



In Support of Varnasrama to Attain the Lord's Lotus Feet

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Focus on Ecology



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Wealth in Natural Resources

Srila Prabhupada: Anyone who has seen the Red Fort in Delhi must have marked that the walls are made of marble and were once decorated with jewels. During the British period all these jewels were taken away and dispatched to the British Museum.

The conception of worldly opulence was formerly based mainly on natural resources such as jewels, marble, silk, ivory, gold and silver. The advancement of economic development was not based on big motorcars. Advancement of human civilization depends not on industrial enterprises, but on possession of natural wealth and natural food, which is all supplied by the Supreme Personality of Godhead so that we may save time for self-realization and success in the human form of body. *(Excerpt from purport to Srimad-Bhagavatam 4.9.62)*



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Srila Prabhupada Speaks on Ecology

Petrol Drilling Leading to Earth's Fall



Since the beginning of creation, the demons and the demigods, or the *Vaisnavas*, are always the two classes of living beings to dominate the planets of the universes. Lord Brahma is the first demigod, and Hiranyaksa is the first demon in this universe. Only

under certain conditions do the planets float as weightless balls in the air, and as soon as these conditions are disturbed, the planets may fall down in the Garbhodaka Ocean, which covers half the universe. The other half is the spherical dome within which the innumerable planetary systems exist. The floating of the planets in the weightless air is due to the inner constitution of the globes, and the modernized drilling of the earth to exploit oil from within is a sort of disturbance by the modern demons and can result in a greatly harmful reaction to the floating condition of the earth. A similar disturbance was created formerly by the demons headed by Hiranyaksa (the great exploiter of the gold rush), and the earth was detached from its weightless condition and fell down into the Garbhodaka Ocean.

[Reference: Srila Prabhupada's Purport to *Srimad Bhagavatam* 2.7.1]



Drought is because of Sinful Animal Killing

George Harrison: There's been a drought in England, there's no, very little water.

Prabhupada: This is very dangerous. Everything is now yellow.

Jayatirtha: It's greener here than most places around, but...

George Harrison: Everything's so dry this year, lots of trees and things dying without water.



Prabhupada: That is the punishment for this age. It is stated in the *Srimad-Bhagavatam*. There will be scarcity of rain and there will be scarcity of food and heavy taxation by government. And people will become mad on account of these three things. *Anavrsti, durbhiksa, karopi.*

George Harrison: It's getting dryer in England each year. It's probably going to end up as a desert in another hundred years.

Prabhupada: They expect like that?

George Harrison: Well, I don't know. I think the whole world's changing. Somebody said it's the pollution, leaves so much..., there's so much of the oceans now with polluted and with oil on the top, there's not so much evaporation anymore.

Prabhupada: Not in the ocean. It is the sinful activities of the populace. That is real problem. They are all engaged in sinful activities. Especially this innocent animal killing. These are the all.

[Conversation with George Harrison, July 26, 1976, London]



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HH Bhakti Raghava Swami Speaks on Ecology



Ecology: The Concern of Religion?

Ecology has become a major concern and a topic of serious discussion for most governments, organizations and individuals around the world with increased expenditures being tapped to help address and resolve the issues at hand. Although three main World Summit Conferences have been organized through the efforts of the United Nations over the last two decades, each on different continents (Rio de Janeiro in 1992, Johannesburg in 2003 and more recently Copenhagen in 2009), none have been successful in curbing the ever increasing gaps which threaten our deteriorating global environment.

We continuously read disturbing headlines such as “World ‘to fail’ on nature target” [October 13, 2008, SCI/TEC], “World ‘still losing biodiversity’ [July 2, 2009, SCI/TEC], “Species ‘extinction threat grow’ [November 3, 2009, SCI/TEC], “Biodiversity nears ‘point of no return’ [January 17, 2010, SCI/TEC], “Nature crisis ‘must be tackled’ [January 22, 2010, SCI/TEC], “World’s 2010 nature target “will not be met” [April 29, 2010 www.bbc.co.uk/news/10092320].

We can easily surmise that the global ecological crisis is taking on life threatening dimensions, not only affecting the lives of individuals, animals, plants, including our eco-systems, our oceans, our forests, our biodiversity, our wildlife, etc. The very planet itself is seriously affected by major climate changes and global warming. Mother earth indeed is in a most precarious and vulnerable state with few signs of relief in sight.

Although initially this may not seem the immediate concern of Hare Krishna devotees and indeed of anyone adhering to basic spiritual beliefs, we will attempt to explain that it is very much the concern of anyone who factually accepts and understands the basic universal principles of religiosity (dharma) for herein lies not only the core issues of the problems but also the simple and practical solutions. It is only when the disease is understood that a physician can bring remedy to a patient. Most people, including most government leaders around the world, simply don't know the root cause of the problem and hence the solution also evades them.

The present ecological disasters around the world are being accompanied by an acute economic recession where the rise of unemployment and the rise of national debts are taking their toll on various governments, including, and in particular, the United States of America. While all nations have tended to look upon America as the land of plenty, many are shocked to read how the U.S. poverty rate has risen to 14.3% in 2009, the highest since the last 15 years [September 16, 2010, http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/news/international/U.S._poverty].



Ecology and Mother Nature

The *Webster* dictionary defines ecology as (1) “a branch of science concerned with the interrelationship of organisms and their environments and (2) the totality or pattern of relations between organisms.”

Our Vedic culture teaches us that nature is one of our seven mothers. She reciprocates with us as a mother would with her beloved child. The relationship between the child and the mother is meant to be a sweet, loving and peaceful relationship.

We learn from science and from the ancient Vedic teachings (*Bhagavad-gita* 7.4) that Mother Nature is composed of five basic elements, namely earth, water, air, fire and ether. They are meant to work in harmony with one another and human beings are meant to live in harmony with all five elements. Ecology means keeping a proper balance, a proper harmony or healthy relationships between these elements and various living entities.

We often use the term “laws of nature”. Mother Nature follows certain specific laws which, when violated or not known, result in creating imbalances and disharmony. Just like in a country, when one violates the laws of the state or is simply not aware of state laws, one will be punished. This brings an imbalance to our otherwise normal way of living. The more severely we break the laws of nature, the more stern will be the reactions. Most of us are not familiar with the laws of nature and hence in modern times especially, we have violated practically all the laws of nature and therefore find ourselves in our present critical condition.



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However, only knowing about Mother Nature and its laws is not sufficient for humans to live peacefully in this world. There is another dimension, one of paramount importance, which when not known or not followed, also brings about disorder and calamities. By referring to nature as “mother”, we should understand that there must be a “father”. A mother without a husband cannot conceive. That father of Mother Nature is generally unknown to common people. But in the Vedic times, responsible leaders understood and paid due respect to both Mother nature and to the father, the one who has ordained all things, the one who established the laws of nature, the one who is referred to as God or Lord Krishna. This brings us to a simple definition of fundamental and basic knowledge without which we cannot understand nature, nor can we understand humans who must deal with this material nature. Without detecting the root problems behind our present day global ecological problems, we cannot find the proper solutions to these problems. As clearly explained in all scriptures, in particular the original book of knowledge, the Bhagavad-gita, complete knowledge means understanding both matter (nature) and spirit (life or consciousness) as well as the origin of both (God) and their interaction or relationship between them (Gita 7.2).

The Law and the Lawmaker

When we understand the nature of this material world, its laws and its lawmaker, based on eternal, universal principles called sanatana dharma, only then will the solutions to our ecological problems come within our grasp. The laws of nature are most scientific and directly enunciated and enacted by Lord Krishna Himself: *dharmam tu sākṣād bhagavat-praṇītam* [SB 6.3.19]

These laws are eternal, perfect and cannot be changed. Modern man does not know the basics of the laws of nature and hence, due to ignorance, violates these laws by introducing all kinds of policies which are destructive to humans, animals, indeed all earthlings, and the very world in which we live. Most leaders around the world do not properly understand who they are, do not know what the aim of life is nor do they know what is the working principle behind all that exists, God or Lord Krishna. Hence they cannot understand how to properly utilize the material nature.

As stated in one of the ancient Vedic texts, the *Īsopaniṣad* [Īso Mantra 1]:

*īśāvāsyam idaṁ sarva yat kiñca jagatyāṁ jagat
tena tyaktena bhuñjīthā mā gṛdhaḥ kasya svid dhanam*

"Everything animate or inanimate that is within the universe is controlled and owned by the Lord. One should therefore accept only those things necessary for himself, which are set aside as his quota, and one should not accept other things, knowing well to whom they belong."

This basic principle of accepting only what we need is only made possible when we accept our position as servants of God and recognize, respect and properly utilize the gifts of nature He has set aside for us, not for our selfish and uncontrolled motives, but to help us make progress in the real goal of life, self-realization. We are carelessly exploiting the resources of material nature primarily for our material well-being, and such exploitation is largely based on our insatiable lust and greed. Our whole mindset for every increasing consumerism and pursuit for more and more material facilities is causing an unhealthy competitive spirit among individuals and among nations, leading to all kinds of imbalances and inequalities. The rich are becoming more and more rich and the poor are becoming more and more poor, with the gap every increasing.

The global peace formula has been given by Lord Krishna Himself in the *Bhagavad-gita*:

*bhoktāraṁ yajña-tapasāṁ sarva-loka-maheśvaram
suhṛdaṁ sarva-bhūtānāṁ jñātvā mām śāntim ṛcchat*

"A person in full consciousness of Me, knowing Me to be the ultimate beneficiary of all sacrifices and austerities, the Supreme Lord of all planets and demigods, and the benefactor and well-wisher of all living entities, attains peace from the pangs of material miseries." [Gita 5.29]. To attain peace and harmony, we must therefore recognize three basic principles: (1) that Lord Krishna is the primary enjoyer, (2) that Lord Krishna is the supreme controller and (3) that the Lord is the well-wisher of all living entities.

There are innumerable examples of how we have gone against the laws of nature, one prominent and obvious one being that of drilling the earth either for oil or water.

Oil Digging and Ecology



Oil has been put in the soil for a particular purpose, actually to help keep the planet afloat through the energy it emits. To extract oil in huge quantities for selfish motives creates severe ecological imbalances to the proper functioning of the planet, what to speak of massive oil spills which have continued to ravage various continents, the most notable being the destructive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in April of 2010 and which has taken 5 months to bring under control.

The Founder/Acarya of ISKCON, Srila Prabhupada, gives a Vedic perspective on the dangers of modern drilling:

“The floating of the planets in the weightless air is due to the inner constitution of the globes, and the modernized drilling of the earth to exploit oil from within is a sort of disturbance by the modern demons and can result in a greatly harmful reaction to the floating condition of the earth.” [SB 2.7.1]

“The earth is the symbol of tolerance. By deep oil-drilling, atomic explosions, pollution, and so on, the earth is constantly harassed by demoniac living entities.” [SB 11.7.37]

Prabhupada: “Yes. Tools and machinery are already there. But why there is scarcity? Now there is no petrol, whole world. You have got the drilling machine, tools and machinery, everything. Then why you are in scarcity? Because now Krishna is against you. Therefore in spite of the oil underground, in spite of tools and machine, you'll starve. This is nature's process. You have created such a situation.” [Lecture, SB 1.10.5 – London, August 28, 1973]

Years of irresponsible water bore well drilling, largely for the sake of doubling or tripling the crops for agro-business, have resulted in severe shortages of water and serious disturbances in the water eco-systems. Open wells using ox power are the preferred traditional methods for extracting water from the earth. Such traditional and safe technologies still used in some remote villages of India and other countries assure the lasting presence of water and do not in any way threaten the water plateau.

The Simple Problem

Put in simple words, the root cause of all ecological problems today is the mistaken idea that we can exploit nature according to our whims, without taking into account the laws of God which are directly governing these laws of nature. Scientists conduct research involving huge expenditures attempting in various ways to manipulate, change or modify material nature for their own self-interest. People in general, and in particular those in leadership position, do not know who they are nor do they know the goal of life. They go on enacting policies and legislation based on their limited and faulty faculties without consulting higher authorities. For example, most leaders in governments do not realise that using chemical pesticides to increase agriculture output goes against the laws of nature and ultimately destroys. Leaders do not know that using chemical fertilizers rapes the soil of its natural nutrients and contaminates the food consumed by humans. Leaders do not understand that using hybrid seeds, introducing GM (genetically modified) foods and encouraging mono crop farming respectively bring about undue dependence for the farmers, health hazards and inevitable food crisis to the consumers. Leaders simply do not understand that using various hard technology-based machines such as tractors has disempowered the bulls and the ox resulting in their being sent to the slaughterhouse.

The Simple Solution

Unless we come to accept the material and spiritual dimension of life, until we come to know who we are and what the purpose of life is and how nature is governed by higher authorities, we will never understand how to meet our basic material and spiritual needs. We will continue to create imbalances and go against the established laws of nature. Our ecological problems stem from both our uncontrolled material desires (lust) and our excess greediness (lobha) in wanting to exploit material nature more and more.

The Vedic culture therefore stresses the importance of simplicity and frugality. Produce only what you need and use only what you produce. Live locally and live simply, accepting what is easily obtained without hard labour. To live happily in this material world we must perform sacrifices or yajna. Before ploughing the fields, one would worship Mother Nature who alone can provide what we need to survive. This sacrifice was performed by learned persons who chanted mantras and used large quantities of ghee. It is said that the clouds created by such yajna was very good for cultivation. All physical, mental, social and spiritual needs can be met when we accept to respect and follow the laws of nature and the laws of God.

Practical Suggestions

Here are some practical suggestions which can help bring about positive changes in our lives, bring peace and order within society and help resolve our global environmental crisis. Although ecology is meant to be taken up directly by government leaders of society, devotees can and should be knowledgeable of the principles involved and should offer guidance to those meant to take it up.



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1. Training Good Leaders

We have an urgent need to train ksatriya leaders who will be well versed in the principles of ksatriya dharma. This can best be done by promoting both Gurukula training and Varnasrama Colleges where students can become well equipped with organizational skills and well trained in leadership duties and qualities, in keeping with the standard directives and principles given by great authorities in the sastra. On another front, we can cultivate existing leaders in society and gradually induce them to adopt the standard leadership practices outlined in the Vedic writings.

2. Saving our Villages

The Daiva Varnasrama Ministry of ISKCON India is promoting the program "Adopt a Village". Villages in India and around the world are fast disappearing and there is an urgency to reverse today's mass migration to the urban areas. The villages remain the pillars of a Vedic oriented culture where the majority of people live locally, produce their own food and live in harmony with Mother Nature. Saving our villages will directly help any nation prosper, not simply industrialization. In addition to Adopt a Village, we must also endeavor to create small communities so that people can actually see a model. Example is better than precept.

3. Saving our Cows

The threat to cows is real and increasing at alarming rates. Daily some 100,000 cows are slaughtered in India alone. Out of 120, only 33 species of pure indigenous breeds remain in India today. The cow population continues to decrease while the number of slaughter houses increases with some estimated 3,500 cow slaughter centers in India. One can join or start local committees to discuss how the problem can be addressed. Varnasrama Research Teams of the varnasrama ministry can help set up such teams.

4. Village Technologies

Village technologies need to be rescued as they are being forgotten and abandoned by most local farmers. Various village technologies include de-husking grinding stone, various water lifting devices such as mothe, Yatham and Persian wheel where ox power is used to lift water from wells or ponds, oil ghani machine to make cold pressed oil and oil cakes.

5. Creating Seed Banks

With the ever increasing use of hybrid seeds, there is an urgent need for farmers to keep and to cultivate local non-hybrid seeds. The majority of farmers today have become dependent on hybrid seeds. These seeds are costly and may not always be so easily available. The original local natural seeds are much less than before. If you have land, begin collecting your own seeds and exchange with friends who likewise have a garden.

6. Becoming Spiritual

Taking up the spiritual practice of chanting the holy names of Lord Krishna can never be underestimated. Hence, everyone should regularly chant the Hare Krishna Maha Mantra: *Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare, Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare.*

- *HH Bhakti Raghava Swami*

Mammoth ivory trade raises fears for elephants

A burgeoning trade in ivory harvested from long-dead mammoth skeletons is raising concerns about the practice's effect on endangered elephant population. The international trade in elephant ivory has been effectively banned since 1989, when the United Nations passed the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora or CITES treaty.

*Before that, African and Indian elephants were hunted to the brink of extinction by poachers eager to sell their valuable tusks to collectors. The ban has helped elephant populations recover somewhat, but has done little to eat into demand for ivory. So a group of enterprising Russian businesses is reviving a centuries-old tradition of recovering the ivory tusks of extinct woolly mammoths when they are exposed from permafrost in Siberia during the short Russian summer. The main buyer is China — a recent report in the journal *Pachyderm* estimates the country imports more than 54 tonnes worth of Russian mammoth ivory a year, and there's believed to be more than 150 million undiscovered skeletons beneath Siberia. At current market prices of \$350 US per kilogram, there's clearly an untapped market. [Source: CBC News]*



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Man in the Vedic Ecology



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The footsteps of destruction of the present 'modern' civilization can be faintly heard. Global warming, meltdown of almost global economies, shooting prices of food grains, stellar rise in violence, rampant corruption, extinction of several species of plants, birds and animals, pollution of rivers including the sacred ones like Ganga, noise pollution, culling of birds and animals as a preventive measure from diseases, air pollution, receding water table, melting of glaciers, oil spill, ruthless mining, deforestation... It is an endless list, symptomatic of nearing catastrophe to us. We have violated the law of nature, and now it is showing its red tooth and claws. Deprived of their habitat wild animals are forced to encroach and attack people in search of food. In absence of pollinators, our agricultural produce has fallen drastically - *the boomerang effect*. Time is essence, what do we do to reinstate the precarious balance and save us and our planet? Why does it happen? Why are we pushing our future generation towards hell in the name of so called modern development? Why are we happily adopting a suicidal mode? Do we know our position in this network? The online dictionary defines 'Ecology' as: 1. *The branch of biology dealing with the relations and interactions between organisms and their environment, including other organisms.* 2. *Also called human ecology, the branch of sociology concerned with the spacing and interdependence of people and institutions.*

We constitute a big social eco-system. Every creation, howsoever minuscule, has a purpose in this delicately designed system. The original position of everything has been very carefully designed by the Lord, the ultimate Creator. But when one greedily and foolishly tries to break this tenuous connectivity the whole system is bound to crash down, though it tries to give one a lot of room for realization and correction. Independently, man is not even a speck in this BIG network of universe. With every exhale of Mahavishnu innumerable universes keep getting formed from His every pore. In those universes there is further expansion of the Lord. From there we descend further. Earth is just one of them. Including Earth, above it there are 7 lokas and below another 7 talas. Our modern Science though is still speculating about presence of life but our scriptures clearly declare that these planets are populated by specific life forms (SB 5.23-24). Then even on Bhurloka there are seven dvipas. "The planetary system known as Bhu-mandala resembles a lotus flower, and its seven islands resemble the whorl of that flower. The length and breadth of the island known as Jambudvipa, which is situated in the middle of the whorl, are one million yojanas [eight million miles]. Jambudvipa is round like the leaf of a lotus flower." (SB 5.16.5) Human beings are situated within Jambudvipa. Furthermore, there are several oceans and several countries in every continent, man is just another creation crawling on the face of Earth along with many more souls. But our ego is so big that we consider ourselves as something very consequential. Forgetting our real identity as His servant we wish to enjoy nature independently and even lord over it unscrupulously. Krsna has mercifully facilitated our stay on this planet of suffering and opportunity of rising by providing us with everything, but driven by unbridled greed one is destroying that very source. One's existence is based on the understanding of one's position in this network of universes and numerous other life forms. Man being the most sentient, endowed with the capability of spiritual realization has more responsibility than others. While being compassionate towards every life form "If we accept only those things that are set aside by the Lord as his quota...If we are satisfied with those



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things He has kindly set aside for us” [Srla Prabhupada’s purport to Mantra 1, *Ispanishad*] regarding Him as the sole proprietor of everything, everything will go on smooth. Absence of this realization has made these facilities standing monuments of our spiritual rebellion to the Lord Krsna, envy, ego, and greed. When otherwise, it will be a constant reminder of our bond to Him and His love towards us.

Vedic universe gives respect to every creature. The Lord Himself appeared in forms other than human, like that of a fish, turtle, boar, lion and even accepted them as His associate like Anantasesha (serpent), Garuda (His carrier), or His devotees in the forms of squirrel, bear (Jamvanta), monkey (Hanuman) and so on. If one respects Him and His laws and has compassion towards His every creation, who hold His expansion as *parmatama* within; and revive our original relationship with Him one will be able to save oneself from this imminent disaster. When nature takes its corrective step it can be very cruel, in the form of draught, Tsunami or worst Earth falling down in the lowest ocean like a deflated balloon as a result of our mindless mining for petrol, gold and other resources.

*ceto-darpaṇa-mārjanamī bhava-mahā-dāvāgni-nirvāpaṇamī
śreyah-kairava-candrikā-vitaranamī vidyā-vadhū-jīvanam
ānandāmbudhi-varadhanamī prati-padamī pūrṇāmṛtāsvādanamī
sarvātma-snapanamī paramī vijayate śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtanam* [Cc. Antya 20.12]



[Glory to the Śrī Kṛṣṇa saṅkīrtana, which cleanses the heart of all the dust accumulated for years and extinguishes the fire of conditional life, of repeated birth and death. This saṅkīrtana movement is the prime benediction for humanity at large because it spreads the rays of the benediction moon. It is the life of all transcendental knowledge. It increases the ocean of transcendental bliss, and it enables us to fully taste the nectar for which we are always anxious.]

Therefore, the best performance of yajña given to us is the saṅkīrtana-yajña. Yajñaiḥ saṅkīrtana-prāyair yajanti hi sumedhasaḥ (SB 11.5.32). Those who are intelligent take advantage of the greatest yajña in this age by chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa mahā-mantra in congregation. Wow, it sounds so good and simple. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu mercifully made it even simpler by making the most confidential knowledge accessible to everybody. However, in this age of Kali, even this is very difficult. One is not even able to chant properly. How many Haridas Thakurs have we had? While performing the spiritual trapeze feats while surrounded by Maya in every form, one’s intelligence lies in building a safety net for one’s self, which provides a safeguard to one’s fall. Daivi Varnasrama set up provides us the much needed safety as there is nothing artificial here. While following natural *guna* and *karma*, one respects one’s interdependence not only on humans of other varnas but also on other creations and is engaged in serving His lotus feet, and moving up the spiritual ladder. It is the most scientific and perfect set up as Kṛsnā declares in *Bhagavad-gītā* 4.13: “*cātur-varṇyam mayā sṛṣṭam guṇa-karma-vibhāgaśaḥ*” [According to the three modes of material nature and the work associated with them, the four divisions of human society are created by Me...] Further, since the Lord Himself is the creator of varnasrama, this too is to be understood as perfect and complete:

*om purnam adah purnam idam / purnat purnam udacyate
purnasya purnam adaya / purnam evavasisyate* [Invocation, *Isopanishad*.]

[The Personality of Godhead is perfect and complete, and because He is completely perfect, all emanations from Him, such as this phenomenal world, are perfectly equipped as complete wholes. Whatever is produced of the Complete Whole is also complete in itself. Because He is the Complete Whole, even though so many complete units emanate from Him, He remains the complete balance.]

Daivi varnasrama thus provides a simple and natural way out of this spiritual and material quagmire, further validated in the verses of *Visnu Purana* (3:8:9)

*Varnāśramācārvatā / puruṣeṇa paraḥ pumān
viṣṇur ārādhyate panthā / nānyat tat-toṣa-kāraṇam*

"One can worship the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Viṣṇu, by proper discharge of the principles of varṇa and āśrama. There is no alternative to pacifying the Lord by execution of the principles of the varṇāśrama system." [Quoted in CC. Madhya. 8.58]





Environmentalism According to the Vedic View

- HG Nandanandana Das (Stephen Knapp)

The environment means nature, and whose nature is it? It is God's nature. Did anyone else create it? Did anyone else put it all together so that it operates the way it does? In fact, mankind is still trying to figure out all the intricacies of its functionality.

In all the inventions or devices we produce, all the ingredients and resources that we use are all given by God. The elements we need to make big buildings, bridges, ships, cars, or the fuel to operate them, are all being given by God, and we need to show the proper respect. To think we are the proprietors of everything is the illusion. It is our pride that makes us think we are so intelligent when actually the very brain with which we think is not created by us but has again been given by God.

As everything is created from the Supreme, then we should certainly have a high regard for everything as the expansion of God's energies. This not only includes all of our fellow men, but all creatures, as well as all aspects of the planet. Violence toward the planet in the form of not caring for the environment, misusing and polluting our natural resources, not managing the land and forests properly, are all forms of disrespect toward God and the blessings that have been given us. Why should we expect God to continue giving us the necessities of life, or the means to acquire them, if we are going to ruin them, or do not know how to care for them properly? So we must never pollute our resources or waste the food we have.

We should also see that even the Earth is a living being, full of life. The globe is a mother to us since she supplies all that we need. All of our food, water, and resources for sustaining our own lives, as well as supplies for shelter and clothing, all come from her. How she reciprocates with us in regard to what she provides depends on how we treat, honor and care for her. The imbalance in nature, such as the green house effect, the changing climate and weather patterns, are reflections of the imbalance in the consciousness of humanity. Once there is balance and harmony in society's consciousness and the way we regard and treat the ecosystem, this will then be reflected in the balance in nature. Then many of the storms, natural upheavals and disasters will begin to cease.

The environment and the material creation are supplied with all the potencies to produce all the necessities that we require, not only for humans but also for all species. Human society should not consider itself as the only enjoyer of all of God's creation, and that no other creatures have a claim to it. Humanity is actually a minority species when we consider the many types of creatures that are sustained by the environment. If we manage the ecosystem properly, it will continue to produce everything we need. However, if people who have no genuine spiritual understanding start exploiting the Earth to take whatever they want in any way they want, then the supply of resources starts decreasing and the Earth, being a living organism, stops producing or responding to the needs of society as abundantly as it used to do. Then there will be shortages, droughts, and forest fires; subsequently the prices on commodities will increase. Gradually more people will become poor, and poverty and starvation will spread in parts of the world. Then we see fierce competition for whatever resources can be attained. When many people die while fighting over land and commodities, or temporary and ever-changing political stances, then all the bloodshed from the dead, dying or wounded is like offering Mother Earth blood sacrifices to drink. She is pained by this, as are so many other higher beings that watch the activities of humanity. Rather than respecting the Earth and cooperating to share her resources, when we fight over them it is most heartrending for Mother



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Earth. Thus, when the Earth and the Lord's environment are not properly appreciated and maintained, or are exploited by ungodly people, then scarcities and excess pollution is the result. However, nature itself can go on nicely except for the interference of ungodly men. As a society controlled by godless men gathers all the resources from the land as fast as possible for power and quick profits, it may appear to be a mighty economic gain at first, but in time it is never enough. As demand grows, scarcity raises its angry head. When the environment is not respected and cared for properly, there are also changes in the various species that have existed for thousands of years, even extinctions. These are all signs of further unknown changes in the future that will be revealing themselves to us when it will be too late.

There may be times when the Earth needs to cleanse herself of unwanted activities or from the pain she suffers from society's wrong aims of life. She may move in various ways to adjust things so that humanity is not so out of balance and will be forced to reconfigure the value systems that are displayed by humanity and make them geared more toward the real goal of life. When Earth reacts in particular ways to relieve her from the weight of unwanted activities or segments of society, we should not miss the message. A society that is too spoiled often easily forgets the real reason why it is here.

The proper vision is that everything is the property of the Supreme. If we have any possessions or wealth, we should see that we are only borrowing them for a short time. We certainly cannot take them with us when we leave this body, thus someone else will take it all when we are gone. The ultimate owner of everything is the Supreme Creator. Thus, the proper way to use anything is in the service or consciousness of God. The same goes for taking care of the environment. Everything belongs to God so, ultimately, we should take care of it as if we were being watched by God and only taking care of His property while, by God's good graces, it produces the resources we need to live. After all, as the Lord in our heart and as the Supersoul of every living being, He is observing everything we do.

All of one's land, home, wealth, and possessions belong to the Supreme Being though we wrongly think, "I am this body and all that belongs to it is mine". Thus, a person of wisdom should not see anything as separate from the Supreme Lord. In spiritual consciousness, such a person will see everything, whether it be fire, air, water, the earth, the sun and stars, all living beings, the trees and plants, the rivers and oceans, and in fact everything that exists as an expansion of the energies of the Supreme Lord. Even while actively engaged with so many objects and undertakings in this creation, a person who sees the whole world as the energy of the Supreme Being is indeed a great sage of wisdom.

Therefore, we should care for the environment as if it is not ours but God's property, and in this way assure ourselves that it will continue to provide all of our necessities for many years to come, and into many future generations. This is the Vedic view.

[Source: <http://www.stephen-knapp.com/>]



Look out of your window. Do you see something missing? The house sparrow which was a rather common sight is hardly spotted these days, thanks to human encroachment and urban lifestyles that do not give these feathered friends a chance.

If this is the fate of a species that co-existed with humans, imagine the chance of the ones that need their own habitat. We humans threaten this with our growing population and urbanisation. Home to some of the exotic flora and fauna that our government has been flaunting to attract tourists, the reality of India's rich wildlife reads like this: According to the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) red-list, 413 species of animals and 246 species of plants are listed in various degrees of the "endangered" category. (Check the the IUCN's site more information)

The critically endangered ones being: Jenkin's Shrew (Endemic to India), Malabar Large Spotted Civet, Namdapha Flying Squirrel (Endemic to India), Pygmy Hog, Salim Ali's Fruit Bat (Endemic to India), Sumatran Rhinoceros and the Wroughton's Free-tailed Bat (Endemic to India). [Source: The Hindu; September 28, 2010]



Make Ardayan Villages



'Creative' Energy of Man



- HG Rasamandal Das

Jivas are the atomic parts of God, the *vibhu-chit* (Plenary Sentience). The property of the sea, viz., water, is present in an atomic degree in a drop, too. *Vibhu* (God) is *abhijñāḥ svarāṭ* (fully cognizant and totally independent); there is independence in the *anu-chit-jiva* (i.e., atomic sentience), too, proportionally. Man being made in the image of God has the three potencies possessed by God that of existential, cognitive, and pleasure. Being in possession of the little creative energy, the living entity in the human form tries to create, with the only difference being that all the ingredients are obtained from what is made available by the nature. Like the father gives a set of blocks to the child; the child using his curiosity sometimes assembles or dismantles them. The child can neither add nor subtract from the blocks given by the father. Similarly, the human being using his creative energy transforms various elements and comes up with new creations and designs claiming to be through his intelligence which are proving to be destructive.

One story from the *Panchatantra* – “The Four Wise Men” is very relevant in the context. Once upon a time, there were four friends in a village. Three of these four friends were learned in all sciences, but had no common sense. The fourth friend by the name of Subuddhi was not much learned, but had common sense. One day, the three learned friends thought that there was no use of their learning, unless it brought them money to fulfill their needs. They decided to travel to city to try their luck. They didn't want to take their fourth friend with them, as he was not learned. However, they agreed to take him along with them, taking into account that he was their friend since childhood.

The four friends set out on a long journey, wandering from one town to another, looking for an opportunity to earn money. One day, during their journey, they had to pass through a dense forest. While passing through the forest, they saw a heap of bones lying under a tree. On seeing the heap, one of the learned friends said, “Friends, this is a good opportunity to test our skills. I think these bones are of a certain animal. Let us bring it to life using the knowledge we have acquired.” The first friend said, “Fine. I will use my skills to assemble the bones into a skeleton”. Then he chanted some mantra and ordered all the bones to come together forming a skeleton. When the skeleton was ready, the second friend chanted some other mantra, commanding flesh and blood to fill the skeleton and skin to cover it. Now, it looked like a lifeless lion. As the third learned friend stood up to do the final act of putting life into the lifeless body of the animal, the fourth friend shouted, “Stop! This looks like the body of a lion. If it comes to life, he will kill all of us.” Ignoring what the fourth friend had said, the learned friend started chanting the mantra to bring the animal back to life. The fourth friend quickly climbed up a tree nearby. The three learned friends laughed and continued. Soon the lion sprang to life and killed all the three learned men. The fourth friend safely went back.

With the advancement in science and technology, man using his cognitive energy and his little independence is trying to become God and create life from cells to demonstrate the non-existence of God. But he conveniently forgets that he is not completely independent and manipulating nature will devour us as the tiger did.

Most of the environmental problems surfacing today are due to the exploitative tendency of the human being. In our mad rush to exploit the material nature, we have left no clean water, air, or soil - there is a steady destruction of the flora and fauna. The nature being superior to human beings will always prevail on us in a very threatening way. What is today considered as development was not pursued in the Vedic system because the whole focus was on self-realization and spiritual emancipation and anything distanced from it was considered insignificant. Unless we revive this *varnasrama* lifestyle, human beings in the misdirected civilization will be only creating ferocious tigers” threatening the very survival of the creation.



Make Arndavan Villages



Ecological Imbalance & Daivi Varnasrama

- HG Campaka lata dd

Newspapers and mass media shout clearly that we are racing headlong towards destruction and endangering our beloved Mother Earth - global warming, water pollution by toxins and chemicals, air pollution, noise pollution, extinction of species, killing of forests and animals etc. The scars that we leave on environment with the heavy boots of our greed make our selfishness very obvious.

Our collective material consciousness like Hiranyaksha is dragging the planet to the most ominous state. We choose to live in a soul less world with material fantasies and dreams. We hear of new and fashionable doctrines by researchers and intelligentsia for the prevention and cure of material disease and to even save our environment from the ecological imbalance. But, since the so called philosophers and researchers are not surrendered to Krishna their theories remain so – Theories. The real solution lies in Harinam, chanting of holy name of the Lord. And in this age of Kali, where everything is averse to it, Harinam can be done *only* under the umbrella of daivi varnasrama.

Only Daivi varnasrama and cow protection can redeem the planet from the fallen state. Varnasrama was referenced by Lord Krishna Himself in the *Bhagavad-gita* and it is His own creation and thus the only panacea to the present ecological situation. The brahmanas of the court of Prthu Maharaj (Saktavesa Avatara of Lord Vishnu Himself) re-instated varnasrama as the first thing after His coronation as king, before any other issues were addressed. This shows the importance of varnasrama for the well being of society. Unfortunately due to ignorance, or lack of real knowledge and thirst for material advancement the concept of varnasrama and cow protection has undergone lot of distortion and misrepresentation.



Our scriptures endorse “*Simple Living and High Thinking*”, the core concept of varnasrama. If we come to an understanding of just this one line and apply its wisdom in our real life by accepting Daivi Varnasrama. Human life is for cultivating spiritual knowledge while staying close to nature. This is easiest in the set up of varnasrama. Life would be devoid of material anxieties. So wonderful to think it even!

His Holiness Bhakti Raghava Swami says, “We can redeem and heal the planet by giving up materialistic fantasies by producing only what we need and using only what we produce”. This spiritual harmony is the need of the hour.

My grandfather was a farmer and his dependence was entirely on land and a few cows. My mother tells me how their granaries were full through out the year with fruits and grains; and kitchen with milk products. The produce from the farm could easily sustain a joint family of 30 members and still had more to distribute and barter clothes and fulfil other requirements. This set up was not unique to our family but can be seen prevalent everywhere across the country. But rapid industrialization over the last few decades has brought in a complete shift in the consciousness. The imminent catastrophe can be avoided only by cultivating spiritual consciousness through daivi varnasrama.

Sarve Jana Sukhino bhavantu! Hare Krsna!



Make Andavan Villages



Mitticool: Scaling New Horizons in Pottery



Former Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam called him a 'true scientist'. Mitticool, a clay refrigerator that works without electricity had turned the world's attention to its creator Mansukhbhai Prajapati, from a craftsman family belonging to Morbi in Rajkot district in Gujarat.

Presenting the national award to Mansukhbhai in 2009, President Pratibha Patil appreciated his work and asked him for a Mitticool, defining a range of products made from clay and running without electricity including refrigerator etc.

Scientists and journalists from across the world have visited his unit to see how he makes eco-friendly products at a low cost.

A school drop-out after not able to pass in tenth class, he has achieved a feat that many in the world envy today. The simple and unassuming Mansukhbhai is not keen on money. His ambition is to make more low-cost and eco-friendly products for the masses.

"A good majority of Indians cannot buy a fridge as it is expensive. Besides this, electricity bills and maintenance cost is also high. Mitticool is an eco-friendly product which has no maintenance costs. It also retains the original taste of vegetables, says Mansukhbhai who has sold 1500 units so far.

"I failed in the tenth standard. But I was not disappointed as I knew that I was capable of making something new," says Mansukhbhai who holds a patent for Mitticool.

People who considered him as incapable, now look up to him. They say, "you are the pride of our community!"

He has been popularising earthen products since 1988. The only drawback for him is the lack of stores to sell them.



It takes 10 people to make a fridge in one day. Made from clay, the refrigerator can store water, fruits, vegetables for 8 days and milk for one day. The upper part of the refrigerator stores water, while the bottom unit has space for fruits, vegetables and milk. At present, he sells the clay fridges at Rs 2,500, at his unit.

The products are mostly available in Gujarat and in some stores in Mumbai and Pune only. Most of the sales outside Gujarat are done during exhibitions. Besides, the low-cost fridge, he has developed a water filter, non-stick tava and a pressure cooker all made of clay. The pressure cooker also has a whistle.

Pottery being Prajapati family's traditional business, Mansukhbhai has many more innovative ideas.





• Village Out-Reach Program to Hebri



SSKBK: A Spiritual Enterprise



- By H.G. Parasurama Dasa

Sahyadri Sri Krishna Balaram Kshetra is (SSKBK) is a humble attempt by a few devotees to promote Simple living and High thinking and to contribute towards reestablishment of Varnasrama Dharma. Located near the town of Hebri which is about 35 kms from the famous Udupi Krishna temple in Udupi, our small community is nestled in the lush green ranges of Sahyadri Mountains within the area of Parasurama Kshetra, South Karnataka, also known by Vaishnavas as Dakshin Vrindavan in India. Understanding the suicidal course current civilization and taking to heart Srila Prabhupada's desire to reestablish daivi varnasrama dharma, a few brahmacharis started by clearing the jungle bushes and gradually paved the way for a small group of families and other brhmacharis to live together striving for self-sufficiency. The main activities of the devotees still are deity worship, agriculture and cow protection, with a mood of dependence on Krishna. Cows and land support in the sustenance of this body.

The resident devotees maintain a strong spiritual practice (sadhana) by regularly attending early morning prayers (Mangal Arati) and then chanting their prescribed number of rounds of Hare Krishna maha mantra. Then everyone gets engaged in their respective services. The farm environment provides a very healthy occupation for the residents, with devotees not having the need to portray themselves as atheist to satisfy the so called "secular" trend of society. Everyone is conscious that they are working directly for the pleasure of Sri Sri Krishna Balarama. The devotees have built a small mud temple using local materials. The Supreme Lord is so kind that he agrees to stay even on such a simple altar as much as devotees can provide, just to engage him in His loving service. In the evenings, devotees hold Gaura Arati and Bhagavad-gita class. Thus, the whole day is spent happily in the service and remembrance of the Supreme Lord.



Agriculture has not been easy at SSKBK, given that we are situated near a forest. Though there are no ferocious wild animals, our crops face constant attacks from wild boar, wild horses, monkeys, wandering cows and rabbits. With the help of ox-power, we strive to revive some traditional water lifting devices such as Mohte, Ratha, and even the man power driven Yatham. Devotees keep a watch on ways to revive traditional technologies like oil extraction, cloth making, honey, food processing as making jaggery, chipped rice, mud block building etc. The devotees have planted many grains such as – dals, rice, jowar, corn, ragi etc. These crops grow mainly during and after the rainy season. All round the year devotees plant a variety of vegetables. We use manure prepared using cow-dung like the natural compost and jivamrita. Our pesticide is made from cow urine. There are many fruit trees in our farm and by Krishna's mercy they provide us a lot more than we can eat. Slowly and steadily we are working towards self-sufficiency in food. Taking care of cows is the most loved activity. The mere sight of cows and calves happily grazing *increases our blood*, as goes the India saying. We have around 18 cows, including calves, bulls and oxen. They provide us everything for growing our food, with bulls doing the tilling and irrigation. The devotees just need to protect and harvest the crops. Apart from giving us nourishing milk, cows help in meeting our general expenses by giving dung and urine, with which we prepare medicines and send them to our city centers. These medicines are very effective as testified by the users.

To serve the varnasrama mission of Srila Prabhupada, we conduct a yearly 3-month Varnasrama College course from Jan-March. With ISKCON Daiva Varnasrama Ministry headquarters at SSKBK, we pray for the blessing of the devotees that we are able to take up preaching activities and help many more rural communities to develop. We must admit that we are in the beginning stage and a lot more needs to be done. But by the mercy of Guru and Gauranga, we are already able to see the varnasrama mission taking strong roots in India as well as in many other countries around the world as desired by Srila Prabhupada.



Make Arndavan Villages



• Varnashrama Literature

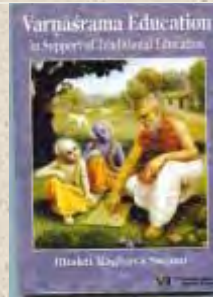


Make Vrindavan Villages

HH. Bhakti Raghava Swami, who heads the Varnashrama Ministry, India has authored several books on Varnashrama, including this. This book is meant to serve as a general introduction to some of the basic concepts of varnashrama-dharma. In essence, the subject matter deals with both the topic of education as well as social and spiritual upliftment through a well established and scientifically planned educational system and social structure which encompass all spheres and all dimensions of life.

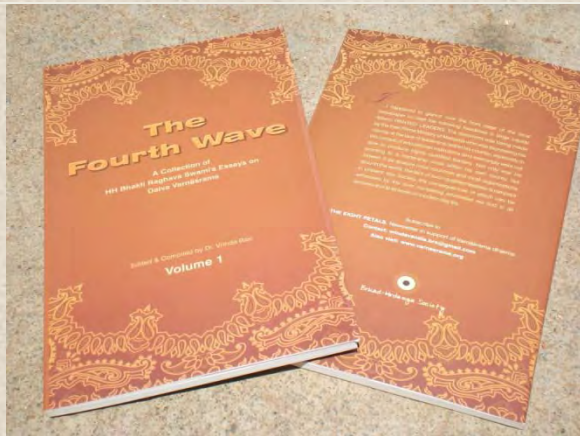
Varnashrama Education

The topic of education, a highly debated and controversial subject among many many educationalists and students alike, has always been of extreme importance and relevance to any society, especially in the most traditional oriental cultures. This book deals with the aspect of Education in the context of Varnashrama.



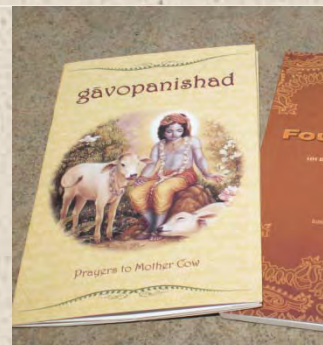
The Fourth Wave

It is a wonderful collection of HH Bhakti Raghava Swami's essays on Daiva Varnashrama addressing a wide range of concerns of daily life beginning from the very definition of the term, dharma, administration, family system, education, food, to technology. The 'Preface' for *The Fourth Wave* has been written by HG Patita Pavan Adhikary, a senior disciple of Srila Prabhupada, a strong daiva varnashrama supporter, a prolific writer, and an astrologer who has the distinction of having served as ISKCON Temple President and Director (Book Reviews) for BBT.



Gavopanishad: Prayers to Mother Cow

Cows, dear to the Lord Himself- Gopala, Govinda - have been integral to the concept of varnashrama and have functioned as the defining features of Vedic social, economic, and spiritual system. This small attractive book contains lovely prayers in the glory of Mother Cow, complemented by short but interesting information on the significance of cow and panchgavya products. The 'Foreword' to *Gavopanishad* has been written by H.H. Bhakti Raghava Swami himself.



In addition to the above there are many more books in the pipeline and several documentary movies. In order to get more information one can contact: vrindavanlila.brs@gmail.com
For Panchgavya products one can contact: gourgopal.brs@gmail.com





Cabinet Endorses State Mining Policy (Central Chronicle)

September 29, 2010. Bhopal. The state cabinet endorsed the State Mining Policy-2010. The policy envisages all round and continuous development of stated through planned and scientific exploitation of mineral resources while taking proper care of environment and ecology. The policy provides for equipping the departmental staff with state-of-the-art technology and proper training for survey of minerals with private sector's participation. In order to ensure conservation of minerals it is imperative to use low grade minerals for which use of low grade minerals along with high grade ones as alloy would be ensured. The policy seeks the setting up of a mineral development fund for prospect ion, strengthening the staff and infrastructure development in mineral rich areas. Exploration of precious metals would be encouraged issuance of reconnaissance permit for minerals found on surface would be discouraged. Suggestions from experts and industrialists would also be sought for mineral development.

The new mining policy provides for computer based online tracking of applications for quick disposal of applications for mining concessions and to make the process transparent. With a view to preventing illegal mining and transportation of minerals check posts and toll posts would be set up in coordination with other departments and e-permits would be issued for minerals besides using the statistics obtained through satellite. This would help effective curb on illegal mining. Measures would be taken for cancellation of registration of vehicles and licenses of the drivers of vehicles found engaged in illegal transportation of minerals. Mining leases would not be sanctioned or renewed of the persons violating mining rules.



Indian Iron ore Mining Mess: Call for Cap on Mining in Goa (www.steelguru.com)

September 29, 2010. Goa. Over 47% of the 117.3 million tones of iron ore shipped from India in 2009-10 went from Goa and Mormugao Port Trust expects shipments to rise by 10.8% this year. But, what are the costs of mining over 55 million tonnes of iron ore in a state that occupies just 0.1% of India's land mass? Devastation. The Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel was told at

its public hearing in Goa recently. 90% of Goa's mining leases are within notified wildlife sanctuaries and reserve forests and the worst affected have been tribal farming communities like the Gaudas and the Velips. In Rama Velip's Colomb village, 1500 of 1700 hectares is under mining. The seven mines being operated there have ruined large tracts of paddy fields, Velip told the WGEEP chaired by Madhav Gadgil.



India Facing Crop Shortage as Pollinators Disappear (Discovery News)

September 28, 2010. When Colony Collapse Disorder swept through American and European bee populations in 2007, the western world was alerted to a startling fact: a huge portion of our food supply rests on the industrious pollinating habits of honey bees.

Now India, home to nearly 1.2 billion people, is facing a similar problem. The country's pollinators are dwindling and its supply of nutritious vegetables like eggplant, squashes, and cucumbers, may be in jeopardy.

In a report presented at the British Ecological Society, Parthiba Basu of the University of Calcutta's Ecology Research Unit found that the country's pollinators, which include many small insects as well as bees, were in decline, but he and colleagues were at a loss to explain why.



Bamboo can Help Save Ecology: Vice President (www.sifynews.com)

September 18, 2010. Kohima. Vice President M. Hamid Ansari Saturday said the importance of bamboo has increased in the backdrop of global concerns of ecology and environment and the looming threat of global warming and climate change.

'Bamboo is emerging as the most viable wood substitute,' Ansari said, while addressing the first ever World Bamboo Day function at Naga heritage village Kisama, near Nagaland capital Kohima.

The vice president said that unlike steel and plastic, bamboo is eco-friendly, being not only biodegradable but also having enormous capacity to sequester carbon.



Bangladesh, India to protect Sunderbans (www.sifynews.com)

September 7, 2010. Bangladesh and India will soon sign a protocol to protect the riverine Sunderbans that covers parts of both the South Asian neighbours.



Sunderbans is home to famous Royal Bengal tiger. The two countries have resolved to cooperate to protect the area's ecology and the tiger, that is now an endangered specie.

The draft of the bilateral protocol was approved Monday by the Bangladesh cabinet at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, *The Daily Star* reported.



2% Annual Milk Production Loss Due to Global Warming: Research (*Business Standard*)

September 26, 2010. New Delhi. India is currently losing nearly two per cent of the total milk production, amounting to a whopping over Rs 2,661 crore due to rise in heat stress among cattle and buffaloes because of the global warming. "The estimated annual loss at present due to heat stress among cattle and buffaloes at the all-India level is 1.8 million tonnes; that is nearly two per cent of the total milk production in the country," said RC Upadhaya, Principal Scientist, Animal Physiology at National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI).

India produced about 110 million tonnes of milk last year. In monetary terms, the loss amounts to a whopping Rs 2,661.62 crore a year, Upadhaya said.

Animal stress level is calculated on the basis of fluctuation in temperature and humidity and is measured using Temperature Humidity Index (THI).



Suncor Reports Oil Spill Near Montreal Refinery (*Reuters*)

September 29, 2010. Suncor (SU.TO) reported an oil spill in the St. Lawrence Seaway near its 130,000 barrel-per-day Montreal refinery, a company spokesman said on Wednesday.

The spill was a mixture of diesel and water but there was no estimate of the amount of oil spilled, said Michael Southern, a spokesman for the Calgary-based company.

Southern said booms were put down quickly after the leak was discovered and that the company expects to recover the majority of the oil. He said the leak had been stopped and the incident was under investigation.



Silver lining: Flooded Yamuna Cleans Itself (*The Pioneer*)

September 29, 2010. New Delhi. The flooded Yamuna may be a cause of concern for Delhi Government, but it has brought good news for environmentalists and the river itself. While the

authorities have failed miserably to clean the river in spite of flushing crores of rupees into it in the name of Yamuna Action Plan (YAP), which was launched in 1993, the river has bailed itself out this monsoon.

With the water level reaching the 206.73-metre mark, most pollutants and filth along the river's 22-km stretch through the Capital have been washed away by the gushing Yamuna. Delhi single-handedly dumps around 3,296 million litres per day (MLD) of sewage into the river. The biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) load has increased 2.5 times between 1980 and 2005 — from 117 tonne per day (TPD) in 1980 to 276 TPD in 2005.

The faecal coliform count, indicating the presence of disease-causing micro organisms, is 25,000 times more than the limit prescribed for bathing. The Capital has 17 drains discharging treated and untreated sewage into the river. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has put the river's water in Category E, which declares it fit only for recreation and industrial cooling purposes. It is unfit for wildlife, fishery and drinking.



Notices Issued to Tanneries for Polluting River Ganges (*www.news.oneindia.com*)

September 17, 2010. Kanpur. The Pollution Control Board in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur city issued notices to six tanneries for discharging industrial waste into the River Ganges.

Radheshyam, the area officer of Pollution Control Board, Kanpur city said they have issued notices to sixty-five tanneries who discharge their waste into river Ganges.



Water-fuel car unveiled in Japan (*Reuters*)

June 13, 2010. Japanese company Genepax presents its eco-friendly car that runs on nothing but water.

The car has an energy generator that extracts hydrogen from water that is poured into the car's tank. The generator then releases electrons that produce electric power to run the car. Genepax, the company that invented the technology, aims to collaborate with Japanese manufacturers to mass produce it.



Holy cow! Gir gai goes global via Brazil (*The Times of India*)

September 27, 2010. Rajkot. Given that the Gir cow is indigenous to Gujarat, local business should have been milking it to earn foreign exchange. But it seems far away Brazil is doing a better of this.

The South American country today has around 50 lakh heads of this unique breed known for high



milk production. Gujarat is estimated to have only around 3,000 pure breed Gir cows left, according to Satyajit Khachar, scion of the erstwhile princely state of Jasdan and a known breeder of the cow.

According to Khachar, the focus of the dairy industry in Gujarat was on buffalo milk because of its fat content. So the Gir breed was neglected, resulting in the dwindling of both its numbers and pedigree.



India's Temples Go Green (www.time.com)

July 7, 2008. Tirupati, India. The Tirumala temple, in the south Indian city of Tirupati, is one of Hinduism's holiest shrines. Over 5,000 pilgrims a day visit this city of seven hills, filling Tirumala's coffers with donations and making it India's richest temple. But since 2002, Tirumala has also been generating revenue from a less likely source: carbon credits. For decades, the temple's community kitchen has fed nearly 15,000 people, cooking 30,000 meals a day. Five years ago, Tirumala adopted solar cooking technology, allowing it to dramatically cut down on the amount of diesel fuel it uses. The temple now sells the emission reduction credits it earns to a Swiss green-technology investor, Good Energies Inc.

Like Tirumala, dozens of holy places across India are moving quietly towards green energy. Muni Seva Ashram, in Gujarat, which combines spiritual practice with social activism, is working to make its premises entirely green by using solar, wind and biogas energy. A residential school for 400 students is already running exclusively on green energy. Starting this year, the ashram will also sell three million carbon credits. A similar movement is afoot at the revered Sai Baba Temple in Shirdi, Maharashtra. "Our aim is to avoid pollution in every way," says Raghunath Aher, the temple's chief engineer. "A holy place should be pure and completely in harmony with nature."

It's not surprising that religious groups are in the vanguard of India's green movement: India is the birthplace of Hinduism and three other of the world's largest religions Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism, all of which revere nature and preach conservation. Indeed, with 99% of Indians professing to one faith or another, the country's

Bhagavan: In France there was a big drought, terrible drought. Many animals died. So the president of the country made a speech, and all he could say in his speech was that people should try to use less water. (laughter)

Prabhupada: Oh. There was another caricature, India. So there was some drought, the same. So there was some, what is called, representation: "And there is no water. We are suffering. This is the difficulty." "Yes, we are taking step, but next week you'll have television." Advancement, television. ... As if television will solve the problem.

All mudhas, rascals, are very horrible condition. Chant Hare Krishna. There is no other. (Source: Room Conversation — July 26, 1976, London)

green movement might not have a prayer without them.



Rapid Test to Save Indian Vultures from Extinction (www.sciencecentric.com)

September 28, 2010. India. Diclofenac, an anti-inflammatory agent, has been deployed successfully in human medicine for decades. In most EU countries medication containing Diclofenac is only approved for treatment of humans. In India, Pakistan and Nepal it has been deployed in veterinary medicine as well since the 90s, in particular for livestock. When vultures feed on cattle carcasses, they too ingest the drug. As a result, the populations of three species of these birds of prey - the Indian vulture, the Oriental white-backed vulture and the slender-billed vulture - have shrunk to a mere three percent of their original number.

In light of this situation, the governments of the affected countries banned the use of Diclofenac in veterinary medicine in 2006.



Panther attack on Tirumala footpath points to norms violation (*The Hindu*)

July 28, 2010. Tirupati, India. Tuesday's panther attack on a girl trekking to Tirumala has sent chills down the spines of visiting pilgrims. The incident throws light on the need to respect the privacy of animals, even while ensuring pilgrims' safety.

Incidents of panthers straying into human habitations are not new to Tirupati, as the area abutting the hills played host to these unwelcome guests during the early years of this decade.

Woman Mauled - A panther mauled a woman to death in Mangalam, while another one was seen perched on a culvert near Kapila Theertham, a residential area. A third one frequently tiptoed into the Sri Venkateswara University campus.

All the above incidents were attributed to the drying up of water bodies in the thickets due to severe drought, and the straying was dubbed as the panthers' "extended search" to quench their thirst.

While the ghat roads are officially closed between midnight to 3 a.m., the duration often undergoes shrinkage due to heavy rush or VIP visits.



• **Mails to the Editor**

Dear Vrindavanalila,

Please accept my blessings. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

I did look at the last issue when it first arrived, and liked Bhakti Raghava Maharaja's article very much. I also like the misc. quotes that you included. The issue is so deep that we could focus on money every other issue and begin to scratch the surface after a year. ...I want to thank you for devoting an issue of *Eight Petals* to the subject of 'money'. It has such profound implications for culture and most of it is unseen, but not unfelt, by society. We need another dozen issues on the topic to educate our devotees about the significance of how we handle the economic problem. In any case, I hope that they will avail themselves of my books, which can be ordered in America and India (see links on my website: www.spiritual-econ.com). Please continue the good work of pushing on the varnashrama pioneering.

- **HG Dhanesvar Das, Ukarine**

Hare Krsna mataji,

Please accept my obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

I really like your article "Perfection of Life Through Tongue." ... When I joined ISKCON many, many years ago, I was attracted to Srila Prabhupada's idea of self sufficiency, simple living and high thinking and his whole model of Varnashram development.

Over the years we got so involved in expanding the preaching that development of the farms were put on the back burner. Now I am living more privately trying to develop my own farm, and at the same time assisting in the preaching in many ways. This gives me much satisfaction--growing everything organic and offering to our Deities only fruits and vegetables grown on the farm.

I would be grateful for information on this type of lifestyle and linking me with like minded devotees...

- **HG Paramatma Das, Guyana, S.America**



Hare Krishna mataji,

PAMHO!

All glories to your wonderful service - it'll only help me elevateThanks for including me in your database for the subscription - I read the past 2 issues, including the Vamana Masa one and was really impressed, especially with your guru maharaj's article on 'medicine' - it's so good - perhaps I should seek his shelter like you and many other devotees. Please convey my regards to your guru maharaj for the wonderful article, leave alone the rest of the content of both the issues....

- **Bhakta Ravishankar, Australia.**

Hare Krishna Mataji,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

All Glories to Sri Guru and Sri Gauranga!!!

The Last Edition's Focus on 'Money' was truly enlightening, the way Srila Prabhupada was explaining about the Paper money is what the real cause of present inflation - This banking, fanking will collapse... Conversation between Srila Prabhupada and Hari Sauri Prabhu. As we are currently experiencing and watching the same discussion in real time that is currently going on in U.S that banks are getting shutdown for the same reason.

If Prabhupada had been physically present in the 21st century probably he could have turned the whole world Vedic with his scholastic and erudite preaching on Vedic lifestyle....I hope your next release on 'ECOLOGY' be a 'Cutting Edge' and many readers would surely appreciate it. Thank you for all your efforts...

- **HG Haridas Das**



Make Vrindavan Villages

Dear Vrndavanalila Mataji Hare Krsna .

Thank you for the latest edition "Money". You are targeting relevant topics with a broad coverage of good articles.... Thank you again for keeping the Vaisnava world connected on varnasrama dharma.

- ***HG KaliyaKrsna das, Australia.***

Haribol!

Thank you Vrindavana-lila! The subjects are very interesting to me, and I'd really like to read it. ... Please keep up your important service! Thank you for ... wonderful publication! I hope I'll be able to contribute in some way one day...

- ***HG Malyahari-kunda dasi***

Hare Krsna Mataji,

Thanks a lot, mataji, for sending me nice newsletter. I also wish to know more developments in relation to Varna-ashram. ...Please also add my other devotee friends ... in your group. Your humble servant,

- ***HG Nartaka Gauranga das***

Hare Krishna Mataji!!!

Please Accept my Humble Pranams

All Glories to Srila Prabhupada, Sri Sri Guru and Gauranga!!!

Thank you so much for sending this wonderful varnasrama dharma articles of simple living and blissful way of life. I born and brought up in complete village in tamil nadu India. I enjoyed the life very greatly with cows and land. I still remember I used to drink the milk directly from the cow while I was milking or along with the baby cow. I used to plow the land, do irrigation during my school days and take care of the cows. It was very blissful and tremendous experience but due to influence of kali became educated and shifted to hellish city life where we can't even drink fresh water, fresh milk, breath fresh air, eat fresh food stuff and live natural way of life. Your wonderful mails rekindle those blissful moments and my mind says why can't you go back to natural way of life soon. When ever I am reading your articles I am counting the days when I will relocate to village, cow, land and Krishna. Hare Krishna.

- ***Bhakta Ramesh Govindasamy, Bahrain.***

Dhanyavaad . *Krishnam Vande Jagat Gurum.* I am delighted to receive well educative narrations from your side. Please continue.

A jignasi .

- ***Bhakta Madhavareddi Gal Reddy, Hyderabad.***



Hare Krsna Mataji, Please accept my obeisances,

All Glories to Srila Prabhupada! All Glories to Sri Sri Guru and Gauranga

I just want to thank you for all your hard work for the book "*The Fourth Wave*" this book is really full of knowledge and this is really helping me in many ways directly and indirectly. I am just grateful to you mata. The most striking topic is about the education system being imposed today and it is a delicate situation. I have no words to describe but great job mataji keep it up.

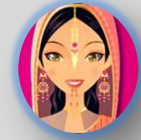
Servant of the servant



- ***Bhaktin Manisha Pardessy, Malaysia.***



Make Vrindavan Villages



Hare Krishna dear readers,
Please accept my humble obeisances,

All Glories to Srila Prabhupada, All Glories to Sri Sri Guru & Gauranga!

Wish you all a very very happy **first anniversary** of THE EIGHT PETALS.

Last year on Krsna Ashtami, this newsletter made its first appearance, a humble beginning with distribution restricted to just a few hundreds of devotees. There were many hiccups, there was a time when I did not have basic requirements of running a newsletter, like having a computer system to work upon!

I did not know how to go further. This newsletter was my offering at the lotus feet of Sri Sri Guru and Gauranga. My burning desire to serve Their lotus feet made me hope against hopes. Lo, behold the miracle of Sri Guru's mercy and Srila Prabhupada's blessings! It has completed one year!! From hundreds its database has grown to several thousands across the planet. It receives several letters on a regular basis. So much so that we are not able to mention all the mails (Bhakta Nitin, Bhakta Dinesh and many more...) in the section because of space constraint.

It has been instrumental in igniting many devotees and like-minded people to return to their roots and practice Krsna consciousness in a natural way- the daiva varnasrama way.

Because of your encouragement at every step, our newsletter has addressed the daily material concerns of a devotee and a common man alike - Family system, Administration, Dharma, Medicine, Education, Technology, Cows, Villages, Food, Farming, Money, Ecology etc by defining its focus for every issue and giving a Vedic perspective to those 'material' issues. His Holiness Bhakti Raghava Swami's enlightening articles on every subject lent a deeper insight to the spiritual probings of a sincere soul desiring to serve the Lord and Sri Guru.

It has been a beautiful relationship. Each and every mail gives me a new lease of energy and inspiration to work more dedicatedly, with more determination. Thank you for helping me serve Srila Prabhupada. It would have been impossible without that.

It has been great walking along with each one of you. Kindly pray that I am constantly able to serve the interests of wide reader community and humanity across the globe.

Please keep writing as it helps me improve the quality of my service to Srila Prabhupada.

Hare Krsna!

-From the Editor

(Vrindavanlila da)

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Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare



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