

About A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami

When His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami (Srila Prabhupada) entered the port of New York City on September 17, 1965 few Americans took notice. He was on a mission to introduce the ancient Vedic teachings to the Western world, by the request of his spiritual master. Srila Prabhupada was born Abhay Charan De on September 1, 1896 to a pious Hindu family in Calcutta, India. Recognizing Srila Prabhupada's philosophical learning and devotion, the Gaudiya Vaisnava Society honored him in 1947 with the title "Bhaktivedanta." Before Srila Prabhupada passed away on November 14, 1977 at the age of 81, his mission proved successful. He had founded the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) on July 11, 1966, and saw it grow into a worldwide confederation including, but not limited to;



- 650 centers, schools & colleges
- 65 farms & eco villages
- 110 vegetarian restaurants
- Bhaktivedanta Hospital in India
- 6000 festivals held around the world every year
- 516 million spiritual books distributed to date
- 9 million people worship at ISKCON centers each year
- 3 billion vegetarian meals distributed to date
- 1.2 million vegetarian meals delivered daily as part of ISKCON Food Relief (world's largest vegetarian Food Relief program)

Srila Prabhupada represents a well-documented disciplic succession and is thus uniquely qualified to translate and teach Vedic knowledge. By providing guidelines for the practical implementation of the sublime spiritual teachings, Srila Prabhupada has for the first time successfully implanted genuine Vedic culture in the West. His message of peace and goodwill resonated with many people and he is recognized as one of the most prominent scholars, translators, and teachers of the modern era.

His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami authored over 80 volumes which are highly respected by students, scholars and laymen alike; for their authority, depth, fidelity to the tradition, and clarity. His works are now widely used in college courses and seminars in diverse subjects, including philosophy, religion, world literature, history, and the social sciences.

"I am impressed with how much the teachings of one man and the spiritual tradition he brought impacted themselves into the lives of so many people." - Dr. Harvey Cox, Professor of Divinity, Harvard University

"I am most impressed with A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada's scholarly and authoritative edition of Bhagavad-gita. It is a most valuable work for the scholar as well as the layman and is of great utility as a reference book as well as a textbook. I promptly recommend this edition to my students. It is a beautifully done book." - Dr. Samuel D. Atkins, Professor of Sanskrit, Princeton University

"The increasing numbers of Western readers interested in classical Vedic thought have been done a service by Swami Bhaktivedanta. By bringing us a new and living interpretation of a text already known to many, he has increased our understanding manifold." - Dr. Edward C Dimock, Jr., Department of South Asian Languages and Civilization, University of Chicago