



International Society for Krishna Consciousness  
Founder-Acarya His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

# ISKCON COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE

Radhadesh 25–28 May 2024

## Speakers

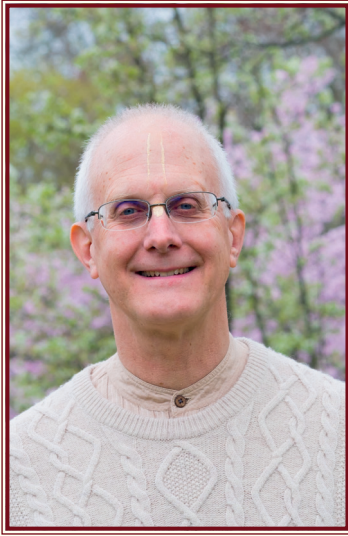
### KRISHNA KSHETRA SWAMI



**K**rishna Kshetra Swami first met His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada in Paris in the summer of 1972 and was initiated at that time. In 1995, with the encouragement of senior devotees, he resumed formal academic studies, completing a Ph.D. in 2004 in the Theology Faculty of the University of Oxford, U.K. Since 2006 he is a research fellow of the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, and he is also a fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics. He presently assists the ISKCON ministry of cow protection and agriculture as minister for Europe. In 2020, Krishna Kshetra Swami published an academic monograph, *Cow Care in Hindu Animal Ethics*, in the Palgrave-Macmillan Animal Ethics book series (this book is an Open Access publication, available for free digital download, and has been downloaded 60,000 times to date). He has also published articles on animal ethics in academic journals and books. He is currently writing a second book to be published by Palgrave-Macmillan, titled *Yoga and Animal Ethics*.



## ANUTTAMA DASA



Anuttama Dasa is a disciple of His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada has been serving in ISKCON Colorado for seventeen years including seven years as TP of the Denver temple. From there he moved to Washington DC with his wife Rukmini dd where they still live today. Since 1999, he has been an integral member of the GBC, assuming the role of chairman in 2014–15. Presently, he is GBC for NE USA and some temples in the mid-west USA. Additionally, he serves as the ISKCON's Global Minister of Communications and is a Co-Founder and Co-Director of the ISKCON Environmental Initiative (IEI). Furthermore, Anuttama Dasa serves as the convener of the Vaishnava-Christian Dialogue, a longstanding tradition now in its 27th year. He also actively participates on the boards of Religions for Peace USA and the Religion Communicators Council.



## GARUDA DASA



Garuda Dasa is a disciple of His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada and was blessed by Srila Prabhupada to enter the academic world, wherein he eventually received three master's degrees and a doctorate (PhD) in comparative religion from Harvard University. From there on, he became the first Bhakta to become an established university professor, now holding two university positions, and the first Bhakta to publish books on Krishna Bhakti with world-class academic and trade publishers. Since then, he has been guiding younger devotee scholars and has become the gatekeeper for academic Krishna Bhakti related publications, and a senior disciple of Srila Prabhupada bestowed on him the title of "Kavirāja." Over the years, Garuda Dasa has served as a consultant for ISKCON leadership and as a guide for devotional writing; he has also counseled hundreds

of ISKCON devotees in a professional counseling capacity. He is an original member of the Bhaktivedanta Institute group established by Bhakti Svarupa Damodar Goswami. Garuda Dasa has had a long-standing relationship with the BBT since 1982, including two major BBT grant projects. He is invited to lecture around the world at ISKCON temples, yoga centers, and major universities and institutions such as the Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D.C., where he has offered over three dozen lectures.



## GURU GAURANGA DASA



**G**uru Gauranga Dasa graduated in 1971 from Yale with a degree in art history and traveled to France to take a job at the University of Grenoble. In Paris he encountered devotees of Krishna for the first time and joined ISKCON. Later that same year, while helping to open the first Hare Krishna temple in Geneva, he became Srila Prabhupada's first initiated disciple in Switzerland.

As president of ISKCON's first temple in Switzerland, Guru Gauranga Dasa laid the groundwork for ISKCON's future growth in that country. In 1973 he succeeded in lifting a police ban against the public chanting of "Hare Krishna" in Geneva. He arranged for Srila Prabhupada to be formally received in the historic Hôtel-de-Ville, the seat of government of Geneva where Srila Prabhupada addressed the president of the Geneva Council of State.

In private meetings and colloquia arranged by Guru Gauranga Dasa, Swami Prabhupada laid out the science of Krishna consciousness to officials of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Office (ILO), scientists of the European Center for Nuclear Research (CERN), prominent intellectuals, theologians, writers and church leaders.

He served as ISKCON regional secretary for Switzerland in the 1980s and successfully negotiated the acquisition of the Julius Bär mansion in Zurich transforming it into a magnificent Krishna temple with the help of many Swiss devotees.

In 1986, Guru Gauranga Dasa was elected to ISKCON's Governing Body (GBC) and established ISKCON's first internal dispute resolution process. In 1988 he matriculated at The University of Chicago to study law while continuing to perform his GBC duties.

In 1992, he resigned from the GBC to pursue a full-time career in the law. And in 2018, he established ISKCON's in-house law department. In 2019 he was unanimously elected "GBC Emeritus" for his years of distinguished service to ISKCON and the GBC.



## RUKMINI DEVI DASI



**R**ukmini Devi Dasi first met devotees of Krsna in San Francisco in the summer of 1968. At that time, His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada was residing in Montreal, Canada. She traveled to Montreal with the three couples (and one baby!) on their way to London and was initiated by Srila Prabhupada in Montreal. She then served in Boston and New York as an artist, and *pujari*. In 1972, she was sent by Srila Prabhupada to Mayapur, India, with a group of other artists to learn the traditional art of "putul," or clay doll-making to be used in dioramas to teach the philosophy of Krishna Consciousness.

In 1974, the group of artists returned to Los Angeles

to create the First American Theistic Exhibition, or F.A.T.E. with a multimedia museum showcasing the *Bhagavad Gita*, which is now housed in the Rukmini Dvarakadish temple in Los Angeles and a second F.A.T.E. museum in the Detroit temple.

In 1986, Rukmini dd married Anuttama Dasa. After relocating to the Washington DC area in 1993, they opened three award-winning designer craft galleries called As Kindred Spirits. This business supported child protection, the Children of Krishna Foundation, ISKCON Communications, and other social initiatives for twenty-five years.

For the last twenty seven years, they have together led Vaisnava Christian Dialogues each year in Washington, DC; as well as Vaisnava Muslim Dialogues in the US, and Vaisnava Christian Dialogues in India.

Since 2017, Rukmini dd has been speaking, teaching, and leading retreats internationally, often along with her son, the kirtan artist, Gaura Vani. She is the founder of the Urban Devi Collective ([urbandevi.com](http://urbandevi.com); [rukminiwalker.com](http://rukminiwalker.com)), which seeks to uplift the voices of women on the path of Bhakti in the 21st Century.



## VISAKHA DEVI DASI



Visakha Devi Dasi received an Associate of Applied Science degree with honours from Rochester Institute of Technology and shortly afterwards published her first book, *Photomacrography: Art and Techniques*. In 1971 she traveled to India, where she met His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada, accepting initiation from him in Vrindavana the same year. As a photographer, she traveled with and photographed Srila Prabhupada and his students in India, Europe and the United States.

As a writer, Visakha dd regularly contributes articles to *Back to Godhead magazine* and has written six books, including *Bhagavad-gitas* for children, teenagers and adults and a memoir: *Five Years, Eleven Months and a Lifetime of Unexpected Love* (a finalist in the 2017 Next Generation Indie Book Awards).

Visakha dd also assists her husband, Yadubara Dasa, in making documentary films, most recently the 90-minute award-winning film, *Hare Krishna! the Mantra, the Movement and the Swami Who Started It All*. Currently Visakha dd is the Temple President of Bhaktivedanta Manor in the UK. You can find Visakha dd's books at [OurSpiritualJourney.com](http://OurSpiritualJourney.com)



## AKHANDADHI DASA



**A**khandadhi Dasa was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland in 1954. He studied architecture at Bristol University, but rather than pursue that degree, he entered Bhaktivedanta Manor to study Vedanta and Vaishnava philosophy. From 1982 to 1995, he served as the principal of the college – and he remains as a trustee of its governing charity. From 1996 to 2020, he developed Buckland Hall as an adult-study centre in Wales. He has been a regular contributor to the BBC since 1989 and served on its Religious Advisory board. He is a director of the Science and Philosophy Initiative, UK dedicated to bringing these disciplines into greater dialogue. In 2020, he presented 35-part lecture series entitled the Atma Paradigm exploring the role of consciousness in neuroscience, biology, and physics. His present role is as the Content Director of the Science Museum of the Vedic Planetarium in Mayapura, West Bengal. He is married, has two adult children, and currently lives in Switzerland.

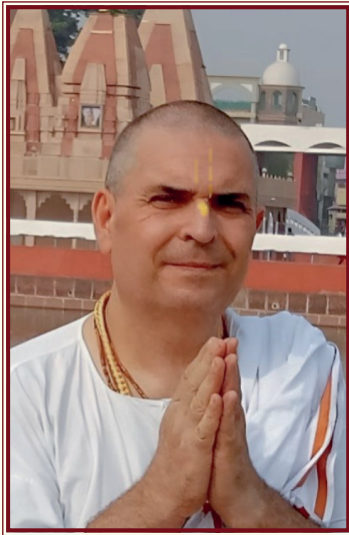


## ANANTA BALADEVA DASA



**A**nanta Baladeva Dasa has over a decade of experience in global business management, strategy, and consulting clients on technologies such as AI, data, cloud, and 5G. He holds a master's degree in telecommunications and networking from the University of Pennsylvania. Besides debuting as an author recently with his business non-fiction-Digital Strategy Framework, he is also a speaker, business trainer, and a swimming coach. He has been a faculty at Alfred Ford School of Management for the past six years. Explorer and Teacher are the two words that describe him vividly. He lives in Stockholm, Sweden with his wife and a son.





## BALADEVA DASA

**B**aladeva Dasa was born in Godoy Cruz, Mendoza, Argentina in 1966 and joined ISKCON in 1993. Since his youth he participated in different spiritualist and philosophical movements in Argentina, as a member, lecturer and guide. He is a musician, performer of various instruments, and a singer.

Studies in:

- Mechanical and Hydraulic Engineering – National Technological University (not completed);
- Mediation and Conflict Resolution from the University of Aconcagua;
- Educational facilitation;
- Social communication and facilitated public speaking;
- His degrees of studies in Vedic philosophy are Bhakti-Sastri and currently pursuing Bhakti-vaibhava.

Baladeva Dasa furthermore serves as ISKCON Course Facilitator in: Bhakti Sastri, Teaching Training I, II and III, Disciples Course, Communications Course, Mediation and Alternative Conflict Resolution Course.



## BHADRA RUPA DASA



**B**hadra Rupa Dasa is a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador in kirtan; he is a member of the UN Economic and Social Council in New York and a member of the UN Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning in Geneva. He holds a PhD degree in Educational Sciences awarded by the University of Geneva in Switzerland where he has been a mentor of PhD candidates. Bhadra Rupa Dasa also received an Honorary Doctorate at the Parliament of Peru from the National University of Education of Peru. He is a professor of flute at the Music Faculty at the International School of Geneva, and he has been officially considered one of the world's most talented flutists on his flute invention by flute federations in the USA, UK, Australia, Sweden and Japan. Bhadra Rupa Dasa is a Sony Music Recording Artist Japan (flutist/composer) and his last solo album was inspired

by the Gita Govinda which was released worldwide by Sony Music International. Bhadra Rupa Dasa took diksha initiation from HH Jayapataka Swami Maharaja in Peru in 1993 where he was trained as brahmacari for seven years: as monk he distributed thousands of big *Bhagavad Gitas* by giving lectures for more than 300 000 university students at Universities in South America. Bhadra Rupa Dasa received the ISKCON European Excellence Award within “the Scientific Presentation of Krishna Consciousness” by the Euro RGB. He was also awarded by the president of the parliament of Peru, and last April he received the Key to the City Award from the Mayor in Lima-Peru.

## GANDHARVIKA PREMA DEVI DASI



**G**andharvika Prema Devi Dasi joined ISKCON Hungary in 1995, during her high school years, and was initiated by HH Indradyumna Swami in 1999. As an office manager, she started serving Food for Life in 1999, when it was officially registered as an NGO. She married Prithvipati Dasa in 2004 and their son Venugopal was born in 2007. She holds two degrees: one in cultural management and one in theology. In 2014, she was asked to lead the ISKCON Communications Hungary team full-time, which works directly under the leadership of the local GBC secretary. Gandharvika Prema dd is also the media spokesperson for the Hungarian yatra.



## GOPAL HARI DASA



**G**opal Hari Dasa is the Joe Dunham Distinguished Professor of Ethics at Aurora University. He teaches courses in Ethics, World Religions, and Science and Religion. His book, *Maya in the Bhagavata Purana: Human Suffering and Divine Play*, has been published by Oxford University Press. He also serves as the editor for the Journal of Hindu-Christian Studies (JHCS). Gopal Hari Dasa is a member of ISKCON's Sastric Advisory Council. He holds a doctorate in Religious Studies and a master's degree in Science and Religion from Oxford University, UK.



## KAMALA PRIYA DEVI DASI



**K**amala Priya Devi Dasi joined ISKCON in 1988 in Germany and dedicated herself to Traveling Sankirtan until 1999. In 1999, she relocated to Sweden where she married Pranava Dasa. She has then been serving as member of the local board, doing school-preaching, cooking Sunday feasts, and being the local treasurer. Since 2015, she has been serving as the Director for ISKCON Communications Sweden, establishing numerous valuable contacts. She furthermore serves as the European Coordinator for the ISKCON Environmental Initiative (IEI) since 2021. She is the founder (2015) and Coordinator for the ISKCON Youth Forum Sweden. Kamala Priya dd holds a Master's degree in Education and works as a Research Assistant. In 2023 she received the ISKCON European Excellence Award by the Euro RGB.

## KAUNTEYA DASA



**K**aunteya Dasa joined ISKCON in Italy in 1980 and is a disciple of HH Jaypataka Swami and lives together with his wife in Mayapur. He served and, in some cases, still serves as book distributor, gurukula teacher and mediator; as the Co-Minister of ISKCON Congregational Development Ministry; Co-Chairman of GBC Organizational Development Committee; Trustee and Faculty Member of the GBC College for Leadership Development; Member of the GBC Strategic Planning Team and GBC Nominations Committee; as the GBC representative of Iran; and more. Kaunteya Dasa has furthermore authored several books such as the *Bhakti-vriksha Manual*; *The Book of Icebreakers*; *Did Srila Prabhupada Want Women Diksa Gurus?*; *How to Mess Up Varnasrama by Underestimating Women & Neglecting Gurukula*; and more. Some of his books are available at <https://realvarnasrama.wordpress.com>



## MAHABHAVA DASA

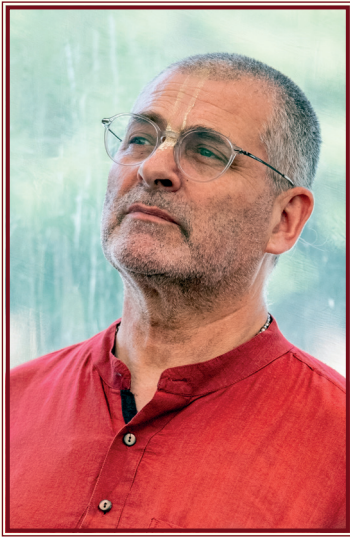


**M**ahabhava Dasa has been providing language services for more than twenty years. He is the managing director of Littera Traductions, a translation agency based in Brussels that primarily works with INGOs and civil society organizations. Mahabhava Dasa is currently coordinating the Radhadesh Communications Department. Additionally, he is part of the Lal Publishing team, serving as a copy-editor for books produced by His Holiness Sivarama Maharaja.





## MAHAPRABHU DASA



**M**ahaprabhu Dasa studied Political Science at Syracuse University in the USA. He is an active member of the Hare Krishna movement (ISKCON) since 1982, having performed various services. At present, he is the executive director of Hindu Forum of Belgium, working to get Hinduism recognized in Belgium. He is also the founder and director of the Museum of Sacred Art (MOSA) Foundation, dedicated to promoting Indian spiritual art as well as the art of the Hare Krishna movement. His passion for art comes from his lineage, since he is the son of renowned artist José Gurvich (1927–1974) and the founder of the José Gurvich Foundation in Montevideo, Uruguay.



## NITAI GAURASUNDAR DASA



**N**itai Gaurasundar Dasa has been a devotee since 1979 and is a disciple of HH Tamal Krishna Dasa Goswami. He served as the ISKCON Paris Temple President. He currently serves as the Paris Ratha Yatra coordinator and is one of the founding members of French Vedic Federation.



## PARABHAKTI DASA

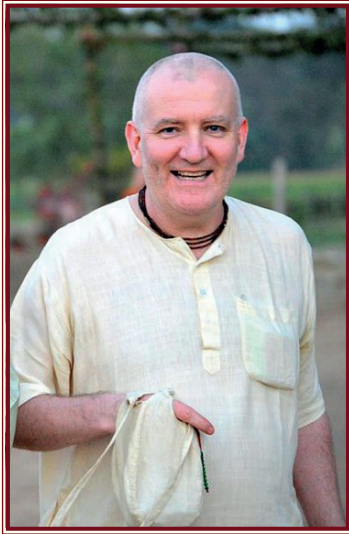


**P**arabhakti Dasa joined ISKCON in 1978 in Italy, at the age of 16. After several years as a *brahmachari*, he married in 1985 and took on professional responsibilities to provide for his family.

Parabhakti Dasa has managed commercial companies and founded two national associations in Italy focused on environment protection. He has trained and coached professionals for over twenty years. As an international traveler he encountered many cultures and peoples across the globe, which enriched his vision of the world, and his insights on the varied ways Vaishnavas can contribute to society. He regularly holds conferences and training seminars on Krishna Consciousness at public and private institutions and actively collaborates with other religious traditions.

Currently, Parabhakti Dasa serves as: President of Villa Vrindavana, in Florence; ISKCON Communication Director Italy; Vice President of ISKCON Italy; Vice President of ISKCON Communication Europe; IGPO Continental Officer; SABHA member.

## PRAGHOSA DASA



From Ireland, Praghosa Dasa joined the ISKCON Soho Street temple in London in 1982 and then relocated to Dublin where he took initiation from HH Satsvarupa Dasa Goswami. He spent the early part of his devotional career distributing Srila Prabhupada's books, raising funds and managing temples in Belfast, the island of Inis Rath, and a rural community in Wicklow, Ireland. He is married to Goloka Devi Dasi, has two sons and 3 grand daughters

In 1998, Praghosa Dasa and Goloka Dasi opened the first Govindas restaurant in Dublin which became so successful that they opened a second one in the same city with facilities for a temple, and soon even a third restaurant was opened in the same city.

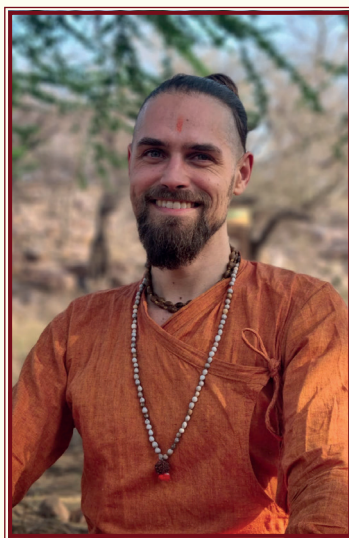
Praghosa Dasa is the founder and an active contributor to ISKCON's website Dandavats.com. He also serves as a

GBC member. He began in 1997 as a deputy GBC and he became a full GBC member in 2001. His areas of responsibility cover some of the world's colder climes: the Channel Islands, Denmark, England, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Norway, Scotland, Sweden and Wales.

Every year Praghosa organises and facilitates the annual two day gathering of all the ISKCON European leaders. Praghosa Dasa is currently serving as chair of the GBC team building group. He also sits on the GBC Appointments, Organizational Development and BBT/GBC Relations committees, which he chairs. For three consecutive years, 2002, 2003, and 2004, he chaired the international AGM of the GBC body. Praghosa Dasa was the first grand disciple of Srila Prabhupada to be chairman of the GBC body. His solid commitment to serving ISKCON in a significant way and establishing new initiatives, is further highlighted by his participation in the creation of European Regional Governing Body (RGB) from its inception in 1997.



## PURUSHOTTAMA KRISHNA DASA



Purushottama Krishna Dasa grew up in Cologne, Germany and lives today with his family in Switzerland. He started travelling as a pilgrim after completing school and entered open religious studies by the University of Lampeter in the Bhaktivedanta College seminary in 2006. He got initiated in the Chaitanya-Vaishnava Tradition in 2012. In his trans-confessional personal ministry he provides services of pastoral care, meditation, education and counselling to members of society worldwide of diverse background. He continued formal education with a Master in the world's religions in 2014 with Trinity Saint David. His main research since has been the role of religions for peace and security. In the second year of his seminary he got introduced to Religions for Peace attending the founding of its Belgium Chapter. Since then he got connected with, supported and

consulted a number of global initiatives promoting peace, environmental protection and justice based on spiritual values and indigenous wisdom.

## SHAUNAKA RISHI DASA



Shaunaka Rishi Dasa is the Director of the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies (OCHS), a position he has held since the Centre's foundation in 1997. He also serves as Hindu Chaplain to Oxford University, and in this capacity is currently a Visiting Professor at the Vrije University, Amsterdam. He was a member of The Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life, 2013–2015, convened by the Woolf Institute, Cambridge. In 2013 the Indian government appointed him to sit on the International Advisory Council of the Auroville Foundation. Shaunaka Rishi Dasa was the Founding-Editor of the *ISKCON Communications Journal* (1993 until 2006), and was Chairman of ISKCON Communications Europe (1991–2003). He served as an executive member of ISKCON's Ministry of Educational Development from (1996–2010). He was the first Convenor of the ISKCON Interfaith Commission (1997–2010).



## SHYAM DULAL DASA



Shyam Dulal Dasa is originally from Bhilai, Chhattisgarh in India and currently undergoing PhD studies at Stockholm University (Department of Computer and System Sciences) in the field of “AI-Driven Multiobjective Decision-Making With Application to Wireless Networks”.

He holds Bachelor of Technology and Master of Technology degrees from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Dhanbad.

Shyam Dulal Dasa has been practicing Krishna Consciousness since 2014 and has held several responsibilities in ISKCON like Overall coordinator in VOICE youth center in Dhanbad, Preaching coordinator in Dhanbad and ISKCON Stockholm.

He furthermore serves as the Founder and President of a student association at Stockholm University called “Vedic Cultural Society” which conducts activities for University students like Kirtan, Yoga, Vegetarian cooking classes, *prasadam*, spiritual retreats etc.



## SRIDHARA SRINIVASA DASA



**S**ridhara Srinivasa Dasa was born in a traditional South-Indian family, practicing generations of Vedic and Vaishnava culture. The computer IT professional turned author holds a bachelor's degree in engineering, a Master's degree in business administration from a reputed university in Seattle, USA, and basic diploma level in Sanskrit. He has worked in the position of General Manager (Spacelabs Healthcare R&D) and other leading positions in several software firms in Japan, USA, and India. While living in the USA, inspired by the teachings of His Divine Grace A. C. Srila Prabhupada, the author was initiated in September, 2006 into the Gaudiya-vaishnava *sampradaya* by HH Bhakti Vikasa Swami. Following the instructions of his spiritual master, the author along with his family repatriated back to his home (Coimbatore, Tamilnadu, India) in 2011 and

is serving full-time as a spiritual coach, writer and distributor of spiritual books on Vedic and spiritual knowledge. Sridhara Srinivasa Dasa has authored *A Divine Prophecy: Predictions on worldwide Hari-nama-sankirtana* and *Female Diksa-gurus, Do we need them?*



## VISNU MURTI DASA



**I**n 1978, Vishnu Murti Dasa joined Srila Prabhupada's mission in France. There he spent nine years distributing Srila Prabhupada's books and performing other services requested of him. In 1987, he connected with Srila Prabhupada in a very poignant way via his letters, which inspired him in his present-day services to help devotees deepen their relationship with Srila Prabhupada. This led him to found the Bhaktivedanta Library Services and Vanipedia. He has lived in Radhadesh for the past twenty-nine years.

