

VEDIC VILLAGE REVIEW #50

April 5, 2017. Adventures in New Jaipur, Prabhupadanuga Farm in Fiji



A GOLDEN SUNRISE DURING THE JAPA MEDITATION HOUR IN NEW JAIPUR

STEP BY STEP, SIMPLIFYING OUR LIVES

Srila Prabhupada often emphasized that his disciples should try to live simply and think highly. In other words, our emphasis should be on saving time for working on our spiritual advancement rather than our material development of economics, comforts, increased sense gratification, mundane education and prestige, etc. In New Jaipur Fiji we have our own land, homes, natural mountain spring water supply, limited solar power, our own cows, and our dear Sri Sri Radha Govinda resident deities.

This is our first newsletter in almost a year, for assorted reasons. But we are still here in the South Pacific Fiji Islands, pursuing Srila Prabhupada's instructions for the second-half of his movement, namely "farm, farm, farm." Of course, we are wondering what happened to the first half of his movement... Yet we can't work on everything and do everything, as we are not particularly empowered, so we just try to be faithful to Srila Prabhupada's instructions that he personally gave to us. Whatever happens, happens; at least we tried and stuck to the words of our divine father, Srila Prabhupada.

We had a large 18KvA diesel generator that was used during our big construction period a few



years back, but it was just sitting there, so we sold it. We also had a 26 foot aluminum boat and 4 stroke outboard motor, which we used twice to go out to the reef, and so we sold that also. We sold our big table planer mill and table saw. We sold one of our rubber-track tip-bed dumpers as well. In this way the heavy machinery has been drastically reduced and our lives simplified. Less maintenance, worries too.

And we are getting very close to selling our six ton excavator. This incredible entanglement of a super-complicated piece of heavy machinery is a saga that just goes on and

on... It is hard to imagine how millions of these machines are kept running all over the world. (only with great pains and efforts!)

Some discussions on the subject of the struggle to break free from the need for money which rules civilization today comes from dear friends in the USA:

"Thanks for these quotes regarding depending on Krishna fully by living on the land. This is why farming is considered the most noble occupation. They need to depend on nature, and nature is under God's control, not man's. I have my land and home and tools because I did business for years. I was able to travel to India, and do larger farm projects in India and Oregon. Actually Jayananda and other devotees had karmi jobs to maintain early temples. Money never came easy, but with volunteer laborers



collecting all day by hook and by crook, things gradually started to develop. In the West, few rich donors come forward to help out. We all slept on the floor, had no medical coverage, and no allowances, and often times not even proper clothing or transportation. Books were sold by deceptive means and "hard sell" tactics. On book store and library shelves Prabhupada's books rarely ever moved on their own.

"Businessman devotees have also been instrumental in many preaching programs over the years, and cold hard cash from the Nama Hatta Party of Thieves was instrumental in building up Mayapur and Vrindaban in the early

days. Even in Srila Prabhupada's times in ISKCON, we saw a lot of hard work and strenuous endeavor for money, sweeter than honey. Bangalore temple was also largely built up with money from real estate investments. In an old interview, one of Gandhi's early associates was quoted as saying, "To maintain Mr. Gandhi in poverty takes a very great deal of money." Similarly, to live simply is not so simple in this day and age, especially if devotees try to do it independently. First you need land and housing--and these are very costly. Then you need pujari and cook, housing for brahmins, goshala for cows, workers and workers quarters. You need cooperation. It takes a village to do it right. Otherwise, farming and self-sufficiency is very time consuming, distracting from sadhana and preaching work and extremely difficult for elderly devotees living alone.

“So all this simple living philosophy is very nice but without practical arrangements almost no one can do it alone--even if somehow they already have the land and facilities. Brahmin means someone



who can adjust time and place and make it all work practically. Otherwise he is just dreamer. Trying to make adjustments for living simply in this world may be somewhat of an illusion. This life and this world will always be difficult and complicated. Sometimes having a good job is easier than living off the land, and allows more time for hearing and chanting, the real business of human life, particularly for those on the threshold of death--as we all are. Real point is not so much how you live or where you live or what you do, but rather WHY you do it?

Better an honest city sweeper than a charlatan sadhu living on donations, easy food, and the volunteer services of others while living the good life and eating rich food in the quiet beauty of the countryside. Just playing devil's advocate here. What say you?”

REPLY #1: *“Good points. What I have always advocated and personally have done is to do some type of work with the intention of saving enough money so that I could move out of the city, buy some land, then gradually transition into a rural situation. It worked for me and it can work for anybody else-if they keep it- SIMPLE. We are not going to move directly into any varnashram situation overnight- it will take generations of work. Degradation from pure spiritual status takes time and so does reformation back to normalcy. When I saw my first Hare Krishna farm (not a practical one) I wanted to do the same*



thing. It took me around 30 years before Krishna made the adjustments in my life where I can grow most of my own food on 2 acres in the country. My advice, exactly the same as Srila Prabhupda's, is to work, save money and then move out! But one has to remember to keep this program SIMPLE, so that one is not stressed- physically, mentally and especially financially.”

REPLY #2: But there are other areas in which to become self-sufficient besides food. Vehicle and fuel, heating for house, electricity for lights and internet, water supply, foods we cannot grow in our own garden, cows for milk (with pastures, fences, breeding, increasing animal population with every calf born), outside labor expenses: It takes MONEY for all these. We have been struggling in Fiji with the reality of the great challenge to become self sufficient for 6 years now, and we are making progress, but slowly. We have our own gravity-feed water reservoir, good rains, warm climate year-round, and off-grid solar electric system. But the need for money is still unavoidable. For us the only way it is working is to earn money from agricultural produce to pay for labor, fence wire, chain saws, shopping & supplies, etc. Because Fiji is a small market and far removed from larger markets, the most practical crop for money to support the rest of the farm project



is kava. We have about 6000 plants now, some 2 years old. Kava prices are high and will stay steady, it is expected. An easy crop, and now in one sense, we are self-sufficient. We go to town once a week and essentially trade kava for our other necessary supplies.

Of course, really simple living is not to our taste, being that we are conditioned with certain standards of living by lifelong association with the modern "civilization" - cellphone, computer, internet, diesel pickup truck, refrigerator, clothes washing machine, butane gas

cooking stove.... and so on.

When will we start washing clothes in the river or by washboard? Travelling by bullock cart? Going to town thrice a year instead of once a week? Cooking on an open wood fuelled stove? Living by oil lamps, not electricity? As long as this modern world lasts, we will probably need to compromise and do the best we can while over generations, learn to live more simply, like in mud huts rather than modern houses...

REPLY #3: And this description above is one of the main "problems." We ARE attached to so many anarthas, and don't even think anything about it. Yasodanandana Prabhu told me once he was on a morning walk in some small village in south India where there was no running water, no indoor plumbing, no electricity, and everybody lived in cow dung mud huts and Srila Prabhupada after looking



around said this place was-- "First Class". The devotees were shocked that this "primitive" place was considered first class by Srila Prabhupada. In other words, we are attached to so many modern so called conveniences that the entire concept of simple living is like some foreign language to us all. Therefore the change in consciousness is not going to happen over night or even probably in one lifetime, and certainly the whole concept of Varnashram is not going to happen even in several generations of work.

I just consider that we are here and in this for the long haul, and that "Rome wasn't built in a day." Some of Srila Prabhupada's orders just are not possible to carry out in one lifetime. But that doesn't mean we don't try. We try as much as we can, and leave the results to Krishna. I think one of the main points to consider is that in this state of consciousness, we just try to use everything around us for Krishna seva, and gradually we will see what we really need and really don't need. By rendering service we develop attachment for Krishna and detachment from maya- naturally.

Another point is that some of us are just trying to keep body and soul together and not create a large farm community, which we are seeing is not an easy thing to do. I once (18 years ago) tried to get devotees together for this communal concept, and it just didn't work, for who knows what reasons- people just were not ready for it or the commitment involved. Or maybe it was just me. The bottom line for us all is that each of us has to eat. So we start with that basic concept and let it either grow from there, or just stay put. Either way, we are trying to do what both Krishna and Srila Prabhupada wants of us.

BITS AND PIECES

We discovered that a particular plant which covers significant patches of our grounds is in fact none other than **Gotu Kola** or Brahmi herb. It seems to be growing wild here in Fiji! Sometimes it goes in the salad...



INSTANT KARMA STORY: Last year a local fellow from an old family down the road from us, named Ned Simpson, someone whom we had met before, went to his farm and with a rifle shot a big cow for the freezer. Within minutes, he began to feel dizzy and unwell, sat down, and passed away.

LORD CHAITANYA'S DHOTI PIECE: We relocated this sacred relic in our Srila Prabhupada Museum, and confirmed it again with Bhaktadas, who had shared this piece of Mahaprabhu's dhoti that he had received from Radha Raman temple in Vrindaban in the early nineties.

Heavy rains caused an improperly supported retainer wall behind cottage #2 to collapse. The repairs were done in a unique manner to save on cost and materials. Fiji style. See photos elsewhere.

We finally had our first artificially inseminated calf in January, which was named Prema. With a star on the forehead and three white legs, the father in Australia is full Jersey and the local mother is mixed with Jersey. The mother bellows like a darned foghorn whenever the calf is tied up away so there's some milk left for us. Prema is doing very well and after a couple months takes two persons to handle; she is so active and strong, although tame as well. See photos elsewhere.

FARM QUOTES FROM SRILA PRABHUPADA

► Prabhupada: Yes. Anything grown in the garden, that is hundred times valuable than it is purchased from the market. (Conv, Aug 3 1976 France)



► 740524r2.rom Conversations ... Yes, naturally. If this man is fed up with this industry, he can go back to village and produce his own food. But he is attached to this industrial activity because he is thinking that "We are getting more money for wine and woman and meat. Let me enjoy." That is the perfect, imp... But if he chants Hare Krsna maha-mantra, his consciousness will be purified and he will be made not interested this kind of work. He will go back to village and produce food.

► 740527mw.rom Conversations: Prabhupada: No, no. These varieties... Suppose you grow half a dozen different types of vegetables. So from this half a dozen you can make three dozen varieties. If you are a good cooker. So the varieties of enjoyment will be fulfilled. We have got some desire of different quality of varieties.

That you can make. From milk, vegetable, grains, the three things, you can make three hundred varieties.



► 740527mw.rom Conversations: Prabhupada: Yes, it will go on, but when they will see that your ideal community is better than city life, people will take to it. Param drstva nivartate. When one gets a better standard of life, naturally he will give up the lower standard of life.

► 740602mw.gen Conversations 364211/530501: Prabhupada: Wasteful, yes. Therefore I say they have no brain. All, they are rascals. Rascal leaders. A little labor in agriculture will be sufficient to produce the family's food stock for the whole year. You can stock. You work only three months, and you get sufficient food for your whole family. And less nine

months, you chant Hare Krsna. But these rascals will not do that. They will work hard like ass simply for eating. Nunam pramattah kurute vikarma yad indriya-pritaya aprnoti. They will not accept easy life.

► 740621mw.ger Conversations: Prabhupada: Most unnatural life. City life, most unnatural.

► 750403mw.may Conversations There are so many land. Come here and grow food. Grow fruit. That is... That is the desire of Krsna. Annad bhavanti bhutani. Produce food and eat in sufficiently, be strong, and chant Hare Krsna. That is our philosophy. Why you are producing bolts and nuts, tire and tubes? Eat. Rascal. They do not know that first of all you must eat. No, everyone is engaged in industry. Why? Krsna does not say that "Take to industry." Krsna says, "Produce foodstuff." Annad bhavanti bhutani. If you produce foodstuff, then both your animals, yourself, will be happy, becoming strong. Why do they manufacture other things?

► 750403mw.may Conversations: Prabhupada: Therefore we are offering this place. Come here. Why do you not come here and live with us? Then this is... The Krsna consciousness movement is... This is the



movement, that you come here, live with us, and produce your food, produce your milk, be happy, healthy, and chant Hare Krsna. This is our movement.

Bhagavan: When there was the oil crisis in the United States, they were giving reports how some person would go in his car, go ten miles in a big car to buy one pack of cigarettes.

Prabhupada: Stick to your own place and grow your food. There is no question of transport. Little transport is required, that bullock cart. Krsna was being carried on bullock cart. There is no use of petrol. Use simply the bull. They are already there.

Utilize them. – Morning Walk, Rome, 5/25/74

► Make the farm the center and go ten miles this side, ten miles that side, ten miles this side, etc., with four bullock carts. Sell books and preach and live peacefully on the farm. People used to engage the bull for this purpose. So there was no problem which way to utilize them. First of all this artificial way should be stopped, and the bulls should be engaged in plowing and transporting, and smashing the grains. To avoid machinery, petrol, machine oil, by nature's way. – Letter to Balavanta, 1/3/77



► That is called ghora, ghora-rupa. Here it is called ghora. Santa-ghora. If you go to some industrial place in a factory, iron factory like Tata's, you will see how they are engaged in ghora activities, horrible activities. After all, you have to eat something, but they have planned a ghora activity, very fierceful, ugra-karma. By nature's way, Krsna has given us everything. You can simply work little. You get food grains. Krsna says like that. Krsna never says that "You open big, big fierceful, horrible industries." You will never find in Bhagavad-gita. For your livelihood, Krsna says very simple method. Annad bhavanti bhutani. Annad.

Anna, you produce anna. Why you are planning big, big industries? The oil will come from America through the channel, and the Arabia will refuse to supply oil. There will be power problem, so many things, one after another, one after another. But Krsna does not say that do all these things, ghora. No. He says, annad bhavanti bhutani: "You just produce food grain." SB lecture, , 1/3/75

► "The animal even does not give milk; let them eat and pass stool and urine. That is welcome. After all, eating, they will pass stool. So that is beneficial, not that simply milk is beneficial. Even the stool is beneficial. Therefore I am asking so much here and..., "Farm, farm, farm, farm." That is not my program—Kṛṣṇa's program. Annād bhavanti bhūtāni (BG 3.14). Produce greenness everywhere, everywhere. Vṛndāvana. It is not this motorcar civilization." (Prabhupada Conversation, May 27, 1977)

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,

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!

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SRI SRI RADHA GOVINDA, NEW JAIPUR



The repaired wall... Fiji Style./ Small canoe comes down the river into the bay, under a distant rainbow.

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