMA HARE HARE



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RAMA RAMA HARE HARE

HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA  
KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE  
HARE RAMA HARE RAMA

THE END



Bhakta Omer is from Israel and a devotee since the age of 17 years. He is married and works in the graphic department of a major daily in Israel. He has created this comic as a service to Lord Krishna.