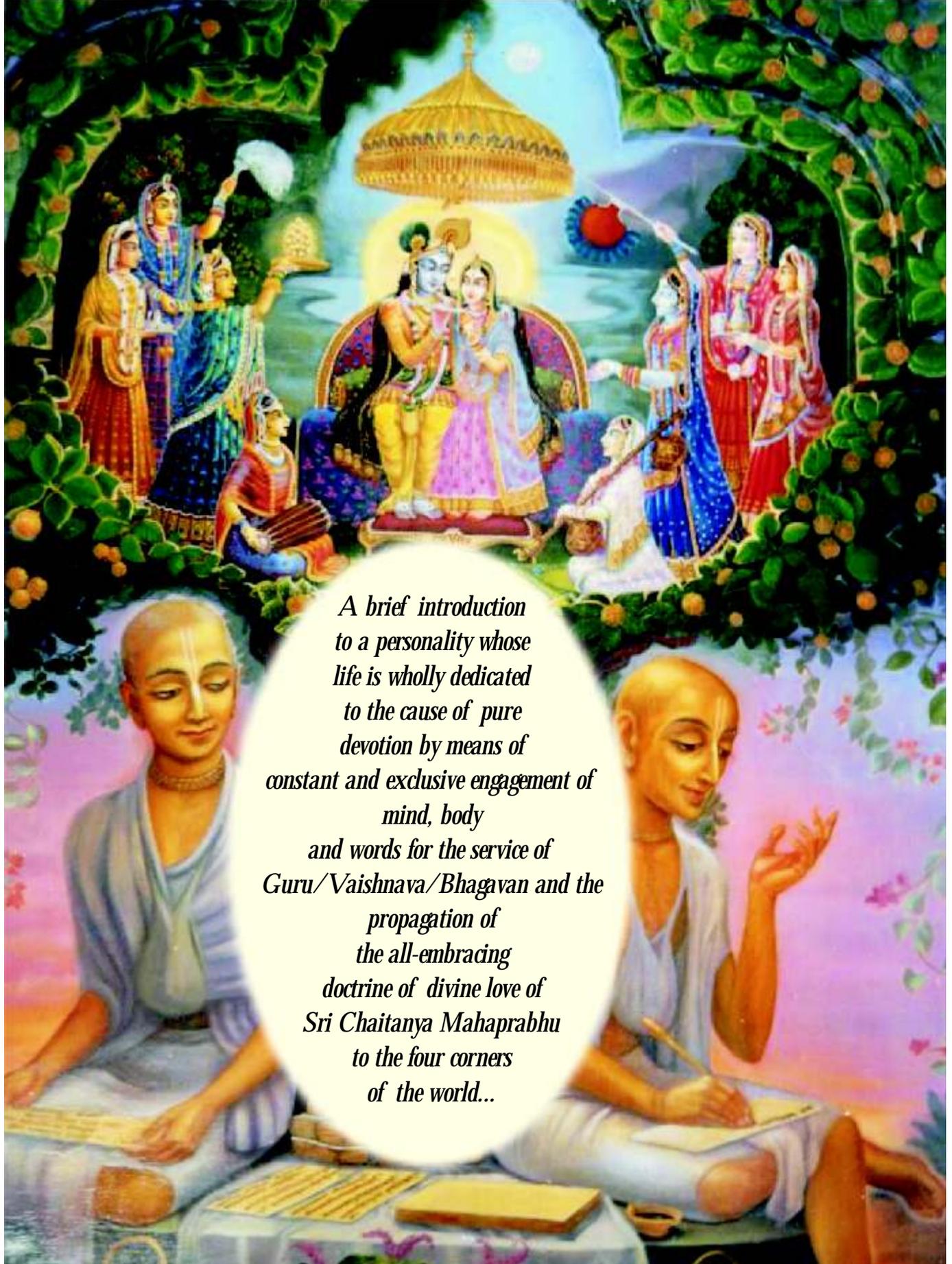


Paramahansa

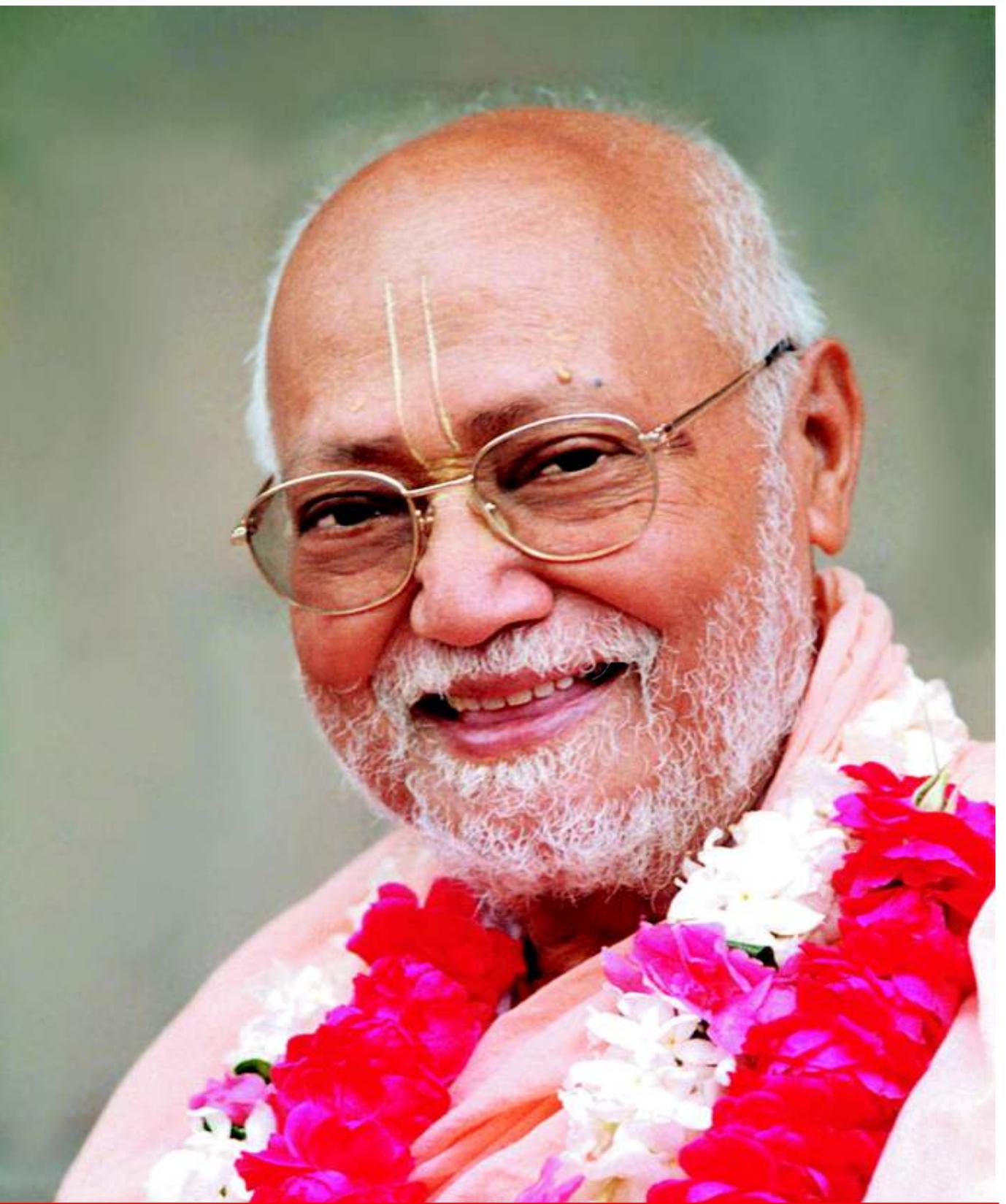
the best of swans



*An Introduction to His Divine Grace
Srila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaj*



*A brief introduction
to a personality whose
life is wholly dedicated
to the cause of pure
devotion by means of
constant and exclusive engagement of
mind, body
and words for the service of
Guru/Vaishnava/Bhagavan and the
propagation of
the all-embracing
doctrine of divine love of
Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
to the four corners
of the world...*



HIS DIVINE GRACE

SRILA BHAKTI BALLABH TIRTHA GOSWAMI MAJARAJ

PRESIDENT - ACHARYA : SREE CHAITANYA GAUDIYA MATH



H is holy life a brief account

In India, the roots of the faith can be traced back to time immemorial and, most importantly, to the advent of Krishna 5,000 years ago in Mathura, India. Appearing in the Bengal province of India in the 15th century, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, who is regarded by the Gaudiya Vaishnavas as Krishna in the form of His own devotee, gave a new direction to the science of experiencing transcendental Divine Love of the Supreme Lord. Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu offered unconditional access to Lord Krishna to everyone irrespective of caste, colour or creed, and he emphasised devotional love as the supreme spiritual path. He taught that Lord Krishna was the principal deity, God Himself, and that everyone can regain a personal relationship with

Krishna through *sankirtana* (the congregational chanting of God's names, specifically, the names comprising the Hare Krishna Mahamantra). This tradition was continued by a divine lineage of spiritual preceptors including His Divine Grace Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Gosvami Thakur Prabhupada. Coming in the same line of empowered representatives of the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna, His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaj is presently one of the foremost spiritual leader of the mission of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and His associates in the world today. He is a the dearly beloved disciple of Srila Bhakti Dayita Madhava Goswami Maharaj, who is in turn the equally beloved disciple of Srila Bhakti



Sri Guru inherits the power of compassion directly from the Supreme Personality of Godhead and descends to this earth enlivened with that power. Imbued with his own natural sweetness and beauty he is the manifested form of divine compassion, affection and grace for all. We cannot surmount the endless cycles of births and deaths and other miseries of the material world to attain absolute bliss without the grace of Sri Guru.

His Early life

His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaj appeared in 1924 in Assam, India, on Rama-Navami (the most auspicious appearance day of the Lord Ramachandra). From his childhood, he had a natural affinity for spirituality. Having been brought up in a pious environment, he had an innate inclination to search for the ultimate goal of life. He used to spend the majority of his time in meditation. His natural indifference to the material world manifested very early and he showed acute awareness of the non-eternal nature of the material world. He felt that one day his mother, father, brother, sister and all others would be gone, everything would be finished. This manifestation of the path of self-realization led him to take up the study of philosophy at Calcutta University. His fellow students at the University invariably noted his outstanding qualities of truthfulness, benevolence and non-jealousness.



"A true devotee is rarely to be found in this world.

If you want quality, you cannot get quantity. "





Conditioned souls of this world are passing through numerous births and deaths being enveloped by the illusory energy of Supreme Lord. The only way of doing eternal benefit to other conditioned souls is to worship Sree Krishna with pure devotion. If God is satisfied, all will be satisfied.

Taking Shelter of the Divine Master

While studying at the Calcutta University, he came in contact with His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Dayita Madhava Goswami Maharaj and immediately became attracted by his transcendently powerful personality. Srila Bhakti Dayita Madhava Goswami Maharaj was one of the foremost associates of His Divine Grace Prabhupada Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Goswami Thakur. After completing his Masters Degree in Philosophy in 1947, Srila B.B. Tirtha Goswami Maharaj wholeheartedly and unreservedly dedicated his life to the service of his spiritual master.

His service attitude was so exemplary that soon Srila Bhakti Dayita Madhava Goswami Maharaj selected him as the secretary of the devotional institution known as Sree Chaitanya Gaudiya Math. He travelled extensively with Srila Bhakti Dayita Madhava Goswami Maharaj on preaching tours. He accepted *sannyasa*, the order of

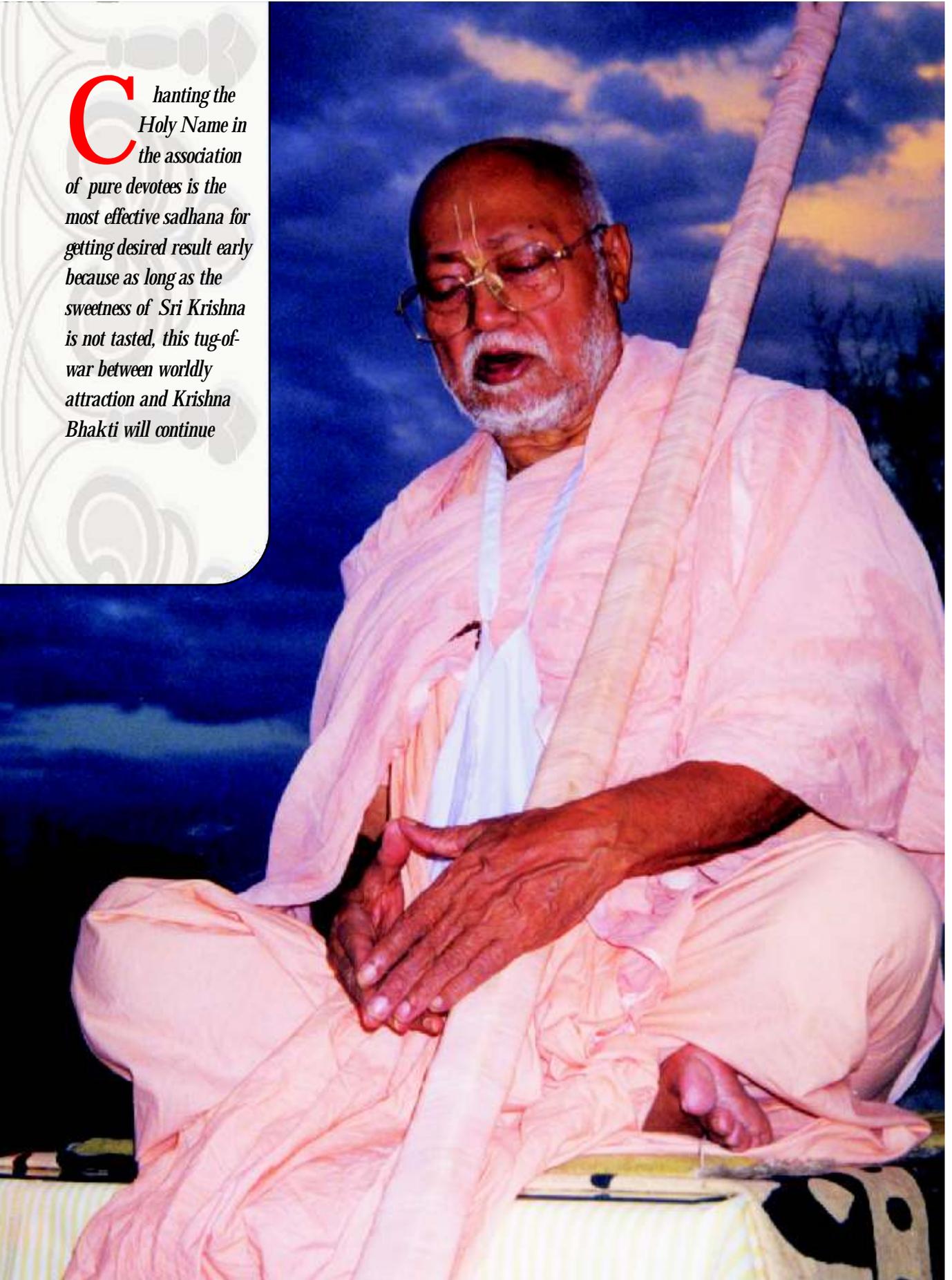


His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Dayita Madhava Goswami Maharaj

renunciation, in 1961. Setting an example of unadulterated service to Sri Guru, Srila B.B. Tirtha Maharaj served his spiritual master with every facet of mind, body and spirit.

After the disappearance of the Srila Bhakti Dayita Madhava Goswami Maharaj, as per his nomination and direction, Srila Bhakti Ballabha Tirtha Goswami Maharaja became the President-Acharya of Sree Chaitanya Gaudiya Math in 1979.

Chanting the Holy Name in the association of pure devotees is the most effective sadhana for getting desired result early because as long as the sweetness of Sri Krishna is not tasted, this tug-of-war between worldly attraction and Krishna Bhakti will continue





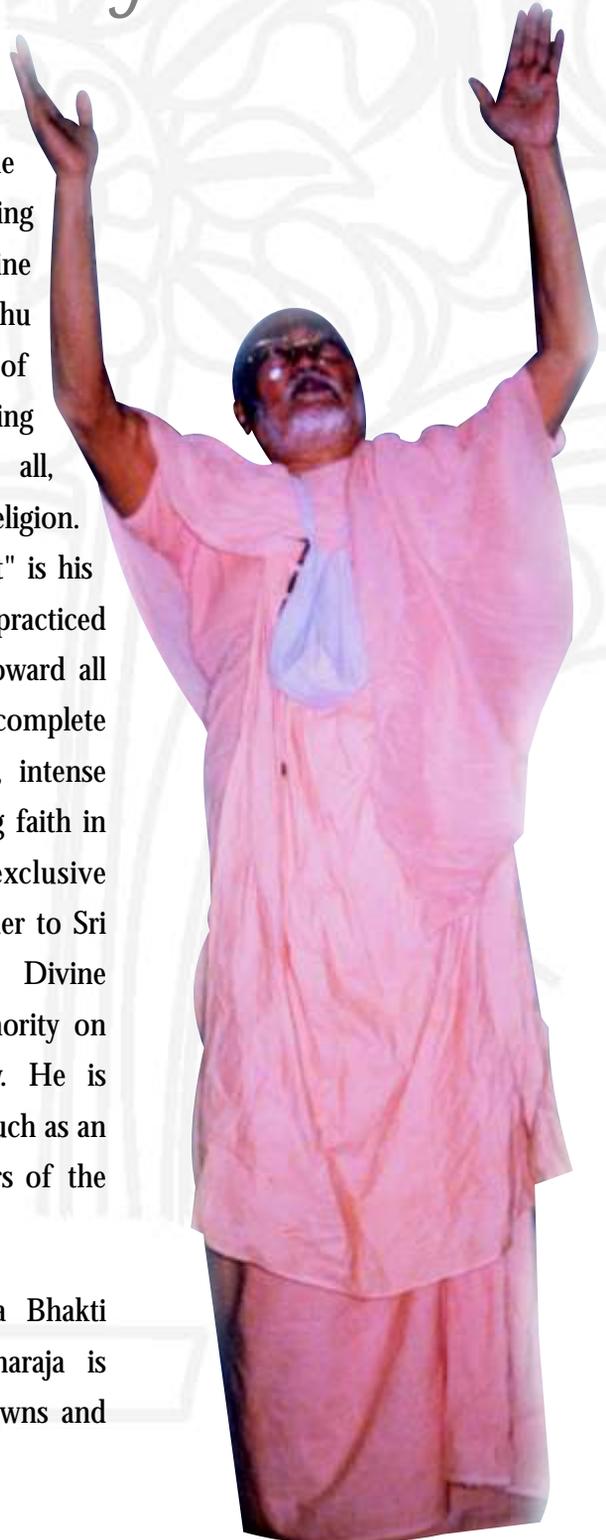
Preaching is not for Preaching sake, it is not for mundane temporary benefits. Chanting of the glories of Sree Krishna- His Name, Form, Attributes and Pastimes is the best form of Devotation (Bhakti). While performing Bhakti (Kirtan Bhakti), preaching will be automatic. There is no need of making separate endeavour for this.

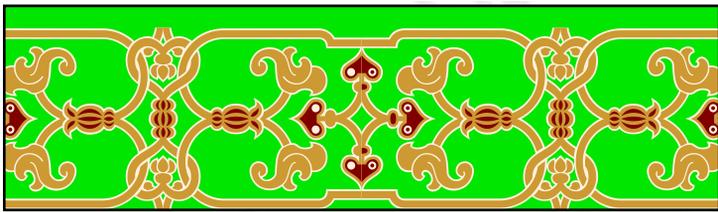


*H*is preaching activities in India

For the last five decades, Srila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaja has been engaged in the propagation of the all-embracing doctrine of transcendental divine love of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu to counter the present trend of violence and cruelty, and to bring about unity of hearts among all, irrespective of caste, creed or religion. "Example is better than precept" is his way of preaching. He has always practiced what he preaches—compassion toward all living entities, genuine kindness, complete detachment, absolute tolerance, intense spiritual blissfulness, unflinching faith in Sri Guru combined with exclusive devotion, and complete surrender to Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. His Divine Grace is also a renowned authority on Gaudiya Vaishnava philosophy. He is known for never deviating so much as an inch outside of the four corners of the precepts of the Holy Scriptures.

Although in his eighties, Srila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaja is always on the move, visiting towns and





villages in India as well as traveling abroad, propagating the divine message of Bhagavad-Gita and Srimad Bhagavatam. Without caring for his own personal comfort and while undergoing many austerities, he maintains an extremely heavy preaching schedule, tirelessly serving the mission of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaja is the President-Acharya of the Sri Chaitanya Gaudiya Math devotional institution as well as being the Founder of GOKUL (Global Organisation of Krishnachaitanya's Universal Love). He also serves as President of the World Vaishnava Association (WVA). He is acknowledged by Vaishnavas around the world as one of the most exalted spiritual personalities of his generation.



Wherever we shall devote our energy, we shall go there.
So, the wise, always devote their mind, intelligence, senses, words and everything for the service of Sri Krishna.



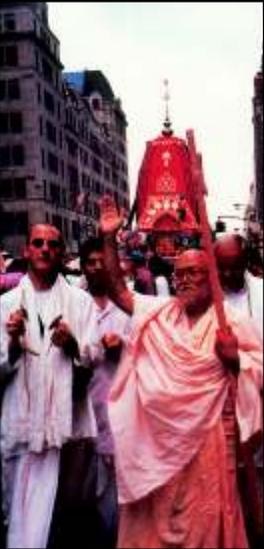


*H*is worldwide preaching activities



At the behest of his beloved *shiksha* guru (instructing preceptor), His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Promode Puri Goswami Maharaja, Srila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaja embarked upon preaching the

Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Maharaja requested him to accompany him to the USA just prior to his launching of the Hare Krishna Movement in the West in 1965. Eventually, with the idea of Srila Bhakti



message of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu throughout the world, beginning with America in 1997. Since then he has continued to disseminate throughout the world the chanting of the Holy Name, which is the remedy for all the afflictions of the current age of quarrel (*Kali-yuga*). Until now, his preaching engagements have taken him to 25 countries including England, Holland, Italy, Austria, Germany, France, Russia, and throughout the length and breadth of the USA.

Ballabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaja traveling outside India to propagate the all-embracing gospel of transcendental divine love of Sri Chaitanya Maharaprabhu, his Gurudeva, Srila Bhakti Dayita Madhava Goswami Maharaja, ordered him to take lessons in the German language. It was several years after the disappearance of his most revered Gurudeva when, due to the constant and persistent requests of devotees, he approached Srila Bhakti Promode Puri Goswami Maharaja, who is one of the foremost associates of Srila Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Goswami Thakura Prabhupada, for



guidance regarding traveling to preach in the West.

Srila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaja, during his US tour in 1997, addressed the United Nations 'World Conference on Religion and Peace' and 'World Peace Prayer Society' in New York City, offering them a succinct outline for world peace based upon the spiritual tenets of the ancient Vedas. All participating in these meetings were very much taken by Maharaja's sweet and humble personality.

Interfaith dialogue:

His preaching programs over the past years

have also included many interesting dialogues with prominent Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim and Baha'i theologians, in such diverse settings as universities, interfaith groups, churches, Hindu temples and a wide variety of metaphysical and private educational centers. All were invariably won over by his gentle and affectionate nature. He has also spoken on the sublime teachings of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu on many radio and television programs. Srila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaja, in lieu of requests by devotees worldwide, gave his approval for the establishment of GOKUL (Global Organisation of Krishna Chaitanya's Universal Love), which he founded in 1997 with the goal of expanding his preaching mission worldwide.





His TEACHINGS

Srila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaja adroitly dispels the doubts of those who come to him for spiritual guidance. He places great stress on the chanting of the Holy Names of Sri Krishna without offense. He preaches complete surrender to the instructions of Sri Gurudeva.

"We reap
the fruits of
our own
good and bad deeds.
We should not
blame others
for the
afflictions we get
due to our own
Karma.
Others may
be instrumental,
but not the cause. "

Love God and all His Beings

Love of God is essential for human beings. According to Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, transcendental divine love is the strongest spiritual force in existence. It can establish close relations of love, and unity of hearts among all human beings. By this, real peace can be achieved in the world. If we wish to avoid suffering, we should not injure any *jiva* (living entity). Divine love means love of Divinity and love of all in relation to Divinity.

Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu teaches us that all *jivas* come from the same source God. If we truly love God, then we will love all living beings automatically. Love is superior to non-violence. Non-violence means to abstain from doing injury to others. This is only a negative aspect, but love means to do good to others and this is a positive aspect. Sri Chaitanya's message of divine love has, in recent times, received universal appreciation throughout the world, and people belonging to different countries, nations and faiths have accepted that only universal love can beget everlasting peace.

The Supreme Lord as the Center

When there are many different centers of interest, clashes between individuals, groups, nations and so on are inevitable and unavoidable. For example, if a number of different circles are drawn, each with its own center, the circumferences are bound to overlap each other. But if there is one center of interest, all circles, smaller and bigger, can be drawn around that one center co-existing without any overlapping of circumferences. According to Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, one should have knowledge of the real self and one's real interest, the One Ultimate Center of Interest God. Only the Supreme Lord can be the common center, as all souls have emanated from Him.

Love for God thus translates into love for all beings either great or small. And if such a love exists, then one cannot inflict injuries on anyone. If we truly love God, then we cannot have the impetus to inflict injuries upon any of

His creations who are all His parts and parcels. All living beings are interrelated through their common bond with God.

Material sense perceptions are delusional, thereby leading to the creation false egos that bring about clashes of interest. Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu has said that if individual souls possess the knowledge that they are interrelated with God, then the clashes of interest will cease and everyone will live in harmony. Therefore, divine love is the best and only solution for universal peace. This divine love (*prema-bhakti*) for God can be cultivated by '*nama-sankirtana*' the chanting of the Holy Names. In the present age (the age of Kali) *nama-sankirtana* is the most effective way to achieve peace as it can be performed under any circumstances. In itself, it is a universal religion under which people of all sects can unite, irrespective of their particular religious faith.

Lord Krishna has stated in Bhagavad-Gita (18.62) "O scion of Bharata, surrender unto Him completely. By His Grace you will attain transcendental peace and the supreme eternal abode." Only total and unconditional surrender to God can bestow eternal peace upon us. The moment we submit to God unconditionally, all our ills and sufferings will go.

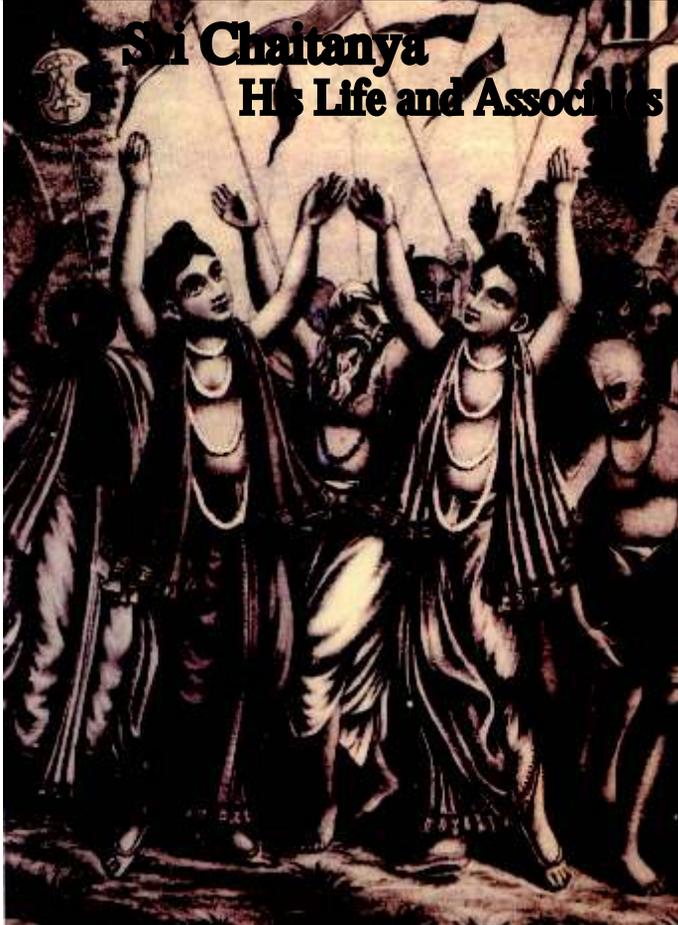


His WRITINGS

His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaja is always engaged in writing articles and books of a profoundly spiritual nature in native languages as well as in English, for the eternal benefit of the souls of the world. Many of his writings are in the Bengali language but have been translated into many other languages. It would not be exaggerating to say that all bona-fide spiritual questions are answered with each turn of the page. His is the accumulated devotion, knowledge and wisdom of many generations of self-realized souls, extending backward through time without deviation from truth due to self-interest.



Sri Chaitanya His Life and Associates



Brief summaries of his books in English:

Sri Chaitanya: His Life and Associates: An absolute classic of unsurpassed beauty and literary scope, this very special volume is the definitive chronicle of the holy lives of an entire lineage of Vaishnava spiritual leaders from the 10th century to the present day. Utilizing a vast range of contemporary historical and biographical sources, this most important work brings the reader to a deeper understanding of the saintly attributes of the associates of Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. The reader is also provided with esoteric insights into the intimate nature of the devotional relationships that exist between the generations of gurus and disciples throughout the centuries.

A Taste of Transcendence: There are two paths, one that leads to the soul's eternal welfare and one that leads only to the fleeting pleasures of the senses. This collection of sublime discourses encapsulates insightful analogies and lucid commentary on the essence of the divine teachings of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and the saints of ancient India.

Sages of Ancient India: An in-depth commentary on the holy lives and teachings of Dhruva and Prahlada. These famous Indian stories of a thwarted prince seeking redemption and a saintly boy born to a demon king provide inspiration for overcoming difficulties on the spiritual path.

Suddha Bhakti: Transcending physical yoga postures, this book details the practice of worship known as *bhakti*, or the path of pure devotion. It offers a sublime explanation of the concepts of *sambandha*, *abhidheya* and *prayojana*: the true meaning of relationships, spiritual practice and the ultimate goal of existence.

Dasavatara: A detailed account of the ten primary manifestations of God, who descend to rescue the fallen souls of the world. Here you will find revealing commentaries on the attributes and pastimes of these famous *avatars* who are described in authorized Vedic literatures and glorified in the exquisite poetry of the great medieval saint, Sri Jayadeva Goswami.

Affectionately Yours 1st & 2nd Volumes: A clear understanding of the teachings of Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu presented in the form of letters and articles by Srila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaja.

Nectar of Hari-katha: A book of lectures by Srila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaja.

Hari-katha and Vaishnava Aparadha: A discussion of the eligibility for speaking *Hari-katha* and the avoidance of offences toward bona-fide devotees.

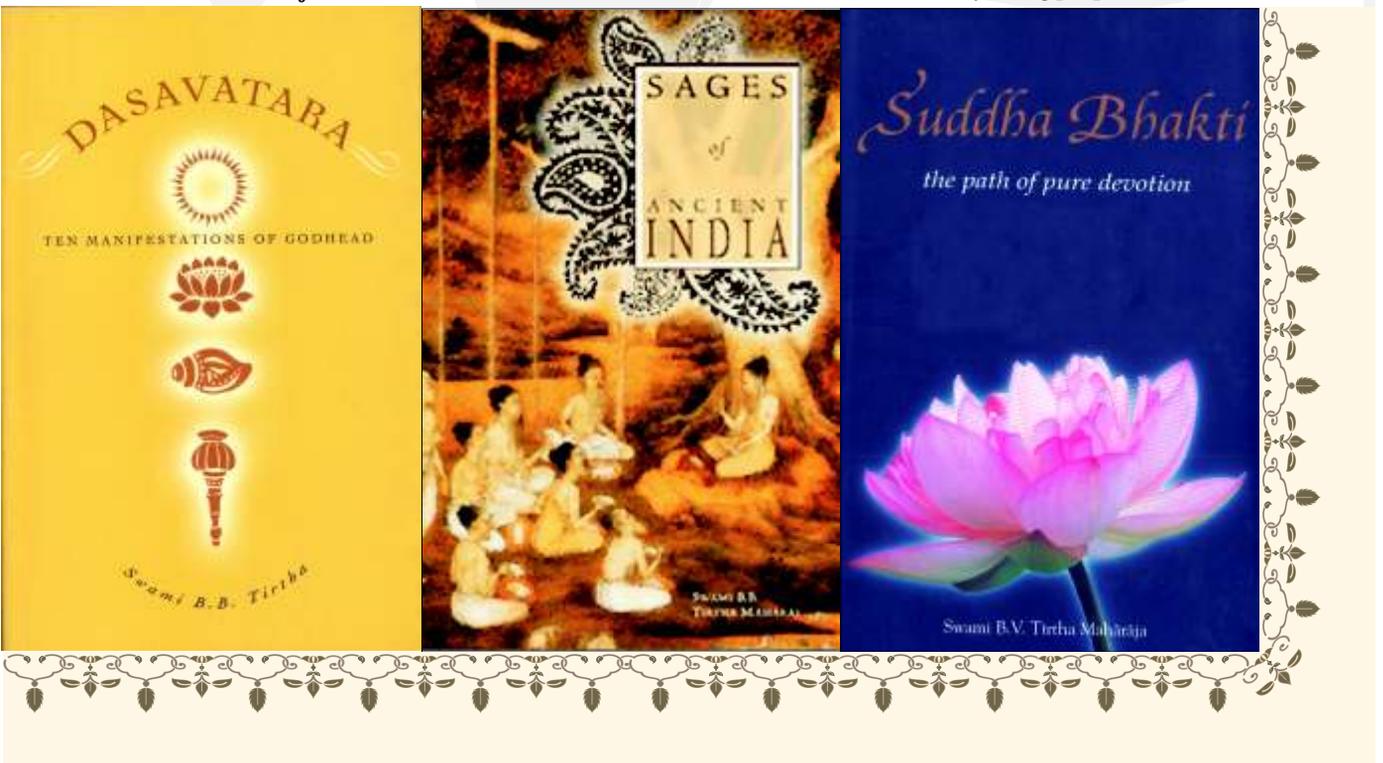
Other books soon to be published include:
Sri Guru-Tattva: A definitive discourse on the ontological position of the spiritual preceptor, which is a subject of paramount importance for all sincere seekers.

Sri Archana-paddhati: A definitive guide to the process of deity worship.

Sri Vraja-mandala Parikrama: An account of the circumambulation and worship of the holy places of Vrindavanaan important Vaishnava tradition.

Puranic Charitavali: A book that will help familiarize the reader with some of the important sages and characters often mentioned in the Vedic literatures especially the Puranas.

*Other books of compilations of lectures and articles are also currently being prepared.



"The Vaishnava creed is 'Paramahamsya Dharma'. A swan has the ability to extract milk, the essence, from a mixture of milk and water. A true Vaishnava who is 'Paramahamsa' (the best among swans), can extract the good qualities of a person by ignoring their unnecessary and worthless faults. The conditioned souls who are enveloped by the three primal material qualities of the illusory energy of the Supreme Lord (goodness, passion and ignorance), do not possess the capacity to see a person's good attributes and, instead, only see their defects. So long as they lack the competence to understand the superior perspective of the Vaishnava or guru, there is no possibility of their coming in contact with them."

-His Divine Grace Srila B.B. Tirtha Goswami Maharaj



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GOKUL
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World Vaishnava Association
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