

Srila Prabhupada



Founder-Acharya
of
The International Society
for Krishna Consciousness

Hare Krishna Sunday School
International Society for Krishna Consciousness

Name _____

Class _____

Srila Prabhupada

**Founder-Acharya
of the
International Society for Krishna
Consciousness**

Compiled by Tapasvini devi dasi

Hare Krishna Sunday School
International Society for Krishna Consciousness

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Introduction

Do you have a hero? Who do you want to be like?

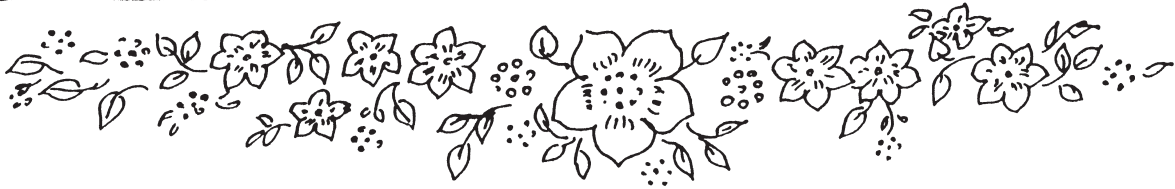
Many people have heroes or people they admire. That person may be extra strong, very beautiful, rich or talented. We admire them, wishing we had some of their fine qualities.

But strength, beauty, intelligence, fame, money and talent will only be ours for a few years. We'll either die or something will take away our wealth, talent and good looks.

What is really admirable in a person? Since we are spiritual beings, part of Krishna, what is really admirable is our spiritual nature. How devoted someone is to God, how well they are able to think of Him and serve Him, and how much love they have for Krishna are qualities that will help that person live after life. These abilities will even send one back to the spiritual world.

But it is not so easy these days to develop love of God. All around us we hear, "Love your car," "Love your house," "Love your dog," "Love your body," but we don't hear "Love God" too much. So a person who has that devotion is truly someone to be respected and honored.

Srila Prabhupada is one of these people. His life is an example of someone living for the purpose of pleasing Krishna. His every thought and action had Krishna in the center. By learning about his life, we can study his example and see how we can improve our lives. And as we come to learn more about Srila Prabhupada we will see—he is a spiritual hero.



**om ajñāna-timarāndhasya
jñānāñjana-śalākayā
cakṣur unmlītaṁ yena
tasmai śri-gurave namaḥ**

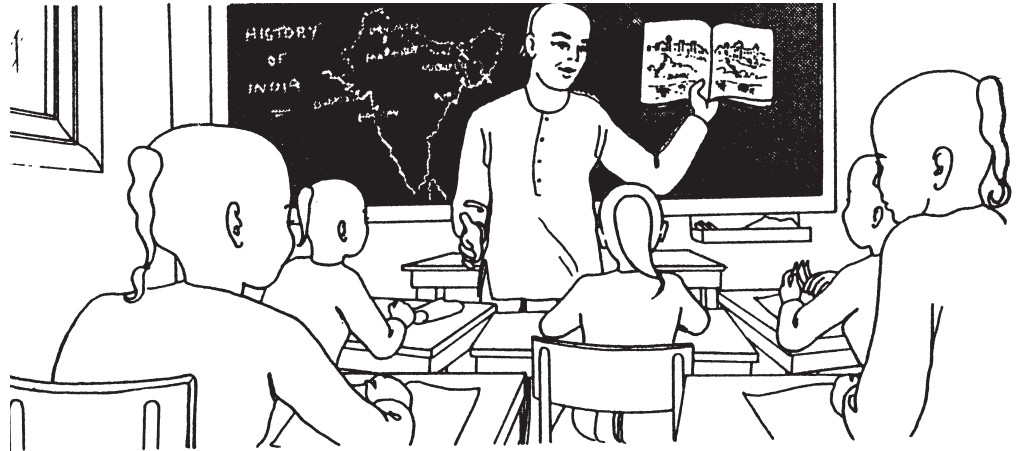
Translation: I was born in the darkest of ignorance, and my spiritual master opened my eyes with the torch of knowledge. I offer my respectful obeisances unto him.



Lesson One

The Guru

Do you go to school? Why does anyone go to school? Of course you go to learn. But why can't you learn as much at home? The difference is that at school you have a teacher that can instruct you.



We also need a teacher if we want to learn more about God. That person who can teach us about Krishna is called a guru. We listen to a guru because he has taken the time to learn the scriptures. He also has a guru who has taught him what he knows.

A guru doesn't give you his own ideas about Krishna. He must only repeat what he has learned from the scriptures or from his guru. He cannot make anything up. Since Krishna first spoke what is in the scriptures, the guru is then repeating the correct thing.

A guru also has to act properly. It is not enough for him just to say nice words. If I am wearing shoes in the classroom and I tell you that you can't wear shoes, you probably wouldn't want to listen to me. "Practice what you preach!" you might say.

In the same way, the guru must be following whatever he is telling others to do. Then he is an acharya, someone who teaches by his example. Just by seeing his actions, you will know what proper behavior is.

In the next few lessons, we will learn about a great acharya named A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. We call him Srila Prabhupada. He is the founder-acharya for ISKCON. That means that he organized a group and set guidelines for everyone to follow that would help them become devotees of Krishna. Prabhupada called his group “ISKCON” which stands for “The International Society for Krishna Consciousness.” In ISKCON we learn how to serve Krishna and we learn how to teach others about Krishna.

By learning about Srila Prabhupada’s life we can see how to improve our lives. He shows us how a person lives who is totally attached to Krishna. We can follow his example and make our lives more Krishna conscious.



Lesson Two

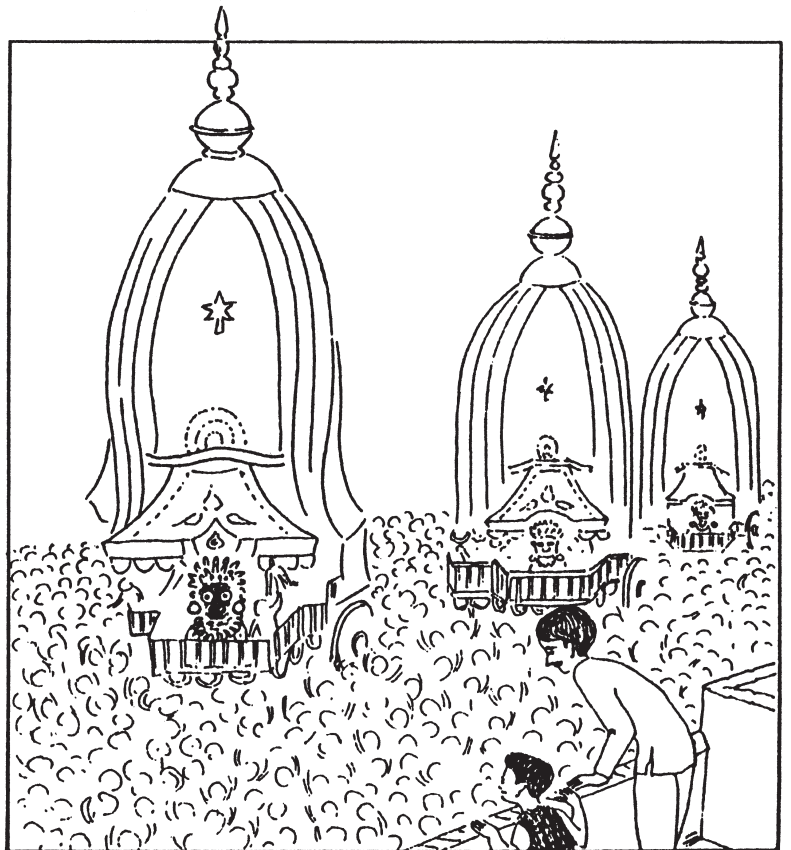
Prabhupada's Childhood

Prabhupada was born in 1896 in Calcutta, India. His parents named him Abhay. His father's name was Gour Mohan and his mother was Rajani. His father wanted to be sure he raised his son to be a devotee of Krishna. Gour Mohan would invite many religious men to come to his home. He gave Abhay a drum and his own Radha-Krishna Deities to worship. When Abhay was just a little boy, he started offering everything he ate to his Deities and he offered Them arati every day.

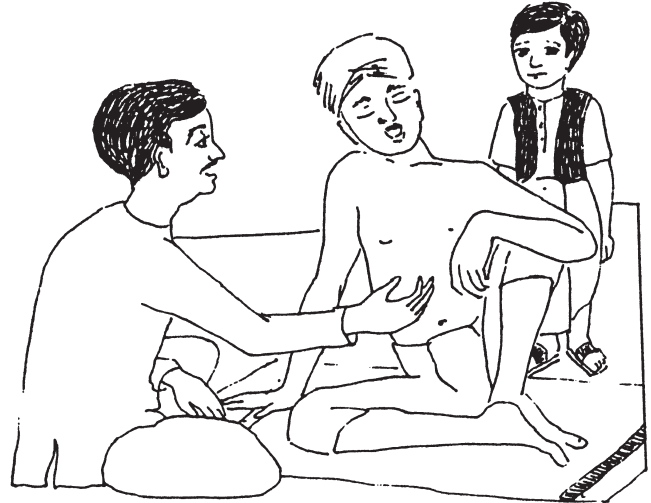
Abhay's Ratha Yatra Parade

One of his favorite times was when the Ratha Yatra festival was celebrated. Every year, Abhay would come with millions of others to watch the parade. Lord Jagannatha would ride on the first cart, Lord Balaram would ride on the second, and Lady Subhadra would ride on the third cart. The carts were very colorful and they had tall canopies that seemed to reach the sky.

Abhay liked the festival so much that he wanted his own cart so he could have a Ratha Yatra parade. He asked his father if he could and his father agreed.



Gour Mohan and young Abhay went from carpenter shop to carpenter shop looking for the right cart. Gour Mohan asked the carpenters, "Can you build a small cart for my son?" They could make a cart but when they told him the price he sadly said, "Oh, no. That is too much. We can't spend that much for a cart." This happened many times and Abhay began to cry, thinking that he would never be able to get his cart.



Father and son started home, still not finding a cart that they could afford. As they walked through the streets, an old woman heard Abhay crying. She came up to him and said, "What is wrong? Why are you crying?"

Gour Mohan told the lady about their search for a small Ratha Yatra cart. "But every carpenter wants more money than we can afford," he said.

"Come with me," said the old woman. "I have a cart that may be just the right size. You might as well take a look at it."

Abhay and his father followed the kind woman to her house. She showed them the cart. It was about the right size but it was a little old. "How much money would you like?" Abhay's father asked. When he heard the price, he was very happy because it was finally an amount he could afford. Abhay was able to pull his new cart home.



Together Abhay and Gour Mohan worked on fixing up the cart. They put columns on it and placed a canopy on the top. They made it as much like the real carts in Calcutta as they could, even attaching a wooden horse and driver to the front. Gour Mohan bought paints for Abhay and he painted the cart in bright festive colors.

When he had finished the cart, Abhay began to prepare for the festival. He asked his friends' mothers to cook special food so he could distribute it at his Ratha Yatra. He put small Jagannatha Deities on the cart and the parade began!

Every day, Abhay's family and the neighborhood children joined in the procession. Some pulled the cart while others played drums and kartals. Everyone chanted and sang with joy. His festival lasted for eight days. Even Gour Mohan's friends wanted to join in on the fun, so they pulled the cart, too. "Anyone who helps pull the Lord in His cart is liberated from this material world!" they said.



Every year, Abhay would bring out his decorated cart and hold a Ratha Yatra festival and celebrate it in just the same way.

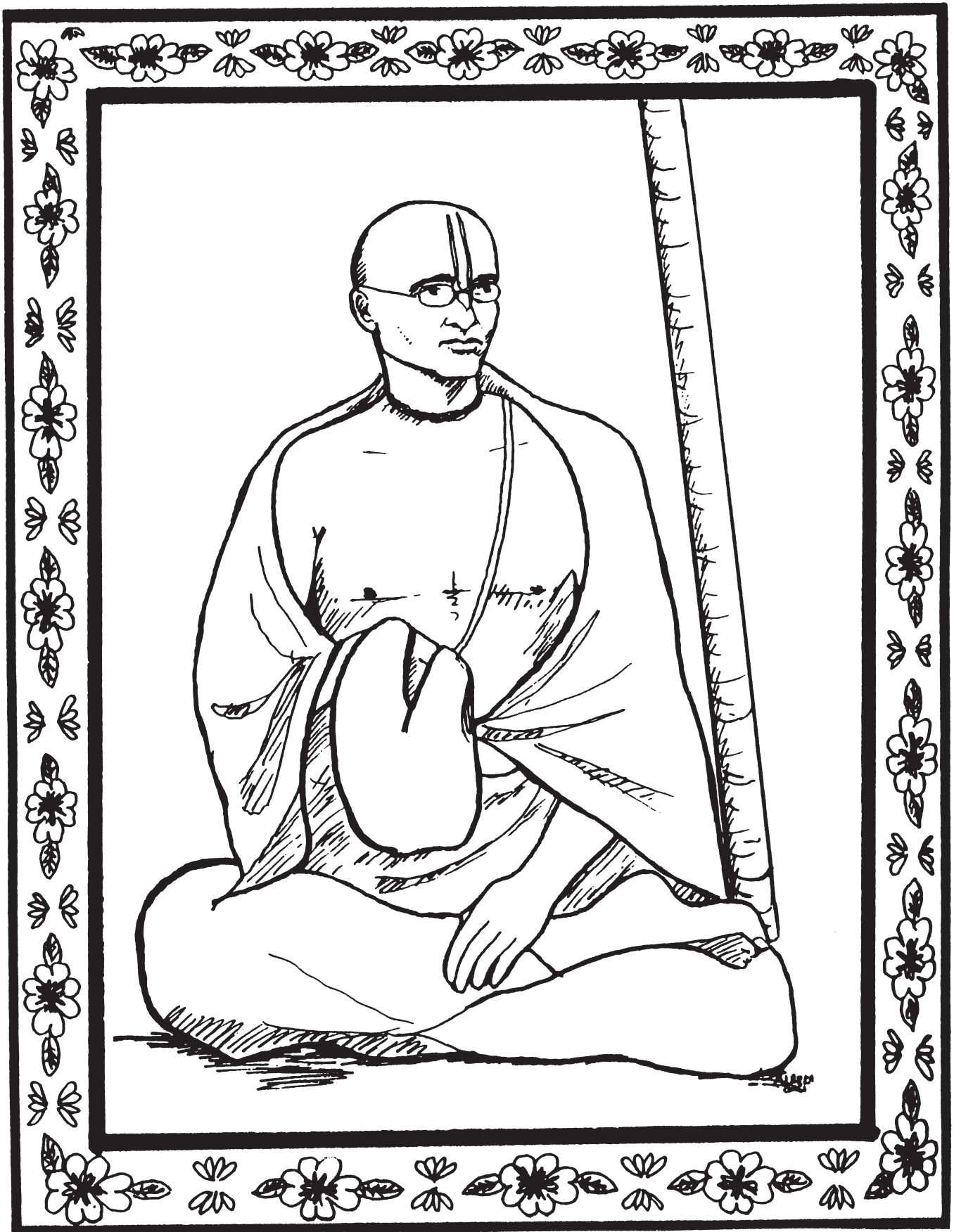
Abhay continued in his devotion to Krishna. He grew up, went to college and got married. He had children and worked hard to support his family. But even though he had many duties, he never forgot his duty to Krishna.

Check for Understanding

Choose a word from the box to complete the sentence.

wood	Balaram	offer	Subhadra
Radharani	money	Jagannatha	1905
1896	eight	seven	paints

1. _____, _____, and _____ are the three Deities that go on a procession in the Ratha Yatra festival.
2. Abhay was born in Calcutta in _____.
3. When Abhay was young he would _____ his food to the Deities.
4. Abhay's Ratha Yatra festival lasted for _____ days.
5. Abhay cried because they didn't have enough _____ for a cart.



Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura Majaraja

Lesson Three

Initiation and Traveling to the West

When Abhay was 26 years old he met his spiritual master for the first time. One of Abhay's friends heard about a learned guru who was going to speak and he talked Abhay into going with him to listen. The guru's name was Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur.

Abhay was very impressed with Srila Bhaktisiddhanta. He had answered all his questions and he was a very saintly person. Abhay accepted him as his guru but it was not until 10 years later that he was initiated by Bhaktisiddhanta Maharaj.



There were two instructions that Abhay's guru would repeat to him: "Preach the message of Lord Chaitanya to the English speaking people," and "If you have money, print books."

Abhay kept remembering these instructions but he was also quite busy with his family and business. After several more years, he decided to become a full time preacher. He took *sannyasa*. This means that he didn't live with his family anymore but spent all of his time in serving Krishna. His name became A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami. He began to do more writing of Krishna conscious books.



When Bhaktivedanta Swami was 70 years old he finally was able to fulfill the other order of his guru. He decided to travel to America to preach. He didn't know anyone there and had never been there before but he wanted to please his guru, so he made the plans to go. Then, in 1965, he boarded a ship named the Jaladuta and sailed across the ocean to America.

Check for Understanding

1. What was Abhay's spiritual master's name?

2. How long was it from the time Abhay met his guru until he took initiation?

3. What were the two important instructions that Abhay's guru gave him?

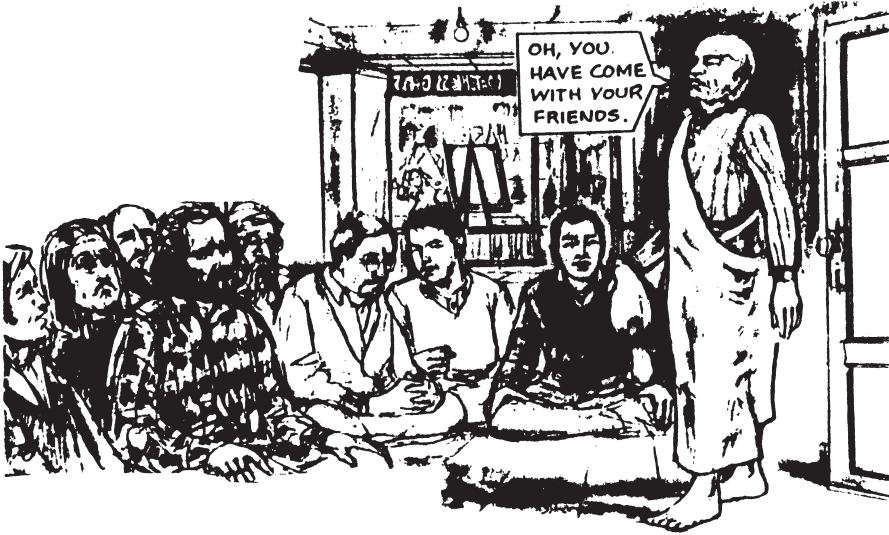
4. Why do you think Abhay became a sanyassi?

5. What was he called after he took sanyassa?

Lesson Four

Preaching in the West

A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami first reached New York City. He was met by a friend's son who took him to Pennsylvania to stay for a month. But after a month, A. C. Bhaktivedanta wanted to go back to New York because he felt that it would be better for preaching.

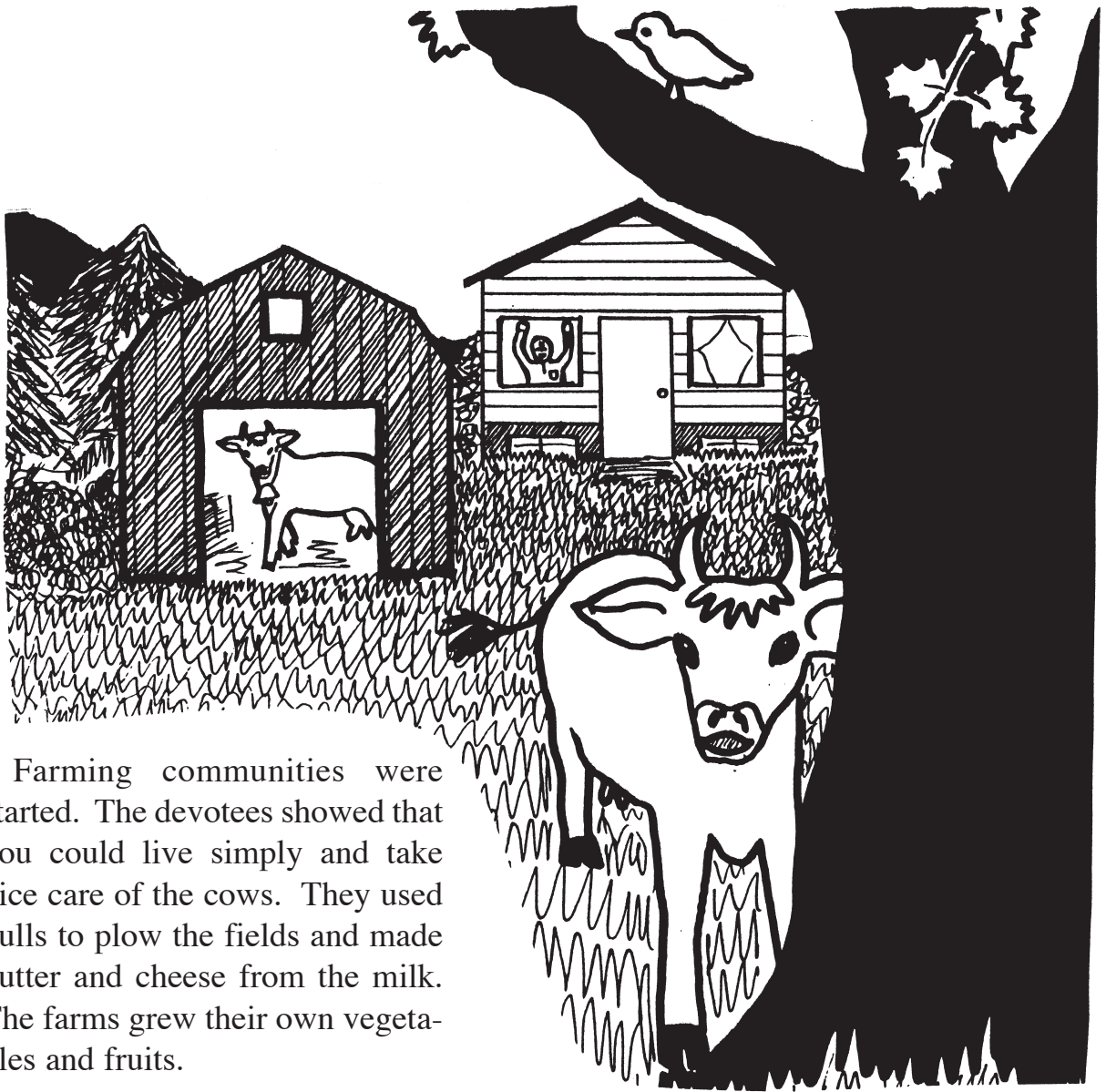


Things were not easy for the Swami. He only had money that people donated or what he got from selling his books. But gradually, some young people became interested in what he was teaching and they started coming to him regularly.

From this very small beginning, A. C. Bhaktivedanta did many things. He opened first a temple in New York. Then his disciples opened a center in San Francisco. As his disciples began learning more and more, he sent them out to different cities and countries to open more temples.



His disciples began to call him "Prabhupada." It means "one at whose feet other masters bow." Prabhupada showed himself as great master. In a few short years, he had opened over 100 temples and initiated 10,000 disciples.



Farming communities were started. The devotees showed that you could live simply and take nice care of the cows. They used bulls to plow the fields and made butter and cheese from the milk. The farms grew their own vegetables and fruits.

Prabhupada also started schools for children. They are called gurukulas. In those schools, the children learned the usual subjects like math, reading and spelling but they also learned about Krishna. Prabhupada knew that it was important for children to be trained how to serve Krishna, too; then they could purify themselves and go back to the spiritual world.

Prabhupada wanted a name for the group that he had formed. He decided to call it “ISKCON” which is short for “The International Society for Krishna Consciousness.” For people to become his disciple and a member of ISKCON, they had to follow certain rules and chant Hare Krishna daily.

Check for Understanding

Unscramble the words below to answer each question.

1. Name three things that Srila Prabhupada started in the United States.

rafms _____ emtpsel _____ kugruuasl _____

2. What was the name of the group that Srila Prabhupada started?

ONKICS _____

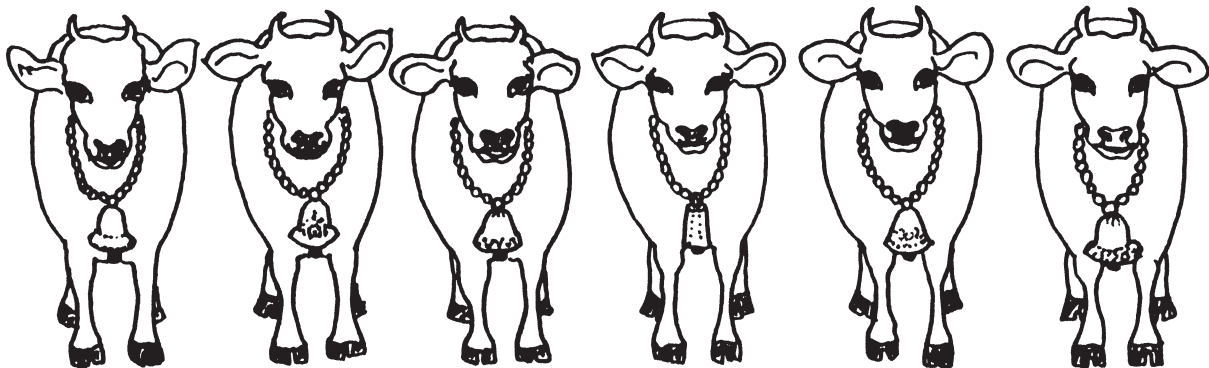
3. Name four things that you can get from cow's milk.

tbretu _____ gtyuor _____

eshece _____ mlbukittre _____

4. Name two cities that were the first to have ISKCON temples.

wen roky _____ ans anifsrcoc _____



Lesson Five

Back to India

Srila Prabhupada had been in the West for some time now. He was having a lot of success. He knew that Krishna was pleased with all the new people taking up Krishna Consciousness.

Prabhupada kept thinking about his years in India. When he had tried to preach there, not so many people were interested. India was beginning to imitate the West. People were giving up their spiritual ways and becoming more materialistic. He wanted to go back to India to preach with some of his American and European disciples. Maybe people would listen when they saw these Western boys and girls serving Krishna.

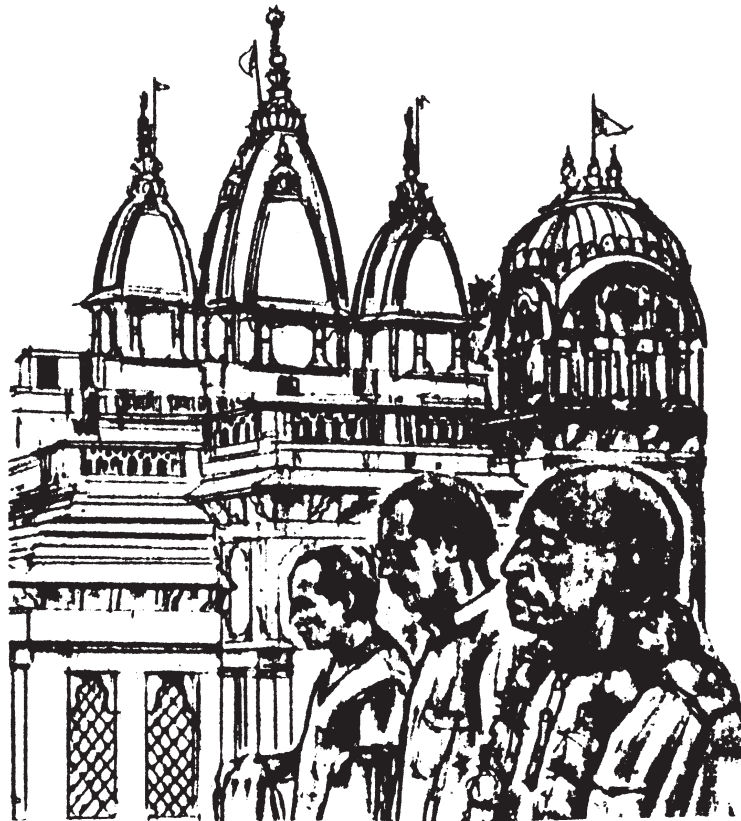


He took some of his disciples with him and together they traveled to different places in India. He called them his “dancing white elephants.” They held many big programs and the people were surprised to see these Westerners dressing and worshipping like the Hindus.

Srila Prabhupada opened some very beautiful, big temples in India. This took a lot of work and was not easy to do. But, once again, he never stopped writing his books. He traveled all around the world visiting his temples and seeing his disciples.

By now Prabhupada was about 80 years old. He started to feel weaker and a few times he thought that he did not have long to live.

His heart gave him problems and it was even difficult for him to eat. There were so many things that still needed to be done but he felt that it was time to go back to Vrindavan.



Word Search

In the puzzle below, find the words associated with Prabhupada

T	C	H	I	O	S	K	R	U	R	C	R
I	E	A	I	U	A	U	C	A	H	Y	G
M	R	A	A	S	B	U	Y	N	A	J	U
A	A	A	C	O	K	R	A	H	I	A	R
W	C	C	O	H	A	C	B	A	D	L	U
S	W	K	B	H	E	A	O	N	N	A	C
C	S	A	C	M	R	R	A	N	I	D	H
P	R	A	B	H	U	P	A	D	A	U	H
A	K	R	E	H	C	A	E	R	P	T	J
E	O	N	U	S	R	S	A	A	H	A	C

ACHARYA
JALADUTA
PREACHER
ISKCON
ABHAY

INDIA
GURU
BOOKS
PRABHUPADA
SWAMI
TEACHER

Lesson Six

Prabhupada's Final Lesson

Srila Prabhupada went back to Vrindavan with some of his disciples. He could understand that he did not have many days left on earth. He had been very sick--not able to eat or drink for many months. He was in a lot of pain and could not even sit up by himself.

Even though he was so weak, he continued his service to Krishna. Everything he spoke was about Krishna. He even kept writing his books. His disciples would hold a microphone to his mouth and he would record his translations and explanations.

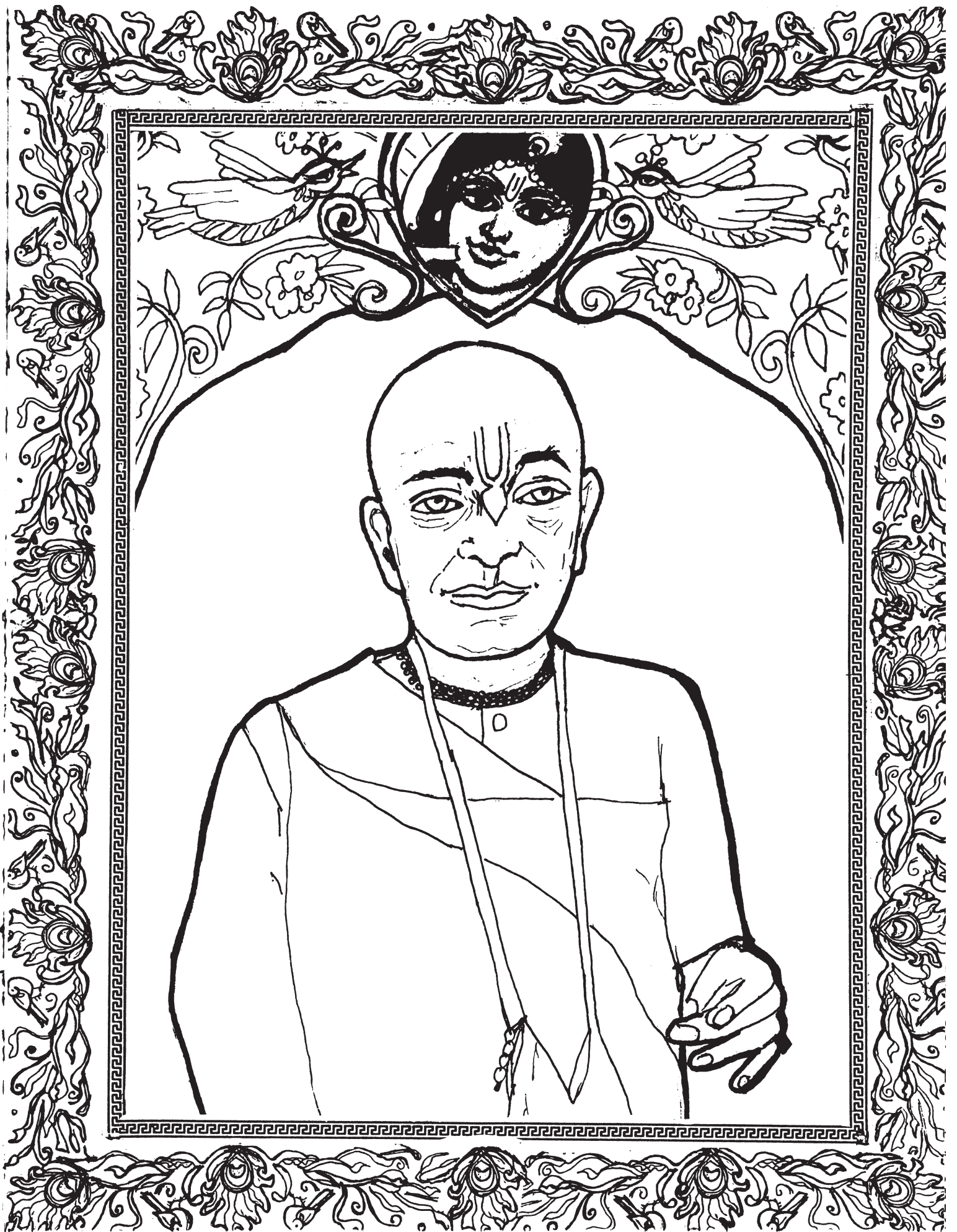
Finally, when Prabhupada was 82 years old, he left this world. He was in Vrindavan surrounded by his disciples who were chanting kirtan. He showed the best way to pass away -- chanting the Holy Name with the devotees in Vrindavan.

It is the custom that when a great saint dies, his body is placed in a special tomb, called a samadhi. Srila Prabhupada's body was placed in a samadhi in Vrindavan right next to the Krishna-Balaram temple.

We may not be able to see Prabhupada in person anymore but he is still with us. How? He is with us in his books. He has given us complete instructions on how to become perfect servants of Krishna. By reading his books we can still have his association. And by telling others about Srila Prabhupada and Krishna we are helping him in his mission.

Vyasa Puja

Every year on Srila Prabhupada's appearance day (birthday) his followers celebrate a festival called Vyasa Puja. It is a celebration that honors the spiritual master. We recognize that the guru is needed to teach us about Krishna. By following our guru's instructions and serving him faithfully, he can help us get out of the material world and return to Krishna. We are very grateful for his help and Vyasa Puja day is a good day to show our love and gratitude.



On Vyasa Puja day, disciples write offerings expressing their love for their spiritual master. Everyone will gather together and read their offerings before the guru. (If he is not there, a picture or statue is used.) On Page 23 you can read 2 offerings written by children for their spiritual master.

After the readings a foot bathing ceremony may be performed if the spiritual master is present. A fancy feast with many delicious items is cooked and offered to him, also. Then arati and kirtan performed with special songs praising the spiritual master being sung. Puspanjali, an offering of flower petals, is performed while certain mantras are chanted. Gifts are given, just as you give your friends gifts on their birthdays. After the temple festivities, all the devotees take the delicious feast.

Offerings to the Spiritual Master:

*O most glorified guru,
Please accept my most humble
obeisances. You have come to save
us all and preach for Srila
Prabhupada. Please allow me to
preach next to you when I grow up.*

Adi Keshava das (age 7)

My dear Guru,
You have come to the material
world to preach and forgive.
You speak for Krishna and tell us
what to do. You love and care
for everyone. Thank you for
promising me that I can go back
to Godhead.

Kishori dasi (age 9)



Check for Understanding

1. What is a samadhi?

2. Even though Prabhupada was very sick, what did he continue to do?

3. How can we get Prabhupada's association now?



Madhava Class

Srila Prabhupada

Story of Srila Prabhupada having Ratha Yatra by Vaijayanti Mala
Puzzles

Guru and need for Guru

Prabhupada -- learn to spell (fill in the blank letters to spell his name, index cards with letters on them, students arrange letters to spell name), learn whole name, why he is important to us, pictures, videos, song

Class project (CAN ALSO BE FOR OLDER AGE GROUPS)-- India (map) pictures on it of what Prabhupada accomplished there (sannyasa, BTG, initiation, Family, published Bhag. Ratha Yatra), make a 3-D ship following a yarn path connecting to America. Put pictures on America of what he accomplished abroad (temples, disciples, farm communities, restaurants, gurukulas)

His life -- born in India (2 or 3 pastimes there)

move to America aboard the Jaladuta

Opening of over 100 temples in America (1or 2 pastimes in West)

Writing books

Vyasa Puja -- celebrate?

Simplified book about Prabhupada

Lesson 1: Guru

Lesson 2: Introduce Prabhupada, ISKCON

Lesson 3: Childhood of Prabhupad (Ratha Yatra Book)

Lesson 4: Song Prabhupad comes to America aboard the Jaladuta

(students can make a list of things they would take if they were moving to another country.). Then show what Prab. took. Make a ship on a poster board traveling from India to America.

Lesson 5: Preaching all over the world, his books, etc.

Lesson 6: His disappearance. How we can serve Srila Prabhupad or Vyasa Puja celebration.