



# The Eight Petals

VRT Newsletter to Attain Lord's Lotus Feet

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## Varnasrama Research Team: An Introduction

Varnasrama Research team is a localized body of devotees and activists who are engaged in the task of spreading social awareness and are instrumental in establishing societies founded on Vedic principles of Varnasrama in the area under the guidance of HH Bhakti Raghava Swami Maharaj. This comprises conducting deep research in all the areas that would be of interest in life. Thus, focus ranges widely from organic farming, roof top gardening through cow protection, village administration to producing well researched studies on Vedic way of life. This suggests of:

- Conducting research and maintaining good knowledge data base.
- Producing literature (offline and online) promoting vedic way of living as propounded by Srila Prabhupada
- Offline literature: Publication of books, pamphlets, brochures, newsletters, flyers, documentary movies, etc.
- Online literature: Different websites, slideshows, short movies etc.
- Conducting seminars, talk shows, road shows, simple sankirtans through which the message of Varnasrama and its tenets of simple life, more natural life, and spiritually-centric life are focused
- Procuring land and present a model of Varnasrama village (simple life dependent on land and cows with Guru & Krishna at the center to the outside world
- Spread awareness of artificiality of city life that we are leading in the city and presenting to them a solution to all the problems and sufferings— Make Vrindavan Villages.
- Encourage them to take up simple village life based on Varnasrama principles
- Support the local units in implementing and adapting to Varnasrama lifestyle
- Supporting new VRT formations through cooperation in terms of research findings, functioning, formation, localizing according to their context etc.

Varnasrama rooted firmly in the richness of Vedic literature and thoughts of acharyas is the next spiritual, economic, political, and social revolution set to take the world by storm. Anybody can be a part of that revolutionary story by either becoming a member of the VRT or supporting its cause through different possible means.

Make Vrindavan Villages



# Srila Prabhupada: The Prophetic Voice

**“They will very soon be jobless!”**

**Prabhupada:** Sraddha-sabde visvasa sudrdha niscaya. This is basic platform, that

“What Krsna says, that is truth.” Krsna bhakti kaile sarvakarma krta haya: "If I follow Krsna, then my business is complete." This is intelligence. Now...We have come to the open field. How it is nice. And so long we were passing through that congested areas--hellish, simply hellish. And now here is open space. How it is nice.

**Hari-sauri:** To enter into a city is so imposing on your consciousness.

**Prabhupada:** Up to that point, simply rubbish, all papers thrown here and there. People are living in... Now see here, how it is open and pleasing. Organize this farm project. Farm. (background talking)

**Hari-sauri:** He's just saying that in the West one requires a great deal of capital. To start a farm, to get the land, you need a lot of money because land is very expensive. And also we have to use modern farming techniques because we have so few men to run the farms.

**Prabhupada:** No, you show example. People will do automatically. When the people find it is very nice, they will take. Prabhupada: Why householders? Everyone. Hare Krsna. (japa)

**Ramesvara:** In America there is a very big emphasis on getting people to join us by moving into our temples. The temple presidents are very eager to get as many people to move in as possible, but in the long run most people cannot come up to the standard.

**Prabhupada:** Therefore I am [advocating]...Farms.

**Ramesvara:** So they have to be encouraged to have a little bit of Krsna consciousness in their own home, make their home a temple.

**Prabhupada:** No, let them go to the farm, New Vrindaban.

**Ramesvara:** Many people... Most people in the world, they are grhamedhis, and they cannot give it up so easily.

**Prabhupada:** "No, you remain... Come here with your wife, children. You remain grhamedhi."

**Jagadisa:** New Vrindaban is very austere. If we build little bungalows with modern convenience...

**Prabhupada:** Oh, yes.





# Making of the Newsletter

- Vrindavanlila dd

Kunti, born in opulence as princess, married off in India's most famous royal family of Panduas queen, and mother of five illustrious sons- Pandavas- renowned in the world for their intelligence, beauty, and strength; and last but not the least as the 'bua' (paternal aunt) of the Supreme Lord of the Universe in his celestial pastime; what do we expect? Materially, there is nothing wanting, yet she is thronged by the worst kind of sufferings. She led a very unenviable life of unpunctuated sufferings of loss of her very first child, early widowhood, constant overshadow of death on her sons by none other than their own cousins, worst kind of humiliation to her daughter-in-law, war between the family itself which claimed the life of countless people, including her grandsons. Despite incessantly haunted by inclemencies and having the Lord in front of her, she does not question her destiny. She just remembers the different ways in which the Lord had showered His mercy upon her. She recalls her moments of tribulations when He had saved her:

visan mahagneh purusada-darsanad  
 asat-sabhaya vana-vasa-krchratah  
 mrdhe mrdhe 'neka-maharathastrato  
 drauny-astratas casma hare 'bhiraksitah

[My dear Krsna, Your Lordship has protected us from a poisoned cake, from a great fire, from cannibals, from the vicious assembly, from sufferings during our exile in the forest, and from the battle where great generals fought. And now You have saved us from the weapon of Asvatthama.]

She is in full realization of His truth and like a true devotee, humbly supplicates herself to His lotus feet. Instead of asking for other benedictions or complaining; she, on the contrary, prays for more calamities considering them as stepping stones to devotion.

vipadah santu tah sasvat  
 tatra tatra jagad-guro  
 bhavato darsanam yat syad  
 apunar bhava-darsanam

[I wish that all those calamities would happen again and again so that we could see You again and again, for seeing You means that we will no longer see repeated births and deaths.]

It is her unflinching faith and love for Him that makes her stand out. She is so absorbed in Him that despite living through such pains, she asks for more as that would keep her completely devoted to Him. What a prayer!

It had been more than 7 months since I had lost my job- no income trickling in from any other stream, regular monthly commitments, and a young daughter along with additional liabilities. Further, I had declined two very lucrative offers from Bangalore, fearing that may deprive me of small opportunities of serving Guru Maharaj and Srila Prabhupada that I was abundantly getting here. A few devotees criticized, while a few condoned my decision, but interestingly both the articulations were out of pure concern. Where else can we find this selfless love and concern? The backdrop of economic recession and love extended by devotees made me further realize the truth of Varnasrama and joy of living in a community with Krishna at the center. It is the only structure that is resistant to these kind of volatility, nothing else, nothing else, and nothing else.

In the midst, I realized that if somehow I am able to start a Newsletter for VRT and thus able to string the Varnasrama efforts made across the country and even outside, I will be able to do some service to my Guru Maharaj, to many more senior vaishnavas working in the area. The 'Making' of this Newsletter was no less a test for a mere mortal like me, especially against the impoverished backdrop, but interestingly it was also very wonderful- the beauty of Krishna Consciousness movement. A person totally devoid of any qualification or love for Godhead was working on the Newsletter trying to give shape to an amorphous ideal! Finally, I came up with some thoughts on different columns we could have, on what would populate different sections, on its presentation etc. With a beating heart I sent the proposal to my Guru Maharaj for consideration. He readily gave His approval with a few suggestions, lavish as always in involving everybody in the movement and thus letting nobody be deprived of Srila Prabhupada's blessings. In my own small manner I will be instrumental in fulfilling the dream of our grand spiritual master, Srila Prabhupada, who so much wanted to establish Varnasrama, but mercifully left it for us to accomplish and thus please Krishna.

catur-varnyam maya srstam  
 guna-karma-vibhagasah  
 tasya kartaram api mam  
 viddhy akartaram avyayam [ BG, 4:13]

[According to the three modes of material nature and the work associated with them, the four divisions of human society are created by Me. And although I am the creator of this system, you should know that I am yet the non-doer, being unchangeable. ]

Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu opened the floodgates of divine love to everybody, Srila Prabhupada mercifully extended it even to mleccas leaving the most important task of accomplishing the Varnasrama centric social order for His disciples. And those disciples, continuing the tradition of causeless mercy made the movement more and more participative, creating a world where everybody from a vaishnava to shudra had a role to play in serving the Lord. There was no longer any need of imposing artificial modes on anybody. Just be your 'original' self and guaranteed spiritual evolution was waiting for us. What more are we waiting for? Just plunge and taste the nectar of living in a natural ambience, away from the pollution of material city life. The dusk is defined by the mooing of cows, milking sound, aromatic breeze, refreshing bath in the stream or river, chiming of the bells, fragrance of incense sticks, sound of melodious kirtan that makes the sun slowly appear on the horizon, the dusk is no longer a dry four-lettered word, but godhuli vela or the time when the cows return after grazing day long and there is a cloud of dust as they march forward. Beautiful life awaits us, but we have to break ourselves free from the conditioning that joy is defined by material comforts. Happiness is defined only by Krishna, because He is the reservoir of happiness and bliss- "sac-cid-ananda vigrahah."

I take no credit for ingenuously coming up with this idea of starting the newsletter. HH Bhakti Raghava Swami Maharaj had suggested of this on several occasions, but we were not ready to take it up. Many efforts had been made in the past by senior devotees, but got aborted because of one reason or the other. Not that the situation is any better now; despite seeing its history and failed efforts of stalwarts I made up my mind to launch it- fools rush in where angels fear to tread! The only inspiration that I had was- I have nothing to lose, only to gain. If it succeeds, it will help so many more people. Srila Prabhupada and His representatives are so merciful that they will accept. I was reminded of the squirrel who rolled herself in the dust and then shook it off to help Sri Rama build the bridge to Lanka! Her contribution was negligible but He accepted it. The present effort is my humble offering at the lotus feet of HH Bhakti Raghava Swami Maharaj, all the vaishnavas, all the devotees working silently in fulfilling the mission, and of course Srila Prabhupada. Now when I see the newsletter in its real form, I am not able to believe myself, I know I have not done it; He has made me do it:

mukam karoti vachalam  
 pangum langhayate girim  
 yat-kripa tam aham vande  
 shri-gurum dina-taranam

Please forgive the mistakes that have gone unnoticed. "If there be good in that I wrought,/ Thy hand compelled it, Master thine./ Where I have failed to meet thy thought/ I know, through thee, the blame is mine." I solicit suggestions for improvement and for enrichment from everybody.

Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada,

Vrindavanlila devi dasi

(Dr Vrinda Baxi)





**Annad bhavanti bhutani.**  
Bharat Chandra Das

**From National Co-ordinator**

**It is in front of our eyes...  
Why delay?**

**Harikirtan Das**

**From State Co-ordinator**



Varnasrama Research Team took birth on August 18, 2007 with a very humble beginning of four members in Secunderabad at the behest of His Holiness Bhakti Raghava Swami whom we enthusiastic youngsters got in touch with regard to Cow protection and Varnasrama. From then the journey was filled with new founded enthusiasm of a revolution and it continues to do so for the new Varnasrama Research Teams. Now there are at least 5 Varnasrama Research Teams that meet regularly in various parts of India as well as outside with around 100 members altogether. Varnasrama Research Team, as very name suggests, is a team of inspired members who wish to zealously get involved in the much needed Varnasrama movement through ways of research, support, and implementation. This is very important if we have to succeed in implementing Varnasrama mission all over the world, thus fulfill Srila Prabhupada's last instructions.

Varnasrama Research Team is essentially a youth movement which should overtake the young members of BYS (Bhaktivedanta Youth Services) or IYF (ISKCON Youth Forum) to get inspired for Simple living and High thinking philosophy to finally become a part of the farm community.

The basic ingredient to start your own team is faith in the philosophy of Varnasrama, enthusiasm and coordination with what is happening in the rest of the teams that are already running. This newsletter tries to fulfill the last this need and little more. I see a very bright future for this newsletter which will cater to the young enthusiasts, bring reports from devotees working for change, involve professionals from various fields and publish researches being done in the area in different parts of the world.

I wish all the best to the editorial team, primarily the members of the Varnasrama Research Team, Secunderabad chapter in this most important effort which Srila Prabhupada stressed so much.

"... Therefore I am asking so much here and..., 'Farm, farm, farm, farm...'. That is not my program- Krishna's program: Annad bhavanti bhutani. Produce greeness everywhere, everywhere. Vrndavana."

- Srila Prabhupada, Conversation, Vrndavana,

May 27, 1977



Srila Prabhupada said that cities will one day crumble down. And it did not take long for his sentence to prove prophetic. We can see with our own eyes that everything from the lowness of basic requirements to keep body and soul together to meeting the spiritual requirements of the soul have become difficult.

Food that sustains our life breath has slowly become so dear that it has slipped from the hands of a common man. Inflation is peaking, so much so that in a small country like Zimbabwe the rate of inflation is 2000%! Fresh air is polluted. Water is a scarcity and is sold. Clear water from flowing stream or river is only a pipe dream. Somehow if one manages to get water in the city is the recycled water from waste. City's population is bursting at its seams, leaving no decent place for a common family to live. One does not live on land, but hangs in the air, in the so called storeyed apartments. Modern education despite custom designed to give jobs has failed in that itself. A person's old age is no longer vision reading scriptures and telling stories to grandchildren, but cursing the family in an old age home. Unaware, a city dweller begins his day with the usage of products that use animal products, including cow by-products. Amid the air of material pursuit, all the finer spiritual concerns have been buried in the backyard and forgotten. But the material acquisition for which we really sacrificed everything, where has it brought us? No wonder, it did not take many years for the truth to come out. American economy collapsed, making many many more to follow- the bane of so called global economy. Many big companies have fallen apart. Thousands of people have been laid jobless. Lakhs of working class people have been disillusioned with the cities. This is the price that we have paid from moving self sufficient units of village to a modern city. Where do we go from here?

Farmers have moved to the cities or worse villages have modernized themselves to turn to cities, but do they know where they are headed to? From self-sufficiency to dependency and starvation! Srila Prabhupada and other acharayas they could foresee these problems and have offered a very easy solution to this dangerous debacle:

When everyone is working in the city to produce nuts and bolts, who will produce food grains? Simple living and high thinking is the solution to economic problems. Therefore the Krishna consciousness movement in engaging devotees in producing their own food and living self-sufficiently so that rascals may see how one can live very peacefully, eat the food grains one has grown oneself, drink milk, and chant Hare Krishna.

Vaishnavas or devotees are expected to be intelligent- Je jai Krishna Bhaje se bada chatur – simply because they are inspired by Krishna. We have a problem, we have a simple solution, and we also have been gifted with the intelligence to know the solution. What more are we waiting for? What is it which is stopping us from taking to Varnasrama? Why delay? Why stay in a building whose bricks have already started falling apart and no center holds? Let us move out of the decaying structure, save ourselves and also try to save others by presenting a role model to them.

**Make Vrindavan Villages**





## Janmastami and the Varnasrama Mission

- HH Bhakti Raghava Swami

Launching the Global Varnasrama Mission Newsletter on the day of Janmastami is both very auspicious and most significant. Srila Prabhupada has often underlined the relevance of varnasrama explaining how it is created directly by Lord Krishna Himself (Gita 4.13). In the Srimad Bhagavatam, Canto 8.24.5 we find the following specific and direct reference in relation to the appearance of the Lord and the establishment of varnasrama:

**çré-çuka uvāca**

**go-vīpra-sura-sādhūnāḥ chandasām api ceçvaraù  
rakñām icchaàḥ tanūr dhatte dharmasyārthasya caiva hi**

Translation:

Çré Çukadeva Gosvāmé said: O King, for the sake of protecting the cows, brāhmaēas, demigods, devotees, the Vedic literature, religious principles, and principles to fulfill the purpose of life, the Supreme Personality of Godhead accepts the forms of incarnations.

Purport:

“The Supreme Personality of Godhead generally appears in various types of incarnations to give protection to the cows and brāhmaēas. The Lord is described as go-brāhmaēa-hitāya ca; in other words, He is always eager to benefit the cows and brāhmaēas. When Lord Kāñēa appeared, He purposefully became a cowherd boy and showed personally how to give protection to the cows and calves. Similarly, He showed respect to Sudāmā Vipra, a real brāhmaēa. From the Lord's personal activities, human society should learn how to give protection specifically to the brāhmaēas and cows. Then the protection of religious principles, fulfillment of the aim of life and protection of Vedic knowledge can be achieved. Without protection of cows, brahminical culture cannot be maintained; and without brahminical culture, the aim of life cannot be fulfilled. The Lord, therefore, is described as go-brāhmaēa-hitāya because His incarnation is only for the protection of the cows and brāhmaēas. Unfortunately, because in Kali-yuga there is no protection of the cows and brahminical culture, everything is in a precarious position. If human society wants to be exalted, the leaders of society must follow the instructions of Bhagavad-gētā and give protection to the cows, the brāhmaēas and brahminical culture.”

It is for this reason that on many occasions Srila Prabhupada urged his followers to “Make Vrndavana” so as to help fulfil the mission of the Lord. The Lord's mission is twofold. The Lord's primary mission is to revive our original dormant Krishna consciousness through the process of devotional service thus making us eligible to return to the spiritual world to serve Him in our original spiritual form. The secondary mission of the Lord is to demonstrate to the living entities in this material world the simple and sublime process of cow protection and agriculture as being the simplest, most practical and most sublime occupation which enables society to progress towards the primary mission of developing our Krishna consciousness. This is also supported and nicely explained by one of our foremost Acaryas Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura. “Though all humans have a right to practice bhakti, those who follow the regulations of varnasrama have a much easier time.”

The purpose of the Global Varnasrama Mission Newsletter is to provide both information and inspiration to devotees and the general public alike regarding the urgent need to re-introduce the social norm of varnasrama established by the Supreme Personality of Godhead Himself in His incarnation as both Krishna and Balarama 5000 years ago. Modern society has severely deviated from this norm especially since the last 200 years thus creating unparalleled havoc in the lives of individuals and society in general severely disrupting the balance at all levels be it social, economic, political, educational, health as well as ecological. Most people, including many of our devotees, are forced to be engaged in ugra karma work and to live in a society made up of varna sankara where simple human dealings among individuals are almost impossible. The Krishna conscious movement is meant to help restore the proper order in society through the establishment of varnasrama.

On this most auspicious day of the Lord's appearance, we humbly pray to Lord Krishna for His causeless mercy in understanding more clearly this secondary mission. Srila Prabhupada had identified the establishment of varnasrama as the next phase of the Krishna consciousness movement. Unless we take this order of Srila Prabhupada to heart, we will not succeed in pleasing him and we should know that our advancement in devotional service will be checked. As Srila Prabhupada clearly explains himself, the Lord is never pleased when the the principles of dharma are not upheld, especially in the matter of providing proper care and protection to those living entities who require special protection, brahmanas, children, women, elders, the diseased and in particular the cows.

## Eating Less Meat Could Wipe 20 Trillion Dollars off the Cost of Fighting Climate Change

London, Feb 11 (ANI): If the world's meat eaters would cut on their non-vegetarian diet, it could cut 20 trillion dollars off the cost of fighting climate change, reveals a new research.

According to a report in New Scientist, the researchers involved said that if people reduce their intake of beef, pork, and other meat products, it would lead to the creation of a huge new carbon sink, as vegetation would thrive on unused farmland.

The model takes into account farmland that is used to grow extra food to make up for the lost meat, but that requires less area, so some will be abandoned.

Millions of tonnes of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, would also be saved every year due to reduced emissions from farms.

These impacts would lessen the need for expensive carbon-saving technologies, such as clean coal power plants, and so save huge sums, according to Elke Stehfest of the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency and colleagues.

Climate-change experts have warned of the high carbon cost of meat for several years.

Beef is particularly damaging. Methane, a potent greenhouse gas, is released from flatulent cows and by manure as it decays.

Furthermore, to produce a kilogram of beef (2.2 pounds), farmers also have to feed a cow 15 kg of grain and 30 kg of forage. Grain requires fertilizer, which is energy intensive to produce.

Stehfest has now weighed the economic impact of beef and other meats against the cost of stabilizing carbon dioxide levels at 450 parts per million a level that some scientists say is needed to help prevent dangerous droughts and sea level rises.

If eating habits do not change, Stehfest estimates that emissions would have to be cut by two-thirds by 2050, which is likely to cost around 40 trillion dollars.

If, however, the global population shifted to a low-meat diet defined as 70 grams of beef and 325 grams of chicken and eggs per week around 15 million square kilometers of farmland would be freed up.

Vegetation growing on this land would mop up carbon dioxide. It could alternatively be used to grow bioenergy crops, which would displace fossil fuels.

According to Stehfest, greenhouse gas emissions would also fall by 10 percent due to the drop in livestock numbers.

Together, these impacts would halve the costs of dealing with climate change by 2050. (ANI)

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## From One Wonder to Another: A Travel to Angkor Wat

-Rama Laxman Das

With excitement to have darshan of Guru Maharaj in a foreign soil (Cambodia) where everybody else's face would be a stranger, I boarded my train from Secunderabad Railway Station to Srirangam. It took a while, the next day afternoon I reached the island of Srirangam, the foremost of the eight self-manifested shrines (swayam vyakta kshetra) of Lord Vishnu. My flight to Cambodia was scheduled for next day morning, till then I settled in Srirangam ISKCON temple. The beautiful township is surrounded by river Cauvery and its tributary, Kollidam. While Sri Ranganath temple of the place happens to be the argest functioning Hindu temple in the world, Angkor Wat (in Cambodia where I was headed) holds the largest non-functioning temple of the world. This coincidence multiplied my interest in taking darshan of His Lordship Sri Ranganathji and seek His blessings and of Sri Ramanuja acharya for the new journey. Here Ranganathji is in a sleeping posture reclining on coiled up Anantasesha, who has five wide-open hoods. Unlike other places, here the deities face south. Near His lotus feet are seated His two consorts, Sri Bhu and Sri Neela. In front of the Lord Ranganath is the utsava murti of Lord Vishnu, called Sri Manavala Perumal.

I took wonderful prasadam and rested to get up early the next day for catching the morning flight. I reached airport on time, but immigration officer had doubts where I was traveling and what I would be doing in the next few days. He asked me about my qualification and my purpose of visit. I gave him a brief introduction about my visit. He could understand and gave me permission to board the flight. I reached Kuala Lumpur by noon. The connecting flight was on the next day. I had to spend the whole night at the airport. The distance of every moment was packing more and more anxiety. Morning I got up early and waited to board my flight. My joy multiplied as I could have darshan of guru maharaj and boarded the flight with His divine self. In a couple of hours we reached our destination, the 'Kingdom of Cambodia'. After completing the immigration formalities, we could meet Kishora prabhu and two other new local devotees. After exchanging greetings, I nestled myself in the happy home of the temple.

I liked the simplicity of the new place, the native people looked very simple and not with great ambitions in life. On 4th of July, I set out to visit our land, including Angkor which derives its name from Sanskrit language implying 'holy city'. On the way I had an opportunity to go to Angkor Wat temple. The temple was built by Khmer kings between 802 and 1220 AD. Dedicated to Lord Vishnu the temple is one of the impressive Vaishnava monuments. The bordering walls measuring nearly half a mile from each side, it impressively depicts the Hindu cosmology, with the central towers representing Mount Meru, the home of the gods; the outer walls, the mountains enclosing the world; and the moat, the oceans beyond. The intricate work and the suggestive divinity of the bygone days deserves great appreciation. This magnificent effect could not have been possible without divine inspiration. But sadly all got lost due to war and other political problems. However, now efforts are being made to conserve the glorious past and is named as Maha Vishnu loka. The area spreads in impressive hundreds of acres near Seam Reap (shyam rupa!). There are many more temples like Angkor Thom, ta prohm, bayon temple, preah khan and many more. Meandering my way through these temples, finally I reached our land. The initial plan was to spend a few days there, but later through police we came to know that foreigners were not allowed to stay outside Siem Reap. A dampener- again packed all the luggage and came back. One week just fled by in just wandering in Siem Reap and doing menial services for guru maharaja. I could visit western bary measuring an incredible 8 km/ 2.3 km and was excavated by hand to provide water for the intensive cultivation of lands around Angkor. Just for the record, these enormous baray weren't dug out, but were huge dykes built around the edges. In the center of the basin is the ruin of the western Mebon temple, where the giant bronze statue of Vishnu, now in the national museum in Phnom Penh, was found. To my surprise, I found a good number of followers of Buddhism, explaining the presence of so many pagodas.

I heard from the locals as well as Kishora prabhu that the country has lost not only its elders, but also its precious scriptures. Now they don't even have material knowledge to educate its youth. As a result, the youth is primarily engaged in simple jobs of a tourist guide or car driver, or waiter in big restaurants. The place is interestingly an area of tourist attraction and thus has many restaurants. A small section that has land, also does agriculture, the way some of our students who have come here do. One discovery after the other- now my sight rested on so many cows grazing leisurely in the pasture around the country side.

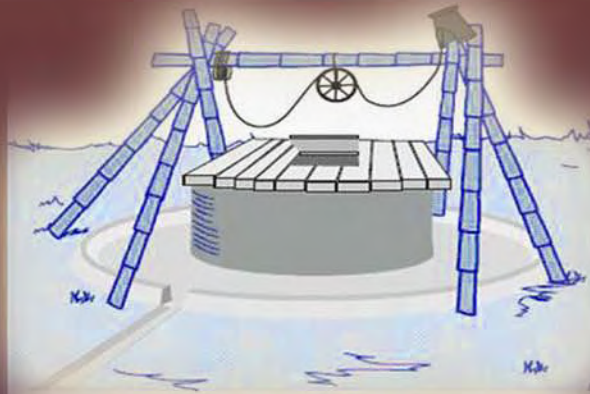
On the whole, people lead a very simple life and are of friendly easy going nature, and have a pronounced desire to learn new things. I pray that the most munificent incarnation of their lordships Sri Sri Gaura-Nitai may bestow their mercy on this Vishnu loka. An empowered representative of Srila Prabhupad is already trying to spread the teachings of Bhagavad Gita, chanting of the delivering mantra of this age- HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE/HARE RAMA HARE RAMA RAMA RAMA HARE HARE, amidst dancing, distributing prasadam on the streets of Siem Reap, and working diligently on grounding varnasrama dharma. The footsteps of return of glorious past can be heard.



## Rope and Bucket Water Pulley System

This device is mainly used in the common village wells in India. A bucket or a pot tied to a rope is lowered into the well. As the bucket hits the water, it dips and fills itself. Once full, it is pulled up with a rope. The rope may be held by hand run through a pulley. For irrigation purpose where requirement is more, animal traction can also be used in combination with a pulley. One can also attach two pots/ buckets to the ends of the rope. For water less than 10 m deep, a windlass with a hose running from the bottom of the bucket to a spout at the side of the well can be used. However, the hygiene of this system is poor, even if the well is protected. The cost of this device is very less requiring two buckets or pots to draw water, required length of rope (variable according to the depth of the well), the pulley, a hose and closed superstructure.

**Maintenance.** Care must be taken to prevent the rope or bucket from becoming soiled. Preventive maintenance consists of greasing the bearings of the windlass or pulley. Small repairs are limited to patching holes in the bucket and hose, reconnecting the hinge of the bucket, and fixing the windlass bearings



or handle. All small repairs can be done by local people, and with tools and materials available in the community or area. Major repairs and replacements mainly consist of replacing the bucket, hose, rope, or part or the entire windlass. Woven nylon ropes may last for two years, but twined nylon or sisal ropes last only a few months. A good-quality hose may last for over two years, and most buckets last a year (depending on the material and quality). When people use their own rope and bucket, no extra organization is required. For community wells, a community committee usually organizes the maintenance and cleaning of the well, maintenance of the windlass, etc. Most repairs can be paid with ad hoc fund-raising. Every two weeks, one needs to grease the axles or the pulley or the windlass; every year the bucket may need to be replaced; similarly the rope or wire also need to be replaced tentatively every two years.

This system may not be very relevant in places where water level is very low, otherwise its ease and low maintenance cost make it very popular not only in India but also in other countries across the world.



# VARNASRAMA SEMINAR IN BALI, INDONESIA (August 1-2, 2009)

- By HH Bhakti Raghava Swami

The Varnasrama Global Mission seminar ended today, August 2nd, 2009, at the Gaura Hari Asrama in Bali, Indonesia. Approximately 75 delegates from different temples in Bali attended the two day seminar with speakers coming from different parts of Indonesia such as Yogyakarta in Java and Lampung in Sumatra.

The opening day was particularly auspicious being the first day of Jhulan Yatra according to the Vaisnava calendar. This year, August 1 also commemorated the Festival of Sarasvati according to the Balinese tradition when all the educational institutions in Bali hold special functions in glorification of mother Sarasvati, the Goddess of Learning.

On the occasion of this first international varnasrama seminar, the first ever to be conducted in Indonesia, the organizers inaugurated the Gaura Hari Varnasrama College which will be a forerunner to the proposed Markendeya Rishi Gurukula. The Gaura Hari Varnasrama College will be headed by Srīman Bhagīratha prabhu who graduated last year from the Srīmad Bhagavatam Vidyapitham in Govardhan where he obtained his Bhagavat Sastri degree.

During the first day of the seminar, the book entitled Varnasrama Education, written by H. H. Bhakti Raghava Swami, was also officially launched in the local language, Bahasa Indonesia, and offered to the Temple President, Srīman Kisora Krishna who will add it to the proposed Bhaktivedanta Library at the Gaura Hari Varnasrama College.

The modules presented during the two day seminar covered the following topics: (1) Overview of Varnasrama Global Mission, the Four Waves of ISKCON and Varnasrama Social Structure presented by His Holiness Bhakti Raghava Swami (Canada), (2) Bali Tradition in Relation to Varnasrama by His Grace Mahesvara prabhu (Bali), (3) National Education in Indonesia by His Grace Visvambhara prabhu (Bali), (4) Comparison of Traditional Education Pondok Pesantren (Islam) and Gurukula (Hindu) by His Grace Surya Locana prabhu (Yogyakarta), (5) Gita Nagari Baru project in Sumatra by His Grace Sadbhujā Gaurāṅga prabhu (Lampung), (6) Varnasrama Projects in Indonesia by His Grace Kisora Krishna prabhu (Bali) and (7) Gurukula Traditional Education by His Grace Bhagīratha prabhu (Bali).

Each presentation was followed by a period of question and answers where participants could get clarifications on the topics presented. The response from both the speakers and participants was extremely positive and enlivening to all those who took part. Both the organizers and the participants expressed a desire to hold an annual seminar on the important topic of varnasrama education.

All those who attended the two day seminar received a Certificate of Attendance and each speaker was also presented with a book on varnasrama as well as prasadam as a small token of appreciation of their participation.

Anyone wishing more information on the seminar may contact Srīman Bhagīratha prabhu at [bhagiratha@varnasrama.org](mailto:bhagiratha@varnasrama.org).

## IMPORTANT POINTS OF SEMINAR

### 1) ISKCON FOUR WAVES

Both Srīla Prabhupada's essay on Gita Nagari, entitled "Conception of Gita Nagari" published in BTG, 1956 and his letter to Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Patel, written earlier in 1949, spell out the four "movements" or "divisions" which later on Srīla Prabhupada integrated within his ISKCON society. It is essential for every single devotee of our society to clearly understand these four divisions and to see them as a complete whole meant to compliment and support one another. These four "waves" of ISKCON are known as: 1. Sankirtan Movement (The Holy Names & Books) 2. Temple Worship Movement (Installing Deities) 3. Spiritual Initiation Movement (Congregations) 4. Classless Society Movement (Daivi Varnasrama).

### 2) FROM OUR VAISNAVA ACARYAS

FROM SRILA BHAKTIVINODA THAKURA "But a devotee who desires to properly pass his life still accepts his duties according to varnasrama, as those duties are favorable to devotional service and counted as part of devotional service. All these activities are no longer called karma." [Sri Bhaktyaloka, Six Faults that destroy bhakti]

"With the assistance of varnasrama dharma, a person should cultivate bhakti. It is also necessary to follow the rules of varnasrama in the cultivation of bhakti." [Chapter 3] "Though all humans have a right to practice bhakti, those who follow the regulations of varnasrama have a much easier time." [From "Sri Chaitanya Siksamrta, Chapter 3]

### FROM SRILA PRABHUPADA

"The classless society so often demanded by the people in general is made possible by the process of 'yajna' or sacrifice for the Supreme. Spiritual existence of devotional activities and classless society are two identical terms. The one without the other has no meaning". [BTG, Vol. III, Part IV,

1956, 'Yajna' or Sacrifice for the Supreme (Classless Society)]

"Unless in the human society the varnasrama system is introduced, no scheme or social order, health order or any order, political order, will be successful". [Room Conversation, October 18, 1977, Vrindavana]

**Make Vrindavan Villages**



**"This varnasrama college has to be established immediately.  
Everywhere, wherever we have got our center,  
a varnasrama college should be established..."**

[His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada, March 12, 1974]



**SSKBK Hebri.**

Varnasrama College – 2009 concluded on Sunday, March 29 with a graduation day ceremony and the passing out of students beaming with confidence and charged up to live the varnasrama lifestyle.

The course was entitled “Land, Cows, and Krishna – Part I”. The uniqueness of the course, as one student explained, was that it kept a good balance between the material and spiritual realms: “The activities of bhakti-yoga were not compromised, although studying more “material” topics, as we had a full morning program and Srimad Bhagavatam every day.”

The course was offered at Sahyadri Sri Krishna Balarama Ksetra near the town of Hebri, at the foothills of the famed Sahyadri mountain range which is recognized as one of the few “bio-diversity hotspots” in the world. The asrama is located in the district of Udupi, a most auspicious area known by the Vaisnavas as “Dakshin Vrindavan” because of presence of “Udupi Krishna” Who performs His Vrindavan lila of holding a rope and rod for churning yogurt and making butter.

His Holiness Bhakti Raghava Swami, the resident sannyasi during the three month course, mentioned that it was Srila Prabhupada’s standing order since more than 30 years that varnasrama colleges be established in all our centers to train our devotees in following the principles of simple living and high thinking, based primarily on agriculture and cow protection. Co-directors for the Varnasrama College, Hrdaya Caitanya prabhu and Bharat Chandra prabhu, both shared their realizations and experiences followed by those of the graduating students.

Various faculties were pulled in for this pioneering three month course from fields like - agriculture, cow protection, traditional constructions, traditional village technologies water lifting devices, pottery, making of ropes, traditional de-husking of rice, making of natural tooth powder, dhoop sticks, sun dried mud blocks, etc. An array of auxiliary courses kept the students busy throughout the day and on special festival days students took part in traditional feasts and go-pujas. All these activities combined gave a fresh meaning to Krishna consciousness.



# What is happening ?

## RSS comes up with cow water alternative to Coca Cola and Pepsi

London, Feb.12 (ANI): Indias right-wing Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has claimed that it has developed Gau Jal or Cow Water at its research centre in Haridwar, and hopes it will be marketed as a "healthy" alternative to Coke and Pepsi.

Hindus worship cows for their life-sustaining dairy products, but many also consume bovine urine and faeces in drinks and spice mixes for their "health-giving" properties.

In some Indian states, cow dung and urine are sold in regular dairy shops alongside milk and yogurt, and "ayurvedic" Indian health food companies make porridge, toothpaste and tonic drinks which claim to cure ailments ranging from liver complaints to diabetes and cancer.

The urine is also believed to have disinfectant properties while the dung is used in many Indian village huts as a clean and antiseptic flooring.

According to The Telegraph, the RSS's Cow Protection Department has invented the new urine-based soft drink it hopes will promote its health-giving properties to a wider market.

"We refer to gau ark (cow urine) as gau jal (cow water) as it has immense potential to cure various diseases. We have developed a soft drink formula with gau jal as the base and it has been sent to a laboratory at Lucknow for testing," said director Om Prakash.

His team is now focusing on packaging, marketing, and of course preservation to stop its curative drink from going whiffy in the summer heat.

"It will be a revolution of sorts. The acceptance of cow urine as a potent medicine is increasing day by day and once it comes as a cold drink, its demand will definitely increase. It will prove and justify the high stature accorded to a cow in Indian culture," he added.

## RSS set to enter FMCG market - with cow urine and dung products

New Delhi, Feb 15 (IANS) What's common between a new brand of soft drinks, toothpowder, paper, distemper and furniture proposed to be launched by a Hindu organisation? All these products use cow dung and cow urine as raw material.

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is getting ready to promote a number of products using cow urine and cow dung.

The RSS claims to have developed a few products already and hopes they will hit the market within six months.

One of their products - Gau Jal or the Cow Water - is projected as a healthy and medicinal replacement for the colas currently available in the market.

"We have recently sent it to a laboratory for testing and approval after testing it indigenously in our lab," said Om Prakash, head of Haridwar-based RSS Cow Protection Department.

"It will definitely be a revolution as the acceptance of cow urine as a potent medicine is increasing day by day and once it is launched, its demand will definitely increase," Prakash said.

"It has been proved that cow urine is effective in helping cure liver and stomach ailments, diabetes, and even cancer," claimed Prakash.

The RSS also claims that effective and commercial utilization of cow urine and cow dung may well boost the rural economy and living standards of the 700 million odd rural population of India.

The RSS organised a workshop for its activists Thursday in New Delhi to impart training on how cow dung and cow urine can be used to bring a rural economic revolution.

"Consumer goods like mosquito repellents, phenyl, lotions, shampoos, etc could be made using cow urine," Prakash told the activists during the workshop.

Prakash said a number of products such toothpowder, paper, distemper and furniture can be made using cow dung.

"The tiles made of cow dung are fire and water resistant and can even ward off radiation," Prakash claimed.

All the manufacturing and quality tests were conducted by Kanpur based Kanpur Gaushala Society (KGS) and some of the products have been given a nod by certified laboratories, he said.

"A few products, including the Gau Jal are currently under test in Lucknow," informed P. Toshniwal of the KGS.

As far as the availability of raw material (cow dung and cow urine) is concerned, Prakash said they are getting it in ample quantity.

"At present we are buying urine at Rs.5 per litre and dung at Rs.3 per kg. The supply is mainly from the rural outskirts of Kanpur and once the commercial production starts we will increase the rates," Prakash said.

However, private companies will do the commercial production of the products. "As soon

as we get the laboratory results and certificates we will select the companies that will produce them. As of now no selections have been made," he added.

## Your cars may soon be powered by urine

New York, July 15 (ANI): Could it be possible to run your car on urine? Well, it may be, if Ohio University scientists are to be believed. And their confidence stems from the fact that they have found a novel way to produce hydrogen energy from urine. According to Discovery News, the scientists used a nickel-based electrode to make cheap hydrogen from urine. When the research team led by professor Gerardine Botte stuck the electrode into a pool of urine, and applied an electrical current, hydrogen gas was released, which was used in fuel cells. The prototype is about three inches by three inches, and is capable of generating 500 milliwatts of power. The scientists hope to create commercial versions of the technology. Botte expects that the fuel-cell urine-powered car could theoretically travel 90 miles per gallon. "One cow can provide enough energy to supply hot water for 19 houses. Soldiers in the field could carry their own fuel," the New York Daily News quoted him as saying. The researchers focussed their study on urea, a urine by-product. "Urea is a byproduct of a lot of cities and farms, but even if you take all the people and all the animals, there's not enough to run the world," said University of Georgia professor John Stickney. He added that though applications using urine won't be available to consumers for quite some time, it's definitely worth developing. "We are going to have to put together a lot of greener ways to collect energy that don't produce greenhouse gases and don't require us to go to war," he added.

## Haryana launches Rs.220 mn project to generate power from cow dung

Chandigarh, July 24 (IANS) This is one kind of waste that will light up a lot of lives. The Haryana government has initiated a Rs.220 million (Rs.22 crore) project to generate 330 KV of power from cow-dung in 'gaushalas' (cow-sheds) across the state. An official spokesman of the state government said Friday that five cow-sheds have been identified for the pilot project to generate power. These are in Bhiwani, Jind, Hisar, Sonipat and Rohtak districts. "Private companies had been given the work of generating power from cow dung in these gaushalas. A minimum of 330 KV power would be generated in these," the spokesman said. "This way, besides generating power, these 'gaushalas' would be able to become self-sufficient to raise income for the conservation and upkeep of the cows," he added.

If the power generation is successful in the pilot project, it is likely to be extended to other gaushalas.

There are 174 registered gaushalas in the state which accommodate over 1.5 million cows.

**Crisis in higher education:** Universities are in the news more for politics than for research, says Harsh V. Pant

The Government of India is proposing to set up a dozen new "world-class universities," in addition to 16 new Central universities, in an effort to expand quality higher education in India. The blueprint has been formulated by the University Grants Commission and the Union Cabinet has approved the decision to bring an ordinance regarding this in view of the fact that the Central Universities Bill 2008 was pending in the Lok Sabha. [As reported by Tribune on February 1, 2009]

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# Varnasrama Research Team Report

## Secunderabad Chapter (by Gour Gopal Das)

The first VRT was founded in Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India. It held its first team meets on August 19, 2007 at New Govardhan, Mahindra Hills, Secunderabad. It is yet to complete two years. Like any other fledgling it faces the difficulties of laxmi and human resources, yet it is the sheer commitment of members and of course the blessing of the Lord and Guru that it could achieve a few successes like:

- Spreading its branches in all the four directions of the country- Delhi, Bengal, Karnataka, & Andhra Pradesh.
  - Introduction of two arms of VBT (for publications) and VMP (for media productions). Both the divisions have shown remarkable output with 3 books already on the shelves and many more in the pipeline; and 4 movies and many more ready to be released respectively.
  - Besides organizing seminars at various places, VRT in the leadership of HH Bhakti Raghava Swami Maharaj successfully participated and made its presentations on Varnasrama at MIHET, Mayapur, Bengal.
  - Inaugurated Varnasrama Shikshalayas at Hebri, Gundaipalam, and Calcutta.
  - Has elite members as teaching faculty
  - Organized the graduation ceremony at Hebri center
  - Procured little land in the outskirts to implement and promote Varnasrama principles and present a role model to the society
- The Secunderabad VRT meets every Sunday at 5 am at New Govardhan, Mahindra Hills, Secunderabad. The mood sets in with Mangal aroti, tulasi puja, and Narsingha pranam. This is followed by electrifying group chanting of 16 rounds in one go in the conducive hilly environ, greens of New Govardhan, and chirping of birds. At 7:30 everybody participates in the darshan aroti, Guru puja, Sri Brahma Samhita chanting, and Srimad Bhagvatam discourse. To energize themselves devotees then take prasadam. The program concludes with VRT meeting where everybody participates giving their updates, planning for the upcoming programs and suggesting different avenues for research.

## Bangalore Chapter ( by Bhakta Venkat)

This chapter is also very active and made following accomplishments:

- Purchased a water lifting equipment for Hebri rural community. This is generally called ratna (wheel) in local language.
- Visited one NGO called Annadana soil and seed savers. Procured a DVD on GM food, titled "Poison on Platter". The NGO provides different seeds along with a DVD. The DVD contains the methodology for practicing organic farming.
- Attended the Organic farmers meet, which offered an opportunity to network.
- Procured books on farming with ancient Asian knowledge from Asian Agri History, Secunderabad.
- Running cow products stalls in Jagannath temple, Bangalore every week very successfully.
- Distributed approximately 55 DVDs of "Save our Cows, Save our Villages".

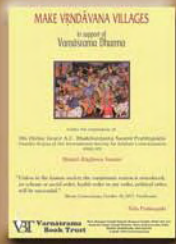


## About the author: HH Bhakti Raghava Swami

The author, HH Bhakti Raghava Swami, is an active proponent and worker in support of Varnasrama dharma. His Ph.d (in progress) also happens to be in the same subject with a focus on education. He has been instrumental in launching varnasrama colleges, forming different varnasrama research teams, setting up farm communities run on the guidelines of varnasrama dharma in different countries, including India. His extensive experience and wide research in this area makes him an authority in the field and valuable source of information.

HH Bhakti Raghava Swami makes his work richer, lending universal appeal by imbuing his ideas with the profound knowledge contained in the Vedic literatures and thoughts expressed by great acharyas. The writer gives good notes and references for readers interested in the subject. He encourages them to read His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Srila Prabhupada's books, in particular the Bhagavad-gita and the Srimad- Bhagavatam, which deal extensively with the subject matter. In particular, readers will find the essence of varnasrama-dharma principles elaborated by the great teacher Nārada Muni in the Chapters II to 15 of the Srimad-Bhagavatam, Seventh Canto. Other references have also been added in the annexes for further reading. This approach is likely to make all sincere seekers of knowledge and realization in the matter of personal and social equilibrium and development to benefit from the topic presented.

Books on the Shelf:



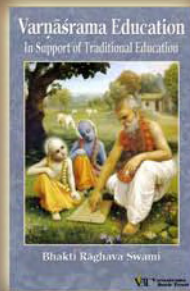
### Make Vrindavan Villages

The footsteps of destruction of the present modern civilization can be faintly heard. Melting glaciers, global warming, meltdown of several economies, shooting prices of food grains, stellar rise in bloodshed and violence, rampant corruption... are symptomatic of its nearness to us. We have violated the law of nature, and now it is showing its red tooth and claws. Time is essence, what do we do to save us, our loved ones, and our planet? Srila Prabhupada in his Essay on Gita-nagari in reference to the four principles followed by one of India's modern leaders, Mahatma Gandhi, said: "The above four-fold Gandhi movements, if done in an organized, scientific way supported by the authentic scriptures of all religions, will bring in that tranquility of peace respite of all harshness and bitterness of the present world, which we have longed for till now." [Essay on Gita-nagari, Part I] There is a simple solution to this- follow varnasrama dharma- what the Lord wanted. But what is varnasrama dharma? His Holiness Bhakti Raghava Swami Maharaj's "Make Vrindavan Villages", a small booklet serves as a general introduction to some of the basic concepts of varnasrama dharma.

### Varnasrama Education

Varnasrama Education echoes the spirit of Make Vrindavana Villages. 'Education' has been a highly debated and controversial subject among educationists and students alike, especially in the more traditional oriental cultures.

Maturity and success of a social set up depends upon the nature of its educational structure. The interaction relationship between education and society continues all through one's life and is thus of paramount importance to us. It thus makes it crucial that we understand the essence of education and the basic tenets of an ideal society (varnasrama). Mental speculation and fanaticism is not desirable for any cultured person or society when we have knowledge available in ancient Vedic sources. H.H Bhakti Raghava Swami draws from that treasure house of knowledge. This book gives a comprehensive and a scientific understanding of fundamental principles and concepts which touch upon the philosophy, psychology and sociology of education. One of the underlying principles in understanding these three essential concepts lies in accepting, at least theoretically, what is referred to as 'dharma', a new word for most readers, the equivalent of which one does not find in the English dictionary- so interestingly intriguing!



### Implementing Varnasrama

While other books by the author emphasize the significance and eternal relevance of varnasrama dharma in every society, "Implementing Varnasrama", as the name indicates presents gives an insight into the intricacies of its actual implementation in the present set up. It captures the structure of administration and organization from a global, national level to go down to the level of a village and a family unit.

In any attempt to provide guidelines and methodology, there will inevitably be adjustments to be made by those applying such guidelines and methodology. The varnasrama mission is still very much in its early stage; hence various aspects of the management structure may undergo changes to accommodate various developments which are meant to take place, taking into consideration especially the decentralized aspect of a varnasrama-based society where stress is given on local governance.

Books waiting to see the daylight

Traditional Education  
Joint Family System

Make Vrindavan Villages



Varnasrama Media Productions is the media production division of Varnasrama Research Team (VRT)

## DVDs on the rack

### Varnasrama Shikshalaya

The concept of traditional education, unknown to most of us, has almost been abandoned in the land of Bharat varsha or India. Varnasrama Dharma (the set up that promotes both social occupation and cultural emancipation, leading to spiritual self-realization) finds its roots in the Vedic educational system called gurukula. Consequently, for Varnasrama dharma to be reinstated, the traditional gurukula system must be revived. As a preface to establishing the Gurukula system, Varnasrama Shikshalaya comes as a pre-gurukula institution.

### Save our Cows, Save our Villages

Well being of cows, jagat matri (mother of the universe), pronounces not only the spiritual health of a society but also its economic prosperity and physical health. Endowed with the love a mother she helps take the people from nescience towards light of knowledge. India's traditional value system recognized the unique position of cows and she was the backbone of Indian cultural heritage. Slowly with the blind emulation of others and gradual erosion in the value system, we are marching towards our cultural, material, ecological, and spiritual suicide. Do you know thousands of cows are getting slaughtered everyday in India? VRT presses the wake-up call button as it attempts to unveil the unsaid sufferings of

Make Vrindavan Villages

## DVDs in the making



Varnasrama College

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[www.sahyadriksetra.org](http://www.sahyadriksetra.org)

[www.varnasrama.org](http://www.varnasrama.org)

[www.bhakticambodia.com](http://www.bhakticambodia.com)

[www.bysindia.org](http://www.bysindia.org)

[www.varnasramabooks.com](http://www.varnasramabooks.com)



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