

VEDIC VILLAGE REVIEW #49

May 18, 2016. Adventures in New Jaipur, Prabhupadanuga Farm in Fiji



WHO WANTS TO LIVE ON A FARM?

When we were preparing to move from Savusavu town to the farm over three years ago, many of our friends and local devotees asked us why we wanted to leave town and go to live out on the farm? This was an eye-opener for us, to see how people have become so much habituated to artificial amenities and town/city living that the very idea of residing on a farm is to them a huge step backwards. They would talk about the convenience of having stores and “whatever you need” nearby, and how growing your own food was “hard work”... In town, there are so many people, you are never alone, always some excitement and activity, they said.

Explaining Srila Prabhupada’s vision of a revolution in human civilization whereby people return to simple living in agrarian settings, which would be favourable to their spiritual growth, we were met with unbelieving, blank stares, even from the devotees. After all, they or their parents had all given up farm life in Fiji and moved to town for a supposedly better life. At least that is the underlying propaganda in modern westernized society which has convinced people to embrace urbanized living- it is an improvement, an advancement, over the former ways of struggling to “eke out” a humbling life as a “primitive” farmer. And everywhere we turn nowadays, we are greeted with similar attitudes- WHO WANTS TO LIVE ON A FARM???

Of course, this contemporary way of life, with its technology, industry, high speed transport, globalization, genetically modified food, constant anxiety, and the rule of the “dogs of war”... has only been around for a tiny blip on the screen of planetary history. Yet it’s as though it’s always been like this, and hardly a soul anywhere in these times has an interest for natural and simple living, returning to the goodness of nature, the soil, the milk cows, or

gardening... People feel at home when they can smell the exhaust fumes and hear the traffic day and night, when they can press a button to become more comfortable, and they can feed



ABOVE: LORD NARASINGHA



ABOVE: GAUR PURNIMA DRAMA

their senses whatever desired within minutes at most. It is today a consumeristic, materialistic, and instant gratification society.

But something's gone wrong. Suicides, crime, insanity, addiction, perverted sex, restlessness, dissatisfaction, frustration, and a sense of creeping insecurity- they are all increasing. People are **NOT HAPPY**. Somehow modern life has fooled them into thinking that **soon** they will be happy, if they can get enough money, enough mundane education, more technology, a new car or shoes, and so on... but they just ended up wasting their valuable time, losing their good health and youth, and never understanding how illusion (maya) captivated their minds with empty promises. So unfortunate...

Our spiritual master Srila Prabhupada promoted the farm life, however. Two examples:

LETTER TO HANSADUTTA, CIRCA 1975

*"Regarding the farm, the exhibition is there in New Vrindaban. Kirtanananda Maharaja has organized very nicely. The same principle you can follow and organize it in Germany. **Let the people be happy with self-sufficient food grown in the field, with milk products.** When I was in Frankfurt round our place, **I was so happy so see the farms and the cows.** Unfortunately, they will kill the cows. So if we organize a farm without killing any cows that will be a great example in that country. Instead of killing cows, if we let them live, we can get so many nutritious foodstuffs filled with vitamins. I have seen in New Vrindaban how **happily our devotees are living there with free air, fresh vegetables, and ample milk. Simple living in cottages.** What you **want more?** We should not neglect the upkeep of the body, and we should save time to chant Hare Krishna. This mission should be propagated. Save time and chant Hare Krishna."*

CONVERSATION, Bhubaneswar Jan.31, 1977.

Prabhupada: So what is the report in France? Paris atmosphere is all right?

Yogeśvara: Paris? Paris, there is good enthusiasm because there is saṅkīrtana party. It is more difficult at the farm, because there is no saṅkīrtana.

Prabhupada: Why? There are so many men. There is no saṅkīrtana?

Yogeśvara: Yes. It is far from the nearest city.

Prabhupada: But within the farm there is no saṅkīrtana?



Yogeśvara: Regular temple activities are going on.

Prabhupada: Saṅkīrtana is there.

Yogeśvara: There is once a week a party going out.

Prabhupada: No, not going out. I mean to say in the temple.

Yogeśvara: Inside the temple. Oh, yes. Inside the temple regular programs are there.

Prabhupada: So why outside? There is no sufficient men? But when I was there I saw so many men.

Yogeśvara: Wherever you go, thousands of people will follow.

Hari-śauri: They were not all from the farm. They were from everywhere.

Prabhupada: Then not many devotees are there in the farm?

Yogeśvara: There are maybe thirty-five devotees traveling, saṅkīrtana devotees, and then...

Prabhupada: Centering that farm?

Yogeśvara: Centered at the farm. They come back maybe once every two months. And then there are about eighty devotees at the farm, of which forty are children. Of those children, twenty or twenty-two are Gurukula children. The others are too small.

Prabhupada: So nobody is engaged in production, fruit, flowers, grains, milk?

Yogeśvara: There are not many full-time devotees doing production, maybe four full time.

Prabhupada: And why part time?

Yogeśvara: Part time, everyone is trying to do an hour a day.

Prabhupada: So what they do, others?

Yogeśvara: Well, from the other forty devotees left there is the staff of pūjārīs, press, temple maintenance. So not so many are left for doing full-time work on the land.

Prabhupada: You are not getting new devotees to join?

ABOVE: PRUNED LYCHEE



Yogeśvara: In Paris.

Prabhupada: Yes. From Paris or here... In Paris... From Paris you can bring in the farm.

Yogeśvara: Well, at the farm there is not as much of a new bhakta program as in Paris. So the new men are encouraged to stay in Paris to get fixed up first.

Prabhupada: So new... When they are trained up, they can come, live, especially gṛhasthas. My point is whether the farm is attractive. Not very much.

Yogeśvara: The potential is wonderful.

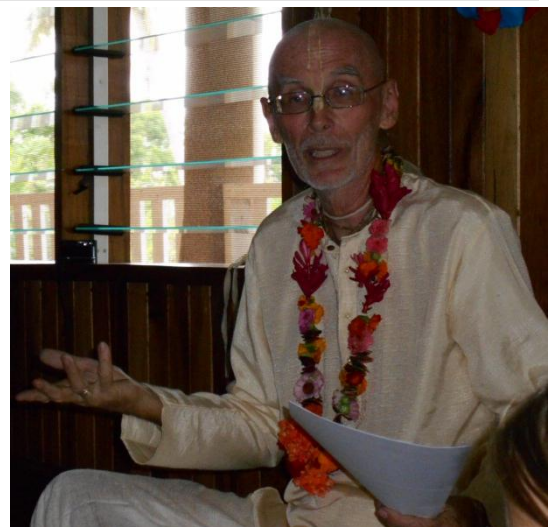
Prabhupada: And therefore I'm asking. Potential is wonderful, so why they are not attracted to live in the farm and be self-independent and chant Hare Kṛṣṇa? That is our farm project. Our farm project is they should be satisfied with simple living. That is nice living. If you get milk, if you get fruit, if you get grain and open air, it is very healthy life. Why they should not be attracted?

Yogeśvara: It is still the beginning, and because it's the beginning, it is a little difficult sometimes.

Prabhupada: That may be. But this should be our aim. We should not be attracted by the modern city life. Simplified life. Save time and utilize for advancing in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. That is perfect life. Just like Vṛndāvana. Vṛndāvana life means agriculturist, cowherd boys, uneducated girls, cows and calves, and tree, fruits. This is Vṛndāvana. The center is Kṛṣṇa.



ABOVE: CHILDREN'S DRAMA ON RAMA NAUMI



ABOVE: INITIATION LECTURE

The second excerpt above (re: French farm) is interesting in that Srila Prabhupada was surprised that out of about 150 devotees in France in 1977, only 4 were actually engaged fulltime in producing food. And he encouraged them to appreciate the farm life, to go there to live simply, be actually independent (*not the false independence of modern life where one's needs are artificially increased constantly*). He said they would be satisfied in the farms and not be attracted by "modern city life." Farm life is healthy and favorable for spiritual practice. Who has time for chanting/meditation in modern life? Hardly anyone; it is all rush-rush, zip-zip, run, run. But human life is meant for more than simply chasing illusions and over-securing the basic necessities of life in ever-more complicated ways.

They have to maintain a \$35,000 auto because a \$500 horse is "prehistoric." They have to detox, filter, purify, and retreat after becoming contaminated by the air, water, food, and activities in the cities. They "need" a mansion with chlorinated pool, garage, cable TV, lawn groomed by a riding mower with cupholders, and automatic air conditioning/heating system. But a simple cottage is all we really need. Simplicity saves time, makes for a peaceful life, and peaceful means happy.

So although we have been born and raised in this modern Kali-yuga society, and have been conditioned by this environment all our lives, still we should listen to the words of the self-realized and enlightened soul, Srila Prabhupada, who came to the West with his message:

"Chant Hare Krishna and be happy." "...this should be our aim. We should not be attracted by the modern city life. Simplified life. Save time and utilize for advancing in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. That is perfect life. Just like Vṛndāvana. Vṛndāvana life means agriculturist, cowherd boys, uneducated girls, cows and calves, and tree, fruits."

WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE IN FIJI?

New Jaipur, a Vedic village farm project in the Fiji Islands, is a humble attempt to realize



these instructions that Srila Prabhupada gave almost 40 years ago. The farm is 857 acres, freehold titled, no mortgage, about 1 km x 5 km in size, and basically consists of two ridges with a valley and small river. It is 80% original tropical rainforest, facing the ocean and the southeast. There are hundreds of old coconut trees and some mangrove swamps with a number of hillside streams, and a few waterfalls. When construction timber is required, we choose from the forest some hardwood species to mill with chainsaws.

Agriculturally, many areas are fertile, and we are cultivating dalo (taro), cassava, kava, and about 300 fruit trees in two orchards. We have six cows and six pasture paddocks. There is also a nice prepared site for a future temple overlooking the ocean, coastlines and outlying



islands. The main building is the “lodge” where the exquisite deities of Sri Sri Radha Govinda are worshipped daily and a number of kitchens, storage, and guest rooms are located (*plus Srila Prabhupada’s Memorabilia Museum*). Rice, sugar cane, peanuts, pineapples, water cress, daruka (a very fine swamp vegetable), and strawberries have been tested or are ongoing crops.

There are six cottages (five completed) with tiled floors and bathrooms, screened windows, running water, kitchens, each with 2 bedrooms and a full bath. There is no grid power here so we use solar power systems. A water reservoir in the hills supplies all buildings with the world famous Fiji Water, pristine and clear.

Fiji is 9 hours from Los Angeles, 6 hours from Hawaii, 3 hours from New Zealand, 4 hours from Australia, and 7 hours from Singapore or Hong Kong, with regular flights to these points. It is at 17 degrees south of the equator, and the climate is like Hawaii, an endless summer with cooler or warmer seasons. There are three large islands in Fiji, and we are on the second largest, away from the most populated island where the capital Suva and most tourist resorts are located. It is a little over an hour to Savusavu town (population, 7500) and two hours to Labasa (Population, 28000). Savusavu is an international yacht destination and expats in the area number a few hundred. Labasa is like a small city in India, centered on sugar cane and Hindus who came from the motherland a few generations ago. Everywhere one sees and hears about Rama and Krishna, Lakshmi and Ganesh, Durga and Hanuman.



New Jaipur is dedicated to Srila Prabhupada’s desires for rural devotee communities. He is our initiating and instructing spiritual master. We want to please him by developing a village of devotees, Krishna bhaktas, who are engaged in following his teachings for simple living and high thinking. We are looking for a few other compatible souls, who might fit well into this situation, to join us in this adventurous journey into tropical transcendence and self sufficiency.

COW NEWS

As our readers may know from past issues, we are trying to establish a small herd of decent A2 milk cows for our project. Practically all milk cows in Fiji are mixed with beef genetics or are Fresian/Holsteins, which are generally A1 and prone to health ailments. Therefore we decided to use artificial insemination for about 3 generations over a few years to end up with 95% pure Jersey and Guernsey cows who should give lots of milk over long lactation periods.

We tried to import live Guernsey calves from New Zealand, but the government ruled that out. Embryo implantation was not feasible for a number of reasons. In August 2015 we finally got our liquid nitrogen semen tank from Australia with 70 “straws.” After several breedings and a dozen straws, we still had no pregnancies. Finally we convinced the Agriculture Department folks to send an experienced breeding technician over to our island, and with great difficulty four cows were bred (*by Mr. Ramanu*). Two of them have proven to be very difficult to breed and did not “take,” but the other two appear to be pregnant. This can be confirmed in another month or two.

So, we are much encouraged thus far, and are hoping they will have their calves on time in January! And this is what we live for here in New Jaipur – waiting day by day to see what those cute little calves will look like!

SRILA PRABHUPADA INITIATES TWO NEW DISCIPLES IN NEW JAIPUR



On Rama Naumi, April 15, 2016, Bhakta Benjamin took initiation from Srila Prabhupada via the officiating or ritvik representative method as prescribed by the July 9, 1977 Directive, and he received the spiritual name Bharata das. His good wife Bhaktin Anika also was initiated and was given the name Ananta Shakti dasi. They are from Germany, joined the Hare Krishna movement 5 years ago by meeting devotees outside ISKCON, and have two promising young sons, Gopal and Damodara. May all good fortune come upon these sincere followers of Srila Prabhupada....

Afterwards there was a drama by the children from the pastime of Rama’s breaking the bow, winning the hand of Sitadevi, and the pacification of Parasurama. You should have been there!

AFTERMATH OF THE HUNDRED YEAR CYCLONE

On February 20, 2016, Lord Nityananda’s appearance day, we were “blessed” by Cyclone Winston, a category 5 storm that did no real damage to our buildings in New Jaipur, but caused havoc with all the vegetation. A dozen giant raintrees, some of the 80 year-old coconuts, all the bananas and papayas, and the forest in general, was obliterated. Most of the fruit trees in the orchards were either damaged or leaning anywhere from 20 to 90 degrees flat. The cleanup has been ongoing, and will continue on and off for at least another year, especially dealing with the downed raintrees.



All roads are cleared, all the bananas are now re-growing, and most broken branches have been cleared away. It is surreal to have no bananas, lemons, or papayas here now when they have been so abundant since we came years ago. We only lost about ten fruit trees, dead from root damage or twisted out altogether. The survivors are recovering from their heavy pruning, but not flowering yet.

Having been through the rainforests here last year, we did not see any signs of previous cyclone damage as that left behind by Winston, so it can be

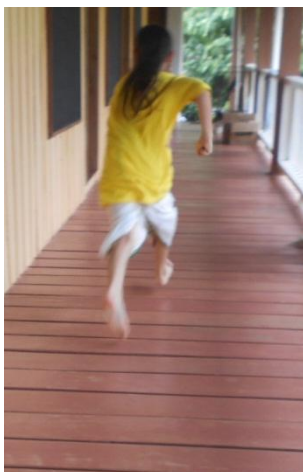
safely said that Winston was a “hundred year” storm. It was the second strongest storm in the Pacific on record. With Winston behind us, and with cyclones in Fiji being much less frequent and dangerous than in the Caribbean and Philippines, we expect some quiet for the next century or so, Krishna willing!

NEW OUTREACH CENTER IN TOWN

Braja and Govindapriya prabhus have relocated for now to Labasa town (2 hours distant by car) and established an informational and outreach center there to promote the New Jaipur farm project, Vedic knowledge and culture, and Krishna consciousness. Through their daily morning and evening classes and a Sunday program, many interested persons are taking advantage.

Labasa is the largest town on this island (Vanua Levu), and has a high concentration of Indians/Hindus who are mostly from agricultural backgrounds. Braja and his good wife feel very much at home there and are making many contacts. Another family has gone there as well due to medical reasons, and will be assisting Braja in his efforts. Sankirtan yajna kijaya!

SUMMARY



New Jaipur is a positive alternative to the rapidly devolving situation in the modern world. Nuclear war approaches, and humanity is due for much turmoil which can be fully alleviated by establishing Prabhupada’s varnashrama Hare Krishna farms. New Jaipur Vedic Village farm project retains Srila Prabhupada as the sole diksa guru, via ritvik representatives. We are part of Prabhupada’s transcendental mission which is situated beyond the now-corrupted original institution. Srila Prabhupada resides wherever his instructions are strictly followed. New Jaipur has 857 acres of titled, fully-paid land in a South Seas rainforest on Fiji’s second largest island. There are openings for qualified devotees based on the Village Constitution (available by email). Interested persons may inquire. The basic standards: 16 rounds daily, the four rules, customized community service, regular attendance to

morning programs, and be a productive participant, worshipping Sri Sri Radha Govinda. Cozy cottages available. Vedic villages are the future of the world. Please consider a visit to New Jaipur, and be our guest in paradise; this is an invitation to likeminded Prabhupadanugas. Life here is simple but not at all austere. Also welcome: temporary residents who would like to further their spiritual credits by offering assistance to the Vedic village with their skills, labor, or gifts.

Yours in Prabhupada's service,

Nityananda das

To be added to our regular mailings of Vedic Village Reviews or make a donation, please send us an email at srigovinda@gmail.com. Hare Krishna! All Glories to Srila Prabhupada!

SEE OUR NEW JAIPUR FIJI WEBSITE www.vedicvillage.org

