

Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada

Achieving Something Wonderful

My acquaintance with Ujjain goes back to my childhood. Through poems and other writings, I became fascinated by this legendary city. In my mind's eye I visualised the majestic Mahakal temple. I was enchanted by the wisdom and valour of King Vikramaditya and the nine jewel-like personalities (navaratna) in his court. However, even in my remotest dream, I never thought of ever setting down in this city.

It all happened all of a sudden in 2004. My secretary, Sudipto, forwarded some correspondence from the Madhya Pradesh government inviting us to set up our spiritual activities there. They were so interested that the Chief Secretary of the state, Mr. Bijam Saha, even met Sudipto and discussed this possibility at great length. He expressed his willingness to use 300 acres of land to start our project there. I was in America at the time and informed my secretary that I would positively consider that invitation and visit Madhya Pradesh upon my return to India.

In July 2004, I came to Madhya Pradesh as the guest of the Chief Minister to see various lands on which to set up our center. At that time I was considering some spots on the bank of the Narmada River. However Sushri Uma Bharati, the Chief Minister herself, suggested that we consider Ujjain as our base. The next day we came to Ujjain along with Mr. Saha, I became fascinated by this place at first sight.

On 7th November 2004, we started our activities in Ujjain by renting the Community Center in Mahananda Nagar and establishing our temporary temple there. Since we rented that place only for one year, we decided that we would build a temple within a year's time. We selected a piece of land in Bharatpuri and started the preparation for construction. The architects, Mehta & Associates from Indore, got involved in creating the design. We worked together quite intensely and within fifteen days the design was completed. We selected the most eminent local contractor, Mr. Om Prakash Khatri, to build the concrete structure. The marble work was taken up by the king of Makrana, Mr. C.V. Singh and by *Krsna's* mercy within ten months the temple was complete.

Never in the past had a marble temple of this dimension been built in such a short time. I personally feel that it was only by *Krsna's* mercy that such a feat could have been achieved. We came to Ujjain not only to build a temple. We want to establish many other projects there. We will soon start distributing Mid-Day Meals to 20,000 school children in and around Ujjain. For that we are going to set up a large kitchen with high-tech equipment, such as *capati*- making machines, to provide food for thousands.

We are also setting up a film studio to shoot various spiritual movies. We are going to start shooting a movie on the life of *Sripada Sakaracarya*, which will be the first of a series of movies on the lives of great saints of India. We are also going to set up an IT Park. The construction of that will start very soon.

This is just the beginning. We came here to achieve something so wonderful that the world will watch in wonder and recognise the greatness of India. We therefore invite all to come and join us to achieve this glorious mission.

Yours in the service of *Srila Prabhupada*,
Bhakti Charu Swami.

A Beautiful Project

One year has gone by since the inauguration of the temple, but it seems just like the other day. I remember that last year at this time I was in such anxiety because things were not ready for the inauguration of the temple. The last few days were very hectic. Even the night before the inauguration, the whole temple room looked like a battlefield with scaffoldings everywhere, the floor strewn with all kinds of debris, the ceiling not done, and the twenty-seven-foot-diameter painting yet to be put up. But everyone worked hard. All the people who were taking care of different areas, they actually had to work through the whole night. By *Krsna's* mercy, in the morning, everything was complete.

But one big job was to clean the temple room. Actually, the temple was a construction site. So after *mangala-arati*, I made an announcement that those who wanted to clean the temple could come. About 2500 devotees were there for the inauguration. Practically all who were there for the *mangala-arati* responded to the announcement and we all marched into the temple to start cleaning. From 5:30 to 7:00, within one and a half hours, everything was cleaned and the temple was ready for the inauguration.

It was a wonderful experience. Not only a wonderful experience, it was an extremely memorable experience, at least for me and those who were here at that time.

Sometimes I wonder how I managed to build this temple in ten months. The only thought that comes to my mind is that it happened by *Krsna's* mercy. This actually proves that if we sincerely try to serve *Krsna*, *Krsna* helps and as a result all kinds of wonderful things happen.

This year, it is a lot more relaxed. Now the temple is built and everything is going on nicely.

People who come here admit with great admiration that the temple atmosphere is beautiful, the deity worship standard is high, the *sringara* is beautiful and on top of everything, the deities are exquisitely beautiful.

Jananivasa Prabhu, my God-brother, who has been the head *pujari* in *Mayapur* for the last thirty-five years, came for the temple opening. He told me that the *Radharani* here is the most beautiful than the *Radharani* in *Mayapur* or in *Vrndavana*. When *Jananivasa* Prabhu says something like that you can be sure that he is speaking the truth because he does not say things just to flatter somebody, especially when it comes to speaking about *Radharani*. He really meant it. Recently I heard that during his *Vyasa-puja* celebration in Bombay, His Holiness *Radhanatha Maharaja* mentioned that the Ujjain project will become the most important project of ISKCON. He said that it is only a matter of time until Ujjain will become the most vibrant and important project of ISKCON. So I can see that the devotees are feeling so positive, optimistic, and hopeful about this project. This naturally inspires me and spurs me to really do something wonderful here.

Somehow *Krsna* brought me here. This is an important place. It is *Krsna* and *Balarama's* place of education. Our mission also is to educate people. The *Krsna* consciousness movement is actually an educational movement. It is teaching people how to become

devotees of *Krsna*, by establishing that relationship with Him, how to make our lives successful. The understanding of sambandha, abhidheya and prayojana is the very basis of all our activities. So, gradually I want to make this place into a place of education for *Krsna* consciousness.

What I am mainly concerned about is that whatsoever comes here gets very good treatment and gets a very nice impression of our movement. Actually devotional service, although it is focused on devotion to *Krsna*, is practical application about devotion to the devotees of *Krsna*. *Krsna* consciousness means to recognise the importance, the greatness and the exalted position of the devotees. *Krsna* says: "Those who think that they are My devotees, they are not My devotees, but those who are the devotees of My devotees, they are My devotees."

Devotional service is actually rendered through serving the devotees of the Lord. And that is what I am trying to remind everybody here. Yes, you are serving the Supreme Personality of Godhead, but the Supreme Personality of Godhead is manifest in this planet amongst us in the form of His devotees. So when we serve His devotees, He is served. When His devotees are pleased, *Krsna* is pleased. Therefore the first and foremost consideration is to serve the devotees and make them happy. And this service for devotees means respectful attitude towards the senior devotees, friendship among the equals and affection and compassion towards the juniors. This is the first and foremost education that we all need.

And then, of course, there are other subsidiary branches of education also. Let us see how to set up an international school here, where children can come from all over the world and get educated. They will be groomed up to face the reality of the world. Although they will be getting training to become devotees, at the same time they will also have the practical education to deal with the world.

Yesterday, we also had a very wonderful celebration of the ground breaking ceremony of a Food for Life building. The Madhya Pradesh government has given us the assignment for the Mid-Day Meal project, which will feed 20,000 school children in this area. So, for that we just started to build the kitchen. It will be quite a large kitchen. It will be one hundred feet long and seventy-five feet wide. So that way it will be 7500 square feet. The kitchen will be equipped with all kinds of automatic machines. In these areas people take *chapati*, so we have to serve *chapatis* to the school children. We will have a *chapati*-making machine that can produce ten thousand *chapatis* per hour. There will also be a puri-making machine that will make ten thousand puris per hour. We will also have six steam jackets which will prepare about three hundred litres of sabji in twenty minutes. So in this way we are preparing ourselves to cater to the need of feeding the 119 schools within a ten-kilometer-radius of Ujjain city. And we will be catering to 20,000 school children. So this is how we are also making headway to have some sort of connection to the school children in this area.

Eventually we will set up our own schools as well. I am planning to start the construction of a primary school this year. There will be a kindergarten and primary school adjacent to our temple. And then eventually, we will set up our international school. I am looking for a one-hundred-acre plot of land to set up that school. It will be a first-class residential school with all kinds of facilities that the best schools in the world offer. And that is how we want to bring up our children. We must bring them up in the most wonderful way, in the best possible way, because these children are going to become the leaders of the world

tomorrow. Therefore we have to train them up in such a way that they can become leaders.

In that way, they can really guide the world towards achieving the real goal of life. And it is not just spiritual prosperity. Along with spiritual prosperity the material prosperity will also come. Vedic India was the greatest nation, the greatest country in the world at that time. It was the most opulent and powerful country. So *Krsna* consciousness establishes the most opulent, the most powerful, the most influential and the most effective culture. That is how we have to bring up our children.

Let us see how *Krsna* will guide us in achieving these plans. I am simply depending upon His mercy. And in my own simple way, whatever I can do, I am just trying to do. And things are happening. It is not that I just built this temple to sit down here and have a nice time. No, rather every day my responsibility and my anxiety is increasing because this is just the beginning. This temple is just the beginning and we want to do so many other things. I know that as the responsibility increases, the anxiety also will increase. But we have to take that anxiety for *Krsna*. That is how this movement is going to grow. If we just want to eat and sleep, then who will make this movement spread all over the world in every town and village? That is why we have to take up more and more responsibilities. That is how *Krsna* will be pleased and that is how *Krsna* will shower His mercy upon us.

Our project is already expanding. Now our guesthouse is ready. Guests who come to Ujjain are already staying there. This guesthouse is probably the only one of its kind in ISKCON because it is made of pure white marble. We have also developed a beautiful garden here. It is very colourful, with many varieties of flowers. So the project is going on nicely and newer projects are also developing. Whoever comes to Ujjain simply appreciates it and expresses their desire that some day they would like to come and settle down here.

I am happy that somehow we are able to do something for *Srila Prabhupada*. My only lamentation is that I could not do all these things when *Srila Prabhupada* was present on this planet. I would like to just walk up to *Srila Prabhupada* and tell him all that I am doing. And what would I not give to see him just smiling with appreciation for whatever little I am trying to do for him. But I hope that from the spiritual sky *Srila Prabhupada* is watching me and he is pleased with my endeavour to serve his lotus feet.

Guru-Upadesa

Let us not waste our energy in all kinds of undesirable activities but just focus on the growth of *Krsna* consciousness. Then *Krsna* will reward us in the most wonderful ways. I can tell you from my experience. I ventured into all kinds of projects which required a lot of resources, lots of funding, and I plunged into them with the confidence that if I do something for *Krsna*, *Krsna* will provide. And I can tell you from my own experience, *Krsna* did provide, because *Krsna* is there, He is the Supreme personality of Godhead. We see that if a rich man has a loyal servant and if the servant goes to do something for the master, doesn't the master provide?

But does the servant have to go and get everything for the master? No, the rich man will provide for everything for the servant to serve him. Now when we are serving the Supreme Personality of Godhead who is the proportion of everything, who is the Supreme Controller, why shouldn't He provide?

**(H.H Bhakti Charu Swami, Lecture in South Africa 22nd December, 2006)
Cultural Program Speeches**

**The following are selections from the speeches given on this occasion
His Holiness Bhakti Charu Swami**

This occasion today is very important for us because today is the completion of one year since the inauguration of our temple. One year ago on this day, on the occasion of *Nityandana Trayodasi*, the temple of *Radha Madan-Mohan* was completed. Thousands of devotees came from various countries worldwide and the entire Ujjain city contributed on that occasion. For us that was a very blissful event.

Our relationship with Ujjain is very deep. Although I am not a resident of Ujjain, but with this city our relation is very heart-felt and deep because we are devotees of *Krsna* and this is the place where *Sri Krsna* and *Balarama* came to study in *Sri Sandipani* Muni's ashram around five thousand years ago. This city of Ujjain is the place of *Sri Mahakaleswar*, *Shivaji*. The relationship of *Shivaji* with *Krsna* is famous here. Of all the *Vaisnavas*, the position of *Shivaji* is topmost. Due to *Shivaji*'s mercy we get *Krsna* bhakti. And this place is of special significance for us. Here bhagavat-bhakti is preached very beautifully. I consider myself very fortunate to have the opportunity to start this program.

When we came to Ujjain we came with the resolution to do many things here. Our resolution was to have eighteen projects. It not only was, I would say it is. We have the desire to do many things here. The eighteen projects we had come here with have now become twenty-three projects. Out of those, the first project was to establish this temple here. After establishing the Lord's temple, I will now slowly try to make arrangements for the success of all the other projects.

I am very grateful to all of you for your co-operation, love and affection. I desire that we all get together as one to try to spread the glories of the Lord and the glories of Bharat around the whole world. This task that we are trying to achieve will not be possible by one person. Therefore I desire that you all also join us. With a selfless desire, keep spreading the glories of Bharat all around the world. The whole world has fallen into great difficulty. The possible solution to this problem is only by preaching the Vedic knowledge of India. Therefore I request all of you that please come and by preaching this important message bring about auspiciousness, peace and prosperity to the whole world.

Sri Mohan Yadav (Chairman, Ujjain Development Authority)

I remember in the beginning when I saw *Swamaji*'s whole project, I was so happy and I thought that for such a nice project, what to speak of land, if they wanted the entire (UDA) authority's building, I would have been happy to give it to them. I would not have had any difficulty in that because it is our good fortune that they have come with such a big, pious project to Ujjain.

It seems only yesterday that the temple opened. But now one whole year has passed. *Swamaji* said that he had come with eighteen projects and he has reached twenty-three. I pray that next year we have one hundred projects like this in Ujjain. This is my desire and best wishes to him. I hope that he will continue to bestow his mercy upon Ujjain.

Sushri Soni Mehar (Mayor of Ujjain)

Everyone is really happy that due to Gurudeva's mercy, a very big temple of ISKCON has been established here. People from far and wide are coming to take *darsana* here. They get peace in the heart. I have also seen the ISKCON temple in Delhi. Wherever I go I see these temples there and it gives me a lot of happiness to see that all of them have the same mood and that there is the one name of God. I pray to God that in Ujjain many such temples open.

Sri Anand Shankar Vyas (Jyotish Acarya and descendent of *Sandipani* Muni)

Today is the auspicious occasion of the anniversary of the Hare *Krsna* temple opening. Today is also Nityananda *Trayodasi* which in actuality is on *jaya-tithi*. It is that day that gives *Jaya* victory. In all aspects this day is victorious. Amongst us is the respected and extremely humble *Swamaji*, who is the personification of one who attains humility upon acquiring knowledge. And because of his efforts, this project was received by Ujjain... In such a place of austerity and *Sahana*. Maharaja has established this temple. So he has done very significant work. Definitely this activity he has done will become very successful and famous.

Sri Manohar Bairagi (General Secretary, Congress Madhya Pradesh)

Today we have the association of His Holiness Bhakti Charu *Maharaja*. Our country from time immemorial has been respecting saints, *mahatmas*, *rsis* and *munis*. This is our culture and values. A real saint is like a lamp, who by himself burning, gives light to the whole world. A true saint in the time of giving blessings is like a mother and in the time of difficulty is like a brother. If one gets the blessings of a real saint, if one gets the opportunity to sit at his feet, then I think that this mercy is equivalent to the Supreme Personality of Godhead. I pray that we continue to get the mercy and blessings of Bhakti Charu *Maharaja*.

Sri Makhan Singh (General Secretary, BJP)

It is the occasion of the anniversary of Sri Sri *Radha* Madan-Mohan Mandir. Right now there is the same emotion in all our hearts. Because the temple has been constructed, a river of piety is going to flow and benefit not only the whole society, but the whole universe as well. And with this mood we have all assembled here.... Yes, we should have a temple that is magnificent and kisses the sky.... People from the world can then come and take the knowledge from India back to their own countries, and thus not only make their own lives pure but their countries pure as well.

Sri Sawai Singh Sisodiya (Co- Operative Union of India)

I just want to let you all know that this type of ISKCON temple is not only present in India but all over the world. My relationship with the activities of ISKCON goes back about twenty years and I have felt that if there is any program for bringing about peace and

brotherhood in the world, then that is ISKCON's program. The programs that they have started in different places of the world for the progress of society are very praiseworthy. Our respected Bhakti Charu *Maharaja*, who is taking care of the affairs here, is very well-respected and is at a very high position not only in this country but internationally as well. Ujjain will definitely benefit from his love and affection and his many projects here.