

# “At Any Cost, Do It!”

Srila Prabhupada’s demand to create real Vrindavana  
Villages

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# From the Beginning, What is Krishna Consciousness?

Let us revisit the core purpose of this Krishna Consciousness movement:

Very simply, for all its members to develop a loving attachment to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Krishna. This will always define the thinking behind all of Prabhupada's directions and orders. In fact, he cannot think any other way. On every page, in every word, his love and compassion for the living soul is present. He thinks that only that by developing pure love for Krishna can the jiva become happy. So, from this mood, we have to see his instructions, including the order: "At any cost, do it". Create Vrindavan villages and make your lives perfect. After all, "Balarama holds a plow, and Krishna is holding a calf." Prabhupada wants us to live a life as Krishna lived.

It is not hard to extrapolate that his order for us to make Vrindavan villages is nothing more than an extension of his desire for us to develop love for Krishna as quickly and easily as is possible. In the center of Vrindavan is who? Radha and Krishna... the whole of Vraja is absorbed in thinking about Radha and Krishna. All they can do is talk about Them, sing about Them and serve Them. So to create Vrindavan villages means to center the village around the pastimes of Radha and Krishna. Every evening the village comes together to worship the deities of Radha and Krishna, hear the recitation of Their pastimes, and return home with blissful thoughts of love towards the Divine Couple...

This is what a real Vrindavan village should be like. Since Srila Prabhupada only thinks about Radha and Krishna, and how we, his students can become attached to Them, well, shouldn't we try to do this and make our lives successful and fruitful!? He would never give an instruction to us that would be a waste of time, or one that we should ever consider impossible.

He came to deliver Lord Caitanya's unique gift to the world, Krishna-prema. We should never consider this to be impossible, and "put it off for later," for if we understand the merciful mood of Lord Caitanya, then anything is possible... even Krishna-prema. In the Nectar of Instruction, there are specific guidelines on how to live, where to live, and most importantly with whom to live. Since it is not possible for everyone all over the world to all move to Radha Kunda, the next best thing would be to create Vraja-mandala all over the planet. Hence Prabhupada's instruction: to create unlimited Vrindavana villages. And what will happen then? He says: "**The whole world we be enveloped in Krishna Consciousness.**" Nowhere else does he say such bold, revolutionary statements. These villages are the essential ingredient to change the world.

Sadly, this has not been understood, or simply ignored for other reasons. Somehow, I understand it, and I must follow this order. I know that this is my own personal service to His Divine Grace. So I must be successful. To create a vibrant Vrindavan Village based on the understanding above. And one ingredient that must not be minimized is the chanting of the Names. All success is predicated on intense daily kirtan rasa. This is our most important part of our sadhana... congregational chanting of Krishna's names.

When kirtan is strong, when everyone is feeling happy, then a Vrindavan village is possible. It takes hours of kirtan, not just an occasional arotik. Here is what Srila Prabhupada said regarding our daily activities:

*"If one has the proper means and wealth, he should occasionally invite the devotees of Lord Caitanya who are engaged in preaching all over the world and hold a festival at home simply by distributing prasadam and talking about Krsna during the day and holding congregational chanting for at least three hours in the evening. This procedure must be adopted in all centers of the Krsna consciousness movement."*

Caitanya Caritamrita, Madya-lila 3.203 Purport

Here, Srila Prabhupada states yet another “must do” that has not been implemented properly. This is one, regardless if you are creating a Vrindavana village or not, should be implemented in all the Krishna conscious centers. So we are humbly trying to implement this instruction at Murari; our morning and evening program follows this format, and maybe that is why we seem to be flourishing with enthusiasm.

So to me, getting “back to the basics” means getting back to those books and implementing those instructions without speculation. Just be simple and follow the instructions given in Prabhupada’s books. In other words the more we perform the Yuga-Dharma the more we will reap the fruit of the Caitanya tree... If it is pure love for Krishna you are wanting, then the Yuga Dharma, chanting and hearing Krishna’s names will give you that. The Maha-mantra is a touchstone mantra, it will give you whatever you want, more or less. So, if you want to get the gift that is unique to our sampradaya, then perform Harinama Sankirtana, with great enthusiasm! The rewards will be there.

Everything rests on spirit. When we, as conditioned souls, focus on the spiritual dimension, automatically the material side will serve us, and give us everything we need, not only to survive, but to flourish and help others. We will have the inspiration to reach out to other suffering souls, and say, “Please, come and live with us, chant the Holy Names, get your hands in the earth, milk a cow every day. This is life!”

This what we can offer if we are spiritually strong. Strength comes from kirtan and hearing Krishna’s pastimes. We are having a festival every day, won’t you please join us?

By all means, let’s get “back to the basics”.

Thank you very much...your servant, because of His mercy...

Gadidas ACBSP

# Prabhupada's Instructions to Create Vrindavana Villages

*We seek the simple essence of truth in all the instructions of His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada, because His essence of truth is the same essence of truth found in all our sampradayaic teachers. We choose not to speculate in any attempt to "make things more relevant or acceptable" at the cost of sacrificing the essential truths which will bring our individual souls to pure love of Krishna... In this regard, we examine a series of statements by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami, Prabhupada, regarding his last wishes **to establish Vrindavan Villages across the globe.***

**Prabhupada: They were happy, the inhabitants of Vrindavan, with Krishna and living with the cows. That I want to introduce..... At any cost do it!**

Morning Walk, May 27 and 28, 1974, Rome:

Yogesvara: So then we should begin our rural communities like New Vrindaban, and then by training up people in the cities, we can send them gradually...

**Prabhupada: There will be no city, we don't want cities.**

Bhagavan: What about our city temples?

**Prabhupada: No, no. For the time it may go on. But as we make progress, there will be no necessity. City means... For the present we have got. Because the city is there, we are there.**

*My comment: We can clearly see here that Srila Prabhupada had a vision for us that was away from the city, far away. Obviously, to start this movement the cities were the best place. Small temples were established, and deities were even installed. But Prabhupada was not phased by any of that, he wanted everything moved far from the city. The deities as well...*

**Prabhupada: Our next program is to organize farming. Let anyone come. We shall give him free food and employment: "Come on." Not that, "I want to work as a clerk in the city." You produce your own food. I give you ingredients. I give you land. And work for five, six hours, and take your food and chant Hare Krsna. But we never say that you have to pay so many dollars.**

*My comment: We can clearly see here that Prabhupada wanted us to live on the land, not in the city. He then offers for free: I give you land, some ingredients, you work the land, grow a little food... and chant the Holy Names. In the village this would mean a vibrant evening program of kirtan and Krishna's pastimes... we are not real estate agents.*

**Prabhupada: So try to understand the importance of this movement Krishna is giving us. This is a first-class place. You can develop it into a Vaikuntha. It is already Vaikuntha, Krishna is there. But develop it very nicely, peacefully live. Hundreds of miles away from the hellish cities. For little conveyance we can have bullock carts, when we have to get, transport. Very peaceful life. Introduce it and live peacefully. Am I right or wrong?**

*My comment: So not just a short distance from the city, but a far distance from the city... And become peaceful, chanting being the most important activity.*

**Prabhupada: They have simplified, automatically they have simplified their life. And gradually develop, make little cottages, grow little vegetable, little barley or wheat and milk. That is sufficient. We don't require much. We don't want luxury. We want just to subsist. *Yavad artha prayojana* (as much as required). We hate the idea of luxury, unnecessary.**

*My comment: Very clearly this simple environment which Prabhupada is proposing helps to create a non-jealous atmosphere. We are not to pursue luxury... unnecessary. Not only is it unnecessary, but to not pursue it assists in diminishing the tendency toward envy. Establishing a non-jealous environment built on love and trust is what he is hoping for.*

**Prabhupada: Hell means anywhere where material happiness is given more importance. So read our books, chant Hare Krishna, live very simple life, produce your own necessities. Don't go to the town.**

**Let them engage in kirtan. There will be more water for gardening, and it will be moist, and then produce fodder for the animals and food for you. And animal gives you milk. That is Vrindavan life.**

*My comment: Kirtan and Radha-Krishna, the perfect combination. This is Vrindavan life. Again Prabhupada is stressing simplicity and chanting...*

**Prabhupada: Therefore, I am asking so much here: "Farm, farm, farm, farm..." That is not my program-Krishna's program. *Annad bhavanti bhutani* [Bg. 3.14] (from grains come the material bodies). Produce greenness everywhere, everywhere. Vrindavana. It is not this motorcar civilization. Life is meant for simply chanting. This should be the motto.**

*My comment: More stress on village life, more stress on growing food, and big stress on chanting and hearing...*

**Prabhupada: The meaningful life is, so long we live, become fully Krishna conscious. And tyaktva deham punar. [Bg. 4.9]**

**Prabhupada: Don't bother about big, big buildings. It is not required. Useless waste of time.**

*My comment: This simple life is conducive for developing full Krishna consciousness... And just see the stress of not wasting time on big buildings. Big, valuable buildings create big, big problems. At this moment here is so much distraction about a certain big valuable building in Brooklyn, NY. Our attention should never have to be diverted to fighting over buildings... the only big structure in the village is the home of the deity. That can be very beautiful and ornate. That is Krishna's home. We live in little cottages. Everything is in perspective then.*

## The Final Letter for Farms, August, 1977

**Prabhupada: This is the next aspect of Krishna consciousness which I wish to push forward. If I am able to travel again then I shall visit the farms and make them perfect. On these farms we can demonstrate the full varnasrama system. If these farms become successful, then the whole world will be enveloped by Krishna consciousness.**

*My comment: What did Prabhupada just say? If these farms become successful, then the whole world will be enveloped by Krishna consciousness. This is a strong statement, on what has been ignored, and should never have been ignored. I don't know anywhere else that Prabhupada makes such a strong statement about changing the world.*

**Prabhupada: Whatever you build, get the building materials locally. If you can manufacture tiles locally, then your house problem is solved. Krishna advised Nanda Maharaj not to perform Indra-puja, but to worship the land, Govardhana, because it was supplying all foodstuffs for the residents of Vrindavan and the cows as well.**

The Final Order, October 8, 1977, Vrindavana

**Prabhupada: No luxuries. Live very simple life and you save time for chanting Hare Krishna.**

Hansaduta: Yes, Prabhupada.

**Prabhupada: That is my desire. Don't waste time for bodily comforts. You have got this body. You have to eat something. You have to cover yourself. So produce your own food and produce your own cloth. Don't waste time for luxury, and chant Hare Krishna. This is success of life.**

*My comment: Obviously, Prabhupada was hoping we would take up the life of ascetics, voluntarily living a more pure and wholesome life. One that would facilitate more and more chanting and hearing. Save time for chanting Hare Krishna! Obviously, this goes to the heart of what the Krishna Consciousness movement was intended to be. Simplify life, increase chanting and hearing, and develop loving attachment for Krishna. This is of course the core purpose of Lord Caitanya's teachings. Since this is the only way that Prabhupada will think, the only way he can think, he is hoping we will strive for pure chanting and reach the real goal of pure love of God. This should never be considered impossible. Not having full faith in that proclamation would disappoint him terribly.*

**Prabhupada: In this way organize as far as possible, either in Ceylon or in Czechoslovakia, wherever... Save time. Chant Hare Krishna. Don't be allured by the machine civilization.**

*My comment: Save time. Again, emphasis on chanting... and avoid that strong tendency to depend on machines. That should be weaned away.*

**Prabhupada: We are exerting so much energy to ... And money, spend for Krishna--for Krishna's palace, for Krishna's temple, for Krishna's worship, gorgeous, as gorgeously as... Not for false... construct a temple, but as soon as we become implicated, "Now I have got this big building. Let me live very comfortably." Then it is very dangerous. So long we work for Krsna, it is Krsna's, I am still nothing. And as soon as I take it, "Oh, now I have got very good, comfortable place. Make me again something." Take that as dangerous.**

**So make, organize. I can give you the idea, but I'll not live very long. If you can carry out, you can change the whole world... Especially if you can change America, then whole world will change.**

*My comment: Here again the vision of world change due to the development of the Vrindavan villages. When the world sees something exceptional, they will pursue it. I believe that this is what Srila Prabhupada is saying here... that if we develop these self-sufficient villages nicely, the whole world will be attracted and become "enveloped in Krishna consciousness."*

**Prabhupada: This is human life. This is Krishna consciousness, to save others who are in the darkness. It is not a profession: "Now, Krishna consciousness is my profession. I'm getting very easily food and shelter." Just like the Indians, they are doing, a profession, say another means of livelihood. Not like that. It is for para-upakara, actually benefiting the others. That is**

**Krishna consciousness. Then Krishna will be very much pleased: "Oh, he is trying." 'Cause Krishna personally comes for doing this benefit to the people, and if you do, then how much Krishna will be pleased.**

*My comment: Everything we do should be for the sake of others; how to help them in every way. By creating these villages, we will be giving the world and its people an alternative lifestyle. This is called long-term preaching, shreyas. We must help others understand the true meaning of human life, and a practical example of how to live here in peace and simple prosperity. Preyas, or short term preaching may be understood like book distribution, and street kirtan... all of this works together to create a complete circle. "This is how and why we live the way we do, and here is your book, sir, to learn about the chanting, and our special lifestyle," ...etc.*

**Prabhupada: Just like Maharaj, Nanda Maharaj, the foster father of Krishna. He was keeping 900,000 cows. And He was rich man. He was Maharaj, king. But see the behavior. His beloved son, Krishna and Balarama, he has entrusted to take care of the calves or cows: "Go in the forest." He is well dressed with ornament, and nice dress, everything. All the cowherds boys, they are very rich. They have got enough grains and enough milk. Naturally they will be rich. But not that the cows and the calves will be taken care of by some hired servant. No. They would take care himself.**

*My comment: Srila Prabhupada says a couple of things here. The first is that everyone in Vrindavan was considered rich. There are some reasons for this of course... well, Krishna Himself was present, and so the Goddess of fortune was present with Him. Vrindavan was opulent, but not opulent like with money, and such. It was opulent because of the cows, and the gifts of jewels and natural wonders from the forest and the Yamuna.*

*Krishna covered his majesty with sweetness and love. Everyone in Vrindavan could only think of Krishna. Because they could only think of Krishna, they would always be wealthy, rich with the natural opulence that comes from pure love. They had no want, save and except how to give Krishna happiness. The second point here is that they did all the work themselves. This was their natural dharma, to work and please Krishna.*

**Prabhupada: This is civilization. Not to reduce the labor, but increase the labor. Therefore they are called ugra-karma, jagatau hita, and that will create disastrous condition of the human society. This is discussed in Bhagavad-gita. So our this simple living... We are introducing the simple living, People would eat very nicely, keep their health fit and save time for understanding his relationship with God. That is perfect civilization.**

*My comment: This is really flies in the face of modern civilization, to want to increase labor, not decrease. The reason for this is simple. The natural wholeness of the human being can be realized when everyone feels productive. In the western world, we have become very weak. We do not consider working hard to be intelligent. Better to make some money on the internet and buy groceries at the store. Better yet, just have them delivered with a drone. This is one factor that is very difficult to overcome in regard to coming back to the land and working with the hands and legs: we are so addicted to the store. Sad, but true... This can be overcome, and it is happening, but very slowly... The children, if they are not spoiled with electronics, they will learn how to work, but the parents have to be vigilant and introduce this technology correctly.*

**Prabhupada: So write very elaborately how to do this. Increase. And in your country, we increase this farm project any unlimited number... You should take to farming for**

**supporting yourself. That's all. Grow your own food. Grow your own cloth. There is no need of financial help from outside.**

*My comment: We must keep writing on this subject until there is a breakthrough. Meaning there will be enough men and money, on the front end of such a village to bring it to the self-sufficient stage. The village should be composed of all types of persons with doctoring skills, dentistry, education, etc. it takes a lot of people, and a lot of determination. At Murari, we are gathering the people slowly and surely, because my determination is there. We will find success for His Divine Grace.*

**Prabhupada: You get your food grains sufficiently, rice, dahl, wheat, vegetables, milk, sugar. You get everything. From these five, six items you should be economically free. That you have to do, not for trade to get money. Then it will be failure.**

Indian lady: Can we purchase the house for our own staying?

**Prabhupada: Yes. Because this is necessary. You must have some shelter, you must eat, you must cover. That is necessary. So you do it. Grow food first of all to feed yourself sumptuously. You must get strength, and that is needed. But not for trade.**

*My comment: Clearly, if we plan on growing crops, or increasing milk production simply for the sake of making money, it will be a failure. Why a failure? Because it takes the dependency away from Krishna and puts it in our own hands. You may make some money, but the loss will be on the spiritual side. Creating a Vrindavan village means being completely dependent on Krishna, just like the cowherd boys when they fearlessly walked into the mouth of Aghasura. We must be completely dependent on Krishna, and have the faith that we*

*will be protected and nourished by that dependency. It is a matter of faith only.*

**Prabhupada: The policy should be that you should be self-sufficient and save time for advancing in Krishna Consciousness. That is wanted. Produce your own food, live peacefully, fresh vegetable, fresh grains, fresh milk, and prepare so many nice milk preparations, kachori, halava with ghee. Offer to the Deity. Eat sufficiently. What is the use of going outside? Simple life and chant Hare Krishna. If you can organize that, that will be very nice.**

*My comment: Again and again this theme is put forward: Live simply, produce your own food, make ghee, make kachoris, halava, center your activities around Radha and Krishna, offer to them, take Prasad and save time for chanting and hearing.*

*Prabhupada was not in favor of our comfortable luxury life. He was trying to pull us away from all that and start a real revolution. Fancy homes, fancy cars and TVs is not what he had in mind, but it seems that is where most devotees end up.*

*If you would like to change, if you would really like to try and make a life changing move, then get in touch with me. I am dedicated to the fulfillment of the Vrindavan vision of Srila Prabhupada. I just need a few good men with a few dollars. It will not be misspent. It will be used to create something permanent for the world... and even more than that, it will be satisfying to Krishna and Prabhupada.*

*Thanks for your time... your servant because of his mercy....Gadidas... ACBSP*

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# An Order Ignored

If one's Spiritual Master, and not just any Spiritual Master, an empowered shakevesh avatar... If this Jagat-Guru gives you a direct order and tells you "At any cost, do it," how much stronger can an instruction be? And if such as strong order is not carried out, how dull is that disciple? This is not just the fate of this movement, it is the fate of the world. This order has been ignored, either deliberately, or out of incomprehensible stupidity.

We are not meant to just take the buildings and opulence left behind by the spiritual master, take a nice room, do a little preaching, travel all over the world, keeping the bhakta mill running, collecting followers and money. In principle, this is not bad, it is the way things naturally go, and by which, some help given to a few. But this order, regarding the creation of Vrindavana villages is not just any order, it is the order that will change the world if executed properly. It is the order that will envelop the whole world in Krishna consciousness. This is the big one!!! This is the long term one. This is the one that will give the greatest satisfaction to Prabhupada and to Radha and Krishna. Krishna gets new Vrindavana Villages all over the planet!

So, we have stayed in the cities and have created big useless buildings, with name plaques, and have done the opposite of what we were told to do, having completely ignored the real future and power of the instructions to create Vrindavana Villages, all in the name of "maintaining." Maintaining what? Something that Prabhupada has said we are not to be bothered with. "We don't want cities." "We don't want big buildings." This is what Prabhupada said. But here we

are, not one Vrindavana village, but numerous city properties that are barely maintained, and are the cause of mistrust, fighting and disharmony. Nothing is really growing, except discouragement. This movement is not really growing... it is the same old faces in different cities, that's all. Certainly not in America. And America is specifically the location that Prabhupada mentions that will envelop the world if these villages are created. These are towns, with all the ingredients of life. Like Prabhupada says, "you can't eat nuts and bolts." The village will give everything to everyone, and no one will be hungry or in want.

I know these are strong statements, but they are truthful. I personally cannot ignore these instructions, and I am looking for others who are willing to sacrifice to fulfill it. Those who see this as the real revolution. When is someone, or someones with the means, going to step forward with me, and say, "At any cost... let's do it!"?

I'm not here to play Mr. Nice Guy. I want to respect the endeavors of all who are performing their service to His Divine Grace, but the truth must be spoken, and this vision of Srila Prabhupada's must be fulfilled. Prabhupada stresses that we must write about and elaborate on this topic, and because it has been so flatly ignored, well... If it means I ruffle a feather or two, so be it. I am just hoping that the leadership will finally take these instructions to heart. To speak strongly about this is all I can do at this point. I am actually very friendly... someone you may like to know, in a Vrindavan Village.

# Components Naturally Contained within the Vrindavana Village Setting:

Such a village is self-sufficient, and because of that, it contains all the elements required for life, from birth to death.

If you are fortunate to live in such a village that is spiritually vibrant with Vraja consciousness, you need never travel one foot from that place... you are already in Krishna's forest.

1. **Birth** The process of birth is easily accomplished in the village. There are experienced midwives living there. There are other mothers with children. There will be a doctor, there will be support from all sides. There will be a social structure that ensures a loving environment for the child.
2. **Education** All kinds of education, specializing in the natural sciences: medicine, plant science, soil conservation, preservation, pasture management, organic growing. Permaculture is natural because you are a permaculture; you can plant trees and perennials and nurture them all through your life. And you are never bored, because you have Radha and Krishna as your family members, and Harinama Sankirtana to offer Them. All this is taught naturally because of the village lifestyle, along with our Sacred Literatures.
3. **Preaching** Sannyasis, brahmacaris reside there, who may travel at times to the cities to bring kirtan and books. Such is the way Prabhupada wanted preaching done, from hundreds of such villages in the world.
4. **Elders** Grandparents and great grandparents create stability, wisdom and guidance, thereby everyone feels grounded and secure.

5. **Cow protection** The cow becomes the only real source of economics, so the cow is watched over very carefully, and all of its products are tended with great care: milk, cream, butter, yogurt, ghee, cheese, dung, and urine. The cow is then free to live her full life in peace.
6. **Health** There is very little disease, because the village is self-contained. Everyone lives there. There is no commute to the city to pick up the latest flu or virus, or worse. Because this is an outreach village, and we want people to know about it, there will be young members who will go into the cities with kirtan and books. But in fact, everyone lives in the village, and the cities are visited only for the purpose of spreading the harinama sankirtana movement.
7. **Wealth** The village is economically self-contained. There is trade and barter, where one person's talents are exchanged for another's. There is charity... if someone is unable to contribute for some reason, all that person's needs will be met in full. No one is hungry, everyone has shelter, everyone has the material needs of life, without ever knowing of a wal-mart.
8. **Krishna-bhakti** Radha and Krishna are the center of everyone's life and heart. Kirtan is continuous, 24/7... so you don't have to think about going to a retreat, you live in one. You just have to take a few steps and you are in kirtan and having darsana of the beloved Lords of your village. Chanting will be the only way of life you know.
9. **Nutrition** Your diet is perfect, because you are eating things of season, grown in your backyard. You are gathering nuts and herbs throughout the year, making your own sugars, maple syrup, sorghum and what not

else. You are consuming only pesticide-free, organically-grown food nourished by those peaceful cows mentioned earlier. There is very little disease because one very important ingredient of modern life is missing, anxiety. All disease comes from anxiety... Prabhupada mentions that in Srimad Bhagavatam. If the body and mind are free from anxiety, you are going to be healthy and productive. You will be able to go to kirtan for your whole life, and take your family.

10. **Children** The children will be healthy and happy. They will grow up in a nurtured environment, become proficient in some natural science, marry, have children, and the village grows and prospers in richness and goodness. Marriages are for life, the environment is clean, the mind is clean, and morality is automatic.
11. **Freedom** This lifestyle, if created properly becomes the most powerful, influential tool for changing the world. That's why Prabhupada says the whole world will become enveloped by Krishna consciousness if these villages are done right, just as he suggests. There is nowhere else that I know of where Prabhupada makes such a strong statement. The whole world will become enveloped, because of the village, not anything else, because it gives human society a choice. A choice between freedom or bondage. City life, modern life is bondage. Everyone is in bondage because of the artificial need for money. Some little exchange is needed in the village: "Here, I have one calf.... I would like to trade this calf for some cloth." And that cloth is also made in the village.
12. **The Mission Grows** I realize how far we are from such a perfect village. I have been doing this for seven years, in a difficult physical place, with no support at all

from this society. This village concept is not important to the upper management. One can only conclude that there is simply no “money” in it. But that is not true! People come and they give their lives, their fortunes... But what we do with those fortunes? As Prabhupada says “Make Krishna a beautiful temple, all opulence for Krishna, but we live very simply.” Or we expand the village, or create a new one. A new town, perfectly developed according to the principles laid out by Prabhupada. Thus this mission of creating Vrindavana Villages grows.

13. **Transition** Prabhupada said toward the end of time here that he would come to Gitanagari and show how to make this lifestyle perfect. That meant that he was going to stay put for an extended time and show us how to make a village work. And it does take work, a lot of hard work. It is my experience that we will not work that hard until we have to, meaning, we will not focus on this until we have a situation that inspires us.... We are just too addicted to life with easy amenities. But, we should be inspired enough to learn how to do all these survival, self-sufficient things. We must learn the skills so we can do the needful when and if the time comes. A lot of the items that are needed require some money to be put into place, which, when working, can be maintained with moderate effort, such as electric production. So many other things can be implemented on the front end to make life transitionable, and maintain the goal: That is, a life centered on chanting, hearing and remembering the name, form, qualities, and pastimes of Lord Krishna.
14. **Death** Inevitable. But in the village, all care and attention is given. There are no jobs to rush off to. There are no “emergencies,” except perhaps a cow is

being born at the same time that someone is dying. So, the hospice is built in, no need for a separate project, building, etc. The whole village is tuned in, making sure the holy names, form, qualities, and pastimes come into the ear of the dying person 24/7. Because no one has to rush off to work... well, you get the picture.

15. **In Summary** Point is, everything is built in, from birth to death. Complete, and as healthy as it can be in this world, where everything has a beginning and an end. Birth and death, happiness and distress, the village helps one to see nature and its ways. The cycle of life is all around you, and you are constantly reminded of your frail position in this illusory world. And don't forget those perfect buttery chapattis cooked on a wood stove...

When we view the Vrindavana village in the way that Prabhupada does, we can see the purpose behind his vision: Chanting, more time to chant. Hearing, more time to hear. Remembering, more time to remember... Who? Radha and Krishna. After all, if we live like Krishna, we will understand the pastimes better, such as when that mischievous Krishna repeatedly harassed the gopis who were taking their milk products to Mathura to sell... how he would scrape all the cream from the top of the yogurt and eat it right in front of them... and how it became unsellable because the cream was missing.

If you live in a simple village, and keep all the elements in place that Prabhupada wanted, you will understand how valuable that cream is on top of the yogurt, because you are milking the cows and turning the milk into yogurt yourself. And you will be able to understand Vraja pastimes much more thoroughly since you are living life like Krishna lives. After all, as

Prabhupada said, “Balarama is holding a plow, and Krishna is holding a calf.”

The Supreme Lord is setting the example of how to live in this world. Our lives can be so much more connected to Him if we follow His example, and create Vrindavana villages all across the planet...

Thank you for giving me the time to make this simple presentation. May you find some value in it. We at Murari will continue our efforts to implement one element after another, until we have a fully blossoming village that Prabhupada would be happy with.

## The Heart of the Village

Here is a personal story of how unnatural the world has become. My grandmother had 5 sons and 4 daughters. She lost my grandfather at 50 from pneumonia. My mother was one daughter. I spent many very young years at a large farm in Pine Island, New York. This was a dairy farm with rich agricultural soil. They grew mostly lettuce and onions for large markets. My aunts and uncles married and some of them built homes on the farm and had families. But the lure of jobs and money was too much for all of them, taking jobs at factories, airlines, truck driving. They all moved away... and finally my oldest uncle Herman could not maintain the farm. Everyone left, my grandmother was taken to Florida where she lived next door to me. The farm was sold and that was the end of that.

My life was also altered. There was a girl whom I met there who was very special, but she lived in New Jersey and my new home was in Florida. We were to be married... but the separation was insurmountable. We gave up the idea of ever being together. As I went to college in Florida, she in New

Jersey, we lost contact... I tell this to show example... ultimately, everything is as it should be, but the misuse of our small independence can be seen in this example. Sometimes a very personal example can get someone's attention. This is why I bring this story up.

Another reason I bring that up, is to point out how our karma is laid out with our birth. The place, the geography, the social setting, friends, marriage partners... everything. Then because of the inventions of cars, trains and planes, everyone goes on a restless journey to find utopia... and things get lost. The family scatters... all over the world. There is no more unity in the family structure.

The Vrindavana Village setting is a reversal of this restlessness. The families stay together, the marriages are strong, the generations live together giving cohesiveness to human life. Traditions are passed from generation to generation. To visit great grandmother, one just has to walk a short distance... perhaps to get some advice, perhaps to bring her to the temple for darsana and kirtana... everything and everyone has meaning, purpose and value. No one is left out. There are no "old age homes." Old age is honored in the village.

It is a perfect vision of life on this planet, as perfect as it can get... one that His Divine Grace was eager to see established. "At any cost, do it!" So let us do it. There are certainly those out there who would like to see this established. To my last life's breath I am here to bring this to the world. If you feel inspired, don't hesitate to contact me. Your servant because of his mercy, Gadidas

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